

Rec News • Spring/Summer 2012

LANGARA DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION STUDIES

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THE COLLEGE OF HIGHER LEARNING.



Four of Langara's BRM grads after receiving their degrees. From left to right: Karlo Tamondong, Courtney Cohen, Nicole Hynds, and Jeremy Quan. Photo: KK Law.

Langara's first Bachelor of Recreation Management Graduates

Eight students have become the first graduates of Langara's Bachelor of Recreation Management (BRM) Program – the only two-year degree completion program of its kind in Canada.

The accomplishment was celebrated at a convocation ceremony on June 6, with the attending graduates congratulated on stage by College President Dr. David Ross. As the program is fully online it was the first time the graduating students had met in person, and they took the opportunity to celebrate the unique relationships they had developed during the course of their studies.

"One of the most memorable highlights from the BRM program would have to be the online discussions in each recreation class," said graduate Courtney Cohen. "Throughout the semesters you connect with your classmates online, in structured discussions, but you also get to give personal examples, which allows

the online learner to relate to each student on a personal level."

The unique BRM degree combines recreation courses and business courses together into one program to build on students' understandings of community, recreation, business, and management theory. Students also complete a "capstone" course in the final semester of their program that sees them conduct scholarly research with an agency advisor in an area that contributes to the development of the field. Courses are delivered online, in a full-time or part-time capacity, as the program is tailored to working professionals who are interested in furthering their careers in recreation.

"As a full-time employee in the field of recreation, the BRM has given me the option to get my degree in the field that I love at my own pace," said graduate Karlo Tamondong, who currently serves as a Recreation Supervisor for

the City of Langley. "In addition, the BRM is the only degree program in the Lower Mainland that solely focuses on the field of recreation and the management/business side of the field."

The BRM is the only degree completion program (third and fourth year of a bachelor's degree) of its kind in Canada. The graduates who attended the ceremony accompanied students graduating from Langara's two-year Recreation Leadership Diploma Program, several of whom will go on to take the BRM degree completion program.

"We are so proud of our first BRM graduates," said Chair of the Department of Recreation Studies Janet Ready. "These are the pioneers of the program, and we know that they will use this education to move forward in their recreation careers and to find meaningful ways of contributing to the field."

Looking for Recreation Alumni

Help us find and keep in touch with "old" recreation diploma classmates. If you have any information, please contact Vince Kreiser, Program Coordinator for the Recreation Leadership Diploma Program, at 604 323 5276 or cfelds@langara.bc.ca. It would be great to hear from you!

First-Year Diploma Student Update

The first-year diploma students are now on their summer break from the college. Many will be working to earn money to continue into the second year of their program. A number of students also use the summer term to pick up courses like "Introduction to Business in Canada", as well as their electives. This allows them to take a reduced load in their upcoming fall term, which is always a welcome break.

During their second term of study (January to April) the first-year students were kept very busy. Included in this term were courses in Recreation Program Planning, Personal Portfolio Development and Seminar, English or Communications, Applied Psychology, Valuing Diversity in Leadership, and Applied Skills in Recreation Operations. Supplementing the "in the classroom" material for the operations course were a number of field trips to major facilities in the Vancouver area. These included Mount Seymour, Shaughnessy Golf and Country Club, Rogers Arena, and Queen's Park Arena in New Westminster for the 25th annual Recreation Students' Custodial Lecture and Competition.



The first-year diploma students wore a variety of Canucks jerseys during their second term tour of Rogers Arena in Vancouver.

RECR 1168: Special Events



Top: This group partnered with local sports and cultural organizations to give over 100 children in the Tri-Cities area a chance to try out five new activities, including Zumba and button-making!
Bottom: This group organized a St. Patrick's Day Photo Scavenger Hunt all over downtown Vancouver for youth from the Covenant House.

