

# HINFormation

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

September 2007

## OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

HSD A300

Come learn about the rapidly expanding field of  
information technology in healthcare.

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## ALUMNI



Lioudmila Miaous and Yuri Beskrovny

After graduating in June, Lioudmila Miaous and Yuri Beskrovny are now working at the Victoria office of KnowledgeTech. Wei Hong, who is graduating in November, is also working there.

### **Jeff Barnett**

I will leaving my previous role as a Pharmacy Analyst to assume the newly created position of Director, Clinical Informatics, Cancer Care for the BC Cancer Agency. This position was largely created to assist with many of the new informatics activities at the BC Agency, an agency of the Provincial Health Authority. These new activities will include help in planning for the roll out of the Cerner clinical information system and of Provincial e-health initiatives. One of the main reasons that I was able to fill this role was due to my recent graduation from the School's distributed MSc program. Much of the course work for the program was relevant to this new position. In particular a lecture given by Professor Protti formed the basis for my new job description.

Jeff Barnett (MSc '07)

## Calgary alumni get-together



While vacationing in Calgary this summer, Denis and Pat Protti entertained a number of the Calgary based alumni on July 30<sup>th</sup>. The School's first graduate in 1986, Sherri Miller, was among those in attendance. Shown in the picture above, from left to right, are: Togio Chayanuwat ('06), Kevin Lonergan ('03), Rajan Clarke ('06), Paul Farnell ('00), Vanessa Magiera ('07), Yunzhi Zhan ('03), Sasha Wong ('01), Denis Protti, Allison Langton ('06), Sherry Miller ('86) and Gavin D'Mello ('06).

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Jack Shaw ('02) spent his summer as a volunteer at Koeye Lodge. Located in British Columbia's Great Bear Rainforest and overlooking the Pacific, the Koeye (pronounced "kway") have been for millennia cherished by the Heiltsuk First Nation people for its healing and sustenance and have been a home for 'Qaikas Nan' – the Great Grizzly Bear. Nestled at the mouth of Koeye River is the Koeye Lodge – a non-profit society that is committed to supporting Heiltsuk youth, culture and environment. The traditional ceremonial Bighouse supports the culture and science camps organized for kids and youth as well as their healing programs.

Volunteers assisted the Heiltsuk First Nation with restoration projects and the completion of the traditional ceremonial Bighouse and were involved in some work with the youth culture and science camps, healing courses and non-profit ecotourism on site. They helped with landscaping the Bighouse area, including brushing, gardening, moving sand and rock, stream clean-up, clearing and building trails, etc.

## Alumni on the Move

Michael Li ('03) has recently completed his Masters in Health Administration at the University of Toronto, and is now Director of Health Services Planning for the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority.

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Alan C. Martin ('86) is now a Manager for Clinical Application Services for Calgary Health Region – Advanced Technologies. Alan's most recent role was Application Services Team Lead (also at Calgary Health Region).

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Togio Chayanuwat ('06) has accepted a position of IM/IT Manager with Calgary Foothills Primary Care Network in affiliation with Calgary Health Region, Alberta Medical Association and Alberta Health and Wellness. Togio's most recent role was a Project Analyst with Calgary Health Region – Patient Care Information System.

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Wendy Tegart ('97) is now a Director of Service Level Management at Calgary Health Region Advanced Technologies. Wendy's previous role was Director of IT Relationship (also at Calgary Health Region Advanced Technologies).

\*\*\*\*\*

Kathleen Jones ('06) is on a one year leave of absence from Calgary Health Region – Patient Care Information System to pursue her Master Degree (full-time) in Religious Studies at University of Calgary.

\*\*\*\*\*

Reed Scott ('07) has accepted a position as Evaluation Analyst, Information Support & Research, with Interior Health.

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Liza Bialy ('00) is still in Edmonton where she is enjoying her work at the Department of Pediatrics, University of Alberta. She has just started her MSc in Public Health Sciences.

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Congratulations to Dr. Donna Turner ('88) on her promotion to Associate Professor at the University of Manitoba.

