

Spring 2011 Newsletter



Mission Statement

The School of Access offers adult learners quality educational programs and services that provide the skills for further studies and for enhanced participation in the economic and social life of their communities.

Camosun College has two main campuses serving 10,000 full-time learners and 3,000 part-time learners registered in degree, diploma, certificate and apprenticeship trades programs, and a further 7,000 students enrolled in Continuing Education courses. We have over 900 Aboriginal students from 50 Nations, including Inuit and Métis, and 500 International students.

Message from the Dean – John Boraas

Salutations, members of the School of Access and AECC:

Consider this message a challenge — one with good intent. I want to welcome your ideas as we grapple with how to best serve students in an environment of declining financial supports from government through normal routes, and what appears to be increased opportunity through emergent funding paths.

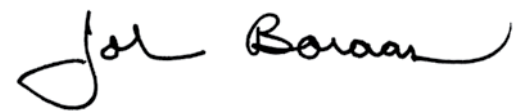
We have achieved enormous accomplishments that have been driven by proposal-based or community-based funding, for example, the new Aboriginal Gathering Place, the Wilna Thomas Cultural Centre, significant student bursary and scholarship funding development, as well as our history with Institutional Based Training and Expanded Capacity Funding. Over the years, dozens of curriculum projects have been applied for and completed. In fact, recent educational projects include close to a million dollars in ESL curriculum development funding and financial support to provide additional sections of BEST and ETP through Employment Services Agreement funding. Members of the school or AECC received three President’s Fund allocations last year. We are talented and nimble as we identify and respond to these opportunities.

How do I, or how do our schools respond to changing times? How do we get ahead of funding opportunities and of community needs, so that our programs are growing and not being curtailed?

As the demand for quality education in our community grows, we need to find effective ways to work for our students, our programs and our community.

Our colleagues are considering grand ideas to create a clear place for ourselves. These include hosting the World Indigenous People’s Education Conference — still in the dream stage, but it is a dream to create a clear place for Camosun as a leader in Indigenous Education. What are the other dreams we can live within the school of Access and AECC?

I welcome your ideas, thoughts and challenges as we consider new and different strategies to respond to the continued needs of our learners and our community.

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Dean's Honour Roll

We recognize and congratulate the following students for academic excellence during the 2010 Winter, Spring and Fall semesters. These students attended Camosun full-time while maintaining an 8.0 or higher GPA (Grade Point Average).

Well done!

2010 Winter

Name	Program
Cassandra Bosma	College Preparatory
Eric Cassels	College Preparatory
Eric Kirstein	College Preparatory
Xu Li	English Language Development - Level 2
Melanie Sylvestre	College Preparatory

2010 Spring

Name	Program
Andreea Nica	English Language Development - Level 2

2010 Fall

Name	Program
Nicholas Bowen	College Preparatory
Christopher Bruce	College Preparatory
Eric Cassels	College Preparatory
Katelyn Florian	College Preparatory
Yusi Liu	English Language Development - Level 2
Demelza MacKinlay	College Preparatory

Aboriginal Education & Community Connections Mission Statement

Honouring our teachings, we seek and hold values of trust, wisdom, integrity, courage, humility, and love. From this, we walk alongside students to encourage in them – and in ourselves – perseverance, commitment and excellence.

We believe that Aboriginal learners reach their fullest joy and potential as they acknowledge place and engage in learning and teaching while exploring identity and tradition. Our mission is to engage in Aboriginal education, services and leadership that enhance student learning and enrich relationships with communities.

2010 Student Awards

Congratulations to all 37 award recipients who worked so hard last year and, through exceptional perseverance, courage and ability, rose to or exceeded expectations. A special thanks to our donors, whose generosity funds these awards and makes them possible.

To contribute to, or establish a new award, please contact the College Foundations office at 250-370-4233.

