alumni UBC
Trek
A PUBLICATION OF ALUMNI UBC · NUMBER 34 · 2013

INTEGRITY *vs.* CORRUPTION

New $100k Allard Prize rewards courage and leadership in combating corruption

PLUS

Deciphering the mysteries of the Maya

Putting a new spin on some old physics

The Clock Tower and the Anarchists

Freedom Fighter: getting children out of work and into school

Novelist William Gibson has the last word

14

COVER

INTEGRITY *vs.* CORRUPTION

The Allard Prize for International Integrity is awarded to an individual, movement or organization that has demonstrated exceptional courage and leadership in combating corruption. The inaugural prize went to Indian activist Anna Hazare.

A PHOTO COMPETITION HAS BEEN LAUNCHED TO REFLECT THE THEMES OF THE ALLARD PRIZE, WITH WINNERS ANNOUNCED EVERY SIX MONTHS.

SEE PAGE 15.

In Short

3 QUOTE, UNQUOTE
4 TAKE NOTE
6 HOW ACCURATE IS THE CHEMISTRY PORTRAYED IN BREAKING BAD?
6 "EVERYDAY SADISTS" WALK AMONG US
7 BIG GODS: HOW RELIGION TRANSFORMED COOPERATION AND CONFLICT
8 UBC ARCHAEOLOGISTS HELP DISCOVER MYSTERY STONE AGE TRIBE
9 THE BIG PICTURE
12 HOW TO DRESS FOR SUCCESS
32 N=

Alumni Departments

22 CAMPAIGN UPDATE
38 BOOKS
40 CLASS ACTS
44 T-BIRDS
46 IN MEMORIAM

18

FEATURE

THE ONE WHO HAMMERS

Archaeologist Marc Zender, *BA'97*, is expert at deciphering ancient Mayan script. He spent the summer at the site of an ancient Maya city in Belize.

24

FEATURE

FREEDOM FIGHTER

When Shobha Sharma, *BA'03*, heard Free the Children founder Craig Kielburger speak at a UBC conference, it changed the course of her life.

27

FEATURE

PUTTING A NEW SPIN ON SOME OLD PHYSICS

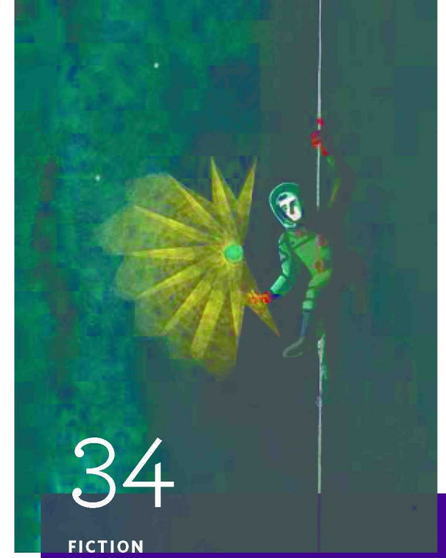
A once-obscure piece of scientific equipment is proving key to resolving a serious challenge facing the medical community.

31

FEATURE

THE CLOCK TOWER AND THE ANARCHISTS

When a loyal supporter of the university donated funds for a clock tower to honour the founding pioneers of the province, some of the students were less than impressed.

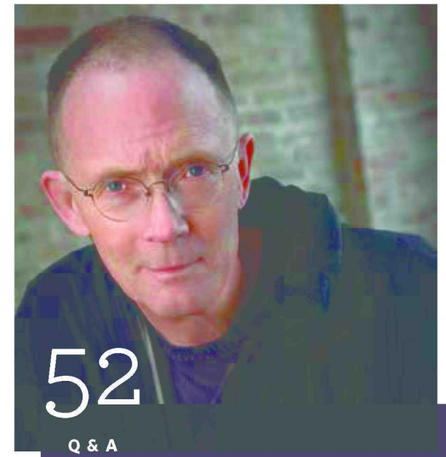


34

FICTION

THE HOLLOW EARTH

A short story by Jay Brown, *MFA'10*



52

Q & A

THE LAST WORD: WITH WILLIAM GIBSON, *BA'77*

Q: What would you like your epitaph to say?

A: I wouldn't want an epitaph. They're like tattoos for the dead. Or monogrammed shirts. Name and dates, please!

LEARNING FROM THE PAST

Around this time last year, news channels were awash with stories about the world's imminent demise on December 21. The long count Maya calendar was coming to the end of a cycle, and fearmongers weren't about to pass up an opportunity to spread messages of doom and gloom.

You might even remember where you were when it was all supposed to go kaput. I was on a long-haul flight, chatting merrily with fellow passengers about the relative advantages of being in the air come the apocalypse. The superstitious and anxiety-prone were no doubt hastily stocking up on canned food, padlocks and crossbows, just in case they survived.

Experts busily refuted rumours of asteroids and rogue planets hurtling towards Earth. NASA even released a news item on the December 21 phenomenon, mostly based on an interview with "hard-nosed scientist" Dr. John Carlson, a radio astronomer. After brushing aside as a misconception the notion that the Maya ever predicted the end of the world, he went on to provide plenty of other reasons why we should be interested in this ancient civilization. The Maya mastered astronomy, developed an elaborate written language, and Carlson describes their long count calendar as the most complex calendar system ever developed.

If the passenger sitting next to me on that December 21 flight had been UBC alumnus Marc Zeller, I would have come to realize that what we actually know about the Maya is a lot more interesting than superstitious claptrap. Zeller is an archaeologist and world expert at deciphering ancient Mayan script. As artefacts are pulled from the earth at the sites of ancient cities in Mexico and Belize, he helps to decipher their significance and piece together the lives of the people they belonged to. We don't have all the answers yet, but the journey is a fascinating one.

We humans spend much time and effort trying to reach and explore places we've never been – yet there is still much be learned from where we have already been, and a lot to be rediscovered that has long been forgotten. In much the same way as a new scientific discovery forces us to adjust prevailing theories about the world around us, discoveries about our past change the way we see our own evolution to the present and help us to better anticipate our future. And I'm not talking about asteroids.

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 Judy Rogers, *BRE'71*
VICE CHAIR Michael Lee, *BSc'86, BA'89, MA'92, LLB*
TREASURER Ian Warner, *BCom'89*
MEMBERS AT LARGE [2011-2014]
Robert Bruno, *BCom'97*
Blake Hanna, *MBA'82*
Ernest Yee, *BA'83, MA'87*
MEMBERS AT LARGE [2012-2015]
David Climie, *BCom'83*
Dallas Leung, *BCom'94*
Judy Rogers, *BRE'71*
Kirsten Tisdale, *BSC'83 (Zoology)*
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*
EX-OFFICIO PRESIDENT'S DESIGNATE
Barbara Miles, *BA, Post Grad in Ed.*
UBC PRESIDENT
Prof. Stephen J. Toope, *AB, LLB & BCL, PhD*
UBC CHANCELLOR
Sarah Morgan-Silvester, *BCom'82*
ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT, ALUMNI / EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
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
Jenna McCann, *BA'03*
jenna.mccann@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 68, 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

MIX Paper from responsible sources FSC® C011267

QUOTE, UNQUOTE

It seems the criticisms that I've seen of his appointment have been more that they expect him to be a bit boring. And among economists, if we rule out those who are boring, that would rule out too many of us.

Professor of economics **Kevin Milligan**, on the appointment of economist Jean-Denis Fréchette as new Parliamentary Budget Officer. (*Globe & Mail* – Aug 31, 2013)

Interpol estimates that up to 30 per cent of all wood products are made from trees that were illegally harvested. After learning that, I began to see wood products in a whole new light. Where did this item come from? Who profited and who was harmed?

UBC Graduate School of Journalism student **Keith Rozendal**, who participated in the International Reporting Program's CUT project, investigating the illegal timber trade. (*UBC Media Release* – Oct 1, 2013)

To think of all of these people as dangerous or homeless, or to see them as incapable of employment or a relationship, is ridiculous. These numbers tell us that the vast majority of Canadians afflicted with a mental illness are wonderful, functioning people. They are our teachers, lawyers, waitresses, bus drivers; they are us, not 'them'.

Alumnus **Michael Schratter** in an Op Ed responding to the City of Vancouver announcement that mental health issues are at a crisis point in the city. (*Vancouver Sun* – Sept 17, 2013)

There is a lot of cultural lore about the power of eye contact as an influence tool, but our findings show that direct eye contact makes skeptical listeners less likely to change their minds, not more, as previously believed.

UBC Prof. **Frances Chen**, who used new eye-tracking technologies to investigate the effects of eye contact in situations involving persuasion. (*UBC Media Release* – Oct 2, 2013)

All of the creatures that are displayed could fit on the tip of a pin. There's so much life on this Earth that you just can't see with the naked eye.

Derek Jang, interpreter at The Beaty Biodiversity Museum at UBC, on the museum's latest exhibit featuring framed images of magnified microbes. (*Breakfast Television Vancouver* – Oct 8, 2013)

Some of our guys were walking around with a deer-in-the-headlights look, not believing what this guy could do. He's motivating. He's inspiring. But I didn't go seeking that. We're just so lucky to have all of the natural components of the character of Austin Hinchey.

UBC head Volleyball coach **Richard Schick** on Austin Hinchey, who recently joined the UBC Thunderbirds as a blue-chip recruit. Hinchey chose to have his leg amputated at the age of ten, mainly because brittle bone disease was hampering his participation in sport. (*The Province* – June 30, 2013)

We've got two feelings: one is the loss of a hero, but the other is the loss of a child that we sent into harm. People can step back and say a dog is not worth as much as a human being, that sort of thing, but that's your higher intellect working.

Professor emeritus of psychology **Stanley Coren** commenting on how the public's grief over the death of Edmonton police dog Quanto, who was stabbed by a suspect he was chasing, is natural. (*Edmonton Journal* – Oct 8, 2013)

The first thing we need to do is to change the culture from a culture of passive bystanders to a culture of upstanders... it's a community problem.

Alumna **Brenda Morrison** answering the question "Can we stop bullies?" (At a *UBC Dialogues* event in Vancouver – Sept 17, 2013)

TAKE NOTE

THEY CAN HOLD THEIR BREATH FOR *HOW* LONG?

Free-diving, or breath-hold diving, is a sport with historical ties to spear fishers and pearl divers. Most countries, including Canada, have national teams that compete to see who can dive the deepest and hold their breath the longest. Croatia's national team continues to break world records and now some of their top divers are helping a team of Canadian researchers from UBC's Okanagan campus.

School of Health and Exercise Sciences PhD candidate Chris Willie and a team of UBC scientists were invited to Croatia to work with that country's top scientific lab in conducting tests on some elite free-dive athletes. Among them was Croatia's world-record holder, Goran Colak, who recently held his breath for 22 minutes and 30 seconds after breathing in pure oxygen.

"There have been some preliminary studies done over the years on breath-hold divers, but very little research completed on their brains," says Willie, who is earning his PhD in cerebral vascular physiology. "We aim to tease out the mechanisms involved that allow these people to hold their breath for such a long time." The second goal, he says, is to fundamentally understand how the brain responds to changes in blood gases, both oxygen and carbon dioxide.

Under dry land conditions in a lab, the athletes were monitored while holding their breath until reaching levels of oxygen far lower than most people could survive – nearly as low as that of a human on the summit of Mt. Everest. (The world record for free-divers not using oxygen, the type of testing that Willie is conducting, is about 12 minutes.) Sophisticated ultrasound equipment was used to monitor the flow of blood into the brain.

"This kind of research is important to breath-hold divers, and to most people," Willie says. "But it's especially important for people who live with diseases such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and heart failure, who have changes in blood flow that affect the delivery of oxygen to the brain. These are things that affect their pathology, their quality of life, and their doctor's ability to treat them."

HORRORS OF WAR HARDEN GROUP ALLIANCES

War is hell and, according to new research, experiencing its horrors can cause people to have a greater affinity for members of their own group, particularly if they are exposed to warfare in later childhood or early adulthood.

"These effects have the potential to explain why conflict sometimes leads to cycles of war and sometimes stimulates nation-building in its wake," says study co-author Joseph Henrich, a professor in UBC's departments of Psychology and Economics.

The researchers collected data from 543 children in the Republic of Georgia following the brief but devastating war between Russia and Georgia over South Ossetia. They also collected data from 586 adults in Sierra Leone following an 11-year civil war that ended in 2002, which led to the displacement of much of the population and the deaths of more than 50,000 civilians.

Based on evolutionary theory, the researchers hypothesized that experiences with intergroup conflicts should lead individuals to become more focused on their own group's wellbeing, since individual survival is often linked to the fate of the group.

The subjects played games that involved choosing how to allocate tokens to themselves and an anonymous partner. In some cases, the anonymous partner was from the same village or school, and in other cases not. Those who had experienced war were more willing to sacrifice to reduce inequality if their partner was from the same village or school. No such effects were present in participants younger than six or older than 20 when they experienced war. "These findings suggest that if war is experienced during a sensitive window in development between middle childhood and early adulthood, then it leaves an enduring mark," says co-author Michal Bauer of Charles University, Czech Republic.

The research may help to explain why war can lead to nation building or a perpetual cycle of war. "When people identify with an in-group that coincides with the state or nation, then nation-building can be enhanced," says Henrich. "For people who identify with a subnational identity, such as an ethnic group, war can sow the seeds of future conflicts."

RAT CASINO

With the help of a rat casino, UBC brain researchers have successfully reduced behaviours in rats that are commonly associated with compulsive gambling in humans.

The study, which featured the first successful modeling of slot machine-style gambling with rats in North America, is the first to show that problem gambling behaviours can be treated with drugs that block dopamine D4 receptors.

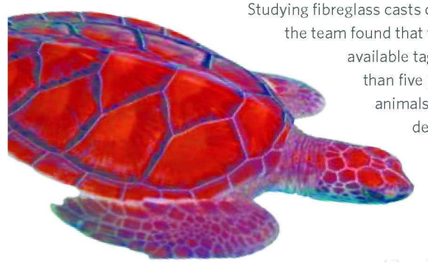
For the study, rats gambled for sugar pellets using a slot machine-style device that featured three flashing lights and two levers they could push with their paws. The rats exhibited several behaviours associated with problem gambling, such as the tendency to treat "near misses" similarly to wins.

Building on previous research, the team focused on the dopamine D4 receptor, which has been linked to a variety of behavioural disorders but never proven useful in treatment. The study found that rats treated with a dopamine D4 receptor-blocking medication exhibited reduced levels of behaviours associated with problem gambling.

"More work is needed, but these findings offer new hope for the treatment of gambling addiction, which is a growing public health concern," says Paul Cocker, lead author of the study and a PhD student in UBC's Department of Psychology.

TAGGING A DRAG

American and Canadian researchers have for the first time quantified the energy cost to aquatic animals when they carry satellite tags, video cameras and other research instruments.



Studying fibreglass casts of sea turtles in a wind tunnel, the team found that while most commercially available tags increased drag by less than five per cent for large adult animals in the wild, these same devices increased drag by more than 100 per cent on smaller or juvenile animals.

"Many marine animals make year-long breeding migrations crossing entire oceans, while others may rely on high speeds and acceleration – enabling them to catch prey or to escape predators," says T. Todd Jones, a scientist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center in Hawaii who led the study while a doctoral fellow at UBC. "If the drag costs from carrying tags disrupts their natural behaviour, they may miss out on breeding and foraging seasons, be unable to catch enough food, or even end up becoming someone else's meal."

The study includes a universal formula that allows scientists to calculate drag for a wide range of marine species including turtles, mammals, fish, and diving birds to inform study design. "In addition to the animal welfare and conservation implications, excessive drag may also impede the collection of research data in the wild," says Jones. "The guidelines we've developed can help ensure that the data collected accurately reflect the animals' natural behaviours in the wild, so we can devise conservation strategies accordingly."

SELF-INTEREST STOPS US INVESTING IN FUTURE

Time is a huge impediment when it comes to working together to halt the effects of climate change, new research suggests. A study has recently revealed that groups cooperate less for climate change mitigation when the rewards of cooperation lie in the future, especially if they stretch into future generations.

"People are often self-interested, so when it comes to investing in a cooperative dilemma like climate change, rewards that benefit our offspring – or even our future self – may not motivate us to act," says Jennifer Jacquet, a clinical assistant professor at New York University's Environmental Studies Program, who conducted the research while a post-doctoral fellow working with Math professor Christoph Hauert at UBC.

"Since no one person can affect climate change alone, we designed the first experiment to gauge whether group dynamics would encourage people to cooperate towards a better future."

Researchers at UBC and two Max Planck Institutes in Germany gave study participants 40 Euros each to invest, as a group of six, towards climate change actions. If participants cooperated to pool together 120 Euros for climate change, returns on their investment, in the form of 45 additional Euros each, were promised one day later, seven weeks later, or were invested in planting oak trees, and thus would lead to climate benefits several decades down the road – but not personally to the participants. Although many individuals invested initially in the long-term investment designed to simulate benefits to future generations, none of the groups achieved the target.

"We learned from this experiment that even groups gravitate towards instant gratification," says Hauert, an expert in game theory, the study of strategic decision-making. The authors suggest that international negotiations to mitigate climate change are unlikely to succeed if individual countries' short-term gains are not taken into consideration.

CONSENSUS ON BIGGEST THREATS TO WILDLIFE

Living in a place lauded for its natural beauty and vast wildlife, British Columbians take much pride in their great outdoors. So when it comes to protecting and preserving the wild animals that live in BC, passions can leave people divided.

Take the debate over the cull of wolves – conservationists argue killing wolves helps preserve moose populations, supporting the sustainable killing of wildlife as a tool that promotes biodiversity. Animal welfare scientists rail against this position, focusing instead on the suffering of individual animals and the method of killing.

But the debate over the human threat to wildlife doesn't have to be polarizing, suggests new research from UBC. Using an anonymous online survey, more than 350 BC residents – including government officials, biologists, conservationists, animal welfare scientists and the general public – were asked to rate the level of harm caused by a variety of human activities that impact wildlife.

The results surprised Sara Dubois, who conducted the survey as part of her doctoral studies in UBC's Animal Welfare Program. "Both sets of experts, conservationists and animal welfare scientists, along with the public, agreed independently that the biggest harms to wildlife are development, pollution, and agriculture," she says. "There is agreement that the bigger picture stuff – habitat loss, pollution – is hurting wildlife more than hunting or vehicle collisions."

Dubois says the results show the potential for common ground to be reached between the experts, who are often pitted against one another. She notes her research will help her in her job as manager of wildlife services for the BC Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, where she often has to negotiate between the two sides. T

Image courtesy of AMC.

"THE CHEMISTRY MUST BE RESPECTED."

That's what anti-hero Walter White tells Gus Fring before entering a nefarious deal to cook his trademark blue methamphetamine during an episode of *Breaking Bad*, the Emmy-winning AMC series that aired its final episode on September 29.

The hit show centred around White's transformation from downtrodden high school teacher into a criminal kingpin named Heisenberg (a tip of the black hat to Nobel Prize-winning scientist Werner Heisenberg), who respects the scientific method even after losing his moral compass.

Here, UBC chemistry professor Michael Wolf talks about the show's use of chemistry and how it has raised the profile of the "central science" in popular culture.

How accurate is the chemistry portrayed in *Breaking Bad*?
The science behind the show is solid. There are times when they sensationalize things a bit. For example, the methamphetamine Walt cooks is blue. Meth is not blue unless you add something to make it blue which is something they never mention on the show. That's definitely a dramatization for TV.

They get into details that the average person would probably miss. In one episode, White talks about chirality, which is the handedness of a molecule. Methamphetamine is a chiral molecule, meaning it is either right- or left-handed. One form is relatively inactive, the other form is the active drug. The second method they use to make meth produces both types of molecules, which results in a lower purity. For chemists it was a nice detail.

Has *Breaking Bad* raised the profile of chemistry among the general public?

I would say it's certainly increased interest. A lot of people find out I'm a chemistry professor and have brought up the show and ask me what I think.

I think the fact that it's a good TV show with a science element has gotten people interested in science. I worry a bit because the show is about making illegal drugs. We don't want that to be the only perception the public has about chemistry.

Chemistry is a difficult topic to relate to the public because people tend to be a little bit scared of it. They often don't see what we really do and how important it is to their daily lives.

Does the show highlight the power of chemistry?

Absolutely, everything around us has chemistry in it. We would still be living like it was the Middle Ages if we didn't have chemistry to bring us to our modern standard of living. It's made the world what it is now. T

"EVERYDAY SADISTS" WALK AMONG US

Sadism may be more common than we think, according to a pair of UBC studies published in the journal *Psychological Science* this September.

The findings suggest that sadism – deriving pleasure from another person's suffering – is not just a sexual disorder found in hardened criminals. Some people derive pleasure from cruelty in everyday situations and are even willing to make an extra effort to cause harm to someone else.

"Some find it hard to reconcile sadism with the concept of 'normal' psychological functioning, but our findings show that sadistic tendencies among otherwise well-adjusted people must be acknowledged," says Erin Buckels, the lead author of the study and a graduate student in the Department of Psychology at UBC. "These people aren't necessarily serial killers or sexual deviants but they gain some emotional benefit in causing or simply observing others' suffering."

In one study, participants were asked to perform one of four tasks: killing bugs, helping a researcher kill bugs, cleaning dirty toilets, or enduring pain from ice water. As predicted, participants who chose to kill bugs had the highest scores on a scale measuring sadistic impulses. Their pleasure also seemed to correlate with the number of bugs they killed.

A second study compared sadism to other "dark" personality traits – psychopathy, narcissism, and Machiavellianism, also known as the "Dark Triad." It revealed that only sadists chose to intensify the suffering of an innocent opponent when they realized the opponent wouldn't fight back. They were also the only ones willing to expend additional time and energy to cause suffering to an innocent opponent.

The findings could inform research and policy on domestic abuse, bullying, animal cruelty, and cases of military and police brutality.

"It is such situations that sadistic individuals may exploit for personal pleasure," says Buckels. T

Photo by Martin Dee.

In his new book, *Big Gods*, Ara Norenzayan explains why world religions and their secular successors continue to influence events at the dawn of the 21st century.

Let's start with a basic question. How do you define "Big Gods?"
Big gods are the deities of the great polytheistic and monotheistic faiths that have spread around the world in the last 10,000 to 12,000 years. These powerful "supernatural watchers" demand passionate commitment, meddle into peoples' affairs, reward good deeds and punish acts that violate the community's norms. This might come as a surprise to many people, but religion didn't start this way.

As best as we can tell, among ancestral societies, and in modern hunter-gatherers today, the gods have limited knowledge and power. While some are pleased by rituals and sacrifices offered to them, most care little about how people treat each other. This is the central puzzle that I try to solve in this book: how did we get from morally indifferent gods with limited powers, to the vast majority of people today worshipping big gods.

How did we make the leap from hunter-gatherer gods to the religiously diverse societies we live in today?
We know that there is tremendous cultural diversity and dynamism in religious beliefs and practices in the world. Lurking underneath this diversity, there is a striking pattern. Gods play a small part in the rich and varied cooperative lives of hunting and gathering societies, but over time, as societies get larger and more complex, religion and morality become increasingly intertwined. The gods loom larger and become more interventionist.

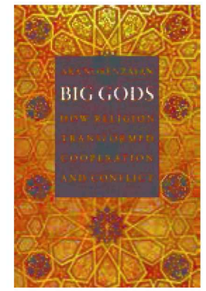
The idea I explore in this book is whether these two developments were fundamentally related. Did cooperation among strangers intensify and expand partly because of the cultural spread of sincere faith in these big gods that monitor and punish wrongdoers and free riders even when no one is watching?

