



Newsletter Sponsor:

TERRA NOVA



Inside this issue:

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Welcoming the New President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

COMMITTEE CONNECTIONS:

[Awards](#)
[Communications](#)
[Finance](#)
[Legislative Affairs](#)

MaHIMA Annual Conference

[President Reception and Silent
Audition](#)

STUDENT'S CORNER

[Work, Life and School Balance](#)

["I'm just sayin'"](#)

[BIDMC Coding Internship](#)

PRIVACY and SECURITY

[Best Practices – Accessing Patient
Records](#)

[Fisher College– Update](#)

Linda

[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

[Newly Credentialed Professional](#)



Editor's Note

By: Laura Caravetta, RHIA

As the summer months are upon us, it is a perfect time to take a moment to remember the individuals, who have assisted you in developing and accomplishing your personal and professional goals. Ask yourself the following:

- ⇒ Would you be in the position you are in today, without their help?
- ⇒ How did this individual(s) impact your life and what difference did they make?
- ⇒ How can you pay it forward?

Remember that our graduates, students, and new professionals are the next generation and need your help in preparing for the workforce to continue our fields successful growth. I urge you to consider how you reach out to a student, whether it is taking advantage of our new volunteer board or through mentoring.

Students, in school we learn about the core components of the HIM field's however; we are not taught about the value of networking. Joining MaHIMA and volunteering provides a wealth of opportunities including; demonstrating your abilities and paving the way for a successful career path. Please take a moment to check out our job board for volunteer opportunities and our student section for tips.

I welcome your feedback and suggestions for future content.

On the Web at

MaHIMA.org:

[Current job postings in the
MaHIMA Job Bank](#)

[AHIMA Board President
Passes Away](#)

[MaHIMA Connect April
2013 Edition](#)

[AHIMA Outlines EHR
Clinical Documentation
Challenges](#)

twitter

Find us on
Facebook

LinkedIn



Welcoming MaHIMA President's for 2013-2014

By: Linda Young, JD, RHIA

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the board of directors and the membership, my colleagues, for supporting me in my role as President this past year. We have faced several challenging obstacles this year, and I am proud to say that with your support, we accomplished a tremendous amount of work with many tremendous successes in the mix. I will remember serving the MaHIMA as your President for 2012-2013 warmly.

In some ways, the experience was so fast paced that I feel it went by overnight. But in other ways, the role becomes your own and one can feel a bit of reluctance to pass the baton. I now understand what Past-President Mary Radley meant last July when she said to me, *"I really loved doing this so much that I just want to keep going."* I think this speaks volumes to the integrity of our organization as a whole.

We are over 1400 strong and we know how to get things done. Your leaders; Delegates and Directors, Committee Chairs, and Committee members are responsible for generating ideas and with the support of our membership, following through on them.

Serving as President has allowed me to watch this process occur again and

again, each time with a careful and thoughtful, planned approach, and each time leading to a measurable result.

So, to echo the words of one of my mentors, I want you all to know what a pleasure it was to serve as your President this year, *"I really loved doing this so much that I just want to keep going!"* But all good things must come to an end, so for me, I will take on the role as your Past-President proudly and welcome the new 2013-2014 MaHIMA President.

It is my privilege and honor to introduce Nancy Wallace-Lafianza as next in line to take the President's helm for 2013-2014.

Nancy is the Director of Health Informatics and Privacy Officer at Signature Healthcare in Brockton, MA. She has over twenty years of experience as a Health Information Management director in both large acute academic teaching facilities, such as, St. Elizabeth's Medical Center, Brighton, MA and community hospitals, such as, Newton-Wellesley Hospital, part of Partners Healthcare Organization where she received several distinguished leadership and team awards for successful implementation of various Partners

Organizational-wide projects.

In addition, she serves as Executive Chairman of the Magical Moon Foundation. A foundation located south of Boston, supporting children with cancer. She also teaches children for the national Junior Achievement program charged with empowering young people to own their economic success.

Please join me in welcoming your new President!



[TOP](#)



President Message

By: Nancy LaFianza, MBA, RHIA

Hello everyone! I am thrilled to be coming in as MaHIMA's President and working along such an impressive, dedicated, and enthusiastic Board of Directors, Committee Chairs and members.

I first would like to congratulate Linda Young for her well deserved successes, as MaHIMA President this past year, and express my gratitude for her tireless commitment to excel in all aspects of her role.

Among, but certainly not limited to, Linda's successes were hiring and training MaHIMA's new Administrative Director, Elisa Pelchat, creating an Annual MaHIMA Conference, resulting in a significantly higher profit than experienced through our prior arrangement with Six State Meetings, and expanding MaHIMA's role in Massachusetts's Health Information Management educational programs.

