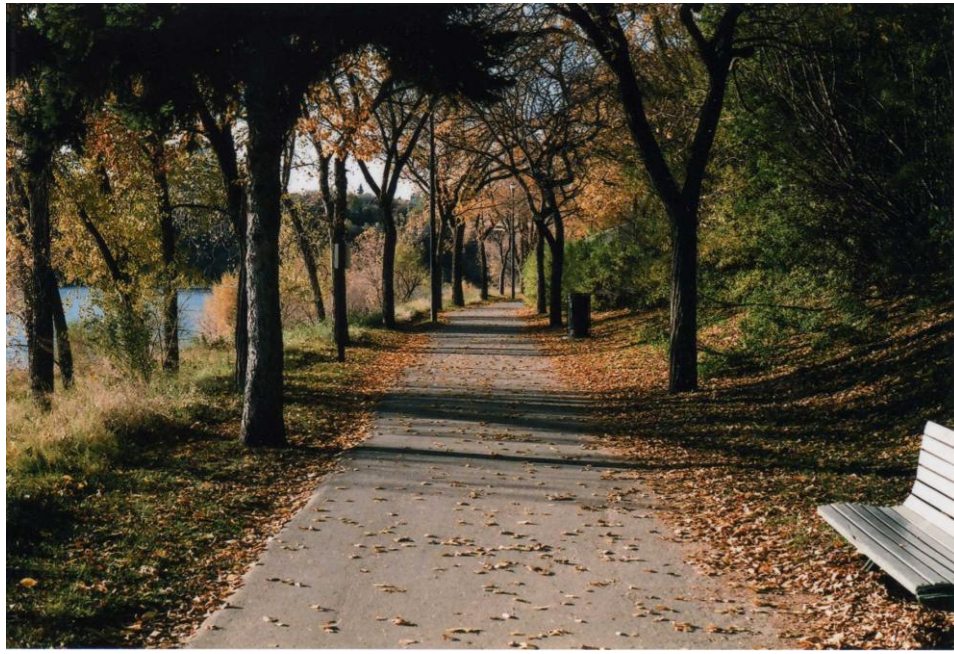


For The Record



November 2011

Message from the President



Let me start with introducing myself. My name is Jennifer Fortune, I graduated from the Health Information Management Program in Halifax, Nova Scotia in 2010. I previously worked as an ER coder at the IWK Children's Hospital in Halifax before I accepted a position at Saskatoon City Hospital, and made the big move across the country to Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan is a great province; I have learned a lot and have met some really great people.

This year was my first SHIMA conference, and I have to applaud Helene Ray for putting on a wonderful conference and for all her hard work. I would also like to thank everyone who helped out with the conference. It was my first time to The Spa (and Moose Jaw) and I really enjoyed my time there. It had been a great few days getting to know some of the SHIMA members. I also got to take in some of the sights of Moose Jaw, including the tunnels, which are a must see!

We have a lot of new faces on the executive this year. I would like to thank the entire executive from last year for all of their hard work, and to welcome the new executive members. Kathy Braaten is Past President, Heather Gartner is President-Elect, Tracy Turner is Secretary/Treasurer, Aimee Goss is Publications, Publicity and Public Relations, Jana Hansen is the Professional Development Chair, Patti Dutka is the new Convention Planner, and Almir Muhamedagic our webmaster. We have a great group on the executive this year, with a wide range of knowledge and experience. I know that we will continue to promote the profession and to represent the membership the best we can throughout the year.

I'm very excited for this upcoming year as President and welcome and encourage you to contact me, or any members of the executive with any questions, concerns, or comments you may have. We are here to represent you, the members, and would love to hear what you have to say. Please check out the website at www.SHIMA.ca for updates regarding the association, and the profession. I would like to wish all of you a wonderful year, and I look forward to representing you this year.

Jennifer Fortune
President, SHIMA

Meet Your 2011/2012 SHIMA Executive!

Kathy Braaten – Past President



I was born and raised a prairie girl but as many of you know I started my HIM career out in the Niagara Region in Ontario. In 2000 my family and I relocated to Welland, Ontario and I got a job at the Health Records Department there. That was when I learned about the HIM program offered as a distance course through the Canadian Healthcare Association and in the fall of 2000 I began my studies. During my two year course I obtained a transcription job at the Greater Niagara General Hospital and transcribed reports for two years prior to completing my course and successfully challenging my accreditation exam. This experience was a great help to me in my HIM career. Shortly after that I was lucky enough to obtain a job coding and abstracting in Niagara Falls where I coded both NACRS ER visits and DAD inpatient visits. I was also lucky enough to do submissions to CIHI.

