HINFormation

SPECIAL EDITION

"Mighty things from small beginnings grow" –
John Dryden

HINF faculty and staff 86-87

Current HINF faculty

The first annual Health Informatics Education Symposium was held September 27 and 28, 2002 at the Laurel Point Inn. The Symposium was well attended and included excellent workshops by alumni *Jeremy Smith ('99), Ruth Yeo ('96)*with *Elaine Sawatsky, Liza Bialy ('00) with Debra Greig, Jill Strachan ('91)* and *Jeff Green ('99).*

Green

Full details about the workshops can be found at http://hinf.uvic.ca/hisymp/prelim.htm

Dr. Anita Molzahn, Dean of Human and Social Development, gave the opening remarks. The Friday morning session showcased the School, starting with *Denis Protti* giving a brief history of the School, followed by *Dr. Patricia Coward* outlining the new directions for the school, and culminating in 15-minute presentations by various faculty and graduate students.

HISTORY OF HIS/HINF

For those of you unable to join us at the Health Informatics Education Symposium, here is the text of *Denis Protti's* speech:

"The School of HIS is where it is today because of the efforts of many fine people.
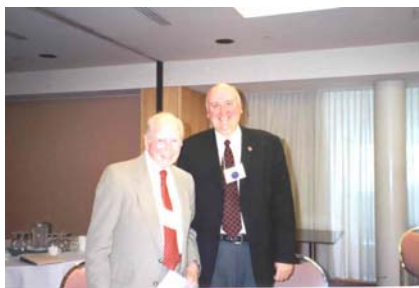
I only wish I had the time to mention all of them:

- faculty (past and present)
- sessional lecturers who took on the responsibility to teach full courses for us (*Fernande Harrison* and *Gerrit Clements* to name a few)
- guest lecturers – hundreds of them who were the lifeblood of the School in the early '80s and are still a vital part of our family
- students who have kept us on our toes and have pushed us to better understand what this field is really all about, in particular those who started with us in 1982 and were our guinea pigs.
- many others

However, there are a few people who played a particularly critical role in the School's history and need to be specially mentioned.

At the risk of offending some who should be mentioned, I'd like to acknowledge the contributions of nine individuals who played key roles in the School's creation, direction and salvation.

The history of the School goes back almost 30 years, but I'll start in 1978.

Gibson, Protti

1978 - *Dr. William Gibson* – chair of the financing body of the Universities Council of B.C. from 1978-1983. He also was our UVic chancellor from 1985-1991.

Dr. Gibson was a Professor of History of Medicine and Science at UBC. As chair of the Universities Council, he knew that the UBC Faculty of Medicine turned down a proposal for a program in Medical Records Administration. He had the foresight to call the President of UVic and convince him that UVic should create a new program. He stressed – and this is evidence of his vision - that the program should focus on information rather than medical records.

If there is anyone who deserves the credit for creating our School, it is Dr. Bill Gibson. If it weren't for his vision back in 1978, it is very likely that there would not be a Health or Medical Informatics program in BC – even today.

Appreciating that you were not an obstetrician, we nonetheless have to thank you, Dr. Gibson, for bringing us into this world.

1979 - *Dr. Rod Dobell* was the Director of the School of Public Administration. If he had not offered yours truly an opportunity to teach a night time graduate course in MIS, my wife *Pat* and I would not likely have moved to Victoria from Winnipeg to take on the job of Director of MIS at the Royal Jubilee Hospital in July 1979.

The School may have been created but it would naturally have a different look and feel than it has today.

Years late, Rod became a trusted and valued advisor who helped me with understanding the intricacies of running a department in a University. He also taught me that Victoria is a small town.

1981 - *Dr. Jim Cutt*, a faculty member of the School of Public Administration was also a member of the selection committee for the Director of the new program in HIS. I was a member of that committee acting as a representative of the community. We had been through one

selection round and were unable to find a suitable candidate.

It was Jim who convinced me that I should get off the committee and put my name in to be a candidate for the Director's job. I did decide to apply and was subsequently selected and started at the University in August 1981. Thank you Jim.

1982 - *Dr. Ken Thornton* was the head of pathology at the Royal Jubilee Hospital whom I had come to know during my two-year stint at the RJH. He was one of the people at the RJH who interviewed me in 1979 and had the power to say yea or nay.

Ken became my mentor and the School's 2nd lecturer. He also incidentally supervised *Julie Comfort,* the School's first Master's graduate.

Most importantly, Ken helped me shape the curriculum. When I arrived, I inherited a 3-page plan for the School – it had been put together by 4-5 folks from Biology, Computer Science, Mathematics, and Public Administration and approved in principle by the University Senate. It was in essence an epidemiology and biostatistics program. Though I felt that there was a need for including this content area I did not think that having a whole program on the subject was what the health care field most needed. I did not think that there would be a lot of jobs for these types of graduates.

With Ken Thornton's help, we created a program which merged the disciplines of computer science, organization theory and health care delivery. We had in mind the Chief Information Officers of the future – even if that term was not in the vocabulary at the time. Thank you Ken.

1982 - *Dr. Jochen Moehr* was the head of the Medical Informatics program at the University of Heidelberg in Germany – a program which he had created a number of years earlier.

I can still see the 6-page letter he wrote me when I asked for his advice on our proposed curriculum.

Our many subsequent discussions both in person and by e-mail significantly influenced my thinking about what it meant to develop an academic program in the newly emerging field of Health Informatics.

It gave me a great deal of comfort three years later when he agreed to come and join us here in Victoria. Thank you Jochen.

1983 - the late *Murray Fraser* was Vice President Academic for UVic. Murray was one of the most sensitive and effective managers I have ever encountered.

