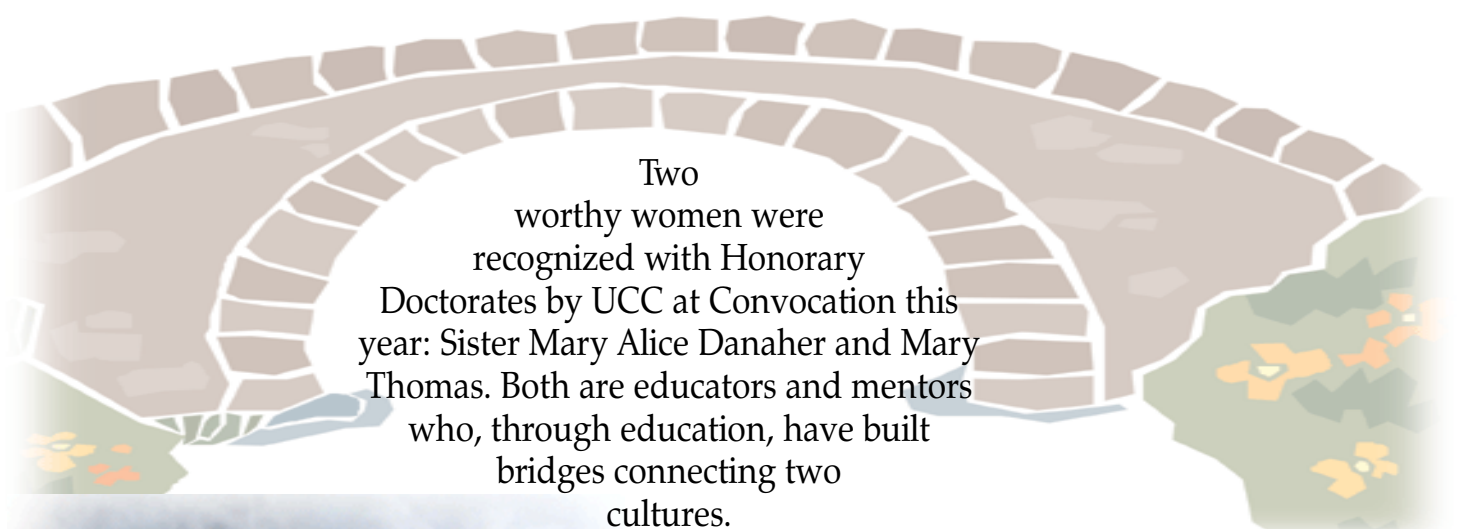


## SISTERS IN SPIRIT



Two  
worthy women were  
recognized with Honorary  
Doctorates by UCC at Convocation this  
year: Sister Mary Alice Danaher and Mary  
Thomas. Both are educators and mentors  
who, through education, have built  
bridges connecting two  
cultures.



**SISTER MARY ALICE DANAHER**

**HONORARY DOCTORATE OF LAW**

Sister Mary Alice Danaher, a Sister of the Congregation of Notre Dame who holds a PhD in Educational Leadership, “started a whole new legacy of education” for the Canim Lake Indian Band, says a grateful Band member.



**MARY THOMAS**

**HONORARY DOCTORATE OF LETTERS**

Mary Thomas, an Elder of the Neskonlith Indian Band #3 in Salmon Arm, has gladly and actively given of her talents and knowledge to create a lasting legacy of support and heritage for her culture, and for the earth.

*continued on page 2*

*from page 1*

## SISTER MARY ALICE DANAHER

Sister Mary Alice Danaher arrived to teach domestic courses at the Canim Lake Reserve in 1970. After Band member Antoinette Archie asked, "Why have you asked if we want to take art or sewing? Why can't we finish high school like white people?" Mary Alice taught adult education on the reserve for two years, helping 36 band members to complete Grade 12.

After six years in Quebec, Sister Mary Alice returned to Canim Lake at the request of Band members, where she worked with them to establish an on-reserve elementary and secondary school. With Mary Alice's help, youth dropout rates fell and adult dropouts returned to school, bringing the 487-member band's student population to 100.

