

# HINFormation

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

May 2004

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the start of another summer session. We would like to particularly welcome *Verena Spitteller* who has joined us for the summer session from Austria. She is the first exchange student under the UMIT (University for Health Informatics and Technology Tyrol) agreement.

The following is an email I received recently from one of our co-op employers. "We've just finished interviewing potential Co-op students for the XXXXXXXXXX branch. I conducted the interviews with several other people, all of whom commented to me on the superior quality of UVic HINF students, in both their experiences and their ability to give a strong interview. I just wanted to commend you and your staff for the excellent work you are doing as evident by the quality of students your program produces....P.S. I would like to add that your students are beating out masters level students from other schools, which was also noted by the interviewers."

I hear similar comments frequently from employers who have hired our students and alumni. You are a credit both to yourselves and to the School.

*Francis Lau*

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## **Partners in Productivity Raise Over \$100,000 for Health Information Science**

We are happy to report that a fundraising initiative recently launched by the Partners in Productivity is well on the way to achieving its goal of raising around \$150,000 for an educational endowment for the school of Health Information Science to honour *Denis* and *Pat Protti*. In a little more than three months, the first appeal for donations from former participants in the Partners in Productivity conference raised more than \$100,000. The endowment was presented to a stunned Denis and Pat at the recent Partners in Productivity session at Dunsmuir Lodge in Victoria.



When Denis announced that April 2004 would be his final year as chair of the conference, the Partners in Productivity stepped into action to raise funds to recognize the important contribution made by Denis and Pat to the healthcare industry in Canada. For almost two decades the Prottis' "Partners in Productivity" has brought industry professionals, government officials and academics together to strategize about the future of healthcare in Canada. Individuals and organizations demonstrated their

gratitude for involvement in Partners in Productivity sessions through the timely and overwhelming response to requests for donations this past fall.

The fundraising efforts are off to a great start, but there is still much work ahead to reach the goal; after all, the endowment is a journey, not a destination. It is now the HINF alumni's turn to show their support for the Prottis and the school. Income from the endowment will be used to support HINF academic activities as determined by Denis and Pat.

To help you consider this request, the suggested guidelines for donations are: \$500 to \$1,000 for individuals, \$1,000 to \$5,000 for healthcare provider organizations and hospitals, and \$10,000 for private sector corporations. A tax receipt will be provided, donations can be pledged for payment over 3 years, and shares in publicly traded companies can also be used.

A donor card has been enclosed with this quarter's newsletter to assist you in making a donation. Please complete the card and return to:

Attention *Anthony Salekin*,  
Development and External  
Relations Officer  
The University of Victoria  
Faculty of Human and Social  
Development  
P.O. Box 1700, Stn. CSC  
Victoria, British Columbia  
Canada, V8W 2Y2

In the case of U.S. donors, cheques may be made out to the "U.S. Foundation for the University of Victoria."

Denis and Pat have made an enormous contribution to our education and to the national dialogue on important health issues in Canada and internationally. They have been unselfish in their efforts on our behalf and we sincerely hope that you will be able to join us in building on this endowment to recognize their efforts.

*Don MacPherson ('03)*

## GRADUATE STUDENTS

*Craig Kuziemsky* received the Andy Farquharson Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Teaching. The criteria for winning this award is to have taught two or more courses/labs over the past two academic years and have consistently received excellent evaluations from students, peers and faculty members.

Congratulations Craig, job well done and we are all very proud of you ...

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*Nicole Grimm* has received a University of Victoria/Micheal Smith Foundation for Health Research Grant in the amount of \$714.28.

## STUDENTS

*Fraser Hacking* has been awarded this year's COACH Founding President's award. In addition to a \$500 cheque, Fraser also received a free COACH membership for 2004-5 and a memento to hang on his wall. He was presented with the award at the COACH Annual General Meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

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*Paul Kim*, who graduates in June, has accepted a position as the STD Surveillance Analyst at the BC Centre for Disease Control.

## ALUMNI

*Vani Puri* graduated from the HINF program in November



of 2003 and took off for a well-deserved vacation in India to spend time with her mom and sisters. She stayed there for five months and met and married *Ravi Tanwar* on January 27, 2004 among friends and family. She has since returned and is currently working on the PARIS project, Vancouver Coastal Health.

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Fujitsu Services has been awarded a 10-year contract to support modernisation in the National Health Service, UK. The contract will help the NHS in its drive to improve healthcare for patients in the South of England, by introducing electronic patient records throughout the region, integrating existing electronic records where possible, and implementing new systems when appropriate.

