The image on the cover of this issue of Trek Magazine is of a marine slug called the Opalescent Nudibranch. It was taken during Alumni Weekend by alumnus Calvin Hass, BSc’98, at the tidepooling event presented by UBC biology professor Chris Harley. There isn’t an article about the slug in this issue, nor is there one about Chris Harley, although he would be a good topic for an upcoming issue. There is a pictorial presentation about Alumni Weekend on page 35, but the slug isn’t really a featured performer there either.

The decision on cover images is always a difficult one. William Randolph Hearst insisted that his magazines have compelling images on their covers (“a pretty girl, a happy family or a cute dog”) to make it more likely that potential readers would pick them up at the newsstand. Over the years we’ve tried hard to make our covers interesting. We’ve had historical photos, a baby (#2), an actor from the 1930s, a running swimmer. Some come from a commercial stock collection and cost upwards of a thousand dollars (#18, for instance, the face of an older performer there either.

As long as there’s some slim connection between the cover and something UBC, our bottom line when it comes to choosing a cover shot is this: it has to be a great image. People sometimes ask why we don’t have photos of important people on our covers: big donors, exceptional researchers, top students. Our problem here is twofold: how on earth could we ever pick one exceptional person over another, and how could we be sure to get a spectacular picture? Nothing’s worse than a magazine cover with a bad snapshot of some VIP. We did have an important person on our cover once: Amy Kroker, BSc’04, on issue #13, who had just graduated at UBCO’s first convocation. The photo was OK, but Amy had such a triumphant look on her face we thought it captured an important moment of university life.

It’s still one of my favourite covers. Some of our covers come from a commercial stock collection and cost nothing (#12, for example, the face of an older swimmer). Some come from the UBC collection and cost nothing (#2, from the University Vault). Some come from the university archives (#8, 41 and 42, for example), and some come serendipitously (#40, 5 and 8). And some, like the one from #33, come from talented people who work on the magazine. We chose the photo of the slug because we thought it was a great picture, and because we realized that the last few covers have been somewhat dark and dull (a head-tax certificate, marching soldiers in gas masks and a curious illustration) and we wanted to be light and pretty this time.

We also chose it because underlines UBC’s amazing diversity: someone on campus knows a hell of a lot about the nudibranch. And that’s what we try hardest to achieve with our covers, and with of the rest of the magazine, for that matter: UBC’s uncanny ability to create wonder. Chris Petty, BASc’98, Editor in Chief

Dream On

Daydreaming is often associated with idleness: a wandering mind failing to concentrate on the task at hand, the lazy sprawl of an undisciplined brain. However, a UBC study shows that daydreaming causes increased activity in certain areas of the brain, including those associated with complex problem solving.

“This study shows our brains are very active when we daydream, much more active than when we focus on routine tasks,” says psychology professor Kalina Christoff, lead author.

Researchers used a functional Medical Resonance Image scanner to monitor subjects’ brain activity as they performed a very simple task, then measured their level of attentiveness using the scans to track performance on the task, and recording subjects’ reported experience.

The study results also challenge the popularly held idea that certain areas of the brain aren’t active at the same time. The brain’s default network is associated with routine, straightforward thinking, and its executive network with more complex thought processes. The study showed both networks were active when subjects were daydreaming. “This is a surprising finding,” says Christoff. “Until now, we thought they operated on an either-or basis; when one was activated the other was thought to be dormant.” The less aware a subject was of his or her mind wandering, the more active were both brain networks.

The study results, and the fact that the average person daydreams about a third of their waking life, suggest that daydreaming may play an important function. “When you daydream, you may not be achieving your immediate goal – say reading a book or paying attention in class – but your mind may be taking that time to address more important questions in your life, such as advancing your career or personal relationships,” says Christoff.

With the help of a functional MRI scanner, Kalina Christoff takes a close look at what happens in the brain when you daydream.

Babies, French Fries and the Opalescent Nudibranch
Mohseni and four UBC colleagues (Pierre Berdell, Daval Wilkins, Elod Gyenge and Rehan Sadiq) will explore which technologies are best for use in rural areas. Ultraviolet light photocatalysts, for example, uses UV light to combat contaminants. While prohibitively expensive to use on a large scale, this method may be better suited to smaller communities. “We plan to bring the technologies past the initial proof of concept to the on-site validation stage,” says Mohseni. “We will evaluate the technologies onsite using real water and operating conditions. This would make the technologies ready for adoption and implementation by industry and small communities.”

A Rose By Any Other Name

Having an English surname, as opposed to a Chinese, Indian or Pakistani one, means a greater likelihood of being invited in for a job interview in Canada. This discrimination was revealed after UBC researchers mailed out thousands of mock resumés. It would seem that the Jill Wilkins and John Martinis of this country are invited for interviews 40 per cent more often than the Sana Khan and the Lei Liu. The 6,000 resumés, representing recent immigrants and Canadians with English and foreign-sounding name may be a significant disadvantage on the job market, even if you are a second- or third-generation citizen,” says Oreopoulos.

Stepford Shoppers

Although opinions differ on whether subliminal messaging can influence the opinions and behaviour of those subjected to it, subliminal advertising was outlawed in the UK and Australia, largely because of the public’s response to the idea of such an underhand method of influence and its potential for more sinister uses. In the US, the Federal Communications Commission adopted a policy in 1974 that bans subliminal advertising being cast to the public interest.

But efforts to understand the human brain and why it might be manipulated to encourage certain consumer habits are still in the works. A new generation of industrial scientists is literally peering into the human brain to see what makes it tick. Or, more importantly, what makes it buy. And right on their heels is the curiously shrewd Judy Illes, who is concerned with the ethical implications thrown up by this work.

Illes, who directs the National Core of Neuroscience at UBC, believes a code of ethics is required as advances in neuroscience inform neuromarketing research efforts. “The field of neuroscience is evolving at a rapid rate,” she says. “Advances in scientific technologies can give us intimate details of the inner workings of our brain. Neuroethics considers the social, cultural, personal and religious implications of these advances.”

The relatively new field of neuromarketing looks at how consumers respond to marketing elements such as packaging, single, logos and ads as we make consumer decisions. Instead of relying on self-reporting, it uses functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) to measure what goes on in the brain when the subject is exposed to such elements. Illes points to three issues. “First, we must protect parties who may be harmed or exploited by neuromarketing. Second, we must protect consumer autonomy if neuromarketing reaches into privacy and other important issues.”

The first issue deals with vulnerable people such as children or those with psychological disorders or addictions, who may be adversely affected by neuromarketing. Research subjects who volunteer for imaging may also be considered vulnerable if standard safeguards are spotty or lacking. “The loose restrictions around marketing studies outside the academic sector are especially worrying,” says Illes. “Subject protections should be equal to those required by academic and medical research centres.” She also feels that a distinct and separate code of ethics is required for marketing research.

The associated changes in consumer behavior could have long-lasting consequences for both the public and public trust in science. A potential threat to autonomy is perhaps the creepiest ethical consideration. “Insights from advanced technology in the neurosciences might allow corporations, governments and others to influence decisions and actions regarding brand preference without the individual being aware of the subliminal.” says Illes. “Such stealth neuromarketing is not possible with current technology, but if developed would represent a major invasion of individual autonomy.”

The origins of a massive bonebed in Southern California have been causing scientists to scratch their heads ever since its discovery more than 150 years ago. The Sharktooth Hill bonebed stretches over 100 square kilometers and contains approximately 200 fossils per square metre embedded in a 10-15 centimeter layer of sediment, some of it exposed. It contains a high concentration of marine vertebrates including extinct species of whales, sea turtle, seal and shark.

Some hypotheses point to a sudden, one-off event as the cause of the bonebed’s formation, such as a volcanic eruption, a toxic algal bloom or even the predatory activities of a huge ancestor of the Great White Shark. Other explanations are less dramatic, suggesting the bonebed formed over a long period of time. New research by paleontologist Nick Pyenson, a post-doctoral fellow in the department of Zoology, and his team has now laid to rest the catastrophic event hypotheses.

“Our evidence suggests that the bonebed formed over a 17,000,000 year time span approximately 13 million years ago,” he says. An examination of the bonebed, the fossils and contextual geography allowed them to eliminate some longstanding theoretical explanations. “There was no evidence of ash to support the volcanic eruption theory; the fossil bones betrayed little evidence of shark bites; and the presence of land mammals as well as marine vertebrates lent credence to the idea of the bonebed being formed over time.”

“Interesting shifts in the Middle Miocene, which coincides with a prolonged period of exceptionally warm global temperatures,” says Pyenson. “Such climate changes in sea levels played an important role in forming the Sharktooth Hill bonebed, which explains its marvellous state of preservation.”

Stepford Shoppers

An exact replica of today’s seals, this Aladomedus is one of the many fossil vertebrates preserved in the Sharktooth Hill bonebed in Kern County, California.
reference websites that can be accessed via a local area network. “People are learning search and browsing skills so when technology becomes more accessible, the transition to a knowledge-based economy is easier,” says Norton.

Another key focus is helping to produce highly-qualified people who can equip the upcoming generation with the skills they need. “What we are trying to do is to train the future’s candidate from Uganda who is involved in the project. “Uganda is on the move to development,” he says. “The country wants to become a knowledge-based society, and one of the tools to achieve that is modern technology.”

“Another Ugandan involved in the project is Computer Science grad Juliet Tembe. She has been teaching computer basics to Ugandan teachers based in rural schools, together with skills for analyzing online resources. Links with classrooms in Africa and to local expertise means BC educators can learn effective strategies for teaching students who are in remote, economically depressed areas.

Barriers to digital literacy in rural East Africa, such as poverty and power outages, still exist. But the stronger the program’s partnerships grow, the more its benefits will spread. “The trickledown effect allows the students to leave school with the ability to access information, to process information and to articulate their own ideas and knowledge,” says Andema, who wants to help Uganda secure its aspiration to be a regional leader in digital literacy. “Definitions of literacy are changing globally,” says Kendrick. “What it means to be literate now has everything to do with digital technology. Whether you’re in rural Uganda or in a developed country, the ability to search the web and to have a conversation that people want to be part of.”

World Wide Web of Deception
“Deception is one of the most significant and pervasive social phenomena of our age,” says professor Michael Woodworth, a forensic psychologist at UBC Okanagan. “On average, people tell one to two lies a day, and these lies range from the trivial to the serious.”

Although lying is not uncommon, the more serious ones can be accompanied by physical cues that make them easier to detect. But what happens if the fibber is communicating to you face-to-face, or if you are interacting face-to-face, there is something called the motivational impairment effect, where your body will give off some cues as you become more nervous and there’s more at stake with your lie,” says Woodworth. You may sweat, your facial expressions might be affected, your physical gestures and facial expressions might not match your words, or even more subtle signals may be generated. But no such alarm triggers exist in the world of emails, texts and chat-groups. Woodworth is studying deception in computer-mediated environments. “Deception is defined as any type of technologically mediated message transmitted to create a false belief in the receiver of the message. He and colleague Jeff Hancock of Cornell University have described what they refer to as the motivational enhancement effect: that the more people are motivated to lie in a computer-mediated environment, the less likely they are to be detected and the more successful they are at it. It would seem that the Internet is the territory of choice for the modern day conman who wants to get ahead, as anyone who uses email can testify. We also have to warn our kids not to talk to strangers, even online.

“By learning more about how various factors affect detecting deceit in online communication, our research will certainly have important implications in organizational contexts, both legal and illegal, in the political domain, and in family life as more and more children go online,” says Woodworth, whose research is supported by a grant of $85,055 from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

Prehistoric Pine
“Great Northern Way Gets Digital Grads”

The first class of 13 students graduated this spring and they are already making an impact on the industry. “The first group of Master’s of Digital Media graduates have proven themselves to be true innovators and entrepreneurs,” says Gary Sinclaire, program director and CEO of the Centre for Digital Media. “In addition to the numerous nominations and awards they’ve earned for their work, the graduates have developed a number of exciting digital products and applications that have caught the attention of industry clients and affiliates.”

For example, a digital, interactive and gesture-based system for storefront advertising (D-Sign) is now a fully-funded company that has secured contracts with Giant Tiger and the Vancouver International Airport Authority. Another student project set out to create an astonishing 65 video games in three months. This rapid-prototyping approach to making experimental games led to the creation of a new company, Big Hadron Games. Inc. The start-up was recently nominated for a New Media BC PopVox award.

The degree is jointly awarded by Great Northern Way Crossroads and Prehistoric Plant.

Great Northern Way is a ground-breaking program in emerging digital media. For as challenging months the program offers team-based experiences focused on project learning in close collaboration with BC’s vibrant games and digital media industry. It is interdisciplinary in approach, accepting grad students from Fine Arts, Computer Science, Philosophy, Engineering and other related disciplines, and helping them to emerge from the program with a well-rounded set of skills. In addition to classes, students work on industry-funded projects that require them to liaise with clients, and deliver products on time and on budget.

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Linc Kesler wants to see Aboriginal involvement at all levels of post-secondary education.

In the last issue of Trek Magazine, I outlined how prudent management and exceptional support from our alumni and friends have insulated UBC’s endowment fund from the worst effects of the current global economic crisis. Many university endowments have suffered much deeper declines than has UBC’s, and plans to rebuild the endowment are on track and proving successful.

