

THE DOG STORY | MARTHA: THE WOMAN WITH THE JUMPER CABLES | ALUMNI NEWS AND EVENTS

Trek

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The Magazine of The University of British Columbia

WINTER/SPRING 2006



Published by
The University of British Columbia
Alumni Association

Publications Mail Agreement # 40063528



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

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Volume 61, Number 1 | Printed in Canada by Mitchell Press
 Canadian Publications Mail Agreement # 40063528
 Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:
 Mary Bollert Hall, Records Department
 6253 NW Marine Drive, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1

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National Wildlife Federation Recognizes UBC For Leadership in Campus Sustainability

The National Wildlife Federation, North America's largest wildlife conservation agency, has presented UBC with a Campus Ecology Recognition Award for sustainability initiatives.

As part of this honour, the Federation has created the Campus Ecology Yearbook, available on its website www.nwf.org, which offers a comprehensive look at UBC's sustainability efforts during the 2004/2005 academic year.

UBC is on track to meet and surpass the Kyoto Protocol's 2012 target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 25 per cent. UBC is the only Canadian university in North America to receive this recognition.



I4

PAINTED FACES, REUNIONS AND NOT PEEING ON YOUR HANDS

IN THE 1999 MOVIE, “The American President,” the beleaguered president comes under attack by the other party for his new girlfriend and his very liberal views. At one point the president watches a TV news clip of his adversary who says something like, “My opponent, with his very smart Princeton degree, might try applying some of what he’s learned to our present economic problems.” The president snaps the TV off with disdain and says, “I went to Stanford, you moron.”

Canadians understand the wry, slightly snobby humour because, being fed American culture from an early age, we know there’s some sort of pride-based alumni rivalry even among grads of the most exalted universities. We also understand that if we inserted “McGill,” and “UBC” in the above dialogue, most readers – Canadian or otherwise – would likely say, “Huh? I don’t get it.”

That sense of intense school pride filters down to many of the lesser US schools, too. My otherwise-staid brother-in-law, a contract lawyer, graduated from the University of Oregon in the 1970s. Guess who painted his face green and yellow to sit with 71,000 other screaming fans at the Holiday Bowl where the U of O Ducks played against the U of Oklahoma in San Diego on December 29? (The Ducks lost in a heart breaker, 17-14.)

So, why is it that such an expression of support from a UBC alumnus (or from an alumnus of any university in the country, for that matter) would be unlikely? The football T-Birds, even when they’re on a hot streak, rarely get enough fans to justify opening a concession stand. But it’s not just sports: My b-in-law rarely misses a reunion – he seems to go to one every few years – and every visit to the campus sounds like

a pilgrimage to a religious shrine.

So here’s the question: What is it about Canadian universities that they don’t generate that kind of passion, that kind of pride?

Our newly formed Alumni Affairs team (made up of the Alumni Association and a university unit, Alumni Relations) is working hard to change that. We’re looking under the hoods of all our existing programs – from the Achievement Dinner and Regional Networks to this magazine – to see what we can do to make them all more attractive and more relevant to your life. We’re introducing a new website and e-networking system (*TrekConnect*) in the Spring that will open up new ways for you to communicate with old classmates and with the university. We also have a major building plan in the works, the Alumni Centre, which will become the place on campus that caters specifically to the needs of our alumni.

The point of all this new effort is to show you that UBC, as one of the most influential institutions of your life, is worthy of your interest, your involvement and your support.

Then, if we’re successful, maybe we could substitute, say, “McGill” and “UBC” into this very old joke: A Princeton grad and a Stanford grad are in a public wash-room using the facilities. The Princeton grad finishes up and goes to the sink to wash his hands. The Stanford grad heads straight for the exit.

“At Princeton,” the fellow at the sink says grandly, “we learned to wash our hands after using the toilet.”

“At Stanford,” the other says as the exit door shuts, “we learned not to pee on our hands.”

And we’d all laugh knowingly.

– *Chris Petty, editor*



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It’s Not Written in Stone

■ Living in the digital age, you might think that the fragility of acidic paper is no longer an issue in the preservation of data. But electronic storage of information comes with its own challenges. Its impermanent nature is one of these.

Methods for digital recording and storage rapidly become obsolete – think 5½ inch floppies – and in order to preserve and retrieve records they must be migrated from older to newer technologies. The intangibility of the electronic material and the potential technological pitfalls involved in migration make it vulnerable to alteration. Whereas paper records are all about preservation, digital record-keeping is more about faithful reproduction and re-storage than maintenance of the original format. Still another issue is that outdated (but potentially useful) electronic data tend to get updated rather than archived.

Professor Luciana Duranti is chair of Archival Studies at the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies. She is leading an international effort to explore and tackle the issues

Here Today, Gone Tomorrow: Luciana Duranti is leading an international effort to tackle the archival issues surrounding digital information storage.

involved in electronic data storage. The International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems (InterPARES) Project group is working to establish guidelines and standards for how information is recorded and kept so that it may be more easily migrated with minimal threat to its integrity. This will be of paramount importance in areas like health care records.

Duranti is seeking input from many quarters, and experts in archival systems from 20 countries are involved in the project. China (one of the project’s funders) has already adopted some InterPARES recommendations on authenticity requirements as law. The InterPARES Project has also received funding from, among other sources, the Social Sci-



ences and Humanities Research Council of Canada’s Major Collaborative Research Initiatives (SSHRC-MCRI) and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

At War with HIV/AIDS

■ UBC nursing students are researching HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention while providing medical care in South Africa’s Eastern Cape. Fourth-year students Nash Dhalla and Sarah Rohde are spending a six week practicum in urban hospitals and rural clinics here where the HIV infection rate is over 20 per cent. “The huge incidence of the disease can seem overwhelming,” says Dhalla, “but I believe it’s possible to make a difference.”

As part of their program, Dhalla and

Rohde will be working on the Phelophepa Health Train – South Africa’s “Train of Hope” – with a multidisciplinary team bringing basic medical, dental, and eye care to remote areas of the country. They will be joining the train for the Eastern Cape part of the journey, studying the role community nursing can play in HIV/AIDS-related education, prevention, treatment and support. They will also examine the effects of traditional healing beliefs of the local Xhosa people.

Both students have previous experience working with medicine on the margins. Rohde spent time working with refugees in India before pursuing nursing. Dhalla, with nine years’ experience as a TB outreach worker in Vancouver’s AIDS-plagued Downtown Eastside, has seen the positive



EARLIER THIS YEAR I visited with alumni in Hong Kong, Seoul and Singapore. Our graduates have spread out around the world, playing significant roles in government, education, the performing arts and business. I'm always impressed by these grads because they have such a strong feeling about UBC: they recognize that it has played an important part in their lives, and has prepared them well for the work they do now, no matter where they may be.

I recently met with alumni in Washington state and California, and later this spring I shall travel to Toronto, Ottawa and London, UK, to meet with alumni there. Visits like these by the university's faculty and staff help get the word out about UBC, and go a long way to bolster our recruitment efforts abroad.

International students and faculty alike are taking notice of UBC. Our research, our teaching and our international relationships with other universities – we have exchange agreements with more than 120 institutions worldwide – have resulted in UBC's being ranked among the top universities in the world. Our university has developed a global reputation as the up-and-coming place to be.

We are also active members of world-wide research and learning networks, like the Association of Pacific Rim Universities and *Universitas 21*. Our participation in such organizations gives us privileged access to important educational and research initiatives, and opens the way to partnerships with all kinds of exciting possibilities.

This focus on internationalization is contained in the university's vision statement: UBC, aspiring to be one of the world's best universities, will prepare students to become exceptional global citizens, promote the values of a civil and sustainable society, and conduct outstanding research to serve the people of British Columbia, Canada and the world.

And the key element of that statement, the element that sharpens all the others, is "...prepare students to become exceptional global citizens." Increasingly, our world is faced with challenges that transcend single locales or individual communities: poverty, economic inequality, pandemics, toxic environments, and the abuse of human rights among them. How do we train our future generations to meet these challenges? By making the realities of global life part of our curricula, by making it possible for students to experience those realities first hand, and by instilling in them a sense of global responsibility.

We shall continue to produce alumni equipped with the skills, the knowledge and the desire to work in a global context, and through their achievements, UBC will continue to be a growing presence in the world.

Martha Piper, President, The University of British Columbia

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effect community health care can have. "My experience has shown me that supportive health care – literally bringing health-care services to people on the street – can work."

Rohde and Dhalla organized this voyage with the collaboration of the UBC and University of Fort Hare schools of nursing for the largely self-directed course *Exploring Avenues of Nursing Practice*. "I believe HIV is a defining epidemic of our generation and the opportunity to work alongside South African nurses on both prevention and care is unique," says Rohde. "I hope this experience will give me a perspective on a worldwide health crisis and provide me with skills to work in any setting where this epidemic is critical."

Quicksilver and Gold

■ On the list of dangerous jobs, gold mining ranks near the top. The threat is posed by the use of a mercury-gold amalgam that is then burned to vaporize the mercury. This method is typically used by rural miners in some developing countries for the extraction of very small amounts of gold usually passed over by large companies. As a result, some mercury makes its way into the environment and the bodies of the miners, who have a lot of direct contact with the poison during the course of their work.

The Global Mercury Project exists to introduce modern mining technologies to developing nations where gold miners still use methods that endanger their health and that of the environment. Chief technical advisor for the project, Engineering professor Marcello Veiga, says that the world is currently witnessing the biggest gold rush it has ever seen. "In more than 50 countries, 15 million people are working as artisanal gold miners, including four million women and two million children," he says.

Mining for Good Health: Gold miners in Indonesia risk their lives by using dangerous practices for extracting the ore.



Photograph: Cody Hopkins

Enough exposure to mercury can cause brain and kidney damage. Fourth Year Mining student Cody Hopkins took one of Veiga's courses at UBC, became involved in the project, and went to Indonesia last summer to find out how bad the situation is there. He administered breathing tests to miners and measured the mercury contamination in their respiratory system. "Depending on the method they use to extract gold from the mercury-gold amalgam, miners could measure anywhere from 5000 to 20,000 nanograms per cubic metres of air, compared to 20 nanograms, which is normal in urban North America," he says. Back in Canada, Hopkins has been helping to find workable solutions for replacing existing methods or rendering them less harmful. These include designing a contraption (built from easily findable household objects) that prevents release of mercury into the air when burning the mercury-gold amalgam. The Global Mercury Project is funded by the United Nations.

A Promising Worm

■ A brainless, one-millimetre worm may hold the key to treatment of memory loss and mental disorders such as schizophrenia. UBC psychology professor Catherine Rankin is studying the *C. elegans* nematode for clues to the development of genes related to habituation, the ability to filter out irrelevant stimuli.

With only 302 neurons, a two-week lifespan and hermaphroditic reproduction, *C. elegans* makes a perfect research subject. Its extremely low neuron count – rats have billions of neurons – makes this worm well suited to the study of neuron development. As well, in 1998 it became the first multi-cellular animal to have its genome sequenced. "It's like working on an animal with an instruction manual," says Rankin.

Rankin hopes to isolate the genes related to habituation in *C. Elegans*. "We can then understand the rules and apply those principles for genes in other animals including human beings." This information should prove useful in treating schizophrenics, who have difficulty filtering out background stimuli, and people suffering from trauma-related memory loss or the effects of severe childhood neglect.

In 1990, Professor Rankin discovered that the *C. Elegans* nematode would move backwards if she tapped the side of its Petri dish. However, it would learn to ignore the taps if they were repeated several times, and could remember this training for at least 48 hours. By tracking genes related to memory and synapses, Rankin can observe the changes in the nematode as it learns – the amount of these genes produced is proportional to the amount of stimulation it receives during development. Along with other research in the field, Rankin's work shows that rather than being immutable, genes do change with experience. "Prior to that, we saw genes as a software program that always runs the same, but that's not the case at all," she says. "Instead, think of each gene as having one or more volume knobs. And these can, within a certain range, be turned up or down by its experience."

Eating Disorders

■ There is a notoriously low recovery rate for people who suffer from eating disorders such as anorexia and bulimia, and an alarmingly high mortality rate: 10 to 20 per cent of patients die from



"GIVING SOMETHING BACK" has become a popular concept in today's culture. Oddly enough, it seems the busier we get and the more complicated life becomes – from 12-hour workdays and constant information overload to the demands of family and the increasing instability of the world – the more we feel the need to get involved in our community. Volunteering has become a way of balancing the demands of our

lives with a desire to make our community a better place.

At UBC, volunteers are an essential part of our daily operations. Without them, the university could not function. Practising health care professionals volunteer their time to train students in real-world medicine; busy business people provide their expertise to developing curriculum for the next generation of financial movers and shakers at the Sauder School of Business. From the Board of Governors and Senate to the docents at the Museum of Anthropology and the Botanical Gardens, volunteers do something of what they love for free, for nothing more than the betterment of the university.

And "giving something back," it can't be denied, sometimes comes in the form of money. While some of us grumble that UBC is "always asking for money," it's no secret that UBC has an active fundraising department – it raises more than \$100 million annually for projects across the university – and the majority of that money is raised from alumni. From Irving K. Barber's \$30 million gifts to establish the Learning Centre at UBC Vancouver and the School of Arts and Sciences at UBC Okanagan, to the \$100 gift made by an anonymous alumnus to a Creative Writing scholarship, the idea of donating to this university is both attractive and compelling.

The Alumni Association, too, is dependent on the urge to "give something back." Our annual Achievement Dinner is defined by a volunteer committee; this magazine is overseen by a volunteer editorial committee. Our global Regional Networks are powered by the energies of volunteer alumni abroad, and our reunions would not happen without the tireless energy of the men and women who put it all together.

We alumni *are* the university, and it is our responsibility to give something back – be it time or treasure – to make sure UBC continues to be one of the world's best universities.

* * *

A few weeks ago, UBC lost two of its most dedicated alumni. Tom Brown, president of the Alumni Association in 1946-7 was a supporter and advocate for UBC for decades, and Bill Webber, long-time teacher and mentor, was an influential presence in the Medical Alumni Association. Both will be missed.

Martin Ertl, BSc '93, Chair, UBC Alumni Association

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complications of their condition. Josie Geller, director of research at the Eating Disorders Program at St. Paul's Hospital and associate professor of Psychiatry, thinks the key to fighting these statistics may lie with the level and nature of social support experienced by someone with an eating disorder.

Research – and common sense – shows that a healthy social support system helps in recovery from illness or trauma, but Geller says that people with eating disorders often describe the social support they receive as inadequate. A characteristic of eating disorders that may influence social support, or a patient's perception of it, is that patients don't always cooperate in their treatment and there is a high rate of relapse.

Geller specializes in factors relating to readiness to change. Together with post doctoral fellow Erin Dunn, her three-year study to better understand the relationships between individuals with a disorder and their supporters, usually family and friends.

She says it's not uncommon for people to regard eating disorders as straightforward problems that can be easily remedied. But "it's unfair to ask individuals to give up their eating disorder until they've decided they want to, and have found alternate ways of

meeting the needs that an eating disorder fills," explains Geller.

More than 100 people with eating disorders and 20 survivors will participate in the study, along with families and friends. The study will also attempt to explain an anomaly that cropped up in the results of earlier research: those supporters who agreed their loved one shouldn't be pushed to change, but instead allowed to recover at their own rate, also exhibited the most controlling personality traits.

She Collects Sea Shells . . .

■ Her family calls her one of the original hippies, and Alice Stein lived up to the name. Travelling about the US, Cuba and the Bahamas during the 1950s and 1960s, Alice collected shells and made friends with everyone she met. When she later settled in Oregon – where she built a house largely through exchanging labour and materials for shells – Alice continued to add to her collection. People she'd met during her sojourns sent her new specimens and she acquired entire collections from others.

And so, when she passed away in 2004, Alice owned a collection of marine



life to rival some of the world's best.

Thanks to the generosity of Alice's niece, Kelly Norton, this collection will find a new home at UBC. When the Beaty Museum of Natural History opens in late 2008, Alice Stein's vast array of shells will be displayed for visitors to enjoy. It will also be used as a teaching tool for students and as reference material for researchers.

"The Alice Stein shell collection is a substantial and dazzling representation of marine biodiversity," says Dr. Brian Leander, assistant professor in UBC's departments of Zoology and Botany. "Although cataloguing this particular collection is still in its infancy, many specimens are recorded in enough detail to be of value to the broader scientific community."

Dr. Leander points out that molluscs are among the most successful and diverse life forms on Earth, with nearly 100,000 species described so far. He says that the structural diversity found in mollusc shells provides an excellent vehicle for demonstrating the developmental and evolutionary histories of complex biological systems. The Alice Stein collection contains several uncharacterized fossils and some extremely rare variants in natural populations, such as sinistrally (left-handed) coiled shells.

"Perhaps most significantly, the Alice Stein shell collection will, along with other outstanding collections at UBC, enable the Beaty Museum to convey vital concepts to the public. These include ecological interconnections, distant evolutionary kinships and the fundamental role of biological variation in the persistence of species on Earth."

The Beaty Museum of Natural History – made possible by an \$8 million gift from alumni Ross and Trisha Beaty – will showcase unique and significant specimens such as the Alice Stein collection, and will help the public make informed decisions on ecosystems preservation, as well as communicate the cutting-edge research carried out by the Biodiversity Research Centre, a team of more than 50 scientists dedicated to the study of biodiversity.

Students Speak Up

■ Some of the best programs on campus are initiated by students, and the International Relations Student Association (IRSA) is an exceptional example. The association promotes discussion on international politics and foreign policy and has attracted the notice of

high-ranking government officials and policy experts. They were particularly impressed with the students' model negotiations for real political entities such as the UN and NATO. The group also helps raise money for international causes, such as landmine awareness.

The IRSA recently became the first student program to be recognized by the Canadian Bureau for International Education. "To be recognized as most outstanding program in Canada is an enormous honour," says Fernando de la Mora, IRSA president and International Relations student. "When it comes to civic engagement and global citizenship, I think this shows our members are really walking the walk."

The students can be proud that their efforts help to keep important issues on the table and under discussion. "By reaching out to countries – including the US, which has still not signed the Ottawa landmine treaty – we are showing how students can keep an issue on government agendas," says Mora.

The students' activities bring them into contact with high-ranking policy-makers, and their impressively realistic model negotiations are deemed a useful resource in preparation for the real events. On the strength of UBC students' performance in other simulations, Foreign Affairs Canada invited them to participate in a model of an upcoming Human Security Network ministerial meeting. "Working with policy makers is enriching our educational experience exponentially. And to our surprise, the diplomatic community has been very interested to hear what students have to say on global issues," says Mora.

To Each His or Her Own

■ When a species is exposed to certain conditions, it can adapt to those conditions and develop distinct mating preferences (biased towards finding mates with similar adaptations), eventually developing into a new species. It's all part of creating biodiversity.

This much has been proved in a study carried out by UBC Zoology post-doctoral fellow Jim Vines. He studied stickleback populations in four BC lakes representing four different types of habitat. The stickleback populations have developed different feeding methods based on adaptation to their localities. Two groups feed in open water, while the other two populations are bottom-feeders. "We found that when given a choice



The Collector: Alice Stein (seated) travelled far and wide during a lifetime of shell collecting.



Student Activist: International Relations student Fernando de la Mora has a keen interest in civic engagement.

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between unfamiliar males from other lakes, females almost always chose the males from their own feeding environment,” says Vines. This observation also helps to explain why more than one species of stickleback can exist in the same lake.

“Adaptation somehow changes mate preference so females only accept mates from their own environment, effectively stopping interbreeding between populations in different habitats. This in turn allows populations to diverge into new species,” he explains.

The Atlas of Child Development

■ Relationships between childhood development and the socio-economic status of communities are now easier to examine thanks to a comprehensive tool developed by the UBC-based Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP). Researchers have created the BC Atlas of Child Development, a colour-coded system of maps based on census statistics and data collected from an assessment of 44,000 BC kindergarten children.

The children were assessed for school readiness, since this is a good indicator of their future development. HELP director

Clyde Hertzman used a method called the Early Development Instrument to gauge their physical health and well-being, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive development, and communication and general knowledge. To determine the socio-economic status of communities and school districts in which the children live, the project reviewed more than 1,000 indicators. The atlas’ creators hope this will allow them to pinpoint which socio-economic factors have the biggest bearing on child development.

“We now have an amazing amount of data to look at,” says project lead Paul Kershaw, an assistant professor with HELP. “The atlas allows us to ask how we are doing in raising our young children, and also how we as a community, and a country, can do better.”

The project has revealed a number of factors that contribute to developmental vulnerability in children. They include communities with higher than usual incidence of single parenthood, men who don’t typically perform child-care, a large income gap between genders, men working in sub-management positions, and individuals speaking a foreign language at home.

“Policy makers are often uncomfort-

able talking about sexism, or racism, or class politics,” says Kershaw. “But findings from the atlas suggest that we all need to consider these issues more carefully if we’re committed to creating nurturing neighbourhoods.”