Adult Basic Education Association of BC Award	Sharilyn Cadwallader
Brett & Grant L. Fisher Memorial Award	Suphannika Khanngoen
Camosun College International Award	Jingwen (Christine) Hu In Seon (Lily) Jeong
Canadian Federation of University Women Award	Arliss Daniels
Chuck Dowdeswell Award	Lorraine Murphy
Colin Montesano Memorial Award	Derek Wilson
ELD Merit Award	Fadi Elarid Andreea Nica Chen Xi (Joy) Wu
ELD Writer's Award	Wenjun (Vicky) Gao Olga Sharikova
First Unitarian Church of Victoria Award	Lia Galligos Margeory Graham
'In The Spirit Of Laughter' Award	Thomas J Nyce
Indigenous Studies Achievement Award	Michele Spencer
Joan Hosty Memorial Award	Dneeta Crossfield Mabel Najarro
Joan Looy Endowment Award	Melanie King Veronica Vander Heiden
Lockie Family Endowment Award	Lynn Poitras Nathan Taylor
Lynne Richards Scholarship Award	Jessica Dearman
'Moving Forward' Award	Jolene Tory
Pamela Vickers Achievement Award	Sandy George Greg Holst Lorraine Thomas
Richard Rayfuse/Keith Todd Literacy	Parvin Lalonde
Saanich Indian School Board Award	Ileana-Susan Perry
Songhees Nation Award	Felicity McLeod
Tsa Qwa Supp Award	Laura Manson Nadine Tom
University of Victoria Office of Indigenous Affairs Award	Rachelle Sarrazin
Vickers Family English Access Award #1	Charles Mason
Vickers Family English Access Award #2	Matthew JK Snell
'Way' To Go' Award	Roxanne Dimascio Mary Emmond

The next Student Awards celebration is Thursday, May 26, 2011 at 3pm at the Lansdowne campus.

Camosun Celebrates – 2010 College Excellence awards



Camosun Celebrates is an annual event held to honour employee, program and leadership excellence at Camosun College. Nominations for the awards are created through peer recognition, and a volunteer panel chooses the winning nominees

At the event held on November 18, 2010, School of Access members honoured for 20 years of service were Jill Auchinachie, Cathy Burrage, Don Goddard, Graham Haig, Lynnea Jackson, Laurie O'Dowd, Sian Prytherch and Bev Robson. Elizabeth West was honoured for 25 years service.



Graduation

Camosun celebrates a spring and fall grad each year. For many of our Access students, it is a stepping stone to further educational programs here at Camosun. For others, the final step before embarking on employment in our community. Congratulations to all of our grads!

Spring graduation, held at the Pacific Institute for Sport Excellence (Interurban campus), will be split into two ceremonies on June 17, 2011. Access and AECC graduates will cross the stage at the 10am ceremony. Come and show your support and share in the excitement!

More Info: camosun.ca/grad or smigel@camosun.bc.ca or 250-370-4926.



Leadership in Teaching: Alison Bowe

This one-of-a-kind award was presented to Alison to acknowledge her commitment and sensitivity in working with the most anxious math students. She expertly guides them through math prerequisites for courses and programs they often believe are closed to them because of the roadblock to learning that math represents. Alison is a leader in creating diverse and innovative Camosun Access programs that simultaneously link students with career programs for business, engineering, sports, human services, trades for women, and the list goes on. In her effort to rally long term and substantive support for adult learners, she has spearheaded a study to better understand the impact of academic upgrading on the lives of adult learners. These are just a sample of Alison's leadership skills in teaching and some of the reasons why she deserves this special recognition. Please join the School of Access in applauding Alison for her past and future successes.

Dedication to Improving the Student Learning Experience: Patricia Wrean

Having started as a physics instructor, Patricia quietly slid into the math department and is now a math teacher at Interurban teaching the technology students among others. When she teaches, she doesn't only explain how things work but also why. This way, students get a deeper, more lasting understanding of the concepts she teaches. One of her students said about Patricia in her evaluation: "If all my teachers were as good as you, I would attend more days at school. You make learning fun."

What is particularly remarkable about Patricia is her passion for teaching and learning. Already recognized as an excellent teacher, she continually seeks to refresh and improve her teaching by searching for workshops, books, and conferences that will not only sustain her enthusiasm but help her develop new effective strategies to be an ever better teacher.

FACES AND PLACES: The comings and goings of our school

Salt Spring Literacy

www.saltspringliteracy.org



New faculty faces:

Ocean Inglin (ELD)
Sandra Fotos (ELD)
Pamela Johnson (Foundations/BEST)
Anne Tenning (CLP)
Maryam Pirjaberi (ELD)
Carolyn Hind (ELD)
Sylvia Patey (ETP)
Jessie Brown (ELD)

New Administrative/Support Faces

Sarah Loewen (Associate Dean)
Bill Baker (ELD – IA)
Amy Almeida (Admin Office)

New Places:

Jody Isaac has moved into a faculty role with ETP
Rhonda Maguire has moved to an IA role with ETP
Sandra Scrimger has moved to the Operations Assistant role
Wayne Matthews has moved fully into Arts & Sciences

