

# alumniUBC Trek

A PUBLICATION OF ALUMNI UBC · NUMBER 33 · 2013

## GIANT SPIDERS AND WALKING MACHINES

MECHANICAL ART  
WITH A SOCIAL MESSAGE

### PLUS

51 days  
at sea in  
a rowboat

The lab  
halfway  
up Everest

In charge  
at a Boston  
ER

**Charlie Crane: Canada's Helen Keller**  
**The Double Life of Doctor Lu**



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COVER

## GIANT SPIDERS AND WALKING MACHINES

Large-scale mechanical art is hard to ignore. Artist engineers are creating some head-turning pieces to provoke dialogue on human energy use.



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FEATURE

## THE USEFUL CITIZEN

Charlie Crane lost his sight and hearing aged one, but through his fingertips developed an insatiable love of literature and learning.

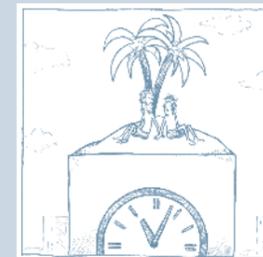


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FEATURE

## THE DOUBLE LIFE OF DOCTOR LU

She practises medicine. She acts. She explores at the interface of stories and science.



### WHAT THE TREK?

Susan (née Becker) Davidson, BA'64, sent in the winning caption for a cartoon published in the fall 2012 print issue of *Trek*. "Well, it sure beats flagpole-sitting!"

### TREK TRACKER



*Trek* designer Keith Leinweber went to Nepal in December and apparently felt the need to squeeze a copy of the last issue into his knapsack. He sent this photo to his colleagues, who are now curious to find out more about the magazine's travels. Send us your (hi-res) pics of this issue and we'll print the best of them in the fall.



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FEATURE

## THE YOUNG MAN AND THE SEA

Four men, one boat, 51 days, and an angry Tasman Sea.



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## IN THE THICK OF IT

Ron Walls, MD'79, led an emergency department response to the Boston Marathon bombings.

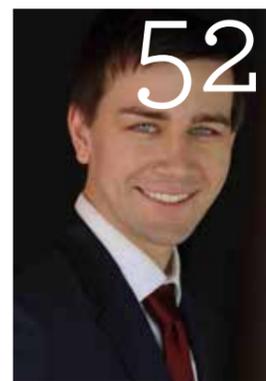


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Researchers trek halfway up Everest to double as subjects in a series of experiments on the effects of oxygen deprivation.



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## THE LAST WORD: WITH TORRANCE COOMBS, BFA'05

Q: What or who makes you laugh out loud?

A: Spooky-eyed horses get me right in the funnies for some reason.

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# ADVENTURE STORIES

I'm not exactly the adventurous type. Like actor Torrance Coombs, *BFA'05* (see page 52), I fear bears. Even a gentle hike through the BC countryside reduces me to a highly-strung, pepper-spray-clutching phobic (minimum of two canisters, because I read somewhere that one in three fail) who is not so much communing with nature as wishing she could be looking at it from behind a nice window instead.

I'm a pasty-faced editor who prefers to adventure vicariously from the comfort of home - and more likely to die as a result of Vitamin D deficiency than a bear attack. Perhaps that's why there's no shortage of adventurous types to read about in this issue.

We're talking about UBC folk who have trekked halfway up Mount Everest, spent 51 days at sea in a rowboat, or lived for a week in a temporary city in Nevada's Black Rock Desert. Their stories all involve challenge and excitement, sometimes too much excitement, but they have something else in common too - there was purpose to the adventure. From championing the environment to conducting health research to creating memorable art with a message, these adventurers were in it for more than the thrills.

By far the most impressive story in this issue, though, is that of Charlie Crane. I've worked on campus for more than 10 years. I've walked past Brock Hall more than a thousand times. But I've been only vaguely aware that somewhere inside is the Crane Library for the visually impaired, and until recently knew nothing at all about the man it's named after.

Charlie Crane lost his sight and hearing before he reached the age of one. He didn't learn to speak until he was 10 and experienced the world mostly through his fingertips. Despite the obstacles, Crane developed an insatiable love of literature and learning that led to his being accepted at UBC as a student - the first deafblind person to study at a Canadian university. He earned the respect and affection of his fellow students and was easily the boldest adventurer you'll read about in these pages.

And lastly... SURPRISE! In case you hadn't noticed, *Trek* has had a bit of a facelift. We hope you enjoy the changes. Your feedback is welcome.

Vanessa Clarke, Editor

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*Trek* magazine (formerly the *UBC Alumni Chronicle*) is published two times a year by the UBC Alumni Association and distributed free of charge to UBC alumni and friends. Opinions expressed in the magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the Alumni Association or the university. Address correspondence to:

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Letters published at the editor's discretion and may be edited for space.

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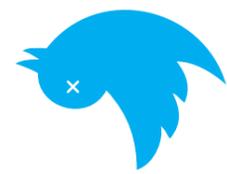
Volume 68, Number 1 | Printed in Canada  
 by Mitchell Press  
 Canadian Publications Mail Agreement  
 #40063528  
 Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:  
 Records Department  
 UBC Development Office  
 Suite 500 - 5950 University Boulevard  
 Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z3



# QUOTE, UNQUOTE

I despise Twitter, truthfully. I think it's one of the worst things that's been created in my lifetime, and so there's no way I'm going to go on it. I dislike everything about it. I think that the notion of the immediate reaction to something without any reflection, the idea that you can say anything that matters in the limited number of characters you're given, and that you have to do it immediately, and everyone will respond immediately with no reflection, I think it's the worst of our society, so no.

UBC president **Stephen Toope** on being asked by *The Ubyyssey* why he doesn't have a Twitter account.



I'd love to see the creation of a course geared towards multicultural cuisines. I believe when you eat food from all over the world, you become more tolerant towards other human beings.

Vancouver chef **Vikram Vij**, who has contributed \$250,000 for the extensive makeover of a UBC culinary lab originally built in 1982. (*UBC Reports*, November 1, 2012)

She's brought so much experience. She'll say something amazing and all 23 eyes will be on her.

UBC senior hockey captain **Kaylee Chanakos** on Danielle Dube, a former Team Canada hockey goalie who at age 36, is back in the game as a university freshman. (*Globe & Mail*, March 6)

He can't just stand there and say 'I am the Mini-Me of Chávez and now you have to follow me.'

UBC professor **Maxwell A. Cameron** quoted in an article on whether newly elected Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro will continue to imitate the style of recently deceased mentor, Hugo Chavez. (*New York Times*, March 6)

The two things that struck me the most were the incredible calm of the victims, even though they were obviously experiencing something no human being should ever have to experience. Incredibly calm and able to help us take care of them.

Alumnus **Ron Walls**, MD'79, quoted in the aftermath of the Boston Marathon bombings. He is chairman of the Department of Emergency Medicine at the stricken city's Brigham and Women's Hospital. (*The Boston Globe*, April 16)

In a tournament, you would never play on a surface like this. This was almost like playing on ice.

Italian tennis player **Andreas Seppi** on the tennis court surface in the Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre at UBC, on which he lost against Canada's Milos Raonic in the Davis Cup Quarterfinals. The result meant Canada is advancing to the semi-final for the first time. (*Globe & Mail*, April 7)

# WHAT YOU SAID

These comments were sent in by readers or posted on the *Trek* magazine website, and some have been edited for length. Online comments can be read in full at [trekmagazine.alumni.ubc.ca](http://trekmagazine.alumni.ubc.ca)

**RE: "THE VINTAGE APPEAL"**  
*TREK, Fall/Winter 2012*

**Wallace Chung donated an outstanding collection of Western Canadian artefacts to UBC**

I am delighted to learn that Dr. Wally Chung's collection of Canadian Pacific shipping memorabilia is to be the subject of a book. Had I known sooner, I could have told the author how my father, C.H. Edmond, came to acquire the artifacts of the first *Empress of Japan*. When the ship was being broken up in North Vancouver, he was horrified that only the steel was considered of value, and managed to secure the wood, brass and other items that Dr. Chung acquired in 1963. In fact, my father was quite active in conveying these items to Dr. Chung, and died only in 1970. I later donated one or two remaining items to the collection.

In addition to those mentioned in the article, the relics included a "chart desk," in which marine charts were stored, the hinged top of which holds three round side-by-side brass-framed ports through which chronometers, critical to navigation, could be viewed. My father used to jokingly wonder how many officers' "waistcoats" had been worn out in the process, because the front edge of the top was concave from wear caused by viewing the chronometers directly downward.

Thomas Dunbar, a Scottish-trained master cabinet maker, built for my father a drop-leaf table from *Empress* teakwood, still in my possession, and I also have a small glass-front wall cabinet, said to be from the chief officer's cabin. I hope someday to arrange to add these items to the Chung collection.

I am extremely pleased that the result of my father's initiative of over 80 years ago has found a permanent home owing to Dr. Chung's life-long dedication to his passion.

**John Edmond, BA'64**

Thank goodness for generous folks like Wallace Chung. I hope to see some of his gift to UBC, especially the model of the *Empress of Asia*, the next time I am in Vancouver. While attending UBC I spent some summers working on tugs and will never forget the ships from all over the world that came in to Vancouver.

**Michael A. Williams, BCom'56**

**RE: "A RUNNING START"**

*TREK, Fall/Winter 2012*

**Clinical orthopaedics professor Shafique Pirani has dramatically improved prospects for thousands of children born with clubfoot.**

Great article. I volunteered with Hip Hip Hooray Orthopaedic Walk for many years. Thanks to Dr. Pirani, children in Canada as well as other parts of the World will see a brighter future. Dr. Pirani is inspirational, caring and dedicated. It is great to hear about the Uganda Clubfoot project and where it's at today.

**Trish Silvester-Lee, BPE'83**

I trained at the UBC Medical School and Dr. Pirani was one of my instructors. He was humble and had a limp just like the article says, but I never knew any of those other things about him. Orthopaedics is my passion. I work as an emergency physician at the Whistler Health Care Centre and have the privilege of treating many acute orthopaedic injuries even though I never completed a specialty in Orthopaedic Surgery. I feel very blessed to have had Dr. Pirani as one of my instructors.

**Monika Rempel, MD'92**

*Trek Note: On March 15, 2013, we learned that CIDA will provide \$4.3 million to Sustainable Clubfoot Care in Bangladesh, with Shafique Pirani and Richard Mathias, a professor in the School of Population and Public Health, leading the project.*

**RE: "CITR: THE LITTLE STATION THAT COULD"**

*Trek Online, February 2013*

**For 75 years, CiTR radio at UBC has been launching successful careers and lasting friendships.**

CiTR was an important part of my time at UBC. I volunteered, was traffic director and a radio host (*Meet Ida Been* show, 1990-94). I enjoyed your historic recount, but can't understand how you could not mention Nardwuar the Human Serviette, a mainstay for almost 30 years! Everyone likes to talk about Pierre Berton's involvement. However, no one has had more of an impact on "the little station that could" than Nardwuar.

**Kerry Kotlarchuk, BCom'94**

I have great memories of my affiliation with CiTR in the late 70s and early 80s. It was an exciting time of expansion for CiTR and the emergence of punk, new wave and a vibrant local music scene. CiTR played music of bands which have become legend and that commercial radio would not play at the time, such as the Stranglers, XTC, Clash, U2, and the Specials. Local bands aired included DOA and Pointed Sticks. I remember the "Rebel without a Pause." I made lasting friendships at CiTR with people who have gone on to have creative and impressive careers. Happy 75<sup>th</sup> CiTR!

**Bill Sundhu, BA'80**



## IN THE THICK OF IT

Ron Walls, MD'79, led an emergency department response to the Boston Marathon bombings.

BY LAURA EGGERTSON

Dr. Ron Walls had rehearsed his hospital's response to disaster 73 times since 2006. But when his cell and office phones began ringing just after 3:00 pm on April 15, the BC native discovered just how valuable those drills were.

Ten minutes earlier, eight seconds apart, two bombs had exploded at the finish line of the Boston Marathon. They killed three people and injured more than 175. Victims were headed to Brigham and Women's Hospital, where Walls, former head of the Division of Emergency Medicine at UBC, is now chairman of the emergency department.

Seconds after he'd hung up and read a banner report of the bombing that slid across his cell phone, Walls, 58, heard the wailing. "I've never heard anything like it," he says. "It was as if every vehicle with a siren turned its siren on and started moving at the same time." Brigham's emergency department is a block from Walls' office. He started up the hill towards it.

At the bomb site, paramedics triaged patients, coordinating care and dispatching the injured to Boston's five level-one trauma centres, including Brigham. As Walls reached the ER, the ambulances began pulling up. His first job as coordinator of response was to clear the existing patients. Simultaneously, he began preparing capacity in the hospital's 42 operating rooms and assembling 10 trauma teams.

Within the next hour, 28 patients arrived. Many had severe blast wounds to their lower bodies and partial amputations. Others had shrapnel wounds - including a penetrating neck injury that threatened the patient's ability to breathe - a head injury, blown ear drums, smoke inhalation, and burns. The most serious injuries were life-threatening. All were life-changing.

"We had patients with... large pieces of their muscle and skin and bone missing from the blast," says Walls. "Very bad fractures - the type

of fracture you can only get with a tremendous amount of force."

Three more patients arrived subsequently. Nine of the patients needed immediate surgery. Walls had seven operating rooms and surgical teams ready within minutes.

At 3:25, in the thick of Brigham's response, Alexa Walls texted her father. Unbeknownst to him, 24-year-old Alexa and her boyfriend had spent the Patriot's Day holiday watching the marathon runners cross the finish line. "Explosion at the finish line. We are OK but Boston is a mess right now," Alexa texted. Walls was alarmed but relieved she had survived. Later, both his sons - one a medical student in the city, the other in New York - sent reassuring messages of encouragement.

His wife, Barbara, who's

Explosion at the finish line. We are OK but Boston is a mess right now.

a nurse, also texted to offer support.

At the peak of the incident, Walls had another five trauma teams gowned and ready. He knew the hospital could become a secondary target, or another bomb could explode and send more casualties through their door.

During a city-wide drill in 2010 dubbed Operation Falcon, Walls had rehearsed that exact scenario: the explosion of a bomb during a mass gathering. On the day the drill became reality, Walls moved amidst the controlled chaos of medical personnel, paramedics and police officers. As he circulated, he reassured patients. "The most severely injured patients were very traumatized by this, as you would expect," he says. "But also very stoic. They were remarkably brave, given that they were ordinary people to whom something truly extraordinary has happened."

The less injured were overcome with survivor's guilt. They worried they were taking up space for those more seriously hurt. "They knew they were not badly injured, and they had seen people's limbs come off, they had seen all the blood," Walls says. "They were saying 'I'm so lucky' - because they saw what happened to people who weren't lucky."

All told, Brigham and Women's treated 31 patients aged 16 to 65. Not a single patient who made it to hospital alive died, Walls reports at press time.

He attributes that to the spectators who staunched wounds and paramedics who applied tourniquets at the bomb site, as well as to the emergency physicians, nurses, trauma surgeons, physicians' assistants, housekeepers, orderlies and other hospital staff. "That was the power of teamwork - real teamwork that actually works," he says. Walls' take-home message is the responsibility every hospital owes the public to be ready by participating in drills, no matter how complicated or disruptive.

He is grappling with the memories of the nails and metal pellets his surgeons dug out of patients' bodies. "We are always prepared to take care of people who have suffered from some freak thing, a lightning strike or an earthquake. But this was deliberate, and it didn't have to happen." ■

THE LESS INJURED WERE OVERCOME WITH SURVIVOR'S GUILT.

# TAKE NOTE

## TOOPE STEPS DOWN

Professor Stephen Toope, the 12th president of UBC, will leave his post on June 30, 2014, to pursue academic and professional interests in international law and international relations. Professor Toope was named 12th president and vice-chancellor of UBC on March 22, 2006, and began his second five-year term in July 2011. Board chair Bill Levine lauded the accomplishments of Toope during his tenure, and said an international search for UBC's 13th president will begin shortly with the establishment of a search committee that will include a broad representation from the university community.

## PINE BEETLE: KNOW THINE ENEMY



The genome of the mountain pine beetle – the insect that has devastated BC's lodgepole pine forests – has been decoded by researchers at UBC and Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre.

"We know a lot about what the beetles do," says Christopher Keeling, a research associate in Professor Joerg Bohlmann's lab at the Michael Smith Laboratories. "But without the genome, we don't know exactly how they do it. Sequencing the mountain pine beetle genome provides new information that can be used to help manage the epidemic in the future."

It is only the second beetle genome ever sequenced and revealed large variation among individuals of the species – which could allow them to be more successful in new environments. Isolating the genes is helping scientists understand how the beetle gets nutrients from the tree and protects itself against the tree's defences.

## DOCTORS NOT INFORMED OF HARMFUL EFFECTS OF MEDICINES DURING SALES VISITS

Family doctors receive little or no information about harmful effects of medicines in the majority of drug promotions during visits by drug company representatives, according to an international study involving Canadian, US and French physicians.

Yet the same doctors indicated that they were likely to start prescribing these drugs, consistent with previous research that shows prescribing behaviour is influenced by pharmaceutical promotion.

The study, which had doctors fill out questionnaires about each promoted medicine following sales visits, shows that sales representatives failed to provide any information about common or serious side effects and the type of patients who should not use the medicine in 59 per cent of the promotions. In Vancouver and Montreal, no potential harms were mentioned for 66 per cent of promoted medicines.

"Laws in all three countries require sales representatives to provide information on harm as well as benefits," says lead author Barbara Mintzes, an assistant professor in UBC's School of Population and Public Health. "But no one is monitoring these visits and there are next to no sanctions for misleading or inaccurate promotion."

## TEACHER ED FOR REFUGEE CAMP

UBC is to offer teacher education programs in the Dadaab Refugee Camps in Kenya in order to increase access to education for resident children and youth.

The first refugee camps were established in Dadaab in the early 1990s during the civil war in Somalia. Since then, Dadaab has become the largest refugee complex to the world, providing shelter to more than 460,000 people.

With \$4.5 million in funding from CIDA, UBC's Faculty of Education has partnered with York University and three Kenyan institutions – Kenyatta University, Moi University and the African Virtual University – to form the Borderless Higher Education for Refugees project.

The refugee community hopes students will perform better on Kenyan national exams and have a better chance of leaving the refugee camp for post-secondary education.

Beginning August 2013, UBC and Kenya's Moi University will jointly offer a two-year teacher education diploma program to volunteer secondary school teachers in the camps.

Most Dadaab teachers have only completed secondary school and have no access to higher education. UBC and Moi University professors will be traveling to Dadaab to deliver some courses in person, although some of the curriculum could be offered online.

## GLOBAL COMPANIES BEWARE: RUDE CUSTOMER TREATMENT DEPENDS ON CULTURE

A new UBC study reveals that North American service workers are more likely to sabotage rude customers, while Chinese react by disengaging from customer service altogether.

"Our research shows that culture plays a significant role in how frontline workers deal with customer abuse," says Sauder School of Business professor Daniel Skarlicki, who co-authored the study with former Sauder PhD student Ruodan Shao.

"In North America, employees tend to retaliate against offensive customers – doing things like giving bad directions or serving cold food. In China, workers are more likely to reduce the general quality of service they provide to all customers – nasty or nice."

"North Americans take a surgical approach to abuse, zeroing in on individuals who mistreated them," says Skarlicki, noting that managers must be mindful of these cultural differences when expanding operations across the Pacific. "Chinese don't blame the transgressor. They blame the system – the company or customers they serve."

## BABIES CHOOSE SIDES EARLY

Babies have a dark side under their cute exteriors, according to a UBC-led study that finds infants as young as nine months embrace those who pick out individuals who are different from them.

The study involved having babies choose which food they preferred: graham crackers or green beans. The infants then watched a puppet show in which one puppet demonstrated the same food preference as the infant, while another exhibited the opposite preference.



In the experiments, other puppets harmed, helped or acted neutrally towards the puppets with different or similar food preferences.

Prompted to pick their favourite puppet, infants demonstrated a strong preference for the puppets that harmed the "dissimilar" puppet and helped the "similar" one.

The lead author of the study, psychology professor Kiley Hamlin, describes the behaviour as an early form of the powerful, persistent social biases that exist in most adults, who favour individuals who share their origins, languages, appearances – even birthdays and sports affiliations – over people with whom they have fewer things in common.

## ANXIOUS ABOUT LIFE? TYLENOL MAY DO THE TRICK

UBC researchers have found a new potential use for the over-the-counter pain drug Tylenol. Typically known to relieve physical pain, the study suggests the drug may also reduce the psychological effects of fear and anxiety over the human condition, or existential dread.

"Pain exists in many forms, including the distress that people feel when exposed to thoughts of existential uncertainty and death," says lead author, psychology professor Daniel Randles. "Our study suggests these anxieties may be processed as 'pain' by the brain – but Tylenol seems to inhibit the signal telling the brain that something is wrong." ■

# STUDENT EVA KWAN KEEPS CANADA'S FAVOURITE ASTRONAUT GROUNDED

As Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield floats through the cosmos, a UBC psychology student is working to keep him connected to Earth.

By Basil Waugh, BA'04

Eva Kwan is part of the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) team helping Hadfield meet the psychological challenges of life in space. In a long-distance relationship like few others, Kwan serves as Hadfield's lifeline home from the International Space Station (ISS), thanks to the marvels of technology.

Kwan, who grew up with a passion for space and psychology, performs a variety of jobs designed to keep Hadfield happy and healthy. Her favourite task is helping his family prepare care packages, which are blasted into space on unmanned supply ships.

"Nothing is more surreal than touching something you know is going into space," says Kwan, 21, referring to the Canadian food specialties she's helped send, including tubes of maple syrup and salmon.

To keep the astronaut abreast of planetary happenings, Kwan arranges regular web conferences with family, friends, celebrities and public figures. She also serves as Hadfield's personal culture shopper, uploading news and his favourite podcasts, movies, music and TV shows to a personal website for his downtime.

Kwan works with a host of experts – doctors, psychologists, nutritionists – as part of CSA's Operational Space Medicine team, which has spent years preparing for Hadfield's mission. Their goal is to help him withstand the mental and physical challenges that come with five months in orbit: lack of privacy, confinement to small spaces, isolation from family and culture – even muscle and bone loss from microgravity. Without training and support, these effects can hinder performance and eventually jeopardize a mission.

"We want Chris and his crew to feel connected," says Kwan, who proudly sports her UBC t-shirt around Montreal and its suburbs, where CSA

headquarters reside. "Care packages, movies and shows are important for fostering group relationships and crew bonding," she says.

Kwan, who is researching crew cohesion under Leena Tomi, CSA's Human Behaviour and Performance Lead, says her co-op experience has truly been out of this world. "I grew up loving space and psychology, but wasn't aware space psychology even existed," she says, crediting a UBC Arts co-op program mentor, alumna Jeanie Lai, for suggesting CSA. Lai, who had worked at CSA, was able to provide Kwan with a thorough overview of the position and interview advice. "It showed me the power of university alumni and networking. Now I can work towards becoming the first Asian-Canadian space psychologist."

As a young girl, Kwan idolized Canada's first female astronaut Roberta Bondar, and still finds old space articles she clipped at her parents' home in Vancouver. "She symbolized how women can achieve anything and is a personal hero of mine," she says.

Her relationship with psychology is equally personal. "I saw a psychologist when I was younger, and I was amazed there was someone whose job it was to make me happy. I wanted to be that person for other kids when I grew up."

Kwan will return to UBC in September, but is focusing on seeing the current mission through to Hadfield's safe return to Earth, scheduled for May 14. Until then, she will enjoy the personal growth and camaraderie – and of course, the undeniable coolness of space. "I love getting emails from Chris," she says. "Email is way cooler when it comes from space!" ■

(First published in *UBC Reports*, April 3)



Photo: Canadian Space Agency

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**PLUS FINAL PRIZE DRAW IN AUGUST FOR AN IPAD!**

## WITNESS TO HISTORY



**Dr. Weihong Song gets a front-row seat at the Chinese People's Conference**  
By Brian Lin, MJ'01

The odds may be smaller than winning the lottery, but Weihong Song's selection to the 12th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) is anything but chance.

