

Volume 4, Issue 1

Fall 2012

## EHR Evolution by Micky Tripathi



ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS (EHRs), like all computerized technologies, have undergone rapid transformation over the past 50 years. The pace of change has greatly accelerated since the January 2009 passage of the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH)—a \$30 billion effort to transform healthcare delivery through widespread use of EHR technology. Also, “meaningful use” EHR Incentive Program requirements have helped to create greater commonality in basic EHR functions across systems at a much faster pace than would have otherwise occurred. But the path of EHR innovation is not solely determined by technological progress. Other factors such as legal requirements, business drivers, and accountable care organizations and programs can affect the rate and type of change as well. While meaningful use has fundamentally altered the EHR industry and system design as a whole, these other factors stand to become

the main drivers of change in the future.

### EHRs Taking Shape

John Glaser, the CEO of Siemens Healthcare, describes four large technology changes that have inspired corresponding changes in EHR technology. First, the advent of mainframe computers brought the promise of digitization of medical record information, but it was only available to organizations that could manage complex IT infrastructures. Next, mini-computers and personal computers allowed the development of smaller footprint EHR software that could be accessible and affordable to even the smallest ambulatory practices. The third change was the launch of the Internet, which has enabled not only secure communication and data sharing with patients and other entities, but even more “lightweight” EHR systems delivered through digital offsite storage “clouds” as well. The last change, just beginning to take shape in the current healthcare

environment, is the proliferation of microprocessors into all manner of devices—not just computers and mobile phones. As medical and consumer devices are increasingly imbued with processing and networking capability, EHRs will increasingly incorporate this information for a variety of care and efficiency purposes. The shape of EHR technology won’t just be determined by technical factors. As with every other industry, legal, business, and cultural factors also play large roles in which technologies get the most market traction...Meaningful use has certainly been successful in creating a common floor of capability across vendor systems, which has inalterably shaped the EHR industry. Vendors have yet to reach plug-and-play capability with EHR systems, however, and it is highly unlikely that meaningful use will have enough influence or enough time to instill such capability in the market. (cont. pg 5)

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## Ten Tips for Success by Lynne Thomas Gordon

At the annual AHIMA Convention in Chicago last month, I had the opportunity to meet with students attending the Student Academy session and share my ideas on how to achieve success. Since then, I have had time to reflect on my comments and offer additional tips that I wish someone had shared with me when I was finishing up my college studies.

Here it is—my Top 10 list.

Tips I Wish Someone Had Given Me When I Was in School:

1. Find your passion in health information. Our profession has many avenues and roles. Determine what you love and go for it. If you are not sure, use AHIMA's HIM Career Map to help guide you.

2. Get credentialed. This gives you "street cred." Do it sooner rather than later, or through early testing. It's easier when you have just finished your studies, so don't procrastinate. You will be happy to have this behind you and it will help you land future positions that require a credential.

3. Continue with lifelong learning. Don't stop. Read, read, read. Prepare to get your master's or PhD. You'll want an advanced degree to have more influence,

earn more money, and unlock the door for future opportunities.

4. Find a mentor like through the AHIMA Mentor Program. Later, become a mentor yourself.

5. Always do more than you are asked—stretch yourself, take risks, and sit down at the table.

6. If you don't know the answer, that's OK. Research, ask others for help, and then report back. Be accountable.

7. Join AHIMA when you graduate and stay connected. Belonging is important and shows you are serious about your profession.

8. Volunteer. Don't wait to be asked. Start with a small project or position. Build your skills and earn a reputation for being positive, proactive, and responsible. Use your experience to move into other volunteer positions. Remember that you will get much more out of it than you put into it.

9. Be true to yourself. Always demonstrate your moral and ethical principles through the work that you do.

10. Don't ever forget that, whatever your role, it's all about the patient. It's about making sure

there is quality information for quality patient care. That patient could be a family member or it could even be you. What we do is important and could be the difference in safety and outcomes. It may even be the difference between life and death.

Our jobs are bigger than us.

