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# Air Up Here

The Department of Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies



## New Indigenous Communities Counselling Psychology Cohort

Following the success of the June 2011 pilot cohort, the Indigenous Communities Counselling Psychology Program (ICCP) welcomed a new cohort of 13 students with a feast on January 24<sup>th</sup> in the Ceremonial Hall at the UVIC First Peoples House. At the Opening Feast the new graduate students in the cohort were welcomed and honoured “with good words” by the Dean of the Faculty of Education, members of the ICCP Advisory Committee and graduates from the 2011 cohort. Speakers provided encouragement and guidance for the important challenges ahead of them. The new cohort was also honoured with a song by alumni from the first cohort.

## Indigenous Communities Counselling continued

The Indigenous Communities Counseling Program is designed for adult learners who are working in, or, wish to work in or with Indigenous communities. ICCP Students develop knowledge and skills related to the worldviews, values, and the needs of Indigenous communities, while also meeting nationally established Canadian standards for professional counselor training and accreditation.

Assistant Professor Roger John, a member of the St'at'imc Nation, is the Coordinator, Academic Advisor and an instructor for the program. "There is still a lot of residue in the Indigenous community from the impacts of colonization including poverty and post-traumatic stress disorder," John says. "But there are also many strengths there that can be used to help in the healing. Counselling psychology is one of the best ways to access these strengths." When teaching in the program Roger blends traditional spirituality and teachings about well – being with modern psychotherapeutic techniques.

A grant from the Counselling Foundation of Canada will provide support to the cohort over three years through the "Walking in Two Worlds" mentoring program. This includes having previous graduates mentoring the current cohort as they journey through the program, and navigate their entrance into the profession of counselling. These mentors will provide personal and professional guidance to current students and will also be invited to speak to the students during class. Samara Wesley – Price, from the Nishnawbe Aski Nation is the "Walking In Two Worlds" Mentoring Coordinator.





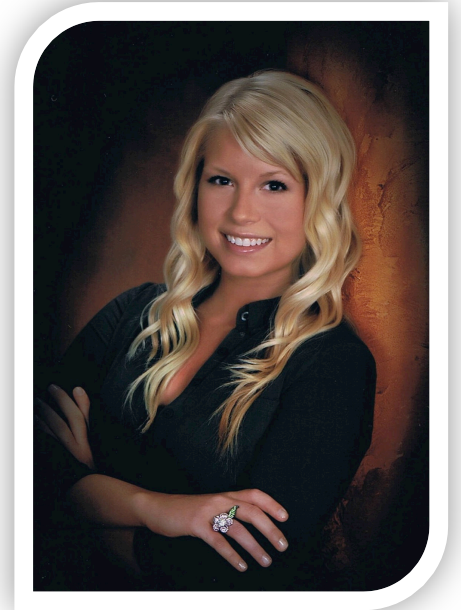
# EPLS GRADUATES

## Marissa Zerff

MA in Educational Psychology (Learning & Development)

*Thesis: Peer Victimization and Children's Internalizing Problems: Linking Teacher-Child Relationship Quality and Child Gender to Early Child Behaviour Adjustment*

My plans after graduation are to take a few more graduate level classes for professional development so that I can register with the Saskatchewan College of Psychologists, and to continue developing my research skills and knowledge while working as a Research Coordinator. My favourite moment in my studies was being a Lab Instructor for EDD 101 – Learning Strategies for University Success – as it allowed me to learn how to teach in higher education, and it was great to be a part of an instruction team with all of the other lab instructors. My words of wisdom would be to immerse yourself in as much practical experiences, and experiential learning to go along with your academic learning. The department has the most helpful, truly compassionate, and wonderful faculty and staff. Everyone wants you to succeed, which was such an encouraging and motivating factor for my success as a graduate student. To add, Dr. Runions was a great supervisor who pushed me to my limits, and helped me succeed. To sum up what I have learned as an Educational Psychology student would be how to integrate research into practice.