Song was one of only 39 invitees from 24 countries – chosen from more than 50 million eligible overseas Chinese expats – to participate in one of China's most anticipated political gatherings in recent history.

"It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience," recalls Song, who is UBC's Special Advisor to President Stephen Toope on China. "Simply amazing."

Raised in the southwestern province of Sichuan, the UBC psychiatry professor and Canada Research Chair in Alzheimer's Disease was one of the first Chinese nationals to go to medical school after the infamous Cultural Revolution – at age 14. He recently received China's highest honour for foreign experts – the Friendship Award and was elected Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Science.

The CPPCC, similar to the upper house or senate in the western system, has approximately 2,200 members from various officially sanctioned political parties, ethnic, religious and other special interest groups. It was held last month in conjunction with the National People's Congress, which saw the election of the country's president and premier – an occasion that has only happened once before.

"It was really a changing of the guard," says Song, who witnessed the election and swearing



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in of president Xi Jinping and premier Li Keqiang.

There was a palpable atmosphere of change in the air and the message from the top – reduce pollution, minimize waste and close the gap between the rich and the poor – was loud and clear, says Song.

"There were no elaborate flower arrangements, no lavish banquets, no alcohol served. We were given refillable water bottles to use for the duration of the conference.

"It felt like times have changed," says Song, who emigrated from China 23 years ago.

Seizing the rare opportunity, Song made an appeal for investment in Alzheimer's research. "There are over 200 million people over the age of 60 in China," Song told the CPPCC.

"Research will not only benefit the Chinese but people around the world." (First published in **UBC Reports**, April 3)

## A crowd-pleasing piece of controlled drama

Since its official opening on September 18, UBC's new Pharmaceutical Sciences Building (designed by Montreal's Saucier & Perrotte Architectes and Vancouver's Hughes Condon Marler Architects) has picked up the following awards:

Ontario Association of Architects 2013 Design Excellence Award  
Canadian Architect Award of Excellence  
Architizer A+ People's Choice Award  
Lifestyle magazine Wallpaper\*'s 2013 Best Lab Award

WALLPAPER\* DESCRIBES THE BUILDING AS "STRIKING," "INSTANTLY ENGAGING" AND A "CROWD-PLEASING PIECE OF CONTROLLED DRAMA." THE AWARD RECOGNIZES THE ARCHITECT'S INSPIRATION OF TWO TREES ENTWINING AND THAT THE BUILDING "PAYS HOMAGE TO THE DEBT SCIENCE OWES TO NATURE."

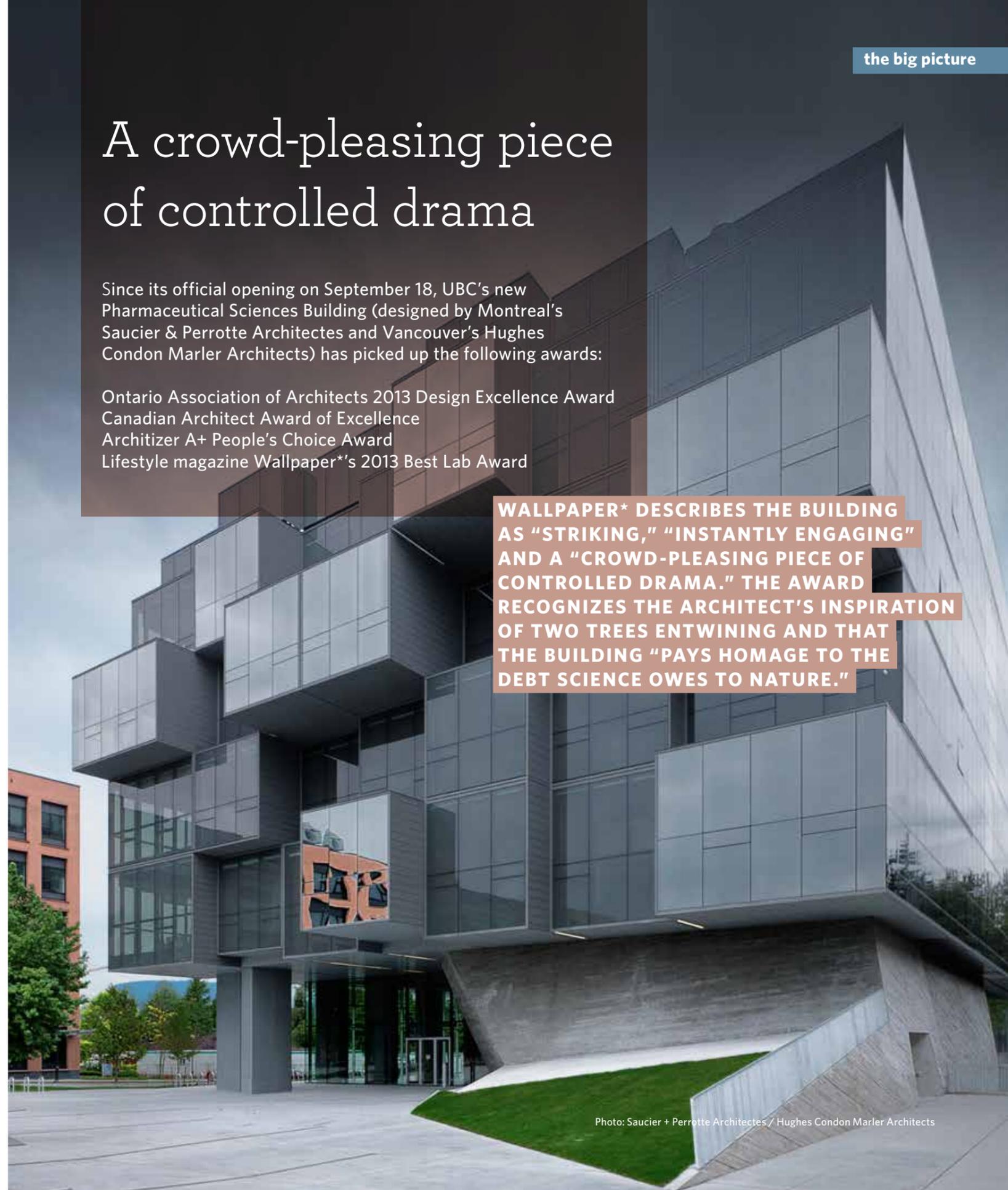


Photo: Saucier + Perrotte Architectes / Hughes Condon Marler Architects

# PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



4 9 10 25 33 41 44  
49 84 99 258 480

**Stephen J. Toope**  
President and Vice-Chancellor, UBC

If I were a gambling man, these would be my numbers. Emblazoned on the fronts of buses that carry more than half of all travellers to and from UBC Vancouver now, they've transported us a good deal closer to the sustainability jackpot. But what's at stake now is bigger than UBC, and our lucky numbers can't get us where we need to go on their own steam. Allow me to set the scene...

We're standing on the UBC-Broadway corridor, waiting for the 99 B-Line. Stretching from Commercial Drive westward to the University, the corridor is BC's second-largest employment district, providing more jobs than the next eight largest town centres combined. That includes a quarter of Vancouver's tech sector employment and 40 per cent of the city's health care jobs. It's Western Canada's largest health care precinct; millions of British Columbians visit VGH, UBC Hospital and the BC Cancer Agency every year. And the economic potential here is enormous. Linking health care, life sciences, the technology industry, and UBC's research enterprise, the corridor has the makings of a technology hub on par with Toronto's MaRS district, San Diego's CONNECT, or London's Tech City. Already, BC's tech

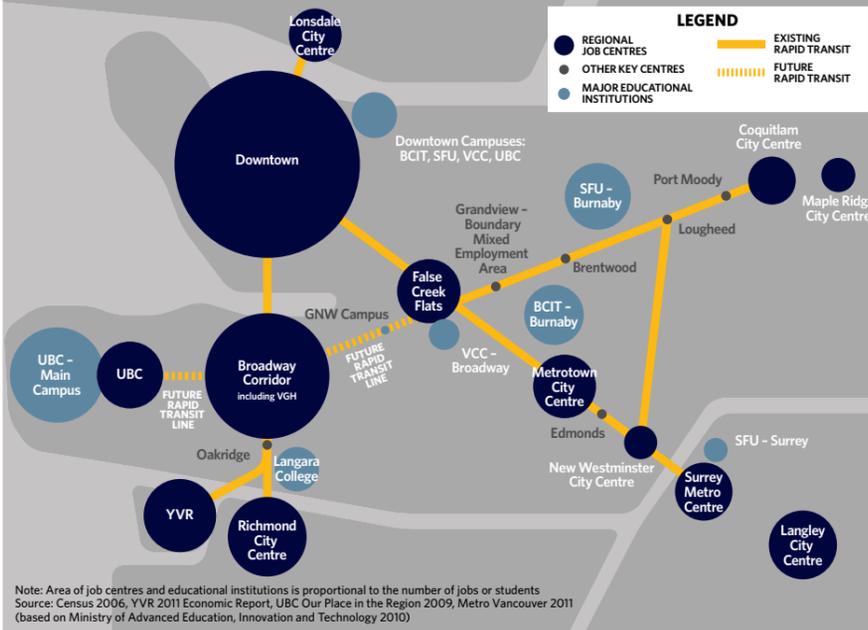
industry is the second-fastest creator of new private-sector jobs and growing more than twice as fast as the rest of our economy.

Here comes the 99. Better stand back: it's not slowing down. The size of two regular buses, it's packed to capacity. The next one's not stopping either. Or the next. We might be here a while.

The corridor is the busiest bus route in North America. Every day, 110,000 people travel it by transit, half of them from outside Vancouver. And every day, 2,000 of them are passed by full buses. That's half a million pass-ups a year. Factor in the additional 150,000 residents and workers expected over the next 30 years and, well, you get the picture: an exploding hub of innovation and creativity with the capacity to attract talent, businesses, and venture capital to this region; home base for our technology industry; the health sciences hub for the whole province; and the main artery connecting the city to UBC's \$10 billion economic clout, 150+ spin-off companies, research power and knowledge capacity... all choked off for want of a way to get from A to B.

The solution? Rail-based rapid transit running from Commercial and Broadway to UBC, connecting the Expo, Millennium, Canada, and Evergreen Lines to the corridor. Car traffic and bus capacity are maxed out now, and the streetcar some are suggesting wouldn't be able to handle the growth that's coming. On the day it opens, a UBC-Broadway line will have more riders than the Canada Line. With the future of BC's economy top of mind, the decision is as clear as the need. The numbers speak for themselves, and whatever happens next, *luck* will have nothing to do with it.

## CONNECTING JOBS AND INNOVATION CENTRES IN METRO VANCOUVER



The **UBC-BROADWAY CORRIDOR** is the **KEY GEOGRAPHIC CONNECTION** between Vancouver's central business district, UBC, and regional business centres and communities in Metro Vancouver.

The corridor already has many of the attributes of **LEADING GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY CENTRES** - proximity to a leading university, nearby business and financial services, a technically-skilled workforce and a high quality of life. However, it is **MISSING HIGH-CAPACITY TRANSIT**.

Source: KPMG study released by the City of Vancouver and UBC on February 28.

An analysis on UBC-Broadway Corridor transportation usage has found that **40 PER CENT** of **UBC'S 60,000 DAILY COMMUTERS** start their trips in communities outside of Vancouver, underscoring the regional need to improve the corridor's **STRUGGLING TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE**.

Source: AMS Press Release, April 11 2013.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



### Alumni first

**Jeff Todd**  
Executive Director, Alumni Association/AVP Alumni

You may have read in the previous edition of *Trek* that your alumni association has been undergoing a strategic re-positioning so as to provide our alumni with the intellectual stimulation, the services and the support networks they need as they make their way in the world.

As part of this initiative, *Trek* itself has been re-designed to be more open, visually inviting and relevant to a broad alumni audience. As a broad-based magazine, it needs to span all of our 290,000 alumni from those in their early 20s to those in their 90s and beyond!

In tandem with the *Trek* re-design, our branded communications materials as seen on the website, in brochures and emails have been completely re-designed under the new name of *alumni UBC*. In this fresh approach, alumni literally come first, representing the Alumni Association's member-driven approach.

You will see the new look everywhere in our communications from this point onwards. We have also adopted a tagline to be used with the logo where appropriate: "It's yours." Of course this is a translation of the university's Latin motto "Tuum est", but for alumni it also means that this is your association. You don't belong to the association, the association belongs to you.

And because *alumni UBC* is a self-governing alumni association alongside the university, it means your voice as an alumnus can and will be heard.

In line with the new strategic vision and brand, we look forward to continuing the enhancement of communications, services and events to better help you on your journey through life as UBC alumni. It's yours!

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEEKS RECOMMENDATIONS

The Nominating Committee is seeking recommendations from the Alumni Association membership of alumni to be considered for nomination to the Board of Directors. In particular, the committee seeks candidates who have the skill sets and experience necessary to effectively set strategic direction, develop appropriate policies, and ensure the Alumni Association has the resources necessary to effectively fulfill its mission and vision. Please send suggestions to **Brent Cameron, chair - Nominating Committee, c/o Sandra Girard, manager, Board Relations, 6251 Cecil Green Road, Vancouver BC V6T 1Z1 email: sandra.girard@ubc.ca** no later than June 15.

## CHAIR'S MESSAGE



### All change

**Judy Rogers, BRE'71**  
Chair, UBC Alumni Association

When I learned of UBC President Stephen Toope's decision to step down from his post, effective June 2014, I was both sorry to hear it and proud to think of all that has been accomplished under his presidency. UBC is losing a skilful and dedicated leader whose voice commands respect and attention in the world of post-secondary education. Over the past few years of his tenure, the stature and influence of alumni has grown on campus. And alumni will be on hand to help choose a new president over the coming months, with two seats on the search committee reserved for representatives of *alumni UBC*, your association.

UBC is also losing a chancellor. By next summer, Sarah Morgan-Silvester, BCom'82, will have completed two stellar terms in the role. She is a tireless champion for the university and an advocate, too, for the importance of a long-term commitment to the active engagement of alumni. In fact the Alumni Association board chair is charged with leading the committee that identifies and submits a nominee for the role of chancellor - after consultation with the Council of Senates - to the Board of Governors.

UBC's new president and chancellor will need stamina, resolve and vision to continue the sterling work of their predecessors. Next year's new incumbents can rest assured that *alumni UBC* will continue to provide an important source of wise and balanced advice and support, especially with regard to the university's biggest constituent group. Our board's work over the past years has been geared toward exactly that.

This all bodes very well for the future of our university and its place in our lives.

### YOU'RE INVITED! UBC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 2013 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

It's all about alumni making change in the world. Come learn about the impact your Alumni Association is having and listen to a conversation between Professor Stephen Toope and two alumni who have made an impact in the community. If this is your first AGM there will be a special AGM 101 seminar to help you make the most of your experience.

**Thursday, September 26, 2013, at the Marriott Pinnacle Hotel, 1128 W Hastings St, Vancouver.**

**4:00 - 5:00 - Pre-event seminar on AGM 101**  
**5:00 - 5:45 - AGM Pre-reception**  
**5:45 - 6:45 - AGM**

RSVP details will be on our website soon. For information, please contact **Christina Larson** at [christina.larson@ubc.ca](mailto:christina.larson@ubc.ca) or **604 822-9977**.



# FINDING BALANCE IN A 24/7 WORKPLACE

With the rise of mobile technologies, there's an increasing expectation for employees to be connected 24/7. How do you make time for yourself, your relationships and your family while keeping your career moving forward?

Following are five of many tips the audience picked up at an event held on March 26 - part of an ongoing series called *The Next Step* that offers advice on life and career for more recent grads.

**Moderator:** Miyoung Lee, BA'00 - Host, CBC News Vancouver at 11pm  
**Panelists:** Susanne Biro, BA'95 - Leadership Coach, Author and Workshop Facilitator; Matt Corker, BCom'08 - International Operations Specialist, lululemon athletica; Joanna Dawson, JD'11 - Associate, Miller Thomson

1. Learn how to say, "No." You can't do everything, so figure out your priorities for this stage of your life and base your decisions on whether they make you happy. Re-evaluate these priorities often.
2. Set some boundaries, but stay flexible. Busy days are unavoidable, but step back and take a breath when things slow down. Learn to identify the warning signs that indicate your life is becoming unbalanced and make a change. If you have ideas about how to create a better balance in your career (for example, telecommuting or flex hours), it rarely hurts to ask.
3. Take some time for yourself. The fact that you don't have a morning meeting or plans for a weekend doesn't mean that you're free to make other commitments. Communicate this to your friends and colleagues. They'll probably understand.
4. A cluttered mind (or inbox) leads to stress, so write things down. Stay organized by making to-do lists, recording deadlines in a calendar with reminders, and dealing with emails right away, even if it simply means adding them your calendar for follow-up.
5. Make friends at work. You spend lots of time with them already, but if you actually want to see them when the work-day is over, isn't that saying something? But after work, find other things to talk about. Nobody likes "shop talk" on a Saturday night.

**Suggested reading:** *Getting Things Done* by David Allen

[trekmagazine.alumni.ubc.ca](http://trekmagazine.alumni.ubc.ca)  
Event Podcast

# n=

# \$5,000,000

Number of dollars it will take to build a new centre for engineering undergraduates to replace the "Cheeze," which has fallen into a state of disrepair.

A paper recently published by UBC experts estimates that China's foreign catch of fish is 12 times larger than the catch it reports to the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization.

# 12x

# 25%

Obesity rose 25 per cent in BC between 2000 and 2011, according to a study lead by Professor Carolyn Gotay of UBC's School of Population and Public Health.

1st 1st 1st  
1st 1st 1st

In February UBC women's volleyball won 25 games in a row to clinch the CIS championship title for the 6th year straight.

UBC's rank among the world's top universities in the 2013 Times Higher Education Reputation Rankings, one of only three Canadian institutions to make the top 100 list.

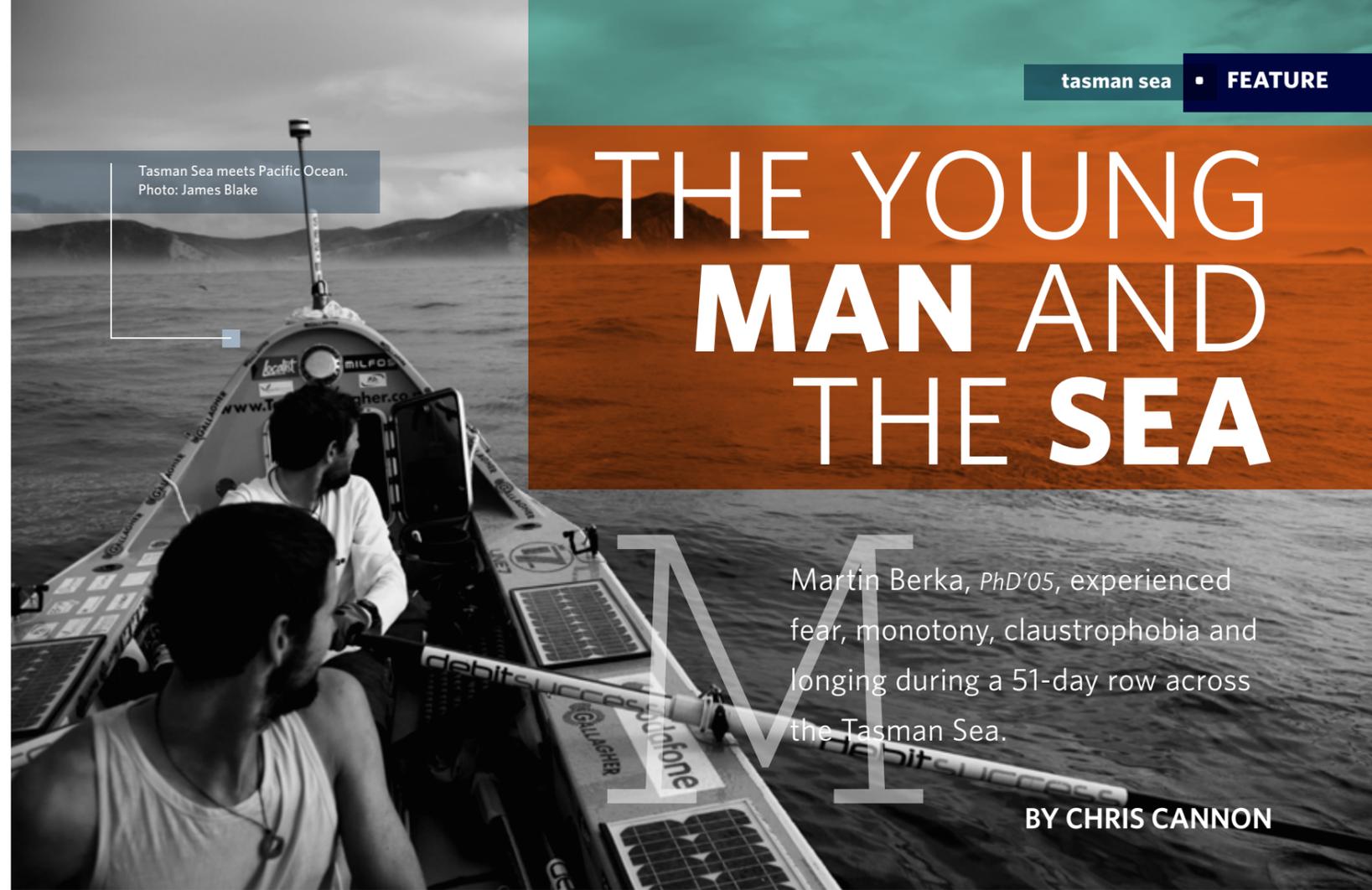
# 31st

# 2%

Pay rise awarded to UBC female faculty members after 2007 and 2009 studies out of UBC's Equity office both indicated that women were being paid less than male faculty members.

# 03:00:00

Time allowed for UBC grad students to explain their theses to a non-specialist audience during the annual Three Minute Thesis competition (3MT™). Serbulent Turan (PhD, Political Science) won with his presentation *Revolt, Revolution and Imagination*.



Tasman Sea meets Pacific Ocean. Photo: James Blake

# THE YOUNG MAN AND THE SEA

Martin Berka, PhD'05, experienced fear, monotony, claustrophobia and longing during a 51-day row across the Tasman Sea.

BY CHRIS CANNON

When Martin Berka sat down for an interview with a New Zealand radio station in December 2011, he didn't have to go far to find a chair. He was aboard a 10.5-metre rowboat in the middle of the Tasman Sea. The interview, conducted over satellite radio, was the first substantial contact he'd had with the outside world since setting off from Sydney Harbour 18 days earlier, and he was excited to report good weather.

"The forecast for the next few days looks quite good," he told the show's host. "Hopefully we don't have to make any more stopovers with the weather beating us down, as we had in the first two weeks."

"Stopovers" was a nice way of putting it. The journey, a four-man adventure dubbed the Team Gallagher Trans-Tasman Rowing Challenge, had already suffered a series of delays before the first oar struck the water. The initial idea was floated in 2006: put together a New Zealand team to make an unassisted crossing of the Tasman Sea that separates Australia and New Zealand. The team, consisting of Berka and fellow Kiwis James Blake, Andrew McCowan, and Nigel Cherie, planned to row from the Harbour Bridge in Sydney to the Harbour Bridge in Auckland - a distance of 2,500 kilometres - at just under three kilometres an hour. In other words, walking speed.

Berka, an assistant professor of economics at Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand, had grown up an avid outdoorsman and was a member of the Varsity Outdoors Club while attending UBC. Although he had experience rowing crew in New Zealand, he'd never rowed on the

open ocean, and was eager to push the boundaries of what is possible, to know what it was like for the early explorers, to see if he was up to it, and to enjoy the adventure.

