Greetings from the Dean’s Office of the Faculty of Human and Social Development where we find ourselves gearing up for a busy Fall term while still trying to draw out some of the relaxation summer days bring. Such moments of reflection offer opportunities to consider how our efforts over the past year will bear fruit and, to that end, I wanted to share with you some of our accomplishments and what we are looking forward to in the coming year.

On a personal note, the past year was newsworthy for me as it was the final year of my first, five-year term as Dean. Over the course of the Fall 2009, my term was reviewed by a committee of my colleagues from the Faculty and the wider University community and I’m pleased to say that I was offered a second five year term. While we have done a lot of very good work over the past five years, there are many initiatives that now need to be implemented and made sustainable for the longer term.

“...the review committee described her leadership as “outstanding,” and praised her “strong and effective advocacy for all the schools and programs in the faculty, her vision and success in generating new programs and resources...and her consultative and respectful nature, energy and enthusiasm.”

The Ring, May 2010

Dr. Mary Ellen Purkis, Dean
New developments
in our schools and programs

In January we welcomed the new Director for the School of Health Information Science, Abdul Roudsari. The School has been ably led by André Kushniruk and I want to extend my thanks to him for his leadership over the past five years and wish him well with his teaching and research interests.

“One of the initiatives that has occupied most of our time in the Dean’s Office over the past five years has been the conceptualization and planning for the new School of Public Health and Social Policy. For anyone who has a chance to read the newspaper on a regular basis, the need for individuals who can assess, plan and intervene in public health matters is evident — whether it be planning to receive a boatload of immigrants fleeing from inhospitable situations in their own countries, immunizing to prevent outbreaks of flu in our schools and communities, or addressing the needs of millions of displaced people in flood-affected zones in China or Pakistan.

Our program, recently approved by the Ministry of Advanced Education, is consistent with our Faculty’s values and goals — it is community-based, strengths-based, collaborative and will be delivered online. It builds on areas of expertise already well developed within our Faculty.

Our public health program will offer advanced study for nurses who already work in the field of public health, and will increase needed capacity in the specialties of public health informatics and Indigenous peoples’ health and will draw on our collective strengths in the field of social policy. The undergraduate and graduate programs will welcome students from diverse academic backgrounds and over the coming year we will be engaged in extensive curriculum development ahead of admitting our first group of students in September, 2011.

Visit the new website at www.uvic.ca/publichealth

In July of this year, we welcomed Michael Hayes to our Faculty and the new School of Public Health and Social Policy. Michael has joined the University in the capacity of Director for Health Education and Research. He will help us to integrate our many contributions to health research into educational programming as well as in our strategic alliances with community partners. We’re very pleased that Michael has joined our University — and particularly as a member of our Faculty!

Over the past couple of months we have welcomed two new people to our office: Emma Hannah has joined us, fresh from completing her degree in English here at UVic to assist us during Claire Abanto’s absence.

Charlotte Reading has also joined us in the Dean’s Office, filling in for six months as Associate Dean for Research while Leslie Brown is on study leave. Charlotte joined the Faculty in January, 2009. She moved from Dalhousie University to join the School of Public Health and Social Policy. Charlotte brings her success as a researcher in the field of Indigenous health to our new school and to the Faculty. She is pleased to provide support and assistance to faculty and students as they move their way through funding applications and research projects during Leslie’s absence.

We will soon be able to announce all these new developments to you on our new website. Christine McLaren, our Communications Officer, has been working closely with Heather Keenan in our front office as well as a large team of individuals from University Systems, Web services, Marketing and Communications to help us prepare our website for launch. We hope you will check back often over the early Fall period to enjoy the fruits of their long labours!

“Before joining UVic, Dr. Roudsari taught at a number of post-secondary institutions in the United Kingdom and most recently as a professor of health informatics and director of the Centre for Health Informatics at City University London. As a member of the UK Council for Health Informatics Professions, he is committed to promoting the evolution of health informatics as a key profession within the health service field.”

The Ring May 2010
Faculty events, initiatives and recognition

In November our Faculty hosted Dr. Jean-Bosco Butera, director of the Africa Programme at the University for Peace (UPEACE) in Ethiopia. He was here to deliver a President’s Distinguished Lecture entitled “Building Capacity for Peace in Africa”. We value our relationship with Dr. Butera and support his work on stimulating and strengthening Africa’s ability to teach, train and conduct research in areas of peace and conflict studies.

“Students we continue to make important connections with Africa”

Joining Dr. Butera on his visit was Dr. Elias Cheboud, alumnus and adjunct professor in the School of Social Work. He is Research Coordinator for the United Nations Affiliated, University for Peace, Africa Program in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He gave a lecture on “A Community Development Model: Building a Bridge in Chao” which is a project close to the hearts of many here in the Faculty.

