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29

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# TREK

THE MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



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or abominable parody? · 12

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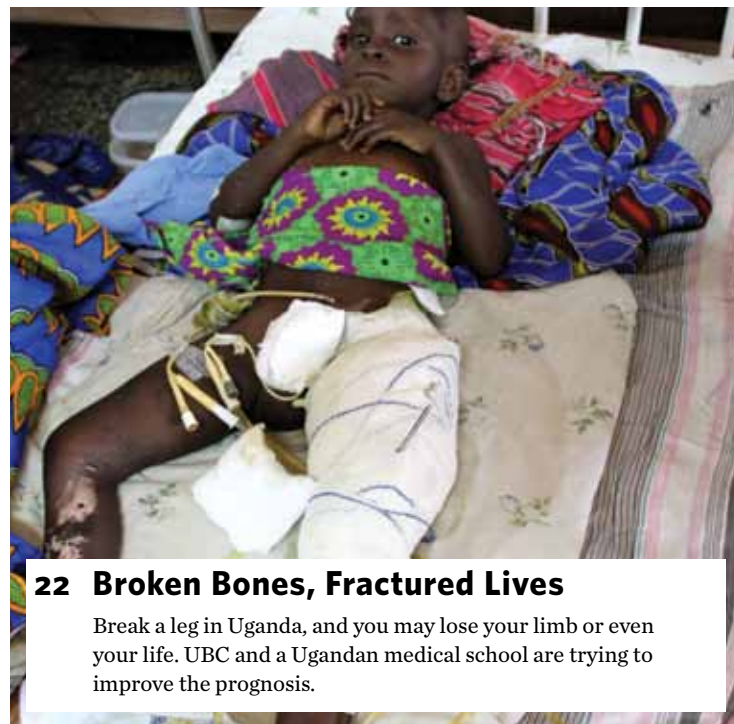
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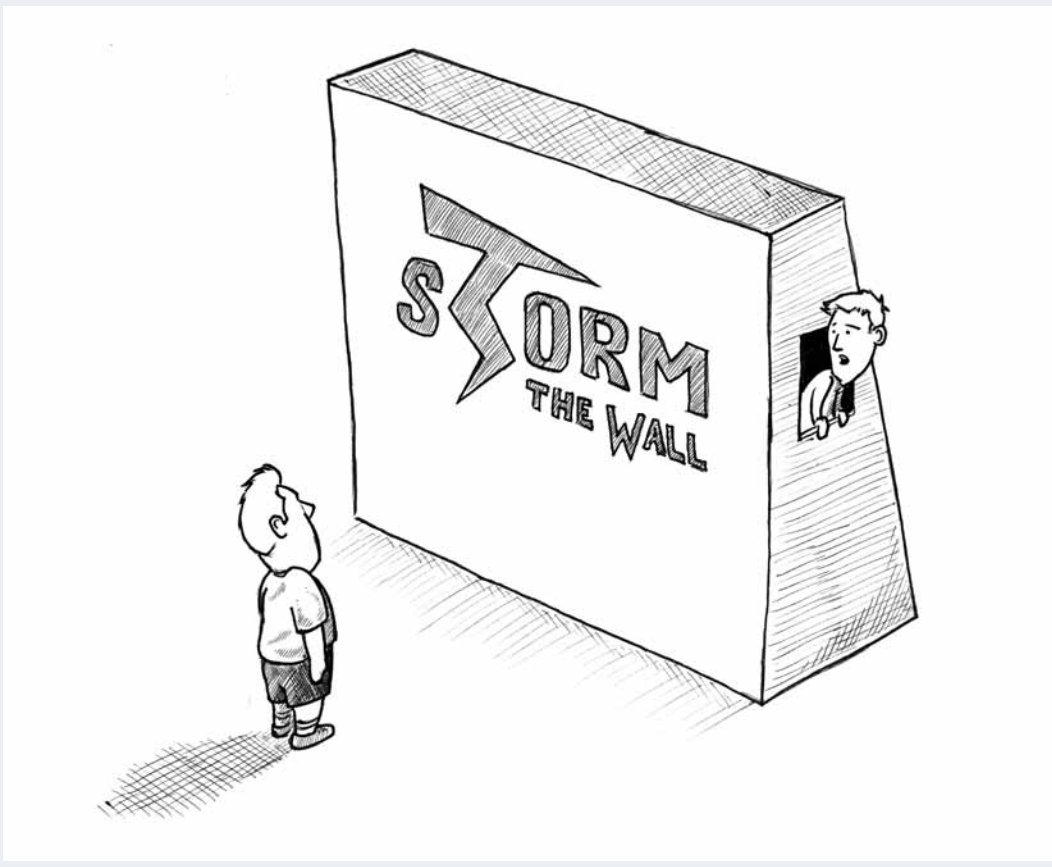
COVER: A PRESERVED RED-BREADED MERGANSER (*MERGUS SERRATOR*) FROM THE BEATY MUSEUM OF BIODIVERSITY. (PHOTO BY MARTIN DEE)

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## What the Trek?

**Trek Magazine caption competition**  
Here's another cartoon by *Trek* designer Keith Leinweber that needs an accompanying caption. Send your captions (one per person) to [vanessa.clarke@ubc.ca](mailto:vanessa.clarke@ubc.ca), or to the address in the right-hand column, by May 31.



The winning caption for our fall 2010 caption contest was sent in by Dean Chacon, *BSc'79, PhD*:  
**"I just don't recognize the campus anymore."**  
Dean joins the select few fortunate enough to own a UBC Alumni travel mug. *Hint: Keep your captions succinct and snappy. Some of the latest entries that could have been contenders were great in concept but rambling in execution (you know who you are).*

# TREK 29

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# ATHLETICS, CLUBBING and UBC LIPDUB

Back when I attended UBC as a grad student, I can say with absolute certainty that I did not attend one spectator sport game of any stripe, didn't think of attending one, and wouldn't have, even if there had been beer. Didn't care, still don't. Hockey, basketball, football: meh.

But a couple of weeks ago I attended the Big Block Awards banquet. Nearly 1,000 alumni, faculty and student athletes gathered to celebrate UBC sports, hand out awards to the past year's most impressive athletes and honour movers and shakers from the past.

It was quite a show. Hundreds of student athletes paraded around, many at their first gala event. The men in their Big Block sweaters looked just like those BMOC we all either loved or hated (handsome, trim, confident) and the women looked like models (impossibly beautiful, perfectly-shaped, sure and self-possessed), though some seemed a bit unsteady on the high-heels. More used to sneakers, I guess.

We saw the 2010-11 highlight reel and met the various superstar award winners. Great roars of approval erupted from team tables when one of their members was named; cheers rang out when clips showed an amazing save or an impressive shot. All in all, it was an evening of emotion, wild enthusiasm and sporty camaraderie.

At one point we saw a clip of a team scoring a big point. Men's volleyball, I think. The camera then panned to the smallish crowd – screaming and enthusiastic – and to a row of students, each one with a blue and gold-painted face. They were standing, chanting, almost delirious, “T-Birds! T-Birds! T-Birds!” while they bowed up and down in great deference to the sports gods on the court. I suddenly felt choked up, filled for just a moment with the intimacy, the delirium – the sense of belonging! – that I imagined they felt with their painted faces and fan-love.

At the same time, I felt a little jealous, cheated, locked out. I felt like the snotty arts grad (which I am), who always looked down his nose at the jocks and the joiners, thinking them just a little less smart, a little bit desperate for peer approval, a little less independent. Those people, we lofty types thought, were wasting their time dribbling basketballs when they should have been investigating the great intellectual questions. Now, I realize too late that those connections were where it was at, where all the real fun was, and what made it all worthwhile. Who knew?

It's not just varsity sports, of course. It's the AMS, the Chess Club, the Great Wall Club, the Fencing Club, the Gilbert and Sullivan Society or any of the 300 other student clubs at UBC that build a broad camaraderie between and among students. They also provide adult-world experience in competition, cooperation and bonding, and opportunities for the kind of intimacy that comes from sharing great hopes, great successes and great failures. Where do you find that in a close reading of *Chrome Yellow*?

Those UBC alumni I've met over the years who have been the most enthusiastic, the most involved, the most willing to give their time and talent to the university have, invariably, been ex-jocks or ex-clubbers. I know that the intellectual stuff is really important, too. But it's only half the value you get from a university education.

If you want to see some really intense school spirit – the kind I wish I had back in the day – visit our website and click on the “UBC LipDub” link, or, go to YouTube and search that link. Amazing.

Makes me want to come back and do it all over again.

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.

## NATURAL GAS NOT NECESSARILY BETTER

In an effort to reduce harmful emissions from vehicles, New Delhi converted 90,000 buses, taxis and auto-rickshaws to run on compressed natural gas, a known clean fuel. But a UBC assessment of the 2003 program revealed that in 5,000 of the vehicles it had not had a significant effect, and in some cases had worsened emissions.

New Delhi's 5,000 auto-rickshaws run on two-stroke engines and the researchers say that greater emission reductions would have been achieved by upgrading to four-stroke engines, a move that would have been less expensive to implement.

“Our study demonstrates the importance of engine type when adopting clean fuels,” says lead author and UBC post-doctoral fellow Conor Reynolds. “Despite switching to natural gas, two-stroke engine auto-rickshaws in Delhi still produce similar levels of particulate matter per kilogram of fuel to a diesel bus, and their climate impacts are worse than before.”

The study found that because as much as one third of natural gas is not completely burned in two-stroke engines, high emissions of methane are produced. Natural gas use also produced substantial emissions of high particulate matter from unburned lubricating oil, which can appear as blue smoke. The study is the first to examine the pollutant emissions from small vehicle engines fuelled with natural gas and included significant laboratory testing of Indian auto-rickshaws. Two-stroke engine auto-rickshaws are common in Asia and Africa and the study's findings will be valuable in informing future policy aimed at improving public health.

“Clean fuels are being used in Indian cities for transportation when they could save many more lives if used for cooking,” says study co-author Professor Milind Kandlikar. “The interests of the rural poor, particularly women and children, are being put below those of the urban consumer.”

The study's third co-author is Andrew Grieshop from UBC's Liu Institute for Global Issues and Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability.



AUTO-RICKSHAW.

## THE DOWNSIDE OF TOURISM FOR KIDS

UBC associate professor of education Jo-Anne Dillabough is exploring the impact of the global tourism industry on communities in Morocco. Although the industry offers an immediate means of income for locals, she says it is large foreign companies that reap the financial benefits of increased travel to such regions. The industry also negatively impacts the communities' sense of cultural identity and limits the futures of its children, especially those from economically disadvantaged homes.

“You'll see very young boys, sometimes younger than nine years old, working in the tourist markets and in the hotels,” says Dillabough. “They stop going to school and work to provide some income for their families.” In fact, up to 40 per cent of boys leave compulsory education for the tourism industry. And without education, there will be few alternatives for them in the future beyond a dependence on tourism.

The global tourism industry is changing small rural coastal communities in Morocco into resort destinations and along with that change, cautions Dillabough, is an affect on local traditions and cultural identity. “This practice shapes how local youth view their own cultural traditions and in many cases forces young people to refashion and market their ‘exotic’ identities in order to survive,” she says.

Dillabough wants to run a pilot program offering a mobile school to the children, to educate them about the negative aspects of global tourism, including sex trade and trafficking, and present them with the idea of alternative options as they continue to help their families eke a living from tourism. “The purpose is to assist in presenting young people with wider political and cultural images of their employment, as well as providing them with a landscape of possibilities that showcases multiple paths into the future.”





SARAH MORGAN-SILVESTER.

**SARAH MORGAN-SILVESTER REAPPOINTED CHANCELLOR OF UBC**

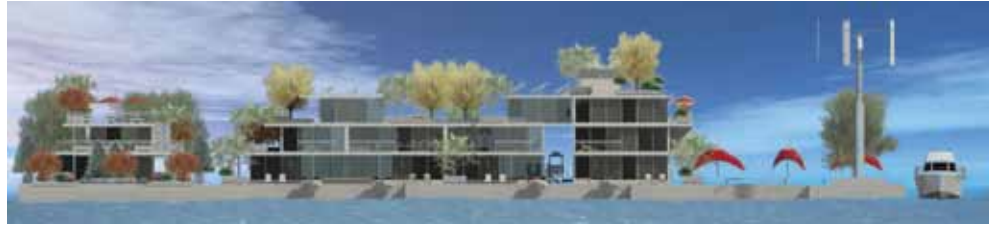
● Sarah Morgan-Silvester, *BCom '82* has been reappointed for a second three-year term as Chancellor of UBC. Morgan-Silvester was first appointed in April 2008; her next term will begin July 1, 2011 and end June 30, 2014.

The Chancellor is the ceremonial head of the university. Morgan-Silvester will confer all degrees and will continue to serve on both Senates, responsible for the university's academic governance, and the Board of Governors, responsible for managing the property, revenue and business affairs of the university.

As required by the University Act, the Chancellor is recommended by the UBC Alumni Association and members of the university's Council of Senates. The UBC Board of Governors must approve the recommendation.

"Throughout her first term as Chancellor, Ms Morgan-Silvester has been committed to UBC and has brought fresh perspectives and ideas to the university," said Alumni Association chair Miranda Lam, who headed the committee to consider Morgan-Silvester's reappointment. "There was overwhelming support for her reappointment."

Morgan-Silvester has had extensive experience in the financial services and transportation sectors. She is a leading community volunteer with a background in education, health, environmental and economic organizations. She is currently chair of Port Metro Vancouver and BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre



ONE OF THE FUTURE DELTA ADAPTATION STRATEGIES - A FLOATING HOME WITH COMMUNITY GARDENS.

Foundation, and a director of a number of other corporate and not-for-profit boards.

The Chancellor has been recognized for her contributions to society with a number of awards including the Association of Women in Finance Lifetime Achievement Award, Influential Women in Business Award, and Canada's Top 40 Under 40 Award.

**NEW LIGHT ON SKIN CANCER**

● Three UBC professors have developed a non-invasive detection device for skin cancer that uses a light ray to determine whether or not a lesion is malignant. David McLean, Harvey Lui and Haishan Zeng's new method, known as optical biopsy, would allow health care workers to scan moles and detect cancer within seconds. A doctor would follow up on suspect lesions with a traditional biopsy. Preliminary clinical results on (non-patient) lesions at Vancouver's Skin Care Centre suggest the device is accurate in detecting melanoma, and early data show promise for its ability to detect basal cell and squamous cell carcinomas, and even precancerous lesions.

Canada's Verisante Technology, Inc. recently obtained the rights for the new device and is preparing it for mass production. Awaiting approval from Health Canada, the device could reduce loss of life and health costs through earlier detection, as well as shorten patient wait times and avoid unnecessary surgery. Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer, affecting one in seven Canadians at some point during their lives.

The device was developed and tested at the BC Cancer Agency. The technology may be adaptable to testing for other forms of cancer and trials are now underway for the detection of lung cancer.

**"I'M REALLY SORRY. HONEST!"**

● Remorse is a factor that can influence the criminal justice system. If detected by a judge or parole board, it might lead to a more lenient sentence or early release. But how to tell if that remorse is genuine?

"Obviously offenders are motivated to pretend to be remorseful and legal decision makers are motivated to detect crocodile tears," says Leanne ten Brinke, a PhD candidate who has studied the human face for revealing cues on both genuine remorse and the deceptive expression of remorse.

The work involved studying videotaped accounts of wrongdoing by 31 Canadian undergraduates - including their expression of remorse, or falsified remorse - and coding the facial behaviour associated with both. Researchers analyzed nearly 300,000 frames of the upper and lower face.

"We found that during falsified remorse, people showed a greater range of emotional expression," says ten Brinke. "They were more likely to show anger and contempt, whereas the genuine folks didn't show these kinds of emotions."

The sequence of emotional expression was also key. "Particularly in the lower face, liars were much more likely to be what we term as emotionally turbulent, jumping from positive to negative emotions immediately. During genuine remorse, people are more likely to return to a neutral emotion in between the extremes," says ten Brinke, who conducted the study with colleagues Stephen Porter and Brian O'Connor from the Centre for the Advancement of Psychology and Law at UBC's Okanagan campus, along with Sarah MacDonald from Memorial University in St. John's, Newfoundland.

**PLAYING GAMES WITH CLIMATE CHANGE**

● Much of Delta, BC, is below sea level and the risk of flooding is a cause for concern, especially in light of climate change.

A UBC team is developing an interactive 3D game simulation that will enable players to walk through their digitally recreated community and see how the day-to-day choices they make could impact their actual environment. It predicts alternative climate scenarios that are focused on the flooding risks in Delta. The team hopes the game will personalize the issue of climate change for residents, clarify the complex scientific information surrounding it and galvanize action.

"The complexity of climate science provides an obstacle for clear communication between researchers and the public that becomes a critical barrier for social change, policy-making and implementation," says project leader Aleksandra Dulic, professor of interactive art and dynamic media at UBC's Okanagan campus. "It's important to find engaging, direct and innovative ways to communicate important information about our environment to the public." Creating a realistic simulation of a neighbourhood requires a large amount of detailed information, from sewer systems and community building blueprints to municipal service information, climate data, GPS mapping and much more. The Future Delta project is a collaborative effort with music professor Keith Hamel and Stephen Sheppard, a forest resources management professor based on UBC's Vancouver campus.

Through multimedia expression and game play, the project goal is to move towards deeper awareness, wider community engagement and sense of urgency, reaching people that climate science often fails to reach, and providing clear choices for feasible local actions.

Although this project is specifically aimed at the community of Delta, the idea and technology can be applied to anywhere in the world. In fact, Dulic is looking at creating a 3D game simulation for BC's Okanagan region, which is prone to drought, and is exploring the possibility of incorporating local indigenous knowledge about the land and environment into the game play.

"If we find this kind of approach helps policy-makers and researchers communicate, or perhaps becomes a useful teaching tool in classrooms, then this research could have many implications," says Dulic.

- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE -



Diversity and Intercultural Understanding

Stephen J. Toope, President, UBC

The Canadian cultural landscape has changed dramatically in the past two decades, and UBC has embraced that change enthusiastically. As a global research institution, UBC attracts the best students, faculty and staff from all social, economic and cultural realities. We have identified this fact in our institutional priorities (see: [www.strategicplan.ubc.ca](http://www.strategicplan.ubc.ca)), in our curriculum and in the way we conduct our daily business.

Traditionally, Canada has been referred to as a "cultural mosaic," meaning that our cultural fabric is constructed from the many ethnicities that make up our population. While this metaphor had resonance in the mid- to late-20<sup>th</sup> century, it no longer expresses today's reality.

"Culture" in 2011, is a complex, fluid concept that includes not just ethnicities, but a vast array of components including political perspective, religion, sexual preference, education, place of residence (urban, rural or suburban) and even one's favourite hockey team. "Diversity" no longer just means making room for another person's religious or ethnic experience; rather, it means understanding how our differences - in culture, beliefs, attitudes, modes of dress, personal styles, etc. - combine to

make up our world, and learning to embrace those differences. The more able one is to make sense of - and participate in - a completely diverse society, the more successful he or she will be in all aspects of life.

As a university that defines itself as a creator of new knowledge, UBC is uniquely positioned to examine culture and how it works. Where better to investigate, together, the things that make us different? Where better to experiment with values, question old assumptions, try out new ways of relating to each other?

Imagine a world where cultural differences spark inquiry and friendship, not hostility and defensiveness. Imagine a university where the most transformative learning experience comes from the discovery of someone else's cultural reality, where the understanding of the "different" is among our greatest achievements.

We're privileged at UBC to enjoy such cultural diversity in our students, faculty and staff. By incorporating that diversity into our institutional fabric, we become more than a simple mosaic. We become a reflection of the world.

