



Marge Gehrke,
RHIA
HIM Director

OA EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Deciding upon a career during my high school years was easy. Healthcare intrigued me enough that an early and easy decision could be made. Fortunately for me I knew of people in the Medical Record profession (as this is what it was still called in the early 1980s). Also, with the persuasion of the Medical Record Director at our local Starke Memorial Hospital, I stepped forward into the profession and never looked back. To further my passion of this profession (and to really see if this was for me), I worked in chart assembly/analysis at the Indiana University Medical Center my junior and senior years of college while attending IU. What a valuable experience! Not only was I able to gain great insight of the profession, but having a great boss at IUMC helped tremendously. Then my senior year in the Medical Record Administration program was greatly enriched as my professors were incredible mentors who provided the foundation for my career. The Indiana University MRA program is still a tremendous system – yet having Mary McKenzie (1972 AMRA president) and Jan Ashton back in the mid-1980s as my mentors provided such a

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Leap Year: History, Traditions, and People

By Patrick Ervin

A quick glance at the calendar this month shows that another leap year is upon us. February has 29 days instead of the 28 it has had the past three years, which means there are 366 days in 2012 instead of 365. Well, if you think that most years have 365 days, you'd be incorrect. According to Mary Bellis at www.about.com, non-leap years have 365.242 days in them, which is why the extra day every four years is necessary.

The history of the leap year dates back to 35 BC, when Roman Emperor Julius Caesar added the extra day every four years because his subjects wanted their festivals and events to fall on or approximately close to the same date each year. Caesar's astronomer Sosigenes did the calculations and created the calendar for recognition of the leap year.

Sosigenes developed the Julian calendar based on the fact that it takes the earth 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and 46 seconds to revolve around the sun. This time was abbreviated to 365-1/4 days, and a calendar year was defined as 365 days, with one "leap day" added every four years to compensate for the lost quarter day.

But a nagging, although slow-developing, problem arose: 5 hours, 48 minutes and 46 seconds isn't exactly a quarter day. In AD 730, the Venerable Bede, a mathematically skilled Anglo-Saxon monk, pointed out that the 365-1/4-day Julian year was 11 minutes, 14 seconds too long. But since the error added up so slowly (the calendar fell out of sync with the sun by only one day every 128 years), no one did anything about it.

As time ticked on, people began noticing the flaws of the Julian calendar. In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII noticed that the spring equinox – when day and night are of equal length – fell upon March 11 instead of March 21. The pope fixed the problem by erasing 10 days, declaring that the day following October 4, 1582, would be known as October 15, 1582. To make the calendar

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ASK THE EXPERT

What is Regenerative Medicine?

Regenerative Medicine is a new and emerging field that features the study and development of tissue engineering, stem cell research (i.e., artificially grown organs and tissues), biomaterials and medical devices (laboratory made compounds), and/or combinations of these clinical approaches for the treatment of injuries and disease.

A multidisciplinary concept and application, professionals in biology, chemistry, computer science, engineering, genetics, medicine, robotics, and many other disciplines may collaborate on the clinical outcomes. Regenerative Medicine technologies and techniques attempt to augment the body's own healing processes or will synthetically repair or replace damaged or diseased tissue and organs as opposed to many of the current traditional therapies that are designed to just treat the symptoms.

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OA Employee of the Month



Lori Ruhland
Recruiter
HIM Contract Team

Lori is often described as a tall, classy dame of the geek persuasion. She is also highly uncoordinated and somewhat of an insomniac with a slight addiction to caffeine, Thai food, and 80s music.

A native "New Yawker" who grew up on Long Island and then moved to the Lower West Side of Manhattan while finishing college. In the early 90s she made the decision to leave the cold weather and outrageous rent of New York City behind and start a new life in Tampa, Florida.

In the mid 90s Lori was approached by a technical staffing firm and was offered a job as a Recruiter because of her extensive IT background, and quickly grew through the ranks as a Sr. Recruiter, Account Manager, and Branch Director. But it was only when Lori started working in the healthcare field that she felt she was at home.

Lori currently works in the Tampa, Florida branch of On Assignment for the HIM Contract staffing division. When Lori isn't working, she enjoys spending time and traveling with her 12-year-old daughter Emma.

For more information regarding our \$500 referral bonus program, please email kristin.walsh@onassignment.com

Emma who is currently enrolled in a media class, interviewed Lori a few months ago and we thought it would be fun to include this in the newsletter.

Q: What do you like most about your work?

A: I like that each day is something new and that I help people find new and exciting jobs.

Q: Do you travel a lot for your job?

A: No, but there are times that I will be asked to attend state or national HIM shows. I enjoy this part of my job because I get to meet the people that I have been speaking with on the phone.

Q: Where do you see yourself in five years?

A: Well, I hope to be working in HIM staffing, but perhaps a mentor role or compliance.

Q: What do you want your consultants to know about you?

A: That I truly care about each of them and always strive to give them excellent customer service and attention they deserve.

