

ISSUE #27

27

SUMMER 2010



TREK

THE MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



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Cover: “This image was shot in Inner Mongolia province shortly after I moved to China. The truck was a tourist vehicle that was stuck in the sand.” See “Rowat’s Route,” page 12.

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What the Trek?

Trek Magazine caption competition

Here’s another image to test your comedic creativity. Send your captions to Vanessa Clarke at vanessa.clarke@ubc.ca or to the mailing address at the right, by September 15. No more than three entries per person. And remember, folks – there’s a UBC travel mug at stake. (Photo courtesy UBC Library Archives)



Last issue's winner:

Lucky Chris Thompson, BA(hons)'03, has won a brand new UBC alumni travel mug for his caption to accompany the photo that ran in the spring issue:

“Despite showing heart, the engineering kissing booth fails to earn a single dime.”

The photo was actually taken at a mechanical engineering open house in 1949.

TREK 27

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VACUUM CLEANERS, AMAZING PEOPLE *and the* NAMING OF THINGS

Walking out of my office the other day, I spotted an industrial vacuum cleaner sitting by the exit door, looking like an orange version of R2-D2. It was late, and the custodian was waiting to clean up the debris of another day of alumni engagement. Written on the machine with a felt pen was the name “Cecil Green.” Cecil Green, one of the founders of Texas Instruments and an early student of UBC (he finished his degree at MIT), bought the old mansion that is my office building and donated it to the university as a town-and-gown centre way back in 1968. It was renamed “Cecil Green Park House” in his honour. So, apparently, was the vacuum cleaner.

If you come to UBC to visit the Development Office or Continuing Studies, you will park your car in a little lot under a building on University Boulevard. When you go into the refuge space to take the elevator up, you’ll see a large grey garbage bin with the name “David Strangway” written in felt pen on the side. David Strangway was president of UBC from 1985 to 1997, and the building was named in honour of all the things he did for the university. So, apparently, was the garbage bin.

UBC’s campuses are full of named buildings and, one presumes, named utility items that float around in them. The Fipke Centre at the UBC Okanagan campus is likely to have an AV cart, a mop pail and a set of brooms all named “Fipke,” without a hint of irony.

There are vacuum cleaners and dustbins called “Aquatic Centre,” “Chemistry” and “University Centre” as much as there are ones called “Gage,” “Belkin,” “Koerner” and “Scarfe.” A building is just a building whatever it’s called. That’s the risk donors and VIPs take when they allow their names to be used on buildings.

The other thing that happens to the name on a building is that it undergoes a subtle change from subject to object, as in “Cecil Green was a great philanthropist,” to “Joan is getting married at Cecil Green.” I, for instance, often go to meetings at Strangway, have a snack at Ike Barber, catch a play at Freddy Wood, hear some music at the Chan and visit a friend at MacMillan. Imagine if you stopped being a person and became a brick, or worse: “Hey Fred! Pass me the ‘Chris Petty.’ I need to unplug this toilet!”

In this issue of *Trek Magazine*, we have included the first of an ongoing series on UBC’s named buildings in an effort to put the person back in the construction. From Abdul Ladha (a student science centre) to Charles Woodward (a medical library), the men and women referenced in UBC’s buildings represent an amazing assortment of people, and offer up a fascinating history of the university. The next time I see “Cecil Green” sucking dust off the stairs up to the second floor, I’ll think instead about the charming old gent who, in 1968, looked at the ocean panorama from the balcony and said to Bill Gibson, “Now there’s a million dollar view!”

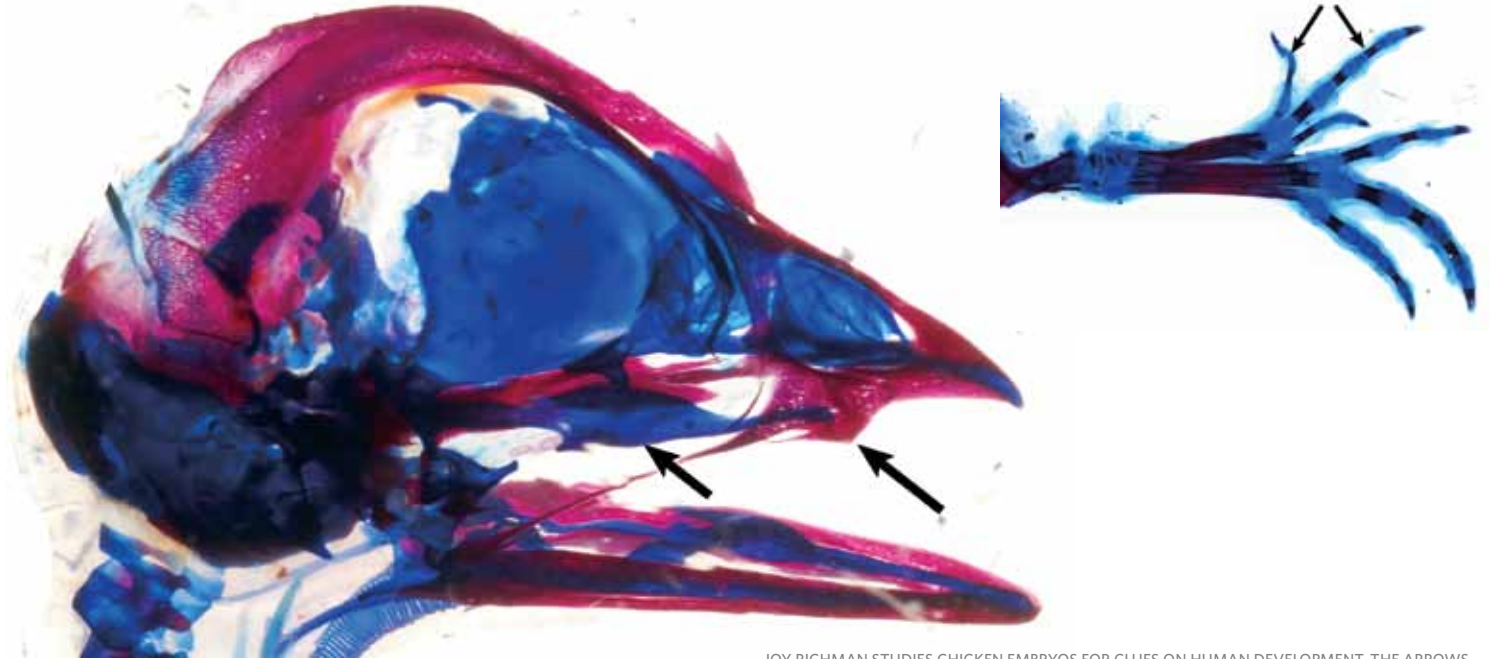
Elsewhere in this issue we’ve included a pictorial spread on the work of an alumnus who makes his living as a travel photographer. We don’t usually dedicate so much space to imagery (being a wordy bunch), but we were so impressed with this portfolio we couldn’t help ourselves. You’ll also find the usual features as well as articles about and by UBC people, some of whom may well become UBC vacuum cleaners.

We hope you enjoy *Trek 27*.

Chris Petty, *MFA’86, Editor in Chief*

TAKE NOTE

Take Note is edited from material that appears in other campus communications, including *UBC Reports*. We thank Public Affairs for allowing us to use their material.



JOY RICHMAN STUDIES CHICKEN EMBRYOS FOR CLUES ON HUMAN DEVELOPMENT. THE ARROWS INDICATE WHERE EXTRA BEAK PARTS AND TOES DEVELOPED AFTER INTRODUCING A FOREIGN GENE.

MAN, MOUSE OR JUST PLAIN CHICKEN?

At the embryo stage, humans, mice and chickens apparently have a lot in common. Their faces, at least, are similar enough to allow Joy Richman to study chicken embryos to learn more about the development of the human face. Richman is a pediatric dentist and development biologist. Her work will provide new understanding around facial abnormalities such as cleft palate, today affecting one in 700 babies born.

“The chicken embryo is ideal to unravel these mysteries,” says Richman, who literally cuts postage-stamp sized windows into eggs that allow her to peer inside to the developing embryos with a microscope.

Many animal faces start out as a rudimentary oral cavity surrounded by buds of tissue called prominences that develop into a face. Richman is trying to discover what it is that, at the molecular level, stimulates indistinct cells to form specific structures of the face. To help, she has been awarded \$900,000 from the Canadian

Institutes of Health Research.

Prior to receiving her grant, Richman had established that jaw development is linked to the presence of retinoic acid, a vitamin A derivative and a protein linked to bone formation. She did this by inserting beads containing the acid into a chicken embryo, which subsequently developed bones that would become a beak, where normally there would be cheek bones.

Now she is investigating the genes that play a role in forming the centre of the face. She has already discovered a gene of interest “because it makes a protein that is secreted outside the cell and as such could play a pivotal role. It may act as an orchestrator, directing nearby cells into required patterns.” The protein is strongly turned on during beak development, and placing a gene for the protein in an embryo caused the growth of an extra beak. Ongoing research will further determine the protein’s role in forming face and limbs.

“Our work will shed light on inherited birth defects that affect the skeleton including cleft lip,

jaw size and shape abnormalities, and disturbances in the bones of the hands and feet,” says Richman. “Our results may also one day help to improve healing after injuries to the skeleton.”

STUDENTS GIVE LOCALS THE BUSINESS

The world of business loves a win-win situation, and that’s exactly what the Management Student Consulting Project at UBC Okanagan has achieved over the past few months.

Fourth year management students participate in the program as a mandatory element of their studies. It requires them to test out their budding expertise in the real world by offering free consultation to local businesses.

Local firms and organizations benefit from a broad range of consultation skills, including business research, market studies, financial analysis, and creative solutions for unique or common businesses challenges.

It is a valuable relationship for both the university and local business, showcasing the skills of students who will soon be ready to start

their careers, and giving the latter some practical insights and valuable contacts.

So far, more than 100 students and 34 businesses and organizations have participated. The service is offered in the spring and fall terms. Interested parties can contact Professor Ian Stuart at ian.stewart@ubc.ca to find out more.

BIPEDS, BUSES AND BIKES

🔹 Transit use for students at the Okanagan campus has increased by 10 per cent since the U-Pass (a mandatory discount universal transit pass voted in by a majority of students in 2006) was introduced.

The U-Pass program aims to decrease congestion, pollution, and demand for parking space, while increasing access to affordable, sustainable transport services.

It is one of a few incentives, including a less-than-popular hike in parking costs, to encourage more people to leave their cars at home for the daily commute to campus. A new Bus Rapid Transit System service from West Kelowna is due to kick in at the start of the school year this fall, to serve the hundreds of students living in that vicinity.

The university also has its sights set on commuter cycling and is hoping for continued support from the city to make it a viable option. “It is really dangerous to come up Highway 97,” says head of Campus and Community Planning Nancy Knight. “In particular there is one small bridge as you come to campus that you can’t negotiate safely. We need to find a safer way.”

The U-Pass program began in the 1970s and is now in operation at more than 100 universities and colleges across North America. It was introduced at UBC Vancouver in 2003.

The U-Pass is just one of several sustainability initiatives introduced at the Okanagan campus that recently helped it earn a City of Kelowna Mayor’s Environmental Achievement Award for outstanding commitment to environmental stewardship. It came top in the category for Most Sustainable Development.

“Arts and cultural activities are at the heart of communities – they make communities more attractive places to live, they help bring a community to life, they define a community’s unique characteristics, they attract tourists and they help communities compete economically around the world.”

THE CANADA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS

ARTFUL IMPACT

🔹 A geography professor at UBC’s Okanagan campus has tallied the impact of the arts on Kelowna’s economy and come up with some big figures. Bernard Momer led a survey that calculated an annual economic impact by the creative sector of \$143.8 million.

The survey also established that Kelowna has nearly double the per capita workers (7.3 per 1000) in the creative field than Richmond, and its creative sector generates \$338 per inhabitant, compared with \$200 in Richmond.

There were also less quantifiable value factors from the creative sector that the survey did not cover, such as a greater sense of prestige, educational outcomes and bequests.

Momer says he hopes the report will generate attention for the creative sector and its contribution to the community and provide a stepping stone for further research.

GREENING THE CITY

🔹 UBC is a microcosm of what a green city could look like. The university’s Vancouver campus has achieved Kyoto Protocol targets years ahead of schedule and is a showcase for the latest in green building technologies and other initiatives. Now the city has come on board with UBC president Stephen Toope and Vancouver mayor Gregor Robertson signing an agreement to try out some of those measures on a city scale.

Vancouver will also benefit from one of the university’s most precious resources: its students. UBC is providing a grant to fund ten grad students who will lend their expertise to realizing the city’s goals for sustainability, climate action and a green economy laid out in its 2020 Plan.

GEN X TIME CAPSULE

🔹 Douglas Coupland, who received an honorary degree from UBC this May, has entrusted extensive archival material to the university’s library. He will continue adding to the collection as his life and work progress. The records date back more than 30 years and include manuscripts, photos, visual art, fan mail, correspondence, press clippings and more.

Although best known as an author who coined the expression Generation X, Coupland is also a graphic designer, visual artist, journalist, playwright and filmmaker. The collection, which includes about 30 metres-worth of textual materials, fills 122 boxes.

“I am honoured that UBC has accepted my papers. I hope that within them, people in the future will find patterns and constellations that can’t be apparent to me or to anyone simply because they are there, and we are here,” says Coupland. “The donation process makes me feel old and yet young at the same time. I’m deeply grateful for UBC’s support and enthusiasm.”

TACKLING THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF DISEASE

🔹 Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) is a term used by the World Health Organization in reference to about 15 infections affecting more than one billion people. Funding to combat them is mostly aimed at developing pharmacological treatments, but UBC experts in public health and international development are calling for a portion of funding to be set aside for tackling the broader social determinants behind these diseases.

“The pharmaceutical initiatives have largely ignored other manifestations of neglect, such as weak health systems and poor socio-

environmental conditions that cause and perpetuate NTDs,” says Jerry Spiegel, who was lead author of an article on the subject published in online journal *PLoS Medicine*.

The billion affected belong, in the main, to poor and rural populations in the developing world with limited or difficult access to clean water, sanitation and medicine. Spiegel and colleagues from the faculties of Medicine and Pharmaceutical Sciences and the College of Interdisciplinary Studies favour a model that adequately deals with the social conditions under which these diseases thrive, what they refer to as a social offset in research.

MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS

🔹 As someone who lived in Britain when the government installed closed circuit television in public places, and in New York for 9/11 and the resulting security measures, Professor Ben Goold has a personal as well as academic interest in how we balance society’s legitimate interest in security with a commitment to individual privacy. Goold joined UBC’s faculty of Law from Oxford University in January. He specializes in surveillance technology, civil liberties and law. “Other countries need not follow the example of Britain’s CCTV and America’s Patriot Act,” he says. “The benefit of hindsight allows us to make more informed decisions.”

From Facebook privacy settings to the dozen or so CCTV monitors still in use after the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, privacy and its infringement is an issue that increasingly crops up and about which there needs to be clarity if we want a rational approach to securing our streets and our nation.

Goold has been an advisor to European government agencies around issues of balancing public safety and privacy. He believes cost, effectiveness and social ramifications should be carefully explored before investing in new surveillance technologies. “Surveillance technologies have the potential to undermine the relationships between individuals and the state,” says Goold. “In the UK we have seen CCTV cameras transform busy and vibrant streets into heavily monitored spaces in which young people and visible minorities are likely to be the main focus of attention. You need to ask, ‘would adding police officers be more effective from a cost and community perspective, given the actual risk?’”

- PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE -



The International Imperative

Stephen J. Toope, President, UBC

Those of us who believe in the importance of post secondary education are quick to point out the benefits a large research institution such as UBC brings to its community. We use phrases like “economic engine” and “community partnership” to describe the vital relationships that grow between a university and the local community it serves. UBC has a profound impact on the Lower Mainland and the Okanagan, as an employer, as a generator of economic opportunity, as a provider of knowledge, as a trainer of tomorrow’s professionals.

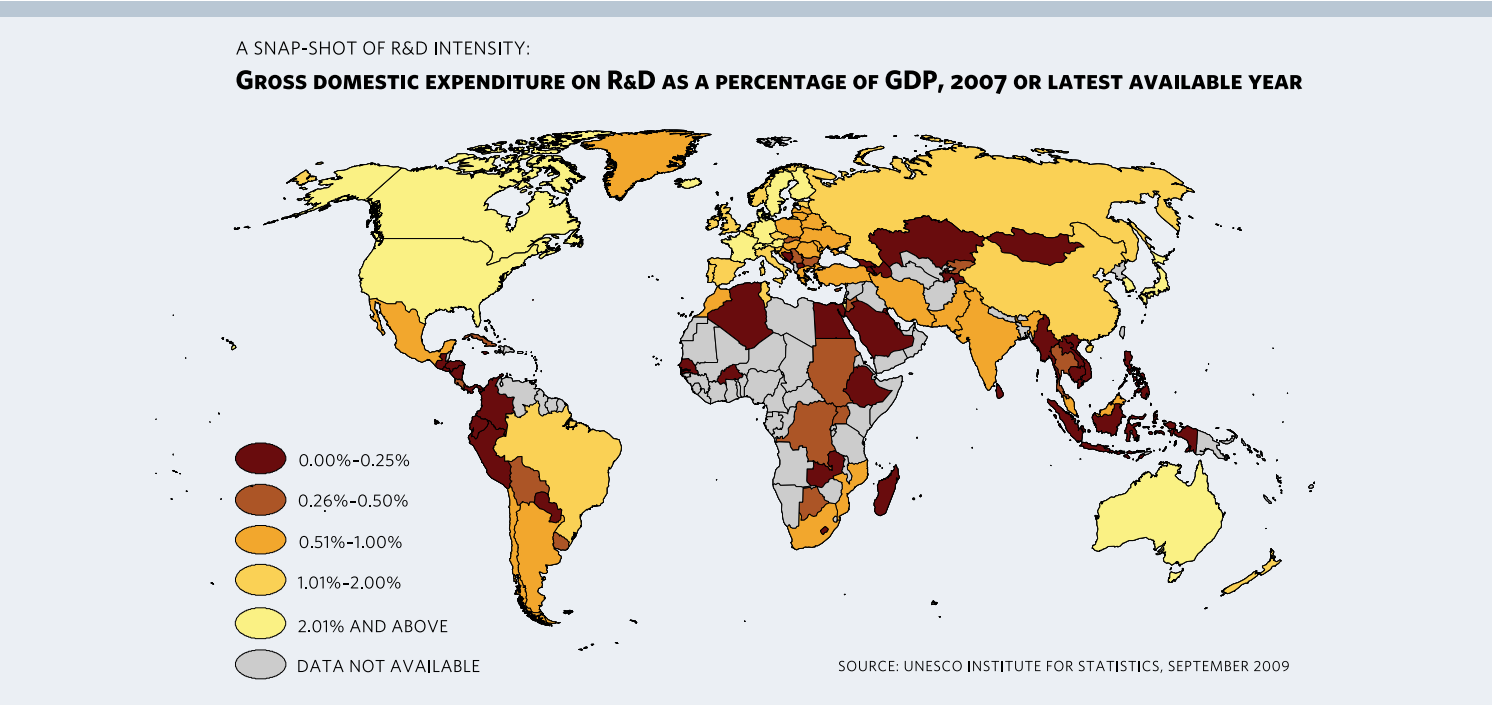
Just as vital, however, are the benefits that result from UBC’s interaction with the rest of the world. Many of the challenges we face today cannot be addressed completely on the local level. Climate change, disease control, environmental degradation and a host of other world problems need solutions that cross borders and disciplines. Social problems, too, such as inequality, poverty and political corruption need a global perspective if the ills these create are to be lessened. Institutions like UBC have the capacity, the academic freedom and the responsibility to pursue solutions to the world’s larger issues.

This university attracts talented faculty, researchers and students from every continent. As well, inter-university research agreements, collaborations among colleagues from institutions around the world, and exchange programs for students, faculty and staff, make UBC a hub of intellectual, social and cultural interchange. Add to that the thousands of UBC graduates now living and working abroad, and it’s clear that a great university builds a complex series of synergies among communities and continents.

One of the most important benefits of our focus on international connections is the experience, insight and learning it allows our students. International service-learning is a program by which students, faculty and staff become involved in projects to develop opportunities in the developing world. One great example of this is Project GROW.

The Ghana Rural Opportunities for Women project was started by students, staff and faculty at UBC’s Okanagan campus. It works with a cooperative of 120 women from two villages in rural Ghana who have designed the program and its objectives. GROW is led by UBC alumna and current PhD student Vida Yakong. (Regular *Trek Magazine* readers may remember that Ms Yakong was named Outstanding Future Alumna at last year’s Alumni Achievement Awards event.) The project is based on the idea that villagers have the necessary skills and knowledge that can build better lives for them and their families, but lack the resources to put that knowledge to work. The women in the cooperative set out a list of tangible objectives – donkeys, carts, malaria nets, grinding mills, a plough – needed to develop income-generating activities in their own communities. UBCO’s project participants help fundraise for these tools, and nursing students from UBCO deliver them to villages when they go to Ghana each year to work with local nurses in the region.

