

# HINFormation

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

September 2003

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Hello everyone, after one year of secondment to work on the UBC medical school expansion, I am now back as the Director of the School.

First I want to thank

for her tenure this past year as the Acting Director for the School. In just 12 months, she managed to, among many other accomplishments - introduce the Combined Major in Computer Science and Health Information Science, finalize the formalization of our M.Sc. degree, and orchestrate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the School. Dr. Coward has now moved on to Sierra Systems as a senior consultant; we wish her well in her new endeavours.

The School is just bustling with activities at the moment. In June we hosted a 4-day research workshop in Victoria for about 30+ researchers and research trainees from eight universities across Canada. It is part of a new 6-year PhD/postdoctoral research training program in health informatics funded by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research and BC

fter spending a year in Spokane,  
( '02 ) has  
moved to Yale university to  
continue his master's. He is studying  
social and behavioural sciences within  
their epidemiology and public health  
program. When finished, he has the  
option of returning to Spokane.

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Congratulations to  
( '95 ) and on the birth  
of their first child. At 5:30 p.m. on  
September 12,  
was born weighing 7.7 lb with a full  
head of hair and his mom's olive skin  
tone.

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After finishing 3 years of pediatric  
residency, ( '96 ) has  
moved to Toronto where she is now  
doing a fellowship in Pediatric  
Infectious Diseases at the Hospital for  
Sick Children.

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Following his final work term,  
( '03 ) stayed on at Teekay  
Shipping (Canada) Ltd. as an  
Application Analyst. The application  
he is supporting is used world-wide  
allowing him to travel to their other  
offices including Oslo.

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Since June I have been working for  
Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) as  
an Information Privacy Analyst. This  
is a very exciting and fun position. I  
have several major projects on the go  
with more starting very soon. To date,  
most of my energy has been focussed  
on creating a provincial privacy impact  
assessment (PIA) template. All the  
health authorities in the province are  
now using this template. The next step  
for me is to start coordinating and  
conducting PIAs for VCH, as well as  
continuing work on my other projects.  
I am a very busy girl right now but I ,8Ng



HINF clothing to fundraise money to help pay for some of these events.

The HINF Course Union is about having fun. It is a great way to meet other students within the HINF program as well as within other cohorts in a relaxed atmosphere, outside of the school setting. This means anyone can plan events and everyone is more than welcome to be part of the events. These events are advertised through the Course Union's list serve. Currently we are trying a new and exciting way of accessing Course Union student information. A 2<sup>nd</sup> year HINFer has created his own HINF website, where students can access information about the Course Union, upcoming events, social gatherings, and even have the option to post their own news, events or pictures for other students to view. For more information, check out: [www.hinf.com](http://www.hinf.com)

For any questions regarding this new website, please contact: : [gbotten@uvic.ca](mailto:gbotten@uvic.ca)

For any questions regarding the HINF Course Union, please contact: : [mbalicki@uvic.ca](mailto:mbalicki@uvic.ca) or : [monika\\_savai@shaw.ca](mailto:monika_savai@shaw.ca)

[The course union list serv is [hinfcu@uvvm.uvic.ca](mailto:hinfcu@uvvm.uvic.ca)]

## FACULTY AND STAFF



The School is very pleased to introduce as the new Senior Laboratory Instructor. Ken was trained in mathematics and statistics, and has a diversified work background. He has been an instructor at Camosun College since 1996, and had worked in the information systems business for 18 years at BC Systems Corporation (now ITSD) and Alberta Government Telephone (now Telus), managing various systems development projects, providing technical and end-user supports to internal and ministry customers, and headed up new initiatives including the AI/expert systems team, EDI software acquisition project, EIS/data warehouse initiative, and international industry liaison. His earlier career years were in financial analysis and modeling, systems problem management, statistical consulting, and high school teaching.

Ken has a B.A. from Berkeley, M.Sc. from Calgary, and a Teaching Certificate from UBC.

His personal interests include reading, time traveling, and day-dreaming. His ambition is one day he will be a writer or a poet, after he retires.

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## Wedding Bells

was married on August 30 to . She is a privacy expert, most recently spending 2 years as Corporate Privacy Officer for University Health Network. As such, she has worked with a large number of HINF grads. She has a PhD in Communications from McGill, born and raised in Winnipeg.

They are spending the month of September in Paris. No PCs, no cell phones, no email. Just red wine, baguettes and cheese. What a treat!

When they return to Toronto, Miyo will be returning to a consulting practice in privacy for several industries including healthcare.

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In addition to being an important member of the HINF office team, is also an accomplished watercolour artist. Samples of her work can be found at <http://www.horizon.bc.ca/~agc>

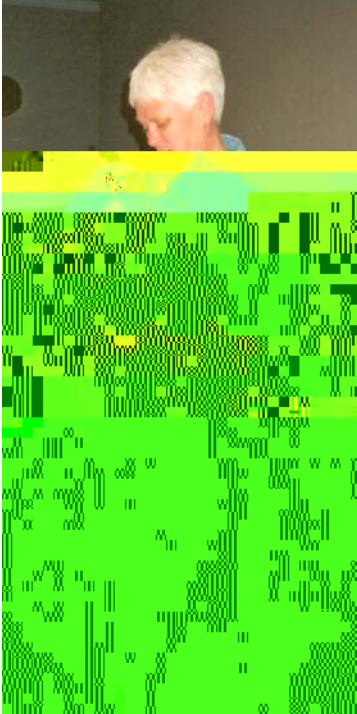
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fter four years as an undergraduate and two years as a project coordinator, (^01) has left HINF to work on the other side of the pond. Before starting her new job at the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, Kathleen is taking a well-deserved vacation at Club Med in Cancun.

