Bug Bites

It’s only a matter of time before insects become a staple of Western diets.

Plus

Stuck in a medical minority
BC’s endangered languages
Dear Dr. Wesbrook: letters from the front
Author Nancy Lee has The Last Word
**THE BUG FARMER**
Andrew Brentano, BA’10, is supporting the growth of a grassroots insect-farming industry – starting in his own garage.

*Eating insects is not “ICKY.” GET OVER IT.*

Professor Murray Isman says eating insects is not only desirable, but inevitable.

**THE LOVE BUG**
Afton Halloran, BSc’09, co-wrote a major UN publication on the contribution of insects to global food security. Her fascination with the subject led to a chance meeting.

*Insects are a common source of nutrition in many parts of the world, but have yet to appeal to western diets. There are strong arguments for overcoming any aversion.*

PEOPLE WHO HAVE A RARE DISEASE OR UNDIAGNOSED CONDITION CAN FEEL ISOLATED AND ABANDONED. RAISING AWARENESS AND BUILDING SUPPORT NETWORKS GIVES THEM A VOICE AND BOOSTS THEIR HOPE FOR ANSWERS.

THE WAITING ROOM
A powerful documentary is illustrating the plight of people living with undiagnosed conditions.

AN UNCOMMON DENOMINATOR
The Rare Disease Foundation is using a collective approach to create a support network for patients.

**DEAR DR. WESBROOK**
Hundreds of UBC students served in the First World War. The university’s first president encouraged them to send back letters.

**VANISHING VOICES**
Language activists are determined to bring BC’s indigenous tongues back from the brink of extinction.

**THOUGHT YOU OUGHT TO KNOW**
A short story by Zsuzsi Gartner, MFA’93.

**A VISION FOR UBC 2.0**
President Arvind Gupta will lead the university into its second century.

Q & A

**Q: What is your most prized possession?**
**A: It’s a tie between a handwritten rejection letter from Bill Buford at The New Yorker and Sandy, a ragged old panda bear I’ve had since childhood who’s been washed so many times she resembles a satanic goat.**

THE LAST WORD WITH NANCY LEE, BA’94, MFA’04

COVER
Andrew Brentano, BA’10, holding a bell pepper stuffed with fried waxworms (page 16). Photo by Saul Bromberger/Sandra Hoover Photography.
Insects aren’t a novelty (or novel) food item, though. They are a common and long-standing component of many food cultures. Not only are they nutritious and rich in protein, but rearing them holds significant advantages for the planet over that for other forms of protein, such as beef. Alumnus Andrew Brentano is helping to drive this sustainable approach to our food supply in north America and around the globe.

Over the years, I have been feasted on by bugs of all kinds. From the one of those tasty-looking peppers stuffed with rice and fried waxworms that I had to eat, on the other hand, was by accident while cycling with my husband. Regardless, I have been punctured, sucked, bitten, harassed and generally driven to distraction. The only time I've eaten a bug, on the other hand, was by accident while cycling with my husband. Regardless, I have been punctured, sucked, bitten, harassed and generally driven to distraction. The only time I've eaten a bug, on the other hand, was by accident while cycling with my husband. Regardless, I have been punctured, sucked, bitten, harassed and generally driven to distraction. The only time I've eaten a bug, on the other hand, was by accident while cycling with my husband. Regardless, I have been punctured, sucked, bitten, harassed and generally driven to distraction. The only time I've eaten a bug, on the other hand, was by accident while cycling with my husband. Regardless, I have been punctured, sucked, bitten, harassed and generally driven to distraction. The only time I've eaten a bug, on the other hand, was by accident while cycling with my husband. Regardless, I have been punctured, sucked, bitten, harassed and generally driven to distraction. The only time I've eaten a bug, on the other hand, was by accident while cycling with my husband. Regardless, I have been punctured, sucked, bitten, harassed and generally driven to distraction. The only time I've eaten a bug, on the other hand, was by accident while cycling with my husband. Regardless, I have been punctured, sucked, bitten, harassed and generally driven to distraction. The only time I've eaten a bug, on the other hand, was by accident while cycling with my husband. Regardless, I have been punctured, sucked, bitten, harassed and generally driven to distraction. The only time I've eaten a bug, on the other hand, was by accident while cycling with my husband. Regardless, I have been punctured, sucked, bitten, harassed and generally driven to distraction. The only time I've eaten a bug, on the other hand, was by accident while cycling with my husband. Regardless, I have been punctured, sucked, bitten, harassed and generally driven to distraction. The only time I've eaten a bug, on the other hand, was by accident while cycling with my husband. Regardless, I have been punctured, sucked, bitten, harassed and generally driven to distraction. The only time I've eaten a bug, on the other hand, was by accident while cycling with my husband. Regardless, I have been punctured, sucked, bitten, harassed and generally driven to distraction. The only time I've eaten a bug, on the other hand, was by accident while cycling with my husband. Regardless, I have been punctured, sucked, bitten, harassed and generally driven to distraction. The only time I've eaten a bug, on the other hand, was by accident while cycling with my husband. Regardless, I have been punctured, sucked, bitten, harassed and generally driven to distraction. The only time I've eaten a bug, on the other hand, was by accident while cycling with my husband. Regardless, I have been punctured, sucked, bitten, harass...
The team used GPS tracking on 20 adult female impala, four leopards and five wild dogs to help them locate thorny plants, as well as the growing patterns of thorny plants, combine to influence the landscape. The researchers combined the findings into a high-resolution satellite image of tree cover and located carcasses to determine where impala are being killed. They also conducted feeding experiments to judge the effectiveness of thorns as a feeding deterrent.

“Our observations indicate that carnivores – like leopards and wild dogs – shape where herbivores eat,” says Ford, lead author of the paper. “Plant defenses – such as thorns – shape what herbivores eat.”

“As human activities continue to reduce populations of predators, herbivores like impala become willing to feed in areas that used to be risky – areas that were previously avoided by predators, as well as the growing patterns of thorny plants, combine to influence the landscape. The researchers combined the findings into a high-resolution satellite image of tree cover and located carcasses to determine where impala are being killed. They also conducted feeding experiments to judge the effectiveness of thorns as a feeding deterrent.

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take note

ALMOST NO WAY OUT

The Prairie provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba are home to a thriving agriculture industry, an abundance of natural resources and many of the country’s first Peoples. It’s also home to cities with some of the highest crime rates in the country. Year after year, Regina and Winnipeg go back and forth in sharing the dubious distinction of being Canada’s murder capital.

Gangs have gripped these cities in Canada’s heartland, particularly in marginalized communities. Many are Aboriginal gangs, like the Native syndicate and the Indian Posse, that are rivals in a deadly street war. According to government statistics, their numbers and influence are rising.

Why are Aboriginal youth joining gangs?

Most people assume that kids join gangs to “fit in” or belong somewhere, which is true. But the main reason behind gang membership is the need for basic necessities, like food and shelter. That’s why a gang like Winnipeg, and on many reserves across Canada, poverty, violence and a lack of resources become determinants for gang involvement. Many Aboriginal youth who join gangs have parents who have been or are part of a gang. In fact, Aboriginal gangs can be traced back to reserves as early as 1910. In some ways, joining a gang serves as a way to ventilate past trauma.

How does a gang convince youth to join?

An Aboriginal youth’s interest in gangs peaks at puberty and the promise of free sex is used as a recruitment tool. Women play a significant role in gang operations. The men I spoke to also used women’s houses to hide in. More women are also joining gangs as members themselves.

We go searching for them, we hug them, we’re often speechless in their presence. We have trees that were around before our parents or great-grandparents or great-great-grandparents were born. These massive and beautiful organisms represent a biological legacy. We’ve harvested a lot of our old forests and those big trees that remain become more precious because there are fewer of them around.

What makes BC’s big trees unique?

The zone that extends from California to BC is one of two places where we find the biggest and tallest trees in the world. Our coastal rainforests harbor some absolutely enormous trees and it has to do with the conditions we find here - mild year-round temperatures and lots of rainfall. We have enormous Douglas-fir, Western red cedar, and Sitka spruce. The province is home to 50 different tree species and for some of those species we have the world’s largest specimens. We have the largest trees in Canada by far, and ours are almost as big as the biggest trees in the world - the redwoods of California.

The BC Big Tree Registry is an interesting project. Some of these trees are just beyond the city and there are a number of ways people exit gangs, but the most successful avenue is getting a legal job. These jobs would need to provide enough money to roughly match the money made from being in a gang. Federal prisons in Canada provide vocational skills, but many of the gang members I spoke to say going to prison only makes them better gangsters. This points to the need for training for at-risk youth long before incarceration. The gang members who do get out, either by getting a job or by other means, are the exception. Most men never get out. They die before they have the ever an option.

What can be done to stop Aboriginal youth from joining gangs in the first place?

The problem is that gang programs are that they never seem to be steady or sustainable. One promising approach is called wraparound intervention. This method involves at-risk youth handpicking known adults in their lives to work as a team with child and family service agencies, and their school. The team then identifies health, social, cultural and vocational goals for the youth and helps them or her work towards those specific objectives.

Almost no way out

In October, the Supreme Court of Canada began hearing arguments in an appeal by the BC Civil Liberties Association that could overturn the prohibition on doctor-assisted suicide. Michael Candy, clinical assistant professor in UBC’s Faculty of Medicine and a graduate of UBC Law School, says that while the current prohibition on assisted suicide may strike some as outdated, crossing the line from alleviating suffering to hastening death is a step that cannot be taken lightly.

Where is the line between withdrawing treatment and alleviating pain, and assisted suicide?

There is a very important distinction. Withdrawing or withholding care has long been considered an acceptable practice for medical practitioners. Actively participating in suicide is something that is prohibited by law. You cannot be punished for the act of taking a patient’s life by withdrawing treatment.

Is the line between withdrawing treatment and alleviating pain and assisted suicide blurry?

I think the world tends to be moving in that direction, but you can count on one hand the number of countries that allow legalized assisted suicide.

Medical technology allows us to extend the lives of people with conditions beyond what we could have done in the past. We’re also experiencing an ageing society and one that’s becoming more ethnically diverse, which means different taboos. The combination of all three factors makes the issue a bigger and bigger issue.

Once doctors enter the business of ending life, that’s a big, huge step, and we are as heck better know what our limit is.

The appeal case filed by the BC Civil Liberties challenges the constitutionality of doctor-assisted suicide in British Columbia. The case stems from a 2010 ruling by the BC Supreme Court, which found a woman’s attempt to obtain assisted suicide was unconstitutional. The federal government appealed the decision and the BC Court of Appeal overturned the decision in 2013. This means that for the first time in 20 years that the country’s highest court has ruled on the issue. In 1993, it heard the case of Sue Rodriguez, a 39-year-old Victoria woman with ALS. Rodriguez’s appeal was denied by the court in a narrow five-four decision.

The ancient versions of the Hippocratic Oath states that you are not to take a life or provide a means to bring about death. Does assisted suicide contradict the Hippocratic oath taken by doctors?

I think the world tends to be moving in that direction, but you can count on one hand the number of countries that allow legalized assisted suicide.

We need to know where these big trees are so we can conserve them, as a biological legacy of the past, and also to know where these big trees are so we can conserve them, as a biological legacy of the past, and to know these trees are found in, and this information can guide certain research. We need to look for big trees.

We’re very old and the idea of something that lives much longer than our human lifespan is interesting. We have trees that were around before our parents or great-grandparents or great-great-grandparents were born. These massive and beautiful organisms represent a biological legacy. We’ve harvested a lot of our old forests and those big trees that remain become more precious because there are fewer of them around.

The BC Big Tree Registry has found a new home in the faculty of forestry

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Where do we begin?

Do we find new trees?