The Recreation Program Planning class (RECR 1168) had the recreation students creating, planning, and implementing special events in partnership with local community recreation agencies. The students put a lot of time, energy, and heart into their projects, and it was wonderful to see their learning and program planning theory come to life as these high quality recreation events came to fruition.

This year's special events included:

- A Spring Break Kick-off for teens at Trout Lake Community Centre
- A multi-sport event for children at Pitt River Community School
- A Hawaiian-themed teen dance at Guildford Recreation Centre
- A Photo Scavenger Hunt at Covenant House
- A St. Patrick's Day Party at Hillcrest Community Centre.

Congratulations to all the students for a job well done!

By Shannon Wall (Instructor)

Fourth Term Internship 2012

The 14-week internship that Langara recreation diploma students undertake in their final term offers a great opportunity to make solid connections between theory and practice by allowing students to apply what they have learned in the classroom to situations in the field. The students are placed at a wide variety of public, private, and non-profit recreation agencies throughout the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley.

Mentorship by agency supervisors is one of the keys to the success of the internship experience. Each student is paired with an agency supervisor who provides in-depth operational information on a variety of weekly focus areas, including human resources,

program services, finance, budgets, marketing, volunteers, sponsorships, partnerships, community development, facility management, and building operations. The students emerge as future leaders in the recreation field because of the dedication of these recreation professionals.

During their internships, interns are given a series of tasks and questions in each focus area that they need to work on with the assistance of their respective agency supervisors. The tasks and questions are structured so that by the time the intern has completed their internship they have a solid understanding of how “their” recreation organization operates and why. In addition to completing weekly

learning assignments and summary reflection reports which are reviewed by a faculty supervisor, the students contribute to the agency by working on a number of assigned tasks, projects, and initiatives. They also play a key role in organizing, running, and evaluating a special event for participants at the agency.

A recreation internship is intensive. It is a great way for students to culminate their diploma studies and develop a sense of what they want to do next in the recreation field.

We would like to thank all of the agency supervisors who generously gave their time this year to make this learning experience possible.

Internship Wrap Up 2012

The second-year diploma students recently finished their fourth term internships. These 14-week internships took place at a wide variety of agencies throughout the Lower Mainland. Agencies who sponsored students this year include:

- Kitsilano War Memorial Community Centre
- Swan-E-Set Bay Resort and Country Club
- City of Langley
- Marpole-Oakridge Community Centre
- Vancouver Aquatic Centre
- Catching The Spirit Youth Society
- Vancouver International Marathon Society
- West End Community Centre
- Canucks Autism Network
- Queensborough Community Centre
- Britannia Community Services Centre
- Gymnastics BC
- Canadian Outback Adventures & Events
- City of Coquitlam – Poirier Sport & Leisure Complex
- Sunset Community Centre
- Canadian Sport Centre Pacific
- Vancouver Whitecaps Football Club
- John Braithwaite Community Centre
- The City of Port Coquitlam
- Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver
- Richmond Arts Centre
- SportAbility
- Kerrisdale Community Centre
- City of Coquitlam – Dogwood Pavilion
- Langley Events Centre
- Minoru Place Activity Centre.

The internships wrapped up nicely with the student Camp Day at Camp Capilano in North Vancouver, followed by the Annual Internship Luncheon held here at Langara College. Some interns will be staying at their agencies for employment, while others will be looking for permanent work in the field. We are pleased to announce as well that some are planning to return here to Langara to pursue their Bachelor of Recreation Management Degree.



Camp Day was held at Camp Capilano in North Vancouver, B.C. The day is set up to allow the graduating diploma students to wrap up their two-years of study in an outdoor setting.



The annual Internship Luncheon held at Langara College is a way to thank the various Internship Agencies and other people associated with the program in a formal way. The spring scholarship presentations for the program are also done at this event.

Recreation Leadership Diploma Program Student Internships 2012

Read about what some of our Leadership Diploma students were up to during their internship placements this past Spring.



