HINFormation

A Newsletter of the School of Health Information Science
University of Victoria

September 2003

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Hello everyone, after one year of secondment to work on the UBC medical school expansion, I am now back as the Director of the School. First I want to thank *Dr. Patricia Coward* for her tenure this past year as the Acting Director for the School. In just 12 months, she managed to, among many other accomplishments - introduce the Combined Major in Computer Science and Health Information Science, finalize the formalization of our M.Sc. degree, and orchestrate the 20th Anniversary of the School. Dr. Coward has now moved on to Sierra Systems as a senior consultant; we wish her well in her new endeavours.

The School is just bustling with activities at the moment. In June we hosted a 4-day research workshop in Victoria for about 30+ researchers and research trainees from eight universities across Canada. It is part of a new 6-year PhD/postdoctoral research training program in health informatics funded by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research and BC Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research, with the School as the lead university.

This fall, in preparation for launching the distributed M.Sc. stream in health informatics planned for some time in 2004-2005 depending on approval, we are piloting a series of online courses and research seminars. You can visit the School website to view some of the workshop and seminar recordings we have rendered thus far using VClass and MS-Producer with streaming videos. It is still in an experimental stage but at least we are now breaking through geographic barriers to improve accessibility of our educational offerings through technologies. As well, we have just recruited *Mr. Ken Chung* from Camosun College as our new senior lab instructor, and we expect to fill the new assistant professor position within the coming year. Currently, *Professor Denis Protti* is conducting a major review of our undergraduate curriculum, and we are looking into re-establishing an Advisory Committee for the School to ensure we meet the needs of students, employers and the health system ...

With all this excitement at the School, I hope you will stay in touch and keep abreast of how things will transpire this coming year. Maybe we can get you involved in some ways as an alumni to further strengthen the School and/or to help advance the field of health informatics in Canada? Drop us a line or two with your ideas, we love to hear from you.

Francis Lau

ALUMNI

After a lengthy period of preparation and sewing, Sunday July 20, 2003, at the Unitarian Church on Cleary Ave. in Ottawa, *Miss Sarah Anne Gregory* ('99) married *Mr. Christopher Alan Wibberley* to become *Mrs. Wibberley.* The ceremony was quiet but sweet and was followed by a favourite of Sarah's, afternoon high tea. Sarah admits to being indecently happy about the whole thing.

PRA International

On September 1, 2003, *Valerie Gibbs* ('98) joined a team of newly appointed Proposal Directors for PRA International. As one of six Proposal Directors, Valerie will be responsible for the costing and operational ownership of all PRA proposals. The directors' knowledge of estimating, study design, strategy and execution will enable PRA to deliver high quality proposals to clients worldwide.

HINFormation / September 2003
©School of Health Information Science, University of Victoria
Tel: (250) 721-8575; Fax (250) 472-4751;

Page 1 of 6
Web Site: http://hinf.uvic.ca
e-mail lwood@uvic.ca

After spending a year in Spokane, *Steve Pedersen* ('02) has moved to Yale university to continue his master's. He is studying social and behavioural sciences within their epidemiology and public health program. When finished, he has the option of returning to Spokane.

*****

Congratulations to *Denise Russell* ('95) and *Brent McMillan* on the birth of their first child. At 5:30 p.m. on September 12, *Cole Russell McMillan* was born weighing 7.7 lb with a full head of hair and his mom's olive skin tone.

*****

After finishing 3 years of pediatric residency, *Laura Sauve* ('96) has moved to Toronto where she is now doing a fellowship in Pediatric Infectious Diseases at the Hospital for Sick Children.

*****

Following his final work term, *Simon Ng* ('03) stayed on at Teekay Shipping (Canada) Ltd. as an Application Analyst. The application he is supporting is used world-wide allowing him to travel to their other offices including Oslo.

*****

Since June I have been working for Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) as an Information Privacy Analyst. This is a very exciting and fun position. I have several major projects on the go with more starting very soon. To date, most of my energy has been focussed on creating a provincial privacy impact assessment (PIA) template. All the health authorities in the province are now using this template. The next step for me is to start coordinating and conducting PIAs for VCH, as well as continuing work on my other projects. I am a very busy girl right now but I sure am loving it!

Christine Baynton ('03)

VYSTA

The VYSTA Project of the **Vancouver Island Health Authority** (VIHA) has a large contingent of energetic HINF alumni in Victoria.

