

February 2011

# President's Report

## to the TRU Board of Governors

### News

- ▶ **International Days** – The annual celebration of culture at TRU was held during the week of February 7th to 11th. International students alongside Canadian students who have worked or studied abroad shared their experiences and stories of internationalization. The weeklong celebration introduced attendees to an impressive array of over 70 presentations, events and displays organized by students, faculty and staff.
- ▶ **Foundation Gala** – The Foundation Gala was the backdrop for an announcement by Minister of Advanced Education and Science, Ida Chong of \$266,533 from the BC Knowledge Development Fund (BCKDF) for a Scanning Electron Microscope to support the research of Cynthia Ross Friedman. The BCKDF announcement matched funding from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation and is added to other internal and external sources for a project total of \$666,333. The firm of Fulton and Company announced the first installment of an ongoing commitment of \$125,000, the first major gift directed to the TRU Faculty of Law. Irving K. Barber, who recently donated \$1.5m to the House of Learning, was among the 350 people who enjoyed the Best of British Columbia themed evening.
- ▶ **Chinese Spring Festival** – Heralding the Year of the Rabbit, the Chinese Spring Festival Celebration event was organized by TRU Chinese Students and Scholars Association and jointly funded by the Chinese Consulate General in Vancouver, TRU CUEF fund and TRU World. The event on January 28th included, speeches, student performances, and a delicious Chinese dinner. Special guests Mr. Xue Ya Fei, Director of Education Office, and Mr. Zhang Fa Jun, Education Consul were absent due to fog.
- ▶ **TRU Open Learning** – TRU Open Learning is working with Meritus University (MU) in New Brunswick to provide transition paths for students seeking Canadian options to continue their studies after MU's parent company, the Apollo Group, announced January 24, 2011 that it is closing the for profit university only three years after opening its doors in 2008. Forty per cent of Meritus students are international students interested in Canadian content and are considering TRU's Bachelor of Commerce Degree along with their Canadian classmates.
- ▶ **Student Leadership Celebrated at TRU** – TRU students were recognized for the volunteer efforts that have qualified them for the new "Personal Leadership Certificate," the first of three levels of leadership development formally offered through the Student Leadership Program. It was the first time the university has officially recognized students for meeting all of the requirements for the Personal Leadership Certificate.
- ▶ **A Handbook for Educators of Aboriginal Students** – A handbook intended to increase the educational success of Aboriginal students was introduced to the Thompson Rivers University community. "A Handbook for Educators of Aboriginal Students" was a recommendation from Phase I of the A Learning Bridge for Aboriginal Adults (ALBAA) research project lead by Kathy Mitchell. A long-time faculty member and former Dean of the Faculty of Student Development and the area formerly responsible for Adult Basic Education (ABE). Mitchell received provincial funding through the Aboriginal Transitions Research Funds from the Ministry of Advanced Education, now the Ministry of Science and Universities.
- ▶ **Women Explore Trades Through Practical Training** – TRU School of Trades and Technology, through funding from the Industrial Training Authority developed a program for under-employed women to "try the trades". With support from the Labour Market Development Agreement, the women spent from one to three weeks immersed in electrician, instrument technician, glazier, parts person, piping and heavy equipment operator training. While some theory was introduced, the bulk of the instruction was on the practical. Incorporated into the program were an "essential skills" program and various tours to industry including a trip to the Revelstoke Dam.
- ▶ **Mapping a scholarship to success** – For the second year in a row, ESRI Canada has awarded a scholarship to a Thompson Rivers University Geography student. This year Steven Lee won the scholarship. Kyle Nadler was the recipient last year. Both students are enrolled in TRU's Double Degree program with TRU's partner university in Gävle, Sweden. ESRI selected TRU in recognition of the Department of Geography's "strong, multidisciplinary focus on GIS." The scholarship consists of a cash prize, licenses to ESRI software, complimentary training materials and conference registration.
- ▶ **\$44,000 to help search for new lantibiotics** – TRU will receive \$44,000 from the British Columbia Knowledge Development Fund (BCKDF) to purchase a capillary electrophoresis instrument that will be dedicated to understanding lantibiotics in a research effort being conducted by TRU Chemistry professor, Dr. Kingsley Donkor. Lantibiotics have the ability to combat infectious diseases which are resistant to conventional antibiotics. This instrument is expected to expand the research capacity into the therapeutic potential of lantibiotics and lead to their use in the diagnosis and treatment of pathogenic organisms, which in turn will be invaluable in the search for effective new antibiotics.



