



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

Newsletter

March 2013



Letter from the Director:

Marie Hoskins

Hello again,

For those of you who are experiencing spring in Victoria for your first time, I hope you are duly impressed! I want to congratulate you for completing your courses for the year and to wish those of you taking courses this summer, continued success.

In the School we have experienced several changes. Sadly, as you all know, we lost our dear colleague, Brenda Copeland. Needless to say, we cannot say enough about how much she contributed to the life of the school. We are left with a large gap that will never be filled.

Margo McCanney chose to retire this year so we will miss her as well. Hopefully she is now enjoying her grandchildren and lots of "soft" starts to her days. We are convinced that she is being waited on by her husband.

This past year we have also been on a budget roller coaster and it now seems we can disembark for awhile. Students will not have to feel any consequences and can expect the same level and quality of student

support we have been able to provide over the years. This news is a great relief to all of us.

We have much to be grateful for. Our applicants for next fall our plentiful and strong, our graduates are consistently hired in their chosen areas of work, our graduate program is attracting high level students, and our Director, Daniel Scott will be resuming his role in July. Although I have greatly appreciated serving as Acting Director (in fact, it has been a real privilege), I miss teaching and spending time with graduate students.

Remembering Brenda Copeland

Marie Hoskins

Brenda Copeland passed away unexpectedly on March 19. Brenda's passion for her family and for improved quality of life for marginalized children and youth shone through all of her endeavours.

She will be most remembered for her devotion to her beloved daughter Eirene and husband Russ. Brenda's joy in becoming a family and watching her daughter grow brought vibrancy to her teaching in the School of Child and Youth Care, which was her academic family for 28 years.

She completed a BA with distinction from the School of Child and Youth Care in 1989. She went on to complete a Masters in Policy and Practice at UVic. She began teaching in the School of Child and Youth Care in 1995. Over the years she taught almost every undergraduate course offered in the school. She volunteered countless hours to developing and revising courses and mentoring new instructors, drawing on her wealth of experience both as an instructor and as a practitioner in a range of community service roles. At the time of her passing, she was a continuing sessional instructor and a valued member of the Community Life Committee within the school.

Brenda's students consistently praised her organization and her skill in applying research and theory to practice. In a recent evaluation, a student said, "She loves what she does and it shows. She's passionate and caring and makes it easy to learn." Another student said, "I really appreciated Brenda's genuine consideration for the students. She was very respectful and kind, creating a comfortable class environment." Many students commented on how she illustrated points about family life and child development with "sweet stories about her daughter."

For almost two decades, Brenda contributed to knowledge transfer in many areas affecting the well-being of children, youth and families on southern Vancouver Island, especially in services for young adults with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, youth in care, youth in transition, child and youth advocacy, women's empowerment and parenting networks.



Brenda taught so many students over the years that no doubt the quality of practice in Victoria and beyond is much better because of the wisdom and generous spirit she imparted. While Brenda's cheerful presence will be greatly missed by the faculty, staff and students in child and youth care,

her determination, commitment to justice and good heart have left an indelible mark and will always be with us.

ECD African Scholars Workshop – Johannesburg

Alan Pence

The ECDVU recently partnered with the Open Society Initiative of Southern Africa (OSISA) to hold a workshop designed to promote ECD scholarly activities in Sub-Saharan Africa. A group of 22 academics from 18 countries across Sub-Saharan Africa met from Feb. 17–20, 2013 in Johannesburg to identify issues facing scholars and tertiary institutions in regards to the creation of an African-led knowledge base and ways in which those challenges might be addressed. It is believed that the Workshop may provide the basis for an on-going network of ECD researchers from across Africa.

Key priorities for follow-up activities include:

- Development of an African journal on ECD
- Creation of a repository addressing ECD in Africa
- Establishment of Centres designed to promote Africa-based and African-led research.

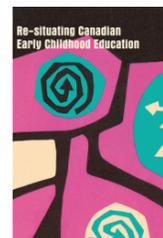
ECD Centres of Innovation and Excellence in SSA – Continue efforts to identify source(s) of funding to establish one or more in SSA.

Re-situating Canadian Early Childhood Education

Edited by: Veronica Pacini-Ketchabaw and Larry Prochner

ISBN: 978-1-4331-1834-0

Peter Lang International Academic Publishers
<http://secure.peterlang.com/index.cfm?event=cmp.ccc.seitenstruktur.detailseiten&seitentyp=produkt&pk=65384&cid=335>



This book presents research exploring the potential for postfoundational theories to revitalize discussions in early childhood education. In the past two decades, postfoundation theories (e.g., postmodern, poststructural, feminist, postcolonial, etc.) have revolutionized the field of early childhood education, but at the same time, little has been written about the value and potential of this movement within the context of Canada. Post-foundational theories have the potential to disrupt normalizing early childhood education discourses that create and maintain social inequities, and to respect differences and diversities. Given the importance of diversity in Canada, it seems relevant to explore further how postfoundational theories might transform early childhood education.