Berka had joined the team in 2008, getting to know his crewmates over the years it took to plan the trip. The goal was to raise funds, in collaboration with the Sydney Aquarium, to construct an artificial reef off Borneo. Stressors ranging from ocean acidification to rising sea temperatures have been threatening the coral reefs for decades; scientists estimate 10 per cent of the world's reefs are now dead, and another 60 per cent threatened, a number expected to rise to 90 per cent over the next 20 years. Team Gallagher hoped to raise enough funds to link the Borneo reef to an educational campaign in New Zealand schools, allowing each school to "own" a single coral and monitor its growth through a web-based interface.

After four years of fundraising, another year of planning, and finally a three-week storm delay, the team set off on November 27, 2011, powering out of Sydney Harbour at a relatively supersonic three knots (about five-and-a-half kilometres per hour). The only other four-person row team to make this trip took 31 days, but Team Gallagher hoped to do it in three weeks.

Then came the stopovers.

A 10-metre long, two-metre wide boat is confining enough with four grown men. Add to that more than 400 kilos of food, water, and equipment, and it becomes claustrophobic, even on the wide-open ocean. But when the

**4 MEN**  
**51 DAYS**  
**3,100KM** DISTANCE TRAVELLED  
**2,500KM** DIRECT DISTANCE  
**TASMAN SEA**



- ~50,000kj daily intake
- 300g museli
- 8 fruit sticks
- 6 museli bars
- 150g nuts
- 150g nuts & raisins
- 50g dried fruit
- 500g freeze-dried meal
- 60g gingerbread cookies
- 3l rehydration drinks
- 50g chocolate
- 50g gummy bears
- 50g beef jerky

seas swell to the size of a two-storey building, and the headwind pushes back so hard that you are essentially rowing in place, it's time to deploy the sea anchor – an underwater parachute that holds the boat in a relatively fixed position – and cuddle with your buddy in a cabin the size of a coffin.

This was where the team found themselves only three days out, when a churning sea and 60-knot winds forced them to retreat to the two tiny holds for four straight days. "The first big storm was hard because I kept wondering what would happen if the boat did not hold up structurally," Berka later said from solid ground in New Zealand. "It was also my first time on high seas, and I remember thinking that the sensation of riding down big waves (while stationary on a sea anchor) felt like falling down an elevator shaft. I recall clearly being quite resigned to my destiny after that."

On the fifth day the weather broke, and the foursome was eager to jump back on the oars, thrilled to find themselves cruising at 120 kilometres a day. The men rowed in pairs, day and night, in one and a half hour shifts. In their off-time they prepared freeze-dried meals by pouring boiling water into a pouch – that was until their stove broke, and they had to make do with lukewarm food and rations of muesli bars, nuts, raisins, and sweets. Non-rowing duties – from checking the global positioning system to running the desalination machine for their drinking water – took only about two hours a day, and the rest of their time was spent snatching whatever sleep could be had before the next turn at the oars.

A month on the open ocean coupled with a drastically altered sleep schedule is a recipe for surrealism. One night Berka enjoyed a full moon, and the next it had

disappeared completely, forcing him to question his sanity before realizing he was witnessing a lunar eclipse. On one occasion, while surfing some large waves, he rowed past a loaf of French bread. He spent his time on the oars taking in what wildlife the ocean had to offer, consisting mostly of albatrosses and other birds. On the rare occasions when the seas were calm, he saw basking sharks, a minke whale, and millions of orange jellyfish flowing with the currents, lighting up a bioluminescent sea. His mind wandered to the life he put on hold, missing his family, his friends, his work, and the lush greenery of solid land.

It was during the respite from the initial storm – on December 15 – that Berka had his chat with the radio station. "Hopefully we'll be home around just after Christmas," he told them. "If we're lucky."

They were not. A low pressure system was approaching, and as the current pushed them north, strong winds began to push them west, back toward Australia. The meteorologist tracking their trip from a small town near Sydney – a man nicknamed "Clouds," who also forecasts weather for the America's Cup – sent them unambiguous satellite texts such as "This is the worst weather pattern I have ever seen on the Tasman," and "Must row south." Although they skirted the worst of the storm, by Christmas Eve they had to return to their cabins to hunker down, and it was not until January 3 that they emerged from their crypts to row again.

Before setting off, Berka had prepared himself physically, expecting the challenge to be equal part mind and body. "But in fact," he says, "the hardest part, by a huge margin, was the mental part. The helplessness, the endless waiting, the uncertainty, the boredom, the longing. The actual rowing was hard, but it was

a reward, as we were moving towards our target. But the lack of control is nearly complete, and it was very new to me. You are very much at the mercy of the elements, and we had chosen a particularly bad year."

To make matters worse, Berka had somehow acquired an infection in his foot, which had grown to the size of a tennis ball. Once a day he had to inject himself in the thigh with a four-centimetre needle, timing his aim for the brief moments of calm that articulated the pounding surf. "I remember thinking how funny the syringe with the needle in my leg looked, swinging around a bit in waves," he wrote in a later summary

## A MONTH ON THE OPEN OCEAN COUPLED WITH A DRASTICALLY ALTERED SLEEP SCHEDULE IS A RECIPE FOR SURREALISM.

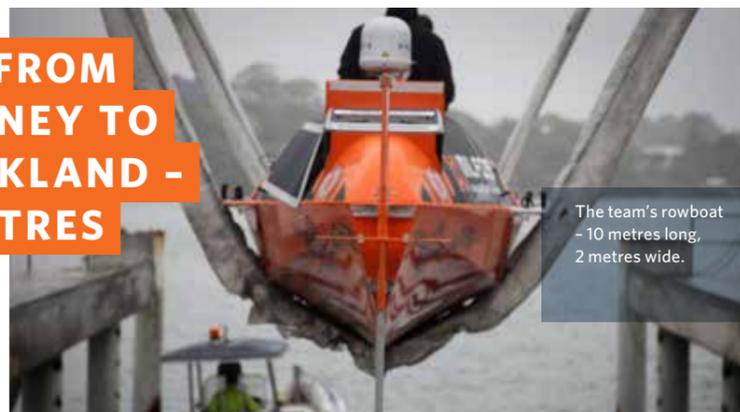
of the trip. "It was also not easy to stay relaxed as required (try injecting a contracted muscle) when using every other muscle to brace yourself steady in a cabin that is tossed around in waves."

On January 16, 2012 – after 51 days at sea – the team rowed into The Bay of Islands near New Zealand's northern tip, exhausted but healthy. Berka had lost thirteen kilograms during the voyage, confirming his theory about how rowers train for such an arduous journey: Get fat before you go, and the first week will get you fit. Berka left the boat, at this point, to join his fiancée, who had to leave unexpectedly and permanently for Japan shortly thereafter. The rest of the team augmented their now-meagre food supplies and spent another three days rowing to Auckland.

"I now realize how egoistic these types of trips are," Berka admits in hindsight. "Unless you have no friends or family, risking your life in this way exposes all those who care for you to a large amount of unnecessary emotional stress. Especially when things don't go well. And, on the flipside, you learn how much you depend on the caring of and the interaction with other people, because you are very alone in the middle of the sea. So I would recommend that everyone who wants to do this first checks with themselves whether it isn't just a big ego trip. Irrespective of the answer, you will come back more humble."

[www.teamgallagher.co.nz](http://www.teamgallagher.co.nz)  
 For more information about the row.

## THE TEAM PLANNED TO ROW FROM THE HARBOUR BRIDGE IN SYDNEY TO THE HARBOUR BRIDGE IN AUCKLAND – A DISTANCE OF 2,500 KILOMETRES



The team's rowboat – 10 metres long, 2 metres wide.



Martin Berka bails his cabin after stormy weather.

# PROTECTING CORAL REEFS

Project Seahorse is a marine conservation organization co-founded and directed by UBC's Amanda Vincent. One of the organization's current projects is a collaboration with the International League of Conservation Photographers to raise awareness of the plight of the Danajon Bank coral reef in the Philippines.

Danajon Bank is one of only six double-barrier coral reefs in the world, and one of the most important marine ecosystems in the entire Pacific Ocean. Species found all over the Pacific are thought to have first evolved there. Unfortunately, the reef faces many threats including destructive fishing practices (blast fishing with explosives, for example), as well as overdevelopment, pollution, and climate change. It is home to at least 200 threatened animals, such as the elusive Tiger-tail seahorse.

The photographs from the expedition will be staged as educational photo exhibits at aquariums in Chicago, London, Hong Kong, Manila, and around the world. The result will be a powerful photographic legacy to help conservationists in the Philippines and around the world push for increased protections.

Some reasons to be concerned at the loss of coral reefs around the world:

- 500 mil. Number of people who live near coral reefs and depend on them for food, livelihoods, and well-being.
- 30 bil. Value, in US dollars, of coastline protection, tourism, and food provided by coral reefs every year.
- 1.72 Average number of lives saved per coastal village during India's 1999 "supercyclone," thanks to the wave-dampening effects of mangroves and coastal marine habitats.
- 90% Proportion of the world's fisheries yields that come from waters less than 200 m deep.
- 30% Proportion of coral reefs that have been degraded or destroyed globally.
- 5,880 Number of marine reserves in the world, for a total of 4.2 million square kilometres, as of 2010.
- 1.17% Proportion of our oceans protected by marine reserves.
- 135 km Length of Danajon Bank. The total area of the reef is 234,950 sq hectares.
- 196 Number of threatened species that depend on Danajon Bank for their survival.
- 35 Number of marine protected areas established on Danajon Bank by Project Seahorse in collaboration with local communities.

[danajon-bank.tumblr.com](http://danajon-bank.tumblr.com) (source: Project Seahorse)

Photo taken in 2004 in Silver Point, Grand Bahama Island. Photo: Ning Ning Gong/Guylian Seahorses of the World

Jonathan Tippett, BAsc'99, is building a wearable walking machine.  
Photo: Albert Normandin



# GIANT SPIDERS & WALKING MACHINES

BY RACHEL POLIQUIN, BFA'97, PHD'05

Imagine this: a three-ton steel exoskeleton crouching in the Nevada desert like a behemoth rabbit without a head. It rises and begins loping across the sand. With each stride, the creature covers four-and-a-half metres and gains speed until it is moving as fast as a man at full sprint.

Strapped inside the exoskeleton, dwarfed by his massive quadrupedal creation, is Jonathan Tippett, BAsc'99. As he moves his arms, the creature's two outside legs lunge forward. When he kicks his legs, the two inside legs move. As Tippett pushes his limbs with more force, the creature responds, magnifying each human motion into a wild, mechanical romping gait perfectly suited to the scale of the Black Rock Desert, a 2,600 square-kilometre expanse. At least this is Tippett's fantasy. He hopes to finish and unveil his creature – better described as a wearable walking machine called *Prosthesis* – at the Burning Man festival in Black Rock City in 2014.

Black Rock City is a horseshoe-shaped city that springs up every August for just one week in the dry lake bed of the Black Rock Desert in northern Nevada, about 175 kilometres north of Reno. The temporary city – the fifth largest in Nevada for the week it exists – is home to the Burning Man festival, a wild, hallucinatory art and music bacchanalia dedicated to radical self-expression as well as radical communal participation. Burning Man is many things. It is a place that tests self-sufficiency, requiring participants

to provide for their own basic needs in a desert heat that routinely peaks at over 38°C, and clean up their camp a week later leaving no trace behind. It is a place for experimentation on a massive scale, with 50,000 people arriving each year (attendance was capped in 2011) with the mandate to shed conventions, participate, celebrate, and express themselves in any and every conceivable way. It is also an insanely large gallery space. The crescent of Black Rock City arcs around a 24 metre-tall wooden effigy known as “The Man,” which is set aflame as the culmination of the festival. Dotted around The Man and stretching beyond the city’s arc into the desert beyond are the sort of astounding art installations and interactive spectacles that could only be inspired by the creative spirit of Burning Man and the vastness of the playa. “So much of what makes art worth making is having somewhere to exhibit it,” Tippet explains. Intended to stand more than five metres tall, *Prosthesis* is certainly designed for big spaces.

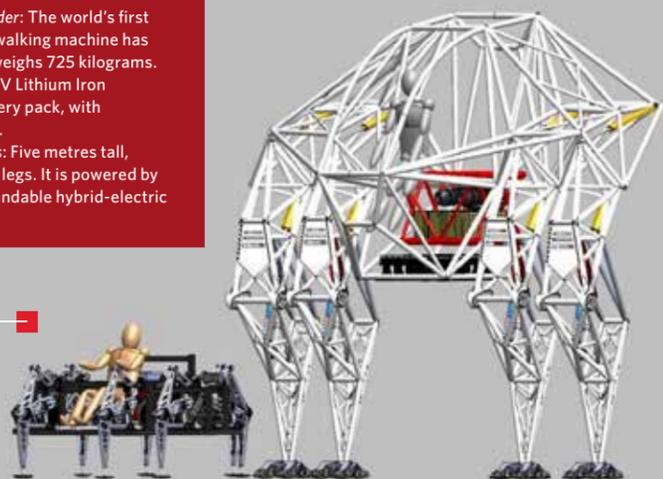
*Prosthesis* is one several projects currently underway in the laboratory of eatART, a radical art collective based in Vancouver. The acronym stands for Energy Awareness Through ART, and their mandate is simple: to foster large-scale technically-sophisticated art that raises questions about the social and environmental impact of energy use. Yet eatART is anything but predictable. Take, for example, the mechanical love story at its origins: in 2007 the *Mondo Spider*, a 725-kilogram walking spider, and *Daisy*, a three-and-a-half ton solar power bicycle fell in love at Burning Man and begat eatART. In other words, Tippet, Charlie Brinson, Leigh Christie and Ryan Johnston (co-creators of *Mondo Spider*) met Rob Cunningham (caretaker of *Daisy*) through their shared love of mechanical art and Burning Man. But their sense of wild adventure had a purpose: they wanted to start a charitable organization that would promote energy awareness but would not necessarily demonstrate practical implementations of new technology or be conventional in its ways of reaching the public. “We wanted to capture audiences that would otherwise glaze over if you said ‘sustainability.’” Instead they would earn international attention through art – huge-scale, highly-engineered kinetic art.

Located on the Great Northern Way Campus, nestled between the Centre for Digital Media and the train tracks, the eatART lab

## THE ARTISTS WHO WORK IN THE LAB ARE MOSTLY ENGINEERS WITH THE HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED TO DESIGN, MODEL, AND BUILD MASSIVE ROBOTICS.

Left, *Mondo Spider*: The world’s first zero-emission walking machine has eight legs and weighs 725 kilograms. It runs on an 48V Lithium Iron Phosphate battery pack, with 90Ahr capacity.

Right, *Prosthesis*: Five metres tall, three tons, four legs. It is powered by a modular, expandable hybrid-electric power plant.



The Alpha Leg is a 2:3 scale prototype leg for *Prosthesis*, which is being used for engineering development and pilot training.



*Titanoboa* is a 15-metre electro-mechanical snake. Photo: Michael J.P. Hall

is described by the artists as “an impossible dream factory,” and is filled with improbably large mechanical creations. To get into the lab, you have to squeeze by *Mondo Spider*, about the size of a small car, which lurks outside the main doors. In the back corner on a raised platform sits a section of Brinson’s latest project, *Titanoboa*, a 15-metre electro-mechanical reincarnation of a monstrous primordial snake that slithers with an eerie eerisimilitude. (The snake was rendered extinct 60 million years ago by climate change.) In the middle of the space is the only modest-sized project in the lab, gBikes: bicycles retrofitted with hub motors and capable of generating enough electricity to power a laptop. The Alpha Leg, a prototype of one of *Prosthesis*’ four legs, dominates an entire side of the lab, and it is only two thirds of the planned size.

The artists who work in the lab are mostly engineers with the highly sophisticated technical knowledge required to design, model, and build

massive robotics. Tippet graduated from UBC with a mechanical engineering degree in 1999. Brinson has a bachelor’s in engineering physics (2004) and a master’s in mechanical engineering (2006), both from UBC. For Tippet, large moving machinery lends itself to a richer discussion about energy use than, say, a laser lightshow. “Once you get into large, heavy things moving, you have the inevitable exchange of energy – kinetic energy, stored energy, electrical energy, hydraulic energy, pneumatic energy. With large things moving, you also have issues of efficiency, which you wouldn’t get with a lightshow. Lightshows are dynamic and engaging but they don’t have as many forms of



The Mondo Spider was built by Charlie Brinson and team in 2006. Photo: Albert Normandin

energy to play with as physical systems.” Absurdly large moving parts catch the eye and easily spark conversation about energy awareness and our relationships with technology, and eatART members are involved in educational outreach and mentorship. In 2009, Tippet began sponsoring capstone programs with UBC’s mechanical engineering and engineering physics programs. Brinson also has teams of engineering students working on various aspects of *Titanoboa*. “Our involvement with students at UBC and SFU has become a hugely rewarding part of the projects,” he says. “Students get involved with all parts of the process. In fact a couple of the team’s core members came as students and then continued on.” *Mondo Spider* and *Titanoboa* also make regular appearances at festivals and science events geared towards getting kids excited about science and engineering.

But for all the technology and energy education involved, eatART has the aura of wild adventure, a whiff of Mad Hatter mechanical genius that even took the organisers of Burning Man by surprise when *Mondo Spider* first scuttled across the sand. Burning Man has long been a showcase for absurdly large-scale mobile art. But unlike most of the art cars that roam the playa, the spider is not simply art mounted on a pre-existing vehicle. The eight-legged electro-mechanical machine is its own creature. The organizers were unsure whether to categorize it as art installation or mutant vehicle – each gets a separate license to exist on the playa. “It was a real feather in our cap to confuse the organisers of Burning Man,” Tippet recalls. “It’s a pretty big achievement to bring something there that they haven’t seen before.”

### THE HARDER THE PILOT WORKS - HIS MOVEMENTS WILL BE SOMEWHAT LIKE A GORILLA’S LOPE - THE FASTER PROSTHESIS MOVES.



Photo: Albert Normandin



Burning Man from satellite. Copyright: European Space Agency.

Eight years on, no one has ever seen anything like *Prosthesis* before. Tippet’s first sketches date back to 2005. But then along came the spider (Tippet was “Team Leg” leader) and building the eatART Foundation. In 2008 he scaled back his work as a biomedical engineer designing vascular implants to act as Lab Chief for the organization. It was not until 2012 that he stepped down from this position to devote himself to *Prosthesis*.

What makes *Prosthesis* unique is not its vast size – although size is crucial to its essence – but how it moves. *Prosthesis* is not the sort of machine that a human manoeuvres remotely like a radio-controlled aircraft. It has no computerized control system, no remote, and no autonomy to move by itself, which is why Tippet calls *Prosthesis* the Anti-Robot. With the aim of reuniting humans with machines in the ancient quest of physical mastery and skill, *Prosthesis* only moves when a human climbs inside, straps himself into a five point harness, attaches hydraulic cylinders to his arms and legs, and begins “walking” four metres above ground. The harder the pilot works – his movements will be somewhat like a gorilla’s lope – the faster *Prosthesis* moves. Likewise, the exoskeleton relays positional and force feedback to the pilot so that he knows exactly how hard each foot hits the ground. But the engineering required to fine tune the suspension, hydraulics, and communication between man and machine are only half of the project. Tippet then has to fasten himself to three tons of steel and learn to walk, which even he admits will be terrifying. All four legs move independently, which means he must learn to keep the legs in sync and to keep the machine stable particularly over uneven ground, and since *Prosthesis*’ limbs will mostly be under or behind the pilot, he will be operating the machine mostly by feel alone.

To move a machine as if it were an extension of your own limbs will be a completely unprecedented experience and will require an extraordinary amount of coordination. There will be hundreds of training hours before Tippet and his machine are working together seamlessly, but when at last *Prosthesis* is finally let loose in the Black Rock Desert, “in its wild place,” that will be a moment of “such glory,” he says, “that I can’t even describe it. That will be my Holy Grail moment.”



Photo: Albert Normandin

# CLIMBING A MOUNTAIN FOR SCIENCE

A group of international researchers planned to collaborate on experiments investigating the effects of oxygen deprivation. But they'd have to get to the laboratory first – located more than 5,000 metres above sea level.

BY MARCIE GOOD, BA'95

Headaches, nausea, difficulty sleeping, and laboured breathing are just a few of the symptoms Nia Lewis experienced during a research trip in The Himalayas last year. But physical discomfort aside, the 27-year-old UBC Okanagan researcher says the trip was a welcome break from her usual office-bound work.

"You can sit at a desk and read textbooks and journal articles to learn what happens in the body," says the post-doctoral fellow, who was in Nepal to study the effects of oxygen deprivation on blood flow through the brain and vital organs, "but [being at high altitude] was a different learning experience because I actually physically felt the changes and I knew what was happening and why. It was a good learning tool for me."

Lewis was one of 25 international researchers who trekked up Mount Everest to the Ev-K2-CNR Pyramid Laboratory, located at an altitude of 5,050 metres. Her UBC supervisor, Professor Philip Ainslie, was lead

investigator on a planned 12 to 15 experiments for which the researchers would double as subjects. Some of the studies also involved local people, in a ground-breaking attempt to look at how humans born at altitude adapt to oxygen deprivation.

Ainslie is Canada Research Chair in Cerebrovascular Function in Health and Disease and is based in the School of Health and Exercise Sciences. This was his seventh trip to the Himalayas, and he has built up a network of local people who contribute to the research. He calls this trip an example of "high-risk, high-reward science" – the costs reached about \$200,000, and several PhD and post-doc projects hung in the balance. "Every time things evolve because you have better technology and better people to work with," he says. "So this was the pinnacle in terms of more advanced equipment and more aggressive experiments."

The symptoms that Lewis and her colleagues developed at high altitudes were not seriously

threatening, but are similar to those experienced by people suffering from sleep apnea, chronic heart and respiratory illnesses, and strokes. The scientists hope to adapt their experiment results for further clinical studies with the goal of devising new methods of prevention and treatment. Some studies also looked at the causes of sleep apnea, a condition that routinely affects both visitors and high-altitude residents.

Members of the research team came from universities in the US, New Zealand, Australia, the UK and the Netherlands. They all travelled to Kelowna in the early months of 2012 for baseline testing, and met up again at the end of April in Kathmandu, where they spent six days. Because of the amount of lab equipment they brought on their flights, their personal luggage was limited, and they spent time buying generators, medical supplies, drugs, hiking boots and clothing. Lewis had never travelled to a developing nation before. "It was a bit of an eye-opener," she says. "The rubbish on the side of the road, in the river, chickens on the roof of cars, and the bartering. They'll begin with a price four times what it's worth. I wasn't very good at that."

The group then flew from Kathmandu to Lukla. The short runway heads uphill straight towards the mountain. Old and unregulated aircraft and unpredictable weather make it one of the unsafest flights in the world. "Basically you just hope for the best," says Lewis, recalling the landing. "It's a sheer drop. We were pretty nervous."

