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COVER IMAGE:
Nobody makes cinnamon buns quite like UBC. Now you can make your own (see page 8).
When it comes to nostalgia, it seems there is nothing more evocative than the gooey loveliness of a warm UBC cinnamon bun. Whenever UBC posts something on its social media pages about the sacred snail-shaped dough, it prompts alumni to share memories and express their deepest cravings: “I like the middle pieces that haven't touched the edge of the pan. I used to take the flipper and dig them out of the centre when a fresh pan was put out at the sub.”

“That was lunch many days!”

“This is why I am always on the lookout for cinnamon buns. While at UBC, it was deeply imprinted onto my taste buds.”

“Bun and hot chocolate before first class. Smell of lectures.”

You can almost hear the accompanying sighs. The buns are sticky, both literally and figuratively. It may be something to do with the mysterious linkages between smell, taste, emotion and memory.

Some readers, then, may be shocked to learn that the recipe hasn’t always been the same. The version used from 1954 was never written down, or at least not put into print by the UBC Alumni Association or UBC Welcome Centre.

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**QUEST FOR ZERO-WASTE PHONES**

UBC researchers have perfected a process to efficiently separate fiberglass and resin — two of the most commonly discarded parts of a cellphone — bringing them closer to their goal of a zero-waste cellphone.

It’s one of the first processes to use simple techniques like gravity separation to cleanly lift organic resins from inorganic fiberglass.

“Discarded cellphones are a huge, growing source of electronic waste, with close to two billion new cellphones sold every year around the world, and people replacing their phones every few years,” says UBC mining engineering professor Maria Holuszko, who led the research. “The challenge is to break down modules that can no longer be reused into useful materials, in a way that doesn’t harm the environment.”

**“REVENGE PORNO”**

**MORE THAN A PRIVACY VIOLATION**

By Erik Rolfe

Canadian legislation criminalizing the non-consensual distribution of “intimate images” risks putting more scrutiny on the victims than the perpetrators, according to author Moira Aikenhead of the law emphasizes privacy, and whether victims — motivations similar to those found in cases of “REVENGE PORN”

In this Q&A, Aikenhead discusses her paper, “Don’t be part of a cell phone.”

Q: Does scrapping the legislation frame the crime as one based on breach of privacy? The legislation frames the crime as one based on lack of consent and breach of privacy.

Q: Where does the scrutiny belong? Where a person posts intimate images of another person online, without their consent, but hasn’t breached their privacy? I have a hard time understanding what the focus on privacy adds to the analysis.

Q: “Victim-blaming” has become a key part of defence arguments in sexual assault cases. The consent element is similar to sexual assault. If someone consents to having intimate images distributed, then that’s not a crime.

Q: Feminism generally takes a broader view of violence, going beyond only physical violence. You use the term “violence,” which many people equate only with physical force. Why do you use that term? What do you mean by “violence”?

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A new online resource has brought the faces and names of the Okanagan’s colourful and vibrant history into the 21st century.

Coordinated by UBC and featuring rich, local content from project partners, this new website brings the people and places from the Okanagan region onto the screens of valley residents. Recently launched, Digitized Okanagan History (DOH) currently includes almost 4,000 photos and documents dating back to the turn of the last century.

“While we have some 3,800 items available on the site, we have scanned or collected more than 35,000 digital objects since this project began last summer,” explains UBC Okanagan Chief Librarian Heather Berringer. “It’s a developing collection that is changing and growing weekly as we are able to add more and more images to the portal each day. The collection will only get larger and more comprehensive as we go along.”

Last year a team of UBC students and archivists visited to repositories, stretching from Keremeos and Osoyoos to sites in Sicamous. Their goal was to digitize two-dimensional documents and photos tucked away in a variety of collections using some scanners. Since then, they have been uploading the images to the DOH portal, the online resource created by the Okanagan Regional Historical Digitization Project, which was generously funded by a private British Columbia based foundation, says Berringer.

The goal is to provide a centralized portal to support research and generally improve access to local resources. Prior to the launch, anyone interested in accessing a photo or document dating back to the past century would have to visit the local museum or historical society, many of which are run by volunteers and have restricted hours.

DOH links people to all 10 repositories and many of the hidden historical treasures on a 24/7 basis.

“The Okanagan Valley has a long and interesting history, and the local repositories have done an excellent job preserving the photos and documents that tell its story,” says Paige Hofmann, UBC Okanagan archivist and special collections librarian. “Now, they are at the fingertips of anyone who might be doing research, or is simply curious about people and events of the past.”

Though the portal is clearly beneficial for people interested in regional history, whether working on research or curious about their family’s past, UBC’s university archivist Chris Hives might be doing research, or is simply curious about people and events of the past.

“Medicated eye drops are commonly used to treat glaucoma but they’re often poorly absorbed. Less than five per cent of the drug stays in the eye because of the drug just rolling off the eye,” says lead researcher Vikramaditya Yadev, a professor of chemical and biological engineering, and biomedical engineering at UBC.

“Even when the drug is absorbed, it may fall to reach the back of the eye, where it can start repairing damaged neurons and relieving the pressure that characterizes glaucoma.”

To solve these problems, the UBC team developed a hydrogel that was then filled with thousands of nanoparticles containing cannabigerolic acid (CBGA), a cannabis compound that has shown promise in relieving glaucoma symptoms. They applied the drops on donated pig corneas, which are similar to human corneas, and found that the drug was absorbed quickly and reached the back of the eye.

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The researchers argue that rates of mortality for some cancers — breast, cervical, colon, lung, skin, among others — are higher on average for black people, often due to late diagnosis.

With skin cancer, for example, physicians need to look for moles on noses, hands and feet, but the researchers found no visuals were provided in any of the textbooks as to what this would look like on dark-skinned patients.

“Physicians are required to recognize diseases in patients with a variety of different skin tones,” said Wilkes. “When light skin-toned bodies are shown as the norm, physicians might miss signs on patients with dark skin tone because they do not know how these abnormalities will present.”

The study was published in the journal Social Science & Medicine.
That Cinnamon Goodness

By Angeline Tagliaferro

Nearly 65 years of UBC alumni remember the pillowy softness and never diminished. For the crafty home bakers out there, here's the recipe used by the ship's crew and is now safely strapped down for the remainder of the ADEON cruise. The team of nurses who conducted the study recommended, and at a young age it’s not good for [children].

The UBC cinnamon bun recipe was baked by instinct and never written down, though Hasz used additional flour as needed. This is a soft dough! It needs a sense of belonging and social connection meant participants were more likely to stick with the classes. "Let's make this, the V.R. Armstrong spotted a disabled autonomous surface vehicle off the coast of Florida. Upon approach, the name of the vessel, Ada, was visible on the screen. We quickly learned from an internet search that this vessel was an autonomous sailboat from the University of British Columbia. Launched last year on a trip across the Atlantic, Somewhere along the way it became disabled and lost its sail. Sailboat Ada was recovered by this ship's crew and is now safely strapped down on deck for the remainder of the ADEON cruise." (For The Sun, February 14)
Five years after the fall of Saigon to the Viet Cong on April 30, 1975, Dr. Soma Ganesan finally escaped his communist oppressors.

At the time of the takeover, which marked the end of the Vietnam War, Ganesan was employed at Saigon Children’s Hospital as a pediatrician. The victors allowed him to continue his work there. However, little else about his life remained the same.

Ganesan and his colleagues were subjected to hostile interrogation sessions at varying times of the night. On weekends, they were sent to a prison camp for “re-education,” consisting of beatings and “traction,” which Ganesan refuses to detail. The torture damaged his spine—how severely, he would only find out later. He endured by focusing on day-by-day survival and adopting a valiant stoicism: “If you have pain, so what?”

The worst thing, Ganesan recalls, was not the torture so much as “the constant fear that your life is in danger, the lack of freedom of communication and expression, the witnessing of people being killed, tortured and mistreated.”

Dr. Soma Ganesan’s unique insights into the specialized therapeutic treatment so crucial for helping survivors of torture stem from the fact he’s a survivor himself.

BY ROBERTA STALEY

Ganesan contrived an escape. He was born in Vietnam, but his father, Sundaram Soma, who died when Ganesan was five, had emigrated from India to work in Saigon at the Indian consulate. Out of desperation, Ganesan approached the consulate office to request documents giving him official foreigner’s status. The consulate granted him the papers, and the Vietnamese regime reacted quickly, bustling Ganesan onto a plane for Singapore. It was freedom, but a gut-wrenching one—Ganesan had to leave his grandmother, mother and sister behind in Saigon.

Still, landing on Singapore soil was like a rebirth. Having no food or a place to stay, Ganesan wandered into a park and sat down on an empty bench. Having been in a state of extreme sleep deprivation for the past five years under his communist oppressors, the quiet green park was heavenly. He lay down. “I slept for three days and three nights without food. I had never felt so peaceful in my life.”

Ganesan became an asylum seeker in India and then France, where he applied to Canada as a refugee. He arrived here in 1981, in his thirties, unable to speak English. He mastered the language, brought his family to Canada from Vietnam, and re-qualified as a physician. But pediatrics no longer appealed to him. Instead, he entered a psychiatry residency at UBC, with the idea that he could help others who had undergone similar experiences. His mother, Manh Duong, wept at the decision. “She said she was worried that people who practiced psychiatry would become nuts themselves,” he says, chuckling.

On the surface, at least, Ganesan’s life appeared to be back on track. During his second year of residency, however, he suddenly found himself unable to walk. An MRI scan showed calcification and lower-lumbar stenosis, which is when the spinal canal, which protects the spinal cord, narrows. The incredulous emergency doctor told him that only sustained severe abuse could cause such physical degradation.

Ganesan regained his mobility with therapy, although his gait is still—almost unrecognizably—impaired. Other effects of the torture still haunt him. When asleep, he is “always on alert”—perfectly lucid if someone telephones late in the night, the result, he says, of being woken for interrogation. Complete rest and repose will forever remain an abstract notion. “I keep an ear in my brain open for anything and everything.”

