

# THE BRIDGE

FALL/WINTER 2016

THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK AT UBC

## Welcome to the relaunch of The Bridge!

*The Bridge* is our newsletter connecting our alumni and colleagues with the School, spotlighting the various updates and events happening in and around the School of Social Work at the University of British Columbia.

Starting with this issue, our newsletter will be distributed only in an electronic format.

For more frequent updates, please visit our website at [socialwork.ubc.ca](http://socialwork.ubc.ca).



Students in SOWK 440R (Social Contexts of Adolescent Development) have a class in the sun with Dr. Sheila Marshall.

## Director's Report



It is a great honor to be the Director of the UBC School of Social Work. I joined the School in 2004. Over the years, I have witnessed and humbly contributed to its great tradition of research, education and service, a tradition which has been nurtured and treasured since 1929. This great tradition is never static. It evolves and changes. While change often entails risk, it can be a great opportunity for an organization to renew and enrich its tradition. To quote an ancient Chinese saying: "As Heaven's movement is ever vigorous, so must we strive ceaselessly". Change drives transformation. As one of the oldest social work programs in Canada, our long and distinguished record demonstrates that we, as a School, has ceaselessly and successfully transformed and excelled ourselves.

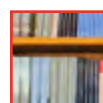
For us, this is a year of change. In the past summer, we sadly bade farewell to five faculty members and one core staff member. Dr. Brian O'Neill, Dr. Richard Sullivan and Dr. Frank Tester, three long-term faculty members of the School, decided to retire from their professorial careers and start a new journey in their life. Dr. Stephanie Bryson and Natalie Clark, two relatively new faculty members, left the School to embark on some new ventures in their career. Laura Harvey, who served our School for nine years as field work



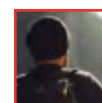
**2**  
PROGRAM  
REPORTS



**4**  
CENTRE  
REPORT



**6**  
RESEARCH  
ROUND-UP



**12**  
STUDENT  
UPDATES

coordinator, also decided to shift to another UBC unit for a career change. While reluctantly saying goodbye to them, I wish them all the best in their new endeavor. I would also like to thank them for their great service to the School. They will all be missed by our colleagues, students, alumni and members of the community.

Despite these changes, I am glad to emphasize that our foundation remains sturdy. We have eleven strong faculty members who are all leading researchers in their own areas of specialty, effective and passionate teachers, and active members serving both local and international communities in different capacities. Some of their great works are highlighted in this edition of Bridge. Here, I am glad to introduce to you our new member, Dr. Mok Escueta who, formerly a community organizer in Philippines, is an active, practicing trauma therapist in Vancouver. With his wide spectrum of direct practice experience, he is appointed as co-chair of the BSW program which has a generalist focus. This year, the School is actively recruiting four new faculty members while receiving great support from the community. A group of highly experienced practitioners from the community and from our doctoral students have kindly stepped in to fill in the teaching gaps for the new academic year. I am grateful for their enthusiasm and support and am sure that they will bring to the classrooms cutting-edge knowledge and most current practice experience to share with our students.

To close, I would like to share my modest vision of the School for the coming three years. The great tradition of the UBC School of Social Work is at an era of transformation. In these three years, my priority will be to rebuild a strong team of social work researchers and educators to collectively transform and excel the great tradition of the School. To do so, I very much look forward to the support and participation of all the stakeholders of this community of learners – staff, students, alumni, and community partners from inside and outside UBC.

*Dr. Miu Chung Yan, Director*

## **Program Reports**

### ***BSW Self Study Identified Strengths, Areas for Growth***

The BSW Program was reviewed and accredited in 2014-15, and received four years out of eight possible in 2015. The major determinant in the lack of full accreditation was the transition the school was going through in terms of resources, retirements, and replacements and was not about the program, which the accreditors spoke very highly about.

The self study that the School had to do for accreditation was an excellent process that highlighted our strengths and areas for growth. As well, in 2015-2016, we had a number of evaluations of the program which enhanced our view of how to continue to grow and develop the program. We have a very active BSW Curriculum and Field Education Committee made up of community members, students, staff and faculty; this Committee provides oversight to the program and is the 'entity' which receives information and initiates changes to the curriculum, and participates in admissions processes and other ad hoc tasks. Based on the self study, recommendations from the accreditors, feedback from students and other stakeholders, the Committee is engaging in a curriculum mapping exercise for the BSW during 2016-17, which will inform decision making about focus of the program and renewal or changes in courses. In the past year, we have made a number of course adjustments, based on issues brought forward to the Committee.