Trees are the largest organisms that we can see, touch and feel. They’re often very old and the idea of something that lives much longer than our human lifespan is interesting. We have trees that were around before our parents or great-grandparents or great-great-grandparents were born. These massive and beautiful organisms represent a biological legacy. We’ve harvested a lot of our old forests and those big trees that remain become more precious because there are fewer of them around.

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People are able to name nominate trees into the BC Big Tree Registry. Are new big ones still being found?

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Almost no way out
alumni UBC offers an array of programs and services designed to help you learn, grow and connect. But if you aren’t on our email list, you may be missing out. Visit alumni.ubc.ca/update to ensure your profile is up to date.

Stay sharp.

Young Alumni Award
Emily MacKennon
BA’07, MArch’09
Emily MacKennon is an advocate for social justice, involved in organizations that empower those living with HIV/AIDS. Her pursuit of a Master of Architecture at UBC came with the skills and tools to explore related issues from new perspectives. This role of the emerging student, receiving the Law Society of British Columbia Gold Medal for highest GPA.

Distinguished Alumni Award
Leona Sparrow
BA’73, MA’75, LLB’92
Leona Sparrow is the Manager of Treaty, Lands and Resources for the Musqueam Indian Band, on whose traditional territory UBC’s Vancouver campus is located. She has provided essential guidance to UBC on the development of First Nations-related community, research, and educational programs.

Future Alumni Award
Matt Husain
Emily MacKennon is an advocate for social justice who volunteers for organizations that empower those living with HIV/AIDS. Her pursuit of a law degree at UBC armed her with the skills and tools to explore related issues from new perspectives. She was an outstanding student, receiving the Law Society of British Columbia Gold Medal for highest GPA.

Leona Sparrow is the manager of Treaty, Lands and Resources for the Musqueam Indian Band, on whose traditional territory UBC’s Vancouver campus is located. She has provided essential guidance to UBC on the development of First Nations-related community, research, and educational programs.

Matt Husain is a PhD candidate studying the Anthropology of Development at UBC Okanagan. He is motivated by a desire to eradicate poverty through the design and delivery of effective poverty relief programs that empower those they serve, while also demonstrating academic ability and enthusiasm for volunteer work that attract respect from faculty and peers alike.

Volunteer Leadership Award
Randall Findlay
BA’73
Randall Findlay’s corporate background, strategic approach, and generosity have been of great benefit to UBC as well as the community at large. Of particular note are his support for UBC Okanagan’s School of Engineering, his service on UBC’s campaign cabinets, and his directorship of the Alberta Children’s Hospital Foundation.

Global Citizenship Award
Videsh Kapoor
BSc’88, BEd’92
Videsh Kapoor is a respected and inspiring advocate for improved health outcomes both at home and abroad. He co-founded UBC’s Global Health Initiative, which offers skills training to students from a broad range of study areas and provides them with the opportunity to contribute to projects in Uganda, India, Honduras, Kenya, and Canada.

Faculty Community Service Award
Kimit Rai
Kimit Rai is a clinical instructor in UBC’s Department of Surgery who founded Operation Rainbow Canada, a non-profit organization that provides free cleft lip and palate surgery to impoverished children and young adults in developing countries. It has so far transformed the lives of more than 2,000 children and their families.

Honorary Alumni Award
John Demco
Canada’s identity on the Internet was secured 27 years ago by the visionary work of John Demco, who is affectionately known as the godfather of the Canadian Internet. Mr. Demco was a computing facilities manager at UBC when he established the .CA domain name two years before the World Wide Web even emerged.

Next Year’s Award Recipients Aren’t Going to Raise Their Own Hands.

That’s why we need you! Do you know a graduate, student, faculty member or friend of UBC who deserves to be recognized as a leader, advocate, artist or visionary? This is your chance to bring them into the limelight.

To nominate online visit alumni.ubc.ca/nominate or call Karolin Konig at 604 822 8939 for details.

Nomination deadline: Friday, January 30, 2015

#startrevolution.ca
A VISION FOR UBC 2.0

President Arvind Gupta will lead the university into its second century

How do you plan to enrich the learning experience at UBC and prepare students for the current job market? Many jobs of the future can’t even be imagined today. It is critical that our students learn to think systematically and analytically, so they can navigate change, tolerate ambiguity, and be innovative. As a research-intensive university, we are ideally positioned to build broad-based programs that provide our students with exactly these skills. Getting this right will ensure our students lifelong employability. And this will be coupled with a lifetime of learning. That means we must go beyond the 18- to 22-year-old undergraduates and 22- to 35-year-olds pursuing master’s degrees and PhDs. The challenge will be extending our reach across society. I believe technology will play a fundamental role in the future of education—by enhancing the classroom experience, but also by reaching out to broader society. Technology can bring UBC to those who cannot be on our campus, because they are juggling the demands of careers and family, for example, or because they are geographically removed. Specifically, our Flexible Learning Initiative will leverage mobile technologies and Internet connectivity to enable about 100 UBC courses to reach an additional 30,000 students over the next three years. At the same time, we must be ready to provide every UBC student with career-building opportunities that strengthen their academic and employment outcomes. That’s why I have committed to doubling UBC’s extra-curricular student experiences on- and off-campus through internships and co-op programs.

For our young alumni, share one word of advice. You will only discover your passions through experiences. Ask questions, take opportunities, and don’t worry about not knowing exactly what you want to do. It’s much more fun exploring options than feeling like you have to lead your life in a straight line.

How do you plan to involve alumni more in the life of the university? I see alumni as our university brand. They are UBC’s chief ambassadors out in the community and, as such, are our eyes and ears to how we are perceived, what we are doing well, and where we can improve. That means we must always be listening to them. And it is incumbent on us to understand how they want to be involved with UBC, and then give them the opportunities to do so. As we approach the final year of the stellar evolution campaign, we are already seeing large numbers of alumni getting involved—more than 50,000 over the past year, in fact. The new Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre opening next year will be the first of its kind in Canada and a key resource for alumni as they do business, expand their careers, explore their intellectual, cultural and social interests, and engage with other students and faculty. We also plan to increase our outreach through online channels so that all alumni can remain involved with the university, wherever they are. During the next academic year we will celebrate the centennial of UBC’s very first graduating class, and alumni will be a major part of that historic celebration. It’s going to be a great year!

What do you say to those who have been critical of last year’s review of UBC Athletics programs? I believe what is most important is that lessons learned from the past should be applied to ensure our future efforts on behalf of UBC Athletics are inclusive and responsive to our stakeholders. I am committed to listening to our dedicated alumni, athletes, coaches, administration, students and community on how best we can nurture and strengthen the pride we all share for UBC Athletics in Vancouver and Kelowna. [See page 44 for some further thoughts on this subject from President Gupta.]

Keep in touch with UBC’s new president on Twitter: @ArvindUBC.
Home for millennia to the majority of Canada’s Native tongues, BC has recently been designated an endangered language hotspot.

BY LORI THICKE, MFA’86

“I’m not sure when you’re one of the last speakers,” says Michele Johnson, PhD. a. “You’ve got no one left to talk to.” At the age of 46, Johnson has found her life’s work—her heretochy—in saving the Nisg̱a’a language from dying out with the last few elders who speaks it natively. “I want to be their advocate, a language teacher and a passionate advocate for indigenous languages,” she says.

One of UBC Okanagan’s first two Aboriginal PhD graduates, she learned the language of her father’s nation through the remaining elders. Now she is trying to create new speakers to bring it back from the brink of extinction.

After two years of intensive study, Johnson is an intermediate speaker of Nisg̱a’a—also known as Ohanom, or Interior Salish—and sufficiently proficient to teach a community class of adults, plus, as she puts it, “one extremely persistent 13-year-old.”

With fewer than 100 native speakers of Nisg̱a’a left, this work couldn’t be timelier. But Nisg̱a’a isn’t the only language at risk. All Aboriginal languages across Canada are considered endangered.

First Nations, First Languages

Before the arrival of the European settlers, North America was home to hundreds of indigenous tongues. Even though many have now disappeared, as it is being colonized, there are still more living languages in Canada than in the United States. The Ethnologue—a catalogue of the world’s languages—counts 335 Native languages north of the Mexican border versus 280 in all of the United States.

In 2011, the national census reported more than 60 Aboriginal languages in Canada. Over the last century, 20 percent of the nation’s schools have had a loss in community by more than a third. The scars can still be seen today in Canada’s Indigenous communities, which suffer disproportionately from poverty, marginalization, violence, addiction, malnutrition and suicide. A 2013 study by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives and Save the Children Canada found that half of status First Nations children live in poverty. In 2011 at its peak, the Assembly of First Nations calculated that First Nations youth are more likely to end up in jail than to graduate high school and “suicide rates among First Nations youth are five to seven times higher than other young non-Aboriginal Canadians.”

In 2007, researchers Michael Chandir and Darcy Hallett from UBC and Christopher Landon from UBC found a correlation between Aboriginal language knowledge and youth suicide. In communities where fewer than 50 percent of the youth have knowledge of their language, they found that young people were six times more likely to take their own lives.

Languages are not only important for community identity. They also reflect the unique connection between people and their environment. There may not be 20 words for snow in Innu, as the apocryphal story goes, but there are certainly 20 words for rain in Squamish, including raining continuously (R̓e/lhewəx), raining hard (R̓xw’tam), pouring rain (R̓xw’tamən), and not raining so hard (R̓xw’təm).

According to Ingstad K. David Harrison, co-founder, along with Greg Anderson, of the Living Tongues Institute for Endangered Languages, the areas of highest linguistic diversity (defined as the greatest number of languages per square kilometre) also tend to be areas with the highest biodiversity. Languages in danger can be a clear sign of an environment in distress.

Youth suicide is a powerful indicator of extreme community distress, and the researchers found language wealth to be the strongest of six key indicators of community health. The youth suicide rate “effectively dropped to zero in those few communities in which at least five of the band members reported a conversational knowledge of their own ‘Native’ language.”

Musqueam elder and UBC adjunct professor Larry Grant is not surprised by this finding. “The importance of language is that it grounds the youth, and the ones without language don’t have something to ground them,” he says. “Like Johnson with Nisg̱a’a, Grant is engaged in his own battle to preserve his language after the last native speaker of the Musqueam dialect of her heritage (Halkomelem) died in 2002.

“The major challenge,” he says, “is teaching Johnson on the timeline of the last speakers.” “It’s true, we don’t have the speakers, and the ones that are trying to speak don’t have anyone to speak to.”

Grant, who was born and raised in the Musqueam territory, co-teaches with Shaw at UBC, but originally joined the First Nations Programs Program in 1995 as a student after retiring from a 40-year career as a tradesman. On completing his second year, he was offered a contract to teach.

Gary Lawson also sees a strong community imperative for revitalizing Aboriginal languages. A member of the Heiltsuk First Nation, Lawson is the coordinator for the Oral History and Language Lab at UBC’s Museum of Anthropology. Working on a project called Indigization, funded by the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre at UBC, Lawson has assembled a toolkit to digitize First Nations oral history and language to preserve them for future generations.

“Facilitating cultural and language revitalization is really facilitating community health,” says Lawson. “I grew up in a fairly unhealthy environment in the 70s. With revitalization I’ve seen the health of those communities become stronger and stronger. Language is directly related to who you are. You can only be expressed properly in your own language.”

Linguistic Diversity, Biodiversity

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Indigenous languages contain ancient knowledge about the natural environment that could help protect biodiversity. “In languages there are millions of environmentally contextualized knowledge systems that the indigenous peoples who speak those languages have acquired,” says Shaw. Ancient languages don’t just encode names but also complex information, as in the way “poison ivy” is both a name and a description.

