

SFU

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
THINKING OF THE WORLD

undergraduate
semester in
dialogue



SUMMER 2007

MORRIS J WOSK CENTRE FOR DIALOGUE
SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY VANCOUVER

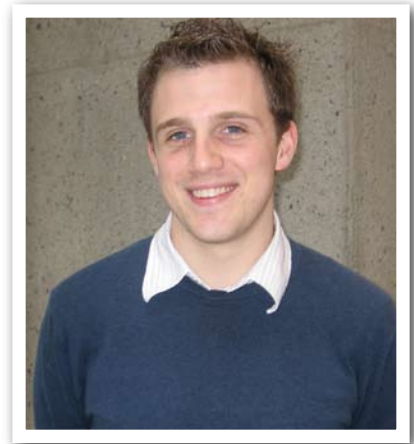


Although **PEDRAM ARANG** has spent the majority of his life here in Vancouver, he still feels close ties to his native Iran. Originally driven by strong ideals surrounding democracy and liberalism, Pedram earned a political science degree from Simon Fraser University with a concentration in Middle Eastern history. Through his studies Pedram developed a broader understanding of the world and the Middle Eastern region in particular. However, Pedram gradually realised that his original ideals were not the answers to the problems facing Iran, and that in reality the situation was much more complex and could not be solved using a Western paradigm. While Pedram does not regret the time spent taking his degree, upon graduation he felt that he lacked direction. Fortunately, Pedram found a source of direction and empowerment when he enrolled in Simon Fraser's Sustainable Community Development post baccalaureate program. Family and friends are very important to Pedram, and he attributes his love of cooking and hosting to the influence of his grandmother. This appreciation of food, combined with his new passion for sustainability drew Pedram to the Semester in Dialogue, and his positive and optimistic outlook on life, as well as his well-informed and insightful comments have already proven him to be a meaningful addition to the program.



Upon meeting her, one realizes that "Carolyn" is less a noun than it is a verb. The equivalent of **CAROLYN ANNE BUDGELL'S** morning coffee, for instance, is an early ride on her big yellow bike. Later in the day, you might find her trail running, tending her community garden plot or actively relaxing. Asking Carolyn what she does for recreation seems redundant in light of the activities she takes most seriously in her day-to-day life, but even so, she will describe a penchant for crochet (look for her creations in stores on Main Street!), a curiosity towards raw food, and an addiction to surfing (not couch surfing, not surfing the 'net, but the good "old fashioned" variety!). In fact, her surf-habit has lead Carolyn to Mexico, Australia, and Wales in pursuit of new waves. Although her diverse talents may take her in any number of directions in the future, Carolyn aspires to yoga teaching as a form of income, allowing her the flexibility (pun intended) to pursue her other interests as well. Dialogue is an interesting contrast compared with the full-time setting from which Carolyn has most recently emerged: working with Environment Canada on the sustainability plan for the 2010 Vancouver Olympics. She reflects on how fascinating and at times trying, the experience was, but has ultimately come away with a strong appreciation for those individuals who are truly working towards progressive and important goals within beaucroatic systems. Carolyn's path at the moment includes a forray into the world of Geography with an environmental specialty at SFU.

A friendly business student with a killer smile, **MIKE BRYDE** is a great asset to this group. He's studying business and human resources at SFU; he says that while money is not really a bad thing, he is more interested in people, processes, and organizational effectiveness than money. Although he graduates this August, he already has an exciting new job in a leadership development firm. In his spare time Mike enjoys playing German board games with his friends, which he assures us is much more exciting than it sounds. Mike did nine years of competitive trampoline, which recently brought him to South Africa for a competition. He placed third in the individual and synchronized trampoline categories. Although he could have gone further with his sport, he recently decided that he was happy with his accomplishments, and has therefore left his competition days behind to focus on finishing off his education and beginning his business career. Mike is excited about being part of this session of UGSD as he wants to challenge his current belief system. He's looking forward to learning more about sustainability and is glad to be working with this diverse group of people.



Once upon a time in the heart of Downtown Vancouver, there was an explorer from Simon Fraser University. This explorer, known as **SHAREEN CHIN** will soon graduate with a degree in Geography – Environmental Specialty. She also has certificates in Community Economic Development and the certificate in Innovative Leadership from SFU. Shareen's interest in leadership and sustainability is long standing, and she is interested in seeing how food can unite these two topics. This ambitious explorer was a part of the Katimivik program where she traveled with other participants from all across Canada to volunteer in different communities. Shareen has also volunteered for a student exchange program called AIESEC, been a Career Peer Educator through SFU and worked in Montreal through the Young Canada Works program. This explorer believes that traveling is something you must do in life, and no amount of books or videos could have taught Shareen what she experienced through her studies and volunteer experience. She believes that if you really want to learn and be open to new ideas you cannot just stay in one place and wait for everything to come to you. You must go to it! Shareen won't be staying still for long once UGSD is done. Immediately following the program, Shareen will be off to Sherbrooke, Quebec to learn French on the French Bursary program. Bon voyage!