Applications to the BSW program continue to be very high as we usually see a 3:1 ratio of applications to admissions. In the last several years we have had approximately 50 students in both third and fourth years for a total of 100, with one year (2014-16) being a very large cohort of 64 students.

In September 2015, the BC College of Social Workers initiated requirements for an entry to practice exam for new applicants. This was our first year of students writing the BC Licensure exam in order to qualify as a registered social worker. To date, all BSW students who have written the exam have passed – a tribute to the calibre of students who come to the School. Most of our BSW graduates are employed as social workers immediately upon graduation, often in their practicum placements.

On July 1, 2016, we welcomed a new instructor, Dr. Mok Escueta, who will co-chair the BSW with Liz Jones for the academic year, taking over full-time next year.

*Dr. Mok Escueta, Co-Chair, BSW Program  
Elizabeth Jones, Co-Chair, BSW Program*

### ***Another Busy Year for the Field Education Program***

We held two events for field instructors in the community this year. In January 2016, there was a workshop held for social workers at BC Children’s and Women’s Hospital. Stephanie Bryson presented an “Update on SWISH: Social Work Intensives in Settings in Health Care”, and Marisa Tuzi and Moira McIntyre presented an “Example of a Co-Mentorship Model in a Mental Health Setting”. We encourage all of our current and potential field instructors to consider a co-mentorship model when working with students.



Community of Lax Kw'alaams, BC. A BSW 4th year student went on practicum with an Aboriginal organization on the ancestral territories of the Tsimshian Nation in Prince Rupert. *Photo credit: Anonymous*

In May of 2016, one of our PhD students, Ally Jamieson, presented to social workers with Fraser Health at Surrey Memorial Hospital. This workshop was called, “Neurobiology of Traumatic Stress Responsivity” and was very well attended.

Our BSW students completed placements in a wide variety of settings this past year, including community, government and health care placements in the Lower Mainland as well as in Kelowna, South Africa, and on Vancouver Island. We placed 43 third-year and 60 fourth-year BSW students. We continue to have good

results with our Child Welfare Specialization in fourth year, where we work in collaboration with MCFD to ensure effective placements in that agency.

We had 15 MSW foundation students placed in a range of community agencies and programs, and 29 MSW Advanced students placed for the fall and spring of 2015-2016. Interest in health care placements continues to grow in our MSW advanced program. Social Work Practice leaders from Vancouver General Hospital, Providence Health Care, BC Children's and Women's Hospital and Surrey Memorial Hospital work with us to develop clusters of MSW students going through rotations in those hospitals during their placements.

The Field Education office will be holding a Practice Conference at the school on January 3-4, 2017. The goal of this conference is to hear from our community partners and social work practitioners in the field on current issues they are seeing in their practice. We welcome any interested speakers to contact the field office.

The former Chair of Field Education, Natalie Clark, resigned from the School effective June 30, 2016, to take up a position at Thompson Rivers University. We wish her all the best in her new adventures. Moving forward, the new Chair of Field Education is Elizabeth (Liz) Jones, who has for a number of years been the Chair of the BSW Program.

In August 2016, after eight steadfast years as our Field Education Coordinator, Laura Harvey moved on to a new opportunity with the UBC Wellness Centre. We wish Laura all the best at her new "placement"! Our own grad, Chad Walters, has stepped in to work with Marisa Tuzi as our Field Education Coordinators. In mid-October, Jacqueline Coates will be joining the team as a full-time Field Education Coordinator.

In addition, starting fall 2016, we welcomed Aleksandra Djordjevic to the Field Education team as the point person for the Intern Placement Tracking System (IPT), HSPnet, and other Field Education-related roles.

We are looking forward to building on the successes of the past with increased resources in the year to come.