A local example of ancient knowledge surpassing modern scientific knowledge can be seen in the classification of salmon. In the Halkomelem language of the Musqueam, cutthroat trout and steelhead trout are not classified in the trout genus but as salmon. It took a while, but modern science has caught up. According to Shaw, “not until the 80s did Western geneticists working with fish species discover that these two species of so-called trout actually are salmon.”

But when languages become extinct, the knowledge they contain disappears as well—knowledge that could help us protect biodiversity, maybe even find a life-saving new drug.

Hope for the Future

Today, efforts are gaining speed to save BC’s First Nations languages while there is still time. Across the province, teachers and language activists like Johnson, Shaw and Grant are paving the way for motivated learners to bring their languages back.

“The interest is beginning to grow,” says Grant. “Right now a lot of things are happening around the value of indigenous knowledge, cultural activities, spirituality and, most important of all, self-identity.” He pauses. “I love seeing the youth get engaged with people, the ah-a moment: ‘This is who I am.’”

Novel approaches are being taken by some language activists, usually second-language speakers themselves. Klallaim (formerly known as Dustin Rivers), for example, is working to revitalize his own language,
It happened with Hebrew. “Hebrew ceased to be the language of daily communication for the great majority of Jews around 300 BC,” says Poser. “Hebrew survived as a language that people could read, but for the most part it was not a language that people spoke.” Then, in the late 19th century, “a few people decided they were going to use Hebrew at home. Newspapers were published in Hebrew, people started speaking Hebrew with their children, and today Hebrew has come back as the language of daily life in Israel.”

Saving BC’s dying Native languages is a way to help restore communities to health by returning what was, in a very real sense, stolen. It is also a political choice. Says Shaw: “Language is political. It’s political whether we use English or French. Some communities that have held onto the language use it as their sacred language; the Nisga’a were known for using the language to talk among themselves while in treaty negotiations to strategize on their own.”

Grant agrees. “Language is very political. If you examine whenever indigenous language is used at a rally or a political event, look at what the response is. It can be visceral.”

Political they may be, but most of all the languages are an irreplaceable heritage. “Who else speaks these languages in the entire world?” asks Shaw. “They are complex systems with rich spiritual traditions – a unique legacy. No one else in the world speaks Haida natively other than those who live in Haida Gwaii. It’s very special.”

Find out more about UBC’s First Nations Language Program [link].

FEATURE • endangered languages

When languages become extinct, the knowledge they contain disappears as well.

which has just eight native speakers left. He is planning to spend a year in a language house with three other “twentysomethings,” who will speak only Squamish (Sḵwx̱wú7mesh) to each other. He is also the founder of squamishlanguage.com. By creating fluent speakers among 18- to 30-year-olds, Khelsilem’s goal is parents who will raise their families speaking Squamish so “our children’s first language (will be) the same as our great-grandparents.”

According to Bill Poser, adjunct professor of linguistics at UBC, there is still hope for bringing the First Nation languages back from near death.
It was a hot and hazy summer afternoon when Andrew Brentano decided to hunt for grasshoppers. He and his wife, Jen, dragged their feet along the grass in her parents’ backyard to get the creatures jumping, and then began capturing them one by one in their cupped hands. In retrospect, he realized they should have waited until evening when the insects were more docile. But they caught about 20 and dropped them into a Tupperware container.

The couple had just quit their jobs in Los Angeles, his designing automated phone systems, and hers managing a small business. They had talked a lot about finding more fulfilling work, something with a positive impact on the planet. They were interested in food security, and came across the idea of eating insects. They were intrigued by the environmental arguments, but first they had to try them. So, they baked, fried, salted and ate their grasshoppers. “They tasted like little shrimps,” he recalls. “Your first bug is the hardest. After that it’s just food.”

North Americans may find it difficult to see insects as just food, but entomophagy (the consumption of insects by humans) is widely practised in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East. Insects supplement the diets of approximately two billion people around the world and have always been part of human diets. The idea has gained currency in recent years because of the rising global demand, and prices of food. “The answer, he figured, lay in developing a large-scale model for an insect farm with lower costs and higher food quality. They set up an insulated, climate-controlled bug farm in their garage, raising crickets and mealworms, and also experimented with silkworms, tomato hornworms, and ivory cockroaches. They started testing different habitats, feed formulations and temperature, and are currently developing a low-cost automation system that can monitor and provide documentation of all rearing practices for regulators. “It’s kind of like doing several master’s degrees at once,” he says. Brentano of his venture. He graduated from UBC in 2010 from the Cognitive Systems Program, a multi-disciplinary program including courses in computer science, linguistics, philosophy, and psychology. He says that degree was invaluable in preparing him to step into new fields.

Brentano and his wife recruited another partner, software engineer Daniel Imre–Gulaynayke, and began to flesh out what they wanted to do. They considered developing a food product, such as protein bars or tortilla chips made from insect flour, but they quickly realized there was a very short supply of insects approved for human consumption by the US Food and Drug Administration, “so we looked further down the supply chain and we thought, oh, we need more people farming insects. We need to develop more of an industry,” says Brentano. That’s the goal of Tiny Farms, their company, which is dedicated to finding more efficient farming methods for an affordable, sustainable supply of high-quality insects.

It’s a problem articulated in a widely read document produced by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, called Edible Insects: future prospects for food and feed security. While farming insects holds out many green promises, producing far less greenhouse gas, consuming far less fossil fuel and requiring far less water, the scale of current production can’t compete with conventional food and feed sources. One cricket farm in Ontario sells cricket flour online for $40 a pound.

Brentano found several farms that grow insects for animal feed, but they weren’t interested in the grocery market. “Their primary markets are built on very high-margin live insects that you buy to feed your pets. They tell you that it’s a couple costs per cricket. If you’re going to be selling for food source you’re going to need to sell for a couple dollars a pound, which is thousands of crickets. So they would lose a lot of money if they undercut their primary market.”

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Along the way, they kept getting emails from people asking how they can grow their own bugs for their chickens or for themselves. So they decided to sell a kit for people who want to grow mealworms, now available online. He applied an idea from software design and made it open source, releasing the schematics of the kit for free and setting up a forum for comments. The project is called Open Bug Farm, an information-sharing hub for people interested in growing bugs. “The idea of open source is you take an idea, you put it out there and you let a community develop around it,” he says. “Everyone contributes so you get much faster growth.”

Brentano describes mealworms as the “gateway bug,” because they are relatively easy to raise and quite palatable. A dry-roasted mealworm tastes something like a sunflower seed. To an event for app designers, Brentano brought baklava made with little caterpillars called waxworms. In nature, these are parasites that live in honeycomb, and he describes the flavour as honey-glazed bacon. The app designers approved. He’s also tried burgers made from ground silkworms, and many baked goods made from insect flour. “We’re very excited about the potential for caterpillars because they’re large and meaty, so you can use them as a whole food item on a plate.”

Tiny Farms has acted as consultant for several companies developing insect-growing operations, and Brentano says he is almost ready to move the garage bug farm to a larger facility. “We’re hoping to have a platform available, a ready-to-follow model for someone to take and set up their own edible insect farm with all the knowledge about costs and structures that they need.”

To an event for app designers, Brentano brought baklava made with little caterpillars called waxworms in place of walnuts. In nature, these are parasites that live in honeycomb, and he describes the flavour as honey-glazed bacon. The app designers approved.

THE BUG FARMER

Andrew Brentano, BA’10, has been supporting the growth of a grassroots insect-farming industry—starting in his own garage.

BY MARCIE GOOD, BA’95
EATING INSECTS IS NOT "ICKY." GET OVER IT.

Mealworms and crickets might not be on your shopping list, but people have been eating insects since Moses. Murray Isman, professor and former dean at the UBC Faculty of Land and Food Systems, wrote a journal article in 1995 considering why grasshoppers and locusts are deemed kosher in the Book of Leviticus, but not other insects. “I think that people had been eating these for centuries, so the Old Testament writers basically just legitimized it,” he says. “Most of the world seems to know that insects are a really great source of protein. Just not us.”

Isman has studied insects and mass insect breeding for more than 30 years, and has been interested in bugs as food. He lists the benefits of producing insects over big warm-blooded animals: their nutritional value is equal or greater, the ecological footprint per gram of protein is far smaller; and the hygiene issues are easier to address. “Our resistance to bugs for dinner isn’t even logical, given what else we eat. ‘I try to remind people, when they say that eating insects is icky, that we eat lobsters and crabs and they are game feeders on the bottom of the ocean. In fact, they are just like large insects, so get over it.’”

What has helped move the debate forward, he says, is the 2013 publication of Edible Insects: future prospects for food and food security by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (The report was co-written by UBC alumna Afton Halloran, see next page.) The document has been much cited in the media, and has become the go-to source of information on insects as food. Another positive development has been a growing industry of insect production for animal and fish feed.

Isman will be working with one such commercial operation, an insect farm in South Surrey called Ofbug, which produces mealworms for organic chicken feed. He hopes to be able to pursue a research grant to expand that project. “I think if they have a viable business we can help them scale up, and turn them in the direction of breeding insects for human consumption fairly easily.”

He estimates that it will be two decades before bug cuisine reaches the same ubiquity as sushi. But by then, it will be necessary. “What’s going to happen is that people will realize that the land and grain and water required to produce beef and other livestock is just not sustainable. In 20 to 30 years Angie will cost what Vege beef costs today, it will be an absolute luxury item.” Sources of food like insects will move into the wish list by beef.

“People are realizing that there are over 1,900 different species of insects that can be used just like any other ingredient.”

Afton Halloran wasn’t looking for love when she searched out one of the world’s weirdest foods, a sheep cheese imbued with fly larvae. It was 2013, and Halloran was working as a consultant at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome, co-writing a major publication on the contribution of insects to global food security. So when she heard about casu marzu, a traditional delicacy among the locals on the island of Sardegna, she wanted to try it.

“It’s a normal type of cheese, but in households they leave it out and allow a special fly called the cheese fly to lay its eggs in it,” she explains. “It’s a smelly fly that only eats fine cheese. The larvae develop and they digest the cheese. The fats in the cheese get slowly broken down and the fermentation creates a completely different flavour.” Because of the obvious food safety issues, the cheese is not commercially available. She contacted a well-known chef on the island, Roberto Flore, for help. They met, and he took her to a farmer who gave her some cheese. It had a pungent, barnyard smell, and the texture was creamy and smooth with tangy and spicy notes. The bold aftertaste of the cheese lingered for a long time. But that wasn’t the most impressive part of the experience. She and Flore connected immediately. She was impressed by his knowledge of local and regional food systems and his pride for all things Sardeines. Halloran, originally from Ladysmith, could see similarities between the island cultures of her home. Flore was representing Sardinia in a national culinary competition on Italian television, so they saw each other often when he travelled to Rome. Halloran was planning a move back to Copenhagen, where she had done her master’s degree in urban agriculture, and it turned out that Flore had been thinking about the same thing. He wanted to work at the Nordic Food Lab, a not-for-profit institution devoted to exploring new flavours from Nordic food sources including insects. The lab was co-founded by Rene Redzepi, head chef at Noma, which has been named the best restaurant in the world four times by the influential Restaurant magazine.

So they moved to Copenhagen. Flore got a job at the lab, and was promoted to head chef. “It was completely coincidental and serendipitous,” she says, about her cheesy love story. “But it makes sense too.” Halloran’s interest in eating insects began in 2007. She was wandering through a market in Kampala, Uganda, when a vendor offered her some deep-fried crickets. She was a fourth-year UBC student in the Global Resources Systems Program, and she was game for a new experience. The crunchy little bugs caused her to think. “This is a food source that exists all over the world, and yet we in the West haven’t really taken it up,” she says. “It’s us that are the strange ones.”