But it doesn’t always follow that a neighbourhood with socio-economic challenges produces a higher incidence of vulnerable children. Just the opposite has sometimes been the case. The atlas will hopefully help researchers gain more detailed understanding about aspects of environment that either positively or negatively impact development. It will also prove a valuable guide for developing child care policies. A major funder of HELP is the BC Ministry of State for Child Care. Based in UBC’s Faculty of Graduate Studies, HELP is a research institute involving the efforts of grad students and faculty from both UBC campuses, SFU, UVIC, BCIT and Thompson Rivers University. The atlas can be viewed at: http://ecdportal.help.ubc.ca/atlas/BCAtlasofChildDevelopment_CD_22-01-06.pdf

Buddhism First for North America

■ UBC has established North America’s first Buddhism and Contemporary Society program thanks to a \$4 million gift from The Tung Lin Kok Yuen Canada Foundation. Robert HN Ho, president of the foundation, is a supporter of Buddhist studies in Canada, Hong Kong and the US.

Ho and his family members share an illustrious history of philanthropy and support of public health and education. His grandfather, Sir Robert Ho Tung, was knighted for his services to the British crown. Born of a Chinese mother and European father, Sir Robert made his fortune from land purchase and development. He supported the 1911 Chinese Revolution, which saw the overthrow of the Qing dynasty.

Ho’s father was Kuomintang General Robert Ho Shai-Lai, fourth son of Sir Robert. General Ho defended China during the Japanese invasion. He served as Ambassador to Japan for the Republic of China from 1952 for four years before he served on a Nationalist China military delegation to the United Nations for 10 years.

Robert Ho was born and raised in Hong Kong. He earned a BA from Colgate University in New York in 1956 and an MSC from Columbia in 1958. In 1994, he founded

the Tung Lin Kok Yuen, Canada Society, and the foundation in 2004. The Society’s Vancouver temple offers Buddhist rites, lectures, and seminars for Buddhist followers and the public at large.

“Buddhism stresses the need for kindness at every level from person-to-person relations to global action,” says Ho. “I believe this powerful practice fosters peace and change within ourselves and in the world.”

The program will offer teaching, research, public lectures and symposia that will probe the interface between spirituality and public policy, how principles of peace, compassion and cross-cultural acceptance interact with secular decisions and action. The program will be located in the Institute of Asian Research and operated in collaboration with the faculty of Arts department of Asian Studies.

UBC is a recognized leader in teaching and research on Asia with programs that date back seven decades and a large number of internationally renowned scholars. In recent years, UBC’s connections with the Asia Pacific region have expanded dramatically to include research linkages, faculty and student exchanges and joint programs.

Tools for Better Blood

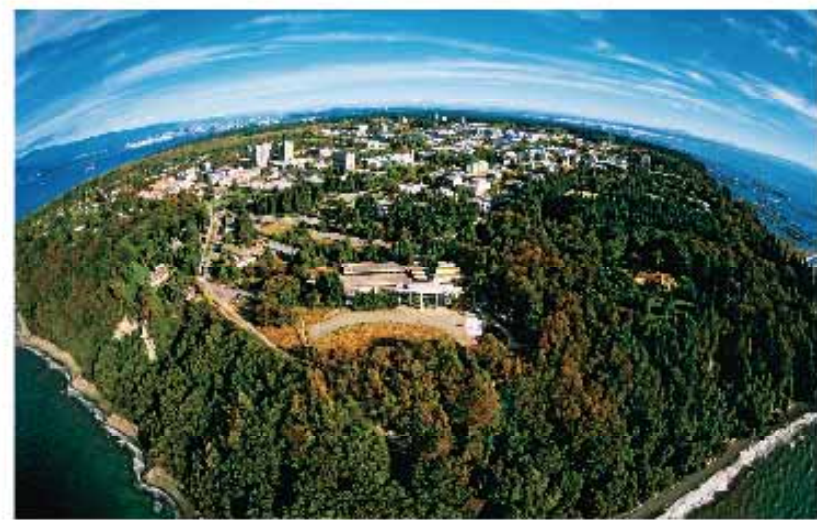
■ Physicians use transfusions of blood platelets where clotting is required to staunch bleeding. Since platelets only account for about 7 per cent of the blood’s volume, several units of blood are required for one such transfusion. As well, refrigeration renders platelets unviable so they must be used within five days of donation to avoid risk of bacterial contamination, the available supply of platelets is nearly always low. Furthermore, the quality of still-viable platelets is variable, and until now no dependable tool existed to test viability.

Now, researchers at UBC have developed a one-step device for measuring the quality of platelets that would prevent the premature destruction of healthy platelets (consequently boosting supply by up to 20 per cent) and allow a better blood product match for patients.

The Dynamic Light Scattering Platelet Monitor (DLS-PM) may not have a catchy name (nor acronym, even), but together with improved storage practices and handling



Buddhism Program: Robert HN Ho has established North America’s first Buddhism and Contemporary Society program at UBC.



UBC From the Air colour poster is now available at the UBC Bookstore. \$13.95
This 20" x 28" poster makes a great present for UBC students, grads and alumni!

6200 University Boulevard Tel: 604.822.2665 www.bookstore.ubc.ca





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operations the device has the potential to increase platelet storage time to as long as two weeks. The DLS-PM was developed by Elizabeth Maurer, a clinical assistant professor of Pathology and Canadian Blood Services scientist. Already patented by Canadian Blood Services, it is hoped that the tool will become available within five years.

A prototype for the DLS-PM was built by fourth year Engineering Physics student Keddie Brown. It works by passing a beam of light through a vial of platelet concentrate. The platelets scatter the light and researchers then study the resulting patterns to establish platelet shape, response to temperature change, and the number of micro-particles they shed. These measurements give an accurate indication of platelet viability.

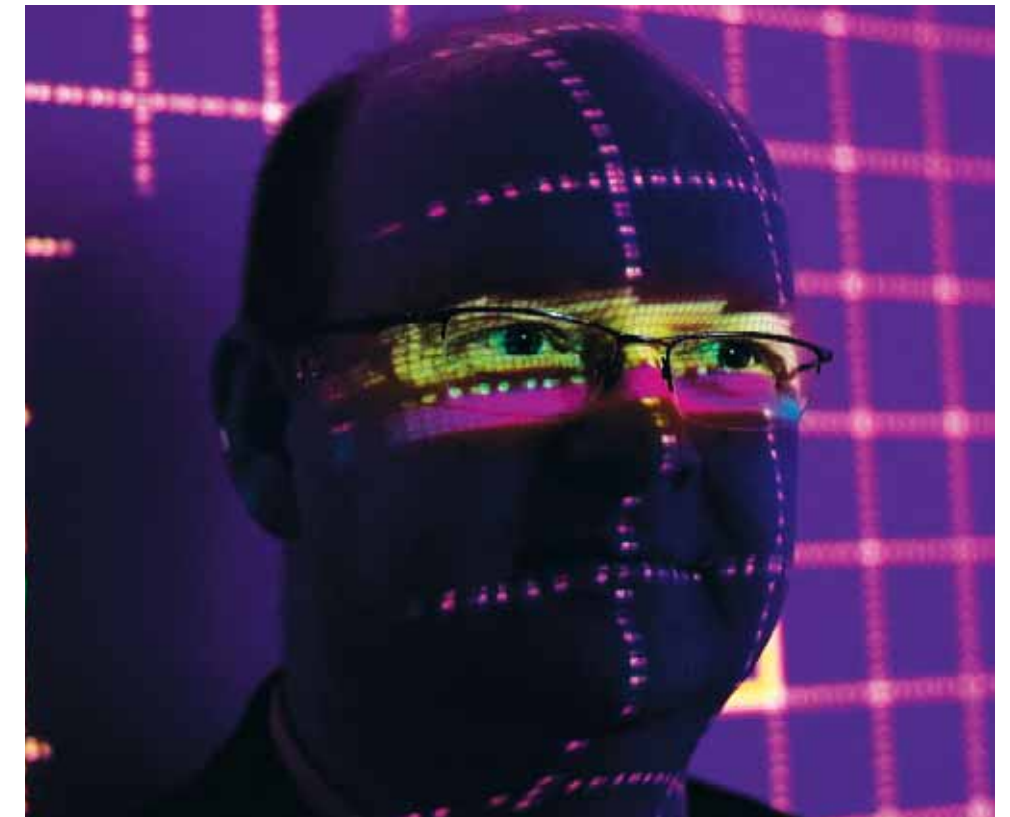
UBC LEEDS the Way

■ UBC's Life Sciences Centre (LSC), the largest building on campus, opened in 2004 to help accommodate researchers and rising number of medical students. But it also fulfills another of the university's main aims: to promote the values of a sustainable society. Its green design has been recognized with a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification, a much respected and still rare designation awarded by the United States Green Building Council.

The LSC's green credentials are impressive. It consumes half the water and almost one third less energy than conventional buildings and emits far fewer greenhouse gases. It maximizes the use of natural light and ventilation, translating to an annual saving of \$200,000 on electricity costs. It was built with minimum construction waste using locally-available, recycled materials wherever possible.

Two other campus buildings have won awards for their sustainable design: the C.K. Choi Building and the Liu Institute for Global Issues. In 2003, Point Grey became Canada's first campus to receive Green Campus Recognition from the US-based National Wildlife Federation.

Life Sciences: UBC's spectacular Life Sciences Centre at 52,000 sq. metres is the largest building on campus.



Virtual Healing: Virtual reality therapy holds promise for treating neurodegenerative diseases.

Virtual Hope

■ Strokes or neurodegenerative diseases like Parkinson's cause motor damage that impedes a patient's ability to control movement. Nerve pathways deteriorate and electrical signals can no longer be transmitted between brain cells responsible for controlling muscle.

Research has shown that synthetic stimulants such as amphetamines prompt the production of the brain chemical norepinephrine, a natural substance that behaves like a neurotransmitter allowing signals to pass between cells. It also helps patients "relearn" movements even years after the initial damage. But treating people with amphetamines involves too great a risk of heart attack.

Instead, professors Ian McKeown, at the Pacific Parkinson's Research Centre at UBC Hospital, has been looking for alternative ways to stimulate the brain to produce those same spikes of norepinephrine required to rebuild neural pathways. He administers sensory stimuli to prompt the brain's production of norepinephrine,

and it is research unique to North America (McKeown started work on it while still at Duke University in North Carolina). Subjects watch a screen with images of coloured balls that appear to be moving towards them. They are instructed to reach out and try and catch the balls. The electrical activity in their muscles is measured simultaneously. This Virtual Reality (VR) therapy may be available as a treatment within five years.

"The beauty of the VR environment is that we can match stimuli to the electrical activity from muscle groups to learn precisely how stimuli are affecting movement," says McKeown, who holds a degree in Engineering as well as his MD. He and colleagues now want to learn more about the longevity of the benefits of the therapy. McKeown is also working with colleague Professor Jane Wang from the department of Electrical and Computer Engineering to develop the tool as a measure of motor activity for use in rehabilitation. McKeown is a member of the Brain Research Centre and also works with the Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute. ■

The Dog Story

Although I have enjoyed the company of dogs in the past, I do not have one currently. A divorce a decade ago cut what leash there was to my last dog, a sloppy, lackadaisical Golden Retriever. I do not miss him.

Stanley Coren would say that's because the dog, Sailor, and I did not have a good fit. Coren, an experimental neuropsychologist at UBC, is better known to people outside his specialty of human sensory processing as the guy who writes books about dogs. Actually, they're about more than dogs. They're explanations of the remarkable interconnectedness of two species.

"My real interest is not just the dogs, but the human/animal relationship. That is what tickles my curiosity," Coren says from the farm he shares in the Fraser Valley with his wife and two dogs.

Coren won election to the Royal Society of Canada on the basis of his research into the nature of left-handedness and the affects of birth stress and sleep on human health and behaviour. But with training in both animal and human psychology he is among a very few scientists with the background to analyze relationships between people and their dogs.

"Most of my colleagues train in one or the other. I'm fortunate. I'm dual trained. That gives me a bit of an edge and also, obviously flavours my interest," he says.

Coren comes by his passion honestly. He loves dogs, particularly the friendly ones he describes as "kissy face." I would describe them otherwise, not able to imagine being licked on the face and lips by an

animal that finds rolling in (and occasionally eating) poop an olfactory and epicurean delight. In one of his books Coren explained the licking of dogs as a way of expressing a desire for food. But he also says it's an indication of who's running the show.

"I'm willing to accept that," he says. "For people who don't like that behaviour, there's a Scotty (Scottish terrier) or Westy (West Highland white terrier). They say, 'Pet me twice a day, I've got work to do.'"

In my dog days I had animals that gave me real pleasure and their passing brought genuine grief. I've also had dogs that lasted less than three months in my house. I didn't know it at the time, but that makes me part of a statistic about how long it takes the average dog owner to get an animal that fits.

One of the dogs that drove me crazy was a Brittany Spaniel pup (with papers) and the only dog I paid three figures for. In the child-centred home of a newborn and a three-year-old toddler, there wasn't much time for the dog. Little Sparky made up for the lack of attention by chewing down small ornamental trees in the backyard. I gave her to an older couple.

The other dog that didn't last was a Malamute mix, found lost in the woods. I gave Lucky away when, no longer content to sleep on top of the hot tub cover, he

by Scott Yates

Dog-gone: Stanley Coren and friends. Dogs have become an essential part of our social environment.

THE DOG STORY

clawed through it. At the time, I thought these dogs were the problem. Coren makes me understand it's really a relationship thing.

He has developed a list of 16 personality traits, (among them, shy, dominant, hard-hearted, tricky, unaggressive, cunning) to measure dog owners' level of dominance, extroversion, trust and warmth. With the input of dozens of experts in dog related fields, meanwhile, he created a list of seven dog types including friendly, independent, protective, consistent, clever, steady and self-assured.

Some believe the perfect dog is an accident of nature, a fortuitous intersection of canine and human connectivity. Coren, on the other hand, says there are no accidents.

"God created man, but man created dog," he says.

He contends we constantly change dogs to fit our lifestyles. At one end of the continuum are the kissy face canines Coren prefers. On the other are killer beasts that came out of blood sports favoured by the British in the early 1800s. Such contests are still popular, though not as public. Searching the internet under the phrase, "game bred," reveals kennels specifically breeding vicious dogs. Pitbulls, a cross between bulldogs and terriers are the ultimate fighters. Some are so vicious, litters have to be taken from mothers at five weeks, lest she kill the pups.

"There, we have created monsters. But in 1835 there were others who wanted to create a classic fighting dog in the style of a proper companion for a British gentleman to take into the club," Coren says. Bulldogs, fierce looking, sweet creatures, were the result. "We can deliberately manipulate dogs and it doesn't take long. In 10 or 12 years you can completely change the breed."

Now that cloning dogs has been perfected, you can also have a replica of beloved dog that has died. Coren laughs at the notion. "A lot of people expect a cloned dog to arrive with all the memories and behaviours of the old dog," he says. "If you've got a zillion dollars, do it, but you're not going

to get the same dog, because a dog is as much a product of his experience as he is of his genes."

I remember a few dogs fondly. Duchess, a mongrel mix that would chase rocks when I threw them, but would never give them up without a fight, Suzy, a German Shepherd that ran, romped and rolled with me through my early teens, Shanna, a happy terrier that learned to scale my body if I supported her neck with my hand, Mattie-Sue, a dog the vet gave me because I sniffled when another dog I'd

With the intelligence of a two year old child, dogs can learn upwards of 110 words or signals. Cats, which are less trainable, are said to have the intelligence of about an 18 month old and a vocabulary of about two dozen commands.

found on the street had to be put down for cancer. These were dogs for which I felt a profound connection.

But what is that connection? Coren says we have created dogs that have a remarkable ability to understand and share our feelings. In other words, we have created dogs with empathy. That's one of the most interesting aspects of Coren's research and involves the sort of stories you might hear Alan Thicke narrating on the television program, *Animal Miracles!*

Consider the case of the Collie and the house fire. Asleep in the home's recreation room, the dog could have exited the house via its dog door into the backyard at the first smell of smoke. Instead, the Collie ran through the fire, barking to alert family members. Regrouped outside, it was the dog, not the frazzled family that recognized one of the pack was missing. He ran back into the house barking. "That Collie had ample opportunity to go to safety and it didn't. I certainly consider that heroic," Coren says.

But they're still animals, right? A four-legged relative of the wolf or hyena or

dingo or perhaps all three. Fifteen thousand years ago there was a *raison d'être* for bringing dogs inside the circle. They've been hunters, guards, garbage collectors, herders, four legged labourers. Pampered pet is of recent vintage. It wasn't too long ago that dogs were considered the poor person's horse or mule. They hauled small wagons through London and New York, often used and abused by owners who could always obtain a replacement. The British Parliament began to put an end to that, successfully passing a bill in 1822 outlawing cruelty to animals.

As with so many things, the pampered pet part of doggie development started with royalty. Kings and queens, emperors and empresses all liked dogs, and several breeds today owe their progeny to specific reigns. Coren is quite keen on the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, a dog bred by the 15th Century English king to emphasize a loving and gentle disposition.

Most dogs are bred to retain a puppy-like instinct called neoteny. It is why you'll see an older dog cavorting like a youngster, but you'll never see cows kicking up their heels, as you might their calves. With the intelligence of a two year old child, dogs can learn upwards of 110 words or signals. Cats, which are less trainable, are said to have the intelligence of about an 18 month old and a vocabulary of about two dozen commands.

But doesn't speaking of dogs as having the equivalent intelligence of young children lead seamlessly into thinking of them as four-legged children? On a walk in a park, I see a couple pushing their miniature poodle in a baby carriage. Downtown, a woman carries her Chihuahuas in a harness designed after the ones used for newborns. A friend

pays \$8,000 to have the genetic defect in his dog's legs repaired. A television commercial advertises Christmas gifts for dogs. Billions of dollars in North America are spent on dog related food and veterinary services. It bothers me.

Coren suggests I lighten up.

"The vast majority of people have a healthy relationship to dogs. Yes, you might buy your dog a present or include a package of treats under the Christmas tree, but I think for most individuals it does not take away from their ability to interact with others," he says. Besides, data on the benefits of having a dog are well established, helping to lower blood pressure, among other things. And for children, having a dog in the family is even a predictor of more stable future relationships.

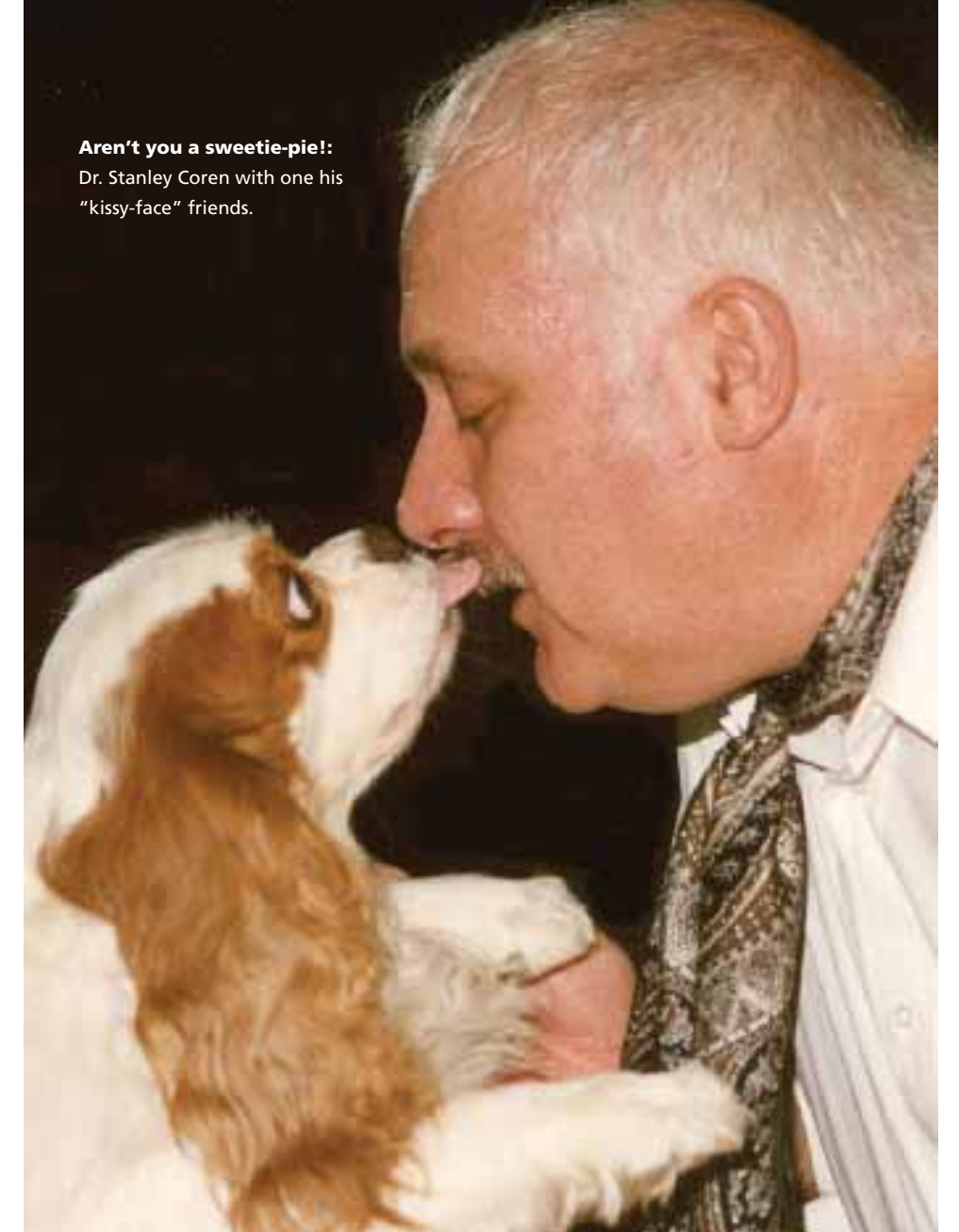
"The speculation is that you come home from a ratty day and your partner had a ratty day and if you demand affection, you're going to get in a fight. But Lassie is there. You get your dose of affection, you don't make demands. You don't start a fight and the cumulative stress is released," he says.

