As a parent of university-aged children, I share the experience of all parents who worry about whether the university programs we send our children to will effectively prepare them for life and careers. Indeed, I sometimes experience considerable dissonance between my experience as an academic and my expectations of the professors and programs where my children are learning. As an academic, I see my responsibility as extending to the impact of my scholarship on the broader community; as a parent I want my children’s professors to see their students as central to their professional responsibility and to focus their energies on the learning environment. I think this tension is not always easily resolved in a research intensive university where we strive to balance the sometimes competing demands of research and teaching excellence. But I think we owe it to the families who entrust their children’s futures to us that we strive to find the right balance in meeting this expectation.

FHS has been remarkably successful in attracting students to our programs over the last few years. We attract outstanding candidates to our graduate programs who win a disproportionate share of local and national awards. Our admission standard for our undergraduate program has risen from 75% to 85% in three short years. We are meeting or exceeding all of the enrollment targets set for us with a dynamic mix of domestic and international students who bring a wide range of disciplinary and community experience. For the most part, these students have thrived in our programs and openly celebrate their professors and their classroom and community experiences.

However, we also have some concerns that we need to address. There is some evidence that our retention rates are below the university average. Some students report great difficulty getting into the courses they need to complete their programs in a timely way. Some course reviews reveal evidence that we need to provide new instructors with better support and mentorship to improve teaching excellence. Diverse expectations of the MPH program suggest we need to ensure a better balance between practical skills and theoretical foundations. These problems are not unique to FHS but now is the time for us to address them before they become a defining characteristic rather than a transitional stage in our ongoing development.

On the positive side, our students are becoming known as a key part of the moral conscience on campus. Through their participation in activities like the Stephen Lewis campaign, the African grandmothers visit, participating World AIDS Day, participating in elementary school health promotion training, and through their engagement in global and local practicum opportunities focused on addressing health disparities, our students make us proud and enhance our reputation both on campus and in the wider community. SFU is a “student centred” campus, in the words of our new President Andrew Petter, and I believe FHS is well positioned to ensure this focus becomes one of our defining characteristics. Season’s greetings to all of our faculty, staff, students and community partners and my best wishes to you and your families for the holiday.
People News

In Fall 2010, FHS welcomed the following new members:

- Anna du Bois - New Director of Advancement Nov 1, 2010
- Anna Day - New Research Support Clerk Oct 4, 2010

FHS bids “Au Revoir” and Best Wishes to:

- Max Goli, who left FHS Advising Unit and Dean’s Office in September 30, 2010.
- Steve Corber on his retirement on December 31, 2010.
- Brian O’Connor, who is finishing his term appointment with FHS on December 31, 2010.
- Alice Chen, Associate Director of the Children’s Health Policy Centre, has concluded her contract with the Centre. Alice does remain an adjunct with FHS.
- Fall 2010 Sessionals Chris Aloia (Mr.) (HSCI 140), Courtney Kang (Dr.) (HSCI 330), Wayne Jones (Mr.) (HSCI 484).

Kudos (Awards & Recognition)

- **Ryan Allen** was awarded the [Joan M. Daisey Outstanding Young Scientist Award](#) by the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology in Seoul (September 2010)

- **Peter Coleridge** (adjunct), currently Vice President and Senior Advisor of the BC Mental Health and Addiction Services, was named CEO of Canadian Mental Health Association.

- **Benedikt Fischer** (with 11 coauthors) received the [Public Health First Prize in the 2010 British Medical Association Book Competition](#), for their book, Drug Policy and the Public Good. Oxford University Press, December 2009.

- **Craig Janes** was elected Chair of the Board of the Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research for a two-year term (October 2010).

- **Angela Kaida**’s nomination for a Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Global Perspectives on HIV and Sexual and Reproductive Health has been approved. Her CRC appointment will begin September 2011.

- **Nadine Nakamura** (adjunct) was appointed to the American Psychological Association Presidential Task Force on Immigration, which is preparing an empirically-based report with conclusions and recommendations that will be disseminated to develop a broad range of US immigration-related policy at various levels.

- **Rochelle Tucker** organized an outstanding fundraising event for the Stephen Lewis Foundation with the African Grandmothers Caravan on November 4th. The campus event drew nearly 200 students and the Shadbolt Centre was nearly sold out and was the highlight of a week of “Daring” events – all in support of the Foundation’s HIV work in Africa.
Teaching and Programs Update

Graduate Program:
As of November 1st, 2010 all prospective MPH, Diploma, and MSc students applying to FHS will do so via a new automated online application system. The system works in tandem with the existing Dean of Graduate Studies online application system to collect additional information required of applicants by the Faculty such as referee reports, transcripts, and exam scores. All information is submitted electronically via the web and all communications with applicants and referees is done via email. After the admissions deadline, applicants will be reviewed and ranked online by the respective admissions committees. The system, already used in Computer Sciences and Engineering for several years, is expected to streamline and speed-up what was a cumbersome paper-based process, allowing FHS to make offers of admission to the best and brightest applicants as early as possible. For more information on the new system, contact Lynn Kumpula or Jasper Stoodley.

The Faculty approved changes to the MPH capstone defence requirements. Pending expected approval by the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, the capstone project will now be treated as an “extended essay” option with somewhat reduced supervisory and formal defence requirements. This will bring more flexibility to the capstone defence, remove several bureaucratic hurdles, and make it easier for student to graduate on time.