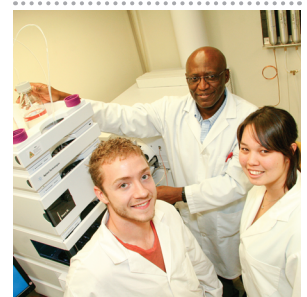
*Student Leadership Celebrated*



*A Handbook for Educators of Aboriginal Students*



*Women Explore Trades Through Practical Training*



*\$44,000 to help search for new lantibiotics*

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► To find out what students want in a university, Sukh Heer Matonovich, TRU Engagement Coordinator, headed to the high schools to ask the experts—

the students—to help develop a national profile and engagement strategy to attract and retain students from outside Kamloops and the Interior. Heer Matonovich visited high schools in School Districts #73 (Kamloops-Thompson) and (Cariboo-Chilcotin) and invited the schools to form one or more teams of four students from grades 10 through 12. The teams should represent the diversity of the TRU campus, its internalization, Aboriginal students, and equal numbers of male and female students. The top three teams will each win a Smart Board for their schools. All students in the top 3 teams will receive

scholarships to TRU of varying amounts up to \$2,000 over two years, and each member of the top-place team will also take home an iPad.

► **Three solar projects now underway** – Thompson Rivers University recently received \$263,700 from the federal government program, NRCan, Terasen Gas, and the Public Sector Energy Conservation Agreement (PSECA), to build three solar projects on its Kamloops campus. The projects, now complete, will heat 85 per cent of the domestic hot water for the Old Main building, the Campus Activity Centre addition and Independent Centre student area, as well as the meat-cutting facility in the university's Culinary Arts Training Centre.

## Publications

► **Charles Webber, Faculty of Human, Social, Education Development**

Mentz, K., Webber, C.F., & van der Walt, J.L. (2010). *Novice principals from Canada and South Africa share their experiences. Education as Change*, 14(2), 155–167.

Webber C. F. (2010). *Leadership and technology*. In P. Peterson, E. Baker, B. McGaw, (Eds.), *International Encyclopedia of Education*, (Vol. 5), pp. 120–127. Oxford: Elsevier.

Webber, C. F., & Scott, S. (2010). Mapping principal preparation in Alberta, Canada. *Journal of Education and Humanities*, 1, 75–96.

► **Jon Heshka, School of Tourism**

Lines, K & Heshka, J. (2011). *Bump in the Night* [analysis of Barnes v. The Scout Association [2010] EWCA Civ 1476]. *Solicitors Journal*, 155 (2), 8–9.

Heshka, J. (2010) Kids should not be extreme adventurers Opinion Article Canada Valley Sun (LA Times community newspaper), November 25.

Heshka, J. (2011) Head shots, Opinion The Globe and Mail, January 31

► **Jim Hu, ESL**

Hu, J. (2010) *Faculty Perceptions of Chinese Graduate Students' Communication Challenges in the Science and Engineering Disciplines. Canadian and International Education Journal*, 39(3), 59–80.

► **Norm Friesen, CRC E-Learning**

Friesen, N. (2011). *Introduction to Media: Digital, Ecological and Epistemological. Special issue of E-Learning and Digital Media*. 8(3) 1–12.

Friesen, N. (2011). *Pedagogy in the Classroom and on the Screen: A Phenomenological Hermeneutic Analysis*. In Malte Brinkmann (Ed.) *Phänomenologische Erziehungswissenschaft*. (Phenomenological Educational Studies) Würzburg: Königshausen & Neumann. Pp. 155–164.

