

# HINFormation

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Happy New Year to all.

The School of Health Information Science celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. A preliminary Calendar of Events is on the back page of this newsletter. We hope you will keep it handy and attend as many of the events as possible. If you have any suggestions for other events or ideas on how to increase participation we would like to hear from you. In particular, the alumni are encouraged to organize social gatherings in their respective cities. Don't forget to send us pictures for inclusion in upcoming editions of HINFormation. We are also asking for help from the alumni to organize recreational activities for the day after the official HINF reunion. Please contact *Leslie Wood* at [lwood@uvic.ca](mailto:lwood@uvic.ca) if you want to volunteer.

*Francis Lau*

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## ALUMNI

Congratulations to new parents *Allan* and *Heidi* ('01) *Bell* on the birth of their first child, *Elizabeth Alberta Bell*. The McLennan Hospital's New Year's Baby was born January 9, 2002, 11:25 p.m. at 8 lb. 7 oz., 20 ½ inches. Elizabeth, Mom and Dad continue to live in High Prairie, Alberta.



Elizabeth Alberta Bell

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*Ja-Neen Simmie* ('99) is back in Edmonton at the Capital Health Authority; *Marla Hanson* ('00) is at the Toronto East General Hospital; *Jeff Green* ('99) is a Senior Analyst at the Canadian Institute for Health Information in Toronto; *Mark Brisson* ('99) is Team Leader of the Information Planning Unit at Alberta Health and Wellness; and, *Laura Sauve* ('96) is off to Australia as part of an exchange with the Mater Hospital in Brisbane, then will be going to India.

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I have been working for the past 2 years as a Systems Analyst with the Project Office team at the Children's and Women's Health Centre of BC. My plans for the Chinese New Year (February 2002) are to travel to Japan, Hong Kong, and Taiwan for 6 weeks. "Gung Ho Fat Boy" to all the HINFers! ... I mean, "Gung Hay Fat Choy" (Wishing you happiness and prosperity)! Regards,

*Victor Wong*('00)

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After 2.5 years in South America, *Richard Chudley* ('97) decided that he'd had too much fun and needed a reality check. He is now working in Kansas City, Missouri for Cerner Corp. (contracted from Ajilon) on the Radiology team building their Hospital Information System. He figures one year in Kansas City will more than compensate for the two and a half in South America.



*Jordana Epstein* ('99) was married on September 2nd. Following the honeymoon in the Caribbean, the happy couple is now residing in Vancouver.



Kathleen Lavoie and Ken LeMee

*Kathleen Lavoie* ('98) married *Ken LeMee*, her 10 years beau, in Chicoutimi, Quebec on August 4, 2001. They enjoyed an exciting honeymoon in the wild Jungle of Mexico. They now live in Toronto, Ontario.

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I have the honour of announcing the latest addition to the Brisson family. *Michael Joseph Brisson* was born on November 5th, 2001 at 2:25 in the afternoon. Weighing in at 7 pounds, 11 ounces with a wicked curve ball and quick wrist shot. Michael will be playing left wing on a future Brisson Boys line-up and "no" he will not be wearing a visor.

*Mark Brisson* ('99)



Alison, Mark, Michael, Mathieu, and Nathaniel Brisson

## STUDENTS

I thought I'd take this opportunity to talk a little bit about my latest adventure! As many of you already know I finally finished my HINF degree at the end of last year. After some (actually not so much) consideration I thought it would be fun and exciting to work abroad again. Through much appreciated help from *Dr. Moehr*, I was able to become part of a team working at the Private University for Health Informatics and Technology (UMIT) in Tyrol, Austria. UMIT is a fairly young university (less than a year old), and the day after my arrival here in Austria I also quickly became their 5th Masters student. I have to say that learning class material in German now instead of English is harder than I had expected. I definitely enjoy the challenge though!

The material that we learn during the lectures closely mirrors what is taught during the last few years of the HINF degree in Victoria. They are even trying to incorporate a bit of a co-op aspect here that seems to be working out quite well. I'm sure I will be able to draw more comparisons between the UMIT and UVic programs after I've been here for a bit longer.

I have to admit that I am quite fond of the west coast, but didn't have any problems getting used to living in Innsbruck, a small alpine town. 2500m and higher snow covered mountains no matter which direction you look, perfect for downhill skiing, snowboarding, cross country skiing, sledding (it's practically a sport here!), hiking, climbing, etc. I can see ski jumping from my bedroom window and once in a while even consider giving it a try. First I need to see what sort of health insurance I have here though!