In 2008 we were transferred back out this way and I was again very fortunate to be able to obtain employment doing what I love, inpatient coding and abstracting at Royal University Hospital. Shortly after starting here I got involved with SHIMA, taking on the President-Elect position in September, 2009. For me this has been a most rewarding experience and I have had the opportunity to meet incredible people I may never have had the opportunity to meet and to learn things I may never have had the opportunity to learn.

Just recently I have been offered the opportunity to take on the Operations Coordinator position at St. Paul's Hospital for a year term, covering a maternity leave. I look forward to this new challenge and I appreciate my HIM training and profession because without it I would not have the opportunity to have done any of this.

I currently enjoy being back in Saskatoon with my husband Rob, daughter Lacey, son Justin and of course our dog Snoopy.

Heather Gartner – President Elect



Hello Everyone – my name is Heather Gartner and I am the President-Elect for SHIMA. I was honoured to be approached to accept this Executive Position. I am very pleased to be working with the Executive that is in place this year. The Executive is motivated and enthusiastic about our profession and there has been great work done in the past and planned for the future to continue to promote our profession to ensure our place in our ever evolving health care system in Saskatchewan and in Canada.

Just a little about myself, I graduated from SIAST in June of 1993 and became a certified Health Information Management Professional in October 1993. I have worked as a HIM Professional in many different positions: Interim Director of Health Records at the Plains Health Centre; Health Record Technician/Medical Transcriptionist at the Regina Community Clinic; Medical Transcriptionist at the Allan Blair Cancer Centre; Director of Health Records at St. Peter's Hospital in Melville, SK from 1993 to 2008. In May of 2008, I accepted the position of Manager of Health Information Services at Yorkton Regional Health Centre for Sunrise Health Region where I currently manage 4 departments – Registration, Switchboard, Health Records and Medical Transcription with a total staff of 30.

My profession has been very good to me over the years and I had never dreamed that I would have the opportunities that I have had the joy of experiencing through my profession. My intention was always to “pay it forward” so to speak. I have been a part of the SHIMA Executive – either as an Executive Member or a

Zone Rep since I graduated from SIAST in 1993. I am an Education Consultant for the Canadian Healthcare Association for the Distance HIM Program and have been since 1996 and I am a Distance Education Facilitator/Instructor for the SIAST Distance HIM Program and have been since 2002.

I have always felt blessed to be working in the profession. Just before I graduated in 1993, one of my Instructors looked at me and said, "You know, we just came from a meeting where they were discussing the trends that are being seen in various healthcare professions across Canada. You should be very proud, your profession is considered one of the most "up and coming" professions in health care and it looks like it is going to stay that way for many years to come." You know what, I did feel very proud at that moment and I continue to be very proud of our profession to this day. We are still "up and coming", we are in demand, our skill set is unique and our profession is evolving to meet the demands of a very unique and diversified Canadian Healthcare System. CHIMA and SHIMA work hard to bring our professionals to the forefront in regard to health information management. As members of our national and provincial associations, we all have one common goal - to promote our profession and ensure that our skill set remains unique. We are, after all, unlike any other healthcare professional in Saskatchewan and in Canada - we all should be very proud indeed.

Take Care All.

Tracy Turner – Secretary Treasurer



Hello, I am Tracy Turner. I am serving as the Secretary Treasurer for the 2011-2012 year. I grew up in Lanigan, SK. Graduating from LCHS in June 2006. In the fall of 2006, I started the Health Information Management Course at SIAST Wascana Campus. Upon completion of the course in May 2008, I accepted a job doing Release of Information at Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon. Today I am an Inpatient Coder at RUH. I am excited to be on with the SHIMA Executive for this year.

Jana Hansen - Professional Development

My name is Jana Hansen. I am currently employed with the RQHR as a Health Information Management Analyst. I decided to volunteer for the position of the Executive Chair of the Professional Development Committee because I am very enthusiastic about the HIM profession and I want to promote this diverse profession to the best of my ability.