**YOUR PHONE AS A CELL TOWER**

● Your cell phone is a little energy-producing unit that receives and transmits signals through fixed terminals located in your community. Researchers are working to turn your cell phone into a moving terminal that will receive and broadcast signals for other users around you, thereby increasing performance of the network and reducing overall energy use. It's called cooperative mobile communications.

Wireless systems rely on fixed terminals to relay signals. But if mobile devices can relay the signals instead, then the result would be a stronger network with fewer dropped calls caused by obstacles.

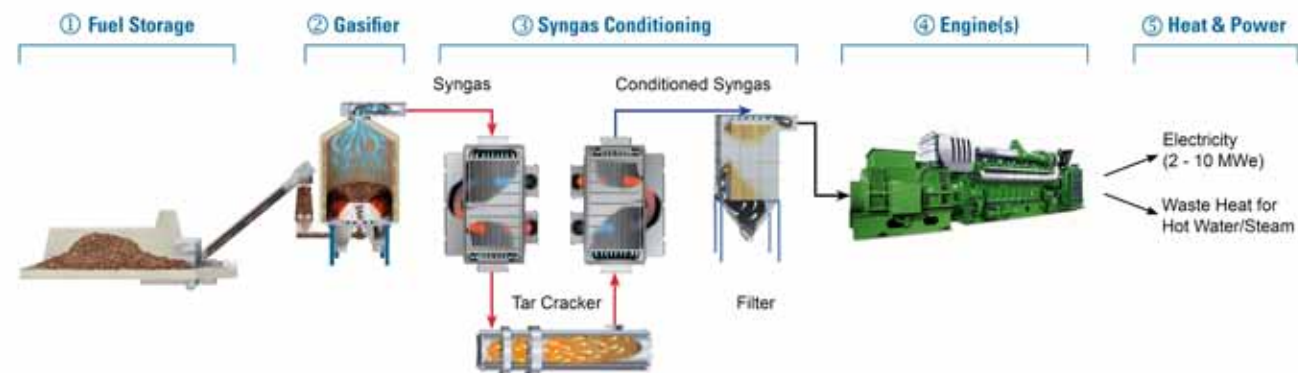
UBC researcher Diomidis Michalopoulos is moving the industry towards this transformation. He is developing communication protocols,

based on fairness and efficiency, that bring the vision closer to reality. "Similar to how geese fly in a V formation so they're more aerodynamic, my protocols will assess and select channels based on signal strength and energy level," he says. "A network using these protocols would increase coverage in low-signal areas and be able to re-route around obstacles."

His work will allow telecommunications companies to keep up with growing demand for mobile content, and has attracted much interest. Last year Michalopoulos was one of three scientists to receive a Marconi Young Scholar Award, which recognizes scientists who have made a major impact in their field by the age of 27, Guglielmo Marconi's age when he made the first transatlantic radio transmission in 1901.



Nexterra Advanced Biomass Heat and Power System



UBC BIOENERGY DEMONSTRATION AND RESEARCH PROJECT - SYSTEM COMPONENTS

**CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT LEADS THE WAY**

The ground has been broken for a major four-storey facility that will be the hub of a clean energy project aimed at dramatically reducing natural gas consumption and greenhouse gas emissions on UBC's Vancouver campus. The biomass-fueled, heat-and-power generation system will be the first of its kind in the world, and will be operational in 2012.

The system, which recently received new funding from the federal and provincial governments, is expected to generate enough power for 1,500 homes, and the reduction in emissions would be equivalent to removing 1,100 cars from the road. The Bioenergy Research and Demonstration Project also covers research and development into clean energy involving multiple UBC units.

Biomass fuel could include tree chips from municipal operations, fibre from pine trees killed by beetles, and clean sawmill waste.

The project is a partnership between UBC and Nexterra Systems Corp (providing gasification technology) and General Electric Co. (providing a Jenbacher engine). Once the project is fully demonstrated at UBC, they will replicate the technology throughout Canada and globally.

"This innovative approach allows the accelerated development, demonstration and commercialization of clean-energy technology for domestic use and global export," says Professor David Wilkinson, director of UBC's Clean Energy Research Centre.

**IS VEGETABLE OIL A HEALTHY OPTION?**

Since they're derived from vegetables, corn and sunflower oils may seem like healthy eating choices, but that's not necessarily the case. These oils are high in omega-6 polyunsaturated fatty acids and assistant biology professor Sanjoy Ghosh has received substantial funding from the Canadian Diabetes Foundation to find out if there is a connection between the acids and the development of heart disease in young people with diabetes.

"In the last 30 years, there has been a trend away from consumption of animal fats like those found in butter and lard, toward more vegetable-oil based products like margarine, vegetable shortening and corn oil," says Ghosh. "Our bodies simply don't know how to respond to such a diet, which is unprecedented in our evolutionary history. We are now seeing evidence that this trend may in fact be harmful for people suffering from metabolic diseases like obesity and diabetes."

Ghosh's research team will feed diabetic mice a diet rich in vegetable oil and monitor their metabolic stress and heart function. They will then supplement the diet with healthy fats found in fish oil (omega-3) or canola oil (high in beneficial monounsaturates) to see if this mitigates any damage caused by the original diet. The goal is a sound scientific basis for dietary recommendations to prevent or reduce diabetes-related heart disease.

**FIND OR POST A VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY ON CAREERSONLINE**

UBC's CareersOnline is an exclusive service for UBC alumni and students that lists volunteer positions as well as opportunities for paid work across a wide range of fields both on and off campus.

Register for an account – a simple process – and you can peruse the latest postings, store versions of your resume, look up organizational profiles and keep tabs on multiple applications.

Alumni are also invited to post their own work and volunteer opportunities. For example, Peace and Love International is a not-for-profit conceived and operated by a group of UBC alumni and professors. The group currently has projects in Haiti, South Africa and around the world and has used CareersOnline to post volunteer positions.

Many UBC departments have volunteering opportunities and Alumni Affairs is busy developing more. Alumni Weekend is coming up in May and positions will soon be posted. As well, plenty of organizations in the local community would benefit from a little help, and UBC is happy to facilitate access to its talented students and alumni.

Whether you want to add some meat to your resume, develop new skills, meet people and have fun, or use some of your free time doing something worthwhile, volunteering has a lot to offer.

**COFFEE, THE MIRACLE DRUG**

Coffee can help stave off morning sluggishness, but did you know that this beneficial little bean might also stave off the ageing process? Coffee contains powerful antioxidants that help remove free radicals, which have been associated with ageing. And if you want to take advantage of them, new UBC research suggests medium roast coffee contains the most.

The researchers have helped explain the presence of the antioxidants, linking their production to the chemical processes (known as the Maillard reaction) that happen during roasting. "Previous studies suggested that antioxidants in coffee could be traced to caffeine or the chlorogenic acid found in green coffee beans, but our results clearly show that the Maillard reaction is the main source of antioxidants," says lead researcher Yazheng Liu, an MSc student in the Faculty of Land and Food Systems.

The research also demonstrated that the beneficial compounds start to break down with excessive roasting at high heat. The study's co-author is Professor David Kitts.

**WHEN THE MEDICATION IS THE PROBLEM**

Patients who suffer an adverse drug event are more costly to the health care system than other emergency department patients, say physicians and research scientists at VGH and UBC. Their research builds on a 2008 study that showed more than one-in-nine emergency department visits are due to medication-related problems.

Adverse drug events include unexpected reactions or side effects to medication, non adherence, and the wrong use of medication. The research team followed 1,000 emergency department patients from VGH for six months, studying the health outcomes of those who had an adverse drug event and comparing them to patients who came to emergency for other reasons. Researchers found no difference in mortality rates, but patients who had an adverse drug event had a 50 per cent greater risk of spending additional days in hospital, as well as a 20 per cent higher rate of outpatient health care needs. *(continued on page 10)*

- ASSOCIATION CHAIR'S MESSAGE -

Graduation isn't Goodbye

Miranda Lam, LLB'02, Chair, UBC Alumni Association



Most of us have attended at least one graduation ceremony – our own – so we know the magic of the moment. We have felt that strange mixture of relief at being finished at last, of anticipation about an exciting future to come, and of its cousin, anxiety: "Yikes! What do I do now?" Despite any uncertainty about the future, graduation marked the end of an era and a final farewell.

In years past, that walk across the stage was the last you would hear from UBC until a year or so later when someone from UBC would call you up to talk about the possibility of a gift.

You will still get that call, which many of us respond to with pleasure (though admittedly, it is not always welcomed). But what is different is the communications you receive from the Alumni Association after graduation about the events and programs we have developed to keep you in touch with each other and with the intellectual riches of UBC. What used to be "goodbye" is now an invitation to stay involved, connected and engaged – with no strings attached.

In my last column in this magazine, I asked, "Why wouldn't you want to stay connected to an institution that was such an influential part of your life?" I then set out some of the great opportunities for engagement that we provide.

Now, I'd like to tell you why we want you to stay involved. As alumni, we are responsible for both the legacy and the future of the university. The most consistent voice of the university over the years has come from its graduates. Our history – from the Great Trek in 1922 and the "Back Mac"

campaign in 1964 to the current development of University Town and the planned building of our Alumni Centre – has been written by alumni.

As that legacy unfolds, and as UBC continues to maintain its position as a globally significant university, the voice of alumni will become even more important. We guide UBC's governance as volunteers, mentor today's students, collaborate with faculty, and communicate our concerns through social media and other means. And, through the Alumni Association, we use our independent voice to promote UBC's interests to government at all levels and other stakeholders.

But even more importantly, staying involved with UBC gives you the opportunity to work with other grads and to take our collective skills and intellectual riches to our communities, our workplaces and even other countries to create industry and make a meaningful impact in our world.

As your Chair, hearing your stories of positive change and connection has certainly been one of the most rewarding aspects of this role. This will be my final column in Trek as my term expires in September so I thank you sincerely for sharing your inspirational stories with me.

In 2013, we will open the new Alumni Centre at the heart of campus. It will be a place where you can make those connections and continue your relationship with UBC. Graduation no longer means "goodbye." Come home to the Alumni Association and the Alumni Centre and get started at UBC all over again. Indeed, the world is waiting for you.

**FOUR ALUMNI APPOINTED TO BC CABINET**

Four UBC alumni were appointed to the BC government's cabinet in March by new BC Premier Christy Clark:

- **Naomi Yamamoto** (BA in Film and TV Studies, 1982): Minister of Advanced Education
- **Mary McNeil** (BA in English, 1973): Minister of Children and Family Development
- **Don McRae** (BA in International Relations, 1992; BEd in Social Studies, 1993): Minister of Agriculture
- **George Abbott** (BA in Political Science, 1975): Minister of Education

In BC alone, hospital emergency departments treat about 210,000 patients each year for adverse drug events. The research team estimates that the cost of treating these patients is 90 per cent greater than the cost of treating other patients, after adjustment for differences in baseline characteristics. The added cost could be as much as \$49 million annually. As well as concluding that adverse drug events are common and costly, the team discovered they are hard for physicians to recognize and that nearly 70 per cent are preventable.

In response, the researchers are developing screening tools to help emergency health care providers recognize patients at high risk for adverse drug events. They hope this will increase the recognition rate from 60 to over 90 per cent,

resulting in faster and improved patient care.

“We spend a lot of time trying to diagnose what is wrong with the patient, yet often miss the fact that there is a medication-related problem. This means that patients often go home still on a medication that may be causing harm. We are also using the data from this research project to help develop a new drug evaluation platform to inform prescribing practices for physicians in the community. The hope is to prevent many of these adverse events from even taking place,” says research lead Corinne Hohl, an emergency physician at VGH and research scientist with the Centre for Clinical Epidemiology and Evaluation at Vancouver Coastal Health and UBC. ●

- EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE -

## Why We're Here

Jeff Todd, Executive Director, Alumni Association/AVP Alumni



When I joined the Alumni Association in September of last year, I did so with a great sense of excitement and anticipation. UBC is highly respected in the Pacific Northwest (my previous post was at Oregon State University), across Canada and around the world. My family, too was excited at the prospect of living in this vibrant province.

But the deciding factor for me in accepting the position was the importance UBC has placed on the concept of “alumni engagement.” In *Place and Promise*, which spells out Stephen Toope’s vision for the university, alumni engagement is one of six areas upon which UBC will focus its energies in the next few years.

Every university is interested in its alumni; most dedicate resources to maintain some sort of communication with them to, at the very least, solicit gifts from them. But the very best understand that an energetic alumni base provides benefits that percolate up from every aspect of life.

For instance, a co-worker mentions that her son wants to get an MBA. You remember a prof you had at UBC and tell your co-worker about what a great experience you had. Or you attend a play in

town and notice one of the lead actors is an alumnus of UBC. You decide the next play you see will be at Freddy Wood. Or you see in the newspaper that a UBC researcher has discovered a missing piece of the cancer puzzle and you tell a friend to contact that researcher. You decide your next charitable donation will go to this project.

Our job is not only to remind you of the great things UBC provided during your student years, but to excite you about UBC’s contemporary relevance and encourage you to maintain that connection. We attempt to build pride in the institution, point out the things that stir your memory (Storm the Wall, Big Block sweaters, Thursday night at the Pit, the Cheez Factory) and remind you of why you came here in the first place: great teaching, great people and a great place to learn.

I’m excited about the prospect of ramping up your connection to UBC, and of bringing the benefits of that connection to you and the university. I look forward to meeting with many of you over the next months, and becoming part of the UBC family.



JANET BERRYMAN  
1936-1999

Janet Berryman is my hero. In her will, she created a medical scholarship at UBC that has supported almost 100 students. As one of those students, I’ve been able to study obstetrics and neonatal care. Janet’s scholarship helped me graduate from the Faculty of Medicine. Now I’m working on research into the early detection and treatment of a congenital lung defect in infants. Through Janet Berryman I’ve found my calling. I’m helping save lives. And I get to bounce ideas off of some of the brightest minds around. But the one person I really look up to is Janet Berryman. I’ll never forget your generosity. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to chase my dreams.

- Jordan Chan\*

**Support thinking that can change the world.** To create your lasting legacy through UBC, call 604.822.5373 or visit [www.supporting.ubc.ca](http://www.supporting.ubc.ca).



\*name changed for privacy.

**Young alumnus prefers print**

I’m part of the under-30 crowd and, though I grew up alongside the internet, I know that an email announcement heralding the latest digital *Trek Magazine* will most likely be left unread among the other detritus in my e-mail inbox, the hyperlinks unfollowed. The best part of reading any “dead tree” material is that it is separate from the torrent of information I receive on a daily basis, and I can leave it to sit at my bedside until I can read it on my terms, at the time of my choosing. I enjoy receiving and reading *Trek*, and I’m sure I’ll miss out on some great articles in your new digital format. Keep up the good work.

Stephen LaRoy BAsc’06

**Multi-alumnus prefers Trek**

I get alumni magazines from UBC, U of T and Concordia, where I teach. We get *York Magazine* via my wife’s PhD work there. *Trek* is consistently the best of the four. I think your editorial content, variety, readability and design trump the others. I always take the thing over to a chair, sit down, flip through, read something, muse about something, then set it down and come back to it. It doesn’t just get fired in the recycling bin and I don’t, as I sometimes do with the others, think, “what a waste of paper.”

I’ve also made use of your books by alumni pages and plan to send news of a new novel shortly. So in that, I view your magazine as a venue worth trying to place my own undertakings in.

U of T and Concordia are big on sending email newsletters. I don’t look at them carefully. The Concordia one strikes me straightforwardly as self-promotion, so I resent it. Its editorial content is negligible, and though I’ve not done any checking, I would imagine it’s produced by the university’s marketing and communications department. When the U of T stuff comes via email I sometimes scroll through the contents to see what’s there. I might look at one or nothing. I never find that it looks good, so the aspect of your design that I enjoy is never approximated in that email content. I also would never bother to send news of my publications to these emailed newsletters. It’s all too ephemeral, I think, for me to bother.

So, I get a great deal out of your magazine in terms of information about UBC, a sense of doings in Vancouver, and readerly pleasure. I will be very interested to see if any of this is duplicated in emailed content.

Norm Ravvin, BA’86, MA’88

*“What will happen to that ‘curl up on the sofa with a latte or tea and immerse oneself in a book or magazine’ feeling that some of us crave?”*

**Curly up to read print**

Over the Christmas holiday I enjoyed reading the latest *Trek Magazine* and was very interested in what you had to say in the editor’s note regarding the slow death of print. And I have to agree that reading material is (unfortunately) doing just that.

I learned to read at the age of three and have been an avid reader ever since. I love to read real actual books having never tried the new electronic gizmos. I, for one, will find it a challenge to read *Trek* in an email. What will happen to that “curl up on the sofa with a latte or tea and immerse oneself in a book or magazine” feeling that some of us crave. And you can always put a book down and then just pick it right up again later – not so easy on the email unless it is attached (literally) to one’s hip!

I don’t usually send along my thoughts but felt the need to let you know what I think. Reading is so close to my heart. I teach kindergarten and some of my students are excited to be learning to read real books! I want to keep it as real for them and me as possible!

PS: I attended UBC for one year to take my BEd and thought it was a fantastic place to learn... and read!

Devon Codesmith, BEd’06

**Likes paper but feels guilty**

Thank you for another fine year of *Trek Magazine*! How many UBC grads have opted for an electronic *Trek* vs the paper model? I appreciate the updates by email but really like the traditional paper magazine. However, I’m feeling guilty about the paper. Thanks for the big picture on this.

Caroline Woodward, BA’74

**Just likes to get it...**

I am looking at *Trek Magazine* #28. I wanted to let you know how grateful I am to continue receiving it after so many years. It brings back fond memories of life as a student at UBC. I was very fortunate to go to UBC and have good memories of those years.

I visited the campus 20 years ago and was very impressed with the developments since I was a student. The university appeared to be quite prosperous.

Adrian E. Beggs, BAsc’48

**... and gets good feedback from it**

Re: Living With Aphasia (*Trek* 28): I can’t believe how many people have read and commented on my article in the last *Trek*. I had no idea the reach was so wide. My doctor read it and so did a few friends, some colleagues too – and the CBC’s *Definitely Not The Opera* contacted me to get in touch with Christy for their show this weekend themed “at a loss for words.” Very cool.

Teresa Goff ●

## Get Involved

UBC ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alumni Association Board of Directors Nominations are now open and will close at 4:30pm on May 11, 2011. For more information please visit the website: [www.alumni.ubc.ca/nominations](http://www.alumni.ubc.ca/nominations)



# THE BEASTLY ART OF TAXIDERMY

By **RACHEL POLIQUIN**, BFA'97, PhD'05

Photos by **MARTIN DEE**

(taken at UBC's Beaty Museum of Biodiversity)



A salute to the wonder of nature or an abominable parody? How an alumna immersed herself in the curious world of taxidermy and got philosophical.

In 1960, almost the entire taxidermy collection of the Saffron Walden Museum in England was destroyed, on purpose, by fire. No photographs exist from the bonfires, but the picture is clear enough. A disorderly mountain of stiffened lion cubs, lemmings, civet cats and barking deer. A smouldering llama, a black tailed wallaby, a polar bear – more than two hundred Victorian stuffed beasts had been discarded as refuse. No museum would ever dream of burning its unpopular cultural artefacts, but these century-old pieces of nature had been heaped on top of each other and set ablaze.

I first heard about the bonfires in the spring of 2005, when I spent several weeks in England visiting family. I had recently finished my PhD at UBC in comparative literature and just wanted to see relatives, go for walks – anything but think about what was next. When I visited a little museum in the countryside, I never could have guessed that a lion with wooden teeth named Wallace, the first lion to be born in Great Britain (in 1812) and one of the few survivors of Saffron Walden's bonfires, would determine the next six years of my work.