If anyone has any questions about the UMIT or what I am doing in general, feel free to email me at: [frieda.kaiser@umit.at](mailto:frieda.kaiser@umit.at) Cheers,

*Frieda Kaiser*

## Life's a Beach

Greetings and a Happy New Year to everyone back home. For those who don't know me, my name is *Aren Northey* and I am slated to graduate in May of this year and it's about time might I add.

For the last six months I've been completing an internship with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in Nassau, Bahamas where the sun shines for the majority of the year. Unfortunately, my tan is virtually non-existent, which shouldn't really come as a surprise to those that know me.

My main duties down here include information processing/analysis for the PAHO Health in the Americas' report; technical support for the development of a public health information system; web page development; and most importantly, drinking beer on the beach whenever possible.

Finding this job was a little bit of a gamble due to the fact that last summer I took the responsibility of finding a position in the field of international health development upon my own shoulders. But, with perseverance and a little bit of luck I landed myself in this Island nation.

I'll be here soaking up rays until at least the end of March, but I plan to be back in Victoria for May graduation. They have a saying down here that once you have sand in your shoes, you'll be coming back for more and I believe that this holds true in my case.

*Aren Northey*

Almost 1,200 UVic students marked the end of one journey and the beginning of another when they graduated at the November 24th convocation ceremonies. The HINF students receiving their BSc were *Dawn Atkinson, John Bartle-Clar, Elaine Dare, Brendan Donald, Kendra Doyle, Vanessa Lafaille, Krista Louie, Garth Strandberg, Kathleen Sun, Simon Ting, Janice Williams, and Sasha Wong*. Although not able to attend the ceremony, *Reza Berenji* received his MSc. that same day.

Congratulations to all!



## FACULTY & STAFF

There are a number of new and not so new faces around HINF this term. The friendly smile you see when you enter the office belongs to our new receptionist, *Alma Osorio*. While *Ted Sheaff* is off on sick leave, *Dave Hutchinson* is holding the fort for co-op. *Kathleen Sun* ('01) has joined us a coordinator for research projects. We are also pleased to welcome back *Dr. Ted Hoekman* for his second sabbatical with us. Dr. Hoekman is Professor of Medical Informatics in the Faculty of Medicine at Memorial University of Newfoundland.

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While *Denis Protti* continues his sabbatical, *Dr. Michael Guerriere* is teaching HINF 410, assisted by *Jeremy Smith* ('99) and *Craig Kuziemsky*. *Roman Mateyko* is back at the helm of HINF 445 and *Rob Tornack* is teaching HINF 340 for the eighth time.

*Dr. Patricia Coward* has joined the sessional staff this term teaching both HINF 220 and HINF 315. Dr. Coward's association with the school goes back over a decade. She has given guest lectures in many courses while working at both the Greater Victoria Hospital Society and the Capital Health Region. Dr. Coward was most recently the Dean of Community Services and Health Sciences at George Brown College in Ontario.

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I have a Bachelor Degree in Foreign Languages Applied to Business and Trade, from the University of Toulouse II, France. Over the last two years of my degree, I worked with *Eneriz France Sarl* as an import-export administrative assistant, coordinating travel logistics between Spain and France. After graduating, my husband and I decided to move to Canada and enjoy the great outdoors of the West Coast. Since then, I've held various rewarding positions on Campus including working at the Institute of Engineering Systems and at the Dean's Office of the Faculty of Engineering. Today, I have the opportunity to be part of the HINF staff and look forward to getting to know all the members better.

*Alma Osorio*

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The newest member of the School of Health Information Science is *Dr. Malcolm Maclure*. In 2001, Dr. Maclure was awarded a Michael Smith Foundation Distinguished Scholar award to conduct a five-year research program on Quality Improvement of Stroke Surveillance, Prevention and Care in collaboration with Stroke Victoria. Dr. Maclure will find his academic home with HINF for the five years.