Retiring Faces:

Brenda Storr, Associate Dean
Nancy Bourey, ETP
Suzanne Hamilton, ELD
Emilia Rivas-Rivas, ELD

In early 2010, Camosun College partnered with the Salt Spring Literacy Society to bring English as a Second Language Settlement Assistance Programs (ESLSAP) to the Southern Gulf Islands. The aim is to provide language and social support to newcomers. Through the Literacy Centre on Salt Spring Island, ESL learners can receive free one-to-one tuition with a trained volunteer, attend the Friday Family Drop-in program, the monthly Movie and Conversation Night or sign up for the Friendship Project to be matched with a community member who will show them around and introduce them to the island. New projects for 2011 include an International Food Festival to celebrate the local ESL community and promote cultural awareness and diversity.



Important Dates for 2011

May 5	<i>Open House – Interurban campus</i>
May 12	<i>ABEABC Conference @ Harrison Hot Springs (Karen Lightbody)</i>
May 9	<i>Spring/Summer 2011 courses commence</i>
May 23	<i>Victoria Day. College closed</i>
May 26	<i>School of Access, AECC Student Awards Ceremony – Lansdowne campus, at 3pm</i>
June 17	<i>Camosun College Spring Graduation Ceremony.</i>
June 22	<i>Literacy Victoria's PGI Tournament at Uplands</i>
September 6	<i>Most Fall '11 courses commence</i>

Learner Success

College is a great place to find a new direction, whether you're coming from high school or retraining for a new career. For Sue Saunders and her daughters (Nuxalk nation), Camosun proved the ideal point from which to take a bearing and prepare for the next part of the journey. Sue has found her calling in Human Resources and is currently completing her Business degree. Her daughters, Jessica and Alexis, have gone on to graduate school and are now pursuing advanced education and career goals. All three built solid educational foundations at Camosun.

Sue's eldest daughter, Jessica, was the first to head to college. Coming from a small community, Jessica was accustomed to an intimate classroom setting. The small class sizes at Camosun helped to ease the transition to a post-secondary environment.

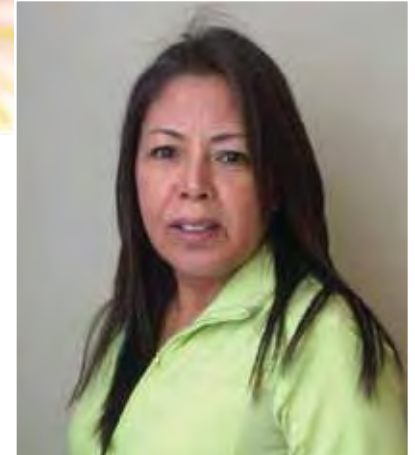
Jessica quickly adapted to the pace and workload of college courses, then transferred to UVic where she earned a BA in geography. After a few years in the forestry industry, she decided to pursue a Master's in Environmental Design.

Jessica is currently working on a community consultation group for an oil sands project and is continuing to broaden her education. "At Boston College, they have a Centre for Corporate Citizenship; I'm taking a certificate program now. It's important to keep growing and learning."

Sue also followed the impulse to keep learning after her career as a log scaler was terminated by a car accident. "While I was waiting to get better, I decided to go back to Camosun. Through Camosun's community learning partnership with the Friendship Centre, she started upgrading. At the same time, Sue prompted her younger daughter to come to college too. "Alexis had graduated from high school, and she wasn't sure what she wanted to do. One day I went home and said, 'Come with me, we're going to sign up for courses.'"

Alexis and Sue attended Camosun together, and found they got on well as roommates. Alexis spent two years in Camosun's University Transfer program. She performed well in her courses and went on to complete her BSc in Biochemistry and Biology at UVic. She currently lives in Sweden, where she is completing a Master's degree in Biochemistry. "And she's already taking one of her PhD courses," her mother says proudly.

After Sue finished upgrading, she spoke to career counselling staff for help to evaluate her aptitudes. "They do all the personality testing and career option things. They said that Business is my natural habitat. I had no idea what 'Business' meant. So I thought I'd just go take some courses and find out." While she was figuring out what to do, Sue discovered that, with



Susan Saunders enjoyed courses in the Indigenous Business Leadership program.

a little support, she was already doing it. "I did my diploma, and then my advanced diploma, then a certificate in management, and wow, I'm just about finished my degree!" Sue especially enjoyed courses in the Indigenous Business Leadership program. "Just being with people of your own culture makes a huge difference," she says, "and, it was so much fun!"