School of Child and Youth Care professor and UNESCO Chair in Early Childhood Education, Care and Development, Dr. Alan Pence, continues to move scholarly work forward in Africa – the Early Childhood Development Virtual University (ECDVU), is expanding their program in Africa to include Nigeria. For more information visit www.ecdvu.org

In February we celebrated with the UVic community and honoured our distinguished alumni. Here in HSD we recognized Catherine Claiter (BSc ’00) from the School of Health Information Science. Currently she is the Chief Information Officer at the Vancouver Island Health Authority and is responsible for the development of all electronic health care systems and emerging health information technology within the hospital setting.

In March we worked together with UVic Communications to provide a Faculty media workshop. With media present, grad students and faculty participants learned the value and importance of our relationship with media and obtained tips on doing it effectively. The ‘Dragon’s Den’ provided an opportunity to observe a media ‘pitch’ in action.

In April we celebrated the HSD excellence awards. Marie Hoskins (Child and Youth Care) received the award for Teaching Excellence. Lori Klear (Nursing), Sandra Curran (Child and Youth Care) and Claire Abanto (Dean’s Office) were recipients of the Staff Excellence Award.

Throughout the academic year, Leslie Brown organized our ‘Research Conversations’ initiative. UVic and the general public were welcomed to individual faculty member’s research presentations. Check out the upcoming ‘Research Conversations’ schedule on our website and circulate the information to students and community – everyone is welcome.

In April we celebrated the diversity of research that is taking place in HSD with ‘Share the Knowledge’ – Faculty Research Day. Faculty, students, media and the general public expressed their delight and interest in learning about the many engaging research initiatives taking place within our Faculty.

In June UVic graduated 2800 students. Our Faculty celebrated the convocation of 567 undergraduate students and 131 graduate students.

Congratulations to Jonathan Morris, a master’s candidate in the School of Child and Youth Care. He received the 2010 Andy Farquharson Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Teaching.

New programs

School of Nursing
MN BSc in Health Informatics (September 2010) – double degree program in Nursing and Health Informatics
Nursing Education MN (September 2009)

School of Public Administration
MA in Community Development — (May 2010)
Graduate Certificate and Diploma in Evaluation (scheduled launch January 2011)
MA in Community Development-International (scheduled to launch in June 2011)

School of Public Health & Social Policy
Master’s in Public Health, Graduate Diploma in Public Health and BA in Health and Community Services (September 2011)

School of Social Work
Indigenous MSW program (September 2009)
Non-BSW MSW (September 2010)

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New folks in our halls
We have had another busy year of hiring throughout the Faculty. On behalf of everyone in the Faculty, I would like to welcome the following people who have already begun new appointments within the Faculty, or will do so over the next few months.

School of Nursing
Madeline Walker – writing scholar

School of Public Administration
Michelle Brady – Assistant Professor
Budd Hall – Professor, past Director of the Office of Community Based Research

School of Public Health and Social Policy
Michael Hayes – Professor
Catherine Worthington – Associate Professor

School of Social Work
Teresa Macias – Assistant Professor
Kristin Smith – Assistant Professor

On our horizon
We look forward to welcoming Dr. Reeta Chowdhari Tremblay as UVic’s next Vice-President Academic and Provost, effective January 1, 2011. She will take over the position from Dr. Jamie Cassels, who has been extremely supportive of our Faculty and overseen the growth of many new and innovative programs at UVic since 2001. We thank him and wish him well.

The First Peoples House — a concept that had its origins in the School of Social Work and supported by HSD — opened its ‘Longhouse’ doors early this year. The House creates an academic and cultural centre for Indigenous students and a welcoming space on campus for the broader community. We were extremely pleased when the President confirmed the House as a University priority. At present, I sit on the First Peoples House Advisory Council which is co-chaired by Robina Thomas, a professor in the School of Social Work. Trevor Good, a distance student in the School of Social Work, is the Indigenous student support coordinator. We are pleased to be a part of the ongoing development and celebration of this significant achievement at UVic.

There are many new and innovative research grants and projects within our Faculty that demonstrate the importance of children, families and communities. Watch for our next research publication in the Fall of 2011 outlining many new and existing research projects in addition to our emerging research strengths in Aboriginal health, public health, housing solutions and health care practice.

In closing
UVic is a growing and dynamic place these days and we are contributing in a significant way to that growth. At present 27% of all grad students at UVic come from our Faculty — that means one in four grad students at UVic are from HSD! We also provide over 50% of our students with programs through online distance delivery. We have accomplished a great deal together and I am honoured to be leading such an innovative and inclusive Faculty at this particular time and look forward to working with many of you over the coming year. Thank you for your continued commitment and contributions to our Faculty and to the success of our students. I look forward to sharing in your accomplishments over the coming year!

Robina Thomas and Trevor Good stand at the entrance to First Peoples House. Behind them is one of two welcome posts carved by artist Doug Lafontine of the Tsawout First Nation.

You can now follow us on Twitter @UVicHSD
www.hsd.uvic.ca
Design | UVic Graphics Services
Photography | UVic Photo Services, Ted Vuzenski, Debra Brad – Times Colonist, Gary McKinstry, Christine McLain, Lynne Milnes
and contributions from the Faculty of Human and Social Development

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