

# insidetru

Thompson Rivers University's *Comprehensive News Magazine*

THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY



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## The New Williams Lake Campus

After nine years of course delivery in six different locations spread around the city's commercial buildings and high schools, staff and students are settled into the new TRU Williams Lake campus.

From the centrally located TRU at 1250 Western Ave., Williams Lake Mayor Scott Nelson anticipates great things for Williams Lake and its university.

"The new campus is a tremendous shot in the arm for the community," Nelson said. "A university is a huge economic driver for a city, not only in terms of attracting residents to work here, but to go to school here as well."

He's encouraged by the proactive approach TRU is taking toward partnerships with the community for years to come and expects that the new facility will generate similar economic benefits for Williams Lake as the growth of the university has had for the Kamloops economy.

The move marks the beginning of "a whole new face to higher education in Williams Lake and the Cariboo-Chilcotin region," said Interim TRU-WL Dean Martin Whittles.

"Just by virtue of its size and location in the region, TRU offers programs that are delivered by instructors who form personal bonds to their students, because they have already formed personal bonds to the community," Whittles said.

The new campus features architectural details similar to those in Kamloops; brick exterior walls, arched roofs over the trades area and a curved glass main entrance. Entering from Western Avenue puts visitors and students directly into the hub of the campus, Student Street. From here, academic advising, counseling, registration, admissions, the bookstore and the library are all easily accessible.

"We're finding that, compared to what we experienced at our old downtown location, we're now interacting more with students both in our offices and in our hallways," said Scott Taylor, Academic Advisor. Taylor, along with Kathy Lauriente, Counselor, and Rhonda Alphonse, Aboriginal Services Coordinator, make up the Student Services group in offices located directly off of Student Street.

"With our offices centrally located, it's helping to build a sort of critical mass of student awareness for the services that Kathy, Rhonda, and I provide. The increase and higher quality of contact with the students is a welcomed change," Taylor noted.

The new campus opened for class Jan. 8, with staff and faculty spending a few weeks over the winter semester break moving into the 75,000 square foot facility. "Common sense told us that having one location for the Williams Lake campus would be good," Taylor said. "But I am surprised at how quickly we've warmed up to the place; in some ways, it feels like we've been here much longer than we already have."

A major component of the course offerings in Williams Lake has always been Continuing Studies, with nearly 3,500 registrations being handled by the staff each year.

For Julie Bower, Continuing Studies Coordinator, the new facility means the end of hauling flip-charts, overhead projectors and first aid equipment around town to set up continuing studies classes. "No more renting classroom space," Bower said. "I'll always know that classes will be held in venues that meet the right criteria."

It's not all location, location, though for assistant professor of nursing

Carolyn Hosking who said there's more to the new campus than the large, bright nursing lab. "It has been great getting to know the other faculty and making connections with these people I work with, instead of just a name on a staff email."

Construction of the \$16 million renovation to the former Anne Stevenson Secondary School started in July 2005, said David Graham, TRU's Capital Project coordinator. The December 2006 completion was within the expected time frame; like many construction projects during recent years, TRU Williams Lake faced some delays due to trade shortages and increased costs because of the rising price of steel and concrete.

"One of the benefits of the renovation as opposed to a new building was getting a gymnasium," Graham said. And it's no accident that its hardwood floors are in such terrific condition. Graham made sure the floor was kept covered by tarps and plywood and reminded the contractor constantly to "make sure there wasn't a screw dropped on the floor."

With its own access doors that are separate from the main building, the gym is perfect for holding community events.

Mechanical trades, welding, electrical, and residential construction programs relocate to the facility on Western Avenue in the spring.

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# President's Message



This semester Thompson Rivers University opened a new campus in Williams Lake. After nine years of delivering programs and courses to the community from classrooms, labs, offices and shops throughout the city, I am excited by this new facility and for the opportunities it will bring to Williams Lake, its region and its residents.

TRU's beginnings as a regional college are solidly based in the community of Williams Lake. In 1977, using offices and school district facilities, we began to offer business programs. Pre-apprenticeship training in automotive and heavy-duty mechanics followed in 1979 and welding in 1980.

Five years later, Cariboo College had outgrown the borrowed space and moved into the campus on Hodgson Road. As the demand for courses expanded so did the facility, with a major renovation and addition in 1993, adding administration offices and a cafeteria.

Only four years later, record precipitation accumulated in the layer of volcanic ash under the campus causing

major shifting and loss of structural integrity to the building. The Hodgson Road campus was closed and in 1998 classes and administration once again commenced operations in locations throughout the community.

Despite less-than-ideal conditions for teaching and learning, post-secondary education continued to be delivered to Williams Lake and the surrounding area for the next nine years, thanks to the dedication of the faculty, staff, the learners and the community of Williams Lake. I congratulate and thank all TRU staff in Williams Lake for their significant efforts in maintaining quality programming and TRU's presence under such difficult conditions.

After many studies, plans and consultations the former Anne Stevenson Secondary School, named for one of our university's founding board members, was selected and then transformed into the excellent campus upon which TRU has re-established and consolidated its programs and services.

TRU has looked forward for many years to providing an integrated presence in Williams Lake. We are proud to be able to offer a first-class complement of programs and courses for the academic, trades, technical and adult learners in the region, and look forward with enthusiasm to the educational opportunities that are now available in Williams Lake.

Roger H. Barnsley, President

## 2 > OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

## Achievements

### Jim Hu

ESL Department

Dr. Jim Hu facilitated a workshop at the 41st Convention of TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) in Seattle, WA in March 2007. The workshop focused on the treatment of grammatical and non-grammatical problems in ESL academic writing.

His book review of Oxford Practice Grammar, Advanced by George Yule (2006) was published in TESL-EJ, 10(3).

### Kyle Aben

BBA 1999

Kyle Aben completed his Master of International Studies degree in Global Environmental Policy at the University of Northern British Columbia; the focus of his undergraduate BBA from TRU was Business and Regulatory Policy.

### Ron Smith

Visual and Performing Arts

Dr. Ron Smith wrote the film website companion for Dr. John Bratton's (Sociology) Work and Organizational Behavior, published by Palgrave Macmillan (2007).

### Cindy L. James

Assessment Centre Coordinator

Cindy James's article "ACCUPLACER OnLine: Accurate Placement Tool for Developmental Programs" has been published in the Journal of Developmental Education, 30 (2), Winter 2006. This is an online journal can be viewed at <http://www.ncde.appstate.edu/jdetoc.htm>

### TRU Assessment Centre

In January the Assessment

Centre became an official test site for CASTLE Worldwide Inc, one of the North America's leading certification and licensure testing companies. As such, TRU is one of only three university test sites in Canada, the other two are the University of Manitoba and the University of Windsor.

### Dan Thompson

Management

Dan Thompson has recently had a number of his case studies in corporate finance adopted by the University of Toledo, University of Wisconsin, University of Delaware, State University of New York, Royal Roads University, Université of Sherbrooke, University of Auckland, York University, University of Ottawa, and University of British Columbia.

### Ehsan Latif

Economics

Dr. Ehsan Latif had two papers, "Labour Supply Effects of Informal Caregiving in Canada" and "Socio-Economic Determinants of Obesity in Canada: New Evidences from Panel Data" accepted for publication in Canadian Public Policy and Southern Business and Economic Journal respectively.

### Johnathan Van Hamme

Biology

The scientific review written by A. Singh, JD Van Hamme and OP Ward (co-authors from the University of Waterloo) titled, "Surfactants in microbiology and biotechnology: Part 2. Application aspects," was published in Biotechnology Advances (1): 99-121 Jan-Feb 2007.

### Cindy Ross

Biology

Cindy Ross's article about viscin cells in dwarf mistletoe has been published in the peer-reviewed journal, Davidsonia, 17:3, 2006.

Equally impressive is that her photograph was chosen for the cover of the journal.

### Dan Haley

Human Resources

Assistant director of Human Resources, Dan Haley, received his Certified Human Resource Professional designation this fall and was recently recognized by the Central Interior chapter of the BC Human Resource Association as the top scorer in the group of CHRP candidates in 2006.



Vice President Open Learning, Judith Murray goes over the details of the final floor plan of the BC Centre for Open Learning building with David Graham, TRU Project Manager. The four-storey building is scheduled for its IT and OL tenants at the end of this month.

## TRU Open Learning

Creating the vision and new structure for the transformed Open Learning Division has been a monumental undertaking and an historic event for post-secondary education in British Columbia. Led by Judith Murray, Vice President, Open Learning, the vision for TRU-OL is guided by the principles of high-quality customer service, academic integrity, and innovative program offerings.

"By providing the highest quality of courses and customer service to our students we will be able to assure them of quality education," said Murray.

Murray has been hosting information sessions outlining the guiding principles of the OL division for the campus community. The highlights include:

- > customer-focused and student-centred for the entire student cycle (strong support for students from inquiry through graduation)
- > cost-recovery or revenue generating in most areas
- > a move toward delivering new programs that are driven by market need
- > a focus on distance delivery (non face-to-face)
- > offering innovative online, print-based, and blended programs and courses in traditional and non-traditional disciplines (including trades, technology and applied professions)

- > becoming the partner of choice for other educational institutions in meeting the open and online learning needs of their communities.
- > becoming the institution of choice for learners wanting distance education in British Columbia and beyond.

Now that Open Learning will be based within a traditional academic institution at Thompson Rivers University, many new opportunities and possibilities are on the horizon. The BC Centre for Open Learning will be fully operational on campus in June 2007 and will be home to both new and relocating faculty and staff.

