

HINFormation

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

May 2002

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings. It is hard to believe we are already one month through the summer term. It is going to be a busy term for all of us. While *Dr. Moehr* is on sabbatical I will be teaching his HINF 415 course in addition to my own HINF 450.

The School of Health Information Science is turning 20 this year. We started the celebrations off with a birthday party on February 14th attended by the faculty and staff in the Human and Social Development Building.



The March edition of "Healthcare Information Management & Communications Canada" containing an article on the beginning of the School was distributed at the e-health conference in April.

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We are just climbing the final hurdles to have our MSc designated as a formal graduate program. The MSc degree in HI will require a minimum of 17.5 units of course work and includes either a thesis or a research project. The program of study will include graduate level HI courses from within the School, as well as elective courses from other departments within UVic. Selection for full-time graduate study positions is competitive and new applications are being considered for January 2003 admission.

We have appointed *Dr. Patricia Coward* as an assistant professor for two years. She will be teaching two HINF courses as well as leading some of the new initiatives outlined below that the School is exploring.

Health Information Science & Computer Science – Joint Bachelor of Science (BSc)– The School of Health Information Science in partnership with the School of Computer Science is pleased to announce a new innovative joint undergraduate degree program. The joint undergraduate degree is designed to be a 4-year full time program with a co-op component. The course concentration between disciplines will be split approximately 30% Health Information Science, 30% Computer Science, 30% Arts & Science and 10% elective courses. The target enrolment is 15 undergraduate students per year. The joint degree program is pending approval by the University of Victoria. Admission may be as early as September 2004 pending program approval.

Professional Practice HI Specialization, Collaborative Master Degree Program (MSc) – The University of Victoria in partnership with the Universities of Alberta, British Columbia and Calgary will jointly offer a set of 10 graduate level HI course modules based on their faculty expertise, resource availability and existing local graduate programs. Degrees will be granted through existing graduate programs at participating institutions. A core set of 10 HI course modules will be provided in areas such as electronic health records, security, telehealth, IT evaluation, evidence-based informatics, and information management. These modules will be offered via flexible delivery modes over a 2-year period based on learner competency and learning needs. The program will be operational by fall of 2003 for new admissions.

A Collaborative Health Informatics Research Training Program, PhD & Postdoctoral – The University of Victoria, in partnership with the Universities of Calgary, Dalhousie, McGill, McMaster, Sherbrooke, Toronto and Waterloo are working together to create a unique health informatics (HI) PhD/Postdoc training experience that is innovative in terms of both its concept and design. The curriculum focuses on research learning experiences that are not obtainable from local programs, sharing of leading edge HI research from mentors and stakeholders, and building a lifelong virtual learning HI community. The training program will take 30 months to complete; initially two cohorts of 25 trainees each are

planned to commence September 2003.

A Pan-Canadian Health Informatics Collaboratory: Experimental Broadband E-Learning Environment – This pan-Canadian HI Collaboratory has 11 partner organizations from across Canada including the Universities of Alberta, Calgary, Dalhousie, Sherbrooke, Victoria, Waterloo, Western Ontario, BC Institute of Technology, Michener Institute of Applied Health Sciences, Canada's Health Informatics Organization (COACH) and the Canadian Health Records Association (CHRA). This is a collaborative component-building research project to construct an experimental broadband interactive learning support environment to enhance health informatics (HI) education in Canada. The five components being constructed are: interoperability standards for HI content, interactive technologies for virtual presence, e-learning methodologies, HI knowledge management, and pilot HI course modules. Courses offered via this modality will be announced in future Health Information Science publications.

Francis Lau

Students

Joanne Sefton was awarded the COACH Founding President's Award for 2002. Along with \$500 cash, she received a complimentary registration for the e-health 2002 Conference in Vancouver, a one-year membership to COACH and a memento to hang on her wall.



Cori Thompson spent her work term working with HINF alumnus *James Haggerstone ('98)* at the Northern Health Authority in Terrace. One of the 'perks' of the job was fishing on Kalum Lake north of Terrace where Cori caught 3 trout – Jim got skunked.



Cori Thompson

Congratulations to *Gavin Eaton* on his engagement to *Carmen Jackson*. The wedding will take place August 17, 2002.

Serena Birk is working for VH Consultants in Vancouver. Her current project is as an application analyst under a three-month contract with Teekay Shipping. VH Consultants is a small consulting firm. The president is *Richard Vander Helm* formerly of Children's and Women's Health Centre of BC. VH Consulting is an IT consulting group focussing on delivering IT Projects within the health care environment within B.C. They provide IT project management, change management, and technical implementation expertise and knowledge within the health care environment. Serena will be graduating in June.

