

HINFormation

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

September 2006

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome back to another school year. It promises to be a busy and productive term.

We are working on a comprehensive recruitment and advertising campaign. We would like as many potential students as possible to learn about the great study and work opportunities that are available through undergraduate and graduate programs at the School of Health Information Science. If anyone has any suggestions in this area, I'd be happy to receive them at andrek@uvic.ca.

Plans are well underway for the **Information Technology and Communications in Health (ITCH 2007)** conference. The back page of this newsletter has the major details for you to post on your fridge. I hope we are going to see a large number of our alumni and students attending the conference.

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We have some of the top people in both research and applied health informatics presenting at the conference (which will run from February 15-18, 2007). Keynote speakers include Dr. Edward Shortliffe (a pioneer in health informatics from Columbia University), Richard Alvarez (CEO of Canada Health Infoway) and Steven Huesing (Executive Director of the International Medical Informatics Association). For further information please check the conference web site: <http://itch.uvic.ca>

That same weekend we will be celebrating our 25th anniversary and honouring all those people who have made the School the success it is today – further information about the anniversary celebrations will be forthcoming.

Our Friday research seminar series is back on with a range of top level speakers presenting on the latest topics in health informatics. The seminars are open to all and are scheduled on Fridays at 9:30 – 11:30 am this term in David Strong Building, room C113.

Hope you have a productive and also fun term!

ALUMNI



Jaxon Mark Duckworth

Kathryn Duckworth ('06) and her husband Kelly are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Jaxon Mark Duckworth on July 7th. He weighed in at 7lbs 15 oz. Kathryn has taken the year off for maternity, but will be returning to work next June as a project analyst at VIHA. In addition to the work and joys of looking after Jaxon, Kathryn and Kelly are busy building a house in Mill Bay.

What Can I do with my Degree in HINF????

The School is taking part in the UVic Career Forum Oct. 25. Details can be found at <http://www.careerforums.uvic.ca/> Special thanks to the Dean of HSD, Mary Ellen Purkis, and the five alumni who have agreed to take part: Catherine Claiter, Rosemary Gray, Katie Mackle, Scott Robertson and Jeremy Smith.

In April 2006 I began working as a Clinical Information System Specialist for Group Health Cooperative in Seattle, WA (<http://www.ghc.org/>). Group Health is a consumer-governed, non-profit health care system that coordinates care and coverage. Based in Seattle, Group Health and its subsidiary health carriers serve approximately 571,800 members in Washington and Idaho. Through the implementation of the Epic EMR, GH has achieved a nearly paperless operation in its ambulatory clinics. Chart rooms have been retired as staff use Epic for documentation, order entry, resulting and secure messaging. There is also an online medical record available for patient access. I was able to come to the US to work after gaining TN status under the Computer System Analyst job title included in the NAFTA list of professions.

Kim deMacedo ('03)

ALUMNI ON THE MOVE.....

Birute Curran ('00) has moved to Benaroya Research Institute (the research arm of Virginia Mason Health Care) in Seattle.....Steve Pedersen ('02) is in Victoria working as a Coordinator, at the Public Health Association of BC.....Sarah Lupton ('05) is currently working as a Research Analyst (IT) with the Service Integration Collaboratives Program for the Vancouver Island Health Authority. Ruth Yeo ('96) has moved to the consulting world and has accepted a contract with the Ministry of Health's Provincial eHealth Program as eHealth Strategic Advisor for Privacy and Security.... Jeremy Smith ('99) is working on contract as the Project Director for the Provincial EMR Project.

STUDENTS

Welcome to the new undergraduate students admitted this month: Ekua Affum, Jason Bond, Antony Cortese, Lara Dahle, David Greig, Jeevan Grewal, Mike Han, Jessica Hough, Heather Jennings, Gefei Jia, Lindsay Kissinger, Jessica Lam, Farrah Lee, Monica Lee, William Li, Cindy Liu, Haley Moore, Judy Oh, Nadia Rashid, Dane Schrader, Tim Sheaff, Angela Somlai-Maharjan, Ryan Stevenson, Ken Wong, Maria Wong, and Hao Yan.

Class of 2006

Congratulations! to the class of HINF 2006. Long journey of knowledge and exciting healthcare scoop that none of us would have known ... thanks to all instructors, professors and guest lectures. To 2006 grad class, we were one of a kind ... unique, smart, sweet & sour ... all in one. I hope that our paths will cross each other again somewhere along the healthcare continuum. To some surprises, the crossing has already begun. I accepted full-time employment with the Calgary Health Region for its Electronic Health Record project where I found out that 3 HINF alumni from my 2006 class joined me on September 1st, 2006. This sure will be another fun journey with HINFers! Here at Calgary Health Region, HINF alumni will be busy ... very busy! We are now implementing one of the largest EHR projects in Canada (four acute care hospitals). Our HINF alumni here play crucial roles in this implementation ... the school should be very proud of us, product of HINF in the transformation of Canada Electronic Health Record.