The book also explores the various forms of atheism. What are your insights on the rise in atheism and the large percentage of atheists in Vancouver – a city known for its spirituality?
Some societies have climbed the ladder of religion and then kicked it away, embracing secular methods of social organization. In some parts of the world, people have found effective ways to be cooperative without big gods. Here in Vancouver, we have one of the least religious societies in North America – almost one in two Vancouverites say that they do not belong to any religion. Yet, a growing number of the non-religious report having spiritual beliefs and inclinations.

What does *Big Gods* tell us about the role of religion in our society today?
Despite the massive advances of science and technology, world religions and their secular successors continue to influence events at the dawn of the 21st century. Whether it is about religious diversity, a backlash against secularism, or the global repercussions of conflict among religions, hardly a day goes by without religion making headlines. In looking at the origins and spread of world religions, *Big Gods* tackles these contemporary issues that are shaping events today.

What does Quebec's recently proposed charter of values say about the separation of church and state and the ability for societies to create a tolerant atmosphere for people of different faiths?
Quebec's proposed charter is just one example of the ongoing battle between competing visions of secularism. Separation of religion and state is, of course, an important achievement of secularism. When the state remains truly neutral in matters of faith, it promotes peaceful co-existence of different cultures and religions. But neutrality does not imply suppressing or banishing religion or, for that matter, other culturally cherished values. Multicultural civil societies thrive by accommodating the self-expression of people of different faiths, as well as of non-believers.

Ara Norenzayan is professor of psychology at UBC and a co-director of UBC's Centre for Human Evolution, Cognition, and Culture. T



a place of mind
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Werner & Hildegard Hesse
1926-2008 & 1919-2008

Now supporting preservation of bird habitats

Werner and Hildegard Hesse were passionate bird watchers and enthusiastic conservationists. The Hesses expressed their passion for birding with a gift in their wills to UBC, ensuring vital funding for ornithology research.

UBC can help you plan a lasting legacy in an area important to you. Call 604.822.5373 or visit www.startanevolution.ca/Hesse

startanevolution.ca

UBC ARCHAEOLOGISTS HELP DISCOVER **MYSTERY STONE AGE TRIBE**

UBC archaeologists have helped to uncover the last known group of hunter-gatherers in Central Europe.

Working with international researchers, the UBC team used advanced isotope analysis techniques to determine that a group of hunter-gatherers retained their way of life 2,000 years longer than previously thought.

"Until now, scientists believed that hunter-gathering cultures disappeared in Central Europe almost immediately after farming began around 5,000 BC," says Olaf Nehlich, a post-doctoral researcher in UBC's department of Anthropology. "These new findings show that hunter-gatherers continued to exist alongside farming societies for a much longer period of time."

Nehlich and UBC Anthropology professor Michael Richards conducted the isotope analysis that identifies that the two different groups of *Homo Sapiens* had differing diets, indicative of their hunter-gathering and farming lifestyles. UBC has the only lab in Canada – and one of a handful around the globe – equipped for archaeological research using this combination of isotopes.

The study focused on preserved Stone Age specimens found in the ancient Blätterhöhle archaeological site in Hagen, Germany. The UBC researchers analyzed sulfur, nitrogen and carbon isotopes in the specimens' bones and teeth while a team lead by Ruth Bollongino of Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz conducted genetic testing, which found surprisingly little cross-mating between the two cultural groups.

According to the researchers, further study is needed to determine the social relationships between them. "How these two groups of *Homo Sapiens* interacted is still very much a mystery," says Nehlich. "Our findings suggest they lived separately, and kept to each other, but at this point, we have no idea if they were friends or foes."

The study, "2000 Years of Parallel Societies in Stone Age Central Europe," was published in *Science Express* journal.

Michael Richards.
Photo by Martin Dee.

EVENTS

UBC DIALOGUES

Marine conservation: Luxury or necessity?
Hong Kong – January, 2014

Should we work to live? Or live to work?
Vancouver – January 14, 2014

Plugged in: Is technology connecting us? Or controlling us?
Okanagan – January 30, 2014

THE NEXT STEP: MAKING THE PITCH

The Next Step is a program for recent graduates providing advice and guidance for life after university.
Vancouver – February 4, 2014
Okanagan – March 27, 2014

The Grape Debate 2014:

Is wine made in the vineyard or in the winery?
Vancouver – January 31, 2014

THIS PHOTO, TAKEN BY SOMENATH MUKHOPADHYAY, WAS ONE OF THE WINNING ENTRIES IN THE INAUGURAL ALLARD PRIZE PHOTO COMPETITION. FOR DETAILS, SEE PAGE 17.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Innovation Goggles

Stephen J. Toope
President and Vice-Chancellor, UBC

What does innovation look like to you? Is it a computer processor that runs 1,000 times faster than the best money can buy? Or a pair of ski goggles that feeds you performance metrics, web data and phone calls all from the middle of a black diamond run? What about an ultrasound-guided robot conducting perfectly accurate surgeries, while the surgeon's hands remain outside the patient? Fertilizer pellets made out of waste water? Mine waste that fixes atmospheric CO_2? What about groundbreaking treatments for Alzheimer's? Cancer? AIDS?

Everything I've just described is a real discovery made by a team of UBC researchers. Research universities are innovation powerhouses, and UBC is one of best in Canada: Highest income from licensed IP. Highest number of patents applied for per year. Highest number of US patents issued per year. Second-highest number of licenses executed, of discoveries and inventions, and of start-ups per year. Over 150 spin-off companies so far and a partner in over 1,000 industry-sponsored projects. Generator of 94 per cent of all industry-sponsored research in BC, with an annual contribution to BC's economy of $12.7 billion.

So what's the catch? For starters, BC ranks ninth among 10 provinces in productivity gains since 1985. Add to that the fact that our top 25 companies saw revenues drop last year, particularly in the resource and energy sectors, and you begin to see that something's wrong with this picture.

The tech-transfer process – by which university research contributes to technological progress and economic growth – is weak, and it's keeping our regional and national economies from thriving as they could.

Every stakeholder in the process, from industry to government to granting agencies to UBC, bears a share of the responsibility for that. Here's what we're doing about it at UBC:

1. We're opening a Corporate Relations office to better nurture and build our relationships with industry;
2. We're opening a faculty consulting agency to handle administration so our experts can focus on delivering innovative solutions to their clients;
3. We've become a living laboratory for sustainability, and the solutions we devise are exportable and scalable to the wider community – civic to global;
4. We've redesigned our "entrepreneurship@UBC" program to include education, workshopping, venture creation, and seed funding, with all content available online; and
5. We're reengineering our University Industry Liaison Office (UILO) to facilitate not only the commercialization of medical discoveries but all elements of this strategy.

Perhaps most importantly, we recently brought together key industry leaders and organizations to discuss how business, academia and government can cooperate to accelerate our innovation ecosystem. We all have our work cut out for us between now and next year's roundtable, but collaborating in such a partnership at last gives us the potential to create our own version of San Diego's CONNECT or London's Tech City. And that's what innovation looks like to me.

Board of Directors

CHAIR
Judy Rogers, *BRE'71*

VICE CHAIR
Michael Lee, *BSc'86, BA'89, MA'92, LLB*

TREASURER
Ian Warner, *BCom'89*

MEMBERS AT LARGE [2011-2014]
Robert Bruno, *BCom'97*
Blake Hanna, *MBA'82*
Ernest Yee, *BA'83, MA'87*

MEMBERS AT LARGE [2012-2015]
David Climie, *BCom'83*
Dallas Leung, *BCom'94*
Judy Rogers, *BRE'71*
Kirsten Tisdale, *BSC'83 (Zoology)*
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*

Ex-Officio:

PRESIDENT'S DESIGNATE: VICE PRESIDENT, DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT
Barbara Miles, *BA, Post Grad in Ed.*

UBC PRESIDENT
Professor Stephen J. Toope, *AB, LLB & BCL, PhD*

UBC CHANCELLOR
Sarah Morgan-Silvester, *BCom'82*

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT, ALUMNI / EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Jeff Todd, *BA*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Making Things Happen

Jeff Todd
Executive Director, Alumni Association/AVP Alumni

When I was a kid in the late 1960s, I would look up at the moon and try to imagine people up there. It seemed like an impossible dream – the stuff of science fiction. But for a young boy it set the imagination soaring. Would I grow up and become an astronaut? Would I at least get to go up there as a tourist one day?

As it happens, I've stayed put on terra firma. But little did I guess that decades later I would be hosting celebrations to recognize the amazing career of someone who was right in the thick of that mind-blowing human accomplishment of landing on the moon. One of this year's alumni UBC Achievement Awards recipients is William Carpentier, MD'61, who was chief physician to the Apollo 11 astronauts.

I knew of this "World Famous Physician"– as he became known for his TV appearances at the time – long before I'd ever heard of UBC. But then I like to think that UBC was in Dr. Carpentier's DNA long before NASA! We celebrated him along with five other exceptional members of the UBC community (see page 36) at an uplifting awards ceremony and dinner in November.

Sometimes the world's problems and challenges may seem overwhelming in scale, but that hasn't stopped any our recipients from taking action to address some of them. One of the reasons I like working at UBC is because universities are such hopeful places. They are concentrated pools of talent, innovation and goodwill that can – and do – produce the sort of thinking and action that leads to change. Here students are encouraged to recognize that, by virtue of their education, it is their duty to be invested in a broader future than just their own. Our six awards recipients certainly make for some pretty impressive role models.

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Alumni Central

Judy Rogers, *BRE'71*
Chair, UBC Alumni Association

Some things are worth waiting for. At our AGM this September President Toope announced that UBC, in partnership with *alumni UBC*, is committed to going ahead and building an Alumni Centre on its Vancouver campus (see page 23). This was welcome news to the many alumni volunteers, including former and current board members, who have been personally invested in this project – some of them from its earliest conception many years ago. I am so very grateful to everyone who has been involved.

We couldn't hope for a better site for our new Alumni Centre. It's right next to transit stops, across from the bookstore, a stone's throw from the library and immediately adjacent to the new Student Union Building, currently under construction. Even for frequent visitors to campus, this new SUB, paid for by the students themselves, seems to be materializing at the speed of light. It's fascinating to watch the design take shape. It even retains the grassy knoll – albeit in a slightly different location from the original. I'm so pleased we're going to be neighbours, given all the natural connections between students and alumni – especially in the areas of mentorship, employment, and innovative partnerships and learning opportunities.

The Alumni Centre will be a prominent structure forming part of the new University Square. Plans for improving this central area of campus have long been in the works – with the objective of giving it some definition and architectural character, and creating an inviting and vibrant community atmosphere.

The funding for construction will rely on donations from alumni and friends. I encourage you to visit alumnicentre.ubc.ca to learn more and find out how you can be involved in this historic project to build a home for alumni FOR LIFE at UBC!

Judy Rogers

Michael Lee

Ian Warner

Robert Bruno

Blake Hanna

Ernest Yee

David Climie

Dallas Leung

Kirsten Tisdale

Faye Wightman

Valerie Casselton

Gregg Saretsky

Barbara Miles

Professor Stephen J. Toope

Sarah Morgan-Silvester

Jeff Todd

DRESS **FOR SUCCESS**

There's no question that your personal style can affect how employers perceive you. However, this doesn't mean your work wardrobe needs to be boring. There are ways to showcase your unique personality while still putting forth the professional look you want, at a price you can afford.

On October 22, *alumni UBC* held a fashion show and panel discussion on workplace style, as part of The Next Step, an ongoing series that offers personal and professional development advice to recent grads. Following are six of the tips offered by our fashion experts.

Moderator: **Lien Yeung** – Weather and Community Host, CBC News Vancouver Saturday and CBC News Vancouver Sunday, UBC Masters in Journalism candidate
Panelists: **Steven Schelling** – Editor, Writer, Media Consultant, Stylist at THEY Rep, Fabulist
Catherine Dunwoody – Freelance Writer/Editor, Stylist, Producer, Event MC/Host, Broadcaster
JJ Lee, *MArch'01* – Writer, Media Specialist

1. Pay attention to the basics if you want to look put-together. Learn how to tie your own tie. Keep your shoes polished and in good repair. Retire jeans from your business casual rotation as soon as they show any signs of wear and tear.
2. A good tailor is your best friend. They can often improve the fit of your clothes, but they can also upgrade details such as buttons to make an inexpensive article of clothing look like a high-end garment.
3. Know your audience. In an interview situation, try to figure out what the corporate culture and dress code is beforehand. In the workplace, don't take your style cues from your colleagues; use your superiors' dress as a guide. If you work in a creative field, clients will expect to see creativity and personality in your wardrobe.
4. Let movement be your guide. When you try clothes on, move in them. If you're wearing a suit, you want your movement to feel smooth and unencumbered. If you bought a new outfit for an interview, give it a trial run beforehand. There's nothing worse than being uncomfortable when you're already nervous and trying to make a good impression.
5. Keep the essentials in your closet at all times. Every man should have a mid-weight navy or grey two-button, single-breasted suit, as well as a pea coat. Every woman should have a stylish trench coat and a navy or grey suit. Men can dress up a business casual outfit with an unstructured jacket (a blazer or sports jacket), while women can use a jacket or a cardigan.
6. Don't get caught up in a look. Mix it up a little. You don't want to fall into the "green sweater day" trap where you wear the same outfit on the same day every week. Think of your pieces of clothing as elements that can be used to create stylish new outfits every week.

COATS OF ARMS

UBC adopted its coat of arms in 1915, based on a design by first president Frank F. Wesbrook, who also chose the Latin motto *Tuum Est*. Historian Harry Logan suggested that President Wesbrook envisioned the university as a provincial resource serving and belonging to the people of British Columbia, and that this was reflected in the design – which has obvious links to the provincial coat of arms. The coat of arms has had various iterations over the years.

In the spring of 2013, the coat of arms underwent more changes – this time to restore its original splendor and ensure consistent, quality rendering for a variety of formats. The design refinements have focused on accurate historical relevance and period vernaculars, including the use of letterforms appropriate to the period.

- More readable type
- Cleaner book shape with fewer pages
- Properly rendered buckles and straps
- Decorative flourish historically referenced with leaves of vines indigenous to British Columbia
- Smoother curves on sun rays and waves

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.

alumni 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.

Request a quote today
1-888-589-5656
melochemonnex.com/ubc

You could WIN
$60,000 cash to build your dream kitchen!*

HOME | AUTO | TRAVEL

The TD Insurance Meloche Monnex home and auto insurance program is underwritten by SECURITY NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY. The program is distributed by Meloche Monnex Insurance and Financial Services Inc. in Quebec and by Meloche Monnex Financial Services Inc. in the rest of Canada. For Quebec residents: We are located at 50 Place Crémazie, Montreal (Quebec) H2P 1B6.
Due to provincial legislation, our auto insurance program is not offered in British Columbia, Manitoba or Saskatchewan.
*No purchase is required. There is one (1) prize to be won. The winner may choose between an amount of $60,000 CAD to build a dream kitchen of his/her choosing or $60,000 CAD cash. The winner will be responsible for choosing a supplier and for coordinating all of the required work. The contest is organized by Security National Insurance Company and Primmum Insurance Company and is open to members, employees and other eligible persons who reside in Canada and belong to an employer, professional or alumni group which has entered into an agreement with the organizers and is entitled to receive group rates from the organizers. The contest ends on October 31, 2014. The draw will be held on November 21, 2014. A skill-testing question is required. Odds of winning depend on the number of eligible entries received. The complete contest rules are available at melochemonnex.com/contest.
®/™The TD logo and other trademarks are the property of The Toronto-Dominion Bank or a wholly-owned subsidiary, in Canada and/or other countries.

Support UBC with time and knowledge:
Apply to become a Convocation Member of Senate

Under the University Act, academic governance of The University of British Columbia is vested in two Senates, **comprised of faculty, staff, alumni and student representatives** that meet monthly throughout the academic year.

As a Convocation Member of Senate, you can have a real and lasting impact on the operations and future direction of The University of British Columbia. **All members of the convocation are eligible, except for current faculty members.**

During your three-year term, you may help to:
- Set academic policies
- Review and revise admission standards
- Establish new departments and schools
- And much more! Visit http://senate.ubc.ca for more.

Twelve positions on the Vancouver Senate and two positions on the Okanagan Senate are waiting.

Become the next alumni voice, and change the future of your school.

Don't wait—nominations are due January 31st 2014.

a place of mind
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Visit **http://facultystaff.students.ubc.ca/triennial-elections** for more about the nomination process, or connect for more information through **elections.information@ubc.ca / 604-827-0003**

INTEGRITY *vs.* CORRUPTION

The Allard Prize for International Integrity is awarded to an individual, movement or organization that has demonstrated exceptional courage and leadership in combatting corruption, especially through promoting transparency, accountability and the rule of law. The $100k prize was established by UBC alumnus **Peter Allard**, QC, as part of an $11.86m donation that helped fund the new Law building, Allard Hall.

The inaugural recipient of the prize is **Anna Hazare**, who for decades has led successful movements across India to enhance government transparency and investigate and prosecute official corruption.

The other finalists – **Dr. Sima Samar**, an internationally celebrated advocate for human and women's rights, and **Global Witness**, an organization campaigning against natural resource-related conflict and corruption and associated environmental and human rights abuses – were each awarded $25,000.

Go to **trekmagazine.alumni.ubc.ca** to watch an inspirational video about the finalists' lives and work.

A photo competition to reflect the themes of the Allard Prize was also launched, with winning entries being announced every six months. Trek's cover, this spread, and page 9 all feature the work of the first two winning photographers. See over for descriptions.

(L-R) Allard Prize award winner Anna Hazare; Keynote Speaker Stephen Lewis, CC.; Peter Allard, QC.

The following is abbreviated from remarks made by Peter Allard, QC *(BA'68, LLB'71)***, at the Allard Prize ceremony held on September 25, 2013:**
Just after the end of the Second World War, the generation of UBC Law students who preceded me came forward with a new sense of hope and commitment to build a better and more just world. Tens of millions of the world's citizens had just died horrific deaths through the most cruel savagery, atrocities and traumas imaginable.

Political regimes preceding WWII, both on the extreme left and right, clearly demonstrated that, despite their constitutions and manifestos to the contrary, the realities of their political administrations stripped citizens of their basic democratic rights of fairness and justice through denial of an equitable rule of law. Tyranny reigned.

After the war, with the assistance of a number of initiatives including the Marshall Plan and creation of The United Nations, democracy in North America and Europe began to encounter an era of peace and stability.

Every form of government is a constant "work in progress," demanding full transparency, accountability and value for those citizens who work and deliver revenue to the system. The goal is to ensure that those less fortunate are raised up to a minimum level, that checks and balances over power and abuse of power actually work, and that our democratic values and principles are rooted to the middle ground where a strong sense of right and wrong, social justice and the truth are in place and stabilized.

We often naïvely think that issues of accountability, corruption and the lack of the rule of law are Second and Third World issues. But the reality is that our Western democracies are subject to precisely the same concerns. Over the past 30 years, the necessary checks and balances have been increasingly eroded through deregulation and the influence of money over substance and democratic principles.

Stability and the rule of law have, to a significant extent, given way to unfettered power in the hands of a few, and an over-taxed and increasingly vulnerable middle class. Self-interest and short-term greed are threatening legal systems around the world, and long-term protections are disappearing.

Much of this degradation has been accomplished with or sanctioned by the concurrence of our legal and judicial brethren. Furthermore, there has been a loss of judicial independence over time, and judges, some of whom come to their positions through elaborate political networking systems, are themselves subject to the temptations of their own and their associates' interests.

In order to protect each and every democratic principle that we hold dear, it's imperative that we foster more independent, probative, balanced and impartial justice systems worldwide. We must protect and fight for the basic rights that some people have today and for which others yearn. For history has warned us that they are fragile. And they can disappear overnight.

What better place to highlight the need to strengthen the concept of the rule of law, ethics and international integrity within the legal profession and the broader community than at UBC Law? And how better to support this activism than to focus attention on those guiding lights in the world who tirelessly and selflessly fight, often at great personal risk, on behalf of those who are denied equal access to a just and fair legal system?

The Allard Prize honours those precious and inspirational souls whose work and actions embody all of the prize criteria – including leadership, courage, transparency, accountability and the rule of law. All of this year's finalists – Global Witness, Anna Hazare and Sima Samar – are extraordinary, all are deserving, and we hold all of them in the highest esteem.

To a large extent this prize is meant to honour the generation that preceded me along with their ideals and hopes for a just and better life, and who had hopes and dreams for their families and their families' families for a safer and more secure society. It is now time for us to encourage the next generation to be actively engaged and vigilant, and for disparate groups to come together, to effect positive change and find common sense solutions to the constant threats to basic human rights and security.

I challenge all of us to become participants in the quest to improve all of the systems that we are responsible for managing. Not just in Canada, but worldwide. And I challenge all of us to spend less time on pure commentary, and more time on incorporating our collective intellects into progressive and equitable action.

Transcript of remarks made by Allard Prize winner Anna Hazare on accepting the honour:
Dear Sisters and Brothers / Ladies and Gentlemen:

Mr. Peter Allard is one who has dedicated his mind, body and soul towards service to the society and I am very happy to receive this recognition.

I have been combating corruption for the last 25 years. I have always followed and practiced non-violent methods of "Satyagrah" (ie: protests through agitations, demonstrations, hunger strikes, etc.) I have never allowed any violence to take place.

On August 16, 2011, when I went on a hunger strike at Ramleela Maidan, New Delhi, people turned up in very large numbers, not only in New Delhi but also all across the nation. Millions of people came forward on to the streets to pledge their support, but not a single stone was thrown. This has become a unique example for the rest of the world. I have also been imprisoned by the government quite a few times, especially during agitations.

I also tried to fight the legal battles through the judiciary. Some of the deposed ministers filed various legal suits against me at various places. Eleven advocates came forward and offered me their voluntary legal services. Some are still fighting cases on my behalf, without charging any money.

Due to the persistent anti-corruption activity, six cabinet ministers had to resign from their posts, and more than 400 corrupt government officers have been dismissed. Due to these agitations, the government was forced to bring about transparency in their operations. The government amended and framed newer laws.

Similarly, agitations for improvement in government functioning led to introduction of biometric attendance systems in government offices. A new legislature came into existence by virtue of which no document could remain without action for more than seven days.

The Right to Information Act came into existence. Earlier information on various facts was denied to the public under the pretext of the Official Secrets Act. After gaining access to vital information, the RTI Act has led to the unearthing of a large number of scams and some really big ones.

Earlier there were several malpractices for the transfers of the government officers. Now, due to the new legislature, no government officer can be transferred before completion of his three year term, nor can he retain that post for more than three years.

Anna Hazare

A village community meeting is, in fact, a village parliament. A new legislature came into existence empowering the village community with more powers. The co-operative institutions were plagued with rampant corruption. A completely new legislature was framed to counter the corruption.

There are several co-operative credit societies, and these are mostly controlled by powerful politicians. The controllers would siphon out almost all the money and later declare the society bankrupt. Many poor depositors lost all their wealth, deposits and their lifetime's earnings. Our agitations forced the government to declare a 2000 million Rupees relief package for poor aggrieved depositors.

For the last two years, I have mainly focused my efforts for a very strong "Jana Lokpal Act" (Ombudsman Act). I have already given a notice to the government to go on hunger strike on this issue when the next winter session of parliament begins.

I have dedicated my life in the service of the people. I believe, service to humanity, is in real sense, the worship of God. I have been doing my bit and continue to do so within the limits of my abilities. I am thankful to the prize committee to consider me worthy of the honor. Thank you. T

PHOTO COMPETITION

Katharina Hesse is a Beijing-based photographer who has worked throughout Asia for nearly two decades. Her work primarily focuses on China's social concerns, among them youth and urban culture, religion and North Korean refugees.

