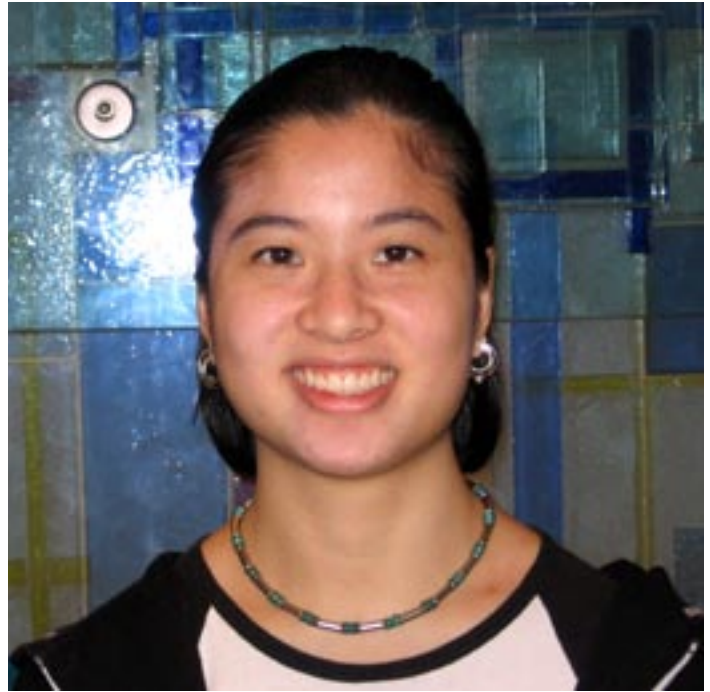


undergraduate
semester in
dialogue



SPRING 2006

Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue
Simon Fraser University



Spend a few moments with **Jennifer Alsop** and you'll soon discover her genuine passion for people. She loves one-on-one conversations and listening to individual life stories, always eager to understand where the other person is coming from. Jen was born and raised in the Lower Mainland, and spent the first part of her childhood in Port Moody, while later moving to Burnaby. Her close-knit family spent their summers together on the road, camping throughout BC and visiting relatives throughout the United States. This led to her enthusiasm for nature and a certain free-spirited outlook on life. Jen has pursued her sense of adventure in the midst of her undergrad years, spending time in Quebec for a French language exchange, traveling to Poland with Canada World Youth, and recently backpacking around Northern Europe with her brother. She fills her spare time with snowboarding, playing soccer, reading and playing the guitar. Jen has just finished her BA in Anthropology with a minor in English. She chose to do the Semester in Dialogue because she is interested in learning about possible ways in which solutions to social, economic and environmental issues can be balanced with, rather than opposed to, one another. She would almost always rather be doing something instead of owning something, and believes you must challenge your fears by doing what scares you. One of her favourite quotes is by Albert Einstein: "There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle."

Melissa Chungfat is known by her friends and family as Meesa or Coconut. She is called Coconut because she was born on the small island of Mauritius, near Madagascar. It was two of her high school teachers who introduced her to global issues and ideas that inspired her to become an active community member. This third-year Communication major is involved in a variety of clubs, including being an officer for Canadian Students for Darfur and co-chairing SFU's World University Services Canada, a development agency that addresses various global issues. She enjoys documentary films, spending hours with friends at coffee shops, and spending time in the Commercial Drive area because of its great community feel. Malls are strictly out! She tries to live by Ghandi's words "You must be the change you want to see in the world."



Nicole Crouch is a woman of the world. As her first foray into international studies, she spent her preteen years in Germany, later followed by a year spent living in Galway, Ireland. Back in Canada, Nicole worked at a group home for adults with disabilities in Nova Scotia. Returning to the West Coast, she now resides in East Vancouver with her partner and her son, Sammy. She can be seen cooking, renovating her home, painting, and biking around with her son in tow. Currently, she and Sammy are quite preoccupied with balsa-wood planes. If you can name an arts degree, then Nicole has tried it out. Ultimately she settled on political science. A younger, more innocent Nicole once had in mind a career in law and international relations but she has since suffered a Crisis of Faith. While becoming more community-focused in her studies, she keeps a trained eye on the international community. For Nicole, community development is a feasible way to apply what she has learned about international development and global issues in a meaningful and practical way.



