

HINFormation

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

May 2006

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome back to campus for those of you returning from a work term. This has been a busy spring, with faculty and staff attending and supporting a number of conferences, including e-health 2006 which was held in Victoria in May. We are busy planning for the upcoming ITCH conference that will be hosted by the School in February 16-18, 2007 (see <http://hinf.uvic.ca/itch/index.htm> for details). We hope you are all planning on participating in the conference.

In addition, early plans are underway for an alumni reunion during the same conference period (in February 2007).

I hope you have a fun as well as productive summer!

Andre Kushniruk

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STUDENTS

Congratulations to Janine Greenwell, this year's recipient of the Coach Founding President's award

Togio Chayanuwat received a travel scholarship to attend the 2006 Summit on The Use of Information and Communication Technology for Communities on Feb 24-26 in Vancouver. This scholarship covered the costs of his travel, hotel, and registration to attend this three day event. He found this opportunity through a posting on the hinfinfo list serv.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Stefan Pantazi will undertake his oral examination for his PhD at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, June 12th in HSD A264. The title of his dissertation is "A Deterministic Dynamic Associative Memory (DDAM) Model for Concept Space Representation".



Dana Househ

Congratulations to Mowafa Househ and his wife on the birth of their first child, Dana, shown above.

This spring Mowafa has had two posters accepted for presentation at conferences. The first, *The Impacts of Technology Enabled Knowledge Translation on Linkage and Exchange Processes in Drug Policy Groups* (Househ M, Maclure M, Kushniruk A.) was for the CCOHTA Invitational Symposium 'From Evidence to Policy to Practice', Ottawa, Ontario, April 3-4, 2006. The second, *Technology Enabled Knowledge Translation for Researchers, Educators and Policy Makers within Drug Policy* (Househ M, Maclure M, Kushniruk A.) was for E-Health 2006: e...for everyone at the Victoria Conference Centre, Victoria, BC, May 1, 2006. It is currently on display outside the school's main office.

Mahmood Tara just returned from the 2006 AMIA Spring Congress held in Phoenix, Arizona where he presented his poster on the latest version of the conceptual PHR architecture he originally proposed in 2003-4. The new features in the recent architecture were focused on different consumer-targeted functionalities including person's control on user interface, data exchange, security and information retrieval. In his dissertation research, he is focusing on a new methodology to improve the health information providence to PHR holders.

Finally, we are just starting the process of posting co-op positions for the upcoming fall work term (September to December). We expect to be placing 30 students, and look forward to hearing from all of our regular employers as well as some new ones.

Dave Hutchinson

FACULTY & STAFF

A multi-disciplinary team of researchers, headed by Tim Stockwell of the Centre of Addictions Research of BC (CARBC), including Scott Macdonald from CARBC and the School of Health Information Science and UVic professor Gordon Barnes (Child and Youth Care), has recently been awarded a 1.4 million dollar New Emerging Team grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

The team will focus on the use of multiple psycho-active substances in the Canadian population and will address the broad theme of cross-substance patterns of use, transitions and consequences. Three foci will be: (i) transitions between different patterns of use and different classes of substance during adolescence and young adulthood; (ii) patterns of substance use that increase the risk of Emergency Department presentations for injury or overdose); (iii) multiple substance use and risk behaviours among street drug users.

The team will work collectively towards the shared goals of:

- a) integrating knowledge regarding patterns of use, effects and interventions for alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs;
- b) the creation of methods for assessing and improving understanding of patterns of simultaneous and concurrent substance use;
- c) improved understanding of the social and developmental determinants of risky substance use and harm common across the major drug classes;

d) dissemination of this new knowledge and prevent harmful outcomes;

e) training of new researchers who understand the complex patterns of substance use.

Cross-substance use patterns of use, consequences and policy responses. Stockwell, T., Goldner, E., Fischer, B., Macdonald, S., Barnes, G., Johnson, J., Cherpitel, C., Reist, K., & Somers, J. \$1,423,965. New Emerging Team Grant, Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

CO-OP NEWS

Welcome back to our students who have returned from a spring work term. They are now in summer classes, and enjoying studying in the sunshine.

Once again this summer, Health Information Science students are completing work terms all across Canada.

Victoria	6
Vancouver	9
Prince George	1
Kelowna	3
Edmonton	2
Calgary	3
Toronto	5

They are working for a wide variety of companies and organizations such as:

Alberta Health and Wellness
 BC Centre for Disease Control
 Calgary Health Region
 Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI)
 Capital Health
 Courtyard Group
 Interior Health Authority
 Northern Health Authority
 Number 41 Media
 Providence Health Care (St. Paul's)
 Provincial Health Services Authority
 Toronto East General Hospital
 University Health Network
 Vancouver Coastal Health Authority
 Vancouver Island Health Authority

It's a girl.....



Aaron and Sarah Jung

Benjamin Jung is pleased to announce his wife Sonya gave birth to Sarah, a wonderful 4kg, 55cm baby-girl at 1:59pm on March 14th, 2006. Big brother Aaron is very proud of his new sister.

On the 1st of April 2006, Adjunct Assistant Professor Dr. Nicola (Nikki) Shaw was appointed as the endowed Chair of Health Informatics at the University of Alberta, Edmonton. This is a newly created position and the University of Alberta is only the second University in Canada to create such a position (The University of Waterloo was the first in 2004).

