

APPLIED ETHICS | MEET STEPHEN TOOPE – UBC'S NEW PRESIDENT | ALUMNI NEWS + EVENTS

# Trek



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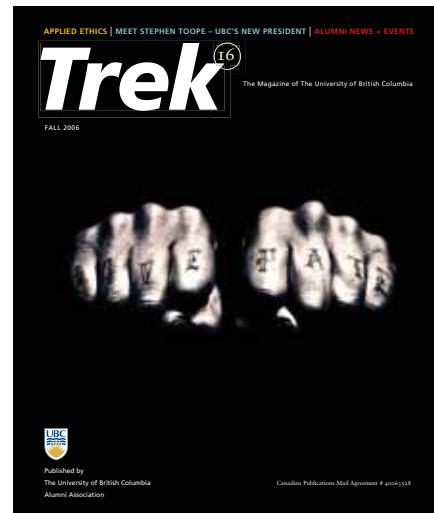
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## BIG CHANGE, GOOD BUBBLE GUM AND THE NEW PRESIDENT

### NOBODY LIKES BIG CHANGES.

Changes take your world, throw it in a black bag and give it a good shake. Sometimes things turn out to be much better than they were in the first place, but sometimes they don't. And that's the problem with change: you never know.

My first experience with big change came at age eight, when I dashed down the street to my corner store, two bits in hand, ready to start Saturday morning with a pop, a chocolate bar and however many penny candies and pieces of bubble gum I could buy with the change (this was some time ago). I skidded to a halt at the front door: "Closed. Opening soon under new management," said the sign in the window.

I made a lot of great memories in that store in my short life: the time an angry woman chided me for snapping my gum and blowing bubbles ("filthy little boy," she said); the hot summer day I drank a whole bottle of ice cold Orange Crush in one, long pull; the time the owner, Mr. Chang, threw an orange at me because he thought I was stealing (I wasn't). It was a great store, and probably made me a life-long shopaholic.

The next Saturday I raced down there filled with anxious anticipation, four bits in hand (the quarter from last week unspent), not knowing what would be there. I found my corner store with a fresh, new coat of paint, some nice new bins overflowing with penny candies and a smiling new lady at the counter. I sighed with relief and went straight for the bubble gum, which was now front and centre on the counter. Like all good change, it took what was good and made it better.

The arrival of a new president at a university is a few magnitudes

greater in consequence than a corner store changing hands (though not to an eight-year-old), but the sense of anticipation is the same: what's going to change and what's not?

Professor Stephen Toope (he prefers that title to "Doctor"), is the new agent of change at UBC. Our profile of him in this issue reveals a deeply thoughtful and intelligent man with an overriding sense of justice and an abiding faith in the great potential of humanity. His perspective on our university is straight-forward: UBC will continue to build on its strengths, offer a world-class educational experience to its students and play a significant role in setting the educational agenda on the national stage.

It's true that university presidents, like prime ministers or the presidents of large countries, don't have as much power as we think. Too many other factors enter into the mix – already-established bases of power, governing bodies, elected officials – for one individual to be able to change absolutely an institution as tightly structured as a university. But, as Martha Piper showed, it is possible to create a vision that the entire institution can embrace.

Stephen Toope, with his experience at the Trudeau Foundation and his abilities as a leader, a thinker and a crusader for social justice, is the right man at the right time. With *Trek* 2010 as a solid foundation, he will build an astonishing university. Beginning with the Spring, 2007 issue, Professor Toope will have a regular column in *Trek Magazine*.

It seems the store, er, I mean, the university, is in good hands. ■

Chris Petty, MFA'86, Editor

# TAKE NOTE

## History Decides UBC's Future

The department of Campus and Community Planning is ramping up for a major consultation on the future of UBC's Vancouver campus. This will be the seventh campus-wide planning exercise in the university's history.

UBC's planning history began in 1914 when our first president, Dr. Frank Wesbrook, dreamt of creating the Cambridge of the Pacific. He held an architectural competition which was won by architects Sharp & Thompson. Despite only partial implementation of this plan – the Main Mall, University Boulevard, the East and West Malls, and the development blocks around the Library – it established a basic structure for the campus that continues to influence planning to this day. At no time since has such attention been given to the overall structure and image of the Vancouver campus.

After World War II UBC went through an *ad hoc* expansion primarily south of Main Library. In 1959, a new campus plan began to evolve based on industrial efficiency; thus the utilitarian charm of Buchanan Tower. Another master plan was prepared in 1968 focusing mainly on land-use circulation and landscape. Its central theme was UBC as a "great and varied garden." The partial implementation of this plan left UBC with its strange patterns of cul-de-sacs and partial connections.

The 1982 plan emphasized private-public partnerships, which were characterized by arm's-length development regulations to deal with the critical deficiency of the campus planning legacy and its lack of a cohesive framework. This period was also defined by proposed further expansion south to Thunderbird Boulevard.

The current plan, begun in 1992, says that the campus as a whole is greater than the sum of its parts. It is less a prescriptive plan than a set of strategies that allows flexibility to enable the campus to respond to its own evolution, focused more on intent than final form.

And now, the 2006 planning begins. For the next 18 months or so, the campus community and UBC alumni will be asked to consider where UBC should be heading in terms of its academic core and infrastructure. A lot of the action will take place online and we encourage you to visit [www.campusplan.ubc.ca](http://www.campusplan.ubc.ca) for more information and to provide input.



## TrekConnect for Students & Alumni

The new social networking site, *TrekConnect*, is now open to current UBC students. Like public social networking sites, *TrekConnect* lets UBC alumni and students share expertise, network for jobs, catch up with long-lost classmates and join one of the many interest groups created by users themselves. Unlike public sites, *TrekConnect* is a trusted system, and all registrants must be verified as alumni, students or staff of UBC. Visit [www.alumni.ubc.ca](http://www.alumni.ubc.ca) and follow the links to *TrekConnect*.

**Meet Your Connection:** Amanda Murdock, BA'03 and third-year student Alex Burkholder check out their connections on *TrekConnect*, the new social networking site from UBC Alumni Affairs.

**Time Keeps on Slippin':** Architects Sharp and Thompson produced UBC's first campus plan in 1914. Some elements of that plan still remain. UBC's Vancouver campus is about to undergo its eighth official campus planning process.



## TAKE NOTE

### Focus on Chinese-Canadian History

After more than a century of migration, Chinese-Canadians now make up the country's largest visible minority group, with numbers recently surpassing one million. Future historians will recognize this period of migration as a crucial one that profoundly changed Canada.

UBC students are helping to document it by recording the role of their own families in this shift, creating oral histories and web-based presentations that capture the stories of migrants before they are lost forever.

The students are participating in the Initiative for Student Teaching and Research in Chinese Canadian Studies (INSTRCC), a program designed to explore the history and future of Canada's long ties to Asia and the Pacific region.

Led by UBC History professor Dr. Henry Yu, INSTRCC uses student-based learning, where undergraduates work on research projects they have developed themselves focusing on never-before-studied aspects of contemporary and historical Chinese-Canadian migration.

The students are taught digital film-making and editing techniques along with interviewing skills so they can record their subjects' stories and recollections.

Another project is the creation of a website to provide wide and easy access to the materials produced. The students are also working on digitization of the Chinese Head Tax registers and are collaborating with the National Archives and Library of Canada to create a searchable database. This will be an invaluable resource to many Chinese-Canadians trying to trace family histories.

One of the most interesting student projects involves research into Vancouver's vast array of restaurants. Because so many of the city's restaurants are operated by Asian migrants, they are a fascinating window on how Vancouver has been transformed by recent migration. The students interview those who eat and work at the restaurants, explore the history of restaurant neighbourhoods at the Vancouver City Archives, and discover the origins of cooking techniques.

*Eating Global Vancouver* is a student film project that focuses on the Green Lettuce Restaurant run by Vancouverite Peter Chang and his siblings, whose family ran Chinese restaurants in Calcutta for three generations. You can download the film Green Lettuce here: [www.faculty.arts.ubc.ca/henryyu/Hist429/GreenLettuce/](http://www.faculty.arts.ubc.ca/henryyu/Hist429/GreenLettuce/)

Generously supported by seed donations from Caleb Chan of Burrard International,

Peter Eng of Allied Holdings, and Terry Hui of Concord Pacific, UBC plans to build on the success of this program with additional initiatives focusing on other important trans-Pacific migrant communities in Canada from Korea, South Asia, and Japan. Read an essay by Peter Eng on *The Eclecticism of Canada* at: [www.alumni.ubc.ca/publications/eclecticism.php](http://www.alumni.ubc.ca/publications/eclecticism.php).

### Pulling Rank

If newsstand sales are anything to go by, *Maclean's Magazine*'s annual *Guide to Canadian Universities* is a popular reference for university applicants and their parents. The rankings have been around since 1992, but although influential they aren't without controversy. One of the criticisms is that the statistics and methodology are not comprehensive enough to be truly insightful, and moreover can be misleading.

Recently, 10 of Canada's universities (including the uofr and UBC, institutions that featured regularly in *Maclean's* top five) have decided to opt out of the rankings, for which the universities are expected to supply various figures deemed by *Maclean's* to be indicative of performance and quality.

The presidents of the institutions expressed in a joint letter to *Maclean's* why they've chosen to decline. "In short," it says, "the ranking methodology used by *Maclean's* is oversimplified."

## BUILDING LIFELONG RELATIONSHIPS



"YOU DON'T CHOOSE YOUR FAMILY," according to the adage, "but you're stuck with them for life."

UBC alumni did choose to attend UBC, however, and most hold their alma mater in high regard. Yet there are plenty of graduates who take this particular lifelong relationship for granted, much as we might our biological family.

This past summer, a group of 12 brave souls – alumni, students and staff of UBC – sequestered themselves to re-imagine the relationship between UBC and its alumni. This Business Process Reengineering project generated a set of recommendations intended to transform this relationship from its present state – which could charitably be described as indifferent – to an enduring one of richly rewarding mutual benefits.

How did the team propose making such a shift? "Think of a wedding cake," they counselled. "First build your foundation."

- Alumni must be valued all across the institution;
- UBC's offerings to alumni should reflect their life stages;
- Coordination and collaboration across the institution will yield better results for alumni, including self-service, personalized relationships, more effective communications and dramatically better collection and use of alumni data;
- Build an alumni centre as a hub of engagement for the 100,000 alumni who visit the Point Grey campus each year.

This foundation would then support an array of new programs: milestone celebrations for students and alumni, lifelong learning opportunities, career and professional development offerings and significant volunteer engagement.

The end result? UBC alumni will choose to devote an increasing share of their considerable passion to the institution and UBC will be much the richer for it.

What do you think? Impossible dream or worthwhile ambition?

**Marie Earl**, Associate Vice President, Alumni Executive Director, UBC Alumni Association

fied and arbitrary. We do find it ironic that universities are being asked to subsidize and legitimize this flawed methodology, when many faculty, staff and students at our institutions are dedicated in their research to ensuring that data are collected rigorously and analyzed meticulously."

They also point out that some indicators for the quality of student life, such as extra-curricular experience, are harder to quantify and therefore not properly taken into account by the rankings. The letter can be read in full here: [http://www.publicaffairs.ubc.ca/ubcnews/macleans\\_letter\\_aug2006.pdf](http://www.publicaffairs.ubc.ca/ubcnews/macleans_letter_aug2006.pdf)

## Genetics

■ A mandatory graduate course in scholarly integrity and research ethics is in the offing for Pharmaceutical Science students, with its authors hoping for approval by the end of the year. It would cater to students who have reached a stage in their academic careers when they are gaining more autonomy over research design.

Because ethical issues can emerge unanticipated and take many forms, the course seeks to provide grad students with a comprehensive framework on which to base their judgment. It will consider everything – from how to recognize an ethical issue to specific areas like animal research, intellectual property, and human genetics research – and will provide principles on which to base both personal and professional integrity. The course will also explore conflict resolution using case studies and panel discussions to make learning as real and applicable as possible.

"Our graduate students come from educational backgrounds ranging from science and medicine to engineering and economics," says Helen Burt, the faculty's associate dean of Research and Graduate Studies.

"We want to make sure they have consistent and practical information about scholarly integrity and ethical issues they are likely to encounter as researchers."

Lecturers will be appointed once the course is approved, but are likely to hail from a variety of campus units, such as the department of Philosophy, the faculty of Law, and the university's Industry Liaison Office.

## Engineering Health Care Solutions

■ Multi-disciplinary research has long been lauded as a beneficial way to maximize existing resources and recognize all the facets of an area of research by examining it through a number of specialized lenses. With the growing arsenal of medical machines and equipment and the evolution of implantable devices, medical researchers and engineers have an ever-expanding area of overlap in their fields of research.

In recognition of this, a new graduate course in Biomedical Engineering is being initiated at UBC and will be the first of its kind in the province. The emphasis will be on the research and development of equipment and treatment devices, but students will also be expected to gain a keen appreciation for the clinical context of their work, and will undertake training to this end. A poster boy for the new course is its director, Engineering associate professor Ezra Kwok. Kwok recently completed his MD at McMaster University, having taken a leave of absence from his professorial duties at UBC in 2001.

"What became clear to me during medical school," he says, "is the very different approaches physicians and engineers take towards solving very similar problems. That's why we've designed the curriculum to include working with physicians and experts from chemical, electrical, mechanical and material engineering, so graduates would be equipped to tackle a

## NEW BEGINNINGS



On September 28, Stephen J. Toope was installed as UBC's 12<sup>th</sup> president. It has been my pleasure, as Chair of the Alumni Association, to welcome him to UBC on behalf of our 226,995 graduates.

Professor Toope has expressed strong support for the work we are doing to renew and expand alumni services: improving communications, creating opportunities for intellectual connections, and planning for a new alumni centre on campus.

Our efforts to communicate with you have increased significantly in the past two years. More than 50,000 alumni now receive our monthly *Grad Gazette* via email, and we recently launched *TrekConnect*, an online social networking tool that links you to the people you met during your years at UBC. It's a great way to reconnect – interest groups from wine tasting to photography and rock collecting are popular – and to keep in touch with your classmates.

We have also been very active in the transition from Martha Piper's presidency to that of Stephen Toope. President Piper travelled to eight cities with us to showcase UBC and help our efforts to re-invigorate alumni communities world-wide, and we have organized introductions of Professor Toope to small groups of alumni in Vancouver and the Okanagan as a way to develop relationships with these grads.

Alumni were a big part of this year's graduation ceremonies in Vancouver and Kelowna. We are putting much effort into transforming graduation from a time of "farewell" to one of "welcome to the alumni family." We organized a "wall of welcome" for grads at the Kelowna campus, held receptions in the weeks leading up to graduation, and manned booths at both campuses to distribute information after the ceremonies.

We also launched one of our most successful homecoming events, Alumni Weekend, on the weekend of September 29 to October 1. Events included "Classes Without Quizzes" put on by some of UBC's most talented teachers, a pancake breakfast, a one-on-one conversation with the CBC's Kathryn Gretzinger and Professor Toope, and reunions for dozens of classes.

Our next big opportunity comes with the planned construction of the Alumni Centre on University Boulevard. This centre will form the geographic and symbolic heart of the university, and will contribute significantly to the growing vibrancy of the campus. It will help link alumni to the rest of the UBC community – students, faculty and staff – and will connect UBC's past, present and future through displays, lectures, event space, offices and ongoing projects that will engage alumni, students and the broader community.

Our "new beginnings" will open up many more opportunities for you to engage in the life of your university. We welcome your input – and your participation – in all our programs.

**Martin Ertl, BSC'93, Chair, UBC Alumni Association**

## TAKE NOTE

problem from various angles and encourage collaborations with other areas."

With strong biotechnology, medical device and pharmaceutical industries in BC, Kwok doesn't think grads of the new program will experience any problem finding a career path. In fact, just the opposite. "Engineers are excellent at processing and analyzing data to extract useful information. This could lead to better detection and, ultimately, better treatment. We are also trained to systematically break up complex problems into manageable pieces and develop practical solutions. These are areas to which engineers can make contributions in improving health care."



**Rod McCormick**

### Putting the Brakes on Drive-By Research

■ Although Aboriginal peoples have often been the subject of healthcare research, they're not often directly involved in identifying or guiding such research.

This is perhaps the reason why associate professor of Education Rod McCormick can cite anecdotal evidence suggesting that current research might be lacking. "Aboriginal people often say they have been researched to death, but it hasn't been relevant research," he says. "You hear a lot of jokes about drive-by researchers – the guy with the white van who comes to take samples – or random acts of research."

Together with three other Aboriginal professors at UBC, McCormick is at the forefront of BC's Aboriginal Capacity and Developmental Research Environment (ACADRE) Network that was established four years ago by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to create knowledge-based improvements in healthcare provision.

There are seven others ACADRE networks located in other provinces. Their mandate is to establish collaborative efforts between research institutions like UBC and Aboriginal (as well as non-Aboriginal) organizations, which also consult the Aboriginal communities on which they focus. Information and expertise are exchanged in areas such as ethical research practices, traditional knowledge, mental health and addictions.

Because of past experience, McCormick didn't expect the initiative to be welcomed without initial reservation, so trying to assuage this he and colleagues travelled to native communities to explain the goals of the ACADRE networks and encourage participation. ACADRE does not provide funding to research that isn't based on an Aboriginal partnership. "Effective research listens to the real experts," emphasizes McCormick.

Feeding the urgency are the alarming statistics on Aboriginal health, highlighted by the large health disparities between their community and the general population, including a 7.5 year difference in life expectancy, a five-times greater likelihood of becoming diabetic, and a greater proportion of deaths

**Rod McCormick works to create knowledge-based improvements in Aboriginal healthcare.**

involving HIV/AIDS, alcohol, accidental injury and suicide.

The other professors involved in the efforts are associate dean of Indigenous Education Jo-Ann Archibald; Institute for Aboriginal Health director Eduardo Jovel; and First Nations House of Learning director Richard Vedan. "Research used to be done on us," says McCormick. "But we're making sure that research is now done by us, for us and with us."

### Hands-On Learning

■ The J. W. McConnell Family Foundation, a private Montreal-based organization that supports initiatives to build healthy communities, has recently donated \$1 million to UBC for a student community service learning program.

The university has committed a further \$1.5 million to establish the UBC-Community Learning Initiative (UBC-CLI), which aims to have 5 per cent of undergraduates experience community service projects as part of their education. The initiative builds on existing community-oriented programs, such as the university's Reading Week (this year's saw 300 UBC students working with 1,000 inner city school children on projects ranging from nutrition to justice to fine arts) and the downtown eastside-based Learning Exchange, which this year facilitated more than 1,000 opportunities for students to participate with community organizations and schools. The Alumni Affairs office supplies alumni mentors to the program.

Margo Fryer, director of the Exchange, will also take on directorship of the UBC-CLI. She is an assistant professor in the School of Community and Regional Planning and President of the Canadian Association for Community Service Learning (CSL).

"CSL helps students see the connections between what they are studying and real-life problems, and also gives them increased clarity about their career goals and motivates them to get involved in community issues," she says. UBC President Stephen Toope agrees. "It reflects our desire to enhance students' understanding of the connection between their education and their social responsibilities," he says, "and will help us to meet our Trek 2010 strategic plan commitment to serve communities in BC and beyond." A main driver of the initiative is the desire to see university resources – people and knowledge – benefit the community and be used to address some of its most pressing issues.



Margo Fryer

**Margo Fryer will head up the Community Learning Initiative.**

### Fuelling Research

The National Research Council of Canada (NRC) opened its Institute for Fuel Cell Innovation on UBC's Point Grey campus. BC is the hub of Canada's hydrogen and fuel cell technology development and the \$20 million facility (70,000 square feet) will be a significant factor in driving research. University researchers will collaborate with NRC scientists and industrial partners. Projects to be housed at the new facilities include the Vancouver Fuel Cell Vehicle Program and BC's Hydrogen Highway.

The new facilities will help assess future needs as well as current requirements. Features include a hydrogen fuelling station, hydrogen-safe labs and building-integrated fuel cell technologies including ground source heat pumps and photovoltaic hydrogen production technologies.

### Unearthing the Poplar

Seven UBC scientists are involved in an international project that has completed the first sequencing of a tree genome. The achievement was featured on the September 15 cover of *Science*.

Black cottonwood, a type of poplar, is the third plant to be sequenced after *arabidopsis* (part of the mustard family) in 2000 and rice in 2004. "In tree biology, this is equivalent to sequencing the first human genome," says associate professor Joerg Bohlman, a co-author of the paper and joint appointee with the departments of Botany and Forest Science. The work may

lead to advances in alternative fuels, the quality of wood and the health of forests.

"By comparing the genome of the poplar tree to other plants, we hope to identify the genes for traits of interest, such as adaptation to the environment, lignin and cellulose content and longevity. This will lead to ways to breed trees for uses in ecologically and economically sustainable forestry," says Bohlman, who works out of UBC's Michael Smith Laboratories and is also an associate in the Wine Research Centre.

Human agriculture has resulted in thousands of years of plant breeding, though little of that has been applied to trees. "The complete genome will help us fine-tune trees to produce better quality wood products, and open the door to research in areas such as biologically based substitutes for gasoline and other fossil fuels," says Botany professor and co-author Carl Douglas.

The research took four years to complete and was led by the US department of Energy's Joint Genome Institute in California and Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee. UBC was one of 34 participating institutions and a major contributor alongside Genome Canada, Genome British Columbia, the Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre and the universities of Umeå and Ghent in Sweden and Belgium respectively.

### Einstein was Absolutely Right

Two UBC astronomers were part of an international research team that tested Einstein's theory of relativity against the latest scientific knowledge, and found it to stand true.

Assistant professor Ingrid Stairs and grad student Robert Ferdman were the only Canadians contributing to the research, which involved observing a unique pair of natural stellar clocks discovered in 2003. The clocks are pulsars located 2,000 light miles away from Earth and one million kilometres apart. They are compact neutron stars that despite measuring only 20km across weigh more than the sun and move at a speed of a million kilometres an hour, orbiting one another every 2.4 hours. They give off radio waves that researchers have been able to record.

Three of the world's largest radio-telescopes were used (the Lovell Telescope in Manchester University's Jodrell Bank Observatory; Australia's Parkes telescope; and the R.C. Byrd Green Bank Telescope in West Virginia) and the researchers measured variations in the arrival time of the pulses. They found that Einstein's theory correctly predicted the movement of the stars and is accurate to within 0.05 per cent.

"Einstein's theory predicts that the fabric of space time around a pulsar should be curved. Our observations show that this is true," says Stairs.

Her colleague at Jodrell Bank, professor Michael Kramer, says: "This is the most stringent test ever made of general relativity in the presence of very strong gravitational fields. Only black holes show stronger gravitational effects, but they are obviously much more difficult to observe."

### OUC to UBC Degree Conversion

Okanagan University College graduates in Arts, Education, Fine Arts, Science, Nursing and Social Work (a total of 2,385 graduates) are now eligible to convert their degrees to the corresponding UBC degree.

The ruling was passed by the UBC Okanagan

## NEW WORK CHRIS DAHL



oil paintings and watercolours



original music: *Desperate Measures*

[www.chrisdahlcreative.com](http://www.chrisdahlcreative.com)

## TAKE NOTE

Senate in September. OUC degree-holders must apply for the conversion through Enrolment Services and pay a \$100 conversion fee. Interested OUC grads should visit <http://okanagan.students.ubc.ca/senate/conferral.cfm?go=join> for more information.