Operating budgets have been no less affected by the challenging economic times. Many universities have been forced to lay off faculty and staff, reduce programming and limit student aid. Again, UBC is in much better shape than many other institutions for the same reasons that shore up our endowment, as well as strong provincial and federal support, record enrollment and UBC’s expanding reputation as a first-tier academic and research university.

But UBC’s Vancouver campus has an expected $20–25 million budget shortfall for the 2010–2011 fiscal year. The university must deal with this while delivering on our strategic commitment to enhance learning and research.

The traditional budget-setting process at UBC was based on historical figures and did not adequately reflect variations in enrollment numbers. In the planning stages is a model that would link faculty budgets to undergrad and graduate enrollment, which would encourage faculties to increase their graduate populations. The university’s renewal of the Strategic Plan (Place and Promise: The UBC Plan) focuses on an increase in UBC’s graduate student numbers as a way to strengthen the institution’s research leadership and help BC close the graduate student gap with the other provinces in Canada.

We have created a cross-campus task force to examine a number of budget-trimming opportunities in administration, faculties, ancillary services and financial structures. The task force will report at the end of August. The administration team will then engage multiple stakeholders, students included, to finalize a course of action and lay the foundation for the 2010–2011 budget.

Other areas of budget analysis will include an investigation of new sources of income for the university. UBC’s international reputation provides significant academic and financial opportunities, and more of our energies will be focused in those areas. Also under consideration are radical changes to the operation and maintenance of campus infrastructure by simplifying organization and processes, and by adopting a more customer-oriented approach.

In reviewing all budgetary functions, UBC will ensure that resource allocation is based on student needs and academic research priorities.

Implementing these initiatives will require significant commitment, innovation and flexibility from all our stakeholders. The university community is rising to this challenge. I look forward to working with the UBC community on these initiatives, which will help make UBC a stronger, more versatile institution.

Linc Kesler wants to see Aboriginal involvement at all levels of post-secondary education.
The Social Value of Education
Ian Robertson, BA ‘76, BSc. Hons., MA, Chair, UBC Alumni Association

Studies in the US have shown a remarkable correlation between the amount of education a person has and the level of their social, economic and physical well-being. Individuals with a university degree have, in general, better coping skills, more financial resources and make better health choices than individuals with a high school education. Those individuals with less than high school completion do less well on these scales. While it’s true that access to a post-secondary education does favour the middle and upper classes for these and other reasons, similar studies show that the advantages accruing from a university degree (of any kind) flow as well to graduates who came from less advantaged families. And with universities like UBC declaring that no qualified student will be turned away for lack of financial resources, this differential is factually disappearing.

While the Canadian educational landscape is different from that of our neighbour down south (36 per cent of the total population over the age of 25 has a post secondary degree, while the Canadian figure is closer to 55 per cent), similar studies in Canada show that the benefits of a degree are just as dramatic. But the benefits aren’t just personal. A well-educated population is more tolerant, is better equipped to sort out the electoral choices a democracy offers, puts less strain on police, health and social support systems, and is more likely to offer volunteer and philanthropic support to community causes. A well-educated population is less likely to be inflamed by hysteria and demagogy, more likely to question baseless authority and more open to new technologies, ideas and lifestyles.

There’s no magic to this. To be successful at university a student must learn to question facts, investigate options, work in teams and provide leadership. A student has to learn to think through to their conclusions, to weigh one opinion against another, to express thoughts clearly and be absolutely open to the new. While there’s no doubt that four years at university require that a student jump through many hoops, conform to rigorous rules and regulations and spend many hours at tedious labor, it also provides a student with one of the most compelling, inspirational and motivating experiences he or she is likely to have.

We are extremely fortunate to have governments, corporations and individuals who are convinced of the value of post-secondary education and continue to invest in UBC’s success. Our task as alumni is to ensure that our elected leaders maintain this commitment and recognize that – in good economic times or bad – a strong university is the hallmark of a strong society. A strong university is essential to ensuring that our economy is competitive, that our workers are more tolerant; is better-equipped to sort out the electoral choices a democracy offers; puts less strain on police, health and social support systems; and more likely to question baseless authority and more open to new technologies, ideas and lifestyles.

My heart goes out to the families of those who were murdered, the survivors, the community, as well as the students who were arrested and physically restrained. This conniving and obstructive behaviour of course totally disrupted an unbiased opportunity to secure significant identification evidence that could support his innocence as well as his guilt. It is a tragedy.

Gayle had an uncanny ability to “see around corners,” no doubt cultivated from years as a corporate communications executive. She now came to rely mightily on her honest counsel, reliable good cheer and determination. In turn, I encouraged her to pursue her second UBC degree thirty years after completing her Bachelor of Arts degree and to consider devoting her considerable talent to the post-secondary education sector by heading up UBC’s 2010 Olympics & Paralympics Secretariat rather than returning to the business world. While Gayle got the Secretariat off the ground, she was forced to devote the better part of the last ten months to her battle with cancer. There is no way around it – 54 years is just too short a life. And particularly for someone who lived life with such grace and generosity.

Alas, we learned this week about the death of Dr. Bill Gibson, BSc’83, DSc’93, MSC, MD, PhD, as well. A past president of the Board of the Alumni Association, Bill was one of the “elders” on whom I pedled when I first arrived at UBC four and a half years ago. He warmly welcomed me into the fold, schooled me on a few of the highlights of UBC history, and promised to be of help whenever needed. By any reckoning, Dr. Gibson rendered remarkable service to a great many within British Columbia, Canada, and the world over the past 95 years. Tuum Est.
Ian Smith has been involved in Parkinson’s research at UBC since he was diagnosed ten years ago. He hopes Deep Brain Stimulation will alleviate his symptoms.

By ADRIENNE WATT

“I move it, Smith, come on, move those legs.” Former Reserve Army Colonel (and my stepfather-in-law) Ian Smith has barked those orders countless times over the years, but not to his troops. Smith is actually yelling at himself. He is trying to get his legs moving well enough so he can get into a car.

He also gets stuck walking through doorways. Limply immobile. But he can move up and down stairs at an alarming speed. He says, “If my world were a series of stairwells I could get around much more easily.” When he’s on the hunt, he sometimes walks along the curb, up and down, because he can achieve the same effect as he can with stairs. For a period of time he would walk his wife on the middle of night with disturbing screams, but was barely aware he was doing it. Twenty-five per cent of his day is spent dealing with uncontrollable movements. These are Ian’s struggles with both the impulsive and the rigid side-effects of the medication.

The four main symptoms of the disease include involuntary, rhythmic shaking of a limb, head or entire body; stiffness or inflexibility of the limbs or joints; slowness of movement or absence of movement; and impaired balance and coordination. The uncontrollable movement (different from the tremors) often exhibited in Parkinson’s patients is called dyskinesia and is a side-effect of the medication.

Parkinson’s is a progressive, degenerative neurological movement disorder affecting about 150,000 Canadians. It typically develops in people over the age of 60, though a small percentage of people develop young-onset Parkinson’s before reaching 40.

“Often people have a couple of good hours and then the medication effect washes out,” says Stoessl. “But when the medication is working, patients often suffer spasm, writhing or involuntary movements. We are using PET to understand the mechanisms that contribute to those complications and to understand what is happening to dopamine once it’s released.”

It’s this ping-pong effect that has been the most frustrating for Ian. Both Ian and Angie (my mother-in-law) express frustration with the inability to plan their days. Ian thinks he is “on” about 50 per cent of any given day, but when this “on” time will be or when he will not be functioning well due to the dyskinesia or rigidity is totally unpredictable.

“The only thing that is predictable is that I will have some of each (rigidity and dyskinesia) every day.” From simple tasks like making dinner to planning elaborate vacations, Ian and Angie face uncertainty on almost a daily basis.

“My world were a series of stairwells I could get around much more easily.”

“Gradually more and more things have been taken away from me because of this disease,” he says. “I have less time available in the day to contribute and do the things I have always enjoyed.” He has always been involved in his community and is an avid gardener and baker (he makes delicious Christmas cakes). Never one to let an obstacle stand in his way, Ian has found ways he can continue to contribute in his community. “One thing I can do is donate blood regularly. The PET study is another thing I can do that can help others.”

Using PET, researchers monitor the brain’s chemical processes, including the creation, storage, release and breakdown of dopamine, allowing them to assess how the brain compensates for its loss. Researchers are also using PET to understand the bewildering complications of Parkinson’s. Symptoms like decreased movement and stiffness respond well to medication in the early stages, but over time these benefits drop off.

“For instance, studies are underway in collaboration with researchers in psychiatry to understand the psychological problems associated with the disease. Many people with Parkinson’s may have cognitive function and mood or depression problems. Under the influence of medication, some patients can even develop severe behavioural side effects including excessive gambling and shopping habits.”

From examining occupational risk factors with the school of Population and Public Health to working with geneticists at the University of British Columbia, the team approach has led to many advances. The collaboration with the Mayos Clinic resulted in the identification of a dominantly inherited gene that is the most common genetic cause of Parkinson’s.

For relocating the practical work can’t be done in isolation. Dr. Jon Stoessl, director of the PPRC believes the team approach has been the key methodological backbone and a dominantly inherited gene that is the most common genetic cause of Parkinson’s. A new methodological backbone (different from the tremors) often exhibited in Parkinson’s patients is called dyskinesia and is a side-effect of the medication.

Researchers are involved from many disciplines, including physicians, chemists, radio-chemists, image analysis experts, geneticists, epidemiologists and psychiatrists.

“On average, I know that I actually had the first symptoms when I was 42.”

The first symptom he can recall was foot cramps and general fatigue when running (he used to log multi-kilometre runs daily). He noticed unusual stiffness in his knees when bowling one night, and a few years later he started having trouble getting up and falling in his left hand. Parkinson’s becomes progressively disabling, making daily activities like bathing or dressing increasingly difficult.

Our movement is normally controlled by dopamine, a chemical that carries signals between the nerves in the brain. When cells that normally produce dopamine die, the symptoms of Parkinson’s appear. There is no cure, but new treatments and research being conducted at UBC and elsewhere are providing hope. UBC researchers at the Pacific Parkinson’s Research Centre (PPRC) and the Brain Research Centre are addressing three overarching questions: what causes Parkinson’s, what factors contribute to the complications of Parkinson’s and its treatment; and can Parkinson’s be used as a model to understand how the brain works normally?

“You really need a team with varied backgrounds,” he says. “We have basic scientists and basic neuroscientists involved, but our overall focus is clinical.”

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A partnership between Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute and the UBC faculty of Medicine, the Brain Research Centre is one of Canada’s leading neuroscience research institutes. With more than 200 scientists and clinicians at institutions around the province, it seeks to advance our knowledge of the brain and explore new discoveries and technologies with the potential to reduce the suffering and cost associated with disease and injuries of the brain. Some recent advances include:

**Discovery of a genetic defect that causes a rare Parkinson’s-related disorder**

The work of Jon Stoessel and colleagues played an instrumental part in the genetic discovery of a genetic defect causing a rare Parkinson’s-related disorder called Perry Syndrome. Dr. Stoessel and colleagues provided a substantial number of the DNA samples that led to the discovery. Although this syndrome is extremely rare and only eight families were studied worldwide, the mechanism implicated in it may help explain the origins of a variety of neurodegenerative disorders, such as Parkinson’s and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and even common depression and sleep disorders that are also hallmarks of the disorder.

**Identification of proteins involved in neural plasticity**

Tim O’Connor identified a set of proteins that regulate and control the sprouting of neurons, a mechanism known as neural plasticity. This discovery helps explain why the brain loses its capacity to re-grow connections and repair itself, knowledge that could lead to therapeutics that rejuvenate the brain.

**Discovery that common epilepsy drug can rejuvenate the brain**

Weihong Song discovered that a drug used to treat epilepsy and bipolar disorders blocks the formation of Alzheimer’s plaques. This discovery helps explain why the brain loses its capacity to re-grow connections and repair itself, knowledge that could lead to therapeutics that rejuvenate the brain.

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**Creation of a new Centre for Brain Health**

White fundamental research remains the engine that drives discovery research, translational research is the vehicle that directs discoveries through the complexities of target identification, validation, functional characterization, and then to drug development, preclinical testing, and human trials. The Brain Research Centre, Vancouver Coastal Health, the UBC faculty of Medicine, and the Province of British Columbia have joined forces to develop the Centre for Brain Health. When operational, this facility will integrate the neurological and psychiatric clinics with fundamental neuroscience research, effectively transforming the landscape of brain health and care in British Columbia and across the country.
The music of Steven Galloway's third novel plays on.

By JOHN VIGNA

The time after a book's publication can be an intense, exhilarating, soul-baring experience for a writer. Book tours, public readings, fan mail, critical reviews all come in one big time-compressed period, then the writer returns to isolation and, hopefully, another book. But after publishing The Cellist, one year ago, John Vigna, a sessional and assistant professor in UBC's creative writing department, was nominated for a BC Book Prize. Ascension, his second novel, was published three years later and received the 2009 Summer Literary Award.

In Ascension, a Berlin-based writer named Nadia Velicavova, a Bosnian writer, took me around Sarajevo and started shouting at me one day: “Go home and write about Canada,” she said. “You know nothing about Sarajevo.” And he was right. I was an outsider. But being an outsider allowed me to write about things I didn’t know and to learn things rather than just accepting them. The effort of overcoming ignorance helped me work harder to get it right.

After the trip, when I was trying to write the book, I’d hear Nadia’s words ringing in my ears and doubt whether I could tell this story. I had already abandoned a novel 300 pages in, I had a newborn daughter, bills to pay, and I was still in the writing process. I was getting frustrated.