People who walk dogs know intuitively what researchers have measured. Strangers have a more positive response to a person who is accompanied by a dog. One recent report Coren quoted found that people were more likely to speak to handicapped individuals with a dog. Other research shows that simply photographing a person with a dog makes him or her more approachable. It would appear politicians have learned that lesson, although Coren pointed out, some of them are genuine dog lovers. Bill Clinton wasn't. George W. Bush is.

"The President of the United States walks around carrying a Scottish Terrier. He can do anything he wants. He can have an aide carry it, (but) he comes from a family where dogs are important," Coren says, adding that for people in power, a dog may be the only honest relationship they have. "They never betray you. They never sell their story to the National Inquirer."

That's the kind of loyalty that has sold

Aren't you a sweetie-pie!:
Dr. Stanley Coren with one his
"kissy-face" friends.



humanity on dogs, linking us to them as much as them to us. During the flooding of Hurricane Katrina, one of several mistakes attributed to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, was its failure to take into consideration people's pets. Leaving them behind was not an option and a large group refused to evacuate without their animals. In one instance, an enlisted soldier, following orders, took a Yorkshire Terrier from an elderly evacuee. A nearby officer gave the dog back, telling the soldier the dog was medicine. Medicine for the mind.

That's how I've come to see humani-

ty's alliance with our four-legged friends. Coren has convinced me that in a society increasingly isolated from itself, dogs just make sense. I don't have a dog now, but I'm pretty sure I will again. As much as I abhor the tendency of some people to go overboard in their affections, I understand better now why they do. Just as God is said to have created man in his image, we have created dog in ours revealing, in most cases, a reflection of the most honest, loyal and affectionate parts of ourselves. ■

Scott Yates, MFA'86 is a reporter for Capital Press, and lives in Spokane, WA.

Martha

THE WOMAN WITH THE JUMPER CABLES

Martha Piper leaves UBC in June after nine years as chief executive, and her impact will be felt for years to come. As an academic, administrator, fundraiser and shameless promoter of UBC, she ranks with the institution's most illustrious presidents. Here, in Part One of a two-part profile, Richard Littlemore looks at the personal side of UBC's 11th president.

MARTHA PIPER can grab you by the eyes. Not physically, of course. It's a figurative grip, but it's a death grip nevertheless.

The moment arises periodically, and almost always unexpectedly. The 11th president and vice-chancellor of the University of British Columbia will be chatting in that warm, casual, "call-me-Martha" way, and suddenly something will change. She'll pause, draw a breath and shift just enough to attract your glance. When you look, you see square shoulders, a determined chin and a flash of fire in Martha's own wide-set blue eyes. And then she has you. You will listen to the next point and you will not look away.

The remarkable part – one of many remarkable things about Dr. Martha C. Piper – is that she can do this without seeming threatening, or even pushy. Because Martha doesn't ever tell you what to think; she tells you what *she* thinks and she does so with such conviction, such absolute determination, that you can't help but accept the sincerity of her position.

This willingness to commit herself unreservedly to what she has to say, may also explain why so many people feel that they know Martha personally, even if they hardly know her at all.

*

MARTHA COOK PIPER was born on November 27, 1945, the third of four tightly packed children. Just six years separates the eldest, another girl, from the youngest, one of two boys. Martha grew up in a big house, right on Lake Erie, in Lorain, Ohio, a little steel town just west of Cleveland. Her father, Dan Kates Cook, was a lawyer, as was his father. Her mother, Margaret Julia Guest, was a homemaker (at the time, people would have thought: "obviously").

"My life was shaped by my family," Martha says now. Father was the disciplinarian, mother was "free," reigning over a house that was "never dirty, but always chaotic." Inside, there were dress-up boxes in

the attic and papier mache puppets in the basement. Outside, there was always a game of tennis or baseball or an impromptu swim in the lake.

Martha was a good student in an unspectacular school. All four siblings excelled, "and my parents never suggested that there were different expectations for me than for my brothers." In high school, she "signed up for everything," writing for the newspaper, playing in the band and singing – "badly" – in the choir. She played no organized sports because there were no girls' teams. "Even in gym, we all waited in the back row, gossiping and hoping the ball didn't come to you."

Martha graduated at the top of her high school class, but still found herself unprepared for university. "I got a 'C' in my first chemistry class," she says, and she's clearly still smarting from the ignominy of such a mark.

In the tenth grade, Martha volunteered at a local rehab centre and made the decision that she would like to go into health care. At least, she thought she would get an education in the health care field before getting married and going home to raise children. At the time, she regarded a profession as something that a woman might fall back on in the event that her husband was felled prematurely by a heart attack or a bus. She chose physiotherapy because she didn't want to be a nurse and couldn't imagine being a doctor. She chose the University of Michigan because it had a good physiotherapy school.

All of which sounds straightforward, but it glosses over a couple of important points. The first is the influence of Martha's mother, who grew up in a relatively poor family in Detroit in the 1920s and '30s, a time when even wealthy young women were not expected to go to university. But Margaret Guest had a rich uncle: Edgar Guest, the "Poet of the People" whose syndicated column ran in the *Detroit Free Press* and 299 other newspapers. Guest recognized in Margaret a raw but lively intelligence that demanded attention and, passing over Margaret's three

by Richard Littlemore



brothers, he paid her tuition to the University of Michigan, whence she graduated in 1938. It was there that she met Martha’s father, and there that she cemented a lifelong appetite for education in general and for reading in particular. (For example, she was, at time of writing – just shy of her 90th birthday – enrolled in a college course on British poetry.)

A second early influence was Martha’s paternal grandfather, a retired judge who moved in with the family when his own wife died in the mid-1950s. Martha was about 10 at the time. Grandfather was a voracious reader, an avid conversationalist and someone who clearly loved being in the midst of his extended family. He taught Martha about baseball, listening to games on the radio, he taught her about the world as a member of an armchair travellers’ club, and he imparted all manner of grandfatherly wisdom. (See sidebar: Always Carry Jumper Cables)

A third influence is one that is as relevant today as it was in 1967. Martha had met Bill Piper at a local church group while she was still in high school. They went off to different universities to do their undergraduate degrees (Bill Piper went to the College of Wooster, southwest of Cleveland) and then got together seriously while at home in the summer before their senior year. They married soon after graduation.

“He’s probably influenced me more than most people realize,” Martha says of her husband of 38 years. “He’s always supported and encouraged me.”

For the next decade, Martha more or less followed Bill. They both studied at the University of Connecticut (where Martha added an MA in Child Development to her BSc in Physical Therapy), and then they moved on to Bethesda, MD, before Bill, (who is a professor in the department of Psychiatry), got a faculty position at McGill in the late 1970s.

Unable to get a work permit in Quebec without fluency in French, Martha opened a daycare centre at Concordia University while she began studying a third language (she had taken Spanish in university). Once her French was serviceable, she resumed her physiotherapy practice at the *Hôpital Saint-Justine*, and from there, still feeling that “I didn’t have enough information,” she returned to academics at McGill, where she completed a PhD in Epidemiology and Biostatistics in 1979.

What followed was one of those instances that Martha is inclined to pass off as incredibly good luck. The dean of Medicine, Dr. Richard Cruess, was searching for a new director of McGill’s School of Physical and Occupational Therapy. There was no doctorate available in the discipline, and, at the time, there had never been a PhD holder

in the director’s chair. Dean Cruess was looking to change that situation, Martha says, adding “I was the warm body.” He appointed her as soon as she received her degree.

If it was a risk to give such a position to someone with no administrative experience – without even tenure – it would prove to be one of the great gambles in Canadian academic history. Martha is inclined to turn any praise back to Dean Cruess – “He worked with me and he was very supportive” – but it’s clear that his judgment, perhaps even more than his mentoring, was well-rewarded.

Somewhere during this period – actually in 1971 and 1976 – there was an outbreak of little Pipers, specifically Emily and Hannah. As with all families, the children brought joy and complication. Hannah, especially, provided Bill Piper with an opportunity to really prove what it meant to be a supportive husband. “I was just finishing my PhD when

my youngest daughter got bacterial meningitis,” Martha says, adding that she was both terrified and guilt-stricken, believing that her 2½-year-old daughter had become infected at the McGill daycare centre. Martha offered to quit her studies and become a stay-at-home mom, a proposal that Bill nixed immediately.

From that point forward, the Pipers employed a nanny who would come in during the day and, while not quite playing Mr. Mom (he has a PhD, an MD and a handsome academic career in his own right) Bill Piper was the parent you could always reach in a hurry. (“I don’t even have my mother’s work phone number,” Emily Piper says now. “Really, what would be the point? I can’t keep track of her travel schedule, let alone her daily calendar.”)

In 1985, Bill was offered a position at the University of Alberta,

and Martha was delighted to find that the university was also in the market for a new dean of Rehabilitation Medicine. She accepted that position and was appointed vice-president Research in 1993. In 1995, that portfolio was expanded to include External Affairs.

It was in this role that Dr. Martha Piper began to establish a national reputation. She had already distinguished herself in her chosen field, having published widely on issues of child development. “But it was as a political lobbyist that she really made her mark,” says Dr. Allan Tupper, who was a colleague at U of A and is now associate vice-president Government Relations at UBC. “One of the biggest recent changes (in the Canadian polity) has been the growing role of the federal government in education and especially in research. Martha has been critical in shaping those policies.”

Dr. Tupper points to three reasons for Martha’s success – for UBC’s success – on this front:

1. “We acknowledge good works in a clear, non-partisan way.” (Which is to say, Martha says, “thank you” better than anyone in the business.)

2. “We speak to the national role, albeit sometimes using UBC examples.”

3. “We constantly relate universities to the goals and priorities of the current government.”

It’s partly for these reasons – for her very public successes with the Chretien and Martin administrations – that Martha is sometimes seen as a capital ‘L’ Liberal, notwithstanding that she has enjoyed equal success dealing in Alberta with Conservative premier Ralph Klein and in her early days in BC with NDP premier Glen Clark.

But if you suggest a partisan affiliation, you are apt to find yourself, quite suddenly, locked in Martha’s determined glare. She was, herself, once guilty of complaining about government, Martha says. Dr. Peter Meekison, then vice-president Academic at U of A, a favourite mentor and, Martha says, “a really astute guy,” stopped her cold and said, “Those people were elected by the public and you are part of a public institution.”

“I decided then and there,” Martha says now, “that I would always

And after nine years – during which the UBC student population grew by 30 per cent, the budget by 65 per cent, and research funding from both government and private sources doubled – there are still policy-by-policy quibblers, but no one who would suggest she wasn’t up for the job.

honour the electorate and whatever government they elected.” And if you look at her record in securing funding for such programs as the Canada Research Chairs and the Indirect Costs of Research, it has been a remarkably successful strategy.

In 1997, Martha made the move that would catapult her from a national figure to an international one, coming to UBC as the 11th president and vice-chancellor. Then-UBC chancellor Bill Sauder, who was chair of the search committee, is delighted to take credit for the hire. Struck by her energy and integrity, “I pretty much pushed her through the committee,” Sauder says, adding that, even in spite his high expectations, “She turned out far better than I had imagined.”

Those expectations were perhaps not uniformly high. Dr. Herbert Rosengarten, executive director in the Office of the President, reports that, after Martha’s first extraordinarily upbeat public speaking engagement, many staid faculty members responded with a horrified, “Oh my God! She’s a cheerleader,” a president more suited to an undergraduate college than an international research institution.

“They didn’t allow for her shrewdness or her strong intellect, her persistence and determination,” Rosengarten says. And after nine years – during which the UBC student population grew by 30 per cent, the budget by 65 per cent, and research funding from both government and private sources doubled – there are still policy-by-policy quibblers, but no one who would suggest she wasn’t up for the job.

Three years ago, Martha Piper became a grandmother to Charlotte Piper Elgie. In the days that followed, Martha spent every spare hour with Charlotte, taking turns with Emily reading from the *Great Big Book of Mother Goose*. “Those old fairy tales are full of morbid details – babies falling out of trees – and the nurses would just stare at us,” says Emily. “But I was thinking, ‘Hey, these are classics!’”

Emily is officially Dr. Emily Piper, 34, a consulting psychologist at BC Women’s and Children’s Hospital and a clinical instructor at UBC, who in addition to looking after Charlotte, also maintains a private practice on the side. Her younger sister is now Dr. Hannah Piper, 29, who, having graduated from Princeton (BSc) and Harvard (MD) is in the midst of a general surgical residency, also in Vancouver.

Does that suggest that the expectations were high in the Piper household?

“My parents probably would say no, but I have to say yes,” Emily says. For example, “I would have been happy to fill out one application for university; but my parents said, ‘Let’s try 25.’” Once the giggling dies down from that bit of overstatement, Emily goes on to describe filling out 25 (twenty-five) university applications, “one third to ‘great schools,’ one third to ‘middling schools’ and one third to what my dad calls ‘shoe-

in schools.” Emily doesn’t say how many accepted her, but she allows that she considered a nice range of options before settling on Colorado College for her undergraduate degree. She did her PhD at the California School of Professional Psychology.

With the family having consolidated in Vancouver, the extended Pipers now spend most Sunday evenings together, enjoying gourmet meals prepared in tandem by Martha and Emily’s husband Damon Elgie. “They cook together,” Emily says. “You don’t dare go into the kitchen when they’re in there.” Martha and Bill also try to spend Friday’s at Emily and Damon’s house, giving grandmother Martha one more opportunity to shower Charlotte with little gifts, sourced from Martha’s travel destinations around the world.

And for the future? Martha and Bill have recently moved out of Norman MacKenzie house and into a new home on Chancellor Boulevard. They plan to stay in Vancouver, and if you want more detail than that, you will have to practice patience. In response to any such questions, Martha will draw a breath, square her shoulders, stare into your eyes – and not tell you anything.

It’s a convincing moment. ■

Richard Littlemore is a freelance writer living on Vancouver Island. He has been Martha Piper’s speechwriter for the past 7 years.



Essays for the Association, April 1988

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EVERY AUTUMN, *Maclean's* magazine publishes a "Universities Issue" and a separate, more costly *Guide to Canadian Universities*, with various rankings of universities across the country.



The editors gather information in various ways, but mostly through the institutions themselves. *Maclean's* says the *Guide* outsells the usual *Maclean's* run by a factor of ten. It's a money-maker for Rogers Corp., the latest owners of the magazine.

When the rankings first appeared in 1992, they caused joy in some quarters (the University of Toronto), and misery in others (Trent University). But in that year, premiers Ralph Klein (Alberta) and Bob Rae (Ontario) announced their intentions to connect university funding to "market measures," (Klein) and "performance indicators" (Rae). The worry – or the source of joy, depending where you were in the rankings – was that systems like *Maclean's* would be used to decide at least some university funding. In the end, *Maclean's* rankings were not used this way, but provincial performance indicators were. Any joy was replaced almost at once with hand-wringing.

Fourteen years later, the shine has begun to wear off the rankings. They attracted less attention in the media this year than at any time since their creation. In all the provinces the use of performance indicators continues but has not replaced reasoned and less arbitrary ways of deciding how to support universities. But even in those universities and colleges that refuse to participate in them, the rankings attract worried attention. At the University of Saskatchewan, President Ivany remarked in 2003 that he dared not refuse *Maclean's* informational inquiries, as the political price would be too high.

The fact remains: rankings have become a part of the vocabulary of students, pundits, governments, and profs in Canada. They demand and deserve close and sceptical study.

Why Maclean's Rankings Rankle

To give the question even more point, over the past twenty years *new* rankings have joined the old: the *Globe and Mail* has one, and the granting councils (Sciences, Canada Council, Social Sciences and Humanities, Medical Research) have theirs. Then there's the Shanghai Jiao Tong University ranking of the top 500 universities in the world (UBC is 37, whatever that means). And we have rankings by citation counts (number of times other researchers quote the work of professors at any one university) in every field.

It all matters, as a high rank means that a university has to be taken seriously. And we don't want to spend too much time thinking what a low ranking would mean.

Maclean's says it judges the "comparative strengths" of public universities in Canada by counting things. The key questions are: Where are the brightest first-year students? Where are the smallest classes? Where are the most tenured faculty? Where are the richest library resources? Which university has made the largest commitment to student services, scholarships and bursaries? And which university has the best reputation for quality and innovation?

Most of these questions are answered with simple arithmetic. A library with three million copies of *Whittaker's Almanac* would win over UBC's with two million carefully selected volumes. Incoming student averages are calculated without considering the historic, social, cultural, or any other resources that make students interesting and strong.

Faced with the rankings' simplistic arithmetic, faced with their popularity, and faced with the dangers they pose, Canadian universities have adopted two strategies. Universities either ignore them, or pick out rankings that suit them. In 2003-4, UBC trumpeted its first

place in the reputation ranking, even though it was only fourth in *general* ranking.

Five years ago, UBC's rankings fell. It worried the administration. Steps were taken. UBC reviewed the way it reported student-teacher ratios, and the way it counted how many students were being taught by tenured professors rather than by part-timers or sessionals.

In 2003, 2004, and 2005, UBC did move—from fifth to fourth place. President Piper still plans to push UBC past Toronto, McGill and UWO. But that is no easy matter: UBC students will have to out-do the rest of Canada in entering averages. And UBC will have to find a way to get more of its students out and graduated "on time," reduce class sizes,

increase the number of students taught by tenured professors and do something about that pesky library. Somehow or other, UBC would have to

persuade alumni, and academic and business leaders that UBC deserves high levels of funding and support, just because the rankings say so.

University rankings are, then, a kind of craziness. After all, Canada's great public universities have legislated mandates. They are supposed to prepare people of all ages and all backgrounds to function well and happily as citizens, to work as professionals in a bewildering range of fields, to act as creators and thinkers, shaping generations to come. This is a matter for very long-term thinking. The curriculum and the research-and-development done in these places are best put in the hands of practised researcher-teachers, working together with the public. The work of higher education depends on effective and open university senates and boards, broad accessibility to all who could benefit.

Alas, a university that passively accepts

by William Bruneau

MACLEAN'S RANKLES

rankings and indicators will soon forget this mandate and accept a long series of shotgun marriages with passing economic fantasy. Remember the idea that every university student should consider a career in the dot-com industries? In this case, the rankings-driven university isn't much different from the automobile manufacturer who really DOES have to worry about markets and public fancies.

There is another, highly practical aspect to the craziness: U of T, McGill, UBC, Laurentian and many more have found a dreadful paradox in rankings. Government may note an improved ranking or indicator. But that may justify *less* public funding, not more. The reason is, if you're good, why not give your poorer, struggling neighbour university the cash it needs, so it can be good too? At the same time, *declines* in the rankings invite punishing cuts.

Universities cannot win the rankings game.

So why are rankings still with us?

1. Maclean's is Not Alone

From the earliest years of the Thatcherite and Reaganite neo-conservative experiments, new ways to rank and categorize sprang up annually across Europe and North America. The intention was to justify bureaucratic control – cost-benefit analyses of courses in English and Art, studies of the cost per square metre per student of BSc degrees in Chemistry, Degree Quality Assessment Boards, and so on – and to provide new techniques of financial management, so sustained cuts in public expenditure could be more easily justified.

Since the late 1970s in the countries of the OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development), rankings and statistics were all the rage. The British brought in a highly bureaucratic and expensive system of reports and inspection. Neo-conservatives said they wanted *less* government, but acted to ensure there would be much, much *more* government involvement in higher education.

In the United States, state and federal governments acquired a new fascination for “performance indicators,” which were used not to improve quality or accessibility, but to justify immediate cuts and heightened bureaucratic control in higher education. There, as in Canada, the new system had a partner in the annual rankings produced after 1983 by *US News and World Reports*, the parents of *Maclean's*.