Any one of these challenges would have been significantly challenging for an incoming President, but Linda managed to make constant (and I mean from day 1!) difficult and intelligent decisions, consistently handling herself with polish and grace.

THANK YOU LINDA!!!!!!

I would also like to thank Ellen MacMullin for her years of service as MaHIMA's Director of Legislative Affairs. Ellen deserves a great deal of credit for her ongoing dedication that consistently resulted in successful annual Beacon Hill Days and Dott Wagg seminar offerings.

In addition, her work to maintain the Medicolegal Guide serves as an invaluable resource for many of our members. I am grateful to have worked with Ellen and to have had her as a mentor when working with state and federal legislators.

On behalf of myself and MaHIMA THANK YOU for all your service!!! I am greatly looking forward to an exciting year with MaHIMA. Our theme for this year is "Leadership Growth and Development."

Over this past year, I've been fortunate to have attended several national and state AHIMA and MaHIMA sponsored meetings. I couldn't help but to notice that a frequently expressed concern, from both state and national members, is that Health Information Management (HIM) professionals are often "not at the table" during facility discussions regarding topics such as EHR technology and privacy/security.

Instead, members expressed that Information Technology (IT) or Nursing Informatics are instead invited, leaving us feeling left out, undervalued and the last to know about decisions that impact us within our organizations.

Why is it that we fear IT will take over the HIM profession or that we experience our CFOs and CEOs reach out to our CIOs, Nursing or even the HIMSS Association for EHR, privacy, security advice opposed to HIM professionals?

In my opinion, one of the contributing factors is that many of us have not had formal training in areas such as strategic planning, goal setting, project management, or the art of negotiating. Skills obtained in these categories lead to our being systematically able to plan and standardize all phases of the (what feels like) hundreds of projects we're involved in at any given time via project plans and charters, present the status of any project to our CFOs, CEOs and other stakeholders in a quick and easy snapshot via dashboards, as well as, our being able to present our thoughts, ideas and accomplishments in a confident fashion.

[TOP](#)

President's Message Continue

Our stakeholders, such as CFOs and CEOs, have an interest in our projects. They prefer working with leaders that deliver projects on time and keep them informed about updates and progress of the projects.

If they are satisfied with our performance it is likely that they will return with future projects, not to mention investing in the HIM professional. In other words, by adding or improving these skills to our existing expertise it will result in our being invited "to the table," allowing us to contribute our knowledge and experience to the decisions that will impact us and our staff at our workplace.

These skills simply help us to stay ahead and lead, opposed to taking a back seat. So what's the solution?

In addition to MaHIMA continuing to provide our members with educational sessions regarding coding, privacy, release of information, etc., we will offer sessions on strategic planning, goal setting, and project management training to provide us the tools (e.g. dashboards, shared drives, charter development training, presentation skills) to help us improve our delivery of information/data in a confident and assertive fashion, and negotiating skills training to improve our creative problem solving skills.

We will also be updating the MaHIMA web site to include an area for storing best practice templates so we're not reinventing the wheel when creating project tools.

We will be adding workgroup volunteer opportunities for those members who would like to volunteer for a short period of time to help us complete our short-term goals, such as, coordinating programs, event planning, and revising our web site.

It will serve as a way for MaHIMA to expand our network of talented volunteers and allow for members to increase their professional networking base and build on their resumes.

I can't say strongly enough how fortunate MA is to have such a phenomenally talented and dedicated Board of Directors, Committee Chairs and members that work to ensure we achieve our annual goals.

I'd like to thank those Directors that are staying on and welcome and congratulate those that have been re-elected or new for this upcoming year. They include Walter Houlihan, President-elect, Bibi Von Malder, Director of Legislation and Advocacy, and Diana Lindo in a successive term as Director of Education.

In closing, I can't express how fortunate I am to know so many truly wonderful and talented members of MaHIMA.

I've learned much from so many of you through the years while gaining your friendship and having fun along the way! Thank you for the opportunity to help give back to a great association and group of amazing members! I am available via email if ever you have suggestions or comments: nlafianza@signature-healthcare.org.

[TOP](#)





Legislative Affairs

By: Ellen MacMullin, RHIA

The 9th Annual Beacon Hill day was held on May 20, 2013 in the Great Hall at the State House in Boston. This event was attended by members of MAHIMA and NeHIMSS, totaling 21 attendees.

We heard from the Attorney Generals Office and the Office of Civil Rights on the subject matter data privacy laws, regulations, enforcement and HIPAA on the state and federal level. We were visited by members of the legislation from the Joint Committee of Health Care Finance. The day concluded with our visits to various legislative offices, informing them of our associations. Heather Hedlund was able to coordinate a last minute tour of the Senate Chambers hosted by Senator Bruce Tarr. Stay tuned for photos of the event.

