

**University of Central Florida
College of Health and Public Affairs**

Health Information Management — 2009 Outstanding Students

This year the Health Information Management Program has two outstanding students we would like to recognize.

Michelle and Janine both have great attitudes and are friendly and well-liked by their peers and professors.

Both have been leaders in the student group (Student Health Information Management Association). This was recently appreciated when they recruited 7 additional classmates to volunteer at a state coding meeting hosted by UCF. This required all 9 students to be here at 7 am on a Saturday! I was so proud and grateful for their assistance and the state organization website proclaims: "Look for great things in the future from these dedicated, hardworking HIM students!"

We felt they both deserved recognition today based on their accomplishments.

First I would like to tell you about **Michelle Gay**. Michelle is currently completing her management affiliation which is a five week internship required at the end of our program. She will walk in the August graduation and could not be here today. She is extremely hard working and highly intelligent, with a 3.8 GPA.

Michelle served as the Student Health Information Management Association vice president in spring of 2008 and was president of the group this school year. She also served on the Dean's Advisory Council for COHPA and the HIM Program Advisory Committee.

Michelle came to us with ten years of experience working in HIM at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital in Alaska. This valuable work experience was so helpful in class when Michelle was able to relate the way she remembered doing things in the "paper" world.

Since October, Michelle has been working as a coder at Parrish Hospital in Titusville. She was excited to have this opportunity because this was the one area of HIM she felt she had not worked previously and she wanted to gain experience in all areas prior to her graduation and attainment of the RHIA credential. Michelle is described by her supervisor as "a dedicated employee who exhibits a willingness and thirst for learning. She has a natural ability of understanding and quickly grasped the coding principles and guidelines."

Michelle recently volunteered at a coding seminar hosted by our national organization (AHIMA). Comments from one of our state officers were: "Michelle Gay did a fantastic job in volunteering. She was an excellent choice and I can tell that she is one of your 'shining stars'." So, as you can see, although we are biased in our high opinions of Michelle, she has proven her excellence both in the classroom and in the professional world. Congratulations Michelle!

Our second recipient, who is walking in the graduation ceremony today, is **Janine Vance**. I truly cannot say enough positive things about Janine. She is an excellent student with a 3.99 GPA which is especially impressive given that Janine has spent her entire academic career here at UCF and has taken several honors courses through the Burnett Honors College.

Janine was the secretary for the Student Health Information Management Association this year. Janine has been a regular, active member of the student group and has attended all meetings since joining the HIM program. She has been active in other organizations on campus such as the Student Health Advisory Council, the Honors Congress and the Undergraduate Studies Advisory Board.

Janine recently received the Founders Day Award for COHPA and has received numerous scholarships. These include the 2008 Florida Health Information Management Association Scholarship and the 2008 Betty Kernodle Scholarship awarded by the Central Florida Health Information Management Association.

Janine works at the UCF Health Center in the HIM department part time. She performs functions such as responding to questions from patients, scanning medical records into the electronic health record and auditing scanned images. She is described by her supervisor as “a true team player and is always willing to assist her colleagues or contribute wherever help is needed. She has proven to be a real asset to our staff.”

It has been a pleasure to have Janine in our program. She is a very deserving student who is a model for other students to follow. When she leaves UCF, she will be a true asset to the Health Information Management profession and the University. She is an outstanding young lady in all regards and I congratulate Janine and her family on all her accomplishments!

Other HIM students graduating today:

Jennell Birdsong

Emily Capraun

Nicole Karwacki

Shauna Kirby

Renee Love

Joyce Sison

AmyStorozuk