Opened in 1834, the Saffron Walden Museum is the second-oldest purpose-built museum in England. Throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, like so many Victorian museums, it collected and exhibited a random assortment of specimens: mummies, Roman coins, Anglo-Saxon swords,



OPPOSITE: NORTH ISLAND BROWN KIWI (*APTERYX AUSTRALIS*). ABOVE: SHORT-BEAKED ECHIDNA (*TACHYGLOSSUS ACULEATUS*).

a motley array of stuffed beasts. The artefacts are still on display, neatly labelled and arranged behind glass. But with the exception of Wallace and a few birds, every once-living creature had been destroyed.

The story goes like this. In 1960, a young curator with a verve to modernize wrote a persuasive report to the Saffron Walden District Council. It was time to sluice out the museum's taxidermy, which she viewed as musty relics from a less enlightened era. In an age before colour photography and wildlife documentaries, taxidermy had been the cutting-edge technology for showcasing the fauna of distant lands. But those days were long gone. She argued that television and zoos gave children a better idea of nature; taxidermy had become crassly old fashioned. Plus, 19<sup>th</sup> century taxidermy was shabby; no doubt more than a few hides were cracked with age and sprouting straw. And so, having convinced the council that the museum's taxidermy was a nostalgic embarrassment, the vigorous young curator hauled the antique beasts to the city dump and lit a match. The bonfires lasted three days.

The event seemed so extraordinary. I couldn't stop thinking about it. Why had these animals been burnt? It seemed like a crime against nature, but maybe taxidermy deserved to be burnt. I visited family, I ate sandwiches, I went for walks across the astonishingly beautiful

Suffolk countryside, and I thought about it. What was taxidermy anyway? And why would anyone want such strange animal-things to exist? When I returned home, my former supervisor urged me to apply for a post-doctoral scholarship, and so I did. I settled on the title *Taxidermy and Longing*. My adventures with taxidermy had begun.

What is taxidermy? Basically put, taxidermy is an animal's skin (all flesh and bones removed) mounted over an anatomically perfect sculpture, positioned into a lively posture, and adorned with two glass eyes. In other words, taxidermy isn't merely a representation of an animal. It is the animal, but blurred with human longing to perpetuate its form. Taxidermy is hardly a swift practice. It takes patience, skill, time and exacting labour, all of which depend on an intense desire to keep particular creatures immortally whole.

When most people think of taxidermy, they think of hunting trophies. But taxidermy is a far more nuanced practice than just trophies and conquests. I've come to realize there are eight genres of taxidermy, each distinctly motivated. A hunting trophy is a very different sort of thing than a preserved animal companion (what I call a perpetual pet), which is different again from a two-headed calf or other such eccentric wonder of nature. A little scene of squirrels playing croquet can hardly compare with the tragedy of





*Taxidermy isn't merely a representation of an animal. It is the animal, but blurred with human longing to perpetuate its form.*



RACHEL POLIQUIN GETS UP CLOSE TO A BROWN PELICAN (*PELECANUS OCCIDENTALIS*).

an extinct species. Likewise a natural history specimen, posed to exhibit what makes its species distinct, is a fundamentally different sort of thing than an elephant foot stool. And nothing is quite like a jackalope, mermaid or other fraudulent creature created from a combination of animal parts. To flaunt a hunter's skill, to immortalize a cherished pet, to amaze, to amuse, to warn, to educate, to decorate a room and even to deceive: what unites the genres is the longing to capture pieces of nature and tell stories about their significance within human lives.

But all taxidermy owes its existence to wonder. It began in the decades following Christopher Columbus' journeys across the Atlantic. That a vast continent teeming with an astonishing spectrum of life had lain hidden for so long quite simply blew Europe's mind. Armadillos, rattlesnakes, birds of paradise and opossums: unknown creatures poured into Europe and were snapped up by anyone who could afford a collection. Yet, what arrived on European docks after months of travel was usually a decomposing lump of flesh, fur and feathers. Most animals didn't survive the journey, and preservation techniques were too rudimentary to offer anything but the merest shape of a strange beast. And this was a problem. It is true enough to say that taxidermy developed precisely to preserve and cherish nature's most wondrous creations.

From such poorly preserved wonders, taxidermy reached its apotheosis in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Victorians loved their nature to death, quite literally. No parlour was complete without a hummingbird under glass or an exquisite assortment of birds, butterflies, seaweeds or

*While I never advocate the making of new taxidermy, I believe that taxidermied animals can be reinterpreted as not just something to look at, but something to think with.*

ferns. The Victorians wanted to capture all of nature, to bottle it up and ensure it was ever-present for lovingly close inspection. They wanted to see the beast for themselves, and it didn't matter if its eyes were glass. They wanted the intimate encounter.

And this, I've come to realize, is what taxidermy is all about: a deeply intimate and enigmatic encounter between you and an animal. Taxidermy allows you to get closer to an animal than you ever could in life or on the television. It allows you to get closer than most animals would allow, if they were still alive. As I began thinking and writing about taxidermy, I realized that words and images were not going to be enough to explain those encounters. I had no interest in stuffing anything myself, but I wanted to engage directly with the unsettling magnetism of taxidermied animals, rather than merely describe it. Luck was on my side.

I happened to speak with Bill McClellan, a curator at UBC's Museum of Anthropology I had worked for during my PhD. He told me that the Museum of Vancouver had an entire natural history collection lurking in its basement. From 1894, the museum had amassed and exhibited its taxidermy until it moved to its current location in Vanier Park in 1968. The animals were put into storage where they had lingered, almost forgotten, for half a century. The story was perfect. It was like Saffron Walden all over again, but without the bonfires.

The exhibition I curated with the Museum of Vancouver, *Ravishing Beasts: The Strangely Alluring World of Taxidermy*, explored the cultural history of taxidermy, its successes and failures, and its uncertain future. Taxidermy has



ABOVE: LEFT TO RIGHT, RED-BREASTED MERGANSER (*MERGUS SERRATOR*), BLACK-NECKED STILT (*HIMANTOPUS MEXICANUS MEXICANUS*), BROWN PELICAN (*PELECANUS OCCIDENTALIS*). BELOW: WHITE-THROATED TOUCAN (*RAMPHASTOS TOUCANUS*).

an unsettling way of raising ever more questions, and the exhibit was meant to stage unexpected encounters with taxidermy that might provoke visitors to look at these animals in new ways. Perhaps because my adventures with taxidermy were born with a bonfire, I tried to give value and meaning to these creatures. While I never advocate the making of new taxidermy, I believe that taxidermied animals, as old and musty as they might become, can be reinterpreted as not just something to look at, but something to think with.

Last summer, I had the opportunity to work with an altogether different sort of museum. Perhaps best known for its 26-metre-long blue

whale skeleton, the Beaty Biodiversity Museum on UBC's Main Mall is an astounding collection encompassing over two million specimens of organic life. While *Ravishing Beasts* explored the cultural significance of taxidermy, the exhibits I designed for the BBM were inspired by encounters with the specimens themselves. I learned about the lives of pufferfish, pangolins, kiwi birds, echidnae and flying dragons for the simple reason that the museum safeguards specimens of those species. In radical contrast to Saffron Walden's urge to purge, the BBM believes its specimens – and especially its oldest





specimens – hold precious information that helps scientists understand species and ecosystems now and in the future.

If we care to look, and look closely, the unsettling intimacies engendered by taxidermy can offer us powerful lessons in natural history. They might be straightforward lessons in biology, to learn something about the species on display. They might be lessons in aesthetic wonder in the pure delighted appreciation of an animal's strangeness or beauty. Or, more soberly, they might be lessons in conservation: there can be no darker cautionary tale than an extinct species. Or again, they might be lessons in the ability of animals to entrance us and to provoke and challenge us to think deeply about our encounters with and within the rest of nature. ●

Rachel Poliquin is a writer and curator. Her book, *Taxidermy and Longing*, is due out with Penn State Press in 2012. She also maintains the taxidermy blog [www.ravishingbeasts.com](http://www.ravishingbeasts.com)

## A United Approach to Biodiversity

The **UBC Botanical Garden** and Centre for Plant Research recently moved from the Faculty of Land and Food Systems to the Faculty of Science. This move takes advantage of natural synergies in the sciences, while allowing the Botanical Garden and **Beaty Museum of Biodiversity** to form stronger ties.

UBC Botanical Garden is Canada's oldest continuously operated university-based botanical garden. Its collection of roughly 120,000 accessioned plants representing some 6,000 taxa will complement the Beaty Museum's collections of two million preserved plants, animals, and fungi, providing students, faculty and the community access to a curated site to study the myriad aspects of biodiversity. The Museum's Herbarium of 600,000 specimens was begun by the Garden's first director, John Davidson, around 1916.

While the Museum and Garden will have a common report to a new directorship, each institution maintains its distinct identity, organizational

structure and advisory/scientific committees. They will make use of each other's strengths to enhance their joint mission in biodiversity research and education. The Museum represents a world-class group of biodiversity researchers at UBC, and the Garden a decades-long experience in public outreach. Together they will communicate knowledge and passion for biodiversity to the public in new and exciting ways.

Curious by nature? Explore the Beaty Museum of Biodiversity's stunning displays of birds, insects, fish, fossils, plants, shells and more. Enjoy hands-on activities and films for all ages. **Open Wednesday through Sunday, 11:00am to 5:00pm. Tours daily. [www.beatymuseum.ubc.ca](http://www.beatymuseum.ubc.ca). 604.827.4955**

Visitors to the UBC Botanical Garden can expect a learning experience rich with interesting plants and informative signs. **Spring hours: weekdays, 9:00am – 5:00pm; weekends 9:30am – 5:00pm. [www.ubcbotanicalgarden.org](http://www.ubcbotanicalgarden.org). 604.822.4529**



SUNDA PANGOLIN (MANIS JAVANICA).

# ACADEMICS & Avocations



David Pokotylo gave up a promising guitar career to pursue the mysteries of early human life.

By **HILARY FELDMAN**

## THE ACADEMIC: Archeologist

For nearly 30 years, Professor David Pokotylo has painstakingly uncovered the lives of early humans. He is passionate about ancient technologies and specializes in tools made from rocks through flaking techniques. Chips can be knocked off rocks to create specific shapes and blades, producing stone axes, scrapers, knives and points. "That's the very first evidence we have, in most areas of the world, of a durable cultural record – of what people were doing to modify their environment," Pokotylo says. Even more fascinating is the fact that this technology was used across most continents and endured until about 7,000 years ago.

Studying stone tools has led Pokotylo around the globe. In East Africa, he works at early Stone Age sites, teaches annual field schools and uses the National Museum of Kenya's extensive collections. While the Rift Valley is well known for its early human archeological finds, Pokotylo has been focusing on lesser known highland plateau areas that date back about 400,000 years. These early Stone Age locations were used by *Homo erectus* and shed light on key questions: How did humans start to make stone tools? Why and when did humans move out of the Rift Valley? And when did humans start using fire to stay warm at higher elevations? One intriguing possibility is that developing tools allowed early humans to be more flexible. Instead of responding to environmental changes by evolving more (or less) body hair, the development of better tools allowed them to adapt to changing conditions, and take up new opportunities.





DAVID POKOTYLO IN ACADEMIC MODE.

“This is the first real extension of your body,” Pokotylo says. “You can do things with stone tools you couldn’t do with your feet, your teeth, your fingers. They extend your body dramatically.” These new skills may have allowed *Homo erectus* to move out of prime areas like the Rift Valley into higher elevations, and eventually towards Europe and Asia.

In northern China, flakestone technologies persisted into the early Bronze Age, with stone tools being used alongside more efficient and complex bronze tools. Pokotylo and his colleagues are working in AnYang, an important city from the Shang Dynasty, and nearby sites where the two technologies overlap, offering unique insight into the value of stone tools in a changing society. Closer to home, in the Interior Plateau region of western North America, stone tools were used until very recently. Portable, durable and replaceable, these tools provide evidence of other social changes, like seasonal movement among camps, settlement of higher elevations and increased plant-harvesting.

Having an academic foot on several continents allows Pokotylo to make broader comparisons. The sites correspond to very different time

periods, but the basic technology persists. “Whatever they’re doing with these things, they worked incredibly well for over a million years,” he says. “Something’s going on there that makes this a very flexible technology.” To hammer in that point, Pokotylo teaches his students to make flake stone tools. Hands-on familiarity allows them to recognize artifacts in the field. It is also a revelation how well these tools work. In fact, they can rival modern tools.

In 1986, Pokotylo required hand surgery and persuaded his surgeon, an amateur anthropologist, to use a flake stone tool. A small linear flake of obsidian, known as a microblade, can have edges close to one molecule in thickness. Under high magnification, these blades are thinner, straighter, and sharper than a stainless steel scalpel. Pokotylo’s operation was filmed and featured on an episode of CBC’s *Doctor Doctor*, and he found the subsequent healing time phenomenally fast. Pokotylo points out that creating such tools is a lost art and produces cutting edges that cannot be duplicated with modern tools (apart, possibly, from lasers). He tries to ensure that students have a healthy appreciation for how well this technology works.

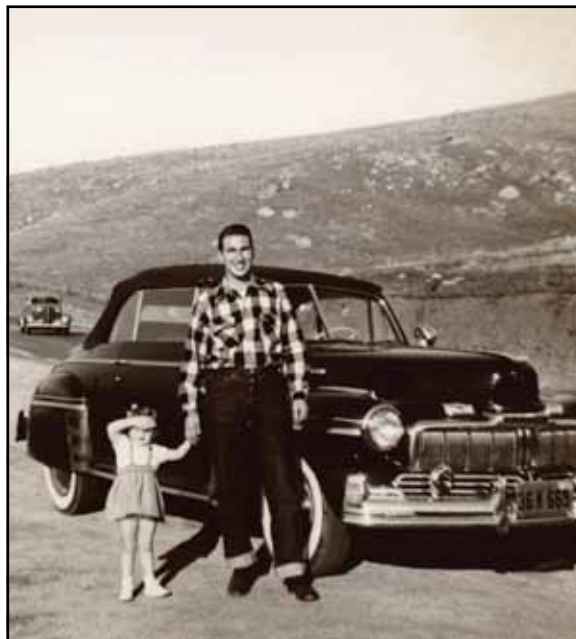
## *the Avocation* Rock and Roll Musician

Pokotylo is a keen musician. He grew up in Winnipeg’s fertile music community and took up the guitar in high school. Mainly self-taught, Pokotylo played in various bands around town. One particular band became more successful and was eventually picked up by the manager of The Guess Who. Early success had a disruptive effect on Pokotylo’s first year of university; he spent more time playing gigs than going to class. Eventually, he had to face the decision to play music or go to school. A surprisingly good mark in anthropology, combined with a lucky placement in an archeology field school, helped Pokotylo find his direction. He made a clean break and removed the temptation to play music by selling all his equipment, including a 1959 Les Paul guitar (now worth about \$275,000).

But throughout his early academic career he never stopped listening to music, and nurtured a plan to return to playing it, this time for sheer pleasure. The opportunity arose when he taught his daughter to play guitar and he eventually found his way back into the music scene. He has been playing with the same group of people for nearly a decade, rehearsing and performing a wide repertoire of rock songs from the ’50s to the ’80s. It’s a comfortable fit and provides a welcome diversion from work pressures, with weekly practices and occasional gigs. They play at various venues including fundraisers, bars and corporate events. In addition, Pokotylo spent over a year playing in a Neil Young tribute band, but the intensive performance schedule was very demanding and hard to sustain for a busy academic. He’s moved on to a new project playing a blend of country and rock, describing it as “rock and roll with a twang.”

Pokotylo has since made up for losing all his original equipment. He plays a variety of guitars and has learned how to restore classic amplifiers from the ’60s and ’70s. His jet-setting fieldwork schedule allows him to track down elusive vacuum tubes from electronics repair shops in remote places. Never a mere dabbler, Pokotylo has mastered the necessary electronics from the ground up: power supplies, transformers, capacitors and circuits. He happily deciphers old schematics and wields a mean soldering iron.

After a long hiatus, Pokotylo is glad to be making music again. “I love to play and that’s all there is to it.” ●



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**James Tower**  
*likes the wind in his hair*



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JERRY LECOVIN BCOM'56, LLB'57, QC

## Filling in the Gaps

Jerry Lecovin was called to the Bar in 1958. While most of his peers started their law careers, Jerry headed off to tour the world for well over a year, beginning in England and then visiting a long line of destinations that included Finland, Russia, Turkey, India, China and Japan.

Returning to Vancouver, Jerry started working as an assistant prosecutor. He launched his own law practice a few years later and began focusing on family law, an area that became his specialty. He was honoured for his contributions in 2000 by being appointed as Queen's Counsel. Although now semi-retired, he remains very active in his profession. He continues to present cases in court and to travel extensively.

"One of the things I came to appreciate the more I travelled was that there were gaps in my education," he says. "I had taken very specialized courses in my university days and hadn't had much exposure to the liberal arts: reading the masters, studying great works of art, or learning about the history of the places I would come to visit." He heard about a UBC program from a

former classmate and thought it could help fill some of those gaps. For the last five years, he has attended the Ageless Pursuits lecture series offered each June by UBC Continuing Studies.

The program's week-long morning sessions feature professors, past and present, from UBC and other institutions. They share their expertise on a wide range of subjects, from literature and music to psychology and politics. "I've taken a variety of topics over the years and enjoy those eureka moments when I learn a new fact or discover an old truth."

Jerry complements attendance at these lectures with regular visits to the symphony, opera and theatre. While it's anyone's guess where his travels will take him next, it's a safe bet you'll find him at UBC this summer, rounding out his knowledge alongside other avid learners.

LEE TRELOAR BED'70

## From Pole to Pole: Writing her way around the world

After completing her degree, Lee Treloar began a fulfilling career as a teacher that would take her from Vancouver to Australia and back again. Fast forward to 2011 and now she enjoys life as a teacher of a different sort. These days she's a travel journalist and photographer who crafts her stories while visiting remote polar destinations and shares her experiences through multimedia lectures and presentations once she gets home.

Lee has travelled quite literally to the ends of the earth: from the extreme north of Greenland to the Ross Sea of Antarctica. Says Lee: "I have been extremely privileged to have seen some of the most pristine places on the globe. I feel I have a huge responsibility as a steward and messenger for the polar regions, which are in a state of high peril. Through photography, I can capture images of rapidly changing ecosystems. Through writing, I hope to influence and encourage others to make changes that can make a difference."

Lee launched her writing career after returning to her alma mater several years ago to take two UBC Continuing Studies courses on freelance journalism with instructor Jennifer Van Evra. "The courses gave me a road map to the writing industry:

who to get in touch with, how to approach an editor, how to make a query stand out. Jennifer showed me that the long and sometimes lonely path to publishing was not only navigable, but that the journey could be enjoyable."

Energized by her continuing education experiences at UBC, Lee put what she learned to good use. Her work has been featured in *The Vancouver Sun*, *The Globe and Mail* and *Canadian Camera* magazine. She also holds the honour of Member International in The Explorers Club of New York.

What comes next for someone who has circumnavigated the Arctic and completed five expeditions to the Antarctic? With more icy adventures sure to lie ahead, Lee plans to continue expanding her library of stories and images in her quest to capture the magic of the poles.



COME BACK TO SCHOOL  
THIS SUMMER WITH  
UBC CONTINUING STUDIES

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# Broken Bones, Fractured Lives

Break a leg in Canada, and you will probably receive immediate medical attention and perhaps some paid time off work to recover. Break a leg in Uganda, and you may lose your limb, your livelihood or even your life. A collaboration between UBC and a Ugandan medical school is attempting to address the complex problems behind this disparity in health outcomes.

Text and photos by **BONNIE ALLEN**

On the casualty ward at Uganda's largest hospital, patients with fractured legs and open wounds are pressed up against one another, each fighting for space on a few hospital cots. A man lies naked on a blood-soaked foam mattress on the floor. The rancid smell of urine, blood and days-old sweat mixes with bleach. Patients must bring their own pillows and blankets and rely on family members to deliver food. They don't know how long they'll be here, but it's likely weeks or months because treatment is often delayed and ad hoc.

