**Transgender Research Unit and Fieldtrip**

**Information and Permission slip form**

**Family and Gender Studies**

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This letter is to inform you of an exciting unit the Family and Gender studies class is embarking upon. It is my hope to share with you the approach, the rationale, and the goals for the unit and to request permission to take the students on a unique, informative field trip.

**Approach**: As part of the broader approach taken to Gender in this course, we will explore the specific area of Transgender and Transsexual orientations/identities. This will include a number of streams to access knowledge and express what we have learned. Building upon vocabulary development with the class generated glossary, we have looked at **intersectionality**. We recently began a six part workshop series on Homo- and Trans- phobia with the local organization, The Power of Hope. We have undertaken a research project, under the direction of Wendy Burleson, our teacher librarian, in which we are learning some contemporary approaches to research, primarily Inquiry Based learning, in which students generate the topics and the questions they themselves want to explore. We will have local CFAX broadcaster, James Gardner, present on his personal journey as a Transgendered man. And finally, in preparation for our fieldtrip, we will view the CBC’s DocZone “Transforming Gender,” available online.

If you would like more information, I invite you to peruse the following resources:

* Our class website mzhopesclass.weebly.com.
* Transgender Archives website: <http://transgenderarchives.uvic.ca/>
* CBC Doczone: <http://www.cbc.ca/doczone/episodes/transforming-gender>
* Article on guest speaker James Gardner : <http://www.timescolonist.com/monitor-a-journey-from-sheila-to-james-1.105042>
* The Power of Hope : http://www.powerofhope.org/
* The Martlet article on Gender and Sexuality in Victoria’s High Schools, featuring our class:

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns, or any feedback you would like to offer: ghope@sd61.bc.ca

**Fieldtrip**: We have the good fortune to live in a city with the world’s largest transgender archives, which are housed at the University of Victoria. As a class, we will be visiting the archives to experience its wide array of artifacts and to further our personal inquiry explorations. The purpose of the trip manifold: to acquaint students with the vast array of resources held at the University, in particular the archives; to expose students to information directly representative of Trans-people across the decades; and to have students benefit from a lecture by Professor Aaron De Vor, and an introduction to University Library research by Director of Special Collections and University Archivist, Lara Wilson. Dr. Aaron H Devor is professor of sociology, former Dean of Graduate Studies, and the Founder and Academic Director of the [Transgender Archives](http://transgenderarchives.uvic.ca/) at the University of Victoria, Canada. Dr. Devor specializes in the study of gender, sex, and sexuality in transgender people.

Some important things to note before entering the Archives:

* No food or drink is allowed
* Hands must be clean and dry (gloves will not be supplied)
* Notes must be taken in PENCIL not pen.
* Cell phones must be tuned to AIRPLANE MODE. Photos are permitted, but internet/texting/ringing is considered disrespectful to the learning environment.

Students will be missing their C block classes. C block teachers have been made aware and students are responsible for any work missed. Students who do not attend the fieldtrip will have a research topic to explore in the library at Vic High under the guidance of Ms. Burleson.

Students will travel by public transit to the archives and **will be dismissed from the University** at 3:05, but are welcome to remain in the archives until 4:30 if they so choose.

**Attendance will be taken at in the front foyer at the beginning of C block: 12:18. We will proceed to walk to the #14 bus stop on Fort street and will arrive at Uvic at 1:04.**

**Please return the attached page:**

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I understand that my student/child will travel by public transit to the University of Victoria on (), and will be dismissed from the University at 3:05. Students are responsible for their own transport from the University. I DO / DO NOT give permission for my child to participate.

Student’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s name and contact #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_