

# the Bridge

The School of Social Work and Family Studies

Volume 8, Spring 2004

## Cultures

Social and economic justice,  
equity and respect

Society, knowledge,  
values & skills



## Report...

from the Director,  
Graham Riches  
Professor



### Table of Contents

- 1 - Director's Report
- 3 - Donors & Contributors
- 4 - Field Education Update
- 4 - Continuing Education in Social Work
- 5 - Recent MSW/MA Graduates: Thesis / Graduating Essay Topics
- 6 - Expanding Access: Decentralized MSW Program
- 6 - Research Round-Up
- 9 - People
- 9 - Policy Watch
- 11 - The History Project
- 12 - Alumni Reply Form

It is always gratifying to report continuing developments within the School as we complete another very successful academic year. The real key to the School's progress lies in the quality and excellence of its faculty, staff and students. This June, **Dr. Carole Christensen** will be retiring and on behalf of the School I would like to thank her for all her contributions to the life and work of the School since her appointment in 1991. As director Carole was responsible for overseeing the move from the School's former location at Graham House to the new Jack Bell Building and the current lay out of the new School owes much to her foresight and vision. In particular her contributions as a teacher and scholar in cross cultural social work have been appreciated and internationally recognized. We wish Carole well in her retirement.

Carole's vacant position has already been filled and we look forward to welcoming **Dr Miu Chung Yan** as Assistant Professor in Cross Cultural Social Work who will be joining us in July 2004. Miu has social work and social policy qualifications from Hong Kong, the London School of Economics, York University and a Ph.D. in Social Work from the

University of Toronto. His teaching and scholarly activities fall largely within the practice/policy field and he is also active in supporting the development of social work education in China. We would also like to welcome **Debbie Erickson** appointed as part-time Associate Field Education Coordinator. Debbie, a MSW (1992) graduate will play an important role supporting **Dr. Grant Charles**, the School's Field Education Coordinator, who is actively expanding the quality and reach of field education in the province and internationally. In particular, the development of the **Interprofessional Rural Placement Projects** at five sites in northern and rural BC (team based placements with cognate health care professions facilitated through the **College of Health Disciplines**) is a significant development.

On the program development front the very exciting news is the approval by the Faculty of Arts on February 12, 2004 of the new **Social Work and Family Studies Ph.D. degree**. The program is currently under review by the **Faculty of Graduate Studies** and the **Senate** but it is anticipated that the Ph.D. program will commence in the fall,



2005. The introduction of the Ph.D. program will prove to be a significant development in the School and in time, in terms of advanced education, and scholarly activity will make a significant contribution to social welfare in BC, Canada and internationally. **Dr. Dan Perlman** and the Ph.D. Committee (**Drs. Richard Sullivan, Deborah O'Connor, Anne Martin-Matthews, Edward Kruk, Tim Stainton, Mary Russell and Jim White**) are to be congratulated on their expert and pioneering work in bringing this planned development to fruition. **Dr. Tim Stainton** has kindly agreed to be Coordinator of the PhD program.

The School is very pleased to congratulate **Dr. Anne Martin Matthews** on her appointment as **Scientific Director** of the **Institute of Aging** of the **Canadian Institutes of Health Research**. This highly prestigious and internationally recognized appointment will result in Anne being seconded to CIHR for a four-year period. However, the School's loss will also be the School's gain and not only in reputation. The Institute will be housed at the School on the lower level which means we will benefit in direct and indirect ways from the ongoing research work of the Institute which will, in particular ways, enrich the developing Ph.D. program. This is an exciting and highly significant opportunity for Anne, for Family Studies and the School as a whole.

Indeed it seems as if there is no end to changes given the announcement of **UBC Okanagan** and the promise this development will hold for Social Work education in the Southern BC Interior. We would like to congratulate and welcome **Dr. Chris Lewis** and her

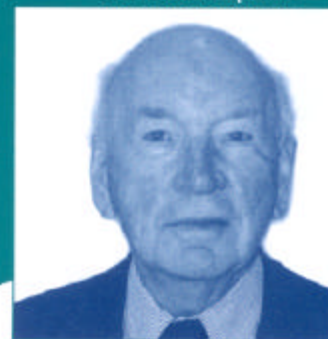
colleagues at the **Okanagan University College (OUC) School of Social Work** to UBC and we look forward to a long, stimulating and productive relationship as the UBC Okanagan School of Social Work develops and grows. Already discussions are under way regarding the introduction of their MSW program. One immediate consequence will be reconsidering the future of the existing collaborative MSW/DE with **OUC** and the **University College of the Cariboo**. In this regard I would like to recognize and thank **Dr. Edward Kruk** who has served as Acting Coordinator of this program during **Dr. Brian O'Neill's** Sabbatical this year.

Recent visitors to the School have included **Drs. Kimin Nam** and **Youngja Jeon** respectively from Chontju University (Social Welfare) and Inje University (Family Studies/Family Sciences) in Korea; and **Dr. Annie Carew-Reid** from the University of Melbourne (Faculty of Law). We are particularly grateful to **Dr. Eric Shragge**, Associate Professor, School of Community and Public Affairs, Concordia University, Montreal, who presented seminars on "Activism and Social Change" on February 24-25, 2004, and **Dr. Sara Arber**, Professor of Sociology, University of Surrey, in England, on "Reconceptualising Gender and Partnership Status: Material resources, Social Involvement and Access to Carers" on March 4-5, 2004.

