

Inside this Issue:

- 2 Out on the Pampa
- 3 The Best Thing (About My Work at Camosun)

CCFA Executive

[Kelly Pitman](#), President
[Mark Kunen](#), Vice President
[Bronwen Welch](#), Secretary
[Nicholas Read](#), Treasurer
[Debbie Gascoyne](#), Chair, CMC
[Judith Hunt](#), Chair, CNC
[Jacquie Conway](#) Chair, PDC

Members at Large:

[Tom Rippon](#)
[Patricia Gaudreault](#)
Vacant

CCFA Office:

[Erin Waugh](#), Admin Assistant
[Peg Ford](#), Clerical Assistant
www.camosunfaculty.ca

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS :

We want you to contribute to the Confluence: tell us about your groovy SD project, or the creative work you are doing with your students, or what you did on your summer holidays! The deadline is ongoing, so no pressure...

Thanks.

From the Executive

Kelly Pitman, CCFA President



Hello, friends.

It was wonderful to chat with so many of you at the CCFA wine and cheese on November 28. Thanks to Erin Waugh for taking care of the details.

Here's what we've been up to.

I recently attended FPSE's Presidents' Council meeting in Vancouver. Topics of discussion included proposed training in anti-harassment and bullying, inflation protection for pensions, trends in administrative salaries over the last ten years, and proposed changes to the Canada Labour Code, particularly to its health and safety regulations, which have alarmed many representatives for workers' rights. The proposed changes are part of the latest budget bill. In a nutshell, the federal government wants to make it much more difficult for federal workers to refuse work they feel to be unsafe, limiting that right to circumstances when the threat to life or health is "imminent." That would mean that workers could not refuse potential exposure to contaminants that might result in chronic illness or damage to the reproductive system. Surely this is a step backwards in a country that prides itself on its working conditions. Many feel that if this passes, it will pave the way for provincial governments to change their labour codes accordingly. Unionized workers, of course, including you, often have stronger language in their collective agreements that might protect them, but it is unclear how changing the definition of "danger," which is the federal government's approach, might play out in the long run. The impact on workers in industry could be especially troubling. You can read more about this here: <http://www.canadianlabour.ca/right-to-refuse-unsafe-work> and send an expression of concern to your MP via that website.

Here at home, the executive is making time to look at our bylaws to see whether they would benefit from an update. Oh dear, you're thinking, a bylaw review. How gripping! Well, we want to make sure the bylaws are providing the best guidance for the association, so we're going to plunge in. We're also seeking input into an anti-harassment and bullying policy that the college is working on. As well, we're looking at our website to make sure it's user-friendly. If you have any ideas about the website, please let Erin know.

I have not heard from administration regarding the letter we sent about the budget process, but I am meeting with Kathryn Laurin this week, and no doubt it will come up then. In case you didn't see it in the email message I sent out, you can [click here](#) to see it.

It was my first time below the equator. So naturally my first act after the 30 hours it took to reach Porto Alegre, Brazil, (further south than Johannesburg) was to flush the toilet and videotape the result for my eight-year-old daughter (clockwise). Brazil conjures up images of untamed jungle, yellow fever and Cristo Redentor spreading his arms above Rio. But there were nothing but surprises in the south of Brazil, including the “pampa” (the Brazilian version of the prairies), the lovely wide-avenued towns that celebrate Oktoberfest, and armadillos.

I have been following the work of VP Strategic Development Tom Roemer’s Global Forum for some time. I was aware of the collaborative work on instructional skills training that Robin Fast and Elizabeth West had done in Baotou, Inner Mongolia, as well as Bruce McCormack’s joint film project between Canadian and Brazilian students. So I was thrilled to learn that the Electrical Engineering department of the Instituto Federal de Educação, Ciência e Tecnologia Sul-rio-grandense (IFSul) wanted to talk about joint work and that as a consequence I would have something material to contribute on a trip south.

Tom, Bruce and I toured five Instituto Federal campuses in five days, four in the state of Rio Grande do Sul and one over the border in Uruguay, with the objective of exploring opportunities for collaborative projects and exchanges. I usually cringe when people make broad, undifferentiated statements like “Brazilian people are so friendly,” but Brazilian people are so friendly! The faculty we met with were uniformly enthusiastic about collaborating with Camosun College. Their students must deal with English texts and resources, and yet do not study English beyond high school. We discussed the idea of streaming live video of a digital signal processing class at Camosun to IFSul, Pelotas, and vice versa. I feel excited about giving

our students an opportunity to be more “outward-looking.” Certainly the Portuguese language will be a challenge for many Canadian students but in a digital signal processing class it’s also possible some might not notice the difference.

In the immediate future, Camosun



Eduardo Costa da Motta, Joyce and Julio Cesar M. Ruzicki.

technologists will be linking with engineering students in Pelotas as part of an Intercultural Engineering course I will pilot in January 2014. Bruce meanwhile is recruiting talent for English language recordings that will sweep Brazil as part of a trilingual Portuguese/Spanish/English language project. Also, Brazil’s “Science Without Borders” program sends many thousands of students abroad each year and Camosun has been seeing a growing number of these.

The Institutos Federais would dearly love to invite Camosun faculty to teach at one of their campuses for a few months or weeks as part of a professional development activity. Brazil is one of the fastest-growing economies in the world and it makes sense to develop strong relationships with Brazilian partners. There are presently 500 Institutos of Education, Science and Technology in Brazil and this number is expected to double within the next decade.

In addition to being extremely friendly and down-to-earth our Brazilian hosts were tremendously hospitable. In Brazil, hospitality = meat. There was a lot of meat. A lot of meat. I saw a perfectly normal-sized electrical engineering professor eat a steak that measured 20 cm x 25 cm x 5 cm. When dining with a group in Brazil, it is customary for visitors to be offered a “caipirinha,” which is a drink made from sugar cane alcohol. You may find it interesting to know that without the lime and sugar, “caipirinhas” can also be used a vehicle fuel. As you can see, Brazil is very forward-looking, energy-wise.

For Canadians, Brazil is a very comfortable place to be, similar in its social egalitarianism and food (if not portion size). If your Spanish is reasonable, you’ll be able to decode a fair bit of Portuguese, and if you change “o” to “oo” and murmur you might even make yourself understood. A Canadian in Brazil? A Brazilian in Canada? Neither would have any trouble enjoying a fruitful and energizing educational or professional development experience. Get in touch if you have ideas or want to talk more!



Meat

The Best Thing (About My Work at Camosun)

Higher education inspires me to believe that there is a future that I am creating with others that will provide and serve for our society. Camosun provides me the creative opportunity to be a change agent to create this future!
(Ali Wilson, CSEE)



I would describe that Camosun College offers me the opportunity to work on various initiatives and ideas that I can develop with peers in an interdisciplinary fields. My work environment is open to an holistic approach

of care that incorporates different teaching strategies : like visualization to help students to be more asser-tive, confident and empowered when per-forming skills in lab or in clinical practice.
(Pasquale Fiore, Nursing)

The best thing is having the opportunity to work with stu-dents, to get to know them and to watch them grow intellectu-ally. They are such great people.
(Paula Young, His-tory)



The best thing about the work I do at Camosun is con-necting with people across the college: students, staff and faculty. As we share our skills, talents, experience and knowledge with each other, my life is enriched and I have more of myself to give to learners in my class-room. (Kathy Tarnai-Lokhorst, Civil Engineering)