"The opening of the BC Centre for Open Learning provides a unique opportunity to create programming that draws upon the depth and comprehensiveness of the face-to-face offerings on campus, to complement and enhance our open and distance programs," Murray said. "The outcome will further strengthen the standing of TRU as Canada's most comprehensive university."

Over the next few months, more than 100 new employees will be joining the TRU community in Kamloops. Murray said that not only will the new staff add to the richness and diversity of campus life, but there will be a significant economic impact to the city and the region.

insidetru

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> Publisher: Josh Keller  
> Editor: Diana Skoglund  
> Designer: Sandra Verhoeff  
> Contributors: Bronwen Scott, Jennifer Muir, Sarah Gibson

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# Researching wellness works for TRU alumnus and City of Kamloops

There's a strong connection to TRU and Kamloops in the textbook of choice for 40 of the UK's and five of India's business schools teaching human resource management.

Not only is the text, Human Resource Management, written by John Bratton, TRU professor of sociology (co-authored by Jeffery Gold), the recent publication of the fourth edition features a case study from alumnus Lori Rilkoff (BBA 1995).

"There's a constant change in the HRM (human resource management) arena," Bratton said. "This edition includes new material suggested by users of the third edition such as diversity and discrimination, work-life-balance, knowledge work, ethics in HRM and workplace wellness. The old Health and Safety chapter has been re-worked into a new chapter called Health and Wellness Management."

Rilkoff, Human Resources Manager for the City of Kamloops, contributed a case study on workplace wellness based on the program she started leading for city employees in 2002.

"The case study illustrates two things for me," Rilkoff said. "Not only how important employee wellness is to the culture of an organization, but how important doing research is when you're trying to implement new programs or practices in an organization."

She was able to develop the city's wellness program and gain senior administration and council support with extensive research, a skill set she developed as Bratton's research assistant in 1995.

With federal funding from the Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Bratton hired Rilkoff (she was the university's first paid research assistant) for Decentralization of Collective Bargaining in the BC Pulp and Paper Industry.

After teaching HRM concentrations for 30 years at six different universities Bratton rates Rilkoff in the top 10 per cent of students he has ever taught. "Lori's conscientious, and has very good writing skills and outstanding research skills," Bratton said.

Rilkoff, who's since completed her MSc Training and HRM from Leicester, says she expects the same from her students in the class she teaches, BBUS 483, Compensation Management, or from any of the dozens of TRU business students that interview her about HR practices at the City of Kamloops each year.

"There has been a significant shift in the work culture at the city," Rilkoff said. "We have an organization-wide culture that promotes health and wellness as a top priority and supports personal and professional development opportunities."

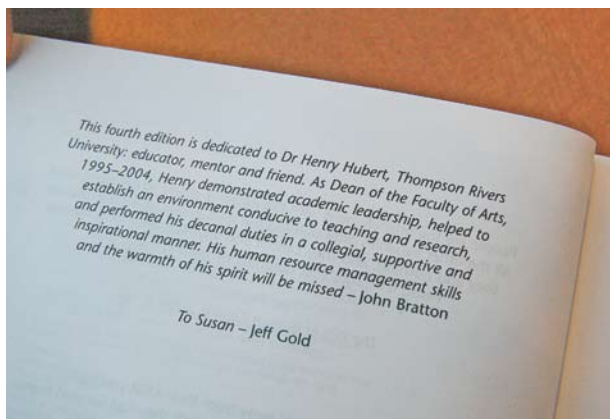
Kamloops is the only municipality in western Canada to have achieved a National Quality Institute Level three designation in 2006. The City is currently working on achieving the final Level four designation.

"Becoming an employer of choice in an increasingly competitive employee recruitment and retention environment reflects not just on senior management and council and but also on all staff.

"In our HR office many of our staff have degrees or diplomas from TRU," she said. "Richard Roy (associate professor) was our Human Resources Director before becoming a professor at TRU. Educated personnel have certainly played a role in implementing the changes here at the city."

Bratton hopes for similar changes on a global scale with the recent release of the third edition of Human Resource Management translated into Chinese and the growing number of international students learning HRM practices at TRU.

"When students learn best practices and then compare and contrast the HR practices in their own places of employment, issues such as minimum wage, health and safety, training and working conditions will improve in countries throughout the world," Bratton said.



Dedicated to Dr. Henry Hubert



Lori Rilkoff and Dr. John Bratton

## New text features TRU contributors

Another book by Dr. Bratton, Work and Organizational Behaviour: Understanding the Workplace, was released in February, published by Palgrave MacMillan, UK.

The professor of sociology and a team of other authors, Miltiza Callinan, Carolyn Forshaw (TRU) and Peter Sawchuk were committed to providing a more critical explanation of organizational behavior. Despite the many texts on the market in organizational behavior none addressed the approach he wanted to take.

"We cover individual, group and organizational analysis like many texts," Bratton said. "But we depart from mainstream OB (organizational behaviour) textbooks in three important respects: first we draw from the fields of psychology and sociology—we present the idea that history and the interplay of people and society matter."

"Second, we frame the book around six core themes: competing standpoints, change in the workplace, the relationship between the self and social, diversity/inequity, power and globalization.

"Third," Bratton continued, "We offer readers a global appreciation of workplace behaviour by drawing on an eclectic selection of academic material and behaviour practices from Europe, North America and parts of Asia."

In addition to another case study by Rilkoff, Bratton invited TRU faculty and staff to contribute to Work and Organizational Behaviour book. Carolyn Forshaw (EML) wrote a chapter on 'Communications' in the workplace. "Writing the chapter not only gave me the opportunity to explain the importance of verbal and non-verbal communications in the management process, but also how language defines men and women differently in terms of both power and value in work organizations," said Forshaw.

Dr. Len Hutt (School of Business and Economics) contributed a case study, 'Coronation Bank', which deals with the challenges of workplace learning. Dr. Ron Smith (Visual and Performing Arts) wrote a film guide to OB as part of the web-based learning resources for the book. Also, Assistant Director of Human Resources, Dan Haley, contributed a case called 'Managing Change at Eastern University' based on his MA dissertation.

## 3 > TRU NEWS

# More new degrees for TRU

A Master of Education (MEd) degree and a highly innovative Bachelor of Technology in Trades and Technology Leadership (BTTL) degree have received final approval from the province's degree quality assessment board (DQAB), and are now in the process of being launched at TRU.

"Both of these new programs will continue to build on TRU's reputation as a university that offers flexible and relevant programming for the present and future needs of working Canadians," said TRU Provost and VP Academic Mark Evered.

The new Trades & Technology Leadership degree, the only one of its kind in Canada, is aimed at allowing certified tradespeople gain the business and leadership knowledge needed for management and other advanced positions. It will be offered primarily

through online study as the university recognizes that many tradespeople wishing to advance in their careers are already working in their chosen field, requiring flexible learning options.

"This program represents an economical and quick way for people in the trades to advance their careers," said TRU's trades and technology degree programs coordinator Gerry Desrochers. "People entering the program will get credit for previous training, and apart from a kick-off and a capstone course in leadership, they can study online, so they won't lose any earnings."

The new Master of Education degree is designed not only for trades, but for other working professionals as well.

Prerequisites for admission to the program require a four-year baccalaureate or equivalent degree.

Graduation from the program does not lead to a Teaching Certificate issued by the BC College of Teachers. That credential is based on approved undergraduate courses and practica leading to a Bachelor of Education degree.

Part-time learners complete the program of studies in three years, including six credits related to research. The program is flexible and students can choose their supervisors from the School of Education, the Faculties of Arts and Sciences or the Schools of Nursing, Social Work or Trades and Technologies.

"The educational community in the Southern Interior has long sought the opportunity for study at the master's level in a program that is unique and relevant to our communities," said TRU's School of Education advisor, Dave Gulley.

Beginning in early July 2007, two courses will be offered consecutively over approximately four weeks. After that, the faculty and cohort group will work out a preferred model of course offering. (The two most likely models would be one evening per week over a semester or Friday night/Saturday four times in the semester.)

Both programs anticipate starting courses as early as late spring or summer.

For more information about BTTL please contact Gerry Desrochers at 250.828.5106 or email: gdesrochers@tru.ca

For more information about the Master of Education please contact Dave Gulley at 250.377.6048 or email: edadvising@tru.ca





## THE MANAGEMENT CENTRE at Thompson Rivers University



Taking a lesson from its own business seminars, The Management Centre at Thompson Rivers University is rebranding an institution staple—the 20-year-old Cariboo Management Centre.

Janice Lawson has returned from Ontario to Kamloops—the place she considers home. She has brought her years of experience in human resources, management and customer service from the financial services industry and as a relocation and

recruitment contractor for Human Resources Development Canada for resource sector workers to her new role as Manager of The Management Centre at Thompson Rivers University.

Lawson is probably best known locally from her time as President of the Kamloops Chamber of Commerce. She also served on the Chamber's executive for eight years.

Besides the new name, logo and manager, The Management Centre will now be an integral part of the TRU School of Business and Economics (SOBE).

"SOBE is bringing together a group of faculty, students and staff with a commitment to excellence in leadership," said Murray Young, Dean TRU School of Business and Economics. "We are uniting our efforts in Open Learning and Continuing Studies, for undergraduate and master-degree level studies.

"The addition of The Management Centre to these four initiatives gives us a powerful combination to meet the needs for 21st century management and leadership skills."

"The centre is the best kept secret at TRU," Lawson said.

"By working with the TRU School of Business and Economics we'll raise awareness about our programs within the university and the community.

"Management Skills for Supervisors will continue to be our core program. What has changed though, is that participants can earn credits towards diplomas and degrees at TRU-OL. We will continue offering custom training for corporations either at the workplace or here at TRU."

