



**University  
of Victoria**  
School of Child  
& Youth Care

# Newsletter

September 2009, Volume 1 No. 1

## Letter from the Director:

Daniel G. Scott

Welcome to the first edition of our SCYC newsletter. We hope it will give you a chance to know what is going on and introduce you to our community. As you can see in this issue, we are featuring two of our award winners – Jessica Ball and Janet Newbury. They are part of an accomplished group of students and faculty whose achievements we want to acknowledge. They contribute to our reputation “as the leading CYC institution in North America” – a description of SCYC that I received at the International Child and Youth Care Conference in Florida in May.

## “as the leading CYC institution in North America”

Again this year we have been joined by an exciting and capable group of graduate and undergraduate students and look forward to their contributions to the school and the continuing development of our work with diverse children, youth, families and communities here, across the country and around the world.



## UVic advocate for Indigenous families honoured

By Tara Sharpe, The Ring, April 2009

Dr. Jessica Ball (child and youth care) is the recipient of the Confederation of University Faculty Associations of BC' (CUFA BC) 2009 Academic of the Year Award, and no doubt a certain circle of Indigenous parents would offer up a rousing ovation. An internationally recognized expert in Aboriginal child health and development, Ball is also particularly well known for her five-year inaugural study (2003-08) of Indigenous fathers, a project involving 80 First Nations and Métis fathers of young children.

The project on Indigenous fathers was one of seven undertaken nationally by the Father Involvement Research Alliance, a Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) study examining the nature of fatherhood. Ball's efforts were oriented around the revitalization of Indigenous fatherhood, and she receives acclaim from her peers for this approach.

“She is a role model for all of us as the quintessential community-oriented academic,” says Dr. Marion Ehrenberg, director of clinical training in UVic's Department of Psychology and one of the award nominators.

An example of Ball's community-university approach was the engagement of an Aboriginal team from five partner communities in BC to advise her on the study: these fathers reviewed project plans and data interpretations as well as made recommendations such as the critical need for a documentary DVD (produced as *Fatherhood: Indigenous Men's Journeys*) and booklets featuring Aboriginal men telling their fatherhood stories in their own words.

“Jessica's work truly exemplifies the principles of this award,” says Dr. Leslie Brown, associate dean of research for the Faculty of Human and Social Development and a fellow nominator. “She deserves this honour in so many ways, and particularly for her commitment to the protection of cultural diversity, for her research and perseverance, and her flexibility and creativity.”

Ball made sure her findings were readily available to



her most important audience: parents and childhood educators. She created a user-friendly website ([www.ecdip.org](http://www.ecdip.org)) providing information on early education and the incorporation of Indigenous knowledge in programs for children and families. She prepared a series of well-designed reports as hand-outs for community meetings and workshops. And, to accompany the DVD, she compiled a tool-kit of booklets, posters, fact sheets, tips and articles. Over 3,000 resource packs have been distributed nationally and internationally.

Committed to bringing research evidence into policy decision-making processes, she has presented her research findings to numerous federal policy roundtables and parliamentary committees and has received invitations from scholars and community leaders as far away as Hawaii, Australia and Bangladesh.

“She has earned trust and respect from community members, academics and educators through her many years of engaging in sound research with the intention of benefiting Aboriginal communities and global society as a whole,” says fellow nominator Dr. Sandrina de Finney (child and youth care). “Jessica's example extends across all borders.”

After completing three post-graduate degrees at the University of California, Berkeley, Ball has spent more than 20 years teaching in universities in Asia and North America and is the co-author of three books as well as numerous journal articles and book chapters.



Photo: Graham Lavery

### Vanier Scholarship to CYC grad student

By Robie Liscomb, The Ring, April 2009

PhD student Janet Newbury (child and youth care) has been awarded a Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship the most sought-after Canadian scholarship for doctoral students.

The federal government scholarships, awarded for the first time this year, provide \$ 50,000 a year for up to three years to 166 doctoral students from across Canada and abroad. They are intended to attract and retain world-class doctoral students. Their value and prestige put the Vanier Scholarships on par with such highly regarded awards as the Rhodes scholarships in the UK and the Fulbright scholarships in the US.

Newbury's research project, "Contextualizing care: Alternatives to the individualization of struggles and support," will focus on how an emphasis on social justice—not just individualized care—might alter Canadian approaches to helping children and families.

"Most of our initiatives seem to focus on providing services for particular individuals who are struggling, whether it be because of experiences of abuse, addiction, mental illness, poverty, or otherwise," Newbury explains. "But these individuals are most often not random. For instance, women, children, and Aboriginal people are often highly represented. If contributing to the well-being of children and families is the goal, then perhaps addressing inequitable social conditions is a good place to start.

"I've always loved working with children and youth," says the Newfoundland native. "In high school I worked at camps in the summer; most of my work experience is with kids." Newbury earned a bachelor's in sociology from the University of Ottawa and then taught English in Japan, worked at a girls' home and a school in Jamaica, and volunteered at an orphanage in Vietnam. "That led me to do a diploma in child and youth care at Nova Scotia Community College. Then I worked in group homes in Calgary and also as a family initiative counsellor in Valemount, BC, before coming to UVic for my master's," she says.

