You are invited

Can’t attend ITCH 2009? You can still take part in one of the networking opportunities.

Tickets for the Friday night reception at the Royal British Columbia Museum can now be purchased by HINF alumni and students even if you aren’t registered for ITCH 2009.

The reception starts at 6:30 pm on Friday, February 20, 2009 in the Modern History Gallery of the RBCM. Tickets for this event can be purchased by completing the registration form at http://itch.uvic.ca/documents/registration.pdf.

The cost is $50.00 each which includes one drink ticket plus an abundance of finger food provided by Truffles Catering.

You will get a chance to meet ITCH 2009 delegates from around the world and to reconnect with former classmates and friends.

Registration for this event will only be accepted until Friday, February 13th. You must be 19 years of age to attend.

ITCH 2009

The presentation schedule for the three days of the conference is on our website along with the workshop abstracts. The ITCH Steering Committee is looking forward to welcoming delegates from around the world including Australia, Brazil, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Japan, Nepal, Nigeria, Singapore, Sweden, Taiwan, Tanzania, Tasmania, Uganda, UK, USA, and, of course, Canada.

Networking opportunities abound at ITCH 2009. From the Opening Reception on Thursday evening to the Friday evening reception at the Royal British Columbia Museum and the Gala dinner on Saturday night, not to mention continental breakfasts each morning, along with daily lunches and breaks, everyone should have ample opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones.

CME Credits

For the first time ever, we are pleased to announce that the Information Technology and Communications in Health (ITCH 2009) conference Revolutionizing Health Care with Informatics: From Research to Practice, has been approved by the College of Family Physicians of Canada for 16.5 CME credits. The workshops are approved for a further 3 CME credits each.

Keynote Speakers

Jennifer Zelmer (’93) now the Chief Executive Officer, International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation in Denmark will be our keynote speaker on Saturday. Friday we are honoured to have Mike Bainbridge, Clinical Architect, NHS Connecting for Health, UK, as our keynote speaker, and on Sunday, Adjunct Associate Professor Don Juzwishin, former CEO of the Health Council of Canada, and now CEO of Juzwishin Consulting Inc. will give the plenary speech.

Information about the workshops and the schedule of presentations can be found at http://itch.uvic.ca/program.php.


Student participation

We have tried very hard to enhance the HINF student experience at ITCH 2009. We have a record number – 16 – entered in the student poster contest which will be judged prior to the opening reception. We have maintained the student price of $150 for conference registration, and we have reduced the cost for HINF students to attend the pre-conference workshops to 1/5 the cost of regular registration. A draw will be made on Thursday evening for two complimentary Gala dinner tickets, courtesy of the generosity of Dominic Covvey, University of Waterloo.

In this edition…….

ITCH 2009.............................. 1
GRADUATE STUDENTS..... 2
STUDENTS............................. 2
ALUMNI............................. 2
FACULTY............................. 2
MISCELLANEOUS............... 3
GRADUATE STUDENTS

Jay Lambert and his wife Sharon welcomed the latest addition to their family on November 8, 2008. Liam Thomas Lambert arrived at 6 lb. 3 oz. and is a big success with siblings Nicole and Christian.

May Workshop

Planning is underway for the 2009 May Workshop. This year Dr. Andre Kushniruk and Professor Denis Protti will be the faculty instructors for the scheduled courses. The workshop has proven to provide a great opportunity to meet and reconnect with fellow students and faculty. The School of Health Information Science is looking forward to the arrival of all first time attendees and returning students.

New graduate students

New admits into the distributed stream for January 2009 are: Robyn Cairns, Joseph Crow, Susan Hall, Lida Kam, Glen Richardson, Tracy Selst, James Stewart, Richard Varhol and Steven Villebrun.

As well, Fabiola Pinheiro has started the on-campus stream this month.

