



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

# Newsletter

Fall 2016



## Letter from the Director:

Jennifer White

We are coming to the end of another busy Fall semester, and many of us are, once again, scratching our heads and asking “where did the time go?” and “how will I ever get everything done?” As students, faculty, and staff members, we are all pretty familiar with the intensities and pressures of producing work and making decisions that are not only rigorous and relevant, but delivered under very tight timelines. Writing this column has been on my ‘to do’ list for awhile and here I am on a Sunday morning, sitting at an airport terminal, stealing time out of my busy week, trying to write something that will be timely and interesting. I know that this is the reality for most of us.

While working to a deadline and anticipating having our work evaluated can occasionally spur some of us to produce our best work, the constant pressure to think, create, and produce — without any space for reflection — can often leave us feeling intellectually, emotionally, spiritually and physically dispirited. The insatiable demands on us to do/achieve/perform/compete at ever higher and higher levels (which characterizes academia in the 21st century), has led to calls from feminist scholars (Mountz, et al., 2015) for a “slowed down” form of scholarship.

Slow scholarship draws attention to how we do our

work, inviting us to consider the kinds of relationships and collective life we want to create. Inspired by the ‘slow food movement,’ which is about taking the time to prepare our own meals and enjoying the sensual pleasures of eating with those we love, slow scholarship also calls for a different form and pace of engagement; one which privileges gatherings and connections over alienation, competition, and isolation. As we enter into the final month of this calendar year, a season that is often marked by its own intensities and rhythms, may we all find opportunities to slow things down just a bit: to read, to think, to listen, to walk, to connect with nature, to commune with others, and to imagine new possibilities together.

## Reference

Mountz, A., et al. (2015). For slow scholarship: A feminist politics of resistance through collective action in the neoliberal university. *ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies*, 114(4), 1235–1258.



## An important moment in the history of the School of Child and Youth Care

Shanne McCaffrey

We are delighted and honoured that sixteen Indigenous students and a new Indigenous faculty member, Dr. Jeffrey Ansloos (Fisher River Cree Nation), joined the School of Child and Youth Care (SCYC) this fall. A gathering was held in the First Peoples House on

September 21st, where faculty respectfully asked for permission to live and work on the land of the Coast and Coast Salish Peoples. The gathering was an acknowledgment that these territories are unceded lands that we continue to live and work on and recognizes the ongoing task of making ourselves vulnerable as we think about how we are all implicated.

All new SCYC students were honoured by Elders at this gathering, while Dr. Jeffrey Ansloos of SCYC, CYC Alumni Dr. Devi Mucina, a SCYC graduate and new faculty member in the HSD Indigenous Governance Program, and a number of new faculty from other UVic departments requested and received permission to live and work on the territories of the Coast and Coast Salish peoples. They presented traditional gifts, medicine bundles and blankets to the Wisdom Keepers, May and Skip Sam, Skip Dyck, and Victor Underwood. Blankets were placed on the ground by Elder May Sam, SCYC Indigenous Student Representative Chantal Adams, and local CYC graduate Mavis David.

The blankets were placed in order to offer a correction to an event that occurred during a week of training and served to hold space for Indigenous faculty members to request permission. Formal witnesses Chris Goto-Jones (Dean of Humanities), Grace Wong Sneddon (Advisor to the Provost on Equity and Diversity), Laurene Shields (Director of LTC), Lisa Surridge (Associate Dean of Humanities), Jin Sun Yoon (Teaching Professor SCYC and Academic

Women’s Caucus Chair), and Esther Sangster-Gormly (Associate Dean of HSD) assumed the responsibility of remembering and honouring the ceremony. Thanks to Patricia Marck (Dean of HSD), Sandrina de Finney (SCYC faculty) and Jennifer White (SCYC Director) for “quartering” the witnesses.

All participants witnessed the new faculty move into a space of vulnerability as they made this request and saw how it was taken up and responded to by wisdom

keepers. This gathering was part of a commitment to decolonized thinking and practice as we continue to ask ourselves and each other about our privilege, who is dispossessed because of it, and how that relationship is taken up by each of us in the work that needs to be done for children, youth, and families. The gathering continued with the sharing of a family song by SCYC graduate Mavis David and her brother.