Megan Dickinson has an interesting assortment of life and work experiences. These include years of work in remote coastal lodges, extensive traveling, and a sailing trip across the Atlantic Ocean. Megan hopes that, as her final undergraduate semester, this program will enable her to apply her Environmental Science background to relevant local and global problems. She is excited to explore the topic of sustainable community development in its relationship to environmental issues, particularly water quality and land use. While Megan sees the urban environment as an important starting point for Sustainable Development, she prefers to work on a more local level. As such, and perhaps in reflection of her Vancouver Island roots, Megan loves the community feel of her Commercial Drive neighborhood. An avid gardener, hiker and traveler, Megan is sure to add a strong environmental opinion to the Program.



As a fourth year Environmental Science major, **Elaine Fitzpatrick** joins us for her final semester at Simon Fraser. Interested in sustainable community development and social enterprise, the dialogue program topic immediately captivated her attention while the discussion based learning approach appealed to her nature. With hopes to become involved in environmental policy, Elaine aspires to become an active participant in implementing positive change. Elaine is an optimist with an open mind who dreams of bettering the world. Holding a strong love for nature, Elaine feels at home when camping, hiking, biking and snowboarding. Her active lifestyle also includes playing on a community soccer team and ballroom dancing. She also enjoys expressing her creativity through drawing and painting. Elaine enjoys spending time with friends and family and appreciates the support they've provided over the years. Currently living in Port Moody with her boyfriend Glenn and dog Jax, Elaine compliments compassion and responsibility while her love for travel is not kept at bay. Whether she is enjoying the Gulf Islands, exploring Australia, visiting extended family in Ireland, or spending the summer learning French in Quebec, Elaine's travel adventures do not end there as she plans a visit to Spain in the coming year and is currently learning Spanish. Having already completed three co-op terms in both Agricultural Science and Environmental Consulting, this dynamic woman is sure to reach her dreams.



Lauren Gabelhouse is a true adventure seeker who loves a good challenge and the chance to push her limits. She refuses to pre-plan her life and instead lives for the here and now. Likewise, she loves the freedom of traveling and recently returned from a solo trip across Australia. Lauren was born and raised in Kelowna, BC and currently lives with her sister who is also attending SFU. In high school, she discovered her love of photography and her desire to show others the beauty of nature, finding magnificence in unexpected places. She is tired of hearing people say that taking care of the environment is too expensive or that it can't be done. From this she sought the Semester in Dialogue in hopes that the selected group of students would prove that positive change is a real possibility. Lauren's desire to serve others comes from her involvement in her church community, and her respect for nature comes from living in one of the most beautiful places in the world. Her words to live by: "Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." —Ralph Waldo Emerson.



David Gerth is a third year business major with concentrations in International Business and Marketing. He chose business because he sees that strong business knowledge is essential to any sustainable development plan, and feels like that's where he can contribute the most. In addition to being a full time student, David is also a licensed mechanic, specializing in European import cars. When he's not working hard to create a difference in the world, he can be found tinkering on his old Honda motorcycle or up to his elbows in an engine at his home based workshop. David is happily married to the girl of his dreams whose level-headed engineer mind is perfect for grounding plans and ideas in reality. David likes to keep in peak physical condition; he's a member of the Team Coastal Cycling club, and tries to put down 200-400 km's a week on his bike. David has some solid international experience, spending time in Japan and backpacking in South East Asia. David is a big picture person and is action oriented. He is looking forward to the Semester in Dialogue. David brings energy, clear minded ideas and a willingness to get projects started, and isn't afraid to get his hands dirty.



Dawn Hanson is in her last semester of her Bachelor of General Studies Degree with minors in Biology and Humanities. Her academic background is complemented by eight years of experience in the public education system, working with students with special needs in Vancouver schools. As a result of her experience in the public education system, Dawn would like to transfer her teaching, interpersonal, and education skills to other areas such as program development for community-based and environmental initiatives. Dawn enjoys a variety of outdoor activities including sailing, camping, hiking, and gardening. She recently traveled to southeast Asia and would like to travel more in the future, combining it with volunteer work to gain deeper insights into others' communities. She was drawn to Sustainable Community Development because of the opportunity to more fully explore the idea of positive development and shift her perception of urban living. While Dawn has lived in Vancouver for over 12 years, her heart remains where she grew up — on an 80 acre property outside of Smithers, BC.