This project embodies the ideals of international engagement at UBC: Faculty, staff, students and alumni joining together with collaborators around the world to achieve positive results. Over the next few years, you will see an increase in this kind of activity as UBC becomes, more and more, a globally influential university.



One major argument in support of CCTV is that it deters crime, but the stats don’t back this up entirely. “CCTV can help deter crimes committed by people in rational states, like shoplifting and car theft, but not spur-of-the-moment violent crimes or other offences committed due to the influence of drugs or alcohol.”

Goold warns against hasty implementation of security measures. “If you don’t take the time to get things right from the beginning, that’s when problems occur, such as overzealous policing, violations of individual privacy and the loss of sensitive personal data.”

BIG PLANS FOR OKANAGAN CAMPUS

● UBC’s Okanagan campus is set to double in size with the \$8.78-million purchase of 256 acres of farmland, located between the current campus and Glenmore Road to the west. The city and the university plan to create a public trail across the new property and protect its two bodies of water, Roberts Lake and a smaller pond. The land acquisition is a major milestone in the rapidly evolving campus landscape. In the five years since UBC has had a presence in the region, more than \$400 million has been spent on academic and residential buildings.

ACCESSIBLE SCIENCE INITIATIVE

● The Accessible Science Initiative is a UBC student-driven effort that seeks to address limited opportunity for science education and research in developing nations, where funding, equipment and other resources can be lacking. It evolved from the observation by international and domestic UBC students that developed nations put more resources into science and biotechnology, resulting in positive health and socio-economic outcomes.

The students set out to address this imbalance and promote science and biotechnology by collecting equipment and books to donate, improving access to knowledge and creating opportunities for collaboration. The ultimate goal is for developing nations to have the capacity to tackle their own socio-economic challenges.

ASI volunteers will promote the importance of science literacy at a general public level, as well as connect with elementary and secondary schools to establish science learning projects that are culturally relevant to encourage interest and involvement among the younger generations.

Contact will be in person as well as over the internet and ASI hopes to involve UBC people from many disciplines and stages of career development, from undergrads to seasoned faculty members. The organization will also advocate for open access scientific publishing.

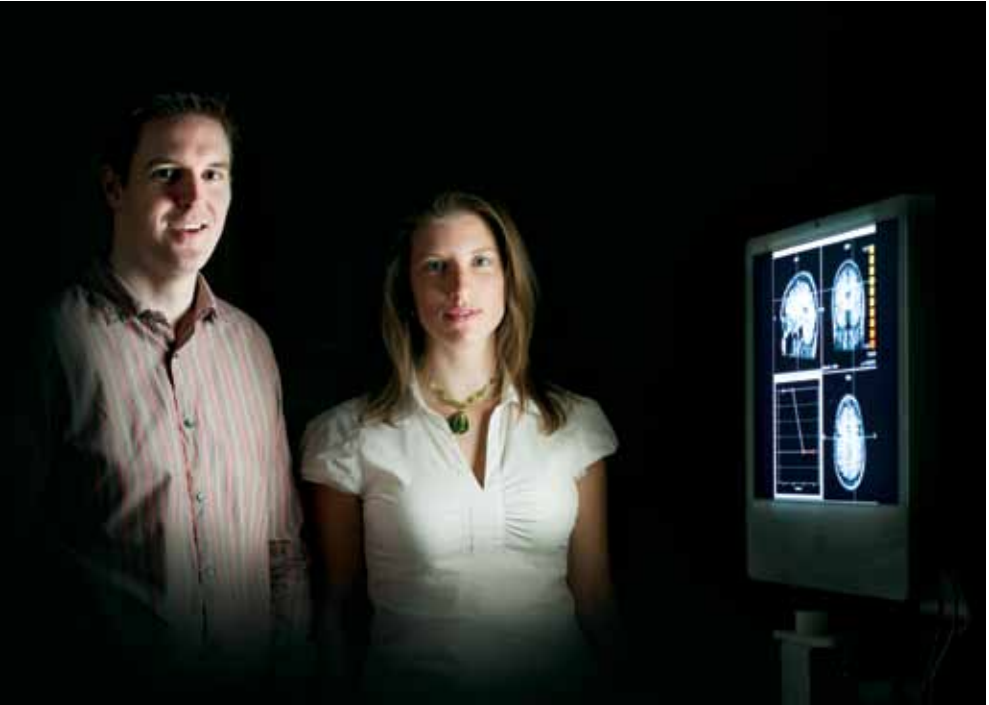
The pilot project will be in collaboration with the University of Tolima in Colombia. ASI hopes to provide the equipment and training to set up an enduring science program there, one which will serve as a model for other institutions in the region. Eight ASI volunteers will travel to Colombia in August, after months of fundraising and hard work.

The initiative is well-supported by UBC faculty and operated through the university’s Centre for International Health.

LAW GETS STRATEGIC

● With the release of the university’s strategic plan last year (see www.strategicplan.ubc.ca), many faculties and units (including the Alumni Association) have followed suit with strategic plans of their own. While “strategic plan” may be the “total quality management” or “Web 2.0” buzz phrase of the day, producing one does help an organization better understand its strengths and weaknesses, and gives it a chance to focus on both philosophical and tactical approaches to improving its productivity.

UBC’s Faculty of Law is the most recent unit to undergo the self analysis, and the current draft is ready for law grads (and interested others) to weigh in on. Visit www.law.ubc.ca/strategic_plan/ and let your views be known.



SEAN MEEHAN AND JODI EDWARDS ARE SHEDDING LIGHT ON WHAT HAPPENS AFTER A MAJOR STROKE.

STROKE RESEARCH

● The results of two studies involving patients who have survived severe strokes indicate that rehabilitation strategies for such patients need to be improved.

PhD student Jodi Edwards discovered that although more Canadians are surviving severe strokes, they are experiencing poorer quality of life after the event. Her study was published in the May issue of the journal *Stroke*.

Post-doctoral fellow Sean Meehan established that survivors of severe stroke use the prefrontal cortex area of the brain when learning new movements, to compensate for damage to the normally-involved motor region.

“Jodi’s study tells us that quality of life after stroke has decreased in the past decade,” says her supervisor, Lara Boyd, Canada Research Chair in Neurobiology of Motor Learning. “A potential reason for this decline is that while we’re good at rehabilitating patients who have suffered mild to moderately severe strokes, we have very little to offer the increasing numbers of Canadians who have survived a severe stroke.

But Sean’s study is pointing to ways to make a major impact in post-stroke care.”

Edwards analyzed public health statistics from 1996-2005, a period when there were many advances in early-intervention treatment for severe stroke. Meehan studied functional magnetic resonance imaging results from health subjects and stroke patients to compare which parts of the brain were engaged in performing new tasks.

“This new information on how the brain compensates for damage suggests two potential strategies for rehabilitation: We could work on restoring the original brain function before the stroke occurred, or by promoting this new pathway,” says Meehan, who is Edwards’ lab mate and also supervised by Boyd.

“The convergence of these findings from seemingly divergent areas of research is telling us that the brain isn’t working in compartments with each area taking charge of certain functions that may be irrevocably damaged by injury or disease,” says Boyd. “Rather, the different domains of the brain are inter-related and may work together to take on new challenges.”

What is Professor Toope Reading?

Beatrice and Virgil Yann Martel
(ALFRED A. KNOPE, 2010)

A taxidermist is writing a play about human attacks on animal biodiversity, using the Holocaust as an allegory. Can any author, no matter how gifted, deal creatively with the hardest and cruelest moments of twentieth-century history? One thing is certain: Martel is courageous.

The Idea of Justice Amartya Sen
(HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2009)

Building on John Rawls enormously influential explanation of justice, the Nobel prize-winning economist undertakes to remove justice from the realm of the ideal and to place it in the real life of societies trying to develop and to provide better lives for millions of people. Challenging and brilliant.

Why Beauty Is Truth Ian Stewart
(BASIC BOOKS, 2007)

A distinguished mathematician explains the fundamental concept of symmetry by tracing the history of mathematical thought through the lives of key theorists from Babylonian to modern times. Some difficult equations, but Stewart makes the story lively and he does not expect much background knowledge. A surprisingly good read.

BUILDING THE ARC

● The Arc Initiative is the symbolic name of a new project devised and brought into being by Sauder School of Business student Thato Makgolane and accounting professor Jeff Kroeker. This July they were in Phalaborwa in South Africa for the pilot project, along with a group of Sauder School students, faculty and alumni.

In exchange for offering a four-day MBA-style workshop to the local business community, Sauder placed its students in some local tourism and food production businesses for a six-week co-op term, during which they gained first-hand knowledge doing business in another country.



THATO MAKGOLANE IS SETTING UP LINKS BETWEEN UBC AND HIS HOMETOWN IN SOUTH AFRICA.

“We like to say we’re building a bridge,” says Kroeker. “The knowledge flows in both directions.” Hence the project’s name. The aim is not to give or take, but to share and learn.

Makgolane, a Phalaborwa native, left his home five years ago to attend school. “Growing up in Phalaborwa I had lots of mentors and people supporting me, and I felt a responsibility to give back,” he says. “I’ve been looking for ways and opportunities to connect my experiences at UBC and Sauder with my town.”

The project in Phalaborwa is in collaboration with an already-present local NGO, the Palabora Foundation. This will help to ensure the longevity of the exchange. “When we leave South Africa, the project isn’t over,” says Kroeker. “We want to keep talking with our partners and we want students and alumni to return. The key to

making it sustainable is to have this partnership with the foundation.” The students are also raising seed money to support the top two in a competition for best business proposal.

Kroeker plans to start a similar exchange project in Ethiopia next year, again working with local NGOs. The Arc Initiative has also sought the collaboration of UBC’s Go Global Program, which organizes international learning opportunities for students. Arc is one of 11 International Service Programs taking place over the summer, involving 56 students.

Michael Bae, fourth-year student team leader for the South Africa project explains why he’s doing it: “Collaboration is how international business is happening all over the world. I’m interested in doing business on a global level once I graduate.” ●

- ASSOCIATION CHAIR'S MESSAGE -

Raising the Alumni Barn

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



Back in the days when most Canadians lived in rural areas, communities depended heavily on volunteers to do some of the bigger jobs. When a farmer needed a new barn (or a community needed a new school, hall or gathering place), friends and neighbours would come from miles around to pitch in. Over the course of a couple of days, a foundation would be laid, boards would be cut, walls put up, floors put down and, finally, a roof would be raised over the whole enterprise.

These events became memorable parties for everyone involved: kids met other kids from farms miles away; families shared food and recipes; men and women deepened bonds that often stretched over generations; and everyone learned the value of community collaboration.

We don’t raise barns together anymore but the urge to pitch in hasn’t gone away. Canadians rank at the top of the world’s volunteers: in a recent poll, over 40 per cent of Canadian adults indicated they volunteered in some way – coaching kids’ sports, mentoring, providing health care, raising funds, etc. Another survey indicates that 84 per cent of Canadians make a financial contribution to a charity every year.

A good example of this predilection among Canadians to “give something back” to the larger community has shown itself right here at the Alumni

Association. Recently, the university’s Board of Governors gave the go-ahead for the initial design work for the UBC Alumni Centre on University Boulevard.

Careful readers of *Trek Magazine* will remember a request in the Winter 2006 issue for alumni to help get a new alumni centre project started. The idea took hold, driven largely by alumni volunteers who spent countless hours consulting with university space planners and architects, working with staff on various committees, navigating challenges and, simply, persevering. Five years later there is a compelling vision, strong collaboration and a clear path forward.

Located at the heart of campus, close to parking and transit, the Alumni Centre will be the first point of entry for grads coming back to campus for events, volunteer opportunities or just to revisit old haunts. It will present displays of UBC history; provide research, study and meeting space for alumni and students; offer room for large gatherings (such as the Achievement Awards celebrations); and be a place alumni can call home on the Vancouver campus.

Over the next few months you will hear more about the Alumni Centre. You will be invited to help us raise the “alumni barn” with your financial support and with your ideas about activities in the centre and the kinds of services you would find worthwhile. We very much want this to be a community project.

I can’t talk to you about volunteers without mentioning the amazing contributions made to UBC by the members of the Alumni Association’s Board of Directors and the many committees involved. Over the past five years I’ve had the privilege of serving with a group of dedicated, enthusiastic and tireless people, all willing to give their time and talent to serve their alma mater and their fellow alumni. As my term as chair expires in September, I offer them, and the Association’s professional staff, my heartfelt thanks for their support and hard work.

If all of us come together and raise our new barn, the Alumni Centre will open in the Spring of 2013. Tuum est!

PHOTO: THATO MAKOLANE



Cadborosaurus Ed

Friends tell me they enjoyed reading about my interest in Cadborosaurus in the latest *Trek*. I regret that there was no mention of Ed Bousfield, my co-author in the scientific and popular descriptions of Caddy. Ed is a prominent marine taxonomist and a fellow member of the Royal Society of Canada. His collaboration brought a high level of scientific legitimacy to our enquiry.

Paul LeBlond, PhD’64

Good Memories

Thank you for a superb edition of *Trek* which brought back many good memories of UBC and my years at the Alumni Association (especially Blythe Eagles who spent lots of time at Cecil Green Park after he retired). I did enjoy reading about Marie Earl, who sounds like the most amazing presence. The Association was fortunate to have her there at such a key time. I was thrilled that two other interests – the Botanical Garden and the Museum of Anthropology – were highlighted as, living on Vancouver Island, I lose touch with what is happening there.

Keep up the fantastic work.

Barbara Vitols, BA’61

TREK Online:

Surveys tell us that alumni, 50-plus, like to read their magazines in print. They also tell us that 20-35-year olds are, increasingly, moving to electronic versions of their favourite publications.



MOA-Better Captions

Congratulations on the recent issue of *Trek*; just received and devoured. I remember the Old Auditorium from the early ’70s when, as MA students in the geography department just across the way, a gaggle of us would troop over mid-morning for coffee and at lunchtime for Chinese noodles and all the fixings. When I was on campus in January to give a seminar in art history, I walked from the geography building to art history past the Old Auditorium and remembered those days fondly and felt a tug of sadness at the state of our old haunt.

The issue was packed with great articles that piqued my interest, especially Sherrill Grace’s “The Art of Being Canadian” and the one-page spread “More MOA.” I do have one objection – your layout. The format of placing captions in white boxes within the photograph detracts from the image, but nowhere is this more annoying than in the fabulous interior shots of MOA. Words grab the eye and the white space makes it difficult to appreciate fully the content of the photograph. The captions for the images accompanying “The Art of Being Canadian” are outside the paintings; surely the photographs of MOA – indeed all photographs – deserve the same respect.

Very best,

Joan M. Schwartz, MA’77

Keeping the Torch Burning

I am sure I am not the only alumnus missed on your list of torch runners, but if you decide to list another group of Olympic torch runners, you can add me to the list.

Ross Davidson, BED’78

Eagles Soars

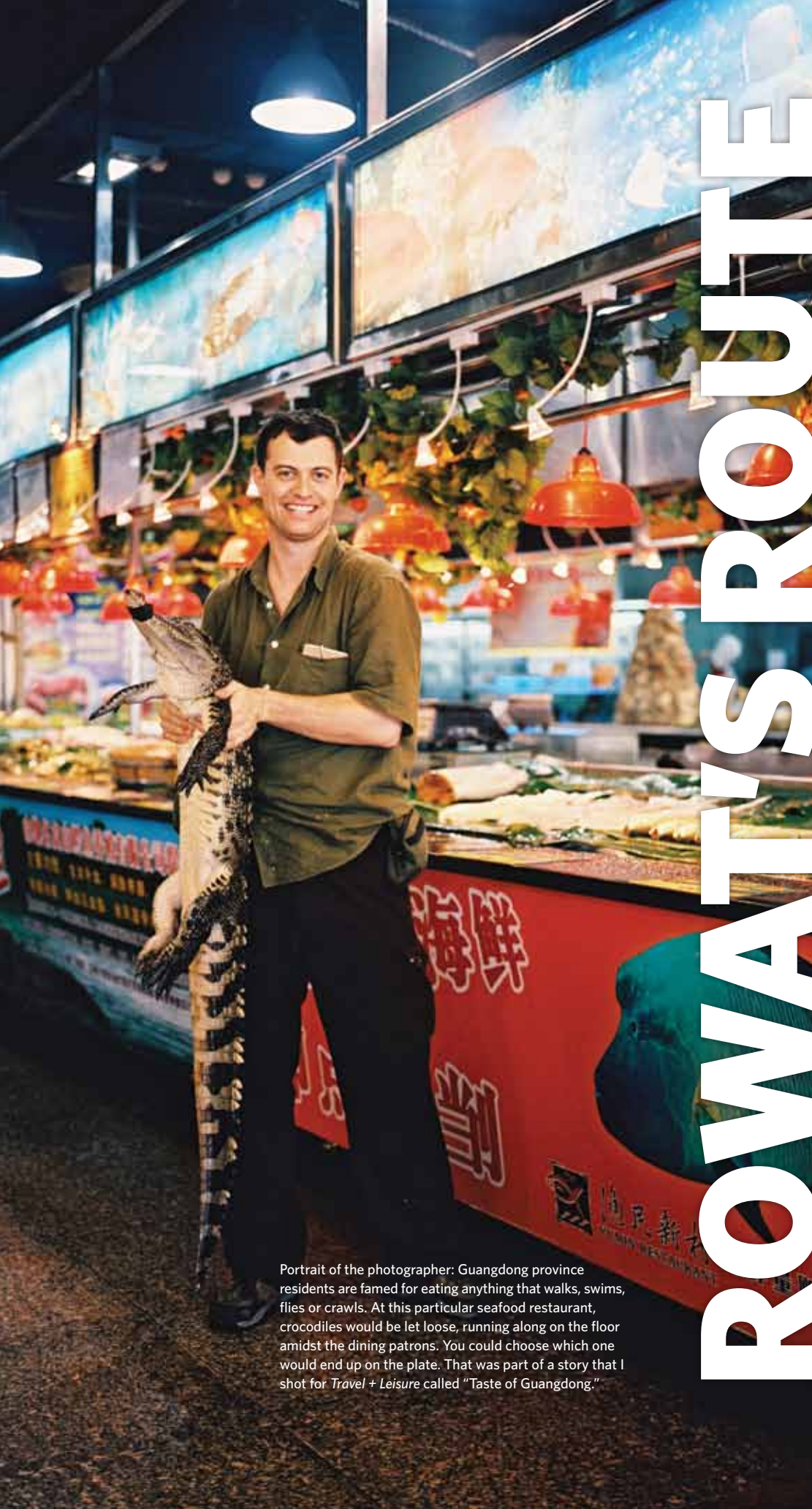
I was pleased to read the tribute to Blythe Eagles in the spring 2010 issue of *Trek* and delighted to know that his volunteer legacy has been recognized and honoured by the Alumni Association. I was a member of Dr. Eagles “Dairy Cohort.” That was his name for the group of senior students working in the dairy department. He certainly made the university a special place for each one of us. Studying with him was rewarding academically. It also took place in an atmosphere of warmth, enthusiasm and camaraderie. The experience left a lasting imprint.

That he had a genuine personal interest in each one of us was evident when I contacted him many years after graduation. He knew me immediately, knew I had been living in Eastern Canada, recalled who I had married and then gave me news of the others in my particular cohort. Truly, he was remarkable. I was fortunate to have been his student.

Kay McGeer (Deas), BSA’46

Trek Magazine is available online at www.alumni.ubc.ca/trekmagazine. We are revamping the magazine’s online presence and would love to know what you think.

Please make sure we have your email so we can let you know when the new version is launched. Email us at alumni.association@ubc.ca with your first name, last name, degree and year.



Portrait of the photographer: Guangdong province residents are famed for eating anything that walks, swims, flies or crawls. At this particular seafood restaurant, crocodiles would be let loose, running along on the floor amidst the dining patrons. You could choose which one would end up on the plate. That was part of a story that I shot for *Travel + Leisure* called “Taste of Guangdong.”

An invitation to view slides from a friend’s recent trip often means you have a tedious evening ahead of you. But if the invitation is from travel photographer Andrew Rowat, *BSc’00*, get there early for a front-row seat. We asked him to give us the inside scoop on some of the images he has captured during his career.

By **VANESSA CLARKE**

Photo captions by **ANDREW ROWAT**

A Reluctant Start

For most of us, the profession of travel photographer seems glamorous and elusive. It’s the sort of thing that kids tell adults they want to be when they grow up, along with astronauts and prime ministers. Andrew Rowat turned into a bonafide travel photographer despite the fact that he wasn’t even interested in being a photographer when he was a kid.

“I received my first camera on my 16th birthday, a Pentax K-1000, the quintessential starter SLR,” he says. “But I thought I had made myself very clear, prior to my birthday, that I had no interest in receiving a camera.” Rowat was the youngest of three children and his brother and sister had also received a camera on their 16th birthdays. He was an independent spirit and rebelled against the idea of being a cookie-cutter Rowat sibling.