Be an ADVOCATE!

AHIMA is asking that we write to Congress. They have provided us with a link below to write to members of Congress in support of the changes in the House Bill (HR1250) Medicare Audit Improvement Act of 2013. The process is simple and fast. It takes less than 10 minutes to prepare and send this letter electronically. Complete your name at the bottom of Section 1, complete Section 2, click on SEND and you are done! You can proudly state you are an advocate!

[Contact your member of Congress](#) through AHIMA's Advocacy Assistant and request support for the Medicare Audit Improvement Act of 2013 (HR 1250). This bill will make critical changes to the current Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC) Program by:

- ⇒ establishing a consolidated limit for medical record requests;
- ⇒ improving auditor performance by implementing financial penal-

ties and by requiring medical necessity audits to focus on widespread payment errors;

- ⇒ improving recovery auditor transparency;
- ⇒ allowing denied inpatient claims to be billed as outpatient claims when appropriate; and
- ⇒ requiring physician review for Medicare denials.

AHIMA thanks members for their involvement. Your assistance is crucial to move this important legislative initiative forward for much-needed changes to the RAC program.



[TOP](#)



9th Annual Beacon Hill Day



[TOP](#)



Communications

By: Jeanne Fernandes, RHIA

Our Connect newsletter editor, Laura Caravetta is working on a project to refresh our newsletter. In addition to fresh content and layout, Laura is focused on integrating content from our newsletter with our social media. We welcome your feedback. Do you have ideas for improvements to the newsletter? Please feel free to contact [Laura](#) with your ideas.

The Social Media Team invites you to join your HIM colleagues on our social media sites. Our team is focused on providing an online interactive forum for member and non-member HIM professionals to network, share



thoughts, and to get news of events of interest to the HIM profession.

Our Website Content Editors, Martha Hamel and Julianne Blanch have been focused on keeping our website updated and relevant. Our home page is continually refreshed with announcements and newsworthy items. We are also in the early stages of planning a website refresh. We welcome your ideas. What do you like about our site? What do you dislike? What would you like to see in the future? Please feel free to contact [Martha](#) or [Julianne](#) if you have comments or suggestions for our website.

The MaHIMA job bank recently began to accept postings for volunteer and internship opportunities. This is a great opportunity for HIM professionals who have volunteer positions/

internships to connect with students, new graduates, and others who are seeking experience in HIM.

If you are interested in posting a position, please visit our Job Bank http://www.mahima.org/job_bank/.

Our Long Term Care (LTC) – Post Acute Care (PAC) Forum is planning a forum meeting on August 15th from 1-3 at Welch Healthcare & Retirement Group Corp. 52 Accord Park Drive, Norwell, MA. Details will be posted on the website once a meeting date and time have been finalized. If you are interested in participating in discussions about HIM topics relevant to LTC/PAC, please [contact](#) me.

If you have an interest in working with the Committee on any of these initiatives, please [contact](#) me.



Finance

By: Linda Hyde, RHIA

For the first nine months of our association year, income was \$97,695 with expenses of \$86,718. Eighty-eight (88) % of our income is from our educational programs,

AHIMA rebates, the Massachusetts proceeds from the NE HIMA annual meeting and initial exhibitor registrations for our annual meeting in June. Ninety-five (95%) of expenses represent education program expenses, the AHIMA leadership, House of Delegates and Hill Day delegate

expenses and administrative costs.

As of the end of March MaHIMA has \$ 118,992 in assets with 75 % (\$89,079) in the Merrill Lynch and Fidelity accounts for reserves.

Newly Credentialed Professionals

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Humoud Al Jalahma, RHIA | Janet Fisher, CCA | Michelle Levesque, CCA | Lori Petrush-Jayne, CHPS | Charles Wrightington, CCS |
| Julia Bemis, CCS | Melissa Ghiozzi, CCA | Barry Libman, CDIP | Laura Piquette, CDIP | |
| Linda Brody, CCS | Karen Gianatasio, CCS | Wendy McCauley, CCS | Susan Quinlan, CCS | |
| Daniel Costello, CCS | Abigail Krason, CCA | Diane Morel, CCS | Mary Roberts, CCS | |
| Betty Ann Cusson, CCS | Yolette Lecorps, CHPS | Margaret Nichols, CCS | Julie Roda, CCA | TOP |
| | Anita Lee, CDIP | Tricia Olson, CCS | Kerry Scannell, CCS | |

Award Winners



MaHIMA representatives join LaBoure Faculty and Staff to mark HIP week

By: Susan Pepple

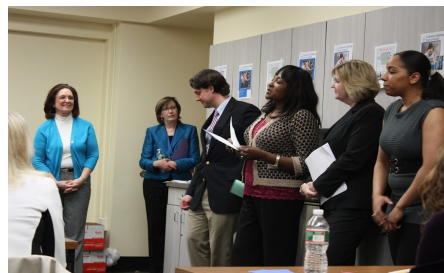
March 21, 2013, Boston, MA - Massachusetts Health Information Management Association (MaHIMA) representatives joined Labouré College HIM Department in marking Health Information Professional week. The celebration was held at the Labouré campus in Boston.

