

# alumniUBC **Trek**

A PUBLICATION OF ALUMNI UBC · NUMBER 36 · 2014

## **BUG BITES**

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

## **PLUS**

**Stuck in a medical minority  
BC's endangered languages**

**Dear Dr. Wesbrook:  
letters from the front**

**Author Nancy Lee  
has The Last Word**





16  
COVER

## THE BUG FARMER

Andrew Brentano, BA'10, is supporting the growth of a grassroots insect-farming industry – starting in his own garage.

## EATING INSECTS IS NOT "ICKY." GET OVER IT.

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

## THE LOVE BUG

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

INSECTS ARE A COMMON SOURCE OF NUTRITION IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD BUT HAVE YET TO BECOME A STAPLE OF WESTERN DIETS. THERE ARE STRONG ARGUMENTS FOR OVERCOMING ANY AVERSION.



22  
DOUBLE FEATURE

## THE WAITING ROOM

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

## AN UNCOMMON DENOMINATOR

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

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



12

## FEATURE VANISHING VOICES

Language activists are determined to bring BC's indigenous tongues back from the brink of extinction.



28

## FEATURE DEAR DR. WESBROOK

Hundreds of UBC students served in the First World War. The university's first president encouraged them to send back letters.



32

## FICTION THOUGHT YOU OUGHT TO KNOW

A short story by Zsuzsi Gartner, MFA'93.



52

Q&A

## THE LAST WORD WITH NANCY LEE, BA'94, MFA'04

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

COVER

Andrew Brentano, BA'10, holding a bell pepper stuffed with fried waxworms (page 16). Photo by Saul Bromberger/Sandra Hoover Photography.

## In Short

- 3 QUOTE, UNQUOTE
- 3  $\eta$ =
- 4 TAKE NOTE
- 6 ABORIGINAL GANGS
- 6 ASSISTED SUICIDE
- 7 BC BIG TREE REGISTRY

## Alumni Departments

- 36 CLASS ACTS
- 40 BOOKS
- 42 T-BIRDS
- 44 EVENTS
- 47 IN MEMORIAM



10

Q & A

## A VISION FOR UBC 2.0

President Arvind Gupta will lead the university into its second century.

# beginnings

Over the years, I have been feasted on by bugs of all kinds. From the incessant midges of western Scotland to the ruthless mosquitos of rural Ontario – and even a stray cat's fleas – I've been punctured, sucked, bitten, harassed and generally driven to distraction. The only time I've eaten a bug, on the other hand, was by accident while cycling with my mouth open. It wasn't a great introduction to entomophagy, but I'm more than willing to try some expertly prepared insect cuisine – starting with one of those tasty-looking peppers stuffed with rice and fried waxworms pictured on the front cover.

Insects aren't a novelty (or revenge) food item, though. They are a common and long-standing component of many food cultures. Not only are they nutritious and healthy, but the process of raising them holds significant advantages for the planet over that for other forms of protein, such as beef. Alumnus Andrew Brentano is helping to drive this sustainable approach to our food supply in North America (see page 16). Based in California, he's set up an online forum for sharing information on rearing insects for human consumption and has established a company offering kits for households to use in producing their own supply. In conjunction with this grassroots approach, Brentano is also exploring scalable models of insect production for industrial-scale output. "We're in the early stages of something that is about to blow up and get huge," he says.

Brentano is not the only individual at the forefront of change to feature in this issue. In 1913, Dr. Frank Wesbrook was appointed first president of UBC, the province's first university. Envisioning a "people's university" that would build a "better social fabric," he set about overseeing construction of a new campus at Point Grey, developing programs, stocking the library and hiring faculty in preparation for the opening in 1915. But with the outbreak of war in 1914, construction was interrupted and funding became scarce. UBC started its operations from "temporary" headquarters near 12th Avenue and Laurel Street, and over the ensuing months hundreds of students, as well as some faculty, would volunteer to serve in Europe. Wesbrook encouraged the student soldiers to write back with news, which he would make available to their peers at home (see page 28). He responded promptly, often stressing his anticipation of their return, when the university, and Canada, could benefit from their leadership and build a better society.

Tragically, 78 students would not return home, and Frank Wesbrook wouldn't live long enough to see the end of the war, but the university he founded continued to evolve as he had envisioned. It was Wesbrook who chose UBC's enduring motto, *Tuum Est* – It's up to you – perhaps a challenge from a pioneer to be pioneering. He probably would have approved of enterprising and socially responsible alumni like Andrew Brentano. So in a way, when you find yourself about to nibble on your first waxworm – and apparently they taste like honey-glazed bacon – you'll have Frank Wesbrook to thank.

Vanessa Clarke, Editor

**EDITOR** Vanessa Clarke, BA  
**ASSISTANT EDITOR** Alison Huggins, BA  
**GRAPHIC DESIGNER** Pamela Yan, BDes  
**BOOKS AND FICTION** Teresa Goff, BA  
**CONTRIBUTOR** Michael Awmack, BA'01, MET'09  
**TREK ONLINE WEB COORDINATOR** Elizabeth Powell, BSc  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**ELECTED CHAIR** Michael Lee, BSc'86, BA'89, MA'92, LLB  
**VICE CHAIR** Faye Wightman, BSc'81 (Nursing)  
**TREASURER** Ian Warner, BCom'89  
**MEMBERS AT LARGE [2012-2015]**  
 Blake Hanna, MBA'82  
 David Climie, BCom'83  
 Judy Rogers, BRE'71  
 Ian Warner, BCom'89  
 Faye Wightman, BSc'81 (Nursing)  
**MEMBERS AT LARGE [2013-2016]**  
 Valerie Casselton, BA'77  
 Michael Lee, BSc'86, BA'89, MA'92, LLB  
 Gregg Saretsky, BSc'82, MBA'84  
**MEMBERS AT LARGE [2014-2017]**  
 Robert Bruno, BCom'97  
 Ross Langford, BCom'89, LLB'89  
 Barbara Anderson, BSc'78  
**EX-OFFICIO PRESIDENT'S DESIGNATE**  
 Barbara Miles, BA, Post Grad in Ed.  
**UBC PRESIDENT**  
 Arvind Gupta, BSc, MSc, PhD  
**UBC CHANCELLOR**  
 Lindsay Gordon, BA'73, MBA'76  
**ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT, ALUMNI / EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ALUMNI UBC**  
 Jeff Todd, BA

Trek magazine (formerly the UBC Alumni Chronicle) is published two times a year by the UBC Alumni Association and distributed free of charge to UBC alumni and friends. Opinions expressed in the magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the Alumni Association or the university. Address correspondence to: The Editor, alumni UBC, 6251 Cecil Green Park Road, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6T 1Z1 email to trek.magazine@ubc.ca Letters published at the editor's discretion and may be edited for space.

**ADVERTISING**  
 Julian Radlein, BA'07  
 julian.radlein@ubc.ca 604.822.8917

**CONTACT NUMBERS AT UBC**  
 Address Changes 604.822.8921  
 via email alumni.ubc@ubc.ca  
 Alumni Association 604.822.3313  
 toll free 800.883.3088  
 UBC Info Line 604.822.4636  
 Belkin Gallery 604.822.2759  
 Bookstore 604.822.2665  
 Chan Centre 604.822.2697  
 Frederic Wood Theatre 604.822.2678  
 Museum of Anthropology 604.822.5087

Volume 70, Number 2 | Printed in Canada by Mitchell Press  
 Canadian Publications Mail Agreement #40063528  
 Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to: Records Department  
 UBC Development Office  
 Suite 500 - 5950 University Boulevard  
 Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z3



**Correction: Brain Puzzles, Spring 2014**

The article stated that most people with Down syndrome develop Alzheimer's in their 30s or 40s. Dr. Tom Koch (a bioethicist for the Canadian Down Syndrome Society's Research Council) emailed to say that this is misleading, because although people with Down syndrome have an extra chromosome that produces amyloid, and some will develop the plaques and tangles associated with Alzheimer's disease, this doesn't mean that most go on to develop Alzheimer's.

# QUOTE, UNQUOTE



"We've come a long way – from being a university that stood by while its own students were forcibly removed from their homes, to establishing a program that focuses on the crucial role of Asian migrants in the formation of our province and nation."

**Professor Chris Lee**, director of UBC's new program on Asian Canadian and Asian Migration. The program was created as part of a tribute to Japanese Canadians who were forced to leave the West Coast during the Second World War. (UBC media release, September 18)

"It's like saying to Olympic hockey players, 'Men, you play on ice. Women, you play on slush.'"

UBC law professor **Margot Young** commenting on the complaint made against FIFA and the Canadian Soccer Association by female World Cup soccer players who claim the organizations are discriminating against women by holding the 2015 Women's World Cup on artificial turf – men have always played on grass. (The Globe & Mail, October 2)

"... it wouldn't have taken much for anybody to take over that territory. It's not that ISIS is a ridiculously weak organization with no capacity. But its success to this point has been more a function of the weakness of Syria and Iraq than anything else. This is a classic example of a group with some capabilities and resources expanding into a vacuum. If we want to get rid of ISIS, we need to find a way to strengthen the Iraqi state and solve the Syrian civil war. Until we do those two things, ISIS isn't going to go away."

Professor **Allen Sens** of UBC's Political Science Department in a Q&A about the conflict with ISIS. (UBC News, October 21)

"Attn Drivers: don't!"

Sign placed by UBC students at the top of some steps in a pedestrian area just outside the SUB. October saw three separate incidents of vehicles becoming stuck trying to navigate the steps. (Yahoo Canada, October 15)

"What I'm hoping to do is get young people to embrace the central revelation of anthropology, which is the idea that other peoples of the world are not failed attempts to be us. Each culture is a unique answer to the question: what does it mean to be human and alive?"

Renowned anthropologist **Wade Davis**, who joined UBC this year. Until 2013 he served as explorer-in-residence at the National Geographic Society. (UBC media release, August 13)



8,360

Number of students in UBC's 2014 first-year class in Vancouver and Kelowna – the largest to date.

\$9.1 million

Amount donated to UBC for Alzheimer's research by alumnus and Canadian Diamond pioneer Charles Fipke.

53 m

Height of the proposed wooden residence tower for a student housing complex at UBC, which would make it the tallest wooden building of its type in the world.

4.5 years

Number of years it will take students to earn a UBC Bachelor and Master of Management Dual Degree. Beginning September 2015, the new course is the first in Canada and will allow students to integrate undergraduate studies with graduate-level business training.

\$3.5 million

Amount UBC researchers have received from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council for new projects related to oceans, language revitalization, community development and more. Of the funding, \$2.5M will support new research to examine the future health and economic potential of Canada's oceans.

# TAKE NOTE

## FEWER BIG PREDATORS MAY MEAN LOSS OF PLANT DIVERSITY

UBC zoologist Adam Ford and colleagues have discovered that global declines in carnivore populations could embolden plant eaters to increasingly dine on succulent vegetation, driving losses in plant and tree biodiversity.

The team used GPS tracking on 20 adult female impala, four leopards and five wild dogs to measure how an impala's fear of predators, as well as the growing patterns of thorny plants, combine to influence the landscape. The researchers combined the tracking data with a high-resolution satellite image of tree cover and located carcasses to determine where impala are being killed. They also conducted feeding experiments to judge the effectiveness of thorns as a feeding deterrent.

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

"As human activities continue to reduce populations of predators, herbivores like impala become willing to feed in areas that used to be risky – consuming more preferred vegetation and, ironically, allowing less-preferred thorny plant species to take over," says Ford.

The findings were published in *Science*. The same journal has also recently published data that indicate more than three quarters of the world's 31 large carnivore species are in decline and that 17 species occupied less than half of their historical distributions.

"Plants have two pathways to success," says Ford. "You either protect yourself from herbivores by growing large thorns, or thrive in areas that are risky to your predators – plant eaters."

The study area, Mpala Research Center in Laikipia, Kenya, is used for traditional ranching. In the future, Ford will investigate whether the forage that impala don't eat in dangerous areas could be used for livestock during drought years – a frequent occurrence that can threaten the livelihoods of many people in Laikipia. "We're only beginning to understand the linkages between carnivores, their prey, plants and people," he says.

## SURVIVE AND THRIVE

There's a new research innovation facility at UBC's Okanagan campus, where industry and university researchers can pool their knowledge to rapidly develop novel technologies for human protection, survivability and performance in extreme or remote conditions.



The Survive and Thrive Applied Research (STAR) facility was established with \$3.8M of federal funding. It combines world-class research expertise and global partner networks to help commercialize innovative products and develop ideas that can be applied in a wide range of sectors, including manufacturing, natural resources, health care, and defense.

One of the first STAR projects is a collaboration between UBC, Kelowna-based Helios Global Technologies, and Imperial College London (UK) to develop a high-tech helmet that can reduce the risk of concussion in contact sports such as hockey and football.

"Collaboration with STAR greatly enhances our capacity to develop innovative products," says Helios CEO Martin Cronin. "It gives us access to world-class research that helps us to quickly prove out concepts and explore multi-sectoral applications, and also access to funding through our research partnerships."

STAR partnerships create important opportunities for university researchers and their students, says Professor Paul van Donkelaar, director of UBC's School of Health and Exercise Sciences and principal investigator with the UBC Sports Concussion Research Lab.

"We're working on compelling projects directly related to our primary research, and which also create new ideas for future research and real-world learning opportunities for students," he says. The STAR partnership with Imperial College London has led to a new accord that will include student and faculty exchanges.

Other STAR initiatives include development of sensors for autonomous aerial vehicles (UAVs) for use in forestry and agriculture, and personal wireless stop-button technology for workers using large industrial machinery.

## ASTUTE KIDS

From the words for colours to how to tie a shoelace, kids have lots to learn – and for the most part, they depend on others to teach it to them. But whether deliberately or inadvertently, other people sometimes misinform. So at what age can kids tell trustworthy teachers from confident tricksters?

A new study by psychology researchers from UBC and Concordia shows that by the age of five, children become wary of information provided by people who make overly-confident claims.

For the study, Patricia Brosseau-Liard, who is now a Concordia postdoctoral fellow, recruited 96 four- and five-year-olds. She and her UBC Department of Psychology co-authors, Tracy Cassels and Susan Birch, had the youngsters weigh two important cues to a person's credibility – prior accuracy and confidence – when deciding what to believe.

The researchers showed their subjects short videos of two adults talking about familiar animals. The speakers would either:

- A. Make true statements about the animal in a hesitant voice  
"Hmm, I guess whales live in the water?"
- B. Make false statements about the animal in a confident voice  
"Oh, I know! Whales live in the ground!"

The kids were then shown videos of the same two adults speaking about strange animals. The previously confident speaker would state facts with confidence, and the previously hesitant speaker remained hesitant while stating different facts. The participants were then asked whom they believed.

In children closer to the age of four, it was a 50/50 split: they were as likely to believe the confident liar as the hesitant truth-teller. But as they neared the age of five, participants were more likely to believe the previously accurate but hesitant individual, suggesting a year can make a big difference in terms of a child's evolution in the critical consumption of information.

As Brosseau-Liard explains, these findings are important for teachers and caregivers.

"Our study gives us a window into children's developing social cognition, skepticism and critical thinking. It shows us that, even though kindergarteners have a reputation for being gullible, they are actually pretty good at evaluating sources of information. Parents can use this ability to help guide them in their learning."

## A NEW STEP IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TYPE 1 DIABETES

UBC, in collaboration with BetaLogics Venture, a division of Janssen Research & Development, LLC, has published a study highlighting a protocol to convert stem cells into insulin-producing cells. The new procedure could be an important step in the fight against Type 1 diabetes, which is the result

of the body's own immune system destroying insulin-secreting pancreatic beta cells.

The protocol can turn stem cells into reliable, insulin-producing cells in about six weeks, far quicker than the four months it took using previous methods.

"We are a step closer to having an unlimited supply of insulin-producing cells to treat patients with Type 1 diabetes," says Timothy Kieffer, a professor in UBC's Department of Cellular and Physiological Sciences and the Department of Surgery who led the research.

The protocol transforms stem cells into insulin-secreting pancreatic cells via a cell-culture method. The conversion is completed after the cells are transplanted into a host. "We have not yet made fully functional cells in a dish, but we are very close," says Kieffer. "The cells we make in the lab produce insulin, but are still immature and need the transplant host to complete the transformation into fully functioning cells."

An important next step for UBC researchers and their industry collaborators is to determine how to prevent the insulin-producing cells' from being rejected by the body.

More than two million Canadians and close to 400 million people worldwide suffer from diabetes. Current treatment requires daily insulin injections. Experimental human donor transplants of healthy pancreatic islets, which contain the beta cells, have had success. But treatment is limited by donor availability.

## HOW DOPAMINE AFFECTS RISKY DECISIONS

A gambler's decision to stay or fold in a game of cards could be influenced by a chemical in the brain, suggests new research from UBC.

The rise and fall of dopamine plays a key role in decisions involving risk and reward – from a baseball player trying to steal a base to an investor buying or selling a stock. Previous studies have shown that dopamine signals increase when risky choices pay off.

"Our brains are constantly updating how we calculate risk and reward based on previous experiences, keeping an internal score of wins and losses," says study co-author Stan Floresco, a professor in UBC's Department of Psychology. "Dopamine appears to play an important role in these processes, influencing our everyday choices."

The study saw rats choose between safe and risky rewards – similar to what investors face on Wall Street. Pressing one lever gave the rodents a small but guaranteed reward, not unlike a bond. The other lever yielded a large reward or nothing, similar to a high-risk stock.

Researchers altered the rats' decision-making process by shutting down or turning on the dopamine signals in their brains. When the rats played riskily and lost, researchers turned on dopamine signals when normally they would have decreased. Subsequently, the rats made riskier decisions. Conversely, when the rats played riskily and won, researchers turned dopamine signals off. Here, the rats began to play more conservatively.

"By temporarily knocking these chemical signals out, it demonstrates how significant they are in altering our decisions, even if it's against our better judgment," says Floresco.

Floresco's co-authors are Colin Stopper, Maric Tse, David Montes and Candice Wiedman of UBC's Department of Psychology and the Brain Research Centre.

## FISH MOVING POLEWARD

Large numbers of fish will disappear from the tropics by 2050, finds a new UBC study that examined the impact of climate change on fish stocks. The study identified ocean hotspots for local fish extinction but also found that changing temperatures will drive more fish into the Arctic and Antarctic waters.

Using the same climate change scenarios as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, researchers projected a large-scale shift of marine fish and invertebrates. In the worst-case scenario, where the Earth's oceans warm by three degrees Celsius by 2100, fish could move away from their current habitats at a rate of 26 kilometres per decade. Under the best-case scenario, where the Earth's oceans warm by one degree Celsius, fish would move 15 kilometres every decade. This is consistent with changes in the last few decades.

"The tropics will be the overall losers," says William Cheung, associate professor at the UBC Fisheries Centre and co-author of this study. "This area has a high dependence on fish for food, diet and nutrition. We'll see a loss of fish populations that are important to the fisheries and communities in these regions."

Cheung and his colleague used modelling to predict how 802 commercially important species of fish and invertebrates react to warming water temperatures, other changing ocean properties, and new habitats opening up at the poles.

"As fish move to cooler waters, this generates new opportunities for fisheries in the Arctic," says Miranda Jones, a UBC Nereus Fellow and lead author of the study. "On the other hand it means it could disrupt the species that live there now and increase competition for resources." ■



UBC professor Alanaise Goodwill says poverty, violence and a lack of resources are determinants for gang involvement. Photo: Martin Dee.

## ALMOST NO WAY OUT

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

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

## DISSECTING ASSISTED SUICIDE

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

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

There's a very important distinction. Withdrawing or withholding care has long been considered an acceptable practice for medical practitioners. Actively participating in suicide is something that's prohibited by law. You can be punished for the act of taking a patient's life by up to 14 years in jail.

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

I think a lot of physicians have difficulty determining where the line lies especially when a patient is asking for help or assistance in regards to ending their life. There is definitely a point where doses of painkillers to control pain may be hastening the end of life but that's an incidental effect of medicines. With assisted suicide, medicines are purposely being used to end a life.

### Does assisted suicide contradict the Hippocratic Oath taken by doctors?

The ancient versions of the Hippocratic Oath states that you are not to take a life or provide a poison that would do so. We have modified the Hippocratic Oath over the centuries and that prohibition has been relaxed in more modern editions. Most physicians hold themselves to the more modern standard of, "First, do no harm." Using that principle the question becomes:

UBC counselling psychology professor Alanaise Goodwill is a member of Manitoba's Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation. As part of her PhD work, she interviewed 10 former Aboriginal gang members, including one of her relatives, in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. She talks about her work, which focuses on better understanding Aboriginal gang entry and exit.

### Why are Aboriginal youth joining gangs?

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

### How do gangs convince youth to join?

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

is taking a life a harm? If a person is suffering with a painful, incurable illness, it's very debatable as to whether helping somebody end their life is actually harming them.

### A recent poll found 84 per cent of Canadians support assisted suicide. Do you see any danger to legalizing it?

The classic argument has always been a slippery slope argument. Stories have come out of countries that have legalized euthanasia that I'm not sure Canadians would be terribly comfortable with. A person in Belgium was helped with assisted suicide because of terminal depression. There was another case of assisted suicide involving a gender dysphoria. The person had a sex change and was dissatisfied and was judged to be in a terminal condition by a doctor as a result of that. In the Netherlands they have a board that can decide to euthanize babies with severe medical conditions.

So I think the big question has to be, if physician participation in assisted suicide is allowed, what is the next bright line?

### Do you think legalized assisted suicide is inevitable?

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

and they represent a demographic I am interested in studying further.

### How does one leave a gang? How does someone get out successfully?

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

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

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

Medical technology allows us to extend the lives of people with conditions beyond what we could have done in the past. We're also experiencing an ageing society and one that's becoming divorced from spiritual and religious taboos. The combination of all three factors makes this a bigger and bigger issue.