Soma Ganesan sits on a bench in a leafy park near his clinic.

Photo: Martin Dee.
the walking wounded

His clients come to him for help dealing with debilitating headaches, panic attacks, insomnia, depression, and eating disorders that are rooted in the past. Known as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), such symptoms can arise out of the blue, years, or even decades, after events.

"Nightmares - it happens to all of us," he says. "I'm still seeing people who survived Jewish concentration camps; they are in their 80s and 90s." One of Ganesan's friends, who worked alongside him in the hospital in Saigon, recently started experiencing nightmares stemming from that dark period. The colleague was forced to witness prisoner executions, then had to check the bodies with a stethoscope to ensure the heart had stopped. "He is 89 and he has had to start talking to me. It's not easy," says Ganesan, who has the curious habit of closing his eyes when he speaks, as if shutting his mind to his own harrowing past.

Throughout his career, Ganesan has worked relentlessly to communicate to the medical community his unique insights into the treatment of torture victims, advocating for more nuanced and sophisticated therapies. Thanks to him, UC's Department of Psychiatry, where he is a clinical professor, added trauma and cultural psychiatry to its curriculum in 1988. In 1993, he founded the annual Cross Cultural Mental Health Conference in order to enlighten a wide range of medical specialists, from dermatologists to paediatricians, about the perplexing connections between past trauma and current maladies, such as physical pain, addiction and mental health challenges. (Now on hiatus, the conference will resume in 2019.)

Psychiatrist and best-selling author Dr. Sheni Kang says that before the conference there was "no constant mind-body connection. Kang, who was one of Ganesan's students and a volunteer at VAST during her UBC psychiatry training, recalls watching in awe as Ganesan gently helped a patient unravel their history of torture and trauma. Now a UBC clinical associate professor, Kang has drawn upon her experiences with Ganesan to counsel patients in her own practice, from child soldiers in Africa who had been forced to torture others to refugees from India who had been caught up in that country's insurgency-related insurrection. "The war does not just end in a patient's mind and body," she says.

Over the years, the need for trauma counseling for newsspeakers in Metro Vancouver has increased in tandem with escalating violence and terrorism - including targeted attacks on civilians - in areas of the Middle East, Central and South Asia, and Africa. Statistics bear out how dark and violent the world has become for millions of people. The 2017 Global Trends report, published by the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), put the total number of refugees seeking safety across international borders at 22.5 million, which is the highest number since the agency was founded in 1950 in the aftermath of the Second World War. Syria accounted for the most refugees: 5.5 million in 2016 (and 12 million in total since the conflict began in 2011, or 65 percent of the population). Widespread conflict in South Sudan, Colombia, Afghanistan and Iraq also saw millions of refugees. Another UNHCR report from 2017, Torture Victims in the Scope of Atrocity Identification, Redress and Rehabilitation (UNHCR, 2017), reports that five to 35 percent of refugees are survivors of torture. Not only have they fled abuse but they are also at high risk of being tortured while fleeing, enduring "beatings and starvation, sexual violence [and] arbitrary and violent detention."

Daniele Jorge Ayub is a governance and policy associate at the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims in Copenhagen, Denmark. How Western nations can best respond to the torture crisis, she says, is to uphold their responsibilities under the United Nations Convention Against Torture. (Canada ratified the treaty in 1987.) This includes upholding torture victims' right to "full rehabilitation." However, she adds, a political backlash in places like the US, UK, France, Austria and other European countries (all treaty signatories) means a patient unveils her history of torture and trauma. Now a UBC clinical associate professor, Kang has drawn upon her experiences with Ganesan to counsel patients in her own practice, from child soldiers in Africa who had been forced to torture others to refugees from India who had been caught up in that country's insurgency-related insurrection. "The war does not just end in a patient's mind and body." she says.

Ayub says. Policies supporting refugees and migrants "are seen as liberal and therefore automatically rejected. It's a dangerous trend of right-wing governments."

Canada's record of supporting its obligations under the treaty is spotty. VAST almost shut down in 2014, when the federal Conservative Party withdrew nearly $300,000 in funding. Executive director Frank Cohn, says, "so that near misses indicate the organization needs to expand its fundraising sources. (The provincial government currently funds two-thirds of VAST's operations.) The specialized counselling provided to survivors of torture through VAST is vital to ensure individuals who have suffered torture "survive in Canada in healthy and supported ways," says Cohn. Conventional mental health supports in BC, he adds, are "unsuitable or inadequate [for] this population."

Ganesan retired from VGH's Cross-Cultural Psychiatry Clinic on June 30, leaving him from the administrative task of overseeing a 150-strong cohort of psychiatrists. He will be able to focus solely on counselling at CHAKRA and VAST, joining forces with Dr. Rahul Soma, his psychiatrist son. Soma spends half a day every week counselling patients at VAST, in addition to work with VGH's Cross-Cultural Psychiatry Clinic. One of the things that draw Soma to psychiatry was his father's devotion to helping others. When we were growing up, we were always encouraged to help people, and I think that that had a lot to do with where my parents came from and the struggles they went through. They were always genuine, kind people and I think that had a huge impact."

Kindness and compassion provide a strong foundation for effective therapies that help heal the wounds - invisible and visible - inflicted by malevolent forces upon human beings. With Ganesan, that kindness is rooted in an empathy reinforced by shared experience. He understands that "scars heal, but the psychological part - the deprivation of basic freedom - lasts forever, until that person dies."

Ganesan speaks for all those people who arrive at the doors of VAST, damaged and wounded and fearful, yet embodied by hope and determination. Soma Kang notes that his father has the potential to elevate them beyond mere survival to thriving and taking on positions of leadership in their community. One example is Ganesan himself, whose stetches experiences in the Vietnamese prison camps, while almost breaking him physically, galvanized a career in a unique offshoot of psychiatry that helps patients understand that to be human and alive means having the capacity for renewal, no matter how horrifying the past.

Source: Global Trends (UNHCR, 2017); Torture Victims in the Scope of Atrocity Identification, Redress and Rehabilitation (UNHCR, 2017)

22.5 million

number of refugees seeking safety across international borders (2017)

65%

percentage of the Syrian population who have become refugees since the conflict began in 2011

12 million

proportion of refugees who are survivors of torture

5-35%

percentage of refugees who are survivors of torture
In March 2011, demonstrators took to the streets of Daraa in southern Syria to protest the arrest and torture of students who had scribbled anti-government graffiti on schoolyard walls. The demonstrations spread quickly to other parts of the country, including the city of Homs, where Mohammed Alsaleh was a fourth-year medical student at El-Baath University. To quash dissent, President Bashar Hafez al-Assad unleashed his military might upon Homs’s unarmed demonstrators, which only served to drive even more protestors into the streets.

Alsaleh began to document the atrocities, shooting video on his cell phone. Under the nom de guerre The Hawk of Syria, he uploaded the videos to Youtube, where they were picked up and re-broadcast by the BBC, CNN and Al Jazeera. During his TEDx talk in East Vancouver, Alsaleh says, he and his fellow prisoners were taken out of the lock-up, blindfolded and battered with chains, batons and sticks. Their feet beaten to a pulp, they were forced to jog in the spot on salt. Although Alsaleh’s tormentors never spoke, he got the message: similar agonies awaited those who dared oppose Assad’s rule. “I thought I would never be able to use my arms again.”

After guards unchained him, “the real torture started.” Alsaleh describes being routinely beaten, eventually losing three toenails. Afterwards, he was moved to another prison for one and a half months, crammed together with other prisoners in a low- and rat-infested cell and forbidden to talk. “There was no food. Ten people dead every day.”

Alsaleh eventually ended up in Adra Prison on the edge of the Syrian capital of Damascus, where he was allowed to contact his family. His brother sold the family home to raise the money to bribe a judge to secure Alsaleh’s release. After recovering with his family in his childhood town of Al-Hasakah, Alsaleh fled to Lebanon, living hand-to-mouth by working in restaurants, painting houses and washing cars. He registered with the UN Refugee Agency, which facilitated his resettlement in Canada in late 2014. “It brought hope to my life.”

Intertwined with the hope, however, were “uncontrollable” nightmares, depression and intense fear of anyone in a uniform - a post-traumatic stress response to being tortured. Among the first group of 28 Syrian refugees to come to British Columbia in November 2014, Alsaleh would normally have had access to counselling with the Vancouver Association for Survivors of Torture (VAST), created in 1986 to help refugees and immigrants from despotic nations deal with the violence they suffered. However, his arrival coincided with 2014 federal funding cuts of nearly $300,000, which pushed VAST to the brink of closure. Help from VAST was not available.

Today, Alsaleh is settled, employed, and looking forward to welcoming his family, whom he is privately sponsoring to join him in Canada. But he admits to feeling fragile. To date, he has relied upon his work with refugees and speaking about his ordeal publicly through TEDx talks as “my way of healing.” He realizes it’s not enough, and is planning to connect soon with VAST to begin counselling. “It’s an ongoing battle I am fighting, and I need all the support and help I can get.” Still, he is filled with optimism. “Facing death changes people,” he says. “We come out different people, more resilient, more determined, more appreciative of every single thing in life and more hopeful for a better future.” - Mohammed Alsaleh

Facing death changes people. We come out different people, more resilient, more determined, more appreciative of every single thing in life and more hopeful for a better future.” - Mohammed Alsaleh

The walking wounded
A trickle-down effect of cannabis shuffling off its immoral coil is a growing public interest in the more transformative, spiritual experiences that one can get from peyote, ayahuasca, or psilocybin mushrooms. Used by Indigenous peoples for centuries, such substances are known as entheogens, a neologism coined in 1979 by a group of botanists—the Greek words ths theos (god) and genesis (origin) meant to denote giving birth to the spirit within.

Legal issues be damned, social media has brought about something of a renaissance for entheogenic use via the public airing of users' experiences. "In the case of ayahuasca, it's the narratives of people who are sharing YouTube videos of themselves," says Kenneth Tucker, a director at the BC Centre on Substance Use (BCCSU) and adjunct professor in UBC's School of Population and Public Health. "They're talking about what kind of transformative experience they've had, what insights they've gotten from drinking it."

