



Education students inspired with cross-cultural perspectives

"I was so pleased with the response of my classmates. I remember thinking, 'Wow, these people are going to be great teachers.'"

That's how Erin Pinay, a third-year student majoring in English education, sums up her recent Off-Campus Residential Experience (O.C.R.E.). Pinay was one of about 120 education students who participated in the 2004 edition of O.C.R.E., which featured three days at the Echo Valley Conference Centre, formerly known as Fort Stan.

"O.C.R.E. is extended experiential learning," says Lois Martinson, the professor of Education who led the faculty members organizing the 2004 experience. "The focus is on having students acquire knowledge, skills and attitudes outside the classroom that will help make them better learners and teachers." The Faculty of Education has offered O.C.R.E. for 25 years, and every year is different. For 2004 Martinson and her team focused on experiences that would help students better understand First Nations and

Métis cultures, and how they influence the learning needs and strengths of school children from those cultures.

Martinson met with people from First Nations University of Canada, high school principals and people with Saskatchewan Learning's aboriginal education unit. What emerged was a set of activities and discussions to prepare the students for the off-campus experience, the O.C.R.E. field trip, followed by debriefing discussions.

"What we didn't want was a three-day workshop, and at the end you know everything," Martinson explains. It appears that the objective was met, as Erin Pinay and other students can attest.

Pinay's observation about her fellow students was prompted by their emotional farewell with the First Nations and Métis elders who had become their friends during three days of discussions and ceremonies. The students also participated in exercises each day to help them learn how to use various instructional

techniques, and to develop awareness of their own and other cultures. In the evening the students had a choice of activities, such as a sweat lodge, drumming and dancing, an historical tour of Fort Stan, Métis storytelling or small group discussions with elders.

"Listening to their stories gave me a different perspective on history," Pinay says. "One of the elders knew of my family, and so I even learned some family history! I hadn't told anyone that I was planning to move to another province after I graduate, but one of the elders asked me to stay here and help your people," she continues. "So, I'm hoping to do my internship next fall at Scott Collegiate. That experience changed everything."

Mike Rissling was similarly impressed by his experiences. Rissling is an after-degree education student with a BSc in biology. He felt the power of healing in the sweat lodge. Despite a long day of activities, he got up early the following morning to participate in another pipe ceremony, which he describes as "being

invited into something sacred."

"The elders have already influenced how I will teach," Rissling observes. "I learned from one of them - Rick - that he teaches certain things at certain times of the year. Now I'm thinking about how I can set up my semester and unit plans that way. It's not a matter of teaching aboriginal or non-aboriginal content, it's about using good ideas from everywhere."

Rick Seaman is one of the professors involved with O.C.R.E., and he's pleased with the pedagogic results. "I got excited seeing how math-ed students were able to improve their cross-cultural lessons every time they reviewed them, and how one group would spontaneously give the next group instruction on how to teach it better," says Seaman.

"I was moved that the students took the time to stop and talk and hug the elders after the closing ceremonies, even though a blizzard was brewing outside, and the trip home would be difficult. These gestures told me a lot about our future teachers," he concludes.

CAMPUS LIFE CALENDAR

Thurs., Feb. 26 - 9 a.m. 5th Annual Consumer Show Visit the vendor booths as well speak with representatives Multi-Purpose Room, Riddell Centre Info: 585-5002

Thurs., Feb. 26 - 1:15 p.m. Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy seminar "Privacy Legislation Compliance in Saskatchewan" Speaker: R. Gary Dickson O.C. Gallery Building, College Avenue Campus Info/Registration: 585-55-5777

Thurs., Feb. 26 - 4 p.m. Humanities Research Institute Profiling Scholarship Series "Put Your Best Face Forward: Sturm und Drang and the 4th Wall" Speaker: Wes D. Pearce Rm. 020, Riddell Centre Info: 585-4304

Fri., Feb. 27 - 4 p.m. History colloquium "Japan and the Visualization of Manchuria, 1932-1937" Speaker: Philip Charrier Rm. 348, Administration-Humanities Bldg. Info: 585-4211

Tues., Mar. 2 - 10 a.m. Psychology colloquium "Corking the Central Gestecken: Task Switching Impairs Perceptual Processing" Speaker: Chris Oves Rm. 285, Riddell Centre Info/RSVP: 585-4221/585-4157