Seeing that some of her graduates were ready for post-secondary studies, and believing that Indian children would be best taught by Indian teachers, Mary Alice, and others, secured an on-reserve baccalaureate partnership with Gonzaga University in Washington State. Some course work was done on the reserve, and some at Gonzaga during summer session. The program was a success; by 1993, 21 students completed Bachelor's degrees in Native Indian Leadership.

In 1997, as Education Coordinator for the Cariboo Tribal Council, Mary Alice brought together members of 15 Indian Bands in an agreement to further their education in a Weekend University partnership with UCC and the University of Northern BC. The program was later augmented by weekend language courses in Shuswap and Chilcotin. In her role as Education Coordinator, Mary Alice helped to develop the Shuswap curriculum used in schools today, and, as an educator with a special interest in literacy, continues to teach elders to read.

In a recent tribute to Mary Alice, Chief Antoine Archie said, "If she feels you have it in you, she will dig it out. If, on the other hand, you don't have it, she will help you create it. We, as Natives, have very many blessings, but we know of no greater blessing than having Sister Mary Alice among us."

*from page 1*

## MARY THOMAS

Her goal, she says, is to "make people whole again." She has never wavered from her path. Right now, Mary is working with the RCMP to create youth programs for First Nations teens. "I'm worried about the children," she says. A survivor of Residential School where she was punished for speaking her native language and practicing Native arts, Mary Thomas knows the value of self-esteem: she founded the Central Okanagan Interior Friendship Centre in Kelowna in 1970 for First Nations people in support of a cultural revival; four years later, she founded the Skalaow Society in Salmon Arm to support Native arts and crafts.

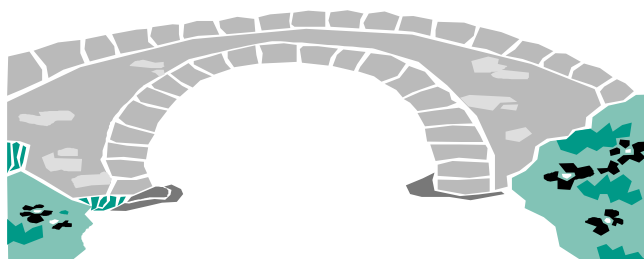
Her many accomplishments will speak for themselves for generations to come, but their importance is already obvious. For her work constructing kekulis at the Secwepemc Cultural Heritage Park in Kamloops, the Central Okanagan Friendship Society in Kelowna, and the Smithsonian Institute in Washington DC, and for her efforts preserving and sharing Secwepemc culture, Mary received the BC Museums Association Distinguished Person Award in 1989 and then the Governor-General's Commemorative Medal in 1992.

As well as keeping alive the language and stories of her people, Mary teaches the traditional skills of coiled-root and pine-needle basket weaving, birch-bark basket making, beadwork, doll making, dugout-canoe making, traditional pit-cooking, and fish-trap construction. Mary developed the Interior Salish education package for use in schools and universities, and has traveled widely throughout BC to educate Natives and non-Natives alike in Secwepemc traditional crafts and language.

Her environmental advocacy has taken many forms. Mary mentors students of botany and ethnobotany across Canada, and continues to act as an elder advisor to federal and provincial elected officials. She has collaborated on several ethnobotany projects and publications with Dr. Nancy Turner of the University of Victoria, and she has worked tirelessly to revive knowledge in traditional medicinal and food plant uses.

Mary was the first native North American to receive the Indigenous Conservationist of the Year Award from the Seacology Foundation of Utah, and recently received a Canadian Aboriginal of the Year award.

Mary Thomas says that she receives the Doctorate of Letters from UCC "with humility in my heart."



# THE REWARDS IN A HELPING PROFESSION

Admission equity, child-welfare specializations and Master's level studies: what more could a prospective student to the University College of the Cariboo Bachelor of Social Work want? Not much, according to Grant Larson and Ken Thomas, Associate Dean and interim Associate Dean respectively, of the School of Social Work at UCC.

