Letter from the Director:
Jennifer White, Director

Another busy and successful semester has come to an end, giving us a moment to take stock, catch our breath and look ahead to what’s coming next. For faculty members, this may mean turning our attention to our scholarly writing or tending to our research projects. Many of us have several graduate students we are supervising whose work needs reviewing. Some of us may be teaching a course over the summer term and/or tuning up our syllabi for September. For professional staff, the work of supporting our students continues unabated at this time of year with practicum placements, student advising, and curriculum development projects. Meanwhile, the administrative support team keeps the School running smoothly through their competent, behind-the-scenes support. Students often take the summer to return home, find a job, take an elective, enroll in practicum, go on a trip, spend time with their families and/or all of the above.

Looking ahead, we are preparing ourselves for another year of transition. Professor Greg Saunders and Dr. Daniel Scott are both retiring as of June 30, 2016. Greg and Daniel have been instrumental in making the School of Child and Youth Care such a high quality academic and professional program. We are immensely grateful to them for their leadership, collegiality, and unwavering commitment to students. We wish them all the best in their retirements. Our colleague Dr. Veronica Pacini-Ketchabaw is also leaving us for one year to go to the University of Western Ontario. Veronica’s immense contributions as the Chair of our Undergraduate Program Committee and Coordinator of the Early Years specialization are beyond measure. She will be deeply missed by all of us during her leave. At the same time that we are saying farewell to some of our cherished colleagues, we are also excited about making space for some new faculty members to join us! We are very much looking forward to welcoming Dr. Jeffrey Ansloos on July 1st who will be joining us as an Assistant Teaching Professor on a three-year limited term. Jeffrey’s areas of expertise are in the areas of global mental health and peace building with First Nations youth. We will also be engaged in at least two more faculty hires in the coming year so stay tuned for that.

In the midst of all of this movement and change, it is my sincere hope that we all take the necessary time for rest and renewal over the summer months. Take advantage of the extended daylight, read a novel, take a nap, go for lots of walks, eat with those you love, spend time in nature, feed your creative spirit, tend to your garden, volunteer your time, and cherish your time with friends, family, and pets. We are blessed.

2016 Provost’s Engaged Scholar recipients announced
The Ring

Dr. Jessica Ball (child and youth care) and Dr. John Lutz (history) have been named the 2016 recipients of the Provost’s Engaged Scholar Award. This is the third year for the annual awards program, which celebrates the integration of outstanding scholarship, inspired teaching and real-life community engagement. It recognizes tenured faculty members who have achieved great distinction as community-engaged scholars.

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Vice-President Academic and Provost Valerie Kuehne congratulated the recipients of the award. “Jessica Ball and John Lutz embody what it is to be a community-engaged scholar at UVic,” she said. “They are both passionate about combining research, service and community partnerships to lead to positive societal change.”

This year’s awards were presented on March 10. Ball and Lutz were conferred the title of University of Victoria Engaged Scholar, which will be held for a period of five years and may be renewed after that time. They also each received a one-time award of $10,000 to support their research, teaching and community involvement.

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Dr. Jessica Ball

For more than 30 years, Ball has been renowned on campus as a scholar with an outstanding record of groundbreaking research topics and methods, research-inspired teaching and creative knowledge mobilization in the service of Indigenous and ethnic minority communities in Canada and around the world.

After joining UVic’s School of Child and Youth Care 20 years ago, Ball established the Early Childhood Development Intercultural Partnerships program. Through community-university research partnerships, Ball studies how policies and social processes marginalize certain children and families as well as ways to promote more equitable opportunities for quality of life. She includes production of accessible print and digital media into all her projects so that research findings, in her words, “have legs” in communities and with policy makers.
Ball is well-known internationally as a leader in research, knowledge dissemination and policy work on multilingualism and gender equity in early childhood development. In Canada, she conducted the first and only study on the experiences, goals and needs of Indigenous fathers in Canada as part of a national SSHRC-funded study involving 50 community partners. She was a co-investigator of a SSHRC-funded project where she partnered with five First Nations to determine culturally safe and valid approaches to developmental screening and assessment. She was also a Director of the First Nations Partnership Program, which delivered child and youth care courses in First Nations communities and incorporated Elders’ teachings.

