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Report...
from the Acting Director,
Associate Professor Brian O’Neill

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A s acting director for 2008-09, I would like to highlight some of the significant events and achievements of members of the School over the past year, provide some thoughts regarding challenges for the future, and extend a welcome to Dr. Kwong-leung Tang who will assume leadership of the School in July 2009.

I would like to begin this review highlighting an event that occurred early in the academic year. We were honoured that Professor Stephen Toope, President of UBC agreed to present the 2008 Richard B. Splane Lecture on Social Policy, which was held at the Liu Centre. The title of Professor Toope’s lecture was “A Right to Escape Poverty?” Interest in the topic and the speaker was high, the event was ‘standing room only.’ The full lecture is reproduced later in the Bridge.

Next, I would like to extend congratulations to the students who successfully completed their studies during this academic year. I expect that the 26 BSWs and 41 MSWs who graduated will use their knowledge and skills to advance social justice and contribute to the wellbeing of those they serve. I know that they bring their commitment to social work values as well as their experience and energy to helping people who are marginalized and disadvantaged in various ways. In addition, I draw your attention to the listing later in the Bridge of the various awards received by our students.

I would also like to note a recent increase to our faculty complement. With the support of Dean Nancy Gallini and Provost David Farrar, we have received an additional .5 faculty position. After an international recruitment process, Elizabeth (Liz) Jones has been appointed as a full-time tenure track Instructor I, a new position for the School. Liz will focus on teaching at the undergrad and Master’s levels and on leadership of the BSW program. Congratulations to Liz.

Congratulations are also due to Dr. Barbara Harris, 12 month Lecturer and First Nations BSW Coordinator. Barbara completed her doctorate at Simon Fraser University this Spring. As Richard Vedan returns from his...
Our faculty members met the challenges of teaching in all our programs and being active in research and service while five of our faculty were on leave and I was taking the director’s role – people really pulled together. We could not have achieved this without the contributions of our sessional instructors – they expertly drew on their practice and research experience to fill the gaps. I appreciated the spirit of cooperation and mutual supportiveness that all my colleagues exhibited. As we come to the end of this academic year we welcome back faculty who have been on leave: Frank Tester who returned in January, and Grant Charles, Tim Stainton and Richard Vedan who will return as of July 1.

I could not end this reflection without highlighting the essential contributions of staff – the constant structure around which the School is built. Together they responded to a myriad of questions from prospective applicants, worked through detailed admission processes, arranged field practica, administered scholarships and provided ongoing support to students and faculty. A key aspect of this support was technical expertise in relation to IT and audio-visual services – often provided when we encountered ‘mysteries’ in those areas. The cross-functional nature of School administration in terms of financial management, classroom scheduling, building maintenance and security allowed for many other functions that happen without most of us noticing them unless they don’t happen properly. The School administrator orchestrates all this work efficiently and effectively and with a sense of humour that is key.

In relation to research, clearly we have been highly productive. The broad range of scholarship undertaken by our MSW grads is evident later in this edition of the Bridge. Faculty members have been very successful in obtaining funding for their endeavours and have disseminated their findings widely through presentations as well as publications. Two developments are particularly notable. The Centre for Research on Personhood in Dementia Care led by Deborah O’Connor has received additional funding from the Michael Smith Foundation allowing it to continue to provide leadership in that field. In addition, the Centre for Inclusion and Citizenship, spearheaded by Tim Stainton of our School and Rachelle Hole of UBC Okanagan School of Social Work has been established within the School undertaking research and education focusing on the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in community life.

Richard Vedan, Frank Tester and Paule McNicoll have all contributed their ground-breaking work in relation to Aboriginal and Inuit issues. Several faculty members have also been active internationally. Sheila Marshall is coordinating an international summer school for doctoral students focusing on adolescence, the first time this event will be held outside of Europe. Miu Chung Yan and Liz Jones travelled to Nigeria to contribute to the development of social work in Nigeria, and Miu remained highly involved in China. In Australia, Grant Charles participated in a UN consultation on the sexual exploitation of Children. Our former director, Graham Riches made a keynote address at an Anti-poverty Symposium in Hong Kong. Margaret Wright has been invited to lecture on gender and migration in an international social work education program in Switzerland.

It has been a busy and challenging year. Several matters will require attention in the near future. Most pressing is the need to present a progress report in relation to the re-accreditation of the BSW program by the Canadian Association for Social Work Education. The issues are their identification of the need for more faculty in order to deliver the program and the need for further address issues in relation to First Nations social work education. These topics are key because the MSW program is up for re-accreditation during 2009-10. A major focus of work in the next months will be completion of the MSW self-study, headed up by Paule McNicoll. Also related to the MSW, our new curriculum for the Advanced Year MSW is being developed and headed up by Pam McNicoll. Also related to the MSW, our new curriculum for the Advanced Year MSW is being developed and headed up by Paule McNicoll. Also related to the MSW, our new curriculum for the Advanced Year MSW is being developed and headed up by Pam McNicoll.

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As I complete my year as acting director, I have a sense of satisfaction that we kept moving ahead. I look forward to the leadership of Dr. Tang. We appreciated his two visits to the School over the past year. He brings his experience as leader of schools of social work in British Columbia and Hong Kong. In addition to his widely-recognized scholarship, he has ideas to build on the success of the School. He will have the support of a strong team of faculty and staff as we move ahead.

Brian O’Neill, Associate Professor and Acting Director

Kwong-leung Tang
### Recent MSW Graduates

#### May, 2008

- **Adshead, Karen**

- **Lacombe, Karen**
  - Community Capacity Building: A Role for Neighbourhood Houses in Community Revitalization

- **McCartie, Sandra**
  - Lesbian Widows: Challenging Disenfranchised Grief

- **Miller, Julie**
  - Lightweight Women Rowers' Attitudes and Behaviours Towards Eating

- **Pannu, Darpanjot**
  - Help Seeking: Women's Experiences of a Benzodiazepine Dependency

- **Pleysier, Roelof**
  - Perspectives and Interpretations of Bullying Behaviour According to Elementary School Principals in Vancouver, British Columbia

- **Princeton, Bobbi**
  - Spirituality and Palliative Clients: A Social Work Perspective

- **Ramirez Molina, Sadia**
  - Review of the Working Paper Series on Housing and Immigrants Published by Metropolis British Columbia and the Ontario Metropolis Centre

- **Reede, Val**
  - Lesbian Intimate Partner Abuse

- **Renwick, Kristen**
  - Theoretical Underpinnings, Understanding Borderline Personality Disorder: Implications for the Health Field

- **Rockwell, Jasmyne**
  - Relationships as Remedy: Meeting the Social and Emotional Needs of Elders Living in Residential Care

- **Roy, Phillipe**
  - Listen To Me: Experiences of Recovery for Mental Health Service Users

- **Seo, Seonae**
  - Intercultural-intergenerational conflict experienced by Korean-Canadian mothers

- **Sodhi, Sabina**
  - Negotiating Identities: Indian Canadian Child Protection Workers Speak Out

- **Sutcliffe, Carmela**
  - A Qualitative Analysis: Identification of Supports for Adolescent Mothers Barriers of Mental Health Services Utilization Among Immigrant Women: Japanese Women Living in Metro Vancouver

#### November, 2008

- **Bakker, Sheri**
  - Abuse of Immigrant Women by the Spouses who Sponsor them

- **Brayford, Fiona**
  - The Treatment of Adolescent Eating Disorders with Home-Based Family Therapy

- **Chan, Emily**
  - Jumping Ship: Factors that have Influenced Social Workers to Leave the Aboriginal Teams