*Elizabeth Jones, Chair of Field Education  
Marissa Tuzi and Chad Walters, Field Education Coordinators  
Aleksandra Djordjevic, Admissions and Field Education*

## Centre Updates

### ***Centre for Inclusion and Citizenship***

Under the leadership of Dr. Tim Stainton, Director and Dr. Rachelle (UBC-O), Co-Director, the Centre for Inclusion and Citizenship (CIC) continues to grow its international reputation as Canada's only university-based research centre with a dedicated focus on intellectual disability policy and practice. We are pleased to announce that the CIC has accepted the invitation to become a Partner Organization of the IASSIDD Academy on Education, Training and Research. The Centre and the Academy share the goal of working with communities to apply research and scientific knowledge to policies, programs and services designed to help individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families achieve full inclusion, participation and citizenship.



Recently published by the CIC are the research reports "An Exploratory Analysis of WorkBC: How is it Working for People With Disabilities?" and "Living a Good Life: Quality of Life and Home Share." The first study documents and explores the intersection between employment service restructuring and employment outcomes for people with disabilities in British Columbia, with a particular focus on the impact of the decline in small community based employment service providers. The goal of the project was to learn about how changes in employment service provision have impacted people with disabilities in British Columbia over the past decade. A literature review and narrative, focus groups and interviews with employment service providers and service recipients were conducted.

The Home Share report, a mixed-methods research project initiated and funded by Community Living British Columbia, evaluates the outcomes for people who have moved from group home living arrangements into home sharing arrangements since 2007. Home Sharing is the fastest growing residential option in BC for people with intellectual disabilities. An emphasis was given to understanding individuals' satisfaction in their current home sharing experience with special focus on understanding their current quality of life (QoL) as informed by Dr. Schalock's QoL index. The design considered multiple perspectives (e.g., self-advocates, home share providers, and family/friend/caregiver perspectives) and will incorporate both quantitative and qualitative methods. The reports are available on the CIC website at [www.cic.arts.ubc.ca](http://www.cic.arts.ubc.ca).

In June, the CIC welcomed Nathan Despott, Director of Policy from Inclusion Melbourne and hosted Inclusion, Citizenship and Democratic Participation, a dialogue about increasing the participation of people with intellectual disabilities to become more politically aware, have full access and support to vote, and engage in political debate and organizing leading up to the May 2017 BC Provincial Election. Pictured on the left are members of the Self-Advocates of Semiahmoo (SAS) group who attended the workshop, with Nathan Despott and Tim Stainton. This event served as a launching point for an initiative coming this fall.



Members of the SAS group, Nathan Despott, and Tim Statinton at the Inclusion, Citizenship and Democratic Participation dialogue. *Photo credit: unknown, from CIC*

The Centre is currently undertaking a large 3 year project evaluating the National Ready Willing and Able (RWA) Employment Initiative for People with Intellectual Disability and Autism Spectrum Disorder, funded by the Canadian Association for Community Living & Canadian Autism Spectrum Disorders Alliance, is collaborating with Dis-Abled Womens' Network (DAWN) Canada's project on Legislation, Policy and Services Responses to

Violence Against Women with Disabilities and Deaf Women in Canada and participating with investigators Richard Young and Sheila Marshall's team on the project Transitions to Adulthood as Goal-directed Projects for Youth with Intellectual Disabilities and their Families.

Upcoming events include workshops and activities to acknowledge and celebrate October's Community Inclusion Month, November's Indigenous Disability Awareness Month and December's International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Volunteer opportunities for students are available. Drop in to SOWK Room 141, Like us on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/CentreForInclusionAndCitizenship/>, Follow us on Twitter @CICUBC and learn more at [www.cic.arts.ubc.ca](http://www.cic.arts.ubc.ca).

## Research Round-Up

### Grant Charles

Grant Charles recently had a number of articles published, including:

“How Care is Negotiated between a Young Carer and a Parent Facing Mental Illness and Addiction” in the *International Journal of Child, Youth and Family Studies* (with Aeyelts, Marshall & Young); “Developing a Shared Research Agenda for Working with Families Where a Parent has a Mental Illness” in the *Journal of Child and Youth Services*; “Enacting Firm, Fair and Friendly Practice: A Model for Strengths-based Child Protection Relationships?” in the *British Journal of Social Work* (with Carolyn Oliver); “Which Strengths-based Practice? Reconciling Strengths Based Practice and Mandated Authority in Child Protection Work” in *Social Work* (with Carolyn Oliver); “Doomed to Repeat It: The Selective and Collective Ignorance of the Shadowy Historical Foundations of Child and Youth Care” in *International Child and Youth Care*; “Is there a Care Gap for Young Carers in Canada? Edmonton Community Agencies’ Perspectives” in *Canadian Journal of Family and Youth* (with Waugh, Szafran, Duerksen, Torti, & Shankar)