A standout scholar, Ball has published over 120 peer-reviewed publications and delivered over 100 conference presentations, keynotes, addresses and workshops related to community-engaged research.

Known as a responsive and collaborative resource for Indigenous communities across the country, Ball is described by Dr. Onowa McIvor, director of Indigenous education in the Faculty of Education, as “highly respected among Indigenous faculty and students at UVic . . . for her demonstrations of how university-based scholars can do meaningful research with Indigenous communities in a good way.”

Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Award (JCURA)

This year’s Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Award (JCURA) research project for the School of Child and Youth Care (SCYC) was the 3rd phase of a multi-year project dedicated to sustaining the Child and Youth Care Students’ Society (CYCSS). This year we took the findings from last year’s undergraduate student survey (on campus and distance) and concentrated on two specific groups of individuals: self-identified international students as well as students who have transferred from other programs or universities with or without a diploma. We facilitated focus groups for each group to discover their opinions on their experience in the CYC student community, regarding their feelings of belonging and inclusion. The data retrieved from both focus groups were then analyzed in order to obtain recommendations for future action from the CYCSS, as well as the SCYC as a whole. These findings will be presented at the April school meeting and filmed to be posted online for all students, staff, and faculty to access.

And here are some personal excerpts:
It was rather interesting and eye-opening to be able to take part in an actual research project during my undergrad degree. I am happy to say that I am now less scared of research! (Daniele)

Participating in the JCURA was a beneficial experience that allowed me to contribute to the CYCSS in a positive and meaningful way. Overall I learned quite a bit about the process of research that I will take with me into the field as a CYC practitioner. (Warda)

We learned that the needs of transfer-identified and international-identified students differed at times; however, there ended up being a number of similarities. The common recommendations included having a mentorship program created and an increase in social events to encourage the sense of community not solely on an academic level. We hope that all the recommendations listed on our research poster will be implemented in the next school year!

Child and Youth Care Students’ Society (CYCSS) Spring 2016 Report

Angie Gray (Outgoing Director)

It may not quite be summer, but spring has taken hold bringing us sunshine and so many of our sweet baby deer neighbours to remind us that change and new beginnings are here! While some students are enjoying a break from student life, many other CYCers are diving deep into practicum, learning and growing in practice and life! The CYCSS has had a great year, and we are forever grateful for the mentorship and support of our greatest champion, Jin-Sun Yoon. Her willingness to support our efforts and inspire our growing connections between students, staff, and faculty contribute so much to the strength of our community.

SCYC Director Jennifer White and the Student Representatives have continued their collaboration to gather feedback from students on the CYC program as a whole. This feedback is different from the course experience surveys, and helps identify gaps, redundancies and the many successes of our program as it is experienced by our current student community. The feedback gathered from students is considered when curriculum and other school matters are under revision. Student representatives will return in September and will be ready to hear what is currently working well, or any concerns you have.

June convocation is only weeks away! We are excited to welcome on campus and distance students to celebrate their convocation with a lovely gift from the CYCSS. Not able to attend convocation? We are happy to ship your gift! Please contact us at uviccys@gmail.com with your shipping address. Congratulations to all of this year’s graduates! You’ve worked so hard; we couldn’t be more proud!

The CYC Student Lounge has become a hub of student academic and social interactions. Amenities include a microwave, coffee pot, kettle, and assorted teas to help you get through a tough paper, group project, or just to relax between classes. Students from different years are getting a chance to meet each other and socialize and are reporting that they really value having a place to gather and build community. If you haven’t popped in yet, please do! The lounge is located in HSD B147. Please remember: this is a shared space! Keep it tidy!