VYSTA is an electronic patient care tool that will integrate functions and information from core services such as Patient Registration and Placement, Booking, Pharmacy, Laboratory, Medical Imaging, and Health Records, and will eventually form the basis of the Electronic Health Record. It will link patient information from the emergency rooms and from community and mental health encounters to the permanent patient record. The Project is in the third of five phases, with a targeted completion date of December 2005. Cerner Corporation has partnered with VIHA to provide the health care information technology systems.

During Phase 1, core components of the system were built and as the system used in Pharmacy was being retired, the Cerner Pharmacy application, PharmNet, was introduced. When Phase 2 went live in June 2002, staff (predominantly in the acute care sites) were able to view patient demographic and visit information, Medical Imaging reports, Laboratory results, and Heart Lung Health reports, and could electronically schedule patient appointments. The rollout of PowerChart, the VYSTA application used to view clinical information online, also began.

Phase 3 will have many Go Live dates as the Pharmacy, Medical Imaging, Patient Registration and Placement departments complete the rollout of their applications to all South Island sites (including Lady Minto Hospital). 1200 staff and physicians have been trained to use PowerChart, and about 700 more will be trained by the end of the year. As the rollout team trains the staff, the build team is developing new functionality (such as the viewing of order details and procedure completion details).

During Phase 3, Blood Bank will be introduced at all South Island acute care sites, a new Medical Transcription module will implemented and the Emergency Rooms in RJH, VGH and SPH will begin using FirstNet, the Cerner Triage and Tracking module. Clinicians will be able to view the Blood Bank, Transcription and FirstNet information using PowerChart.

Phases 4 and 5 will focus less on acute care and more on the community and mental health populations. For more information about the VYSTA Project, have a look at www.viha.ca/vysta.

Willie Thompson ('02)

Front Row: *Heather Davies* ('97), *Anita DiMaio* ('96), *Cathy Fraser* ('96)
Back Row: *Cara Johnson* ('02), *Carolyn Thomsen* ('02), *Willie Thompson* ('02), *Kim Demacedo* ('02), *Guy Lagace* ('88, Cerner)

Updates….

John Bartle-Clar ('01) has opened his own consulting business under the name "Shotbolt Consulting" …..… *Scott Robertson* ('00) has returned to Victoria and is working at the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA)……. *Birute* (*Foster) Curran ('* 00) now has MPH behind her name……. *Phu Vu* ('01) has moved back home to Calgary to work at the Calgary Health Region with *Jeremy Smith* ('99)…… *Tim d'Estrube* ('02) is working at the Camden and Islington Mental Health and Social Care Trust in London, England……. *Fazilah Remu* ('03) spent four months holidaying in Kenya and is now working at Baycrest in Toronto......*Goldie Luong ('*03) is back at UVic studying for her

HINFormation / September 2003
©School of Health Information Science, University of Victoria
Tel: (250) 721-8575; Fax (250) 472-4751;

Page 2 of 6
Web Site: http://hinf.uvic.ca
e-mail lwood@uvic.ca

MBA.……*Alec Matthews* ('03) is working for Greymartin Consulting Inc. owned by *Rosemary Gray* ('95).

STUDENTS

Shaina Hood and *Jamila Madhani* received $1,550 each as the 2003 recipients of the Barbara Thornton Memorial Award. Congratulations!

New

On September 2nd we held our annual new student mixer to welcome the 41 "new kids". Six of those students have opted to enroll in the new Combined Major Program in Computer Science and Health Information Science. Welcome to: *Al-Saadi Aadil, Jesdeep Bassi, Brad Baxandall, Steven Braz, Prakorn Chayanuwat, Bryan Christiansen, Emil Czillinger-Horvath, Ramina Dhillon, Vlad Filatov, Adeline Fonkam, Lindsay Forland, Shannon Gibson, Kimberley Goods, Janine Greenwell, Willa Hong, Xianting Hu, Marc Huot, Patricia Ko, Phyllis Lai, Allison Langton, Eunjeong Lee, Shahid Manji, Kenneth McKnight, Winkie Ng, William Ng, Catherine Pagett, Kalbir Parmar, Ashley Peacey, Dan Piecuch, Sumeet Sahota, Aneet Sahota, Reed Scott, Meagan Sinclair, Leo Siu, Kate Tickner, Anuj Virdi, Johnny Wang, Zhisong Yan, Ju Yang, Joanne Yu* and *Bernie Zhang.*

*****

Full of optimism, *Rob Landry* flew to Australia to look for a co-op work term. Shortly after arriving there he was successful in his quest. He will be working for 13 weeks in the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit at the Westmead Children's hospital in Sydney.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Our MSc program is now official. The first three graduate students under the formal program are *Nicole Grimm, Joseph Lynch*, and *Neelam Sandhu* . Nicole received the $13,500 UVic Graduate Fellowship award.