- **Connors, Les**
  - Health Care Workers' Perspectives of Self Neglected Older Adults who Resist Help

- **Corrigan, Kelly**
  - (Dis)embodied Experiences: Exploring the Meaning of Participation in Pro-eating Disorder Websites

- **Deacon, Jennifer**
  - Rural Social Service Delivery: Connecting Policy to Practice

- **Del Vecchio, Rhea**

- **Gorman, Jason**
  - Aboriginal Gambling

- **Goulding, Myrne**
  - A Discussion of Compassion Fatigue: It's Nature, Impact, Mitigating Factors and Prevention

- **Henthorne, Erin**
  - Ethical Decision-making in Dementia Care: A Theoretical Framework

- **Keogh, Tara**
  - Mother Child Programs in Canadian Correctional Facilities: The Experiences and Views of Four Previously Incarcerated Women

- **Kumar, Amenda**
  - Understanding Cultural Competency: An Exploration of Social Work Practices in Mental Health

- **Lim, Michelle**

- **Luey, Jason (Chee Hing)**
  - Understanding Social Work Experiences of Racism in the Current Health Care System: A Video Project

- **Lunny, Lindsay**
  - Making Connections: Grief and the Mandala

- **McCliggott, Sarah**
  - Are We Prepared? Acute Care Hospital Workers' Experiences Working with Persons Identified as Having a Personality Disorder

- **Medjuck, Melissa**
  - People for Sale: The Challenges, Strategies and Politics of Human Trafficking in Canada

- **Montgomery, Laura**
  - Healing Trauma: A Somatic Approach Within a Social Work Context

- **Morgan, Roberta**
  - How Women are Impacted and Recover from Childhood Emotional Abuse

- **Mulholland, Eric**
  - An Exploration of the Closure of an Assertive Community Treatment Program

- **Olonan, Ryna**
  - Engaging in Cross-cultural Social Work Practice in an International Development Project Working with Youth Impacted by HIV/AIDS in Uganda

- **Partridge, Steph**
  - The Relationship of Foster Parent Training to Retention

- **Pannu, Darpanjot**
  - Help Seeking: Women's Experiences of a Benzodiazepine Dependency

- **Pleysier, Roelof**
  - Perspectives and Interpretations of Bullying Behaviour According to Elementary School Principals in Vancouver, British Columbia

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Volume 14, Spring/Summer 2009

In Memoriam

Sharpe, Patricia L. (MSW’57)

Chicago Tribune, Wednesday 17 Sep 2008
The Chicago Tribune celebrates the life of UBC Alumna Patricia Sharpe, who died Sept. 12 of complications from leukemia. After receiving a master’s degree in social work from UBC in 1957, Ms. Sharpe went to Chicago and ran the venerable Hull House social services agency in the 1980s. Born in Wynyard, Saskatchewan on Sept. 7, 1925 the youngest of 6 children, Pat spent many years at Hull House Assoc. eventually assuming the position of Executive Director. In her retirement years Pat was active as a consultant to non-profit organizations with Executive Service Corps. Wife of the late Carl Kannewurf; sister of Irene, Norman, Phyllis, Lindsay and Marshall; fond aunt of many nieces and nephews.

Veljacic, Julie Ann (BSW’00)

Julie Ann passed away suddenly on Thursday, June 26th, 2008 at the age of 42 years. Beloved wife of Creighton Bruce, loving mother of Riley and Owen, cherished daughter of Marilyn and Roger Pavan. Dear sister of David (Dean Veljacic-Thullner) and niece of Sandra and Bruno Quercetti. Julie will also be sadly missed by her many family and friends. A celebration of Julie’s life was held on Saturday, July 5th, 2008.

Chave, Estelle (MSW’52)

CHAVE Estelle Christine (nee Matheson) November 10th, 1914 - October 21st, 2008 Estelle died in Vancouver General Hospital as the result of a stroke 10th, 1914 - October 21st, 2008 Estelle died in Vancouver General Hospital as the result of a stroke only a couple of weeks short of her 94th birthday. She was predeceased by her husband Cyril (July, 1999), by her first grandson Richard Sanderson (February, 2008), and by her sister Jean Higginbotham (August, 2004). She is survived by her daughter Rosalind Sanderson, her son-in-law Alan, her grandson Trevor, her younger sister Joan Matheson, and other relatives in Vancouver and Toronto. She was a warm, loving, generous, and intelligent person in all her roles, best-beloved mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, and sister. The family and many friends will all miss her terribly. Estelle was born in Winnipeg, but grew up in New Westminster and Victoria. She attended Oak Bay High School and Victoria College before moving on to U.B.C., where she attained her B.A. in Honours French in 1935, and performed in several Players’ Club productions. She then studied Social Work, and was subsequently employed by the Children’s Aid Society. In 1952, she returned to U.B.C. and earned her M.S.W., after which she became a case-work supervisor at the Child Guidance Clinic until 1957. From the early 1960’s until her retirement in about 1975, Estelle was a professor in the U.B.C.’s School of Social Work.

Alumni

Hi all;

As many of you may recall, the UBC Social Work Alumni was left a bequest of $5000 from the late Jack MacDonald’s estate. Some of these funds were used to support Alumni events at our 75th Anniversary conference but we still have over $3000 from this bequest. It has been suggested that a process be put in place to consider requests for funds to support various events or awards involving Alumni. An example might be a modest contribution of $50 to $100 towards a door prize, gift or award at a social work conference that would have Alumni in attendance. I will be setting up a meeting with interested Alumni and Brian O’Neill in September to discuss criteria for requests and how this might be set up administratively. If anyone is interested in participating in this meeting, or would just like to provide some suggestions, please contact me at kazyan@trustee.bc.ca.

Thanks, Kimberly Azyan

Sessional Profiles

DAVID KEALY – Summer 2009

I am a UBC School of Social Work alum (MSW, 2002) and have been working in community mental health since 1998. My role for the past seven years has been as Clinical Coordinator for an assessment and treatment team in Surrey. My current areas of interest include psycho-dynamic psychotherapy, treatment of and services for people with personality disorders, and clinical supervision. This summer I am teaching Advanced SOWK Practice: Mental Health in Term 1.

RENEE ROBERT

My name is Renee Robert and I am currently at the Native Education College in the Lower Mainland. I am a member of the British Columbia College of Social Workers and the BC Association of Social Workers. For more than 17 years I have practiced in B.C., Alberta, and the Northwest Territories, as well as overseas in Africa, Israel and Europe.

For the last 10 years I have primarily focused on providing crisis and therapeutic counselling services to the Aboriginal community. Currently, I am the Coordinator at the Family Violence Resource Centre in Vancouver offering both counselling as well as therapeutic resources (books and other media) to community members. I also have the great privilege of working as one of the faculty liaison to students enrolled in the First Nations BSW programme at the UBC School of Social Work.

Throughout the years I have also volunteered in my community. I served as a board member for several Aboriginal wellness agencies. I have volunteered with a variety of women's groups, worked with Elders and assisted at spiritual and community events. I have also spent some time working with families who have children who are diagnosed with FAS and NAS, and with other groups providing services to children.

I was born in Vancouver and grew up in the West End and Richmond. My heritage is Sahtu Dene from the NWT, and Irish/Welsh. I was a single mom, but now live with my fiancé and my (Honour Roll) teenage daughter who is both Dene and Heiltsuk from Bella Bella. My ancestry is an important part of who I have become. I have been taught and truly believe that everything we need to help ourselves and others we carry inside. When you have the ability to share your medicine, your wisdom, your authentic self, change can truly happen in the world. I love being a social worker and contributing to the well-being of my people, it helps me grow and makes a better future for my child.

