

# HINFormation

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

May 2003

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR...

This is my farewell message to you as Acting Director of the School. Dr *Francis Lau* will be returning to the position on July 1<sup>st</sup>. It has been a wonderful year. I have had the opportunity to be part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, to attend three convocation ceremonies which launched the careers of more than 30 HINF grads, to participate in the candidacy exams of three of our PhD students, and to see the approval of both the MSc in Health Informatics and the combined undergrad degree with Computer Science.

Admission into the Master's program will begin in September 2003. As we currently have seven students who have been studying for the MSc by special arrangement, we will be able to take an additional three students for a total of ten. Dr Lau and a team of researchers are also working on the adaptation of graduate courses to distance format.

In the near future our students will be able to take health informatics courses from the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary and the University of British Columbia as part of their MSc from UVic. Similarly, students from those three universities will be able to take our graduate courses.

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My sincere thaha

Pat Coward



## New Vice President at CIHI

Jennifer Zelmer  
tional job search the  
selection board consisting of three  
CIHI Board members *Dr. Ivan Fellegi*,  
Chief Statistician of Canada; *Dr. Cam  
Mustard*, Chair CPHI; and *Mr. Steven  
Lewis*, Chair, Health Reports and  
Analysis, interviewed a short list of  
candidates and unanimously  
recommended the appointment of *Ms.  
Jennifer Zelmer* ('93) to the position of  
Vice-President, Research and  
Analysis.

Jennifer joined CIHI in 1996. Since  
then she has held a number of senior  
management and professional  
positions in the organization, including

d Analysis. Jennifer is an  
M.A. Economics and is in the final  
throes of obtaining her Ph.D. with her  
thesis on "Economic Burden of End-  
Stage Renal Disease in Canada".

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**H**INF alumna, *Kim Arscott* ('00) married *Sean Spryszak* in a private ceremony in Santorini, Greece on April 1st, 2003. For their honeymoon, the couple toured Greece for three weeks before returning home to Ottawa, where Kim works for the Canadian Institute for Health Information as a Senior Analyst.

The couple is planning to celebrate their wedding with family and friends on July 12th in Ottawa.



Kim and Sean



On Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> the HSD third floor lounge hosted yet another HINF pizza and pop gathering. This time it was a *Welcome Back* get together, organized by the HINF Course Union, to give all students returning from work terms an opportunity to share their experiences with staff, faculty, and fellow students.

It was a well-attended event with numerous memorable stories told by students with placement positions throughout BC, Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, and across the Atlantic in Germany and Austria. A few lucky students had an opportunity to travel after their work terms to Britain, France, Spain and Portugal, and shared many (but undoubtedly not all) their adventurous stories. As studies commence for the summer semester, students will be back in classes ready to contribute with the new knowledge

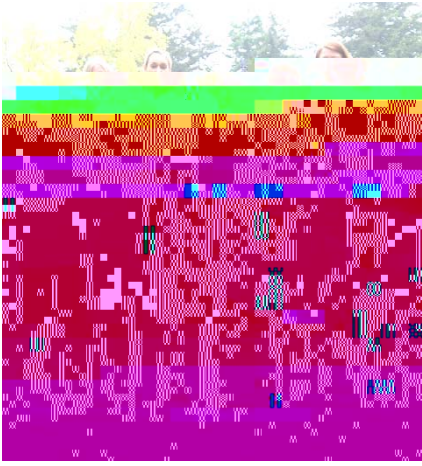


*Carolyn Green* also was one of three student represen

In addition to his duties at IMIA, Steve is the Editor/Publisher of Healthcare Information Management & Communications Canada, the official COACH magazine. He provides free copies of the magazine to our students, and through the magazine

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We have 11 raging members that make up our fast and furious team and they are as follows: *Rob Landry* (Team Captain), *Mike Cleghorn*, *Todd Kinnee*, *Shaina Hood*, *Elisa McIntosh*, *Adam Beaton*, *Erin Reardon*, *Kris Pallan*, *Manu Bhalla*, *Lisa Mckay* and *Alicia Brazier* shown in the picture above.

*Denis Protti* has kindly donated 11 t-shirts to our team and we will be using them as uniforms for game days.

Our games

Driving west the next day we were barely aware of our entry into Portugal with the uncontrolled borders of the European Union. A totally different experience than visiting our 'neighbors to the south'. Situated along the Rio Douro at the mouth of the Atlantic, Porto (Europe's cultural capital 2001) offered us a guided boat tour and a host of wineries.

We couldn't possibly leave the city without partaking in a winery tour so we decided on the Sandeman winery where we learned all about the history of the company, the process of making Port wine, and of course got to sample the goods.



Passing through Lisbon brought us to the Algarve. We arrived in Lagos, a small fishing village known by many travellers for its gorgeous coastline, relaxed atmosphere, and exciting social life. We stayed in a cozy hostel minutes from the beach that boasted a large central courtyard which promoted story sharing and other fun conversation among its residents. After the fast paced driving of the previous days, we easily warmed up to the idea of relaxing on the beach. We stayed there for the next five days. We could fill volumes with our great experiences in Lagos, it was the highlight of our trip.



At the bullfight

Our departure from Lagos delivered us back to Spain where we spent two days in Seville to experience the traditional Spanish culture of Flamenco dancing and bullfights. We were lucky enough to be in Seville during one of the country's biggest festivals: The Feria d' Abril. Spaniards celebrate how good they were at Lent during this weeklong festival that includes copious amounts of music, food and drink throughout hundreds of tents set up for the event.

The 36-degree temperatures only added to the cultural experience before heading east to Marbella. It was here on the *Costa del Sol* that we soaked up the last of the Spanish sunshine between quick visits to Gibraltar, Algeciras, Granada, and Alicante before finishing our trip with a marathon 900 km drive back to Barcelona.



The Rock of Gibraltar

We highly recommend taking advantage of the HINF co-op experience to travel and take it all in as part of the experience. Wherever your co-op placement takes you, we urge