The woman in this photo is Kim Jeong-Ya (a pseudonym), 67, from Yanji, China. Ms. Kim is one of a handful of Chinese activists from this region who have put their lives at risk to help neighboring North Korean refugees. Ms. Kim has dedicated her life to creating a safe passage to South Korea for North Koreans via mainland China. She has been imprisoned twice by North Korean agents operating in China.

The Allard Prize Photo Competition jury selected this photo as it captures the image of a woman with extraordinary courage and with dedicated commitment to human rights.

The woman in this photo is Kim Jung-ae (a pseudonym), 62. After her son died two years ago of starvation, Ms. Kim escaped from North Korea to find food and shelter in China. It was no easy task to leave North Korea – a country that denies its citizens the basic human right to travel freely. During her journey to China Ms. Kim had no income, was disabled and had to live on herbs and grass that she collected in the mountains. It took Ms. Kim five days by foot to reach a town in China, where she now supports herself by reselling garbage that she collects on the streets.

The competition jury selected this photo as it captures the image of a woman with the courage to seek a better life despite the risks involved.

Somenath Mukhopadhyay is an amateur photographer and a teacher at a higher secondary school. His work primarily focuses on people and the environment and in particular in the areas of agriculture, human health, water and food security and climate change.

The boy in this photo is collecting water from a dried up pond in Birbhum, a district in West Bengal, India. The district is known for its arid soil and sparse vegetation. Climate change and extreme weather conditions have marginalized communities such as Birbhum that rely on its surroundings for food and shelter.

The competition jury selected this photo as it highlights the basic human rights issue of access to safe drinking water.

THE ONE WHO HAMMERS

A tall, imposing structure in what would have been the private elite sector of Cahal Pech. Photo: Diana Smith, Believe It Tour

Archaeologist Marc Zender – a world renowned expert on ancient hieroglyphs – is helping to unravel the mysteries of the Maya.

BY ANDREA COOPER

Marc Zender strokes the handle of an ancient ceramic dish. It might be an odd gesture, except the handle is in the shape of an irresistibly cute peccary, something like a Central American pig.

"You see those curlicue lines?" Zender says, pointing to the rust-colored swirls on either side of the peccary's face. "Those come from the musk glands." With those curlicues of blowing wind, the artist is telling us that a peccary stinks.

The Maya probably used this casserole-like container, officially called a covered basal flange dish, to cook tamales from 1,400 to 1,700 years ago. "We can't be sure exactly when the dish was made," Zender says. "But if there's a single hieroglyph in that tomb, then I could date it to within 50 years. Every hieroglyph has its own stylistic history."

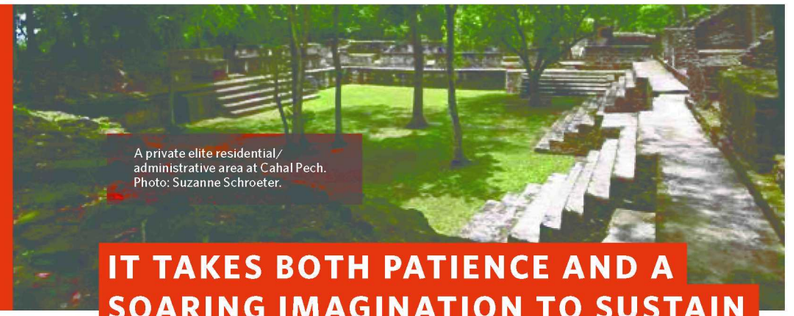
A team of archaeologists and students found the dish in a tomb a few days earlier at Cahal Pech, an archaeological site in western Belize. Now it's in Tiffani Thomas's nearby hotel room. Thomas, an artist and teacher working at the site, notices the open holes in the peccary's nostrils and smiles. "Can you imagine the smell of the tamales wafting out?"

"Oh, excellent! Well done. The steam would have escaped." Zender bends his 6' 2" frame over the peccary, picks it up, and gives it a quick kiss on the snout, laughing as he sets it on the bedspread. The beauty of the clay beast is awesome, yet its fragility is alarming. How can this artifact – this one-of-a-kind object – be sitting here on a bed, instead of behind glass at some museum?

Thomas is worried about storing it in her room. The archaeologists excavated and carried it from a tomb high atop a temple down a flight of uneven stone stairs. Now she has to keep it safe until it reaches its next destination, likely the Institute of Archaeology in Belize.

Everybody caring for irreplaceable items feels nervous, Zender reminds her. In 2011, during Zender's first season at Cahal Pech, archaeologists found, buried in a tomb, two beautifully inscribed rings made from animal bone. Zender deciphered the writing on them, discovering the name of Cahal Pech's king and the ancient Mayan word for ring. But in the process, he almost sat on the rings. "I cleaned and made notes about them on the bed because there was no other work space." He stands to demonstrate. "Then I got up to do something else, came back, and" – he blanches, remembering the almost-fatal-plop onto the bed – "ayyyy-eee!"

In 2011, archaeologists unearthed bone rings with hieroglyphic inscriptions. Marc Zender translated some of these, discovering the name of Cahal Pech's King and the ancient Mayan word for ring. Photo by C. Mathew Saunders.



A private elite residential/ administrative area at Cahal Pech. Photo: Suzanne Schroeter.

IT TAKES BOTH PATIENCE AND A SOARING IMAGINATION TO SUSTAIN A CAREER IN ARCHAEOLOGY.

Dr. Marc Zender is one of world's top experts on Mayan hieroglyphs. In the classroom and on archaeological sites, he's a specialist in decoding Mayan writing and revealing the history, meaning, and culture behind it. Zender has been involved in deciphering some 50 Mayan glyphs – the characters and symbols in hieroglyphs – and has, unassisted, identified about a dozen.

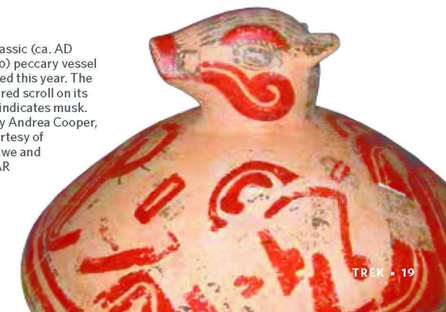
Two glyphs make up his own name. AJ, a stylized flower with waves of scent floating from it, means "one who does," and BAJ, representing a hammer stone made of sturdy flint, means "to hammer." All together: "one who hammers," which ties neatly to the Latin word for hammer, *marcus*.

Marc Zender studying an ancient Maya building. Photo by Kathryn Reese-Taylor.

The one who hammers is currently the official epigrapher, or specialist in ancient inscriptions, for two Maya excavation projects: The Proyecto Arqueológico de Comalcalco in Tabasco, Mexico, and Cahal Pech, due east of Comalcalco. At Cahal Pech, Zender spends several weeks each summer as a faculty member of the AFAR field school out of North Carolina, one of the few programs to take US high school students on an international dig. This summer more than 40 students are covered in grime and joyfully digging where 6,000 people may once have lived before the collapse of the ancient Maya civilization around 900 AD. "Marc is one of those incredibly gifted people," says Jaime Awe, director of the Institute of Archaeology in Belize. "He's equally at home talking with colleagues as with high school kids. Not a lot of people have that gift."

It's hard to convey the range of Zender's mind. So let's try this: the Toronto native speaks English, German, Spanish, and Yucatec Mayan, along with remnants of French, and he's studied most of the 30 Mayan languages. Among other subjects, he teaches classes on both the ancient and modern forms of the Nahuatl language, once spoken by the Aztecs, at Tulane University in New Orleans, where he's a visiting assistant professor.

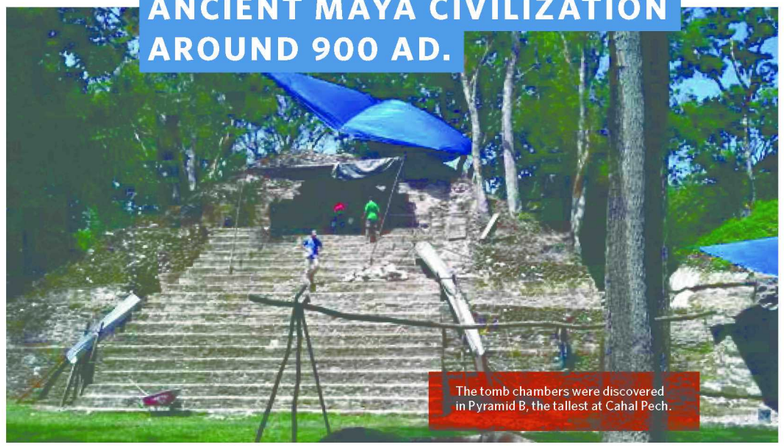
The vitae of his academic publications is pages long, but he can also riff entertainingly on topics like the history of the letter A. (It began as a drawing of an ox.) *Good Morning America* in the US, *Timewatch* on the BBC, and *National Geographic* have all featured Zender's research.



Early Classic (ca. AD 450-600) peccary vessel excavated this year. The looping red scroll on its cheeks indicates musk. Photo by Andrea Cooper, and courtesy of Jaime Awe and the BVAR project.

Late Classic (ca. AD 600-700) jade celt excavated from a tomb chamber in 2011. These objects were suspended from belts and would make musical sounds as they struck each other. Photo by C. Mathew Saunders.

THIS SUMMER MORE THAN 40 STUDENTS ARE COVERED IN GRIME AND JOYFULLY DIGGING WHERE 6,000 PEOPLE MAY ONCE HAVE LIVED BEFORE THE COLLAPSE OF THE ANCIENT MAYA CIVILIZATION AROUND 900 AD.



The tomb chambers were discovered in Pyramid B, the tallest at Cahal Pech.

"He's probably the best person to come along in the last ten years in my subject," says Stephen Houston, a leading archaeologist and professor at Brown University who helped bring Zender to Harvard as a post-doctoral fellow and lecturer, and also acknowledges him as "a spectacularly successful teacher, beloved of his students."

The high school students, led by Zender and AFAR founder Mat Saunders, are searching for the floor and exterior wall of a temple or building hidden within a hill at Cahal Pech. They are doing serious work that feels like play. Zender helps them dig with shovels, refine with trowels, and screen dirt for ceramics and other artifacts. He is authoritative without being remote or stuffy. (His rendition of "The Fun Song" from Spongebob is considered respectable by his charges.)

At 42, Zender could pass for a decade younger, maybe because he's never lost a boyish enthusiasm for the coolness of his subject. His mom was fascinated with history and nurtured his interest with frequent trips to the Royal Ontario Museum, where listening to the docents helped inspire his dream of a career as an Egyptologist.

He played with secret languages early on. He and his friends would write notes to each other in code or lemon juice, to be revealed by the light of a lamp. "We'd send each other more and more devious messages to see if we could crack them," he says. By the time he was a teenager, he not only loved *The Lord of the Rings*, he had taught himself to read Tolkien's invented alphabets and the Elvish languages. (Zender still teaches courses on Tolkien's languages and writing systems through Harvard's Extension School.) He also realized that the Maya, like the Egyptians, had hieroglyphs – and that you could drive to Maya sites from Canada. Egyptian hieroglyphs had been largely decoded by the time Zender was at university, while there was still much to learn about Mayan.

During Zender's three summers at Cahal Pech, the teams of students and professionals have turned up extraordinary finds, including jade figurines, obsidian tools and weapons, painted ceramics, bone, jewelry, shells with hieroglyphs, and an inkpot with three colors of pigment still intact. Jade pendants, sometimes worn on belts, not only looked beautiful in Maya times but chimed as they knocked together – the sound of the elite strolling by. From the 32 sites where Zender has worked or consulted, though, his most exciting discovery has been more than a dozen burial urns at Comalcalco, including one that told a life story.

"It wasn't from a king or queen or high nobleman, but rather a priest, a functionary for the site," Zender says. The priest's small burial chamber was filled with dozens of texts inscribed on stingray spines and conch shell pendants. "It suddenly cast light on all these people who were on the periphery of court life." During ritual ceremonies, the priest would pierce his penis, tongue or ear lobe with a shark's tooth as a way to offer a gift of blood to the gods. They were a fun group, those Maya.

The glamour of that find got Zender written up in *U.S. News & World Report*. It also produced, behind the scenes, one of the more memorable stories from Zender's marriage. Zender and his then-fiancée, Susan Morley-Zender, *BA'97*, had planned a Cancun honeymoon and were a few days from leaving when Zender received an urgent email from Comalcalco: Come now!

He broached the news to his beloved, who agreed to make a detour from Cancun. Zender promised an easy bus ride, but in his haste to get there, he picked the first scheduled departure. "We ended up on the chicken bus," Morley-Zender says. In cages piled high around them, chickens clucked and preened. "It was a 16-hour ride, with no stops, and the bathroom didn't work. It smelled so awful that the locals held handkerchiefs over their noses." It wasn't all from the chickens; the bathroom waste holding-tank was positioned above the muffler, producing a cauldron of boiling excrement.

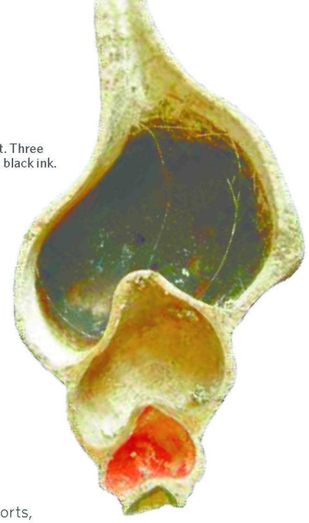
Zender laughs uproariously when he hears that his wife has recounted the story (in a small building, you can find him soon enough by listening for the burst of baritone laughter) then pauses for a moment: "Was she laughing when she told you?"

Zender's life has taken unexpected turns before. He is the second in his extended family to graduate from university, earning his undergraduate degree in anthropology at age 27, guided by his mentor, UBC associate professor William R. Thurston. The way Zender set out to become the best at an obscure subject may not be a bad plan: Before going to college, read plenty of books on your own first. "He took time off to self-educate," Morley-Zender, an elementary school teacher in New Orleans, says of her husband. "I think he knew when it was time: Not only am I going to do this, I'll do it with excellence."

They met in a UBC class on Indian history and married a year after graduation. He had already become "instant dad" to her two young daughters, and they have a third daughter, all of whom enjoy hieroglyphs, although not quite as much as their dad. Secret signs can come in handy even for them. When Zender needs to let them know where the house keys are, he does so with Egyptian hieroglyphs.

It takes both patience and a soaring imagination to sustain a career in archaeology. Zender, Saunders, and others have many conversations about whether the stones they're uncovering are part of a wall or the beginnings of stairs, whether they are part of an intact building or a collapsed one. Some of the material could be daub, the evocative word for stucco or plaster used on an ancient building, now fallen and just historical debris. Add looting from the 1950s and 1,200 years of trees, and "the rubble pattern of a building can look ridiculously complicated," Zender admits. "A whole generation of trees can grow up, become massive, die, and yank the top of a building to pieces."

He's giving a tour on Friday morning from the top of the excavation hill. As he describes how commoners and the elite lived, the city seems to materialize before him. Perhaps such imaginary visions – of structures and pathways, ancient ball games and markets – are what Zender sees all the time. Below, the students hoist wheelbarrows of excavated dirt and someone's iPod plays Billy Joel's "New York State of Mind."



Late Classic (ca. AD 600-700) conch shell ink pot. Three of its four wells still show traces of blue, red, and black ink. Photo by C. Mathew Saunders.

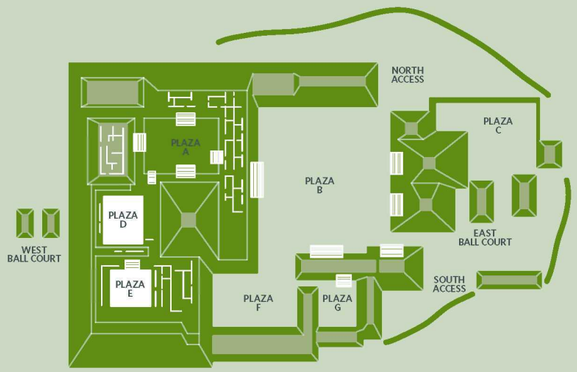
Zender, who skips from stone to stone with the agility of a mountain goat, agrees that archaeology is like working a puzzle, "except we don't have all the puzzle pieces, and we don't have the picture on the box lid," he says. They've seen enough patterns at other sites or in reports, though, that they can hypothesize; archaeologists begin with the known to piece together the unknown.

That's what the students have been doing. Their efforts could give staff from the Institute of Archaeology enough information to reconstruct or conserve the facade of the new structure by next summer.

This work isn't for everyone. It's tiring, even for teenagers. Belize can be so humid in July that you feel as if you never left your bathroom after a shower. But by Friday afternoon, at the end of their second week in Belize, there is a movie-ready ending: They've found facing stones from a long-ago staircase that can help guide the rest of the excavation.

To anyone who has invested time on the site, or in the company of Zender, the facing stones are like jewels. It is so easy to get wrapped up in what might be under that next layer of soil. For Zender, the excitement about making discoveries in the field has never waned. "All those giddy, Indiana Jones-type feelings come back to you," he says. "You're digging in a sandbox – and coming up with treasures." T

CAHAL PECH



Source: Archaeological Institute of America.

MEANING: **PLACE OF TICKS**

1950 FIRST EXCAVATED

1,500 YEARS OF HABITATION

34 BUILDINGS

10 SQUARE MILES

MOST LIKELY SETTLED BY **MAYA FROM GUATEMALA**

DATE OF DISCOVERY **UNKNOWN**

ONE OF THE EARLIEST **MAYA** SETTLEMENTS IN BELIZE

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT 2012-13

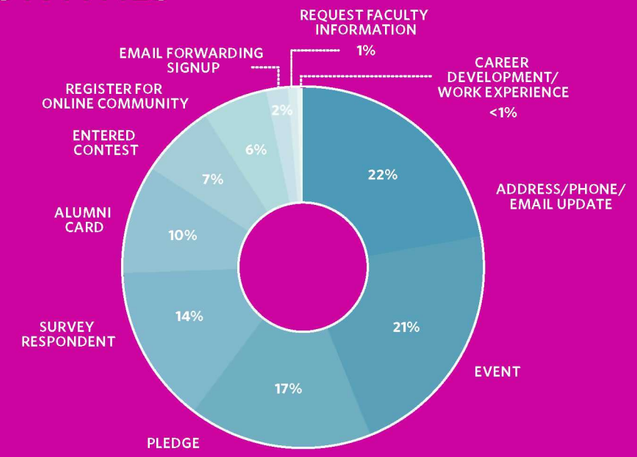
The past year has been all about revitalization. From a re-examination of its identity to the roll-out of a new strategic plan, *alumni UBC* has positioned itself to surpass the university's campaign goal of doubling alumni engagement with UBC by 2015.

In 2012-13, more than 45,000 alumni were involved with the university in some capacity – from simply updating an address in order to receive news and event invitations, to mentoring a student, to serving on a dean's committee, to participating in one of our myriad programs tailored for alumni. This is an increase of 30 per cent over last year.

The new strategic plan developed last year is now in execution; a new brand is enlivening communications and growing awareness of the organization and its many offerings; and, as the new student union building nears completion, we eagerly anticipate breaking ground in preparation for a new alumni centre right next door.

All the elements are in place for a record-breaking 2013-14. For more information about staying involved with UBC, please go to **alumni.ubc.ca**

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES



in 2013:

45,095

ALUMNI ENGAGED

GROUNDBREAKING: A HOME FOR ALUMNI FOR LIFE

To better serve our 285,000 alumni across the globe, UBC and *alumni UBC* are building a brand new alumni centre at the heart of the Vancouver campus, with an expected completion date of April 2015!

The centre will be the first of its kind in Canada and a physical representation of the partnership between UBC and its alumni. Beyond symbolism, it will be a key resource for alumni as they do business, expand their careers, satisfy their intellectual, cultural and social appetites, and engage with other alumni and members of the campus community. It will also serve as a welcome centre for non-alumni visitors – an introduction to UBC presented by its grads.

The project was initiated by committed alumni volunteers, and support from alumni across Canada and around the world is essential to its completion. Please visit **alumnicentre.ubc.ca** to find out more. For information about contributing to the Alumni Centre please contact **Leanne Poon** at **604-822-9245** or **Leanne.Poon@ubc.ca**

Students in front of their old classroom in Kaliyon Kee Bagal, India, one of the first communities Sharma worked with. "It was this community that truly guided my understanding of rural India: the challenges communities face as well as their multitude of strengths deriving from their traditions and connectivity to one another," she says. Photo by Russ McLeod.

FREEDOM FIGHTER

While leading a project to educate impoverished children in rural India, Shobha Sharma, *BA'03*, learned important lessons about community, collaboration and the meaning of family.

BY WENDY HELFENBAUM

Shoba Sharma.

Holding her infant son in her arms last June, Shobha Sharma decided to name him Samanyu Azad – a name that honours the development work in rural India she has poured her soul into for close to 10 years.

"Azad means freedom. I named my son after a child labourer I met there," says Sharma, who was deeply affected by the grim life the 11-year-old was leading. "Azad played the dhol drum at wedding processions, travelling to different communities without his family. I realized that children were employed here for several reasons: they're paid less, they don't have the freedom to speak out against this injustice and therefore they're more vulnerable and less of a security risk to their employers."

Azad's situation is not unique. In Udaipur, India, where 34 per cent of the population lives on less than $1 a day, Sharma discovered that more than 60 million child workers – some as young as six – populate the region's work sites. Nearly half of them are illiterate. Her career is dedicated to helping such children gain access to an education – like the one her son can count on – and tackling the incapacitating poverty that meant they were denied one in the first place.

A few months before she gave birth, Sharma shared her experiences in India as a speaker at UBC's annual Student Leadership Conference. It wasn't her first time at the event. Back in 2003, about to graduate, she attended as an audience member, and the speaker's presentation permanently altered the course of her carefully planned life.

"I had intended to go to law school," says Sharma, "but when I heard Free the Children founder Craig Kielburger speak, it changed everything."

Kielberger's message about how young people can become agents of change resonated with Sharma, who had been becoming increasingly disturbed by the marginalization of indigenous populations in North America. Right after graduation, she began a two-year stint at Free The Children's Toronto office.

"People thought that I was in a 'saving the world' stage, but within my first year, I was promoted to director of communications," says Sharma, who later decided to pursue a master's degree in Indigenous Governance at the University of Victoria. She was especially interested in education reform, and spent six months in Ladakh in the Himalayan foothills to complete fieldwork towards her thesis, *Regenerating Indigenous Governance through Education in Ladakh.*

"If you have the opportunity to provide support to individuals or a community, go when you have the least to gain," she says. "I was in Ladakh – 14,000 feet above sea level – in the middle of the winter, where temperatures [that go down to] minus 50 keep all the tourists away. It gave me an opportunity to understand the hardships and work with the community towards real solutions."

Living in a 6 x 6 solar-powered room built into the mountain, Sharma didn't just understand the hardships, she lived them. "Working in Ladakh was the most powerful experience of my life," she says. "My role was to empower Ladakhi youth by helping them gain skills so they could become community leaders. I used Free The Children materials to teach solution-oriented thinking and action planning. In that part of Asia, there's not a lot of innovation in education; the kids aren't allowed to think for themselves."

Within days of Sharma's return home, Free The Children tapped her to launch its new centre in Udaipur. As Projects and Programs country director of India, Sharma trained a team of locals, many of whom were skeptical of her work.

