

alumniUBC **Trek**

A PUBLICATION OF ALUMNI UBC · NUMBER 37 · 2015

“WALK SOFTLY WHEN YOU CARRY THE DEAD”

Top forensic dentist David Sweet, OC, is frequently called upon to help identify victims and perpetrators of violent crime.



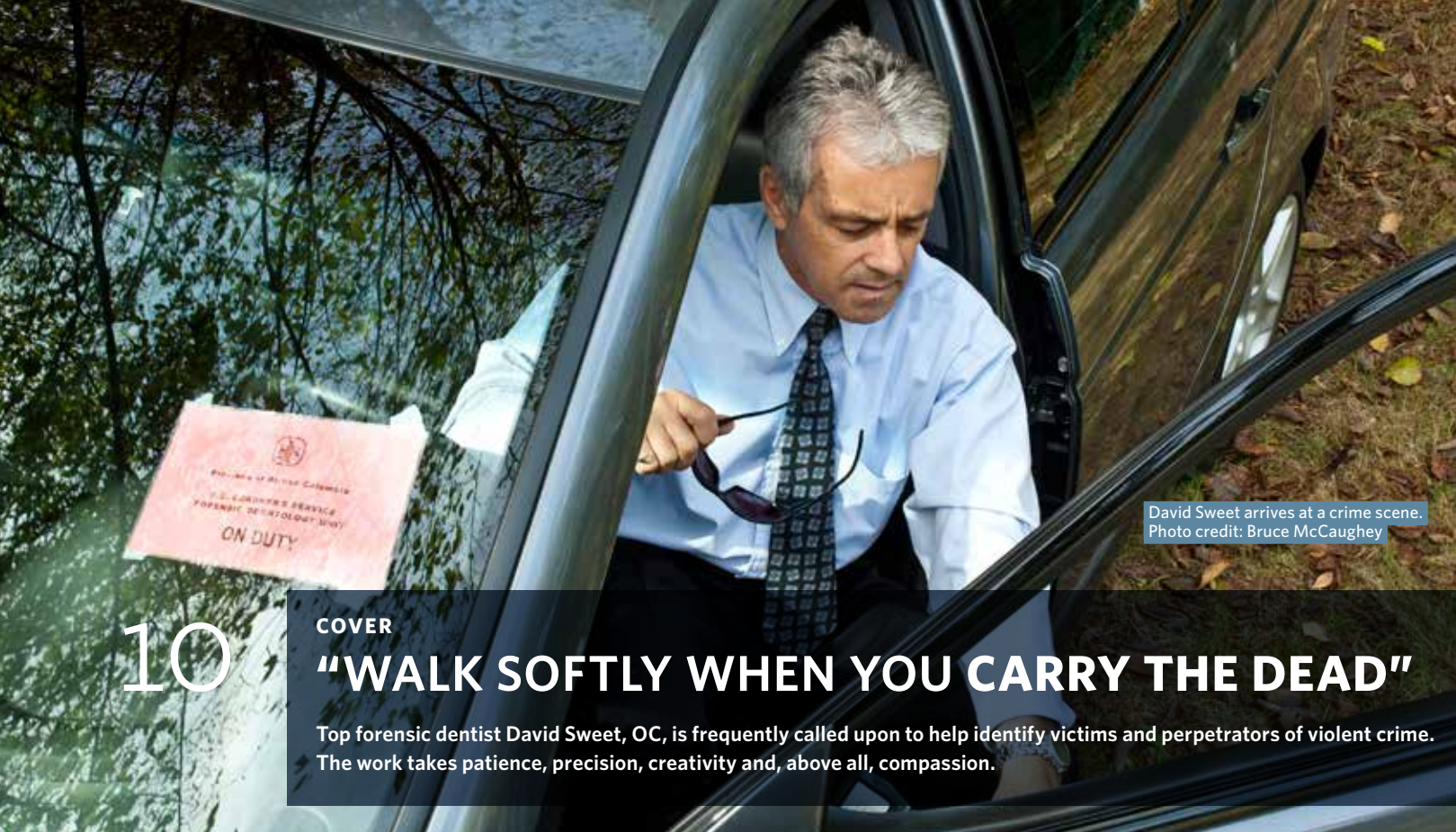
PLUS

Citizens lead forensic investigations in Mexico

Take a look inside the brand new Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre

The rise and fall of the Old Gym

India's school for the marginalized



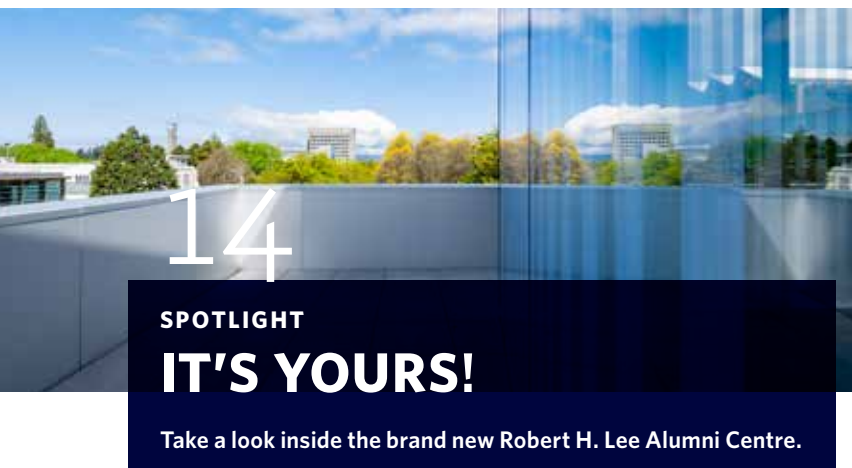
David Sweet arrives at a crime scene. Photo credit: Bruce McCaughey

10

COVER

"WALK SOFTLY WHEN YOU CARRY THE DEAD"

Top forensic dentist David Sweet, OC, is frequently called upon to help identify victims and perpetrators of violent crime. The work takes patience, precision, creativity and, above all, compassion.



14

SPOTLIGHT

IT'S YOURS!

Take a look inside the brand new Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre.

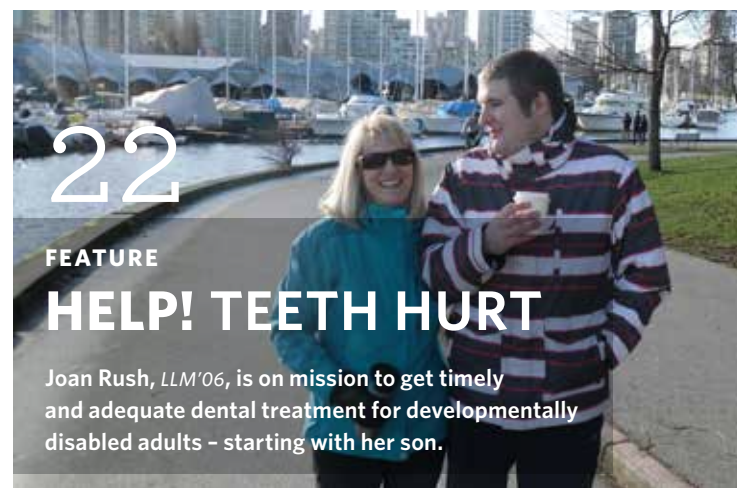


18

FEATURE

SEARCHING FOR MEXICO'S MISSING

Thousands of Mexicans have gone missing over the past decade, and the country's citizens are demanding answers.



22

FEATURE

HELP! TEETH HURT

Joan Rush, LLM'06, is on mission to get timely and adequate dental treatment for developmentally disabled adults - starting with her son.



36

FIRST PERSON

CASTE AGAINST TYPE

An award-winning documentary tells the story of some of India's poorest students.



34

Q&A

DIANA BANG: THE INTERVIEW INTERVIEW

Diana Bang, BA'04, played North Korean official Sook in the movie *The Interview*.



52

Q&A

THE LAST WORD: WITH WANTING QU

Q: What was your nickname at school?

A: Chili pepper. I was feisty and would always think I was right. Now I'm nicer and more diplomatic.



24

FEATURE

HEARING VOICES

A movement that started in Europe is taking a different therapeutic approach to the phenomenon of hearing voices.



28

FEATURE

THE ART OF VARSITY GOLF

Keep your head down and hold your finish.



30

FEATURE

FAIR PLAY

The Old Gymnasium and the early history of women's athletics at UBC.

Photo Courtesy AMS Archives

In Short

- 3 QUOTE, UNQUOTE
- 3 η=
- 4 A CENTURY OF COMMUNITY
- 6 WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH COCONUT OIL?
- 6 WE NEED A POLICY FOR DRIVERLESS CARS
- 7 A UBC EXPERT ON BILL C-51
- 8 TAKE NOTE

Alumni Departments

- 5 EVENTS
- 38 BOOKS
- 40 T-BIRDS
- 42 CLASS ACTS
- 47 IN MEMORIAM

NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

When moving to a new office space, it soon becomes apparent how long you've been at the old one: a few years translates into a few hours' worth of sorting, clearing, recycling, dismantling, packing, and retreating in cowardly fashion from spiders so large they could star in a B movie.

Those were the scenes this April at Cecil Green Park House, a 1912 mansion perched on the northern tip of UBC's Vancouver campus where *alumni UBC* has been headquartered for the past few decades (walking to meetings held on the other side of campus requires a map and some sandwiches). It's architecturally impressive, historically interesting, has a sea view and is surrounded by idyllic gardens. You'd think we'd be reluctant to leave. But not if you knew where we were moving to.

On the morning of April 20, *alumni UBC* staff arrived at their new workspace inside the Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre – so new the paint was still wet. As the building's earliest occupants, we were able to witness the finishing touches being added to the spacious and inviting public areas, from paving stones and shrubbery on the outside to hi-tech interactive screens, display cases for UBC memorabilia, and some stylish lounge chairs and tables I would steal if I were dishonest (or had a bigger purse) on the inside. The alumni centre was coming to life – it was like watching a building being born. And it's your baby. If you want to take a quick peek at the new arrival on campus, turn to page 14.

The Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre opens officially on September 30 to coincide with the start of UBC's Centennial celebrations. It's significant that *alumni UBC* has moved its operations from a former family home that existed before the first campus building was erected to a new home built specifically to serve alumni right at the heart of what has become an expansive, energetic, and highly productive campus.

UBC has come a long way in a century, and it's clear alumni are being counted on to have a hand in shaping the next 100 years.

Vanessa Clarke
Editor

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

Trek magazine (formerly the *UBC Alumni Chronicle*) is published two times a year by the UBC Alumni Association and distributed free of charge to UBC alumni and friends. Opinions expressed in the magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the Alumni Association or the university. Address correspondence to: The Editor, *alumni UBC*, 6163 University Boulevard, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6T 1Z1 email to trek.magazine@ubc.ca Letters are published at the editor's discretion and may be edited for space.

ADVERTISING
 Jenna McCann
jenna.mccann@ubc.ca 604.822.8917

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

Volume 71, Number 1 | Printed in Canada
 by Mitchell Press
 Canadian Publications
 Mail Agreement #40063528
 Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:
 Records Department
 UBC Development Office
 Suite 500 - 5950 University Boulevard
 Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z3



QUOTE, UNQUOTE

"Clients are a bit confused when they first come in and see it, she said. "But then they say 'I really missed that clickety-clack sound.'"

Ninety-five-year-old practising lawyer Constance Isherwood, LLB'51, LLD'15, commenting on her clients' reaction to the typewriter she still uses in preference to a computer. Isherwood received an honorary degree from UBC this spring. (*The Canadian Press*, May 21)

"My gift supports pillars of excellence in human rights, and international integrity and ethics, and my hope is that the law school will become a beacon for justice, and the promotion of human rights and the rule of law around the world."

UBC alumnus Peter Allard, QC, who has donated \$30M to the Faculty of Law. (UBC media release, January 22)

"There are many rules that everyone must follow and you're constantly in the glare of the public eye – all rightly so. It takes experience and education to learn how to manage those things in a way that's legal, forthright, transparent, and gets the job done."

Former NDP MLA Joy MacPhail discussing UBC's Summer Institute for Future Legislators, aimed at students who are considering running for political office. MacPhail is on the advisory board for UBC's Centre for the Study of Democratic Institutions. (*The Early Edition*, CBC, April 26)

"The chief executive of Hong Kong, Leung Chun-ying, took the oath of office in Putonghua, unlike the former chief executives, who did it in Cantonese. Many people think that his language choice was a 'kowtow' to Beijing."

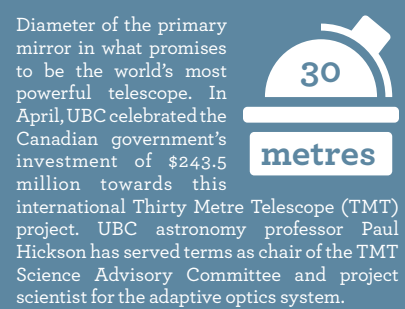
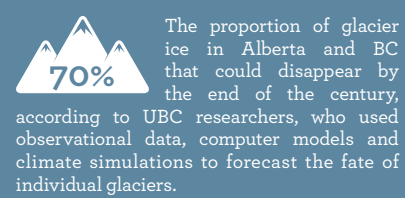
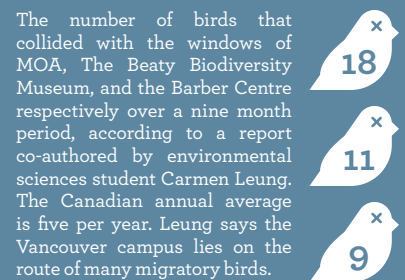
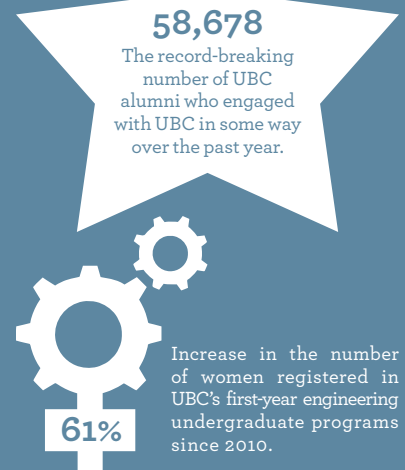
Zoe Lam, a UBC grad student researcher, who thinks the Cantonese language is at risk of disappearing, mainly as a result of the Chinese government's promotion of Putonghua (Mandarin). (CBC News.ca, April 29)

"We always knew Braden was especially gifted and super smart, but he's laid back too – not a Type A or anything. He's modest about his successes."

Braden Lauer's sister, Megan, on her brother being chosen as a participant for CBC's *Canada's Smartest Person*. Lauer is a second year law student at UBC and went on to win the competition. The runner-up was Johnny MacRae, UBC alumnus and spoken word poet. (*St. Albert Gazette*, October 4, 2014)

"My favorite journalist is a shrieking British Columbian who dresses like an exploded 1970s Soviet golf catalog. He was born John Ruskin, but changed his name to Nardwuar the Human Serviette. ('Serviette' is Canadian for napkin.)"

Author and TV host David Rees reveres UBC alumnus Nardwuar in a column for the *New York Times Magazine* (March 19, 2015). Nardwuar has had a regular spot on UBC's radio station, CiTR, since 1987.



A CENTURY OF COMMUNITY

UBC president and vice-chancellor Arvind Gupta

There are very few institutions that can be measured in centuries, but universities feature prominently among them. Later this year, UBC will be celebrating the Centennial of its first class in 1915-16. This Centennial year, running from September 2015 to May 2016, will be all about reaching out to our communities and inviting them to connect with us.

As connected alumni, you know the importance of keeping in touch with the university and with each other, wherever you are. There are more than 300,000 alumni in more than 140 countries, and our UBC LinkedIn Higher Ed group already has close to 200,000 alumni and student members.

In fact, alumni are UBC's single largest university community. This is why the launch event for the Centennial will include the official opening of the Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre. This historic event will take place on September 30, 2015 - exactly 100 years since the first class began their studies at UBC in 1915.

If anything symbolizes the distance we have travelled in a relatively short time it is the Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre. This new centre - the first of its kind in Canada - is a place for connecting, collaborating and lifelong learning.

It is a place that supports innovation, social discourse and the exchange of knowledge and experience. It is a home and a resource for our alumni community for life.

Our alumni are a community but they are also working in our communities through a vast spectrum of causes that align with UBC's desire to serve and improve our society. The *your evolution* initiative (yourevolution.ubc.ca) highlights around 300 community projects that our alumni are involved in, right here in BC and as far away as Guatemala, India and Burkina Faso. It is inspiring to read their stories and to see other alumni joining in. This, to me, is the very definition of community.

In our community closer to home, the university and the Alma Mater Society have been deeply involved in the recent transit referendum in BC, urging students to make their voices heard and help us all plan a sustainable future for transit here in the Lower Mainland.

Our community in the Okanagan - now 10 years old! - continues to demonstrate the truly transformational power that is unleashed when universities and their communities grow hand in hand.

Downtown, at UBC Robson Square, we welcome more than 40,000 community members for adult educational programs, meetings, conferences and public seminars each year.

And our Learning Exchanges in the Vancouver Downtown Eastside and in downtown Kelowna are hubs where faculty, staff, alumni, students and local citizens come together for learning programs tailor-made for their communities.

So when I look back to 1915 at that first community of 379 students who put their faith in this brand new entity called the University of British Columbia, I am struck by their courage and their sheer optimism, even as the Great War raged in Europe.

Now, one century later, our university has been transformed by, with and through our communities and I look forward to celebrating with you in the Centennial year ahead. **T**

EVENTS

Wesbrook Talks with Victor de Bonis

Vancouver - June 9, 2015

Victor de Bonis, BCom'89, is COO of Canucks Sports and Entertainment and Alternate Governor for the NHL. Find out how he got his start and learn about the challenges he faced and opportunities he seized along the way.

Crosscurrents: The History of Trans-Pacific Migration

Hong Kong - June 12, 2015

Over the last 50 years, migrations between Hong Kong and Canada have reshaped societies on both sides of the Pacific. Hear from Professor Henry Yu, BA'89, as he discusses the effects of these migration patterns.

Computational Thinking for the 21st Century

Mountain View, CA - June 15, 2015

Join UBC president and vice-chancellor Arvind Gupta, UBC dean of Science Simon Peacock, founding Google investor David Cheriton, and industry panelists for a look at the promise of computational thinking.

The Wayfinders: Why Ancient Wisdom Matters in a Modern World (Milton K. Wong Lecture, featuring Wade Davis, PhD)

Vancouver - June 22, 2015

Every culture is a unique answer to a fundamental question: What does it mean to be human and alive? Wade Davis leads us on a thrilling journey to celebrate the wisdom of the world's indigenous cultures.

UBC Bound!

Summer 2015

This summer, grads in cities across Asia will introduce incoming students to the global UBC community at UBC Bound! regional welcome events.

Alumni Reunions

There are many reunions scheduled for the summer months. To find out if your class is planning one, please see alumni.ubc.ca/reunions

alumni.ubc.ca/events/

SAVE-THE-DATE 2015 alumni UBC Achievement Awards

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

The accomplishments of UBC's global community of alumni represent an inspiring account of positive social, cultural, and economic change in the world. This October we will honour some outstanding individuals who, through their extraordinary activities, have connected the university with communities both near and far to create positive change.

Tickets available for purchase July 2015.

UBC a place of mind THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Werner & Hildegard Hesse 1926-2008 & 1919-2008

Now supporting preservation of bird habitats

Werner and Hildegard Hesse were passionate bird watchers and enthusiastic conservationists. Inspired by the birds they spotted during a road trip through the Cariboo, the Hesses' journey started with a UBC night course on birds of BC and turned into a lifetime passion for avian research. The Hesses expressed this passion with a gift in their wills to UBC, ensuring vital funding for ornithology research.

An estate gift can support research or education in sustainability, science, health care, business, arts and culture - virtually any field.

To establish your legacy with a gift to UBC call 604.822.5373 or visit www.startanevolution.ca/Hesse

startanevolution.ca

Calling all UBC alumni! Add your pin to UBC's Global Impact Map!

UBC is developing a Global Impact Map to visually capture its footprint in British Columbia, Canada, and the rest of the world. The map will be a highlight of the soon-to-be-launched UBC Centennial website, which will be your go-to guide for celebrating a hundred years of UBC: a look at our past, a taste of our future, and information about all the celebratory activities.

Alumni, students, faculty, staff, friends and partners of UBC are all being invited to add a pin to the map to represent themselves and their UBC connections and activities. UBC's vast alumni network is made up of more than 300,000 members living in more than 140 countries. Adding a pin to the map is an opportunity for you to tell us where you are, share your story, and learn more about your fellow alumni. What you share is completely up to you. Stake your UBC claim at www.ubc100.ca.

CENTENNIAL PROGRAM

Add your pin to UBC's Global Impact Map!

The Global Impact Map will visually capture UBC's footprint in British Columbia, Canada, and across the world. We invite alumni, students, staff, faculty, friends and partners of UBC to add a pin to the map, share their story, and learn more about the global reach of the UBC community. [More...](#)

SUBMIT YOUR PIN

UBC 100

Add your pin to UBC's Global Impact Map!

The Global Impact Map will visually capture UBC's footprint in British Columbia, Canada, and across the world. We invite alumni, students, staff, faculty, friends and partners of UBC to add a pin to the map, share their story, and learn more about the global reach of the UBC community. [More...](#)

SUBMIT YOUR PIN

Stay tuned

Provide your email address to receive an announcement when the full Centennial website is launched.

SUBMIT

BARD ON THE BEACH SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL TICKETS FROM \$26 Season Sponsor GOLDCORP



June 4 to Sept 26 bardonthebeach.org • 604-739-0559

Production Sponsors: REMIX, POLYGON, BlueShore, LONETREE. Media Sponsors: THE VANCOUVER SUN, Global BC. Season Brochures at all outlets.

Time for an Oil Change?

By Corey Allen

Coconut oil sales are on the rise. Sainsbury's in the United Kingdom reports coconut oil sales are up 442 per cent over 2013. The popularity of coconut oil as a multi-purpose oil, used both as a beauty product and for cooking, has it flying off the shelves. Avocado oil is not too far behind.

Gail Hammond, a dietitian and food, nutrition and health lecturer in the Faculty of Land and Food Systems, discusses the coconut oil craze and why mixing it up in the kitchen can be a good thing.

Why do you think coconut oil has gained popularity among consumers?

There are three things that immediately come to mind: consumers are becoming more nutrition savvy, recent research has challenged the longstanding notion that saturated fats are harmful to heart health, and celebrity endorsements of coconut oil have turned up the heat on using it for everything from beauty products to cooking.

What are the health benefits of using coconut oil versus other oils?

Despite a prevailing message to reduce our saturated fat intake, we know that not all saturated fats have the same health effects. The predominant type of saturated fat found in coconut oil is metabolized differently than the majority of saturated fat that we otherwise consume. And, even though coconut oil provides people with a ready source of

energy, the benefits of using it as your primary fat source need to be weighed out with the need to consume essential fatty acids, which are not saturated and not found to a great extent in coconut oil. So, if you are crazed about using coconut oil it is important to also include other types of oils in your diet.

What makes for the best cooking oil?

I think using a variety of oils is the way to go depending on your preferences and use. Some people prefer a more pronounced flavour such as the fruity taste of olive oil whereas others favour a lighter taste such as canola oil. Some oils are best used unheated, such as using olive oil in salad dressings, while others are better suited for use in cooking. Oils that have a high smoking point – that is, the temperature at which they start to smoke in a hot pan and begin to lose their health benefits – are good choices for cooking. Avocado oil can be used at a high temperature up to around 520°F/270°C without smoking, whereas coconut oil is better used at a more moderate temperature up to about 350°F/175°C.

What oils do you use?

I use different oils. Typically, I'll use olive or flaxseed oil for making salad dressings and I tend to use canola oil for cooking purposes.

And with the first wave of automated vehicles already being tested, it's time to start talking about their impact.

In this Q&A, Meyboom reviews the state of driverless technology and calls for greater public discussion into how it will change our cities.

When will we see self-driving, aka autonomous, vehicles on our streets?

Let's define what we mean by autonomous vehicles. There are different levels of autonomy. Level 1 describes a car with simple assist features such as stability control, brake assist, cruise control, lane centering, or self-parking. These features are pretty common nowadays.

At the other end you have Level 4, completely self-driving cars that don't require human intervention at any point. These cars can drive without anyone inside and can operate in a "return to home" mode.

We are already seeing some autonomous features on vehicles. Tesla says it plans to release a car next year that can drive itself 90 per cent of the time. Google says its fully autonomous cars will hit the road between 2017 and 2019.