I thought more about structure when I wrote Ascension, this time staring at a whiteboard, writing and erasing, and learned more through those discussions. I read everything I could on Sarajevo and tried to set the story around a few days in the city for a meaningful way. It was an expensive trip, which meant I could only afford to go once. I wanted to go and compare the imaginative Sarajevo that I had constructed with the real one. It meant I could only afford to go once. I wanted to go and compare the imaginative Sarajevo that I had constructed with the real one.

I didn’t write well when I didn’t know what I was going to write. I didn’t write well when I didn’t know what I was going to write. What inspired you to write The Cellist of Sarajevo? During the lead up to the war in Afghanistan and Iraq, I became interested in how war affects everyday citizens like garbage men and doctors. In 1992 I had come across an article about the cellist and it stuck around in my consciousness. Why he played wasn’t what interested me, or who he was. I was interested in the idea that when he played, he had an audience, that he performed a concert and I was interested in what effect, if any, his concert would have on others.

When I was thinking about civilians in war, I realized I could make the cellist as an entry point into the story I wanted to tell. I thought more about structure when I wrote Ascension, this time staring at a whiteboard, writing and erasing, and learned more through those discussions.

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Does this hyper-awareness come from the experience of having written two previous novels? Probably. In addition to Finnie Walsh and Ascension, I've abandoned three novels, one of which has been totally destroyed because it was so awful. The last novel I abandoned came right after I wrote Ascension. I got to page 30 and realized it was terrible and gave up on it. Kurt Vonnegut's rule number one: You probably learn more from failed novels than successful ones.

As punishment, the teacher said if I attended a Young Authors Conference I could make up for the skipped class. So I attended the conference and met Ian Was (UBC playwright) there. After graduation, I enrolled at UBC as a psychology major but then I dropped a course, saw that Ian Was was teaching an introduction to creative writing class so I decided to take that. When I finished the course I applied for the BFA program but I didn't get in. I applied again the following year and got in. After my BFA I applied to the MA program at UBC but I was waitlisted before getting in a few days before the start of classes. I entered the MA as a playwright but left as a novelist.

You've recently been named the Arnold and Nancy McCain Writer in Residence at UBC and appear to be on track for a faculty position. With nearly 14 years in the creative writing department, as both a student and teacher, what do you notice about today's generation of new writers?

It makes me sad to hear writers ask how long they think they will write until they are done. If you're writing to be done, why are you writing? Publication, readers, reviews, awards and any other so-called good thing are secondary to the act of writing. You don't know while writing whether the book will be lauded. You must be alone and go through the hellish process. I worry about students who expect it to be less and who expect more from their writing.

I can teach students how to make themselves better but they have to accept responsibility for it. I don't line-edit their workshop drafts because I don't think they will learn that way. All they do is fix those editors and feel that the story is done, when it is not. I read as a reader and critic and offer some notes as to what's working, what are the patterns and try to teach each person so they can see it in their own writing. Some are open to it, some are not.

What's next for you? Not sure yet. I'm done traveling for the moment. I suppose it's time to stare at my wall and see what I come up with next.

John Vigne is a Vancouver writer.

UBC and Social Media: Join the Conversation

By MATT ARMSTRONG BCOMM '09

A few years ago, some intelligent people took a long hard look at the way the world was using the Internet and recognized a deficiency: organizations were using websites to speak to their audiences, but it was only a one-way conversation. The audiences were offered no means of expressing their opinions online and the organizations were missing out on gathering valuable feedback.

These intelligent people recognized the opportunity for two-way communication offered by the web and, conscious or not of the magnitude of their discovery, went on to build applications that have now reached cultural ubiquity: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc.

From a technology perspective, these applications can be intimidating. Those of us who haven't grown up with Twitter may not know what to do with it, where to start or why to bother.

But if we can see social media as a simple change in philosophy — an invitation to join online two-way conversation — the intimidation diminishes. Facebook, Twitter and the others are simply platforms for the conversation.

Alumni Affairs is exploring these venues in the interest of starting a deeper conversation with you. For the most up-to-date, real-time content with us we offer the options of Facebook and Twitter, and to network with fellow alumni, there's our LinkedIn group.

Consider this an open invitation to participate as much or as little as you would like. Questions, stories, praise or scorn: we would love to hear from you.

Discussion, Events, Stories:
www.facebook.com/ubsalumni
www.twitter.com/ubcalumni
UBC Alumni Networking
http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=58693
(or Google: UBC Alumni LinkedIn)

Matt Armstrong, BCOMM '09 is working with Alumni Affairs and other UBC units to help develop a social media strategy.

It’s not how old you are, it’s how old you feel. Just ask UBC alumni Bill McGhee, B.A. '46, B.S. ’47, who at age 89 is the newest addition to the UBC Okanagan Heat golf team.

An avid golfer, McGhee — who doesn’t look a day over 70 — offered to volunteer his teaching services as an assistant short-game coach after reading about the newly-formed varsity golf team. With nearly 14 years in the creative writing department, as both a student and teacher, what do you notice about today’s generation of new writers?

Johnson, the director of Athletics and Recreation at UBC Okanagan, says McGhee’s expert guidance is helping UBC Okanagan offer one of the best student athletic golf programs in the country.

“Golf is more than a sport, it is a culture, and I’m looking forward to sharing what I’ve learned with the young athletes, and helping them develop their game,” he says.

“It’s a great opportunity for our student athletes because with the addition of Bill they have the opportunity to learn from someone who has a true passion for the game, its history and its traditions,” says Johnson. “Bill knows how to compete and has been teaching, coaching and mentoring for many, many years. That kind of experience is invaluable.

It’s just one more great aspect to the UBC Okanagan golf team, which is emerging as one of the most unique and exciting varsity programs in the country.”

Jody Jacob is an assistant communications coordinator with UBC Okanagan’s Office of Alumni and University Relations.

Healt’s
Short-Game Advisor Long
on Experience

89-year-old golfer Bill McGhee is the latest addition to the UBC Okanagan golf team.
When Memory Elvin and Walter Lewis first met in the Biological Sciences building at UBC in 1951, she was finishing her BA in science and he was working on his master’s in biology and botany. Walter was struck by her long red hair and sparkling hazel-green eyes; he immediately took her out for a coffee at the Bus Stop cafeteria. A couple of years later, Walter left UBC to obtain his PhD in biology at the University of Virginia, while Memory took a position as a medical technologist in the Pearson TB Hospital in Vancouver, but they kept in touch. Friendship blossomed into romance; in 1957 they were married, and by 1965 they had two children.

There the story might have ended, for Memory at least, because in science was not encouraged for women in the 1950s, especially for those who had started a family. But Memory and Walter were not a conventional couple. In the following years their contributions to biological and botanical research would mark them out as pioneers, and together they would become world-renowned as ethnobotanists and ethnomedicines.

Memory’s work initially took her in a different direction. In 1966 she completed a doctorate at Leeds University in medical microbiology, and the following year she accepted a position as a medical technologist in the Tuberculosis Research Laboratory at Tulane University. Memory’s specimens demonstrated that the disease might have a viral-cause, with a sexually-transmitted illness that would not respond to any treatments. The patient, subsequently referred to as Robert R., struggled with his illness for six months. Racked with disease, he was unresponsive to antibiotics and unable to generate an immune response that would have ordinarily controlled his infection. He died in May 1969.

Memory and microbiologist Marlys Witte stored separate samples of Robert R.’s blood and tissues, hoping that a technology might be developed that would help them unravel the mystery. Memory deduced that some kind of viral infection had compromised the patient’s immune system; she gave a conference paper to that effect in 1970, and in 1973 she co-authored a paper on the case history in the journal *Journal of Infectious Diseases.*

The true nature of Robert R.’s illness did not emerge until the following decade, when scientists identified the human immunodeficiency virus and showed its connection to what came to be known as AIDS. In 1984, Memory’s interest in Robert R.’s case was renewed by the recently-published findings on AIDS, and she and Marlys Witte sent their samples for testing by an expert virologist at Tulane University. Memory’s specimens proved conclusively that Robert R. had in fact been suffering from an HIV infection and that his symptoms differed from the ones causing the pandemic then sweeping across the world.

This discovery, made public in 1987, had significant implications for the study of the transmission of AIDS, and was the earliest documented case of AIDS in America. It also demonstrated that the disease might have entered the US many years before its official identification in 1981. Uncovered by the then-novel technique of what Memory calls “retrospective epidemiology,” it would also encourage scientists to forge through tissue and sera banks for clues to the origins of other diseases.

But Memory Elvin-Lewis’s major contributions would come in other areas of medical science. Her work as a microbiologist and epidemiologist at Washington University led to her becoming a leading world expert on plants used in folk dental practices. She became the first woman to be president of the Microbiology sections of both the American Association of Dental Schools and the International Association of Dental Research.

Increasingly focussed on the bioreactivity of plants used for healing, Memory’s research interests gradually converged with those of her husband, who was then studying airborne and allergenic pollens of North America. In the 1970s they began working on herstory (the study of folklore-based medicine on the medical properties of plants and plant extracts) in response to the growing movement for alternative medicine. They analyzed the medicinal properties of herbs and plants for their therapeutic value, their efficacy and (especially important for subsequent development) their safety. The couple’s work was celebrated in a National Geographic special, *Secrets of the Rain Forest* (1981), and helped to uncover herbal remedies with applications to many diseases, including viral hepatitis, tuberculosis and malaria.

A significant dimension of this kind of research is the threat it poses to indigenous people whose knowledge and traditions may become vulnerable to entrepreneurial exploitation. Walter and Memory have been exemplary in sharing and sustaining, a view not always taken by colleagues working in the competitive world of modern science and pharmaceuticals. Their work has brought the couple widespread recognition. Both are Fellows of the Linnean Society of London, recipients of the Martín de la Cruz Silver Medal from the Mexican Academy of Traditional Medicine, and holders of honorary degrees from Andrews University in Michigan. Walter also received an honorary degree from the University of Waterloo. In 2006 they were honoured by the Society for Economic Botany as Distinguished Economic Botanists, the first time a married couple has been recognized.

Awards and titles often signify the culmination of a career, but the couple is as productive as ever. Memory is still on faculty at Washington University (now in the department of Biology), she continues to present at conferences from Mumbai to Mexico and publishes journal articles on the medicinal properties of plants and the issues surrounding profit-sharing.

Alumni and friends of Geography are warmly invited to participate in celebrations and events to mark this milestone anniversary. Space is limited and will be allocated on a first-come basis. Please reserve your place by sending an email to Geog50@geog.ubc.ca indicating which events you’d like to attend. (There is no need to send money at this time.)

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To Make the World a Better Place

Two grads reflect on a life of study, accomplishment and travelling the road together.

By HERBERT ROSENGARTEN and HENRY CHONG M.D.’66

In like fashion, Memory has lectured extensively in the US, the UK and Australia on policies needed to govern the evolving field of traditional remedies and their exploitation. She was a keynote speaker at the international congress on Indigenous Knowledge and Bioprospecting held at Macquarie University in Sydney in 2004. Only by treating indigenous peoples as collaborators and partners, argue Memory and Walter, can the full potential of traditional herbal remedies be fully realized, shared and sustained, a view not always taken by colleagues working in the competitive world of modern science and pharmaceuticals.

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UBC Geography 50th Anniversary

Memory Elvin at UBC, 1951

Memory the Botanist
For more than 90 years, UBC alumni have embodied the vital role their university plays in society. From among their ranks have come the artists and researchers, the civic leaders and sporting heroes, the activists, volunteers and business gurus whose spirit, innovation and passion have had such positive impact on the university, in their communities and beyond.

The annual Alumni Achievement Awards present an opportunity to recognize some of these outstanding men and women for their accomplishments. This year, the celebrations will be held on UBC’s Vancouver campus on Tuesday, November 10 at the UBC Life Sciences Centre.

The following recipients will be honoured:

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**
Hon. John Fraser L70 L73
Lawyer and former federal cabinet minister who has worked tirelessly on issues of conservation and environmental sustainability.

**ALUMNI AWARD OF DISTINCTION**
R. Hon. Kim Campbell R69 L75 L83
Canada’s nineteenth and first female prime minister, now holding leadership positions in several international organizations.

**OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNUS AWARD**
Jennifer Ming N07 D10
Community health leader dedicated to improving the lives of at-risk and homeless Aboriginal youth.

**HONORARY ALUMNUS AWARD**
Dr. Edwin H. K. Yen
Former dean of Dentistry who raised the profile of the school of dentistry at UBC.

Walter, whose interest in botany began more than 60 years ago raising roses in Victoria, retired from his professorship in 2001 but maintains his position as senior botanist at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis. He is currently engaged (with colleagues from Berkeley and Montreal) on a monograph on the genus Rosa in North America, scheduled for publication in 2010.

Memory and Walter have traveled a long way but they have not forgotten Canada or their alma mater. Memory looks back at her youthful self with a mixture of amusement and nostalgia, recalling the dances she helped to organize as secretary of the Film Society in the early 1950s. “We got all the shores of the big bands and showed them on screen at Brock Hall. It was a lot of fun. Can you imagine dancing to all the big bands?” She also remembers being a member of the first class in bacteriology held in the new Wesbrook Building (completed in 1951) at the corner of University Boulevard and East Mall. The building housed the Preventive Medicine Institute, an appropriate setting indeed for the beginning of a long and distinguished partnership between two UBC grads dedicated to uncovering the secrets of nature and making the world “a better place in which to live.”

