

insidetrु

Thompson Rivers University's *Comprehensive News Magazine*

THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY 



Joanne Brown and her display of Aboriginal graduate pictures



Stephanie Jack



Carl C. Mashon

the gathering place

The delegates attending this year's Gathering Our Voices Aboriginal Youth Conference at Thompson Rivers University March 12 to 15 will have to wander off the Kamloops campus' beaten path to find TRU's own Gathering Place.

Situated in one of the quaintly renovated heritage army-base houses and tucked amongst towering ponderosa pines, the Gathering Place offers support for TRU's nearly 700 aboriginal students.

Cplu l'w'ten, as the centre is known in Secwepecmc, offers TRU's Aboriginal students a quiet place for study, a small reference library as well as computer and printers for academic and recreational use. With its long covered-porch and meditative green-space in the back yard, the little house is the perfect spot for pot-luck dinners or to regroup after a hectic week of classes.

"We're filled to the rafters some afternoons," Joanne Brown, TRU Coordinator for Aboriginal Services, said. "And we're informal, Aboriginal students can just touch base occasionally, make new friends, celebrate their Aboriginal culture and explore options."

Brown, (BA 2000), acts as mentor, counsellor, facilitator and guide for the students requiring support for issues ranging from funding to finding accommodation and adjustment to academic life in the larger centre of Kamloops.

"We connect with and refer students to other TRU departments to find the services they need," Brown said. "Or, we put them in touch with the community agencies that can help."

Some of these students have spent their whole lives in very small communities and accessing the services through the Gathering Place can make all the difference in student retention, Brown added.

Stephanie Jack arrived at the Kamloops campus from her home in the Fraser Canyon community of Boston Bar in January 2004. Like many other students venturing into post secondary education, Jack was unsure about the steps to take.

"Once I found the Gathering Place I had help with registering, at first to upgrade and then for the Professional Cook Training," Jack said.

"I was immediately comfortable there the staff and students were friendly and helpful," she said in interview just before starting her shift at Kamloops' downtown Boston Pizza. "Even though I didn't use the centre a lot, I met friends there and had help writing my resume."

Jack completed her Culinary Arts program in December 2005.

Carl Mashon is the Assistant Executive Director of the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres, the group organizing the Gathering Voices Youth conference held this month at TRU in Kamloops. Mashon is looking forward to returning to his alma mater, (NRS grad 1999), for the conference and knows first hand how important centres like the Gathering Place are to students.

"TRU's Gathering Place and UBC's Longhouse are really important for Aboriginal students," Mashon said. "Sometimes it's the size of the campus that is intimidating but recognizing the bigger struggle we (Aboriginals) have with post secondary education is critical too."

Aboriginal students attend TRU from throughout the Cariboo, Thompson and Chilcotin areas as well as from across the country. Adjusting to university life away from family can be a challenge. Most often at the beginning of the semester Brown's phone rings constantly and students drop into her office throughout the day. Her approachable style is key to making connections with new students.

A major part of Brown's role as coordinator includes recruiting, and she says it's important to make the connection with students early, while they are still in high school.

"If students know of the support offered it can make all the difference in the ease of transition between high school and post secondary."

For Brown the best part of making those connections and helping students through the transitions comes from the comments and the bulletin board bright with smiling Aboriginal faces in caps and gowns at convocation. A comment from a student that keeps her going through the busiest of days is, "I went into your office to ask you if I was smart enough to enroll in university, and before I knew it I was enrolled and on my way and had finished my degree."

"That," she said, "is a tremendous feeling."

ImagiNative



"TRU to celebrate the work of regional Aboriginal artists in a unique collaborative exhibition."

The Thompson Rivers University Centre for the Study of Canada in co-operation with the TRU First Nations Students Association (FNSA), the Interior Aboriginal Artists' Society (IAAS), and the TRU Department of Visual and Performing Arts is showcasing the work of regional Aboriginal artists. ImagiNative will run in the TRU Art Gallery from March 12–April 7, 2006.

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president's report

As the second full semester as Thompson Rivers University draws to an end, our connection to British Columbia's first and only high-speed research and education network is about to begin. TRU will soon be joining a much expanded world of research offered through BCNET, a not-for-profit society providing advanced networking to our province's higher education and research institutions. Through BCNET, TRU will be linked with other agencies and institutions nationwide and worldwide through an advanced Internet system that supports world-class projects in the areas of education, health, physics, the arts and science.

Thompson Rivers University has been created out of a strong foundation in both teaching and research and as we look to the future, it is both exciting and reassuring to consider how BCNET will enable us to realize our expanding educational vision and research goals. Our link to BCNET will mean superb network connectivity for TRU's on-campus students and will make TRU one of the best connected campuses in Canada. Our faculty already makes extensive use of platforms such as WebCT to engage students in learning, both in the classroom and from their dormitories and homes. BCNET's capacity to provide undergraduates with access to course material, as well as library and research databases will ensure that the highest quality student engagement is possible. Moreover, we have recently become collaborators with UBC and Western Washington University in a project that aims to let our students remotely manipulate chemical analytical equipment hundreds of kilometres away. Because of BCNET, our students will be able to get experience on a whole world of equipment that we do not possess on our campus.

Also, as Thompson Rivers University is now British Columbia's Open University, BCNET connectivity will enhance our ability to

provide the highest quality distance education for open learning students throughout the province.

Our university has developed an enviable international reputation and currently hosts over 1000 international students each year and provides programs and services offshore in over 20 countries worldwide. Our new BCNET linkage will provide us many opportunities to improve the quality of international programs and partnerships. With our well established international student population and our university's commitment to student-focused campus environment, we see the City of Kamloops continuing to grow as a centre of excellence for international distance education.

The Kamloops BCNET connection is a success story of collaboration between the provincial, municipal and federal governments. The City of Kamloops has led in establishing the Kamloops Community Network (KCN), a municipal dark fibre network that connects the community. This means that the Royal Inland Hospital, the TRU Kamloops campus, School District 73, and the city government and administration are directly connected to the BCNET transit exchange in downtown Kamloops, enabling never before seen connectivity in and throughout the region. These connections, and the many more that will develop in years to come will have a major impact on the economic and cultural development of our region. We can not underestimate the importance of BCNET in facilitating our collective vision of a university, a community and a region on the move.




achievements

Dr. Brigitta O'Regan

English and Modern Languages

Dr. Brigitta O'Regan (EML) has been invited to serve as External Examiner (for a Ph.D. dissertation submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in English) at Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, India. Situated in the State of Andhra Pradesh, Andhra University (founded in 1926) has a student body of 9,000 and a faculty of 1,000.

Iván Gyozo Somlai

TRU World

Iván Somlai has published a chapter in "Trening Konsultantov vo Ulravleniu" (Training Consultants to Manage Organisational Conflicts); and in "Publichnaja Politika v Rossii" ("Public Policy in Russia"); Gorbachev Fund; Moscow; 2005.

James Hoffman

Visual and Performing Arts

In October James Hoffman was invited to sit on a panel examining the proposed Canadian Museums Association policy regarding research matters as they apply to both museums and their public at the annual conference of the BC Museums Association in Kelowna. During November, Hoffman read a paper, "Whose Show is it, Anyway? The Role of the Small City in Performance," to a panel of local theatre directors, an event sponsored by the Centre for the Study of Canada.

Roger Yu

Mathematics and Statistics

Roger (Q.L.) Yu published two articles in 2005. One in the Bulletin of the Institute of Combinatorics and its Applications (with P. Wang) titled "On the degree monotonicity of $(n; k)$ -cage", 43(2005), 37-42 and the other (with M. Kano), in "Pan-factorial property in regular graphs", The Electronic Journal of Combinatorics, 12(2005), #N23.

