



Student Newsletter

Vancouver Island University - Cowichan Campus Student Newsletter, Issue #196 February 14, 2012

WELCOME

A warm VIU welcome is extended to our new students in ABE, Trades, and University Courses. The second semester of ABE courses began Monday, January 30th.

In addition, new Carpentry, Hairdressing, and English 115 students also started at the beginning of February. The Trades students will be located in the buildings adjacent to our property (near the highway) and we encourage them to come over and use the campus facilities including our library, bookstore, cafeteria, and green roof.

We will be hosting a campus Trades BBQ in the spring to gather all of our off-site Trades students, including the Professional Cook (Frances Kelsey SS), and HVAC (Cowichan SS) students.

We remind you to please use the smoking area on the North side of the building and the new path joining the main campus to the Carpentry & Hairdressing site.

Finally, to the many school district 79 Dual Credit students, you are now also Vancouver Island University students. Remember to come to registration to have your photo taken for your VIU student card.

Keith Chicquen, Instructional Director

UPCOMING ACADEMIC DATES

Feb. 20-24: Study Days for University and Career/Technical Programs.

Feb. 27: Last day for academic penalty-free withdrawal from a Spring Semester course or program, or to change from credit to audit (or vice-versa) in University and Career/Technical Programs.

Feb. 27: Last day for overdue fees for Spring semester to be paid to avoid withdrawal from Spring semester courses.

Feb. 28: Students with fees owing will be withdrawn from all Spring semester classes.

Mar. 15: Last day to apply for Student Aid BC funding (student loan) for students with April end date for the current academic year.

April 5: Last day of classes for University and Career/Technical Programs.

UPCOMING AWARDS



There are two bursary applications coming up in the near future. One for students that will begin their studies at VIU, and another for students taking part in the Study Abroad program.

If you are High School student or you are attending an Adult Basic Education program and you plan to start a VIU program next fall, you are eligible to apply for the VIU Entrance Award. By submitting one application you'll be considered for over 25 bursaries ranging from \$250 to \$1000. Deadline to apply is Thursday, March 15, 2012.

If you are a current university student and plan to participate in the Study Abroad program (as a visiting student at a university outside North America, or by registering for a Liberal Arts Study Abroad class) consider the International Study Abroad Award. With one application you'll be considered for six awards ranging from \$400 to \$3000. Deadline to apply is Wednesday, February 29th, 2012.

To apply, visit the Financial Aid & Awards page at viu.ca/financialaid/applications.asp and locate the specific award. Print your completed application, sign and bring it to Student Services before 3 pm on the deadline date.

IT'S TAX TIME!

If you worked in 2011, students can make use of two tax strategies to reduce their taxable income: 1) apply for the full time or part time student tax credit, and 2) contribute to your RRSP

to reduce your income tax and then use the Life Long Learning Plan to invest RRSP funds in your education.

Students who paid over \$100 in combined tuition and activity fees during the 2011 calendar year are eligible for a T2202A tax receipt. You can print your 2011 tax receipt by accessing your online student record at <https://records.viu.ca/reg/htbin/weblogin>, clicking on the "T2202A Tax Receipt" link, and then the "Get Tax Form" button.

Since 2004, T2202A receipts have been made available to students online - **these receipts are not mailed.** Please



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contact the Registration Centre if you do not have access to a computer and are not able to print your tax receipt.

The second tax smart strategy involves using the Life Long Learning plan. This program allows you to use the money in your RRSP to support your education, and after you've graduated, you pay the money back into your RRSP over the course of 10 years. When comparing an investment in education with an investment in the stock market, you'll typically find the rate of return is far superior with a better paying job based on higher education.

LEARNING CENTRE SCHEDULE

A colour-coded schedule of learning centre activities is located outside of Room 120. You can sign up for an appointment or drop in to see one of the Learning Centre staff.

Learning skills workshops with Arleigh Trail are offered on Tuesdays 12:30-1:00. Workshops are free and you are welcome to bring your lunch if you like.

- February 21: Time Management
- March 6: Study Strategies
- March 13: Making Notes
- March 20: Reading Texts

Arleigh is also available Tuesdays 11-12:30 and 3-4.

Assessment Prep and Career and Academic Preparation English and Math support with Bob Darling on Mondays 1-4, Tuesdays 11-12:30 and 4-4:30, Thursdays 1:00-2:00 and Wednesdays 1-4.

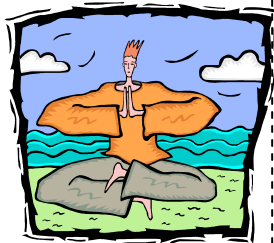
University Writing with Lynn Wytenbroek on Monday and Wednesday 10:30-12:30, Tuesday 2:00-4:00, and Thursday 9:30-11:30.

BEWARE, CAR THIEVES AT WORK!