Herbert Rossopartan is a retired member of the UBC English department; Henry Chung is a Vancouver physician who studied with Memory Elvin-Lewis when they were both undergraduates at UBC.

**OUTSTANDING FUTURE ALUMNUS AWARD**
Parisa Bastani B65 L03
Mechanical engineering grad, Wesbrook scholar and student leader who has shown outstanding potential in the automotive industry.

**OUTSTANDING FACULTY COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**
Dr. Judith Hall
Clinical geneticist and pediatrician who has shown great commitment to the leadership and governance of the BC medical field.

**BLYTH EAGLES VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP AWARD**
Justice Grant D. Burnyeat
A respected judge whose commitment to the university spans from his presidency of the AMS to his membership on the UBC senate.

**ALUMNI MILESTONE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**
UBC School of Nursing
A pioneer in the field of public health, the school was the first in the British Empire to offer a degree-granting nursing program.

**For more details, please visit our website at [www.alumni.ubc.ca/events/awards](http://www.alumni.ubc.ca/events/awards). Recipient bios will be posted soon.**

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**No Handmaiden of Medicine**

Ethel Johns helped establish the UBC nursing program in 1919. Her vision – to transform the role of nurses from physicians’ assistants to professional caregivers – would become a reality.

By Lissa Cowan

The young girl who came with her family to Canada from England in 1892 couldn’t have known the challenges that faced her or the impact she would have on Canadian society. But the seeds were there already: as an English schoolgirl, she used her garden plot in the schoolyard as a burial ground for dead birds and mice instead of growing and tending flowers like the other little girls. An early sign, perhaps, of the independent mind and unique spirit that would lead her to spearhead a turn-of-the-century revolution in nursing.

The family lived at the Wabigoon native reserve in Ontario, where Ethel Johns’ father was a missionary and teacher. According to Margaret Street, who wrote Watch-fires on the Mountains: The Life and Writings of Ethel Johns, he was an atypical missionary in that, unlike many God-fearing colonists who came to Canada in the late 1800s, he didn’t quash Ojibway customs and traditions. After he established his school, the indigenous community continued to follow traditional rites such as the mid-summer medicine or medicine dance.
Johns was fluent in Ojibway, and was an interpreter between the Wabigoon Chief and the federal government.

A defining moment for Johns came in her early twenties when freelance journalist Cora Hind visited the Wabigoon reserve. “This young woman lived in a world of which I knew nothing and was free to come and go as she pleased,” Johns wrote in her diary. “I had never seen anyone like her.” Her encounter with the free-spirited journalist taught Johns that she had led her family into the community and the Ojibway culture had “disappeared.”

In the early years, Johns saw her role as one of “storming the citadel of culture and upbringing. So, at age 21, she set off for Winnipeg to become a nurse. During the epidemic that killed 50,000 in Canada and from 50 to 100 million people worldwide, the need for trained nurses became clear. Johns became a registered nurse in 1925. She helped to found the Academy of Medicine in the province.

Johns’ first brush with struggles in Canada’s public health for the better part of a century. In Vancouver, discussions were taking place about how to improve nursing education in the province. Malcolm MacEachern, medical superintendent for the Vancouver General Hospital, was part of the hospital standardization movement to improve the quality of hospitals. While many in the medical establishment disapproved of the higher education of nurses, MacEachern insisted on a high training standard required it. In a letter addressed to the UBC Senate, he asked the university to take over from the Vancouver General Hospital Training School for Nurses. The Senate appointed a three-member committee to look into the issue. A search began to find a director, and Johns was hired. Although the whole world was in motion for the new school, the debate on the program’s value and what faculty it would fall under had only just begun. Johns was perfectly placed to develop a new set of criteria. She was present at the executive meeting to consider and approve the submission and was there when the Senate referred nursing to the faculty of Applied Science.

In spite of persistent criticism, Johns had two key allies in MacEachern and Reginald Brook, dean of the faculty of Applied Science. “It was an interesting tweak of history to combine nursing with engineering because the idea of nursing having a scientific basis wasn’t really accepted until the 1950s,” Thorne says. “It exists as the only such configuration anywhere in the world and it has retained that history. We’re still in the faculty of Applied Science.”

A photographer of Johns taken in 1919, the year the department of Nursing at UBC was established, showed her wearing a white cap and a black uniform. A graduate of that opening year described her as “very clever and a wonderful lecturer.” Johns referred to UBC as a “young, western, great big university, without too many traditions.”

As Ethel Johns exhibit at a ceremony to celebrate the school of nursing’s 50th anniversary.

In 1929, this was a very revolutionary message.” So revolutionary that in 1922 even the College of Physicians and Surgeons expressed open opposition to the new degree program, reminding that “overtraining of nurses is not desirable and results largely in the losing of their usefulness,” and “theoretical branches of nursing are of very little use in the sick room.” Nevertheless, patient numbers were increasing and there continued to be an overwhelming need for highly trained nurses. Johns addressed an assembly of parliamentarians, expressing their support for the program. “You have taken us for granted, as men always take their women folk for granted,” she said. “Surely we can enlist your sympathy in support of a movement which has as its object the development of a nursing force worthy of a cause to which it and you alike are dedicated: the prevention of disease and the preservation of life freed to the full, active, healthy, and happy.”

Fortunately, for us, Johns enlisted that sympathy and went on to help improve Canadian public health for the better part of a century. 

Lisa Cowan is a writer living in Vancouver. She is working on a book related to women’s health.

Ethel Johns moved nursing away from the handmaiden of medicine image, identifying it in the university and the larger community as a distinct discipline in its own right.
Painting is like breathing for acclaimed BC artist Gordon Smith, but he’s not happy with his work.

By ROBIN LAURENCE

Picture this. Artist Gordon Smith, at 90, is attending an exhibition opening in a crowded South Granville gallery. The show features new paintings by Gathie Falk, one of Vancouver’s most distinguished senior artists, and Smith – datto, only more so – is exclaiming over them. “Garbie is wonderful!” he says. “Wonderful.” Although it’s difficult for him to get around these days (nervous damage from an old injury makes it hard now for Smith to lift his right foot, rendering walking a perilous activity), he conscientiously attends art-world events, especially those honouring friends and colleagues.

Still, he’s clearly tired at this moment and wants to get home. As he makes his way through the throng, towards the door, a fan rushes up to him, shakes his hand, and says, “Are you still painting?” In an uncharacteristic burst of incivility, Smith replies, “Are you still breathing?”

Smith chuckles a bit ruefully at the memory of this exchange. Still, he reiterates that painting is, for him, truly a compulsion. Not to do it means, well, that’s apparently unimaginable to him. Irrespective of all the solo exhibitions he has racked up, all the honours and awards and critical and curatorial acclaim, all the sales to private collectors, all the museum shows, all the museum surveys he has attended, all the solo shows he has curated, all the sold-out catalogues and exhibitions he has staged over the past 70 years, the artistic demands have never abated. For most of his career, Smith has disparaged his own work. Irrespective of all the solo exhibitions, all the critical and curatorial acclaim, all the sales to private collectors, all the museum surveys he has staged over the past 70 years, he is reputed to have said on his deathbed in 1917 that he wished he had all his paintings back so that he could put his boot through them.

Smith’s painting compulsion is not about competing with others, he insists. Instead, it has to do with meeting the demands of some very critical inner being. Meeting them and exceeding them is, for him, truly a compulsion. Not to do it means, well, that’s apparently unimaginable to him. Irrespective of all the solo exhibitions he has racked up, all the honours and awards and critical and curatorial acclaim, all the sales to private collectors, all the museum shows, all the museum surveys he has attended, all the solo shows he has curated, all the sold-out catalogues and exhibitions he has staged over the past 70 years, he is reputed to have said on his deathbed in 1917 that he wished he had all his paintings back so that he could put his boot through them.

Painting is like breathing for acclaimed BC artist Gordon Smith, but he’s not happy with his work.
Thank you to all alumni volunteers who have given their time and talent to UBC. One of you stands to win a case of the recently-launched UBC Alumni wine. We have made every effort to include all alumni who attended the Nava event in 2009 and apologize in advance for any omission. If you have been left out, please send your details (first and last names, degree, year, and volunteer role) to Marita Ivanovich at marita.ivanovich@ubc.ca at 604.822.9317 by August 31, 2009, so we can include your name in the draw.

ADDITIONAL ALUMNI

ADAM AKHENGO
MBA'91
dmd'00

BASC'74, BASc'79

BASc'01, mBA'07

BSc'07

BASc'73

BSc'02, dmd'08

mBA'05

Bcom'05

mBA'09

Bcom'98

mBA'09

BmuS'97, mBA'07

BSc'05

BSc'00

mBA'06

Bcom'79

BSc'97, mSc'00, dmd'04

mBA'04

Bcom'08

BSc'97, mSc'00, dmd'04

mBA'04

Bcom'05

BA'09

BASc'01, mBA'07

BSc'02

mBA'09

Bcom'86

mBA'09

Bcom'06

BSc'02, dmd'08

mBA'05

Bcom'05

mBA'09

Bcom'98

mBA'09

Bcom'06

BSc'02

mBA'09

Bcom'98

mBA'09

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Bcom'98

mBA'09

Bcom'06

BSc'02
UBC-watchers may remember the controversy surrounding the university’s first foray into market housing at Hampton Place on the corner of Wesbrook Mall and 16th Avenue on the Vancouver campus. The idea of leaving some of UBC’s endowed land to generate revenue was inflammatory to many people, especially those living in Vancouver’s West Side. Protestors came in two stripes: one saying that the university was selling itself out to developers, the other that the pristine nature of the campus would be forever compromised by the destruction of forest.

It’s easy to see what they were getting at. Our campuses pride themselves on their locations. Promotional materials from every university unit including student view books, Continuing Studies pamphlets, web sites, faculty job prospectuses and this magazine do not shy away from showing the grand vistas from UBC’s Vancouver campus and the radian, wine-growing backdrop of UBC Okanagan. In the refined parlance of today, we pimp our campuses shamelessly. And why shouldn’t we? If our locations will woo a top student or researcher away from the crumbling infrastructure of California’s universities or the Toronto dreaminess of the U of T or the frenzied urban tundra of McGill, why not? All things academic being equal, who wouldn’t want to come to UBC?

Protestors’ threats to climb the trees and stop land clearing never came about, and one Saturday morning the bulldozers moved in to clear the site of its second growth trees. Hampton Place was up and running. And, 20 years on, the dent in the forest has all but disappeared.

Since then, commercial housing has taken off at UBC. The Offical Community Plan (OCP), which outlined the concept of eight neighbour-hoods at UBC has informed the construction of market, rental and below-market rental housing across campus, all being marketed under the banner of UTown@UBC. A visit to its website (www.planning.ubc.ca) gives a wealth of information on the planning and execution of UBC’s new community. The changes are huge: the old B-Lot is gone, replaced by Hawthorne Place complete with a replica of the Old Barn for a community centre. The row of Animal House-era frat houses is gone, replaced by more respectable buildings for the Greeks on Wesbrook Mall, and farther south, just west of Acadia Park, the new East Campus neighbourhood with rental and market units.

Upscale Chancellor Place centres around the Iona building (the Vancouver School of Theology) and features rental and market units, many of them with a $1 million-plus price tag. The largest neighbourhood is currently under construction south of 16th between Pacific Spirit Park and Marine Drive, called Wesbrook Place. It will feature about 2,500 units split among market housing, rentals, co-development (where the university partners with buyers) and special needs housing. It will also include the largest commercial area, with food stores, shops and a village centre. University Square (around the Wes Memorial Gym) is still in the planning stages, but will include student housing, a new SUB and an Alumni Centre. It’s envisioned as the new heart of the Vancouver campus and, already, there’s a new pub and various commercial enterprises doing brisk business across the street from the Empire Pool.

As well, space in the academic centre of campus has been filling up. From the mid 1990s to today, more than 30 new academic buildings have gone up at UBC, with nearly as many undergoing major renovations including the Science Building, Mann Library and the Buchanan buildings. It’s not hyperbolic to suggest that grade from the 1990s and earlier planning a visit to the Vancouver campus should get themselves a map before they venture on campus so they won’t get lost.

There’s no doubt that money was one of the driving forces behind the creation of UTown@UBC. The university’s endowment of land was originally about 4,500 acres, taking in much of Pacific Spirit Park and north to Spanish Banks. That shrink to nearly nothing over the years until 1997 when WAC Bennett’s government defined the existing campus lands at about 1,000 acres. The purpose of the land was to supply funding for the university through land leases and rentals, a way of ensuring financial viability over a long period of time. Land is leased to developers, with funds raised going directly to the endowment. So far, the endowment has raised nearly $300 million to support UBC’s institutional mission. (See www.university.ubc.ca/endowment.php for details on UBC’s endowment.)

But whatever criticism the university may have come for for a land for a cash-genera- tion, it absorbed itself, in many minds, by the careful, thoughtful and sustainable manner in which it manages the development. Many other institutions in similar situations have cut every corner and squandered every dime, squandering whatever good will they might have generated. In formulating a plan for the land’s use, the OCP is very specific on the conditions of develop- ment. These are based on the GVRD (now Metro Vancouver) Livable Region strategic plan and designed to ensure open spaces and to create “a vibrant and integrated community on the university campus.” Development must be aimed at reducing single car traffic, include a large percentage of residents who work or study at UBC, be roughly 20 per cent rental and 10 per cent below-market rental for students and special needs.

