



MORRIS J. WOSK
Centre for Dialogue™

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Undergraduate Semester in Dialogue Newsletter June 2007

Director's Message: Mark Winston

It occurred to me recently that the Undergraduate Semester in Dialogue is approaching a milestone birthday, our fifth year of semestering. It was in early September 2002 that the first students walked into our temporary classroom on the fifth floor, as clueless as I was about what would happen in the minutes, days, weeks, and months ahead.

Those first few minutes were terrifying, certainly for me but probably also for them. Within the hour, by our first morning break, it was clear to me (if not yet to them) that this was going to be a fabulous experience for all of us.

We haven't looked back since. As I'm writing this message I can look up on my wall and see ten class photographs, representing the once-a-year pilot semesters, then two, and now three annual Undergraduate Semesters in Dialogue. We've matured, having developed a considerable set of dialogue skills and student-driven assignments that have successfully engaged students in the unusual combination of education and real-world impact that we offer.

It's been an exciting year. The summer of 2006 saw our first summer institute format, "Being About Action." Its

sustainability theme reached a wide audience in the student-run all-day dialogue "Green is the New Black" at the Roundhouse. Fall found us immersed in some of the most complex, tragic, and inspiring Canadian stories, with our focus on aboriginal people and issues. The guests that semester were particularly memorable, and many of our students responded with deeply felt works of art as final projects that expressed their learnings and emotions from that rich semester. Spring brought us the "2010 Puzzle" dialogue, a significant contribution by students to the highly charged discussion about the impact of the Olympics on our communities.

We're currently immersed in the second Being About Action semester, this one focused on food, to be followed by the fall 2007 "Adaptations to Human Environmental Impact," our spring 2008 "Being Canadian" program, and next summer's "Being About Action: Housing." This range of topics expresses our interest in building the broadest possible range of interdisciplinary interactions. Each semester builds further on our ambition to connect university and community in a seamless and mutually beneficial way.

And we're not done growing . . . In January, the Office of the Academic Director, Centre for Dialogue, was created. The purpose of this new structure was to bring many dialogue activities under one banner, both to clarify our administrative functions and to better integrate the semesters, public dialogues, research, activities of the Centre Fellows, and future growth. We currently have a proposal before the university to further mature our position internally, hopefully within the next one-two years. The future of the Semester in Dialogue and the Centre will see us continue to grow the resources devoted to the intersection of town and gown.

We have been fortunate to have a stellar cast of highly dedicated faculty and staff whose devotion and skill have been the driving force behind whatever success we have had. Janet Moore, our second core faculty member, has contributed mightily to our curriculum, style, and effectiveness, while Linda Bannister, our secretary, has kept the complex administrative end running efficiently, always with good cheer and enthusiasm. Brenda Tang joined us in April as Administrative Coordinator for the Academic Director, greatly augmenting our capacity to get things done administratively and to program in new areas.

Finally, we've had an amazing faculty over the last year, including Rob VanWynsberghe, Mary Jane Jim, Peter Williams, Herb Barbolet, Tony Penikett, Glenn Sigurdson, and teaching assistants Taigita Biln and Jen Ness. And I'm thrilled to report that Siobhan Ashe will join us for a year to replace Janet Moore during her maternity leave, and Andrew Nikiforuk, one of Canada's foremost journalists, will be teaching with us this fall.

Those ten class photos on my wall remind me of the most important reason for our success, and that, of course, is the students. With that in mind, I'll finish with a reflection (anonymous) from one student about the spring Olympics semester:

Wow! There are no words that can describe the meaning this semester has in my life. What an incredible experience. There was not one day that I did not jump out of bed in the morning eager to get at the day. My only hope is that one day I can recreate this feeling of true community, continual growth and self reflection in my workplace or family. This has changed my way of looking at the world. I can't think about a time better spent in my life.

And I can't think of a time better spent in mine, either.