In retrospect, he’s probably very grateful to his parents. Now aged 33, Rowat has offices in Shanghai and New York and a glossy list of clientele including *GQ*, *Dwell*, *Esquire*, *The New Yorker*, and *Vanity Fair*. He’s lived and worked in three countries and travelled to dozens more. But it wasn’t until he was a student at UBC that he realized his passion for photography.

“It was through PhotoSoc that I really got hooked,” says Rowat. “Instead of losing weekends to parties and bzzr gardens it was the darkroom that consumed me. The very act of creation – from the time the film emerged from the dryer, to the print slowly revealing itself in the red-hued development bath – was what cemented photography’s hold on me.”



That’s not to say there weren’t other occupational contenders. Rowat originally enrolled at UBC in theatre, then changed to commerce before finally graduating with a degree in marine biology. He later accepted a job in marketing communications that had little to do with the ocean, apart from the fact that he had to cross one to get to his new office, which was located in a carpet factory in Shanghai.

A Little Bit of Luck, a Lot of Hard Work

The move would prove to be a happy accident. Shanghai is key to the rapid development of his photography career.

His chief task at the carpet factory was coming up with “English” names for the carpets for both domestic and foreign markets. Best sellers included Kalahari, Sandalwood and Ebola (“part of my infectious diseases line,” he says). His other responsibilities were greeting international clients and taking pictures of carpets. You might think this would have dampened his enthusiasm for photography, but it didn’t. For him it’s all about context and novelty, and Shanghai was definitely different.

“China is the most capitalistic place I’ve ever lived. People are hustling. The energy in Shanghai is an energy of change. There’s this sense of things getting done.” The job in the carpet factory gave him an anchor (and a visa) as he absorbed his new surroundings, built his portfolio and tried to get himself noticed by magazine clients in London and New York. It didn’t take long to crack the market.

“I was astonished by the number of magazine



editors who would meet me from a cold call. I was living in a part of the world where things were happening and it was a hook. Being in Shanghai allowed me to leapfrog a lot of steps I’d have had to go through if I was based in New York or London, because those cities have football stadiums full of people who want to do this.”

However, you need a lot more than luck and talent to make a living as a travel photographer. It’s a competitive field with few quality outlets, and new technologies mean the media landscape is in flux. You have to deliver every time, or risk floundering. “I see it as being less a photographer and more a small business owner,” says Rowat. “If you don’t have any organizational acumen, you’re toast. You need to be indefatigable, incredibly optimistic and also a realist.”

The Results

Rowat lived in Shanghai for seven years before his recent relocation to New York. He does largely editorial work, which takes him to new places, and some commercial photography, including portraits of the famous and powerful, luxury hotels and plates of exquisite-looking food. “My ADD personality means I can’t photograph just one thing,” says Rowat. “The wonderful thing about travel photography is that it means you’re photographing people, food, interiors, landscapes.”

He’s wandered abandoned villages in Namibia, travelled by reindeer, camped out in -50 degree temperatures, and once, in a remote and lawless region of Mongolia, was confronted by a gold miner who threatened to kill him for

Left: This shot was taken when I was living in New York City after my third year at UBC. The camera I was using at the time was a beat up old Mamiya RB67 (I have since graduated to using several beat up old Mamiya RZ67s) with the stock (90mm) lens.

A group of acrobats was performing in Washington Square Park. I initially held back, but then realized that the shot I wanted required me to be almost underneath the performers. And so I inserted myself into the mix, and took a photo that I really liked. It remains a favourite to this day.

Right: I had been backpacking across Europe one summer, and found myself in Venice in the pouring rain. The weather made me feel grumpy, until I decided to take advantage of it. Off I set to St. Marco’s Square. I tried to find the perfect puddle reflecting both the square and the incredible cathedral there. I found one, complete with the ubiquitous pigeons. I took exactly one frame.

I remember the moment I saw that one frame spring to life. I took the roll out of the negative dryer at PhotoSOC in the basement of the SUB. There it was, clear as day. The one shot I had hoped to create had been created.

his boots. It’s safe to assume that if he had to describe his career, glamorous wouldn’t be one of the adjectives.

His work is not usually life-threatening, yet is unpredictable enough to remain satisfying. “One minute you’re shooting a CEO and the next you’re shooting a noodle vendor on the street and everyone’s got a story,” says Rowat, who will have plenty of his own stories to tell his grandchildren, and with photographic evidence to accompany them.

“I want to be able to transport people from their cubicle or couch to wherever I am in the world. Photography has that incredibly transportive quality. The idea is to drag you into the slipstream of the experience.”

Rowat’s next destination is Colombia, maybe followed by a boat trip up the Amazon. The rest of us will just have to wait to see the pictures. ●

To explore more of Andrew Rowat’s work, visit www.andrewrowat.com.



Namibia: All of these images were shot in the abandoned diamond mining town of Kolmanskop, south of the capital Windhoek.

One of the interesting things about Namibia and its diamond mining industry (mainly joint ventures between DeBeers and the government) is that most of the diamonds are blown by the wind into these vast desert-scapes. That means the smallest diamonds will actually be furthest from the diamond vein itself, and prospectors try to follow the bread crumbs to the source, with each subsequent find getting larger and larger.

Most of the active mining in Namibia happens in off-limits areas. You or I wouldn't be allowed to enter without extensive permits and vetting. But at Kolmanskop you can just pay a small entrance fee, and a small photo permit, and you are off to the races.



Turkmenistan: Halfway between the Uzbek border and Ashgabat (the capital) lies a peculiarity, even by Turkmen standards: the Darvaza gas crater in the Karakum desert. This giant burning gas crater is known as the Gates of Hell, and has different origin stories depending on who is telling the story. The version told to claims that in the 1960s the Soviets were exploring for natural gas and came across some in this region. It was not enough to be commercially viable, so wasn't exploited further. However, a sinkhole developed and local livestock would be drawn to the hole and overcome by the fumes. In order to protect their herds, the nomadic Turkmen people decided to simply throw a match into the hole; after all, animals don't like fire. It has been burning ever since.

We had the great pleasure of camping close to the crater, alone but for ourselves and the trackless desert.



I originally travelled to Turkmenistan with my girlfriend as part of a pan-Stans tour in 2007. We travelled overland from China to Iran, hitting almost all the former Soviet republics in between. By far our favourite 'Stan was Turkmenistan, nestled between Iran, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan. The country was still under the thrall of the recently deceased dictator, Turkmenbashi, the self-styled leader of the Turkmen people. Nothing spells great tourist destination better than an honest to goodness personality cult. At the time, Turkmenistan was known as the North Korea of Central Asia. The former president had even gone so far as to erect a several-times life-size golden statue of himself that rotated with the sun and was mounted on top of the bizarrely-named Arch of Neutrality. I shot this bust of him in a dingy roadside diner.

The mural (top) is in front of the Turkmen Land of Fairy Tales, aka 'Disneyland.'



Western China, Yunnan Province (left): The image of the grandfather with his grandson was taken near the town of Lijiang in China's Western province of Yunnan. My assistant and I were driving through the countryside when I spotted the wall of drying maize. In the end this image was used as the cover for *Town & Country Travel*.

(Below left): The early morning sun is just starting to cook the fields in the Tibetan area of Yunnan Province as hay dries in the background. For this particular shoot, for *Australian Gourmet Traveller*, I was bivouacked at the luxurious Banyan Tree resort in Ringha, near Shangri-La. Yes, that Shangri-La, though it is unclear where the mythical outpost actually is. At least three Chinese cities have changed their names to lure tourists to the area. That said, the scenery is breathtaking with a small Tibetan monastery close by, prayer flags dancing in the wind.

Shanghai (below): A table filled with antiques on Shanghai's infamous Dongtai Road. I say infamous because a recent report estimated that upwards of 90 per cent of antiques on the market in China are either fakes, or 'state-level relics' (think grave robbers).



Shanghai (top): One of the many trinkets and figurines for sale on Dongtai Road (the antique street). Bargaining is the most fun part of any shopping experience in China.

(Below): This view of the Shanghai skyline was shot from the smartly named Vue Bar at the Hyatt on the Bund hotel. The bar features a roof-top Jacuzzi with bathing suits on the menu (you can order up a swim costume if you happened to forget your own). Very few things top having a bottle of champagne in a hot tub, while watching the Shanghai sky turn a velvet blue.





India: It seems that everywhere you go in India people are playing cricket. It could be the smallest patch of grass (or dirt) and people will be out knocking the ball around. These young gentlemen were getting a jump on the day at about 6:30 am, outside of the Mysore Palace in Karnataka Province.



Syria: Krak des Chevaliers is one of the best-preserved Crusader castles in the world and is located several hours outside Damascus. Across the valley is a small hostel-cum-hotel that has absolutely breathtaking views of the castle. I set my camera up on the balcony and did a long exposure (this one was probably close to 20 minutes) to capture the movement of the stars and the moon.

Western China, Yunnan Province: This shot was taken in Lijiang city. One section of the city is quite charming, and more or less genuine to its original state. Then there is this particular strip that, although still charming, has flashes of modernity. This particular server is taking a time out to text someone, and has covered up against the chill October air with a fleece.

The Art of Place

Youthful rebellion doesn’t often presage a career in development, but Michael Audain has constructed huge personal success as a builder of condominiums. He’s also accumulated a spectacular collection of art along the way.

By **ROBIN LAURENCE**

THE view from Michael Audain’s ninth-storey Vancouver office sweeps across the grey waters of False Creek and English Bay, over the primordial hump of Stanley Park and the massed towers of the city centre, to the dark and moody reaches of the North Shore mountains. On this cold May day, shafts of livid, late-afternoon light pierce the lowering sky and the effect is unnerving. It’s as if the natural colours were amped up to an almost psychedelic intensity. Hanging on the walls this side of the glass, the art takes on its own strange life. Among the eclectic selection, there’s a big painting by Takao Tanabe, a chilly and unpopulated Vancouver Island landscape. There’s also a colourful and exuberant photo-text work by Ken Lum, set in Vancouver’s West End and dwelling on the theme of real estate. Contradictions abound.

Audain himself, dressed in a conservative black suit with a discreet little Order of Canada pin attached to his lapel, is talking, somewhat reluctantly, about his surprisingly socialistic past and, with more enthusiasm, about a

painting he recently acquired. Publicly identified as the wealthy chairman of Polygon Homes Ltd. and a high-profile philanthropist (a term he dislikes), he is also known to have an extensive private collection of historic and contemporary British Columbian art. Usually, however, he is loathe to talk about it. “I’m not really a collector,” he says. “I’m not disciplined.” Many of his art-world colleagues would dispute this, citing his determined taste and his acute awareness of who’s creating what where. His “undisciplined” collection ranges from the cutting-edge photo-based works of young artists like Steven Shearer and Stephen Waddell through modernist abstractions by Alan Wood and the late Jack Shadbolt to fine examples of early Northwest Coast First Nations art. “It’s very important that we understand the art of British Columbia existed long before European contact,” Audain says. In 2006, he and his wife, Yoshiko Karasawa, bought a rare Kwakwaka’wakw potlatch figure from an American dealer and, in 2008, repatriated it to the U’Mista Cultural Society in Alert Bay.

In a sense, the piece he’s just added to his private collection, a 1964 oil on canvas by the late E.J. Hughes, conveys something of Audain’s own repatriation. “It’s a large painting of the ferry *Princess Victoria*,” Audain says. “That was the boat that, on June the 20th, 1946, we took from Vancouver to Victoria. It was a huge occasion in my life.” The ferry ride, which occurred when he was nine, was the last leg of a long journey west with his father and stepmother, towards an almost mythical idea of home.

Although he speaks of himself as a fifth-generation British Columbian – his great-great-grandfather Robert Dunsmuir settled on Vancouver Island in 1851 – Audain was born in England in 1937. (His mother was English and his Canadian father was serving in the British army at the time.) Because of the outbreak of World War II, he spent his first nine years on the embattled side of the Atlantic, moving from

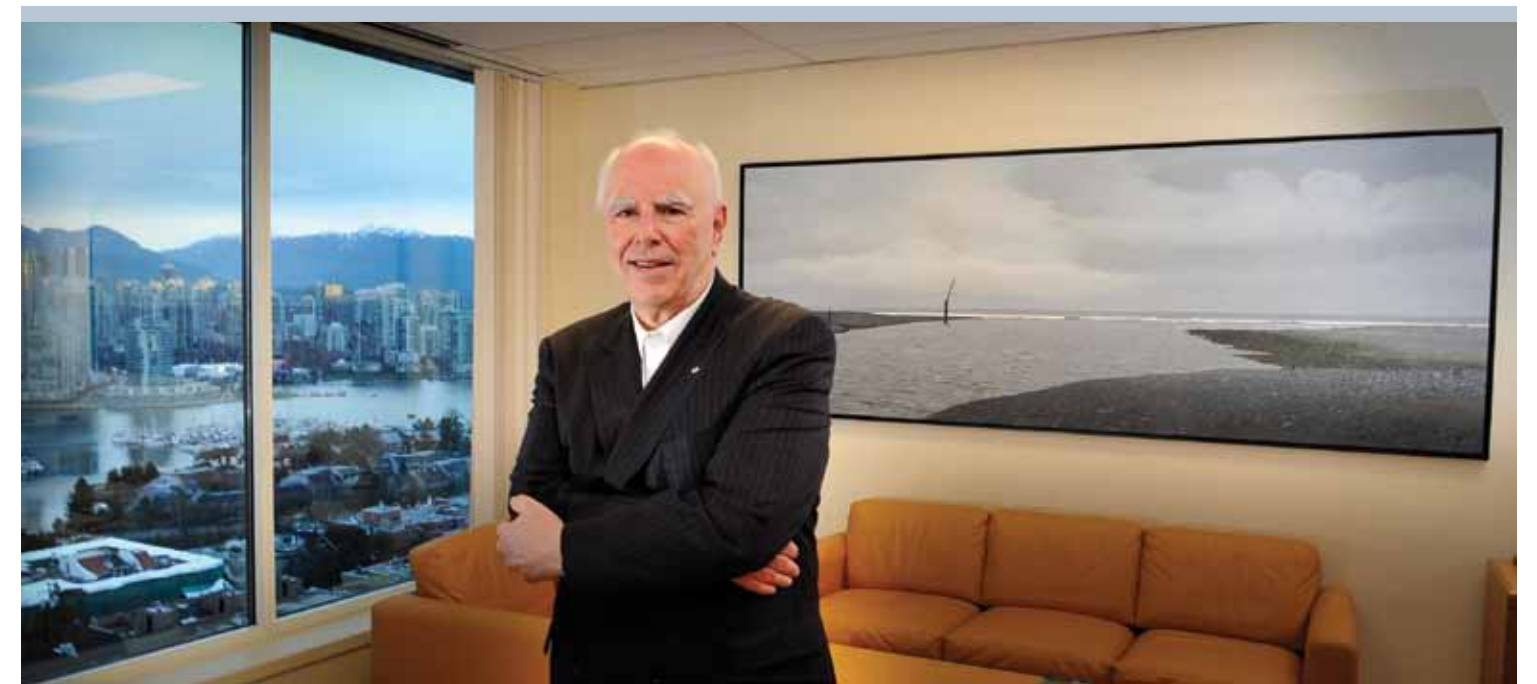
spent in – and running away from – boarding schools. Audain’s youthful rebelliousness extended to flunking out of his general arts program at UBC in 1956. “I guess I had other priorities than studying,” he says with characteristic understatement. After a few years of working in northern Canada and travelling in Europe, he returned to his alma mater and immersed himself, with new purpose, in his studies. Eventually he would attend five universities in four countries, accumulating an array of degrees and qualifications, including a BA, BSW and MSW from UBC.

The somewhat unexpected and peripatetic path of Audain’s early adulthood suggests that he was more interested in social justice issues than in a career as a hard-nosed capitalist. In 1961, for example, he participated in one of the American civil rights “Freedom Rides” from Memphis to New Orleans, and was arrested and

unsettled period in the mid-1970s, he lived on a boat in Hong Kong harbour, writing a novel set in 17th-century Thailand.

Relocating himself to Vancouver, Audain didn’t enter business until 1980, when he was 43, and only then as an extension of his consulting work connecting housing cooperatives with developers. “People are open, pragmatic,” he says. “You never know how their lives are going to work out.” Of his early years with Polygon, he says, “I wasn’t terribly profit-motivated. I was having fun learning and meeting people in the business, particularly the type of people I’d confronted when I was organizing tenants’ groups and all that kind of thing.”

Whatever the source of his success, Audain has found ways to share it: he is one of the most outstanding patrons of culture in Canada. Through the Audain Foundation, established in 1997 to support the visual arts, and especially



MICHAEL AUDAIN IN HIS OFFICE. BEHIND HIM IS A LANDSCAPE OF VANCOUVER ISLAND BY TAKAO TANABE.

France to the Channel Islands to England and Ireland. “We were bombed out of London,” he says. What sustained him as a child, it seems, were tales of his father’s homeland. “Ever since I was born, almost, I had a romance with British Columbia.” Then he adds, “I was only on that vessel [the *Princess Victoria*] once, but I have incredible memories of it. Coming to Canada was like living a dream.”

Less dreamy were subsequent childhood years

jailed in Jackson, Mississippi for taking a stand against segregation. He also undertook a series of jobs, such as social worker, university lecturer, agricultural economist and social housing consultant. As a housing policy specialist, he worked at the Ontario Housing Corporation and then the Canadian Council on Social Development. In 1973, he returned to the West Coast to establish the provincial Ministry of Housing for Dave Barrett’s NDP government and then, for an

the art of British Columbia, he has given more than \$20 million to regional and national art institutions. Of that money, \$5 million has gone to galleries and programs at UBC, including \$2.5 million to support the Museum of Anthropology’s recently completed renewal project, *A Partnership of Peoples*. In honour of that donation, MOA named its 5800 sq. ft. temporary exhibition space The Audain Gallery. The Audain Foundation has also directed money to projects at the Morris

and Helen Belkin Art Gallery and has endowed programs in UBC's Department of Art History, Visual Art and Theory, to the tune of \$2 million.

Privately, he and his wife continue to donate top-tier works of art to public galleries, including three photographs by internationally renowned artist Jeff Wall that went to the Vancouver Art Gallery last year. Audain has also made it known that his role is one of stewardship and that most of the art he owns will end up in public hands. He jokes about not planning on being buried with his possessions like some ancient emperor, then says more seriously, "Nothing goes back on the market."

In the art world he has so generously endowed, however, his position is not without controversy. As chairman of the Vancouver Art Gallery's relocation committee, he has taken flak for being a highly public advocate of that institution's proposed move, away from its current site in a neo-classical building at the heart of the city to an unappealing block towards the eastern edge of downtown. On the afternoon of our interview, he admits to being nervous and preoccupied because later that day, he will be representing the VAG in a public forum on the

subject. He's anticipating an antagonistic reception from the many outspoken Vancouverites opposed to the move.

Clearly, though, art is what continues to interest and impel him, particularly the art of this place. A number of works from Audain's private collection are on display in Polygon's offices, hallways and meeting rooms. Again, they display a lively eclecticism. There are photo-based works by both established and emerging artists, including an upside-down tree by Rodney Graham – shades of the camera obscura – and an upside-down self-portrait by Tim Lee. There's a diptych by the brilliantly contemporary artist Marianne Nicolson, in which delicate Kwakwaka'wakw designs are picked out in brass, copper, silver and abalone shell on an acrylic ground. There are a series of richly coloured panels in polymer resin by Tom Burrows; two big abstract paintings by Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun, based on the "ovoid" form inherent in aboriginal Northwest Coast design; and two process-driven works by Arabella Campbell, who plays a conceptual premise off a minimalist aesthetic. And there's another lonely landscape by Takao Tanabe,

Inside Passage: Malacca Strait, in which sombre green islands rise out of the grey, unsettled sea.

The British Columbian art that Audain supports and collects is evidence of his commitment to the culture and creativity of this province. It signals, too, an investment in the place for which he felt such an extravagant longing as a war-time child, dislocated from a sense of his own home and history. It's as if, through art, he were trying to reconstruct that mythical land that sustained him through those tough early years, although that's not something he's ever said or even hinted at. "When you live with a work of art, its meaning changes all the time," he observes now, with a kind of wonder. "And it changes you." ●

ACADEMICS AND avocations

How do UBC academics spend their time outside the labs and lecture theatres?

By **HILARY FELDMAN**

THE ACADEMIC: INGRID STAIRS, *Radio Astronomer*

Smiling and soft-spoken, Ingrid Stairs is passionate about stars. Her speciality, neutron stars, are the leftovers from supernova explosions. Roughly one-and-a-half times the mass of the sun, these stars are compressed into spheres about one-quarter the size of Vancouver. They also spin very fast – up to 700 times a second. The combination of small size, huge mass and fast rotation makes for an extreme environment full of powerful magnetic fields and gravitational forces.

Stairs uses big telescopes in West Virginia, Puerto Rico, and Australia to track signals given off by neutron stars (which are also called pulsars after the bursts of radiation detectable from Earth). Looking at specific stars over years, she can understand many different aspects of the physics involved. "That's some of the reason that I got into the field in the first place," she says. "I can do one type of observation and have access to a whole range of physics through the same type of data. So that's really appealing."