At UBC, as elsewhere in Canada, a further result of rankings has been an increase in the bureaucracy of “reporting.” Universities must make detailed statistical reports on nearly everything they do. From the innocent days in the late '60s when UBC professor Robert Clark helped create offices for straightforward budget and program planning, UBC has been frog-marched into a new world. It is a world of endless detail and management and close supervision and control. We should have known.

Another reason for the rankings' persistence is that they are part of a movement. The movement favours efficiency (but produces costly bureaucracy and hasty decisions), and it claims to be “accountable” (but not to the public, only to the market).

2. Universities in the Passive Mood

In plain language, the frenzied rush to be #1 and stay that way makes universities less autonomous. Yes, universities may be more immediately responsive to the pressures of government and industry. But to whose tunes are they truly dancing?

Canadian experience suggests the profound unwisdom of a university system whose task is to respond, to do as it is told, and to consider its identity is revealed in *Maclean's*. But remember Mr. Rae and Mr. Klein. Their views have weight and momentum. No wonder the rankings are still around.

3: A Horse Race

Everyone knows universities compete with one another for reputation, students and cash. In that sense, *Maclean's* has been a good thing, making the annual university horse race a bit more amusing than it would otherwise be. The horse race analogy points to a human fascination: people like to look at races, to be excited by them, and even to bet on them.

But this kind of competition often brings out the worst in those competing. Where does this notion fit in the definition of “university”? Is there a place for driving ambition, manipulation and the fastest possible adaptation to the ever-changing economic environment? It is impossible to deny the existence in universities of people who do those things: drive, manipulate, adapt to economic fantasy. But they are not the university.

What, then, is the university?

For the purposes of a piece about rankings, the university is, or should be, a community. It relies on reason and debate to do its central work of teaching and research. Its governance

is open and considered and sometimes slow.

Access to the university's riches is broad and fair. The university does its work equitably.

It is a collection of professors whose effectiveness would end in an instant if their academic freedom and tenure were seriously threatened.

It is a body of students whose energy, curiosity and social power will make courses worth taking and teaching, and whose future is to reconstruct culture.

It is a body of talented staff members whose commitment is to the whole society, not just to the next ranking or the next pay cheque.

It is a collection of administrators who help keep the place safe from mindless market intervention, to co-ordinate the work of all the others in the community, and to keep the purpose of the university constantly before the public.

The great goal of these superposed communities is the remaking of minds, the refashioning of skill, and increased moral consciousness of everyone in community.

A university worth the name depends on sustained, society-wide support. It has significant public funding. It can rely on long-term public and private commitment to the university's overriding purpose. For that reason, the academic community must constantly talk to its supporting communities.

If it could be shown that ranking contributed directly to all, some or even ONE of these things, I would back off the criticisms I have made.

I accept that some university practices invite statistical summary and description. But it is hard to see how or why universities benefit from it, or how ranking could help or “inform” Canadian society and Canadian politicians.

Ann Dowsett Johnson of *Maclean's* says rankings help to “inform” students and their parents. She has a point, but one suspects Ms Johnson means the rankings inform us about the magazine, just as much as they do about universities. Come to think of it, *Maclean's* comes first. ■

William (Bill) Bruneau taught in the department of Educational Studies from 1971 to 2003. He writes mostly on the history and politics of Canadian and European universities. His most recent book (co-authored with David Gordon Duke) is a biography of BC composer Jean Coulthard, but he has also co-authored (with Donald Savage) a surprisingly long book on performance indicators and rankings, Counting Out the Scholars (2002).

Dialing for Cool

ONE NEED NOT BE A MUSIC-PHILE to notice something strange with the sounds emanating from our radios, day to day, station to station: it's a subtle similarity. It isn't just that the songs sound too close to call – whether that last number was by the same artist as the one just before – or how the DJ's voices and humour seem faintly familiar from city to city, province to state, with all the same sampled sounds, the same voice selling fast food or far-away vacations.

Quietly, calmly, something went unnoticed and radio executives made a decision for us all. Somewhere, someone

concluded that humour and obnoxious behaviour are what best rouses us from our state of rest. Morning drives should as well have similar antics, but with of course a healthy dose of advertisements to digest. From station to station, format after format, it is no mystery what has happened. Radio is big business.

In business terms, it's consolidation, the spawn of politicians' love affair with conservative economic policies, to open up the bastions of public enterprises domains. In the 1990s, the US – and Canada in a roundabout way – removed regulations limiting levels of ownership on broadcasters. Mergers and acquisitions (M&A, not to be confused with T&A, which of course in radio talk is “traffic and accidents”) became the way of the radio-exec. Bigger is better, bigger is cheaper, larger markets mean more dollars. I think we all know the rhetoric.

While in cultural terms many saw it as the commodification of a form of communication, it was just another opportunity for profit. In the US, *Clear Channel Communications*, after the intoxication of a spending spree to acquire more than 1,200 megawatt stations, has been criticized for censorship and for laying off thousands of workers. From banning bands critical of the Republican government's foreign policy, to cutting back on expenses at local stations, *Clear Channel* is the hegemonic hoard community radio lovers abhor.

Not to point fingers though, the homogeneity of the airwaves has been steadily securing itself, the marriage with the major record labels far too convenient. The practice of payola has run rampant, so that artists only make the airwaves if their label pays to have them played. Is there no space in a deregulated radio market for a diverse voice, one that embraces Canadian content because it too is a part of our cultural landscape? Where the information, be it music, news, sports or the arts is the focus, not just the filler.

by Jon Cornea



Groovin': CTR disc jockey Hilary Stout lines up the tunes in 1979. Klaus Nomi maybe?

Dialing for Cool

Long gone are the days of the dedicated DJ, ducking payola, patiently shuffling through crate upon crate of the mediocre, to amaze us with the gems of passion and inspiration. Today's DJs sound more like carnival ride conductors, calling out to see if we want to go faster! Yet most of us are left wondering if that ride couldn't have been something, well, a little more interesting.

There was a day when listeners could tune in, check out what was fresh, what was happening, have a laugh, or just plain sing along. But where is it now? I know it must exist. That medium through which to tap that slippery notion of what's cool, the mysterious morph that is what's HOT. A station that means more than just the dollars and cents, full of ideals concerned not only of the outcome, but attentive to the action.

The internet claims a stake: the ability to connect and communicate with like minds around the world on what is the latest rage, or get turned on to the discovery of a new music-world darling. Websites like *pitchfork.com*, or a personal favourite *betterpropaganda.com* offer free, legal MP3 downloads, descriptions of the bands, and the most useful invention, "similar music" links, and they are fantastic. But it takes time and energy to sift through the seemingly endless lists of artists, the task accomplished by the DJs of radio past, and the one so appreciated by listeners. There is no denying the ubiquity of handheld MP3 players, and the ease with which we can fill them with all manner of music, thought to be cool. But if one seeks the wisdom of wise ears, seasoned critics who know where music has been and where it might go next, where does one turn?

Will it be satellite radio, with its bulk offers of hundreds of stations to satiate the sonic appetite? Isn't it just that sort of thing

people are fed up with? What about digital audio broadcasting? A new player in the market, offering, along with crystal clear audio, text, images and potentially even videos dialed in on its own receiver (read: purchase another gizmo). Though, don't we have enough problems keeping peoples' minds on the road, everywhere busy hands already dialing cell phones while driving. More distractions? Please!

So does that mean radio will continue to be the darling of the driver? It survived 8-tracks, cassettes, CB Radios, CD decks, multi CD changers in the trunk: you name it, radio has prevailed. IPOD wants in on the action, but you know, I still wager that radio will remain. There's something about that sizzle of static between the stations, or the sweet satisfaction of dialing it in. Yet, it hardly seems worth it if all we have are prerecorded DJs, constant commercial interruption, or the latest reincarnation of the Pop Star of the week.

What about originality, community engagement, and some sort of local focus? Is it too much to ask to be connected to time and space anymore? And then, like the faint trickle of a signal on the AM dial, driving the long highways of the great Canadian expanse, enter realization. Our community does have its very own station.

CITR 101.9 at UBC has been broadcasting local, Vancouver-brand community radio for more than 62 years. With a focus on UBC events and happenings, CITR personalities pride themselves on searching through the crates, and on reminding us of the beauty of our diverse culture. Providing programming not focused on the latest hit of the week, but on the passion of those who love what they are doing and to express something about their world, and that world is Vancouver. Radio grounded in the place we call home may just be that elusive gem some call, "cool."

So dial it in, dig the cool. After all, it's from where we're from. ■

— Jon Cornea is working on a master's degree in resource management at UBC. He is also a singer songwriter in what he calls "folktronica," or heavy metal folk rock.

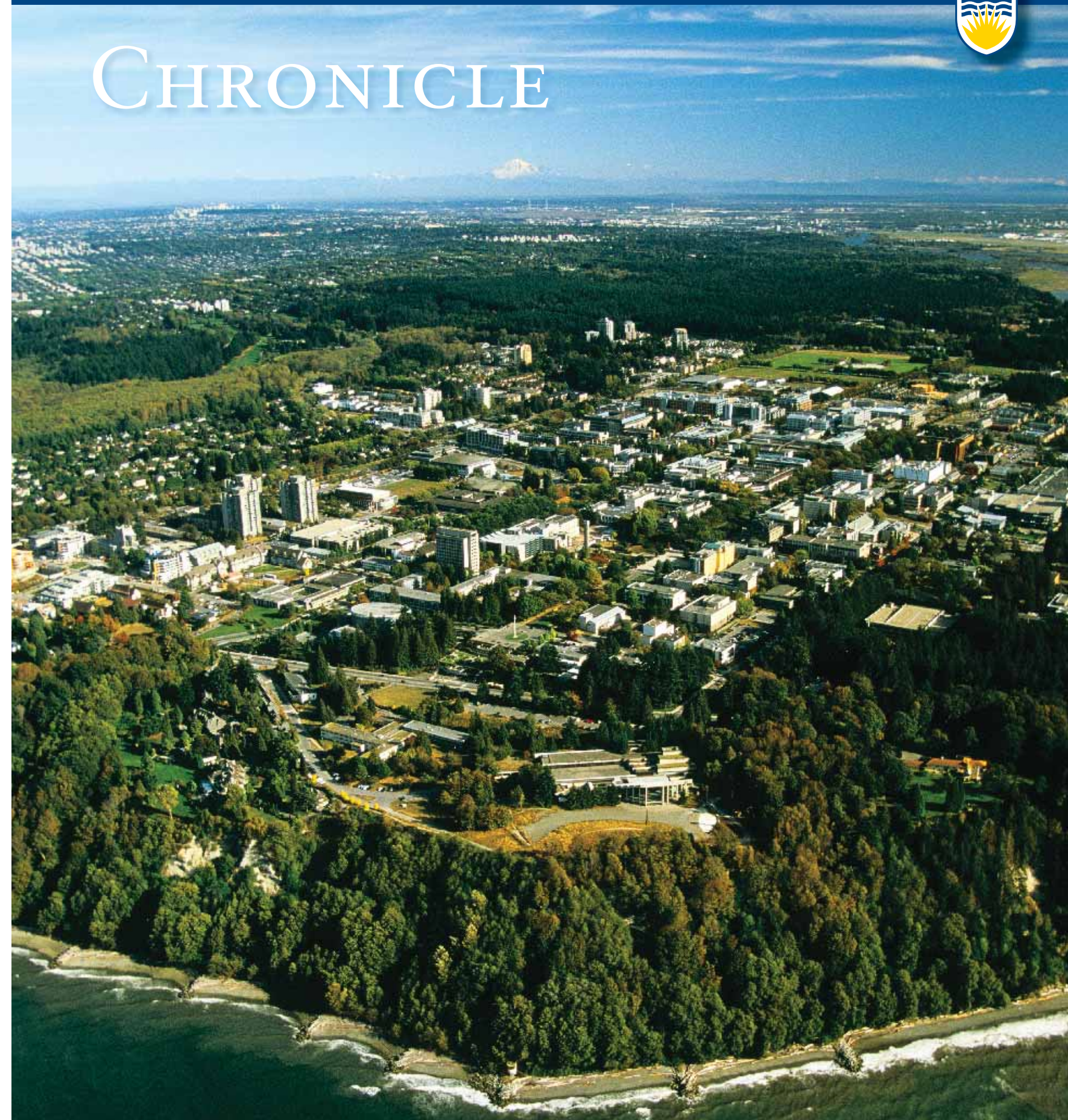


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For 62 years, CITR 101.9 FM radio has provided the most dynamic programming on the airwaves. Broadcasting from the Student Union Building, CITR has welcomed and trained thousands of UBC and community volunteers who have used their experiences to launch successful careers. Harry Hertscheg, donor and Chair of the CITR Board of Directors, is calling upon alumni and former community members of the station to support the CITR Capital Campaign, which will raise funds for major upgrading of broadcast equipment, facilities, and a new Podcast service called CITR On Demand. "Your contribution to one of Canada's truly independent community radio stations would ensure that CITR continues to provide an important service to UBC students and Greater Vancouver communities."

To make a one-time donation, contact UBC Development Coordinator Angie Smashnuk at 604-822-5345, angie.smashnuk@ubc.ca, or visit www.supporting.ubc.ca, and keep CITR on the airwaves.

www.citr.ca/capital



CHRONICLE

arts

THEATRE

For more information on theatre events call 604-822-2678 or visit the website at www.theatre.ubc.ca

Picasso at the Lapin Agile

March 8-18, 7:30 pm

Frederic Wood Theatre

Written by Steve Martin, this hilarious look at art, science and the life of ideas proposes a meeting between Albert Einstein and Pablo Picasso – who become instant rivals.

Brave New Play Rites

New Plays by UBC Creative Writing Students

March 29 - April 2, 2006

Frederic Wood Theatre

Students from UBC's renowned Creative Writing Program and from its acclaimed Theatre Program combine forces to showcase their talents.

www.creativewriting.ubc.ca/about/brave-new/index.htm

POV Film Festival

Short Films by UBC Film Students

Fri April 28 & Sat 29, 2006

The RIDGE Theatre (3131 Arbutus Street)

The Persistence Of Vision Film Festival presents films written, produced and directed by students from UBC's celebrated Film Production Program. Two evenings of film culminate in an awards gala on Saturday night. www.film.ubc.ca/pov/

Dirty Hands

A Festival of the Performing Arts at UBC Spring, 2006

Various Campus Venues

Check website further details

www.theatre.ubc.ca

MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY

For more information on these and other exhibits, please contact the museum or visit their website: www.moa.ubc.ca, 604-822-5087, info@moa.ubc.ca



Lyle Wilson

December 2005 - March 2006

Haisla artist Lyle Wilson (who designed the Raven logo used at the annual Alumni Achievement Diner) is publicly carving an eight-foot tall yellow cedar sculpture in the Great Hall. Entitled "Wee-git Releases the Light," the carving tells Lyle's version of an ancient story in which Wee-git (which means 'Great Man' in the Haisla language) brings light to the world.

THE BELKIN ART GALLERY

For information on exhibits, please contact the Belkin at 604-822-2759 / www.belkin-gallery.ubc.ca or the Belkin Satellite at 604-687-3174 / www.belkin-gallery.ubc.ca/satellite.

Stan Douglas: Inconsolable Memories

Stan Douglas has an international reputation for photography, film and video installations. This exhibit presents a new film work and a series of photographs from Cuba. The film is based on Tomas Gutierrez Alea's Cuban masterpiece Memories of Underdevelopment (1968).

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

For information on these and many other free and nearly free events, please contact the School of Music or visit their website: www.music.ubc.ca, 604-822-5574, concerts@interchange.ubc.ca

UBC Recital Hall

Pop music from the 1960's to the 1990s redesigned for the jazz big band. Including songs from The Beatles, Sting, Steely Dan, Gino Vanelli, Chicago, Stevie Wonder.

UBC Student Composers

Thurs March 9, 8:00 pm, Recital Hall

Jasper Wood (violin) with Sara David Buechner (Piano)

Wed March 15, noon
Recital Hall

Eugenia Choi (violin) & Jane Coop (piano)

Wed March 29, noon
Recital Hall

The Third Annual University/College Big Band Festival

Sat April 1, noon – 10:00 pm
Featuring a new big band jazz performance every hour and fifteen minutes.

Scholarship Winners Concert

Sun April 2, 3:00 pm
Recital Hall

UBC Korean Ensemble

Thurs April 6, noon
Recital Hall

Borealis String Quartet with David Harding, viola

Bloch, Webern and Mozart
Fri April 21 & May 24, 8:00 pm
Recital Hall



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arts

THE CHAN CENTRE

Tickets are available at the Chan Centre Ticket Office in person or through Ticketmaster (www.ticketmaster.ca or 604-280-3311). Some Chan Centre events are free but still require tickets. For more information on upcoming events, please call 604-822-2697 or see www.chancentre.com.

Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir
Sat March 11, 8:00 pm
Poulenc, Britten, Kreek, Pärt

Romeo Dallaire
Sun March 12, 7:30 pm
UBC Chamber Strings
Fri March 17, 8:00 pm
Rena Sharon (piano), Mark McGregor (flute), Eric Wilson (conductor/director)

UBC Symphonic Wind Ensemble
Thurs March 23, noon
Sat March 25, 8:00 pm

Vadim Repin (violin) & Nikolai Lugansky (piano)
Fri March 24, 8:00 pm

Swing Soft, Play Loud
Sun March 26, 3:00 pm
CBC Orchestra presents Hugh Fraser (trombone) Campbell Ryga (sax) Kenny Wheeler (trumpet) Sara Davis Buechner (piano)

University Singers
Thurs March 30, 8:00 pm
40 voice choir, featuring Handel's Messiah

Bach and Beyond Series: Dido and Aeneas
Fri March 31 & Sat April 12 8:00 pm
VSO, Bramwell Tovey, Susan Platts (mezzo-soprano), Nathaniel Watson (baritone), UBC Opera Ensemble

UBC Symphony Orchestra
Fri April 7, 8:00 pm
Kevin Zakresky (tenor) Jesse Read (director) Students of the School of Music and the university community perform. Featuring Finzi: Dies Natalis

Quartetto Gelato
Sat April 8, 8:00 pm
Performance of music from cities on the route of the Orient Express.

Los Angeles Guitar Quartet
Sat April 22, 8:00 pm
One of the premier instrumental ensembles.

Stuart McLean's Canada
Sun April 23, 3:00 pm
Stuart McLean returns for another afternoon performance of *A History of Canada*, plus, a live performance of a new work entitled *I Remember Wayne*, a look at Canada's national game.

Krystian Zimerman (Piano)
Thurs April 27, 8:00 pm

Birdsong: Persian Poetry of Rumi
Fri April 28, 8:00 pm
Edward Henderson's setting of the poetry of 13th century Sufi poet Jelaluddin Rumi. Featuring the tar (played by Amir Koushkan), a Persian plucked instrument used for performing Classical Persian music.

Ewa Podles (Contralto)
Sun April 30, 3:00 pm ■



Music students wielding mallets



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Actors Patti Allan, Allan Morgan, Dawn Petten, Juno Ruddell, Andrew Wheeler and Jonathan Young in a Spring, 2005 workshop production of Eadweard Muybridge.

A Life in Pictures

UBC Mounts the Light and Dark of **Eadweard Muybridge**

On June 15, 1878, in Palo Alto, California, Eadweard Muybridge photographed the first fast motion serial images of a horse that captured a moment of suspension when no hooves touched the ground. The man who sponsored the experiment was the horse's owner, railroad builder and former governor, Leland Stanford, who would later found Stanford University.

The 12 images – taken in about half a second – were captured through 12 cameras, each equipped with an electrically controlled mechanism that operated a special shutter. Each shutter was connected to a series of underground wires at short intervals. When the horse made contact with them, the shutter of each camera released, thus freezing motion for a fraction of a second. Muybridge gained international acclaim for his Stanford experiment and that brief moment heralded the age of motion pictures and cinema.

On January 17, 2006, award-winning playwright, Kevin Kerr, MFA'91 and award-winning designer, Dr. Robert Gardiner, head of UBC's Theatre, Film and Creative Writing department, told the story of Muybridge's life in the PuSH International Performing



Arts Festival headliner, "Studies in Motion: The Hauntings of Eadweard Muybridge." The play combines historical events with a fictional narrative on Muybridge's professional and eccentric personal life, and employs innovative lighting technology that will change the landscape of theatre performance.

Eadweard Muybridge was a former landscape photographer who considered himself more an artist than a scientist. "Studies in Motion" tells the story of how, in 1874, upon discovering that his young wife, Flora, was pregnant with the child of Colonel Larkyns, Muybridge confronted Larkyns and shot him dead. Tried for murder, Muybridge was acquitted on the grounds of justifiable homicide and abandoned both his wife and son. Despite his troubled personal life, Muybridge's professional life flourished. He invented the *Zoopraxiscope*, a machine that projected images so the public could see realistic motion, a system that became the precursor of the motion picture. In the mid-1880s, Muybridge, awarded a significant grant from the University of Pennsylvania, used this technique to produce more than 100,000 sequence photographs at his compound on campus.

