

Spring



# The Connector

We would like to acknowledge that the University of Victoria is located on Coast Salish territory.

## Inside this Issue:

Congratulations to 2006 grad class	2
Social Work course earns International Award	3
Supervisor's Course	4
Indigenous MSW Program	5
Newcomers Welcome	6
Field Education Team	7

## Whitaker Field Education Conference

In celebration of its 30th Anniversary, the School of Social Work hosted a two day conference in October 2006. Its title "Unfolding the Elsewhere and Otherwise" encouraged us to think critically, as Dr. Lena Dominelli explained, what it means to be "riding the justice train" and what we do to make this journey of eradicating social inequalities possible. It was a truly successful event that generated rich, critical, and thought provoking discussions on the educational and practice possibilities of social justice in social work. The event brought together field educators, students, researchers, field supervisors and interested community members for a number of

presentations and workshops. These presentations and workshops intended to highlight and examine the diverse knowledges, issues, and practice orientations that guide field educators, practitioners, and social work students. The event symbolized the enthusiasm and strong will to engage in collaboration to support students in connecting social work theory to practice and making social justice an aim in social work practice.

### *Unfolding the Elsewhere and Otherwise*





## Greetings From the Director

Greetings to all! I have been appointed by the Dean of the Faculty, Dr. Mary Ellen Purkis, to serve as the Interim Director of the School of Social Work until June 30, 2007. I am a member of the Faculty of Education and have recently completed three years as the Chair of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. I am very pleased to have this opportunity to work with all of you.

Many of you have probably heard about some of the challenges faced by the School over the last two months. There have been a number of team meetings, and some sense of confusion and uncertainty. As the Interim Director I want to acknowledge to the entire Social Work family my recognition of the difficulties which they have faced, and in some cases may continue to face. My first priority is to work with the faculty, staff and students in the School and to provide assistance.

A brief overview of recent events—Dr. Allan Irving has resigned as Director for personal reasons. It is our understanding that he will remain at the School until June 30, 2007, the effective date of his resignation from his faculty position.

I want to conclude by reassuring everyone that the work of the School continues. All professors, support and administrative staff remain in their positions and are proceeding with their duties and responsibilities in admirable fashion. In my first week in this position, I have been most impressed with the good will that seems to me to be a hallmark of the School of Social Work.

*Deborah Begoray, Interim Director, School of Social Work*



## *Congratulations!*

**What some of the 2006 BSW and MSW graduates have to say...**



**Jocelyn Houle, BSW**  
*"I really enjoyed the group projects, and the teachers were very supportive and helpful"*



**Karen Lanser, BSW**  
*"I think all the hard work is finally hitting me that I have actually accomplished and had fun!"*

**Amber Hitchen, MSW**  
*"I was happy with my practicum because it exposed me to something I wouldn't have experienced otherwise."*



**Peter Carter, BSW**  
*"I feel a great sense of accomplishment of actually finishing something, and starting a new chapter and got a job right away."*





*A Distance Education Course brings home an International award*

The School of Social work has been awarded the 2005-2006 Commonwealth of Learning Excellence in Distance Education Award for Distance Education Materials. The award was presented at the Fourth Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning in Jamaica on November 2nd. Social Work 391 titled “Indigenous Approaches to Healing and Helping” earned the award for its interactive and creative approach of delivering the curriculum.



The distance education course is offered electronically and encompasses web-based group discussion, audio files, video/DVD materials, and a course manual. It is designed with the objective of enabling Indigenous students to directly interact with First Nations elders, political leaders and human service workers.

In addition, students explore the traditional and contemporary approaches used by Indigenous peoples to effect positive changes and engage in healing within their communities.



Prof. Monty Montgomery of the School of Social Work presented a gift of thanks on behalf of Uvic and the Coast Salish nations to Jamaican representative Ms. Vilma McClenan. Pictured left to right: Monty Montgomery, Maggie Kovach, Ms. Vilma McClenan, Dora Leigh Bjornson.