Since then, she has traveled to many places and studied how local cultures produce and consume insects. In Copenhagen, she helped to form a research consortium of public and private institutions called GREEnInSECT, which received a grant of 15 million euros (about $19.2 million Canadian) from the Danish International Development Agency to investigate how insects can be used as a supplementary source of protein by means of mass production in small to large-scale industries in Kenya. Halloran is currently
Insect farming is less land-dependent than conventional livestock farming. Insects can be directly and easily collected in the wild. Minimal technical or capital expenditure is required for basic harvesting and rearing equipment. Insects can be farmed using non-food crops, such as oilseeds and grasses. Insects are easier to manage than domestic livestock because they can be housed outdoors and have little space requirements. Insects are also free from the health risks associated with livestock diseases.

**Health Benefits**

- The nutritional content of insects depends on their stage of life (metamorphic stages), habitat and diet. However, it is widely accepted that insects provide high-quality protein and nutrients comparable with meat and fish. Insects are particularly important as a food supplement for undernourished children because most insect species are high in fatty acids (comparable with fish). They are also rich in fibre and micronutrients such as copper, iron, magnesium, manganese, phosphorous, selenium and zinc. - Insects pose a low risk of transmitting zoonotic diseases (diseases transmitted from animals to humans) such as like sars (SARS-CoV), Ebola virus (EBOV), and BSE (mad cow disease).

Livelihood and Social Benefits

- Insect gathering and rearing can offer important livelihood diversification strategies. Insects can be directly and easily collected in the wild. Minimal technical or capital expenditure is required for basic harvesting and rearing equipment. Insects can be farmed using non-food crops, such as oilseeds and grasses. Insects are easier to manage than domestic livestock because they can be housed outdoors and have little space requirements. Insects are also free from the health risks associated with livestock diseases.

**Environmental Benefits**

- Insects have a high feed conversion efficiency because they are cold-blooded. Feed-to-meat conversion rates (how much feed is needed to produce a kg increase in weight) vary widely depending on the class of the animal and the production practices used, but nonetheless insects are extremely efficient. On average, insects can convert 2 kg of feed into 1 kg of insect mass, whereas cattle require 8 kg of feed to produce 1 kg of body weight gain.
- The production of greenhouse gases by most insects is likely to be lower than that of conventional livestock. For example, pigs produce ten times more greenhouse gases per kg of weight than mealworms.
- Insects can feed on bio-waste, such as food and human waste, compost and animal slurry, and can transform this into high-quality protein that can be used for animal feed.
- Insect farms are less land-dependent than conventional livestock farming.

Little data is available on the quantities of insects consumed worldwide. From that which is available, the most commonly consumed insects are:

- Termites (Isoptera): 3% (Hymenoptera)
- Grasshoppers, locusts, crickets (Orthoptera): 13% (Hemiptera)
- Flies (Diptera): 2% (Lepidoptera)
- Other (e.g., dragonflies, damselflies, cockroaches) 10%
- Dragonflies (Odonata): 8%
- Caterpillars (Lepidoptera): 3%
- Beetles (Coleoptera): 18%
- Bees, wasps (Hymenoptera): 14%
- Caterpillars (Lepidoptera): 9%
- Dragonflies (Odonata): 8%
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Anyone who’s ever been nervous for blood test results or an exploratory procedure can tell you: it’s not knowing that’s the worst. The mind offers an endless stream of possible outcomes, each scenario worse than the last. You are anchored to your short-term plans. As you sit in the waiting room, you're sick, you go to the doctor, they figure it out, give you a pill, do surgery, do treatment... This is the thought of, and I think that’s true for most people,” continues hearman. “I expected that when you’re sick, you go to the doctor, they figure it out, give you a pill, do surgery, do treatment... I had no idea that there are people who go for years, decades, and lifetimes without a diagnosis.

Despite an estimated 350 million people suffering worldwide from rare and undiagnosed illnesses, public awareness of their struggle is almost nonexistent. “Being undiagnosed is something that we had never even thought of,” continues hearman. “I expected that when you’re sick, you go to the doctor, they figure it out, give you a pill, do surgery, do treatment...”

A category that, according to medical databases that track research into rare diseases, is down to the last sample and has to decide what final treatment offers the best chance of giving her closure. “I had no idea that there are people who go for years, decades, and lifetimes without a diagnosis. And that’s not a small group. We are talking about, it’s hundreds of millions of people.”

More than a search for cures, the struggle of the undiagnosed is one that affected by this complex routine of waiting and despair. “I had no idea that there are people who go for years, decades, and lifetimes without a diagnosis. And that’s not a small group. We are talking about, it’s hundreds of millions of people.”

Fresh off their ordeal with Miller’s cancer, the couple already had a sense of medical inequality on the mind. Miller had been cancer-free since leaving Vancouver, but the spent more money on two check-ups in Utah than he spent on two years of treatment in Canada. “I wasn’t sure we would have had enough understanding of how devastating it is to be undiagnosed. As Miller, “I had no idea that there are people who go for years, decades, and lifetimes without a diagnosis.”

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Miller was a psychologist and director of the NeuroBehavioral Institute, specializing in treating debilitating anxiety disorders in children and adults. After undergoing a routine endoscopy in 2010, Moritz woke up with a stabbing pain through her chest, a syndrome doctors couldn’t put a name to, leading her to fight two battles: one against her own body, and one against a medical system that has no infrastructure for monitoring and treating unknown illnesses. There was no database for tracking undiagnosed disorders. No way for doctors to research similar cases. When a patient with an undiagnosed condition dies, the information usually dies with them, a tragic loss for the medical community as well as others seeking treatment.

The waiting room

Alumni Nicholas Miller and Crystal Shearman are creating a powerful documentary to underline the plight of people living with undiagnosed conditions.

BY CHRISTIAN CANNON

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It seems odd to describe a medical issue that affects 1 in 12 Canadians as “rare.” But taken collectively, the hodgepodge of roughly 7,000 conditions that fall under the rubric of “rare diseases” affects more than three million Canadians – and these are just the known cases. Considering it takes an average 7.6 years for a patient to be diagnosed with a rare disease, undiagnosed patients push those numbers even higher.

Defined as a condition that afflicts fewer than 1 in 2,000 people, a rare disease, taken by itself, is an outsider looking in at the multi-billion-dollar health care industry. With scant research funds and little in the way of a patient-support system, doctors and patients have learned the hard way that sufferers of rare diseases won’t receive the care they need until the medical community makes a mental shift from the rare singular to the frequent collective, a strategy being led by the Rare Disease Foundation (RDF). In 2007, UBC geneticists Millan Patel and Neal Boerkoel found themselves regularly dealing with families facing undiagnosed disease issues, and were seeking ways to get families support from government and medical institutions that barely recognized rare and undiagnosed conditions as worth addressing. (Undiagnosed conditions and rare diseases go hand-in-hand.)

One of their colleagues connected them with UBC anthropologist Bill McKellin, who had conducted research about families’ experiences with genetic conditions and had introduced anthropological interviews to the medical school program. McKellin took a personal interest in one of the projects – one of his daughters has a rare disease marked by hearing loss and dwarfism, and he’d had extensive contact with doctors over the years. “We’ve had some exceptionally good doctors and we’ve had some exceptionally bad doctors,” he says, “and the chance to open the eyes of people at the beginning of their careers had all kinds of excitement.”

In spring 2008, Isabel Jordan joined the conversation. Jordan’s son Zach had a rare genetic disorder with a host of medical complications, requiring constant care and occasional surgical procedures. With no umbrella organization to provide guidance and support, she was lost in the medical system, overwhelmed by an endless string of questions. “All I wanted was to talk to somebody else, another parent that could help me,” she recalls. “He was about to start kindergarten, and I just wanted somebody, anybody, to tell me what to do next. There was no organization, not another parent to help me with and help me sort out what was going to happen. There was nobody. I was completely at sea.”

Jordan muddled through the next few years the best she could. “We got through it,” she says, “because, you know, you do.” But when Zach turned six and required surgery to remove a tumour in his jaw, things went from worse to worst. “We ended up in the hospital with him, and we didn’t have anybody to turn to to tell us where the good doctors were or how to advocate for him when he was in ICU when things all went to hell, because they did. We didn’t have a soul to talk to except for Millan, who was great and kept checking in on us.”

Zach’s downturn prompted Jordan to begin advocating for parents in similar situations, and with the help of Boerkoel, McKellin, and a few other parents and physicians, the Rare Disease Foundation was born. As a support group for families affected by rare diseases, the foundation gave Jordan’s family a new handle on their situation simply by virtue of community. “It was the most absolutely transformative experience of my life. It was incredible. Because this journey that my husband and I had been on completely alone since day one, if my friends got it, my parents didn’t get it, nobody got it. Now I was in a room with strangers, and for the first time, they all got it.”

The support group soon led to a parent-to-parent resource network, which has since been expanded across the country – an Ottawa chapter in 2010, Toronto in 2012, Victoria in 2013. Recently the foundation held an event just for fathers, hosting guest speaker Ian Brown, whose award-winning 2009 memoir The Boy in the Moon chronicled the joys and struggles of raising his own severely disabled son.

“The importance of these resource networks to families cannot be overstated, in essence a way to treat the families instead of the diseases. “Even if you have a family member with a rare disease,” says Jordan, “even if there’s no cure or no treatment; there’s a lot that you can do to make life easier. And if you can make it incrementally easier, then it’s more time you can have as a family and more time you can focus on each other as a couple, your child, just being a family.”

As the parent-to-parent resource network is to the families, it is only a band-aid on the larger, systemic issue of medical and government organizations failing to provide adequate research funding and umbrella support to the large number of people affected by rare and undiagnosed conditions. Research funding, for instance, favours specific diseases (or groups of diseases) that affect large populations. It is a utilitarian approach to population health, but it ignores the fundamental right of everyone to have equal access to health care, a notion in which Canadians in particular take great pride.

Ironically, the warp-speed progress of genetic testing is helping the medical community self-select through the increasing popularity of personalized medicine. This is the practice of tailoring health care to individuals based on their distinct molecular identity – in other words, treating the particular person instead of the disease. “In some ways, the more tailored things get, the better,” says McKellin. “Now pharmaceutical companies can go after those specific mutations that cause diseases in particular individuals – muscular dystrophy – rather than testing a drug on all of the people with the same symptoms. Unfortunately, this division of people with the same diagnosis but different mutations can also divide support communities. So people start to think about these various mutations as different rare diseases when they’re defined genetically, as opposed to clinically.”

Treating diseases genetically (by their root causes) rather than clinically (by how they manifest themselves) is a sea change in the medical community, leading inexorably closer to an era of personalized medicine, a boon to sufferers of rare disorders. “It’s easy for us to think about disease as having a simple cause,” continues McKellin. “But a genetic abnormality that is part of your basic makeup may manifest itself in a host of ways. And so next people talk about disease pathways rather than specific disease.”

Only eight years ago, exome sequencing (a form of genetic sequencing that focuses on exomes, the one per cent of the human genome whose mutations result in the most severe disabilities) would run someone $15,000. Today the cost is below $1,000, and estimee cheeree is. This is a welcome news to sufferers of rare and undiagnosed conditions, many of whom spend years moving from specialist to specialist in search of answers.

“It’s the argument we have to make to do exome sequencing than to try a number of drugs or a kid to see which works,” says McKellin. “Personalized medicine in general is becoming a way of avoiding having to go through that trial and error with your doctor and instead you find out what actually works for you.”
Not that there isn’t still plenty of room for research on specific rare diseases, particularly those that aren’t caused by genetic mutation. To address the gap left by research funding priorities based on population health, RDF has established a microgrant program to fund research for individuals who have rare, but equally important health needs. To date, more than half a million dollars has been awarded in increments of $3,200 to $3,500, money raised through fundraisers sponsored by UBC, UBC Rec, and BC Children’s Hospital Foundation.