In just five months Muybridge shot close to 20,000 photographs. His subjects included athletes, tradesmen and teachers. He also photographed hospital patients to document their abnormal movements, as well as animals and birds. The human models often posed nude and performed activities that seemed unrelated to science: a woman throwing herself on a heap of hay; a man hitting a baseball or pounding a nail; a woman fanning herself. These images created not only a lasting artistic effect but marked the beginning of an obsession with imagery and the moment in which time is stopped and dissected, revealing a world invisible to the naked eye.

Playwright Kevin Kerr, winner of the 2002 Governor General award for the play "Unity" (1918), worked on "Studies in Motion" for nearly two years. His fascination with Muybridge began 10 years ago while doing research for "Brilliant," about another Victorian-era genius, Nikolai Tesla.

"I saw this strange Muybridge film of little 1.5 second loops of people and ani-

by John Vigna



mals moving in tiny parcels of action,” he says during a lunch break in rehearsals at the Frederic Wood Theatre. “The people were the most fascinating because they were the most elaborate. They were nude and in front of this strange backdrop of a black and white grid and doing basic gestures like walking, throwing a ball, or odd prat-falls like one woman dumping a bucket of water. Some of the movements were so pathological that I found them haunting, these little living moments pre-cinema. I felt privy to something special.”

Kerr’s fascination with the strange world that seemed to permeate Muybridge’s motion studies inspired him to develop a story based on the subjects themselves, as well as Muybridge. He discovered that Muybridge had a dramatic back story: marriage to a woman half his age, her affair, the murder of her lover and the abandonment of her child. “How does that relate to the world he creates after that time? Is there something that could be explored between the analytical and rational world of his photography and that very animal, passionate world of his past life?”

At around the time that Kerr and the Electric Company (the theatre company he co-founded) considered producing a play about Muybridge, Dr. Robert Gardiner, who Kerr once studied under at UBC, approached them to see if they would be interested in collaborating on a project. Gardiner had received a three-year, \$205,000 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) grant for the development of technology in theatre and he was interested in bringing on a professional theatre company to work with UBC staff and students.

“Up until this project, SSHRC hadn’t done anything like this. Most of their projects focused on fish studies up north, that sort of thing,” says Gardiner over coffee in his cluttered office of books, video cameras and multiple computer screens. “But with ‘Studies in Motion,’ they wanted to widen the SSHRC umbrella. It’s an excel-

lent thing to do because a great deal of creativity in the arts happens outside of the university with people who don’t teach or who aren’t students.”

Gardiner’s research involves replacing standard theatre stage lighting with a special video projector. A play generally requires between 100 and 400 lighting fixtures. Gardiner, with “Studies in Motion,” is using two (one in front, one from above) – digital video projectors operated by a laptop. “With a wide angle, stationary light source, we can light the whole stage and do anything that we could do with thousands of stage lights. It provides more creative flexibility at a lower cost because there’s no need to call in a new crew to change the lights.”

In all collaborations, whether between Muybridge and Stanford or Kerr and Gardiner, there exists a mutual respect, a synergy that happens in order for a concept to reach completion. “What we really liked was that Robert Gardiner was using non-traditional lighting to light space, blending medias, blending the worlds of film and computer animation with live performance,” says Kerr. Like Muybridge in the late 1880s, Gardiner’s work is revolutionary. His exploration of light, imaging and movement is pushing the boundaries of traditional lighting but as with all technological advances there are significant challenges.

“We’re still in the land of software that is a bit buggy. It doesn’t do everything we want it to do and takes a while to learn,” Gardiner says.

Currently, he is piggybacking on a software program called *Isadora*, developed by Troika Tronix in New York. He does, however, envision a day in the near future when he can hand off his version of the software to programmers and have them develop it for theatre designers worldwide. Meanwhile, he faces the additional challenge of integrating his lighting innovations with the play, as it evolves during



rehearsal, as well as what the implications of his new technology means to dramaturgy.

“What does this mean to the way we put a play together?” Gardiner says. “Maybe nothing. Or maybe there’s a whole range of possibilities that are ultimately low tech enough that anyone can do them. One of the things true of theatre is that big effects always cost millions. Theatre is always in a dialogue between a Shakespearean nothing and a grand opera everything. So in a sense I’m trying to move the spectacular possibilities of grand opera towards the Shakespearean bare, empty room. The image is delivering a lot of story content and that takes technology. The best playwrights like Kevin Kerr are very good at this. When they’re writing a play they have a film running in their head.”

Kerr echoes Gardiner’s comments on the collaborative element of working from very different aspects of the creative process. “We’ve integrated everything so that Robert could work scenically and interface with the story. So his ideas could inspire the script and the script could inspire the design and the direction.”

But as with all creative processes, the greatest challenge is time, something Muybridge understood in his obsession to freeze it and capture motion. For Kerr, this challenge means the pressure of working with all layers of the production concurrently, from movement sequences and a large cast, to fresh script changes and the technological element of new lighting.

“The biggest challenge is in trying to keep perspective as we’re fusing all of these elements and leaving ourselves just enough room to make discoveries and changes when they are necessary,” he says.

For Gardiner, the challenge is synthesizing technology with the narrative. “I’m interested in combining the storylines, the image and the lights so audiences are not being distracted,”

Gardiner says. “I’m not there yet. But I’m very close right now, one week into rehearsal, to putting the right lights on. That’s something you wouldn’t normally do in ordinary stage lighting until a few days before you open because you couldn’t. It’s exciting for the actors and directors who are not used to working in rehearsal light until the week before the show.”

In the end, the play’s the thing, and one of the main things “Studies in Motion” does, through Kerr’s script and Gardiner’s stage lighting, is pose a number of far-reaching, philosophical questions.

“The photograph and cinema have changed our lives,” Gardiner says. “We are who we are as a consequence of the guy who took a picture of a moving horse, who decided if he could take enough of it, he could reanimate that horse. We’re trying, in a very indirect and storytelling way, to wonder whether this has been de-humanizing. We don’t connect with speed or with each other in the same way that people did before video games and movies. We make movies called ‘Terminator 2’ and video games that are possible because of Muybridge. How much of technical possibilities drive what we should do and what we actually do?”

Kevin Kerr, excited as he is by the integration of technology in “Studies in Motion,” returns to the basic principle of storytelling. “There’s an engaging human story here, specifically Muybridge and the models,” he says. “Seeing characters struggle with questions of what Muybridge left behind. Ultimately, I hope the play offers us a view of different moments from our past, including this very moment where we are getting this new way of looking. And in doing so, that the eyes are getting a treat that is stimulating and exciting and opens up potential for imagination so an audience can walk away full of ideas.” ■

– John Vigna is a Vancouver writer.



THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

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



CLEAR SIGHT WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Our newest affinity partner offers full-service retirement planning with exceptional benefits: lower fees, professional advice and a wide selection of products.

MANULIFE FINANCIAL

Term Life, Extended Health and Dental, and the new Critical Illness Plan. Manulife has served alumni for more than 20 years.

MBNA

More than 12,000 alumni and students are supporting alumni activities by using their UBC Alumni Mastercard. The card gives you low introductory rates, 24-hour customer support and no annual fees.

MELOCHE MONNEX

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

ALUMNI ASM

The Alumni ASM costs \$30 per year (plus GST) and will entitle you to these UBC Alumni deals:

- UBC Community borrower library card, a \$100 value
- Receive a 25% discount on regular room rental rates at UBC Robson Square
- Special rates at the University Golf Club
- Receive 4-6% off select vacation packages at Jubilee Travel
- 2-for-1 admission at the Museum of Anthropology
- First-time ASM holders receive a 20% discount on selected merchandise at the UBC Bookstore
- Save on regular adult tickets for staged productions on Theatre at UBC
- UBC Botanical and Nitobe Gardens 2-for-1 admission
- Deals on UBC Athletics events and Aquatic Centre
- Business In Vancouver subscription savings

Working downtown? The ASM is available at the Library at Robson Square.

www.alumni.ubc.ca/services

alumninews

REGIONAL NETWORKS

Have you ever wondered if there are any other UBC alumni living in your neck of the woods? Well, since UBC grads live and work in more than 130 nations around the world, there's a good chance there are.

Soon, you'll be able to connect with these people through our under-construction TREKCONNECT service, due to be launched in April. Anyway, here's a snapshot of where UBC alumni live.

- BC – 133,408
- Rest of Canada – 19,689
- United States – 7,540
- Mexico & Central America – 91
- South America – 149
- Western Europe – 1,690
- Eastern Europe – 45
- Asia – 3,359
- Africa – 230
- Middle East – 208
- Caribbean – 134
- Antipodes – 678
- South Pacific – 13

We've established regional alumni networks in more than 50 cities around the globe to help you stay connected. Share your ideas, update your e-mail address and get involved by helping to build a vibrant alumni community in your area. Visit our website to find your alumni representative at www.alumni.ubc.ca/ regions. If you don't see a listing for your area, contact one of the alumni relations officers listed below to start a new network!

Shawn Swallow (Thompson Okanagan)
UBC-Okanagan
Kelowna, BC
shawn.swallow@ubc.ca

Valerie Tse (Asia Pacific)
Asia Pacific Regional Office
Central, Hong Kong
valerie.tse@ubc.ca

Tanya Walker
UBC Vancouver, BC
tanya.walker@ubc.ca



Members of the Class of 1945 headed back to campus in November to mark the 60-year anniversary of their graduation. They enjoyed brunch at University Golf Club, and then rode a shuttle to the Chan Centre to take part in a special convocation ceremony. Photo Dianna DeBlaere Ladicos.

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

It was a busy end to 2005! In November, President Piper travelled to Calgary accompanied by four UBC luminaries. UBC alumni listened as they presented on their areas of expertise in some "Classes Without Quizzes," followed by dinner with a speech by Martha Piper.

Alumni celebrated the festive season at a number of events during December. Groups of UBC grads living in Los Angeles and New York, for instance, cheered on the Vancouver Canucks as they took on the local teams. In January, Hong Kong-based grads attended a concert by the UBC Wind Ensemble, who played to a full crowd at the City Hall Concert Hall. This was the first time in the history of UBC that a musical group has toured in Asia. The concert proved popular, and Gerry Campbell BA'76, Consul General of Canada in Hong Kong, was among the attendees. Martha Piper was also visiting Asia and hosted an afternoon tea with the governors and executives of the Hong Kong Alumni Association at the Four Seasons Hotel on January 8. She has also travelled to Singapore, Seoul, Seattle and San Francisco in recent weeks. Alumni in these cities heard what the UBC experts that accompanied her had to say about Korean literature, infectious disease, Canadian Olympics, Canada-US Relations, and environmental issues.

NEW CONTACTS

MALAYSIA

The UBC Alumni Association Kuala Lumpur was officially registered in May 2005. At its first meeting on Dec. 6, president of the committee Zulkifli Ali, BScAGR'73, MSc'75 handed the baton over to new regional rep James Jiam BCOM'94, GR'95 and the new executive committee, who will hold office for 2 years (2005 & 2006). Thanks to Mr. Zulkifli Ali for his contributions over the years and look forward to his guidance on forthcoming activities. Thanks, too, to Mr. Goh Joon Hail for his assistance in getting the registration of the Kuala Lumpur Alumni Association underway.

INDONESIA

In Jakarta, outgoing representative Chris Bendl BSc'91 is handing over to Joanita Tjandrawinata BA'04 and Jimmy Sunaryo BSc'05. Chris is moving to Dubai, United Arab Emirates and might well pick up the mantle there.

JAPAN

In Tokyo, Jay Magee BA'97 is handing over to new rep, Kozue Saito BSc'01 MASC'03,

Thanks to all outgoing reps for their contributions and hard work and a warm welcome to those who are filling their shoes.

UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

Visit the calendar of events often at the Alumni Affairs website at www.alumni.ubc.ca/events/index.html for what's happening in your region. Stay tuned for details on receptions, All Canada Universities gatherings, parties to welcome new grads, and student send-offs.

REUNIONS 2006

Unless otherwise stated, please contact Marguerite Collins at marguerite.collins@ubc.ca or at 604-827-3294 for more information on reunions.

ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND

Let UBC Welcome you back! Join friends and classmates to revisit campus and rekindle some of that blue and gold spirit. Alumni Reunion Weekend will be held from Friday September 29 to Sunday October 1, 2006.

Calling all members from the classes of 1996, 1981, and 1956!

Come and celebrate the milestone anniversaries of your graduation! Please contact Marguerite Collins at 604-827-3294 or marguerite.collins@ubc.ca to plan your 10-, 25-, and 50- year class reunions.

Program of Events:

Friday September 29
BBQ for alumni who work at UBC.

Saturday September 30
Kick-off pancake breakfast at Cecil Green Park House.
"Classes Without Quizzes" (faculty presentations), Campus Tours and more!

Class reunions planned to date:

Nursing All Years: luncheon at Cecil Green Park House. Please contact Cathy Ebbehoj, (BSN'75, MSN'99) for details at 604-822-7468 or ebbehoj@nursing.ubc.ca.

HOME EC '56: Lunch at the Botanical Gardens

Arts & Science '56: Reunion luncheon at Green College Great Hall.

Pharmacy '66: Details tbc, please contact Chuck Willett for more details at 604-922-3429 or c_willett@shaw.ca.

IMAGINE UBC 10 year reunion: tbc.

Land & Food Systems

Aggies '60s Decade Reunion – June 23-25, 2006, at the 108 Guest Ranch in the Cariboo. For more details, please contact Bob Holtby BSC(AGR)'67, MSC'72, at 250-832-7865 or email him at bholtby@sun-wave.net

Class of 1946 60th Diamond Anniversary Reunion November 2006

Class members Audrey Hetherington, Muriel Murdoch and Bob Morris have formed an organizing committee and are pleased to announce the reunion will be held in late November, 2006, and will include a special convocation ceremony at the Chan Centre and followed by a get-together. For more information regarding the reunion, please contact Muriel Murdoch at 604-266-6804.

Ten years ago, the Class of 1946 established an entrance scholarship on the occasion of its 50th year reunion. The award is offered to an outstanding student entering the university from secondary school. The class is excited to continue fundraising for this scholarship as it celebrates 60th reunion later this year. The organizing committee request that

in the meantime class members be on the lookout for ways that they can contribute to this scholarship in honour of the class. If you have immediate questions regarding this scholarship or are interested in making a donation, please contact Michelle Orr at 604-822-8904 or michelle.orr@ubc.ca

Sauder School of Business

- The Sauder School of Business is seeking reunion committees for the classes of BCOM'96, MBA'81 and MBA'96.
- BCOM'56: Details tbc. Please contact Darline Beck, alumni relations coordinator for Sauder School of Business, at 604-822-6027 or darline.beck@sauder.ubc.ca



Alpha Gamma Delta alumnae celebrated the 75th anniversary of their sorority with a reunion on October 2, 2005, at Cecil Green Park House.

YEAR-ROUND CLASS REUNIONS

Pharmacy

Pharmacy '53: June 6-7 in Victoria. Contact Bob Alexander at alexandern-r@shaw.ca or Louanne Twaites at lourx@telus.net
Pharmacy '56: Calling all classmates! There's a reunion in the offing for this fall. Contact Murray Dykeman and make sure we have your contact information at 604-988-0901 or jmdykeman@shaw.ca

Pharmacy '86: A reunion is being planned for the fall. Please contact Juliette Hum for more information at juliette.hum@novartis.com.

- BCOM'76: Sept 22, 2006, at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club in Kitsilano.
- BCOM'81 (25-year anniversary): Details tbc. Please contact Darline Beck, alumni relations coordinator for Sauder School of Business, at 604-822-6027 or darline.beck@sauder.ubc.ca

Forestry

- Forestry '56: 50th Anniversary Reunion will be held June 20-22, 2006. For details, please contact Stan Chester at 604-921-9880 or stanchester@shaw.ca.
- Forestry '68: May 20, 2006. Join us for a day of lunch, a tour of the new Forestry building and more! Contact Gerry Kramer for more details at 604-535-6892 or kramerg@inac.gc.ca.

Nursing

- Nursing All Years: Reunion Weekend luncheon Saturday September 30, 2006, at Cecil Green Park House. Want to organize your 10, 25, 30 or 50th Nursing Reunion? Have your class reunion at our luncheon!
- Nursing '66: June 24-25. Join us on Saturday for a tour of the Nursing building and campus, followed by dinner at the Botanical Garden. On Sunday, we'll enjoy brunch at University Golf Club. For more details, please contact Lynn Sutherland at 604-936-4041 or email her at sumac@telus.net.

Medicine

- Med '54: May 8-11 at the Tin Wis resort in Tofino. For more information, please contact Albert Knudsen at 604-943-6748.
- Med '56: May 25-28, 50th Reunion Weekend. Contact Drs Thais and Lee Kornder for more information at lee.kornder@shaw.ca or at 604-224-7819 (please call after March 28, 2006).
- Med '61: Interested in organizing your class reunion? We would love to hear from you! Please contact Marguerite Collins, events coordinator for Alumni Affairs, at 604-827-3294 or marguerite.collins@ubc.ca
- Med '67: Summer of 2007, details tbc. Please contact Patrick MacLeod for more details at patrick.macleod@viha.ca
- Med '76: Do you want to get involved and plan your class reunion? If so, please contact Marguerite Collins at Alumni Affairs at 604-827-3294 or marguerite.collins@ubc.ca.
- Med '81: Please contact Dr. Ron De Marchi

for more details at 604-520-3006 or drdemarchi@edmed.ca.

- Med '86: We need your email addresses! To make sure we have your updated contact information or for more information regarding this reunion please contact either Marguerite Collins at marguerite.collins@ubc.ca or Dr. Steve Larigakis at slarigakis@shaw.ca.

Physical Education

- PHYS ED '51: 55th Anniversary Reunion – please contact Ken Hodgert at (403)686-4533 or via email at kahodgert@shaw.ca.

Law

- Law '56: Details tbc
- Law '76: Details tbc
- Law '81: 25th anniversary reunion. Message from classmates: "It is hard to believe, but in 2006 it will have been 25 years. So it is time for us to reunite, check out the grey hair, talk about our children (now themselves in university or beyond) and down some of the old plonk. Please contact Ted Murchison at Muchison Thomson and Clarke (tmurchison@murchisonthomson.com) or Marina Pratchett at Fasken Martineau Pratchett (mpratchett@van.fasken.com) and volunteer to help, express your support for the reunion or let us know how much you really hate class reunions."
- Law '96 – Details tbc

School of Community and Regional Planning

The first School of Community and Regional Planning (SCARP) reunion will be held this June, coinciding with a number of exciting planning events taking place in Vancouver. Scheduled for Sunday, June 18th at the Westin Bayshore, the reunion will follow the Canadian Association of Planning Students event that SCARP will host during the 2006 CIP/PIBC World Planners Congress. Immediately following the World Planners Conference will be the World Urban Forum. All interested SCARP alumni and friends are encouraged to visit the alumni website for updates at www.scarpalumni.ca. Please be sure to save the date and pass on the reunion information to your SCARP colleagues and friends. For more information on the reunion, please contact Gary Holisko at

gary.holisko@bhydro.com or Tanis Knowles at knowles@ekistics.ca. Additional information on the June 2006 conferences can be found on the following websites:

- June 14 – 16: Planners for Tomorrow (Canadian Association of Planning Students conference hosted by SCARP at UBC) www.plannersfortomorrow.ca
- June 18 – 20: World Planners Congress (hosted by the Canadian Institute of Planners and the Planning Institute of British Columbia) www.wpc2006.com
- June 19 – 23: World Urban Forum (WUF) www.unhabitat.org/wuf/2006

Reunion Weekend celebrations, details tbc. Please contact Marguerite Collins at 604-827-3294 or marguerite.collins@ubc.ca.

OTHER ALUMNI EVENTS

Dentistry

- Faculty of Dentistry Alumni Reception at the Pacific Dental Conference
Friday March 10, 2006, 5:30 – 7:30pm,
Location: Pan Pacific Hotel . For more information, please contact 604 822-6751 or dentalum@interchange.ubc.ca.
- Oral Health Centre Open House
Saturday March 11th 12 noon to 3 pm at
Dentistry Oral Health Centre, 2151 Wesbrook Mall, UBC. A light lunch will be provided. Faculty, staff, students and alumni welcome! To RSVP or to receive more information, please call 604 822-6751, or email at dentalum@interchange.ubc.ca.