In a far corner of the hospital, Piotr Blachut, an orthopaedic trauma surgeon from Vancouver, prepares for emergency surgery in what feels like a scene from *M\*A\*S\*H*. There's no running water, a shortage of blood and limited drugs. His unconscious patient, 19-year old Gorritte Namaganda, has a broken thighbone and has lost a lot of blood from a splintered shinbone that's jutting out of her skin.

"It can't wait," says Blachut, with that calm, matter-of-fact confidence that one wants in a person holding a scalpel. "That kind of injury can be life-threatening."

Namaganda, a university student, was knocked off a speeding motorcycle taxi. She is one of many victims who collectively amount to a dismal ranking: Uganda has one of the worst road accident rates in the world. If neglected, Namaganda's multiple broken bones and open wounds could result in deadly infection, amputation or life-long disability.

Unfortunately, trauma injuries are often neglected in Uganda's overcrowded national referral centre, Mulago Hospital. Patients with broken bones requiring surgery are more often given cardboard splints.

As Namaganda clings to life on the operating table, she can count herself lucky to have landed in the hands of Blachut while he's on a teaching trip to Uganda. A trauma surgeon at Vancouver General Hospital, Blachut is also a clinical professor for the UBC Orthopaedics Department (the same department where he did his residency 25 years ago). In 2007, Blachut and Peter O'Brien, head of UBC's orthopaedic trauma division, visited Uganda to investigate the emerging health crisis of neglected trauma injuries. Shortly after, they started a partnership between UBC and Uganda's medical school,

Makerere University, and teaching hospital. It's called the Uganda Sustainable Trauma Program (USTOP) and it recruits specialists from Vancouver to train staff in the developing country, fundraises for equipment and lobbies Ugandan health officials for more resources.

Now on his fourth trip to Uganda, Blachut is leading a 12-member team from VGH. These surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses and technicians have volunteered their time and paid for their own flights in order to provide the training that will enable Ugandan hospital staff and medical students to speed up the surgical process and improve patient care.

The emergency surgery on Namaganda's broken femur and tibia is a case in point: "In Canada, you would normally treat it within 24 hours. Here, that treatment takes, on average, 35 days," says Blachut, who is dressed in blue scrubs. His surgical cap sports a Canadian maple-leaf.

The hospital's head orthopaedic surgeon, Patrick Sekimpi, has a laundry list of reasons why the treatment takes so long, but it boils down to a lack of trained staff, equipment and money. Uganda's health budget and international donor money is largely consumed by HIV and AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. Sekimpi sometimes cancels surgeries because he can't find gauze or rubber gloves, and his patients are

forced to wait. "Sometimes the backlog extends and someone stays for a month or six weeks waiting for a surgery," he says.

Uganda, dubbed the "Pearl of Africa" by Winston Churchill, is still recovering from two decades of turmoil under the oppressive regimes of Idi Amin and Milton Obote, as well as lingering hostilities in northern Uganda by the Lord's Resistance Army. Since 1986, the country has maintained relative peace, strengthened its economy and slowly rebuilt its services. However, its population, now 32 million, has grown faster than its infrastructure, causing chaos on roads now jammed with rickety mini-buses and motorcycle taxis that carry three passengers at a time and recklessly speed over goat-trail roads. Each day, on average, six people die in road accidents and 33 people suffer traumatic injuries. The accident victims who are waiting for surgery are often breadwinners and a prolonged hospital stay has a snowball effect, plunging their families into deeper poverty.

Fifty-year-old Amran Kezaala, a tailor and father of 10, lies on a bed with his scrawny leg in traction, his unclipped toe nails curling over at the ends, his dry skin peeling off. At VGH he would have had a rod inserted in his broken leg within eight hours, then been released from hospital on crutches within three to five days. He's been laid up in Mulago Hospital for two and



PIOTR BLACHUT (R) WORKS ON GORRITTE NAMAGANDA'S BROKEN LEG IN AN OPERATING ROOM AT MULAGO HOSPITAL.

THIS THREE-YEAR-OLD PATIENT WAS THE VICTIM OF ONE OF UGANDA'S MANY CAR ACCIDENTS.





AMRAN KEZAALA, A 50-YEAR-OLD TAILOR, EXAMINES AN X-RAY OF HIS BROKEN LEG.

a half months. When asked how his children are getting fed, he replies, “God only knows.”

That, says Blachut, inspires him to keep working in Uganda. USTOP tries to be more than a short term medical mission that simply parachutes specialists into Uganda on a surgery spree. The goal is to teach local surgeons, medical students, nurses and administrators how to streamline the hospital system. “We realize how, with a system, you could dramatically change so many lives, so you continue trying to help,” he says.

In the operating room, Namaganda has been sedated for surgery but the correct metal clamps and tools aren’t there. Then comes more bad news. There aren’t any sterilized drills in the orthopaedic department, so the surgery must be delayed. Blachut and the rest of the VGH team bite back their frustration. Sekimpi is embarrassed in front of his Canadian visitors, but, at the same time, says there’s no point sugarcoating the problems. The staff in his department had simply gone home the night before without preparing equipment for the next morning. “It’s poor planning,” he says.

Organization is a major part of USTOP’s plan

for systemic change. Trauma patients are spread out on 12 different wards in the maze-like hospital, with only scattered paper records to trace them. Surgeries are delayed because patients are lost or not prepped in time for their procedure. On each trip, USTOP specialists show the local staff how to improve triage, create a database to track all patients and expedite the transfer of new patients to the pre-surgical ward. They also give workshops and one-on-one training on surgical methods, better instrumentation organization and post-operative handling of patients.

Ultimately, sustainable change hinges on more resource allocation from within the country. USTOP members have lobbied the Ministry of Health but they cannot control the health budget for surgical supplies, equipment or salaries for nurses and surgeons. Even Sekimpi, a dedicated and talented surgeon, is considering reducing his surgery time because he earns just \$750 a month and feels frustrated every day by the poor working conditions. “Here, people have lost the motivation to come to work,” he says. For that, the USTOP crew can

only give encouraging words and a pat on the back to demoralized staff. But, says Sekimpi, it helps. “They’re bringing attitude change about ethics of work.”

Back in the operating room, Blachut finally has everything he needs to insert a rod into Namaganda’s broken femur. When all goes well, the Canadian team can reduce the average hospital stay for a patient down to two days. And all does go well for Namaganda, who hobbles out of the hospital a few days after surgery to recover at home.

But shortly after the USTOP crew leaves Uganda, the backlog of surgical patients begins to build up again and it makes Blachut question whether he’s achieving sustainable change. “It’s difficult when you come once a year. It’s a long time span between visits, and so a lot of things you institute fall by the wayside.”

Hamed Umedaly, another clinical professor from UBC, feels the same frustrations, but keeps returning to Uganda for personal reasons. Umedaly was born in Uganda, then forced to flee to Canada with his family at the age of 12 when Idi Amin expelled all Asians from the country, accusing them of hoarding wealth. Umedaly eventually graduated from UBC medical school in 1986. More than three decades after he left, the anesthesiologist has made four medical trips to Uganda and encourages other clinical professors in UBC’s anesthesiology department to do the same. UBC and Makerere University have expanded their relationship to include projects in seven areas: obstetrics, plastic surgery, anesthesia, pediatrics, orthopaedic trauma, club foot care, and ears, nose and throat.

For Umedaly, these trips to Uganda are an opportunity to help a country he once called home, and practice old-school medicine. “They use their hands-on skills, finger on the pulse,” he says. “That’s impressive because it’s a bit of a lost art in our system. We depend a lot on technology.”

Blachut goes back to VGH’s trauma unit with a new appreciation for his well-lit, fully-stocked, state-of-the-art surgical theatres. Then, he vows to return to Uganda. “When you come back from here, you realize how well off we are. It’s almost obscene to see the excesses in our system. So you say, ‘we have some responsibility to give back.’ So that’s why you do it.”

Bonnie Allen is a freelance journalist from Canada who reports from Kampala, Uganda. More of her writing can be read at [www.bonnieallen.ca](http://www.bonnieallen.ca).

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- Aarondeep Bains

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We asked you to tell us how you would use the new Alumni Centre. Here is an artistic interpretation of your responses.

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I PLAN TO USE THE CENTRE TO GET ORIENTED TO THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF UBC... EVERY TIME I VISIT SOMETHING HAS CHANGED OR MOVED!

GATHER INFORMATION ABOUT ALUMNI OUTREACH AND WAYS TO GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

BRAIN STIMULATION!!

A PLACE WHERE ALUMNI CAN BRAINSTORM IDEAS FOR THE UNIVERSITY AND MAKE THEIR CONCERNS KNOWN

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UNIQUE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

SOMEWHERE TO GO WHEN I VISIT CAMPUS THAT WON'T MAKE ME FEEL LIKE I'M TOO OLD TO BE THERE

VISITING TO CATCH-UP WITH MY SORORITY SISTERS, HAVE A COFFEE AND CINNAMON BUN, AND REMINISCE OVER OLD TIMES

GREAT SPEAKERS WHO INFLUENCE MY WORLD VIEW

AS A LINK WITH THE PAST AND A GLIMPSE INTO THE FUTURE OF UBC

I THINK IT WILL PROVIDE AN EXCELLENT WELCOME MAT FOR ALUMNI RETURNING TO CAMPUS FOR A VISIT

I WANT THIS TO BE A SHOWCASE OF WHAT UBC EDUCATION LEADS TO

A VENUE FOR FILM FESTS

I BELIEVE THE NEW ALUMNI CENTRE WILL BE MY "DEPARTMENT" WHEN I VISIT UBC.

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A GREAT RESOURCE FOR NEW ENTREPRENEURS WHO NEED A MEETING SPACE.

I THINK THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SHOULD INVITE ALL THEIR BRANCH REPS FOR A BIG PARTY TO CELEBRATE THE OPENING.

IF IT IS AS WELCOMING, BEAUTIFUL AND AS "GREEN" AS I HOPE IT WILL BE, THE ALUMNI CENTRE WOULD BE A DESTINATION FOR SIMPLE CONTEMPLATION.

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Find out more about the Alumni Centre at Alumni Weekend on May 28 at UBC's Vancouver Campus.

A presentation will be followed by a visit to the site at the corner of East Mall and University Boulevard.





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All graduates and emeriti faculty of the University are members of the Convocation and thus eligible to serve. 12 positions are available on the Vancouver Senate, and 2 on the Okanagan Senate. Each Senate meets monthly from September to May in Vancouver and Kelowna with committee meetings on similar schedules. Terms of office are for three years starting 1 September 2011.

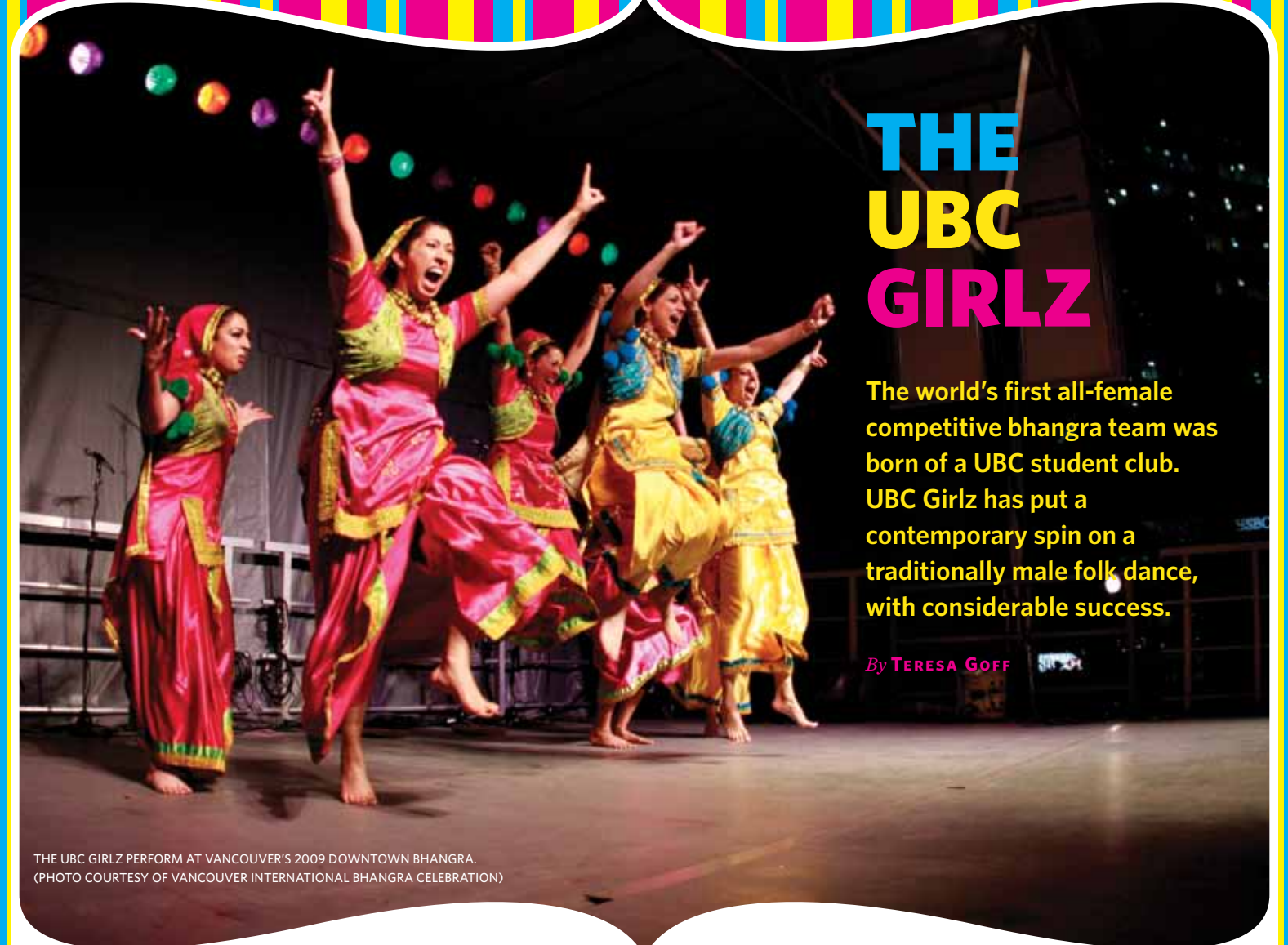
The Senates are the academic governing bodies of the University and are responsible for academic policy, admissions, curriculum, and related matters. They also serve as adjudication bodies for disputes on discipline or academic standing.

Convocation Senators serve on a volunteer basis. Reasonable travel costs are reimbursed within British Columbia.

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Nominations are due by 4 pm on 6 May 2011.

*James Ridge*  
Secretary to the Convocation



**THE  
UBC  
GIRLZ**

The world's first all-female competitive bhangra team was born of a UBC student club. UBC Girlz has put a contemporary spin on a traditionally male folk dance, with considerable success.

By TERESA GOFF

THE UBC GIRLZ PERFORM AT VANCOUVER'S 2009 DOWNTOWN BHANGRA.  
(PHOTO COURTESY OF VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL BHANGRA CELEBRATION)

On a November afternoon, soon after the sun has left the Roundhouse Exhibition Hall in darkness, a cross-section of Vancouver's ethnic communities stands cozy-to-capacity watching a fusion of Japanese and Punjabi drummers. Back stage, a group of young women draped in jewellery and dressed in bright purple and turquoise – head scarves, vests and long skirts embroidered with gold – prepare to perform by bouncing up and down for five full minutes. The UBC Girlz dance team is here to celebrate Diwali, the festival of lights.

In the South Asian community, locally and internationally, everyone knows the UBC Girlz. Since 2000, when they split off from the UBC

Bhangra Club to form the world's first all-female competitive bhangra team, the UBC Girlz have performed at the Juno Awards in 2009, Vancouver's 2010 Olympic Games, the Penn Museum in Philadelphia, as well as the Lincoln Center and Symphony Space venue, both in New York City. With each performance, they have taken bhangra beyond its more traditional borders creating a cultural identity grounded in their own reality.

Bhangra is a Punjabi folk dance of joy and celebration traditionally performed by farmers during Baisakhi, a festival that marks the arrival of the spring harvest. While its roots are thought to date back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century, some researchers

argue that the dance went through a significant change after the Punjab was split between India and Pakistan in 1947. The new Indian government promoted it as the representative dance of the Punjab and from that point, it is argued, bhangra became an amalgamation of many other traditional dances – jhummar, luddi, dhamaal – absorbing some of their characteristics and specific moves.

Whether or not today's version can be considered centuries old or only decades old, bhangra has always been a vibrant fusion of dance, music and song. It is the expressive, energetic dance movements and the heart-pounding beat of the dhol (a large barrel-shaped



drum with skins on two sides tightened by metal rings and decorated with colourful tassels called phumman) that are the markers of bhangra. Naveen Girn is cultural researcher and co-curator for the Bhangra.Me exhibit that launches at the Museum of Vancouver in May. “You can’t have bhangra without a dhol,” he says. “It hits you in the chest and in the heart and when different beats are played you are connected to it.”

And yet, there is no dhol on stage with the UBC Girlz. The music that propels the team through eight minutes of all-out energetic head-shaking, arm-sweeping and leg-lifting dance is a mash-up of five bhangra songs mixed with hip hop. This merging of old and new forms is what makes the past relevant. And if there is one thing that distinguishes bhangra music, it is constant evolution.

Wherever Punjabis have immigrated, they have taken bhangra with them. From its agrarian roots in the eastern part of Pakistan and the Punjab in northern India, across the ocean to the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada, bhangra music has changed in relation to new styles and influences. “It starts in the United Kingdom in the ’70s with people from Southall mixing it with rock and disco,” says Girn. Artists like Alaap and Apna Sangeet fused new styles with old to create a new

cultural identity. Lyrics that were once about looking for a lover in the fields of the Punjab were transposed and the same search took place in the same language but now in places like Soho Road in Birmingham. An estimated 30,000 cassettes per week were sold in the UK during the ’70s. From there the recorded music went to India then to British Columbia where bhangra became part of everyday celebrations like birthday parties, weddings and anniversaries.

“My first bhangra experience was with my dad and my brothers, all sweaty in the basement of our Richmond house,” says Mandeep Patrola, one of the founding members of the UBC Girlz. “We would press Stop and Rewind and dance to our favourite Punjabi songs.” Since the ’70s, musical platforms have continued to shift. With the walkman, and now the iPod, bhangra has been de-contextualized and re-contextualized. By plugging bhangra directly into your ears, the music, once a celebration of farmers in a field, can be a private party in an urban landscape thousands of kilometres from where the seeds of the songs were sown. Bhangra continues to be remixed with musical influences from hip hop to house and reggae to ragga. And technological innovations – like the recent Pocket Bhangra iPhone App, created by a Vancouver developer – allow users to create their own bhangra songs by looping pre-recorded beats. This re-imagining

of bhangra within a different context has created space for new ideas.

Bhangra may have been transformed as a musical genre but as a dance, it has certain elements which many consider authentic. One of these is the gender of the performers. “This idea that women should be able to do bhangra is unique to Vancouver,” says Girn, who claims that Vancouver still boasts the largest number of female bhangra performers worldwide. In Vancouver, women and men have been performing bhangra together since the mid-’70s. The Surrey India Arts Club, which took bhangra to stage at the 1976 Montreal Olympics as well as Expo ’86, celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2005 by conducting a Girls Bhangra Survey. Of the 44 participants surveyed, an even split between male and female, 73 per cent believed that girls should be able to do bhangra. When asked what is wrong with girls doing bhangra, 45 per cent said that “bhangra actions and girls don’t go together” and 29 per cent said that “judges don’t like girls doing bhangra.”