The DVD series titled “**Indigenous Renewal: Time for Life Again**” is used in the curriculum for the course. It was produced by Lifting Children's Spirit Society, a grassroots non-profit society located in the traditional territory of Chemainus people of the Coast Salish Nation. The DVD features Lennie Louie, Corie Moran-Adakai, Frank Adakai, and Sean Brown.

- The curriculum team included:**
- Maggie Kovach, faculty member and course writer
  - Kirsten Mikkelsen, Program Assistant for the School's Indigenous programs and graduate student in the Indigenous Governance program, who produced the accompanying DVD: Indigenous Renewal: Time for Life Again
  - Menno Hubregtse, Technical Support and WebCT site design
  - Dora Leigh Bjornson, Distance BSW Program Director and project manager.
  - Uvic's Distance Education Services, audio/video production and instructional design consultation



Graphic: Darren Taylor



## **An Opportunity to Enhance Supervisory Skills** *Web-based Interactive Supervisor's Course*

This free, ten to twelve week online course for UVIC social work practicum supervisors, or perspective supervisors, offers a unique opportunity to:

- explore the recent literature on practice supervision
- consider the links between social work theory and practice and,
- share supervisory experiences and ideas with other practitioners.

This fun, innovative course provides concrete tools for supervision both with students and others in the workplace. The intent of the course is to mirror the characteristics of a dynamic learning environment for the practicum student.

The course is divided into core and optional modules which are delivered in a user friendly online environment. Student voices and experiences are included in the course through the use of audio vignettes. Participants who successfully complete four modules will receive a certificate from the School of Social Work. Count on setting aside five hours per week for participation.

The first offering of the course wrapped up in December, 2006, with 11 graduates receiving certificates.



*Recent graduates of the Practicum Supervisor's Course met at the School of Social Work of a celebration and to receive their course certificates. From left to right: Malcolm Crockett, Nancy Lowry, Cheryl Moir-van Iersel, Donna Calvo, Jordie Allen-Newman*

For more information, including the next offering of the course, please contact the course instructor Cheryl Moir-van Iersel at (250) 721-8036 or [ci-ersel@uvic.ca](mailto:ci-ersel@uvic.ca)



Graduate Mark Fournier with instructor Cheryl Moir-van Iersel

## *Indigenous MSW Program*



The School of Social Work is excited to announce that an Indigenous MSW program is currently seeking approval from the University of Victoria Faculty of Graduate Studies. Notification of when the program is open for admissions will be given in the near future.

During the program development, a pilot form of the program was being hosted in the Cowichan area and made up of workers from First Nations child and family serving agencies. Students began taking course work in January 2005. They are in their second academic year of the pilot program and are now in the midst of completing the thesis or research project degree requirements.

Along with fulfilling all the requirements of a regular MSW degree program, the FNMSW program is designed with a specialized focus on areas such as developing and reinforcing skills and knowledge that contribute to First Nations communities and improve policies and practices at First Nations service agencies. For further information, you may log on to the School of Social Work website at <http://socialwork.uvic.ca/programs/msw/fnmsw.htm> or contact Jaime Ready at (250) 721-8036.

### **Alayne Hamilton Award for Excellence in Community Social Work**

Inaugural Award- March 2007

This prestigious award will be presented to a community social worker who shows leadership in his or her organization; demonstrates a commitment to social work education; and has a history of inspiring learning in students and colleagues. The nomination committee wishes to recognize individuals who contribute to the legacy of passionate community social work symbolized by Alayne Hamilton's remarkable career.

The award nominees will attend a recognition celebration in mid-March at the University Club with the 2007 Alayne Hamilton Award recipient will be announced during Social Work week at the end of March.

The nominees are:

Brenda Macevicius- Esquimalt Neighbourhood House  
Miki Hansen- AIDS Vancouver Island  
David Turner- Vancouver Island Human Rights Coalition  
Tomoko Okada- Intercultural Association and UVic Family Centre  
Jani Cardinal- Alzheimer Society of B.C. (Victoria)  
Sandee Mitchell - Camosun College First Nations Faculty Resource



**Alayne Hamilton**



## Greetings from Newcomers:



Maxine Gibson, MSW

My love of social work began in 1982, when I first started working for Social Services in Rocky Mountain House, Alberta as a receptionist. I was excited to discover the humanitarian and egalitarian ideologies espoused by the profession of social work. I was particularly impressed when I witnessed those ideologies expressed through the acts of kindness and compassion displayed by social workers. Such dedication to social work values led me to want to become a social worker myself!