Dianne Kerr and Mary Garson have long been associated with the Cariboo Management Centre and will continue with the organization as course facilitators. They, along with Vivian Phillips and Lawson, have been busy teaching courses locally, and on the road in Ft. St. John, Ft. Nelson, Vernon, Kelowna and Merritt.

"We offer high-quality, accredited courses delivered by knowledgeable and experienced instructors in design and development for businesses, wherever they are," Lawson said.

For more information contact Janice at 250.372.2801 or email [jlawson@tru.ca](mailto:jlawson@tru.ca)



Elise Menard Jonker (LA West), Lisa Nielsen, Ray Visser, David Williams, Warren Asuchak and NRS student Eleanor Bassett discuss future landscape plans for the TRU campus

## TRU loses campus pioneers

The screams of power saws and chipper engines are quiet on the Kamloops campus for now.

The total toll is 100 mature ponderosa pines killed by pine beetle since last February. Nearly forty per cent of the campus' mature pine trees have been lost from the 55 cultivated hectares. Contractors removed nine more ponderosa pines from campus during February's reading break. In December the majority of the trees in the bowl area near Old Main were taken down.

"This summer will be key to seeing how much further damage will be done," said David Williams, former TRU biology instructor, and now Professor Emeritus. Over-wintering pine beetle larvae will hatch and fly in July. Affected trees' needles will begin browning soon after the adult beetles bore into the bark, leaving tell-tale "pitch holes" around the trunk and larger branches.

Williams is a member of the tree committee (a sub-committee of the landscape committee) that has been closely monitoring the pine beetle infestation and proactively responding to its threat.

"Some of these trees were here when the pioneers came through the region," Williams said. "It behooves us to do what we can for these trees given what they have seen in their lifetimes."

The largest trees felled on campus ranged from 160 to 200 years old, some already small seedlings when the species was named by David Douglas, the Scottish botanist who discovered the trees near Spokane, Washington, in 1826.

By removing the affected trees before the larvae can hatch and fly, and by treating the pine beetle with the insecticide Sevin, and applying pouches of an anti-aggregation pheromone Verbone to the remaining trees through the summer season, Warren Asuchak, assistant director, facilities, said TRU is are doing all it can to minimize the loss of trees on campus.

Although the effect of losing the trees has been devastating for the TRU community there is a silver lining in the pine beetle storm. "It's an

opportunity to re-examine the way we use the campus and to increase the variety of species in the arboretum," Asuchak said.

For years, as buildings, parking lots and gardens on campus were being built, their location always worked around the location of the large ponderosa pines.

"We have an opportunity now to look at how we use the grounds," groundskeeper Lisa Nielsen said. "Besides trees, we're looking at the addition of shrubs and hard landscaping, improving soil conditions, adding irrigation and addressing sustainability."

Nielsen, who sits on the landscape advisory committee, said they're already looking at a master landscape plan for the TRU campus that incorporates new buildings and future developments.

Ray Visser of LA West told the advisory committee in February, "Our intent is to provide a long term landscape plan that the board of governors, administration and the university community can work with for many years to come." From the committee's recommendations, LA West will create a design for the first TRU Landscape Master Plan. Contractor bids are expected for mid-May, with re-landscaping to start in June.

"Replanting as many trees as early as we can is a priority," Williams said. "And to diversify the species to avoid a similar disaster in the future."

With the milder winters Kamloops has experienced over the last few years, an extensive list of suitable replacements includes California Redwood as a possibility. "We are already growing marginal species like the tulip tree with success," Williams said. "Replacing the pines gives us an opportunity to try other species."

Some of the goals of the committee with the new plantings are to increase fall colour, allocate shade and to plant immature ponderosa as the beetle does not attack very young pines.

## Putting a price on a pine tree

In a report to TRU by John Borden of Phero Tech Inc. the estimated appraised value of a mature ponderosa (measuring 45 cm in diameter) is \$16,627; add \$831 for the value of its annual service (shade, aesthetics, habitat, carbon dioxide, prevention of soil erosion etc) and each large pine tree is worth \$17,458. Multiply that by the 20 years it will take for a new tree to achieve the same scale and value in a landscape, and the loss of a single large ponderosa pine from the TRU campus equals \$349,160.



Instructor John Sutherland (left) discusses the milling process with joinery students Jennifer Sharp and Jeremy Demone during a demonstration in January. Several hundred feet of lumber was milled from the felled pines on campus.

Next year, once the lumber is cured, another class of joinery students will be able to create projects from the blue streaked pine such as the cabinet by Marilyn Harding shown (right) at the annual Show and Shine.



# research > matters



## Visions—Research

by Dr. Nancy Van Wagoner

Academic passion and dedication of faculty members and students underlies TRU's success and will continue to bolster it in future, facilitated by TRU's integrated approach to graduate studies, research, information transfer and knowledge translation and a university administration that understands the value of research across the disciplines and throughout the learning community.

Just as TRU is a comprehensive university with a focus on applied knowledge, campus research initiatives over the past year have been varied, unique and practical. Research at a new university like TRU takes place because of the desire of individuals to make it happen, and many extremely creative people at TRU are working on some very interesting projects.

TRU faculty received about \$6 million in research grants and contracts in the past year, including a \$1 million federal government grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, augmented by \$2.3 million in private contributions, to develop quality-of-life indicators for small cities and other related projects. Led by Dr. Will Garrett-Petts, this initiative, which involves researchers from across Canada and around the world, has the potential to set new standards for planning and policy related to small-city development.

One of TRU's four Canada Research Chairs (CRC), Dr. Amedeo D'Angiulli, is studying, among other topics, factors that impact learning in children, while fellow CRC in E-Learning Practices, Dr. Norm Friesen, is involved in research which will help TRU to lead the way in best practices in the use of technology for teaching and learning.

To benefit our region and those like it the world over, in the coming year TRU will hire its fifth CRC, a position focused on harnessing science and technology for environmental sustainability in semi-arid regions. TRU will also fill two endowed chairs, one in aboriginal maternal and child health, and the other focused on beef cattle industry sustainability, which will complement the work of our CRC in grassland ecology, Lauchlan Fraser, who has also been instrumental in the development of a graduate degree in environmental science, which TRU expects to launch in the coming year.

Graduate studies are a natural offshoot of a successful research program, and just as TRU is distinguished by its comprehensive and innovative nature and practical programs, coming graduate degree programs reflect these attributes.

TRU already offers a master degree in business administration, and a graduate certificate in child and youth mental health was approved this year along with a master of education degree, slated to start this summer.

As a young university unencumbered by traditional academic divisions that prevent the emergence of truly interdisciplinary programs, TRU is fortunate to be progressing toward a future filled with innovative opportunities. Unique post-graduate studies that will give students the tools and education they need to advance and be successful in their careers, while internships, which give students and their faculty advisors the opportunity to address real-life problems and develop connections with business, industry, non-governmental and government agencies, are also an important component of TRU's graduate vision.

Research is important at all levels and should be part of the experience of every graduate student. Faculty members have a strong desire to engage graduate and undergraduate students in research, and students working toward degrees in a variety of disciplines—not just honours students!—benefit in many ways from a research culture on campus.

TRU will expand opportunities for community-based student research such as the recent study by five TRU business undergraduate students for Venture Kamloops on future human resource requirements, to be used to assist Venture Kamloops in the creation of a comprehensive workforce development strategy to assist local employers to find needed labour over the next five years.

These and TRU's many other student researchers have the opportunity to meet and share their research with the community at the student-driven second annual TRU Undergrad Conference last month. Modeled on scholarly conferences attended by professors, the conference gave students at the bachelor-degree level practice and experience in giving papers, making presentations, and discussing and sharing their intellectual experiences and opinions with their peers. This year, the university will publish the proceedings of the conference both on paper and online.

Although TRU faculty hosted several academic conferences in the past year, it's not possible to host or to attend every conference. TRU's researchers are able to connect with colleagues and data banks around the world to share and quickly access large amounts of complex data, and to engage in shared laboratory instrumentation, through the TRU partnership with BCNET.

This link, 10,000x faster than the regular Internet, will be useful to some of TRU's 150+ researchers engaged in studies of international significance.

Community connections are important as well, whether in a 3D virtual world, or free lectures by campus and visiting scholars at both its Kamloops and Williams Lake campuses on an ongoing basis.

Connecting TRU research and development to the business community, TRU's Advanced Technology Centre (ATC) ensures connections between pure and applied research. The ATC aims to make the intellectual resources of the university available to business, industry and communities to create new processes, evaluate the market potential of inventions, aid in realizing the economic potential of regional products and processes, and engage in the commercialization of applied research.

TRU's integrated approach to graduate studies, to research at the undergraduate, graduate and faculty levels, and to innovation and knowledge translation promote the level of inquiry, knowledge creation and discovery that distinguishes TRU as a university and creates a dynamic learning environment at all levels.

TRU has the ability and mandate to implement advanced studies that develops enterprise and entrepreneurship, engages students and faculty with industry, business and community leadership, and supports pure and applied research, innovation transfer and knowledge translation. Already significant, research and graduate programs build on the comprehensive nature and strategic role of TRU as a community university, and will continue to grow.

RESEARCH MATTERS



Dr. Nancy Van Wagoner



Small Cities Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) researchers presented "Imaging Place Second Life: Kamloops British Columbia," created by CURA researcher John Craig Freeman. The free workshop and exhibition of the Kamloops-based research was presented in Second Life, a 3D virtual world in January. Dan O'Reilly assistant professor of philosophy's avitar prepares to greet workshop participants.



# Satisfaction survey suggests arts critical to quality of life



Dr. Alex Michalos >

A research team led by Research Director Dr. Will Garrett-Petts of Thompson Rivers University has completed the first-phase of the largest survey ever undertaken anywhere on the impact of arts-related activities on quality of life. Conducted by TRU honorary doctor and UNBC professor emeritus Dr. Alex Michalos, the preliminary results were released to the public in February.