Ultimately, these are all stopgap solutions until the broader research and government institutions begin to address the medical and social needs of those with rare and undiagnosed diseases. As a UBC alumnus, you’ve earned exclusive access to benefits, discounts and great rates at partner companies across the country. And the best part – it’s free.

 Finds out more or join the online community at rarediseasefoundation.org

But even these large-scale, institutional challenges are slowly abating. RDF co-founder Neal Boerkoel has recently taken a laboratory director role in the National Institutes of Health’s Office of Rare Diseases Research, and in February 2014, RD-Connect and the hospital for Sick Children in Toronto launched PhenomeCentral, an online database that matches rare-disease patients with similar genotypes and phenotypes to connect clinicians and scientists and speed up the discovery of genes responsible for rare disorders.

But it all comes back to the families having the same access to health care and services that are afforded those with well-known conditions. “It’s difficult to put it in terms of competition” says Jordan. “It’s not like we’re saying that those are not also worthy things to fund. It’s more about getting equity and having the public, the government, and funding agencies be aware that there is a group that, when you take us all together, represent a very big portion of the population. It’s my son, it’s my community that deserve access to health care, and that’s a population that right now is just completely falling through the cracks.”

Find out more or join the online community at rarediseasefoundation.org

Trek forward! The Rare Disease Foundation when information about the project was added to yourevolution.ubc.ca, a purpose-built website where alumni and other members of the UBC community can publicize the socially beneficial projects in which they are involved.

Research funding favours specific diseases (or groups of diseases) that affect large populations. It is a utilitarian approach to population health, but it ignores the fundamental right of everyone to have equal access to health care.

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So reads the opening sentence of a message from UBC’s first president, Frank Wesbrook, published in UBC’s 1916 annual. By the end of the First World War, 697 UBC students had seen active service and 78 lost their lives. At this time the university’s annual enrollment only numbered in the hundreds; faculty members also served in Europe.

Wesbrook strove to maintain a sense of community during these uncertain years. He proposed that the student publications be used as a central clearing house for news. He made sure UBC soldiers received hundreds. Faculty members also served in Europe.

Three weeks before the war ended, Wesbrook died on October 20, 1918, and continued their education at UBC. Dr. Wesbrook died on October 20, 1918, of heart disease resulting from the effects of gas. He was buried in Wolseley Cemetery, Oxford.

Guy Borthwick Moore

While attending university, Moore qualified as a lieutenant in the 11th Regiment, Irish Fusiliers of Canada, and secured his captain’s papers in the summer of 1916. He entered in December 1916 as a cadet with the Royal Flying Corps and crossed to England in January 1917. After being awarded his pilot’s wings he was made second lieutenant in August 1917, immediately crossing to France to join the 1st Scouting Squadron. He remained with his unit all winter and was promoted to lieutenant and later to captain and flight commander. In March 1918 he was awarded the Military Cross. Captain Moore was killed in action on April 3, 1918, over Ypres and was buried near the spot where he fell.

He was officially credited with bringing down 12 enemy planes during his service in France.

Harry Trenaman Logan

Logan was a professor of classics. He went to France in 1915, where he served in the 30th South-East Highlands of Canada and the Canadian Machine Gun Corps (CMGC). He became a captain in March 1917 and a major in December 1918. He was awarded the Military Cross. He prepared the official history of the CMGC in 1919 before returning to teaching the following year. He returned to UBC’s Department of Classics in 1929 and went on to write the first published history of UBC, Team Ed, in 1951. He was still teaching right up until his 80th birthday in 1967.

Arthur Edward Lord

Lord became a private in the 156th Battalion in September 1916 and went to England in November, where he went to France with the 11th Battalion in February 1917. He was wounded on June 1, 1917, invalided to England in July, and to Canada in March of the following year. He was discharged in April 1918, having attained the rank of corporal, and went on to earn his bachelor’s degree.

Joseph Thomas Smeaton

Smeaton was in the Canadian Officer Training Corps from 1914 to 1917. He became a private in the 195th Battalion in December 1915 and a lieutenant in May 1915. He went to Europe in November 1916, serving with the 30th Reserve Battalion in England and the 54th Battalion in France. He was invalided to England in April 1917. His record of service then lists him at the BC regimental Depot in Seaford (May 1917); with the 16th Reserve (August 1917); and attached to the Royal Flying Corps (November 1917). He returned to Canada and was discharged in January 1919. A 1916 alumni directory lists him as a Presbyterian minister living in Saskatoon.
promoted to commissioned rank... Smeltam... I know from reports to have done exceptionably well in the Vimy Ridge Operation... he is, I believe, now in charge of his Company. ...Do you know... I often imagine my brain will be so long applied to M.G. And Army work that I shall have gotten quite hopelessly behind in Classical knowledge, and yet my last two years' teaching in the Univ. of B.C. are among the happiest years of my life... I do feel I could return quite gladly to that work... if it were not for the thought that my students would suffer from my Latin and Greek being so out of order now with war...

I am writing this in our Company-Advanced Headquarters, situated in a comparatively luxurious dug-out, until three weeks ago occupied by a Hun company commander. He left in too great a hurry to destroy the furniture of the place, though he found time to break the face of the clock and his mirror. He left us a hat-rack, a table, four chairs and a bed, in his sitting-room and bedroom. In the kitchen a stove, an excellent Calkin kettle, one or two screwing chairs. His dispositions are a great asset to our men during this advance... July 3, 1917 My dear Lieut. Logan:... Do not worry about getting rusty in classics. It may be a matter of chalk and utensils. His dug-outs are a great asset to our men during this advance... the place, though he found time to break the face of the clock and his mirror. He left us a hat-rack, a table, four chairs and a bed, in his sitting-room and bedroom. In the kitchen a stove, an excellent Calkin kettle, one or two screwing chairs. His dispositions are a great asset to our men during this advance. ...His last letter was received just a week after I sent you that last letter and after spending five weeks in France I was brought over to Blighty and put in a military hospital at Horsey Bay, Kent, where I spent a comfortable three months. They thought I was going to be a P.I.P. victim at one time but I saved their calculations and am doing fairly well now.

At the end of my convalescent period I went on to the military hospital near Horsham in the UK. I hope for, but not expecting, my discharge. In any case I doubt whether I shall be fit for France again as my wound is in the abdomen and still gives me a little trouble... We have had a fair old week over there and have already proved themselves men under the most trying conditions. Shall I show a man up for what he really is and have never seen any of them show signs of fear or cussiness even under a very severe bombardment. We all fear for peace, but of course there is no use in considering it while Germany holds out for such terms as she has hinted at but not definitely stated. The peace that we want is one which will guarantee that no nation will ever have the presumption to rise like Germany has and make a bid for world domination. At present there is no nation of any importance which is not engaged in this war. If the representatives of these countries do not guarantee peace for all times, this war will have been bought to no advantage. The time to aim at in the future is closer brotherhood between nations... I think that the great cause for present day conditions is man's woeful lack of faith in his fellow men...

Nov. 23, 1917 My dear Arthur:... We were all very much exercised indeed over the news that you had been wounded, which came just about a day after I wrote you. From the information we got here we were so startled that I did not know whether to write you again or not. I have been impressed not only with your letter but others I have received from our boys at the front, with the evidence of rapid growth and development. You have become so serious-minded and are thinking deeply about those things which are worthwhile. When you all come back and we can have a healthy discussion it will be interesting and especially is this in a scout squadron where seldom do we do two jobs of the same nature in any one day... I expect my discharge before a medical board to be examined. I am hoping for, but not expecting, my discharge. In any case I doubt whether I shall be fit for France again as my wound is in the abdomen... I am hopeful for, but not expecting, my discharge. In any case I doubt whether I shall be fit for France again as my wound is in the abdomen...
I’m remembering for you the time I stood at the corner of Broadway and Commercial and watched the future pass before my eyes.

This was a long while back, sometime during the winter of 2001. The Royal Bank was gone by then, as was the discount furniture place with its endless Final Offer!! sales of brown naugahyde couches with chrome armrests, rattan CD racks, and objects d’art such as ceramic elephant-foot umbrella stands, as was Betty Britas – the cleaners where the disgruntled man, his fingers slick with leftover take-out, Tha, always insisted there had been no red belt with that dress, no top button on that suede jacket, but because it was the only dry cleaner within miles (which tells you what kind of ceramics professional I know is unrelated to the ancient Chinese practice of hot cupping, but most likely just as pointless.

I was already planning a better life for the baby. A life safe from the harsh taught by adults tuned solely into their own overweening needs.

As a registered nurse (on sabbatical at the time for a nervous condition called “public cupping” on Sunday afternoons, which as a former public health professional I know is unrelated to the ancient Chinese practice of hot cupping, but most likely just as pointless), I considered the possibility that in Lee’s heartbreak I might detect a faint murmur, and accepted the fact that I would have to pray at Lee’s hospital bedside – trying to not think about the tube down my child’s throat, the vertical incision across its small chest – as the wages for all my sins. Lee would get better, and, when older, somersault across the twilight lawn and clamour, politely, for a pony or a motocross bike. Lee would softly weep when we bury the cat and in a high, clear voice recite a poem he (or she!) wrote.

As I was reliving the trip Lee and “Ma” would take together to visit the hedge maze of England, the traffic lights changed and the mother reached into her pocket, pulled out a pink fleece cap with piggy ears, and fit it snugly across a purple heart in which sat a yellow cat.

This mother was oblivious, though. She stood waiting for the lights to change, bouncing up and down on her heels in some kind of sport dance, her call muscles twitching. The stroller was a regular Hummer of a thing, tricked out with shock absorbers and chrome bumpers. It was cold enough to sneeze, which was unusual for Vancouver. I watched a particularly fat lade lean on the baby’s forehead and melt down into its left eye. The child blinked rapidly once, twice, and the drop continued downwards. The mother didn’t even notice. I could see steam rising from the baby’s scalp as heat molecules made their escape. A quick Google search will reveal those to look alarmingly like pimento-stuffed green olives, which puts me in mind of gin martinis, a road I do not want to go down.

People ought to have licenses to have children. This is something I’ve always felt strongly about.

I am telling you, I was this close to sneezing that baby from its all-terrain vehicle right in front of its overly fit and presuming mother who probably wouldn’t have noticed until she was sipping her single-origin Rwandan decal-frappy-thing at J Bean. (This same coffee shop now offers something called “public cupping” on Sunday afternoons, which as a former public health professional I know is unrelated to the ancient Chinese practice of hot cupping, but most likely just as pointless.)

I was then about to cross the street in the occasional desperate, non-hand-wearable item.

In their place was the very new SkyTrain station, the security fence decorated with plywood cut into the shapes of fish and birds and whatnots and hand painted by primary school children.

I had a soft spot for children then, not having any myself. Optimistic children with clever little fingers holding brushes dripping with bright acrylics, with their clever little fingers holding brushes dripping with bright acrylics, with their clever little fingers holding brushes dripping with bright acrylics. People ought to have licenses to have children, this is something I’ve always felt strongly about.
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WHERE WE’RE HEADED:

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The Real Galápagos hosted by former UBC Chancellor, Sarah Morgan-Silvester  Mar. 2015
Great Opera in Vienna led by Nancy Hermiston  Mar. 2015
Japan: Food, Fitness and Healthy Ageing led by Diane and Doug Clement  Sep. 2015
Across Southeast Asia: Chinese Migrations and Cuisine led by Professor Henry Yu  Mar. 2015
Costa Rica & Panama Canal Expedition Cruise led by Aaron Lawton  Apr. 2015
Art in Florence led by Maggie Broda  May 2015
South Africa: Namaqualand & the Cape Floral Kingdom in Bloom led by Gary Lewis  Aug. 2015
Canada’s Northwest Passage  Aug. 2015
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ALUMNIUBC.CA/TRAVEL
By the time most of us have been rarely awakened from a deep sleep by the shriek of our alarm clock, the melody - yet still annoying - chime of our smartphones, triathlete Julie Miller, BMSc, has been up for hours. Miller had just returned from a 12-mile swim and was about to start the 20-mile bike ride, which she will be undertaking for the evening. Miller's back at it – venturing out for a run, bike ride or swim. This is the sort of dedication and determination that has already netted her a gold medal at the Long Distance Triathlon World Championships in China. On the morning of six hours 53 minutes and one second.