Health Information Professionals Week, sponsored by the American Health Information Management As-

sociation (AHIMA), is a showcase for the thousands of health information management (HIM) professionals who perform their duties masterfully throughout the year and make valuable contributions to the healthcare industry.

Labouré students, faculty, and guests assembled for a panel style QA session on the HIM profession. The panel members all shared their professional experiences in HIM and the journey that landed them in the HIM profession. Labouré's students, faculty and guests were extremely engaged and some stayed after the

meeting to talk with panel members further and exchange contact information. The meeting was an overall success and Labouré plans on having a similar session next year.



The MaHIMA representatives in attendance were: Diana Lindo, MaHIMA Director of Education; Sherisse Monteiro, past-Editor of MaHIMA Connect newsletter; Jackie Judd, winner of the Outstanding New Professional Award from MaHIMA; and Charlie Saponaro, President



Natallia Seviaryn honored with 2013 Student Achievement Award

May 9, 2013, Boston, MA -

Natallia Seviaryn received a 2013 Student Achievement Award from the Massachusetts Health Information Management Association (MaHIMA) and Fisher College.

The award was presented on May 9 at the Fisher College campus in Boston. Representing MaHIMA at the award presentation were:

- ⇒ Gail Wood, RHIA, HIM Operations Manager at Beth Israel Deaconess Med Ctr/Caregroup and past-President of MaHIMA; and
- ⇒ Robert Seger, RHIA, CCS, Executive Director, Emergency Department at Massachusetts General Hospital and past-member, MaHIMA Board of Directors.

Fisher College was represented by

- ⇒ Valerie McCleary, MS, RHIA, Director of HIM Programs;
- ⇒ Hertencia Bowe, PhDc, RHIA, full time faculty in the HIM BS program;
- ⇒ Neil Trotta, Ed.D, Dean, Division of Accelerated and Professional Studies & School of Health Professions; and
- ⇒ Janet Kuser, MBA, Vice President of Academic Affairs.

The MaHIMA Student Achievement Award recognizes a Health Information Management student for his/her academic achievements, demonstrated leadership, and high ethical and moral values. Any student at an AHIMA-accredited program is eligible for the award.

Selection of the student for the award is made by the school's program director.

Natallia Seviaryn graduates in May from Fisher College with an Associate's degree in Health Information Technology. Natallia is employed as an HIS technician at Southcoast Hospitals Group.



Caption: Natallia Seviaryn, 2013 winner of the Student Achievement Award given jointly by the Massachusetts Health Information Association and Fisher College is congratulated by Gail Wood (left), past-President of MaHIMA and Valerie McCleary (right), Director of HIM Programs at Fisher College.

Award Winners



Denise Rego receives Student Achievement Award

May 21, 2013, Boston, MA - Denise Rego

received a 2013 Student Achievement Award from the Massachusetts Health Information Management Association (MaHIMA) and Bristol Community College. The award was presented on May 21 during the end-of-year "Pinning Ceremony" held at Bristol Community College.

Representing MaHIMA at the award presentation were Sue Marre and Joan Usher, both past-Presidents of MaHIMA and members of the Academic Advisory Board for Bristol Community College's Health Information Technology program. Bristol was represented at the ceremony by

Joy Rose, Department Chair and Assistant Professor in the school's Health Information Technology program.

The MaHIMA Student Achievement Award recognizes a Health Information Management student for his/her academic achievements, demonstrated leadership, and high ethical and moral values. Any student at an AHIMA-accredited program is eligible for the award. Selection of the student for the award is made by the school's program director. Denise Rego graduates in May from Bristol Community College with an Associate's Associate in Science in Healthcare Information. Denise is a resident of Tiverton and grew up in the Fall River area.



Denise Rego receives the Student Achievement Award from Massachusetts Health Information Management Association and the Health Information Technology Program at Bristol Community College. Denise is congratulated by (left to right): Joan Usher, Past-President MaHIMA; Joy Rose, Department Chair and Assistant Professor of the Health Information Technology Program at Bristol Community College; and Susan Marre, past-President of MaHIMA.