Larson has been with the BSW program for 10 years. "We started in 1990, although I didn't arrive until 1991. The first year was offered by part-time instructors and for the first six years the program was partnered with the University of Victoria, so we had a UVIC degree offered here at UCC. In 1997, UCC began offering its own BSW degree."

Thomas has been at UCC since 1996. "Before UCC I was in Ontario teaching at Sir Wilfred Laurier University in the faculty of social work," he said.

The BSW program annually admits 45 students after they have completed two years of studies. "It's a four year program, although the first two years are general studies or arts, and students enter in third year for two full years of social work," says Larson. Ten seats out of the 45 are set aside as equity admissions seats.

"It's exactly the same criteria but those seats are reserved for First Nations aboriginal community members, other visible minorities, people who are members of the gay/lesbian/bisexual

community," Thomas said. "These seats are for people who represent the diversity of the population we serve in the BC Interior."

There is more of a rural focus to UCC's program than in social work programs in lower mainland or Victoria universities, according to Larson. The regional emphasis is also enhanced by satellite programs.

"We have an affiliation with the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology in Merritt. We have entered into a partnership and they provide the program that has more of an aboriginal and First Nations component, but it is a UCC degree, so all the expectations are the same," Thomas said.

And the expectations for the social work program are, according to Thomas, imperative to success.

"We look at a number of things in relation to admissions. The GPA carries quite a bit of weight and we have something called a personal statement, which looks at how you, as an individual, fit social work from a values standpoint," Thomas said. "To have experience, whether voluntary or paid, before entering the program, is really necessary as we've found that folks who have that kind of orientation know what they're getting into."



Larson cautions, "We want students to know whether they're suited for this work. You're dealing with human and social problems—even though it's so rewarding, it is stressful."

UCC's Bachelor of Social Work program includes unique components to make the program more popular than ever.

"We developed a child-welfare specialization in the program a year ago," says Larson. "This is specifically to prepare students to work in child welfare and child protection areas." And unlike many other university colleges, the program now offers a Master's degree in partnership with UBC by distance education.

"Social work is so diverse, and spans all aspects of the community," says Larson. "Our students have a lot of choices after graduating. They work in mental health, corrections, crisis services, women's shelters, and certainly in child welfare."

"In the final analysis, are our graduates going to be hired and will they stay within this region?" asks Thomas. "The answer is — I think they will."



Ken Thomas, Interim Associate Dean



Grant Larson, Associate Dean



## JENNIFER HANCOCK BSW '96



Jennifer Hancock has taken her social work degree and run with it. Hancock pursued her BSW after receiving a BA from UBC in 1993.

"After I got my BA in Psychology I worked in a group home and realized it was difficult to find the job I wanted—I needed

more specialization and a BSW degree," she said. "After I graduated in 1996 I worked for child protection for a year and a half and I've been at this job for over three years."

Hancock works for the outpatient's clinic at Kamloops Adult Forensic Services where she assesses criminal psychiatric cases.

As a psychiatric social worker "I provide assessment, treatment and case management to certain adults who have been in conflict with the law. I work with people who have been found not criminally responsible for reasons of a mental disorder. I have a lot of clients on probation, out on bail, or who are in the Kamloops Regional Correctional Centre."

But that's not all: "I'm doing my Master's in Social Work through UBC right now," she said, but she remembers fondly her days at UCC.

"It most definitely helped me get the job I'm doing today; I wouldn't be eligible for either child protection or forensics without a BSW. I really enjoyed the program and the professors, and met some life-long friends."

## SHARON TODD BSW '97

Sharon Todd has taken what she's learned back to the community.

A Metis originally from Alberta, Todd is now a child abuse counsellor at the Kamloops Indian Friendship Centre.

"I work in the sexual abuse intervention program as the child and youth sexual counsellor," she said. "I always wanted to go into counselling in some context and I always wanted to work with children."