and “Overcoming Isolation: Making the Case for the Development of Blended Service Learning and Social Work Interprofessional Field Education Experiences to Improve University-Community Engagement” in *Currents: Scholarship in the Human Services* (with Oliver & Alexander). He had a book chapter published entitled “Counseling Adolescents from an Action Theory Perspective” (with Marshall, Nelson, Goessling and Chipman) in *Toward Life-enhancing Work, Relationships and Identity*. He also co-edited a special edition (with Maybery & Ruepert) of the *Journal of Child and Youth Services* on “Families Where There is a Parental Mental Illness”.

He was an invited speaker at a number of conferences and forums on various topics including: “Challenging Our Assumptions: Finding New Ways To Look At What We Are Doing So We Can Do What We Are Doing Differently” at the Excellence in Residential Interventions Conference in Toronto; “Seeing Things Differently:

### ***We Welcome Mok Escueta to the School!***

Mok Escueta joins our School with nearly thirty years of professional social work field practice experience in the context of clinical social work/trauma psychotherapy, popular education, community development work, and social justice and change work in the Philippines, the United States, and Canada. He holds a PhD in Educational Studies degree from UBC, is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (California), and a Registered Clinical Social Worker (RCSW) in British Columbia. His experience includes development work in the Philippines as a member of the Philippine progressive movement, particularly in advocacy work with Philippine Indigenous Peoples’ in their efforts at ancestral domain defense and struggles for their right to self-determination. For over 15 years now, Mok has been a trauma psychotherapist working with people who are dealing with micro, meso, and macro-level trauma/retraumatization, continuing his practice using a social justice lens to contribute to peoples’ efforts at creating a more equitable society.

His vision for social work education involves helping further entrench participatory, dialogical, and collaborative pedagogies that advance not only critical but also creative thought and practice. He believes that it is vital that learning is relevant to the needs of our students, is based on peoples’ concrete realities, and is aimed at advancing social justice. He is interested in helping students develop comprehensive competencies involving clinical skills in the context of community/social development, to help address not just symptoms but also systems of distress/(re)traumatization.



Challenging What We Think We Know (with Ben Anderson-Naithe) at the Canadian Child and Youth Care National Conference in Halifax, "Using the Arts for Social Change" (with Glen Lowry) at the Inspiring Creative Dialogue: Arts and Health Research Symposium in Vancouver; "Aboriginal Children and Youth and Reconciliation in Child Welfare: Kinship and Permanent Placement" (with Amanda Willis, Dawn Thomas-Wightman & Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond) at the Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates Biennial Conference in St. John's; and "The Story of Paige: Professional Indifference and Systemic Racism" (with Cynthia Lee & Bill Naughton) at the British Columbia Teachers Federation Annual Conference in Kamloops. He also presented (with Bill Naughton) at Pediatric Grand Rounds at BC Children's Hospital on "The Duty to Report: Case Examples".

Grant contributed to a number of reports released by the BC Representative for Children and Youth, Dr. Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond, including "Paige's Story: Abuse, Indifference and a Young Life Discarded" [<https://www.rcybc.ca/paige>]; "A Review of Youth Substance Use Services in B.C."; "Approach with Caution: Why the Story of One Vulnerable B.C. Youth Can't be Told"; "The Placement of Children and Youth in Care in Hotels in British Columbia" (with MCFD); "B.C. Adoption Update"; "Cyberbullying: Empowering Children and Youth to be Safe Online and Responsible Digital Citizens" (with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner); "The Thin Front Line: MCFD Staffing Crunch Leaves Social Workers Over-Burdened, BC Children Under-protected"; "Next Steps for Action from the Forum for Change: Reconciliation for Today's First Nations, Metis & Aboriginal Children through Custom Adoption and Lifelong Family and Tribal Connections"; and "Growing up in BC 2015". He also contributed to two reports by the Child Welfare League of Canada (with Michelle Hayward-Farmer): "The Innu Enhanced Prevention Approach" and "Casework Overload: A Review and Analysis of Child Protection Human Resource Capacity in the Northwest Territories".

