

## Inside this Issue:

- 2 Faculty Spotlight: Tom Rippon, School of Business
- 2 Biking With Beaker
- 3 The Union Reel
- 4 Change Everything? - Part Two
- 5 Adventures in Teaching

## CCFA Executive

[Kelly Pitman](#), President  
[Mark Kunen](#), Vice President  
[Paula Leweke](#), Secretary  
[Al Morrison](#), Treasurer  
[Debbie Gascoyne](#), Chair, CMC  
[Judith Hunt](#), Chair, CNC  
[Kathy Lokhorst](#), Chair, PDC

### Members at Large:

[Leelah Dawson](#)  
[Bronwen Welch](#)  
[Patricia Gaudreault](#)

### CCFA Office:

[Erin Waugh](#), Admin Assistant  
[Peg Ford](#), Clerical Assistant

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**General Meeting**  
March 21, 2013  
3 - 5pm  
(Video Conference)

**Annual General Meeting:**  
May 13, 2013 Interurban.  
11am - 2:30 pm.  
(times are tentative)

## From the Executive

*Kelly Pitman, CCFA President*

Hello colleagues.

Thanks to all who filled out the recent survey regarding CCFA General Meetings. The information we gathered has been helpful.

[Click here](#) to see the results of the survey.

### Summary of Written Comments

Without a doubt, the biggest obstacle to attending GMs is scheduling conflicts and workload. CCFA members are dedicated to their work and there is no single meeting time at which everyone is free. Possible, and unfortunately only partial, solutions to this problem are reducing the number of meetings, reducing the length of meetings, and scheduling the meetings later in the day or on different days of the week. Friday afternoons have been the traditional choice because that is when the fewest faculty members are teaching or performing other scheduled duties. Given that many faculty members devote those days to preparation and marking, we're trying something different by scheduling our next meeting on **Thursday, March 21 from 3 until 4:30**.

Another issue noted by some respondents is inadequate notice for meetings. This has been to some extent a result of changing schedules of executive members. However, we understand the frustration many members feel about this, and we intend to provide proper notice in future.

The rest of the results are mixed.

Some people really like the meetings, while others find them too long or not wholly relevant. We commit to streamlining the meetings by limiting repetitive discussion where possible and by providing the reports in written form and not going over them again at meetings but only taking questions. An exception to this might be negotiating committee reports during negotiating periods, when controlling dissemination of information can be key.

A few people do not like videoconferencing, while more members do. When we went to videoconferencing, attendance increased, so we are reluctant to change that. However, if you have suggestions as to how it might work more effectively, please let me know.

A few people inquired about the possibility of streaming meetings for later viewing. One concern that arises here is confidentiality, but a bigger concern is that the meetings are where decisions are made, and members watching the meetings after the fact at their desks can neither contribute opinions nor vote.

Some members do not attend meetings because they feel disengaged from the union. For some, the union is too confrontational, while for others, we

are not confrontational enough. For some, The Confluence has increased engagement, while for others, it has reduced engagement because they don't want to read something that has more than business in it. Some feel they don't belong or that the union does not represent them. This last issue we intend to address. We'd like you to know what we're doing, why we're doing it, and the value we try to bring to your lives. And of course, if you come to meetings and express your views, there is a greater chance of us representing them . . . .

However, you don't have to wait for a meeting to talk with CCFA executive members. As president, I'm always interested in receiving comments, questions, and suggestions from any and all members about the work of the CCFA, and I know that other executive members are also eager to hear your points of view. Please contact me at any time via email at [pitman@camosun.bc.ca](mailto:pitman@camosun.bc.ca). In the meantime, if you have any agenda items for the General Meeting on March 21, please forward them to me or to [Erin Waugh](#).

## Faculty Spotlight: Tom Rippon, School of Business

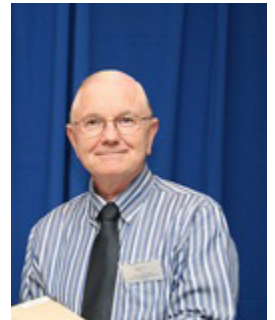
*Al Morrison, CCFA Treasurer*

There are some talented people teaching and working at this College...one of them has an office across the hall from me. His name is Tom Rippon and he has pulled together 20 authors to share their insights on governance and security.

As stated by Alex Morrison, Founding Director, Pearson Peacekeeping Centre (no relative) in his opening statement: "this is an eminently readable and understandable work on two very important subjects."