Mike Harris is a fourth year business major at SFU who will graduate this spring with concentrations in International Business and Management. He hopes to combine his business background with his strong interest in the environment to prove that profits and environmental responsibility can co-exist. Mike believes in promoting global sustainability and international economic development and has participated in multiple cultural exchanges to places like New Zealand and Brazil and has also worked in Mexico on a low-income housing project. He is intrigued by the power of language, studying Spanish and maintaining fluency in Portuguese. Mike enjoys working and playing outdoors. He is an avid snowboarder and in his spare time enjoys sailing, backpacking, camping and hiking. In the future Mike hopes pursue graduate studies in resource and environmental management and counts people like David Suzuki, Paul Hawken and Wade Davis as role models.



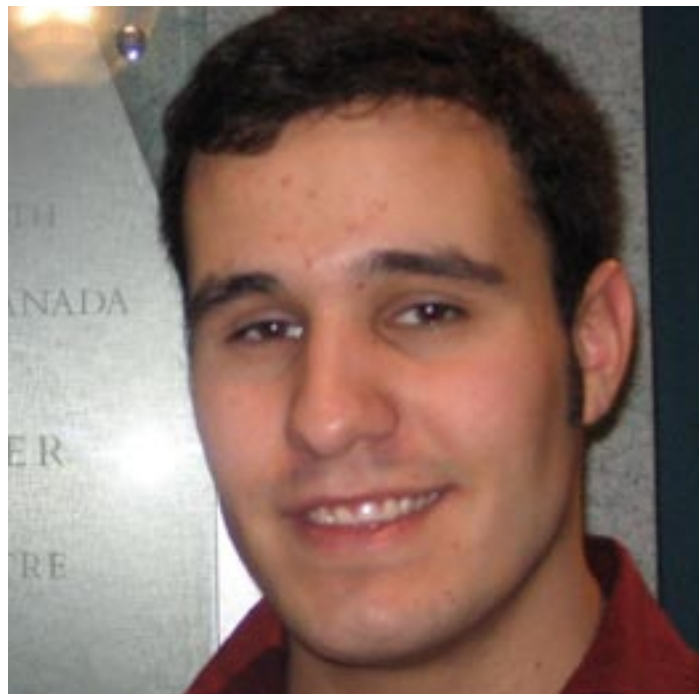
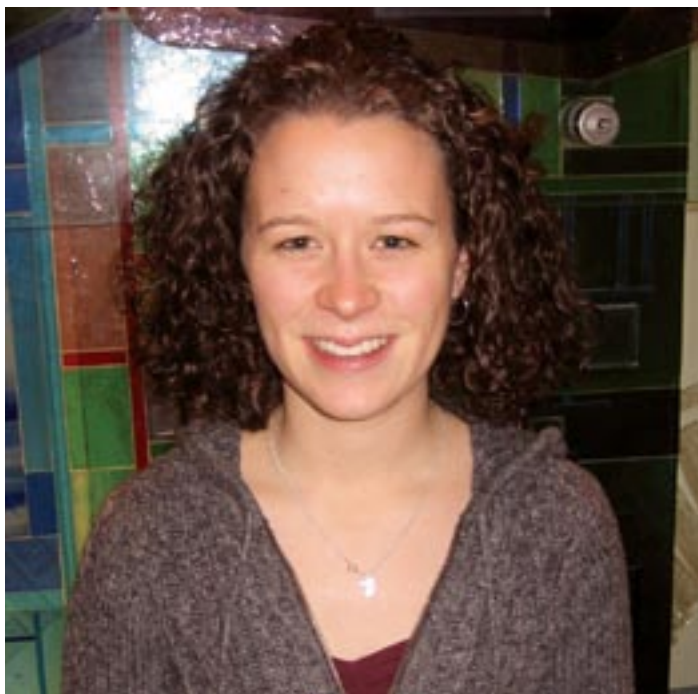
Diversity, dreams and discipline have certainly driven **Emily Huxter** to where she is today. As a full-time student, she still finds time for entrepreneurial endeavors and pursuits of passion. Emily owns and operates urbanScape Design, a company dedicated to increasing the green-space of urban settings. She also participates in a variety of community groups and societies. This semester she hopes to refine her research abilities, cultivate networks, expand on current perspectives, and explore public issues and policies through dialogue. The Undergraduate Semester in Dialogue will be her final phase of preparation for a masters abroad with a focus on fostering sustainable behavior at a community level in hopes of one day changing the face of communities in Vancouver, Canada and the World. To date, her education has been punctuated with NGO work involving groundwater planning, as well as breeding queen bees, and ski/board instructing in Innsbruck, Austria. While abroad she added German to her language repertoire of Russian and English. Her spare time is filled with trips to the mountains and living life to the fullest, hence go big or go home.