Aimee Goss - Publications, Publicity and Public Relations

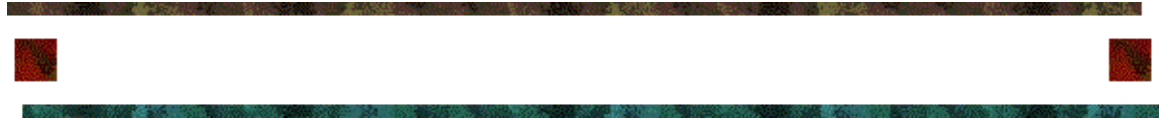


Hi. My name is Aimee Goss. I was born and raised in Saskatchewan. I was lucky enough to live in many places as we moved around a lot, from the beautiful forest of the north, to the sprawling farm land in the south. I loved growing up in this province; there are so many wonderful things to do.

After I graduated from high school, I had trouble deciding what I wanted to be when I grew-up. I tried university, I worked in some manual labour jobs, but nothing was really clicking. My mom, who worked in the Regina Health Region at the time, heard about the HIM program from a student who was on her HIM practicum. She thought that it would be something that I would be interested in so suggested that I look into it. And you now what....mom was right!

I took the 2 year program and graduated in 2003 and was certified in the October of the same year. After that I started my HIM career. I worked briefly at the Regina General Hospital, then like many people, felt the pull of the west. I moved to Brooks, Alberta and started working at a small 40 bed hospital, with a long term care wing attached. It was a beautiful hospital, fairly new by today's standards. There were only 3 HIM in the department so we got to do it all, release of Information, coding of day surgeries, Inpatient's, ER's and even some outpatient visits. If the need arose, we would help our clerk with filing and running charts. The experience gave me a good over all exposure to all facets of HIM.

Four years later I decided to come back to Saskatchewan to be closer to my family. I was fortunate enough to obtain a position in the HIM Department at the Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon. In four short years I have gone from ROI, to QA, to Inpatient coding. I enjoy being back in Saskatchewan and I am look forward to my time on the SHIMA executive.



Patti Dutka – Convention Planner

Hi. My name is Patti Dutka and I am the Convention Planner for the 2012 SHIMA Convention to be held in Prince Albert.

I started working at the Shellbrook Hospital in 1997 where I completed my education for Health Information Management Practitioner. I then since have worked in Spiritwood Hospital and I am currently working at Victoria Hospital in Prince Albert. Here in P.A. I am the Release of Information Officer and Mental Health coder and abstractor. I have also done QA and assembly and Day surgery coding and abstracting. I hope to meet you all at the 2012 SHIMA convention, where we hope to have two days of interesting speakers and some exciting actives.



Non-Traditional Jobs for HIM's

By Heather Goss



I live and work in Regina in a non-traditional HIM career. Throughout my working career I have had many types of jobs, but my current position is the most rewarding. After encouraging my daughter to take the HIM course at SIAST, I decided to take the course myself, several years later. While taking the course my interest in non-traditional roles grew, but I wanted to a job that incorporated the skills I learned in the HIM course.

After graduating from the HIM course, I took the summer off. When a Clerk 4 position came open in the Federal Public Service Sector with the Indian Residential Schools Adjudication Secretariat (IRSAS), I applied for the position. The requirements for the position included all the things that, as a HIM professional, I was trained to do. I went through the testing and interview process and was working within 6 weeks of applying.

I should give you some background information. The mandate of the Indian Residential Schools Adjudication Secretariat is to implement and administer the IAP under the direction of the Chief Adjudicator in an independent, objective and impartial manner.

(Source: <http://www.irsad-sapi.gc.ca/ab-ap-eng.asp?action=s-m1>)

The Independent Assessment Process (IAP) is a claimant-centered, non-adversarial, out of court process for the resolution of claims of sexual abuse, serious physical abuse, and

other wrongful acts suffered at Indian Residential Schools (IRS). (Source: <http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100015576>)

The claimant completes a detailed application form, which is reviewed for eligibility. If the claim is admitted, the claimant submits documents in support of the claim, and Canada submits its research about the people named in the claim. Alleged perpetrators are contacted and advised of the allegations. They have the right to provide a statement and if they wish, to testify. The claim can then be resolved through negotiation, or the claimant attends a private hearing and answers questions from a neutral Adjudicator. In some cases, the claimant is asked to take part in a medical or psychological assessment. (Source: <http://www.irsad-sapi.gc.ca/ab-ap-eng.asp?action=faq-1>)