But the specific date is uncertain, and it's because of the social, legal and policy issues surrounding this new technology.

What are benefits of driverless vehicles?

Self-driving cars can provide all members of society great transportation options, including the blind, disabled and the elderly. They can significantly increase productivity by allowing people to work or socialize while being transported. They can ease traffic congestion, pollution and parking issues.

Plus, automated vehicles will reduce the dangers of drunk driving and can be much safer than cars driven by people. Similar to aircraft, there will still be accidents but they will be much less frequent.

What's the impact on public transit?

There could be a huge effect. They could make local buses and urban light rail obsolete. Private autonomous car sharing services could take over public transit and taxis. Or public transit organizations could decide to run autonomous vehicle fleets.



Professor Hasan Cavusoglu

Information privacy at threat by Bill C-51

By David Nixon

Bill C-51, known as the anti-terrorism bill, has drawn criticism for provisions that many feel are excessive and open to abuse. One of these provisions allows government agencies to share information about Canadians for reasons of national security. In March, before the bill was passed, associate professor Hasan Cavusoglu of the Management Information Systems Division at the UBC Sauder School of Business weighed in on the privacy risks for Canadians.

What is the significance of the new information-sharing provisions in Bill C-51?

Privacy concerns over Bill C-51 stem from the *Security of Canada Information Sharing Act*, which is tucked in Bill C-51.

What sorts of issues are you working on at the Transportation Infrastructure and Public Space lab?

TIPSlab is a collaboration of researchers from architecture, landscape architecture, business, planning and engineering, and one of the things we're looking at is how driverless vehicles will impact urban form.

For example, much less parking will be required in congested areas because the car can park remotely or return home. Demand for retail and office parking could drop significantly. You could own a car without needing parking space. Entire families could share a single car.

It's important to fully understand the impacts of autonomous cars so all members of society can benefit from the technology.

It's also important that governments plan for its implementation in a way that is deliberate and sensitive to the needs of Canadians.

Will the government allow self-driving cars?

Autonomous drive features are being introduced as safety features and they're generally supported by governments. The fully autonomous vehicle will be a highly contentious issue and there will be significant lobbying by many stakeholders. Eventually, however, I think that the technology will be adopted. We will look back on the days that we drove our own cars as reckless, similar to the way we look back on the days that we drove without seat belts and car seats.

The act is portrayed as a means to empower law enforcement agencies to prevent terrorist attacks by quickly accessing information about potential terrorists from several government agencies. The scope of information-sharing is quite broad; it goes beyond just sharing information about suspected terrorist activities and threatens Canadians' privacy.

What is the privacy risk involved in sharing information between government agencies?

The vagueness of the scope of the law could potentially lead to surveillance of the public for any purposes deemed appropriate by the government. This is the major criticism of the law: the power granted by the new act would result in an unjustified and significant loss of privacy for Canadians in return for a negligible improvement in the nation's ability to prevent a terrorist attack. The loss of privacy is excessive.

Are these anti-terror provisions warranted?

The government justifies the bill by instilling fear, uncertainty and doubt, which is a tactic used by marketers and politicians to influence people's perceptions by disseminating inaccurate or false information. There is no question that terrorism is a threat in Canada, like anywhere else. But one has to understand how likely it is. Dying as a result of a car accident is 1,000 times more likely than dying as a result of a terror attack. Dying in a terror attack is less likely than being killed by a lightning strike.

The potential benefit of the information-sharing act is that more information will be readily available to law enforcement agencies. This could be a good thing: more information could potentially improve the odds of stopping terrorist acts. But once again, fear, uncertainty and doubt are at play – information regarding a potential terror suspect in various government institutions can already be accessed through the judicial system if a case is made.

What other concerns do you have about the bill's information-sharing provisions?

While the act seems to facilitate information sharing between 17 governmental institutions, in fact it grants authority to the government to expand the list. The government can share information with other countries about Canadians if they see fit. Since there is no clear oversight, there is no guarantee that information of a significant portion of the Canadian population cannot be handed over to other countries as the government deems it appropriate. It's not clear who will monitor those who are accessing information.

The vagueness of the scope, the lack of oversight, and the potential expansion of the reach of the act make privacy advocates very concerned about the law. In fact, privacy commissioners across the country are opposed to the proposed act. It's also concerning that the government does not want to hear objections: the privacy commissioner of Canada, who was appointed by the government, was prevented from appearing before the committee in Parliament.

It seems that the bill is politically charged. The need is not well justified considering its risks against personal privacy. The government appears to be rushing the bill due to the upcoming election. Add onto that, the room for abuse due to poor oversight and I am not convinced this is the proper answer to mitigate the terror threat. 🇩🇪



In March, Associate Professor Hasan Cavusoglu of the Management Information Systems Division at the UBC Sauder School of Business weighed in on the privacy risks for Canadians. The bill was passed in May.



Professor AnnaLisa Meyboom

UBC expert says policies needed now on driverless cars

By Lou Corpuz-Bosshart

Children today may no longer need to learn how to drive when they grow up, if some of the world's leading automotive and technology companies have their way.

In the future, if they need to go somewhere, an automated car may pick them up, drop them off, and park itself – without any human intervention.

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers anticipates that by 2040, three out of four cars on the road will be fully autonomous. A recent report by the Conference Board of Canada points to the imminent arrival of driverless vehicles, predicting it could save Canadians up to \$65 billion a year due to less traffic congestion and transit time, along with lower fuel costs and fewer collisions.

UBC professor AnnaLisa Meyboom says getting there will mean working with a lot of moving parts.

Meyboom is director of TIPSlab, a UBC research group studying transport infrastructure and public space. She says intelligent policymaking and technology refinements will be needed to smoothly integrate automated cars into our urban designs and ensure the most benefits for everyone in society.

alumni UBC 98th Annual General Meeting

6:30pm | Thursday, October 15, 2015

Jack Poole Hall, Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre

Join us at our 98th AGM and hear what we've been up to in the past year.

TAKE NOTE

THE FIGHT AGAINST ANTIBIOTIC-RESISTANT BACTERIA

Research into new ways of fighting antibiotic-resistant bacteria has received a \$2 million boost from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, part of a \$4 million commitment for six projects involving international collaboration with researchers at UBC, McMaster University and Université Laval.

Antibiotic-resistant bacteria are becoming increasingly common. The problem has major health and economic implications and has been described by the World Health Organization as a “major global threat.”

Natalie Strynadka, a professor of biochemistry and the Canada Research Chair in Antibiotic Discovery and Medicine, uses advanced biophysical tools to zoom in on this big problem. Her team visualizes the individual atoms that make up critical proteins in antibiotic-resistant bacteria, effectively creating a molecular blueprint that is considered central to unravelling their function in disease and drug resistance.

“The blueprint gives us an understanding, at the molecular level, of how bacteria infect and manipulate human cells and in turn become so virulent,” said Strynadka, who is part of an international research collaboration called the Joint Programming Initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance. “With this atomic three-dimensional information we can design drugs to specifically block these actions and create new antibiotics to be used in clinical settings.”

The work of UBC researchers Raymond Andersen, Horacio Bach, Julian Davies, Urs Hafeli and Charles Thompson will also benefit from the new funding.

A PROMISING TREATMENT FOR HUNTINGTON'S

Huntington's disease is caused by a mutation in the Huntington's disease (HD) gene, but it has long been a mystery why some people with the mutation get the disease more severely and earlier than others.

Huntington's disease affects the brain and gradually worsens, causing problems with coordination and movement, mental decline and psychiatric issues. While every person has two copies of each gene – one on each chromosome – a single mutation in one copy of the HD gene means the person will suffer from the disease.

The HD gene is controlled by surrounding regions of DNA that function to turn the gene on and off.

Dr. Blair Leavitt, a professor in UBC's Department of Medical Genetics, and his colleagues took a closer look at this part of the genetic code. They identified critical regions where proteins, called transcription factors, can bind to the DNA and control the function of the HD gene. Changes in these DNA regions can play both good and bad roles in the disease.

“The gene for Huntington's was discovered over 20 years ago but there is very little known about how the expression of this important gene is controlled,” said Leavitt, who is also a scientist with the Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics. “This study helps us understand how small genetic differences in the DNA surrounding the HD gene can both delay and accelerate the disease.”

Researchers found that when the DNA change is found on a normal chromosome with no HD mutation, it turns off the expression of the good gene and allows the mutant gene on the other chromosome to predominate, speeding up the onset of the disease. If the DNA change is found on a chromosome with the HD mutation, it turns off the bad gene and offers individuals some protection from the disease.

According to Leavitt, these findings provide critical evidence to support the development of new drugs that decrease the expression of the mutant HD gene, an approach called gene silencing. Leavitt is already involved in the testing of one gene silencing treatment that shows great promise, and will begin the first human trial of this therapy for HD later this year.

UBC PARTNERS WITH CHINESE UNIVERSITIES

UBC has signed an unprecedented number of partnership agreements with leading Chinese universities that are expected to pave the way for greater academic and cultural exchange between Canada and China.

Four agreements will establish joint degree programs between UBC and highly respected institutions, including Peking, Zhejiang, Fudan, and Southwest universities.

Two agreements will focus on promoting research collaboration. UBC and Chongqing University have agreed to set up a new materials laboratory that will study alloys, and Beijing University of Chemical Technology is partnering with UBC to establish a centre for clean energy research.

UBC also signed student mobility programs with Zhejiang University and Chongqing Municipal Education Commission that will establish two-way educational exchanges between UBC and China.

The agreements were signed during UBC president Arvind Gupta's recent mission in China, during which he met with key government and education officials and visited a research centre for Alzheimer's disease and childhood development disorders at Chongqing Medical University, one of UBC's largest and most successful joint projects in China.

UNIQUE NERVE STRUCTURE DISCOVERED IN WHALES

UBC researchers have discovered a unique nerve structure in the mouth and tongue of rorqual whales that can double in length and then recoil like a bungee cord.

The stretchy nerves explain how the massive whales are able to balloon an immense pocket between their body wall and overlying blubber to capture prey during feeding dives.

“This discovery was totally unexpected and unlike other nerve structures we've seen in vertebrates, which are of a more fixed length,” says Wayne Vogl of UBC's Cellular and Physiological Sciences department. “The rorquals' bulk feeding mechanism required major changes in anatomy of the tongue and mouth blubber to allow large deformation, and now we recognize that it also required major modifications in the nerves in these tissues so they could also withstand the deformation.”

In humans, stretching nerves usually damages them. In these whales, the nerve cells are packaged inside a central core in such a way that the individual nerve fibers are never really stretched, they simply unfold.

“Our next step is to get a better understanding of how the nerve core is folded to allow its rapid unpacking and re-packing during the feeding process,” says UBC zoologist Robert Shadwick.



The researchers don't know yet whether anything similar will turn up in other animals – the ballooning throats of frogs, for example, or the long and fast tongues of chameleons.

“This discovery underscores how little we know about even the basic anatomy of the largest animals alive in the oceans today,” says Nick Pyenson, a UBC postdoctoral fellow who is curator of fossil marine mammals at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. “Our findings add to the growing list of evolutionary solutions that whales evolved in response to new challenges faced in marine environments over millions of years.”

Rorquals are the largest group among baleen whales, and include blue whales and fin whales. Specimens the researchers studied were obtained at a commercial whaling station in Iceland.

UBC RESEARCHERS STUDY EARLY FORMATION OF GALAXIES

A discovery by a team of astrophysicists including UBC researchers promises to have major implications for the understanding of how structures in the universe formed 10 billion years ago. Hidden within images of some of the oldest light in the universe, the team identified what they believe are galaxies clumping together into the larger galaxy clusters we know today.

Data for the study came from the observations of two European Space Telescope missions, Planck and Herschel. The Planck telescope catches light from the early days of the universe, known as the cosmic microwave background, while the Herschel telescope allowed researchers to zero in on some of the objects they saw in the Planck telescope data.

“The objects found by Planck appear to be clumps of young galaxies, seen early in the history of the universe,” said Douglas Scott, a professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy. “By studying them we may be able to learn how clusters of galaxies form and evolve.”

Scott and UBC graduate student Todd MacKenzie are now working to understand the Planck objects better by studying them at a range of other wavelengths. “What's exciting is that we don't know if we're looking at something really bizarre or if these clumps are what would be expected. It will change our view of how these structures form,” said Scott.

UNIVERSAL PHARMACARE COULD SAVE CANADA BILLIONS

New research from UBC and the University of Toronto shows that universal public drug coverage, also known as universal pharmacare, is within reach for Canada even in times of government fiscal constraint.

“It's a win-win,” said Steve Morgan, lead author of the study and professor of health policy at UBC's School of Population and Public Health. “A universal pharmacare system would improve the quality and accessibility of health care, while saving the Canadian economy billions of dollars every year.”

The study modelled the cost of universal pharmacare based on data from \$22 billion-worth of prescription drug purchases in 2012-2013. The study's calculations included the cost of increased use of prescription drugs by Canadians who currently can't afford to fill those prescriptions.

Researchers found that increasing the use of generic drugs and bringing Canadian drug prices in line with other countries where universal drug plans achieve better prices through bulk purchasing and negotiation, would add up to significant savings.

“For too long, policy makers have assumed that universal Pharmacare is an expensive policy for governments. That assumption turns out to be wrong,” said Dr. Danielle Martin, a co-author of the study and a professor at the University of Toronto. “With the money saved from using generic medicines,

bulk purchasing, and better approaches to pricing, we can afford to cover medically necessary drugs for all Canadians without increasing taxes.”

The study shows that the private sector, predominantly the employers and unions that sponsor work-related drug benefits today, would save between \$6.5 billion and \$9.6 billion annually with comparatively little increase in costs to government. Under many plausible scenarios, total public spending on medicines would actually fall if Canada had a universal pharmacare system.

Government costs would be driven down by reducing the cost of medicines already paid for under public drug programs – which currently cost taxpayers almost \$10 billion – and by reducing public spending on private insurance for public sector employees – which currently costs taxpayers more than \$2 billion. Canada is the only developed country with a universal health care system that does not include prescription drug coverage.

WHERE ARE ALL THE SEAGULLS?

The number of seagulls in the Strait of Georgia is down by 50 per cent from the 1980s and UBC researchers say the decline reflects changes in the availability of marine food.

Researchers collected 100 years of data on population numbers of Glaucous-winged Gulls, the most common seagull species found in the Lower Mainland, Victoria, Nanaimo and elsewhere in the region. They found that the population increased rapidly beginning in the early 1900s, but started to drop after the mid-1980s, with their investigation pointing to diet as one factor in the decline of the bird's health.


“These birds are the ultimate generalist – they can eat whatever's around,” says the study's lead author Louise Blight. “If they are experiencing a population decline, the gulls may be telling us that there have been some fairly profound changes to local marine ecosystems.”

Gulls historically relied on almost a purely marine diet, largely eating small fish and shellfish, but over time moved to a diet that incorporated more foods found on land, such as garbage and earthworms.

“They're presumably turning to land-based prey sources because the things they prefer to eat are less available,” says Blight, explaining that there are probably fewer forage fish in coastal waters, and less diversity among them, than was the case prior to industrial fishing – and that gulls need fish to breed successfully.

“Gulls are an indicator of our coastal marine ecosystems,” she says. “We need to be restoring ecosystems along the coast, and that includes restoring fish populations.”

Study co-author Peter Arcese, FRBC chair of conservation biology in the Faculty of Forestry, says reductions in marine food abundance and quality help explain why the population of two other bird species in the region, Marbled Murrelets and Western Grebes, have declined by 90 per cent since the 1950s and 70s, respectively.

“Our studies of marine bird populations in the Salish Sea show that restoration and management plans for the region can be improved by incorporating historical information on the causes of ecosystem change,” he says. 



1

Top forensic dentist Dr. David Sweet, OC, is all too familiar with the tragic aftermaths of violent crimes and natural disasters. And, more than once, he has been forced to confront his own mortality. Yet this gifted and compassionate scientist is as positive as they come.

BY ROSEMARY ANDERSON, BA'74

It's well after midnight when a young waitress steps off the bus and walks toward her apartment. Behind her, unheard and unseen, a man emerges from the shadows. Clamping a powerful hand over her mouth, he grabs the woman and forces her at gunpoint into his car. Then he drives to a secluded area on the outskirts of town where he viciously assaults her and dumps her body in the slow-running waters of a nearby creek. A few hours later, an early-morning jogger spies the woman's body submerged in shallow water near the edge of the creek.

The police find a phone and a shoe that they suspect belong to the victim, but she has been beaten beyond recognition. They need to confirm her identity so they can trace her last hours and get on the killer's trail before it grows cold. The killer has also provided a vital clue: when attacking the woman, he bit her left shoulder so hard that the pattern of his teeth is branded in her flesh.

Who do they call to positively identify the body and analyze the bite mark? A forensic odontologist.

UBC associate dean and professor of dentistry Dr. David Sweet, DMD'78, has been on the receiving end of such calls numberless times. Since he became an odontologist (sometimes known as "forensic dentist"), he has been involved in more than 1000 real-life CSI cases and has seen evidence of the most depraved things human beings can do to one another.

Sweet got his first taste of forensic dentistry in the late 1970s when he ran a general practice in Cranbrook, BC, his hometown. A police officer called regarding a fatality in which a car had gone off the road and burst into flames. From the license plate, they knew who owned the car; he was one of Dr. Sweet's patients. Would Sweet mind bringing in that person's dental chart to see if he could positively identify the body?

A gruesome scene greeted him at the morgue, one that his dentistry courses had not prepared him for. But when the pathologist pulled back the charred lips, the teeth were white as paper and perfectly intact. Teeth are the hardest substance in the human body and protected by enamel, making them resistant to fire. Sweet had done a crown for the man not long before. "You have a creativity that you do fillings with," he explains. "You put supplemental anatomy in if you're really good at carving; when

you do a restoration you shape teeth exactly the way they look when they're normal. I do all that. And I knew this was my patient." There's excitement in his voice as he tells the story - it's the passion of one who has found his calling in life.

A trim, handsome man with a warm smile and silver-gray hair, Sweet's positive energy is contagious and he looks the picture of health. But looks don't tell the whole story.

At age 10, he was diagnosed as an insulin-dependent diabetic. In those days it was not easy to maintain healthy blood-sugar levels, and Sweet says that after decades of insulin injections most people with diabetes would develop challenging complications. But he took "a scientific approach" to his illness right from the get-go, which enabled him to carry on a full and active life while balancing on the insulin tightrope behind the scenes.

He grew up around horses, haying and branding and riding in rodeos. He taught himself to ski, played a mean game of hockey and baseball, and went hunting in the fall and ice-fishing in winter. In school, he won sports and academic awards, all the while holding down various jobs at school and around town. He even won a photography contest with *Canadian Living Magazine* and, in his graduating year, was elected prime minister of his school.

His younger sister, Diane, says her brother always had a strong work ethic. "We were brought up that way, to do things well," she says. "And when bad things happened, you didn't wallow in it; you dealt with them and you carried on. That's Dave's conviction, that's his inner strength, and he never let the diabetes get the best of him. He tried to stay in control of it rather than letting it take over, controlling him."

In 1982, biosynthetic human insulin was introduced, largely replacing the beef- and pork-based types of insulin that, until then, were prevalent. Over time, it emerged that a significant percentage of people who use human insulin don't get symptoms, such as sweating and tremors, to warn them when they're becoming hypoglycemic. Sweet was one of these people. Before long, his kidneys began to fail. He would soon have to go on dialysis, the doctors said, and then he'd need a new kidney.

So in 1984 he sold his thriving practice and moved to Vancouver to be close to his physicians. His reputation as an outstanding dentist preceded him, and he was promptly invited to teach in UBC's Faculty of Dentistry. "I felt like I'd fallen into a big hole and come out smelling really good," he says.

Within a couple of years, he won a UBC Dentistry teaching award. Despite this achievement, he was informed that if he hoped to get tenure he'd have to specialize, develop a research portfolio, and build a lab. "So they threw down this gauntlet in front of me," he says, "but when I picked up the forensic odontology gauntlet they said, 'Forensic what?!'"

Forensic odontologists devote a lot of time to helping identify victims and perpetrators of crime. As Sweet describes it, when a person has been "erased and thrown away" by a killer, his team's main goal is to help repatriate that person to their family. They do this by confirming the victim's identity through dental comparisons and bite-mark and DNA analysis, and by sharing their insights as to how the victim met their death. Painful though this knowledge is, it helps give closure to those left behind.

Not everyone is cut out for such work. In addition to extraordinary patience, fine motor skills, precision, and accuracy, it demands a rare degree of resilience. Sweet has all of these, in spades.



Photo credit: Martin Dee

"WALK SOFTLY
WHEN YOU
CARRY THE DEAD"

He had been in third-year sciences and on his way into medical school when John Anderson, a teaching assistant in Dr. David Suzuki's genetics class, suggested he consider dentistry. "You've told me you like woodworking and you love building things with your hands, and you are very good in the lab with your manual skills," Anderson said to him. "Dentistry is a medical profession too. And, here at UBC, you take medical courses for a couple of years before you really start treatment in dentistry. I think you'd thrive in something like that."

To this day, Sweet is grateful for the encouragement Anderson gave him. "I love my work. The creativity, the art as well as the science – it's just the perfect fit," he says. "Forensic odontology is like trying to solve a jigsaw puzzle at the same time as reading a whodunit. The clues are coming in and there are different things going on, and you're trying to physically match these things. It's a really cool, complex, unusual exercise."

Sweet has an inborn knack for recognizing patterns, an ability that is at the heart of forensic dentistry. Because bite injuries are found in eight out of 10 sexual assault cases and homicide cases that involve physical altercation, the ability to match a bite mark conclusively with a suspect's dentition can significantly influence the court's decision to free or convict the suspect.

But what happens to a person after they've been immersed, day in and day out – for decades – in the investigation of heinous crimes? "It's a very dark area, dealing with mutilated bodies and murders," says Dr. Daniel Berant, a recent graduate of UBC's dental school. He is amazed by Sweet's "ability to see the horrors of tragedies, murders and natural catastrophes, and still get up each day and say, 'Life is beautiful.'"

Sweet's hobbies are a huge component of his coping strategy. Whether turning out the next project in his woodworking shop, or riding shotgun in a racecar with a friend going full tilt around the track, or ziplining, which he likens to flying, or quietly skimming the waves on a friend's sailboat, he's having so much fun that it leaves no room in his mind for the bad stuff.

Bite injuries are found in eight out of 10 sexual assault cases and homicide cases that involve physical altercation.

His deep respect for those who have died also keeps him grounded. "Do you walk softly when you carry the dead?" he asks, often, of colleagues and students. It's more a statement than a question.

"It's the code he lives by – being respectful of the person," says colleague Dr. Dirk van der Meer, *DMD'92*. "Even though he has to approach them scientifically, which requires an unbiased, almost cold manner, there's still the human element that he never forgets."

Van der Meer regards him as both friend and mentor. "In forensics circles around the world, David Sweet is the 'gold standard' – he's the person you go to for the final answer, and he always has it."

Those who know Sweet were not surprised when, in 2008, he was awarded the Order of Canada to acknowledge the revolutionary forensic techniques he developed and his untiring service on behalf of victims of crime and mass disasters.

And, just a few months ago, he was awarded the Canadian Forces Medallion for Distinguished Service, the highest award the military can confer on civilians. For years, Sweet has provided training for Canadian military forensic dentists at his UBC lab, which the Armed Forces have selected as the "touchstone" of excellence for this country's military dentists to emulate. He also provides Canada's military forensic dentists with detailed advice, tailored to their specific mission, every time they deploy to the site of a mass disaster or armed conflict.

Sweet seems indomitable, even in the context of his own health. It was 1984 when doctors told him the day would soon come when he'd need a kidney transplant; he carried on for more than 16 years before that day arrived.

During those intervening years, he built UBC's Bureau of Legal Dentistry lab (BOLD lab), which was tasked with education, research, and forensic dentistry cases; he worked on hundreds of murder cases; he invented a technique for getting DNA out of teeth, making BOLD the place of choice to which police agencies across Canada send teeth and bones for forensic analysis; he founded the British Columbia Forensic Odontology Response Team (BC-FORT), a 90-member core group of dentists, hygienists and certified dental assistants trained to respond effectively in the event of a mass disaster in Canada or internationally; and he earned a PhD (*cum laude*) in forensic medicine from the University of Granada, Spain, where he invented a method that enhances DNA recovery from scant traces of saliva left on skin near bite wounds.