"It took a long time to build trust, she says. "While I was busy doing needs assessments, they were doing character references, because here was this random girl who came into their community asking a thousand questions." Sharma knew that trust had to be established before the work could begin. "I'll never forget the day I got permission to build a school," she says. "When I went into the community with a contractor, the elders walked me up to the school grounds, as if saying to the people 'we support her.' That was incredible."

This young boy Sharma met had travelled from his village to earn money to support his household. Mixing and pouring cement, digging trenches and watering the foundation were only a few of the tedious tasks of a minimum 12-hour day. Other very common child labour practices are cotton picking, diamond cutting, domestic labour and work in cloth factories. Photo by Russ McLeod.

IN UDAIPUR, INDIA, WHERE 34 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION LIVES ON LESS THAN $1 A DAY, SHARMA DISCOVERED THAT MORE THAN 60 MILLION CHILD WORKERS – SOME AS YOUNG AS SIX – POPULATE THE REGION'S WORK SITES.

Sharma managed a team of 25 and worked 16-hour days. She led donor relations, built relationships with government and local community leaders, and oversaw rural construction. With temperatures hovering at 40 degrees, Sharma followed the villagers' schedule. "I'd get up at three in the morning to go into the field, and sit against a tree with a cup of tea to cool down," she says. "The sun was so intense that I'd throw up if I ate in the middle of the day, so I often wouldn't eat. Every summer for the first three years I was there, I'd get severely dehydrated, so I'd have to go to the city hospital for a saline drip."

Although Udaipur is one of the most sought-after tourist destinations in the world, it is surrounded by poverty. Sharma, who speaks Hindi, Punjabi and Mewari, the local dialect in Udaipur, helped create alternative income generation projects for the

"The community members guided and supported our attempts at overcoming challenges and understanding their reality, equally as much as we attempted to support them in battling hardships and uplifting practices within their day to day lives," says Sharma. "We all became family very quickly." Photo by Russ McLeod.

villagers. By connecting them directly to the market and introducing new technology that added value to their crops, Sharma's team helped provide income to parents so they'd have the economic freedom to send their children to school. Running awareness campaigns about child labour diverted many kids into Free The Children's government-supported schools, including the one in Lai Community of which Sharma is most proud.

"When we initially got here, we found a mud hut that was being used as a local pub by night and a school by day," she recalls. "Working with the community, we built a five-room primary school. The community pushed for strong educators, and now there are five teachers there. It went from 10 to 170 students, 60 per cent of whom are girls."

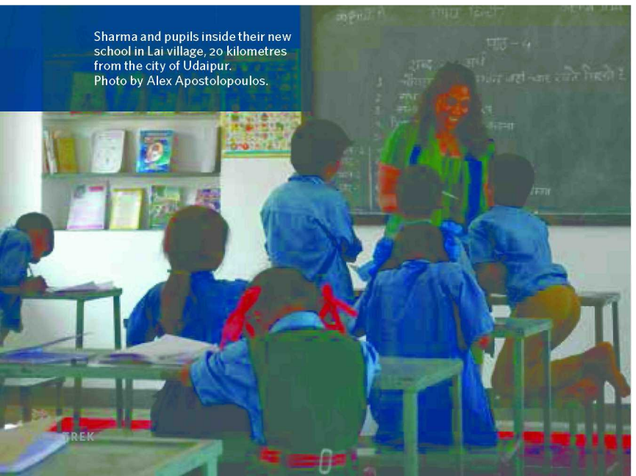
Sharma met her husband, Sagar, in Udaipur and planned to return to India shortly after giving birth. But three days after Samanyu was born she suffered a life-threatening stroke due to blood clots in her brain, which brought her plans to a screeching halt.

"Luckily I came out alive and not paralyzed, but I had to stay in Canada to be closely monitored by doctors before receiving clearance to fly," she says. In early May, Sharma finally brought her new family to visit her Udaipur family. "The elders were meeting and they all stood up and came over to greet me, which was amazing," she says.

Sharma hopes to join Free The Children's Honorary Board of Advisors and eventually return to India full-time. "My husband and I want Samanyu to be exposed to poverty so that he can make socially conscious decisions in his own life," she says. "There's a Ladakhi proverb – 'Lamae Lam Stanchin' – that means 'paths will lead to more paths.' I believe you will always succeed if you do what you're most passionate about." T

This used to be Lai's primary school. It's a mud and rock hut that was being used as a school by day and the local pub by night. Students would come to school in the morning and find shards of glass and empty liquor bottles. During the monsoon the room would fill up with water. Photo by Russ McLeod.

BY CONNECTING THEM DIRECTLY TO THE MARKET AND INTRODUCING NEW TECHNOLOGY THAT ADDED VALUE TO THEIR CROPS, SHARMA'S TEAM HELPED PROVIDE INCOME TO PARENTS SO THEY'D HAVE THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM TO SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL.



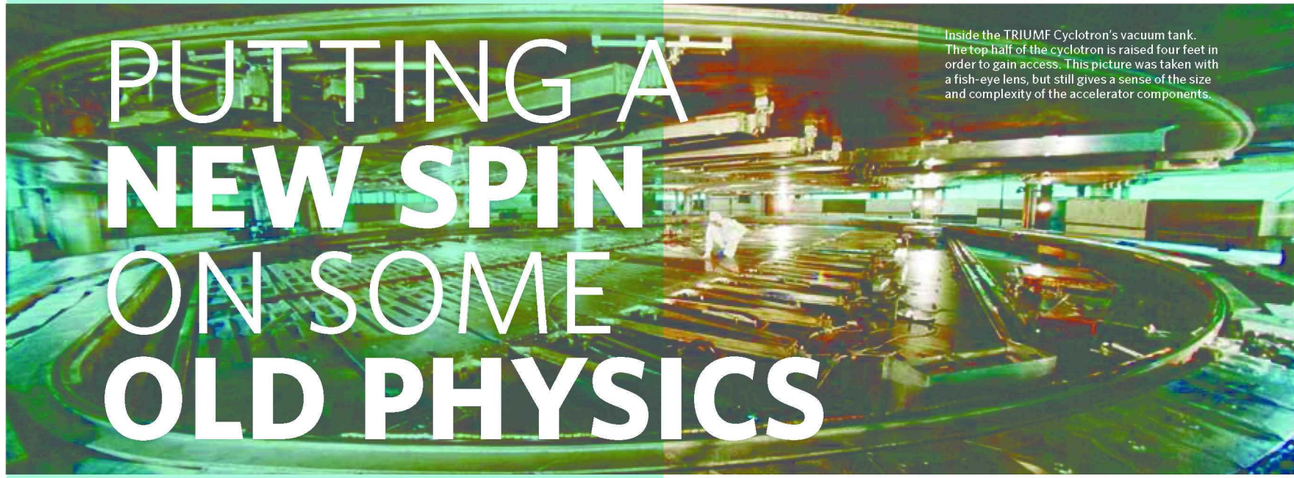
Sharma and pupils inside their new school in Lai village, 20 kilometres from the city of Udaipur. Photo by Alex Apostolopoulos.

CHILD LABOUR

Millions of children work to help their families in ways that are neither harmful nor exploitative. However, UNICEF estimates that around 150 million children aged 5-14 in developing countries, about 16 per cent of all children in this age group, are involved in child labour. International Labour Organization estimates that throughout the world, around 215 million children under 18 work, many full-time. In Sub-Saharan African 1 in 4 children aged 5-17 work, compared to 1 in 8 in Asia Pacific and 1 in 10 in Latin America.

Although aggregate numbers suggest that more boys than girls are involved in child labour, many of the types of work girls are involved in are invisible. It is estimated that roughly 90 per cent of children involved in domestic labour are girls. Even though the prevalence of child labour has been falling in recent years everywhere apart from Sub Saharan Africa, where it is actually increasing with regard to children aged 5-14, it continues to harm the physical and mental development of children and adolescents and interfere with their education.

(Sources: UNICEF and ILO)

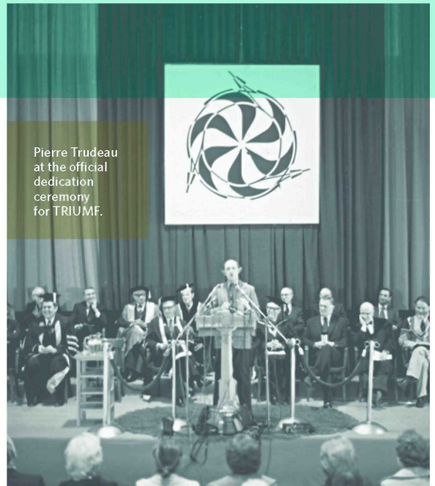


Inside the TRIUMF Cyclotron's vacuum tank. The top half of the cyclotron is raised four feet in order to gain access. This picture was taken with a fish-eye lens, but still gives a sense of the size and complexity of the accelerator components.

PUTTING A NEW SPIN ON SOME OLD PHYSICS

A once-obscure piece of scientific equipment is proving key to resolving a serious challenge facing the medical community.

BY TIM LOUGHEED



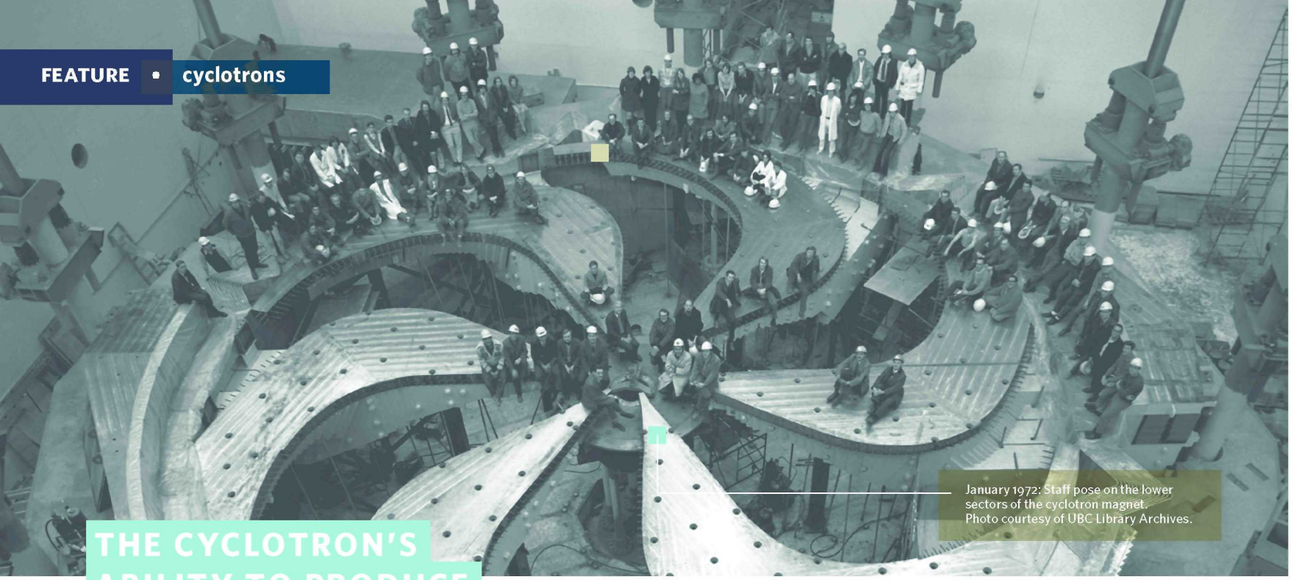
Pierre Trudeau at the official dedication ceremony for TRIUMF.

When Pierre Trudeau visited the UBC campus in February 1976, he candidly acknowledged that he knew nothing about cyclotrons but was excited about the research potential they offered for Canada. The then prime minister was in Vancouver to speak at the official dedication ceremony for TRIUMF, a facility on the university's south campus that still houses the world's largest example of a cyclotron, AKA a high energy particle accelerator.

What a difference a few decades can make. TRIUMF has since gained an international reputation for expertise in areas related to physics, chemistry, and nuclear medicine. And although most Canadians may still be hard-pressed to explain what a cyclotron is, it's probably fair to that say many have at least heard of a high energy particle accelerator – think Higgs boson. But the enhanced public profile of these once-obscure pieces of scientific equipment is also due to a series of events that have brought cyclotrons into the fold of modern medicine.

At the end of 2007, a research nuclear reactor in the small town of Chalk River, Ontario, broke down unexpectedly. It was the sole North American source of radioactive materials key to producing technetium-99m, an isotope required for the sophisticated medical imaging that doctors now routinely use to diagnose and treat conditions such as cancer or heart disease.

When the reactor broke down, thousands of patients found themselves waiting for imaging procedures, and although the mechanical problem was resolved after a few hectic months, the "isotope crisis" had revealed that the reactor might well be on its last legs.



January 1972: Staff pose on the lower sectors of the cyclotron magnet. Photo courtesy of UBC Library Archives.

THE CYCLOTRON'S ABILITY TO PRODUCE TECHNETIUM HAS BEEN KNOWN SINCE 1971, BUT THE FINDING HELD LITTLE MEDICAL INTEREST WHILE THE CHALK RIVER REACTOR WAS DOING ITS JOB.

Dr. Francois Benard holds the BC Leadership Chair in Functional Cancer Imaging at UBC. As the medical community struggled with the problem, he was among the first to identify cyclotrons as a potential solution. They are already found in dozens of hospitals across the country – devices typically as big as a single car garage containing powerful magnets that spin electrically charged particles around at high speeds then direct them at small, coin-sized targets. Depending on a target's makeup, the impact yields all sorts of isotopes. More specifically, if the target is made of the metal molybdenum, one of those isotopes is technetium-99m.

Technetium-99m is a short-lived, radioactive version of a fairly unremarkable silvery gray metal. Small quantities of it can be attached to biological agents with an affinity for particular organs or cancerous tumours. Once injected directly into the human body, the localized radiation can be turned into images that go well beyond the established success of X-ray imagery. Not only do they reveal the physical structure of what is happening beneath the skin, but also the otherwise invisible biochemical interactions that are occurring at the same time.

As exotic as this procedure might sound, it has become a routine undertaking in the last 20 years, one that is now carried out on millions of patients every year. Benard has been interested in this powerful technology for even longer, since his student days at the Université de Sherbrooke, where his father had been among the researchers who helped establish the medical school.

The cyclotron's ability to produce technetium has been known since 1971, but the finding held little medical interest while the Chalk River reactor was doing its job. Thomas Ruth, senior research scientist at TRIUMF, credits Benard with reminding a community in crisis of this valuable piece of old news.

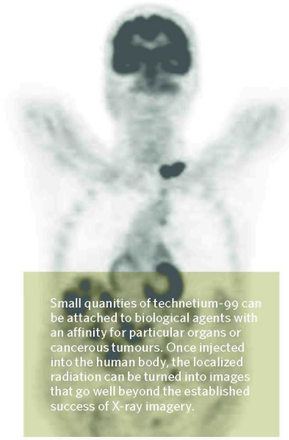
"Francois was the one locally that really pushed the envelope to make us look at something that was staring us in the face," he says.

By 2010 a team led by principle investigator Dr. Paul Schaffer, as well as members of Richmond-based Advanced Cyclotron Systems, Inc., one of the world's leading manufacturers of these devices, were actively exploring the prospect of cyclotron-based isotope production. More than $30 million in federal funding went to research groups across the country for this purpose. The culmination of these efforts came this June with an announcement that the BC Cancer Centre's cyclotron could generate technetium-99m in quantities sufficient to meet the needs of Vancouver and likely well beyond. Although the downtown Vancouver-based cyclotron will be turning out the isotopes on a workaday basis, it was the hard science carried out at TRIUMF by Schaffer's team that made it viable.

Francois Benard

"What we've achieved is showing that we could scale things up substantially, by an amount of 10 times," said Benard. "Essentially the milestone is moving away from pilot scale to real-life quantities that make it useful for urban areas."

Researchers at cyclotron facilities in Edmonton, Alberta and Sherbrooke, Quebec, are also close to demonstrating their own ability to meet regional imaging needs. If similar achievements can be made in other parts of the country, Canada will become the first place in the world to free itself from the constraints of nuclear reactors as the sole source of technetium-99m.



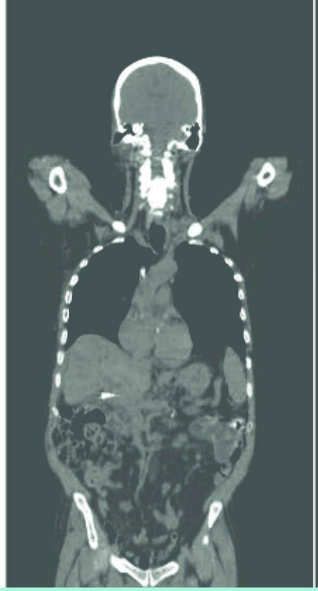
Small quanities of technetium-99 can be attached to biological agents with an affinity for particular organs or cancerous tumours. Once injected into the human body, the localized radiation can be turned into images that go well beyond the established success of X-ray imagery.

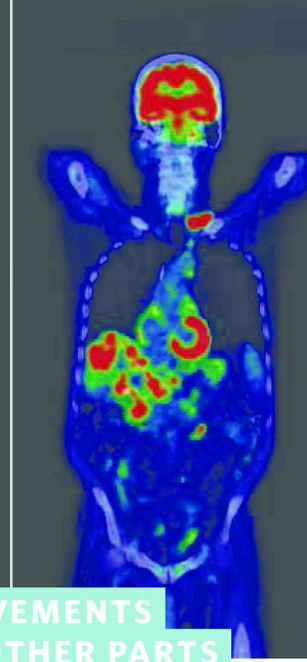
For Professor Anna Celler of the university's Department of Radiology, this milestone seemed more like a trip down memory lane. As part of the project team, she took part in calculations of a cyclotron's isotope output, just as she had done for her PhD research decades earlier.

"It was very natural and I enjoyed it," she said, recalling a peak period in cyclotron research. "Investigations of different radioisotopes using cyclotrons is something that was done more in the 70s and 80s than it is being done now."

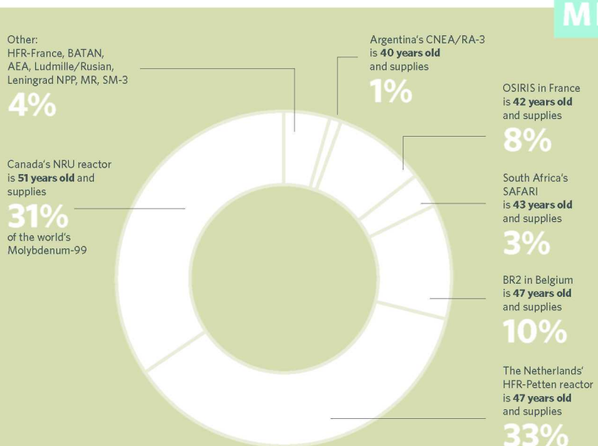
Even so, Celler added that this accomplishment may well be a sign that cyclotrons are hitting their scientific stride once again. Besides solving the immediate problem of technetium-99m, the same approach can turn out a wide range of different isotopes, each suited for a specific type of medical imaging.

Pierre Trudeau might not have fully understood what a cyclotron is, but he was right to be excited. "We are involved in other projects, creating medically important radioisotopes," says Celler. "People realize that the cyclotron can be used, and the expertise is here." T





IF SIMILAR ACHIEVEMENTS CAN BE MADE IN OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, CANADA WILL BECOME THE FIRST PLACE IN THE WORLD TO FREE ITSELF FROM THE CONSTRAINTS OF NUCLEAR REACTORS AS THE SOLE SOURCE OF ISOTOPES REQUIRED FOR MEDICAL IMAGING.



MEDICAL ISOTOPES: CURRENT SUPPLIES

Molybdenum-99 decays into Technetium-99m, a short-lived medical radioisotope used in 80% of nuclear medicine procedures. Canada's HRU reactor at Chalk River, ON, and the Netherlands' HFR-Petten reactor together account for nearly two-thirds of the world's supply.

alumni UBC 2013
ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Many people talk about making the world a better place. And there are those who go out and make it happen. On November 14, at the Four Seasons in downtown Vancouver, we celebrated six members of the *alumni UBC* community who see the need for change as a personal responsibility. You can read their full bios on our website.

ALUMNI AWARD OF DISTINCTION

William Carpentier, *MD'61*

Carpentier was the chief physician for the Apollo 11 crew and is acknowledged as one of the greatest contributors to the field of space life science. His later career has focused on nuclear medicine, and four decades of exceptional work has resulted in important advancements in radiology, diagnostics and cancer treatment.

YOUNG ALUMNUS AWARD

Tim Laidler, *BA'09*

Tim Laidler is a master's candidate in counselling psychology and a corporal in the Canadian Forces who is committed to enhancing the quality of life for veterans of war. He is credited with increasing awareness around the issue of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

FUTURE ALUMNUS AWARD

Salina Dharamsi, *BCom'13*

Salina Dharamsi has already established an impressive record of academic achievement, leadership and community service. As well as being a familiar face on the local volunteering scene, she has travelled to Guatemala, India and Rwanda, where she worked and learned side-by-side with local people on community development projects.

FACULTY COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Muhammad Iqbal

After Mo Iqbal retired from UBC's department of Mechanical Engineering, he and his wife established the Maria-Helena Foundation to provide educational opportunities to disadvantaged children in Pakistan, notably to girls. The organization has so far established several schools, a medical clinic and a training centre.

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP AWARD

Gurdev Gill, *MD'57, DSc'96*

Gurdev Gill was the first Indo-Canadian to practice medicine in British Columbia. He has been centrally involved in several organizations that support newcomers to Canada, helping them adapt to Canadian culture and promoting equality and intercultural understanding. He now spends much of his time overseeing public health projects in the Punjab area of India.

VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP AWARD

Juanita Lohmeyer, *BSc'00*

Juanita Lohmeyer is an award-winning business executive with a long record of service to disadvantaged communities in Canada and abroad. She has a practical, business-based approach to establishing sustainable programs for providing healthcare, alleviating poverty, and empowering communities.

NEXT YEAR'S AWARDS 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 **www.alumni.ubc.ca/nominate** or call **Karolin Konig** at **604 822 8939** for details.