Miller acknowledges scheduling as a mom, volunteer, business owner and full-time therapist would leave most of us struggling to find time to squeeze in a coffee break. She credits her student days for some of the required discipline. "being a runner at UBC definitely set me up for early morning runs," she says.

Next up for Miller is the 2015 International Triathlon Union (ITU) World Championships in Switzerland, in which she'll defend the podium, followed by another trip to Kona, Hawaii, for the Ironman World Championship, one of triathlon's most iconic events – the Ironman World Championship in Kona, Hawaii. "I missed Kona last year by less than a minute, so I feel I have some unfinished business.

GRATITUDE

Congratulations to Loreen, BMSc’74, and Elileen, BMSc’74, Calder. The couple, who met at UBC, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary at alumni UBC’s Toronto International Film Festival event in September. At the 2013 March of Dimes AOG, Doug Harvey-Smith, BMSc’74, was honored with the Roneford Bay Essex Award. The award is given to a long-term volunteer who has demonstrated a high degree of commitment and made an outstanding contribution. For the past 14 years Harvey-Smith has volunteered with (and is now chair of) the Ottawa Chapter of DanceAbility – a group of March of Dimes volunteers who build unique devices for persons with disabilities. Following graduation, John Chrysochos, MSc’74, PhD’79, joined the faculty at the University of Toledo (Ohio), where he stayed from 1971-2004, with additional academic assignments at Bowling Green State University, the University of Western Ontario, and the University of Crete and the University of Patras. After retiring from the University of Toledo (Ohio), Chrysochos took up a past passion in his life – writing – and has published four books. The second edition of his first book, Beyond the Blue Horizon: Life in the Arctic and North America, is now available. The autobiography is spiced with history, political and social science and academic assignments at Bowling Green State University, the University of Western Ontario, and, briefly in Hawaii. Miller took up a past passion in his life – writing – and has published four books.

Chapter of DesignAbility – a group of March of Dimes volunteers who build unique devices for persons with disabilities.

Class of DesignAbility – a group of March of Dimes volunteers who build unique devices for persons with disabilities.

Congratulations to Elileen, BMSc’74, and Mary Ross, BMSc’74, with the Reverend Roy Essex Award. The award is given to a long-term volunteer with 37 years. Sheldon Smith, BMSc’74, has been active in the antiques and fine art trade in Western Canada for more than 30 years. Smithens is an auctioneer and certified appraiser who has directed his skills to a wide array of charitable causes over his career, and has operated a successful retail antique establishment. For many years, he taught a continuing education class at the University of Calgary called Antiques, Art & Auctions. Smithens has appeared as an expert on The Canadian Antiques Roadshow and most recently, he has been the on-camera expert for the popular television show Canadian Picker. Smithens jokes he was spotted on campus recently attempting to purchase several treasures in the Museum of Anthropology, and he was surprised to learn that Campus Security still has an active file on him dating back to the 1970s. In May 2014, Lorraine Fader, MSc’79, received her Doctorate of Music in Performance from Florida State University. She is currently living in Tallahassee, teaching at Florida A & M University and playing in a number of local orchestras. Peggy Fisher, MA’80, along with her husband, John Fisher, was named Entrepreneur of the Year by Memorial University at St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador, for their establishment Fisher’s Loft. The couple opened Fisher’s Loft as a four-room B&B in 1997. Today, it is a 33-room inn, restaurant, conference centre and art gallery. In 2011, the Fishers also received the Patron of the Arts Award from the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council for their work. Suzanne Winder-Liicombe, BMSc’07, BMSc’14, BMSc’17 (née Dittrich) was thrilled to receive her doctorate in educational policy and leadership on May 22, 2014. The occasion was particularly memorable because it was her son Connor’s birthday. Owen, BMSc’14, received his degree in forestry on the same day.

In addition to receiving the 2014 UBC Alumni Teaching Award, Scott Orriston, BMSc’13, recently received a Prime Minister’s Certificate of Achievement. Orriston believes critical thinking, goal setting, and working with others are necessary tools for lifelong learning and becoming a socially responsible citizen. He encourages these skills in his students by providing specialized study sessions to build their confidence, using "Bring Back" to highlight achievements, and guiding students as they start projects that generate money for the school community.

Eileen Hoeter, BSc’79, MSc’80, has been keeping busy building a B&B in Mexico near her house. The Villa Stella is set to open this winter. After 25 years working as a freelance journalist in BC and NS, Marjorie Simmons, BMSc’74, has published her first book, Coastal Limes: A Memoir. The book tells the story of a lifetime spent between British Columbia’s Pacific coast and fellow writer Silver Donald Cameron on the Atlantic coast with humour and candour. At its heart, Coastal Limes is a celebration of all things East Coast and all things West Coast.

Paige Larson, BMSc’79, President and CEO, North Shore Sports Medicine, was awarded the AIR Miles Reward Program Social Impact Small Business Achievement award at a ceremony held at the Toronto Board of Trade in February. In 1986, after 12 years living in Canada, Michelle Painter, BMSc’86, returned to her home country of Australia, where she studied law and has worked as a solicitor and a barrister. In October 2013, Painter, who specializes in commercial law, was appointed a Senior counsel for the State of New South Wales. She is also the chair of the Women Barristers Forum NSW.

It’s an accomplishment that the organization’s founder and president, Casey Hamilton, BMSc’79, is proud of.

When Hamilton moved to Kelowna, she was dismayed by the amount of fruit wasted each year by residents with backyard fruit trees who didn’t harvest all of the fruit, either because they were unable to or chose not to. As a registered dietitian, she saw an opportunity to stop the waste and help her community.

Today, the Okanagan Fruit Tree Project’s premise is simple, yet resourceful: volunteers harvest extra fruit from the trees; donate it to charitable community groups, and share a portion among the tree owners and volunteers. The initiative provides access to fresh, healthy food for people who can’t afford it. This year, more than 300 volunteers have picked cherries, apricots, peaches, pears, plums, apples and grapes and distributed all of fruit wasted each year by residents with backyard fruit trees who didn’t harvest all of the fruit, either because they were unable to or chose not to. As a registered dietitian, she saw an opportunity to stop the waste and help her community.

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in her recovery, but also encouraged her to become an advocate.

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dr. mark donaldson

for a fall Taste Magazine

as a regular contributor to

the international world of wine when she became

Mara national Reserve in the south Rift Valley of Kenya. Kimberley, a senior
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The Elusive Mr. Pond: The Soldier, Fur Trader and Explorer Who Opened the Northwest
By Daniel Francis, Mcintosh & McKay
200 pages

It was not until 1898 that all provinces, with the exception of Quebec, enacted prohibition under the War Measures Act. Prohibition banned the manufacture and importation of alcohol, but each province had different terms. As a result, there was an opportunity to make a handsome profit through entrepreneurship and trade to export to the United States, where alcohol was banned from 1920 to 1933. Closing Time shows that attempts to restrict alcohol created syndicates of crime and violence. What started as an attempt to control the social habits of ordinary Canadians had unexpected effects. In Francis’ words: “Criminals became folk heroes; ordinary people became criminals.”

Doctors and pharmacists became bootleggers, a term derived from smuggling bottles of alcohol in boot tops. Farmers built legal stills. Farmers turned their boats to smuggle liquor into the United States. Brewers marked their beverages as healthy fruit tonics. In the 1920s, liquor tourists from the United States travelled north to participate in “sailby liquor and driven by the breeze.” By the end of that decade, liquor tourists from the States spent an estimated $300 million in Canada.

Violence resulting from prohibition gradually turned the public against the law. In one case, police shot at a boat pulling out of a dock near Toronto, killing one bootlegger and wounding another. When the case went to court, the judge ruled that no officer could use firearms to enforce the Ontario Temperance Act. Essentially, the solution was proving worse than the problem. Francis argues that this remains true today: the prohibition of recreational drugs, such as marijuana, is an opportunity for larceny, profit and violence.

Naked in Academe: 50 Years of Creative Writing at UBC
Edited by Rhea Tsevoglou
McClelland & Stewart
416 pages

“Closing Time: Prohibition, Rum Runners, and Border Wars” by Daniel Francis, 2016

“Closing Time: Prohibition, Rum Runners, and Border Wars” by Daniel Francis is a book that explores the history of prohibition in Canada. It delves into the ways in which prohibition impacted the economy, society, and culture of the country, and how it contributed to the rise of organized crime and violence. The book is part of a larger series called the “Vantage College” collection, which is known for its in-depth coverage of Canadian history and culture.
Trek Trek

The Thunderbirds football team kicked off its season by scoring a major win with fans, drawing 4,245 of them to a sun-drenched David Sidoo Stadium for the September 13 Canada West home game against the Calgary Dinos. "Our staff teamed up with colleagues from alumni UBC and produced ‘The Great Trek’ to the T-bird stadium in September for a Homecoming ‘Calgary obviously has an extraordinary team this year, so the result wasn't what we hoped for, but we proved that people can get excited about Thunderbird events, including students and alumni.’” says Ashley Howard, UBC’s managing director of Athletics and Recreation. "Our staff teamed up with colleagues from alumni UBC and produced fantastic results, with huge attendance and a superbly run event," says Howard, adding that Athletics and Recreation is also proceeding with plans for a new baseball training facility in Thunderbird Park, thanks to a generous donor gift.

2014 HOMECOMING A CROWD RAISER

The Thunderbirds football team kicked off its season by scoring a major win with fans, drawing 4,245 of them to a sun-drenched David Sidoo Field at Thunderbird Stadium for the September 13 Canada West home opener against the league-leading Calgary Dinos. The largest crowd to attend a game at UBC in recent memory included alumni of all ages and a healthy contingent of students, several hundred of whom assembled at Martha Piper Plaza to take part in ‘The Great Trek’ to the stadium plaza, where a street party was held to jump-start football’s 50th season. “Our staff teamed up with colleagues from alumni UBC and produced fantastic results, with huge attendance and a superbly run event,” says Ashley Howard, UBC’s managing director of Athletics and Recreation. "Our staff teamed up with colleagues from alumni UBC and produced fantastic results, with huge attendance and a superbly run event,” says Ashley Howard, UBC’s managing director of Athletics and Recreation. "Our staff teamed up with colleagues from alumni UBC and produced fantastic results, with huge attendance and a superbly run event,” says Ashley Howard, UBC’s managing director of Athletics and Recreation. "Our staff teamed up with colleagues from alumni UBC and produced fantastic results, with huge attendance and a superbly run event," says Howard, adding that Athletics and Recreation is also proceeding with plans for a new baseball training facility in Thunderbird Park, thanks to a generous donor gift.

