

Programs join forces to open a childcare centre in Uganda



Early Childhood Education Coordinator and instructor Dr. Lynda Phillips, centre, already misses the people she met during her five-week stay in Uganda.

Early Childhood Education (ECE) instructor Lynda Phillips admits she is having a hard time getting used to life back in Canada after spending five weeks in Uganda.

“Returning home was very hard. I have found it difficult to stop thinking about the people I met and the work that needs to be done,” says Phillips.

Phillips, the ECE Program Coordinator, went to Masaka, Uganda to supervise practicum student Katie Kump and to open up the possibility of future partnerships for the ECE department with Action for Children, a non-profit organization.

She and Kump were the first ECE team from Douglas

College to travel to Uganda. Phillips received Scholarly Activity dollars to determine the needs of ECE students placed in Uganda.

Douglas Community Social Service Worker (CSSW) students have been completing practica in Masaka since 2006. This was the first time that the two departments joined forces to create a team of students

to work together on one practicum experience.

“I was so very proud of Katie and all the work she did. It was amazing to see how she slowly made sense of her experience and started to use what she had learned in the ECE Program in Uganda,” says Phillips.

During the trip, Phillips says she got a hard and fast lesson in poverty and politics, namely how political structures can help build relationships within and outside of Uganda to create jobs and better opportunities for health and education.

One of their major accomplishments was setting up a childcare centre at the Masaka Referral Hospital’s Uganda CARES clinic. This clinic provides care for adults, infants and children living with HIV and AIDS.

Prior to their journey, the hospital administration contacted John Fox in the CSSW Program. They wanted to know if the ECE department would be interested in having a practicum student help them

open their childcare centre. Kump worked with CSSW student Tara Derby on the project.

The centre is now being operated by a local early childhood educator, who is also trained as a counselor to work with young children living with HIV/AIDS.

Phillips says it was particularly rewarding watching Kump make sense of her experience.

“It was interesting to see how easily Katie adjusted to life in Masaka. One of my favorite memories of her is seeing her arriving at the students’ house on a boda-boda (motorbike taxi) carrying a wok that she had bartered for in the market. She was so proud of herself!” recalls Phillips, who hopes that more ECE students will go to Uganda.

“Experiences like this really cement the students’ learning and force them to think about and utilize what they have learned in the classroom. It enables them to learn how to use their new knowledge in diverse situations and critically appraise what they have learned.”

Crim instructor wowed in New York

After a field study trip to New York City, Criminology instructor Heidi Currie is cautiously optimistic that a community court system can succeed in Vancouver.

Currie took 25 students to the Big Apple to see an established community court system in action. While she was impressed with what she saw, it left her with many questions about how Vancouver’s under-funded rehabilitation facilities will handle the needs of the Vancouver Community Court, expected to open this Fall.

“For years, I haven’t been able to say to students ‘There’s something meaningful being done in the justice system.’ What they saw on this trip was so hopeful and something that works. But what they’ve seen takes billions of dollars. In Canada, funding to the system is so piecemeal,” says Currie.

She and 25 students from her Comparative Criminal Justice Systems course visited community courts in Midtown and Red Hook, which handle lower-level offences like drugs, prostitution, theft and vandalism. Offenders are offered help with the problems that are often at the root of their behaviour – and if they refuse to comply, they can face jail time.

Currie and her students were particularly impressed with their visit to Red Hook, where one judge has made a huge difference by becoming an activist within the community, even visiting offenders in their homes. And in Midtown, they noted that local businesses help fund the community court system.

Currie wonders how this will translate in Canada. “How will an overloaded medical system secure addictions

treatment for offenders when there are already waitlists here?” she wonders.

Then there’s the local bureaucracy to navigate. Already, Currie has heard murmurs that the local drug court is concerned the new system will infringe on its territory.

However, Currie is hopeful the local community court system can work.

During class presentations reviewing their trip, her students cited statistics showing New York’s crime rate has decreased significantly since the introduction of the community court system.

“What really hit in me in New York was that people feel safe in this huge city. So why can’t we do it if they can do it?” says Currie.

Flavours of Sonora



Gabriela Garcia Cuevas (left) and Helga Helene Inscoe Montaña showcased the gastronomical pleasures of Sonora at a presentation hosted by 30 students from the Centro de Estudios Superiores del Estado de Sonora (CESUES). The university students completed five weeks of ESL studies at Douglas.

Events Calendar

You're invited

Douglas College President Susan Witter invites all College employees, faculty, administrators and board members to attend our annual summer celebrations.

Tuesday, Aug 26

2nd Annual Summer Wrap-up BBQ
Noon-2pm
David Lam Campus
Cafeteria Courtyard

Thursday, Aug 28

11th Annual Summer Wrap-up BBQ
Noon-2pm
New Westminster Campus
Upper Cafeteria outside deck
(weather permitting)

New CFCS programs offered this Fall

Next month, a new program and a new stream are on offer courtesy of the Faculty of Child, Family and Community Studies (CFCS).

The Disability and Applied Behaviour Analysis (DABA) Program is an advanced citation, where students will learn how to analyze behaviour and create effective strategies to help people with disabilities, including Autism Spectrum Disorder, develop functional skills.

"It is the only behaviour analyst program west of Manitoba which has been approved by the Behavior

Analysis Certification Board and the Teacher Qualification Service," says instructor and Program Coordinator Lori Woods.

DABA is the latest addition to a group of three CFCS programs that train students to work with people with autism.

Meanwhile, the new Aboriginal Child and Youth Care stream prepares students to work with Aboriginal children, youth and families.

"Douglas College has been a leader in educating child and youth care workers for over 30

years and has strong ties to the community. Our department had a commitment to show leadership in the process of reconciliation with First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples," says instructor Artemis Fire.

