In Memoriam: Darlene P Vian

Darlene LeMay Pearson Vian, 78, of Palo Alto, California passed away on February 9, 2011. Ms Vian worked at the Stanford University Medical School for over 37 years. She was Secretary of the Faculty Senate for nearly 10 years. She was hired in 1980 by Ted Shortliffe to help establish the MS/PhD program in Biomedical Informatics and soon discovered that working with students was her true calling. As Student Services Administrator, she managed Recruiting, admissions, degree programs, trainee-ships, social events at her home, the annual retreat at Asilomar Conference Grounds, and alumni relations, including an annual alumni banquet. Perhaps her greatest contribution came as an advisor to the students, helping them deal with issues of funding, coursework, thesis writing, deciding whether to leave school early, and personal problems. She was largely responsible for the spirit and positive experience that two generations of graduate students enjoyed. As an example of her unstinting devotion, she was still consulting to the program week before her death. In recognition of her incredible work, Ms Vian was awarded the Stanford Graduate Service Award in 1999.

Darlene was an exceptional woman who touched the lives of many members of JAMIA’s editorial team, authors, and reviewers.

Brian P McCune, Edward H Shortliffe

Correspondence to Brian P McCune, Cyiladian Technology Consulting, 825 Oak Grove Avenue, Suite D101, Menlo Park, CA 94025-4427, USA; mccune@cyiladian.com

Competing interests None

Provenance and peer review Internally peer reviewed

J Am Med Inform Assoc. 2011;18:369. doi:10.1136/amiajnl-2011-000352

Obituary