When, at last, Sweet went on the waiting list for a kidney, a young general surgeon approached him. The surgeon said he had recently learned how to transplant a pancreas and wanted Sweet to get a new one along with a new kidney.



The BOLD lab (Bureau of Legal Dentistry) places Canada at the forefront of forensic dental science.

"You can't kid me," Sweet retorted. "I've dissected a body in medical/dental school, and I know what a pancreas is like – it's like snot. It doesn't have a cortex. You can't tease a duct and a vein and an artery out of a pancreas. You can't transplant it!"

"You leave that to me," the surgeon replied.

So it was that, on June 25, 2001, the family of a young accident victim generously enabled Sweet to receive the new kidney he so desperately needed, together with a new pancreas, "and a switch was flipped." No longer diabetic, to this day his blood tests are perfect. A couple of years later, the new kidney became irreparably diseased, so a forensics colleague – so close a match it was like they were brothers – gave him one more lease on life. "His name is John King, and John is a king, and then some."

Sweet had barely recovered from his second kidney transplant when he was asked to head up the Canadian forensic dentists' response to the 2004 tsunami in Thailand. He served in this capacity for 239 consecutive days and so impressed other scientists at INTERPOL that they elected him chief scientist in INTERPOL's Disaster Victim Identification section, a position he held until a new illness forced him to step down.

Although Sweet was cured of diabetes and his new kidney stayed healthy, life had even fiercer blows to deal him. In 2011, he was diagnosed with cancer. With typical unflinching courage, he submitted to surgery and chemotherapy and recovered. But one year later, to the day, his oncologist phoned with bad news: it appeared the cancer was back. This time it was inoperable. The diagnosis? Recurrent metastatic adenocarcinoma. Sweet would be dead within six months.

But Sweet was not about to give up. For five weeks, with his wholehearted encouragement, doctors dialled up the "chemical warfare" to the maximum possible dosage. Then, for five more weeks, they bombarded him with an extremely high level of radiation, administered almost daily.

"He had such an upbeat, positive attitude the whole time," says van der Meer, "and this steel determination to beat the disease."

After the onslaught on his body, there was nothing to be done but wait for an interminable three months until his tissues could recover sufficiently for a follow-up scan. It was time for the bucket list.

He went ziplining and snorkelling with his wife, and he got strong.

"I have a very deep belief," Sweet says, "that the power of the mind and the power of positive thinking can overcome things by setting up the body and the personality for success." He shares a personal story to illustrate the point:

When the pathologist pulled back the charred lips, the teeth were white as paper and perfectly intact. Teeth are the hardest substance in the human body and protected by enamel, making them resistant to fire.

"I was in a cove in Hawaii with my wife, Chris. We were snorkelling, looking at giant green sea turtles. I was watching a female turtle that was lying on the bottom. She decided to come up. I guess she was going to take a breath of air, but when she saw me swimming above her she came up and looked at me really close, right into my eyes. I had to swim backwards so as not to touch her. Then she popped up and had a breath and looked around. And then I went up, too."

A Polynesian man on shore asked Sweet what he had seen. Hearing the story, he exclaimed, "That's incredible!" and added, "In our faith, the sea turtle means two things: peacefulness, and longevity."

Sweet clung to this as a sign that he was going to be okay. "I hadn't had my PET scan yet," he says, knocking loudly on the wooden table he's seated at.

A few weeks after their snorkelling adventure, he and his wife were sitting in the oncologist's office, reading the pathology report. "I had to refer back to the original scans to confirm the size and location of the tumor," the pathologist had written, "because nothing is visible on the current scan. Completely resolved."

Dr. David Sweet had fallen down yet another deep hole and come out smelling great.

The BOLD lab relies on donations to fund its research. To find out more about the work of the BOLD lab, or to make a donation, please visit: www.boldlab.ubc.ca

HIGH-PROFILE CRIMES

In 2007, pig farmer Robert Pickton was convicted of murder as part of the investigation into the missing women of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. It used to be that scientists needed at least two-gram samples of bone to extract genomic DNA, but bone fragments police found on Pickton's farm were smaller than this. So Sweet devised a method requiring just one gram, and was able to extract DNA matching that of six of the missing women. Pickton was convicted of all six murders.

The skeletal remains of two children – the "Babes in the Woods" – were discovered in Stanley Park in 1953. A doctor identified them as a boy and girl, aged about six and eight, and estimated that they had died in 1947. Witnesses came forward, recalling disquieting scenes of a couple seen first with two boys – one playing with a hatchet – and a little later without the boys. Police dismissed the leads. In 1997, a Vancouver police officer obtained the children's remains from the Police Museum, where they were on display, and took them to the BOLD lab. When Sweet extracted pulp from the teeth, using the freezer-mill DNA recovery method he had invented, he found that the children were both boys and that they shared the same mother but had different fathers. The case remains unsolved.

In 1995, Sweet earned a PhD in forensic medicine for an innovative double-swab technique he developed to retrieve DNA from human bite injuries. Shortly after, the police contacted him at BOLD to analyze a bite mark on the body of Tanya Smith, who was murdered by the "Abbotsford Killer." The police did not yet know about his new technique. Although Smith's body had been immersed in the Vedder River more than five hours, Sweet's swabbing method enabled him to recover the killer's salivary DNA from the bite wound, sealing the case against the killer. The technique he invented has become known as "Sweet Swabbing," and bite marks – potentially yielding the biter's DNA – are called "Sweet Spots."



BOLD has established itself as a world leader in the education of military forensic dentists in Disaster Victim Identification.

It's Yours.

Welcome to the Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre, your home for life in the heart of our Vancouver campus – inspired by UBC's unique modernist tradition of campus architecture. A LEED Gold sustainable structure, it features expansive glass walls and extensive use of Douglas Fir and Western Red Cedar in the public spaces of the interior, providing a warm and distinctly West Coast home for current, past and future students.

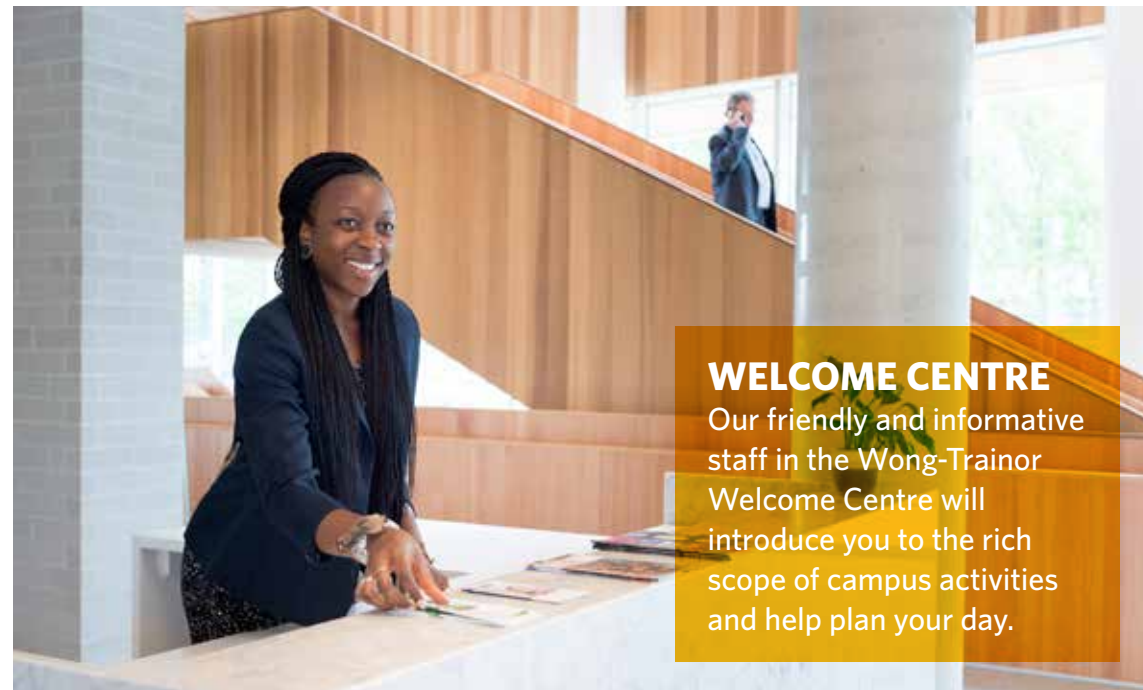
Starting with a conversation in 1999 and 16 years in the making, the centre was imagined and driven by alumni volunteers and funded, in part, through the generous donations of more than 1,000 UBC grads. Its primary purpose is as a meeting place where alumni can learn, mentor, network and celebrate. The venue will be the host space for *alumni UBC* lectures, social events and continuing education. There are seven different function spaces, each designed for unique needs and all available for rental with preferred rates for alumni. The facility also includes the Graham Lee Innovation Centre and the Wong-Trainor Welcome Centre, making it the front door for everyone who visits campus.

Inside, an exciting experience awaits in more than 40,000 square feet of space that includes exhibits and an interactive display chronicling UBC's history and the achievements of its alumni.

alumniculture.ubc.ca



Robert H. Lee
Alumni Centre



WELCOME CENTRE

Our friendly and informative staff in the Wong-Trainor Welcome Centre will introduce you to the rich scope of campus activities and help plan your day.

LOAFE CAFE

Opening in June, Loafe Cafe brings a fresh concept to campus. It will offer made-to-order gourmet sandwiches, vibrant seasonal salads, homemade soups, artisan local roasted coffee and fresh baked goods. Did we mention Cartems donuts?



MAKE A PERMANENT IMPRESSION IN YOUR NEW CAMPUS HOME

Time is running out! The once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see your name on the stunning Points of Light donor wall in the new Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre ends soon. Donate \$1,000 or more and your name will be included on the donor wall, located in the main floor atrium. Visit alumniculture.ubc.ca/points-of-light



JACK POOLE HALL An expansive glass-walled space for up to 300, for meetings, and celebration lunches or dinners. All with a commanding view over the UBC campus.



WALTER C. KOERNER FAMILY TERRACE LOUNGE A welcoming space with comfortable modern-classic furniture and access to the top floor balcony.



ROBERT H. LEE FAMILY BOARDROOM An impressive setting on the third floor with a large U-shaped table that can seat 32, with state-of-the-art audio/visual capacity.



With your help

over 300,000 UBC alumni

from all over the world

are building

a home for alumni for life

start an evolution

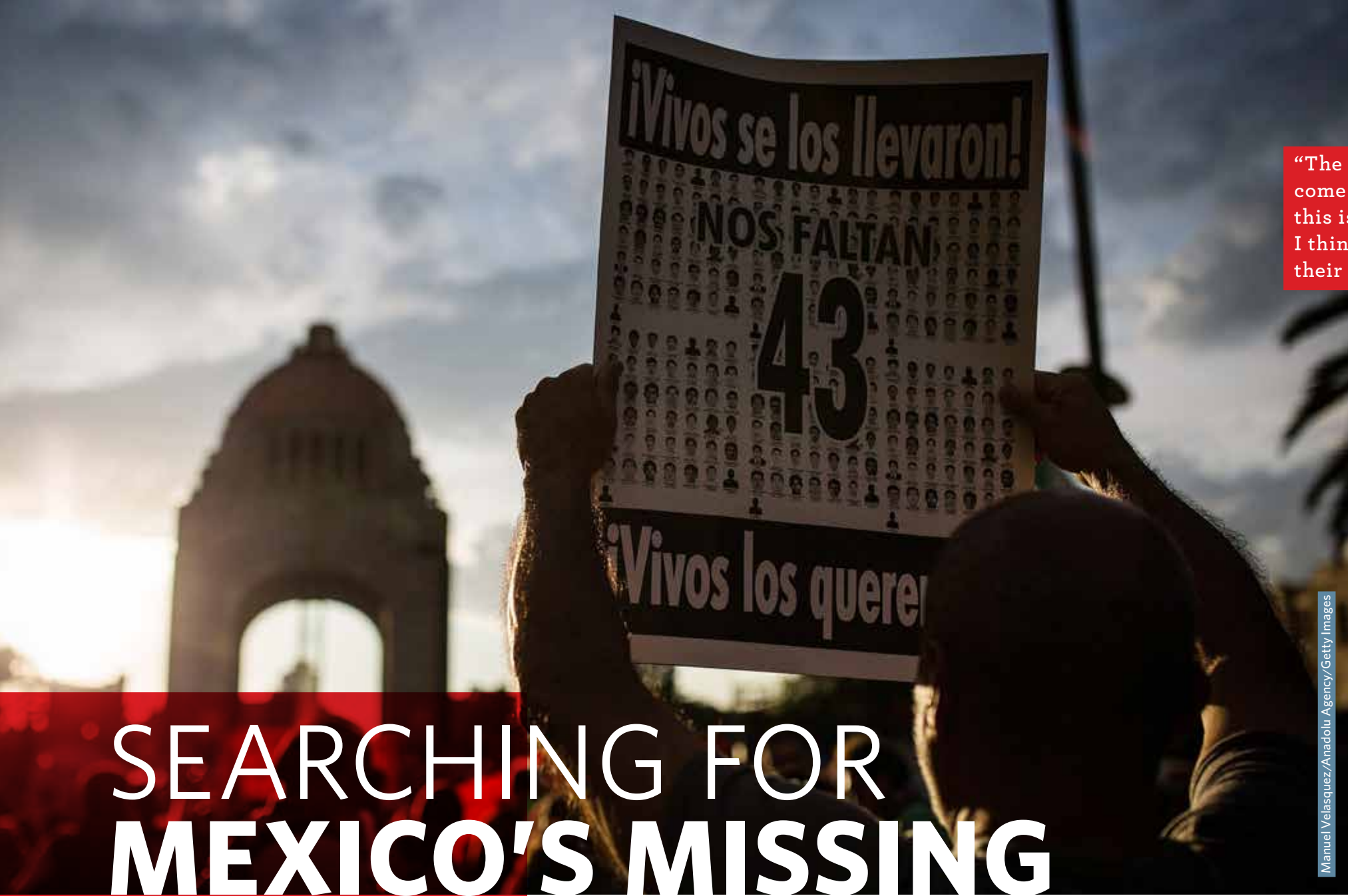
With the support of UBC alumni worldwide, UBC and *alumni UBC* are building a home for alumni to reconnect with their alma mater and each other. The new Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre will foster entrepreneurship, networking, mentoring and lifelong learning. To help the new Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre become a vital and vibrant space, we invite your support. alumnicentre.ubc.ca



Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre



alumniUBC



SEARCHING FOR MEXICO'S MISSING

Manuel Velasquez/Anadolu Agency/Getty Images

In the absence of a rigorous government-led approach for investigating the thousands of missing person cases in their country, Mexican citizens are taking matters into their own hands. Rodolfo Franco, MA'06, is helping to coordinate their efforts.

BY MICHAEL AWMACK, BA'01, MET'09

"If 43 students can go missing in a town in Guerrero, there's no reason why 43 students from the university I teach at could not go missing tomorrow," says Rodolfo Franco, a part-time faculty member at Tec de Monterrey, as he gravely describes the human rights situation in Mexico. The country is on edge. It has been entrenched in a drug war for nearly a decade, and lately it's become apparent that anyone could be a kidnapping target. The 43 young men he's referring to are the students from the Raúl Isidro Burgos Rural Teachers College of Ayotzinapa who disappeared from the town of Iguala last September. The case made international headlines and led to massive street protests in Mexico City and across the country as citizens demanded answers. Although mass kidnappings are not uncommon in Mexico, this case was different for a couple reasons. First, these students were not involved with the area's drug cartels. And second, from the beginning it was widely suspected that local authorities had played a major role in their disappearance. Although dozens of arrests have been made and at least one student's charred remains have been identified, many questions still linger. There's a pervasive feeling that the federal government

"The government will never come to terms with the idea that this is a humanitarian crisis, and I think they're very worried about their international reputation."

only investigated the disappearances because the case was receiving so much international attention. The official version of events (that the students were likely killed after being handed over to a drug cartel by corrupt members of local law enforcement) is not fully accepted. The families of the missing men, along with large segments of the Mexican population, still believe the government is hiding something.

Their distrust is a result of deep flaws in Mexico's justice system. Over the past decade, more than 27,000 people have gone missing across the country. While some are eventually unearthed in mass graves, official investigations are seldom thorough and most cases are never solved. Many families are left wondering what happened to their loved ones and unable to get closure.

Franco, who is the director of strategy and fund procurement for the recently formed Mexican NGO Gobernanza Forense Ciudadana (citizen-led forensics), offers his perspective on why these cases are not often investigated. "At the local level it is a clear issue of corruption," he says. "Police forces are certainly mixed with criminal organizations, and sometimes they're at their service."

While corruption explains why many individual cases are not investigated, the scale of the problem suggests a system-wide failure at the federal level is also to blame. "I think it's a matter of capacities and organization," Franco says. He explains that the office of the attorney general regularly tells him that the government's DNA database will soon have the capacity to distinguish between DNA samples from discovered remains and from the families of the missing, making comprehensive cross-referencing and potential identification possible. Although this would be a step in the right direction, he finds it unbelievable that the database could have ever been designed without this function in mind.

Franco, whose graduate studies at UBC focused on human rights norms and the limitations of human rights systems, suspects the federal government has other reasons why it's unwilling to investigate the thousands of missing persons cases that exist in the country. "I think the general perception is that this is regular



The governors of Gobernanza Forense Ciudadana (relatives of disappeared persons) make important decisions about the disappeared persons registry and the forensic database.

crime," he says. "The government will never come to terms with the idea that this is a humanitarian crisis, and I think they're very worried about their international reputation." Because of this, he explains, the government's recent focus has been on crisis management instead of on building the institutions, rules and norms required to combat the underlying problems.

Regardless of the reasons, the families of missing people are not looking for excuses. They want answers. And in the absence of rigorous official investigations, citizens have begun investigating cases themselves. It was this reality that drove Franco and some friends from his undergraduate university to recognize the potential for a citizen-driven approach to combatting the corruption, arbitrariness and lack of investigative transparency surrounding Mexico's missing people. His friends founded Gobernanza Forense Ciudadana (GFC) in 2012 with this purpose in mind, to provide resources and a collaborative forum for families searching for loved ones.

Franco explains that each state has its own definition of "disappearance" and its own forensic system. Because of this, jurisdictional issues can be a barrier to investigations. If someone disappears in Monterrey, for example, and their family lives in Mexico City, the authorities would open an investigation and begin their search in Mexico City. After a few enquiries, he says, they might discover that it's impossible to gain access to remains in Monterrey, or that local authorities won't cooperate. As a result, these investigations don't lead anywhere. "There are families that watch the news every day to find out if a mass grave has been opened somewhere in the country, just so they can travel there and file a new complaint in that new jurisdiction," Franco says.



Street demonstration along Mexico City's Paseo de la Reforma on International Day of the Disappeared (August 30, 2014). All photos (pg. 19-21) courtesy of Gobernanza Forense Ciudadana AC.



This photo of missing Brenda Damaris was shared on social networks to pressure the government to solve the case.



Manuel Velasquez/Anadolu Agency/Getty Images

Family members were learning about GPS technologies – contacting mobile phone companies to get data on the last known whereabouts of their loved one – and would often go to coffee shops and convenience stores to retrieve security tapes as part of their timeline reconstructions.

In the face of these bureaucratic hurdles, and the fact that they rarely have access to remains themselves, families have been forced to pursue creative avenues in their investigations. When Franco's friends conducted their feasibility study and started contacting families of missing people to see what they had been able to accomplish on their own, they were surprised. "We realized that they had been very thorough with their investigations," he says. Family members were learning about GPS technologies – contacting mobile phone companies to get data on the last known whereabouts of their loved one – and would often go to coffee shops and convenience stores to retrieve security tapes as part of their timeline reconstructions.

"We realized there was a lot of knowledge among citizens," he says, "but there were some problems." First of all, the authorities seemed reluctant to listen to or act upon the information gathered by families. Second, the families were disorganized and not exchanging information. It was clear they needed a way to work together and leverage their collective forensic knowledge to pressure the government to act.

Recognizing this, GFC created an online National Citizen Registry of Disappeared Persons in order to start identifying families of missing people. They then got to work developing their idea for a citizen-controlled DNA Biobank using mail-in DNA sample kits, like those that are used for paternity tests. Franco explains that the team wanted to build the Biobank using basic, accessible technologies in order to demonstrate to the government how simple the task should be, given proper organization. "These Biobanks should be used to make massive cross-references of non-identified

bodies and families that are searching for their relatives," he says. "Once the Biobank is built and there is a critical mass of samples in it, we'd be able to argue due diligence and the government would be obligated to use the Biobank as a tool of investigation."

Although building the Biobank is GFC's main objective, the organization also holds workshops with the families of missing persons to educate them about forensic DNA so they are more effective at holding government officials accountable. GFC often hears from families who have contested the government's DNA results and requested DNA reports, but received no response. Then, after filing petitions for more information, they discover no proof in the investigation file to suggest their DNA samples had been taken in the first place. "The way we see it," Franco says, "the Mexican government will only be able to present legitimate and credible results insofar as they open up the forensic processes and explain how they get the results they get." He says that for this to happen, civil society organizations need to monitor the government and pressure them to change their processes.

EXPERT INSIGHT: MEXICO'S MISSING STUDENTS

By Glenn Drexhage

Near the end of September 2014, 43 students went missing in the Mexican town of Iguala. Reports indicated that the students were murdered, their bodies burned – another tragic turn of events in a country that has endured horrific violence and state corruption. In December, Agustin Goenaga, a Mexican doctoral candidate in UBC's Department of Political Science, discussed the disappearance, examined its implications for Mexican democracy and highlighted a Canadian angle.

Violence has plagued Mexico in recent years, yet the disappearance of the 43 students has produced a particularly strong reaction. Why?

These developments challenge the narrative that victims of violence are involved in illegal activities. If innocent civilians are targeted, they're viewed as collateral damage. What's different now is that the 43 students had absolutely no ties with organized crime. This is something that even the attorney general has publicly stated.

Second, the first actors involved in this crime were local police forces, following orders of Iguala's mayor. They were the ones who opened fire against students, arrested them, detained them and allegedly handed them over to members of a criminal organization to torture and execute.

Franco is starting to see small signs of progress in this regard. He talks proudly of a GFC member in the state of Guerrero who recently stood up in a public forum and questioned the government's DNA sampling practices based on knowledge she learned at a GFC workshop. "She was able to tell these people that they were sampling the wrong family members, because [this particular case, which involved identifying an older individual, required] a special mix of DNA samples, and not necessarily the ones they were taking." He says that Guerrero's government is beginning to understand that citizens are demanding more accountability and have little tolerance for superficial investigations that are only conducted for appearances' sake.

It's a small step, and there's still a lot of work to be done. GFC has funding to collect 1,500 samples and aims to have the Biobank populated with complete DNA profiles for at least 500 missing person cases by the end of this year; an organized group of citizens will have accomplished a task that the government, with all of its resources and expertise, has not.

Although Franco hasn't had anyone close to him disappear, he knows he is not immune and feels a moral obligation to continue the work. He is also driven by compassion. Late last year in Monterrey, with the help of a Peruvian team of forensic anthropologists, GFC performed the first independent citizen-led exhumation. For a number of reasons, the family of missing woman Brenda Damaris Gonzalez Solis had serious doubts about the identity of the remains that the government had given them. Following the exhumation, GFC was able to conduct DNA tests that definitively proved the remains were those of their daughter. Although the news was heartbreaking, this family could finally reach some sense of closure. "It's not all about finding what the government does wrong," Franco says. "It's also about providing families with a scientific basis to mourn." 📌

Trek heard about Citizen-Led Forensics México when information about the project was added to yourevolution.ubc.ca, a purpose-built website where alumni and other members of the UBC community can publicize the socially beneficial projects in which they are involved.

How have the government and opposition parties responded?

The president has started a new nationwide strategy to combat organized crime, and deal with conflicts of interest and corruption amongst public officials.

The brunt of the new program is an initiative to dismantle municipal police forces, and create 32 forces at the state level, as an attempt to fight the corruption of local police officers.

In many municipalities, local police forces are indeed the most vulnerable to corruption. But dismantling them also removes actors who historically served as mediators in illegal activities, managing the violent escalation of small conflicts in this ad hoc way.

There is also an assumption that corruption does not touch the state or federal levels. This is false. Former state governors, national union leaders and federal secretaries of state face accusations of corruption. Even President Peña Nieto is trapped in a conflict-of-interest scandal.