**Mark Winston, FRSC
Academic Director, Centre for
Dialogue**

Message from Janet Moore:

Another amazing year of learning and growing for all of us involved in this wonderful program that Mark created. Last summer was the start of the new 6-week version of the Semester in Dialogue – Being About Action. We had an incredible group of motivated students who combined art, community and ecological sustainability into a day of dialogue, music, laughter and learning at the Roundhouse Community Center. I spent the fall planning the spring and summer 2007 terms as well as launching the BC Working Group and Network on Sustainability Education – a space for folks interested in sustainability education to meet and share resources (www.walkingthetalk.bc.ca).

The spring semester focusing on the 2010 Olympics was filled with passionate guests and a keen group of

dedicated students. We spent time learning what it will take for the region to host the 2010 Olympics, touring venues in Richmond, Cypress and Whistler, and considering the potential legacies and impacts on community. The group of students worked tirelessly towards hosting our first student organized public dialogue at the Morris J. Wosk Centre "A 2010 Piece Puzzle." The day was absolutely magical and a full report of the dialogue can be found at

<http://www.sfu.ca/dialog/undergrad/pdfs/0701-2010PiecePuzzle.pdf>

I am currently teaching in the new Being About Action course focusing on Food, Community and Urban Sustainability. Students are working with the SFU Local Food Project http://www.sfu.ca/~sustain/projects/local_food.html and the Green Table Network <http://greentable.net/> to develop proposals for growing, harvesting, processing and distributing local food in British Columbia. They have been touring local farms and growers - and even emptying compost toilets at City Farmer <http://web.mac.com/cityfarmer/iWeb/CityFarmerTV/VideoPodcast/VideoPodcast.html>

The big news from me is that I'll be taking a year of maternity leave starting this summer to have not one but two babies. I'll be sure to send out photos and I'm open to babysitting offers in the near future! I'll be back next summer to start planning for 2009...looking forward to the journey ahead.

Janet Moore, Assistant Professor

Message from Brenda Tang:

I'm excited to be back working in Dialogue after a short stint in the real estate world. With my Communications degree and having worked in Dialogue Programs for two and half years, I think I am much more suited for Dialogue and am pleased to have been welcomed back. The Centre for Dialogue is re-organizing and continues to grow and I am ecstatic to be a part of the team that implements this change.

Message from Linda Bannister:

After just 6 months I have to say the UGSID has been a wonderful experience. I really enjoy the enthusiasm of the students. They are all so amazing and talented.

I like the way the subject changes each semester. I find the topics fascinating; I often get caught up reading the class material as I'm preparing the reading packages!

You are invited to

**THE ANNUAL
UGSID SUMMER PICNIC**

**Tuesday, July 3
At
Trout Lake Vancouver
5:30 pm**

If it rains we will try again on Tuesday, July 10

For directions go to
<http://maps.google.com/>

In the News

Fascinating and inspiring Op-Ed articles were published in The Vancouver Sun and ORATO written by our very talented Dialogue students.

Going for Gold: Leveraging the Impacts of Olympic Fever 2007-1

- ❑ Josina Vink – The Vancouver Sun, 14 February “Olympic protesters gain nothing by their actions”
- ❑ Lucas Malinowski – The Vancouver Sun, 17 April “Do you know how to get to Surrey?”
- ❑ Patrick Lee – ORATO, 17 May “Storytelling Crucial For 2010 Success”

Articles about us

- ❑ 24 hrs – 15 March, “Broadening the scope of 2010” Dharm Makwana
- ❑ Vancouver Metro – 15 March, “Seminar debates Olympics” – Kristen Thompson
- ❑ The Province -- 15 March “Rundown hotels bought cheap, forum hears” –Damian Inwood

Accolades

Mark Winston received the Outstanding Service Award from the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists, and the Presidents 40th Anniversary Award from Simon Fraser University in 2006

Derek Turner and friends won gold in the Jeux de Commerce West 2007 in the

Management Information Systems case competition. He also made the summer 06 Dean’s Honour Roll and was inducted into the Golden Key International Honour’s Society.