Bhangra competitions, which were started in India as a way to patronize bhangra as the authentic Punjabi dance form, continue in major urban centres across the United States. These inter-collegiate competitions have specific guidelines including an eight-minute time limit, and an integration of traditional and

innovative dance moves. Many moves, such as squatting or slapping the inner thigh, are not considered feminine, according to some judges (and some members of the South Asian community). “We would go to competitions and be told that we shouldn’t be doing bhangra,” says Patrola, the team’s spokesperson. Making bhangra a female dance became their mission.

“We actually entered the competition circuit not knowing we were the first all-girls team to compete,” says Kiran Mander, another founding team member, who remembers the Los Angeles Bruin Bhangra competition in 2002 as “a humbling moment.” Ten years later, there are many all-girls teams competing and dancing worldwide, but until the UBC Girlz showed up, inter-collegiate teams had been all-male or co-ed, with 12 to 16 members performing multiple stunts. At the Bruin Bhangra competition, the UBC Girlz only had eight members and one stunt: the peacock, or mohr, in which one person stands in the middle with another person sitting on their shoulders and another in front with legs wrapped around the central person’s waist. While bhangra has always included stunts, in the US, it is heavily influenced by cheerleading culture. People make human chandeliers, human hydraulics and human skipping ropes. Girn recalls a performance in which an all-male team got down on stage in the middle of their

*People make human chandeliers, human hydraulics and human skipping ropes. Girn recalls a performance in which an all-male team got down on stage in the middle of their performance and did push-ups.*

performance and did push-ups. Each display illustrates the strength of the performer. “We do so many squats and low moves,” says Mander, her chest still heaving from the eight-minutes on stage at the Roundhouse, “and you can feel it burn.” The physical endurance required to dance bhangra reflects the UBC Girlz’s ideological fight.

In many ways, the UBC Girlz have won. Within two years of that first competition in LA, they placed first at Bhangra Blast in Boston. That same year, the UBC Girlz took third place at Bruin Bhangra; in 2007 they secured second place at Bruin Bhangra but took first at the prestigious Vancouver International Bhangra competition. In between is a long list of firsts, seconds and thirds. Following their performance at the Vancouver Olympics, they went to New York to participate in Engendered, a transnational human rights and gender rights festival exploring dance as an anachronistic suspension of modernity that, according to the festival’s executive director Myna Mukherjee, “preserves, reworks and re-appropriates forms of gender and sexuality.”

This year, the UBC Girlz changed their name to BC Girlz. The original moniker has served its purpose. The participants, a rotating roster that has had much turnover since the team’s inception in 2000, have moved into the workforce or onto graduate studies and the team is no longer competing at college events. But they are still performing. Most recently they were invited to audition for TV’s *America’s Got Talent*. All because of their YouTube site, which is still called UBC Girlz. ●

*Teresa Goff is a freelance writer and radio producer.*



*“We actually entered the competition circuit not knowing we were the first all-girls team to compete.”*

KIRAN MANDER, BA’02, (R) IS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF UBC GIRLZ. (PHOTO: PHILIP M. TONG, LUNABLUEPHOTO.COM)



THE TEAM REHEARSES AT THE ARIE CROWN THEATER IN CHICAGO FOR THE 2007 ANNUAL BEST OF THE BEST INDIAN DANCE COMPETITION. (PHOTO: SAMIR MIRZA)

Anne Murphy is an assistant professor and chair of Punjabi Language, Literature and Sikh Studies at UBC. As part of the Museum of Vancouver’s Bhangra.Me Exhibit, students in her PUNJ 300 class are doing an oral histories project that involves interviewing members of the Punjabi community about their involvement in bhangra. The interviews will be part of an interactive map that layers people’s memories of bhangra onto the city itself. This map will include Flickr feeds mounted on the walls. Newly submitted images will be continuously updated and presented as a slideshow.

The Bhangra.Me Exhibit, a collaboration between the Museum of Vancouver and the Vancouver International Bhangra Celebration, runs from May through October 2011. The sixth annual Vancouver International Bhangra Celebration will take place May 4-14, with the Opening Reception at the Museum of Vancouver on May 4 at 6:00pm.



# ENGINEERING CO-OP PROGRAM

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**DOREEN MARGETTS**  
1918 - 1994

Doreen Margetts made me who I am today. I used to work in the technology sector, but Mrs. Margetts' gift allowed me to follow my love of animals. I was accepted to the UBC Animal Welfare Program – a program partly funded by her estate. This allowed me to pursue a career that improves the welfare of all animals: domestic, farm and wild. Now I'm the Director of Farm Animal Programs for the Vancouver Humane Society. My degree gives me the credibility I need to be effective in my work. And I owe it all to a woman I've never met. Mrs. Margetts, I never knew you but I'll always be grateful to you. You've inspired me to leave my own gift to benefit the UBC Animal Welfare Program. Thank you.

- Leanne McConnachie

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## Party at the Point.

ALUMNI WEEKEND  
**MAY 28 · 2011**

The following events are just a taste from the smorgasbord of activities on offer. Most are free, many of them are kid-friendly and alumni are encouraged to invite their friends and families. Please visit the website for a full schedule and to reserve your spot.

### Vibrant Sustainable Communities: Towards a Smart Future

Creating vibrant, sustainable and livable communities involves visionary planning and innovative design. UBC alumnus and former BC Premier Mike Harcourt will join an expert panel for a discussion.

### The Culture of Flushing: A Wastewater Story

While research on the social causes and consequences of water scarcity is abundant, the topic of wastewater receives scant attention. What happens to water after the toilet is flushed? A UBC expert will shed light on this often forgotten side of water governance.

### Explorers of the Unknown

The vastness of space is mindboggling. Planet earth still holds hidden mysteries. And much about the universe within our own bodies remains in the realm of the unknown. Join us for a discussion about the boundaries of current human knowledge.

### Urban Agriculture

People around the world are growing food in cities in some surprising and creative ways. What does it take to get started as an urban farmer? This talk addresses both theoretical questions (how many people can urban agriculture feed?) and practical suggestions (what are the best food crops to get started with?)

### Free Admission to UBC Attractions

Five campus jewels are opening their doors to Alumni Weekend registrants: Beaty Biodiversity Museum, Museum of Anthropology, Belkin Art Gallery, Botanical Garden, and the Chung Collection Exhibition. Revel in the wonders of nature and human culture!

### A Reading with Author and Historian Richard Somerset Mackie

Richard Mackie's non-fiction books uncover, salvage and interpret BC's forest industry and the stories from its past. *Trading Beyond the Mountains* (1997) and *Island Timber* (2000) won the Lieutenant-Governor's Prize and *Mountain Timber* (2009) was on the BC Bestseller list for 32 weeks.

RSVP, see the full schedule and get your questions answered:

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## We have the doctors behind the doctor treating your heart disease.

Our medical researchers constantly uncover new treatments and diagnostic techniques for a wide range of illnesses. For instance, the team of MD/PhD student Claire Heslop, Professor Jiri Frohlich, and Associate Professor John Hill found an enzyme that can be an indicator of severe coronary artery disease (CAD). High levels of this enzyme, myeloperoxidase, can double the

risk of death in patients with CAD. Which is important to know if you're one of the thousands of Canadians who suffer from this common form of heart disease. If we can identify a disease earlier it can be treated earlier. And that's just some of the thinking from here. [www.aplaceofmind.ubc.ca/health](http://www.aplaceofmind.ubc.ca/health)

# Chronicle

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA ALUMNI NEWS | SPRING/SUMMER 2011

### *This issue in Alumni News:*

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THESE FISH SPECIMENS CAN BE FOUND IN THE BEATY MUSEUM OF BIODIVERSITY. THEY HAVE BEEN CLEARED AND STAINED, A PROCESS THAT ALLOWS SCIENTISTS TO STUDY THE FULL ANATOMY OF AN ORGANISM WITHOUT THE MESSY WORK OF DISSECTION.



## 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 branches, 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.

- Attended a reception with Professor Toope · Tokyo
- Learned about alumni volunteer opportunities · Calgary
- Attended a Canadian alumni reception, hosted by the Canadian Consul General · Minneapolis
- Enjoyed dinner with Professor Toope · Shanghai and Beijing
- Celebrated the festive season at the annual Christmas Dinner · Hong Kong
- Spent an afternoon in conversation with Canada's first female prime minister · Vancouver
- Attended a provocative dialogue about "storytelling from the fringe" at the Film Festival · Whistler
- Held a reception to support the rebuilding of Haiti · Toronto
- Watched the Canucks take on the Rangers · NYC
- Attended a networking luncheon · Ottawa
- Connected with other ResLife alumni as well as current and future advisors · Vancouver
- Chose a side and cheered on the Canucks (or Sharks) · San Jose
- Learned effective self-marketing at Granville Island · Vancouver
- Enjoyed a pint at pub night · London
- Played a round at the UBC Desert Classic · Palm Desert
- Read three great books for Book Club · Vancouver
- Watched the men's and women's basketball T-Birds take on the Vikes · Victoria
- Discussed the future of fish · Richmond
- Watched a family-friendly performance of Alice in Wonderland · Toronto
- Held a lively dialogue about police reform · Surrey
- Sailed the Nile, protest erupted, made unscheduled flight to Qatar · Egypt
- Voyaged to the southernmost continent · Antarctica
- Observed astonishing wildlife while sailing the Galapagos Islands · Ecuador
- Spotted big game on safari before relaxing in Zanzibar · Tanzania
- Drifted through the islands of the Caribbean · Lesser Antilles
- Cruised through the tributaries of the Amazon on a riverboat · Peru
- Explored cloud forests and volcanoes before cruising the Pacific coast of Central America · Costa Rica
- Went on safari · South Africa
- Ate, drank and were merry at the Third Tuesday pub night · Toronto



## 1961 Law Grads Reunion

Patrick Dohm and Thomas Hara are organizing a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary class reunion for the Law Class of '61 and request their classmates to contact them at [bjdohm@telus.net](mailto:bjdohm@telus.net) (Patrick) or [tomhara@shaw.ca](mailto:tomhara@shaw.ca) (Thomas) and provide their "snail mail" address.



### Past Imperfect, Present Tense

Bayeux Arts, \$17.95

Derk Wynand, BA'66, MA'69

Wynand's 11<sup>th</sup> collection of poems is just as sharp, perceptive and heart-felt as his first. Did I mention the blue butterfly? (See page 11.)

### The Knife Sharpener's Bell

Coteau Books, \$21

Rhea Tregobov, UBC Assistant Professor of Creative Writing

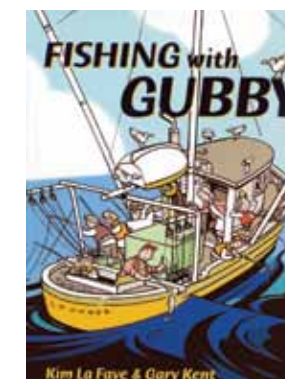
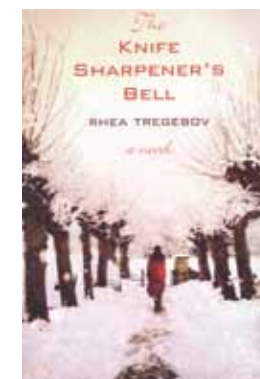
Annette Gershon, the novel's protagonist and narrator, is a young woman trapped in the undertow of an economic and political upheaval. She tells the story of her passionate pursuit of wholeness during a historical epoch that has splintered previously-held notions of nationality, family and selfhood.

Lured back to the Ukraine by the promise of Stalin's first Five Year Plan, Annette's parents relocate from Depression-era Winnipeg to Nazi-threatened Odessa. Then, forced to flee Odessa, Annette finds herself behind the Iron Curtain in Stalinist Moscow where pre-war promises evaporate in the oppression of a paranoid and anti-Semitic regime.

Tregobov's unpretentious prose propels the story forward with a series of flashbacks by an elderly Annette, looking back on decades of loss and survival as if arranging the fragments of her life on the table and trying to piece them together. Tregobov presents this life skillfully, with an unflinching pace and great attention to historical detail.

Rhea Tregobov is an accomplished poet and children's author. This is her first novel.

Reviewed by Kyle Sullivan, MA'09



### Fishing With Gubby

Harbour Publishing, \$19.95

Kim La Fave & Gary Kent

Great artwork in this graphic novel for kids (of all ages). We follow Gubby and his fish boat crew up the west coast for an authentic, entertaining look at the lives of fisherpeople. Sort of a *Now You're Loggin'* (a great graphic novel from the '40s) for the fishing industry.

### Caprice

New Star, \$19

George Bowering, MA'63

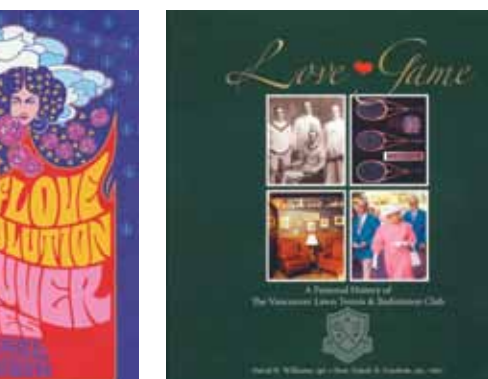
The western novel reinvented by Canada's first Poet Laureate. A great read set in BC's interior in the 1890s. Caprice is a new kind of western heroine, and Bowering gives her all the spark she needs.

### City of Love and Revolution: Vancouver in the Sixties

New Star, \$24

Lawrence Arosen, BA'70

Ah, the blissful days of hippiedom. Free love, great dope, good vibes. Arosen skillfully traces the coming of age of the Boomer generation in its first flower. Flower power, that is. The stresses and strains of the '50s ethos bucking up against the Age of Aquarius are evident here, and even though the new age finally won out, it didn't survive intact. Arosen shows how inherent contradictions within the movement ultimately caused it to disintegrate. Too bad. It was great dope.



### Other Alumni Books

#### Love Game: A Personal History of the Vancouver Lawn Tennis and Badminton Club

Hon. Garde B. Gardom, \$40.00

David R. Williams, QC and Hon. Garde B. Gardom, QC, OBC

The inside story of one of Vancouver's oldest and finest sports traditions.

#### From Country to Country

Trafford Publishing, \$23.50

Peter I. Buttuls, BSc'64

Personal story of a Latvian family that fled Soviet oppression during WWII and survived Nazi Germany before settling in Canada.

#### Gladdy's Wake

Second Story Press, \$19.95

Barbara Anderson, BEd'74

The story of a grandmother with an anarchist past and her Muslim convert granddaughter who is on trial for a bombing at a college in New York.

#### Chopin Revisited 1810-2010

Towner, \$21.95

Carol Wootton, MA'70

A personal reflection on Chopin's work and literary influence, published on the bicentenary of his birth. ●



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

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.

### 1930s

**David E. Carey**, BA'38, who resides in Ashville, North Carolina, was featured in the US Tennis Association magazine in spring 2009, complete with a photograph of himself and Andy Roddick. Carey, who is 96, has won 31 USTA national senior championship trophies for singles and doubles (more national championships than Roddick and Serena Williams combined) and has been nationally ranked in the Top 10 every year starting in the 80s age division. He won the 2000 World Singles titles for 85s and held the No. 1 world ranking in the 90-year-old age group. Carey notes: "Yes, there were more than two of us playing in all these tournaments!"

### 1940s

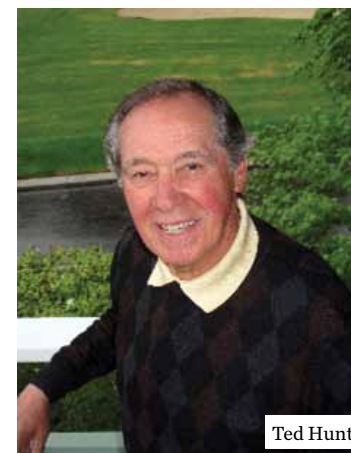
**Knute Soros**, BAsC'49, and other members of the civil engineering class of 1949 met up on September 15, 2010, for their 61<sup>st</sup> year reunion. It took place at the Beefeater's Chop House and Grill in Nanaimo, BC. Of the 65 original members of the grad class, 29 still survive. As they are all well into their 80s and time passes by quickly for them, in recent years they have held an annual reunion. At the 2010 reunion, they celebrated the first anniversary of the establishment of their UBC Civil 1949 Bursary Endowment Fund, which supports bursaries for undergraduate students in the department of civil engineering. They established the fund in 2009 to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of their graduation.

### 1950s

**Ted Hunt**, BPE'57, MPE'61, EdD'76, has been busy in his retirement, authoring three books in as many years. The first two, *Ben Hogan's Magical Device: The Real Secret to Hogan's Swing Finally Revealed* and *Ben Hogan's Short Game Simplified*, are instructional golf books. His third book, *The Company of Heroes*, is a historical epic that draws together three true stories of international political intrigue that were hidden by the Americans and Russians after WWI. Hunt carried out 23 years of research to complete the novel, which will be published soon. Learn more about these books and find out where to purchase them at [www.tedhunt.org](http://www.tedhunt.org).

The International Society for Horticultural Science recently recognized **Hugh Daubeny**, BSc (Agr)'53, MSc (Agr)'55, emeritus scientist with Agriculture Canada, for his studies on red raspberry breeding, carried out cooperatively with the Scottish Crop Research Institute (SCRI).

Starting in the 1960s, Hugh and Dr Derek Jennings of SCRI exchanged germplasm and information, resulting in a series of raspberry cultivars that increased the adaptation range of the crop. They combined genes originating from the European and North American red raspberries (*Rubus idaeus* and *Rubus strigosus*, respectively) with genes from the northeastern North American black raspberry (*Rubus occidentalis*). Agriculture Canada's Tulameen is an outstanding example of a cultivar developed from the cooperation; it has become the most widely-grown fresh market raspberry in the world and the standard on which other cultivars are judged. These cultivars are now widely grown in all raspberry production regions, including those in Britain and throughout Europe and in the southern hemisphere, as well as in the Pacific Northwest and California. Some of the cultivars are well-adapted to forcing under protected structures, ensuring fresh raspberries throughout the year.



Ted Hunt



Ronald Wilson



Kim A. Stephens

### 1960s

Palm Springs-based philanthropists **Harold Meyerman**, BCom'69, LLB'70, and his wife, Dorothy, received the Ann Angel Award for their support of local charities, including the Stroke Recovery Center. Harold also serves as chairman of the Palm Springs Art Museum and Dorothy is an active and founding member of the Architecture and Design Council of the Palm Springs Art Museum. The annual award is given to community members who have donated time, expertise and resources to those less fortunate.

The studies are being promoted as an example of international cooperation, the type of which is now endangered by the increasing degrees of privatization in fruit breeding programs. Hugh and Derek were honoured at a special dinner held in August in Lisbon during the 28<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Society for Horticultural Science. They were also the subject of a dedication in the latest volume of *Plant Breeding Reviews*.

Hugh is also responsible for the Totem strawberry cultivar which, after more than 30 years, is still widely planted in the Pacific Northwest. Currently he is an active member of Friends of the UBC Botanical Garden, on the board of the Native Plant Society of BC, and regional representative of Seeds of Diversity of Canada.

### 1970s

There was a special reunion on May 27, 2010, at Alicante Airport when Hispanic and Italian studies master's grads, **Nicholas Collins**, MA'70, and **Robert (Bob) Howes**, MA'70, met. They had not seen each other for 40 years, yet they recognized each other immediately.

In the 40 years since graduation, "Busy" Bob Howes returned to Cambridge for a PhD, followed by an MA in library science at Leeds. He worked at the British Library and Sussex University before joining the LSE library. Nicholas worked at the Vancouver School Board, Vancouver Community College and Capilano University, where he had been since the 1970s.

