



Bhangra Break for Recreation Students



We are currently
accepting
applications for

Sept. 2008

Recreation
Leadership
Diploma Program

At
Langara College

[www.Langara.bc.ca/
recreation](http://www.Langara.bc.ca/recreation)

Our second year recreation students at Langara are immersed in internship this term. The fourth and final term of the diploma program is a 14 week full time internship. Students choose their recreation organizations in the fall, and from January to April, they are in the field contributing to the event planning, and projects of

their agency while balancing their Langara work consisting of a binder full of questions and focus areas for them to research about their internship area and opportunities for them to contribute to their organization.

Students work with their agency supervisor and are visited once a week by their

faculty supervisor who works to facilitate the Langara College learning with their internship goals.

Bhangra dancing was part of a one day midterm seminar at Langara College. An opportunity for intern students to find out how their colleagues are doing and gain some energy and inspiration.

Accepting Applications Now for Sept. 2008 Recreation Leadership Diploma Program

The Langara College Recreation Leadership Diploma combines a strong foundation in the concepts and theory of recreation and leisure with leadership, communication and business skills development tailored to a recreation practitioner. Practical experience is emphasized through-

out the program, both in the classroom and in the field.

Students gain a well rounded and thorough understanding of the field of recreation, including facilities and other environments. Each student has the opportunity to develop their personal portfolio within

the recreation field, and to directly apply their knowledge during internship.

Graduates of the Recreation Leadership Diploma have the skills, knowledge and ability for direct leadership, instructor, and some entry-level supervisory jobs.

Rec News is the newsletter from the Faculty of the Recreation Department at Langara College. Our purpose is to connect and inform perspective students, current students, grads and recreation professionals about what is happening in the Langara Recreation Leadership Program. (604) 323-5276 www.langara.bc.ca/recreation or www.langara.bc.ca/recweb Newsletter Editor Janet Ready

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Internship 2008 - From the Field

Internship is a key piece of Langara's Recreation Leadership Diploma Program. It gives students an opportunity to put into practice the knowledge and theory gained through 3 terms of courses—and provides an opportunity to network with professionals in the field. Following are some student and faculty experiences of Internship. An enthusiastic thank you to all of the Recreation Organizations and supervisors who support the Langara Recreation internship program.



I am working with the Vancouver School Board as a part of the West 1 Community Schools Team. The West 1 CST is responsible for programming in 22 high schools and elementary schools. I chose to intern with the CST because of the diversity the position offers. I really liked the idea of being able to work with the high school students as well as the younger elementary students.

What are your highlights so far? It is great to feel comfortable in a new working atmosphere. The team is composed of a coordinator, a programmer, a youth and family worker

and a teacher and each one of them have helped make this internship experience a positive one. The networking opportunities are invaluable as I am still considering a career in education and I have met many teachers, administrative staff, other CST coordinators and programmers and a variety of knowledgeable VSB staff. Also, it is great to spend every afternoon playing with the elementary school students and building relationships with the high school students.

How do you feel that the internship opportunity fits into the Recreation Leadership Diploma? The internship experience is excellent! It has been awesome to put all the theories, and everything that we learned in class, into practice with an organization.

Elicia Houle, Second Year, Recreation Diploma Program



I chose to intern at Pinnacle Pursuits because I wanted to experience the complete opposite of community recreation and step outside of my comfort zone. Pinnacle Pursuits provides team solutions and facilitates growth and optimal people performance development through experiential learning. They vary from a group of 15 youth learning

trust and leadership through a high ropes course to facilitating a train the trainers program for Pepsico in Mexico.

What are your highlights so far? Co-creating a seminar on

seasonal employment and presenting it to tourism Vancouver members with the Co-owner of Pinnacle Pursuits. Traveling to the island to deliver programs. Co-creating a Strategic Marketing Plan and implementing it with the Founder of Pinnacle Pursuits

How do you feel that the internship opportunity fits into the Recreation Leadership Diploma? During my internship I have utilized every class I took, every skill I learned and been able to demonstrate those skills in a professional manner. My agency has been so impressed with the support from the faculty and the amount of mandatory exploration of all aspects of the organization. It is also a great opportunity to network and discover all the different possibilities for future employment.

Suzanne Anderson, Second year, Recreation Diploma Program



I am supervising two amazing students that are exceeding my expectations. They both are working in Richmond Leisure Services – home of the Olympic Oval.

What are your highlights so far? Watching the 'aha' moments when the students have a realization that the things they learned in Langara's classrooms actually have relevance

and value. Have there been any surprises for you? My biggest surprise this year is the same as last year – how much I love working with the students. After 30 years in the business, it's exciting to share my knowledge and experiences and to see the talent that is emerging.

How do you feel that the internship opportunity fits into the Recreation Leadership Diploma? To me, the internship is like finishing off a thousand piece jigsaw puzzle. It took the students 1 ½ years to learn and lay the foundation at the College. The last 14 weeks is when they apply that knowledge at their agency, the clusters of the puzzle are forming together and they start to see the picture more clearly. The students understand the importance of their perseverance when the going got tough because they can clearly see the end in sight and feel the satisfaction of placing the final pieces of the puzzle.

Joanne Edey-Nicoll, Faculty Supervisor, Internship

Internship 2008



My internship is at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Vancouver. I am here because this not-for-profit organization provides a safe, supportive environment for youth to come and develop physical, mental and social skills.

What are your highlights so far? Successfully reaching out and connecting with individuals who can benefit from a positive role model, and seeing their development in what really is a short period of time.

I was actually surprised how far you can stretch a dollar when you have very limited resources available. I was also surprised at how well behaved and respectful most of the club members are – it gives me more faith in our future leaders.