On a sadder note **Pacific Spirit Family and Community Services**, a counseling and support programme for UBC families is moving from the School in May this year. **Pacific Spirit** was established in 1989 and has provided a site for clinical teaching and practicum students since then. **Pacific Spirit**

is being rehoused in the Student Union Building. We would like to thank **Pacific Spirit** for its excellent contribution to the practice education of our students and wish them every success in the future. We will look forward to placing students with them.

**Dr. Richard Splane**



Congratulations also to **Dr. Richard Splane**, Professor Emeritus, for his recent book, a biography, 'George Davidson - Social Policy and Policy Exemplar', published by the Canadian Council on Social Development.

Finally it is important to announce that next year will be the 75th Anniversary of the School of Social Work. A celebratory event in Family Studies is being planned for the last weekend of September 2005 at which time we look forward to welcoming both alumni and their families, for faculty and staff. Planning is currently underway and we will keep you informed as development unfolds.

Graham Riches has been  
Director since







*Dr. Phyllis Johnson presenting on "Southeast Asians in Canada: Marriage and Family Trends" in a plenary symposium on racial and ethnic variations in marriage, at the National Council for Family Relations conference, Vancouver, Nov. 21, 2003.*

## Donors and Contributors:

The School would like to thank the following individuals for being financial supporters over the past few months. We apologize to anyone whose name has been inadvertently left off this list.

Mrs. Sheila A. Oberdieck, Mrs. Mary Angela Hill, Ms. Anna Le  
Ms. Marjorie Anne Allen, Miss Ethel E R Dafoe,  
Mr. Charles Harvie James,  
Dr. Ross George Berringer,  
Mr. George Robert Wellwood,  
Ms. Eleanor R. Lipov

## Field Education Update

### The Interprofessional Rural Program of British Columbia

The School of Social Work and Family Studies (SWFS) has been an active participant in an innovative project known as the Interprofessional Rural Program of BC (IRPbc). The aim of IRPbc is to model and evaluate interprofessional learning among health professionals, expand capacity for educating health professionals and support the recruitment of health professionals to rural areas. The IRPbc places teams of students from a range of health disciplines and a number of post-secondary institutions into smaller communities where they learn to work together within an interprofessional context. The ultimate goal of IRPbc is to improve health delivery in BC by teaching students to adopt a client-centered, collaborative practice focus.



Becca Smith travelling with a physician from Port McNeill by helicopter to an outlying community.

During the past year, close to forty health care discipline students have been placed in a number of rural or small urban communities.

This has included four social work students from the School of Social Work and Family Studies. Last summer **Becca Smith**, a graduate student, and **Veena Birring** and **Sarah Lake**, who are in the fourth year of the BSW program, were involved in Phase One of the program. Becca was placed in Port McNeill/Port Hardy. Veena worked in Bella Coola while Sarah did her placement in Hazelton. **Colleen Stewart** worked in Bella Coola during Phase Two of the program which ran from January to March of this year. **Angela Portner**, **Anna Cavouras** and **Krista Sigurdson** will be doing their fourth year placements in the program this summer.

All of the IRPbc students participate in a two day orientation prior to their placements. This event, held at UBC, prepares the students to work in the partner communities by providing specialized training in a number of topics including rural health, dual relationships, working with victims of violence, styles of interaction, interprofessional team work and working in aboriginal communities. A number of people from SWFS have assisted in the provision of the training including **Richard Vedan**, **Jan Hare**, **Liz Robinson**, **Rosemary Usher** and **Grant Charles**.

Students participating in the program commit themselves to a great deal of work. In addition to their own discipline's expectations students in the program meet weekly to discuss issues related to interprofessional practice. They also undertake a community proj-

ect. They are also involved in shadowing whereby they spend time with students and practitioners from other disciplines within the work setting. This can take the form of being on call with the medical resident or traveling with a public health nurse to a remote community via small plane or helicopter. Students from other disciplines have the opportunity to be exposed to the role of social worker by shadowing our students as they go about their day to day responsibilities in their placement

Students from the program have been active in talking about their experiences. Veena and Sarah will be presenting a paper at the Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work Conference at the Congress of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences in Winnipeg in June. Sarah, along with other members of her student team, also spoke of her IRPbc experiences as an opening key note speaker at the **All Together Better Health Conference** in Vancouver this May. This international conference brought together academics and practitioners from around the world to discuss the latest advances in interprofessional education and practice.

A team of researchers, including **Grant Charles** and **Sheila Marshall** from SWFS, are involved in the evaluation of IRPbc. This is a more complicated task than most evaluations as it is difficult to separate what students learn in the inter-



professional IRPbc experience from their own discipline learning. Despite this difficulty we are learning valuable lessons about what is and isn't working in the program. Not only will this knowledge be used to improve the IRPbc but it will also be applied to other inter-professional experiences currently being run and/or developed by the College of Health Disciplines.