HEATHER WHITEFORD – Crime Prevention Community Safety Individual Award


Heather Whiteford has been employed with Family Services of Greater Vancouver (FSGV) since 1988 and has worked tirelessly with, and on behalf of, individuals who have experienced crime or who are at risk of victimization. In her current role as Manager of Victim Services, Heather leads a variety of programs that provide support, education and counselling to children, adults and families who have experienced, or are at risk of experiencing, many forms of violence and abuse.

With the staff in the Victim Services programs of FSGV Heather has continued the development of the working partnership with the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) and New Westminster Police Service (NWPS). These partnerships (the DUV and the DVR) have become one model of excellence for Police Services and Community organizations across B.C. Heather is recognized for her development of the Abuse of Older Persons Pilot Projects with both VPD and NWPS. Likewise, Heather has played a critical role in the establishment of a Family Violence Unit partnership with the Richmond RCMP, a program that supports victims of family violence. Since its inception, Heather has chaired or co-chaired the New Westminster Community Action Committee for Women who Experience Violence. Heather’s work in all these programs and projects is based on the belief...
that the safety of victims of crime and communities is possible only with a collaborative, integrated approach, in which the contributions of each service and community member are valued.

Students: News & Views

International AIDS Conference – Mexico City, Mexico

Last August, with the help and support of the UBC School of Social Work, I was able to attend and present at the International AIDS Conference in Mexico City, Mexico. This was an amazing experience that allowed me to meet and network with the leaders in the field that I have been specializing in. Along with six other members of the YouthCO-Healing Our Spirit Theatre Troupe, I presented a poster and workshop, about our work engaging Aboriginal Youth in issues about oppression and stigma through forum theatre.

This was a great professional and personal experience that allowed me to see and contribute to the work being done around the world in the field of HIV/AIDS. I was able to hear Bill Clinton, Ban Ki-Moon, Stephen Lewis, and countless other influential people in the field of HIV/AIDS. This experience also allowed me to expand the knowledge and interventions that I have been practicing in my current practicum with HIV positive clients at the Downtown Community Health Centre (DCHC) Maximally Assisted Therapy (MAT) program. I will also use these skills as I set out as a newly graduated B.S.W. in the field of community health.

Canadian Professional Association for Transgender Health – Toronto, Ontario

In June 2008, MSW student Marcus Greatheart presented a poster at the first national meeting of the Canadian Professional Association for Transgender Health in Toronto. The poster represented an early version of what became his thesis research project, The Fred Study, and provided Marcus a great opportunity to engage with trans people and service providers from a variety of disciplines. The support he received was positive, and the critical feedback was instrumental in the process of developing the necessary critical lens.

The conference provided an opportunity to network with professionals from across the country, as well as local providers from Vancouver Coastal Health’s Transgender Health Program. Also in attendance was Dr. Aaron Devor, Dean of Graduate Studies at the University of Victoria, and a member of Marcus’ thesis committee, who presented a keynote on his own research.

The conference coincided with Toronto’s annual Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Celebrations which only added to the excitement of the event. After the conference, Marcus was able to spend a few days visiting with family who live in nearby Mississauga before returning home to Vancouver.

Marcus Greatheart, MSW student

Social Work National Conference - Toronto

As a student representative for the School of Social Work, I recently had the privilege of attending the 2008 Social Work National Conference in Toronto. Hosted by the Ontario Association of Social Workers and co-sponsored by the Canadian Association of Social Workers and the Canadian Association for Social Work Education, this memorable event surely set a standard as my first-ever conference experience.

In 2008, I was awarded the distinct honour of being the sole UBC recipient of the CIDA/AUCC Students Development Grant Award for a governance project that I had developed to facilitate leadership development and capacity-building initiatives with children and youth impacted by HIV/AIDS in Uganda. Thanks to the support of the UBC School of Social Work 75th Anniversary Global Learning Endowment Fund Grant, I was able to take my project an extra step further in a unique, refreshing and innovative direction. Ultimately, this grant from the School of Social Work gave me the further opportunity to take my classroom learnings after graduation and translate them into actual practice; to achieve this idea of praxis that we had spent so much of our time in our MSW classes discussing.

Using appreciative inquiry methodology, I designed and led a conference necessary to effectively kickstart and provide a strong foundation for the entire course of my project. And so it was in the small rural township of Mbale, Uganda that I facilitated the process of discovering, dreaming and designing destinies with youth representatives interested in becoming leaders in the national and even international effort to address the AIDS pandemic. Through song, poetry, music, dance and plays, these brilliant youths narrated their personal stories and illustrated their visions for an empowered future. The positive core energy could actually be physically felt within that room as passion and inspiration radiated off each of the four walls that embraced every participant that attended, myself included. And as goats and chickens insisted on crashing the venue, I was sure that they must have felt it too.

In the end, using this particular new process for whole systems change to design a conference for the future leaders of Uganda and perhaps even the world, ultimately provided these kids with an amazing opportunity to meet one another in one place, share stories and experiences, have their strengths highlighted, be rewarded about their work and encouraged to build upon their current programming in their fight to take control not only of HIV/AIDS, but of their own destinies. All in all, the conference was a beautiful and inspirational day and thanks to the support of the UBC...
School of Social Work, I was honoured to have had a small role in it. The energy, work and insight provided from this day was used to fuel the course of the rest of my project, including the development of a peer leader program which included a workshop, peer counseling and education training modules and materials, an income-generating activity including basic accounting and marketing workshops, in addition to a partnership and advocacy work with a local grassroots community-based AIDS service organization which has increased its commitment and even provided funding to child and youth programming as a result of this project. And now that I am back in Vancouver and I reflect back upon this journey, I know that from the seeds planted during that one conference, the possibilities will continue to be endless.

Ryna Olonan, MSW Student

Are You Considering the Part-Time Student Option?

I was a part-time student that did my MSW from 2004 to 2008. I thought it might be of interest to the readers to comment on this experience. It has been my great privilege to complete this experience and share it with my fellow students. Some passed everything brilliantly, others dropped out complaining and some died much too soon and my fellowship and everything brilliantly, others dropped out complaining and some died much too soon and my fellowship and everything brilliantly, others dropped out complaining and some died much too soon and my fellowship and everyone else who encountered me during those years. I have no other students who have felt the same and I feel grateful that I could have enjoyed the luxury of being able to devote more of my time to subjects, while my full-time peers have balanced 5 to 6 courses. I miss the opportunity of gradu- ating with each year of the full-time student cohort, but my time did come in November 2008. It cost over ten thousand in tuition total, so part-time remains a more expensive approach.

I discovered there is no real structured plan for part-time students as there is for full-time students and this takes some time to understand and make up for. Across UBC, policies supporting full-time students are clearly less inclusive of part-time students. Despite the systemic bar- riers I found the MSW committee, Brian O’Neill and many other professors and staff were supportive and patient in giving a voice to the part-time students and their concerns within the School of Social Work.

There is no student loan or bursary assistance for part-time students and very little in the way of scholarships. They may not hold student political office despite the fact there is real difficulty recruiting for these positions, as full-time students are so busy. Part-time students cannot apply for Teaching Assistant and Researcher posi- tions, and many other campus jobs. It would seem there is a predominant assumption that we part-time students are all employed and economically independent.

