

undergraduate
semester in
dialogue



SUMMER 2006
Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue
Simon Fraser University



Leah Camenzind

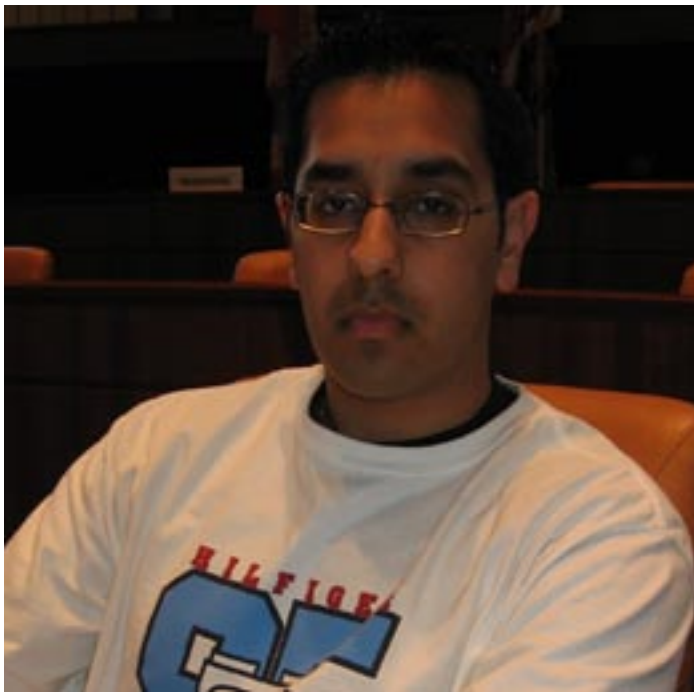
Upon meeting Leah, her bright eyes and welcoming smile show her contagious good nature. Her eclectic upbringing in Vancouver, Zurich, Switzerland and Powell River, BC has afforded Leah an appreciation and love for both the city and the country lifestyle. The hustle and bustle of the city are what attracted her to SFU to pursue a Communications degree but the close-knit interconnectedness of a small town will always draw her to the country. Leah spreads good will by smiling at strangers and helping anyone who needs it. She is a dedicated volleyball athlete who now shares her passion for competition by coaching teenage girls in recreation leagues and in the BC Summer Games. Leah's future plans include a return to Switzerland to rediscover her heritage, great days on the water wakeboarding with friends and opportunities (like this one) to help nurture and develop not only her own sense of social activism and leadership but also opportunities to foster those qualities in today's youth. Even at this young stage in life, Leah's enthusiasm and resolve will allow her to dream large and achieve great accomplishments.



Jasmine Cumberland is a 3rd Year Business student, where she is exploring the international realm of business and the connections of business and markets from the local to the global. Being from the Lower Mainland has given her a unique perspective of the region, especially in her active participation in such community programs within the SFU community and in the local community.

Last year, Jasmine had the opportunity to develop her leadership skills while completing her Certificate in Innovative Leadership with the LEAD SFU Program. Other activities include the SFU Jeux Du Commerce (JDC) West Business Competition Team, where she is currently the Co-Captain. She is also chairing a committee looking to bring a national business conference to SFU. These activities have provided Jasmine with an appreciation of both business practices and the way groups function, fostering leadership and looking at innovative ways to encourage civic engagement in the corporate world.

If this is not enough, Jasmine has been working for the City of Surrey for five years teaching figure skating and working as a recreation assistant. Jasmine is serious about her health and physical activity most recently taking part in the Vancouver International Half Marathon. Jasmine is excited to be participating in the Semester in Dialogue, looking to take what she has learned from LEAD SFU and exploring the 'larger' context.



Harinder Dhillon joins the Summer Institute in Dialogue from the faculty of Political Science. He is a 4th year student with one semester to go, and plans to travel to India after he graduates. Harinder hopes to spend a few months living in his parents home village in Punjab, where he can experience the lifestyle they lead at a young age. As a service to the SFU community, Harinder has participated in SFU's International Mentorship Program as a mentor for new international students experiencing Canadian life for the first time.