Faculty

Mark Winston was appointed as the Academic Director, Centre for Dialogue in January of 2007, which basically means he gets to have even more “meetings” at the Café Artigiano.

Janet Moore submitted the following paper to Innovative Higher Education: Gunnlaugson, O. and J. Moore (2007). "Dialogue Education in the University Classroom: An Inquiry into the roles of Dialogue Education in Fostering Transformative Learning & Sustainability within two Higher Education Settings"

Where Are They Now

Jennifer Alsop spent the last several months working, saving up and applying to grad school. She has been working for several different families as a caregiver for children with developmental disabilities, moved to Victoria, moved back from Victoria, and now is about to spend another summer on the Island at the fantastic Easter Seals Camp Shawnigan. Jennifer has been working as a receptionist for a company that manages co-operative housing throughout the lower mainland. The most exciting news of all is that she has just been accepted to the Public Policy program at Carleton.

Katy Amon finished the first year of a landscape architecture Masters degree at UBC. Katy has just returned from a field school in Havana, which included a design charette on a small neighbourhood in Central Havana.

Taigita Biln is relieved to have the last of her course work behind her and looking forward to a summer of reading, writing and thinking deep thoughts. She notes that the process thus far has been enlightening, elating and thoroughly unpredictable, as all good social science research should be. Taigita would love to sum it up for you in 25 words or less but is far from being able to do that for herself yet. Here's a hint: It's about dialogue....

Melissa Boon recently returned to Vancouver after completing a CIDA internship in Ecuador. She is busy promoting the Katimavik program in BC and the Yukon, taking dance classes and riding her bike. She has had an article she wrote about one of the women's groups she worked with in Ecuador published.

It can be found at...

<http://www.coopscanada.coop/resources/publications/developmentdigest/>

Mary Glasgow Brown finally has her final project entitled "Dancing Through Depression" published in the Fall 2006 issue of Canadian Women's magazine Horizons. Last fall Mary cycled from Sydney, B.C. to Tijuana, Mexico with husband Brent. They spent several months meeting people and exploring Southern California, the Baja of California, the Southern Mexican state of Oaxaca and Mexico City... WOW!

Ellisa Calder is pursuing a Business Degree concentrating on Human Resource Management at SFU. She is planning to go on exchange for her last semester.

John Paul Catungal moved to Toronto to work on his Masters in the joint geography/planning program.

Brita Colero (nee Main) is now married and living in White Rock. She is teaching at North Surrey Secondary. Brita and her husband were in Uganda for 3 weeks last summer doing health teaching and generally helping out in Mpigi.

Mark Dawson is on his way to South Africa with an NGO called Sport Coaches Outreach (SCORE).

Amanda Emsley gave birth on March 14 at 8pm to a healthy 9 lb. baby boy named Elliott Gillis Varner.



Kyle Franz Graduated from the U. of Lethbridge with a MA in History. His thesis investigated a Communist Town Council in Blairmore, Alberta, from 1933-1936; they did all sorts of interesting and important things, such as nearly doubling the relief payments to the unemployed and underemployed, lowering personal and raising business taxes to pay for welfare, naming the main street in town 'Tim Buck Boulevard' after the jailed leader of the Communist Party of Canada and declaring a public holiday on the anniversary of the Russian Revolution. Kyle will be starting his Ph.D. in the fall with Ian McKay at Queens University in Labour History.

Kyle will be creating an exhibit at the Crowsnest Museum about the topic of his thesis, and has been awarded a Canada Graduate Scholarship from the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada for 3 years to pursue further research in this area.

Jamie Frezell is off to Glasgow, Scotland for the summer to study entrepreneurship with the University and Scottish Government. After that she will be wandering aimlessly around Europe.

Dawn Hanson Last summer Dawn and Matthew were married, this summer they are moving to Smithers. Last fall Dawn was a research assistant with Dialogue Programs and worked on "Finding Home," in the spring she assisted Janet Moore with the "Walking the Talk" Dialogue.