Three articles to appear in 2006 are: (with G.Z. Liu) "Strongly pan-factorial property in cages" and (with Z. Zhang), "Extremal properties of $(1, f)$ -odd factor in Graphs", in Ars Combinatorics, and (with L.C. Zuo and J.L. Wu) "Tree Coloring of Distance Graph with Real Interval Set", Applied Mathematics Letters In October 2005, Roger Yu presented a paper at a Midwest Conference on "Combinatorics, Cryptography and Computing" at the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York. In November he presented two articles at the China-Japan Joint Conference on Discrete Geometry, Combinatorics and Graph Theory at Nankai University, China.

Yu was also one of the principal organizers of a workshop on Random Graphs and Networks at the Chinese Academy of Science, in Beijing, during August 2005.

Roger Barnsley

President & Vice-Chancellor

Roger Barnsley was awarded a Doctor of Education degree, honoris causa, by St. John's University in Bangkok, Thailand, Jan. 29.

Nancy Twynam

Student Development

The Division of Student Development (DSD) has reached international fame for its model on First Year Experience Programs (FYE). For the second year in a row, Kathy Mitchell and Nancy Twynam will be presenting at the Annual Conference on the First-Year Experience in Atlanta, Georgia, this February. The innovative Shared Leadership Model created by DSD was first introduced at TRU three years ago.

This year's presentation will focus on the benefits, implementation and assessment strategies used to develop new FYE initiatives at TRU. The Shared Leadership Model and presentation will be available post-conference by contacting either Twynam or Mitchell.

Lucas Cockburn

Bachelor of Science Degree, 2003

Lucas Cockburn of Kamloops, who came to TRU on an athletic scholarship to play varsity basketball, and was awarded the Governor General's Silver Medal upon graduation, was awarded two prizes at medical school at Queen's University in 2004. The first was for the highest standing at the end of the second medical year, and for being the top student in clinical skills. In December 2005, he was awarded a scholarship by the College of Family Physicians of Canada for being one of Canada's top medical students.



Dr. David Twynam

Dean of the School of Tourism

David Twynam and his research partner Dr. Johnston of Lakehead University will be published in a special edition journal of Great Britain's Leisure Studies Association. Twynam and Johnston are also published in "Current Issues in Tourism, Annals of Tourism Research, Journal of Sport Management," "Journal of Event & Festival Management" and a number of edited books. Their research focuses on nature based tourism, event management and volunteer motivations. They recently received a SSHRC Grant to support their research on the Canada Winter Games (2007) in Whitehorse, Yk.

Susie Safford

Student Development

Susie Safford's, "The Crone and I" an account of her misadventures on tour in a unusual church in the Italian country side, led by an even more unusual tour guide, were published in the Feb. 11, 2006 issue of The Globe and Mail.

Safford has been appointed to the interim position of Associate Vice-President, Student Affairs.

Ron Smith

Visual and Performing Arts

Ron Smith presented his paper "Michael Radford's 1984 (1984): Teaching 1984 in the Context of the Trauma of the Cold War" at the 31st Annual Conference on Film and Literature at Florida State University, in Tallahassee, on Feb. 4 2006. His article, "Rose Marie: I Don't Love you," was published in the February 2006 issue of Scope Film Journal.



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 < Geoff Roberts, Nicole Linnell, Crystal Trudel, Cary Grodinsky and Dan Sonnenberg, from TRU's School of Business & Economics are among 15 business school teams competing at Royal Rhodes University International Case Study Mar 16-18.

community service learning



Service Learning students Lisa Longo and Jennifer Jones sort through the archives at Western Canada Theatre.

Thompson Rivers University is one of only two universities in the province offering one of North America's fastest growing learning options, Service Learning.

Although it is still new or even unheard of at some Canadian post secondary institutions, Neil Russell, Vice President Student Affairs, brought the concept of service learning to the deans on the Kamloops campus in 1995. Faculty of Arts championed the idea immediately. Currently ten students each semester can participate in service learning in the Canadian Studies Program, either in SERV 300 or SERV 400.

"Service learning appealed to me immediately at two levels," said Ginny Ratsoy, Director Centre for the Study of Canada and CNST Programme Coordinator. "It gives students opportunity for an audience other than their peers or professor.

"It also makes students aware of resources in their community. Not everyone has been to the theatre or visited the museum; service learning makes real connections with the community."

The alternative education model is touted as a hands-on approach to learning, taking theory beyond the classroom's four walls, enabling students to engage in the community and reflect on how the classroom theory applies.

"The popular focus in post-secondary education often seems to be directed towards obtaining a credential," said Martin Whittles, Canadian Studies faculty member. "Service learning provides the opportunity for a student to develop skills well beyond those acquired in the traditional classroom, laboratory and library and to apply them in practical ways on projects with social consequence as well as further sharpening his or her skill-set prior to graduation."

Jennifer Jones and Lisa Longo are fourth year Bachelor of Arts, Canadian Studies

students applying their research skills to create a web-archive project for Western Canada Theatre. They started the archive in SERV 300; by the end of SERV 400, this term, they will have 15 years of information from WCT productions accessible to anyone researching the theatre scene in Kamloops.

Besides Longo and Jones, other TRU undergrads have been earning program credits with the theatre company. They have taken on such projects as analysis of WCT audience demographics and their preferences, and compiled a written history of the company,

"It's a pleasure to be able to work with very smart, dedicated students that can take on projects WCT would never have time for." Lori Marchand, WCT Administrative Director said.

Jones, a graduate of Hope Secondary, says her participation in the service learning program has been key to the development of strong oral presentation skills, self-confidence and a desire to continue fostering the local arts community. It's also an opportunity to learn about Service Learning in a broader, national perspective from her vantage point as the sole undergraduate student on the inaugural board of the Canadian Association of Community Service Learning.

Proponents of service learning credit the non-traditional style of learning for having positive effects on academic performance (including GPA, writing skills and critical thinking skills), values such as commitment to activism and to promoting racial understanding, self-efficacy, and leadership.

Service learners more often choose a service career or plan to participate in service after graduation. Service Learning is a pedagogical model used extensively in the United States, but it is relatively new to Canada only becoming formally recognized as an academic option in 1999. American colleges and universities have long recognized the benefits of adapting service learning into undergraduate education.



Random acts of wellness find way to Student Street

Marianne Boak, left, a BSW student in her fourth year, and Amy McClain, a Work study student for the TRU Counseling office and Wellness Centre, brightened Lini Tan's day by presenting her with carnations Feb. 8 on Student Street.

Boak is completing her four-month social work practicum in the Wellness Centre and came up with the plan of kindness to promote wellness among the student body, staff and faculty. She and McClain handed out more than 1,000 carnations with attached messages that read: "The Wellness Centre wants you to know that you are valued and appreciated."

insidetr

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making a difference through collaboration

In BC, approximately 140,000 children and youth currently suffer from a mental health disorder. Anxiety, depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and substance abuse are just a few of the illnesses impacting our children at home, at school, and in the community. This spring, Thompson Rivers University is tackling this very important health issue by taking collaboration to a whole new level.

The TRU Graduate Certificate in Child and Youth Mental Health is the first true example of how the new university can respond to educational market needs by utilizing distance and online learning. An advisory committee that consists of TRU faculty and staff, the ministry of health, the Ministry of Children and Family Development, and health care professionals is developing the program from conception to delivery.