These were the start of the dark days of the School. Our guarantee for 5 years of earmarked funding was withdrawn from the Government due to the severe downturn in the economy. What little we had been given to date was thrown into the general university pot and we were expected to fight for funds along side all of the established programs at UVic. Not an envious position to be in.

I can vividly recall the November meeting when I was about to be told that the program was going to be terminated. The government was looking for blood from the University and we were ideal candidates. We only had 40 students, no tenured faculty and had just started.

Murray Fraser made the life saving decision to let us continue for one more year – he accepted the argument that because of the sequencing of co-op terms, we could operate one more year without any additional funds. He could have decided to terminate us. We all need to be grateful to Murray for his decision.

1984 - *Stan Dubas* was the Deputy Minister of Health - he also one of our dedicated sessional lecturers. He held his classes in his offices down at 1515 Blanshard and senior Ministry of Health staff would complain to me that they were envious – our students spent more time with the Deputy than they did.

While I was out on the road trying to raise funds to keep us alive, Stan was instrumental in influencing the UVic Board of Directors that our program should be maintained at all costs - not withstanding the downturn in the BC economy at the time.

I did not generate a whole lot of permanent outside funding. Without Stan's intervention, we would not have survived. Thank you Stan**.**

1984 - *Ian Stewart* was chairman of the UVic Board who agreed with Stan and was able to convince the Board and bring them around to understanding why it was important to save our program.

Without his support, we would not be here today.

1985 - *Jim Cutt* and *Kim McGowan*. Kim worked in the Vice President Academic's office. I can't recall how we met but he knew the University and was a trusted colleague. He and Jim were instrumental in helping me through the subtle and at times dangerous web of University politics. There were those on campus who wanted our program to either be eliminated or at least substantially changed from the direction it was headed.

Without their help, I would have not personally survived and perhaps the School itself may have perished as well. Thank you Jim and Kim.

1986 – *Jochen Moehr*, *Walter Dietiker* and *Gerhard Brauer* were appointed to the faculty and we were promoted to a School from being a program and as the old familiar saying goes - the rest is history.

On behalf of the 344 alumni of the School out in the field in Canada and around the world, and the 156 students currently enrolled with us, I would like to thank and publicly acknowledge the important contributions that *Dr. Bill Gibson, Dr. Rod Dobell, Dr. Jim Cutt, Dr. Ken Thornton, Dr. Jochen Moehr, Murray Fraser, Stan Dubas, Ian Stewart,* and *Kim McGowan* have made not only to our School but to the Canadian health care system.

Our students are making a difference and the health care system is a better system because of them. We know that for a fact, and we are immensely proud of what they have accomplished in the 16 years since they first left us to go out on their own.

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The School is now moving on to new horizons. We are very very fortunate to have *Francis Lau* leading us into the future – ably supported by *Pat Coward*.

I have no doubt that when the School celebrates its 30th year in 2012, people will look back and say - Wow a lot has sure been accomplished since Francis Lau and Pat Coward arrived on the scene in 2001.

Let's now hear about our future directions from Pat.

Thank you."

Denis Protti

Protti, Gorman, Anderson

Guest speakers at the plenary session on Saturday were *Paul Gorman*, School of Medicine, Oregon Health Sciences University and *James Anderson*, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Purdue University.

The success of such an event is always due to the hard work and preparation of those involved. Thank you to all the presenters and to the volunteers (*Alicia Brazier, Stephanie Davis, Patricia Fortin, Nancy Gill, Robyn Hope, Michael Li, Mark Marquette, Kathy Reed, Jacquline Robichaud, Monika Savai, Anoop Sohi, and Megan Stepushyn*) who helped out with registration, preparing handouts, etc. Very special thanks to *Teresa Rafter* who prepared the chocolate filled HINF mugs given to each of the workshop presenters and to *Mike Cleghorn* for his assistance at the Reunion.

REUNION

The Terrace Room at the Laurel Point Inn was the backdrop for our 20th Anniversary Reunion.   It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces from the past. Guest lecturers, former faculty and staff, and current students mixed with alumni from all years.

Turner, Nusbaum, Robinson

Among those present were members from the first HINF graduating class *Shannon Turner* and *Sylvia Robinson* (the lab rats as they called themselves), former co-op coordinator *Larry Scott*, former receptionist *Lindsay Cassie*, along with *Stan Dubas, Mike Nusbaum, Don Juzwishin,* and *Rick Roger*.

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The only formal part of the reunion was the long overdue public recognition of *Denis Protti's* contribution to the School of Health Information Science. *Ken Thornton* was pressed into service to present Denis with a framed copy of the original 1989 IMIA poster on behalf of the School. Anyone who has had the privilege of being in one of Ken's classes can appreciate why he was asked to make the presentation.

The following is a brief excerpt from Ken's speech:

"Denis was kind enough the other day to talk about the people that were important at the early stage of the program. I think that every one of us has something very loud and very clear to say. We were only there because there was a team leader, we were only there because of the power of Denis's vision & ideas, we only interacted according to a theme that Denis

evolved and with great democracy & great ingenuity as we literally invented it as we went along.

"He failed to mention in his modesty that he is one of the nationally recognized figures in HIS and informatics in Canada. He is internationally recognized and is a senior consultant in Britain not only to the health service but also to the government itself.

"He would be the last to acknowledge this. He is a wonderful leader and he is a modest man.   I have personally experienced his wonderful kindness at a time of tragedy and his enormous fun at my 60th birthday that was taken as a bash at his house. So that in every sense Denis has been a friend, a mentor and a leader to me and I thank you and we thank you. It is my very great pleasure today to recognize this. The school has asked that I speak on this occasion to recognize, from the school, Denis's contribution. The school has asked that he be recognized for what he is; a tremendously important and significant leader in this field and they have asked me to present a small token of this recognition.