Harinder expresses strong interests in global issues such as NAFTA, and the degree of political influence on free trade policy. He plans to pursue future studies in Human Resource Management, exploring employer-employee relationships and working with small businesses. He hope that the concepts explored during the Semester in Dialogue will give him a better understanding of what it takes to be a great leader. He sees a benefit in applying these concepts to the workplace as it will lead to increased employee satisfaction and workplace success. Harinder doesn't have a five-year plan, but he can bank on his time being filled playing hockey, watching hockey and watching more hockey.

Hailing from Maple Ridge, **Raena Dumas** is an adventurer, a learner and a hard worker. Directly out of high school she spent a year in Latin America perfecting her fluency in Spanish and seeking to uncover what truly motivates her. She has a contagious passion for learning and describes how she feels after her third year communication lectures at SFU as being "like I've just watched a great movie." Driven by the need for excitement and a strong sense of adventure, Raena's pastimes are more extreme than most: she has completed a trip down the Oregon Coast by bike and plans to compete in the five peak mountain running series this summer. Although Raena has a strong zeal for the environment but also believes that business has an essential role to play in generating positive change and is currently working to strengthen her business knowledge through her position at an Intrawest golf resort in Pitt Meadows. Raena's goals for the future include extensive travel and playing a leading role in sustaining the future of the environment. Raena's passionate yet practical vision for the future aligns well with the principles underlying this summer institute in dialogue, and she feels this will be a great opportunity to further strengthen her leadership and communication skills.



After just a few moments in conversation with **Amanda Emsley** it becomes clear that the question to ask her is “What haven’t you done?” She was born and raised in Whitehorse, Yukon and after she graduated from high school she spent the next 4 months backpacking Thailand and Laos, learning about the people and their culture. She then went to Halifax where she attended art school for 2 years. Wanting to try something completely different, Amanda attended fishery school on the Sunshine Coast and studied fish biology and fisheries management. After this schooling she was still searching for her path in life so she moved to Vancouver and started a textile and jewelry business called Pooka. Four years ago she enrolled at SFU and is about to complete her degree in Women’s Studies. Amanda has an aptitude for learning new skills and is keen to do lots of this during the Undergraduate Semester in Dialogue. Amanda is excited about the revolutionary learning approach of the program but is most interested in learning how to listen to others.



Burnaby native **Venita Fung** completed her undergraduate degree with a Major in Kinesiology and a Minor in Gerontology in summer 2005. However, the real journey began as she and a few of her friends went on a two month backpacking tour in Asia, which included: India, Nepal and Malaysia. Venita’s traveling expedition does not end there as she is determined to travel to both South America and Africa where she plans to work with grassroots NGO’s in help solving health problems in some of the poorest regions in both continents. Venita is also keen on community development in these areas.

On the home front, Venita is no stranger to outdoor activities having participated in the Vancouver International Marathon as well as the grueling Grouse Grind on a few occasions. Venita is fluent in both French and English, and can also communicate in Cantonese and Spanish. During her spare time, like every other young adult, Venita enjoys spending time with her friends.

The summer semester in dialogue will truly be a positive learning experience for Venita as she will shape her leadership skills and take them around the world.



Nina Halliday-Thompson is a visionary woman whose present goal is to obtain her PHD so she can have the credential to change Canadian policy and increase the presence of women in Canadian Federal politics. Nina has a diversity of skill sets, a strong work ethic, and extensive business background. In the past twelve years Nina built her own successful business in executive search that sought out high profile candidates for senior executive position for major corporations. Nina places great emphasis on continual learning through formal and informal means. Not only has she been successful in the business she has sought out to be successful in the classroom as a Political Science Major. Moreover, she has also been able to find time carry out extra curricular activities that are important to her these include: running in student elections, writing articles for publications and volunteering to raise funds for The Canadian Students of Darfur. Nina is an inspiration and on her ways to becoming a B.C. grown change- makers.



