THE 6TH ANNUAL NATIVE VOICES FILM FESTIVAL 
EXPLORES CROSS-BORDER HISTORIES AND CHALLENGES

BY DANIEL HART, CENTER CHAIR AND DIRECTOR AND CO-DIRECTOR OF NATIVE VOICES

The Canadian Studies Center was pleased to be able to partner with the Native Voices Program and the United Indians of All Tribes Foundation to present the 6th Annual Native Voices Film Festival, an event that featured many First Nations guests, films and filmmakers. The four-day event, that ran from February 28th through March 2nd, featured the premieres of five new films and included a special honoring of the life and works of Native filmmaker Phil Lucas.

All of the new Native Voices films had a powerful cross-border focus dealing with issues that strongly affect both Canadian First Nations and Native American communities. Thursday evening saw the premieres of two new works: Frybread Babes by Steffany Suttle, an intimate new film that speaks about Native women, body image and identity; and, In Laman’s Terms: Looking at Lamanite Identity by Angelo Baca, a provocative work that explores the impacts that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and the Book of Mormon had on native peoples and communities.

On Friday, three new films premiered. History Lessons, by Clark Miller, explores how Native peoples are excluded from North American history, and how media and popular culture create the “Indian of the white imagination.” Travels Across The Medicine Line by former Canadian Fulbright scholar, Lyana Patrick, is a historical and contemporary look at the impact of the Canada-U.S. border on Indigenous nations – the border has severed ancient ties to families, ceremonies and homelands. Finally, Reclaiming Our Children: a Story of the Indian Child Welfare Act, by Marcella Ernest, is a powerful new documentary that tells the story of the wholesale separation of Indian children from their families, one the most destructive and tragic aspects of Native life today.

Highlights of the festival were the events honoring the life of Phil Lucas (1942-2007), the acclaimed Choctaw filmmaker who sadly passed away this year. Over the course of his 30-year career, Phil produced many remarkable works, many of which were filmed in Canada in First Nations communities and had tremendous international impact influencing an entire generation of filmmakers. Phil was a pioneering voice in indigenous media, one of the first Native Americans to take control of the camera in an industry where Native voices are rarely heard.

The festival screened a number of Phil’s films. Healing the Hurts (1989) tells the story of adult survivors of Indian Residential Schools who gathered at Alkali Lake, British Columbia to attend a four-day intensive workshop on healing the hurt and shame of the boarding school experience. The attendees this healing ceremony accepted the camera and crew as participants in the process, resulting in

Three generations of U.W.’s Native Voices Program graduate students at the 6th Annual Native Voices Film Festival.
Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Welcome to the Center’s Winter Quarter Report featuring the 6th Annual Native Voices Film Festival – the premiere event for Dan’s graduate filmmaking program, Native Voices (co-directed with Luana Ross, Women Studies). This year three First Nations filmmakers visited the U.W. sharing processes and techniques from Canada where aboriginal media is renowned for its quality and its success in being integrated into mainstream media. This year’s event reached well over 100 U.W. faculty, students and community members (see cover story).

We are extremely pleased to report that three U.W. faculty joined the program in Winter Quarter adding strengths in regional history, cross-border environmental management and Canada’s role in international security and diplomacy (see page 3). Please join us in welcoming Michael Allen, History, U.W. Tacoma; Russel Barsh, Friday Harbor Marine Laboratories; and Frederick Lorenz, Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies. Sadly, we would also like to acknowledge the loss of one of our most dedicated affiliates, Marc Hershman, Marine Affairs, who was working closely with the Center on his research involving cross-border marine management in the Pacific Northwest. His dedication and inspiration will be greatly missed.

This report features two unique Canadian studies courses – one that takes over 20 students to Canada for a true “field” experience and another focused on Québec serving our Evening Degree students; faculty research projects dealing with cross-border public health initiatives, food security and creative writing (resulting in a novel!); graduate research projects including an award-winning history project, a critical research project dealing with cross-border freight transport, and the 2nd Annual MBA Canada Study Tour; and news from the undergraduate Crossing Borders conference.

We want to draw attention to our Faculty News section featuring a wide-range of activities across many schools and departments and to point out one outstanding award. Please join us in congratulating Samuel Wasser, Conservation Biology, who received the $10,000 Canadian Consulate, Seattle grant to further research on cross-border environmental management issues (see Faculty News).

The Report would not be as impressive as it is without the assistance of our two fine editors, Lydia Gold and Tamara Leonard – thank you! There are always so many people to thank for enabling the Center to continue to grow and increase its impact at the U.W. This quarter we want to extend a special thank you to some of the most important people “behind the scenes” who play such a critical role in helping us to increase international teaching and research at U.W. – a very special thank you to the Jackson School administrative staff – Toni, Dvrah, Eva, Bev, Mark, Emily, Lydia, Diane and Annie – we’d be “sunk” without you!