"Cities, cultural organizations, and researchers are working with many untested assumptions regarding the contributions arts and culture make to the average person's quality of life," Garrett-Petts said. Our current work is beginning to test those assumptions and give clear definition to arts and cultures as measures of community health.

"The survey gives us an important baseline for assessing cultural assets, ones we can use to measure the relative importance of the arts in both large and small cities. Remarkably, no one has looked at this issue before—no one has surveyed the impact of the arts on quality of life in smaller communities and considered that the impact may be different in, say a small city like Kamloops than it is in Toronto or Vancouver," he added.

"Over the next two years, we will have about 20 projects going," explained Garrett-Petts, who oversees the research program, providing intellectual direction for all the research projects and bringing them together into a coherent whole.

Together with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Creative City Network, the Canadian Council on Social Development, and over 20 other community partners, Thompson Rivers University's researchers are in the process of establishing new instruments for measuring

the cultural, social, economic, and environmental health of small cities. The five-year initiative is funded by a \$1M Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada grant.

"The range of projects could be described as sinking different shafts into the same mine," said Garrett-Petts.

Michalos' mineshaft involved a survey last fall of 2000 randomly selected households in five BC communities. Householders in Comox Valley, Prince George, Nanaimo, Kamloops and Port Moody, were sent surveys specific to each community, of which 1027 responded. The group will undertake a province-wide survey in April.

"In the survey, we refer to arts in a very broad sense to include such things as music, dance, theatre, painting, sculpture, pottery, literature, including novels, short stories, poetry, photography, quilting, gardening, flower arranging, textile and fabric art," said Michalos.

Survey respondents, of whom two-thirds were women of about 53 years of age, a third of whom had a university degree, "are not likely to be representative of each community," he explained, adding, "it is fair to say that those who responded to the survey had some interest in the arts."

Sixty-seven arts-related activities were identified in the survey and respondents were asked to indicate average numbers of hours or times per year that they participated in each, and then rate their average levels of satisfaction with each activity on a seven-point scale running from very dissatisfied (1) to very satisfied (7).

## Top ten artistic activities and the satisfaction ratings:

Particular Activities	Number	Hours/Week	Satisfaction
Listening to music	917	13.34	5.91
Reading novels, etc.	705	8.52	6.20
Watching movies on video	422	4.69	5.52
Singing alone	377	4.86	5.73
Reading to others	237	3.76	6.05
Gourmet cooking	189	5.06	6.22
Telling stories	167	3.69	5.92
Painting or drawing	159	5.90	5.86
Visiting the public library	155	2.55	5.99
Dancing	152	3.01	5.98

## > RESEARCH MATTERS

## Student smarts

The big question in Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Deb McClelland's mind is whether the statement, "What the Chamber offers is worthy of every business being a member" is actually true. With help from Thompson Rivers University, she and the Chamber aim to find the answer this spring.

"We survey our members annually to find out what speakers they want to hear, what services they need, etc, but this survey is unique in its focus and scope. We need to find out what people think of us and if what we do is relevant for businesses here. This survey will give us a much better idea of how the Chamber is doing and find out what we could do better," she said.

"We conceived of the idea of an in-depth survey about six months ago, but it was a huge job, a daunting task," she said, explaining that she brought the idea to the Chamber board in January, along with the idea of strengthening the Chamber's relationship with the university.

Chamber board member and School of Business and Economics (SOBE) Dean Murray Young jumped on the idea, and immediately contacted SOBE professor Len Hutt to see if he could pull off the project with student help.

Hutt got going right away. "The question was, how would we pull something of this magnitude off?" he said.

After getting sign-on from fellow faculty members Bernie Warren and Eric Lien, Hutt presented the idea to Master of Business Administration (MBA) students at TRU, emphasizing the fact that they'd

be working on the project on a volunteer basis. Many applied, and after interviewing all applicants, Hutt and his team narrowed it down to six MBA students who would be responsible for supervising an additional 50 undergraduate business students.

"The whole idea of having MBA students head up the project is a great concept," said McClelland. "Meeting the MBA students and seeing how capable they are alleviated any reservations. I'm excited about what they're going to do for us."

"To our knowledge, a survey of this magnitude has not been done with BC Chambers in recent years," said Jaimie Drew, President of the Kamloops Chamber of Commerce. "This project not only will help us to see what our business community knows and thinks about the Chamber, but will be a fantastic hands-on project for our university students."

"The students will design the survey, compile the data and report the findings to the Chamber," added Brant Hasanen, First Vice President and incoming President of the Chamber. "But most importantly for them, they will learn firsthand about working with staff, having direct involvement with the business community and completing a meaningful project."

The aim of the survey is to poll all 4,600 licensed businesses in Kamloops: a daunting task by any standards, said Hutt, who, together with the other two faculty members, will mentor the almost-60 graduate and undergraduate students undertaking the survey.

The beginning of March saw the MBA students developing an online survey, while undergrad students started phoning to get the email addresses of the main contact person for each of the 4,600 businesses, a job which also requires them to update the field.

"Some of those 4,600 will be duplicate or stale listings," explained Hutt, who expects the final number to be somewhat, but not a lot, less.

Calling 4,600 businesses will take a bit of time, grinned Hutt, but the students expect to have the email list complete and the surveys to be sent out by the end of March.

After that, grad students will start analyzing the results.

"From my point of view," explained Hutt. "We're trying not to micromanage. The more the students do on their own, the more experience they'll gain. We faculty will be here to act as mentors, to help them shape their ideas, and to give them some direction when they encounter obstacles, and to guide them through the various stages."

"This is a great hands-on experience for our undergrads, and great supervisory and project management experience for our MBA students. Mobilizing all the energies involved makes for a great learning experience and a vital service to the community."

Survey analysis is expected to be complete by the end of April and a printed version ready for distribution in early May.



TRU business students Viningston Fernando, Jessica Saavedra, Lindsay Allan, Robbie Kelm (not shown), and Jaime Wenselaers were at the city's Development Services boardroom in January to present their Phase I Kamloops Skills Study report to Venture Kamloops, (pictured with students are Venture Kamloops CEO Jeff Putnam and Anita Grover, Economic Development Manager).

Surveying local employers to quantify the number of current and expected job vacancies in Kamloops the study revealed that Kamloops would require 68,000 workers in the next five years.

The second phase has a consultant looking at a skills shortage implementation strategy for the community based on the information gathered by the students, to be completed by the end of August 2007.

Venture Kamloops is also using the data they gathered to entice skilled workers at emigration fairs in Europe and via their website.



# Nurses influencing change

Implementing an Aboriginal nurse mentorship program and providing a comprehensive list of mental health agencies for Aboriginal health-care workers are just two of the ways TRU Aboriginal nursing students have influenced change in their communities.

The fourth-year courses NURS 430/431, Nurses Influencing Change, are all about exploring ways nurses can influence and create change for the promotion of society's health. Aboriginal nurses had the opportunity to display their projects during the recent Celebration of Aboriginal Nursing in the Grand Hall.

Irene Howe (BSN 2006) became interested in developing a mentoring program for TRU's Aboriginal nursing students after working with First Nation nurse, Charlene Yow at the Native Friendship Centre.

"Once I worked with her I could actually see my future and for the first time realized my goal of becoming a nurse was possible," said Howe, who now works as a full-time RN in Revelstoke.

The experience led to the collaborative mentorship project with fellow student Kim Klynsoon. Star Mahara, coordinator of Aboriginal Nursing and Joanne Brown, TRU's Aboriginal student coordinator, acted as their field guides.

Because it was also part of Howe and Klynsoon's clinical work, they had access to fourth-year nursing faculty who are experts in community development and influencing change.

During their research they were able to evaluate successful initiatives and provide recommendations to the Aboriginal Nursing Project on the importance of mentoring, what should be included, and how to organize it.

"We recommended building the mentorship programs into the pre-health program—before the full course load of the BSN begins," Howe said. "Building the relationships between Aboriginal students earlier would help improve retention. A second recommendation was to continue introducing students to Aboriginal role models in the community; nurses or social workers, people who we as Aboriginals can relate to culturally and who can understand the challenges we face."

"To sustain the mentorship program, we need partnerships with Aboriginal nurses to act as mentors. We have connections with several right now — the Williams Lake campus has several mentors that their faculty has been working with over the years that the nursing program has been operating there," Mahara said. "As more students graduate, we'll build this pool. For instance, Irene is now an important mentor for upcoming students."

At 35, when Howe returned to school for her degree, she was the first person in her family to do so. "My mentors understood the challenges of that, and gave me the confidence to keep going. I know how important it is for me to mentor student nurses whenever I can."

Klynsoon and Howe's research also determined that an effective mentorship program requires other resources — time for coordination, funding for honoraria (for nurse mentors and elders) and funding for food for gatherings.

When Gwen Campbell-McCarthur, about to complete her Certificate in Mental Health, talks about her research project for NURS 430/431 she is frank and sincere about the crises she saw working for Interior Health as the Aboriginal liaison worker and working nights and weekends as the on-call emergency mental health worker. These practical, applicable work experiences gave her the insight to compile the information for the Aboriginal Resource Manual.

"When my co-workers in Vernon learned that I was returning to school they asked me to put together this manual," said Campbell-McCarthur. "There are so many times in an emergency-room situation when information is needed quickly—for treatment centres or for drug and alcohol counselors and for suicide prevention."

The Interior Health Authority has been in discussion with Campbell-McCarthur about publishing the Aboriginal Resource Manual and distributing it throughout health region's agencies, hospitals and healthcare centres.