These first-person narratives range from reports of intense personal growth to the curing of eating disorders. But while the anecdotal evidence is intriguing, there is a dearth of quantitative, clinical studies of entheogenic substances—and it's possible this void can never be properly filled.

The effects of entheogenic drugs are difficult to study beyond qualitative observation. Removing traditional drugs from their Indigenous environments changes the nature of the experience, a concept known as "set and setting"—one's mindset and the setting for the experience—both difficult things to quantify in a laboratory experiment.

Research, both old and new, points to the therapeutic benefits of certain psychedelic drugs in treating PTSD, addiction, and other mental illnesses.

BY CHRIS CANNON

There is so much we don't know about the use of medicinal plants. Refining medicines derived from cannabis and other plants will have a dramatic effect on the health of Canadians and people worldwide. How do we make the best use of these plants and combine them with other therapies to create better outcomes for people who are suffering?" - Zach Walsh

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altered perceptions

It’s unfortunate then – and long a bane for the scientific community – that the distinctions between classes of drugs is confusing to the layperson. Like cannabis and caffeine, heroin and cocaine are plant-based. But where the former have shown promising therapeutic applications, the latter have been wearing holes in the social fabric for decades. Yet, according to the US Controlled Substances Act of 1970, upon which most of the Western world’s drug policy is based, marijuana and psychedelics are classified as Schedule I drugs – the most dangerous category – while cocaine and fentanyl (the deadly opioid at the center of the overdose crisis) fall under Schedule 2. Approximately 4,000 Canadians died from fentanyl-related overdoses in 2017. Zero died from smoking pot.

Synthetic drugs, particularly psychedelics such as lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD; acid) and methylendioxymethamphetamine (MDMA, or ecstasy), are similarly stigmatized, both appearing in the Schedule 1 category, despite their relative safety (they are rarely habit-forming or fatal). They also happen to be among the most promising of all hallucinogenic therapies, and we are reaching a point where public perception is catching up to what the science has been showing for years – that synthetic psychedelics show enormous promise for curing a range of addictions and mental disorders.

Pharmacologically different from addictive substances such as alcohol, tobacco, cocaine, and opiates (a class of drugs that acts on similar dopamine reward systems that lead to chronic dependence patterns), synthetic psychedelics are not self-reinforcing, meaning they don’t leave the user stuck “waking up in the morning craving it and that head hit.” Synthetic psychedelics, in fact, have demonstrated potential as a treatment to end addictions altogether, as well as anxiety, depression, PTSD, eating disorders, and dissociative-compulsive disorders – a whole cluster of mental illnesses that are regularly prescribed patented medications that mask symptoms rather than heal patients.

Working with pure, pharmaceutical-grade substances, institutions like the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS) – Kenneth Tupper serves on the Board of Advisers for the Canadian branch – are plotting and researching in mental health treatment. Current research at the Santa Cruz-based lab includes MDMA-assisted psychotherapy to help heal the psychological and emotional damage caused by sexual assault, war, violent crime, and other traumas, as well as anxiety treatment for autistic adults and people suffering through life-threatening illnesses. The lab has also just completed the first double-blind, placebo-controlled study of the therapeutic use of LSD in human beings since the early 1970s.

According to UBC professor of medicine Evan Wood – who is the Canada Research Chair in Inner City Medicine and director of the BC Centre on Substance Use – MDMA has shown exceptional promise as a treatment of mental health problems that often accompany pharmacists or LSD. Phase 2 trials of MDMA administered to veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars with severe PTSD resulted in the veterans being able to “package up those experiences,” says Wood, “in a way that enabled them to move on to where they no longer met the diagnostic criteria for PTSD.”

Where MDMA could mitigate PTSD without the risk of addiction, psilocybin and LSD could conquer addiction itself, simply by offering abusers a perspective on themselves that engenders positive changes in behavior.

“Of the biggest mysteries in the treatment of addiction is how people can make a decision to change their life and really follow through with it,” says Wood, who is also medical director for Addiction Services with Vancouver Coastal Health. “Neuroimaging studies have shown how on psychedelic drugs like psilocybin or LSD, new connections have formed in the brain and that reward system, connections that existed before and couldn’t be brought about by normal psychotherapy. And through that process, people appear to be able to follow through on their intentions around compulsive disorders – a sober recovery.”

As promising as the research is, psychedelics – whether plant-based or lab-grown – still carry the baggage of a checkered history.

While the spiritually transformative experiences were as real then as they are now, the lack of sufficient scientific oversight and America’s prudish drug laws robbed the movement of any sense of legitimacy, and brought ruin to its practitioners. Leary, Stanley, and Kelley all ended up in prison on drug offenses, the latter two becoming recluses upon their release.

Canada was a different story altogether. As early as the 1950s, Saskatchewan was leading the world in treating issues such as addiction, paranoia, and manic depression with LSD. Under Saskatchewan Premier Tommy Douglas, author of Canada’s modern healthcare system, Weyburn Mental Hospital (where the term “psychedelic” was first coined) conducted bold experiments to treat mental disorders, allowing doctors and nurses to take LSD to better understand and empathize with the mentally ill – a practice that reportedly had a profoundly constructive effect on the hospital’s population.

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In a bit of a virtuous circle, positive results from these early studies led to more interest, which meant more money, which meant more research. Far from the ethically questionable experimentation of the 1960s, 21st-century research is rigorously controlled by medical professionals who are keenly aware of the optics of the situation. Protocols ranging from university ethics approvals processes to Health Canada clinical trial regulations help reinforce a sense of precaution absent from 20th-century research.

And though the research has tiptoed at a snail’s pace over the past two decades, in many cases the results have been deeply encouraging, perhaps even providing a path away from the scourge of addictive prescription opiates that have overwhelmed our medical system. “People are desperately in need of innovative treatments for the malaises of modernity – things like anxiety, depression, PTSD, addictions – that are so rampant in society,” says Tupper. “We really need to explore these new clinical tools that may not be that far away from us, but have long been dismissed as having ‘no medical value and highly likely to be abused’. The optics of psychedelics as drugs of abuse, though largely overcome by the medical community, still linger in the eyes of government agencies, a fact that limits research to institutions that can pony up the necessary capital through private donors. To date, neither the Canadian Institutes of Health Research nor the US National Institute on Drug Abuse – the world’s largest funder of addiction research – has supported research in this area.

“We’re kind of rubbing our noses together to do this work,” says Wood, “but I think it really is the most exciting area in mental health right now. Substance use in general doesn’t get much funding in comparison to the burden of disease. Addiction medicine for a long time has been an unwanted stepchild in the healthcare system, and has not received the appropriate funding by any stretch of the imagination.”

Our tendency to treat addiction as a criminal issue rather than a medical issue – a War on Drugs that should have been fought as a War on Dependency – has created an enduring stigma of lawlessness and abuse that makes political entities hesitant to commit tax dollars to research, no matter how promising it is.

“People are desperately in need of innovative treatments for the malaises of modernity – things like anxiety, depression, PTSD, addictions – that are so rampant in society. We really need to explore these new clinical tools that may not be that far away from us, but have long been dismissed as having ‘no medical value and highly likely to be abused’. This would be a tremendous loss for a promising new direction for treatment. The existing evidence for psychedelic therapy as a viable tool to fight alcohol, tobacco, and opioid addiction is compelling, and even the US Food and Drug Administration has recognized – though not yet funded – MDMA as a potential breakthrough therapy to combat PTSD. Ewen Wood is optimistic. Many of his senior-level teams at the BC Centre on Substance Use were formerly with the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, which wrote the provincial guidelines for the treatment of HIV, with about a 90 per cent reduction in new HIV cases and AIDS deaths across the province.

Since British Columbia has no such guidelines and standards for addictive disorders, there is a lot of variability in terms of how care is provided. The BC Centre on Substance Use is trying to step into this vacuum, sharing therapeutic guidelines for the treatment of opioid addiction in BC on their website, a process that has become the de facto national guideline. The challenge now is for the healthcare system to step up – to separate stigma from evidence, fund necessary research into these promising therapies, and establish guidelines and the blueprints for their implementation, “to enable the fruits of that research to become meaningful for people that are affected by these conditions,” says Wood. “So that’s the idea – we’re not off in some laboratory studying things and disconnected from the healthcare system. We have a mandate to study and implement and promote best practice. If the research can confirm what the pilot studies and what the original research showed, we may have something with enormous potential to improve some of the most challenging and vexing health system challenges that we face.”

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A shaman conducts an Ayahuasca session in the Amazon jungle (Photo by Ethnographic Press/ LightRocket via Getty Images).

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#WeAreOneUBC
Does the key to minimizing catastrophic wildfires lie in pre-colonial forest management practices?

BY RICHARD LITTLEMORE

Having recently lived through the worst wildfire season on record in BC, Kelsey Copes-Gerbitz is the first to acknowledge that promoting the benefits of fire in the province’s interior forests is a hard sell. BC foresters have worked diligently – and often successfully – in the last century to suppress fire, to prevent its outbreak or discourage its spread. And after seeing firsthand the threat and devastation of wildfires raging near her research area outside Williams Lake last summer, this UBC PhD student now has a visceral sense of why you might want to avoid fire at all costs.

But looking back into the scientific record, and plumbing more deeply into human memory – especially through her collaboration with the Williams Lake Indian Band (T’xelc) – Copes-Gerbitz says two conclusions are inescapable: first, wildfire has always been an integral part of the BC interior forest ecology, and second, humans have often worked with fire more successfully than they have fought against it.

Copes-Gerbitz has just wrapped up the second year of what she anticipates as four years of interdisciplinary doctoral research in the UBC Faculty of Forestry. On the ecological side, she is looking at tree-ring studies to establish a long-term wildfire record in the Williams Lake Community Forest, which is jointly managed by the T’xelc and the City. At the same time, she is working closely with community members, particularly with the T’xelc Elders, to better understand how humans have coexisted with fire over the centuries. As previous research shows, “these areas used to have a lot of low severity fires – every five to 15 years,” Copes-Gerbitz says. But the outbreaks were patchy, “never hectares and hectares of devastated landscape as we saw last summer.”