During her studies, when her health was interfering with her academic goals, Sue turned to staff at the Disability Resource Centre to help her continue her education. With the support she received, she was able to persevere. "It doesn't matter where you go; the staff is great at Camosun."

Each of these strong, independent women enjoys a bright future on her chosen path. Sue will soon complete her Business degree. Alexis is going on to a PhD. Jessica, already well-established at an oil company, continues to set educational goals for herself. Beginning their education at Camosun allowed all three to take the time to explore their goals and options. As Sue says, "Camosun is a very good place to get started. Because of the staff, services and programs, my daughters and I had all the resources. We found our direction."





e-Work:

Online English Language Training for the Workplace

– Cathy Burrage

In Spring 2009, Camosun College's English Language Development (ELD) Department was approached by the Ministry of Advanced Education about undertaking the development and delivery of online English Language training for the workplace. The Ministry had identified a gap in BC in the provision of workplace-specific language training at advanced levels and was eager to support initiatives to address this gap. The ultimate goal is to improve employment opportunities for recently arrived immigrants to BC, no matter where in the province they are living.

The e-Work project incorporates the development and pilot delivery of a series of fully online short courses, offered through Desire 2 Learn. Course topics range from Emails to Meetings to Small Talk, and focus on developing language skills specific to key workplace communication tasks. The students are internationally educated immigrants, based in the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island, and in more remote communities like Prince George and Fort St John. They come from a variety of professions, such as health, medicine, accounting, engineering and teaching. Their shared goal is



Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan

Connecting to community and finding support

– Jessica Michalofsky

Last April, I had the privilege of hearing ABEABC Conference keynote speaker Lauren Oates describe the Canada-Afghanistan Solidarity Committee's efforts to promote literacy in Afghanistan. Inspired by Oates' presentation and the millennia-old tradition of using music, food, and dance to gather communities, a few Camosun College educators planned a Breaking Bread potluck in support of education for women and girls in Afghanistan. Our goal was to raise \$750, the salary for a teacher in Afghanistan for six months. On the evening of January 30, to the accompaniment of the Klez Galz, a local all-women Klezmer band, over forty women and girls gathered in a Victoria home around sumptuous plates of lovingly-prepared food. By coming together and collectively making merry, we surpassed our goal and were able to send \$850 to Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan, an organization working hard to empower Canadians as global citizens and to advance basic literacy and human rights for Afghan women and girls. For more information about this organization or how to create your own Breaking Break Potluck, go to <http://www.cw4wafghan.ca/>

ESL Accreditation

– Mavis Smith and Pei Mei Chia
Co-Chairs, ELD Department

The English Language Development Department (ELD) in partnership with Camosun College International is pleased to announce the re-accreditation of its programs by Languages Canada. Languages Canada is an organization that promotes quality public and private language programs in both of Canada's official languages (www.languagescanada.ca). Member programs are assessed by an external program evaluation service in the areas

of curriculum, teacher qualifications, student services, student admissions, marketing, promotion, facilities and administration to ensure that programs meet the standards of the association.

The accreditation process was a joint endeavour of the ELD Department and Camosun College International, in which staff, faculty and students met with the program evaluator regarding ELD programs and services for ESL students at Camosun.

Thanks to all who participated in the accreditation.

to improve their workplace communication, with a view to finding and/or maintaining a position commensurate with their overseas education and work experience.

In addition to the BC focus, the e-Work Project has partnered with the Association of Canadian Community Colleges' (ACCC) Canadian Immigrant Integration Program (CIIP) to recruit overseas participants. Ten overseas participants from China, India and the Philippines who have acquired Permanent Resident Status approval are taking e-Work courses prior to their arrival in Canada.

The e-Work Project Team over the past two years has included ELD Department members Cathy Burrage as the e-Work Program Assistant and Ann Brix, Heather Del Villano, Diana Kohl, Mark Limacher, Pamela Rubidge, Leigh Sunderland and Elizabeth West as the Curriculum Development and Online Instruction Team. Additionally, three ELD faculty members have contributed their scheduled development time to the project in order to take on an instructional role: Amanda Frayling, Bev Horsman and Cliff Dyer. Project support has been provided by Contract Training and Continuing Education and the School of Access support team. Numerous Camosun staff, faculty and students are contributing to the development of the online learning activities by participating in audio and video recording sessions. The project would not be possible without the support and close participation of the Distributed Education staff and the e-Work instructional designer Stewart Arneil.

