

Trek²³

The Magazine of The University of British Columbia

SPRING 2009

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INSIDE:

Innocence Project

This is Jeff Francis

A Vision for Kandahar

Is Canada Really
a Democracy?

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Cover image: Illustration by Keith Leinweber
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Opposite: Hanazunmo Genji Hiiki
The Tale of Genji, written in the 11th century, recounts Prince Genji's seductive love affairs, his temporary exile, his subsequent return to court and his final voluntary solitude in a mountain temple. Murasaki Shikibu, a lady of the court, wrote this tale – often considered to be “the first novel” – to be savoured by women of aristocracy.
Asian Library (PL752.K585 Ser.1 V.16).
Image © UBC Library Vault 2008.



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TELEPHONES, TEXTING AND TWITTERING INTO YOUR HEART

From smoke signals across the veldt to social networking, we humans have an overwhelming need to communicate and to produce new tools to do it ever more effectively. Email, Facebook, Twitter and tomorrow's new thing serve to underline that fact. Each generation likes to think that it has fundamentally altered human behavior, human thinking and the way life is lived with new communications tools, yet the only difference between a messenger on horseback and an instant text message from Budapest is the time it takes to deliver. The technology may have changed, but people are much the same.

But there's no doubt that the time shift has huge implications. Helen, my grandmother, told me of the time her parents' farm got its first phone in the 1920s. She was 14 and thrilled. Suddenly, she didn't have to wait to talk to her friends in town. She could do it whenever she wanted. Her mother (my great-grandmother) understood the benefits of a phone on the farm, but was ultimately appalled. "We've become slaves to that stupid thing," she said after a few months. "It rings, we come running. It rules our lives." Helen just snickered at her old-fashioned mother.

Little did she know what was to come. My nephew started university last fall at a school 600 km from his home and from his girlfriend, who's still in grade 12. Just the same, they communicate all day long. "It's texting," he says. "It doesn't cost anything, and we can text from our cell phones anytime. She gets mad at me if I don't text back during class or when I'm studying. Funny, huh?"

Hilarious. According to my nephew, his generation will change the world, because they'll never be out of touch. Suddenly, I understand my great-grandmother.

Of course, there has to be more than play value in a communications tool, otherwise it quickly loses its appeal. The telephone survived in spite of its domination by 14-year-olds because it paved the way for modern business communication, allowed friends and family to stay in touch over long distances and was, obviously, a good thing in an emergency. Texting and some form of social networking – Twitter or its successor – will survive, too. They are just too handy to die.

Here at the Alumni Association we're trying to get our collective heads around these "new media" and how we can use them to help in our efforts to get you re-engaged in the life of UBC. As with my grandmother's new telephone and my nephew's interminable texting, these technologies can bring people together like never before. Surveys of our alumni and anecdotal conversations tell us that you want to hear about the services and events we offer, but you also want to pick and choose your own level of activity.

In going ahead with a "new media" strategy, we're sensitive to two things: telemarketing is an inexcusable nuisance, and the invasion of social networking by unwanted advertising will push users away. Our responsibility to you is to make sure we balance a respect for your privacy with a genuine desire to keep you informed about, and involved in, your university.

We will be implementing some new strategies over the next few months, and will keep you up-to-date on our efforts.

Chris Petty, MFA'86, Editor in Chief

take *note*



How safe is mass composting?

Rot and Human Health

☀️ Composting is good for the planet. But is it good for human health? As more cities adopt a mass composting policy, UBC researchers are trying to find the answer. “Even though it is an eco-friendly practice, we know biohazards may be present,” says associate professor Karen Bartlett of UBC’s school of Environmental Health. “There are disease-causing organisms present throughout the process.” The wastes can contain nasty microorganisms such as listeria and salmonella, but these break down as the waste heats up and decomposes.

Researchers at UBC are able to study three different composting technologies used in Vancouver, Kamloops and Kelowna. These also present different environmental conditions for the process. “We will be able to make recommendations to the composting industry, which could help prevent both acute effects and chronic lung disease,” says Jim Atwater, an associate professor of civil engineering.

On the front line are the five to 10 workers at each composting site. “Workers are exposed to massive blooms of organisms that can potentially cause lung damage in high doses,” says Bartlett. “We’ve seen studies from countries where composting is a bigger industry than in Canada. They show that some workers experience ill health associated with breathing organic dust.” Chronic health effects can include permanent scarring of the lungs.

Researchers are exploring what bearing different methods of composting have on human exposure to fungal spores, thermophilic spore-forming bacteria and endotoxins, and on the presence of disease-causing microorganisms. They are also considering environmental factors such as temperature and humidity, which have already been shown to make a difference. “The dry air in Kamloops and Kelowna has an impact on the dispersion of microorganisms and a buffer zone between the composting facility and other facilities may be

required,” says Bartlett. “On the other hand, the amount of rain in Vancouver has an impact on dispersion and a buffer zone may not be required.” The researchers also want to establish if minimum temperatures for the destruction of disease-causing microorganisms are always met.

The project, which is funded by Worksafe BC, will be used to establish work safety practices.

Drugs of Choice

☀️ In 2007 Canadians spent about \$19 billion on prescription pharmaceuticals. A new study culminating in the publication of *The Canadian Rx Atlas (second edition)* examines how that spending breaks down by province, age and therapeutic category.

The study was conducted by UBC’s Centre for Health Services and Policy Research (CHSPR), which looks at a population’s overall health and determines the optimal organization, delivery and funding of healthcare. “The results

take *note*

show major differences in the use and cost of medicines across Canada,” says Steve Morgan, associate director of CHSPR. “Across provinces, spending differs by more than 50 per cent.”

Per capita spending on pharmaceuticals ranged from \$432 in BC to \$681 in Quebec. The most surprising finding was that these differences were not based on factors such as age demographics, population health status, or provincial health policies and drug plans.

“None of the conventional beliefs about drug spending appear to be true,” says Morgan, who points to factors such as patient expectation and the prescribing habits of doctors. He says. “Our atlas shows that for several age groups and drug classes, residents in some provinces use 50 per cent more medicines than residents of other provinces. We must study these patterns to determine whether this reflects overuse of medicines in some provinces or underuse in others.”

The illustrated atlas can be seen at www.chspr.ubc.ca.

Spinning Paper Gold

☀ BC’s pulp industry – based out of 20 mills – accounts for almost one fifth of energy consumed in the province. Pulp screening, which involves rapid rotation to force pulp through a screen, is a particularly energy-intensive part of the operation and the 300 pulp screens housed in the mills use \$16 million worth of electricity each year, enough to light 15,000 households.

But now a cross-sector partnership has developed an energy-efficient pulp screen rotor that cuts energy use in half without sacrificing paper quality. Associate professor of mechanical engineering, James Olsen, along with colleagues Carl Ollivier-Gooch and Mark Martinez, worked with Montreal company Advanced Fiber Technologies Inc. to develop the new rotor, which has been hydrodynamically designed to reduce drag.

The rotor also reduces greenhouse gas emissions and will help the Canadian pulp industry compete against up-and-coming

market rivals such as China. One hundred rotors have already been installed in Canada. “Adopted nationwide, the industry could save \$20 million a year,” says Olsen. More industrial partners are becoming involved, including BC Hydro, which is concerned that the supply of energy might not meet growing demands.

The engineers’ work has already attracted awards, including the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada’s 2007 Synergy Award for Partnership and Innovation. The council has decided to invest \$2.2 million in the technology.

Fletcher Christian Balked at Breadfruit

☀ *The Mutiny on the Bounty* made for dramatic movie-making, but most viewers don’t know that the humble breadfruit played a role in that 1789 event. Grown in the South Pacific for more than 3,000 years, breadfruit has long been considered a valuable source of high-energy food but is difficult to transport for cultivation elsewhere. *Bounty* sailors,

James Olson with a hydrodynamically designed pulp screen rotor that halves energy consumption.



Photograph: Martin Dee

transporting specimens from Tahiti to the West Indies to grow food supplies for slaves, revolted in part because precious supplies of fresh water were used to keep the thirsty plants alive. Propagation of the plant also presents problems, and production of breadfruit is in decline and a number of its varieties dying out, casualties of tropical cyclones, climate change and loss of cultivating knowledge.

Professor Susan Murch, Canada Research Chair in Natural Products Chemistry at UBC Okanagan, wants to reverse that trend. She sees the breadfruit as a potential saviour in the face of a growing food crisis. “Every four seconds someone in the tropics dies of hunger,” she says. “It is one of the biggest food security issues in the world at the moment. Breadfruit has huge value for food security. A single tree can produce 150 to 200 kilograms of food a year.”

Murch has been working with colleagues at the National Tropical Botanical Garden in Hawaii. Her research subjects are 230 different varietal specimens of the tree, originally gathered and nurtured in the 1970s and ’80s. The aim is to use modern techniques to conserve, mass propagate and distribute the most nutritionally valuable varieties. Murch’s team is the first to grow breadfruit successfully in a bioreactor (already a common way of producing less challenging North American food crops), both in Hawaii and her Okanagan lab, an achievement which means Murch was able to distribute 7,500 trees to tropical nations last year. But demand for the plants have already far exceeded the small outfit’s ability to supply, and to meet the need Murch has begun a partnership with the botanical garden in Hawaii, the government of Western Samoa and a San Diego-based horticultural company.

Not only the tropics will benefit from Murch’s research. She hopes the breadfruit can also be used to improve nutrition in North America in the form of a gluten-free, vitamin- and protein-rich flour. Murch wants to gain a better understanding of the relationship between plants and human health. “Everything we eat comes from a plant or something that ate a plant, she says. “Understanding the mechanisms of a plant has a huge impact on how human health will progress through the next 50 years and on how we can feed and care for the growing population in the world.”



Paul Courtright is helping communities in Africa to eradicate blindness.

Your Brain and Protein Power

☀️ As nerve cells develop, they grow connections and become integrated into neural networks that transmit electrochemical signals through the nervous system. Once these networks are established, a neuron’s capacity for growth and formation of new connections is diminished. This loss of neural plasticity is why an ageing or damaged brain is unable to repair itself by forming new connections.

But UBC researchers have discovered that neurons don’t lose their capacity for growth; rather, they are prevented from doing so. Researchers have pinpointed the agents involved in neural growth and suppression: the proteins calpain and cortactin. Cortactin activates neural growth, and calpain blocks cortactin once the neuron has developed and integrated into the nervous system.

The researchers were able to demonstrate in animal models that suppression of calpain results in greater neural plasticity. They are hopeful their discovery will lead to new treatments for neurological disorders and boost in the efficacy of treatments for other conditions.

Ana Mingorance-Le Meur, a postdoc in the department of Cellular and Physiological Sciences, is study lead along with professor Timothy O’Connor. “The maintenance of

neuronal connections is an active process that requires constant repression of the formation of nerve sprouts by the protein calpain to avoid uncontrolled growth,” she says. “But a consequence of this role is that calpain limits neural plasticity and the brain’s ability to repair itself. The next step is to find a way to enhance neural plasticity without interfering with the good connections that are already in place.” Mingorance-Le Meur is also a member of the Brain Research Centre at UBC and VCH Research Institute.

Blind Spot

☀️ Breakthrough health cures are wonderful, but wasted if they are not accessible to the people who need the therapy. While the good news is that most forms of blindness can now be prevented or treated, the bad news is that these cures are not reaching hundreds of women in Africa.

Ophthalmic epidemiologist Paul Courtright is studying blindness on that continent and some of the sociological reasons behind its prevalence. “Research shows that two thirds of blind people in the world are women,” he says. “In Africa, this is as much a social issue as it is a need for adequate resources. For example, the social standing of women often prevents them

take *note*

from seeking treatment.” He is working to enable communities to change the situation.

The BC Centre for Epidemiological and International Ophthalmology is an advocacy and teaching organization established on UBC’s Vancouver campus in 1995. It advocates for reducing cases of blindness and teaches research methods and data management, but Courtright believes its work must be supplemented by hands-on work in African communities. “The centre is instrumental in developing research and training tools,” he says. “However, to have an impact and enable change we need to be on the ground working with local providers and communities and applying what we are learning.”

He and wife Susan Lewellan, a UBC ophthalmologist, moved to Moshi in Tanzania and in 2001 established the Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology. “We are not training surgeons. We train people to set up programs that support surgeons in their work. Surgeons on their own really can’t do much. They need a team to keep the clinic running smoothly and to bring patients in from rural communities,” says Lewellan.

The Centre serves 18 eastern African counties with a combined population of about 210 million. Requests for training have multiplied, as has treatment intervention. “Our work has already demonstrated that cataract surgeries in programs treating rural communities can be increased by 300 per cent,” says Courtright.

One project involves training local female leaders to provide information to the families in their communities and refer patients for treatment. Another specifically targets children with eye conditions. Courtright also wants to tackle the gender issues behind healthcare provision. “Treating blindness has become a tool and entryway into the system,” he says. “We are definitely making an impact on reducing blindness, but really, we want to change systems beyond eye care services, at the health provider level and also at the community level.”

Eco-Friendly Farming

☀️ Are increased agricultural productivity and biodiversity mutually exclusive? Professor Kai Chan doesn’t think so. He has co-developed the world’s first planning framework to calculate the production and conservation outcomes of farmland, a tool that can help farmers make sound business decisions and preserve biodiversity at the same time.

“Small, targeted changes to farms can have a positive impact on biodiversity without affecting a farmer’s bottom line,” says Chan, who is based in UBC’s Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability. The framework identifies aspects of local terrain that impact native species, assesses how vital these habitats and their distribution across the landscape are to species survival, and determines how changes to them would affect individual species and the diversity of species.

Chan developed the framework with professor Gretchen Daily from Stanford University and tested it by travelling to Costa Rica – where logging and agricultural practices have had a negative impact on biodiversity – and demonstrating to farmers the benefit of planting wind barriers, made up of trees, shrubs, and plants, that can boost yield while protecting bird habitats.

“Cattle, bananas and coffee were underperforming due to high winds, so they saw a clear economic argument for investing in wind barriers,” says Chan. Natural wind barriers also cost less than manufactured wooden fences. After investigating, Chan concluded that 17 species of wild bird, some of which migrate from Canada and the US, would also benefit.

Brain Stimulation Stimulates Mobility

☀️ A new technique is being developed to help stroke victims recover their mobility faster than they would using physical therapy alone. It involves stimulating the brain prior to therapy, preparing it to relearn and retain information more efficiently. Assistant professor of Physical Therapy Lara Boyd is heading a study yielding encouraging results for the 300,000 Canadians living with the effects of stroke, which can include partial paralysis.

A stroke affects areas of the brain by cutting



Kai Chan believes biodiversity can go hand-in-hand with increased agricultural productivity.

off blood supply and rendering them inactive. “One of the reasons it is so difficult for the brain to recover from a stroke and reorganize itself is that the damaged side of the brain becomes suppressed while the undamaged side becomes hyperactive,” says Boyd. This imbalance creates difficulties when stroke patients try to regain mobility. “Fortunately, the brain is an amazingly dynamic organ.” The new technique involves applying an electromagnetic stimulus to the affected area of the brain via a wand attached to a computer in order to enhance cell reorganization. Boyd, who is Canadian Research Chair in Neurobiology, is hopeful that the technique will allow the brain to build other pathways to guide movement.

“Preliminary results on non-stroke patients show that if you pre-excite the brain with an electromagnetic stimulus, motor learning and retention of skill is improved and retained,” she says. “We are quite optimistic that this approach will work and we expect results in the coming months.”

Busting Boosting

☀️ Using banned substances to improve athletic performance has long been a blight to both amateur and professional sport. Whatever the motivation – pressure to produce results, national pride or the prospects of big money – doping makes a mockery of fair competition, and can put an athlete’s health at risk.

Another performance enhancing method is being used by some Paralympian athletes with

spinal cord injuries. Although it doesn't rely on drugs and is used to counteract a disadvantage rather than create an advantage, the method (called boosting) is nevertheless banned because it can be life-threatening. Spinal cord injuries often lead to an inability to regulate autonomic body functions such as heart rate, bladder control and blood pressure. As a result, the heart rate doesn't increase with physical effort and blood pressure remains low, leading to fatigue and a competitive disadvantage. While some Paralympians counteract this by using pressure stockings or abdominal binders to increase blood pressure, others are going to more alarming extremes.

These involve causing bodily harm or stress below the site of spinal injury. An athlete may purposely break a toe, block their catheter or sit on their testes during competition. The athlete cannot feel the pain, but the desired autonomic result is achieved and blood pressure is boosted. But the risks involve stroke, intracranial hemorrhage and even death.

Bans, however, aren't always effective and Andrei Krassioukov from UBC's faculty of Medicine wants to prevent the practice in a way he believes will be more effective.

Krassioukov and colleagues are urging the International Paralympics Committee to introduce another classification for athletes based on an assessment of their level of autonomic functioning – to accompany the existing classifications based on conscious physical capacities – and have proposed such an assessment for sledge hockey and curling Paralympics teams at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver. He hopes the results will help inform the committee in making their decision. "If we will introduce an autonomic component to classification, maybe this will allow a fairer and safer competition for all Paralympians," he says.

Breath Easy

☀ Obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) causes sufferers to stop breathing for short periods during sleep, a result of the upper airway being obstructed by the tongue. Many sufferers also experience restless sleep. In children, OSA can lead to attention-deficit disorder, behavioural

problems, poor academic performance, bedwetting, cardiopulmonary disease and sometimes obesity and type II diabetes.

Researchers in the faculty of Dentistry are testing out a device called Klearway™ for children that is already in use by 30,000 adult sufferers of OSA. Made out of acrylic resin, the device fits over the upper and lower teeth and works by creating more space at the back of the throat, thereby keeping the airway open.

Preliminary results show great promise in improving sleep and breathing. "What is surprising," says study lead professor Alan Lowe, inventor of Klearway™, "is how quickly the appliance works in children. In just a matter of months, we have found that children who wear the appliance show dramatic improvement in sleep and significantly improve how their upper and lower teeth fit together." (Children suffering with OSA often have malocclusion, a condition where the upper front teeth are prominent and the lower jaw short.) As well as reducing from eight to 2.4 the number of pauses in breathing per hour, study results also show improved minimum blood oxygen levels.

"One of our patients' grandmothers reported that she suspected a problem because her grandson was often very tired and reported he

fell asleep on the bus on the way home from school," says Lowe. "After using the device for a few months, the patient and grandmother have seen a tremendous improvement in sleep, energy, concentration and overall mood."

Lowe stresses that OSA must first be diagnosed in children by a pediatric sleep specialist before an appropriate treatment is decided on.

Teachers Rise Up

☀ As we noted in the last issue of *Trek Magazine*, UBC has embarked upon a review of teaching effectiveness. The LEAD initiative (Lasting Education, Achieved and Demonstrated) supports changes that make the learning experience more rewarding for students and faculty alike. Any change to the pedagogy of teaching, however, will depend on the enthusiastic cooperation of university teachers.

As most grads know, a faculty member's success (at least on the tenure track) is judged on the basis of three general criteria: research excellence, involvement in the faculty's governance and teaching. Teaching effectiveness, being the most difficult to measure, is often seen to be given less weight than the others. But UBC, as a research-intensive university bent on improving its status around the world, must excel in all aspects of university life, especially



Children with Obstructive Sleep Apnea may gain relief with a new device.