Luckily, it's no longer necessary to travel to a telescope in order to do observations. Many facilities now use remote software and onsite support staff, so that Stairs can log-in from her office or home computer. Otherwise, doing frequent observations would be financially

prohibitive. That said, when a number of observations are scheduled close together, Stairs makes the trip and takes the opportunity to meet up with collaborators.

Identified just over 40 years ago, pulsars are relatively new study subjects. Many of them are in orbit with other stars, making their physics both complicated and intriguing. Stairs is enthusiastic about the challenge. "We keep finding new things. Every time we look at something with more sensitivity and new instruments and so on, you find new things. So we're not bored yet."

Some stars offer the chance to test general relativity. If two pulsars orbit each other in a binary system and both are moving very quickly (with orbits around eight to ten hours) relativistic effects become very important to their movements. Stairs uses the theory of relativity to predict basic orbit properties. Comparing these predictions across several parameters of pulsar data provides sufficient information to check that the theory of relativity is completely self-consistent.

It's an exciting time for radio astronomy, as instruments become better at detecting signals. Large-scale searches are underway to find new pulsars. These unusual stars offer a view of star dynamics and physical processes in the universe. Stairs is excited about the long-term potential.



INGRID STAIRS (PHOTO: BUSABA KRAMER)

BRETT FINLAY (PHOTO: MARTIN DEE)





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INGRID STAIRS SINGS IN THE VANCOUVER BACH CHOIR.

The Avocation: Choral Singing

Coming from a musical family, Stairs played the piano from age seven until university. She also sang in her elementary school choir, moving on to adult versions like the McGill Choral Society and Princeton Chapel Choir. After moving to Vancouver, Stairs joined UBC's Choral Union to get her voice into shape and then auditioned for the Vancouver Bach Choir in 2004.

Stairs finds singing in a group thoroughly invigorating. The connections between science and music are well-established, and while both require careful thought, music and science stimulate the brain in different ways. "It's challenging," she says. "It gives you a chance to refocus your brain or think about the world in a different way for a little while. It helps everything in the long run."

Joining the Vancouver Bach Choir requires a serious commitment. With 150 members coming from diverse work backgrounds, the choir rehearses two and a half hours each week. Additional rehearsals are required before performances, which are often in concert with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra as well as prominent soloists and other guest performers. The choir offers a chance for singers to tackle major classical pieces. "We're all there because we want to sing that repertoire," Stairs says. In the past several years works have ranged from the old – Handel's *Messiah* and Bach's *St. John Passion* – to the newer – Mahler's *8th Symphony*

and Elgar's *War Requiem*.

Stairs is an alto, singing alongside other UBC faculty members and staff including Trish Schulte, a zoologist, and endocrinologist Jerilynn Prior. "Singing alto is a good challenge. It's more interesting than just having the melody all the time," she says. Members must re-audition every three years, allowing the conductor to re-evaluate individual vocal ranges and quality. But with a new conductor coming in next season, auditions for all will be required, and choir members are steeling themselves for the process. A change of leadership also offers the potential for unfamiliar choral works. Stairs is just hoping to make the cut and continue carving out the time to sing with gusto.

THE ACADEMIC: BRETT FINLAY, Microbiologist

The human body contains ten times more bacteria than human cells: there are about a hundred trillion little organisms living inside each one of us. This fact lies at the heart of Brett Finlay's research. His lab's mantra is to understand how bacteria cause disease at a molecular level, and then to apply that knowledge to fighting infection. The main subjects of Finlay's research are two big baddies of food-borne illness: Salmonella, which causes diarrhea and typhoid fever, and pathogenic E. coli, the source of "hamburger disease" and Walkerton-like outbreaks.



BRETT FINLAY ONCE CONSIDERED A CAREER IN MUSIC.

Over the years, his lab has unravelled information about bacterial genetics, interactions between bacteria and intestinal cells, and other molecular events. More recently, he's started to consider the whole immune response: how the body tries to get rid of pathogens and how the pathogens attempt to override the body's defenses.

This information can lead to solutions. Finlay and a colleague, Bob Hancock, established a biotech company called Inimex to look at potential therapies. "When you wake up in the morning you're not usually sick. It's actually quite amazing if you know how many microbes are all over everywhere. Because you have this wonderful preexisting defense system and immunity," Finlay says. "If we could understand this and tweak it, we could actually make our bodies stronger for particular infections." The company is experiencing great success. They licensed a vaccine for cows against E. coli. "All the E. coli disease we see is due to cow contamination. If you vaccinate the cows, you prevent the human disease." Inimex also just completed phase 1 human trials of molecules that help the immune system block bacterial infections. Tests looked at Salmonella, MRSA (methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus), and VRE (vancomycin-resistant Enterococcus), bacteria that together are responsible for millions of infections and thousands of deaths annually. Finlay has also been involved in the vaccine initiative against SARS, leading the provincial

government's multidisciplinary task force.

Developing vaccines and other pharmaceuticals is a long process, typically taking 12-15 years until products are licensed and commercially available. Luckily, most vaccines remain effective, unlike antibiotics that can encourage bacterial resistance. For example, the bovine E. coli vaccine works by preventing bacteria from sticking to the gut, so they merely flush out into the environment rather than causing infection.

Finlay is interested in research that benefits people without decimating necessary microbiota. Rather than trying to eradicate all bacteria, the focus is on disrupting the processes that cause disease, by understanding the intricate mechanisms underlying infection.

The Avocation: Musician

Playing music since high school, Finlay was tempted to pursue it professionally. He pragmatically weighed the pros and cons and decided it was more realistic to become a career scientist and a hobby musician. That said, Finlay

puts enormous focus and energy into playing several woodwind instruments. No mere dabbler, he has played clarinet in a wide variety of classical groups, from the Palo Alto Symphony to Vancouver's elite Pacific Symphonic Wind Ensemble.

Five or six years ago, Finlay had what he jokingly calls a mid-life crisis and decided to branch out and try his hand at jazz. Not content with the challenge of moving musical forms, he also honed his skills with other instruments, including tenor and soprano saxophones, bass clarinet and flute.

"It's an amazing journey," he says. "In classical music, you're basically a technician. You play what's written on the page." Jazz requires more listening, improvisation and plenty of practice. "I like the intellectual challenge of it. It's harder than classical music." Where classical music is quite concrete, jazz has a large element of freedom. "The hardest part of being a traditionally trained academic scientist is to let it go and just express yourself. Once you

know all the rules, you want to forget them and play around them," he says.

He plays in a group, the Oscar Hicks Sextet, that gets together once a week and also plays various gigs around town. The appeal of classical music remains, so Finlay formed a woodwind quintet of UBC scholars that plays occasional performances.

Music is a wonderful outlet to release pressure and refresh his mind. "You can do science 36 hours a day, it's still not getting done," explains Finlay. "The hardest part of science is where to draw the line and realize you can't do everything. And also sometimes the harder you work in science, the less it works. So it's sometimes good just to back off a bit, do something else, clear your head and come back at it. And it's very effective for that."

Playing in several groups is time-consuming, on top of his academic demands. Finlay's focus on efficiency allows him to maximize time, multi-task and tick things off an ever-present to-do list. "My philosophy is work hard but also play hard." ●

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“THERE’S NO evidence that advertising helps patients make better choices about prescription drug use or that public health will improve as a result,” says Mintzes, an assistant professor in the Faculty of Medicine’s department of Anesthesiology, Pharmacology and Therapeutics. “Consumers are exposed to ad content that may increase product sales but it’s not the impartial, objective information needed to make informed health choices.”

Mintzes is an associate at UBC’s Centre for Health Services and Policy Research and a member of the Therapeutics Initiative. She has been studying relationships between health, public policy and drug information for consumers for more than 30 years.

“Many of these drugs offer only a modest benefit when compared to a placebo, yet their toxicity may be significant. These are chemicals, not chocolate bars,” she says. “And drug companies engage in disease-mongering by presenting everyday symptoms as signs of serious conditions, so they can build markets for new drugs. This promotes unnecessary and risky consumption of drugs.”

As a public health protection measure, direct-to-consumer-advertising (DTCA) is illegal in Canada and all industrialized nations, except the US and New Zealand. The ban under Canada’s Food and Drugs Act is part of strict regulation of drugs that carry significant potential for harm. Such drugs must be prescribed by a qualified health practitioner. They can’t be picked off the shelf according to appealing packaging, promotion or price.

In spite of this prohibition Canadians have been exposed to drug advertising for years,

primarily via US television and magazines. Images and messaging usually appeal to emotion without offering key information about probability of treatment success or potential for adverse effects. Many of the drugs are associated with happiness, a new control over one’s life and improved social well-being. Smug smiles, sunny days and suggestions of romance and new-found social freedom abound.

The relaxation of strict enforcement began in 1996 when Health Canada approved help-seeking ads that feature a medical condition without naming a specific brand. These unbranded ads offer the advice to “ask your doctor about new treatments.” In 2000, Health Canada allowed branded reminder ads that state a product brand name without saying what it’s for. Of all the countries that have outlawed DTCA, Canada is the only one that allows this level of advertising.

So if it’s allowed, what’s the problem? “A key issue is that companies almost always advertise their newest and costliest products. Usually very little is known about long-term risks,” says Mintzes, a Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Scholar. Of 135 ads violating US advertising law from 1997 to 2005, the problem in 84 per cent of cases was minimized risk or exaggerated benefit, she adds.

As the Canadian Pharmacists Association states, “the ethical dilemma of DTCA rests in the competing interest between marketing and health. At stake here is whether consumer health or commercial interests are to be given priority.”

The story of Vioxx – implicated in tens of thousands of heart attacks – is a disturbing example of what can go wrong when marketing stimulates widespread use of a new medicine before potential for harm is fully known. In 1999, the US Food and Drug Administration approved Vioxx for relief of pain from arthritis and other conditions. In 2001, the FDA warned of cardiac risks associated with the drug. In 2002, it emphasized the need for long-term clinical data to fully address the drug’s safety issues. Despite the warnings, Vioxx sales soared, earning Merck & Co. more than \$2.5 billion in 2003. The following year it was withdrawn from the market due to safety concerns. Of all initial users, 20 per cent had requested the drug on the basis of advertisements, according to a study by health insurer Kaiser Permanente.

To evaluate Canada’s experience with DTCA,

Mintzes teamed up with UBC colleagues Steven Morgan and James Wright to examine effects of the 1996 and 2000 Health Canada administrative policy changes. Published in 2009, their study showed that despite the ban on such advertising, drug companies spent more than \$191 million on both branded and unbranded DTCA in Canada between 1995 and 2006.

The researchers also looked at safety warnings for some of the most heavily advertised drugs. They found television advertising in 2005-2006 focused on eight brands, including Viagra, and contraceptives Alesse and Evra. Four of the eight brands carried a US “black box” warning that indicates the highest safety risk; five were the subject of Health Canada safety advisories.

Arthritis drug Celebrex was the subject of three such warnings for both cardiovascular and gastrointestinal risks. Following the third sales-squashing advisory, manufacturer Merck

“Advertising by definition aims to sell a product. No one can expect it to provide balanced information on all available treatment options.”

& Co. responded in 2006 with its heaviest Canadian advertising spending on the drug.

“The safety warnings of the most heavily advertised drugs is a real concern,” says Mintzes. “Our study showed regulators in Canada have failed to prevent advertising of products with serious potential for harm.” In addition to safety issues, there is widespread concern that DTCA is driving up the cost of Canada’s health care.

Canada’s medicine cabinet is bulging – 78 new patented drugs were introduced to the market in 2008 with expenditures on prescribed drugs estimated at \$24 billion. In 2009, costs reached an estimated \$25.4 billion of a \$30 billion total for all drugs, according to the Canadian Institute for Health Information’s report on drug spending 1985-2009.

A 2004 report on health aspects of prescription drugs prepared by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health pointed to drug expenditures as a significant factor in health-care spending. And the committee was “convinced by research evidence suggesting that direct-to-consumer advertising of prescription drugs contributes to these costs.” Not surprising when new drugs are often introduced at much higher prices than existing therapies. DTCA detractors argue that money spent purchasing the more expensive brand-name drugs reduces government funds available for other health priorities.

The Canadian Medical Association is opposed to DTCA. Its policy statement warns that advertising may stimulate demand by exaggerating risks of certain diseases and generating unnecessary fear. Also, there are concerns that advertising does not provide comparator information about other products or therapies to treat the same condition so consumers can’t make the best choices.

But DTCA isn’t a bitter pill for everyone. Canadian media would profit from increased daily doses of drug advertising. In 2005, CanWest MediaWorks challenged the ban on DTCA as an infringement of freedom of expression. Mintzes’ expertise assisted the coalition that opposed the challenge, currently under adjournment.

Lobbyists seeking to legalize and expand DTCA maintain the ads constitute consumer information. They argue advertising raises awareness of health conditions and triggers consultations with physicians that can reveal previously undiagnosed or untreated problems. Marketing content could be screened, monitored and approved by an independent body. The edited version would offer balanced representation of all substantive drug benefits and risks and enable consumers to make informed decisions.

This patient-centred approach sounds enticing but may be unrealistic. Many doubt that manufacturers would relinquish such control over their own advertising.

“Advertising by definition aims to sell a product. No one can expect it to provide balanced information on all available treatment options,” says Mintzes, who believes that patient education is best achieved through publicly financed health campaigns that carry objective information free from commercial bias.

But commercial bias is the name of the game when it comes to marketing drugs directly to doctors through a technique known as detailing.

It’s a strategy that sees manufacturers’ sales reps visiting doctors to pitch benefits of new drugs and provide free samples to hand out to patients. Considered a complementary activity to DTCA, detailing prepares doctors for the requests they may receive and makes it easy for them to distribute the advertised product. The pharmaceutical industry association, Rx&D, takes the position that detailing helps improve patient care.

Mintzes is not so sure. She is currently working on a project funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research that looks at whether pharmaceutical sales reps are providing doctors with critical safety information. She is comparing data from Canada, France and the US and will share results with policy makers, industry representatives, doctors and medical educators.

“My office does not allow drug representatives to come and detail drugs to us,” says Dr. John Mail, a family physician in Vancouver. “I do a drug dinner once or twice a year if a new medicine is being launched and I sense that the drug really is an innovation and not a repackaging of an old drug.”

Such repackaged drugs are called me-too drugs, products with similar chemical structure to existing drugs. Often hyped as a breakthrough, me-too drugs build on the commercial success of an earlier drug but may offer little therapeutic advantage. It’s important for consumers to know that manufacturers can generally get approval for marketing a new drug simply by showing it to be more effective than a placebo. The new drug doesn’t have to be more effective than other treatments.

Mail sees the impact of DTCA primarily in the use of cosmetic or life-style medicines and to a lesser extent when it comes to more fundamental problems like high blood pressure, gout and infections.

“The ads may create unrealistic expectations in patients and disappointment when the drugs turn out to be too expensive or not covered,” says Mail. “But I suspect we won’t be able to resist the tide of advertising dollars that can be earned in this market. I suspect the current legislation will be gradually eroded with time.”

Advocates of DTCA maintain that as long as distribution of potentially harmful drugs is controlled by doctors’ prescription there is no risk that patients will receive inappropriate medication. Mintzes counters by citing a 2002 survey of Canadian health professionals that

shows almost 70 per cent of GPs “sometimes” or “often” feel pressured to prescribe advertised drugs. In 2003, she and colleagues published research in the *Canadian Medical Association Journal* that showed physicians studied not only prescribed most DTCA drugs that were requested, but were eight times more likely to rank their own prescriptions as only “possible” or “unlikely” treatment choices rather than “very likely” choices.

But clearly, the strongest argument that advertising affects prescribing is the huge investment in DTCA made by the pharmaceutical industry. In 2008, US figures show an estimated \$4.4 billion spent. Common sense suggests these companies wouldn’t be laying out this kind of cash unless it boosted the bottom line. It would seem the best way for DTCA opponents to push back is to provide the next generation of prescribers skills and information needed to fully understand drug promotion.

That’s why Mintzes got involved in a global health curriculum project, working with Health Action International (HAI), an independent network that seeks to improve access to and use of medicines. In a joint project of HAI and the World Health Organization, she served as key investigator on the first international survey to examine the extent of education on drug promotion for medical and pharmacy students.

Findings from 64 countries showed one half day or less was dedicated to the topic. Mintzes and international colleagues hope to improve this situation with new curriculum tools. They have developed a text and workshop on issues surrounding drug promotion and are currently seeking funding for pilot studies.

Closer to home, Mintzes has given guest lectures to UBC medical students to stimulate critical thinking and ethical decision-making on issues surrounding drug ads. “I want everyone to be more skeptical about advertising messages,” she says. “People need to remember ads are designed to promote a product. Profit – not health – is the goal.”

Regulators need to fulfill their role as protectors of public health, she says, and urges strict and active enforcement of the advertising ban originally set in place. She knows there needs to be strong political will to counteract industry pressure but is convinced it can be done.

“I’m kind of obsessive about this,” she laughs. “If I thought drug advertising to consumers was inevitable, I wouldn’t still be fighting.” ❶



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Remembering the Namesakes of Four Campus Buildings

G.G. Sedgewick. Frederic Wood. Henry Angus. Mary Bollert. For most UBC folk these names have become more synonymous of place than person: A library, a theatre, an academic building, and a former women’s residence respectively. But these well-known campus landmarks were named for iconic figures from UBC’s past, who helped shape the history of the university and the lives of many students.

Sedgewick, Wood, Angus and Bollert were vividly recollected in a 1987 publication to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the university. *The Way We Were: A Celebration of Our UBC Heritage* is a collection of candid essays by grads from 1928 to ’44, who were asked to look back on this era at UBC. Many chose to write about personal encounters with the teachers and mentors they loved, feared, respected, and at times even reviled.

We only have room for excerpts, but the essays can be read in their entirety along with several others on the Library Archives website at: www.library.ubc.ca/archives/pdfs/history/the_way_we_were.pdf

Frederic Wood

From an essay by Connie (Baird) Newby, Class of ’37 (originally published circa 1947 in her column for The Chilliwack Progress).

[Mr. Dilworth] was always encouraging and generous in his praise. In this he was quite different from Professor Wood. Mr. Wood’s praise was hard-earned and given in few words. Mr. Dilworth always made you feel just a little smarter than you really were – Mr. Wood made you feel just a little stupider than was actually the case. Mr. Dilworth offered your mind dreams – Mr. Wood issued a crisp challenge to your brain. If English 16 gave you the benefits of a warm, relaxing bath, English 13 provided you with a cold, invigorating shower.

Again, the timetable seemed to have been designed to fit the personality of the professor, for Mr. Wood’s course was held at 9 am. He would stride into the chilly classroom exactly on time, and take up his position, upright and dignified, behind the desk. Through those sparkling rimless glasses (which always seemed unnecessary for a pair of sharp eyes that never missed a thing) he would survey the class. His acute glance would fall with satisfaction on a student who had recently missed a good many lectures. “Ah, ladies and gentlemen,” he would say with vinegary politeness, “I see that Mr. Patterson has decided to honor us with his presence once more.” There were even occasions when he asked us all to applaud the return of an embarrassed truant.

As you can imagine, this system guaranteed Mr. Wood a good attendance. The strong light of publicity fell upon the unwary, and no one was eager to expose himself to the remarks of this master of sarcasm. No one dared to whisper, to doze, or to slump in his seat. That tall figure with the long face, the thin-lipped humorous mouth, the gleaming glasses, dominated every part of the room. His lectures were given in an orderly way that made note-taking a joy. They were packed with solid information, but splendidly frosted with touches of acid humor and witty criticisms of films and books-of-the-month, manners and morals. He encouraged our appetites for Dickens and Thackeray, helped us to chew and swallow even the most indigestible helpings of Sir Walter Scott, and trained our young palates to appreciate the subtle flavor of Jane Austen.

Merciless though he was to slackers, he was kindly and considerate to hard workers. No congratulatory remarks from any other professor meant as much as the brief comment, “Good work” underneath an essay, in the neat, erect handwriting of Freddie Wood. If he said it was good work, you felt morally certain that it was.

I suppose that next fall another professor – younger perhaps, and more genial – will take the course in the English novel. But no matter how brilliantly it may be taught, I feel sure it will never be the same now that Freddie Wood has gone into retirement and hung up the spear that pierced – with so sure and sharp a thrust – innumerable undergraduate hides.

Mary Bollert

From an essay by Elizabeth (Leslie) Stubbs, Class of '38

Miss Bollert took her office as Dean of Women seriously. She knew that she stood in loco parentis to all of us women and as such, felt entrusted with our moral guidance. She seemed to feel that if our outward behavior was correct, our inner selves would remain pure and unsullied.

... Efforts were made, of course, to protect us from corrupting influences. The large classes in English and Mathematics were segregated by sex so that the men were instructed by Dr. Sedgewick or Dean Gage while we women had lesser luminaries. (My Math teacher, however, Mr. Richardson, was excellent.) Our textbooks were the same so that we did read Huxley, Lawrence, Faulkner and Joyce, much of which we didn't comprehend, but which moved at least one father to write an indignant letter of protest to the President.