## Field Education at the School of Social Work and Family Studies

The field placement is a critical component of social work education at the School of Social Work and Family Studies. This is known to all of us in social work. However, few people are aware that approximately 40% of the time students spend in the School is spent in the field learning to integrate what they are studying in the classroom with practice. Third year students spend 350 hours in the field while fourth year students are in placement for 364 hours. Graduate students either do 210 or 420 hours depending upon whether they are on the graduating essay or thesis route. Matching students with appropriate placements is a time consuming and, sometimes, difficult process especially in times of fiscal constraint. This is made easier by the commitment of our community partners who have done an admirable job of providing field education opportunities to our students even at a time when they are under a great deal of system stress as many struggle with cuts and realignments. Approximately 120 students from the undergraduate and graduate social work programs were placed in a wide range of non-profit, government and healthcare settings this past year not just in the lower mainland but in a variety of sites throughout BC and across Canada. This number includes students involved in the MSW partnership

program we offer in conjunction with **Okanagan University College** and the **University College of the Cariboo**. Students also participated in international placements through **CUSO** and a number of other organizations. For example, a third year student is completing her placement in Ecuador this summer working on a project through the **Global Outreach Students' Association (GOSA)**. **GOSA** is a student-based, multi-disciplinary group affiliated with the **College of Health Disciplines** at UBC that provides students with opportunities to learn about health and development issues both locally and abroad.

In the lower mainland we have a number of organizations that take the largest number of students. **MCFD** and **Vancouver Coastal Health** at **VGH, UBC Hospital** and **G.F. Strong** are the two organizations that take the majority of fourth year students. Between them the two organizations took over 20 students. Two of the largest placement sites for graduate students are the **Children and Women's Health Centre** and **Surrey Memorial Hospital**. The rest of the students are placed in a broad range of organizations representing the entire spectrum of health and human service programs from local community organizations such as **Cedar Cottage** and **Collingwood Neighbourhood House** to centers in the Downtown Eastside such as **Sheway, Crabtree** and the **Advocacy Office at St. Paul's Church**.

In total over 90 different health and human service organizations provide our students with learning opportunities crucial to their social work education. It is through the generosity and dedication of these organizations and the individual field supervisors that we are able to provide our undergraduate and graduate students with the preparation they need to work in our

communities whether on a local, national or international basis. We appreciate the partnerships we have developed over the years with service providers and look forward to continuing what is, in our opinion, a fruitful relationship.

**Dr. Grant Charles,**  
Assistant Professor  
Field Education Coordinator

## 75th Anniversary - Bridge-ing the Gap

The Department of Social Work became the School of Social Work in 1950 and will have its 75th year anniversary in 2005. To acknowledge and celebrate the School's history, The School of Social Work and Family Studies will be hosting an Anniversary Event Weekend, in the fall of 2005. Details will be forthcoming in the next Bridge newsletter.

We have lost touch with some of our Alumni and we are requesting your help to re-connect with them. We have created a list of Alumni names that we do not have an address or contact information for and have posted it on our School website at [www.swfs.ubc.ca](http://www.swfs.ubc.ca). Any assistance in reconnecting us with anyone on this list would be appreciated.

## Continuing Education in Social Work:

At last, it's a go!

The School of Social Work and Family Studies, in association with UBC Continuing Studies will be offering two Continuing Education courses in the Fall 2005.

The first course, **Evidence-Based Practice in Social Work**, will be taught by **Dr. Judith Globerman**, who will be assisted by a librarian for the literature search segment.