Funding the Future

Stephen J. Toope, President, UBC

In the fall 2007 issue of this magazine, I wrote to you about the importance – and good health – of UBC's endowment fund. At that time our endowment had surpassed \$1 billion and was growing steadily.

How quickly things change. The current economic downturn has affected virtually every investment portfolio in our society. UBC's investment portfolio – our endowment – is no different. It is made up of monetary gifts, from individuals and groups, entrusted to the university in perpetuity to advance UBC's mission. Since September, 2008, our endowment has lost 20 per cent

of its value. We can find some comfort in the fact that UBC has done markedly better in this regard than many other institutions in North America. Through prudent management of the fund, our losses, relatively speaking, have been modest.

But such a loss cannot help but have a serious impact on the main purpose of this portfolio: to generate financial support for students, research and exceptional programming at UBC. We are determined, going forward, to maintain support for these essential areas, retain our donors' confidence that their visions for UBC are being fulfilled, and rebuild our endowment to its previous level and beyond. To those ends, we have established new guidelines for distributing and managing our endowment portfolio.

We will, of course, continue to honour the objectives established by our donors for their gifts. Further, our payouts of endowment income will preserve the gift against inflation, and we will adopt practices that will restore individual endowments to their original value in 10 years. Our first act under the new management principles is to reduce payout from 5 per cent to 3.5 per cent. This represents a 30 per cent reduction in the endowment's spending rate.

This reduction means we will see a \$15 million shortfall to the faculties and colleges in the next fiscal year. Some of this reduction will be made up through reserves held by faculties and colleges for other purposes, and some will be offset by units working together to address the most critical funding challenges.

Even more importantly, the decline in our endowment will mean a reduction of \$6.5 million in the area of student aid from our total budget of \$65 million. I want to assure parents, students, alumni and donors of three things: current levels of support will continue in this academic year; we remain committed to our access policy, which states that no otherwise-eligible domestic student will be denied entrance for financial reasons alone; and that no needs-based award will be cut. To address the shortfall, we will seek new funding sources and engage in talks with students and faculty to weigh the pros and cons of reducing the value of non-needs-based awards or reducing the number of such awards.

I'm confident that the measures we are taking now will insure the strength and growth of our endowment during these difficult times, and will put us far ahead of the curve when the economic climate shifts. For more detailed information on the university's endowment please visit www.president.ubc.ca.

teaching. Thus, the LEAD initiative.

The university engaged Angus Reid Strategies to conduct a survey of UBC faculty members. Angus Reid sent the survey to 3,200 faculty members, hoping for a response rate of 25 per cent. Instead, 35 per cent responded, indicating high interest on the part of faculty. Angus Reid VP Catherine Rogers, MBA'95, says the response rate exceeded her most optimistic projection.

Initial findings indicate that faculty members feel there is considerable room for improvement in undergraduate teaching, recognizing that the lecture method and increasing class sizes are the two most detrimental aspects of current methodology. Most, however, feel they do not have the tools or the knowledge to move the classroom experience to a higher level. As well, the majority of faculty – both teaching-focused and research-focused – want to acquire and apply new teaching techniques in their work, and feel that excellence in teaching should, in fact, be weighted more heavily in judging the success of individual faculty members.

UBC is taking the LEAD initiative seriously. Last year, according to UBC's president, Stephen Toope, the majority of denied tenure applications failed because of concerns about teaching. As well, Walter Sudmant, director of Planning and Institutional Research, notes that UBC is the first major Canadian university to survey its faculty about improvements to teaching and learning.

It's all good news to LEAD leaders, who will use these findings to improve teaching effectiveness in all undergrad disciplines at UBC. The findings also add credibility to the use of external resources to improve pedagogy, opening the door to developing fundraising goals around the initiative.

Changes will take some time, but initial efforts are already underway in such programs as the Carl Weiman Science Education initiative in the faculty of Science. This year, 20,000 science students in 60 courses are benefiting from changes in teaching methodology.

To see more of the survey results, visit www.lead.ubc.ca/angusreidreport/

Beetling About in Kelowna

☀ When people think about pine beetle infestation, they usually think of vast tracts of dead forest. But pine beetles don't limit their activities to rural areas, as Kelowna residents can testify. The city was hit with an infestation of the insect for the first time last summer. For UBC Okanagan researchers, this presented an opportunity to learn how the beetle moves and spreads through an urban area.

Bob Lalonde and Rebecca Tyson combined their expertise in biology and mathematics respectively to gather data and build a mathematical model that can identify dispersal patterns. "We are trying to determine how the bark beetle enters the city, what direction they come from and how they move in the city," says Lalonde. "In addition, we plan to study the beetles themselves and look at factors such as how much energy is being burned in their flight path."

With two summer students, the researchers placed 44 pheromone traps around the city and its outskirts. They were left for two months and checked every week. Depending on location and the prevalence of natural predators (the work should also shed light on how quickly beetle predators follow their prey into new areas) the traps contained anywhere from zero to 200 beetles. Other variables used to create the dispersal model include concentration of pine trees, beetle biology and weather conditions.

"Mathematical modeling often reveals

interesting behaviors that aren't anticipated," says Tyson, an assistant professor of mathematics, statistics and physics. "We are using beetle biology, spatial data and math in this research, which may help us gain insight into the risk of infection for pine trees in certain areas of the city. This could result in possible solutions or preventative measures."

The team plans more data collection this summer. This time, the data may help reveal the number of beetles originating from the city rather than entering it. "There is still a lot of data to be collected and analyzed," says Tyson. One thing we can say with confidence is that, based on early results, it looks as though bark beetles enter a city from the outskirts inward, as opposed to dropping randomly from above, as some people had originally suggested."

Seeing Below the Surface

☀ A new piece of technology used to detect underwater pipes and cables was recently put to a novel use. The ground-penetrating radar (GPR) device uses radio signals and software to provide a visual representation of objects under the surface without having to break ground, and its capabilities have proved ideal in the hunt for lost graves in old cemeteries where markers have weathered away.

In the first survey of its type in North America, UBC archeologists worked at the Kwantlen First Nation's cemetery in Maple Ridge to establish



Archaeology grad Steve Daniel helped locate ancestral gravesites in Maple Ridge.

the exact resting place of more than 70 Musqueam ancestors. As well as the elements, the original headstones or metal crosses had been subject to theft, vandalism and even car accidents from the nearby highway.

"Knowing where our loved ones are means a great deal for our people," says Kwantlen Chief Marilyn Gabriel. "It was a very powerful moment when we first saw all those new markers above where are our ancestors lay." The Kwantlen will erect permanent grave markers now the final resting spots have been confirmed.

As an archeological tool, the GPR saves time and money and prevents excavation errors. It was purchased with \$70,000 from UBC's Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund and was first used during a field school last summer. "The field school helps UBC and the Musqueam develop research projects that give students practical experience and address the research interests of the Musqueam people," says UBC archeology professor Andrew Martindale. The roots of this collaboration go back to the 1940s, when UBC's first archeologist, Charles Borden, and Musqueam band member Andrew Charles recognized the value in working together.



Know thine enemy: Lalonde and Tyson track pine beetles in Kelowna.



Engagement, Painted Faces and the Value of Your Degree

Ian Robertson, BSc'86, BA'88, MBA, MA, *Chair, UBC Alumni Association*

Universities measure their success in many ways: the GPA average of their first year students; the amount of money they raise and have in their endowments; and the success of their athletic teams are just a few. Another important yardstick universities use is the level of engagement of their alumni. At UBC, we're putting a good deal of effort into increasing this metric.

Some of North America's most successful universities boast a very high level of alumni engagement. Harvard, Yale, Stanford and other elite institutions set the highest bars for alumni affinity, but public universities such as the universities of Michigan, Illinois, California (Berkeley, especially) and Oregon also inspire fierce loyalties in their grads. University of Oregon fans from across the US descend on Eugene – faces painted green and gold – when the Ducks play important games. As well, UO grads are considered one of the most important ambassador groups the university has in attracting the best students.

Canadian universities have traditionally lagged behind in alumni engagement, partly because they have been better-supported by government (which makes connecting with alumni less critical), and they have not understood the non-monetary value of alumni cultivation. In recent years government support, though still robust, has not grown at the same rate as the demand for resources, and Canadian universities are seeing clearly that a passionate alumni body – face paint and all – is

essential for effective advocacy, attracting and mentoring the best students and ensuring a high profile in their communities.

Your Alumni Association plays a key role in building involvement among UBC grads. Last year, the Alumni Affairs unit (made up of the Association and the university's Alumni Relations unit) joined with the Development Office under the administrative umbrella of the Vice President Development and Alumni Engagement, and we are currently putting the finishing touches on the new Letter of Agreement between the Association and the university. Together we have identified a series of programs and events designed to double the number of alumni engaged in the life of the university.

At events over the past year, I've heard from alumni that they see more communication from UBC than ever before: more emails about upcoming events, more invitations in the mail, more notices about travel opportunities and more news about their university. Our new UBC Dialogues series – which brings UBC experts to Lower Mainland, Okanagan communities and beyond to discuss local issues – is a good case in point. Our first offerings are fully subscribed and alumni have shown a strong demand for more. (If you missed our notices about this series, make sure we have your email address. Share it with us at alumni.association@ubc.ca.)

The value of your degree increases with the reputation of the university. At the same time, your involvement increases UBC's value in the community. We might not ask you to paint your face blue and gold, but there are lots of other ways to display your UBC colours. We have developed a wide selection of events and programs for you, so check our website regularly, and get involved in the life of your university.



On Social Capital

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

UBC political scientist Richard Johnston, BA'70, is an ideal running partner. He is less interested in pace or distance covered than he is in engaging in a sort of mobile philosopher's café. Thus it was enough to say, "Tell me more about social capital," to set in motion an hour long tutorial on a subject that turns out to be very relevant to the alumni profession.

Wikipedia invokes L. J. Hanifan, the state supervisor of rural schools in West Virginia circa 1916, who spoke of social capital as "the good will, fellowship, sympathy and social intercourse among individuals and families" that he proclaimed "count for most in the daily lives of people." Some argue that social capital is as likely to promote insularity

and produce inequality as it is to contribute to the health of individuals and communities. Consider the disproportionate percentage of US leaders in government, business and academia who graduated from a handful of elite universities in that nation. These lucky few weren't necessarily smarter or more talented than others, but they did have access to a rich reservoir of social capital in the form of generations of privileged graduates who opened doors for one another. (Full disclosure: Stanford connections factored in to nearly every job I've held.)

Graduates of Canadian universities do not seem to tap into their networks to nearly the same degree. And when they do, their aims seem to be less self-serving. Former AMS leaders, for example, recently formed an AMSNet alumni group. One of their first orders of business was to offer counsel to current student leaders who were working to pass a student fee referendum that will fund an \$85 million contribution toward a new student union building. Social capital indeed!

letters to the editor:

Some fond memories...

I was most flattered to see my picture on the cover of the fall 2008 issue of *Trek Magazine*. In case there is an identification problem, I was the person closest to the camera. I think the picture was taken by Art Jones, who commenced his career as a photographer at UBC. (Art and I had the same godmother and we were both members of the Players' Club).

I was a buck private with COTC when the photo was taken, and by my final year at UBC I rose to the glorious rank of a one pip wonder (second lieutenant) in Shrum's Army, and was included in a photo shoot by the lily pond with the late Phyllis Bishop, published in a national photo journal of the day.

I also enjoyed very much the picture of the Leavy brothers. They were identical twins and the only difference one could detect was that one of them had lost a corner of a tooth. One was a lance corporal in the COTC and the other a private. Occasionally they would switch tunics. On one occasion I recall that the imposter L/Cpl was called upon to carry out a squad drill and was making an awful mess of it, while the imposter private, a member of the squad, wore a wide grin.

Thanks for the memories!

Don Chutter, BCOM '44, Ottawa



... and some not so fond

I respectfully suggest that you check your history before choosing a front cover (Fall, 2008). The soldiers depicted are in fact students, exempted from active service as long as they were attending university thus avoiding active service in Canadian Forces.

I left UBC at the end of the spring semester of 1942 to serve in the Canadian Army in Canada and overseas until late summer of

1946. While looking for a job in 1946 I encountered a (former) friend who also attended UBC in 1942, and who had taken advantage of the exemption from active service, and he laughed and called me a fool for serving in the war against Hitler.

Your cover does not engender fond memories; perhaps it is well that the students portrayed on your cover are wearing respirators. It avoids embarrassment. In my view, an apology is due to everyone of the alumni who interrupted their education to serve their country in war.

William E. Ellis, LLB'53



Isolation in any language

The article on Chinese experiences in BC (spring, 2008) reminded me of when I, aged five, accompanied my parents to Canada from England. There's no argument that the Chinese and other Asians in BC had far more traumatic experiences than we did in eastern Canada, but some interesting parallels emerged.

My parents were British subjects and they decided in 1936 to emigrate to Nova Scotia, and made arrangements to do so. My father's memoirs noted, "on the last day [before departure] we had a letter from Canada House to say that, as Tony had glasses, I must show sufficient money to support him so that he would not become a burden upon Canada. A kindly solicitor confirmed our financial position...." In school in Nova Scotia next year, I was one of the two children under age 10 with glasses. Even from the UK, immigrants were screened.

My glasses marked me as an oddity, at least among children, as did my speaking with an English accent. The only Canadians who accepted me as native were outport Newfoundlanders, who assumed I was from St. John's.

I've lived in the Maritimes more than 50 years, but my foreign birth excludes me here from calling myself a New Brunswicker or a Nova Scotian.

My mother didn't return to England until 1969. In that interval, Ma's only relative seen was her mother's sister, who came twice from New York. I did not meet any of my first cousins, and only one second cousin, until I was 45. During the Depression and World War II, Nova Scotia was almost as remote from England as Vancouver was from China. Our second child was born in Vancouver while I was at UBC, but my parents never saw young Rachel until we returned east 15 months later. The breadth of Canada was, and remains, an important factor separating families of any origin.

A.J. (Tony) Erskine, MA'60

International House omissions

In your piece on International House (Fall, 2008), you left a void which needs clarification. The contributions of professor Cowie and Evelyn Lett in the beginning should not be overlooked.

In 1949 when I arrived from India, Hut L6 was the hub of activity with Frena Ginwali as the leader, and I got actively involved. Dr. Cowie from the German department was our faculty adviser. International House was essentially her brainchild and she worked for it tirelessly. It was in 1950-51 that we launched the International House committee with Mrs. Lett as our patron and Dr. Cowie as our faculty adviser. We came up with a logo for International House and petitioned UBC's Board of Governors for a suitable site, which turned out to be the West Mall location.

I became president of the International House Committee in 1951-52. I addressed the Rotary Club of South Vancouver and a number of other Rotary clubs and raised \$200K for the building. I also spoke to the Zonta Club of Vancouver and they pledged to furnish International House.

So, I played a role in the beginning, but the crucial support came from Dr. Cowie and Mrs. Lett. I thought this little piece of history might be of interest to you and the readers.

Ragbbir Basi, BA'52, BSW'53

A QUESTION

OF CONVICTION

Miscarriages of justice in Canada may be more commonplace than most people suppose. The UBC Law Innocence Project is investigating potential cases of wrongful conviction in British Columbia.

By **VANESSA CLARKE**

Featured on the front page of *The Vancouver Sun* this January was the photo of a 1982 police lineup, with the headline “Who Looks Guilty Here?” It’s a rhetorical question. The eye immediately lands on one of the seven men – Ivan Henry – who is being restrained by three police officers applying head and arm locks. The case culminated in Henry’s imprisonment for a series of sexual assaults including rape, his identification from the lineup helping to seal his fate. For 26 years Henry protested his innocence and made dozens of applications to have his case reheard, all refused. But now an appeal has been granted after officers working on another case researched old Vancouver police files and stumbled upon a new prime suspect for the 1982 crimes attributed to Henry. The farcical lineup is apparently one of a few questionable factors behind his conviction that Henry’s lawyers plan to present at appeal.

Most people were probably shocked by the blatant unfairness portrayed in the photo, but the image held no surprises for criminal lawyer Tamara Levy. She is director of the UBC Law Innocence Project, a non-profit legal clinic established in 2007 that operates out of a small office in a faculty annex. Here, law students conduct post-conviction investigative work on behalf of prisoners proclaiming innocence whose cases present convincing grounds for appeal. One of the cases they are working on bears similarities to Henry’s. It stems from the same era, when fewer safeguards existed to ensure good professional practices in police and prosecution work.

Some people may be of the opinion that wrongful convictions only happen to people who are known to the police, who already have records and histories of violent behavior, a

karma-comeuppance that puts away the bad guys, even if it’s for the wrong crime. Why should law-abiding people feel outrage?

Others think that wrongful convictions involve extreme examples of professional malpractice and are rare occurrences. Levy begs to differ. Wrongful conviction can happen to anyone, she says. And although there is no way of knowing how many, Levy suspects miscarriages of justice are more commonplace than most people suppose. It’s in everybody’s interest to make sure the system is as fair and accurate as

Levy suspects miscarriages of justice are more commonplace than most people suppose. It’s in everybody’s interest to make sure the system is as fair and accurate as possible, to hold the professionals involved to account, to ensure clean investigations and fair trials no matter who they’re for.

possible, to hold the professionals involved to account, to ensure clean investigations and fair trials no matter who they’re for.

This subject started to attract more attention 20 years ago, when David Vasquez was released from a Virginia jail where he had been incarcerated for a murder he didn’t commit. His was the first case of a convict being exonerated as a result of new DNA evidence, a scientific leap forward that has become the gold standard for proving innocence or guilt. Since Vasquez’ release, more than 350 convictions have been overturned in the US – the majority as a result of DNA evidence – and hundreds of inmates are still waiting for their chance at appeal.

The first Innocence Project was established in 1992 at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in New York to help those convicts unable to afford or find a lawyer. Many more such clinics have been established over the years, and part of the growing movement’s mandate has been to find answers to a question that naturally arises in response to the growing number of exonerations: Why were these individuals found guilty in the first place? Research based on reviews of overturned convictions in the US revealed the main causes behind wrongful conviction were eyewitness misidentification; incompetent forensics work; false confessions; the use of jailhouse informants; poor defence; and mistakes or misconduct on the part of prosecution or police.

As well as research, the Innocence Project has expanded its mandate to include public education, advocacy for reform of the justice system and for compensation and programs to assist people released after years of incarceration. Canada has less than a handful of innocence projects, UBC’s being the most recent and the

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only one in western Canada.

Canada's justice system differs from that in the US in many respects, but we have our own record of wrongful conviction illustrated by high profile cases like David Milgaard, Guy-Paul Morin and Steven Truscott. Public inquiries into cases like these have unveiled similar weaknesses in the Canadian system.

Levy puts the number of known wrongful convictions in Canada at about 30, but suspects the extent may be a lot worse than we know. "In many cases, DNA was not a factor or wasn't collected because of inadequate police work, has since been destroyed or is no longer viable for testing," she says, "yet the person is still proclaiming innocence." Cardozo's Innocence Project insists on the presence of testable DNA as a criterion for taking on cases, while the UBC project does not.

