



OKANAGAN

# THE FCCS SCOOP



[www.ubc.ca/okanagan/fccs](http://www.ubc.ca/okanagan/fccs)

## Reichwald Professor in Germanic Studies - Dr. Desmarais

FCCS is grateful to the Reichwald family of Kelowna for generously making it possible to stabilize German language and culture studies at UBC Okanagan. FCCS always intended to offer German as part of its commitment to host UBC Okanagan offerings in areas like language and literature, cultural studies, and the creative and performing arts. However, the upheaval of the transition was such that FCCS lost its capacity to offer German. At first, this loss was total, but we soon found a way to restore some of it, thanks to Dr. Martin Blum, an English professor whose education and experience enabled us to reallocate some of his workload to address the gap, if only partially. The Reichwald gift has since made it possible to stabilize the offerings and to grow that capacity.

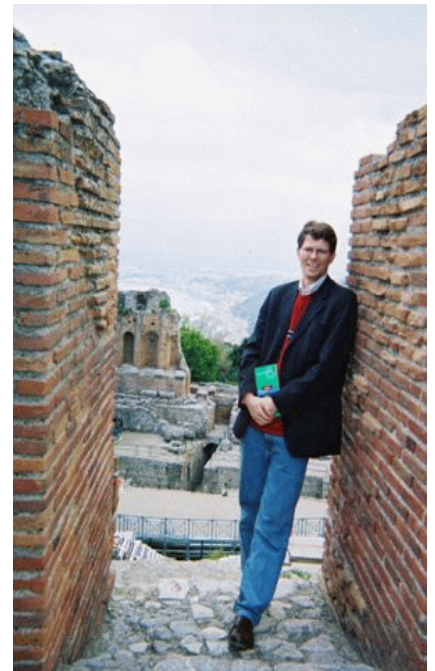
Klaus Reichwald came to Canada from Germany at the age of 16, completed his electrical apprenticeship in Alberta, and joined Western Electrical Constructors Ltd. in 1963. By the mid 70s he was a partner and then the president, growing Western Electrical into one of the largest electrical contractors in Alberta. He continues as Chairman and CEO of the Western Group of Companies. Mr. Reichwald saw our challenge as an opportunity, offering to create an endowment for the purpose of restoring German language offerings at the university and expand-

ing our ability to explore various aspects of German culture. Mr. and Mrs. Reichwald also wanted to create significant potential for community outreach, since the German-Canadian community is, at fifteen percent, the second largest language demographic in the Okanagan Valley.

FCCS, along with the Reichwalds and the capable team at the Development Office, created a Germanic Studies Advisory Committee and populated it with twelve other established members of the German-Canadian community. The committee advised the university as it created a recruitment plan for the first Reichwald Professor of Germanic Studies. The Committee, like the Reichwalds, wanted us to find someone with both the academic potential that the University needed and the wherewithal to create a meaningful relationship with the community.

We think we have found exactly the right blend in Dr. Claude Desmarais, whose academic work includes German language, literature, film and popular culture, and whose community service work has included everything from organizing film exhibitions to facilitating student exchanges. On the latter point, UBC has signed a

memorandum of understanding with prestigious Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich, and FCCS will be sending Dr. Desmarais there later this academic year to begin a discussion that could lead to student and faculty exchanges, among other things. In the meantime, interest in German on campus is way up. Though it still represents a small cohort, student enrolment in German courses this year has exceeded that of last year by 83%!



It's a great sign, but *Rom ist auch nicht an einem Tag erbaut worden*, so stay tuned.

B. Belton

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## Random Acts of Poetry

Open Mic! Calling all poets!

Join UBC Okanagan poet Nancy Holmes for a night of Random Acts of Poetry. Bring poems you've written or poems you like. Everyone is welcome to read in support of literacy programs in our community. Book prizes for poems about reading and writing!

Downtown Kelowna Branch  
Okanagan Regional Library  
1380 Ellis Street  
Wednesday, October 1 - 7:30pm  
to 9:00pm

Supported by the Canada Council for the Arts, Victoria READ Society and Project Literacy Kelowna Society.

## Congratulations

Dr. Jelena Jovicic, Dr. Mercedes Duran - Cogan and Dr. Marianne Legault have recently published books in each of their disciplines. For more information please visit the Department of Critical Studies website at [www.ubc.ca/okanagan/critical/welcome.html](http://www.ubc.ca/okanagan/critical/welcome.html).

## The Lake - A Reading Series (All Welcome, Free Admission)

The following readings will be held at Downtown Kelowna Branch, Okanagan Regional Library, 1380 Ellis St., 7:30 - 9 PM:

Wed. Oct. 22- Russell Thornton is a North Vancouver, B.C. poet who has won several awards, including first prize in the League of Canadian Poets National Contest (2000).

Wed. Nov. 5- Jen Sookfong Lee's first novel, *The End of East* (2007),

spans almost the entire 20th century and delves into the underside of Chinese Canadian history through the eyes of the Chan family.

Readings at UBC Okanagan Campus, 7:30 - 9PM in SSC 026:

Wed. Nov. 19- Colleen Murphy's play *The December Man* won the 2007 Governor General's Literary Award for Drama, the 2008 Cana-

dian Authors Association/Carol Bolt Award for Drama and the 2006 Enbridge playwrights Award.

The Lake - A Reading Series is sponsored by the Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies, UBC Okanagan, Okanagan Regional Library, The Canada Council for the Arts and Writers Union of Canada.

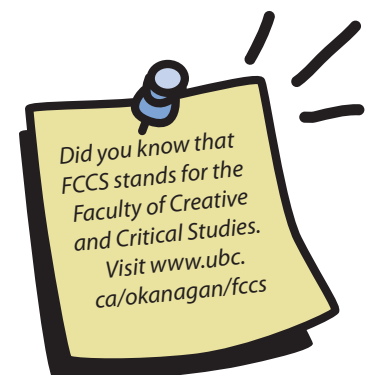
## Visiting Artists Speakers Series (All Welcome, Free Admission)

*An(other) Place: Imaging and Imagining Canada from Near and Far"*

Wed. Oct 22. 2 - 3:30 PM SSC 026 UBC Okanagan Campus - Sean Caulfield, Printmaker.

Wed. Nov 5. 2 - 3:30 PM SSC026 UBC Okanagan Campus - Kristi Malakoff, Visual Artists.

Contact [Renay.egami@ubc.ca](mailto:Renay.egami@ubc.ca) for more information



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