Grant was on sabbatical in 2015-2016. He spent the year as Visiting Scholar with the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth. He is currently working on a SSHRC funded project on child sexual images online with a team of researchers from Canada, Germany and the United Kingdom. He is collaborating (with Andrea Johnson and Hal Siden) on a study exploring the experiences of medical residents within a pediatric palliative care clinical rotation. He is also working on projects on custom adoption in Indigenous communities; student to student abuse in residential schools; young carers, children of parents with mental illness and the ethics of international service learning. He is currently working on two books: *Clinical Care for Homeless, Runaway and Refugee Youth: Program Development, Education and Research Directions* (with Curren Warf), and *Reconciliation with Children and Youth in Care* (with Mike Degagne and Glen Lowry).

## **Edward Kruk**

Since the last Bridge update, Edward Kruk's fifth book, *The Equal Parenting Presumption: Social Justice in the Legal Determination of Parenting After Divorce*, has been published by McGill-Queen's University Press. He also has two chapters in the book, *Social Work in a Global Context: Issues and Challenges*, edited by George Palattiyil, Dina Sidhva and Mono Chakrabarti and published by Routledge: "Child and Family Social Work in Canada: Issues and Challenges Within a Neo-liberal Political Context", and "Lessons from the Bam, Iran Earthquake: Devising a Social Work Charter for Unexpected Disasters".



In addition, Edward has published several articles, including: "Maternal Attachment, Paternal Overnight Contact, and Very Young Children's Adjustment" in the Journal of Marriage and Family; "A Home for Body and Soul: Substance Using Women in Recovery" in the Harm Reduction Journal; "Social

Justice, Spirituality and Responsibility to Needs: The ‘Best Interests of the Child’ in the Divorce Transition” in the *Journal of Spirituality in Mental Health*; “Experiences and Perspectives of Non-Residential Fathers and Mothers Following Divorce: Similarities and Dissimilarities” in the *International Journal for Family Research and Policy*, and “Divorced Fathers at Risk of Parental Alienation: Practice and Policy Guidelines for Enhancing Paternal Responsibility,” in *New Male Studies*. He continues to write for the popular magazine *Psychology Today*, a monthly feature on “Co-Parenting After Divorce.”

Edward was elected as the inaugural president of the International Council on Shared Parenting. The purpose of the association is first, the dissemination and advancement of scientific knowledge on the needs and rights (“best interests”) of children whose parents are living apart, and second, to formulate evidence-based recommendations about the legal, judicial and practical implementation of shared parenting. Edward is active as a member of the Janusz Korczak Foundation for children’s rights: he recently organized and moderated the lecture on “The Evolution, Current Status and Future of the ‘Best Interests of the Child’ Principle in the Protection of Children’s Rights”. He is also an active member of the Parental Alienation Study Group, as well as the Public Health Agency of Canada, contributing to a new publication on parenting after divorce.

He continues his work on the UBC Behavioural Research Ethics Board, and the Aid to Scholarly Publications Committee, Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences. He has presented keynote addresses at several conferences over the past months, including the International Conference on Shared Parenting in Bonn, the annual conference of Igualdade Parental in Portugal, the University of Athens’ Department of Law, and at the University of Lisbon’s Department of Law.



### **Sheila Marshall**

Sheila became an associate editor with the *Journal of Adolescence* last year. This journal is an exciting research venue to be involved with as it publishes and serves an international audience of youth practitioners, social workers, educators, and researchers. The Over 2 U research project centered in Vernon, BC has completed three years of data collection. Sheila and colleagues are now collaborating with youth to translate the findings into useful tools for parents and teens. The youth attend a community public school in Vernon and are ready to start work in the fall with writing plays and creating videos that represent the ways that parents and teens co-construct the shift of responsibilities (Over 2 U) to teens.

Sheila’s former MSW student, Renee Aeyelts, had research from her thesis published this past spring in the *International Journal of Child, Youth and Family Studies*. Renee’s article, co-authored with Sheila Marshall, Grant Charles, and Richard Young (education) documented how care was negotiated between a young carer and a parent facing mental illness and addiction.