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

*The appeal case filed by the BC Civil Liberties Association challenges the criminality of doctor-assisted suicide. The Supreme Court of Canada began hearing arguments October 14. The appeal stems from a 2012 ruling by the BC Supreme Court, which found that the existing law banning assisted suicide was unconstitutional. The federal government appealed the decision and the BC Court of Appeal overturned the ruling in 2013. This marks the first time in 20 years that the country's highest court has ruled on the issue. In 1993, it heard the case of Sue Rodriguez, a 42-year-old Victoria woman with ALS. Rodriguez's appeal was denied by the court in a narrow five-four decision.*

## THE BC BIG TREE REGISTRY HAS FOUND A NEW HOME IN THE FACULTY OF FORESTRY

We go searching for them, we hug them, we're often speechless in their presence, but what makes big trees so special? Sally Aitken, a professor of forest and conservation sciences, explains the connection we feel to these majestic giants of the forest. The Faculty of Forestry now runs the BC Big Tree Registry, a database of the biggest specimens in the province.

### Why do we love big trees?

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

### What makes BC's big trees unique?

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

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

It's very exciting that trees are still getting nominated that are champion trees. Recently a group on the Sunshine Coast found some of the largest mountain hemlocks that have ever been observed. The sadder tales are the ones of trees like Big Lonely Doug, the second largest Douglas-fir in the province. [Big Lonely Doug is the sole remaining tree on a clear-cut on the West Coast of Vancouver Island.] A lot of nominations come in from people who work in forestry and in logging. These people find trees in areas that people don't normally walk through. Of course, there are also a number of people, including those on the Big Tree Committee, whose hobby is finding big trees. Big tree hunters love to go out to areas that haven't been explored and look for big trees.

One member of our committee said there are big ones that are still out there to find. We want to make anyone a big tree hunter or nominator and we've made changes to the BC Big Tree Registry so that anyone can nominate a big tree.

### What can we learn from older trees?

We know that the mortality rates of old trees are increasing with climate change. The registry helps us and citizens monitor the health of these giants over time. People will tell us if a big tree blows over, loses its top, or dies. The registry also produces data on the type of ecosystems that these trees are found in, and this information can guide certain research. We need to know where these big trees are so we can conserve them, as a biological legacy of the past, as important members of forest ecosystems today, and for future generations. **■**

ONLINE JOURNAL ACCESS  
 ROBERT H. LEE ALUMNI CENTRE ACCESS  
 YOUR NEXT STEP CAREER SERVICES  
 A-CARD BENEFITS

UBC DIALOGUES **alumniUBC**

# Stay sharp.

*alumni UBC* offers an array of programs and services designed to help you learn, grow and connect. But if you aren't on our email list, you may be missing out.

Visit [alumni.ubc.ca/update](http://alumni.ubc.ca/update) to ensure your profile is up to date.

## 2014 UBC alumni WEEKEND



**alumniUBC**

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS








**ODLUM BROWN**  
 Investing for Generations













# alumniUBC 2014 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

PRESENTED BY **Boyden**  
*global executive search*

UBC alumni are capable of amazing things. This November, at the *alumni UBC* Achievement Awards, we honoured seven inspiring members of the UBC community who, through their extraordinary activities, have connected the university with communities both near and far to create positive change. You can read their full bios on our website.



YOUNG ALUMNUS AWARD  
**Emily MacKinnon**  
 MA'08, JD'12

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



ALUMNI AWARD OF DISTINCTION  
**Leona Sparrow**  
 BA'73, MA'76, LLB'92

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



FUTURE ALUMNUS AWARD  
**Matt Husain**

Matt Husain is a PhD candidate studying the Anthropology of Development at UBC Okanagan. He is motivated by a desire to eradicate poverty through the design and delivery of effective poverty relief programs that empower those they are aimed at. His academic ability and extensive volunteer work attract respect from faculty and peers alike.



GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP AWARD  
**Videsh Kapoor**  
 BSc'88, BEd'92, MD'93

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



FACULTY COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD  
**Kimit Rai**

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



HONORARY ALUMNUS AWARD  
**John Demco**

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



VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP AWARD  
**Randall Findlay**  
 BAsC'73

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

## NEXT YEAR'S AWARD RECIPIENTS AREN'T GOING TO RAISE THEIR OWN HANDS.

**That's why we need you!** Do you know a graduate, student, faculty member or friend of UBC who deserves to be recognized as a leader, advocate, artist or visionary? This is your chance to bring them into the limelight. To nominate online visit [alumni.ubc.ca/nominate](http://alumni.ubc.ca/nominate) or call **Karolin Konig** at **604 822 8939** for details.

**NOMINATION DEADLINE: Friday, January 30, 2015**

**alumniUBC**

[alumni.ubc.ca/awards](http://alumni.ubc.ca/awards)

[startanevolution.ca](http://startanevolution.ca)



UBC President Arvind Gupta with Chancellor Lindsay Gordon at the alumni UBC AGM held in September.

## A VISION FOR UBC 2.0

### President Arvind Gupta will lead the university into its second century

Professor Arvind Gupta was installed as UBC's 13th President and Vice-Chancellor on September 12, 2014. The 53-year-old has taught computer science at UBC since 2009 and is a well-regarded expert in research and innovation policy with a track record of accomplishment in connecting business to universities across the country. From 2000-2014, he was CEO and scientific director of Mitacs, a Canadian not-for-profit dedicated to fostering the next generation of innovators.

Gupta has three daughters, one of whom is a student at UBC. He and his wife, Dr. Michelle Pereira, herself a UBC alumna, are settling into campus life.

Below, Gupta answers questions posed by UBC alumni:

#### What is your vision for UBC?

UBC is poised for a fortuitous leap forward in the coming decade, if we pull together with a common vision and purpose. At my formal installation in September, I outlined the following themes that I believe will define our success:

First, UBC is a place of learning. This now includes both our traditional catchment of young adults and broader society, which is looking for ever more education. And for that we will need to develop new learning platforms through technology, an area where UBC is taking international leadership.

Second, UBC is a place of engagement. Society has become knowledge-sophisticated, which provides us with a broad cadre of opportunities for engagement and partnership. These partnerships start in the Lower Mainland and Okanagan Valley and extend from there to BC, Canada and around the world.

Third, UBC is an international place. We must always see ourselves in a global context because we are one of the most significant gateways for people of BC and Canada. UBC can act as the window to the social, economic and cultural world.

Fourth, UBC is a place of innovation. We are ideally positioned to ensure that our learning and research platform is in service to the social, cultural, and economic needs of our communities.

And fifth, UBC is a place of research. Research is the distinguishing characteristic for our university across all the other themes. For example, we must ensure that research excellence gives our students cutting edge knowledge so they have access to the latest discoveries and revelations. And this is why I have pledged to grow UBC investments in research excellence by at least \$100M over the term of my presidency.

#### How do you plan to enrich the learning experience at UBC and prepare students for the current job market?

Many jobs of the future can't even be imagined today. It is critical that our students learn to think systematically and analytically, so they can navigate change, tolerate ambiguity, and be innovative. As a research-intensive university, we are ideally positioned to build broad-based programs that provide our students with exactly these skills.

Getting this right will ensure our students lifelong employability. And this will be coupled with a lifetime of learning. That means we must go beyond the 18- to 22-year-old undergraduates and 22- to 30-year-olds pursuing master's degrees and PhDs. The challenge will be extending our reach across society.

I believe technology will play a fundamental role in the future of education - by enhancing the classroom experience, but also by reaching out to broader society. Technology can bring UBC to those who cannot be on our campus, because they are juggling the demands of careers and family, for example, or because they are geographically removed. Specifically, our Flexible Learning Initiative will leverage mobile technologies and internet connectivity to enable about 100 UBC courses to reach an additional 30,000 students over the next three years.

At the same time, we must be ready to provide every UBC student with career-building opportunities that strengthen their academic and employment outcomes. That's why I have committed to doubling UBC's extra-curricular student experiences on- and off-campus through internships and co-op programs.

#### For our young alumni, share one word of advice.

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

#### How do you plan to involve alumni more in the life of the university?

I see alumni as our university brand. They are UBC's chief ambassadors out in the community and, as such, are our eyes and ears to how we are perceived, what we are doing well, and where we can improve. That means we must always be listening to them. And it is incumbent on us to understand how they want to be involved with UBC, and then give them the opportunities to do so.

As we approach the final year of the *start an evolution* campaign, we are already seeing large numbers of alumni getting involved - more than 50,000 over the past year, in fact. The new Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre opening next year will be the first of its kind in Canada and a key resource for alumni as they do business, expand their careers, explore their intellectual, cultural and social interests, and engage with other alumni, students and faculty. We also plan to increase our outreach through online channels so that all alumni can remain involved with the university, wherever they are. During the next academic year we will celebrate the centennial of UBC's very first graduating class, and alumni will be a major part of that historic celebration. It's going to be a great year!

#### What do you say to those who have been critical of last year's review of UBC Athletics programs?

I believe what is most important is that lessons learned from the past should be applied to ensure our future efforts on behalf of UBC Athletics are inclusive and responsive to our stakeholders. I am committed to listening to our dedicated alumni, athletes, coaches, administration, students and community on how best we can nurture and strengthen the pride we all share for UBC Athletics in Vancouver and Kelowna. [See page 44 for some further thoughts on this subject from President Gupta.] [i](#)

Keep in touch with UBC's new president on Twitter: [@ArvindUBC](#).

## 2014-15 alumni UBC Board of Directors

#### CHAIR

Michael Lee, BSc'86, BA'89, MA'92, LLB

#### VICE CHAIR

Faye Wightman, BSc'81 (Nursing)

#### TREASURER

Ian Warner, BCom'89

#### PAST CHAIR

Judy Rogers, BRE'71

#### MEMBERS AT LARGE [2012-2015]

Blake Hanna, MBA'82

David Climie, BCom'83

Judy Rogers, BRE'71

Ian Warner, BCom'89

Faye Wightman, BSc'81 (Nursing)

#### MEMBERS AT LARGE [2013-2016]

Valerie Casselton, BA'77

Michael Lee, BSc'86, BA'89, MA'92, LLB

Gregg Saretsky, BSc'82, MBA'84

#### MEMBERS AT LARGE [2014-2017]

Robert Bruno, BCom'97

Ross Langford, BCom'89, LLB'89

Barbara Anderson, BSc'78

#### Ex-Officio:

#### PRESIDENT'S DESIGNATE: VICE PRESIDENT, DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

Barbara Miles, BA, Post Grad in Ed.

#### UBC PRESIDENT

Arvind Gupta, BSc, MSc, PhD

#### UBC CHANCELLOR

Lindsay Gordon, BA'73, MBA'76

#### ASSOCIATE VP, ALUMNI / EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ALUMNI UBC

Jeff Todd, BA

At the alumni UBC AGM in September, we gained a new board chair, Michael Lee, and welcomed two new members: Barbara Anderson and Ross Langford.

Find out more about your volunteer board members at [alumni.ubc.ca/board](#)



Michael Lee



Faye Wightman



Ian Warner



Judy Rogers



Blake Hanna



David Climie



Valerie Casselton



Gregg Saretsky



Robert Bruno



Ross Langford



Barbara Anderson



Barbara Miles



Arvind Gupta



Lindsay Gordon



Jeff Todd

# VANISHING VOICES

Home for millennia to the majority of Canada's Native tongues, BC has recently been designated an endangered language hotspot.

BY LORI THICKE, MFA'86

"It's lonely when you're one of the last speakers," says Michele Johnson, PhD'14. "You've got no one left to talk to." At the age of 46, Johnson has found her life's work – her *chawt* – in saving the *nsyilxcən* language from dying out with the last few elders who speak it natively.

Johnson is a language activist, a language teacher and a passionate advocate for indigenous languages. One of UBC Okanagan's first two Aboriginal PhD graduates, she learned the language of her father's nation through the remaining elders. Now she is trying to create enough new speakers to bring it back from the brink of extinction.

After two years of intensive study, Johnson is an intermediate speaker of *nsyilxcən* – also known as Okanagan, or Interior Salish – and sufficiently proficient to teach a community class of adults – plus, as she puts it, "one extremely persistent 13-year-old."

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

## First Nations, First Languages

Before the arrival of the European settlers, North America was home to hundreds of indigenous tongues. Even though many have now disappeared due to colonization, there are still more living languages in Canada and the United States than in Europe. The *Ethnologue* – a catalogue of the world's languages – counts 313 Native languages north of the Mexican border versus 280 for all of Europe.

In 2011, the national census reported more than 60 Aboriginal languages in Canada. Over half of them are found in just one province; British Columbia's coasts and valleys have been home, for millennia, to the majority of Canada's Native tongues.

BC's pocket of linguistic richness has attracted the attention of *National Geographic*, which, along with the Living Tongues Institute for Endangered Languages, recently designated the province as one of the most endangered language hotspots on the planet, threat level: severe.

The "hotspot" designation refers not only to the sheer number of languages at risk, many of which were traditionally spoken in a single valley, but also to the unusual linguistic diversity. BC's indigenous languages come from seven distinct language families, with two isolates (languages possessing no known relatives), compared with just three language families in Europe (with Basque as the sole language isolate).

For people like Michele Johnson, this diversity of languages, almost unparalleled in the world, is a heritage worth preserving.

"Language is directly related to culture. Who you are can only be expressed properly in your own language."

## Kill the Language to Kill the Culture

First Nations communities lost everyday use of their languages over the course of the last century, when generations of children as young as five were taken from their families and confined in residential schools whose main purpose was to assimilate them by cutting them off from their culture and their language. Punishments for children who were caught speaking their own language, even if they knew no other, included beatings, shaming, food deprivation and needles shoved in their tongues.

In the book *Stolen from our Embrace*, former Musqueam Nation chief George Guerin recalls that "Sister Marie Baptiste had a supply of sticks as long and thick as pool cues. When she heard me speak my language, she'd lift up her hands and bring the stick down on me. I've still got bumps and scars on my hands. I have to wear special gloves because the cold weather really hurts my hands."

According to Patricia Shaw, founding chair of the UBC First Nations Languages Program and a professor in the Department of Anthropology, "the residential schools very frequently would not only refuse to let the kids speak their languages to each other – and they came in monolingual – but they also spoke of the languages as being primitive, as the language of the devil, so the children internalized those beliefs. Now they are beginning to see that these languages are rich and a unique cultural heritage. But that psychological trauma of having had their personal and cultural identities so devalued has had a huge impact."

This failed policy of residential schools, the subject of a recent exhibition at UBC's Museum of Anthropology, all but wiped out the indigenous languages. The scars can still be seen today in Canada's Native communities, which suffer disproportionately from poverty, marginalization, violence, addiction, malnutrition and suicide. A 2013 study by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives and Save the Children Canada found that half of status First Nations children live in poverty. In a 2011 fact sheet, the Assembly of First Nations concluded that "a First Nation youth is more likely to end up in jail than to graduate high school" and that "suicide rates among First Nation youth are five to seven times higher than other young non-Aboriginal Canadians."

In 2007, researchers Michael Chandler and Darcy Hallett from UBC and Christopher Lalonde from UVic found a correlation between Aboriginal language knowledge and youth suicide. In communities where fewer than 50 per cent of the elders retained some knowledge of their language, they found that young people were six times more likely to take their own lives.



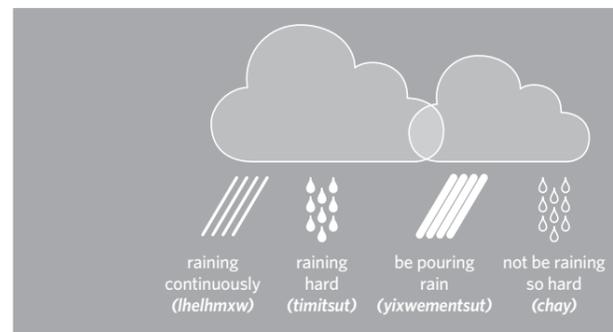
Michele Johnson is determined to prevent the *nsyilxcən* language from dying out.

last native speaker of the Musqueam dialect of *hən'qəmin'əm'* (Halkomelem) died in 2002. "The major challenge," he says, echoing Johnson on the loneliness of the last speakers, "is that we don't have speakers, and the ones that are trying to speak don't have anyone to speak to."

Grant, who was born and raised in the Musqueam territory, co-teaches with Shaw at UBC, but originally joined the First Nations Languages Program in 1998 as a student after retiring from a 40-year career as a tradesman. On completing his second year, he was offered a contract to teach.

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

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



Squamish, including raining continuously (lhelmxw), raining hard (timitsut), be pouring rain (yixwementsut) and not be raining so hard (chay).

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

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

Musqueam elder and UBC adjunct professor Larry Grant is not surprised by this finding. "The importance of language is that it grounds the youth, and the ones without language don't have something to ground them," he says.

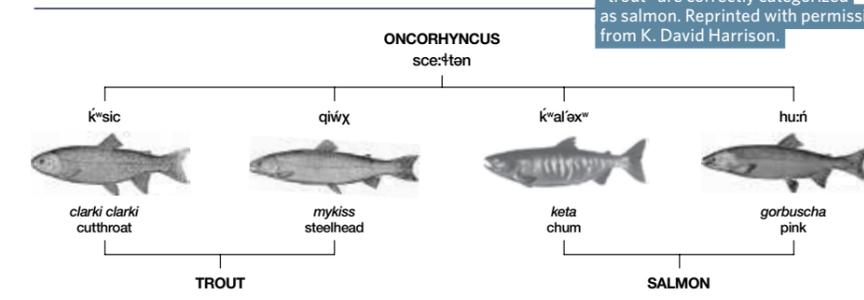
Like Johnson with *nsyilxcən*, Grant is engaged in his own battle to preserve his language after the

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

A local example of ancient knowledge surpassing modern scientific knowledge can be seen in the classification of salmon. In the *hən'qəmin'əm'* language of the Musqueam, cutthroat trout and steelhead trout are not classified in the trout genus but as salmon. It took a while, but modern science has caught up. According to Shaw, "not until the 1980s did Western genetic scientists working with fish species discover that these two species of so-called trout are actually salmon."

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

In the *hən'qəmin'əm'* language on the top, the cutthroat and steelhead "trout" are correctly categorized as salmon. Reprinted with permission from K. David Harrison.



## Linguistic Diversity, Biodiversity

Languages are not only important for community identity. They also reflect the unique connection between people and their environment. There may not be 21 words for snow in Inuit, as the apocryphal story goes, but there are certainly 11 words for rain in

## Hope for the Future

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

"The interest is beginning to grow," says Grant. "Right now a lot of things are happening around the value of indigenous knowledge, cultural activities, spirituality and, most important of all, self-identity." He pauses. "I love seeing the light go on with young people, the ah-ha moment: 'This is who I am.'"

Novel approaches are being taken by some language activists, usually second-language speakers themselves. Khelsilem (formerly known as Dustin Rivers), for example, is working to revitalize his own language,

which has just eight native speakers left. He is planning to spend a year in a language house with three other "twentysomethings," who will speak only skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) to each other. He is also the founder of squamishlanguage.com. By creating fluent speakers among 18- to 30-year-olds, Khelsilem's goal is parents who will raise their families speaking Squamish so "our children's first language (will be) the same as our great-grandparents'."

According to Bill Poser, adjunct professor of linguistics at UBC, there is still hope for bringing the First Nations languages back from near death.

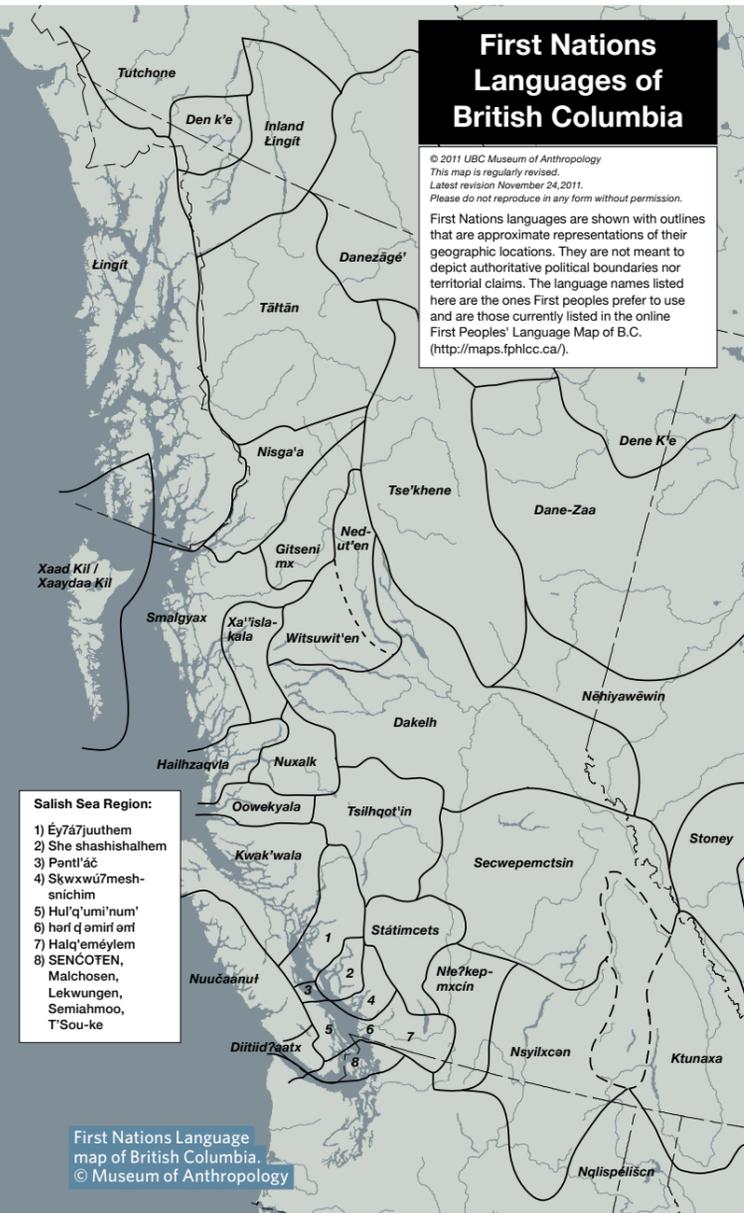
When languages become extinct, the knowledge they contain disappears as well.