— Dan Hart, Director/Chair and Nadine Fabbi, Associate Director

Phil Lucas (1942-2007), Choctaw filmmaker, on production for Storytellers of the Pacific.

The 6th Annual Native Voices Film Festival continued from front page

The creation of this powerful film. Voyage of Rediscovery (1990) tells the moving story of Frank Brown, who as a young Heiltsuk Native boy of Bella Bella, British Columbia, found himself in trouble with the law. In an agreement between family and judge, traditional Heiltsuk law was applied and he was exiled from his village to a remote island for eight months. As a result, his life was transformed and he eventually led a canoe project, which helped to restore a sense of pride to his people. Finally, The Honor of All (1987) was screened, a groundbreaking work that tells the true story of the Alkali Lake Band of Indians in British Columbia and their successful struggle to conquer alcoholism in their remote community. The 1987 docu-drama won the prestigious international public television INPUT award and inspired Native recovery movements around the world.

What was especially exciting and rewarding about this year’s festival is that many of the First Nations participants of Phil’s films were able to come down for the screenings of their works. Andy and Phyllis Chelsea, and Fred and Irene Johnson of the Alkali Lake Indian Band, were able to respond to questions about The Honor of All, and Frank and Kathy Brown of the Heiltsuk Nation were able to answer questions about Voyage of Rediscovery. On Sunday, there was an inspiring memorial service for Phil Lucas at Daybreak Star Cultural Center, with hundreds of people from the U.S. and Canada in attendance.
Presently the Center has 74 affiliated faculty representing 15 departments in Arts and Sciences, 9 professional schools and all three U.W. campuses. Please join us in welcoming the following new affiliates to the program and in honoring Marc Hershman who passed away on 17 February 2008.

**Michael Allen**, Professor of History at the University of Washington, Tacoma, was born and raised in Ellensburg, Washington. After serving with the U.S. Marines in Vietnam, he earned his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees, respectively, from Central Washington State College, University of Montana, and University of Washington, Seattle. His Canadian-content courses include “North American Frontiers” and “Pacific Northwest History.” In addition, he is a faculty editor for Pacific Northwest Quarterly. His research and publications focus on western Canadian rodeo, rodeo cowboys and cowgirls, and the folk and country rock music of Ian and Sylvia, Buffy Sainte-Marie, Neil Young, Blue Rodeo, and others. He has written five books, including Congress and the West, 1783-1787 (New York: Edwin Mellen, 2005); Frontiers of Western History: Origins, Evolution, and Future of Western History, ed., with Mary L. Hanneman (Needham, Massachusetts: Simon and Schuster, 1997 and 2004); and Rodeo Cowboys in the North American Imagination (Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1998). Michael Allen lives in Tacoma and has three children, Jim, Davy, and Caroline.

**Russel Barsh** is a Research Associate with Friday Harbor Marine Laboratories and Director of Kwiáht – the Center for the Historical Ecology of the Salish Sea. His work focuses on biological research with both aboriginal and non-aboriginal students. His research is concerned with the ways in which establishing the international border and the subsequent differentiation of the Salish Sea into two cultural visions, political systems, and resource-use regimes, has led to different ecological results between the Gulf Islands (and Victoria Capitol Region) and the San Juan Islands. Russel’s work relies on close scientific collaboration with colleagues on both sides of the Haro Strait, including Canadian and U.S. public land managers, and students from institutions in British Columbia and Washington. In the past his teaching and writing was concerned with aboriginal law, treaties and history in Canada and the U.S. (He served as a researcher for Canada’s Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples and was the Senior Advisor for the Office of the Treaty Commissioner, province of Saskatchewan.)

**Frederick (Rick) Lorenz**, Senior Lecturer in the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, grew up in New York City and obtained his undergraduate and law degrees from Marquette University. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps for 27 years as a judge advocate including a tour as an infantry company commander. He was the senior legal advisor for the United Nations and authorized military intervention in Somalia in 1992 returning there as senior legal advisor for the U.N. evacuation in 1995. In 1996 he served in Bosnia as a legal advisor for the NATO implementation force, and went on to teach Political Science at the National Defense University. After his retirement as a colonel in 1998 he served as a United Nations legal affairs officer in Kosovo, working in the U.N. Civil Administration. He was a regular lecturer at the Canadian Peacekeeping Centre and has served with Canadian military and civilian peacekeepers on three continents. His current courses include International Humanitarian Law and International Law and the Use of Force, addressing Canada’s role in the International Criminal Court and the Ottawa Landmine Convention. He resides with his wife, Joan, in Tacoma, Washington.