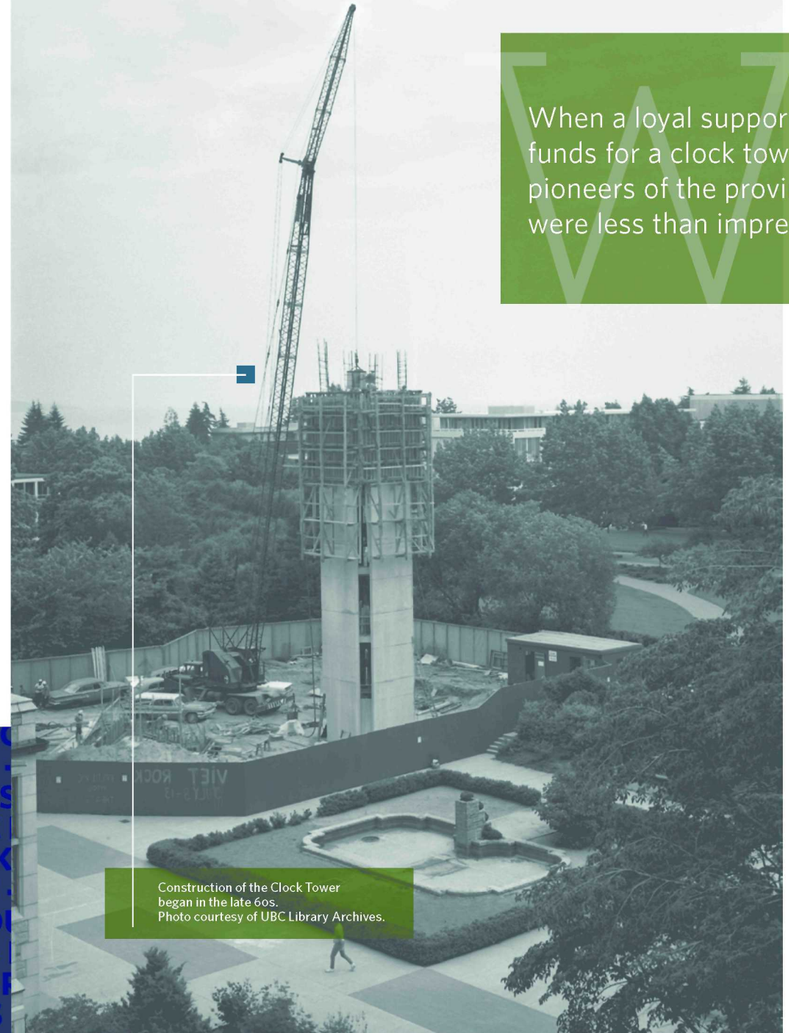
alumni UBC alumni.ubc.ca/awards

startanevolution.ca

THE CLOCK TOWER AND THE ANARCHISTS

When a loyal supporter of the university donated funds for a clock tower to honour the founding pioneers of the province, some of the students were less than impressed.

BY ERWIN WODARCZAK



Construction of the Clock Tower began in the late 60s. Photo courtesy of UBC Library Archives.

The Ladner Clock Tower is a well-established landmark of UBC's Vancouver campus, but when first proposed in the 1960s, as with many things during that era, it was the focus of controversy.

The tower was a gift from Leon J. Ladner. He was the son of British Columbia pioneers, born and raised in the town that bears his family name. He went on to co-found the prominent law firm Ladner Downs and served as an MP from 1921 to 1930. Ladner was also a long-time supporter of the university. A founding member of Convocation, it was Ladner who in May 1921 moved the resolution urging the establishment of a new campus at Point Grey. He was also a member of Senate from 1955 to 1961, and of the Board of Governors from 1957 to 1966.

In a letter to UBC President John B. Macdonald, dated 4 July 1966, Leon Ladner announced his gift of $100,000 (later increased to $150,000) for the construction of a clock and bell tower. He intended it as a tribute to the founding pioneers of the province – in particular his father and uncle, Thomas and William Ladner. He

also hoped that the clock tower would serve as an inspiration to UBC students:

When that clock tower is completed and the clock rings out the passing of each hour, I hope it will remind the young students that not only does time go fast, but that the hours at our university are very precious and the use of those hours will seriously affect the success, the happiness and the future of their lives.

"THE CLOCK TOWER IS A LARGE PAVLOVIAN-TYPE EXPERIMENT. RING THE BELL ENOUGH TIMES UNTIL WE REACT READY FOR THE BUSINESS WORLD." ~

STUDENT DONALD GUSTEIN IN AN ARTICLE HE WROTE FOR AN OCTOBER 1967 ISSUE OF *THE UBYSSEY*.

The project was officially announced by the university in July 1967. According to the press release, the clock was originally envisioned at the top of the new administration building planned for the corner of University Boulevard and Wesbrook Crescent. Ladner felt the building's proposed eight storeys would make it the ideal location. When the university determined that funds were available only for a four-storey administration building, Ladner agreed to an alternative site immediately west of Main Library.

The tower's design was the result of a competition held by the university architectural firm Thompson, Berwick and Pratt. From among 10 submissions submitted by the staff, Ladner and two of the firm's executives picked a proposal by Ray Griffin. He was a 29-year-old architect who had received his Bachelor of Architecture degree from UBC in 1961 and had been with Thompson, Berwick and Pratt for four years.

Griffin's plans called for a 140-foot-tall four-sided carillon tower, with seven-foot clock-faces at the top of each side that would be illuminated at night. Together with light projected through coloured glass in vertical slits down the sides of the tower, the clock was intended to catch the attention of passers-by around campus as well as seafarers on the waters off Point Grey.

The carillon consisted of 330 bells, including 61 Flemish bells, 61 harp bells, 61 celeste bells, 61 quadra bells, 61 minor tierce bells and 25 English tuned bells. The "bells" were actually small bronze bars, made from the same metal as traditional cast bells. When the bars were struck with small metal hammers, the sound would be amplified from the top of the tower through 12 speakers.

The design also included a 100-seat terrace fitted into the natural contours of the surrounding landscape, where spectators could sit and watch musicians play the carillon using a console or keyboard. This part of the project was later abandoned. The console was installed in a small concrete building beside the tower. The carillon could be played manually from the console, or automatically using nylon rolls with holes punched in them, similar to those used on old-fashioned player pianos. In 1997, this carillon would be replaced by a digital system capable of playing a wide range of synthesized bell sounds.

Soon after it was announced, some students questioned the appropriateness of Ladner's gift. In October 1967, *The Ubyssey* reported that newly-elected undergraduate student senators were asking if the money could be "diverted into more urgent projects, such as the library." The response from the university administration was that the funds could not be used for anything else.

For student activists, the issue still wasn't settled. In *The Ubyssey* on 27 October 1967, an article by Donald Gutstein began, "What could you do with $150,000 at UBC? You could buy 25,000 books. You could give $8 to every student. Or, better still, you could throw it away. You could build a clock and bell tower next to the UBC library."

Gutstein called the clock tower "a functional, social and visual irrelevancy" – it had no value as a landmark, and reduced the multi-use function of the space in front of Main Library. It was "junk," useful only for filling some of the wasted space between buildings. He complained of "the monotonous and inconsequential tolling of the hours, hour after hour, day after day, year after year, century after century" that the clock would bring to the campus.

Finally, Gutstein objected to Ladner's idea that the clock's chimes would remind students that "the use of [their] hours [at UBC] will seriously affect the success, the happiness and the future of their lives." To a representative of the late-60s counter-culture, this was a thinly-veiled demand for conformity. "The clock tower is a large Pavlovian-type experiment", he wrote. "Ring the bell enough times until we react ready for the business world."

Other students contented themselves with poking fun at the tower. Off-colour jokes about the "lofty erection" abounded. *The Ubyssey* quoted graffiti in Main Library that read, "I resent that tower; it reminds me of my short-comings."

Leon Ladner was dismayed and disappointed by the response to the project. He insisted that a memorial to the pioneers of the province was an appropriate use of his money. "There are no memorials in B.C. to honor the early builders of this province and I take it upon myself to do this," he told *The Ubyssey* in 1968. "Nobody, particularly 20,000 students, will agree upon the best form of a memorial... [T]he donor should have a say in the disposition of his contribution."

Ladner dismissed the idea of using the money for books, saying, "books are the provincial government's responsibility." He also pointed out that he had already established two scholarships at UBC; that he had promised another gift for the new Student Union Building; and that his other education-related foundations and gifts amounted to $30,000.

Ladner also claimed that he consulted with student leaders, both after his initial offer to the university and during the initial planning stages. Peter Braund, former AMS president (1966-67) had a different perspective, recalling that the consulation was rather limited. "He just told us one afternoon over lunch that we are going to have the tower. It wasn't a consultation," he told *The Ubyssey*. The students' respect for Ladner, however, prevented them from making any objections at the time. "We didn't indicate our opposition because he'd done a great deal for the university," said Braund.

Other opponents of the clock tower resorted to more direct action. In October 1968 a man was arrested while vandalizing the tower. The official report noted that locks had been forced open, some light fixtures broken, and the concrete structure spray-painted. The incident occurred

Ladner Clock Tower Plaque Dedication at Faculty Club. Ladner is pictured centre. Photo courtesy of UBC Library Archives.

"THE FACT REMAINS THAT UNTIL WE COMPLETELY SUPPRESS THE RADICAL FRINGE – AND THIS IS IN PROGRESS – IT IS VERY FOOLISH TO GIVE THEM ANY OPPORTUNITY OF RAISING A CROWD WHERE THEY CAN MAKE A POLITICAL DEMONSTRATION." ~

PRESIDENT KENNETH HARE IN REFERENCE TO STUDENTS PROTESTING THE CLOCK TOWER, FROM A LETTER HE WROTE TO LADNER IN NOVEMBER 1968.

the same week as the student occupation of the Faculty Club, although there was no documented connection between the two events. In a letter to acting university president Walter Gage dated October 28, Leon Ladner expressed his outrage:

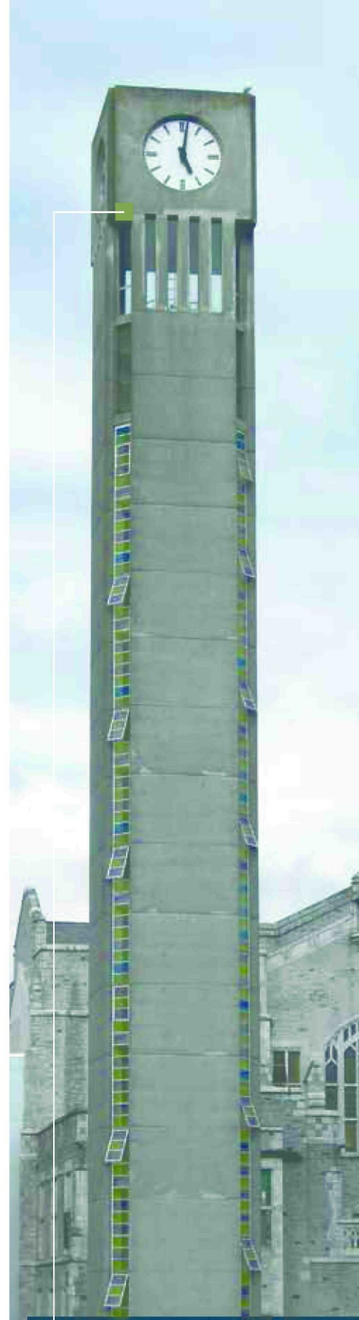
If the authorities are reluctant to lay the [vandalism charge], I am prepared to lay it myself... In my judgement, public opinion will react strongly against our University and our student body if vandals, like this man, are not prosecuted or expelled. Public opinion is already building up a strong critical attitude towards the student body without recognizing the fact that 95 or 98% of the students are decent, good people.

Despite such opposition, construction of the tower proceeded and was largely complete by the end of 1968. The student radicalism did not abate and the generally tense atmosphere around the campus made both Ladner and the university administration reluctant to schedule a public dedication ceremony. As President Kenneth Hare wrote to Ladner on 29 November, "the fact remains that until we completely suppress the radical fringe – and this is in progress – it is very foolish to give them any opportunity of raising a crowd where they can make a political demonstration." Director of Ceremonies Malcolm McGregor was even more blunt – when asked by *The Ubyssey* when students could expect an official dedication, he answered, "I won't be part of a ceremony that is for the benefit of anarchists."

A modest ceremony proposed for December 1968 – which would have coincided with the Christmas exam period – was not approved as the administration felt that it would be an added inconvenience for students. Another proposal to have a dedication and carillon recital during the spring 1969 congregation also went nowhere.

Finally, a dinner party was held on 19 August 1969 to honour Leon Ladner and his gift to UBC. Guests included Premier W.A.C. Bennett, Lt.-Gov. John Nicholson, and some 40 other invited guests. The affair was not publicized, and guests were specifically requested not to make any public statements about it. After dinner, Ladner made a brief speech, unveiled a commemorative plaque, and officially presented the tower and carillon to the university. On a pre-arranged signal from a campus patrolman, Hugh McLean from the Department of Music began a short recital at the carillon. The music could be heard across campus.

Over the years, the controversies surrounding the building of the Ladner Clock Tower have gradually faded away. Music broadcast from the tower has become a traditional part of congregation ceremonies every spring and fall. It is still the butt of jokes, particularly in *The Ubyssey*, which has published pictures of the tower with a condom drawn over it on at least one occasion. But to most students, faculty and alumni, it is part of the campus landscape, and if anything is viewed positively – even with affection. T



The Clock Tower in 2009. Photo by Leoboudv (Own work) [CC-BY-SA-3.0 (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0) or GFDL (http://www.gnu.org/copyleft/fdl.html)], via Wikimedia Commons

Jay Brown, who earned an MFA in Creative Writing from UBC in 2010, is a writer and librarian living and working in Toronto. His short fiction has appeared in *The Vancouver Review*, *Grain*, *Prairie Fire*, the anthology *Darwin's Bastards*, and *The Journey Prize Stories* 23 & 25. He is currently at work on a novel.

THE HOLLOW EARTH

BY **JAY BROWN,** *MFA'10*
ILLUSTRATIONS BY **JUSTIN GABBARD**

Thank you, Dean Arapi, for those kind words.

Let me first express my pleasure at being here today to congratulate all of you for successfully completing your diploma requirements. My own time spent here in the Stagger building was one of the most satisfying and magical periods in my life.

As you're all aware, I am one of the pioneers of this program. In its heyday, Hollow Earth Studies *was* Victoria College. Students came here from all over the world and, and in a single generation, there were sister departments in 37 educational institutions, globally.

Those were different times. In the last ten years no new textbooks have been issued on the topic. Our last journal of repute, *The Open*, quietly folded in 2047. The current minister of Natural Resources, Mia Treppanier, has reduced research funding down to the barest of trickles – only just enough to keep the LED banks at Pelly Bay powered and maintained. The area of interest you and I have in common is in danger of being strangled out of existence.

But why? It's true that there's been no proven economic incentive for exploring the vast opening beneath our feet. Hopes for floating layers of valuable gasses or other energy stores were dashed completely when the last of the Exxon Sanctity probes finished its scan. Empty. Ever since, H.E.S. has largely become an academic discipline; our funds come from those dollars meant to service the public good.

All of you at one time or another, I'm sure, have envisioned careers post-graduation as vacuunauts slung across earth's inner arc to explore and sample and illuminate that long mysterious underside. Easily harvested resources aside, the inner earth – what the late philosopher Thomas Asch termed "the ceiling world" – remains a space with virtually unlimited exploration potential. You young graduates wish to know the function of the bioluminescence of the bacterial colonies that glow in giant quartzite stalactites below Lake Superior, or the nature of the condensation that forms in the olivine fields of the Shetland plate. You dream of that instance in which you first pivot downwards on your harnesses, remove your protective masks, face for a moment that awesome stretch of darkness, and hear the unmediated humming of the entire deep against your eardrums. In short, I have no doubt that you were driven here by curiosity.

What's happened to the world's curiosity?

As we move forwards we are also always moving backwards, longing for the way things were before great change swept us into this unknown world. We regressives often prefer to fish in stagnant but familiar waters and reel in the giant dead fish of the past, paint them in pastel colours and display them for sale on the dock as though they were fresh and not rotten. Things are as they've always been, we say, not like this. We are so afraid of change that we are capable of ignoring it even as it occurs right before our eyes.

I've got something stuck on the wall just in front of my desk at home. It's a framing of the simple image of a stick figure with horns and a little forked tail, a sort of devil. It's a rubbing taken from the first descending platform at Pelly Bay, a tiny doodle etched into the metal, possibly by one of the men or women who welded it all together. In that first foray, three of us were lowered on this platform, lashed together on a circular bench. The descent took over four hours. The smooth and featureless walls of the borehole were barely a centimetre from the lip of the platform and after a time our excitement turned to claustrophobia. We stopped talking and there was only one dead sound, which was the fibre-line as it hissed through the pulley. As we proceeded, the narrowness of the borehole – this tiny carved out space – made all the weight and force of the earth's crust stark and fearsome in its massiveness.

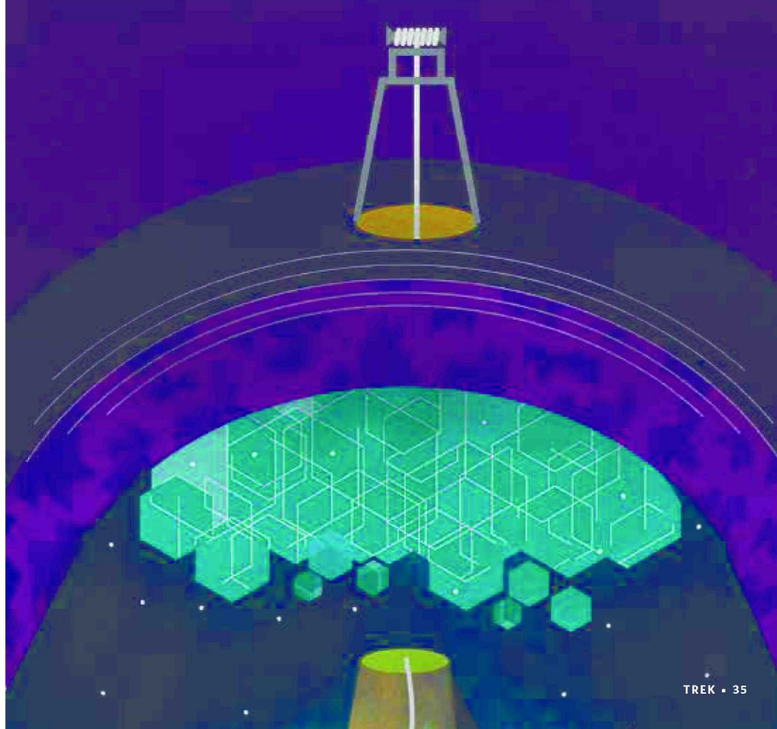
I discovered the etching as I was nervously running my fingers back and forth across the metal of the bench. The design was embossed into it there: circles and sharp lines. It was invisible from where I sat, but I teased at its texture over and over again, like a monk rubbing his prayer beads. Of course, when the platform finally emerged out of the tunnel my attention was entirely consumed by the void.

For almost an hour we simply hung there, now infinitesimally small against a space so massive – yet bounded. Hot, dank, black. The proportion of that emptiness, which sucks at your dangling boots, does strange things to the unprepared mind. There are ancient forces at work within this vast sphere of space, winds whose heat hint at the infernal temperatures of the middle, a low, consuming hum whose timbre you will no doubt recognize in some forgotten organ of your body.

We do not like or trust emptiness. We do not warrant it in the world of our imagination. When you are not in it, you fear it, seek the anchoring firmness of solidity. But when you *are* in it, the emptiness subsumes you. Sea divers who've dropped down in weighted suits into the darkness of the deep sea speak of a similar calmness. In unbounded space, size is meaningless and our minds expand and inhabit it all at once.

In a way, it *is* the devil down there. It is things as we do not wish them to be. It is the veil pulled back on a monstrous fact: that we sail through space not on solid rock but on a fragile-seeming bubble. Holy, the firm and wicked, the empty. Those are the instincts, radical and primitive, which assail us gathered here in this hall. It is the will of the world that the genie be shoved back and the bottle, stoppered and forgotten.

I will share with you now a thing you will never have heard before. I descended into the borehole within the first year of its opening and provided consultation to the engineers who designed and operated the Sanctity probes. We were operating under the assumption that the shape of the hollowness was more or less symmetrical. That is, the earth's crust was roughly 25-35 kilometres thick at any given location and the shape of the void was spherical. Which turned out to be true. We were also operating under the even deeper



assumption that we were the first humans to have made this discovery. But there we were wrong. There had never been a borehole drilled through the earth's crust before but there have been plenty of human visitors.

Thirty kilometres is a fair distance but not so far that natural openings – typically of volcanic origin – have appeared on their own from time to time. These are fragile passages, with relatively brief life spans, that have permitted ancient transit. And as proof, the ceiling world holds relics of these earlier times. In recent decades, human bodies have transited relatively little of the openings beyond any of the historic eight great boreholes, but the Sanctity probes searched far and wide. Below the thermal plumes of Polynesia they found what certainly appeared to be intricate carvings – no more than seven hundred years old – all along a lip of kimberlite whose vent may once have led all the way to the surface. Underneath a graduated fault, where the Nazca plate subducts under the Pacific, there is a narrow shelf some eight kilometres long which comes to a singular point roughly 15 metres wide, a tiny isthmus, like a precariously floating dais. Seated there, in a tight row, are nearly 70 figures whose flesh was long ago blasted to dust. What circumstances left them there it's impossible to know. But I believe that these are the skeletons of those ancients who refused the call to return and instead preferred, for all time, to bravely bear witness on the reality of the opening beneath them. The earth closed above their heads and history allowed no mention of them.

We must face the possibility that this may happen again. That this is happening again. That knowledge is selective to the point of being predatory. It kills what threatens it. There were once eight boreholes, now there is only one. The world is making a choice to disbelieve and only the narrowest of channels, quite literally, prevents this from becoming a reality. It will begin in the highest of places with a signature on a document and filter downwards in effect. Funding will disappear altogether. Institutions will close those last doors and turn elsewhere. The facility around the borehole will run to disrepair until finally, in some small satellite office a switch will be pushed on the generator that powers the forces that keep the channel intact. And on that day, 30 kilometres of shifting rock and silicate will close down on our understanding once more and we will forget all that we've discovered to be true.

Today, graduates, I commend your boldness and your resolve. I am proud to salute you. You stand against this dim vision. You see it just as well as I, and you proceed nonetheless. T

$\eta =$

Apples sold at the annual UBC Apple Festival that took place in October at the UBC Botanical Garden.

20000 KILOS

22:30:00

Length of time Croatia's Goran Colak recently held his breath after breathing in pure oxygen. He is among a group of elite free-dive athletes being studied by a group of UBC scientists (see pg 4).

700

Age of the oldest book in UBC's collection, recently purchased for $15K at the urging of post-doctoral fellow Richard Pollard, who uses it as a vivid teaching tool in his courses on the history of the Middle Ages. (*Vancouver Sun* – Oct 17, 2013)

HEROIN	COCAINE	CANNABIS	
60%	11%	161%	PURER
81%	80%	86%	CHEAPER

The extent to which illegal drugs in the USA became cheaper (average inflation-adjusted and purity-adjusted prices) and more potent between 1990 and 2007, according to a study lead by UBC professor Evan Wood that used government data to assess the effectiveness of the war on drugs. Similar results were found for Europe.

250,000

Number of Rwandan toddlers who will benefit from a UBC-led nutritional program that distributes micro-nutrient powders to combat malnutrition and anemia.

Amount UBC distributed in merit-based support to Vancouver and Okanagan students in the 2012-2013 fiscal year. (*UBC Annual Report*) **$77.9m**

70%

Injury-prevention professionals are 70 per cent more likely to suffer injuries that require medical attention than the general population, according to UBC and University of Cardiff researchers. Mariana Brussoni, a UBC public-health professor involved in the study has herself suffered a broken rib, broken nose and fractured cheek since she's been working in the field. (*National Post* – Oct 2)

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.

To take advantage of these perks, present your A-Card at any of our partner organizations:

NEW

• Mayfair Hotels • Broadway Across Canada • Silver Star •

MAYFAIR HOTELS & RESORTS

BROADWAY ACROSS CANADA

SILVERSTAR my mountain

Sports & Recreation
- BC Lions Football
- UBC Aquatic Centre
- UBC Varsity Sports
- CrossFit West 10

Services
- Dulux Paints
- Globe and Mail
- UBC Robson Square
- UBC Library
- Travel Cuts
- Avis Budget Car Rental
- FormalWill.ca

Education
- UBC Botanical and Nitobe Gardens
- Beaty Biodiversity Centre
- Museum of Anthropology
- UBC Theatre
- UBC Bookstore
- UBC Continuing Studies

Don't have an A-Card or want more information about these exclusive benefits?
Visit **www.alumni.ubc.ca/acard**

Interested in becoming an A-Card corporate partner?
Contact **jenna.mccann@ubc.ca**

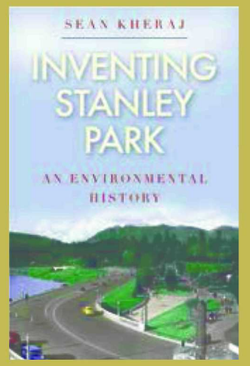
alumni UBC

BOOKS

REVIEWS BY **TERESA GOFF**

INVENTING STANLEY PARK

by Sean Kheraj,
BA'02
UBC Press
304 pages



Any urbanite who has not left the city in a while might think the 400 hectares of Vancouver's Stanley Park is an untouched forested wonder. But those who have recently hiked into the wilderness might recognize the park's eastern grey squirrels and majestic mute swans as imports, and the overly-numerous Douglas firs as replacements for hemlock and western red cedars.