This is not an assumption supported by the research of anyone I have heard from. When I have asked the Faculty of Graduate Studies to help me illumi- nate better the issues of part-time studies at UBC and they had nothing to offer. It has been my expe- rience that part-time students in the School of Social Work are usually female, older and with family responsibilities to support, as well as working part-time in low wage jobs. We observed that professors can lecture about social justice but then refuse requests for extensions when a student has a child sick or their job and child care has gotten in the way of their learning. In 2007 Revenue Canada cancelled the practice of giving full time educational de- ductions to part-time grad students, so support ques- tions will come up a little more expensive all the time for part time students.

As a new positive development, the bus pass pro- gram has been a very civilised addition to the opportunities for part time students. I am proud to say I completed a degree without bringing a car on campus more than few times. Despite my concerns I could not have afforded a full time option so this was my only option. I am older, learn slower and dream. I would like to think taking my extra time has made me learn exceedingly well. I have had time left over to do other activities such as the Sunrun team, student rep. committee work, note- taking assistance and writing. I would heartily rec- ommend and encourage other students to consider the part-time route and extra activities, but also to be aware of some of the difficulties.

A growth in applications by part-time students in response to a faltering economy and high tuition bar- riers is quite possible across the campus. Further thought and study to the support of part-time student human resources could reap more enrollment, more active students, with better access to enrollment, pow- ered by necessary supports, and result in more involved and productive graduates. "Tuum est!" Eric Mulholland, BA, MSW

Social Work Student Awards

Scholarship Winners for OBW

Jack & Isabel Kirkpatrick Scholarships in Social Work
  - Katherine Andersen (BSW)
  - Laura Brook (BSW)
  - Krista Mullaney (MSW)
  - Kristen Stewart (MSW)

St. Leonard’s Youth and Family Services Scholarship
  - Carla Filipponi (BSW)

Jean Jure Scholarship
  - Genevieve Frenette (MSW)

Laura Holland Scholarship
  - Rosse Khan (BSW)

Beatrice Wellington Gonzales Memorial Scholarship in Social Work
  - Skye Ruttle

Richard Splane Doctoral Scholarship
  - Harvey Bosma

Neil Douglas McKay Scholarships
  - Teresa Chan (MSW)
  - Melissa Strong (MSW)

Linda Smith Hawkes Scholarships
  - Stefania D’Elia (MSW)
  - Harjit Dhaliwal (MSW)
  - Shannon Fitzsimmons (MSW)
  - Priya Sharma-Dhillon (MSW)

Lillian To Memorial Scholarship Fund
  - Sonia Bilku, MSW

Thomas A. Dohm Scholarship in Social Work
  - Denise Wynne (MSW)

Mary Hill Scholarship in Social Work
  - Corrie Funk (MSW)

Eric Mulholland

SCHOOL UPDATES

Bachelor of Social Work

T he BSW Accreditation Report received in late 2008 gave the program a 2 year accreditation, based on two major factors: (1) The need for additional faculty resources to respond to all the aca- demic offerings at the School, specifically 2.5 more fac- ulty; and (2) The need to further address First Nations education within the BSW program. To date, the School has received an additional 0.5 of a faculty posi- tion. A Strategic Planning process in relation to First Nations has been initiated in the School, led by Dr. Richard Vedan. A Report will need to be sent to the CASWE (the accrediting body) in Spring, 2010, report- ing on the School’s progress in addressing these two factors. CASWE will then decide on whether the accreditation will be extended or not.

Other than these two factors, the Accreditation Report was highly complimentary about the BSW program.
We continue to have an active and committed BSW Curriculum Committee made up of students, community members, staff, and faculty which meets 4 times each year to review the program and address any emerging issues. A student program evaluation was held at the end of the academic year in April, 2009, with all third and fourth year students participating. The evaluation will result in a report for the BSW Curriculum Committee to be reviewed in September, 2009, and to inform the work of the Committee for the next academic year.

Elizabeth Jones, Instructor
Chair, BSW Program

PhD Program

The 2008 cohort of the PhD program has 4 students all of whom are progressing well and engaged in funded research. We look forward to Tim Stainton’s return as Chair of the PhD program following his sabbatical this year. Meanwhile, we have admitted five very promising doctoral students into the 2009 cohort, each of whom will be teamed with a faculty advisor in their area of research. Our two earlier cohorts are all progressing well and advancing to candidacy and we anticipate our first graduation in 2010.

Richard Sullivan, Associate Professor
Acting Chair, PhD Program

Centre for Inclusion and Citizenship

The School of Social Work is pleased to announce the official opening of the Centre for Inclusion and Citizenship.

The Centre officially opened on March 25th 2009 with a public reception at the School. The Centre came about through a partnership between Community Living British Columbia who provided a $100,000 start up grant, the BC Association for Community Living and other community organizations concerned with promoting the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all aspects of community life. The work of the centre will be deeply rooted in the community living movement and committed to improving both access to and quality of needed supports and services that people with developmental disabilities and their families require to enhance their inclusion in community life as well as identifying and addressing broader barriers to full social inclusion.

Over time, the Centre will provide:

- Training and learning opportunities for individuals, families, service providers, direct support staff, professionals and other interested community members
- Conduct research and evaluation
- Develop training curricula
- Provide consultation
- Facilitate leadership development through opportunities for student learning and research and community education

The Centre operates as a unit of the School under the direction of Professor Tim Stainton and Dr. Rachelle Hole of the UBC Okanagan School of Social Work and an advisory board drawn from community, governmental and academic organizations. Colleen Evans has been hired as the Coordinator of the Centre. If you’d like more information regarding the work of the Centre please contact any of the above persons through the School.

Filming Project for SOWK 570E/NURS586

In order to understand family violence and to be able to produce effective responses to it, it is useful to have visual representation of the dynamics of violence as well as models of effective interventions. Furthermore, visual representation of experienced social workers explaining their approach can facilitate student learning. For a new Graduate cross-listed online course at UBC Violence in Families: Advanced Understandings and Responses, SOWK 570E/NURS 586, the leading course instructor, Dr. Mary Russell, has developed a number of video components. These video clips have made extensive use of the expertise available in the local community. The facilities and assistance of the Office of Learning Technology have been instrumental in the filming, and editing. All clips will be incorporated into the lessons for the course. So far, three scenes have been filmed:

1. Children Who Witness Family Violence Mock Group: Understanding Anger and Developing Tools for Healthy Expression of Anger, filmed at Sexsmith School with two Counselors from Family Services of Greater Vancouver (FSGV) and nine students, 10-12 years old. Special thanks to Karen Hudson, Program Manager of FSGV.

2. The Car 86 Program: This program is a partnership between the Vancouver Police Department and what is now the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development. Participants Janet Douglas (Child Protection Social Worker and UBC Ph.D. student) and Lindsey Houghton (Vancouver Police Sergeant) were filmed at the Vancouver Police Station at Cambie and 2nd Streets.

3. Domestic Violence: Role play and interviews were filmed at UBC Telestudios with the following participants:
   - Domestic Violence Role Play (Sandra Menker, Gali Bar, and Dr. Mary Russell);
   - MCFD (Ministry of Children and Family Development) Interview (Sheila Robinson, Debbie Samjia, Paul Houle, and Dr. Mary Russell)

Special thanks to Paul Houle, who is the team leader of MCFD, for arranging the event.

INTERNATIONALIZATION

SHEILA MARSHALL, Associate Professor, is coordinating an International and Interdisciplinary summer school on adolescence from June 1st to June 6th. The summer school, funded by the Jacobs Foundation, is jointly sponsored by the European Association for Research on Adolescence (EARA) and the Society for Research on Adolescence (SRA).