In her talk the dean stressed that we were never to forget that as university women we were ladies, and therefore good manners, conservative dress – NO trousers, NO ankle socks – and propriety in all phases of behavior were important.

... A friend from those days recalls the last sentence of Dean Bollert's talks as, "Now, ladies, never feel sorry for the poor boys." Thus, she felt, did the dean warn us against SEX! Many of us, naive as we were then, would have taken the words literally to refer to our friends who were struggling to finance their year on most limited budgets.

Another ritual of Initiation Week was a tea at Miss Bollert's South Granville apartment, which seems to have been limited to out-of-town girls. Most of us turned up, partly because of the promise of food and partly because to attend was the right thing to do. We appeared, properly attired with hat and gloves, in clean blouses, and with our skirts (often one per wardrobe) freshly sponged and pressed. Senior girls in the boarding houses or congenial "Big Sisters" warned us to stay at least twenty minutes or until the Dean had spoken to us personally. The ensuing dialogue was generally painful for both Miss Bollert and the student who sat trying to juggle a small napkin, a plate with a sausage roll or a lush patisserie, and a delicate cup filled with piping hot tea. After valiant efforts on both sides to find some common ground beyond the weather and the home town (viewed very differently by the

two speakers), the Dean would rise with a rustle of her dark blue silk dress, and assure us of her help if we would call at her office.

She was said to have found jobs for some girls. (These were scarce and the wages provided little more than pocket money.) She paid my doctor's bill when I shot myself with a bow and arrow! ('Tis true. I had enrolled in archery in response to a call from Miss Gertrude Moore that all women should make an effort to balance their sedentary studies with a wholesome athletic activity.)

... On one occasion a friend was summoned to the Dean's office by a note in the mailbox – a series of pigeon holes on a wall in the Arts Building. Her landlady had complained that she had been tossing apple cores at the wastepaper basket and hitting the wall! Miss Bollert was



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: FREDERIC WOOD, MARY BOLLERT, HENRY ANGUS, AND GARNETT SEDGEWICK.

appalled by such unseemly behavior.

... Smoking in any kind of dress, academic or not, was anathema to Dean Bollert. Another friend recalls going to see her regarding a bursary. "The dean was quite nice to me. All went well until I opened my purse and she spotted a pack of cigarettes. Then warmth became glacial ice." And the student with a warning about the proven connection between smoking and failing marks, was sent to the bursar on what the Dean implied would be a hopeless quest. (It was not.) The first girl to smoke in the Cafeteria was said to have been a member of the Players' Club. Since the sky did not fall, many others then began to light up, and soon smoking was as common as non-smoking

“The dean was quite nice to me. All went well until I opened my purse and she spotted a pack of cigarettes. Then warmth became glacial ice.”

is today. That summer, some of us who worked as card filers on the Library of Congress Depository Card Catalogue actually wore ankle socks with our penny loafers and saddle shoes. Slacks appeared. War was declared and the role of the Dean of Women, as Miss Bollert envisioned it, disappeared.

Henry Angus

From an essay by Arthur J. Wirick, Class of '36

It was only recently that I discovered in my files some six or seven essays, my own compositions, each of half-century vintage. They were my submissions, as class assignments, to various UBC professors; and in general these instructors had added, by way of penciled annotations and marginal glosses, not only an assigned grade or mark, but comments of various kinds. One essay alone (concerning the political doctrines of Sun Yat-sen, with which I was then surprisingly well acquainted) bore no such insignia; only the assigned grade had been added to its cover page. This was the sole evidence that it had been perused by Dr. Henry F. Angus.

... A student like me encountered that gentleman only in his teaching persona. I doubt if many knew him then as a man of great reputation, and indeed I do not know to what extent his reputation may have been acquired later in his career.* But it was as a teacher that we came to know him and to realize that he was capable of brilliant and sparkling lectures. We learned that he could occasionally be dull, as when he read from a book. We also became aware of a mild disposition, a gentle soul, disinclined to impose harsh penalties for inferior work. Indeed, we found, all students, good or bad, tended to receive grades for essays and examinations which exceeded their expectations.

As a lecturer, Henry Angus was outstanding. Oddly, at his most brilliant, he scarcely required



INTERIOR OF MARY BOLLERT RESIDENCE AT FORT CAMP, 1950.



FREDERIC WOOD ON STAGE WITH DOROTHY SOMERSET.



FREDERIC WOOD (1887-1976) One of the two original members of the department of English. He was founder of UBC's Players' Club and a major contributor to the development of Theatre at UBC. Frederic Wood Theatre was built in 1963.



GARNETT SEDGEWICK (1882-1949) Joined UBC in 1918 and in 1920 became first head of the English department. He was a renowned lecturer, especially on the subjects of Chaucer and Shakespeare. He was also featured on CBC broadcasts. Sedgewick Library was built in 1973.



HENRY ANGUS (1891-1991) Joined UBC in 1919, becoming head of the department of Economics, Political Science, and Sociology in 1930, and in 1948 Dean of the newly-created faculty of Graduate Studies. Henry Angus Building was built in 1965.



MARY BOLLERT (1884-1945) Member of the English department and the university's first Dean of Women, a position she held for 20 years. She was a founder of the BC Teachers Federation and attended many international women's conferences. Mary Bollert Hall was built in 1950.



... at his most brilliant, he scarcely required an audience: he addressed himself; he soliloquized... but he made many of his students intensely aware of the complexity of human problems.

an audience: he addressed himself; he soliloquized. Entering his classroom, he presented his topic as a question to be debated.

“Should matters in our society be arranged thus – or so?” The ensuing hour became a form of solitaire, played out before student observers. At half-time – Henry Angus having appeared to reach a singularly convincing conclusion – he would reverse himself, and largely demolish his own case. And yet he rarely if ever reached that point described as “paralysis by analysis.” Readily and often, he took a stand on many issues. But he made many of his students intensely aware of the complexity of human problems.

And so I remember many of those lectures, and the man who gave them, with warmth and affection. Henry Angus – small and neat and rather shy and gentle – would appear to address his own thoughts, occasionally and nearsightedly including an enthralled audience “up front.” Students in the rear, less motivated, were unaffected. But still, learning flourished in those days!

**Angus... served from 1937 to 1940 as a member of the federal Rowell-Sirois Royal Commission which studied and made wide-ranging recommendations concerning the allocation and exercise of federal-provincial responsibilities and powers in fiscal and legislative matters.*

Garnett Sedgewick

Many of the grads recalled anecdotes involving G.G. Sedgewick. Following are excerpts from several essays.

Robert L. McDougall, Class of ’39:

The swing doors at the front of Arts 100 open, and a trim little man strides in. He wears slacks, a grey jacket and a bow tie, and his head is held high. Can a man 5’4” tall stride? Garnett Sedgewick can, and his stride is that of an athlete, though I doubt whether he ever played an athlete’s game in his life. He goes to the platform and places his copy of *Hamlet* and a single sheet of paper on the podium. He frowns down upon the class, looking over his nose, and the look is a neat illusion because there are nearly 200 of them, arranged in tidy rows, who look down upon him from the amphitheatre heights of Arts 100. There is an air of expectancy. He descends from the platform and passes along the front row, mostly girls, marking on the forehead of each an X with a piece of chalk. They giggle. “That’s for your sins of omission and commission,” he says. He returns to the platform and launches into *Hamlet*. He seizes on the soliloquies, the agonized thoughts of a man facing an impossible task. “To be or not to be....” “O that this too, too sullied flesh might melt....” “Now might I do it....” But soon the text is blossoming into life itself. What is freedom, and how is it saved and how is it lost? Where do we take a stand and what cost are we prepared to pay? Where and how does the corruption of the individual meet the corruption of society? “Surely we must hate tyranny and love freedom,” he says, his fist clenched above his head, as if lifted to the war clouds hanging over

Europe. “But first,” he adds, “you must know what freedom is and what tyranny is, and what springs they come from in the human heart.” Pencils and pens are down. The lecturer smirks, wrinkles his nose, picks up the piece of paper from the podium. “And now,” he says, “something for your rotten little notes.”

R. Russell Munn, Class of ’30:

On the Monday after the death of Thomas Hardy (January 11, 1928) Dr. Sedgewick announced that on Wednesday his Shakespeare lecture time would be devoted to a memorial to the dead writer. Word got around and the large lecture hall was packed. Instead of his usual tweed suit he appeared in full regalia of gown and hood. In a short space of an hour Thomas Hardy lived before us as one of the great masters of our English language. It was an unforgettable experience.

One day he said to me, “Munn, do you know what your sentences remind one of? Balloons. They are so smooth and rounded and when you prick them, there is nothing there.” That was his way and we all loved him for it. I am glad the library annex carries his name. I am intrigued by its being underground – like Hamlet’s ghost urging us on to action.

Arthur Mayse, Class of ’35:

There were certain professors I recall with deepest respect and affection. Dr. Sedgewick was one, that peerless Elizabethan who did me the honor of borrowing my necktie. Marched right down from the dais, he did, fixed me with a stare like a rattlesnake charming a rat, then yanked the tie off my neck. (I never got it back, either).

Hugh M. Palmer, Class of ’36:

A small figure of a man, sitting cross-legged on top of a table in front of the class, he was sartorially distinct from his colleagues. Grey Harris tweed suit, shirts as often as not of creamy flannel, a discreet, Paisley-patterned bow tie which he himself had loosely knotted, horn-rimmed spectacles behind which his normally solemn grey eyes would sometimes twinkle. Large face, smallish head, with thinning grey hair. Bow ties – and he had scores of them – were his favorite article of dress. To a group of us he once quipped, “I could do without almost any article of clothing, so long as it isn’t one of these,” and his hand went up as if to reassure himself that the bow tie was still in place.

How clear one’s memory is of that diminutive, comic, erudite man sitting there trying to impart something of the glory of the Elizabethans and of the plays of Shakespeare to a grab-bag assortment of undergraduates.... “I would rather have lived in Elizabethan London, with all its open drains, with all its squalor, with all its disease, than to have lived in any other age or in any other city,” he would declaim to us.

... He would wait until all had taken their places and then, instead of merely walking into the room, he would make an entrance – on wet days his raincoat romantically worn like a cloak. Usually his hand went up as if to toss back a lock of hair or, in a wonderfully deft gesture he would slip the raincoat off his shoulders and lob it on to a chair. One could almost hear the flourish of trumpets. Minutes later he would be asking rhetorical questions of the class as he strutted up and down, as upon an imaginary stage, quoting favorite passages, reciting the blank verse in a manner that maximized its meaning and imagery.

... Behind the mincing walk, the gesturing, the articulation that verged on the precious – was a man of deep scholarship.... He was a man who, although a specialist in Shakespearean studies, had a great sense of the sweep of history and a grand feeling for the liberating forces that had produced the modern humanist tradition, to which he himself subscribed.

Philip Akrigg, Class of ’37:

I saw many sides of the man: the fastidious, cultivated good taste, the rambunctious clowning, the finely tempered literary sensitivity, the razor-sharp mind, the short-fused temper. Once, in a spurt of anger, he called a friend of mine “a god-damn fool” in front of the class, because he had made a mess of scanning Chaucer. (When my friend went around to Sedgewick’s office to say that, since he was a god-damn fool, he obviously should drop out of English Honours, Sedgewick magnanimously explained that he had got out of bed on the wrong side that morning and, with a jocular shove, propelled him out into the corridor.) I learned about other aspects of Sedgewick. One was his generosity. Heaven only knows how many students he helped with money even though his own finances were a bit precarious. When, after World War II, a vet with a wife and three children lacked any decent clothes to wear

at an interview for a graduate fellowship, Sedgewick gave him a blank cheque made out to Chapman’s.

... Sedgewick patting himself on top of his bald pate while he plotted strategy in mid-lecture, or sucking in his cheeks while he considered a moot point or savoured a nuance. Sedgewick walking about the campus, his coat flung like a cape over his shoulders. Sedgewick holding a couple of hundred students absolutely spell-bound while slowly he pulled a handkerchief from up his cuff, flicked it, buried his nose in its white folds, gave a tremendous blow, and equally deliberately stuffed it up his sleeve again... Garnett Sedgewick, like every other great teacher, was a showman. Both in and out of the classroom he constantly dramatized.

... He would put a question to see how well the class was prepared. Sometimes nobody would answer. The question would be put again, with still no answer. There was a third time of asking. Then, bearing down on the front row, Sedgewick would put the question directly to one particular student. When that student failed to answer, the professor would flick his fingertip against the nose of the ignoramus and so proceed to the next and the next until either he got his answer or tired of the game. As an alternate ploy he would sometimes retreat to a corner at the front of the room and despairingly bump his head against the wall. Of course, not all students relished having their noses flicked in class, or their ears lugged in the corridors. “Who does he think he is?” demanded one recalcitrant, “Peter Pan?” A few people always did insist that Sedgewick was a charlatan.

... At rugby games the diminutive Sedgewick, deep in a greatcoat, a long blue and gold scarf coiled about his neck, was almost a mascot for the UBC team. Rugby was always his game. How he scorned the “amazingly fast waddle” of the “dinosaurs” who played Canadian football!

... World War II brought dark days with the casualty lists carrying the names of former students. And there was the unhappy matter of the forced evacuation of the Japanese-Canadians from the West Coast. Sedgewick spoke out publicly against the operation and feeling ran so high, I am told, that at the end of one meeting he had to be rushed out of the hall by a rear exit.

... Almost without exception those who met him in the classroom came away convinced that



Of course, not all students relished having their noses flicked in class, or their ears lugged in the corridors. “Who does he think he is?” demanded one recalcitrant, “Peter Pan?”

if only Sedgewick had had the physical stature he would have been one of the great actors of the stage.... Taking up *Romeo and Juliet*, he acted out Romeo, became Romeo, then suddenly became Juliet too, acting out the young girl’s part. And not a student smiled at the middle-aged professor. ●

A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS

Thank you to all the volunteers who made a difference this past year at UBC; more than 1,800 people gave their time and talent. They volunteered as mentors, at alumni events, on committees and boards, as Friends of the Garden, at the Crane Resource Centre and Library and much more.

For more information about volunteering, and for the full volunteer thank you list, visit www.alumni.ubc.ca/connect/volunteer.

As well as the warm inner glow that comes from helping others, we all know that volunteers receive massive amounts of karma credit. They grab the last free parking spot, get all the good Scrabble squares, walk under ladders with abandon and everybody adores them.*

So besides the feelgoodness that you experience, there are some other things you may not know about UBC volunteers:

- *Leslee, Lesley and Leslie were all volunteers last year. So if this is your name but you spell it differently, clearly you need to start volunteering at UBC.*
- *One volunteer lives in Happy Valley, Hong Kong. Evidently he is surrounding himself with things that are contributing to his well-being. Did you know that research (research right here at UBC actually) shows that volunteering can actually improve your mood and well-being?*

• *More than 40 volunteers have last names that start with the letters Mc. Guess the Irish and Scottish like to volunteer. Aye, volunteering is fun and sometimes you get beer.*

• *One volunteer's name starts with Z, while 138 have a middle name starting with A. Calling all Zach's and Zoe's please!*

• *238 volunteers have BA degrees. 172 have BASc degrees. Think we should start an Arts - Science who-can-get-more-volunteers rivalry?*

• *300 volunteers are not alumni. Clearly the secret is out.*

• *We have 1,879 volunteers listed in our database, but only 1,201 have email addresses. Sometimes we send email-only offers, so make sure we have your email address.*

**or grace or luck or just plain good feelings - choose your denominational good vibe.*

The following three profiles highlight three volunteers who gave their time and talent to UBC last year. Learn why volunteering is important to each one of them and about some of the volunteer opportunities available on campus.



JOHN EVANS, BCom '72

Current position: CEO, Trilogy Group and Owner, OPUS Hotels, Vancouver and Montreal

Current (or last) volunteer role at

UBC: Champion of UBC's CampOUT, a camp for LGBTQ youth and their allies

Reason for getting involved: I chose to actively participate, along with others, in the formation of CampOUT because I believe that the operation and presence of a camp available to a "minority youth group" within our society - namely that of gay youth - would be especially valuable. I believe that gay youth can be vulnerable within the society and as such, the opportunity for them to seek out and attend a camp where they can be educated and talk about their sexuality in a safe environment is a valuable contribution to the betterment of our society.

Reward to you: The reward is in knowing that CampOUT is now operational and that gay youth are at less risk, with its existence, within our communities!

Advice to people thinking about getting involved: Get involved! Volunteerism is the most rewarding work you will do in your life.



COLLEEN STEWART, BA '99, BSW '04

Current position: Social Work Case Manager, Vancouver Coastal Health

Current (or last) volunteer role at

UBC: Alumni Event Volunteer

Reason for getting involved: I got involved in volunteering with UBC Alumni Affairs because I attended a couple of the UBC Dialogues and was impressed with the events. I remember thinking "I'd be interested in doing that!" I also spoke with a couple of people at Alumni Weekend in 2009 who said that Alumni Affairs wanted to recruit more volunteers, and I then attended the "Volunteering 101" workshop that weekend.

Favourite volunteer experience at UBC: My favourite volunteering experience so far was the Alumni Achievement Awards where I was able to get dressed up for a special occasion and greet people at the door.

Advice to people thinking about getting involved: My advice to people who want to get involved with Alumni Affairs is to attend an event or two to see if volunteering for a similar event would suit you. That's what I did and I've thoroughly enjoyed it.



GREG MITCHELL, BA '00

Current position: Planner, City of Surrey

Current (or last) volunteer role at UBC: UBC Tri-Mentor

Reason for getting involved: Volunteering for UBC was a way to give back to the University and to help students develop an understanding of the planning industry.

Favourite volunteer experience at UBC: Seeing my mentees graduate, travel the world learning about cities, pursue planning as a field or enter into graduate school.

Advice to people thinking about getting involved: The tri-mentoring program, or any volunteer commitment at UBC, is as much about the students as it is about alumni and the university. It takes only a few hours a month, but the impact it has on the students is immeasurable. And it creates a lasting legacy for the University.

Chronicle

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA ALUMNI NEWS | SUMMER 2010

This issue in Alumni News:

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THE BEATY BIODIVERSITY CENTRE OPENED ON UBC'S VANCOUVER CAMPUS IN MAY. IT HOUSES THE LARGEST BLUE WHALE SKELETON EXHIBIT IN CANADA.

ALUMNI WEEKEND 2010 MAY 28-30

If you missed Alumni Weekend, we can only assume it's because you live in Peru or had a broken leg. Although the sun failed to put in an appearance, hardy UBC-ers donned rainproof gear and enjoyed music, food and dozens of activities, from vigorous intellectual debate to tidepooling.

Attendees had a chance to snoop around cutting edge research facilities, get tips for career success, and even learn how to communicate with dogs. Some came for class reunions, trying to match faces to memories. Others came to visit special places like the UBC Farm, Botanical Garden, Museum of Anthropology and Belkin Art Gallery.

Kids were more than welcome, with tooth fairies, bubble machines, and face painters on hand to help use up excess energy.

We look forward to seeing you next year (and if you happen to have a broken leg, rest assured the nursing reunion is always well attended).

1. May is one of the best times of year to visit the Botanical Garden.
2. This man is jumping for joy. Or is he trying out the Human Kinetics vertical leap test at University Fair?
3. Opera and wine in the Rose Garden was a treat for the senses.
4. A panel presentation on the best way to revitalize neighbourhoods inspired lively audience participation.
5. A model provided a sneak preview of the new Alumni Centre planned for the heart of campus.