Lukla is at 2,860 metres, and from there they began their trek. They had about 20 Sherpas and 15 yaks carrying all their equipment. After six hours of walking, they stayed at a teahouse. The accommodations were typically heated with a fire, which was also used for cooking, and yak dung

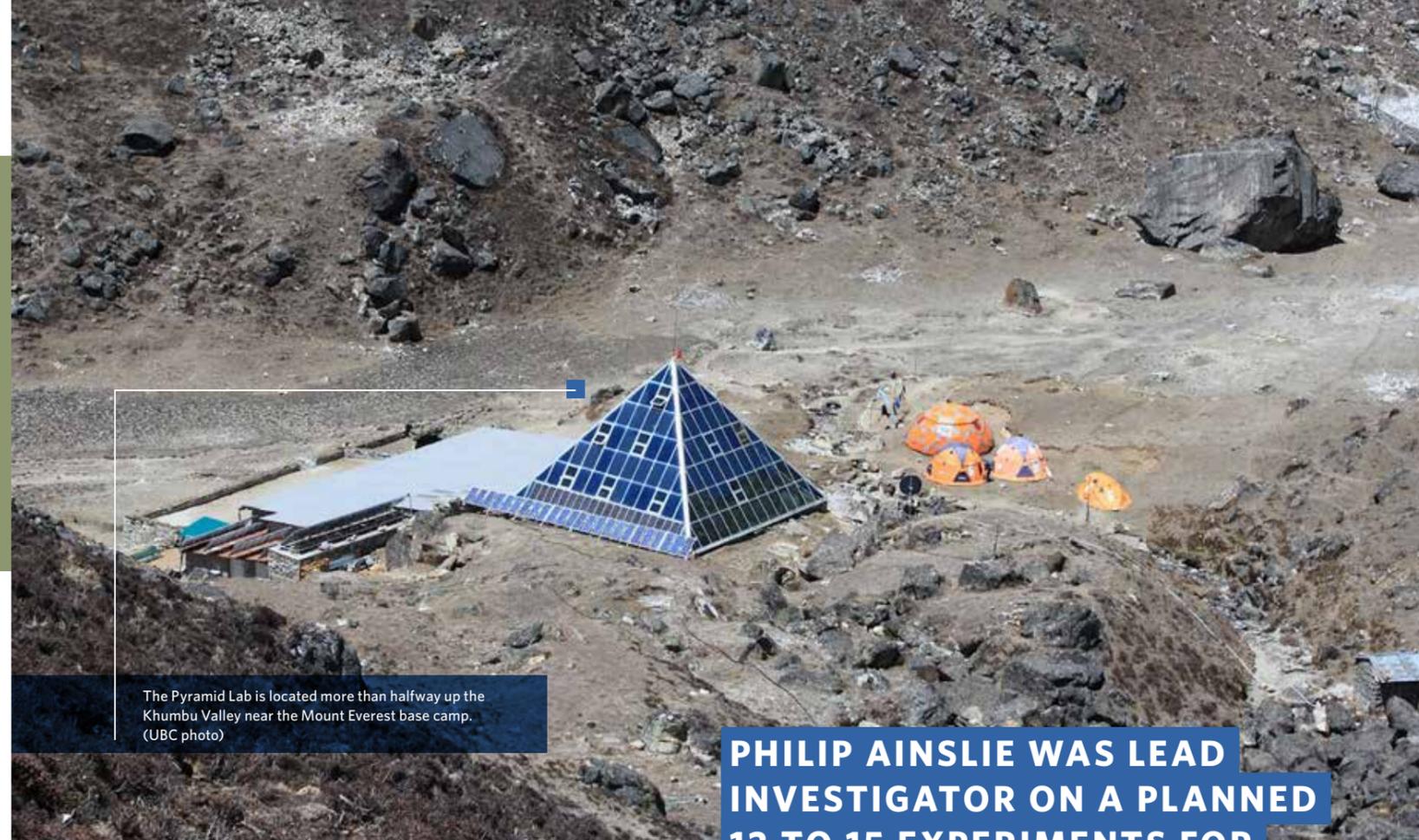
**PHILIP AINSLIE WAS LEAD INVESTIGATOR ON A PLANNED 12 TO 15 EXPERIMENTS FOR WHICH THE RESEARCHERS WOULD DOUBLE AS SUBJECTS.**

served as fuel. "So it stinks and it's quite smoky," says Lewis, acknowledging the threat of respiratory disease for people constantly breathing in the smoke. Everywhere they stayed, the researchers were met with hospitality. The Nepalese standard diet is rice and lentils, but they would offer guests a variety of foods: porridge or muesli at breakfast, pasta or rice for lunch.

The higher the group climbed on the eight-day trek, the harder it became. The terrain started out as lush, green and tropical, and quickly became very rocky. They frequently crossed small narrow bridges, which bounced and swung hundreds of metres above valleys. Lewis was feeling short of breath, but fortunate not to have the stomach problems others experienced.

At two towns on the way, two PhD students used a vascular ultrasound to scan the vessels in subjects' necks and measure the blood flow. Throughout the trek, they took medications to help reduce Acute Mountain Sickness, but had to stop once they arrived at the lab so the drugs didn't interfere with the studies. Some developed chest colds or infections from inhaling the dust along the path. The team included two medical doctors, who helped administer medications.

Lewis found the last day of the trek the most difficult. "We started at 4,000 metres, and it was a big climb and very rocky. You're kind of concentrating on where you're stepping and it's loose gravel, and I fell down quite a few times. It was a few steps, stop, catch your breath," she recalls.



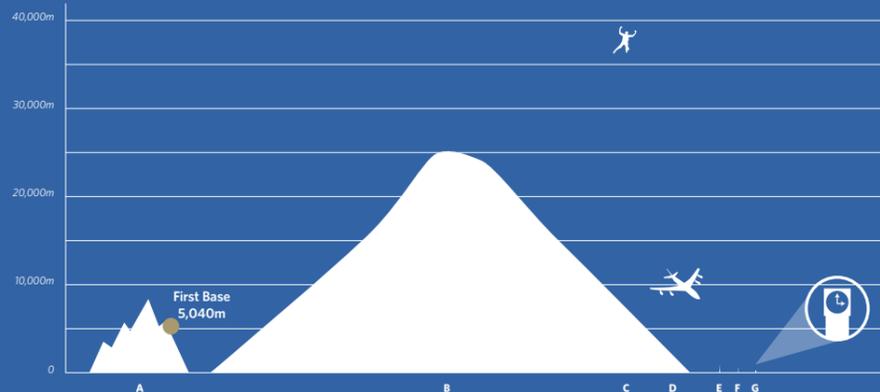
The Pyramid Lab is located more than halfway up the Khumbu Valley near the Mount Everest base camp. (UBC photo)



On their trek to the lab, located at an altitude of more than 5,000 metres, the group frequently crossed small narrow bridges, which bounced and swung hundreds of metres above valleys. Photo: Nia Lewis

**ALTITUDE COMPARISON CHART**

<b>A</b> Mt Everest <i>(highest mountain on Earth)</i>	8,848m
<b>B</b> Olympus Mons <i>(highest mountain in solar system)</i>	25,000m
<b>C</b> Felix Baumgartner <i>(highest manned skydive)</i>	39,000m
<b>D</b> Commercial aircraft <i>(cruising height)</i>	approx. 10,000m
<b>E</b> Burj Khalifa <i>(highest manmade building)</i>	828m
<b>F</b> CN Tower <i>(highest free standing structure in Western Hemisphere)</i>	553m
<b>G</b> Ladner Clock Tower <i>(landmark on UBC Vancouver campus)</i>	36.8m



She kept an eye on her heart rate monitor, which reached 170 beats per minute. "My maximum heart rate would be approximately 190, so I was working pretty hard. At times I was, like, 'I just want to get there now!'"

The Pyramid Laboratory is located more than halfway up the Khumbu Valley near Mount Everest base camp. It is surrounded by stunning mountains and glaciers, and daytime temperatures hover around zero. A brick building nearby was the sleeping quarters.

But once they arrived, there was no time to rest or enjoy the scenery. Lewis was research coordinator, managing the complex logistics of many studies over their three-week stay. The laboratory had solar panels for all electricity and heat, and there was sometimes Internet access, but the remote location presented several challenges. Their blood gas analyzer machine, (which gives various measurements including oxygen and carbon

dioxide in blood) froze, so they put it in a room used as a sauna to defrost it. Far worse, one undergraduate developed appendicitis and had to be flown by helicopter to a hospital in Kathmandu.

One of the studies examined the causes of sleep apnea, a condition in which a person slows or stops breathing during sleep. Lewis and her colleagues would take their turns sleeping in the Pyramid, which was not heated, covered in wires hooked up to research equipment. The disorder, which Lewis experienced at altitude, also added to her daily fatigue. "We had our sleeping bags and extra blankets, but you could see your breath," she says, with her tendency to downplay discomfort. "But we all eventually fell to sleep."

Her own study looked at how stiff vessels become at high altitude. She is now comparing her colleagues' results with those taken from the

participating local people. "Our blood vessels get a lot stiffer at high altitude," she says, "so we become more like the Sherpas, which was quite a cool finding. I'm not sure what this means yet. The body adapts very quickly and whether this change that I've seen is a positive or a negative finding is for future work."

Lewis found the trip down the mountain much easier than going up, although harder on the knees. "You can just feel a difference in the air and you can feel it's less challenging," she says. "It's quite strange, we were all high off oxygen." One more complication was that planes weren't flying from Lukla to Kathmandu due to the weather. Ainslie was able to find helicopters to take them instead.

Some of the studies - such as a seven-hour process involving sampling blood from the subject's vessels going to and from the brain, followed by a maximum exercise test - were physically taxing. But Ainslie was very pleased with the outcomes. "It was entirely successful in that normally we plan 12-15 experiments, hoping that even if half of them work out we get some great data. On this trip everything worked out."

Families of Sherpas that he has known for a decade participated in several studies, and members of the team trained one 28-year-old guide called Nema to help collect data. The researchers developed friendships with many of the locals, and maintained bonds through Facebook. One study tested children born at altitude but now living in Kathmandu, to see how lack of oxygen affects the development of the lungs and heart. Ainslie has planned another research trip, and hopes also to bring Nepalese subjects to Canada to test them at sea level. "The downside to commercialism in all these countries is that Sherpas [are leaving their high-altitude homes] because they make more money working in construction in Japan," he says. "So I really think that if we don't do these experiments in the next decade then we'll lose the opportunity to look at natural selection and adaptation at high altitude."

Fully recovering from the trip took Lewis three months. She felt disoriented - the effect of oxygen deprivation - and once got stuck counting to ten. "Now I look back on it and go, 'Oh my gosh I can't believe I did that. That was crazy!'" She says. "My body took a lot of stress. It was hard work, but really worth it."

**"OUR BLOOD VESSELS GET A LOT STIFFER AT HIGH ALTITUDE," SHE SAYS, "SO WE BECOME MORE LIKE THE SHERPAS, WHICH WAS QUITE A COOL FINDING".**

The researchers doubled as subjects in a series of experiments to explore the effects of oxygen deprivation. (UBC photo)



Fifteen yaks helped carry the group's significant amount of equipment. Photo: Nia Lewis



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# THE DOUBLE LIFE OF DOCTOR LU

They say medicine is as much an art as a science. Yvette Lu, MD'04, is a family physician who uses her writing and acting skills to teach medical students the importance of listening and compassion.

BY DIANE HAYNES, BA'89

## MD OR IMDB?

### Yvette's Story

Google "Dr. Yvette Lu British Columbia" and in 0.38 seconds you'll get her family practice, her RateMDs.com rankings, LinkedIn profile, Wikipedia entry, personal website, and of course her Internet Movie Database (IMDb) profile. Wait... her what?

Three days a week, she's mild-mannered Dr. Lu, family physician in the Surrey-based practice she shares with her mom. Diminutive and soft-spoken, Lu exudes a gentleness and warmth that any patient would respond to, and is as attentive and she is articulate. But ask about that "interest in acting and performance" listed on her CV below her medical experience and awards, and she'll transform before your eyes. She has a superpower, you see.

Actor, director, producer, composer... Lu's artistic accomplishments are as extensive as her medical ones. *Food for the Gods* (Vancouver Asian Film Festival) and *Alive and Kicking* (Near Enemy Film Festival award winner) are titles you might recognize. She has even been cast as (you guessed it) a doctor.

## WILL THE REAL YVETTE LU PLEASE STAND UP?

It's generally understood that there is no more rigorous undergraduate training than that of medical school, and few fields more difficult to break into than that of acting. Lu has succeeded at both. How?

"In medicine I need to listen well, to communicate, to have empathy and compassion," says Lu. "And all those things are so important in acting as well. Being an actor makes me a better doctor and a better person."

Her dual professions have woven themselves through the whole of her life. Lu grew up immersed in books and listening to her grandmother's traditional Chinese stories. Active in theatre every summer during medical school at UBC, Lu chose to write her final research paper as a play. *Stories from the Closet: A Play About Living with Chronic Illness* is described on Lu's website as "a young woman's fantastical odyssey

into the world of hospitals, doctors, and illness." The young woman is a composite of three female subjects Lu interviewed, and the play is a series of 10 monologues delivered by a solo performer. Nine years on, Lu is still regularly asked to perform it for doctors, medical students, and patients and their families, because it gives voice to a silent story that is becoming ever more prevalent.

Fifty percent of the North American population is dealing with at least one chronic illness. Ambiguity about everything from onset and cause to impact and treatment can lead to a profound loss of one's sense of self. Lu found through her research that "coming out" as a person with illness mirrors coming out as a queer person in a surprising number of ways, and her title reflects that. The subtitle is equally significant. Living - especially living well - with a chronic illness requires that a person create a new meaning for their life. Human beings create and ascribe meaning by telling stories, and it was out of recognition of the power of storytelling to create meaning from illness that the field of narrative medicine emerged.

## 18 SECONDS

### The Doctor's Story

"On average, physicians interrupt patients within eighteen seconds of when they begin telling their story." So writes Jerome Groopman in *How Doctors Think*, the book Yvette Lu is reading at the time of her conversation with *Trek*. Recanati chair of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, Groopman quotes a colleague as saying, "I believe that technology... has taken us away from the patient's story. And once you remove yourself from the patient's story, you no longer are truly a doctor."

Strong words. They are both commentary on, and cry for help from, today's medical professionals in response to unsustainable pressures. Doctors have long recognized that the practice of medicine is as much art as science, and now, in an elegant backlash against the commodifying effects of modern health care, doctors and medical schools are returning to story.

Yvette Lu performs dramatic readings of her play about living with chronic illness.

FIFTY PER CENT OF THE NORTH AMERICAN POPULATION IS DEALING WITH AT LEAST ONE CHRONIC ILLNESS.

Dr. Rita Charon is a physician, author, and literary scholar, and the founder and executive director of the Program in Narrative Medicine at Columbia University. She coined the term narrative medicine in 2001 and defines it as "medicine practiced by someone who knows what to do with stories."

Still in its infancy, narrative medicine boasts few hard studies that demonstrate its efficacy as either a diagnostic or healing tool. But there is an implicit understanding that it is offering something necessary: over 50 per cent of North American medical schools now include some form of narrative medicine training in their curricula.

UBC introduces medical students to narrative medicine in their first year by inviting Lu to speak to the Doctor, Patient and Society class. Lu steps up to the podium, no notes in her hands, no lecture to give, and begins to perform *Stories from the Closet*.

## TO BEAR THEIR PATIENTS' SUFFERING

### The Student's Story

"It was amazing," says Alvin Ip of Yu's performance. Ip is a first-year medical student at UBC and a volunteer with the Richmond Centre for Disability. "At the end, I felt like I knew someone inside and out... her feelings, ideas, needs, and expectations. [It] reminded me of how important it is to not only treat the disease, but also comfort... the patient."

Fellow first year Michelle Chiu agrees. A volunteer with Canuck Place Children's Hospice, Chiu says, "Yvette's play gave us a glimpse into the impact of chronic illness [and] provided me with valuable insights that I will bring to my patients." She adds that "studies have shown a marked decrease in empathy as students progress [in] their training. I believe that [narrative medicine] techniques are effective in countering this."

A quick Internet search for "medical student empathy decline" produces 210,000 results. Chiu isn't kidding. Explanations include medical schools' emphasis on clinical detachment and on technology; a lack of empathetic role models; an encouragement of elitism; and institutional focus on research over teaching.

And then there's the curriculum itself. At UBC, it includes 12 medicine-based courses in the first two years as well as five practice-focused courses each year; 10 specialty rotations in third year; and a year of clinical practice. Students who find stress more prohibitive than motivating may shut down emotionally in order to cope.

In a 2004 *New York Times* article entitled "The Writing Cure," Melanie Thernstrom says, "Medical students are so flooded by feelings they have no time to examine or process that a significant proportion are thought to be suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder."

What narrative medicine allows is that opportunity for examination and processing. Medical schools that have incorporated its techniques into their curricula might offer opportunities for students to analyze literature; to write a book about a patient and his illness over the course of a year; or to keep "parallel charts," records of their own feelings about and responses to their patients. It is, as Jerome Groopman at Harvard says, the responsibility of medical schools to develop in young physicians "the ability to bear their patients' suffering."

## WHEN HAS IT BEEN HARD?

### The Patient's Story

*Hard. It's almost a funny question. I don't even know where to begin.*

*It's hard when you don't know what's going on... when you know something's wrong but nobody believes you... And then it's hard when they do find something. Then you have to face it. And even though at that point you don't really know what you're in for yet, you know something has changed and that now you're sick. It's grief. I'm being dramatic, I know, but it feels like a part of me died before it had a chance to live. I had a plan and then - [makes a noise like a bomb exploding]...*

*It gets better. Eventually, you put the pieces back together into something new. It's not what it was before, but it works, and it may even be better than what it was. But it doesn't go away.\**

Yvette Lu allows time after each public performance for people to speak with her - and they do. "People have said to me, 'this is my life. This is exactly how it feels,'" she says. "When I hear that, it reminds me that this is really important."

Asked about the reactions of her research subjects, the three women on whose experiences she based the play, Lu replies, "They haven't seen it!" She tries to explain: "Part of [why I wrote] it is for people who are ill and really isolated. Part is for family and friends so they know what their loved one is going through. And part is for doctors. But for people who are very much struggling, it might not be the right time to see it."

The patient doesn't need to see the play; she's living it. She needs you to see the play. To the extent that telling one's story may be healing, it is so because someone else is willing to bear witness to it in all of its ungainly, painful detail. There are times in our lives when we are able to bear witness to our own suffering; there are other, overwhelming times when we require the grace of another who is prepared to fulfill that role. Narrative medicine is about preparing young doctors to do so for their patients.

"You don't just use stories and you don't just use science," Lu says of narrative medicine. "It's how they work together, how they interface. People in all areas are realizing you have to look at the interface. That's where the exciting things are happening! We come from a storytelling culture, and stories can only help us." 

\* From *Stories from the Closet* (copyright Yvette Lu)

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Listen to Yvette reading an excerpt from her play.



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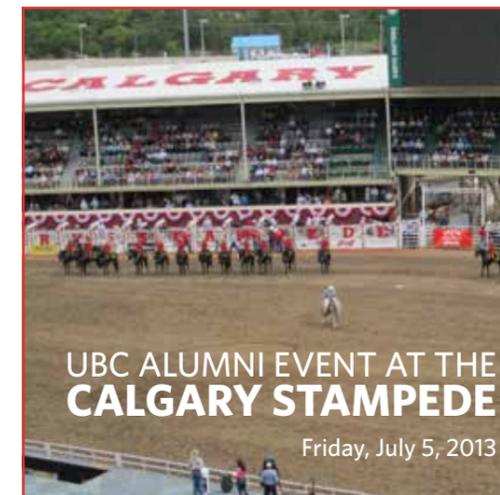
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# UBC ALUMNI OKANAGAN DAYS 2013

JULY 9 - 11, 2013 • KELOWNA, BC



# THE USEFUL CITIZEN

A ten-year-old boy called Charlie – regarded by Alexander Graham Bell as the most wonderful boy in the world – went on to become the first deafblind person to study at a Canadian university.

BY ROSEMARY ANDERSON, BA'74

An authority on the education of the deaf, Alexander Graham Bell spells on 10-year-old Charlie Crane's palm.

A blind person can study by listening, a deaf person can learn by seeing, but what of the person who is both deaf and blind? This is the story of Charles Allen Crane, Canada's Helen Keller.

The world thought it was ready for Charles when he was born in Toronto on April 10, 1906. His six older brothers and sisters had awaited his arrival with anxious enthusiasm. Charlie, as they called him, was a healthy, good-natured baby who loved every bit of attention his family lavished on him. He reached all the usual milestones on schedule – cooing and babbling, smiling, crawling, growing – until he was nine months old and contracted cerebrosplinal meningitis, a vicious disease that can kill within hours.

Charlie survived, but the disease had ravaged his optic and auditory nerves. His distraught parents, Minnie and William, made the rounds of the country's best doctors, but no one could help. In desperation, they booked passage on a ship to England, where they took Charlie to the country's top specialists but, in late January 1908, they returned to Canada, resigned to the awful reality: their beloved little boy would never again see or hear.

Children like Charlie, who acquire this double disability prior to the age of two, are known as "congenitally deafblind." Their experience of the world has more in common with that of children born deafblind, than with those who become deafblind at a later age. They often develop a heightened sense of touch to help navigate the world around them. If you shook hands with Charlie once, he'd recognize you immediately the next time you gave him your hand, even years later. He could identify the colour of someone's hair by its texture, though he lacked the concept of colour as sighted people know it. "He was so smart," says his niece, Iris Lees, "you couldn't fool him with anything." Iris remembers how, as an adult, he'd walk about in her yard feeling the plants with his hands and know exactly which species they were.

Charlie had a talent for communicating. With his mother's help, he developed a rudimentary sign language. Only the family understood it, but it was enough to get by. When he was five, the family moved to Vancouver. Minnie and William consulted BC's Superintendent of Education, Dr. Robinson, who put them in touch with the School for the Deaf in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The School mailed Minnie and William a copy of their annual report, which featured a depiction of the manual alphabet. The family immediately began spelling their names into his hand, including that of Charlie's little brother, Tom, their brown cat, Bill, and their grey dog, Prince, followed by familiar household items. Charlie loved it.

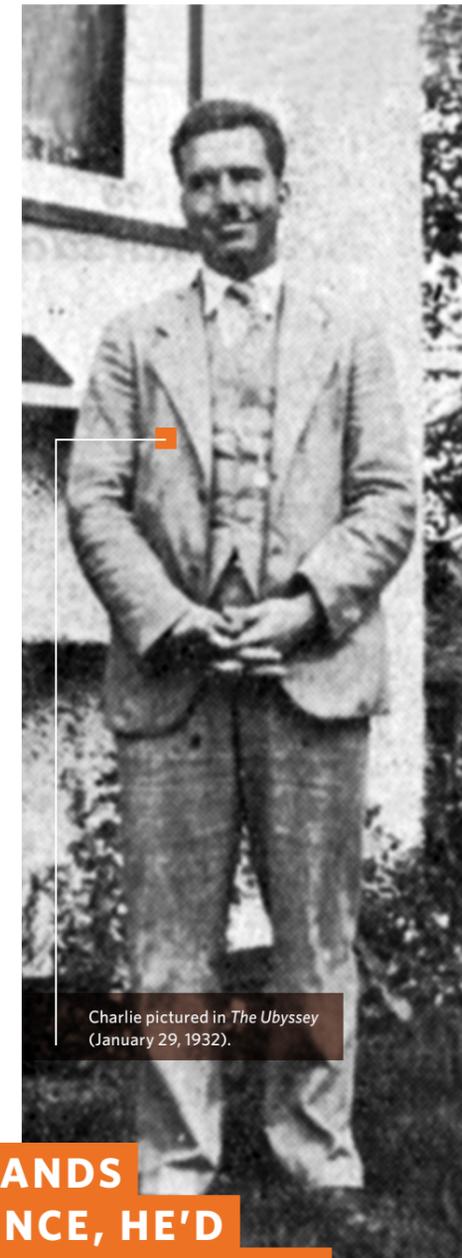
Children develop language skills easily, but Charlie wasn't being exposed to the underlying nuances of everyday spoken language. When the boy was finally admitted to the Halifax School for the Deaf, just after his 10<sup>th</sup> birthday, Principal James Fearon reported that he had, "strictly speaking, no language." That quickly changed when Charlie began classes, becoming, according to Fearon, one of the fastest learners the school had ever known. An article written later that year and published in a Halifax newspaper boasted that "Dr. Alexander Graham Bell, perhaps the greatest authority today on the education of the deaf, regards Charlie Crane as the most wonderful boy in the world." Many people, including Bell, compared Charlie with Helen Keller.

A handsome, energetic boy, strong and tall for his age, Charlie thrived at the Halifax school and showed a keen sense of humour. "If he suspects you are fooling him," Fearon said, "up, like a flash, goes his hand to your throat to find out whether or not you are laughing." Once a word was spelt for Charlie, he never forgot it. Fearon had instructed the teachers to spell into Charlie's hand the very words they would say to him were he not deafblind, and the results were extraordinary. "In this natural manner," Fearon notes in his 1916 year-end report, "he must have acquired in the six months he has been here a vocabulary of at least two thousand words as well as endless question forms which he thoroughly understands and uses."