With deep roots in Vancouver, British Columbia, **KION DAVIES** was born at St. Paul's Hospital in downtown Vancouver. His strong curiosity and desire to expand his horizons led to travels in nearly sixty countries – across five continents – in the last ten years. His aptitude for learning includes Simon Fraser University exchanges to Argentina and South Africa. In the fall, he will be rounding off his Political Science degree with a final exchange to Sweden. Kion incorporates his travel experiences into his work and volunteer efforts through active participation in his Vancouver community. His cross cultural adventures abroad lend a hand to his dynamic volunteering with the Immigrant Services Society, where he assists refugees through many of the struggles surrounding resettlement. Kion has additionally participated in the daily meal service with Vancouver Harbour Light in the Downtown Eastside. Kion's fondness for conversation and active learning led him to the Semester in Dialogue program. His educational interests in 'food security' aim towards an impact analysis of western food production, distribution and consumption patterns on disadvantaged communities here at home, and worldwide. His future goals include a Masters degree in Europe next year, with a focus on either immigration studies or creative writing, and a published novel in store windows by 2010.



DARRYN DIFRANCESCO brings a wealth of intellect into this Dialogue class. Focusing on Communications, with interest in International Studies, Darryn is very interested in the development of nations around the world, and how that affects the people. She is keen on spreading the awareness of health issues to make the public more aware of the pressing issues affecting people's daily lives. She took part in a senior communications co-op program this past year and has also done some graphic design work. Her personal passion is traveling, evident in her adventures to places such as Belize, Guatemala, Mexico and Thailand. From the early parts of the class, it is evident Darryn will definitely bring a caring, educated perspective to this class...before she takes off to Africa the night the class ends! She will be going there for 2 months aiding people who are affected by HIV/AIDS.

REBECCA DUNSMUIR is a 22-year old Geography student at SFU. Initially focused on physical geography, halfway through her fourth year Rebecca's interests have expanded to encompass social geography. She intends to pursue a career in urban planning after completing her undergraduate degree. Originally from Dawson Creek, BC, Rebecca's family recently moved to Saturna Island – which she half-jokingly describes as “the hardest island to reach.” Rebecca's passion for the environment is a firmly entrenched family value. Her father has founded the Saturna Ecological Center. He also serves as the teacher and principal of the islands school (where two of the seven students are Rebecca's sisters). In her spare time, Rebecca's passion for the environment translates into various outdoor activities, particularly hiking. She met her boyfriend of two years through the SFU Hiking Club. They recently traveled throughout South America, including Peru, Bolivia, and Costa Rica, where they spent time hiking and practicing their Spanish. In addition to her background, passion and expertise, Rebecca's insightful questions and thoughtful approach bring a rich dimension to the table for this Semester in Dialogue.



Her outgoing nature and winning smile make people instantly feel at ease with **HEATHER FEHR**. These attributes along with her diverse range of skills and interests make her an ideal participant in the semester in dialogue. Originally from northern Saskatchewan, Heather spent many years in Prince George before moving to North Burnaby with her sister in order to attend school at SFU. She is near completion of a BA in geography. Heather is active athletically, playing squash, volleyball and running. She also does a significant amount of valuable volunteer work, teaching preschool and working with at-risk newly immigrated youth. Heather is passionate about environmental issues, particularly global warming. She contributes personally to the cause by not ever driving a car and working to spread the word about how our personal actions affect physical changes in the world.





RICHARD FORBES enters the Semester in Dialogue with a passion for children, sports and the world around him. His diverse interests have taken him in many directions — Richard's talents in baseball have not only carried him to the national level, but they have also enabled him to coach the North Shore Twins and to travel throughout Canada and the United States to baseball hot-spots such as New York, Boston, and Pittsburgh. Recently accepted into the PDP program at SFU, Richard aspires to start his own baseball school someday. His interests in Being About Action: Exploring Food, Community, and Urban Sustainability come from a personal goal to understand the food system, its issues, and to learn about and to support the programs being implemented to target the problems. In doing so, Richard hopes to be able to pass some of this knowledge on to his future students. On June 15th of this year, Richard is looking forward to reaching three milestones: he will complete SFU's Semester in Dialogue program, turn 23 and complete his degree in Geography all in the same day. Phew!