Friesen, N. (2010). *Anglo-American Approaches to Lesson Planning. Special issue of Bildung und Erziehung (Formation and Education) on Unterrichtsplanung im internationalen Vergleich (Lesson planning: International Comparisons)*. 63(4), 417–430. [learningspaces.org/n/papers/lessonplanning.pdf](http://learningspaces.org/n/papers/lessonplanning.pdf)

Friesen, N. (2010). *Education and the Social Web. Connective Learning and the Commercial Imperative. First Monday*. 15(12) [www.uic.edu/htbin/cgiwrap/bin/ojs/index.php/fm/article/view/3149/2718](http://www.uic.edu/htbin/cgiwrap/bin/ojs/index.php/fm/article/view/3149/2718)

► **Christine Wihak, PLAR, TRU OL**

Wihak, C. (2011) *Prior learning assessment and recognition: Emergence of a Canadian community of scholars. International Review of Research in Distance and Open Education*, Vol. 12(1). [us1.campaign-archive2.com/?u=d5e8b9866b8a89a545c675602&id=810aba96d1&e=e3d32d3f6a](http://us1.campaign-archive2.com/?u=d5e8b9866b8a89a545c675602&id=810aba96d1&e=e3d32d3f6a)

## Presentations

► **Peter Tsigaris and Belayet Hossain,**

**School of Business and Economics**

**Peer-Reviewed Conference Presentation and Award**

*Student Grade Expectations: Are they Rational?* College Teaching & Learning (TLC) Conference, 2011, CLUTE Institute for Academic Research, Maui, Hawaii. Won the Best Paper In Session Award.

► **Lisa Cooke,**  
**Faculty of Arts**

Anthropology faculty member Lisa Cooke presented in Stockholm, Sweden October, 2010 at a meeting of the Nordic Environmental History Network (NEHN), sponsored by Nordforsk and NiCHE.

► **Lian Dumouchel and Kyra Garson,**

**TRU World**

Lian Dumouchel and Kyra Garson presented, *The Global Competency Credential: Enhancing Global Learning Outcomes at Home at the Being Global 2011 conference*, University of Toronto, January 13, 2011. [www.beingglobalconference.com/index.php](http://www.beingglobalconference.com/index.php)

► **Lian Dumouchel,**  
**School Tourism**

Lian Dumouchel presented her paper *Knowledge Transfer and Relationship Building Among Students*, The Small Business Community and the University at the 7th International Conference on Intellectual Capital, Knowledge Management & Organisational Learning at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong, China, November 11–12, 2010.

## Achievements

- ▶ **Gary Hunt, Centre for Teaching and Learning**  
Gary Hunt and collaborators from the University of British Columbia-Okanagan and BC Campus have been awarded a grant from the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education – Educational Developers Caucus. The purpose of the project is to develop a website for sharing research information among faculty engaged in the scholarship of teaching and learning. Visitors to the site will be able to search for research ideas, research in progress and completed research projects. We hope the site, to be hosted by the BC Campus Learn Together Collaboratory, will facilitate networking and collaboration among researchers with an interest in scholarly investigations on teaching and learning.
- ▶ **Shona Johansen, School of Nursing, Williams Lake**  
Shona Johansen successfully defended her dissertation *Aboriginal Nursing Student Success: A Phenomenological Exploration of Elements of Success within Post Secondary Nursing Education* and graduated in October Convocation from SFU receiving an EdD.
- ▶ **Mohd Abdullah**  
Mohd has become a registered Trainer of Fitness Leaders with British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association.
- ▶ **Christine Wihak, Prior Learning Assessment & Recognition, TRU OL**  
Dr. Christine Wihak received a SSHRC grant of \$17,490 to organize and host a workshop of Canadian PLAR scholars. The first of its kind in Canada, the workshop was held in Ottawa on November 6 and 7, 2010. Scholars from University of New Brunswick, University of Sherbrooke, McGill University, University of Montreal, Ryerson University, University of Toronto, University of Winnipeg, University of Saskatchewan, University of Calgary, and Athabasca University participated, in addition to Drs. Wihak and Norm Friesen from Thompson Rivers University. The workshop resulted in the submission of three articles for peer review publication and the submission of a \$390,000 proposal to SSHRC for a Research Partnership Development grant in order to create an international database of PLAR research literature.
- ▶ **Emma Bourassa, Instructor, ESL/TESL**  
Emma Bourassa received a \$10,000 Open Learning Research Award for “*Examining the cultural component of PLAR: Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition for Undergraduate Students of Myanmar.*”