******

Mowafa Househ is investigating ways of translating medical research into information that reaches policy makers in a meaningful and timely way.   He is one of six UVic graduate students receiving a 2003 Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Awards. The Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research is a non-profit society established in 2001 by the province of British Columbia to provide leadership and support for advancing health research in B.C. It's named after the late Dr. *Michael Smith*, a renowned teacher and mentor.

*****

Doctoral candidate *Carolyn Green* married *Tony DeBruyne* July 12th at the UVic Interfaith Chapel in an intimate ceremony with close friends, family and HINFers!

Carolyn, Tony

From September 19-21 I attended the Software Technology and Engineering Practice (STEP) 2003 workshop in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. The workshop took place at the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, an old academy with stone walls and sloped ceilings, which made for a great atmosphere for workshop presentations and discussions. STEP brought together people from computing science, information systems and health information science. My presentation was on my palliative care ontology work and took place in a workshop on eHealth Software Systems and Networks. The workshop allowed me to gain some insight and suggestions for my research as well as allowing me to form collaborative ties with other researchers. In the little bit of time not consumed by STEP, I was able to experience some of the culture of Amsterdam such as the Van Gogh museum. I would like to thank the CIHR Strategic Training Program and the Faculty of Graduate Studies for providing the funds for me to attend STEP 2003.

Craig Kuziemsky

COURSE UNION

The 2003/2004 school year looks promising for the HINF Course Union. There are many keen HINFers ready to start off this semester on a fun note. During the first week of school, events for this semester were already being planned for and much interest from students to become part of the Course Union was displayed.

As the student body representative for the School of Health Information Science, the Course Union is made up of a number of HINF students who work together to organize various events for fellow HINF students. In previous semesters, events such as BBQ's, camping trips, bonfires, pub-crawls, baseball and volleyball games have been planned, but the options are endless. There has even been a sale of

HINFormation / September 2003
©School of Health Information Science, University of Victoria
Tel: (250) 721-8575; Fax (250) 472-4751;

Page 3 of 6
Web Site: http://hinf.uvic.ca
e-mail lwood@uvic.ca

HINF clothing to fundraise money to help pay for some of these events.

The HINF Course Union is about having fun. It is a great way to meet other students within the HINF program as well as within other cohorts in a relaxed atmosphere, outside of the school setting. This means anyone can plan events and everyone is more than welcome to be part of the events. These events are advertised through the Course Union's list serve. Currently we are trying a new and exciting way of accessing Course Union student information. A 2nd year HINFer has created his own HINF website, where students can access information about the Course Union, upcoming events, social gatherings, and even have the option to post their own news, events or pictures for other students to view. For more information, check out: www.hinf.com

For any questions regarding this new website, please contact: *Greg Botten*: gbotten@uvic.ca

For any questions regarding the HINF Course Union, please contact:

Monica Balicki: mbalicki@uvic.ca or *Monika Savai-Szy*: monika_savai@shaw.ca

[The course union list serv is hinfcu@uvvm.uvic.ca]

FACULTY AND STAFF

Ken Chung

The School is very pleased to introduce *Ken Chung* as the new Senior Laboratory Instructor. Ken was trained in mathematics and statistics, and has a diversified work background. He has been an instructor at Camosun College since 1996, and had worked in the information systems business for 18 years at BC Systems Corporation (now ITSD) and Alberta Government Telephone (now Telus), managing various systems development projects, providing technical and end-user supports to internal and ministry customers, and headed up new initiatives including the AI/expert systems team, EDI software acquisition project, EIS/data warehouse initiative, and international industry liaison. His earlier career years were in financial analysis and modeling, systems problem management, statistical consulting, and high school teaching.

Ken has a B.A. from Berkeley, M.Sc. from Calgary, and a Teaching Certificate from UBC.

His personal interests include reading, time traveling, and daydreaming. His ambition is one day he will be a writer or a poet, after he retires.

******

Wedding Bells

Adjunct Associate Professor Michael Guerriere was married on August 30 to *Dr. Miyo Yamashita*. She is a privacy expert, most recently spending 2 years as Corporate Privacy Officer for University Health Network. As such, she has worked with a large number of HINF grads. She has a PhD in Communications from McGill, born and raised in Winnipeg.