Congratulations to *Neelam Sandhu* as one of this year's recipients of the university's Blue and Gold Circle awards for combining solid scholastic achievement with community involvement. The winners received a certificate, a pin and a cash award at a ceremony at UVic on Feb. 27. Neelam is a third year Health Information Science student. Neelam has also been a volunteer at Victoria General Hospital since 1995, serving in the emergency department as a liaison between families and hospital staff and working in the pediatric unit. She also volunteers with the Salvation Army Beacon Bus and the Victoria Hospice Society Swimathon and fundraises for the Heart and Stroke Foundation and Kidney Foundation. Congratulations!

Christine Baynton is pleased to announce her engagement to the love of her life, *Jason*. The happy couple plan to get married February 14, 2004 on a beach somewhere warm and tropical.

Zhe Chen is the proud new mother of *Alyssa*, shown below. Zhe's husband has accepted a position in Edmonton and the family will be moving there next month. Zhe will be back in Victoria to take her final HINF courses in January 2003.



Alyssa Chen

The Canadian Health Information Science Drinking Team

Over 90 students, friends, and alumni participated in the 2nd semester HINF pub-crawl which was an absolute success! The bars were filled by red and white baseball style shirts from Out of the Blue Designs showing off the "Raging HINFomaniacs" who were ready to party. The night started at 6:00pm at Darcy McGee's where it was the last chance to fill up on food before filling up on the drink specials offered at each location. The "team" continued to the Lucky Bar where HINF-Trivia was arranged and people yelled out their answers for fun prizes. T-shirts from Rebel-Rebel and other locations, a Mozaix haircut and colour, Rubber Rainbow "party packs", and Starbucks & Pita Pit certificates were just a few of the door and game prizes given out. Next, the "team" headed to Level for an hour of great dancing and the first drinking game of the night to get everyone in the swing of things. This game involved 5 lucky groups of 3 slurping free pitchers of beer from long straws as fast as possible. The "team" staggered into Diablos for the next stop and another drinking game and those who were still vertical made their way to the One Lounge at 10:30pm to finish the night off. This was another successful event organized by the HINF student course union. .



Above, showing off the great shirts as the night begins. From left to right: *Emily, Ryan, Carole, Alec, and Crystal.*



Above, *Mike, Katie* and friend celebrate their drinking game win at Level.

Thanks to *Mike Cleghorn* and *Crystal Janicki* who headed up this event with the help of *Tim d'Estrube* and *Megan Stepushyn*. Here's to the next one, so look out Victoria! Incriminating pictures can be viewed at: <http://www.hinf.ca/photos.html>

Faculty & Staff

Guide Project

New to the School of Health Information Science are two researchers working under epidemiologist, *Dr. Malcolm Maclure*, who has recently joined the faculty from the Ministry of Health. *Tara Bambrick* and *Alan Cassels* will be working on several of Dr. Maclure's research projects.

Currently underway is the Health Canada-funded Guide Project, a two-year collaborative endeavour with UBC examining prescription drug effectiveness research and its influence on drug policy. A second large research component, a five-year program on Quality Improvement of Stroke Surveillance, Prevention and Care, will be conducted with funding from Dr. Maclure's Michael Smith Foundation Distinguished Scholar award. In collaboration with colleagues at Harvard, further work involving a medical chart review and pharmaceutical cost containment policy in BC, is in preparation.

Dr. Maclure and his research team are located in B232. Please feel free to stop by to say hello and/or discuss their work, or call them at 472-5132.

Dr. Moehr Devotes Study Leave to Telehealth

Dr. Moehr is on sabbatical, starting May 2002 until April 2003. During this time, he is working primarily on an evaluation of the BC Telehealth Program. This is a project funded primarily by the Office of Health and the Information Highway (OHII) of Health Canada in the context of the Canadian Health Information Partnership Program (CHIPP), and the Ministry of Health Services (MOHS) of the Province of BC. The participating health authorities provide further substantial funding.

The BC Telehealth Program is one of several telehealth initiatives in BC. It aims at introducing telehealth linkages between tertiary care sites in Vancouver and 14 sites in nine centres in northern and central BC. Using video conferencing equipment, UBC, Vancouver General Hospital, and Children's and Women's Health Centre in Vancouver support patient care, continuing health professional education and contacts for patients and families separated by distance.