### Country Practice

■ UBC's Distributed Medical Program is responding to health service gaps in BC areas, often rural, by having students gain hands-on experience at a variety of learning sites.

Dozens of third-year students, the program's original intake, are heading for Vancouver Island, the Fraser Valley and areas in the north of the province (as well as Vancouver) to undertake practical placements. Training settings are typically GP offices or community centres, and the students work closely with clinician-teachers to learn practical skills and test out their theoretical knowledge in the real world. This summer, UBC medical students gained additional experience in 80 family practices around BC.

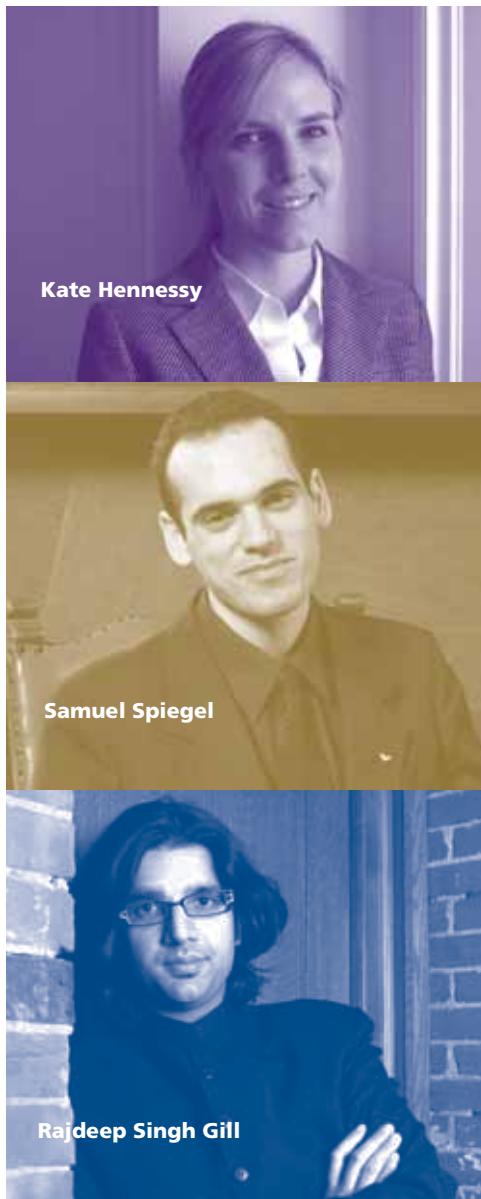
The distributed program is the first of its kind in Canada and hopes to encourage more medical practice in under served areas by providing students with an understanding of these communities' characteristics and requirements at an early stage in their careers. The hoped-for longer-term result is that more doctors will spend at least a portion of their working lives in settings that are currently under served.

"The expansion and distribution of UBC's medical program is aimed at educating more doctors for BC," says dean of Medicine Gavin Stuart. "These local learning opportunities will allow students to receive an outstanding education with the enthusiasm and perspective of clinician-teachers across the province. We are extremely grateful to all of our partners and the communities involved for their continued commitment to the success of this initiative."

Partners in the program are the provincial government, the University of Northern British Columbia, the University of Victoria and provincial regional health authorities.

### Trio of Trudeau Scholars

■ In June, the Trudeau Foundation named 15 new scholars, three of them doctoral students at UBC. Trudeau scholars represent the cream of Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities students, and recipients receive scholarships of up to



\$200,000 to kick-start their academic careers.

The goal of the Trudeau Foundation is to provide citizens of Canada and the world with a better understanding of democracy. Although the scope of research it rewards is broad, this concept is the main factor informing selection.

"Each year we search for young, influential minds capable of generating public discussion on important Canadian and global topics in a fresh way," says Trudeau Foundation Board chair Roy L. Heenan. "This new class of extraordinary Trudeau Scholars is destined for great things, and we are proud to support them in their diverse and fascinating pursuits."

UBC's Trudeau scholars are Rajdeep Singh Gill, who is exploring the social and ethical role of art and creative processes within indigenous

groups; Kate Hennessy, who is analyzing First Nations cultures by studying the storytelling effects of film and digital photography; and Samuel Spiegel who is working to improve the environmental impact of global gold mining, while protecting the well-being of miners and their families. When he was president of the Foundation, UBC president Stephen Toope said: "Through this scholarship program, our goal is to encourage some of the world's most promising future leaders to contemplate and address the bigger issues affecting our society."

### How Now, Brown Cow?

■ The welfare of animals in food production is a growing concern and could be an important component in helping to safeguard human health. An expansion of UBC research facilities in Agassiz, BC, will help insure that industry uses the most beneficial practices. The facilities will also house a program to protect global avian stocks against the rampages of new viruses.

The UBC Dairy Education and Research Centre was established in 1998 as a collaboration between UBC's faculty of Land and Food Systems and Agriculture and Agrifood Canada (AAFC). Its research activities have already attracted participants from more than 24 countries. The centre has recently been expanded to include the Western Calf Research Facility, Feed Intake Facility and Heifer Research Facility that together will advance knowledge and practice in animal welfare, nutrition, and reproduction.

Another new building, the AAFC's Avian Genetic Resources Building, will store genetic variations of birds like chicken and quail to protect stocks against new viruses (some genetic strains have better protection against bacteria and new viruses than others). It will also focus on poultry welfare and sustainable production, and aims to take the lead in advancing industrial practice.

As well as from the partners involved (UBC, Westgen and the AAFC), some of the funding for the new facilities was generated from UBC dairy herd milk revenues.

### Toil and Hubble

■ Many astronomers would love to get their hands on NASA's Hubble Telescope, and the organization receives thousands of requests for access to it. Only the soundest research proposals will elicit an invitation, and one of these was submitted by a UBC team led by Professor Harvey Richer.

The team was allowed access to Hubble for almost five days. The researchers used its telescopic

power to take hundreds of photographs of stars in globular star cluster NGC 6397. By comparing the high resolution images pixel by pixel, the team was able to identify the faintest stars in the cluster, the faintest stars ever seen in any globular star cluster.

"The light from these stars is so dim that it is equivalent to that produced by a birthday candle on the Moon, as seen from Earth," says Richer.

The team focused on two stellar phenomena within the cluster: red dwarfs and white dwarfs. The lowest mass red dwarfs are the least massive stars still able to burn hydrogen and support stable nuclear reactions. White dwarfs are examples of stars that once had bigger masses but burned out. The age of a white dwarf can be estimated by taking its temperature and this information in turn can be used to estimate the age of the globular star cluster where the white dwarf is situated. Cluster 6397 is the second closest cluster to earth and was formed early on in the history of the universe.

Further analysis of the white dwarfs within a cluster can also produce clues as to how many high mass stars used to exist there. "These stars, which died long ago, were among the first to have formed in the universe," says Richer. "Pinning down their age narrows down the age range of the universe."

### In Vino Smellitas

■ Chemistry researchers at UBC Okanagan are on the scent of wine contaminants – from unwanted yeasts to smoke from forest fires – and how they might affect the aroma of wine.

With more than 60 wineries and 98 per cent of BC's wine grape production (17,000 tonnes), the Okanagan Valley is an ideal place to study issues that impact wine production.

"The 2003 Okanagan Mountain Park fire provided ample opportunity for additional 'seasoning' of the grapes," says Nigel Eggers, associate professor of Chemistry with the Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences. "Forest fires are known to produce phenols and guaiacols from burning trees, and these chemicals can impart a smokey, burnt smell to nearby fruit."

Eggers and post-doctoral research fellow Sierra Rayne have synthesized versions of the compounds known to occur in smoke. They are using new instruments to help them understand the sources, distribution and levels of these compounds in local grapes and wines.

Eggers has received nearly \$200,000 in funding from the BC Wine Institute, the Investment

Agriculture Foundation of BC and the Western Diversification Program to conduct extensive field sampling at small, medium and large wineries and vineyards in the Okanagan.

A major part of their research is exploring the impact of *Brettanomyces* (Brett), an undesirable yeast that can produce aroma defects in wines. Brett often exists in wine barrels, but can also be present in raw grapes. Rayne notes that the yeast has become a bane to winemakers in many parts of the world.

Eggers and Rayne are also monitoring dissolved oxygen, temperature, humidity, sulfur dioxide (an anti-bacterial agent used during barrel aging and in the bottle) and other factors to find out why *Brettanomyces* grows in one barrel, but not in another right beside it.

The research will continue for two years and cover the 2005 and 2006 vintages, as well as the 2003 and 2004 vintages that have already spent years in a barrel.

"Together, the two projects are helping to establish a world-class wine chemistry research

centre at UBC Okanagan," says Eggers. "By working closely with industry and government, we are striving to maintain and improve the quality of our local wines." ■

*Take Note* is edited from material that appears in other publications, including UBC Reports. We thank those reporters and Public Affairs for allowing us to use their material.

### QLT Founders: Trek 16 Error

■ In the last issue of *Trek Magazine*, we made an error in a report that included reference to Quadra Logic Technologies (QLT) and the founders of that company. For the record, QLT was founded by Anthony Phillips, Jim Miller, John Brown and Ron MacKenzie. Both David Dolphin and Julia Levy joined the company some years later.

*Trek Magazine*, and the Alumni Association, regret any misunderstandings that may have resulted from our perpetuation of this false information.

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# The Right Place at the Right Time

Stephen J. Toope takes UBC's helm at a challenging time: the campus is booming, UBC Okanagan is up and running, the university's reputation is growing world-wide, and he's following one of the institution's most popular and productive presidents. Richard Littlemore looks at how Toope's style, intellect and personal philosophy will shape the next phase of UBC's growth.

STEPHEN J. TOOPE IS A SURPRISE. A pleasant, sort of gentle surprise, but a surprise nevertheless. He is taller than you'd expect (6-foot-3) and he's older than he looks. In fact, at the age of 48, his face is implausibly youthful, unlined by the years, seemingly unmarked by any of life's hard lessons.

If you read his resume, however, you can't help getting the impression of someone who is driven and perhaps a little impatient. He did his undergrad at Harvard on full scholarship and he was such a standout as a McGill law student that then-Supreme Court of Canada Chief Justice Brian Dickson picked him up as a clerk. He moved to Cambridge for his PHD and then returned to Montreal, where at the age of 34, he became the youngest dean of Law in McGill history. In 2002, he became the founding president of the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation and in June, 2006, he became the 12<sup>th</sup> president of the University of British Columbia.

Nicholas Kasirer, the current dean of Law at McGill, says that in addition to being a gifted administrator, Toope is a world-class legal scholar: "He could have been a chair holder at Harvard or Oxford."

James McPherson, a Justice on the Ontario Court of Appeal, says he is proud to call Stephen Toope a friend and describes him as "one of the best intellects I have ever seen, in any discipline."

Rosalie Abella, a Justice on the Supreme Court of Canada, says of his appointment: "UBC should be electrified."

It's all vaguely intimidating.

But Stephen Toope is not. He is cheerful and modest. He likes intractable problems and Sylvia Plath poems. Most critically – for all those

who are inclined to obsess on this issue – he likes UBC. "In my estimation," he wrote, in an essay to UBC's presidential selection committee, "there are only two universities in Canada strategically placed to make a real difference on the global stage: McGill and UBC." In addition to the implicit slap to that other Eastern Canadian pretender, Toope added this: "The UBC *advantage* (my emphasis) is that the university has worked so hard to craft a coherent vision and to begin the complex process of fulfilling that vision in concrete operations. UBC is also better positioned in terms of resources to make its vision a reality."

So, apparently, UBC is the right place and this the right time. And, just as apparently, Stephen J. Toope is the right man. It's not really a surprise, after all.

THAT STILL LEAVES A CENTRAL QUESTION: Where is this new leader going to take UBC? President Toope has been thinking about the answer.

"I have been reading a lot on university transitions," he says, adding that most people seem to agree that a new president must quickly and clearly articulate a vision. In other circumstances that might be a problem. "It's highly presumptuous (for a newcomer) to say, 'this is where the university should go.'" But UBC has made the task easy. The *Trek 2010* vision is more than just an adequate direction that the new president can use until he finds his bearings. It is one of the main reasons that he was interested in the presidency in the first place.

As a leading scholar in international law, as well as in the field of international human rights, Toope is delighted with UBC's emphasis on glo-





# The Right Place

bal citizenship. But he's equally enthused about the commitment to enhancing the student experience, and especially the undergraduate student experience. "To use the *Trek* language," he says, "that is a fundamental pillar," and one that will be particularly strengthened by the realities and potential of UBC Okanagan.

In terms of personal style, it's clear that Toope intends to maintain the high profile of his predecessor. Linking UBC to its immediate communities in Vancouver and in Kelowna is a high priority, as is extending the excellent work that past-President Martha Piper did in forging international relationships. As for the national scene, he is bilingual and already well-connected in Ottawa. In fact, he is committed to prodding his new west coast colleagues inside and outside of the university to demand more input into national decisions.

"Martha played a strong national role," Toope says of his predecessor, "but it's not clear that UBC as a whole has always played a leadership role" on the national stage. He'd like to see that change.

President Toope also promises to be a little more outspoken on social issues beyond those that affect the university community directly. "I think a university president has a moral responsibility to speak to the broader society around issues that emerge as important." Although he is "not a preacher or a politician," he adds, "There is a perception that Canadian university presidents are reluctant to play the public role outside the narrow parameters of the direct interests of the university, whereas south of the border, university presidents (people like Theodore Hesburgh of Notre Dame, Bart Giamatti of Yale and Hannah Gray at the University of Chicago) often play an important quasi-public role, asking hard questions about where society is headed."

This, in the new president's mind, is a personal responsibility more than a demand of the position itself. "I don't think it's my job to try to articulate a position that reflects the whole university community. If I speak, it will be in personal terms, informed by my colleagues at the university."

It also will honour the tradition laid down by UBC's first president Frank Wesbrook, who, Toope says, "was utterly committed to an image of the peoples' university."

That said, "I don't think that a university president is a heroic figure, charging off into an imagined future. Rather, you're the leader of a team who has to work hard to build up a collective sense of mission."

In the immediate future, that will mean working closely with UBC's vice-presidents to build a set of priorities that will give even more structure to the *Trek* goals. Toope is planning monthly retreats at which senior administrators will "focus on key transformational changes."

"We have to decide what we are going to do and we have to decide what we are *not* going to do. That's harder. It's more interesting, but it needs fortitude."

"The resources of the university are, inevitably, limited, whether you're talking about people, ideas, capacity, political support, money or infrastructure," he says. "And there are always "a million good things to do. But if there are a million priorities, there are no priorities."

If all goes according to plan, one aspect of this goal-setting process will be an improvement in funding to the arts and social sciences.

"The historical pattern in public investment has leaned toward research in science and medicine," he says. "I am totally supportive of that public investment, but it should be at least mirrored, if not matched, in research reflecting on the challenges of the social world and the apparatus of our cultural life. We must be investing in the whole range of places where the university is needed, not just in science and technology."

He hurries to add that this should not be seen as a threat to any of UBC's established areas of excellence. "I have no intention of cutting down the tall tulips to create a false sense of equity. We must find, uphold and support excellence wherever it arises. But in some places, we will not be excellent and we must recognize that."

THIS WILLINGNESS to stride boldly into the most challenging areas is another, perhaps foundational part of the Stephen Toope surprise. For example, in his essay to the UBC selection committee, he writes, "As the fact finder for the (Maher) Arar Commission, I knew that the task was fraught with potential pitfalls. It was politically charged and I feared that I might get pulled into exceedingly bitter

disputes. But I also knew that the Commission was important for the country; we needed to assess carefully how to balance our need for security and our fundamental commitment to civil liberties."

Merely reading his ultimate report ([www.ararcommission.ca/eng/ToopeReport\\_final.pdf#search=%22toope%20arar%20commission%22](http://www.ararcommission.ca/eng/ToopeReport_final.pdf#search=%22toope%20arar%20commission%22)) could easily leave worry lines on a less resilient face. And as chair of the UN Human Rights Commission's Working Group on Disappearances, Toope has heard much worse, stories of torture and abuse, "terrible circumstances that were profoundly damaging. You certainly could come away with a horribly negative view of people."

But, if you are Stephen Toope, you also come away marvelling at "the extraordinary resilience of the human spirit. I have talked to people who have been through horrors that most people in Canadian society could not even imagine, but who still have hope for the future. I can't – given the great privilege I have had – entertain anything other than hope."

Those would be inspiring words even from someone who had never suffered a personal loss; someone who had never had to rise above a great tragedy and believe, again, in the goodness of humankind. Someone other than Stephen Toope.

On the morning of Dec. 8, 1995, the young dean of Montreal's premiere law school woke up to the news that the previous evening, a 13-year-old, a 14-year-old and a 15-year-old had broken into the home of his parents and, using a beer bottle and a baseball bat, had clubbed them to death in their bed. Frank Toope, a retired Anglican priest, was 75; his wife Jocelyn, 70.

"It was an expression of evil ... of sheer malice," Stephen Toope says. "But that malice is not able to destroy what my parents represented, to the community and to me." Besides, "if you give in to despair, you can't accomplish anything."

Except – and here comes another of the Toope surprises – except in the category of art. "It's the ultimate conundrum: that out of despair and degradation can come great art." For example, one of his favourite books is *Under the Volcano*, by Malcolm Lowry, "a total descent into alcoholism and failure, and a brilliant piece of writing. It's what inspires me the most, when I read or see something that was born out of hopelessness or despair, but which, in its creation, was transformative."

A FINAL, oblique but probably relevant change in UBC's presidential circumstance will be the addition, in Norman MacKenzie House, of children. Stephen Toope and his wife, Paula Rosen, have three: Hannah, 14, Alexander, 11, and Rachel, 9. Rosen, a speech therapist by training, but a musician by avocation plans to spend as much of her time as possible writing music, expanding her current repertoire of songs and children's musicals.

And in a house where Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton helped end the Cold War, where Nobel laureates in everything from chemistry to peace have broken bread, the Toope children will apply themselves to their separate pursuits. There will be singing (Hannah and Alexander) and dancing (Rachel); there will be cello rehearsals (Hannah again) and there will be trips to soccer practices and matches wherever Alexander's new coach directs.

But as President Toope tells it, the whole mob will still make time for what they seem to take as their principal responsibility: keeping Dad's ego in check. "Kids are such a leveling force. They laugh at me; they make fun of me. They can immediately puncture holes in any notion of pomposity that you might have."

And, as he knows from the past, they are also there – always there – when he needs a little extra support.

A LAST ANECDOTE, again from Toope's letter to the UBC presidential selection committee. He describes having been invited, by the Canadian ambassador to Cuba, to speak at the University of Havana. "What a delicate balancing act! I had to talk about human freedom and challenge the Cuban regime in front of students, professors, government ministers and communist party minders. I had to do so respectfully, acknowledging the achievements of the Cuban revolution but never descending to apology."

At the end of the afternoon, after the speech, after answering a series of "real questions with real bite," a young woman approached and said, "Thank you. You just might make a difference in our lives."

In Cuba, that's entirely possible. At UBC, you can count on it. ■

*Richard Littlemore is a freelance writer living on Vancouver Island.*

**Doug Owram** has been named Deputy Vice Chancellor at UBC Okanagan – UBC's newest campus – and began his duties in July, 2006.

Owram, born in Aurora, Ontario, received his bachelor's and master's degree from Queen's, and a PHD from the University of Toronto, all in history. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and has received many awards and honours for his scholarly work during his career as an educator. He is also the author of several books, including *Born at the Right Time: A History of the Baby Boom Generation*. He comes to UBC Okanagan from the University of Alberta, where he served as Vice President Academic and Provost.

In an interview published shortly after his appointment, he said, "The vision set out for UBC Okanagan is too important to resist. It combines community and excellence and I very much wanted to do what I could to assist in building the institution during a crucial phase. I was also drawn to UBC Okanagan in part by the fact that, although it builds on strong foundations, it is in many ways a brand new venture with incredible potential."

As UBC Vancouver and UBC Okanagan go forward – one great university, two great campuses – the relationship between the two campuses will evolve. The relationship is mutually beneficial, says Owram. "Because of our smaller campus, we are a great place to test innovations and new approaches that can then be implemented system-wide." Both campuses are watching the experiment with interest, he says, and as long as both recognize the strengths of the other, the partnership will create a more dynamic university.

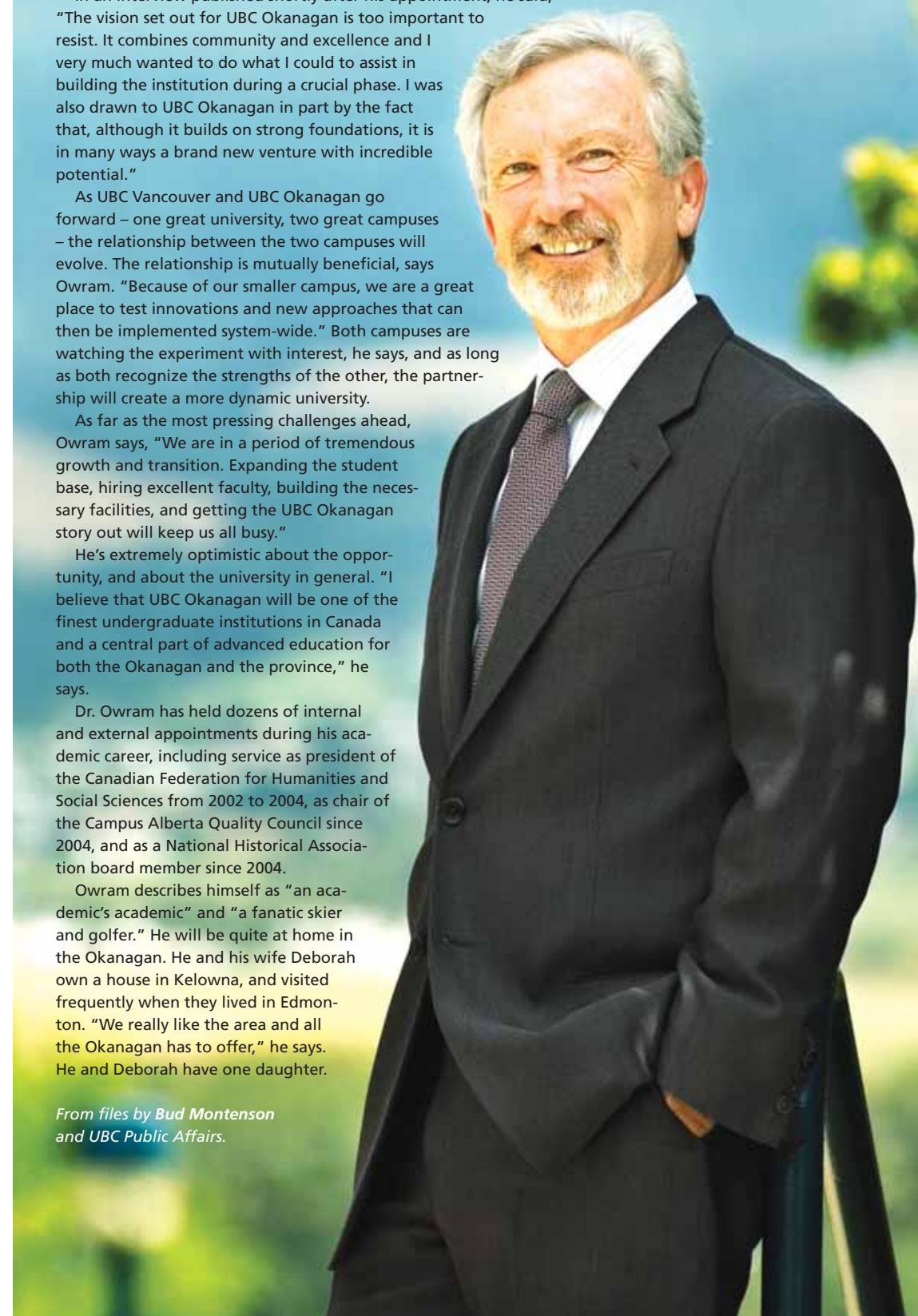
As far as the most pressing challenges ahead, Owram says, "We are in a period of tremendous growth and transition. Expanding the student base, hiring excellent faculty, building the necessary facilities, and getting the UBC Okanagan story out will keep us all busy."