Three things have changed. First, a century of increasingly effective fire suppression has allowed fuel to build up in the forests, so when fire breaks out, there is more to burn, creating blazes that are fiercer and run farther. Second, climate change has turned up the heat, or made the forest more fragile, for example by allowing the devastating spread of the mountain pine beetle. The third factor – less well known, but closely related to the first – is that Indigenous people are no longer managing the forests with fire. It turns out that before colonial times, it was common for people to set lots of small, strategic fires, for purposes ranging from reinvigorating berry crops to managing game.

This doesn’t mean that anyone is planning to head into the woods with an underdeveloped plan and a package of matches, but it strongly suggests that Copes-Gerbitz is the right person, at the right time and, perhaps surprisingly, in exactly the right place. The surprise arises because Copes-Gerbitz is, as they say, not from around here. She grew up in Hawaii, hiking the mountainside forests on the Hilo side of the Big Island. After high school, she moved to the mainland, choosing Willamette University in Salem, Oregon, because it offered her the opportunity to pursue a double major in environmental science and archaeology, reflecting a split interest in both landscapes and people.

After her undergraduate studies, Copes-Gerbitz began working with an ecological non-profit on forest management and restoration. There, she started to understand how difficult it is to manage the landscape in what she calls “a multi-value setting,” where you have to balance or accommodate ecological goals, economic goals and social goals all at the same time. She went on to do a master’s in environmental modelling at the University of Manchester in the UK, and, working afterward as an environmental consultant, she again found herself “the middle man between people with fundamentally different values – between people who want to develop and people who want to protect.”
Regan Oey
Second-year undergraduate student,
Cognitive Systems
Centennial Leader Award

The more she felt this tension, the happier Copes-Gerbitz became about the interdisciplinary nature of her studies to date. In a single discipline – or in a forestry faculty less interdisciplinary than UBC’s – Copes-Gerbitz says you can wind up with scientists and ecologists who are inclined to shy away from people – who are accomplished in their area of expertise, but not trained in social science research methods.

But, Copes-Gerbitz says, “unless you can talk to people of all different perspectives – unless you can work collaboratively with everyone – change is going to be much more difficult to come by.” That’s why she chose to pursue her PhD at UBC, where her thesis supervisor is Dr. Lori Daniels, an expert in fire ecology who has worked hard to engage with communities throughout the province. In addition, Copes-Gerbitz benefits from the guidance of a social science methods expert, Dr. Shannon Hagerman, who has extensive experience working across the sciences in a policy context.

And the move to BC has proved an excellent choice. “I’ve been loving every step,” Copes-Gerbitz says. “I’m loving the urgency of doing this kind of work.” To support it, Copes-Gerbitz applied for UBC’s Public Scholar Initiative award, which benefits doctoral students whose research is explicitly linked to purposeful social contribution and innovative forms of scholarship. She also landed a student grant from the faculty’s Aboriginal Community Research Seed Fund. Without these sources of funding, says Copes-Gerbitz, the long-term community engagement necessitated by collaborative work, and the ability to give back to the community, would have been difficult to fully realize.

Copes-Gerbitz says she is less concerned about finding “a job” after achieving her degree than she is about maintaining the impact of the work she is doing already. This is not one of those projects where you can usefully drop in, conduct your research and leave with the product, she says. Even if she succeeds in developing holistic and appropriate management strategies for minimizing the threat of catastrophic wildfire, the crucial final piece will involve engaging the community, building management capacity and, most of all, building public trust.

“Ultimately,” she says, “it’s a resilience approach. We are trying to build the capacity to be ready for what we don’t know is coming.”

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“I’m not sure I would have been able to go to UBC without this student award. I watched my mom work really hard as a single parent. I didn’t get to see her a lot. I wasn’t sure if university was even an option for me. So this award has given me the opportunity to go to school... I’m really thankful for that.”

Regan Oey
Second-year undergraduate student,
Cognitive Systems

Centennial Leader Award

Kelsey Copes-Gerbitz collects tree core samples from Douglas-fir for a collaborative fire history project in Williams Lake Community Forest.

Photo: Owen Raybould

Kelsey Copes-Gerbitz
Photo: Martin Dee

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alumni UBC
When Gail Murphy and her team launched Tasktop Technologies in 2007, they were involved in one of the things UBC does best: turning creativity, new knowledge, problem solving and innovation into a commercial enterprise.

Murphy, along with then-PhD student Mik Kersten and research engineer Robert Elves, saw opportunities in the world of open source software and, with help from UBC’s University-Industry Liaison Office (UILO), they transformed their ideas into a viable startup.

Tasktop Technologies works with large corporations and organizations that have developed diverse software tools to meet the needs of the various aspects of their business: information gathering, coding, product testing. Such tools are typically developed independently of each other, producing huge headaches when it comes to sharing information across different levels of the organization. Murphy’s team solved that problem by designing a way to synchronize data among these tools, speeding up the process of change and improvement across the board. Ten years later, the company is thriving.

Last August, Murphy was named Vice President Research and Innovation (VPRI) at UBC, and is working to help other researchers replicate her experience.

“UBC’s research mission has always been about understanding the world around us,” she says, “and to solve difficult problems in every field: from astronomy and medicine to engineering and the arts. It’s also about getting results on the ground: not just doing high quality research, but getting that research out into the world where it can make a difference.”

Not that pure research – research for the sake of it – isn’t still a high priority at UBC. It is. Research whose sole aim is the creation of new knowledge is the lifeblood of UBC’s research mission. “Not that pure research – research for the sake of it – isn’t still a high priority at UBC. It is. Research whose sole aim is the creation of new knowledge is the lifeblood of UBC’s research mission.”

For years, Murphy says, academics weren’t naturals when it comes to business savvy, and they need all the support they can get.

• The first pathway builds on the model provided by the UILO: provide researchers with help in patent registration, product and concept licensing, finding sponsors for promising research and general liaison with various industries to link researchers with potential business opportunities.

• The second pathway uses entrepreneurship@UBC (e@UBC), a precursor to the innovationUBC initiative, to help faculty, staff, students and alumni understand and put into practice the steps needed to prepare themselves and their product for commercial ventures. e@UBC is focused on the practicalities of setting up an enterprise, including seed funding for startups, entrepreneurial training and a large mentoring network, including mentors-in-residence.

• The third pathway develops relationships between UBC people and outside organizations including NGOs, private sector organizations and government. Part of the innovationUBC thrust is to hire staff who know who these potential partners are and how to connect with them.

• The fourth pathway helps researchers understand how their new knowledge might be adapted and organized in such a way that it can develop its socio-economic impact through a new government policy, new clinical practice or social enterprise.

Not all research projects at UBC have (or should have) socio-economic potential. But by using the four pathways, interested researchers can investigate that potential and reach realistic conclusions about the process.

e@UBC is headquartered at the Graham Lee Innovation Centre (located in the Robert E. Lee Alumni Centre). Using workshops for business model development, market investigation and entrepreneurial training, e@UBC is intended as a clearing house for presenting UBC research to the commercial world.

Murphy’s VPRI office is in the process of establishing new entrepreneurial hubs under the banner of innovationUBC, one each at Robson Square, Point Grey and UBC Okanagan. Based on the e@UBC concept, these hubs will provide a location for mentorship – utilizing existing UBC intellectuals, local businesses and alumni – to give real-world advice to program participants, as well as startup space and seed financing for ventures that can benefit from contact with the innovationUBC ecosystem, and will help external collaborators find their way into the UBC system. The Robson Square innovationUBC centre is ramping up towards an official launch this spring.

Ultimately, the purpose of these hubs is to gather together support from different faculties and outside organizations in a central area to facilitate relationships and interaction.

“UBC is a huge, complex institution,” says Murphy, “and is often seen as difficult to penetrate. Those hubs will help gather both the knowledge and the people, and provide a front door to the university.”

Besides access to innovationUBC’s resources will be centralized and not hidden away in various faculties and offices. Murphy hopes the hubs will attract a wider range of the university’s talents, including more women entrepreneurs.

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Gail Murphy’s research – and passion – is in digital technology. British Columbia has some of the strongest programs in the country through our various post-secondary institutions, which is a huge advantage for companies seeking locations that have a ready workforce trained at top-level schools. Microsoft, for example, recently opened in Vancouver with a 700-person workforce just down the street from UBC’s Robson Square.

Murphy was also instrumental in establishing the Master of Data-Science degree at UBC, which had its first intake in September 2016. This year, the program received nearly 800 applications for 80 places.

“We know that diverse teams produce better results in the workplace, but we have a lot of work to do to convince young women to get involved in high tech research areas,” she says. “Part of our job is to work with industry to show how these diverse work groups are always better.”

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As well, UBC was a founding member of a consortium of predominantly BC businesses, high-tech startups and post secondary schools that committed to be part of the federal government’s Innovation Superclusters Initiative. The program will share a $950 million dollar grant (matched dollar for dollar by industry partners), and was created to fund high level, intensely focused research centres in areas of special expertise in various parts of the country. Québec, for example, was awarded a Supercluster in artificial intelligence; Atlantic Canada was awarded the Ocean Supercluster to improve Canada’s competitiveness in ocean-based industries; Ontario was awarded an Advanced Manufacturing Supercluster; and the Prairies were awarded the Protein Industries Supercluster to develop plant proteins.

BC’s proposal, Canada’s Digital Technology Supercluster, was also one of the successful ones. The Supercluster pairs industrial partners such as Microsoft, TELUS, Providence Health Care, Canfor, The Terry Fox Research Initiative and more than 200 other organizations and schools, and will, says UBC president Santa Ono “accelerate Canada’s global advantage in digital technology using big data to create new economic opportunities and address the productivity, health and sustainability challenges facing the world today.”