**Goodbye to our Friend**

Marc Hershman joined the U.W. in 1976 as an associate professor of Marine Affairs, with an adjunct appointment in the School of Law. He served from 1993 to 2003 as the director of the School of Marine Affairs, a part of the College of Ocean and Fishery Sciences. He became a well-known expert on protecting and using coastal areas, managing seaports and the laws and policies governing U.S. and Canadian ocean resources. Marc Hershman passed away on 17 February 2008. The following message was sent by Professor Daniel Lane, Telfer School of Management, University of Ottawa and Chair of the Ocean Management Research Network, Ottawa, Ontario.

It is with much sadness that I learned of the passing of Professor Marc Hershman. It was just this past October that, as Chair of the Ocean Management Research Network, I had the privilege of welcoming Professor Hershman as a guest speaker to our 2007 National Conference held at the University of Ottawa in Ottawa, Canada. I was taken by his passion for his presentation that focused on the implementation of the oceans agenda in the U.S. – a topic of considerable interest to our Canadian delegates who packed the room to see and hear Marc. Following his remarks, Marc was approached by many of the delegates who wanted to continue the discussion. I was able to “corner him” and thank him for his participation, and to congratulate him on the obvious interest that his remarks stirred in his audience. When I asked him a technical question, his face brightened and he once again became the consummate expert. We parted with the idea that there is still much to be done in terms of Canada-U.S. marine management … Marc’s genuine gesture to engage people and to move the discussion forward provides an example that deserves repeating and is a lesson I will not forget. He will be greatly missed.

– Daniel Lane, University of Ottawa
In late January the U.W. sponsored Focus the Nation: Global Warming Solutions for the Nation, a major educational initiative held in conjunction with hundreds of institutions and schools around the country. Several members of the Center participated including Tom Hinckley, Forest Resources, who used examples from his cross-border fall course to discuss trans-boundary fire issues and the bi-nation impact of the mountain pine beetle as part of the panel, “Community Impacts of Climate Change: Public Health and the Environment;” Michael Robinson-Dorn, Law School, who served on the panel “The Politics and Ethics of Finding Solutions;” and doctoral candidate Timothy Pasch, Communication, who discussed the impact of climate change on Inuit communities in Nunavik, Quebec, drawing on his summer field research (supported by a Foreign Affairs, Canada Graduate Research Grant).

In February several U.W. affiliates attended the Annual General Meeting of the Pacific Northwest Canadian Studies Consortium in Vancouver, British Columbia. Over 60 academics from the region, including British Columbia, the Yukon and Alberta, discussed current trends in Canada-U.S. research and collaborative cross-border projects and courses.

In January Denyse Delcourt, French, read from her recently published novel at Elliott Bay Book Company, Seattle. Her 2001 novel, Gabrielle au bois dormant, published in Montreal, has been published in the U.S. as Gabrielle and the Long Sleep into Mourning (Green Integer, translated by Eugene Vance). A finalist for both the Prix Anne-Hébert and the Prix Marguerite-Duras, this gemlike novel brings together eight childhood friends decades later in Quebec. The death of one of them is a central point for the stories that get told and the mysteries that slowly come to light (see article in this report).

During Winter Quarter Nadine Fabbi, Canadian Studies Center, gave five public lectures on Canada: two lectures (one on using symbols to teach about Canadian culture and history and the other on the philosophy of multiculturalism) for the two-day educator workshop, The Geography of the Neighborhood: Canada and the U.S. in St. Paul at the invitation of the Canadian Consulate, Minneapolis and the Minnesota Humanities Center; another on Canada-U.S. trade as part of a training on bi-national relations for scientists from the Animal and Plant Inspection Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture; and two presentations for local educators as part of Jackson School outreach programming.
Sion Romaine, U.W. Libraries, received generous support from the Government of Canada and the Consulate General of Canada, Seattle, through the Library Support Program allowing the U.W. libraries to purchase Microlog for the Federal Non-Depository Documents microfiche set for 2006. The set includes federal research, scientific, technical and annual reports, policy papers and statistical materials, and is housed in the Microforms/Newspapers Division on the ground floor of Suzzallo Library. Microlog is indexed in the Canadian Research Index http://proquest.umi.com/login?cOPT=REJTPTRkZTUmSU5UPTAmVkJVSTI==&clientId=8991.

In early March Greg Shelton, Global Trade, Transportation and Logistics Studies, served as a moderator for the panel on sovereignty issues and the Northwest Passage at the 2nd Annual Crossing Borders – Issues and Resolutions student conference held at the Henry Art Gallery at the U.W.

Jack Thompson, Public Health and Community Medicine, and Director, Northwest Center for Public Health Practice, coordinated the Third Annual Population Health and Cross-Border Collaboration symposium in January with the University of British Columbia’s Department of Health Care and Epidemiology and the Faculty of Health Services at Simon Fraser University (see article in this report).