The Aboriginal community requested and contributed to the development of the stream, making it unique. The faculty worked with Vancouver Native Health, an Advisory Circle and community elders Se'qway e'n te'n, Danny Charlie (Sto:lo Nation) and Skiljaday, Merle Williams (Haida Nation), to

create the course. Both Charlie and Williams will be teaching a course about strengthening the family spirit.

Fire taught a pilot course to Vancouver Native Health staff. "They gave us valuable feedback on the course development," says Fire.

Students can use the Aboriginal CYC stream as a ladder into the Child and Youth Care Counsellor program.

Though open to anyone with an interest in working with Aboriginal children and youth, its creators are hoping

the stream will attract more Indigenous people to the field.

"So much harm has been done in the past in the name of education and now we have an opportunity to use education to open doors for people," says Fire.



Former Dispensing Optician instructor Emmett McRobie, now a representative with Centennial Optical, was at a recent celebration to present an award to student Tracy Nunes.

Dispensing Opticians celebrate

Dispensing Optician (DOPT) faculty and employees hosted their annual awards ceremony in June. In addition to handing out 18 awards to students, the occasion provided a impromptu reunion with Emmett McRobie, a former DOPT instructor who now works at Centennial Optical.

McRobie, who taught at Douglas for 11 years, was on hand to give an award sponsored by his employer to student Tracy Nunes. In all, 14 optical companies presented cheques to DOPT students.

Though he left for the private sector last year, McRobie is

far from forgotten, reports his former colleague Ted Littlewood.

"He was a great instructor. He taught lab, practicum and theory over the years he worked with us. The students loved him," says Littlewood.

Working in the field, McRobie says he enjoys talking up the DOPT Program at every opportunity.

"I feel like a goodwill ambassador for the College. It's nice to give back to the program, now that I'm in a position where I can influence that."

Occupational Health and Safety news

Check out the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) website for:

- information on new employee orientation
- working alone procedures
- instructions for accessing WHMIS training, accident/incident report forms and procedures
- smoking cessation toolkits
- ergonomics
- OHS Program manual
- Committee minutes
- and more!

Visit douglascollege.ca/services/facilities/healthsafety.html

REMEMBER

Never leave valuables (purses, laptops, cell phones, etc.) on your desk if you are away from it. Take them with you or lock them away. Never leave a wallet in a coat pocket.

Briefly

The Douglas College Concert band is recruiting musicians for this Fall. All levels of ability are welcome, but some experience is required. This opportunity is open to employees and all community members.

Rehearsals will be held Wednesdays from 7-9pm starting in September at the New Westminster Campus. There will be an end of term concert in December. The cost is \$50 for the Fall.

Contact Blair Fisher at 604-527-5272 or fisherb@douglas.bc.ca for more information.

Payroll has moved from room 4720 to room 4002. All phone locals remain the same. The new fax number is 604-527-5699.

The old Payroll office was quickly occupied by the Communications and Marketing Office (CMO), bursting at the seams until the wall between the two offices came down. The new CMO fax number is 604-527-5055.

Briefly is pleased to announce International Education Advisor **EK Kyong** is now mother to a healthy baby boy. The wee lad was born at 8:23pm on July 26, weighing in at 8lbs, 2 oz.

In Student Services, **Karen Zold** from Co-operative Education is the new Developmental Education Departmental Assistant at the New Westminster Campus. Zold replaces **Maxine Gracey** who has left the College for a new job closer to her home. Meanwhile, **Robin Gill** joins Co-operative Education as

a new Program Assistant. **Cathy Tremblay** moves from auxiliary to regular staff as Learning Services Centre Coordinator.

In the Bookstore, **Lori Cooper** is now Bookstore Clerk at the New Westminster Campus. **Heather Peck-Philpott** moves from auxiliary to regular as Sr. Bookstore Clerk-Buyer. **Erica McKeddie** moves into the position of Logistics Coordinator at David Lam Campus, replacing **Delta Wong** who has resigned.

Kelly Blackburn moves into the position of Site Services Assistant in the Facilities department.

Finance is pleased to announce **Svetlana Shpolanski** moves from auxiliary to regular as Accounts Receivable/Cashier Clerk. **Nikki Kerr** is now

Supervisor — Accounts Receivable, replacing **Margo Lott** who is taking early retirement. **Lisa Beishuizen** becomes Accounts Payable Clerk upon her return from maternity leave in September. Health Sciences welcomes **Maria Cordeiro** as Program Assistant II — she was previously auxiliary in Facilities at the David Lam Campus. **Sapna Singh** moves into the position of Clinical Placement Assistant.

In Commerce and Business, **Anne Gapper** moves from auxiliary to regular as Administrative Officer.

At the Office of the Registrar, **Shelly Graff** takes on the new position of Scheduling Supervisor. **Dave Dalcanele** is now Records Supervisor.

In Science and Technology, **Veronica Wahl** moves from auxiliary to regular as Urban

Ecology Technician. **Edward Frey** joins the College as the new Geology Lab Technician.

At the Centre for Sport, Recreation and Wellness, **Christine Valdez** becomes Athletics and Activities Coordinator, replacing **Brian McLennan** who has resigned. She previously worked in Facilities. **Maria Morse** moves from Health Sciences into the position of Program Assistant II and **Michelle Leong** moves from Health Sciences into the position of Centre Coordinator.

At the Centre for Health & Community Partnerships, **Julie Olson** moves into the position of Departmental Assistant II at the David Lam campus.

In the Communications and Marketing Office, **Kelly Parry** moves from auxiliary to regular as Marketing Assistant.