## Upcoming Events

- ▶ **Former Chief to speak**  
**Wednesday, February 16, 2011**  
Former National Chief Phil Fontaine will give a presentation at the Grand Hall on February 16 at 7pm as part of the TRU Students' Union Common Voices Lecture Series.  
*Admission is free.*
- ▶ **Night of Family Science**  
**Thursday, February 24, 2011**  
TRU and Science World present a night of science and fun in the TRU Science Building and the gym.
- ▶ **Western Canada Campus Recreation Conference 2011**  
Running February 10 to 12, 2011, the WCCRC provides an opportunity for professionals and students within the postsecondary field of physical education, recreation and fitness to come together for valuable personal development, networking, and continuing education.  
See [www.tru.ca/wccrc](http://www.tru.ca/wccrc)
- ▶ **Skills Canada**  
**Friday, March 4, 2011**  
TRU's School of Trades and Technology hosts the Cariboo Regional Skills Competition.
- ▶ **Books and Bricks Dinner**  
**Friday, March 4, 2011**  
Aoci Biblioteque, Oxfam, TRUSU Humanitarian Club, TRUSU Economic Student Association and TRUSU Eco-Club are hosting a fundraising dinner titled “Books and Bricks” to raise money for the construction of a community centre in the Fizi-Mboko region of the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- ▶ **TRU Job Fair**  
**Thursday, March 10, 2011**  
Thompson Rivers University will be hosting its annual Job Fair.
- ▶ **Distinguished Alumni Awards**  
**Friday, April 8, 2011**  
6pm Cocktails; 7pm Dinner and Awards  
Grand Hall, Campus Activity Centre

### Inservice Week > February 21 – 25

#### Day 1

- ▶ **Seventh annual TRU Teaching Practices Colloquium**  
**Monday, February 21, 2011**

Keynote speaker Dr. Connie K. Varnhagen, a Professor of Psychology at the University of Alberta. She studies a wide range of development and learning issues, all centred on how children, adolescents, and adults develop and use cognitive strategies. Her interests also include how instructors integrate teaching and research in undergraduate instruction.

See [www.tru.ca/tpc](http://www.tru.ca/tpc)

#### Day 2

- ▶ **The Digital Future of Higher Education**  
**Tuesday, February 22**

**The future of higher education is hotly contested:** What do new forms and technologies, from the podcast to the iPad, mean for classrooms, textbooks, and student learning? How will universities survive in a world where content is free and teaching increasingly commodified? This one-day conference provides a forum for debating these questions and more.

See [www.tru.ca/digifuture](http://www.tru.ca/digifuture)

#### Day 3

- ▶ **What matters to student success – Lessons for TRU from George Kuh**  
**Wednesday, February 23**

George Kuh, the author of the National Survey of Student Engagement, will deliver a workshop to TRU staff and faculty. This year, 603 universities in Canada and the US used NSSE to measure critical features.

See [www.tru.ca/hr](http://www.tru.ca/hr)

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## Kudos

► **Wendy McKenzie, School of Nursing**

Major Wendy McKenzie was appointed as Member to the Order of Military Merit by Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada David Johnston. Attached to the Rocky Mountain Ranger reserves in Kamloops, Maj. McKenzie was recognized for her exceptional service with the Rangers and with the 12th Field Ambulance Unit based in Vancouver.



Wendy McKenzie

► **School of Trades and Technology**

Another honour for the ST&T along with their partner the Canadian Home Builders Association Central Interior. The 2010 Green Dream Training House project was named second runner-up at the 2010 Insulated Concrete Form (ICF) Builder Awards in Las Vegas in the Residential, Large division category. More than 40 entries from through out North America competed in the category.



2010 Green Dream Training House

► **Jennifer Billingsley, Human Resource Adviser**

Jennifer Billingsley has been given a Human Resources Excellence Award from the BC Human Resources Management Association. The award is the result of tying for the top score in BC for the National Professional Practice Assessment (NPPA), the second half for the Certified Human Resources Professional designation (CHRP).



Jennifer Billingsley,  
Human Resource Adviser

► **Nancy Green Raine, Chancellor**

Nancy Green Raine was named as one of the 2010 Most Influential Women by the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women and Sport and Physical Activity (CAAWS).

► **David Scheffel, Faculty of Arts**

Anthropology faculty member David Scheffel was granted an honorary membership in the Slovak Association of Social Anthropologists.



[www.tru.ca](http://www.tru.ca)



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