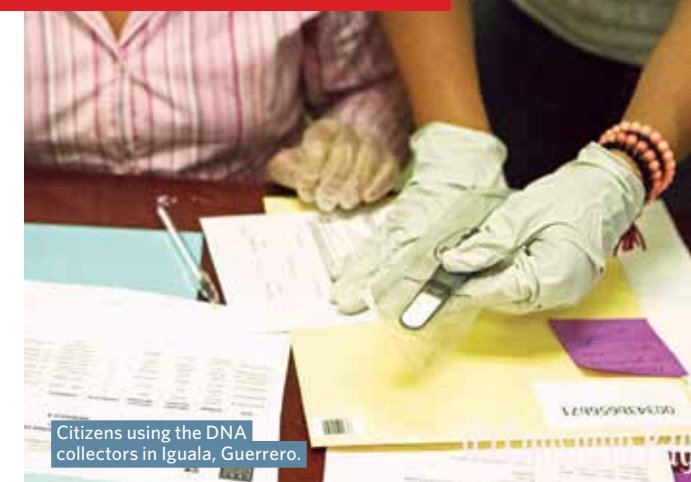
What are the implications for Mexican democracy?

Civil society has mobilized in ways unseen until now. We've had demonstrations in the streets all over Mexico and around the world.



Citizens searching at a mass grave site in the countryside.

He says that Guerrero's government is beginning to understand that citizens are demanding more accountability and have little tolerance for superficial investigations that are only conducted for appearances' sake.



Citizens using the DNA collectors in Iguala, Guerrero.

These events are serving as a trigger for civil society to push the political parties to be more responsive. Maybe there is also the potential for a new coalition of political forces to emerge.

A recent Vancouver protest highlighted concerns about Canada placing Mexico on a so-called "safe list." Can you expand?

Immigration Canada put that decision in place in February 2013. This was based on the idea that it has limited resources to deal with claims for asylum and refugee status. The implications are that Mexicans potentially asking for asylum will face higher obstacles to achieve that.

The justification for placing Mexico on the "safe list" comes from the way the Mexican administrations have presented themselves to the international community: as defenders of human rights that are trying to implement and enforce the rule of law – and in the process are facing an escalation of violence.

But the recent events put this image of the Mexican state in question. The state has not proven itself capable of defending human rights, protecting vulnerable populations or prosecuting violations. In the students' case, the state was actually the perpetrator of those crimes.

your evolution

Doing your bit to change the world?

startanevolution.ca

your evolution is a unique project-sharing platform that supports the many ways the 300,000-strong global alumni community is changing the world for the better. It allows the UBC community to share details of socially beneficial projects and connect with fellow alumni, students, staff, faculty, volunteers and donors to find supporters and inspire others to make a difference. Launched in 2014, the website offers many ways for projects to gain exposure as well as occasional competitions, the latest of which ran this spring. Participants stood to win a social entrepreneurship kit – including a professionally produced video or photography session to help promote their cause, and mentoring sessions with UBC experts. *your evolution* has already helped support approximately 300 projects. Its next iteration will have a matchmaking function, allowing UBC social entrepreneurs to seek out volunteers with specific skill sets, as well as non-financial support such as equipment and meeting space. If you're involved in a worthwhile initiative and want to support it by tapping into your UBC network, it's time to visit yourevolution.ubc.ca

COMPETITION WINNER: Help! Teeth Hurt

Joan Rush is on a humanitarian mission. She is calling on the BC government to fulfill what she views as its legal and moral duty to provide timely and adequate dental care to adults with developmental disabilities. She describes the current lack of access to care as a crisis and in 2013 published a report containing her recommendations for addressing the shortfall.

As someone who has spent the past 10 years trying to secure much-needed dental care for her 28-year-old son, Graeme, who was diagnosed with severe autism at the age of three, Rush has had first-hand experience navigating the complex, multiple-agency care system. She also holds a master's in health law from UBC.

Graeme does not speak, read or write. Throughout his childhood, he received the specialized health and dental care his condition requires at BC Children's Hospital. Rush says her son received excellent care there from paediatric dentists who were trained to deal with children with special needs. But when Graeme turned 17, he was referred to Vancouver General Hospital for his dental care instead. It would mark the start of a struggle in which Rush felt she was pitted against a system that simply was not set up to serve her son.

Shortly after the referral to adult care, Rush was told Graeme would need to go on a waiting list of at least two years to complete dental surgery that had been recommended by BC Children's Hospital.

Like many adults with serious developmental disabilities, Graeme requires general anaesthesia for even routine treatments due to complexities associated with his disability. There is no specialized dental clinic with general anaesthesia capability at VGH, and patients like Graeme are typically referred to the UBC Hospital for dental surgery. Since there is no clinic dedicated to special needs dental care there (or anywhere in BC), Rush says there is inevitably a long wait for Operating Room time. Meanwhile, serious dental problems were developing under Graeme's gum line, undetected.

By 2006, he had started to beat his own face, especially the area around his right ear. "We went to many specialists," says Rush. "He had started having progressively more severe seizures. His neurologist thought he had been tipped into the seizures from the pain. Graeme's GP was eventually prescribing pure codeine to deal with the pain." Graeme's parents always suspected the head-hitting was caused by dental pain, but Rush says Graeme's VGH dentist at the time insisted there was no link and kept him on the waiting list. Even after mental health specialists ruled out psychosis as a basis for the head-hitting, concluding it probably related to dental pain, Graeme's dentist was reluctant to accept this analysis and allow him to access immediate care. When Rush later transferred him to another VGH dentist, she met with similar resistance.

"I couldn't believe what I was hearing, and my kid was killing himself!" says Rush. Although there are private general anaesthesia clinics in BC, Graeme was having too many seizures at the time to meet their criteria for treatment. Thinking she had run out of options, Rush threatened to sue and Graeme was admitted to UBC Hospital for surgery in early 2008. Under his gum line, the dentist found two severely infected teeth and several large cavities that she had previously failed to

diagnose. He ended up having five root canals completed by an endodontist during 2008 and 2009. His right ear is permanently deformed as a result of him beating his head.

Rush is prepared to accept that Graeme's case is an anomaly. Had proper X-rays been taken, routine in most dental offices, the tooth decay would not have gone undetected and he may have been admitted for surgery sooner. But she also believes the failure to provide adequate care was down to a lack of special needs dentistry training within the profession. Unlike countries such as Australia and the UK, Canada does not recognize a specialization in special needs dentistry. In addition, there is only one program (in Toronto) offering a specialization in dental anaesthesia, and Rush says more such programs would allow more patients to be treated in the community, freeing up precious hospital Operating Room time for more complex cases. Rush acknowledges that the Canadian undergraduate dental curriculum is already packed, and it's difficult for instructors, who themselves never received such training, to include it in the agenda. It would also cost a lot of money to establish and there are many other important needs to address. "On the other hand," she says, "they do find time to teach about cosmetic dental procedures and some other types of treatment that are extraordinarily expensive and financially out of reach for the average Canadian."

The shortage of professionals with specialized training became more apparent when, over the period from 2009 to 2013, VGH could not locate a prosthodontist who could fit Graeme with crowns under general anaesthetic. Without crowns after the root canals, there was a danger some of Graeme's teeth would crumble. He had started hitting his face again – enough to black his eye. Rush found a third VGH dentist who was prepared to at least repair the teeth. Again, they faced difficulty getting Operating Room time and again Rush threatened to sue. During surgery, the dentist discovered a tooth on the lower right that was too damaged to save and had to be extracted, as well as an infection in the jawbone that Rush suspects was caused by the delay accessing care.

RUNNERS UP

Morogoro Youth Development Initiative | A movement to educate and empower young people through their involvement in positive community change.

SwimSignal | A system that facilitates navigation in the pool for visually impaired and blind swimmers.

REACH Initiative | An innovative program designed to engage, inform, and educate the community with the goal of improving palliative, end-of-life, and bereavement care.

Project Hands | A Canadian-based non-profit organization that has organized surgical missions to provide otherwise unavailable care to indigenous populations in rural regions of Guatemala.

Motivate Canada | An initiative that is giving young people the tools, training, and confidence to make a difference in their lives and communities.

UBC Stem Cell Club | The first student-run group worldwide that has been accredited to independently run stem cell drives in order to strengthen the quantity and quality of membership on the Canadian stem cell donor database.

Psychiatric genetic counselling clinic | The world's first psychiatric genetic counselling clinic was launched in 2012.

#IAmAntiBully: a movement to say NO to bullying | A group of UBC alumni who made a commitment to raise awareness of and counter bullying.

Bumala Sewing Project | A project that aims to support the development of marketable skills, such as tailoring and small business management among young African women in their local community.

This dentist supported Rush as she campaigned to find a specialist able to fit her son with crowns. Otherwise, he said, Graeme was likely to lose more teeth. They found a recent UBC prosthodontics grad who had previously treated adults with developmental disabilities under general anaesthesia in Alberta. He was excellent, says Rush, but after he placed the first two crowns during 2014, he could not secure more time in the Operating Room to finish the recommended treatment plan and resigned his hospital privileges in frustration. Rush was distraught, but because Graeme's seizures were now well under control, they were able to get him into a private general anaesthesia clinic. The same prosthodontist treated him there instead – at a cost of thousands of dollars. The last two of eight gold crowns were cemented into place this May.

Not every adult with developmental disabilities can count on such a capable advocate, nor has parents in a position to pay for private treatment. In fact, says Rush, there is a high correlation between developmental disability and poverty – and this applies to the disabled individuals' families as well as themselves. Couple this with a provincial dental plan for adults with disabilities that pays approximately 60 per cent of the treatment fees recommended by the BC Dental Association, and you have a situation where there is little financial incentive for dentists to treat this patient group. "According to the executive director of the BC Dental Association, in many cases the coverage is less than 60 per cent," says Rush. "But dentists' average overhead is 60, so if they take a patient with a disability who can be treated in a community dental office – fairly high functioning adults with a developmental disability – they are actually doing it at a loss. Typically those adults take more time, and there's no extra fee allowed under the provincial plan."

It had become clear to Rush that there was a gaping hole in terms of care provision, so she decided to advocate on behalf of the whole developmentally disabled adult community. "In breach of their human rights, I think, people are denied treatment that can be described as

nothing other than critically needed healthcare – except that our weird healthcare system separates out dentistry," says Rush, pointing out suspected links between oral infection and serious physical ailments, such as diabetes and heart disease. "I assumed that if I raised this issue, they would fix it. What an idiot I was. More or less, everyone ignored me and said it may be a problem but there isn't any money and there's nothing we can do. There's no help we can give. I could not believe that we could be so callous towards a group of people who have no ability to assist themselves otherwise. If they can't be treated except under general anaesthesia, and you haven't provided a general anaesthesia facility, and you haven't provided enough coverage to get them treated, they're going to lose a lot of teeth and suffer a lot of pain. We are truly mistreating this group and there must be an obligation here."

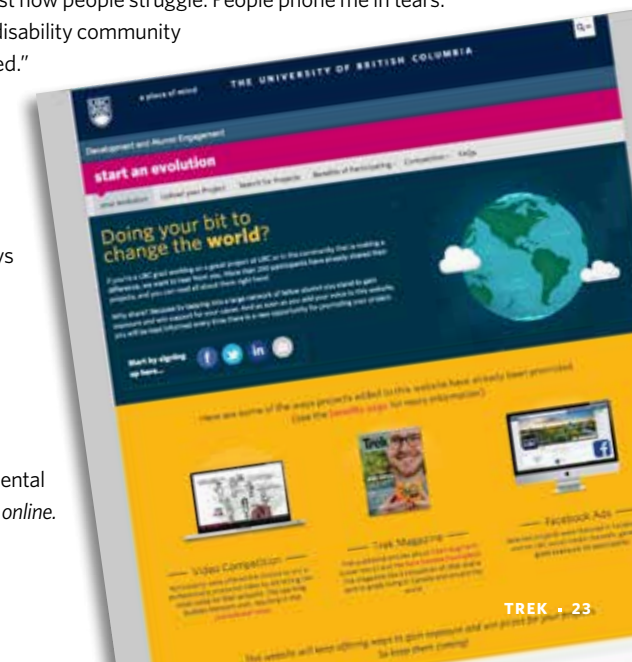
Her preliminary analysis of current health law indicted to Rush that there was indeed a legal obligation. She applied to the Law Foundation of BC for funding to research and produce a report with recommendations for the provincial government. UBC law students provided assistance with legal and historical research. A UBC library science student confirmed the report's citations and references.

Published in 2013, the report draws attention to the issue and calls for adequate coverage, training, and the establishment in BC of a clinic dedicated to treating adults with developmental disabilities. Until the situation changes, Rush will keep campaigning. That's why she added details about her initiative – Help! Teeth Hurt – to *alumni UBC's your evolution* website. She never expected to win the competition, yet her submission rapidly attracted 1,000 votes to take the prize.

She thinks others identified with her situation. "You have no idea how many emails I got from people asking if I can help them to get their son or daughter with a developmental disability access to dental care. It's been very revealing to me just how people struggle. People phone me in tears. I know how they feel. There's no question the disability community is very united in believing this is critically needed."

But Rush thinks it's the photo of Graeme featured on the *your evolution* website that helped her nail it. "It's a very engaging photo – it focuses on his smile." And how is Graeme these days? "He hasn't hit his face again since the last of his treatments were completed," says Rush. "He is as happy as a lark. The difference in his life between good dental care and lack of access to dental care is 180 degrees."

Rush's report, Help! Teeth Hurt: Government's Obligation to Provide Timely Access to Dental Treatment to B.C. Adults Who Have Developmental Disabilities: A Legal Analysis, is available to read online.



HEARING VOICES

The phenomenon of hearing voices is usually viewed as a symptom of mental illness to be suppressed with medication. The Hearing Voices movement, which began during the 1980s in Europe and is now gaining traction in North America, is taking a different therapeutic approach.

BY MARCIE GOOD, BA'95
ILLUSTRATIONS BY YEVGENIA NAYBERG



The voices would tell her stories about crimes they had committed as if they were trying to elicit sympathy from her. They would pick on her when she was broke and destroy experiences she enjoyed, such as listening to music.

The multiple Oscar-winning picture *Birdman* earned praise for its highly choreographed visual technique, star Michael Keaton's physical performance, and its multi-layered narrative. But to Natasha Merrick, who identifies as someone who hears voices, the movie offered a new way of looking at mental illness. While movies and books often portray psychosis as a sign of a character's tragic descent, *Birdman* offers a more complex view. "Most people have very fixed ideas of mental illness," she says. "It means the person is not thinking in the correct way, and they need to be fixed, stopped, and taken care of. But this movie is showing [Michael Keaton's character, Riggan] in an expanded state where he's able to experience magic and also find meaning and connection."

Years earlier, Riggan starred as Birdman in a Hollywood blockbuster series. As he tries to mount his own adaptation of a Raymond Carver short story on Broadway, a series of backstage mishaps and personal dramas threaten to upend his show. He is taunted by the voice of Birdman, but he also levitates, moves objects with his mind, and flies. "He's having magical thinking, but he knows the world doesn't see him that way," Merrick says. "People with psychosis have that dichotomy, and it's very stressful. I think that's what makes you crazy, is that split between your inner and your outer life. What he needs is to achieve balance, to be able to work within that state of mind."

Through the lens of magical realism, the film doesn't make a distinction between hallucination and reality, but focuses instead on the meaning of Riggan's otherworldly experience. That's essentially the philosophy of Hearing Voices, a grassroots movement started in the 1980s by Dutch psychiatrist Marius Romme. Prompted by a patient experiencing auditory hallucinations

who argued that the content of her voices mattered, he began to explore the idea that hearing voices is more than a symptom of disease that should be treated with medication.

Today, the Hearing Voices network is an international organization with groups in many countries. Hearing Voices groups are facilitated by a voice hearer and usually a health professional, and while different groups vary in their methods, the basic idea is for people to learn to engage with their voices and gain power over them. Controversy has often followed the groups because they are perceived as being anti-medication (some are, and others call themselves "pro-choice"). Tanya Luhrmann, an anthropologist at Stanford University who has written widely on the movement, describes the origins like this: "What Romme noticed was that attributing meaning to voices had made a difference to someone who was hearing them. By the psychiatric standards of the time, this was shocking. In the new biological psychiatry, which had begun to dominate the profession in Europe and America in the 1970s, voices were symptoms of psychotic illness in the same way that a sore throat was a symptom of flu... In biomedical psychiatry, mental health professionals ask whether the patient hears voices, not what the voices say."

For almost three years, Merrick led a Hearing Voices group in North Vancouver. Her own experience of mental illness began in her late teens, when she started feeling a hand on her shoulder. A few years later she began to hear voices. It started with one child's voice, calling her name, and then quickly became a multitude. The voices would pretend to be her friend, telling her she was special, but they quickly drew her into a kind of paralysis. She was working as a janitor in Vancouver at the time, and she would find herself

sitting in a room for hours listening to the voices. They constantly disrupted her sleep, and one night, feeling scared and fatigued, she saw a red vision of her soul leaving her body. She walked to St. Paul's Hospital and checked herself in. Later she was diagnosed with schizophrenia.

Over the next 15 years, her life was largely controlled by the voices. She managed to complete a fine arts degree at Emily Carr University, but had several more stays in psychiatric wards. She tried several medications. One caused her to gain a significant amount of weight. Another made her chronically sleepy. None made the voices go away.

Into her mid-30s, she continued to be harassed by many voices and the feeling of hands on her shoulders or fingers in her ears. The voices would tell her stories about crimes they had committed as if they were trying to elicit sympathy from her. They would pick on her when she was broke and destroy experiences she enjoyed, such as listening to music. One day she left her home and went to stay with friends to escape them. On her return, she resolved that she wouldn't let them control her anymore. Soon after, she was sitting on the couch and she saw a vision of her great uncle Jack Ferguson giving her a thumbs-up. Ferguson was a Royal Canadian Air Force pilot who was shot down in World War II, and the brother of her grandmother. Merrick recognized him from pictures she had seen. He started appearing to her regularly, and sometimes along with her grandmother. They would hold up signs with simple encouraging messages, and they were a calming presence in the midst of her terrible angst.

Merrick continued to seek professional help, and during this period she was assigned to a community mental health team. For her, this was a new model of mental health delivery. It meant that instead of seeing just a psychiatrist, she would have a number of professionals including a social worker, a nurse and an occupational therapist helping her with other aspects of her life. She received help finding housing and was given a disability allowance. While she had always felt she should work, her case manager told her she should focus on her recovery. "That was the first time anybody had ever said that to me," she recalled.

Encouraged by her mental health team, she decided to map a new course. She had already explored many ways of looking at her illness, reading all kinds of books and theories. She wondered if she had experienced trauma, which frequently figures in the histories of people with schizophrenia, but concluded that she hadn't. She started researching her uncle Jack and found out fascinating details about his time in the war. She decided to ask her uncle Jack and her grandmother if they could help her. They said yes, they could.

Merrick began experiencing new voices, but these were different. They would have their own personas, and they would help her with various things. One coached her to face her fears, and another encouraged her to notice positive things. She had visited a Buddhist temple and learned to meditate, and over the next months she would spend dedicated time every day communicating with the voices she called her "spirit guides." Slowly, she started to notice changes: her depression lifted within weeks, and the negative voices that had plagued her for years started to leave her. Eventually her team considered her recovery complete, and her file was closed.

Through her treatment with the North Shore Adult Community Mental Health Team, Merrick met Gillian Walker, an occupational therapist. Walker had recently worked in London, England,

where she had become familiar with Hearing Voices. She liked the way people in the groups referred to themselves as "voice hearers" rather than "schizophrenics." To her that was an important shift. "It's the idea that these experiences don't necessarily have to be entirely viewed as mental illness. Aspects of these conditions can have other interpretations. I find the current predominantly Western medical model to be quite narrow and I don't know that it's entirely helpful to be that narrow. So Hearing Voices was a refreshing additional approach."

She and a colleague, Andrea Harowitz, both graduates of the UBC Occupational Therapy program, had been talking about several clients who had been repeatedly hospitalized. They felt that the therapies available weren't sufficient. Walker suggested they start a Hearing Voices group. They felt that Merrick, who had completed peer support training, would be an ideal fit to work with the group. They asked her to be a co-facilitator along with Harowitz. This was the first Hearing Voices group in British Columbia.

While she wasn't familiar with the Hearing Voices movement, Merrick felt that it aligned with her own way of thinking. She researched the method and began to work with the group. One of the strategies she encouraged

was for her clients to use their “good voices” to help overcome the bad ones. “Lots of people experience good voices, but we don’t associate good voices with schizophrenia because we’ve pathologized the experience,” she says. “We think a voice is a symptom of illness and therefore it’s always bad.” She points to the experience of Riggan, who is troubled by the pestering voice of Birdman but who also says it speaks “the truth.” She likens that character to the Greek daemon, as described by Carl Jung and Joseph Campbell.

“The Greeks accepted the experience of hearing voices, but the daemons were not nice. They would whip you and shove you and make sure you did the right thing. They were like Birdman.”

About six months after the group began meeting, Harowitz and Merrick spoke at the 2012 conference of Psychosocial Rehabilitation Canada in Vancouver. This helped generate interest in Hearing Voices. Now, Vancouver General Hospital and Coast Mental Health have groups, and a community group also meets in Vancouver.

Walker also reached out to one of her former instructors at UBC, Michael Lee. She and Merrick visited his psycho-social rehabilitation classes several times to talk to students in the Master’s of Occupational Therapy program. He appreciated their visits because he feels that the Hearing Voices approach gives a necessary new dimension to the treatment of mental illness.

“For the longest time we looked at hearing voices as a medical problem and didn’t really look at how it impacted on the person’s daily life. We would say, ‘OK, you’re hearing voices, take medication,’” says Lee, pointing out that the role of the occupational therapist is to help a client resume their normal activities. While more therapists are starting Hearing Voices groups, there is not much evidence supporting its effectiveness. So in discussions with Walker, Lee agreed to be the principal investigator on a multi-phase small-scale research project. Three pairs of students will be contributing towards this research project, which is part of the requirements of their master’s degrees. They will be investigating how participating in the Hearing Voices group impacts on different aspects of recovery.

“We believe it is very crucial to enable people hearing voices to have an opportunity to voice their perception, rather than what we’ve been doing for the longest time, which is having professionals, doctors or therapists, describing the problem. Now we encourage people with lived experience to come forward and tell us the meaning. So this is quite a bit of a cultural shift,” says Lee.



Hearing Voices is currently known as an “emerging practice,” not an “evidence-based practice,” and Walker acknowledges that the model is not for everyone and that more peer-reviewed research needs to be done.

Hearing Voices is currently known as an “emerging practice,” not an “evidence-based practice,” and Walker acknowledges that the model is not for everyone and that more peer-reviewed research needs to be done. But she has seen the benefits that group members have gained. Much research has supported the therapeutic effects of meeting others with similar experiences, and people who hear voices have previously not had this benefit. She thinks that Hearing Voices resonated with others in the mental health community in Vancouver because they acknowledged the limitations of the therapies currently available.

“One of our clients right now is about 19, he was recently diagnosed, and he comes to the group and he says, ‘I’m okay with being diagnosed with the illness model, I’m okay taking meds and with the idea that there may be something wrong with my brain. But another part of me feels like I had a really spiritual experience, and I’m interested in talking about that.’ I think that means that he’s still holding on to who he is, and he’s not seeing the experience entirely as symptom. I think that’s an example of how Hearing Voices has helped someone look at their identity, and where does it fit in the diagnosis. Whereas in the past, I don’t know if that conversation would have been possible.”

YOU DON’T HAVE TO BE LOUD TO BE HEARD.

Learn the art of effective interpersonal and organizational communication at our School of Communication and Culture.

To find out more, call **1.877.778.6227** or visit royalroads.ca/communication



LIFE.CHANGING



KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN AND HOLD YOUR FINISH: The Art of Varsity Golf

BY CHRIS PETTY, MFA'85

When Cory Renfrew, BA'09, walked up to the green at the 16th hole of the Phoenix Open in February he had no idea of the ruckus he would cause. Golf fans are usually as demure as tennis spectators, maybe more so, but the Phoenix Open has traditionally been a rowdier event, especially in the bleachers behind the 16th green, known as "the loudest hole in golf."

Renfrew, a star during his time as a varsity player at UBC, and a regular on the PGA Canada tour, made it into the Phoenix Open by shooting a 66 during a qualifying round. He ultimately tied for 59th (ahead of the likes of Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson), but during his final round he placed his second shot on the 16th just off the green, 55 yards from the pin. Renfrew sussed the shot, lined it up and popped a little chip toward the pin. The ball took a couple of bounces then rolled, rolled and rolled, right into the cup.