At the reunion, they spoke Spanish and English and ate, drank and reminisced for a whole week. Bob, a rail buff, tried the single track train to Alicante and also the train/tram from Valencia to Castellon.

Forty years of Christmas cards had kept them in touch. Bob feels his one year at UBC was just about perfect. They plan to meet again before another 40 years pass.

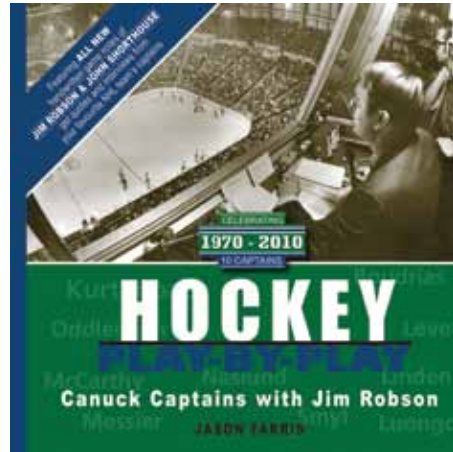
**Kim A. Stephens**, BAsC'73, MEng'75, has been appointed executive director of the Partnership for Water Sustainability in British Columbia, an autonomous non-profit society that was incorporated in November 2010. The Partnership provides a legal entity for delivery of program elements developed under the umbrella of the *Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia*, released in February 2004. In 2010, the British Columbia Water and Waste Association honoured Kim with its Bridge Building Award. This award recognized his accomplishments since 2004 in building a partnership network that is implementing the Water Sustainability Action Plan in the local government setting.

**Ronald Wilson**, BSc'74, MD'78, was recently presented with the award for Family Physician of the Year in British Columbia.





Nancy and Jerald Powers



### 1980s

In December 2010, **David Walkem**, *BSF'80*, was re-elected as chief of the Cooks Ferry Indian Band, Nlaka'pamux Nation, for his seventh term. When not riding his Harley, he is also chair and president of Stuwix Resources Joint Venture, which in December was awarded the BC Aboriginal Business Award for Best Joint Venture of 2010. Stuwix Resources is a forest management venture that is owned and operated by eight First Nations in southern BC, surviving despite the best efforts of mountain pine beetles and the American softwood lumber trade war.

**Jackie Hilderling**, *BSc (Agr)'85*, won the Vancouver Aquarium's Murray A. Newman Award for Excellence in Aquatic Conservation. She is communications director with the Save Our Salmon Marine Conservation Organization and has dedicated her life to marine conservation through education.

**Nancy J. Powers (née Cocking)**, *BSc'87*, and Jerald W. Powers were married on Saturday, September 11, 2010, at St. Francis-in-the-Wood Anglican Church, West Vancouver, and the ceremony was followed by a reception at West Vancouver Yacht Club. Nancy recently celebrated her 20-year anniversary working for the law firm Borden Ladner Gervais LLP (formerly Ladner Downs).

**Jason Farris**, *BSc'89*, authored and published *Hockey Play-by-Play: Canuck Captains with Jim Robson*. In commemoration of the Vancouver Canucks' 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, this publication chronicles and celebrates the 10 captains who have led the Canucks, from Orland Kurtenbach to Roberto Luongo. The book is a supplement to Farris' 2005 national best-seller *Hockey Play-by-Play: Around the NHL with Jim Robson* and lets hockey fans re-live another 10 great games armed with Hall of Fame broadcaster Jim Robson's hand-written game notes and hockey memorabilia. *Canuck Captains* is available at [www.canuckcaptains.com](http://www.canuckcaptains.com), with part proceeds to benefit Canuck Place Children's Hospice.

### 1990s

On January 1, 2011, **Alexander D.C. Kask**, *BA'91, LLB'99*, joined the partnership of Guild Yule LLP, a Vancouver-based law firm that traces its history back to 1924. Alex, who completed his undergraduate degree in Asian Studies in 1991, spent the following five years living in Tokyo and working as an editor at the Charles E. Tuttle Publishing Company. This position involved identifying, developing and managing book projects on a variety of topics related to East Asia and Japan in particular. He was also a freelance writer and interpreter during that time. In 1989, Alex met Akemi and in 1994 they married. In the years that followed, he wrote five books concerning the Japanese language. During his time in Japan he also began his study of classical Japanese martial arts. In 1996, he returned to Canada to study law at UBC and began teaching martial arts at the university, which he continues to this day through the UBC Sports and Recreation Program. During law school, Alex worked for the Royal Canadian

Mounted Police as a civil litigation analyst. He was called to the British Columbia Bar in 2000 and has practiced as a litigator since then, providing advocacy before all levels of court in BC as well as before a variety of administrative tribunals. In 2008, he joined Guild Yule LLP and has a practice that involves general insurance law, municipal law, professional negligence, products liability law, human rights law and personal injury law. He has been an instructor for both the BC Continuing Legal Education Society and the Paralegal Certification Program at Vancouver Community College.



Jhenifer Pabillano



Anna Murray



Jean-Marc Dykes

### 2000s

**Sal Ferreras**, *MMus'01, PhD'05*, received the 2010 Mayor's Arts Award for Music in the Performing Arts Category on November 24, 2010. Vancouver City Council established the Mayor's Arts Awards in 2006 to recognize established and emerging artists in a variety of disciplines, including literary, culinary, performing and visual arts.

On November 29, 2010, in Toronto, **Anna Murray**, *BA'03, MBA'07*, received a 2010 Canada's Most Powerful Women Top 100 Award in the Future Leaders category. Her career is focused on corporate social responsibility and balancing corporate profit with ethical business practice. It has taken her around the world, to the United Nations and back to the private

sector. Throughout her career she has focused on the integration of international business and society. Having worked in China, the United States, Switzerland, the Dominican Republic, Tanzania and Canada, she has strategically aligned her business skills with the growing demands of a globalized economy and the importance of corporate social responsibility. Currently Anna is a senior advisor at Xstrata Nickel and works with both the Corporate Affairs and Sustainability teams. Her expertise includes stakeholder engagement and community relations, human rights and security, international communications and issues management, social performance and governance activities including corporate policies and procedures.

**Jhenifer Pabillano**, *MJ'06*, is the online communications advisor for TransLink, the transportation authority in Metro Vancouver. She was named to *Mass Transit Magazine's* Top 40 Under 40 list for 2010. In addition, her work writing TransLink's blog was honoured with the 2010 Best Blog award from the American Public Transportation Association.

The Spanish ambassador in Pakistan, Gonzalo Maria Quintero, on behalf of King Juan Carlos of Spain, conferred on **Al-Nashir Jamal**, *BCom'79*, the outgoing chief executive officer of the Aga Khan Foundation (Pakistan), the prestigious award of the Knight Commander of the Order of the Civil Merit. The ambassador said the work carried out by Ilustrisimo

Senor Al-Nashir Jamal during his tenure as the CEO is an example of how international co-operation can be a real instrument both in the development of local communities, and in achieving understanding between different cultures.

**Jean-Marc Dykes**, *BA'09*, is travelling, starting with a trek through the Himalayas. He spent three weeks hiking the mountains and reached the base camp of Mt Everest. After spending a month in Nepal, he progressed on down to India where he is spending time exploring the western coast. He is recording his adventures on a blog at [www.wherisjeanmarc.blogspot.com](http://www.wherisjeanmarc.blogspot.com). He hopes to compile his writings into a book after making his way through Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam. ●

## THE GREAT TREKKER LUNCH

Alumni and Friends: \$60.00  
Recent graduates (2006 and after): \$45.00  
Table of ten: \$550.00

## Toronto May 12

Noon - 2:00 pm  
Windsor Arms Hotel,  
18 St. Thomas Street

Given recent world events, there is a lot of uncertainty in the global economy. How will this impact the Canadian economy? What should we expect for the rest of 2011? Special guest David Dodge, former governor of the Bank of Canada and current senior advisor at Bennett Jones LLP, will have a one-on-one dialogue with Wendy Dobson, *BSN'63, PhD*, the co-director of the Rotman School of Management's Institute for International Business.

This traditional annual event was initiated by three Great Trekker Award recipients - the Rt. Hon. John Turner, *BA'49, LLD'94* (this year's honorary chair), Allan Fotheringham, *BA'54*, and the late Pierre Berton, *BA'41, DLit'85* - who met at UBC and maintained strong ties in Toronto.

**For more information and to RSVP (before May 6), please contact Nicola Wootton at 1.800.883.3088 or at [nicola.wootton@ubc.ca](mailto:nicola.wootton@ubc.ca).**



## What a Backpack Can Teach Us

**Videsh Kapoor, BSc'88, BEd'92, MD'93, teaches students to approach international volunteering with respect and sensitivity.**

By **IRINA DRAGAN**, 4<sup>th</sup> year science student



Videsh Kapoor still remembers her first international volunteer experience, shortly after graduating from medical school.

Accompanied by a friend from her class, she decided to lend a hand at a health post in remote Nepal. The excitement was overpowering: their ethnicities – Hindu and Japanese – would surely allow them to blend seamlessly with the local population. But as they boarded the small plane that would take them to their destination, they saw that they were the only foreigners, and that their \$200 hiking boots, high-tech backpacks and western appearance stood in stark contrast to the mountain-weathered locals who carried sacks, bags of rice and chicken pens as their personal luggage. One man even had a goat!

Embarrassed and feeling highly conspicuous, they finally understood how naïve they had been to think they would blend in simply because they shared the same facial features, to believe that they understood the locals simply because they looked like them!

Today, Videsh is the director of the UBC Division of Global Health in the

department of family practice and voluntarily contributes her time and expertise as co-founder of the Global Health Initiative (GHI), a program that offers skill-building workshops for UBC medical students interested in helping abroad. The Medical Undergraduate Society recognized her with the 2011 William A. Webber Award for her contributions to undergraduate medical education and commitment to the future physicians of British Columbia.

Through the GHI, she supervises four projects: the India Spiti Health Project, which seeks to improve the health of children attending the Munsel-ling Boarding School for children Kindergarten to Grade 10; the India Voice of Children project, which is aimed at improving basic health and hygiene in the Uttarakhand province at the foothills of the Himalayans; the Kenya Pamoja project, intended to address urgent health needs in Kisumu, Nyanza province; and the Uganda Nacodi project, devoted to serving the locals through improved medical care and education. This April, she is pioneering a partnership between the GHI and Nicaragua Children's Foundation, focusing on improving the healthcare of children at three schools in San Juan del Sur.

Throughout all of this, Videsh has always remembered the lesson that her first international volunteer experience taught her: respect for cultural diversity. She hopes to impress that learning upon future volunteers through the GHI program. She believes volunteering abroad is a collaborative partnership with host communities that requires humility and sensitivity.

## Helping Students Choose the Right Path

**Carmen Lee, BA'01, loves her job, and volunteers to help students find the same level of satisfaction in their future careers**

By **GULNAR PATEL**, BA'07



Carmen Lee is someone who wears many hats. Somewhere between working as the marketing manager for a global consulting company, kneading dough as a culinary student, taking classes on image consultancy, and refining her palate through involvement with the Wine & Spirit Education Trust, she finds time to help UBC students and young alumni tread the oft-perilous path towards professional fulfillment as a volunteer with Career Services.

Carmen describes volunteering as part of her lifestyle. It's a value that's been ingrained in her since she was young. As a UBC student she volunteered for student organizations such as Imagine UBC, and the Political Science Students' Association. Through these roles she built valuable relationships at UBC, many of which lasted long after graduation.

Carmen graduated from UBC in 2001, at a time when the job market was still reeling from the bust of the dot-com bubble. Armed with a degree, yet unable to officially declare the end of her days as a 'starving student' Carmen's career path reached a crossroads early on. She could have chosen the path where many political science students had gone before, law school, or she could tap into her

natural abilities as a people-person and pursue a career in communications. After completing the LSAT, and on the verge of applying to law schools, Carmen made a career defining (and much less expensive) detour and enrolled in the one year Corporate Communications program at Seneca College in Toronto. Shortly after graduating, opportunity knocked in the form of a marketing internship with Deloitte, a firm that consults Fortune 500 and 1000 companies and that employs more than 100,000 people worldwide. Marketing presented Carmen with a learning curve, but one that excited, rather than intimidated, her.

Even though Carmen has been at Deloitte for nine years now, she still talks about her job with as much passion as she had on the first day. She remembers her time at UBC with a fondness that inspired her to return to campus as a volunteer. She now lends her time and talent to a number of organizations at UBC such as the Alumni Association, Career Services and the Faculty of Arts' Tri-Mentoring Program.

Carmen has provided career and interview advice to students, a role she takes seriously since mentors have been important in her own life. Whether it was her elementary school teacher who taught her to take risks, or her professor at UBC who encouraged her to take learning beyond the classroom, Carmen knows the importance of good advice.

As a volunteer, she continues to help others understand the importance of relationship development and communications, skills she learned at UBC that have helped her navigate successfully through work and life.

## Supporting Local Initiatives

*A model for how we should do development work*

By **LUCIA LAM**, BCom'05, MCS'09 (Regent College)



LUCIA LAM (CENTRE) IN BOLIVIA.

Imagine paying rent for five years, then getting all that money back when you move out. Sound too good to be true? Well, that's essentially what's happening in Bolivia.

When I left Vancouver I knew next to nothing about this housing strategy, called "anticrédito." But after nearly six months of working in Bolivia, where such arrangements between landlords and tenants are common, it has become part of my daily lingo.

I was volunteering for FONCRESOL (Fondo de Crédito Solidario), a microfinance institution in Sucre. Bolivia has one of the most extensive microfinance networks in the world, with many financial institutions existing to boost local economies and improve quality of life rather than make private profit. They make small loans accessible to people who wouldn't usually qualify for them in the traditional banking world. Since the vast majority of Bolivians have little or no collateral or credit history, and big banks charge much higher interest rates, microfinance organizations are often the only option if they need a loan.

FONCRESOL lends money to individuals living in impoverished rural communities to help them start small businesses. I came to Sucre, a university town with many students from rural communities, to help FONCRESOL as it assessed the feasibility of a youth entrepreneurship program with a microfinance component built around the concept of anticrédito. While it may not be immediately obvious what housing credit has to do with entrepreneurship for young people, look at it this way: it enables them to support themselves through school and to graduate with a small sum of savings they could use for further education, to start a small business, or to make it possible for their siblings to go to school.

It would work like this: when a university student is approved for the anticrédito program, the microfinance organization loans the landlord a lump sum up front – a substantially larger sum than he or she would have collected in rent. The student pays FONCRESOL the interest on the loan, which is equivalent to or slightly higher

than the amount he or she would have paid in rent. FONCRESOL invests that interest over the five year term to help support other students. The landlord benefits from being able to bypass the banks and have access to a significant amount of credit without paying interest rates. When the contract expires the microfinance organization recoups its initial investment from the landlord, who keeps any income generated. The student is given back the sum of interest he or she has paid to use as "seed capital."

The more I learned about anticrédito the more I was struck by what a great metaphor it is for how development work should be done. In essence, it shows the absolute importance of supporting the work of local people rather than going in to take charge.

FONCRESOL is a pioneer in microfinance. It already knows what the community needs. For example, a program that would enable young people to graduate from university and become entrepreneurs, contributing to the growth and vitality of local economies. And housing credit is part of this picture.

Anticrédito and the creative financial services being pioneered in Bolivia to support it and other innovative social programs may not work elsewhere. And that doesn't matter. It only needs to improve lives here. The program I was working on has such tremendous potential precisely because both the need and the solution emerged from the community.

International development, at its core, demands real partnership. It requires mutual learning and support. Participating in meaningful acts of social change in other countries often means following rather than leading. ●

*Lucia Lam's placement was arranged through Canadian Crossroads International. She lives in Vancouver.*



## Will UBC join the NCAA Division II?

Since 2008, UBC's administration has been considering joining the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) as the main organizing body for the university's varsity sports. Currently, BC is a member of CIS (Canadian Interuniversity Sport) in the Canada West Region, and NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics) in the United States.

The issue has both positive and negative aspects, and there has been an intensive process of consultation. UBC's administration would like to come to a final decision before the NCAA's annual application date of June 1. This spring, alumni were

invited to make their opinions known.

Membership in the NCAA would help UBC attract academically qualified student athletes from across Canada and the US, who would otherwise choose NCAA affiliated schools. One of the main issues is scholarships: under CIS rules, host schools are only allowed to cover tuition costs with athletic scholarships, while NCAA schools can include housing and other costs in their offerings. It would also ensure a future for NAIA sports if that league merges with the NCAA.

On the other hand, membership in the NCAA would eliminate UBC's ability to compete with other

Canadian schools (except for SFU, which is an NCAA affiliate). As well, NCAA membership requires UBC to undergo an institutional accreditation conducted by one of six US-based agencies.

UBC would enter the NCAA as a member of the Great Northwest Athletic Conference in Division II, which would include UBC among institutions such as Seattle Pacific University, Western Washington University, and the University of Alaska Anchorage.

A decision is anticipated by the end of April. Please visit [www.students.ubc.ca/ncaa](http://www.students.ubc.ca/ncaa) for updates and a review of the issues.

### CIS National Champs!

SHANICE MARCELLE WAS NAMED THE CIS PLAYER OF THE YEAR AND HELPED GUIDE UBC TO THEIR THIRD STRAIGHT CONFERENCE TITLE



#### Women's Volleyball

It was another banner season for the T-Birds as they picked up their third straight Canada West title with a thrilling 3-2 comeback victory over their rivals from Trinity Western in the championship final. They followed up that performance with a dominating performance at the CIS championship in Laval, bringing home their fourth straight national title. Earning CIS, CIS tournament and Canada West Player of the Year honours was third year hitter **Shanice Marcelle** while fifth-year middle **Jen Hinze**

was named the sport's top student-athlete. Hinze and **Kyla Richey** also joined Marcelle on the CIS tournament all-star team. Setter **Brina Derksen-Bergen** earned the fair play award at the national tournament. In addition to their amazing 2010-11 season, the T-Birds were recognized for their undefeated 2009-10 campaign with the Team of the Year award at the 45<sup>th</sup> annual Sport BC Athlete of the Year awards. **Doug Reimer**, in his 14<sup>th</sup> season at UBC, was also named Sport BC's Coach of the Year.

#### Men's Volleyball

The regular season record, 7-11, of this scrappy T-Bird squad could have well been over .500 as they pushed some of the top teams in the country to five sets only to fall just short. Leading the way for the T-Birds the entire season was **Blair Bann**, who captured his fourth straight Canada West Libero of the Year award in his final year at UBC. Over his five year career, Bann never missed a set and owns Canada West records for digs in a game, season, and career. With the loss of only Bann and setter Ryan Zwarich, the 2011-12 edition of the UBC Thunderbirds appear primed for a great season.

#### Men's Basketball

The T-Birds once again placed near the top in the nation this year, holding down the number two ranking in 12 of the 14 CIS top-ten polls. They finished first in the Canada West conference with a 22-2 record, both losses by two points or less. **Josh Whyte**, the 2009-10 CIS Player of the Year, was named a Canada West first-team all-star while his backcourt mate, **Alex Murphy**, earned second-team honours. Murphy, a fifth-year point guard, also kept his ironman streak intact and did not miss a UBC league game over his entire five-year career. He ranks first all-time in conference history with 111 games played. **Kevin Hanson**, in his 11<sup>th</sup> season leading the T-Birds, picked up his second consecutive and fifth overall Canada West Coach of the Year award. UBC, which has finished runner-up in the last two CIS national title



SAVANNAH KING, A 2008 OLYMPIAN, WAS NAMED THE 2011 CIS FEMALE ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

games, brought home the Canada West banner as conference champions in their own gym. They went on to collect a bronze medal at the CIS Final 8 in Ottawa.