By then, Charlie had learned to use both a manual typewriter and a Braille. His typing speed wasn't remarkable, but his accuracy would become legendary. Even more amazing, he had learned to speak, in a clear, pleasant voice. He pronounced all the sounds of the English language correctly, with the exception of "dzh" (J). With one hand, he'd feel his teacher's throat as she articulated a word. With the other he would feel the movements of her lips and tongue. Then he'd mimic the muscle action he had observed. Once Charlie could say the word properly, he would be taught its meaning.

Charlie returned to Vancouver in 1922 to begin secondary school at the British Columbia School for the Deaf and the Blind on Jericho Hill. His family moved to

**IF YOU SHOOK HANDS WITH CHARLIE ONCE, HE'D RECOGNIZE YOU IMMEDIATELY THE NEXT TIME YOU GAVE HIM YOUR HAND, EVEN YEARS LATER.**



Charlie pictured in *The Ubyyssey* (January 29, 1932).



Photo: Geoff Lister

**HIS LEGACY IS INVALUABLE TO VISUALLY IMPAIRED UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AT UBC AND AROUND THE WORLD.**

Garibaldi so, once again, Charlie was a fulltime boarder. He wasn't much good at math, but compensated by excelling in history, literature, French, Latin and botany.

Charlie yearned for a university education. In the Introduction to her 1926 book *The Silent Zone*, Annie Dalton quotes Charlie's words to a friend: "You ask me what is my great ambition? I have been very fortunate so far in receiving a fair education, but I dread to think of my being checked in my desire for more advanced studies. My hope is... to take up the University course in British Columbia... and duly receive my degree in arts... After that, I should like to become a useful citizen."

Charlie's personal library at this time consisted of just four titles, all in Braille: *Lamb's Tales* from Shakespeare, *Treasure Island*, *The Book of Psalms*, and *Lorna Doone*. In 1927, he began acquiring quantities of Braille books from publishing houses in England, Scotland and the US. He became a voracious reader and collected English classics, all the classics available in Braille that had been translated into English from Greek and Latin, historical works, dictionaries, and books about botany and medicine. He personally transcribed into Braille dozens of volumes, most in English and at least one in Latin, in a wide variety of subjects. This he did with the assistance of a reader, who would spell the printed book into his hand, letter by letter. Charlie would patiently type the book on his Braille then have the sheets professionally bound. He wrote a detailed description of his library for the June, 1962, *New Beacon*, closing with, "Vita sine litteris mors est," meaning, "Life without literature is death."

UBC accepted Charlie into first year arts when he graduated from high school in 1931, and the Government of BC awarded him a \$600 scholarship towards fees and expenses. An "intervener" was hired, to spell out lectures, and guide him around campus.

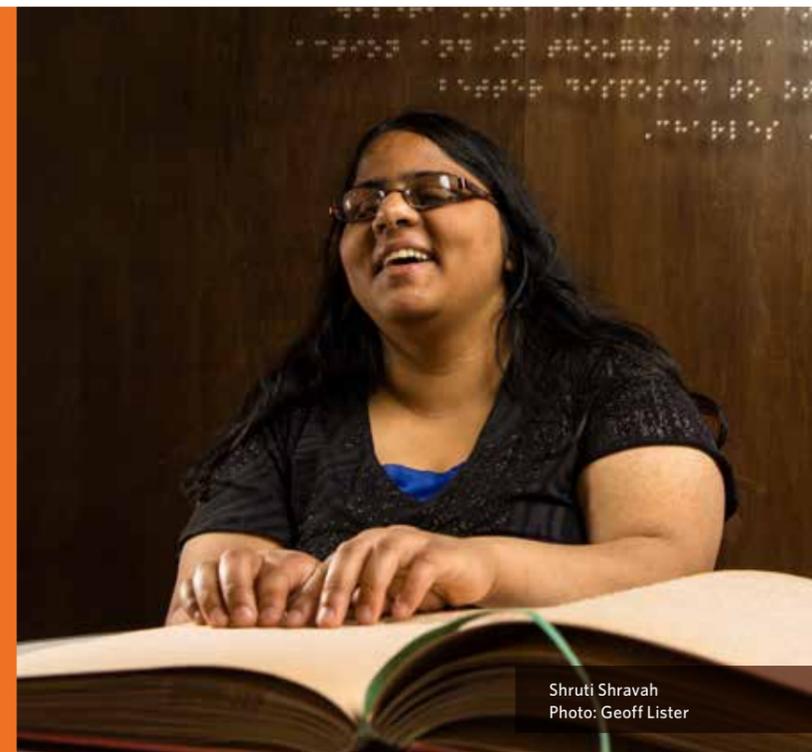
The first deafblind student to study at a Canadian university, Charlie embraced UBC, signing up for English literature, English composition, Greek history, sociology, and Latin. He took to smoking a pipe, and loved a good game of chess. He joined the classics club and the wrestling club, and exercised fearlessly on the rings and bars at the gym. Several *Ubyyssey* articles that semester boasted about Charlie, touting his knowledge of classical literature and history, and his "courage, sportsmanship and Varsity spirit." Columnist Ronald Grantham described him as one of UBC's keenest new students. "His handicap is very severe," wrote Grantham, "but, like Helen Keller, he has learned to speak - and he possesses a very active mind... His industry and intense interest will ensure him academic success."

But the world of academia wasn't ready for Charles. The university wasn't equipped to accommodate a person with his degree of disability, and one year was all UBC could give him. Completing a degree would have meant hiring a team of interveners to spell out the lectures - not just in class but for hours afterwards, because manual spelling takes so much longer than speech. In addition, there was no mechanism to allow for extra examination time. It would have taken hours for an intervener to spell out the exam questions to Charlie, and many more for him to spell back his responses and for the intervener to write them down.

This was the fate he had dreaded, yet he accepted it with grace. In an article published in October 1931 in *The Province* he wrote, "I do not intend to acquire a full college education, but my main reason for taking a term at the university is that I am anxious to benefit myself for a profitable career, whereby I would not only earn a good salary, but also be of assistance to others... I would come out of the University wiser, more independent both in action and in thought and a friend better disposed to others."

The last mention of Charlie in *The Ubyyssey* came in late January, 1932. It was a plea for money to augment "The Charlie Crane Education Fund." Charlie's father, who built the Alpine Lodge and Store in Garibaldi, had passed away in 1929. These were Depression years and, although Charlie's brothers were making a go of the business, they were either unable or unwilling to give him the financial support that may, conceivably, have enabled him to carry on at UBC.

Shruti Shrivah, born with partial vision, was "a strict Braille reader" when she entered UBC in 2007. Shruti was thrilled when she discovered "this giant library of Braille books." At the Crane, she's been able to get Braille copies of all the books required for her 17th, 18th and 19th century literature courses. "I don't think anything could ever replace Braille for me," she says. "Nothing compares to having the hard copy in front of you, and being able to read along with the class."



Shruti Shrivah  
Photo: Geoff Lister

Charlie had a flair for writing and his goal was to enter some sort of journalistic or public relations work. Immediately after he left UBC, the Vancouver Welfare Federation hired him as a publicist. The position ended, however, after just one year, and Charlie spent the rest of his working days making brooms at the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. "It's a really sad thing that this incredibly brilliant man ended up in a CNIB sheltered workshop," says Paul Thiele, who met Charlie in his later years, "but the interesting thing is, he was so people-oriented, so outgoing, that he didn't mind at all - he loved it!"

By all accounts, Charlie was a happy man, and he was certainly in his element in any social situation. But a poignant letter to the editor, which appeared in *The Province* on December 12, 1949, showed another side of things: "Please note, dear readers, that this is from a man who, though in good health, is both deaf and blind. Because of my double handicap, I am left practically alone - in fact, extremely lonely... If there is anyone among you who will make my acquaintance, why not come and see me any time? ... Charles Allen Crane, 2318 Macdonald St, Vancouver."

In 1951, Charlie's mother passed away. It would seem he received an inheritance, because that year he stopped working at the CNIB. He spent summers in Saskatoon with a sister, Harriet, and occasionally travelled to England, where he enjoyed visiting people in the National Deafblind League.

**THE LAST MENTION OF CHARLIE IN THE UBYSSEY CAME IN LATE JANUARY, 1932. IT WAS A PLEA FOR MONEY TO AUGMENT "THE CHARLIE CRANE EDUCATION FUND."**

His niece, Iris, whom he loved to visit, had moved away. He had one close friend. Aside from that, his books were his entire world.

By the time Charlie passed away in 1965, he had amassed what was believed to be the largest personal Braille library in the world: an estimated 10,700 volumes. In 1967, in accordance with his will, this library was donated to UBC, forming the nucleus of Access & Diversity's Crane Library. Paul Thiele, who is visually impaired, was a doctoral student at UBC when he founded the Crane Library with his new bride, Judy - Canada's first blind person to graduate in Library Science. He also developed the Crane Production Facility, where an army

of volunteers creates a new talking book every three weeks.

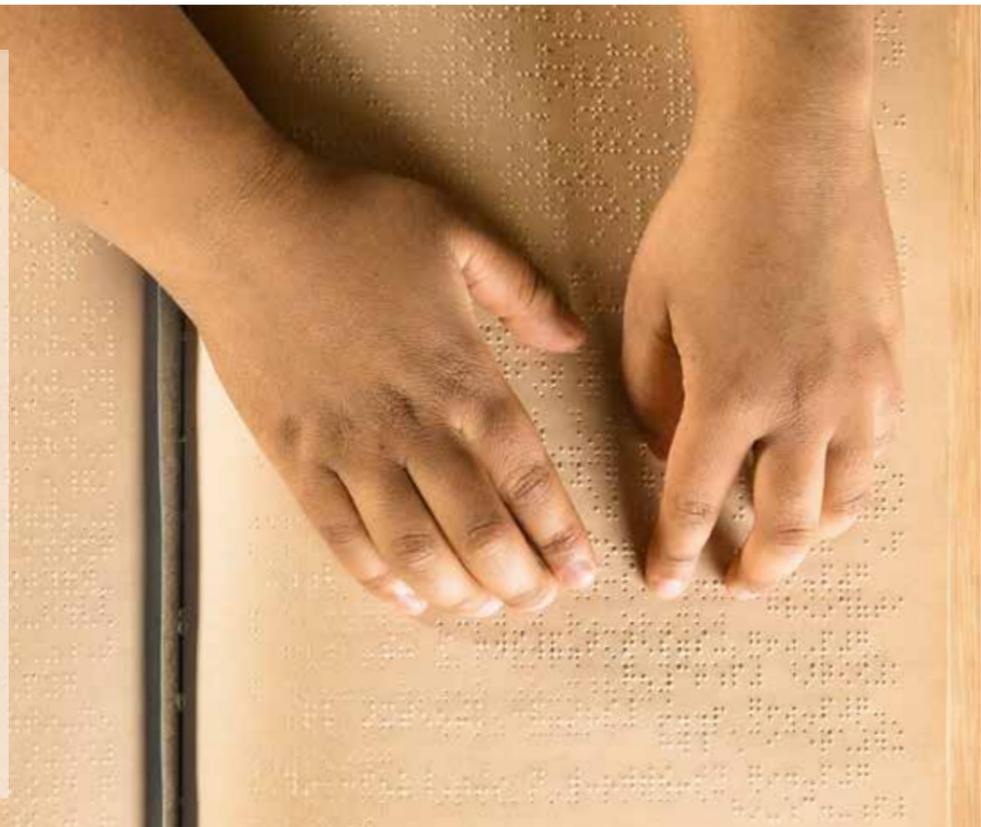
In addition to the library and recording studios, the Crane features a reading room, a lounge, and a lab with e-text readers, which scan and read aloud textbooks and assignments to students with disabilities. As part of UBC's Access & Diversity service, the Crane provides materials in Braille, audio, large print and e-text formats to all qualifying students at UBC, and at educational institutions elsewhere in Canada and in many other countries through inter-library loan.

Charles Crane didn't achieve his "great ambition" to finish university (it would be another 40 years before a deafblind person graduated from a Canadian university) and he didn't become, in his lifetime, what most

people might consider “a useful citizen.” Yet his legacy is invaluable to visually impaired university students at UBC and around the world.

Not long before he passed away, Charlie took a two-week vacation at the CNIB Lodge on Bowen Island. Paul Thiele, the recreation director at the lodge, took a group of blind vacationers on a nature walk, including Charlie who, by then, had lost his ability to speak from lack of practice. Through his intervener, Charlie knew that his companions were putting their arms around some trees to get a sense of their size. He asked what kind of trees they were, and Thiele made a guess. “Maples,” he said. Charlie put his arms around one of the trees, and the group resumed their walk. When they returned to the lodge, Charlie sent Thiele a beautifully typed note, thanking him profusely for the outing, then adding: “From the depth and texture of the bark and its moisture and the size of the leaves, I deduce that the tree couldn’t have been a maple. I assume it was a *Platanus acerifolia* (London planetree.)”

“And I knew then that I’d been told, nicely, not to make things up,” says Thiele. “I’d been put in my place by a great man.”



### Charlie’s Communications Equipment

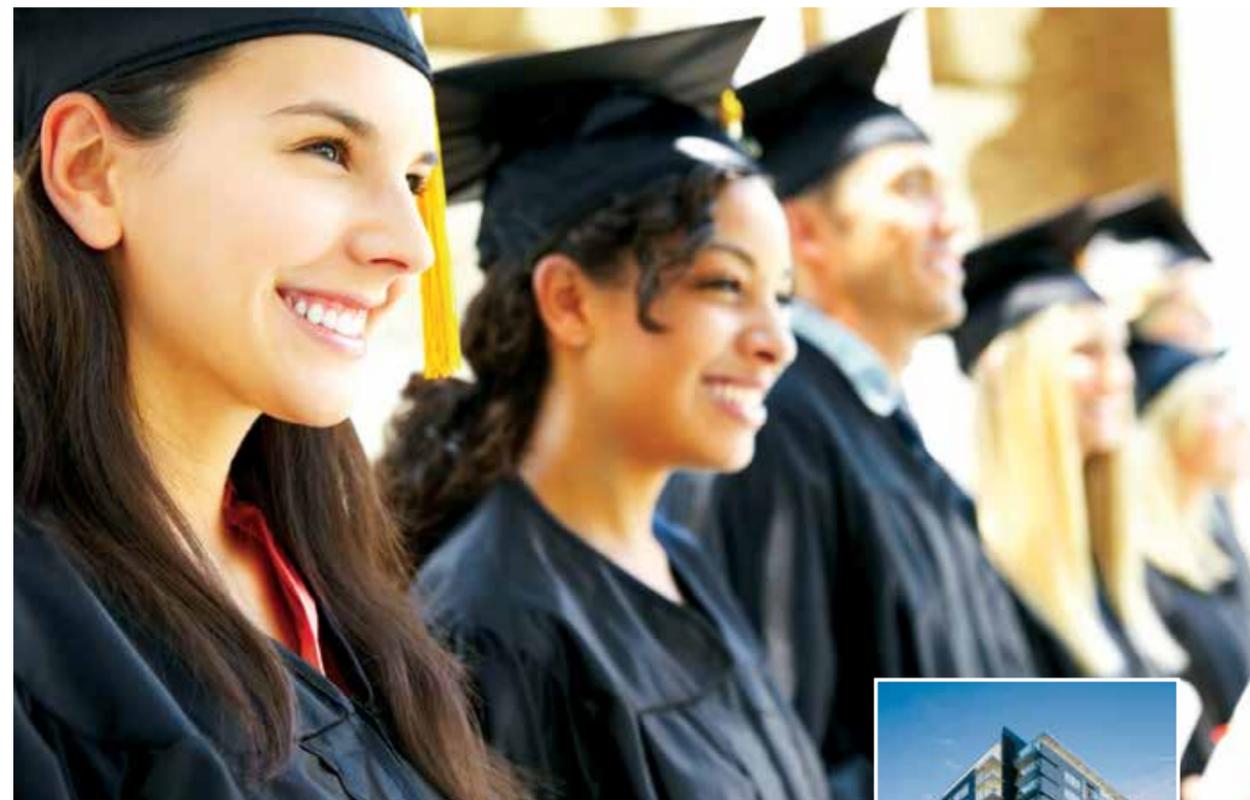
This machine went everywhere with Charlie. Known as a **Hall Braille writer**, or “brailier” for short, it weighs nearly 10 pounds. Charlie used it to note down his thoughts and experiences, to write articles for publication and letters to his family, and to translate books into Braille. Invented in 1891 by an American named Frank Hall, it was made in Chicago by the Cooper Engineering & Manufacturing Company. It was the first such machine to effectively enable blind individuals to write to each other (and to sighted Braille-literate people) without assistance, and it was the brailier of choice for decades.

This **Tellatouch machine** was Charlie’s communicator. People who didn’t know the manual alphabet could type a message on the keyboard while he rested a finger on the Braille “cell.” Located at the back, the cell is a metal plate the size of a fingertip, with six tiny holes corresponding to the Braille letter format. As each letter is typed, pins poke through the holes to form that letter in Braille. Intriguingly, the keys on Charlie’s communicator are in alphabetical order, not qwerty. An extra row across the bottom has the keys specific to brailiers, so a blind person can also use the communicator.

The **Banks Pocket Brailier** was invented in 1928 by Alfred Banks, a physician and Lions Club member blinded in WWI. Less practical for lengthy work than a regular brailier – it types only on half-inch tape – it has the advantage of being highly portable, measuring seven by four-and-a-half inches and weighing just two-and-a-half pounds. In 1952, at the request of the Lions Club, IBM manufactured a thousand of these brailiers, including Charlie’s, free of charge, primarily for distribution to blinded veterans of WWII.



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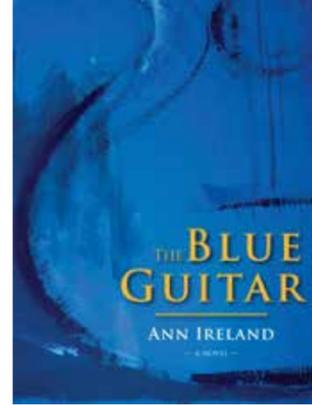
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# BOOKS

REVIEWS BY  
TERESA GOFF



## The Blue Guitar

Ann Ireland, BFA '76  
Dundurn Press  
254 pages

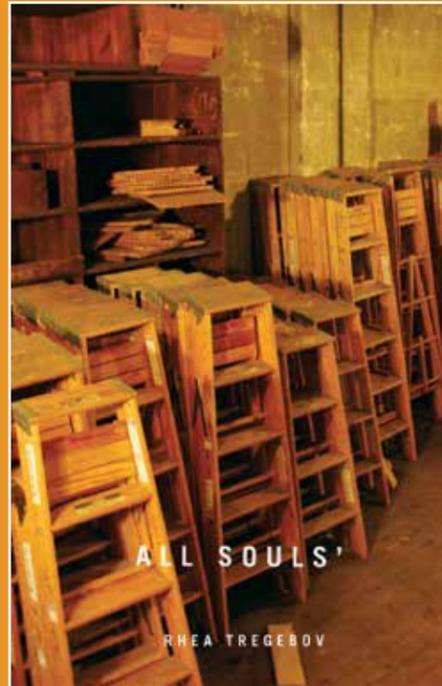
The title of Ann Ireland's new novel is taken from Wallace Stevens' poem "The Man with the Blue Guitar". The novel is Ireland's fourth and appears almost 10 years after her last book, *Exile*. It is about an international guitar competition in Montreal and the musicians whose hopes hinge on winning it.

Main character Toby Hausner wants to redeem himself after an embarrassing breakdown at a competition in Paris 11 years earlier, when he was still a teenager. Underpinning Hausner's outward desire to win the competition is his need to come to terms with Klaus, his aging father. Many sub-plots, such as a citywide virus reminiscent of the 2003 SARS epidemic in Toronto, thread throughout the story and as they unfold, it becomes apparent that, as the epigraph warns, "Things as they are / Are changed upon the blue guitar."

Music underscores the plot, starting with a Beatles melody followed by a neo-classical sonata then a Spanish waltz through "a Lattice of styles" to the Tarrega, which "begins slowly and builds to a hectic middle section," much like the book. It is here we meet competition judge Manual Juerta.

A "peeling poster" of Picasso's painting *The Old Guitarist*, the inspiration for Stevens' poem, appears on Juerta's conservatoria wall in Cuba. Minor characters like Juerta appear in such great number throughout the book that the result is a series of interconnected tales, which culminate in the realization that "there will always be life going on at the margins." The virus that threatens to penetrate the characters' lives is the most obvious expression of this. More so is the distraction that undoes the artist, as with Hausner in Paris and a series of competitors in Montreal.

*The Blue Guitar* is such a pleasurable read that it would be easy to exit the world Ireland creates without a thought to the cleverness with which it was crafted. The competition creates tension and expectation but it is the musicality of the language, the complexity of the characters and the intricate structure of the novel that make it memorable.



## All Souls'

Rhea Tregebov  
Vehicule Press  
71 pages

The 43 poems that make up Rhea Tregebov's slight but substantial collection *All Souls'* combine to create the ghostly effect "of little fingers on your face." This is what happens with good poetry. It lingers. This is why we read it. It is the catharsis that calls us back. The climax in this collection results from Tregebov's unerring ability to strip her poems of excess. What she achieves here is the brevity and intensity of short story writer Raymond Carver whose poem "Late Fragment" begins the collection as an epigraph. "And did you get what / you wanted from this life, even so?" asks Carver. The ensuing 43 poems provide the answer.

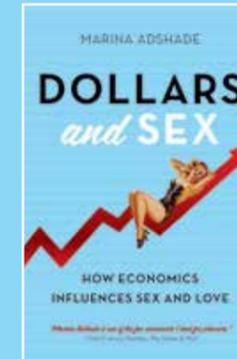
Tregebov is associate professor in UBC's Creative Writing Program as well as the author of the 2009 novel *The Knife Sharpener's Bell*. She has penned six books of poetry for which she has received the Pat Lowther Award, the Malahat Review Long Poem prize, an Honorable Mention for the National Magazine Awards (poetry) and the Readers' Choice Award for Poetry from *Prairie Schooner*. She has also written five children's books and edited many poetry anthologies. This remarkable resume comes to bear in *All Souls'*.

*All Souls'* travels "an infinite perimeter" from the traditional territory of the Musqueam First Nation to the Old Jewish Cemetery in Prague to a Roman aqueduct in the South of France to Tregebov's own family dinner table. Piled atop one another, the poems parse the tension between change and stasis. Land claims figure as solidly as unhappy marriages or vanilla, caraway and cherries. The effect is not heart wrenching or bathed in metaphor. What Tregebov offers is "a snippet of / being".

In the end, the missing fragment of Carver's poem is implied. "And what did you want? / To call myself beloved, to feel myself beloved / on the earth." These invisible lines are "the little fingers on your face" that linger even though they are not there.

## Dollars and Sex

Marina Adshade, PhD  
Harper Collins  
257 pages



In *Dollars and Sex*, UBC economics professor Marina Adshade tells fictional, empirical and theoretical stories that illustrate economic principles. While economists like Adam Smith and John Maynard Keynes are decidedly absent, Mick Jagger and Mae West appear to introduce concepts such as market limits and the institution of marriage.

Adshade suggests that the "Justin Bieber Effect" explains how the use of oral contraceptives has changed women's preferences for a mate. She tackles topics such as why 66 per cent of black women are single and looks at how much the cost of an alcoholic beverage needs to be increased in order to reduce risky sexual behaviour. By the end of the book, a riveting romp of a read, it is difficult to deny that "almost every option, decision and outcome in matters of sex and love is better understood by thinking in an economics framework."