But innovation doesn’t just mean high tech. e@UBC has cultivated or is cultivating ventures from virtually every faculty at the university, from the arts and pharmaceuticals to athletics and healthcare.

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Microsoft recently opened in Vancouver with a goal to attract 100 tech workers just down the street from UBC Robson Square.

**A couple of years after completing his MBA, Singh returned to UBC to start in research of collaborators to start a new enterprise. He approached entrepreneurship UBC (e@UBC), which offers mentorship, venture creation and seed funding, and helps connect businesses with people with research and innovation on campus. They in turn linked him with the University-Industry Liaison Office, where Singh learned about the technology that would drive his company - Acuva Technologies Inc.**

Singh, who had already studied engineering at one of India’s most prestigious institutes and worked for over a decade in research and development with the Tata Group, a $120-billion enterprise that operates in 100 countries. He had also worked as head of market development and technology commercialization for South Asian markets at Westport, an engineering company that specializes in alternative fuels and operates in more than 70 countries.

But deep-down Singh was an entrepreneur with a passion for startups and the steady mix of knowledge and nerve required to succeed - and he was willing to put his life savings on the line to do it.

**THE VENTURE**

A couple of years after completing his MBA, Singh returned to UBC to start in research of collaborators to start a new enterprise. He approached entrepreneurship UBC (e@UBC), which offers mentorship, venture creation and seed funding, and helps connect businesses with people with research and innovation on campus. They in turn linked him with the University-Industry Liaison Office, where Singh learned about the technology that would drive his company - Acuva Technologies Inc.

The technology – which was developed by Dr. Fariborz Taghipour of UBC’s Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering - uses ultraviolet LED to destroy microorganisms in water, but what really sets it apart from other purification systems is that it requires very little power – so little, in fact, that it can operate on battery alone. It’s also portable, compact, requires virtually no maintenance, and it doesn’t create waste or harm the environment.

“The is independent of grid infrastructure, which means you can deploy it whenever you want,” says Singh, who adds that the technology is especially promising for the many areas of Asia and Africa where access to power is one of the biggest barriers to clean drinking water. “And once you install it, it works an entire lifetime without having to do anything more.”

**THE MOTIVATION**

But for Singh it the motivation wasn’t only to create an environmentally and financially sustainable business model – he was also driven by personal experience.

“I spent the first 15 years of my life in rural India, and have gone through the challenges of accessing clean drinking water, and infrastructure issues. All those things you read in textbooks, I have experienced them myself,” says Singh, who weaves social responsibility into all of his business pursuits.

Todd Farrell manages the UBC Seed Fund, which invests risk capital in innovative startups founded at UBC. He has worked closely with Singh from the beginning and oversaw initial funding of $450,000 for the project. He says Singh’s blend of business knowledge and technical skill, along with his calm demeanor and excellent interpersonal skills, have been invaluable.

“His is a very tenacious individual – and he is willing to ask for help, but he certainly has his own mind. He collects information, analyses what he hears, discards what he doesn’t like and comes up with a plan,” says Farid, who adds that Acuva will not require philanthropic support from governments or charities, but rather is projected to be profitable on its own.

Benefiting from two seed rounds and a bridge, Acuva received from the Trio Superclusters Initiative.

How an MBA grad was equipped to potentially change the lives of millions from now, the water dispenser in your fridge may well be using Acuva technology.

Today, the company employs 20 people and has formed important partnerships with global distributors. As markets expand, the size of production ramps up, the product cost has dropped dramatically and is predicted to drop even further, boding well for the future provision of low-cost units to remote communities.

**THE UBC ADVANTAGE**

Singh says he has used “every bit” of the knowledge he acquired during his MBA to make Acuva a success, and he also credits e@UBC, the University-Industry Liaison Office, and all of the entrepreneurial support at UBC for helping to get him off the ground.

As well as the seed-funding, use of office space, and the technology itself, Singh benefited from a dynamic network - from which he drew for mentorship, investment and talent – including the three UBC MBA graduates he hired to join the company.

“When you start a small company, especially with technology, you start with almost zero - no credentials, no identity, nothing to show. It’s very hard to find the first set of people who believe in what you believe, who associate their prestige and reputation, and who put in the resources and money,” says Singh. “That was a huge help that Acuva received from the UBC ecosystem.”

Singh says all of this knowledge and support, along with his 20 years of corporate experience, have given him immense confidence, and a desire, in turn, to help his team members pursue their dreams. His upbringing and his experience as an immigrant also gives him an unambiguously tolerable for risk.

“in the early part of my childhood I had nothing to lose. That made me an inherent risk-taker. Once you have that attitude, everything becomes easier,” he says. “You have the ability to make decisions that are inherently risky for many – because for me, it’s very normal.”
The Missing Person’s first novel, prizes. She has also published two and a finalist for the Scotiabank Amazon.ca, and iTunes Canada, year by the San Francisco Chronicle Inside the Michener Center for Writers, earned her MFA in writing from the University as the Mordecai Richler recently, she taught at McGill Carolina, and has also taught member in the Warren Wilson. Today, she is an internationally renowned writer whose 2012 novel, inside, was named a book of the year by the San Francisco Chronicle, Amazon.ca, and iTunes Canada, and a finalist for the Scotiabank Giller and Rogers Writers’ Trust prizes. She has also published two collections of short stories and her first novel. The Missing Person, was published in 2005. Ohlin has been an English professor at Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania, a faculty member in the Writers’ MFA Program for Writers in North Carolina, and has also taught writing at the New York State Writers’ Summer Institute. Most recently, she taught at McGill University as the Montreal Richter Writer-in-Residence for 2005-06. She specializes in teaching fiction, screenwriting and environmental writing and has distinguished herself as a mentor to younger writers. When we asked Ohlin to recommend some choice books, she didn’t have to look any further than the Creative Writing Program’s own talented poets. From a sweeping historical novel to an adventurous memoir to a story you can read with your kids, Ohlin’s choice of these books will entertain and enlighten you all summer long.

### A Day with Yayah
By Nicola Campbell, BFA’07, MFA’12
On a beautiful spring day in the Okanagan valley, a First Nations family heads overhead. The breeze was cool, with the warmth of spring.” Beautifully illustrated by Julie Flett, A Day with Yyah was a finalist for the Christie Harris Illustrated Children’s Literature Prize. It’s a perfect choice for a family to read together on a summer day.

### SON OF A TRICKSTER
By Eden Robinson, MFA’07
Eden Robinson is a national treasure, and by the time this magazine arrives in your mailbox, she’ll also be the recipient of an honorary doctor of letters from UBC. In this Scotiabank Giller Prize-nominated novel, the first of a planned trilogy, Robinson gives us Jared, a young teenager struggling to find his way in the world against difficult odds. His mother loves him dearly but she has problems of her own. His father has a new family and a debilitating back injury. He misses his dead dog, Baby Killer, a much sweeter animal than the name implies. Though he’s only 16, Jared is the one who cares for everybody else. Meanwhile, he doesn’t understand why his grandmother, who seems to dislike him, has told him he’s the son of a trickster and – even more disturbingly – why rains sometimes speak to him. It’s impossible not to root for Jared, a reliable teenager faced with more troubles than any one person should ever have to deal with. When Robinson won the prestigious $50,000 Writers’ Trust Fellowship in 2013, the prize jury noted that her characters are “magnetic, ever have to deal with. When Robinson won the prestigious $50,000 Writers’ Trust Fellowship in 2013, the prize jury noted that her characters are “magnetic, unique humor sparkle on every page of this gritty, funny, and relatable book. The second volume of the trilogy comes out in October, and the entire trilogy has been optioned for television), so read the first one order to be caught up in time.

### THE DUTCH WIFE
By Ellen Keith, BA’02, MFA’17
The Dutch Wife was a finalist for the Christie Harris Illustrated Children’s Literature Prize. It’s a perfect choice for a family to read together on a summer day.

### GET INTO ALL THE BOOKS
Great summer reads recommended in the new chair of UBC’s Creative Writing Program
Highlights from the busy schedule of UBC president Santa J. Ono. Follow him on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Twitter @UBCprez

Met some UBC Okanagan students during a visit to Kelowna, who were helping to organize “Recess,” a well-deserved year-end music concert.

Met Mike DeGagné (right), currently president of Nipissing University and former director of the Aboriginal Healing Foundation. Pictured centre is UBC’s Linc Kesler, director of the UBC First Nations House of Learning and senior advisor to the president on Aboriginal affairs.

Met with German Ambassador Sabine Sparwasser and German Consul General Josef Beck to discuss UBC’s extensive research agreements with German institutions. President Ono will visit Berlin and Munich in October.

Met some of the members of the UBC Quidditch Team. Ran into Dash Foster (left), UBC’s new band leader, who was modelling the new UBC band uniform. On the right is band president Andy Ferguson.

Proud to hear UBC student Adina Williams speak so compellingly at the opening of the Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre.

Enjoyed spending time with Jeremy Lin of the Brooklyn Nets, who spoke at the War Memorial Gym this April. (Treated him to a Canucks game!)

Played in a quartet with UBC School of Music students for a pop-up concert at the Broadway-City Hall SkyTrain Station.

Compared neckwear with Dr. Chan Gunn, namesake of UBC’s new pavilion for sports medicine, which gives UBC unparalleled facilities for research in sports medicine and kinesiology.

UBC has launched its new strategic plan, Shaping UBC’s Next Century. It sets out the university’s collective vision, purpose, goals and strategies for the years ahead. Explore the plan at strategicplan.ubc.ca

Michio Kaku
The Universe in a Nutshell: Why physics is the key to pretty much everything

The University of British Columbia
CONNECTS
presented by President and Vice-Chancellor Santa J. Ono
In partnership with alumni UBC

Wednesday, September 26, 2018 | 6:30-9:00 PM
Chan Centre for the Performing Arts, UBC Vancouver Campus

In this characteristic fun, friendly and accessible manner, theoretical physicist and bestselling author Michio Kaku presents a succinct history of physics and makes a compelling case for why this particular branch of science is the key to pretty much everything.