Q: What do you not want your consultants to know about you?

A: That my energy level on the phone stems from the five cups of coffee I drink every morning.

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more sun-accurate than Caesar's, Pope Gregory XIII pulled out his abacus and calculated the following leap year restrictions (I'd advise a swig of coffee here): If the first year of a century is divisible by 400, it is a leap year; if it's not, then that year isn't a leap year.

The pope's mathematical modification knocked out leap years in 1800 and 1900, but 2000 was a leap year, because 2000 divides evenly into 400. Unless it's a centennial year, you can determine a leap year without looking at a calendar by dividing it by four. If it divides evenly, with no remainder, it's a leap year. If you're lazy, like me, you can also flip through a calendar in search of February 29.

Pope Gregory XIII's calendar, known as the Gregorian calendar, now

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DID YOU KNOW?

An **adult stem cell** is an uncommitted/undifferentiated cell that has the potential to differentiate and develop into cells of a specific specialized tissue. These cells will tend to remain in a quiescent (nondividing) state for years until activated by disease or tissue injury and can divide or self-renew (regenerate) indefinitely, enabling them to generate a range of cell types from the originating organ or even regenerate the entire original organ.

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solid framework for our profession that still carries me through to this day.

I will be the first to tell you that one can have their ups and downs in the HIM profession. However, not until you find what specific area of HIM is your calling will true job satisfaction occur. From sales to working the traditional HIM Director role – one can obtain great insight. However, not until my first (and very successful) EHR go-live, did I realize that traveling and performing interim work as an HIM Director or EHR consultant (or both) did the planets finally align for me.

Yes, admitting that travel is my thing is an understatement. As George Clooney's character in the movie *Up in the Air* commented that he had 350,000 miles in a year, I only had to snicker as my mileage numbers had him beat. Living in Indiana's Eastern time zone and having assignments in either Mountain, Pacific, or the Alaska time zones does help contribute to earning your Delta Diamond Elite Medallion level status. Regardless of the miles and the phenomenal places I've been to, though, the greatest experience is working with the various staff and organization idiosyncrasies, and blending them into a winning team/formula. Gee, I guess all those years of being a Little League Baseball coach actually did help me with my professional skills. Each facility, structure, and staff are different. Yet the philosophies of HIM and revenue cycle are pretty much the same. Thus blending the two into a successful recipe will always be a win-win for you and your facility. I have now completed several EHR go-lives and all were entirely different, but all were entirely rewarding. Winning the Super Bowl will never get old for an NFL player. Equally though, building a successful HIM/Revenue Cycle team and EHR go-live process will always bring a charge to me.

In retrospect, the only thing I would have done differently with my career was move into consulting and interim work earlier on. The HIM profession has been tremendous for me and I hope others can have this same enjoyment.

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hangs on most of our walls. It wasn't as popular when it was first developed.

Leap Year Myths, Events, and Quirks

- In America, a leap year typically means that voters in this country are about to take a national leap of faith. Presidential campaigning and elections occur during leap years.
- In Irish folklore, it is said that St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, began permitting women to propose marriage during the leap year. Legend has it that young Irish women in the fifth century were growing tired of waiting on men to propose marriage. St. Patrick allowed St. Bridget to propose marriage to him, which he declined. There was once a law on the Irish books that forbade a man from refusing a proposal made to him on February 29.
- On February 29, 1692, the first of the infamous Salem witch trials began.

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? WHO KNOWS ?

An abnormal or pathological decreased threshold which in turn can cause a heightened/increased sensitivity to sensory stimuli of one or more of the five special senses is called_____?

Send your answers to:

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All correct answers will be put into a raffle for a chance to win a \$25 gift card from On Assignment HIM!

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- In Greek culture, an ancient superstition declared marriage in a leap year bad luck. Likewise, the Scots believed those born on February 29 to be unlucky.
- Leaplings, or people born on February 29 during leap years, have the option of celebrating their birthdays either on March 1 or February 28 of non-leap years.
- According to www.answers.com, the majority of leap year babies choose to celebrate their birthday on February 28 in the non-leap year, particularly milestone birthdays like 18 and 21.
- The Honor Society of Leap Year Day Babies was established in 1997 to honor those born on February 29. The organization has more than 10,000 members dedicated to preserving memorabilia and unique items related to the day.
- Some famous people born on February 29 of a leap year include motivational speaker/life coach Tony Robbins in 1960, singer Dinah Shore in 1916, and rapper/actor JaRule in 1976.

Learn more: <http://digitalpublication.lifeinthedelta.com/article/Leap+Year%3A+History,+Traditions,+and+People/958832/98341/article.html>

TALK TO US

On Assignment HIM welcomes your feedback. Please share your thoughts with us at kristin.walsh@onassignment.com.

January 2012
?WHO KNOWS?
And the winner is....
Tammy H.
Answer:
A: Pericardiocentesis
B: Pericardiectomy or Pericardial window

