



University of Victoria

Human and Social Development QUARTERLY

Volume 2 / July 2016



Dr. Alan Sobey in his Edmonton home office (l) and at his workplace (r) with Alberta Health Services. Dr. Sobey is a surgeon and intensive care specialist who is enjoying his online studies with UVic's School of Health Information Science. Story on pg. 2.

DEGREES BY DISTANCE: STUDENTS & FACULTY REVEAL UNEXPECTED BENEFITS OF LEARNING ONLINE

For more than 35 years, HSD has been a national leader in offering learners flexible access to education. Today, with enrolment for distance programs at close to 70% for graduates and 55% for undergraduate programs, nearly 1,900 distance students are enrolled at HSD each year. Interestingly, many are right here in the city, elsewhere on the island, in the province, across the country, and around the world.

"Learners can study in a virtual classroom alongside people from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and locations without having to leave their communities or quit work," says Dora-Leigh Bjornson, Program Director for the Bachelor of Social Work, one of HSD's most popular distance degree options with a student population of about 500 undergrads and 60 graduate students. Annual admission is usually not more than 200 applications, plus they keep a wait list.

"Online learning is a very attractive opportunity for adults of all ages because our programs are designed to promote a high level of student-instructor engagement," says Bjornson. Faculty and instructors are specifically trained for online program delivery so the virtual learner fares as well as the on-site learner.

Success also stems from a 'layer cake' of orchestrated systems within the university to enable the student no matter where they live. Instructional and program design, tech support, knowledgeable advisors, practicum coordinators, and administrative support staff who understand the needs of online learners all play essential, collaborative roles to support the distance learner.

The digital age has also brought learners an Infoline Library Service, Online Help Desk, and a Technology Integrated Learning Unit. Even HSD's Indigenous Student Support Centre offers guidance to Indigenous students learning online. The result: a positive, effective learning experience that leads to successful program completion.

Many distance programs are blended, meaning there is an on-site component that complements online learning, intensifying studies and helps build the ever-important human bond. "Graduates often share a similar connection," says Bjornson, "where they along with their fellow students are in it together, even if they may be miles apart."



DEAN'S MESSAGE

As we head into summer, I hope each of you gets much needed rest and restoration. I also hope you find time to reflect on the amazing project of human hope and social change that is HSD.

Almost every week this past year you could learn about HSD faculty, students or staff through the media or a journal, book, report, conference, award ceremony, funding announcement, or community event. Along with our community partners and generous donors, your collective efforts transform our academic mission into real progress every day.

Last June and November, we lauded the hundreds of incredible convocating HSD undergraduate and graduate students who are now ready to change our world. Many, if not most, could not have studied here without supportive family and friends, one or more forms of funding assistance, and the committed guidance of our faculty and staff.

We also know that most HSD students need another essential ingredient to obtain a university education. They need access to quality programs regardless of where they live, so they can learn while also fulfilling family, work, and community commitments often hundreds of miles from campus. That's why our online and blended learning programs are largely full before the application deadline.

It's safe to say that distance is the future for our faculty and the diverse communities we serve. We know that because the quality of HSD's accessible professional programs consistently launch our graduates into meaningful work. According to UVic's 2016 annual review, HSD graduates achieve the highest rate of employment within two years post-graduation of any faculty at UVic (98%), and they also rank highest in landing work related to their field of study (97%). It's hard to think of better reasons why we do what we do when reviewing these outcomes.

I wish each of you a good summer, and thank you for your part in this wonderful project called HSD.

Tricia Marck, Dean
Faculty of Human and Social Development

Less social pressure + engaged learning = better outcomes

Dr. Alan Sobey, a surgeon/intensive care specialist with Alberta Health Services in Edmonton, was on campus last month for an intensive classroom session with his **Health Information Science** cohort led by Professor Dr. Francis Lau. "UVic has one of the most established health informatics programs in the world. It's an excellent program," says Sobey, "and the distributed approach to learning just makes it more feasible. In fact, it's often better than being in a classroom."

Sobey, 55, saw opportunities to do things better within his own work world and wanted to learn new technologies that he could apply on the job to improve patient care. A colleague recommended the program; after checking it out, Sobey agreed this two-year online program was the right move. "I just wrote my first academic paper in 27 years," says Sobey, "so for sure online learning is a less intimidating experience for adult learners."