This approach stems from *Freakonomics*, a 2005 best-selling book by economist Steven Levitt and *New York Times* journalist Stephen J. Dubner. *Freakonomics* revolutionized the dry perception of economic theory by using it to understand topics such as how much the legalization of abortion affected the rate of violent crime in the US. Two books later,

Freakonomics Radio continues to analyze topics such as whether or not expensive wines taste better or how much the US president really matters.

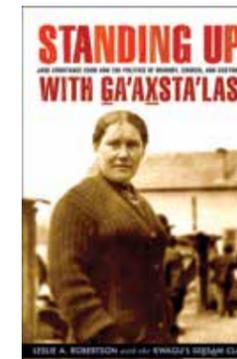
Similarly, Adshade uses concepts such as bargaining power, extensive and intensive margins and Pareto efficiency to understand love and the libido.

The research that provides the foundations for Adshade's economic analysis is far-reaching with studies from Uganda, the Netherlands, India, Sweden and France. But what makes all the information palatable is the humour and insight offered by its author whose voice figures strongly. Not only does Adshade write well, she circles back on her themes the way a good professor does during lectures to link ideas in a course. Indeed the idea for the book came from students in Adshade's undergraduate course at UBC, *The Economics of Sex and Love*, first offered in 2008.

While Adshade uses microeconomic studies, which seek to explain the behaviour of individuals, in the end, her argument is that macroeconomics, which is the behaviour of everyone in the economy, collectively, is what really influences the way we approach our own love lives. Not only is it hard to disagree with her, it is fun going along for the ride.

## Standing Up with GA'AXSTA'LAS:

Jane Constance and the Politics of Memory, Church and Custom  
Leslie A. Robertson and the KWAGU'I GIXSAM CLAN  
596 pages



*Standing Up with GA'AXSTA'LAS* is the life story of Jane Constance Cook, a high-ranking Namgi's woman from Alert Bay, BC, who lived from 1870 to 1951. Cook, whose traditional name is GA'AXSTA'LAS, appears in numerous scholarly studies and much contemporary literature about colonial history in Kwak'waka territories. In these representations, the dominant impression of Cook is unfavourable. Among other things, Cook is most remembered for her unorthodox stand against the potlatch, a traditional First Nations ceremony banned by the colonial government in 1885. It is GA'AXSTA'LAS' stand against the potlatch that provides the impetus for this "collaborative ethnography" by Leslie A. Robertson (a UBC assistant professor of Anthropology) and the KWAGU'I GIXSAM CLAN.

*Standing Up with GA'AXSTA'LAS* took 10 years to write and incorporates extensive archival research, oral history and family meetings. The purpose of the book, termed affectionately throughout as the "Granny Cook book," is to place Cook's vocal and ongoing support for the potlatch ban within the complex political context of its time. The book holds a mirror up to the colonial history that Cook's life

encompasses and the family stories, which thread throughout, reveal how "memory is embedded in genealogical knowledge."

GA'AXSTA'LAS existed in both the colonial and Indian world simultaneously. She was a wife, mother, grandmother, midwife, political activist, translator, and interpreter who served as the president of the Anglican Women's Auxiliary for more than 30 years, translated weekly sermons from English to Kwak'waka as they were being delivered, interpreted the McKenna-McBride Royal Commission of 1912, worked with anthropologist Franz Boas and translated the 1922 Potlatch Trials. These are only a few highlights. Her history is inspiring but what remains after almost 600 pages of her biography is an unflinching demand for justice "in the realm of land, law and marriage practices."

The exhaustive research here, in combination with family reflection, reveals the strong and enduring morals that guided much of Cook's personal and political life. According to Cook's ancestor William Wasden Jr., "what a lot of our people are in denial about is what the potlatch became and why she was against it." *Standing Up with GA'AXSTA'LAS* answers that question.

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Please contact Karen Kanigan, Manager Alumni Services at 604-822-9629 or [Karen.Kanigan@ubc.ca](mailto:Karen.Kanigan@ubc.ca) if you wish to receive more information on alumni travel.

When she is not out exploring to find your next great adventure, you can find her at the *alumni UBC* office at Cecil Green Park House. You can also contact any of our travel partners directly for more information.



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# Campaign Update

startanevolution.ca

## Highlights of 2012-13

19,228 DONORS GENEROUSLY GAVE

**\$213,154,433**

These gifts have allowed UBC to make significant investments in:



DONOR-FUNDED AWARDS PROVIDED SUPPORT TO 5,286 STUDENTS



59% OF OUR DONORS ARE ALUMNI

### ENGAGEMENT

**45,095**

ALUMNI ENGAGED WITH UBC

**44%**

RETENTION RATE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

ALUMNI WHO ATTENDED ONE OF OUR EVENTS

**15,647**

7,774 ALUMNI MADE THEIR VOICES HEARD BY RESPONDING TO SURVEYS



**4,621**



GOT AN A-CARD FOR THE FIRST TIME

## Congratulations! In 2012 You Made a Billion Dollar Impact

We have now completed the second public year of UBC's *start an evolution* campaign and I have been overwhelmed by the scale and scope of the support we have received from you – our alumni, donors and friends. In the year ending March 31, 2013, you have given over \$213 million, putting us over the \$1 billion milestone – well on the way to our campaign goal of \$1.5 billion. I congratulate you on this historic achievement which means that we can do so much more for our students, researchers and communities.

We are also well on the way to achieving our goal of involving 50,000 alumni annually in the life of the university by 2015. On any measure it has been a terrific year and I thank you for your whole-hearted support.

This year we are sharing a report on both giving *and* receiving, as your support is not just measured in numbers, but in impact. Your gifts go towards providing powerful opportunities for real change in the university and beyond.

Most of these stories are about individuals, and how their lives have been affected by the work we do at UBC. But more than that, they're about communities: how our community of donors has joined with us to build a better future here in British Columbia and around the world.

Congratulations again and thank you for your continuing support of UBC.

Stephen J. Toope

President and Vice-Chancellor

The University of British Columbia

## Spreading the Health

### New travel award encourages a global perspective on healthcare

Twenty-six years after Karim Damji volunteered as a UBC medical student in a clinic in a poor mountain village of Sierra Leone, the ophthalmologist and frequent international volunteer is leading the MD Class of 1987 to establish the first travel award for medical students with the desire to explore global health.

Dr. Damji, his classmates and friends have donated more than \$63,000 to the Faculty of Medicine to endow the Travel Award in Global Health, which will help cover travel costs of fourth-year medical students participating in global health electives.

"When it came up to our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, I thought it was time to give back," Dr. Damji says. "Students need financial support to avail themselves of global health encounters and opportunities. For me, it's all about the ethic of global citizenship, of sharing, caring and learning, and passing it on to the next generation. It's part of who I am as an Ismaili muslim."

"The award will recognize students who dedicate a great deal of their own time to organizing global health projects, conducting research, advocating for low-resource and vulnerable populations and fund-raising for project-related costs," says Videsh Kapoor, an assistant clinical professor and director of the Division of Global Health. "These students are contributing to and impacting how UBC engages in global health while empowering communities to address issues that affect their health outcomes."

Hillary Quinn, (MD'12) a family medicine resident who travelled to rural India in both her second and fourth years of medical school at UBC, says the travel award will encourage more students to get involved in global health.

"I spent time in India before medical school, and by going back, I was able to stay inspired," says Dr. Quinn. "I needed to see how my skills could bring about clear and apparent change."

To learn more about this and other UBC projects, please visit [startanevolution.ubc.ca](http://startanevolution.ubc.ca)

For more stories about the impact of your gifts, please go to [reportongiving.ca](http://reportongiving.ca)

# YOU'VE EARNED IT!

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- FormalWill.ca
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- CrossFit West 10



### Sports & Recreation

- Sun Peaks Resort
- BC Lions Football
- UBC Aquatic Centre
- UBC Varsity Sports

### Services

- Dulux Paints
- Globe and Mail
- Business in Vancouver
- UBC Robson Square
- UBC Library

### Education

- UBC Botanical and Nitobe Gardens
- Beaty Biodiversity Centre
- Museum of Anthropology
- UBC Theatre
- UBC Bookstore
- UBC Continuing Studies

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# CLASS ACTS

What have you been up to lately? Send your news to [trek.magazine@ubc.ca](mailto:trek.magazine@ubc.ca) or to the address on page 3. Have photographic evidence? Mail us original photos or email high resolution scans (preferably 300 dpi). Please note that *Trek* is also published online.

## SIXTY-YEAR-OLD OPERA DEBUTS

An opera by one of Canada's most famous mid-century composers has premiered as a staged performance 60 years after it was written. Thanks to the persistence of soprano/impresario Heather Pawsey, *BMus*'86, Barbara Pentland's *The Lake* was performed last November by the Turning Point Ensemble in partnership with Heather's company, Astrolabe Musik Theatre, in the TELUS Studio Theatre at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts.

Pentland taught music at UBC in the 1950s and was on the cutting edge of Canadian avant-garde music. Poet Dorothy Livesay, also a faculty member, became her librettist for *The Lake*. The opera is set in the Okanagan in 1873 and based on a true story about Susan Allison, the first female European settler in the area, and her family's Native employees. It was originally commissioned by London-based organist Gordon Jeffries in 1951 but was never performed (although it was finally heard three years later on CBC Radio).

Heather came across Pentland's work when she was searching for repertoire to present at the Eckhardt-Gramatté competition in Brandon in 1996. She sang Susan Allison's main aria and won first prize. A few months later, during a wine-tasting trip to the Okanagan, she happened to visit the Quails' Gate Estate Winery tasting room, an old cabin. In a scrapbook on the history of the vineyard, Heather found herself reading about the Allison family and realized she was standing in the cabin they once owned. Her interest in *The Lake* only grew.

When the Canadian Music Centre invited ideas for events to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Barbara Pentland's birth, Heather knew the time to stage *The Lake* had finally come. The Turning Point Ensemble, a champion of Pentland's music, was a natural collaborator. Planning for the UBC production involved the West Bank First Nation, who participated in a public seminar (generously hosted by Vancouver Opera), speaking about the lake "monster" as a metaphor for sustainability. Members of the Allison family attended the premiere, and at some point in the future Heather hopes to bring this opera home to the Okanagan.

Susan Allison was sung by Heather Pawsey, and her rancher husband, John, by baritone Angus Bell. Marie, the First Nations servant was performed by mezzo Barbara Towell, *MAS*'00. Metis Johnny MacDougall was sung by tenor John Arsenault, *DipMus*'07.

– Submitted by Hilary Yates Clark, *BHEC*'52, *MEd*'90



(L-R) Heather Pawsey sang the part of Susan Allison in *The Lake*, a 60-year-old opera she helped bring to the stage for the first time. She was accompanied by John Arsenault as Johnny MacDougall (L) and Angus Bell as John Allison.

## Praises and Prizes

### QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDAL RECIPIENTS:

**Griffin Lloyd**, *BA*'51, he received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal on October 9, 2012. Eight days later he was inducted into the Alberta Order of Excellence (AOE) – the highest award that the province can bestow upon its citizens for meritorious service.

- **Hilary Yates Clark**, *BHEC*'52, *MEd*'90, received a Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal for her volunteer work. Hilary initiated the retailing program at Capilano College/University, was elected to the board of Lions Gate Hospital, rising to become the first female board chair, and followed that by being elected the provincial representative on the board of the BC Health Association. Upon retirement she founded the Ambleside Orchestra of West Vancouver, which she managed for 20 years and in which she continues to play flute. She initiated the free Carnegie Centre band/orchestra series for residents of the Downtown Eastside and writes opera reviews for amateur and semi-professional productions, promoting the rising opera singers and companies in BC. She volunteers for West Vancouver's Community Day and Harmony Arts Festival. Hilary has three married sons and six grandchildren.
- **Walley P. Lightbody**, *QC*, *BA*'56, *LLB*'59, was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal in recognition of his contributions to Canada. In 2010 he was awarded the George Goyer Memorial Award for distinguished service to the legal profession



## COFFEE SERVED IN CHINA

**Belinda Wong**, *BCom*'92, is the president of Starbucks China. She is executing the coffee giant's plans to add 700 stores and 18,000 employees in a country where tea is not only a drink, but also an integral part of Chinese culture. Although it may seem like a lofty goal, Belinda, recently featured in *The Province* newspaper, says that Starbucks is on course to have 1,500 stores across China by 2015.

She joined Starbucks in 2000 as a marketing director for the Asia-Pacific region then served in increasingly

senior leadership roles for Starbucks operations in Hong Kong, Macau and Singapore. In 2011, she was appointed Starbucks China president.

Belinda strongly believes that a coffeehouse provides a place for human connection. As a student, one of her best memories was hanging out and connecting with friends in between classes. "Our favourite hangout place back then was definitely the Henry Angus Building!" In 2012, Belinda was named one of China's 25 most influential business women.

of BC. He is a former past president of the Canadian Bar Association (BC Branch) and has chaired numerous committees establishing prizes and scholarships in law, including the class of 1959 UBC Faculty of Law Scholarship Fund and the Okanagan Bar Scholarship awarded to a UBC Okanagan graduate accepted into UBC Law School. He also spearheaded the establishment of a course in contemporary Canadian Law at UBC Okanagan. He is the past chair and founder of the yearly Guile Debate at the UBC Faculty of Law, president of the Friends and Residents of the Abbott Street Heritage Conservation Area Society in Kelowna, and the Kelowna General Hospital (KGH) Foundation Annual Celebrity Tennis and Bocce Tournament – an event that has raised substantial funds for cardiac care at KGH.

- At a ceremony on December 6, 2012, **Dr. Pullikattil Chacko Simon**, *MSc*'60, was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for his services to the community and on March 1, 2013, he celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- **Clyde Griffith**, *BPE*'64, was presented with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal on December 13, 2012. The medal was awarded in honor of Clyde's impressive Municipal and Provincial Government career, together with the amazing community service he has provided over the years.
- **Lyall D. Knott**, *Q.C.*, *BCom*'71, *LLB*'72, was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal on January 22, 2013.
- **Joy Fera**, *BRE*'72, received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal on December 15, 2012, for her years of volunteer work in Delta.
- District of West Vancouver Chief Administrative Officer **Grant McRadu**, *BA*'76, was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for his 30-plus years of public service as a CAO for local government. In 1982, at the age of 29, Grant was the youngest municipal CAO in British Columbia and has since served as CAO for a number of municipalities and as CFO for the Delta School District. He has served on the board of directors of the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators and was elected vice-president of the International City and County Managers, representing over 5,000 members world-wide.
- UBC's Alumni Association office was chuffed when **Barney Ellis-Perry**, *BA*'87, director of the university's Alumni Engagement Campaign, received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in December. Barney was recognized for his passion, strategic and innovative thinking, relationship-building skills and fundraising expertise as a member of Volunteer Canada's board of directors for eight years.
- **Sandra Yuen MacKay**, *BA*'89, an artist and author of *My Schizophrenic Life: The Road To Recovery from Mental Illness*, received the 2012 Courage to Come Back award in the mental health category, was chosen for the 2012 Faces of Mental Illness campaign, and received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for advocacy and for being a spokesperson on mental health issues.

In September 2012, **Linda Rabeneck** *BSc*'70, *MD*'74, was elected to Fellowship in the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (CAHS). Fellows elected to the CAHS are recognized for their contributions to the promotion of health science and have demonstrated leadership, creativity, distinctive competencies and a commitment to advance academic health science. Dr. Rabeneck is a professor of medicine and professor, Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto, and senior scientist at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences in Toronto. She currently serves as vice president, Prevention and Cancer Control at Cancer Care Ontario, the province's cancer agency. She has played a leadership role in implementing organized colorectal cancer screening in Ontario.

- **Douglas W. Conn**, *BSF*'75, *BSc*'79, *DMD*'82, was elected president of the Canadian Academy of Endodontics (CAE) at the CAE annual meeting held on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Dr. Conn is an endodontic specialist in Vancouver, a clinical assistant professor with the Faculty of Dentistry at UBC, and a member and past president of both the BC Society of Endodontists and the Dental Specialists Society of British Columbia.
- For the second consecutive year, **John S. Clark**, *BCom*'79, president of Pacific Spirit Investment Management Inc. in Vancouver, has been named a "Five Star Wealth Manager." Wealth managers had to meet 10 objective evaluation criteria associated with outstanding client service. The evaluation process included an independent survey of one in 12 households who would use wealth management services.
- Ambassador **Claver Gatete**, *BSc*'91, *MSc*'93, was recently named Rwanda's Minister of Finance and Economic planning. Prior to his appointment, Gatete served as the Governor of the National Bank of Rwanda from May 2011 and was previously the deputy governor from December 2009.
- On February 23, 2010, the Ambassador of Spain in Pakistan conferred **Al-Nashir Jamal**, *BCom*'79, – the former Chief Executive Officer of the Aga Khan Foundation (Pakistan) – with the prestigious award of the Knight Commander of the Order of the Civil Merit. His Excellency Mr. Gonzalo Maria Quintero Saravia said: "The work carried out by Ilustrísimo Señor Al-Nashir during his tenure as CEO is an example of how international cooperation can be a real instrument both in the development of local communities and in achieving understanding between different cultures."
- Local businesswoman and physiotherapist **Paige Larson**, *BPE*'84, of North Shore Sports Medicine was selected as the Western Canada representative, and one of three Canadian women finalists, for the 2012 HKMB HUB Impact Award. The award is one of six RBC Canadian Woman Entrepreneur Awards, which honour Canadian female entrepreneurs for being leaders and role models, and for encouraging the development of others. There were 3,500 women

nominated for the six awards. Paige founded and operates North Shore Sports Medicine, which has grown from a single two-bed facility in 1987 to three clinics with 20 beds and 13 healthcare practitioners. In 2010, she was named Businessperson of the Year by the North Vancouver Chamber of Commerce. • **Deb deBruijn**, *MLS'85*, was recently appointed university secretary at Trent University, Peterborough, ON, serving as the university's most senior advisor on governance-related and administrative matters, with responsibility for providing leadership and support for Trent's governing bodies and for the senior administration. Deb previously served as the executive director for the Canadian Research Knowledge Network in Ottawa. • **Russ Brown**, *BA'87*, has been appointed a Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta. He and **Heidi Brown (née Hawelka)**, *BCom'89*, live in Edmonton with their two sons. • **Amyr Khimji**, *BCom'88*, has been appointed to the position of assistant director, Financial Accounting, at JTB International (Canada) Ltd. Amyr has been with JTB since 1994 and previously held the position of manager. • The US Green Building Council named **Brenda Martens**, *BSc'89*, to the 2012 class of LEED Fellows. The LEED Fellow designation recognizes exceptional contributions to green building and significant professional achievement. Brenda was one of only two Canadians named among 43 of the world's most distinguished green building professionals selected. Her work experience encompasses residential, institutional, commercial and industrial projects throughout BC, including the Vancouver and Whistler Athletes' Villages, the Okanagan College Centre of Excellence (a Living Building Challenge candidate), and over 20 BC Housing projects across the province. • **Subodh Verma**, *MSc'93*, *PhD'97*, is the recipient of 2013 Royal College Medal Award in Surgery. Presented annually to one Canadian surgeon, this award recognizes both Dr. Verma's clinical achievements and groundbreaking research. After

completing an MSc and PhD in cardiovascular pharmacology in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Subodh went on to attend medical school at the University of Calgary. Currently, Subodh is a cardiac surgeon and researcher at St. Michael's Hospital and a professor in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto. His most recent research work has connected two genes involved in breast cancer, BRCA1 and BRCA2, with heart disease. • The novel *What Happened to Serenity* by **PJ Sarah Collins'**, *BEd'95*, has won the inaugural Monica Hughes Award for Science Fiction and Fantasy. Administered by the Canadian Children's Book Centre, the award honours excellence in science fiction and fantasy writing for children and adolescents with a \$5,000 prize. "It was a wonderful and completely unexpected surprise," remarked Sarah. "Monica Hughes was part of, what some historians term, the Greatest Generation: those who fought oppression and survived World War II. I admire and aspire to many of her ideals and it is a huge honour to have my name in the same sentence as hers. I hope the creation of this award brings comfort and pride to her family and encourages a new generation of readers to explore the new worlds she created." • **Jill MacAlpine**, *PhD'99*, was elected partner at Finnegan, one of the largest intellectual property law firms in the world. Jill practices all areas of patent law including patent litigation, patent procurement, due diligence investigations, opinion work, and client counselling, primarily in the chemical and pharmaceutical areas. • **Genevieve Barrons**, *BA'12*, has been selected as one of 39 new Gates Cambridge Scholars to study at the University of Cambridge, England, this fall and will pursue a master's degree in education. She has taught in Malawi and is currently teaching, writing, and editing in Shanghai. She is the eighth UBC student or alumna to be awarded a Gates Cambridge Scholarship since the program began in 2001.

## Quick Catch-up

**Hugh Stephens**, *BA'67*, is executive-in-residence at the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, and is teaching part-time at Royal Roads University after retiring this year from a second career as an executive with US media conglomerate Time Warner. Prior to joining Time Warner in 2001, Hugh spent 30 years with the Department of Foreign Affairs, where he served as assistant deputy minister for Policy and Communications. • The summer of 2012 marked two milestones in **Raymond To's**, *BSc'88*, *MBA'90*, business life: one was the 10 year anniversary of GO Recruitment and the other was the 20 year anniversary of being in the recruiting business. • **Iana Messetchkova**, *BA'12*, is currently interning with the European Union Delegation to the UN in New York. She works within the Third Committee, assisting the delegation in the drafting of statements, communication with Brussels and in negotiations. She plans to attend New York University in the fall for an MS in Global Affairs.

## Page/Stage/Screen

**Louise Moon's**, *BA'84*, original play, *Raven Meets the Monkey King*, produced by Axis Theatre Company, toured BC and Saskatchewan elementary schools in the spring of 2013. The play features First Nations and Asian storytelling with themes of intercultural cooperation and the importance of returning treasures of historical and spiritual importance to their original owners. • **Ken MacLeod**, *BA'68*, *Secondary Teachers Certificate '72*, recently completed a large in-depth study on Vancouver. His 850-page book, *The Story of South Vancouver and John Oliver High School*, is based on more than 200 interviews, includes 600 photographs, took 12 years to complete and is an exhaustive study of the former Municipality of South Vancouver, which amalgamated with the City of Vancouver in 1929. The book includes history about the Vancouver area from the early 1860s, and is told largely through the eyes of the people as gathered from interviews, the Vancouver Archives, old newspaper accounts, rare sources, and unpublished accounts. The book was released for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of John Oliver High School in September 2012. • **Ruth Donald (née Biga)**, *BA'79*, is the author of a mystery series featuring a former RCMP homicide detective who resigned from the force to become a long haul truck driver. Ruth wanted to write traditional 'whodunit' mysteries with a uniquely North American setting, and published the first Highway Mystery, *Slow Curve on the Coquihalla* in 2011. That was followed by *Ice on the Grapevine*, which was a finalist for the 2012 Global Ebook Award in mystery fiction, and her new release, *Sea to Sky*, set in Whistler. She's working on the fourth Highway Mystery, set in the Yukon. Ruth worked in the transportation industry in various capacities from 1972-2002. Writing as R.E. Donald, she uses her own experience and that of her late husband, Jim Donald, who was well known in the BC trucking industry in the 70s and 80s, to create realistic characters and situations in the novels. Ruth is a member of Crime Writers of Canada. She currently lives on a farm in south Langley with a French Canadian cowboy and several horses. • **Kate Braid**, *MFA'97*, recently released a memoir of her 15 years as a carpenter, *Journeywoman: Swinging a Hammer in a Man's World*. Kate has written poetry and non-fiction about subjects ranging from Glenn Gould and Emily Carr to mine workers and fishers and has published five books of prize-winning poetry including, *Inward to the Bones* and *A Well-Mannered Storm: The Glenn Gould Poems*. • Congratulations to **Mark Kunzli**, *BSc'07*, *EMBA'11*, and faculty members Dr. Wayne Riggs and Dr. Ron Reid for their front cover article "Pharmacogenomics, personalized medicine, and patient-centric therapy" published in the December 2012/January 2013 issue of *Pharmacy Practice Magazine*. 📖

## THEY'RE NUTRITIOUS, BUT YOU MAY NEED A TOOTHPICK

**Zev Thompson**, *BSc'05*, and his McGill classmates, Mohammed Ashour, Gabriel Mott, Shobhita Soor, and Jesse Pearlstein, have won the Boston Regional Final of the 2013 Hult Prize for their business plan to breed crickets as a viable food source for the 200 million people globally who live in urban slums.