"As an aboriginal nurse, she has the benefit of coming from the culture," Mahara said. "She understands people's experiences and issues at a level that non-aboriginal nurses do not."

"However, we must stress that there is a need for all nurses to understand Aboriginal people's health and that all nurses can have a place in Aboriginal health nursing."

As Nathan Matthew, special advisor on First Nation education to President Roger Barnsley said at the celebration, "It goes beyond saying that there are some serious challenges in First Nation communities around health. It is a First Nation priority."

The Jan. 11 event acknowledged the 19 Aboriginal students currently enrolled in the nursing program and the new recruiting DVD featuring several successful TRU students.



Alexander Bell, Nelaine Mora-Diez, Cindy Ross

## Idol audiences like it hot

As its Spanish name suggested, Caliente "heated up" the audience with its performance at this year's TRU Idol contest.

The Latin music group of faculty members Nelaine Mora-Diez and Cindy Ross and alumnus Alexander Bell was the last act of the third annual TRU Idols show, winning top honours in the faculty music category.

Caliente has become a perennial favorite of the show; in fact, the group owes its inception to the first TRU Idols show in 2005.

For the students who know Mora-Diez and Ross better for their computational chemistry or biochemistry lectures, their professors' involvement in a lively Latin music ensemble may be a surprise. But these TRU faculty say music was a part of their lives long before the complicated computations of their research and teachings.

Mora-Diez is originally from Cuba, moving to Canada in 1997; she's the lead singer and plays a mean set of maracas.

"I've never been formally trained musically, but singing has always been a passion in my life," Mora-Diez said. "In Cuba I used to sing in festivals and school activities ever since I was very little."

Singing remained important when she attended the University of Havana as a student, and later as a faculty member there. She was part of the university choir for six years.

"In Cuba I never had the opportunity to join a band," Mora-Diez said. But once she arrived at Dalhousie University for her doctorate, she joined a Latin band, "Alma Latina," as lead singer when the first opportunity presented itself. "We started in the summer of 1999 and we played together for almost three years until I moved to Ottawa to do postdoctoral work." She moved to Kamloops in 2003.

Ross has been involved in music since her natural talent was discovered when she picked out the "Meow Mix" song on a piano at the age of three.

From there it was classical instruction and on to playing and recording with several bands of many styles in her hometown of Winnipeg. Multi-talented, she plays keyboards and sax (but not the Cajon), is a vocalist and still writes the occasional tune.

"I thought I was headed into a career in music," Ross said. She quickly realized she wasn't willing to take the risk; performing original music didn't guarantee paying the bills. "Instead I took on the fabulous high-flying and wacky lifestyle of assistant professor."

When Ross moved to Kamloops in 2004, Donna Mason (retired) hosted a dinner to introduce the two faculty to each other. "The first thing Nela asked me was if I did any music, and I confessed I did play the piano," Ross said.

She also confessed that she had never tried Latin music before Mora-Diez suggested they join the TRU Idols competition set for early 2005.

During Caliente's premiere performance, Doug Baleshta, Coordinator Instructional Support, rounded out the trio.

From there they were invited to play several songs at the Alumni Dinner. Larry Read was at the dinner and invited Caliente to play at one of his Midday TV Shows and from there they connected with Henry Small and played at Music in the Park that summer. Trevor Hust, a guitar and bass player, replaced Baleshta, who had other musical commitments. They played together for almost a year then Alex Bell joined Caliente in February of 2006.

For Bell, the TRU Idols show reminded him of his Canadian Idols tryouts a few years back. "I got through the first four auditions, but didn't make it to Toronto," Bell said. "That's why I appreciated the opportunity that TRU Idols gave; I would love to try Canadian Idols again, but am, alas, too old."

Bell was born and raised in Kamloops and music has been his main drive since elementary school. His singing started at Kamloops Interior Summer School of Music (KISSM) at about the same time he learned trumpet and drums in school. He's been a creator and member of many well-known groups in the community including S.A.R.V., Broken 5th, and the Cantabile Singers, where he met Mora-Diez.

Caliente loves to play in public, and are really building their repertoire, although performing may have to take a back seat to some bigger personal and career plans that will put the group in recess for the summer. Ross plans to be married and Mora-Diez will be going to Europe. She was invited to be a visiting professor to do research at the Autonoma University of Madrid, Spain, from May until the end of July.



Irene Howe and Gwen Campbell-McCarthur

## TRU Idols Results

### Musician Category

- 1st place > Aloma Steele
- 2nd place > Ben Nielsen
- 3rd place > Nathan Froese

### Instrumental Category

- 1st place > Trevor Ford
- 2nd place > Steffan Ryeo

### Comedy Category

- 1st place > Ryan Nicholson
- 2nd place > Mantej Mahil

### Dance Category

- 1st place > Harveen Chahal and Reena Plawn

(even though they were the only act, the judges said they scored the highest overall)

### Singer Category

- 1st place > Jeff Cai
- 2nd place > Tori Biel
- 3rd place > Michael Ikumono

### Faculty Category

- 1st place > Caliente (Cindy Ross, Nela Mora-Diez)
- 2nd place > Storm (Patrick Walton)
- 3rd place tie > Brian Bouthillier and Nancy Bepple





◀ Rob Higgins, Williams Lake Campus

## Tick Removal

- › don't use chemicals or burn them out with matches
- › do grasp the tick's body firmly, top and bottom with tweezers and gently pull back

## Tick talk

Ticks: They lurk in the tall grasses, waiting for the unwary; when they detect carbon dioxide or vibrations from walking animals, they hurry up to the top of blades of grass, where, with their heads down, they wave their legs hoping to catch a ride on a host.

A not-so-welcome harbinger of spring, ticks rank with leeches as one of the least desirable animals to discover attached to any body. Distinct from the true insects in that they lack antennae and possess four pairs of legs as opposed to the three pairs of all insects, ticks are arthropods that are close relatives of spiders. Their distinctly spider-like appearance is not an attribute that gains the sympathy of many people, and their presence is clearly not to anyone's advantage. However, as spring arrives, animals, humans included, that spend time in the grasslands will once again become acquainted with this tenacious animal.

Although a few of them would fit on the average person's fingernail, the fear and loathing they engender is huge; and just as in the old Kipling poem, the female is deadlier than the male. But not to worry: most aren't that dangerous for humans, says Thompson Rivers University biologist Rob Higgins.

Higgins, an entomologist who specializes in ants, hastens to say that he's no major expert on ticks.

"I'm unofficially considered as the most knowledgeable about ticks in the Cariboo-Chilcotin, but that is only because everyone else knows nothing," he grins.

He knows enough to set the record straight on a common misconception, however: "Even if it feels like it, ticks don't burrow into the skin," he says.

"What the tick does is secrete a whitish cement-like substance around her head and jaws to hold her onto her host," he explains. "It is this substance that often causes many people to mistakenly believe the ticks are burrowing into their skin, something ticks do not, and cannot do."

In fact, says Higgins, if left alone, the tick will drop off her host after several days and search for another host to complete the next stage in her life cycle. Of course, this knowledge doesn't help if the tick is one of those that cause paralysis or disease, or if you're confronted with hordes of the little parasites, which can happen with some species.

"While a human might pick up a handful of individuals of the Rocky Mountain wood tick on a bad day, because of the way the winter ticks cluster together on plants, a host usually picks up a very large number. It is not uncommon to have up to 30,000 ticks on an animal and I personally found several thousand on a horse I brought in from out west," says Higgins.

"The genus Ixodes are about the size of a sesame seed and thus easy to overlook," Higgins says.

Their effects can be quite noticeable. "Their bite can be quite painful, and they can carry the bacterium *Borrelia* that is responsible for Lyme disease.

"Fortunately, the species of this tick, *Ixodes pacificus*, or black-legged wood tick, that is the usual carrier of Lyme disease, does not appear to live much north of Boston Bar. We have two species of *Ixodes* here in the Cariboo-Chilcotin but neither seems to like humans as a host."

Hard-bodied ticks of the genus *Dermacentor* include the winter tick mentioned above and the Rocky Mountain wood tick, which is the tick that most people encounter, and which can be dangerous, depending on where it's found.

"While this species is known to carry the bacterium *Rickettsia* that causes Rocky Mountain spotted fever, ticks on the western side of the Rockies do not appear to carry this disease," says Higgins. It can, however, cause other problems, he cautions. "On rare occasion this tick can cause paralysis in her host which can lead to death unless the tick is removed, but fortunately the removal of the ticks will completely resolve the paralysis," he added.

While the winter tick doesn't carry disease, a large quantity can cause serious energy loss in deer, elk and moose struggling with poor winter-feeding conditions, says Higgins, who explains that "As the animals rub against trees or other objects to dislodge these ticks they lose a significant amount of hair. The name 'ghost moose' was coined to describe moose in this condition."

Higgins has some final advice for people going out on the trail during tick season:

"You can keep ticks from crawling under clothing by wearing a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, and boots or sturdy shoes, and by tucking pants cuffs into socks or taping up gaps where pants and socks meet," he says. "Check yourself and your animals after a walk in the woods or grasslands, and if you have an unexplained illness with fever, call your doctor and be sure to let him know if you've been in places where you may have picked up a tick."



## Professor's analysis supports timely action for slowing climate change

Whether climate change can be wholly attributed to humans or not, it makes strong economic and environmental sense to treat the problem as human-caused and take immediate action, concludes a statistical analysis by Dr. Peter Tsigaris of Thompson Rivers University.

Tsigaris's results fall on the heels of a report released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in February of this year, which concluded that global warming was very likely caused by humans and inaction would have a devastating impact on the world, economically.