## Recent Graduates:

## Thesis/Graduating Essay Topics in the MSW and MA programs

Caldwell, Shannon	Culture of Silence: Student Experiences of Spiritual Dialogue in Social Work Education
Campbell, Kelly	The Role of couple rituals on commitment in premarital relationships
Doyle, Janet	The power in dialogue: exploring the experiences of involuntary adolescent clients
Elzinga, Angela	Political is Personal: Anti-Oppressive Practices Within Social Action Groups
Embree, Tasha	A Journey of the Selves: An Exploration of Women's Experience of Self, Following their Memory-Impaired Spouse's Placement in Residential Care
Enescu, Florin	Social Service Agency Managers' Experiences in Leadership - A Participatory Management Approach
Flaim, Anna Maria	Maternal Support of Child Sexual Abuse: The Clinicians' Experience
Grammer, Caroline	It's Not Quite Like Home: A Study of Institutionalized Seniors' Experiences
Guy, Angela S.	Ethical Dilemmas for Social Work Mangers: The Struggle Toward Authentic Leadership
Hannam, Jamie	The Experience of Having a Daughter with an Eating Disorder: What do Parents Need to Help Them Cope?
Harckham, Rebecca	Defining and Servicing Mental Health in a Remote Northern Community
Hudson, Kareen	Through Their Mothers' Eyes: The Experiences of Children and Their Mothers in a Parallel Group Program for Children Exposed to Domestic Violence
Jones, Laura K.	Being in Government Care: Teenager and Young Adult views of Family Connections
Kanani, Farah	A Qualitative Approach on Visual Media and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder "How Are People With Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, And Their Needs, Depicted Within Visual Media?"
Lewis, Fiona	It's my home: residents' views of the power dynamics in a community living home
Lockhorst, Augusta	Through the eyes of convention refugee claimants: the social organization of a refugee determination system
Lynch, Sherry	Voices Validated: The Experiences of Peer Volunteers in Community-based Health Care Programs (Joint paper with L. Whitney McMillan)
Makkappallil-Knowles, Elsa	Re-visioning social work in Health Care: Implications of Hospital Restructuring
McCallum, Douglas	Male Clients of Family Serving Agencies: Stranger at the Door or Enemy at the Gate?
McCarthy, Shannon	Lone Mother Stories
Nasreen, Sanjida	Bangladeshi Immigrants and Refugees in British Columbia: Experiences and Felt Needs in Their Settlement Process
Ouellette, Heather	Exploring Women's Experiences of Recovery from Disordered Eating: Implications for Social Work Intervention
Pearson, Tammy	Parenting with a Mental Illness: The Parent's Perspective
Priest, Annette	Exploring Hospital Social Worker's Experience of Restructuring Changes
Robichaud, Maria	Evidence-Based Social Work Practice in a Changing Health Care System
Ross, Carol	Advocacy and Child Protection: A Community Social Work Perspective
Sacht-Ward, Cheryl R.	Racialized Discourse in Social Work: Moving from Tokenism to Transformation
Sarson, Darcy	Spiritually sensitive social work: exploring the pagan path
Schulz, Cheryl K.	The Making of Allies: How White People Become Anti-Racist
Sproule, Kamala	A Springboard: Evaluation of a Hybrid Diversity Workshop for Transition Houses
Watt, Jason	In Their Own Voices: Learning from the Experiences of Visible-minority Gay Male Youth
Weaver, Sydney	Shame Reduction: Best Practice with Substance-using Mothers
Wood, Jamie	An examination of heterogeneity in child outcomes for the intact family group

We are very pleased to work with Judith who is a charismatic presenter and whose move from Toronto to Vancouver a few years ago has injected some extra dynamism to our local social work community, especially in the health care field.

A second course, **Widening the Lens/Deepening the Practice**, will be taught by **Mary Leslie**, a long-time counsellor at the Surrey Cancer Agency, now in private practice. Mary will introduce us to her psycho-socio-spiritual way of practice. I have seen Mary teach

students about accompanying clients who have just heard devastating news and guiding them to a place where they have regained control over their lives and may face the future in a more serene fashion. She was impressive and I have no doubt that those who



take the course will leave with much stronger supportive and reframing skills. There are more courses in development for the Spring 2005. Please consult the brochure on our school website for more information.

These will be short, non-credit courses (about 10 hours) however, we are planning longer courses similar to those offered at the graduate level for the years to come. We are also planning some distance education courses for those who either live far from Vancouver or have scheduling challenges. If you want to receive news about our courses, please send your email address to me ([paule.mcnicoll@ubc.ca](mailto:paule.mcnicoll@ubc.ca)) and I will send you regular reports about the latest developments. Another way to keep informed is to check the School's or the Continuing Studies websites at [www.swfs.ubc.ca/](http://www.swfs.ubc.ca/) and [www.cstudies.ubc.ca/health](http://www.cstudies.ubc.ca/health).

**Dr. Paule McNicoll,**  
Associate Professor

### Expanding Access: Decentralized MSW Program

**T**he UBC School of Social Work and Family Studies Decentralized M.S.W.

Program continues to provide an opportunity to employed social workers to complete an advanced degree in Social Work on a part-time basis, over a three-year period. The second MSW Distance cohort, geographically based primarily in and around the communities of Kelowna and Kamloops, completed their second year in the programme. Course offerings included online, face-to-face and combination courses and will be expanded to include new courses in Social Work Practice with the Family (including content in practice with individuals and couples), with **Dr. Djuwe Blom**, and Social

Work Practice with Communities, to be taught by **Professor Helen Allen**, Director of the Social Work Program at the University College of the Cariboo. In addition, the Decentralized cohort was provided the option of taking a second research course on Quantitative Research Methods by **Dr. Sean Lauer**. The opportunity for Decentralized MSW students to take courses on-campus was provided, and on-campus students were able to join Decentralized MSW students in their courses, and this was received well by the students. The scholarly rigorous nature of the Decentralized MSW Program was cited as both the most positive and challenging aspect of the Program by students, who continue to perform exceptionally well as a student cohort at the School. Faculty report high levels of satisfaction in teaching courses in the Program, and learning about how students are actively involved in "field testing" the principles, theories and methods taught in the Program in both their field placements and their professional Social Work employment settings. The Decentralized MSW Program participants thus enjoyed a successful two years and the Program is considered to be a strong element of the overall UBC Social Work Program.

**Dr. Edward Kruk,**  
Associate Professor  
MSW Distance Coordinator

### RESEARCH ROUND-UP: UBC 35th in WORLD

**T**he University of British Columbia is pleased to have been ranked 35th among the world's 500 top research universities, according to a study reported in the Jan. 24 issue of the Economist. Published by the European Commission, the executive body of the European Union, the research

was conducted by researchers at the Shanghai Jiao Tong University Institute of Higher Education. Harvard was at the number one spot with Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Oxford University and University of Cambridge in the top 10. UBC and the University of Toronto (23rd place) are the only Canadian universities in the top 75. UBC's highest individual scores were in the categories that tallied the citation of articles by UBC authors. This is generally considered the key standard for assessing scientific impact and eminence. "Strong research-intensive universities, able to compete and collaborate with the very best internationally, help Canada take its place in a world where global scholarship must fuel global citizenship," said UBC President Martha Piper. "Internationalization is a pillar of UBC's strategic plan, and this survey confirms that we are making great strides in this area."