He's extremely optimistic about the opportunity, and about the university in general. "I believe that UBC Okanagan will be one of the finest undergraduate institutions in Canada and a central part of advanced education for both the Okanagan and the province," he says.

Dr. Owram has held dozens of internal and external appointments during his academic career, including service as president of the Canadian Federation for Humanities and Social Sciences from 2002 to 2004, as chair of the Campus Alberta Quality Council since 2004, and as a National Historical Association board member since 2004.

Owram describes himself as "an academic's academic" and "a fanatic skier and golfer." He will be quite at home in the Okanagan. He and his wife Deborah own a house in Kelowna, and visited frequently when they lived in Edmonton. "We really like the area and all the Okanagan has to offer," he says. He and Deborah have one daughter.

*From files by Bud Montenson  
and UBC Public Affairs.*





# Life after God

A Douglas Coupland short story comes to life on a UBC stage  
by John Vigna

SCOUT LIES NAKED in a warm pool holding hands in a circle with six of his closest friends. They are “pretending to be embryos” in a “life lived in paradise,” one without religion, love or politics. This poignant scene opens Douglas Coupland’s short story “1000 Years” in *Life After God* and in that rare moment of intimacy and closeness, a startling question is posed that seems to have emerged naturally from Coupland’s previous two books, *Generation X* and *Shampoo Planet*: Can we find meaning or connection in the madness of the modern world and in the absence of belief?

This conundrum will be taken off the page and brought to life on stage in the theatrical world premiere of *Life After God*, which opened November 1st at UBC’s Telus Studio Theatre. Adapted by award-winning playwright, Michael Lewis MacLennan, *Life After God* is a joint production between UBC’s Theatre Department and Vancouver’s Touchstone Theatre, bringing together a collaborative wellspring of professional and student talent unprecedented in a university co-production.

*Life After God* offers a lively and penetrating look at a generation raised without religious belief. Centering on eccentric and sensitive Scout, the play tells the story of six friends who went to high school together and how their lives unravel fifteen years later. Facing the challenges and disillusionments of adulthood, the friends grapple with new-found emptiness in a culture stuck in fast-forward. At turns funny and moving, *Life after God* is a freewheeling, theatrically spectacular examination of our quest for transcendence. It also offers a vivid tour of the city of seismic shifts – Vancouver – and the adaptation takes some of its inspiration from another Coupland book on that subject, *City of Glass*.

“I’m a big fan of Douglas Coupland and I

was really moved when I first read *Life After God*,” Katrina Dunn, Artistic Director of Touchstone Theatre, says. “When Dr. Robert Gardiner, head of Theatre, Film and Creative Writing, approached me to develop a Touchstone play in conjunction with UBC, I jumped at it because I had been thinking of doing a large scale project that addressed Vancouver’s culture for a long time.”

Dunn immediately sought out Michael Lewis MacLennan with whom she had previously collaborated and the two of them began their association with UBC by co-teaching and developing a new course in the Theatre department called, “New Modes in Play Creation.” While Michael and Katrina worked on the script, the students had the opportunity of contributing to a play in progress by writing and workshopping monologues for it, and they gained hands-on experience in various aspects of play production.

“I was really excited that UBC was a co-producer of the play because it provided us with more financial support and gave us more time to rehearse and workshop,” MacLennan says on the phone from Los Angeles, where he has recently closed two development deals.

“It also gave us the opportunity to work with Robert Gardiner, as well as offering the support of a longer first run than would normally be given.”

MacLennan has written more than 10 plays that have been produced across Canada since 1998, two of which, *Last Romantics* and *The Shooting Stage*, were Governor General Award finalists. Like Dunn, he’s a great admirer of Coupland, having read all of his books as they were published. “There’s no question that Douglas Coupland is one of Canada’s most important voices.” But adapting *Life After God* for the stage required thinking about the story in

new ways while maintaining its emotional truth, particularly since other than informal discussions, Coupland was not involved in the collaboration.

“I had to look for ways to illuminate Doug’s themes,” MacLennan says. “I wanted to be faithful to the story, discovering what the movements of the characters were. But I also didn’t want to be too faithful to the original text, so I looked for dramatic moments, ones in which I could keep the heart of the story.”

One of the key challenges, Dunn says, was the idea of making Vancouver a character in the play – that is, creating a physical setting that informs the story as much as the human characters that inhabit it. Drawing inspiration from Coupland’s book, *City of Glass*, she and MacLennan worked together to create a dialogue within the play around what it means for Vancouverites to have a sense of cultural legacy. “Vancouverites need to stop referencing themselves out of Vancouver,” she says. “Vancouver is a hip city and the world is very interested in it. It’s my hope that we can export this and have the play tour.”

One of the changes MacLennan and Dunn made to the original story was to include a number of monologues that celebrated the city and revealed its character. There were specific Vancouver locations integral to the story, yet difficult to construct on stage. Consequently, MacLennan and Dunn had their students write monologues that tried to capture the character of a Vancouver neighbourhood. The monologues were workshopped and the five strongest, most representative were chosen for incorporation into the stage play.

Laurann Brown, BA’06, was one of the lucky students whose monologue was selected. She first encountered Coupland’s story *Life After God* ten years ago. “I thought it was the most depressing thing I had ever read,” she laughs. “I couldn’t

## LIFE AFTER GOD

grasp what was going on. But when I re-read it for the course, I got it. I could connect with the crisis of going into your thirties, how your relationships change along with your view of yourself."

Brown had only been in Vancouver for four months when she got the assignment to write the monologue. She lived in a house near UBC overlooking the city, so she chose the view from there. "I identified with Julie's sense of loneliness and wrote from that emotional place," she says referring to one of the characters in *Life After God*. "Michael served as a mentor and encouraged me to get into the details, challenged us all to get into the emotional truth of the characters."

Brown was originally interested in taking the "New Modes in Play Creation" course for the real-world opportunity of working side-by-side with professional theatre people like MacLennan and Dunn. Now that the course is over, she's graduated with a writing credit, been named assistant director for the play and has established a pocket full of theatre contacts from working with professional actors, stage managers,



**"I thought it was the most depressing thing I had ever read,"** But when I re-read it for the course, I got it. I could connect with the crisis of going into your thirties, how your relationships change along with your view of yourself."

playwrights and directors. "Being at UBC gave me a strong sense of what to expect later when I graduated," says Brown, who is currently directing a play in the Fringe Festival called *Supermarket Scuffle*. "Everyone in this business knows it's not what you know but who you know in order to get work."

Conversely, teaching people like Laurann Brown energizes MacLennan. "Teaching is one of the most gratifying things we can do as writers," he says. "When you have to verbalize what you know, it's like learning it all over again, more deeply."

Whether teaching or writing, the task of adapting Coupland's work remained daunting. Both Dunn and MacLennan were unsure of how the play would unfold until they sent the script to Coupland to read and invited him to attend a workshop. "It was nerve-wracking to have him in the audience," Dunn says. "I had to force myself not to look at him to see how he was reacting."

And how did Douglas Coupland react? "Ad-

aptation is a strange thing, and this is the first anything somebody's adapted fully," Douglas Coupland says. "When I went to see the read through, I tried to manage my expectations to a very low level. I think I went into the theatre simply wanting the piece not to suck. And then it started and it was shocking. Michael kept the most important bits, invented all the new stuff in just the right way and made some of the most genius connective ideas that I never would of imagined. I came out of there feeling like I'd just heard the material for the first time."

Dunn and MacLennan were not only relieved but also thrilled and invigorated. "Psychologically, this was a huge boost for us," Dunn says.

Coupland, whose most recent novel, *JPod* is long-listed for the Giller Prize and whose first film project, "Everything's Gone Green," has been released, added his appreciation for the tricky art of adaptation: "It's strange, but when I heard the play's words, yes, of course I hear what they mean and what they're saying but also, more powerfully and more unexpectedly,

hearing each phrase made me remember more than anything exactly what I was feeling and going through the day I wrote those words. That's something precious for me, too, and I think that in the wrong hands, that sense of personal time travelogue could have been damaging for me, and possibly frightening."

MacLennan is proud that every idea in the book is still intact in the play. "The ideas in this play are things we are really questioning. The idea that we grew up in a generation that lacked for nothing and the result is that we didn't develop the spiritual muscle we needed," he says. "By attending the play, it's like hearing our own inner thoughts. We hear that we have an okay life, focusing on some relatively silly aspect of it. But we begin to realize that we didn't get a grounding in it that enriched or developed our interior lives." He pauses and the sound of busy morning rush hour traffic in LA fills the line. "Or finding a way to connect with one another."

*John Vigna is a Vancouver writer.*

How do we make ethical decisions in a world where “right” is a relative judgment? A new project at UBC’s Centre for Applied Ethics wrestles with such issues, and wants to know what you think.

## What's Good, What's Bad, and Who Decides



By David Secko

GENOME SCIENCE – the study of genes and their functions – provides a rich environment for the W. Maurice Young Centre for Applied Ethics. One of its current projects is GE3LS ARCH, which combines studies in Genomics, Ethics, Environment, Economics, Law, and Society. The acronym is a mouthful (users pronounce it “gels”), but it reflects an emerging multidisciplinary approach to genome science that studies the ethical challenges raised by humankind’s ability to quantify, and modify, the genetic makeup of living things.

Determining the ethical underpinnings of these issues is not as simple as it might seem. Biobanks, for instance – large repositories of genetic information – raise concerns about privacy, ownership and consent, while research to decode the salmon genome raises concerns about the food we eat, the food they eat and the environment we all share. Work being done in the forests and with worms raise issues of intellectual property rights while the growing use of genetically modified animals in biomedical research has opened the door to new challenges in animal welfare. And this is only the beginning.

Neither abstract reasoning nor empirical research make a universally convincing argument that it’s ethical (or unethical) to build a nationally-funded biobank, to declare private ownership of the genome of a genetically modified mouse, or to decode the genetic makeup of an organism as culturally iconic as a sockeye salmon. But to the growing number of faculty and students involved in the GE3LS ARCH, convincing the public or researchers to behave in certain ways is not their intent: understanding ethical decision making is what interests them.

## WHO DECIDES

MARSHALL NIRENBERG first cracked the genetic code in 1961. He may have thought of many things at that eureka moment: its implications for future research, the promise of biotechnology, or maybe he was just plain giddy. It is a safe bet that he did *not* think about how his work would change the careers of so many ethicists, social scientists and philosophers.

Significant parts of all three fields are now caught up in studying the social effects of biotech and UBC's Centre for Applied Ethics is in the forefront of this research, using a diverse team of researchers and a collection of old and new tools to understand more clearly the social norms that Canadians use to make judgements about genome research and its applications.

the civil rights movement, Vietnam, abortion and developments in medical technology created dilemmas not easily solved by applying moral absolutes. Should we keep loved ones alive artificially? Who has the right to make life or death decisions about foetuses? Is it ever all right to invade another country unprovoked? Can civil rights be denied some members of society and not others? Philosophers and ethicists, always part of the debates, were moved to enter the public arena.

Many moral theories attempt to define what makes a "good" decision – one that underpins morality with virtues, duties or the consequences of actions – but since these theories often contradict each other and are open to interpretation, using just one opens any judgement or decision to criticism or derision. While the Enlightenment introduced the now widely contested idea that reason could solve all ethical issues, for many,

**The survey** asks respondents to make decisions about issues that include funding genetic tests, denying marriage licenses to carriers and allowing abortions for children conceived by two carriers. Respondents make decisions based on immediate conditions, not on abstract beliefs.

This fits well with the Centre's purpose. Created in 1993 as an independent unit in the faculty of Graduate Studies, the Centre works to advance research in applied ethics in "science and technology ethics and policy, organizational ethics, animal welfare and the environment, and research ethics."

This is normally played out in large projects, including the multi-year *Ethics of Health Research and Policy Training Program* and the recently awarded *Centring the Human Subject in Health Research: Understanding the Meaning and Experience of Research Participation*. The three year, \$1.9 million Canada- and Genome BC-funded *Building a GE3LS Architecture*—the GE3LS ARCH—brings together four faculty with backgrounds in health, philosophy, intellectual property rights, the philosophy of science, computing science, and animal welfare.

APPLIED ETHICS – the study of the use of ethical knowledge – mixes theories of ethics with scholarly work in the social sciences and humanities to inform decisions about complex human problems. The movement from formal to applied ethics largely began in the 1960s, when

differences of opinion over right and wrong appear to be a reflection of social circumstances rather than firm moral truth. As Rick Salutin put it in a recent *Globe and Mail* column entitled *Ethics Shmethics*. "By its nature, ethics belongs to each person. All claims to expertise diminish that broad application."

"Applied ethics does not simply apply individual ethical theories to real life problems and produce an answer," says Michael Burgess, co-principle investigator in the GE3LS ARCH and UBC's chair in Biomedical Ethics. Instead, applied ethics takes a range of approaches to problems and applies these sometimes-diverse theories to give a more comprehensive account of what is a better or a worse decision given a particular situation. With no one theory accepted as always true, being practical, clear and rigorous is the next best thing. "We need an approach to applied ethics that lies between the notion that all moral convention is arbitrary and the notion that there exists an absolute moral truth," says Burgess.

Cultural beliefs, as well as society's laws and policy, reflect our presumption that some things are right or wrong, good or bad. If ethics is sim-

ply the search for ways to justify these beliefs, then the determination of right and wrong depends, to some extent, on the cultural, political and social context in which the determinations are made.

It doesn't follow from this that there is a set of principles, or an absolute moral truth, that all people will accept as the basis for ethics. That hasn't stopped people from trying, or from arguing that they have found a moral truth to guide our decisions. Many philosophers spend their lives searching for a universal expression of right and wrong to help provide clear responses to difficult problems.

GE3LS ARCH researcher Holly Longstaff – a Centre-based PhD candidate funded through the *Ethics of Health Research and Policy Training Program* – says that in spite of the fact that ethical principles are likely both real *and* subjective, in today's world, ethical principles alone can be inadequate for dealing with some moral questions.

And biotech provides some prime examples. Reasonable people often come to opposite conclusions about whether we should genetically modify our food. While some people foresee a great benefit (e.g., feeding growing populations) others see unacceptable risks to our health and environment. The disagreement, heated by inconclusive research on possible future effects, makes it difficult to know the role ethics should play in setting policy on how or whether the applications of biotechnology should be regulated.

Burgess recognizes the conundrum but argues that ethics, especially applied ethics, has an important role to play in such decisions. "We live in a world where judgements about rights and responsibilities must be made in [the context of the times]. Old style authoritative ethics would have us collaborate with scientists to assess what genome research activities or applications are permissible or wrong," but Burgess and the other team members have no interest in being ethics police.

With no absolute moral theory to draw on, Burgess, his co-principle investigator and Centre director, Peter Danielson, and GE3LS ARCH co-applicants and Centre faculty Dan Weary (NSERC Industrial Research Chair in Animal Welfare), and Ed Levy (Adjunct Professor in Ethics and Science) are building something new in their applied ethics teams. Organized to assess alternative ways that expert and public perspectives can come together to inform policy

## And I, mute among racks of English poets

BY HEATHER DUFF, MFA'86

And I, mute among racks of English poets  
an infant's hollow rage through five floors of books  
enters my womb like a poisoned dart  
screams hell to all bound knowledge

*this reminds me of my sister, pregnant again . . .*

I speak to my soul, *be still*  
some crude self-hypnosis  
empathetic nausea causes titles to blur;  
there is no more sanctity in poetry  
than in a twice pregnant sister  
I lean on cold metal that freezes my temples  
between "Suzanne takes you down"  
and "The Hollow Men"

*we are the hollow women*  
*we are the stuffed women*  
*bra cups full of straw*

we scribble cryptic verse in our imaginations  
no hand free to hold a pen

both hands, in tepid dishwater, pots on to boil  
barrels full of baby wipes soaking in brine

poems that might have shaped themselves  
like slack clothesline in a backyard

we birth metaphor sans shape  
narrow volume without title  
lucid poem without language

*uterus full of mown hay*  
*our hollow bodies, mangers for messianic hope*  
*among crucifixions scheduled for dawn*

we feed cattle, errant sheep, and all the children  
hunger – the only literature, crying

*Heather Duff, MFA'86, is artistic director of the Vancouver Youth Theatre*

## WHO DECIDES

choices, these teams draw faculty and students from Science and Arts departments into related and linked projects. (This is not only appropriate for the Centre's interdisciplinary focus, but is also mandated by the very nature of research that can encompass Genomics, Ethics, Environment, Economics, Law, and Society.)

"We're interested in designing approaches to ethics that help with important, real world problems," says Burgess. "Many decisions are still ethical decisions, but the authority for them must now come from [a wider representation of the population.] Most challenging ethical issues are not resolvable with a single clear principled answer. An alternative is to develop democratic approaches to assessing the kind of society we want and the role of biotechnology in that society."

An example of how the GE3LS ARCH is seeking such public input is a technique (and a research group) called Norm Evolution in

Response to Dilemmas (NERD). Developed by Danielson and his team (philosophy, computer modelling, environmental studies, journalism, medicine, risk communication, anthropology, applied ethics), NERD uses online surveys to find out how a person's preferences and beliefs change in response to dilemmas presented in imaginary social scenarios. The first survey (still available at [www.yourviews.ubc.ca](http://www.yourviews.ubc.ca)) was based on the social, governmental and medical response to issues around beta thalassemia, a genetic blood disorder passed on to the children of parents who both have the gene for the disease. The survey takes respondents through a series of steps in the evolution of a societal response to the issue of beta thalassemia, and asks them to decide issues that include funding genetic tests, denying marriage licenses to carriers, and allowing abortions for children conceived by two carriers.

By design, the survey provides information on varying perspectives on the issues. Respondents can access the comments of a physician, a bureaucrat, "yes" and "no" activists, even an ethicist to help clarify the complex issues.

In that way, respondents' decisions are based on immediate conditions, not abstract beliefs.

Danielson argues that understanding how people's preferences change while being led through this and other surveys helps reveal how they make ethical decisions in the real world. "While ethical decision making has a strong subjective element, there are also strong objective features," says Danielson. In fact, "Canadian social norms can be quite objective."

In the Quest case, for example (before the courts in BC at this writing), about teachers being involved sexually with students, everyone agrees that abuse by teachers is a bad thing. But other aspects of the case, such as applying current laws to past incidents, are being debated. Hence, a core set of Canadian beliefs can co-exist with contested and changing ones.

NERD provides an empirical technique to understand better how Canadian beliefs evolve. "NERD brings more quantitative social science to ethics than do most working applied ethicists," says Danielson, who is about to launch a newer and more dynamic version, NERD v.2. However, it is not the only tool used by GE3LS ARCH teams. Burgess's Face-to-Face group and Weary and Levy's teams use focus groups, personal interviews and various democratic forums to draw in even more perspectives. Burgess has used previous experience working with both multi-disciplinary and public groups, as well as under-represented groups to move his research toward studies in democracy and science, technology and society. Weary is gearing up to survey animal use in biotech. Levy and his team are already six months and many interviews into collaborative work researching alternative intellectual property regimes.

Pronouncements about what is absolutely good or absolutely bad aren't likely to go away, nor are arguments passionately stated from both sides likely to decrease in volume. But it's becoming increasingly clear that the decisions we make as a society about the use of genetic information must reflect the cultural and social context of our times, and include extensive input from all of us.

Longstaff agrees. "When I say I'm in ethics, most people jump on me for telling everyone what is right and wrong. But applied ethics is really just a lens for getting people to talk about the world we want to live in."

*David Secko, PHD'04, MJ'06 is a Vancouver science writer and a post doctoral fellow at the Centre for Applied Ethics.*

### FACULTY OF ARTS UBC KILLAM TEACHING PRIZES

Once again the University is recognizing excellence in teaching through the awarding of prizes to faculty members. Up to six (6) prize winners will be selected in the Faculty of Arts for 2007.

**Eligibility:** Eligibility is open to faculty who have three or more years of teaching at UBC. The three years include 2006 - 2007.

**Criteria:** The awards will recognize distinguished teaching at all levels; introductory, advanced, graduate courses, graduate supervision, and any combination of levels.

**Nomination Process:** Members of faculty, students, or alumni may suggest candidates to the Head of the Department, the Director of the School, or Chair of the Program in which the nominee teaches. These suggestions should be in writing and signed by one or more students, alumni or faculty, and they should include a very brief statement of the basis for the nomination. You may write a letter of nomination or pick up a form from the **Office of the Dean, Faculty of Arts in Buchanan B130**.

**Deadline:** 4:00 p.m. on January 15, 2007. Submit nominations to the Department, School or Program Office in which the nominee teaches.

Winners will be announced in the Spring, and they will be identified during Spring convocation in May.

For further information about these awards contact either your Department, School or Program office, or Dr. J. Evan Kreider, Associate Dean of Arts at (604) 822-6703.



**Without Borders:** UBC's 2005 | 06 Annual Report  
[www.ubc.ca/annualreport](http://www.ubc.ca/annualreport)

# arts

## The Vancouver Institute

Vancouver Institute lectures are free of charge and take place in Lecture Hall No. 2 at Woodward Instructional Resources, UBC. Visit the website: [www.psg.com/~ted/vaninst/](http://www.psg.com/~ted/vaninst/) for info.

### Professor Robert Silverman Lecture

Why I Play Mozart On a Real Piano: In Celebration of Mozart's 250th Anniversary  
November 4, 8:15 pm

Professor Silverman has performed internationally with virtually every major orchestra in Canada. His work has garnered many awards. He served as director of UBC's School of Music in the 1990s, and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters in 2004.

### Professor Neil Boyd Lecture

Controlling Legal and Illegal Drugs: Challenges for the 21st Century  
November 18, 8:15 pm

Professor Boyd is based at SFU and is the author of two textbooks and five books, including *High Society: Legal and Illegal Drugs in Canada*. He is a frequent media commentator on crime, especially the origins and consequences of violent crime, the problems of drug control and drug control policy, and workplace violence.

### Professor Rognvaldur Hannesson Lecture

The World's Fisheries: A Source of Trouble or a Source of Wealth?  
November 25, 8:15 pm

Professor Hannesson is one of the world's leading experts in the economics of both fisheries and energy production and utilization. He has contributed to global discussion of preserving natural fish stocks, and is a recognized authority on attempts in Norway to manage the endangered cod fishery and to control the growth of Norway's salmon aquaculture industry. He is the author of several scholarly books including: *The Privatization of the Oceans, Investing for Sustainability*, and *Fisheries Mismanagement: The Case of the Atlantic Cod*.