Fans in the bleachers roared and leapt to their feet, throwing cups and cans over the edge in a waterfall of beer. Renfrew pumped his fist, then watched the crowd in amazement. It's a moment in his golf career he's never likely to forget.

Contrast that scene with one of an older gentleman practicing chip shots at Shaughnessy Golf and Country Club in Vancouver. He struck a lovely shot that arced up, bounced a couple of times and dropped into a hole 30 feet away.

"Wow, great shot," said a member of the UBC women's varsity team, practicing on the same green. He smiled at her and said, "it would have been if that was the hole I was going for." Those two examples pretty much cover the joys and the agonies of the game of golf.

Golf is a strange game. As a varsity sport it's not like volleyball, football, basketball, soccer or hockey. For one thing, not many people who play varsity in any of those big five are likely to still be playing in their 40s, 50s or 60s. The knees go, the back hurts, or the lungs just can't keep up. A reasonable golfer, on the other hand, can play well into his or her 80s. Surveys show that more Canadians golf than play any other sport.

Another aspect about golf is that the very worst player – one who will never break 100 in his or her lifetime – can hit at least one shot per round that would make any pro proud. It might be a putt or a chip or a shot out of a trap, but that one shot will be great. Better golfers will make more of these shots, and it's the hope of all golfers (or firm belief) that they will be able to hit even more great shots the next round. Golf doesn't demand great prowess in the weekend player, just determination.

But of course the players on UBC's team aren't weekend players. They're the university equivalent of pros, performing in the top five per cent, or better, of all golfers in the world. These are golfers who consider par the bare minimum of adequate achievement, who can consistently reach a green in regulation and aren't daunted by sand traps, rough or undulating greens. They are to weekend players what Milos Raonic or Eugenie Bouchard are to occasional tennis players. As they say on *The Golf Channel*, these guys are good.



Women's captain Reagan Wilson holds her finish. Photo credit: Rich Lam

The Thunderbird varsity golf team is made up of 11 men and six women, and plays in tournaments against the best university golfers on the continent. T-Bird golf joined the NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics), a North American league of 175 medium-to-small schools, in 1999. Since then, the team has won a total of five championships. For comparison purposes, neither UVic nor SFU, when it competed in NAIA, have won a championship. UBC is ranked number one among Canadian varsity golf teams. The men's team is ranked third in the entire NAIA, while the women's team is ranked fifth. As head coach Chris MacDonald says, UBC's program is the gold standard for collegiate golf in this country.

MacDonald joined the program in 2000, and is generally credited with its growth and success. He played at the high amateur level for many years, then turned to teaching and player development. He was an assistant pro at Nicklaus North, where he ran the Sea to Sky Junior Golf Tour, and is currently associate pro at Shaughnessy, a position he's held for 11 years. During his time at UBC, he has been named NAIA Coach of the Year four times.

Under his leadership, the women's team has won three NAIA championships, three silvers and three bronze medals, and won the Royal Canadian Golf Association's Canadian University Championship ten of the last 12 years. In mid March, they won the 2015 Battle of Primm tourney in California by ten strokes, carding the second best round in school history. A week later, they placed third at the Montana State Bobcat Springs invitational against an all-NCAA field.

On the men's side, MacDonald led the T-Bird team to the 2008 NAIA National Championship, the first championship won by a team outside the US. The men's team is also a consistent winner at the

Canadian University Championships and places top ten in the majority of its NAIA competitions.

Coach MacDonald has strong ties with some of the best golf courses in the Lower Mainland – Shaughnessy, Point Grey, Beach Grove, Musqueam and Marine Drive particularly – where team members get to play and practice at no charge. "Learning and playing at home on top calibre courses like these gives us a real edge over other Canadian varsity programs," he says, and is part of the reason the program attracts Canada's top golfers.

He's also built relationships with teams and leagues across North America, which helps him book courses and tournaments other NAIA teams might not have access to. "We get to play against Division 1 NCAA teams," says MacDonald. "The NAIA has no limitations on who we play, and NCAA ratings aren't affected by NAIA teams, even when we beat them. We get to play the best university teams in North America and our players get to compete at the highest level."

Exposure to top-ranked NCAA teams pays off. Not only does the team rank near the top in both men's and women's divisions, current players are considered some of the top university golfers in North America. "Evan Holmes, one of our third year players, ranks in the top 50 in North America," says MacDonald, "and Jack Wood ranks in the top 100. This is pretty impressive for a Canadian school."

The women's team has also had a big impact. "Over the years we've built a strong women's varsity team," he says. "Players like Kyla Inaba and Eileen Kelly (both '09) were stars during their varsity years, and have gone on to work as professionals in the golf world. It's a great training ground."

Reagan Wilson is both a typical and an exceptional member of T-Bird golf. A fifth year Kinesiology student, she has been playing varsity golf since her freshman

The players on UBC's team aren't weekend players. They're the university equivalent of pros, performing in the top five per cent, or better, of all golfers in the world.



Coach Chris MacDonald (right) with Nate Ollis. Photo credit: Wilson Wong.

year. "I started playing golf in Calgary when I was five," she says. "My dad was a fanatic and he showed me how to play. Even as a little kid, people told me I had a great swing. I played a lot of hockey and volleyball in high school, but when I was 17 or so, I decided golf was my game."

She didn't compete or play on the high school team, so she had no official golf resume to qualify her as a potential scholarship golfer at any university. "I looked around at various schools, but if you want to stay in Canada and play golf, UBC is the only place. UBC has the best varsity golf program in the country, and one of the best academic reputations, so I came in to talk to Chris. He watched me play and invited me to join the team as a developmental player. He took me on faith, but I think I've done pretty well."

Pretty well, indeed. She struggled her first year, trying to get a rhythm going with her studies, the gruelling travel for tournaments and the need to practice, but by third year she was winning tournaments, and was named captain of the women's team. "It is demanding," she says, "but it's been a great experience."

Wilson graduates this year and unlike many new grads, has a job to go to. "I start as an assistant pro at the Calgary Golf and Country Club on June 1st," she says. "My goal is to get my pro card and become a fulltime golf instructor. My coach at UBC, Keri Moffat, has been an inspiration. Teaching is what I want to do. I can't wait to make other people love the game as much as I do."

Players in all varsity teams are committed to high achievement in academics as well as their athletic endeavours, and graduate with degrees from every faculty and department. And while many grads, like Wilson, will pursue employment in the golf world as course pros, administrators, teachers and broadcasters, many others go on to become doctors, lawyers, teachers, accountants and professionals in all fields. "I got a call from one of our grads in California," says MacDonald. "She's an engineer in Los Angeles, and went out for a round of golf with her boss. She shot a 67." Maybe not the best way to get on the good side of your boss, but what can you do? These guys are good. ■



REAGAN WILSON'S GOLF TIPS

- "Have fun! Golf can teach you a lot if you don't let it get you mad."
- "Keep your head down and hold your finish. That's from my Dad. It works."



The Women's Gymnasium being coralled by the Buchanan Building (1960)

FAIR PLAY

The Old Gymnasium and the early history of women's athletics at UBC

BY ERWIN WODARCZAK

When UBC moved to Point Grey in 1925, the facility most obviously lacking from the new campus was a gymnasium. A gym had been included in the initial plans, but the unexpectedly large costs of other construction had forced its cancellation. Varsity basketball and other teams had to hold practices and play "home" games at Vancouver school gyms, church halls, or YMCA/YWCA facilities.

There was also a distinct inequality between men's and women's sports in this era, and the lack of facilities made this even more obvious. Women's teams had to schedule their practices around those for the men, usually very early or very late in the day, and Women's Gymnasium Club sessions were limited to an hour a week.

It was not until 1929 that a workable scheme to pay for a gymnasium was approved. The Alma Mater Society was legally incorporated under British Columbia's Societies Act, enabling it to float a bond issue of \$35,000. Students then committed the refundable portion of their Caution Money (a \$10 fee deposited as security for good conduct and against possible damages) towards repaying the loan.



Members of the Women's Basketball Senior A team on their way to Prague.

The gymnasium was built over the summer of 1929, and officially opened on November 9. The main playing floor was 6,000 square feet and surrounded by seating for up to 1,400 spectators. As impressive as it looked, however, the building was practically an empty shell; there was no money left to pay for furnishings or athletic equipment. To cover this shortfall, the Alumni Association organized its own campaign to raise \$3,000 for equipment and furniture.

The new building soon became a centre of student activity. UBC varsity basketball teams played there – not only against local teams, but against touring squads such as the Harlem Globetrotters. Women's basketball was particularly successful; in 1930 the Senior A team won the opportunity to compete at the Women's International Games. Unfortunately, women's sports were still treated like an afterthought. While the university gave the team permission to go, it refused to provide financial support. It took another student campaign to earn the team enough money to travel to Prague that September, where they eventually won the world championship.

The gym also hosted team practices, intramural sports events, and athletic club sessions, as well as pep rallies and post-game dances. Until Brock Hall was built in 1940, it was one of the few places on campus where clubs could meet and students could socialize. According to legend it was a favourite haunt of former UBC Chancellor and BC Chief Justice Nathan Nemetz during his undergraduate days. "Sonny" Nemetz supposedly spent so much time playing chess and blackjack in one of the gym's meeting rooms that he almost flunked out of first year. Only the intervention of History Department head Walter Sage saved him – he promised to recommend Nemetz for the history honours program, but only if he would stop missing so many lectures.

The gymnasium campaign – the first such student-led fundraising initiative – had set an important precedent for the further development of the UBC campus. It

"We would have liked more opportunities to use War Memorial," recalls Marilyn Pomfret, a physical education student during the 1950s, "but we still liked the old gym."

was followed several years later by the funding and construction of the first stadium and playing fields; the campaign to build Brock Hall in 1940; and the War Memorial Gymnasium campaign of the late 1940s.

Initial plans for Brock Hall included a "women's gymnasium," as by the mid-1930s the increasing student population was driving a growing demand for recreational space. Although the gym never materialized, and women's programs were still given low priority, funds left over after the construction of Brock Hall were at least earmarked for women's sports equipment.

The need for expanded facilities continued to grow over the following decade – even during the Second World War, when extra-curricular activities were supposedly curtailed. While women's use of the gym was restricted in favour of military requirements, however, time was still found for men's programs. The disparity was also illustrated by the relative lack of women's sports coverage in *The Ubysey*. This was addressed only when women reporters joined the publication's staff.

The space shortage was not rectified until the opening of War Memorial Gymnasium in 1951. The older building came to be used largely for women's sports and recreation, and became known as the



The T-birds take on the Harlem Globetrotters in the Old Gym, 1946. Pictured left is student Patrick McGeer, now a leading authority on Alzheimer's disease.

Women's Gymnasium. While women now had their own space for athletics (although some men's activities continued there), it was arguably a "hand-me-down" facility compared with the brand-new War Memorial gym.

"We would have liked more opportunities to use War Memorial," recalls Marilyn Pomfret, *BPE'54*, a physical education student during the 1950s, "but we still liked the old gym." Pomfret, who was later a UBC professor, coach, and women's athletic director, remembers the Women's Gymnasium well. "The floor was just big enough for a regulation-size basketball court, or two non-regulation volleyball courts. The volleyball courts were small – to serve, you had to stand on the bottom row of the bleachers!

"The Women's Athletic Directorate, a student leadership group made up of sport managers and an elected executive, had an office at the south-east corner. It was very small, with a low, sloped ceiling that the taller girls had to be careful about. But it had its own door to the outside – a small side-door hidden behind some bushes – and we had a key, so we could come and go as we pleased, even after hours."

Students could sneak in through the office for late-night pick-up games, according to Pomfret and her friend, Thelma Sharp Cook, *BE'58*, another student athlete from the same period and later UBC professor of education. "The basement also became a popular place to study or even sleep, especially during exam time," recalls Cook. "Sometimes the janitor or night-watchman would catch us, but they knew we were good students, so we weren't

kicked out. There was another small room in the northwest corner of the building – there were always girls there playing bridge. The gym was like an unofficial

clubhouse for women students in those days. Most were involved in athletics, but all were welcome."

Despite its small size and obscure location, the women's athletic office regularly received at least one prominent visitor. "Norman MacKenzie heard about it from his daughter – he must have figured that since he liked her friends, he would like us," laughs Pomfret. "If he was

out walking his dog on Sunday he would stop by to visit – he'd just knock on the little door. He'd sit down, put up his feet, and chat with whoever was there. It was a way for him to get inside information, from the students' point of view that, as university president, he might not otherwise hear."

During the 1950s and 60s the campus landscape around the Women's Gymnasium changed radically.

UBC's women athletes had contributed significantly to the development of organized sport for both men and women across the province.



Women's Gymnasium (1970)
"The women's gym will have to go," said UBC president Doug Kenny in September 1969. The decision wasn't a popular one.



The Women's Athletic Directorate in 1954. Marilyn Pomfret (L) is conducting the meeting. Photo courtesy AMS Archives.

What was originally open space was taken up by the Buchanan Building in 1958. As the Faculty of Arts continued to expand, Buchanan became too small to hold all its departments and programs. By 1969 it was obvious that the gym's days were numbered. "The choice [for an extension of Buchanan] is between a high-rise type semi-office establishment on the present site of the women's gym and a large horizontal expansion down East Mall," UBC president Doug Kenny told *The Ubyyssey* that September. "In any case the women's gym will have to go."

In response, the AMS Student Council passed a resolution calling on the Board of Governors to provide "an adequate replacement" for all students to share fairly. The resolution appeared to have no effect, and Pomfret, by then director of Women's Athletics, remembers a further student initiative in response to this lack of action.

"As plans for [the gym's] destruction moved ahead, there was no talk of an intended replacement," she recalls. "Well, this rather riled the girls." After all, UBC's women athletes and managers were directly involved in the operations of the Women's Athletic Directorate and over the years had contributed significantly to the development of organized sport for both men and women across the province.

The students prepared a report outlining their position on the need for adequate sports facilities and equitable access. Pomfret remembers it getting backing from many prominent people on campus. A request was made to present it to the Board of Governors, which was finally granted. "Two students spoke," says Pomfret, who was in attendance, "and we were told they were the first students ever to present to the (rather secretive) board... Nathan Nemetz was board chair and, as the girls paused [during their presentation], he asked several times: 'So you want a new Women's Gym?' The response: 'No, Sir. We want a new Gym where everyone can play – women, girls, men, boys.' And a little later: 'So you want a new Women's Gym?' Same answer: 'No, Sir...' The point was well made."

Cook and Pomfret remember plans to form a human chain around the gym, to prevent or at least delay its demolition until a replacement facility was approved. Students discussed it over the spring and early summer of

1970, assuming that the demolition would not occur until the fall. However, work crews arrived in August, and by the time students returned from summer vacation the site of the Women's Gymnasium was a vacant lot.

"The only thing that survived from the gym were the floorboards," remembers Pomfret. "They were salvaged and re-sold by the university because they were still in such good condition."

Fortunately, the pressure exerted by women athletes and their supporters did have an effect. According to Pomfret, it was one of the factors behind the board's later approval of the Bob Osborne Centre, planning for which got underway in 1970. Opportunities for women would flourish under Pomfret's tenure as Women's Athletic Director. Inducted into UBC's Sports Hall of Fame in 1994, she is credited with developing athletic opportunities for women at UBC and across Canada, in particular by initiating the establishment of national championships for university women.

All but forgotten today, the first UBC gymnasium, initiated and funded by students, was a milestone in the development of the university. In its later incarnation as the Women's Gymnasium, it offered women opportunities for athletic accomplishment. And even in its demise, the gym became the focus of a concerted team effort to save it that typifies the spirit of Athletics at UBC today. 📌



One of three Big Block woman's pendants found underneath a file cabinet just before the Women's Gymnasium was demolished.

HIDDEN TREASURE

Just before the old gym was pulled down, it divulged one more story to add to the history of women's athletics at UBC.

"In the Women's Athletic Directorate office," remembers Marilyn Pomfret, "there was a file cabinet containing the teams' files. When it became obvious in 1970 that the gym was going, the students came to get the cabinet and rescue the files. As it was pulled aside, underneath it they found three gold pendants with the UBC Big Block symbol."

Whom the pendants belonged to is forgotten. They were originally thought to have been awarded at the inauguration of the Women's Big Block Club in 1931. The club had been organized in part to recognize the Senior A women's basketball world championship the previous year. It was also intended to raise the status of women's sports by including them in the Big Block program, initiated the year before.

Further research, however, revealed that the pendants had been commissioned from Birks Jewellers at least a decade earlier. Most likely they were awarded in conjunction with UBC's first Presentation Day in March 1921. This predecessor of the Big Block Club awarded letters to outstanding athletes (both male and female), as well as participants in Literary and Scientific Department activities.

"The girls from the directorate presented two of them to Marilyn and me," says Thelma Cook. "The third one had a little different design – a 'U' around the 'BC' surrounded by blue enamel. That one was supposed to go to Brenda Chinn, who was president of the Women's Athletic Association at the time and is now with BC School Sports. Unfortunately it was stolen before it could be gifted to Brenda – so she'll inherit mine."



Bang acted alongside Hollywood heavyweights Seth Rogen (centre) and James Franco. Photo: Sony Pictures Entertainment

DIANA BANG: THE INTERVIEW INTERVIEW

One of the biggest news stories at the end of last year was that of hackers attacking Sony Pictures Entertainment and issuing a menacing warning about what might ensue if *The Interview*, a comedy about an assassination attempt on the leader of North Korea, were to be released by the distributors. There was much speculation about who was behind the hacking (likely North Korea, which had issued similar threats in June, said the FBI. No, not us, but clearly someone righteous, said the North Korean authorities). Fearing terrorist attacks, some cinema chains pulled out and Sony cancelled the release. This decision drew criticism from Barack Obama, among others. In the end, the film was released in select cinemas and made available online, soon becoming Sony's most successful digital release.

Diana Bang, BA'04, who was born in Vancouver to Korean immigrants, played the character of North Korean government official Sook-Yin Park – the romantic interest of Seth Rogen's character in the movie. You may remember Bang from her previous roles in TV series *The Killing* and *Bates Motel*, and her lead role in Rob Leickner's indie feature, *Lost Lagoon*, which won Best Canadian Feature at the Reel World Film Festival. Here she talks about her route into the profession and the experience of being cast in a big Hollywood production.

When did your acting ambitions first take hold and why?

I think I've always wanted to do it from the time I saw kids on TV pretending to be detectives. Their adventures seemed so much more exciting than my mundane life. But before acting, I wanted to be a dancer. I think I just wanted to perform in some way, shape or form. However, I was never encouraged to act or dance, nor did I excel at it in school. I was shy when I was younger and dreamt about performing rather than actually doing it.

What was your route into the acting profession?

While at UBC, I actually took a 100 level acting course, but at the end was told by the professor that I should not continue with acting as I did not have the personality for it. While a comment like that did not completely scar me or stop me, it did lead me away from acting for about a year. I ended up really finding my voice and stride when I fell into doing sketch comedy with a group called Assaulted Fish. It was an environment that fostered my confidence and ability as a performer, and introduced me to the world of writing. Within a couple of years of performing with Assaulted Fish, I was encouraged to pursue acting more seriously, so I took some courses around town and found an agent. Then I began my roller coaster journey towards becoming a working actor. It's still a work in progress!

Tell us how you landed your role in *The Interview*.

I auditioned for the role. It's very rare for someone who doesn't have some star power to be in a Hollywood film, but it was a niche role that I somehow, and luckily, fit.

How would you describe the character of Sook?

She's strong, intelligent and badass.

How did you prepare for the role?

I watched whatever I could find on North Korea, and read blogs from North Korean defectors to get a sense of what was going on. I also had to work on my Korean as my Korean skills are equivalent to that of a two year old. I had to enlist the help of my mom and her friends, and friends of her friends, to help me translate some of the English into North Korean, which is different from the South Korean dialect.

What was the most challenging thing about it?

And the most fun?

I'd say the most challenging was trying to speak Korean when I was just given new dialogue right before shooting. I generally need to practice Korean before I can actually say it properly and with ease, so having to get things translated by random Korean extras and then being able to say it properly soon after was definitely a challenge. I'm sure there is tons of footage of me speaking gibberish rather than Korean. The most fun was doing the physical action stuff, like shooting the gun, punching people and kicking down doors. I love pretending to be a badass.



What was the atmosphere like on set?

The atmosphere was very relaxed and good-natured. Everyone in the crew always expressed to me how lucky and spoiled they felt working on this set. Seth [Rogen] and Evan [Goldberg] really set the bar high for maintaining a fun, relaxed and creative environment, and it all started with their easy attitudes. They enjoyed playing and being spontaneous.

What was the initial reaction among cast and crew to the hacking incident and cancellation of screenings?

I'm sure people were shocked and probably disappointed about the cancellation of screenings, but I don't really know, as I was in Vancouver, away from the hubbub.

And in retrospect, what are your thoughts about this incident?

It's still very surreal for me and I wouldn't be surprised if there was a movie about this whole incident in the future. In the end, I'm glad people got to see *The Interview*, whether in a movie theatre or on their TVs at home. There were many people who worked extremely hard to make it happen, and I'm pleased people are getting to see their work.

How was the red carpet experience at the premiere?

It was just like any other movie-going experience, except I got fancied up, had to take photos down a short red carpet, and saw random Hollywood stars. So, you know, typical.

What's next?

Whatever comes my way! 🍷

www.dianabang.com

@thedianabang



CASTE AGAINST TYPE

A school in India is offering children from the country's lowest-ranking caste a path out of poverty. Its first class of students is about to sit national exams, and a lot rests on their shoulders. UBC film production alumna Madeleine Grant decided to document their progress.

BY MADELEINE GRANT, BA'06

I'm in India, in the dining hall of a school in the middle of rural nowhere. The school is for children from the lowest caste, the former "untouchables," but the only reason I know this is from reading about the school a couple of months earlier, after my sister came across it on a random Google search. We'd been hunting for quality volunteer opportunities in India (surprisingly difficult to find) and Shanti Bhavan School in rural Tamil Nadu stood out. Now here we are, my sister and I, an aspiring teacher and a Vancouver-based filmmaker.

In person, we find the students to be charming individuals with big dreams. They range from preschool to 10th grade and aspire to be everything from astronauts through to nuclear physicists. Caste and class discrimination have no place in this environment, for all their continued presence in the slums and rural villages the students call home. The goal of Shanti Bhavan School is to provide the highest level of education to children from the poorest of poor backgrounds, those designated by the government as belonging to "backward classes." South Indian-raised entrepreneur Dr. Abraham George founded the school in 1997, seeing quality education as key to empowering the destitute and breaking entrenched cycles of socio-economic disadvantage. The school is an embodiment of the American Dream, but this is a truth only driven home to me today, in the dining hall, toward the end of my stay at the school.

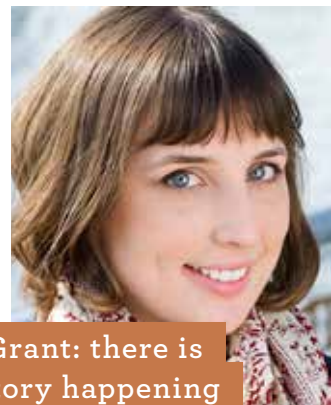
For weeks the school has been on collective tenterhooks. The oldest students, the 10th graders, have been preparing to write the national 10th grade exams. Educated at Shanti Bhavan since preschool, they will be the first of the school's students to face

nationally standardized exams. How they do will help prove or disprove the main hypothesis of the school – that given the opportunity, any child can succeed. The school is tense with anticipation, and the 10th graders have been isolated from the other students to allow them to concentrate.

Today is the first day of exams, and the 10th graders have already filed nervously into the exam hall. The rest of the school carries on with their morning. It is lunchtime when the exam finishes, and I am standing at the entrance to the dining hall when the 10th graders start coming in all at once. I'm not sure who spots them first, but the reaction is instantaneous. Everyone rises from their meal as one, bursting into a spontaneous standing ovation that includes the entire school, from preschoolers to kitchen staff. The shared selfless joy at the accomplishment and potential embodied within the 10th graders almost overpowers me. It is a revelatory experience. It isn't until this precise moment that I fully realize what it means to have access to quality education, and the doors it can open.

My sister and I carry on with our travels, but in the back of my mind the Shanti Bhavan experience stays with me. I decide that one day I will write a fiction film set there (after all, narrative fiction-filmmaking is what I have training in). In the meantime, I meet more and more families all over the world who are bending over backwards to provide their children with a level of education I've received and taken for granted. It makes me think about what I'm doing with this education I have, which is worth such sacrifice to so many families.