Dr. Moehr enjoys the support of a team of nine, including coop student *Paul Yang*, German Health informatics students *Susi Linhart* and *Heni Schott*, Graduate student *Dr. Stefan Pantazi*, and *Dr. Felicia Pantazi*, HINF alumni *Stefanie Anglin* and *Chris Anglin*, Economics student *Bill Land*, and Research Analyst *Nicole Grimm*. The team is also supported by *Dr. Joseph Schaafsma*, Chair of the Department of Economics at UVic, and specialist in health economics, and *Dr. Eike H.-W. Kluge*, professor of Philosophy and specialist in biomedical ethics.



Paul, Stefan, Bill, Susi, Nicole, Heni, Jochen, Felicia, Stephanie, and Chris

Alumni

Brendan Donald ('01) is now working for the Strategic Health Information & Planning Services department of Saskatoon District Health as the Informatics Co-ordinator. It is a facilitation function to bridge the Clinical - IS divide with considerable scope: from business/systems analysis to IT project development to planning and yes, coordinating. Brendan says, "It promises to test all of my HINF skills."

Valerie Gibbs ('98) has won the 2001 Lieutenant-Governor's Silver Medal (other than thesis)! This medal is awarded to the top Master's student at the University of Victoria who completed a non-thesis degree.

Valerie received her MBA in June 2001. She was on the Dean's List based on her outstanding GPA, (she tied for second place with a cumulative GPA of 7.67). Combined with her outstanding MBA 596 project, as well as her exceptional career and extra-curricular activities, Valerie was the clear choice as the Faculty of Business' nomination. Her MBA 596 project was entitled "Colonoscopy Clinic Feasibility Study & Business Plan". The plan was commissioned by a group of local physicians and surgeons.

Valerie's medal will be awarded at convocation in June.

Cliff Hohban ('88) is now Senior Manager, Clinical Applications at Sutter Health Support Services, Information Technology. Sutter Health is a network of hospitals and doctors, serving more than 100 communities in Northern California. To learn more, see www.sutterhealth.com.

The following article appeared in The Gazette, The staff newspaper of the Vancouver Island Health Authority (South Island) Mar 27, 2002: "We would like to thank *John Bartle-Clar* ('01) for being such a great sport when receiving the just punishment of a pie in the face... for charity. We raised \$100 for the QAC Children's Charity and John got to keep the pie. All of us at the helpdesk appreciate John's sense of humour and good grace, and we collected more money than if we would have pied anyone else! We would also like to thank all of John's supervisors and manager's for wholeheartedly supporting us in this role. - 'knights' of the IS Helpdesk"

Judith Reyes-Metcalf ('01) has accepted the system analyst job for ADT (Affinity.) at Children's and Women's Health Centre. Good luck to Judith.

After working for the Canadian Institute for Health Information in Ottawa, I moved back to Victoria to work for the Economic Analysis and Negotiation Support group at the Ministry of Health. I have been with the ministry for the past two years and currently face the possibility of being bumped out of my job due to the Liberal's Workforce Adjustment Process (aka-layoffs).

I got married on Sept 26, 2001. On our honeymoon, we spent a week at Disney World and Universal Studios and a week on an Eastern Caribbean Cruise. The ship sailed to Puerto Rico, St. Maartin, St. Thomas, and Nasu. My wife (*Cindy*) and I bought a house in Gordon Head and we currently reside in Victoria.

Gary Ko ('98)

Theresa Weicker ('98) has accepted the position of Project Manager in the Project Management Office at the Children's and Women's Health Centre of BC. She officially started in the role April 2, 2002. Theresa is currently managing the ADT Upgrade project.

Graduate Students

Congratulations to graduate student *Craig Kuziemsky* who won the ASI Communication Award at the ASI Exchange held in Vancouver on March 12. His poster was on the palliative care project that he had been working on since last November.

This is an annual exchange forum held by Advanced Systems Institute for universities, government and industries in BC to get together to share their latest innovations. There were over 100 graduate student poster submissions and Craig is one of 15 students who won the award with a cash prize and plaque.

Best wishes to *Reza Berenji* ('01) on his recent marriage to *Nahid Taheri*. Nahid is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University and is a senior Oracle Database Administrator.



Nahid and Reza Berenji

How can information and communication technology be leveraged to assist regional health authorities to make the best decisions in the public interest? A doctoral trainee award from The Michael Smith Foundation for Health Services Research will assist HINF graduate student *Carolyn Green* to address this timely question. The award is an important recognition of the capacity of the School of Health Information Science to support graduate level research as well as a demonstration of the Foundation's readiness to support emerging initiatives in health informatics research. "These are promising signals from an organization that has become the premier funding agency in the province for health services research" says Carolyn's academic supervisor *Jochen Moehr*. This research project was incubated through HEALNet support to Dr Moehr. HEALNet was federally funded in 1995 to support research aimed at improving decision-making at all levels in the health care system. *Michael Smith*, who himself died of cancer in 2000, was awarded the Nobel Prize for chemistry in 1993 for the contributions of his gene research into current understanding of cancer. It is noteworthy that he donated part of his prize money to promote the advancement of Canadian women in science. The Foundation was funded by the province of British Columbia in 2000 to carry on Michael Smith's considerable achievements in building research capacity in British Columbia.