The UBC Law Innocence Project has about 20 active cases. Three quarters of them involve murders, high profile at the time of conviction. Two or three of them involve biological evidence that was collected but not presented by crown at trial or not tested. Levy and her students will investigate to find out if there was a valid reason for not doing so. But the vast majority of the other cases are based on claims of false testimony, such as evidence from a jailhouse informant.

"I have serious doubts about the reliability of these convictions and the individuals have been claiming their innocence for 15 years plus," says Levy. "I hope we're going to be able to find the one piece of evidence that will prove their innocence. In Canada, once a person has been convicted the burden shifts onto them to present new, significant and reliable evidence which provides a reasonable basis for claiming that a miscarriage of justice occurred."

The process to determine if there is a strong claim for factual innocence involves interviewing the applicant, gathering the original police file and all related documents, reviewing them and conducting an investigation. If there are strong grounds for reopening the case, it is assigned to a pro bono lawyer to assist in further investigation

and in making an application to the Minister of Justice for review under section 696.1 of the Criminal Code. UBC Law's Innocence Project is about to approach the Ministry with its first case. It remains to be seen how much reluctance there will be for reopening cases, especially those that don't involve new DNA evidence. Levy says that so far she has received positive cooperation and encouragement from the Crown, local corrections services, the Vancouver Police Department and the RCMP.

The 12 second- and third-year law students involved are the frontline of UBC Law's Innocence Project. They conduct the vital investigative work as best they can under Levy's stretched-thin supervision and that of criminal lawyers in Vancouver. "The students get to review a case from the incident, through the investigation, the bail process, the trial, the appeal, and gain an understanding of how a case moves through the system, of what it's like to practice criminal law," says Levy. "And an awareness of the flaws within the system."

It sounds corny, but the demeanor of the applicants teaches you a valuable lesson in human integrity. I've spoken to someone who has been in jail for 15 years and who says that they don't care about parole, because parole is for guilty people.

Tony Paisana is a second-year law student involved in the project. "Dealing with very serious cases is quite rare for law students," he says. "We're working on complex cases involving rape, fraud and murder. A law student wouldn't get this type of exposure until at least a couple of years into practice at a criminal law firm." It also taught him a lot about the human spirit. "It sounds corny, but the demeanor of the applicants teaches you a valuable lesson in human integrity. I've spoken to someone who has been in jail for 15 years and who says that they don't care about parole, because parole is for guilty people. It's compelling when you're dealing with someone who could be released immediately or soon thereafter if they would just admit to guilt but who refuses to do so for the sake of integrity and clearing their name."

Although it's a good learning experience for the students, it's far from ideal for the applicants and their supporters. The appeal process is painstakingly slow. Even after a case is accepted by the Department of Justice in Ottawa, there still often follows a two- or three-year review process. For that reason, Levy's current goal for the UBC part of the equation is greater efficiency and speed.

So far, 25 applicants have been rejected for not meeting the project criteria which includes factual innocence, and another 25-30 applications are under review. Levy's had to turn down potentially valid applications from other provinces, and even one from New York, because geographical proximity is one of the criteria. "There's a huge gap between demand and ability to respond, and we're not moving quickly toward reform," she says.

Only a few of the 25-30 overturned convictions in Canada have involved a public inquiry. "We only seem to hold inquiries if there is massive public and media pressure to do so," says Levy. "It's a very expensive and non-standardized process. The Crown can pick and choose which cases warrant a public inquiry, or they may negotiate a private

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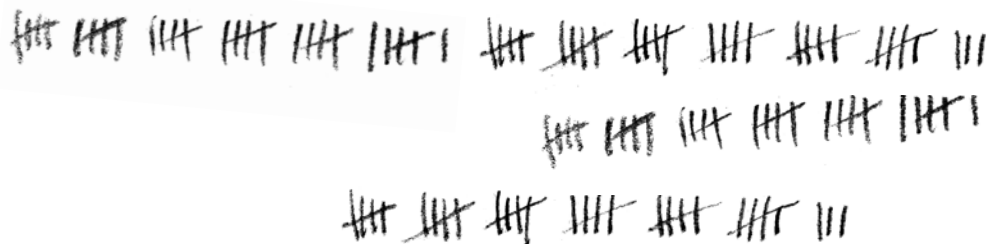
compensation package.” All inquiries, however, have recommended establishing an independent board for post-conviction review, and Levy agrees. “Right now we have the Criminal Conviction Review Group in Ottawa, which is an arm of the Department of Justice,” she says. “Many people don’t believe it’s a very independent or transparent system: it’s the state investigating the state. It takes a long time and is inefficient.” The UK already has an independent review board that examines hundreds of cases of potential wrongful conviction each year. “If a working lawyer takes on one of these cases pro-bono, it could easily take up half their year,” says Levy. “If paid lawyers were involved they could be addressing the problem more efficiently and results may be more successful. It’s hard to move the process along quickly when the main resource is students who are already tackling a demanding course workload.”

How good a job is Canada doing at responding to the problem of wrongful conviction? Levy believes we have a lot of work still to do. Canada has some policies in place to address weaknesses in the system, and Levy is encouraged that the Vancouver Police Department has been recording interrogations for the past decade and includes a section on wrongful conviction in their training. The VPD also uses sequential line-ups, which are one of the main recommendations in eyewitness identification techniques. But she believes more rigorous research is required and would like to expand the UBC Law’s Innocence Project by adding a research arm. “We haven’t done much field research in Canada. Crown and police may have changed their policies, and there seems to be a great understanding of the issue at senior levels, but there’s been no independent investigation into how things are actually working down at the ground level,” she says. “I’m curious to know how much is filtering down to the officer on the beat and junior crown counsel starting out in court.”

The justice system is based on human observation, testimony and honesty, and therefore prone to error. Graduates from Levy’s program will be better equipped to establish safeguards in investigation and prosecution processes to make Canada’s justice system as reliable as it can be in the face of human complexity and fallibility. “Wrongful convictions

in one sense are the greatest tragedy the justice system can produce,” says Tony Paisana. “But in the same breath, I don’t think there’s anything more democratic than those in authority saying ‘we’re wrong, we’re going to let you go, and (often) we’re going to compensate you, too.’ I don’t say it’s easy, by any stretch, but it shows the versatility of our legal process.”

To find out more about the Innocence Project at UBC Law please visit the website at www.innocenceproject.law.ubc.ca. To request an application form, please send an e-mail to innocenceproject@law.ubc.ca. To get involved as a donor, researcher or supervising lawyer, please call the office at (604) 827-3616 or contact the director at tlevy@law.ubc.ca.



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UBC School of Human Kinetics

This is Jeff Francis



Former T-Bird star takes his class act to the big league

By **DON WELLS**, BA'89

"Hi, this is Jeff Francis, I'm not available to take your call right now, but if you leave a message, I'll get back to you as soon as possible. Thanks. Bye."

The polite voicemail greeting provides the first hint of what kind of a guy he is. The promptly returned call, as promised, is the second. But the sincere and impeccably modest voice on the line is the clincher.

Jeff Francis is, well, polite, sincere and impeccably modest. In other words, fame and fortune as one of the top pitchers with Major League Baseball's Colorado Rockies have not had any apparent effect on the lanky left-hander who put the UBC Thunderbird baseball program on the map. At 205 pounds, he is a bit slender for his six foot five frame, but his arm is a rocket launcher even by big league standards, with a fastball that reaches speeds in excess of 90 mph. That, however, is where the stereotype image of a big-league star ends.

It's not that pro ball players are all the same. It's just that the 28-year-old from North Delta, BC, is noticeably thoughtful and articulate, and even a short conversation reveals a bred-in-the-bone intellectual curiosity about the world outside the ball park. Take physics, for

example. He entered the UBC faculty of Science in the fall of 1999 intent on an in-depth exploration of the discipline. He credits Professor Jaymie Matthews for being an outstanding teacher and for piquing his interest in Astronomy. He also took courses in medical physics and became fascinated with applications such as diagnostic imaging, and how cancer cells respond to radiation.

But what is more immediately obvious when talking to Jeff Francis is his determination to stay out of the spotlight. So far, it's worked out. In spite of making the cover of *Sports Illustrated* as Colorado's top pitcher and one of the keys to the Rockies' single-season ascent from the cellar of the National League West to the 2007 World Series, he can still walk the streets of Denver in relative anonymity.

"There are some guys on our team who have reached celebrity status and they can't lead a regular life," he says. "Our first baseman, Todd Helton, can't go anywhere. Fortunately I've never gotten to that level and I hope I never do. But it's give and take: if you reach that level of celebrity it's out of your control."

Compelling evidence of Francis' humility was revealed at a news conference prior to the

2007 World Series between Colorado and the Boston Red Sox, a game in which he became the first Canadian ever to start on the mound in a World Series game, when a reporter asked “What’s it like to be the poster boy for Canadian baseball?”

“I don’t know if I have that honour,” he said, seemingly at ease with the glare of the national media. “There are a lot of Canadians doing some great things in baseball and I’m just one of them who’s proud to be from Canada, who’s making a lot of people back home in Canada proud.”

One of those proud people from Canada is UBC baseball coach Terry McKaig, who recruited Francis out of high school to play for the Thunderbirds. “To me, he’s still the pitcher for UBC; he’s not the pitcher for the Colorado Rockies,” says McKaig. “Nothing’s changed. He’s a very polite young man who goes about everything the right way. He is never searching for the spotlight. He would rather be off fly-fishing with his dad.”

Jeffrey William Francis was born in Vancouver on January 8, 1981, to Mike and Joanne Francis, who nicknamed him “Boomer” after Montreal Canadiens hockey legend Bernie (Boom Boom) Geffrion. He grew up in North Delta and played baseball with the North Delta Blue Jays alongside future Minnesota Twins slugger and 2006 American League MVP Justin Morneau. In spite of a promising start, he couldn’t imagine at the time that he would one day be a starting major league pitcher.

“Not really,” he laughs. “It was a dream, just like it’s a dream for any kid I’m sure, but it wasn’t really in the plans until my last year at UBC when all of a sudden the scouts started calling. When I lived in Delta, my plan was to play for the Delta Blue Jays. When I was on the Blue Jays, it was to get a ticket to college and get an education. I was just always trying to get to the next level.”

The choice of where he would go after high school wasn’t an easy one for the Francis family. Several of the bigger NCAA schools attempted to recruit him, including baseball powerhouses San Diego State and Oregon State, but none offered a scholarship.

“I would have had to pay my own way to school down there, which my family couldn’t really afford, but we were ready to do whatever we could to make it happen. But then UBC had this new baseball program. Educationally, it’s

as good an institution as there is and so late in the summer after high school I just pulled the trigger and went to UBC.”

UBC’s baseball team was, at the time, a fledgling program that had been initiated in 1998 by a small but enthusiastic group of UBC alumni and friends. His first season with the Thunderbirds was also their first official season in the US based National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). According to McKaig, he had a decent freshman year, but then something happened between the end of the 2000 season and the beginning of 2001 that put his star on a much steeper trajectory.

“At the start of his sophomore season we were in a tournament down in California. He came out for his first start and hit 90 mph and that’s kind of a magic number for amateur pitchers. The next day about ten scouts showed up wanting to see what the buzz was about after hearing that this gangly lefty from Canada was throwing 90. As the season went on he just got more and more dominant, throwing harder, and by the end of the season everybody knew who he was.”

“He came out for his first start and hit 90 mph... that kind of said, hey, it doesn’t matter where the kid is from, that’s as legit as it gets.”

He posted a 12-3 win-loss record in the 2001 NAIA campaign with an incredible 0.92 ERA in almost 100 innings pitched, an impressive record in any league and one that caused scouts to speculate as to his chances of being a first-round pick when he became draft eligible the following year. Still, McKaig says, there were skeptics who maintained that because he was from a Canadian university, the competition couldn’t be that great.

“That was the knock on him, but then he played that summer in the Alaska League

against the big NCAA Division I guys and did the same there and was Player of the Year. His team went to the National Baseball Congress World Series and he was MVP. That kind of said, hey, it doesn’t matter where the kid is from, that’s as legit as it gets.”

Over the course of his UBC career, Jeff Francis set 11 UBC pitching records and was twice selected to the NAIA All-American team. Equally important, from the perspective of UBC’s athletic department, he was also named an Academic All-Canadian in each of his three years for maintaining a grade point average in excess of 80 per cent in a course of full-time study.

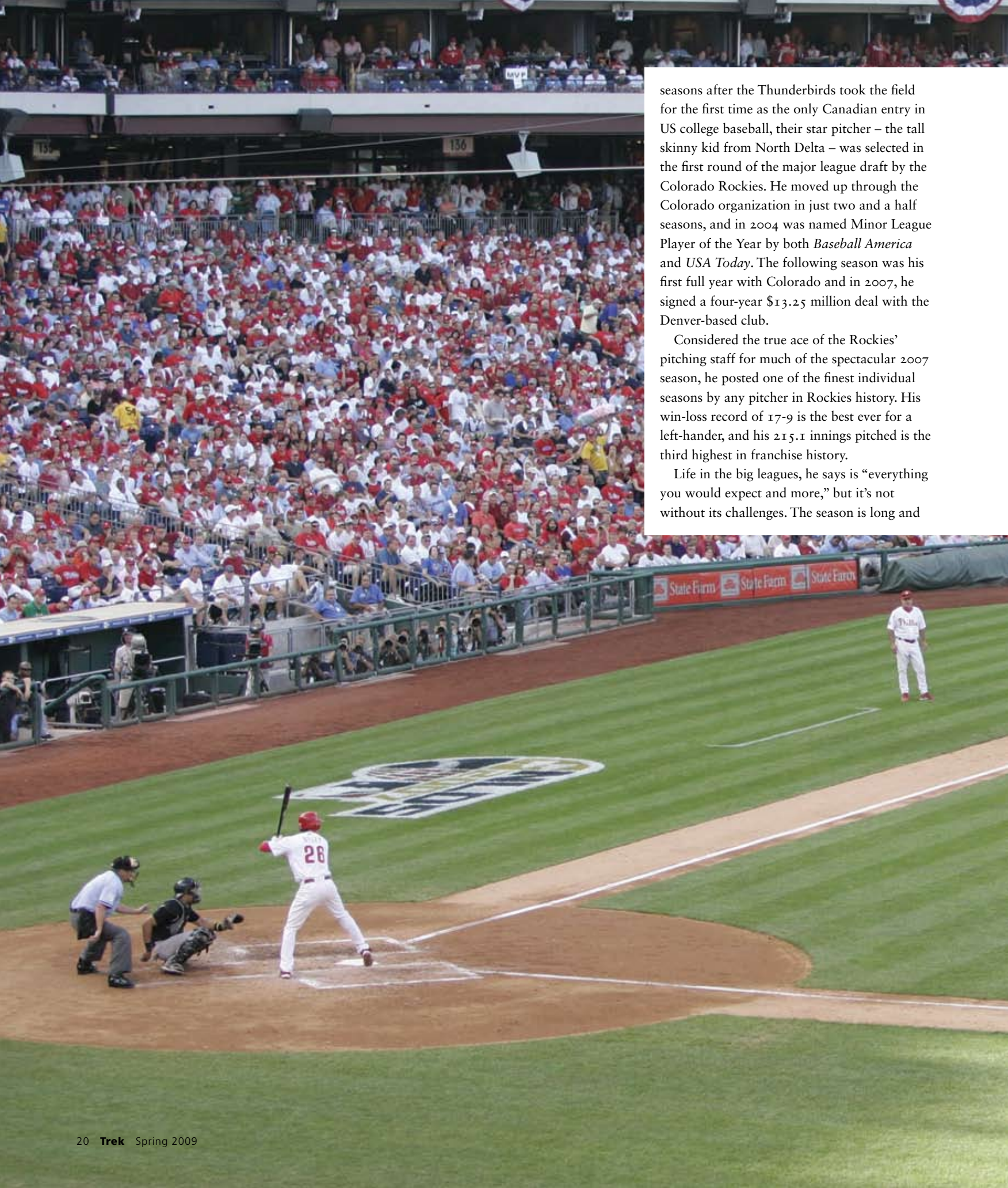
He also found time to be a regular volunteer with *I’m Going to UBC*, a program that pairs varsity athletes with inner city kids for campus tours, sports clinics and Thunderbirds games, as well as UBC’s Learning Exchange community service learning programs. At around the same time he met Allison Padfield, a similarly gifted science student and a member of UBC’s women’s volleyball team. They were married in Allison’s home town of London, Ontario, on New Year’s Eve, 2005.

“I’m not sure I would be where I am today had it not been for UBC, not just in terms of baseball. It was my first three years living away from home and there was so much learning for me during that time. I met my wife and some of my best friends at UBC. The atmosphere on our team was really special, too, one of a kind really. I always say that those were the best three years of my life.”

McKaig insists the comments about UBC are indeed heartfelt, explaining that Francis stays in touch and enjoys coming back to Point Grey every fall for the team’s annual alumni weekend. He is also a generous financial supporter, having endowed a scholarship and contributed, along with other alumni, to fundraising initiatives such as the Lunch Box Program, designed to make the often spartan existence of a student-athlete a little easier for today’s players than it was in the past.

“I remember when we played double-headers on the road, we had to rush around getting our own food between games and then having to wash our own uniforms at night,” he says. “We’re just trying to put some basic things in place so that they feel like ball players.”

Wednesday, June 5, 2002 is a date indelibly etched in UBC athletics history. Just three



seasons after the Thunderbirds took the field for the first time as the only Canadian entry in US college baseball, their star pitcher – the tall skinny kid from North Delta – was selected in the first round of the major league draft by the Colorado Rockies. He moved up through the Colorado organization in just two and a half seasons, and in 2004 was named Minor League Player of the Year by both *Baseball America* and *USA Today*. The following season was his first full year with Colorado and in 2007, he signed a four-year \$13.25 million deal with the Denver-based club.

Considered the true ace of the Rockies' pitching staff for much of the spectacular 2007 season, he posted one of the finest individual seasons by any pitcher in Rockies history. His win-loss record of 17-9 is the best ever for a left-hander, and his 215.1 innings pitched is the third highest in franchise history.

Life in the big leagues, he says is "everything you would expect and more," but it's not without its challenges. The season is long and

when the Rockies are at home, the confessed home-body goes to the ball park in the morning and doesn't return until evening. Then there is the road schedule and, of course, the injuries. "It's a great life, don't get me wrong," he says, "but it's not a particularly easy one."

2008 was not easy at all. A nagging shoulder injury claimed much of it and as spring training got under way in mid-February, the uppermost thing on his mind was whether or not shoulder surgery could be avoided.

His favourite activity in the off-season is fly-fishing. Asked if he has had time to enjoy the financial benefits of a big-league salary, he says that he and Allison prefer not to live extravagantly, but do enjoy traveling. "We've been to Europe and Australia, and just last month we spent two weeks in Costa Rica. Experiences are more important to us than possessions."

He is unsure what life holds after baseball, other than that he wants to provide support for Allison to pursue her career. She recently completed a PhD in physical therapy at

Denver's Regis University. "I want to be there for her so that she can explore the upper ranks of her career. She's been following me around so long, it's only fair that I follow her around for a while," he laughs.

He is also committed to finishing the handful of courses required for his UBC degree, but knows that will have to wait. They both want to return to Canada, but when that might occur is a matter that must be left up to fate to decide, at least for now.