STUDENTS

January Admission

We welcome our new undergraduates who were admitted to the HINF program on January 1, 2009. New students are: Abhinav Aggarwal, Chelsey Benzel, Garrett Bowden, Kevin Dong, Maria Fernandes, Joel Gomez, Kiran Jhutty, Shu Wei Long, Kirsten Marsh, Derek Miller, Nusrin Moolla, Raman Mundi, Richmond Munro, Yen Nguyen, Pamela Rekhi, Brittany Sims, Liu Siwen, and Candace Zylak.

Congratulations to our November 2008 BSc graduates: Michael Bowen, Christopher Carvalho, Brian Chou, Paul Girn, Diane Gowing, Marc Huot, Shu Wei Long, Beth Nuniam, Dan Piecuch, Shujin Wang, and Ali Yousefi. We hope you will all keep in touch and let us know what you are up to.

Cameron Keyes (’96) received his MSc at the same ceremony.

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Congratulations to Tim Sheaff and his partner Alanna, on the birth of their first child, Phoenix Damion Edward Sheaff, 6 lbs. and 14 oz. on October 14.

Awards & Scholarships

Congratulations to: Margaret Bishop – President’s Scholarship; Yuejiao Chen - University of Victoria Entrance Scholarship; Lara Dahle – President’s Scholarship and the Michael Miller Scholarship; Jesse Gardner – TP Systems Ltd. Graham Powell Memorial Scholarship in Health Information Science; Mike Han – President’s Scholarship and the Mrs. Annie Greskiw Scholarship in Health Information Science; Angela Jurj – President’s Scholarship; Wendy Leung – President’s Scholarship; Haley Moore – ICBC Scholarship in Health Information Science; Julia Pearson – President’s Scholarship; Timothy Sheaff - President’s Scholarship; Heewon Yang – University of Victoria Entrance Scholarship; Yujin Yeo – Come to Campus Grant, Grade 11 Scholarship and University of Victoria Entrance Scholarship; Eric Young – Jarmila Vlasta Von Drak Thouvenelle Scholarship and the President’s Scholarship; and, Yinxin Zhu – the Mrs. Annie Greskiw Scholarship in Health Information Science.

ALUMNI

Congratulations to Crystal Janicki (’02). Crystal graduated DDM from UBC in May 2008. Dr. Janicki is now practicing dentistry in Vancouver.

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I have recently accepted the position of Associate Chief Medical Information Officer for Alberta Health Services Capital Health. I believe that my masters degree contributed greatly to me getting the position and it can be chocked up to another success for the program.

Tim Graham MD (MSc ’07)

FACULTY

Congratulations to new grandpa, Adjunct Professor Don Juzwishin, on the birth of his first grandchild. William Riley Michael Kozoriz arrived on December 12th, 2008 at 5:24 pm and weighed in at 7 pounds even. I am sure Don will have plenty of pictures to share when he comes out to speak at the ITCH conference next month.
**COACH award**

Denis Protti was the recipient of the 2009 Canadian Health Informatics Award for Leadership in the Field of Health Informatics. Congratulations!

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Cathy Ruszel is our new receptionist. She brings to us a wide range of experience working in educational settings including elementary, middle and secondary schools and university offices. Cathy serviced students, staff and administrators at the Cowichan School District for the past eight years and welcomes the opportunity to support students and faculty alike in the School of Health Information Science.

**FRANCIS LAU**

Congratulations to Francis Lau for being awarded a Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Applied Chair in Health Services and Policy Research (for the application “An eHealth Observatory to Monitor the Effects of Health Information System Deployment in Canada”). This is a 5-year career award, one of seven being awarded in this round of competition. The others include the areas of patient safety, drug policy and access to appropriate care across the continuum.

Francis, congratulations on your success in this competition and good luck on your work in this important area!