Togio Chyanuwat
(class of HINF 2006)

Patient Care Information System (PCIS)
Electronic Health Record (EHR)
Calgary Health Region
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Lara Dahle is starting her time in HINF on the right foot as the 2006 recipient of the Ben Bellamy Memorial Scholarship. The Ben Bellamy Memorial Scholarship was sent up in 1998 to honour the memory of Ben Bellamy who was tragically killed in a motor vehicle accident at the age of 17. The Comox Valley Community Foundation administers the scholarship.

Tyrone Austen and Steve Leavitt are the 2006 recipients of the Barbara Thornton Memorial Award. Tyrone is also the recipient of the ICBC Scholarship in Health Information Science.

STUDENT UNION

On behalf of the HINF Student Union, I would like to welcome all HINFers back for another school year! The HINF Student Union is composed of enthusiastic student volunteers dedicated to making each HINF students' experience at UVic as fun and fulfilling as possible. One of the Student Union's more prominent roles includes organizing social events. We also act as an outlet to provide feedback to administration regarding student issues.

A new academic year has started and we at the Student Union are gearing up for another great semester. This semester's Student Union is more laid back than past years with Chris Carvalho, Meagan Sinclair, Beth, Nuniam, Dan Piecuch and myself planning events. We'd like to encourage the first and second year cohorts to also get involved as we hope they will carry on the torch once we move on.

We already have several events in the planning stages including our inaugural HINF Bowling Night. Back

by popular demand, we will be holding yet another HINF Pub Crawl! Over the past years, the HINF Pub Crawls have become a staple product of the Student Union. These events have gained campus-wide acclaim from students and faculty alike. We fully intend to keep the momentum going this semester and have tentatively scheduled to hold this year's event for early November. To stay up-to-date on news, event information and event pictures, visit the official HINF Student Union website at <http://hinf.com>. Don't forget to register for the mailing list!! (<http://lists.uvic.ca/mailman/listinfo/hinfsu>) Have a great semester and we hope to see you all out at the pub-crawl!

Brian Chou

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Craig Kuziemsky

After successfully defending his PhD dissertation on August 9, Craig Kuziemsky will begin a postdoctoral fellowship in September funded by the Victoria Palliative Research Network New Emerging Team (VPRN-NET). Craig will still be doing research in end of life palliative care (EOLPC) but his research will now focus on interdisciplinary team communication. Interdisciplinary teams are vital to delivery of quality EOLPC but the literature shows that such teams do not always function effectively with respect to communication. Craig's research will identify the processes that lead to effective and ineffective team communication in order to develop information and communication technologies to enhance EOLPC interdisciplinary team communication.

I successfully defended my dissertation "A Deterministic Dynamic Associative Memory (DDAM) Model for Concept Space Representation" on June 12, 2006 and was proposed for nomination for Governor General's Gold Medal.

An important paper that contains material from my dissertation appeared in the International Journal of Medical Informatics. Here is the link. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ijmedinf.2006.05.039>

I have been offered, and accepted, a Professor position in the Health Informatics, Bachelor Degree program at Conestoga College in Kitchener, Ontario. I will start in Jan 2007.

In the next 4 months (Sep-Dec) I will be working with Benjamin Jung on a postdoctoral student project with the title "Performance Modeling of Professional Cyclists Using Self-Organizing Maps". The project funded by the MITACS Internships Program in conjunction with PacificSport BC (<http://www.pacificsport.com/Content/Main/PacSportHome.asp>), aims at performance modeling of athletes and involves the collection of detailed data that affects rider performance in professional cycling. This data is utilized for assessment of training and performance and for supporting individual training schedules through modeling and profiling of individual athletes. The methodology is based on pattern discovery and recognition using Self Organizing Maps, an exploratory data analysis model of demonstrated success in automated monitoring tasks involving multiple parameters. The models and profiles could help identify relationships between testing (lab/field) and could be employed in devising optimum training strategies for individual athletes. The acquisition, processing and monitoring of physiological parameters followed by decision-making based on dynamic performance models is what makes this project highly relevant to informatics.

Felicia and I are expecting at the end of October (we think probably a girl).

