



# The Informer

An annual publication of the MCG Department of Health Informatics

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Visit our NEW Website!  
[www.mcg.edu/sah/dhi](http://www.mcg.edu/sah/dhi)

## Inside this issue:

Scholarships and Awards	2
Faculty Showcase	2
DHI Welcomes New Faculty	3
DHI Joins FaceBook and Renovates Website	4
Departmental Scholarships and Awards	4
Open House for Alumni During Homecoming Week	4
Alumni Support	4

## We've Moved!

Just in time for the start of the fall 2008 semester, the Department of Health Informatics (DHI) moved from its home of 25+ years. The department is now located in the Jennings Building, adjacent to the new Health Sciences Building. Our new location houses faculty offices, a student computer lab, and two conference rooms equipped with Smartboards and teleconferencing capabilities. The classrooms have been relocated to the Health Sciences Building. Two classrooms are fully-equipped with student computer workstations and instructor's podiums that provide all of the technologies needed to deliver course content in an online format.

DHI will be hosting an **Open House** during Homecoming, **April 24th, 2009, from noon—2 p.m.** All alumni are invited to attend this event. Refreshments will be provided. Contact Nakia Walden at [nwal-den@mcg.edu](mailto:nwal-den@mcg.edu) for more details.



Demolition of building that housed HIA programs for 25+ years.



New home of DHI in the Jennings Building



## Empowering Students Using ePortfolio

ePortfolio, a new tool being utilized by Health Information Administration (HIA) and Master of Public Health in Informatics (MPH) students, allows them to develop individual electronic portfolios. The portfolios showcase a variety of key features, such as exhibits, work samples, learning projects, assessments, internships, practicums and resumes. Students can display real-life examples of their work throughout their portfolio, helping to demonstrate their skills and interests. They can use their portfolios to highlight and reflect upon the latest school assignments, or to showcase a video-clip of an event. They can also link to Websites or upload documents that illustrate their experiences within school, their communities and the workplace. Once complete, students can export their ePortfolios into a MSWord or PDF format and use them for career building or job placement.

## Awards and Scholarships

Congratulations to the following alumni/students of the HIA and MPH programs who received awards/scholarships during the 2007/2008 academic year.

### **GHIMA and AHIMA**

Ginny Marshall, RHIA ('08) - *New Graduate Award*

Sangeeta Baurai, RHIA ('07) - *Outstanding New Professional*

Annecia McNeil, MPH, RHIA ('99 HIA, '08 MPH) and Eisenhower Army Medical Center - *Clinical Site Award*

Kim Wooten, RHIA ('08) - *GHIMA Scholarship*

Mary White, RHIA ('08) - *GHIMA Scholarship and AHIMA/FORE Scholarship*

Zainab Johnson ('08) - *AHIMA/FORE Diversity Scholarship*

### **Medical College of Georgia**

*Alpha Upsilon Phi Honor Society Inductees ('08 MPH)*

Jessica Bartlett, Jackie Delash, and Ravinder Gujral

*Alpha Eta Inductees ('08 HIA)*

Jenna Chastain, Debra Triolo, Gillian Watts, Mary White

*Who's Who Among Students in American University and Colleges ('08)*

Diana Amick, Zainab Johnson, Debra Triolo, Gillian Watts,  
Mary White, Kimberly Wooten



HIA Class of 2008



MPH Class of 2008

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## DHI Faculty and Staff Showcase

Congratulations to Dr. Carol Campbell, RHIA, Associate Dean of Business and Academic Affairs for the School of Allied Health Sciences (DHI faculty and former Department Chairperson), for being designated a Fellow of the American Health Information Management Association (FAHIMA). Recognition as Fellow is one of the highest achievements in anyone's professional career. The AHIMA Fellowship Review Committee found that Dr. Campbell clearly demonstrates sustained and significant contribution to the health information management profession. In addition, the selection Committee stated its confidence that she will continue to be a committed contributor to and an excellent representative of the HIM profession in the future.



Congratulations to Dr. John Meyer, Director of Instructional Support and Student Affairs in the School of Allied Health Sciences and DHI faculty, on completion of a PhD in Computing Technology in Education from Nova Southeastern University. In addition to his SAHS duties, Dr. Meyer teaches Computing Fundamentals in Healthcare to the Health Information Administration students.