This commitment to the concept of open spaces spurred the university’s Board of Governors to provide a conditional guarantee that the UBC Farm will continue in its present form for the foreseeable future. The decision has helped to make most some of the most pointed criticism of the UTown project.

Now, nearly 61 per cent of the people who live in new UTown residences work or study at UBC; one thousand of those are faculty and staff. This has an impact on the carbon footprint of the Vancouver campus, though the decrease in single-occupancy vehicle trips (down 14 per cent) and the increase in transit ridership (up 18.5 per cent) might have as much to do with the new student UPass and the high cost of parking as it does with on-campus living.

Altogether, about 10,000 people live on the Vancouver campus (which includes about 8,000 living in residence like Tomlin Park). By 2012, the OCP forecasts a population of 18,000, and by 2030, when construction is complete, more than 24,000 people will live here.

So, were the initial protestors right? Has the creation of UTown@UBC been an ecological, social, academic and cultural disaster? The jury might still be out on that: what the campus might look like with 14,000 residents on it is hard to imagine. But so far it’s supplied nothing but benefits. The new neighbourhoods give the campus a friendly, village feel; the increase in foot traffic keeps the campus alive after classes; and, the sense of community is clearly growing. Construction has been tasteful and attractive, suited to the local climate, nicely landscaped and well-integrated into the rest of the campus. It doesn’t hurt, either, that the university’s endowment has been enhanced, making sure that the academic mission will continue to be funded.

There are still many who feel that UTown@UBC has ruined UBC’s purity as an academic institution, that it has sold its soul to the highest bidder. But careful planning and an honest eye to sustainability, accessibility and community building here, so far, improved the Vancouver campus’ reputation as the best in the country. Refugees from the world’s dowdier campuses will continue to scour the want ads for hope.
In 1929, a 24-strong herd of Ayrshire cattle was donated to the university. Only problem was, the cattle were located in their native Scotland. That year, intrepid Scot John Young accompanied the “bonny coos” to Vancouver. He later became manager of UBC farm.

When UBC’s varsity teams were trying to decide on a nickname, students were asked for suggestions. These included Seagulls, Golden Eagles, and the (rapidly dismissed) Sea Slugs. Thunderbird — a powerful and revered creature from indigenous folklore — proved the strongest contender and was officially sanctioned as school mascot by the Kwicksutaineuk Nation in 1948.

When librarian J. T. Gerould was appointed by first UBC president Frank Wesbrook in 1914 to travel to Europe and purchase a collection for UBC’s library, the Germans detained him on suspicion of spying for the British. Their evidence? He was carrying a site plan for UBC’s proposed Point Grey campus. He was held for three weeks in Leipzig before being released, spending part of this time in prison.

The Thunderbirds took on the Harlem Globetrotters in January, 1946, and won!

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In 1969, UBC Engineers absconded with Vancouver’s beloved nine o’clock gun. For four nights the city sat silent, awaiting the return of its comforting bang.

The first student publication, Anonymous, was published in 1916. With such a memorable name, it’s no surprise that within two years the nameplate had changed to The Ubyssey.

The then-unknown Toronto band, Barenaked Ladies, headlines the first Arts County Fair. Sadly, this 16-year tradition came to an end in 2007 after years of losing money.

Famous people who have attended or graduated from UBC include actress Evangeline Lilly (of Lost fame), pro baseball’s Jeff Francis, environmentalist David Suzuki, prime minister John Turner and Kim Campbell and, of course, Nardwuar the Human Serviette.

The Ladner Clock Tower is 140 feet high and has 133 bells. (Who knew?)

Agreement to build the Asian Centre was finally granted when a UBC professor ceremonially threatened the president at sword point.

Tennessee Williams was an artist in residence at UBC, circa 1980.

UBC is a popular filming location. Famous on-set visitors include Ben Kingsley, Dennis Hopper, Jennifer Beals and Isabella Rossellini. Movies and TV shows featuring backdrops you may find familiar include The X-Files and Scooby Doo 2 and the currently airing Harper’s Island (filmed at Cecil Green Park House, home of UBC Alumni Affairs).

UBC’s Chan Centre is shaped like a cello, Koerner Library like a book, the First Nations Longhouse like a canoe, the indoor pool like the head of the Thunderbird, the Biology building like a cell, and the layout of the Nitobe Memorial Garden is modelled on the Milky Way.

little known facts about UBC:

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In May, more than 1,500 UBC alumni and friends descended on the Vancouver campus to top up on sunshine, music, food and fun. They chose from more than 75 events ranging from yoga classes to lectures on astronomy.

1. Professor of Astrophysics Jaymie Matthews shared discoveries made by the MOST satellite during one of several Classes Without Quizzes offered by UBC experts over the weekend. Designed and built at UBC, MOST is Canada’s first space telescope. While not much bigger than the telescope used by Galileo, it is capable of measurements beyond the abilities of almost every other observatory in the world.

2. Alumni Weekend saw the launch of four varieties of UBC Alumni Wine. See www.alumni.ubc.ca/rewards/wine.php for details on how to order. Proceeds go towards the construction of a new Alumni Centre with facilities for the whole campus community.

3. Alumni, along with friends and family, enjoyed a BBQ lunch sponsored by Mahony & Sons, with entertainment that included live music, face paint- ers, balloon artists, magicians and even tooth fairies from the faculty of Dentistry.

4. A tour of the Life Sciences Centre explained the green building technologies used in its construction. It is one of the largest buildings in Canada to achieve LEED® Gold certification in recognition of its environmental integrity. The centre is an international hub for medical research and education.

5. Alumni enjoyed an afternoon softball game on the new UBC Fields.

6 and 8. Globe and Mail National Affairs columnist Jeffrey Simpson, LLD’98, moderated a panel discussion on the state of the economy. He was joined by UBC finance professor Maurice Levi, former CEO of HSBC Bank USA Martin Glynn, MBA’76; and president and CEO of the Business Council of British Columbia Virginia Greene, BA’68. (Part of the UBC dialogues series. See www.alumni.ubc.ca/events/dialogues. For more info.)

7. Ever wondered how stars shine or why gold and silver are more precious than carbon and oxygen? Alumni found the answers to these questions and more during a tour of TRIUMF, Canada’s national laboratory for Particle and Nuclear Physics.

8. Alumni tiptoed among the treetops at The Botanical Garden’s new Greenheart Canopy Walkway, located up to 17.5 metres above the ground. They had the perfect vantage point from which to learn about the unique upper layers of the coastal rainforest ecosystem.

9. Friends, kids and family pets – all were welcome.

10. The sun shone all day and live music from local band Warless entertained people as they enjoyed a BBQ lunch.
The Pharmacy Class of 1978 held its 30th anniversary reunion on October 22, 2008, at the Hilton Vancouver Metrotown. Thirty-four graduates and 24 spouses attended with Dr. and Mrs. John McNell attending as honored guests. The Class of ’79 reunion, chaired by the Right Honourable John Turner, was held on May 31 at the University Golf Club. More than 530 alumni and friends attended.

The Masters of Social Work Class of ’74 celebrated its 30th anniversary with a pub night at the University Golf Club, a tour of the Social Work building and dinner at Watermark Restaurant on Kits Beach.

The School of Nursing has been celebrating its 90th anniversary all year, with events including the annual All Years Nursing Reunion Luncheon at Cecil Green Park House.

Please join us for the 92nd alumni association annual general meeting on Thursday, September 10, 2009, at the Vancouver Convention Centre West. This year’s meeting will be held in the Canada Ballroom from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you are interested in being a volunteer on September 8 please contact Matt Corker at 604.827.3031 or matt.corker@ubc.ca.

If you are interested in helping us welcome new alumni in your area or would like them to benefit from the insights of alumni as they prepare for their final year as a student. If you are interested in helping us welcome new alumni in your area or would like them to benefit from the insights of alumni as they prepare for their final year as a student. If you are interested in helping us welcome new alumni in your area or would like them to benefit from the insights of alumni as they prepare for their final year as a student. If you are interested in helping us welcome new alumni in your area or would like them to benefit from the insights of alumni as they prepare for their final year as a student. If you are interested in helping us welcome new alumni in your area or would like them to benefit from the insights of alumni as they prepare for their final year as a student.
Henry Ewart BA '64 received a Historical Award of Merit at the Vancouver Historical Society’s annual banquet on April 5. The award is given annually to one or more persons who have made significant contributions to the understanding and appreciation of Vancouver history. This award follows hard on the heels of the publication of the historical society’s highly successful DVD City Reflections, in which he played a major role. In May 2009, John Gordon BSc ’65 was inducted into the Queen’s School of Business Faculty Hall of Fame. The citation read that “under his leadership as dean, the school began its transformation to the world-renowned institution that it has become. Early in his tenure as dean, he led the creation of a strategy for the school that emphasized [its] identification with the university, innovation and true excellence in both teaching and research”.

Mrs. Sakata’s Garden, a painting by Larance Wildman BEd ’74, was recently donated to the Richmond Hospital Foundation and has been included in the waning area of the diagnostics imaging department. The painting depicts Mrs. Sakata digging in her garden, a well-loved local landmark, and Wildman feels her subject represents the contribution of the Japanese-Canadian people to Richmond.

Sophia M.R. Leung BSW ’64, MSW ’66 has focused her career in the areas of social work, community development and public service. Throughout the years, she has made significant social and political contributions to BC and Canada as a medical social worker, community volunteer, business consultant and as the first female Asian Member of Parliament, representing Vancouver Kingsway. In recognition of her contributions, she has received many honours, including: YWCA Women of Distinction, Canada Volunteer Award, Order of Canada, Honorary Citizen of Calgary, Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal and Prime Minister’s Citation. Sophia devoted her life to public service and was elected to the House of Commons for two terms (1997-2004). She served as MP and Parliamentary Secretary for the National Revenue. In 2004, Sophia did not seek federal reelection. However, she remained involved in public service as Special Advisor to the Prime Minister from 2004-2006. Today she actively works on international business projects and facilitates high school and university exchanges between Canada and China.

On March 26, 2009, Christopher Grant BASc ’65, PEng and Karin Lind MFA ’92, were married at the home of the groom’s mother in Fort Langley, BC. Karin and Chris first met at UBC more than 40 years ago when both were graduate students. They went their separate ways, Chris working as a structural engineer and consultant with his own practice, Karin as an anthropologist teaching at Capilano University. They each raised a family of two sons (Eric and Simon) and live in Toronto and Karin’s sons, Michael and Andrew, live in Vancouver and Calgary respectively.

Karin and Chris met again two years ago and “love at second sight” led to the recent marriage held among the extended kin of the Grants. They will live in West Vancouver.

Jim Thursell PhD ’79 was granted an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Alberta at the 2009 spring convocation in Edmonton. The citation reads “…in recognition of an outstanding Canadian and alumnus for his pivotal role in the preservation of natural areas around the world.” From his home base in the East Coast Yamaha, Jim continues to work part time for the International Union for Conservation of Nature and serves on several international conservation boards…”

Dr. I. Knott BSc’87, MSc’89, PhD’97, a senior partner of Vancouver-based law firm Clark Wilson LLP, has been appointed as a Canadian commissioner to the International Joint Commission. The commission helps prevent and resolve water-related disputes, primarily about quantity and quality, along the boundary between Canada and the United States. During the announcement of this appointment, Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs The Honourable Lawrence Cannon noted that “his years of distinguished legal and community service will be an asset to the commission”.

Marcus D. Busch MSc ’74 is back at Edmonton Public Schools as a social work consultant following a year of volunteering in Cambodia. Marcus served as a communications consultant with Lutheran World Federation (LWF) – Cambodia, a rural community development NGO. During his sojourn in Phnom Penh, Marcus authored the book Angkor L, which tells the story of LWF – Cambodia, from its arrival following the defeat of the Khmer Rouge in 1979 to its pending autonomy in 2010. Marcus called his social work training in community development to make links with the community development practices of the organization. His social work experience in emergency response contributed to discussions around the formulation of a regional response to the Cyclone Narga disaster in Myanmar in May 2008. The Cambodia year of service marks Marcus’ third self-financed sabbatical in his 26 years with the Edmonton School Board. Marcus and his wife, Margaret Sadler, sport 1973-93 in a small town in central Hokkaido teaching English as a foreign language and 2000-01 in the largest city in the Arctic Desert – Nuuk, capital of Greenland – as communications consultant with LWF – Mauritania. … Glenn M. Hardie MEd ’82, BAYU has published his fifth book: Reason with Compassion – The Humanist Way. It is intended as a primer to the principles and practices of humanism for those new to the free-thought tradition. He is a founding member of the British Columbia Humanist Association, serving on its board of directors for many years.

It was love at second sight for Christopher Grant BA’65, PEng, and Karin Lind, MFA’92, when they met at the home of the groom’s mother in Fort Langley, BC. Karin and Chris first met at UBC more than 40 years ago when both were graduate students. They went their separate ways, Chris working as a structural engineer and consultant with his own practice, Karin as an anthropologist teaching at Capilano University. They each raised a family of two sons (Eric and Simon) and live in Toronto and Karin’s sons, Michael and Andrew, live in Vancouver and Calgary respectively.