The Hult Prize, in partnership with the Clinton Global Initiative, is a start-up accelerator for social entrepreneurship, dedicated to solving the planet's most pressing issues. This year's theme focuses on global food security.

The team is trying to formalize a practice that currently exists worldwide. Crickets, an excellent source of protein, iron, B vitamins, and other essential nutrients, are currently eaten by approximately 2.5 billion people. However, there isn't a formal practice in place – crickets are typically not grown commercially. Consequently, the challenge for the team is to create a strategy that is both sustainable and reliable.

The team developed three interconnected products: packaged cooked crickets; cricket protein flour, for those who are squeamish about eating bugs; and, a biopolymer extracted from cricket shells that can be sold for industrial purposes.

Zev, the dietary expert on the team, has eaten his fair share of crickets recently, and says that it's not the taste that's the distinctive part, but the texture, describing it as "sort of a cross between popcorn and prawns."

In the fall, the team will compete against four other regional finalists for the chance to win \$1 million in start-up capital to launch their new social enterprise.



Zev Thompson (second from left)

## ONE IPAD, TWO PLAYERS.

January 31 was a big day for computer science alumnus **Chris Clogg**, *BSc'11*, and business and computer science student **Michael Silverwood** – it was the day their iPad game, *Stratosphere: Multiplayer Defense*, was launched on the Apple App Store and featured as one of the games of the week. "We were unbelievably honoured and excited... Being featured by Apple is like having a big banner at the entrance of EB Games or Future Shop for your product. They only feature the games they like," says Chris.

Chris and Michael wanted the user experience to recreate the excitement of playing a board game with a group of friends. Two players each hold one side of an iPad and have to balance between building defensive towers and sending enemies at their opponent. Although the game was designed for more than one player, it also features a single-player mode with 60 missions, three difficulty levels, and modifiers that can be combined to create more than 500 unique ways to play.

What's really surprised Chris and Michael is the broad range of players who have been enjoying *Stratosphere*. Although they knew strategy game fans would enjoy it, they were surprised by all of the emails they've received from parents who enjoy playing against their kids, and gamers who enjoy playing against their non-gamer significant others.

"It goes to show that there are probably still a lot of people who miss the experience of physically sitting around a board game and playing with people in the same room," Chris says.

Next steps include creating franchises of *Stratosphere* and introducing its characters into other iPad and iPhone games, which they plan on developing through their company, Pixile Studios.

"I love that the multiplayer is on the same device because it feels very much like a board game. I just love everything about this: the visuals, the music – very electro-dancey – and I really like that it was made by only two people, which really shows that it was a work of love. Rating: 8/10"

– **Shaun Hatton**, *Reviews on the Run*



# THUNDERBIRD DIGEST

## UBC'S BEST CELEBRATED AT 92<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL BIG BLOCK AWARDS

More than 1,000 people flooded into the Vancouver Convention Centre's west ballroom on April 3 for the 92<sup>nd</sup> annual UBC Big Block Awards and Sports Hall of Fame Banquet.

Team 1040 broadcaster, alumnus and assistant football coach **Scott Rintoul** hosted the evening, which began with a welcome to the newest members of the UBC Big Block Club. While the banquet hall reverberated with the traditional strains of Hail UBC, just over 150 student-athletes, who had met the club's requirements of completing two years as members of a varsity team, made a grand entrance to the warm applause of peers and alumni.

Associate Athletic Director **Theresa Hanson** welcomed guests via video as she was in the Russian Federation city of Kazan in preparation for her upcoming duties as Canada's Chef de Mission at the 2013 World University Games. She listed off an impressive litany of accomplishments by UBC athletes during the past season, highlighted by six national championships and seven conference crowns.

The current crop of Thunderbirds was later reminded of the fine tradition of which they are part, as the newest members of the UBC Sports Hall of Fame were officially inducted. Those entering in the Athlete category were **Penny Cooper** (field hockey, 1987-92); **Jessica Deglau** (swimming, 1995-2002); **Jessica Mills** (basketball, 1995-2000); **Jack Henwood** (football, 1956-59) and **Victor Warren** (field hockey, 1958-63).

Two dynasties, the 1972-74 women's volleyball and 1989-91 men's soccer squads, became the latest additions in the Team category. A particularly audible ovation went up for Builder category inductee **Dr. Rob Lloyd-Smith**, who has served nobly as head sport medicine physician for UBC Thunderbirds teams and oft-times confidante for coaches since 1982. The soirée concluded with **Bob Philip** receiving the prestigious Order of the Thunderbird Award for 20 years of service and accomplishments as director of UBC Athletics and Recreation.

Graduating Athletes of the Year, Billy Greene and Shanice Marcelle  
Photo: Rich Lam

## BIG BLOCK AWARD WINNERS

**MAY BROWN TROPHY** – graduating female athlete of the year: Shanice Marcelle (volleyball)

**MARILYN POMFRET TROPHY** – female athlete of the year: Kris Young (basketball)

**BOBBY GAUL MEMORIAL TROPHY** – graduating male athlete of the year: Billy Greene (football)

**BUS PHILLIPS MEMORIAL TROPHY** – male athlete of the year: Gagandeep Dosanjh (soccer)

**THUNDERBIRD ROOKIE OF THE YEAR** – female: Hannah Haughn (field hockey)

**THUNDERBIRD ROOKIE OF THE YEAR** – male: Neil Manning (ice hockey)

**DU VIVIER TEAM OF THE YEAR:** women's ice hockey

**KAY BREARLEY AWARD** – service to women's athletics: John Foster

**CAROLYN DOBIE-SMITH AWARD** – trainer: Mark Arlou (baseball)

**ARTHUR W. DELAMONT AWARD** – school spirit: Alexandra Leask (women's rowing); Elizabeth Pratt (athletics)

**BUZZ MOORE THUNDERBIRD ATHLETIC COUNCIL LEADERSHIP AWARD:** Evan Cheng (men's rowing); Robert Ragotte (Nordic skiing)

**THUNDERBIRD ATHLETIC COUNCIL PERFORMANCE AWARD:** Kelly Aspinall (men's swimming)



The 1989-91 Thunderbird soccer team  
Photo: Rich Lam

## REMEMBERING

**Herm Frydenlund**, a UBC law graduate and public relations manager for Frank Fredrickson who coached UBC Thunderbird hockey team in the late 1940s, passed away on December 4, 2012. At the insistence of team members, including all-time UBC greats Clare Drake, Hass Young, Don Adams and Bob Koch, Herm was inducted into the UBC Sports Hall of Fame in 2000 along with his lifetime friends who comprised UBC's 1949 and 1950 Humber Cup Champion squad.

It was back in 1996 that **Amanjit Payer (née Dhillon)** politely pointed out that Marilyn Pomfret's 1977-78 women's volleyball team had perhaps been overlooked for induction into the UBC Sports Hall of Fame. After reviewing the data, the 1998 selection committee promptly agreed with the former manager of the team that won back-to-back national championships in 1977 and 1978. The aptly self-named "UBC Thunderbird Volleyball Sisters" were among the vast numbers of friends and admirers who were deeply saddened by the loss of Amanjit to cancer on February 2.

A few years before **Alfred Scow** played varsity soccer and became the first Aboriginal person to graduate from the UBC Faculty of Law, he participated in an important moment in Thunderbird history. Clad in traditional ceremonial dress, he took part in a formal presentation at half-time of the 1948 UBC Homecoming football game, during which his father, Kwicksutaineuk Chief William Scow, dedicated a Thunderbird totem to then UBC president Norman Mackenzie, and granted permission under tribal custom for the University to use the legendary Thunderbird as a symbol of strength for its varsity teams. The young man standing next to his father during that ceremony later became both Provincial Court Judge and Chief Alfred Scow. After

receiving an honorary doctorate from the university in 1997 for his service and commitment to social justice, he famously quipped to friends: "It's official. I'm a doctor, a lawyer and an Indian chief." The Honourable Alfred J. Scow passed peacefully at home on February 26.

Former Vancouver mayor and business leader **Art Phillips**, who passed away March 29, was always forthcoming in describing the important lessons he learned while playing basketball at UBC in the late 1940s and early 1950s under coach Jack Pomfret. The Commerce grad who later co-founded blue-chip investment firm Phillips, Hager and North insisted that what he learned in varsity sport factored favourably in his later life in business and politics. Once when asked about his playing days at UBC, he emphasized that the experience was, above all, great fun. "I still occasionally dream of playing UBC basketball and invariably enjoy myself," he said, "even in the dream."

One suspects that 1994 UBC Sports Hall of Fame inductee **Basil Robinson** also learned an important lesson or two during his years as an extraordinary rugby, soccer and cricket player on Point Grey from 1938 to 1940, which culminated in a Rhodes Scholarship. After serving his country as an intelligence officer in WWII, he at last took advantage of the scholarship in 1946 and shipped off to Oxford, where, among other things, he became the first Canadian to be awarded the coveted Oxford "blue" for cricket. Honoured as an Officer of the Order of Canada for a lifetime of distinguished diplomatic service, he remained a resident of Ottawa until his passing on December 21, 2012. ■



**WERNER & HILDEGARD HESSE**  
1926-2008 & 1918-2008

Currently spotting yellow-rumped warblers in old-growth BC forests

The Hesses were passionate bird watchers and enthusiastic conservationists. Inspired by their commitment, I am studying birds to understand which habitats are most important to conserve. Thanks to Werner and Hildegard Hesses' legacy I have been able to fully focus on my research for 3 years and, in so doing, help provide solutions to environmental problems. Thank you Werner and Hildegard—your passion has allowed me to do the research I love and continue an important tradition of outreach between academia, policy makers and the public.

– Richard Schuster, PhD candidate

Werner and Hildegard Hesse expressed their passion for birding with a bequest to UBC, ensuring vital funding for conservation research.

For more information on how UBC can help you plan a lasting legacy in a field important to you, call **604.822.5373** or visit [www.startanevolution.ca/Hesse](http://www.startanevolution.ca/Hesse)

Hall of Fame inductee Jack Henwood and Professor Emeritus Ken Craig (they were team mates in the late 1950s)  
Photo: Rich Lam



Former Alumni Association chair Ian Robertson and Hall of Fame inductee Jessica Deglau  
Photo: Rich Lam

start an evolution



# IN MEMORIAM

## KAY BREARLEY, BA'35, MA'39

August 12, 1914 – October 4, 2012. Kay was an associate professor in UBC's French Department. While a student she was taught by notable professors including Garnet Sedgewick and Mary Bollert. Described as gentle and quiet, she taught at UBC from 1950 until 1980, serving during that time as assistant dean of women and senior faculty advisor in the Faculty of Arts.

After retiring from UBC she taught at Little Flower Academy from 1981 until 88, and remained active with UBC retired faculty. Since 1974 the Kay Brearley Award has been presented annually to the person providing outstanding service to UBC sports teams, particularly the women's teams. The award was named after her by the students and faculty who had great respect for her, for her interest in sports and for the assistance she provided the women's sport program at UBC.

## LAURENCE EASTERBROOK 'BUD' MACHIN, BA'37, BASc'38



Born in Vancouver, Laurence E. 'Bud' Machin of Austin, Texas, died peacefully in the home of his son in Chelsea, Vermont, on August 24, 2012. He was 97 years old.

Bud received his BA in statistics followed by a BASc in chemical engineering. After graduation, he worked for a limestone company on Texada Island. However, after his first day of work

Standard Oil of California contacted him for an overseas job in the Persian Gulf with Bahrain Petroleum Company (BAPCO).

Bud started as an engineer in BAPCO's new refinery and quickly rose to the position of chief refinery inspector, then to manager of transportation, refinery maintenance and construction. In 1956 he transferred to Caltex Australia as manager of maintenance. In 1959 he transferred to Caltex headquarters in New York as assistant manager of operations in Caltex Europe. In 1966 he was named the assistant general manager of the newly formed Caltex Mediterranean Ltd., and was later promoted to president where for eight years he was responsible for operations in France, Turkey, and Spain. He retired in 1977 and joined the American Arbitration Association, working notably on the Exxon vs. Mobil case. Later, he was an arbitrator with NASD for 10 years, a member of the board of directors of several time share companies, and a member of the board of directors of a local bank in Austin, Texas.

Bud married Valetta Beatrice 'Betty' Morris, BCom'37, in Honolulu in 1941. With the onset of WWII, they shared many heart-stopping ship voyages, one of which involved a trip on an overloaded freighter that "submerged" across the Atlantic Ocean in a convoy of battleships.

Bud was predeceased by Betty in 2006. He is survived by his three children, five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Bud and Betty were very proud of their family and they will be greatly missed.

## BASIL H. ROBINSON, BA'40

Basil Robinson, former Undersecretary of State for External Affairs and Officer of the Order of Canada, died on December 21, 2012, aged 93, in



Ottawa. A distinguished civil servant, diplomat, sportsman, and war veteran, to those who knew him best he was a loving father, a gentleman, an inspiration, and a man of honour. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth; their four children, Katharine, David, Brigitte Ann and Geoffrey; and their grandchildren, Olivia, Nicolas, Adam, Amalia and Sofia. He was predeceased by his

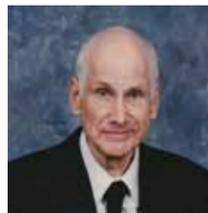
brother Geoffrey, and by his parents Basil and Nancy Robinson of Vancouver.

As a UBC student Basil led a full life, excelling in many endeavors. In 1938/39 he received honorable mention for his outstanding sportsmanship and performances with UBC's Varsity rugby team. In 1938 the first UBC cricket club was formed with Basil, David Carey and Harry Warren as the guiding influences. Basil finished second in club batting in the team's first year, and as team captain the following year was the team's leading batter. UBC won the BC championship that year with *The Ubyssy* reporting "... the main reason for the brilliant victories of the students has been Basil Robinson who has shown great versatility with both the bat and the ball."

Off the field Basil was associate sports editor of *The Ubyssy*, president of the Arts 1940 class, and the Men's Undergraduate Society representative on council. Basil also played on the UBC soccer team and, despite missing the first few games of the season, finished in first place in league scoring.

Basil's contributions as an athlete, scholar and elected official were recognized when he received the Rhodes Scholarship in 1940. In 1994, Basil was inducted into the UBC Sports Hall of Fame.

## GEOFFREY B. LEECH, BASc'42



Geoffrey was born in Montreal in 1918 and raised in Salmon Arm. His BASc in geology at UBC was followed by an MSc from Queen's in 1944. Geoff spent the next two years with INCO at Copper Cliff and in exploration in Venezuela and southwest Yukon. During these years he married his life partner, Jean Winters.

Following graduation from Princeton with a PhD in 1949, he joined the Geological Survey of Canada in Ottawa and spent 33 years in a productive career as a field geologist/research scientist. He became a respected expert in the geology of southeastern BC, and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 1960. During his field work, he discovered deposits of gypsum and magnesite (MgCO<sub>3</sub>) that subsequently became mines, still in production.

During the late 1930s, Geoff attended a BC government-sponsored course on gold placer mining on Emory Creek and nearby lower Fraser River. That experience enabled him more than 70 years later to critique a paper published in *BC History* in 2006, in which the author deplored the impact of gold dredging and supposed excessive use of toxic mercury along the Fraser near Emory Creek. Geoff argued in his well-documented critique that the alleged environmental destruction was simply not so. His paper will be published in 2013.

Geoff loved the mountains and the "bush," and died peacefully walking in the woods west of Ottawa in April 2012 at age 93. In his honour, his extensive collection of geological publications has been donated to Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops. His ashes have been scattered at the foot of Mount Brussilof, and a plaque with a prospector's pick and the epitaph "with my boots on" has been placed in the Mount Ida Cemetery overlooking Salmon Arm.

## DR. JUANITA NITA CASSELMAN (NÉE WOOD), BA'45



Nita was born in Vancouver on April 11, 1921, and died August 5, 2012, in London, ON, of complications resulting from a serious injury.

When her father, a blacksmith, suffered a head injury, the family was plunged into poverty. She was raised by her mother, Louise, brother, Jimmy, and sister, Winnie. During the Great Depression Nita contracted tuberculosis

and went to Tranquille Sanatorium. She dreamed of being a physician – an extraordinary ambition for a woman at the time. She had to work to pay her way until her marks earned her a scholarship.

She met her husband, Bruce Casselman, BA'43, MA'44, in a chemistry lab at UBC. Together they entered the world of medicine at the University of Toronto. Nita was one of eight women among 168 graduates in the Class of 1952. She went on to study neurology in London, UK, and Montreal. Mindful of the way that mental health was affected by life experiences and organic influences, she studied psychiatry at Columbia University.

In New York, Montreal, Ottawa, and finally London, ON, she helped a remarkable range of people, young and old, artists, musicians and architects, men and women in business and university, carrying on her practice long after her classmates had retired. She taught in university and became a mentor to younger women in several professions.

Bruce was quietly ahead of his time, supporting her desire to practice medicine and willing to participate in house-keeping and raising Jay (Ian) and Ken. A research scientist and government official active in the WHO, Bruce would be with her until he died in 1995.

Nita thought she would spend her 80s writing, playing piano, and gardening, but in 2003, a car accident left her with a serious spinal cord injury. She endured persistent pain and progressive loss of the use of her limbs, but maintained her engagement with life and her interest in people.

## MARY KATHLEEN TURNBULL (NÉE CHATWIN) BA'45, BSW'46, MSW'47



Mary passed away quietly at Lions Gate Hospital early in the morning on September 20, 2012, with her family by her side. Predeceased by her husband, Jim (1993), she is survived by her children: John (Lynn), Rick (Charie), Bruce (Brenda), Kathryn (Mike), Elizabeth (Doug), and Susan (Robert) as well as 12 grandchildren.

She was born in Edmonton in 1922 and came to Vancouver with her family in 1934. A graduate of Magee Secondary in Kerrisdale, she later became the first recipient of a master's of social work at UBC. She was an active member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority and later served on the Women's Honorary Society, Delta Sigma Pi. She was also a member of the Social Work class executive.

Attitudes have changed much since that time. She was told by one of her professors at UBC that it was a waste of time for her, as a woman, to have a university education because she would just get married and have children. Later that attitude came to force when she was to lose her first job in social work at Shaughnessy Hospital because she was getting married – the prevailing thought was that it would take a job from a returning war veteran.

A longtime resident of West Vancouver, she and her husband, Jim, raised six children, and she still found time to be an active volunteer at West Vancouver United Church, the Lions Gate Ladies Auxiliary, Community Concerts Association, and at the West Vancouver Seniors Centre, Special Services, serving on the executive there.

## ROBIN MARLATT FARR, BA'47

Born in Vancouver on April 26, 1926, son of Morice and Mary Farr (née Marlatt), Robin is survived by his adoring wife of 57 years, Margaret (Peggy) Farr (née Fullerton), BA'48; children Peter (Anna), J. Brian (Susan), and Wendy McLeod (Bryan); grandchildren Sean, Stephen and Alexander; and older brother David of Ottawa.

Robin's career began as a schoolteacher in Lake Cowichan, where he did everything from teaching English to driving the school bus. In 1950 he moved to Toronto to break into the growing field of Canadian book publishing. He worked for Copp Clark Publishing, eventually returning to Vancouver to open the Western Canada region. In 1960, appointed founding director of McGill University Press in Montreal, Robin spent the next seven years building the company into a respected institution with an excellent booklist. In 1967 he returned to Toronto, joining McClelland and Stewart Ltd. He moved to Ryerson Press as director of publishing and editor-in-chief, tasked with reshaping the company. Next, Robin moved to the Canada Council to design programs supporting fledgling Canadian publishing companies, and then to Toronto to implement the Ontario Halfback Program.

After retirement Robin continued to use his business skills, devoting much of his time to new authors. He spent many years researching and writing about Canada's history, particularly its discovery and early settlement on both coasts. He continued to support Canadian literacy through active participation in charities and teaching adult literacy. He donated his publishing papers to McMaster University.

Robin was a wonderful man with a sharp intellect and a wide range of interests, always at work on new projects. He had deep beliefs and thoughts on the world. He was kind and caring and truly loved and respected by friends and family. We will always miss him.

## FREDERICK JOHN ANDREW, BASc'47

With deep sadness we announce the passing of Frederick John Andrew in New Westminster, BC, on December 19, 2011, at the age of 87. Fred was predeceased by his loving wife of 57 years, Marjorie Gladys Andrew (née McKnight) in 2001. He is survived by his four daughters: Elaine, Joyce, MSc'86 (James), Jane (John), and Kathy (Michael); 11 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Fred worked as an engineer and then chief engineer for the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission (IPSC) for 39 years designing and building fishways that enabled salmon to ascend high-velocity streams to their spawning grounds, mainly in the Fraser River system. He also contributed to designing and building spawning channels to increase



spawning habitat on many Fraser River tributaries. After years of improving salmon habitat and fighting against dams on the Fraser River system, Fred retired from IPSFC and formed Andrew Consulting Ltd., and continued to work for several years on fisheries and environmental issues.

Fred enjoyed a fulfilling retirement: volunteering with the South Burnaby Garden Club, BC Council of Garden Clubs, Balance and Dizziness Disorder Society, and Burnaby Lake trail and habitat improvements; philanthropy with numerous charities; and hobbies of gardening, playing bridge and reading.

Fred was a kind and generous man, a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather and a dedicated family man whose greatest joy was spending time with his wife and family. Family recreation included water skiing, snow skiing, camping, boating, and curling, as well as touring every lake, stream and hydroelectric dam in the Pacific Northwest. He treasured his family and many friends, and will be greatly missed for their many happy times together. He worked tirelessly to improve the environment and to make the world a better place. He was deeply loved and will be missed.

#### ALAN EDWARD LITTLER, BSc'49

August 30, 1919 – February 23, 2011. Alan was born in Victoria, BC, and lived most of his life there. His first job was as apprentice gardener at the Empress Hotel. During WWII he was employed by the Department of National Defence at naval headquarters in Vancouver as coordinator of teletype and coding machine staff, and then as a signal man in the Canadian army until 1945.

After the war, he attended UBC, studying plant science with emphasis on the horticulture option, graduating with his BSc in Agriculture. From 1949 to 1981 he was employed by the BC Ministry of Agriculture, first as horticulture extension specialist for Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands, and later as supervising horticulturist for the entire coastal region. He retired in 1981 and continued to live on his small farm in Happy Valley, where he lived for the rest of his life. Over the years, he served on the Sooke school board, was active in the local church community, and was a life member of the Metchosen Farmers' Institute. Predeceased by his wife, Margaret, and brother, Keith, he is survived by sons Stephen (Debbie) and Tom (Liz); daughter Norma (Pat); and eight grandchildren.

#### KENNETH IAN SINCLAIR, BAsc'50

Ken passed away on April 7, 2012, at the age of 85. Predeceased by his wife, Shirley, he is survived by his son, Mark (Cathy); daughter, Wendy Kluge (Tony); grandchildren Heather, David, Jeff, James, Jason, and Jennifer (Kai); and great-grandson, Johann.

Ken's professional engineering career included working in Trail, BC, at Consolidated Mining and Smelting in 1952, and then returning to the lower mainland to join H.A. Simons. He went on to work for Crippen Consultants, serving as senior vice-president, president and director before his retirement.

Retirement activities included travel, boating, membership at the West Van Lawn Bowling Club, and membership at the West Vancouver Senior's Centre, where Ken spent many hours in the woodworking shop, carving beautiful pieces that are treasured by the family.