This past quarter, Fritz Wagner, Landscape Architecture, was invited to Mexico City to give a talk at the Urban Health meeting of the United Nation’s World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization dealing with his work on livable communities in Canada and the U.S. and what the two nations can do to improve the health of urban residents. Fritz was also awarded a Center course development grant for the field course to Canada entitled, “Comparative Urban Planning: Canada and the U.S.” that will be offered in summer 2009.

Samuel K. Wasser, Endowed Chair in Conservation Biology, Research Professor, Department of Biology, and Director, Center for Conservation Biology, was awarded a $10,000 grant from the Canadian Consulate, Seattle for his research on the killer whale in the inland waters of Northwest Washington and British Columbia. The killer whale is now listed as endangered in both countries. Wasser’s research will be used to evaluate the hypotheses for the decline in the Southern resident killer whale population and inform mitigation and recovery efforts. Comparisons will be made with the Northern resident killer whales, a population in northern British Columbia where vessel traffic and toxin loads are markedly reduced. Specifically grant funds will be used for fieldwork in summer 2008. 🍁
WINTER QUARTER COURSES

This Winter Quarter 30 courses with comparative Canadian content were offered in schools and departments across the three U.W. campuses serving over 1,300 undergraduate and graduate students. Following is an article on one of the most successful field courses to Canada taught by Stan de Mello, School of Social Work and a new course on Québec offered by Natalie Debray, Communication.

School of Social Work Students Visit Vancouver, British Columbia

BY STAN DE MELLO

Stan de Mello teaches in the School of Social Work and takes students on regular field trips to Canada (British Columbia and Alberta) to explore social work practices across the 49th parallel. Stan is interested in community-based practice in First Nations communities and cross-cultural social work in Canada. The course is co-taught with Blake Kaiser also with the School of Social Work. As a clinical social worker Blake has a keen interest in how social work practice has evolved in Canada. She has been involved in several field trips to Vancouver that have enriched her teaching and research interest in cross-border social work practice.

This past Winter Quarter Blake Kaiser and I took 21 students from the School of Social Work to Vancouver, British Columbia, on a field trip. We wanted the students to explore the multicultural roots that bind our two nations and to compare social work approaches across the 49th parallel.

After crossing the border we headed to Chinatown where we were met by our host, Hayne Wai, President of the Historical Society of Chinatown. Hayne is an instructor with University of British Columbia’s School of Social Work and is on the faculty of Education. In addition, he has been a long-time community activist in Vancouver. This was a historically opportune time to visit Chinatown as one hundred years ago Vancouver was rocked by race riots. The city was founded in the early 1900s as destination for Asian and European communities who arrived to make a new life. (Of course, First Nations people were already well established on the West Coast.) The riots were the result of a history of anti-Asian sentiment. For example, the Asiatic Exclusion League protested the presence of migrants from China, Japan and India. In 1907 the Labour Day weekend march rapidly deteriorated into violence and extensive property damage in Chinatown and Japantown. The origins of these riots can also be traced to Bellingham where earlier five hundred Punjabi workers were attacked by white protesters in an effort to drive them back into Canada.

Our group was able to retrace some of the key sites of the riot and visit Shanghai Alley and Canton Alley that were the economic and cultural centers of the early Chinese community. Hayne described how subsequent waves of Asian migration (including a moving account of his own family’s experiences) left unique contributions to the social and cultural fabric of the city. At the same time the stress and strains of multiculturalism have given rise to the ongoing challenges to both Canadian-born and immigrant populations. Our tour continued with a wonderful lunch in Chinatown and then a visit to the eastside of the city and a tour of Britannia Community Center, a multi-purpose social service facility. Once again we examined how contemporary social services approaches have been mediated by our respective social, cultural and political contexts. Our visit concluded with a dinner at the Katmandu Café where we heard from Vancouver Hospital social worker Kathleen Mackay, explaining how the hospital works on issues of domestic violence within a multicultural context.

In reflecting upon their visit, students seemed impressed with the diversity and differences between our countries as well as many similarities that both enrich and challenge us.

“The trip was amazing! I was surprised at how large and culturally expressive their [Vancouver’s] Chinatown was especially as I am a resident of Seattle’s international district … What I found most useful … was the group talk we had … about the current status of Canada’s racial and political positioning.”

– JOSHUA JOHNSON, STUDENT PARTICIPANT

“Prior to our visit I was completely unaware of the deep rooted history the Chinese have in Canada … I hope that what I have learned from this trip to Canada will continue to motivate me to become a better social worker and a better person.”

– SUZANNA CHEN, STUDENT PARTICIPANT

School of Social Work students pause for a group photo in Vancouver where they were able to compare Canadian social work approaches with U.S. models (far right, Stan de Mello).
Québec Studies at the U.W.