Dr. Maclure studied biochemistry at Oxford University (1971-75) and epidemiology at Harvard School of Public Health (1979-84), where he was Assistant and Associate Professor of Epidemiology (1984-94). He continues his affiliation with Harvard as Adjunct Associate Professor and is Visiting

Professor at the Department of Clinical Pharmacology and the Research Unit on General Practice at the University of Southern Denmark. Dr. Maclure has been with the Ministry of Health in various research positions, including Manager of Statistical Analysis and Evaluation for Pharmacare and, most recently, Senior Healthcare Epidemiologist in the Strategic Planning and Nursing Directorate. In these positions, he studied evidence-based policy-making, reference pricing policies, how to build bridges between researchers and government decision-makers, and methods for using health databases for contacting of patients without violating privacy. This work culminated in a randomized drug policy trial in 1999.

## GRADUATE STUDENTS

I have been a student for the majority of my adult life. In 1999, I completed an undergraduate Commerce degree from the University of Alberta specializing in Information Systems. Then I headed off to the University of Toronto and in the summer of 2000, I completed a graduate degree in Industrial Engineering specializing in Health Care Systems.

Before applying my theoretical knowledge to a practical setting, I wanted to travel and take some time for physical and spiritual exploration. Hence, I decided to visit the Middle East; the visit lasted six months. I visited Palestine, Israel, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. When I returned to Canada, exhausted and home sick, I found work in my hometown of Edmonton, Alberta. I was hired by the Capital Health Authority as an intermediate systems analyst; it was a great experience and an awakening that allowed me to apply my theoretical knowledge to a practical health care setting.

During this period, I was acquainted with the Health Information Science program by *Dr. Francis Lau*, who

during my undergraduate degree taught me a course on Information System Design. I heard of the program through him and was greatly inspired by the history, knowledge, and research of the small but dedicated faculty. I consulted with other professors in the field and they recommended that I continue my studies in the healthcare technology field at the University of Victoria - and Voila! I applied.

The reason I am interested in Health Care Information Systems stems from my interest in technology and my personal tribulations with asthma. In a broader perspective, I feel that I am making a contribution to society by aiding in the advancement of healthcare technology that will ultimately benefit and improve patient care, and maybe one day, when I am admitted to a hospital, I can say to my doctor that I was involved in building his or her Information System.

*Mowafa Househ*

## MISCELLANEOUS

Many of my colleagues in Newfoundland are convinced that the real reason for my returning to UVic for a January to June sabbatical is to escape winter. Certainly the winter we had last year might be expected to trigger that sort of behaviour, with over 600 cm of snow some of which remained till the end of May. However contrary to that point of view, I am renewing my connections with the HINF programs and activities, and engaging in a project that is focused on the application of IT to improve the reporting of Adverse Drug Reactions.

This project is an unfunded enterprise, taking advantage of the vulnerability of students seeking experience and colleagues who have a mutual interest in addressing an important medical problem. A Computer Science student in Newfoundland (*Sheldon Hicks*) has already spent the fall term doing the first level coding of WWW-based software, and *Francis Lau* has

connected me with *Gavin Eaton*, who is doing a directed study course under my supervision to carry it forward. I have sucked *Carl Whiteside* (UBC Family Medicine), *James McCormack* (UBC Pharmaceutical Science), and *Verle Harrop* (MIT Medical Informatics) as well as colleagues in Family Medicine in Newfoundland into the action. Whether or not we succeed in providing a working solution to the reporting dilemma, it will be a thoroughly engaging exercise with a lot of learning on the part of all participants.

*Dr. Theodore B. Hoekman*

### **Executive-in-Residence**

The School of Health Information Science is experimenting with an "Executive in Residence" program whereby professionals in the health care field may join the School for periods of one day to one week or longer to share their expertise and experience with the university community.

Our first guest is *Mariana Catz* who will be at the School February 4 – 8, 2002. She will be giving a seminar on February 5<sup>th</sup> entitled "Visions to Reality – The Pan-Canadian EHR". This presentation will provide an overview of the current status at a National level and explore opportunities and threats that may play out in trying to make this vision a reality. Particular attention will be focused on the critical role that Health Informatics literacy can play in the many layers that impact delivery: health care providers/organizations, academia/education, government and the private sector.

Mariana brings over 15 years of both private and public sector expertise. She is currently on secondment to the Office of the Health Information Highway at Health Canada leading the Electronic Health Record/Telehealth Division. She remains the Chief Information Officer at Baycrest Centre a large Academic Health Centre in Toronto. She held numerous senior positions both in Canada and Internationally at the World Health Organization in Geneva, with

Computer Sciences Corp in the United States, University Health Network and the Ontario Ministry of Health. Mariana holds a Masters in Health Science from the University of Toronto. She tutors and lectures at various Universities and Colleges across the country on Health Policy and Informatics and is actively involved in numerous community boards and committees in the health sector.