I have been selected by Fujitsu for a consultant position on the Local Engagement Team on this project. My job will be to perform qualification, prioritization and scoping of local requirements to ensure the healthcare solution meets the local business needs of the client. My objectives will be:

- to establish key working relationships with the client at the local level
- to interpret local client requirements and priorities to Alliance Solution Development
- to identify and agree on local benefit and outcomes measures

The initial engagement will be for 6 months, but I'd be open to extensions (depending on how things are going!).

I was selected for this assignment from Fujitsu folks around the world, primarily based on my qualifications (education and experience). They said my consulting experience, coupled with Health Care 'expertise', is a unique and valuable combination. Justification for taking a HINF degree, followed by an MBA!

*Wendy Farwell ('95)*

### **Alumni on the move.....**

*Don MacPherson ('03)* has joined *Miyo Yamashita* at the newly established Anzen Consulting Ltd. in Toronto; ...*Frieda Kaiser ('02)* is with VIHA (Vancouver Island Health Authority) as a Business Analyst on the Electronic Medical Summary (e-MS) Project; ...*Kathleen Lavoie ('99)* has moved to the Grand River Hospital in Kitchener, ON, where she is the Director, Health Information Management and Chief Privacy Officer; ... *Lisa Ebel-Wiebe ('94)* is now working for the PHSA Mental Health Planning and Strategic Initiatives at Riverview Hospital.

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*Angela Dunbar ('98)* is now working for the World Health Organization, European Region in their Barcelona office.

She says, "It's a fantastic opportunity and has been really rewarding. I'm working mostly with the former USSR countries focused on counselling policy makers on the possibilities of using eHealth especially in underserved areas. I'm also collaborating with the European Space Agency (Canada is a member) to define ways in which satellite can be used to provide healthcare access to countries without communication infrastructures."

Angela still plans to return to Medical School in Canada when her MBA is completed

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*Crystal Janicki ('02)* has been accepted into the Faculty of Dentistry at UBC starting in August.

Ruth Yeo ('96) and Chris Sowerby ('96) became the proud parents of a bouncing baby boy named *Deacon Tate Sowerby* weighing 7 pounds 9 ounces on Sunday, February 1st at 4:19 pm at St. Paul's Hospital.



*Deacon Sowerby*

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Hello to all. I thought of giving you an update of myself. I will start my residency in Family Practice next June. It will be in Whittier, California. I am very excited about it. So far I have done research on MRI imaging of children with Autism and ADHD (Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder). Soon I will move from the University of California to Whittier Hospital. Unlike Canada, Family Practice Residency takes 3 years. The first year is very tough and then it will be easier. I don't have to move since the hospital is about 30 minutes away from my home.

*Reza Berenji('01)*

## COURSE UNION

What a great semester we had! It is hard to believe that we are already at the end of the Winter semester and the Summer semester is soon to begin. Winter semester was definitely a term of hardwork, but all HINF students managed to get through with pride. As for many fourth year students, the winter semester was their last semester with the school here at the University of Victoria. On behalf of the HINF

course union, congratulations to the graduation class of 2004 and we wish you all success in your future career.

### ***Mardi Gras Madness 2004***

To continue the tradition of HINF students, the semester party was a "Mardi Gras Madness Party" on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Under the lead of *Togio Chayanuwat*, *Mike Cleghorn*, and *Elisa McIntosh*, all HINF students and over 500 students from the university had a blast in this event. We rented a local nightclub and turned it into New Orleans (the home of Mardi Gras). A special thank you note from the organizer to *Shannon*, *Rob*, *Todd*, and *Manu* (fourth year) as well as *Gavin*, *Tielo*, and *Ken* (second year) for helping us with the decorations on the day before the party and taking things down on the day after the party.

On Mardi Gras Madness night, many students came with unique costumes whereas many other students came with great face paintings and exotic hairstyles. Free drinks were given to all that participated and cash prizes were given out to outstanding costumes. We planned to keep track of how many free drinks we bought for HINF students, but we lost track as there were too many to count. All had a great night and many were intoxicated by the end of the night. Mardi Gras Madness 2004 pictures can be viewed on-line at [www.hinf.com](http://www.hinf.com).

### ***Year End Softball Game and BBQ Dinner***

We have over \$500 left from the Mardi Gras party. We thought that the best way to spend this money is to spend it with all HINF students by having a year end Softball game and BBQ dinner on the last day of class (April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2004). We invited school staff, faculty, graduate students, and the office of the Dean of Human and Social Development for the BBQ dinner.