Christopher Hogg is a thoughtful and inquisitive student of Sociology and Political Science, currently in his final year at SFU. Chris was born and raised in Kamloops. He has spent years teaching snowboarding and appreciates understanding the way in which individuals develop an aptitude for a new skill. He has worked a variety of different jobs throughout his University career and currently works at the SFU pub. Chris is a devoted music lover, he finds beauty in listening to almost all forms of music and plays guitar in his spare time. Chris is also an avid reader and likes to read books about issues such as globalization, economic progress, and citizenship, written from both academic and non-academic vantage points. His interest in the dialogue program stems from a desire to look at issues from alternative viewpoints. He believes it is important to question the underlying assumptions of belief systems and approach problems with idealism, innovation, and creativity.



Most people wait a lifetime for their defining moment; for **Christy Jung** hers arrived at the tender age of 12. The daughter of Korean immigrants who arrived in Canada in the 1980's, Christy was born in Edmonton but spent her formative years in the Lower Mainland with her parents and younger sister, her dog and two cats. In the 6th grade, Christy was one of four students selected to travel to South Africa on an elementary exchange. The economic and racial disparity of the country was taboo, but the implications stuck with Christy for years afterwards, ultimately culminating in her decision to enroll at Simon Fraser University in pursuit of a degree in sociology with a minor in political science. Focusing on labor relations, conflict, globalization and international perspectives on sociology, Christy hopes to translate her humanitarian ethic and desire to benefit society into a career she feels passionate about. In the meantime, Christy keeps busy by volunteering with SFPIRG's Students for a Free Tibet, and spending time at the lake with her family or out to dinner with friends.



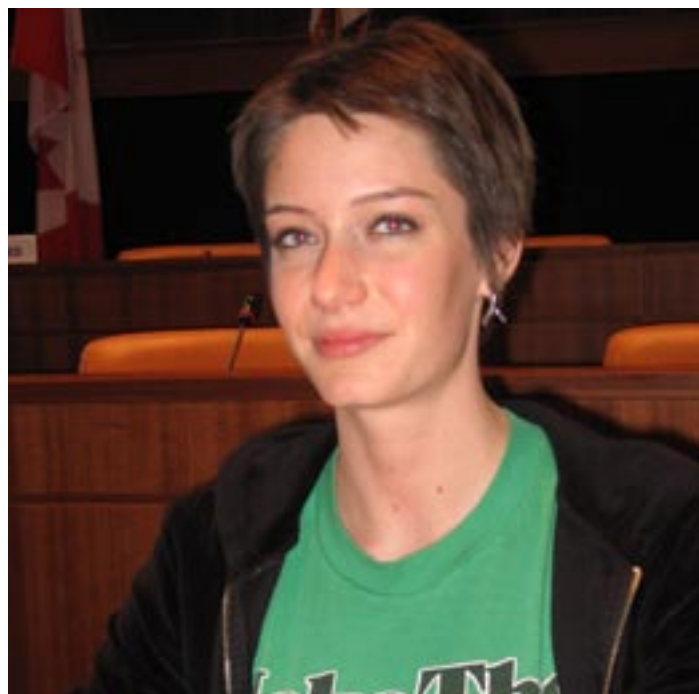
One glimpse at **Tom Kineshanko's** weekly schedule and anyone will note that he is a well-rounded person with boundless energy. When Tom moved from the Okanogan to Vancouver to attend Simon Fraser University, he jumped into all facets of university life with full force. A full-time student and varsity track athlete, he also works and volunteers at the university. In the academic realm, he is currently completing an Honors BBA in International Business and Human Geography. He sees the combination of these disciplines as extremely complementary to one another; while Human Geography gives him the theory to understand change in the world, Business is giving him the skills needed to take action and make a positive difference. This, combined with his increasingly global perspective obtained through travel to 9 different countries is guiding Tom towards a future in which he will surely create positive and significant change. Tom's future career goals may include entering international law or pursuing further studies in business. Tom's energy and passion for learning and self-improvement, combined with the impressive balance he maintains in his life, are the ingredients that will add to his future as a leading citizen.