And one extra:

11. Have fun! Enjoy your work and the contributions you make.

Good luck on your career journey. AHIMA is here to support you and help you achieve your professional dreams and aspirations.

AHIMA CEO Lynne Thomas Gordon, MBA,  
RHIA, CAE, FACHE, FAHIMA

*Reprinted from the October edition of the Student Connection newsletter from AHIMA. Sign up at [www.ahima.org](http://www.ahima.org)*

*"Always do more than you are asked—stretch yourself, take risks, and sit down at the table."*

*-Lynne Thomas Gordon, MBA, RHIA, CAE, FACHE, FAHIMA*

## Need an Anatomy Refresher? Try these apps!

Musculoskeletal System—Anatomy Quiz

Free

5.0 MB

Developer: 3D4Medical.com

Version 1.0 Released 3/17/2010

Name the highlighted part from four possible choices

Visual Anatomy Lite

Free

35.3 MB

Developer: YingLaing Ma

Version 2.9 Released 8/1/2012

Quizzes and pinpoint

Anatomy 3D: Organs

\$2.99

261 MB

Developer: Real Bodywork

Version 1.0 Released 9/21/2011

Combines 3D models, video audio lectures, quizzes and text to create a rich learning experience



## Juniors Visit Vanderbilt HIM department

Health Information Management students attended a tour of the Vanderbilt Health Information Management department on October 3, 2012. The tour was a great experience and the students had a great overview of what they will be doing in the future. Lynn Butler-Bailey was the Manager of Medical Information Systems, and she gave the students great information about the department which is open 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. She introduced the students to various employees which included Directors, Cod-

ers, Inpatient Scanners, and Out-patient Scanners. HIM is a very broad career where a student has many opportunities to choose which field they want to pursue specifically. HIM is not just about dealing with medical records since the field is so broad. Most importantly, it is crucial for HIM students to pass the RHIA exam since most departments in the United States are looking forward to hiring students with credentials.

By Sepal Kerim, Class of 2014

## Senior Summer 2012 Practicum: *Clinical Experience* By Franceschina Coq

My experience for my junior year clinical was an experience that I will never forget. I learned so many things during that time. I was nervous and scared because my clinical site was in a small town. I was not happy about where I had to go, which was an hour and forty minutes drive one-way. When I first entered the clinical site, I had no idea what to expect because I was out of my comfort zone and I did not have a choice but to

stay and learn what I needed to learn from everyone. Most importantly, I saw myself doing more than I thought I could ever do. I went to my clinical site with pre-conceived views of what I thought the people would be like. In the end, everyone, beginning with the front desk staff to the director taught me something that will stay with me wherever life takes me. My overall feeling about my clinical experience is gratified. Everyone

was willing to answer any questions I had and they were willing to help me with anything I needed. Every day at my clinical, as I observed my surroundings, I saw that everyone's purpose and objectives were for the benefit of the patients, and that by coming together in the end, the winners are the patients. At my clinical site I saw my purpose for majoring in HIM is to help patients. I may not be a nurse or a doctor, but I will still be able to help people in the end.

## Health Information Management Students Give Back By Katelynn Walters

On Saturday, August 25 2012, Tennessee State University students, faculty and staff participated in the One-Hundredth Annual Community Service Day. The event began at 0800, in the Gentry Center, where volunteers gathered throughout Nashville. Volunteers were able to serve the community by joining in projects such as: Richland Farms, Salvation Army, Feed the Children, Bell Garden, Radnor Lake, Earth Matters, TSU

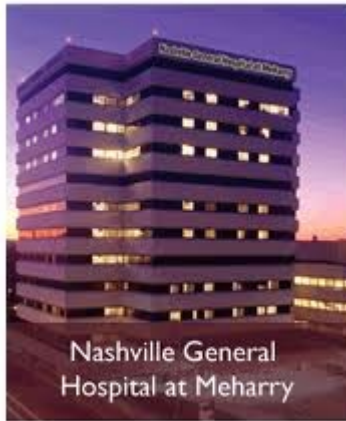
Community Gardens, Grace M. Eaton, Historic First Community Church, Room in the Inn, Gateway to Heritage, Sophia's Heart, Hands on Nashville Urban Farm, Cumberland River Compact, Cheekwood Botanical Gardens, and Monroe Harding, Inc. Individuals involved in the event contributed to each project through using various skills such as landscaping, fundraising, cleaning, gardening, painting, and much more.