Eleanor Schömoser MAUS ’99 is the 2009 winner of the Alfred G. Bailey prize for her poetry manuscript What We Don’t Think of Packing … Carmen Werder PhD ’07 is director of Writing Instruction and the head of the Teaching-Learning Academy at Western Washington University (WWU). She has won the inaugural Carl H. Simpson Bridging Award, which recognises and supports efforts to create bridges and forge new paths that others may follow and build upon. The award is named in memory of a 54-year WWU professor and administrator … Allan Rajesky BSc (Pham ’81) and Delphine Montil-Cambou were married on October 11, 2008, in Vancouver, and are now happily living in Calgary.

Social worker and author Sarah Burns BSW ’67 has been the 2009 Northern Lit Award for her first novel, Jackfish. The Vanishing Village. Jackfish tells the story of a woman unraveling from a traumatic past and her yearning for redemption. The award was sponsored by the Ontario Library Service … Christopher Mackie BSc ’72 and his mother have received costs of arms from the Governor General in recognition of the latter’s community service. As hereditary in Canada is part of the national honours system, this was a happy moment for the family. The symbolism in the arms refers to Christopher’s mother’s heritage in both Cornwall and Saskatchewan, and to her forefather’s Loyalist service in the American Revolutionary War … Günther Jauck MEd ’92 recently published Potential Areas of Conflict in Mergers & Acquisitions: An Investigation into Corporate Social Responsability and Shareholder Value Issues – with Case Study Analysis, based on the master’s thesis he wrote while completing an MSc in Finance at UBC in 2003. Samantha Bangayan BA ’85, recently returned from a six-month overseas work placement as part of the Youth Partnership program at the Goodyear International Institute, funded by the Canadian International Development Agency. She worked as an: small child kickball facilitator for the non-governmental organization T’leat in Huancayo, Peru, conducting one-on-one home visits with both urban and rural farming mothers in the Mantaro Valley of the Central Andes. She collaborated with Peruvian early development workers to identify the primary development priorities that need to be addressed. Based on this assessment, she headed a team that developed and implemented a pilot program designed to give parents the knowledge and skills necessary to foster optimal development in their children. In conjunction with Peruvian staff and other organizations, the team designed an evaluation method, consolidated results, and prepared reports of findings. The reports included ideas to modify the pilot program based on feedback from parents regarding its accessibility and appropriateness to the family context in the region.
The Riverbones: Stumbling After Eden in the Jungles of Suriname

ANDREW WESTOLL, MV'14

McCheirdy and Stewart, $24.99

The Riverbones is a part travelogue, part guidebook into the unknown. Suriname remains a mystery to most, a name some of us may have heard but most wouldn’t be able to locate on a map. Despite its obscurity, this historically and ecologically-relevant South American nation may inspire even the most settled armchair travelers to set out in search of its own pieces of Eden.

Westoll’s masterfully-written exploration of this beguiling and mysterious land reflects deeply and often on the conflict between turmoil and tranquility that lies at the heart of Suriname’s obscuring and ancient jungle. As time goes by, it becomes increasingly evident that the personal sacrifices he made to complete his journey were—though difficult—ultimately necessary for him to find the freedom he needed.

From his immersion into Maroon culture to his obsessive quest to find the tiny blue okopipi bird, Westoll’s unique perspective on life and travel takes readers along on a fantastic journey, distilling his five months in Suriname into a frequently thrilling, enchanting, occasionally heartbreaking and thoroughly thought-provoking page-turner.

Westoll’s work can regularly be found in such Canadian publications as The Walrus and Explore, and the Globe and Mail, and has been included in the anthologies White Rocks: An Anthology of Contemporary BC Poetry and Ink: Poems on Mothers and Motherhood. Westoll’s work is also available in French and Chinese.

In Inventory: Poems

MARGUERITE PIGEON, MA'14

Anvil Press, $15

How much can one read into a mountain, a hair dryer or a key? Does deep meaning lie behind their practical purposes or are they merely objects? In Inventory, poet Marguerite Pigeon breathes life into these and many other often mundane, but sometimes fantastic, objects. In “Inca Child Mummies (Extinction IV)” she writes:

“DNA tests will determine whether these are relatives of the bestselling group that rose from the Andes. If not, scientists will be relieved these orphans work so hard for them… all in the name of time’s cruel joke: a death that never ends.”

As she prods deeper, getting to the very essence of existence, Pigeon uses startling imagery to project alternate perspectives on being. In “Movie Theatre” she evokes the visceral spirit of the movie-going experience:

“Mr. Cine, the croon hasers and trees below a shaft of old dust, which spins, which sparkles into images.”

Throughout the collection, Pigeon never ceases to amaze with the insight she attains to her words. Her unique vision of the world and the objects within it makes Inventory an intriguing journey into the metaphysical realm.

Marquette Pigeon’s work has appeared in journals including sub/TERRAIN, The Capilano Review, ANDDecon, Grain and Taddle Creek.

In Murder at Hotel Cinema

DANIEL CRAIG, BA'92

Midnight Ink, $18.50

Murder at Hotel Cinema is the second in a series of five books written by engaging author, Daniel Craig. The UBC Alumni Book Club featured this book in the spring and it was a hit. Like his earlier offering, Murder at the Universe, I thoroughly enjoyed this peek behind the scenes of Hollywood as a celebrity of paparazzi and publicists.

As he life becomes infiltrated by the omnipresent movie star culture that surrounds Hollywood’s hottest new hotel. As his life becomes infiltrated by the omnipresent movie star culture that surrounds Hollywood’s hottest new hotel, Rosenau’s work has been published in such literary journals as Taddle Creek, The Walrus, and The Globe and Mail.

Yes, but you’ll have to read it to find out. This August, my holiday read will be Daniel’s latest installment in the series, Murder at Governor’s Manor.

By Barney Ellesterry, BA'97

Public Art in Vancouver: Angels Among Lions

AILEEN STALKER, BA'77, MFA'00 AND JOHN STEIL

Touchwood Editions, $19.95

This August, my holiday read will be Daniel’s latest installment in the series, Murder at Governor’s Manor.

By Barney Ellesterry, BA'97

Public Art in Vancouver: Angels Among Lions

AILEEN STALKER, BA'77, MFA'00 AND JOHN STEIL

Touchwood Editions, $19.95

Most people think of beautiful scenery when they travel to communities and destinations such as Vancouver. What many people may not know is that there are more than 300 public art installations in the city. This guidebook explores Vancouver’s public art installations and features easy-to-follow maps, detailed descriptions, engaging photographs and artist and artwork indexes. Learn about both the celebrated and unknown art installations covering a multitude of mediums including tapestries, figures, monuments, murals, First Nations art, mosaics, relics, busts, fountains, gates, sculptures and many more. Discover these urban treasures as you travel to communities and destinations such as False Creek, Chinatown, the West End, Downtown East Vancouver, VanDusen Garden, Stanley Park and UBC.

God of Missed Connections

ELIZABETH BAICHINSKY, BA'92, MFA'04

Nightwood Editions, $17.95

The themes of personal and ecological change finally collide in the long, closing poem, “Epiphanic,” as she tells the story of her new family’s move into the epicenter of the North’s obscuring and ancient jungle. As time goes by, it becomes increasingly evident that the personal sacrifices she made to complete her journey were—though difficult—ultimately necessary for her to find the freedom she needed.

From her immersion into Maroon culture to her obsessive quest to find the tiny blue okopipi bird, Westoll’s unique perspective on life and travel takes readers along on a fantastic journey, distilling his five months in Suriname into a frequently thrilling, enchanting, occasionally heartbreaking and thoroughly thought-provoking page-turner.

Westoll’s work can regularly be found in such Canadian publications as The Walrus and Explore, and the Globe and Mail, and has been included in the anthologies White Rocks: An Anthology of Contemporary BC Poetry and Ink: Poems on Mothers and Motherhood. Westoll’s work is also available in French and Chinese.

In Inventory: Poems

MARGUERITE PIGEON, MA'14

Anvil Press, $15

How much can one read into a mountain, a hair dryer or a key? Does deep meaning lie behind their practical purposes or are they merely objects? In Inventory, poet Marguerite Pigeon breathes life into these and many other often mundane, but sometimes fantastic, objects. In “Inca Child Mummies (Extinction IV)” she writes:

“DNA tests will determine whether these are relatives of the bestselling group that rose from the Andes. If not, scientists will be relieved these orphans work so hard for them… all in the name of time’s cruel joke: a death that never ends.”

As she prods deeper, getting to the very essence of existence, Pigeon uses startling imagery to project alternate perspectives on being. In “Movie Theatre” she evokes the visceral spirit of the movie-going experience:

“Mr. Cine, the croon hasers and trees below a shaft of old dust, which spins, which sparkles into images.”

Throughout the collection, Pigeon never ceases to amaze with the insight she attains to her words. Her unique vision of the world and the objects within it makes Inventory an intriguing journey into the metaphysical realm.

Marquette Pigeon’s work has appeared in journals including sub/TERRAIN, The Capilano Review, ANDDecon, Grain and Taddle Creek.

In Murder at Hotel Cinema

DANIEL CRAIG, BA'92

Midnight Ink, $18.50

Murder at Hotel Cinema is the second in a series of five books written by engaging author, Daniel Craig. The UBC Alumni Book Club featured this book in the spring and it was a hit. Like his earlier offering, Murder at the Universe, I thoroughly enjoyed this peek behind the scenes of Hollywood as a celebrity of paparazzi and publicists.

As he life becomes infiltrated by the omnipresent movie star culture that surrounds Hollywood’s hottest new hotel. As his life becomes infiltrated by the omnipresent movie star culture that surrounds Hollywood’s hottest new hotel, Rosenau’s work has been published in such literary journals as Taddle Creek, The Walrus, and The Globe and Mail.

Yes, but you’ll have to read it to find out. This August, my holiday read will be Daniel’s latest installment in the series, Murder at Governor’s Manor.

By Barney Ellesterry, BA'97

Public Art in Vancouver: Angels Among Lions

AILEEN STALKER, BA'77, MFA'00 AND JOHN STEIL

Touchwood Editions, $19.95

Most people think of beautiful scenery when they travel to communities and destinations such as Vancouver. What many people may not know is that there are more than 300 public art installations in the city. This guidebook explores Vancouver’s public art installations and features easy-to-follow maps, detailed descriptions, engaging photographs and artist and artwork indexes. Learn about both the celebrated and unknown art installations covering a multitude of mediums including tapestries, figures, monuments, murals, First Nations art, mosaics, relics, busts, fountains, gates, sculptures and many more. Discover these urban treasures as you travel to communities and destinations such as False Creek, Chinatown, the West End, Downtown East Vancouver, VanDusen Garden, Stanley Park and UBC.

God of Missed Connections

ELIZABETH BAICHINSKY, BA'92, MFA'04

Nightwood Editions, $17.95

There’s a danger in remaining ignorant of history’s impact on one’s sense of self. If where you’re from doesn’t matter to you, then history is the bridge that connects the pieces. In such a world, people and place are inextricably linked. In God of Missed Connections, Elizabeth Bachinsky reflects on the horrors of her ancestors homeland of Ukraine while attempting to build connections for a new generation of Ukrainians.

From Stalin’s manufactured famine—genocide, known in the country as holodomor, to the personal and commercial fiasco of Chernobyl, the Ukraine has had its share of tragic history. “In Evolution of the Species,” she reflects:

“Since Chernobyl, children Arrive in baldus shapes, Legs and arms on backboards Some are born without eyes.

Things are not always so black, however, as Bachinsky has the ability to draw light from even the darkest events of her family’s history. “In Letter to My Sons,” she describes her daughter’s encounter with modern-day devil-like figure, spinning “like a revved-up bullteria” at the very wedding where her mother nearly died. Bachinsky has the ability to draw light from even the darkest events of her family’s history. “In Letter to My Sons,” she describes her daughter’s encounter with modern-day devil-like figure, spinning “like a revved-up bullteria” at the very wedding where her mother nearly died.

“Bachinsky has the ability to draw light from even the darkest events of her family’s history. “In Letter to My Sons,” she describes her daughter’s encounter with modern-day devil-like figure, spinning “like a revved-up bullteria” at the very wedding where her mother nearly died.

In other Alumni Books

The Leader as a Mensch: Become the Kind of Person Others Want to Follow

BRUNA MARTINEZUCCI, BA'14, MA'14

Hiking in Colour

JACQUELINE HOOPER, BA'11, BS’14, MA'14, MA’14

Kill or Be Killed: The Henry Street Affair

IVAN MARIANI, BA'14

A Genealogy of Literary Multiculturalism

CHRISTOPHER DOUGLAS, BS’13
Chris Dyck
Marisa Field, Chris Dyck and Callum Ng
UBC Women’s Golf Team
UBC Men’s Golf Team
MAY BROWN AWARD to the most outstanding graduating female athlete: Marisa Field (volleyball)
BUSS PHILLIPS AWARD to the most outstanding male athlete: Cory Renfrew (golf)
Marny Brownlow Award to the most outstanding female athlete: Anamay Pierse (swimming)
Die Ventur Prize to the team of the year: Men’s Golf
Men’s Rookie of the Year: Co-winners Spencer Betts (football) and Matt Pepe (hockey)
Women’s Rookie of the Year: Shannea Marcelle (volleyball)
Carolyn Dobie-Smith Award to the top all-star team
Arthur Delamont Award for Exceptional Service and Goodwill: Claudia Richard (women’s track and field)
Brian Johns lowered the short course mark in the 200-metre breaststroke in March. Competing at the Canadian Spring National Championships in Toronto, Pierse’s time of 2:17.50 bettered Lessie Jones’ 2003 world mark of 2:17.75.
“It feels absolutely amazing,” said Pierse. “All the hard work I have put in is paying off. It’s my goal to be the best in the world. I planned to get the record tonight and I really believed in myself. The crowd was absolutely amazing tonight and it kept me going in that last 50.”