## From HINFers in Calgary to HINFers elsewhere!

Another exciting opportunity to share the news and some updates with fellow HINF alumni around the world! In addition to already a large group of HINF 2006 alumni crew at Calgary Health Region, we had the pleasure to welcome Rajan Clarke ('06) to Community Care Information System Project, Vanessa Magiera ('06) to Patient Care Information System Project and Steve Braz ('07) to Calgary Health Region – Calgary Lab Information System. Aside to those that joined Calgary Health Region, we have the pleasure to work closely with '03 alumni Kevin Lonergan who is a consultant for our Patient Care Information System Project. Kevin Lonergan's home organization is Vitalized Consulting Solutions. We also have the privilege to enjoy Tanu Gidda ('04) in the vicinity of Calgary Health Region. Tanu Gidda's home organization is Sierra System.

With a good number of members from 2003 to 2007, the bond among

HINF alumni continues to stay stronger than ever. With members of HINF alumni on various informatics projects, we continue to share and expand our knowledge and experience on a daily basis. We also continue to maintain our strong social network that we have built since we were in university. Having said so, the alumni in Calgary would like to continue to stay in touch with those in other cities! We hope to hear some updates from other cohorts in the next HINF newsletter!

Talking about social network, we had the opportunity to meet up with Crystal Quan ('07), Ken McKnight ('06), Heather Taylor ('06) and Shannon Gibson ('06) during the 2007 Calgary World Famous Stampede! It was a fantastic time with "giddee-up~yee-haw" style!

On another note, we had a pleasure to visit with David Hutchison (HINF Co-op Coordinator) during his co-op students' site visit this past July. We thank David for a wonderful dinner! We also had a pleasure to enjoy Professor Protti and his wife during their summer visit in Calgary. At Professor Protti's gathering, we had the opportunity to meet with other HINF alumni from the recent years, some of which are from class of 1986!

For your information, here are some names of Alumni in Calgary thus far:

Steve Braz ('07)  
Togio Chayanuwat ('06)  
Bryan Christiansen ('06)  
Rajan Clarke ('06)  
Gavin D'Mello ('06)  
Paul Farnell ('00)  
Kathleen Jones ('06)  
Allison Langton ('06)  
Vanessa Magiera ('06)  
Alan C. Martin ('86)  
Wendy Tegart ('96)  
Sasha Wong ('01)  
Yang Xiao ('06)  
YunZhi Zhan ('03)

Take Care

Togio Chayanuwat ...on behalf of the Calgary Crew!

## Reza Berenji

Reza Berenji (MSc '01) started a new position at UCLA as Assistant Professor in the Department of Radiology and VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare. After graduating from UVic, he joined University of California, Irvine for 3 years of research in medical imaging. He finished his residency in Nuclear Medicine last July. Nuclear Medicine, which is better known as Molecular Imaging, is one of the newer branches of radiological sciences.

While other imaging modalities such as CT scan or MRI investigate the structure of the organs, Molecular Imaging evaluates the function and physiology. Major modalities in Nuclear Medicine are Positron Emission Tomography (PET) and Single Photon Emission Tomography (SPECT). PET has revolutionized the field of medicine particularly oncology by bringing new methods for diagnosis and follow up of different types of cancer.

SPECT also is the main modality for evaluation of patients with coronary heart disease. While in California, Reza enjoys the weather and outdoor activities with his wife.

## Life after HINF

Dear Hinfers, some of you knew that medicine was where I wanted to take my HINF career and that is where I am. I am in my second year of medicine at UBC's Island Medical Program here at UVic. I must like this place because this is the 3rd degree that I am going to complete from UVic but this one is technically a UBC degree! The 3 campuses of UBC, UVic and UNBC are linked by videoconference technology that is superb and the IT staff at UVic are terrific. I am getting a much better education being here at a smaller campus with more personal attention and smaller class size. HINF was the best option for me for medical school. Although it may not be the best degree to help with the basic sciences

medicine covers in the first 2 years, it is a great degree for clinical work, as IT is a reality and practicality for providing good health services. Best wishes to all.