I completed my social work diploma by attending night classes at Red Deer College while working as a case aide for the Ministry of Child Protection. I later had the privilege of working as a child protection social worker on the Sunchild First Nations Reserve near Rocky Mountain House, Alberta. In 2001, I completed my Bachelor of Social Work degree through the University of Victoria's distance program. It was a wonderful experience! I particularly enjoyed attending the on-campus component of 323 and meeting my instructors and fellow students.

The on-campus experience propelled me to take a leave of absence from my job and to move to Victoria in 2003 to complete my Master of Social Work degree. I returned to Rocky Mountain House for a short period of time, but soon missed the wonderful folks in Victoria so much that I applied for a part-time job as a practicum liaison and returned to Victoria in January, 2005. I completed my MSW degree in June, 2006 and now work part time as a practicum coordinator and part time as a practicum liaison for students completing their Bachelor of Social Work degrees. I love field education because it provides students with the opportunity to experience social work in action!! It is exciting to see students make the connection between social work theory and practice and I feel privileged to share in their learning adventures.

This is my first year as a Faculty Liaison for the School of Social work at UVic. I feel very excited and honored to be part of the School. My previous professional focus has been in the areas related to women, children and family/parenting issues, specifically, the effects of and healing from abuse, trauma and violence. My interests have included clinical counselling, play therapy, mediation, crisis intervention and education for clients, professionals and social work students.

I have worked at Family Services of Greater Vancouver (FSGV) for the last 12 years in various programs - as a Senior Adoption Social Worker, therapist in the "Children Affected by Family Violence" program, counsellor with the inner city school "Family Advancement" program, group facilitator for "Family Life Education" program and a therapist for "Employee Assistance" program. FSGV has been a wonderful place to grow both professionally and personally!

I currently reside in Vancouver B.C. with my husband and 3 children.



Sutinder Kaba, MSW, RSW



A  
A  
W  
a  
r  
m  
W  
e  
l  
c  
o  
m  
e



## Field Education Team 2006 - 2007

*We are pleased to introduce the faculty who support our student's practicum experiences.*

**David Hannis, M.Ed.**  
(Alberta),  
Dip. Social Admin. (York,  
England), BA (Exeter)

**Yvonne Haist, BSW, M.Ed.**  
(UVic), dip. Ad. Ed. (UBC),  
Senior Instructor

**Tracey Banks, BSW**  
(McMaster), MSW (Calgary)

**Maxine Gibson, BSW,**  
MSW (UVic)

**Betty Taylor, BSW**  
(Calgary), MSW (Carleton)

**Penny MacCourt, BSW,**  
MSW (Manitoba), PhD  
(UVic)

**Glen Tadsen, BA** (Simon  
Fraser), MSW (UBC)

**Kathleen Towne, BSc**  
(Antioch, Ohio), MSW  
(Michigan)

**Tracey Lavoie, BA**  
(Manitoba), BSW (Manitoba),  
MSW (Manitoba)

**Sutinder Kaba, BA** (Alberta),  
BSW, MSW (UBC)

**Susan Strega, BSW**  
(Southampton), MSW (UVic),  
PhD (Manitoba)

**Yasmin Dean, BSW**  
(Calgary), MSW (Calgary)

**Walene Whitaker, BSW,**  
MSW (UBC)

**Siu-May Lui, BA**  
(Concordia), MSW (Brigham  
Young)

**Suzanne Maurice, BA**  
(Alberta), BSW (UVic), MSW  
candidate (UVic)

**Cheryl Moir van Iersel,**  
BSW (Calgary), MSW (UBC),  
Senior Instructor

**Cheryl Aro, BSW, MSW can-**  
didate (UVic)