He argues that physicists may soon shrink the science of the Big Bang into an equation as small as Einstein's famous e=mc², and that advances in string theory may allow us to escape the heat death of the universe, explore the multiverse, and unlock the secrets of existence.

Whether you sleep through high school science or are about to defend your thesis in quantum physics, your curiosity and imagination is sure to be ignited by this spellbinding session with one of the world's most famous scientists.

Isabel Allende
The Alchemy of Truth: The power of story to change the world

Tuesday, November 13, 2018 | 6:30-9:00 PM
Location Tbd

In this era of #metoo, #timesup, #letstalk and #blacklivesmatter, story-telling – individually and collectively – matters more than ever. In this talk, famed novelist Isabel Allende unpacks the power of story to, as she says, “make the world good – not just better.” An unrepentant feminist who exhorts audiences to speak with passion and purpose about what must not be forgotten, Allende explores themes of social justice, female empowerment, and personal and political freedom with hope and good humor.

Previous Speakers:
Waneek Horn-Miller
The Wisdom of Reconciliation: A roadmap for multiculturalism
Jeremy Rifkin
The Third Industrial Revolution: Can we prevent the next mass extinction of life on Earth?

This series is made possible with the generous support of the R & J Stern Family Foundation

Find out more, and access the presentations of previous speakers, at ubc.ca/ubconnects
"It’s a large problem that survivors [of Indian residential schools], as well as their families and communities, have to continue to validate their lived experiences. For me, as an Indigenous student, so often I have had to either be an expert on these topics, or challenge another person who wants to argue that it is time for us to move on, or to get over it. These are comments that so many of us here today are so used to hearing, and I believe that they’re based off racist and sterotypical assumptions that have been developed as a result of the lack of education that Canadians received on these parts of Canada’s colonial history. This is why the dialogue centre is not only a timely addition to the UBC campus, but it is also a necessary one. [It] will play such a critical role in closing these large knowledge gaps that have been ignored for far too long.

~ Adina Williams
Its initiatives have contributed significantly to the establishment of Canada’s NCWC has been the leading national voice of women for the past 124 years. “Women of Canada (NCWC) at their 124th Annual General Meeting. She is a member of alumni UBC (UBC 8 in Coal Harbour, summer of 1970).

Bob Bakhtin – who celebrated the carnivalesque under Stalin – to explore Bakhtin, and Film: A Dialogic Lens

While a private practice in Anchorage, Alaska. Brent Elliott, BA’73, MA’79, PhD(Ed) (1978), which won the Governor General’s Literary Award for Drama, was produced on and off Broadway and was released as a feature film in 2021. As a writer, he has authored several books, fiction and non-fiction, including a series of mystery thrillers. He is an officer of the Order of Canada, and lives in Vancouver.

Hailed as “one of the best novels of the year” by The Globe & Mail, John MacLachlan Gray, BHEc’58, has retired after 40 years as librarian, then historian, for the Royal Horticultural Society. Among his books are Victoria Gordon (1968) and Federico Garibaldi Botanical Museum (1935), in the Paper Museum of Cassiano dal Pozzo series.

Dave Butler, BScF’81, has retired after 40 years as librarian, then historian, for the Royal Horticultural Society. Among his books are Victoria Gordon (1968) and Federico Garibaldi Botanical Museum (1935), in the Paper Museum of Cassiano dal Pozzo series.

What have you been up to lately? Share your latest adventures, unique stories, milestones, and journeys with fellow alumni in Class Acts. Don’t be shy. You’re a member of alumni UBC – you’ve got bragging rights.

If your submission is multiple pages, please ensure they are as high resolution as possible. Submissions should not exceed 750 characters (about 200 words), and may be edited for length and clarity where necessary. Submissions are due September 30.

SUBMIT

The idea for a reunion came from an exchange between rower Trevor Josephson, BA’72, and former coach Dr. Peter Klavara, MPhysEd’72. Once the idea spread to other team members, enthusiasm was quick to build. “Rowers develop a special bond,” says Josephson. “I think because the training is so intense, and we focus completely on teamwork as the very nature of the sport.”

Trevor Josephson, BA’72, and his wife, Gordon, BEd’73, and former coach Doug, MPhysEd’72, are as high resolution as possible. Submissions should not exceed 750 characters (about 200 words), and may be edited for length and clarity where necessary. Submissions are due September 30.

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to join the European Union than leave it. Colin Wolfe, MA'90, head of Western Balkans Regional Cooperation at the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium, and previous jobs in EU economies. With a background in geography at the University of Dublin and UBC, and previous jobs in EU institutions, Colin Wolfe, MA'90, has a strong understanding of the economies. With a background in geography at the University of Dublin and UBC, and previous jobs in EU institutions, Colin Wolfe, MA'90, has a strong understanding of the economies.

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With so many priorities competing for his attention, however, Mapson's grades did not enjoy the same level of growth – a trend that continued through his first year of graduate studies. Fortunately, his prowess for campus leadership was then well-established, and in 1974 he was recruited by Malaspina College (now Vancouver Island University) to serve as their first athletic and recreation director. By 1979, he was able to complete his master's degree in education, commuting to UBC from Nanaimo.

After a brief sojourn as an athletic director, Mapson finally left academia in 1982 to establish his own business, Travelling works, which focused on building leadership and talent management in the private sector. This gave way to a long career in executive leadership, and in 2010 he retired in Kelowna with his wife, Heather, where he now enjoys hiking, kayaking, and curling.

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Letters to a Driving Nation

In March 2013, George Mapson, MSc'79, was awarded the Marilyn Pomfret Alumni Award, given annually in recognition of the accomplishments of those who have volunteered in the UBC Intramural Recreation Program.

Upon arriving at UBC as a student, Mapson had his heart set on a sports career with the Thunderbirds. Of average height and build, however, he found himself excluded from the basketball and football teams. Instead, his focus shifted to an area of athletics he hadn't previously considered, UBC intramural leadership.

In September 1970, Mapson took on the volunteer role of publicity director for the men's intramural program. Under the mentorship of Nestor Korchinsky, long-time director of intramural sports at UBC and Mapson's "Mile-high inspirational rock," he rose to the rank of director of the men's program at two short years. His impact was significant, particularly in the acquisition of new funding sources for the program. He secured sponsorship from local breweries and lobbied for increased budgets from the School of Physical Education and the AMS - a task made easier by the fact he was simultaneously serving as president of the Physical Education Undergraduate Society and AMS Treasurer. The intramural program flourished beyond expectations.

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Three children, Jacob, Joshua, and Julia. After nearly five years with Soons, heading up Tomodachi Engineering worldwide out of Santa Barbara, Richard Little, BA’92, recently joined Goerck as VP of Engineering, working on audio products for customers worldwide. Richard, along with wife Mei and daughter Sydney, has moved to the San Francisco Bay Area. The family is pleased to be in a place where there are seasons and occasional rainy weather, and Chinese food is plentiful. Richard recently spoke at the COMSOL Conference in Boston. To the 5,000 attendees, and joined a panel discussion at the ALMA International Winter Symposium in Las Vegas in early January. "Korean Cheng, BA’99, has published his third novel, The Page, with Arndt Miller Publishing, and recently released an indie film, Meet the Shelties. The book is the story of a young girl with a love for dogs and a dream of writing a novel about a Shetland Sheepdog. The film, directed by Chinese alumna Grace Chen, BA’02, follows the adventures of a young girl and her Shetland Sheepdog as they travel across Canada to attend a dog show. The film is distributed by The Dog Movie Project, and has been featured at several film festivals around the world. The book is a great read for anyone who loves dogs and enjoys a heartwarming story.

Joanne Chan, BA’90, Dip(ArtHist)’94, MA, MBA, PhD, is a strong believer in the power of education to change lives. After her undergraduate studies, she co-founded the Centre for Ethnic Understanding and Research (CEUR), which has grown into a respected institution that serves as a resource for educators and policymakers. In her role as executive director, she has worked with a diverse range of stakeholders to develop innovative programs and policies that promote understanding and respect for cultural diversity. Joanne is a mentor to many emerging leaders in her field, and has played a key role in promoting the importance of intercultural competence in education.

Rachel Rose, BA’96, has released her latest book, The Mermaids of Lake Michigan. The book tells the story of a young girl who discovers a mermaid living in a nearby lake. The girl befriends the mermaid, who teaches her about the beauty and mystery of the natural world. The book is a heartwarming tale that explores themes of friendship, exploration, and the power of imagination. Rachel is a passionate advocate for environmental conservation and has dedicated much of her career to raising awareness about the importance of protecting our planet.

After graduating from UBC, Quang To, BA’02, decided to pursue an old goal of service in the Canadian Forces. Despite suffering countless setbacks and demoralization—sometimes so severe that he could not get out of bed—he always dusted himself off and continued to persist. When recruiting gave him another opportunity in October 2016, he jumped at the chance. He graduated from the Canadian Forces Leadership and Recruit School, 3rd Canadian Division Support Base, and finally the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps School. His journey exemplifies the very motto of his regiment: Perseverance. "Adriana Boscatto, BA’92, was admitted to the Law School of England and Wales on November 3, 2007. She is an immigration attorney, representing clients with international law firms in the UK, the US, and Canada. Adriana has published several articles and book chapters on immigration law, and has been featured in numerous media outlets.

After his recent completion of a PhD from the Faculty of Nursing at the University of British Columbia, Sarah Heege, BA’97, MSc’05, PhD, has accepted a position in the Department of Applied Human Sciences at the University of Prince Edward Island. He will be making the move with his wife and two kids this July 2018. "Kari Shepherdson-Scott, BA’96, has received tenure from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. She specializes in the intersection between visual culture from the 19th and 20th centuries, focusing on the visual expression of national identity, empire, war, and memory. While her research is rooted in modernist practices, she also teaches the more broadly in visual culture and all periods of Japanese and Chinese art. She received her PhD from Duke University and her BFA from Boise State University.