It happened with Hebrew. "Hebrew ceased to be the language of daily communication for the great majority of Jews around 300 BC," says Poser. "Hebrew survived as a language that people could read, but for the most part it was not a language that people spoke." Then, in the late 19th century, "a few people decided they were going to use Hebrew at home. Newspapers were published in Hebrew, people started speaking Hebrew with their children, and today Hebrew has come back as the language of daily life in Israel."

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

Grant agrees. "Language is very political. If you examine whenever indigenous language is used at a rally or a political event, look at what the response is. It can be visceral." Political they may be, but most of all the languages are an irreplaceable heritage. "Who else speaks these languages in the entire world?" asks Shaw. "They are complex systems with rich spiritual traditions - a unique legacy. No one else in the world speaks Haida natively other than those who live in Haida Gwaii. It's very special."

Find out more about UBC's First Nations Language Program: [fnlg.arts.ubc.ca](http://fnlg.arts.ubc.ca).

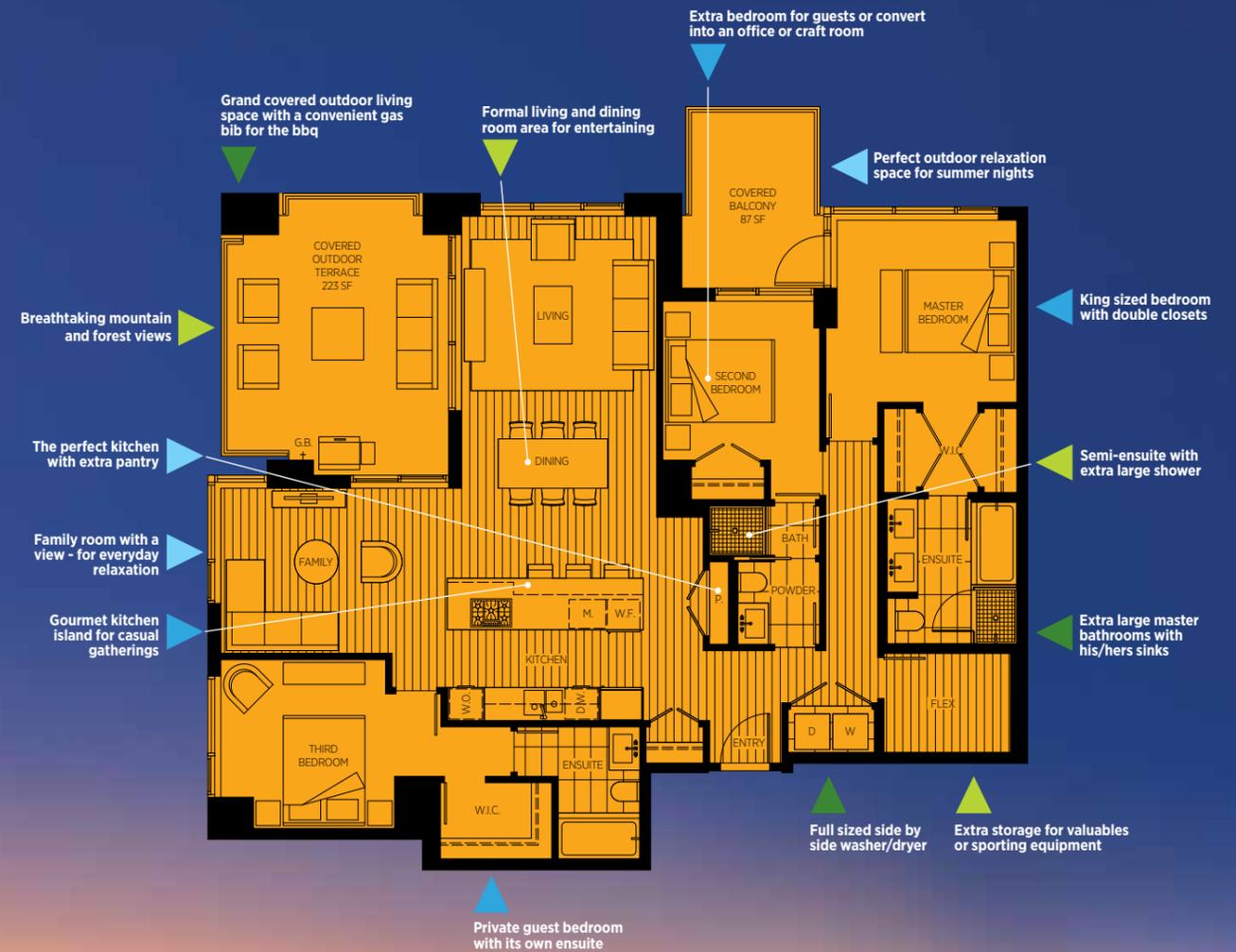


**BINNING TOWER**  
ON THE PARK · POINT GREY

THE ULTIMATE MODERN RESIDENCE  
THE O5 PLUS PLAN

3 BEDROOM + FAMILY + FLEX  
1,502 SF + 310 SF OUTDOOR LIVING SPACE  
OVER 1,800 ACRES OF PROTECTED PARK OUTSIDE YOUR FRONT DOOR

LIVE AT WESTBROOK UBC! MOVE IN START OF SCHOOL 2016  
OWN WITH JUST 10% DOWN\*



UBC a place of mind  
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Still promoting animal welfare and protection

Doreen Margetts had a distinguished career as a horsewoman, author and breeder of thoroughbreds. She expressed her passion for animals through a bequest in her will to UBC. Today, UBC's Animal Welfare Program is possible in part because of her generosity.

UBC can help you plan a lasting legacy in a field important to you. Call 604.822.5373 or visit [www.startanevolution.ca/Margetts](http://www.startanevolution.ca/Margetts)

[startanevolution.ca](http://startanevolution.ca)



PRESENTATION CENTRE  
5898 GRAY AVENUE, WESTBROOK VILLAGE, UBC  
Open Daily 12 - 5pm, Closed Fridays or by appointment

10% Deposit required at time of subject removal with no further deposits required until completion. Some conditions apply, please call for details. Offer valid until November 30, 2014. Rendering is representational only and may not be accurate. E.&O.E.

[BINNINGTOWER.COM](http://BINNINGTOWER.COM)  
604 646 1111





# THE BUG FARMER

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

BY MARCIE GOOD, BA'95

It was a hot and hazy summer afternoon when Andrew Brentano decided to hunt for grasshoppers. He and his wife, Jena, dragged their feet along the grass in her parents' backyard to get the creatures jumping, and then began capturing them one by one in their cupped hands. In retrospect, he realized they should have waited until evening when the insects were more docile. But they caught about 20 and dropped them into a Tupperware container.

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

North Americans may find it difficult to see insects as just food, but entomophagy (the consumption of insects by humans) is widely practised in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East. Insects supplement the diets of approximately two billion people around the world and have always been part of human diets. The idea has gained currency in recent years because of the rising global demand, and prices of food.

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

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

Brentano found several farms that grow insects for animal feed, but they weren't interested in the grocery



Open Bug Farm provides a kit and an online forum for people who want to grow their own mealworms.



Andrew Brentano has so far raised crickets, mealworms (shown), silkworms, tomato hornworms, and ivory cockroaches. Each of these trays can hold 5,000-9,000 mealworms (about 1 lb), and their complete lifecycle in controlled conditions is about 75-80 days.

market. "Their primary markets are built on very high-margin live insects that you buy to feed your pets. They sell for maybe a couple cents per cricket. If you're going to be selling for food source you're going to need to sell for a couple dollars a pound, which is thousands of crickets. So they would lose a lot of money if they undercut their primary market."

The answer, he figured, lay in developing a large-scale model for an insect farm with lower costs and higher food quality. They set up an insulated, climate-controlled bug farm in their garage, raising crickets and mealworms, and also experimented with silkworms, tomato hornworms, and ivory cockroaches. They started testing different habitats, feed formulations and temperature, and are currently developing a low-cost automation system that can monitor and provide documentation of all rearing practices for regulators. "It's kind of like doing several master's degrees at once: entomology, business, agriculture, economics," says Brentano of his venture. He graduated from UBC in 2010 from the Cognitive Systems Program, a multi-disciplinary program including courses in computer science, linguistics, philosophy, and psychology. He says that degree was invaluable in preparing him to step into new fields.

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

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

Tiny Farms has acted as consultant for several companies developing insect-growing operations, and Brentano says he is almost ready to move the garage bug farm to a larger facility. "We're hoping to have a platform available, a ready-to-follow model for someone to take and set up their own edible insect farm with all the knowledge about costs and structures that they need." Insect farming is a great prospect for urban agriculture, because it can be done in small structures.

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



The Brentanos built a large-scale model insect farm in their garage to explore economical ways of rearing high-quality insects for human consumption.

Jena Brentano sautés some freshly harvested crickets to make tacos.



The exciting part of developing the insect-for-food industry, he says, is that lessons can be learned from traditional agriculture. "There's a lot of practices that are not sustainable that we have an opportunity to avoid. For example the overuse of antibiotics has huge negative implications for human, animal, and environmental health. So that puts the impetus on us as we develop industrial techniques to make sure that disease management does not require mass use of antibiotics." There are simple measures that can be taken, such as making sure the habitat designs minimize the stress level of insects, for example, and making them modular so that insects can be quarantined very easily in case of a disease outbreak.

Compared with how he felt about his job at the tech company where he designed automated phone systems, ("the product everyone loves to hate,") Brentano is thrilled with his new work. "We can definitely feel that we're in the early stages of something that is about to blow up and get huge," he says. "When we started it was hard to tell people what we were doing without getting grimaces and laughs, but now people often say, "don't crickets have a ton of protein in them?"

Carrot salad with mixed grains and fried waxworms.



Find out more at [tiny-farms.com](http://tiny-farms.com) / [@tiny\\_farms](https://twitter.com/tiny_farms) / [openbugfarm.com](http://openbugfarm.com)

Trek heard about Tiny Farms when Andrew uploaded information about the project to [yourevolution.ubc.ca](http://yourevolution.ubc.ca), a purpose-built website where alumni and other members of the UBC community can publicize the socially beneficial projects in which they are involved.

## EATING INSECTS IS NOT "ICKY." GET OVER IT.

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

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

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

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

He estimates that it will be two decades before bug cuisine reaches the same ubiquity as sushi. But by then, it will be necessary. "What's going to happen is that people will realize that the land and grain and water required to produce beef and other livestock is just not sustainable. In 20 years Angus beef will cost what Wagu beef costs today, it will be an absolute luxury like caviar. Sources of food like insects will move into the void left by beef."

- Marcie Good



# THE LOVE BUG

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

BY MARCIE GOOD, BA'95



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

"It's a normal type of cheese, but in households they leave it out and allow a special fly called the cheese fly to lay its eggs in it," she explains. "It's a snobby fly that only eats fine cheese. The larvae develop and they digest the cheese. The fats in the cheese get slowly broken down and the fermentation creates a completely different flavour." Because of the obvious food safety issues, the cheese is not commercially available. She contacted a well-known chef on the island, Roberto Flore, for help.

They met, and he took her to a farmer who gave her some cheese. It had a pungent, barnyard smell, and the texture was creamy and smooth with tangy and spicy notes. The bold aftertaste of the cheese lingered for a long time. But that wasn't the most powerful impression of the day. She and Flore connected immediately. She was impressed by his knowledge of local and regional food systems and his pride for all things Sardinian. Halloran, originally from Ladysmith, could see similarities between the island cultures of their homes.

Flore was representing Sardinia in a national culinary competition on Italian television, so they saw each other often when he travelled to Rome. Halloran was planning a move back to Copenhagen, where she had done her master's degree in urban agriculture, and it turned out that Flore had been thinking about the same thing. He wanted to work at the Nordic Food Lab, a not-for-profit institution devoted to exploring new flavours from Nordic food sources including insects. The lab was co-founded by Rene Redzepi, head chef at Noma, which has been named the best restaurant in the world four times by the influential *Restaurant* magazine.

So they moved to Copenhagen. Flore got a job at the lab, and was promoted to head chef. "It was completely coincidental and serendipitous," she says, about her cheesy love story. "But it makes sense too."

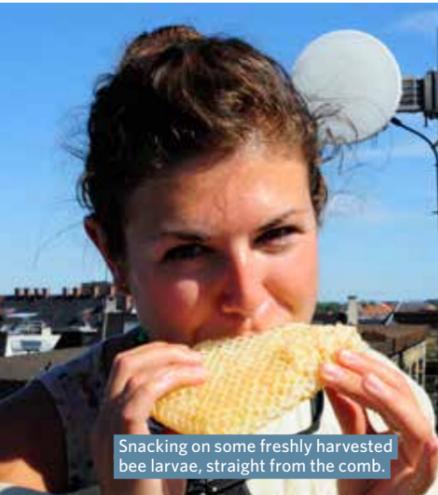
Halloran's interest in eating insects began in 2007. She was wandering through a market in Kampala, Uganda, when a vendor offered her some deep-fried crickets. She was a fourth-year UBC student in the Global Resource Systems Program, and she was game for a new experience. The crunchy little bugs caused her to think. "This is a food source that exists all over the world, and yet we in the West haven't really taken it up," she says. "It's us that are the strange ones."

Since then, she has travelled to many places and studied how local cultures produce and consume insects. In Copenhagen, she helped to form a research consortium of public and private institutions called GREEINSECT, which received a grant of \$1.2M Euros (about \$1.7M Canadian) from the Danish International Development Agency to investigate how insects can be used as a supplementary source of protein by means of mass production in small to large-scale industries in Kenya. Halloran is currently

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



Afton Halloran



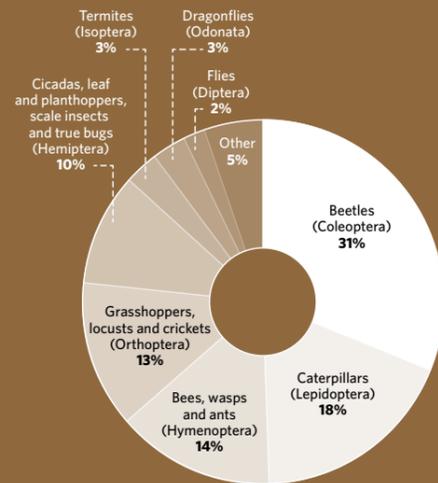
working on her PhD in collaboration with this group. Her project looks at the nutritional, socio-economic and environmental impacts of mass rearing insects in Kenya. Other researchers, from Kenya and around the world, are looking at various other angles, such as the economics, the legislation, the food policy, and the insect pathology.

As she flies back and forth between Kenya and Copenhagen, she sees two ends of the spectrum of entomophagy: the development of an industry to revalidate traditional food and address food security; and the use of insects as an innovative ingredient in fine dining. The Nordic Food Lab has developed such delicacies as a garam (think soy sauce) made from fermented grasshoppers, and Flore recently created a toasted bee larvae soup, which Halloran says tastes like honey and grass. At Noma recently, she tasted

a beef tartare sprinkled with a type of local ant that produces a formic acid as a defense mechanism. She describes the effect as “little bombs of lemon” dropping on your tongue.

“In many cultures that have insect consumption as part of their food culture, insects are generally considered a delicacy and can often cost more than other animal meats. So on one hand there’s a high value being placed on this food source. However, the problem in the West is that insects are still seen as a novelty product or something used as a gimmick. But I think that is changing. People are realizing that there are over 1,900 different species of insects that can be used just like any other ingredient.”

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



(Source: information guide based on the FAO's Edible insects: future prospects for food and feed security.)

## Why Insects?

### Environmental Benefits

- Insects have a high feed conversion efficiency because they are cold-blooded. Feed-to-meat conversion rates (how much feed is needed to produce a 1 kg increase in weight) vary widely depending on the class of the animal and the production practices used, but nonetheless insects are extremely efficient. On average, insects can convert 2 kg of feed into 1 kg of insect mass, whereas cattle require 8 kg of feed to produce 1 kg of body weight gain.
- The production of greenhouse gases by most insects is likely to be lower than that of conventional livestock. For example, pigs produce 10-100 times more greenhouse gases per kg of weight than mealworms.
- Insects can feed on bio-waste, such as food and human waste, compost and animal slurry, and can transform this into high-quality protein that can be used for animal feed.
- Insects use significantly less water than conventional livestock. Mealworms, for example, are more drought-resistant than cattle.
- Insect farming is less land-dependent than conventional livestock farming.

### Health Benefits

- The nutritional content of insects depends on their stage of life (metamorphic stage), habitat and diet. However, it is widely accepted that:
  - Insects provide high-quality protein and nutrients comparable with meat and fish. Insects are particularly important as a food

supplement for undernourished children because most insect species are high in fatty acids (comparable with fish). They are also rich in fibre and micronutrients such as copper, iron, magnesium, manganese, phosphorous, selenium and zinc.

- Insects pose a low risk of transmitting zoonotic diseases (diseases transmitted from animals to humans) such as like H1N1 (bird flu) and BSE (mad cow disease).

### Livelihood and Social Benefits

- Insect gathering and rearing can offer important livelihood diversification strategies. Insects can be directly and easily collected in the wild. Minimal technical or capital expenditure is required for basic harvesting and rearing equipment.
- Insects can be gathered in the wild, cultivated, processed and sold by the poorest members of society, such as women and landless people in urban and rural areas. These activities can directly improve diets and provide cash income through the selling of excess production as street food.
- Insect harvesting and farming can provide entrepreneurship opportunities in developed, transitional and developing economies.
- Insects can be processed for food and feed relatively easily. Some species can be consumed whole. Insects can also be processed into pastes or ground into meal, and their proteins can be extracted.

(Source: information guide based on the FAO's Edible insects: future prospects for food and feed security.)

# ROBERT H. LEE ALUMNI CENTRE

Meet. Connect. Celebrate.  
Book now.



UBC alumni are the heart of UBC. So UBC and *alumni UBC* have built the Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre in the heart of our Vancouver campus. It's a place to welcome all who visit UBC, as well as a place to connect through socializing, mentoring, learning and fostering entrepreneurship.

Experience your next meeting or social event at the new home for UBC alumni for life. You don't have to be a UBC graduate to reserve space. But if you are, preferred rates apply.

Opening Spring 2015  
alumniculture.ubc.ca



At a camp this March, undiagnosed patients and their families shared stories and established a community.

# THE WAITING ROOM

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

BY CHRIS CANNON

Anyone who's ever been nervous for blood test results or an exploratory procedure can tell you: it's the not knowing that's the worst. The mind offers an endless stream of possible outcomes, each scenario worse than the last. You are anchored to your short-term plans. But you are still expected to function, to go to work, to relax with friends as if you hadn't a care in the world.

Imagine this scenario writ large - waiting not days or weeks, but years, and potentially a lifetime.

This is what it's like to be an undiagnosed patient, a category that, according to medical databases that cross-reference medical disorders, does not even exist. Despite an estimated 350 million people suffering worldwide from rare and undiagnosed illnesses, public awareness of their struggle is almost nonexistent, a phenomenon that prompted Nicholas Miller and Crystal Shearman to tackle the subject in their forthcoming documentary, *Undiagnosed*.

When Shearman and Miller were studying at UBC, the topic of disease research was the furthest thing from their minds. As undergraduates - Shearman studying music composition and Miller in Film Studies - they had bought a home, established themselves in the local film community, and were planning a family. But in August of 2010, Miller was diagnosed with testicular cancer. With two years left on their visas, they were able to remain in Canada for medical treatment before returning to the United States in 2012. The plan was to set up a new film base in Los Angeles after visiting family in Park City, Utah. But while Miller was receiving follow-up treatment in Utah, they met Katia Moritz, a doctor who would dramatically change the course of their lives.

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

"Nick and I were both stunned by her journey and all of the uncertainty that a long-term undiagnosed patient deals with," says Shearman. "It is truly a terrifying way to live." Millions of patients and doctors out there dealing with the same issue meant millions of untold stories, an idea that intrigued the filmmakers. "Being undiagnosed is something that we had never even thought of, and I think that's true for most people," continues Shearman. "I expected that when you're sick, you go to the doctor, they figure it out, give you a pill, do surgery, do treatment... I had no idea that there are people who go for years, decades, and lifetimes without a diagnosis.

Despite an estimated 350 million people suffering worldwide from rare and undiagnosed illnesses, public awareness of their struggle is almost nonexistent.

And this is not a small group we are talking about, it's hundreds of millions of people." Fresh off their ordeal with Miller's cancer, the couple already had a sense of medical inequality on the mind. Miller had been cancer-free since leaving Vancouver, but he spent more money on two check-ups in Utah than he spent on two years of treatment in Canada, something that would have broken the bank if he had received his initial treatment in the US. "Without Nick's experience of having cancer - and being treated in Canada as a big part of that experience - I'm not sure we would have had enough understanding of how devastating it is to be undiagnosed," says Shearman, "and I'm not sure we would have endeavored on this project."

Together, the trio set about documenting the research that Moritz had been compiling for a book. By January 2013, with Shearman producing and Moritz and Miller sharing the director's chair, they were off and filming. At the time, Moritz was confident a diagnosis for her condition

was imminent, and they wanted to capture her life before and after the moment of certainty.

Two years later, they were still waiting. Moritz was no closer to an answer than when they started shooting, but in that time they journeyed across the US to film five different families living in limbo as they seek the same answers as Moritz. Travelling to 20 cities over the course of 18 months, the team gathered more than 300 hours of footage, and with more shoots still planned, they expect to be sifting through 400 hours by the time they're through.

Interviewing a wide range of experts - doctors, technologists, psychologists - as well as crafting intimate portraits of affected patients and their families, the crew rode a rollercoaster of alternately tragic and life-affirming narratives. "The subject of our documentary does tend toward heartbreaking stories," says Miller, "stories of people and their families fighting almost Sisyphean obstacles. But it's through these difficulties that people find enormous and unexpected strength."

"They had different conditions and symptoms," adds Moritz of the many patients they interviewed, "but they all have something in common: even though many of these patients are struggling with very serious and life threatening medical symptoms, they do everything they can to function and balance their lives to be as normal as possible. The children go to school and go away on vacations and the adults try to continue to function and enjoy life."

More than a search for cures, the struggle of the undiagnosed is shadowed by this complex routine of hope and despair. One mother the team profiles lost her son before his first birthday, but had saved several tissue samples for further testing. Five years later, she is down to the last sample and has to decide what final test offers the best chance of giving her closure.

