



**Jake Forrest & Tania Jalbert.** Pumpkin soup. Salmon. Rice Pilaf. Roasted squash. That was the dinner the Jake Forrest recently prepared for 10 family members, happily applying the skills he is gaining in the Dual Credit Culinary Arts program at the Powell River campus of Vancouver Island University.

“I love the creative component of cooking,” Jake says. “With just one ingredient, there are endless possibilities.”

Classmate Tania Jalbert also enjoys the challenge of cooking, and focuses on making amazing food with the least amount of waste. The sustainability aspect of utilizing food

is very important to her. “Food is a simple foundation of life. In our ever-changing economy, we always have to keep eating. I like being creative while keeping food as healthy and as local as possible.”

Jake reports that the culinary program is a challenge, but he finds it rewarding. The instructors are firm but have a great sense of humour. He intends to apprentice under a Red Seal chef and dreams of one day opening his own sports bar/bistro.

Tania finds Jake’s energy a wonderful balance to her own life experiences. “It’s refreshing to be in a class where some students are teens and others are adults. I feel just so lucky that I have a second chance at school. I am thrilled to have the place and tools to complete my goals.”

Culinary Instructor Assistant Marielle Benson-Salehian praises both students. “That young man carries himself with such presence. He’s complete, reliable and honest. And Tania is brilliant. They both have a bright future. It’s wonderful to have students like them.”

Right now, Tania is particularly interested in the pastry component of the course. “Maybe I’ll open a bakery next to Jake’s restaurant!”

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**Julie Oltman-Plesner** , an Adult Upgrading and University Student, was encouraged to apply for several bursaries and scholarships. The student services department at the Powell River campus visited the university/trades classes to inform students regarding the possible opportunities available to students.

Julie plans on doing a summer semester online through Thompson River University, so this can help her pay tuition. Julie reports, "I was so excited when I found out I won the Frank Roy Smith Memorial Bursary. It was a huge relief."

In the fall, Julie plans on returning to the Powell River campus to continue with her university studies, combined with online learning.

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**Sasha Pugsley** , who took the SCSW program, received a \$500 award that plans to put this towards her student loan debt.

VIU has been awesome...super supportive throughout my schooling experience. The teachers, support staff and all other faculty members have been wonderful and the SCSW program has helped me develop the confidence and skills I need in order to succeed in this field.

Sasha has already been hired at the school board due to her upcoming certification. She looks forward working with students to help them reach their full potential.

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**Michelle Scott** received two bursary awards. One was a tuition bursary for \$600.00, and the other was called the "VIU McLotto Bursary" in the amount of \$900.00. She says, "I wasn't expecting to be granted this award at all, so it was a very nice surprise. As a single mom, it was a great help to me financially, while I was awaiting my second part of my student loan. I used it for bills, tuition, books and groceries. This award helped me a great deal, and I am very grateful."

Michelle took Adult Upgrading classes in Powell River and is currently enrolled in her second year of the Applied Business Technology program online. With two small children at home, Michelle took advantage of the online learning lab that the Powell River campus of VIU has to offer. "I have had a great experience with VIU. While working on my courses at the Powell River campus, I have found the staff to be very helpful and pleasant. Everyone is friendly, and it's a relaxed environment to study in."

With a dual credit certificate for Accounting assistant and Administrative assistant Michelle having many doors open for employment possibilities. Her ultimate goal is to obtain an administrative assistant or office position with the City of Powell River.

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**Joey Gelowicz** is a student in the Culinary Arts program at VIU, Powell River and received a bursary for academic merit. He says the money will be used to help fund his education and payback sources of loans.

Joey says, "My experience with the Culinary Arts program of Powell River has been absolutely amazing. Working with Chef Gray and Chef Austin has been a massive learning experience - and the level of fun has been just absolutely amazing!"

Instructor Marielle Benson says of Joey: "He is probably the happiest person I've ever met. He is extremely sociable, and can chat with ANYBODY, young or old. From what I see, he applies himself to his studies and achieves consistently high grades. He works hard and is open to feedback when things don't go perfectly. A really likeable guy!"

Joey's future plans are to travel the world.

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**Terry Buckle** of the University Program earned a bursary that will go toward the next semester's tuition for Managerial Accounting, online. Terry says, "The bursary took some of the financial pressure off."

Terry says she enjoyed the classes, the open door policy of the writing centre and experienced new things like working with cedar and building sweat lodges. "It really challenged my comfort zone. You would not get all these experiences at a bigger university." Other students also enabled her to learn more in the strong, supportive environment. "I know now that I am who I say I am—a strong woman."

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**Joe Hooff** took the carpentry program and says his bursary helped pay for his books. He reports that he learned skills in his course that will enable him to find work in Powell River. Instructor Gary Huculuk says Joe is very accomplished in his credentials, having a plumbing background as well. He says, "Joe is a open and well rounded student—very good with the other students. He's quiet, but he could sure crack up the students once in a while."

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**Shannan Ollson** recently attained her Adult Dogwood while attending Vancouver Island University, Powell River Campus. With some additional upgrading, her plan is to further her education and have a career as an ultra sound technician. "I recommend coming to school here. It's a great school—it feels like family."

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**Chris Zuccato:** Chris was awarded the Principal's Letter of Commendation

After the long hours of hard work, Chris says, "It was nice for me to be recognized. It really encourages me to keep learning." Attending VIU at the Powell River campus meant that Chris could drastically reduce his cost of living by staying with family. "And the small class sizes are a very big plus allowing greater interaction between the instructors and students. Also, it's hard to beat living in Powell River!" Chris is currently upgrading his math while at the same time being enrolled as an online student through Athabasca University. His goal is to obtain a B.Sc. in Computer Information Systems.

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