For now, it's baseball, and on the same February day he left for Tuscon to attend the Rockies' 2009 spring training camp, a couple of thousand kilometers away the UBC Thunderbirds boarded a bus for their long annual trek to California for their pre-season exhibition tour. It's a fitting coincidence. No matter where Jeff Francis is, his mind and heart remain inextricably linked to the team and the school that gave so much of what is precious to him today.

It's a favour he has returned many fold.

According to McKaig, his success has made it much easier to recruit players, entice sponsors and to schedule pre-season competition against top US schools, which have nothing but respect for the team from Canada that produced Jeff Francis. And if Jeff Francis has done that much for UBC, nobody could be more pleased than he.

"UBC is a special school. That much I know for sure. And it's in one of the most beautiful cities in the world. I'm not sure I can think of a better way to put it."

No need to, Boomer. That's a perfect strike.

***Post script:** Regrettably, just days before this issue went to press, the Colorado Rockies medical staff announced that Jeff Francis will undergo arthroscopic surgery to determine and repair injuries to his shoulder. He will likely miss the entire 2009 season. We wish him all the best and a rapid recovery.*

Don Wells is a freelance writer and video producer.



A Vision for Kandahar



A long and bloody insurgency that has killed thousands of civilians since 2001; fields of poppies seeping with opium resin waiting to be harvested; corrupt officials turning a blind eye to the chaos surrounding them and thousands of NATO troops trying to hold it all together.

By **MICHAEL AWMACK**, BA'01

After more than seven years of post-Taliban uncertainty, Afghanistan still appears, to many outsiders, to be a lost cause. The southern province of Kandahar – the traditional stronghold of the Taliban – has developed a particularly dangerous reputation among the Canadian public due to the intense battles and frequent casualties suffered by the Canadian military there. Yet despite all this turmoil there is another side to Kandahar, one driven by the hope of its people that it will, one day, return to normal life. It was this lingering sense of possibility that inspired Afghan-born agriculture expert and education graduate, Toor Wesa, PhD'02, to take up the formidable challenge of governing this complex and turbulent province.

This past December, Wesa was invited to Kabul to meet with Afghan Prime Minister Hamid Karzai. The meeting was to discuss the possibility of a political appointment for Wesa, who had spent much of the six years since receiving his doctorate working on various development projects across Afghanistan. The resulting appointment, however, ended up being as much of a surprise for the Prime Minister as it was for Wesa himself.

“He had known Karzai for some time,” Wesa’s friend and doctoral supervisor Tom Sork says, “and Toor expected that the meeting would be to discuss an agricultural development appointment, or maybe one at Kandahar University. When he got to Kabul, Karzai told him that he’d had a change of heart only the night before and thought that Toor might be an ideal person to fill the Kandahar governor role. So they talked about it for a while and both

concluded that although it would be a challenge, Toor probably had the background and the knowledge of local conditions to be successful. He was far enough removed from previous political contests that had occurred and was on positive enough terms with the various power groups in that part of Afghanistan that he might be a very good choice for the role.”

Only days later, he was sworn in as governor, the third person to hold the position in 2008. What ultimately separates Wesa from these predecessors, however, is not only his distance from past political turmoil, but also his strong, research-oriented background in agriculture and education – necessary cornerstones of any future Afghan reconstruction – that he brings to the governorship.

“His UBC research was on the reconstruction of the agricultural sector in Afghanistan. His study dealt with a lot of the major issues confronting Afghanistan right now, including the problem of poppy growing and getting the agricultural sector back in line with world markets and local food production needs,” Sork says.

In 2004, Wesa told *UBC Reports*, “Farmers are not interested in poppies. It goes against religious and social norms. They want alternatives. If other economic sources are introduced to the farmer, they will grow other crops. Farmers want a normal life for themselves and for their children.”

In order to provide these alternatives, Wesa will continue to support initiatives he has worked on in recent years. According to Sork, this work has included facilitating connections between local grape growers – Kandahar is

traditionally a grape growing region – and experts at the University of California Davis’ excellent viticulture program. He also hopes to revive a fruit drying and packing business that has deteriorated over the years by attracting investment while also developing markets for these products.

Even with all of his preparations, relationship-building and good intentions, he will need all the help he can get. In order for Afghanistan to have the ability to take the steps required to rebuild, the country needs to develop a new professional class. This takes an educational system that the country doesn’t currently have.

“Kabul University, as the mother of all universities within the country, is nothing more than a high school, with limited qualified faculties, a lack of research facilities and academic journals, and few teachers qualified to teach foreign languages,” Wesa told *UBC Reports*.

Despite these limitations, Wesa will not give up on his homeland, a place he feels has much potential. It is clear from his words that he truly believes in the people of Afghanistan. All along, according to Sork, his plan has been to finish his PhD and return home to contribute his expertise for the benefit of all.

“He is an educator at heart,” Sork concludes, “so he is already putting a great deal of emphasis on providing enhanced educational opportunities for all the people of Afghanistan. This will serve him and his country well in the years ahead.”

Michael Awmack is a communications coordinator for UBC Alumni Affairs.

Crown, Parliament or People: *Is Canada Really a Democracy?*



Was the 2008 Parliamentary crisis a one-of-a-kind confluence of events that resulted in a freak accident? Or was it harbinger of things to come, an indicator of the normal state of Canada's governmental future?

By **RICHARD JOHNSTON**, BA'70, PhD

Outside Canada, the optics are terrible. The *New York Times* reported on December 4 that:

Prime Minister Stephen Harper shut down the legislature until Jan. 26, seeking to forestall a no-confidence vote that he was sure to lose....

It gets worse:

Mr. Harper acted after getting the approval of Governor General Michaëlle Jean, who represents Queen Elizabeth II as the nation's head of state.

Canada doesn't even qualify as a banana republic. A banana monarchy, perhaps?

Of course, the Governor-General was caught in the middle of a dispute not of her own making. The governing Conservatives were on the verge of losing the confidence of Parliament. An alternative government could be identified among the currently sitting members. Each side appealed to democratic values, but each translated those values its own way. Prime Minister Harper claimed that the people had spoken and had given his party – and only his party – the presumptive right to govern. In opinion polls, most Canadians seemed to agree. Awkwardly, Mr. Harper did not have an outright majority of seats, had no natural parliamentary allies, and could claim only 37.6 per cent of the popular vote. The opposition appealed to the classic conception of “responsible government,” that the House of Commons decides who shall govern. Usually the House is short-circuited because the electorate gives one party a majority of seats (although rarely of votes). But that was arguably not relevant for the current situation, a hung parliament. Together the three coalition parties controlled a majority of seats in the House, and also owned a majority of the popular vote. But voters supported these parties severally, not jointly, and the presence of the Bloc Québécois as a supporter of the arch-federalist Liberals made

the coalition especially incoherent.

At first, the Prime Minister argued that should his party lose the confidence vote, the Governor-General was bound to grant him a dissolution, so that the people could referee the dispute. For her to do otherwise – to reject the advice of the duly elected Prime Minister – would be an affront to democracy. The opposition argued that Mme. Jean was required to do no such thing. The affront to democracy would be dissolution less than two months after an election, especially when an alternative government had already presented itself. We know, of course, that the Prime Minister backed off and asked not for dissolution but for prorogation, which was granted. This gave the government breathing space, and set in train a leadership change in the Liberal Party.

But who was correct on the original issue: the Prime Minister or the might-have-been coalition? You will not find the answer on any official Canadian government website. The Governor-General's site is especially thin: photo opportunities, bits of heraldry, driving directions and honours. The Prime Minister's site is little more than propaganda. To find useful and accessible discussions, you need to go to the Governor-General sites for Australia and New Zealand. Each has short but well crafted statements, with useful further links. These sites embody a conversation spanning decades and in which Canadian experience is prominent. The greater maturity of the down-under sites reflects the fact that for both countries these issues have real currency. Australians remain divided over the crisis of 1975, when the Governor-General seemed to take one side in a partisan dispute; this event accelerated the growth of Australian republicanism. New Zealand did not have such a crisis, but now works with an electoral system that routinely produces hung parliaments.

For both countries, however, a Canadian event – the 1926 refusal by Lord Byng to grant Prime Minister Mackenzie King a dissolution – is of continuing relevance.

If the King-Byng contretemps remains controversial, all sides to the controversy agree that in 2008 the coalition had it right: the Governor-General should have denied a request for dissolution. The election was too recent and the three potential coalition partners had spoken clearly. The appropriateness of prorogation is more puzzling. But both the Conservatives and the Liberals should thank Mme. Jean for it.

The 2008 crisis is unlikely to be an isolated incident. Both of Canada's major players have been losing ground since 1917 and, if winners have lost ground, the second-place parties must also have lost ground. An examination of electoral results over Canada's history shows a flattening trend in the spread of votes among the parties. The typical winner receives about 15 points less of the vote in the 21st century than in the 19th century. Since 1993, no winning party has received more than 41 per cent of the vote. The pattern for seats is more cyclical, a reflection of shifts in the opposition vote. The last three elections represent a sustained low point. Single-party majorities may have slipped out of reach.

Of course, these parties have names. Slippage on the government side has been mainly a story of the Liberal Party. Although its banishment from office in 1957 and 1984 was temporary, the Liberal Party that returned to power in 1963 and 1993 was clearly weaker than its predecessors. The opposition story has been mainly about the Conservatives, and the narrative is dominated by what happens after their brief flirtations with power. Usually, the Conservative fall from power is catastrophic, with the extreme case being the calamity of 1993.

Other parties, obviously, pick up the slack, and in Canada, this takes two forms. One has been the growth of the party of the left, first the CCF, then the NDP. This party receives shares in the high teens, although its support occasionally ebbs if some of its usual supporters shift to the Liberals to block the Conservatives. Although the NDP cramps the style of the other two parties (and NDP strategists would especially celebrate the disappearance of the Liberals), the party is thoroughly committed to mainstream politics.

The rest of the slack is picked up by parties that might be styled as niche or anti-system, in that they opt out of the struggle for government. Traditionally, these parties come and go: the Progressives in the 1920s, Social Credit (in two incarnations) from the 1930s to the 1970s, and Reform/Alliance in the 1990s. Roughly speaking, their ebb and flow complements the rise and decline of the various incarnations of the Conservative Party. This is also true of the Bloc Québécois, which rose from the ashes of the Mulroney Conservatives' Quebec base in 1993. The continued strength of the Bloc poses a severe challenge to the prospects for business as usual. The Bloc's 10-point (give or take) vote share routinely translates into 15 per cent of seats. To get a simple majority, then, a party has to win nearly 60 per cent of the remaining seats, a tall order. Also confusing the issue is the five-plus per cent of the electorate voting for yet other parties, mainly the Greens. The Bloc and other surviving niche parties are unlikely to disappear, given that the system of party finance subsidizes their continued existence. It is no coincidence that a Conservative proposal to pull the plug on subsidies to parties was a catalyst for the 2008 crisis.

With the fracturing of the party system, our first-past-the-post electoral formula may be living on borrowed time. At this point, few players, the Bloc least of all, want change. Canadian elections still seem fairly decisive: when the votes are counted, it is clear who should form the government. Even when no party has a majority of seats, one party usually has a clear edge over its closest rival. And this decisiveness has meant that minorities were usually transitional: the party in government looks for the right moment to turn itself into a majority; the opposition looks for the right moment to bring the government down; each

side looks to the electorate. At least this is what the major players tell themselves.

But hung Parliaments may truly represent our political future. If they do, the Governor-General's role as umpire will only grow, and will do so whatever the electoral system. If MPs no longer believe that elections are decisive, they will be less willing to allow minority governments to form. Or they will be less inclined to give the benefit of the doubt to the party with the largest number of seats. Instead, the party with the most allies may become the presumptive government. It may fall to the Governor-General to identify such possibilities. This will require institutionalized consultation with all parties and the development of a

transparent mechanism for revealing their wishes. Transparency was conspicuously lacking in December 2008. If the Governor-General enters the political game without such procedures, he or she risks undermining the legitimacy of the Crown and, indeed, of Parliamentary democracy. If she has not done so already, Mme. Jean should get on the phone to her counterparts in Wellington and Canberra.

Richard Johnston, is currently Research Director of the National Annenberg Election Study at the University of Pennsylvania. He has been nominated by UBC as the Canada Research Chair in Elections, Public Opinion, and Representation. He returns to UBC in July, 2009.



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Indulge your senses and get your culture on with some wine appreciation at UBC's wine research library and a visit to the newly renovated Museum of Anthropology. Get together with old friends and meet some new ones at an alumni softball game. Make sure you fuel-up first at the BBQ lunch.

More than 50 cultural, social and educational events have been carefully planned so you can rediscover UBC. Take some time to stop and smell the rose garden and see campus through a new lens.

Registration is now open. Updates will be sent electronically so make sure that we have your email address. Contact us at alumni.weekend@ubc.ca, 604.827.3081 or 1.800.883.3088 for more information.

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS BBQ

Have your friends and family join you for a delicious veggie or beef burger at the outdoor BBQ.

TOUR THE TREETOPS

Visit the Biodiversity Canopy Walkway at the UBC Botanical Garden. Spanning 308 meters, rising 17.5 meters into the tree canopies and featuring nine tree top platforms, it will provide an in-depth view of the upper layers of second growth coastal rainforest eco-system, as well as vegetation on the forest floor below. An engaging activity for the whole family.

WHAT IF GALILEO HAD A SPACE TELESCOPE?

Join UBC professor and physicist Jaymie Matthews as he explores this question and gives us an insider scoop on the MOST satellite, UBC's very own and Canada's first space telescope. This UBC treasure is capable of measurements beyond that of most observatories in the world.

EXPLORE THE CREATIVE MIND OF JACK SHADBOLT

One of Canada's most important visual artists, Jack Shadbolt is known for paintings and murals that depict social and political collisions from BC's past. This exhibition, at the Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery, will feature more than 100 drawings, sketches and archival materials from the 1930s to the 1980s that reveal Shadbolt's technical and creative approach to his work. Witness how a small sketch is turned into a large mural, and the maturing of the themes in his artwork throughout his artistic career.

UBC ALUMNI SOFTBALL GAME

Grab your glove and bat and swing for the fences! Join us for an afternoon of softball fun with alumni and friends on the brand new UBC fields at Thunderbird Park.

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What is TRIUMF? It's only Canada's national laboratory for Particle and Nuclear Physics. Come witness the world's largest cyclotron at work as physicists strive to discover the secrets of matter, subatomic particles and even supernovas. Discover your inner nuclear physicist.

TIDEPOOLING

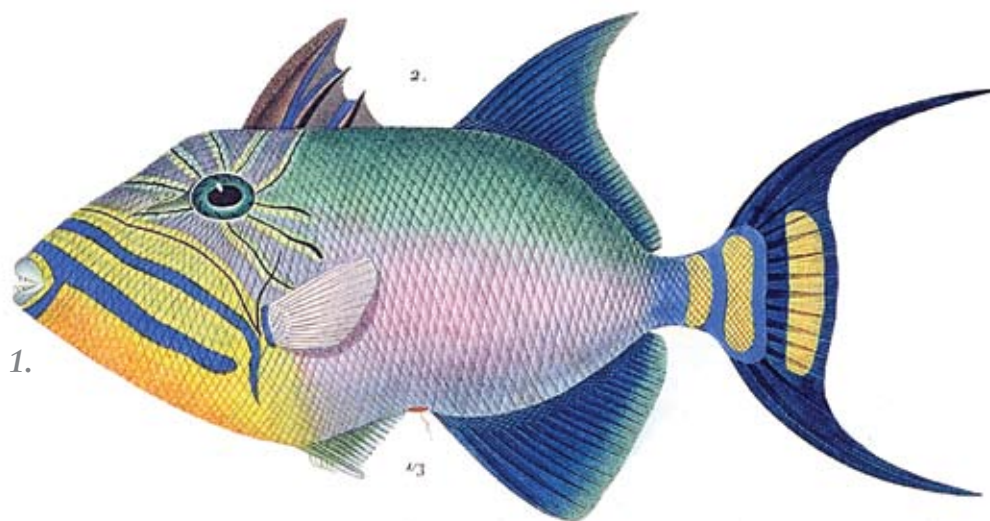
Tidepooling is back again this year with assistant professor of zoology Chris Harley. Bring the family out for a Sunday afternoon session near Brockton Point in Stanley Park to investigate some of the sea's fascinating creatures.

To find out more about Alumni Weekend, or to register, check out our Alumni Weekend webpage.

www.alumni.ubc.ca/events/alumniweekend

UBC Library Vault Turns One!

UBC Library Vault is celebrating one year of bringing you the magic of our rare books, archives and other special collections in an online format (www.ubcvault.ca). As a treat, we're showing you some of the exceptional images that the Vault plans to unveil in the coming year. Gorgeous giclée prints and new cards sets will be available from the online gallery in the spring. Proceeds support UBC Library initiatives, ensuring our collections endure for future generations. You can sign up for the monthly e-newsletter, *eVault*, at www.ubcvault.ca/signup.php.



1. Queen Triggerfish

"They sold me several curious fish," wrote naturalist Renè-Primevère Lesson of the villagers in his 1824 New Zealand journal. During a voyage chartered by the French ship *La Coquille*, approximately 50 species of animals were collected and taken back to Paris. The colourful creature pictured here attacks sea urchins by blowing water to overturn them.

Voyage de la Coquille, Woodward Biomedical Library (QL5 .L3 1826)

2. Curcuma roscoeana

The 19th-century horticulturist, landscape architect and designer Joseph Paxton was also a prolific author and editor, responsible for respected horticultural journals such as *Paxton's Magazine of Botany*, which were distinguished by their outstanding illustrations. This particular image depicts the *Curcuma roscoeana*, known for the brilliant colour of its blossoms, and introduced to England in 1837 by the superintendent of the East India Company in Calcutta.

Paxton's Magazine of Botany, Woodward Biomedical Library (QK1.P18).

3. Abraham Ortelius

This image is a close-up of "A New Description of America," one of many maps collected by Flemish scholar and geographer Abraham Ortelius (1527-1598) in his atlas *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*. Published in 1570, the text was considered to be the first modern atlas, and was referred to as a summary of all 16th-century cartography.

Theatrum Orbis Terrarum, Rare Books and Special Collections (G3290 1587 O7 1588).

ALL IMAGES COURTESY UBC LIBRARY VAULT
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3.



4.



6.



5.



4. Spanish Manuscript

The *Spanish Chant Manuscript* is an exquisite collection of Gregorian chants, hymns and psalms. The complete volume contains 208 pages of music compiled by the Catholic church. It is believed to have originated sometime between 1575 and 1625 in Longrono, Spain. The text is often decorative, with unique designs woven into the notation.

Spanish Chant Manuscript, Rare Books and Special Collections (M2149.L32 S6 1575).

5. A Mad Tea Party

Some of the curious members of the Wonderland tea-party were based on real characters whom Carroll knew. The drowsy Dormouse, a rodent that Victorian children often kept as pets in old teapots, was based on Dante Gabrielle Rossetti's pet wombat which had a bad habit of sleeping on the dinner table. The Mad Hatter may have been inspired by Theophilus Carter, an eccentric Oxford furniture dealer who always wore a top hat. He was the inventor of the "alarm clock bed," which rudely tossed sleepers out from under the covers and was guaranteed to wake even the most reluctant morning riser.