On the other end of the spectrum, a 16-year-old girl endures painful, seizing muscle cramps that have not allowed her a decent night's sleep in a decade. But sequencing her genome - only a recently affordable procedure - revealed a mutated gene that gave her doctors two pieces of life-changing information: she would have a normal life expectancy, and an effective medication was available to ease the cramping. "I could see a world of difference in the faces of her and her family since the last time we had visited when the gene mutation was still unknown," recalls Shearman. "For the first time ever, she was filling out college applications and making plans for her future, something they had never expected she would live to do."

Had these women been linked by a common disorder such as muscular hypertrophy or breast cancer, they might have met through an organization

like the Muscular Dystrophy Association or Ride for the Cure. But this is perhaps the root issue for people suffering from undiagnosed conditions: the lack of a supportive community. Even illnesses such as muscular dystrophy and cancer are actually families of diseases that are united

Crafting intimate portraits of affected patients and their families, the crew rode a rollercoaster of alternately tragic and life-affirming narratives.

under single banners, which makes it easier to connect patients, raise funds, and provide a variety of support services.

The rare disease population has used this strategy with great effect, increasing their size and their sense of community by adopting a "rare diseases" persona, rather than articulating themselves as thousands of individual diseases with small patient populations. "You have probably never

heard of [the gene] NGLY1 since only 17 patients [with a mutation of this gene] have ever been identified," says Shearman, "but surely you have heard of Rare Diseases. By taking that stance, their collective community has shown that rare diseases are actually not that rare." While undiagnosed patients have a wide variety of symptoms and potential diagnoses, their numbers are strong as a collective population. "Anyone who is on a medical journey needs support," she continues, "but the undiagnosed patients don't have any kind of medical home." More than a branding issue, the need for a cohesive identity among sufferers of undiagnosed conditions is the key to bringing them together, a concept not lost on the filmmakers.

"One of the most important goals of this film is providing community for the undiagnosed population," says Miller. "Many of these people go through their entire diagnostic odyssey not realizing there are others out there that are going through the same challenges." To address this issue, they organized a weekend "Undiagnosed Camp" in March, 2014, bringing five families from across the country to Utah's National Ability Center to share their stories and establish a sense of community. "While the illness that affected each family or patient was different," adds Miller, "there was a deep connection in that they all shared the difficulty of the unknown. An immediate bond was formed between the families that came to the camp, and the beginning of a community was born."

As important as it is to establish such a community, the benefits of uniting the undiagnosed reach far beyond the patients themselves and into the entire health care system. It was research into a rare form of hypercholesterolemia (genetic high cholesterol) that led to the development of statins, a cholesterol-reducing drug that has become the best-selling pharmaceutical in history. "If you look at the history of certain medicines like statins, they actually came from studying relatively rare diseases and understanding the genetic basis for them," says Dr. Dean Li, the Chief Scientific Officer for University of Utah Health Sciences and a contributor to the film. "So the study of rare diseases and finding their genetic link is a critical strategy, not just for the rare disease and the undiagnosed disease individuals. It's important for all of medicine, and for the treatment of all people."



Dr. Moritz with another of the documentary's undiagnosed subjects, five-year-old Jeremy.



Nicholas Miller, co-director



Crystal Shearman, producer

But it's a long road from a weekend camp to the next major medical breakthrough, a road *Undiagnosed* has only begun to pave. So far, Shearman, Miller, and Moritz have crafted the film with no additional crew or resources, funding their journey entirely out of pocket. They've since gathered \$150K in grants and private donations, and are seeking to double that to complete the project, hoping to have a cut ready for film festivals by fall of 2015.

The timing seems right. The National Institutes of Health in the US has the capacity to evaluate only 50-100 undiagnosed cases per year, which recently led them to commit \$43M to franchise their Undiagnosed Diseases Program to six academic medical centers around the country. And with the exponential growth of social media, patients who once suffered in silence are now able to share their symptoms and connect with others.

**"If you look at the history of certain medicines like statins, they actually came from studying relatively rare diseases and understanding the genetic basis for them."**

But for the filmmakers, nothing can be better than seeing results face-to-face. "After two years of filming, we are actually getting to see some of the children and adults progress," says Shearman. "Some have found answers, others have found community support or have been inspired to create their own 'undiagnosed' support groups. Getting to know these passionate people to the point of calling them friends and being able to give their struggles voice and validation - that has been the greatest reward." ■

To find out more or donate, visit: [undiagnosedfilm.com](http://undiagnosedfilm.com) and follow @UndiagnosedFilm



Isabel Jordan and family at Lace Up for Kids, helping to raise funds for RDF microgrants.

# AN UNCOMMON DENOMINATOR

The Rare Disease Foundation is using a collective approach to create a support network for minority patients and a stronger lobby for more research dollars and practical assistance.

BY CHRIS CANNON

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

Defined as a condition that afflicts fewer than 1 in 2,000 people, a rare disease, taken by itself, is an outsider looking in at the multi-billion-dollar health care industry. With scant research funds and little in the way of a patient-support system, doctors and patients have learned the hard way that sufferers of rare diseases won't receive the care they need until the medical community makes a mental shift from the rare singular to the frequent collective, a strategy being led by the Rare Disease Foundation (RDF).

In 2007, UBC geneticists Millan Patel and Neal Boerkoel found themselves regularly dealing with families facing undiagnosed disease issues, and were seeking ways to get families support from government and medical institutions that barely recognized rare and undiagnosed conditions as worth addressing. (Undiagnosed conditions and rare diseases go hand-in-hand, and are often referred to collectively.)

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

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

Jordan muddled through the next few years the best she could. "We got through it," she says, "because, you know, you do." But when Zach turned six and required surgery to remove a tumour in his jaw, things went from worse to worst. "We ended up in the hospital with him, and we didn't have anybody to turn to to tell us where the good showers were or how to advocate for him when he was in ICU when things all went to hell, because they did. We didn't have a soul to talk to except for Millan, who was great and kept checking in on us." Zach's downturn prompted Jordan and Millan to begin advocating for parents in similar situations, and with the help of Boerkoel, McKellin, and a few other parents and physicians, the Rare Disease Foundation was born.

As a support group for families affected by rare diseases, the foundation gave Jordan's family

a new handle on their situation simply by virtue of community. "It was the most absolutely transformative experience of my life. It was incredible. Because this journey that my husband and I had been on completely alone since day one - none of my friends got it, my parents didn't get it, nobody got it. Now I was in a room with strangers, and for the first time, they all got it."

The support group soon led to a parent-to-parent resource network, which has since been expanded across the country - an Ottawa chapter in 2011, Toronto in 2012, Victoria in 2013. Recently the foundation held an event just for fathers, hosting guest speaker Ian Brown, whose award-winning 2009 memoir *The Boy in the Moon* chronicled the joys and struggles of raising his own severely disabled son.

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

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

Ironically, the warp-speed progress of genetic testing is helping the medical community self-correct through the increasing popularity of personalized medicine. This is the practice of tailoring health care to individuals based on their distinct molecular identity - in other words,

**Defined as a condition that afflicts fewer than 1 in 2,000 people, a rare disease, taken by itself, is an outsider looking in at the multi-billion-dollar health care industry.**

treating the particular person instead of the disease. "In some ways, the more tailored things get, the better," says McKellin. "Now pharmaceutical companies can go after those specific mutations that cause diseases in particular individuals - as in muscular dystrophy - rather than testing a drug on all of the people with the same symptoms. Unfortunately, this division

of people with the same diagnosis but different mutations can also divide support communities. So people start to think about these various mutations as different rare diseases when they're defined genetically, as opposed to clinically."

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

Only eight years ago, exome sequencing (a form of genetic sequencing that focuses on exons, the one per cent of the human genome whose mutations result in the most severe disabilities) would run someone \$50,000. Today the cost is below \$3,000, and getting cheaper. This is welcome news to sufferers of rare and undiagnosed conditions, many of whom spend years moving from specialist to specialist in search of answers.

"It's to the point where it's almost cheaper to do exome sequencing than to try a number of drugs on a kid to see which works," says McKellin. "Personalized medicine in general is becoming a way of avoiding having to go through that trial and error with your doctor and instead you find out what actually works for you."

Not that there isn't still plenty of room for research on specific rare diseases, particularly those that aren't caused by genetic mutation. To address the gap left by research funding priorities based on population health, RDF has established a microgrant program to fund research for individuals who have rare, but equally important health needs. To date, more than half a million dollars has been awarded in increments of \$3,200 to \$3,500, money raised through fundraisers sponsored by UBC, UBC Rec, and BC Children's Hospital Foundation.

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

Ultimately, these are all stopgap solutions until the broader research and government institutions begin to address the medical and social needs of those with rare and undiagnosed diseases. On top of the physical, emotional, and financial struggles faced by this community are a host of ancillary issues. The lack of a specific diagnosis, for instance, makes it extremely difficult for disabled students to get support services in a public classroom, even when a clinician can inform the school of the child's physical needs. And according to Jordan, families unable to provide proof of a diagnosis are rejected for the government's disability tax credit an average of five times before being approved.

But even these large-scale, institutional challenges are slowly abating. RDF co-founder Neal Boerkoel has recently taken a laboratory director role in the National Institutes of Health's Office of Rare Diseases Research, and in February 2014, RD-Connect and the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto launched PhenomeCentral, an online database that matches rare-disease patients

with similar genotypes and phenotypes to connect clinicians and scientists and speed up the discovery of genes responsible for rare disorders.

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

Find out more or join the online community at [rarediseasefoundation.org](http://rarediseasefoundation.org)

Trek heard about *The Rare Disease Foundation* when information about the project was added to [yourevolution.ubc.ca](http://yourevolution.ubc.ca), a purpose-built website where alumni and other members of the UBC community can publicize the socially beneficial projects in which they are involved.

Sparkling Hill Resort, opened in 2010, is a European-inspired destination health & wellness resort. The resort's crowning jewel is the 40,000 sq.ft. KurSpa offering over 100 different treatments and a variety of complimentary amenities including 7 aromatherapy steams & saunas and an outdoor infinity pool overlooking the Okanagan Lake.

Relax, renew and revitalize at Sparkling Hill Resort & KurSpa located in the beautiful Okanagan Valley.

[www.sparklinghill.com](http://www.sparklinghill.com) | 1-877-275-1556  
Okanagan Valley, British Columbia, Canada



# YOU'VE EARNED IT!

## TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP.

As a UBC alumnus, you've earned more than a degree. You've earned exclusive access to benefits, discounts and great rates at partner companies across the country.

**And the best part - it's free.**



## ONLINE JOURNAL ACCESS. You asked. We delivered.

UBC alumni have access to the **EBSCO Academic Search and Business Source alumni editions** that include more than 4,150 full-text journals from many of the top academic and business publishers worldwide. All you need to access this wealth of intellectual resources is your free A-Card.

### TITLES INCLUDE:

- Nature • Bloomsburg Businessweek • Entrepreneur •
- Anthropology Today • Biochemistry & Cell Biology •

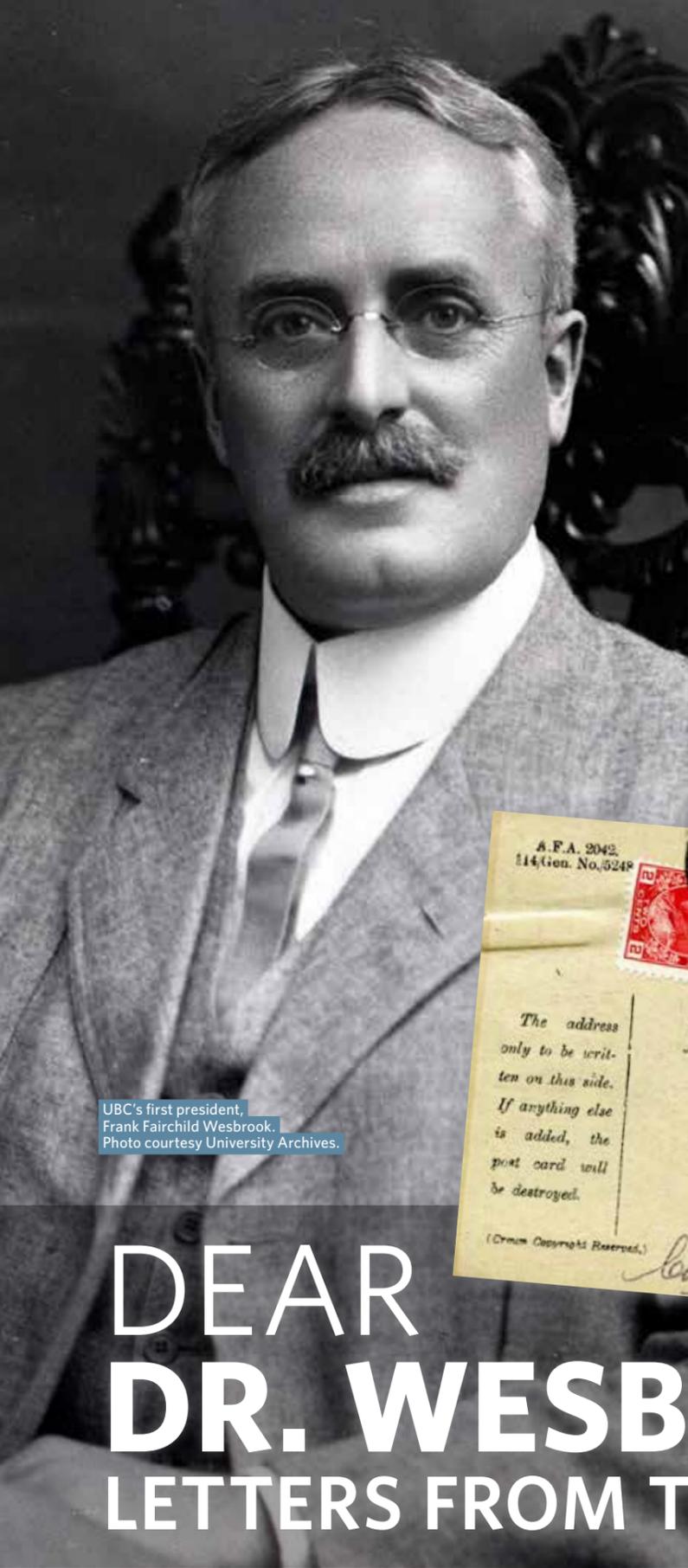
Be sure to regularly check the [alumni.ubc.ca/acard](http://alumni.ubc.ca/acard) page for current perks and how to access them

Don't have an A-Card or want more information about these exclusive benefits?

Visit [alumni.ubc.ca/acard](http://alumni.ubc.ca/acard)

Interested in becoming an A-Card corporate partner?  
Contact [julian.radlein@ubc.ca](mailto:julian.radlein@ubc.ca)

**alumniUBC**



UBC's first president, Frank Fairchild Wesbrook. Photo courtesy University Archives.

**“Conceived in prosperity at the zenith of the world’s triumph of invention and luxury, our University has been born at the time of its greatest tragedy.”**

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

Wesbrook strove to maintain a sense of community during these uncertain years. He proposed that the student publications be used as a central clearing house for news. He made sure UBC soldiers received copies and encouraged them to write letters from Europe for inclusion, believing they would “finally crystallize into an informal record of the early days of the institution.”

Wesbrook sent prompt personal replies to the letters he received, impressing on the student soldiers his desire that they return safely to continue their education at UBC. Dr. Wesbrook died on October 20, 1918, three weeks before the war ended.



A.F.A. 2042, 114, Gen. No. 5248

The address only to be written on this side. If anything else is added, the post card will be destroyed.

UBC opened in 1915 in temporary headquarters at the former McGill University College facilities on the Fairview slopes. This field card still refers to the fledgling institution as McGill University. (Reverse side of card on page 30.)

# DEAR DR. WESBROOK LETTERS FROM THE FRONT

## Edward Weldon Berry, BA'16

Berry enlisted as a gunner with the 46th Battery in December 1915, and proceeded to England early in 1916. He served in France with the Third Divisional Signal Company on the Somme in 1916, and at Vimy Ridge, Hill 70, and Passchendaele. He was gassed at Loos in 1917. He was invalided to England and on recovery was granted a commission in the Royal Air Force. He was UBC’s first Rhodes Scholar and took up his residence in St John’s College, Oxford, in April 1919. Edward Berry died at Oxford on January 28, 1920, of heart disease resulting from the effects of gas. He was buried in Wolvercote Cemetery, Oxford.

## Guy Borthwick Moore

While attending university, Moore qualified as a lieutenant in the 11th Regiment, Irish Fusillers of Canada, and secured his captain’s papers in the summer of 1916. He enlisted in December 1916 as a cadet with the Royal Flying Corps and crossed to England in January 1917. After being awarded his pilot’s wings he was made second lieutenant in August 1917, immediately crossing to France to join the 1st Scouting Squadron. He remained with his unit all winter and was promoted to lieutenant and later to captain and flight commander. In March 1918 he was awarded the Military Cross. Captain Moore was killed in action on April 7, 1918, over Ypres and was buried near the spot where he fell. He was officially credited with bringing down 12 enemy planes during his service in France.

## Harry Tremaine Logan

Logan was a professor of classics. He went to France in 1915, where he served in the 72nd Seaforth Highlanders of Canada and the Canadian Machine Gun Corps (CMGC). He became a captain in March 1917 and a major in December 1918. He was awarded the Military Cross. He prepared the official history of the CMGC in 1919 before returning to teaching the following year. He became head of UBC’s Department of Classics in 1949 and went on to write the first published history of UBC, *Tuum Est*, in 1958. He was still teaching right up until his 80th birthday in 1967.

## Arthur Edward Lord, BA'21

Lord became a private in the 196th Battalion in September 1916 and went to England in November. He went to France with the 46th Battalion in February 1917. He was wounded on June 1, 1917, invalided to England in July, and to Canada in March of the following year. He was discharged in April 1918, having attained the rank of corporal, and went on to earn his bachelor’s degree.

## Joseph Thomas Smeeton, BA'19

Smeeton was in the Canadian Officer Training Corps from 1914 to 1915. He became a private in the 131st Battalion in December 1915 and a lieutenant in May 1916. He went to Europe in November 1916, serving with the 30th Reserve Battalion in England and the 54th Battalion in France. He was invalided to England in April 1917. His record of service then lists him at the BC Regimental Depot in Seaford (May 1917); with the 16th Reserve (August 1917); and attached to the Royal Flying Corps (November 1917). He returned to Canada and was discharged in January 1919. A 1925 alumni directory lists him as a Presbyterian minister living in Saskatoon.

## EDWARD BERRY

### France

January 17/17

Dear Dr. Wesbrook -

I received your Christmas card on the 14th, and am very grateful indeed for the kind wishes which it conveyed.

I must apologize first of all for not having written you before, but we have been rather strenuously engaged during the past few months and correspondence for the most part has gone to the wall. Our unit has been in action periodically ever since we came over, but it was last fall during our two months’ engagement in the “Big Push” that we received our baptism of fire and gained some idea of the destructive effect of a concentrated artillery bombardment.

It is very interesting indeed to be able to watch good artillery fire search out and finally destroy its objective, though occasionally when the Boche guns attempted to demolish our location the shells dropped rather too closely to admit of disinterested observation...

... Just at present we are in a very different position, one which seems even funereal by contrast, and we are glad to be here for it enabled us to celebrate Christmas and New Year’s in the old-fashioned way. Our Christmas dinner contained such orthodox items as roast turkey and plum pudding, while the tables were loaded with an imposing array of Christmas parcels which had been accumulating for a week beforehand. Only the presence of a little snow was required to make us think we were spending a real Canadian Christmas, but in the absence of that feathery substance a steady downpour of rain, which tried hard to dampen our spirits but failed miserably, was quite sufficient to remind us that we were spending Christmas in France...

Feb. 10-1917

My dear Mr. Berry:

... We do not feel so very remote from you all nor that our part in the war is quite so vicarious when we hear from you...

... It was good news to hear that all the boys are in good health and doing well. Be sure to urge upon all of them that we are regarding their present experiences as only a phase of their education and training and that we want them all back. To you we look as the first representative of the University to be sent to Oxford. You will have much to do in carrying our message to them and later in bringing back all the good things you can from the Motherland to be applied to our problems here.

Wishing you and all the others continued safety and success and hoping that it may not be long until you are back with us again.

## HARRY LOGAN

### France

30th April 1917

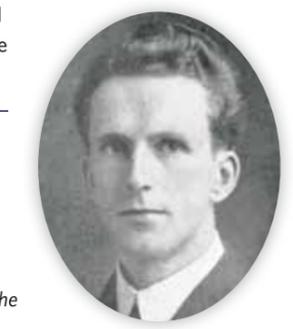
Dear Dr. Wesbrook -

Every day out here impresses me more and more with the deep meaning of a letter from home...

I have seen a great many of our boys out here and, as I have said more than once before to you, it is always a source of joy and pride to meet them. They almost invariably have received promotion, in most cases they have been



Images from McGill College, UBC annuals, courtesy of AMS Archives.



promoted to commissioned rank... Smeeton I know from reports to have done exceptionally well in the Vimy Ridge Operation... he is, I believe, now in charge of his Company...  
 ... Do you know, I often imagine my brain will be so long applied to M.G. And Army work that I shall have gotten quite hopelessly behind in Classical knowledge, and yet my two years teaching in the Univ. of B.C. Are among the happiest years of my life and I do feel I could return quite gleefully to that work, if it were not for the thought that my students would suffer from my Latin and Greek being so coated over with rust.

... I am writing this in our Company Advanced Headquarters, situated in a comparatively luxurious dug-out, until three weeks ago occupied by a Hun company commander. He left in too great a hurry to destroy the furniture of the place, though he found time to break the face of the clock and his mirror. He left us a hat rack, a table, four chairs and a bed, in his sitting-room and bedroom. In the kitchen a stove, an excellent Carbide lamp, one or two cooking utensils. His dug-outs are a great asset to our men during this advance...

**July 3, 1917**

My dear Lieut. Logan:  
 ... Do not worry about getting rusty in classics. It may be a matter of chalk and cheese but what you lose in rust you will more than make up in polish of another kind. All of us stay at home people will lack something for the rest of our lives for which nothing can compensate... I am glad to know that Fritz is such a good provider for himself, especially when you can make him give up his provisions...