Our unit cannot boast Nobel prize winning faculty such as UBC's late Michael Smith, but again this past year, members of the School were highly productive.

Director **GRAHAM RICHES** was the lead consultant and editor of the "Right to Food Case Study: Canada" which was conducted for the UN Food and Agricultural Organization in support of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the elaboration of a set of Voluntary Guidelines for the Implementation of the Right to Adequate Food in the context of National Food Security. Similar case studies were conducted in Brazil, India, Mali, South Africa and Uganda. Graham participated in a forum held at the FAO in Rome in February, 2004 to review the findings of the case studies and to advise on the drafting of the Voluntary Guidelines.

**SUSAN CADELL** is part of New Emerging Team (NET) application



that was given development funding and has submitted a full application to the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). The NET proposes a framework for research in Transitions in Pediatric Palliative and End of Life Care in partnership with Canuck Place Children's Hospice. The team is comprised of Canadian and international researchers who propose to develop a sustainable research program focused on creating knowledge and evidence to optimize provision of care for children with life-limiting conditions.

Susan is also the principal investigator with Stephanie Cadieux of BC Paraplegic Association on a project funded by British Columbia Neurotrauma Fund International Collaboration on Repair Discoveries. The study is entitled Investigating the Positive By-Products of Spinal Cord Injury. The objective is to measure positive changes that people with traumatic spinal cord injury, as well as their caregivers, experience as a result of their dealing with adverse circumstances.

**EDWARD KRUK** is leading the "Separated and Divorced Fathers" Cluster of the Fatherhood Involvement Research Alliance, part of a five-year \$1 M. research project funded by the Community University Research Alliance program of SSHRC. This project will focus on the identification of the core needs of children during and after the divorce transition, the obligations of fathers in relation to these needs, and the obligations of social institutions in supporting fathers in the fulfillment of these obligations.

**PAULE MCNICOLL** received two research grants: one from SSHRC with Frank Tester (See Frank Tester's entry for details) and the other with Natalie McCarthy (principal investigator). This project entitled "Psychiatric terminology: Are mental health practitioners speaking the same language?" was

awarded \$5,000. by the Riverview Hospital Research Advisory Committee. She published a paper in collaboration with Frank Tester in *Social Science & Medicine* (See Tester's entry for details). Paule is also the author of a book chapter currently in press: 'Putting social justice on the agenda: addressing habitual and social barriers'. In Carson, C., Fritz, A., Lewis, E., Ramey, J. and Sugiuchi (Eds.) *1923-2001 and beyond: Growth and development through group work*. New York: The Haworth Press.

**SHEILA MARSHALL, JAN HARE and RICHARD YOUNG** (from Education) received SSHRC funding for a project entitled: Urban Aboriginal Families' Career Development Projects. This research focuses on how urban Aboriginal families with youth act together plan for the future including education, employment, and relationship choices. These actions will be viewed as a 'family project', because parents and adolescents can be seen as working together over time to reach common goals. These career projects will be addressed in light of families' social connections with informal supports and institutional structures from reserves and urban settings.

**ANNE MARTIN-MATTHEWS** has been appointed as the new Scientific Director for the CIHR Institute of Aging of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), effective March 1, 2004 for a four-year term. CIHR is the Government of Canada's premier agency for health research. Its objective is to excel, according to internationally accepted standards of scientific excellence, in the creation of new knowledge and its translation into improved health for Canadians, more effective health services and products and a strengthened health care system. CIHR is comprised of 13 Institutes, each led by a Scientific Director who is responsible for developing their Institute, championing research at the highest levels

of international excellence, establishing and nurturing partnerships and fostering effective communication and knowledge dissemination. As one of CIHR's Institutes, the Institute of Aging is dedicated to supporting research and building research capacity. Its broad mandate covers supporting research that promotes healthy aging and addresses causes, prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, support systems, and palliation for a wide range of conditions associated with aging. The Institute links and supports researchers located in university, hospitals and other research centers across Canada.

In announcing this appointment, Dr. Alan Bernstein, President of CIHR stated, "Dr. Martin-Matthews is a welcome addition to the CIHR team. Her expertise in the field of aging will build upon the solid foundation created by the Institute over the last three years." With Dr. Martin-Matthews' appointment, the Institute of Aging will relocate to the UBC campus in June 2004, to space on the lower floor of the Jack Bell Building. Further information about the Institute of Aging may be found at: [www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca](http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca)

Anne Martin-Matthews has been appointed to the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Aging Studies* (U.S.) and as an Overseas Advisor to *Ageing and Society*, the official journal of the British Society of Gerontology.