We rented a field by the university stadium for softball game so the students could play and celebrate the last day of classes. After the softball game, we prepared BBQ dinner for all softball players and hungry HINF

students. The BBQ dinner took place in the courtyard behind the Human and Social Development building, home of the School of Health Information Science. We barbecued over 100 burgers, hot dogs, and sausages! The BBQ dinner was a great time as the weather was so warm outside. Many students were sunbathing while waiting for burgers. A special thank you note to *Mike Cleghorn* for lending his BBQ, *Bryan Christensen* for helping me with all grocery shopping, and *Megan Stepushyn* for organizing the softball game. Also, I would like to thank *Ramina D.* and *Aneet & Sumeet Sahota* for setting up the tables for the BBQ dinner as well as others who helped out with many little things.

At the end of the BBQ dinner, a group picture was taken of all HINF students.



Softball and BBQ pictures can be viewed on-line at [www.hinf.com](http://www.hinf.com).

### ***Donation to James Coward Memorial Award***

After the Mardi Gras party, the year end softball game, and year end BBQ dinner, there are still \$200 left to be used. We thought that a donation toward a scholarship within the School of Health Information Science is the best thing to do. A donation of \$200 was donated to the School of Health Information Science on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2004 by *Togio Chayanuwat* on behalf of HINF Course Union. The school will add the cash donation to the capital fund of the James Coward Memorial Award. By doing so, the award amount will be increased and HINF students can benefit from it. The James Coward Award is for Health Information Science co-op

students. Information about this award is available at

<http://hinf.uvic.ca/sinfo/awards.htm>.

### ***International Women's Day with HINF***

March 8<sup>th</sup> of every year is an International Women's Day. This year, some HINF students celebrated the International Women's Day on Monday March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2004 in HINF 215 class (Human Communications and Relations in Health Care). The male students of the class showed their appreciations toward all female students in the class with beautiful roses. A special bouquet of flowers was presented to *Ann Moskow* (the instructor) by *Yuri Bevkrovnsny* on behalf of the HINF Course Union. The ladies were very impressed with the celebration and the flowers as it was a surprise to them.

### ***HINF Course Union Issue***

Presently, the course union is an unofficial-independent student group with a few student representatives who operate, monitor, and organize academic and non-academic activities for all HINF students. The student representatives can be anyone who would like to volunteer and organize any academic and non-academic activities. The governance and operation of HINF Course Union has been in this manner since it was created.

Some students suggested that a course union should be operated officially under the University of Victoria Students' Society (UVSS) instead of an unofficial-independent course union (as in the past and present). There are many controversies over this issue. Many students agreed with the idea while many students suggested that the course union should stay the way it is.

A common suggestion among all HINF students is to have a team of executives and representatives operate the course union whether or not the course union will be operated under the Students' Society policies. A decision about registration of the course union with the UVSS will be

decided at a general HINF students meeting at the beginning of 2004-2005 academic year (first week of the Fall semester in September 2004). There will be an open floor for suggestions and comments. After the open floor, we will vote whether or not the course union should be operated under the policies of UVSS or to continue with existed structure. Once a decision is made by all HINF students, we will proceed with the nomination for the new course union representatives and executive members for 2004-2005 academic year. A proper voting system will be used for the search of the new representatives and executive members.

### ***Farewell***

The course union would like to wish a farewell to the graduation class of 2004. Congratulations on your success and we wish you all the best in your future career and education. The course union would also like to extend our best wishes to those students who are leaving for summer 2004 co-op. Good luck on your co-op work term and see you back in September. And last, thank you to those who helped out and assisted with the course union and its activities. Have a wonderful summer!

*Togio Chayanuwat*

Welcome to *Daphne Rintoul* who joined us May 19<sup>th</sup> as the School's new receptionist. Daphne will be working 11:30 – 4:30 Monday to Friday. Please be sure to say hello to her when you come to the office. Daphne comes to us from the Lighthouse Christian Academy where she was the Admissions/Records Clerk.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

*The Honourable Colin Hansen*, Minister of Health Services, spent an



hour with HINF students on February 27<sup>th</sup> discussing their role in the future of health care in BC.