I completed my internship with the Vancouver Whitecaps Football Club Event Management Department. Some of my major internship highlights including working Whitecaps FC home games at BC Place Stadium, Whitecaps Reserve matches, assisting with the management of the volunteer program, and providing administrative support for stadium accreditation passes at BC Place, and all MLS Stadiums.

An internship provides an opportunity for students to gain first-hand recreation work experience and to put their education into practice. While my internship was not at a recreation-specific organization I was able to learn a great deal about the professional sports industry. The experience gained during my 14 weeks of internship was very valuable.

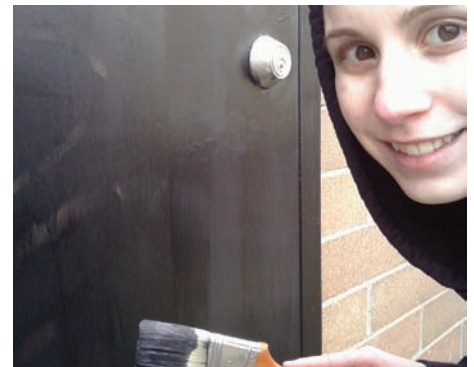
Blair Newstead
Student, Langara College



I completed my internship at the Langley Events Centre. I had the opportunity to expand outside of my comfort zone of municipal recreation into something completely new – event services in the private sector. During the course of the 14 weeks I learned a lot, and it was a great experience. One of my highlights was getting to plan the First Annual Easter Skate Event. It was a huge success, and I look forward to working on it again next year.

I think over the course of the first 1.5 years we learn a lot about the world of recreation. However, the internship allows us to use that new information and knowledge into a practical setting. I never thought I would have ended up in an ice arena, but the operations shifts sure were a lot easier with some knowledge of the refrigeration system. The internship allows us to experience the endless possibilities of the recreation world. Personally, it has opened a new door and new chapter in my recreation portfolio and I am excited to see where it takes me.

Tiffany Vellios
Student, Langara College



I completed my internship with the City of Langley at the Douglas Recreation Centre. I was an Assistant Programmer/Coordinator under the supervision of Karlo Tamondong.

The three major highlights that I experienced through internship were the planning processes that go into creating special events and programs for all ages; going through the graveyard shift and surviving through it; and meeting an amazing group of staff and patrons.

The internship fits well with the Recreation Leadership Diploma Program because it provides students with experience on how the field truly works. The students were given the opportunities to apply their own personal skills and knowledge to the work that was given, and to grasp an understanding of how important leadership is in a working environment – with a side note of being fun and playful rather than always being structured and serious.

Bianca Bordeira
Student, Langara College



Did you know we have a Facebook page? Find us by searching "Recreation Leadership" on Facebook.

Visit our blog at
iweb.langara.bc.ca/recreation-studies



I completed my internship at the Kitsilano Community Centre (Kits CC) under the supervision of Doug Taylor, who is the Supervisor of Recreation Services for both the Kits CC and the Douglas Park Community Centre.

One of the highlights from my internship was having the opportunity to assist PERC with the Kits CC Needs Assessment Process, which gave me an opportunity to engage patrons and a chance to engage with them over issues like their satisfaction, their ideas, and their complaints with the services and programs at the Kits CC. It was a great learning experience and I found that it took a great deal of work to help facilitate the process.

Another highlight from internship was having the opportunity to develop an alternative Google website for the Kits CC, which they may use when the new Vancouver Parks Board site goes live and the registration capability of Kits CC's current website is disabled. I developed a mock-up which Doug proposed as an option to the Kits CC Association Board of Directors – one that they are interested in pursuing because it would enable them to continue to have presence on the web for a lower cost compared to their current situation.

I feel that the internship program is an excellent opportunity for students to practice the theory from their courses in a real work situation. Internship is also an opportunity for students to build contacts and gain credible references for their resumes, which can help them pursue their careers.