Sean Kheraj's *Inventing Stanley Park* dispels the myth of an untouched urban wilderness. Kheraj tells the story of how the park became what it is today by looking at the impact not just of nature's influences – such as the ice age, insects, and volcanic eruptions – but also of economics, politics and the public perception of nature.

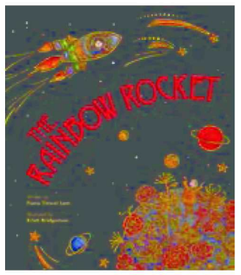
Instead of starting in 1888, when the park was officially opened, the book begins with the winter storm of 2006 that uprooted thousands of trees. If people weren't aware how much work had gone into creating Vancouver's "crown jewel," the reconstruction, which cost upwards of $5.5 million, was an awakening.

The history of the park reaches back to an underwater peninsula with a wealth of marine life and mammals that sustained a pre-European population estimated at anywhere from 20,860 to 62,580. Whoi Whoi, the largest First Nations settlement in what is now Stanley Park, was so severely depopulated by early smallpox epidemics that it appeared empty to George Vancouver who, according to reports, was greeted by only 50 men when he entered the Georgia Straight. Kheraj says Whoi Whoi's history in the park is lost in the tourist literature of the twentieth century. It has been replaced with totem poles transplanted from as far away as Alert Bay. Most striking is the story of a midden comprised of shells and human bones found during the construction of the ring road around the park. The shells were used to pave the road giving it a white surface that glowed in the sun.

Kheraj's writing is sharp and his research extensive. The analysis builds on a cumulative scholarship of park planning, but what makes the read interesting are stories about park evictions that included burning Chinese people's homes, and plans to combat insect infestation that included dumping lead arsenic from planes as recently as the 1960s. Kheraj ends on the idea that, unlike previous park policy, recent forest management plans engage with park ecology, not nature myths. How he gets here is worth a walk in the woods.

THE RAINBOW ROCKET

by Fiona Tinwei Lam,
BA'86, MFA'02
Oolichan Books
32 pages



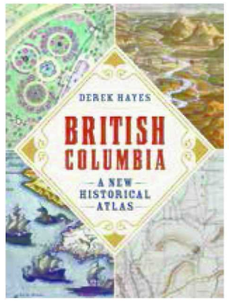
In the digital age opposable thumbs are not needed to flip through a book, but some reads – like *The Rainbow Rocket*, a children's book by Fiona Tinwei Lam – are a visceral reminder of the book as a format for physical enjoyment. The cover is an explosion of colour on black matting that is smooth and pleasant to touch. Illustrated by Kristi Bridgeman, whose art has illuminated the work of Canadian poet and novelist P.K. Page, *The Rainbow Rocket* is a story told equally in image and word. The pictures make you pause and the tale is hard to read without a tear or two.

The Rainbow Rocket is about a young boy named James and his relationship with his Poh-Poh, which means grandmother in Chinese. It starts with a regular Sunday visit: eating cookies, drinking tea and talking about rockets, invented, says Poh-Poh, by the Chinese 800 years ago. Poh-Poh guides James' hand as he draws a rocket and on his next visit, she gives him a stone stamp with a tiny horse carved on top. When pressed in red ink, it prints his name in Chinese. Soon Poh-Poh starts to forget things and her words become "a jigsaw puzzle with pieces missing." The Sunday visits move from her small art-filled apartment to a nursing home and finally the hospital. When she dies, the horse from James' stone stamp and his drawing of the rainbow rocket carry him into an imaginative world where he falls asleep in his grandmother's arms. But this dream is not enough to fill the gap left by Poh-Poh's death. Ching Ming Day, a Chinese holiday that remembers and honours ancestors, helps him integrate memory and loss.

For children who have recently experienced loss or are about to, *The Rainbow Rocket* is a good launching pad for discussion, but the story is not limited. Read out loud, it is an opportunity to immerse yourself in rich imagery and perhaps a cathartic cry.

BRITISH COLUMBIA: A NEW HISTORICAL ATLAS

by Derek Hayes,
MA'70, Dip (Urban Land Econ)'90
Harbour Publishing
368 pages



In one hefty volume, geographer Derek Hayes attempts, quite successfully, to cover the entire history of British Columbia using maps. While the accompanying text fills in details, *British Columbia: A New Historical Atlas*, is a tale told in images. A significant number of these maps have never been published. Many document events in the province's history. Some illustrate hopes and dreams, not actual places. One maps murder. As a collection, they illustrate how a place comes into being.

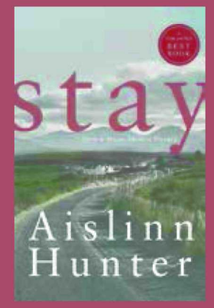
More than 100 of the images come from a vault of historical maps at the Land, Title and Survey Office in Victoria. Many others were culled from the Rare Books and Special Collections Department at UBC. Hayes points out that despite the volume of survey maps, treaty maps, tourist brochure maps, railway maps, and mining maps presented here, many did not survive. Often when maps are consulted, says Hayes, the contemporary are prized over the historical.

Hayes' book starts with the province's First Inhabitants and includes a rare 1859 hand-sketched map of a First Nation village drawn by Somena chief Thiusoluc on request from an American surveyor. The map does not follow Western cartography conventions, such as positioning north at the top. What is more interesting though is the idea that First Peoples would not have drawn maps at all, since most lived locally and had no need for them. The maps move chronologically. There is a series that outline the European quest to find the Northwest Passage. There are maps made by fur traders tracing routes to find sea otter pelts called "soft gold." From the gold rush to the railways, to mineral expansion and salmon fishing, Hayes winds his way through to Olympic Torch relays and ends with New Treaties.

Hayes is the award-wining author of a series of historical atlases that range from the cities of Toronto and Vancouver, the North American Railroad, the United States and the Arctic. *British Columbia: A New Historical Atlas* won the 2013 Basil Stuart-Stubbs Prize, a new award from the UBC Library and the Pacific Bookworld News Society. (Basil Stuart-Stubbs was a former UBC University Librarian. He died in 2012. See page 47 for his obituary.)

STAY

by Aislinn Hunter,
MFA'99
Anchor Canada
279 pages



It is easy to imagine Aislinn Hunter's 2002 novel, *Stay*, as a film. The story is detailed with precise descriptions, like the "two blue welts" of eye makeup worn by the girl behind the counter in the only store in Spiddal, an actual village on the shore of Galway Bay, where the novel takes place. Tensions here are buried and dug up while people pass both pints and stories around Hughes, the local pub. The lilt of conversation begs the words be read aloud. Add dark humour that passes off as a day-in-the-life and all elements of a movie are accounted for – there is even a film crew and catering truck.

Hunter's characters are convincing and their stories linger. She casts an entire town as a backdrop to the painful past of her main character, Dermot Fay, a Catholic professor ousted from a Protestant University in Dublin. Fay hides from his past in a run-down cottage on the coast. His only friends, aside from the drink, are his dog and a British archaeologist who teaches at the university. But then Dermot meets Abbey Gowan, a young Canadian whose relationship with her alcoholic father forced her from Ontario to Ireland, where she hopes to rid herself of his ghost. The desire to belong, stay, and flee pervade the book. So does the ambiguity of time.

Originally published by Raincoast books in 2002, *Stay* is now a motion picture. It premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival in the fall but comes to a theatre near you late 2013 or early 2014. Wiebke von Carolsfeld – director of *Marion Bridge*, which won Best Canadian First Feature film at the Toronto Film Festival the same year *Stay* was published – adapted it for screen. While Marion Bridge featured Canadian actress Molly Parker, *Stay* boasts Aidan Quinn (from *Desperately Seeking Susan*, *The Mission* and the current TV series *Elementary*) as Dermot Fay.

What works in print cannot always translate on screen and von Carolsfeld combines elements of the novel that, although connected by theme, do not involve the same characters or city; Windsor is traded for Montreal. Given its director and cast, including Taylor Schilling as Abbey, the film is promising. Nonetheless, the book deserves to be read first.

CLASS ACTS

Photo: Dawn-Marie Barreira

A MEMORABLE PADDLE

While some of us worked on our tans over the summer, **Sean McBeath**, *BASc'13*, Dion Maxwell and Liam Fisher were busy preparing for a memorable journey. On July 20, 2013, the trio kayaked from Victoria to False Creek to honor Sean's late friend, and mentor, Tyler Lewis, and raise funds for the foundation created in his memory. Tyler – a UBC engineering PhD candidate, gifted researcher and avid outdoorsman – died in a skiing accident in 2012.

Training for the voyage was rigorous. On-water training typically lasted two to three hours, with longer sessions running six to nine hours. Dry-land training included gym sessions three to four times per week, running, cycling, yoga and swimming multiple times a week.

The non-stop, arduous expedition had its challenges – the 135-km distance, paddling in the dark, nutrition maintenance, and strong tidal currents. "There was a point where we were paddling as hard as we could, and just barely creeping forward," says Sean. The team prevailed, making the crossing in 16 hours and 46 minutes, raising more than $17,000 for the Tyler Lewis Clean Energy Research Foundation.

What's next for the team? "We don't want to give too much away, but there's been talk of circumnavigating Vancouver Island," says Sean. For more information about the foundation, visit **www.tylerlewis.ca**

1950s *Last Man Standing, The Life of Smokey Smith, VC, 1914-2005* is a recently published book by **Thomas Glen Lockhart**, *BA'57*. Smokey Smith was a hero of WWII and Canada's last surviving recipient of the Victoria Cross.

1960s **Jagdev (Jag) Dhillon**, *MSc'66*, has been elected as a Fellow of the Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) – the highest award the Institute can give to a planner. After receiving his Master of Science degree in community and regional planning, he was awarded a certificate of distinction by the Town Planning Institute of Canada for outstanding achievement. His master's thesis was: *The Zoning Board of Appeal: A Study of Its Role in the Implementation of Municipal Planning Policy in British Columbia*. Dhillon has been a Member of CIP since 1967. • **Peter MacLaurin**, *BEd'67, Dip(Ed)'95*, and **Dianne E. MacLaurin (née McBride)**, *BEd'67*, met in 1961 at UBC Summer Session. On July 5, 2013, they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at home on Quadra Island.

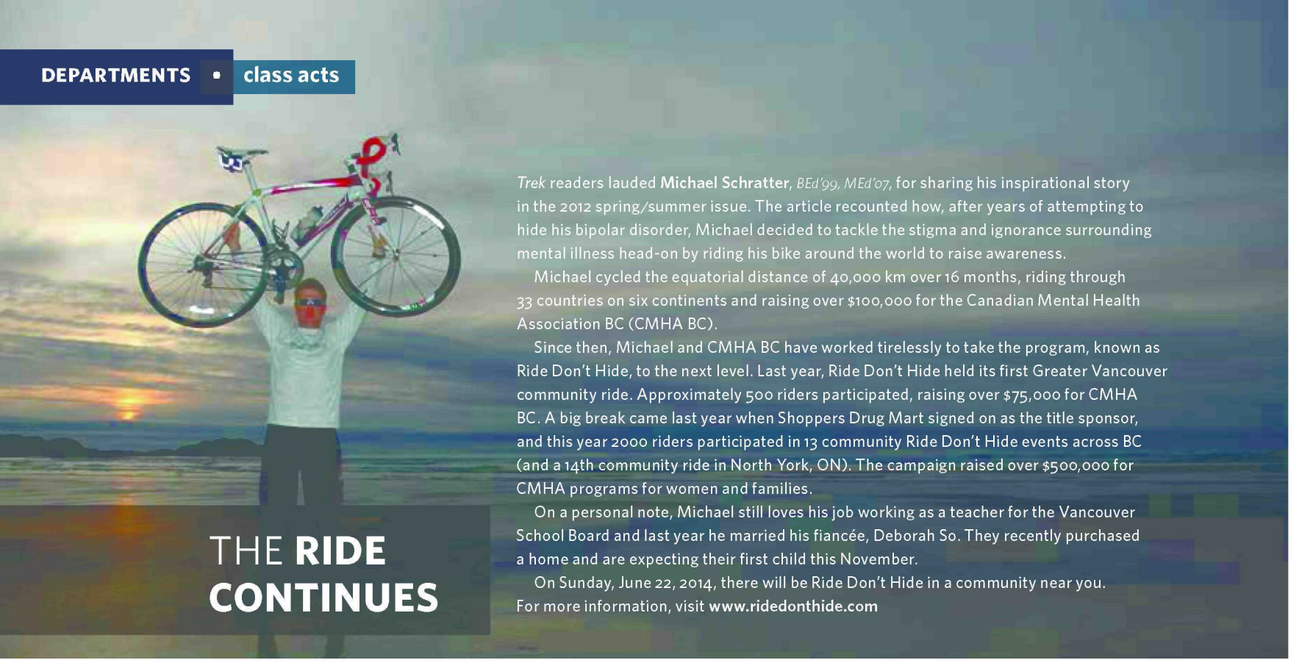
1970s After seeing his first subalpine meadow almost 40 years ago, botanist **Jim Pojar**'s dream of writing a book about alpine flowers has been realized. Published by Lone Pine Publishing, *Alpine Plants of British Columbia, Alberta & Northwest North America*, was written primarily by Pojar, *PhD'74*, with editorial assistance from his friend, Andy MacKinnon, and contributions from three other botanists: his wife, Rosamund, Curtis Bjork and Hans Roemer. In the intervening years, Pojar worked for the BC Ecological Reserves Program and the Research Section of the BC Ministry of Forests, where he became a highly respected field botanist/ecologist, working on the further development and refinement of the BC Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification system. He has written and published numerous scientific articles, reports and plant field guides, including *Plants of Coastal BC* (also co-written with Andy MacKinnon and others) with 250,000 copies sold to date, and co-authored the companion books, *Plants of Northern BC and Plants of the Western Boreal Forest and Aspen Parkland*. Pojar's joy in writing these guide books is having the opportunity to share his knowledge as well as his passion and love of plants with others. • Exciting times lie ahead for **Susie Nute**, *BEd'74*, **(née Jung)** and her husband. In November, they'll attend convocation for their youngest son, **Thomas Nute**, *BEd'13*, and in April 2014, their oldest son and his wife are expecting the family's first grandchild. • **P.W. Bridgman**, *BA'74, MA'83, LLB'87*, recently released his book of short stories, *Standing at an Angle to My Age*. The book explores universal themes of forgiveness and redemption, of love and loss, of hope and hopelessness and darkness and light. Set mainly in Canada, Ireland and England, the stories cut across broad expanses of time, space, culture and circumstance. • March of Dimes Canada President and CEO **Andria Spindel**, *MSW'74*, was awarded the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa from Guelph-Humber University on June 17, 2013, for her tireless work in helping to create a more inclusive and accessible society for Canadians living with disabilities. The previous year, she was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal for her work with March of Dimes Canada and other voluntary organizations. Spindel joined Ontario March of Dimes in 1981 as executive director. • **Tim Frick**, *BPE'75, MEd'80*, has been inducted into the 2013 Basketball BC Hall of Fame. Frick is well known for his longstanding coaching career on Canada's basketball wheelchair teams, including the BC Breakers Women's Provincial Team and the Canadian Women's Wheelchair Basketball National Team, who have won seven gold medals combined at both the Paralympic and World Championships under his tutelage. • **Douglas Bing**, *BSc'76, DMD'77*, retired after 36 years as a dentist and ran for the BC Liberal party for a seat in the provincial legislature. Bing, who was serving his third term as a Pitt Meadows City Councillor, is now the BC Liberal MLA for Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows electoral district. • On November 16, 2013, UBC Electrical and Computer Engineering professor **Victor Leung**, *BASc'77, PhD'82*, was inducted as a Fellow into the Royal Society of Canada – the highest honour a scholar can achieve in the arts, humanities and sciences in Canada. As a world leader in research on wireless communication networks, his research has advanced the adoption of wireless networks in the fields of healthcare, transportation and energy, for the betterment of society. • For almost 20 years, **Ben Heppner**, *BMus'79, LLD'97*, has fantasized about hosting *Saturday Afternoon at the Opera* – On September 7, 2013, his fantasy became reality. The highly acclaimed Canadian tenor is the new host of CBC Radio 2's *Saturday Afternoon at the Opera* and *Backstage with Ben Heppner*. Radio has been part of the Grammy and Juno-award winner's life since he was a child – opening new worlds to him beyond his hometown in Dawson Creek, BC, and introducing him to a world that eventually included opera.

1980s **Mason Loh**, *BCom'82, LLB'83*, was awarded the Governor General Caring Canadian Award, which recognizes Canadians who have made significant, sustained, unpaid contributions to their community in Canada or abroad. Loh has devoted over 30 years to a broad range of causes including the promotion of cross-cultural understanding and the establishment of the first regulatory system for the professional practice of acupuncture and traditional Chinese medicine in North America within BC. • It's been a good year for writer and freelance journalist **Marjorie Simmins**, *BA'84*. In May, she won gold at the Atlantic Journalism Awards for her article on Canadian actor and comedian Shaun Majumder featured in Halifax's *Progress* magazine. The article chronicles his fascinating life story and his efforts to build a five-star eco-hotel in his home town of Burlington, NFLD, as an economic driver for a declining rural community. And in June, Vancouver-raised Simmins received word that her memoir, *Coastal Lives*, which describes the 15-year process of becoming a Maritimer, has been accepted by *Pottersfield Press* for spring 2014 publication. • On May 11, 2013, The **Hon. Steven Point**, *LLB'85, LLD'13*, received the Doctor of Sacred Letters from Saint Mark's College. Reverend Dr. Mark Hagemoen, Principal of Saint Mark's College and President of Corpus Christi College, said: "The Honourable Steven Point is an inspirational Catholic and First Nations leader who played a key role to bridge the cultural and generational needs of the peoples and citizens of BC and Canada and provide for the spiritual vitality of peoples of all faiths." Point served as the first aboriginal lieutenant governor in the

A FREEZEWAY FOR EDMONTON

Artwork by Matt Gibbs

Imagine ditching your car and your stressful rush-hour commute, donning a pair of ice skates, and gliding to work on a crisp winter's day in Edmonton. That's exactly what **Matt Gibbs**, *MLA'13*, proposes with his award-winning design – *the Freezeway*. *The Freezeway*, is an 11-km year-round greenway that serves as a cycling path in the summer and converts into one of the world's first curbside skating lanes in the winter. His novel design, which began as his master's thesis, recently won top prize in the Center for Outdoor Living Design's 2013 Coldscapes international design competition. "Canadians (with many exceptions) often begrudgingly loathe the coming of the season," says Gibbs. Accordingly, his design combats the typical sedentary nature of the winter season by simultaneously promoting winter programming, active lifestyles, sustainable forms of transportation, social activity and an iconic identity for the City of Edmonton. The Edmonton born-and-raised landscape architect has shared the idea with some staff and council members of the City of Edmonton and is hopeful that his concept will fit into the City's vision for the future.



THE RIDE CONTINUES

Trek readers lauded **Michael Schratter**, *BEd'99, MEd'07*, for sharing his inspirational story in the 2012 spring/summer issue. The article recounted how, after years of attempting to hide his bipolar disorder, Michael decided to tackle the stigma and ignorance surrounding mental illness head-on by riding his bike around the world to raise awareness.

Michael cycled the equatorial distance of 40,000 km over 16 months, riding through 33 countries on six continents and raising over $100,000 for the Canadian Mental Health Association BC (CMHA BC).

Since then, Michael and CMHA BC have worked tirelessly to take the program, known as Ride Don't Hide, to the next level. Last year, Ride Don't Hide held its first Greater Vancouver community ride. Approximately 500 riders participated, raising over $75,000 for CMHA BC. A big break came last year when Shoppers Drug Mart signed on as the title sponsor, and this year 2000 riders participated in 13 community Ride Don't Hide events across BC (and a 14th community ride in North York, ON). The campaign raised over $500,000 for CMHA programs for women and families.

On a personal note, Michael still loves his job working as a teacher for the Vancouver School Board and last year he married his fiancée, Deborah So. They recently purchased a home and are expecting their first child this November.

On Sunday, June 22, 2014, there will be Ride Don't Hide in a community near you. For more information, visit **www.ridedonthide.com**

history of BC, the Chief of the Skowkale First Nation, Tribal Chair of the Stó:lō Nation, and Chief Commissioner of the BC Treaty Commission. He graduated from UBC Faculty of Law, living in residence at Saint Mark's College during his studies. In 1999, Point became a Provincial Court judge and served as Lieutenant Governor of BC from 2007 to 2012. In 2000, he received the National Aboriginal Achievement Award and an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of the Fraser Valley. Most recently, he served as chair of the advisory committee on the safety and security of vulnerable women. • **Winona Kent**, *MFA'85*, recently published her fourth novel, *Persistence of Memory* – a mystery, love story and speculative novel about accidental time travel that combines the language, humour and manners of Jane Austen's era with charming characters and colourful storytelling. Kent's breakthrough in short fiction came many years ago when she won first prize in the *Flare* magazine Fiction Contest with her short story about an all-night radio newsman, *Tower of Power*. Her spy novel, *Skywatcher*, was a finalist in the Seal Books First Novel Competition. Kent has been a freelance writer for assorted newspapers and magazines, a temporary secretary in London, UK, a travel agent and the managing editor of *Prism International*. After a career that's included freelance articles, long and short fiction, screenplays and TV scripts, she's now returned to her first love, novels. Writing is her passion. She currently lives in Vancouver and works as a graduate programs assistant at UBC. • **John MacKay**, *BA'87*, is professor of Slavic languages and literatures and film studies, and chair of the Film Studies Program at Yale University. He received his PhD in comparative literature from Yale in 1998 and became a full professor in 2008. John is the author of four books – *Inscription and Modernity: From Wordsworth to Mandelstam*; *Four Russian Serf Narratives*; *True Songs of Freedom: Uncle Tom's Cabin in Russian Culture and Society*; and the forthcoming *Dziga Vertov: Life and Work* – and has published articles in numerous journals and essay collections. Along with teaching a wide variety of courses on cinema, media, literature, theory and Russian culture at Yale, he has also lectured in many places in the US, Canada, and Europe. Co-founder of the Working Group in Marxism and Cultural Theory at Yale's Whitney Humanities Center, MacKay lives in a lively household in New Haven, Connecticut.

1990s

Claire Wilkshire, *PhD'97*, published her first novel, *Maxine*, in March 2013. Wilkshire is a freelance writer, editor, teacher and translator in St. John's, NFLD. • After her friends urged her to write down events from her life because they sounded so interesting, **Gudrun Honig**, *BA'97*, enrolled in a UBC Continuing Studies journal writing course. She recently published her first book, *My Journey to the New World* – an autobiography recounting her life during World War II and her subsequent emigration from Germany to Canada. • **Alan Woo**, *BA'99*, has won the Christie Harris Illustrated Children's Literature Award from the BC Book Prizes for his first book, *Maggie's Chopsticks*, published by Kids Can Press.

