Dean’s Corner

As this Newsletter will illustrate, FHS is emerging as a productive force at SFU. After four intense years of faculty and staff recruitment and program development, we are demonstrating remarkable success with research grants and student progress. This year we will exceed undergraduate student enrollment targets for the first time. We have admitted a graduate student cohort that is possibly the largest in the university on a per faculty member basis. Our research grants and publications indicate growing collaboration, both among ourselves and with colleagues across SFU, BC and the country. And we continue to engage in energized discussions around new educational programs, new interdisciplinary research initiatives, and new forms of university governance designed to foster innovation and collaboration.

We have much to be proud of and much to celebrate. We have achieved this in the face of significant challenges, both in terms of declining resources as the university absorbs the effects of the economic downturn, and in the context of a rapidly changing collegial culture as we recruit and integrate new members. It is important to remind ourselves that we are engaging in a very unique developmental process in which none of us has much experience. Universities rarely build new units from the ground up, and the experience of working in established and mature university environments does not prepare us well for the challenges and frustrations that this “experiment” generates. Yet the evidence described in this Newsletter suggests we are thriving, both individually and collectively.

I am excited about our future. We will continue to confront challenges, but we should be facing these challenges with confidence. Confidence built on our ability to come together quickly and succeed in a new environment. Confidence built on the satisfaction and success of our students. Confidence built on the growing recognition evident in the surrounding professional environment that we have much to contribute to the creation and application of new knowledge focused on addressing inequities in the health of Canadians and global populations. Congratulations to everyone whose achievements are celebrated in this Newsletter – let’s build on this momentum as we enter a new academic year!

People News

George McLauchlin, co-founder and senior strategic counsel with the Children’s Health Policy Centre, died of complications of ALS on July 15 at his home in Victoria. He is survived by his spouse, Charlotte Waddell. A brief description of George’s life can be found at: http://www.childhealthpolicy.sfu.ca/team_08/george-mclauchlin.html

Benedikt Fischer – a criminologist by training - received Adjunct Faculty status at SFU’s School of Criminology.

Welcome to the following new faculty and staff members who have joined us since January, 2009:
* Zabrina Brumme (assistant professor);
* Scott Lear (associate professor) joins FHS Sept 1 as the Endowed Chair in Cardiovascular Health. Scott was formerly an assistant professor in SFU’s Dept. of Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology;
* Nadine Nakamura (PhD) is a Post Doctoral Fellow joining B. Fischer’s research group at CARMHA.

* Rielle Capler (MPH) is a research associate joining B. Fischer’s research group at CARMHA.

* Lindsay Galway (MSc) is a research assistant joining T. Takaro’s Water Quality and Human Health Project.

Au Revoir to the following faculty and staff who have left FHS since January 2009:
* Ed Mills (Univ. of Ottawa) and
* Rob Lorway (Univ. of Manitoba).
FHS Bulletin

Kudos (Awards & Recognition)

Zabrina Brumme has received a CIHR New Investigator Award (2009-2014).

Steve Corber has been awarded a $20,000 grant for the development of an Online Graduate Course entitled “Perspectives on Population and Public Health Practice” by the BCcampus Online Program Development Fund Award Program.

Craig Janes was elected to the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors, Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research and is also Canadian team-leader of the CCGHR-Mongolia country partnership team.

Marina Morrow received tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor in June 2009.

Nadine Nakamura (CARMHA PDF) was selected by the Asian American Psychological Association for their Leadership Fellow program.

Brenda Ogembo’s (FHS Global Health student) essay, “Show me the money! From rhetoric to action in addressing the global human resources for health crisis” was shortlisted for the Young Voices in Global Health Research competition and will be published in an anthology co-produced with The Lancet.

The following FHS Students have received CIHR Masters Awards:

- Kimberley Korf-Uzan (Sup: Miller)
- Katherine Muldoon (Sup: Hogg)
- Allison Carter (Sup: Berry)
- Lauren Payne (Sup: Berry)
- Lisa Lazarus (Sup: Lorway/ O’Neil)
- Emily Jenkins (Sup: O’Neil)
- Hayley Turnbull (Sup: Prefontaine)

The following former FHS students and FHS Alumni have been accepted to advanced degree or health professional programs:

- Jamie Forrest was accepted to PhD program, Queens
- Zabrina Brumme has received a CIHR New Investigator Award (2009-2014).
- Steve Corber has been awarded a $20,000 grant for the development of an Online Graduate Course entitled “Perspectives on Population and Public Health Practice” by the BCcampus Online Program Development Fund Award Program.
- Craig Janes was elected to the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors, Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research and is also Canadian team-leader of the CCGHR-Mongolia country partnership team.
- Marina Morrow received tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor in June 2009.
- Nadine Nakamura (CARMHA PDF) was selected by the Asian American Psychological Association for their Leadership Fellow program.
- Brenda Ogembo, accepted to PhD program, U Ottawa
- Andrea Krusi Penney, accepted to PhD program, UBC and CIHR Vanier Award recipient
- Olivier Ferlatte, accepted to PhD SAR program, SFU
- Vivianne Josewski, accepted to PhD SAR Program, SFU
- Brittany Dixon, accepted to PhD SAR Program, SFU
- Ashley White, accepted to PhD SAR Program, SFU
- Aranka Anema (FHS non degree student), accepted to PhD program, UBC and CIHR award recipient.