After receiving a Social Service Worker's Certificate, Todd entered the BSW program.

"Deciding to go to UCC was a combination of convenience and what the program offered. In the past, I was the cultural and educational coordinator at a crisis centre and I wanted to focus more specifically on social work."

Todd found the program helpful, especially in working with children, which is her passion. She feels it allowed her to explore different methods of therapy—including one that she and her co-workers at the Centre employ on a regular basis.

"We are mandated to provide cultural-specific appropriate services to aboriginal child and youth survivors of abuse. We work with non-offending family members of victims of abuse," Todd said, and most important to her: "It's an aboriginal model of healing."



## MICHAEL POND, BSW '93

One of the first graduates of the BSW program at UCC went on to become a private counsellor in Penticton, BC. "I have a private practice that is a counselling and consulting agency. I'm the owner and director of the practice. I do all types of counselling in

the South Okanagan and I do some organizational development work for agencies and corporations," he said.

Before entering the BSW program, Pond had years of experience in social work, but no formal education.

"My original training was as a psychiatric nurse. I worked at an adolescent treatment facility in the 1980s where we opened an

## SUKH HEER BSW '99

Sukh Heer took what she loves and used it to tailor her BSW degree.

"My passion is basketball," she said, and now, "I'm the program coordinator for Pacific Sport Regional Sports Centre, a not-for-profit society whose purpose is 'keeping our heroes at home.'"

Heer started working for the Sports Centre in the fall of 2000, providing incentives for athletes to remain in the Kamloops area for their education and training. The organization also provides education and certification for coaches.

A long-time member of the athletics program at UCC, Heer entered the BSW program in her third year after she realized "I like people and I want to help people. The biggest asset of the program was the courses on human organization. I was challenged with new ideas about society and I learned so much about myself."

The skills Heer learned—how to deal with individuals on a personal basis—has helped her combat what she feels is a lack of understanding by people about the field of social work.

"I think there's a misconception out there about the work—people think it's all about child apprehension and the welfare system, but the field is very broad. My path in life was to go through the program. It has helped make me who I am today."

"It pushed me out of my comfort zone," and into her dream job.



## STEPHAN HORSMAN BSW '98



Another graduate knows the BSW program is not just for neophytes.

Stephan Horsman had eight years of social work experience before entering the BSW program in 1996.

"The reason I got my BSW was the result of the Gove Inquiry, which investigated the death of a five year-old boy who was involved in the child welfare system in BC. The Inquiry's report recommended that people working in child protection needed to have a minimum of a BSW degree. I was working for the Ministry with a BA in

Sociology, so I applied to both UCC and my employer to go back to school to complete the BSW."

Now, Horsman is the district supervisor in Kamloops for the Ministry for Children and Families, supervising an office responsible for protective family service files around child protection matters.

"When I went into the BSW program I was an acting district supervisor and when I came out I got a regional child protection consulting position. I am involved in high-profile cases. What I enjoyed about the program was the opportunity to take an analytical look at my employer and ask, how does the organization I work with embrace the values and ethics that are embodied in social work?"

That critical perspective is an important skill to acquire, according to Horsman. "I think the program gave me a good lens through which to look at the work we do and I think the program has really opened doors for me. I've always said to the instructors at UCC that they provided me with one of the best experiences I've had."

inpatient assessment centre." He was asked to set up an outpatient centre in Kamloops and moved here in 1989. While living in Vancouver, Pond had been "chugging away" at an art's degree, but realized in Kamloops he could earn his BSW.

"They were just starting the BSW program and Grant Larson hadn't even arrived. I graduated in 1993, and received my Master's of Social Work from UBC in 1994.

"When I took the program at UCC, it was new and the instructors were all brand-new. It was a breath of fresh air to look at the social side instead of the medical model we see in nursing," Pond said.

"I appreciated being at UCC and learning. The social perspective has really helped and it opened a lot of doors for me. It set the stage for me to go and get my Master's, which wasn't a goal of mine until I got my undergraduate degree."