Andre Isakov is a third year Political Science and Labour Studies student. Andre is interested in Public Policy and in particular labour and environmental issues. He hopes to go on to do his graduate studies in Political Science. Andre is an active member of his community. He has been a member of several municipal committees including the Coquitlam Youth Council, City of Coquitlam Environment Advisory Committee, City of Coquitlam Liveable Communities Advisory Committee, and City of Coquitlam Administrative Services Advisory Committee. In his free time, Andre enjoys spending time with friends and family. He loves to discuss current political issues. Andre is interested in environmental sustainability and in holistic approaches to dealing with social and environmental issues in our society. He is excited about the Undergraduate Semester in Dialogue and the opportunity to learn in a new and creative way.



Dylan Mulvin was born and raised in East Vancouver. His mother is a library worker and his father is an artist and a postman. In his younger days at school in French Immersion he was a sassy kid with a stutter. He has gotten over the stutter. Dylan's interests are innumerable and varied. He is keen on movies, television, fashion, business, music, acting, filmmaking, sports and woodworking. He has even built a canoe. Dylan is studying Communications at SFU and is particularly intrigued by film, journalism and rhetorical studies. Being an editor of a magazine is a career option that appeals to him. Aside from his academic life, Dylan works for British Columbia's Cooperative Association (BCCA). In this role he provides workshops and group facilitation on issues of cooperation to young people. He also organizes youth programming. In the summer, Dylan is a camp counsellor with the BCCA where he shares his love of trains and helicopters with the kids. Dylan has joined the Semester in Dialogue program because he hopes "...to sustain the heck out of everything." He is especially interested in incorporating the concepts and virtues of sustainability into everyday life.



A unique and intelligent individual, **Jennica Rawstron** is thrilled by the challenge of this Semester in Dialogue. Growing up on a hobby farm in Fort Langley, Jennica is pursuing a degree in Kinesiology at Simon Fraser University as a result of her strong interest in health, the outdoors and education. She was initially excited by the semester's emphasis on civic duty, personal growth, and social and environmental justice. Last year, as a Canada World Youth participant, Jennica had the opportunity to volunteer both in Quebec and Burkina Faso while completing a certificate in community development and cross-cultural communication. It was through this experience that her interest in dialogue and sustainable community development first materialized. Jennica found out about the Semester in Dialogue during a conference on sustainability, through which the innovative and practical character of the semester greatly appealed to her personal values and philosophy. She hopes to further explore her options in naturopathic medicine or alternative education. Although Jennica is not exactly sure what she will be doing in the future, it is evident that her exuberance for life and love for helping others will see her following her dreams.

A vibrant individual with a strong interest in human interactions, **Jeff Shemilt** is excited to be a part of this Semester in Dialogue. Growing up in Keremeos, a small town at the heart of Interior British Columbia, Jeff understands what community means. Last semester, Jeff worked with a non-governmental organization to gain a more practical understanding of social justice. His research interests include scientific "expertise" and the right to make claims to knowledge. He is passionate about alternative styles of education and detests the conventional mentality of taking knowledge without putting back. Apart from being a full-time student doing a joint major in Sociology and Communications, Jeff is also the Vice President of the Resident Hall Association at Simon Fraser University. He plans on attending graduate school and would like to work as a social researcher and post-secondary instructor.