Protti, Thornton

"Denis for your vision, your passion, your persistence, your courage for making the School of Health Information Science what it is today. From being a teacher, a mentor, a leader and a friend I thank you from the bottom of our hearts."

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome back to a new school year! We delayed the newsletter this fall so we could give you a full report on the Health Informatics Education Symposium and 20th Anniversary celebrations.

This is my first opportunity to give you an update on the School since taking over the Director's chair from *Francis Lau* in June. We are privileged to have Francis participating in the planning for the Island Medical Program and lending his expertise to the development of e-learning for the medical students. His appointment extends until April 2003.

We have an enthusiastic group of first year students who began classes in September. Faculty and staff welcomed them with a wine and cheese reception and the course union hosted a barbeque in Gyro Park. We now have nine graduate students who can be found huddled closely together in offices in the HSD building. Despite their cramped quarters, they manage to keep smiling and to participate in a number of School activities such as sessional teaching, lab instruction and research.

We have 12 students who will be graduating at the Fall Convocation on November 13th, bring the total number of BSc grads to 343. Congratulations to each of you as you begin your new careers in Health Information Science.

We are continuing to work on obtaining approvals for a combined BSc in Health Information Science and Computer Science and an MSc in Health Informatics. We are hoping to launch both programs in September 2003. Faculty are continuing to teach, develop new courses for the expanded programs, and conduct research in a variety of areas such as telehealth, palliative care, electronic health records and animal health.

Our 20th Anniversary year has certainly given us an opportunity to celebrate our successes and to plan for the years ahead.

Pat Coward

STUDENTS

Our annual new student mixer on September 11 was its usual success. Welcomed in true HINF style were the new students: *Sarah Bernardin, Gregory Botten, Alicia Brazier, Maysie Chan, Vincent Chan, Sheen Chang, Cindy Chang, Gloria Chao, Anna Cherry, Crystal Chu, Elizabeth Clough, Brandy Desputeaux, Jusdeep Dhanowa, Gavin D'Mello, Tamara Dyck, Laura Fong, Linda Fu, Fraser Hacking, Diane Horita, Keir Johnson, Kathleen Jones, Amy Kleckner, Jane Kong, Rosanne Lewis, Sophie Li, Wei-Ming Luo, Loretta Ma, Jamila Madhani, Aliya Mawani, Amy Miller, Hai Nguyen, Vanessa Pillay, Stephanie Potvin, Rita Rainaldi, Kathryn Rumball, Stephen Schnare, Li Sheng, Stephanie Sin, Tony Tsai, Paul Vial, Amber Wenstob, Carmen Wilson* and *Fu Zhang*,

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Rebecca Westle will be graduating in November and has moved to Vancouver after accepting a full-time position at St. Paul's Hospital in the Corporate IT Department.

Once again HINF students have garnered more than their fair share of the undergraduate scholarships. Congratulations for a job well done to:

Adam Beaton -The President's Scholarship ($1500.00); *Greg Botten* - University of Victoria Entrance Scholarships ($2000.00); *Shaina Hood* -The President's Scholarship ($993.00); *Hyeong-Jin Kim* -The President's Scholarship ($550.00) and The Mrs. Annie Greskiw Scholarship in Health Information Science ($1950.00); *Sarah Lupton* -The President's Scholarship ($1000.00); *Stephanie Potvin* -The President's Entrance Scholarship ($2500.00); *Katherine Reed* -The President's Scholarship for Part-time Undergraduate Students ($486.00); *Christine Selzler* -The Jess Wallace Munroe Scholarship ($1575.00), The Howard Petch Scholarships ($975.00),

The Mrs. Annie Greskiw Scholarship in Health Information Science ($1950.00) and The University of Victoria Faculty Scholarship ($500.00); and, *Megan Stepushyn* -The ICBC Scholarship in Health Information Science ($5000.00).

Carmen Wilson also received a $1,000 bursary from the Health Employees Union.

Wedding bells....

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate *Kim Demacedo*, a Canadian national team water-skier and *Paul Devenport* on their recent nuptials. Their beautiful wedding took place at the Royal Oak Golf Club on Friday, September 13. Obviously this couple is not superstitious.

Kim is taking her final HINF course and will be graduating in June. Paul hails from New Zealand and has been a regular on the Canadian Golf Tour since 1991. This year one of his local accomplishments on the tour was winning the Shell Payless Open at Gorge Vale. Best of luck for a life filled with happiness, prosperity, and of course, plenty of golf and water skiing.

Kim Demacedo and Paul Devenport

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Back by Popular Demand

Get ready for Saturday November 23rd as the course union is organizing the 3rd HINF Pub Crawl!!! Everyone is welcome so book that night off and keep your ears and eyes open for further details to this always memorable night together. Check out the pictures from the first two pub crawls @ http://hinf.intheno.com/pics.htm.

HINF Course Union

How many in your class???

My name is *Jamila Madhani*, and I recently began the HINF program at UVic. Working in the healthcare industry has always been my dream. My first degree was in Anatomy and Cell Biology at McGill University, and it just felt natural to further my education in the field of Health Information Science.

Often I sit in class and cannot help comparing McGill with UVic. My classes at McGill were very large and overwhelming. In first year each and every one of my classes had 1000 students. This number decreased to 300 in my second year, which I still thought was too large. I was really intimidated to participate in class, and lecturers left immediately after class making it very difficult to ask questions.

I am very impressed with the class sizes at UVic. Furthermore, I am enjoying the interactive format of the lectures and find the encouraged participation in class enriching. In particular, I find the technology and the funding at UVic phenomenal. I am also impressed with having the listserv system at my fingertips. It allows for constant communication between other class members, the lecturer, and myself. UVic, and particularly this program, surpass in quality the learning environment at McGill, and I am fortunate to be here.