Wed., Mar. 3 - Noon Social Policy Research Unit seminar "Housing, Poverty and Mental Illness: Breaking the Triangle of Disadvantage" Speaker: Joanne Kowalchuk Rm. 106, College Avenue Campus Info: 585-4311

Wed., Mar. 3 - Noon Saskatchewan Instructional Development & Research Unit seminar "Contemporary Thoughts and Directions for Arts Education" Speakers: Meredith Cherland, Ann Kipling Brown, Linda Lang, Donna Patterson, Norm Yakef Rm. 215, Education Bldg. Info: 585-4309

Wed., Mar. 3 - 4 p.m. Sociology seminar "The University and Our Discontents" Speaker: Claire Polster Rm. 420, Classroom Bldg. Info: 585-4443

Wed., Mar. 3 - 8 p.m. Playwrights Reading Series "Dance, Dramaturgy and Physical Theatre as a Mechanism for the Development of New Work" Speaker: Brian Quirt Six-Bay Theatre Info: 585-5562

Wed., Mar. 3 - 7 p.m. International Film Series "Spainted Way" Japanese animation with English subtitles Riffl Auditorium, Campion College Info: 585-4855

Thurs., Mar. 4 - 7:30 p.m. 26th Annual Nash Memorial Lecture "Catholicism in a Globalizing World" Speaker: Bill Wirth Riffl Auditorium, Campion College Info: 585-1244

Thurs., Mar. 4 - 12:10 p.m. Coffee House Controversies Informal talks given by Faculty of Arts professors. "Global Weather: Climate Change and Sustainability" Speakers: Dave Gauthier, Polo Diaz, Dave Sauchyn Rm. 345, 1939 Scarth St. Info: 585-4226

Fri., Mar. 5 - 3:30 p.m. Faculty of Arts Lecture "Law and Morality in the Legal Theory of Jurgen Habermas" Speaker: Allan MacLeod Rm. 105, Campion College Info: 585-5411

Fri., Mar. 5 - 4 p.m. Faculty of Fine Arts Lecture series "Aesthetics, Philosophy and Pathology of Illness" Speaker: Gail Chin Rm. 050, Riddell Centre Info: 585-5557

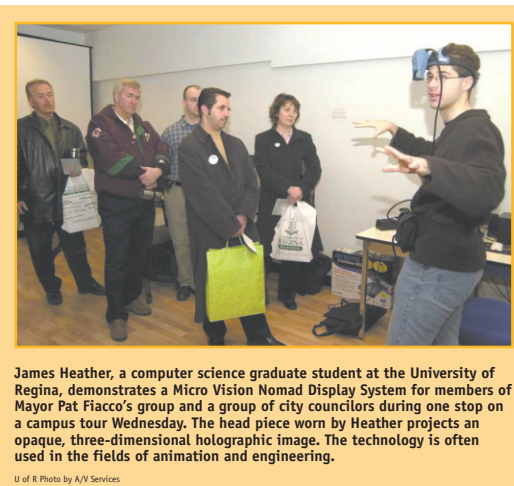
Mon., Mar. 8 - 8 p.m. 45th Annual Basterfield Lecture "Studying the Sun from 2 km Underground" Speaker: Arthur B. McDonald Rm. 110, Classroom Bldg. Info: 537-2309/585-4149

Wed., Mar. 10 - Noon Saskatchewan Instructional Development & Research Unit seminar "My Research while on Sabbatical in Africa" Speaker: Liz Cooper Rm. 215, Education Bldg. Info: 585-4309

Thurs., Mar. 11 - 7:30 p.m. Saugierford Lecture "Sexism and the Gendering of Education" Speaker: Christine Overall Lanigan Auditorium Info: 585-4226

Thurs., Mar. 11 - 7:30 p.m. Luther College 90th Anniversary Lecture series "Arabian, Persian and Islamic: Drawing from Jewish, Christian and Muslim Views" Speaker: Roland E. Miller Rex Schneider Auditorium, Luther College Info: 585-5144

For a complete calendar of events at the University of Regina visit our Web site at www.uregina.ca



U of R Photo by A/V Services

James Heather, a computer science graduate student at the University of Regina, demonstrates a Micro Vision Nomad Display System for members of Mayor Pat Fiacco's group and a group of city councilors during one stop on a campus tour Wednesday. The head piece worn by Heather projects an opaque, three-dimensional holographic image. The technology is often used in the fields of animation and engineering.