MaHIMA Annual Conference

President's Reception and Silent Auction

By: Matha Hamel

The busy day was over, and now it was time for some relaxing and networking with old and new friends.

The weather was perfect. There was a nice breeze, the sun was shining and it wasn't muggy. Tables were set up outside under a tent, there was a cash bar and lots of hors d'oeuvres – compliments of Applied Management Systems.

The 3 piece jazz band, Count Basic, was playing some nice music in the background, and everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves. It was a perfect evening!

The silent auction had been going on for most of the day inside near the vendor booths. There were many items up for grabs, including gift baskets, a luggage set and Chanel handbags, just to name a few.

The auction items were moved outside for the final bids to take place. In the last few minutes left for bidding,

the tables got very lively with friendly competition. All proceeds will go to the MaHIMA student fund. Sue Marre announced the winners and it appeared that everyone was genuinely pleased with their items.

The evening wound down, and everyone headed back to their rooms to get ready to go out for dinner on the town. It was a nice event, and everyone had a great time.



[TOP](#)

Privacy and Security

Curiosity Seekers Staff Accessing Patient Records – *Appropriate? Inappropriate?*

By: Martha Hamel

This is one of the most challenging areas in the information privacy and security world.

Especially now, in light of the new Omnibus rules that require notification to patients in the event of a breach of unsecured protected health information. More and more audits are being conducted, and employees are being interviewed and sanctioned if there is an inappropriate access. Patients are being notified, and breaches are being reported to HHS and the AG. There is a lot going on.

During the past seven years, and after doing many interviews with employees who have had questionable accesses I have discovered the following common responses when questioned:

- ⇒ My mother gave me permission to look in her record. I didn't think anything of it!
- ⇒ I always access my patients from home after I have treated them that day. I like to keep updated on their progress so I know what to expect tomorrow.
- ⇒ I didn't do it. Someone must know my logon and password, or they might have used a computer that I was logged on to.
- ⇒ I look at interesting cases for educational purposes.

- ⇒ I was looking up an address of a friend.
- ⇒ I saw someone I knew at one of the clinics and wanted to check on her to be sure she is okay.
- ⇒ I looked at a famous person because everyone knew he was here because he was in the news, so what's the difference?
- ⇒ I was looking to see if there were any GI cases in the emergency room so I could be prepared if they were sent to my floor.
- ⇒ You got me - I should not have done it...

I am sure these all sound familiar to many of us. The question is; how do we prevent inappropriate accesses from occurring in the first place, and how do we get the message out?

- ⇒ Word of mouth amongst employees who may have been sanctioned in the past.
- ⇒ Work with managers to understand their work practices – do they encourage employees to access records that are not in their care, for education purposes, or in the event the patient “may” be seen in their department?
- ⇒ HIPAA training has been ongoing and many institutes now require annual training in addition to the new employee orientation.
- ⇒ Safeguards are in place when an employee attempts to access a record, such as justifying the purpose of the access.

- ⇒ There are logon and passwords, and reminder messages sent out regularly regarding patient confidentiality.
- ⇒ Employee clinical systems access should be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that only those with a need have access to patient records.
- ⇒ Do an audit of who has remote access and why.
- ⇒ HIPAA awareness projects such as online contests, posters, table tents and privacy stickers to be used on interoffice envelopes are also very effective.

While most of our employees strive to do the right thing, there are those curiosity seekers that will break the rules and will most likely get caught eventually. In the meantime, we should continue with education, safeguards and awareness projects. We also need to understand work practices so we can address bad practices and recommend a solution for the need of the department. At the end of the day, we should be able to say we are doing the best we can with the time and resources available to us.



[TOP](#)

Students Corner

Work, Life & School Balance:

The Student Juggling Act

By: Sherisse Monterio, RHIT

There is tons of literature on work/life balance but how do you balance work, life and school? Well my first suggestion is if you have the capability to clone yourself do it! My second suggestion is to plug your busy work, personal life and school activities into one calendar. Since our personal lives don't always cooperate with sched-

ules like work and school activities especially if you have children it's important to identify when you are "double booked" well in advance.

This way you will know that your finals are scheduled the same week as your friends wedding or that your kids activities conflict with your class schedule. Always block off free time so when your personal life decides not to cooperate with the schedule that you have planned out you have some time to reschedule activities

and adjust. I know I am making this sound easy and the management of the calendar requires time as well but think of it this way if you take the time to make a schedule and stick to it, you will actually find that as busy as you are you do have time that you can dedicate to one of the most important activities that busy students often forgot...sleep!

[TOP](#)

BIDMC Medical Coder Internship Program

BIDMC Coding Internship Program

By: Laura Caravetta, RHIA

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC) is a teaching hospital of Harvard Medical School renowned for excellence in patient care, biomedical research, teaching and community service. Located in the heart of Boston's Longwood Medical and Academic Area, it hosts more than three quarters of a million patient visits annually in and around Boston.