**DANIEL PERLMAN** co-edited a special issue of the journal *Personal Relationships* examining how contextual factors (e.g., the environment, culture, etc) influence couples' relationships. He also gave a presentation on changing conceptions of loneliness in the Netherlands as part of a symposium in honour of Jenny de Jong Gierveld, a noted Dutch scholar. While the main focus of this presentation was on views of loneliness inherent in social science



research, Dan also enjoyed reflecting on portrayals of loneliness in art, literature and film (e.g., *Lost in Translation*).

**PILAR RIAÑO-ALCALÁ** was awarded a HSS Large Grant for the pilot phase of her research *Forced Migration of Colombians: A Comparative Study on Fear, Historical Memory and Public Representations*. This study examines the forced migration of Colombians both within Colombia (internally displaced persons) and outside (Colombian refugees in Ecuador and Canada). Pilar is the principal investigator of this research that is conducted in collaboration with Colombian and Ecuadorian researchers and with MOSAIC in Canada. The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) has invited the research team to submit a research proposal.

Pilar will be presenting the paper "Forced migration and the politics of memory: Memory workshops with internally displaced populations" at the conference *Memory and Globalization of the International Oral History Association* (Rome, June 23-26). She is also preparing a book chapter on "The routes and politics of Remembering: Issues of praxis and method" for the book *Oral Histories and Public Memories* edited by Paula Hamilton and Linda Shopes (to be published by Temple University Press).

**MARY RUSSELL's** article, "Police and victim perspectives on empowerment of domestic violence victims", written in collaboration with Linda Light, previously of the BC Attorney General's Victim Service Division, will be appearing in a forthcoming issue of the *Police Quarterly*. The over-headers from the "Building a House of Recovery: Women's Wisdom on their Recovery Process", which was a joint presentation with

Annemarie Gockel, at the 2003 National Conference on Women's Substance Use Treatment was published in the Conference Syllabus. Two papers have been accepted for presentation of the annual meeting of the Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work in Winnipeg. The first is entitled, "Violence across the Lifespan: An Interdisciplinary WebCT course" and describes a web-based course developed in conjunction with the School of Nursing and delivered jointly to Social Work and Nursing students. The second paper, "Parent and Counselor Perspectives on Intensive Interventions for High Risk Parents" is presented jointly with Barbara Harris and Annemarie Gockel and describes preliminary focus group results that are part of the longitudinal study of parent experiences with the Project Parent program of Family Services of Greater Vancouver.

**TIM STANTON's** focus has continued to be on the restructuring of Community Living Services within the Province of British Columbia. He completed his term on the BC Government-appointed board of the Interim Authority in February of this year but continues to work on issues related to Children, support for those with Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities and planning support. He was awarded a certificate recognizing his contributions by the Lieutenant Governor in November. He was invited by the Saskatchewan Association for Community Living in March to present to families and services provider on one of his main research interests, individualized funding and independent planning. He also consulted with the Provincial Government on service reform. He continues to work on his historical research on the construction of intellectual disability.

**RICHARD SULLIVAN's** current research activities include a study of infants born with prenatal substance exposure; a study of the health and social circumstances of children reared in marijuana grow-ops; and continuing research on barriers to adoption in Canada.

**FRANK TESTER** has been active on several fronts. He has recently been elected chair of the City of Vancouver's Family Court/Youth Justice Committee. The committee has a legal mandate under the legislation and the Provincial Court Act and reports to mayor and council as well as the Attorney General of British Columbia. The committee is responsible for monitoring the application of the Youth Criminal Justice Act and for making policy and programme recommendations in relation to youth criminal justice and the operations of family court. Margaret Wright has also been appointed to the committee.

Frank and Paule McNicoll have received a SSHRC grant to generate an on-line data base dealing with the social history of the eastern Arctic. Their article 'Isumaqijaksaq: Mindful of the state. Social constructions of Inuit suicide' appears in the June 2004 issue of *Social Science & Medicine* (Vol. 58, Issue 12, pages 2625-2636).

Frank was also recently appointed to the Behavioural Research Ethics Committee of the University and the Community/University Research Alliance Panel of SSHRC, for a second term. The panel meets in Ottawa. Frank has also been appointed to represent the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada at a tri-council dialogue on northern research. The first meeting to establish northern research priorities and to deal with the practice of northern research was recently held in Whitehorse Yukon.



Finally, with graduate student, Sandra Teves, Frank has just published "Turning Arms into Ploughshares: An evaluation of the TAE Project". The text (108 pages, maps, photographs) was prepared for CUSO and CIDA and examines, in depth, 8 years of attempts to disarm the civilian population of Mozambique by exchanging community development tools for weapons. It is based on field work they conducted last summer in Mozambique. Frank and Sandra will be presenting their work in a number of forums and workshops to be held in Ottawa.

**JIM WHITE** has completed two books this year. *Advancing Family Theories* (<http://www.sagepub.com/book.aspx?pid=10259>) discusses philosophy of science and emerging theoretical frameworks and is aimed at advanced graduate students and academics. The second book is an undergraduate text entitled *Families in Canada* (published by Prentice-Hall/Pearson Educational Canada) with coauthors Larson, Goltz, and Munro. In addition, Dr. White continues to work in the area of family structure and family dynamics and has received an Humanities and Social Sciences Research grant to facilitate this research.

