

HINFormation

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

September 2009

NEW ACTING DIRECTOR

Gerhard Brauer, BA (Honours), (Victoria) MA, (UBC), EdD (UBC), Associate Professor and Undergraduate Student Advisor, is now the Acting Director for the School of Health Information Science effective September 1st. Gerhard joined the School as an Assistant Professor in 1987.

STUDENTS

Julia Zhu ('09) had one of her term papers accepted by the Penn Bioethics Journal and published! It can be reviewed online in the latest issue (Page 34-37):
<http://www.bioethicsjournal.com/>.
This is her second publication during her undergrad study (the first one was for ITCH 2009).

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New Entrance Scholarship



Mowafa Househ (above) became our 7th successful PhD student at the convocation ceremony in June.

He has established the **Dr. Mowafa Househ Entrance Scholarship in Health Information Science**. An award of \$250 will go to an undergraduate student entering the School of Health Information Science. Preference will be given to a student from Northern BC. The first scholarship will be awarded in January 2010.

June graduates

Congratulations to our most recent students receiving their BSc in June: Lindsay Bentley, Hilary Chan, Tashu Girm, Derek Ho, Steve Leavitt, William Li, Patrice Noronha, Blaine Perry, Nadia Rashid, Meagan Sinclair, Kathy Yang, and Yinxin Zhu.

We also said farewell to four MSc students: Jonathan Dawrant, Sandra Geddes, Jay Lynch, and Sandesh Puttappa -Shivananda.

The New Kids on the Block

We welcome our new undergraduate students who were admitted to the HINF program on September 1, 2009. New students are: Affum Akosua, Jonathan Anglin, Alanna Blackall, Jessica Brown, Paul Brunckhurst, Cleo Chan, Leonard Chan, Kranthi Chintalaphani, Anna Chong, Dillon Chrimes, Ruby Chuang, Megan Davies, Yunyong Guo, Priscilla Ha, Jane Ho, Elyse Kuwert, Jamie Lai, Ryan Leigh, Cosmin Lungu, Eunice Mak, Eric Parapini, Paul Payne, Josie Randhawa, Rachel Simpson, HaoRan Tan, Alan Yan, HeeSun Yang, and Xiao (May) Zhong.

Awards

Paul Brunckhurst and Tim Sheaff have received the Barbara Thornton Memorial Award this year. Meanwhile Haley Moore is this year's recipient of the Michael Miller Award. Her essay can be read at <http://hinf.uvic.ca/documents/HaleyMoore.pdf>

ALUMNI

Damon Mak ('99) is currently working at Eclipsys as a Technical Manager for Product Support Services in Richmond, BC.

Rising Star

Goldie Luong ('03) has received the University of Victoria's Rising Star Award for her strong sense of community, both at the Vancouver Island Health Authority where she is Manager, Residential Assessment Instruments, Clinical Information Management and Business Systems, and within her professional circle as a board member of the Canadian College of Health Service Executives.



Kathleen Jones ('06) and Kevin Frandsen were married on September 5th, 2009 at St. Bonaventure Roman Catholic Church in Calgary, AB. HINF alumna Vanessa Magiera ('07) was a bridesmaid. The happy couple had a relaxing (?) honeymoon in Disneyland and Las Vegas. Congratulations!

Greetings from Iran



Mahmood Tara at Kaboodwall Waterfall (Aliabad-Iran).

Mahmood Tara (PhD '08) has finally established the first formal Biomedical Informatics Department in Iran (in MUMS: Mashad University of Medical Sciences). In the new department, there are seven faculty

members, all but one, are PhDs in health/medical informatics, bioinformatics, and digital imaging. In the first department meeting, Mahmood was elected as the head of the department.

In one of their first formal activities, Mahmood and his colleagues reviewed and compared the PhD curriculums of more than thirty scholar PhD programs worldwide (in medical/health informatics), and prepared a preliminary curriculum draft. The draft then went under several iterations of revisions and enhancements, and in early August 2009, the final version got the approval (with minor changes) from the Iranian Ministry of Health. The department is now accepting application (requires written and oral exam) for PhD Program (starting February 2010). Now, and as far as we are aware of, MUMS-DBMI (MUMS-Department of Biomedical Informatics) is going to be the first formal MI PhD program in the entire Asia!