UNESCO Chair Renewal

Alan Pence

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Alan Pence's appointment as holder of the UNESCO Chair in Early Childhood Education, Care and Development has been renewed for an additional four years. UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Education, Qian Tang, noted:

"I wish to commend Professor Alan Pence and his team for their valuable work and achievements in the field of early childhood education. It is particularly topical that the work is focused on the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children in sub-Saharan Africa. I hope that the Chair... will develop further teaching, training, research, publication, networking and coordination of multi and inter-disciplinary activities in the field of early childhood education through [the] Early Childhood Development Virtual University (ECDVU)."

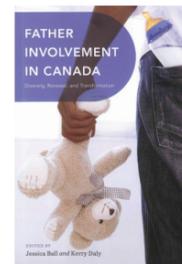
It should be noted that the ECDVU continues to work with the University of Ibadan in Nigeria in supporting their adoption of a one year Graduate Diploma program styled after the ECDVU program in International Child and Youth Care for Development.



The Girls' Diary Project: Writing ourselves into being

Daniel Scott

The Girls' Diary Project: Writing ourselves into being by Shannon McFerran and Daniel Scott, has been published by the University of Victoria and is available through the UVic bookstore in print on demand format (\$21.50). This research project began as a study of girls' spirituality and evolved over five years to include a wide range of diary material from the initial 6 participants diaries to both published and voluntarily submitted personal diary material. The book explores the inner world of adolescent girls as they chose to record it in their diaries and touches on self-awareness, self-care, development of voice, issues of mortality and meaning, developing sexuality and the urgent desire to be taken seriously and to be heard.



Father Involvement in Canada

Edited by:
 Jessica Ball and Kerry Daly

ISBN: 978-0-7748-2400-2

UBC Press

http://www.ubcpress.ca/search/title_book.asp?BookID=299173848

Father Involvement in Canada brings together more than a dozen leading scholars of fatherhood issues to examine the roles of Canadian fathers from many angles. Looking at the experiences of fathers from different ethnicities, ages, marital statuses, gender partnering, and economic brackets, the authors examine issues such as the impact of poverty, access to paternity leave, and the availability of support from social institutions. By co-considering these dimensions and viewpoints, the contributors bring to light interlocking individual, familial, and socio-economic systems in which fathers are embedded.

Day in the Life: Debbie Robinson

The Ring: Feb 2013

by: Kim Westad

Debbie Robinson knows a thing or two about stage fright—the 20-year veteran of local community theatre faces it every time she sings or acts in a new production. But Robinson also knows that as the show goes on, the teamwork and preparation kick in and the stage fright fades. And she applies the same strategy to the changing nature of her job as a program assistant in the School of Child and Youth Care.

When the mother of three returned to the work force at the University of Victoria in 1994, she used a typewriter, classes were in buildings and she had limited computer skills.

Now, Robinson's job is dramatically different. Robinson calls herself a "modern secretary," building sites for online classrooms, updating them continuously and facing new technological challenges on a regular basis.



"The learning curve was very steep—like this," Robinson says, putting her arm straight up in the air. When it seems overwhelming, Robinson breaks the program down just as she's done for the dozen plays she's performed in.

"I might have choreography, music and lines to learn. As a whole, it can feel overwhelming, so I break it down into smaller pieces and then put it back together again," Robinson says.

"When we're going through a time of change in the office, I tap into that same process."

Robinson loves the sense of teamwork in a production, and in her work. The three other program assistants in the office are good friends. They're also among her biggest fans.

Caroline Green sits in the cubicle next to Robinson in their ground floor sunny office, and can reel off her friend's roles faster than Robinson can herself. Robinson's stage career developed alongside her UVic one. While she'd always wanted to be on stage and took singing lessons while her children were young, shyness kept her from pursuing it. But in 1991, a friend who happened to be responsible for the choreography in "Jesus Christ Superstar" with the Victoria Operatic Society heard her singing karaoke at a party and urged her to try out.

Robinson was put in the chorus and loved it. Next came "Kiss Me, Kate," where Robinson hoped for another chorus role. She got the lead.

Since, she has been in dramatic and musical roles, including "Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well and Living in Paris," "Beauty and the Beast," "Company," "Blood Brothers," "The Cemetery Club," "The Sound of Music" and "Isn't It Romantic." Some were with the Victoria Operatic Society, others with Langham Court Theatre. Most recently, she was part of a musical revue performing at the Oak Bay Beach Hotel's first dinner theatre at its David Foster Foundation Theatre, belting out the Broadway show tunes she loves.

Her acting has earned accolades, with Times Colonist reviewer Adrian Chamberlain, singling her out for "fine acting that especially stood out in a community theatre production."

Next up? Possibly "Calendar Girls," although the 59-year-old former aerobics instructor says she's a bit leery of baring if not all, at least some, on stage.

"Do it!" cheers her friend Caroline over the cubicle.

Congratulations to SCYC 2013 Distinguished Alumni Award winners!