6. PHOTO CONTEST WINNER:

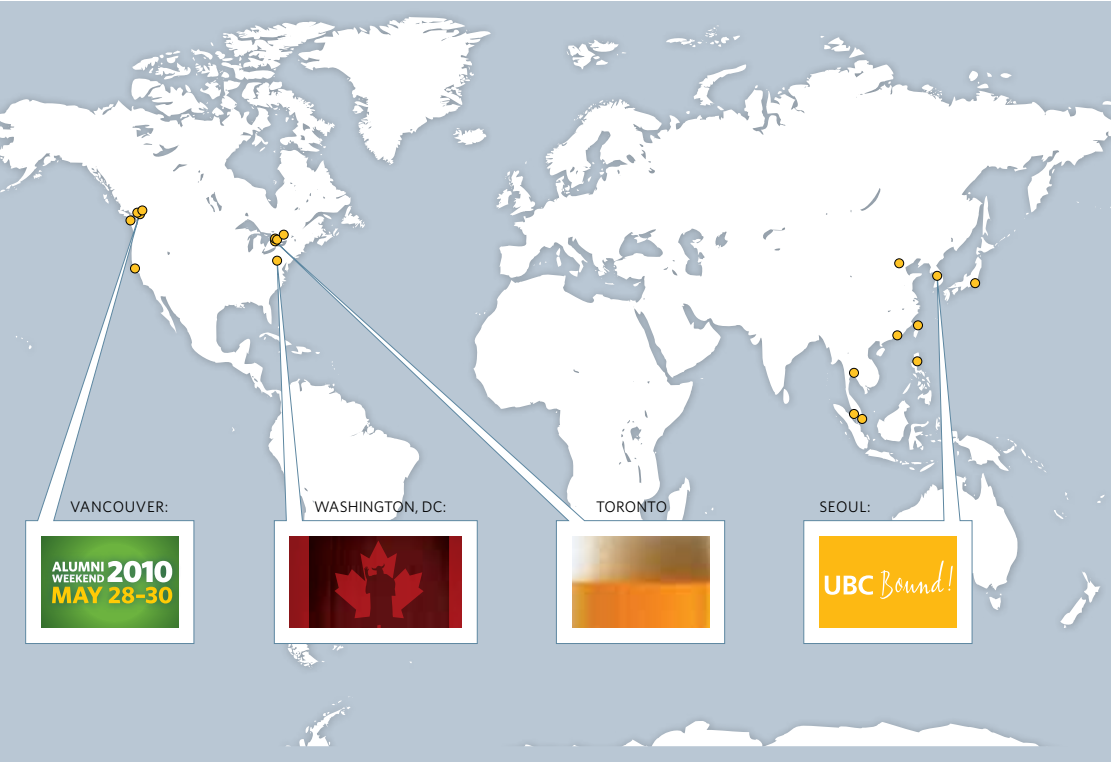
"Wait for me!" Future UBC grad running by Buchanan to the Flag Pole Plaza to catch the musical beat. This was Natasha Malloff's winning entry in this year's photo contest.

7. Face paints and balloons kept the kids happy.
8. Fun with liquid nitrogen at the chemistry magic show. (Seriously – who wouldn't want to see a nail hammered in with a banana?)
9. Chris Waltham explains the physics of the violin.
10. Future chemistry alumna (see 8).
11. A tour guide gives up the secrets of UBC's Botanical Garden.
12. Sit! Storytelling for children at the UBC Bookstore had the desired effect.
13. ExplorASIAN Friends and Family Day partnered to provide some musical entertainment.
14. Tidepooling at Brockton Point was back by popular demand.



WE'RE HERE, WE'RE THERE, WE'RE EVERYWHERE!

No matter where you are in the world, chances are there are other UBC alumni living nearby. With more than 50 alumni networks, we make it easy to stay connected whether you're living in Calgary or Kuala Lumpur. Below are some of the locations that hosted UBC alumni events in the last three months.



- Enjoyed lunch with the UBC President, a former Prime Minister and other illustrious guests · Toronto
- Became opera aficionados · Washington, DC
- Went “Hollywood” for The Big Picture gala · Vancouver
- Celebrated four decades of Pride at UBC · Vancouver
- Spread Alumni Weekend fun across the nation · Vancouver and Toronto
- Discussed urban revitalization in our most provocative dialogue ever · Vancouver
- Joined old friends for a cold beverage · Ottawa
- Played a round of golf · Victoria
- Participated in the inaugural “Third Tuesday” Pub Night · Toronto
- Celebrated Canada Day in the Bay Area · San Francisco
- Met new UBC students from across Asia · Singapore, Quezon City, Seoul, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Taipei, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Beijing

REUNIONS



On May 27, nearly 100 guests celebrated the 60th graduation anniversary of the Class of 1950. A celebratory lunch at the University Golf Club saw old friends come together and new friendships formed. Nearly four full tables of engineers and nurses caught up with their dean, Tyseer Aboulnasr, and the Aggies were well represented by class speaker Bernie Guichon, *BScAg’50*. Guests enjoyed remarks from Barbara Miles, VP, Development & Alumni Engagement, and fourth year student, Elisa Kharrazi. Ian

Robertson, *BSc’86, BA’88*, chair of the Alumni Association hosted the event. One member of the class, Alfred Gerein, *BA’50, MD’54*, is looking forward to celebrating another 60th – the upcoming anniversary of the Faculty of Medicine. Mary Plant, *BA’52*, got an early taste of a 60th reunion by attending with her husband, 1950 Mechanical Engineer grad George. Kay MacDonald Beattie, *BA’50*, travelled from Ontario to attend both this reunion and the 80th anniversary of the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority at UBC over Alumni Weekend.

Weren’t able to join us on May 27? Watch your mailbox for a package containing your anniversary pin, a group photo from the celebration and information about a legacy gift opportunity.

Did you graduate in 1951? If you are interested in contributing to the celebrations for your 60th reunion in 2011, please contact alumni.association@ubc.ca.

Interested in planning a reunion or want to find out if there’s a reunion coming up that you want to attend? Visit www.alumni.ubc.ca/events/reunions for more information.

FEATURED VOLUNTEER

Jaymes Evans
Future UBC Student

Why did you volunteer for Alumni Weekend?
The volunteer orientation was what really hooked me. There were so many awesome events going on and when I saw the program I remember thinking, “I wonder if the UBC Alumni staff actually know how long a weekend is...” There were several events that I would have never expected to be interested in, but was, such as “Physics of the Violin.”

What did you do at Alumni Weekend?
I spent my day volunteering at the UBC Farm, where I had never been despite living on campus for three years. I have to say, it’s worth the trip. The staff is knowledgeable and the greens are delicious. I enjoyed watching alumni and their children tour the farm, with everyone in high spirits despite the gloomy weather.

Any highlights that you want to share?
For me, the highlight of Alumni Weekend was looking down my list of alumni and realizing that the person smiling at me had a physics degree that he had earned nearly fifty years ago. My only regret was that I had to miss all the other great events that were taking place while I was busy volunteering. That being said, I was allowed to leave early to catch the last TRIUMF nuclear facility tour (did you know that the acronym TRIUMF doesn’t actually stand for anything?) Volunteering at UBC Alumni Weekend was a great experience and I look forward to participating again next year.

Want to find out how you can get involved with your Alumni Association? Visit www.alumni.ubc.ca/ volunteer to find out what you can do.

FEATURED NETWORK



Toronto
With more than 7,000 alumni living in the Greater Toronto Area, UBC TO is one of the largest and most active alumni networks. Over the past few months they’ve hosted the 4th Annual Great Trekker Luncheon, a 50+ Alumni Potluck Dinner and the first UBC Alumni Weekend in Toronto (including a joint event with the Sauder Business Club of Toronto). They have also instituted a new monthly tradition, the “Third Tuesday” Pub Night, taking place on the third Tuesday of every month (check www.ubcto.com regularly for details).

This fall, UBC TO will be launching a Toronto-based e-newsletter and the committee is currently looking for local editors and writers. If you are interested, please email network president, Elliot Ng, at elliott@ubcto.com.

Do you live in the Toronto area and want to get involved? Visit www.ubcto.com to find out all the ways you can stay connected.

Start a network, join a network or find out what’s happening in your area. Visit www.alumni.ubc.ca/connect/networks to find out everything you need to know about UBC alumni networks.

Announcements

UBC Sailing Club
Ahoy! UBC Sailing Club is casting its net for seafaring tales, memories, memorabilia and former club members who want to reconnect and share. Please fill out their web survey at <http://tinyurl.com/sailhistory2010>. Also feel free to browse the Sailing Club website at www.ubcsailing.org.

Earth and Ocean Science Field School Reunion and Wine Tour: Sept. 18-19, 2010
Alumni volunteers are working hard to plan a reunion in Oliver, BC for those graduates from 1960-1989 who attended the field school as a student. Reconnect with classmates and professors, and enjoy great wine in the Okanagan autumn. Please go to www.science.ubc.ca/support/alumni/events for more information.

The UBC Film Production Alumni Association (FPAA)
The Big Picture 40th anniversary of the Film Production Program was an overwhelming success. It brought together more than 200 alumni, students, faculty members and industry guests to celebrate the history of the program and inaugurate the new film production building. The event raised more than \$15,000 towards an alumni scholarship endowment fund, which will help a student in their final year at UBC. Alumni and students volunteered hundreds of hours of work to make the night magical, and the FPAA would like to thank them and all the volunteers and donors that continue to support the success of the Film Production Program.

UPCOMING EVENTS

AGM
UBC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Vancouver · September 7, 2010

UBC vs. Bisons
HOMECOMING 2010
Vancouver · September 18, 2010

Ideas and opinions about issues that matter.

UBC dialogues
UBC DIALOGUES
London, UK · October 1
Toronto · October 5
North Shore · October 13
Calgary · October 19
Vancouver · October 26
Coquitlam · November 16
Ottawa · November 18

Visit www.alumni.ubc.ca/events to find out about upcoming events in your part of the world. To receive invitations, send your home and email addresses to alumni.association@ubc.ca.

Long Time, No UBC... what have you been up to lately?

Whether you've been scaling Everest in fancy-dress for charity or base jumping off a sidewalk in Burnaby, let your old classmates know what you've been up to since leaving campus. Send your news and photographic evidence to Mike Awmack at michael.awmack@ubc.ca or UBC Alumni Association, 6251 Cecil Green Park Road, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1. (Mail original photos or email high resolution scans – preferably 300 dpi.) Please note that *Trek Magazine* is also published online.

1950s

Fifty-nine years ago, **Cecil (Cec) Law** BA'50 (*Hons, Zoology*) moved from the trailer camp on Pearkes Road because Stanford wouldn't admit him to a fellowship to complete his UBC PhD unless he agreed to be drafted for the Korean War. He said, "Six and a half years in the infantry overseas? No way. Especially as a private instead of a major. So I agreed to join DRB for one year only, and so on and so on. I never got back west, alas. But my Dutch wife hated mountains!" He and his wife live now in Kingston, ON. He taught at Queen's from 1966 until they had to retire him. "Not in zoology, no, but in math, engineering and computing, mainly in the school of business," he says. "Now the North Koreans are again threatening the world. Seems like where I came in."

Larry Root BCom'50 and his wife, Mary, were named Rotary Citizens of the Year for Invermere, BC, at a Rotary luncheon on April 1, 2010. The couple has lived in the Columbia Valley for nearly 40 years and they have always been very active in the community, volunteering for a wide variety of local organizations.

At the ReFocus Conference, held in March 2010 in Henderson, Nevada, the American Council of Life Insurers and the Society of Actuaries honoured **Gary Corbett** BCom'58 as one of their two 2010 Insurance Legends. Legends are identified as individuals whose leadership, intellect and personal achievement have made a significant contribution to the insurance community and to society in general.

1970s

Readers of the journal *GEOBIOS*, Vol. 42, Issue 6, Nov-Dec 2009, p.813-823, will note that a new species of a fossil marsupial from the Eocene found in Queensland, Australia, has been given the name *Chulpasia jimthorselli*. The etymology reads that the "... species name honours **Dr. Jim Thorsell** PhD'71, senior advisor to IUCN for World Heritage and discerning advocate of internationally significant paleontological resources." Jim, now residing in the East Kootenay, is not totally convinced that he has now been recognized as an official fossil!

This summer, **Michelle Fisk** BFA'75 (*Theatre*) will appear in the Blyth Festival (www.blythfestival.com) production *Bordertown Café*, running from June 30 to August 14.



Josef P. Skala PhD'73, professor emeritus of pediatrics, has been awarded the 2010 Canadian Medical Association F.N.G. Starr Award for his "significant contributions to medical science, practice and teaching, and at the same time for his work in theatre arts." It is the highest award that CMA can bestow upon one of its members.



Michelle Fisk

This is Michelle's 11th season with the Blyth Festival. Select festival credits include: *Innocence Lost: A Play about Steven Truscott*, 2009; *Reverend Jonah*, 2007; and *Having Hope at Home*, 2003. Michelle has appeared at regional theatres throughout Canada. Most recently, she appeared in *Pride & Prejudice* at the Grand Theatre in London, ON. She has also performed at Canada's major festivals, including the Stratford Shakespeare Festival, where she spent 10 seasons. In addition, Michelle has been a faculty member at the University of Waterloo and Fanshawe College in London.

Soprano **Joanne Dorenfeld** DMA'76 gave concerts in Holland and Belgium and appeared as soloist with the London and Edmonton symphonies and the Illinois Chamber Orchestra, among others. She premiered many new works written for her voice, which were released on a disc by Radio Canada International, and she taught at several universities and Toronto's Royal Conservatory of Music, with which she had a long affiliation. Now coaching oratorio soloists, she is also enjoying traveling with her husband, most recently visiting long-time friends in Germany and Australia.



Murray A. Newman Award recipients: Hon. John A. Fraser (L), John Ford (R)

The Vancouver Aquarium recently held its 12th annual Murray A. Newman Awards, honouring **John Ford** BSc'76, PhD'85 and the **Hon. John A. Fraser** LLB'54, LLD'04. Dr. Ford was recognized for his achievements in aquatic research. He joined Fisheries and Oceans Canada in 2001 as cetacean research program head at the Pacific Biological Station, Nanaimo. Prior to that, Ford was senior marine mammal scientist and director of research and conservation at the Vancouver Aquarium. He is also an adjunct professor in the UBC department of Zoology. Ford's 1985 PhD was a ground-breaking study of the use of pod-specific dialects by resident killer whales. His research has also focused on the conservation status of cetaceans listed under Canada's Species-at-Risk Act and involves assessments of population abundance and distribution, critical habitats and foraging ecology of west coast whales. A recent achievement was the discovery that resident killer whale survival is tightly linked to Chinook salmon abundance.

The Honourable John A. Fraser, OC, was recognized for achievement in aquatic conservation. Fraser served Canada's Parliament as Minister for the Environment and Minister of Fisheries. In 1994, he became head of the Fraser River Sockeye Public Review Board. He was later appointed chair of the Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council in 1998 and remains a council member. Fraser is also a Queen's Counsel, an officer of the Order of Canada and a member of the Order of British Columbia, and he holds the Canadian Forces Decoration. In 2004, he was appointed chair of British Columbia's Pacific Salmon Forum. Murray A. Newman PhD'60 served as the director of the Vancouver Aquarium for 37 years. These awards were created in his honour.

Audrey Driscoll (Vycinas) BA'78, MLS'80 recently published her first novel, *The Friendship of Mortals*, a tale of secret experiments, death and loyalty. It is available as an ebook at www.smashwords.com.

1980s

Karen Larsen BHE'80, Med'88, Dip. TESL'99 received the 2009 BC Premier's Award for Teaching Excellence in the category of Skills Training and Career Preparation.

Since graduating from UBC, **Mary Martin** BSR'80 has worked as a physiotherapist in hospitals in Canada for 13 years, and has spent many years working in Nepal. She first worked there from 1983 to 1987, teaching in the country's first formal physiotherapy course offered through Tribhuvan University in Kathmandu. In January 2000, she returned to work with the United Mission to Nepal. By this time, the physiotherapy course at TU was no longer running, and so she initiated a physiotherapy program at Kathmandu University, the only such program in Nepal. Five classes of students have graduated, and more than 50 Nepali physiotherapists are now working in many different settings across the country. Mary was also an advisor to the Nepal Physiotherapy Association from 2002-2009. In



Mary Martin, BSR’80, taught in Nepal’s first formal physiotherapy course.

2003, she was awarded the Canadian Physiotherapy Association International Health Award for exceptional contribution to furthering the physiotherapy profession internationally. As well as her work with physiotherapy, she has been involved as an advisor in the field of children at risk, working with other advisors in issues related to disability, child trafficking, and corporal punishment, in an effort to help small Nepali NGOs better address these issues in their own communities. She has now returned to Alberta, and is working as a hospital-based physiotherapist in Grande Prairie. She is enjoying the luxuries of water to drink and bathe in, and electricity and internet which both function most of the time, all just dreamed of in most of Nepal.

Michele Menzies *BA’81* married **Michael Overton** *BSc’74* in August 2007. Michael and Michele first met as children at their family summer cottages. Their paths diverged when Michael left for Stanford’s PhD program in computer science and then moved to New York following graduation. Luckily, they later re-connected via the same cottage community. They spent six months in Europe in 2008, living in Rome, Toulouse and Leuven (Belgium) with side trips to Spain, Berlin and England. Michael was collaborating on computer science research with colleagues in Europe, specializing in optimization models. Michele was studying Italian and enjoying the many wonderful art museums. They both enjoyed European life enormously. Michele worked for 24 years in the pharmaceutical industry prior to returning to school to do the BBA. In 2009, she graduated from the BBA program at Capilano University and moved to New York to join Michael. He was promoted to chair of the computer science department at New York University in

September 2009. Michael finds his new position very stimulating although very hectic. Michele is enjoying exploring Manhattan and meeting Michael’s many international colleagues who often visit New York. Their 2010 travel plans include Dubrovnik, Vienna, Zurich and Vancouver.

Janice Wilkinson Mayes *BA’86, MSc’88* became an audiologist after getting tinnitus (ringing in the ears). She has now written a book on how to cope with tinnitus called *Tinnitus Treatment Toolbox*. It is based on scientific research review as well as her own personal and clinical experience. People with tinnitus will find this book easy to read and helpful, and their care providers will also find it a useful companion to their work. It is available through Trafford Publishing or other on-line bookstores. The book is “highly recommended” by the Tinnitus Association of Canada. For more information, visit Janice’s website at www.tinnitustreatmenttoolbox.com.

Pfizer Canada has awarded a Neuropathic Pain Research Award to **Brian E. Cairns** *BSc’86, BScP’89, PhD’97*, associate professor at UBC’s faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, for his research proposal: “An animal model of burning mouth syndrome for assessment of peripheral GABA-A receptors as an analgesic target.” He is exploring the role biology plays in the increased prevalence in women of certain chronic pain conditions that affect the head and mouth, such as migraine headache, burning mouth syndrome and temporomandibular disorders. In particular, he is investigating whether sex-related differences in the sensitivity of nerve fibers that conduct painful impulses from the mouth, jaw muscles and jaw joints contribute to differences in the occurrence of these pain conditions in men and women.



Marise May *BSc’03 (Nutritional Sciences)* now lives in Montreal, her hometown, where she runs a business with her husband selling their Arayuma brand products (www.arayuma.com). They import and distribute fair trade organic teas, herbs and spices, as well as ready-to eat curries, all purchased ethically from Sri Lanka (where her husband is from). They carry the largest selection of fair trade spices in North America, and their products are sold in health food and specialty stores across Canada. The farmer’s project in Sri Lanka that produces their teas and spices is the first of its kind in Asia, and a model for fair trade the world over. The group includes more than 2,000 farmer families, each of which owns between half an acre and two acres of land. The farms are run in a sustainable way, promote greater biodiversity than plantations (most Asian tea is grown on plantations), and the project gives back to the community by helping build infrastructure, schools, etc., in addition to ensuring fair prices for the farmers.



1990s
Andrea Lister *BA’94* has been named the new editor of *British Columbia History*. She has a history degree from UBC, complemented by a Certificate in Technical Communications from SFU. Andrea worked for many years as the communications manager for a national software and services firm before returning to the world of history. She has just completed the layout and design for the book *Fields of Seams and Dreams: A History of Plowing in the Valley* by David B. Reid, published in March 2010. Andrea has worked on publications, on web sites, in museums and in retail. She started by assisting Barrie Sanford, the guest editor, in preparation of the special transportation issue, vol. 43:1 March 2010.

William Amos *MA’99 (Political Science)* was appointed director of the uOttawa-Ecojustice Environmental Law and Policy Clinic, where he had previously served as staff lawyer since 2007. Amos is also a part-time professor at the University of Ottawa’s Faculty of Common Law. Ecojustice (www.ecojustice.ca) is Canada’s leading advocate on environmental legal issues, and its Ottawa clinic provides students with the opportunity to assist with pro bono litigation and law reform projects in the public interest.

2000s
23-year-old **Simone Osborne** *DMPS’09* is already making a name for herself in the world of opera. A new member of the Canadian Opera Company’s prestigious Ensemble Studio training program, the soprano performed in the company’s productions of *Maria Stuarda* and *Idomeneo* this spring. In 2008, she was the youngest recipient of a Grand Winner award at the Metropolitan Opera’s prestigious National Council Auditions held in New York City. New York Times music critic Anthony Tommasini lauded her “sweet and clear sound, sensitive phrasing and gleaming sustained high notes.” ●

RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY
AT THE RASHPAL DHILLON
UBC TRACK AND FIELD OVAL



Rashpal Dhillon Track and Field Oval officially opened

The official opening of the Rashpal Dhillon UBC Track and Field Oval at UBC's Point Grey campus took place on a Wednesday afternoon in June during the UBC Pre-Jerome Open. The celebration recognized the contribution of \$1.1 million made by the Dhillon family's Richberry Farms towards this new facility at Thunderbird Park.

Special guests attending the opening ceremonies included UBC athletics director Bob Philip and Peter Dhillon, son of the late Rashpal Dhillon after whom the oval is named. These individuals were also part of the ribbon-cutting party.

"It's quite appropriate that this oval is named after my father," said Dhillon, addressing the crowd. "I remember when I was a kid my

mom and dad used to go out for walks around track fields or parks. This is a fitting memory for my father."