Stefan Pantazi

Alberta bound

Carolyn Green, PhD ('05) will continue investigating knowledge translation practices in chronic disease management as a Canadian Institute of Health Research Fellow in sunny Edmonton, Alberta. As part of the Alliance for Canadian Health Outcomes Research in Diabetes (ACHORD) Vascular Intervention Program (VIP) study she will be exploring changes to institutional practices as pharmacy is added to a multidisciplinary diabetes team. She will also be contributing to the development of Health Technology Assessment capacity with the Health Policy and Management, School of Public Health at the University of Alberta. Postdoctoral work conducted while at HINF is being presented at the AMIA conference in November and published as Green CJ, Fortin P, Maclure M, Macgregor A, Robinson S. "Information system support as a critical success factor for chronic disease management: Necessary but not sufficient". Int J Med Inform, 2006.

Nicole Grimm has transferred her PhD program to the University of Alberta, Faculty of Medicine, where she is working for the iCARE program as a Scientific/Grant Writer.

Dennis Lee Hon Kit has joined us from Singapore. His undergraduate degree is a BBA (Concentration in CIS) from Walla Walla College, WA. His supervisor for his MSc is Francis Lau. He reports he is "glad to be in the beautiful city of Victoria and a student at UVic."

Mowafa Househ

Mowafa Househ was in Saudi Arabia for two weeks this summer. He visited Mecca, Medina and other places holy to Muslims all over the world.

Mowafa will be moving to Prince George October 16th to work for the Northern Health Authority. He will be the planning and research analyst for NHA. He is very excited and plans to continue his PhD work while he is there.

Congratulations to Mowafa for winning the Michael Miller Scholarship this year. Mowafa carried out a content analysis on the effects of bipolar depression on the psychological, physical and mental well-being of those who suffer from bipolar depression. His research data included web blogs of people writing about their experiences with bipolar depression. His interesting findings can be found on the HINF website.

Mowafa will be returning to Victoria in February as he has had a paper and a poster accepted for the upcoming ITCH conference.

FACULTY & STAFF

Debbie Robertson new receptionist

Debbie joined the School of Health Information Science in June of 2006. She spent 28 years working in the non-profit sector working with children, youth and families as a child and youth care counsellor and then moving to the administrative side as the Administrative Assistant to the Board of Directors of Pacific Children's Shelter Society and the Federation of Child and Family Services of BC.

Debbie enjoys running, rowing and riding on the back of her husband's



Harley. She is looking forward to meeting the new and returning students and faculty.

Ruth Davison new graduate secretary

Ruth is a newcomer to UVic and Victoria, having moved here from Vancouver, and previously to that, from



Holland. She studied literature at the University of Leiden in Holland, and then worked in admissions and as graduate advisor at Webster University in the Netherlands. She moved to Victoria last summer, and has spent the past year looking after her new baby boy. She is very excited to be working at UVic, and is looking forward to getting to know our students!

For the past year I have been working with Dr. Malcolm Maclure on the Education for Quality Improvement in Patient Care (EQIP) project, which is a new initiative of BC Ministry of Health, BC Medical Association and UBC Division of Continuing Professional Translation. In addition, I worked with UVic Distance Education Services department, which offers university-wide support for online distance education.

I will interrupt my work at the end of this month when I am going on maternity leave. Stefan and I are expecting a baby girl at the end of October. Due to this change I had to defer the starting date of my Master degree in Health Informatics with Dr. Andre Kushniruk for September 2007.

Felicia Pantazi

Chair of the International Advisory Group for NHS Wales.

Professor Denis Protti has been appointed chair of the International Advisory Group for NHS Wales. He and representatives from 7 other countries will be asked to provide ongoing feedback and commentary on Wales' national health information strategy entitled Informing Healthcare. As chair, he will be expected to brief and advise the Minister and NHS Chief Executives on the Welsh approach to introducing information management and technology in their health system.

Professor Protti has also been appointed to Canada Health Infoway's new Strategic Planning Steering Committee. The Committee is to provide direction and advice to the Strategic Planning Project team as well as provide expert guidance to the project to ensure its successful completion. The purpose of the project is to develop a health info structure plan for Canada that confirms a long-term vision and details the strategic directions the country should consider over the next 10 years, including the associated resourcing requirements. The plan will provide a high level roadmap for not only the complete implementation of the electronic health record across the country, but also the extension of that info structure to support the jurisdictions and will build upon the work planned, underway or completed.

The Infoway Board will ultimately use the plan as a discussion piece regarding future directions with the members, as well as the Government of Canada.

Professor Protti has also been invited to join the IM/IT Steering Committee for the Vancouver Island Health Authority as a non-voting member.

MISCELLANEOUS

Retirement for Gail Newell

This fall, Vancouver's Providence Health Care will lose a valuable asset: Gail Newell. Any HINF student or alumnus who has done a co-op at St Paul's will know Gail as a leader on the Patient Care Information System (PCIS) team, if not as their work term mentor.