Arts

- Living the Global City
UBC has launched *Living the Global City*, an eight-month series (October 5 – June 6) combining lectures, panel discussions and community events to explore the range of issues and factors – from the cultural and experiential to the economic and social – that help attain sustainable urban development regionally and internationally. *Living the Global City* will demonstrate how critical thinking and community engagement are essential components in implementing effective public policy locally and globally. Alumni and friends are welcome to join us at the various events. For date & locations, please visit www.wuf3.ubc.ca/program/living.html

• Arts & Science '56: 50th Anniversary Alumni Science

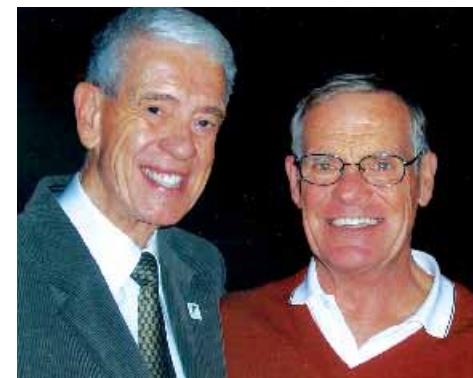
Renowned artist, naturalist and environmentalist, Robert Bateman, will be giving the Spring Biodiversity lecture on March 30, 2006. This is the second in a series of lectures open to the general public and the university community as part of the Biodiversity Research Centre's outreach program. For tickets and event details, please visit: www.biodiversity.ubc.ca/museum/ More details will be available in mid-February 2006.

Law

March 28, 2006: Toronto dinner with guest speaker the Right Honourable Beverly McLachlin, Chief Justice of Canada, presented by UBC Law and the UBC Law Alumni Association. Details to follow on the website www.law.ubc.ca/alumni

Mentor a Student

The opportunities for alumni to connect with students have grown considerably this year. We started off with Science Career Expo in November, when 20 UBC science alumni came and talked to 550 science students about their career paths providing them with some valuable guidance about the world of work. On January 13, we did it all again with the Arts Career Expo, similarly well attended. This spring we will match alumni with students in the UBC-Vancouver School Board Transition School for Gifted Adolescents for a short-term mentoring relationship to help the young participants understand how their interests can become careers.



UBC Alumni Affairs will also be partnering with the Faculty of Science to offer The Three Course Connection Science Mentor Lunch. Set for March 1 and 7, the event is a chance for 100 science students to start brushing up their networking skills in a business lunch setting with 20 science alumni on hand to help them.

Alumni will also be involved in a mentoring event, Walk on Georgia, aimed at international students, and a panel presentation for 4th year arts students, part of the transitioning program known as Arts Peak.

With new programs continually being developed, we would like to increase our database of available, working-age alumni in the Lower Mainland willing to be mentors in varying capacities that range from speaking on a panel to arranging a workplace visit or tour to meeting mentees on a bi-monthly basis. If you would like to be included in this database, please contact Dianna at dianna.deblaere@ubc.ca with your name, degree and some brief points about your career since leaving UBC so we can see what program could benefit from your expertise. We are also looking for mentors based in the Okanagan to take part in new programming at UBCO. To get involved with these programs (still under development) please contact Shawn at shawn.swallow@ubc.ca with your name, degree and info about your career path.

Young Alumni: Enjoy it while you can

The sweet bird of youth sticks around for a very short period of time, so a word to the wise: play with it all you can before its wingbeats fade away in the distance, gone forever like so much bubblegum. But here's a great way to cash in while you can. If you graduated within the past 10 years, then you qualify as a Young Alumnus!

The UBC Young Alumni Network is here to serve recent UBC grads who want to stay in touch with not-so-old classmates

More than 80 alumni and friends gathered at the UBC Aquatic Center on November 4 for a swimming reunion. Tor Bengston is pictured (left) with Bob Hindmarch, former director of Athletics. He is from the class of '51, the earliest year represented.

and the university, and who like the idea of meeting new people and learning new skills. Of course, we do all of this with a twist of imagination and lots of fun along the way!

Most recently, Young Alumni events have been focused on the less fortunate among us. Two groups of Young Alumni spent time at the Greater Vancouver Food Bank in December and January. They pitched in and shared a few laughs at the same time. Watch out for more philanthropic activities this year. In the past, these have included fundraising after Katrina, the HSBC Child Run, and being part of a variety of projects through UBC's Learning Exchange.

Many more attended the Student Leadership Conference in January, where they connected with current student leaders and introduced these soon-to-be grads to the Alumni Association. Young Alumni Committee Chair Marko Dekovic and Natasha Norbjerg presented a workshop on networking, all the while reminding student leaders that they are "alumni in training" and that UBC life does not stop after graduation. The Young Alumni were also invited to address the entire SLC delegation and introduce the keynote speaker (and UBC alumnus) Justin Trudeau.

As you can see, 2006 is shaping up to be another exciting year for the Young Alumni Network. The UBC Alumni Association is moving ahead with the planning of a new UBC Alumni Centre. There have already been several information sessions, one of them specifically for Young Alumni. It was a unique chance to communicate the views, ideas and opinions of UBC's newest graduates. Young Alumni are excited at the prospect of a new home on campus.

May 2006 will see the first graduating class from UBC Okanagan. We are looking forward to welcoming these newest Young Alumni into our vast network of more than 220,000 alumni worldwide.

If you are a Young Alumnus and want to get involved, or have any suggestions for future Young Alumni events, philanthropic or otherwise, we'd love to hear from you. We want our programming to reflect the real interests and needs of UBC's recent grads. Stay tuned for our upcoming financial workshop to be presented by the Association's newest affinity partner, ClearSight Wealth Management. Information will be posted on the website shortly: www.alumni.ubc.ca ■

class ACTS

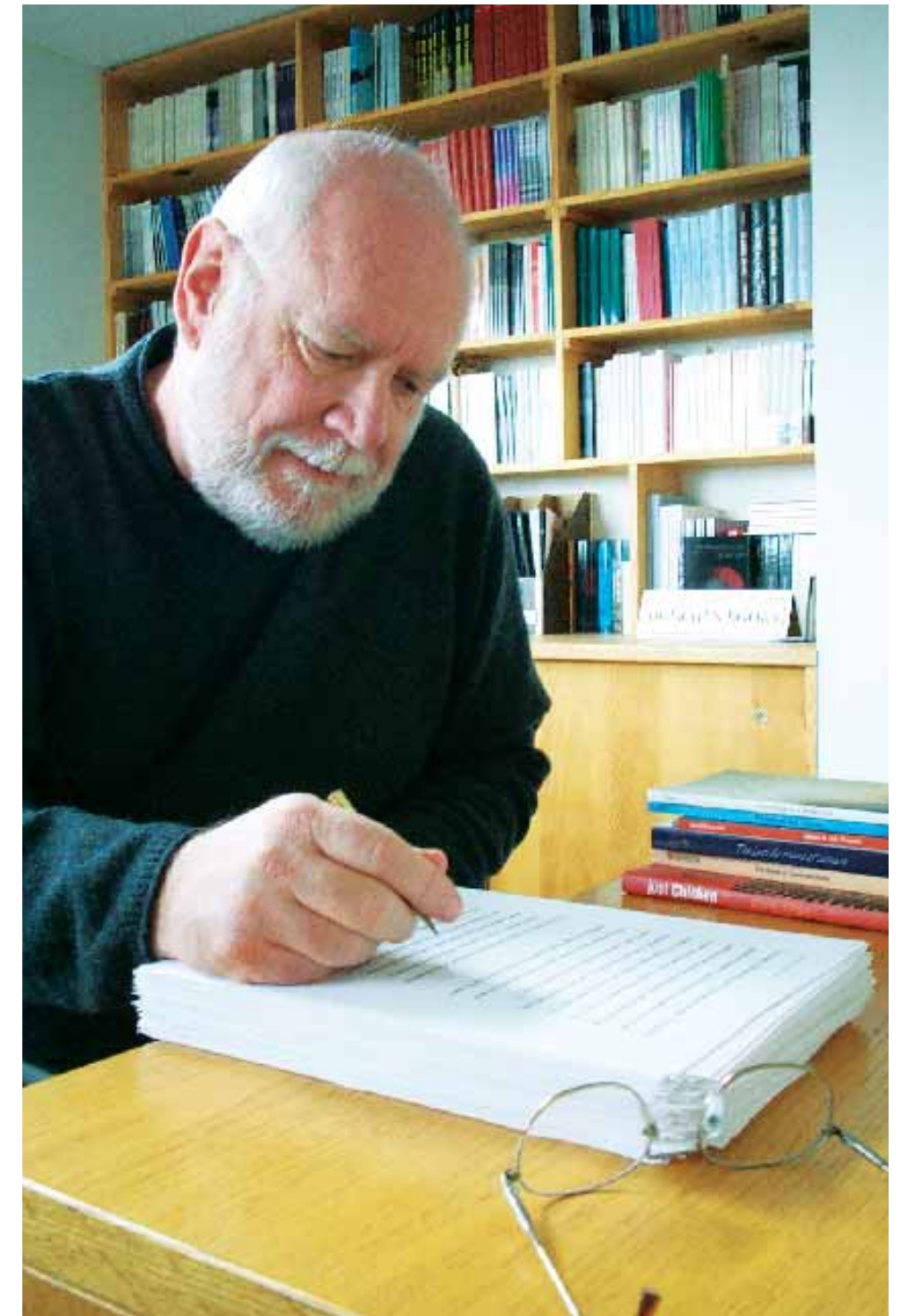
We depend on our readers to send us notices for Class Acts and In Memoriam. Please direct your information to vanessa.clarke@ubc.ca, or to our mailing address (see page 3). Digital photos must be 150 dpi or better to be included in the magazine. Please note that Trek Magazine is also posted on our website.

40s

Mary-lou Forian BA'48, MA (U of Texas) has had a long and illustrious career as a conservation scientist in museum collections. Her expertise is deterioration and structure of organic materials used in artifacts in museum collections and in outdoor heritage sites. She has been a guest scholar at The Getty Conservation Institute, part of the Getty Center complex in Los Angeles, since September and will complete her work there this February. She is conducting her own research on the characterization of the discoloration in fungal fox spots in archival old paper and works of art on paper ... **Eric McConachie BASC'49** was inducted into the Canadian Aviation Hall of Fame in June, 2005. He joins his brother, Grant, who was inducted in 1974. The citation noted that Eric's "creative aptitude as an innovator, his skills as a market analyst, and his success in initiating the concept of the Regional Jet and following it through to test flight have greatly benefited aviation in Canada."

CORRECTION

In the last issue, we mentioned that Michael Robinson LLB'78 had become the third member of his family to receive an Order of Canada (along with his uncle, Basil, and father Geoffrey). We neglected to mention that Michael also followed in the family footsteps as a Rhodes Scholar.



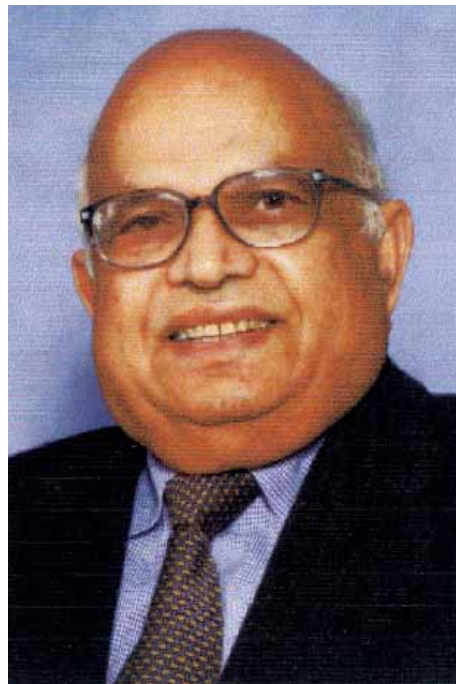
RONALD SMITH, BA'69, DLIT'02

class ACTS

After graduating from UBC, Eric continued his studies at MIT and Stanford. His professional career started as assistant director of Flight Development with CP AIR, Vancouver, and he was still with the company when they introduced the world's first jet airliner (purchased from de Havilland). He was based in London, England before returning to Canada and a few years later became sales engineering manager for Canadair Ltd. in Montreal. He was involved in the development and marketing of several aircraft. He formed his own successful consulting company, Aviation Planning Services Ltd., in 1967. It provided consultation to companies and governments in more than 30 countries. It was Eric who initiated the concept of a regional jet by suggesting to Canadair an adaptation to their existing Challenger executive jet and drumming up enough commercial interest to make it a viable proposition. Since then, 1,200 Regional Jets have been sold around the world. In 1994, Eric started up his second consulting company, AVplan Inc. He is a Fellow of the Canadian Aeronautics Society and Space Institute, and a member of the Royal Aeronautical Society, the Aerospace Industries Association of Canada, and the Air Transport Association of Canada.

50s

Bobby Koch BSC(PHARM)'50 has been inducted into UBC's Sports Hall of Fame. A UBC hockey star during the late 1940s, Koch led UBC's 49/50 Hall of Fame team to victories over the best university competition the US and Western Canadian had to offer. The one-time NHL prospect's 27 goals in 19 games in 49/50 is the second best average in UBC history. Koch continued to play professional hockey after graduating ... Basil Stuart-Stubbs BA'52 has been named to the Order of Canada. He was UBC University Librarian from 1964 to 1981 and is credited with building the department of Library, Archival and Info Studies.



RAM CHATURVEDI, PHD'63

60s

Robert A. Brucker BA'65 was a public school teacher in BC for 33 years. He retired in 1999 but is continuing to work as an external student teacher supervisor with the faculty of Education at UBC Okanagan. His daughter, Laurie Brucker, graduated from the Sauder School of Business with her MBA this spring and now works in Victoria for the ministry of Advanced Education ... David G. Butler MSC'61, PHD, DSC, FRSA, CBIOL, FIBIOL, emeritus professor of Zoology and professor of Medical Physiology at the U of T retired in 2001. Professor Butler actively continues his research, which has been supported continuously by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council for more than 40 years. He continues to train both undergraduate and postgraduate students with enthusiasm. He has published more than 100 scientific papers and has a world-class reputation in Comparative Endocrinology ... Ram P. Chaturvedi PHD'63, a member of the State University of New York (SUNY) Cortland Physics Department faculty for 40 years, retired on January 22. He received the designation of

Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of Physics. A native of Chandikara, India, Ram endured prejudice in the 1940s as an Indian pursuing a college education in his native country after its hard-fought independence from Great Britain. He was a physics lecturer at his alma mater, Agra University in India, and after attaining his PHD became an assistant professor at Punjab University. In 1965, he joined the brand new Physics department at SUNY Cortland. He chaired the department from 1981 to 1998 and was acting chair in 1999. In 1986, the Cortland College Student Association presented him with its Outstanding Faculty Member Award. He was always very much involved with faculty governance and is a member of several Scientific societies. He and wife Saroj have two grown daughters, Anjali and Anupama, and reside in Cortland ... Wayson Choy BA'63, author of *The Jade Peony* and *All That Matters* has been named to the Order of Canada ... Arthur Hanson BSC'65, MSC'69 has been appointed a Trudeau Foundation Mentor, one of nine chosen last November. Trudeau Mentors provide guidance to Trudeau Foundation Scholars, outstanding doctoral candidates in the social sciences and humanities. Arthur is Distinguished Fellow and Senior Scientist (and former president/CEO) of the International Institute for Sustainable Development in Winnipeg. An avid environmentalist, he was appointed by the prime minister in 1994 to the National Round Table on Environment and Economy ... Gary Lewis BASC'64 retired in July 2005 after teaching for the last twenty-five years at Okanagan University College. As an associate professor, he taught Statistics, Strength of Materials, Structural Design, Hydraulics, and Contract Law in the department of Civil Engineering Technology at the Kelowna campus. Prior to that he taught at BCIT for two years, after 10 years varied experience in industry. "Teaching and working with young and older adults was rewarding as well as fun," he says. "It gave me great joy to see so many lives changed when new and challenging careers became available to our graduates." Gary lives in Kelowna with his wife, Darlene, and participates in many outdoor activities, his favourites

being water skiing, snow skiing and driving his '59 Impala convertible ... Linda Rogers BA'68, MA'70 has strong family connections to UBC. Her father, O. J. Hall BA'42, LLB'48 was a university solicitor and graduate of the first Law class. He founded the UBC Alumni Chronicle and edited the UBYSSSEY with his buddies Stu Keate and Pierre Berton. He also chaired the Vancouver Institute during the fifties. Linda is a successful writer who is poised to publish her latest book, *The Empress Letters*, this fall, a novel based on Victoria and the opium trade ... Jim Rogers BA'67 has been named to the executive of the Million Dollar Round Table, an international association of financial professionals. He heads Rogers Group Financial, a consultancy firm based in Vancouver ... Jane Saborio (Butcher) BA(HONS)'64, MA'68 has been a professional artist for the past 16 years. Her second solo exhibition was held in the historic Angela Peralta Theatre in old town Mazatlan, Mexico, from January to February. To learn more about her work, see www.artists.ca/gallery/jsaborio.html ... Writer and publisher Ronald Smith BA'69, DLIT'02 has been named a 2005 Canada-US Fulbright Scholar, a prestigious title reserved for a select few in Canada and the United States. Mr. Smith recently took up the inaugural Arizona State University chair in Creative Writing at the Piper Center for Creative Writing, with aspirations to nurture new writers and to explore with them developments in Canadian literature over the past 40 years. During his stay at the Piper Center, Smith hopes to share with his students the cultural diversity of literature written by new Canadians. He also hopes to offer a comparative study of short fiction and poetry from both sides of the border, exploring these works both geographically and aesthetically. Finally, he aspires to complete a first draft of *The Sea, The Rose*, a novel he recently began ... Ray Vickson BSC'65 retired in September 2004 after 31 years on the faculty of the University of Waterloo. He and wife Lynne Vickson BA'65 are enjoying their retirement home in Victoria.

70s

Rick Cuttell BPE'78 has been inducted into UBC's Sports Hall of Fame. While competing for UBC, Cuttell was acknowledged by many to be Canada's best all-round track and field man. He was a three-time Canadian champion in both the long jump and high jump and won five Canada West golds in them too. This 1972 Olympian, who once won medals in six different events at the CanWest Championships, is one of the few to jump seven feet and still holds the Canadian university record in the long jump ... Musician/composer Alexina Louie BMUS'70 has been named to the Order of Canada ... Kathleen Nichol (Sturgess) BA'70, MLS'73


and Alex Nichol MA'70 have sold their very successful winery, Nichol Vineyard, located on the spectacular Naramata Bench region in the south Okanagan. They have moved over a few valleys to South Slokan, where Kathleen's mother, Maxine Sturgess (Chapman) BA'30, once lived and taught several grades in the one-room school. Retirement will involve Alex getting back into Chamber Music in the West Kootenay area and Kathleen pursuing interests which have been on the back burner for the past 16 years while the couple ran their vineyard and winery ... Sharon Shepherd BSC(PHARM)'73 has been elected Mayor of Kelowna. She's lived there with husband Michael Shepherd BSC'71, MD'75 since 1977. They have two kids, Sean and Nicole. Sharon served on a number of

Can UBC Create **YOUR** Legacy?

Ed and Suzanne Desloer think so. Both have maintained a close connection with UBC since graduating with BA degrees in 1954. Ed's focus was Geological Sciences, while Suzanne returned to earn a degree in Library Science (BLSc 1963) and became a UBC librarian. Because of their involvement with and appreciation of the library as a source of learning, the Desloers arranged for a life insurance policy to eventually provide support for UBC's School of Library, Information, and Archival Studies (SLAIS).

"Suzanne and I have benefited greatly from our education at UBC and wish to provide assistance to others," Ed says. "Our support for SLAIS reflects both our wish to support UBC and its students and to support those who will manage the resources of libraries both here and elsewhere."

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volunteer boards during the 1980s and 90s, including Girl Guides of Canada and Kelowna Youth Soccer. She was elected to the Kelowna City Council in 1996 and has been reelected ever since, topping the poles in 2002. In May, 2005, she received the YM/YWCA Woman of Distinction Lifetime Achievement Award for outstanding community service ... After 28 years with Nortel Networks (the first 20 with Nortel's subsidiary Bell-Northern Research), **James (Jim) Yan** BASC'69, MASC'71, PHD'77 retired in January 2005. While at Nortel, Jim had held technical and management positions responsible for research on solutions to improve the performance of telecommunication networks. He and wife Rose are still in Ottawa where he spends some of his time as an adjunct research professor in the Systems and Computer Engineering department of Carleton University ... **Ken Witzke** MBA'71 has been inducted into UBC's Sports Hall of Fame. Witzke was UBC and Canada's dominant volleyball spiker during the 1960s and '70s. He is an inductee in Canada's Volleyball Hall of Fame and in UBC's Hall of Fame as a member of the 66/67 UBC team. He provided elite power hitting for several champion UBC volleyball teams as well as for Canada. He also competed on UBC's track team – winning gold in the shot put – and on the university's varsity eight-oared crew.