Jamila Madhani

The HINF Co-op Experience, Toronto Style

For seven of the nine HINF students in Toronto over the summer, their first co-op experience couldn't have been better. As for the other two, well, they were on their last co-op term. These two "seasoned veterans" *Ryan Leib* (Cancer Care Ontario) and *Emily Boulton* (Centre for Addiction and Mental Health) completed the HINF crew that took the Toronto health informatics community by storm for summer 2002. With typical HINFer enthusiasm, this crew welcomed the opportunity to take in all they could during the seemingly short 4-month term. Toronto sightseeing tours, Blue Jays baseball games, music and food festivals, get-a-ways to Ontario's cottage country, and trips to Montreal and NYC (for a few lucky HINFers) highlight the numerous weekend adventures. The most memorable was a 3-night group trip to Ottawa for Canada Day organized by *Todd Kinnee* where we met up with *Megan Stepushyn*, who had made the trip from Sherbrooke, Quebec. The 44-degree temperatures and 150,000+ people on and around Parliament Hill made for a fabulous weekend, thanks Todd!

As for work (hence co-op work term), *Rob Landry* performed multi-day consulting work for HealthLink Data Network (now Courtyard Consulting) in Kingston and Hamilton. *Melissa Barling* at St. Michael's, *Todd Kinnee* at Toronto East General, *Alison Dare* at Baycrest, and *Victoria Brown* and I both at Mt. Sinai, all enjoyed the invaluable hospital experience. *Shaina Hood* (Thinc-IMI) received experience in the private sector while *Kris Pallan* (CIHI) had exposure to the public sector. Rob, Todd, Kris and I spent a day meeting industry professionals at Sunnybrook Hospital while at the Health Information Management Services Society (HIMSS) Conference for the Ontario Chapter.

A wonderful work term experience was had by all both on-site with our various organizations, and in the sunny social atmosphere of TO. The summer we enjoyed together was incredible and I wish all HINFers good luck on their next co-op term. So, where are you going in January, and more importantly what are you going to do while you're there?

Mike Cleghorn

I decided to go down to New York for a few days with *Rob Landry* to check things out before heading back to Victoria. New York was awesome. Les Miserables on Monday night, David Letterman on Tuesday night, watching the sun set over Manhattan from the top of the Empire State Building on Wednesday night plus a whole lot more (WTC crash site, Statue of Liberty, UN HQ, Wall Street, Times Square, Central Park, Grand Central Station, etc.). Well worth it!

Todd Kinnee

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IT'S A BOY!

Paul Yang and *Wendy Lin* became first-time parents when son *Victor* was born at 10:29 p.m. on Aug. 5th, 2002. Victor weighed a healthy 6 lb 10 oz. at birth and is growing well.

Victor Yang

CO-OP

Welcome to an update on what is happening in the Co-op office in Health Information Science. I'm pleased to report that I'm in the office for additional hours each week. I'm now working 0.8 time, which means you can find me here all day, Monday – Thursday. I'll be doing some traveling visiting students and employers in Toronto, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver this fall, so it is always best to make an appointment with me or Angie – or you could always drop by and take your chances!

Work term placements in 2002 have gone fairly well. We managed to place a record number of students in the spring term (32), summer term (46) and fall term (31 so far). Much of the thanks for this must go to *Angie Francis*, who has been indispensable (and fun to work with!). The location of work terms has undergone a dramatic shift in the past year. The percentage of jobs in Victoria has dropped from 22% in 2001 to 13% in 2002. This is primarily due to a down-turn in hiring by B.C. Government Ministries.

Recently, we've undergone a shift to a new database program within all Co-op departments. This new database is web-based, and will enable us to work more closely with other co-op departments to share appropriate job postings. Eligible students can access the site at http://www.mycoop.ca to post their resumes and apply for jobs.

If anyone has any questions about the co-op program – staff, faculty, new or returning students – please drop by!

Dave Hutchinson

MISCELLANEOUS

Code of Ethics

I just returned last week from a meeting of the General Assembly of the International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA) in Taipei. At this meeting, the 'A Code of Ethics for Health Informatics Professionals' proposed by *Dr. Eike Kluge* was adopted for the member societies of this world organization.

The code is a major breakthrough. It bases its recommendations on a system of ethical principles that is independent of local legal regulations. It therefore provides a solid overarching foundation for the practice of health informatics, and hence also for educational programs in health informatics.

Dr. Kluge had worked on this code and related issues for over ten years. He had proposed this code at the meeting of the IMIA Working Group 4 'Data Protection' which took place in June 2000 in Victoria. It had since been distributed for comment and discussion in national societies. Delegates from several nations represented in IMIA reported that the recommendations were intensely discussed and recommended for adoption by their national societies. On this basis, the General Assembly adopted the recommendations.

Jochen Moehr

Malaysia – A New Leader in Health Informatics

Being on sabbatical, and being an International representative, sometimes has surprising rewards. This year I was afforded a rare insight into one of the most advanced health informatics environments in an unexpected corner of the world. Through the initiative of *Dr. Marion Ball*, USA, former IMIA president, and *Dr. K. C. Lun*, Singapore, current IMIA president, the delegates to this year's General Assembly of the International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA) were invited to a visit of Selayang Hospital in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Selayang Hospital is a brand new tertiary care hospital, one of the most important ones in Malaysia. It has close to 1000 beds, about 10,000 inpatients and 300,000 outpatient visits per year. Most importantly for us, it has implemented a comprehensive hospital information system called the Total Hospital Information System (THIS). It includes integrated and interfaced laboratory, pharmacy, radiology, PACS, financial, and ADT systems and an electronic patient record that can be accessed from any one of 1200 computers, many of which are interfaced with wireless links. The system is supported by a set of dual mirrored servers, and backed up by an off site archive. The plan is to extend this approach in phases to all other Malaysian hospitals and have them linked by telemedicine links. All Malaysians will by then use a multi-purpose chip card, which serves as passport, drivers license, charge card and health card. So far only a few million of these cards have been issued ....