In anticipation of the transition from ICD-9 to ICD-10 codes in October 2014, BIDMC is seeking to increase its team of medical coders. Benefits of being a medical coder at BIDMC include:

⇒ Becoming part of a high-performing team of coding professionals responsible for coding very complex healthcare cases.

⇒ Working as part of a hospital environment that is based on great people and exceptional patient care.

⇒ Robust orientation and mentoring for new employees.

⇒ Flexible hours: after employees are fully oriented, most work is done from home. Employees can set a schedule that works for them.

⇒ Competitive pay.

Paid Internship Program

BIDMC is offering medical coding students and graduates the opportunity to learn medical coding for a large academic medical center. BIDMC is doing this through two avenues:

1. Students or graduates can apply for a paid internship at BIDMC. During this internship, students will

⇒ Receive training on ICD-10 codes

⇒ practice coding at home on case studies provided by BIDMC

⇒ be on-site at BIDMC for instruction at least once a week.

Paid internships can be done full time (40 hours/week) for about 3 months or part-time (20 hours/week) for about 6 months.

2. Students in programs requiring a practicum can apply to do that practicum unpaid at BIDMC. If successful in the practicum, students would then be eligible for a paid internship at BIDMC.

Students Corner

BIDMC Medical Coder Internship Program continue..

BIDMC hopes to select 10 individuals into the internship program. Those most successful in the program will be offered permanent employment in inpatient medical coder roles at BIDMC.

Successful completion of the internship does not guarantee hire into BIDMC, but it will make participants highly marketable. BIDMC will assist all successful internship completers in their job search.

Interns and students will start on November 4, 2013. Internship offers will be made by mid-September.

Curriculum

BIDMC's Health Information Management department has developed a curriculum to teach ICD-10 coding and complex case mixes to graduates or soon to be graduates of local medical coding programs. The curriculum will be taught by BIDMC staff. During this paid internship students will:

⇒ Participate in comprehensive ICD-10 technical training including a 3-day intensive training curriculum designed by the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA);

[TOP](#)

⇒ Learn to code complex cases for a large academic medical center; and

⇒ Practice coding at home on case studies provided by BIDMC.

Program Eligibility

In order to be eligible for these opportunities, applicants must:

⇒ Have graduated from a medical coding program or have completed the core coursework of a medical coding program, including Anatomy and Physiology, Medical Terminology, and courses in ICD-9 and CPT codes;

⇒ Possess a strong GPA in their coding courses;

⇒ Have strong attention to detail and accuracy skills;

⇒ Be on-site at BIDMC on November 6 through 8 for a training session;

⇒ Be able to be on-site at BIDMC for one to two days per week (BIDMC will cover parking costs) and devote 40 hours in total per week for program activity for the full time program or be on-site for several hours each week and commit 20 hours a week for 6 months for the part time program;

⇒ Have internet access at home to work remotely;

⇒ Have a very strong interest in working at BIDMC upon completion of the program; and

⇒ If ultimately hired into the medical coder role, be able to work full time (40 hours) at BIDMC for at least two years from date of hire.

Selection Process

Applications for this opportunity will be available in July and must be in by August 8. Applicants must include a copy of their program transcript in their application.

Qualified applicants will attend a ½ day assessment session on site at BIDMC. At the session, applicants' attention to detail, research and critical thinking skills, and coding skills will be assessed. Sessions will be held Thursday August 15 and Monday August 19th.

Applicants will then be informed if they will be moved forward to Round II of the selection process, which consists of transcript review, an in-person interview and reference checks.

Internship and practicum offers will be made by BIDMC by the week of September 16. Applicants must accept or decline the offer by September 30. For more information on this program, or to apply, please visit www.jobs.bidmc.org.

Students Corner

“I’m just sayin”

From Laboure College’s 2013 Coding Class (Tina Cloutier, Kathy Harkins, Robert MacKin, Ellen Mitchell)

We’d like to offer our thoughts and reflections on learning coding that we want to share with other students and members. If we could give ourselves advice as a new student, we would say:

It’s OK not to use the encoder on the computer right away. We were taught the ‘old- fashion’ way with just the books for 8 months before we first saw what the encoder could do and what it could not. We’re glad that we know the books well enough to put the diagnoses into the encoder correctly so that our electronic searches actually come up with the right code.

We certainly don’t know everything about coding but we feel comfortable knowing how to find the answers. The most important thing to learn about coding when you start is just how to look up diagnoses and procedures in the index. Additionally, you need to write down those ‘directions’ or ‘maps’ of how you found something, until you know the way to find diagnoses and procedures without the ‘map’.