Alice in Wonderland, Rare Books and Special Collections (Alice. Book 13).

6. William Darwin Fox: Friend and Foe by Charles Darwin

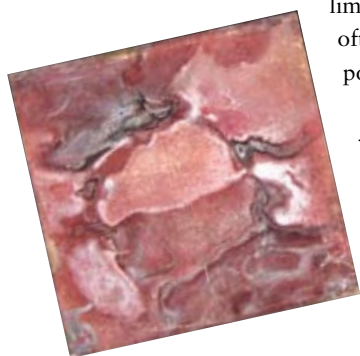
Charles Darwin addressed this letter to his second cousin, William Darwin Fox (1805-1880), who studied with him at Christ's College, Cambridge. Fox, an amateur entomologist and botanist, is credited for sparking Darwin's interest in natural history. Despite their convergent interests, Darwin and Fox didn't always see eye to eye. Fox went on to become the county vicar of Nottingham and an outspoken adversary of Darwin's evolutionary theory.

Charles Darwin Letters digital collection (<http://angel.library.ubc.ca/u?/collo610-5,236>). (Photo courtesy of UBC Archives.)

New Patinas Bridge Science and Art

Entirely new colours for metal patinas are being developed by UBC Okanagan fourth-year undergraduate Ashley Devantier and chemistry professor Stephen McNeil.

By **JODY JACOB**



Imagine a purple Statue of Liberty dressed in a canary-yellow robe, holding a bright red flame.

The artistic concept is in the scientific works thanks to research by Ashley Devantier, a fourth-year UBC Okanagan student who is using chemistry to create more colour options for artists working with patinas.

A patina is a coloured coating on the surface of bronze or similar metals, often produced naturally by oxidation over a long period, such as the blue-green colour on the Statute of Liberty's copper surfaces. Artificial patinas are used by artists to add an antique look or feel to their artwork, but these artificial patinas have their drawbacks: they're confined to a very limited colour palette (usually blue-green) and often use highly toxic or hazardous compounds.

By mixing and manipulating common – and far less toxic – metallic elements and identifying the molecular basis for new colours, Devantier has produced nearly a

full rainbow of colours not previously available in the patina palette. In addition, she has studied and analyzed the underlying molecular changes that take place when applying these new patinas.

"I took some common metallic elements – chromium, iron, cobalt and copper – which are known to give compounds very intense, vibrant colours, and started to explore the chemical processes that occur when they are applied to bronze surfaces," says Devantier. "All of a sudden these amazing colours started to show up."

Although the practical applications are yet to be determined, Devantier's research could potentially give artists new, less toxic formulas to create patinas of varying colours and an array of exciting options for their bronze art.

Devantier, who received an Undergraduate Research Award (URA) from the Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences to conduct her research last summer, says interest in her work has been overwhelming and the experience itself has been life-changing.

“I produced this beautiful bright red and for the life of me I couldn’t figure out how to do it again. I used the exact same mixture, and it would repeatedly turn blue. I was convinced the colour gods hated me.”

“The response I’ve had from the internal UBC arts community is fantastic,” she says. “When I look at where I was only a few months ago and where this project has taken me, well, it’s mind-boggling. The URA grant has completely changed my personal path and the way I thought about science and research.”

Devantier had planned to finish her bachelor of science degree in chemistry by December. She was looking forward to finishing university and was eager to start working in whatever field she was able to land a job. But after receiving the URA and completing the research part of her project last summer, Devantier decided to continue with her project through an honours thesis.

“This project has been in Ashley’s hands since day one,” says Stephen McNeil, assistant professor of chemistry and primary supervisor of Devantier’s patina research project. “It is really something off the beaten path. I was surprised to find out that nobody has done the preliminary work to see what transition metals could be put on a surface to create colour, so it



The colourful Ashley Devantier.

was very exploratory at the start. It’s a visually enticing project that bridges science and art.”

As part of her honours thesis, Devantier is studying molecular changes over time occurring on the surface of the bronze patinas, and recording them. The next step will be to approach the arts community to determine the practical applications of the research.

Although the project has been rewarding for Devantier, it has presented interesting challenges. “There was the great saga of the disappearing red,” she says. “I produced this beautiful bright red and for the life of me I couldn’t figure out how to do it again. I used the exact same mixture, and it would repeatedly turn blue. I was convinced the colour gods hated me.”

A few weeks of perseverance and careful study revealed the cause: solutions of an iron salt would react with the copper atoms in the bronze surface, yielding a red iron compound. If the iron solution had time to react with oxygen in the surrounding atmosphere, the iron complex would oxidize and form a blue colour instead. Applying the iron under a flow of nitrogen gas would prevent the oxidation, leaving the original red. Chemical identification of the blue and red materials provided the clues needed to reproduce each colour.

“Figuring that out was the most rewarding thing I’ve ever done,” says Devantier.

Jody Jacob is a communications coordinator at UBC Okanagan.



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Les Harris BSc'67, MBA'72 took a course in garden design that led to a new career.

LES HARRIS IS PASSIONATE ABOUT GARDENS. With a management career in information technology behind him, no wonder he tackles his own overgrown garden by using a database to catalogue its abundance of flowering trees, evergreens and hybrid rhododendrons. But who would have guessed that this garden project at Spindrift Cottage, a vacation property Les and his wife purchased on Vancouver Island, would lead to a new career?

It was his desire to improve the garden at Spindrift that prompted Les to look for educational programs to give him the skills required to create his own design. Les decided on UBC Continuing Studies' Certificate Program in Garden Design, a part-time program led by Ron Rule, a leading landscape architect and garden historian specializing in the Pacific Northwest region.

Program participants come from all walks of life, some interested in improving their own

gardens, others already working in landscape design but lacking formal training. "I was the old guy with lots of experience," says Les, who used his skills to help other students. "I've always been good at visualizing solutions and making them into a diagram to explain ideas to clients and my working team. I've also taken courses in drafting and painting, and I've done house renovations and furniture building. So the process of designing a garden felt very natural to me."

"Perhaps the most important skill I learned in the Garden Design program was to design garden spaces that matched the lifestyle of the client," he says. "Part of this was the hardscape design (stonework, paths, water features, etc.), but the real eye opener was the multitude of plants available, and how their shapes, colours, scents, textures and seasonal displays could be used to expand the client's experience in the garden."

What began as a simple desire to improve his garden became a passion. "My wife said I was obsessed not just with gardening but with the program, instructors and students." He received the prestigious Rosemary Verey Award in 2007 in recognition of his ability to inspire others through his commitment and enthusiasm, in addition to academic achievement and creative excellence. Winning the award made him consider opening his own garden design business and Spindrift Garden Designs, Ltd. was born. Spindrift is sea spray, forming when the wind blows from the land to the ocean. It was also the name of his Scottish uncle's boat. Les grew up in the Shetland Islands, a landscape so windswept that stone walls had to be built to protect plants. "Plants would grow up to the top of the wall and then stop," he says.

Les enjoys developing challenging garden designs. "My current project involves a seaside property where there is full sun, strong winds, salt spray and many hungry deer," he says. And surely this native Shetlander won't have any trouble finding creative solutions.

PROFILES: *UBC Continuing Studies*

WHEN KIRSTEN MOLSTAD FOUND HERSELF wondering if she was travelling the right career path, she decided to take personality and career testing with the UBC Continuing Studies Life and Career Centre at UBC Robson Square.

"I was working as a project manager, and I loved some aspects of the job but felt others weren't right for me," says Kirsten, who chose the course Working on Purpose: Life Shifts and Job Change taught by Sally Halliday and Howard Askwith, alumni of UBC's MA Counselling Psychology program.

"I have always struggled with decisions about pursuing opportunities in areas I was good in or areas I was more interested in," says Kirsten. "At high school I was strong in math but decided to study political science. I was more curious about social sciences, and instinctively knew that it was a better fit." Her course work at the Life and Career Centre has helped Kirsten recognize how her values relate

to her career choices. "It started the process of discovering my own values and generated awareness of what happens when those values are challenged," she says. "It became clear I would be happiest in a position working directly with people in a helping capacity."

These days, Kirsten is putting her educational background and personality strengths to work in a job she loves as an international student recruiter and advisor for UBC. Understanding her thinking style and recognizing her values has also helped Kirsten in her interactions with students and colleagues. She discovered that curiosity and collaboration rank highly among her values and help her in her job. "Curiosity about the students I work

with makes me a better advisor," she says.

Kirsten is also putting her career mapping and skills development to use assisting others by volunteering as a mentor with the YWCA High School Mentor program and with the Minerva Foundation's Learning to Lead program as well as the United Way Campaign.

Having found the courage to examine her goals and ultimately discover the right career path, Kirsten does an excellent job of helping others find theirs. "I often recommend the Life and Career Centre courses and career testing to colleagues," she says. "I found it really helpful to look at my goals through the lens of what would be a good fit with my interests, personality and values."

Kirsten Molstad BA'99 took a course to help her find a career that matched her interests and values.



Guests broke out their winter glam gear, kicked up their heels and applauded the achievements of UBC's most talented at the 2008 Alumni Achievement Awards held at the new UBC Thunderbird Arena (a 2010 Winter Olympics venue) last November. After hearing some inspiring speeches from the award recipients, guests were treated to gourmet fare, a salsa band, hipster decor and our best silent auction to date, which raised more than \$10,000 for student scholarships.

Award recipients for the 2009 awards will be announced in May.



chronicle

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA ALUMNI NEWS | SPRING 2009



The view from behind the speaker's podium, Alumni Achievement Awards, November, 2008.

ALUMNI NEWS

Reunions

Want to find out if your class is planning a special celebration? For the most up-to-date reunion information, visit our website at: www.alumni.ubc.ca/events/reunions.

Want to plan your reunion but don't know where to start? Look no further. Check out the reunion toolkit on our website at www.alumni.ubc.ca/events/reunions or contact your reunion representative. Many faculties and departments have reunion coordinators who can help you every step of the way and Alumni Affairs can help as well. Please find contact information below for your reunion coordinator.

If your faculty isn't listed below, you can find the most up-to-date reunion information on the Alumni Affairs website, or contact Marguerite Collins, events coordinator at marguerite.collins@ubc.ca, 800.883.3088 or 604.827.3294.

APPLIED SCIENCE Visit the Applied Science website at www.apsc.ubc.ca/alumni/events or contact Tracey Charette at alumni@apsc.ubc.ca or 604.822.9454.

DENTISTRY Visit the Dentistry alumni website at www.dentistry.ubc.ca/alumni or contact Jenn Parsons at dentalum@interchange.ubc.ca or 604.822.6751.

FORESTRY Visit the Forestry alumni website at www.forestry.ubc.ca/Alumni/Reunions/tabid/673/Default.aspx or contact Jenna McCann jenna.mccann@ubc.ca or 604.822.8787.

LAW Visit the Law alumni website at: www.law.ubc.ca/alumni/reunions or contact alumni@law.ubc.ca or 604.827.3612.

MEDICINE For all Medicine reunions, please visit www.med.ubc.ca/alum/alumni_affairs/Hold_a_Reunion.htm or contact Med.Alumni@ubc.ca or 604.875.4411 extension 6774.

SAUDER SCHOOL OF BUSINESS Visit the Sauder alumni website at: www.sauder.ubc.ca/Alumni/Reunions/default.htm or contact Kim Duffell directly at 604.822.6027 or alumni@sauder.ubc.ca.

Alumni Regional Networks

You can be part of the Alumni Network (aka alumni branches and chapters) through faculty, affinity or regional connections with your fellow alumni. If you want to stay connected to your student clubs and revel in your experiences from those good ol' days, why not collaborate with your former club members and form an affinity network. Check with your faculty or department to see if they already have an alumni group.

If you want to connect with fellow alumni but you live outside of the Lower Mainland, check for a regional network in your area. There are more than 50 contacts and networks around the globe, and the list continues to grow. If your area doesn't have a UBC alumni network, why not start one?

Your Alumni Relations contact can help:

- Brenda at UBC Okanagan:
brenda.tournier@ubc.ca
- Caely-Ann at UBC Vancouver:
caely-ann.mcnabb@ubc.ca
- Mei Mei at the Asia Pacific Regional Office (Hong Kong): meimei.yiu@apro.ubc.ca



Grads getting tied in knots at Hong Kong alumni Christmas party.

Comings and Goings

We'd like to thank our outgoing volunteers and wish them all the best in their future endeavours, and hope to keep in touch: Kristine Randall BA'05, (Montreal), Alexandra Percy BA'05, (Montreal), Jesse Touzel BASc'86, (Santa Barbara), Jacob Tummon BA'03, LLB'07, (north and central Vancouver Island) and Zoe Jackson BA'03, LLB'06, (north and central Vancouver Island). Welcome to our new alumni reps in the following cities:

EDMONTON

Nawaaz Nathoo, BSc'06
nawaaz.nathoo@alumni.ubc.ca

CALGARY

Jim Vavra, BCom'84
jimovavra@yahoo.com
403.298.7820

Sophia J.K. Lee, BCom'07
jookyung81@hotmail.com

GLASGOW

Amy Dickens, BA'07
amyjdickens@gmail.com

Get involved

You can be an active member of the UBC community no matter where you live. Join us for an upcoming event or get involved as a volunteer. Do you have an idea for a unique event? A talent for connecting people? A desire to share your experiences with new students or provide insider tips on your city to alumni who are relocating? Contact the alumni rep for your region and share your talent, they'd love to hear from you.

We're looking for volunteers to build the alumni network in London (UK) and Montreal. If you're interested, contact Caely-Ann McNabb, alumni relations coordinator at caely-ann.mcnabb@ubc.ca or 1.800.883.3088.

Past Events

Grads have been coming together for a wide variety of activities since we last reported. Maybe you cheered on the Canucks when they were in Denver or Ottawa, questioned the Canadian electoral system in Palo Alto, California with other alumni and political guru Professor Richard Johnston, mixed and mingled with other hip and happenin' grads at the Royal Ontario Museum's c5 Restaurant and Lounge in Toronto, told us your thoughts at a focus group meeting in Campbell River or perhaps you met former Canadian Prime Minister and alumna, Kim Campbell, in London? Come out and join us for the next event in your area.

The Next Step: Achieving Your Goals

On January 28, 2009, close to 100 alumni packed the Pacific Palisades Hotel in Vancouver for a special dinner with Olympic gold medallist Ben Rutledge, BCom'06, and certified executive coach Doug Brockway. After listening to these engaging speakers, then sitting down to converse with other Olympic and world champion varsity alumni, attendees left inspired, knowing that with a little motivation, they too could make their life goals a reality.

A Conversation with Kim Cattrall

On January 7, 2009, UBC Alumni Affairs and Theatre at UBC welcomed award-winning *Sex and the City* actress, producer and author Kim Cattrall to the Freddie Wood Theatre. She talked to Jerry Wasserman about her professional work in television, theatre and film, her life challenges, women in the workforce, post-feminism, self-image and her more than 35 years of success in one of the toughest, most competitive businesses there is.



"Achieving Your Goals" inspired nearly 100 grads at the Pacific Palisades in Vancouver.

Upcoming Events

Starting in March, the UBC Dialogues series will visit communities across the Lower Mainland and around the world, asking provocative questions and bringing insightful discussions to our alumni. Some of the topics to be discussed include: transportation, the Olympics and funding of the arts.

On April 22 at 7:00 pm in the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts, John Ralston Saul, CC, will sit down with distinguished panelists – BC Assembly of First Nations Regional Chief Shawn Atleo and associate dean for indigenous education and acting director of the Native Indian Teacher Education Program Joanne Archibald – for the UBC-Laurier Institution Multiculturalism Lecture. The topic of discussion will be *Aboriginals and New Canadians: The Missing Conversation*. The evening will be hosted by Paul Kennedy and broadcast on *CBC Ideas*. Tickets are free and can be picked up at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts on UBC's Vancouver campus or downloaded from Ticketmaster for a nominal fee of \$2.50. (Limit four tickets per person.)



John Ralston Saul

The annual All Canada University event in Washington, DC, will be held in April. And be sure to keep an eye out for a *UBC Bound!* student send-off event in your city over the summer. Visit the Alumni Affairs website at www.alumni.ubc.ca to find out more about these and other upcoming events. Your reps are all using email to send out invitations and we determine who to invite to regional events based on your mailing address, so please make sure that we have all your current contact information. It's easy to update at www.alumni.ubc.ca/contact/address.php. (Please pass this on to any fellow alumni who are missing out because they have lost contact with us.)

Do we have your email?

Do you want to find out about UBC alumni events in your area? Then make sure we have your email address by sending it along with your name, degree and year of graduation to alumni.records@ubc.ca. You will then automatically be invited to events in your area. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

classACTS

1940S

The Return of the Vets section published in our last issue inspired **J.E. Oldfield** BSA'41, MSA'49 to provide an update on his post-UBC career in agriculture. He wrote: "After serving with the Westminster Regiment in the 5th Canadian Armoured Division in Italy and northwest Europe, I returned to UBC in 1945 to do graduate work. My major professor was Alex Wood, a remarkable man to whom I shall always feel indebted. At that time, UBC did not offer the PhD degree in agriculture, so I went south to Oregon State University in Corvallis for my doctorate. My intent was to earn my doctor's degree, which I did, and come right back to Canada to go to work. Oregon State offered me a position in their animal sciences department, however, and I took it and have been here ever since. At Dr. Wood's urging, I started working with the trace element, selenium, which most people have never heard of and it has proven to be a most rewarding experience. We were able to show that the cause of white muscle disease seen in cattle and sheep in areas of central Oregon was a deficiency of selenium. Surprisingly, publication of our work all over the world and selenium supplementation has become an established husbandry practice worldwide."

1950S

Semi-retired lawyer and mediator **Walley Lightbody** BA'56, LLB'59 played a key role in establishing the Okanagan Bar Association Endowed Entrance Award, a scholarship which will be awarded to a UBC Okanagan undergraduate student accepted into the law program at UBC. After he secured more than \$50,000 in donations from UBC Law alumni and Okanagan law firms, the BC Law Foundation matched the contributions for a current total of \$104,000. Walley has also been working with UBC Okanagan to develop a Contemporary Canadian Law concentration within the Barber School of Arts and Sciences.

1960S

Bill Watt BMus'67, MMus'73 recently retired from School District 57 with 35 years of service in BC's secondary public schools. Bill taught mathematics and music in Mission, Prince George, Shuswap, Surrey and Vancouver. He continues to conduct the Prince George Community Band and works part-time for Enterprise Rent-A-Car in Prince George ...

Brian W. Wallace PEng, BASc'66 was given the Institute of Transportation Engineers Greater Vancouver Section's Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Transportation Profession in BC. He has been involved in transportation planning for more than 40 years. During his career he was the transportation consultant on some of the largest and most visible projects in Vancouver including BC Place, GM Place, Concord Pacific's False Creek redevelopment and Marathon's Coal Harbour redevelopment. He was also part of the Owner's Engineer team for the Lions Gate Bridge rehabilitation project. He is currently in semi-retirement.