Co-Op Program: In 2010, 68 FHS undergraduate majors thus far have been successfully placed in a co-op work term. Employers were primarily in the BC lower mainland but this year, co-op students were also placed with employers in Alberta, Ontario, Whitehorse, Ecuador, Ethiopia and Australia. Notable examples of these placements included Queensland University of Technology, Yukon Ministry of Environment, Alberta Chinook Health Region (Lethbridge), Research in Motion Health and Environmental Safety Department, Canadian Humanitarian Organization for International Relief (Ethiopia) and Help Learn and Discover: The Ecua-experience: (Ecuador). BC employers included research assistant positions for BC Women’s and Children’s Hospital, Vancouver General Hospital and BC Health Links program, and pharmaceutical labs Maxxum, Artron, Biofine, and Tekmira.

Research Update

- **Brumme Z.** CFI Leaders Opportunity Fund “High Throughput analyses in Immune Escape” $75,000
- **Brumme Z.** BC Knowledge and Development Fund “High Throughput analyses in Immune Escape” $75,000
- **Brumme, Z and Poon, A (FHS adjunct).** CIHR Meetings, Planning and Dissemination Grant; Genetics $2750
- **Brumme Z., Brockman M and Chopera D (Postdoctoral Trainee) – CIHR CANADA-HOPE Fellowship $160,000 (over 4 years)**
- **Hogg, R, Moore D, Barrios R, Montaner, J. “Evaluation of participant indicators and experience to reduce health inequities in the implementation of Seek and Treat to Optimize Prevention of AIDS (STOP-AIDS)”. CIHR LOI-Operating Grant: Programmatic Grants in Health and Health Equity, (Dec2010 -Mar 2011)**
- **Moore, Richard (FHS adjunct) and Holt, RA. “Linking Infectious Agents and Cancer – A Metagenomics Approach.” Genome BC $118,648 (2010-2011).**

(Continued on page 4)
Research Update (Cont.)

- Waddell, C. BC’s Ministry of Health Services and Ministry of Children and Family Development. Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) in British Columbia. $300,000 (2010-2012). This work will explore NFP’s potential applications and feasibility in BC, in partnership with the Offord Centre for Child Studies at McMaster University.

FHS in the Community

Save the Date—Dr. Cam Coady Foundation Lecture for 2011
The Dr. Cam Coady Foundation Lecture Series in Health Issues was established in 2007, through a donation from the Cam Coady Foundation in the spirit of giving access to health-related information to students, health professionals, and the public through annual guest lectures.

Date and Time: April 5, 2011—7.30. Location: SFU Surrey campus, room 2600.

Speaker: Dr. Aidan Halligan will speak on health-care system sustainability and quality. Dr. Halligan was the first National Health Services (NHS) Director of Clinical Governance and Deputy Chief Medical Office for England. An excellent, insightful and entertaining keynote speaker, his experiences of working for the NHS will resonate with diverse audiences, touching on motivation, teamwork, service excellence and changes in healthcare delivery. There will be a post-lecture reception. Please come meet Dr. Halligan and the donors.

- Kaida A. Things fall apart: Failing to fulfill previous commitments to universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, and care will sink the G8 initiative on maternal and child health. Adcock Ingram Sponsored Academic Training meeting. Perinatal HIV Research Unit (PHRU). Soweto, South Africa. October 13th, 2010.

(Continued on page 5)

· **Morrow, M.** with Neil Andersson and Harriet MacMillan “The Centre for the Study of Gender, Social Inequities and Mental Health: Theoretical and Methodological Innovations” at the Institute for Gender and Health (IGH) Conference *Innovations in Gender, Sex, and Health Research: Every Cell is Sexed, Every Person is Gendered* on November 22, 2010, Toronto, ON.

· **Nakamura, N.** Risk and resiliency among LGBT people of color: Linking science and practice. Chair. Symposium to be presented at the annual meeting of the National Multicultural Conference and Summit, Seattle, WA. (Jan 2011).


· **Nakamura, N.** Intersections of culture, race, nationality & sexuality. Invited Presentation at the LGBT Psychology Summer Institute, Ann Arbor, MI. (Aug 2010).

· **Nakamura, N.** Same-sex binational couples & immigration. Invited Poster at the LGBT Psychology Summer Institute, Ann Arbor, MI. (Aug 2010)


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**FHS in the Community (Cont.).**

*(Continued from page 4)*


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**FHS in the News**

· **Bruce Lanphear** was interviewed by CBC-TV, CBC Radio, and the Christy Clark Show on CKNW on the federal government’s formal declaration that Bisphenol A, or BPA, a chemical used to make some hard plastic containers and toys, is a toxic substance (October, 2010).

· **Kaida, A.** Interview with talk show guest on the Dave Dickson radio show on C-FAX 1070 AM. Topic: World AIDS Day and new research about HIV and reproductive health. November 29, 2010 (2:30-3:00PM).


· **Snyder, Jeremy** featured in the article, “Medical Tourism Booms in India but at what cost?” This article showcased a CIHR-funded international conference on medical tourism, co-chaired at SFU Vancouver by researchers Dr. Snyder and Dr. Valorie Crooks (Geography) in the World Report section of The Lancet (Aug 28, 2010).
New FHS Publications