2000s

Naben Ruthnum, *BA'04*, has been named a finalist in the Writers' Trust of Canada/McClelland & Stewart Journey Prize. • Since graduating, **Ricky Shetty**, *BA'01*, has gone from being a student, to an alumnus, to a worker and to a published author. After launching his blog, Daddy Blogger, his book, *Wisdom from Daddies*, was released on Father's Day 2013. • **Doretta Lau**, *BFA'01, BA'03*, has been named a finalist in the Writers' Trust of Canada/McClelland & Stewart Journey Prize. • **Warren Smith**, *LLB'03*, Managing Partner, The Counsel Network, has been elected as president of the National Association of Legal Search Consultants – North America's largest industry association for legal recruitment. Smith is the first Canadian and the youngest person to lead the nearly 200-member organization and is also heavily involved with the UBC Law School Alumni Board. • **Kendall Titchener**, *BA'10*, works for the Calgary Stampede in the events and entertainment department. Weeks after Calgarians experienced a devastating flood that immobilized their city, Titchener and her team worked relentlessly to ensure that the show would go on. Although hit by one of Canada's largest natural disasters, community spirit prevailed and attendance records were broken at several of Titchener's events – including the family event in which she arranged for 20 families to meet astronaut and Stampede parade marshal, Chris Hadfield. Titchener described the 2013 Stampede as an opportunity of a lifetime and was grateful and humbled to be a part of it.

2010s

Daniel Wood, *BA'12*, met his girlfriend, **Jayde Wood (née Wang)**, *BSc'11*, in the Chem 100 lecture hall in 2007 during a chemistry 101 midterm. Six delightful years later they are now married and enroute to finishing their second degrees. T

Photo: Ian Macmillan

CONQUERING THE CHANNEL

In August, **Michael Stamhuis**, *BASc'76*, and four team members from the Okanagan Masters Swim Club completed a remarkable feat of endurance: swimming the English Channel in 13 hours and 41 minutes.

Taking turns to swim for one-hour intervals, they had to contend with frigid and rough waters, jellyfish, strong tidal currents, and freighters. Michael says the biggest challenge was the preparation beforehand, specifically the cold water training. To qualify, each member had to complete a two-hour swim in 15 degree water without a wet suit. "Training in the spring in Okanagan Lake when it was 12 or 13 degrees Celsius was probably the hardest!" says Michael.

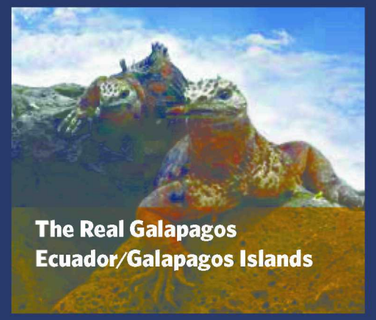
Michael recently competed in the 2013 World Masters Games in Torino, Italy, winning gold in 200 free, 200 back and 100 free, and bronze in 400 free. He set two new Canadian records in his age group (60-64) at the BC Masters Swimming Championships in Vancouver. Michael's next challenge will be the 2014 World Masters Aquatics Championships in Montreal.

ALUMNI UBC TRAVEL

Alumni Expeditions is a series of travel programs for inquisitive alumni, offered to the Canadian Alumni Community and friends. Designed to deliver exciting experiences, we travel to thought provoking destinations while offering stimulating itineraries, seminars and the camaraderie of fellow travellers.

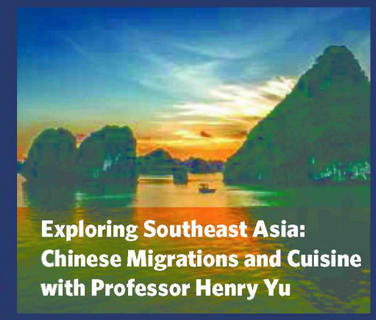
Painted Palaces and Desert Forts of Rajasthan

March 01-14, 2014 (14 days)



The Real Galapagos Ecuador/Galapagos Islands

November 02-11, 2014 (10 days)



Exploring Southeast Asia: Chinese Migrations and Cuisine with Professor Henry Yu

March 29-April 12, 2015 (15 days)

PRE AND POST TOUR EXCURSIONS AVAILABLE

Contact us:

WorldwideQuest
EXPERIENTIAL TRAVEL SINCE 1970

Worldwide Quest
1 800 387 1483
travel@worldwidequest.com
www.worldwidequest.com/alumniubc

alumni UBC | Karen Kanigan
604 822 9629 or 1 800 883 3088
Karen.Kanigan@ubc.ca
www.alumni.ubc.ca

alumni UBC

Photo: Martin Dee

ASHLEY HOWARD'S LONG JOURNEY HOME

BY DON WELLS

Ah, the twists of fate.

If you'd told Ashley Howard 20 years ago that she would one day return to her home town to become UBC's Managing Director of Athletics, she might have laughed. A career in sport administration was not something the Lord Byng High School graduate could have imagined back when she enrolled in the Faculty of Science at Queen's University, rather than the forested campus down the street.

Such an idea was still out of scope when she graduated from Queen's, as it was when she began an MBA in International Business at the University of Victoria. Not even a lifelong interest in competitive sport, including her experience as co-captain of Canada's National Women's Ultimate Team that won the 2000 World Championship in Germany, piqued any such thought or interest. And it certainly wasn't within her field of vision when she became a product and special projects manager with an IT firm during the rise and fall of the dot com era.

Even when she moved to Scotland and put her business transformation skills to work in a high-performance sport environment, she still hadn't considered a career in university sport. But after 12 years as a senior leader in two of Scotland's leading sport organizations, she began to think about a new challenge. As a mother of two toddlers with family in Vancouver, she began to think about "back home." When she and her husband – a design engineer she met during an undergraduate exchange year at Glasgow's University of Strathclyde – contemplated bundling up the family to explore uncharted adventures in Vancouver, they got excited. And it was only after arriving back home that the opportunity she has today came into frame.

"The job was one of the first that caught my eye on my return to Vancouver. I was meeting with senior executives from a number of industries, and on many occasions, folk from my network independently flagged the UBC opportunity. I had already been working on my application."

Not surprisingly, UBC isn't an unfamiliar place to her. Why would it be to a perennial honours student who grew up just beyond its gates? She learned to swim at the UBC Aquatic Centre as a child, and as a teenager, she attended summer tennis and volleyball camps at UBC and "hung out a bit." She later worked for three consecutive summers on Point Grey while studying at Queen's. "I worked with a UBC professor of medical genetics on coding the number eight chromosome, and I also did a bit of research in the areas of philosophy and ethics," she says with genuine modesty and just a hint of Scottish brogue.

Needless to say, a great deal has changed at UBC since those days. It looks different, feels different, and in almost every way, it is different than it was in the 1990s. After rigorous adherence to bold strategic plans implemented by the university's leadership over the past decade, UBC has earned a reputation commensurate with many of the world's most respected research universities. Its ongoing evolution now includes a process of reimagining Athletics and Recreation, with an eye to ensuring long-term financial sustainability and sharpening the focus upon certain teams to enhance competitive success. An external review conducted in the spring of 2012, followed by a series of "think-tank" sessions involving campus representatives and independent experts, has resulted in a framework for a new competitive sport model – one that Howard is mandated with refining in concert with a representative advisory team.

The process will continue to be highly consultative, but with the understanding that the overarching objectives are athletic excellence; greater connectivity to strategic partners; broader engagement of the university community than ever before; and enhanced student learning, together with professional development opportunities for coaches and staff wherever possible. The task of refining the UBC Athletics and Recreation program will involve change and all the attendant challenge and strain. But Howard stresses that the intention is to build upon UBC's historical strengths to create a "Made in Canada" brand of university sport excellence, and one based on traditional values and principles.

"I am proud to say that I am captivated on an ethical and emotional level by the legend of the Thunderbird and the notion of 'Victory through honour,'" she says. "We'll never have to look for a guiding principle; we already have one, and it will be one of the key pillars for everything we do and every decision we make. My personal belief is that the creation of a cohesive and strategically focused culture is key to the success of any organization, and that an environment of integrity, fairness and inclusivity is the most essential element within that culture, especially one undergoing change and transformation."

Fortunately for UBC, Howard brings substantial experience in leading sports organizations through periods of change and transformation. Most recently, she served as CEO of Scottish Swimming, where she helped lead the organization through a period of impressive growth and achievement. The staff went from eight to 40, including a three-fold increase in the number of paid coaches, certified teachers and trained volunteers. The payoff was huge in terms of grassroots participation and increased government investment (the organization's budget tripled under her lead), not to mention an unprecedented increase in podium finishes, highlighted by a silver medal for Michael Jamieson at the 2012 Olympic Games, the first for a Scottish swimmer since 1996. Prior to joining Scottish Swimming, she held the position of director of Achieving Excellence for sportscotland, the national agency for sport. Here she was responsible for a $30m annual budget and developing a strategy to achieve ambitious medal targets on the world stage.

UBC's new competitive sport model, she explains, is founded on the reorganization of current UBC varsity and club teams into five new strands ranging from intramural competition to the most competitive high-performance Thunderbird teams. She has already consulted with stakeholders and independent experts to arrive at appropriate criteria, weights and measures for determining how sports will be targeted for placement into one of the five strands. The next step is an evaluation of each sport against the criteria which she emphasizes will be a robust process that includes opportunities for feedback and is open to revision based on quality information and discussion. She will then present recommendations on the new structure to UBC vice-president Students, Louise Cowin, including the level of support provided within each strand.

While she rolls out the review process, another committee is exploring the potential to offer a comprehensive wellness program for the campus community. "That is something that is still in the developmental stages, but no matter how it takes shape, we know it will be a critical agenda going forward," she says. "Winning, leadership, resilience, teamwork – these are all core sporting traits, and they are all embraced by a UBC vision to be the healthiest campus on earth."

Those that opt to take part in the consultations will encounter an articulate leader of noticeable intelligence, and one whose success is, according to those who know her well, built on a collaborative spirit, superb communication skills and a natural empathy for what is important to others. She says she is a "softy" at heart, but extensive real-world experience within private and public sector environments has given her both the wisdom and the willingness to do what is necessary when change is imperative. A fierce competitive spirit that lays just one or two epidermal layers below doesn't hurt either. T

To find out more about the sport review see:
www.athletics.ubc.ca/sport-review/

Send your feedback to:
feedback@gothunderbirds.ca

IN MEMORIAM

DOROTHY ANNE BARAGAR (NÉE SHAW) ***BA'42, MA'47***

Dorothy passed away peacefully at home on June 19, 2012, with her husband of nearly 57 years, Robert (Bob) Baragar, *BASc'50*, at her side. She is survived by their sons, Geoffrey (Diana) and Marc (Maria) of Vancouver; beautiful granddaughters Claire and Elyse; a sister, Gwen (Doug) of Deep River, ON; and numerous loving nieces and nephews on both sides of the family. Dorothy was born in Victoria, BC, on September 20, 1920, to Forest and Edna Shaw. She attended Victoria schools and College, then UBC, where she earned a BA in biology and MA in zoology. Following teaching assignments at Trail and Cowichan Lake, she spent two years as science mistress at St. Margaret's girls' school in Folkestone, UK. In 1953 she began a doctorate in education at Teachers College, Columbia University, NYC. There she met Bob at International House where both were staying, and in 1955 they were married. Following a year in Cambridge, England, they moved to Ottawa. Bob began a career with the Geological Survey of Canada and Dorothy embarked on motherhood (Geoffrey) and, when possible, thesis-writing. But the Ottawa stay was short-lived; they were transferred by the survey to Yellowknife for four years. Returning to Ottawa in 1963 with another son (Marc) Dorothy embarked on a career in librarianship after earning a degree at Ottawa University. This led to 17 years as librarian in Ottawa area high schools. Following retirement in 1986, Dorothy gave in to a life's ambition and travelled by various modes, by herself, around the world. More travel followed, but arthritis, strokes, hearing-loss and a speech-impairing pulmonary disease reduced her final years to a confined and limited existence, the natural vivacity so characteristic of Dorothy tragically dampened.

WALTER KNOTTS, ***BA'43***

Born in Victoria on May 31, 1921, Dr. Knotts, World War II veteran and professor emeritus of English at the University at Albany, SUNY, died on February 23, 2013. Following graduation, Walter enlisted in the Canadian Army and was wounded in action in Italy in 1944. In 1949, he earned his doctoral degree in English literature from Harvard University and first began his teaching career at Ohio State University. Dr. Knotts began teaching English literature in 1953 at the University at Albany, SUNY – something he would continue to do with passion and energy until his retirement in 1991. During his tenure, Dr. Knotts became a beloved mentor to countless students, and a faculty leader, serving as chair of the English department from the late 1960s through the 1970s. His particular area of expertise was the satirical works of Jonathan Swift and Alexander Pope. He had wide-ranging literary interests, always engaging with literature throughout his life. His friends remember his marvellous conversational skills, his generosity and kindness, and his sense of the absurd. He had an amazing way of looking at life askance, which brought out his fine sense of humour – no surprise, since Swift and Pope were his mentors. Dr. Knotts enjoyed tennis, poetry, literature, opera, ballet, classical music, art, pottery, and theatre. He was an avid traveller and spent most of his summers in England and Italy. He was a fine actor who appeared on stage in the Arena Theater summer productions at Page Hall, UAlbany, in the 1960s, directed by Jarka Burian. Above all, Dr. Knotts cherished the company of his family, friends and colleagues, and their children. He will be dearly missed by all who knew him and were touched by his life.

GEORGE WILLIAM SPARLING, ***BA'47, MA'50, BEd'55***

September 17, 1919 – May 22, 2012. George was born in Edam, SK, and grew up in North Battleford. His engineering studies at Saskatoon were interrupted by WWII. During the war he volunteered and was first stationed in Victoria, where he met and married Sybil and, shortly after the marriage, was shipped off to Europe as an infantry officer. After the war they settled in Vancouver, where George completed his BA and MA in mathematics (thesis: *A Generalization of the First Plucker Formula*), followed by a BEd. During his career he taught at Burnaby South, and Delbrook and Carson Graham in North Vancouver. He also taught at UBC's commerce school. During this time he co-authored a Euclidean geometry textbook, served on the board of Highland's United Church, was on the executive of the BC Mathematics Teachers Association, played tuba for a variety of bands, and was, along with wife Sybil, an avid sailor. Perhaps the highlight of his career was when his mathematics contest team came in first in BC. In 1990 George and Sybil moved to Qualicum Beach, where he quickly became active in a number of community organizations. A few years ago he took up bridge. He also enjoyed the game of Upwards, and it was a rare occasion for anyone else to win. Sybil passed on in 2008. George is survived by his son, Stephen, *BSc'75*; daughters Margaret Fisher (Jack) and Johanne Sutton (Jim); six grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; his sister, Marion Wheaton; and his cousin, Jerry Pladsen.

DONALD NEILL WEATHERILL, ***BSc'49***

Born in Kelowna on March 22, 1922, Donald Neill Weatherill passed into the arms of his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on October 25, 2012. Survived by his loving family: sons Bob (Lillian), Brian (Lilo), Gary (Monika), Gordon (Shelagh) and David (Joanne); 14 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. Predeceased by his loving wife, Doris; parents Harry and Grace Weatherill; brothers Harry and Robert; and sister Bet. Don grew up in Vernon after his parents relocated to assist in the establishment and management of Bulman's Cannery in 1929. After graduating high school in 1940, Don joined the RCAF and served as a fighter pilot mainly in England and India. After the war, he returned to Vernon and married his high school sweetheart, Doris Wylie, in 1946. After receiving his BSc, Don and his young family returned to Vernon, where he joined Bulman's as the field service representative, and he and Doris bought a small acreage in the District of Coldstream, where they raised their five boys. In the late 1960s, Don acted as a local and regional sales representative for various agricultural service organizations, eventually retiring in 1987. He and his wife were very active in church, the Boy Scouts and many other charitable organizations. They loved their little farm and garden, raising numerous animals, and varieties of fruits and vegetables that were either donated or given away, as well as Chrysanthemums and Poinsettias for the Christmas season. He loved his wife, his family and loved people. He was always genuinely interested in others and helped whenever he could. He was dearly loved and will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Donations can be made to Grace Bible Church or the charity of your choice.

ROBERT (BOB) CAMPBELL MCMORDIE, ***BASc'50***

Bob was born on May 9, 1927, and passed away peacefully on June 18, 2012, at the age of 85. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, June; sons Ian, Allan (Trish) and Patrick; and daughters Pamela (Ken) and Dianne (Blaine); grandchildren Janet, David, Lisa and Alexander; and Lisa and Alex's mother, Sue. He was predeceased by his parents, Lt. Col. Stewart P. McMordie, DSO, and Edith Mabel McMordie, and by his brother, William. Bob was raised in Prince Rupert, Nelson and Vancouver, earning his engineering degree in 1950. He was a Professional Engineer in municipal and industrial design and lived in Toronto and Calgary before settling in North Vancouver in 1971 as a partner with Reid Crowther and Partners. He loved to hike and cross country ski, particularly on the local mountains, with Hollyburn being his favourite. A carved stone was left at the peak of Hollyburn to commemorate his passing. Donations may be made in Bob's memory to the North Shore Rescue Team.

JOHN LITCHFIELD MITCHELL, ***BASc'50***

April 24, 1924 – May 30, 2011. John passed away peacefully on Monday, May 30, 2011, at the age of 87. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, June, and three children. John served in the Navy during WWII on HMCS Arnprior. After the war, he attended UBC and after graduation worked for the Dominion Bridge Company in Calgary as a PEng from 1951 until retirement. A life-long member of APEGGA, John loved the mountains and spent hours hiking and skiing with an outdoor club. In later years he was passionate about his tufa rock gardens and woodworking around the home. He was poetic, artistic, athletic and intelligent to the end.

HERMAN SCHUETZE, ***BA'51, BSW'61***

June 9, 1923 – December 21, 2012. Born in Winnipeg, Herman spent his early years in Little Grand Rapids and Berens River, MB. He had many fond memories of those years. In some ways he seemed destined to become a teacher: his first real job at 18 was teaching at Cross Lake at the north end of Lake Winnipeg. During the war the family moved to Oregon and Washington State where he joined first the American, and then Canadian Army. After the war he earned his degree and taught around BC: Vancouver, Bella Coola, Kitimat, Port Hardy, Revelstoke, Ladysmith and Surrey. He was active politically in the community and with his church, and loved hiking and canoeing. After retirement he took up volunteering with enthusiasm: more tutoring, campaigning for the Heart and Stroke foundation, and advocating for the preservation of green spaces. He received the Governor General's Confederation Commemorative Medal in 1992 for his advocacy work that helped create the Green Timbers Urban Forest in Surrey. He is predeceased by his first wife, Vera, and son, Eric; grandson Brian; and three brothers and three sisters. He is survived by his wife, Sadie; children Mary Jane, Don, Alan and Gaye; grandchildren Andrew, Julian, Zoe and Jeffrey; two brothers and a sister; and many nephews, nieces and extended family.

BASIL FREDERICK STUART-STUBBS, ***BA'52, BLS'54***

1930 – 2012. Basil Frederick Stuart-Stubbs, former UBC University Librarian and director of the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies (SLAIS), passed away on May 29, 2012. Stuart-Stubbs will be remembered as a bibliophile, scholar and librarian. His writings encompass Canadian history, cartography, bibliography, library history, copyright, union catalogues, resource sharing and computerized networks. Music was Stuart-Stubbs's lifelong passion – in particular, the piano.

"I had the honour of knowing Basil for many years, admiring his achievements from across the country. He was truly unique, an icon in the evolving story of librarianship in our country," says Ingrid Parent, UBC's University Librarian. "I considered him to be a generous mentor, a revered colleague and a dear friend to many. He will be missed."

Stuart-Stubbs grew up in Moncton, NB. In 1964, at the age of 34, he was appointed UBC's University Librarian. His 17 years in that role coincided with the computer revolution and the rapid growth of staff and collections dispersed over new branch libraries on the expanding Point Grey campus. In 1981, Stuart-Stubbs moved to a faculty position when he was appointed professor and director of SLAIS, a position he held for two terms. Basil took particular interest in the production and distribution of Canadian books, and was associated with several initiatives beneficial to authors and readers, and to Canadian publishing. These included chairing the UBC Publications Centre, which created UBC Press.

Basil received many awards and honours, including an appointment as Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada; the first Miles Blackwell Medal for Outstanding Academic Librarian by the Canadian Library Association; the Order of Canada; and the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal.

MUNRO CARROLL, ***BASc'53***

Munro Carroll, age 80, died October 10, 2011, in Fayetteville, AR. He was born July 10, 1931, in Salmon Arm, BC, to Matthew and Alice Munro Carroll. He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Sarah Catherine Carroll. He is survived by his loving friends, the Michael Peters family and Jamie Snider.

JOHN VINCENT MACDONALD, ***BASc'53***

Born May 14, 1930, in Powell River, John passed away suddenly on March 25, 2013, in Victoria. He will be dearly missed by his loving wife, Carole; his sister, Isabel; sisters-in-law Marianne and Patricia; and much loved nieces and nephews: Scott (Jane) Jones; Ron Jones; Megan (Bart) Mooibroek; and Janet (Guy) Jones-Hatif; and their children. John was predeceased by his parents, Nellie (née Simpson) and Alexander, and will be remembered by many cousins on the Simpson and MacDonald sides. After graduating from UBC in mechanical engineering, he spent a short period in Hamilton and New York with Otis Elevator before returning to Vancouver and joining Swan Wooster Engineering Co., where he remained until retirement. A colleague of John's wrote that he was instrumental in the development of Swan Wooster on the world stage. He was referred to as the "Idea Man," always challenging himself and others to design improvements to the marine terminal equipment.

It was sports that brought John and Carole together in 1969. Enthusiastic badminton and tennis players, they valued the friendships made at Jericho, Vancouver and Glen Meadows Tennis Clubs. Their favourite vacation haunts were Yellowpoint Lodge and their property at Retreat Cove on Galiano Island. John's wide-ranging interests

included classical music, oil painting, cartooning, history, astronomy and wine-making, but his passion was designing and tending the garden, preferably while listening to a Puccini opera. In social situations, if encouraged, he would tell limericks or recite poetry, but best of all he liked to stimulate lively discussions and ardent debates. John will be remembered for his engaging manner, his kind and generous heart, his teasing and gentle wit, all of which will be greatly missed by his family and friends. If desired, donations may be made in John's name to the Victoria Symphony Society.

JEAN WEBBER (NÉE BROWNE), *BA'57, MA'68*

July 10, 1919 – April 17, 2012. Jean's life was shaped by her lifelong involvement in education, volunteer work to advance BC history and the arts, and a deep commitment to family and church. Following graduation in Nelson, Jean trained as a teacher at the Normal School in Victoria, where she met Bernard Webber, *BA'50, MA'62*. After teaching in schools on the Arrow Lakes and in Okanagan Centre, she married Bernard on July 1, 1941. Later that year, Bernard was elected as CCF MLA for Similkameen (1941-45). Jean was very much his partner in campaign and constituency work. After Bernard's return to a career in education and several moves with their growing family, Jean returned to teaching, first at a one-room school near Duncan, and then in a demonstration rural classroom at the Vancouver Normal School. While the family was growing up, Bernard and Jean earned bachelor's and master's degrees at UBC. In the late 1960s, Jean taught at the Vernon Campus of Okanagan College. She contributed to BC history by serving on the executive of the Okanagan Historical Society (OHS); editing the annual OHS Report; researching and writing articles on BC history; co-editing, with the En'owkin Centre of Penticton, Okanagan Sources, a source book on Okanagan First Nations history; and compiling and editing material from sixty years of OHS Reports, with additional researching and writing, for the book *A Rich and Fruitful Land*, a comprehensive history of the Okanagan, Similkameen and Shuswap valleys. Jean helped lead numerous cultural organizations throughout the many regions of the province in which she lived. Jean's sense of family extended to those in need in the community, and to the Christian Science church, which she served in many capacities. She is lovingly remembered by family and friends.