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In February we held our Annual General Meeting (AGM) and elected an entirely fresh and amazing new
Gregory Saunders
Assistant Teaching Professor Greg Saunders was first appointed to the Educational Psychology Department as Specialist Instructor from 1978 until 1988, when he was appointed to the School of Child and Youth Care. From the beginning, Greg has played a central role in building the School's high quality practice-based curriculum, assisting his colleagues with the development of reflective and effective student-focused teaching approaches and with chairing the School's Student Affairs and Teaching Portfolios, planning the school's annual student orientation, its twice-yearly teaching retreats and providing core support for teaching excellence in the school. Greg is a Master Teacher who, even while retired, will continue to inspire us.

Daniel Scott
Daniel Scott was appointed to the School of Child and Youth Care in 2001 and immediately became the Graduate Advisor for the School’s then new Masters Program and took a major role in the development of the School’s high quality practice-based curriculum, assisting his colleagues with the development of reflective and effective student-focused teaching approaches and with chairing the School’s Student Affairs and Teaching Portfolios, planning the school’s annual student orientation, its twice-yearly teaching retreats and providing core support for teaching excellence in the school. Greg is a Master Teacher who, even while retired, will continue to inspire us.

William J. Mussell, Honorary Doctor of Education (DEd)
http://www.uvic.ca/ceremonies/convocation/honorary/index.php
One of Canada’s leading promoters of the health and wellness of Indigenous children, youth, families and communities, Bill Mussell is a member of the Skwah First Nation (Sto:lo) who has dedicated his life to addressing the impacts of colonization — especially the effects of residential schools — on the lives of Indigenous Peoples.

Mussell coined and promoted the concept of “warrior-caregiver” as a way to revitalize traditional roles of First Nations men so that positive contributions to family and community life are honoured and respected.

At the University of Victoria, Mussell has made substantial contributions to the Master of Education program in Indigenous Communities Counselling Psychology, part of his impact on the field of Indigenous mental health. Unique in Canada, the program reflects Mussell’s proven record of transformative educational leadership, which can be traced back to his input into the seminal 1972 paper “Indian Control of Indian Education.”

A scholar and a leader in consultation and policy development, Mussell’s multi-level contributions over the past 40 years have influenced generations of Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders, policy-makers, educators and human service practitioners.

The School of Child and Youth Care is proud to have nominated Bill for this prestigious honour and we look forward to celebrating with Bill and his family and friends at a hosted luncheon on June 17th.

Follow the School of Child and Youth Care on Twitter @uvic_cyc

I would like to personally express my gratitude to our amazing out-going board members. Your commitment to our community and the profession of Child and Youth Care has been demonstrated time and time again. The skills and dedication that each and every one of you brought to the table were essential in the successes that we experienced this year. Your exceptional professionalism, engagement in your community, and willingness to take on projects and challenges, while also fulfilling the expectations of 4th year CYC course work is commendable. So hugs and love, and a fond farewell to Olivia Kaehn, Heather Allison, Daniele Goulet, Kat Hiebert, and Meadow Dykes; you will be amazing out there!

Soleil Heaney will be taking on the position of Director, with Marina Rossi and Chantal Adams as the new Co-Chairs. Soleil Heaney will take on Treasurer duties, with Kristin Crossman as the new Secretary, Mia Angus in the Fundraising Co-ordinator position, and Claire Hanbury will be filling a newly created position: Communications Co-ordinator. Thank you to these amazingly committed people; you will continue to help build and grow this amazing community of CYC practitioners!

Emily Hellard will be taking on the position of Director, with Marina Rossi and Chantal Adams as the new Co-Chairs. Soleil Heaney will take on Treasurer duties, with Kristin Crossman as the new Secretary, Mia Angus in the Fundraising Co-ordinator position, and Claire Hanbury will be filling a newly created position: Communications Co-ordinator. Thank you to these amazingly committed people; you will continue to help build and grow this amazing community of CYC practitioners!

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