## People - Congratulations

### Phyllis Johnson "Just Desserts Award"



**Dr. Phyllis Johnson** (Family Studies) has been awarded the "Just Desserts Award" for service to students.

*Dr. Phyllis Johnson, Lisa Paone, Cate Rankin, and Laura Rankin at the ceremony where Dr. Johnson received the Just Desserts Award of the Alma Mater Society.*

**Pascaline Nsekera**, the School Receptionist/Secretary in the main office, is a volunteer with the World University Service of Canada, WUSC-UBC, which has been selected to receive the 2003/04 Helen McCrae Award. This annual award is given by the Campus Advisory Board on Student Development (CABSD) in recognition for an AMS, GSS, or UBC student services that has had a significant positive impact on student life and student development at UBC.

interests" when it is applied to both ends of the service continuum from prevention to permanency planning. This implies preventing admissions to care by strengthening family and community capacity to provide nurture, safety, security and social inclusion. It also implies an aggressive and creative approach to achieving permanence for those children already in the continuing care of the province. These are not inexpensive objectives. Nonetheless, the minister was challenged to achieve them within a treasury board mandate of prescriptive scarcity. He sought to do so through much needed processes of contract reform and regionalization. Both of these processes merit careful examination.

There is no question that contract reform is necessary. Since the Social Credit governments of the mid 1980's initiated quasi privatization of social services in order to create the impression of a smaller public service, costs have skyrocketed. A decade later, the Corbin Commission found that it was costing almost three times what it had cost to provide the same services within the public service. Not surprisingly, however, constituencies of support have developed around the literally thousands of specialized contract services that have emerged subsequently, not to speak of the organizations and careers with understandable interests in sustaining the new status quo. If we think the Solidarity Movement of the mid 1980's created a tough environment for the introduction of questionable reforms, try going up against the well-organized parents of special needs children. Those threatened with the perceived loss of needed services can be fierce. But they are also susceptible to the fear of such losses and to the belief that there is only way to provide these services. The contract sector upon which they depend is hardly a disinterest-

## POLICY WATCH

### A Teetering Balance in Child Welfare

One of the greatest challenges faced by former minister Gordon Hogg was to achieve reasonable security for the province's children within a mandate to reduce costs. Reducing the numbers of children in care is not only the most obvious way to reduce costs, it can also sustain a commitment to children's "best



ed party in the dissemination of information about alternatives.

The amalgamation of services contracted under the auspices of regional authorities was intended to rationalize a system that has become expensive, duplicative and cumbersome. Undertaken in an informed consultative process, contract reform might have some prospect of achieving the laudable goals of rational planning, regional relevance, accessibility, cost containment and accountability. Despite a decade of instability, the public sector appeared ready for reorganization. Earlier reform efforts had faltered because they were introduced in an environment of continuous instability and insecurity. Now contract reform and regionalization seemed to have some reasonable prospect of success if introduced with resolve and leadership and on the basis of regional readiness. Minister Hogg seemed up for the challenge. And he had both the Premier's ear and reasonable credibility with the public sector considering the perils of a portfolio that few cabinet members want. Avoiding these perils no doubt gave some impetus to regionalization.

Regionalization was designed in part to insulate the provincial government from the political risks associated with a ministry whose credibility inevitably declines as it becomes more residual, providing less and less preventive service until only the most expensive and intrusive options are left. A service provided only to the poorest and most vulnerable is inevitably a poor and vulnerable service. Most certainly, the plan for regionalization was not to look like the short-lived community resource boards of the mid 70's. This is not a government from which anyone would expect new experiments in democracy. The regional authori-

ties would be appointed, not elected, but at least they would be structured to give some semblance of local accountability.

Accountability is now precisely what Minister Clark must contend with in light of the stalled progress on regionalization and continuing budget cuts. The Minister may not have grasped the complexity of a readiness model of implementation. The latter implies that there can be no cookie cutter approach to reorganization and no lock-step march to implementation. She has the unenviable task of acclimatizing herself to a new ministry at the same time as a new deputy. This is both unusual and inadvisable, even if in this instance unavoidable. Aborting the regionalization plan

at this stage, however, seems to suggest two things: inflexibility in the minister's grasp of the respective readiness of the regions to move forward; and that the government's priority is simply cost cutting irrespective of any attendant risks to the safety and security of vulnerable children and families. Cost cutting and reorganization are always a gamble in a sector upon which the most vulnerable are dependent, but doing so without careful attention to local capacity to absorb the impact is just plain reckless. Independent assessments of readiness may be one way to attempt to preserve the precarious balance between stability and change. In some regions, this may be unnecessary. Transitional authorities and the

## IN MEMORIAM

### **Iris N. Cammock**

nee Nordman, died January 17, 2004 in Mount Vernon, WA., at 70.