Past and current IPCC reports have brought about a whirlwind of response from experts on where the blame lies and provided a forum

for scientists with alternate theories on the earth's climate shift.

Tsigaris noted, however, there is a stronger argument to move resources toward cleaner technologies now rather than supporting "naysayers" and spending money trying to pinpoint the causes of global warming that moves blame away from humans.

"The important question is the cost of the sceptics on human-induced global warming being wrong relative to the cost of the IPCC report being wrong in its assessment," said Tsigaris, who teaches economics and statistics in the TRU School of Business and Economics.

He arrived at his own conclusion after analysing a question he posed to his statistics class.

Students were asked to set up hypotheses on both sides the argument and consider the associated costs by using statistical theory that centres on reasonable doubt.

Students were specifically challenged to set up "the null and alternative hypothesis" for the claim that humans cause global warming.

"As a scientist, you want to test that the above claim is true beyond a reasonable doubt," Tsigaris said.

Students were then asked to discuss implications of errors in terms of the economic impact.

In the analogy of our justice system, Tsigaris explained, a person on trial is assumed to be

innocent, "the null," until the evidence indicates that (s)he is guilty, "the alternative," beyond a reasonable doubt. In statistical terms regarding global warming, the observed results from the sample evidence pass beyond a reasonable doubt.

"This analysis also confirms the Stern Review on The Economics of Climate Change which suggests that the cost of taking action today is far less than the cost of continuing doing business as usual," he explained.



# Belize to Kamloops — A tropical student exchange

A week-long stay in snowy Kamloops during a cold snap hardly seems like an ideal time for an student exchange visit.

Imagine, though, if you had never seen snow, a bald eagle or been in a building over four-stories high and you'd realize just how much Misael Vasquez was able to cram into his one-week visit to TRU in mid-January.

For assistant professor Karl Larsen, having a University of Belize student visit the campus was more than returning some of the generosity that was extended to the 12 NRS field school students during their trip to Belize in May of 2006.

"Having Misael here gave him and our students an opportunity to meet and exchange ideas," Larsen said. "He told an NRS class about a hydro project in Belize that had a major environmental impact. It was a Canadian project. We don't always see ourselves (Canadians) as a threat to nature."

Between presentations to various classes, Vasquez was shown highlights of the area, with a natural resource slant, such as balancing resort development with environmental concerns at Sun Peaks. It's a topic of interest for the 20-year-old as he watches a major resort, Scarlet Macaw, transform the beaches, reefs and jungle near his home of Paraiso Village in northern Belize.

"I feel like a dog," Vasquez said to his friends via email. "I've been wow-wowing everything." The scenery amazed him on his trip through the Rockies from Calgary, the -18 degree weather and how quiet it could be in a forest.

In the final semester of his Bachelor of Natural Resource Management program at the University of Belize, Vasquez will present the highlights of his trip to classmates and faculty. At the university his course load includes GIS mapping, project management and environmental assessment, all taught in English.

A small portion of each student's fees from last year's field study class, financial help from TRU World and the Department of Natural Resource Science, funded Vasquez's trip to Kamloops. He earned the trip by submitting an essay describing the reasons he would benefit from the exchange.

Larsen, along with NRS assistant professor Wendy Gardner and another group of 12 students will head south to Belize Apr. 30. The students will immerse themselves studying the ecosystems of the tropical jungles and reefs of the developing Central American nation located between Mexico and Guatemala.



Misael Vasquez

## 5 > TRU PROGRAMS

# Tourism students at PCMA Conference

Neills Kristensen was one of 14 students from TRU's Bachelor of Tourism Management degree and Event and Convention Management Diploma who attended the Professional Conference Management Association (PCMA) convention in Toronto this January.

The fourth-year student from Grand Falls/Grand Sault, NB, is laddering his Hotel & Restaurant and Events & Conventions Management Diplomas, from Holland College, Charlottetown, PEI, into a Bachelor of Tourism Management degree at TRU.

During his first year at Holland College he had the opportunity to attend the association's AGM in Anaheim, California and was excited to go again.

"Since this year (2007) was the first annual meeting outside of the United States and was held in Canada, I talked to the dean and faculty of the department about the possibility of sending a delegation to Toronto," Kristensen said.

By adding fundraising and proposal writing to their course loads, the students were able to raise enough money to attend.

They hosted a Tourism Pub Night with lots of activities, a silent auction and great prizes at Pogue Mahones in early December, and the student delegates were also supported by TRU's Comprehensive University Enhancement Fund (CUEF).

"This trip was an opportunity for the students to see what their life could be like in the convention industry and to make connections by networking with potential employers," said BTM instructor Ted Wykes.

"The students had the opportunity to see first-hand

the technology required for these enormous events, that it's not all about fluffy table settings. By attending (the conference) our students recognized the value of their knowledge and the education they are gaining at TRU. They gained confidence to be successful in the very competitive convention industry."

Since returning, the students are already making fundraising plans for next year's convention in Seattle and are trying to put together a Student Chapter of PCMA here at TRU.



Photo by Brandi McLarry

Constance O'Neill "April Showers" meets up with BTM student Neills Kristensen during the "Ontario: A Destination for All Seasons" network reception. All of the major ballrooms on the main floor at the Sheraton Hotel in Toronto were transformed into the four seasons of Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter showcasing the convention industry to the TRU student delegates.

# Co-op recruiter walks the talk



Megan Sakakibara and Megan Lepp, TRU MarCom's Co-op students, load up promotional materials for a recruiting road trip

## Did you know

- > In 2006-07 during the fall and winter term 50 TRU students studied abroad in 12 different countries
- > Each year 400 TRU students do co-op studies from 30 program areas

During countless high school visits throughout the region and province TRU recruiter Megan Sakakibara heard many Grade 12 students say they were taking a break after graduation to travel or work before heading to university.

Her response to them was, "Why work as a cashier when you can do a co-op term at TRU and earn money and university credits?"

Or sometimes she replied, "Do both; travel, immerse yourself in a foreign culture, with help from the university and earn credits towards your degree."

The bachelor of business administration student has heeded her own advice; Sakakibara ended her second co-op term as a recruitment officer with the marketing and communications office Feb. 1 and headed off to Graz, Austria. She'll be studying at the F.H. Joanneum School of Applied Sciences, earning credits toward her TRU degree in that university's Global Business Program.

Like all TRU Study Abroad students, Sakakibara will pay TRU tuition for her European courses and earns a \$1,500 scholarship just for being accepted. Once there she'll share a flat with three young Austrian women who live just a five-minute walk away from Joanneum. They even have a bike for her to use.

She'll also take advantage of Eurorail and take a short trip to Germany to visit her Omma (grandmother), visit a cousin in Holland, and try to meet a recruiting colleague from UNBC in Greece.

Although she admonishes herself for taking six years to complete her degree (she transferred to the BBA program after a year of arts), she concedes that she's building an incredible resume. "I am a better writer, better public speaker and have more confidence in myself since doing my co-op terms at TRU," Sakakibara said.

"I have so many letters giving me positive feedback from the high school students I have met on tours, other university's recruiters and from the people I worked with at TRU that I know I am awesome," Sakakibara said laughing. "Recruiting for TRU has been an amazing opportunity. Job experience like that's invaluable when I graduate and begin looking to start a full-time career."

During part of her co-op term she toured all of BC and some of Alberta, experiences that Sakakibara says gave her independence, a sense of responsibility and great references for future employers.

"I really encourage students at TRU to take advantage of all the extra things that are available to them. With Study Abroad and Co-op you really get to try things before you decide on the career you want to have."

Sakakibara will be back to Kamloops in June, just in time for Summer Session, and will head right back to class. To graduate in 2008 she has set a pace for herself that leaves little time for leisure. Her goal is to graduate with a double major in Marketing and International Business.





**Team Yukon:**  
Level 2 & 3 Culinary Arts students, Instructor Derrick Moffat and Chair Kimberly Johnstone, with Dean of Tourism Dave Twynam, and President and Vice-Chancellor Roger Barnsley



Scott Jaeger, Paul Bocese, and Brody White > Photo credit: Jeff Jordan

# North to the Yukon

Ten students from the Culinary Arts program took their cooking skills on the road this semester—the icy roads of the Yukon to be exact.

Students from levels 2 and 3 of the TRU Culinary Arts Program, along with Chair Kimberly Johnstone and instructor Derrick Moffat, were in Whitehorse Feb. 22 through March 9 preparing meals for the athletes and volunteers at the 2007 Canadian Winter Games Athlete's Village.

"It was an amazing experience for our students," Johnstone said. "Not only did they learn first-hand the logistics of preparing so many meals, they had full access to all the sporting venues and a trip to Canada's North."

As great fun as a northern field trip would have been, Moffat and Johnstone made sure there was a course component.

"We looked at the menu and schedule in November in order to ensure the students received as much experience in the different styles of food preparation as possible," Moffat said.

"They worked at production prep, handling large-volume thermal systems, buffet set-up and service, as well as cook-to-order stations like stir fry, pasta bars, deli bars and omelet breakfast stations, where the students would cook to order in front of the guests."

During a regular day at TRU the students are responsible for 300 to 350 meals per day, Monday to Friday in the university's culinary arts cafeteria. For the Games, they fed upwards of 1,700 at each meal at the main kitchen at Yukon College and several off-site facilities, working over 100 hours each to prepare over 85,000 meals during the 17 days of the Games.

Depending on the meal they were assigned to prepare for the Winter Games, the student's day could start as early as 5am and end as late as 9pm. Students kept up with course work at the Games as well with daily debriefs and Web CT assignments.

But it wasn't all work. For the few spare hours the students had, Games organizers arranged a dogsled tour for them to see the highlights of Whitehorse, and they also had the opportunity to participate in recreational activities at the Athletes Village, view some athletic competitions and experience Yukon hospitality.

