By Monte Handley

Hi everyone, and welcome to another semester of the new SBCC HIT CIM Student Peer Club (HCSPC). It’s a real pleasure to serve as your HCSPC’s President, and along with our great team of HCSPC club members, we look forward to building and developing “your club” even further. As one of the co-founders of the Club, I am delighted to see the progress we have made since our inception – just one short semester ago. I want to personally welcome all of our club’s nearly 200 members (including those who are brand new to our club), and invite all of you to check out the HCSPC social forums provided below. Your participation in our social forums is very important to the progress of our club, and we welcome your comments and suggestions. You may email HCSPC directly at sbcc.hcspc@gmail.com.

**Up and running!**

**Google Groups:** To join the HCSPC group, click [here](#) and click the “Join Group” button. An excellent “blog” for SBCC HIT CIM and Medical Coding students to ask questions about anything related to your educational pursuit and to get helpful responses and advice from your peers and academic advisor.

**Please see President’s Desk on page 4**

**Can I Double Major?**

By Gwyer Schuyler, Club Advisor

I get asked this question a lot. The answer is yes. In fact, there are quite a few students who pursue both the HIT and the CIM AS Degrees. This makes sense because of the overlap of requirements. If you complete the HIT AS Degree, there are only eight additional CIM courses that you'd need to complete to get the CIM AS Degree. As I have mentioned before as well, students sometimes find it easier to get into the CIM courses – they don't fill as fast as some of the HIT courses.

The following are courses that are required both for the HIT and CIM AS Degrees: COMP 101, HIT 135, BMS 146, HIT 101, HIT 204, HIT 240, and MGMT 101. The first four courses of that list – what I view as the...
Do You Like to Write?

By Anthony Pineda

The HCSPC Newsletter committee is always looking for new material that is interesting, enlightening, thought provoking, and informative. We would like to encourage students to submit original articles on a variety of timely educational topics that represent the depth and span of HIT/CIM roles and interests. If you enjoy writing, this could be an excellent opportunity to share your unique knowledge and expertise with your peers and instructors.

General Guidelines and Tips

- Select the best main title for your article
- Open with a sentence or short paragraph describing what the article is about
- The body of the article must deliver what is promised in the title
- A closing summary sentence or paragraph that concludes the article
- Document references/resources following article closure
- Graphics or pictures may be placed in the article. These should be original and the appropriate permission to print obtained from the copyright holder.
- When acronyms or abbreviations are used, include the full wording the first time it is used, listing the abbreviation/acronym in parentheses following
- Double check the website URLs (links) to assure accuracy
- Use spell check
- Check punctuation and grammar
- If the article is a reprint article or if the article includes a graph, chart, or picture, whereby reprint permissions needs to be obtained, include the “permission to reprint” statement along with the article when submitted
- Articles should be written in a common word processing program, such as Microsoft Word. Use a common font (Times New Roman or Arial) Font size 12 is preferred.
- Generally, articles should be between 200-300 words, however, longer articles will be considered

If you have questions or would like to submit an article, you can email Alice Yan at alyan@pipeline.sbcc.edu or Tony Pineda at ajpineda@pipeline.sbcc.edu.

Can I from Page 1

foundation courses – can be taken even before you make your mind up about which degree you are pursuing!

The SBCC General Education requirements apply to as many degrees as you are pursuing – it’s not like you have to complete more GE courses if you are pursuing more than one degree.

All in all, double majoring in both HIT and CIM is a real asset in the job market as well. Having both your RHIT credential and your CTR credential could be the factor that makes you stand out from other job applicants. Possessing both credentials will broaden job possibilities.

It is even more common for students to pursue both the Medical Coding Specialist Certificate and the HIT AS Degree. All but the last two courses of the Medical Coding Specialist Certificate (HIT 205 and HIT 280) are also required for the HIT AS Degree.

Email me if you have any questions – I’m here to help. schuyler@sbcc.edu
Industry Tidbits - “The Medical Coding Profession”

By Monte Handley

We present some interesting tidbits of information on the Medical Coding field, from the early history of medical coding to the current CCA exam. For instance, did you know that?

- ICD 10 was created by the World Health Organization in 1994 and is currently used by over 99 countries including most developed countries except for the United States?
- Before the mid 1900’s there was no such field as Medical Coding in the United States? The profession started when the health care industry realized a need to develop a standardized approach to tracking the diagnosis and treatment of patients as well as provide uniform standards for the purposes of billing insurance companies for health services.
- The ICD 9 diagnosis coding system originated in the 17th century England?
- In 1983, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) adopted the CPT system and mandated that the code sets in the manual be used for all Medicare and Medicaid coding?
- Medical Coding Certification is “voluntary” but can help to give credibility to your knowledge and your job skills? Yes, but try and get a medical coding job without certification and you won’t get very far!
- The national average pay for a medical coder as of January 2012 ranges from $22,047 to $49,146?
- The cost of the CCA exam is $199 for AHIMA members and $299 for non-members? A savings of over $100 just for becoming a member of AHIMA!
- AHIMA’s most current statistics show that there are 5,151 AHIMA CCA members as of December, 2010, and the successful pass rate on the exam is 60.5%. The successful passing rate on the CCA exam has shown a steady decline since 2008 when it was 65.98%.
- The current passing scaled score for the CCA examination is 300 out of 400? That’s 75%, which means you can miss 25% of the questions and still pass the exam!

Stress Less

By Gagandeep Bal

For some time, I have been trying to share with my fellow classmates about the importance of reducing stress. Indeed, we can all agree that taking on-line classes and holding a full time job while parenting can be very challenging. As more and more students are taking online classes and working full time, stress may take over their academic performance while compromising good health. Here are a few stress reducing techniques that might come in handy during the semester:

- Make time for physical activity by taking a walk in the park.
- Forgive your own mistakes and believe in yourself.
- Take a break from stress, by listening to your favorite music or gardening etc...
- Think positively and set your goals according to your capabilities.
- Always reward yourself, FIRST.
Club description:

To provide an avenue for HIT/CIM students to network and support each other in their academic and career pursuits. Because the HIT/CIM programs are fully online, students have limited opportunities to meet and connect with other students. This club will use web-based technologies to create an online student community of support.

Health Information Professionals Week

Health Information Professionals Week is a showcase for the thousands of health information management (HIM) professionals who perform their duties masterfully throughout the year. The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) is honored to provide support, representation, and training to HIM professionals for these valuable contributions to the healthcare industry.

Click here or go to http://www.ahima.org/events/recogweeks.aspx to find out more information.

2012 HCSPC Admin Committee Members:

Academic Club Advisor: Gwyer Schuyler

Club Officers:
Monte Handley – President
Gagandeep Bal – Vice-President
Alice Yan – Treasurer
Anthony Pineda - Secretary

Club Committee Members:
Marcia Coyer
Kim Graff

Newsletter Committee:
Gagandeep Bal – Contributor
Monte Handley – Contributor
Anthony Pineda – Publisher
Gwyer Schuyler – Contributor
Alice Yan - Publisher