We had two reported automobile break-ins in January at the Cowichan Campus, during daylight hours, in our campus parking lot. Please remember to lock your vehicle and avoid leaving valuables in plain sight.

WEEKLY MEDITATION

- Beginner's Introduction 7 pm
- Insightful Buddhist Meditation
- Thursday 7:15 pm—8:15 pm in Room 255
- Come and try it out (no charge)



VAGINA MONOLOGUES

The VAGINA MONOLOGUES will be returning to the Cowichan Theatre on Saturday, February 18th at 7:30pm. This hilarious and poignant production will have a whole new cast, consisting of local Cowichan Valley women (including Thanya Al-Saadoon, Project Manager Safer Futures/Cowichan Women Against Violence Society). Proceeds from this show will benefit women serving agencies in our area, including Cowichan Women Against Violence Society.

Cowichan Women Against Violence is also hosting a photography contest by inviting folks to submit photos with the theme of 'Honouring and Celebrating Women'. For contest details and rules, contact us at cwav@cwav.org

So come and laugh, cry and be reminded of why women are so awesome! Bring your friends, mothers, sisters, daughters – and yes, even those special men in your lives – they will enjoy it, too! See you there!

ABORIGINAL MENTORSHIP

The Aboriginal Mentorship (Community Cousins) program is run out of the Nanaimo campus but if there are students here in Cowichan who are interested we would be so pleased to have them join in. This program offers the opportunity to:



- Enhance your interpersonal skills and gain valuable leadership training
- Learn more about yourself and your community
- Provide a valuable service by sharing your time, knowledge and experience
- Assist new students through outreach and mentoring activities
- Spend time with VIU Elders-in-Residence

The next training session is scheduled for Feb 24 (1-4:30), Feb 25 & 26 (9-3:30). Participants would need to have daily transportation to Nanaimo and be willing to spend that weekend meeting other VIU students who want to lend a hand to their "community cousins". They should be students who have some educational experience or life experience that they are willing to share in support of others. Any students interested in learning more about the program can contact Jo Acampora in the Cowichan campus Continuing Ed area, or Sylvia Scow at the Nanaimo campus.

LITERACY CENTRAL VANCOUVER ISLAND

Literacy Central Vancouver Island is an agency that provides free one-on-one tutoring in basic reading, writing, math and computers. They also offer the English as a Second Language Settlement Assistance Program, designed to help those who have recently immigrated to Canada.

This month Jen and Elaine from the Welcome Centre at the Nanaimo campus are collecting for Literacy Central Vancouver Island. They are accepting donations of used books and technology equipment (computer systems, monitors, etc.). If anyone has anything they would like to donate please drop it by Nanaimo's Welcome Centre.

SEEDS FOR CHANGE CONFERENCE 2012: GMOs & THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE

Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) are on the menu of topics at Cowichan Green Community's (CGC's) upcoming 3rd annual Seeds for Change Conference: GMOs & the Right to Choose.

In a climate of misinformation around what is or is not a GMO and the lack of transparency regarding GMO labeling, this conference seeks to highlight examples of how citizens and communities within Canada are working together to choose alternatives. Examples will be showcased through a series of speakers and a panel discussion, featuring Jon Steinman of Deconstructing Dinner, Jean Crowder, MP Nanaimo-Cowichan, Thierry Vrain, co-owner of Innisfree Farm in Courtenay, John Wilcox of Duck Creek Farm and more.

This event will complement the end of CGC's *30 Day Live GMO Free Challenge* - an education challenge intended to inspire the community to live GMO free. From discussions of GE-Free Zones to the labeling of GMOs, this conference seeks to provide a forum through which consumers and producers can be brought up to date on the latest information regarding GMOs and if so desired, how they can be avoided.

"Regardless of where you stand on the issue of GMOs, the fact remains that our right to choose is at stake," explains one of the event's organizers, Emily Doyle-Yamaguchi. "Without adequate labeling consumers cannot make informed choices about their food and the potential impact of GMOs cannot be traced. Through

this event we hope to empower people to advocate for their right to choose and to provide them with accurate information about the presence of GMOs in their lives and alternative options."

"GMOs & the Right to Choose" will take place on February 18th, 2012 from 10am to 4pm, at the Hub in Cowichan Station (2375 Koksilah Road). CGC will provide coffee, tea and light snacks. Farm's Gate Catering will be on site serving-up a fabulous local lunch for \$15.00. Participants are also welcome to BYOL.

Entrance to this conference will be by donation. Cowichan Green Community encourages those interested to pre-register as space is limited. For more details or to register for this event, please contact the Cowichan Green Community at 250-748-8506.

COWICHAN CAMPUS "YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL" INSTALLATION INCLUDED IN SAN FRANCISCO EXHIBITION

In 2009, Jim Cooper (former Carpentry Instructor, Faculty of Trades & Applied Technology) and Helene Demers collaborated on a Cowichan Campus "You are Beautiful" interactive installation. The development of the installation was actively supported by Maureen McGillivray, Credit Programs' Office Manager.

