



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

Newsletter

June 2014



Letter from the Director:

Marie Hoskins, Acting Director

In my very brief time as Acting Director while Dr. Daniel Scott is recuperating from surgery, I have had a chance to notice many things in the School of Child and Youth Care. We have much to celebrate and be thankful for.

Despite a lot of justifiable nervousness in HSD surrounding impending budget cuts, we have managed very well. We've met all of our targets established by institutional analysis and have a new group of undergraduate students ready to begin our program in the fall. We also have several graduate students ready to begin. Although we are down one staff member in the front office (Margo McCanney) and have to share a portion of Katherine Woodhouse's time with another school, we are doing exceptionally well. I suspect this will be the end of our cutbacks for a least a year or two. And there are still more reasons to be grateful.

Dr. Scott has a very good prognosis so we look forward to him returning to teach in the fall. Dr. Jennifer White will serve as our new director as of July 1st 2014 for a 3 to 5 year term. Jennifer's appointment received one hundred percent support for this new role. Needless to say, we are all very grateful for her willingness to assume this important leadership position.

And there is more to celebrate. Drs. Sandrina de Finney, Veronica Pacini-Ketchabaw and Jessica Ball all received prestigious research grants to pursue their work with children, youth and families. Furthermore, although we regrettably will not have Dr. Valerie Kuehne returning to the school, we are very happy to have her take another leadership role as Academic Vice President for UVIC.

We have two individuals who are really ramping up to celebrate. Dr. Gordon Barnes will be retiring after decades of working in academia. For those of you who want to keep in touch you will either have to head for Bear Mountain or Hawaii. Vicki Ziegler, one of our academic advisors, will also be clicking her heels into retirement. You will find her in her garden and spending time in her summer home. The smiles on both of their faces certainly reveal that the time was right for this next phase of life. Kathy Harrison has agreed to be our full time Academic Advisor.

So as brief as my time was as Acting Director this time, I have to say it is always a pleasure to get a bird's eye view of all of the good work that is being done by faculty, staff and of course, our students. Let the celebrations begin.

Child and Youth Care in Action IV: Responding to Our Current Times

From May 1 - 3, 2014 students, staff, and faculty of the School of Child and Youth Care had the opportunity to connect with each other, youth in the community, and colleagues from other parts of the country and the world! CYC in Action IV: Responding to our Current Times was a lively conference that aimed to put our practice into context, considering not only what we do and how we do it, but also the political, cultural, and economic conditions at play in our work.

In addition to paper, panel, and poster presentations, there were salon sessions and keynote lectures. The first keynote was by our new director, Dr. Jennifer White, who challenged all of us to see our own place in relation to the norms, discourses, and practices

of our field, highlighting the complexities of ethical engagement. The second was an intergenerational dialogue between Dr. Marie Cooper - a respected elder from the Wsanec Nation and Rakiya Larkin - a young activist from Alert Bay, which personalized discussions around relationships not only with each other but with the land as well, drawing important links between histories and possibilities.



Marie Cooper, Jennifer White, Jin-Sun Yoon, Sandrina de Finney, Veronica Pacini-Ketchabaw

In addition to the formal program, there were many other ways for conference participants to connect with each other and new ideas: The pre-conference event for educators started with participants who generated ideas about next steps for CYC education. A wine and cheese reception and a formal dinner gave them the opportunity to connect in the evenings over food. And as a special treat, filmmaker Mitch Miyagawa's documentary, 'A Sorry State' was screened in the First People's House during lunch on the final day of the conference. This film - and the conversation that followed - beautifully captured the interconnectedness of CYC practice and the broader political realities of our current times, reminding all of us of our shared responsibilities not only as practitioners, but as citizens.



Marie Cooper shared her reflections with Mitch Miyagawa Photo: Jeffrey Nicholls

Education for All

CYC professor Jessica Ball was invited by the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China (PRC) to address governments' ministers of education, international development partners, linguistics, and educators at the International Conference on Language: Enhancing Language Ability and Language Education, held on June 5-6 in Suzhou City, Jiangsu Province, China. The conference was co-sponsored by PRC and UNESCO.