Summer schools are training grounds for doctoral students interested in adolescent development. Since 2001, EARA has hosted summer schools to train young researchers. In 2008, a joint sponsorship between EARA and SRA was established. The summer school in Vancouver will be the first to be held outside of Europe.

The senior researchers who will be participating in the Vancouver summer school are Lisa Diamond (US), Xiaojia Ge (US), Leo Hendry (Wales), Shelley Hymel (Canada), Margaret Kern (Sweden), Reed Larson (US), Håkan Stattin (Sweden) and Marcel van Aken (Netherlands). These senior researchers were selected from an initial list of 33 scholars from North America, Europe, and Australia.

Sixty-eight doctoral students from 15 countries applied to 24 positions in the summer school. Students were selected by panels for their demonstrated excellence in research. Students are from universities in Australia, Belgium, Cameroon, Canada, Croatia, Germany, Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden, United Kingdom, and the United States. Past summer schools have given students enthusiasm to search for scientific guidance outside of the borders of their countries and...
the walls of their universities. We look forward to the upcoming summer school at UBC this June.

MIU CHUNG YAN, Associate Professor, has continued with his involvement with the Social Work in Nigeria Project (SWIN-P) with his third visit to the City of Benin in Nigeria. This time he attended and made a presentation at the National Social Work Institute of Benin of Nigeria. This time he attended and made a presentation at the National Social Work Institute of Benin of Nigeria. Meanwhile, Elizabeth Jones also participated in this program. Meanwhile, Elizabeth Jones also participated in this program. Meanwhile, Elizabeth Jones also participated in this program. Meanwhile, Elizabeth Jones also participated in this program. Meanwhile, Elizabeth Jones also participated in this program.

On January 6th and 7th 2009, the annual Student/Practitioner Conference took place at the School. This conference is an opportunity for students to hear directly from those working in the field on specialized topics. We welcomed a diverse range of presenters who shared their work in areas such as Play Therapy, Human Trafficking and International Social Work to name a few. We received valuable feedback from students who attended the workshops and look forward to planning the conference for January 2010.

The next year our priorities will be developing more opportunities for student placements in the non-profit sector as well as working on securing more placements for our MSW students with MCFD.

Elizabeth Jones, Instructor and Acting Chair, Field Education and Laura Harvey, Field Education Coordinator

GRANT CHARLES, in conjunction with other colleagues, received just over $280,000 in grants this year on projects related to psychosocial oncology, settlement and refugee services in BC, children of parents with mental illness and community partnerships for health professional education. He presented at a number of conferences on a range of topics including young carers, field education, social work relationships and interprofessional education and practice. He was also a guest lecturer at Griffith University and the Queensland University of Technology. He was an invited participant at the Business Unusual: The United Nations Global Thematic Consultation on Corporate Social Responsibility for the World Congress III Against the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents where he moderated a panel on the Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism.

EDWARD KRUK has published, "Child Custody, Access and Parental Responsibility: The Search for a Just and Equitable Standard", a peer-reviewed report three years in the making, examining the state of Canadian child custody law and policy, with a proposal for a new "four-pillar" framework of child custody determination. The release of this SSRC-funded, Fatherhood Involvement Research Alliance-sponsored report has been widely reported in the media, prompting two national newspapers to cite Dr. Kruk as "Canada's leading child custody researcher".


SHEILA MARSHALL and colleagues (Richard Young at UBC, Susan Lollis at U of Guelph, and Lauree Tilton-Weaver at Örebro Universitie in Sweden) received $166,827 from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada to conduct "Policy: Welfare Regimes in a Developed World (2nd Edition)" as part of the "Interactions and Comparisons" project. In addition, she is co-directing a project with Mark P. Smith on "Social Justice Education for Students and Faculty: A Critical Perspective". Involvement Research Alliance-sponsored report has been widely reported in the media, prompting two national newspapers to cite Dr. Kruk as "Canada's leading child custody researcher".

Parents' and adolescents' joint goal-directed actions regarding extracurricular structured and unstructured activities with peers' time with peers has been the focus of a great deal of attention in the parent guidance and intervention literature as researchers and clinicians attempt to ensure that adolescents do not establish relationships with peers who are similar to their deviant or delinquent peers. The advice has been for parents to track their children's whereabouts and associations with peers and keep an eye on activities that might get out of control. Although this advice has been around for a long time the logic is sound and the research flawed. The advice is founded on the idea that the flow of influence is only from parents to their adolescent children. The research does not use a model of relationships that takes into account interpersonal dynamics or the actions of adolescents. This two-site, multi-informant research is concerned with the ways in which parents and adolescents act together with regard to adolescents' time in structured and unstructured activities with peers. The development and test of an intervention based on the joint actions of parents and adolescents initiates a new approach to practice with families. The findings will help practitioners advance their understanding of how adolescents and parents anticipate change or stability in adolescents' peer relations, respond to changes in adolescents' peer relationships, and construct and coordinate family boundaries.

BRIAN O'NEILL has submitted a chapter on issues in responding to the needs of gay and lesbian immigrants for inclusion in a forthcoming book on gender and immigrant health. He is also continuing his work examining social services from the standpoint of gay and lesbian immigrants. In May, at the Canadian Association for Social Work Education Conference in Ottawa, he will be part of a plenary panel addressing how to teach about intersecting aspects of oppression and is also presenting a paper with MSW student Marcus Greatheart on the experiences and perceptions of transgendered men regarding their well being and satisfaction.

RICHARD SULLIVAN, together with social work PhD student Margo Nelson and Professor Michael Chandler (Psychology) is working with the Canadian Aboriginal Child & Family Services Society to operationalize an aboriginal model of practice to determine whether such practice can sustain and facilitate cultural continuity and whether that is related to better outcomes for children and families. The research is funded by UC and the Ministry of Children and Family Development through the Human Early Learning Partnership.

FRANK TESTER was on sabbatical leave in 2008. Part of his time was spent with the Canadian Studies Programme, University of Edinburgh. Frank continues his SSHRC funded research on the history of poverty and practice and current status of Inuit housing. In October, Frank’s documentary film “Iglurjaartaasaavut” (“Our New Homes”) premiered at the 14th Biennial Inuit Studies Conference in Winnipeg. The film deals with the transition Inuit made from land-based camps, tents and igloos to settlements and wood frame houses in the 1950s and ’60s. In January 2008, Frank was appointed research advisor to the Qikiqtaani Truth Commission examining events related to the settlement of Inuit in the Baffin region of Nunavut. His research resulted in three publications: “Families of the Inuit: Social and Emotional Problems Related to Current Inuit Housing” was released earlier this year. Frank’s legal challenge, on behalf of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, an organization representing Inuit rights, is continuing with the National Aboriginal Policy forum.

RICHARD VEDAN is engaged with five research projects at the regional, national and international level as Co-Principal Investigator with the Western Health Care Providers Project to develop complementary practices and service delivery by bringing participants together from across North America. Annual funding of $65,240 is provided by the Northern Indian Health Services (NIHS) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health in British Columbia and the Western Arctic (NEAHRBC-WA). Regionally the Slapsin (Spallumcheen) Child Welfare Project and the Social Services Grant from the Saskatchewan Indigenous People’s Health Research Centre is examining individual, family and community experiences with the child welfare system. For the past four years with colleagues throughout the province, Richard has been involved with the Network Environments for Aboriginal Research in British Columbia. The $50,000 per year Michael Smith Health Research Foundation grant was recently renewed until 2012 to establish a provincial strategic Aboriginal research focus, increase capacity in Aboriginal health research, establish a sustainable network of researchers and communities, and to promote and facilitate excellent research. A CHIRI/APH of $600,000 per year 2007-2010 grants the Network Environments for Aboriginal Health in British Columbia and the Western Arctic. Research Fellowships are provided to students across the two regions. The text is being used in the making of a documentary film on Inuit language by Inuit Sled Dogs. The text is being used in the making of a documentary film on Inuit life by Inuit Sled Dogs. The film is scheduled to be released later this year.