**JOSEPH SMEETON**

**France**  
**January 5th 1917.**

My Dear Dr. Wesbrook,  
 ... My letters... would hardly pass the English test I am afraid, or Mr. Henderson's literary criticism... One cannot write very coherent letters when one's nerves are on edge. What with wet, cold, dirt & more dirt & a little more dirt; the guns going boom, boom, boom all day long, eighteen of us living in a dugout, 30 feet by 8 ft by 8 ft & 30 feet underground, & writing by the aid of a single candle, one cannot compile very good letters. We are all happy and cheerful however. I am looking forward to a gala day tomorrow. We have a colonel & a major with us for a few days on a cooks tour. I have my eye on the colonel's water bottle & intend to have a shave & give my face a sponge bath with the contents thereof. This will indeed be a gala day I can assure you. I would be very grateful if you would have a copy of the Calendar forwarded to me. I should like to look through and fancy myself starting the year again.

**January 29-1917:**

My dear Mr. Smeeton:  
 Your letter of January 5th has just been brought into me. I read it at once and hasten to write you. It is indeed good to hear from the old boys. We think and talk of you all constantly... The calendar for which you ask is being mailed to you...



**GUY MOORE**

**Christ Church, Oxford**  
**March 7, 1917**

Dear Dr. Wesbrook:  
 Since you were so good as to recommend me for an appointment to the Royal Flying Corps I thought you might be interested in knowing a few particulars concerning the course... We were lucky enough to be sent to Oxford and yet more lucky to be quartered in Christ Church College where the accommodation is excellent. The first two months are spent in a straight infantry course... the second two months are devoted entirely to the theory of flying, the study of engines, training in the use of machine guns and in the construction of aeroplanes...

**March 17-1917:**

My Dear Mr. Moore:  
 ... I sincerely hope that the war may come to a conclusion before you people are available for service. I know this is a wish which you will not endorse and it may even seem unkind to you. There is no way by which we, at this remote distance from the centre of activities, can get any proper basis for arriving at conclusions. The news seems to be good at the present time when both the British and French forces have been so successful in driving the Germans back. One cannot lightly get over the first impressions of the war and to suspect that the Germans are playing some kind of game and have some surprise up their sleeves for us, has become a matter of habit. Surely, however, if they had anything worse, they would have produced it ere this...

**France.**

**Oct. 4. 1917.**  
 Dear Dr. Wesbrook:  
 ... I have been in France, now, for seven weeks, which does not seem long judging by time by ordinary life, but seven weeks in a scout squadron flying over the lines every day entitles one to be considered as an experienced pilot. I am flying a French machine - Nieuport Scout - and curiously enough it is the smallest machine used while I am probably as big a man as any flying today. I like the work very much indeed, and the life is to say the least interesting. I can imagine no game half as fascinating as flying and especially is this so in a scout squadron where seldom do we do two jobs of the same nature in succession. High flying, fourteen to twenty thousand, low flying, "ground strafing," fighting and aerial reconnaissance, we do it all...

From Moore  
 to the 1960s for a  
 am just learn  
 my new ball  
 The Remont  
 to this Battalio  
 same compan



Gunner C. Beecher Weld sent UBC some pics of the camp he stayed at in Roffey, near Horsham in the UK.

**Glack Hospital, Upper Deal, Kent**  
**Oct. 22/17**

Dear Dr. Wesbrook -  
 I was wounded just a week after I sent you that last letter and after spending five weeks in France I was brought over to Blighty and put in a military hospital at Herne Bay, Kent, where I spent a comfortable three months. They thought I was going to be an R.I.P. victim at one time but I upset their calculations and am doing fairly well now...

At the end of my convalescent period I will go before a medical board to be examined. I am hoping for, but not expecting, my discharge. In any case I doubt whether I shall be fit for France again as my wound is in the abdomen and still gives me a little trouble...

... Our boys have done well over there and have proved themselves men under the most trying conditions. Shell fire shows a man up for what he really is and I have never seen any of them show signs of fear or cowardice even under a very severe bombardment. We all long for peace, but of course there is no use of considering it while Germany holds out for such terms as she has hinted at but not definitely stated.

The peace that we want is one which will guarantee that no nation will ever have the presumption to rise like Germany has and make a bid for world domination. At present there is no nation of any importance which is not engaged in this war. If the representatives of these countries do not guarantee peace for all times, this war will have been fought to no advantage. The thing to aim at in the future is closer brotherhood between nations. I think that the great cause for present day conditions is man's woeful lack of faith in his fellow man...

**Nov. 23, 1917**

My dear Arthur:  
 ... We were all very much exercised indeed over the news that you had been wounded, which came just about ten days after I wrote you. From the information we got here we were so perturbed that I did not know whether to write you again or not...  
 I have been impressed not only with your letter but others I have received from our boys at the front, with the evidence of rapid growth and development. You have all become serious-minded and are thinking deeply about those things which are worthwhile. When you all come back and we can have the combined force and outlook which this war has developed in you and we hope to a lesser degree in ourselves, we shall be able to undo some of the mistakes we have made in the past and to lay some plans for a stable and intelligently organized society which will give each one of us a good chance and will lay special stress on team work. Surely we have drifted long enough and in the future we shall hope to plan our development rather than blunder on...

UBC Archives has recently completed digitization of UBC's Record of Service for the First World War. View it here: [library.ubc.ca/archives/pdfs/misc/record\\_of\\_service\\_WWI.pdf](http://library.ubc.ca/archives/pdfs/misc/record_of_service_WWI.pdf). Read Frank Wesbrook's diary on Twitter: @Pres\_FFWesbrook



Letters are from the President's Office fonds. Access and scans were provided courtesy University Archives.

**ARTHUR LORD**

**France**  
**May 22/17**



Dear Mr. Wesbrook -  
 No doubt you will be surprised to hear from me, but knowing that you always like to hear from your "old boys" whether they be in France or any other part of the globe I am taking this opportunity of writing to you...

... This war of wars still continues, but I don't think it can last much longer. I think there is no doubt that it is producing a big change in the human race. It is changing the trend of thought. The world is tired of war and those actually participating in it know how truly General Shearman [sic] spoke when he said war was hell.

National disagreements can be and should be settled by wise and fair arbitration, but it will be some time yet before we shall be able to do without armed navies...

Remember me to Mrs. Wesbrook and tell her I hope to be able to dish up some more coffee at UBC next year.

My dear Arthur:  
 ... Our existence out here would be very tame to you after all your experiences...

You are quite right in your remarks on world changes which are now being evolved. I think that even the most imaginative of us cannot predict the full outcome of the present crisis; in fact, no one of us will be able to say just how much he himself will be affected...



NOTHING is to be written on this side except the date and signature of the sender. Sentences not required may be erased. If anything else is added the post card will be destroyed.

I am quite well.  
 I have been admitted into hospital - sick - and am going on well.  
 I am being sent down to the base.  
 I have received your letter dated - telegram - parcel -  
 Letter follows at first opportunity.  
 I have received no letter from you -  
 for a long time...  
 Signature G. H. Kearne.  
 Date 20/12/16

Sometimes there was only time to tick a box and send a "field card." This one was sent to UBC by Lance Sergeant G. M. Kearne to let the students know he'd received their Christmas parcel. Kearne was discharged in August 1918.



Sketch of soldier from UBC's 1917 annual by H. Doyle, Science '20. Courtesy AMS Archives.

# THOUGHT YOU OUGHT TO KNOW

A SHORT STORY BY  
**ZSUZSI GARTNER, MFA'93**

ILLUSTRATION BY  
**YEVGENIA NAYBERG**

I'm remembering for you the time I stood at the corner of Broadway and Commercial and watched the future pass before my eyes.

This was a long while back, sometime during the winter of 2001. The Royal Bank was gone by then, as was the discount furniture place with its endless Final Offer!!! sales of brown naugahyde couches with chrome armrests, rattan CD racks, and objects d'art such as ceramic elephant-foot umbrella stands, as was Betty Brite's - the cleaners where the disgruntled man, his fingers slick with leftover take-out Thai, always insisted there had been *no belt* with that dress, *no top button* on that suede jacket, but because it was the only dry cleaners within miles (which tells you what kind of neighbourhood it used to be, a neighbourhood where there was *no great demand* for dry-cleaned clothes) I had continued to take in the occasional desperate, non-hand-washable item.

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

I had a soft spot for children then, not having any myself. Optimistic children with their clever little fingers holding brushes dripping with bright acrylics, painting pink birds and blue fish and crooked houses filled with hearts and giant eyes spiky with red lashes. Small children who meant no-one harm and whose joyful cut-outs were defaced by malcontents who'd decided progress was a disease curable via graffiti, that the carving up of the Grandview Cut was like a cancer of the prostate, a condition you could arrest if detected in its early stages. *Save the Cut*, they'd spray-painted across a purple heart in which sat a yellow cat. *People*

*not Profit* across my favourite cross-eyed salmon. You might have said that the people out in New Westminster at the end of the Millennium Line were people too; people who needed to get places. Most likely sorry, sad-eyed, carless people who couldn't afford to live in our progressive neighbourhood with its varied vegan, transgendered, and medical marijuana options. You could've said this. Although no-one did.

This was the Yuletide season, but I might not have even noticed if it hadn't been for the desultory Salvation Army Santa in her saggy outfit ringing her bell with the herky-jerky movements of a Haldol user. She did not possess the preternatural pep of a volunteer, but rather the glazed look of a conscript. Oh yes, and the squeegee people all wore Santa hats.

I was wondering about these hats - and how, if the squeegee men, as they all appeared to be young men, had the wherewithal to locate the shops selling these seasonal items and the money to spend on them, then why didn't they have the wherewithal to go find real jobs - when I noticed the baby.

The baby in question was unexceptional in every way. This was not one of those infants whose eyes brimmed with the wisdom of the ages, like a pygmy oracle of Delphi, or a baby of such intense buttery deliciousness that you wondered why it hadn't already been spread on a warm scone and gobbled up. It was a most forgettable baby except for the fact that it had no hat on its head.



People ought to have licenses to have children, this is something I've always felt strongly about.

As a registered nurse (on sabbatical at the time for a nervous condition that does not bear getting into) I knew a thing or two about babies. One important thing about babies is that they have massive heads in relation to the size of their bodies. The reason for this, as I learned from *Chatelaine* magazine and not nursing school, is purely Darwinian. That oversized head makes them look more appealing to the adult human and in circumstances when it's all a mother can do to keep from throwing her terrifying child from a 12th-floor tenement window, that disproportionate head, with its uncannily large eyes, can actually save the child's life. (That same article mentioned that a small-headed baby's chances of someday passing on its genes are about equal to a chinless man's.) Call it the Bobble-Head-Doll Effect. Celebrities are also known to have over-sized heads. Angelina Jolie. Alec Baldwin. Jay Leno. Mulroney, *père et fils*. They're practically hydrocephalic!

What I did learn in nursing school is that ninety percent of a baby's body heat can be lost through its head.

This mother was oblivious, though. She stood waiting for the lights to change, bouncing up and down on her heels in some kind of sport

shoe, her calf muscles twitching. The stroller was a regular Humvee of a thing, tricked out with shock absorbers and chrome bumpers. It was cold enough to snow, which was unusual for Vancouver. I watched a particularly fat flake land on the baby's forehead and melt down into its left eye. The child blinked rapidly once, twice, and the drop continued downwards. The mother didn't even notice. I could see steam rising from the baby's scalp as heat molecules made their escape. A quick Google search will reveal these to look alarmingly like pimento-stuffed green olives, which puts me in mind of gin martinis, a road I do not want to go down.

People ought to have licenses to have children, this is something I've always felt strongly about.

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

I was already planning a better life for the baby. A life safe from the harm wrought by adults tuned solely into their own overweening needs. Not knowing whether it was a girl or boy, I settled on the name Lee, which I've always thought was a nice unisex name. Lee would be a quiet child, not prone to extreme displays of emotion in either direction, a comfort in his or her mother's later years when inconsiderate neighbours stomped in and out at all hours tending to their hydroponic cash crop downstairs and especially during the late-night police raids.

I considered the possibility that in Lee's heartbeat I might detect a faint murmur, and accepted the fact that I would have to pray at Lee's hospital bedside - trying to not think about the tube down my child's throat, the vertical incision across its small chest - as the wages for all my sins. Lee would get better and, when older, somersault across the twilight lawn and clamour, politely, for a pony or a motocross bike. Lee would softly weep when we bury the cat and in a high,

clear voice recite a poem he (or she!) wrote.

As I was reliving the trip Lee and "Ma" would take together to visit the hedge mazes of England, the traffic lights changed and the mother reached into her pocket, pulled out a pink fleece cap with piggy ears, and fit it snugly over baby's head. That is how quickly dreams can be dashed.

I just thought you ought to know.

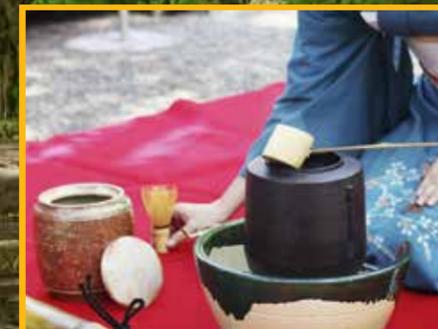
Vancouver writer **Zsuzsi Gartner** is the author of the bestselling story collection *All the Anxious Girls on Earth* and editor of the award-winning *Darwin's Bastards: Astounding Tales from Tomorrow*. Her short fiction and journalism have been widely published and anthologized, most recently in *The Walrus*, *Harper's*, and *Maisonneuve*, as well as broadcast on the CBC and on NPR in the US. She was an adjunct faculty member of UBC's *Optional Residency MFA in Creative Writing* from 2005 to 2012. *Zsuzsi's* latest book, *Better Living through Plastic Explosives*, was a finalist for the 2011 *Scotiabank Giller Prize*. Learn more at [zsuzsigartner.com](http://zsuzsigartner.com).

# Travel with *alumni UBC* It's your travel experience

Angkor period Temple,  
Siem Reap, Cambodia



Learn the secrets of Portuguese egg tarts



Participate in a Japanese tea ceremony



Observe the entertaining Blue-footed Booby



Paddle by a group of White-faced Capuchins

Indulge your curiosity as we take you to unique places you've always dreamed about.

UBC experts and knowledgeable local guides provide context. That allows you to develop a deep connection to the people you meet and the cultures, cuisines and landscapes you're exploring.

- Best value in educational travel
- Meaningful local experiences
- Thoughtful itineraries

## WHERE WE'RE HEADED:

Myanmar led by Paula Swart Feb. 2015

South India Feb. 2015

Bhutan and Nepal led by Paula Swart Mar. 2015

The Real Galapagos hosted by former UBC Chancellor,  
Sarah Morgan-Silvester Mar. 2015

Great Opera in Vienna led by Nancy Hermiston Mar. 2015

Japan: Food, Fitness and Healthy Ageing

led by Diane and Doug Clement Sep. 2015

Across Southeast Asia: Chinese Migrations and Cuisine  
led by Professor Henry Yu Mar. 2015

Costa Rica & Panama Canal Expedition Cruise  
led by Aaron Lawton Apr. 2015

Art in Florence led by Maggie Broda May 2015

South Africa: Namaqualand & the Cape Floral Kingdom  
in Bloom led by Gary Lewis Aug. 2015

Canada's Northwest Passage Aug. 2015

Portugal: A Food & Wine Exploration led by Gail Hall Oct. 2015

Mekong River Cruise Oct. 2015

WWII Battlefield Tour led by Edward Foster Nov. 2015

Antarctic Peninsula Adventure Dec. 2015

Request a detailed itinerary today!

[travel@worldwidequest.com](mailto:travel@worldwidequest.com)

1-800-387-1483 | 416-633-5666

or visit [WorldwideQuest.com/alumniUBC](http://WorldwideQuest.com/alumniUBC)

The *alumni UBC* travel  
program is presented by:  
Worldwide Quest International  
491 King St. E. Toronto, ON M5A 1L9  
TICO#: 2667946

**WorldwideQuest**  
*Alumni Expeditions*

ALUMNI.UBC.CA/TRAVEL

**alumniUBC**



## GUTS, GLORY AND GOLD

By the time most of us have been rudely awakened from a deep sleep by the shriek of our alarm clock, or the melodic – yet still annoying – chime of our smartphone, triathlete **Julie Miller**, *MSW'08*, has been up for hours and already completed a rigorous workout. And when most of us are starting to wind down for the evening, Miller's back at it – venturing out for a run, bike ride or swim. This is the sort of dedication and determination that recently netted her a gold medal at the Long distance Triathlon World Championships in Weihai, China, with a time of six hours 53 minutes and one second.

Miller's demanding schedule as a mom, volunteer, business owner and full-time therapist would leave most of us struggling to find time to squeeze in a coffee break. She credits her student days for some of the required discipline. "Being a rower at UBC definitely set me up well for early morning workouts," she says. "It is actually when I thrive."

Next up for Miller is the 2015 International Triathlon Union (ITU) World Championships in Sweden, at which she'll defend the podium, followed by Ironman Whistler a month later. Miller's ultimate goal is to qualify for triathlon's most iconic event – the Ironman World Championship in Kona, Hawaii. "I missed Kona last year by less than a minute, so I feel I have some unfinished business."

Congratulations to Julie Miller, *BSW'08*, who won a gold medal at the Long Distance Triathlon World Championships in Weihai, China.

loyalty and friendship that recounts the escapades of the authors as young dancers in an "avant garde" European jazz ballet troupe in the 1960s. Ross is currently working on an updated version of *Frugal Feasts* – a recipe book for students and singles on a tight budget. • **Michael Overton**, *BSc'74*, and his wife **Michele Menzies**, *BA'81*, will spend the next academic year working and travelling in Britain and Europe. Overton will be on sabbatical from his faculty position in computer science at New York University's Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences. Their travel plans include: Edinburgh, Dubrovnik (Croatia), Lausanne, Berlin, Paris, Toulouse and Limoges. They have been brushing up on their French and hope to return from sabbatical with greatly improved fluency. • After running a successful IT business, **Madeleine Harris-Callway**, *PhD'76*, is now a full-time author whose award-winning crime fiction short stories have appeared in several magazines and anthologies. Her debut novel, *Windigo Fire* tells the story of a young Native Canadian caught up in an illegal bear hunt and his struggle to survive the wilderness and the criminals pursuing him. Under different titles, the novel was short-listed for both the Unhanged Arthur and the Debut Dagger awards for best unpublished crime novel. • **Andre Lafargue**, *MSc'76*, received the 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award from Speech-Language and Audiology Canada (SAC) for his work in establishing and developing numerous programs and initiatives that have left an indelible mark

on the association and the profession. He established the audiology and speech-language pathology department at Grand Falls Regional Hospital, was the first director of audiology and speech-language pathology at the Dr. Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital in Fredericton, and served as regional manager of audiology and speech-language pathology services for River Valley Health. His lobbying and advocacy work has established speech-language pathology and audiology positions in hospitals and schools and ensured that all newborns in New Brunswick undergo hearing screening at birth. Lafargue was also the driving force behind the installation of approximately 5,000 sound-field systems in New Brunswick classrooms. He has been a practicing clinician and an SAC member for 37 years. • **Sheldon Smithens**, *BA'77*, has been active in the antiques and fine art trade in Western Canada for more than 30 years. Smithens is an auctioneer and certified appraiser who has donated his skills to a wide array of charitable causes over his career, and has operated a successful retail antiques establishment. For many years, he taught a continuing education class at the University of Calgary called *Antiques, Art & Auctions*. Smithens has appeared as an expert on *The Canadian Antiques Roadshow* and most recently, he has been the co-host of the popular television show *Canadian Pickers*. Smithens jokes he was spotted on campus recently attempting to purchase several treasures in the Museum of Anthropology, and he was surprised to learn that Campus Security still has an active file on him dating back to the 1970s. • In May 2014, **Lorraine Fader**, *BMus'77*, received her Doctorate of Music in Horn Performance from Florida State University. She is currently living in Tallahassee, teaching at Florida A & M University and playing in a number of local orchestras. • **Peggy Fisher**, *MA'80*, along with her husband, John Fisher, was named Entrepreneur of the Year by Memorial University in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, for their establishment Fishers' Loft. The couple opened Fishers' Loft as a four-room B&B in 1997. Today, it is a 33-room inn, restaurant, conference centre and

art gallery. In 2013, The Fishers also received the Patron of the Arts Award from the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council for their work. • **Suzanne Windsor-Liscombe**, *BMus'80, Dip(Ed)'91, MEd'92, EdD'14* (née Dittrich) was thrilled to receive her doctorate in educational policy and leadership on May 22, 2014. The occasion was particularly memorable because her son, **Owen**, *BA'14*, received his degree in history on the same day. • In addition to receiving the 2014 UBC Alumni Teaching Award, **Scott Ormiston**, *BEd'82*, recently received a Prime Minister's Certificate of Achievement. Ormiston believes critical thinking, goal setting, and working with others are necessary tools for lifetime learning and becoming a socially responsible citizen. He encourages these skills in his students by providing specialized study sessions to build their confidence, using a "Brag Board" to highlight achievements, and guiding students as they start projects that generate money for the school community. • **Eileen Hoeter**, *BA'82, MFA'88*, has been keeping busy building a B&B in Mexico near Barra de Navidad. The Villa Star of the Sea is set to open this winter. • After 25 years working as a freelance journalist in BC and NS, **Marjorie Simmins**, *BA'84*, has published her first book, *Coastal Lives: a Memoir*. The book tells the story of the evolving love affair between Simmins on the Pacific coast and fellow writer Silver Donald Cameron on the Atlantic coast with humour and candour. At its heart, *Coastal Lives* is a celebration of all things East Coast and all things West Coast. • **Paige Larson**, *BPE'84*, President and CEO, North Shore Sports Medicine, was awarded the AIR MILES Reward Program Social Impact Small Business Achievement award at a ceremony held at the Toronto Board of Trade in February. • In 1986, after 12 years living in Canada, **Michelle Painter**, *BA'85*, returned to her home country of Australia, where she studied law and has worked as a solicitor and a barrister. In October 2013, Painter, who specializes in commercial law, was appointed a senior counsel for the State of New South Wales. She is also the chair of the Women Barristers Forum NSW

## CLASS ACTS

Congratulations to **Loren**, *BA'53, MA'56*, and **Eileen**, *BHE'49*, **Calder**. The couple, who met at UBC, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary at *alumni UBC's* Toronto International Film Festival event in September. • At the 2013 March of Dimes AGM, **Doug Harvey-Smith**, *BASc'54*, was honoured with the Reverend Roy Essex Award. The award is given to a long-term volunteer who has demonstrated a high degree of commitment and made an outstanding contribution. For the past 14 years Harvey-Smith has volunteered with (and is now chair of) the Ottawa Chapter of DesignAbility – a group of March of Dimes volunteers who build unique devices for persons with disabilities. • Following graduation, **John Chrysochoos**, *MSc'62, PhD'64*, joined the faculty at the University of Toledo (Ohio), where he stayed from 1967-2004, with additional academic assignments at Bowling Green State University, the University of Western Ontario, the University of Crete and the University of Patras. After retiring from the University of Toledo (Ohio), Chrysochoos took up a past passion in his life – writing – and has published four books. The second edition of his first book, *Beyond the Blue Ikarian Sea: Life in Greece and North America*, is now available. The autobiography is spiced with history, political and social science and education from approximately 1939 to the present and includes chapters that feature life and education in Vancouver and at UBC. • **Mary Ross**, *BA'63*, has co-authored, *Leotard: The Story of Jazz ballet Rodney*, with fellow dancer Sally Faverot de Kerbrech. *Leotard* is a funny tale of



Casey Hamilton isn't about to let good food go to waste. Photo: Paul Marck.