Sheila and her research assistant, Mauricio Coronel-Villalobos, presented a paper at the Third Biennial Developmental Methods Conference in Whitefish, Montana in September. Their paper is concerned with the use of two analytic methods to delve into problems with items in a measure of depressive symptoms used with high school students.

Sheila and colleagues from BC Children’s Hospital published two papers on adolescents’ responses to various anthropomorphic assessments. Primarily, they were interested in hearing what adolescent girls think about being weighed in comparison to a less value-laden assessment, the mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC).



The findings suggest that health care providers may find that attention to teens' emotional responses to measurements is an important dimension in tracking obesity or malnutrition due to eating disorders.

### **Pilar Riaño-Alcalá**

Pilar is currently completing a SSHRC research project, "The Workings of Memory in Contexts of Crisis", that documents three in-depth ethnographic case studies on how social groups impacted by a five decades war in Colombia mobilize and negotiate memory in their everyday lives and social struggles.



As co-investigator in the Partnership Grant Canadian Consortium on Performance and Politics in the Americas, she organized the international workshop "Performing Embodied Oralities in the Americas: A Workshop on Methods and Practices in Bogotá" in December of 2015. Artists, academics, storytellers and activists from Colombia, Brazil, Costa Rica and Canada participated.

Pilar is currently advisor to the National Museum of Memory in Colombia, a museum that aims to disseminate the historical memory of the war. She was one of the keynote speakers at the conference Transcultural Urban Spaces: Where Geography meets Language at the University of Berne, Switzerland and the chair for the track, "Warfare, Atrocity and Genocide" for the Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting.

Pilar's most recent publications include: "Constructing Memory amidst War: The Historical Memory Group of Colombia" in the International Journal of Transitional Justice, 2016, 10(1): 6-24 (with Maria Victoria Uribe); "Skins of Memory: Art, Civic Pedagogy, and Social Reconstruction," in *Collective Situations: Dialogues in Contemporary Latin American Art*, Kester, G. and B. Kelley (eds.), Duke University Press, 2016.

### **Tim Stainton**

Throughout August 2016, Tim Stainton presented for various organizations throughout Australia, including at the International Association for Scientific Study in Intellectual and Developmental Disability (IASSIDD) World Congress. Tim was the IASSIDD World Congress Master Lecturer and received the 2016 IASSIDD Fellowship which is granted to those recognized by peers in the IASSIDD for outstanding contributions in the field of intellectual disabilities.



Tim Stainton is awarded IASSIDD Fellowship status. Photo credit: Linda Perry

Earlier this spring, he was invited to present at Community Living Ontario's Social Policy Forum, organized in collaboration with Ryerson University, which explored policy related to the direct funding of supports and services for people who have an intellectual disability and the broader concepts for self-determination as they relate to direct funding. Tim was also the Keynote Speaker and presented research findings on Individualized Funding, and Supported Living & Housing at the Newfoundland and Labrador Association for Community Living's 60th Anniversary Conference in April. Tim's current research projects include:

- An Evaluation of the National Ready Willing and Able (RWA) Employment Initiative for People with Intellectual Disability and Autism Spectrum Disorder, Canadian Association for Community Living & Canadian Autism Spectrum Disorders Alliance, 2015-2018. Ready, Willing and Able (RWA) is a national partnership of the Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL), the Canadian Autism Spectrum Disorders Alliance (CASDA) and their member organizations. Funded by the Government of Canada and active in 20 communities and in each province and territory across the country, RWA is designed to increase the labour force participation of people with intellectual disabilities and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).
- Transition to adulthood as goal-directed projects for youth with intellectual disabilities and their parents. SSHRCC, Richard Young, Sheila Marshall, Tim Stainton, Anat Zaidman-Zait. The purpose of this three year research project is to identify and describe the naturally occurring processes between parents of young adults with intellectual disability as they navigate the transition to adulthood. This study focuses on describing how parents co-construct the transition to adulthood for their son or daughter with intellectual disability. This study focuses on describing how parents co-construct the transition to adulthood for their son or daughter with intellectual disability. This study will shed light on the particular challenges that parents in this group face relative to the transition to adulthood, and how they jointly go about addressing them. Practitioners will be able to base interventions and support on information about parents' specific goals and strategies.
- "Diversifying health human resources: Exploring the experiences of practitioners with disabilities in the health professions." CIHR. T. Jarus, Krupa, T., Rozanova J., Roberts E., Stainton, T., Hole R., Warick R., Lee M., Groening M., Murphy S., Opini B., Parhar G., Roberts, B., Parhar A., Chen S., Fink-Jensen K., Shankar S.. Recently published through the Centre for Inclusion and Citizenship, with Dr. Rachelle Hole are the research reports entitled "An Exploratory Analysis of WorkBC: How is it Working for People With Disabilities?" and "Living a Good Life: Quality of Life and Home Share". See pages 4-5 for more information on these projects.