Math camp promises perplexing problems

Here's a weighty question for you. If you were twice as tall, why would you weigh eight times as much?

That's an example of the kind of question that students will be grappling with at the Mathematics Enrichment Camp at the University of Regina on March 13th.

Math camp is open to students in grades seven to 12. It gives them opportunities to stretch their imaginations and tackle some math problems that they wouldn't encounter in the school curriculum.

"Each one of the activities we offer has some real world implications, but that's not their focus," says professor Harley Weston, one of the camp organizers. "We try to choose topics we think the students will find interesting, and where they can have fun."

For example, Weston says young people are always interested in cryptography, the making and breaking of codes.

One of the other problems being presented - the Konigsberg Bridge problem - has a long history originating in the 1700s (for math enthusiasts, an Internet search engine can find a number of references to the problem). The challenge is to find a path around the Prussian town of Konigsberg, which has seven bridges and two islands, by crossing each bridge only once.

"Sometimes in mathematics, the right answer is ... impossible!" says Allen Herman, Weston's colleague in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, who is also helping to organize the math camp. "The eulogy by mathematician Leonard Euler in 1736 gave rise to an entire branch of mathematics called networks. We did an activity around this problem a few years ago, and every time I meet a student who attended that year, they ask me when we're going to do it again."

Two years ago the camp featured a group of activities under the theme money and math. The students liked it, so it will be presented again this year, but using a different activity, Weston says.

This will be the fourth math camp hosted by the University of Regina. The first was held four years ago in conjunction with the mathematics museum exhibit at the Saskatchewan Science Centre. Since then the camps have been held on the U of R campus with the support of the Canadian Mathematical Society through the ESSO Math Camps program. Several Canadian universities receive support for math camps each year.

Weston says the camp attracts students at many levels of mathematical competence; the only real requirement is that they enjoy doing math. "Most of the students who attend the camps already know that math can be fun," he says. "The camp gives them an opportunity to come together with others who enjoy it, and learn some piece of mathematics that they probably won't see in school," says Weston.

Some of those new pieces will be similar to the question posed at the beginning of this article. "We have lots of neat new brain teasers and puzzles in the game rooms," Herman adds.

Mathematics Enrichment Camp 2004 will be held March 13, from 9:00 to 4:30, in Room 388 of the Education Building. The registration fee is \$25, which includes food and refreshments. The closing date for registrations is March 5. You can register online at www.math.uregina.ca/~camp/registrati on.html or write to: Math Camp 2004, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Regina, Regina, SK S4S 0A2. You'll find photos of last year's camp at: www.math.uregina.ca/~camp/photos_2003.html.

26th Annual Nash Memorial Lecture CATHOLICISM IN A GLOBALIZING WORLD Thursday, March 4, 2004 7:30 P.M.

We want to hear from you! Tell us what you think of the U of R Update page E-mail your comments to communications@uregina.ca

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Tuition Tax Receipts are now Available on the Internet

T2202A tuition tax receipts for 2003 are available on the internet. The receipts are accessible using the Web Services for Students system located on the web at https://baner.uregina.ca. The receipts are available for all degree credit courses taken during 2003 for all University of Regina students including students who were enrolled in Campion College, Luther College and First Nations University of Canada. Hard copy receipts will not be mailed or be available to be picked up. Those students who do not have access to the internet should contact the University or their federated college at the numbers below to request that a receipt be generated and mailed.

A student User ID and PIN are required to access the secure site at https://baner.uregina.ca/. Once logged in, select "Student Services" then click on "Canadian Tax Forms" and then "T2202A Tax Credit Form" on the following pages. The official Canada Revenue Agency T2202A form is then displayed and can be printed locally using your web browser.

The tax form is on a secure web site and can only be accessed by the individual student with a student User ID and PIN. If you are preparing the tax return for a student, you need to have the student access the form and print it for you. The tax form can be accessed via any internet enabled computer and printed using any web browser to your local printer.

If you require assistance in accessing the tax form, have questions about the information on the form, or require a physical receipt mailed because you do not have access to the internet, phone The University of Regina - Financial Services at (306) 585-4123 (Campion College 359-1211; Luther College 585-5021; FNUC 790-2249 or 790-2251) or email financial.services@uregina.ca

Note that the Web Services for Students website now also has the ability to process student payments on account using internet banking or credit cards.