Jodi Appleton
Student, Langara College



I did my internship with an amazing place in North Vancouver called the John Braithwaite Community Centre. It was such a wonderful experience to be able to be there. One of the greatest things about the community centre is its amazing ability to welcome everyone into the facility with open arms. The staff are all so friendly and helpful. They really go that step above which takes the facility from just being a building to being a community in itself. I learnt so much about the role of a recreation programmer, and my wonderful supervisor Jenn Norris really took the extra time to cater the internship to meet my goals and provide me training for a future career in the recreation field. I was able to experience so many different aspects of the community centre, including creating and implementing my own special event – a Teddy Bear Picnic for parents and tots aged from newborn to five years old years.

The internship was one of my favorite parts of the Recreation Leadership Diploma Program because it was the hands-on experience that really brings everything we have learnt into practice. It provided me a great opportunity to learn about the career that I aspire to have, to network with recreation professionals, to learn how to complete new tasks and duties, to sharpen my skills and, most of all, to have an amazing time!

Shannon Penway
Student, Langara College

BACHELOR OF RECREATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Bachelor of Recreation Management (BRM) is a two-year online program that provides the next step towards a management position in community recreation. The program is flexible and student-focused, and combines a solid foundation in management theory and practical knowledge with specialized courses in recreation.

The BRM can be completed in two years (six semesters) if take on a full-time basis. As many of today's students work, the option of completing the BRM on a full-or part-time basis is available. All courses are delivered online.

CONTACT US

Bachelor of Recreation Management Program
Janet Ready, Chair, Rec Studies
email: jready@langara.bc.ca

RECREATION LEADERSHIP DIPLOMA PROGRAM

The Recreation Leadership Diploma Program is looking for people who are passionate about making a difference in their communities through recreational activities and services.

If you're a Grade 12 graduate interested in helping to build community life, check us out at our website. Applications are now being accepted for September 2012.

If you are a recreation professional or a graduate of the program, we would appreciate your help in spreading the word, whether it be with referrals to your family, friends, co-workers, or even the kid from down the street who cuts your lawn.

CONTACT US

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RECREATION 2295: “The Analysis of Enjoyment”

Another on-line course from Langara’s Recreation Studies Department
September - December 2012



This year’s selected topic for Recr 2295 is: The Analysis of Enjoyment. It is a fully on-line course. It is designed for people already working in the recreation field (either part-time or full-time).

In our culture we seem to value enjoyment, but we rarely take the time to think deeply about it. In this course we analyze our enjoyable moments and those of others as well. This course is based on two premises: 1) that when we analyze enjoyable experiences we can construct design principles for increased enjoyment, and 2) that to a large extent enjoyment is a result of the deliberate development of certain skills. A person can *learn* to enjoy themselves more. This concept has significant implications for recreation leadership and leisure programming.

Instructor: Steve Musson, B.A., M.A.

It is strongly recommended that the student takes Recr 1160 (Foundations of Leisure & Recreation) before taking this course.

How to Register

1. Go to www.langara.bc.ca
2. Choose **Admissions** from the side menu
3. Follow instructions on **Apply to Langara** (in Arts & Science)
4. Once accepted, follow the instructions in your offer of admission package.

What is the connection between enjoyment and high quality recreation?

Is all enjoyment “fun”?

How much enjoyment do you have in your life, and can you intentionally increase it?

Learning Areas:

- The theory and practice of enjoyment
- Enjoyment skills (and how to develop them)
- The key role of self-development and self-awareness in happiness
- The analysis of optimal experiences and leisure styles
- Design principles of enjoyment
- The construction and pursuit of self-concordant goals

Assessments and Workload:

- This is a 3-credit academic course
- Weekly readings and discussion postings are required.
- Students are expected to be on-line a minimum of three times per week for about one hour each time. This is in addition to readings, research and the creation of assignments.
- Students are expected to schedule some time to be involved in series of enjoyable experiences that take must occur between the start and the end of the course.

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