To date, 156 participants have enrolled in one or more e-Work courses. Student feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Here is one student's comment: "I think this course teaches me the skills needed, not only for the workplace, but also to be effective in social networking events." In addition to the language itself, the course also touches on Canadian culture that may be unfamiliar to immigrants. And this is really the benefit that an immigrant student can take advantage of.

As a next step, the ELD Department is in the process of submitting the e-Work program for Educational Approval as a Certificate Program, so students will have a credential to demonstrate their language abilities to potential employers.

For more information, please contact Lisa Robertson, the e-Work Project Coordinator, robertsonL@camosun.bc.ca, or visit our website: <http://camosun.bc.ca/ework>.

Paul Gallagher Funds

The School of Access and Aboriginal Education & Community Connections are pleased to have received funding from Literacy BC's Paul Gallagher Community Access Fund to assist students with urgent need. Approximately \$1,500 was used to purchase Thrifty Foods Smile Cards. The cards will be distributed to students in need.



If you know a student in need, please contact the AECC or Access main offices.

**Aboriginal Gathering Place
at Camosun College**

Tuesday, April 19, 2011
11:30 am to 1:30 pm

Lansdowne Campus
3100 Foul Bay Road, Victoria, BC

Ne S'cá la Cé | Welcome

The Camosun College logo, featuring a stylized figure holding a book above the text "CAMOSUN COLLEGE".

Gathering Place Blessing

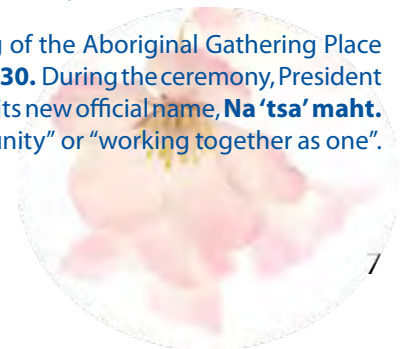
– Janice Simcoe

It was a bitterly cold day. The temperature was hovering around zero and a fierce wind was blowing straight through the open walls of the new Aboriginal Gathering Place. Camosun students, staff, faculty and administration sat with Elders and other members of local Aboriginal communities to participate in a blessing ceremony. It was as though we were all being provided with a cold bath as Songhees Nation Elder, Elmer George, and his helpers led a Shaker ritual to prepare the building for the learning and celebrations that would later take place within it. It was December 3, 2010.

The blessing had actually started on May 5, 2010, when Mr. George and Chief Andy and Mary Anne Thomas from Esquimalt Nation had led a blessing of the ground before construction began. The December ceremony completed that circle. It was significant that we were all so cold because in many Indigenous traditions in Canada, people bathe in cold water to cleanse their bodies, minds and spirits before embarking on work or long journeys. We were, that day, truly at the beginning of something momentous.

The ceremony was emceed by student Richard Spearman, who is an acknowledged Songhees Elder. Artist Butch Dick's vision inspired the form of the Gathering Place. Brad Shuya, the architect who brought that vision to life, and the crew of contractors and subcontractors who built the Gathering Place, were acknowledged for their craftsmanship and good spirit during the construction phase. The Unity Drummers provided the first performance of a song written specifically for the Gathering Place. We were privileged to hear good words from Lynda Farmer, the Chair of the Board of Governors. After the ceremony the guests gathered in the Wilna Thomas Cultural Centre to share food and warm up.

The formal Grand Opening of the Aboriginal Gathering Place took place on **April 19 at 11:30**. During the ceremony, President Kathryn Laurin announced its new official name, **Na 'tsa' maht**. This Salish phrase means "unity" or "working together as one".





The Aboriginal Gathering Place grand opening took place on April 19, 2011 at the Lansdowne Campus. Many people were recognized at this historical event.



CanPro construction crew were acknowledged for their work on the Gathering Place. The Blessing took place in December, 2010.

Blake Handley photos.