80s

The 1986/87 Men's Soccer Team has been inducted into UBC's Sports Hall of Fame. This team ranks alongside the best of UBC's Canadian soccer champions with an overall season record of 11-0-2. Its 33 goals for and 3 against featured 10 shut-outs, 9 of them recorded by goalie Brian Kennedy – one of four from this team to play professional soccer. The 'Birds outscored their opposition 7-0 in the national CIAU (CIS) championships winning a third straight national title, the first for coach Dick Mosher ... **Angela Fairbank** BA'82 started her own international business

consultancy company in September 2005 called acFairbank Consulting. Angela has more than 25 years of international experience, a bachelor's degree in French and Spanish, and a master's in Translation from the Monterey Institute of International Studies in California. Educated in Vancouver, Quebec, California, France, Switzerland, Spain and Belgium, Angela has had a long career in translation and interpretation, and has studied more than 10 languages. She worked six years in Belgium and eight years in Hong Kong. Most recently, Angela was working in the Caribbean assisting tourists in six languages. Business and leisure activities combined have taken Angela to six continents and 80 countries and have provided her with detailed insight into numerous cultures and a deep understanding of international business practices. Angela has frequently taken an active part in cultural bridging among Asians and Africans, North and South Americans and Europeans. The services she offers include multilingual business solutions, language and culture bridging, information gathering, interpreting and translating, customer relationship building, negotiating and problem solving, and international seminars and photography. She invites you to visit her website at www.acfairbankconsulting.ca Any referrals

MALIK RANASINGHE, MASC'87, PHD'90



from UBC alumni would be greatly appreciated ... **Dan Johnson** MSC'80, PHD'83 organized and chaired the International Conference of the Orthopterists' Society, held August 14-19 in Canmore, Alberta. This world meeting on all aspects of research concerning locusts, grasshoppers and crickets is held every four years ... **Heather Jeam Malcolm** BA'86, BED'92 has just completed her MA in French at UVIC. She is currently teaching French and English Immersion in Vernon, BC ... **Malik Ranasinghe**, MASC'87, PHD'90 FIE (SL), CENG is a professor in Civil Engineering and vice chancellor at the University of Moratuwa in Sri Lanka. He is also an independent non-executive director on the Board of Directors of Lanka IOC, a subsidiary of Indian Oil Company. After completing his PHD, Prof. Ranasinghe was appointed senior lecturer at the UoM. Since then he has been involved in all facets of academic activities in engineering, including conducting and publishing a large volume of pioneering research on engineering economics, especially in the theory and applications of risk analysis and management. He has published two books and more than 85 research papers, 54 of which are internationally referred. He was appointed associate professor in 1996, and full professor in 2000, when he was appointed head of Civil Engineering. He was elected dean of Engineering, the largest faculty of Engineering in Sri Lanka, in 2001. Under his leadership, the faculty established the University Industry Interactive Cell, which resulted in a dramatic increase in funding to the university. ... **Delwin Stander** LLB'89 has left Sliman, Stander and Co. to form Stander and Co. and specialize in litigation and mediation solutions. Contact Delwin at dstander@standerandcompany.ca

90s

Graham Astbury BCOM'94 moved to Yellowknife, Nunavut, in January 2005. He loves it there, what with the snowmobiling, boating and the Aurora. He is working for NorthwestTel in Operations ... After 10 years of success with Canadian Forest Products Ltd., **Larry Chrobot** BSF'91 is now the General Manager of Winton Global in Prince George. Winton

Global is an integrated forest products company that mills dimensional lumber and produces pre-fab home and cottage building packages. His kids are swimming with the Prince George Barracudas and he hopes that they will be able to swim with the Thunderbirds when they come of age ... **Alice Ifeoma Ani** BA'94, BED'95 (MED in progress) has had a son. Magnus Uzoma Jungclaus was born on Friday September 9, 2005, at 2:00am. Little Magnus was a healthy eight LBS five OZ. and went home the same day ... **Bonnie Kawchuk** BMUS'92 combined her music degree in voice with a masters of Education from Harvard to found a women's leadership coaching firm called *The Leading Voice* (www.theleadingvoice.com). The firm works with high-potential women to address their experience of voice in the workplace. Beyond her wildest imaginings, she lives in Washington, DC ... **David Musto** BA'94, MD'99 is thrilled about the arrival of the newest Musto on December 28, 2005. Baby Kate and mother Lisa are thriving as are older sister Emma and big bro' Luke ... **Henry Reeve** BASC'95 chaired the organizing committee for the annual meeting of the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers held in Houston, Texas, in October. He and wife Tiffani recently celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary ... **Lars Ronning** BASC'97 has been elected to succeed fellow alumnus Henry Reeve as chair of the Texas section of the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers. He celebrated his 10th wedding anniversary with wife Madeleine in August ... **Jeff Toyne** MMUS'99 was commissioned by the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra to write new works that would premiere during the vso's 2005/06 *Musically Speaking* series. He is one of five composers selected by the orchestra as part of the Olympic Commissioning Project to create a new three minute piece celebrating the upcoming XXI Winter Olympic Games (Vancouver 2010). Jeff recently returned to Vancouver after several years in Los Angeles. While there, he scored or orchestrated more than 50 films, including two Academy Award nominees. Jeff's work, entitled *No Fanfare*, premiered in the Orpheum Theatre in December ...



JEFF TOYNE, MMUS'99

OOS

Vivian Butler (Chu) BA'99, BED'01 and **Graham Butler** BA'00 were married on December 27, 2003, and recently welcomed their daughter into the world on July 27, 2005, at 5:31 pm. She weighed seven LBS ... **Yolanda Butt** BSC'99, MA'01, MD'05 has won a contest run by ELLE Canada magazine by amassing the greatest number of reader votes. She convinced readers that she was not only smart, but also dedicated to furthering women's health. "I think that far more can be done to empower women to participate in preventative health and treatment," said Yolanda. "By choosing me as the winner of this contest, I feel that Canadian women have said that they agree with me." As well as her "Smart Girl" status, Yolanda netted \$10,000 to use toward the promotion of women's health. For more information, visit www.lovetheyousee.ca. Yolanda is no stranger to success. She was class president of her 2nd year medical class and during her senior years was VP of External Affairs for the Medical Undergraduate Society. And she was a 2005 nominee for the YWCA Young Women of Distinc-

tion Awards. Yolanda is now based in Toronto, having just started a five-year residency training program in Obstetrics and Gynaecology ... **Kyle Dickau** BFA'05 is the Vancouver winner of the Bank of Montreal's 1st art student art competition ... **Beatrice Julia Gill** BA'01, MA (U of New South Wales) and **Colin W. Norman** BCOM'98 have announced their engagement. A late summer wedding is planned for this year. Beatrice works as a project administrator in UBC's Centre of International Relations ... **Aaron Keay** BED'02 participated in his first Ironman event in stifling heat in Penticton, BC, last August. Expecting a time of 13 hours, he managed to complete the course in 11 hours and 20 minutes. He emerged from the swimming part of the race in 1800th place (almost last in his age group), but passed 1300 other competitors on his bike. During the marathon, he moved up another 200 spots and finished in around 300th place. "Not bad considering there were 100-odd pros and the fact that it was my first one," says Aaron. "Insert I am a horrible swimmer and you get the picture. But it was amazing and definitely not my last," ... **Andrew Johann Salgado** BFA'05 was chosen by the Canadian government as the sole representative for Canadian painting at the 5th (Jeux de la) Francophonie Games in the capital city of Niamey, Niger, in December. "My proposal was to paint a map of the world in a 'mosaic-style' that I have used previously in other works, and then to paint each country as its respective flag," said Andrew in a recent interview. "It was a really intense proposal that I wasn't even sure if I could pull off, but I figured that taking a challenge and a risk was worth the gamble, as opposed to sitting in a comfort zone." Although he didn't win a medal, it didn't detract from the experience. "It was probably the single greatest experience of my life," he says. "The games took a backseat to everything else, and interaction with the other athletes and people became everyone's focus. I've never seen people behaving with such camaraderie, ever. It was incredible." You can learn more about Andrew's experiences and career on his website: www.andrewsalgado.com ... **Tanya Marie Snow** (Gibson)

class ACTS

BSN'94, MHA'04 and husband Michael are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, Oliva Gabrielle, on October 2, 2005. A future alumna, Olivia was born with a full head of hair and a fabulous smile and is keeping both of her parents busy and happy ... After completing her MA in Art History and Curatorial Studies at York University, Siobhan Smith BA'03 has returned to Vancouver to work as the publicity coordinator at the Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery on Point Grey campus ... Shauna Towriss LLB'05 has been named as co-recipient of the First Annual Lloyd Houlden Research Fellowship, awarded by the Canadian Insolvency Foundation. Shauna is currently working as a judicial law clerk at the BC Court of Appeal until June 2006. She was selected for the position last year while an articling



JAMIE TRAVIS, BA'03

student at Clark, Wilson in Vancouver. She plans to use her half of the \$20,000 fellowship to study the position of shareholders and shareholder equity in a corporate restructuring under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act (CCAA). The fellowship is awarded to support "an original analysis of innovative ways to improve the insolvency system, a historical analysis of particular features of the system or an exploration of any other insolvency-related idea." Authors from any part of the insolvency community – practising trustees and lawyers, as well as academics and students – are eligible to apply ... Jamie Travis BA'03 won the BRAVO! Fact Award for Best Young Western Canadian Director of a Short Film at the 2005 Vancouver International Film Festival for his film Patterns (www.patternsthemovie.ca/). The award comes with a \$5000 prize. ■

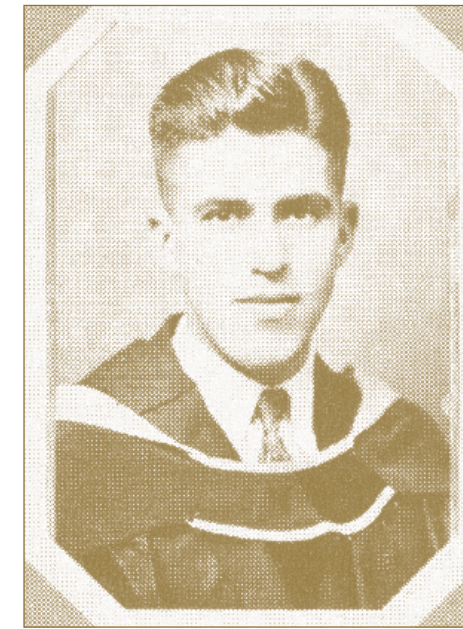
in MEMORIAM

Constance M. Heibey BED'69 died peacefully and suddenly on July 26, 2005, in the company of her daughter Elaine and favoured son-in-law Allan Lam of Squamish ... Dr. Jack Allen Freeman BSC(AGR)'49, MSC(AGR)50 ... Isabelle Eleanor Nelson BASC(Nursing)'47

Thomas Herbert Anstey
BSC'41, MSC'43, PHD
The eldest of four children, Tom was born and grew up in Victoria, where he learned early on about "mucking about in boats." He often spoke of the summers spent surveying the BC coastline as the best summers a young sailor could possibly have. During army training in Brockville he met and later married Wynne Ferguson, who was a volunteer and a sight for sore eyes in her uniform. During the war Tom saw active duty as a Canadian officer serving in a British Airborne Division.

In 1949 he obtained his PHD in horticulture from the University of Minnesota and went on to a distinguished career with the Dept. of Agriculture. He made an outstanding contribution to every research station he touched. An early adapter, Tom recognized the possibilities of computers in scientific research. By the early 1960's he was fast tracking genetic experiments on the Defence Research computers at night. The family moved to England in 1968 so that he could enhance his computer knowledge with a year of post-doctoral studies. Towards the end of his career, he was involved with technology transfer to developing countries.

When Tom moved to Ottawa as director general for Western Canadian Stations, he assumed authority for international development and worked tirelessly for decades on the International Irrigation and Drainage (the "ditch diggers") executive. He was also involved in outreach programs in India (dryland farming), Kenya (cereal development) and Tanzania (grain production). He has been honoured by his fellow agrolologists and various scientific societies for his work, including his election to presidency of the Agricultural Institute of Canada in 1970 and becoming a fellow of that organization



TOM BROWN

in 1980. Since retiring Tom maintained an active interest in computers, reviewing new programs, and maintained his horticultural interest through Friends of the Farm. He has authored and edited several books and papers.

As a family man, he was always keen to lend a hand or cheer on the children in all their endeavours. He'd often lead the sing-songs on his many travels across the country with the three children and Wynne. Always the first to raise his hand to volunteer, he worked endlessly for the Scouts, children's choir, many horticultural societies, the Canadian Canloan Officers, various yacht clubs, church groups and guide dogs for the blind.

After Wynne passed away, Tom moved to the caring retirement community of Crystal View Lodge where he met and married his new neighbor, Dorothy Moore. They have lived life to the fullest, traveling the world, being active with the Bethany Baptist Church, and caring for each other and their families, including 13 grandchildren. May the fair winds be with you always Tom.

Bill Bice BCOM'58, LLB'62
Bill Bice passed away on January 17, 2006. He was the beloved husband of Patricia; loving and proud father of Catherine, Jillian and Richard; cherished grandfather to Emily, Willy, Victoria, Geoffrey, Nathan, Hazel, Oliver, Elsa and Sophia; caring and

patient son-in-law to Gladys Simmons; highly respected QC lawyer and senior partner of Bull, Housser & Tupper; gentleman, mentor and friend of many. His passing was sudden and unexpected, because he was still at the height of his life and career.

Bill was born in Winterthur, Switzerland, in 1932. His parents settled in Alert Bay, BC, where he first developed his appreciation for the spectacular natural environment of the British Columbia coast. Bill's school years were as a boarding student at Shawnigan Lake School and his summers moulded an enterprising young man working in BC's fishing industry near Alert Bay.

At UBC he made lifelong friends playing rugby and later received Big Block athletic awards. After taking time out to run his family hotel in Alert Bay, Bill married Patricia and began studies at UBC law school in 1959.

He articulated at Bull Housser & Tupper in the Spring of 1962, and was called to the British Columbia Bar in July 1963. His unshakable work ethic and professional prowess were the foundations on which he became one of Canada's most respected wills and estates lawyers. After 42 years of practice, his career showed no signs of abating. Bill was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1996.

Bill's service to his community was significant. He served as a director of Athlone School, and chairman of the Board of Directors of Crofton House School. Among the more than 40 organizations he was serving as director at the time of his passing were Shawnigan Lake School Foundation and Lion's Gate Hospital Foundation.

He loved spending time with his family, especially grandchildren, by the water's edge at his summer home on Galiano Island. Bill's friends and family were the focus of his personal life. He was a man of the highest integrity and he will be deeply missed.

Tom Brown BA'32, MA (Oxford), MBE
An influential and long-time member of the Vancouver business community, William Thomas Brown has died aged 93. He attended UBC in the 1930s before carrying on to Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar. He was a hero of WWII, losing his eye while in action in France, and was awarded an MBE.

Later on he became well known in Vancouver's business community, heading until 1978 Odlum Brown Ltd., the invest-

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in MEMORIAM

ment firm founded by his father. He was also a respected and sought-after board member for many other firms.

He was president of the UBC Alumni Association between 1945 and '46. His name is also strongly associated with the Vancouver Foundation, which in no small part he helped develop into the respected philanthropic institution it is today. He also lent his time and influence to the Nature Trust of British Columbia (of which he was a founder), the Vancouver Public Library and the Spencer Foundation for Young People.

Tom Brown received the Order of Canada in 2004. The citation stated: "William Brown has generously shared his professional acumen for the betterment of his community and his province." He is predeceased by wife Daphne and leaves three children.

Vilda Josephine MacNeil (Weppler), BSc'44 (Dip. Public Health Nursing) Vilda, the second oldest and first daughter, was born to Gustav and Josephine Weppler

VILDA MACNEIL



on the family homestead on April 15, 1910. She and older brother Ronald were later joined by younger siblings Goldwin, Lucille and Ronald. At a young age, Vilda lived for a short time in Michigan and California before returning with her family to their farm near Vanguard, Saskatchewan.

During the warm weather, it was not uncommon for the children to leave the house barefoot, only putting on their shoes after reaching Burton School so they would not wear them out. Later on, riding horseback during the good weather or being pulled in a horse-drawn sleigh for seven miles during the cold Saskatchewan winters permitted Vilda and her siblings to gain a high school education, an asset greatly valued by the Weppler family.

Vilda attended Normal School in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, (1928-1929) and returned home to teach at Burton School, a one-room multi-grade schoolhouse. She loved to play softball with her students. When teachers' salaries became non-existent, Vilda changed professions and received her registered nurses' training (1934-1937) at St. Joseph's Hospital in Victoria, BC, and Education in Public Health (1943-1944) at UBC.

After nursing in a variety of locations in BC and at Mercy Hospital in Chicago, Illinois, Vilda did "the unspeakable." She fell in love with the brother of one of her patients! Vilda and John were married at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Victoria on July 4, 1945, and raised their family in Port Alberni, BC. John worked on the *Lady Rose*, in construction on the war-time houses and Woodward's store, and at Alberni District Plywood while Vilda continued to teach at Smith Memorial and Alberni District Secondary School and nurse at West Coast General Hospital. Sometimes John would say, "Which hat will you be wearing today?" Whether the task consisted of sewing, knitting, canning fruit, driving students to and from school, pushing a wheelbarrow, or having a picnic in the woods, no task was too big or too small. She enjoyed them all!

Retiring to Victoria in 1970, John and Vilda had a few years to enjoy together. Predeceased by her loving husband, John, on March 25, 1984, Vilda died peacefully at Dufferin Place on March 4, 2005 in Nanaimo, BC. We love and miss you both. Vilda and John are lovingly remembered

by daughter Sharon (Tony) Ackerman and grandsons Wayne and Daryle Ackerman of Kelowna, BC; grand-daughter, Cynthia (Steven) Quiatt and great-granddaughter, Daria Quiatt of Washougal, Washington; and son, Ian (Rosemarie) MacNeil and granddaughter Janell MacNeil of Nanaimo, BC. They were also survived by sister-in-law Blanche MacNeil of Langley, BC, Theresa Weppler of Kelowna, BC, and six nieces and two nephews of BC, Alberta and Scotland.

While all alumni of UBC have personal stories to tell, those receiving their post-secondary education in the first half of the twentieth century certainly had different challenges from today's students. Two world wars, the Great Depression and little opportunity and/or encouragement for women to attend university made my mother's educational journey particularly interesting. Educated women of her generation helped to open the doors for the women of my and future generations of women to pursue their dreams.

Melville Gerald Thomson BSc(AGR)'47 Gerald Thomson died peacefully on July 13, 2005. Born March 7, 1922, into a pioneer Vancouver family, Gerald attended Vernon Prep School, University School, and after serving with the Canadian Scottish Regiment in WWII, graduated second in his faculty at UBC. He received his MSc degree from the University of California (Berkeley) in 1949. During the 1950s, Gerald was in charge of various ecological research projects at Canada Agriculture. In 1958 he relocated his young family from Victoria to take over the management of a number of historic family properties in Vancouver. Gerald was Founding Chairman of the Townsite Committee and actively involved in Gastown rejuvenation. He served on committees or the executive of many organizations including BOMA and BOMI, the Community Arts Council, the Community Planning Association, the Downtown Business Association, the New Westminster Downtown Business and Property Owners Association and Kiwanis.

Gerald was a life member of Terminal City Club and Vancouver Board of Trade. In 1976, Gerald helped organize ACSO's Habitat Forum at Jericho during the UN Conference on Human Settlements. He had a strong interest in the military and interna-



BASIL MCDONNELL

tional politics and was actively involved in RUSI. Gerald was a proud recipient of the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal for volunteer service. His interest in Scottish history was manifested in his extensive research of the genealogy of the Thomson and FitzGerald families. Gerald is survived by his wife of 53 years, Diana; daughter Nora Greig (Geoff Eldred); son Donald (Sophia); and grandsons Shaun, Andrew and Byron. The family wishes to thank the staff at Crofton Manor, Pacific Spirit Community Health, VGH and attending paramedics for their care and support over the past few weeks. Donations in Gerald's memory may be made to Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Basil McDonnell BSc'47, MSc'48
29 April 1924 – 6 February 2005
Basil McDonnell was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, second son of William (Bill) McDonnell and Doris Harward Baker. His early years were spent in Winnipeg and Lake of the Woods surrounded by family: elder sister Frances, brother Bill and sister Audrey and many Baker cousins. Later, the family moved to Calgary, and then Vancouver, where Basil graduated from Magee in 1940. He studied at UBC until 1943, when he enlisted with

the RCAF. He received his pilot's wings in October 1944. Before he could be posted overseas, the war came to an end. He then resumed his studies at UBC, and completed a Master's degree in Chemical Engineering in 1948.

He moved to Trail, BC, in 1949 to work for Cominco Ltd. He loved the West Kootenays and it was there that Basil was to remain for the rest of his professional life. In 1950 he married Doolee Merry, of Trail, and began to raise a family. In addition to duties as engineer and to his growing family, Basil believed very strongly in community service. In 1968 he was elected to the Trail School Board and served as member and Chair until 1982. In addition, Basil was an avid skier and strong supporter of Red Mountain Ski Club, serving in various executive functions

from 1952, including a term as President in 1966/67. He was one of the chief visionaries in the Granite Mountain expansion, which made Red Mountain a world-class ski area. Basil also loved sailing, and enjoyed summers at Christina Lake from 1954 until his illness in 2002. He was also associated with the Kinsmen and Rotary service organizations.