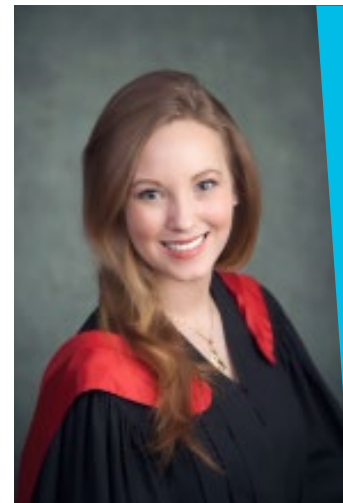
Alex Kent, an online student with the **School of Public Health and Social Policy**, lives in Victoria and works at two part-time jobs which is only one reason why she prefers online learning.

"I love this campus," she says, citing the library, event venues, and the faculty and staff with the research centres she interacts with as her on-campus favorites. "In terms of learning, I prefer the way courses are structured online. It's more convenient and I found it easier to learn, far more so than face-to-face," says Kent, adding that she feels more comfortable engaging in class discussions in an online setting.

"I have less hesitation weighing in on questions posed by my online instructors." Alex says getting involved in class discussions is easier because online learning can be "more engaging and interactive than, say, a crowded lecture hall." The trust is higher, she adds, with having the same cohort every semester while studying for her master's degree in Public Health. "We get to know one another online, so I feel I can put my ideas out there without being afraid of judgment."

You'll find a list of all HSD online degree programs [here](#).

Visit UVic's [Technology Integrated Learning](#) page for tips on succeeding as a distance learner.



Alex Kent

New Indigenous diploma program announced

Informed by community need and inspired by Calls for Action stemming from Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the **School of Public Administration** is offering a two-year, part-time, blended diploma program in **Indigenous Community Development and Governance**.

The school consulted with Indigenous alumni and leaders who advised on guiding principles and delivery methods for a program that respects traditional forms of governance.

"We must prepare to engage government-to-government," says Satsan (Herb George), a Wet'suwet'en hereditary chief of the Frog Clan and speaker for the Wet'suwet'en Nation who served on the program's advisory council and taught at the school for several years. "We need to prepare for our transition from the status quo of the *Indian Act* so Indigenous governments can move forward under the Inherent Rights of Self-Governance." Satsan is currently a member of the leadership team at the Centre for First Nations Governance.

Learn more by visiting the school's [website](#). Deadline for applications has been extended to July 31. Classes begin Sept. 6, 2016.



Dylan Thomas

WELCOME DR. SUSAN DUNCAN, NEW DIRECTOR WITH THE SCHOOL OF NURSING.

Dr. Susan Duncan currently serves as Professor of Nursing and as Program Coordinator for the Master of Nursing at Thompson Rivers University (TRU) in Kamloops.

Dr. Duncan served a term as Dean of the School of Nursing at TRU and, during that time, worked with colleagues to develop an inclusive and diverse vision of research and scholarship. She helped establish processes for promotion, tenure and collegial governance including faculty councils and a senate. She was particularly helpful, too, in building capacity for scholarship and research within the faculty.

Her research focuses now on public health nursing role transitions. Not surprisingly, she is well known for her past collaborative work with UVic on developing undergraduate nursing curriculum. She has also worked with

several indigenous leaders and UVic faculty and staff as part of a team to develop online decolonizing curriculum.

Dr. Duncan has also served as a director with health boards, provincial and national nursing associations, the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing and the Canadian Nurses Association. She remains a founding board member and Past President of the Association of Registered Nurses of BC.

Dr. Duncan looks forward to providing leadership and contributing to the legacy of excellence with our **School of Nursing** and the **Faculty of Human and Social Development**. We look forward to learning more about her once she arrives in Victoria, settles into her new home and her new role this August.



Vancouver Foundation news conference for Fostering Success announcement

Research finds school vital for youth in foster care

Social Work researchers Deborah Rutman and Carol Hubberstey identified what they call “a critical social issue” where barriers interfere with the educational aspirations of youth in foster care who want to get a good education. They explored what could help youth in care to address the current gap impacting their success in school.