### **Fall AMIA Conference 2001 in Washington DC well attended**

The 25th anniversary of the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) was held in Washington, DC, November 4th to 7th. Final arrangements had been made just before Sept 11th and it was uncertain whether the conference would go ahead. Arrangements had to be altered slightly to fly into a neighbouring airport and security was heightened. Other than this all appeared to be well. The conference was well attended. A special plenary session on the informatics response to bioterrorism proved to me one of the best-attended and inspiring sessions of the conference. The anniversary theme was informative for a newcomer to the discipline because many of the senior scholars reflected on the developments in informatics and the association over the 25 years. In addition to the workshops, tutorials and plenary sessions there were up to 7 concurrent sessions per day with 11 tracks at most sessions. The variety of topics and calibre of speakers was impressive. AMIA 2002 will be held in San Antonio, Texas November 9-13 with the theme 'Biomedical Informatics, One Discipline'.

*Carolyn Green*

### **Research Seminars**

*Dr. Jochen Moehr* continues to offer weekly research seminars. This term they are being held every Friday, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. in HSD A260. For further information, contact Dr. Moehr at [jmoehr@uvic.ca](mailto:jmoehr@uvic.ca).

## UPDATE ON ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The School of Health Information Science at the University of Victoria is sponsoring a two-day educational symposium at the Laurel Point Inn, Victoria, BC on September 27 - 28, 2002 in conjunction with the School's 20th anniversary. This symposium will attract health care professionals, information and computer systems experts, academics and researchers, hospital administrators and public health providers from across Canada.

Consisting of concurrent three-hour workshops featuring an interactive learning environment on a single topic, these sessions will provide participants with the opportunity to enhance their skills and knowledge as well as enjoy a free exchange of ideas.

Tentative workshop topics include:

- Knowledge Management
- Security and Privacy
- Electronic Health Records
- E-Learning Approaches in Health
- Medical Errors & Quality Improvement
- Information Analysis in Health

These workshops will offer an opportunity for our alumni to showcase their career achievements over the years in health informatics.

Early registration ends June 30, 2002.

## PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

	<u>Friday Sep 27</u>	<u>Saturday Sep 28</u>	<u>Sunday Sep 29</u>
<i>Morning</i>	Opening Remarks New directions Showcase for School's education and research initiatives	Parallel sessions  - Knowledge Management workshop - Alumni workshop tba - Alumni workshop tba	Recreation events Tba (e.g. golf, fishing, sailing, etc.)
<i>Afternoon</i>	Parallel sessions - Electronic Health Records workshop - Alumni workshop tba - Alumni workshop tba	Research Methods plenary workshop	
<i>Evening</i>	Appreciation night for donors, employers and guest lecturers	Reunion – alumni/staff/faculty	

For the latest information updates, registration, and news about the speakers and presenters, visit <http://hinf.uvic.ca>

## ***Calendar of Events***

### Health Informatics Education Symposium and 20<sup>th</sup> Reunion September 27 – 28, 2002

February 14	Broom Party (Faculty of Human and Social Development celebrates the School of Health Information Science 20 <sup>th</sup> birthday)
March 15	Healthcare Information Management & Communications Canada to include article on the history of the School of Health Information Science
April (tba)	End of term party
April 20 - 23	Information booth at E-health conference in Vancouver Alumni social potential in Vancouver
May 31	Healthcare Information Management & Communications Canada to include article about Health Information Science co-op
June 30	Deadline for early registration for the Health Informatics Education Symposium
August (tba)	End of term party
September 27	Health Informatics Education Symposium at Laurel Point Inn
September 27	Appreciation Night - for donors, employers and guest lecturers at Laurel Point Inn
September 28	Health Informatics Education Symposium at Laurel Point Inn
September 28	20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion at Laurel Point Inn
September 29	Recreation events for alumni (e.g. golf, fishing, sailing, etc.)
September 30	Healthcare Information Management & Communications Canada to include article on the future of the School of Health Information Science
December (tba)	End of term party
December 30	Special edition of Annual Report to be released