They are spending the month of September in Paris. No PCs, no cell phones, no email. Just red wine, baguettes and cheese. What a treat!
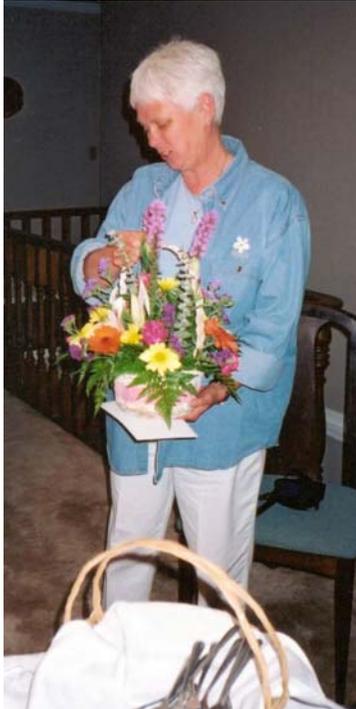
When they return to Toronto, Miyo will be returning to a consulting practice in privacy for several industries including healthcare.

*****

In addition to being an important member of the HINF office team, *Angie Francis* is also an accomplished watercolour artist. Samples of her work can be found at http://www.horizon.bc.ca/~agc

*****

After four years as an undergraduate and two years as a project coordinator, *Kathleen Sun* ('01) has left HINF to work on the other side of the pond. Before starting her new job at the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, Kathleen is taking a well-deserved vacation at Club Med in Cancun.

******

As you wander down the hall in HSD, the new face you see in A206 belongs to *Teg Bains*, the sessional instructor for HINF 301. In his other life, Teg is a pharmacist and 4th year CSC student. Graduate students *Craig Kuziemsky* and *Carolyn Green* are teaching HINF 171 and 180 respectively. *Ken Chung* is teaching HINF 300.

HINFormation / September 2003
©School of Health Information Science, University of Victoria
Tel: (250) 721-8575; Fax (250) 472-4751;

Page 4 of 6
Web Site: http://hinf.uvic.ca
e-mail lwood@uvic.ca

On July 4th the faculty, staff and graduate students gathered at *Leslie Wood's* house to help *Denis Protti* celebrate his 60th birthday. At the end of the evening, *Francis Lau* presented *Pat Coward* with flowers to thank her for assuming the role of Acting Director for the past year.

Pat Coward

Pat Coward has joined Sierra Systems as a Partner in their health practice. Based in Victoria, Pat will be participating in management consulting as well as managing health related projects in B.C. and possibly across Canada. Sierra is primarily a systems development and integration firm so the link with health information science is strong. Pat hopes to continue working with HINFers during co-op work terms.

MISCELLANEOUS

UMIT

Heiko Schuldt is a professor at the University for Health Informatics and Technology Tyrol (UMIT) in Innsbruck, Austria, and head of the unit for information and software engineering since July 2003. He visited the School September 24 – 28 as part of our new partnership with UMIT to exchange faculty and students. While here he presented a research seminar as part of our regular Friday afternoon series. For more information about UMIT, see http://www.umit.at/e/ueber/ueber-uns.cfm?bereich=864&me_id=249

*****

Michael Miller Memorial Ride

Paddy Miller and *Joan Skillings* are riding their bikes across Canada (in stages) in memory of Paddy's son *Michael* ('98) who died August 2000 after a long and very private battle with bipolar disease.

Michael was a sensitive, intelligent fellow with a very wry sense of humour. He was well thought of by his friends and workmates and had many successes in his life. However, in the last months of his life his illness robbed him of his self-esteem and mired him in despair so deep that suicide was the outcome.

The bike journey was a healing one, an attempt to come to grips with our grief and hopefully raise some awareness of the struggles facing individuals with mental illness. The bike trip across Canada is in aid of a new Crisis Stabilization Unit at the Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria. This unit will provide appropriate, timely and dignified care for individuals with mental illness.

The first stage of the ride, Victoria to Lethbridge, took place in September 2002. Joan and Paddy logged 1400 kilometres through scenic southern B.C. and Alberta and met many interesting and supportive people. Stage two from Lethbridge to Winnipeg will take place September 2003.

If you wish to support the Crisis Stabilization Unit, donations can be sent to:

The Greater Victoria Hospitals Foundation
TWC Campaign
H304, 633 Courtenay Street
Victoria, B.C. V8W 1B9
In Memory of Michael Miller

E-Health Conference:

The annual e-health conference, hosted by CIHI and COACH, will be taking place at the Victoria Conference Centre from May 8-11, 2004. E-health professionals are invited to reflect upon how we are doing in identifying successes, learning from failures and addressing the on-going challenges of today. The conference will also feature a trade show highlighting leading edge products that are emerging and services the health care sector demands. Make sure to mark this event on you calendars.