Among the volunteers, was our very own HIM faculty: Mrs. Valerie Brock and Mrs. Elizabeth Kunnu. Mrs. Brock and Mrs. Kunnu were group leaders who worked on the Feed the Children and Salvation Army projects. Also involved, were new HIM students: Ashley Banks and Katelynn Walters. Volunteers made an impact while connecting to the community and making it a better place. Everyone was awarded an

opportunity to meet new people, build relationships, and learn valuable skills, all while providing service. Each volunteer was able to display their commitment to give back, by hard work and dedication within the community. At the end of the day, volunteers were rewarded with a TSU t-shirt and provided lunch by Friendship Missionary Baptist Church.

## Nashville General Hospital supporters want inpatient care to continue Hospital's options weighed

Oct 30, 2012 (reprinted from [www.tennessean.com](http://www.tennessean.com))



Nashville General  
Hospital at Meharry

A growing faction of Nashville residents is making its position clear: Don't end inpatient care at the struggling Nashville General Hospital, reducing it to a facility that provides only outpatient and clinical services.

Supporters reiterated their stance Monday at the final community meeting in a series meant to sort out how the city should address Nashville General's severe financial woes.

As city leaders ponder the safety-net hospital's future, Mayor Karl Dean says it would be "premature" for his administration to take a stance on whether Nashville General Hospital should end its inpatient services to stay financially afloat.

Halting overnight, inpatient care at Nashville General is only one of four possibilities Atlanta-based health care consulting firm Alvarez & Marsal suggested in a September report to fix a hospital that admits an average of 11 patients daily.

But that suggestion dominated three Metro Nashville Hospital Authority-sponsored community listening sessions that wrapped up Monday with an overflow crowd of 200 at the North Police Precinct. North Nashville residents and those with ties to Meharry Medical College voiced most of the opposition.

Sentiments also are outlined in an online petition, with 2,500-plus signatures, that urges Dean to retain inpatient services.

"This should not be on the table," said the Rev. Enoch Fuzz, pastor of Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church. The mayor should have quelled the possibility of eliminating inpatient care before the community meetings, he said.

"I'm very frustrated that it would come up. There are people in that community who can't go anywhere (for health care), and

the city should be responsible to support this hospital."

For the mayor, the Nashville General question presents a challenge: weighing the finances of a declining city enterprise while scores of others draw the line in the sand.

"This Metro Council is not going to be the first council to shut down inpatient services for General Hospital," Councilman Jerry Maynard vowed earlier Monday. "It's too important for the city."

Metro provides an annual \$43 million subsidy to the hospital authority. That amount is for Nashville General plus Bordeaux Long-term Care and Knowles Home Assisted Living & Adult Day Services.

Excluding Metro's annual subsidy, those three facilities are operating at a loss of \$51 million for the current fiscal year. Nashville General is licensed for 150 beds but uses fewer than 100. The hospital treated a quarter of all Davidson County residents unable to pay for visits.

Nashville General operates at a loss of \$2,405 per patient day, and according to the Alvarez & Marsal study, is considered a "structural loss": Its financial difficulties cannot be solved by growth or cost-cutting.

"I hope that we keep General a vibrant and thriving hospital and that we certainly do everything we can to support Meharry, but we've got to look for recommendations from the parties involved as to how we can control the costs," Dean told The Tennessean in a recent interview.

"That's where we are right now," he said, calling a reporter's question specifically on ending inpatient services "premature."

'A community asset'

Options outlined in the consult-

ant's report include maintaining the status quo, making the hospital an ambulatory care facility with reduced inpatient services or redesigning its business model to focus solely on outpatient and clinical services.