< **Big Love**, by Charles Mee at TELUS Studio Theatre, January 24 – February 3, 2007

## Workshops and Presentations

### Transforming Trauma

Thursday, November 9, 5:00-6:15 pm, UBC Robson Square Plaza Level

Traumatic events are the stuff of life. Our first instinct may be to block them out, but they hold transformative power. Marcia Jacobs, MSW, has been a psychotherapist for more than 30 years with a specialization in trauma repair. Eva Knell, MD (CCFP, FCFP) is a Clinical Professor in the UBC department of Family Practice.

### Journey of Loss

Thursday, November 16, 5-6:15 pm, UBC Robson Square Plaza Level

Grieving inevitably takes us on a spiral path, not unlike walking a labyrinth. What experiences and challenges might we expect to encounter on this winding journey from pain and despair towards reconciliation and healing? Carolyn Main, BEd, CC, is a former teacher, an experienced grief counsellor and an instructor in the Widowed Journey program.

### Spiritual Questions in a Secular Age

Thursday, November 23, 5-6:15 pm, UBC Robson Square Plaza Level

Why are issues of spirituality emerging with greater frequency in our public and private lives? Explore some of themes and dilemmas of contemporary spirituality.

Catherine Jennings, MA (Theology) specializes in Spiritual Direction. She has a background in Buddhist, Christian and secular spirituality.

### Family Issues Over the Holidays

Thursday, November 30, 5-6:15 pm, UBC Robson Square Plaza Level

Home for the holidays can be a tricky proposition. How can we prepare for the inevitable clashes of attitudes and behaviours that often intensify over the holiday season? Clarissa Green, MSN, RN, is a family therapist and a retired UBC associate professor of Nursing with a lifelong commitment to promoting meaningful communication within families.

## National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

Wednesday December 6, 7 pm, UBC Robson Square Bookstore

We are proud to offer an event for the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. Authors Pauline Holdstock and Charlotte Gill remind us that from the abuses of the past we move forward to a better future.

## Arts Wednesdays at Robson Square

### Anxiety and Fear: The Range from Adaptive to Disabling

November 8, 6:10 pm

With Sheila Woody, UBC Psychology

### Be Yourself Again: How Drug Companies Persuade us to Want Drugs

November 15, 6:10 pm

With Judy Segal, UBC English

### The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Museum

November 22, 6:10 pm

With Anthony Shelton, director of UBC's Museum of Anthropology

## Theatre at UBC

### Life After God

by Michael Lewis MacLennan. Directed by Katrina Dunn. TELUS Studio Theatre, November 1-11

Adapted from the short story by Douglas Coupland and from his book *City of Glass, Life After God*. See feature in this issue of *Trek Magazine* or visit [www.lifeaftergod.ca](http://www.lifeaftergod.ca)

### Big Love

By Charles Mee Directed by Joanna Garfinkel TELUS Studio Theatre, January 24 - February 3, 2007

What do you get when 50 brides are about to be forced into marriage with 50 cousins? A wildly exuberant theatrical take on the timeless war between the sexes! "Fasten your seat belts" for Obie Award winning playwright Charles Mee's *Big Love*—an explosive, uproarious re-imagining of the oldest surviving Greek drama, Aeschylus' *The Suppliant Women*.



Juan de Marcos and the Afro-Cuban All Stars, November 12 at the Chan Centre

## The Chan Centre

Tickets are available at the Chan Centre Ticket Office in person (Monday-Saturday noon – 5pm and show days from noon – intermission), or through Ticketmaster ([www.ticketmaster.ca](http://www.ticketmaster.ca) or 604-280-3311). For more information on upcoming events, please call 604-822-2697 or see [www.chancentre.com](http://www.chancentre.com)

### Bronfman / Shaham / Mørk

Sunday October 29, 3 pm

Three of classical music's most dynamic performers make their Vancouver debut as a trio. Pianist Yefim Bronfman, cellist Truls Mørk, and violinist Gil Shaham.

### Juan de Marcos and the Afro-Cuban All Stars

Sunday November 12, 8 pm

Some of Cuba's finest musicians will capture the exuberant spirit of Cuban music with a potent combination of musical virtuosity, driving percussion, a powerhouse horn section and incomparable vocals. Led by Juan de Marcos González, the visionary behind the Buena Vista Social Club.

### Margaret MacMillan

Monday November 13, 7:30 pm

Margaret MacMillan, a recent recipient of the Order of Canada and one of Canada's greatest historians, is a highly respected professor, author and speaker. Her bestselling book, *Paris 1919: Six Months That Changed the World*, was a

landmark work of narrative history that made her a household name in Canada and abroad and won major international awards.

### Robert Silverman, piano

Sunday November 26, 3 pm

### The Bach Cantata Project: Festive Bach Cantatas for Christmas

Tuesday December 19, 8 pm

Some of the finest early music vocal soloists and musicians from across Canada will join together under the direction of Marc Desrûbé for this magical holiday tradition, featuring a selection of Bach's best-loved cantatas.

### Vancouver Symphony Orchestra: Bach & Beyond Series

Friday December 22/23, 8 pm

Vivaldi's Four Seasons led by Vancouver's Corey Cerovsek (violin). The concert also features Bach's Violin Concerto No. 1 and Mozart's Eine Kleine Nachtmusik.

## Museum of Anthropology

The Museum of Anthropology has extensive and diverse permanent collections as well as temporary exhibits. Please contact the Museum or visit the website for more information on current and ongoing displays: [www.moa.ubc.ca](http://www.moa.ubc.ca) / 604-822-5087 / [info@moa.ubc.ca](mailto:info@moa.ubc.ca)

# books

## ■ Looking Good

*Keith Maillard*

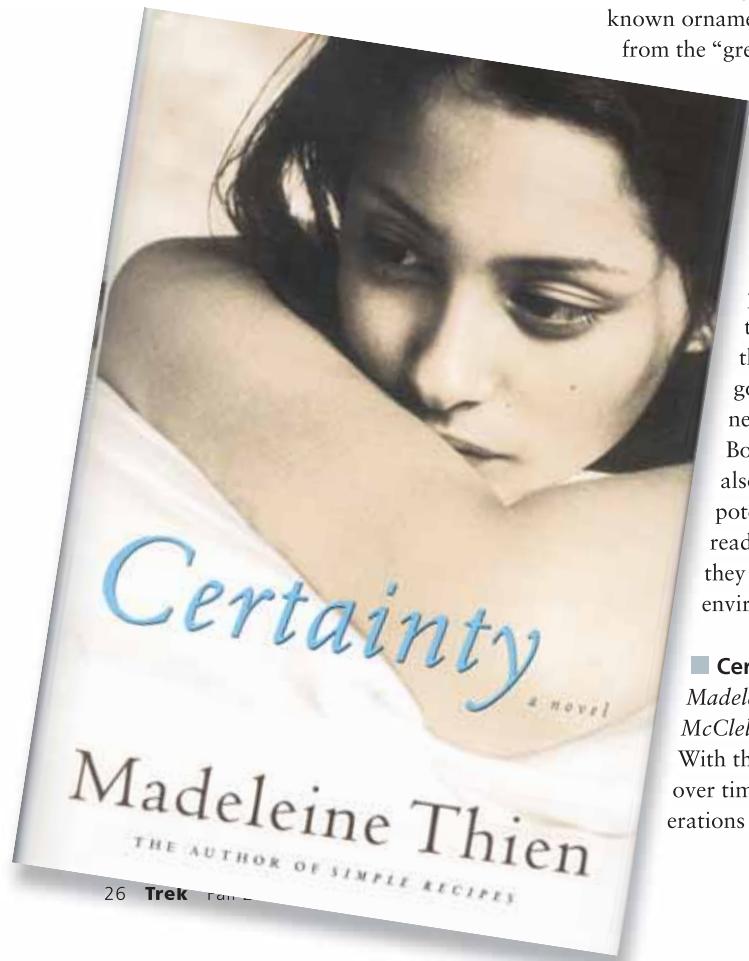
*Brindle & Glass, \$22.95*

The Summer of Love is already a distant memory; the psychedelic underground has turned in on itself. John Dupre has deserted life as a student in Toronto, drawn back to the US by the need to "make a difference" in the Revolution. He's living in Boston, under an assumed name because he's on the FBI's wanted list for draft evasion.

His best friend is Tom Parker, an ex-GI turned righteous drug dealer. When John, Tom, and the militant feminist Pam Zalman seize control of an underground newspaper and are put on the Weatherman hit list, there's really no place to hide; they're wanted on all sides.

A meticulously reconstructed social history of the 1960's counterculture and an examination of gender identity, *Looking Good* is the climax to the four-volume novel *Difficulty at the Beginning*.

Maillard is the author of nine novels and one book of poetry. Born and raised in Wheeling, West Virginia, Maillard now lives in West Vancouver and teaches creative writing at UBC.



## HOMEFRONT & BATTLEFRONT

Nelson BC in World War II

*Sylvia Crooks*



## ■ The Jade Garden: New and Notable Plants from Asia

*Peter Wharton, BCOM'74, Brent Hine and Douglas Justice, BSCA'88, MSC'95 with the UBC Botanical Garden & Centre for Plant Research Timber Press, \$34.95*

Do you want to spice up your garden with some remarkably beautiful plants from Asia? Then this authoritative guide to 150 fascinating but little-known ornamental trees, shrubs and perennials from the "green mantle" of Asia is for you.

The plants that are featured in this book were chosen for their superior garden qualities, their rarity in everyday horticulture and their commercial availability.

Although the plants included are from the "cutting edge" of plant exploration and discovery, the authors have included only those selections that have undergone thorough evaluation for hardiness and garden appeal at the UBC Botanical Gardens. The authors have also taken special care to exclude potentially invasive plants, allowing readers to be confident that any plant they select from the book will be an environmentally responsible one.

## ■ Certainty

*Madeleine Thien, BFA'97, MFA'01*

*McClelland & Stewart, \$32.99*

With the story unfolding back and forth over time, *Certainty* is a novel of generations that takes readers to Vancouver,

Indonesia, Malaysia, Australia, Hong Kong and the Netherlands and has at its centre two memorable love stories. Gail Lim, a producer of radio documentaries in Vancouver, finds herself haunted by events in her parents' past in wartime Asia, a past which remains a mystery that fiercely grips her imagination.

A novel about the legacies of loss, the dislocations of war and the redemptive qualities of love; Thien's characters are fully formed and remain in the reader's mind well after the end of the book. This is Thien's anticipated first novel following her highly acclaimed short story collection.

Thien published her first book of fiction, *Simple Recipes*, when she was just 26. The book won four awards in Canada, was a finalist for a regional Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best First Book, and was named a notable book by the Kiriya Pacific Rim Book Prize. Originally from Vancouver, Thien currently lives in Quebec City with her husband, Willem.

## ■ A Mermaid's Tale: A Personal Search for Love and Lore

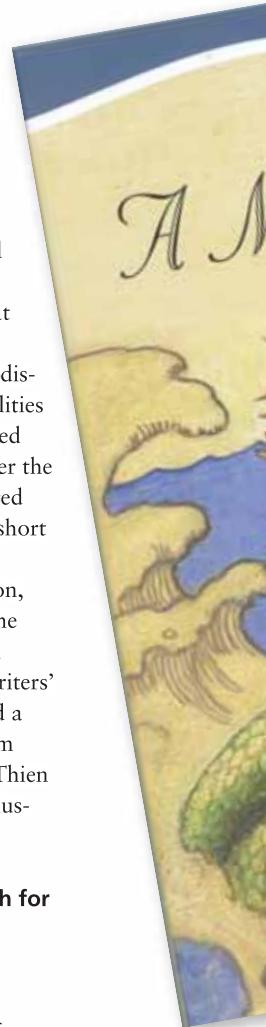
*Amanda Adams, MA'04*

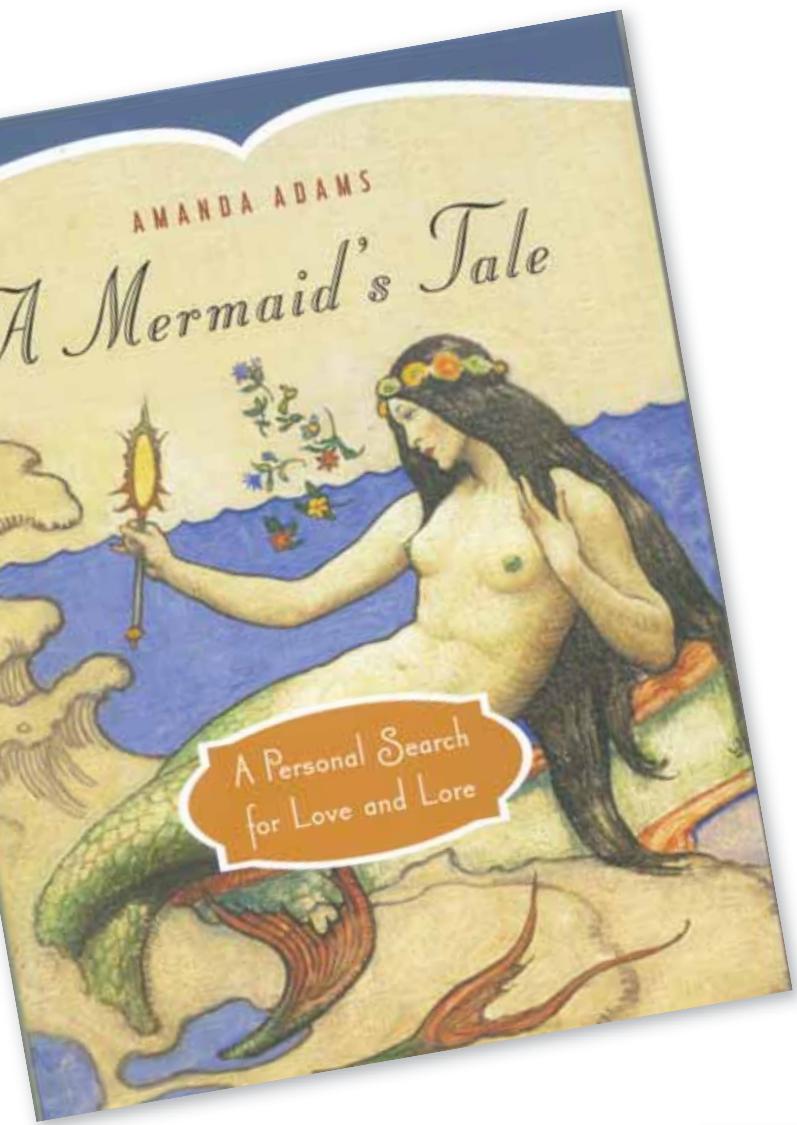
*Douglas & McIntyre, \$32.95*

Elusive, seductive, otherworldly, the mermaid is one of the most resonant of female archetypes. In this singular study, Adams uses poetic language and invokes a wide range of representations and disciplines to reclaim this icon of female power for readers. *A Mermaid's Tale* explores the myth and meanings of the mermaid through time and across cultures and also takes the reader on a personal journey, as Adams reflects on her lifelong obsession with and passion for "mermaidenry."

The book introduces the reader to the seductive sirens including Melusina, mermaid par excellence; Sedna, the powerful Arctic sea goddess; the Selkies; and the long-haired rusalki of Russian lore, among several other legendary mermaids.

Grounded in cultural anthropology and folklore stories, *A Mermaid's Tale* also draws on literature, poetry and mythology for its insights. In discovering mermaids and their stories, Adams presents a striking narrative of uncovering the unusual, the beautiful, and the extraordinary in her own life. Mermaid lovers of all ages will enjoy this enchanting book.



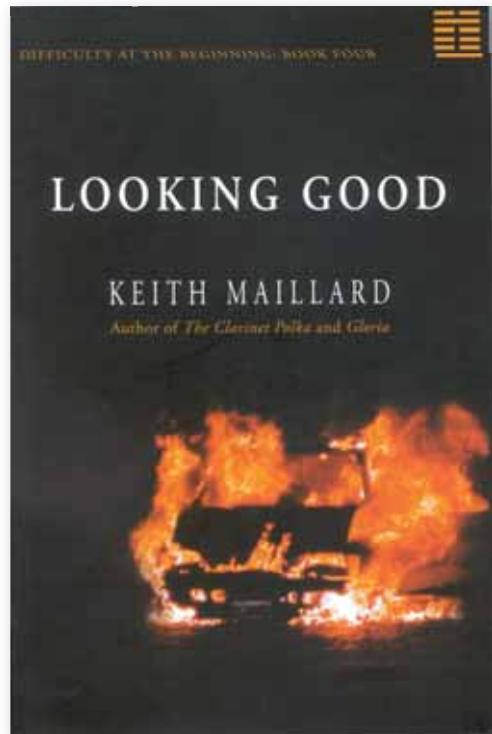
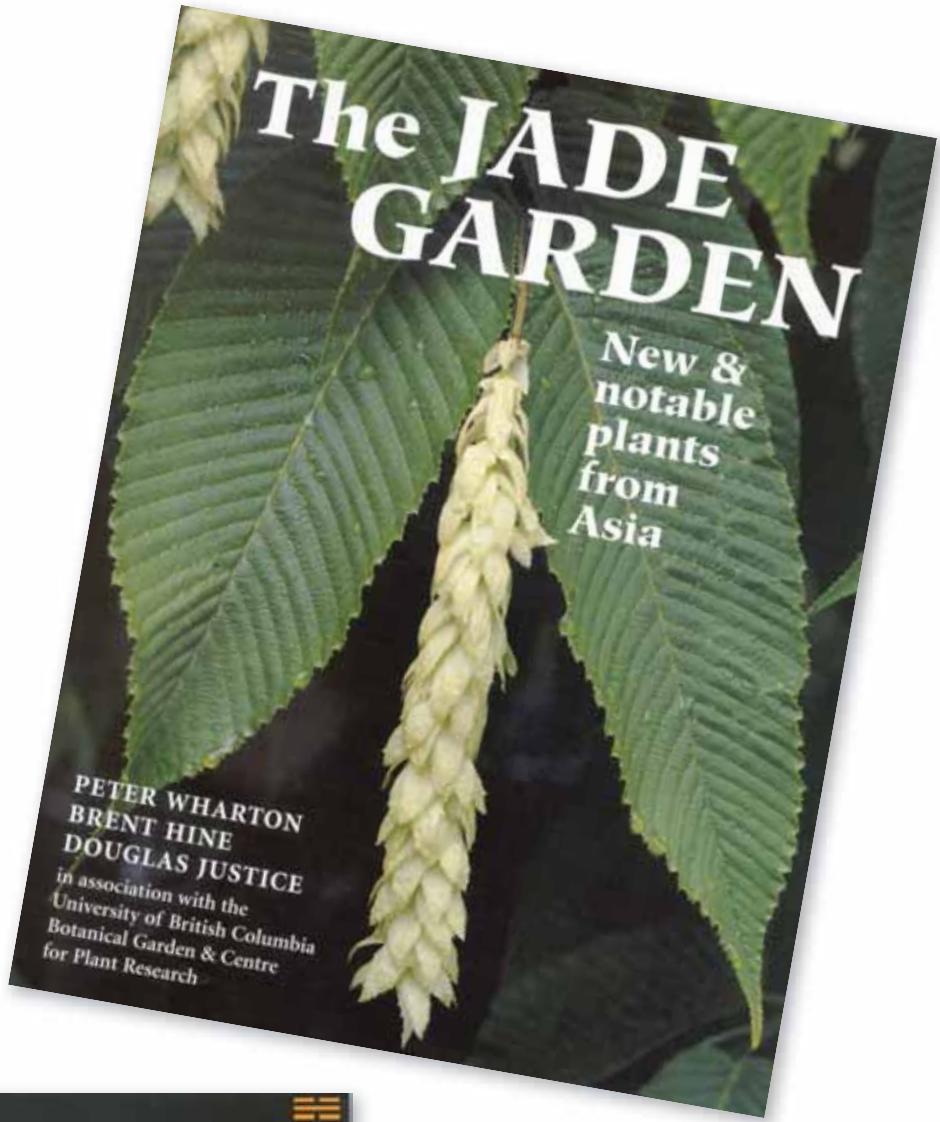


#### ■ Homefront and Battlefront: Nelson BC in World War II

Sylvia Crooks, BA'58, MLS'83  
*Granville Island Publishing*, \$24.95

A nation goes to war, but young men and women from its cities and towns actually fight the battles. These communities bear the brunt of the war's impact in lost and broken lives, some more than others.

Nelson, BC, a town of 7,000 tucked into a green, narrow valley on the west arm of Kootenay Lake, sent 1,300 of its sons and daughters off to war in the early 1940s. Seventy of these did not come home. *Homefront and Battlefront* looks at the culture, the context and the times in this small industrial town and how it rallied to support the national cause. Like many small towns across the country, Nelson forged its identity during



WWII, and grew into a tightly knit community.

Most importantly, *Homefront and Battlefront* tells the stories of the men and women who lost their lives. Who were they before the war, and how did the war shape the lives of the families left behind? One of these, Lieutenant Hampton Gray, was likely the last combatant killed in the war before armistice was declared. He was shot down in his Corsair while attacking a Japanese destroyer just two hours before the bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. His daring and courage in that attack earned him the Victoria Cross.

Historians most often look at war from the perspective of the combatants on the field. *Homefront and Battlefront* looks at it from the perspective of the folks left at home.

Sylvia Crooks taught in UBC's School of Library, Archival and Information Studies for 16 years. ■

# Predicting the Future

Weatherman Mark Madryga uses his time and talent to ensure a bright future for today's students and tomorrow's leaders. By Claire Morris

IT'S A LOW-CLOUD MORNING in Greater Vancouver, and a film crew in Burnaby wants to know when the sun's going to shine. They shot a "sunny" scene two days earlier and need to add to it. Meanwhile, in Saskatchewan, a contractor wants to pour concrete, but not if the clouds overhead are going to drop rain on his job site. Both film crew and contractor dial a phone number that's routed to Vancouver's Pacific Weather Centre, where the guy who answers their calls is Mark Madryga, BSC'86.

With his degree in Physical Geography, Mark has been employed as a meteorologist by Environment Canada for nearly 20 years. He's perhaps better known as the weekend weatherman on Global BC television, where he's worked since 1994.

So what leads someone to become a meteorologist? In Mark's case it was simply following the career path he'd decided upon as a child.

"When we took weather in grade five, I thought, this is really cool, I want to be a weather man when I grow up. I would go home after school and tape the weather off the radio."

Once he got to UBC (after two years at Cariboo College in his hometown of Kamloops), he realized that he'd have to take a lot of physics, chemistry and math. "But my keen interest in the weather kept me going," he says. "Even when I struggled a little, I thought, I really don't want to give up this plan."

He admits that it's a little rare for a ten-year-old's career aspiration to be realized. It's much more common for university students to remain unsure about their future.

Laura-Ashley Wright can relate to this. The 4th-year Land and Food Systems student came to UBC after a year of studying Arts at Simon Fraser University and a year of exchange at the University of Nottingham. She decided upon a Global Resource Systems degree program, which requires students to focus on an area of the world. Laura-Ashley has just returned from Botswana, where she worked in the areas of

problem,' he said, 'I had to work at it, courses are tough, but you get through them,'" she says.

She approached Mark after his talk and asked more about his career. "I was really impressed that he was so open to talking with students, because he is busy with two jobs and a family. Even just being able to talk with someone like Mark for a short time is enough to focus your thought patterns and suddenly, you could be on a new career path."