Neelam Sandhu ('05)

## The baby news



Hayley Sowerby

Ruth Yeo ('96) and Chris Sowerby ('96) are the proud parents of Hayley Parker Sowerby born on February 13<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to mom, dad and big brother Deacon.

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Congratulations also to Stephanie Appleby (HINF '05) and her fiancé Chad on the birth of their son, Liam, on Sunday June 24.

## GRADUATE STUDENTS

Our graduate program is growing by leaps and bounds. Included in the group joining us in September are some familiar faces.

The new distributed stream (on-line) students are: Abdul Alboloshi, Matthew Erskine, YanYan Li ('07), Anna Maruyama, Felicia Pantazi, Yuriy Tatush, Shirley Wong ('90) and Paul Yang ('02)

The new on-campus students are: Jesdeep Bassi ('07), Tarig Dafalla, Heba El Refaey, Mikael Gebre-Mariam, Desmond Guarin, Heather Jennings, Maryam Katani, Steven

Murenbeeld ('07), Maryam Noparast, Byung Park ('07), and Stacey Slager.

Also welcome to Liz Keay who will be starting her PhD by special arrangement in September. Her supervisor will be Andre Kushniruk.

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Mowafa Househ, working at the Northern Health Authority, has been nominated for a Health Employer's Association of BC (HEABC) Excellence in BC Healthcare Award. These awards are important in recognizing the contributions of health care professionals who go above and beyond the call of duty in delivering health care services and support to patients throughout the province. One of the most important features of the awards is that they are peer nominated. The nomination is for the work Mowafa has done on "Dissemination Tools (D-Tools) to Promote Knowledge".

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Lindsay Forland successfully defended her thesis "Evaluating the Process of Electronic Medical Record Implementation for a Health Authority-affiliated Family Practice" on Thursday, June 28, 2007.

## STUDENTS

### Awards and Scholarships

Once again our students have been the recipient of numerous awards and scholarships. Congratulations to: Ekua Affum – President's Scholarship; Michael Bowen – Mrs. Annie Greskiw Scholarship in Health Information Science and the Robert and Norah Wallace Commemorative Scholarship; Lara Dahle – President's Scholarship; Mike Han – Ergocentric Seating Systems Scholarship and ICBC Scholarship in Health Information Science; Wendy Leung – President's Entrance Scholarship; Xueying Liu – University of Victoria International Scholar Awards; Susan Martin – University of Victoria

Entrance Scholarship; Haley Moore – President's Scholarship for Part-Time Undergraduate Students; Kelsey Scott – President's Entrance Scholarship; Ken Wong – Mrs. Annie Greskiw Scholarship in Health Information Science and, Eric Young – President's Entrance Scholarship.

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Tyrone Austen is the 2007 recipient of the James Coward Memorial Award. He has received a cheque for \$1,350 to offset the costs associated with his fall work term. Tyrone is working on health standards for the European Union at Empirica in Bonn, Germany.

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Congratulations to Mikael Gebre-Mariam. His essay "Bipolar Disorder: Learning in Suffering What They Teach in Song" earned him the Michael Miller Scholarship this year.

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Congratulations also to Steve Leavitt and Xueying Liu as this year's recipients of the Barbara Thornton Memorial Award.



Francis Lau and graduating students

Congratulations to the June 2007 graduating students. Aadil Alsaadi, Jesdeep Bassi, Yuri Beskrovny, Steven Braz, Gagan Dhaliwal, Xianting Hu, Jin Huang, Patricia Ko, Crystal Kuan, Yanyan Li, Vanessa Magiera, Lioudmila Miaous, Kalbir Parmar, Reed Scott, Anuj Virdi, Johnny Wang, Yang Xiao, Zhisong Yan and William Yang received their BSc on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Meanwhile, at the same ceremony, Jeff Barnett, Sihong

Huang, Timothy Graham and Liz Peloso were the first students to receive their MSc from our Distributed Stream program.