It is also important to be able to explain why your code was determined to be the best code because that’s the first thing you’re asked about the codes.

The class was made up of people from different academic or professional backgrounds, each looking for a different kinds of job. Some of us were modifying a career and some were changing careers. We like the fact that working in the coding field does not mean you are locked into one place or one type of job.

We can work in the hospitals, nursing homes, private doctor offices, billing offices or several different types of companies with many different job titles. Now, what we all have in common is this year of coding together and all the struggling that it means.

It does take time and a lot of practice to understand all the rules, but once you do, your ability to code gets faster and stronger.

Of course, it really helps if you are detail-oriented, focused and patient. Looking back, we find the advice given to us is true. We will give you the same advice along with some of our own

Follow-up on the administrative and financial paperwork promptly for your classes

- ⇒ Get involved with MaHIMA early on
- ⇒ Don’t just do coding 24-7, have another interest, preferably physical exercise
- ⇒ Don’t leave homework to the last minute
- ⇒ Spread out your coding work into several ‘chunks’, don’t try to sit down and go through it all at one time
- ⇒ Stay positive: mistakes are OK because you learn from those too



[TOP](#)

Students Corner

Fisher College

By: Valerie McCleary, RHIA

Congratulations to Natallia Seviaryn as the recipient of the annual MaHIMA Student Recognition Achievement award! The award was presented at a luncheon at Fisher College with members of MaHIMA and college administration present.

The ICD-10 Work Force Training course will be available online to the public in July for a fee of \$350. This is a non-credit training course.

The RHIT Exam Preparation course will be available online in July for a fee of \$500. This course will be at no charge for HIT students and recent alumni of Fisher College that are within 12 months of graduation.

ICD-10 courses will begin in the MCC/HIT program at Fisher College in July of 2013.

Valerie McCleary, Director of HIM Programs and Hertencia Bowe, HIM BS faculty visited Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Massachusetts General Hospital HIM departments in May. Updated memorandums of agreement for internships were obtained.

Fisher College will have a booth to promote the HIM programs at the MaHIMA convention in June and the FHIMA (Florida) convention in July.

Fisher College is eager to begin participating in the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center's Medical Coder Internship program. It was exciting to see an alumna, Jenn Nelson, featured

on the brochure! The paid internship is a wonderful opportunity to bridge the gap from the college setting to employment for those who are successful in this program.

Special thanks are in order for the nineteen MaHIMA healthcare sites that offered to provide tours and internships for the HIT/HIM programs in the area. Fisher College will be in touch to make future arrangements for visits by faculty and students.

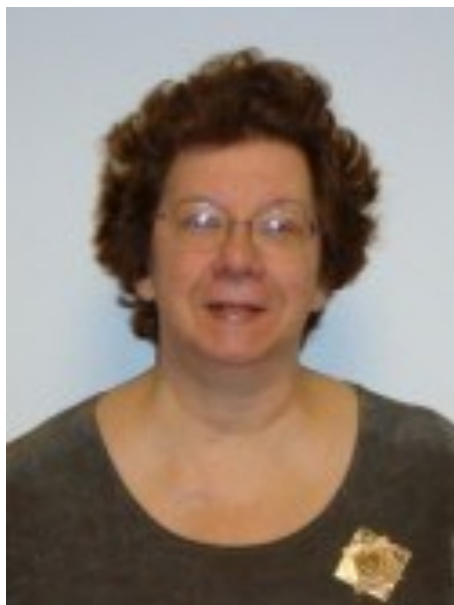


[TOP](#)

Special Announcement

Linda Hyde to run for AHIMA Board!

The MaHIMA Board of Directors is pleased to announce its support for Massachusetts' own **Linda Hyde** for election to the AHIMA Board of Directors.



Linda summarizes her goals for serving as a Director:

"Serving on the AHIMA Board would be both a privilege and a pleasure. My volunteer activities over the years have enriched my personal and professional experiences which I believe will make me a more effective Director.

As a Director I will work to::

- Build a stronger partnership between AHIMA and the Component State Associations (CSAs);
- Advocate for HIM professionals as leaders in the challenges facing healthcare today; and
- Support and promote the crucial role of HIM in performance measurement and reporting." Linda Hyde, RHIA

Linda has twice served as President of MaHIMA and continues to bring her financial acumen to our finance committee. We know Linda to be a dedicated professional and a wonderful colleague.

We encourage you to consider voting for Linda Hyde for AHIMA Board of Directors.
Thank You for your time,

Nancy LaFianza, President, MaHIMA

[TOP](#)

MaHIMA Volunteer Opportunities

Why Get Involved...