Mark has not only given his time to UBC, but he has also donated to student awards. "My donations may not be substantial, but if there's any way I can give something back to the university, I will."

**Laura-Ashley Wright** got some solid career information and mentoring from Global weatherman, **Mark Madryga**.

AIDS health and soil science. She's developed an interest in conservation, but is also fascinated by meteorology. However, like Mark Madryga, she's finding the physics courses a challenge.

Laura-Ashley met Mark last winter at the Science Career Expo, an initiative of UBC Career Services, the faculty of Science, and Alumni Affairs. The goal of the event is to demonstrate the value of a Science degree in the real world and to introduce career options. At the Expo, students hear professionals speak about their work, and can chat informally with them. When Laura-Ashley heard Mark talk, she found his advice extremely helpful.

"Instead of saying, 'I made it through no

I wouldn't be where I am today if I didn't have my degree and it was UBC that helped me get it. And I know what I give goes toward developing students and helping them into a career, which is important."

Laura-Ashley has received some of these awards, and consults with the faculty of Land and Food Systems on developing programs, such as Tri-mentoring.

Mark would like to encourage other alumni to connect with UBC. "It doesn't mean you are committed to a lot, but it makes a huge difference to students who are coming through the system. I know for myself, it's very, very satisfying to help students along the way." ■



Photograph: Richard Lam

## THE VOLUNTEERS

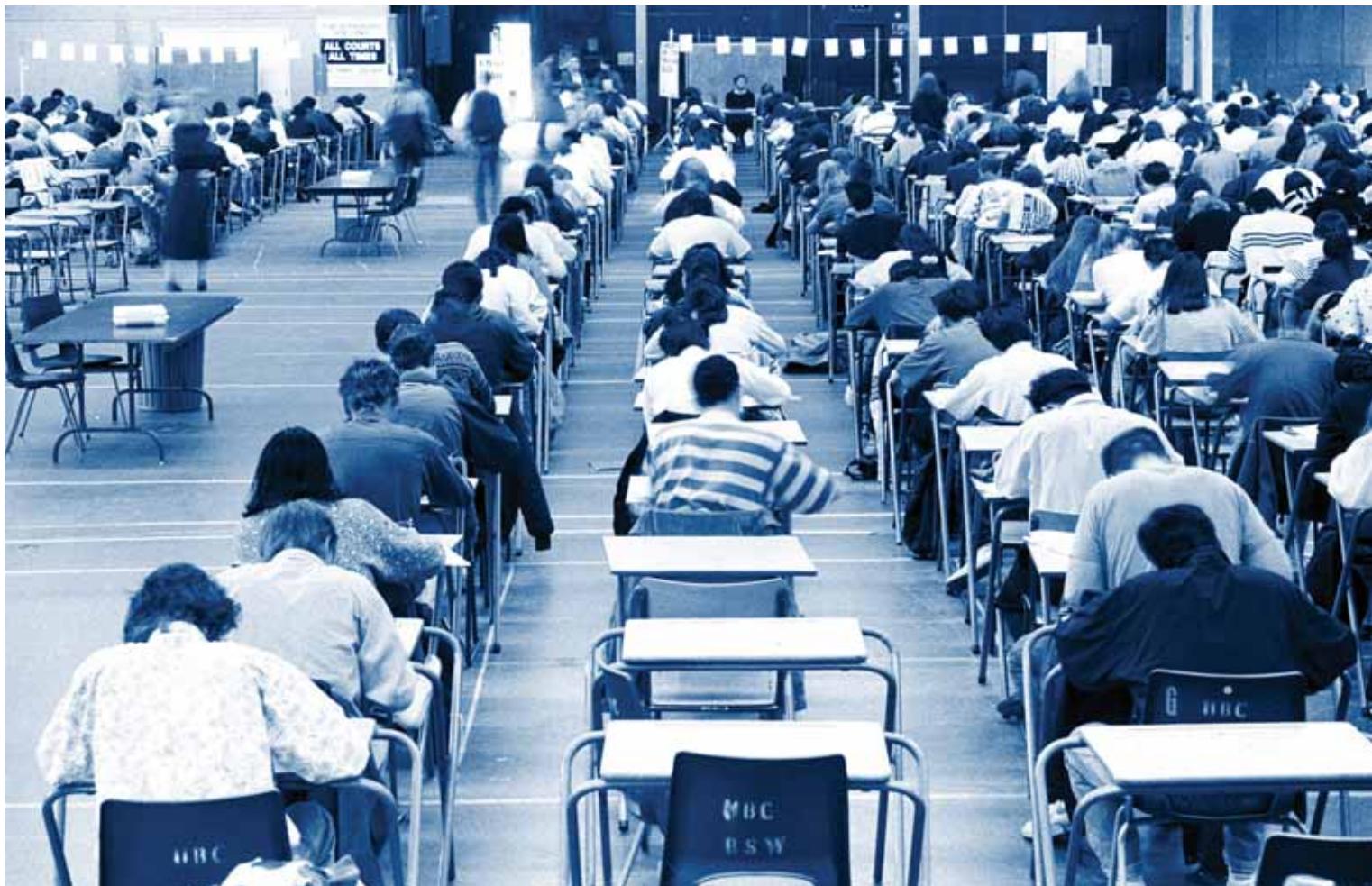
*These are some of the alumni  
who have given of their time and  
talent to UBC over the past year.*

Al Avery BSc'90  
Benson Au BScA'01  
Jan Aaseth BCom'90  
Yuka Asada BSFN'04  
Kimi Aimetz BA'98  
Gina Aitchison BSGR'04  
Mark Allen BSc'94  
Leah Allinger BA'02  
Natali Altshuler BSc'03  
Susan Ames MSc'81, PhD'00  
Dale Wayne Angman BCom'68  
Lora Anjos BA'94  
Christina Anthony BCom'97  
Elisa Armstrong BSFN'04  
John Atkinson BCom'55  
Kimberly Azyan BA'85, BSW'89,  
MSW'91  
Paola Baca BA'98  
Nancy Baillie BScA'77  
Dalbir Bains AG'80  
Barry Baldwin BCom'55  
Pablo Baranao MSc'03  
Douglas Barnett BA'52, MD'56  
Jane Battle BHE'60  
Sarah Batut BSc'02 LLB'06  
Nathan Batt MD'66  
Doyle Bauman BCom'87  
Ludlow Beamish BA'37  
Jenny Bean BCom'00  
Suzan Beattie LLB'78  
James Beaton BScA'51, MScA'53  
Douglas Bebb MD'56  
Anne Bechard BA'92, MLS'94  
William Bell BA'49 MD'54  
Linda Ben-Hamida BA'57  
Chris Bendl BSc'91  
Dan Bennett BCom'85, LLB'86  
Karen Benson BA'03  
Robin Benwick BA'98, BEd'99  
Jon Bey BH'94, BEd'95  
Manorma Bhate BHE'78  
Andrew Bibby BCom'80  
Ana Black BA'93  
Larry Blain BA'69, PhD'77  
Gordon Blankstein BScA'73, MBA'78  
Joost Blom, Q.C. BA'67 LLB'70  
Alexander Boggie BA'50, MD'54  
Mark Bomford BSGA'04  
Liz Bong BCom'01  
Basil Boulton MD'63  
John Paul Boutin BSc'74  
Steven Borcsok MSc'86  
David M Bowden BScA'52 MSA'57  
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Tina Lau BSN'05  
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Christine Lee BA'98  
Henry Lee BAsc'81  
V. Paul Lee BCom'87  
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Steffen Lehmann BA'04  
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John Masuhara BSc'87, MSc'93	Kassandra Palmer BSc'05	Lana Shipley BAsc'99 LLB'05	David Velan BAsc'02	Darryl Yea BCom'81
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Heather McColl BScD'99	Stewart Paulson BScA'68, MSc'70	Jason Smith BCom'94	Una Walsh BA'82 MA'84	Albert Yu MscB'85
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John McKay BA'90	Gerald Philipson BA'52, MD'56	Marilyn Somers BA'57, BSW'60, MSW'63	William Webber MD'58 (deceased)	Carol Zanon MSc'61
Michael McLennahan BA'03	Margot Pittaway BSAG'03	Andrea Southcott BCom'82	Kent Westerberg BA'84, LLB'87	Andrew Zhong BScN'05
Andrew McLeod BA'91	Deirdre Potheacy BA'71, LLB'75	Barry Sparks BCom'73	Nicole Westerlund BScA'99	Glennis Zilm BSN'58
D.C. McPhail MSc'85	Gary Powroznik BCom'74	Judy Pozsgay LLB'93	Sue Westrup BHE'77	Amber Zirnhelt BA'04
Steve McSherry MBA'04	Nicki Pozos BASc'96	Peter Prasloski BA'52, MD'56	Scott Zuyderduyn BSc'99	Scott Zuyderduyn BSc'99
Tracey McVicar BCom'90	Penelope Osborne BSc'77, MD' 81	Marina Pratchett LLB'81	We have taken every effort to include the names of all alumni who have given their time and talent over the past year. We apologize in advance if we have left you out and please let us know of our omission.	
Jim Meekison BA'61, MA'62	Johanna Price LLB'98	Johanna Price BA'05	If you would like to share some of your time and talent with UBC, please contact us. Give a thought to how much time you have to spare and what passion you wish to pursue. We will be happy to help you engage.	
Naz Merali MD'83	Stephen Price BA'03	Shannon Sterling BA '01, BEd'03	Contact Barney Ellis-Perry ( <a href="mailto:barney.ellis-perry@ubc.ca">barney.ellis-perry@ubc.ca</a> ) at 604.822.1922.	
Shelly Messenger BScD'99	Rinford Pritchard MD'56	Shirley Sterlinger BSN'75	We publish the names of our volunteers as a way of recognizing them for their selflessness and their dedication. If you do not wish your name to be published in the future, please notify us.	
David Miles BA'00, LLB'03	Ajay Puri BSc'03, MHA'05	Valerie Stevens BScA'71, MSc'73		
Myrtle Miller BEd'87	Vincent Quan BSAG'03	Anne Stewart BSc'72, LLB'75		
Brian Mills BA'86	Noel Quenvene MD'56	Irwin Stewart BA'52, MD'56		
Linda Mint BHE'70	Paige Raibmon BA'94	Gayle Stewart BA'76		
Michelle Minty PH'95	Jim Rainer BCom'55	Elaine Stolar BSW'59, MA'60, MSW'63		
Doug Mitchell LLB'62	Nancy Ramsden BA'74	Alyssa Stoneman BScA'96		
Greg Mitchell BA'00	Parimal Rana BSc'91, BScA'94	Robin Stoodley BSc'00		
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Kyle Mitchell BCom'65	Irfhan Rawji BCom'00	Jimmy Sunaryo BASc'05		
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John Montalbano BCom'88	Jane Reitsma BEd'04	Mark Sweeney BScA'77		
Kwang Soon Moon MASc'76	Jacqueline Relova BSc'98	Ann Remedios BA'86		
Dawn Mooney BA'03	Geoff Rempel BA'96, BEd'97, MA'01	Phil Swift MBA'75		
Helen Moore BA'64, BLS'68	Alec Robertson Bcom'56, LLB'57	Louise Tagulao BA'02		
Gillian Moran BA'02	Ian Robertson BSc'86, BA'88	Jenny Tai BMLS'97		
Sarah Morgan-Silvester BCom'82	Doug Robinson BCom'71, LLB'72	Beverley Tamboline BA'53, MD'60		
Michael Mortensen MA'97	Elizabeth Robinson BA'72, BSW'79, MSW'80	Karen Tang MSc'00		
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Ted Mui BCom				



Exams in the Armouries, April 1990

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T R A D I T I O N S

## The Day *The Ubyssey* Died and Rose Again

EASTER IS A TIME of spring festivals, a time to welcome back the tulips, the crocuses and the daffodils. It is a time for Dad to buy a new suit, Mom to buy a new dress and little Suzy to get brand new patent leather shoes. It is also a time for Christians to celebrate the life and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Moreover, it is a time of chocolate bunnies, painted eggs and sugary jellybeans. And, in 1959, it was also a time to release another spoof edition of *The Ubyssey* at UBC.

A “goon” edition was what *The Ubyssey* veterans called it: an annual issue that poked fun at campus personalities and institutions and the politicians of the day. When the 1959 issue circulated in late March, it caused quite a stir.

As expected on the cover, the *The Ubyssey* lampooned the university’s fee increase. “FEE ON YOU,” the headline screamed. Students blamed the Social Credit government led by W.A.C. Bennett for this increase. A cartoon showed leading cabinet members burying a coffin labelled “UBC”; the lead story quoted Bennett as saying: “The pot is empty and only Fee can fill it.” This type of satire was biting but certainly expected.

But when the readers turned to page six, it was something else. “The special Easter page” was said to contain “features, pictures, and news stories for the whole family . . . as a special treat by those who don’t care for those who do.” Two pictures jumped out from the page. “Look at those holes in His hands,” read the caption beneath a photo of three cheerleaders, one with arms outstretched in front of a totem pole. “The tomb is empty!” another caption read, referring



**“Look at those holes in His hands!”**  
screamed the caption in the Easter goon edition of *The Ubyssey*, March 30, 1959.

by Patty Lai

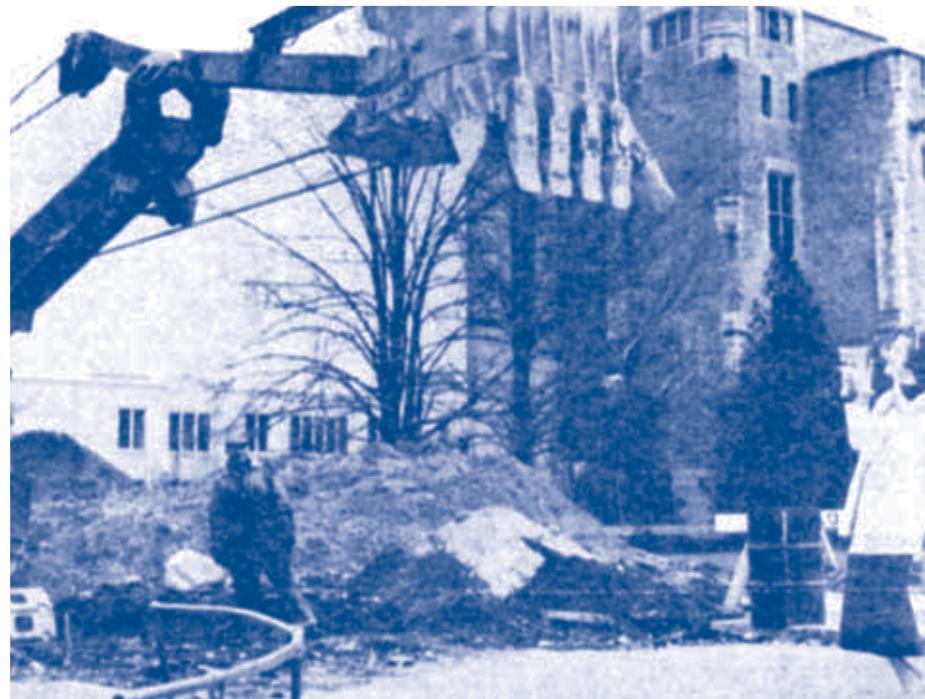
## ... AND ROSE AGAIN

to a photo of a student and a workman standing beside a crane and a large hole.

Page seven continued the train wreck with a photo of a woman in front of a cave with the caption, “What have you done with Him?” and an article about a small boy who ventures into an empty tomb looking for Easter eggs, saying, “By gum, I knew if I followed that star long enough I’d find something!”

While this incident may seem tame today, 47 years ago it stirred up strong feelings from the university and the community. Not only did this scandalous spoof make it to the front page of the *Vancouver Province* and the *Vancouver Sun*, it was the hot topic on multiple radio stations in Greater Vancouver.

Without delay, the AMS executive council suspended *The Ubyssy* editorial board and staff from working on the paper. A week later, the AMS urgently published a “special edition” of



**Page seven continued the train wreck** with a photo of a woman in front of a cave with the caption, “What have you done with Him?” and an article about a small boy who ventures into an empty tomb looking for Easter eggs, saying, “By gum, I knew if I followed that star long enough I’d find something!”

the *Ubyssy* attempting to explain and rectify the situation. UBC’s president at the time, Larry MacKenzie, expressed satisfaction that the students’ council had taken the matter in hand. It certainly saved him the trouble of doing so. MacKenzie was angered by the “vulgar, tasteless lampoon” and was more than embarrassed by the extremely critical media and letters that complained about money wasted on higher education. What seemed very much like a tempest in teapot in today’s society wasn’t so in the late 1950s. Although the University of British Columbia was non-sectarian, people did not view it as irreligious, or worse – blasphemous. Residents of British Columbia took religion seriously and were none too thrilled about this blatant mockery.

It was a shock to some that most of the editorial staff was fired and there was a looming fear that this would be the demise of *The Ubyssy*. However, this was not the case. Former *Ubyssy* editor Allan Chernov recalls, “I think there was a real fear that *The Ubyssy* would collapse as a campus institution because

after the ‘editorial massacre’ there was very little actual newspaper experience among the survivors. But, as it turned out *The Ubyssy*’s obituary was premature. We not only survived, we thrived. The *Vancouver Sun* lent us an experienced newspaperman to advise and mentor us...”

Remarkably, the misfortune of the senior editorial staff was the serendipity of junior staff members like Chernov.

“I became the senior editor,” Chernov recollects. “It continually amazed me that just a few short months ago I had been a rank novice and now I was responsible for putting out an eight to twelve page newspaper three times a week. It was an amazing learning experience in journalism and putting out a newspaper.”

The story of *The Ubyssy*’s scandalous edition eventually faded away. The student paper merrily resumed its twice weekly routine, although the “goon” editions for the subsequent years were relatively subdued.

“In retrospect it seems obvious that the 1959 Easter edition was so outrageous that there

would be severe consequences”, says Chernov, “but I don’t think the editorial staff had a clue that it would turn out that way. I think they saw themselves as a merry band of pranksters poking fun at hallowed institutions, that is, doing what irreverent college students always do. Unfortunately, they crossed way over the line and paid the price.”

Allan Chernov was offered summer internships at The *Vancouver Sun* in 1960 and 1961 and covered the City Desk on Friday nights during his academic years. He is currently Medical Director, Health Care Quality & Policy for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas, located in Richardson, Texas.

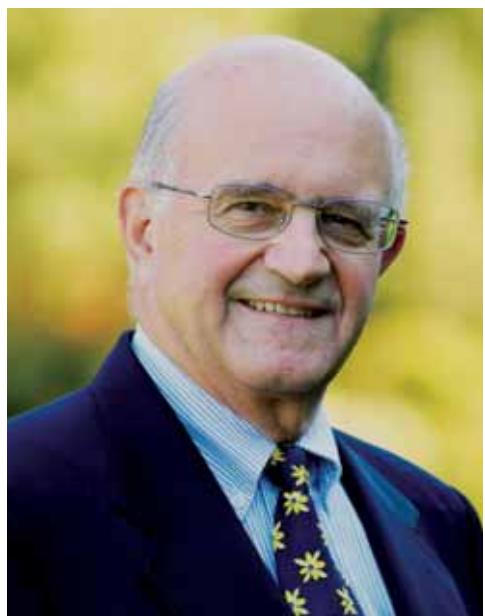
*The Ubyssy*’s tradition of the “goon” edition continues today with the end of-the-year April issue. “Martha Magazine,” a spoof of Martha Piper based on Martha Stewart’s magazine, and “UBC Purports,” a spoof on *UBC Reports* – are two recent examples. ■

Patty Lai, BA’04, works at the Alumni Affairs office.

# 2006

## Alumni Achievement Awards

ON NOVEMBER 2, 2006, the UBC community recognized five members of the UBC community for exceptional achievement in their respective fields and for exemplary behaviour as contributing members of society. ¶ We received many worthy nominees deserving of recognition and this year's recipients reflect that high standard. ¶ The Alumni Achievement Dinner featured remarks and videos of the award recipients, presentation of awards, a silent auction and great food in the magnificent surroundings of the atrium of UBC's Life Sciences Building. ¶ More information about this year's awards (and how to nominate for next year) can be found on our website at [www.alumni.ubc.ca/awards](http://www.alumni.ubc.ca/awards).



**Frank Iacobucci**

**Frank Iacobucci, BCOM'61, LLB'62, LLD'69**

*Lifetime Achievement Award*

A Justice of the Supreme Court until his retirement in 2004, Frank Iacobucci has shared his professional insight broadly. More specifically, he has used his breadth of legal knowledge to provide guidance to private practice, academia and government as well as the judiciary. He has said that the noblest attribute of membership in a profession is service to both clients and the public, and in this he has been exemplary.

Mr. Iacobucci's career began in New York, where he worked as a corporate lawyer. He returned to Canada in 1967 and joined the faculty of Law of the University of Toronto. There, he contributed to both the academic and administrative side of university life, holding senior positions in both spheres. He was professor and dean of the university's Law faculty, then moved up an administrative notch to become Vice-President and Provost.

Mr. Iacobucci's high-ranking legal appointments include his time as Deputy Minister of Justice and Deputy Attorney General of Canada during the 1980s. He was Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Canada from 1988 until 1991, when he was appointed to the Supreme Court. After his retirement he returned to Toronto to take on the interim presidency of the University of Toronto, at the same time returning to his professorial duties. At UBC, he is current holder of the Walter S. Owen (visiting) Chair, the first endowed chair in the Faculty of Law at UBC.

The list of his past and current directorships and advisory roles – most of them in a voluntary capacity – is extensive. Present involvements include the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board, Tim Horton's, the Trudeau Foundation (as a mentor) and Torstar, owners of the Toronto Star and numerous other publications. On July 1, 2005, he became counsel with Torys LLP, advising government, business and colleagues on all things legal and policy-related. In 2006, Mr. Iacobucci was appointed chair of the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario.

He has often acted in an advisory capacity to government and during the 1980s was a member of the Ontario Securities Commission. He was counsel to the 1974 Estey Commission's inquiry into the steel industry, and in 2005 represented the federal government in spearheading moves to resolve the legacy of Indian Residential Schools. His professional knowledge can also be gleaned from the many articles and books he has authored or edited.

Mr. Iacobucci is the son of Italian immigrants, who instilled in their son a strong pride in his heritage. Among the many tokens of esteem he has received, the honorary citizenships bestowed on him by the Italian towns of Mangone and Cepagatti – his parents' birthplaces – are accolades he holds particularly dear. He has been a strong supporter of the Italian-Canadian community for many years, having been VP of the National Congress of Italian Canadians and active as a board member in its Toronto branch.



## 2006 Achievement Awards

He has received a number of related awards from Italian-Canadian communities in Canada, including the Canadian-Italian National Award in 2000 that acknowledged his positive influence on Canada's society, culture and economy, and the Valigia d'Oro Award in 2002, which recognizes the contributions and sacrifices made by Italian Immigrants to Canada. And one of his legacies at Toronto University is The Frank Iacobucci Centre for Italian-Canadian Studies.

He is appreciated in other countries, too. In 1993, he was appointed *Commendatore dell'Ordine Al Merito* by the Republic of Italy. In 1999 he became an Honorary Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge University (where he completed his Masters and a diploma in International Law), and also of the American College of Trial Lawyers. He has received eleven honorary doctorates, including one from UBC, and received the UBC Law Alumni Association's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2005.