Natalie Debray earned her doctorate in Communication at the U.W. in 2007 and also holds an M.A. in International Studies. Her area of expertise is International Communication with an emphasis on media and cultural identity, intercultural communication, and communication and international relations. Her dissertation compared Canadian and Québécois media coverage of significant historic events to determine their influence on cultural and political identity. Natalie has received numerous awards including a Foreign Language and Area Studies award from the Center to study French and Québécois culture and history.

How do Canadian and American citizens differ in their values? Is the French spoken in France the same as the French spoken in Québec? These are just some of the questions raised by students this quarter in the course, COM 478: Intercultural Communication.

The course examined the theoretical components of Intercultural Communication by putting the spotlight on our Canadian neighbors. The students are often quite surprised at how different Canadians and Americans really are. Through dynamic examples gleaned from my years traveling and researching Québec and Canada, I let the students know that we do not have to look very far to experience a completely different world. Multicultural and bilingual Canada is fertile ground for studying cultural diversity.

Set against the backdrop of globalization, the course examined the various ways that culture influences communication; how cultural identity is formed, and how this knowledge can foster an appreciation of diversity while creating savvy and culturally competent communicators. The students especially appreciated the lectures on history and language, where I used the concept of diaspora to illustrate how the vastly different histories of Canada and Québec contributed to the Canadian society that exists today – and the conflict that this has often engendered. For example, the students learned that Canada recognizes two distinct Canadian histories, one English and one French, and Canadians are often at odds over who really ‘discovered’ Canada.

The course also placed a particular emphasis on the importance of language and cultural identity. The students learned why the fight to preserve the French language in Québec is so important. Even Starbucks was no match for Bill 101 – the influential and strict language law designed to preserve the French component of Québec Society. The students were quite surprised to learn that homegrown Starbucks had to alter its well-known moniker if it wanted to open a store in historic Québec. Known as Café Starbucks Coffee, the coffee shop looks similar to one you would see in Seattle, but the French flair of its name gives some indication of the significance between language and culture.

For these students, mixing a little bit of history with a taste of café au lait has been a superb way to learn about Intercultural Communication.

“Professor Debray’s lectures and in-class discussions on Québec illustrated how language can shape histories and identities. It was moving to experience the evolution of our class from a textbook environment into a study of how people communicate their values and interact with one another… and what is at stake for those individuals, communities and nations.”

– JAMES-OLIVIA AVIGAIL, STUDENT PARTICIPANT

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

2nd Annual Crossing Borders Conference – Issues and Resolutions – by Lu Jiang

On March 7th, the 2nd Annual Crossing Borders Conference sponsored by the Canadian Consulate, Seattle, was held in the Henry Art Gallery on the U.W. campus. Out of almost 60 applications, 16 participants were chosen from Canadian and U.S. institutions, including two U.W. students – Lu Jiang, a major in Business Administration and history minor, and Sandley Chou, a double major in International Studies and history and a U.W. Honors student. Sandley presented on the melting of the Northwest Passage and the intensifying debate over sovereignty of the Arctic waters. Lu and her teammate, John Kardosh, University of Alberta, presented on the Canada-U.S. border and border security, winning $250 each in prize money for their performance.

I was selected to attend the 2008 Crossing Borders Conference, where 16 students from United States and Canada debated current critical issues facing both nations. The topic I was assigned was border security and its implication for the trans-national relationship between Canada and United States.
RESEARCH PROJECTS AT THE U.W.

There are a wealth of research projects on Canada at the U.W. This edition of the Center Report focuses on three projects – cross-border health care, food security and research on Québec that resulted in an award-winning novel.

Expanding Cross-Border Partnerships at the Northwest Center for Public Health

BY JACK THOMPSON

Jack Thompson is the Director of the Northwest Center for Public Health Practice at the University of Washington and a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Health Services. He is the Principal Investigator for the Northwest Center for Public Health Preparedness Program, supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He is also Co-Principal Investigator for the Public Health Training Center supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration. Jack has been on the faculty of the School of Public Health and Community Medicine since November of 1994.

For the first decade or so of its existence, the Northwest Center for Public Health Practice (located within the U.W. School of Public Health and Community Medicine) defined itself in terms of the Northwest United States. Strong relationships were formed with state and local public health organizations and with tribes in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming. But it wasn’t until the first Cross Border Preparedness Conference, held in Vancouver, British Columbia in April 2004, that we truly became a Northwest Center – as partnerships developed with public health researchers in British Columbia and other Northwest provinces. This conference (now in its fifth year, with a meeting scheduled for Bellingham in May 2008) gave rise to another successful cross-border collaboration – the Research Symposium, a collaboration originally between the U.W. School of Public Health and the University of British Columbia’s Department of Health Services and Epidemiology.