SCYC and members of the larger UVic community shared in this moving ceremony and celebration. We respectfully hold up our hands to Elders Skip Dyck, May Sam, Skip Sam, and Victor Underwood who, together with SCYC lead and Assistant Teaching Professor Shanne McCaffrey and INAF Cultural Liaison Deb George made this possible. Thanks also to traditional speaker Ian Sam and drummer Nicole Mandryk. This deeply inspiring, unforgettable event, coupled with a simple feast, marks an important moment in the School of Child and Youth Care as we move to work on relationships with local communities, students, and the University.

### United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) 2016 Fellowship Program

<http://www.unaoc.org/2016/10/unaoc-announces-start-of-2016-fellowship-program/>

Congratulations to Jeffrey Ansloos, Assistant Professor, on his acceptance. We look forward to hearing about his experience upon his return.

The UNAOC Fellowship Program is a two-week intercultural exchange program between young professionals and civil society leaders from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and their counterparts from Europe and North America (EUNA).

Addressing issues related to intercultural understanding and interfaith dialogue is at the core of the program. In 2016, activities and discussions of the Fellowship will also focus on "Education as a tool for the prevention of radicalization and xenophobia." This year, participants have been selected for their professional achievements in the field of education in their home countries.

2016 Fellows will travel to the United States, Germany, France, Spain, Morocco, Egypt, and Qatar. They will have the opportunity to meet representatives of the United Nations, the U.S. State Department, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of France, Germany, Morocco, Egypt, and Qatar, Amnesty International and a wide range of journalists, NGOs, think-tanks and civil society actors involved in education and in the prevention of radicalization and xenophobia.

2016 Fellows will meet with religious leaders of Al-Azhar in Cairo, Egypt, the House of One in Berlin, Germany, Rabita Al Ulama in Rabat, Morocco, and the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue in Qatar. They will speak with scholars from prestigious institutions such as Columbia University, Sciences-Po Paris, Cairo University, and Qatar University. They will also visit historical sites such as the Louvre Museum in France, the Berlin Wall in Germany, the Alhambra in Spain, the Hassan II Mosque in Morocco, the Pyramids of Giza in Egypt, and the Museum of Islamic Arts in Doha.

### US National Academy of Sciences Forum

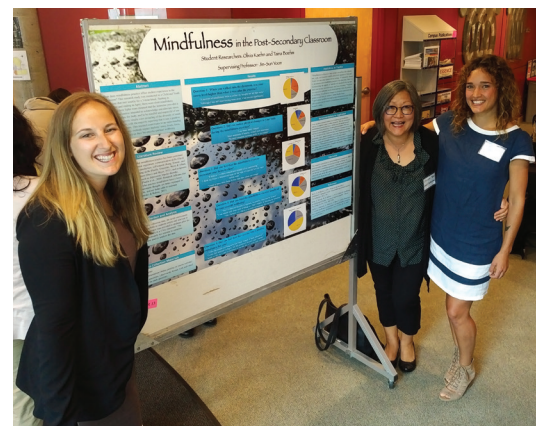
Alan Pence was in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire in October to continue his work as a member of the US National Academy of Sciences Forum series on Investing in Young Children Globally. This is the Academy's 9th forum held over the past 3 years, and, as it is being held in sub-Saharan Africa, Alan has co-ordinated a workshop to follow the forum. The Workshop is the fifth in a series to bring together African scholars in support of increasing the amount and visibility of African-led, early childhood research available globally. Additional information about these two events will be included in the next CYC newsletter.