## DHI Welcomes New Faculty



**Dr. Anita Bhat**, Assistant Professor, holds a PhD in Health Policy and Administration (minor in Epidemiology) from the School of Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She has also practiced as a physician/surgeon, specializing in Otolaryngology, in Bombay, India. She has served as an Associate Professor and Lecturer at the University of Bombay and as a Teaching Assistant at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Department of Health Policy and Administration. She served as the associate editor for the *Journal of Health and Population in Developing Countries*. Dr. Bhat has served as a research assistant for Merck Pharmaceuticals. Her research interests focus on health literacy in patients with arthritis. Her current research includes “Does health literacy affect arthritis health outcomes in a life style randomized controlled trial?” She was awarded the Graduate School Award Assistantship by the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in 2003 for outstanding academic achievement.



**Dr. Vibha Kumar**, Assistant Professor, holds an MD in Community Medicine from Nagpur University in India. She has completed two fellowships in health informatics; one as a post doctoral medical informatics fellow in affiliation with MIT/Harvard at the Boston University Medical Center, and the other as a public health informatics fellow with the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Ga. Her teaching experience includes serving as Associate Professor and Professor in Public Health Practice and Community Health at Nagpur, Kolhapur, and Meerut Universities in India, as well as teaching in the Health Informatics program at the University of Montana and the Public Health program at Walden University. She has also served as Dissertation Committee Chair for the PhD in Public Health program at Walden University in Minneapolis, MN. Her current research interests include the use of Geographical Information Systems to trend cancer occurrence in the CSRA. She has published in the *Journal of Neurological and Orthopaedic Medicine and Surgery and Pediatrics*.



**Dr. Pavani Rangachari**, Assistant Professor, holds a PhD in Public Administration & Policy (with a concentration in Healthcare Management and Organizational Theory) from the Rockefeller College, University at Albany, State University of New York. She has served as Director of Quality Improvement at Fairview Hospital, Berkshire Health Systems, in Massachusetts, and as Manager of Hospital Outcomes Research at the Healthcare Association of New York State. She has taught courses in Healthcare Management, Health Systems, and Health Policy at the Sage College in Albany, NY and has published in peer-reviewed health management journals including *Health Care Management Review*. Her research interests encompass a variety of managerial and organizational issues related to health care delivery, including quality improvement, leadership, inter-organizational networks, public-private collaboration, and knowledge management. She is the recipient of the 2008 William H. Newman Award for “Best Paper Based on a Dissertation” from the Academy of Management.

DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH  
INFORMATICS

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**March 19 and 20, 2009, we will host accreditors from the Council on Education for Public Health for our first accreditation site visit of the MPH program.**



Join the Medical College of Georgia Department of Health Informatics group at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com).



Visit our newly renovated Website at [www.mcg.edu/sah/dhi](http://www.mcg.edu/sah/dhi)



**Got Email???** Visit the alumni Website and update your information ([http://www.oacs.mcg.edu/sah/alumni/alumni\\_entry.aspx](http://www.oacs.mcg.edu/sah/alumni/alumni_entry.aspx)). To keep you informed of all the activities in DHI, future newsletters and department updates will be sent via email.

## Homecoming Events

### Health Informatics Open House and Research Poster Presentations Friday, April 24, 2009

1st Floor, Jennings Building, noon to 2 p.m. Students, faculty, staff and alumni invited. Contact Nakia Walden at 706-721-3436 for more information. For information on all homecoming events, visit the SAHS Homecoming Website at <http://www.mcg.edu/alumni/homecoming/>

## Alumni: The Source for Scholarships/Awards

Each year, thanks to the generous donations of our alumni, the Department of Health Informatics presents students with scholarships and awards .

### **2008 Department Award/Scholarship Recipients**

#### School of Graduate Studies Research Day Awards

Barbara Brumbaugh (MPH '08) "Excellence in Research" and  
Patrick Lai (MPH '08) "Excellence in Public Health Research"

#### Charlotte Johnston Scholarship

#### Juanita Sirmans Award

Alicia Ferguson (HIA '09)

Mary White (HIA'08)

#### Carmen Reyes Scholarship

Auriel Warren (HIA '09)

I would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to the following fund:

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Fund #1405 Health Informatics Fund (funds student achievement and research awards as well as annual events, such as the Advisory Committee Meeting and Health Information and Technology (HI&T) Week celebration for students)

Don't forget to detach this slip and place in the enclosed envelope with a check made payable to the **GHSU Foundation, Inc.**

**1120 15th Street Alumni Center Augusta, GA 30912 (706) 721-4003** OR  
visit other fund options (optional) online at <http://www.ghsuf.org/funds.php> to pay by credit card