GEORGE GORELIK, *MBA'60*

George Gorelik, Sauder alumnus and emeritus associate professor of accounting, died on December 22, 2012, at age 86. George, a Byelorussian émigré born in Sienno, Nowogrodek, Poland, on May 5, 1926, worked as CGA-BC's first full-time employee and went on to become its president in 1976. He earned his CGA certification and subsequently an MBA from the Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration in 1960. George left CGA-BC in 1963 to follow his love of teaching and accounting as a lecturer in UBC's Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration. His academic ambition then took him stateside to the University of California, Berkeley for his doctorate, which he received in 1970. He wrote many papers, including research on management accounting, financial decision-making, international comparative accounting and organizational science, while studying and teaching as an associate in Berkeley. His connection to UBC lasted 30 years. George earned many awards and distinctions over the years. He was a FCGA, and a life member; in 2008, CGA-Canada named him one of Canada's top 100 CGAs of the past 100 years. George spent 28 years teaching at UBC. Upon his retirement in 1991, the Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration honoured him with an annual prize in his name. The George Gorelik Prize is awarded to the student obtaining the highest standing in financial accounting. His other great passion was his abiding love of the classical guitar and singing. Besides his loving wife, Peggy, he is survived by his children: Katherine, Peter, Stephen, Elizabeth, and six grandchildren, all of whom live in BC.

ERIC WALTER HOFMANN, *BEd'63*

Eric died in Penticton on November 20, 2012, aged 76 – sweet and gracious to the end. His lively spirit will always brighten the hearts of his wife of 31 years, Kathy (Reid); his children, Erica (David) Kencke; Tanis (Jorge); and Roger. Grandchildren Nathaniel and Aislinn Kencke will miss their "Papa." Born and raised in Trail, BC, he was the youngest of six to Swiss immigrants. He will be missed by siblings Lil Murray, Nell (Bob) Bartlett, and Barney (Mara). He is predeceased by his parents, Robert and Frieda; siblings Robert and Goldy (Bill) Cross; and first wife, Judy (Hague).

After completing Victoria Normal School, Eric began a 34-year teaching career in elementary, high school and college, mostly in Penticton. He always brought his passion for learning and biology into the classroom and inspired and counselled students to achieve their best. He also enjoyed coaching basketball and youth soccer. Eric was a role model for his students and peers, and stood for what is right. He showed a genuine interest in each individual and made a difference to many. Eric's positive energy, zest for life, and readiness to tease made him a remarkable partner, father, friend, and colleague as well as a fun opponent on the ski hills, squash court and golf course. In retirement he turned his energy to pedalling, cycling through the European countryside. His proudest achievement was pedalling 8,100 kms from Vancouver to Halifax in 2000. He will be missed by the Thursday "Bocce Boys," and the Friday "Theos" lunch group. A committed blood donor, Eric gave 75 units of blood in his lifetime. Because of bone marrow failure he received 382 units over eight years. To honour Eric you may wish to donate blood, or contribute to the Eric Hofmann Biology Bursary at Penticton Secondary Schools Bursary and Scholarship Foundation.

WILLIAM (BILLY) THOMAS ABBOTT, *BEd'72*

Born in Vancouver on January 16, 1935, Bill died on December 16, 2012, of pancreatic cancer. Bill's grandfather, Fred Abbott, came to Vancouver in 1897 from Newfoundland, and both Bill's father, William John Abbott, and his mother, Betsy (Hastie) Abbott, were born in Vancouver. Bill began his long teaching career in the fall of 1960 in Campbell River. For the next 36 years, he taught art in School District 72: CARIHI Secondary School, Phoenix Middle School, and Southgate Secondary School. He retired to West Vancouver where he taught art to seniors on a volunteer basis for several years. Bill was an artist throughout his life. As a teenager, he was a regular at weekly figure drawing sessions at a studio behind a barber shop at Broadway and Cambie. During his retirement years, he drew at the figure drawing sessions at Basic Inquiry. Even in hospital, Bill was still sketching. Bill met his loving wife of 52 years, Patsy, at UBC and they loved to travel. They travelled to Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and all around North America, including a visit to Newfoundland several years ago to see where his grandfather came from. The most recent trips were to Syria, the Black Mountains of Tennessee, and the Copper Canyon of Mexico. Bill always came home with new watercolour sketches. They loved camping around the Skagit Valley. Again, Bill always returned with sketches and watercolours. Bill leaves behind his loving family: Patsy (née Leth), *BA'60*; David, *BSc'88*; Alexandra, *BSc'89*, (Rob); Rebecca, class of '15; Kate, Juliet, Rosemary (née Leth) Van Heukelom, *BA'66*, (Andy, *BA'66, LLB'77*); and Willy, Morgan, Skyler and Holly. Bill was a wonderful, caring, and artistic husband, father and grandfather. Bill was going on outings up to a week before his death, and was talking art, as always, in his hospital bed.

DICK DAVIDSON (RICHARD ALLEN DAVIDSON), *BASc'72*

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Dick Davidson on August 18, 2012. Dick was born July 24, 1942, in Timmins, ON, to Aura Marie Trottier and Allen Albert Davidson. In 1963, he married Julianne Marie Wojick at St. Mary's Polish Church in Sydney, NS, and together they were blessed with five children: Allen, Suzanne, Laurie, Michelle and Christopher. Dick served with the Royal Canadian Armed Forces – a position that helped put him through university and gave him the opportunity to see much of Canada. After serving with the RCAF for 18 years, Dick moved to Sioux Lookout, using his newly acquired pilot's licence to explore entrepreneurial opportunities. Some of these very successful endeavors included the Sunset Lodge and Camps (fishing camp); The Sioux Hotel; The Sunset Inn & Sunset Suites; Dick & Nellie's Bar & Grill; The Guardian Eagle Fly In Fishing Resort; and many Thunder Bay restaurants including Beaux Daddy's. Besides creating, building and running multiple businesses, Dicks' interests were in his community. He served with the Rotary Club for 23 years (two as President) and town council, and was even the president of the Chamber of Commerce. Dick was predeceased by his father, Allen, and his beloved mother, Aura. He is survived by six brothers and sisters: Ken (Roma), Don (Gloria), of BC; Lynn Smyth, Patricia (Blake) Haverluck, of Thunder Bay; Cathy (Wayne) Robinson of SK; Joanna (Mark) of Toronto; numerous cousins, nieces and nephews; his children: Allen, Michelle of Ottawa; Christopher (Kathryn), Suzanne (Randy) Favot, Laurie (Richard) Fenelon, of Sioux Lookout; his grandchildren, Brandon, Samantha, Drew, Easton, Jordyn, Daniel, Robyn, Lea, Joshua and great grandchild, Makayla.

KENNETH CAMPBELL SOBISKI, *BArch'72*

Ken passed away peacefully at Southlake Regional Hospital in Newmarket, ON, on September 13, 2012. He is survived by his wife, Janine (née Farmery); son David (Whitney); granddaughter Leighann; and brothers Bruce (Nathalie) Campbell and Tom (Jan) Campbell. He is predeceased by brother Wayne Sobiski and his son, Edward (Ted) James. Ken was born in Kingston, ON, on December 25, 1935, the son of Kenneth W. Campbell and Thelma Mary Todd and adoptive father Lawrence Sobiski. His primary education was in Scarborough, ON, at RH King Collegiate. He graduated in 1960 from Ryerson Institute of Technology in Architectural Technology. He worked as an architectural draftsman in Bethesda Maryland until he went to UBC. He graduated in 1972, receiving the Alpha Rho Chi medal for Leadership, Service and Professional Merit. He was a member of the OAA and RAIC until retirement. He was inducted into the Ryerson University Sports Hall of Fame in September 2011 as a member of the 1959 Championship Football team. His professional career included many public buildings, such as sporting and school facilities, and residential design. He was employed by William G. Whitney Associates before becoming senior partner with Whitney Bailey Architects, Engineers. Following retirement he was a theatre set designer, musician and community volunteer. He loved all sports and was an avid golfer. His professional integrity, sense of humour, gentleness and human kindness will be remembered by all who knew him.

VERENA MARIE KLOSE (NÉE CHEN), *BEd'00*

Verena Marie Klose (née Chen) passed away on March 27, 2013. She was a lifelong Richmond resident, arriving into the world on November 1, 1975, to parents Doris and Tessley Chen. She attended Ferris Elementary and both R.C. Palmer Secondary and Richmond Secondary. It was in Grade 11 that Verena met – and began dating – future husband Ramon Klose. After graduation from high school, she attended Kwantlen University College in Richmond and Simon Fraser University, where she completed her undergraduate degree in both history and English. She then continued her studies at UBC's Faculty of Education, obtaining her bachelor's degree in education and her teaching certificate. Verena's passion for literature found its outlet in her career path in the ensuing 14 years, as she taught at various secondary schools in Richmond including Steveston, London, Palmer and McMath. As a teen and young adult, she was very involved with the 11th Richmond Scouts, both as a Venturer and a Rover. She was also a member of the Aquanauts Swim Club. In 2003, she and Ramon were married; four years later they welcomed daughter Keira. As a first-time mother, Verena brought her desire for connecting with others and her enthusiasm for being an active and involved resident to a new level as she dove head-first into a variety of local parenting groups. On February 22, 2013, Verena and Ramon happily welcomed anticipated second daughter, Lauren, to their family. She was a loving daughter, wife, friend, mother, sister and teacher, and is survived by her husband, Ramon Klose; her daughters, Keira and Lauren; her grandmother, Winnie Chen; her parents, Doris and Tessley Chen; brother Gerald Chen (Christine); sister Brenda Tsang (Rick); nephews Aidan and Nathan Chen; niece Kaitlyn Tsang; as well as an extended family of aunts and uncles.

CHRISTOPHER JOHN MARCHANT

Chris was born in Cheam, England, and from a young age developed a love of nature and the outdoors. He and his cousin, David, shared these interests and Chris learned a lot from their time spent together. Chris had a great sense of humour and always saw the comical side of life. He was hard working and driven by his belief in the environment. Chris pursued studies in the biological sciences and specialized in botany and cytogenetics. He obtained a PhD from Southhampton University and became a senior scientific officer with the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. During these years, he spent a year in Ottawa with the Canada Department of Agriculture undertaking a post-doctoral research fellowship, and soon after returning to England he decided to take a new position at the UBC Botanical Gardens. From 1970 to 1981 Chris

was a research scientist and associate professor in the departments of the Botanical Garden, Botany and Plant Science. He left UBC to pursue a country lifestyle, which was his lifelong dream. After several years in the Nelson area, Chris and his wife moved to Bridesville where they had a cattle ranch, forestry consulting company and tree nursery. Chris also conducted park interpretation programs at Kettle River Provincial Park. In the mid '90s, they relocated their operation to Lumby, where they lived until 2010 when Chris decided to retire to the Turtle Valley near Chase. He was continuing to pursue his many diverse interests when he died unexpectedly from a sudden heart attack on December 10, 2012. He is survived by his wife, Alison; sons Andres (Arlette), David and Ross; two grandchildren, Katie and Thomas; his former wife, Jean, mother of his two oldest sons; and various relatives in Britain.

LEONHARD MARTIN WEDEPOHL

1933 – 2013. Cherished husband of Sylvia; father to Martin and Graham; stepfather to Daniel Baron, Dr. Lorraine Baron, and Roger Baron; brother of Dr. Peter Wedepohl; and brother-in-law of Denis St Jean. In 1953, Martin obtained his BSc from the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. His research in power line carrier protection earned him a PhD from the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology in 1957, resulting in a world-wide reputation and an illustrious career in industry. His academic career began in 1964 at UMIST where he quickly rose to head of the Electrical Engineering Department. His research focus was in the theory of wave propagation in multi-conductor transmission lines. In 1974 he was appointed Dean of Engineering at the University of Manitoba, served as chairman of the Board of Hydro Electric Corp, and established the Manitoba High Voltage Direct Current Research Laboratory and the Manitoba Micro-Electronics Institute. He received the Province's "Order of the Bison," and was conferred "Honorary Citizen of the City of Winnipeg." In 1979, he was appointed Dean of Applied Science at UBC. He served as a member of the Science Council; the Arts, Science and Technology Council of BC; and the BC Hydro Electric Corporation. In 1985, he was instrumental in establishing the Canadian Institute for Industrial Technology. In 1998, he was conferred the title of Dean of Applied Science Emeritus, UBC, and adjunct professor at the University of Manitoba. He continued his research cooperating with the Manitoba HVDC Centre, and the universities of Manitoba and Stellenbosch. As chairman of U2000 he spearheaded the establishment of UBC Okanagan, as well as the Faculty of Engineering. He received many awards for his research in engineering, but cherished most the faculty teaching prize from his students, whom he hoped to inspire with a sense of creativity.

Please submit obituaries to trek.magazine@ubc.ca including "In Memoriam: first name, last name, class year" in the subject line, or mail to:
UBC Alumni Association
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 resoution images – preferably 300 dpi.

TREK TRACKER

Jens Preshaw, *BHK'94, BEd'96,* took this shot of himself with the last issue in Seljalandsfoss, Iceland. "I've always longed to visit the land of fire and ice," he says. "I finally had the chance this summer. The volcanoes, geysers, fumaroles, glaciers, waterfalls, Icelandic horses and funky churches make it difficult not to be touched by the island's awesome beauty." You can see more of Jens' photography at **jenspreshaw.com**

LIBRARY DUES

Emeritus Professor John "Jack" Foster from Queen's University Belfast's Institute of Irish Studies recently found a book of poetry by Victorian Arthur Hugh Clough after returning to Vancouver and clearing out a locker at UBC, where he had worked in the department of English for a number of years. The due date stamp reads October 11, 1966. Luckily for him, the McClay Library in Ireland waived the £8,577.50 fine owing, and he won an unexpected 15 minutes of fame with the story being relayed via several national newspapers. "I suppose the moral of the story if you discover an overdue book is make sure it's really, really overdue before you think about returning it," he said.

SAINT MARK'S COLLEGE
THE CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

SAINT MARK'S IS TURNING 60 –
HELP US CELEBRATE!

Did you attend Saint Mark's College?
Have you benefited from Saint Mark's Catholic Campus Ministry over the years?

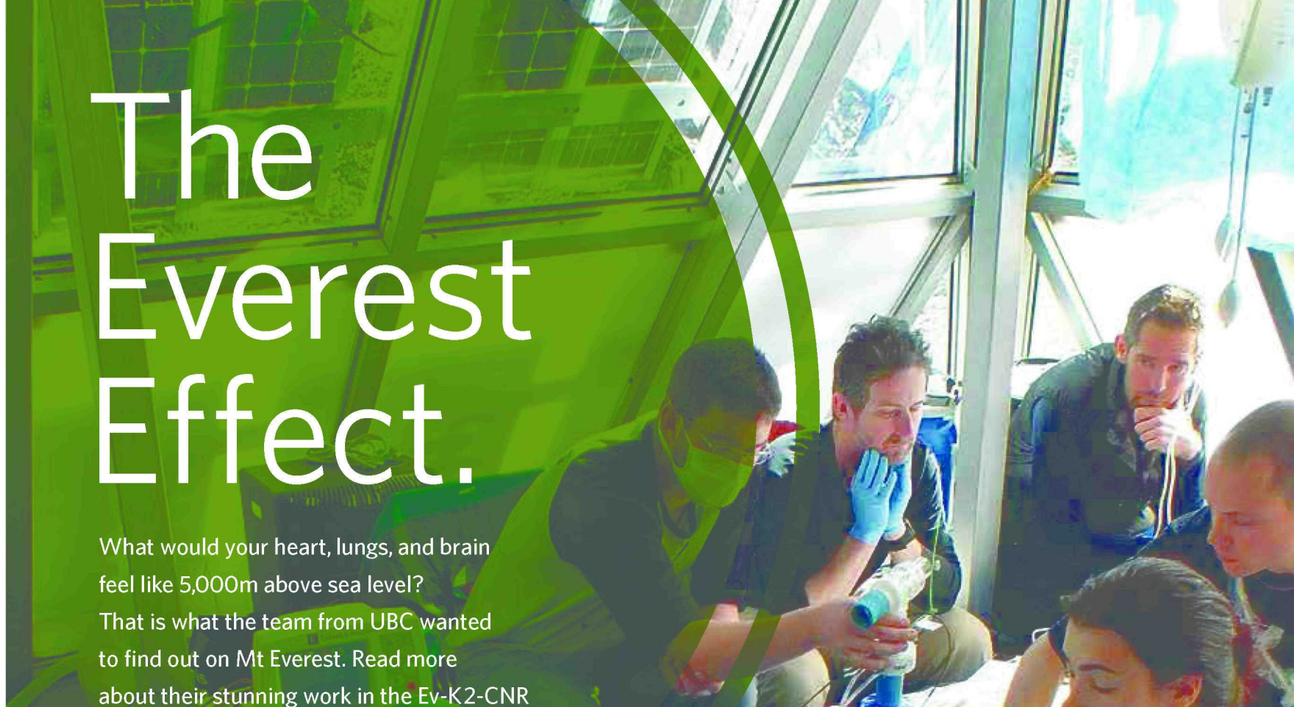
In either case – or both –
we want to hear from you!

Join our 60th Anniversary Planning Committee, or just get in touch with us to let us know what you've been up to.

Please contact
alumni@stmarkscollege.ca
or call 604-822-6862 (x119)

The Everest Effect.

What would your heart, lungs, and brain feel like 5,000m above sea level? That is what the team from UBC wanted to find out on Mt Everest. Read more about their stunning work in the Ev-K2-CNR Pyramid Laboratory at **annualreport.ubc.ca**



a place of mind
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

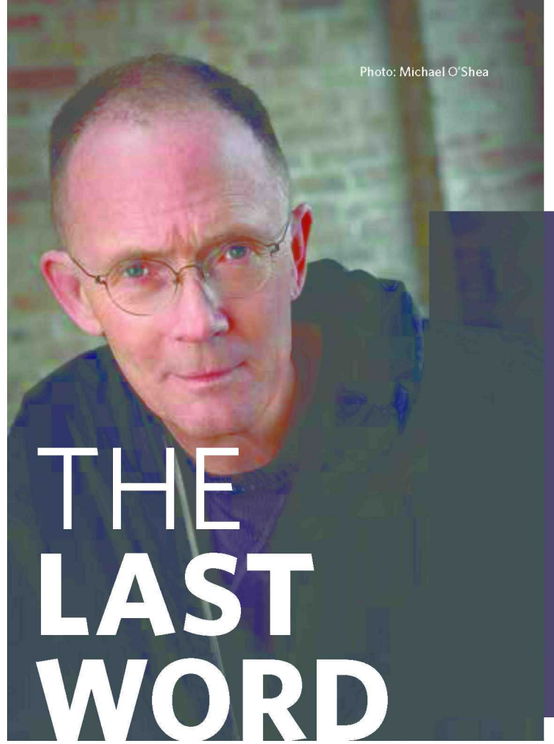


Photo: Michael O'Shea

THE LAST WORD

WITH WILLIAM GIBSON, *BA'77*

It's been almost 30 years since William Gibson's debut novel, *Neuromancer*, struck a chord with readers and won science fiction's "triple crown" – the Hugo, Nebula and Philip K. Dick awards. *Neuromancer* popularized the concept of cyberspace (a word Gibson coined) long before the ubiquity of the Internet and virtual technologies. Often referred to as a "noir prophet," Gibson is credited with predicting the rise of reality TV, video games and the Internet.

By the age of 12 Gibson had dreamed of becoming a science fiction writer, but it wasn't until he enrolled in a science fiction literature course at UBC that he first attempted to write it. Although his first short story was published, Gibson didn't seriously pursue writing until several years later. He assumed that the genre had become too inherently conservative to welcome the literary and pop influences he hoped to bring to it.

Clearly, his fears were unfounded.

Gibson is the author of nine novels, co-author of one, and has also written screenplays and non-fiction. He is lauded for breaking the science fiction mold and has been hailed as one of the most important and influential novelists of the past two decades.

He lives in Vancouver with his wife, Deborah, *BA'74, MA'76, PhD'11*.

What is your most prized possession?
I'd be terrified to have one, actually.
Who was your childhood hero?
Sherlock Holmes.
Describe the place you most like to spend time.
If I could be anywhere, effortlessly, instantly, for two hours, once a year, I'd probably keep going back to Tokyo.
What was the last thing you read?
The Teleportation Accident, by Ned Beauman, a novel.
What or who makes you laugh out loud?
Perfect strangers on Twitter, often as not.
What's the most important lesson you ever learned?
The fundamental undesirability of ranking things, including life lessons.

What's your idea of the perfect day?
One with my wife, without appointments. Except, possibly, a nice lunch.
What was your nickname at school?
Nothing ever stuck, fortunately.
What would be the title of your biography?
That would be up to my biographer, I suppose.
If a genie granted you one wish, what would it be?
For more of my fellow humans to accept that our species is responsible for global warming. I'd settle for about 80%.
What item have you owned for the longest time?
Probably some small cast-metal trucks my father gave me as a child.
What is your latest purchase?
A large bag of quite expensive, super-clumping cat litter.

Whom do you most admire (living or dead) and why?
That ranking thing again. I don't really think that way. I admire Jorge Luis Borges, but then I admire Elmore Leonard... I think more in terms of galaxies than lists.
What would you like your epitaph to say?
I wouldn't want an epitaph. They're like tattoos for the dead. Or monogrammed shirts. Name and dates, please!
If you could invent something, what would it be?
Something inexpensive, that makes the foulest water potable.
In which era would you most like to have lived, and why?
The past is better enjoyed as a tourist than as a resident, I imagine.
What are you afraid of?
Fundamentalism.
Of any sort whatever.
Name the skill or talent you would most like to have.
Cooking.

Which famous person (living or dead) do you think (or have you been told) you most resemble?
I used to think I looked a bit like Samuel Beckett, but it's getting harder to see.
What is your pet peeve?
The inability to see that one's own culture informs so much of what one sees that that is, in effect, the majority of what one sees.
What are some of your UBC highlights?
Going to hear a visiting lecturer, an anthropologist, who supposed that aliens, visiting our planet, would suppose that multinational corporations were the dominant form of intelligence here. I don't think I'd ever heard the term "multinational corporation" before. And seeing Chris Marker's *La Jetée* for the first time, in a film history course.

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** to learn more or call toll-free **1-888-913-6333**

alumni UBC

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

Manulife Financial
For your future™

Underwritten by
The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company (Manulife Financial).
Manulife, Manulife Financial, the Manulife Financial For Your Future logo and the Block Design are trademarks of The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company and are used by it, and by its affiliates under license. Exclusions and limitations apply.

With the support of UBC alumni worldwide, UBC and the UBC Alumni Association are building a home for alumni to reconnect with their alma mater and each other. The new Alumni Centre will foster entrepreneurship, networking, mentoring and lifelong learning. To contribute to your Alumni Centre, visit **alumnicentre.ubc.ca**

ROGERS™ Microsoft HSBC THE GLOBE AND MAIL

UBC a place of mind

alumni UBC