## FRUITFUL WORK

This year, a whopping 20,000 pounds of fruit – the equivalent of an adult elephant, tractor, or mobile home – that would have otherwise been left to drop and rot on the ground, was harvested by the Okanagan Fruit Tree Project and donated to charitable community groups in the Okanagan.

It's an accomplishment that the organization's founder and president **Casey Hamilton**, *BSc'07*, is proud of.

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

Today, the Okanagan Fruit Tree Project's premise is simple, yet resourceful: volunteers harvest extra fruit from the trees, donate it to charitable community groups, and share a portion among the tree owners and volunteers. The initiative provides access to fresh, healthy food for people who can't afford it. This year, more than 300 volunteers have picked cherries, apricots, peaches, pears, plums, apples and grapes and distributed them to approximately 25 organizations across the Central Okanagan.

In addition to operating this non-profit organization, Hamilton is pursuing her master's degree in urban agriculture policy at the UBC Okanagan campus, where she's the campus health research coordinator. In recognition of her work, Hamilton was recently awarded top honour in the Environmental Leader category of the Kelowna Capital News 2014 Community Leader Awards, and nominated as one of Kelowna's Top 40 Under 40. For more information, visit [fruittreeproject.com](http://fruittreeproject.com).

and works to improve the participation and retention of women barristers at the NSW Bar. • **Georgia Hunter**, *BE'd'87*, has produced an audio book from her novel *Yubi and the Blue-tailed Rat*, narrated by Judith Leech. Sound effects/music were recorded in Big World Sound (Rukkus House) by Doug Paterson. Hunter was also recently featured in a podcast with award-winning author Alexandra Amor. • The Montana Pharmacy Association selected **Dr. Mark Donaldson**, *BSc'90*, as the recipient of Montana's 2014 Hygeia Award for outstanding community service. The award is sponsored by the American Pharmacists Association Foundation and the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations. As an internationally recognized symbol for pharmacy, the Bowl of Hygeia is one of the profession's most prestigious awards, recognizing pharmacists who possess outstanding records of civic leadership in their communities. • **Arthur Wolak**, *BA'90*, *Dip(AHIST)'94*, and his wife, Dr. Anna Wolak are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Joshua, born on June 6, 2014. Joshua is a brother for Jacob, who is very pleased to have a younger sibling. The same month, Arthur Wolak's book, *The Development of Managerial Culture: a Comparative Study of Australia and Canada*, was accepted for a fall publication release. • Fine arts theatre grad, **Barbara Philip**, *BFA'90*, made a name for herself in the international world of wine when she became Canada's first female Master of Wine in 2008. Today, Philip is living the dream as a portfolio manager for the BC Liquor Distribution Branch, travelling to Europe several times a year to select wines for BC Liquor Stores. She is also the wine columnist on CBC Radio's *On the Coast*, a regular contributor to *Taste Magazine* and a guest instructor for the Wine and Spirit Education Trust Diploma program at the Art Institute of Vancouver. • In April, **Anthony Maretic**, *BCom'93*, and his executive colleagues rang the opening bell at the NYSE. The team was in New York to celebrate the Initial Public Offering of Vancouver-based entity City Office REIT. • **Sue Sorensen**, *MA'93*, *PhD'99*, has released her latest book, *The Collar: Reading Christian Ministry in Fiction, Television, and Film*. The book

## A SUMMER CAMP FOR ADULTS WITH APHASIA

When **Christy Campbell**, *BSc'96*, had a stroke in 2005, she lost her ability to speak and was left with one word: "yes." Aged just 31, Campbell was diagnosed with aphasia – a neurological disorder that impairs a person's ability to comprehend and express language. While Campbell could understand what her friends were saying, she could not participate in the conversations.

Rather than be silenced by aphasia, Campbell worked tirelessly to regain her speech and find new purpose in life. In 2010, she partnered with **Dr. Barbara Purves**, *MSc'76*, *PhD'06*, associate professor in UBC's School of Audiology and Speech Sciences and co-founded the Sea to Sky Aphasia Camp. The camp's recreational activities help people with aphasia learn new ways to connect with one another in an environment adapted to their unique physical and communication needs. It also provides opportunities for UBC's occupational, physical and recreational therapy students to work alongside medical and speech-language therapy students.

Today Campbell's struggle to communicate isn't conspicuous, thanks to the speech-language pathologists who were not only instrumental in her recovery, but also encouraged her to become an advocate. "Christy's advocacy in support of people with communication disorders

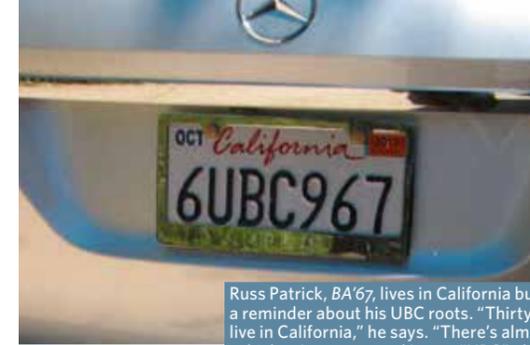
is a study of the many ways (heroic or comic, shrewd or dastardly) Christian leaders have been represented on page and screen. Sorensen teaches in Winnipeg in the Department of English at Canadian Mennonite University. Her previous book, *a Large Harmonium*, won the Best First Book prize at the Manitoba Book Awards in 2012. • **Gudrun Honig**, *BA'97*, has published her second book *Getting to know you, getting to know all about you* which follows, *My Journey to the New World*. • **Greg Bauder**, *BA'98*, has released a new novella, *Spilt Coffee*, based on his 37-year struggle with schizoaffective disorder. The book tells the story of three aging schizoaffective men who are lost and disillusioned and live vicariously for the love of the beautiful young Filipino nurse who looks after them. Bauder's work has been published in several Canadian literary magazines including *The Existere*, *Vallum* and *Quills Poetry*. • **James D. Kondopulos**, *BCom'00*, *LLB'03*, was named by his peers to the 2015 Best Lawyers in Canada list. • The University of Alberta recently awarded **Dr. Diane Orihel**, *BSc'00*, with a 2014 Alumni Horizon Award, which recognizes the outstanding achievements of its alumni early in their careers. Orihel is an outspoken defender of freshwater science and evidence-based science policy. • Congratulations to **Bev Sellars**, *LLB'01*, whose book, *They Called Me Number One*, was awarded the Burt Award for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Literature third prize at a gala held in Winnipeg in September. As a result, 2,500 copies of her book will be distributed to Aboriginal youth across Canada. • **Doretta Lau**, *BFA'01*, *BA'03*, has been named as one of CBC Books 2014 Writers to Watch. In September, her short story collection, *How Does a Single Blade of Grass Thank the Sun?*, was shortlisted for the City of Vancouver Book Award. • This summer, **Kimberley Nelson Janke**, *BSc'02*, studied sustainable approaches to human-wildlife coexistence at the Maasai Mara National Reserve in the South Rift Valley of Kenya. Kimberley, a senior mammal keeper at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park took the graduate course in pursuit of her master's degree from Miami University's Global Field Program. • **Jenn Neilson**, *BA'03*, *MA'06*, has started a kids' clothing company called Jill and Jack Kids to inspire the next generation of leaders to think

has been crucial to raising awareness about aphasia and speech-language pathologists," says Dr. Valter Ciocca, director of UBC's School of Audiology and Speech Sciences.

In September 2014, the BC Government announced a multi-million dollar investment in UBC's Speech-Language Pathology program – increasing the number of spaces by 56 per cent by 2016. "It is people like Christy, and her husband, Sean Standing, who should take credit for the government's decision," said Ciocca. In honour of Campbell and Purves, UBC recently established The Campbell-Purves Aphasia Education Fund to support aphasia education and increase awareness. For more information on the Sea to Sky Aphasia Camp visit [seatoskyaphasiacamp.com](http://seatoskyaphasiacamp.com).



Christy Campbell is raising awareness about communications disorders.



Russ Patrick, *BA'67*, lives in California but recently received a reminder about his UBC roots. "Thirty-seven million people live in California," he says. "There's almost that many motor vehicles, I suspect, and I get a "UBC" plate in the mail!"

beyond pink and blue. The gender neutral clothes promote gender equality and help to prevent bullying by eliminating harmful gender stereotypes. • **Brian Hall**, *BA'04*, has salvaged, reclaimed and upcycled the gymnasium floors from the now demolished Kelowna Secondary School. The 1,600 square feet of flooring, originally destined for landfill, will be installed in Hall's house in the Guischigan area. • **Julia Boyle**, *BA'07*, was recently recruited by the United Nations Volunteer Programme to serve as the Women's Protection Advisor for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali and is very excited about this new adventure and the opportunity to serve the international community. Mali will be Boyle's ninth country of residence in the past 10 years after Uganda, New Zealand, Ghana, South Korea, Sweden, Liberia, Botswana, and Canada. Boyle will develop a training manual on sexual and gender-based violence in conflict and train the military, police and civil society actors to better protect women and children, and better respond to cases of abuse. • Attorney **Sonja Beddow**, *BA'08*, has joined the Collections Department at Messerli & Kramer. Beddow received her juris doctorate, summa cum laude, from the Hamline University School of Law. While completing her degree, Beddow was a managing editor for the *Law Review*, acted as the program chair for the Hamline Women's Legal Caucus and received a Best Oralist Award in the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court. She is a volunteer attorney for Wills for Heroes, where she assists first responders with estate planning. • **Trevor Marc Hughes**, *BE'd'11*, has published his book, *Nearly 40 on the 37: triumph and trepidation on the Stewart-Cassiar Highway*, which recounts his August 2012 exploration on his motorcycle of a remote part of British Columbia along Highway 37. During the journey Hughes made new friends, fought old challenges, and searched to have an authentic travel experience in his home province. • **Dr. Cindy Holmes**, *PhD'13*, was awarded a three-year postdoctoral fellowship from the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research, as well as a CIHR-funded IMPART Postdoctoral Fellowship, in the Centre for the Study of Gender, Social Inequities and Mental Health, in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Simon Fraser University. • At the 2014 Toronto International Film Festival, the following eight films featured the work of UBC alumni: *Monsoon*, directed by **Sturla Gunnarsson**, *BA'74*; *Trick or Treaty*, directed by **Alanis Obomsawin**, *LLD'10*; *Bang Bang Baby* – co-produced by **Sidney Chiu**, *BA'02*; *Wetbum* – produced by **Lauren Grant**, *BA'04*; *Editors* – executive producer **Andria Spring**, *BA'05*; *Songs She Wrote About People She Knows* – produced by **Amy Belling**, *BA'03*; *Teen Lust* – cinematographer, **James Liston**, *BA'99*, and editor **Mark Shearer**, *DFST'98*; *Preggoland* – production designed by **Caitlin Byrnes**, *BFA'13*. 📺

What have you been up to lately? Send your news to [trek.magazine@ubc.ca](mailto:trek.magazine@ubc.ca) or to the address on page 3. Have photographic evidence? Mail us original photos or email high resolution scans (preferably 300dpi). Please note that Trek is also published online.

## OBAMACARE DREAM TEAM

It was the opportunity of a lifetime and **Stephanie Van Dyk**, *BSc'13*, seized it. The recently launched and highly anticipated *ObamaCare* website had been plagued with problems from day one. It crashed on launch day, and several times thereafter, and when millions of Americans attempted to sign up they encountered endless technical glitches. The US government needed the best-of-the-best to fix it. Fast.

Software engineers, developers, designers and analysts from companies such as Facebook and Google, where Van Dyk is a site reliability engineer, were hastily recruited. As one of them, Van Dyk worked 12-16 hour days, travelling between Washington, DC, and Columbia, Maryland, as part of the "tech surge" team responsible for stabilizing the website. Van Dyk took unpaid leave from her job because she believed in the mission. "For me, this was all about actually bringing health care to the US, which I view as a great social responsibility," she says.

The Obama administration's target of seven million enrollments by March 31, 2014, seemed implausible after the disastrous launch. However, within a few months the elite team of experts had the website functioning and by April, the government had exceeded its goal with eight million enrollments. Every team member was personally thanked for their role by President Obama at a reception held in the White House.



Stephanie Van Dyk was thanked by Barack Obama. Photo: Andrew Widdowson

# BOOKS

## REVIEWS BY TERESA GOFF

### The Elusive Mr. Pond: The Soldier, Fur Trader and Explorer Who Opened the Northwest

By Barry Gough, BEd'62  
Douglas & McIntyre

230 pages

Peter Pond is a ghost to history. Alexander Mackenzie, the Scottish explorer who mapped the river that bears his name, is not. But Pond's maps of the Canadian northwest and his understanding of the Athabasca waterways, as well as the First Nations who lived there, contributed to the success not only of Mackenzie but arguably the explorers Lewis and Clark. Yet no portrait of Pond survives. In *The Elusive Mr. Pond: The Soldier, Fur Trader and Explorer Who Opened the Northwest* historian Barry Gough fills in the blank spaces. Gough shows that an inflammatory personality, a lack of education and the whims of fate placed Pond on the margins despite his substantial contributions to history. Pond opened up the northwest. He was a founding partner in the Hudson Bay Company's fur-trading rival, the North West Company, and his maps led to the discovery of the route to the Pacific. He was also implicated in two murders.

Pond was born in 1739 to a Puritan shoemaker in Milford, Connecticut. His life, says Gough, follows the rise and fall of the First British Empire – a time of national ambitions and imperial rivalries to increase geographical knowledge and expand trade routes. Pond fought under General Amherst when the British defeated the French at Montreal in 1760. He was one of the original members of the now infamous Beaver Club, a club for gentlemen who had endured the savage dangers of the Canadian fur trade. And he witnessed firsthand the smallpox epidemic that wiped out many Native peoples.

*The Elusive Mr. Pond* tells the story of a pivotal figure lost to history but also tells the story of the destruction of land and people in pursuit of profit. In 1778, his first year trading, Pond amassed 100,000 beaver pelts. By the end of the twentieth century, the beaver had been trapped to near extinction. In his memoirs, Pond describes a prairie landscape teeming with buffalo, Lake Winnipeg full of pelicans, First Nations tribes that were plentiful and powerful. Pond's story is a reminder that even those invisible to history have an impact on the future.

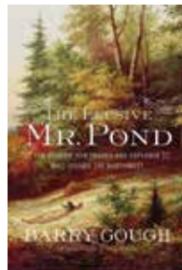
### Closing Time: Prohibition, Rum Runners, and Border Wars

By Daniel Francis, BA'69  
Douglas & McIntyre

186 pages

If the connection between prohibition and the war on drugs is not immediately apparent, then you should read Daniel Francis' book *Closing Time: Prohibition, Rum Runners, and Border Wars*. Peopled with exciting characters and rife with engaging anecdotes, the thoroughly researched book (which includes more than 200 images) illustrates how difficult it was for the Canadian provincial and federal governments to enforce a law that nobody wanted to obey.

Prohibition had been an issue since 1864, when the Canada Temperance Act prohibited the retail sale of alcohol – but only if supported by a majority vote.



It was not until 1918 that all provinces, with the exception of Quebec, enacted prohibition under the War Measures Act. Prohibition banned the manufacture and importation of alcohol, but each province had different terms. As a result, there was an opportunity to make a handsome profit through interprovincial trade and export to the United States, where alcohol was banned from 1920 to 1933. *Closing Time* shows that attempts to restrict alcohol created syndicates of crime and violence. What started as an attempt to control the social habits of ordinary Canadians had unexpected effects. In Francis' words: "Criminals became folk heroes; ordinary people became criminals."

Doctors and pharmacists became bootleggers, a term derived from smuggling bottles of alcohol in boot tops. Farmers built illegal stills. Fishermen used their boats to smuggle liquor into the United States. Brewers marketed their beverages as healthy fruit tonics. In the 1920s, liquor tourists from the United States travelled north to participate in nightlife "fuelled by liquor and driven by new music." By the end of that decade, liquor tourists from the States spent an estimated \$300M in Canada.

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

### Naked in Academe: 50 Years of Creative Writing at UBC

Edited by Rhea Tregobov  
McClelland & Stewart

400 pages

"There is a moment of impact that is the last instant of things as they are." This is the second last sentence of an excerpt from Steven Galloway's award-winning novel *The Cellist*. It is reprinted in an anthology celebrating fifty years of creative writing at UBC. There are almost 50 pieces in *Naked in Academe*, including short stories, poetry, film scripts and narrative essays. Each carries as much wallop as the last.

"Sheets of rain splatter on the water like frying bacon" in Eden Robinson's essay "*The Octopus Beds*" in which the Haisla author describes her home at the head of the Douglas Channel. In Laisha Rosnau's poetry, we "are gutted by splendor". In Bill Gaston's story about a woman who discovers sex is killing her, we discover "The sweetness of long-lost. That lovely glue." In other pieces, characters come unglued. Lee Henderson's story of a man set adrift on a glacial shelf explores the conflict between man and nature but, in the end, the conflict is with society. A magazine intern in New York has imaginary conversations with Joan Didion. A Jewish man "raised with the paranoia of extinction" imagines the cosmos inside him after taking a hit of acid and realizes that all the world's pain and suffering is an illusion.

Naked in academe was the name of UBC's first-ever creative writing course, taught by poet Earle Birney. Writer Jack Hodgson's narrative essay, "*Postscript from a prehistoric*", recalls Birney's fiction class as a place where: "We asked. We



learned. We tried again." That single course, which started in 1946, grew into an entire department by 1963.

Editor Rhea Tregobov had a wealth of solid writing to draw upon. *Naked in Academe* is at once fresh and modern, and includes some literary luminaries yet to enter the limelight, as well as writers like Giller prize-winner Steven Galloway and poet George McWhirter, a life member of the league of Canadian poets. *Naked in Academe* represents the diversity and strength of the UBC writing program. It is an excellent read.

### Canoodlers

By Andrea Bennett, MFA'12  
Nightwood Editions

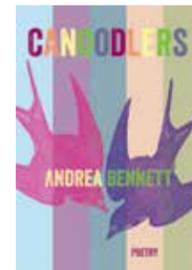
73 pages

It is hard to believe that certain words, like canoodler, are real but according to the *Merriam Webster Dictionary*, a canoodler is a person who shows affection in public places. Andrea Bennett's poetry collection, *Canoodlers*, is a public display of all that makes one raw: love, sex, friendship and family. Her choice of a relatively unknown and absurdly silly sounding word as the title points to the wit and intelligence layered in these 73 pages.

The title-poem comes halfway through. Two canoodlers sit nose-to-nose in a restaurant booth at Buffalo Bill's in Whistler. The poem is presented as a first-person account, as are many of the book's pieces. Bennett tells this story about the canoodlers at Buffalo Bill's to her friend, who replies: Oh no, nothing can be named that after you've seen *Silence of the Lambs*. Pop-cultural references – like this one about the fictional serial killer Jame Gumb, nicknamed Buffalo Bill in the book *Silence of the Lambs* – are peppered throughout. Few are explained. Most are laid out as a reminder of what fills the empty spaces between noses in restaurant booths, between friends on road trips, between family members at Thanksgiving dinners. Family members make regular appearances with the exception of Bennett's brother, who has flown her home more than once in exchange for a promise she would never write about him. Her father starts the collection in the *Epigraph*, her Nana appears many times, as does her stepfather and mother.

In a poem called "*There's a Story*", a 12-year-old Bennett crosses her mother by mistakenly comparing her with a girl in too-short cut-offs. In "*There's another story*", Bennett's mother drinks at the Air Force Club and refuses to let Bennett drive her home. By page 37, Bennett's mother de-friends her on Facebook.

Bennett gropes and mauls, pokes and prods, until she uncovers much of her life – but it isn't an idle exercise in self-reflection. Bennett pulls the universal out of her personal tales. Her writing is incisive, her humour hilarious, her poetic sensibility solid. **■**



a place of mind  
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## Vantage College

### What is UBC Vantage College?

UBC Vantage College is your starting point to a UBC degree. The only international college of its kind at a top Canadian university, UBC Vantage College offers a unique first year university program, known as **Vantage One**.

**Vantage One** is an integrated program for international students, combining degree coursework with academic English instruction. Vantage One students enjoy access to all UBC Campus facilities and are guaranteed a place in residence.