Jessica Ball and Qian Tang UNESCO Director Education Sector

While UNESCO has long advocated for children's right to learn in their mother tongue, or home language, in contrast China has strongly discouraged the use of home languages in education and public life to the point where many languages in China are endangered and millions of children who do not speak Mandarin at home are disadvantaged. Jessica was given rare permission to speak about the rights of ethnolinguistic minority children and families with regard to the language of instruction in school. The language required for participation in schooling is a critical issue affecting social inclusion and the prospects of achieving the Millennium Development Goals including Education for All (i.e., inclusion of all children at least to the end of primary school). Jessica's presentation, entitled Evidence-based language-in-education policy to ensure Education for All, emphasized the strong research base that provides 'proof of concept' for mother-tongue based, multilingual education. This presentation is part of Jessica's ongoing program of research in CYC, which has increasingly focused on the manufacture of children's marginalization through social and education policies and mainstream professional training, program standards, and child assessment tools.



Laila Nutti, Norwegian Professor

Complexities of power embodied in the Sami tradition of yoiking

Carol Rowan, an MA graduate of CYC, recently spent 3 1/2 months at Sámi Allaskuvla (University College) in Guovdageaidnu, Norway, conducting background research for her doctoral dissertation focused on early childhood in Nunavik. Carol arranged for Laila Nutti, Assistant Professor and her colleague Aura Mari Pieski, to speak about Yoik at a lunchtime presentation on May 27, 2014. Sami traditional song-making and singing in early childhood education. Traditionally yoiks are made by people that know and love you, usually parents or relatives. Yoik describe people or objects even without words, creating a feeling of love and belonging and a source for remembering stories about people and landscape, sometimes over many generations. From an indigenous perspective yoik is a strong part of the Sámi culture, and is now threatened in its traditional form. Today, few children are gifted with their own yoik and all the feelings and history that accompany the little songs. The presentation drew a sizable audience from various departments around the campus, including child and youth care, education, psychology and linguistics. The presentation was co-hosted by the Department of Linguistics.

World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education

CYC professors Alan Pence and Jessica Ball presented workshops at the World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education held in Honolulu from May 19-24. The conference was hosted by the Native Hawaiian Education Association. This global conference, which regularly attracts over 2000

mostly Indigenous participants, is held every three years, and the much anticipated announcement on the closing day was that the next conference, in 2017, will be hosted by Six Nations and based in Toronto. Alan Pence presented a workshop on promoting post-secondary education approaches that promote capacity with examples from work with First Nations in Canada and in countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. Jessica Ball presented a workshop with Dr. Onowa Mclvor, a CYC MA graduate who is currently the Director of Indigenous Education in the Faculty of Education at UVic. Their focus was 'paddling the canoe together' through community-university partnerships. Jessica also presented a workshop with Ojibway scholar Sharla Peltier on creating a culturally responsive environment for children in primary school. All the workshops drew standing room only crowds and provided opportunities to consolidate and renew collaborations between CYC and Indigenous educators and organizations around the world.



Photo: Onowa Mclvor, Jessica Ball, Sharla Peltier

CourseSpaces Training for Undergraduate Instructors

August 28th, 2014

For more information, please contact
Chris Shelton cshelton@uvic.ca

Congratulations to SCYC JCURA Award winners:

Three SCYC students were the proud recipients of the \$1,500 Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Awards (JCURA) during the 2013-14 academic year. These awards provide support for exceptional undergraduate students and provide direct research experience. All three students have engaged in valuable and interesting projects:

Reframing the Cultural Lens: Supporting Immigrant Family Engagement within an After School Care Program in Surrey, B.C. by Nasim Naraghi

For many immigrant families residing in Canada, the complex transition into a new community and culture is impacted by a compilation of factors constantly shaping their adjustment. In the context of children and youth, such considerations also extend to the nurturing of healthy development. The influential role of school-based settings over these various needs cannot be overstated. The presence of cultural competence within professional practice has become an essential tool for the promotion of culturally sensitive engagement with immigrant families, and has become an important objective for enhancement by Surrey's Jumpstart Academy After School Care Program.