Collaborative Technologies Explored

The School is moving into using collaborative technologies in project work and teaching. *Dr. Francis Lau* is using shared computer applications, web conferencing and voice over IP to communicate with colleagues from across Canada in several of his projects aimed at supporting collaborative education between educational institutions and partners from a cross Canada. Participants in the projects funded by the Office of Learning Technology (OLT), Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR) and CANARIE include Dalhousie, McGill, Sherbrooke, Toronto, Waterloo, McMaster, Alberta, Calgary, UBC, BCIT, Western Ontario University, Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences, Canadian Health Records Association (CHRA), and COACH, Canada's Health Informatics Association.

HINFormation / September 2003
©School of Health Information Science, University of Victoria
Tel: (250) 721-8575; Fax (250) 472-4751;

Page 5 of 6
Web Site: http://hinf.uvic.ca
e-mail lwood@uvic.ca

In addition to project related conferences the technology is used to adapt courses for distance education. Dr. Lau's graduate course, HINF 503, "Research Methods in Health Informatics" is exclusively offered in this mode. This is a pilot course delivered entirely online with weekly discussion forums and virtual classes. Even students on campus are using this method. *Dr. Jochen Moehr* is adapting his Health Care Quality Improvement course to this delivery mode. In this case, remote participants at Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) hospitals engaged in project work with local and remote students communicate in this fashion.

The technology used varies in different applications. The selection was not easy as there are at a least 40 relevant products on the market, and the precise needs for the different applications were not known yet. We scrutinized more than half a dozen projects more closely before a decision had to be made in order to get ready for the term. The selection process was very much supported by the teams of *Dr. Andre Kushniruk*, York University; *Dr. Yuri Quintana*, St. Jude's Hospital, Memphis, TN, USA; *Dr. Rob Hayward*, University of Alberta; and, *Dr. Marilynne Hebert*, Health Telematics Unit, University of Calgary.

The effort is also under examination by evaluator *Dr. Marilynne Hebert*. In addition, *Nicole Grimm* evaluates the process specifically with respect to achieving the goals of the Quality Improvement course. We look forward to the insights generated by the evaluators and to communicating the experiences. So far, the experience has been surprisingly positive, and the technology could be mastered without major glitches. This is to a large part due to the diligent support that *Dr. Felicia Pantazi* provides to faculty in her capacity as Multi Media Consultant.

Dr. Moehr is convinced that the endeavour is not only relevant for learning, teaching, and research collaboration but has direct implications for health care. This conviction is based on his recent Telehealth Experience, which showed that educational endeavours are of tremendous benefit for patients, their families and the care teams supporting them. Currently, these endeavours are limited by the access to video conferencing services, however. Making this kind of communication available through computers linked by internet will open tremendous opportunities for reaching out to remote underserved populations.

Jochen Moehr

Research Seminars

This fall we started experimenting with synchronous Web-conference software called VClass in the weekly research seminar series. You can now join these sessions "live" at a distance if you have a high-speed Internet connection via http://hicweb.his.uvic.ca/hinf580/ at least 10 minutes before the session; contact Felicia at 250-472-4300 for details. Although in the experimental stage, you can visit the School website to view some of the seminar recordings we have rendered thus far.

*****

Communication Issues

The School has three main list servs in addition to those for individual courses:

hinfcu@uvvm.uvic.ca

A means for students and the course union to communicate, students subscribe themselves to this list. This is the list to use to arrange parties, look for roommates, sublet your apartment, etc.

hinfinfo@uvvm.uvic.ca

All students should subscribe to this list. This is the list the School uses to disseminate information to the student body.

hinf-l@uvvm.uvic.ca

This list serv is used by the School to communicate with the alumni. Alumni wishing to be included on the distribution list need to send their request to lwood@uvic.ca

*****

Need help?

DIRECTOR AND GRADUATE ADVISOR

Dr. Francis Lau,
   fylau@uvic.ca

SCHOOL SECRETARY

Ms. Leslie Wood,
   lwood@uvic.ca

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ADVISOR

Professor Gerhard Brauer,
   gwbrauer@uvic.ca

ACTING CO-OP COORDINATOR

Mr. Dave Hutchinson,
   hiscoop@uvic.ca

For a full listing of the faculty, staff and graduate students, see the School's web site.

HINFormation / September 2003
©School of Health Information Science, University of Victoria
Tel: (250) 721-8575; Fax (250) 472-4751;

Page 6 of 6
Web Site: http://hinf.uvic.ca
e-mail lwood@uvic.ca