Adrienne Kinzel is a grounded individual who has a passion for politics, travel and art. Originally from East Vancouver, Adrienne is in her last semester at Simon Fraser University and will graduate with a major in Geography. Previous to her University career Adrienne traveled throughout the world for pleasure and politics. Due to her ingenuity, a 3 month trip to Ireland turned into an adventure that lasted 3 years and took her to Scotland and Australia in the process. Yet, it was her strong beliefs surrounding social equity that lead her to Seattle and Europe to politically protest the negative effects of international trade policies. Her dedication to social justice is balanced by her love of the natural world and art. She enjoys hiking and water sports to experience the outdoors but finds just as much enjoyment through working on sketches and drawings that reflect her reverence for nature. Adrienne intends to continue her lifelong pursuit of learning, both inside and outside of academia with future ambitions to pursue a masters degree in urban planning or architecture. In the immediate future, she is expecting her first child and is looking forward to the challenges and joys of motherhood.



As a fourth year Communication Major, **Amanda McCuaig** has developed a strong interest in political economy and issues of sustainability and voluntary simplicity. More specifically, her interests lie in how changing local practices of sustainability can effect global development. For the past two years she has been an editor and writer for *The Peak*, Simon Fraser University's student newspaper, and loves to see the effect her editorials and articles have on the campus community. Using the medium to foster community has been a priority for her, and she hopes to strengthen her writing and foundational knowledge in issues of sustainability in order to better use the medium as a method of educating the public. You may already be familiar with the product of her hobby of drawing and painting—much of her work appears weekly on the cover of *The Peak*. As an inaugural student LEAD SFU, she aspires to challenge her own leadership habits during the semester in dialogue and further cultivate the art of group decision making and interaction. She also hopes to formulate a concrete thesis for a communication honors project and, later on, a master's degree.



Jessica Numminen exudes a dynamic personality. Jessica easily develops rapport with people from different cultures which can partly be attributed to the fact that she has traveled to 18 countries. One of her life ambitions is to travel to a total of 100 countries. What drives this ambition is a curiosity for foreign cultures that she observes from a sociological and anthropological perspective. Jessica derives great satisfaction from placing herself in their shoes and understanding their challenges in life.

One of her life changing experiences was a 6 month assignment through the Canada World Youth Program that took her to Tanzania and Kenya. In Tanzania Jessica had the rare opportunity to live in a compound with a witch doctor, his 3 wives and 17 children. She witnessed the practice of “cutting ceremonies” that is to bring good luck. Also, Jessica worked in a hospital where she weighed babies and dispensed medicine in an environment where 80% of the population was infected with Aids. In Kenya, for the East Africa Leadership Program, Jessica co-facilitated a group of 13 to 25 year olds in developing skills to find work.

Jessica tends to think out side of the box by creating win-win solutions to difficult problems through collaborative work. Her talents will lend itself well in her pursuit of becoming a Social Entrepreneur in the field of International Development.

Lauren Ogston takes an active and adventurous approach to life. She hails from Chilliwack, and has lived in Vancouver for the past three years, where she’s currently pursuing a degree in History paired with an English minor. Lauren’s roots are in the arts; trained in ballet, she enjoys live performances of many types: music, dance, and art. Actively involved in the dance community, every year she adjudicates and writes for ballet competitions in Chilliwack. In addition to her interest in local communities, Lauren aims to travel abroad at least once a year, and most recently cycled from The Netherlands to France with her family! Lauren’s pragmatic approach to community involvement and leadership drove her to successfully instigate a Pen Pal program between students and African refugees in her first year of university and she’s looking forward to exploring new avenues of thought and practice. Lauren is also excited about the fresh approach to education that’s offered in this Semester in Dialogue and hopes to draw inspiration from the course in order to delve more deeply into the local community. Her easygoing attitude and diverse array of skills make her a valuable team member in any setting.



With her infectious and upbeat personality, **Leanna Platt** infuses the Dialogue programme with diversity and enthusiasm. Following a brief stint at Langara College, during which she completed a post-secondary course in recreation, Leanna realized her passion to someday teach French in an alternative educational environment, leading her to French studies at Simon Fraser University. Although a native Vancouverite, Leanna is a certified globetrotter, having resided in both the Netherlands and France with future plans including an extended stay with family in Lebanon. Leanna currently mentors youth at the False Creek Community Centre, a multi-disciplinary job with so many diverse facets she was required to step outside traditional job descriptions and create a personalized title: community service worker. Naturally drawn to leadership and fascinated by the need for strong leaders in all areas of life, Leanna was attracted to the Summer Institute in Dialogue 2006 with its focus on the role of leadership at both the local and global levels. Ultimately, Leanna hopes that her experience over the next seven weeks will instill her with a fresh perspective on leadership and community involvement as well as the necessary motivation to change the world. Leanna encourages anyone interested in an example of her work to visit her website www.youthworksleadership.com.



