International Human Rights Day

On December 10, 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the first global enunciation of human rights and one of the first major achievements of the new United Nations.

Traditionally on December 10, the five-yearly United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights and Nobel Peace Prize are awarded. This year, though, it was on October 10 that the Norwegian Nobel Committee announced the recipient of the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize is the Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet for its decisive contribution to building a pluralistic democracy in Tunisia.

Healing through connection
Anthropology prof Andrea Walsh collaborated with First Nations in a community-led research project that focuses on children’s paintings from the Alberni Indian Residential School, 1959 to 1966. Even though this video by UVic Video Coordinator Beth Doman highlights the work of one researcher, there are a number of themes in that connect to many other areas of human endeavour, creativity, and resilience. There’s also a Torch article that starts on p 26.

Indigenous peoples and mining companies
The International Council on Metals and Mining (ICMM) has updated its guide Indigenous Peoples and mining good practice guide, outlining principles to foster respect for the rights, interests, aspirations, cultures and livelihoods of Indigenous peoples. The guide provides practical tools to support positive relationships with indigenous communities in the areas where they operate, said ICMM’s CEO Tom Butler on globe-net.com. There are also case studies and a section with more information resources.

Here’s Why LGBT Equality Must Be About More Than the U.S.
“Allow me to go on record by stating: We in the U.S. are not, in fact, the world,” wrote Kevin Jennings in the Huffington Post, July 14, 2015. “In more than 75 countries worldwide, you can be arrested simply on the basis of your sexual orientation. These countries have a collective population of over 3 billion - nine times the number of people living in the U.S. and almost 43 percent of the world’s population. In eight of those countries, it’s perfectly legal to be sentenced to death for being gay or lesbian.” The whole article is here.

Gustavson students share their (sustainable) views of the world
About 75 percent of Commerce students go abroad for a term at one of our partner universities. Find out what they see, on the student-run Sustainable Exchange blog. One hundred percent of business students must do co-op work terms. This year, for the first time, some of them have set up a Sustainable Co-op blog to share what they see in or around their workplaces. Discover what our students are learning about business, and about life.