1970S

Eric Jamieson BA'71 has just finished writing *Tragedy at Second Narrows, the Story of the Ironworkers Memorial Bridge* (Harbour Publishing, November 2008). It is his second book. His previous work, *South Pole, 900 Miles on Foot* was published in 1996 by Horsdal and Schubart ... **Lyall Knott** QC, BCom'71, LLB'72, LLM'73, a partner at the law firm Clark Wilson LLP in Vancouver, has been appointed honorary captain of Canadian Fleet Pacific. There are only 10 honorary captains in the Canadian Navy. Honorary appointees carry responsibilities within the Canadian Forces, including developing and promoting community support for their unit, establishing unit relationships with local charities, providing expertise in their associated vocations and attending ceremonies, parades and other events ... **Peter Frinton** BSc'72 was re-elected for a fourth term to Bowen Island's Municipal Council on November 15, 2008. He was also appointed by the council to sit as Bowen's



Peter Frinton

municipal director at the Metro Vancouver table, and will act in lieu of the mayor on the Translink Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation ... **Hem Savla** MBA'75 was appointed acting head of Internal Audit and Ethical Governance at the London Borough of Barnet in February 2008. In March he visited friends in Tanzania during his safari to Ngorongoro and Serengeti National Parks. His son, Neil, married Seetal in September 2008.

1980S

Leslie Allan Dawn MA'82, PhD'02 an associate professor in the department of Art at the University of Lethbridge, has been awarded the Raymond Klibansky Prize for best English work in the humanities for his book *National Visions, National Blindness: Canadian Art and Identities in the 1920s*. In the early 20th century, visual arts were considered central to the formation of a distinctive Canadian identity and the Group of Seven's landscapes became part of a larger program to unify the nation and assert its uniqueness. Using newly discovered archival evidence, his book traces the emergence of a young nation. His book is published by UBC Press ... **Anna K. Fung** QC, BA'81, LLB'84 former senior counsel and chief privacy officer at Terasen Inc., joined the legal department of Intrawest ULC in Vancouver under the leadership of its new chief legal officer, Stephen



Walley Lightbody with Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin, LLD'90, (left) and Kelowna mayor Sharon Shepherd, BSc'73 on January 27. Chief Justice McLachline visited UBC Okanagan and later gave a speech on the topic of access to the justice system and the barriers that exist including cost, complex court procedures and delays.

M.G. Richards BA'81, LLB'85 ... **Dr. Bradley Condon** BA'85 has been made a member of the Mexican Academy of Sciences for his work in international economic law. He is a professor and director of the Centre for International Economic Law at the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México, in Mexico City ... Last August, **Rod Chow** BCom'83, MBA'86 and his family were featured on the cover of the "Sunday Unwind" special section of the *Vancouver Province* newspaper with the headline "Ala-Kazam! BC's First Family of Magic." Vancouver's Chow family are tops in

the battle of the hands. His two sons, Jack and Nicholas, won two gold medals each at the 2008 Pacific Coast Association of Magicians conference in Monterey, California. Combined with the gold medal that Rod won, the family brought home an unprecedented five gold medals in the same year. Jack, 12, is now a six-time Pacific Coast and four-time Vancouver magic junior champion. Nicholas, nine, is the youngest four-time Pacific Coast and two-time Vancouver junior champion. Rod's wife, Sylvia, is a two-time Society of American Magicians #95 Best Assistant of the Year. Rod has personally won more than 30 magic awards in his magic career including first place at the Society of American Magicians International Contest of Close-Up Magic. In total, his family of magic has won an incredible 50 magic awards. When he's not practicing magic, you can find Rod selling insurance in the narrowest building in the world, as recognized by the *Guinness Book of Records*, located in Vancouver's Chinatown, where he is a certified financial and insurance advisor/broker and president of Jack Chow Insurance. For a bio, photos and show info, please visit his website at www.rodchow.com.



Hats off to B.C. magicians

Rod Chow's family of magicians featured in the *Vancouver Province*, last August

1990S

Christina Pao BA'93 and **Elan Cohen** are delighted to announce the birth of their fourth child, Ashley Hannah on October 10, 2008. Christina and Elan have been living in Singapore since 1997, where Christina works for Alfred Publishing as the Northeast Asia Sales Manager ... **Michele Melland** BFA'90 had her fourth child, Lena Jo Melland Strassberg, on August 16, 2007. Michele lives in New York City with her husband Rich Strassberg and their children. Rich is a white collar defense attorney at Goodwin Procter and Michele is a stay at home mom, still pursuing her acting career in her spare time.

2000S

Daniela Cohen BA'00, BEDE'03 has almost completed a year-long term as senior editor and NPO manager with Amazwi, a start-up South African non-profit organization focused on empowering rural women through narrative journalism. Based in the rural community of Acornhoek, Amazwi aims to empower rural African women to tell (and preserve) the stories of their community by providing training in journalism and publishing the stories in the *Villager* newspaper, as well as its online component. Since January 2008, Daniela has been mentoring the journalists through the process of editing their stories for publication, as well as managing the organization's fundraising and marketing projects. She has been documenting her experience of returning to her homeland in the monthly column *Homeward Bound* for the online component of *Canadian Immigrant* magazine ... **Dr. Jessica Ware** BSc'01 was awarded the 2008 Snodgrass Memorial Research Award at the Entomological Foundation's award ceremony in Reno, NV, on November 18, 2008. The award recognizes outstanding research by a graduate student who has completed investigations in related fields of entomology including arthropod morphology, systematics, taxonomy or evolution. Jessica also recently won an NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellowship to work on the systematics of lower termites with Dave

classACTS



Bal Arneson

Grimaldi at the American Museum of Natural History ... Energy Aware Technology, a company started by **Colin McKerracher** BCom'05, **Colby Gore** BASc'06, MEng'06, **Janice Cheam** BCom'06, **Jon Hallam** BASc'07, and **Lauren Kulokas** BASc'06 has developed the PowerTab, an in-home energy display that provides real-time feedback on electricity consumption, in both dollars and kilowatt hours, to homeowners. Energy Aware's aim in developing the PowerTab was to create a product that would raise energy awareness and reduce energy waste without requiring significant lifestyle changes. The PowerTab will be included in the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Village, and the company recently signed a multi-million dollar licensing deal to a major US company to handle distribution of the product throughout the US ... **Bal Arneson** BA'05 recently published her first cookbook *Everyday Indian: 100 Fast, Fresh, and Healthy Recipes* (Whitecap, 2009). In this book, Bal takes the cooking techniques and food philosophies she learned from her elders in a small village in India and shows you how easy they are to incorporate into the home kitchen.

Save the date!

On Saturday July 25, 2009, UBC Child Care Services is celebrating 40 years of top quality care with a BLOCK PARTY from 3:00 – 9:00 pm. Don't miss the chance to reconnect with families and staff, enjoy great live music, food and family fun. 5690 Osoyoos Crescent, UBC.

For more details visit www.childcare.ubc.ca.

Can UBC Create Your Legacy?



Stuart Marshall and Theresa Arsenault think so. As Kelowna residents and strong promoters of post-secondary education, they have made a gift of life insurance to UBC Okanagan. Theresa believes in supporting institutions that make life better for her community, and "UBC Okanagan is very much performing that function now, both in providing access to education that wasn't available locally and by helping the region develop knowledge areas through research and its spinoffs."

A gift of life insurance lets you make a substantial philanthropic contribution in the future for relatively modest investments today. Your legacy gift to UBC can be directed to either our Vancouver or Okanagan campus. Please contact **UBC Gift and Estate Planning** at 604-822-5373 or heritage.circle@ubc.ca for more information.

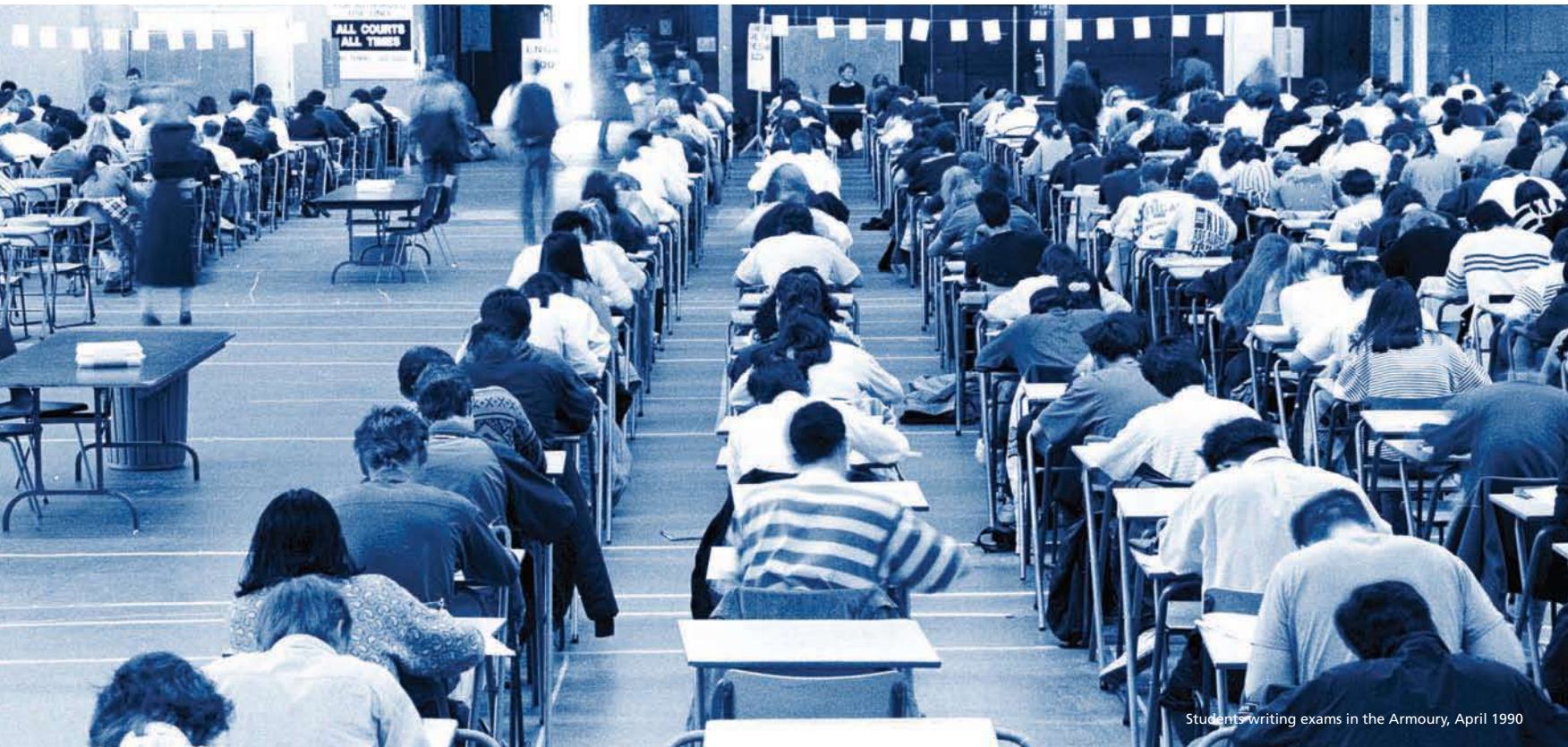


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Students writing exams in the Armoury, April 1990

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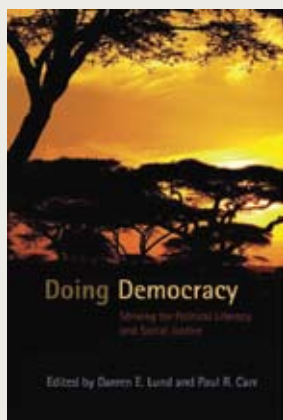


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The Grace Period for repayment of Purchase balances is at least 25 days, if each month we receive payment in full of your New Balance Total by the Payment Due Date. For information on non-interest fees, please call 1.866.600.2276, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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Doing Democracy: Striving for Political Literacy and Social Justice

EDITED BY DARREN LUND, PHD'02 AND PAUL CARR

Peter Lang Publishing, \$45.00

Editors Darren Lund and Paul Carr explore the role that education plays in building and maintaining democratic societies.

The collection suggests democracy should be a key component in all aspects of education. It reveals that democracy is an ideology, a set of values, a philosophy and a complex, dynamic terrain that transcends borders and is a contested forum for debate.

The authors offer a wide range of views on democracy, including Freirean empowerment, critical theory, global citizenship and feminist and Marxist perspectives. Topics of focus include African schooling and the Middle East, and inspirations range from Jungian and eastern thought to Aboriginal ways of knowing.

From seasoned veterans to emerging scholars, these writers challenge those who hold that there is only one type of democracy, that it is bound by nationalism or that it is defined by elections. Each makes a compelling case for how education can advance a more critical and global engagement in democracy that promotes social justice and political literacy for all.

Sima's Undergarments for Women

ILANA STANGER-ROSS

The Overlook Press, \$27.50

In her debut novel, Ilana Stanger-Ross (a student midwife in UBC's faculty of Medicine) has delivered a stunningly honest story about community and sisterhood, set in a basement bra shop.

For years, Sima Goldner has watched women of all shapes and sizes come to her Brooklyn shop in search of intimate garments. She has become an expert at finding the perfect fit for her customers just from a look, but it's her knack for doling out a different kind of support to the lovelorn and unconfident that's made her shop a Mecca where women gather and gossip. When Timna, a young Israeli with enviable cleavage, becomes the shop's seamstress, Sima finds herself drawn into the girl's life of romance and adventure. Stuck in a bitter marriage of nearly fifty years and harboring a secret from her youth, Sima must try her own advice on for size to find out if it's not too late to turn her life around.

Stanger-Ross has received several prizes for her fiction, including a Timothy Findley Fellowship, and her work has been published in *Bellevue Literary Review*, *Lilith Magazine*, *The Globe and Mail* and *The Walrus*.

Peace: A World History

ANTONY ADOLF, MA'03

Polity, \$69.50 (Forthcoming, April 2009)

How peace has been made and maintained, experienced and imagined is not only a matter of historical interest, but also of pressing concern. *Peace: A World History* is the first study to explore the full spectrum of peace and peacemaking from prehistoric to contemporary times in a single volume aimed at improving its prospects.

By focusing on key periods, events, people, ideas and texts, Antony Adolf shows how the inspiring possibilities and pragmatic limits of peace and peacemaking were shaped by their cultural contexts and, in turn, shaped local and global histories. Diplomatic, pacifist, legal, transformative non-violent and anti-war

movements are just a few prominent examples.

Adolf challenges the notions that peace is solely the absence of war, that this negation is the only task of peacemakers and that history is exclusively written by military victors.

"Without the victories of peacemakers and the resourcefulness of the peaceful," he contends, "there would be no history to write."

Garden Sense: Secrets of an Experienced Gardener

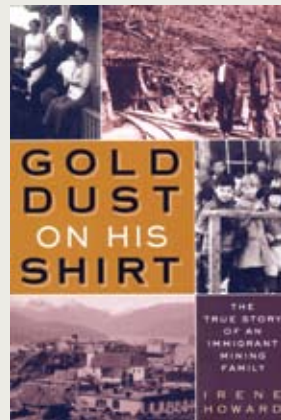
BY ROY JONSSON, BEd'60

\$19.95

If you're looking for a compact little volume that's densely packed with useful information on a broad range of gardening topics, look no further. What makes *Garden Sense* so great is that it covers not just the "whats" and the "how tos" but also the "whys."

For example, tulip bulbs tend to lose their vigor after a few years because they are native to the Mediterranean and need a dry period after they bloom, which they don't get if they are left in the flower border and watered all summer. For a thrifty gardener who isn't interested in lifting or replacing them every year, Jonsson even offers a solution: plant them under a deciduous tree where they will receive spring sunshine but will be left competing for moisture over the summer growing season. Simple and practical.

Another "why" explains why tomato plants that are allowed to dry out develop blossom end rot. When dryness stops nutrient uptake, the lack of calcium causes a breakdown in the tomato's structure, starting with the blossom end. This also occurs in peppers, melon and squash. As Roy points out, most books will suggest you add lime (calcium) and that you not let them dry



out, but don't explain the connection between the two. I'm betting this is the reason the tomatoes in our expensive new self-watering planters did so much better this past season.

This book will be most useful to the experienced gardener who wants to know what's actually happening under the ground. For more information on *Garden Sense*, visit www.royjonsson.com.

Reviewed by Elizabeth Minish

A Well-Mannered Storm: The Glenn Gould Poems

KATE BRAID, MFA'97

Caitlin Press, \$16.95

This book is an exploration of imagined correspondence between one of Canada's greatest musicians, Glenn Gould, and "k," an admiring fan. Braid weaves an intimate dynamic as k struggles with the loss of her hearing, finding her greatest comfort in Gould's music, particularly when he plays Bach. Gould's poems don't directly reply, but they do echo a response as he struggles with his own difficult life; his family, his health, his strong beliefs in how music should be presented and his personal habits, considered eccentric by an ever-watchful press. As the poems unfold, k comes to terms with her changing world, just as Gould begins a downward spiral into disintegration. In his final reflection, Gould acknowledges that in spite of his personal trials, his music now circles the world in the spacecraft Voyager, as Earth's example to other possible life forms of what is most beautiful in this civilization.

Braid's books of poetry have garnered numerous awards. She has also written three books of non-fiction and has taught creative writing at UBC, SFU and Malaspina University-College.

Gold Dust on His Shirt: The True Story of an Immigrant Mining Family

IRENE HOWARD, BA'48, MA'64

Between the Lines, \$26.95

Gold Dust on His Shirt is an evocative telling of the experience of a Scandinavian immigrant family of hard-rock miners at the turn of the century and up to World War II. Based on fascinating historical research, these are tales of arriving in 'Amerika,' blasting the Grand Trunk Pacific railway and working in the mines. They describe domestic life and labour struggles in company towns throughout British Columbia.

Part family history, part economic and social history, the book is an intriguing look at life on the industrial frontier, the world of immigrant workers and the rise of unions such as the Wobblies. This provocative tale of a family, region and era references a number of broader social and political issues.

Irene Howard has devoted her writing career to combining her interest in labour and immigrant history with her love of literature. She is the author of several books, including *The Struggle for Social Justice in British Columbia: Helena Gutteridge, the Unknown Reformer*, which in 1993 won the University of British Columbia Silver Medal for Canadian Biography and was shortlisted for a City of Vancouver Book Award and the Hubert Evans Non-Fiction Prize.

Ben's Way Out

ISRAEL CHAFETZ, MScB'77

Vantage Press, \$24.95

At age 34, Ben Stein is questioning his roots and his decision to finally leave academia and become a lawyer. He finds himself in one predicament after another as he battles the wisdom and comfort of family and culture to forge a way that is uniquely his own. Ben never goes so far as to disengage himself completely from his past, but he tests the limits of change in his personal and working life.

In *Ben's Way Out*, the humorous and thoughtful fiction debut from Israel Chafetz, our hero's heart and mind are analyzed as they relate to one young Jewish attorney, his traditions, lineage and the ups and downs of friendship, dating, education, career choices and diet. How are these decisions to be governed? According to traditional ways and adhering to stereotypes? Or by breaking free of one's past completely?

Chafetz is a partner in Vancouver's Taylor Jordan Chafetz law firm. He has previously published short stories, articles, comments and professional papers for academic and legal journals. *Ben's Way Out* is his first novel.