The global economic crisis hits in 2008 and Dr. George (the main financier of Shanti Bhavan School) suffers huge losses. It looks like the school is going to close. The students with whom I was recently studying geography and reading *Macbeth* will go back to their families, to communities where stone-breaking and housecleaning for pitifully minimal wages is the norm. I don't feel capable of singlehandedly taking on fundraising or other similar missions, but I have trained in filmmaking and I like to think of myself as a storyteller. We had an amazing documentary professor at UBC, Academy-Award winning director John Zaritsky, and there is a real-life story happening at this school on the opposite side of the world that is way better than anything I could ever write. The former 10th graders, who did exceptionally well on



Madeleine Grant: there is a real-life story happening at this school on the opposite side of the world that is way better than anything I could ever write.

those initial exams, are now heading into 12th grade. Given the school's current financial status, they may or may not be the last class of the school to do so. Whether they graduate on to college or not will determine many fates. It is a story that is happening now, and a story which may no longer exist a year from now.

I pitch the idea of a documentary to Shanti Bhavan's director of Operations in New York and then – upon return to Vancouver – to a variety of funding organizations and colleagues in the film industry. I continue to develop the proposal even as I work full-time in the art department on other Vancouver-based TV and film productions. The story is overwhelmingly acknowledged as having promise, but the fact that I am a first-time feature filmmaker is an obstacle. I am encouraged to shoot something short to begin

with, and bring it back to potential financiers for approval and hopefully support. I set out to India with two UBC film production grads as my crew, the extremely talented Mike Rae (BA'05, cinematographer) and Greg Ng (BA'05, sound-person/editor), with the intent of coming back in six weeks. Five weeks in, the Indian government changes its visa regulations and I have a choice: either leave with the possibility that I might not be allowed back in the country in time to complete filming on the documentary, or stay on and shoot the whole thing on a shoestring budget.

Due to prior commitments, my filmmaking team has to go back to Canada, and they do. I do not. I find myself in the corner of the school field, the only patch of campus with cell phone reception (one bar), on the phone with my producing partner Jessica Cheung, BA'06. Jessica, also a UBC film production grad, goes into intense producer mode and calls anyone and everyone she knows. The pitch is simple, but demanding. We need a cinematographer who can come film in India for three months on a deferral basis, which essentially means three months of living with children at a school in a developing country with limited electricity, no Internet access, and no pay aside from flight and accommodation throughout the entire time. In addition to all this, they'd need to leave within the next two weeks.

Jessica's top choice is Nathan Drillot, a Vancouver-based cinematographer with international work experience. She's worked with him before. Nathan has a ton on his plate though, and initially declines. Within 24 hours he's called her back, however; this is a story and opportunity he can't let himself miss. Within 14 days he's on his way to India, and I meet him for the first time at 3:00 am at the Bangalore airport. He integrates within the Shanti Bhavan community in no time, and his



The pitch is simple, but demanding. We need a cinematographer who can come film in India for three months on a deferral basis, which essentially means three months of living with children at a school in a developing country with limited electricity, no Internet access, and no pay aside from flight and accommodation.

cinematography helps shape the entire look of the film. It is one of many serendipitous episodes that lead to the creation of the documentary *The Backward Class*.

We end up spending eight months in India, shooting at Shanti Bhavan school for the

most part in 2009-2010 and then again in 2012. UBC film production alumna Aynsley Baldwin is so inspired by the story she pays for her own flight to join the film crew in India as sound-person, and ends up coming on board as editor once back in Vancouver.

The editing process is of epic proportions, spanning approximately three years (due in part to financing – or lack thereof). The entire project, which I'd estimated would take us two or three years in total, clocks in at approximately five years by the time we finally finish, three days before the documentary's world premiere at North America's biggest documentary festival, Hot Docs. We're able to bring two of the students along to the screening, and we end up winning the Audience Award (top out of 197 films). The film goes on to win various other awards at festivals throughout Canada, and we end up getting theatrical distribution, a big deal for an independent Canadian documentary.

The Backward Class has played to acclaim in Toronto and Vancouver and continues to play at festivals nationally and internationally. It is an exciting time, and incredibly validating for our team of collaborators to know that audiences are connecting strongly with a story that we've believed in for so many years. As for the three students who've been to Canada to attend film screenings – each has said it is as though their own memories are up on screen, which is for me the ultimate accolade. I was fortunate enough to receive a world-class education, and I'm excited to be able to share the stories of students who were able to receive the same. 📺

After double-sold out screenings at its opening weekend in Vancouver this April, *The Backward Class* will continue to screen in a variety of venues across Canada. It is also scheduled to play on BC's Knowledge Network and TVOntario in 2016. Grant is working on facilitating international distribution opportunities, including theatrical screenings in the US.

For screening times, see the website and social media: www.thebackwardclass.com @BackwardClass @madeleine_grant



The crew spends eight months shooting in India.

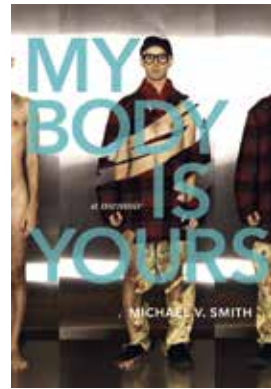
BOOKS

REVIEWS BY TERESA GOFF

MY BODY IS YOURS

Arsenal Pulp Press
236 pp.

Michael V. Smith, MFA'98
Assistant Professor
of Creative Writing,
UBC Okanagan

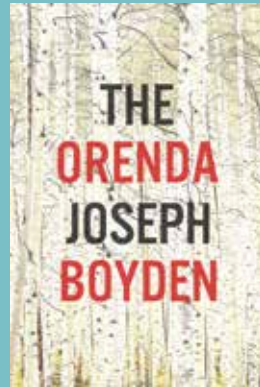


In his provocative
and candid memoir,
My Body is Yours,

Michael V. Smith tells the story of growing up an inadequate male in a small town. In sometimes startling detail, he describes what it is like to be the child of an alcoholic father, how obsessive compulsive disorder creates addictions and compulsions similar to alcoholism, and how difficult it has been to reconcile his fey, sissy self with societal gender expectations. At the heart of the book is a community of queer artists and left-leaning politicians who have helped Smith create both an artistic and personal space for self-expression while challenging notions of masculinity.

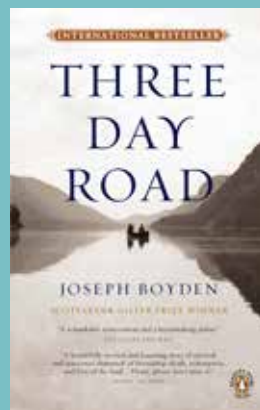
Smith alternates between anecdotes that include childhood memories, hospital visits to his father, and explicit sexual encounters in private and in public, but he balances all graphic details with deep, meaningful moments of reflection. He does so by referencing the words of writers, philosophers and poets as well as people like anthropologist Loren Eiseley, who says that we are process not reality. To this, Smith adds the idea that gender is something you create rather than something you are born with. Gender, according to him, is a theatre we all perform. It's just that some performances, such as those of heterosexual males and females, are more widely accepted than others. This idea is why people feel threatened by Smith, and by his drag persona, Miss Cookie LaWhore.

At the end of Smith's memoir, he has come to terms with his inadequate masculinity as well as his inadequate, alcoholic father. Anyone who believes that gender is a simple binary should read this. But be forewarned, it is as graphic as it is illuminating.



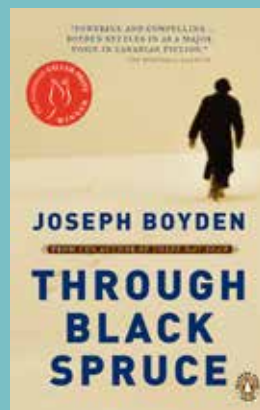
THE ORENDA

Penguin Canada, 2013
490 pp.



THROUGH BLACK SPRUCE

Penguin Canada, 2009
359 pp.



THREE DAY ROAD

Penguin Canada, 2008
384 pp.

A trilogy by Joseph Boyden
(UBC Lecturer, Creative Writing Program)

Joseph Boyden's trilogy, comprising *The Orenda*, *Three Day Road* and *Through Black Spruce*, attempts to reconcile the cycle of violence and injustice done to First Nations peoples with the reality of day-to-day existence. The books explore themes of friendship, family, loss, redemption, survival, innocence and identity, and while the novels unfold chronologically – from the 17th century to the First World War up to the present day – there is no need to read them in order. In fact, Boyden wrote *The Orenda*, which takes place in the 1600s, after the other two books. In combination, the three novels tie together threads of violence, racism and addiction so often emphasized in writing about native peoples, but Boyden upsets this simplistic narrative by telling a story across centuries and placing the horrific alongside the human, revealing that the need to love and be loved gives one the will to survive.

The seventeenth century Huron warrior, Bird, from *The Orenda* is an ancestor of Cree sniper Xavier Bird, whose story is told alongside his aunt, Niska, and friend, Elijah Whiskeyjack, in *Three Day Road*, a haunting tale of the horrors and brutality of the Great War. Niska's life in the bush is in stark contrast to the residential school, which wrecked Elijah, and the war, which destroyed Xavier's body and spirit. The story is one of death and devastation but in the end, it is a tale of healing and love.

Both Niska and Xavier also figure in *Through Black Spruce*, a story about legendary Cree bush pilot Will Bird, son of Xavier. Will's niece, Annie, is a favourite of her grandfather, Xavier. She also has the seeing powers of Niska, her great aunt. Annie and Will's story is characterized by obsession and addiction as well as the juxtaposition of the urban and rural. Like the other two novels, there is murder and mayhem. Women are raped and beaten. Drugs and alcohol are abundant and problematic.

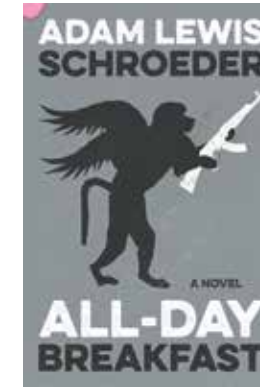
In the end, Boyden's masterful storytelling shows how it is possible to soldier on in the face of violence and injustice. In combination, the three novels elucidate a long, complicated history so often breezed over in news reports and anecdotes. While there are no answers here, Boyden reveals that life is as simple as it is complex.

Three Day Road won the Amazon/Books in Canada First Novel Award and the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize in 2006. *Through Black Spruce* won the 2008 Scotiabank Giller Prize.

ALL-DAY BREAKFAST

Douglas & McIntyre, 2015
378 pp.

Adam Lewis Schroeder,
BFA'95, MFA'99
(UBC Lecturer,
Creative Writing Program)



Adam Lewis Schroeder has used hyperbole, satire and sarcasm in crafting *All-Day Breakfast*, a humorous zombie tale that is a social commentary on apathy, consumerism and racism. A large part of the story revolves around the gory, meaningless violence that has killed more than five million people in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) since 1998. The book alternates between the loss of limbs in the DRC with the body parts that fall off and are then stapled back on to high school substitute teacher Peter Giller and his zombie students. As with all humour writing, *All-Day Breakfast* is transgressive. It uses the living dead as a metaphor to highlight the wilful ignorance the general public shows toward global atrocities.

Giller, whose wife recently died from stomach cancer, tries his best to raise his two children in the most normal way possible. But he is falling apart. When he refuses to sign a petition in support of the Nbzambi March, an initiative intended to raise awareness of the atrocities in the DRC, one of his students accuses Giller of putting his children's needs over the greater good. "Nice priorities," says Grace, who tells Giller that Nbzambi is the Congolese word for the walking dead.

Even before the accident during a class trip that turns Giller and his students into zombies, Giller is half dead. After the accident, though, Giller and the students develop an obsession with bacon, an inexplicable urge to commit violence and an unnerving ability to drop fingers and other body parts then staple them back on. Houses are burned down. People are run down in the street. Violence escalates. So does the urge to eat bacon. Through all of this, Giller attempts to maintain whatever shreds of humanity he can.

"A zombie's anything that's wounded, like left for dead, but keeps moving forward, against all odds," says the mother of one of the zombie students. "It could be a mouse in a trap, a whacked out substitute teacher or... a reanimated corpse." To this her daughter replies, "Could be an impoverished African nation."

All-Day Breakfast speaks to the absurd ability people have of moving forward in their lives despite being half dead.

IAN MCTAGGART-COWAN: THE LEGACY OF A PIONEERING BIOLOGIST, EDUCATOR AND CONSERVATIONIST

Harbour Publishing, 2015
416 pp.

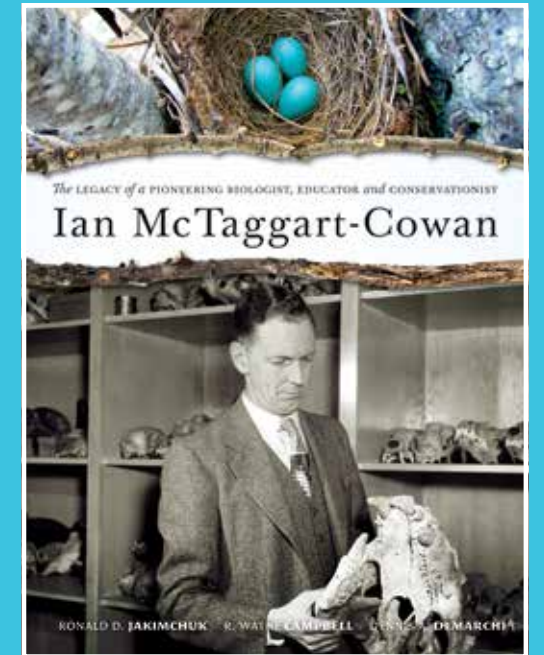
Edited by Wayne Campbell,
Dennis A. Demarchi, and
Ronald D. Jakimchuk

Zoologist and biologist Ian McTaggart-Cowan lived to be 100 years old. During his long life, he served as the curator of biology and assistant director of the British Columbia Provincial Museum, was appointed head of the Department of Zoology at UBC, served as the dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies at UBC, was named Officer of the Order of Canada, became a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, was awarded the Aldo Leopold Memorial Award by the Wildlife Society, became chancellor of the University of Victoria, co-wrote four volumes of *The Birds of British Columbia* and was recognized in 1991 by the Order of British Columbia.

The Legacy of a Pioneering Biologist, Educator and Conservationist is a tribute to his accomplishments and scientific contributions.

The book includes sections of speeches and lectures delivered by McTaggart-Cowan during his illustrious career, details of his connections to environmental organizations, as well as anecdotes from acquaintances and students. Deborah Kennedy, the development and communications manager for the Nature Trust of British Columbia, recalls a conversation she had with McTaggart-Cowan about the importance of nature as the foundation of his career. "If you spend part of your life alone in the wild," he said, "you are changed." McTaggart-Cowan spent a lot of his time alone in the wilderness, researching large mammals in Canada's national parks. His focus, from early on, had been on learning about the complexities of the natural world so that he could apply that understanding to the preservation of the environment. In a 1969 speech, he wisely noted, "The laws of our society follow the pattern of ancient ethics that are often poorly suited to governing a complex, crowded, rapidly changing, technological world."

McTaggart-Cowan worked hard to counteract what he called the natural tendency to do the wrong thing. His legacy as a leader in protecting the environment lives on in the attitudes and wisdom he shared with his students. This book is a testament to that legacy. ■



UBC's Decade of Dominance swimmers, 2015 UBC Sports Hall of Fame inductees.



T-BIRDS DIGEST



Current T-birds celebrate their 2015 men's and women's CIS National Championship victory.

finished her basketball career in second place among UBC's all-time scoring leaders with 2,384 points. She is the only T-Bird to ever win the Canada West Player of the Year award twice, while earning CIS All-Canadian and Canada West All-Star honours three times. During her five years at UBC, she twice led the Thunderbirds to the CIS Final 8 national tournament. Both times she was named a tournament all-star. She also set a new school record for points in a game, scoring 40 in a 2015 CIS quarter-final.

The Bus Phillips Memorial Trophy for Male Athlete of the Year was awarded jointly to swimmer **Coleman Allen** and baseball pitcher **Conor Lillis-White**. Allen led UBC to victory at the 2015 CIS Championships, where he set three individual butterfly records while winning four gold medals. He also is a member of the Canadian national team, representing his country

at the 2014 Commonwealth Games and earning his first international medal at a FINA World Cup meet in Singapore last fall. In 2014, Lillis-White allowed just four earned runs in 78.2 innings, setting a new UBC baseball record with a 0.46 earned run average, the best in the NAIA. The left-hander also eclipsed the old mark set by long-time Major League Baseball pitcher **Jeff Francis**. Lillis-White finished the season with a perfect 9-0 record, 75 strikeouts and three shutouts while helping the Thunderbirds to a NAIA West Grouping championship and a berth in the opening round of the NAIA World Series.

Cross country and track runner **Maria Bernard** captured the Marilyn Pomfret Trophy as UBC's Female Athlete of the Year. Last spring, she led the women's track and field team to a third-place finish at the NAIA national meet, winning the 3,000-metre steeplechase and helping UBC win gold in the 4 x 800-metre relay. This past fall, she paced the Thunderbirds to a third straight NAIA cross country team championship, winning the individual title in the process. Bernard was an NAIA All-American in both track and field and cross country. **T**



Swimmers Kelly Stefanyshyn and Brian Johns (below) were inducted in the Athlete category.

2015 BIG BLOCK AWARDS AND SPORTS HALL OF FAME DINNER



The Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre was the setting for the recent 94th annual Big Block Awards and Sports Hall of Fame Banquet, which welcomed almost 150 current Thunderbird athletes into the Big Block Club and honoured 125 former Thunderbird swimmers for making Canadian university sport history by winning 10 consecutive CIS men's and women's national titles from 1998 to 2007. During this aptly named "Decade of Dominance," 42 international swimming competitors – including 13 Olympians – emerged from UBC and won a combined total of 109 medals.

As the swimmers swarmed the stage, former team captain **Greg Hamm** told the 900 in attendance that the group boasted numerous high achievers. "We've

even got a nuclear physicist up here!" shouted Hamm, a 1998 Commonwealth Games medallist, pointing to former team mate **Will Walters**.

The architect of the program, former head coach **Tom Johnson**, was enshrined in the Builder category, while two of his most successful swimmers, **Brian Johns** and **Kelly Stefanyshyn**, were inducted in the Athlete category. A three-time Olympian, Johns won 33 of 34 CIS races during his university career, including his world short-course record performance in 2003 in 400-metre individual medley. Stefanyshyn won 31 CIS medals during her time at UBC and was a gold medallist at the 1999 Pan American Games.

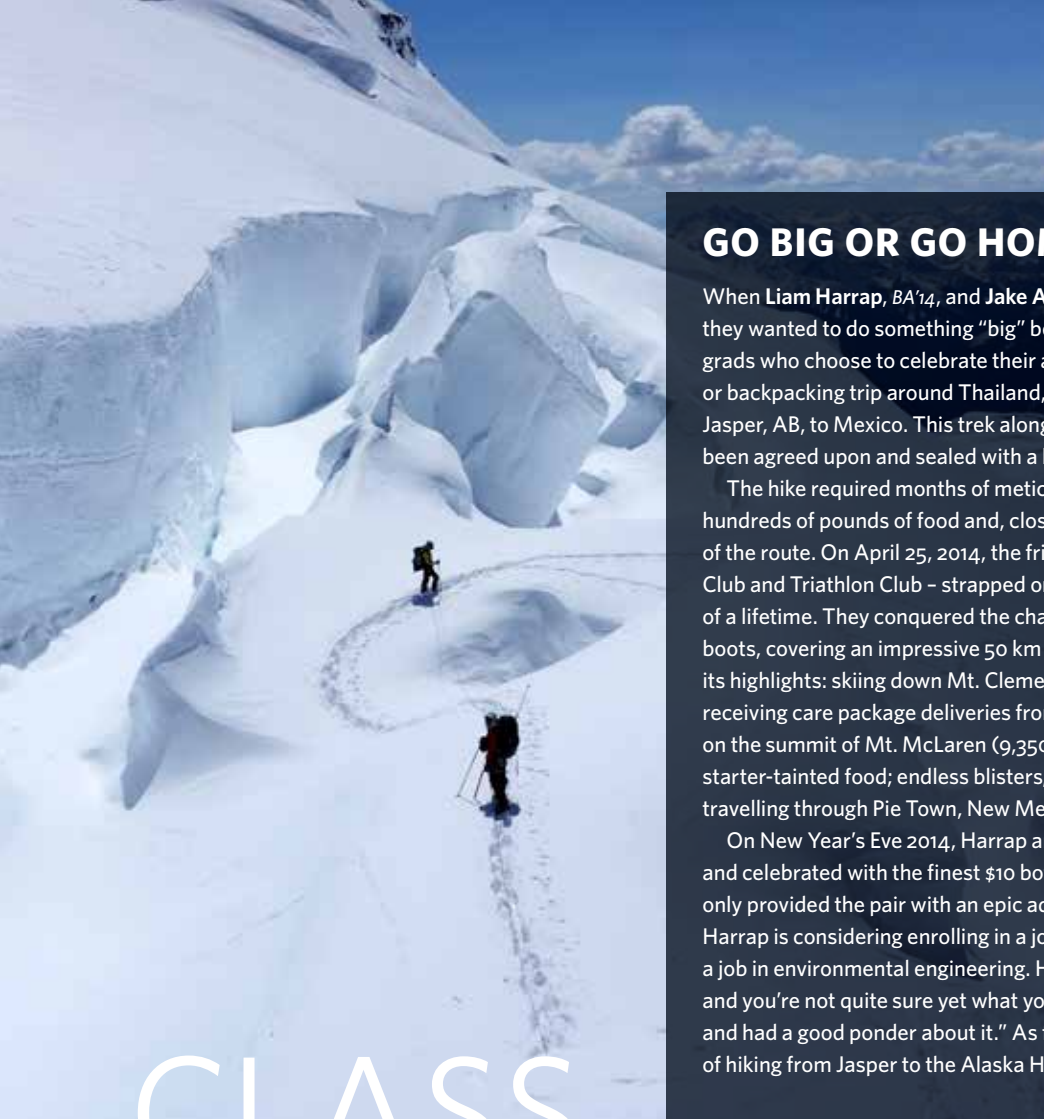
Eleven current Thunderbird teams were represented among the winners of the 12 Big Block Club awards. The Bobby Gaul Trophy for Graduating Male Athlete of the Year went to track and cross country star **Luc Bruchet**, whose highlights include running the first sub-four-minute indoor mile in UBC history and setting a UBC record in indoor 3,000 metres. Bruchet was an NAIA All-American in each of his four seasons and has competed for Canada at the World Cross Country Championships.

Swimmer **Savannah King** and basketball player **Kris Young** were named co-winners of the May Brown Trophy for Graduating Female Athlete of the Year. One of the most dominant distance swimmers in Canadian university history, King wrapped up her career as a four-time CIS Champion and a two-time CIS Swimmer of the Year. A multiple record holder and Grand Slam champion in both the 400m and 800m freestyle, King also competed in the 2008 and 2012 Olympics. Young

BIG BLOCK CLUB DIGEST

UBC alumnus and philanthropist **Ken Woods** has donated \$1 million to support awards and special projects for Thunderbird Varsity student athletes in Athletics & Recreation. "To assist students who aspire to excel both academically and athletically is indeed an honour and an excellent way of giving back to my alma mater," said Woods... It's been several years in the making but field hockey alumna **Lesley Magnus** and recently retired head coach **Hash Kanjee** have completed their magnum opus salute to a century of UBC field hockey. Their book, *UBC Women's Field Hockey - Celebrating 100 Years*, was published thanks to a generous gift from UBC Sports Hall of Fame member **Charlotte Warren**. The book is available for purchase at the UBC Bookstore or Amazon... Architect and former UBC Soccer All Canadian **Alex Percy** is back on campus working on a project near to his heart. An associate with Acton Ostry Architects, Percy is a member of the design team for the new National Soccer Development Centre... Basketball alumna and scoring record holder **Kelsey Blair** has returned to Vancouver following a pro stint in Sweden and is now working as a children's and youth book author. Her latest book, *Pick and Roll*, is part of the Lorimer Children and Teens Series... Football alumnus and 1997 Vanier Cup champion **Art Tolhurst** is now an assistant strength and conditioning coach at the University of Oregon, where he has worked with the likes of Heismann Trophy winner **Marcus Mariota**... Olympic track star and former UBC athlete and coach **Thelma Wright** is still in fine condition, good enough to win her age category in this year's Vancouver Sun Run... Back in March, former UBC steeplechaser **Jeff Symonds** won his first career Ironman title, besting a three-time Ironman champion to claim the Asia-Pacific Championship in Melbourne and securing a spot in

the Ironman World Championship this October in Kona... UBC women's field hockey legend **Shelley Winter Andrews** and multi-sport star **John Haar** were inducted into the BC Sports Hall of Fame on May 28. Selected in the Athlete category, Winter Andrews starred for UBC from 1971 to 1976 and on Canada's national team from 1975 to 1986. Haar enters as a builder for his tireless work in support of Canadian amateur baseball... Rugby Canada's Senior Women's team has said farewell to Thunderbird alumna **Kim Donaldson**, who recently announced her retirement after a decade of international play. The arts graduate made the tough decision to put an end to her playing career after finishing last season on a high note by helping Canada to silver medals in the 2014 Women's Rugby World Cup... Entrepreneurial football alumni **Aaron Horowitz** and **Zack Silverman** are at it again, this time with their all-natural craft Caesar mix called Walter Caesar. Neither one started out in the food industry, but became heavily involved in speciality beverages a few years ago with the launch of their Brooklyn, New York-based award-winning Kelvin Slush trucks that are increasingly ubiquitous across the USA... Former T-Bird catcher **Greg Densem** is living the dream these days as a bull-pen catcher for the Toronto Blue Jays. The former junior national team member got a call on Easter Monday and two days later he was on his way to join the Jays at Yankee Stadium... Former UBC rugby player **Craig Chamberlin** also has a new job as president of Algoma University in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario... Football alumnus and former UBC assistant coach **Joe Gluska** was honoured for more than 50 years of contributions to amateur football with the Bobby Ackles Award for Lifetime Achievement at the recent BC Community Football Association's Orange Helmet Awards.