## **Miu Chung Yan**

On July 1, 2016, Miu was appointed as the Director of the School for a three-year term.

Prior to taking up his appointment, Miu made a five-week trip to Hong Kong, Mainland China and South Korea. During the trip, he gave 11 presentations at four universities, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Qinghai Normal University, Guangzhou Foreign Studies University, South China Normal University, and at the Biannual International Social Work Conference in Seoul. Topics of the 11 presentations covered proposal writing, social work development in China, social work and social justice, community organizations in Canada, and findings of the four-year SSHRC project on place-based service model.

In these four years, this SSHRC project has generated a vast set of data including survey data from over 700 service users of the 14 neighborhood houses in Metro Vancouver and hundreds of pages of transcripts of



Left: Collingwood Neighbourhood House; right: Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood House. Photo credits: unknown, from nhvproject.ca

individual and focus group interviews of approximately 200 people. Currently, the project team is working with their community partners to creatively disseminate their findings to different stakeholders in the community.

Last year, as a co-investigator, Miu embarked on a new SSHRC Insight Grant initiative to study the inner group dynamics among the Chinese immigrant communities in Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver. This initiative is to demystify the essentialist notion of a monolithic Chinese community by examining the complexity within the Chinese community due to the intersection of various historical, cultural and political factors.

In terms of publications, in the last twelve months, he has published four co-authored journal articles: "Driving ducks onto a perch: The experience of locally trained Shenzhen supervisor" in the *China Journal of Social Work*; "Examining the neoliberal discourse of accountability: The case of Hong Kong's social service sector" in *International Social Work*; "Mind the gaps: Barriers to service for young newcomers in marginalized communities" in *Canadian Ethnic Studies*; "Youth unemployment: Implications for social work practice" in the *Journal of Social Work*; and "Incorporating individual community assets in neighbourhood houses: Beyond the community building tradition of Settlement Houses" in *International Social Work*. His book chapter, entitled "Multiple Positionality and Intersectionality: Towards a Dialogical Social Work Approach" in the edited book *Diversity and Social Work in Canada* was published by Oxford University Press in March. Currently, he is co-editing with Dr. Uzo Anucha the first Canadian textbook, *Working with Immigrants and Refugees: Issues, Theories, and Approaches for Social Work and Human Service Practice*, which is scheduled to be published by Oxford University Press in early spring next year.

## Faculty Updates

This year, we sadly bade farewell to five faculty members. We thank them for their contributions to our School, and we wish them all the best in their journeys forward!

**Stephanie Bryson** has moved on to be the BSW Director and Associate Professor at Portland State University.

**Natalie Clark** has accepted a position as Associate Professor in the School of Social Work at Thompson Rivers University.

**Brian O'Neill**, Associate Professor Emeritus, retired after the 2015-16 academic year. Brian's research areas

included: social work and LGBT people, diversity in sexual orientation in provision of health and social services and in social work education, settlement service needs of LGBT immigrants, methods of qualitative inquiry, social service management.

**Richard Sullivan**, Associate Professor Emeritus, retired after the 2015-16 academic year. Richard's research areas included: child welfare, family policy, sexual minorities, epistemology, evaluation strategies.

**Frank Tester**, Professor Emeritus, retired at the end of July 2016. Frank's research area included: Inuit studies, Canadian social policy, community and international social development, environmental policy, critical social theory, existential theory, philosophy and approaches to practice. He will carry on with his SSHRC project until 2018.

## Student Updates

### **Andrea Johnson, MSW, PhD Cand.**

I am conducting a study with Drs. Grant Charles (UBC Social Work) and Hal Siden (UBC Medicine) secondary to my dissertation research entitled, "Exploring the Experiences of Medical Residents within a Pediatric Palliative Care Clinical Rotation".

