LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

June 2016

Faculty, Students and Friends of the Program,

It is a pleasure to celebrate the 2nd graduating class from the Master of Health Informatics and Health Information Management Program and to share milestones and accomplishments of this past year.

As the 2016 graduating class, you join fellow MHIHIM alumni in meeting diverse challenges and opportunities. You join colleagues in advancing new ideas and contributions in health informatics. We are proud of you!

We celebrate the successes of our graduates and are delighted to feature their capstone projects and their graduate plans. See pages 3 and 4.

Faculty and students contribute to our continuous quality improvement processes of the MHIHIM curriculum through feedback and new ideas. During this past year, we have continued to refine the curriculum by offering a new course on Health Information Systems and Practice, by combining two courses and expanding credits of four others.

This fall marks the opening of a unique advanced placement program to offer University of Washington MHA graduates an opportunity to complete their MHIHIM in four quarters.

In keeping with our program philosophy to bring industry issues and progress to the classrooms and to provide opportunities for networking, we have established a new Stakeholder Program.

Our colleagues engaged in health industry leadership, health informatics, information systems, information governance, compliance and health information management bring currency and relevancy in contemporary topics and issues to students through guest lectures, serving as key informants for students teams, mentoring students and sponsoring capstone projects.

The program completed the application process for accreditation with the Commission on Accreditation of Health Informatics and Information Management Education with the CAHIM site team visiting campus on March 7th and 8th. In the exit conference, the site team reported “the program vision to develop leaders who collaborate, advocate and innovate to transform health information systems and create healthier communities is well-integrated across the program”.

They found students to be optimistic about the program and their futures as graduates and alumni; and the Advisory Board to be active, engaged, believe in this program and believe there is a need for the program at the UW campus. The team recognized the administrative support and value of the program and its place in the long range goals of the university including population health and the role of information tracking as a key part of the health care evolution. The CAHIM Board is expected to provide the final report in June.

We look forward to seeing you in our annual alumni events that will be launched in September.

Thank you to students, alumni, faculty members, Advisory Board members, guest speakers, program staff and friends, and to employers, mentors and family members of graduates for your contributions in health informatics.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Murphy, M.Ed., RHIA, FAHIMA
Director

In this issue

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Master of Health Informatics & Health Information Management Newsletter

2016 Capstone Projects

Lan Bun - Clinic Workflow Process Improvement - Swedish Liver and Organ Transplant Center
Phavy Chey - Training Guide and Quality Improvement - Harborview Financial Counseling
Michaela Chiu - Hospice Documentation and Auditing Application - Evergreen Health
Sumia Dakhlil - Institutional Climate Assessment - University of Washington School of Dentistry
Ji Won Kang - Information Governance for Government, Public Health - Washington Department of Health
Heather Lahde - Vivacity Information Governance - Vivacity Premera Blue Cross
Nghia Le - Leadership Development Training Program - Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth Movement, Northwest Region
Amina Malik - Knowledge Base Management - University of Washington Medical Center
Mark McClure - Security Policy Assessment and Recommendations - University of Washington School of Dentistry
Kathleen Nguyen - Legal Record Definition Policy Development - Seattle Children’s Hospital
Marie Rempola - Cardiac Readmission Reduction Dashboard Design - Madigan Army Medical Center
Farish Samani - Training Manual and Tools - Premara Health
Laura Valaas - OB/GYN Hospitalist Strategic Plan
Amy Wolff - Hardwiring Identification Process Improvement for Patient Record Correction Reduction - Valley Medical Center

MHIHIM Advisory Board

Health Care Community Members

University of Washington Medical Center
Harborview Medical Center
Virginia Mason Medical Center
Previdence Health
Evergreen Healthcare, Medical Records
IHHIM Program, University of Washington
School of Public Health, University of Washington
Northeast Hospital
The Advisory Board Company
Washington State Department of Health
Seattle Children’s Hospital
Group Health Cooperative
Evergreen Healthcare
Carpenters Trust of Western Washington

MHIHIM Program, University of Washington
Health Data Consulting
WSMA
UW Medicine
IHHIM Program, University of Washington
Foundation for Healthcare Quality
Health Services, University of Washington
Frontier Communications
Sound Mental Health
Program Updates

Highlights of this year’s extracurricular successful events

April Flores, Professional Development Specialist, coordinates and organizes professional development opportunities and extracurricular successful events. This year featured several.

The kick off for MHIHIM “Ropes Course” was fun and bonding for all. Faculty members Gretchen Murphy and Dave Masuda attended the event with David taking pictures of challenging activities, making them available to the students.

The HIHIM students enjoyed a networking lunch with the EMHA class, resulting in plans to continue this event.

Sally Beahan, Seth Hennessey and other UW graduate program alumni provided insight about their professional work experiences and how their graduate education enhanced their opportunities.

Dawn Johnson, an HR recruiter for Seattle Children’s Hospital provided useful information and a recruiter’s perspective on resumes. Professional skills tips such as the dos and don’ts of interviewing, information interviews and networking are part of the ongoing professional preparation.

Graduation Dinner News – resourceful and innovative planning by graduating students working with April will make this year’s MHIHIM event unique and fun. Graduates will celebrate at the UW Center for Urban Horticultural center on June 4th.

Faculty Updates

The MHIHIM faculty welcomed Sarah Cave and Kurt Obrien to the program this year. They will join Phil Haas, Ken White, Dave Masuda, and Branko Kopjar who teach the MHA courses in the MHIHIM curriculum; and Gretchen Murphy, Mary Alice Hanken, Kathy Peterson, Marsha Steele and Cynthia Lerouge who teach the HIHIM courses for 2016-2017.

Alumni Updates Class of 2015

Cesar Hernandez is the Business Development Director for EmpRes Healthcare Management, a skilled nursing facility company, where he serves as the marketing director and clinic liaison for the Seattle region, leads community initiatives and partners with executive leadership in brainstorming ways to improve clinical outcomes.

Teresea Dean is a Senior Revenue Cycle Program Manager, HIM Consultant at Providence Health & Services and has joined the UW Health Services Department as a Clinical Faculty member for the MHIHIM program. Teresea will teach a course in project management in 2017.

Andrew Cabamalan is a Quality Improvement Advisor who currently works with Healthcare providers across Indiana to prepare them for value based reimbursement which involves lean, patient-centered care, chronic care management, and other healthcare quality improvement activities.

Graduating Class Placements

This spring we celebrate graduation with our second cohort of students in this young program. The faculty and I have enjoyed their dedication, their energy and their talent. Several accepted new opportunities to work in health information, systems, informatics, analytics, and patient support. We continue to learn and grow with our students and each other as we work to build a program designed to prepare graduates ready to transform the healthcare industry systems to meet our program vision.

Phavy Chevy
Michaela Chiu
Heather Lahde
Kathleen Nguyen
Marc McClure
Laura Valaas
Amy Wolff
Sumia Dakhil
Lan Bun
Farah Sumani
Marie Rempola
Amina Malik

Financial Counselor Patient Access
HIM Analyst
Healthcare Reporting Consultant
Manger, Health Information Operations & Projects
Analyst 1 Epic/Informatics RN
Practice Manger
Urgent Care Manager
Melanoma/RCC Research Assistant
Referral & Scheduling Coordinator
Medical Claims Representative
Senior Research Associate
System Analyst

Harborview
Evergreen
Seattle Children’s
Providence
Confluence
UW Medical/Valley Medical
Seattle Cancer Care Alliance
Swedish Liver Center
Progressive Insurance
SVP Integration
UW IT Services

Congratulations to second-year student, Laura Valaas, who will begin Medical School at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health in the fall!