## **FACULTY**

*Benjamin Jung* has been hired as an Assistant Professor effective July 1, 2004. Benjamin is moving to Victoria from Dublin, Ireland, where he has been teaching at the Computer Science Department and Centre for Health Informatics at Trinity College. As if a new job and a major move were not enough changes, Benjamin and his wife *Sonya* welcomed their first child into the world recently. *Aaron Patrick Jung* was born on the 4th of May 2004, 12:15am weighing 3.46kg.



## **e-Health Conference 2004 May 8-11, 2004**

The annual e-Health conference was held in Victoria for the first time, with our own *Dr. Patricia Coward* as Program Committee Chair. The conference was a great success with an attendance in excess of 900 people. Alumni present included *Catherine Claiter* ('00), *Adrienne Cousins* ('03), *Gavin Eaton* ('02), *Rosemary Gray* ('95), *Pam Jaswal* ('99), *Freida Kaiser* ('02), *Jenny Karim* ('91), *Cameron Keyes* ('96); *Kathleen Lavoie* ('99), *Michael Li* ('03), *Don MacPherson* ('03), *Marty McLeod* ('96), *Norma Malanowich* ('87), *Fazilah Remu* ('03), *Scott Robertson* ('00), *Sylvia Robinson* ('87), and *David Sookaveiff* ('99).

The School was well represented with presentations by *Denis Protti*, *Stefan Pantazi*, and a number of adjuncts and alumni. In addition, our display unit was set up outside the trade show in conjunction with BCIT, and the universities of Sherbrooke, Calgary, Western Ontario and Dalhousie as an Education Booth. The booth was staffed at various times by *Mike Cleghorn*, *Dave Hutchinson*, *Craig Kuziemy*, *Francis Lau* and *Leslie Wood*.

### **e-health volunteers**

The recent e-Health conference in Victoria was an overwhelming success, thanks in no small part to the army of volunteers that helped out with a variety of duties over 5 days. Overall we had a total of 29 volunteers who put in over 200 hours of time at the conference. All of the volunteers were either current students or alumni. The school would like to thank the volunteers for their hard work and professionalism - you made us all look good!

*Dave Hutchinson*

[Dave was the volunteer coordinator for the conference. Ed]

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It was a pleasure and an honour to be a part of Canada's foremost health informatics conference, e-Health 2004. This conference brought together the best we have from vendors to administrators, consultants to physicians, care providers to IT and implementation staff. The 'gang' was definitely all there, including the Knights who say NEEEE.

I chose to volunteer at e-Health 2004 for two reasons. First, I had a very positive experience volunteering at the 2000 conference in Vancouver. I met many interesting people, listened in on erudite debates and presentations, and was very impressed by the vendor demonstrations. I was looking forward to a similar experience.

The second reason, and I'm not too proud to admit it, is cost. These conferences are not cheap for a fledgling business - \$1500+ for full attendance takes a large bite out of my bottom line. I'm certain students appreciate this as well. In return for the hours spent helping people register, find their way, or get settled I had free run of the conference floor and presentations. Not a bad trade-off.

This year's conference, in Gil Sampson's words, was 'the best yet'. From a technical standpoint Parr and Associates expertly organized it. From an experiential standpoint the presentation quality was tops and the vendor demos were staffed by experts. I was not disappointed and learnt a lot.

I believe attendance at e-Health and similar conferences is necessary for health informaticians. It keeps us connected and shapes our understanding of the field. From what I saw, e-Health 2005 will build on this year's success. See you there.

*John Bartle-Clar*

## **MSc in Health Informatics – Distributed Stream**

The School of Health Information Science (HINF) now offers a distributed program stream leading to the degree of Master of Science in Health Informatics.

This distributed stream is offered as a collaborative initiative among the Universities of Alberta, Calgary and British Columbia, COACH-Canada's Health Informatics Association, and ShirWin Knowledge & Learning Systems, through special project funding from the Office of Learning Technologies in Human Resource Skills Development.

The deadline to apply is June 30, 2004 for the first cohort. Full details can be found on our web site at <http://hinf.uvic.ca/programs/gradprog/handbook.htm>

### **Student Awards**

The deadline is fast approaching for any students wishing to apply for the Barbara Thornton Memorial Award or the Michael Miller Scholarship. Applications for both are due June 30<sup>th</sup>. Application forms and information about the awards can be found at <http://hinf.uvic.ca/sinfo/awards.htm>.

## HINF Reunion

We took advantage of the distant alumni being in Victoria for e-Health to host a reception at the Chateau Victoria. As can be seen in the pictures below, a good time was had by all.