MARY RUSSELL presented a paper at the 2008 Social Work National Conference in Toronto, entitled “Lone mothers describe parenting needs: Canadian experiences, European solutions”. A revised version of this paper, entitled “Canadian Lone Parenting: Describing Parenting needs: European solutions explored”, is in press with the Canadian Social Work Review. Another paper, co-authored with Penny Gunstein (Community & Regional Planning), entitled “A qualitative study of income assistance: Lone mothers on Income Assistance quest for housing”, was presented at the 7th International Conference on Urban Health in Vancouver. Another paper emanating from the ongoing research project on parenting is in with Child Welfare having been submitted by Annemarie Gockel (now a Smith College faculty member) and coauthored by Barbara Harris and Mary. Mary’s study of student responses from 5 years of teaching a lifespan approach to family violence to social work and nursing students on-line was published in the Journal of Social Work Education. Mary also continues to engage in research services to women who have been abused with the Justice Access Society for Maintaining Independence and Empowerment (JASMINE).

TIM STAINTON is continuing with the Community Living Research Project. Results from this large-scale quantitative survey of families and service users are currently being analyzed and will be released by the summer of 2009. On sabbatical for 2008/09, he has been working on completing his manuscript on the history of the construction of intellectual disability.
A Right to Escape Poverty? 2008 Dr. Richard B. Splane Lecture on Social Policy

Thursday, October 2, 2008

Remarks by
Professor Stephen J. Toope
President and Vice-Chancellor
The University of British Columbia

Thank you, Graham [Riches] and Patsy [George] for inviting me to give this year’s Richard B. Splane lecture. Dr. Splane’s contributions to Canadian social policy and his work on behalf of agencies like UNICEF and the International Council of Social Welfare have given him a well-deserved reputation as a progressive, wide-ranging, and influential thinker, someone whose ideas have had a profound effect on this country’s policies both at home and abroad. I feel honoured to be associated with Dr. Splane in this way.

My remarks are entitled “A Right to Escape Poverty?” Let me begin by addressing the question mark in my title. Am I challenging the view that people are entitled to a life of reasonable comfort, with access to all the basic necessities of life? Clearly, I am not opposed to such sentiments, nor to make those conditions possible, one must be able to rise above the constraints and limitations created by poverty.

The question I am posing in my title is: can poverty be overcome simply by the establishment and articulation of rights? What exactly do we mean when we assert a right, and how do we make such notions meaningful?

First, let me remind you of the dimensions of the problem. Everyone here is familiar, at least in general terms, with the nature and scale of poverty around the world, though of necessity understandings of what constitutes poverty will differ from country to country. In Canada we have no absolute scale by which to measure the concept of poverty: there have been attempts to match dollar incomes against “basic needs,” and on such a scale it has been calculated that currently a family of four would have difficulty meeting basic needs with an income below about $23,000 annually. Such measures are only guidelines at best, however, for they operate against the background of a society which provides healthcare, public schooling, welfare support, minimum wage laws, and so on.

Imagine instead a society in which none of these conditions apply, and in which the average annual income for a family is a fraction of what is regarded as barely acceptable in Canada. Last month the World Bank estimated that 1.4 billion people, or one-quarter of the population of the developing world, lived below our international line of $1.25 a day in 2005 prices.

To take this a little further: It has been calculated that 95% of the world’s population lives on less than $10 a day; and that 40 percent of the world’s population—around 2.6 billion people—account for just 5% of the world’s income.

And let me give you one last, grim statistic: that 25,000-30,000 children die around the world each day—almost 10 million a year—before they reach the age of five, deaths directly attributable to poverty—to the inability of their parents or caregivers to provide them with the basic necessities of life.

The numbers are so large as to be almost meaningless; they are simply too hard - - and perhaps too sad - - to grasp. Research in social psychology tells us that people are much more likely to be influenced by concrete cases of poverty, malnutrition and death. Hence the power of child sponsorship schemes. However, development research tells us that it is exactly that desire to make concrete and to personalize that tends to move people away from systemic analysis and action. Yes, helping one person is helping the world, but it is unlikely to change the world.

The UN’s Human Development Report for 2007-2008 tries to find some hope in our situation, asking us to view statistics longitudinally, and not in the immediate term:

Since the first Human Development Report was published in 1990 there have been spectacular—if spectacularly uneven—advances in human development. The share of the population living in developing countries on less than US$1 a day has fallen from 29 percent in 1990 to 18 percent in 2004. Over the same period, child mortality rates have fallen from 106 deaths per thousand live births to 83 and life expectancy has increased by 3 years. Progress in education has gathered pace.

These figures point to a gradual amelioration of the world’s poverty—yet at a rate that hardly suggests a foreseeable end to misery, hardship, and death for millions and millions of people who lack the basic needs of food, clothing, and shelter, let alone medical care or schooling. The Report continues less optimistically:

Only around 32 countries out of 147 monitored by the World Bank are on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goal of a two-thirds reduction in child mortality by 2015. South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa are comprehensively off track. On current trends the MDG target will be missed by a margin that will represent 4.4 million additional deaths in 2015. (p.25)

In his 2007 Commencement address at Harvard, Bill Gates observed: “[H]umanity’s greatest advances are not in its discoveries—but in how those discoveries are applied to reduce inequity. Whether through democracy, strong public education, quality health care, or broad economic opportunity – reducing inequity is the highest human achievement.” But in the face of continuing global poverty, what is to be done?

We know that there are many non-governmental agencies that are dedicated to fighting poverty all over the world—Oxfam, for example, has been engaged in famine relief and development aid around the globe for over 60 years; similarly CARE, the “Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere,” was founded at about the same time, and operates in 70 countries around the world. These and many other
non-governmental agencies contribute billions of dollars every year to address poverty and sickness, and do a wonderful job. But the difficulty they face in many, if not most cases, is that they exist in a kind of moral and political vacuum: in most of the places that they operate, they cannot effect the kinds of changes in law or governance that might help to attack the roots of poverty. Indeed, such organizations often produce a negative response in local regimes that see them as introducing western ideas and values that might threaten the current power structure.

At the level of state involvement, there have been many attempts to come to some kind of international understanding about the need to eradicate poverty and its most obvious manifestation, hunger. From the time of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights onwards, the UN has addressed the issue of poverty through a series of international declarations and covenants, and urged nations around the world to work together to find solutions. In 1974, governments attending the World Food Conference agreed that “every man, woman and child has the inalienable right to be free from hunger and malnutrition in order to develop their physical and mental faculties.”

In 1996, a similar conference, the “World Food Summit” organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, produced what is known as “The Rome Declaration on World Food Security.” The preamble of the Declaration gives us the foundation on which the articles are erected: it opens with the words, “Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.”

Universally applicable as such statements may seem, the fact remains that international human rights law, as articulated in key international instruments like the Universal Declaration, is rooted in philosophy and political evolution grounded largely in Western culture and history. Words like “freedom” and “justice” may not mean the same thing for an educated European, say, as they would for someone working in rural Asia or Africa.

When we speak for example of “the individual’s right to privacy,” a matter of concern to Vancouversites just now because of security preparations for the up-coming Olympics, would someone living in China or Indonesia understand and exactly what we mean? It’s more likely that they would look at the world from the perspective of collective rights and responsibilities. Westerners, by contrast, are encouraged to perceive themselves as individuals, and taught to fight for the rights of the individual. As to privacy, well, those of you who have done some travelling will know what a variable concept that is in different parts of the world.