### Roger Jackson, MPE'67

#### *Alumni Award of Distinction*

Roger Jackson, who won an Olympic gold medal in rowing for Canada in 1964, is now a respected national and international leader in sports. His seasoned input has raised the profile of excellence in sport, and he is the orchestrator of many programs designed to help athletes realize their full potential. The respect accorded him as a long-time sports consultant is rooted in his own sporting pedigree and his long years of service.

As a young man, Dr. Jackson chose to participate in the UBC Rowing program because of its gruelling training schedule and high expectations, which came close to meeting his own. Waking every day at 4:30 am for the first of two training sessions paid off. At the Tokyo Olympics in 1964 he won gold in the coxless pairs rowing event with fellow alumnus George Hungerford, and went on to compete at the next two games (bearing the Canadian flag for his team at the 1968 Mexico Olympic Games).

When he was no longer at his athletic peak, he began helping younger athletes carve out their own athletic careers. As manager of Technical Programs for Sport Canada in the department of National Health and Welfare, he developed programs to prepare athletes for the 1976 Olympics and established national



Roger Jackson

policies and more federal support for national sports organizations. The department also consulted him on sports research and setting up a national coaching association.

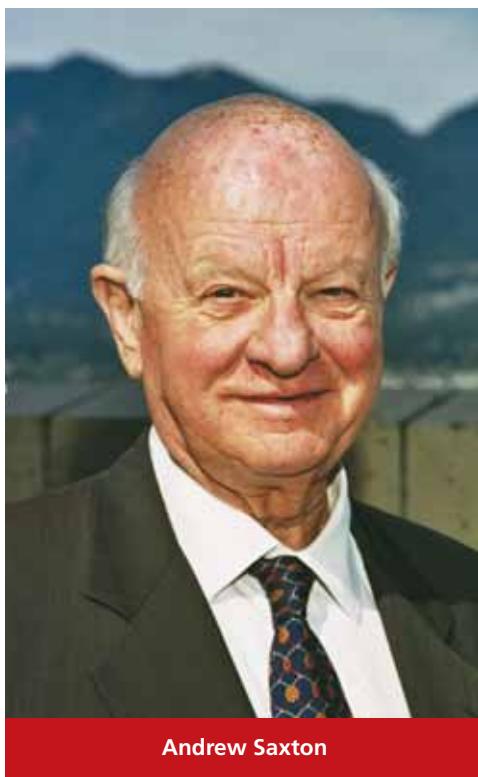
As director of Sports Canada between 1976 and 1978 he led the federal government's sport program, negotiating sports agreements with other countries and allocating funding to national organizations. Until recently, he was regularly committing up to 25 voluntary hours per week to various sports-related activities and initiatives.

He joined the University of Calgary in the 1970s, and was dean of the faculty of Physical Education from 1978 to 1988. During his tenure, he attracted key faculty members, initiated graduate programs and raised \$80 million for new facilities that included the Sport Medicine Centre in 1988, of which he became director until 2003 (he holds a doctorate in Biodynamics from the University of Wisconsin). He shaped new research and education programs and established a multi-million dollar endowment for their ongoing finance. He was also heavily involved in other aspects of university life, serving as Special Advisor to Presidents among other leadership roles. After his retirement in 2004, a new campus building was named the Roger Jackson Centre for Health and Wellness Research.

Soon after retiring from the University of Calgary, he set up a private consultancy business, Roger Jackson and Associates Ltd. The company has provided guidance to Olympic host cities and various Olympic bid attempts. He was a consultant and strategist behind the successful London 2012 Summer Olympic bid. He was recently appointed CEO of *Own the Podium* 2010, a program to help Canadian Olympic and Paralympic athletes secure more medals at the Vancouver games. *Own the Podium* aims to raise \$110 million and initiate several new high performance programs to support Canada's Olympic hopefuls.

Dr. Jackson is enthusiastic about the program because it takes a holistic approach to promoting sporting excellence in this country, considering all aspects affecting performance from quality of coaching to the latest insights from sports science. He believes that the program will establish a solid and sustainable infrastructure to provide Canada's athletes with the opportunities they deserve.

Dr. Jackson has been president of the Canadian Olympic Committee for eight years and



Andrew Saxton

is a generous volunteer with the International Olympic Committee and Pan American Sports organization among many others. He spent 10 years as a key leader of the 1988 Calgary Olympic Winter Games. He is current chair of the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sports, helping to ensure that the proper values underpin the Canadian approach to sport.

Besides his demanding sports-related commitments, Dr. Jackson has also found time to chair the Calgary International Organ Festival, the Cantos Music Foundation and serve the executive committee for Operation Eyesight Universal. He has more than 30 publications to his name, is a recipient of the IOC Olympic Order and was named an officer of the Order of Canada in 1983.

#### **Andrew Saxton**

##### *Honorary Alumnus Award*

Since arriving in Canada as an 18-year-old orphan from Hungary in 1947 and becoming a Canadian citizen in 1953, Andrew Saxton has quietly joined the ranks of that outstanding group of new Canadians from all parts of the world who are noted for hard work, a strong sense of place in the Canadian community, and a desire to share their successes with others.

In Mr. Saxton's case, an inherent ability in the field of financial management took him from his first job as an accountant with Canada Packers Ltd. in Vancouver to the boardroom of Laurentide Financial Corporation, which became a major economic generator with more than 2,000 employees and 220 branch offices. He also has served as president of Elite Insurance Company, as chair of Grouse Mountain Resorts Ltd., director of BC Television Broadcasting System Ltd., president of The Granville Island Hotel and Marina Ltd. and chair of King George Development Corporation. He was a founding member of all these companies.

His business endeavours have played and continue to play a significant role in the social, cultural and economic lives of Canadians. Early examples include his visionary leadership of Grouse Mountain Resorts in undertaking the construction of the *Skyride* (1966), which resulted in Grouse Mountain's skiing, hiking and restaurant facilities becoming one of BC's largest private tourist attractions with in excess of 1.1 million visitors annually.

On the cultural side, he was a member of the syndicate that won the first license for a private television station in Canada in 1960. The group



**David Granville**



**Mike Quinn**

was formed as VanTel Broadcasting, later BCTV, which is acknowledged as one of the province's most influential news organizations.

As chairman of King George Development Corporation, he was instrumental in having the SkyTrain extended to Surrey's King George Station in 1994 with his company donating both cash and land to the project. As chairman of King George Financial Corporation and deputy chairman of Allied Hotel Properties Inc., he has been actively involved in a number of commercial real estate projects in Canada.

His business accomplishments have singled him out for appointments to the boards of federal and provincial Crown corporations and agencies including Canadian Commercial Corporation (Ottawa), the Canadian Forces Liaison Council (BC) and the Insurance Corporation of BC, where he was a director and chairman of the Investment committee. He was also a member of the BC government's Reference Drug Program Consultation panel and of the President's Community Advisory Council at UBC. Other federal assignments included acting as special advisor to the Speaker of the House of Commons on official visits to Europe, Hong Kong and China, and membership on the Advisory Committee, National Capital Development Program, National Capital Commission.

His current corporate appointments include chairmanship of King George Financial Corporation and board membership of Imperial Parking Canada Corporation, Earthworks Industries Inc. and the UBC Investment Management Trust. He is also a partner in the Chiefs Development Group, owners of the Chilliwack Coliseum.

Mr. Saxton is a former member of the advisory boards for HSBC Capital Canada (Private Equity Fund) and the BC Life Sciences Fund. Past directorships include VSM MEDTECH Ltd., Pheromone Sciences Corporation, the Commonwealth Bank (Nassau), Laurentide Financial Trust (London, England), *Societe d'Entreprise du Canada, Societe Francaise de Financement de Ventes A Credit* (Paris), Ultratech Corporation (Sunnyvale, California) and Morlan Pacific (San Francisco).

Parallel to his business career, he has been actively involved in health and charitable organizations, primarily with the Heart and Stroke Foundation of BC & Yukon, of which he became president at the age of 34. He played a critical role in raising nearly \$4 million for an endowment fund for the BC Heart Foundation chair in



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## 2006 Achievement Awards

Cardiology at UBC and St. Paul's Hospital. He received the Canadian Heart Foundation's *Distinguished Service Award* in 1998 and in 2004 received the Heart and Stroke Foundation of BC & Yukon *Lifetime Achievement Award*, only the fourth such award to be presented in the foundation's 50-year history. He has represented the Canadian Heart Foundation at the International Society and Federation of Cardiology in Geneva and served as chairman of its Financial Support committee.

Mr. Saxton was also one of the founders and president of the charitable auction ENDEAVOUR, chaired the Special Names and Trusts campaign for the United Way of Vancouver, served as first vice president of the Vancouver Opera Association and is a former shareholder and director of Northwest Sports Enterprises, then owners of the Vancouver Canucks of the National Hockey League.

He is married to Sophie and has two sons, Richard and Andrew, Jr., and two daughters, Shelley and Anne-Marie. He was always appreciative of what his adopted country afforded him and remains eternally grateful to his Uncle Leslie Schaffer and wife Kato, who sponsored his coming to Canada.

#### David Granville, PhD'01

#### *Outstanding Young Alumnus*

Assistant professor Dr. David Granville is one of Canada's rising stars in cardiovascular research. He specializes in fathoming the mechanisms of cell injury and death in cardiovascular diseases from atherosclerosis to heart transplant rejection. He holds a Canada Research Chair in Cardiovascular Biochemistry in UBC's department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and in fewer than 10 years has published 50 articles, four book chapters and has two patents pending to accompany the four he already holds.

His academic potential has been recognized and fostered through a number of financial awards along the way and he is grateful for the backing.

While completing his doctorate at UBC, he was funded by a research traineeship from the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada. He then attended the renowned Scripps Institute in San Diego supported by a fellowship from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. It became apparent just how deserving a recipient he was when he made a discovery that attracted the

attention of research peers and the public alike.

Hardened arteries can restrict blood flow to the heart, heighten blood pressure and cause heart attacks. Compounding the problem are immune cells, which trigger cell death in the wall of a hardened artery and create a bigger risk. Dr. Granville's research team discovered that a certain enzyme plays a key role in the cell death process and learned that its suppression could reduce damage to the heart when the organ is subjected to cardiac ischemia and reperfusion injury. This was a major discovery that drew much attention from the media and one which has potential for reducing the size of a heart attack by up to 60 per cent. The findings were prominently featured in respected journals and Dr. Granville is often approached by the local and national media for interviews. A more recent discovery is that suppression of a protein in mice inhibits atherosclerosis. This research also exposed some unexpected connections with hair loss and longevity and patents are pending.

Dr. Granville is driven by a desire to see rapid progress from bench to bed, from discovery to application. He is an inspiring mentor and engaging speaker with a reputation that attracts talented graduate students and post-doctoral fellows to bolster UBC's research efforts. Partly because of what he inspires, he was asked to head the strategic planning committee at UBC's James Hogg iCAPTURE Centre for Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Research, St. Paul's Hospital (of which he is an executive member) to attract other talented researchers to UBC. He is respected for his level of involvement, effectiveness, and generous collaboration with colleagues. He has been invited to act as reviewer for several academic journals and granting bodies, thereby helping to maintain the quality and standard of scientific research in this country and abroad.

Last year, Dr. Granville was named by The Caldwell Partners and the *Globe and Mail* as one of Canada's Top 40 under 40. He also won a Young Investigator Award from the Canadian Society of Transplantation in 2004.

More evidence of the confidence in his ability is provided by the number of scholarships and grants he continues to receive. As well as funding from CIHR, BC Transplant Society, St. Paul's Foundation and the Heart and Stroke Foundation, he is also the recipient of a Michael Smith Foundation for Heart Research Scholar Award. He has memberships to several scholarly societies connected with his work including the Canadian Society of Atherosclerosis, Thrombosis

## 2006 Achievement Awards

and Vascular Biology and the North American Vascular Biology Organization.

### Mike Quinn, BASC'03

#### Global Citizenship Award

When Mike Quinn was nearing the end of his degree in Mechanical Engineering, he began to doubt whether he could find complete satisfaction from a career in the field. Then he learned about Engineers Without Borders (EWB), an organization of students and young professionals who volunteer their skills at home and abroad on projects designed to tackle poverty and improve quality of life. EWB provided the missing elements and demonstrated to him the true potential of his education.

Mr. Quinn's humanitarian leanings have long been apparent. As a final project for his degree he worked on a device for shielding people who remove landmines and soon decided to continue applying what he had learned at university where it would do the most good.

His experience during two placements in Africa through EWB has only fuelled this commitment. He has gained a deeper understanding of the complexity of poverty and believes that significant contributions to tackling it demand long-term involvement. He is aware of the variety of challenges, but instead of being cowed by them he is only more convinced that with the right approach and enough effort, individuals can make a difference.

In Ghana he joined a program to improve food processing and prevent wastage. In collaboration with rural farmers, he worked on a diesel-powered machine able to power several different food processing machines, allowing the farmers' work to be carried out faster and more efficiently and saving vital food supplies from spoiling. Used in villages with no electricity supply, the adaptable machine could also be used to power water pumps and charge batteries for lighting and telecommunications.

His recently completed second placement was in Livingstone, Zambia, where he worked with CARE International on a food security program involving the reinstatement of sorghum as a hardier staple crop to replace maize (see Mike's article in the Fall, 2005 issue of *Trek Magazine*). Maize took over as the crop of choice a few decades ago but is unable to thrive in drought conditions. It was a cross-sector project involving a local brewery, which agreed to buy the

sorghum to make beer. This experience led him to view cross-sector projects as an effective way of achieving mutually beneficial ends.

This September he starts his master's degree at the London School of Economics, aiming to balance the practicality of his first degree with a solid theoretical understanding of the context in which he may be applying it. He is also considering an MBA in social entrepreneurship.

In the future, Mr. Quinn sees himself working in private sector management for companies prepared to be involved in cross-sector development projects. A pragmatist, he believes a cooperative approach to be the most effective. He wants to encourage management practices and corporate policies that speak to more than just the financial stakeholders, based on the principle that private sector projects in the developing world should always result in benefits that spill over into the local communities.

Mr. Quinn isn't only an engineer. He's also a writer. In his final year at UBC, he was named the 2003 Mechanical Engineering Coop student of the year. This was largely in recognition of

the excellence of a report he wrote during a work term with a large oil company to help them meet Kyoto Protocol requirements. He also bagged an award for technical writing. But it's his writing about Africa that has gained the most attention. Working alongside the locals to understand the context they live in and find solutions that will work on a practical level, Mr. Quinn has gained an empathy that is communicated through his writing. His articles have been published in the national and local press, including a regular *Letters from the Field* column on the CBC website. One of his articles was noticed by singer Sarah McLachlan, who used it as inspiration for her latest music video. The bare-bones video that illustrates the song *World on Fire* compares the cost of producing the typical pop-music video with what it would cost to support a development initiative, build a schoolhouse, or provide medication.

Mr. Quinn wants to live in a more equitable world. His attitude and combination of skills make him an extremely effective advocate for change. ■



### 12TH ANNUAL ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS DINNER

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Students at the Kanyawegi school hold up condoms. Education is one of the main weapons being used in Africa to fight the devastation of HIV/AIDS.

## How Goats Make Learning Possible

The **YouLead** program provides opportunities for "Volunteer Vacations," where travel combines with adventure and the chance to make a difference.

by Lisa Thomas-Tench

IN 2004, JOHN AGAK, MSC'03, asked then-president Martha Piper for 40 goats to help his home community in Kenya develop a new vision for self-reliance and sustainability.

Kanyawegi, a small village in the far west of Kenya and neighbour to the expansive Masai Mara game reserve, is situated in the lush tropical rainforest along the African equator. John grew up in the village, and was one of a very few young people from his poverty-stricken community able to pursue a university education.

His goal was clear: to give Kanyawegi children orphaned by the HIV/AIDS pandemic the same kind of educational opportunities he received. "The devastation and poverty that this disease has brought to this community cannot be overemphasized," John says. "Kids from poor homes are bright, concentrate in school and have the will and passion to go as far as they can. The only drawback is the financial support that they desperately need to fulfill their dreams."

After receiving a grant for the goats, John donated the livestock to eight women's small business groups. His idea: provide the community with a means to generate cashflow so they could pass on any surplus revenues (or goat offspring) to other small businesses to create new opportunities. Microfinance, only using goats as currency.

The idea worked. Within a year, the women's groups were making a profit and started a bank account to finance other projects, such as a granary built to maximise revenues from the sales of ample corn crops, a school reconstruction project and a clothing manufacturing business. As John notes, "investing in women makes a profound difference in the community," not just for the women, but for their children. They can now afford to send their kids to school.

In the spirit of global citizenship, John has now opened Kanyawegi to the world. Through a partnership with *YouLead*, UBC's global service learning unit, students are able to visit, learn and assist with projects in rural Kenya. In a new program that starts in the spring, UBC alumni will be able to visit the village to share business skills and agriculture techniques, and provide input on education projects.

John's ongoing partnership with UBC will not end in Kenya. Goat microfinancing has been translated into a pig project in Uganda, and will continue to inspire new *YouLead* programs in Indonesia and Colombia. John Agak and Kanyawegi have created a unique legacy that the university will share with students and communities worldwide for years to come. ■

*To learn more, or to explore a volunteer vacation in Kenya, please contact YouLead at 604.822.6110 or visit [www.youlead.org](http://www.youlead.org).*

# class ACTS

We depend on our readers to send us notices for Class Acts and In Memoriam. Please direct your information to [vanesa.clarke@ubc.ca](mailto:vanesa.clarke@ubc.ca), or to our mailing address (see page 3). Digital photos must be 150 dpi or better to be included in the magazine. Please note that Trek Magazine is also posted on our website.

## 50s

Louanne Twaites BSC(PHARM)'53 was honoured by the faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences this summer, and attended the opening of the Louanne Twaites Learning Room, named in recognition of her extensive volunteerism with the faculty. Until her retirement in 1966, Louanne worked as a clinical assistant professor at UBC and has been active with the Alumni Association, particularly in the Pharmacy division, for many years – a regular attendee at reunions and other events. Ten years ago, she co-authored a book documenting the faculty's then 50-year history and tends to its display cases of artifacts to this day.

## 60s

Igor Grant MD'66 was selected to receive the 2005 Annual Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching by the School of Medicine at the University of California at San Diego, where he serves as Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry and director of the HIV Neurobehavioral Research Center. Dr. Grant's award recognizes his career as an educator spanning more than 30 years at UCSD and notes his contributions in developing and teaching core courses to medical students and spearheading development of a new graduate program in clinical psychology. His research concerns neurological and behavioural complications of HIV/AIDS. As HNRC director he heads a program that receives approximately \$15 million annually in extramural research grant support. The research is translational in nature, seeking to connect insights into the molecular mechanisms of



LOUISE AND JONATHAN TAGULAO,  
after they tied the knot in September, 2005.

neuroAIDS to their clinical manifestations and treatment. Dr. Grant authored or co-authored 400 publications ... Dr. Lois E. H. Smith BSC'68 has won the 2006 Alfred W. Bressler Prize in Vision Science, awarded by the Jewish Guild for the Blind. Dr. Smith is based at the Children's Hospital Boston's Department of Ophthalmology ... George Hungerford BA'65, LLD'68 and wife Jane Hungerford BED'67 received the Lions Club International's Medal of Merit, the organization's highest award, at a recent Vancouver Chinatown Lions Club dinner, at which \$100,001 was raised for the BC Cancer Foundation ... Gail McIntyre BA'67, now retired, lives part time in Vancouver's West End. She also lives in Aurora, Ontario. Highlights of her career include conducting sociological work in the NWT in the late 1960s, penning a 1972 City of Toronto Report on Refuse and Recycling, introducing (as a councillor) the first soil preservation by-law and a tree by-law, and holding a political appointment to the Ontario Heritage Foundation for six years. In the almost 50 years since school, she's found herself at the forefront of major movements: hippiedom, women to the work force, feminism, New Age, and environmental causes ... Murray Newman PhD'60 (Zoology), OC, founding director and now director

emeritus of the Vancouver Aquarium, enjoyed celebrations for the aquarium's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this summer. He remembers that the aquarium was established at a time when the province had just one university – UBC – and that then-UBC president Norman MacKenzie and a number of key faculty members were quite influential in securing high-level support for the project. Fifty years later, the aquarium has welcomed more than 34 million visitors. "And," says Dr. Murray, "has succeeded in its mandate of being a self-supporting, non-profit, educational and scientific institution." Dr. Murray was recently awarded the Order of BC. His new book *People, Fish and Whales: The Vancouver Aquarium Story* was recently released by Harbour Publishing.

## 70s

Zulkifli Ali BSC(HON)'73, MSC'75 has been appointed to the Board of Commissioners of LippoBank in Indonesia representing Khazanah Holdings Berhad, an investment arm of the government of Malaysia. Prior to this appointment, he was with the publicly listed Public Bank Berhad in Malaysia for 12 years, responsible for the merger and acquisition activities of the bank. He can be contacted at [Zulkifli.ali@lippobank.co.id](mailto:Zulkifli.ali@lippobank.co.id) ... W.R. (Bill) Braidwood BASC(MECH)'71, PENG has a son, Adam Braidwood, who was drafted by the Edmonton Eskimos as the first overall 2006 draft pick in the CFL draft this year ... Valerie "Valley" Hennell BA'70, MA'72 (CREATIVE WRITING) has enjoyed a successful career as a songwriter and record producer. She co-wrote and produced Rick Scott's new CD of dulcimer lullabies *Snooze Music*, which won 2006 NAPPA Gold and Parents' Choice Silver Honour awards in the US. She is currently producing *Pied Pumkids*, a children's CD and Canadian tour for legendary BC folk trio Pied Pumpkin. In March 2007 her poetry, text and soundtrack will be featured in the Asian premiere of *YuYu MiMi – A Love Story* at the Hong Kong Arts Festival ... UBC's director of Biomedical Engineering, Ken Yip BASC'72, was recently named the Outstanding Canadian Biomedical Engineer for 2006 by the Canadian Medical and Biological Engineering Society. He was recognized for helping develop a biomedical engineering program at Vancouver Coastal Health that ensures safe,

## class ACTS

effective and economical healthcare technologies for patients. It does this in part via a web-based healthcare technology management system, now being adopted elsewhere in the province. "I've been able to take what I learned in the UBC Engineering Program and apply it to healthcare technology to allow doctors and nurses to treat patients safely and effectively," says Dr. Yip. "Being part of a patient care team has made my career very satisfying."

## 80s

Vicki Howard BA'87 now lives with her husband and daughter Kathleen in Oneonta, NY, where she is an assistant professor of History at Hartwick College Brides, Inc. She has recently published Brides, Inc., which explores the history of the wedding industry. Weddings today are a \$70-billion business, yet no one has explained how the industry has become such a significant component of the American economy. Vicki goes behind the scenes of the various firms involved – from jewelers to caterers – to explore the origins of the lavish American wedding, demonstrating the important role commercial interests have played in shaping traditions most of us take for granted ... Jason Farris BSC(PHYSICS)'89 was recently appointed president and CEO of Citizens Bank of Canada. Based in Vancouver, Citizens Bank is branchless and claims to be "the only Canadian bank with a clear ethical policy on social and environmental issues." Learn more at [www.citizensbank.ca](http://www.citizensbank.ca).