Pierse was ahead of record pace the entire race. After a blistering first 130 metres, she was sitting more than a second ahead of Jones’ record with just 52 metres remaining. She was able to hold on down the stretch.

It’s Canada’s first world record since Brian Johns lowered the short course mark in the 400 individual medley in 2002, swimming at the Pan Am Games. In arguably one of the best games of the year, the two regional foes went punch for punch for a spot in the final, with UBC’s fifth-year senior Chris Dyck putting together a career performance.

Dyck led UBC to a 79-74 victory with 54 points on 22-46-72 scoring and did so while wearing a pair of borrowed shoes, as his own pair were damaged in the game’s warm-up. Dyck continued to carry the hot hand into the CIS final, helping UBC to a 24-8 lead over Carleton after one quarter, but the equally-veteran Ravens were 100 much the stretch as they took their sixth title in the last seven years with a 87-77 victory over the T-Birds.

To top off this stellar season, Hassan was named the Canada West Coach of the Year and Dyck a member of the CIS Championship all-star team.

T-BIRDS ACE CANADIAN GOLF TITLES
The T-Birds had another banner year on the golf course, with both the men’s and women’s teams claiming the top prize at the Royal Canadian Golf Association University Championship, in late May at King’s Forest Golf Club in Hamilton.

The men won their second consecutive title behind the play of senior captain Cory Renfrew (golf), who won the final individual tournament of his UBC career as the T-Birds outdistanced second place Laval by 25 strokes over the 74-hole tournament. The result on the women’s side was much the same as the T-Birds were 25 strokes ahead of second place Victoria. However, senior captain Kyla Inaba (+3) just missed individual glory finishing second overall behind Hamber College’s Maggie Travers (+1).

In arguably one of the best games of the year, the two regional foes went punch for punch for a spot in the final, with UBC’s fifth-year senior Chris Dyck putting together a career performance. Dyck led UBC to a 79-74 victory with 54 points on 22-46-72 scoring and did so while wearing a pair of borrowed shoes, as his own pair were damaged in the game’s warm-up. Dyck continued to carry the hot hand into the CIS final, helping UBC to a 24-8 lead over Carleton after one quarter, but the equally-veteran Ravens were 100 much the stretch as they took their sixth title in the last seven years with a 87-77 victory over the T-Birds.
After winning their conference with a 24-6 regular season record, the Thunderbirds hosted the West Regional qualifying tournament at Nat Bailey Stadium in early April. With only the winner from the four-team, double-elimination tournament guaranteed to advance to the next round, the Thunderbirds knew that they likely needed to win in order to continue their season. The road to victory, however, was fought with poise as UBC lost its opening game 7-6 to Oregon Tech in 11 innings after giving up a 6-4 lead in the ninth. In the next game, the team looked to be on the brink of elimination, trailing College of Idaho 5-0 in the bottom of the ninth. The Thunderbirds, however, scored one run to make it 5-1 before Nic Lindsay sealed the comeback with a double that cleared the bases for a 4-3 victory.

UBC completed the improbable comeback with more than a measure of resiliency which allowed them to advance to the opening round of the NAIA National Championship. They traveled to Arizona, California for that opening round tournament but lost a pivotal game to eventual 2009 Avista-NAIA World Series runner-ups Point Loma Nazarene. They eventually bowed out of the tournament with a 2-1 record. A number of Thunderbirds earned individual accolades head coach Tony McKaig taking home NAIA West Coach of the Year honours. Mark Hardy led a group of three UBC pitchers earning conference all-star status – Lees Brown and Sean Hellingringer also took that honour – with centre fielder Jon Syrnyk being the lone position player to earn a spot on the all-star squad. Syrnyk was joined by three UBC infielders and one pitcher on the conference’s Gold Glove team as first baseman Scott Webster, second baseman Alex White, short stop Sumrie Starr, and pitcher Taylor King all took home the honours, as the top defensive players in the conference at their respective positions.

2009 Fall Schedule Highlights

Don’t just read about your Thunderbirds, come out and support them live at their home games this fall, including their championship runs. Visit www.gothunderbirds.ca/schedule for a detailed schedule.

Wealth Management

Wellington West Clearlight offers full service retirement planning including lifestyle management, professional advice and a wide selection of products.

Home & Auto Insurance

TD Meloche Monnex home and auto insurance plans extend preferred group rates and specially designed features for our grads. Small business and travel insurance is also available.

Personal Insurance

Manulife Financial has served the alumni community for over twenty years, providing extended health and dental, term life and critical illness plans.

Credit Card

More than 12,000 alumni and students use the UBC MBNA Alumni MasterCard which has introductory interest rates, 24-hour customer support and no annual fees.

Loving and devoted wife of Bolt Philip, mother of Sara, stepmother of Matthew Philip (Kim), daughter of Jim and Dowen Stewart, sister of Brian (Joanne) Stewart and Suan Reid (Michael), aunt, cousin, and friend, Gayle passed away peacefully after a courageous and dignified battle with cancer. After finishing her BA, Gayle worked as a reporter for Canadian Press, then as a broadcast producer with CBC, specializing in business reporting. Later, she moved into corporate communications in the natural resources, energy, telecommunications and financial services sectors with firms including BC Hydro, BC Tel (Telus), Noranda, Royal Trust and Fort Financial. In 2006, after her last employer, Pacific Dome, was bought out by a hostile takeover, Gayle realized a longstanding dream and came back to UBC in the Political Science master’s program. She graduated in 2009. That same year Gayle was appointed head of UBC’s Olympic Secretariat with the task of preparing the campus for the 2010 Olympics and Paralympics. Before she was forced to withdraw due to her illness, she established a special foundation for the Secretariat and the work it would do.

Wealth Management

Summer 2009 Trek 47

In Memoriam ~ UBC Alumni Association Board Members

Scott Webster

The perks of membership!

Alumni Affairs has established relationships with carefully selected companies to provide you with special deals on quality products and services. Help support student and alumni activities at UBC by participating in the following great programs:

Wealth Management

Wellington West Clearlight offers full service retirement planning including lifestyle management, professional advice and a wide selection of products.

Home & Auto Insurance

TD Meloche Monnex home and auto insurance plans extend preferred group rates and specially designed features for our grads. Small business and travel insurance is also available.

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Gayle Stewart BA’s, MA’s 1954 – 2009

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Wealth Management

William Carleton Gibson BA’33, DSc’93, MSC, MD, PhD 1973 – 2009

Dr. Gibson spent almost three decades at UBC, as a professor of neurological research, a research professor of Psychiatry, a professor of the History of Medicine (he later headed that department) and assistant to the president on university development. His vision and leadership led to the creation of the Kinsmen Laboratory of Neurological Research and the Woodward Biomedical Library. He later became chancellor at UBC. In that role, he tapped each graduating student on the head with a mortarboard to admit them into conversation, ensuring he had “never intentionally caused a migraine” in so doing.

Dr. Gibson served as chairman of the NSERC Medical Sciences Committee for the US Muscular Dystrophy Association. He was also a member of the International Brain Research Organization and the World Health Organization’s Panel on Neurological Sciences. He was an honorary fellow of Green College, Oxford, and of the Royal Society of Medicine in London. He served as president of the UBC Alumni Association from 1961 to 1965.

In October, Dr. Gibson earned a BA at UBC in 1933, an MSc and MD degree from McGill, and a PhD from Oxford. He received an honorary Doctor of Science degree by UBC in 1955 in recognition of his service.

“He possessed a level of intelligence, commitment, and true care that is hard to imagine unless you had met him personally.” Garvan Smart, dean of Medicine, said. “He saved countless lives, taught hundreds of students, influenced his colleagues through his research, books and articles, and ensured that generations would seek his advice in establishing the Woodward Biomedical Library and developing the faculty of Medicine.”

Dr. Gibson was a researcher and clinical associate professor when the medical school opened and went on after becoming director of the Kinsmen Laboratory for Neurological Research. In the 1970s, he was a member of the UBC Senate and also president of the Faculty Association. From 1966 to 1978 he served as a professor and head of the History of Medicine and Science department and wrote more than 120 articles and books including Washington and His University (1937) and The Kinsmen Laboratory of Neurological Research: An Introduction (1970).

A good friend of Cecil and Ida Green, Bill Gibson is said to have convinced Cecil Green to purchase what is now known as Cecil Green Park House and to donate it to the university as a “town and gown” facility. (Cecil Green referred to Bill as “my most experienced”.) Cecil Green Park House is now home to the UBC Alumni Association.

Dr. Gibson served in the Royal Canadian Air Force from 1945 to 1945, and was a Vancouver alderman and Parks commissioner in the 1970s.

He died on July 7 at Oak Bay, aged 95. Please consider making a donation to the WISH Drop-In Centre Society in his name, at 5537 – 110 West Pandora Street, Victoria, BC V8L 3Y5.
IN MEMORIAM

We depend on friends and relatives for our IN MEMORIAM materials. Please send obituaries (50 words or less) to Michael Avermack at michael.avermack@ubc.ca. We will select all material to fit the space available. When sending photos, please send original or high resolution scans (at least 300 dpi as separate files).

WALTER DOUGLAS CHARLES

Walter was born in Castor, AB, and moved to Summerland with his family in 1937. He attended Mary Mount in 1938 and during the war was a member of the army medical corps. After the war he worked at various jobs (the Copper Mountain mine near Princeton, the Summerland high school and in the family business, Walter's Ltd. Packing House). In 1958 he changed careers and moved his family to Vancouver, where he worked for the federal department of health and welfare as a food and drug inspector. During his career he was posted to several different cities in Canada: Vancouver (1958-1963), Newmarket, ON (1963-1965), Toronto (1965-1966) and Edmonton (1966), where he and Mary remained until his retirement in 1978. They returned to Summerland and lived in the family home in Peach Orchard. In 2005, Walter moved into Angus Place.

Walter was interested in many sports, activities and interests. He was a Cubmaster in Summerland and Edmonton and he enjoyed hunting deer and pheasant, fishing, vegetable gardening and looking at vintage cars. Family holidays were generally camping trips. After retirement he took up the study of spiders (a bit of a local celebrity), enjoying especially murder mysteries and western adventure.

Very handy around the house, he always enjoyed making repairs and painting. Walter will be sorely missed. He died peacefully in his home at Angus Place on Sunday, December 28, 2008, after a gradual decline of health. The family is grateful to the Home Support workers who looked after him and also thanks his extended family at Angus Place. Support from various family members and friends is also gratefully acknowledged. Donations to the Land Conservancy BC (www.conservancy.bc.ca) or your favorite charity in his name would be gratefully received.

BRITA HELENA MCCOLLURGH

Brita passed away peacefully in Newmarket, ON, on December 27, 2008, family by her side, after a remarkable life of achievement and dedication to teaching and scholarship. Raised in a farm in the idyllic Fraser Valley, Brita earned an arts degree in English and French before beginning a distinguished career as a high school English teacher. In Ontario, she started teaching at Newmarket High School in 1956, before switching to the new Huron Heights Secondary School in 1963 as head of the English department – one of the few women to hold such a position in the days before feminism.

Brita was a pioneer in another way. On her own, she developed a groundbreaking English course based entirely on Canadian literature, rather than the British texts that still dominated high school English. She arranged face-to-face discussions between her Grade 13 students and prominent Canadian authors such as Robertson Davies and Margaret Laurence. Her innovation in this area was recognized by McClelland and Stewart, who asked her to produce a book for use in high schools and colleges. Canadian Literature, Two Centuries in Print, was published in 1973.

Perhaps her most satisfying year was 1966-67, when she took a sabbatical to do her MA in English at the University of Toronto. Her professor that year included renowned academics Northrop Frye and Marshall McLuhan.

She was heavily involved in the Ontario Secondary Teachers’ Federation, serving a term as the first woman president of OSSTF District 34. Among the causes she championed was teachers’ maternity leave, now taken for granted. Brita retired from teaching in 1987, having imparted to thousands of students the importance of literature. Few forget their time in her stimulating classroom. She was a life-long advocate of women’s rights, social justice and world peace. Brita is deeply mourned by her children Rod, Norma and “the twins” Paul and Paula; grandchildren Matthew, Mia and Lucas; nieces and nephews; and by her dear sisters, Greta, in Burnaby.

ELVIRA WEND LE GRO

Elvira died suddenly at Norfolk General Hospital in Simcoe, ON, July 14, 2008. Born October 25, 1924, in Herbert, SK, the middle child of three, she attended Bethania School until grade seven, before moving with her parents, John and Catherine, to Abbotsford, BC. Elvira finished high school at Philip Sheffield High and after a year out, enrolled at UBC.

She was proud to have earned her way through university, holding a scholarship on campus in the library, in the museum room with Dr. McGregor Owen’s direction (at 40 cents per hour), and also in the film department. Other activities included membership in the Fraternal Cosmopolitan Club and Social Problems Club. During two summers she worked at the provincial mental hospital at Fossdale as a nurse student, and one summer as a waitress in Prince Rupert. Dr. Maslowsky, Elvira’s doctor, was very helpful to her during this part-time work. Elvira remembered fondly and particularly enjoyed her English literature courses in Simcoe.