Besides serving Nashville's indigent population, the hospital functions as a training ground for Meharry's 800 medical students. The college's leadership and students vehemently oppose cutting services.

College President Wayne J. Riley said recent community forums have demonstrated growing opposition to curbing inpatient care.

"It's not just Meharry that benefits by that hospital," said Riley, who has talked to Saint Thomas Hospital about partnering with Nashville General to prevent downsizing. "It's a community asset, an asset that should be better recognized."

The hospital authority's chairman, Waverly Crenshaw, said his board will deliberate about Nashville General's future at a November board meeting before deciding on a course of action.

The seven-member board has said it won't close Nashville General altogether or let things stay as they are.

Crenshaw said the biggest factor contributing to the hospital's woes is competition. Centennial, Baptist, Saint Thomas and Vanderbilt are within a few miles of Nashville General, account for more than 2,400 beds and vastly outperform it in patient intake.

"We're a safety-net hospital in a very rich community of beds, and people have choices," Crenshaw said. "And to some extent, the safety net has voted with its feet. Those 60 to 70 beds we have every day that are empty are easy to count."



## Nashville General continued from previous page

Metro Finance Director Rich Riebeling called settling on a course for Nashville General a long process.

"Anybody who is pounding the table saying, 'The city's trying to close General Hospital, or trying to do this, or trying to do that,' that's just wrong," Riebeling said. "This is just a report that gives us a baseline in which you can develop some ideas and see where you go."

Deputy Mayor Greg Hinote, citing complexities of the authority's three facilities, framed the implementation of future changes at General as a "glide path"

rather than a "one-year, flip-a-switch fix."

However, he suggested initial tweaks could be in next year's budget. "Hopefully, there would be an impact in the budget next year, but there might not be," he said.

Contact Joey Garrison at 615-259-8236 or [origarrison@tennessean.com](mailto:origarrison@tennessean.com), or follow him on Twitter

@joeygarrison.

## GUEST SPEAKERS SHARE WITH SENIOR STUDENTS

Fall semester 2012 saw several guest speakers come to speak with HIM students at TSU. Bryon Pickard, the Director of Operations at Vanderbilt Medical Group, spoke to students regarding the revenue cycle at Vanderbilt Medical Group. Anne Dixon from Vanderbilt Medical Information Services came to speak to the senior class regarding patient portals, specifically

Vanderbilt's MyHealthatVanderbilt site. The title of her presentation was "Empowering Consumers with Health Information", and discussed the importance of patient involvement within the portal. Beverly Clayton is Director of Medical Records at the Murfreesboro VA facility. She came to speak with students about Professionalism and Business Dress. Dr. Aurore

Kamssu teaches in the BIS department at TSU. She came to speak to us about Project Management. Charlie Fletcher came to speak with us about compliance. He works at Maury County Regional as the compliance officer. Dr. Marquis from the College of Business came to speak to senior students about Data Mining and the usefulness of data mining in healthcare.

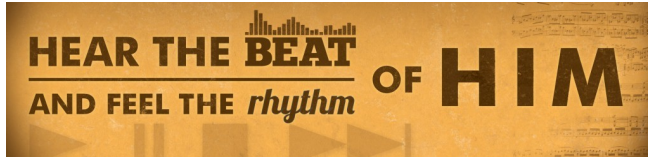
## Holiday Party

"A Season of Warmth" was the theme to the 2012 holiday luncheon. Students were asked to bring one item of warm clothing to donate to local shelters for attendance to the party and also as participation in class. As holiday music played softly in the background, a beautiful and delicious spread of food was enjoyed by all. An HIM, TSU alum

donated fried chicken, baked beans, and potato salad as the base for our meal. Plenty of desserts, dips and chips also sprinkled the table. Laughter, joy, and the idea of another semester down was enjoyed by all those who attended.



## THIMA Annual Meeting in Memphis



The THIMA annual meeting and 63rd Anniversary Celebration will be held March 6-8, 2013 at the Memphis Marriott Cook Convention Center in Memphis, Tennessee. Titles of some of the workshops include: The Changing Face of HIM, e-HIM/Health Information Technology, Data Quality and Quality Reporting, Emerging Careers in HIM – HIM and Informatics and Clinical Documentation Improvement

Specialist.