This is where I come in. I work in the Chief Adjudicators Office (CAO) in the Expert Assessment Unit at the Secretariat. When the Adjudicator deems that an Expert Assessment is required (either Psychological or Medical) he/she sends the CAO a Letter of Instruction (LOI). The LOI states what documents are to be reviewed by the Expert. I send these documents to the Expert; upload the LOI to on the Claimant's file in the database. When the Expert has completed their report, they send it back to the CAO. Again, I upload this report to the Claimant's file on the database before sending it to the Parties, which consist of the Adjudicator, Legal Counsel and Canada's Representative. The IRSAS was a first time occurrence. Everything had to be started from scratch and procedures had to be developed while doing business. Working for the IRSAS has been likened to "flying a plane while it is still being built". Processes were built from necessity. Some processes worked, some had to be changed. Things are still changing as we are always challenging ourselves to streamline the process. I have had the opportunity to create, implement and train co-workers on our procedure manuals directly related to my area of responsibility. I also process Experts' invoices, develop and use Excel spreadsheets, create reports, file, investigate issues, quality analysis, and I receive and send lots and lots of e-mails daily.

I didn't realize to what extent the skills I learned in the HIM program at SIAST I would be utilizing in my current role. Even though I didn't know what to expect or what the job entailed, the HIM course prepared me so well I was able to slide right into the position with confidence. About the only training I do not use is coding. I am extremely busy in my job. There are new challenges every day, but I know that I am capable of facing them head on because of the training. I should mention the wages are comparable to traditional HIM positions.

I am so thankful the HIM program at SIAST was so all-inclusive giving me the skills to excel in this rewarding position at IRSAS. I encourage others to take the HIM program; you never know where it can lead!



Kathy's Quilt

Kathy Braaten, Past President, SHIMA



As many of you now know our profession lost a very special person far too soon. Kathy Marcotte's passing affected so many people. Our executive felt compelled to rename our Outstanding Member Award to the Kathy Marcotte Award and we named Kathy as the first recipient of that award. You can see Kathy's bio on our website at www.shima.ca and look for the Kathy Marcotte Award link.

Kathy spent the last ten years of her career working for the Canadian Institute for Health Information out of her home. When her colleagues at CIHI learned of Kathy's illness they commissioned a beautiful quilt for Kathy to use while she was undergoing chemotherapy. The quilt depicted a dragon with a dragon slayer as Kathy referred to her tumor as 'the dragon' and she was the 'dragon

slayer'. Unfortunately the quilt was not completed before Kathy passed away and she never did receive it. CIHI wanted to give the quilt to Kathy's family however they could not accept it as the connotation was too difficult. Therefore CIHI contacted one of our members and asked that we take the quilt as they wanted it to be given to our province.

We then made the decision we would sell raffle tickets for the quilt and donate all money raised to go towards pancreatic cancer research.

The winner of the quilt is Deana Winterhalt from the Prairie North Health Region and I know she is thrilled to receive it. Our members well surpassed our expectations with ticket sales and we ended up collecting over \$770! This is such a wonderful tribute to Kathy. Thank you to everyone who bought tickets!



NHIMA

Jennifer Fortune, President

On October 28, 2011 I attended the NHIMA teleconference. I want to keep the entire membership informed as to what has been happening.

The first item on the agenda was the Association w/Chapter Model, we were given a break down of how this would be a benefit to the members, the provincial associations, and CHIMA. Attached is the agenda package, which will provide you with this information. The pilot will begin on March 1,

2012 with three provinces (BC, Ontario, and New Brunswick). This will be a three year term with the possibility of bringing on more provinces after the first year.

Next on the agenda was an update of the "New CHIMA." For those of you who did not have a chance to attend the CPE session that discussed this in further detail, this will be available on the CHIMA website for members to listen to shortly.

It was also discussed that most likely there will be no CHIMA conference this year; however, this has yet to be confirmed. This is a result of CHIMA members indicating that only two percent of members are able to attend a CHIMA conference. Another factor being considered is the planning for the upcoming IFHIMA in 2013. In the case there is no CHIMA conference there is discussion of NHIMA having an in person meeting in the spring.



PROFESSIONAL BURSARY APPLICATION

Jennifer Fortune, President

It has been decided to extend the application date for the professional bursary to **January 31st, 2012**. This will be the new deadline date for future applications as well. This is due to the fact that September is a busy month for the SHIMA executive with the changing of positions and the welcoming of new executive members.

There will now be an application form that needs to be filled out when applying for the bursary. This is to make the application process as straight forward as possible for the members. You will find this application form along with the Policy and Procedure for the Professional Bursary on the SHIMA website under the section 'What's New' http://www.shima.ca/What's_New.html