Deborah Harford So far, 2007 has been Deborah's best year ever. She paid off her student loan, became a Canadian citizen and bought her first house. Deborah is maintaining her freelance communications consultancy and is also busy building ACT (the Adaptation to Climate change Team) – a new SFU – based think-tank initiative designed to

generate public policy planning for adaptation to climate change impacts we cannot control via mitigation.

Ryan Harvey is busy finishing his post-baccalaureate diploma in Sustainable Community Development and notes that the girls are growing like weeds.

Erin Hemmens is living in Halifax, writing her masters thesis. Erin has been very busy with several volunteer positions in the birthing Community ... doula, secretary for the midwifery coalition of Nova Scotia ... wiggling her way into becoming a prenatal educator.

She is working with a research team at Halifax's women's and children's hospital, fine-tuning her research skills ... and just generally enjoying life!

Tom Kineshanko won \$10,000 Federal Millennium In-course award in leadership and innovation, is currently competing for the SFU track team, and qualified for NAIA indoor and outdoor nationals 2007. Spent the last 8 months working as a research assistant in the Centre for Sustainable Community Development. Tom is heading to the National University of Singapore in the fall of 08 on a 6th month exchange. He is currently researching a book he is writing on profiling the world's top 100 leaders in sustainability.

Michael Lithgow is finishing up his MA at Concordia this summer, starting a PhD at Carleton in Communications in the fall, working as new media editor at www.artthreat.net and contributing to dampbook -- a collection of essays about Vancouver media practice coming out this summer.

Susanna Haas Lyons spent over a year in Washington DC, and soon will be celebrating a first wedding anniversary

to Aaron Lyons, and learning to play piano.

During the winter Susanna was a project manager in an effort to include citizens in the recovery and rebuilding of New Orleans.

http://www.americaspeaks.org/resources/video/community_congress2.htm

She also received a certificate in Public Engagement from the International Association of Public Participation.

Amy Moen is in England attending an International Law camp. They study in a castle that Queen's University in Canada owns. The course stream is International Business Law for Amy with a field trip to visit the headquarters of the WTO, the OECD, the UN office in Geneva and the Canadian Mission to the EU. Amy will be in Canada in August before returning to her 2nd year of Law School at Dalhousie.

Lindsay Nielsen is currently working towards a MA in Cultural Studies and Critical Theory at McMaster University. Her major research project explores housing issues in Vancouver. Lindsay hopes to return to Vancouver in the fall but, not before another trip to the magical city of Barcelona!

Jessica Numminen completed a Half Ironman...Awesome Jessica



Leanna Platt is graduating on June 6 with a BA in French. She's leaving mid July to explore northern India and if

anyone has good tips, people, places, things to see she would love to hear from you. She will be returning to Windermere Secondary school where she is the Community Schools Programmer.

Jessica Plescia is engaged
....Congratulations!

Sareh Pouryousefi finished the Collaborative Master's in International Relations at the Munk Centre for International Studies at the University of Toronto this year. Sareh is presenting at the Canadian Philosophical Association's conference next week, and starting a PhD in Philosophy at the University of Toronto in September. She misses the dialoguers—especially the wise father bee Mark Winston.

Robin Prest After their trip to India Gita and Robin took the train across Canada to study French in Chicoutimi, Quebec. Robin is working at AMBiT Consulting, a project management firm with expertise in health, IT, and capital projects. Robin hopes to gain skills in consultation, facilitation and communications.

Jennica Rawstron put 6000 km on her bike riding from Vancouver to St. Johns, Newfoundland last summer.

Sarah Robertson is still working at Immigration, still living in Kits by the beach and still loving it. Currently taking correspondence courses on Terrorism through the U of St. Andrews and the proud parent of a 9-week-old Wheaten Terrier.