GO BIG OR GO HOME!

When **Liam Harrap**, BA'14, and **Jake Alleyne**, BSc'14, received their hard-earned degrees, they wanted to do something "big" before life's commitments got in the way. But unlike grads who choose to celebrate their academic excellence – and freedom – with a big bash, or backpacking trip around Thailand, the friends opted to take a hike – a 5,500 km hike from Jasper, AB, to Mexico. This trek along the Great Divide and the Continental Divide trails had been agreed upon and sealed with a handshake three years previously.

The hike required months of meticulous planning. The duo pored over maps, dehydrated hundreds of pounds of food and, closer to their departure date, stored food caches along sections of the route. On April 25, 2014, the friends – both former members of the UBC Varsity Outdoors Club and Triathlon Club – strapped on their 100 lb backpacks and embarked on the adventure of a lifetime. They conquered the challenging, rugged terrain with skis, snowshoes and hiking boots, covering an impressive 50 km each day. And of course, just like any epic adventure, it had its highlights: skiing down Mt. Clemenceau (fourth highest mountain in the Canadian Rockies); receiving care package deliveries from their parents; meeting fellow hikers; and playing cribbage on the summit of Mt. McLaren (9,350 ft). And its low points: walking 121 km in ski boots; eating fire starter-tainted food; endless blisters; falling down a moraine face-first at 6:30 am; and, tragically, travelling through Pie Town, New Mexico, in the off season when all the pie stores were closed.

On New Year's Eve 2014, Harrap and Alleyne completed their trek in Puerto Palomas, Mexico, and celebrated with the finest \$10 bottle of bubbly from Walmart. The eight month trek not only provided the pair with an epic adventure, but also some clarity regarding their future: Harrap is considering enrolling in a journalism program and Alleyne is actively looking for a job in environmental engineering. Harrap's advice for recent grads: "Don't worry if you graduate and you're not quite sure yet what you want to do. We didn't. So we went on a long walkabout and had a good ponder about it." As for any future adventures in store for the friends, there's talk of hiking from Jasper to the Alaska Highway or Nahanni National Park, NWT, next year... maybe.

CLASS ACTS

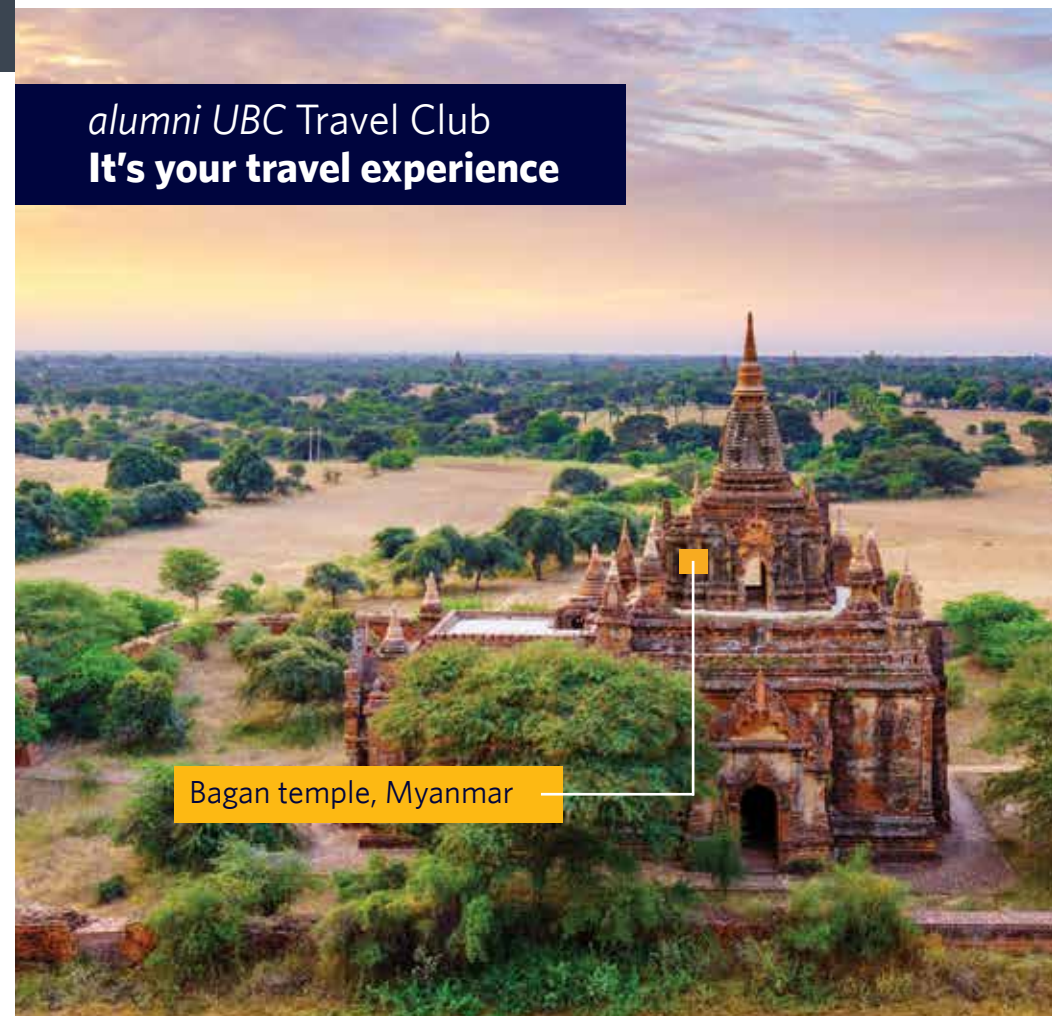
Michael D. Meagher, BSF'57, PhD'76, has been granted life membership in the Association of BC Forest Professionals. Meagher's career centered on reforestation, including establishing plantations, examining logged or burned land to determine regeneration actions needed, seed-needs planning, seed production, genetics and tree breeding. After earning an MSc in Toronto, he served as lecturer before returning to UBC for doctoral studies in western hemlock, during which he was a sessional lecturer. Meagher and his wife of 50 years, Birgitte, live in Victoria and raised two UBC Students: Kirsten in Vancouver and Patrick in Victoria, both the parents of boys. Mike's hobbies include lobbying and educating the public on the virtues of Garry oak, BC's only native oak tree, and its role in the urban forest, the Forest History Association of BC, tennis, golf and gardening. • **Charles Krebs**, MA'59, PhD'62, professor emeritus (zoology), has been awarded the Weston Family Prize for Lifetime Achievement in Northern Research. He is one of the world's preeminent field ecologists, and accolades for his work are numerous. They include Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, the Norwegian Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Australian Academy of Science and of the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales. He has also been awarded the President's Medal from the Canadian Society of Ecology and Evolution and is an honorary professor in the Institute of Zoology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. • Cancer cells feed on cholesterol, and for 14 years, **Andras Lacko**, BSc'61, PhD'68, professor of integrative physiology and anatomy and

pediatrics at the University of Texas, has studied the potential of drug-carrying synthetic "good" cholesterol nanoparticles' (rHDL) for cancer-drug delivery. This unique drug-delivery method makes it possible to bypass normal cells and go straight to the cancer cells, eliminating the harmful effects of chemotherapy. And now, thanks to funding from the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, Dr. Lacko and fellow researcher Anil Sood, MD, will be able to expedite human clinical trials involving the use of nanoparticles to fight ovarian cancer. • This June **Lloyd Burritt**, BMus'63, MMus'68, will debut his opera, *Miracle Flight 571: An Opera in Concert*, at Roy Barnett Hall. The opera is based on the 1972 plane crash in the Andes and tells the true story of survivors Nando Parrado and Roberto Canessa who made the trek from the 12,000 foot glacier to find safety and rescue for the remaining survivors. • Last May, **James Thorsell**, PhD'71, was awarded "honorary citizenship" at the UNESCO conference on sustainable development and protected areas for his work advising on the management of natural world heritage sites in China. In July, he was named to the board of NatureServe in Arlington, VA – a non-profit organization that provides high-quality scientific

expertise for conservation. • Olympian and long-time amateur sports advocate, **Joy Fera**, BRE'72, received the 2014 In Her Footsteps Award from ProMOTION Plus, alongside renowned figure skater Bev Viger. The Celebrating BC Women in Sport event honours female athletes, coaches, officials, judges, pioneers or advocates who have contributed significantly to girls and women in sport. Fera rowed for Canada at the 1976 Montreal Olympics and won bronze medals with the eight crew at the World Championships in 1977-78. She co-founded the Delta Deas Rowing Club and has been a rowing umpire since 1989. In 1988 she organized the first Scholastic Regatta on Deas Slough in Ladner, drawing girls and boys from the Lower Mainland, the Interior and Washington State. She competed and medalled at the 2005 and 2010 World Masters Alpine Skiing Championships and has been a member of the Canadian Masters' ski team since 2008. The Delta Sports Hall of Fame has named Fera Master Athlete of the Year on three occasions. In February 2015, she was inducted into the Canada Games Hall of Honour. • **Don Alper**, PhD'76, retired from Western Washington University on December 31, 2014, after 43 years. A professor of political science, he also directed the Center for Canadian-American Studies from 1993-2014 and the Border Policy Research Institute from 2005-2014. • **David Guy**, EdD'82, winner of the Coolie Verner Prize in his graduation year, was subsequently awarded a 1990 New Zealand Commemoration Medal for his services to adult education in his home country. Recently, Guy's been in the UK leading the implementation of knowledge exchange strategies and systems to maximise the impact of research and engagement between those who generate knowledge

and those who apply it in public, commercial and community sectors. • **Graham Heal**, BA'83, is now director of Africa Development for Stonecrest Investment Funds, adding Sub-Saharan Africa, in addition to SE Asia, as a region of focus. "Stonecrest is building upon its investments in women's capacity development in Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi, to drive impact investments in affordable housing, agri-business, renewable power generation and 'conflict-free' mineral processing and trade," says Heal. • **Jonathan Reinartz**, BA'92, has been appointed professor of the History of Medicine at the University of Birmingham (UK) and is completing the manuscript of his tenth monograph (edited with Rebecca Wynter) – *Complaints, Grievances and Critiques of Medicine: Historical and Social Science Perspectives*, published by Routledge (London). • In celebration of UBC's Centennial, Thunderbird field hockey alumna **Lesley Magnus**, BA'00, BEd'02, and former UBC field hockey coach, **Hash Kanjee**, MHK'02, have released the book, *UBC Women's Field Hockey – Celebrating 100 Years*. The book takes readers on a photographic journey into the minds and hearts of players and coaches as they proudly represent UBC across the years. All book sale proceeds will go to UBC's Women's Field Hockey program. • Since publishing a Spanish novel last summer, **Reza Emilio Juma**, BA'01, has appeared in more than 20 different media outlets. His novel, *Mil Besos*, won an award and an honourable mention in the Andalucian showcase after being nominated by the highly-respected Andalucian Centre of Literature. Juma is currently working on finishing his second novel, set to be released this summer. • Internationally-renowned storyteller and best-selling author **Richard Van Camp**, MFA'03, is releasing six books this

alumni UBC Travel Club It's your travel experience



Bagan temple, Myanmar

FEATURED TOUR:

Myanmar River Cruise led by Paula Swart,
UBC Continuing Studies instructor,
Art Historian and Museum Curator
March, 2016



Request a detailed itinerary today!

travel@worldwidequest.com
1-800-387-1483 | 416-633-5666
or visit WorldwideQuest.com/alumniUBC
to browse all upcoming tours.

ALUMNI.UBC.CA/TRAVEL

alumniUBC

The alumni UBC Travel Club is presented by Worldwide Quest



GOING ORGANIC IN INDIA

Armed with a master's degree in entrepreneurship from Brown University and an electrical engineering degree from UBC, **Ashmeet Kapoor**, BAsc'08, initially returned to India in 2010 to work on rural electrification. However, as a consumer and proponent of organic food, his focus shifted when he found it difficult to find genuine organic produce. Naturally, the entrepreneur sought a solution.

After a year of planning and research, including visiting villages and farmers across India and even becoming a farmer himself, Kapoor launched I Say Organic. The business venture is an online organic food company in New Delhi that purchases organic produce directly from the farmer and delivers it to the customer's front doorstep. Working directly with the farmers, Kapoor has successfully reduced expenditures by streamlining what was previously an inefficient delivery process with four to six middlemen, and substantially reducing spoilage by utilizing cold storage facilities. The benefits from these cost-saving measures are passed on to both the farmer and the consumer. Kapoor pays his farmers 25 per cent more for their crop than the mandi (farmers' wholesale market) and the consumer receives fresh certified organic produce at an affordable price.

Kapoor explains: "In urban centers, our efforts are focused towards creating a convenient and affordable service for delivering fresh, safe and healthy food straight from the farm to your plate. For rural development, we want farming to regain the respect it once had and become a profitable livelihood option." Kapoor also encourages participating farmers to make their planting decisions based on signals from the marketplace rather than what generations of their family have grown for years. "We focus on creating a market for organic products and promote a demand-based planning of the fields, so more and more farmers find it profitable to convert to organic," he says.

The company employs 35 staff and partners with 100 farmers. "Through the progress we've made so far, our farmers are earning 40 per cent more than they were earlier, and over 5,000 households in Delhi-National Capital Region have been able to lead a healthier lifestyle by opting for organic fruits, vegetables, grains, oils, and much more," Kapoor says.

Follow I Say Organic on Twitter @ISayOrganic.

year, including short stories, novels, graphic novels and non-fiction. Van Camp says they were inspired by his hometown of Fort Smith, NWT. • **Gregory G. Forrest**, MAsc'04 (mechanical engineering) has qualified as a Canadian Patent Agent. Forrest provides patent expertise at McMillan LLP. • **Yannick Thoraval**, BA'04, recently published his novel, *The Current*. Commended by judges of the prestigious Victorian Premier's Literary Award, the novel tells the story of one man's obsession with saving a Pacific island from the effects of global climate change. Thoraval is donating proceeds from the sale of his book to Adult Multicultural Education Services, Australia's largest provider of humanitarian settlement, education, training and employment services for refugees and newly arrived migrants. • On June 30, 2014, after a brief but energetic academic career, **Jack Miller**, EdD'04, retired from the School of Education at Thompson Rivers University (TRU). Miller, whose career as a full-time instructor at TRU began in 2001, taught in both the Bachelor of Education and Master of Education programs. After completing his EdD, Miller was elected chair of the department. In 2007, Miller served as interim dean for four years and was also acting dean of the School of Social Work and Human Service. Miller was active in campus life, supervising many master's students, conducting his own research, and collaborating with local First Nations in the search for culturally appropriate methods to assess First Nations language proficiency. He was a long-time member of the TRU Senate, including a term as vice-chair, and was also a member and vice-chair of both the Budget Committee of Senate and the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee. In 2005, Jack started the TRU Cross-Country Running team, which eventually became a Wolf Pack varsity squad. He continues to coach the Wolf Pack Cross-Country and Indoor Track teams, both of which are now in CIS competition. For his dedicated service, Miller was awarded professor emeritus status in July 2014. Jack and his wife, Verna, also retired, hope to do more travelling in their motorhome as well as interesting rides on their Harley Davidson motorcycles. • **Josh Hergesheimer**, BA'04, and his brother, Chris (PhD candidate), take readers on a cross-, continental journey into the meaning of "local food" in their new book, *The Flour Peddler: a global journey into local food*. The story recounts the brothers' journey travelling from the lush rainforests of BC's Sunshine Coast to the farthest reaches of South Sudan. Their goal: to build a bicycle-powered grain mill in the world's youngest country and donate it to a women's cooperative. Along the way the brothers battle overcrowded buses, hazardous roads and impossibly short deadlines, and face their biggest challenge when war breaks out. • **Troy Conrad Therrien**, BAsc'05, was recently appointed curator of Architecture and Digital Initiatives at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and Foundation in New York. As the first person to hold this new position, Therrien will contribute to the development of the museum's engagement with architecture, design, technology, and urban studies, in addition to providing leadership on select new projects, including the Guggenheim Helsinki Design Competition. His appointment follows the announcement of a record-breaking number of architectural submissions to the open and anonymous competition and the launch of the project's popular, interactive, online gallery of entries. Therrien will help organize an exhibition of six shortlisted submissions to be held in Helsinki in the spring of 2015, and will play a key role in developing and articulating the programmatic elements of the proposed museum. • After graduating from UBC, **Dylan Murphy**, MSS'06, and **Yuanyuan Yin**, BEng'08, got married three times - twice in New York and once in China. They both quickly

became leaders in their fields working for IBM and, although they were off to a great start in the corporate world, something was missing from a personal perspective. After the loss of a family member and an unexpected hospital stay, Dylan and Yuanyuan left their jobs at IBM and started the company SuperHealos, with the mission to empower kids who are facing challenges. Their first book, *Adventures in the Hospital*, introduces some of the things that the kids might see in hospital and teaches them that it's not so scary when you're a SuperHealo. For more information visit: www.SuperHealos.com • **Tyler Mifflin**, BFA'08, is the co-creator, writer, and co-host of the award-winning series, *The Water Brothers*. Now in its third season, the show features Tyler and his brother, Alex, embarking on adventures around the world to explore the most important stories surrounding the planet's water resources. The series is available in more than 40 countries including the US, where it is now available in 50 million homes on Pivot, and will soon be broadcasted in BC on The Knowledge Network and in Quebec on Radio-Canada. • In November 2014, UBC creative writing alumna **Christine Leclerc**, BFA'08, MFA'10, received the bpNichol Chapbook Award for *Oilywood* (Nomados Books). The award recognizes excellence in Canadian poetry published in chapbook form. *Oilywood* draws on research conducted on the beaches of Burrard Inlet and Kinder Morgan's tar sands pipeline. • Last summer, **Zoe Shipley**, BA'11, studied the stunning ecosystems, diversity of life, and fascinating array of unique desert plants at the Bahía de los Ángeles UNESCO World Heritage site, and in the crystal blue waters of the Sea of Cortez. Shipley, a SUN AmeriCorps member at Clear Creek Middle School in Portland, OR, took the graduate course in pursuit of her master's degree from Miami University's Global Field Program. • **Paul Davidescu**, BCom'12, and **Jonathan Hill**, BAsc'12, pitched their pocket concierge app, Tangoo, on the CBC's *Dragon's Den*, and made it out alive. The app organizes a night out based on the user's mood. Users select the occasion and their 'moods' and the app recommends a curated selection of restaurants and bars based on the criteria selected. Although Dragon Arlene Dickinson has made them an offer, Davidescu and Hill politely declined, confident they could find more suitable investors who'd give them a better valuation. • **Willie Kwok**, BSc'13, is co-founder and CTO of SeamlessMD, named one of Canada's Top 20 most innovative companies in 2013 by CIX (Canadian Innovation Exchange). The mobile software platform enables healthcare providers to engage, monitor, and care for patients across surgical episodes of care. • This fall, **Sara Eftekhar**, BSN'13, DipEd'14, will be pursuing a master's degree in international studies, peace studies and conflict resolution at the Rotary Peace Centre at the University of Bradford, UK, after receiving a Rotary Peace Fellowship. Eftekhar was one of four Canadians selected for the program and the youngest recipient to date. She has worked and volunteered in nine countries around the world and has represented Canada at the United Nations University and International Youth Conferences. The 25-year-old has initiated several projects for refugee and immigrant youth within her role as the BC ambassador for the Canadian Council for Refugees and the executive director and co-founder of Civic youth group, and has represented Canada at the UN Headquarters on a youth program with the UN Alliance of Civilization. Most recently, Eftekhar worked with refugees in Cairo and represented Canada at the First Global Forum on Youth Policies. In recognition of her work, Eftekhar has received a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, an Outstanding Youth Award, the YWCA Vancouver's Young Women of Distinction award and is the youngest person to be named as one of Canada's Top 25 Immigrants. ■

l-r: Sarah Topa, Andrew Wilson, Michael Carlson.



MORE NURSES AND DOCTORS FOR NICARAGUA

When **Andrew Wilson**, BHK'14, visited Nicaragua on a volunteer trip in 2010, he witnessed the scarcity of medical care in rural communities. He also met a gifted local student who dreamed of becoming a doctor so he could provide health care in his community, but who would never be able to afford an education. Meeting that student was a game changer for Wilson: "I had no choice," he says. "I had to do something about it."

Wilson saw the potential for young Nicaraguans from rural communities to become a catalyst for change. He recruited doctors, health care professionals and activists, including fellow UBC grads **Michael Carlson**, BSc'09, and **Sarah Topa**, BA'08, and founded Doctors for Doctors (DFD) and Nurses for Nurses (NFN) with the Canadian charity Global Peace Network. The project provides medical and nursing school scholarships to rural students in Nicaragua, providing them with an opportunity that would otherwise be out of reach. "We work with partner organizations on the ground in Nicaragua to find high-potential young people in areas where medical care is especially sparse, and build strong relationships with all stakeholders to ensure long term success in these communities," says Carlson, who is director of Operations.

The first student was funded in 2010, after Wilson biked across Canada and ran a marathon to raise money. And, thanks to a successful fundraising campaign in 2014, the project has recently funded a second student and hopes to open a health care clinic that will specialize in providing maternal and neo-natal health services. "This is just the beginning for us," says Wilson. "We acknowledge that the problems rural Nicaragua faces are about more than just a shortage of doctors. In addition to helping students become doctors, we want to make it possible for them to provide care in rural areas where facilities and infrastructure do not currently exist."

What started as a one-man operation has grown to a team of 20 professionals with diverse backgrounds dedicated to improving the quality of life for impoverished, rural communities. Wilson, who recently graduated from the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College, makes it clear that this project is about removing barriers to health care access, and that support from all types of health care professionals will be vital if it is to realize its full potential. "The ultimate goal is to help rural communities get access to the care they need, and we think every health care profession can assist in that," he says.

To find out more about the project, or to volunteer, visit www.doctorsfordoctors.ca and follow Doctors for Doctors and Nurses for Nurses on Twitter @dfd_nfn.



CONCERT

“I smell bluebells, and suddenly I’m nine years old again.”

Happy memories keep us feeling vibrant and fulfilled. At Tapestry Retirement Communities, we provide all the encouragement and support to keep you feeling that way. Whether it’s growing prize-winning flowers, participating in one of the many activities or enjoying the company of new friends.