To see this system in operation and to be able to talk to the people who designed, created and operate it, was impressive enough for the twenty-odd delegates from around the world. But there was even more to it: Malaysia is embarked on a decisive move into an ICT oriented future. The country is embarked on an ambitious 25 year program, installed in successive five year plans to become a modern prosperous democratic nation.

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EVERYTHING is embarking on this mission, from government to primary school education. Incentives and policies and procedures are in place to get computers – sold and serviced by the post offices – into every household in the most remote villages. Telehealth and paperless hospitals are just one of seven "flagship" projects. And the Telehealth flagship project is backed up by a radically new look at health care, a departure from sick care that emphasizes wellness, preventive medicine, and patient and provider education. Comprehensive legislation is in place for privacy, health informatics standards, telehealth, etc. And if one judges these plans by what has been achieved in Selayang Hospital, by the new Kuala Lumpur International Airport – one of the most efficient airports that I had the pleasure of being served at – and by the 15 by 50 km "Multimedia Super Corridor", which links this airport with Kuala Lumpur, and which is laced with high capacity data links and studded with 8 universities, colleges and other institutions of higher education - if one judges the plans by these achievements, the other elements of the plan will no doubt be achieved as well.

So, Malaysia looks not only like a place to watch, but it may be a place to learn from!

In closing I with to express my gratitude to CERNER Corporation, who supply substantial components of THIS, and who hosted the IMIA delegation in Kuala Lumpur.

Jochen Moehr

Dr. K. C. Lun, President of IMA, thanks *Dr. Rosnan Hadis,* Director/CEO of Selayang Hospital for her hospitality with a commemorative plaque.

SUBSCRIBE TO LISTSERVS

All students should by now have subscribed to the listserv for each of their HINF classes. Complete instructions are on the web at the top of the courseware page. Students should also subscribe to HINFINFO, the student general information listserv, by following the same instructions. For both proximity and security, you are strongly encouraged to use your UVic account when subscribing to listservs.

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Research seminars are again being held every Friday afternoon 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. in CIT 120. If you wish to receive email notification of the seminars, please contact *Leslie Wood* at lwood@uvic.ca

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Irene Droll

Irene Droll has joined the Evaluation Team of the BC Telehealth Program as a practicum student from the University of Applied Sciences, Ulm, Germany. Irene follows her colleagues *Heni Schott, Axel Keul* and *Steffi Rolle* and will stay at the School until March. Irene enjoys the Canadian outdoors – loves hiking, camping and biking –salsa dancing and pubcrawls.

Jochen Moehr

FACULTY & STAFF

The past few months have seen a number of changes taking place around the HINF office. *Francis Lau* is on secondment to the Island Medical Program, however, we are very fortunate to have *Patricia Coward* as Acting Director. *Jim McDaniel* is on a leave of absence until December 31st

and *Jochen Moehr* is still on sabbatical.

Sessional instructors joining us this year are PhD candidates *Carolyn Green* and *Yuri Kagolovsky* teaching HINF 180 and 270 respectively. *Ken Chung*, an instructor in the School of Business at Camosun College, is teaching HINF 300. Ken has spent 12 years as a manager in information systems and 5 years as a technical and financial analyst. *Bartosh Michalik* ('95) is teaching HINF 301. Bartosh has over 8 years of experience in information technology consulting, systems analysis, development and implementation. In addition to his BSc in Health Information Science, Bartosh has a BSc in Kinesiology. *Gail Peterson* ('95) is teaching HINF 460 for the third time – she previously taught the course in 1994 and 1995. A former nurse, Gail completed her Masters of Science in Health Information Science in 1995. Her graduate work involved developing strategic, innovative methods for analyzing and modeling health care decision-making in order to identify opportunities for process improvements.

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Anyone who has been around HINF for awhile will have met *John O'Brien* either as a guest lecturer or the instructor for HINF 351 last year.

Effective November 1, 2002, he is joining the ranks of the Government of Hong Kong Directorate as Principal Archivist of Hong Kong and Director of Government Records Services. He says, " The work will be personally and professionally challenging. An important aspect of the role is to integrate European, Asian and North American approaches in the management of recorded information while supporting the extension of e-government. This is a great opportunity to be on the ground during a period of transition in Southeast Asia. I hope to continue my current role as President, Institute of Certified Records Managers (ICRM)."

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Congratulations to new grandparents *Denis* and *Pat Protti*. *Grace Kathleen* is granddaughter number 2 for the Protti's. She was born at 11:42 pm on Oct. 15 weighing 7lb 12 oz.

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Gerhard Brauer has received an EdD Leadership Award from UBC for "academic performance and accomplishments as an educational leader". Congratulations!

D. William Wood MPH, PhD

We are very fortunate to have *Dr. William Wood* joining us from The University of Hawaii at Manoa for his yearlong sabbatical. He is no stranger to HINF having served on the scientific program committees for ITCH '92 and '94.

Dr. Wood has a BA in Economics and Sociology, an M.P.H. in Health Services Administration and Planning, an M.A. in Sociology and a Ph.D. in Sociology. He was the Interim Dean of the School of Public Health, University of Hawaii, from 1995-1999. It was during this time that he took two of our alumni under his wing and served as their thesis advisor. Thanks to his guidance *Sylvia Robinson* ('87) and *Shannon Turner* ('88) received their Masters of Public Health and MSc in International Health respectively. Shannon says, "Bill makes bureaucracy work" and is about "making positive changes".