Elvira had wanted to study journalism but no such course was offered in Vancouver at the time. After graduation, Elvira went to the Yukon. She obtained a clerical position on grid 911, hoping to find fame and fortune as a writer. A pleasant dream, easier said than done. After six months in Whitehorse, Elvira returned to Winnipeg Lake, still in the Yukon. This was an air base shared by the Americans and the RCAF.

On VE Day, Elvira met Flight Lieutenant Philip Le Gros of Liverpool, England. It was the beginning of a beautiful romance. Since the war was nearly over, Elvira was transferred to Edmonton. After a brief stay there she went to Toronto and started working at Imperial Optical on Don Oakes in downtown, another clerical position.

With June, Philip had transferred to Eastern Air Command and in July of 1946 he and Elvira were married. They lived in Ottawa for a short time until Philip returned to Toronto to commence working with Canada Wire and Cable. They had two children here, Sharon and Stephen. The latter was a difficult birth, resulting in a cerebral palsy spastic diagnosis for Stephen three years later. Those were challenging times. A cure was not possible. Steve attended regular school at age seven, with many difficulties.

After living in the Toronto area for ten years, Philip was transferred to Simcoe, ON. It was here that son John and daughter Kathryn were born. John was diagnosed profoundly autistic. Philip became very active in the Norfolk Association for Community Living (NACL), as it later became known. He threw himself into his work at the office and had various business trips to London, Frankfurt, Italy and even Australia. In November 1979, at age 43, Philip suffered a heart attack. After six months he became a consultant for CRAC and later joined Ontario Research Foundation as a field representative.

Meanwhile Elvira took her teachers’ training in London, ON, and became a school teacher for a few years, teaching business and French. Elvira was a board member of the NACL, managing the Cash for Life program. She also joined a parents group for autism. In November 1979, at age 43, Philip overcame his cancer and was back on his feet. John also died of cancer.

Walter Douglas Charles

Summerland 2009 Tank 49
IN MEMORIAM

Robert (Bob) Thomson

Born October 23, 1929, in Queen’s Park, Bob died peacefully at home in Maple Ridge on Friday, December 26, 2008. The eldest son of the Reverend James Currie Thomson and Margaret Ellen Thomson, Bob is survived by his loving wife, Nancy, son Keith (Lisa) and daughter Rhona, as well as grandchildren Branden and Shaylor. He is also survived by his sister, Margaret Anna Keely, his brother, Peter (Heather) and numerous nieces and nephews. Bob took up BC in more than 30 years – 25 as a science teacher in Maple Ridge. He enjoyed teaching but he especially enjoyed all his students over the many years. Bob was very active in the community – in St. Andrew’s United Church, Maple Ridge Lions Club, Ridge Meadows Hospital Board and cutting. He was well known in the community for his woodworking and gardening and was honoured by being named Citizen of the Year in 1999. He will be missed by many people but most of all by his loving family.

Lawrence Dickinson

Born October 25, 1927, in Quesnel, Bob died peacefully at home in Maple Ridge on Friday, December 25, 2008. Lawrence was born in Arbroath, Scotland, and immigrated to Canada aged two, settling in Vancouver. He was a WWII return of the Canadian Navy and subsequently earned his mechanical engineering degree at UBC. He worked in Hamilton at Canadian Woosthhouse for 37 years, was a member of the Professional Engineers of Ontario, BC Museum of Mining and a past member of the Ancaster Rotary Club. He loved to fish and swim in the Saugeen River, encourage his night blooming moonflowers and create great beauty with stained glass.

B. Frank Peters

Robert (Bob) Thomson

Lawrence Dickinson

B.Frank Peters

School for Grades 6-8, and John Oliver High School for Grades 9-12, participating in sports teams, choir and drama productions, excelling in the sciences, as well as in academics. John Oliver was where Frank met Alice Rudnick, who became his wife eight years later. After receiving his BSs in metallurgy, Frank accepted a position at the Pacific Naval Research Laboratory (later renamed Defence Establishment Pacific) in Victoria. He left this position temporarily, from September 1966 to December 1970, to return to UBC to pursue his master’s. He married Alice in August 1978, and encouraged her in a teaching career at Esquimalt High School. In 1965, when Frank and Alice had three sons aged three and under, the family moved to England to avoid civil war; it was also Alice who pointed out the Nutritions for Optimal Health Association (NOHA) in 1970. Bob died peacefully at home in Maple Ridge on Friday, December 25, 2008. He was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather and friend. Of his sons, he wrote, “God blessed us with five bright, happy, attractive, headache baby boys (the youngest was born in 1969) ... each with their own strengths as well as idiosyncrasies.” Following in their father’s footsteps, all five sons have obtained PhDs, have married, and are fathers. Frank was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather and friend. Of his sons, he wrote, “God blessed us with five bright, happy, attractive, headache baby boys (the youngest was born in 1969) ... each with their own strengths as well as idiosyncrasies.” Following in their father’s footsteps, all five sons have obtained PhDs, have married, and are fathers.
Throughout his adult life, Frank served in many roles in the Central Baptist Church (teacher, deacon, youth sponsor, chairman of the board, host to internationals, president of young married couples, captain of Christian service brigade, president of prime timers). At Inter School and Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship, at Pioneer Pacific Camp and at Camp Kootenox.

With retirement, Frank and Alice travelled extensively, enjoying many package tours but especially enjoying visits with their five sons and their wives and children.

Frank passed away on October 3, 2008. He is lovingly remembered and sorely missed by family and friends.

Harold (Hal) Leonard

Hal was born in a Victoria farmhouse on May 19, 1926, to William Valentine Leonard, a 73-year-old retired British naval captain, and his 27-year-old wife, Florence Louise Duck, who worked as a chambermaid at the Empress Hotel. Hal spent his childhood in Victoria and Salmo Arm and his teen years in Vancouver. He was a member of the Ryerson High School basketball team, which won the provincial championship in Kelowna in 1942. At age 18, Hal enlisted for active duty and was a radio operator during WWII. After the war, he completed grade 12, worked at a number of temporary jobs, then took a one-year teacher training course at UBC.

Hal began his dedicated teaching career at the age of 24 in Nelson, where he taught at the elementary school level for three years, where he met his future wife, Shirley, a newly appointed public health nurse in the region. Hal and Shirley were married in Nelson in August 1945, and then they moved to North Vancouver where Hal took a one-year break from teaching to pursue his degree. It was during this time that Hal and Shirley designed and built-hand their first home in Lynn Valley and started their family. Hal continued to pursue his degree through night and summer school courses, while teaching full time. In November 1965, aged 37, Hal proudly received his BA, the first member of his large family to earn a university degree.

In 1967, after teaching for thirteen years in North Vancouver, Hal and Shirley moved with their two children, Lora and Thane, to Wusumden and then Invermere, where Hal accepted an elementary consultant position for one year, followed by an elementary supervisor position for four years. He was responsible for assisting and evaluating teaching staff at every elementary school between Canal Flats and Radium Hot Springs. In 1972, Hal and his family moved to Kelowna where he was principal at Glenmore Elementary School for eleven years and at Wood Lake Elementary School for one year. Throughout his 34-year career, Hal saw potential in each and every student and was a mentor to many young teachers.

Upon Ken’s retirement in December 1981, he and Shirley enjoyed the adventures of travel and Hal participated as a volunteer for the local food bank and on an officiating committee for the BC Summer Games in Kelowna. Hal enjoyed playing golf, listening to music and viewing sports, while engaging in other interests such as woodworking, gardening and playing daily games of Scrabble and Upwords with Shirley.

Family and friends were very important to Hal, and along with a wonderful sense of humour he had a deep sense of fairness, loyalty, commitment, compassion and kindness.

Hal passed away at the age of 81 in Kelowna on January 4, 2020. He will be deeply missed by all those whose lives he touched so meaningfully.

IN MEMORIAM

Robert Lucas

Robert Gilmore Lucas had a presence – an engaging quality that found its way to the UBC campus during the 1960s. Rob grew up on the North Shore, graduating from West Vancouver High School in 1946. At UBC he joined Alpha Delta Phi fraternity, with his athletic highlight being a year of rowing with UBC’s Junior Varsity crew.

After earning his commerce degree, then working with The Bay, Rob returned to UBC for his master’s of science in administration. Rob had launched his academic career. He graduated from Cornell University in New York State in 1980 with a PhD in organisational behaviour and immediately joined the Schulich School of Business at Toronto’s York University.

At York, where he was an associate professor of organizational behavior and industrial relations, Rob was a beloved teacher and distinguished academic who played a major role in the reorganization and relaunch of a number of the school’s degree programs.

Rob was a strong supporter of qualitative research, a field in which the Schulich School now has a stellar reputation, and he was the architect and implementer of the school’s management skills course. For his 12 years at York and for the years during the 1980s when he was president of the Canadian Education Management Institute, he was considered a Canadian leader in the field of management education.

Rob was also known for his long-term fascination. He would share the smallest trivia with family and friends. All of his life, he followed mankind’s adventures, whether on the moon or Mars, or in the world of antelopes today. He was a member of the Planetary Society and watched with great enthusiasm the recent Mars landing.

Rob passed away in Toronto on February 17, 2009, on his 67th birthday. He will never be forgotten and will be missed by his friends and family in BC, Ontario and the US.

Peter Vladimir Okulitch

Peter Vladimir Okulitch was born on April 9, 1946, in Vancouver. He was the son of Dr. Vladimir and Susanne Okulitch (Kozlo). He attended University Hill elementary high school and high school. He was a member of the Royal Canadian Naval Sea Cadets and he served in the Canadian Army Reserve. While at university, he spent his summers working for the Noranda Mining Company doing prospecting work in the Okanagan Valley. He received his bachelor degree in psychology and moved to Madison, to attend the University of Wisconsin. There he completed his master’s and doctoral degrees in clinical psychology, doing research on alcohol and drug addictions.

While in Wisconsin, he interned at the Veterans Hospital and volunteered in the children’s program with the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. It is there that he met his wife, Judith. They married on December 24, 1974. Together they returned to Vancouver, where he worked as a psychologist in a maximum security prison in Abbotsford and Judith taught at Simon Fraser University. Several years later, they returned to the US and settled in Portland, where he spent the majority of his professional life working in clinical and forensic psychology. He worked for Clackamas Mental Health before opening up a private practice in 1979. He worked on forensic cases and was an expert witness in numerous court cases including an Oregon Supreme Court case.

Peter was a consultant to numerous addiction programs and hospitals in the Portland area. In 1997 he was board certified by the International College of Prescribing Psychologists as a diplomat/ fellow prescribing psychologist (FPFP). In recent years, he branched out and began treating gestational patients. At his death, he was employed at the Veterans Hospital in Walla Walla, WA, where he finished his professional career the way he began it.

Peter’s interests and hobbies were varied. He obtained his pilot’s license in Wisconsin. He rode vintage BMW motorcycles and attended BMW rallies. He built a sailboat in his garage – it leaked. He was an avid reader who loved science fiction books and movies, military history and photography. He had an excellent memory and would share the smallest trivia with family and friends. All of his life, he followed mankind’s adventures, whether on the moon or Mars, or in the world of antelopes today. He was a member of the Planetary Society and watched with great enthusiasm the recent Mars landing.

Patricia Ivy Gray

Peter Vladimir Okulitch

Patricia Ivy Gray (May 7, 1927 – May 7, 2013) was born in London, England. She was the twin brother, William, born on March 28, 1924, in Vancouver, BC. She died with family by her side in the Alzheimer’s Palliative Care Unit of the Osoyoos Dravida Powel River, BC, on January 17. While at university, she was interested in the world affairs of her lifetime, while in the unit, she continued to follow mankind’s adventures, whether on the moon or Mars, or in the world of antelopes today. She was a member of the Planetary Society and watched with great enthusiasm the recent Mars landing.

Peter was father to George and Katie. He loved his children and, together with Judith, raised them in the Eastmount neighborhood of Portland. Peter was interested in the world and took his family to Germany, across Canada and US and Hawaii. They spent summer vacations in Central Oregon and in Wisconsin with Judith’s family. Peter passed away on June 2, 2008.
IN MEMORIAM

Elementary School. In 1967, after rearing her three children in North Vancouver, she was employed at UBC as a student-teaching seminar adviser and joined the group of mentors referred to in the faculty of Education as the “part-time ladies.”

In 1981, she was appointed to the faculty of Education as the elementary student teaching placement coordinator, a position she held until her retirement in 1989 as an instructor emerita. Pat was a keen member of the Margaret Mackenzie hiking group in the Faculty Women’s Club and was an avid cross-country skier with the group. One member of the group said of Pat, “she was kind, funny, supportive, strong, and a natural leader as well as being the only person Margaret Mackenzie would allow to drive her car!” Until she was 75, Pat was still a poised downhill skier who carved graceful turns on the slopes of Mt. Washington.

Because of her Haida heritage, she was pleased to be named an honorary graduate of the UBC Native Indian Teacher Preparation program in 1986.

Pat has left behind her husband of 57 years, Jim; a son, Chris, and a daughter, Susan; as well as seven grandchildren and six great grandchildren. She is also survived by her twin brother, and remembered by many ex-students.

IN MEMORIAM

Margaret Mackenzie
FAMILY AND NUTRITIONAL SCIENCE

Dingy MacEwen, who taught Nutrition at Hiroshima University. They finally retired to Vancouver in 2001.

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