## Rebecca Hudson-Breen

PhD in Educational Psychology (Counselling)

*Dissertation: Meet the 'Mompreneurs': How Self-Employe Women with Children Manage Multiple Life Roles*

**Plans after graduation?** I plan to continue teaching and working as a therapist.

**Favorite moment?** Having the opportunity to teach in the department has definitely been the highlight of my program!

**Words of wisdom?** Make sure you really love your research topic – this will make all the difference during the times when the research process gets tough or “messy”

**Thanks to?** I have been fortunate to have a number of great teachers here at UVic. Thank you in particular to Dr. Natalee Popadiuk for your mentorship of my teaching and clinical supervision over the past two years. I can't say enough about the fabulous support I have had from Dr. Susan Tasker in getting to my defense! I have also felt so supported by all of the administrative staff – thank you for always having the answers and being so skilled at making things happen!

**Sum up what you have learned in the program in one sentence!** Keep Going!

EPLS graduate continued....

## Kristin Sinclair

### MA in Educational Psychology (Special Education)

*Thesis: Investigating the Effectiveness of an SRSD Writing Intervention for Students with Epilepsy*

**Plans after graduation?** I've been fortunate enough to find a job within a school board actually using those skills I learned at UVic... now the hope is to make the job permanent!

**Favourite moment?** Looking back on my Master's degree, the times that stand out are those outside of the classroom – taking part in research projects, presenting at conferences, and working with kids. (Although the first few minutes after the thesis defense weren't bad, either!)

**Words of wisdom?** Get involved. You only get as much out of your degree as you put in... take the opportunity to make it worthwhile!

**Thanks to!:** Can't say enough about my supervisor, Gina Harrison – the support and wealth of knowledge she provided was incredible.

**Sum up what you have learned in the program in one sentence!** There is still so much that I don't know (but want to find out!)



# Congratulations Everyone!

Here are the rest of our students gradating this June

## MA in Counselling Psychology

Melissa Tolsma	Gemma Armstrong	Lorna Williams	Carla Woods
Amanda Walton	Angela Manely	Elinor Bazar	Ali Dohahwala
Ryan Ellis	Lisa Kurytink	Xela Rysstad	Danika Smith
Jamie Gibson	Tristan Gulliver	Alexandra Sterling (Thesis)	Shane Lynch
Diane Tompkins	Cory Klath (Thesis)	Oscar Trad-Pizarro	Michaela Carter

## Educational Psychology

Rachel Jalbert-MA Special Ed	Renee White-MEd Special Education
Tessa Kubicek-MEd Special Ed	Molly Speagle- MEd Special Education
Kim Graves- MEd Special Education	

## Leadership Studies

Ling Wang	Menyang Li	Wenfei Zhang	Shannon Miller	Brenda Kohlruss
Wenxin Yu	Ryan Massey	Stephen Dishkin	Masoma Rizvi	Heather Williams
Janelle Smith	Aiwen Wong	Hwa Sun Noh	Holly Paluck	Steven James Price
River Chandler (Thesis)		Shriban Bugday Ince (Thesis)		



# EXTRA CREDIT



Not only is Dr. Sally Brenton-Haden an accomplished teacher in our Special Education program, she is also an accomplished ballroom dancer!

Sally has been a Pro-Am competitive ballroom dancer for two years, competing as an amateur with her professional dance coach, Victor Golubkov, through the Arthur Murray Dance Studio here in Victoria. Prior to that she competed for three years with an amateur partner, coached by Delphine Romaire at Elite Dance Studio in Edmonton, Alberta.

Sally competes in International Style (DanceSport) in all ten dances - Cha-Cha, Samba, Rumba, Jive, Paso Doble, Waltz, Fox Trot, Quick Step, Tango, and Viennese Waltz. Her favourite dances are Paso Doble and Quick Step.

Sally works with her coach at the dance studio a minimum of three hours, five days each week. One of the biggest challenges, as a result, is balancing teaching, family life, and dance to maintain the energy level required to prevent injuries and fatigue.

The best moment in her dancing career was coming second in her age and level category in the Scholarship Competition at the California Open DanceSport

Championship this past February. When asked about the worst moment, Sally responded that she hasn't had one yet, but is sure one is coming at some point ☺

Her next big goal is the Ohio Star Ball Championship in the U.S. this fall.

