

School of Education Terrace Campus Newsletter October 2016



School of Education, NW Region
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School of Education Terrace campus approaching 10 Year Celebration!
Cont.....

What a Long, Strange Trip It's Been – My Ten Years in the Northwest B.Ed. Program

Alexander Lautensach

In June 2007 Sabina and I arrived in Terrace after a two-year stint of travelling and teaching around the world. I had been hired as assistant professor in the newly formed Northwest Bachelor of Education program, and that was enough reason for us to take roots in this remote place that we had never heard of previously. Teacher education had been my professional aspiration ever since my own teacher training. Fortunately Sabina has the ability to do her work – directing the Human Security Institute – from just about anywhere. And so we arrived here together - without a concrete plan, yet I was overjoyed that I had finally snatched a chance at my dream job.

And a dream job it turned out to be. Five cohorts have passed through our Northwestern classroom, each one different in its collective character, yet all those aspiring teacher candidates shared an unflagging enthusiasm for education, for personal growth, for building a better future for themselves and for their future students. Recurring milestones in my part of the program were the biannual math fairs in term 1 and microteaching in term 2. The math fairs were a community success from the start: whole families trundled in to spend hours on math activities designed and implemented by our cohorts, siblings joyfully engaging in a subject that most would normally not go out of their way for, perhaps even feel intimidated by! Microteaching meant teaching a mini-lesson to your peers in front of a video camera, then writing a professional critique of your performance. That assignment has always been received with some apprehension by our cohorts, but invariably in retrospect they regarded it as a most valuable learning experience.

Among the many important aspects and facets of teacher education, my passion over the years has been with sustainability. For me that means education that empowers people to build a secure future for themselves, their families, their communities, for humanity and for this gorgeous home planet with all its life. What could be more important? In this endeavour we have focused on four areas: scientific literacy, ideological critique, Learning II and cultural safety. They arise from the sizeable blind spots that are evident in the literature, in political discourse and the media industry, and particularly in official statements about sustainability: They tend to be scientifically uninformed, based on implicit and unexamined assumptions and values, and they disregard cultural diversity in favour of the naive ideal of a global cultural melting pot of affluent middle class simpletons. The extent of scientific literacy acquired by our graduates allows them to discriminate scientifically substantiated propositions from the pervasive wishful thinking and plain nonsense.
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Linda's Links

www.youtube.com

Google Primary PE on YouTube. The video is called Primary PE and is from Education not Limited (2013). It comes from Britain where primary PE refers to ages 5 to 11. The video is 13:41 minutes and packed with good ideas for warm up and skill activities. The children certainly are having fun.

<http://cwf-fcf.org/en/resources/for-educators/>

From the Canadian Wildlife Federation you will find educational units, videos, posters, activity sheets...plus more.

Linda Lee

Come Join Us On Campus!



Public Presentations!

October 12th

"Talking trees and sentient
landscapes"
Presenter: Derrick Denholm
12:00 – 1:00 pm

October 26th

"The politics of women's
history in Canada"
Presenter: Dina von Hahn
12:00 – 1:00 pm

Important Dates!

October 10th

Thanksgiving Day
University Closed

October 27th

Last day to withdraw
from September Semester
courses without academic
penalty, 50% tuition refund

New Intake!

Bachelor of Education K-7
New Intake September 2017
Please contact:
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What a Long, Strange Trip It's Been – My Ten Years in the Northwest B.Ed. Program continued....

Learning II means learning to learn and I consider it the most important goal of education across the board, now more than ever. Our graduates invariably developed their learning skills to a level that empowers them to master any professional challenge. Cultural safety, a form of human security, is the subjective awareness of personal safety, empowerment and personal expression that a member of a cultural minority experiences. In Canada it refers especially to indigenous peoples but also to immigrants and refugees. Every citizen can contribute to the cultural safety of such people by developing awareness and competencies to behave safely in our multicultural society. In 2013 my colleagues and I published a paper on how we strengthen cultural safety in our program. Human security is the more inclusive concept of the two. Beyond cultural safety, it includes sociopolitical, economic, environmental and health-related security. Also in 2013 Sabina and I published the first and (to our knowledge) only university textbook on human security; a new edition is in the works. Our graduates have shown plenty of cultural sensitivity and competence across the board.

I am exceedingly proud of our alumnae (female, constituting more than 90 percent of our graduates) and alumni (male) – what they have accomplished in their professional lives, how they have grown as human beings and as global citizens. Several of them are leading schools now, others are teaching in Asia, Africa and Europe. An impressive and growing number have acquired Masters degrees. A sizeable contingent of indigenous graduates, many of them native speakers, is teaching in our region and acting as much needed role models to the next generation of First Nations. I regard the educational focus on indigenous needs and strengths as our School's contribution to repairing the cultural genocide that happened in the residential schools – never mind that the royals still haven't even apologised!

The past ten years have contributed in so many ways to my life. I am grateful to our cohorts and to my colleagues for imbuing this opportunity with gratification and happiness.

EDUC 490 PRACTICUM BRINGS B.ED. STUDENTS CLOSER TO COMPLETION

As our 5th Cohort begins their final year of the Bachelor of Education program, they enter their 3rd practicum with excitement and a new level of professionalism.

Students will combine the 3-week practicum with observations, unit planning and teaching 50% of the classes during their practicum with 2 days of 80% teaching.

Each semester we are appreciative of our School Districts, Principals, Cooperating Teachers and Practicum Supervisors who help make our practicum and program a success!

We would like to wish all of our students a great learning experience and a successful practicum.