This April, Michel Kim, BA’99, will release her first novel, Running Through Sprinklers. This novel, a coming-of-age story set in 1990s Korea and Vietnam, tells the story of a young girl who must navigate the complexities of growing up in a war-torn country. Michel draws on her own experiences riding along with K9 teams in the USA, Canada, and Europe, and the lessons she learns on the road with some of the toughest men, women and dogs in policing as they deal with criminals, terrorism and trauma.

This April, Michelle Michel, BA’99, has released her master’s thesis, Summer of the Horse, with Harbour Publishing. A non-fiction manuscript, Summer of the Horse explores both the physical landscape of the Alaskan-Kutchina Management Area (KMA), located in British Columbia’s Northern Rockies, and the metaphysical landscape of the human mind. She offers great thanks to faculty members Luanne Armstrong, Marilyn Simon, and Wayne Grady for their support of this project. In his new book, Views of the Salish Sea, One Hundred and Fifty Years of Change, one of the people that the book attempts to examine is the Strait of Georgia, a sea spanning 300 kilometres from Victoria and Vancouver to Campbell River and Powell River. The book focuses on the history of the region over a century and a half of research.

After graduating from UBC, Suzanne Kamata, BA’92, was thankful for UBC’s Green College, Liu Centre, and WUSC networks. She offers great thanks to faculty members Luanne Armstrong, Marilyn Simon, and Wayne Grady for their support of this project. In his new book, Views of the Salish Sea, One Hundred and Fifty Years of Change, one of the people that the book attempts to examine is the Strait of Georgia, a sea spanning 300 kilometres from Victoria and Vancouver to Campbell River and Powell River. The book focuses on the history of the region over a century and a half of research.

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IN MEMORIAM

Thomas Lachlan Calder, BSc’49
November 29, 1927 – September 15, 2017

Tom was from Westminster, and graduated from Duke of Connaught High School, where his father, Thomas Hammond Calder, was principal. He studied at UBC (BSc’49) and McGill (MDCM’53), where he met and wed fellow med student Norma (“Tommie”) England - the love of his life for 45 years of marriage. Tom practiced medicine for 47 years, raised six children, and maintained a passion for music. Dr. Tom’s busy practice was old-style, full-service medicine, with house calls, deliveries, surgery, hospital rounds and care of all ages – including a lender focus on the elderly. He was a Krieten back when polo was the battle, and a mental health advocate for schizophrenia and mental health services.

He co-founded the West Van Adulat Band, played his euphonium (and other instruments on demand) with several groups, and never waited anywhere without hummimg or whistling like a one-man marching band. As he rests in peace, his headstone reads, “With music in your heart”.

Inglis Edwards, BSc’49
On November 11, 2017, Inglis, aged 92, died peacefully with his family at his side. He is survived by Jean, his wife of 66 years; four children (Nancy, Sheila, Brent, Barbara); and five grandchildren (Andrew, Ryan, Sydney, Caiden, Kyla).

A talented mechanical engineer, Inglis brought his skills to the pulp and paper, handling and chemical industries. He began his career in Montreal, where he worked for Dominion Engineering. Inglis then designed conveyor belt systems with Mifinco Equipment in Windsor, Ontario, before returning to the West Coast, where he held senior roles with Gearmatic and Chemetics. He taught at BCIT and culminated his career as an IRAP representative with the National Research Council. He was an advocate for quality assurance and intrigued by anything mechanical.

He loved the outdoors and told many stories of skiing adventures with the UBC Varsity Outdoor Club, and playing basketball with the Thunderbirds. He was a kind and generous family man, who taught his children many essential skills. He is greatly missed but leaves us with many memories of a life well lived.

Raymond G. Leckard, BSc’49
Ray was born on Jan 1, 1926, in Patricia, AB, and grew up in Kaslo, BC. He served in the Canadian Airforce during WW II, then studied horticulture and plant physiology, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree from UBC, a Master of Science degree from the University of Idaho, and a PhD from the University of London in England. He worked overseas for Canada’s International Development Program, the United Nations Development Program, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, and USAID doing technical assistance work in agriculture for 20 years in five developing countries: Malaysia, Ghana, the Philippines, Liberia, and Yemen.

Ray and his wife Joyce traveled in more than 65 countries. They had three children. He was professor of Horticulture at the University of Kentucky in Lexington for 14 years before retiring in 1988 to Pennsylvania and then to Oregon. Ray was a member for five years and a past president of the Rotary Club of Pocono Mountains in PA, and a member of Beaverot Rotary Club for 19 years. He died peacefully at home in Beaverot, OR, on May 22, 2017.

Lois A. Arnessen (née Wiens), BSc’50
Active and independent to the end, Lois died at home in Nelson, BC, on December 31, 2017. She is survived by her children Vicki Haas, Randine Arnessen and John Arnessen, and by six grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Born in Nelson in 1928, Lois thrived in public school and then excelled at UBC. She was a member of the Delta Sigma Pi Honorary Sorority for scholarship, leadership and service; the Marmoks, Phi Delta and Glee clubs; the Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority; and the Pan Hellenic Council. She graduated in 1950 with a BA degree in pre-vonat. She pursued learning throughout her life, e.g. at Notre Dame University in Nelson, (teaching, 1970); and more recently through the Canadian Federation of University Women. Learning in Retirement, Nelson’s literary festivals, and the MIR Centre for Peace.

Lois was constantly engaged in innumerable organizations, charities, the United Church, the CFUW, Welcome Wagon and many cultural endeavors. Her extraordinary contributions were recognized when she was named Nelson’s Citizen of the Year.

George Bruce McLellan, BSc’50
December 9, 1926 – March 21, 2018

Bruce had a long and successful career with Aican, working in Kitimat, Montreal, Australia, Guyana, northern Spain, and Newceal, UK, before retiring to Alicante, Spain in 1988. He lived an adventurous life, exploring and traveling wherever he lived. If a sign said “Do Not Enter,” Bruce considered it an invitation. He loved working in his Mediterranean terrace garden, building and repairing pottery in his workshop, doing needlework, and giving away numerous hand-knit baby shawls and layettes. He was a great organizer of events and celebrations, keeping his friends and family connected. To his many visitors from home, Bruce introduced the wonders and flavours of Spain, its countryside, and its towns and villages. He leaves to mourn his wife of 50 years, Judy; their children Hedy and George; his first wife Marian and their children Dale, Kim, and Don; 11 grandchildren; and four great grandchildren.
in memoriam
Robert John Durward Gardner,
Beekeepers' Association and was an active member of the Salmon Arm Bay
and Vaughan retired to Salmon Arm, where Bob belonged to the Shuswap
continued to research and publish articles and was editor and part author
four children. During his 35
Vaughan were married in 1951 and settled in Lethbridge, where they raised
Davidson), Dawn, Kenneth (Yvonne Pedroso) and Marianne (Michael McKee),
Erika Vaughan (White) Gardner. He is survived by his children Robert (Corlaine
Sir
Cambridge University on an NRC scholarship to study fish behavior with
at the UBC campus and in 1955 started his PhD by taking a year’s leave to
In 1952, he joined the research section of the BC Fish and Wildlife Branch
spending most of his career there. He gained
much respect in his field of study, limnology, and received many awards including the
American Fisheries Society Award of Excellence (1986), the Societas Internationalis
Limnologiae Naurnae Thienemann Medal (1990), and a Lifetime Achievement Award
(2004) presented by the Lt. Governor of BC.
In 1956, he mitigated a 4th year course on limnology in the UBC Zoology Department, which he continued to teach until his retirement in 1992.
In 1972, he left the directorship of the Fish and Wildlife section to become a full-time faculty member at UBC, shared between Zoology, the Westminster Research Institute and Forestry.
Bob was a founding member of the Salmon Arm SPCA. Bob and his great sense of humour will be sadly missed by all who knew him.
Please raise a “dram of Scotch” in his honour.
Frank Williams, 85, 71
Frank Williams grew up in Trail, BC, where skiing
naturally. He attended UBC, where he was a star of the UBC ski team from 1948 to 1952. He is deeply missed by his wife of
55 years, Mary-Ann, and his three daughters, Julie, Beth (Jim) and Sally (Michael). After graduating as a mining engineer, Frank
first worked on projects for Cominco in BC, then for 35 years with Virgin Group as project manager responsible for projects in Canada, the US, Argentina and Spain.
Frank then continued sharing his wisdom and strong business ethics with the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC, where he helped to develop guidelines for Professional Excellence, streamlined discipline procedures, and facilitated implementation of the Practice Review program.
Throughout his career, Frank was active in church and youth groups, including the Boy Scouts and the Tye Ski Program, where he introduced thousands of kids to skiing. In recognition of “his achievements, his community spirit, service and devotion,” Frank received North Vancouver’s Cinnabar Distincted Citizen Award.
Frank’s favourite places were Christina Lake, ski slopes, and his workshop. He was a loving husband, dad, father-in-law, granddad, uncle, neighbour and friend.
Richard James Pomeroy, BSc'64, MA'65, PhD'71
October 23, 1937 – August 23, 2017
Dr. Richard Pomeroy, of West Vancouver, BC, completed his PhD in engineering mechanics at Cambridge University and conducted post-doctoral research at Swansea University.
A dedicated professional engineer, Dr. Pomeroy began his career in Bermuda in the 1960s, working on tracking submarines in the Atlantic Ocean, and completed his last project for Singapore rapid transit in October 2016. As a professor and director at the Lethbridge Iron Works, he also volunteered with the Colombian Defence until the late 1990s. In 1989, Bob and Vaughan retired to Salmon Arm, where Bob belonged to the Shuswap Beekeepers’ Association and was an active member of the Salmon Arm Bay Nature Enhancement Society. Bob was a founding member of the Salmon Arm Citizen’s Patrol and was an active member for over 20 years.
Ronald G. Cavell FCIC, MSc'90, PhD'96
Dr. Ronald George Cavell was born on October 15, 1938, and passed away on November 21, 2017.
Ron graduated from McGill University with a BSc (honours) degree in Chemistry in 1958, then completed master’s (1960) and PhD (1962) degrees at UBC and studied as a NATO Postdoctoral Fellow at Cambridge University, receiving a PhD in 1964. He joined the Department of Chemistry at the University of Alberta in 1966, became full professor in 1972, and was made Emeritus Professor in 2004.
Awarded the fellowship in the Chemical Institute of Canada in 1975, in 1979 he received the CIC’s inaugural Alcan Lecture Award for distinguished contributions in inorganic or electrochemistry in Canada. The University of Alberta awarded him the 1993-94 McEwan Research Professorship. In 1985, Ron began working with synchrotron-generated radiation that allows scientists to see matter at a microscopic level. A founding member of the Canadian Institute for Synchrotron Radiation, formed to establish the Canadian Light Source (CLS) at the University of Saskatchewan, Ron was a founding member of the CLS Board of Directors and helped guide the facility from concept and design through to construction. In recognition of those efforts, he received the Saskatchewan government’s prestigious Saskatchewan Distinguished Service Award in March 2009.
Passionate about his work, when he passed away, Ron was in the midst of setting up a scholarship to foster research excellence in chemistry. If desired, donations can be made in his honour to the Ronald George Cavell Graduate Scholarship in Physical or Inorganic Chemistry, through https://memorial.support.ubc.ca/ronald-cavell.
Kevin O’Connell, 81, 57
Kevin Domnick O’Connell died on December 16, 2017. He was born in Portnicton on June 8, 1933. He is predeceased by his beloved wife Dawna (Orem), parents Daniel and Edna, and sister Claire Lowe. He is survived by his children Daniel (Rosanne), Catherine (Brad) MacKinnon, Aileen (Robert Dimbros), Thomas (Mary), and Colleen; and by sister Maureen and brother Larry. He was grandfather of nine, and great-grandfather of five.
Kevin was an avid athlete, excelling in baseball, basketball, football and hockey. He attended UBC on a basketball scholarship, but ended up on the Thunderbird football team (Big Block 97-95).
He graduated from UBC Civil Engineering (1957), and worked for 40 years as a civil and structural engineer on bridges, conveyor systems, container cranes and industrial structures.
Kevin’s deep abiding faith in Jesus Christ brought him joy. He was a devoted leader of the North Shore prayer group and in his parish community. With his characteristic humility and humour he made friends with all who encountered him.
Edward “Ted” Bruce Convor, BCom’69