## 90s

Three of UBC's Geological Engineering and Geological Sciences alumni are contributing to sustainability improvements at their alma mater. Reg North (BASC'82, PENG, PGEO), Stephen Munzar (BSC'98, MSC'01, PGEO), and Ruben Arellano (BASC'98, PENG) all work with Vancouver-based consulting firm Hemmera ([www.hemmera.com](http://www.hemmera.com)) and are retrofitting a portion of the UBC's Earth and Ocean Science building's heating and cooling system to a geoexchange (or ground-source



NICOLE BARBER,  
starring in *Peer Gynt* at UBC.

heat pump) based system. A geoexchange heating and cooling system is the most energy efficient, greenhouse gas emission-free, and cost-effective type available today, and their popularity is growing at an exponential rate across BC and Canada. What makes the project unique is that it will utilize a 100-metre deep groundwater supply well as the energy source. The well is located on the south-side of the building. Due to the depth and unique nature of the relatively unexplored aquifer, careful exploratory drilling, well design, and installation methods were required to ensure the maximum yield of groundwater in the most efficient and sustainable manner possible. "It's really great to be working as professionals at our old stomping grounds, contributing in such an environmentally-beneficial way," says Ruben Arellano. Stephen Munzar agrees. "Being able to apply detailed hydrogeologic methods and principles, at the place that taught me my fundamentals, is something I never imagined when I graduated." Now that the well is installed and tested, detailed design of the mechanical components is underway, and the system should be up and running in the near future ... Danielle Bretton BA'90, LLB'94 recently left the firm in down-

town Vancouver where she had worked for seven years in to go to Africa. While there she climbed Kilimanjaro, was surrounded by 12 lions, attended the International War Crimes Tribunal for Rwanda, and met her World Vision sponsored child in Shinyanga, Tanzania. She is now practicing at Somers & Company part-time while spending the rest of her time running after her two-year old, Rachel ... Gina Buonaguro MA'98 has published a novel *The Sidewalk Artist* (St. Martin's Press), co-authored with Janice Kirk. *The Sidewalk Artist* interweaves two stories, one of a young woman writer and a European sidewalk artist, the other of the historical painter Raphael and his secret beloved. More information about the novel, which is being published in the United States and Canada and soon Germany and Serbia, can be found at [www.thesidewalkartist.com](http://www.thesidewalkartist.com). Gina currently resides in Toronto with her husband, fellow UBC alumnus Ajay Agrawal BASC'93, MENG'95, PHD'02 and their young daughter Amelia ... Artistic director, actor and director Camyar Chai BFA'93 wrote a libretto for a children's opera entitled *Elijah's Kite*. The opera is a morality tale that addresses violence and schoolyard bullying and explores friendship, loneliness, and self-image. The opera premiered in New York in April and will be performed at the Governor General's residence in Ottawa on October 30 to mark the start of "Bullying Awareness Week." Camyar is the founding artistic director of NeWorld Theatre, and has received a number of significant awards over the past decade for his work ... Barbara Nickel MFA'94 has been awarded the 2006 Sheila Egoff children's Prize, one of the Lieutenant Governor's Annual BC Book Prizes, for *Hannah Waters and the Daughter of Johann Sebastian Bach* ... City of Saskatoon Archivist, Jeff O'Brien MASC'95, is co-author of the recently published *Saskatoon: A History in Photographs* (Coteau Books, 2006), written in celebration of the City of Saskatoon's 2006 centennial ... Since her graduation, Natalie Rock BSN'92 has contributed tremendously to the field of Hepatology, not only in BC but across Canada and internationally. Her commitment to her work is being recognized by the Canadian Liver Foundation at its annual Tribute Dinner, at which she will be the honorary guest. This is the first time in

Outstanding Canadian Biomedical Engineer  
for 2006, UBC's KEN YIP.

Canadian history a nurse has been selected for this recognition. The dinner will be held on November 18 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Vancouver. Natalie is the Clinic Director at the Liver and Intestinal Research Centre and is one of Canada's leading Hepatology Clinical Research Nurses ... After providing consultation on a number of management projects for Gray Line West's Vancouver operations this summer, Mark Mawhinney BA'94 has joined the company as Manager, Corporate Development. His primary function is to analyse operations and identify opportunities for additional revenue generation and cost management. He will continue his duties as board member of the UBC Alumni Association and of Affinity Engines (Canada), Inc., and advisory board member of MultiTrends ITNet Services Inc.



## OOS

Nicole Braber BFA'01 starred in a *Peer Gynt* adaptation by UBC Theatre faculty Errol Durbach that co-starred several current UBC Theatre students (Spencer Atkinson, Maura Halloran and Kimberley Harvey). The production ran at the Vancouver East Cultural Centre in September ... Charlotte Gill MFA'00 has been awarded the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize, one of the Lieutenant Governor's Annual BC Book Prizes, for *Ladykiller* ... Louise S. Foster BA'02 married Jonathan Tagulao BA'98, BED'99 on Saturday, September 24, 2005 ... Lisa Kwan BA'96, MARCH'02 is a new council member of the Architectural Institute of British Columbia. She has been an AIBC intern architect in good standing for two years and is currently employed at Soren Rasmussen Architects ... Jessey Minhas BSC'01, DMD'05 and Kiran Kaila BSC(PHARM)'00 would like to announce the birth of their son, Sean, who was born on February 11, 2006, in Prince George, weighing 7LBS. 11OZ. ■

An advertisement for the UBC Alumni Travel Program. It features a photograph of two people standing on a balcony overlooking a city skyline at sunset. The UBC logo is in the top left corner. The text "EDUCATION, EXPLORATION &amp; adventure" is written across the center. To the right is a list of travel packages and their dates.

More than 1500 alumni and friends have travelled with the UBC Alumni Travel Program. Our travel partners, Intrav/Clipper, Alumni Holidays International, Gohagan & Company, and Adventures Abroad Active Adventures provide the highest quality service in luxurious, educational travel. Our 2007 upcoming adventures include:

#### INTRAV/CLIPPER

Antarctica  
February  
Wings Over the Nile  
February  
Great Rivers and Waterways of Europe  
June  
Journey of the Czars  
August  
Greek Isles, Libya, Tunisia  
September  
Journey into India  
November  
Patagonia  
January, 2008

#### ALUMNI HOLIDAYS INTERNATIONAL

Tuscany  
April  
Berlin, Dresden, Prague  
May  
Ukraine  
July  
China/Yangtze Discovery  
October

#### GOHAGAN & COMPANY

The Danube & The Habsburg Empire  
Village Life in the Dordogne  
June  
September

#### ADVENTURES ABROAD ACTIVE ADVENTURES

Mexico - Copper Canyon by Rail  
Spain - The Way of Saint James Hike  
Peru - Inca Trail Hike  
March  
May  
July

For more information on trips, please call (604) 822-9629, 1-800-883-3088 or visit us on the web at [www.alumni.ubc.ca](http://www.alumni.ubc.ca).



## Being American at UBC

A state-sider extols the virtues (and the downsides) of being a Yankee in Queen Elizabeth's dominion.

**by Alex Burkholder**

WHEN I FIRST ARRIVED IN CANADA two years ago, my thoughts were not in the vein of the tired, the poor and the huddled masses, but the rather more plebeian pleas for a bathroom and a Taco Bell (not that the huddled masses probably couldn't have used both). As an arriving first year US student in Canada, culture shock wasn't on my mind, nor homesickness.

It helps that I arrived by Honda rather than steamship, but as I crossed the border and caught the first glimpse of beautiful Surrey, I was preoccupied with thoughts of textbooks, cafeteria food, and classes – the same things that worry any international university student. The kilometers-an-hour signs whizzing by added to my excitement, rather than detracted; new was interesting, and I alone among my friends had chosen to take the new and interesting trip north of the border.

Coming from northwest Washington state and having Canadian relatives, I'd been up to Vancouver and through BC a few times in my life. A cousin at UBC meant that I'd visited the campus twice, once to Koerner's pub (and

a somewhat lax I.D. policy; I was 15 at the time), and it convinced me that UBC was high on my shortlist of places to spend four years. Unfortunately, information was hard to come by. UBC wasn't at the college fair to which our grade 12 class was bussed; the guidance counsellors had no knowledge of Canadian institutions. No one from my hometown had ever graduated from UBC, so my application was purely a matter of having the right family in the right place at the right time.

Luckily, I persevered, and was accepted. My roommate first year, and one of my best friends to this day, is an American. Due perhaps to the high ratio of international students in residence, or a natural gravitation, approximately half of my friends at UBC are American. Through my own trials and tribulations over the past two years, and through theirs, I've compiled a list of the many reasons for transfers back to state schools (which several of my friends have undertaken). Having a well-known degree is probably the most practical concern; the fact of the matter is that Canadian institutions, no matter how highly regarded, are not that well known in the States.

If a prestigious degree is the most practical concern, anti-American sentiment is the most obvious. Cultural difference is the most subversive concern, and the usual reasons that affect any university student – money, grades, homesickness – round out the bottom of the list. At the end of first year, I had several transfer applications lined up in front of me, waiting only for an international stamp and a Canada Post box. Thankfully, I told myself to give it another year before I made my final decision; it was the right decision, and as I sit here writing this I can't think of another place I'd rather be.

The differences in culture between Canada and the United States are transparent enough to lull someone into a false sense of similarity. We might drink AGD instead of Pabst, or watch Trailer Park Boys instead of Roseanne, but culture is culture, right? There are, of course, some reminders that the flag is red, white, and maple leaf. Sometimes it's the little things like the lack of hole-in-the-wall Mexican restaurants on every corner. But mostly, it's the big events that serve to remind. I spent my first 4th of July away from home this year. Come Canada Day, I had to wonder, where are the great fireworks?

Where's the excitement? Why aren't people wearing the red and white on their shirts? Parades? Terrible country songs? The day the Tragically Hip sing "Proud to be a Canadian" is the day Lee Greenwood moves to Kabul.

The 2004 US election served as a reminder, as well. Ten Americans, two laptops, and CNN crowded into our tiny Totem Park residence lounge, everyone hoping against the inevitable. We walked around like characters from a George Romero flick on November 3rd, wondering how people could be talking about classes, worrying about homework, when our world had ground to a halt the night before. It was frustrating to not have a nation with whom we could share our pain.

America's relationship with the rest of the world is a delicate topic, but it often isn't an issue with Canadians. Indeed, sometimes it's fellow Americans who are alienating; many at UBC came to Canada for a reason and aren't afraid to share it. There are US professors who came to Canada and act like they escaped Stalin, and there are fellow American students who don't understand the difference between disagreeing with a government and hating an entire country.

One-size-fits-all opinions are much harder to stomach than the gentle ribbing and rivalry of friendly Canadian-American banter, which is usually no worse than that at a Canucks-Flames game ("go Canucks," of course). I've been fortunate that the only anti-American sentiment I've encountered personally has been of the academic variety. Whether the arguments presented are intelligent or not (and it usually runs about half-and-half), classroom discussions are not direct personal attacks. Not everyone on campus has been as lucky, however. A friend got thrown out of a pub, along with two Canadians, for complaining about a bartender's shirt. The shirt was a riff on the seminal "I heart NY" logo, but slightly different: instead of a heart, the bartender's chest displayed a plane crashing into the "NY." None of us will go back to the Cambie again.

This is an isolated incident, of course; my general experience here has been overwhelmingly positive. Friends and friends' parents alike have taken me in on holidays, making sure I have something to eat when I can't make the time or money for a Greyhound trip home. Vancouverites as a whole are laid-back, easy-going, and as west coast as the stunning scenery that surrounds the city. Canadians and Staters

alike enjoy moaning about the prices of tuition, alcohol, and gas. The Vancouver experience is much the same as the Seattle experience, except that the hockey is better.

If I could give one piece of advice to an incoming international student, I would use words more succinct and more eloquent than my own: walk the line. As in any new place, things are different. It will take some adjusting. It took me nearly a year to find a good rhythm, to find an identity that was my own and not a reaction to my situation or my surroundings. Go with the flow. Take a year to experience all the amazing things Vancouver and UBC have to offer before making the decision to return home. Be sure that you've had enough time to really make your decision without cheating yourself out of a great opportunity. If I had gone home at the end of first year when I wanted to, I would have missed some of the most amazing adventures of my life. I would have lost out on an international aspect to my education and on a chance to explore and experience a vibrant city and one of the top rated universities in the world.

Why leave Canada? I've listed the reasons, and many people feel strongly enough about them to pack their bags. Why stay in Canada? Stay in Canada because once you've faced and overcome those obstacles, your education, your point-of-view, and life itself will be sweeter for it. When you're sitting on Wreck Beach with a group of friends and a guitar, watching the sun set over Vancouver Island, you'll know you made the right choice. ■

*Alex Burkholder is a third-year student at UBC.*



*TrekConnect* is our new online networking tool that lets you create your own specialized groups of UBC classmates. Build networks, join existing ones, post jobs or just get in touch with old classmates.

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For more information, call the Alumni Affairs office at 604-822-3313



UBC Career Services  
Email: [career.services@ubc.ca](mailto:career.services@ubc.ca)  
1206-1874 East Mall  
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1  
604-822-4011

## Call For Nominations

### UBC Alumni Association Board of Directors

- 1 Vice Chair (2 year term)
- 2 Members-at-Large (3 year term)

Deadline for nominations is  
**4:30 pm, January 25, 2007**  
Call **604.822.3313** for more  
information or check the website  
[www.alumni.ubc.ca](http://www.alumni.ubc.ca)

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<sup>†</sup>Group auto insurance rates are not applicable in Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island. Due to provincial legislation, our auto insurance program is not offered in British Columbia, Manitoba or Saskatchewan. The home and auto insurance program is underwritten by Security National Insurance Company and distributed by Meloche Monnex Financial Services Inc.

\*No purchase necessary. The contest is open to residents of Canada who have reached the age of majority where they reside. The approximate value of each vehicle is \$35,000. The contest runs from January 1 to December 31, 2006. In order to win, each entrant, selected at random, must correctly answer a mathematical skill-testing question. For more details on the contest rules and on our company, visit [tdmelochemonnex.com/ubc](http://tdmelochemonnex.com/ubc).

# alumninews

## REGIONAL NETWORK NEWS

The start of the school year heralds a flurry of activity and many nervous but curious new students. This summer, alumni played a part in welcoming to the UBC community more than 450 new students and parents at a series of send-off events. No matter how far you are from your alma mater, you can stay in contact and be part of the excitement a new year brings. Over the past few months, a number of new alumni networks have formed across the globe, and volunteers are busy planning more activities for their fellow alumni. There's bound to be something going on in your area!

### New Regional Contacts

#### Canada

##### Halifax

Steve Cawood, BA'98  
cawood@canada.com

#### USA

##### Seattle

Catherine Kalke, MBA'93  
ckalke@comcast.net

#### International

(Argentina) Buenos Aires  
Hugo Passarello, BA'05  
hugo.passarello@gmail.com

#### (China) Shanghai

Nicole Qian, BCOM'03  
shanghai@alumni.ubc.ca

#### (Poland) Poznan

Darah Dilmaghani-Tabriz, BSC'04  
Darah.Dilmaghani@gmx.de

#### (UK) London

Whitney Greenwood, BCOM'97  
whitney\_greenwood@mckinsey.com

Check out the full list of regional networks and contacts at: <http://www.alumni.ubc.ca/connect/networks/index.php>.



UBC alumni based in the UK enjoyed a walking tour of London's Arcadia in September.

Ken MacKenzie BA'90, BA(ARCH)'94 organized the outing.

### Upcoming Events

Visit [www.alumni.ubc.ca/events](http://www.alumni.ubc.ca/events) for up-to-date information.

#### UBC Okanagan

November 15, 5:30-7:30 pm  
Sun Room, Student Services Centre, Kelowna campus. Hear Doug Owram, Deputy Vice Chancellor of UBC Okanagan in conversation with the CBC's Marion Barschel about UBC Okanagan. RSVP at [www.alumni.ubc.ca/rsvp](http://www.alumni.ubc.ca/rsvp) by Nov. 10. Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

#### Toronto

November 16, 5:30-7:30 pm  
Intercontinental Toronto, 220 Bloor Street W  
Alumni and friends reception hosted by the faculty of Arts. Registration and reception begins at 5:30 pm. At 6:30 pm Anthony Shelton, director of UBC's MOA will speak about *The 21st Century Museum*.

#### Portland, Oregon

November 21, 6:30 pm  
The 2006 Curling Bonspiel! No experience/talent/knowledge necessary. Lessons and equipment included. Bring comfortable clothing. After throwing a few rocks, the group will meet nearby for snacks and drinks. \$15

for curling. For info and RSVP, contact Nicki Pozos, BASC'96 at [nicki@morelifeworks.com](mailto:nicki@morelifeworks.com).

#### London, UK

November 29, 7 pm  
London grads from UBC, SFU and UVic meet for a pub evening at The Maple Leaf, 41 Maiden Lane, Covent Garden. Look for your UBC host, who will be wearing a UBC t-shirt.

#### Prince George

January 7, 8 pm  
Tenor Ben Heppner, BMUS'79, LLD'97 performs at Vanier Hall. We've block booked tickets for alumni at a 10 per cent discount. Stay tuned for a possible reception. Get your tickets soon!

#### Kamloops

January 10, 8 pm  
Ben Heppner at the Sagebrush Theatre. We've block booked tickets at a 10 per cent discount for UBC alumni. Tickets are going quickly. Stay tuned for a possible reception.

#### Ottawa

January 18, 7:30 pm  
Ottawa Senators vs. Vancouver Canucks!  
Contact Heather Cole [hcole@rogers.com](mailto:hcole@rogers.com) or Ryan Flewelling [rflEWELLING5493@rogers.com](mailto:rflEWELLING5493@rogers.com), if you want to get a group together.

# alumni news

Atlanta, Georgia

February 8, 6:30 pm

The Canadian Consulate is organizing its 3rd Annual Pan Canadian Alumni Gala. Join fellow alumni from Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, North and South Carolina and Mississippi and network with graduates from other Canadian universities. Invitations to follow.

## Be Part of the Excitement!

Do you have a flair for event planning? Writing web content? Organizing book clubs? Fielding questions from and sharing experiences with new students or relocating alumni? If so, why not contact the rep for your region and share your talent. If you don't see a network for your area on our website listings, contact your alumni relations manager:

- Shawn at UBC O: shawn.swallow@ubc.ca
- Valerie at the Asia Pacific Regional Office: Valerie.tse@apro.ubc.ca
- Tanya at UBC Vancouver tanya.walker@ubc.ca

Visit *TrekConnect* at [www.alumni.ubc.ca](http://www.alumni.ubc.ca)! New regional groups form every day. This is a great way to stay in touch, connect with other alumni and maximize your network.

## Young Alumni Events

**Olympic Fundraiser Everyone welcome**  
Thursday, November 23, 5:30-8 pm  
Figmint Restaurant and Lounge,  
500 West 12th Ave @ Cambie Street  
[www.figmintrestaurant.com](http://www.figmintrestaurant.com)

This event will raise funds for swimmer Scott Dickens to compete in the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Dickens is a 2004 Olympian and is currently ranked 20th in the world in the breaststroke. He is also reigning CIS champion in the 50, 100, and 200-metre breaststroke. Come out and help support Scott's bid to reach the podium in Beijing. As part of the fundraising, there will be a silent auction. Make a bid, sip your drink, chat with fellow alumni, and enjoy the panoramic view of downtown Vancouver that Figmint has to offer. Appetizers are on us and you might win a door prize. All you have to do is show up.

UBC Alumnae celebrate Canada Day in Hong Kong



## Alumni Weekend 2006

Alumni have repeatedly told us what they want from UBC:

- More information about what's going on at UBC today
- Opportunities to maintain an intellectual connection with UBC
- Help connecting with other alumni
- Opportunity to hear student perspectives

**Alumni Weekend Sept. 29 – Oct. 1** went a long way toward fulfilling these objectives. Nearly 1,600 people of all ages and stages of life braved the rain to gather on the Point Grey campus. And not just to attend reunions. With more than 50 activities to choose from, alumni had a hard time deciding where to go and what to see:

As well as 15 reunions to celebrate key anniversaries, alumni and friends of UBC could choose from:

- Classes without Quizzes (presentations by some of UBC's best teachers)
- Alumni author readings at the Bookstore
- Student panels
- Wine tasting
- Guided tours: UBC Farm, Botanical Gardens, Museum of Anthropology
- 'Birds football game vs. Regina
- Theatre production: *Beautiful Thing*
- Concerts at the Chan Centre

- UBC Boathouse Opening

- Day of the Longboat (2km canoe race from the Jericho Sailing Centre)

On Saturday morning, alumni gathered in a tent at the Flagpole Plaza for an early morning pancake breakfast with new UBC president, Stephen Toope. They listened to him in conversation with Kathryn Gretsinger, CBC Radio host and a Journalism masters candidate at UBC. The previous day, Professor Toope was officially installed as 12th President and Vice-Chancellor of UBC.

For the rest of the day, alumni travelled from activity to activity on foot, by golf cart or by bus. The golf carts seemed to be a favourite mode of transportation!

One hundred students, staff, alumni and faculty members generously volunteered their time. Thank you to all! If you were unable to attend, visit our website at [www.alumni.ubc.ca/connect/podcasts](http://www.alumni.ubc.ca/connect/podcasts) to hear these:

- **Crime Scene Investigation @ UBC: Is What You See on TV Actually Possible?** with Professor David Sweet
- **Older Adults with Dementia: Families and Nurses Giving Care** with Nursing Assoc. Prof. JoAnn Perry
- **On Thinning Ice – Challenges to Canadian Sovereignty in the Northwest Passage** with Professor Michael Byers.

## **Reunions 2006-2007**

Unless otherwise stated, please contact Marguerite Collins at [marguerite.collins@ubc.ca](mailto:marguerite.collins@ubc.ca) or 604.827.3294 for more info. We're organizing reunions for the 10, 25, 50 and 60 year anniversary classes. Contact Marguerite for more information.

### **Class of '46 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion**

Special celebration on Thursday Nov. 23. Brunch at Cecil Green Park followed by convocation at the Chan where you will receive your 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary pin from president Stephen Toope. Join us after for tea at Cecil Green Park. Contact Marguerite for more info.

The Class of 1946 established a scholarship at our 50th reunion for an outstanding student entering UBC from high school. We continue to raise funds for this scholarship. If you are interested in making a donation, contact Michelle Orr at 604.822.8904 or via e-mail at [micelle.orr@ubc.ca](mailto:micelle.orr@ubc.ca) <mailto:micelle.orr@ubc.ca>.

### **Residence Advisor Reunion – details TBC.**

Please contact Kim Davidson for more information at [kim.davidson@ubc.ca](mailto:kim.davidson@ubc.ca) or 604.827.3569.

### **Sauder School of Business**

MBA'97, BCOM'97, MBA'82, BCOM'82, 1957 – details TBC. Please contact [alumni@sauder.ubc.ca](mailto:alumni@sauder.ubc.ca) or 604.822.6027 for more information.

### **School of Nursing**

Nursing All Years 2007 at Cecil Green Park – details to be confirmed. Contact Marguerite.

Nursing 1974 – details TBC. Contact Arlene Ford at 250.384.5403 or [make@pacificcoast.net](mailto:make@pacificcoast.net). Alternatively, contact Marguerite.

### **Faculty of Medicine**

MED'58 – details TBC. Contact Peggy Ross at [peggyleross@shaw.ca](mailto:peggyleross@shaw.ca) or 604.263.5147 for info.