“This has truly been a collaborative effort,” exudes project manager Inga Thomson Hilton of TRU Continuing Studies. “It all started with a single phone call from the ministry of children and family development and has evolved into this very meaningful program. I have such appreciation for everyone on the program advisory committee.”

This web-based graduate certificate program is designed for professionals already employed as social workers, counsellors, youth care workers, and nurses. These highly trained professionals will

provide assessment and treatment to young people with mental health disorders and will help build expertise and capacity in the BC health sector.

“There is a critical need for specialists in this rewarding field,” states Sharon McLaughlin TRU Open Learning’s department of Health and Human Services. “Career opportunities are flourishing, and our web-based delivery model allows practitioners to continue to work while they expand their education.”

BC’s schools of social work, schools of child and youth care, and the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development have all identified this area as a valued priority and are continuing to invest resources to support it.

Innovation and collaboration are embedded into every aspect of the program. The curriculum ensures that students work directly with children and families living with serious mental health concerns and also includes a focus on Aboriginal and cross-cultural contexts. Health care practitioners and alumni from TRU programs such as the Bachelor of Social Work or the Bachelor of Science in Nursing can benefit from the pioneering Graduate Certificate in Child and Youth Mental Health to be launched this April. For more information, visit openlearning.tru.ca/programs/health_sci/gcymh.



Inga Thomson Hilton, Helen Szewello Allen and Grant Larsen

Signs of Mental Illness in Children and Youth

- › Changes in behaviour, e.g., an active child becomes quiet and withdrawn or a good student suddenly starts getting poor grades.
- › Changes in feelings, e.g., a child may show signs of feeling unhappy, worried, guilty, angry, fearful, hopeless, or rejected.
- › Physical symptoms such as frequent headaches, stomach or backaches, problems eating or sleeping, or a general lack of energy.
- › Abuse of alcohol and/or drugs.
- › Difficulty coping with regular activities and everyday problems.
- › Consistent violations of the rights of others, e.g., thefts and vandalism.
- › Intense fear of becoming fat with no relationship to the child’s actual body weight.

Factoids

The average overall community prevalence rate for mental disorders in children and youth is 15%.

Two-thirds of students will consider suicide by the end of high school. One in 10, or three students in an average class will attempt suicide by the end of high school.

In February 2003, the BC government released The Child and Youth Mental Health Plan. This is a Five-year initiative aimed at increasing resources, expertise and support services for children and families living with mental health issues.

Program Advisory Committee

- Jim Campbell, MSW, Director, Mental Health, Interior Health Authority
- Grant Larson, PhD, Faculty, School of Social Work and Human Service, Thompson Rivers University
- Lorraine Hathaway, MSW, Clinical Director of Outpatient Psychiatry, BC Children’s Hospital
- Shari Laliberte, MSN, Faculty, School of Nursing, Thompson Rivers University
- Paule McNicoll, PhD, Faculty, School of Social Work and Family Studies, University of British Columbia
- Gayle Read, MSW, Mental Health Consultant, Senior Psychiatric Social Work Specialist, Ministry for Children and Family Development



Nursing student Lori Steffenson and a Samoan community health nurse prepare vaccinations in a mobile health unit



TRU pioneers student nursing practice in Samoa

One of the great opportunities of being a TRU nursing student is the chance to travel and nurse in an international context as part of your nursing practice.

For the past five years, nursing students were able to practise their new skills and knowledge in Nepal. Unfortunately growing political unrest in the Himalayan nation made it necessary to find an alternative destination. Samoa, a developing South Pacific island country located near Fiji became the alternative. The country is breathtaking with numerous untouched white sand beaches, groves of coconut trees and lush rainforests.

Six nursing students pioneered the TRU Samoan experience in May 2005. They travelled to Apia, Samoa for a nursing practicum accompanied by Marilyn Schigol, a faculty member in the School of Nursing.

The students practised for six weeks in four nursing settings: the maternity ward of the Moto’otua Hospital, in village home care, public health and community mental health settings.

Initially, the greatest challenge for the students was adapting to the tropical climate as they cared for patients with very limited health care resources. In spite of the busy schedule there was still time to meet with the nursing students from the National University in Apia. Luckily, English is a second language and communication was not difficult with patients or peers.

Students travelled to the various villages assisting with immunizing infants, teaching health care, monitoring blood pressures, changing dressings and numerous other nursing skills alongside the Samoan nurses. The hospitality of the Samoan nurses was overwhelming and students were impressed daily with their commitment to care of the Samoan people.

“Despite the lack of material possessions and medical resources, the nurses were so happy, welcoming and hard working,” TRU Nursing student Lori Steffenson said. “I really learned a lot about how to appreciate the little things in life. The experience brought perspective to how wasteful we as Canadians can be when we are throwing things away that other countries need desperately. This experience really changed my life in so many positive ways.”

All students returned from their nursing experience with an increased ability to use health resources creatively, a stronger personal identity and many rich memories of nursing in the South Pacific.

A new group of eight nursing students will be traveling this May/June to Samoa. To learn more about opportunities for an international nursing practicum (NURS 339-4), contact Cheryl Lyall at clyall@tru.ca.

research > matters

aboriginal nursing project

The partnership aimed at enhancing recruitment and retention strategies for First Nations nursing students is a definite success, said Star Mahara assistant professor, TRU School of Nursing.

Currently the highest number of Aboriginal students ever are in the second year of their Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Thompson Rivers University. Six students out of a total class of 80 means that seven and a half per cent of the class is Aboriginal, a sure sign that the strategy to develop a sustainable nursing workforce is working.



With the announcement that phase three of the Aboriginal Nursing Project is about to get underway, the project's long-term goal to increase enrolment of Aboriginal students in nursing at Kamloops and Williams Lake to 10 per cent is a step closer.

The Aboriginal Nursing Project was developed with the remote rural Aboriginal communities situated in the Cariboo, Thompson and Chilcotin regions in mind. The joint initiative is between TRU and First Nations groups, with funding from the Ministry of Health Planning Nursing Directorate.

It's not just about numbers in seats, the project was needed, said TRU School of Nursing Dean Dr. Susan Duncan, because "there remains an extreme shortage of Aboriginal nurses and health care services appropriate to the needs of the First Nations communities and sensitive to the cultural and social needs of their members."

Phase three will continue to build on the three pillars of the project; recruitment, program supports and curriculum and faculty development.

Two years have passed since the Aboriginal pre-health program grew into the Aboriginal Nursing project, designed to increase the number of Aboriginal health care workers in rural native communities. In the initial phase of the project, culturally relevant recruitment materials were produced as well as processes for reaching prospective students in their unique community contexts. It concluded with an analysis of how practical support strategies

both influenced and have the potential to influence future retention of Aboriginal students in the first year of the nursing programs. The project also resulted in the implementation of a faculty workshop with materials and processes of interest to provincial and national nursing education programs.

During phase two, the Aboriginal Nursing Project implemented a community-based recruitment strategy with bands while launching and evaluating the new materials that had been developed. It also strengthened the work being done at TRU to create an environment whereby Aboriginal students enjoy a positive post-secondary experience, culturally, personally, socially, and academically, helped along by curriculum reform to enhance the relevance of the nursing curricula to both Aboriginal students and Aboriginal peoples' health.

"It's been important to work on supports for the program throughout the project," Mahara said. "We've done faculty visits to the residential school, had student bannock lunches at the Gathering Place, offered life coaching, assertiveness training, personalized academic supports, and many other initiatives to encourage the success of Aboriginal nursing students at TRU.

"Last year we had Chief David Belleau, an Esket First Nation story teller, participate in a nursing faculty workshop to further develop faculty's understanding of Aboriginal culture.