This is not to say that there is an unbridgeable gap between cultures here—that, in the words of Kipling’s ballad, “East is East, and West is West, and never the twain shall meet”—there are similarities as well as differences in outlook and values. But there are problems of definition. Add to this the fact that, even in a highly individualistic society like ours, rights are not absolute; depending upon circumstances, they may be trumped by other rights. Your right to freedom of expression, for instance, must give way to my right to be protected from hate speech. Human rights are not in themselves a legal concept; however, every legal framework of which the law of human rights is structured, articulated, and protected, and by means of which such rights are implemented and related one to another.

What are the implications of all this for any attempt to implement the principles promulgated by the United Nations and other world bodies? Of the 192 nations that currently form the UN, 162 have ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, which affirms the right of citizens of a country to an adequate standard of living, free primary school education, freedom from hunger, equal opportunity, and a host of other rights which we would take for granted. Yet we know very well that some of the signatories to this agreement have lived up to their obligations, and in some cases have committed abuses against their own citizens. In such cases, the UN committee involved should be able to identify the offender and the offence, and require that the terms of the covenant be complied with.

The problem is that such international covenants have no practical means of enforcement. The bodies that have drawn them up and seek to apply them exist essentially at the discretion of the states that created them; they are limited in power and in their permitted scope of inquiry, and they are powerless to intervene in the affairs of states that reject their terms. So a foreign coalition of nations might intervene if one state wishes to punish another. But for the most part, there have been few occasions on which international sanctions have successfully forced a change of heart or policy.

By far the most common form of implementation of human rights standards by states remains traditional bilateral diplomacy. This can extend from oral condemnations through ambassadorial démarches to formal contacts with opposition and human rights organizations. In extreme cases, linkages may be made between state policies relating to aid and trade; you will recall for example the case of South Africa, where extensive trade sanctions played a role in the downfall of apartheid. However, such linkages appear to have been lessening, rather than increasing, over the last few years. Recent Canadian governments have in most cases explicitly rejected the linkage of human rights with aid and trade initiatives.

Perhaps, when we hear that people have been deprived of their rights, we should seek to restore them with the help of a fleet of planes or battleships. Think how we go about helping the millions of people who are dying of poverty and malnutrition, and who may have the misfortune of living in a country like Zimbabwe, where the economy has utterly crumbled, the political system has all but collapsed, and human rights have been put on hold by a President who seems to have lost touch with all the ideals that took him into the political arena thirty years ago?

Zimbabwe offers us a useful example of the helpless-ness of the world to act in the face of an abuse of “rights”. When other countries have criticized the harshness of the Mugabe regime and pointed to the human rights abuses suffered by Zimbabwean citizens, Mugabe’s response has been to appeal to his followers...
to stave off interference by Western imperialism disguised as humanitarianism. The human rights invoked by developing nations are denounced as just another Trojan horse, introduced by the West as a means of restoring old colonial values.

Meanwhile, people are suffering: according to the United Nations Development Report 2007-08, Zimbabwe ranks 91st among 108 developing countries in what is called the “Human Poverty Index”; and in perhaps the most chilling statistic, Zimbabweans are listed as having the lowest probability in the world of surviving beyond the age of 40 – yes, 40! The operations of NGOs have for the most part been suspended, and their workers threatened or beaten on the grounds that they were spies. At 2.2 million per cent, inflation is higher in Zimbabwe than anywhere else in the world. Most of the people are living below the age of 40 – yes, 40! The government’s valuation of the currency, a loaf of bread cost 100 million dollars.

These are the realities facing Zimbabweans. How has the world responded? Largely by expressions of concern—and little more. When the United Nations’ con-
ference of African prime ministers earlier this year, there were no pronouncements; and to remind us of the rhetorical generality that characterizes such pro-
nouncements; and to remind us that the only concrete achievement by 2015, the MDG web-site includes a count-down clock (when I was preparing these remarks, there were 6 years, 142 days, 2 hours, 41 minutes, 20 seconds and counting to the target date).”

In his 2005 Report Secretary General Annan did not appeal to the notion of “rights” except in the sense of human rights in general. Simply to insist that people have the right to be free of hunger is not, as we have seen, a means of guaranteeing that this right will be made real in lives. Instead, he looked to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the first human rights treaty in international obligation, by which all states would agree to act collec-
tively to stop genocide, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity. In the statement accom-
ppanying the Report, he focussed upon the principle of “Responsibility to Protect,” that is, each state has the responsibility of protecting its own citizens from such evils, but if the state fails to meet its obligations in this regard, then “the responsibility shifts to the international community.” In the last report, he concluded, “the United Nations Security Council may take enforcement action according to the Charter.”

This idea was actively promoted by the Canadian government, and has now been adopted as a tenet of foreign policy action by states as diverse as Norway and Korea. But the responsibility to protect has not yet become a binding norm of international law, and the current Canadian government seems to have lost interest in promoting the concept. Perhaps, if we return for a moment to the situation of the people of Zimbabwe, we may there see a case to be made for collective action. Clearly the state is failing to respond to the extraordinary abuse, and allowing huge numbers of people to suffer in extremis. All demands that human rights be rec-
ognized have had no effect. This is perhaps the kind of situation in which Annan envisaged when he adopted the language of the “Responsibility to Protect.” However, a problem here is that members of the United Nations are also committed to the principle of a state’s sovereignty, of non-intervention in another state’s internal affairs; violation of that principle creates resistance and political tensions that are likely to exacerbate a problem as severe as Zimbabwe’s. Perhaps we have reached a moment of oppor-
tunity in international affairs where, if we keep working hard at creative development, it may be that sovereignty will cede to the responsibility to protect, at least in the case of massive threats to human life and personal security.

It may be that over time a body of international law will come into force that is based on universal, accepted human rights norms, that are accepted by mem-
ber states and implemented by common agreement within a framework that has real power to exact consequences for non-com-
ppliance. But at present interna-
tional legal mechanisms have little force in the attempts to establish and implement human rights. Within some domestic systems of law, international human rights standards find solid support in national legislation and practice, which in turn can lead to relatively effective implementation. But this does not happen and is completely inconsistent between different states; and it remains largely outside the reach of any compulsory international scrutiny.

Many states are parties to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant Civil and Political rights, which does put some teeth into that covenant by allowing a Human Rights Committee to investigate and judge complaints of human rights violations by individuals from countries who are signatories to the protocol. But in the end, the only real consequence even here is the censure of an offender by the court of public opinion—there is no enforceable legal consequence. Organisations like Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch do much to bring human rights violations to the light of public scrutiny; but again there is little that they can do beyond cre-
atting public pressure on offend-
governments.

If I may return one last time to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article One of that docu-
ment states that “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and con-
science, and should act towards one another in a spirit of brother-
hood.” Indeed, it is in everyone’s interests that we live in a spirit of brotherhood and peace. But as the Dalai Lama reminded us in his Nobel lecture of 1989, “Peace, in the sense of the absence of war, is of little value to someone who is dying of hunger or cold. . .  Peace can only last where human rights are respected, where the people are fed, and where individuals and nations are free.”
If there is to be a solution to the problem of world poverty, it may lie in a combination of all the forces at play: international covenants raising awareness and influencing public opinion; cooperation among many states to exert pressure on those states that abuse human rights; support for improving the governance and legal systems of many states around our globe; a world-wide effort to meet the goals and targets established by the MDG; and promoting a richer interplay of international law and internal legislation—that is, a willingness by the state to shape or change its laws in accordance with international agreements about civil and political rights. Only when human rights are fully integrated into a nation’s political structure can we be sure that they will be fully protected; only when rights are embedded in the principles by which states govern themselves can they be invoked to drive governments into finding solutions to chronic poverty, malnutrition, and disease. This may be difficult to accomplish in developing nations with weak legal institutions and troubled economies; but here a combination of social action from within, judicious application of international aid, and the pressure of legal mechanisms applied by the international community might work together to enable a state to meet its obligations to its own citizens.