Gail is preparing for a well-deserved retirement, after almost 33 years at St Paul's Hospital. Gail began her career at St Paul's as a programmer for the Lab Information System, in fact the first Hospital Lab Information System in Canada. Throughout the years she has held various positions, from Systems Analyst to Project Manager to the Project Coordinator for Sunrise Clinical Manager.

"It's not the job descriptions that have changed as much as the applications," says Gail of the immense variety of work she has completed over the years. "[The best part of the job] has been learning something new in each area." Since November of 1973, Gail has worked on various systems such as ADT, Financial systems, Medical Records, Radiology, and Nursing Workload management.

For Gail, the most memorable part of working at St Paul's has been the influence of the Sisters of Providence on the organization, making it a caring place to work. "St Paul's Hospital was the first institution that looked after patients with HIV; they just wouldn't turn them away. The attitude of the organization influences not only how we look after patients but also how we look after each other."

So what's next? Gail has been adamant that for her, retirement means "Right Sizing", not "Down Sizing". Gail has just recently graduated from a Masters Program in Divinity at Vancouver Community College, and is working on becoming a Priest in the

Anglican Church. Patients and Staff at Vancouver Hospital will be fortunate enough to receive Gail's counsel starting this fall, as she takes part in the Clinical Pastoral Education program. Part time, Gail will also be the assistant curate at Christ Church in Hope, BC, working with the church wardens for all the day to day operation of the church. All of us at PHC wish Gail all the best in her future endeavours!

Julia Claridge ('05)
Clinical Applications Analyst,
Providence Health Care

Highly Recommended for HINF Students

Earlier this year in February '06 during my last semester with HINF, I was fortunate to receive a full scholarship to attend a 4 day national summit conference on *Strategic Use of Information and Communication Technologies for Communities* in Vancouver, British Columbia. The scholarship provided me with full travel, food & accommodation and conference registration cost. I found out about this opportunity through the School of Health Information Science e-mail listserv. This 4 day conference was an eye opening experience for me. There is much to learn at this conference especially if you are passionate about ICT and public health promotion. There were ICT and healthcare professionals from a variety of areas including healthcare, government, academic, business or not-for-profit organization. I also noted a good number of HINF alumni at this conference. The conference was mainly about how ICT can provide opportunity for a better way of life in [isolated] communities and how community leaders can use ICT strategically in improving communities' health. Many fruitful discussions and knowledge were shared among the attendees. Extremely interesting government

initiatives about ICT in community healthcare were shared at this conference. I took home a large chunk of knowledge and "peace of mind" thoughts that I cannot learn in classroom environment. In addition, it provided opportunity to meet some of the frontliners in the area of health promotion. I obtained and maintained closed connections with people that I met at this conference for my future academic references. I was very grateful for this scholarship and I highly recommend current students to keep an eye out for this exciting opportunity next year through the HINF listserv. This conference is worth every single bit of your time as a HINF student.

Togio Chayanuwat ('06)

Excitement in Bangkok

As a result of an email posting on hinf-1, former HINF 340 instructor, Rob Tornack, spent the past month working at Bumrungrad International Hospital in Bangkok, Thailand. Of the 900,000 annual patients, 300,000 are from North America, Middle East, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand.

Thirteen languages are spoken within the hospital and the Thailand Immigration Department has an office within the registration/admissions area.

The one-month contract involved mapping workflows, data and information requirements from a nursing perspective, on the inpatient units, and developing strategic road map for implementation of a paperless environment for 600 nurses. The Bangkok hospital is the test site for all new systems.

To add even more interest to the experience, he was there when the coup took place. He reports that "while tanks and military were on the streets, the atmosphere was not tense; the military and police were approachable, friendly and responded to questions."



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

February 15 – 18, 2007

Laurel Point Inn,
680 Montreal St.
Victoria, BC, Canada

TODAY'S INFORMATION FOR TOMORROW'S IMPROVEMENTS

is the working theme for the 2007 international conference being held in Victoria, Canada. This conference will focus on understanding how health informatics can be applied towards quality improvement of health and healthcare organizational outcomes.

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

To begin ITCH 2007, the Steering Committee is pleased to offer eight half-day workshops to be held at the Laurel Point Inn, on February 15th.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Edward Shortliffe, Columbia University
Richard Alvarez, Canada Health Infoway
Steven Huesing, International Medical Informatics Association

REGISTRATION & INFORMATION

Early registration deadline: November 15, 2006

To register or to get more information, see:

<http://itch.uvic.ca>

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