"We would like to join forces with our colleagues from other faculties to do more workshops, this time with an interdisciplinary focus on cultural safety. Our goal is to develop a greater understanding of where Aboriginal students are coming from," said the assistant professor. "We will celebrate what Aboriginal students and their culture bring to the university and by that, enhance their educational opportunities."

"The important outcome of the project is the understanding of the importance and successes of developing partnerships with a variety of Aboriginal communities, leaders and groups, as well as the insights into the complexity of the partnership approach," said Dr. Susan Duncan, who also explained that "These initiatives are a successful part of a process that must be sustained and continued over time with the goal of a sustainable Aboriginal nursing workforce."

master of science in nursing

It's not a well-known fact, but even before the advent of TRU there were Master's degrees being offered in Kamloops. Case in point is the School of Nursing, where a second group of nurses will graduate this spring with their Masters of Science in Nursing degrees from the University of British Columbia earned through courses delivered at Thompson Rivers University.

A third group is in process of completing their degrees while

registration for the fourth cohort of graduate nurses is underway.

Not only have nurses been able to continue with their graduate studies in Kamloops for the last several years, TRU is developing capacities for a graduate program of its own.

According to Susan Duncan, Dean School of Nursing, with faculty becoming experienced in delivering graduate studies, discussions have begun regarding TRU's own graduate nursing program.

"Our faculty works closely with the community and other disciplines, we can take advantage of our situation and build a program that is unique."

"We're looking at interdisciplinary programs, for example how often nurses and social workers work together in the community," she said. "Another aspect we'll consider is Kamloops has become a regional centre for mental health with the new tertiary care psychiatry centre."

up front

Dr. Thomas E. Dickinson
Associate Vice President Research & Graduate Studies

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to introduce our first of Research Matters supplement to Inside TRU. At the outset, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Diana Skoglund for following through with the idea to highlight our university's research activity in this way. I would also like to congratulate the journalism students whose names are on the bylines to the various articles. Our goal is to make this supplement a regular feature.

For quite a while, we have been searching for a way to let people know about the amazing diversity of scholarly work that our students and faculty are carrying

out. This issue contains just a sampling of that diversity. Our intent is to highlight the full range of research and scholarship in subsequent editions.

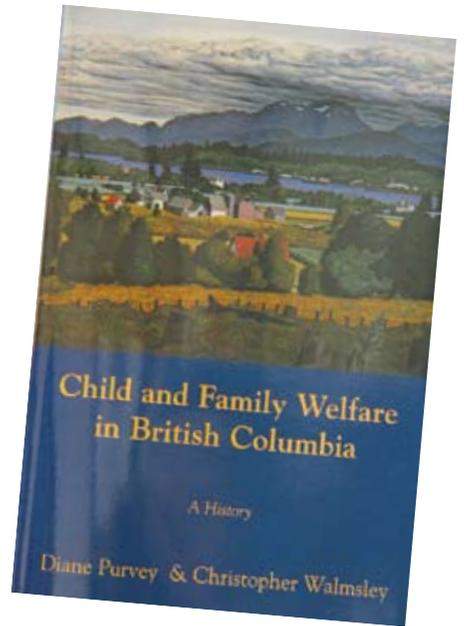
In this issue you will read repeatedly about how our students participate in research projects on campus. If there is one thing that I think distinguishes TRU from other universities, it is how willing our faculty are to engage undergraduates in research.

In closing, let me congratulate all of those involved with the production of this first issue and ask you to join with me in beginning to celebrate the achievements of our research community at Thompson Rivers University.





Christopher Walmsley, Diane Purvey and Dave Barrett share a laugh at the recent book launch.



TRU faculty publish ground-breaking book

By Marcel Tetrault

TRU faculty members Diane Purvey and Christopher Walmsley, from the Schools of Education and Social Work and Human Services respectively, have published a book titled *Child and Family Welfare in British Columbia: A History*.

The book, the first of its kind in the province, is a collection of articles from various academic disciplines and is meant to provide an understanding of the growth, challenges and issues in providing child and family welfare. The authors hope that improved understanding of the past will contribute to the dialogue regarding how such issues should be dealt with in the future.

“Students of social work and history don’t have anything to draw on,” said Walmsley. “We hope it will be used by students and they will get some idea of where we came from.”

“This is an initial foray into (the issue of child and family welfare in BC), there is still a lot of work to be done,” said Walmsley.

The book examines issues such as the institutionalization of children in the early twentieth century, the effects of government policy changes on children and families that access social services and changes to the profession of social work. It also examines the campaigns to introduce pensions for mothers and the creation of family courts in the province.

Purvey said that the book has already encouraged others to open up and provide additional insight into what has occurred in the past.

“People’s own histories are coming out because of this,” said Purvey.

Dave Barrett—Officer of the Order of Canada, former BC premier, BC MLA, federal MP and social worker—wrote the foreword for the book and traveled to Kamloops for the book launch Feb. 5. Barrett said that the collection was long overdue and provided much-needed insight into understanding the causes and consequences of not taking proper care of our children.

“This book explores not only what happened in the past, but raises questions for alternatives. It should be mandatory reading for everybody who is involved in municipal, provincial and federal politics. No political party has the answer for these problems,” said Barrett.

“The book has stated factually, with no bias, a collection of experiences of children. These are human problems and they will continue. We need human solutions. That is what a decent democratic society must do.”

“Here is this campus in the middle of BC doing something other schools of social work should have done long ago,” said Barrett.



RESEARCH MATTERS

just enough grammar

By Bart Cummins

Mention grammar and most of us make an ugly face and a quick exit out the door.

But not Thompson Rivers University assistant journalism professor Maxine Ruvinsky. She actually likes the topic. So much so that her book on the subject is due for release this spring.

“Without a mastery of the fundamentals, you impede your own writing ability; you impede your ability to say what you mean,” says Dr. Ruvinsky, who has a Ph.D in Comparative Literature from McGill. “Much of writing comes down not to talent, but it comes down to how hard are you willing to work to get it exactly right, not the nearly-right word.”

Practical Grammar: A Canadian Writer’s Resource is due for release the end of April. It will contain 12 chapters in four parts and serve as a follow-up to *Introduction to Writing and Editing Grammar Handbook*, something Ruvinsky wrote for the Journalism 331 class. She published the booklet because many of her students were lacking the basic principles of written communication.

“If you want to be a writer, you need to know parts of speech,” Dr. Ruvinsky says. “You don’t have to be 100 per cent on in your grammar — we all make errors — but if you don’t have the basic ground work — and what could be more basic than parts of speech — how are you going to approach or address much higher-level order of problems when they present themselves?”

Dr. Ruvinsky is serious when it comes to grammar, but she does have a sense of humour about it. After all, she wanted to title the new book *Just Enough Grammar (Not to Cramp Your Style)*, “but the good folks at Oxford (University Press) thought that was a bit flip for a book on grammar.”

Dr. Ruvinsky is currently on sabbatical in order to write a how-to on investigative reporting. She expects the practical guide to include 12 to 20 case studies that will also include personal accounts from the reporters involved in the stories. Her first draft is to be ready in September, with the release date set for September 2007.

Dr. Ruvinsky came to the TRU journalism program in 1999. Prior, she worked as a print journalist at Canadian Press in Montreal, the *Edmonton Journal*, the *Calgary Sun*, the *Medicine Hat News* as well as having freelanced for a variety of papers.



Maxine Ruvinsky with the grammar booklet that became *Practical Grammar: A Canadian Writer’s Resource*.

unique facilities offer immense benefits for TRU undergrad students

By Tria Donaldson

The unique facilities at the Kamloops Water Treatment Plant present TRU undergraduate students a research opportunity unparalleled to those offered by larger institutions.