Iris attended graduate school at the University of British Columbia, where she received a Masters Degree in Social Work in 1958. Soon afterward Iris started working for Gethsemane Lutheran Church in downtown Seattle. She did volunteer work while her children were in their earlier years and in later years she worked in Social Services at Skagit Valley Hospital, one of the last being the Task Force for Senior Housing, now known as Salem Village. She also served as one of the first women board members for Josephine Sunset Home in Stanwood and she became Director of Social Services there. She then held the same position at Mountain Glen Retirement and Assisted Care Center in Mount Vernon. She is survived by her husband, Earl, and children Chris, Caryn and Craig, and their spouses and children. Donations to the ALS Association can be made in Iris's name.

### **Eleanor (Nori) Weld Smith**

nee Mathewson, died March 11, 2004, in Qualicum Beach, BC.

Eleanor Mathewson graduated from UBC in 1949 with a Master of Social Work degree. Her studies contributed to the development of the strong sense of social justice that often formed the basis of her actions. In the course of her lifetime, she made many worthwhile contributions to a variety of non-profit organizations. She is survived by her son, Bruce and daughter-in-law, Domena; and daughters, Sheena and Julie (and partner, Tony); one grandchild; a brother Don and his wife, Audrey. Donations can be made to the Nature Trust of British Columbia or the David Suzuki Foundation.



ministry's own managers have had ample opportunity to assess their own needs in making the transition to local governance. But if independent reports would help to restore confidence in other regions, they might well be worthwhile investments. Otherwise, we are left with the impression that it was somehow thought acceptable to draw on local capacity in preparing for change while not respecting regional readiness to move forward. Among all of the foundations for cooperative relationships none has greater purchase than respect. We wish the Minister well in every opportunity to earn it and return it.

**Dr. Richard Sullivan,**  
Associate Professor

## An Update on the History Project

Since the last update on the project in *The Bridge* I am very sad to report that the senior research assistant for the project and the person who truly inspired its beginning, **Beverley Scott**, has decided to resign. Bev made a tremendous contribution to the project. Her library and archival research expertise will be sorely missed as will her dedication and strong commitment to the project itself. Bev recently retired from the UBC library and she indicated to me that now was the time to be truly retired! Fortunately, she remains in Vancouver and is available for advice and guidance to the project as needed. Bev recently published a short booklet, *Establishing Professional Social Work in Vancouver and at the University of British Columbia*. It represents a significant piece of research into this early period and I am grateful that I will be able to incorporate much of its information into the research for the history project.

Beginning last fall two new research assistants began work on the project. Both **Ms. Karen Adshead** and **Ms. Jennifer Westoby** are current MSW students who bring a keen interest in social work education and excellent research skills to the daunting tasks that remain. Since their employment we have completed most of the interviews of former faculty and a great many interviews of graduates who have made a significant contribution to the field. We are now embarking on interviews with current faculty and school alumni. The latter will be randomly selected by decade of graduation to provide what for me will be the heart of the history - the influence of the school on the work of those graduates who have been in the frontlines of practice. It is these persons whose collective work has been felt throughout British Columbia and the rest of Canada.

To complement these interviews we have also reviewed over 200 student files from the archives spanning the years 1930 to 2000. These files have yielded rich demographic information as well as many personal statements that give insight over the years into why people enter social work and what they expect of a social work education.

The remaining primary research is mainly archival and will involve many hours poring over the extensive records of the school held at the UBC library as well as material relating to the development of social work and social work education at the National Archives in Ottawa and elsewhere. The project hopes to acquire a digital camera which will be useful in photographing key documents. The photos can then be stored to CD-Rom and easily brought back to Toronto where I do most of my writing. Photocopying, it seems, may become a thing of the past!

Because of the various delays and interruptions to the research the final book will not likely be ready for publication until after the 75th anniversary year. Nevertheless, writing will begin in earnest this summer and I fully intend to be able to share important elements of the history in the form of articles during the year of the celebrations.

**Hugh Shewell, MSW, PhD**  
Associate Professor, York University



## People on the Move!

*left to right: Edward Kruk, Paule McNicoll, Kristin Schopp, Pilar Riaño-Alcalá, David Turner, Marg Wright, Leslie Kemp, Brian O'Neill missing from photo Anne Martin - Matthews.*

Congratulations to the School's Sun Run Team! The School participated in the 20th annual Vancouver Sun Run, Sunday April 18th. Team members jogged and walked North America's 2nd largest 10k race, enjoying the great weather, fresh air and exercise.





# ALUMNI REPLY FORM

Due to the new working relationship with the School, membership fees for Social Work Alumni have been suspended. However, any donations would be gratefully received and used to support Alumni events.

☐ Mary Hill Scholarship

☐ Roopchand Seebaran Prize

☐ Annual Giving Fund

☐ Family Studies Scholarship Fund

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Let us know what you are up to! Your news:

Return to: The School Administrator, 2080 West Mall, Vancouver V6T 1Z2

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The next edition of **The Bridge** will be published in the fall of 2004.

Please send any comments, questions or items of interest to the Editorial Committee at the address above.

## November, 2003 Graduate Statistics

29

On campus Master of Social Work graduates

2

Off campus Master of Social Work graduates

2

Master of Arts in Family Studies graduates

10

Bachelor of Social Work graduates

Major - 7; Minor - 4

Bachelor of Arts in Family Studies graduates

**54 total**

Congratulations Graduates of November, 2003!!

Mail to:

**SPRING CONVOCATION • Wednesday, May 26, 2004**