ZLC FINANCIAL GROUP TO HOST MILLENNIUM SCHOLARSHIP BREAKFAST

“I would like to make a reservation for 1,200 for breakfast, please.” Ever since he became director of Development for UBC Athletics and Recreation, Steve Tuckwood has called the Vancouver Convention Centre every year with pretty much the same request. The Millennium Scholarship Breakfast started in 1999 to create scholarship endowments for UBC varsity athletes, and to date has raised more than $10M. One of the keys to its success has been matching funds provided by the University, which has effectively doubled the net proceeds from ticket sales. With ZLC Financial Group recently signing on as title sponsor, and Tuckwood close to confirming a speaker with ties to the 2015 FIFA Women’s World Cup, it’s full speed ahead for the 15th annual breakfast on February 24.

Looking further ahead, UBC Athletics and Recreation staff and a team of eager students and alumni volunteers will soon be making plans to host the 2016 CIS Final Eight Men’s Basketball Championships. “It will be the first time in over 30 years the tournament has been held in Western Canada,” said director of Athletics, Operations and Student-Athlete Services Theresa Hammer, who tabbed the successful bid to host the three-day Canadian version of March Madness. Interestingly, the last time UBC hosted the national championships was 1982, when the late Peter Mullins coached his UBC charges to a crowning finale. Led by a 42-point performance by graduating senior Ron Thorn, the only UBC player ever to be drafted into the NBA, the Thunderbirds dispatched the University of Windsor Lancers 76-84 in the tournament final.

CAPITAL REPORT

The impressive physical growth on the Point Grey campus includes new capital projects undertaken by UBC Athletics and Recreation and various partners, including work recently begun on the new National Soccer Development Centre at Thunderbird Park. The result of a $21M partnership announced in 2012 between the university, the provincial government and the Vancouver Whitecaps Football Club, the centre includes four new fields scheduled for completion in 2015, complemented by a $35,000-square-foot field house to follow by the end of 2016.

Meanwhile, the area north of War Memorial Gym will soon be home to a new state-of-the-art Aquatic Centre that will service the needs of varsity swim teams, students and the broader UBC community. With completion scheduled for 2016, the facility is a $40M project, with a little over two-thirds of the funding provided by UBC Properties Trust. “We are responsible for about 50 per cent of the costs so naturally this has become a major thrust in our current development efforts, but a very important one,” says Howard, adding that Athletics and Recreation is also proceeding with plans for a new baseball training facility in Thunderbird Park, thanks to a generous donor gift.

UBC SPORTS HALL OF FAME SALUTES SWIMMERS

During UBC Swimming’s “Decade of Dominance” from 1998 to 2007, the men’s and women’s teams both captured ten consecutive CIS crowns. The 2015 Big Block Club Awards and Sports Hall of Fame Dinner will feature a tribute to all UBC varsity swimmers of this period in what will be the largest-ever induction in the Team category, involving some 125 team members. Olympians Brian Johns and Kelly Stefanyshyn, who lead all UBC swimmers in CIS career medal count with 34 and 31 respectively, will also be inducted in the Athletic category. But the loudest ovation of the evening may be reserved for Tom Johnson, the founder and architect of the modern UBC swim program, who is being honoured in the Builder category. The Montreal native took over from Jack Kelso as UBC swim coach almost 25 years ago. A veteran Olympics team coach, Johnson produced countless international competitors and synchronized the resources of UBC’s program with the famed Pacific Dolphins to form a revered national swim centre at UBC in 1998. The Sports Hall of Fame tribute will take place almost 50 years to the day after Jack Pomfret’s 1964-65 men’s swim team won UBC’s first-ever CIS (then CIAU) championship in any sport.
That's a sweeping statement, but an accurate one — and something that should make every UBC fan proud.

Our Thunderbird teams have won a total of 91 Canadian Interuniversity Sport Championships — three in the last year alone — and that's the best record of any university in the country. In the last academic year the Thunderbirds also won four conference titles, produced Coaches of the Year, and something that should make every UBC fan proud. That's a sweeping statement, but an accurate one — and something that should make every UBC fan proud.

Beyond varsity, UBC Athletics also benefits the rest of the student body. At UBC Vancouver, more than 23,000 students participated in a program or sport last year, and 24,000 students, alumni and other community members turned out to cheer at Thunderbird games. In Kelowna, the UBC Okanagan Heat has emerged as a competitive new UBC presence on the national scene, with remarkable successes as full members of CIS Canada West and tremendous engagement with the community.

Athletics are a rich part of UBC's history and crucial to its future success. The annual UBC Millennium Breakfast in Vancouver and UBC Okanagan Athletics Scholarship Breakfast in Kelowna have raised $75 million to date, and created generous endowments in support of student-athletes on both campuses.

The graduation rates, the number of wins, the level of community spirit, the amount of support — all these are important markers of the program's success, but my favourite marker is the 94% Academic All-Canadians produced on both campuses of UBC last year — student-athletes who achieve an academic standing of 90 per cent or better while playing on a varsity team.

This accomplishment illustrates what I value most about university athletics — people pursuing their passion with such gusto, and with such a degree of mentorship and support, that they can achieve otherwise unimaginable results.

When UBC champions take to the podium, they celebrate more than a win. They embody the quality of our programs and inspire their peers to work that much harder. They demonstrate that accepted to UBC is the first step on a continual path to improvement.

UBC Athletics has been forging its own way along that path. Having conducted a major consultation and review in Vancouver in the past year, we are now in the process of implementing the recommendations.

To this end, I am committed to doing everything I can to support and promote UBC Athletics in Vancouver and in Kelowna. It will include helping to develop partnerships with the private sector, donors, and sports organizations. It will mean promoting innovation and ensuring access to the equipment, lab space, facilities and training that will support excellence. Throughout, the implementation process will be inclusive and responsive, leveraging lessons learned and affirming all stakeholders' voice.

As we look to the future, it's interesting to recall the best of our past, including the origin of the UBC Vancouver totem. In the Kwakwaka'wakw tradition, the Thunderbird is a creature so powerful that its wing beats cause the thunder and stir the wind. For UBC, it is also a symbol of reconciliation. The first Thunderbird pole — Victory Through Honour — was presented to UBC by the Kwakwaka'wakw carver Ellen Neel and Chief William S. Cow at a homecoming event in 1948. Recognizing that UBC had been using the totem since 1936, the Kwakwaka'wakw reached out with the hand of friendship and presented the pole as a kind of blessing.

It is our ongoing challenge to do justice to that honour as we celebrate a century of tradition and firm the foundation for the next hundred years.
“Funny how looking good makes me feel good too.”

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CONCERT

JOHN LOUIS TIEDE, B.ASc’44, M.ASc’45
John was born on April 18, 1921, in Providence to Henry and Mary Tiedie and died on July 18, 2015, in Sarnia, ON. John spent most of his youth in Trail, BC, where his father worked at the Cominco smelter. John was president of the UBC Varsity Outdoor Club and in 1949 joined the research department of Imperial Oil Ltd. in Sarnia. He is an inventor or co-inventor on 24 patents. From 1959-61 he was on loan to ESSO France, in Rouen, as Directeur des Recherches, later returning to Sarnia to become manager of the Imperial Oil Research Department with more than 400 employees. He retired in 1984. John was active in the affairs of the World Petroleum Congress, serving from 1971-84 as chairman of the Canadian National Committee and participating in the international organization from 1985-87 as a member of the Scientific Program Committee, the Executive Board and the Permanent Council. In 2007 he was awarded Honorary Associate Life Membership in the Canadian Association for the World Petroleum Council. On many early summer holidays he drove with his family to a cabin at Christina Lake. Later, he and his wife Dorothy sailed on Lake Huron and went for hikes with the Field Botanists of Ontario – John was an accomplished wildflower photographer. He is predeceased by his daughter, Ellen, and son-in-law Harry, and his sister, Patricia. He is survived by his sister, Marian; his son, Tom (Glenna); daughter, Jane (Stevie); son, Henry (Dina); five grand-children, and his wife of 65 years, Dorothy.

FRANCES BLACKMORE SPARZANI (Née Lee), B.A’44
Frances Blackmore Sparzani was born in 1923 in Toronto, the only child of the late Frank and Mona Lee. Her family moved to Vancouver, where Frances attended Prince of Wales High School and Navel Prep College before entering UBC. At UBC, Blackie was a key member of the Players Club, performing in a number of plays and serving on the club’s Executive Committee, and was a member of Delta Gamma sorority. Following graduation, she pursued her love of travel by working for firms that offered free trips as a perk. In 1951 she was married in The Little Church Around the Corner in New York City to Aldo Sparzani, an executive with the International Telephone and Telegraph (ITT) company. Subsequent postings with ITT included Miami, Havana, Caracas, Panama City, and Quito and their travels included virtually every country in South America. There was also an offshore posting to Manila and finally a home posting to Seattle. Blackie had always immersed herself in the local cultures – in Seattle she was hired as a cultural advisor by the museum of Anthropology, Museum of Vancouver, Community Arts Council, Children’s Hospital, and Canadian Mental Health Association. BJ touched many on her life’s journey. She had a fun-loving zest for life, wicked sense of humour, was always interested in current events, and curious about other people’s lives. Her warmth endeared her and she made friends of all ages easily. BJ was indeed a positive influence and guiding light in both her children’s and grandchildren’s lives. We are strengthened by her spirit, which lives on.

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CRAG MACPHEE, B.A’47, M.A’49
Dr. Craig MacPhee, World War II veteran, former University of Idaho fisheries professor, died Tuesday, October 9, 2012. While attending UBC, Craig played on the school’s rugby team. His time at UBC was most important to him. Craig went on to receive his PhD from the University of Washington. Craig and his family settled in Moscow, ID, where he began his professorship at the University of Idaho. He has a distinguished history at the university for his role in helping establish a cooperative fisheries research unit on the campus in 1963, and for his numerous research projects throughout northern Idaho’s rivers and lakes. He served as academic chairman for the University of Idaho Department of Fishery Resources, served on the U-Idaho Faculty Council, and was president of the Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Following his retirement in 1990, he and his wife established the Craig and Dorothy MacPhee Scholarship for a student in fisheries.

BEVERLY MARGUERITE BURNSIDE, B.A’44 (Kappa Alpha Theta), (1925 – 2009)
Bev Burns was born in 1925 at Good Hope, Idaho. She was the daughter of John and Dorothy Tiedje Burns who established the Craig and Dorothy MacPhee Scholarship for a student in fisheries.

Blackie entered a coma lasting six months from which she never recovered.

Roger Blackmore Sparzani

On this superb natural site we stand within – a cathedral as boundless as our wonder, quenchless

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On this superb natural site we stand within – a cathedral as boundless as our wonder, quenchless

“On this superb natural site we stand within – a cathedral as boundless as our wonder, quenchless lamps the sun and moon supply, chorns the winds and waves. Its organ thunder, its dome the sky. The sea is his and he made it.” Reverse from plaque at the old UBC Rose Garden. We think of you often and build upon the solid foundations that you created. Your loving and grateful daughters, Diana Nacer-Cherif, Bty’79, and Sylvia Andrews.