Jennifer Charelsworth, BA '81, PhD '05 (Child and Youth Care)

was hired as an assistant in the SCYC First Nations Partnerships Program, where she developed the conceptual material and drafted the teaching and learning activities for a course on cross-cultural community development. She also reviewed, revised and edited several of the core courses offered as part of the First Nations Partnerships Program (a two year, community-based, culturally specific, CYC diploma program delivered in partnership with First Nations communities in Western Canada). Jennifer has assumed leadership positions throughout the greater Victoria community and is a founding member of the advisory council for the School of Public Administration in the Master's of Community Development program. Jennifer also serves on the Faculty of Human and Social Development advisory council. The university has benefited from her expertise and leadership among community groups across the province.

Sandrina de Finney, BA '00, PhD '07 (Child and Youth Care)

Sandrina has provided outstanding leadership at UVic and her contributions have helped to make the First Nations Partnerships Program a flagship program for the university. She also provides extensive support and consultations to Indigenous communities conducting child welfare research. part of the FNPP team, Sandrina also joined Drs. Jessica Ball and Alan Pence in meetings with the Assembly of First Nations in Ottawa and presentations at the University of Montreal and other institutions for the purpose of exchanging knowledge gleaned from the UVic/CYC experience in community-based delivery and the successes realized through a community-university partnership approach to Aboriginal education. Her contributions in this knowledge mobiliza-

tion capacity helped to make the First Nations Partnerships Program a flagship program for UVic and a world renowned innovation in education that integrates Indigenous Knowledge (FNPP was identified by UNESCO as one of the top 10 programs in the world in this regard).

Congratulations to Scott Kouri, MA student, on receiving the Andy Farquharson Award for Graduate Teaching



Kathy Harrison, Undergraduate Advisor, School of Child and Youth Care and Scott Kouri, MA student at the award reception.

Congratulations to our Jamie Cassells Undergraduate Research Award recipients



Gord Miller, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Angela Cooper, Senior Instructor, Jin-Sun Yoon, Senior Instructor

Angela Cooper, Child & Youth Care

"Child and Youth Care is a diverse field of study and practice that often struggles to project a cohesively

defined professional identity. I will begin with a review of current literature to analyze existing themes, followed by collecting data through interviews and group discussions with students, faculty, alumni and practicing professionals within the CYC community.

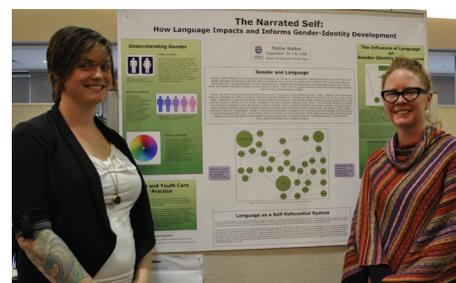
This research will address questions such as what does "making a difference" (the CYC motto) look like in practice? I will explore themes including what it means to be a CYC practitioner, the connection between self and practice, and the SCYC mission statement principles of "inclusion, social justice, and ethical practice". Finally, I will use a collaborative creative process to explore how the School of Child and Youth Care can encourage students to become engaged in developing professional identities and to be active in defining professional association of the field. My work will culminate in a short video production that will be disseminated amongst the CYC community as well as the general public to illustrate the various facets of the field of Child and Youth Care in relation to social justice and diversity."



Jessica Renfrew and Gord Miller, Adjunct Assistant Professor

Jessica Renfrew, Child & Youth Care

"How do youth serving agencies create strong youth-adult partnerships to advance youth engagement? Youth-adult partnerships are best sustained in agencies where organizational pathways exist to support and sustain youth leadership development within the organization. Yet somewhat surprisingly, developing youth-adult partnerships and creating additional roles for youth as decision-makers and planners have been challenging for youth organizations, with many expressing a desire for guidance in navigating this shift. By exploring this area, I hope to inform youth serving organizations of characteristics in creating successful youth-adult partnerships to support their youth engagement initiatives."



Mattie Walker and Cole Little, Sessional Instructor

Mattie Walker, Child & Youth Care

"How does the availability of language shape identity formation? By specifically examining gender identity formation, I would like to explore how access to terminology and specific language informs and/or shapes an individual's formation of their gender identity. I would like to look at whether language is a limiting factor in describing a gender identity experience or if it is a determining guide to finding an identity fit.

By exploring this area, I hope to discover how Child and Youth Care practitioners can support children and youth in negotiating the identity formation process without labelling or limiting the youth's exploration of their own identities."

Congratulations to the 2013 Exemplary Practicum Supervisor Award Recipient - Theresa Low

Written by Michelle Koroll

Shortly upon graduating with her CYC degree in 1983, Theresa found herself at the Victoria General Hospital in the newly formed Child Life Department. She has been there ever since. Throughout her years at VGH, Theresa has helped thousands of children and families who have had the unfortunate experience of being in the hospital. Her calm and caring presence helped these families cope during a very stressful period in their lives. She was a pioneer in the Child Life field and advocated vigorously for medical play equipment and other resources for her department.

Theresa also supervised or co-supervised more than 20 students during her career and many of those students have gone on to be certified child life specialists.