Although the weather in Victoria is very mild, I am sure that it pales in comparison to the white sand beaches and the blue waters of Hawaii. Nonetheless, we are fortunate to have a man of such expertise as a part of our program and hope that he enjoys his time with us.

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Dr. Michael Guerriere and *Dave Wattling*, together with *John Ronson* and *Rhonda Linton*, are pleased to announce the creation of a new consultancy – Courtyard Group Ltd. Courtyard has acquired an existing healthcare professional services firm and launched operations with 20 staff and a solid book of business. Dr. Guerriere is an Adjunct Associate Professor in the School of Health Information Science.

Healthcare across the world is facing massive change, much of that spurred by the expectation of ready information access and new technologies to support the integration of health services across the continuum of care. Managing this change requires intimate knowledge and understanding of the healthcare industry – experience that only comes from years in the business. Coupled with creativity, this experience is the catalyst healthcare organizations need to thrive in the midst of change.

The Courtyard team brings to the market a broad range of professional experience, and proven success in building and operating professional services companies. The founders bring a complementary set of clinical, legal, financial, technical and business experience. As a whole, the Courtyard team brings together a unique combination of practical, pan-Canadian experience in healthcare and business; operations and IT; public and private sector; as well as large well-established and smaller start-up organizations.

Based in Toronto, Courtyard will be a welcome addition to healthcare.

*****

The start of it all

COACH Founding Board Meeting, Toronto, 1975

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Welcome to our newest graduate students, *Mahmood Tara* and *Morgan Price*. Both started their studies in September. Mahmood's supervisor is *Jochen Moehr*, while Morgan is studying under *Francis Lau*.

Morgan Price

Morgan Price graduated from Medical school at the University of Calgary in 2000. He pursued his family medicine residency at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver and received full licensure in July of this year. He practiced in Vancouver's inner core before coming to Victoria and the HINF program to pursue a Master's degree as a Clinical Investigator.

Throughout his medical training he has been interested at point of care education and knowledge support. He has looked at using various handheld tools to assist with bedside education and has developed and tested several different types of applications for medical students, resident physicians, and family physicians. Now that he is at HINF, he is looking to expand his horizons and will be involved in the development of a primary care research network in BC.

Mahmood Tara

My name is *Mahmood Tara*, I come from Iran – 22 hours away by plane. I have just started my graduate studies in Health Information Science. A doctor in Iran, I graduated from the School of Medicine in 1990.

One day my older brother took me to my first computer course during the first years of the computer revolution (using IBM's 8086 and 8088). Since then I have had a passion for computers. I carried this interest with me into medical school and in addition to my studies in medicine I kept current with computer technology. This passion for technology aided me in my role at the university as the

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Acting Director of the Computer Centre for Students.

After graduating from medical school I served as a doctor and clinic manager in villages and taught some courses at University. My focus shifted from Medicine to Medical Informatics when the President of the University wanted my participation in the university computing project. I was awarded a PhD scholarship for 4 years of education in the field of Medical Informatics and needed to research an excellent school in Health Informatics.

I contacted a lot of schools but nothing peaked my interest until I read a paper about Dr. *Jochen Moehr*. Curious about UVic, I contacted Dr. Moehr by email. Over the next two years I communicated with Dr. Moehr regularly to try to iron out the details of entering the program. It took a long time and my family thought that my efforts would be fruitless. However, with the continued support of Dr. Moehr and the wonderful staff at the school all of the details were finalized and I could make my travel arrangements.

When I arrived in beautiful Victoria the friendly people made me instantly feel comfortable and I knew then that I would have a wonderful time in my studies and research work at UVic.

Mahmood Tara

*****

PhD candidate *Yuri Kagolovsky* has added the 2002 President's Research Scholarship to his list of many awards. Congratulations.

ALUMNI

A website has been established in memory of *Michael Miller* ('98) www.michaelmillermemorial.com. Also, *Paddy Miller* (Mike's Mom) and family friend *Joan Skillings* are biking across Canada in "legs". At the urging of their friends Joan and Paddy have decided to name a "cause" for the Michael Miller Ride.   Their bike trip across Canada will be in aid of a new Crisis Stabilization Unit at the Royal Jubilee Hospital. This unit will provide appropriate, timely and dignified care for individuals living with mental illness.

If you wish to support the Crisis Stabilization Unit, donations can be sent to:

The Greater Victoria Hospitals Foundation
TWC campaign
H304, 633 Courtney Street
Victoria, B.C. V8W 1B9
.....in memory of Michael Miller

NEW ALUMNI

Early in June we gathered to send our latest BSc graduates out into the world. Congratulations to *Adam Tura, James Ayles, Serena Birk, Alicia Campbell, Terence Chan, Jonathan Chui, Cara Johnson, Frieda Kaiser, Teresa Lam, Melissa Monga, Aren Northey, Zen Tharani* and *Carolyn Thomsen*. They were joined by *David Holt* who is the School's 11th MSc. recipient.

*****

Congratulations to *Carolyn* and *Doug Talbot* ('95) on the birth of their son *Laine Connor* born May 29, 2002, 8 lb. 11 oz.

One of the most surprising moments at the 20th reunion was when *Denise Russell* ('95) announced her engagement to *Brent McMillan*. After their wedding in February 2003 the happy couple will be moving to Perth, Australia. Congratulations and best wishes to you both!

*****

Dear Hinfers past and present,

Well it seems my first job following graduation is in many ways similar to work done in class and during work terms but in a very different environment. I am doing a CSIH Internship with the Pan American Health Organization in Paramaribo, Suriname - a little country on the north Atlantic Coast of South America. My main project involves working alongside a local working group that is developing a health information system for the Regional Health Service clinics which provide primary health care in the coastal region of the country. It is challenging to work in an environment where resources are limited and the language is Dutch, but I am really enjoying it.