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As one group leaves, we are very happy to welcome our new crop of students. Entering the undergraduate program in September are: Lindsay Baigent, Alana Booth, Jayme Burns, Xu Chang, Christine Chen, Kevin Cho, Sang-Yeon Cho, Ann Chou, Terence Chung, Robert Day, Flora Dong, Richard Hau, Angela Jurj, Seung Kim, Barry Kong, Crystal Lai, Baron Lam, Sung Lee, Wendy Leung, Victor Liu, Dorian Lunny, Susan Martin, Amy-Marie Miller, Richmond Munro, Tristan Nowacki, Heeji Park, Ken Perras, Jeffrey Reimer, Kelsey Scott, Sarah Sifert, Sean Taylor, Jennifer Toy, Anson Tran, Anita Wu, Wenxuan Xie, Jeffrey Yan, Christeen Young and Eric Young.

## FACULTY AND STAFF

It's official. It is now Gerhard Brauer, EdD. Congratulations Dr. Brauer!

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Francis Lau started his year long sabbatical on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Andre Kushniruk will replace him as the graduate advisor and Denis Protti will oversee the distributed stream (on-line) masters program.

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Longtime adjunct associate professor Don Juzwishin has been appointed CEO of the Health Council of Canada in Toronto starting on Sept 1. The Health Council of Canada is mandated to monitor and report on the progress of health care renewal in Canada.

## New Co-op Assistant



Pam Kaiway

I have just returned to Victoria from Toronto where I worked as the Assistant Coordinator for the International Baccalaureate Program at Toronto French School. Having lived in various cities across Canada as well as in Santiago, Chile, I am looking forward to reacquainting myself with the good life in Victoria having left here many years ago to attend UBC. There I studied engineering and am a Geological Engineer...which should stand me in good stead to help co-op students in Health Information Science! I am truly looking forward to working with the department and meeting students and faculty.

Pam Kaiway

## New Graduate Secretary

Bhupinder Vinning joined us on September 25<sup>th</sup> as our new graduate secretary. She will be working Tuesday – Thursday, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and Fridays, 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Bhupinder has a BA in Economics from UVic and is studying for her CMA Canada Graduate Certificate. She is currently working at the UVic Bookstore.

Please introduce yourself to her the next time you are in the office.

## Instructors for September

Erdem Yazganoglu will be teaching HINF 140 this fall. He got his feet wet this summer teaching HINF 371.

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Sonia Salkeld ('89) has worked in the Information Management/ Information Technology industry for over 17 years, in project management, as a technical advisor and in business management roles, such as Manager New Services Deployment. After graduating from the School of Health Information Science, Sonia consulted with the Greater Victoria Hospital Society then formed the Health Industry Unit at BC Systems Corporation (1991). Sonia is currently the Manager of IT Solutions for the BC Government, which includes provision and integration of IT Services to Ministries, Health Sector clients as well as other public sector organizations. Numerous IT Infrastructure projects completed under her leadership have resulted in Provincial Premier awards or National GTech awards. Most recently she has completed her Master degree with RRU, and published her thesis focusing on IT Service Delivery and Service Management.

Sonia returns to the School of Health Information Science, University of Victoria, as a sessional instructor for IT Project Management (H320) and Health Information Standards and New Technologies (H335).

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Andre Kushniruk gave an invited presentation to the Workshop on Evaluation Methods for Machine Learning” at the 22nd AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-07) in Vancouver on July 22nd entitled; “Challenges and Issues Concerning Evaluation and Data Analysis Methods: Lessons Learned from the Study of Emerging Healthcare Information Systems”.

Elizabeth Borycki has been selected by the Board of Directors of COACH to be their IMIA Representative for the term effective 2007 – 2010.

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“Incentives to EHR adoption: Lessons for England and the USA” by Denis Protti was published in the May 2007 edition of *Canadian Healthcare Technology*.