After retirement in 1989, Basil and Doolee moved to Vancouver to be closer to their children, all of whom had moved there. He was active in his remaining years for the family; as a mentor for his three grandchildren and as artist's assistant to his wife. Basil is survived by his wife of 54 years, Doolee; his five children: Ellen, Julia, Basil J. (daughter-in-law Maureen Yau), and Quentin in Vancouver and Nadine in Auckland; three



For over forty years, Dr. Ross Moore has called on Big Blocks — former UBC varsity athletes — to support current student athletes like Jeff Rubin and Brian McGuiness. Through Dr. Moore's Sweater or Better Campaign, donors give \$125 or more each year to recognize these athletes with a special sweater. The Block Club has grown since awarding twelve sweaters in its early years: this year 100 people will gather at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Vancouver on March 28 as over 125 new members receive their sweaters, keeping alive a tradition as old as UBC itself.

Big Block donors join over 20,000 committed people who each year decide to invest in the lives of UBC students. To find out how you can contribute, contact the UBC Development Office. Tel: 604-822-8900 Email: sweater.giving@ubc.ca

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in MEMORIAM

grandchildren: Marc, Matthew and Serena; his sister Audrey Hill of Toronto; and many nieces, nephews and cousins across the country.

When Basil lost his struggle with Alzheimer's, his family contacted the Division of Neurology at UBC to ask how Basil's experience could help in the research into this disease. When they learned that there was no means at UBC of storing brain tissue for use in ongoing research, the McDonnell family contributed the seed money to kick-start the creation of the UBC Brain Tissue Bank, which opened in September 2005. It is the hope of the family that the Brain Bank will grow into a research facility that will allow researchers to investigate Alzheimer's and other neurological diseases to find causes, and ultimately, cures.

Hilda Thomas BA'48, MA'65
Political activist and former senior lecturer in UBC's department of English Hilda Thomas died on November 25, aged 77. She had been experiencing failing health for a number of years, but remained engaged and active until the end. She joined the New Democratic Party when it was first established and was active at multiple levels, notably fighting for women's rights and environmental issues. She was involved in establishing the Everywoman's health Centre, BC's first free-standing abortion clinic, in 1987.

Hilda had a passion for music and with her husband Philip she founded what is now known as the Vancouver Folk Song Society. She wrote a number of songs, herself, many of which were political parodies (she was known for her great sense of humour). Hilda was born in Kimberley. She and Philip had three children.

Newton Steacy BA'52, CBA, BTH, CD
Newton Clements Steacy died suddenly at home on Friday, August 5, 2005, in his 78th year. He was the beloved husband of Barbara, dear father of Dean (Johanne), Andrew (Georgina), Richard (Chantelle) and Elizabeth (David) and adopted daughter Justice Rose Boyko. He was the loving Grandpa of Anne-Elizabeth, Carleen, Mat-



NEWTON STEACY

thew, Mitchell, Meghan, Adam, James and William. He is survived by brothers Archie (Lynda), Gerald (Elaine), sister Ruth and many nieces and nephews.

Newton graduated from UBC, and served as lieutenant in Germany and Korea with the Black Watch (RHR) of Canada and as captain in The Governor General's Foot Guards. On entering Public Service, he worked for DREE, the Privy Council Office, the Secretary of State and Indian and Native Affairs (all in Ottawa). He was Deputy Minister of Indian Affairs in Saskatchewan and Chief of Staff in the Department of Multiculturalism in Ottawa. In memoriam donations to the University of Ottawa Heart Institute would be appreciated.

Victor Milton Edward Conley BED'69
Victor was born in the Old Mission Hospital in Mission City, BC, on July 23, 1946, to Milton and Daisy Conley, and joined his two older sisters Jacqueline and Patricia.

He is survived by his father Milton (Eunice), sisters Jackie Perry (John) and Pat Atkinson (Geoff), nieces and nephews Dale (Janice), Kathy, David (Jennifer), Lauren (Tim), and great-nieces Cassidy and Nicole.

Victor was raised on the Conley farm and spent his early summers working there. He attended Mission Central, Mission Junior High, and Mission Senior High schools. His class was among the first to attend the

new Junior High School, and he became its inaugural Student Council president. After graduating from high school, he went to UBC and worked at the Mission Tree Farm for several summers. After graduating, he got a teaching job in East Vancouver, but soon decided that he would rather be coaching or in business.

Twenty-two years ago, Victor and Calvin Holoboff began their business, Gemini Spots Inc./Victor Racquets, importing shuttlecocks, sports equipment and sportswear. The company has expanded considerably since those early days.

Badminton was Victor's main interest throughout his life. He started playing at a young age at the Silverdale Community Hall in a small junior club coached by his father. As he was growing up, he was eager to play in tournaments and was a ranked junior. When older, some of the tournaments he enjoyed playing in included the ones in the Fraser Valley, Nelson, Victoria, Kelowna and Vancouver, as well as the provincials and nationals. He was ranked in the top four singles players in Canada, as well as being ranked for both men's and mixed doubles. He competed internationally in such tournaments as the All-England Badminton Championships, and the USA Open. Victor was a long-time member of the Vancouver Racquets Club and during that time was also a competitive tennis player.

As a coach for Badminton, BC, Victor taught many juniors and adults and, organized provincial coaching tours offering badminton clinics to numerous clubs and schools throughout BC. He was the badminton and tennis professional at the Arbutus Club for many years.

When his mother, Daisy, began experiencing failing health, Victor started helping her with the farm books. After she passed away, he took over the book keeping and became the president of Conley Farms on its incorporation in 1996. He steered the farm successfully through several large expansions and improvements, keeping meticulous records. He had a wonderful grasp of the status of the business at any given time.

Victor passed away at his home on October 24, 2005, of a heart attack. He was very much loved and respected and will be forever in our hearts. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Heart and Stroke Foundation or Badminton BC.

Geoffrey Harold Cushon

MSC'85, PHD'95, RP
Beloved son of Evelyn Cushon and Allan Cushon (deceased 1993), Geoff died unexpectedly on August 10, 2005, in Nanaimo BC. He will be lovingly remembered by his mother, sister Joan, brothers Bob (Liliane) and Jim (Deb), nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and many, many friends.

Geoff was born April 28, 1956, in Winnipeg and grew up in Charleswood. After graduating from Lakehead University in 1980 he went on to UBC and obtained his MSC in Forest Ecology (1985) and PHD in Science Technology and Society Studies (1995).

Geoff's career was devoted to forest ecology in both Canada and the USA. His passion for the environment and nature made his position as Regional Research Ecologist for the coast with British Columbia Forest Service his dream job, where he got paid to visit and explore the beautiful forests of the BC coast he loved so much.

Geoff's friendly and gentle nature, his genuine interest in people, and his love and enthusiasm for children, sports, books and especially for music endeared him to all who knew him. He made deep and enduring friendships wherever he lived, studied, and worked: Winnipeg, Thunder Bay, Vancouver, Smithers, Seattle and Nanaimo. He was a

GEOFF CUSHON



skilled raconteur and even better listener. Geoff always made room for new friends in his already huge circle of close, long-time friends. His friends welcomed him into their families, where he was a brother in spirit and favourite visiting uncle to their children. He loved his family, his many friends and their children, and they loved him.

Memorial donations may be made to a charity that promotes conservation of forests and the natural world, or to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, 200 - 6 Donald St. Winnipeg, MB R3L 0K6.

Michael Cromer BA'95, BED'02

Michael was born on July 4, his father's birthday, the best birthday present his father would ever receive. He grew up in Driftwood, one of the special breed of Driftwood boys. He went to school at Muheim, Chandler Park, and later Smithers Secondary. The nurturing he received at all three schools provided him with a lifelong love of learning, fostered his inquiring mind, and helped give him the confidence that made it possible for him to live his life to the full.

When Michael first left Smithers he entered the Arts program at UBC. The third year of his studies he did in Melbourne, Australia, and later traveled through Australia and Indonesia. He returned to UBC for the final year of his BA. Then he returned to Smithers to work for a year before going to Rutgers University in New York to do a masters degree in history.

After completing his degree, Michael began working for the History Channel. Michael loved the vibrancy of life in New York City and he loved his job, which gave him the opportunity to meet and interview many interesting people. The staff at the History Channel loved Michael too, but unfortunately (due to immigration rules) were unable to offer him a permanent position.

Michael then returned to Smithers for a few months before going to Vancouver to work in the area of history and multi-media. He then decided to follow the family tradition of his grandmother Della Herman and mother Dian Cromer and studied education.

After he completed his education degree he decided he would like to explore another part of the world and applied for a teaching job in London, England. He came back to Smithers and did substitute teach-

ing until the London job started. He spent a year in London and had a wonderful cultural experience exploring galleries and museums and taking in theatre productions. Dian went to visit him in the summer and he enjoyed showing her London before they made a trip to Scotland, where they took in the Fringe Festival.

Following his year in London, Michael returned to Smithers, where he taught part-time and worked on developing materials for the Historica website before returning to UBC to begin his PHD at the Centre for the Study of Historical Consciousness.

Although Michael traveled widely and enjoyed other cultures, he always liked coming back to Driftwood, which he considered his home base. He was very close to his parents, Dian and Bill, and had a special bond with his brother, Jamie, and later his sister-in-law, Lisa. In the last two years he took great pleasure in being Uncle Mikey to Jamie's daughter Eliya.

Michael was a special person who lived his short life fully. He will be lovingly remembered by his family and many friends.

Harlo Lloyd Jones, BA'47

Harlo Jones was born December 29, 1923, at Dinsmore, Sask. He died in Winnipeg October 1, after suffering a stroke. He leaves a son, Maldwyn, and a daughter, Kathryn. He was predeceased by a son and by his wife, Ethel, who died in 2003.

He was a wartime bomber pilot who returned home with tales of daring raids and close calls. It was his good fortune not only to survive but to have the literary skill with which to share his war.

Late in life, Mr. Jones wrote two memoirs, one detailing his military exploits, the other recounting life in a dusty prairie village.

His boyhood reverie was shattered at age 16 by the family's receipt of a telegram in 1940. His older brother, Pilot Officer Dale Jones, 26, had gone missing in action during the evacuation at Dunkirk. Only later did the family learn that he had been shot down and killed.

He was the fourth child born to Luther Ellis Jones, the son of a Nebraska farmer, and Vera Juanita (née Woods), known as Hope, a doctor's daughter. Harlo's father owned a hardware store in Dinsmore, Sask., later adding a showroom from which to sell farm machinery and Model-T Fords.

The Jones family became prominent in the

in MEMORIAM

village as the businesses flourished. Luther Jones introduced electricity to Dinsmore, installing a power plant.

“Squirt” Jones, as Harlo was known in his youth, pumped gas at his father’s business on Saturdays and in the summer. He was so slight that he needed two hands and his full body weight to coax fuel to the top of the pump.

He tried more than once to join the RCAF. His eagerness was not matched by the service’s desire to have him. He was sent away from the Saskatoon recruiting centre with orders to return with two letters of recommendation. He was refused a second time for being too skinny. The dejected would-be pilot returned to his studies at the University of Saskatchewan, where he indulged every fatty food to be found on campus. He was at last accepted by a sympathetic doctor who recorded his weight as 118 pounds, which was stretched over a 5-foot-10 frame.

After training all across Canada he was assigned to No. 408 Squadron at Linton-on-Ouse, Yorkshire. Flying Lancaster and Halifax bombers, Mr. Jones took part in attacks on gun emplacements, buzz-bomb launch sites, night-fighter bases, and troop concentrations around Caen, France, as well as industrial sites in Germany.

War was not without its light moments. When he griped to his girlfriend about chafing to the back of his neck from scanning the skies for fighters, she asked him to turn around, removed her silk panties and then tucked them around his neck. He used her underwear as a scarf on the rest of his missions.

His 32nd and final operation was a bombing run on Karlsruhe, a canal and railway hub. The attack was completed without incident, but, on the return flight to base, ice began to form on an upper gun turret.

The gunner, who was new, began to panic; he had been the sole survivor of a crew that crashed from icing. Order aboard the bomber was restored only after the newcomer was knocked unconscious with a fire extinguisher.

“We made it back to base without further difficulty, landed, taxied into dispersal and got out of the airplane,” Mr. Jones wrote. “I knelt and kissed the oil-soaked, pissed-on



BILL WEBBER

asphalt. My tour was over. I was 24 days short of my 21st birthday.”

He was promoted to flight lieutenant on the day of his release.

After the war, he joined a geological survey crew working in the Manitoba bush north of Flin Flon, where he received a telegram informing him that he had been awarded the DFC.

In 1946, he married Ethel Cloake, a nursing student whom he had met on a blind date on New Year’s Eve, 1941. He earned a bachelor of arts at the University of British Columbia, and then worked as a reporter at the Vancouver Sun before joining the Edmonton Bulletin.

He was in the Bulletin newsroom one day in 1949 when a bell on the teletype machine heralded a news flash. A fire had destroyed several businesses on Main Street in Dinsmore. “There go my father’s buildings,” he told fellow deskers.

The war veteran rejoined the RCAF in 1950, spending another 20 years in uniform. He then worked for three years as a manager at a Winnipeg hospital.

In retirement, he and his wife travelled extensively. He also returned to writing, winning a short-story contest sponsored by CBC Radio. He also published two memoirs, *O Little Town: Remembering Life in a Prairie Village* (University of Manitoba Press, 1995) and *Bomber Pilot: A Canadian Youth’s War* (Vanwell Publishing, 2001).

—reprinted from the *Toronto Globe and Mail*

William Webber, MD’58, LL.D’00

One of UBC’s best loved teachers passed away in late January of complications from a stroke suffered three weeks earlier.

He graduated in 1958 as Gold Medallist in the faculty of Medicine, then attended Cornell for his internship and post-doctoral training. He returned to UBC in 1961 in the department of Anatomy, with research interest in the structure and function of the kidney. He was an exceptional teacher – he taught gross anatomy, neuroanatomy, histology and embryology – and was recognized throughout his career for his skills in the classroom and lab, and for his dedication to his students’ needs. When he received his honorary degree in 2000, he was acknowledged for having “impacted the careers of hundreds of medical and dental students in this province and inspired even more to greatness.”

Bill was also a dedicated volunteer. He served on the executive of the Faculty Association, and was a member of the university’s Senate for many years.

He was appointed associate dean in 1971, then dean in 1977. UBC’s teaching hospital was opened during his tenure as dean. He served in that position for 13 years until he was appointed associate vice president academic in 1990, which he held until 1996.

His leadership helped create many UBC programs including the Centre for Faculty Development and Instructional Services, the Faculty Mentor program and the First Nations House of Learning and the Disability Centre. He was also active in professional bodies locally and nationally, serving on the boards and medical advisory committees of a number of Vancouver hospitals, and played a major role in integrating the teaching hospitals into UBC’s academic and research activities.

He was also active in the community, serving leadership roles with the Osler Society, the Vancouver Institute and others. He was a passionate soccer player and fan, and the “Webber Boot” was created by medical students for the annual medical school soccer tournament, a testament to the affection students held for their dean.

In spite of all his accomplishments, he counted his greatest success to be his role as teacher and mentor to students during his 44 years at UBC.

He was also active in the Medical Alumni Association, and was on the organizing committee to establish the Medical Student and Alumni Centre, located at VGH.

His legacy will be honoured through the recently established William Webber Lecture in Medical Education. His family requests that donations be made in his name to the faculty. ■

MAYA SINCLAIRE has always had dreams, and step-by-step goals to achieve them. In her early years, her dreams and goals were aimed at escaping the Communist repression in her homeland, Czechoslovakia. When she finally got off the plane in Vancouver in 1984 at the age of 21, Maya was dumbstruck. “It was like that cartoon you see where the fish cut a hole in the tank and they’re now flopping on the table and one is saying to the other, ‘Now what?’”

She had picked up a few English words in textbooks in her homeland, but she soon learned they were useless. “They were all British words, like ‘lorry.’”

But her goal was to earn her college degree. “When I left, against my parents wishes, my father yelled at me, ‘You’ll never make it without us! You’ll never go to college!’”

Once in Vancouver, unable to speak English, she found a job at a Czech restaurant, waiting tables. “When Canadians came in they had to point at what they wanted on the menu. They were all making fun of me,” she said.

She wasn’t able to save any money for college from her minimum wage job, so she took up a loan and went to UBC.

She worked her way through college and earned her degree in agriculture, and set her sites on becoming a veterinarian.

“But I soon realized I was getting too old to end up with huge veterinary school debts. It didn’t make any sense,” says Maya, now 42.

She got a job as a research assistant at a lab in Vancouver, but her head was still full of her dreams and goals. Maya had always thought of new ways to do everyday tasks – so it occurred to her: she’d become a full time inventor. She was determined to come up with one new idea every day.

Her most successful invention to date, and the one closest to being marketed is the AQUABlanket. “For people who like

Reinventing Herself

Maya Sinclair, BSC’92



Maya Sinclair shows off her invention, the AQUABlanket.

to relax in the bathtub and maybe read a book, the water gets cold very quickly. There are covers for swimming pools. Why not a cover for a bathtub? So I created this insulated blanket that floats on the top of your bath water. The blanket even supports your reading material.”

She came up with the idea, where else? In the bathtub. “That’s where I do all my thinking and reading,” she says.

She has many other inventions at various stages of the marketing process. For example, the Kite Control Anchor, which can be used to guide up to three kites at

once – a boon for kite enthusiasts and also a potential source of propulsion for ships.

“At first, I thought I needed to invent revolutionary things. Now I see that the way to get ahead is to take something people already use and improve it. So many brilliant inventors died penniless, and then 50 years later their inventions were accepted by society. I’m not going to be poor. I’m going to be a rich inventor.” ■

For a look at Maya’s invention (and to view her marketing video) visit www.aquablanket.com. – John Draper

One for the Heart



Artist's rendering of the UBC Alumni Centre.

REMEMBER YOUR FIRST DAYS ON CAMPUS?

Beautiful view, right? But big. Many of us felt disoriented and lost in the great maze of buildings, oddly-named streets (East Mall? There's no mall here!), unfamiliar faces and the challenge of getting across campus from one class to the next in seven minutes flat.

By second year we finally felt in the groove, and by fourth year it was a bit comical watching the freshmen running around in circles. But by then there were friends and familiar profs, a favourite spot beside the pool tables in The Pit, and a sense that this, finally, was our place.

After grad, some of us stayed in touch with university friends and the odd prof, but over the years UBC, both the place and the intellectual hothouse, became an old memory. Then, when we came back years later, the old feeling of strangeness and disorientation came back with us. It just wasn't our place any more.

Part of what we do at UBC Alumni Affairs is develop programs and events that help reconnect you to both the place and the people, and that help current students – our alumni in residence – feel good about reconnecting later in life. One way of doing that is to make sure you have a place here that you can call your own. We're aiming to create a such a space on campus for students and alumni that will always feel like "home." This space is the UBC Alumni Centre.

Central, familiar and inviting, the UBC Alumni Centre will

provide alumni a warm and welcoming space that makes it possible to plug into the campus quickly and easily. It will be located in the heart of UBC Vancouver, distinctive and green-engineered, a landmark that will be easy to find no matter what changes have occurred on the rest of campus. It will provide a place to get oriented and meet or celebrate life's milestones. It will contain links to UBC's past and information about its future.

The UBC Alumni Centre will include a welcome area with a staffed reception desk, social meeting areas, a wide variety of meeting rooms for large events and small volunteer committees, a café where you can meet friends for the start of day or for an afternoon glass of merlot, a library with alumni-written books, copies of archival and current publications and a Hall of Fame where you can enjoy images and materials from our collective past.

Alumni Affairs staff and volunteers have visited alumni centres in Canada, the US, Asia and elsewhere, and are researching key elements that make for a successful and engaging space. We are also assembling a team of volunteers headed by Alumni Association board member Mark Mawhinney, BA'94, to assist with planning, implementation, and fundraising.

If you would like to become involved, or if you have some suggestions for how the space should work, please contact Barney Ellis-Perry, BA'87, Director Professional Affairs, Alumni Affairs, at 604-822-1922 or barney.ellis-perry@ubc.ca.

And prepare to engage. ■

THANKS TO ALL OUR SPONSORS FOR HELPING US ILLUMINATE UBC'S ACHIEVERS AT THE 2005 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS DINNER. THANKS ALSO TO OUR VOLUNTEER DINNER COMMITTEE, OUR AMAZING AWARD WINNERS AND ALL OF YOU WHO ATTENDED, MAKING THIS THE MOST SUCCESSFUL EVENT IN THE DINNER'S 11 YEAR HISTORY.

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