MaHIMA needs you and your skills to help make it a better organization for all of us. Getting involved in MaHIMA provides benefits to you and your profession. . . .

- Access to educational and skill enhancement opportunities
- Networking and collaboration with other HIM professionals
- Speaking and writing opportunities

For more information on Volunteer Opportunities please visit our website at www.MaHIMA.org

Chairman of Legislative Affairs Committee

Contact Bib Von Malder at Bi-bi.VonMalder@steward.org

Connect Newsletter Redesign Workgroup

Looking for volunteers and writers to assist in enhancing the MaHIMA quarterly newsletter's content contact Laura Caravetta at laura_caravetta@dfci.harvard.edu

Long Term Care Forum

Contact Jeanne Fernandes at jfernandes7@partners.org

Awards Committee

Review nominations for selection criteria & participates in the presentation of MaHIMA Awards.

Contact Susan Pepple at spepple@barrylibmaninc.com

Coding Committee

The Coding Committee serves as a resource to members on issues related to coding and reimbursement. The Committee oversees the Coding Roundtable Committee and organizes seminars with a focus on clinical and regulatory updates.

Contact Susan Marre, RHIA at susan.marre@steward.org

Communication Committee

Oversees the public communication of the association including: any public relations, MaHIMA Connect, web site, MaHIMA CoP.

Contact Jeanne Fernandes, RHIA at jfernandes7@partners.org

MaHIMA Connect Newsletter Staff

MaHIMA's quarterly electronic news journal with features, best practices and "in the news" about the HIM profession. e-Alert, a periodic newsletter providing essential information that just can not wait.

Contact Laura Caravetta at laura_caravetta@dfci.harvard.edu

Legislative Affairs Committee

Monitors legislation in the state legislature and works with legislatures as necessary. Organizes State Hill day. Organizes Release of Information workshops. Maintains Medical legal Guide

Contact Bibi VonMalder at Bi-bi.VonMalder@steward.org

Marketing Task Force

Promotes the field of Health Information Management through exhibits, special projects, speakers and mail. Notifies the media and employers of new MaHIMA officers. Promotes MyPHR campaign.

Contact Susan Pepple at spepple@barrylibmaninc.com

Education Program Leaders

Under the direction of the Director of Education, coordinates meeting in regard to topics, speakers, agendas, and prepares cost estimates.

Manages registration at each meeting
Director, Education: Diana Lindo, RHIT, CCS: diana.lindo@childrens.harvard.edu



[TOP](#)

About MaHIMA

The Massachusetts Health Information Management Association (MaHIMA), founded in 1930, is a 1450-member state component association of the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA). MaHIMA supports the provision of high quality medical care in Massachusetts through the effective management of personal health information. MaHIMA keeps Health Information Management professionals up-to-date on important issues and dynamic changes affecting their workplace and their profession through MaHIMA's extensive calendar of educational sessions. MaHIMA members find a network of peers throughout the state to ask questions, raise concerns and share best practices. MaHIMA is an effective advocate for changes to Massachusetts laws and administrative rules affecting personal health information. www.mahima.org

MaHIMA Governance Team

President

Nancy LaFianza, RHIA
505-941-7072

nlafianza@signature-healthcare.org

President-elect

Walter Houlihan, MBA, RHIA, CCS
413-322-4309

water.houlihan@baystatehealth.org

Director – Education

Diane Lindo, RHIT, CCS
857-218-4514

diana.lindo@childrens.harvard.edu

Director– Legislation/Advocacy

Bib Von Malder, RHIT
508-828-7331

Bibi.VonMalder@steward.org

Director – Communications

Jeanne Fernandes, RHIA
781-416-8453

jfernandes7@partners.org

Past President

Linda Young, JD, RHIA
978-725-5200

lyoung@aboutams.com

Administrative Director

Elisa Pelchat
978-649-7517

info@mahima.org

MaHIMA Connect Editorial Team

Editor in Chief

Laura Caravetta, RHIA

laura_caravetta@dfci.harvard.edu

Technical Editor

Elisa Pelchat

efpelchat@mahima.org

Staff Photographer

Denise Duhamel, RHIA

dduha987@comcast.net

Assistant Editor

Sherisse Monteiro

Staff

Wendy Zagroski

Janene Brome

Julianne Blanch

Follow us on

[!\[\]\(e2a6b4bae6b82cf7b2468d27b5ff76c0_img.jpg\)](#)

[!\[\]\(4fab011f4205f483a29911f22748c89a_img.jpg\)](#)

[!\[\]\(1d2e2e35317e265f4ff05aa78d81483c_img.jpg\)](#)

PO Box 1149 | Attleboro, MA 02703
Ph: 978-649-7517

info@MaHIMA.org

[TOP](#)