Rebecca Scott is currently working on her MA in Communication at SFU. Her thesis is on Body Worlds, the anatomical exhibition of 'plastinated' human corpses, focusing on the ways in which the body is contained, both discursively and literally, and that which escapes

containment. Her research has been funded by a SSHRC scholarship. Becky is also participating in a Cultural Studies Reading Group for communications grads and undergrads, is forum rep on the grad caucus, presented a paper at a conference in Iowa, visited England and France and moved to an apartment in Vancouver.

Alec Smecher is now managing the Canadian branch of Automatic Turquoise International. He writes open-source software for the Public Knowledge Project, which he has presented internationally and which will be the focus of a conference in Vancouver this summer. His office-in-a-backpack has recently been to Brazil, Ghana, France, the Czech Republic, and the St. Vincent and the Grenadines (which he thinks would make an excellent name for a surf band, patent pending). This summer his office will go on a tour of Western Canada playing drums with his pop/rock/ska trio. He is now an uncle.

Travis Streb and Rebecca welcomed the arrival of Nya Jaedon last October. Travis finished his Econ degree this spring and is now employed as an environmental planner by Gartner Lee Limited. He plans to attend grad school in the Urban Studies Faculty in the fall of 2008. You can find Travis most Saturday nights serving up the cold ones at Bardot in Yaletown.

Aryana Sye has just graduated from Simon Fraser University with a bachelor's in Arts and Cultural Studies and is going to Trois Riverieres to take part in a 5-week French immersion program the government of Canada sponsors. After the program finishes she will be heading further east, to explore the Maritimes, with the hopes of finishing a one month solo backpack adventure in Newfoundland. Aryana has been keeping busy with numerous

volunteer events, such as the DOXA documentary film festival and the upcoming Alcan Dragon Boat festival.

Kim Timothy is starting PDP this fall and will receive her BGS in October. Kim entered her book "ish Head Soup" for the Dr. O'Connell Children's Book Award and is waiting with fingers crossed.

Derrick Turner will be graduating this June with a BA in Business Administration and is looking to get involved in sustainability consulting. He self-published his novel Planetary Police Force and launched a new personal website www.derekturmer.ca

Christina van der Kamp is living in Pendleton, Oregon and working as an Executive Assitant at the Pendleton Center for the Arts and as Programs Assistant for the Oregon East Symphony.

Josina Vink received a \$25,000 grant from the Government to complete her summer program, Southwestern Ontario Outlook Projects which is a division of the Sierra Youth Coalition. The aim of the project is to educate local youth on both global and local environmental issues, and motivate youth to make a change in their own lives to support a sustainable environment. Check it out <http://svc-cjs.org/cvap/tiki-index.php?page=SWOOP>

Mahina Wright (nee Bilodeau) had a baby girl. Isabelle Laura Wright was born at 11:35 PM on Good Friday, April 6th, 2007. Isabelle was born weighing 8lb and 1 ounce at Royal Columbian Hospital in New Westminster, British Columbia.



Mahina and Isabelle Laura Wright

Special Events

Finding Home: Belonging, Connection & Community

February 22, 2007

A 2010-Piece Puzzle

March 14, 2007, the Spring 2007 Dialogue students hosted our first student organized public dialogue at the Morris J. Wosk Centre.

Imagine B.C.

March 30, 2007 Public Dialogue

Walking the Talk

March 31, 2007

IMAGES



Finding Home



Dawn and Matthew get married



A 2010-Piece Puzzle Dialogue



Paralympic Athlete Jeff Adams



Protester at clock unveiling



Olympic Gold Medallist Daniel Igali dialogues with 2007-1 class



2007-1 class



Spring 2007 students attend the unveiling of the Olympic Countdown clock



2010-Puzzle Dialogue "fishbowl"



2010-Puzzle Dialogue



Fall 2006 Dialogue Students



Spring 2007 class relaxes after 2010-Puzzle Dialogue



Is it possible? Could there be two Mark Winstons?



Summer 2007 Being About Action students experiencing the compost toilet

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