Wade Archambault, a recent B.Sc Chemistry grad, is one of the first students to have benefited from the partnership between the City of Kamloops, the university and Zenon Environmental Inc, the manufacturers of the membrane technology used at the plant.

Archambault is also reaping the rewards from TRU's hands on approach for student research. "Not only do you get to go one-on-one with an instructor, you have quite close ties with the city and other research partners. It just brings another level of added benefits."

"It is an opportunity I would never get anywhere else, especially in the context of working with the city," said Archambault. "As an undergraduate student, for me to have free range over my research is amazing."

Archambault's role in research at the water plant has been a rather large one and it began during his first co-op term on contract to the City of Kamloops. Since then, he has continued his research on optimizing the efficiency of the water treatment plant by looking at the type and amount of coagulant used, as well as examining the amount of organics present in Kamloops water.

The first step in the water treatment process is the addition of coagulants to raw river water. The coagulant causes particles to stick together and form a floc. Traditionally water treatment

plants use a coagulant called Aluminum sulphate, which is most effective when the pH of the water is at a level that is not suitable for drinking. To correct this problem, an expensive process of balancing the pH must be used.

"Our initial research was on what type of coagulant to use. We tried all sorts of coagulants, tested them with the membranes and we came up with a different coagulant which we use now," said Archambault. "The savings were about a million dollars to the city right off the bat."

Presently, Archambault is working on increasing optimization of the plant even further. The current process of correcting for sudden spike in organics or turbidity levels in the raw water is mostly guesswork. "It takes an hour of looking at different coagulant levels to optimize the plant. So instead of being very reactive, we want to start being proactive."

Using an operational model plant which was provided by the city for research purposes, Archambault has been monitoring the water charge and the level of organics to determine the ideal dose of coagulant. The end goal is to create a system which would automatically detect changes in raw water and adjust the level coagulant to optimize efficiency.

"We won't have to be hands on and setting arbitrary numbers," said Archambault. "These instruments will take care of any raw water changes... It will compensate by adding the right amount of coagulant, so the plant will run smoothly for months at a time."



Wade Archambault

> RESEARCH MATTERS



Young readers sing along with Patrick Walton.

singing to read

By Bart Cummins

Reading is something most of us take for granted.

We learned to recognize letters, their sounds and strung them together to form words. Not long afterwards we were stringing words into sentences and were on our way to comprehension and understanding.

But what about those who don't catch on or have physical barriers to learning such as autism? What chance do they have in a world where written messages bombard us faster than we can read them? Words are on street signs, in the supermarket, in our mailbox and on a computer screen.

TRU associate Bachelor of Education professor Dr. Patrick Walton is among those making inroads in these areas. His research that leads to children reading through singing and doing body actions to songs of a Dr. Seuss-like nature will soon be focusing on autistic children.

"Autistic children are kids, like other people," Dr. Walton says. "They want to lead independent lives, rich lives. They want to get married, they want to kiss their girlfriend on the lips, and they want to have a job. But their obstacles to learning are so great that independent living for many of them is out of their grasp. If we can find ways that they can learn — maybe a piece of episodic memory — some kind of teaching methodology that they could use to learn how to read, that would be huge. It would be huge for them."

Yes, it would.

Children need to have solid reading skills before Grade 2 if they are to do well later in

life, Dr. Walton says. That's just one more reason that we should be trying find a way to bridge the gap with autistic children.

"One of the very few predictors of how well a person will do in high school is how well they are reading at the end of Grade 1. That is by far the best predictor of success in school overall," Dr. Walton says.

"About Grade 4 is when the curriculum really starts to become reading heavy. Children who have difficulty with reading, can get through the first couple years of school, but Grade 4 really kills them."

Dr. Walton's two-year research into whether or not children's songs with accompanying body actions could improve children's reading skills has almost an 80 per cent success rate. The studies resulted also in a nine-song CD after Dr. Walton, a bass player himself, enlisted two local music teachers in Cathi Marshall (vocalist) and Michael Turner (keyboards, piano, bass and lead and rhythm guitar) to write and record the project. The songs are of a jingle nature, repetitive (verse, chorus, first verse, chorus), humorous and no more than 90 seconds. It [They] can be found at singmoveandread.com.

"If we turned it into a bit of a jingle, it was much easier for them to learn, to remember. The cat sat on the rat — kind of like Dr. Seuss. Dr. Walton says.

"The question is, 'Why do you remember jingles so quickly and for such a long period of time after a very small number of repetitions?' We all know that to be true, but why is it true?"

spelunking for medical miracles

By Tamas Virag

Caves have fascinated researchers and adventurers for thousands of years, and for good reason. They're a world unto themselves. Inside a cave are not only some of the most distinctive rock formations found but also plant and animal species discovered nowhere else on the planet. Caves provide living organisms a unique opportunity; since light and nutrients are limited they can evolve differently from their surface-bound cousins. And, as anyone who's been in the depths of a cave will tell you, only the tough survive.

Enter Dr. Naowarat Cheeptham, Assistant Professor at the Department of Biological Sciences at Thompson Rivers University. Dr. Cheeptham, who has studied microbiology in Thailand and Japan (and taught in universities in Thailand and Canada) realized the potential caves around British Columbia had for being home to some unique bacteria which could be the base for developing new antibiotics.

Dr. Cheeptham chose the Larch Mountain Baseline limestone caves on northern Vancouver Island and the volcanic cave located close to the base of Helmcken Falls in Wells Grey Park in the interior for their vastly different characteristics.

After making several trips to Wells Grey Park to collect samples (during one trip she and her students came within 20 feet of a mother bear and her cubs; earning her a reputation of taking students along as much for bear bait as for research purposes), and getting Rob Countless of Vancouver Island Nature Exploration to collect and send soil samples back from Vancouver Island, she and her students were ready to see if their dishes full of fungi and bacteria were destined for higher purposes.

Once the specimens had reached the lab, Sabrina Cornish and Adam Klassen (both Honours students at TRU) as well as former students Sylvia Kay, Eric Bottos, and Stephanie Richards who also worked in the preliminary projects, got down to the job of testing them for evidence of a specific group of bacteria, actinomycetes, the base for most antibiotics on the market today. Normally, up to tens of thousands of strains of bacteria have to be tested in order to find whether there are any interesting antimicrobial compounds produced, but in this case after testing just 30 strains of isolated actinomycetes, the team could identify potential agents. Though they still need to be further investigated, it is a very good indicator that caves are indeed an excellent habitat for bacteria, which may be prime bases for medical use. Sabrina and Adam are also involved in cultivating and culturing the bacteria for fermentation, trying to find the medium most encouraging of antibiotic production.

Even more importantly, during preliminary testing the cave actinomycetes showed positive activity which inhibited the growth of MRSA (Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus), a particularly nasty bacterium which, so far, has proven to be resistant to all known antibiotics, contributing to a number of deaths.

Thus far, Dr. Cheeptham's project has been funded exclusively by internal SAC-TRU grants, something which she hopes will change with the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) of Canada grant proposal she has recently applied for.

While the project is still in its infancy, it is showing incredible potential and Dr. Cheeptham is looking forward to the secrets and solution the cave depths might hold.



Dr. Naowarat Cheeptham, Joe Dobson and Kent Watson

> RESEARCH MATTERS

environmental studies graduate program

By Karlie Shaughnessy

Higher education at Thompson Rivers University is going green.