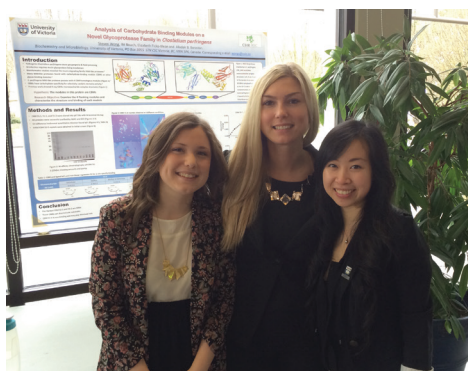
Under the guidance of the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, Surrey Schools, and the supervision of Dr. Gord Miller and Lora Carroll, my project provided new insight and understanding of this significant topic in the context of engagement with immigrant families.

(R)Evolutionizing Course Unions: Student Motivation and Investment by Kaeli Rose

A course union is the voice for students within the governance structure of the department. Its function is to create a cohesive network of child and youth care students and develop a strong relationship with alumni, staff, faculty, and professional stakeholders. The University of Victoria's (UVIC) School of Child and Youth Care (CYC) course union has struggled year after year with few articulated goals or mission with the load of the work falling on few individuals (who then burn out). The CYC Community Engagement Council (CEC) has initiated a 2-year Course Union Sustainability Project (CUSP) to gain a better understanding of how CYC students experience and perceive the current course union. The research project was designed to systematically investigate the perspective of students in how they view student engagement and the course union. The

project spanned two years (2013–2014). It employs a Community Based Research (CBR) approach and involves students in identifying and enhancing the strengths that promote student engagement, while fostering partnerships between peers, staff/faculty, and community services.

The CUSP has completed year one of a two-year project that is systematically reviewing post-secondary student engagement in terms of: needs and mindset of the net-generation, diversity within the student body, and existing course union structures across UVIC and other universities to create a sustainable organization for years to come. Through such partnerships, CYC students are reminded that their contributions are important, encouraged, and celebrated. Year two will explore the future sustainability of the course union as a meaningful avenue of student engagement in the school and CYC profession. Initial results suggest that there is a growing interest in student engagement but that students do not understand the function and potential of the course union.



Nasim Naraghi, Kaeli Rose Sort, Christina Yee

"Family Capacity for Children and Youth with Special Needs" a project under- taken by Chistina Yee

Families adopting children with complex needs face many challenges that can affect the long-term success of these placements. But there has been very little practical Canadian research to guide parents, professionals and community organizations in supporting special needs adoptions.

Through my honour's class at UVic (SCYC), I collaborated with the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) in completing

research to explore adoptive families' capacity for caring for children and youth with special needs. Five key elements were elucidated from the research as important considerations when placing children and youth with special needs into adoptive families. These factors include the characteristics of the adoptive family, the characteristics of the child, sibling placements, agency practices, and most importantly access to pre- and post-adoption supports and services. Considering these elements are essential to ensuring safe, healthy, and successful adoptive experiences for children and youth with special needs.

An exciting partnership with Denmark

By: Jin-Sun Yoon

Denmark has 5.5 million people and is just 10,000 square kilometers larger than Vancouver Island. They are also known as the happiest people in the world. From what I experienced in Copenhagen, there is good reason for them to be so darn happy! Half of the commuters are on bicycles, women are taken seriously as political leaders, and they take to heart their responsibility towards each other. Central to the Danish ethos is their policies and practices that support women and children. Denmark is the 6th best place to be a mother in the world, whereas Canada takes 18th place.