Provided below is an "elevator statement" on what the book explores...give it a look.

You will also be able to catch Tom presenting a "Ted Talk" this fall. I'll keep you posted.



### Governance and Security as a Unitary Concept – Co-edited by Tom Rippon & Graham Kemp

Leaders have not been able to find solutions to the growing problem of insecurity associated with failed and failing organizations, such as academic institutions, and failed and failing societies and states. Governance and Security as a Unitary Concept is the first compilation of contemporary commentaries authored by twenty scholars and practitioners from six continents. Some topics, such as education, are confined within contemporary borders, while others are trans-border, including trafficking of children; still others examine states of cooperation such as First Nations.

Governance and Security as a Unitary Concept presents diverse, cultural issues affecting the inter-relationship of governance and security, and how these foci influence decision-making. Governance in modern human affairs determines action or gridlock, wealth or penury, peace or conflict, health or illness, progress or arrested development. Security does not mean just physical security but also human, environmental, economic, resource and cultural security.

This scholarly collection of essays is not prescriptive; instead, it is the beginning of a dialogue on multi-faceted issues which goes beyond Euro- and US-centric perspectives that have dominated the literature to date. Contributing authors examine governance and security together, rather than as complementary yet separate entities. It is the diversity and overlapping perspectives of the authors, looking in from within, which is the potency of its design.

## Biking With Beaker

*By Guest Columnist Beaker's Buddy Bunsen*

### Beaker's Buddy Bunsen's Bike Bits:

In looking at gear suited to the wet season be aware that 'water-resistant' also means 'water-permeable'. Water-proof gloves often have a three-layered construction that doesn't hold up, leading to lengthy efforts to keep the layers together (to enjoy the frustration fully, try it with wet fingers). The best approach is water-proof, lobster-claw shells to wear over warm gloves of your liking.



## CCFA BIKE TO WORK TEAM SIGN UP.

Bike to Work Week is May 27 to June 2. Let [Erin](#) (your Bonne Capitaine) know if you'd like to join "Beaker's Bikers" this year. In your message let me know if you want a t-shirt and if you have any team-building ideas you'd like to see implemented.

### *The Union Reel*

By Kelly Pitman

*Land and Freedom*  
1995, Dir. Ken Loach



In July, 1936, the Spanish Civil War between the Republicans, on the side of the elected government, and the Nationalists, a rebel military faction led by General Francisco Franco, began. In 1939, the war ended with a fascist victory that would see Franco in power until his death in 1975. The Nationalists were supported by the right-wing governments of Salazar (Portugal), Hitler (Germany), and Mussolini (Italy) and, some say, unofficially by Great Britain, whose policy of non-intervention and primary role in restricting supplies to the Republicans contributed to the Nationalist Victory, which British politicians and industry favoured.

Volunteers from many countries, believing that Europe was endangered by the rise of fascism, came to join the Republicans. More than 1,600 of those volunteers were Canadian, some communists, some not. As in many industrialized countries, working and middle-class Canadians had been driven to the left by the sufferings of the Great Depression. The volunteers must have been true believers, for by 1937, it was illegal for Canadians to fight in foreign wars, but they went anyway, risking imprisonment; in the end, only French volunteers represented a greater proportion of their country's population. The Canadian contingent became the Mackenzie-Papineau battalion, named after the leaders of the 1837 rebellions, who had fought for responsible government and against the elitism of the Family Compact. Its most famous (only famous, really) member was Dr. Norman Bethune, who created the first mobile medical unit in this war and returned to campaign for the Republican cause.

Ken Loach's *Land and Freedom* is the story of a young British communist, David Carr, who goes to Spain to fight. Loach includes many of the elements of classic war films: the passage of a young man out of innocence due to the grim realities of war, the camaraderie of soldiers, a troubled love story, betrayal, cynicism, and the pathos of blood and loss. It also displays Loach's trademark naturalism, whether in the chaotic and unromanticised battle scenes or in the heartfelt and loosely scripted performances of the actors, both professional and non-professional.