The eradication of poverty is a goal to which all states should aspire, because it is the right thing to do—and it is in all our interests. If we succeed, we shall have gone a long way towards establishing the kind of brotherhood among nations that the framers of the UN Charter imagined for a traumatized post-war world. For that reason, even as we recognize the limitations of a rights-based doctrine, we must explore every practical way of helping the poor of the world to realize what is their undoubted right: their right to escape poverty. Thank you.


Fundraising continues for priority projects that need your support. Please see the back page for a donation form and information for on-line gift giving.

The 75th Social Work Anniversary Global Learning Endowment Fund has been created in honour of the 75th anniversary of the School of Social Work (2005). This endowment will assist students in the School of Social Work with expenses locally, nationally and internationally to advance their learning and citizenship in globally challenging contexts. The endowment will be awarded on the recommendations of the School of Social Work.

The Henry Maas Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund

The Henry Maas Memorial Scholarship for doctoral students at the UBC School of Social Work has been created to honor his spirit, memory and his strong beliefs in the merits of theory and research informing social work education and practice. This scholarship will enable Doctoral students to develop their own theories and contribute to knowledge building in social welfare.

Roopchand Seebaran Prize

In recognition and celebration of Professor Seebaran’s significant contributions to community development, teaching and practice, and to anti-racist social work education during his academic career, the UBC School of Social Work has established the Roopchand Seebaran Prize. The prize is awarded on an annual basis to BSW or MSW student(s) whose essay or project work on the subject of either community development or anti-racist social work education is judged to be of the highest quality.

Mary Hill Scholarship

Friends and alumni of the School have established a scholarship in honour of Professor Emerita Mary Hill, a pioneer in the field of social gerontology. Under the leadership of Kathy Hamilton (BSW, MSW) a group of committed fundraisers have raised over $30,000 to endow a scholarship for students in Social Work who are studying in the area of gerontology.

Social Work Annual Giving Fund

This fund allows the School to work beyond our annual operating budget to respond to priorities that arise each year. It supports the production and distribution of the School newsletter to more than 3,000 alumni, the Alumni Reading Room (hiring student assistance and purchasing publications).

Lilian To Memorial Scholarship

A scholarship has been established in memory of Lilian To for graduate students in the UBC School of Social Work intending to study in the area of immigration and refugee policy and practice. Lilian, a social work graduate (1968) of the University of Hong Kong and an MSW graduate (1979) of the UBC School of Social Work, was a renowned and internationally recognized social worker and Chief Executive Officer (1988-2005) of S.U.C.C.E.S.S, Vancouver’s leading Chinese social service agency with a particular interest in meeting the economic, social and cultural adjustment needs of new immigrants to Canada.

Richard Splane Doctoral Scholarship

A $2,500 scholarship has been endowed to recognize and honour Dr. Richard Splane’s work as a distinguished Social Policy and Social Work academic, and Professor Emeritus at UBC. Dr. Splane’s initial contribution to the endowment principal has been matched by the Faculty of Arts. The award is made on the recommendation of the School of Social Work, in consultation with the Faculty of Graduate Studies, to a doctoral student doing research in the area of social policy.
The School would like to thank the following individuals for being financial supporters for the period January to December, 2008. We apologize to anyone whose name has been inadvertently left off this list.

Mr Robert Adams
Mr Herbert Allard
Mrs Anna Allen
Mrs Alice Arce
Mrs Sheila Archeck
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Mrs Phyllis Harvey
Mr G Sholto Hebbenton
Mrs Susan Hobkirk
Mrs Elaine Hooper
Mrs Catherine Huber
Ms Tara Jarvis
Mr Paul Jenkinson
Mrs Meryl Kearney
Mrs Deborah Kreeve
Mrs Anita Kilberg
Mr David Kirk
Mr Joseph Kirkman
Mrs Christine Kline
Ms Sonya Kraemer
Miss Elaine Krilanoich-Ciles
Mr Raymond Lafort
Ms Alison Leaney
Mrs Cora Leffler
Miss Dolina Mackinnon
Mrs Margaret Maerov
Mrs Juliana McCaig
Mrs Joan McNeely
Ms Susan Mendelson
Ms Joan Millar
Mrs Jane Minter
Mrs Jane Morley
Miss Thelma Mulholland
Miss Janet Murphsy
Mrs Mary Mutter
Mr Robert Myers
Ms Sandra Nelmia
Ms Maria Nguyen
Mr Rainer Nicdao
Mrs Sheila Oberdeck
Ms Alison Orr
Ms Mona Packer
Ms Audrey Panter
Mr Nicolai Papove
Dr Geoffrey Pawson
Mr Harry Penny
Mrs Berry Petty
Mr Robert Phillips
Mr Chris Pincott
Ms Patricia Pittula
Mrs Elizabeth Pollard
Mr John Pollard
Ms Vera Rady
Mr Mark Rayter
Mrs Wendy Reifel
Mr Basil Robinson
Mr Ronald Rogers
Miss Helen Ruckle
Mr Alexander Ryan
Ms Yesha Sawhney
Mr Alvin Schimpy
Mrs Aileen Scott
Mr Roger Smith
Mrs Gale Steck
Ms Rita Swan
Ms Agnes Tong
Mr Robert Toren
Mrs Ruby Traill
UBC Employees Society 116
Vancouver Alumnae Club Pi Beta Phi
Vancouver Chinatown Lionesses Club
Vancouver Foundation
Dr Renate Varwig
Rev Joy Vernon
Ms Shirley Vollett
Mr William Wallace
Ms Calleen Walsh
Mr George Welwood
Mr Stephen Wemikowki
Dr Blossom Wingr
Ms Sheila Wilkins
Ms Catherine Yau
Ms Lillian Zimmerman

MISSION STATEMENTS

Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) Mission statement
The BSW program provides students with the knowledge, values and skills necessary for an initial level generalist professional practice through a social justice lens.

Master of Social Work (MSW) Mission statement
The MSW program offers an accessible, advanced professional degree focused on social work practice in the fields of child and family welfare, health and social inclusion, and international and social development using a social justice lens.

PhiD in Social Work Mission statement
The PhD program provides opportunities for advanced scholarship towards the generation of transformative knowledge through research relevant to social work theory and practice, social development and administration.

Did you know?
In September 2000, leaders from 189 nations agreed on a vision for the future: a world with less poverty, hunger and disease, greater survival prospects for mothers and their infants, better educated children, equal opportunities for women, and a healthier environment; a world in which developed and developing countries worked in partnership for the betterment of all. This vision took the shape of eight Millennium Development (MDGs), which provide a framework of time-bound targets by which progress can be measured.

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education
Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women
Goal 4: Reduce child mortality
Goal 5: Improve maternal health
Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability
Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

The Declaration established 2015 as the target date for achievement of most of its quantifiable commitments. Half the period to this target date has now passed. Check the MDG Monitor for progress at www.mdgmonitor.org.

United Nations Millennium Declaration:
www.un.org/millenniumgoals