There have been three symposia to date and I have had the honor of coordinating each of them in collaboration with colleagues from the University of British Columbia and – this year – Simon Fraser University. The first symposium was held in Vancouver, British Columbia, in Fall 2005. The second was held a year later on the U.W. campus. The third symposium, now including Simon Fraser University, was held last January in La Conner, Washington, at a conference facility. Eighty faculty and students from the three universities attended the two-day event.

The first day was highlighted by a keynote speech from Dr. Clyde Hertzman, Director of the Human Early Learning Partnership in the College for Interdisciplinary Studies at the University of British Columbia that highlighted comparative health status information from British Columbia and Washington State. This led to lively discussion about the similarities in demographics of the populations but significant differences in the organization of health and health care – and in health outcomes. The second day consisted of discussions in eight break-out groups that picked up where Clyde’s remarks left off. The groups focused on Population Health, Global Health, Health Services Research, Maternal and Child Health, Infectious Disease Control, and Indigenous Health Issues. Faculty and students from the three institutions came up with action plans for each group that hopefully will lead to further collaborations in the Northwest in the coming year. Areas of interest across the groups included collaborative approaches to student practica, the possibility of developing joint degree programs across the schools, development of common sets of health indicators that could be tracked over time, joint presentations at upcoming conferences, and collaborations on specific research projects. Summaries of the breakout discussions were presented in a closing session facilitated by Dr. King Holmes, Chair of the Global Health Department at the U.W.

This has been a very rich and valuable experience for me. In the coming year the Northwest Center and our partner universities will track progress on these collaborations. As always, we will look for opportunities to incorporate such planning, discussions and expanding partnerships into our work. We are already looking forward to the Fourth Research Symposium in 2009.

The annual symposia are supported, in part, by funding from the Center’s U.S. Department of Education, Title VI grant and by a Foreign Affairs, Canada Program Enhancement Grant.
French Professor Writes Award-Winning Novel Based In Québec

BY DENYSE DELCOURT

Denyse Delcourt is an Associate Professor in the Division of French and Italian Studies. She has been teaching at the University of Washington since 1990. Other teaching experiences include Queens (Canada), Emory, Northwestern and Duke universities. Her teaching interests are Old French language and literature, contemporary Québécois literature and French fairy tales.


For someone who is trained to do literary analysis, writing a novel is like “crossing to the other side.” Creative fiction has often been compared to walking through a dark and unfamiliar road using a flashlight. With only a bit of the road illuminated ahead one has to walk slowly, hesitantly and sometimes fearfully. For a scholar, writing fiction can be a very humbling experience.

In preparation for this novel I spent a month doing research at the Bibliothèque Nationale in Montréal. Since my novel is set in Québec during the fifties I needed to get a better sense of the period. What was happening in Québec at the time? What did people listen to on the radio? What did they eat and drink? What did they wear at school, funerals, weddings, etc.? To find answers to these questions, I consulted numerous newspapers and magazines published in Montréal between 1939 and 1955, books on etiquette, and text books used in French-Canadian elementary schools during the forties and fifties. The Bibliothèque Nationale in Montréal has an impressive collection of such materials. It was a pleasure to spend time doing research in this venerable institution.

Before I start writing fiction, I always do an outline. Even though I know by experience that the order I set for the chapters and even the role I am assigning to any given character may change along the way, I find it very useful to organize the materials beforehand.

When I was working on Gabrielle I never told myself that I was writing a “novel.” That would have been too overwhelming. Instead, I followed Anne Lamott’s wonderful advice to fiction writers by taking it “bird by bird…”* What I was writing every day was only a “bird,” that is, a small piece of a novel, a fragment or a scene. That kept me going until the accumulation of fragments was ready to be called a novel.

A word about the English translation – Eugene Vance did a remarkable job translating my novel. It is very close to the original, and beautifully done. For those who cannot read French I highly recommend it.


From Poutine to P-Patches: Learning From Canadian and U.S. Food Policy Councils

BY BRANDEN BORN

Branden Born is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Urban Design and Planning. He studies land use, planning process, and urban food systems. He is a member of the American Planning Association’s Food System Planning Committee and the Seattle-King County Acting Food Policy Council.

The Canadian Studies Center recently co-sponsored a City of Seattle Transformational Lecture Series event that focused on food systems and an increasingly important governance tool known as a Food Policy Council (FPC). Wayne Roberts, the project director for arguably the most advanced FPC in North America, the Toronto Food Policy Council was the featured speaker. His talk was followed by a panel discussion that I served on along with fellow Canadian Herb Barbolet, representing Vancouver’s FPC, and Steve Cohen from the City of Portland and the Portland-Multnomah FPC.

Roberts’ lecture focused on ways that food and cities and their residents interact, and how food systems – the people and processes that produce, process, market, distribute, consume, and dispose of food – can be tools of economic development and community empowerment. The lecture focused on the projects of the Toronto FPC.