Loach focuses not on the opposition between the Republicans and the Nationalists but on the connections and disconnections among the Republican fighters. Though the fascists are clearly the enemy, Loach is more interested in the ways in which the differences between various factions ultimately created a fissure into which European fascism would flow, culminating in Nazi Germany's takeover of country after country and, ultimately, in the second world war. The fighters supporting the Republican government were all anti-fascist, united under the slogan "No Pasarán," but they had differences too. Like George Orwell in *Homage to Catalonia*, Loach argues that the Stalinist repression of the Spanish Marxist movement resulted in disaster. When David Carr, frustrated by the difficulties the Spanish communists have obtaining arms, joins the government backed international brigade, he encounters the evils of Stalinism firsthand, and the tendency of power to divide the people becomes clear. There's a moment in the film when the International Brigade and the Anarchists, both ostensibly on the side of the Republic, are shooting at each other. A Brit fighting with the anarchists calls out to Carr, "why aren't you over here with us?" He answers, "I don't know." Like Orwell, Loach reminds us that when we lose sight of what we want to accomplish, when we become divided, we are doomed. Carr rejoins the people's party, but for him, for Spain, and for Europe, it is too late.

I know no director whose work has done more to explore the interests and potential of the other 99% than Ken Loach. He has a way of bringing to the screen the humanity of ordinary people, the people whose work keeps the system going. He has said that the centrepiece of this film is the debate that takes place between a group of peasants, with the contributions of foreign volunteers, about land usage. Many viewers, trained by mainstream films to view realistic dialogue as unfilmic, may not have the patience for this part of the film. Yet for those of us who have debated

political ideology—whether in our families, in our classrooms, or as part of a life of activism anywhere on the political spectrum—it is scenes like this that make the film a unique contribution not only to political art but also to the great discussion that is ongoing in our culture, most notably in the debates arising from the Occupy and Idle No More movements. Loach respects the intelligence of all people and understands that the biggest struggle is the struggle to have a voice.

Loach constructs the film as an investigation of sorts. David Carr has died an old man, and his granddaughter discovers a box of clippings, photographs, and letters that tell his story. Thus, *Land and Freedom* is not only about war and sorrow and ideology. It's about memory. It's about which stories we know, or choose to know. When it comes to the Spanish Civil War, we mostly still choose not to know.

Of the Canadians who fought in the Spanish Civil war, somewhere around 700 died on Spanish soil. They are honoured by a scattering of monuments, one of which is at the legislature in Victoria, though few people seem to know about it. (Granted, it is rather marginalized there, off to the side and away from the seat of power.) But these dead are not entered in the Books of Remembrance that are kept in the Peace Tower in Ottawa, nor are they named at Remembrance Day ceremonies across the country. So is the fate of the losing side, but in this case, the fact that these fighters, right or wrong, chose a battle that was about all people, working people, and not about nationality, seems to have relegated them to the dust heap. Loach's film explores what happens when belief in democratic process is at war with a quest for power. Can we get past ideology to recognize the common good? We created the United Nations in an attempt to answer that question, but before that, people from all over the world spilt their blood on Spanish soil purely because they felt that people, any people, should have a voice.



## Change Everything? - Part Two

By Mark Kunen, Vice-president

*Notice how often the words we use these days are more important than what we are talking about.*

Vaclav Havel, "From Evasive Thinking," 1965

So I guess I'm on my own with this "Change Everything" matter. In the last issue of "Confluence" I invited readers (I know there were at least five) for suggestions about where to start, but no suggestions were forthcoming. I can understand that it's a daunting question. Everything? Really? Wow. Still, those charged with painting the Golden Gate Bridge do not hold their brushes back just because they know that they have a long way to go; No, they make the first stroke. Likewise, I'll suggest which thing to change first in the long march of change.

Let's change the slogan. Actually, I'm not sure if "Change Everything" is a slogan, a riddle, a motto, or an order, but it's a thing and therefore as subject to change as every other thing that's part of everything. So let's change it. To what is another question. In any case, I think that for several reasons the place to start is to eliminate those words from the college environment. "Change Everything" is immodest, unnecessary, and disrespectful of the past. Beyond that, its lack of precision leaves no clarity about what the college stands for. "Change everything" mimics "All New", the obligatory phrase in car ads these days, in its overreach and its meaninglessness.

Google offers 4,900,000 matches for the phrase, "Change

Everything." Candidates for changing everything include Money, Truth, One Night of Romance, right words (gets my vote), VanCity's web site, Condaleeza Rice, E-Health Records, a song by Des Amida, string theory, and yes, Camosun College. There seems to be a hunger to wipe the slate clean and start over. Yet, according to the Bible, God tried that once and lived to regret it. (That's if Nietzsche was wrong about God's mortality.) A huge asteroid smashing into the earth or an atomic war would change everything. Might Camosun consider identifying itself with words that suggest a more incremental approach, like "Try something new" or "Make a difference." Or, to encourage a rational approach to change, "Think first"?