Their report, *Fostering Success: Improving Educational Outcomes for Youth in/from Care*, funded by Vancouver Foundation as part of their *Fostering Change* initiative,

offers insights from those closest to the issue along with 12 action steps toward improving educational outcomes for BC children and youth in care.

“This is a complex matter which is not just an education problem or a child welfare problem,” says Rutman. “It’s a shared responsibility among many stakeholders who are potential allies in taking action toward positive change.”

ECDVU MARKS 16 YEARS SERVING THE CITIZENS OF SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

The **Early Childhood Development Virtual University (ECDVU)** – led by Alan Pence, a UNESCO Chair for Early Childhood Education, Care and Development, and a professor and former director with our **School of Child and Youth Care**— educates students from across sub-Saharan Africa and has done for 16 years. Today, the virtual university partners with the Faculty of Education at the University of Ibadan in Nigeria, and is in the fifth year of delivering a popular year-long diploma program.

Externally evaluated by the World Bank, auditors noted the school’s success in achieving high completion rates. Year one – 90%, year two – 96%, year three – 100%. “These high completion rates are outstanding for a virtual education program in any world region. Further, graduates stated they would

recommend the program because it helped them achieve a higher professional status and serve their countries better.

“I think ECDVU is the best thing to have happened to early childhood development in Africa,” said Uche Ezirim, a graduate from Nigeria.

An open access book about the ECDVU experience is now available, featuring two guest chapters by ECDVU graduates Clarence Mwinuka and Fortidas Bakuze on the development of the Tanzanian Early Childhood Development Network. Also Foster Kholowa and Francis Chalamanda focus on education and training development over time in Malawi. For more info, go to www.ecdvu.org.





Dr. Evert Lindquist Receives Lieutenant Governor Award

On June 23, the Institute of Public Administration Canada's Victoria and Vancouver Regional Chapter celebrated the career achievements of **Dr. Evert Lindquist**, UVic professor of Public Administration and previous school director. As recipient of the **2016 Lieutenant Governor Silver Medal for Excellence in Public Administration**, Dr. Lindquist was honoured for his contributions and dedication to public service in an event at Government House hosted by the Honourable Judith Guichon, Lieutenant Governor of BC. Bravo, Evert! We are delighted for you to receive this recognition!



Dr. Bernie Pauly Receives 2016 BC Community Achievement Award

Dr. Bernie Pauly received a **2016 BC Community Achievement Award**, announced by Premier Christy Clark and Keith Mitchell, chair of the BC Achievement Foundation. Dr. Pauly is an Associate Professor and Associate Director of Research and Scholarship in our School of Nursing; a Scientist with the Centre for Addictions Research of BC; a member of the Renewal of Public Health Services Research Team; and priority lead for the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness. She also recently accepted Island Health's Research Scholar in Residence Award.

Dr. Pauly is best known as a long-standing advocate for improving the lives of the most vulnerable citizens in our communities. Her relationships with social agencies here in Victoria and across BC speak to her passion for building community partnerships to advance health equity and social justice.



Dr. Jeannine Carriere



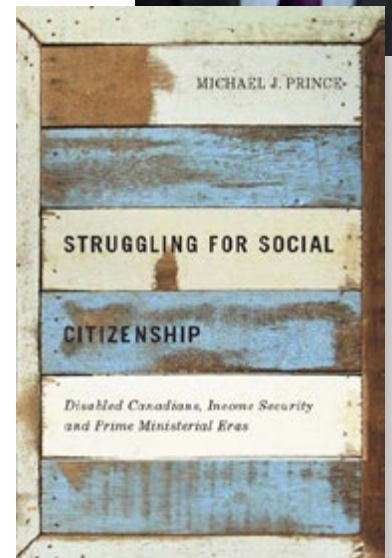
Dr. Catherine Richardson

FIRST BOOK IN CANADA ON METIS CHILD WELFARE MAY BECOME A FILM

Dr. Jeannine Carriere, Professor with the School of Social Work, and **Dr. Catherine Richardson** of the University of Montreal, are two Metis women who have been offered a book contract by **J. Charlton Publishing Ltd** (Vernon, BC) to write the first book in Canada on Métis child welfare. Both are seeking support to produce a film with Christine Welsh and to attend relevant conferences and gatherings where they can promote the book and the project. The scope of the project is to explain child welfare involvement in the lives of Métis communities, what these communities' experiences with child welfare are, how these communities engage in traditional child-rearing practices that may strengthen individuals and families, and how the law deals with Métis children across the country.