T-Bird Bballers Primed for CIS Championship in Ottawa

T-Bird men's basketball team claimed their fourth straight Pacific Division title after a 21-2 regular season record clinched them home court advantage throughout the playoffs. As we go to press, they are in Ottawa competing for the National Championship. This is the sixth time the T-Birds have made the CIS Tournament in the past seven years.

After losing the consolation final of the 2008 CIS Final 8, the T-Birds came into this season with all but one player from that roster returning. To fill this space they added a proven all-star, point guard Josh Whyte.

The regular season campaign began with seven straight victories. UBC's first loss of the season came on the road 76-73 to the Regina Cougars. The T-Birds then won their next five games before suffering an 87-78 road loss to

the TWU Spartans early in the second half of the season. UBC closed their regular season with nine straight wins before sweeping past the SFU Clan and TWU Spartans in the Pac-D playoffs with a pair of 2-0 series victories. They beat Brandon 92-71 at the Canada West Final Four to secure a spot at the CIS Nationals. Their 14-game win streak came to an end, however, with their first home loss of the season, an 80-76 defeat at the hands of the Calgary Dinos, a team they had defeated 91-76 earlier in the season, in the Canada West championship game.

A trio of fifth-years formed the veteran nucleus of this year's team, with **Chris Dyck**, **Matt Rachar** and **Bryson Kool** starting a combined 83 of a possible 87 games. Whyte, who was in his first season with the T-Birds, started all 21 regular season games he dressed in this year and along with Dyck combined to form one of the most potent backcourt duos in

the conference. Both Dyck and Whyte were named Canada West second-team all stars, marking the third straight season that Dyck earned the honour. He was also named the Canada West Ken Shields award nominee, after leading the T-Birds with 14 points per game, adding 4.5 rebounds during conference play.

Whyte was second on the team in scoring with 13.8 points per game and finished tied for fourth in the CW in assists (4.9 per game), and third in assist-to-turnover ratio (2.2). Both players, however, averaged just 25 minutes per game during the regular season, making their numbers all the more impressive.

Rachar (8.3 points and 5.6 boards per game) and Kool (7.5 points, 5.4 boards, and 1.2 blocks per game) capped impressive five-year stints with the T-Birds with another pair of solid seasons. Both played in all 109 regular season conference games over their careers and rank tied for first in that category.

Not to be lost in all the T-Bird depth was the outstanding play of fourth-year **Blaine LaBranche** and **Brent Malish**. LaBranche worked his way into a starter's role by season's end and ranked third on the team in regular season scoring with 11.3 points per game in only 20 minutes of action per contest.

Malish was the T-Birds' sixth man and the talented junior came off the bench to lead the T-Birds in rebounding (5.9 per game) while adding 8.7 points per contest. He was also called upon to guard some of the best big men in the conference and hit numerous clutch threes as his inside-outside game caused match-up problems for opponents all season long.

UBC also got solid contributions from sophomore guard **Nathan Yu** (6.5 points per game) who had the team's top three-point shooting percentage (39.7%), senior forward **Kyle Watson** (6.2 points per game) who made 14 starts this year, and junior guard **Alex Murphy** (4.7 points and 2.9 assists per game in just 17 minutes) who stepped up into a starter's role when Whyte was out with an injury, leading UBC to four straight victories.

In the post, sophomores **Graham Bath** and **Balraj Bains** give the T-Birds depth and outstanding hustle and defence – combining for 6.5 points, 4.8 boards, and 1.0 blocks per game – while rookie guard Akeem Pierre and senior guard Brett Leversage saw action in a combined 25 games this season.

Back-to-Back Champs!

For the second straight season, the T-Bird Women's Volleyball squad won the CIS National Championship, besting the Calgary Dinos 3-2.

The T-Birds used a remarkable third-set comeback and a near-flawless final frame to become the first team since Manitoba (2001 and 2002) to earn back-to-back CIS banners. "It's a totally different feeling this year," said UBC head coach Doug Reimer. "The growth in the team was so important for us and it was such a complete team effort to get this win."

Sophomore **Kyla Richey** led the T-Birds with 18 kills and added five block assists and two aces in the gold medal game. She was named the CIS Championship MVP. Fifth-year middle **Marisa Field** was a dominant force at the net for the T-Birds, notching 10 kills, and tallying two solo blocks and 10 block assists. Rookie **Shanice Marcelle** came off the bench to notch 10 kills, 13 digs, two solo and one block assist. Both players were named to the CIS Championship All-Star team alongside Richey.

A pair of UBC veterans played equally huge roles. Team captain **Danielle Petersen**, playing in her final CIS match, has had a knee injury since mid-way through the season and **Liz Cordonier**, the T-Bird primary power hitter, had an abdominal injury that should have kept her off the court. Petersen finished with six kills, 13 digs, and seven block assists playing the entire match while Cordonier had seven kills and three digs as she stayed on the court for as long as possible, appearing in four sets.

UBC trailed 12-7 in the third set after splitting the opening two frames but were able to fight all the way back to take a 16-15 lead before seeing the Dinos go on a run of their own

to take a 23-20 lead. The T-Birds were able to pull within one at 24-23 but then had to fend off four Dino set points. UBC finally gained a 28-27 advantage on a Calgary error before Marcelle ended the comeback with a kill.

The Dinos responded with a convincing 25-20 victory in the fourth frame but the T-Birds were just too strong in the fifth set, playing arguably their best volleyball of the match with the CIS trophy on the line.

"When it comes down to it, our team is really a pressure playing team," said Field. "We all want it so bad and we never gave up on anything."

Men Win CIS Title, Women Silver

The T-Bird men's swimming team reclaimed top spot in the country as the fastest CIS swimming championships in history concluded in late February at the UBC Aquatic Centre. The T-Birds won their 11th banner in 12 years.

The men's competition came down to the final race with UBC (689) reclaiming the banner it lost to the Dinos (661) last season, following a record 10-year reign from 1998 to 2007. The 28-point margin marks one of the closest finishes in CIS swimming history. After three days of competition and 38 races, 25 CIS championship records were toppled with 15 of those also new senior Canadian short-course marks.

A pair of fifth-years had memorable performances for the T-Birds. **Scott Dickens**, a 2004 Olympian, set a pair of Canadian records in the men's 50 and 100 metre breaststrokes (27.53 and 59.34) and was part of all three UBC relays that won gold on the men's side, two of them in Canadian record time.

"It feels great to have my own Canadian record," said Dickens, who tied **Morgan**

Knabe's national mark in the 100 breast. "To be honest, coming into the race I was only thinking about getting points for the team. Winning this title was the best prize of the whole weekend." Dickens finished the meet with seven medals, five of them gold, and added a silver in the 200 metre breaststroke and a bronze in the 200 metre individual medley.

Fellow graduating senior **Callum Ng** capped off a brilliant UBC career, winning gold in the men's 50 and 100 metre backstrokes, 100 metre butterfly, silver in the 200 metre butterfly, and a pair of gold medals on the 4x100 freestyle and 4x100 medley relays.

The UBC foursome of Ng, Dickens, **Rory Biskupski** and **Tommy Gossland** closed the meet with a senior national record in the 4 x 100 medley (3:33.04). That time erased the oldest Canadian record still on the books, bettering Calgary's 1992 standard of 3:34.86 set by a quartet of Olympic medalists.

In the women's competition, UBC Olympian **Annamay Pierse** took home the CIS female swimmer of the meet award. The fifth-year star swept the three breaststroke events for the second straight year with senior national records in the 100 (1:05.12) and 200 (2:18.59) while notching a championship mark in winning the 50 (30.71) Saturday evening. She also took home a silver medal in 200 individual medley (2:11.61) and a silver in the 4 x 100 medley relay.

Calgary, which had finished second behind UBC in the women's competition for the last eight seasons, tallied a CIS-record 791 points to put an end to the Thunderbirds' (566.5) streak of 11 straight national titles, a CIS record in any sports.



T-Bird Women's Volleyball squad



Members of the T-Bird men's swimming team

Sport Shorts

HOCKEY

Both T-Bird squads qualified for the 2009 Canada West playoffs. The men travel to Lethbridge to take on the Pronghorns, while the women are slated to battle the top-ranked Alberta Pandas. Both teams had players represent Canada at the FISU Games in February, with T-Bird goalie **Melinda Choy** winning gold with the women's squad. On the men's side, UBC head coach Milan Dragicevic, defencemen **Matt Pepe** and **Craig Lineker** brought back silver from Harbin, China. Pepe was the lone male T-Bird to earn Canada West all-star recognition, earning a spot on the Canada West All-Freshman team.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The T-Birds finished the season with a furious homestretch run, finishing 10-2 in the regular season before upsetting the Victoria Vikes in the first round of the playoffs with a 2-0 sweep on the Island. Their season ended, however, at the hands of the No. 1 ranked SFU Clan with a 2-0 loss in the Pacific Division finals. The T-Birds finished the season ranked 10th in the CIS and fourth-year post **Leanne Evans** was named the CIS Defensive Player of the Year after averaging nearly three blocks per game.

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

UBC missed qualifying for the CIS Championship by just one series, losing to the Brandon Bobcats 2-0 in the Canada West playoffs. Fifth-year **Steve Gotch** notched a Canada West record 34 kills in the final match of his career and was named a CIS second-team All-Canadian, the first time since the 1999-00 season that a T-Bird has won that honour. **Blair Bann** was named the Canada West Libero of the Year and a second-team Canada West all-star.

BASEBALL

Springtime has officially arrived when the UBC Thunderbirds baseball team begins their season. The T-Birds have had a hot start and currently sport a 10-2 overall record and are a near-perfect 6-1 in NAIA conference action, with all of their games coming on the road. They open their home schedule on March 13 and 14 with a pair of double headers versus Corban College in the friendly confines of Nat Bailey Stadium.

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IN MEMORIAM

We depend on friends and relatives for our **IN MEMORIAM** materials. Please send obituaries (500 words or less) to Michael Awmack at michael.awmack@ubc.ca. We will edit all materials to fit the space available. When sending photos, please send originals or high resolution scans (at least 300 dpi) as separate files.

JEAN DORGAN *BASc*³⁴

Jean died peacefully in hospital, with family and friends holding her hands, after a brief illness. Her wish was fulfilled to live independently to the end. Two days earlier she had attended mass and gone out to lunch with friends. Jean was born in the Royal City, the first of four children to Joe and Maude Dorgan. She studied nursing at UBC during the Depression, and following the death of her mother in 1934 assumed a position of responsibility within the family. After graduating she became a public health nurse in East Vancouver. She recalled the hospitality of the homes she visited, where the offer of a glass of wine had to be refused by a civil servant on duty.

During WWII she volunteered as a nursing sister and it is no exaggeration to say that her wartime experiences in the Italian campaign were pivotal. Jean was able to enlist in 1942, shipped to England aboard the Queen Elizabeth in 1943, then went on to Italy where, as Lieutenant Dorgan, she was assigned to Number 3 Mobile Surgical Unit, a casualty clearing station. She was present at the third attack on Cassino (among other northward-moving campaigns) and finished the war in Holland.

In peacetime she attained her master's degree, taught nursing at the University of Toronto, and worked for many years in Ottawa for the Ministry of Health. The capital gave her access to the archives where she could research genealogy; she also visited much of southern Ontario from where Irish settlers like her family had come in the 1830s. In retirement she moved back to the west coast, finally settling in New Westminster and taking an active volunteer role in Irving House. She was not short of interests – heritage, Catholicism, politics, clothes – nor shy of holding and expressing forcefully her opinions. She was an

observant commentator until the end. Among her last words were: “I didn’t think it would be like this; I thought it would be different!” Then she thanked us, was blessed and went over to join family departed. She is survived by many (grand) nephews, (grand) nieces, and cousins.

ESTELLE CHRISTINE (MATHESON) CHAVE *BA*³⁵, *MSW*⁵²

Estelle died on October 21, 2008, in Vancouver General Hospital as the result of a stroke only a couple of weeks short of her 94th birthday. She is predeceased by her husband, Cyril (July, 1999), by her first grandson, Richard Sanderson (February, 2008), and by her sister, Jean Higginbotham (August, 2004). She is survived by her daughter, Rosalind Sanderson, son-in-law Alan, grandson Trevor, younger sister Joan Matheson, and other relatives in Vancouver and Toronto. She was a warm, loving, generous and intelligent person in all her roles, best-beloved mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and sister. The family and many friends all miss her terribly.

Estelle was born in Winnipeg on November 10, 1914, but grew up in New Westminster and Victoria. She attended Oak Bay High School and Victoria College before moving on to UBC, where she attained her BA with first class honours in French in 1935. Throughout her studies, she won a number of scholarships, including the French government prize at graduation. She even found time to perform in several Players’ Club productions.

Estelle was awarded the Captain Leroy Scholarship for general proficiency, which she applied to her subsequent study of Social Work. She attained certification in 1937 and began working for the Children’s Aid Society in Vancouver. Estelle completed her MSW degree, then worked at the Child Guidance Clinic as a case worker then case-work supervisor until 1957. Estelle became a professor, teaching social work at UBC in the early 1960s and retiring in 1974.

Estelle and Cyril travelled extensively. They celebrated their sixtieth Wedding Anniversary in April 1997. A couple of years after Cyril’s death Estelle moved into Arbutus Manor, where she was very happy. Her hobbies included painting, gardening, reading, listening



Estelle Christine (Matheson) Chave

to classical music and minding grandsons. She was unfailingly cheerful and uncomplaining even in the face of adversity. She maintained a quiet dignity, always endeavouring to adhere to the Aristotelian philosophic ideal, the Golden Mean.

Estelle was a treasure for both family and friends, and the loss of her love, intelligence, wisdom, and infectious sense of humour will leave a chasm in the lives of all who knew her. Any donations made in Estelle’s memory to the BC Heart and Stroke Foundation will be very much appreciated.

RALPH SKINNER *BASc*³⁹, *MSc*, *PhD*

After graduating with a degree in mining engineering, Ralph worked in BC mines including Britannia. During WWII he served overseas with the Royal Canadian Engineers. After the war Ralph attended McGill University studying geology. (No more working underground in mines for him!) He earned his MSc in 1949 and his PhD in 1956.

Joining the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) he surveyed and mapped in various parts of Canada including Western Ontario, New Brunswick, and Northern Quebec. Ralph served as resident geologist in Whitehorse, Yukon, from 1956 to 1962. He retired in 1981, but returned to the “office” to tie up loose ends.

During his active years with the GSC, Ralph spent his summers collecting rock specimens. In the Far North, large areas could be surveyed



Ralph Skinner

and mapped using helicopters. His knapsack filled with his geologist's special pick-hammer, compass, camera, lunch and possibly other paraphernalia, Ralph would be transported in the helicopter from his base camp to a predetermined location where he was set down. The rest of the day was spent traversing to another predetermined location, picking up samples of rocks, labeling them, photographing them in some cases and carrying them to the helicopter rendezvous. After returning to his base the location of each rock sample was plotted on a map using his notes and the ID number on each rock.

This method of mapping allowed for greater coverage of vast areas. The final products were maps and memoirs detailing all the information he had gathered. These were published by the GSC. Similar techniques were used in mapping areas in southern Canada, but the traversing was done on foot and more detailed surveying was carried out.

Ralph enjoyed working in the great outdoors and even after retirement enjoyed walking, especially with his Schipperke dog, Quincy, and poodle Machco.

After a ten-year battle with Alzheimer's disease, Ralph died last March at the Perley Rideau Veterans Health Care Centre in Ottawa. Ralph is survived by his wife, Isobelle, sons Chris and Colin, his daughter, Maureen, and grandson Daniel.



William (Bill) Alexander Burton

WILLIAM (BILL) ALEXANDER BURTON *BASc'48*

Gone to rest after a lengthy illness, Bill passed away on February 12, 2008. Gone before are his parents, James and Jean Burton, and sister Betty Jean (Mac) Storey. Bill's life is celebrated by his loving wife, Mavis, and children James (Lindy), Lynn (Larry) and Barbara. He is lovingly remembered by his nine grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Bill was born in Innisfail, Alberta, on June 22, 1927. After attending the University of Alberta and UBC, he commenced a career in engineering. His work took him from sea to sea, with Canadian General Electric, Macmillan Bloedel and BC Hydro all benefiting from his expertise.

Bill was truly a family man first and foremost, although he maintained lifelong interests in boating, gardening and hunting. His Mr. Fixit abilities were transferred by sterling example to his children and grandchildren.

Heartfelt thanks to the staff at Cedar View and Inglewood Care Centre; nurses and care aides showed great compassion to Bill and his family, as did Drs. Forder and Dawson.



Virginia Joyce Bazilli (Nee Richards)

VIRGINIA JOYCE BAZILLI (NEE RICHARDS) *BA'48*

On September 2, 2008, we lost our most beloved mother and grandmother. She will live on in our hearts forever.

Virginia, born into a pioneer family from the UK (Russell Richards) and Australia (Nan Richards nee Wood), spent her childhood in Vancouver, West Vancouver and Trail.

After travelling, she settled in West Vancouver with her new husband, Michael Bazilli. Their florist business led to a lifelong passion with gardening. A move to Oakville, Ontario, in 1959 saw the start of a busy life with four children. Summers were spent at the family-built cottage in Muskoka. After her divorce, she raised her children alone as a subsistence farmer in Centreville, Ontario.

With the support of the Ban Righ Foundation, Virginia returned to university aged 50 and graduated from Queen's in 1976 with a BEd. She and her daughters, Susan and Catherine, all attended Queen's together. She began her career as a teacher in Belleville, Ontario. She returned to Vancouver in 1980 and became principal of Pitman's Business College, which was founded in 1898 by her Aunt Eveline and was a landmark at Broadway and Granville for many decades. In 1988 she retired to Hatzic Island, created a spectacular garden and painted – exhibiting at the Mission Art Gallery. She adventured with her children to Africa, India, Australia, Mexico, Russia, the

IN MEMORIAM

UK, the US and Canada. To be closer to her grandchildren and children, she moved to “Nanna’s House” in North Vancouver in 2002. She proudly attended her 60th reunion last year with UBC’s Class of ’48.

Virginia leaves her bereft children, Susan, Michael, Catherine and John, their partners, Dasi, Mimi, Lachlan and Nancy; grandchildren Cameron, Matthew, Alison and Rosalie; her brother, Peter Richards, and sister Shirlie Barnett; nieces and nephews, Australian cousins, and her many dear friends. She was the heart and soul of our family, and we were hers. An educator and mentor, her real life’s work was to nurture her children with joy and love. We were blessed, and always will be.

GEORGE CRUICKSHANK BScA’49

George passed away peacefully at Chilliwack General Hospital with his wife and family by his side.

George was born in Vancouver, joined the RCAF in 1942, and received his pilot’s wings in 1943. After being discharged at the end of WWII he enrolled at UBC to study agriculture. George’s passion was agriculture and he spent his career with the BC Ministry of Agriculture in the upper Fraser Valley while also operating his own sheep farm. In addition to his work he spent a great deal of his spare time working with the 4-H program and farm youth. George was active in Carmen United Church for many years. He married Thelma Macklam in 1943 before being posted overseas and was married to her for 65 wonderful years.

George is survived by his wife, Thelma, brother Jim, sister Shirley (Katalinic), children Colin, Bryan, Karen (Hawkins) and David, and grandchildren Aileen, Noreen, Alyson, Barry, Tess, Joe, Callie, Billy, Rianna and Liam.