David Holt successfully defended his thesis "The Impact of Applying Risk Management Techniques to an Electronic Patient Record Project" on March 14, 2002.

Course Union

We're more than HTML and SQL ... We're the CU!

After the recent success of the March 28th pub-crawl a few pondering thoughts may have come to mind. Questions along the lines of "*Who organized such a fun event?*" or "*How could I have helped?*" may have popped up. The really keen HINF'er may have even thought "*I have some really good ideas, I wonder if I could help with the next one?*" (And yes, there will be a next one). To answer these look no further than your very own Course Union representatives. *Tim d'Estrube, Heather Garnett, Crystal Janicki, Neelam Sandhu, Willie Thompson*, and I, *Mike Cleghorn*, presently make up your HINF Course Union.

We have worked together to bring you HINF clothing, beach bonfires, and of course, the pub-crawl. In addition to organizing these events, each member represents the student body to contribute thoughts and suggestions regarding the direction and progress of the school.

A sad void will be left as Willie, Tim and Crystal are graduating this year but I ask you to take the initiative, fill these three big shoes and join the Course Union. Every enthusiastic and fun individual is encouraged to step forward and make the HINF experience even more enjoyable than it already is..... hard to imagine, I know! With your exciting ideas we will organize more fun activities and events which build student morale, faculty appreciation, and overall school enjoyment for all. I look forward to hearing from you via e-mail (cleggy@uvic.ca) as you volunteer your thoughts, ideas and small amount of time to the betterment of our school in this, its 20th Anniversary Year.

Mike Cleghorn

Miscellaneous

The curriculum changes circulated to all students last fall have now been approved by Senate and will take effect September 2002. The revised model plan is now on the web. HINF 351 has been renumbered to HINF 451 and HINF 315 has been renumbered to HINF 215. HINF 430 is a new course entitled "IT Security and Privacy" Effective September, the fourth work term will be optional.

The winners of the complimentary registration to the Health Informatics Education Symposium to be held at the Laurel Point Inn, September 27th and 28th were *Rosalie Hargrove* and *Esther Dunn*. Both Rosalie and Esther work for the Vancouver Island Health Authority. We would like to thank all the alumni who stopped by our information booth at e-Health to say hello. We hope to see you at the reunion in September.

Information about the Symposium and the Reunion can be found at our website at <http://hinf.uvic.ca/>

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS RISE AT UVIC

An increase in applications to UVic for the 2002-03 academic year and more returning students means UVic's admission cut-off for the upcoming winter session is rising. The grade point average (GPA) cut-off for first year admission to arts and science programs will be 81 per cent this year, up from last year's GPA of 75 per cent. The cut-off for college transfer students is rising to 5.6 (B-B+), up from last year's 5.0 (B).

This is the highest GPA cut-off at UVic in the past 10 years.

Progress with Video Records of Health Informatics Seminar

During the spring term, the School has made progress in the effort to make the Health Informatics Seminar (HINF 580) more widely available. The seminar was always open to the public free of charge and we usually had an audience of from 10 to 30. But many people signalled regrets at not being able to attend. This prompted us to produce video records of the seminar.

The progress was mainly due to the diligence of *Felicia Pantazi*, a medical doctor from Romania who came to Victoria accompanying her husband *Stefan*, who is a PhD student here. Felicia operates the camera and edits the resulting videos for presentation on CD ROM as Quicktime movies with great technical and esthetic skill.

Over the spring, we have accumulated a collection of eight seminars, including presentations by *David Loukidelis*, Privacy Commissioner of BC, and *Dr. Penny Jennett*, Director of the Health

Telematics Unit of the University of Calgary. The presentations dealt with evaluation of Electronic Health Records and Telehealth projects, related privacy issues, among others. Dr. Jennett actually gave her presentation on telehealth evaluation from Calgary to the audience in Victoria, using video conferencing equipment.

We are currently in the process of finalizing some editing decisions, following which we look forward to distributing the videos.

Jochen Moehr

HINF At E-HEALTH 2002

The School of Health Information Science was well represented at the recent e-Health 2002 conference in Vancouver as shown in the pictures below. Special thanks to all the student volunteers and to *Wendy Tegart* ('97) for organizing the impromptu HINF get-together.