The university eagerly awaits approval for three Environmental Studies graduate degree options program, scheduled to begin in September 2006, opening the doors to more choices for students at TRU.

Thesis-based Master of Science and Master of Arts degrees in Environmental Studies and a non-thesis-based Masters of Environmental Studies degree are in the final planning stages. By offering interdisciplinary graduate environmental education, TRU will contribute to economic development and ecological stewardship in British Columbia and beyond.

"Original thought and research are important components of universities, so having graduate programs are essential. The masters program in environmental studies exemplifies the type of interdisciplinary program that we would like to see at this university," said Dr. Lauchlan Fraser, TRU's Canada Research Chair (CRC) in Community and Ecosystem Ecology.

The Environmental Studies Graduate Program has been a long-time dream for Dr. Fraser.

"We have many great facilities and institutions in Kamloops that focus on environmental issues," Dr. Fraser said.

In creating the program, Dr. Fraser listened to the needs of the region and recognized

the potential benefits of local resources available. Kamloops is the ideal location for the program since it is surrounded by diverse ecosystems.

Through the program, students will develop problem-solving skills. Program graduates will be able to address environmental issues more effectively by crossing disciplinary boundaries and developing novel approaches to complex questions.

Dr. Fraser says there has been a reductionist approach to science, but with issues arising from climate change there is a growing realization society is creating its problems.

"I think as scientists we realize we can't change these problems alone—we need social policies and we need to review environmental ethics and history and look at them in an integrated fashion. The graduate program may help achieve this."

Flexibility of options will provide students with the opportunity for training that is tailored to their research interests. The program is designed to be completed in two years, but it will also be offered through distance based classes and, depending on their part-time status, students may have up to five years to complete it.

Dr. Fraser says the foundation of the program lies in training students to be modern generalists who think in synthetic ways, incorporating an appreciation of

widely different disciplines, approaches, techniques and taxa in the context of well-defined fundamental questions.

The program has received strong interest and support with undergraduate students and throughout the community. Cameron Carlyle and Dustin Oaten are both graduate students at UBC and are currently doing research at TRU—Carlyle with Dr. Fraser and Oaten with Dr. Karl Larsen.

Oaten who is a Natural resource Science graduate of TRU says, "If there was a graduate program here, I would have stayed. Instead I had to go to UBC. There is potential for graduate students to come here—since we are here doing work others would be doing."

Carlyle agrees that TRU needs its own graduate program in environmental studies and says right now there is a small community of people in their field, but a graduate program would bring more opportunity and people to work with.

So far, the graduate program has been approved by the education council and has been submitted to the provincial Degree Quality Assessment Board. The proposal will be evaluated further in early March and final approval should be known by late spring.



Dr. Lauchlan Fraser

community in bloom



Horticulture students, Saphira Coutts (left) Carmen Valin, Tracey Thatcher and Stacy Ludlam check out practicum opportunities at the City of Kamloops greenhouses with their instructor Ernest Phillips (centre back). The students were met at the McGill Road facility by Dave Hilton parks manager City of Kamloops and Diane Hale city gardener (right).

Five out of five blooms, a virtual perfect score, is how the City of Kamloops fared in last summer's Communities in Bloom international competition. In 2004 they won first place in the national category for cities over 50,000 in population.

Not a bad showing for a city that's only been participating in Communities in Bloom for five years.

Among other criteria, Community in Bloom judges have high praise for the city's turf management practices and its floral displays; quality attributes that are a credit to city administration, an involved community of volunteers and by its skilled and knowledgeable parks staff.

Among the crew of 80 employed to maintain Kamloops' parks, municipal building sites and medians between April and August of each year are 28 graduates of Thompson Rivers University Practical Horticulture Program.

Since 1978 and the inception of the horticulture program at Cariboo College, classes of budding gardeners and landscapers have taken their hard earned practical horticulture skills and knowledge to prospective employers for three weeks in April, the last month of their nine-month certificate program.

"It's a three week job interview basically," horticulture coordinator Kevin Scollon said. "The students spend three weeks with a company or organization that they'd like to work for. They tell us where they want to go, and we arrange it."

And for many of them it's the City of Kamloops. The completion dates on the horticulture certificates at the city go all the way back to 1979, the program's first graduates, with Diane Hale and Patti Johnson. Nick DeCicco finished the program in 1980 and started with the municipality that same year as a Gardener 1. Last year the city hired four grads from 2004.

"With 82 parks on 3300 acres, 532 of those developed, we're the largest employer of horticulturalists in the region," Dave Hilton City of Kamloops park manager said.

The City of Kamloops is also a great place to work, according to a recent Maclean's Magazine survey that listed the city in the top 200 organizations in Canada to work for. With a Gardener 1's starting wage \$21.80 an hour, (plus 14 per cent in lieu of benefits for temporary and part time workers) it's easy to see why.

"We've averaged three or four students on practicum every year," DeCicco said. "Sometimes all four get hired, but often at least two."

"The practicum program is good for us, we can access the skills and work ethic of potential employees, and it's good for the students, they can see how much is really involved in working for us," Hilton said.

"The program and its students provide a real benefit to us—skills and creativity—in our day-to-day operations of the rose, xeriscape and butterfly gardens and floral displays hanging baskets," Hilton said. A member of the TRU horticulture

advisory board for nearly all of the 27 years he has been manager of the city's parks, he says the city has always put a lot of trust and faith into the faculty at the university that the students will be well trained.

Past grads work in all of the four parks divisions, horticulture—includes greenhouse, floral displays and shrub bed maintenance, turf maintenance, arboriculture and irrigation.

"The city is great place for a practicum, it's one of the only places where students can apply the full range of the skills they've learned here," Scollon said.

Each year 20 to 24 students learn all the practical components of grounds maintenance on TRU's 40 hectare Kamloops campus. They work closely with and often under the direction supervision of Scollon and Lisa Nelson groundskeeper.

"We're one of the only programs in the province that offers such hands on aspect to the horticulture training," Scollon said. "Our students learn to operate equipment, how to maintain grounds using the whole campus, not just a small portion of it."

Because of the long-standing relationship between the TRU Horticulture Program and the City of Kamloops Parks Department prospective practicum placements are chosen carefully Scollon said, "we send the students that will be a good fit."

leading to learn

Supplemental Learning (SL) is a student support program only in its second year at TRU. Although it's new to Thompson Rivers University, coordinator Elizabeth Templeman says the program is based on a 30-year-old model implemented at just three other universities that she knows of; Guelph, Carleton and UNBC.

Despite being a relatively new concept in post-secondary education, Templeman says she was excited by the willingness of Thompson Rivers University's administration to take on the program.

"We can provide a really rich, engaged first year," she said. "That's a great thing for us and our students."

Ten leaders and two mentors, under the direction of Templeman, support students in a few of the first year courses known to be challenging such as Chemistry 110–120, Geography 112–122 and Business 221.

Mike Parsons is a Tourism student with a natural gift for accounting. He leads an after class study session for first year accounting students. For bringing his minimum 3.3 GPA average from last year and his great communication skills to the supplemental learning program, Parsons earns a \$1,200 honorarium per semester, valuable coaching sessions in facilitation and personal development.

"The major effect SL leading has had on me," says the Waterloo, Ontario native, "is improving my time management and instilling a sense on leadership."

"Early on it was difficult to manage my time effectively, careful planning helped me overcome the battle."

Parson appreciates most the thanks he gets from helping students pass a course, "It gives me a real sense of leadership and pride that I was able to help effectively."