Andre Kushniruk

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**Peter L. Reichertz Institute (PLRI) founded in Germany**

October 9 and 10, 2008 marked the official inauguration of the Peter L. Reichertz Institute for Medical Informatics in Hannover and Braunschweig, Germany. This unique construction of one Institute located at two neighboring academic institutions – the Technical University of Braunschweig and Hannover Medical School – is the creation of Prof. Herbert Matthies, Medizinische Hochschule Hannover (MHH), and Prof. Reinhold Haux, Technische Universität Braunschweig (TU Braunschweig). The name of the institute honours the internationally renowned pioneer of Medical Informatics who in 1969 founded the world’s first academic Department for Medical Informatics at the MHH in Hannover. The institute also continues the legacy left by Prof. Peter Pretschner at the TU Braunschweig.

The two day inaugural ceremony in the two locations united over 150 attendees, among them representatives of science, technology, government, industry and the media, including three IMIA Presidents (Reinhold Haux, Otto Rienhoff, and Jan van Bemmel), and many former colleagues, disciples and co-workers of Peter Reichertz. Jochen R. Moehr, Professor Emeritus of the School of Health Information Science, UVic, had been invited to give a key note address on the legacy of Peter Reichertz, his erstwhile teacher. In his talk, he summarized the multifaceted achievements of Reichertz, including an integrated hospital information system, which was created by an interdisciplinary team, and became operational in the early seventies, gaining international acclaim. He suggested that the most important legacy of Reichertz is a comprehensive concept of Medical Informatics and a matching approach to teaching this new field. Another key note, given by Prof. Jan van Bemmel, Professor and Chair, Department of Medical Informatics, University of Rotterdam, NL, addressed the interdisciplinary nature of Medical Informatics and its consequences for success.

The event included an exchange of frog images: Jochen presented Reinhold with a frog image by Maynard Johny Jr. in grateful recognition of Reinhold’s choice of one of Jochen’s frog photos on the cover of a recent text book. There it serves as a sign of Jochen’s symbolic contribution to the book through his pioneering work in project-based teaching in health informatics.

Jochen Moehr

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**MISCELLANEOUS**

Former HINF student, David Bigsby, has just become a very proud new father. Angus James Bigsby was born on the Winter Solstice (a very wintery day in Victoria) weighing in at 5 lb. 14 oz.
Revolutionizing Health Care with Informatics: From Research to Practice is the working theme for the 2009 international conference being held in Victoria, BC, Canada. At the ITCH 2009 conference, leading interdisciplinary practitioners and researchers from Canada and the world will meet to discuss methods in information production and use that will revolutionize the way in which health care is delivered.

Pre-Conference Workshops – February 19th

Morning:
- Revolutionizing Healthcare with Business Intelligence;
- The UVic Interdisciplinary EHR Educational Portal: Integrating EHR Into Health Professional Education and Practice;
- Assessing Factors for Successful Widespread Adoption of Physician EMRs

Afternoon:
- Methods for User Driven Innovation and Participatory Design from a Scandinavian Approach;
- Evaluating the Costs and Benefits of ICT-based Applications in Healthcare Across Multiple Levels;
- How an EMR Impacts Physician Workflow.

Paper Presentations – Feb 20 - 22

Over 100 papers presented in 4 tracks over 3 days

A Choice of Panels – February 22nd

- Comparing and Contrasting Three Different Qualitative Approaches for Evaluating Health Information Systems: Identifying the “Best” Approach for Use in Research and Evaluation;
- Maxing the Educational Experience: Panel on Undergraduate HI Education in Canada;
- Can We Prove That IT Investment Improves Health Outcomes: Three Perspectives

Keynote Speakers

Mike Bainbridge, NHS Connecting for Health, UK
Jennifer Zelmer, IHTSDO, Denmark
Donald W.M. Juzwishin, Juzwishin Consulting Inc.
Grad Conn, Microsoft Corporation

After Dinner Speaker

To register or to get more information, see:
http://itch.uvic.ca

Email: itch@uvic.ca  Tel: (250) 721-8576 or  Fax: (250) 472-4731

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