Community Happenings Computers at Our Place

– Marc Bissley and Jennifer Bennett

For the past three years the School of Access, in partnership with Our Place Society, Camosun has been offering computer studies courses on location at Our Place. The bright, spacious 12 station computer lab at Our Place is heavily used by the community. Given the interest in computers by community members, it was a natural fit for the School to start offering computer studies. This past year has been very successful with both staff and community members registering in the Fundamental Computer Studies and Intermediate Computer Studies courses. Two sections were offered in the fall with one section being reserved for 12 staff and the other section for 18 community members. Our Place Society sponsored the 12 staff members, a number of whom were challenged with literacy issues as well as having no previous experience with

computers. Our Place released the staff to attend the classes although it was difficult at times for the staff to take time out from their duties due to the incredible work demands of a very busy organization. Much of the success can be attributed to the contributions from a core group of Our Place volunteers who attended classes every week during these past two terms. They provide expertise in a supportive and encouraging manner and their availability has made a very real difference in reducing the frustration level of learners new to the world of computers. According to one student, "This course really makes you think ... and see the possibilities that are there." Another expressed, "I think [the class] is awesome. In this day and age one needs to be e-literate and this course is the perfect way for me to be so!" The accomplishments of the students and the contributions of the volunteers were honoured and celebrated before the December holiday break at Our Place.



Community Happenings

– Jennifer Bennett

It has been an exciting Winter term for Community Learning Partnerships (CLP) Department in terms of new course offerings, pilot development, welcome guests and cultural events.

The new fundamental level math courses were introduced and were well received at Literacy Victoria. The numeracy lessons complement the agency's successful literacy and essential skill programming.

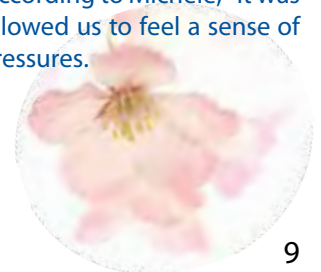
Bridges for Women Society delivered a multi-level math class this term. Alison Bowe, Instructor, and Sandra Lacroix, Instructional Assistant, report that so far the math has been very successful: the students are focused and challenging themselves. Many will continue on in the Spring and Summer terms to help meet goals such as the Nursing program, Business Administration, and the Women in Trades Training Initiative.

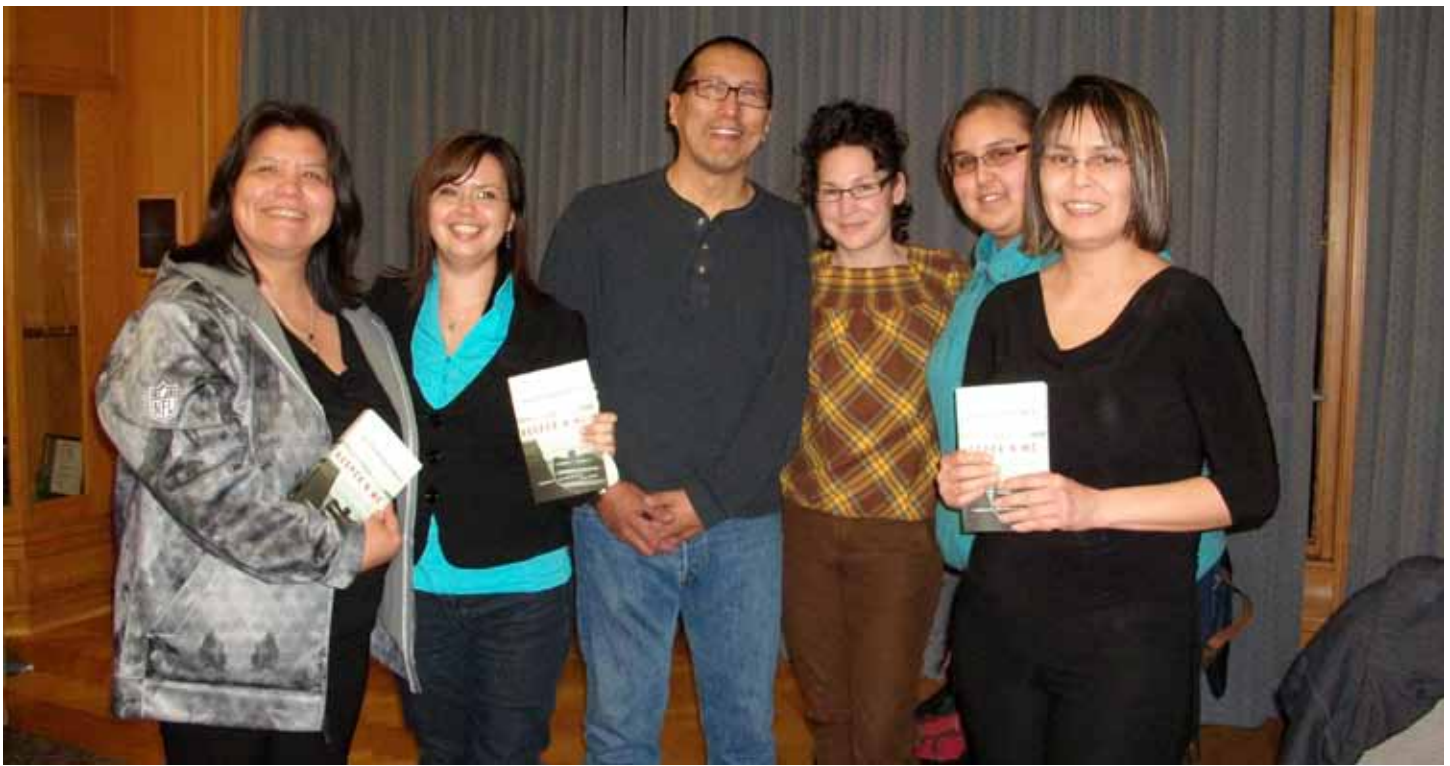
The Songhees First Nation continues to work with Camosun in collaboratively developing curriculum for an Indigenous Essential Skills Portfolio Pilot, expected to be offered in Fall 2011. The pilot will provide community members opportunities for math and English upgrading, employment skills training, a Treasure Box cultural program, and the development of an