Templeman says one of the bi-products of being a leader or mentor is an improvement in academic standing. Norm Lavallee, who lead last year in Philosophy and now leads in Economics says that school has turned into a fulltime job, and his grades are the highest they've ever been. He's not sure if it's because of improved time management skills or because of a boosted work ethic.

Mentors and leaders aren't the only ones improving their performance. SL has positive results for many of the 700 students who can access the study sessions assigned to their class.

"We definitely see an improvement in grades," Templeman said. "Improved grades improves retention."

Allison Harker, had some difficulties in two of her first year courses and attended supplemental learning sessions in Geography and Philosophy. Now in her second year of her Bachelor of Arts degree and, with the difficulties behind her, she is leading Geography sessions.

"It's enhanced my own study habits," she said. "Being a leader has encouraged me to be creative and more organized."

horticulture horizons 2006



This one-day horticultural information extravaganza is bursting with ideas to balm the winter's neglected green thumbs. Sponsored by Thompson Rivers University Friends of the Garden, April 8 starts early in true gardening style with a keynote address from author David Tarrant, who has been involved with the UBC Botanical Gardens since 1969. Sessions through the day include topics such as turf grass, water features and hints from Diane Hale (Cert. Hort. '79) the city gardener behind Kamloops' award winning hanging baskets and planter displays, plus many more. And if that isn't enough, lunch is provided by Culinary Arts students. Call Kevin Scollon at 828.5181 to register.

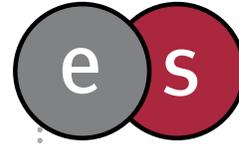


Supplemental leaders Mike Parsons, John Ford Widrig, Katie Burles, Erik Pande Horn and Erin Price share a laugh during one of the group's facilitator workshops.

three hundred jobs for students at Job Fair 2006



TRU Student Employment Centre Coordinator, Shawn Read, helps tourism student Caitlyn Johnson polish her resume for the Job Fair.



Organizers of this month's job fair billed it as round one of the interview process. And knowing the caliber of students at Thompson Rivers University, the fair was a major draw for employers returning to the event year after year.

Fifty employers representing industries from accounting firms to tour companies were at Job Fair 2006 on March 9 in the Campus Activity Centre, said Shawn Read, chairperson student centre employment.

"And unlike the job fairs of a few years ago, the focus of this career fair wasn't information," Read said. "It was jobs."

"We've been hearing about the looming worker shortage as the baby boomers age. Now we are seeing it. There are great employment opportunities for our students."

Those opportunities include 300 full-time careers, part-time jobs or seasonal summer employment.

Some employers like the Calgary City Police Department, DBO Dunwoody and Frito Lay return to TRU because they've been impressed with past employment success.

"In the last five years we've hired many of our staff from the university," John Watt said.

The director of human resources for the Western Interior Region of DBO Dunwoody, was at the Job Fair looking for accountants and accounting technicians for the firm's offices in Kamloops, Kelowna, Vernon, Salmon Arm, Grand Prairie, Edmonton, Lethbridge and Red Deer.

"TRU is the right size, the faculty are involved with the students and when they give a reference we know what we are going to get," Watt said in an interview from his Vernon office. "You've got good people there. They work hard and have a great work ethic."

While it's a given that the accounting firms came to TRU looking for business types, Frito Lay came looking for many of the same qualities for their summer employees.

"Outgoing, energetic, independent with customer focus," says Paul Bailey, district sales manager for Frito Lay, describing the attributes required for a sales position with the company.

It was those qualities that got Robbie Kelm, a fourth year BBA student, noticed by Bailey at a past Job Fair. Kelm was on hand volunteering with the fair and at the advice of TRU's Read had come ready with resumes to hand out on the spot, in Kelm's case to the Frito Lay rep.

"Within an hour of him getting my resume I had an interview. I spent the summer selling chips, snacks and beef jerky all over Kamloops, Ashcroft and Vancouver," Kelm said.

"It would be great to get a successful candidate like Robbie again," Bailey said. "A few good people like that to start in these jobs and grow with the company it's how many of our managers back east started with a summer route."

Start Your Career Today!

Job Fair 2006
Over 300 job opportunities!


employment solutions.
TRU Student Employment Centre

Employers Book Now for 2007

More Information: Call: 371-JOBS • Click: www.tru.ca/stuemploy • Visit: OM 1712

THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY
KAMLOOPS, BC

new initiatives from world university service of canada

For students looking for internship, co-op and service learning options Geoff Wilmshurst, Manager of TRU Study Abroad, says World University Service of Canada (WUSC), is offering an exciting Student Mobility Program.

This new initiative from WUSC offers Canadian university and college students volunteer and learning opportunities in South America, Africa and Asia. Students may earn academic credits while they develop and share knowledge and skills in the countries they assist.

With WUSC's Student Mobility Program students chose their adventure:

- › With Service Learning, you may carry out volunteer service related to your field of study with a WUSC partner in a developing country while earning credits towards your degree or diploma.
- › If you choose to do Internship, you are also investing in your future and gaining hands on experience in a challenging work environment where you are building a more equitable world.
- › For Co-op placements, you will apply your academic knowledge and theoretical concepts to a practical work environment in Canada or the developing world during an academic term, gaining important skills essential to today's work environment.

Who can participate?

- › Preference is given to students seeking to earn academic credits while on a placement.
- › Applications from groups of three or more students are welcome and encouraged.

Contact Geoff Wilmshurst by email at studyabroad@tru.ca or check it out on the web, www.truworld.ca/sa/news.htm



Canada Language Council Conference

Thompson Rivers University was recognized by the national accreditation association, the Canada Language Council, with the presentation of the Lyn Howes Award for commitment and innovation in the delivery of quality international student services. The CLC Institution Accreditation Board nominates institutions based on the assessment resulting from the formal review conducted during the official accreditation visit.

TRU World Associate Director Vera Wonja, standing between Jay Jamieson, Executive Director of CLC and Eleanor Rogers, founding member of CLC, accepted the award on behalf of the university.

7 • ALUMNI, FOUNDATION & TRU WORLD

TRU foundation gala

The 14th annual Foundation Gala raised \$60,000 for student awards.

This year's theme was Out of Africa and the Campus Activity Centre transformed into an elegant colonial version of the Dark Continent.

The gala committee, chaired by Foundation Board members Lorianna Bennett and Bev Wassen-Hunter, included 14 other dedicated members responsible for coordinating various elements of the evening.

African Wild Lights, installed by volunteers from the BC Wildlife Park, greeted the 310 guests as they drove up to the CAC. Cars were valet parked by the TRU Women's Volley Ball team.

The first stop as guests entered was the rotunda for an "African Sunset" cocktail with the TRU Chorus performing their unique version of the Lion Sleeps Tonight.

Guests bid on 65 silent auction items, generously donated by society members and local supporters of TRU Foundation, raising over \$23,000.

In the ballroom, over the dance floor, a gigantic mosquito net canopy was lit with a spectacular lantern, giving the room a warm glow, accenting the centrepieces, completing the colonial African theme.

Decoration and design was provided by Foundation Vice Chair Michele Wiebe, who coordinated the volunteer efforts of the TRU Peer Support Group and the University Women's Club.

The highlight of the evening was, as always, the spectacular five-course gourmet meal prepared by Culinary Arts Training students under the leadership of Chefs Ed Walker and Dasha Kropec. Besides the nearly 200 people who participated in the execution of this evening, the Foundation is grateful to the following corporations and business: Investors Group, Aramark Canada, RBC- Dan Sandford and Susan Stephanelli, Pollard Banknote, Bilkey Quinn, Smith Chevrolet Cadillac, LEEDE Financial Services, The Royal Bank Financial Group, Pronto Enterprises, The Bank of Montreal, Kamloops Medical Imaging Inc., BC Hydro, Kamloops Daily News and the Great Canadian Railtour Company Ltd.