Since there aren’t any city departments of food, FPCs have functioned as multi-stakeholder advisory bodies to government. Their suggestions address issues of food access, nutritional adequacy, economic impacts of food systems, environmental effects of food-related choices, and more. From the provision of healthful foods through grocery stores and farmers’ markets, to developing and protecting community gardens, to closing resource loops through composting and food rescue, cities have a hand in making sure their residents have food security or, access to culturally appropriate, nutritionally adequate food through non-emergency sources at all times. And while the Toronto FPC is a pioneer, urban planners and policy makers are turning to FPCs with growing frequency: in the last few years the number of food policy councils in North America has doubled to approximately 70. There are now nine separate efforts at different stages of development in Washington alone. Roberts and the panel discussed the many strategies of their councils and fielded questions from an enthusiastic audience that filled City Hall’s Bertha Landes Room.

The importance of food policy to cities and metropolitan areas is a focus of my graduate course, Urban Planning and the Food System, which was offered at the U.W. through the Department of Urban Design and Planning in the fall term. Using examples from Canada, the U.S., and beyond, the course explores food production, global trade, social justice and food access, environmental sustainability, and urban policy formation. Roberts also joined former students and college faculty for a presentation and discussion the day after his lecture downtown. Students from the class have helped conduct research in support of Washington’s Local Farms, Health Kids legislation. They have also assisted the City of Seattle, the Acting Food Policy Council, and local farmers’ markets with service learning research projects.

Seattle, with its P-Patches and progressive-thinking government is an urban leader along with a handful of other cities in the U.S. when it comes to food policy, and yet knowledge sharing across state borders both north and south is pushing food policy understanding and development into new areas for all involved. 🌿
GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH

The Center’s Affiliated Graduate Program now includes 30 students representing 10 departments in Arts and Sciences and 6 professional schools. See http://sis.washington.edu/canada/graduate.shtml for graduate student bios and opportunities for young researchers. Following are two impressive research projects and an article on the 2nd Annual MBA Canada Study Tour.

U.W. Graduate Student is Awarded a Foreign Affairs, Canada Graduate Research Grant! Science and Empire in the Pacific Northwest

BY BRIAN SCHEFKE

Brian Schefke, a doctoral candidate in History, received a 2007-08 Graduate Research Grant from Foreign Affairs, Canada for his project, “A Naturalist’s Empire: Natural History and Imperialism in the Pacific Northwest and Western Canada, 1790-1860.” Brian’s topic deals with the activities of naturalists working in the Pacific Northwest during the early nineteenth century and how their work was connected to the interests of imperial powers, such as Britain, and the institutions through which they worked, such as the Hudson’s Bay Company.

My specialty within history is the history of the life sciences. Upon arriving at the U.W., I became interested in natural history, the predecessor of modern biology. I had long been interested in the interaction of science with questions of politics and economics and thus began to investigate the practice of natural history as an “imperial science” in the Pacific Northwest. Or, science put in the service of advancing the expansionist aims of European nations contending for control of what is now Washington, Oregon, and British Columbia in the first half of the nineteenth century. The main question I am addressing is – how did natural history shape, and how was it shaped by, imperialist aims for the region?

Most of my research has been conducted locally. In particular, the journals of naturalists and fur traders have provided considerable insight into the practice of natural history in the Northwest and its implications for imperialism as expressed in the main economic activities conducted between Europeans and native peoples of the area. In addition, I am currently investigating the records of the Hudson Bay Company (HBC). As the representative of British power in the Northwest, the HBC was well placed to exert considerable political and economic influence in the region. The HBC was also significant in providing logistical support for visiting naturalists, and HBC employees themselves conducted natural historical research, either at the behest of the company or for the purposes of assisting scientific organizations in Britain.

The Graduate Research Grant will enable me to make trips to the HBC Archives in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and the Royal British Columbia Archives in Victoria, where I will undertake an intensive examination of HBC records as well as the perspectives of individual naturalists, traders and native people. This will aid me greatly in the completion of my dissertation. Furthermore, such information will help our historical – and contemporary – understanding of the connections between science and questions of political and economic power.

Freight Wait Times at the Canada-U.S. Border

BY SUSAN ALBRECHT

Susan Albrecht has a Master’s in Policy Studies and is finishing a Master’s in International Studies with the Jackson School of International Studies. She has also completed graduate certificates in Global Trade, Transportation and Logistics, and Environmental Management with the Program on the Environment. Her academic research focuses on international security, energy and environmental policy. As a research assistant in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Susan has assisted in research and co-authored papers on transportation logistics at the U.S.-Canadian border and the Port of Prince Rupert, British Columbia.