### Vantage One Program Streams

**Vantage One** currently offers four streams of study:

- › Bachelor of Arts
- › Bachelor of Applied Science in Engineering
- › Bachelor of Management (UBCO)
- › Bachelor of Science

### The UBC Vantage College Candidate

Our ideal candidate meets the following:

- is an international student
- is graduating from an academic or university preparatory program at a recognized institution
- achieved a minimum score of 70 on the TOEFL iBT with no section less than 16 OR a minimum overall score of 5.5 on the IELTS with a minimum band score of 5.0 in Speaking and Listening and 5.5 in Reading and Writing
- alternatively, successfully completed ELS EAP 112, which will satisfy the English Language Admission requirements for entry to UBC Vantage College. In this case, the TOEFL and IELTS requirements outlined above will be waived.

YOUR STARTING POINT TO A UBC DEGREE



Your starting point.  
Your degree.  
Your future.



Orchard Commons is our new LEED-certified building, coming fall 2016



For information regarding admissions, and further details about our program, please visit [vantagecollege.ubc.ca](http://vantagecollege.ubc.ca).

t. 604.827.0337  
e. [apply@vantagecollege.ubc.ca](mailto:apply@vantagecollege.ubc.ca)  
[www.vantagecollege.ubc.ca](http://www.vantagecollege.ubc.ca)



"Great Trek" to the T-bird stadium in September for a Homecoming game against the Calgary Dinos. Photo by Rich Lam.



# T-BIRDS DIGEST

## 2014 HOMECOMING A CROWD RAISER

The Thunderbirds football team kicked off its season by scoring a major win with fans, drawing 4,245 of them to a sun-drenched David Sidoo Field at Thunderbird Stadium for the September 13 Canada West home opener against the league-leading Calgary Dinos. The largest crowd to attend a game at UBC in recent memory included alumni of all ages and a healthy contingent of students, several hundred of whom assembled at Martha Piper Plaza to take part in "The Great Trek" to the stadium plaza, where a street party was held to jump-start football's 90th season.

"Our staff teamed up with colleagues from *alumni UBC* and produced fantastic results, with huge attendance and a superbly run event," says **Ashley Howard**, UBC's managing director of Athletics and Recreation.

"Calgary obviously has an extraordinary team this year, so the result wasn't what we hoped for, but we proved that people can get excited about Thunderbird events, including students and alumni."

Attendees included newly installed President and Vice-Chancellor, **Arvind Gupta**, who talked with throngs of students and participated in selfies with many of them throughout the afternoon. Thunderbird alumnus extraordinaire and recently appointed UBC governor **David Sidoo** joined other former team members from the 1950s right up to last season. Also in attendance was Sidoo's former coach, the ever-iconic **Frank Smith**, who at 81 still appears more than fit enough to command troops from the sidelines.



UBC President Arvind Gupta performs the coin toss. Photo by Rich Lam.

## CAPITAL REPORT

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

Meanwhile, the area north of War Memorial Gym will soon be home to a new state-of-the-art Aquatic Centre that will service the needs of varsity swim teams, students and the broader UBC community. With completion scheduled for 2016, the facility is a \$40M project, with a little over two-thirds of the funding provided by UBC Properties Trust. "We are responsible for about 30 per cent of the costs so naturally this has become a major thrust in our current development efforts, but a very important one," says Howard, adding that Athletics and Recreation is also proceeding with plans for a new baseball training facility in Thunderbird Park, thanks to a generous donor gift.

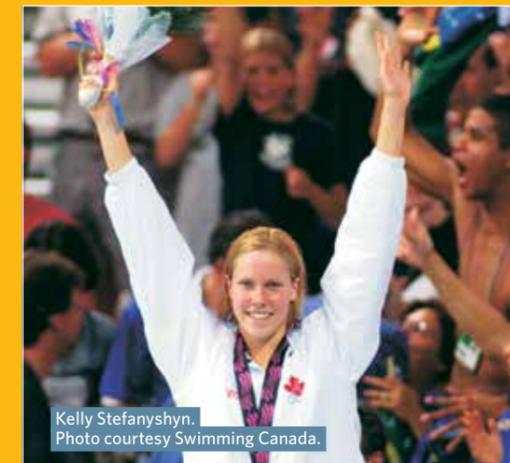
## ZLC FINANCIAL GROUP TO HOST MILLENNIUM SCHOLARSHIP BREAKFAST

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

Looking further ahead, UBC Athletics and Recreation staff and a team of eager student and alumni volunteers will soon be making plans to host the 2016 CIS Final Eight Men's Basketball Championships. "It will be the first time in over 30 years the Championship has been held in Western Canada," said director of Athletics, Operations and Student-Athlete Services **Theresa Hanson**, who tabled the successful bid to host the three-day Canadian version of March Madness. Interestingly, the last time UBC hosted the national championships was 1972, when the late **Peter Mullins** coached his UBC charges to a crowning finish. Led by a 43-point performance by graduating senior **Ron Thorsen**, the only UBC player ever to be drafted into the NBA, the Thunderbirds dispatched the University of Windsor Lancers 117-84 in the tournament final.



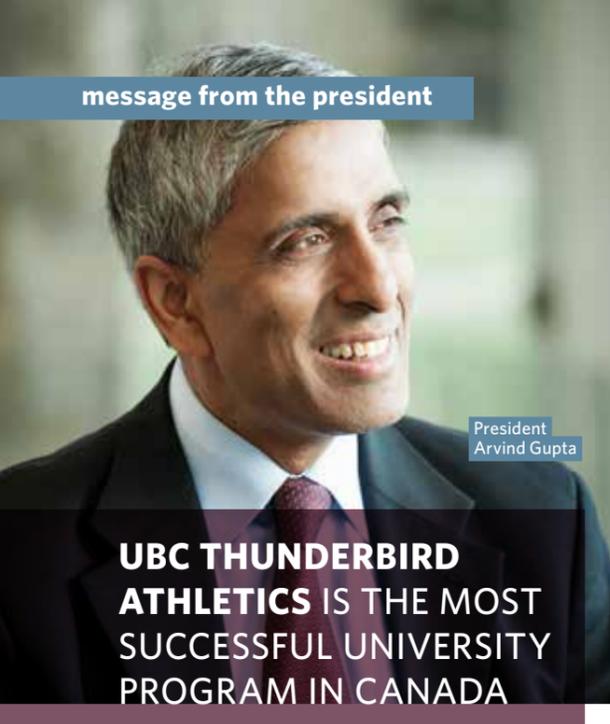
Brian Johns. Photo by Rich Lam.



Kelly Stefanyshyn. Photo courtesy Swimming Canada.

## UBC SPORTS HALL OF FAME SALUTES SWIMMERS

During UBC Swimming's "Decade of Dominance" from 1998 to 2007, the men's and women's teams both captured 10 consecutive CIS crowns. The 2015 Big Block Club Awards and Sports Hall of Fame Dinner will feature a tribute to all UBC varsity swimmers of this period in what will be the largest-ever induction in the Team category, involving some 125 team members. Olympians **Brian Johns** and **Kelly Stefanyshyn**, who lead all UBC swimmers in CIS career medal count with 34 and 31 respectively, will also be inducted in the Athlete category. But the loudest ovation of the evening may be reserved for **Tom Johnson**, the founder and architect of the modern UBC swim program, who is being honoured in the Builder category. The Montreal native took over from **Jack Kelso** as UBC swim coach almost 25 years ago. A veteran Olympics team coach, Johnson produced countless international competitors and synchronized the resources of UBC's program with the famed Pacific Dolphins to form a revered national swim centre at UBC in 1998. The Sports Hall of Fame tribute will take place almost 50 years to the day after Jack Pomfret's 1964-65 men's swim team won UBC's first-ever CIS (then CIAU) championship in any sport.



President Arvind Gupta

## UBC THUNDERBIRD ATHLETICS IS THE MOST SUCCESSFUL UNIVERSITY PROGRAM IN CANADA

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

Beyond varsity, UBC Athletics also benefits the rest of the student body. At UBC Vancouver, more than 23,000 students participated in a program or intramural sport last year, and 29,000 students, alumni and other community members turned out to cheer at Thunderbird games. In Kelowna, the UBC Okanagan Heat has emerged as a competitive new UBC presence

## EVENTS

**YOUR NEXT STEP: Becoming a Leader**  
January 28, 2015

There's no single path to becoming a successful leader. Although hard work and foresight are important traits, it sometimes comes down to being the right person at the right time. But there are concrete steps you can take to ensure that when opportunity knocks, you're ready to answer. Join us for *The Next Step: Becoming a Leader*, where business and community leaders will offer insight on how they got where they are. They'll share key pieces of advice from their own journeys as well as tips on how to get your foot in the door, find a mentor, and develop your leadership skills. If you're looking for inspiration and guidance on how to join the leadership ranks and advance your career, this is your opportunity to learn from some of the Lower Mainland's successful leaders.

**THE GRAPE DEBATE**  
**Trends vs Terroir: What should drive a winery's decisions?**  
January 30, 2015

Wine drinkers, like all consumers, have clear and ever-changing preferences. As some grape varieties and styles come into fashion, others become less popular. So where does this leave wineries? Viticulture requires long-term commitment to grape varieties, making it difficult for wineries to follow these trends. At the same time, some would argue that it serves everyone's best interests for wineries to follow their winemaking instincts, planting the most suitable grapes for their particular terroir.

Join us for *The Grape Debate*, where our panel of wine experts will debate whether BC wineries should follow trends or focus on terroir. Following the program, sip your way through some of the finest BC VQA wines and cast your vote on the debate!

[ALUMNI.UBC.CA/EVENTS/](http://ALUMNI.UBC.CA/EVENTS/)

on the national scene, with remarkable successes as full members of CIS Canada West and tremendous engagement with the community.

Athletics are a rich part of UBC's history and crucial to its future success. The annual UBC Millennium Breakfast in Vancouver and UBC Okanagan Athletics Scholarship Breakfast in Kelowna have raised \$11M to date, and created generous endowments in support of student-athletes on both campuses.

The graduation rates, the number of wins, the level of community spirit, the amount of support – all these are important markers of the program's success, but my favourite marker is the 164 Academic All-Canadians produced on both campuses of UBC last year – student-athletes who achieve an academic standing of 80 per cent or better while playing on a varsity team.

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

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

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

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

As we look to the future, it's interesting to recall the best of our past, including the origin of the UBC Vancouver totem. In the Kwakwaka'wakw tradition, the Thunderbird is a creature so powerful that its wing beats cause the thunder and stir the wind. For UBC, it is also a symbol of reconciliation. The first Thunderbird pole – Victory through Honour – was presented to UBC by the Kwakwaka'wakw carver Ellen Neel and Chief William Scow at a homecoming game in 1948. Recognizing that UBC had been using the totem since 1934, the Kwakwaka'wakw reached out with the hand of friendship and presented the pole as a kind of blessing.

It is our ongoing challenge to do justice to that honour as we celebrate a century of tradition and firm the foundation for the next hundred years. **T**

TD Insurance

You've paid your dues.  
Start paying less with TD Insurance.

When you choose TD Insurance Meloche Monnex, we are able to provide financial and marketing support for alumni programs, communications and services.

alumniUBC

Request a quote at 1-888-589-5656 or visit [melochemonnex.com/ubc](http://melochemonnex.com/ubc)

University graduates can save more.

At TD Insurance, we recognize all the time and effort you put into getting where you are. That's why, as an *alumni UBC* member, you have access to our TD Insurance Meloche Monnex program which offers preferred group rates and various additional discounts. You'll also benefit from our highly personalized service and great protection that suits your needs. Get a quote today and see how much you could save.

HOME | AUTO



The TD Insurance Meloche Monnex program is underwritten by SECURITY NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY. It is distributed by Meloche Monnex Insurance and Financial Services Inc. in Quebec, by Meloche Monnex Financial Services Inc. in Ontario, and by TD Insurance Direct Agency Inc. in the rest of Canada. Our address in Quebec: 50 Place Crémazie, Montreal (Quebec) H2P 1B6. Due to provincial legislation, our auto insurance program is not offered in British Columbia, Manitoba or Saskatchewan. ©The TD logo and other TD trade-marks are the property of The Toronto-Dominion Bank.



LEARN BUSINESS WHERE BUSINESS IS  
14-MONTH FULL-TIME MBA PROGRAMME



Worldwide Recognition

THE ECONOMIST

- 2014 Full-time MBA Ranking  
**No. 27 in the world and No. 1 in Asia for the 5th consecutive year**
- Return on Investment (ROI) of Full-time MBA programmes 2013  
**No. 3 in the world**

FINANCIAL TIMES

- Global MBA Ranking 2014  
**No. 29 in the world**
- International Course Experience Rank  
**No. 4 in the world**

QUACQUARELLI SYMONDS (QS)

- QS World University Rankings® 2014/15  
**HKU is ranked No. 28 in the world**



in partnership with  
London Business School &  
Columbia Business School

2015 Admissions Open  
[www.mba.hku.hk](http://www.mba.hku.hk)



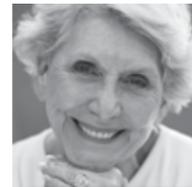


CONCERT™

**“Funny how looking good makes me feel good too.”**

Retirement Communities, we do everything we can to make sure you always look and feel your best. Whether it's a customized fitness program, pampering yourself in our salon or enjoying the company of interesting people like yourself, Tapestry provides the resources and support to help you do it.

Call us today and see what kind of individualized programs we can offer to help keep your body, mind and spirit healthy, vibrant and young at heart.



Rita Fraser  
still turning a head or two

[www.DiscoverTapestry.com](http://www.DiscoverTapestry.com)

Tapestry at Wesbrook Village  
3338 Wesbrook Mall, Vancouver BC  
604.225.5000

# IN MEMORIAM

## JOHN LOUIS TIEDJE, BAsc'44, MAsc'45

John was born on April 18, 1921, in Princeton to Henry and Mary Tiedje and died on July 18, 2013, in Sarnia, ON. John spent most of his youth in Trail, BC, where his father worked at the Cominco smelter. John was president of the UBC Varsity Outdoor Club and in 1945 joined the research department of Imperial Oil Ltd. in Sarnia. He is an inventor or co-inventor on 24 patents. From 1969-71 he was on loan to ESSO France, in Rouen, as Directeur des Recherches, later returning to Sarnia to become manager of the Imperial Oil Research Department with more than 400 employees. He retired in 1984. John was active in the affairs of the World Petroleum Congress, serving from 1979-83 as chairman of the Canadian National Committee and participating in the international organization from 1983-87 as a member of the Scientific Program Committee, the Executive Board and the Permanent Council. In 2007 he was awarded Honorary Associate Life Membership in the Canadian Association for the World Petroleum Council. On many early summer holidays he drove with his family to a cabin at Christina Lake. Later, he and his wife Dorothy sailed on Lake Huron and went for hikes with the Field Botanists of Ontario - John was an accomplished wildflower photographer. He is predeceased by his daughter, Ellen, and son-in-law Harry, and his sister, Patricia. He is survived by his sister, Marian; his son, Tom (Glenna); daughter, Jane (Steve); son, Henry (Dina); five grandchildren; and his wife of 65 years, Dorothy.



is survived by daughters Nancy (Roman), Leslie (Bruce), Alison, and son Ken, as well as five beloved grandchildren. Many of BJ's family graduated from UBC and Chris was faculty. Born in Vancouver in 1924, BJ lived in Vancouver until age 89 when she moved to Vancouver Island to be closer to family. While at UBC she met Bill and was a member of the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority, where she made friends who would remain close throughout her life. Graduating in psychology, BJ worked with World War II veterans before embarking on a cross-country and trans-Atlantic trip with Bill after their marriage. She helped raise four children and was always active in her community, including being involved in the Vancouver and West Vancouver University Women's clubs. Her widespread volunteerism included time devoted to the UBC Museum of Anthropology, Museum of Vancouver, Community Arts Council, Children's Hospital, and Canadian Mental Health Association. BJ touched many on her life's journey. She had a fun-loving zest for life, wicked sense of humour, was always interested in current events, and curious about other people's lives. Her warmth endeared her and she made friends of all ages easily. BJ was indeed a positive influence and guiding light in both her children's and grandchildren's lives. We are strengthened by her spirit, which lives on.

## FRANCES BLACKMORE SPARZANI (NÉE LEE), BA'44

Frances Blackmore Sparzani was born in 1923 in Toronto, the only child of the late Frank and Mona Lee. Her family moved to Vancouver, where Frances attended Prince of Wales High School and Havergal College before entering UBC. At UBC, Blackie was a key member of the Players Club, performing in a number of plays and serving on the club's Executive Committee, and was a member of Delta Gamma sorority. Following graduation, she pursued her love of travel by working for firms that offered free trips as a perk. In 1951 she was married in The Little Church Around the Corner in New York City to Aldo Sparzani, an executive with the International Telephone and Telegraph (ITT) company. Subsequent postings with ITT included Miami, Havana, Caracas, Panama City, and Quito and their travels included virtually every country in South America. There was also an offshore posting to Manila and finally a home posting to Seattle. Blackie had always immersed herself in the local cultures - in Seattle she established a successful import business featuring Latin American crafts. Upon retirement, she and Al settled in St. Petersburg, FL, and polished their fluency in the Spanish language at nearby Eckerd College, first as adult students and then as mentors and supporters of its Spanish department. They were returning from a function at the latter in the spring of 2013 when they were the victims of a traffic accident. Aldo was seriously injured and Blackie entered a coma lasting six months from which she never recovered.

## CRAIG MACPHEE, BA'47, MA'49

Dr. Craig MacPhee, World War II veteran, former University of Idaho fisheries professor, died Tuesday, October 9, 2012. While attending UBC, Craig played on the school's rugby team. His time at UBC was most important to him. Craig went on to receive his PhD from the University of Washington. Craig and his family settled in Moscow, ID, where he began his professorship at the University of Idaho. He has a distinguished history at the university for his role in helping establish a cooperative fisheries research unit on the campus in 1963, and for his numerous research projects throughout northern Idaho's rivers and lakes. He served as academic chairman for the University of Idaho Department of Fishery Resources, served on the U-Idaho Faculty Council, and was president of the Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Following his retirement in 1980, he and his wife established the Craig and Dorothy MacPhee Scholarship for a student in fisheries.

## ANSON DEANE MELDRUM BURNSIDE, BA'48 (Zeta Psi), (1926 - 2009) BEVERLY MARGUERITE BURNSIDE (NÉE HARTREE), BA'48 (Kappa Alpha Theta), (1925 - 2010)



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

## BETTY JANE (BJ) MARGARET WARNER (NÉE MATHESON), BA'46

Betty Jane Margaret Warner passed away on January 16, 2014, having recently celebrated her 90th birthday. She was predeceased by her husband, Bill, BA'47, LLB'48; brother, Jack; sister, Claudia; and son-in-law, Chris. She

Coming soon..

# the NEST big thing!



## The AMS Student Nest.

 [ams.ubc.ca/nest](http://ams.ubc.ca/nest)

**STANLEY JOHN HEYWOOD, BEd'49, BA'49**

Born March 18, 1925, in Vancouver, the only son of John Albert and Lillian (Burton) Heywood, Stanley died February 21, 2014, in Tucson. He is predeceased by his first wife, Joan Olive Murton, and survived by his two sons and their wives: John S. Heywood and Gretchen E. Miller of Milwaukee, and his grandson, Oliver John and Spencer James; and Philip A. Heywood and Augusta of Concord, MA, and his grandson Cole Francis, and granddaughters, Ellinor Joan and Clare Ysabella.

In 1995, he married Shirley Laber in Billings and inherited another family. She, along with four stepsons, one stepdaughter, nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, survive him. The Heywoods spent happy times in Billings, Tucson and on many trips overseas.

"Stan" taught school in BC and served four US institutions of higher learning including The University of Chicago, where he was a research associate; Coe College, where he was registrar, administrative assistant to the president, and director of the Summer Session; Idaho State University, where he was dean of the College of Education; and Montana State University (formerly Eastern Montana College), where he was president for ten years, retiring as professor emeritus of education in 1987.

He served in the Royal Canadian Air Force from 1943-45, and taught University Air Cadets at the Royal Military College, Kingston, in the summers of 1951 and '52, while in the RCAF (Reserve). He was a charter member of the American Air Force Museum, Duxford, UK.

Dr. Heywood served on the board of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and completed several overseas assignments for the US Information Service. His avocation was reading about and studying the British Empire and Commonwealth - he was fortunate to visit places including the Beaufort Sea, the Northwest Frontier of Pakistan, Tristan da Cunha, and the Falklands. He is listed in *Who's Who In America* and *Who's Who in American Education*.

**JOHN GORDON GILMOUR ("JACK"), BSF'50**



John, who loved his family, dogs, planes, sailboats, trees, and the wilderness, died in Vancouver on March 31, 2014. John grew up in Saskatoon with his identical twin, James, in the home the Gilmour family built after they emigrated from Scotland. Their dedicated mother, Janet, worked hard to provide them with a good life and an education while raising them on her own after their father died. Despite

growing up in the Depression years, the boys had many childhood adventures and managed to get up to all sorts of mischief - double the trouble because everyone had difficulty telling them apart. Fascinated by planes from a very young age, after graduating from high school, John joined the RCAF, but was serving in the Canadian Army in Ontario when WW II ended. This served him well as both he and his brother received help with a university education, both graduating from the Faculty of Forestry in 1950. John combined that experience with his master's in forestry at Syracuse University to enjoy a long and fulfilling career as a professional forester in Ontario, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories. He spent happy times both on the water and tramping in the bush, frequently accompanied by a dog or two. Predeceased by his loving wife, Irene, and his later-in-life companion, Clare, John is loved, remembered and missed by his children, Janet (Richard), Margy (Chris), Chris (Todd), Lisa and John; by "JD"; by his grandchildren, Alexis, Matt, Chloe (Jules) and Caitlin (Adam); and by his great-grandchildren, Lily, Luca and Avareigh.