Dr. Michael Prince explores political history of the disability benefit

Dr. Michael Prince, Lansdowne Scholar and social policy expert with HSD, has published a new book with McGill-Queen's University Press on the history of the Canada Pension Plan disability benefit. Covering the program's origins, early implementation, liberalization of benefits, and more recent restraint and reorientation of this program, *Struggling for Social Citizenship* is the first detailed examination of the single largest public contributory disability plan in the country. Dr. Prince examines the pension reform agendas and records of the Pearson, Trudeau, Mulroney, Chrétien, Martin, and Harper prime ministerial eras. His study reviews academic literature and government documents, features interviews with officials, and provides an analysis of administrative data regarding trends in expenditures, caseloads, decisions, and appeals related to CPP disability benefits.





We wish to mark this anniversary year for our School of Nursing by sharing two convocation stories from recent graduates with Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing (BSN) degrees.

CONGRATULATIONS TO HOLLI NORBERG, BSN Recipient of the annual HSD Academic Award CONVOCATION – JUNE 2016

The UVic BSN degree is offered in partnership with five colleges* across BC and the NWT. Holli Norberg, 26, of Metis heritage, passionate about Indigenous health, is from Nelson and started her education at Selkirk College in Castlegar. Her instructors advised us she was a “spectacular” student. She was reputed for thinking deeply about the topics she studied and demonstrating leadership in multiple domains of practice. She worked with clients, peers and instructors in ways that were respectful, inclusive, transparent and visionary.

During her studies, Norberg volunteered as a health promotion ambassador for the Canadian Cancer Society and as treasurer for her College’s CRNBC Student Representative Program. She was one of two successful applicants selected to travel to Suriname, South America, as a fourth year leadership project, to work on the development of a post-RN Geriatric Specialty Nursing program.

A week following her nursing graduation, Norberg graduated with a certificate in Unarmed Civilian Peacekeeping, which she completed concurrently during her final semester.

Norberg is currently participating in a research project assessing the potential for utilizing unarmed peacekeeping practices in volatile situations in rural BC. She will soon be traveling to her hometown of Williams Lake as part of a context analysis of ongoing gang-related violence in the community and violence reduction practices that may be useful in decreasing future conflict and harm. She advocates for nonviolence, cultural safety, and human rights. Holli plans to continue teaching and learning, participating in research and program development, and building relationships with inspiring colleagues, clients and communities as a community nurse or nursing instructor.



Holli Norberg accepts her award from UVic Chancellor Shelagh Rogers

“In high school, I was somewhere between average and below average,” says Norberg. “I didn’t get it. I didn’t see the reward in learning. School seemed to be more about sacrificing fun then.” She now wants to be a “great health professional” and has set her sights on a RN-MD designation. As for passing on the fun? “Putting in the time to earn a degree is a small sacrifice to make to get to where you want to go.”

CONGRATULATIONS TO NICOLA HARTE, BSN CONVOCATION – NOVEMBER 2015

“To be a good nurse, you have to understand yourself first,” says Nicola Harte, 47.

Now working with Coastal Health since March 2016, it took Nicola 12 years to complete her BSN due to an overwhelming sequence of loss and hardship. Today, however, Nicola is a Public Health Nurse with the maternal and newborn program in Vancouver. “And it’s a fantastic fit.”

Years ago, Nicola started her work life as a pastry chef, working in a range of kitchens from fine hotels to elite fly-in fishing lodges to small-town bakeries. She travelled the world all the while contemplating higher education and a possible career in nursing.

She started with our School of Nursing in the fall of 2003. About a year in, her dad died suddenly, then her mom was diagnosed with cancer. Over the next few years, other life circumstances took a toll—her marriage ended, she was on her own with a baby girl facing financial hardship while off work with a severe back injury and a bout of depression.

“Life was pretty difficult,” she says, but her resilience paid off, and, in time, she re-registered at UVic.