Learning from UVic, the department is going to have biweekly research seminars involving PhD students and faculty members from other universities. In addition, the department has submitted the budget request to build its Data-mining/ Usability Engineering/Medical System Design Lab by early 2010. MUMS-DBMI hopes to invite MI scholars from all around the world to contribute to the program (by teaching, co-research, and seminars).

The department's Website (www.mums.ac.ir/dbmi) is now fully-Persian; but the English version will be added hopefully by the new year.

Mahmood often remembers UVic and HINF, and all the lessons he has learnt from his program's experiences.

Miss you all!

Mahmood Tara

MISCELLANEOUS

ITCH 2011

Plans are already underway for ITCH 2011. The conference will be held February 24 – 27, 2011 at the Inn at Laurel Point in Victoria. The theme for the conference will be "Health Informatics: International Perspectives". Be sure to mark your calendars!

Support for HINF Students

The University of Victoria's Faculty of Human and Social Development is very pleased to announce that it has procured a gift of \$50,000 for entrance scholarships in the School of Health Information Science. Realizing the importance of UVic's School of Health Information Science and the need in Canada for Health Information Science graduates, the donor wanted to support the best and the brightest students in a dedicated scholarship to be distributed over 2 years. To date \$25,000 has been distributed with another \$25,000 to be awarded this fall.

This same donor, who does not want to be identified, has also offered \$100,000 to UVic to establish an endowed bursary for students who are in financial need in the School of Health Information Science. This bursary will be established only if the University of Victoria can find a matching gift of \$100,000 for a total endowment of \$200,000.

The Faculty of Human and Social Development does not want to let this important opportunity to support students in need in a field that is seriously under-served slip away. As you know we have the only dedicated School of Health Information Science in Canada with a full degree granting program from undergraduate to Masters to PhDs and our students are in great demand for co-op placements and career opportunities.

We are seeking support for the School of Health Information Science endowment in the form of pledges over 5 years or an outright gift. If you have any questions or wish to make a donation please contact Lynne Milnes, the Development and External Relations Officer for the Faculty of Human and Social Development at lmilnes@uvic.ca. or 250-472-5031.

MIE Conference



Brian Armstrong, Elizabeth Borycki and Andre Kushniruk in Sarajevo.

The School of Health Information Science was well represented at the Medical Informatics Europe (MIE) 2009 conference held in Sarajevo on August 30 to Sept. 2. Dr Elizabeth Borycki presented on her work in information needs in nursing education and on work in the area of creation of a web portal for hosting electronic health records. Dr. Kushniruk presented on work on educational approaches to linking electronic records with medical education. As well, HINF Masters graduates Dr. Ron Joe and Dr. Tony Otto had a paper presented on an educational EMR. Brian Armstrong presented a poster on his architectural work in hosting electronic records on a web portal and Dr. Kushniruk also presented in a workshop about a new tool for usability engineering. The School had one of the largest contingents at the conference this year.

The Health Council of Canada Health Innovation Award

The Health Council of Canada Health Innovation Award will be awarded to the student with the best response to the following question:

“What do you propose to help renew and sustain Canadian health care, and why?”

Submissions of up to 1,000 words will be accepted from students or teams of two or more students registered at Canadian colleges or universities. Diagrams, tables or figures can be included to help students make their case. The idea can be either broad or specific, but it must be original.

The winners of the Health Council of Canada Health Innovation Award will have their submission featured on the CanadaValuesHealth.ca website, on the home page at www.healthcouncilcanada.ca, and in a Health Council of Canada e-newsletter that goes out to the nation. All will receive a certificate of congratulations. QUESTIONS? Call 1-866-998-1019. READY NOW? The submission deadline is 5 p.m. on December 15, 2009. Send via email to WhatThink@healthcouncilcanada.ca, or by mail to :Health Council of Canada, c/o Health Innovation Contest, 90 Eglinton Avenue East, Suite 900, Toronto, Ontario, M4P 2Y3

BCHIMPS

The BC Health Information Management Professionals Society (BCHIMPS) is a registered non profit society in BC. BCHIMPS' members represent health information professionals from all disciplines of health care IM/IT, from a wide variety of health organizations including health authorities, government and provincial agencies, and the private sector. Members contribute to the development, delivery, and promotion of IM/IT solutions that enhance health services delivery, administration and outcomes.