# THE ALUMNI

## 1970s

### **NEVILLE FLANAGAN, LEISURE AND REC.**

**MANAGEMENT DIPL. '77** After receiving his Diploma at Cariboo College, Neville went on to the University of Oregon where he received a BSc and an MSc. Neville currently owns and operates four Subway sandwich outlets in Kamloops. Neville is very active in the Kamloops community. He co-chaired the recent Canadian Masters Track & Field event, he is a director on the YM-YWCA Board and is a Past President of the Daybreak Rotary Club. He enjoys running, biking, swimming & travelling. Neville is married and has two sons Grayden and Darren.

## 1980s

**DARREN SMITH, UT '80** Since leaving Cariboo College, Darren has obtained a teaching degree and become a globetrotter.

In the past 10 years Darren has taken numerous trips to South America, Asia, India, North Africa, and all over western and eastern Europe. For the past three years he has been teaching overseas. In 1998 he worked in Islamabad, Pakistan at the International School of Islamabad, and for the past two years he has been working at the American School of Madrid, in Spain. Next, Darren plans to work in Lebanon, at the American Community School of Beirut.

**ANITA DIRCKS, UT '83** Anita transferred to UBC to receive her BSc in Biology in '85. She then worked for the Vancouver General Hospital as a Cytogenetic Technologist until '87. She continued her studies at McGill where she received her MSc in Genetic Counselling in '89. Anita returned to BC to work as a Genetic Counsellor in the Department of Medical Genetics at the Children's & Women's Health Centre of BC in Vancouver. Since 1996 she has been the Program Director of the MSc Genetic Counselling Training Program, Department of Medical Genetics, UBC. Anita enjoys outdoor activities including rowing and golf — when time permits.

### **LINDA (HITCHCOCK) JAMES, PRACTICAL HORT.**

**CERT. '88** Linda owns and operates Quill Antiques and Auctions from her Barnhartvale home. She is married to Tom, has four children, and operates a hobby farm. Two of Linda's children graduated from UCC; stepson **RYAN JAMES, COOK TRAINING LEVEL II '97**, and **VICTORIA (HITCHCOCK) BAKER, BOOKKEEPING WITH COMPUTER APPLICATIONS CERT, '97**. Victoria works with the UCC Alumni Association.

## 1990s

**DORYS CRESPIIN-MUELLER, BA '98** Dorys began working at UCC as an International Student Advisor while pursuing her BA in Sociology. She continued to work in that position until September, '99. She then moved over to UCC's Institutional Research and Planning department where she works as a Research Analyst. Dorys volunteers her time at UCC and in the community in a number of capacities. She is a mentor for the UCC Alumni Association's Mentoring Program where she talks to students about her career. She volunteers with Kamloops Immigrant Services as a diversity facilitator. She is also a member of the Anti-Racism Committee of Kamloops.

## 1970s

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## FACULTY EXCELLENCE

**TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS**

Three faculty were recognized by alumni, current students and peers for their teaching excellence in April.

**DR. LINDA DEUTSCHMANN'S** merit was summed up by one former Sociology student who said, "Every student has had a teacher at some point in their life who has been inspiring: a teacher who excels both at her job and as a human being. For Linda, this excellence is not an accomplishment, but a way of life."

**NANCY FLOOD'S** former and current biological sciences students say that "she is able to take a complicated subject and convey it to the class in a straightforward, easy-to-understand manner." All her nominators agreed that her door was always open and she has a great respect for all people and that her students "feel this respect."

**DIANNE WELLS** in Nursing received 80 nominations for this award. Her present and former students describe Dianne as showing "genuine concern for each student's well-being" and one nominator said of her that "she has consistently role-modelled professionalism in practice within the domain of nursing education."