The elder Dhillon, who passed away in 2003, was a lifelong entrepreneur after immigrating to Canada from India as a young man. He undertook a series of successful business ventures, but enjoyed the most success with his cranberry farm. His son, Peter, is actively involved in a number of sporting projects among many other philanthropic endeavours.

"This has been a long time coming," said Philip. "The T-Bird track and field teams are one of the biggest beneficiaries of a track on campus, but this is also a facility for the community."

Women's volleyball perfect en route to third straight CIS banner

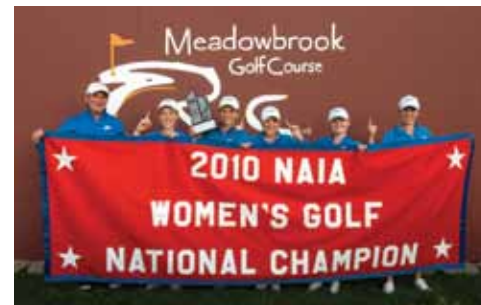
The women's volleyball team captured their third straight CIS national title after going a perfect 27-0 in 2009-10, making this one of the finest seasons in UBC Thunderbird history. The T-Birds led the extremely competitive Canada West in kills, hitting percentage, blocks, assists and opponent hitting percentage as they added their second straight conference playoff crown.

Not surprisingly their squad featured the CIS player of the year (Liz Cordonier), coach of the year (Doug Reimer), and libero of the year (Claire Hanna) with three players earning CIS All-Canadian honours. Cordonier went on to claim the BLG award as the CIS female athlete of the year. She also collected a pair of UBC distinctions – the Marilyn Pomfret award (female athlete of the year) and the May Brown trophy (graduating female athlete of the year).

Six members from the 2009-10 UBC team, including Cordonier, are training and competing this summer with Team Canada as members of either the indoor or beach national squads.



UBC'S WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM CELEBRATES



WOMEN'S GOLF: CHRIS MACDONALD (HEAD COACH), LINDSAY MANION, KYLIE BARROS, ALYSSA HUMAN, VANESSA LEON, JOCELYN ALFORD

Women's golf brings home NAIA and RCGA banners

Two titles are better than one for the UBC women's golf team, which brought home first place at both the NAIA Championships and RCGA University College Championships in a span of two weeks this spring. A strong team effort led the fourth-ranked T-Birds to the top prize at the NAIA tournament in Rapid City, SD, as they claimed their third NAIA title in program history with a seven-stroke victory in their American association.

Rookie Kylie Barros led UBC with a second-place finish in the individual competition, and all five T-Birds finished in the top 20.

Jocelyn Alford, Vanessa Leon, Lindsay Manion, and Alyssa Human were the other members of the T-Birds championship squad.

It was more of the same from UBC less than a week later at the RCGA Championships in Fredericton, NB, with Barros leading the T-Birds to a commanding 25-stroke victory over their Canadian rivals from Victoria. The rookie sensation again finished second in the individual competition, losing in a playoff after the tournament ended early due to poor weather conditions. Her teammates were not far behind, with Alford and Leon tying for third with



Human and Manion deadlocked for sixth place.

Alford then went to represent Canada at the World University Golf Championships in Malaga, Spain, finishing 25th overall and helping the Canadian team to an eighth place finish.

SPORTS SHORTS



JESSLYN HODGE OF WOMEN'S SOFTBALL IN ACTION AGAINST SFU

For the second consecutive season, the men's basketball team claimed a silver medal at the CIS final. They lost to the upstart Saskatchewan Huskies 91-81 in the national final. Star point guard Josh Whyte was named the CIS player of the year while Kevin Hanson earned CIS coach of the year honours.

The men's track and field team earned the program's best-ever result at the NAIA Championships with a third-place finish at the 2010 meet held in Marion, IN. Curtis Moss (javelin), Inaki Gomez (race walk), and Reid Gustavson (decathlon) all brought home gold medals from the event. The women's squad finished 10th overall. Liz Gleadle capped off a perfect NAIA career winning her fourth straight women's javelin with a championship record throw.

The men's baseball team achieved a program best no. 3 ranking in the NAIA

during the 2010 season and were two wins short of qualifying for the Avista-NAIA World Series. They finished the season with a 41-13 overall record. Rookie centre fielder Blake Carruthers was honoured with an NAIA gold glove award, the first time in UBC history that a player has earned this national recognition. Standout seniors Sammie Starr (shortstop) and Mark Hardy (pitcher) were both selected in the 2010 MLB Amateur Draft, becoming the 12th and 13th players in T-Birds history to earn this distinction.

It was an impressive performance by the women's softball team in their inaugural varsity season as they qualified for the A.I.I. Conference tournament. They finished their first ever varsity campaign with a 9-17 record and lost to eventual national champions, Simon Fraser, in their playoff competition.

The 2010 UBC Alumni Achievement Awards

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

The annual Alumni Achievement Awards present an opportunity to recognize some of these outstanding men and women for their accomplishments.

This year, the following recipients will be honoured:

Lifetime Achievement Award

Marvin Storrow, LLB’62

Accomplished lawyer, influential in aboriginal rights law, who has shown strong commitment to numerous social justice causes and the betterment of the legal profession.

Alumni Award of Distinction

Thomas Edward Siddon, LLD’07

Professor, politician and community leader whose leadership and dedication has shaped the course of First Nations land management, community development and environmental stewardship in Canada.

Outstanding Young Alumnus Award

Amy Belling, BA’03

Leo Award-winning filmmaker and founder of the UBC Film Production Alumni Association.

Honorary Alumnus Award

Dennis Pavlich

Professor and university executive whose decades of teaching excellence, leadership and vision are evident in the university’s Comprehensive Community Plan and the University Square project.

Outstanding Future Alumnus Award

Rachel L’Orsa, BASc’10

Engineering and arts student leader whose commitment to academic excellence and significant involvement in university affairs inspires others and improves the campus community.

Global Citizenship Award

Veronica Fynn, BA’04

Liberian student refugee who has become one of Canada’s leading advocates for the rights of refugees and internally displaced persons.

THE 2010 UBC ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Outstanding Faculty Community Service Award

Jack Taunton, MD’76

Leader in sports medicine and health promotion who co-founded the Vancouver Sun Run and served as CMO for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Blythe Eagles Volunteer Leadership Award

Glennis Zilm, BSc’58

Nursing leader whose commitment to the documentation and development of nursing history has helped make BC a Canadian leader in nursing scholarship.

Alumni Milestone Achievement Award

John M.S. Lecky UBC Boathouse and its Gold for Life Committee

Volunteer and donor-driven project that provided UBC with the world-class rowing facility, equipment and scholarship endowments needed to ensure continued success in the sport.



in ~ MEMORIAM ~

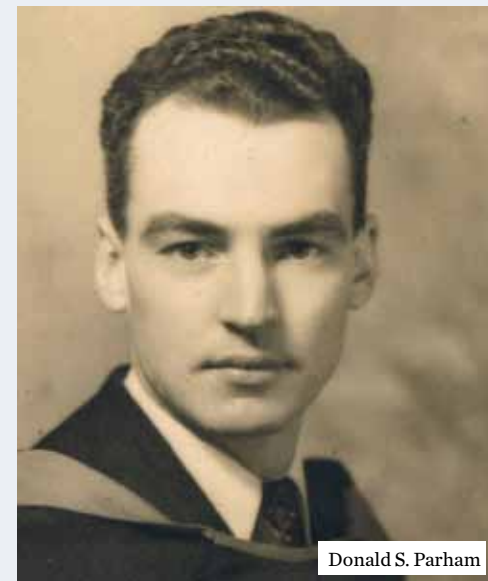
Donald S. Parham, BASc’42

Donald S. Parham of Santa Cruz passed away peacefully on December 30, 2009.

Don was a brilliant man with a delightful humour and warmth of spirit. He was treasured and loved by all who knew him. A 36-year resident of Los Osos, San Luis Obispo County, California, Don was born in Viking, Alberta, on February 3, 1917. He attended UBC, where he was a member of the Phi Delta Theta Fraternity.

Don married Jo, also from Vancouver, in 1943 and they moved to the US at the end of WWII, living first in New Jersey and then in Tennessee before retiring to Baywood Park, California in 1972. As a chemical engineer, he rose to executive VP of Agrico Chemical Company, which was the world’s largest chemical company at the time.

Don and Jo had a strong connection to nature and actively supported many conservation projects. Don was a former president of the Morro Bay Audubon Society and the Central Coast Natural History Association. He loved birding and participated in many birding expeditions, in the course of which he accumulated a credible life list of bird sightings. Don loved to travel and explored many parts of the world with Jo.



Donald S. Parham

Andrew Francis Seraphim, BASc’45

Andrew Francis Seraphim, born September 8, 1921, in Abbotsford, died July 11, 2009, in Williamstown, New Jersey, just a month before he and his wife, Lu (Lucille Nielson), would have celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with their five children: Mary Lou, *BEd’72*, Andrea, *BA’76, LLB’82*, Robert, David and Richard; their spouses and 10 grandchildren. Andy is also survived by his siblings: Dr. Robert H. Seraphim, *MASc’48*, Dr. Donald P. Seraphim, *MASc’52*, and Ada J. (Midge) Jory, *BA’56*.

Although Andy’s degree was in mining engineering, his brilliance and adaptability led to a wide ranging career which led him from Vancouver to Calgary, Montreal, the Maritimes and Philadelphia. He held leading roles in gold mining in Yellowknife, building the world’s largest earth filled dam in the Yukon, penstock construction at Bridge River, tunnelling under Ripple Rock to prepare for its removal as a navigational hazard, the construction of the Massey Tunnel, pipeline and railway construction in Alberta, work on the St. Lawrence seaway, the building of heavy water plants in the Maritimes, Europe and Korea, and finally ownership in a company specializing in preventing ecological disasters. He loved his work and did not retire until 2001 when he was 80.

Andy was appreciated by his family, friends and those with whom he worked for his exceptional patience, understanding, respect for others and ability to see the humour in all situations. He was known by all for his love of family, fishing, flowers and fun. A celebration of his life was held in Sicklerville, New Jersey, on August 22, 2009.

We depend on friends and relatives for our In Memoriam materials. Please send obituaries of 400 words or less (submissions will be edited for length where necessary) to Mike Awmack at michael.lawmack@ubc.ca or UBC Alumni Association, 6251 Cecil Green Park Road, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1. (Mail original photos or email high resolution scans – preferably 300 dpi.) Please note that Trek Magazine is also published online.

Marie J. Kendall, BA’45

Marie Kendall was born in Vancouver on May 27, 1922. She went to Kitsilano High School before attending UBC. Her majors were bacteriology and chemistry and she was a member of the Outdoor Club.

She earned a master’s degree in 1958 at George Washington University, Bethesda, Maryland, where she carried out high-level neuroscience research while working as a supervisory histopathology technician at National Institutes of Health. While there she was elected as an associate in Sigma XI Honor Society.

Marie began her career as a head technician, histology, at Shaughnessy Hospital from 1945-53. In 1948 she was a registered medical technologist specializing in histological technique. In 1953 she began her research career with A.S. Dekaban in the department of Medicine at Shaughnessy until 1958, when she went with him to Bethesda to continue the research and get her master’s. She returned to VGH as a senior technician in the department of Surgery. From 1967-69 she was a PhD student with P. S. Vassar in Pathology. She completed all of the courses except her thesis. She joined the UBC division of Neurosurgery in 1970 and was a stellar laboratory research investigator. In 1977, she was appointed an instructor. She was principal or second author on more than 20 papers. She retired in 1985.

Marie lived in Vancouver for most of her life with her mother and sisters. She was an avid fisherman and outdoors person. She bought a cottage at Point Roberts in 1967 and, until recently, kept a boat there. She completed the power squadron course so she could use it safely. She went fishing off the Point as well as going on



Marie J. Kendall



Roy Hans Jonsson

fishing trips with other people. Marie always had a garden at the Point. She kept pots on her balcony but the Point is where she grew flowers and tomatoes. She was a long-time member of the Dunbar Lapidary Club. She also was a skier and golfer. In 1951, in her first tournament, Marie forced a halt to proceedings by achieving a 93 — requiring a playoff for the final 16. She won the playoff but lost in the quarterfinals. In two years she got her handicap down to eight.

Marie travelled for many years. From September to December 1969 she went on a Seven Seas Round the World Adventure on the Oronsay. One of her early trips was to Australia with the Lapidary Rock and Mineral Society of BC in August 1974. They toured the outback looking for opals. She went to Afghanistan in 1976. In recent years, she toured mostly by cruises, going to South East Asia where she broke her hip in a rickshaw mishap in Vietnam in October 2005. She also did the Danube by boat in May 2002 and a combined sea and land trip to California and Mexico in October 2008. She took several other cruises including one up the Amazon in April 1994 and one around the British Isles in June 2000. Another trip combined travel by boat up the Nile and then on to Kenya for a wildlife safari in Aug 1984. That year she also went on an Alaskan cruise and hoped to go again this May if she was well enough.

Marie Kendall died of pancreatic cancer at Delta Hospital on February 27, 2010.

Paul Thomas Coté, BA’47, BAsc’48, MBA, LLD
Pre-deceased by his parents, Rose and Paul; beloved daughter Annabeth and her grandson, Ford; and his sister, Pauline, Paul is survived by Bette, his wife of 67 years. He was a passionate, caring husband to Bette, and a generous and understanding father to Paul, Annabeth, Catherine, Bill, Matthew, Odessa, Nancy and Jacqueline. He was a proud grandfather to 23 grandchildren

and doting great-grandfather to 12 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his two nieces, Marilou Paterson and Valerie Orth.

Paul served in Sicily, Italy and Holland with the first Canadian Division WW II. He was CEO of the Tide Bay Companies and Argus Installations, involved in such projects as the Deas Tunnel, Tsawwassen Ferry Terminal and Iona Sewage Disposal, and the upgrading of many industrial plants in BC and Alberta.

He was a founding member of the Reform Party, chairman of the Rhodes Scholarship committee, chairman of the Board and Chancellor at Simon Fraser University. SFU established an engineering scholarship in his name for his part in creating the Engineering faculty without government support.

He sailed with his family and raced with his sons on *Jeunesse* I and II. He and Bette traveled the world together and explored North America and Alaska in their motor home. His was a good life, well-lived, and he will be sorely missed. Thanks to the loving care of Merly Santillan and David Villegas, he was able to die peacefully at home.

Warren Damer, BA’49, BEd’56
Warren passed away on December 4, 2009, after a courageous 10-year battle with Parkinson’s disease. Warren was of a generation that considered it a privilege to attend UBC, and he never forgot the opportunities afforded by his education nor the friends he made. He had a well-respected career in school teaching, ending with high school English in Kamloops, and later became active in the local retired school teachers’ association. Always a gentleman, he is sadly missed by family and friends, and remembered fondly by many former students.

Peter Miller, BASc’52
Peter passed away peacefully at home in Wasa, BC, on November 5, 2009. He served in the Royal Canadian Signal Corps for five years, attended UBC, worked in four provinces for nine years as an engineer, then returned to UBC for a diploma in education.

He taught high school physics, mathematics and chemistry in Salmo, Crawford Bay, Terrace and Golden. Peter sponsored the student’s yearbook committee in each of those schools and became a sought-after career counsellor. He and his wife were very active with the planning,



Paul Thomas Coté

building and operation of the Golden and District Museum. Peter retired in 1983 and moved to Wasa where he enjoyed landscaping raw property, assisting with local projects and welcoming visits from family members.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Naomi (Allsebrook) Miller, *BScN’51*, daughters Verle, *BScPharm’78*, Heather, *BSc’77*, Barbara, *BA’80*, Joy, and Ruth, and son Murray, *BASc’86*, and 12 grandchildren. He was pleased to observe that at least one granddaughter is following tradition, and is now in her third year at UBC’s Okanagan campus.

Barbara J. Howard (Leith), BCom’59
Barbara passed away on December 4, 2009, at St. Paul’s Hospital in Vancouver at the age of 73. Barbara lived a full and active life marked by academic achievement, a caring family, and contribution to her community. She is remembered by her husband Ron, *BARCH’57*, sons Geoffrey, *LLB’86* and Timothy, *LLB’94* and daughter Lisa, *BCom’86*.

Barbara’s years at UBC were active and memorable. A member of the Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority, the cheerleading squad, the AMS Student Council and sundry other campus committees, Barbara excelled in her studies, earning numerous scholarships and awards and graduating with a BCom, first class. Her husband-to-be, Ron, knew a good thing when he saw it, and wooed her vigorously at Alpha Delta parties and on the beaches of Boundary Bay. They married on November 7, 1959, and Barbara



Barbara J. Howard

joined the financial firm of Pemberton Securities as a rare and talented female financial analyst.

With the birth of Geoff, Barbara devoted her talents and energy to her growing family in West Vancouver. Barbara and Ron were early pioneers of skiing at Whistler and supported their three children through their own achievements in academics, sports and, in later years, family. As her children grew older, Barbara gave her talents and energy to her community, serving as a school trustee for West Vancouver (1986-1996), trustee of Capilano College, and member of West Vancouver’s Planning Commission and Parks Commission and Economic Task Force, among other civic positions.

Barbara’s connection to UBC endured through the years. Her three children graduated from her alma mater, and in 2006 a scholarship for students at the school of commerce was created in Barbara’s name.

With Ron’s retirement in 1996 came time for international travel, grandchildren and long walks on the beach in Wailea, Maui. Regrettably, Barbara’s health deteriorated in 2004 and she spent the last months of her life in the West Vancouver Care Centre with Ron ever by her side. Admitted to hospital on November 22, 2009, Barbara’s spirit was ready to release and she passed in her sleep in the early hours of December 4. Barbara was a woman of lively intelligence and caring soul, and brought endless energy to pursuing the interests of her family and community. She will be missed by many family, friends and colleagues.

Roy Hans Jonsson, BEd’60
After a two year battle with colon cancer, Roy died peacefully at home with his family nearby. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Margaret, daughter Karen (Peter), grandsons Nikolas, Bryce and Nolan, son Alan (Joanne), brother Carl (Mavis) and a large extended family. Roy was born in Fort St. John, BC, and grew up in Port Alberni.

After graduation he taught senior geography at Windsor Secondary School for 28 years. In 1991, he left teaching and turned his gardening hobby into a profession. In his second career, he became a certified landscape consultant, working in the compost industry, instructing for North Vancouver Continuing Ed, VanDusen and UBC and doing consultations for home gardeners.

As a garden columnist, he wrote “Sow it Grows” for the *North Shore News* for 18 years and in 2007 published the garden book *Garden Sense – Secrets of an Experienced Gardener*. He was also known as a popular speaker at garden clubs around the Lower Mainland. In 1995 Roy joined the Canadian Executive Service Organization and did volunteer horticultural assignments in Tanzania, Hungary, China, the Philippines and Honduras. Donations to the Lion’s Gate Hospital Foundation, marked for the new North Shore Hospice garden, would be appreciated.

Ivan Orosz, BSF’61
Ivan Orosz passed away in Madison, Wisconsin, on October 30, 2009, shortly after the detection of a brain tumour. At the time of his death his family was at his bedside. He is survived by Janet, his wife of 47 years, sons Les and Bill, their wives, Tracy and Cathy respectively, and his nine grandchildren.

Ivan was born in Szombathely, Hungary, and came to Canada with the Sopron group of foresters after the unsuccessful revolt in 1956. He graduated from UBC with a BSc in forestry (Sopron Division) in 1961. He received a master’s degree in wood science from Oregon State University, Corvallis (1967), where he met his wife, Janet.

During his career he worked at: the Western Pine Association in Portland, Oregon (1962-1966) in the machine stress rating project; the Forest Product Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin, as a general research engineer (1966-1976); and the University of Wisconsin, Physical

Sciences Laboratory as a mechanical engineer (1976-1982). During his tenure with the Physical Sciences Laboratory he was seconded to the department of Physics and spent most of the time at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory working on the proton accelerator. He also had a two year assignment with CH2M Cell Consulting firm in Corvallis, Oregon.

In 1982, his chronic back problem forced him into early retirement. At the beginning of his retirement, he visited his beloved parents and brother in Hungary whenever he could. But during the last 20 years, his back problems and other health complications prevented him from any long-distance traveling.

He received a Christian burial in Madison. Rest in peace, Ivan, you will be greatly missed by your family and friends, including those who were your friends among the Sopron alumni.

Jindra Kulich, BA’61, MA’66
Jindra was born in Prague in 1929. He was a true child of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and its ruinous aftermath in Europe during the 1930s and ’40s and, as such, at different points in his earlier life, he was Czech, Austrian and German, before ending up in Denmark as a Czech refugee in 1953, where he enrolled at the International People’s College in Elsinore.

His experience at this Danish folk high school came to have a profound impact on Jindra’s professional and scholarly life. The school, with its democratic traditions, was a total break from the authoritarian system he had just left and in the first week Jindra got involved in writing the by-laws for the three committees that formed the student government. It was here he met his wife to be, Birthe. The two had started to plan for a life in Denmark when Jindra was told that he no longer could stay and the young couple, now married, set out for Canada in 1954.