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## OECD

On April 13, 2007, Professor Denis Protti attended the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) meeting in Paris, France. Professor Protti was among the many experts from around the world who were invited to meet, discuss and refine proposals for future OECD work in the areas of: (1) challenges associated with valuing Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in health care; and (2) drivers and incentives for implementing ICT's in health care. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss: the current state of healthcare ICT applications in countries around the world, the factors that promote or impede adoption or implementation of such technology, and the strength of the evidence regarding the impact of ICT's upon the effectiveness and efficiency of health care systems. Fourteen countries were represented at the meeting, including Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, United Kingdom, and United States. As well, representatives from the European Commission, World Health Organization and a variety of individuals from European universities and the private sector also attended. Professor Denis Protti and Nancy Milroy-Swainson represented Canada at this meeting. A number of topics were discussed. Professor Protti presented his work on EHR adoption in Canada and the role that Chief Information Officers have in implementing ICT's in Canada.



Nicole Grimm and Malcolm Maclure

In July, Dr. Maclure visited Haydom Lutheran Hospital in a remote region of northwest Tanzania where Nicole Grimm, a recent HINF MSc graduate, is doing participatory action research on adoption of the Care2x electronic patient record system, for her PhD in health informatics at University of Alberta. The hospital was established 52 years ago by a Norwegian doctor and is now directed by his grandson. As it grew with the help of Norwegian donors, a small town developed around it. The hospital now delivers an average of 10 babies per day and serves as the secondary treatment hospital for a population of 500,000. In addition to advising Nicole on her thesis, Dr. Maclure and his wife led staff in role plays on quality improvement and conflict management. The role plays ended with the staff singing the take-home message in harmony in Kiswahili: "I have a problem. We have an opportunity."

## STUDENT UNION

The HINF Student Union is a student-operated organization that provides support for all HINF students or anyone taking a HINF course at the University of Victoria. We also organize a wide variety of events throughout the year to help release stress, so keep your eyes open. If you need any more information, don't hesitate to contact the union representative Paul Girm ([pgirm@uvic.ca](mailto:pgirm@uvic.ca)).

## MISCELLANEOUS

The School was well represented when the Eighth World Congress on the Management of eBusiness took place July 11-13, 2007 in Toronto. Andre Kushniruk was chair of the ehealth track. Accepted papers included "Developing a Conceptual Model for Technology Enabled Knowledge Translation Using Tele and Web Conferencing" by graduate student Mowafa Househ, et al (presented by Andre Kushniruk).

Craig Kuziemyk (PhD '06) also presented a paper on behalf of the Victoria Palliative Research Network Interprofessional Practices Team. The paper is entitled 'A Framework for Interdisciplinary Team Communication and its Implications for Information Systems Design'. The paper is available through the IEEE computer society digital library at <http://doi.ieeecomputersociety.org/10.1109/WCMEB.2007.65>

### Marketing Update

In an attempt to recruit more new students the corequisites for HINF 130 and HINF 140 have been removed and both courses will be offered in the fall and spring terms. An announcement was sent electronically to every student registered in a 100 level course at UVic, and a copy of the announcement was included with our annual "new student letter".

## Information Technology and Health Care Series

Continuing Studies is offering two sessions this fall for health and helping professionals. The first session, *Improving the Safety of the Healthcare System* will be held on Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. The instructor is Dr. Andre Kushniruk, Associate Professor and Director of the School of Health Information Science. The second session, *Total Quality Improvement: A Methodology for Improving Health Care Processes and Outcomes* will be held on Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. The instructor is Elizabeth Borycki, RN, MN, PhD (candidate). For online registration (credit card only): [www.continuingstudies.uvic.ca/register/](http://www.continuingstudies.uvic.ca/register/)

## Career forum October 17th

Have you ever wondered exactly what you will be doing with your degree in Health Information Science? Now is your chance to see just what is possible. Join us October 17 at 5:30 p.m. in DSB C118 for our Career Forum. Andre Kushniruk and a panel of five alumni will describe the development of their career paths, significant career development events or influences, the value of their degrees and provide advice to students and new graduates. The panel will be followed by a question and discussion period.

Registration is FREE and refreshments will be provided. Space is limited. Register today at <http://careerforums.uvic.ca/register.html>