online portfolio to highlight to prospective employers their Essential Skills and personal gifts and strengths.

Recently, students in the Indigenous College Prep and the Indigenous Human Services Career Access (IHSCAP) programs hosted an afternoon with Sylvie Cottell, a member of Camosun's Counselling Department. Sylvie is Camosun's counsellor from aboriginal heritages and she spoke to the group about transitioning to campus, offering tips on how to make the journey successful, and encouraging the students' sense of safety and belonging.

ICP students had an opportunity to participate in a cultural ceremony at Tsartlip. Michele Mundy, ICP instructor, expresses appreciation to Victor and Joyce Underwood for inviting both the Indigenous Family Support Worker class and the ICP class out to their home and for sharing a traditional sweat lodge ceremony with Camosun College students. According to Michele, "It was an amazing day for everyone. It allowed us to feel a sense of groundedness amidst mid-term pressures."





Community Happenings Bringing Stories Home

Indigenous College Preparation Program Saanich Adult Education Centre

– Anne Tenning

On Wednesday, March 9, four students from ENGL 096 and I attended a presentation at Royal Roads University by Aboriginal author, Richard Wagamese. The title of the presentation was “Smoked Fish, Bannock, and Indian Tea – Bringing Stories Home”. The group had read “Keeper N’ Me” by Richard Wagamese in EN096, and attending students had the opportunity to have

Photo: from left to right - Judy Voyageur, Anne Tenning, Richard Wagamese, Lorri Leonard, Jennifer Tommy and Mary Finlayson. Photo courtesy of Lorrie Leonard.

their novels autographed and to ask the author questions. Mr. Wagamese’s presentation was amazing and we all left feeling inspired to be both greater listeners and tellers of stories!

The presentation can be viewed on the Royal Roads website at <http://media.royalroads.ca/media/ID/Wagamese.html>.

President’s Funds Projects, 2010

A Longitudinal Investigation of the Effects of Academic Education on the Lives of Adults with Literacy and/or Numeracy Skills at or below the Grade 10 Level

Alison Bowe and Jill Auchinachie

Our project is long-term and will be ongoing for several years to come. To date, we have implemented the first of our annual online surveys and have over 80 student responses. The online survey for the 2010-11 academic year will continue until the end of the 2011W semester. We have also conducted 14 one-hour interviews with student participants. We anticipate completing two further interviews by March of 2011.

The President’s Fund Award of \$5000 has been completely expended. We purchased 250 - \$25 Camosun Gift Cards which will be disbursed over the lifetime of the research project as honorariums for the student interview participants. One-third of the cards are in active use this fiscal, and the other two-thirds are being held by Financial Services in the college vault at Lansdowne.

President's Funds Project: Avatar Based Learning

– Sandra Scrimger

“A good hockey player plays where the puck is. A great hockey player plays where the puck is going to be.” - Wayne Gretzky.