A 23-year old communication major with a focus on the social context of technology, **KAREN FUNG** has joined the semester in dialogue with a drive to explore dialogue and sustainability. Having recently returned from Toronto where she participated in the entrepreneurial technology community to improve transit systems, she brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in urban development. Her education and experience illustrate a passion for giving back to the community through innovation. Karen's overarching goal is to discover dialogue techniques that can be incorporated into her future work. When contemplating her role in community development and the message she strives to express it is one of equality and possibility. Simply stated, Karen believes that no one's past should dictate or limit their future.

Having studied for three years at Capilano College, **CHRISTINA GANS** is now nearing the end of her first year at SFU. Behind her red, thick-rimmed glasses lies a critical mind with varied interests. Although her major is English, Christina enjoys learning about a variety of subjects. Along with a small group of like-minded peers, Christina put forth a lot of energy to create a new magazine called *Memewar*, a multidisciplinary publication that is an outlet for various perspectives. Outside of school, Christina lives in Burnaby with her hedgehog! She occasionally volunteers at her local SPCA and the Vancouver Animal Shelter, and has participated twice in the “Book Buddies” program at Lynn Valley Library, where she read with young children. For Christina, food systems have been the subject of her daily work where she is an administrative assistant at “Tree of Life”, a food distribution company. She is in this Semester in Dialogue to learn what difference she can make that will help to build a sustainable community.



Meet **ANITA GEORGE**, one of the standout members of the Summer 2007 Semester in Dialogue. Anita, born and raised in southern Ontario, moved to British Columbia four years ago to enjoy West Coast living. She is a third year student at SFU, studying geography, with an environmental specialty, and a minor in history. Anita fills her free time with her passion, urban agriculture. Her love for community gardening and agriculture comes as no surprise, as she was raised on a family vegetable farm, and was employed as a horticulturalist for several years. These days she works as a community project developer helping to create community gardens, sharing her passion with others. When Anita is out of her garden she can be found biking around the city, shopping for her favorite organics on Commercial Drive, or traveling the world visiting countries such as Egypt and Mexico. Anita hopes the Semester in Dialogue will help her finalize plans for the future where she hopes to find a satisfying career in line with her passions, possibly teaching. In the near future she plans to incorporate more local foods in her diet in hopes of making a positive environmental change through her own habits of consumption. She is an avid proponent of buying local and protecting the environment.





Meet **BRENDON HASTINGS**. He's a 22-year old Economy major who's passionate about helping people and enjoying life. He was born in Ontario and moved to Vancouver with his family in Grade 5. He now lives in West Vancouver and works at a restaurant in Horseshoe Bay. He enjoys sports and outdoor activities and loves to try new things. Brendon's here to bring a different perspective to the group with his economics background. To him, economics offers a way to analyze the world and explore how things work. This course is the perfect place for him to apply economic theories to current events and issues. He hopes to offer relevant explanations to the effects and causes of real life issues. Brendon is also looking forward to hearing different ideas and perspectives from his fellow students. After graduating, Brendon would like to work in the commercial finance sector to gain practical experience in his field for future endeavors. Brendon is excited about his field and how it relates to everything. He points out that he doesn't live to work, he works to live; but with his passion this shouldn't be hard to do.



Sitting on fluted mountain peaks, exploring remote areas in British Columbia and working on his green thumb are among **PAUL PETERS'S** passions for life. Going into his last semester at Simon Fraser University, he aims to initiate change within his community using knowledge gained during the Semester in Dialogue. He is intensely interested in rural community development and agriculture which strongly pulled him towards the Semester in Dialogue: exploring food, community and urban sustainability. When he heard he could engage in dialogue with fellow students from a diversity of departments at SFU, Paul jumped at the opportunity to engage in dialogue expressing different points of view in a unique university setting. Apart from his studies, Paul runs Urbanscape Design - a landscape design company focused on low maintenance gardens through the use of native plants. He looks forward to taking the knowledge gained within the Semester in Dialogue and catalyzing action within his community to engage people in community gardens. When not pursuing his passion for gardening, Paul spends his time enjoying the outdoors. He recently returned from his second winter season in Austria where he worked as a ski instructor in Innsbruck. There, he submersed himself in the Austrian Alp lifestyle and used the opportunity to learn German. His travels have taken him throughout Europe and Africa and allowed him to return with a rejuvenated outlook on community development.