Special guest speaker Christy Wright challenges and inspires youth, college students and adults across the country to live the life they dream of. She is passionate about speaking on lifestyle management, self-worth and money matters like budgeting and avoiding debt.

Other session titles include: Coding & Clinical Foundations; Privacy and Security, Managing privacy and security in Cloud and other emerging technologies; Leadership and Management, Project Management, as well as others. You can learn more at

their website,

<http://www.thima.org/continuingeducation/annual-meeting/agenda/>

This meeting is FREE for AHIMA Student members before March 1, 2013, but does not include meals or hotel.

## HIM Scholarships



THIMA Scholarship Program

Two \$1,000 scholarships are available annually through THIMA to Tennessee students who are planning a career in Health Information Management. The scholarships are the THIMA Scholarship (\$1,000) and the Evelyn Freeman Scholarship (\$1,000). The Evelyn Freeman Scholarship is funded by DocuVoice. Applications, two references, and Program Director verifications must be submitted by June 1st. All applications must be submitted electronically. For

more information, check the THIMA website. AHIMA Foundation Scholarship: The 2013 Merit Scholarship Application will open July 1, 2013.

\$1,500 award for students pursuing a CAHIIM accredited BA/BS degree or a Post-Baccalaureate certificate in HIM or HIT. To be eligible for a merit scholarship, applicants must meet the following criteria: Current member of AHIMA;

Actively enrolled in a minimum of six (6) credit hours towards pursuing a degree;

Completed 24 credit hours towards a degree; Have at least six (6) credit hours remaining after the award date;

Achieved a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5 (out of 4.0) or 4.5 (out of 5.0) based on the most recently completed 24 credit hours;

Submit a completed online application and all of its components.

Additional requirements are listed on the online scholarship application

## Winter Warmth Donations

TSU Health Information Management (HIM) students shared the true spirit of Christmas during the Gift of Warmth campaign. Within a two weeks period, donors gave bundles of items, i.e. coats, knitted caps, gloves, socks, sweaters, trousers, blankets, cologne and more that was then distributed to the downtown Nashville Rescue Mission facility on December 6, 2012. Even though December's warm temperature reached a high of 66°, students provided comfort to the homeless shelter in preparation for the winter

season. Our goal is to help people in need by serving our community and fulfilling the university's mission – think, work and serve. Faculty and staff would like to give a special thanks to everyone who gave to this endeavor. Pictured are students, Lenice Buckmon and Tina Howse as representatives of the student body, Valerie Brock and Elizabeth Kunnu as faculty of the HIM program and employees of the Nashville Rescue Mission.





## Welcome Mrs. Brenda Lane

In the fall of 2013, The Departments of Cardio-Respiratory and Health Information Management welcomed a new face to the department. Mrs. Brenda Lane is the new administrative assistant to both departments. She is new at Tennessee State University, but has experience as an administrative assistant. She is learning a lot between the Cardio-Respiratory and HIM programs, and is enjoying get-

ting to know everyone. Mrs. Lane is enjoying the student's personalities, learning the subject matter, and enjoys the idea of helping students.

Her hobbies are cooking and sewing. She likes to make desserts, and enjoys making things like curtains and clothing. She has one daughter who is currently studying Occupational Therapy here at TSU. Mrs. Lane would like to take the Professional Ad-

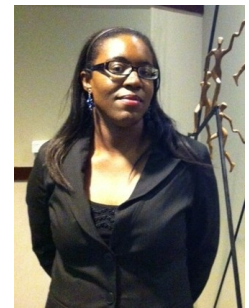
ministrator course here at TSU, and with several family members attending the university felt that this was a natural choice in her career advancement.