Although the learning needs of pediatric residents (pediatric physician trainees) are becoming increasingly acknowledged in the medical literature, there remains a significant gap regarding their personal experiences working in palliative care. While training in pediatric palliative care has been a focus of recent research in that studies have investigated the medical knowledge and skill development of residents and the assessment of resident self-competence to deliver palliative care, this work neither addresses the personal experiences of residents caring for children who are palliative nor the personal nor professional impact on themselves while doing their training.

Our study is attempting to explore

### **Reflections on the CASWE Conference from Sarah Rush**

As the student representative for the foundations MSW program, I spent the year attending monthly curriculum meetings and translating and transmitting information back and forth between my cohort and the faculty. Much to my surprise – and amidst the frantic completion of my final term papers, a practicum and a live puppet show production – I was asked to attend the Canadian Association for Social Work Education (CASWE) conference in Calgary.

The CASWE is a national association of university facilities, schools, and departments that support and promote excellence in regards to social work education, scholarship and practice in Canada. Each year, the CASWE holds an annual conference, which brings together academics, students and community members to present research relating to social work practice and policy.

Leaving behind all evidence that would remind me that I had decided to take quantitative statistics this summer, I headed to Calgary. While on the outside, there was this ridiculous sense that I was in the midst of university frosh week – nametags, free water bottles, detailed schedules and organized socials – I stepped inside to the first presentation, and felt the warmth of academic passion and learning.

On that first day, I explored and reflected on what the "social" in social work means. I attended a series of presentations that explored the intersection of social work and the environment. It is impossible to look at human social interactions without taking into account the environment. While we are all affected by climate change, it is the most marginalized populations that are and will be the most affected – so, what does this mean for our

and understand the experiences of pediatric medical residents within a rotation in pediatric palliative care. We believe that the experiences of this group of physicians needs to be better understood both for their sake as well as for the children and families with whom they work. The impact of working with children with advanced diseases and children who are dying has both personal and professional dimensions and may affect how residents approach practice with this group of children and their families.

The study uses a qualitative research design and utilizes phenomenology methodology. When it is completed we hope to be able to recommend more effective ways to support medical residents in their practice with children with life-limiting diseases.

current social work practice? We engaged in a dialogue about how place impacts our identity and the identities of the clients and communities we work with. How can we incorporate the development of an ecological consciousness into our curriculum and social work practice? I left this day wondering whether by overlooking the environment in our practice, are we thereby ignoring an important aspect of our code of ethics? How can we develop the bravery and courage as a profession to take these issues on?

On the second day I was reminded about love. Freire said we “nurture the values of social work through genuine dialogue grounded in love”. Love has somehow become a muted element in our current social work practice. Rimor (2003) discusses social justice as a “pale imitation of the idea of love we all have in us from the start”. This notion that love is in a fact a prerequisite for social justice in the most abstract way makes sense. Love was what guided us into this practice: love for our work, our clients, our communities, and for a just world. As a profession, how can we reclaim love as a basis for our social work practice?

On the third day of the conference, I learned about courage (yes, courage can most definitely be taught). Raven Sinclair spoke about the radical injustices within our child welfare system (what she calls the child removal system). She spoke about colonization as not just the disposition from one’s land but the disposition from oneself. Again, herein lies the interconnectedness between one’s identity, sense of self and the land. In front of a full audience of social work faculty members, students and community members, Raven Sinclair had the courage to speak and act with purpose. She said that as social workers, we need to be very critical and rational about the child welfare system. We need to deeply reflect on how we as social workers perpetuate the economics of this system and how the system perpetuates itself. She left us with a quote by Foucault: “people know what they do, they know why they do what they do, but they don’t know what what they do does”.

I returned to Vancouver and was warmly greeted by t-tests, ANOVA and multiple regressions. While I returned from the conference still lacking any clarity on where I fit within this profession, I did however come back with a more finely tuned ethic of social justice.

## Stay in Touch!

The School of Social Work is located on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam people - 2080 West Mall, Vancouver, BC, Canada

[www.socialwork.ubc.ca](http://www.socialwork.ubc.ca) | @SocialWork\_UBC