#### Women's Basketball

In the always-tough Canada West conference, the T-Birds put together a 17-7 regular season campaign which was good enough for a fifth-place finish in the regular season standings. They lost their opening round playoff series to Alberta but under the new CIS playoff format, were still being considered for a spot in a regional tournament which acts as the opening round of the national championship tournament. **Zara Huntley** was named a second-team Canada West all-star after leading the T-Birds in scoring and finishing second in rebounding.

#### Men's Hockey

In one of Canada West's most tightly contested seasons in recent memory, the Thunderbirds barely missed a trip to the post-season. Injury struck when the playoff race was most heated, allowing the T-Birds to dress only three defencemen. The good news is that the team showed a marked improvement over last year's squad, finishing ten points better than in '09-10. **Justin McCrae** led the team in goals and assists, putting up 10 and 13 for 23 points in 27 games. In goal, **Jordan White** played all 28 regular season games, leading Canada West with 717 saves, nearly a hundred more than the next most prolific

netminder. **Ben Schmidt** was the team's outstanding rookie, finishing third in team scoring and adeptly moving to defence when the 'Birds were short on blueliners.

#### Women's Hockey

The Blue and Gold started the 2010-11 season with great promise, scoring early road victories over Canada West's top teams. But the pace slowed as the season went on. The injury bug struck the team hard, and at one point UBC was icing fewer than three forward lines. But the women showed heart, competing closely with their opponents despite adversity. It was a monumental year for a number of core T-Birds who graduated after five seasons, having played more than a hundred games apiece. The team's biggest loss will be outstanding goaltender **Melinda Choy**, who gave the T-Birds a chance to win every night.

#### Swimming

UBC brought home a pair of conference banners this season, claiming Canada West titles in both men's and women's swimming in their home pool. They went on to finish second at the CIS Championships in both the men's and women's competitions. **Savannah King**, a 2008 Olympian, was named the CIS Female Rookie of the Meet after posting gold medal finishes in the women's 400 and 800-metre freestyle at the national meet. Thirteen T-Bird swimmers were recognized as CIS All-Canadians this season.



ANDREW ROBB TAKING A SWING IN HAWAII FOR UBC AGAINST SOME TOP NCAA DIVISION I COMPETITION

#### Spring Shorts

Both the UBC Thunderbird baseball and softball teams have begun their seasons with road trips down the coast. The men's baseball squad are ranked no. 10 in the NAIA and opened league play over the final weekend of February. The women's softball team began their year with a couple of strong performances and were 8-8 through the month of February... Competing against NCAA Division I schools, the men's golf team brought home a pair of top-5 finishes from tournaments in the new year. They are preparing for a run at another NAIA national title behind the play of veterans **Andrew Robb** and **Dave Sheman**... Alpine skiing brought home a ton of hardware from their regional competition with the men finishing second and the women third. At nationals, the men finished fifth overall and the women were sixth, an impressive feat for the only Canadian school in the competition... the Track and Field team is just starting to get its season underway with a number of its distance runners already having qualified for the NAIA national championships scheduled for May.



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~ IN MEMORIAM ~  
**Douglas "Buzz" Moore, LLD 2002**

By Don Wells, BA'89

The day following Douglas "Buzz" Moore's official retirement in April 1986 started out like any other. He got up at the usual hour, turned the keys of an aging Plymouth station wagon and drove the familiar route from his West Vancouver home to UBC. And just like every other work day of the previous 22 years, he went about his usual chores at UBC's Athletics Department.

Nobody was surprised to see Buzz turn up at the War Memorial Gym offices that day. Always one step ahead when he needed to be, he hadn't told a soul he had reached the age of mandatory retirement. The only person who knew he was officially off the payroll was then athletic director Bob Hindmarch, who secretly hoped nobody would notice. And while the paycheques stopped, Buzz didn't. Loyal to the core, he carried the ball for another 20 years as the UBC Thunderbirds' "Mr. Everything."

After returning from naval service during WWII, he operated Moore's Bakery in Kerrisdale. Among his regular customers were UBC's physical education director Bob Osborne and athletic director Bus Phillips, who convinced him to put his business skills to work at UBC. For more than 40 years, Buzz served as the department's business and facility manager, fund raiser, rugby coach, media relations officer, construction superintendent, and overseer of the 8,000-member Big Block Club.

His annual "Sweater or Better" fundraising campaign resulted in sufficient alumni contributions to pay for the iconic Big Block sweaters given to all UBC student athletes. Not only did he acquire the sweaters, he fitted them too – some 5,000 over the years – and took great pleasure in being the first to congratulate new members. His irreverent humour and generous spirit didn't go unnoticed by the students, who eventually inaugurated the *Buzz Moore Leadership Awards* in his honour. The university tipped its hat too, when in 2002 his unflagging service was officially recognized with the degree of Doctor of Laws, honouris causa.

Born in 1921 in Regina, Buzz moved with his family to Vancouver at the age of four. As a 16-year-old student at Lord Byng High School,



Buzz Moore (R) with Rick Hansen

*While the pay cheques stopped, Buzz didn't – carrying on for 20 years past the age of mandatory retirement*

he joined the Vancouver Meralomas rugby team and began a 37-year playing career. A member of the BC Sport Hall of Fame, he played in every international match in which BC participated between 1948 and 1964, and was the first Canadian to receive the Barbarian Jersey, the highest honour in traditional British rugby circles.

On the evening of March 21, 2011, Buzz Moore walked off the playing field for good. Just a few weeks later, on a night closely coinciding with what would have been his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, the UBC Athletic Department staged the 90<sup>th</sup> annual Big Block Athletic Awards banquet, and dedicated the evening to his memory.

It was a fitting coincidence that the Big Block Club came into existence in the same year Buzz did. To all who knew him, they were one and the same. ●

**A. Bruce Macdonald**

With great sadness we announce former director of UBC Botanical Garden, A. Bruce Macdonald, has passed away following a long illness.

Bruce came to Canada in 1980 to take on the role of associate director at the Botanical Garden, with responsibility for horticulture and plant introductions. He became acting director in 1985 and director from 1987 to 2002. Bruce was involved with the International Plant Propagator's Society (IPPS), both in Britain and after he immigrated to Canada, eventually becoming international president. He was senior lecturer in nursery stock production at Hadlow College in England, and later, during his tenure at UBC, taught plant propagation in the Horticulture Program. He was much admired for his encyclopedic knowledge of cultivated plants and plant propagation and production methods and for his enthusiastic, yet easy and relaxed teaching style.

Bruce was well known in the nursery industry around the world through his work with IPPS, and as author of the widely acclaimed *Practical Woody Plant Propagation*, an exhaustive exposition of propagating methods. Throughout his years with UBC, Bruce worked exceptionally hard, bringing together staff, industry and the Garden's volunteer organization, the Friends of the Garden, to make the Botanical Garden a viable, dynamic institution, sometimes, against considerable odds.

In 1998 Bruce was awarded the Royal Horticultural Society's most prestigious international award, the Gold Veitch Memorial Medal. The award is given for outstanding contribution to the advancement of the science and practice of horticulture. Among his many achievements, Bruce helped develop the Botanical Garden's innovative Plant Introduction Scheme, which selected and introduced new and improved plants to nurseries. This was the first time the medal had been given to a Canadian

since first presented in 1922.

Bruce loved UBC Botanical Garden and saw it through some very difficult times. He always had a smile, and his door was always open. At the request of Bruce's family, UBC Botanical Garden will graciously accept memorial contributions in Bruce's honour. Please contact Marcia Thomson at [marcia.thomson@ubc.ca](mailto:marcia.thomson@ubc.ca) or 604.822.0623.

**Phoebe Noble, BA'35 (Hons)**

Phoebe was born in Victoria in 1915 and attended local schools before entering Victoria College at age 14. After completing her bachelor's degree in honours mathematics and teacher training, she returned to Victoria to teach in high school. She married Jack in 1941 and their daughter, Sandra, BA'65 (*Math and Russian*), was born in 1942.

Phoebe joined the faculty at Victoria College in 1945 and retired 33 years later from what had subsequently become the University of Victoria. She was a professor emerita of the university.

During her years at UVic she took an active part in university life. She was president of the Faculty Association for several years, organized



Phoebe Noble

the Omega chapter of Phrateres International in 1961, was the coordinator of women's activities (a position that evolved into dean of women) for many years, was instrumental in having the first residences built on the UVic campus and was the first woman to head any department when she became head of the mathematics department, a position she held twice for several years.

Phoebe was also active in the community. In 1966 she and Jack were co-chairs of the Greater Victoria United Appeal drive. She was on the executive of the United Commercial Travellers and served on the board of governors of St. Margaret's School for many years.

In 1968 Phoebe organized a Victoria chapter of Zonta, an international classified service organization of executive women in business and the professions. In 1999, the Victoria chapter honoured Phoebe by providing a Zonta Bursary at Camosun College to be given to a mature female student in the field of landscaping/gardening.

In 1977 she received a Queen's Silver Medal in recognition of her outstanding dedication to the teaching profession and to community service. The following year she received one of the 100 Jubilee Medallions minted to celebrate UVic's Jubilee year in recognition of her years of service. In 2002, she received a Queen's Golden Jubilee medal in recognition of her dedicated volunteer service.

Phoebe had always been interested in gardening and, after her retirement in 1978, it became not only a full-time hobby, but also a passion. In addition to developing an internationally-known garden of her own, Phoebe was active in the formation of a volunteer group to restore and maintain the gardens at Government House in Victoria. Those gardens are now among the most beautiful public gardens in the world and in 2002 the Government House complex was designated as a National Historic site.



In 1994 Phoebe published a small booklet on hardy geraniums, her great passion, and two new hybrids that originated in her garden are now in commerce worldwide. One of them was named in her honour: *Geranium oxonianum* “Phoebe Noble.”

Her energy and enthusiasm knew no bounds. Phoebe was also known for her quick wit and humour.

### ***Evelyn Wilena (Billie) Burgess, BA’39***

Billie passed away peacefully January 31, 2011, after a brief hospitalization. Predeceased by Norman, her husband of 57 years, Billie continued her international travels and was vital and active right up to the summer of 2010.

Born in Ottawa, Billie moved with her family to Vancouver when she was 13. She and Norm met at UBC and married in 1942. Following RCAF discharge, Billie and Norm settled in Port Alberni where they raised their three sons and stayed for 30 years. Billie was always active in the community through involvement in many groups and organizations. At retirement, they moved to Bowser where son Jim built their new home on their long-time summer camp property. Over the ensuing 30 years, Billie enjoyed the community and the people of the Bowser/Qualicum area: the various bridge groups, swimming buddies, the writing club, her golf partners and her dear friends.

Billie will be missed by her sons and their families: Ken and Tami; daughters Diana and Anita – David Bergman and Nana’s great granddaughters Claire and Olivia; Jim and Cathy and son Jessy; Warren and Erin and sons Shane and Clayton.

### ***Douglas Macdonald Wilson, BA’40***

Douglas passed away peacefully into God’s hands at the Leacock Care Centre in Orillia on Tuesday, December 7, 2010, in his 93<sup>rd</sup> year. Doug was the beloved husband of Blanch Elizabeth Huggins for the past 60 years; the loving father of Stephanie Roy of North Bay, Leon Wilson of Barrie, Laurie Charbonneau of Kelowna, and Seon Wilson and his wife, Doreen Lynch, of Coldwater. He was the cherished grandfather of Jean-Luc and Daniel Roy, Tamara and Dahlia Wilson, Brett and Glenn

Charbonneau and Liam and Drew Wilson.

Doug enjoyed working for more than 25 years with the Boy Scouts Executive of Orillia. He was a member of the Orillia Historical Society, a Brewery Bay Tennis Club enthusiast and had a special place in his heart for all animals. Many boys and girls enjoyed his outstanding hockey rink in the backyard of his family home on Laclie Street. Doug enjoyed all forms of entertainment on Lake Couchiching, whether it be swimming, sailing or canoeing.

Doug was a WWII veteran who served overseas. He was a pilot and RCAF Captain. He retired as an English teacher with the Orillia District Collegiate and Vocational Institute. If desired, memorial donations to the Orillia Soldiers’ Memorial Hospital Foundation would be appreciated.

### ***Eric Nicol, BA’41***

Eric Nicol, a Vancouver writer best known for his 30 years as a humour columnist with *The Province*, passed away on Wednesday, February 2, at 91 years old.

Nicol’s career was prolific. It started at UBC, where he received his degree in French and wrote articles for *The Ubysey*. Nicol didn’t just write articles; while serving in WWII he wrote comedy skits to entertain the armed forces, and after completing his master’s degree at UBC (as well as a brief stint in a French university), he wrote comedy for the BBC.

In 1951 Nicol returned to Vancouver to work as a regular columnist for *The Province* until



Douglas Wilson

1986. In addition to this he published more than 40 books, had several stage plays produced, and wrote a few radio comedy plays for CBC.

“I love his humour,” says Claire, one of his three children. “It was real wit, never hurtful. He wrote about the everyday, common experiences, that’s why he was so well read.” He had spent most of his life in the city and was much loved by readers throughout the Greater Vancouver area. Nicol received an award for “an exemplary literary career in British Columbia” as well as the Order of Canada for his work.

We mourn the loss of a genuinely funny man who was, and will continue to be, a legend in this province.

### ***Grace Irene Mussallem (née Cuthbert), BCom’41, BA’46***

Grace was born August 26, 1923, in Maple Ridge, and passed away December 4, 2010. Grace attended high school in Maple Ridge and graduated in 1938 at the age of 14 with the highest senior matriculation exam results in the province. In 1962, she completed her certified management accountant degree. During WWII, she was employed by the Weather Bureau and Boeing Aircraft. In 1945, she joined BC Electric (later BC Hydro) where she worked for 20 years in labour relations and budgeting. She then worked in the hospital field, mostly in Victoria, returning to Maple Ridge in 1970 when she married George Mussallem. Grace served on the board of the Ridge Meadows Hospital for eight years and as a director of the Maple Ridge Community Foundation.



Grace Mussallem



Muriel Griffiths

### ***Muriel (née Whimster) Griffiths, BA’44***

Muriel Griffiths was born in Nelson in 1923 and passed away in Trail on July 18, 2010. Muriel worked at Cominco in Trail where she met and married Don Griffiths in 1948.

Muriel was an active community volunteer in arts and culture all her life. She helped establish the Celebrity Concert Series, one of the longest running series in BC. She was a director for the southeast region of BC in the BC Touring Council, developing cultural opportunities in small towns in the Kootenays. She served on the Trail and District Community Arts Council for 14 years. Her greatest accomplishment was the creation and upgrade of performing and visual art spaces in the Greater Trail Community Centre. She raised funds and oversaw all other aspects of the project, which resulted in the birth of the VISAC Gallery, the renovation of the Charles Bailey Theatre and the creation of a recital room that bears her name. In later years she was active in Communities in Bloom, which put Trail in the top spot in Canada.

In 1992, Muriel received the Les Carbeau Award from the Governor General “in recognition of outstanding contributions to regional culture.” The same year, she was awarded the Canada 125<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Medal in recognition of her support of the arts in BC. In 1997, she was made a “Champion of Trail, Home of Champions” for her work in arts and culture in Trail and district.

Muriel will be missed by her family and friends, especially for her devotion to improve the cultural life of the Kootenay area.

### ***Inez Una (née Morse) Chalupny, BA’48***

Inez passed away on January 16, 2011.

### ***Frank S. Fraser, BAsc’49***

Born March 25, 1924, Frank spent the first years of his life at his family’s log cabin on the north shore of Shuswap Lake near Anglemont, BC. Predeceased by his wife, June, on August 22, 2009, Frank passed away peacefully in the Penticton Regional Hospital on November 8, 2009.

Frank graduated from Magee High School in 1941 and attended UBC for two years before enlisting in the RCAF in 1943, serving as an aircraft electrician until returning to UBC in 1945.

After graduation, he started his working career in eastern Canada with Canadian Marconi and Rogers Majestic, before returning to Vancouver where he worked for Research Industries Ltd. and the Northwest Telephone Company. The mission of NWT was to provide telephone service to the hinterland of BC using the newfangled radiotelephone technology to replace miles of copper wire on poles, economically and reliably.

Frank was in his element working as the radio equipment engineer with other enthusiastic WWII veterans who were out to prove that multi-channel radio systems could be built inexpensively and that they would indeed work reliably. Frank directed his department in the design and installation of multi-channel VHF and UHF radio and microwave equipment for systems serving Vancouver Island and the north coast of BC as well as the interior and northern regions of BC. He played a major role in the design, installation and commissioning of the BC portion of the Trans-Canada TD2 microwave system, which first linked Canada from east to



Frank Fraser

west with two television channels and several thousand long distance telephone circuits.

Leaving the BC Telephone Company in 1957, Frank moved to Lenkurt Electric Co. in Burnaby, BC,

as head of the microwave systems design department, eventually being promoted to production engineering manager. In 1973, Frank was appointed head of the engineering physics department of the BC Research Council and president of Tech West Enterprises, a company owned by the council.

When Frank retired in 1981, he and June moved from Vancouver to a home with a magnificent view of Okanagan Lake and downtown Penticton. Renovating the 1912 house and the backyard swimming pool were ongoing projects, interspersed with bouts of rebuilding his beloved old Dodge Power Wagon. Unavailable parts or tools? No problem; Frank simply made them!

As an admirer of old radios, Frank actively searched for old battery-operated radios from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. He took extreme delight and pride in designing, building and installing new power supplies and giving the old fashioned radios a new lease on life.

His hobby of model railroading led to his serving as president of the Kettle Valley Model Railway Club in the late 1990s. The club still maintains a large fully-operating diorama in the historic S.S. Sicamous in Penticton, where the electronic controls were designed and built under Frank’s oversight.

Frank was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and the sole caregiver when June became incapacitated in the late 1990s.

### ***Gordon Hughes, BA’50, BEd’63, and Beth (née Simmons) Hughes, BA’49***

Gordon Earl Hughes passed away on April 30, 2007. His wife, Mary Elizabeth “Beth,” passed away on November 7, 2009. Both were the first university graduates in their families and both worked hard to earn their degrees through correspondence courses and summer school while supporting themselves with their early teaching assignments. Following the war, Gord attended UBC full time for one year, completing his BA in geography in 1950 and a BEd in 1963; Beth completed her BA in biology in 1949, having never attended a regular fall or winter session on campus.

Beth was born Mary Elizabeth Simmons in Vancouver on January 11, 1922. She graduated from Britannia in 1939, completed Normal School in Vancouver in 1940, and then taught



elementary school at Miocene, Mayne Island, Hollyburn in West Vancouver and Ridgeway in North Vancouver before marrying Gordon on Boxing Day in 1949. She then joined him in Vernon, where she taught home economics at Vernon Junior High (later known as Seaton), Fulton and Vernon Senior Secondary. She retired in 1969.

Gord was born August 12, 1919, in Salmon Arm and graduated from high school there in 1937 and from the Provincial Normal School at Victoria in 1938. He taught in Crowsnest and Castlegar before serving as an RCAF radar mechanic in India. On his return to Canada at Christmas in 1945, he taught at Hollyburn (where he met Beth) before moving to Vernon where he taught at both the junior and senior high schools and later served as principal of Harwood Elementary and then Beairsto Elementary (from which he retired in 1976). He also served two wonderful tours with DND in Germany, from 1965-7 as principal of the Canadian elementary school in Ramstein and from 1969-72 as an assistant superintendent, first in Soest and then Lahr.

In 1977, Beth and Gord moved to Richmond to be near their daughter's family. Beth was an accomplished cook and craftsperson. She was also a lifelong gardening enthusiast who volunteered at VanDusen Gardens. Gord was a consummate story-teller and conversationalist who could draw the life history out of a total stranger over a single cup of coffee. They were wonderful parents, attentive and adoring



Gordon Hughes and Beth (née Simmons) Hughes

grandparents, unfailingly generous of their time and resources.