Change, it is said, is inevitable, the only constant. To glorify change is as unnecessary as to trumpet the appearance of grass or the flowing of rivers. Change is in fact everything, and everything is change. Therefore, to change everything may in some sense change nothing. "Change nothing" would not have much cachet as a motto or slogan, but how about a call for level heads and straight talk amongst all the change? Could the college borrow Dylan's line, "Let us not speak falsely now. The hour is getting late".

Finally, do we really want Camosun College to be all about change? The Cultural Revolution in China was all about change.. How did that work out? Calls for total change implicitly diminish the past and obscure the importance of history and abiding values. Change is everywhere. Why not root our college in something timeless, like wisdom? A recent CBC Ideas program identified the main elements of wisdom as knowledge, compassion, and reflection. Those words would do as a slogan, but perhaps it would be wise to have no slogan at all. Now that would be a change.

## *Adventures in Teaching*

*by Bronwen Welch*

### **In Praise of Nurses**

I teach a lot of English 151 classes, as it is the academic writing class many students have to take. It is a sort of hit or miss class, to be honest. Sometimes one can have a *Very Keen* group of students and at other times ... well, they act as though they all want to simultaneously induce comas (not commas).

One of my Fall 2012 151 classes was composed mainly of a cohort of nursing students (what would one call the collective noun for this group? A Sympathy of Nurses? An Efficiency of Nurses?). Nursing students are almost always satisfying to teach. They are diligent. They are organized. They are (usually) mature. They also keep me on my toes on the days I am not so much organized or mature.

But my love of nursing students extends beyond simply teaching them.

My step-father died seventeen years ago. He died at home, in the rural district near Mt. Work Park called The Highlands. It takes about thirty-five minutes to drive there from downtown Victoria – more, if one is not familiar with the narrow, twisting roads. My step-father had a hospice nurse visit him every day – to check his morphine levels, to answer my mom’s questions, to listen to all our collective terror, and soothe us with practical wisdom and knowledge. It was a horrible time, but the nurses who visited him seemed to glow with a lantern-like luminosity against the darkness of our horror.

Many of you who know me also know that I have a sister who is an addict. She is a wonderful person—kind, compassionate, intelligent, and tender – when she is not drinking or doing drugs. She has nearly died more times than I can mention. Many times, I (and my immediate and extended family) have had to rush out in the middle of the night because the hospital has called us to come down to emergency. I cannot reckon the number of times that I have held my sister’s hand, watching the heart monitor flicker, watching her blood pressure fall, watching her lose control of every bodily function, except her will to stay alive.

Nurses have been there all the time. Kind and strong. Holding me and my mother up when we were running out of both physical and psychological strength; keeping my sister alive; treating her not just with tenderness, but with dignity.



Additionally, two years ago, I had an emergency operation on my back in order to remove a herniated disc. After the surgery, I had to have a catheter, which was inserted and then removed several times (I won’t get into it more than this, I promise) over the next week. My two pretty night nurses acted like performing this procedure was not only routine but ... kind of fun, weird as that might sound. At one point (in an effort to make awkward small talk during this rather intimate process), I asked how they managed to stay so cheerful all the time. Carly (blonde, stunning) answered sunnily, “Oh, hey, it’s no big deal to us, hon!” and Julie (brunette, tiny, perky) added, “Yeah, remember, we’re in and out of everyone’s business all day!” Even in my discomfort (and let’s face it, humiliation) their answers made me laugh out loud. I also have seldom felt such tenderness in my life: their cheer and practicality made me remember that my body was just that ... a body: weak, leaky, vulnerable, but certainly nothing of which to be ashamed.

So, when I began my 151 course back in September, I told my nursing cohort how much I respected what they wanted to do with their lives, and when the same class ended in December I told them how amazing each and every one of them was. How strong and practical and joyful they seemed to me. I may even have gotten a little teary, which I am glad to say I am not embarrassed about; after all, more than anyone, these would-be nurses understand their fellow humans.

So, to nurses everywhere – those who are learning, those who are teaching, and those who are walking the wards every day – I thank you, from the bottom of my frail, complex, and very human heart.