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John, who loved his family, dogs, planes, sailboats, trees, and the wilderness, died in Vancouver on March 31, 2014. John grew up in Saskatoon with three sisters and two brothers. In his heart the Gilmore family built after they emigrated from Scotland. Their dedicated mother, Janet, worked hard to provide them with a home and an education while raising them on her own after her father died. Despite growing up in the Depression years, the boys had many childhood adventures and managed to get up to all sorts of mischief - double the trouble because everyone had difficulty telling them apart. Fueled by planes as a very young age, after graduating from high school, John joined the RCAF, but was serving in the Canadian Army in Ontario when WWII ended. This served him well as both he and his brother received help with university education, both graduating from the Faculty of Forestry in 1950. John combined that experience with his love of outdoor activities, especially water sports, and his lifelong love of the mountains and the outdoors. He retired from the college to run the Nanaimo Foundry and Engineering Business, 1978. He enjoyed travelling, the outdoors, restoring old cars, and transportation systems. He initiated the export of chips from the southern British Columbia coast to individuals who have made an exemplary contribution to the profession. In 1996 he was elected to the Board of Directors of the Forest Society of British Columbia, and in 1999 he was appointed to the Chairmanship of the Board of Directors. He served on the Board of Directors of the Forest Society of British Columbia for ten years, retiring as professor emeritus of education in 1987. In 1955 they moved to Kamloops, where John spent the balance of his career. 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John held professorial appointments at the University of British Columbia and the University of Toronto, and he served as a visiting scholar at the University of California, Berkeley, and at the University of Paris, where he taught French and English. He was a member of the Canadian Association of Teachers of English as a Second Language (CAESE), and he was the co-author of a number of textbooks on the teaching of English as a second language. He was also a member of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Association of Teachers of English as a Second Language (CAESE), and he was the co-author of a number of textbooks on the teaching of English as a second language. He was also a member of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Association of Teachers of English as a Second Language (CAESE), and he was the co-author of a number of textbooks on the teaching of English as a second language. 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LENKO (Michael) (Co鲅ian Valley); granddaughter, Erin Nathalie Murray (Halfa); and several cousins, nieces, and nephews in BC, AB, ON, and NS.

CAROLE EARLE, BEd/MA/PhD (1946 – 2023)
Carole is survived by her children and beloved "grandis": Teresa Earle and Fritz Mueller - Stella and Robyn; and children and grandchildren spread her ashes amongst the salal and along the beach at her favourite place, Faery Pool Cottage on Galiano Island. Please consider a donation to support research at the BC Cancer Agency.

Denis HAWSKOWSH, BEd/MA/PhD (1948 - 2013)
On August 30, 2013, Dennis lost his battle with Mantle Cell Lymphoma. After graduating, Dennis worked for Netherlands Overseas Sawmills and in 1970 was recruited by Weyerhauser, serving as a project manager in the construction of the Burns Lake mill. In 1983, he was promoted to general manager of Weyerhauser’s Babine Forest Products. In 1997, he was appointed vice-president of Hitton Forest and Wood Products.

Dennis served as president of the Alberta Forest Products Association in 1995 and was on the Board and several committees. He was vice-chairman of the Canadian Lumber Standards National Lumber Grading Association and vice-chairman of the Softwood Lumber Committee of Alberta. In 1999, he served as a member of Canada’s Agreement Negotiating Team. In 2000, he was appointed to an interim committee responsible for developing a new Alberta Forestry Research Institute and served on the Board of the George Foulsham Research Institute from 1996-2004. After retiring from Weyerhauser/West Fraser in 2003, Dennis joined the Alberta Government as Director of Forest Products in 2008.

In 2011, Dennis moved to Kamloops with his partner, Susan, enjoying the fine weather and proximity to his property on Shuswap Lake. Dennis commuted to Edmonton while on contract with the Government of Alberta and was unfortunately diagnosed with cancer in 2013. He eventually retired in 2015. He was a keen outdoorsman and skier, and had an encyclopedic knowledge of roots, rock and roll musicians, and music. He was a keen family man who enjoyed taking his family to many parts of the world. His enthusiasm and high spirits made him many friends within and outside the forestry profession in Alberta and BC. Dennis is survived by his children, Philip and Fritz, his partner, Susan Bevan, and his sister, Shelly Price, BEd/MA.

Walter MAJAK, PhD
Walter passed away on August 3, 2013, at Royal Inland Hospital. He will be sadly missed by his loving wife, Ruth. Walter was a proud father of Geoff (Monica) of Denver, CO, and Michael (Angeline) of Kamloops; and Papo to Prexie, Janan and Fritz. He will also be missed by his brother, Andy (Sylvia), of Three Hills, AB; sister, Lily, of Scarborough, ON; and numerous nieces and nephews. Walter was born on March 3, 1942, in Mentone to Andy and Nettie Majak. He graduated from Larchmere High School, McGill University (BSc), Dalhousie University (MSc) and UBC. Walter spent his entire career as a research scientist with Agriculture Canada in Kamloops. During that time he published numerous scientific papers and was awarded the Queen’s Golden Jubilee Medal in 2004 in recognition of his work.

Patricia (Trish) Janet McMordie, Day/10/55, PhD/6
March 24, 1926 – October 26, 2013
It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved wife and mother. Trish will be lovingly remembered by her husband of over 55 years, Allan; daughter, Janet, and son, David. Trish was born in Lloydminster, AB, to Ethel and Janet Salt. She attended Camrose Lutheran College followed by the University of Alberta, where she obtained her Bachelor of Education degree. She married the love of her life, Allan, in Alberta and soon moved out to Vancouver. Trish taught in the North Vancouver School District for over 30 years and, while teaching, received a Master of Education degree that concentrated on her passion for early childhood literacy. Trish was an active and well-loved member of the North Vancouver community. She taught at Lonsdor, Foremo, Ross Road, and Highlands elementary schools and the Progress Centre at Handsworth. The numerous well wishes and visits from her former students during her time at the hospital are evidence of just how loved she was by those she

Trish retired. In recognition of Trish’s passion for books and literacy, donations in Trish’s name can be made to the North Vancouver District Library.

Please submit obituaries to trek.magazine@ubc.ca including “In Memoriam (first name, last name, date year) in the subject line, or to mail to: alumni UBC 6251 cecil green park road Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1

Obituaries should be 300 words or less (submissions may be edited for length and clarity where necessary). Mail original photos or small high resolution images - preferably 300 dpi.

Florence McNEAL (Née McNeil)
Florence McNeil died August 26, 2013, at the age of 73 or 76 or 80 depending on which driver’s license, health card or other document she was using at the time (a delightful fact that will not surprise those who knew her - her brother has commented that she was sometimes his older, sometimes his younger, sister). She earned her BA from UBC in the 1950s (in keeping with her own vagueness), where, among many other activities, she wrote a regular column for The Odyssey. She spent the first few years after graduation teaching high school and university, most notably a series of stories that appeared on John Drainie’s CBC radio program, Canadian Short Stories. She returned to UBC to earn her MA in creative writing with Earle Birney and went on to publish books of poetry with some of Canada’s most prestigious publishers. Then, at the suggestion of her editor, she wrote the first of her four highly successful novels for young people, which have been praised by prestigious publishers. Then, at the suggestion of her editor, she wrote the first of her four highly successful novels for young people, which have been praised by prestigious publishers. Then, at the suggestion of her editor, she wrote the first of her four highly successful novels for young people, which have been praised by prestigious publishers. Then, at the suggestion of her editor, she wrote the first of her four highly successful novels for young people, which have been praised by prestigious publishers.

Florence was survived by her husband, David, PhD/76, her brother, Alex, her sister, Theresa, and many nieces and nephews.

James Ernest Hartley, MSc/65
On October 31, 2013, after a brave battle with Alzheimer’s, James Ernest Hartley died in Calgary with the same grace with which he had lived. He leaves his wife, Billie, his four daughters and their families, and eight grandchildren. Jim was born in Okema, SK, and finally settled in Calgary, working for Parks Canada Historic Sites Branch until his retirement in 1979. Jim never stopped learning and had several degrees including a BSc in Agriculture from the University of Saskatchewan, an MSc in Community and Regional Planning from UBC, and an MBA from the University of Calgary. Jim developed a keen sense of community service as he moved around the country and was a staunch Roughriders fan.

Trish was an active and well-loved member of the North Vancouver community. She taught at Lonsdor, Foremo, Ross Road, and Highlands elementary schools and the Progress Centre at Handsworth. The numerous well wishes and visits from her former students during her time at the hospital are evidence of just how loved she was by those she

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What is your most prized possession?

It’s a tie between a handwritten rejection letter from Bill Buford at The New Yorker and Sandy, a ragged old panda bear I’ve had since childhood who’s been washed so many times she resembles a satanic goat.

Who is your childhood hero?

My adolescent hero was David Bowie. My current hero is Joe Pesci.

What is your latest purchase?

I wore a pair of black PVC pants to the closing reception. I was a pew of black PVC pants to the closing reception. What would be the title of your biography?

Let Me Ask You This (with a pointing finger on the cover).

What are you afraid of?

Spiders, fatal diseases, people who hate art. Name the skill or talent you would most like to have.

Mesmerized by my attire, and a joke started that my pants received a 4-book deal.

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

I don’t feel grateful to be here. No historical era is without its problems, but if it’s just for a visit: La Belle Epoque in Paris. Peace, technological invention, ground-breaking advances in medicine, the rise of realism and naturalism in literature, the birth of Modernism, post-Impressionist painters, cabaret theatre, salons. And beautiful hats.

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

My mom. She’s the best person I know. She’s still my hero.

What item have you owned for the longest time?

That’s easy: my mom. She’s the best person I know.

What’s your pet peeve?

Wilful ignorance.

What is your nickname at school?

Pants. While I was in the MFA program, we hosted an annual summer residency. I wore a pair of black PVC pants to the closing reception. A well-known literary editor was mesmerized by my attire, and a joke started that my pants received a 4-book deal.

What are some of your ubC highlights?

That’s easy: my mom. She’s the best person I know.

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Who was your childhood hero?

My adolescent hero was David Bowie. My current hero is Joe Pesci.

What was the last thing you read?

Dead Girls has been published in the UK, Germany, Italy, France, Holland, and Spain, and has been optioned for film. Lee, an assistant professor in Creative Writing at UBC, has served as writer-in-residence for the University of East Anglia, Historic Joy Kogawa House, and most recently for the city of Vincennes, France, and the city of Richmond. Her debut novel, The Age, has opened to rave reviews, is set to be published in France, and was featured as one of alumni UBC’s book club selections this fall. Follow Lee on Twitter: @pantsmclee

What is your most prized possession?

It’s a tie between a handwritten rejection letter from Bill Buford at The New Yorker and Sandy, a ragged old panda bear I’ve had since childhood who’s been washed so many times she resembles a satanic goat.

What was the last thing you read?

1996 — a wonderful collection of poems by Sara Peters.

What or who makes you laugh out loud?

The rise of realism and naturalism in literature, the birth of Modernism, post-Impressionist painters, cabaret theatre, salons. And beautiful hats.

What is your pet peeve?

Wilful ignorance.

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What is your favorite movie?

Life on Mars David Bowie’s You Spin Me Round 12’ Remix. While I was in the MFA program, we hosted an annual summer residency. I wore a pair of black PVC pants to the closing reception. A well-known literary editor was mesmerized by my attire, and a joke started that my pants received a 4-book deal.

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What are you afraid of?

Spiders, fatal diseases, people who hate art. Name the skill or talent you would most like to have.

Mesmerized by my attire, and a joke started that my pants received a 4-book deal.

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

I don’t feel grateful to be here. No historical era is without its problems, but if it’s just for a visit: La Belle Epoque in Paris. Peace, technological invention, ground-breaking advances in medicine, the rise of realism and naturalism in literature, the birth of Modernism, post-Impressionist painters, cabaret theatre, salons. And beautiful hats.

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

My mom. She’s the best person I know. She’s still my hero.

What item have you owned for the longest time?

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Our 300,000 alumni are at the heart of UBC. So UBC and alumni UBC are building the Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre at the heart of our Vancouver campus. The Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre will be a new home for alumni; a place to welcome all who visit UBC; a place to connect and integrate, fostering entrepreneurship, networking, mentoring and learning.

The Centre is named in honour of alumnus, benefactor, former UBC Chancellor and founder of the UBC Properties Trust, Dr. Robert H. Lee, CM, OBC, BCom’56, LLD’96. Bob is affectionately known as ‘Mr. UBC’ due to his many contributions over three decades.

To help the new Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre become a vital and vibrant space, we invite your support. 

alumnicentre.ubc.ca