Teaching and Program News

Sessionals for Fall 2009:

- Dr. Brian Thomas (HSCI 319W-Applied Health Ethics)
- Carolyn Stewart, (HSCI 120-Introduction to Human Sexuality and Sexual Behaviour)
- Steve Kanters (HSCI 800-Intro to Biostatistics)

New Graduate Courses Approved by SGSC (as of December 2008):

- HSCI-806(3) Principles of Demographic Analysis for Health Researchers
- HSCI-870-3 Global Health and International Affairs

Concentration in Social Inequities and Health: A new concentration in Social Inequities and Health has been approved for FHS. The importance of reducing health inequities has emerged as an imperative for health scholars, policy makers and practitioners both within Canada and globally. The goal of the Social Inequities and Health (SIH) Curriculum is to prepare master’s and doctoral level public health researchers and practitioners for critical and reflexive research and practice that addresses health inequities related to poverty, racism, colonialism, sexism and other forms of structural violence. Upon completion of the curriculum, learners will have a commitment and capacity to advance theory, research, and practice that explains why systemic social inequities persist and how best to reduce their effects on population health. The first course for this concentration (Theorizing Health Inequities) will be taught in January 2010.
Research Update


Wotton, K and Berry, N. Launching Participatory Action Research (PAR) in Pakistan. CIHR Meetings and Dissemination Grant. $25,000 (2009-2010).


Fischer, B is also a co-investigator on two CIHR Strategic Training in Health Research (STIHR) Grants: National Canadian Research Training Program in Hepatitis C (2009-14) and the Population Interventions for Chronic Disease Prevention: A Pan-Canadian Program (2009-14).


Lee, F. Regulation of the dopamine transporter by microtubule proteins, NSERC Discovery Grant, $25,000 per year (2009-2014).

McCandless, L. Bayesian Bias Modelling for analysis of observational data, NSERC Discovery Grant, $13,000 per year (2009-2014).

Morrow, M, Goldner, E, Chodos, H. FHS Co-investigators: Goldsmith, LH, Patterson, PS, Somers, J. Centre for Research on Gender and Social Disparities in Mental Health and Addictions, CIHR Centre Grant, $1,990,115 (2009-2014).

Niikura, M. Marek's disease, a lymphoma caused by herpesvirus-replication dynamics, pathogenesis and vaccine effect. NSERC Discovery Grant, $32,000 per year (2009-2014).


Somers, J, Zakiewicz, D, Patterson, M. – Canada Multi-site Research Demonstration Project in Mental Health and Homelessness. Mental Health Commission. $3.9 million (2009-2014).


Zeng, L. New methodology for the analysis of correlated data arising from longitudinal studies. NSERC Discovery Grant, $16,000 per year (2009-2014).

**Only new research operating and training grants as of July 30, 2009 are listed; infrastructure grants are excluded from this list.
New FHS Publications


24. Kaida, A, Bangsberg, DR, Gray, G, Hogg, R, King, R and


33. Slater J, Green CG, Sevenhuysen G, Edginton B, O’Neil JD and Heasman M (in press). The growing Canadian energy gap: more the can than the couch? Public Health Nutrition: 00(00).


FHS in the Community


Erikson, S. "Finding the Field: Global Health in Anthropological Perspective," was lead keynote at an Anthro-Politics Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, May 2009.

Fischer, B. et al “Global Cannabis Commission Report” (commissioned by the UK-based Beckley Foundation) Presentations were given at the Second Annual Meeting of the International Society for the Study of Drug Policy held in conjunction with the UN’s UNGASS meeting in Vienna, Austria, March 2009; the Conference on Cannabis Regulation hosted by the National Congress of Mexico, in Mexico City in April 2009.

Janes, C. and colleagues from the Mongolia Department of Health, the University of Alberta, the Health Sciences University of Mongolia, and the Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research successfully organized a CIHR-funded, international conference, “Health impacts of mining in Mongolia” May 19-20, 2009 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Janes gave a plenary presentation on health equity impact assessment in the mining sector, and FHS alum Lesley Johnston provided a presentation of her thesis work which examined the impact of mining on community health in rural Mongolia. Follow-up work is planned on: mining and health research priority-setting, and advocacy of applying health equity assessments in environmental impact analyses.


Takaro, T. served as one of the panel experts for Housing Interventions and Health: A review of the evidence, National Center for Healthy Housing and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, January 2009. www.nchh.org/Housing_interventions_and_health.pdf.


Zeng, LL. And Dean, C. "Joint Analysis of Longitudinal Growth and Interval Censored Mortality Data". BIRS Workshop Emerging issues in the analysis of longitudinal data, Banff, AB, August 16 - August 21, 2009.

FHS in the News

Takaro, T. His research on healthy homes in West Seattle as a clinically-effective way or reducing children’s asthma conditions was featured in the PBS documentary series, Unnatural Causes: Is inequality making us sick? This documentary has received the 2009 Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Award for excellence in broadcast journalism.

Takaro, T. Has been interviewed by Vancouver Sun, Vancouver Province, Weather Network, and various radio stations on the health effects of climate change.


Waddell, C. “Part II: BC Leads Move to Early Intervention,” in Hamilton Spectator, April 27, 2009 (part of the Hamilton Spectator’s series on Canada’s crisis in children’s mental health).