This was the first time Games organizers called upon the skills of students in culinary arts programs. TRU's students joined students from Northern Lights College, Northwest Community College, Malaspina University-College and Yukon College, to create a team of 65 student chefs and eight chef instructors, who worked alongside 95 other food-service volunteers.

## TRU Grad in World's Top Ten!

Besides feeding the athletes at the Canada Winter Games this semester, TRU's culinary teaching prowess was on the world stage at Lyon, France during the 11th Bocese d'Or, World Cuisine Contest. This year's Team Canada, which included TRU grad Brody White (2004) as assistant to Chef Scott Jaeger, placed 7th out of the 24 competing countries, the first year Team Canada has placed in the competition's top 10.

Culinary Instructor Jeff Jordan attended the event to cheer on his former student and to watch the world's best chefs in action.

"It was like watching the Memorial Cup playoffs," Jordan said. "Each country has a section of fans either with huge flags like Norway or like the Canadians—hockey jerseys."

"Seeing Brody there and competing with the world's best, and knowing he is the second of our students to do so, says great things about our program and the potential of our students."

## 6 > TRU PROGRAMS



# Horticulture Horizons 2007

A sure sign of spring is the gathering of gardeners for Thompson Rivers University, Friends of the Garden Horticulture Horizons. This year's keynote speaker is Sara Williams.

Williams is well known in the prairie provinces for her expertise in perennials and xeriscape. She writes a column in the Western Producer and is heard regularly on CBC Radio Saskatchewan's "Morning Edition". This accomplished author will also host two afternoon sessions on the English Garden and Colour and Design in the Perennial Border.

Others sessions include Replanting the Urban Forest, Organics in the Landscape, Seed Collection & Use of Native Plants, New and Exciting Perennials, Micro-Irrigation, and Small Space Gardening.

Held on April 22, a highlight of the daylong event will be the food. TRU Culinary Arts will provide morning and afternoon coffee breaks and an amazing lunch.

Early bird registration is March 30 for a cost of \$60. Regular admission is \$70. For more information contact Kevin Scollon at 250.828.5181 or by email at kscollon@tru.ca



Thompson Rivers University held its third graduation ceremony for the Distance Practical Nursing Program offered in partnership with NorQuest College in February. The 13 graduates, from hometowns throughout the province—Abbotsford to Fort St. James, are already working in their new careers.



Pirate Peter Holmgren (left), the MC for the 15th annual TRU Foundation's Gala dinner, joins Tony Erlank (pointing) and Candace Cates for the festivities as mermaid Becky Mann serves drinks. Erlank and Cates have attended 13 Foundation Galas. The Foundation hosted the 2007 annual GALA dinner and dance fundraising event on Feb 3. The theme this year was Pirates of the Caribbean and 280 guests were treated to a fabulous gourmet meal prepared by the TRU Culinary Arts Program. Foundation volunteers transformed the grand hall ballroom into a swashbuckling sea adventure from the past. The event raised over \$67,000 to benefit students at TRU.  
Photo credit > Mark McDonald, Kamloops This Week



# A globally minded campus

This year's International Days at TRU were a weeklong celebration of the world's song, dance and food dramatically demonstrating the growing internationalization of Thompson Rivers University.

Clearly, from the energy of the organizing committee to the number of participants, the expanding diversity of the campus adds another welcome dimension to the TRU experience.

A high-quality international educational experience for all TRU students is more than an annual show of appreciation for the Chinese lion dancers or enjoying a dim sum lunch.

"Since we began our foray into international education we knew that along with the many international opportunities there will naturally be challenges," said Vera Wojna, associate director TRU World. "In 2004 we gathered as an ad hoc group of faculty, deans and academic advisors in 2004 to explore the realities of the international teaching and learning experience at TRU."

Two and a half years later, this International Student Success Interest Group (ISSIG) has grown from the initial ten to 25, and has led to a number of initiatives including an intercultural communication workshop series and the newly published resource — TRU: A Globally Minded Campus.

Just as Wojna and committee were asking themselves, 'what could we be doing better in terms of the TRU international experience,' Kyra Garson, an ESL instructor working on her Master of Adult Education degree focusing on cross-cultural studies, came to TRU to undertake her research. Garson also had experience at the Peruvian Cultural Institute designing curriculum and as academic coordinator.

Garson, began distilling the TRU experience, its challenges and opportunities and developed intercultural classroom communication workshops for staff, students and faculty on behalf of TRU World.

Penny Heaslip, coordinator for the Centre for Teaching and Learning, organized and promoted a day during in-service week to address international initiatives such as study abroad and field schools.

The day culminated with an intercultural communications workshop by Garson and the formal release of the 160 page academic resource, TRU: A Globally Minded Campus.

What started as an idea for a manual to support faculty addressing the increasingly culturally diverse classroom environment has evolved into a more comprehensive resource which addresses a wide range of topics and perspectives, Wojna said at the book's launch in February.

Already thinking about the next issue, Wojna said, "We intend this to be a dynamic resource. What may have been the most important part has been the process, the dialogue and exchange of ideas."

"With the growing diversity in classrooms — from international and domestic students and faculty. The faculty expressed a need for more education," Heaslip said. "Often faculty is a student's primary point of contact—these workshops and now the resource manual will assist them with a wide range of issues and information."

"We have an understanding as a university that we are training our students to work and live in a global environment," TRU President Roger Barnsley said in his address at the book launch. "From the efforts we have made by inviting young people from all over the world we are now a national example of how to internationalize a campus."

During her year on the project, Garson did extensive research on the topic, taking a "bottom-up approach," speaking with students first: international and domestic, the book is full of their quotes. "It was the interviews and focus groups with faculty that really informed the content and design of the manual, she told the small crowd gathered for the book launch. "As far as I can tell, this is the only resource like this I can see out there—at least in the province. Everyone should find something they can use in it."

The intercultural communications workshops have also been offered to the university's service divisions. To date Finance, Bookies, Registrar's Office, Student Development, TRU Residence and many other groups have taken part in the two-hour session.

Hazel Green, secretary for Student Affairs and University Prep, is in daily contact with ESL students. After she took the workshop she realized her Canadian mannerisms or the daily use of slang could be hampering her communication with international students. "I have become more aware that I need to speak plain English," Green said, noting that she's looking at the bigger picture in her day-to-day communications.

Although Garson explains to the participants that broad generalizations about culture aren't helpful, it's important to be aware of different communication styles and that some cultures have communication styles built in.

For more information about taking part in intercultural workshops or obtaining the new resource, TRU: A Globally Minded Campus—A Resource manual for Academics, please contact Vera Wojna, TRU World or Penny Heaslip, The Centre for Teaching and Learning.



2007 International Days



Kyra Garson, Vera Wojna, and Penny Heaslip

## Quick Facts

- Nearly 800 First Nations students are enrolled at TRU
- In 2006–07, 900 students are attending TRU from 60 different countries

7 > TRU WORLD + STUDY ABROAD



TRU students in Chandigarh, India celebrate Lohri, the end of winter festival with Brenda Thompson (third in line) > Photo credit: Geoff Wilmshurst

## TRU establishes strong base in India

A new chapter in TRU World international partnerships began last September with the start of TRU programs for students in India. Working with the Canadian Institute for International Studies (CIIS) based in the city of Chandigarh in north India, TRU offers the CSOM diploma leading to the BTACS degree, the Post Baccalaureate Diploma in Marketing and Open Learning's Bachelor of Technology in Technology Management.

Currently three TRU faculty members work with Indian counterparts at CIIS. Brenda Thompson, English and Modern Languages arrived last August and is heading up the English courses as well as establishing an English Centre at CIIS. Heather Williams from SOBE and Brian Richards from CSOM arrived in January and are teaching courses in their respective fields.

"Currently TRU has 40 students over the three programs and has plans for significant student numbers starting in September 2007, including the addition of new programs," said

Geoff Wilmshurst Coordinating Director who arrived in India in August to oversee the partnership development.

CIIS maintains two campuses in the Chandigarh area with the largest located forty-five minutes from town in the green countryside of Punjab State. The modern facility was completed in 2005 and has the capacity to educate and house more than one thousand students. It has modern computer labs and classrooms.

"India is at the stage in its development where China was twenty years ago. It is a very exciting time to be here and TRU, through this partnership, has really established a strong base for program development in India. We can expect to see large numbers of our students at CIIS transferring to TRU over the next years to either complete their degrees in Kamloops or to go to do other diplomas and degrees," said Wilmshurst.

According to Brenda Thompson, "The students here are highly

motivated and they are excited to have the opportunity to study towards a Canadian degree here in India."

As the program grows there will also be opportunities for TRU students in Kamloops to spend a semester abroad in India. "As we have done with our partner in Tianjin, China I would expect that we will be able to organize an exchange of students between TRU Kamloops and CIIS," said Wilmshurst by email from India. "The advantage in both cases is that the program remains the same whether in India or Canada so there are no issues around course transferability.

"India is the new China and having a presence here is very important for TRU. We have been very fortunate to come in at a time when few other Canadian universities have entered the market with a presence on the ground. It will give us a big advantage in name recognition within the Indian education market as a whole."



## Season wrap-up

The Thompson Rivers University WolfPack has completed its second year in the Canada West conference of Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS), and, as predicted, its performance was better than last year's, and will keep improving as the years go by.