**GILBERT GORDON BROWN (GIB), BA'50, BEd'57, MA'64**

June 20, 1921 - March 22, 2014

Gilbert will be warmly remembered by his wife of 68 years, Geraldine; sons Ted and Phillip (Leslie); three cherished grandchildren, Ian, Derek, and Kelsey; and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by five brothers and two sisters; his favourite sister, Phyllis Nixon, died only recently. Gilbert was born in Gilbert Plains, MB, and at an early age, was involved in a car/train accident near Grandview in which his mother was killed, his father disabled and Gilbert hospitalized. As a result of this trauma, he experienced many life challenges, one of which was his decision to become a teacher. Consequently, with little financial help, but armed with courage and determination, he not only received a Vancouver Normal School Diploma, but three degrees from UBC. During his 40-year teaching career he taught French to English school students in Victoria, and English to French military students in Quebec. Retired and living in Winnipeg, he was a volunteer for 10 years with the Winnipeg Branch of Unitarian Service Committee (USC) Canada. He found satisfaction in knowing the money raised, often through shopping mall craft sales, was used for important projects such as "Seeds for Survival" in Ethiopia and/or in Mali "Desertification and Drought" projects. He was a member of the Winnipeg branch UN Association and supported peace organizations: Project Plough Shares and anti-poverty associations such as LITE (Local Investment Towards Employment) and others. His final years were troubled as a result of a major depressive disorder following a stroke. Our thanks to the Kildonan Personal Care Centre for exceptional, professional and kind care. A somewhat sad ending to a very productive life.

**DONALD WATSON MUNRO, BSF'51**



September 4, 1923 - October 13, 2013

Don spent his first 14 years in the Revelstoke area, where his lifelong love of the mountains and outdoors took root. In 1937 his family moved to Kamloops. After high school, Don enlisted with the Canadian Army. When WWII ended, Don resumed his education at UBC, where he met his future wife Anne in a UBC cafeteria when, in the midst of a food fight with pals,

he accidentally struck her with a potato. Anne, who had already noticed the good-looking, fun-loving Don, arranged a blind date. They married in 1952 and settled in Nelson, where Don began his career with the BC Ministry of Forests. In 1955 they moved to Kamloops, where Don spent the balance of his career in private industry. Don pioneered industrial forestry in the interior of BC, contributing significantly to forest development, pulp mill raw material supply, and transportation systems. He initiated the export of chips from the southern interior and served on several industry committees. The Association of BC Forest Professionals awarded Don a lifetime membership - an honour given to individuals who have made an exemplary contribution to the profession. One of Don's great personal achievements was the creation of Tod Mountain (now Sun Peaks). He and a small circle of friends recognized the mountain's potential as a ski hill. They planned it and had it operating by 1961. Don was the first president of Tod Mountain and took the inaugural ride on the "longest double chairlift in North America." Don taught his kids and grandkids to ski and spent many years making tracks in Sun Peaks' famous powder. Don is missed by his wife, Anne; children, Bruce (Jeannie), Sandra, BCom'78, (Jay), Linda (Paul), Bob (Lori); and eight grandchildren.

**ROBERT (BOB) CHARLES WATTERS, BASc'52, MF'80**



Robert Charles Watters passed away on October 19, 2013, in Nanaimo at the age of 90. He started his career as an engineer when he joined the Canadian Armed Forces, Calgary Regiment, in 1942. He trained as a gunner operator with the Calgary Tank Corps, attended McGill University as part of his army training, and landed in Holland at the end of the World War II as a sergeant in the occupational army until he was discharged in 1946. While at UBC, he met Rose Piggott at the Fort Camp cafeteria and married her in Vancouver in 1954. They had three children together - Frances, Bruce and Lorea - and were blessed with four grandchildren. Bob was both a certified Professional Forester and a certified Professional Engineer. Among other things, he taught forestry and construction technology at the College of New Caledonia in Prince George (and was a founding member of the program) from 1972-85. Bob "retired" from the college to run the Nanaimo Foundry and Engineering Works from 1985-95. Retired was never a word that applied to Bob - he was always working on something. He enjoyed travelling, the outdoors, restoring Model T cars and playing bridge. His family and his community were his passions. It's no surprise that his favourite saying was "I feel like a million bucks." Donations may be made to the Robert C. Watters Forestry Award, care of the UBC Faculty of Forestry.

**WILFRED (BILL) EDWIN RAZZELL, BA'52**



Bill passed peacefully at age 82 in Brisbane, AU, on June 2, 2013. He will be sadly missed by his wife, Evelyn; sons, Joshua and Jay; and by Mary Nicol, his first wife and the mother of his children, Dan, Robin and Jim. Also left to mourn are his sister, Annie Deeley of Winnipeg, and his brother, Wayne Gair (Karen) of Quadra Island. Bill was born in St. Boniface, MB, on May 10, 1931, and received his early education in

Winnipeg, Vancouver, Port Melon and Gibsons. He graduated UBC with double majors in microbiology and bacteriology and obtained his PhD in Microbiology at the University of Illinois in 1956. He was a major contributor to research, industry and academia. He opened the Department of Microbiology at the University of Alberta in 1966 - at age 35, he was their youngest department head. His family and friends remember his intelligence, decency and love of fishing. Burial of his ashes was on the Solomon Islands.

**ALAN ROBIE DANIELS, BA'53, BEd'55**

Alan was born in Coronation, AB, on July 2, 1924, to Robie and Doris Daniels, who moved to Vancouver a year or so after his birth. He passed away in North Vancouver on October 6, 2013, after a short illness. Alan is survived by his loving wife of 64 years, Shirley; beloved daughter, Heather, BEd'80 (Alistair); loving grandchildren, Anna and Thomas, who were so special to him; sister, Barbara (Chuck); and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents and two siblings, Ross and Merle. Alan served in the RCAF during WWII. When he returned from service he attended UBC in the sciences department, earning a BA in math. He delighted in telling his family that there was no Bachelor of Science degree when he graduated. During his long career he taught in Squamish, Coquitlam, Richmond, and in Vancouver at Gladstone, David Thompson, and Kitsilano secondary schools, teaching senior math. In 1984 Alan retired and for the next 17 years he and

Shirley spent the winters in San Diego, where they made lasting friendships and where Alan could lawn bowl every day in the sun. He had many hobbies at which he excelled: lapidary work, silversmithing, stained glass, winemaking and carpentry work. Alan was a wonderful, kind and generous husband, father and grandfather and will be sorely missed by his loving family.

**JACK LEE, BCom'55, LLB'62**



Jack passed away peacefully on April 2, 2013, at the age of 82. He will always be alive in the happy memories of his loving family: wife, Mamie; son, Geoffrey, BA'84; daughter, Deanna, BCom'90, (Michael Woo); grandchildren, Jaclyn and Madison; brothers, Bob, BCom'56, LLD'96, and Bill; sisters, Maye Louie and Mary Kwong; their respective spouses; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased

by his brother, George, and sister, Vera Wong. Jack was born and raised in Vancouver and had his own law practice in Chinatown until 2008. Jack enjoyed years of community service with several organizations. He received the Silver Medallion Award from the Canadian government for outstanding community service, was an active member of the Vancouver Chinatown Lions Club, and was named a Melvin Jones Fellow in 2002 - the highest form of recognition conferred by the Lions Club International. Jack was appointed to the BC Police Commission in 1995 and also by the BC government to serve on the board of directors at Mount St. Joseph Hospital. Jack was loved by all who knew him. He will be remembered for his honesty, compassion, unconditional generosity, funny jokes, gift of public speaking, videotaping special events and love for people - especially kids. Donations may be made in memory of Jack to Mount St. Joseph Hospital, c/o Tapestry Foundation, 3080 Prince Edward St, Vancouver, BC, V5T 3N4.

**ROBERT "BOB" WALLACE KIRKLAND, BASc'56**

July 7, 1933 - November 3, 2013

Bob Kirkland, beloved father, partner, and friend, passed away on November 3, 2013, at the age of 80. Bob was born in Nelson and raised in Vancouver. After receiving his mechanical engineering degree, he moved to Toronto where he continued his education, completing his MBA. A successful businessman in Toronto and Montreal, Bob later moved west to begin his own company in Calgary, Beaver Interior Contracting Ltd. Bob will be remembered as an avid tennis player and was a lifetime member of the Toronto Cricket & Curling Club. He also enjoyed his annual trips to Hawaii where he had many friends. Bob is survived by his partner, Cita Flores; two sons, Graeme and Jeffrey; and their mother, Joanne Kirkland. Bob was a very positive-thinker - "There's No Such Word as Can't!" was one of his many teachings and convictions he shared with others, especially his boys. This attitude underscored his inherent "can-do", "winner" spirit in all that he did. Bob's generous, caring, and competitive spirit, active mind, and his amiable sense of humour will be remembered well. These great qualities that he shared with others will not be forgotten. Bob Kirkland touched and improved the lives of many people. He will be dearly missed.

**WILLIAM (BILL) ALLEN CREIGHTON, LCdr ret'd, BSc'57**

June 8, 1932 - April 13, 2014

Bill passed away peacefully on Sunday April 13, 2014, at the age of 81. He is survived by his wife, Sylvia; daughter, Eleanor (Bruce); son, Sean (Cowichan Valley); brother, Thomas (Halifax); sister-in-law, Pamela

Lenko (Michael) (Cowichan Valley); granddaughter, Erin Nathalie Murray (Halifax); and several cousins, nieces, and nephews in BC, AB, ON and NS. He was predeceased by his daughter, Martha Creighton (1964); mother, Martha Eleanor Creighton (1982); father, Allen James Creighton (1987); brother, Frank Albrow (2006); and sister-in-law, Blanche Alden Potter-Creighton (2014). Bill served with the Royal Canadian Navy and began his naval career with the University Naval Training Division, aka "Untidies." He belonged to HMCS *Discovery* and HMCS *Malahat*. In civilian life, he was a pharmacist for 50 years. He worked in Victoria, Castlegar, Masset, and Duncan, BC. He retired from Walmart in 2007. Bill volunteered his spare time with the BC College of Pharmacists, the Naval Officers Association of Vancouver Island, The Royal Canadian Legion, and the Maritime Museum of BC. He will be missed by family and friends who knew him. A celebration of life was held at the Chemainus Legion. Donations can be made to the Heart & Stroke Foundation, The Canadian Diabetes Association, or the Royal Canadian Legion bursary fund for education bursaries.

**FLORENCE MCNEAL (NÉE MCNEIL)**



Florence McNeal died August 26, 2013, at the age of 73 or 76 or 80 depending on which driver's license, health card or other document she was using at the time (a delightful fact that will not surprise those who knew her - her bother has commented that she was sometimes his older, and sometimes his younger, sister). She earned her BA from UBC in the 1950s (in keeping with her own vagueness), where, among many other activities, she wrote a regular column for *The Ubysey*. She spent the next few years after graduation teaching high school and writing, most notably a series of stories that appeared on John Drainie's CBC radio program, *Canadian Short Stories*. She returned to UBC to earn her MA in creative writing with Earle Birney and went on to publish 11 books of poetry with some of Canada's most prestigious publishers. Then, at the suggestion of her editor, she wrote the first of her four highly successful novels for young people, which have been translated into a dozen languages and adapted for film. She also published an acclaimed novel for adults, *Breathing Each Other's Air*. She won many literary awards for both her poetry and fiction, both in Canada and abroad. Florence also spent a number of years teaching English and creative writing at the post-secondary level, teaching at Western Washington University, the University of Calgary - where she met her husband - and then back at UBC, before she retired to write full-time, and took an occasional visiting professorship. Florence is survived by her husband, David, PhD '76, her brother, Alex, her sister, Theresa, and many nieces and nephews.

**JAMES ERNEST HARTLEY, MSc '63**

On October 31, 2013, after a brave battle with Alzheimer's, James Ernest Hartley died in Calgary with the same grace with which he had lived. He leaves his wife, Milly, his four daughters and their families, and eight grandchildren. Jim was born in Ogema, SK, and finally settled in Calgary, working for Parks Canada Historic Sites Branch until his retirement in 1997. Jim never stopped learning and had several degrees including a BSc in Agriculture from the University of Saskatchewan, an MSc in Community and Regional Planning from UBC, and an MBA from the University of Calgary. Jim developed a keen sense of community service as he moved around the country and was a staunch Roughriders fan.

**CAROLE EARLE, BEd '68, MEd '86**

1946 - 2013  
Carole is survived by her children and beloved 'grands': Teresa Earle and Fritz Mueller - Stella and Robyn; and Malcolm and Tonya Earle - Kieran and Taylor. Her circle of love left behind includes her husband, Philip Musgrave; her brother, Murray Hall; goddaughter, Sarah Houser; and Bill, of course. And her two 'almost sisters': her dearest Gail, and Linda, friend forever. Carole's family is grateful for the love and support from her many friends during the past couple of years. Carole received an education degree and a master's degree in counselling psychology, and had a practice in West Vancouver for 30 years. Illness made Carole wiser, and she laughed more. Her children and grandchildren spread her ashes amongst the salal and along the beach at her favourite place, Faery Pool Cottage on Galiano Island. Please consider a donation to support research at the BC Cancer Agency.

**DENNIS HAWKSWORTH, BSF '72**



1948 - 2013  
On August 30, 2013, Dennis lost his battle with Mantle Cell B Lymphoma. After graduating, Dennis worked for Netherlands Overseas Sawmills and in 1976 was recruited by Weldwood, serving as a roving project manager in the construction of the Burns Lake sawmill. In 1983, he was promoted to general manager of Weldwood's Babine Forest Products. In 1988, Dennis moved to Hinton, AB, and served as project manager in the construction of the Hi-Atha Sawmill. In 1997, he was appointed vice-president of Hinton Forest and Wood Products. Dennis served as president of the Alberta Forest Products Association in 1996 and was active on the Board and several committees. He was vice-chairman of the Canadian Lumber Standards National Lumber Grading Association and vice-chairman of the Softwood Lumber Committee of Alberta. In 1999, he served as a member of Canada's Softwood Lumber Agreement negotiating team. In 2000, he was appointed to an interim committee responsible for designing a new Alberta Forestry Research Institute and enjoyed serving on the board of the (now) Foothills Research Institute from 1996-2004. After retiring from Weldwood/West Fraser in 2005, Dennis joined the Alberta Government as Director of Forest Products in 2008. In 2011, Dennis moved to Kamloops with his partner, Susan, enjoying the fine weather and proximity to his property on Shuswap Lake. Dennis commuted to Edmonton while on contract with the Government of Alberta and was unfortunately diagnosed with cancer in 2011. He eventually retired in 2012. He was a keen outdoorsman and skier, and had an encyclopedic knowledge of roots, rock and roll musicians, and music. He was a keen family man who enjoyed taking his family to many parts of the world. His enthusiasm and high spirits made him many friends within and outside the forestry profession in Alberta and BC. Dennis is survived by his children, Phoebe and Wylie, his partner, Susan Bevan, and his sister, Sherry Pooley, BEd '71.

**WALTER MAJAK, PhD '72**

Walter passed away on August 7, 2013, at Royal Inland Hospital. He will be sadly missed by his loving wife, Ruth. Walter was a proud father of Geoff (Monica) of Denver, CO, and Michael (Angelene) of Kamloops; and Papa to Preslie, Jaxen and Joey. He will also be missed by his brother, Andy (Alice), of Three Hills, AB; sister, Lily, of Scarborough, ON; and numerous nieces and nephews. Walter was born on March 7, 1942, in Montreal to Andy and



Nettie Majak. He graduated from Lachine High School, McGill University (BSc), Dalhousie University (MSc) and UBC. Walter spent his entire career as a research scientist with Agriculture Canada in Kamloops. During that time he published numerous scientific papers and was awarded the Queen's Golden Jubilee medal in 2002 in recognition of his work.

**PATRICIA (TRISH) JANET MCMORDIE, Dip(Ed) '95, MEd '06**

March 24, 1956 - October 26, 2013  
It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved wife and mother. Trish will be lovingly remembered by her husband of over 35 years, Allan; daughter, Janet, and son, David. Trish was born in Lloydminster, AB, to Enoch and Janet Salt. She attended Camrose Lutheran College followed by the University of Alberta, where she obtained her Bachelor of Education degree. She met and married the love of her life, Allan, in Alberta and soon moved out to North Vancouver. Trish taught in the North Vancouver School District for over 30 years and, while teaching, received a Master of Education degree that concentrated on her passion for early childhood literacy. Trish was an active and well-loved member of the North Vancouver community. She taught at Larson, Fromme, Ross Road, and Highlands elementary schools and the Progress Centre at Handsworth. The numerous well wishes and visits from her former students during her time at the hospice are evidence of just how loved she was by those she



taught. She was a member of the JP Fell Pipe Band and The Black Bear Rebels ceilidh group with Allan. She attended St. Catherine's Anglican Church with her family, where she was a founding member of a contemporary music group, Joyful Voice. She sang in the choir, taught Sunday school and youth group, and was instrumental in founding St. Catherine's pre-school. She loved kayaking at the cabin, hiking and riding her bike, playing music, reading books, and travelling with her family. In recognition of Trish's passion for books and literacy, donations in Trish's name can be made to The North Vancouver District Library.

Please submit obituaries to [trek.magazine@ubc.ca](mailto:trek.magazine@ubc.ca) including "In Memoriam: first name, last name, class year" in the subject line, or mail to:  
**alumni UBC**  
6251 Cecil Green Park Road  
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1

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



SEEING IS BELIEVING

Wesbrook Village is tomorrow's ideal West Coast neighbourhood. And it's here today, right now - thriving already. A brand new place to stop, shop, walk, bike, own, rent, or just enjoy. You've simply got to see this to believe it.

DiscoverWesbrook.com



OPENING FALL 2014



OPENING FALL 2014



NOW OPEN



NOW OPEN



AND MORE!



STAY TUNED FOR THE NEXT  
**WESBROOK TALKS**

Wesbrook Talks is a new and exciting series presented by Wesbrook Village & alumni UBC. It is designed to provide opportunities to listen to & engage with prominent alumni in the community. The first two events sold out quickly, so please watch for the next announcement: Visit [alumni.ubc.ca](http://alumni.ubc.ca) for information on future talks.

# THE LAST WORD

## WITH NANCY LEE, BA'94, MFA'04

Fans of Vancouver author Nancy Lee's literary works owe their gratitude to the dime-a-dozen psychic she met on Santa Monica Boulevard in 1996. Lee, a publicist at the time, was in LA with her business partner for a series of meetings with a potential client. Between meetings they decided, as a joke, to have their palms read. While the colleague was told she would find true love, Lee was told that she was doing the wrong thing in her life and that until she did the right thing, she'd never be happy. It was perhaps the best money she ever spent. Today, Lee is revered as one of Canada's most compelling writers. Her first book, *Dead Girls*, was hailed by *The Globe and Mail* as "a masterwork of revelation," won the VanCity Book Prize, and was a finalist for the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize, the Pearson Readers' Choice Award, and the Wordsworthy Award. *Dead Girls* has been published in the UK, Germany, Italy, France, Holland and Spain, and has been optioned for film. Lee, an assistant professor in Creative Writing at UBC, has served as writer-in-residence for the University of East Anglia, Historic Joy Kogawa House, and most recently for the city of Vincennes, France, and the city of Richmond. Her debut novel, *The Age*, has opened to rave reviews, is set to be published in France, and was featured as one of *alumni UBC's* book club selections this fall. Follow Lee on Twitter: @pantsmlee



Photo by Nancy Lee

### What is your most prized possession?

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

### Who was your childhood hero?

My adolescent hero was David Bowie. He's still my hero.

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

Curled up in a chair with my knitting, preferably with a fireplace nearby, a good detective show on the telly and a cup of tea within arm's reach. Basically, I'm a 75-year-old woman.

### What was the last thing you read?

1996 – a wonderful collection of poems by Sara Peters.

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

Our dog Rudy, who looks like an adorable teddy bear but has the personality of Joe Pesci.

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

Don't do today what you can put off until tomorrow. Wait, I may have gotten that wrong. Never mind, I'll check it tomorrow.

### What's your idea of the perfect day?

My husband and I lived just outside Paris for four months and spent most days writing and then exploring Paris on foot, eating in great

bistros, browsing book stores and museums. Those were perfect days.

### What was your nickname at school?

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

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

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

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

Can I wish for more wishes? Because that would be the smart thing to do, right?

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

I don't really keep track of possessions. I can tell you the feeling I've owned for the longest time: ennui tempered by exuberance.

### What is your latest purchase?

So many questions about possessions and things. I'm not really a things person.

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

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

### If you could invent something, what would it be?

An anti-rage laser gun. Point it at people and their anger dissolves.

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

No historical era is without its problems, but if it's just for a visit: La Belle Époque in Paris. Peace, technological invention, ground-breaking advances in medicine, the rise of realism and naturalism in literature, the birth of Modernism, post-Impressionist painters, cabaret theatre, salons. And beautiful hats.

### What are you afraid of?

Spiders, fatal diseases, people who hate art.

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

I would love to be able to play the piano. Or draw. Or build a house. Basically, I have no skills, so any additional skills would be welcome.

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

Aretha Franklin's *Ain't No Way*  
Dead or Alive's *You Spin Me Round 12" Remix*  
David Bowie's *Life on Mars*

### Which famous person (living or dead) do you think (or have you been told) you most resemble?

I'm half Chinese and half Indian, so I don't really look like anyone famous. Personality-wise, I'm a lot like Garfield.

### What is your pet peeve?

Wilful ignorance.

### What are some of your UBC highlights?

I first came to UBC in grade 8, on a field trip. We spent the day doing research in the old library stacks. I fell in love with the campus. There isn't a day I'm at UBC that I don't feel grateful to be here. 📖

Remember when you had  
no cares in this world?



ALUMNI

TERM LIFE INSURANCE

It's the same feeling you get, young or not so young, when you know you're protected — especially when you have people who count on you. Consider **Alumni Term Life Insurance**, whether you're looking for new coverage or adding to an existing one, and enjoy **exclusive low rates** for you and your family. **No worries.** We've got you covered.

Visit [www.manulife.com/ubcmag](http://www.manulife.com/ubcmag) to learn more or call toll-free 1-888-913-6333

alumni UBC

Manulife

When you choose Alumni Insurance, Manulife Financial provides financial and marketing support for alumni UBC communications, programs and services.

Underwritten by  
The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company (Manulife).  
Manulife and the Block Design are trademarks of The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company and are used by it, and by its affiliates under license.



Robert H. Lee

the Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre

a home for alumni for life

start an evolution

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

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

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

[alumnicentre.ubc.ca](http://alumnicentre.ubc.ca)



a place of mind

alumniUBC