### Update from the Child & Youth Care Students' Society (CYCCS)

Emily Hellard

The CYCCS has had a busy semester! In September, we welcomed in an all-new board, as well as many new student representatives and attendees at our general meetings. This fall, we organized another hoodie order, enjoyed some delicious pancakes at the brunch hosted by the front office, and launched Homework Club, designed to connect students from different years and provide personal and academic support. Our bi-annual Connect the Dots event was held on November 1st, where students, staff, and faculty gathered to eat lots of pizza and sushi and to mingle, mingle, mingle! As always, students and staff expressed that this was a valuable opportunity to get to know other people in the School. Before the semester ends, we also have plans for a CYC Movie Night and bake sale. We are so excited about our new members, grateful for the support of our staff and faculty, and look forward to the rest of the year!

We really only have one picture from Connect the Dots, which I've attached to this email - up to you if you want to include it! We'll have to remember to take lots of pictures next time.



Olivia Kaehn & Taina Boehm with Jin-Sun Yoon, Teaching Professor

### Researching Mindfulness Practice in the University Classroom

Taina Boehm & Olivia Kaehn

In this day and age when we are digitally bombarded and time is the prime commodity, students and professors alike enter a classroom with their heads spinning from the daily stresses of modern life. What a haven it was to start a class with dimmed lights and a 5-minute mindfulness activity! Not only was the professor demonstrating guided visualization and deep breathing practices that we could adopt into our professional CYC practice, she taught us how to regulate our emotional states and physical energy (again, something we need to know as professionals). Inspired by the positive effects of the mindfulness practices and encouraged by the professor, we along with three other students took on the task of working collaboratively on a research project to better understand the effects of mindfulness on stress and anxiety, with a focus on post-secondary students.

We learned how to conduct a simple and yet elegant research project that included going through a formal ethics application process. We were undergraduate students in a course that was not focused on research, but it still expanded our knowledge, appreciation, and critique of research in our practice. We conducted our research with our classmates and presented our findings as a part of our group assignment. To cap off our research journey, we participated in a conference by creating and presenting a poster with our professor, with the hope that we'd inspire other educators to consider how mindfulness may benefit their classroom environments.

Being in the School of Child and Youth Care has given us ample opportunity to expand our horizons beyond ordinary class assignments. By incorporating research methods into a practical application of mindfulness practice, we got to learn about much more than course



content. It inspired us to go further and engage in scholarly pursuits that we never imagined we could do at the undergraduate level. We hope that others will take these opportunities seriously! We would like to thank our professor, Jin-Sun Yoon, for her generosity and mentorship for making this a memorable experience in our educational journey.



Shelley Henuset, Katherine Woodhouse, Debbie Robinson, Natalie Kelt, Caroline Green and Aimee Henderson

### Pancake Day

The SCYC staff hosted our second annual Pancake Brunch for students on September 28th. This event was inspired by a desire to connect with our students, enhance our sense of community and practice "self-care" as a group. A huge crowd of hungry undergrad and grad students, instructors and staff attended and enjoyed endless stacks of piping hot pancakes. The clear enjoyment and appreciation of the hard work and planning involved by everyone who attended made it all worthwhile. Next year's Pancake Brunch will be even bigger and better!

## Congratulations to our graduates!



Nicole Land, PhD student, Janet Newbury, MA & PhD Alumni, Stephanie Brockett, PhD student, Veronica Pacini-Ketchabaw, former faculty and Marie Hoskins, Graduate Advisor, attending the CYC World conference in Vienna, Austria



2015 MA students celebrating the completion of their core courses. Julia Herzog, Jasmine Gaines, Chris Bennett, Elisabeth Tilstra, Stephanie Meili, Connie Antonsen, Jessica Sahlstrom, Stephen Neuman, Parker Croshaw, Andrea Felix, Stephanie Hayes, Sydney Nauss

**CYC Alumni Reception**  
**Tuesday, February 7, 2017**  
**Fireplace Lounge, University Club**  
**4:30 pm - 6:30 pm**

### Child & Youth Care in Action V: Embracing Challenge

**April 26-28, 2017**

**Call for Proposals** deadline extended to  
 December 15, 2016

<http://www.uvic.ca/hsd/cyc/community-alumni/home/in-action/index.php>

**Registration** will open soon from the following website where you can also find detailed information on accommodation.

<http://www.uvic.ca/hsd/cyc/home/home/news/current/conference-registration.php>