### Men's Volleyball › Final standing: 7–14

Top men's scorer was Robin Schoebel. He was awarded Canada West Rookie of the Year honours and named to the CIS all-rookie team. The 1st-year outside hitter from Beausoleil, France, came to TRU after logging 65 matches with the U-18 French national team. He finished 4th in points, with an average 4.10 per game, and his outstanding 22-kill performance in the 'Pack's match vs Calgary was crucial to the WolfPack's fifth-set win which secured the 'Pack the final playoff spot in Canada West. Schoebel also ended up 4th in points, 7th in kills and 9th in service aces at the end of Canada West conference play for the regular season, while teammate Matt Harris finished in 6th place in hitting percentage and Colin Jaggard was 8th in assists.

### Women's Volleyball › Final standing: 4–16

The women's team bid a sad but fond farewell to its three fifth-year players, Robyn Devlin (Revelstoke), Sandra-Joy Unaegbu, and Kristin Peters (Kamloops), who led the team into its inaugural CIS season last year and helped it to provincial gold and the fair play award in its last year of play in the CCAA. Regular-season final stats for Canada West show Devlin 7th in the conference in digs and 9th in kills, while teammates Kristy Alblas and Richelle Walton finished up 2nd and 3rd in service aces respectively, with Alblas also 10th in assists. Libero Laura Plouffe ended the season in conference's 10th place spot for digs. Active recruiting by head coach Carrie Barrett has resulted in the early commitment of all-star and exceptional student Amanda Frayne, a 5'11" outside hitter from Sa-Hali Secondary, and 5'11" all star and Canadian Top 25 Prospect Jennifer Johnston of Winnipeg.

The men's and women's basketball teams are in a growing phase, with mostly first and second-year athletes, they've had some wins and many narrow losses this season.

### Men's Basketball › Final Standing: 1–22

Canada West men's basketball stats at the end of the regular season show Kamar Burke, who double-doubled in eight of the 21 conference games he played in this season, ranked 5th in defensive rebounds, 7th in blocked shots, 10th in steals, 8th in assists and 8th in rebounding. Teammate Charlie Spurr finished the regular season 5th in scoring, with an average 19.8 points per game, 12th in steals, 10th in three-point field goal percentages, 5th in three-point field goals made, and 3rd in free-throw percentage, while Brian Smith ended up 21st in scoring and Braeden Jones 15th in both field-goal percentage and offensive rebounds.

### Women's Basketball › Final Standing: 2–21

On the women's side, Kelley O'Grady finished the Canada West regular season in 2nd place in three-point field goals made, 6th in scoring with an average 15.6 points per game, 18th in rebounding, 13th in steals, and 11th in defensive rebounds. Sarah Cameron ended up tied in 6th place for assists, 10th in steals, 21st in scoring, 12th in three-point field goal percentage and tied for 9th in three-point field goals made, and 12th in assist/turnover ratio. Kali Ellis finished up 26th in scoring, while Jaclyn Cummings was 7th in offensive rebounds, 8th in blocked shots, and 14th in rebounding. Penticton all-star, MVP and honour student Jena Riches will join the 'Pack for the 2007–08 season.

Next year, with more experience, both teams hope to turn this season's narrow losses into decisive wins, thanks to some extremely talented players.

### Club and Individual Sports:

Two TRU students, Amanda Nordin and Trent Hardaker, are heading up men's and women's curling teams at the national university curling championships to be held in late March, and TRU business student Carly Thorp represented BC in the parallel giant slalom snowboarding event at the Canada Winter Games, held in Whitehorse, Yukon, where snowboarding debuted as a demonstration sport.

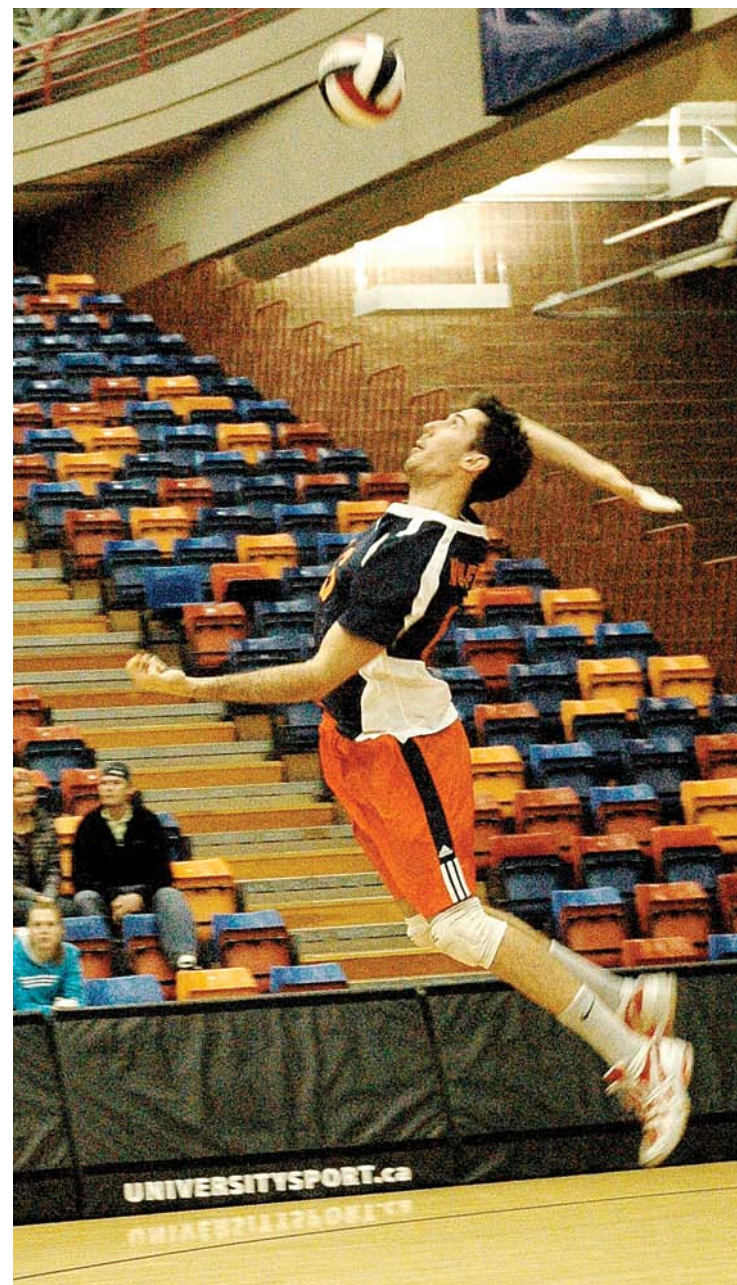
TRU athlete Nick Hamilton placed 4th in his category at TRU's inaugural appearance at the 10th Annual Canadian University Rowing Championships (CURC) regatta in St. Catharines, Ontario last fall, and our baseball team won the Canadian Colleges Baseball Championship last spring.

### Coming Soon...

Kamloops' new Tournament Capital facilities will soon to be open, TRU will be hosting varsity basketball and volleyball games there and have already held a successful provincial soccer tournament on the state-of-the-art turf at Hillside Stadium. Not only did visiting teams enjoy the facilities, but our women's soccer team won silver at the event, and then went on to claim national silver a couple of weeks later at the CCAA championships.

In cooperation with community sporting organizations like the Kamloops Volleyball Association, TRU expects to host many tournaments of benefit to the university and to community in the coming year, offering tournaments for high school and elementary students to showcase their athletic prowess in hopes of recruitment to a university team. Two TRU varsity coaches, men's volleyball head coach Patrick Hennelly and women's basketball head coach Scott Reeves are also regional coaches, helping to develop young players, coaches and officials in conjunction with Pacific Sport.

This spring and summer, watch for the men's baseball team's games at Norbrock Stadium and other community venues, and mark your calendar for the TRU Sports Task Force annual golf fundraiser June 1st.



Robin Schoebel › Photo credit: Jennifer Robertson, Omega

## 8 › ATHLETICS



## Events

### Sports Task Force Awards Ceremony

Thursday, April 5 › 3pm, IB Panorama Room  
TRU Sports Task Force presents its annual year-end awards ceremony. Reception at 3pm; Awards presentation at 4pm. For info call 250.828.5273.

### Athletic Awards Banquet

Thursday, April 5 › 6:30pm, Grand Hall  
TRU Athletics and Recreation presents its annual athletic awards banquet. Reception at 6:30pm; Dinner and presentations at 7:30pm. For info call 250.828.5273.

### Director's Festival

April 9–14 › 8pm, Actors Workshop Theatre  
TRU Actors Workshop presents two evenings of one-act plays directed by senior directing students. Night A: Apr 9, 11 & 13; Night B: Apr 10, 12 & 14. For info call 250.828.5216.

### Last Class Bash

April 13 › outside Student Street  
TRU Orientation presents a last class celebration featuring free food, activities, prizes and entertainment. For info call 250.371.5835.

### Student Connections

April 13 › 5pm, Independent Centre, CAC  
TRU Orientation presents a student connections event featuring free food, activities, prizes and entertainment. For info call 250.371.5835.

### Art Opening

Thursday, April 19 › 7:30pm, Visual Arts Gallery  
Opening reception for TRU Visual Arts graduating exhibition. For info call 250.828.5489.

### High School Model United Nations

Wednesday, May 2 › 8:30am–3:30pm, Various campus locations  
TRU and SD 73 present the annual High School Model United Nations conference. For info call 250.371.5739.

### Computing Education Conference

Thursday–Saturday, May 3–5 › Location TBA  
TRU hosts the Western Canadian Conference on Computing Education. For info call 250.828.5153.

### TRU Awards Ceremony

Tuesday, May 15 › 3pm, CAC Rotunda  
Annual staff awards ceremony. For info call 250.371.6119.

### Summer Session Beach Party

Thursday, May 17 › 5pm, outside Student Street  
TRU Orientation presents a student orientation event featuring free food, activities, prizes and entertainment. For info call 250.371.5835.