Lynn Saffery is an accomplished student, having graduated from Simon Fraser University with a Human Geography degree, a minor in Political Science and a Certificate in Urban Studies. Lynn has also completed a Museum Studies Diploma at Algonquin College in Ottawa, where he first began to see the value in and wealth of communities. Lynn is looking forward to beginning a Master's program in the Geography Department at SFU where he will be exploring issues of political struggle and identity within the city.

The Summer Institute in Dialogue interested Lynn because he had heard rave reviews from previous participants who were able to explore issues both corporate and personal. Additionally, he wanted to participate in a different style of learning in a new and challenging environment. This semester's topic, "Being About Action: Local Leaders, Global Futures," is an excellent fit with Lynn's passion, the community and its connections with the world.

He has two children, a six year old boy and a nine year old girl, and has lived in Vancouver for the past ten years, previously living in the Ottawa Valley. He is the eldest of seven, and of South African ancestry. In his free time, Lynn loves to spend time with his children, enjoying time outdoors, gardening, travelling and playing music.



Waste and garbage watch out, you are on Travis Streb's hit list! **Travis Streb** will soon be finishing his undergraduate degree, majoring in economics at Simon Fraser University. His education has inspired him to investigate the relationship between economics and resource management, specifically waste management. We can see his intellectual interests being manifested in his involvement in the SFU Sustainable Campus Coalition; a coalition that is working to develop and implement a large scale composting system for SFU. In the future, Travis hopes to find value in that which most others find none: garbage. He plans to focus on conceptualising and implementing new waste systems internationally. To further his exploration into this arena, he is considering graduate studies in Resource Management in SFU. As someone who is willing to cross disciplines to solve problems around issues of sustainability, it is no surprise that he is enthusiastic about participating in the semesters in dialogue format. Travis describes this format as refreshing, engaging, and stimulating. His unique combination of interests and skills prove to be a great asset to the class.



Robyn Switzer is a fourth year Political Science student with a focus on international relations. A 10-day trip to Israel, replete with suicide bombings, brought out questions about her identity, and compelled her to seek out her own understanding of Middle Eastern conflicts. These concerns sparked an interest in international politics, which precipitated her enrollment in SFU's political science department. Politics, however, is not Robyn's first passion. Straight out of high school in Thornhill, Ontario, where she grew up, Robyn enrolled in film school at York University and completed her diploma in film studies at Confederation College in Thunder Bay. After graduation Robyn got married and moved to Vancouver where her and her partner currently reside with their pet cat Zoe. As a co-op student Robyn worked for the BC Film Classification Office, where she did policy review and analysis, and film reviews. After completing her degree this semester, Robyn plans to attend graduate school at the University of Toronto.



Ellisa Calder's positive energy and genuine charismatic style shines through in everything she does. Her roots and childhood memories lie in Kelowna, BC where she grew up on an acreage with a variety of animals. Since then she has moved to Vancouver to pursue her educational goal of obtaining a degree in Business focusing on Management and Organization Studies. After playing competitive field hockey for numerous years, Ellisa makes time in her busy schedule to coach and mentor young girls in her sport. She recognizes the important role leadership plays in sustainable development and is thrilled to be part of the Undergraduate Semester in Dialogue. Ellisa is always motivated to step forward and take a leadership role and is confident in listening and in supporting others in their endeavours. She strives to never be too comfortable and to constantly maintain an open mind to new opportunities and ideas. To Ellisa, there is nothing better than a delicious dinner with good friends; however, lying on the beach with a fascinating book and a margarita does come very close. Ellisa is passionate about learning new things through great conversations and it is evident that she has had many considering her vast knowledge on a broad range of topics.