Denise Harper, Alumni Association Chair

upcoming alumni association events

TRU Campus Classic 5/10km Run

Saturday, April 1
Mass start at 10am
TRU Campus

- › \$15 for Students
 - › \$25 for TRU alumni and general public
- Entertainment, great food and participant prizes, including the best "April Fool" costume and a draw for two \$250 cash awards available to TRU student participants.

Registration:
online at www.finishlinepromo.com
or in person at Runner's Sole
Hillside Drive › Phone: 377.4055

13th Annual Pineridge Charity Golf Tournament in support of the TRU Alumni Association

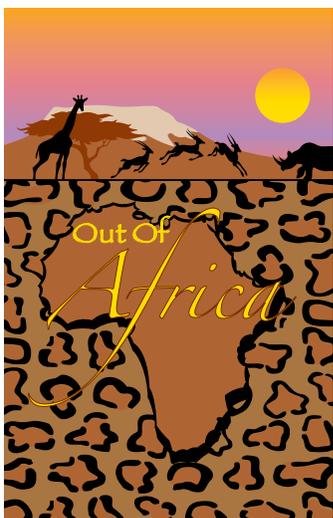
Friday, May 12

4:00pm Shotgun Start

Teams of 3, Texas Scramble

\$65 per person includes 18 holes of golf, great BBQ dinner and a chance at great prizes

To register, call Pineridge Golf Course at 573.4333



wolfpack season finale

The lead story of the WolfPack's inaugural season in Canadian Interuniversity Sports has to be the fact that our women's basketball team is the only team to have defeated SFU in conference play, when it downed the Clan in the WolfPack's first home game of the CIS season last October. The win was heralded in newspapers across Canada and trumpeted in The Province as "Thompson Rivers Slays the Giant."

The women finished their regular season with a 2-18 standing. The women fought hard throughout the winter semester, holding onto a chance at the playoffs almost to the end of the conference season when the 'Pack lost to the University of Victoria Vikes by only six points.

The men's basketball team also finished its first CIS season 2-18. The team steadily improved throughout the season, despite numerous mid-season injuries, losing its final game of the conference season against SFU by only a ten-point spread. Already committed to play with the Pack next season are 6'3" 185 pound Lucian Sauciuc of Centennial Secondary in Coquitlam and AA shooting sensation Siggy Skagfeld of Cedar Senior Secondary in Nanaimo.

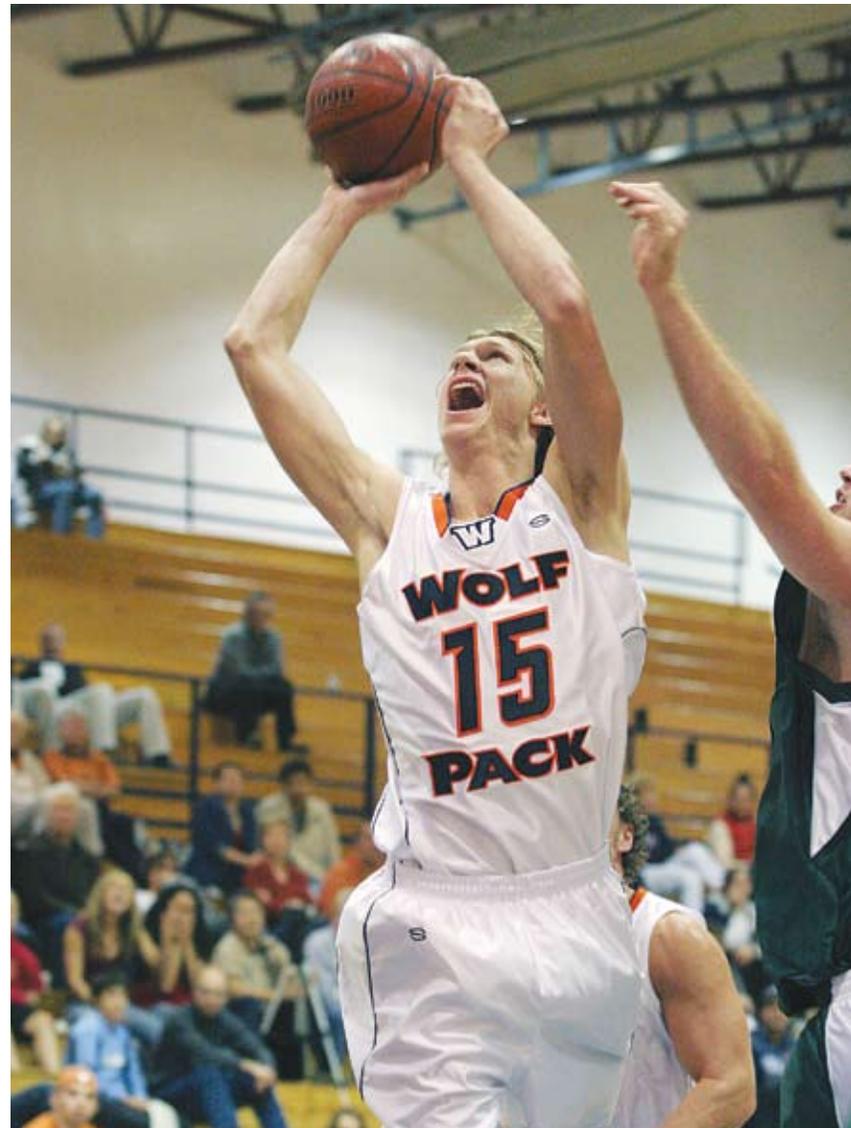
Our women's volleyball team also went 2-18 this season. The women had some definite highlights in the winter semester, taking a set away from the Trinity Western Spartans, ranked No. 1 in the Canada West conference, in a nailbiter set that saw the teams battle it out to a 30-28 score for the WolfPack. The team also showed its mettle against SFU with a narrow loss in a hard-fought five-set match followed by a win in four sets the next day.

Three outstanding BC athletes have committed to playing with the WolfPack next season. Left side Ashley Koehn of Langley, a 6'0" honour-roll scholar from Pacific Academy, all-around student athlete Katrina Beitel, a 5'10" setter from Revelstoke who was MVP at the junior club provincials, and Richelle Walton, a 5'7" outside hitter currently playing for Malaspina University College who is in second place on the BCCAA stats leader board.

Men's volleyball ended its season 1-19. Season highlights include a win at its first home match of the season last fall, and taking a set from the University of Manitoba Bisons, ranked fourth in Canada West in its final match of the season, a great ending to the CIS season in front of a big home crowd. Committed to WolfPack men's volleyball for next season is AAA Provincial High School Championships Most Outstanding Player Kyle Donen.

The season saw a major increase in fan support across the board. It was great to look out at the stands and see lots of orange in support of the home team. The winter semester also marked the first appearance of our new WolfPack mascot.

WolfPack fans should mark their calendars for the Sports Task Force golf tournament fundraiser, to be held June 2. The Pack will also hold its annual Sports Camps again this summer, with registrations beginning in mid-April.



Rob Bergen



who is the wolf?

The naming contest for the WolfPack mascot will continue until the end of September. Submit your suggestions to Aaron LeBlanc at 377.6166 or email them to aleblanc@tru.ca.



Dr. Roger Barnsley, "The Wolf" and Nevin Gleddie pose with Neil Russell (right) at TRU Athletic's recent send-off honouring Russell's retirement and his past contributions to Athletics and Recreation.