Last year, I was awarded a President's grant to investigate the applicability of Avatar-based technology at Camosun College. I concluded that Camosun should be looking seriously at using avatars in a variety of areas:

“Avatar-based virtual learning in virtual worlds offers the potential of a new medium for education pedagogy to enhance learning outcomes beyond that provided by more traditional online or face-to-face development activities. VR (Virtual Reality) provides an efficient and fun place to learn and meet. It appears, therefore, to be strongly suitable as an environment to conduct distance learning, host guest speakers or to provide office hours for students to meet faculty and staff. It can provide opportunities to connect to a wider audience, to manoeuvre in mixed realities. It provides an opportunity to establish relationships with professionals, colleagues, students, businesses and potential employers. It allows for opportunities to manipulate materials for creative expression and easier visualization of abstract concepts, training simulations, collaborative prototyping, 3D data visualization, collaborative meetings, to name a few. Recognizing this, many respected educational institutions have explored and are continuing to explore VR applications for use in medical clinical training, accounting concepts, chemistry concepts, architecture, and others.”

Here are a few interesting websites to visit if you want to see what some other institutions are doing in Virtual Reality:

Video on Loyalist College's virtual reality Border Guard training

<http://vodpod.com/watch/1253064-second-life-loyalist-college-canadian-border-simulation>

Imperial College – London's site on their Second Life Medical Training Clinic:

<http://www1.imperial.ac.uk/medicine/teaching/elearning/secondlife/>

Heart Murmur simulation in Second Life:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xJY2lwbzop4>

Cyber law class in Second Life – blog entry and pictures:

<http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/cyberone/2006/09/22/the-first-class-in-second-life/>

The “Indigenous Knowledge: Ethics and Research”

(President's Innovation Fund) project is in process of developing a paper and a series of recommendations regarding Indigenous knowledge. This project will help inform Camosun College and its employees about how Indigenous Knowledge is defined and accessed; how to appropriately include it in curriculum; and what we need to know about protecting it from misuse. Tommy Happynook, Jr., a member of the Huu ay aht First Nation, who recently earned his MA in Anthropology, is leading the project. He has conducted research with students, faculty and Aboriginal community and will be presenting his findings in various formats later this spring.



The “Elder's Native Plant Garden Project”

(President's Environmental Sustainability Fund) project is in process of planting an Indigenous plants garden, including a Medicine garden, around the new Aboriginal Gathering Place on Lansdowne campus. This project, led by Corrine Michel, the college's Indigenization coordinator, enlisted the expertise of First Nations herbalist Della Rice-Sylvester, and Indigenous plants specialist Dr. Nancy Turner, as consultants in the development and design of this unique landscaping model. The college groundskeeping staff have been full participants in this project and are currently making the garden come alive. We look forward to its completion, including educational signage, in time for the Grand Opening of the Gathering Place on April 19.

The “Pathways to Business: Indigenous Business Access Program”

(President's Interdisciplinary Fund) project has resulted in the design of a cross-disciplinary entrance program that bridges Aboriginal students into their first year of business studies. Project leader Dianne Biin, with support from the college Foundation, School of Business colleagues, and AECC, was able to access an additional \$25,000 from the RBC Foundation to complete the project. The program will blend a new Indigenous entrepreneurialism course with existing courses from the School of Access/AECC and the School of Business, and has the potential to meet multiple community needs.





Diversity Day, Oct 14, 2010

Our theme:
**SHARED VALUES GROUND CAMOSUN'S
 DIVERSE COMMUNITY**

The intention: to create awareness of existing events, clubs, organizations and college departments that work hard to welcome students and staff.

Diversity - what the students say:

Homogeneity is boring!

Diversity widens the eyes, mind and heart. We welcome all.

Without diversity, we cannot learn and grow. The more colour and the more flavour, the more health.

Diversity is one of the biggest strengths we have as a species. Our varied talents, ideas, skills, and experiences allow us to do so many amazing things as well as adapt to the ever-changing dynamics of the world.

I love the fact that Camosun is so diverse. I seriously enjoy seeing different faces and meeting all kinds of people with all kinds of ideas.

Each and every individual is wonderfully responsible for bringing their own unique gifts towards the diversity of this education hub!

I think having a diverse community at Camosun is really great. The culture, the languages we speak, and the different foods, all make it awesome. I like that of Camosun College.



Students, faculty, staff and members of the general public celebrated Diversity Day in October, 2010.

Show us your PINK! Stop Bullying Day 23 Feb, 2011

Support Stop Bullying Day. The wearing of the pink sends a message that bullying is not acceptable in our schools, our workplaces or our communities.