Nicola’s own upbringing was filled with much love and acceptance but no money. “My parents had a strong work ethic but we were poor. There wasn’t money to send us to college or university. We had to do that on our own.” Money aside, school was a struggle and she grew up believing she wasn’t smart enough for university. Years later, this old belief persisted even while getting top marks.

There are so many things she knows now, she confides, complimented by a deep understanding of what it’s like for people who’ve hit a rough patch in life, raising kids, and trying to improve their lives. “I’ve been off work with medical issues, raising a child with little income or support while putting myself through school. I know how hard it can be to pull yourself up. I want to use my experience to help others do the same.” She hopes to complete a master’s degree in the future and work to affect policy change on social inequities.



Now, she says, she owes UVic’s School of Nursing a debt of gratitude for the extensions, the supports, and the learning.

“When I was crossing the stage at convocation, I heard my daughter yell out, ‘Yay Mommy!’ and that was so wonderful. I could really feel my accomplishment and I knew in that moment I was finally back on top.”

CHANGES

Dr. Cathy Worthington will take on the role of Director of the School of **Public Health and Social Policy** effective July 1, 2016. We are fortunate to work with her in this latest leadership role. Cathy will also continue her role as the Faculty Lead for the HSD Research Centre over the coming year and will help us create our faculty's Strategic Research Plan.

Welcome to **Dr. Jeffrey Ansloos**, a new assistant teaching professor with the **School of Child and Youth Care**. Previously the **Program Director of Global Interdisciplinary Studies** and **Assistant Professor of International Mental Health** at Lesley University in Boston, Jeffrey started his education in Counseling at Trinity Western University. He went on to complete a MA in theology/ethics, a MA in psychology, as well as a PhD in clinical psychology, with Fuller Graduate School and University of Manitoba. His primary interests are in Indigenous child and youth care, complex violence, identity and displacement, community-based peace building, and mental health. We wish you every success, Jeff!



Dr. Jeffrey Ansloos

Dr. Lenora Marcellus will serve as Acting Associate Dean until the end of July. We are grateful for her leadership since March. A search committee is in the process of appointing our next Associate Dean.

Dr. Catherine Althaus is leaving her Director's role with the School of **Public Administration** to return to Melbourne, Australia, where she will serve as an Associate Dean with the Australia and New Zealand School of Government.

We welcome **Jamie Sulek** who now serves as the **Financial Officer** in the Dean's office. Jamie provides vital support in academic and resource planning. An avid cyclist, she does not usually wear her helmet at her desk. ; -)



Jamie Sulek

Pat Blonde, HSD's Academic Administrative Officer, retired June 30 and we will miss her more than words can say. Pat worked in this role for 10 years. Previously, she served the School of Nursing as an administrator for 17 years and prior to that, she was with Education.

"Pat is one of the most quietly adept, proficient administrative officers I've had the privilege of working with," says Laurene Shields, past Associate Dean at HSD and now Acting Director with the Learning and Teaching Centre. "She genuinely cares about people at work, be they students, staff or faculty. She worked with an integrity and thoroughness that elevated those around her and, as a result, made all of us better!"

Pat spent her last few weeks orienting her successor, **Marie Eardley**. Marie spent the past 13 years working as the Administrative Officer in the Office of Research Services and, prior to that, worked for 10 years with the VP Research Office and the Faculty of Business. We are delighted to welcome Marie to the dean's office team.



Marie Eardley

GIVING IS GOOD

Your donation can encourage HSD students to achieve amazing things and inspire researchers to solve big questions. Your donation, quite simply, can change the world. Learn more by contacting our development officer, Lynne Milnes, at lmilnes@uvic.ca or call 250-472-5031.

PLANNING A REUNION?

The UVic Alumni Association can help by promoting your event to classmates, arranging speakers or providing door prizes. Network and keep involved by exploring the list of groups and upcoming events find something right for you alumni.uvic.ca/events/reunions.php.

OUR AUDIENCE

HSD Quarterly is published four times a year to share our faculty goals, priorities, and activities. Story ideas are welcome. Contact Kate Hildebrandt, our communications officer, at katehild@uvic.ca or call 250-472-4389.

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