**"Janet is one of those students that faculty love to work with," says her supervisor Dr. Marie Hoskins.**

"She is a gifted writer, has a brilliant mind, an unwavering work ethic and—as if these attributes are not enough—she also has an astute sense of social justice and professional responsibility to those who need support and care."

"I feel extremely grateful for this scholarship," says Newbury. "It is both a really amazing opportunity and a responsibility at the same time. It provides an opportunity to really try my best to make a contribution to the field. I now have three years to focus my energy in this direction, with lots of support."

"Basically, the scholarship allows me to treat this research as a full-time job, rather than trying to do it off the side of my desk at the end of the day," she explains. "This will enable me to be much more thorough and attentive to detail. I would like to do research on two levels. One level involves understanding trends in service delivery for children and families, drawing from data collected by various government ministries and NGOs, for example. The other involves understanding the implications of interventions in the lives of children and families. This will include conducting interviews and focus groups. Of course, there are costs involved in pursuing both these lines of research, and the scholarship will really help with those."

### Undergraduate Student Profile

By Michelle, Koroll, SCYC

Karaleen Christie decided on a career in child and youth care during her adolescent years which were very challenging. While in high school she connected with a child and youth care worker who helped her believe that she had the ability to succeed. He really helped her gain perspective on what she needed to do in order to be a successful and independent person. That experience had such a positive impact that she decided that she wanted to help other children/youth the way that she was helped.

A few years after high school Karaleen eventually found her way to the Child & Youth Care Diploma Program at Red River College. Throughout her diploma program she honed her skills through practicums, particularly in the area of high risk youth. In her second year she was encouraged by some of her instructors to continue with her studies and she was directed to the Child and Youth Care degree at the University of Victoria.

Karaleen stayed in Winnipeg and enrolled as a distance education student at the University of Victoria.

**She was able to work part-time and pursue her goal of further education.**

Her employment and practicum experiences continued to focus on high risk youth, particularly those in specialized group homes and MacDonald Youth Services.

Now Karaleen has relocated to Lac du Bonnet with her young family and is doing her last practicum as a child protection worker with Sagkeeng Child & Family Services. Karaleen has done the child protection specialization as part of her degree and expects to get hired by the agency once she has graduated in November. The values of child and youth care are well suited to child welfare practice and her years of previous practice are proving to be very beneficial.

Karaleen thinks she will return to her studies sometime in the future as she would like to eventually get a Master's degree in marriage and family counseling through the University of Winnipeg.



## Graduate aims to help children on her reserve

By Suzanne Smith, The Ring, June 2009

Lila Underwood has always known that she would work with kids.

Before enrolling in the Bachelor in Child and Youth Care program, Underwood was a teaching assistant at Bayside Middle School.

"When I was a teaching assistant I found that many of my kids would come to me with social/emotional issues that were getting in the way of their ability to learn. Once I helped them with these issues they improved academically," explains Underwood.

These experiences, along with some encouragement from the staff at Bayside, convinced Underwood to enroll in UVic's child and youth care program. Going to UVic allowed her to continue living on the Pauquachin reserve, which was very important to her, but also sometimes difficult.

"The challenge for me was living in two different worlds. We have our own beliefs, values and customs on the reserve which sometimes clash with university culture. For example, when we have a death in the community everyone stops what they're doing to help the family in mourning."

**"Being a student I couldn't always be there for my community because of deadlines and other**

**responsibilities. This was hard for me and for my community, but I had to make sacrifices," explains Underwood.**

Despite the challenges, Underwood had very positive experiences at UVic. "I never felt uncomfortable or that I couldn't have a voice," she says. "I was part of a core group of students who stayed together throughout the program. We formed a real sense of community and this sense of belonging was really important to me."

Underwood is now working as the Education Manager for the Pauquachin First Nation where she hopes to help more youth graduate from high school and go on to post-secondary education.

She is one of about 40 students graduating with the new title of Bachelor in Child and Youth Care. Until now students graduating from this program received a BA in Human and Social Development.

## Events:

### What can I do with my degree?

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

5:30pm - 7:00pm

Human and Social Development Building  
Room A240

<http://coop.uvic.ca/events/>

### What's up Doc? Research Presentation

Phil Lancaster, Adjunct Professor, School of Child and Youth Care

Monday, November 2, 2009

12:30pm - 1:15pm

Human and Social Development Building  
Room B141

### What's up Doc? Research Presentation

Cole Little, PhD Student, School of Child and Youth Care

Monday, November 30, 2009

12:30pm - 1:15pm

Human and Social Development Building  
Room B141

**Note:** Videos of the above will be available from the SCYC website soon.

### Application Deadlines:

**Undergraduate:** February 28

**Graduate:**

**International Students:** December 15

**Domestic:** January 31