For the last year and a half, I have been a research assistant in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering in Professor Anne Goodchild’s research program, the Goods Movement Collaborative. The Collaborative is composed of an interdisciplinary group of graduate students who are engaged in research in various aspects of transportation, ports and the movement of goods.

The first year I worked on a research project that focused on service times at the Lower British Columbia and Whatcom County border crossings for freight carriers. We collected quantitative and qualitative data regarding variable border crossing times. Variable crossing times can cause significant transportation planning challenges for companies, which must either allow more time than is necessary or risk missing delivery windows. This border crossing is the fourth busiest commercial crossing on the U.S.-Canadian border, and the most significant commercial crossing for the Western portion of this border. We talked to 20 companies that cross this
MBA Students Travel to Canada to Learn about Canadian Business and Canada-U.S. Trade Relations

BY TANIA ELLIOTT AND TIM RANDALL, CO-LEADERS

Tania Elliott is a second year, full-time MBA student who is also working towards a Masters of International Studies from the Jackson School. Last summer she had the opportunity to be one of twenty MBA students from the U.S. to attend the Canadian Leadership Conference in Ottawa and Montréal, hosted by the University of Ottawa. She used the knowledge gained at that conference to help develop a stellar curriculum for this year’s Tour. Tim Randall is a second year evening-MBA student at the Foster School, who works full-time as an engineer at The Boeing Company. He was born in Montréal, Québec, and is a tri-citizen of Canada, Britain, and the United States.

Over President’s Day weekend, 12 MBA students from the U.W. Foster School of Business embarked on the second annual Canada Study Tour. These students took advantage of their long weekend by traveling from Seattle to neighboring Vancouver, British Columbia to learn about trade and sustainability around the region. The 2008 Canada Study Tour explored the rich economic, political and cultural environment of the city of Vancouver and the province of British Columbia. Students also discovered how Vancouver is gearing up for the 2010 Olympics and why it is one of the most cosmopolitan cities in North America.

While in Vancouver, the students met with the U.S. Consulate, the Trade Commissioner of Mexico to the Pacific Northwest, and the Director of International Relations for the Government of British Columbia. They discussed the vast business opportunities of the upcoming Winter Olympics with staff of the 2010 Commerce Centre; the importance of networking with the director of the Vancouver Board of Trade; and the strategy behind urban planning and environmental management with the Deputy Mayor of Vancouver and with a local urban planner, Lance Berelowitz. The group learned about the Canadian health care system while visiting Vancouver General Hospital; met with the Chief Operating Officer of the Vancouver Canucks hockey team; and dined with the executive chef of the Pacific Institute of Culinary Arts, among other visits. The students were also able to start relationships with MBA students and faculty from the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University.

The annual MBA Study Tour to Canada is a joint effort of the Global Business Center, Foster School of Business and the Canadian Studies Center. This program is made possible, in part, by a Title VI Grant, U.S. Department of Education and a Program Enhancement Grant, Foreign Affairs Canada. Dr. Sukumar Periwal, 2006-07 Canada-U.S. Fulbright Chair, was the Faculty Representative for the Tour.

“I’m learning how sustainability is being incorporated into every aspect of business, trade, and education in Vancouver, inspires me to promote such practices in the Seattle area. I think we have a lot to learn from each other.”

– KELLY VOSS, STUDY TOUR PARTICIPANT

This year’s MBA Canada Study Tour students pose in front of beautiful metropolitan Vancouver.
I entered this competition because I felt that there should be greater exposure and dialogue between the U.S. and one of our closest neighbors – Canada. In my opinion our mainstream media often neglect our northern neighbor. Indeed, Americans’ lack of familiarity with Canada is quite disconcerting. Just days before the competition, my business professor asked a class of 40 capstone business students, “What is the capital of Canada?” No one, including me, knew the answer. I think it is time for me (and all Americans) to stop taking this easy friendship for granted.

The competition was a great experience. Judges were professors and researchers who are experts in their field. After each side presented its argument, judges and moderators had 45 minutes to ask questions and look for weaknesses in the arguments. The questions were direct, sharp and tough. I’ve never been as uncomfortable as when former State Attorney General and former Senator, Slade Gorton “grilled” us regarding the implications of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI), which aims to increase border security. (Keep in mind that Gorton is on the 9/11 commission panel which proposed WHTI.) But overall I thoroughly enjoyed the whole process.

I did not win the individual grand prize of $1000. John and I won the team prize receiving $250 each. An assortment of other non-monetary gifts and prizes were generously awarded to us by the Canadian Consulate.

In conclusion, I believe there needs to be more opportunities like the 2008 Crossing Borders Conference so that my generation can communicate and strengthen our relationship with our neighbors.

The Crossing Borders Student Conference was co-sponsored by the Canadian Studies Center with funding from a U.S. Department of Education, Title VI grant.