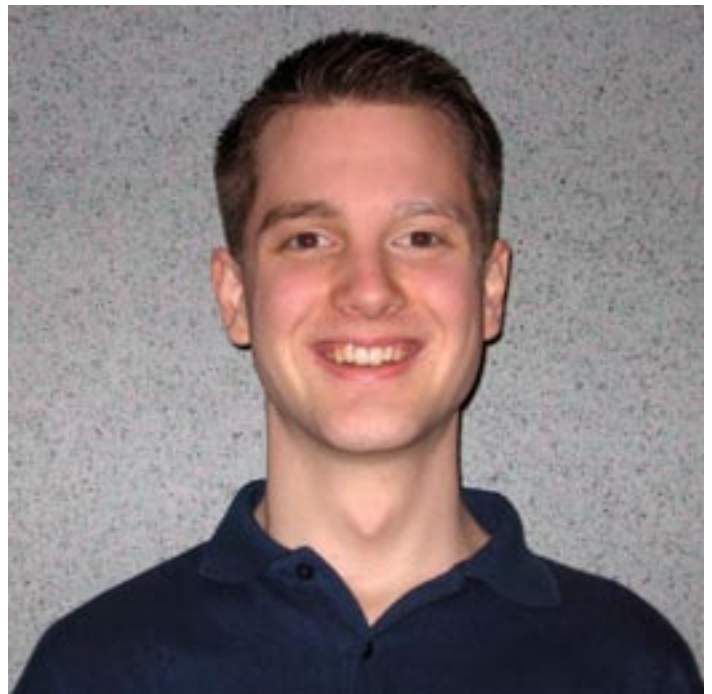
Kelsey Singbeil spent her first year of university in Montreal, but returned home to Vancouver to complete her Communications Degree at SFU. Though short, her time in Montreal enabled her to better understand what was important in her life—strong relationships, engaging education and easily being able to enjoy her favourite pastimes of surfing and snowboarding. In addition to physical activity and spending time away from the urban landscape, Kelsey sees artistic expression as an integral part of her lifestyle. Her work with various local cultural organizations, as well as her personal art practice have taught Kelsey how the fine arts are a tool for communication and a starting point for healthy community building. The complexity of such social interactions intrigues her and has encouraged Kelsey to explore different tiers of community through travel and observation. As part of the Semester in Dialogue, Kelsey is excited to be able integrate her artistic passions with her academic interest in community relations.



Most happy when lost, even in her own city, **Sarah Stephenson** joins the semester in dialogue with great enthusiasm. As a passionate observer of human beings and keen interest in the improvement of living conditions, she is excited to be a part of a dynamic process where the exchange of ideas and knowledge seeks to harmonize nature and humanity. An open-minded conversationalist, she is a social lover and creative thinker who has lost her way amongst textbook learning. Through Sarah's involvement with artists, musicians and seniors at the West Vancouver Community Arts Centre, her engagement with students and faculty at SFU and Capilano College, her joy with the children she creates and explores with, the naturopathic patients she consults, and the animal lovers that she stands with, she lives for relationships through an engagement with her community. Anticipating inspiration from all that surrounds her, Sarah hopes to make a positive difference whether it is in one person's life or a nation. A fourth year Communication student, Sarah like most social beings values time spent with friends and family and can be caught frequently loitering at live shows and art exhibitions. A well-travelled individual, Sarah thanks her loving parents for always believing in her, while she embraces the rocks of her life, Chris and Lisa. Open to creeping happiness and creative destruction, she lives life with an open hand.



Nagham Taha is a third year communication student minoring in publishing and women studies. She enjoys media work such as television and film production. She has produced a few short documentaries as part of her schooling; she hopes to continue production throughout her life. She is a 21 year old girl who was born in Iraq and raised in Sudan. Nagham and her family moved to Khartoum, Sudan in 1987, when she was three years of age. They continued living there until 1995, and subsequently moved to Vancouver, Canada, when she was 10 years of age. Nagham enjoys dancing as well as travelling. She says it is her dream to travel the world. Growing up in Africa, Nagham feels passionate about developing nations and politics. She hopes to work in the humanitarian field in the future. She wishes to participate in developing a sustainable community in the third world, where people can work and profit for themselves.



A Business Administration major, **Derek Turner** is interested in Management Information Systems and Management Science. However, Derek is well rounded in his interests, experiences and knowledge. He is a third generation Canadian who was born and raised in Abbotsford and is fluent in French. In his free time Derek enjoys working on his novels, designing his website, watercolour painting, playing piano, golfing, skiing, playing tennis and generally challenging himself at all levels. Derek hopes to improve the world; to do that he wants to apply his business knowledge to help solve environmental issues. He believes that business and technology can have a positive impact in our lives. Derek sees overpopulation and global climate change as the most significant challenges in today's world. He enthusiastically joined the semester in dialogue because of his passion for making this world sustainable, so that our future generations may live in a vastly better environment than we do currently.