Suriname is a very diverse country, with a real variety of ethnic groups and wonderful, friendly people. Although it is considered part of the Caribbean, there are no beaches on which to waste away the hot days, only brown rivers. I have had the opportunity for a couple of jungle trips though, and it was definitely my first time being sung to sleep by howling monkeys!

Cara Johnson ('02)

*****

I've been with Fujitsu Consulting (formerly DMR Consulting) as a Management Consultant for over three years now, and have enjoyed it immensely. The company has gone through quite a transition, since the parent company decided to draw us closer to the centre, and rebrand us a Fujitsu Consulting. Exciting times indeed!

Though I haven't done a lot of consulting to health clients (other than the Year 2000 project for the Ministry of Health in BC), I have maintained my contacts and interest. This has recently

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paid off. Fujitsu Canada has decided to formalize and focus strongly on our Health Care practice, which up to now was basically buried in the Government sector practice, though we had done some significant work for health clients. I have been asked to lead the Health Care Community of Practice for Western Canada (BC and Prairies), and of course I accepted! This means that I help define the ways that our practitioners will be involved in determining, creating and qualifying demand, and work toward getting a core group ready to meet this demand. Training and knowledge management are a key part of this. I'm looking forward to the challenge, and intend to use HINF as a resource.

Wendy Farwell ('95)

*****

Just for the ole HINF record. In March, I graduated with honours (94% average overall) with a diploma in e-Business Technology from Computer Master Institute of Internet Design and New Media Technology in Victoria. The course covered Internet site design, web application programming, and e-Commerce. I also was awarded the Excellence in Programming Award.

I am currently working at the Ministry of Health Services as well as designing and programming inter-active web sites on a contract basis. My own domain is www.thenetjet.com

Ron Jetko ('92)

Career HINFluence,

It took a few months, several interviews and shortlists, but I finally managed to land my ideal work situation, with BC Ministry of Health (Services). I am an Information Analyst with Information Support, Person-Based Records. I am supposed to work on the Continuing Care database, but lately have been able to work in quite varied areas, including some geographic work. Most recently, I created all the Excel graphs for BC's version of the Health Performance report that was produced by all the provinces. It was interesting technically and topically, satisfying my thirst for epidemiology and public

health subjects, as well as utilizing many of the skills I gained in HINF. Working for the government is actually quite challenging and stimulating. I work in a very dynamic section, with a fantastic group of directors and a very large contingent of "older" HINF grads – over half the department! I am very satisfied here. Unfortunately, in the present climate, with less than three years seniority, my position is very uncertain. So, like many around me here, I take things one day at a time. Getting "bumped" could be an opportunity to move into an area more focused on the epidemiology/public health realm, so I maintain optimism.

In my "real" life, I have been very busy with theatre. My current effort is my biggest so far – I am playing the ghost of Jacob Marley in the Victoria Operatic Society's production of "A Christmas Carol". I get to tread the boards clad in chains & bandages, wailing and singing a deep, mournful dirge – "The Chain I Forged in Life". In addition, I get to sing numerous chorus numbers and dance polkas and reels – very high energy and loads of fun! I continue to play roles in the Four Seasons Children's Theatre, usually as some real or imaginary animal. I have also been trying my hand at lighting and set building, to get a taste of the other side of the curtain.

How do I find all the time? Well, I no longer spend two hours a day commuting: we've purchased a home in the foothills of Mount Douglas. Of course, I would move within a walk from UVic now, after spending four years driving all the way in from Sooke!

I neglected to send out a "change of address", so anyone trying to locate me would have had some difficulty. My new data are (see – I learned, it's plural!): 250-721-9196, mail to: markmarq@shaw.ca; or 952-1214, Mark.Marquette@gems3.gov.bc.ca (hopefully for a long time to come!)

Mark Marquette ('00)

MORE UPDATES......

Errin Minish ('97) is now working for Household International in the UK...... *Michelle Ostan* ('95)has

accepted a position at the Ontario HIV Treatment Network offices in Toronto..... *Hafeez Amershi* ('96) is now Regional Manager, Decision Support Applications, Vancouver Coastal Health Authority.....*Ruth Yeo* ('96)is Regional Manager, Information Privacy & Security, Vancouver Coastal Health Authority.....*Teresa Lam* ('02) is currently working at Courtyard Group in Toronto.

*****

Sean Walker ('95) is in Bellevue, WA, working as a software architect for a private Bill Gates corporation, Corbis, whose primary business is digital image delivery and digital rights management. He and wife *Danielle* have two children now ... a little girl *Talia Shae Walker* (17 months old) and *Tristan Liam Walker* (3.5 years).

*****

I have just started a PhD in Health Services Research at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health in Baltimore. My research focus will be on evaluating health services and programs with administrative databases.

I finished an MHA at UBC last year and was working at the UBC Centre for Health Services and Policy Research until I came here. I am very excited about school and my part-time job here but Baltimore will take some getting used to.

Lyn Sibley ('96)

*****

Ken and *Donna Turner* (both HINF '88) and big sister *Tegan* (aged 6) are pleased to announce the arrival of *Hayley* on January 14, 2002, weighing in at 8 pounds even. A second "pure-bred" HINF-baby! The family is happily settled in Winnipeg where Ken is currently on parental leave from his job as a senior programmer with the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy and Donna is an epidemiologist with CancerCare Manitoba.

