

S U M M E R 2 0 1 4

the Air Up Here

The Department of Educational Psychology & Leadership Studies

In Here,
Not Out There

While summer breeze embraced the campus, eighteen enthusiastic and devoted leaders and followers got together to learn, discuss, and reflect on the philosophy of servant-leadership as described by Robert K. Greenleaf (1970). Putting our mind and heart together, we built a respectful learning community in a short period of time. Our capacity to build relationships across difference was only possible through trusting each other and believing in our common humanity, which is reflective of the principles of servant leadership.

It was then clear that our small group of people were a step forward to building a more caring, just and inclusive society of leaders and followers through servant-leadership.

*~Submitted by
Alexis Stuart and
Jaerang Lee*

Summer in Session

The sun is out, but our students are still learning



Save the Date!

Last Day to
Add Classes

Sept 19th, 2014

Tuition Due
Sept 30th, 2014

1st term tuition
due! Avoid late
fees and holds on
your file

Academic Drop
Date

Oct 31st, 2014

To withdraw from
courses with no
academic penalty



Language, Literacy and Learning Lab at the Canadian Psychological Association

Our research team attended the annual conference of the Canadian Psychological Association in Vancouver this summer. The conference had researchers and practitioners from all over Canada representing various disciplines in psychology including: cognition, counselling, developmental, educational and school psychology.

Our team presented a number of posters from various projects underway in the Language, Literacy and Learning Lab in the section for Educational and School Psychology. Lauren Goegan presented a poster titled: “Evaluating the Merit of Extended Time as an Accommodation for University Students with Learning Disabilities: Maximum Potential or Differential Boost?” The poster highlighted initial findings from her thesis. Jessica Spurling also presented a poster with findings from her thesis titled “Evaluating Lexical Quality in Writing in ESL and EL1 5th Graders.”

Kelly McManus prepared a poster to present findings from an ongoing study in the Language, Literacy and Learning Lab. Working with Lauren Goegan, Rachel Jalbert and Dr. Gina Harrison, their research examines spelling error patterns of students in Grades 3 and 5. The poster titled “Assessing Spelling in Skilled and Less Skilled First and Second Language Learners” was presented at the conference by Dr. Harrison as 10 days earlier Kelly gave birth to adorable baby Liam.

The conference was a fantastic learning opportunity, and an excellent chance to see research taking place across Canada. For those interested in the CPA, the 2015 conference will be held in Ottawa from June 4th to 6th. Info at <http://www.cpa.ca/>. Student membership fees were well worth it as the conference is a great place for students to present their research and meet important researchers across Canada in their area of study.

~Submitted by Lauren Goegan

The Professional Specialization Certificate & Diploma Programs in Special Education

UPDATE

In September 2014 we begin our 6th year of the Certificate and our 4th year of the Diploma! Our student numbers have tripled in both programs since our launch. We are proud of each of the 141 teachers who have graduated from the Certificate and 44 teachers from the Diploma Programs!



L to R: Leah Gronow, Lauren Williamson, Lorna Rizzie

I have enjoyed the practical nature of this program. At this point in my life I am looking for a program that offers a 'real life' approach to the Special Education field. The courses and assignments that I have completed have been useful for my job as a Learning Support Teacher.

~Lauren Williamson

I am now armed with a superior knowledge base of theory and skills to not only put into practice on a daily basis but also to share with my colleagues to better serve our Special Needs students. I have been thrilled to work within a dynamic cohort of peers, who are amazingly supportive and insightful when sharing information and career related experiences. It is the instructors and their multi faceted courses that challenge and provide for stimulating learning opportunities between the students, with fantastic forum discussions and opportunities to use UDL for various assignments. With each course in the certificate and diploma programs, I have come away inspired to improve not only my teaching techniques and skills but also to improve ways in which I can influence, inspire and share the ideas I have learnt with others in key roles working with Special Needs students.

~ Leah Gronow

The program really completes circle of learning, how each child has strengths and weaknesses, identifying these areas assists everyone involved in this child's learning, even the child. I think the program demystified a lot of the scary stuff I had associated with Special Education. It's a rigorous program, but at the same time helps the teacher help the child in the long run.

~Lorna Rizzie

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **On June 30th, Dr. Jillian Roberts**, Associate Professor of Special Education in EPLS, signed a book contract with Orca Publishers to create a new series of non fiction picture books for the preschool audience. The first in the series will be based on the best selling "Facts of Life App." The other books in the series will be about other important life topics; such as separation/divorce, illness, and helping children understand death and end of life issues. The working title of the new series is "Orca Just Enough"--based on the App's slogan of "just enough." The hope is for the first three books to be published for a Fall 2015 release--and to be available in hard copy, board book and boxed sets. Stay tuned!



➤ **EPLS now has Teaching Assistant Consultants**

- **WHO:** Susan Karim (MA EdPsych) and Lindsay McCardle (PhD EdPsych)
- **WHAT:** The TA Consultant program at UVic positions TA mentors (known as "TA Consultants" or "TACs") in most departments throughout campus.
- **WHY:** The TAC's primary role is to facilitate the professional development of TAs in his/her department and assisting them to be effective teachers, primarily by offering a discipline-specific TA seminars or workshops that cover a range of practical topics, tips, approaches and issues most pertinent to TAs at UVic, as well as helping with one-on-one questions/consultations, and providing teaching observations and feedback for new TAs and advice and referral to appropriate campus resources.
- **LOOK OUT FOR:** TA workshop and pro-D opportunities offered in the department and through the Learning and Teaching Centre (especially the TA conference running September 2-5, 2014 (for more info and to register for sessions: <http://www.ltc.uvic.ca/servicesprograms/taprod/FallTAConf.php>)
- **CONTACT US:** If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions, or just want to say hi, please email Susan at skarim@uvic.ca or Lindsay at mccardle@uvic.ca.