She is geographically located in the newly formed iCARE (Integrated Centre for Care Advancement Through Research Edmonton) headed by Dr. Shoo Lee; and located academically in the Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry. Her primary role is to develop a leading program in Health Informatics Research with particular emphasis on the effects of health information systems. As such, she is working in concert with Capital Health and Alberta Health & Wellness as well as continuing to work with colleagues in related disciplines in Alberta and beyond.

She has joined the developing Health Informatics group at the University of Alberta (Dr. Robert Hayward and colleagues) and will play a key role in the development of educational programs at the undergraduate, Masters and doctoral levels. She will also actively participate in strategic planning and problem-solving with Capital Health's Informatics leadership team.

This emphasis on applied evaluation and research, closely linked with development and implementation, is extremely exciting to Dr. Shaw and she is looking forward to meeting the challenges of her new role. If you would like further information regarding this new position and Dr. Shaw's plans please contact her. She would be very happy to hear from you. Her new email address is nicola.shaw@ualberta.ca

ALUMNI

Alumni on the move.....

Silvia Fazekas ('05) has been working as the Clinical Information System Trainer and Support for St. Vincent's Hospital in Sydney, Australia since January 2006.

Phu Vu ('01) is also enjoying life in Sydney, Australia where he is attending medical school.

Shaina Hood ('05) and Elisa McIntosh ('04) are working for Vitalize Consulting Solutions outside of Los Angeles.

Christine Underwood ('03) is working as an Information Management Analyst for the Health Information Solutions Centre in Regina.

Joanne Walker ('90) has been promoted to Principal at Courtyard Group.

Dear HINF alumni and students,

The UVic Online Community provides an invaluable source of information and networking possibilities for Health Information Science alumni and current students to communicate with each other online. Specifically, the Online Community provides career mentoring, job postings, discussion forums, contact directories, business card exchanges, travel advice, and other web-based services all in one place, in a private and commercial free site.

The mentoring and travel advice features are shared between universities and colleges across the country, providing a rich network of information drawn from many career and geographical areas. Both features

offer HINF alumni a great opportunity to give back to their program. By filling out a mentor profile, alumni can provide valuable insight and information about health informatics to current or future HINF students. A travel profile provides useful information to students going on co-op or alumni relocating for a job.

Coming this fall are some new and exciting Online Community features which will allow members to:

- create a personal profile, upload pictures, publish blogs
- connect with friends and create social groups
- publish travel articles

To date, total OLC Network users is 67,643 (1,589 online mentors and 2,212 travel advisors) and this is growing at a rate of 1,000 new users per month. The UVic online community user base is currently at 20,576 (398 online mentors) and this is growing at a rate of 160 new users per month. Currently, total UVic alumni who have signed up as members of the UVic Online Community is over 11,207 with over 9,000 students.

Join now and be among the first to experience the new UVic Online Community and social networks at UVic.

Visit www.olcnetwork.net/uvic

Don Jones, Director,
Alumni Services



Benjamin James McRae

Sara McRae (née Kennedy '98) is pleased to tell her former classmates that she had a baby on October 30/05 – Benjamin James McRae (8lbs, 12oz).

MISCELLANEOUS

HINF students and alumni volunteer for e-Health Conference

A total of 36 volunteers put in nearly 300 hours of time at the recent e-Health conference held in Victoria April 30 – May 3. Undergraduate students, graduate students and even a few alumni were a huge help to the organizing committee, and their efforts were greatly appreciated.

In addition to helping out at the conference, the volunteers were able to participate in many aspects of the conference at no cost. Students focused on making new contacts as well as sitting in on sessions and

expanding their knowledge of health informatics in Canada.

Employers keen on new graduates from Health Information Science

The past few months has seen a great deal of interest in new HINF graduates.

A career fair that focused exclusively on Health Information Science was held on February 17 in the Students Union Building at UVic. It was very well attended by junior and senior students, as well as graduate students. Thirteen organizations set up booths, traveling from Toronto, Calgary, Prince George, Kelowna, Vancouver and of course, Victoria. Employers were very pleased by the high quality

and professionalism of the students, and the students were happy to have a group of keen employers in one place.

In addition to the career fair, employers have held specific recruitment events on campus in recent months. Interior Health Authority and the SIMS department of University Health Network have both put on evening student information sessions.

Courtyard Group met with senior students at an event hosted in conjunction with the recent e-Health conference. This informal gathering at the Sticky Wicket was a great chance for the students to meet with senior Courtyard management as well as with employees recently hired from the HINF program.



TODAY'S INFORMATION for TOMORROW'S IMPROVEMENTS

February 16 – 18, 2007 Laurel Point Inn, Victoria, BC, Canada

An international conference addressing Information Technology and Communications in Health (ITCH)

TODAY'S INFORMATION FOR TOMORROW'S IMPROVEMENTS is the working theme for the 2007 international conference being held in Victoria, Canada. Information technology has affected nearly every aspect of health care today. The need for better information and systems to provide improved services and improve patient quality of life has been recognized as being a critical issue both nationally and internationally. However, problems related to the use, usability and usefulness of many healthcare systems continue to hinder and limit the potential of information technology in health care. Other unresolved issues include the need for standardization and integration of systems into effective and safe healthcare practices, both within healthcare organizations and in the community. This conference will focus on understanding how health informatics can be applied towards quality improvement of health and healthcare organizational outcomes. To this end, ITCH 2007 will promote an international and interdisciplinary gathering of leading practitioners and researchers from Canada and internationally to support today's information systems and ensure tomorrow's improvements.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS EXTENDED UNTIL JUNE 30, 2006



University of Victoria