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2002 HINF Alumni Survey

A big thank you to everyone who participated in the School's latest alumni survey. As graduates of the HINF program, we value your opinion about the demand for health informatics (HI) skills in the workplace, about the availability of HI training opportunities in Canada, and about how we can improve the School's programs to meet the educational needs of students now and in the future.
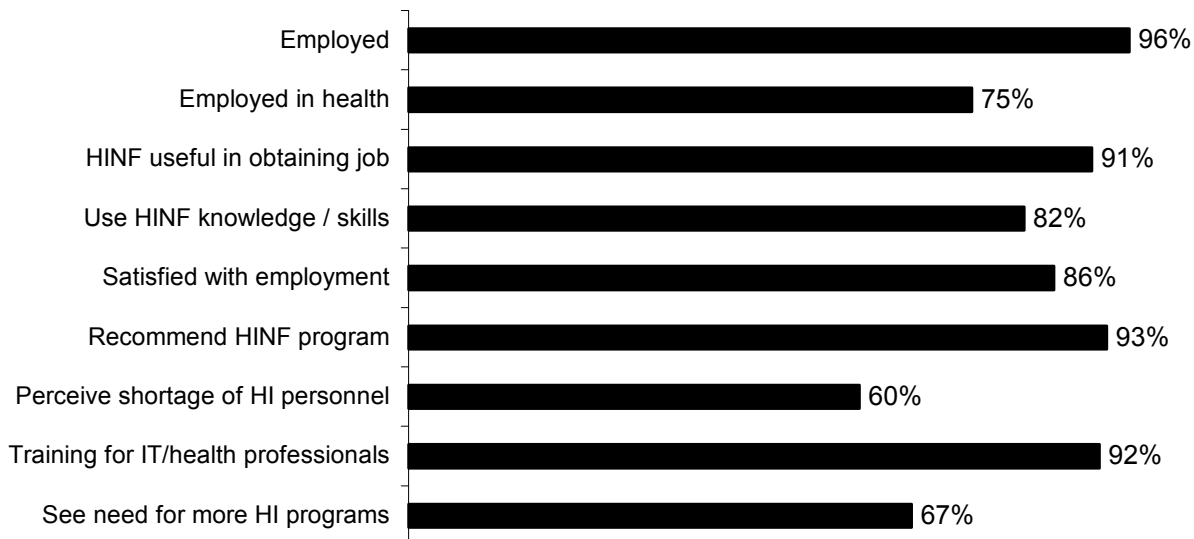
As of June 2002, there were 344 HINF alumni. Of these, the School had valid e-mail addresses for 223 (65%). Only those alumni with a current e-mail address on file with the School were sent the survey. To ensure that you don't miss out on future communications, please update your contact information with Leslie Wood (lwood@uvic.ca) and be sure to sign up for the HINF alumni listserv.

There was a 43% (95) response rate for this survey.

The results of the survey indicated that 96% of the graduates of the school are employed, and very few alumni have had difficulty finding jobs. The majority of graduates (86%) are satisfied with the employment opportunities that their HI degree provided. In addition, the School's alumni have a broad range of skills, and graduates are qualified for many different types of occupations such as, analyst, consultant, director, manager, researcher, programmer, software engineer, and database administrator.

Sixty percent of respondents agreed that there is a shortage of health informatics personnel in Canada; only 3% of respondents did not perceive a shortage. In contrast, the remaining 37% were unsure whether or not there was a shortage. However, several of these respondents do not live in Canada and did not feel qualified to evaluate Canada's training programs and opportunities.

What HINFers had to Say

Category	Percentage
Employed	96%
Employed in health	75%
HINF useful in obtaining job	91%
Use HINF knowledge / skills	82%
Satisfied with employment	86%
Recommend HINF program	93%
Perceive shortage of HI personnel	60%
Training for IT/health professionals	92%
See need for more HI programs	67%

Some of the factors leading to the perception of a shortage of HI personnel are:

- HI trained personnel are not equally distributed across Canada
- Lack of financial commitment for HI positions
- Many jobs are filled by clinicians regardless of their IT/HI skills
- People who understand both IT and health care data are hard to find
- Many health care organizations want their IT staff and analysts to have clinical experience

In some instances, alumni feel that experience gained in the workplace is as good as formal training. However, the overwhelming majority think existing IT/health professionals could benefit from HI training because:

- All health professionals will have to use a form of IT eventually. Many health care professionals are hired for their clinical knowledge but lack HI skills
- The use of information and information systems is becoming more important in clinical work
- The health system has a number of special needs not included in regular IT training
- Managers need to better understand the issues involved in implementing and maintaining health information systems

The clear majority of HINFers would like to see more flexible, non-traditional HI training opportunities especially:

- Graduate programs – including a Masters – for working adults
- A certificate/diploma program, professional development program, short courses, and seminars that would appeal to working professionals
- More co-op training opportunities
- Online courses and programs accessible via distance education

These are just a few of the comments and suggestions we received. If you'd like to find out more about what HINFers had to say, the final survey results are available for download from the School's archives at http://hinf.uvic.ca/archives/index.htm.

Specific questions about the survey results should be directed to Pat Coward, Acting Director (pcoward@uvic.ca).

MEMORIES

OF THE HEALTH INFORMATICS EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM AND HINF 20TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION

Jill Strachan and Pat Coward

Liza Bialy and Krista Louie

Liza Bialy and Debra Greig

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Stefan and Felicia Pantazi, Roman Mateyko,
Carolyn Green, Willie Thompson, Jochen and
Chris Moehr

Jeremy Smith and Willie Thompson

Pat and Denis Protti

Zen Tharani and William Wood

Ron Jetko and Don Juzwishin

Chris Sowerby and Ruth Yeo

Toby Walrod and Dave Bigsby

Michael Beebe, Marty McLeod, Rosemary Gray, Denise Russell, Brent MacMillan (partially hidden), Ross Gibbs,
Janice Williams, Valerie Gibbs and Phil Jennings with back to camera.

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