After a short stint as bookstore manager he embarked upon a very successful career as an adult educator. In 1961, he became the director of adult education for School District No. 70, Port Alberni. Quickly, those working in school districts around the province heard about the Alberni Valley Institute, which with its emphasis on liberal open learning had made a complete break with the dominant practice.

Jindra was appointed assistant director at the Centre for Continuing Education at UBC and

director in 1976. A true believer in the old extension tradition, with its liberal education roots, he tried to resist the growing pressure for continuing education to become a full cost-recovery operation. When it became clear he had lost the struggle, Jindra, true to his principles, took early retirement. As anyone that has worked with Jindra knows, he epitomized integrity, honesty and more than anything, civil courage. As a director he had a deep understanding that the key challenge was not how to adapt to the changing world but how to command change.

While Jindra is recognised in Canada and the USA as a leader in continuing adult education, his remarkable contribution to comparative adult education research in the areas of Eastern European adult education and the folk high school tradition is less well-known. During a 40-year period he authored six books, edited 10 and published 142 papers in leading scholarly journals. It is no surprise that in the last two decades it was almost impossible to organize an international scholarly conference on these topics and not invite Jindra as a speaker. Jindra passed away on December 4, 2009.

Robert B. Mackay, BCom’64
Robert (Bob) Barnett Mackay of Nanoose Bay, BC, passed away peacefully on April 1, 2010, holding the hands of his wife and children. Predeceased by his parents, Aurore and William Mackay, Bob is survived by his university sweetheart, Gail, children Theresa (Nevin Pettyjohn) and Rob (Michelle Currie), and



grandchildren Bryn and Tess Mackay-Pettyjohn and Anna and Sophie Mackay.

Bob was born in Prince Albert on November 18, 1939. A prairie boy who loved the sea, he joined *HMCS Venture* as an officer cadet at age 17, later resigning to attend UBC. President of the Commerce Undergraduate Society, Alpha Delta Phi fraternity member and named to the Sigma Tau Chi fraternity, Bob was awarded the Matthew H. Henderson Shield for Most Outstanding Graduating Male Commerce Student.

Starting his marketing career in product management in 1964 with the Imperial Tobacco Sales Company in Montreal, he later moved to Proctor and Gamble in Toronto. He then joined McKim/Benton and Bowles Advertising as an account executive for General Foods, followed by Scott Paper in Vancouver in 1968 as the Canadian marketing manager (consumer products).

Returning to university for a second time, Bob moved his young family to Edmonton, graduating from the University of Alberta with a bachelor of laws in 1976. He then spent a year articling at Davis and Company back in Vancouver. After opening his own law practice, Bob persuaded the BC Bar to sanction marketing and advertising law as a specialization. While managing his firm, he instructed law and marketing until 1982 at Capilano University.

Along with Red Robinson and Tom Peacock, in 1988 he was a founding member of the West Coast Chapter of the National Advertising Benevolent Society. In 1989, Bob joined Russell and Dumoulin as associate counsel and



in 1994 he moved to Gowling, Lafleur and Henderson as the managing partner, rising to the role of counsel in 2004. Among his many accomplishments during his time at Gowlings, was his instrumental role in the formation of Tourism BC as a Crown Corporation.

Upon retirement, Bob and Gail logged many hours flying all over the world and enjoyed annual spring trips to Portugal. Bob never forgot his childhood love of the sea, spending time with his family cruising from Desolation Sound to the San Juan Islands in his boat, White Banner, named for the flag flown by the Clan Mackay in pre-Bonnie Prince Charlie days.

Bob believed in making a difference. Throughout his career he volunteered countless hours to the marketing, advertising and law communities as well as many philanthropic associations. Bob’s unending commitment to helping his community resulted in several awards and honours, including nominations to the Order of Canada and the Order of BC.

His family will never forget him, saying, “Wherever you are now, we know you are telling the best stories and making everyone laugh and laugh. Bye for now.”

George (Bud) Lewis Silvester, BSc’64
George Silvester was born on April 9, 1930, in Edson, Alberta. Shortly afterwards, the family moved to Edmonton where his dad was a CN railroad engineer. In 1939 the Silvester family moved to Vancouver on English Bay near Stanley Park where Bud, as he was known to family and friends, attended Lord Roberts Elementary School and King George High School. During this time, when not in school or delivering early morning newspapers or delivering groceries after school, Bud played tennis from early morning to late at night at the Stanley Park courts. He became a top junior tennis player in BC and Canada and earned a tennis scholarship to Modesto College in California. Unfortunately he took ill and could not begin the semester.

The family moved to Burnaby after Bud graduated from high school in 1948. Bud worked for several years for a plumbing and heating company. Around 1954, he met a former math teacher from King George School who suggested Bud become a teacher. Bud enrolled in 1955 at Vancouver Normal School

(its last year of enrolment at Cambie and 12th Avenue in Vancouver).

His first teaching position was at Abbotsford Junior High. Each summer thereafter for many years, Bud spent six weeks at summer school taking courses towards a bachelor of science degree. He taught in North Vancouver, Surrey and Burnaby prior to moving to Vernon in 1974, where he taught math, science, and physics at Fulton Secondary. He earned his bachelor of science degree at UBC and in 1984 a master’s degree in education from Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington. He retired from teaching in June 1987. On the first day of school in September 1987, Bud played tennis at the Kalamalka Country Club instead of going off to work!

Bud was a man of few words. He was talented in many different aspects of life, from academics and sports to fine arts. He was self-taught in many of his activities and hobbies. In addition to his first love – tennis (playing competitively at the provincial level until a shoulder separation in the early ’60s) – he belonged to the Star Dusters square dance group and taught square dancing. He was also an elegant ballroom dancer. He was a model railroader; his love of trains came from his childhood riding the trains with his dad. He painted in oils and played contract bridge. Bud loved golfing at the coast and in Vernon. He was a long time member of the Vernon Golf and Country Club.

Bud met his wife, Barbara, *BEd’91*, in early 1958 when she did her teaching practicum at Abbotsford Junior High. They were married on February 7, 1959, in Chilliwack, and have two daughters, Trisha, *BPE’83*, and Charlene. Great summer holidays were enjoyed in the outdoors – tenting in the early ’60s before camping life got a little easier in the camper he built. Fishing and boating trips with his parents on BC interior lakes were a highlight for our family as well as following Bud on the tennis circuit.

Bud had a big interest in genealogy. Since his retirement, he spent time in Salt Lake City, Utah and St. Catherine’s House, London, England, researching his family history. Many hours were spent researching the various branches of the family – Silvesters, Gallichans, Ansell, Germans and Andrews.

Travels have taken Bud and Barb all over the world via bus tours, car rentals or cruising. For these two globetrotters, cruising became the

favourite choice of travel over the last 15 years, from seven-day excursions to 40-day adventures. Cruising days have numbered well over 300. Bud lived a full life and wanted to enjoy it to the end with what he loved doing – cruising around the world. Bud and Barb celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in February 2009 in San Jose del Cabo, Mexico.

Going through memorabilia and photo albums after his passing, his daughters found a poem in one of the scrapbooks written by a Fulton student that sums up their Dad. The first part of the poem reads:

*Now I lay me down to sleep,
My undone homework at my feet
If I should die before I wake,
I have these last requests to make.
Lay my science test on my chest,
Tell Mr. Silvester I done my best....*

Bud passed away on September 7, 2009, in Vernon. He leaves behind his wife, Barbara; daughter Trisha and her husband and their son, Jackson; and daughter Charlene and other relatives throughout BC, England, and France.

Olga Ruskin (Bruchovsky), MA’70, DAHY’83
To our great sadness, Olga died on Tuesday, January 19, 2010, at Lions Gate Hospital in North Vancouver of complications resulting from the Guillain-Barré Syndrome.

Olga was born in Toronto and attended Humberside Collegiate Institute, an academic high school. She furthered her education at Victoria College, University of Toronto, from which she graduated in 1953 with an honours bachelor of arts degree in modern history. Her eventual interests as a journalist were emerging at this time and she became a court reporter for *The Toronto Star*, the major daily newspaper in that city.

In 1955, she married Vernon Warner Ruskin and moved to Vancouver. Here she helped document Vancouver’s local history especially with the co-authorship of *Gastown’s Gassy Jack*, the first book about the legendary Vancouver pioneer.

While at UBC she contributed many articles for the “Page Friday” edition of *The Ubysey*. Subsequently Olga taught history and English for several years at Lord Byng High School before the birth of her son, John.

With the advent of public access TV in the 1970s, Olga took a keen interest in the possibilities of



the new medium. She became involved in all aspects of producing and hosting the show *Our Pioneers and Neighbours*. Numerous episodes were broadcast over the years, showcasing the fascinating history of the North Shore, as well as many variations of Olga’s hairstyles.

She returned to UBC in the 1980s to earn a diploma in art history in order to more fully enjoy her appreciation of art and her special interest in antiques.

She never stopped looking for story ideas. Olga’s literary activities focused on happenings around Vancouver and her accounts were reported in *The Vancouver Sun*, *North Shore News*, *Western Living*, *Coastal Grower*, *Garden Wise* and other publications.

In April 2006, her life changed dramatically when she fell victim to the Guillain-Barré Syndrome, which resulted in the loss of her ability to manage independently and the need for full-time care and support. However, Olga’s inner strength and willpower enabled her to survive the crippling effects of this illness.

Family and acquaintances never ceased to be impressed by the optimism and courage that Olga maintained despite the daunting setbacks resulting from her illness. Overcoming these challenges during her final four years, Olga ventured into an entirely new field of journalism by establishing her own personal video blog (vancouververitas.com).

Despite limited manual dexterity at this time, a New Year’s resolution led Olga into the challenge of learning to play the drums at the



Peter Francis Shacklock

age of 77 and to perform quite well. Throughout her life, Olga radiated a friendly personality and positive happy attitude, reflected in a cheerful voice and smile.

Peter Francis Shacklock, BSc’71
Peter, age 61, of Portuguese Cove, Halifax County, passed away at home on October 20, 2009, after a brief battle with cancer. Born in Bolton, Lancashire, England, he was the youngest son of Alan Leonard Shacklock of Brighton, Ontario, and the late Olive Brownsword Shacklock of Belleville.

Peter studied zoology at UBC and after graduating with honours he joined the Canadian National Research Council and spent a 27 year career in the field of aquaculture study at the NRC Seaweed Research Station he managed in Sandy Cove, Halifax County. Peter was very active in several community organizations including planning committees, advisory boards, Citizens on Patrol and also enjoyed several years assisting for a local television program that emphasized his love of science, nature and the environment.

After retirement from the NRC in 1998 and a much-deserved break, he ventured into real estate for five years. Peter dedicated his recent years to family here and in Prince Edward Island and his new found love of geocaching, which he enjoyed with the family dogs, and his good friends of the geocaching community.

Throughout his life he was never afraid to



Liz Blake

accept a new challenge that was almost always met with success. He enriched the lives of others and was always ready to selflessly help friends and family.

Peter is survived by his loving wife of 38 years, Barbara; son Greg (Carol) Shacklock; daughter Laura (Shawn) Connolly; brother Mike (Ellen) Shacklock; stepmother Brenda Shacklock; grandchildren Olivia and Dylan Connolly, Matheson and Mya Shacklock; and several nieces and nephews.

(Liz) Margaret Elizabeth Blake (Ward), BEd’74

Liz was born in Vancouver on December 30, 1951, and passed away after her battle with cancer on November 9, 2009. Liz is survived by Steve, BCom’73, her loving husband of 38 years.

Liz and Steve were married in 1971 while they were both UBC students. Liz had three years and Steve had two years left until they completed their degrees. They rented the top floor of a house on East 15th Avenue in Vancouver and commuted daily in their MG sports car. Steve and Liz made the most of their UBC time and enjoyed sports and clubs as well as their course work. Liz played field hockey and joined the Alpha Omega Pi sorority while Steve was on the rowing crew and a member of the UBC Sports Car Club. Liz worked part time as a cashier at Super-Valu and Safeway while she completed her degree. She majored in physical education

and English with a minor in mathematics.

Liz taught for 34 years at Gladstone, Killarney and Churchill secondary schools in Vancouver and on loan to DND Baden Senior School in Germany. She was a ballerina, field hockey player, and a track athlete, and carried these passions into her teaching career by coaching more than 100 teams. Liz was a past president and founding member of the BC Rhythmic Gymnastics Association. She was awarded an honorary life membership in the BCHSTFA for her contribution to track and field.

Liz put her heart into her work. One year, she coached her field hockey team in the fall and track in the spring. In her off-season, she ended up sponsoring a basketball team, running a gymnastics program at lunch, and sponsoring the curling team. When asked why she was doing all those things, she replied that nobody else was volunteering to do them and she didn’t want the kids to miss out. That was the type of person Liz was. She would always pitch in and never said “no.” In 2008 Liz was awarded the Premier’s Award for Teaching Excellence in Healthy Living and PE/Coaching. This award recognized Liz’s devotion to her students and hard work throughout her career.

Liz loved to bake, grow flowers, play the piano, and drive her sports car. Her special passion was travel. Liz and Steve explored more than 145 countries and sailed on 43 cruises. Liz piloted her own dogsled team across northern Norway and Sweden, cycled across Europe, rode the Trans-Siberian Railway, hot-air ballooned in Egypt, went on safari in Kenya, parachuted in Germany, hiked the Great Wall of China, had tea with the Queen in Scotland, and swam in the ocean in Antarctica. Liz indulged Steve’s sports car hobby and could often be seen polishing spoke wheels, navigating in rallies, and enjoying drives in one of their seven sports cars.

A scholarship has been set up in Elizabeth Blake’s name at Churchill Secondary School.



Joan Atkinson

Joan Patricia Atkinson (Faulkner), BA’78

Joan Patricia Atkinson passed away on December 21, 2009, after a long battle with breast cancer, at the age of 53.

Joan was born and raised in North Vancouver, graduating from Handsworth Secondary School and from UBC with honours in political science. After serving a year as a parliamentary intern following graduation, she joined the Foreign Service of Canada. She enjoyed postings in Milan, Port of Spain, Los Angeles, and London, before returning to Ottawa to undertake managerial positions in Citizen and Immigration Canada. She was appointed to succeeding positions of director, director general and assistant deputy minister. She later served as ADM with Indian and Northern Affairs and as assistant secretary to the cabinet at Privy Council Office. Her last assignment was with the Human Resources Management Agency of Treasury Board.

Joan showed all of us her extraordinary resilience as she faced many challenges with dignity and grace. Her will to overcome adversity and her strength of spirit was indeed exceptional and inspirational. She embraced life with enthusiasm and a sense of fun. She refused to be intimidated by her recurring bouts of illness and was able to surmount personal family tragedies while delivering extraordinary service in her various appointments.

At this time, the words of Dylan Thomas come to mind: “do not go gently into that good night; rage, rage, against the dying of the light.” She would be delighted if we would toast her with a fine wine and sing a silly song, something she was often apt to do to the amusement and delight of her associates. As a deputy minister wryly noted, Joan could bring an executive meeting to a quick close by breaking out in the song, “I could have danced all night.”

Kerry Margaret Telford Morrissey, MD’93

Kerry Margaret Telford Morrissey and her infant daughter, Sarah Grace, died together on November 29, 2009, when the seaplane they were travelling in crashed shortly after take-off. She was 41 years old. In those years, Kerry touched many lives with her compassion and love.

Kerry was born in Grande Prairie. Her sister Carmen was born shortly after. After graduation from high school in White Rock, Kerry wished to become a missionary, however her parents convinced her to become a physician first, so that she could attend to the physical as well as the spiritual needs of others. Thus it was that Kerry enrolled at SFU for her pre-med classes, and despite narrowly missing the application deadline was accepted into UBC Medical school in 1989.

After graduating, Kerry moved to Newfoundland for her family practice residency. While there, she fell in love with the people and the music of the East Coast. Kerry then began her work in Yellowknife, where she stayed for five years. While there, she gained confidence in her skills and travelled across the remote North.

Despite working in an area of need, Kerry still felt restless and wished to pursue her original goal. After much contemplation and prayer, she decided to travel to a small mission hospital in Peru to assist a group of Jesuit physician priests who worked there. She would laugh when she thought of the picture she sent them: her in full winter gear, tons of snow, and a sled dog. She was determined, though, and in 2001 she made the first of her trips to the small hospital in Santa Clotilde.

Kerry’s deep faith in God allowed her to overcome her fears so she could travel and work in a different language, in isolated areas. Between 2001 and 2005, Kerry spent several months of each year in the jungle, often taking other professionals with her. She viewed these trips as a privilege and always felt she received as much as she gave to the people of Santa Clotilde. Between times, she would raise money and collect equipment while she worked in the Lower Mainland at the Peace Arch Obstetrical Clinic and the Bridge Community Health Clinic, which provides care for refugees and refugee claimants.



Kerry Telford Morrissey

During this time, Kerry found and married Patrick Morrissey. A perfect complement to her, he shared her deep faith, love of travel, music, charity and a quirky sense of humour. Kerry joined the South Ridge Community Birth Program and continued her work with refugees and fundraising while she and Patrick began a family. In 2007 and 2009, Kerry and Patrick were thrilled with the arrival of Claire Marie and Sarah Grace.

It was clear to all of us who worked with her that Kerry had a remarkable ability to identify and bond with her patients. She actively listened to colleagues, patients and friends, and even those who only met her a few times were touched by her great love for others. Kerry made everyone feel special. As Father Maurice Schroeder stated, “She chose to see the best in people and reflect it back to them.” Kerry lived as Mother Teresa suggested: “Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier.”

A scholarship supporting medical residents in global health has been started to honour Kerry and Sarah’s memory. Contributions can be made to the Kerry and Sarah Morrissey (Telford) Memorial Award (fund ID S943) through UBC by calling 1.877.717.4483 or online at supporting.ubc.ca/kerrytelford. ●

THE LAST WORD

with David Ng

David Ng is a geneticist, science educator, writer and faculty member based at the Michael Smith Laboratories at UBC. He runs a science literacy lab that has gained a reputation for creating collaborations between scientists and artists. Of note: (1) He is partly responsible for the massive DNA helix emblazoned on his building's façade. (2) His Dad beat up Bruce Lee. (3) His first foray into general publishing featured a unicorn on the front cover. (4) His latest project, the Phylo Project (phylogame.org), is an attempt at merging biodiversity education with Pokemon culture.

What is your most prized possession?

Is it bad to say my computer? It has so many pictures, songs, writings, compositions, and ideas of mine, that it would be devastating to lose it. Ergo, my second most prized possession would probably be my back-up hard drive.

Who was your childhood hero?

As a child, I thought that David Attenborough had the best job ever. Also, Chewbacca was (and still is) my favourite Star Wars character.

Describe the place you most like to spend time.

Any place with my wife and children. They're exemplary.

What was the last thing you read?

The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart. It's a children's novel that I'm quite enjoying. Just to provide some context, I'm currently off on sabbatical at London's Natural

History Museum and one of my goals is to lay the foundation for a children's book where science culture plays a key role.

What or who makes you laugh out loud?

I'm a big fan (and occasional contributor) of some of the humour that McSweeney's publishes. Plus, sometimes there is the odd picture at awkwardfamilyphotos.com that will floor me.

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

I have this wonderful book called *Life before Man* by Z.F. Snipar. It's practically falling apart because I looked through that thing so many times as a child. I remember the dinosaur paintings by Zdenek Burian were done so marvellously that the creatures looked real: sometimes I even wondered if they were photographs.

What's the most important lesson you ever learned?

Not to get too frustrated when something or someone disappoints. After all, nobody is perfect all of the time. Or if we want to be a little less eloquent: everybody gets to be an a**hole at least some of the time.

Whom do you most admire (living or dead)?

Based on the many students (undergraduate and graduate) I've had the privilege of interacting with, I've got to say that students on the whole are pretty admirable, and some are downright inspirational. (Where do they get the time to do all of this stuff?) From that angle, I'd like to think that the future looks pretty good.

What's your idea of the perfect day?

First, a bit of a sleep-in, followed by a nice outdoor brunch with my family (maybe some place fancy, even). Throughout all of this, the children are behaving immaculately. Then, at the exact moment that I am to start mowing the lawn, it rains.

What was your nickname at school?

As you can imagine, I had many nicknames that were derivatives of my short-sounding surname. None really stuck though.

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

Any era where I can get myself a jet pack. Wouldn't that be awesome? But if we have to focus on the past, I think it would have been marvellous to be one of those gentleman scientists in the time of Darwin, circa the 1800s. Imagine, the adventures you'd have and the thrill of discovery would probably be unparalleled.

What is your latest purchase?

1% milk, a dozen eggs, and some microwave popcorn.

If you could invent something, what would it be?

A lightsaber. A real one, that is.

What are you afraid of?

I'm not a big fan of large spiders. That's OK though – I hear they're generally not big fans of people either.

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

I wish I was brilliant at drawing. Visual art always amazes me and it is quite frustrating to know that I can't do it.

What is your pet peeve?

In public areas: people who can't play hacky sack, playing hacky sack. In a word, painful. ●



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