



MEDIA RELEASE

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First class of Writing and Publishing students to graduate in Vernon

Okanagan College will celebrate the achievements of 164 graduates in Vernon at the fourth of five Convocation ceremonies this month. Among those graduates will be Darbi Fawcett, who is one of the first graduates of Okanagan College's Writing and Publishing diploma program.

Fawcett enrolled in the inaugural program in 2008 after graduating from Salmon Arm Secondary School. An Enderby resident, Fawcett was interested in pursuing an education in writing and publishing and upon hearing about Okanagan College's new program, was among the first to register.

"The writing and publishing program was my first choice," explained Fawcett. "I love books and was searching for a way to further my education and explore my passion in the field. Okanagan College was the best option because I could commute to the Vernon campus while living at home and saving some money."

The two-year full-time program ran Fawcett through her paces. The first year of the Arts program concentrates heavily on all forms of writing with an emphasis on creative writing. The first year also gives a background in business to reflect the nature of the publishing industry. The second-year curriculum includes a variety of professional projects, which students can use as part of a creative portfolio.

"It's my goal to work in a publishing house one day and this program really prepared me well. I've designed my own book from start to finish. I prepared the content, designed the layout and cover and really understand the process. In my second year I learned how to build a website and am able to transfer those skills anywhere." The books and the website were both second year projects.

What struck Fawcett as the most beneficial part of the program was the close interaction with instructors, each of whom had a deep working knowledge of writing and publishing.

"The instructors in this program have so much real world experience," she said. "They have done everything they are teaching us and that makes a big difference because they know how to help us avoid mistakes and can impart their knowledge in a really useful way."

Students graduating from the Writing and Publishing program will be recognized alongside a host of other program graduates receiving credentials that include degrees, diplomas and certificates in a range of program areas. Among those graduating are students in Health and Social Development, Arts, Business, BC Adult Graduation and Continuing Studies.

The ceremony will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Friday at the Performing Arts Centre.

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For more information:

Christine Ulmer, Public Affairs
Okanagan College
250-470-3633
culmer@okanagan.bc.ca