How do you feel that the internship opportunity fits into the Recreation Leadership Diploma? I think that the internship component provides a safe opportunity to put what we learned over the past three semesters into practice and try new ideas and to develop additional 'best practices'. Internship caps the whole program off, with the increased potential of finding work with the agency or other organizations that you will have developed relationships with.

Mark Houlden, Second Year, Recreation Diploma Program



I'm interning at The Rick Hansen Foundation (RHF) is a not-for-profit whose mission is to inspire others to share in the achievement of big dreams that accelerate improvements in the quality of life of people with spinal

cord injury. I chose to intern at RHF because I wanted to be part of an organization that works for the benefit of others. RHF uses programming and special events to raise funds, raise awareness, and provide high quality recreation experiences for community members across the country.

What are your highlights so far? Working with event committees made up of volunteers to help them envision and implement a successful event in their local community has been very rewarding. I have enjoyed seeing the community development model in action.

Interacting with some of our Rick Hansen Foundation Ambassadors (people with a spinal cord injury who tell their stories through presentations to community groups in order to inspire and raise awareness) has been very inspirational. They have reminded me that people are capable of amazing things, which is motivating me to dream big with respect to my future career in recreation.

Have there been any surprises for you? I have been surprised by the speed with which the programs evolve here at the Foundation. It is clear that things are continually shifting and changing in response to feedback, with an aim to maximize programming success.

How do you feel that the internship opportunity fits into the Recreation Leadership Diploma? I feel the internship is a key piece to the overall Recreation program. The coursework provided the theory, while the internship gives us an extended and reality-based opportunity to implement the theory. This experience has made me much more confident in my abilities with respect to a future career in the field of recreation.

Emma Peake, Second year, Recreation Diploma Program



I am supervising 4 intern students, and enjoying every minute of it. The students that I am supervising are working at: The Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games; British Columbia Soccer Association; 2010 Legacies Now; and the BC Sports Hall of Fame.

What are your highlights so far?

Number 1 highlight by far is seeing our Recreation students at work in a realistic environment and contribute to the overall progress of the respective internship organization. I truly enjoy and value the interactions I have with my intern students. I have developed a wonderful relationship with each one. Similarly, I have enjoyed the interactions with

the various staff members at the agencies, although I am still waiting for Shelley to introduce me to the VANOC mascots Sumi, Quatchi and Miga.

How do you feel that the internship opportunity fits into the Recreation Leadership Diploma? The internship is very valuable component of the Recreation Diploma Program. It allows our students to apply, what is the culmination of two years learnings, in a practical and realistic environment. The internship allows our students to shine their skills, attributes and personality across numerous sectors within our communities. Langara College's Recreation Program is very well respected throughout, and a big part of that is a result of the prudent work that our student interns do!

Ajay Patel, Faculty Supervisor, Internship

On-line Learning in the Recreation Leadership Diploma Program

Online learning is a convenient option for busy students who may be working part-time to put themselves through school. It is also a convenient way for current recreation practitioners to obtain professional development. This fall, the Recreation Diploma Program at Langara College offered its second totally online course - RECR 1166 - Valuing Diversity in Leisure Services.

Students in this course learn about what valuing and welcoming diversity means, and about the barriers to recreation that age, gender, sexual orientation, cultural group, disabilities, and poverty can create. Students prepare, by reading the assigned readings and answering relevant study questions, to discuss new ideas and share related experiences on the discussion board. Assignments are designed to research and review current practices, and related issues and trends. Students

learn from each other by reading each other's postings, and working together in groups. They leave the course with an awareness of how people are differ-



ent, but mostly similar, how to create more welcoming environments for diverse groups in their communities, and a greater appreciation of the "golden rule" – treat others as you would like to be treated.

The online nature of the course allows students who do not usually speak up in class to have a voice, and have the opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas. It allows those who work to schedule their learning at their convenience. Many students are surprised at the amount of work that is involved, but it must be kept in mind that even though students do not attend classes in person, the work and reading load is equivalent to that of a face to face class. There are still deadlines for completion of assignments and postings, but how and when they are completed is up to the student. Online learning is the wave of the future, and it is wonderful that the Langara Recreation Department is a part of it!

Caroline Kimoto
Instructor, Recreation Diploma Program

(Photo Melissa, Tina first year recreation students)



***Don't worry about what the world wants from you,
worry about what makes you come more alive.
Because what the world really needs are people who are more
alive.***

– Lawrence le Shan

Update on the Bachelor of Recreation Management Degree

After some unexpected delays in the fall, the BRM is getting back on track. By the time you are reading this, we expect that the Full Program Proposal will have been (re) submitted to the Ministry for posting on their website, and may already be posted.

In the meantime, curriculum development continues at the College so that we are prepared to offer 3rd-year Recreation courses starting in January 2009. Depending on when we have positive indications from the Degree Quality Assessment Board that they will be recommending approval of the degree to the Minister, some of the Management support courses may already be offered for BRM students in the 2008 Fall semester.

If you would like to be on our email list to receive updates on the Bachelor of Recreation Management Degree at Langara College, please email recreation@langara.bc.ca

RecWeb Site Update

Recweb is a website maintained by the Recreation Department of Langara College.

www.langara.bc.ca/recweb

The site highlights the Recreation Leadership diploma program and offers a job/volunteer board for students as well as information for current students, and Bachelor of Recreation Management Degree updates.

Recently we have been making some changes to the Recweb site and we appreciate your patience as we work on updating it and making it more friendly and informative to you.

We invite you to check us out as our updates progress. While the job/volunteer board is under construction, job postings can be emailed to recreation@langara.bc.ca, and will be posted for students.