## FACULTY RETIREES

**JUDY WILBEE, RN (VGH), MA (GONZAGA)** Judy left Nursing behind in 1980 to come to Cariboo College to coordinate and teach in the Long Term Care Aide-Homemaker Program. Since that time, Judy has held a number of positions at UCC including the Professional Development Coordinator and the Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition Facilitator. Judy has worked on numerous committees at UCC and worked for the Ministry on a province-wide initiative for professional development for faculty and staff. As Judy says, "after 21 wonderful years at UCC it is with a mixture of joy and sadness that I am retiring." Judy has moved to the Sunshine Coast where her plans include improving her golf game, gardening, enjoying the ocean, and having fun with family and friends.



**MEL GALLOWAY, BPE (UBC), MED (WEST WASH)** Mel Galloway has been the Director of Student Services at UCC for 20 years. When he arrived in 1981 there were about 1,000 students, half in university transfer and half in Trades and Technology programs. Mel's many contributions to UCC have mostly focussed on student activities, and of course, Convocation. Mel has chaired the Convocation committee for 10 years and has seen it grow from hundreds of people in the UCC Gym to thousands coming to the Coliseum to celebrate on the second Saturday in June. In retirement, Mel is going to work on his golf game and work on his place at Shuswap Lake. He wants to be involved in service projects with Rotary and do some travelling.

(Photo by Danyelle Demers, courtesy of Omega)



## BROADCASTING FROM HOUSE 8 ON THE UCC CAMPUS



*Esther Thomas, UCC Respiratory Therapy student, hosting her Reggae and Calypso music program*

If you're in Kamloops turn on 92.5FM for commercial-free entertainment.

The radio station is operated by the Cariboo Student Society at UCC and is managed by Brant Zwicker and staffed by dozens of volunteers. The station is commercial-free and on the air from 8 am to after midnight Monday to Friday and 4 pm to midnight Saturdays. You can hear jazz, blues, classical, alternative music, hip-hop, rock and there is more programming coming.

The station is currently broadcasting on a 5 watt signal. By the end of 2001 the station hopes to increase to 100 or 200 watts which will improve signal quality and increase the broadcast area.



*Brant Zwicker, station manager*

## ALUMNI BENEFITS CARD

It's New! It's Free! Give us a call to get your Alumni Benefits Card. (250)828-5267 or email us at [alumni@cariboo.bc.ca](mailto:alumni@cariboo.bc.ca)

- a discount at the Canada Games Pool in Kamloops
- 10% off meals in the Food Training Dining Room on the UCC campus
- 15% off crested UCC products at Bookies in Williams Lake and Kamloops
- 50% off rack rates at all Sandman Inns in BC and Alberta
- access to the new weight room at the Gym on the UCC campus for a monthly fee
- and more benefits to come!

If you sign up on one, or both, of our email lists we will email you: UCC Sun Demon game schedules or Music, Theatre and Cultural Events on campus.



UCC Alumni Association Board of Directors 2000-2001:

Executive: Marilyn Poncet, (Bus. Adm. '89), Chair, Carolyn Hepburn, (BA '95), Vice-Chair, Tom McNulty, (Bus. Adm. '77), Secretary/Treasurer, Directors: Denise Harper, (Comm Med. '74), Larry Iles, (BEd '94), Bill Jaswal (BA '91), Matt McLean, (BBA '96), M-J Cousins, (BBA '97), Susie Russo, (BBA '97), Flo Tyson, (BSN '91), Errol Wild, (Acct. Tech. '87), Rod Andrew, UCC Board of Governors, Robert Stewart, UCC Foundation Board.

Send correspondence to Pat Lee, Executive Director, UCC Alumni Association, or contact at: Tel (250)828-5267, email: [alumni@cariboo.bc.ca](mailto:alumni@cariboo.bc.ca). The Alumni Network is published bi-annually and is produced by the UCC Alumni Association. Contributors: Cait Wills, Bronwen Scott, Pat Lee, Chantelle Stone. Photos: Cait Wills, Bronwen Scott, Pat Lee, Danyelle Demers.

# NETWORK

ALUMNI

RETURN REQUESTED  
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