WILFRED (BILL) PLUMB, BASC’50

Wilfrid Norman (Bill) Plumb was born in North Battleford, Saskatchewan, in 1915. He served with the First Canadian Armoured Brigade Signals in England, Sicily, Italy and Holland from 1940 to 1945, and received the British Empire Medal for meritorious service.

In 1950 he graduated from UBC as a geological engineer. His fascination with the

natural world flowed through his career in mining and exploration in BC, the Yukon and Saskatchewan, including his favorite post as chief geologist for Cassiar Asbestos Corporation.

He finished his career as information officer at the BC & Yukon Chamber of Mines in Vancouver. During retirement in Kelowna he taught prospecting courses and continued his lifelong quest for learning until his death in February 2008, at age 92. He was loyal to his profession, his family and his ideals, and inspired all who knew him with his optimism and determination to enjoy life to the fullest. He is survived by his wife Barbara, his daughters Sharon and Linda and six grandchildren.

RICHARD (DICK) KEMPSON VIVIAN BSF’51

Dick Vivian passed away on Sunday, October 19, 2008, in North Vancouver at the age of 86 years.

He was born in 1922 in Vancouver. After spending his early years in Penticton, Dick moved to Victoria where he graduated from Victoria High in 1940. He apprenticed as a land surveyor, and then joined the military in 1942 where he served as a bombardier in the RCA Corps in Europe. Following the war he attended UBC.

He spent his entire career with Alaska Pine and Cellulose and successor companies until his retirement as chief forester of Western Forest Products in 1987. Initial work focused on timber cruising and silviculture on northern Vancouver Island. He played an important role in developing working relationships between logging and forestry in the company and strong linkages with his colleagues in the BC Forest Service.

Dick was a conservationist at heart and instigated a series of fisheries awareness programs as well as being a strong supporter of industry involvement in salmon enhancement. As a practical forester Dick placed high importance on understanding the information he was given making sure the numbers fit with his “back of the envelope” calculations. Nevertheless, he put much energy and persuasion into acquiring a new GIS mapping system for the company.

Dick was a quiet man of high integrity, soft spoken and a consummate professional forester.

His knowledge and perception of issues, particularly government policies and actions was impressive. This policy interest served the sector well through his involvement with several COFI committees. He had an impressive ability to draft effective and diplomatic correspondence.

Loath to “jump on the train” without lots of thought, he needed to know the direction it was heading. He was a good and loyal friend to many and respected by all who knew him. Loggers appreciated his understanding of their challenges and his efforts to keep operations running smoothly.

He had a passion and love for drama and history and visited many London theatre venues following retirement. He was an expert spinner and his yarn won several awards at competitions around the Lower Mainland.

Dick is survived by his wife, Arlene, his brother, Ben and many nieces and nephews.

GEORGE ALEXANDER ROGERS BSF’51

It is with deep sadness that his family announces the passing of George Rogers of Calgary, on October 2, 2008, at the age of 89. George was born in Transcona, Manitoba. He joined the Air Force and fought in WWII as a flight navigator (lieutenant) for the RCAF. He flew seventy-seven bombing missions with the 432 Squadron out of Eastmoor in England to help preserve the freedoms we enjoy today.

George loved animals, classical music, opera, gardening, and hiking in his beloved national parks. He was known for his love of cats and shared his life with many precious pets.

George is survived by his beloved brother, Don Rogers and Don’s wife, Shirley; his children, Wendy Rogers and husband Ron Harris, Robyn Homell and Penny Rogers; and his grandchildren, Kristopher and Megan Homell. George is predeceased by his parents, Emma and John Rogers, and his wife, Edith Rogers.

The family wishes to acknowledge and thank the staff of the Emergency Department and Unit 93 at Rockyview Hospital for their compassionate and excellent care. A very special thank you goes to Dr. Laatsch, who coordinated and managed the care of George throughout his final days. The family feels

blessed to have had Dr. Laatsch help them and George through his passing of this life. The family would also like to express their gratitude to the staff at We Care North and South for the care given to George over the last six years.

JOHN (JACK) EDWARD BALMER BA'52

As this is my auto-obituary, I'd like to write it in my own fashion! I was born in Vancouver on All Saints Day, 1931, the only child of Dr. Cam & Ella Balmer, and graduated from UBC in 1952, and the University of Toronto in 1956. Apart from practising dentistry in Vancouver for more than 30 years, I have also at one time or another been fairly adept as a skier, private pilot, race car driver, vintner, mechanic, model builder, marine aquarist, carpenter, photographer, plumber, scuba diver, writer, boat builder, Olympic team member (coach – for a bronze medal), marine Master (CSC3), advanced ham operator (VE7CTC), offshore sailor, lecturer in electronics and seamanship, and a Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary member. As well, more of my life was spent being a Canadian Yachting Association vice-president, founder of the BCYA (now BC Sailing Assn.), a member of the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club for over 61 years, including serving on their executive 11 times.

I leave Megan, a comely, loving and long-suffering bride of 47 years, and a son Alex (Julia). I died on October 10, 2008, from a touch of lung cancer. Since I know smoking is not harmful, I probably got it from a bad ice cube! My ashes will be scattered at sea, my meagre estate paying for the wake, which is the only way anyone would attend. In lieu of flowers, a donation to the Corinthian Fund at RVYC would be appreciated. Since I've had a ball in life, with no regrets and nothing left still undone, and since our world seems to be quickly deteriorating, it's a good time for me to cash in. Goodbye, and good luck!

JAMES A. DRAPER BA'57

James died of cancer in Toronto. He was born in Regina in 1930. He completed his high school in North Vancouver and earned a teaching certificate from UBC and his MSc (1962) and PhD (1964) in the field of adult education from the University of Wisconsin.

In the spring of 1967, James joined the newly established department of postgraduate studies in adult education at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) at the University of Toronto. In addition to his international studies and numerous other graduate courses, he specialized in Canada and India throughout his career. He retired from OISE in 1995.

James is survived by daughter Maria Willcockson of Mount Horeb, WI; daughter Diana Draper of Toronto; and grandchildren Jacqueline and Daniel Wilcockson, and Mara Kylie Draper. He is also survived by his sister, Constance Ellis and her husband, Richard, of Citrus Heights, CA, and his brother, William, and wife Linda of Miller Lake, ON, and numerous nephews and nieces in Canada and the US.

W. MERRILL LECKIE BCOM'57, LLB'58

Merrill passed away at his home at Maple Bay on January 5, 2008, but his wonderful spirit and sense of humour will live on in the hearts and minds of those he touched over the years.

Born in Vancouver on October 9, 1933, Merrill graduated from UBC with degrees in Commerce and Law. He went on to practise law in Vancouver for 42 years, during which time he served as president of the Canadian Bar Association's BC Branch, president of the BC Arbitration & Mediation Institute, and BC president of the Council for Canadian Unity.

His interests were diverse and he served as a director of the Dr. Sun Yat-sen Gardens, the Vancouver Bach Choir and the Canada Safety Council. Always proud of his Scottish heritage, Merrill was also a director of the St. Andrews & Caledonian Society of Vancouver and the Vancouver Burns Club and never missed a chance to toast his beloved Robbie Burns with a wee dram. He was also active for some time in West Vancouver United Church. In 1989 Merrill was appointed a Chartered Arbitrator and also served as a trade-mark agent and a fellow of the Patent and Trade-Mark Institute of Canada. Before retiring to Maple Bay on Vancouver Island, he was awarded the Louis St. Laurent Award of Excellence by the Canadian Bar Association for his outstanding service. Upon retiring Merrill was elected as president

of the Cowichan Symphony Society from 2003 to 2007 and he and his board members worked tirelessly to bring the music of the Victoria Symphony to the Cowichan Valley. He was also a member of the Cowichan Harbours Commission.

A highlight of his career was serving for many years as a director and secretary for the BC Lions Football Club. The club has lost one of their greatest supporters.

Merrill is survived by his beloved partner, Karen Grant; brother and sister-in-law Michael and Marilyn Leckie of West Vancouver; daughter and son-in-law Linda and Gerry O'Handley, and granddaughter Carmen, of West Vancouver; son Scott, of Toronto; daughter and son-in-law Aimee and Scott LeSage and children Jennifer, Tyler and Ashley of North Vancouver; daughter Heather of Vancouver; and cousins, nieces and nephews and their families.

RUDDOLF HERMAN DRENT BA'58, MA'61

Rudi Drent died in September 2008 in the Netherlands, where he worked most of his professional career. His death was quite unexpected to those of us who had known him since his UBC days, and who rejoiced to receive his enthusiastic epistles each year.

Rudi was born in San Diego, where his Dutch sea-captain father had settled the family because his assigned voyages seldom allowed him to see them in the Netherlands. About the time Rudi was ready to start university his father retired to Vancouver, where he subsequently earned a PhD in oceanography. That example helps explain Rudi's affinity both for the sea and for research.

Rudi's interest in birds likely started earlier, but he claimed it wasn't focused thus until a summer job while at UBC. By his senior year, when I first met him, he was among the most enthusiastic and knowledgeable bird students in his year. He had other gifts too. From the start I admired his ability to draw quickly and accurately, the subjects assigned in labs. Probably that ability had been encouraged by his mother, whose artistry continued all her life. Later I learned that Rudi was also an accomplished violinist, playing in a chamber group and entertaining his students.

IN MEMORIAM

Immediately after his first degree, Rudi started graduate studies on sea-birds at Mandarte Island. With Gerry Van Tets (UBC BA, MA, PhD), he was in at the start of bird studies there that continue to the present. His master's thesis centred on the breeding of Pigeon Guillemots, but he found time also to assemble a catalogue of sea-bird colonies in BC and to encourage bird studies by local naturalists.

After his MA in zoology, Rudi moved to the Netherlands for PhD studies at the University of Groningen, while getting to know his relatives who lived nearby. His assigned topic, as told me in a letter, was the Herring Gull as an incubator, which took him to Schiermonnikoog, one of the Dutch Frisian Islands, for several summers. His thesis (published in hard covers) was a well-reasoned and beautifully illustrated work. Rudi celebrated its completion by marrying his field assistant, Pieterella (Nel) Drent (his first cousin). I visited them in Schiermonnikoog in 1970. It was an unforgettable experience – bicycling among sand dunes, with Oystercatchers by the acre and Dunlins in clouds – visible though the people who flushed them had faded in the distance.

Rudi taught zoology at UBC for a few years, back to familiar ground to see his parents and to carry forward with graduate students the sea-bird studies he'd helped start. He could have stayed longer, but Groningen offered him a position with more time and support for research than any junior professor could hope for in Canada then. He returned to the Netherlands and worked there into retirement.

Soon after his return to Holland, Rudi became involved in studies of Barnacle Geese wintering on nearby coasts (though breeding in arctic Russia). He showed me some of the winter goose flocks during a cruise in his research vessel Ilse (named for his mother) when I visited in October 1976. His studies soon expanded into goose breeding areas, once access to Russia became easier, leading to many publications with students and co-workers. His paper (with Daan) on the prudent parent is especially widely cited. He became a world-respected figure in ornithology.

The Netherlands, though a small country, has one of the most active bird research

organizations in Europe, and Rudi became one of their leading scientists. In the 1990s he served as president of the Dutch ornithological society, and as a Dutch representative on the International Ornithological Committee.

Even the most active researchers wind down eventually. Rudi came to retirement gradually, remaining in touch with the department to see to completion PhD candidates who had started under his supervision. I had not seen Rudi since the International Ornithological Congress in Ottawa in 1986, but we still exchanged Christmas letters. I treasure the memory of having known him. *(Submitted by A.J. (Tony) Erskine, UBC MA 1960, PhD)*

MARGARET (PERKINS) BURKE BA'64, BLS'65

Margaret was born in Winnipeg to Elsie and Forbes Perkins. Her father rose high in the CPR and 1930 saw them transferred to Vancouver. Margaret was a piano prodigy, winning the provincial junior championship at nine, but as she told it the boys were getting stronger and by eighteen she was no longer in the running. She graduated from Prince of Wales in 1939.

She was one of those pioneer skiers on Hollyburn, there when the revolutionary single seat chairlift was put in. She did her first year towards a BA in German at UBC but then entered nursing as the war years began. She proved allergic to the soaps and so instead took a job in the office of Gerald Burke (Ged) (BSc'32, MD'35, FICS'45), an orthopaedic surgeon.

Not long after, Dr. Burke's young wife, Babs, died, and some time later Margaret and he were wed – she in a suit according to war time tradition. Thus she became mother to two young children, Reilly and Sue. A few years later, in 1949, they had Bryan together.

Margaret returned to UBC in 1961 to finish her BA in German and earned her BLS in 1965. On graduation she landed a faculty position as assistant to the Dean, Sam Rothstein (professor emeritus), and was in charge of vetting admissions. Ged, a heavy smoker, died of cancer in 1968, so it was good that she had the foresight to return to school.

Margaret admitted a generation of librarians to library school, and in 1986 that grateful



Margaret (Perkins) Burke

group awarded her the Helen Gordon Stewart Award, a kind of champion librarian title and a nice cap to her career. Then she retired.

She enjoyed summering at her place on Cultus Lake, winter vacations in Hawaii, cheering for her beloved Blue Bombers when they came to town and the Canucks with her sports fiend boyfriend Claude. With Claude she volunteered with the Brewery Creek and Mount Pleasant Community associations, ushering in some dramatic changes. She otherwise spent her time curling with Agricul at UBC, attending the symphony and plays, volunteering at Children's Hospital and generally living the life. In 2000 she became afflicted with Alzheimer's disease which, after eight years, took her life.

Margaret will be remembered by son Bryan (BA'74, LLB'76) and his wife Janet (RN'72), Cameron, Jessica (LPN'07), James (DipCS'08), and Reilly (BArch'75), Oksana (MSc'86), Morgan (BSc'91), Molly (BA'92), Max (BSc'05), Abigail and Naomi (still in grade school), Susan (BED'75), Gerald (BA'06 MA'08), Jennifer (BA'07), and numerous friends, colleagues and relatives.

It would make Margaret happy if the scholarship fund in her name at the UBC School of Librarianship and Archival Science grew larger.



Michael Blaire Pellatt

MICHAEL BLAIRE PELLATT BSc'75, BScP'84

Blaire was born in Vancouver on April 3, 1952, and passed away peacefully on August 6, 2008, in Victoria, BC. He will be sadly missed by Sanna (Galea Enriquez), his wife of 23 years whom he met at UBC during their undergraduate years in pharmacy; his three daughters, Katrina (18), Amy (15) and Andrea (10); brother Rob (Val); sister Janie Hood (John); in-laws Clare, Jesmond, Tilly and Chris; and nephews, nieces, friends and colleagues.

Blaire was raised in Vancouver and graduated from St. George's High School. He went on to UBC where he obtained degrees in microbiology, education, and later pharmacy, a field in which he practised from 1984. He was dedicated to his profession and loved everything about his work at Peoples Pharmacy in Shelbourne, Victoria.

A humble and quiet man with a love for the great outdoors, Blaire's passions included cycling, kayaking, rock climbing, hiking, traveling, photography, music and astronomy. In 1987, he and Sanna back-packed around Europe, Turkey and Egypt and on their return hosted numerous themed dinner-parties highlighting different countries they'd visited and sharing their slides with many friends. Blaire was also an avid member of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (Victoria Branch), and devoted much of his time sharing his love of the night sky with the public. He was very involved with his daughters' interests

and eagerly attended all of their performances and sporting events, as well as helped with coaching soccer. He actively encouraged his daughters to enjoy all of their activities as much as he enjoyed watching them. He also passed on his love of music, both classical and rock, to his daughters, who enjoy listening to all genres of music.

Blaire was a loving husband, devoted father and loyal friend. His gentle and generous nature, quiet humour and personal charm will be missed by all. The family wishes to thank Victoria General Hospital staff, who cared for Blaire in his final days, as well as relatives and friends who offered their support during this difficult time. Donations, in memory of Blaire, may be made to the Greater Victoria Public Library – Oak Bay Branch, and will be directed towards education in nature and astronomy.

DR. CRAIG BURTON FORSTER BSc'75, PhD'87

Craig Burton Forster, beloved husband, father and friend, died on November 28, 2008, in a hiking accident in Zion National Park. He was a warm and wonderful research scientist, educator, mentor, collaborator, musician, and outdoor enthusiast – in short, a Renaissance man.

Born December 27, 1952, in North Vancouver to Jean Davidson Forster and Nial Forster, he was raised on Vancouver Island where he developed immunity to wet and cold and a deep appreciation of the outdoors. He married Bonnie Jeanne Baty May 20, 1988, in Salt Lake City and, never one to go halfway, he wholeheartedly embraced his new roles as father and US citizen while maintaining his Canadian identity.

An artistic flair flavoured Craig's approach to everything – from wood-carving to cooking. He became an accomplished cimbalom and bass player in a Hungarian band, a passion shared with his wife. The themes of his career have been a concern for the world around us, interdisciplinary scholarship, and instilling a sense of individual responsibility into higher education. He received degrees in hydrogeology from UBC and an MSc degree from the University of Waterloo.

His early career included work in the environmental consulting industry in Canada, Sweden and the US. His far-ranging professional

interests encompassed groundwater flow in mountainous terrains, carbon dioxide sequestration, and systems modeling of the US-Mexico border and Salt Lake Valley airshed processes. He leaves a legacy of former students and colleagues who continue to work in sound water development and scientific hydrogeology integrated with public policy and societal relevance.

More recently, his lifelong diversity of interests coalesced in his appointment as director of the Office of Sustainability at the University of Utah. This work was immensely satisfying to Craig as he was able to spend the majority of his time doing what he loved: collaborating, facilitating, mentoring, and pursuing lifelong learning.

Craig is survived by his wife; stepdaughter Gillian Michele Baty; brother Brian Forster and his wife, Lorraine; aunts and uncles Janet and Colin Clark and Ian and Joyce Forster; nephews Dan, Rick, and Patrick Forster; niece Arlene Forster; and cousins Graehm Clark, Jennifer Bryden, and Karen Clark.

MARTIN SIKES BASC'92

Martin passed away unexpectedly on Christmas Eve 2007 at age 39. During his time at UBC, Martin was president of the electrical engineering student club. He went on to a successful and prosperous career in the video game industry beginning with being a founder of the highly



Martin Sikes

IN MEMORIAM

regarded development studio, Black Box Games.

Martin lived life to the fullest, and had a particular talent for building communities. In addition to his work at Black Box, he became a prominent disc jockey and the prime mover of the Soundproof music collective. He had a passion for trains, and travelled extensively to exotic places like Easter Island and the Antarctic, as well as to visit friends in Australia, Africa and South America. Whatever he touched, Martin's enthusiasm and drive would draw people in and get them involved. The enduring connections that were formed in these communities are a significant legacy.

Martin's family, friends and colleagues are seeking to establish an award in his honour at UBC. It is expected that the Martin Sikes Memorial Award will support third-year undergraduate students with good academic standing at UBC who have demonstrated leadership through active involvement in professional societies, student government, and/or campus and community activities.

If you would like to make a donation in memory of Martin, donations can be made online by visiting www.supporting.ubc.ca, or forwarded to UBC Annual Giving 500-5950 University Boulevard, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z3. For more information, please contact Maryn Ellis at (604) 822-5345.

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