MED'67 – Summer of 2007, details TBC. Contact Patrick MacLeod for more details at [patrick.macleod@viha.ca](mailto:patrick.macleod@viha.ca).

MED'02 – details TBC. Contact Marguerite.

### **Faculty of Applied Science**

For more details on Applied Science Reunion, please contact May Cordeiro, Alumni Relations Officer for Applied Science, at [mcordeiro@apsc.ubc.ca](mailto:mcordeiro@apsc.ubc.ca) or 604.822.9454.

Look for more information on our website: [www.alumni.ubc.ca/events](http://www.alumni.ubc.ca/events). ■



Alumni Weekend images:  
(Clockwise from top) Prof. Stephen Toope and Kathryn Gretsinger in conversation about UBC; David Sweet unlocks the mysteries of forensic dentistry and how it is used to solve crimes; alumni check to see if they have a nose for wine at the wine tasting event; alumni tour the Botanical Gardens; Class of '56 grads have lunch with deans Nancy Gallini and Simon Peacock at Green College; a grad sits rapt during a Class without Quizzes.



# THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

THE UBC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1917 AS A WAY FOR UBC GRADUATES TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH FRIENDS and with the university. Over the years we have developed programs and services to help this process as well as benefit our members. With more than 200,000 members, we are able to offer preferred group rates on special services that will help you save money and support the activities of the Association. These include networking and educational events; student/alumni athletics and arts programs; alumni achievement awards; volunteer programs; and more. To learn more about these great offers, call us at (604) 822.3313 or toll-free at 1.800.883.3088, or send an email to [alumni.association@ubc.ca](mailto:alumni.association@ubc.ca).



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## MELOCHE MONNEX

Home and auto insurance with preferred group rates and features designed for our grads. Travel and micro-enterprise insurance also available.

## ALUMNI A<sup>card</sup>

The Alumni A<sup>card</sup> costs \$30 per year (plus GST) and will entitle you to these UBC Alumni deals:

- UBC Community borrower library card, a \$100 value
- Receive a 25% discount on regular room rental rates at UBC Robson Square
- Special rates at the University Golf Club
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- 2-for-1 admission at the Museum of Anthropology
- First-time A<sup>card</sup> holders receive a 20% discount on selected merchandise at the UBC Bookstore
- Save on regular adult tickets for staged productions on Theatre at UBC
- UBC Botanical and Nitobe Gardens 2-for-1 admission
- Deals on UBC Athletics events and Aquatic Centre
- Business In Vancouver subscription savings

Working downtown? The A<sup>card</sup> is available at the library at Robson Square.

[www.alumni.ubc.ca/rewards](http://www.alumni.ubc.ca/rewards)

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# IN MEMORIAM

We publish obituaries of UBC alumni, faculty and friends. We depend on relatives and friends to pass information on to us, and we try to print all the material we receive. Send notices to [vanessa.clarke@ubc.ca](mailto:vanessa.clarke@ubc.ca).

**Dr. Michael P. Beddoes**, professor emeritus of Electrical Engineering, on July 5, 2006. Dr. Beddoes came to Canada from London, England, in 1956 and taught at UBC until very recently ... **William Braidwood BASC(MECH)'41, PENG** on May 15, 2006 ... **Dr. Nelson Chew, FRCSC** clinical professor emeritus with UBC's department of Ophthalmology, on July 2, 2006. Memorial donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society ... **Dr. Harry Hawthorn LLD'76, OC** on July 28, 2006. Dr. Hawthorn came to UBC in 1947. He was a member of the Anthropology department and founding director of the Museum of Anthropology. He retired from UBC in 1976 ... **Alfred H. W. Moxon BSC(AGR)'36** in April 2006 ... **Dr. Elizabeth Vizsolyi** on August 10, 2006. Dr. Vizsolyi taught for 30 years in Zoology and retired in 1998.

## Gordon W. Ames, PENG'47

Gordon was born on April 14, 1925 and died June 9, 2006, of cancer.

Beloved husband of Gwenyth (Morris) for 52 years; father of David of Newmarket, Ontario, Catherine (McGuinty) of North Vancouver, Michael of Calgary, Jillian (Carson) of Bretwood Bay, BC, Brian of Richterswill, Switzerland and Peter of Dundas, Ontario. Gordon was grandfather to 19 grandchildren.

He was born to the late Cyril and Helen Ames of North Vancouver, where he was raised. After graduation, he spent 40 years in Sarnia, Ontario working at Polysar and Petrostar. He met Gwen in Sarnia and raised his family where they share many great memories of skiing, camping and boating. Always active, he was an avid gardener and woodworker, and enjoyed playing golf and bridge.

He never lost his love of the West Coast, and retired to North Saanich in 1987. With Gwen, he designed and built their dream retirement home and a magnificent garden where they enjoyed their retirement years with family and friends. He will be remembered



WILLIAM BRAIDWOOD

as the gentleman he always was, with a keen mind, a dry wit and a generous heart.

## Ruth Evelyn Barnett (Pidcock) BA'62

Ruth died peacefully on February 23, 2006, at Sunshine Lodge in Campbell River. She was born in Victoria on November 30, 1913. She is survived by daughter Nancy Bosomworth and grandsons Allan and Shane of Vancouver, son Paul and his partner Shelly Hollingshead of Black Creek, and sister Bernice Milligan (Frank) of Victoria. Ruth was predeceased in 2003 by her husband, Tom Barnett, former MP for Comox-Alberni and mayor of Campbell River.

A member of the pioneering Pidcock family who settled in the Comox valley and on Quadra Island in the 1860s, Ruth was the eldest of three daughters of magistrate George Pidcock and wife Eleanor. She was raised in the Comox Valley and educated at Victoria Normal School. For her UBC degree she majored in History. One of Ruth's proudest accomplishments was researching and writing *The Pidcock Family History*. Ruth taught for a number of years in the Comox Valley, Prince George, Wells and Port Alberni.

An activist for political, social and environmental causes, Ruth devoted her skills, time and energy to the communities she lived in. She was an honorary life member of the NDP

of BC and worked tirelessly for both the CCF and NDP over a 50-year period. Ruth served as president of the Alberni Valley Soroptimist Club, the Parliamentary Wives Association in Ottawa, the Campbell River Historical Society and the BC Historical Association. She was a founding member and president of the Mitlenatch Field Naturalist Society and was honoured with a club service award by the Federation of BC naturalists in 1982. In 1990 she was given the Campbell River University Women's Clubs Woman of the Year award. Ruth lobbied on behalf of seniors for the Committee for the Promotion of Healthy Ageing and wrote a regular column in the Campbell River Courier called *The Third Age*.

One of Ruth and Tom's retirement projects was the creation of a beautiful garden at their home on Pinecrest Road. Ruth's background in research and Latin allowed for interesting and informative conversations on plants, especially native plants, that were incorporated into their garden. Her knowledge was as bountiful as the plants that she grew. She generously shared both with all who cared to ask or express interest.

Ruth, described as "a woman of consequence" by a reporter enumerating her many accomplishments, committed herself to causes that strived to make the world a better place for people, plants, birds and animals. Her efforts were indefatigable, the results benefiting many.

Ruth's family would like to thank the staff of Sunshine Lodge, "We Care," and Drs. Smit and Wood for their compassionate care of Ruth. Memorial donations may be made to the Campbell River Museum.

## James Walter Bourdon BA'49, BED'50, MED'65

Jim passed away peacefully on July 31, 2006, surrounded by his loving family. He is survived by his wife, Christine; sons Bruce (Beth) and Donald (Margery); grandchildren Sarah, Caley and Kate; brother-in-law Ben; and step-daughters Sheila and Lisa and their families.

Jim was born on October 30, 1921, in Pouc Coupé, BC, into a boisterous family of eight siblings. He grew up in Creston, spending bare-foot summers fishing and exploring to his heart's content. As a kid, he shot baskets and pool, fought forest fires and read incessantly.

Jim taught in a two-room school on

## IN MEMORIAM

the Creston Flats before enlisting in the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1941. Recognized as a natural teacher, he instructed in the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan. After the war, Jim excelled in his studies at UBC, where he obtained his Bachelor of Education and later, his Masters of Education. He taught in Port Alberni and Squamish before embarking in 1950 on a 32-year career as a teacher, principal and administrator in the North Vancouver School District. That year, Jim and June Mary Smith (1919-1974) met at Sutherland Junior Secondary and fell in love. They were married in 1952. Sons Bruce and Donald were the beneficiaries of their parents' love and care. Jim was a devoted husband, father, friend and teacher. Thousands of students enjoyed his enthusiasm, keen sense of humour and love of learning.

In 1980, Jim's long years as a widower ended when he married Christine Nygard. They had happy years together in North Vancouver, White Rock and Mesa, Arizona, and enjoyed dancing, travelling, gardening, hiking and spending time with friends and family. Jim was a wonderful grandfather to his grandchildren and a caring step-father for Christine's daughters. Sadly, Jim was diagnosed with Alzheimer Disease in the late 1980s. Christine was his loving caregiver and devoted advocate throughout his long illness. Jim fought with determination to the end. He will be remembered as an artful fisherman, deadly underhand shot on the basketball court, consummate pool-shark, talented cook and true gentleman. The family offers sincere thanks to Jim's many caregivers at Northcrest Care Centre. memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer Society of BC, 1-800-667-3742.

### Susan Demaine

Susan Demaine passed away on August 11, 2006, after a courageous battle with cancer. She worked at UBC as administrator of the Intramural Sports Program, a position she held for 16 years until retiring in 2003.

Sue was born in Norfolk, Virginia, on May 9, 1943, and grew up in Lynn and Swampscott, Massachusetts. She earned a BA in English Literature at Tufts University and earned her Masters in Library Science from Simmons College. Her choice of subject was likely influenced by her relationship with Edith Snow, librarian in her home town. Sue worked at the library during high school and college years, and after gaining her Masters worked at the Harvard Business

School Library. She also tried her hand at candle making, and later ran a weaving studio.

After moving to BC in 1983, Sue joined UBC in 1987 as an administrator of the Intramural Sports Program. She was a behind-the-scenes organizer, with a hand in almost everything, her huge contributions making the program run smoothly and successfully. Unafraid of technology, Sue embraced it and put it to work for the benefit of the program and its staff. (She and colleagues installed one of the campus' first Local Area Networks in 1988.) Being good at a lot of things inevitably meant that Sue took a lot on and soon became a highly respected multi-tasker, from web development to budget management. She was indispensable to Legacy Games coordinator Nestor Korchinsky, and together they made a dynamic and highly effective team.

Retiring in 2003, she and husband Peter Alan moved to McBride where they enjoyed living in small, rural community. Susan's interests included gardening, herbs, hunting, trapping, fishing, weaving and community development.

She was predeceased by her father Frederick Russell and leaves Peter, her mother, Marjorie Russell, sister Cynthia and husband Hugo, step-daughter Dannielle, step-grandchildren

Cassidy and Robin, nieces Dawn and Erica, and several aunts, uncles and cousins. Memorial donations may be made to the McBride Public Library Building Fund, Box 489, McBride, BC V0J 2E0.

### Beverley Ann Elliott BHE'82 (Dietetics)

Beverley passed away June 14, 2005. Her adventuresome spirit led her to work in Los Angeles, Kingston, Vancouver, Malaysia, New York, Halifax, Toronto, and most recently at the King Khaled Eye Specialist Hospital in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia for 10 years as a Medical Editor in the Research Department. She retired to Ottawa in 2003. Over the years, she touched many lives and formed lasting friendships around the world. She will be greatly missed but has left everlasting memories of her smile and positive attitude toward life.

### William (Bill) Stewart Hoar

Professor Emeritus of Zoology William Hoar died aged 92 in Vancouver General Hospital on June 13, 2006, following an infection. Bill was a mentor for a generation of Zoologists, particularly fish physiologists, around the globe.

Born August 31, 1913, Bill grew up in the warmth of an extended family on Hoar's Dairy Farm, Moncton, NB. He contracted polio when he was one, which left him with a lame leg. The withered leg changed prospects for this first-born son, who should have managed and inherited the family farm. His parents encouraged him to look to a teaching career. The leg prevented his starting school until his younger brother was big enough to drive the horse and cart. Bill soon caught up and excelled in the one room school, winning a Beaverbrook scholarship to study at the University of New Brunswick.

After graduating in 1934, he was offered the post of demonstrator / research assistant at the University of Western Ontario. This led him to the love of his life, Myra, who was head demonstrator. She became his good friend and eventually his wife, after he completed a PHD at Boston University and accepted a teaching post back at his alma mater.

Unable to serve in the traditional fashion during WWII, Bill was sent to the Toronto Medical School to learn how to set up blood clinics for UNB. He overcame his fear of hurting someone with the hand-sharpened needles only after Dr. Charlie Best (of Insulin fame) told him, "Young man, you will never get anywhere if you are afraid to make a mistake. That's how you learn."

In 1942, Bill's summer research on dog blood involved heparin as an anti-coagulant. When this

### ALFRED MOXON



appeared the only answer for Myra's troubles after their first child's birth, his boss sent him to save her with pockets full of the medication (unregulated and, we believe, the first use in humans).

Also during WWII, a colleague discovered Bill's red-green colour blindness and he became involved in vision experiments detecting camouflage for the military. His colour challenges amused his children and when asked "what colour is that?" his sense of fun prompted the usual replies of "sky-blue-pink" or "tartan." Despite this challenge, he loved flowers of all colours and his garden was a source of relaxation until his leg would no longer hold him up.

After the war Myra's dedication catapulted his career forward. She encouraged his move west to become professor of Zoology and Fisheries at UBC. His own mother was sure she would never see him again if he went so far away. In 1945 they moved into a tar paper shack in what was Acadia Camp. UBC was growing fast with the returning service men and women. Over their years at UBC, Myra regularly entertained faculty and students, proofread miles of manuscripts for Bill's text books and raised their four children: sons, Stewart and David, born in the east, and daughters, Kenzie and Melanie, born in the west.

Bill had a remarkable ability to seek out and see the best in others. In difficult situations he would always counsel, "sleep on it before you react." As head of UBC Zoology and "father" to many "academic children" he is remembered by students, faculty and staff for his ability to encourage excellence through a friendly, casual and genuinely supportive approach. His diaries show humanity, generosity and determination.

Bill was an avid letter writer, journalist and author who left a record of productivity that did not stop at retirement. He represented Canada on NATO scientific boards and other scientific committees around the world. He completed a third edition of his comparative physiology textbook, worked on joint authored publications and published four family history books.

Bill received the Order of Canada and seven honorary degrees but, despite international recognition for his contributions to science, it was family that really mattered. His seven grandchildren enjoyed time with him at home, travelling, and at his summer retreat. His seven great grandchildren share memories of their gentle Great-grampie at home.

The deaths of Bill's beloved Myra, whom he nursed through a long illness, and his daughter, Kenzie, who lost an even longer battle to multi-

ple sclerosis, didn't defeat him. Quoting poetry was a favourite pastime and the family could always count on something appropriate. In the last years, it was often "Do not go gentle into that good night" (Dylan Thomas). In the end, gentle was what he did best.

#### Neville Mayers BSA'31, MSA'32

Neville Mayers was a BC boy, born in Vancouver in 1908 to Francis and Nina Mayers. Due to illness, he started school at the age of eight but graduated from Magee High School at the age of 15. He attended UBC and graduated in 1931 with a BSA degree (majoring in Crop Husbandry) and continued with a Masters degree in Plant Pathology.

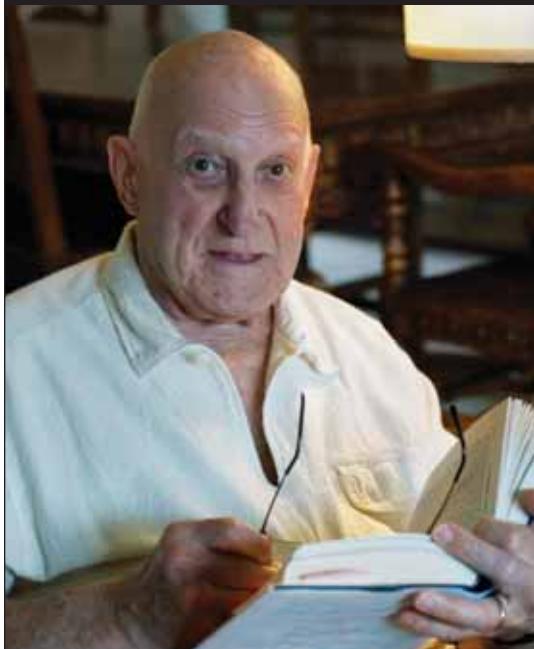
Neville was an avid outdoorsman. He loved to fish and hunt. He was always happiest with a rod in his hand and the sun overhead. In 1938, he met and married Myrtle Dickson who was a graduate nurse at VGH. They spent many

happy vacations tenting around the province. In time they had three children: Janette, Dorothy and Jim. Holidays were spent camping and fishing from the Island to the Okanagan to the Cariboo. Dorothy has memories of many happy times camping, boating and picnicking.

After he graduated, Neville worked with the department of Agriculture at the Dominion Laboratory of Plant Pathology in Saanichton, BC. During that time, he carried out seed potato certification in several areas of the province and a plant disease survey of Vancouver Island and the lower mainland. He also published several papers on plant biology.

In 1935, Neville inaugurated and managed the insecticide, fungicide and herbicide department for Buckerfields. During the war years, he was a member of the Home Guard and lived on Mayne Island growing tomatoes commercially. By this time his children were getting close to school age, so he brought his family

## Can UBC Create Your Legacy?



Bill Burge thinks so. By establishing the Alice Maud Burge Endowment Fund for Innovative Student Research, he is helping UBC history students enhance their research by attending conferences and bringing in speakers. Bill was recently able to contribute a further sum to the fund, thanks to federal legislation that has eliminated capital gains tax on direct donations of publicly traded securities. His goal is to continue to build the fund's capital, so it will support even more annual initiatives.

"In our present world, innovative and creative research by history students has never been more important," says Dr. David Breen, Professor and former Head of UBC's Department of History.

To create a legacy at UBC, please contact UBC Gift & Estate Planning at 604.822.5373 or [heritage.circle@ubc.ca](mailto:heritage.circle@ubc.ca).

## IN MEMORIAM

back to Vancouver and was employed by the department of Agriculture (Plant protection Division), where he carried out seed potato certification.

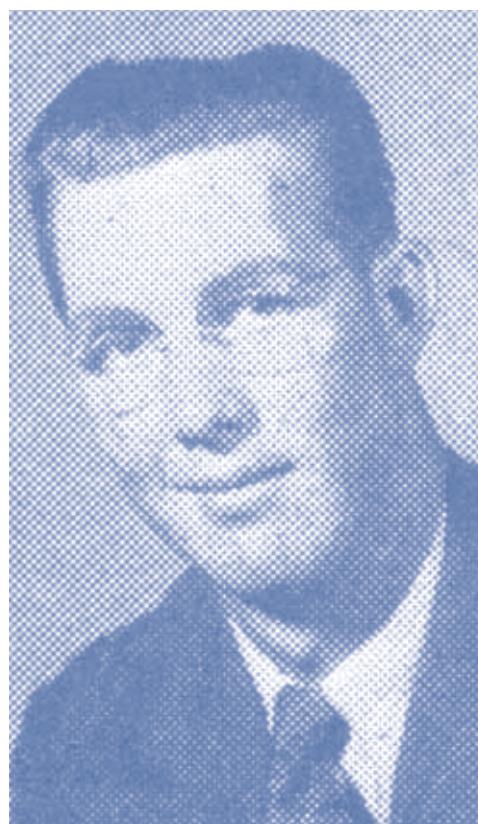
In 1955, He was appointed Officer in Charge of seed potato production in BC. In 1957, he travelled to Holland to inspect tulip bulbs for disease prior to their shipment to Canada. In 1965, he was appointed program manager for the containment and eradication of the Golden Nematode in Saanichton. He returned to the Vancouver office in 1966 as Officer in Charge of the Plant Protection Division and was responsible for the inspection of imported plants for disease and insect pests and the inspection of ships for the presence of insects, which could contaminate or infect Canadian grain shipments and seed potato certification for BC.

In 1967, Neville was honoured to be one of seven BC agrologists to receive the Centennial Medal for Service. In 1970, retirement loomed on the horizon and he could concentrate on small research projects and pursue his love of fishing. Of utmost importance to him was his home and family. He loved his children and grandchildren and was always very supportive of their activities. He helped the Cub Scouts sell Christmas trees and lined the football fields prior to games so his son's team could play. He encouraged education and wanted his children to continue their studies after high school. He was always able to help the kids out with a few bucks here and there.

In 1979, Neville and Myrtle moved from their lovely home in North Vancouver to Qualicum Beach. They started over with a new home, landscaping it by putting in gardens and fruit trees. They loved the Island life and spent many hours camping with their trailer, fishing the local streams, gardening, participating in Natural History Society activities, playing cards with friends and enjoying their grandchildren, now numbering four. Grandpa was always there for the grandkids and encouraged them in their schooling and activities. He loved to hear stories of their progress in school and successes in sports and music. He was there for special times, graduations, weddings, and new babies. He still maintained an interest in the world around him and was concerned about environmental issues such as overgrazing, stream pollution, clear cut logging, over fishing, etc. The state of the world, and how overpopulation was affecting the food supply,



JAMES BOURDON



DAVID VERKERK

was a real concern for him. He got involved with politics and wrote many a letter to his MP with suggestions for cleaning up the environment. Neville always had an inquiring mind and an active interest in everything around him. His family will sorely miss him, as he has always been such a large part of their lives. Tight Lines Dad – We have our memories.

### Robert N. McRae BSC'70, MSC'72, PHD'77

Dr. Bob McRae passed away on April 22, 2006. Born on August 31, 1948, he grew up in Vancouver and earned his PHD in Economics at UBC. His dissertation, *A Quantitative analysis of Politics affecting Canadian Trade in Crude Oil and Natural Gas*, was completed under the supervision of John Helliwell. He joined the Economics department at the University of Calgary in 1977, becoming its head in 1991 and remaining in that position until 1996. His area of specialization was energy economics with a focus on estimating systems of fuel consumption equations and analyzing the implications of energy policy initiatives. He was co-author of one of the first PC econometric programs, SHAZHM.

Over the years, Bob travelled widely making formal presentations at numerous conferences, universities and business organizations, both nationally and internationally.

Bob loved his family: Ann Wallace BA'72, Scott BA(HONS)'02, and Kate BA PSYCH, UVic. He also loved his work, travelling, jogging and cycling. He will be remembered for his sense of humour and imagination, as well as for being an enthusiastic, knowledgeable, sympathetic instructor, both at the graduate and undergraduate levels.

### J. David Verkerk BA'49

J. David Verkerk died suddenly but peacefully on May 24, 2006, at Creekside Manor in Maple Ridge, BC. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Elinor (Dearing), his three children: Jim (SFU'76), Ruth (UVIC'80), and Anne BA'82, MLSC'85, BED'98, and seven grandchildren.

After receiving his degree, David completed three years at Union College and was ordained in 1952. He served the United Church in three pastoral charges: Burns Lake, Port Alberni and Port Moody (Glenayre). A change of career found him undertaking teacher training at SFU in 1969, followed by five years teaching. In 1968, another year's training for teaching in industrial arts enabled him to teach ten years at Woodlands School teaching special needs children. David was challenged in his retirement by having to cope with Parkinson's disease. ■



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