#### SHIRLEY KATHLEEN WELDON (NÉE CROSBY), BA'50



1928 – 2012. I have left you now. Remember me fondly and know that I loved you. I lived a wonderful life, the kind a young girl might dream of. I was born in Toronto and had a lot of fun as a kid growing up in Princeton and Vancouver. I did well in school, graduated with honours from UBC, and became a wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

I re-entered the work force once my children were self-sufficient and retired as the assistant to the vice-president at BCIT. I loved all types of recreation, including running, skiing, tennis, boating and especially singing out-of-tune around a campfire. Then I began to forget the words to the songs. In my later years, dementia took over. Some might say I suffered from Alzheimer's. But I didn't. Those who loved me suffered; I simply ebbed. Thanks to the efforts of my loving family, particularly my husband, I was fortunate to complete my life in the comfort of my own home where I had lived for the past 30 years.

I am survived by my husband of 58 years Richard Chapman IV; sons, Richard Chapman V (Avril) and Gordon Calhoun (Hanh); grandchildren Heather and Derek (Ayako); great-grandchildren Sarah and Sean, siblings Ann, Louis, Laurence and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

I was predeceased by parents Michael Gabriel (Gabe) and Mary Isabel (Molly); and siblings Lillian, Jim, Patricia, Eleanor and Ken. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to my friends at the Alzheimer's Society of BC or Dying with Dignity. Their work will go a long way to helping future generations.

#### WILLIAM W. GILGAN, BSF'50

William W. Gilgan was born in Castor, AB, on July 7, 1917, and passed away in his beloved Burns Lake on August 7, 2012, one month to the day after he celebrated his 95 birthday with family and friends.

A true pioneer, Bill moved with his family to homestead on Tchesinkut Lake, 15 km south of Burns Lake, in 1918. He was the first person to complete high school in Burns Lake, graduating in 1936.

Bill served in the RCAF as a navigator during WWII, and enrolled at UBC at the end of the war, graduating with a degree in forestry.

With the completion of his education, Bill relocated his family back to Burns Lake and worked there in various forestry-related positions until the mid-'60s, when he left the industry to pursue another interest, becoming the planning director for the regional district of Bulkley-Nechako. Bill remained in that capacity until his retirement in 1983.

In retirement, Bill remained active, serving several years as a marriage commissioner, and maintaining his lifelong love of fishing, hunting and the outdoors in general, by running his trapline until well into his 80s.

William will be remembered most for his active participation in the community that he had called home since before it was incorporated. He was very active in politics at the local level, serving two periods as mayor of Burns Lake for a total of 23 years. He was challenged, but never defeated at the polls during that tenure. Bill was the last surviving founding member of the Rotary Club of Burns Lake, chartered in 1953. Bill is survived by his wife of 27 years, Kathleen, and six children by two of his three marriages.

#### KEITH NORMAN SLESSOR, BSc'60, PhD'64



Keith Norman Slessor was born in Comox, BC, in 1938 and lost his battle with mantle cell lymphoma on July 18, 2012. After receiving his PhD, Keith spent two years of post-doctoral study in London, UK, and Stockholm before returning to Canada as a faculty member at the newly founded Simon Fraser University.

Keith's 39-year career as a professor of chemistry at SFU was devoted to his twin passions of teaching and scientific research. He was recognized for excellence in both areas, being awarded the SFU Excellence in Teaching Award (1995) for having conveyed the principles of organic chemistry to thousands of SFU undergraduates. He also developed and taught Science and Its Impact on Society, a course about science for undergraduates in the social sciences and humanities. He, along with Mark Winston, was awarded The BC Science and Engineering Gold Medal in Natural Sciences (2003) for deciphering the biochemical communication mechanisms in honeybee colonies. Of the many awards he received, these were the two of which he was most proud. At the national level, Keith participated in several NSERC adjudication committees and in the development of new interdisciplinary programs. He gave unselfishly of his time to teaching, mentoring, research and community.

Keith was also an ardent fly fisherman, and he and his wife Marie spent decades pursuing Kamloops trout in the interior lakes of BC. In his retirement, he channelled his energy into fine woodworking and created many pieces that now grace homes, kitchens, and dinner tables around the world.

He leaves his wife of 52 years, Marie, BEd'62; son Mike, BAsc'92 (Erin); son Graham (Tanya, BSc'02); daughter Karen Francis (Dani); and four grandchildren: Kai, Kobe, Nicole and Cameron.

"A passionate and productive life, alas too short."

#### ALFRED JOHN SCOW, CM, OBC, LLB'61, LLD'97



April 10, 1927 – February 26, 2013. The Honourable Alfred J. Scow was born April 10, 1927, in Alert Bay, BC, to Chief William and Alice Scow of the Kwikwaka'wakw Nation. Although born at a time when Aboriginals were prohibited from entering the legal profession, he went on to become the first Aboriginal person to graduate from a BC Law School, the first Aboriginal lawyer in BC to be called to the Bar and the first to be appointed as a legally trained judge in the Province.

Prior to becoming a judge, he was city prosecutor for New Westminster, chair of the board of review for the Workmen's Compensation Board, and completed a two-year assignment to Guyana on the Amerindian Lands Commission fact-finding committee. After leaving the Provincial Court, Mr. Scow's roles included work on behalf of the Musqueam, Fraser Valley and Penticton Indian bands.

Mr. Scow volunteered his leadership to many community organizations including UBC, where he helped guide the establishment of First Nations studies. He served on the university's Senate, the President's Advisory Committee, the Faculty of Law First Nations Advisory Committee, and the Alumni Association board. He was a founding member of the Elders Committee for the First Nations House of Learning.

In 2001, he founded The Scow Institute, which works to promote a greater understanding between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people regarding issues affecting all Canadians. He contributed to his community through volunteer board work for the John Howard Society, United Good Neighbour Fund and Credit Union, BC Lions Society for Children with Disabilities, Aboriginal Justice Centre, Pacific Salmon Foundation, YVR Art Foundation, and the Institute of Indigenous Government. In 2012, Mr. Scow was awarded the UBC Alumni Achievement – Blythe Eagles Volunteer Leadership Award for his outstanding volunteer contributions.

He is survived by his loving family – his wife of 49 years, Joan; brothers Peter, Henry, and Glen; sisters, Beatrice, Winnie Speck, Irene Bertelsen, and Karen Adams; and many nephews, nieces and extended family. In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that donations be made to the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society.

#### NICHOLAS ROBERT BAWLF, BArch'63

February 18, 1938 – August 11, 2012. Architect, artist, cowboy, storyteller and bon vivant, Nick was born in Calgary and raised in Vancouver. In 1961 he was awarded a CMHC Travelling Scholarship which he used to examine urban renewal in the US. His graduating thesis, proposing the creation of Victoria's Bastion Square, won the National Pilkington Scholarship for Study Abroad. Nick worked for the Civic Trust in London on its plan for restoring the Lea Valley, for UNESCO in Ireland and for a private firm in Denmark.

Back in Vancouver he worked for Thompson, Berwick and Pratt, then for Erickson & Massey in Montreal and Toronto where he was one of the designers of the Bank of Canada building in Ottawa.

Nick established his practice in Victoria in 1972 and earned a reputation as a leading practitioner of heritage rehabilitation projects in the province. Nick's work was recognized with a number of awards, including the Lt. Governor's Medal for his competition-winning scheme for The Victoria Conference Centre. Nick and his brother, Sam, won a Heritage Canada award for their restoration of the 10 buildings that created Victoria's Market Square and also received a Heritage BC award for their lifetime achievements.

Nick had a deep love of aboriginal culture and the times spent with the Hunt family and other friends from Fort Rupert. He was an unforgettable character with enormous talent who made friends wherever he went and enriched the lives of everyone around him.

He was much loved by his partner of 20 years, Pamela Madoff; his children, Tine and Peer; his grandchildren; his younger brother, Sam; and extended family. Released from the health challenges of recent years, Nick is now free to ride the upper pastures of his beloved Flying U Ranch, paints and cigar in hand.

#### RICHARD CURTIS WILLMOTT, PhD'65

Dick was born March 19, 1930, in Chungking, West China, and came to North America with his family for a furlough year in 1936/37 and again in 1944. He remained to continue his education: a BA from Swarthmore College in 1952 and an MSc from Princeton University in 1954.

For the following six years he worked at Canadian Marconi and International Syscoms in Montreal as a radio engineer. In 1960, he returned to his first love, mathematics, receiving his PhD. For the next 25 years Dick researched and taught mathematics at University College in London, UK, l'Universite de Montreal, Queen's University, the University of Zambia, and the University of Essex.

Dick played soccer and field hockey into his adult years, and was an avid rock climber and mountaineer. He traversed Mt. Victoria in the Canadian Rockies and attempted to summit Mt. Waddington. He got his pilot's license in his 20s, later building and flying a small two-seater Kitfox from Ontario to BC. Dick was an excellent folk-dancer with a particular fondness for Israeli and Balkan rhythms and fancy footwork – both of which he taught. He once graced Vancouver's Queen Elizabeth Theatre stage dancing as a Bulgarian and sang in numerous choirs, both large and small. He retired to Salt Spring Island in 1999 where woodworking, travel and volunteering filled many a day.

Over the years, Dick's thoughtful and inquisitive mind led him to think deeply about world events and a lifelong opposition to racism, war, and social inequality. He cared about other people and the world we live in, and did what he could to better it.

On August 2, 2012, Dick died of gastric cancer at Salt Spring's Lady Minto Hospital. He will be missed by his wife of 51 years, Jill; his children, Ian, Michele, and Derek; and his siblings, Joy, Don and Bill.

**JEANETTE TSAN-YING WONG FLORENCE, BSN'67**

Jeanette died August 24, 2012, in Edmonton after a strenuous one-year battle with cancer. Jeanette was born in Beijing, China, in 1943, educated in Vancouver, and then moved to Edmonton to undertake a passionate nursing career that spanned over 40 years. Most recently, she was a nursing educator at Grant MacEwan University in Edmonton. She is still "Mrs. Florence" to the many nurses who attended her classes and preceptorships over the years. Jeanette made significant contributions to the Edmonton branch of the UBC Alumni Association. She is survived by her husband, Wayne, daughter, Michella, and two cherished grandchildren.

**VICKI GIBB, BSc'72**



Born September 27, 1950, Vicki passed away in St. Michael's Hospice on October 19, 2012, after a five-year battle with breast cancer. She is survived by her husband, Richard Hollins, daughter, Sydney Hollins, and brother, Harry Gibb. She is predeceased by her mother, Gertie, father, Jim, and brothers, Bert and Wally.

Vicki was born in Kelowna, grew up in Oyama and Kelowna, and studied chemistry at UBC, gaining an honours degree in 1971. She graduated from the University of Toronto in Medicine in 1981, receiving the Cody silver medal. She practised in both New Westminister and Coquitlam, before she retired in 1997. She will be missed by family and friends. Her superlative intellect, determination and courage will be an inspiration to us all. Donations may be made to the Canadian Mental Health Association, The Canadian Cancer Society or St. Michael's Centre Foundation.

**DANIEL ALEXANDER, BSc'75**

1952 - 2012. Daniel Alexander was a remarkable man. He joined Rustad Bros. almost 40 years ago as a fresh forestry graduate and over the course of his long career grew to be a great manager. He was innovative, always fair, cared for his people and, without a doubt, was a devoted family man.

In his 20 years with Rustad Bros., Dan became known as a competent and well-respected leader. He served as the plant manager and then president

of Rustad Bros. for Northwood. When Northwood was sold to Canfor, Dan moved on to Weldwood, in Quesnel, as manager of the plywood plant. When Weldwood was sold, Dan went to BC Forestry Innovation Investment. There he analyzed and made recommendations on proposals for mountain pine beetle projects. His most current position was general manager of the Canfor Quesnel Division.

Dan was a professional forester in the best sense of the word "professional." He cared about the forest as a whole and not just as a way to make a living. He was always able to find solutions and, in doing so, made a remarkable contribution to the industry.

The things that made Dan a good manager also meant that in his private life he was an organized, kind and caring husband, father and grandfather. Dan is survived by his loving wife, Sue, his children, Bruce and Erin, and his grandchildren, Tavish, Avery and Josh. Dan enjoyed being a father and, although it was cut short, he was making the most of being a grandfather too.

While it's unfair Dan passed away so young, he certainly lived a good life. He was a smart, kind, caring man, and his friends and colleagues are all better off because of the part Dan played in each of their lives.

**DIANE LOOMER, CM, BMus'82, DLitt'11**



Diane Loomer, award-winning musician, ambassador for Canadian choral music and recipient of the Order of Canada, died on December 10, 2012, at the age of 72. A former faculty member of the UBC School of Music and a leading and inspiring choral conductor, Diane was founder and director of the Chor Leoni Men's Choir, the EnChor

choir, and co-founder of the Elektra Women's Choir.

Diane was born in St. Paul, MN, and graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College in 1962. In the 70s she moved to the west coast with her husband and pursued the study and performance of music. After attending Douglas College, she transferred to UBC's School of Music where she completed a music degree in 1982. That same year, she established a community vocal ensemble at Douglas College.

She had many connections with UBC over the years, first as a student and later as conductor of the UBC Choral Union in the 1990s. More recently, Diane was a mentor to students in the alumni mentorship program, a guest conductor with UBC choirs, and last spring her EnChor choir was invited to perform in a concert with the University Singers. Among her many awards and laurels, she received a Doctor of Letters honoris causa from UBC in May 2011. In his message to students and faculty, director of UBC's School of Music Richard Kurth wrote: "Diane had spectacular musical and personal charisma, which characteristically drew its power from her passionate and articulate conviction in the power of music. For all her singers, and all her audiences, she will remain absolutely unforgettable."

**JUSTIN MCCRAE PORTER, BAsC'97**

Born June 17, 1973, Justin died suddenly at his home in Toronto on September 24, 2012. He was the beloved son of Diane and Joseph and loving brother of Gavin (Hong Kong). Justin attended UBC, graduating with a degree in electrical engineering/computers, and was very successful in his chosen field. He liked nothing more than fine foods,

great books and the company of good friends. Donations to the charity of your choice would be appreciated. "One crowded hour of glorious life is worth an age without a name."

**JACOB ZILBER**



Co-founder of UBC's Creative Writing Department, and longtime editor of *Prism International*, Jacob died on August 21, 2012, at the age of 88. Husband, father, grandfather, uncle, brother, writer, teacher, mentor, editor – none of these words capture the inherent decency and integrity of this Depression-era kid from Wisconsin.

In 1949 Jake moved to New York City with dreams of being a filmmaker. Instead, he became a youth social worker in Manhattan. There, he met his wife and lifelong love, Alice Shafran. They moved to Seattle in 1956 where Jake worked as a teaching fellow at the University of Washington. In 1957, Jake accepted Canadian poet Earle Birney's invitation and became an instructor in UBC's English department, where he and longtime friend Jan DeBruyn, started one of Canada's leading literary magazines: *Prism International*. Several years later, he and Birney formed Canada's first Creative Writing Department.

Jake was an author of excellent short stories and plays, including the critically hailed short story, *The Prince*. As a professor and editor, he helped several generations of writers, including the family's lifelong friend and

renowned author Wayson Choy. When Jake retired from UBC in 1989 after 33 years, a scholarship for fledgling screenwriters was endowed in his name.

Jake's other great passions were for politics and sports. He was a champion of social justice and the underdog. He was an active and excellent tennis player – a fixture at the Jericho Tennis Club, and a Canadian Doubles Tennis Champion.

Jake took greatest satisfaction in his family, always believing that his wife, Alice, was the smartest and most beautiful woman he'd ever known. He took great pride and interest in daughter Julie and son Mike remarking that "my children are my greatest work of art." He derived no small measure of joy from his grandsons and cared very much for his brother, Harry. His family loved him deeply and will miss him profoundly. He was a mensch in every way. Donations may be made to the Jacob Zilber scholarship at UBC's Creative Writing Department <http://memorial.supporting.ubc.ca/>

**Please submit obituaries to [trek.magazine@ubc.ca](mailto:trek.magazine@ubc.ca) including "In Memoriam: first name, last name, class year" in the subject line, or mail to:**  
**UBC Alumni Association**  
**6251 Cecil Green Park Road**  
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**Obituaries should be 300 words or less (submissions may be edited for length and clarity where necessary). Mail original photos or email high resolution images – preferably 300 dpi. 📧**

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# THE LAST WORD

## TORRANCE COOMBS, BFA'05

Torrance Coombs rose to fame as the horribly-villainous-yet-alluringly-handsome Thomas Culpepper in Showtime's popular series *The Tudors*.

In grade school he joined the choir in an attempt to break out of his shell, which apparently did the trick because he soon landed his first acting role as the hip-swivelling, tail-swinging Rum Tum Tugger in the school production of *Cats*. In his determination to truly "nail" the character, Coombs studied videos of Elvis Presley in concert.

Coombs' love of acting continued throughout high school, eventually leading him to the acting program at UBC. After graduation, he launched into the theatre scene, including two seasons at Vancouver's prestigious Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival. He's appeared in TV shows including *Supernatural*, *Battlestar Galactica*, *Haven*, *Heartland*, *Endgame*, and *jPod* and this year can be seen in the upcoming film *Liars All*, as well as the recently released *Kill For Me*.

Coombs is currently in Dublin, Ireland, filming CW network's pilot *Reign* - a historical drama chronicling the rise to power of Mary Queen of Scots. It's been four years since Coombs was in Dublin filming *The Tudors*, and according to his tweets he's clearly missed the charm of the city, especially the pints of Guinness.

[twitter.com/torrancecoombs](https://twitter.com/torrancecoombs)

### What is your most prized possession?

Either my acoustic guitar or my severed head from *The Tudors*. I go back and forth.

### Describe the place you most like to spend time.

I spend most of my time in my living room. I'd rather be spending my time travelling the world.

### Who was your childhood hero?

I think the closest thing I had to a hero was my dad, who was actually a prof at UBC for a long time. Before Wikipedia existed, he knew all the answers. He was never afraid to say "I don't know," but he rarely needed to.

### What was the last thing you read?

The Dunk & Egg novellas from George R. R. Martin. They're every bit as amazing as the main *Song of Ice and Fire* series.

### What or who makes you laugh out loud?

Spooky-eyed horses get me right in the funnies for some reason.

### What's the most important lesson you ever learned?

Listen! (It's so much easier said than done. I'm still working on it.)

### What's your idea of the perfect day?

I'm lying in bed watching hockey and eating bacon. Suddenly, I get a phone call offering me a role in a movie that shoots in Europe.

(Trek Note: Coombs recently landed a role in the CW's drama pilot, *Reign*, and is currently in Dublin, Ireland.)

### What was your nickname at school?

I've got one friend who calls me Mommy. I call him Daddy. Maybe one day we'll invite children into the fold?

### What would be the title of your biography?

*Pretty Eyes and Dumb Luck*.

### If a genie granted you one wish, what would it be?

To make a first-world lifestyle sustainable for the entire planet in perpetuity. Or maybe just open an In-n-Out Burger in Canada.

### What item have you owned for the longest time?

An old joke book. Sample joke: What is the difference between a running man and a running dog? The man wears trousers and the dog pants!

### What is your latest purchase?

A pair of combat boots from a military surplus store. They give me a decidedly manly gait when a role calls for it.

### Whom do you most admire (living or dead) and why?

Anyone who is unafraid to be themselves. Maybe it's because I'm an actor, but I have a lot of trouble trying not to be someone else.

### What would you like your epitaph to say?

"BYE!"

### If you could invent something, what would it be?

A teleporter. Air travel is such an inefficient way to see the world.

### In which era would you most like to have lived, and why?

I'm pretty happy in this one. I don't know if I'd have survived in any other.

### What are you afraid of?

Failure. Success. Bears.

### Name the skill or talent you would most like to have.

The ability to make anybody happy.

### Which three pieces of music would you take to that desert island?

Decemberists - *The Crane Wife*, Arcade Fire - *Funeral*, Depeche Mode - *Violator*.

### Which famous person (living or dead) do you think (or have you been told) you most resemble?

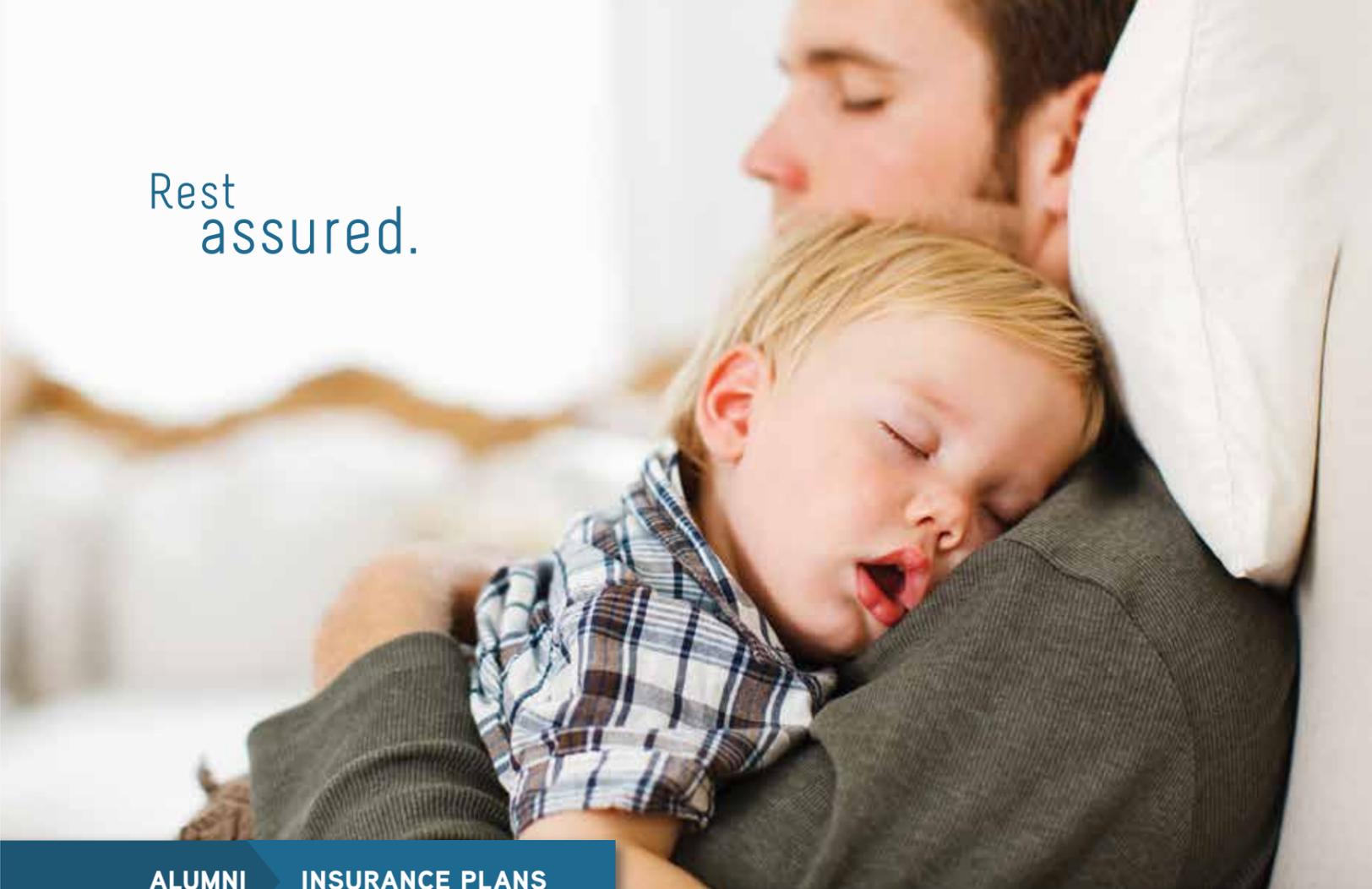
People often mistake me for Morgan Freeman.

### What is your pet peeve?

Flagrantly bad grammar.

### What are some of your UBC highlights?

The plays I was involved in while I was in the theatre program, and the people I got to know. UBC Improv. A few messy nights at the Pit. 🍷



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