## Alumni Give Back

Dennis Amber, a 2006 graduate and RHIA professional, always remembers her alma mater and gives back. As store manager, she anchors her time to donate foods and goods to the HIM department for various events. We are proud of her accomplishments within the workforce and appreciate all her efforts in what

she does for the program. Kimberly Johnson, a 2011 graduate and RHIA professional, has never lost her contact with TSU. She has shared her professional knowledge as a guest speaker to the students on ROI and did exceptionally well. In the past, she has made food donations to the

department and continues to keep in contact with the HIM department. On behalf of the Health Information Management students, faculty and staff, we would like thank the community in large for their many donations.



***EHR Evolution*** continued from page I

Accountable care organizations, where disparate healthcare organizations band together to share data and lower costs, would require robust health information integration. Many systems will accomplish this with consolidation on a single-vendor platform rather than integrating disparate systems. The market has many ways of solving in-

teroperability, and requiring disparate systems to connect deeply and seamlessly with each other may very well prove to be the path of most resistance for most provider organizations in this fast changing business climate. How much of this EHR evolution would have happened without the intervention of HITECH is hard to tell. But without it, the changes certainly wouldn't have hap-

pened with the speed and focus that the industry has witnessed to date.

*Micky Tripathi is president and CEO of the Massachusetts eHealth Collaborative. Read the full article in the October issue of Journal of AHIMA.*

## Upcoming Dates:

THIMA Annual Meeting March 6-8, 2013  
In Memphis, TN  
Cardio-Respiratory and Health  
Information Open House, March 2013  
(exact date TBA)  
TSU Health Fair - Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> -  
myPHR presentation  
HIM Year End Luncheon TBA  
AHIMA Convention October 26-30, 2013

### Advisory Committee:

Valerie Brock, MBA, RHIA, CPC, CCP, CPAR  
Beverly Clayton, RHIA, CCS  
Anne Dixon, RHIA  
Cecelia Ehiemua, RHIA  
Bryon Pickard, MBA, RHIA  
Karen Ashley, RHIT  
Lynn Butler-Bailey, RHIA  
Tivvis Garrison, CCS  
Tina Howse

## SAVE THE DATE!

### Coming in Spring 2013:

- Seniors turn over SHIMA to Juniors
- We need volunteers to speak to "undecided major" students about HIM
- Juniors: want to be involved in planning and participating in the program for the End of the Year Luncheon? Contact Tina Howse.
- Want to be the next Editor of SHIMA'S PROGRESS NOTE? Contact Mrs. Brock to apply for the position.

### SENIORS!!!

Don't forget the exit exam! It is a requirement for graduation. For more information check out the testing center's webpage: <http://www.tnstate.edu/testing/>  
Here is the current schedule as of January:

**SENIOR EXIT EXAM SPRING 2013 SEMESTER** Last Names A-I: week of  
March 25 through March 29 Last Names J-S: week of April 1 through April 5  
Last Names T-Z: week of April 8 through April 12

Tennessee State University Health Information Management students will have an opportunity to experience the AHIMA annual Convention and Exhibit October 26—30 in 2013 when the convention comes to nearby Atlanta, Georgia! As the conference gets closer, students are encouraged to make plans for hotel reservations and convention costs. In order to start planning, some of the costs for the 2012 convention have been **estimated**:

Student AHIMA membership:  
\$35

Student conference price  
\$95

Megabus from Nashville to Atlanta (RT)  
\$14

Convention hotel  
\$200 + a night

Regional hotel on a transit line  
\$75 + a night

Check out [www.atlanta.net](http://www.atlanta.net) for more information on where to stay, and fun things to do in your spare time.

**AHIMA**  
Convention  
& Exhibit

2013

**ATLANTA**

**Pre-Convention Events:**  
October 26—27, 2013

**Convention and Exhibit:**  
October 28—30, 2013



**OCTOBER 26-30, 2013**

The 85<sup>th</sup> AHIMA Convention and Exhibit will draw health information management (HIM) thought leaders and professionals and healthcare executives from all areas of health informatics and information management for a weeklong focus on HIM's global transformation. This one-stop meeting provides comprehensive updates, education, and information on current and emerging HIM issues and challenges and promises to be one of the most educationally stimulating and exciting conferences held during 2013.