Welcome the lovely **JAMIE RICHARDS**. Originally from Ontario, but raised in Abbotsford; this 4th year Simon Fraser University Student plans to graduate in June with an undergraduate degree in Communications, while achieving a minor in Psychology. Her social skills and kindness have driven her towards a goal of working for a non-profit organization. She also has aspirations to achieve her Master's degree in Communications in order to pursue teaching and research. Jamie takes pleasure in all aspects of life. She can be content staying home and watching a movie or she can be taking advantage of British Columbia's beautiful outdoors while playing Ultimate with close friends. Her outgoing personality and positive attitude towards life allows her to be a perfect candidate for this dialogue class. Upon graduation, Jamie has plans to travel to Europe, where her first stop will be Slovakia.



CHELSEA ANNE SHERBUT is a well-rounded woman who has found herself living in Santa Fe enrolled in an Ecoversity school, interning on an organic farm on Saltspring Island and riding bicycles in Amsterdam. She is presently majoring in Theatre Production at SFU but is equally drawn to the wonders of food, which explains her interest in the 2007 Summer Semester in Dialogue. Her friends proclaim her to be a “defective hippy” because of her liberal views on food and other things, while maintaining a very realistic (and witty) outlook on the nature of global food systems. Outside of her school and theatre industry work commitments, Chelsea dabbles in traffic circle gardening (helping to improve the esthetics and livelihood of Vancouver's streets) and some serious roller derby workouts under the alias Dizzy Crimson. She is clearly enthusiastic about learning in the Dialogue's interactive environment this summer. Her peers will appreciate this and also hope to sample a taste of her hidden raw food pie-making talents.





Born on Vancouver Island, **SARENA TALBOT'S** path through life took a leap ahead when her father moved the family to the UK in order to pursue a teaching position. This event was the beginning of a phase that introduced her and her family to many people, places and cultures around the world. During these travels, Sarena began to realize the huge amount of poverty in the world and at times felt a sense of guilt about her own comfortable middle-class upbringing. These experiences early on in life inspired Sarena to get involved with a wide range of community organizations. The over-arching theme of this involvement was understandably the concept of social justice and equity. An interesting point here is that Sarena reached out to a wide range of communities and did not limit her activities to communities and issues that related to her directly. Next, Sarena entered university at SFU. Her major is International Studies, and her chosen focus is political science, sociology and history. She also plans to include Sustainable Community Development along the way. Currently, Sarena senses a feeling of apathy at SFU, and she has yet to find appropriate means to express her previous passion for activism and community involvement in the university environment. Nevertheless, Sarena enjoys the confidence in her ideas and depth of knowledge that she has attained during her time at SFU. It has been a treat getting to know Sarena. She has a calm yet driven aura which is a wonderful combination of characteristics. Her contributions to our class even at this early stage have been respectful of others, yet independent and probing at the same time. I am looking forward to seeing how her thoughts and ideas are effected by the dialogue process.

It takes just a few moments talking with **VIRGINIA YIP** to recognize her approachable and friendly personality. She speaks enthusiastically and passionately about the diverse activities she has been involved in, and it is easy to see why she was drawn to the UGSID program. As a Criminology student, Virginia has done co-ops with Volunteer Grandparents and a practicum with Social Planning and Research Council of BC. It was within these two experiences that Virginia realized she had an interest in sustainable community development. In addition, Virginia has volunteered in diverse environments from the CAC at SFU, Union Gospel, to the Granville Woodland Policing Centre where Virginia sits on the board of directors. With her interest in sustainable community development, Virginia wishes to use her natural skills in planning and coordinating events to work in community planning. In life, she is passionate in experiencing all that she can. She enjoys being outside and athletic, and this can be seen in her love of snowboarding, rollerblading, jogging and playing beach volleyball. This UGSID topic, Being about Action: Exploring Food, Community and Urban Sustainability, also fits nicely with Virginia's love of food, and how she sees it as a vehicle for community and cultural expression.



DANA-LEE YOUNG-WOLFE contributes a unique grace and articulate presence to our dialogue classroom. A student of Criminology at Simon Fraser University, Dana-Lee has lived in Alberta and Saskatchewan in addition to studying and working in the Lower Mainland. She brings a diversity of experience from working with various organizations: she has volunteered at Earth Save Canada; she teaches photojournalism at an organization helping those seeking alternatives to violence in their local communities; and she works as a care aide to the disabled. She is inspired by non-monetary community structures, and believes that knowledge empowers and challenges everyone to take responsibility for their role, impact and contributions to their communities. She lives in East Vancouver with her cat, Ella, and enjoys beadwork in her spare time.