Gord and Beth are survived by their daughter, Catherine; son-in-law David O'Keefe *BSc'73*; grandsons Kyle O'Keefe, *BSc'97* (Kim Barsalou, *BSc'97*), Derrick O'Keefe, *BA'99, BEI'06*, and Aaron O'Keefe, *BSc'04* (Rebecca Goldstein); and great-grandchildren Amelia, Cora, Samuel and Veronica.

### ***Gordon Keith Heydon, BA'50, MD'54***

It is with sadness we announce that on August 16, 2010, after a courageous battle with cancer, Gordon passed away peacefully in Chemainus with his family by his side. He was born November 15, 1929, in Victoria. Gordon is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Sandra, son Keith (Denise), daughter Elizabeth (Mark), and cherished grandchildren Spencer and Georgia Bennett. He graduated from South Burnaby High in 1946 and went on to receive an honours degree in bacteriology and immunology from UBC. In 1950, he was accepted into the first class of the UBC's new School of Medicine. He was especially proud to be president of his medical school graduating class, and responsible for its class motto "Hi primi viam monstraverunt" which means "these first showed the way." After receiving his degree, followed by an internship at the Vancouver General Hospital, he moved with his young family to Chemainus where he practised medicine for almost 45 years. He was a highly regarded and much-loved family doctor, practising at a time when making house calls, delivering babies, giving anesthetics and performing surgeries was the norm for a general practitioner in a small town. In 2002, he was the recipient of a Canadian Medical Association commendation awarded to senior physicians of distinction.

In retirement, he remained busy pursuing his interests in travel, photography, videography, jazz music, computers and desktop publishing.



Gordon Heydon

He always had projects on the go and loved working around his home and property. He cherished time spent with family and friends, particularly enjoying his role as Grandpa. Gordon will lovingly be



Colin Lea

remembered for his kind, caring, and selfless ways; his generosity, sense of humour, intelligence and abilities; and his love and dedication to his family, friends, profession and community. He was our rock.

### ***Colin Lea, BA'51, BSc (Pharm.)'55***

Born in Vancouver on October 4, 1928, Colin passed away suddenly on July 25, 2010, at the age of 81. He was predeceased by his parents, Timothy and Kelowna Lee and his brother, Don Lea. He is survived by his loving children, Sharon (Don), Barbie, Jeff (Claire), and Greg; their mother, Irene; adored grandchildren Lauren, Graeme and Carson; Aunt Myrtle Lee and cousin Bunnie Sam in Ontario; and many dear friends. Affectionately known as Gummy by his grandkids, Colin graduated from Magee High School and UBC, where he was a member of the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity. He owned Clyde Avenue Pharmacy in West Vancouver for many years and retired as a life insurance representative with London Life. As a retiree he proudly worked as a commissionaire. He was actively involved with the Masonic Lodge for 49 years and was a member of King David Lodge 93 AF and AM. He was a long-time member, past president and secretary of the Gizeh Concert Band. He was a member of The Kitsilano Boys Band since 1940. A celebration of life was held at the Gizeh Shrine Centre on Wednesday, August 11, 2010.



Donald J. Moffett

### ***Donald J. Moffett, BCom'53***

Don – often called D.J. – was born February 28, 1927, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Following university, he started working at Seaboard Lumber. He then worked at Alsto Lumber until 1962, when he started his own business. He owned Tideland Pacific, which was a prehung door business, until he retired in 1988.

Don was an outdoorsman and as a young man would hunt all over BC. He met his wife, Barbara, in 1961, and they were married in 1963. At this time he was heavily into playing polo. Horses were his big love and he and Barbara would trailer the horses up into the interior of the province for horse-riding excursions. In 1970, they moved from Vancouver to acreage in Langley. In 1972, his son, Craig, was born and his daughter, Dina, followed in 1974. Polo was time-consuming so, as a devoted father and husband, Don switched from horses to boating with the family throughout the San Juan Islands in Washington. Later they purchased a camper and the family travelled down the Washington and Oregon coast. His next hobby was falconry. He purchased a Harris Hawk and started hunting with it near and around their home.

In 1993, Don and Barbara took a one month holiday and went to Grand Cayman in the Cayman Islands. Don fell instantly in love with Grand Cayman. A year later, they returned to make it their home.

Through the years Don enjoyed drawing and acrylic painting. He also loved to play the piano



Joseph Vrana

and was known to play for hours on end. He loved to improvise music.

He never wanted to leave Grand Cayman so when he passed away his family decided to leave him there by spreading his ashes in the sea in front of his home. Some of his ashes were brought back to BC and will be taken to a cabin they have in the Pasayten Valley, near Manning Park.

He will be greatly missed by his family as well as his friends in BC and on Grand Cayman.

### ***Joseph Ctirad Vrana, BCom'59***

Joe passed away peacefully at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre on Saturday January 30, 2010, in his 85<sup>th</sup> year.

Born in Olomouc, Czechoslovakia, on August 23, 1924, he distinguished himself in the Czech resistance during WWII. He was arrested, days before finishing his doctorate in law, for partisan activity by the then ruling communist party. After his escape from a concentration camp he immigrated to Canada, sponsored by his cousin Blanche Kantor of Tilbury, ON (now deceased), arriving in Halifax on March 11, 1951.

His 33-year career at Bata shoes began in July 1951. He was active in the Czech and Slovak Associations in Canada and was commissioned as an officer in the Canadian Reserve in 1959. While at UBC, he met Bernice, *BHE'52*. They were married on February 20, 1960, adopted two children and lived in Toronto. Joe completed his MBA at York University in 1972.

Joe and Bernice enjoyed travel and returned frequently to the Czech Republic after the Velvet Revolution in 1989, where they lived in the family apartment on Trida Svobodi in Olomouc and managed the restituted family properties.

Joe/Dedo will be missed for his generosity, passion for history, humour and deep faith.

### ***Emile Joseph Lautard, BA'62, BSW'63***

Unexpectedly but comfortably, with his niece Esther at his side, Emile Lautard passed away at Vancouver General Hospital on September 30, 2010.

The first child of Edouard and Marie Lautard, Emile was born in Greenwood, BC, on October 29, 1921. The family home at that time was the general store and post office in Carmi, BC, a predominantly French community. When his father was employed by the Canadian Pacific Railway, the family moved to live at various stations along the Kettle Valley line, settling at Rhone in 1934, where Papa was a section foreman. Emile attended school in Rhone, and spent some time mining before following his father into a railway career. This path was disrupted by the commencement of WWII when Emile, at age 18, volunteered for the army. He served in the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps. As a teenager, Emile had accepted and completed a challenge to build a cabin teacherage for a young lady, Mary Bernice Bubar, who had been employed to teach at the Rhone school. On January 9, 1943, they married.

Demobilized from the army, Emile became CPR section foreman at Ruth, Jellicoe and Copper Mountain. He also worked as extra-gang foreman. The couple now had two sons, Hugh and Guy. Leaving the CPR, Emile completed his secondary education and went on to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts and a master's degree in social work. He spent the rest of his working life in service to the community, becoming a social services supervisor in Delta, BC. After retirement, the Commissionaires occupied Emile's time. The failing health of his precious wife and her care and comfort became the focus and devotion of Emile's life for her final years. Emile was laid to rest beside Bernice in the cemetery at Rock Creek, BC.



A memorial service was held at St. Mary's Anglican Church, Kettle Valley, BC, on October 9, 2010. Emile's recent years had been supported, comforted and enlivened by Margaret Lautard and Esther Lautard, for whose warmth, love and assistance he often expressed touching gratitude. Uncle Emile was loved and honoured by his many nieces and nephews and by the next generation to whom he showed great affection.

Memorial donations to the Kidney Foundation of Canada and to the Alzheimer Society of BC would be appreciated.

### *William Edwin Norrish, BEd'63*

William Edwin Norrish died peacefully in Chilliwack, BC, on November 27, 2010, after 93 fully-lived years. Bill was a proud member of Branch 57, Royal Canadian Legion in Mission, BC. He served in WWII as a member of the RCAF and saw duty in Alaska, England and Holland. Bill dedicated a significant part of his life to teaching. He first taught at Nicomen Island Elementary School. After his war service, he resumed teaching at Stave Falls and Hatzic elementary schools. In 1950, he became the first principal of Edwin S. Richards Elementary School in Mission and retired in that position in 1973.

Bill enjoyed gardening, travelling and attending the five-year Norrish family reunions. He loved the sport of curling and was a member of the Mission Curling Club from 1954 to 2005. A memorial service was held at Woodlawn Mission Funeral Home in Mission, BC, on December 4, 2010.

### *Leszek Karpinski, BLS'69*

Leszek was born on September 11, 1937, in the multicultural border city of Lwow, then part of Poland. In April 1940, his father, an officer of the Polish Army and a medical doctor, was murdered in Katyn.

Les finished his higher studies in Krakow at the Jagiellonian University. For two or three years he hesitated about whether to do a degree in music at the conservatory or pursue an academic career. Finally, Mediterranean archeology won out. Having previously studied Latin, English, Russian, German, French and Italian, he added Hebrew and Arabic to his language base. Leszek graduated with a MA and was offered a position with the Jagiellonian University Library. He continued taking graduate courses both at the University of Krakow and commuted for some courses to Warsaw University.

In 1966, he received a government fellowship to do a PhD in Denmark and became fluent in Danish. To supplement his government grant, he worked as a reference librarian at the University of Aarhus and soon realized this was the avocation he enjoyed. Immigrating to Canada in 1967, he received the position of technician in the cataloguing department of the library at Carleton University in Ottawa. Shortly thereafter he decided that the harsh climate was not to his liking and received an appointment to work at Simon Fraser University Library. He fell in love with Vancouver and its environment at first sight. Realizing that he needed a Canadian professional degree in librarianship, he applied to UBC Library School.

After receiving his degree, he was appointed as a cataloguer, later as a humanities reference librarian and finally as a bibliographer at UBC Library. He built a strong library collection in the field of religious studies, German, French, Italian language and literature, classical studies, archeology and European history. Leszek published *The Religious Life of Man: a guide to basic literature and Religious Studies Without Tears: student guide to basic literature.*

In 1975 he was granted leave to study at the Institut Bourguiba in Tunisia and the American University in Cairo. He also became active in Vancouver's musical world and for many years sang with the Vancouver Opera Chorus, Bach Choir, North Shore Light Opera and the



Leszek Karpinski

Vancouver Men's Chorus. Leszek and Ken, his life partner, travelled extensively, always on a low-budget to meet and be with the locals. Both enjoyed outdoors activities, especially hiking. Leszek retired in 1996.

He will be sadly missed by his family, colleagues and friends. Leszek is at peace after a courageous six year struggle with prostate cancer.

### *Renz Crema, BA'70, MSW'72*

On Friday, September 24, 2010, Renz Crema died suddenly at his home in Pritchard, BC, at the age of 63. He is survived by his wife, Pat, *BSN'67*; son Colin (Shannon) and granddaughter Brooke of Burnaby; brother Glen of Trail, BC; as well as sister-in-law Joan and niece Lauren of St. Albert, AB. In addition, he is survived by numerous uncles, aunts and cousins in Canada, Australia, Argentina and Italy. He was predeceased by his father, Giovanni, mother Lucia, and brother Alfio.

Coming to Canada from Italy at the age of three, Renz settled into life in Trail. A BA in psychology and a MSW from UBC established his future career. Following some European travels, He and Pat settled in the Kamloops region, raising Colin on their acreage in Pritchard. Renz touched many people's lives in his role as a psychiatric social worker over the past 34 years. His genuine concern and caring for others provided solace for their pain. He was tremendously proud of his son, volunteering for all the sports in which Colin took part. No one was a more devoted "Nonno" as he delighted in his granddaughter, Brooke. Retirement two years ago provided Renz with the time to tackle his huge list of projects: gardening and tending his flowers and grapes, taking bass guitar lessons, fixing fences, cleaning the barn for Pat's horses and training for his runs. He enjoyed taking part in the recent Terry Fox Run.

A celebration of life was held on October 5, 2010, at Schoenings Funeral Service, Kamloops, and a private family event took place at his home, as he had wished, on October 16, 2010.

Should friends desire, donations may be made

in Renz's name to the Thompson Rivers University Foundation, TRU Social Work Bursary, Box 3010, 900 McGill Rd., Kamloops, BC, V2C 5N3.

### *Rolf Andersson*

Rolf Andersson, husband of Diane (de Bruyn) Andersson, *BA'70*, passed away peacefully in his sleep on September 5, 2010. He would have been 70 on September 17. Diane now lives in Genelle, a small town between Castlegar and Trail. Her son, Garry, is living with her for the time being.

### *Bradley Adam Wilcox, BAsc'98*

We are sad to announce the passing of Brad Wilcox, 42, on December 15, 2010, in a motor vehicle accident on Highway 15, east of Winnipeg.

Brad was born in Niagara Falls, ON, on September 6, 1968, to Maureen (Greenway) and Murray Wilcox. He attended elementary and secondary schools in Niagara. After UBC, he obtained an MSc in engineering physics from the University of Saskatchewan. He worked as a health physicist for the Radiation Compliance and Protection Branch at Whiteshell Laboratories in Pinawa, MB.

Brad was a man of boundless energy, passionate dedication in his pursuits, and loyalty to the people he loved. With his robust personality, he was always fully present and seemed larger than life. His many friends will remember his vibrant sense of humour, his engaged conversations and his abundant charm. Brad lived life "at the ready."

Brad's lifelong involvement with athletics included hockey, lacrosse and running, in which he was recognized for his performance and physical endurance.

In Brad's brief life he confronted and overcame many challenges through his determination and perseverance. He leaves this world on a high note, having enjoyed the freedom of his healthy lifestyle, a successful and rewarding career path and the fulfillment he found with his beloved Sarah.

Brad's passing is a loss to all who knew him and he will be especially missed by his immediate family, his friends from Saskatchewan and the Whiteshell Nuclear Facility.

### *Thomas Edward James (TJ) Bennett, BAsc'07*

Thomas died on Mount Shasta in northern California on April 1, 2010, at age 26. While at UBC, Tom completed an 18-month engineering co-op work placement with INCO in Thompson, MB. His final year project was a feasibility study on installing a solar energy system in an engineering building at UBC.

After graduating, Tom worked as a process engineer for Fluor Corporation in Vancouver. In the fall of 2009, he moved to the company's office in Dublin, California. As an engineer, Tom was passionate about making a difference through sustainability. He played a key role in bringing a biodiesel production project to UBC. A plaque will be hung in Tom's honour near the reactor that is part of the biodiesel project.

Tom loved the outdoors. He loved to bike and play soccer, football, hockey and other sports. He actively pursued his passion for outdoor activities and adventures, adding new adventures such as snowboarding, climbing, hiking and Whistler barbecue cooking competitions. He was also a self-taught guitarist, a member of Oakland's CAOS (climbing) group and a Kung Fu student (Wing Chun group in Vancouver).

Tom was passionate about climbing. It was an expression of his mantra to live life to its fullest. He and his friend Mark Thomas reached the summit of Mt. Shasta, California (14,179 feet) and were planning their descent when Tom took ill with altitude sickness. Extreme weather hampered rescue attempts for five days. On Thursday, April 1, 2010, at 10:04 am, rescue teams finally found Tom in the snow cave Mark had dug for him. Tom was deceased.

Tom touched so many lives along the way. His gentle, confident, sociable, witty, kind manner was loved throughout his life.

Tom's family, friends and colleagues have established the Thomas Bennett Student Enrichment Memorial Fund in Chemical and Biological Engineering at UBC. Each year, the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering in the Faculty of Applied Science at UBC will recommend one student to receive \$1,000 in support of student enrichment activities. Preference will be given to students who demonstrate high academic achievement, leadership, and social and environmental concern.

A winter mountain climbing brochure has been developed by alpinists, climbing rangers, Tom's climbing friends and his mother, Mary Kenny. It outlines lessons learned from Tom's tragedy, in the hope of keeping future young alpinists alive. The brochure is "Wikipedia-style," so Tom's climbing friends with knowledge on the various brochure topics can contribute what they know in their friend's memory. Ms Kenny hopes the brochure will expand into a permanent climbing educational program. The brochure can be found online at <http://tomspirit.posterous.com>. 🍎

*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 [michaelawmack@ubc.ca](mailto:michaelawmack@ubc.ca) or:*

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# THE LAST WORD



with **Nancy Hermiston**,  
*UBC University Marshal and  
 Head of the UBC Voice and Opera Divisions  
 at the UBC School of Music*

Canadian-born lyric coloratura Nancy Hermiston has performed throughout Europe and North America. She has worked as voice teacher, stage director and coordinator with the University of Toronto's Opera and Performance divisions.

In 1995 she joined UBC's School of Music as the Head of the Voice and Opera divisions, and established the UBC Opera Ensemble. In 2004, Nancy was named the UBC University Marshal and in 2008 the university awarded her the Dorothy Somerset Award for Performance and Development in the Visual and Performing Arts. She received the Killam Prize for teaching in 2010.

Nancy is a favourite guest for master classes throughout Canada, China and Germany. Her UBC Opera Ensemble tours regularly to the Czech Republic, Germany, Ontario, China and throughout BC.

#### **What is your most prized possession?**

My doggie, Valentino. He is a Havanese and a real rascal but very sweet. Man and woman's best friend. Life without doggies would be terrible.

#### **Who was your childhood hero?**

The Lone Ranger

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

Warkworth, On., a little village of 600 people where I grew up. My family and friends are still there. I always find refuge, peace, kindness and lots of fun in the village. It's a big contrast to the major centers of the world where I have spent most of my life.

#### **What was the last thing you read?**

[Vancouver bandleader] Dal Richard's biography. I am a big fan of Dal.

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

Comics of the past and present - Red Skelton, Danny Kaye, Carol Burnett, Victor Borge, Lucille Ball. Their facial expressions and physical portrayal of characters were priceless, a real study in the actor's handiwork. Vancouver Symphony's Bramwell Tovey always makes me laugh. The same is true of Christopher Gaze of Bard on the Beach.

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

There is no replacement for hard work and discipline. Talent will only get you so far.

#### **What was your nickname at school?**

Hermie

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

*Never Say It Can't Be Done.*

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

To find a cure for cancer, strokes, heart disease, MS - all the terrible things that take our friends and family away from us.

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

A little figurine of a dancer, given to me by my mother when I was a very little girl.

#### **What is your latest purchase?**

My family home in the village of Warkworth. It is very dear to me.

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

My mother. She was never able to go to secondary school and certainly not university, yet her music brought so much joy to so many people. She played the piano in my family's dance band. She played at wedding dances and at the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the same couples. She was so open-minded and fair. She loved life and the door was always open, coffee pot on. There were always good things to eat for visitors. She took in boarders, baked for fairs, neighbours, or events, and worked at a clothing store so that I could go to university and follow my dream to be a singer. I would not be where I am today if it had not been for my mother's love, determination, hard work and belief in me.

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

If I was wealthy, I would like to have lived in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. I could have heard Mozart's music, gone to wonderful theatres and maybe even met him. Still, as a whole I think I am happy to have grown up in rural Ontario in the '50s. It was a simpler time, a simpler life. Children could still be children and families stayed together much more. I was very fortunate. We were poor but were a close and loving family.

#### **What are you afraid of?**

For me - ending up in my old age in a nursing home. That would be horrible! For the world - I am afraid that we are becoming more and more isolated from each other and I worry that we are not caring enough about our fellow humans, animals and our environment.

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

I would like to be a wonderful writer or, if I could not have that talent, I would like to know all about carpentry and electrical work.

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

*Le Nozze di Figaro* - Mozart; *Der Rosenkavalier* - R. Strauss; *Tosca* - Puccini

#### **What is your pet peeve?**

Someone wasting my time makes me really angry. ☹

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