The *You Are Beautiful* message has spread throughout the world, dispersing hundreds of thousands of stickers, and generating countless community based projects to beautify neighborhoods in cities globally. The project itself is made up of an anonymous collective keeping the focus on the message rather than the participants. The project and the message are completely open. Anyone can participate, engage, and act. Empowering each of us, to choose optimism with clarity, and remind ourselves, that you are beautiful. Check it out on the web at you-are-beautiful.com/NEWS.htm

The piece was "beautifully" executed by the carpentry students and installed in the cafeteria at our old Cowichan Campus until our move to the new campus when it was put in storage. The tiles were made of different types of wood which symbolize diversity. Viewers were invited to rearrange the letters to create new messages. Helene Demers recently submitted the installation to an exhibition at the Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts in San Francisco where it was



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enthusiastically accepted. Learn more at missionculturalcenter.org/MCCLA_New/gallery.html

A collaboration of Trades and University Programs yielding public art is unusual and it is exciting to have VIU represented at this exhibition. After discussion with Jim, Maureen and the administration, we have decided to donate the project as a permanent installation in San Francisco. Jim and his students will create a smaller version (with a larger selection of tiles) for our new campus which will better suit the available wall space. You can see the piece at the 20 second mark in the video at youtube.com/watch?v=V6A4QqU8JBo

Helene Demers, Department of Anthropology

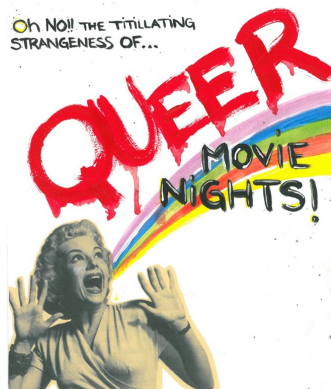
IMPROVEMENTS TO THE LOCAL BUS SCHEDULES

As of February 6th, Cowichan Valley transit customers will benefit from the following enhanced schedule changes:

- Route 4 Maple Bay – an additional trip to Maple Bay leaving Village Green Mall at 11:00 a.m.
- Route 5 Eagle Heights – the current 8:33 a.m. trip departure from Village Green Mall will depart earlier at 7:30 a.m.
- Route 6 Crofton – Chemainus – an earlier start on the first a.m. trip plus an additional trip to Chemainus leaving Village Green Mall at 11:20 a.m.
- Route 7 Cowichan Lake – one additional a.m. trip and one additional p.m. trip to and from Cowichan Lake plus some minor adjustments.
- Route 10 South Cowichan Connector – an additional trip to Cowichan Bay leaving Village Green Mall at 10:18 a.m.
- Route 12 Shawnigan Lake and Route 15 Mill Bay – alternating a.m. weekday trips to smooth the schedule in the morning and improve efficiency.

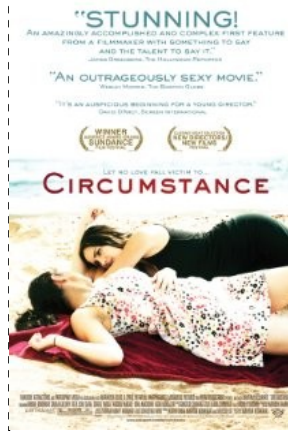
ALTERNATIVE SOCIETY

The *Alternative Society* group welcomes the LGBT community and allies to an open film series. The night will feature Queer films, followed by a discussion period.



Our goal is to bring together the LGBT community and allies on the Cowichan campus, and create a space for discussion, support and fun.

- Join us for an evening of film and discussion (popcorn too!)



- Date: Wed. Feb 15th
- Time: 5pm Room: 245
- Featured film: *Circumstance*

Four years after Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad declared there are no gays in Iran during a speech at Columbia University, an Iranian-American filmmaker courageously portrays an unusual story of two Iranian

lesbians who struggle under religious and cultural repression to explore their sexuality. A wealthy Iranian family struggles to contain a teenager's growing rebellion. Set in contemporary Iran in the unseen world of Iranian youth culture, filled with underground parties, sex, drugs and defiance, *CIRCUMSTANCE* is the story of two vivacious young girls -- wealthy Atafeh and orphaned Shireen -- discovering their burgeoning sexuality and, like 16 year-old girls anywhere, struggling with their desires and the boundaries placed upon them by the world they were born into. "*Circumstance*" is rated *R* (*Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian*). It has sexual content, strong language and some drug use.

SUBMISSIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER.

Students, staff, faculty, administrators and community members are all welcome to share thoughts, upcoming events, articles, and news in the student newsletter. Email your content to studentnews@viu.ca or if you have a handwritten notice, drop it off at Student Services. Submissions are welcome at any time, but March 12 is the deadline for the March 13 issue.



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