

The Lucy Hay Scholarship By Jane Rattray, RHIA

Lucy has been described as gracious with a delightful sense of humor, smiling with a sunny disposition, dynamic and energetic with very sharp coding skills. Her collegiate years were spent at Seattle University from 1979 to 1980. Shortly afterwards she obtained her Registered Records Administrator certificate (RRA), now known as Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA)

Lucy's earlier years of employment begin at Snoqualmie Valley Hospital. In the 1980's, Lucy's work history continued at Harborview Medical Center in the Medical Records Department as a coder. In the early 1990's, she concluded her professional career at Fircrest, heading up the Patient Data Services Department.

Lucy volunteered countless hours to nearly every SHIMA committee. She devoted several years to the secretarial position, was voted in as treasurer, and contributed to the education committee. She was known to go beyond the call of duty by putting others first. As one SHIMA member recalls, if Lucy discovered a member couldn't go to the SHIMA holiday party because of transportation, she would find a person who lived nearby or take the member herself.

Lucy was a "green" advocate and a conservationist before it was popular. She was known to have been an organic gardener. She once baked soil in her oven to remove unwanted micro-organisms from the compost. To her surprise, the unpleasant aroma radiated the entire house! She also would store leftover brewed coffee in a jar and drink it the next day, never wasting a drop.

Being in the health care profession, Lucy was very health conscience. It was to everyone's surprise when she was diagnosed with lung cancer, never having smoked in her life. On March 26, 1991, at the age of 48, she passed away.

Over the years many HIM professionals deserve awards. Lucy is just one example of an advocate for the HIM profession. She was like many women who juggle family life with career, but she also took the extra step by volunteering.

SHIMA is looking for additional information concerning Lucy Hay's professional career. If you know of facts or know others who may know dates, places, titles, or other information, please write us at info@seattlehima.org. We would love to continue gathering historical facts about this generous woman. Special thanks for the many contributors to this article: Bill Thieleman, Marie Hanada, Sarah Beer, Mary Jo Callahan, Gloria Anderson, Susan Helbig, Sue Stubbs, Eugenia Terry, and Donna Wilde.