On the last day of his 78th year, Ted completed his journey by passing in peace and with a calm mind, in the presence of his children. Ted discovered hiking later in life, first in the beauty of Quadra Island where he lived and raised a family, later on the Hawaiian island of Kauai, and ultimately found spiritual connection in his travels to walk the Camino in Spain. Through his treks, he found new vigor and meaning. It was what he came to look forward to each year. Although his illness was not related to his trek, we are happy that he left this life doing what he loved to do. He is survived by his children, Susan (Bapa), Chris (Deann), and Keith (Ben); his six grandchildren Marshall & Claire, Damien, & Amelia, and Karen & Rory; and his former wife, Wendy. Godspeed, Dad.

Frederick Rankine, BSc’66, MSc’70, DBA’88

Dr. Frederick Charles Rankine of Vancouver, BC, born March 25, 1932, in Edmonton, Alberta, passed away in his sleep at age 86, on April 12, 2018. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Daryl Caroline Rankine, sons David (Katherine) and Graham (Linda), and grandchildren Ian and Coli. His initial career of 11 and a half years was with the RCMP, working in the UBC Endowment Lands. Fred was a problem solver. He liked to repair things himself when something broke in the house. He sold cars and furniture, and would try to fix anything broken he found. He loved travel, reading, gardening, cross-country skiing, and food. Above all he cherished nature, and sought to protect “our only home, the biosphere.”

Michael Purves-Smith, BSc’67, MSc’71

It is with a sorrow of loss — and joy for the memory of a life lived to the fullest — that we announce the death of Michael J. Purves-Smith, of Elmira, ON, at the age of 72. He is survived by his wife, Sharon, and sons Mike and Robin.

After earning a Master of Music degree from UBC, Michael served as a professor at Brock and later, Wilfrid Laurier University. His passion for music was manifesting as a performer on keyboard, flute, and early wind instruments; as a prolific composer (associate at the Canadian Music Centre) and orchestrator; and as a director of both the WLU Baroque and Early Music Ensemble. He was director of the Welington Winds for three decades, and continued as its principal until his retirement in 1994.

Having closely studied the onset of climate change, he spent his later years as an environmental and political activist. His desire to convey the urgent need for action on these matters led him to write an environmental novel, Rocky Mountain Refuge.

He loved travel, reading, gardening, cross-country skiing, and food. Above all he cherished nature, and sought to protect “our only home, the biosphere.”

Judy Sok Beng Louise, BSc’80, MB’85, MD’89

It is with great sadness that the family of Judy share the loss of our mom and grandmother. Judy passed away peacefully in her sleep on January 7, 2018, in Toronto. She is survived by her three daughters Tina (Marcia), Brenda (Ronald), and Amelia (Dick); her grandchildren Charlotte, Julian, and James; and son-in-law Kwon.

We fondly remember Judy as an outgoing person, and a devoted and caring friend, who kept in touch with people around the world. For her children and grandchildren, she was the original “tiger mom” and doting grandmother who never, ever, forgot a birthday or anniversary. She instilled in her children the same strong work ethic as a “tiger mom” and doting grandmother who never, ever, forgot a birthday or anniversary. She instilled in her children the same strong work ethic — and doting grandmother who never, ever, forgot a birthday or anniversary. She instilled in her children the same strong work ethic — and doting grandmother who never, ever, forgot a birthday or anniversary. She instilled in her children the same strong work ethic — and doting grandmother who never, ever, forgot a birthday or anniversary. She instilled in her children the same strong work ethic — and doting grandmother who never, ever, forgot a birthday or anniversary. She instilled in her children the same strong work ethic — and doting grandmother who never, ever, forgot a birthday or anniversary. She instilled in her children the same strong work ethic.

Viceroy of the Queen’s University, 1971

Elizabeth Wolak, Teetson Centenary Scholar, 1970

Elizabeth Wolak, MA, passed away on April 15, 2017, in Vancouver. Born in Krakow, Poland, in 1933, Elizabeth, a Holocaust survivor, escaped to Soviet territory and was deposed to a forced labour camp. Afterwards, Elizabeth earned a MA in English from the University of Toronto and graduated from the Krakow Academy of Music in 1951. Grimming in 1960, she focused on Jewish choral music, working in Australia as a choir director and teaching music at a Sydney high school. In 1969, she and her husband settled in Vancouver, where she earned her BC Teachers’ Certificate. She founded award-winning choral ensembles in Vancouver, produced three records, and taught piano and voice for nearly 50 years. For her choral work, Elizabeth, in collaboration with the BC Society for Music and the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. She was awarded Poland’s Siberian Cross. She is deeply missed by her sons Richard and Arthur (Annie), and her three grandchildren.

Daniel Eriksson, BSc’95

It is with great sadness we announce the sudden passing of Daniel Eriksson on May 2, 2017. He leaves behind his loving with Theresa, daughter Kiska. sons State and Lelel, his parents Anders and Ingrid of Quesnel, BC, his brother Eric (Chesley) of Quesnel, mother-in-law Ann, and sisters-in-law and nieces and nephews.

Dan was born in Quesnel and graduated from Quesnel Secondary in 1995. He achieved his BA in Kinesiology at UBC and played for the varsity volleyball team. Dan moved to Vernon in 2002, where he raised his family and built his successful business in the fitness industry. He enjoyed many outdoor activities and sports, and was a very dedicated family man, husband and father. Dan touched the hearts of many people and will be truly missed by all.

Theresa seeks candidates who have the skill sets and experience necessary to effect the mission and vision. Please send suggestions to governance@ubc.ca.

Ted completed his final journey. He passed in peace and with his illness was not related to his trek, we are happy that he left this life doing what he loved to do. He is survived by his children, Susan (Bapa), Chris (Deann), and Keith (Ben); his six grandchildren Marshall & Claire, Damien, & Amelia, and Karen & Rory; and his former wife, Wendy. Godspeed, Dad.
David Suzuki has been a fixture of the fabric of Canada for decades – a presence on bookshelves, a familiar face on TV screens, a popular educator, and a passionate, in-your-face environmental activist who regularly reminds us that we are all accountable for the current and future state of our planet.

There is really no need to caption his photo or provide a bio. The much-decorated Suzuki Foundation (davidsuzuki.org) website – where students openly assess him on the notorious down by regional vote, Alberta wasn’t as admiring as other areas of the country). But you already know all this. What you might not know about David Suzuki is that he is justifiably responsible for the establishment of UBC’s first pub (on itself desering of an award). Back in October 1968, UBC Student mounted an article by Suzuki entitled “What this Campus Needs is a Pub.” The young professor had already been conducting some of his seminars in the Fraser Arms, so a pub on campus was the logical next step.

He argued that such an establishment would break down barriers between various UBC populations and prevent the campus from becoming a ghost town once classes were finished for the day. “In a campus pub,” he opined, “the presence of friends at different tables and the warmth of camaraderie engendered by beer would soon find us in new friendships and active discussion.”

Because the article was published in the same month that UBC students – emboldened by US counterculturalist Jerry Rubin – invaded the faculty club for an overnight sit-in, Suzuki felt it obliged to point out another advantage of beer: “The passage of reactionary or radical ideals would be tempered by the effects of alcohol” he wrote, somewhat unconvincingly. The AMS, at least, were impressed, and invited Suzuki to join their pub committee. “The Pit” opened that November, and it was Suzuki, who came up with the name.

All this happened before he became a household name by venturing into broadcasting (he has hosted CBC’s The Nature of Things since 1975), and through the environmental protection work of his eponymous foundation. During the 40 years he has been in the public eye, Suzuki has attracted both disciples and detractors, although he retired from UBC in 2001, there are still a couple of reviews for him from college students (with a chili-pepper icon thrown in to denote hotness).

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