This past fall, 5 of our SCYC students were very fortunate to get funding by the Danish government to participate in a 3.5-month international program in Copenhagen (Candice Alder, one of the students, wrote about their experience in the last SCYC newsletter). In May, I had the pleasure of going to work with our partners at the University College Capital (UCC) in Copenhagen with a team from the Faculty of Education. We were there in preparation for the International Summer Institute taking place from August 11 to September 5 this summer here at the University of Victoria (next summer it takes place in Copenhagen!).

Danish and Canadian national identities, the foundations of our different professions, social norms, immigrant/refugee integration, inclusion practices, cross-cultural skills, concepts of diversity,

and social justice are among the many topics that will be covered in the institute. The four of us faculty members will share our national perspectives of teaching university students for professional practice. I am looking forward to working with my Danish colleagues from Social Pedagogy and Education as well as my colleague from UVic's Faculty of Education. I am especially interested in how the 4 groups of students will work together as they exchange worldviews, ideas, perspectives, knowledge, and experiences.



There is still a seat left for any CYC students (undergraduate or graduate) who would like to participate in this year's inaugural institute, contact me for further details: jsyoon@uvic.ca

Congratulations to our retiring colleagues Dr. Gordon Barnes, Professor and Vicki Ziegler, Academic Advisor

Two of our cherished colleagues are retiring this summer and we will miss them both very much. We are so grateful for all of their extraordinary contributions to making our School a place of academic and professional excellence. We know that they will both flourish in whatever path they follow next. We extend our heartfelt thanks and best wishes to Gordon and Vicki, who together, have contributed close to 50 years of dedicated service to our School.

Since 1992, Gordon Barnes has been a Full Professor at the School of Child and Youth Care at the University of Victoria. Born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba he earned his B.Sc. (U. of Manitoba) and B.A. (U. of Winnipeg) degrees. After receiving his Ph.D. from York University in Toronto in the field of Social Psychology, he returned to Manitoba.



There he worked for six years in the Department of Psychiatry as a National Health Research Scholar and for five years in the Department of Family Studies as Chair. Shortly after, Dr. Barnes was granted the University of Manitoba's Rh Institute Foundation Award for Excellence in Social Science Research. In 2004, Dr. Barnes was a part of the Center for Youth and Society's research team that was awarded the University of Victoria's Craigdarroch Research Award for Project Excellence for academic and community partnerships. We are grateful for all of the unique and important contributions that Dr. Barnes has made to the School of Child and Youth Care and wish him all the best in his retirement.



Vicki Ziegler joined the School in 1994 after a career as a youth worker and a school-based Youth and Family Counsellor at Victoria High School. She became indispensable as Student Advisor and Admissions Coordinator and showed many talents through various committee work. She was very active within the UVIC and SCYC community which resulted in her receiving the UVIC Women's Achievement Award. We can't believe that after twenty years of advising students and being a valuable asset to the School that Vicki Ziegler is really retiring! We know that she will continue to be connected to the School but it is still with a heavy heart that

we wish Vicki our good wishes as she embarks on a life full of travel, volunteerism, artistic endeavours and many other ventures. She will be greatly missed.

Agency Award & Exemplary Supervisor Award

Each conference year it is the practice of the School of Child and Youth Care to recognize an agency that has a long standing history with the school by mentoring our students and providing outstanding service to the community. This year we'd like to acknowledge the Victoria Women's Transition House Society.

They have been supporting families for 40 years and have been in partnership with us for over 25 of those. During that time, they have supported dozens of CYC students and hired a significant number of them. We have always had outstanding supervision and mentorship from all supervisors — going right back to the beginning with Elzbie Jazwinsky.

This year our Exemplary Supervisor Award went to Kerilee McLeod, a CYC grad and one of the VWTH community staff in the Children Who Witness Violence Program. We truly value the hard work of all the staff and volunteers of the Transition House Society and are thrilled to recognize such an outstanding organization. Accepting the award on behalf of the Transition House was Parm Kroad, Deputy Director and Shemine Gulamhusein, CYC PhD student and acting Shelter Program Manager.



Miriam Curtis, Parm Kroad, Shemine Gulamhusein