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As you wander down the hall in HSD, the new face you see in A206 belongs to , the sessional instructor for HINF 301. In his other life, Teg is a pharmacist and 4<sup>th</sup> year

On July 4<sup>th</sup> the faculty, staff and graduate students gathered at [redacted] house to help celebrate his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. At the end of the evening, [redacted] presented with flowers to thank her for assuming the role of Acting Director for the past year.



[redacted] has joined Sierra Systems as a Partner in their health practice. Based in Victoria, Pat will be participating in management consulting as well as managing health related projects in B.C. and possibly across Canada. Sierra is primarily a systems development and integration firm so the link with health information science is strong. Pat hopes to continue working with HINFers during co-op work terms.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### UMIT

[redacted] is a professor at the University for Health Informatics and Technology Tyrol (UMIT) in Innsbruck, Austria, and head of the unit for information and software engineering since July 2003. He visited the School September 24 – 28 as part of our new partnership with UMIT to exchange faculty and students. While here he presented a research seminar as part of our regular Friday afternoon series. For more information about UMIT, see [http://www.umat.at/e/ueber/ueber-uns.cfm?bereich=864&me\\_id=249](http://www.umat.at/e/ueber/ueber-uns.cfm?bereich=864&me_id=249)

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### Michael Miller Memorial Ride

[redacted] and [redacted] are riding their bikes across Canada (in stages.4(a)C(=8)5.2(osprofess)5.Fc

In addition to project related conferences the technology is used to adapt courses for distance education. Dr. Lau's graduate course, HINF 503, "Research Methods in Health Informatics" is exclusively offered in this mode. This is a pilot course delivered entirely online with weekly discussion forums and virtual classes. Even students on campus are using this method. is adapting his Health Care Quality Improvement course to this delivery mode. In this case, remote participants at Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) hospitals engaged in project work with local and remote students communicate in this fashion.

The technology used varies in different applications. The selection was not easy as there are at least 40 relevant products on the market, and the precise needs for the different applications were not known yet. We scrutinized more than half a dozen projects more closely before a decision had to be made in order to get ready for the term. The selection process was very much supported by the teams of , York University; , St. Jude's Hospital, Memphis, TN, USA; , University of Alberta; and, , Health Telematics Unit, University of Calgary.

The effort is also under examination by evaluator . In addition, evaluates the process specifically with respect to achieving the goals of the Quality Improvement course. We look forward to the insights generated by the evaluators and to communicating the experiences. So far, the experience has been surprisingly positive, and the technology could be mastered without major glitches. This is to a large part due to the diligent support that provides to faculty in her capacity as Multi Media Consultant.

Dr. Moehr is convinced that the endeavour is not only relevant for learning, teaching, and research collaboration but has direct implications for health care. This conviction is based on his recent Telehealth Experience, which showed that educational endeavours are of tremendous benefit for patients, their families and the care teams supporting them. Currently, these endeavours are limited by the access to video conferencing services, however. Making this kind of communication available through computers linked by internet will open tremendous opportunities for reaching out to remote underserved populations.

### **Research Seminars**

This fall we started experimenting with synchronous Web-conference software called VClass in the weekly research seminar series. You can now join these sessions "live" at a distance if you have a high-speed Internet connection via <http://hicweb.his.uvic.ca/hinf580/> at least 10 minutes before the session; contact Felicia at 250-472-4300 for details. Although in the experimental stage, you can visit the School website to view some of the seminar recordings we have rendered thus far.

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### **Communication Issues**

The School has three main list servs in addition to those for individual courses:

[hinfcu@uvvm.uvic.ca](mailto:hinfcu@uvvm.uvic.ca)

A means for students and the course union to communicate, students subscribe themselves to this list. This is the list to use to arrange parties, look for roommates, sublet your apartment, etc.

[hinfo@uvvm.uvic.ca](mailto:hinfo@uvvm.uvic.ca)

All students should subscribe to this list. This is the list the School uses to disseminate information to the student body.

[hinf-l@uvvm.uvic.ca](mailto:hinf-l@uvvm.uvic.ca)

This list serv is used by the School to communicate with the alumni. Alumni wishing to be included on the distribution list need to send their request to [lwood@uvic.ca](mailto:lwood@uvic.ca)

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### **Need help?**

**DIRECTOR AND GRADUATE ADVISOR**

[fylau@uvic.ca](mailto:fylau@uvic.ca)

**SCHOOL SECRETARY**

[lwood@uvic.ca](mailto:lwood@uvic.ca)

**UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ADVISOR**

[gwbrauer@uvic.ca](mailto:gwbrauer@uvic.ca)

**ACTING CO-OP COORDINATOR**

[hiscoop@uvic.ca](mailto:hiscoop@uvic.ca)

For a full listing of the faculty, staff and graduate students, see the School's web site.