A key focus of BCHIMPS is member education. BCHIMPS sponsors regular symposia and other educational events featuring nationally recognized speakers while highlighting local and provincial initiatives. Our vision is to be the premier health information management group in BC contributing significantly to the healthcare information management agenda in the province and in the country.

We promote understanding, knowledge transfer and effective and efficient utilization of information and information technologies within BC's healthcare environment. BCHIMPS fosters learning through sharing of local, national and international healthcare information management experiences and best practices in an environment of open enquiry and mutual respect.

Come join your colleagues for two upcoming events – learn something, network, and visit with friends old and new:

- On October 8th, at the beautiful Vancouver Rowing Club, we will be holding a fall dinner speaker event: VANOC, the 2010 Winter Olympics organizing committee, will be presenting on the medical and informatics requirements associated with managing this global event. Register now at www.bchimps.bc.ca (click on Events). Registration is \$50 for members, and \$75 for non-members. Remember to log in first if you are already a member.
- In collaboration with COACH, we will also be offering our Fall Education Session on November 27th, at the UBC Golf Club. The theme of this full day event is “Professionalism and Leadership”. Event and Registration details will be on the website shortly. Hold the Date!

For more information, please visit our website: www.bchimps.bc.ca

FACULTY AND STAFF

Congratulations to Andre Kushniruk, Francis Lau and Scott Macdonald on their promotions to full Professor.



In May 2009, Professor Protti was granted an Honorary Doctor Science from City University London for his contributions to the British health care system.

Joining Denis in the picture above, from left to right are Jennifer Zelmer ('93), Tim d'Estrube ('02), Denis, Janette Marson (student from University of Manchester), Kate Lawrence ('03), Karalee Miller (née Close '95), and Grainne Byrne ('98) who made the trip from Spain for the occasion.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Welcome to the following new graduate students to our on campus stream: Alvaro Leal, Li-Yu (Shelley) Hsieh, Iran Vahedi and Mingquan Yang. In addition, Adrian Johnson, Jonathan Katz, Michael Miller, Sherman Quan ('04), Osama Sabbah, Jatinder Sidhu, Amanuel Tesfamichael and Valentina Younge have joined the Distributed Stream MSc.



Congratulations to Jennifer Furtado on the birth of her son, Phoenix Russell Manuel Furtado. Born on June 23rd, 7lbs 11oz. Jennifer says "He is a little charmer even when he keeps me up all night."

HINF grad student, Doug Csima, represented Canada at the 2009 World Rowing Championships in Poznan, Poland this summer and brought back a silver medal!

http://www.rowingcanada.org/newsandresults/worlds_aug30/

Protti Endowment Award

An extensive and impressive group of students put forth applications to the **Denis and Pat Protti Endowment Fund** this year, and three have been selected to receive awards.

Student Stephanie Ong, a pharmacist entering her third year in the Masters of Health Information Science program received the Endowment Fund's Student Enrichment Award. This award is given to an undergraduate student for the purpose of facilitating an external educational experience, such as a conference or seminar. Stephanie plans to attend the European Society of Clinical Pharmacists' Annual conference in November, where she will be presenting a poster entitled "ePHRx: Comprehensive electronic pharmacy health record for patients with chronic diseases."

Graduate students Jason Bond and Felicia Pantazi received the Fund's Graduate Student Awards in recognition of their commitment to advancing the field of health informatics. Jason is entering his second year of the Masters of Health Information Science program and Felicia, an MD, is entering her third year.

REIKI

HINF PhD student Pasquale Fiore is teaching Reiki in continuing education at Camosun College. Reiki Level 1 started September 19th. There is still time to register for Reiki Level 2 which starts October 24th.

For more information, call 250-370-4578 or email cectinfo@camosun.bc.ca



Pasquale Fiore

Art by Nurses.com

Pasquale Fiore lives in Victoria BC, on Vancouver Island. He was drawn by the beauty of Canada's West Coast from Montreal in March 2006. Besides photography, Pasquale is a PhD student in Health Information Science, a Nurse Educator at Camosun College as well at UVIC School of Nursing and a Reiki Master. The direct link to the artist gallery is available here:

<http://www.artbynurses.com/default.aspx?PageID=1002&ArtistID=153>