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



Angela Simmons
avid gardener

www.DiscoverTapestry.com

Tapestry at Wesbrook Village
3338 Wesbrook Mall, Vancouver BC
604.225.5000

IN MEMORIAM

DR. JOHN B. MACDONALD, DSc'67, UBC PRESIDENT, 1962-67



Dr. Macdonald passed peacefully with family by his side on Tuesday, December 23, 2014, in his 97th year. He will be deeply missed by Liba, his beloved wife of almost 50 years. He leaves behind his loving children, Kaaren (David), Grant (Jan), Scott (Christine), Linda (Jerry), and Vivian (Rob). He was a cherished grandfather to Kristin (Scott), Jason (Veronica), Justine (Tyler), Vanessa, Julianne (Robert), Christopher, Laura (Jay), Richard, and Michelle. He was a proud great-grandfather to Tatam, Kol, Jayde, Satchel and Lia. Dr. Macdonald graduated from the University of Toronto (U of T) in the middle of World War II, served as a Captain in the Canadian Dental Corps, and after the war, studied microbiology at the University of Illinois and Columbia. On returning to a teaching and research appointment at U of T, he rose quickly to become the founding director of the Division of Dental Research. His reputation as a scientist and educator led to an invitation to move to Harvard in 1956 as a professor of microbiology and director of the Forsyth Infirmary. In 1962 Dr. Macdonald became the fourth president of UBC. His advice led to the establishment of Simon Fraser University (SFU) and Victoria University, allowing UBC to concentrate on the development and expansion of graduate education and research. In the 70s, Dr. Macdonald was CEO of the Council of Ontario Universities, where he was a powerful advocate for “collective autonomy,” arguing that the 15 universities should use the council as a vehicle for planning and implementing the evolution of the Ontario system – because they were best qualified to do so, and because failure to do so would invite government intervention. During the last years of his career Dr. Macdonald was president of the Addiction Research Foundation, a research affiliate of the World Health Organization. Dr. Macdonald served as a consultant to governments, universities and colleges in both Canada and the United States. For his contributions as a scientist and academic leader he received honorary degrees from Harvard, the University of Manitoba, SFU, UBC, Wilfrid Laurier University, Brock University, the University of Western Ontario, the University of Windsor and U of T. He is an Officer of the Order of Canada. In lieu of flowers, please visit www.rskane.ca for ways to donate towards the preservation of Lake Simcoe.

Children were happy recipients of handmade whistles, boats and other toys, and his totem poles marked many a cottage, campsite or portage. Growing up in the Okanagan, he sang in the Anglican Church choir for years. John often reminisced about happy times spent at the UBC Outdoor Club cabin on Grouse Mountain. His love of the outdoors was shared with his family, who recall fondly the many canoe trips and camping holidays in Algonquin Park. John was a keen badminton and tennis player. He enjoyed years of Scottish dancing, bridge with adult friends, and endless cribbage and euchre games with children and grandchildren. John’s final years were spent in the warm and loving care of his extended family and the staff of Post Inn Village in Oakville, where he was affectionately known as King John. Dad was and will always be an inspiration to his family and will be missed terribly.

ROY V. JACKSON, BA'43



Roy, aged 96, of Wilmington, DE, passed away on September 3, 2014. In addition to his UBC degree, he received a degree in civil law from McGill University. He proudly served in the Canadian Army working in the lab on chemical warfare products. Roy was employed by Ridout & Maybee, LLP, a law firm practicing patent law in Canada. He worked for DuPont in Wilmington, Haseltine Lake in New York, Johnson & Johnson in New Brunswick, NJ, and Hercules in Wilmington, from where he retired in 1994. He was a member of the Patent and Trademark Institute of Canada and Mensa. Roy enjoyed attending the University of Delaware/Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, both to teach and take classes. He had numerous professional papers published. His passion was reading and writing. He was an avid current events enthusiast and was very active in his community. He enjoyed spending time with the family. Roy was predeceased by his parents and his brother, John, of Victoria, BC. He is survived by his loving wife of 44 years, Monika; his sister, Marjorie (Ray) McFadden; daughters Francis Ann (Edward) Borisenko and Victoria Stagg; grandchildren Adam, Andrea, Andrew and Malcolm; great-grandchildren James and Thomas; and numerous nephews and a niece. In lieu of flowers, you can donate to www.creston.museum.bc.ca.

JAMES DAVID KING, BSc'45, BCom'45



Dave was born on January 14, 1922, in Vancouver and passed away peacefully on December 21, 2013, just shy of his 92nd birthday. His father, Professor Harry King, was one of the founding fathers of UBC’s Department of Agriculture and his mother, Aletta King, was active in the Faculty Wives Association. In 1945 Dave received degrees from UBC in agriculture and commerce. He married Ruthy Parnum in 1949 and lived in Langley, where he was district manager for the BC Electric Company. Dave believed passionately in the ability of the free enterprise system to create a bigger pie that could be shared by all, and devoted his career to pursuing the economic development of BC. Dave, Ruthy and their children, Julia, Harry and Anne, moved back to Vancouver in 1960, settling in Kerrisdale near his parents. Following the expropriation of BC Electric, Dave remained with BC

JOHN STANLEY NAYLOR HAMMOND, BASc'43

John passed away peacefully on Monday, June 16, 2014. The beloved husband of 68 years to Myra Hammond, he loved his six children, 14 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren, unconditionally. His subtle sense of humour will be missed. He was born in Nuneaton, UK, on March 8, 1920, and grew up in Kelowna. After receiving his bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering, he joined the Canadian Army, serving in the Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and spending a brief time in England. Upon returning to Canada, he worked with Ontario Hydro operations. Looking to the future, he joined the nuclear power division, becoming assistant superintendent and then the commissioning operations superintendent of the Bruce Nuclear Power Station at Douglas Point, and eventually finishing his career in Toronto. He was a gentle, patient man of few words who enjoyed time with his family – bedtime stories were his specialty. His creativity in his workshop was boundless.



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

Relax, renew and revitalize at Sparkling Hill Resort & KurSpa located in the heart of Okanagan Wine Country.

www.sparklinghill.com | 1-877-275-1556
Okanagan Valley, British Columbia, Canada



Hydro and later served as executive secretary of the BC Harbours Board and as a commissioner on the BC Energy Commission. He played key roles in the development of the Peace River hydro project and the port at Robert's Bank. Dave and Ruthy moved to West Vancouver in 1974, where they enjoyed a tranquil setting, great bridge club, and their four grandchildren, Christopher and Eric Mueller, and James and Aletta Leitch. Following Ruthy's untimely death in 1993, Dave married their long-time friend, Sally Carter, and after her death in 1998, married Gail Gillespie who passed in January 2013. Dave was a devoted son, cherished husband and responsible father. His children fondly recall family excursions where "taking the scenic route" often resulted in finding the latest pulp mill or highway construction project, and time in ferry line-ups was spent doing mental math games. He lived a good life, was well loved, and will be missed.

ELEANOR GRACE BENNETT (NÉE MAYO), BA'45

Eleanor Grace Bennett of Rye, NY, passed away on January 31, 2014, in Greenwich, CT, surrounded by her daughters and her dear aide, who held her hands as she prepared for her final journey. Eleanor was born on February 25, 1925, in Victoria to Albert and Grace Mayo. She graduated from UBC in 1945 with a BA in physics, followed by a master's in 1947. After graduation, she worked for the National Research Council in Ottawa in the field of optics and co-authored a number of papers in that field. Eleanor married Reginald B. Bennett, BSc'42, MSc'45, on September 15, 1951, in Vancouver. Upon their marriage, the couple moved to Bahrain, where Reg was employed at the BAPCO oil refinery. Their first daughter, Eileen, was born there. Circumstances led them back to North America in 1957 and they eventually settled in the New York City area, where Eleanor was a devoted wife to Reg and a devoted mother to her two daughters. Upon Reg's retirement in 1982, the couple enjoying travelling, visiting (among other places) Russia, China, Australia, Norway, Egypt, and Chile. Reg passed away on January 13, 2011, after 59 years of marriage. Eleanor is survived by her daughters, Eileen (Bill) Colleary and Anne (Michael) Long; seven grandchildren: Michael (Kim), James (Katie), Shannon and Thomas Colleary, Candice, Charles and Melanie Long, and great-granddaughter Aibhlin Colleary.

R. GORDON KNIGHT, BSc'49



July 14, 1921 - May 16, 2014

Gordon passed away, aged 92, leaving Lola, his best friend and partner for 68 years; son Tony (Margaret); daughter Tami (Phil Hollman); and grandchildren Isaac and Dominique LeBlanc. Born in Vancouver to A. Richard (Dick) Knight (Herefordshire, UK) and Lily Blanche James (Nfld), Gordon had a rich, varied and wonderful life. He graduated Kitsilano High School in 1939, attended UBC and trained in the RCAF as a navigator from 1943 to 1945. In 1955, Gordon set up a private practice as a consulting engineer specializing in water and waste management projects. In 1965, in partnership with classmate Martin J. J. Dayton, he founded Dayton & Knight Ltd., Consulting Engineers, which operates today as Opus DaytonKnight Consultants Ltd. Gordon and Lola were early members of the Hollyburn Country Club and West Vancouver Yacht Club. After retiring in 1982, Gordon enjoyed travelling, boating, cycling and hiking, and was an avid swimmer at the West Van Aquatic Centre right up to the last few months of his life. He contributed to the communities of West Vancouver and Lions Bay and volunteered on various

commissions. He began his lifelong sport of skiing on Hollyburn Mountain in the 1930s and was a member of the UBC Ski Club in 1942 and of the post-war Varsity Outdoor Club in 1945. When Whistler opened, Gordon and Lola were weekend skiers, hikers and cyclists there for 37 years, eventually finishing these activities back on Hollyburn. It was while pursuing these activities that Gordon and Lola sought to retain the venerable Hollyburn Lodge. With Bob Tapp they formed the Hollyburn Heritage Society with goals of restoring the lodge and collecting the history of the local mountains. Donations to Hollyburn Heritage Society to rebuild the lodge are appreciated: www.hollyburnheritage.ca.

WILLIAM (BILL) ALEXANDER HOWES MCCORQUODALE, BSc'49



Bill passed away peacefully at Lions Gate Hospital in North Vancouver on February 8, 2013. He was predeceased by his brother, Jim, BSc'50, and his parents. Bill is survived by his wife of 55 years, Kirsten, BSR'83; sons Gordon (Jean) of North Vancouver and Peter of Berkeley, CA; grandsons Rob (Nicola) of Vancouver and Alex of North Vancouver; sister Fran of Burnaby; brother-in-law JU of Denmark; sisters-in-law Lotte of

France and Maureen of Illinois; nephews and nieces Michael, Kemp, Sandy, Lizette, Michael, Michelle, Fred, Jakob, Ida, Niels and Catherine; and extended family and friends throughout the world. Bill was born in Winnipeg on December 9, 1925, and at an early age moved with his family to the Victoria area. He attended Victoria College then graduated from UBC in electrical engineering. He helped work his way through college and university by playing professionally in the Victoria Symphony Orchestra and various swing bands. After graduation, Bill worked in Montreal, Windsor, Syracuse and San Francisco, before settling in North Vancouver in 1964. As a professional engineer, he was an electrical discipline specialist and held senior positions on major projects, mainly in the pulp and paper industry, in Canada, USA, Turkey, China, South America and Southeast Asia. His memberships included APEGBC and IEEE. He was also a registered professional engineer in several American states. Bill played trombone in various musical groups and toured with his bands in Switzerland, Germany, Mexico and the Bahamas. He enjoyed the BC mountains and spent many happy hours skiing and hiking. His other hobbies included photography and international travel. Bill was a wonderful and generous family man who gave freely of his time to friends, neighbours and community activities. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

JIM MELTON, BA'49, MEd'66



Predeceased by his beloved son, Scott, and his cherished wife, Joyce, Jim is survived by his loving family: son Dorian (Yvonne); daughter Jan Currie (Don); daughter-in-law Candice Melton; sister-in-law Jan Cummings and brother-in-law Ken Moore; five grandchildren; nieces and nephews; and many wonderful, lifelong friends, and colleagues from the Vancouver School Board and beyond. Jim was a kind

and generous soul and he made a difference in the lives of those lucky enough to know him.

DONALD JAMES (JIM) MCCORQUODALE, BA'50

Jim passed away on August 13, 2012, in Naperville, IL. He is survived by his wife, Dr. Maureen (née Kleba) McCorquodale; sons James Alexander (Margi)



and Dr. Michael Shannon (Dr. Ruba); daughters Lizette Jean (Paul) Hudson and Michelle Erin (Brad) Artis; grandchildren Jessica McCorquodale, Austin James Artis and Dylan Artis; sister Frances (the late Samuel) Levis; and nephews Dr. Michael and Kemp Levis, Gordon and Dr. Peter McCorquodale; and predeceased by his former wife, Annette (née Cole). Jim was born on August 27, 1927, to Alex and Annie Elizabeth Catherine

(née MacKay) McCorquodale in Winnipeg, and grew up in Victoria. He worked a year as a chemist with British American Paint Company (BAPCO) in Victoria, and went on to earn a PhD in biochemistry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He then held a post-doctoral fellowship at the Max Planck Institute in Munich and spent the rest of his career as a professor of biochemistry. He made notable research contributions in biochemistry, cytogenetics and virology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Emory University, the University of Texas at Dallas, the Medical College of Ohio in Toledo, the Northwestern Memorial and Michael Reese Hospitals in Chicago, and Midwestern University in Oak Brook, IL. He taught courses in medical school curricula and was research advisor to numerous graduate students who went on to make their own contributions to science. He fondly appreciated the fine arts as both a baritone and trombone player, and a self-taught piano player. He enjoyed travelling, practicing his German, nature, poetry, gardening, bike riding, football, golf, stimulating conversations, fine dining, bridge, square dancing and taking long walks with his family. His loving family will dearly miss his unwavering love, patience, support and wisdom.

RONNIE WILSON, BA'50

Ronnie Wilson, director of classic television series such as *The Pallisers*, *To Serve Them All My Days*, *The Mill on the Floss* and *How Green Was My Valley*, died aged 84. While at UBC, he immersed himself in *The Players Club*, directing, painting sets and taking leading roles in many productions. When he was 22, he went to London and for 12 years worked as an actor on stage and in radio, television and film, appearing in *The World of Suzy Wong*, *The Dambusters* and *The Avengers*. In 1959 his agent sent him and a young actress, Gay Cameron, to audition for a stage production of *Fool's Paradise* - they married in 1964. That same year, Ronnie received a grant from the Arts Council enabling him to begin his career as a director. He went on to direct many successful television productions over the next 20 years. He was a BAFTA and Emmy finalist and winner of the Broadcasting Press Award for *To Serve Them All My Days*. For 20 years he taught at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, where he was well loved by his many students. Ronnie died of a heart attack while swimming in the sea off Milford, in Hampshire. He is survived by his wife, Gay; his children, Charlie and Fanny; and two grandsons.

HON. KENNETH C. MURPHY, QC, LLB'51

Born in Dunblane, Scotland, on July 15, 1922, Ken passed away in Victoria on April 19, 2014, with his wife of 30 years, Jane, at his side. Ken joined the RCAF in 1941, and after being discharged, attended Victoria College from 1946 to 1948. In 1953 he joined Harman and Company, subsequently becoming senior partner at Harman MacKenzie Sloan and Murphy. From 1953 to 1969, he served as the Saanich prosecutor and also as a defence lawyer. He represented trade unions and companies in the labour law field and was a labour arbitrator. He served as president of the Victoria Chamber of Commerce and Victoria Bar Association, as returning officer for Oak Bay constituency, and as director

of the Victoria Golf Club and CJVI Radio Station. He held memberships in the Oak Bay Police Commission, the National Council of the Canadian Bar Association of the Provincial Council of the BC branch, and the University of Victoria Board of Governors. Ken took a great interest in young people, coaching Little League baseball and managing the YMCA Swim Team. He was a great role model for younger lawyers and judges. In 1981 he was the first Victoria lawyer appointed a judge of the County Court of Vancouver Island since 1963 and in 1990 he was appointed a Supreme Court justice. After retiring in 1997, he served as a mediator until 2002. In 1999 he served as adjudicator for the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner. Ken was a member of the Union Club of BC, and an avid golfer and member at the Victoria Golf Club for 47 years, where he once had a "single digit" handicap. He loved golfing, hiking and travelling the world with Jane. Ken is survived by Jane; his children, Lynn, Lloyd, Susan and Steve; stepsons Tony and Shaun; and by 15 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. Ken had a wonderful and often subtle sense of humour and was a gentle man. He will be missed by all who knew him.

WERNER DETTWILER, BSc'59



In September 2013, the BC high-technology sector lost one of its pioneers. Werner (Vern) Dettwiler died suddenly at the age of 78 in Switzerland, where he had been living with his wife, Cecile. Vern was hired as the fifth employee of the fledgling UBC Computing Centre. That first computer (only the second in the province) had a 34-kilobyte memory and was so large that it was delivered in a moving van. Between 1957

and 1968, UBC used five different mainframe computers. Vern witnessed amazing changes during his working life, as computers kept getting faster and developing more capacity: Resistors replaced tubes, printed circuit boards replaced individually soldered circuits and were in turn replaced by microchips. Vern eventually became head of New Projects at UBC, a job he loved for its novelty and challenge. His drive and enthusiasm lead Vern to team up to start MacDonald Dettwiler and Associates (MDA) in 1969, a high-level computing firm supplying complete systems: hardware and software. He was involved in creating satellite receiving stations, weather prediction programs, and robotics (such as the Canadarm on the US space craft); the Canadian Police Information System; and air traffic control systems. MDA, which started with a handful of men working part-time from the corner of a basement, has grown to become an internationally recognized leader with more than 4,800 employees. Vern was on the executive of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. He served for two terms on the Canada Standards Council and was involved with the Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce. Vern loved music, flying, trains, walking in the Alps, and his family. Vern is survived by his wife, Cecile, BA'78; daughters Pamela, BSc'86, and Sarah, BA'86; and granddaughter Katherine.

ROBERT DONALD (DON) LYON, BEd'59

Don was hardworking, irrepressible and known for his humorous, flippant remarks. Don grew up in Powell River and attended UBC from 1955 to 1959. Following graduation, he worked in a variety of fields in the Canadian Rockies including avalanche control, construction and teaching. In 1972, he moved back to the coast to become the resource centre coordinator for the Burnaby School Board, a position he held for 25 years. In the 1980s, Don and his wife, Heather,



founded Galena Publishing, which created postcards of the Kootenays, an area they loved and eventually retired to, settling in the town of Nelson. Don was an active member of UBC's Varsity Outdoor Club (VOC), first as a student and then as a grad member. For more than 50 years he was coordinator for past members who were in the club during the 1950s and 60s, helping to organize a yearly ski reunion in the Okanagan and, later on, an annual "Larch Lurch" autumn hike in the Rockies. As a mountaineer, Don was described by alpine historian Chic Scott as one of Canada's leading alpinists in the 1960s. He was a member of successful expeditions to Mt. Logan, Yukon (1959), and the first ascent of the Pioneer Ridge on Mt. McKinley, Alaska (1961), as well as quarter master of the First Canadian Himalayan Expedition (1964). In 1966-67 Don was seconded by the Alpine Club of Canada to mobilize the government-sponsored Yukon Centennial Expedition to the Icefield Ranges of the St. Elias Mountains. In all of these alpine endeavors he was joined by a large contingent of VOC grads. As Marion (née Gardiner) Boyd, BA'63, BSW'64, MSW'66, stated at Don's celebration of life, he "was the glue that kept our VOC community of the late 1950s and '60s together for many years." He will be missed by family and friends.

GEORGE ALTAMONT BROWN, BA'59



George, beloved husband of Iris, passed away peacefully on April 10, 2014, in Toronto. George studied economics and political science because he believed a strong economy was a precursor to implementing change in any society. His passion for improving the living conditions in his homeland, Jamaica, compelled him to complete a master's degree in public administration at Carleton University and a master's degree in economics at the University of Toronto (U of T) before returning to Jamaica in 1962. From 1962 to 1966, George worked at the Central Planning Unit, the Development Finance Corporation, and the University of the West Indies (UWI) hospital in Kingston, JM. As assistant administrator of the UWI hospital, he received a fellowship to study at the School of Administrative Medicine, Columbia University, NY. After returning to Canada in 1966 and gaining a master's degree in social work in 1968 at U of T, George joined the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) becoming its executive director in 1976. He will be remembered for his strength of character, integrity, sense of outrage at injustice, engaging personality and infectious laugh. George's legacy is his vast contribution to the arena of human rights in Ontario. He was a fantastic leader who provided stimulus for change, led the struggle for equal opportunity in every endeavor, and was instrumental in establishing new structures within the OHRC, such as a community race and ethnic relations unit. George used his fine intellectual powers to combat injustice, which was rampant in the social fabric of Ontario. His remarkable achievements at the OHRC changed the social dynamics of Ontario. George spent his entire life thinking about how to rid our society of the evils of harassment and discrimination. Now that his earthly watch is over, he can rest in peace having realized his dream of making the world a better place.

ROBERT HARRIS, BA'59, BLS'62, MLS'79

Born in Glasgow in 1936, Robert died in White Rock of lung cancer in 2014. In his early career, he worked as head of circulation at UBC library, chief librarian at BCIT, and subsequently served as the consultant on libraries to



the provincial government and was instrumental in improving library services to educational and medical systems. After serving as executive director to the Management Advisory Council, Robert started his own consulting firm, advising on systems and training staff from more than a hundred small Lower Mainland businesses. Robert was a founding member of the Council of Post-Secondary Library Directors; one-time President of the BC Library Association; and an officer or member of several committees of the Canadian Library Association, receiving several awards for his contributions. After retiring, Robert and his wife, Betty, volunteered for Rotary International and the Canadian Executive Services Organization, helping plan, organize and improve computer and library services at overseas institutions and businesses. Robert worked tirelessly on developing and improving the computer program that connects the public health system to the remote area around Jérémie, Haiti. This system has been recognized as unique and outstanding in its outcomes by US Aid, the UN and other health organizations. He founded "Help for Haiti Consortium" and was awarded the prestigious "Service Above Self" Rotary award in 2012. That same year, he was recognized by the President of the Haitian Health Foundation when he was honoured at the White House. He was an honourable, unassuming man. His intellectual curiosity and sense of humour made him an interesting companion. He was a loving husband of 33 years to his wife, Betty; a loving father to his two stepchildren, Zakiya of Seattle and Waleed of Singapore; and a loving grandfather to his two granddaughters, Jasmin and Jade. He will be much missed by his family, by those he worked with, and by all who knew him.

LLOYD (BILLY) GORDON SHANNON, BASc'61



Bill was born on June 17, 1933, in San Fernando, Trinidad. He completed his high school education in Trinidad and then moved to Vancouver in 1956, having been accepted into the engineering program at UBC. Bill married Elma in 1959 and graduated from UBC in 1961. He then completed a two-year post-graduate scholarship with the UK government. Bill and Elma have five children (Natalie, Steve, Cathy, Dana, BSN'01, MSN'14, and LeeAnn, BEd'07); 16 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. In 1971, Bill returned to Vancouver, where he worked as Chief Electrical Engineer with DW Thompson & Co. A year later, he incorporated his own engineering consulting practice and completed more than 1,000 projects. In 1982, Bill undertook a five-year overseas contract with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago as electrical consultant. In 1987, Bill's practice resumed in Vancouver and he was active in it until 2013. Bill died on October 24, 2013, of ALS. His life was eventful and satisfying, filled with the joys of a long marriage, large family, many friends, and the success of his professional career. His family marked the first year anniversary of his passing with loving memories of his outrageous stories, the pride he took in his family, and a generous spirit.

J. F. D. ILOTT, BEd'64

1938 - 2014

A gentle giant to everyone he knew, our dad communicated in actions, not words. Born and raised in BC, Fred finished his master's degree at the University of Western Washington in 1967. He finished his PhD in education at the University of Missouri in an astounding three years. The motivation

behind his speed became apparent when, upon graduation, he returned to Bellingham and quickly married his former classmate, Helen Matthews (née Bresnahan). The new family moved to Canada, where Fred became a professor at the University of Alberta. In 1996 Fred and Helen moved to the Hood Canal and built their retirement home. He is predeceased by his parents, Fred and Cecilia, and his wife, Helen. He is lovingly remembered by his sister, Leslie (Leo); his children, Lorin Matthews (Kerry), Marna Matthews (Paul), and Wendy Ilott (Tobi); and his grandchildren, Sarah, Tom, Alex and Chris.

DONALD FRANK FLOOD, BA'66

Don was born in Kingston, ON, on October 23, 1943, and died in Nelson, BC, on April 20, 2014, aged 70. He was a long-time resident of Nelson, where he worked as a lineman for the City of Nelson before retiring in 2003. Before that he worked for the Federal Government as a meteorological technician in various postings including Cambridge Bay, Nunavut. During the last third of his life he became a Catholic, and his faith and his church were very important to him. He was a very shy, kind and loving man, beloved of all who knew him. He was a nature and animal lover, a patron of the arts, an avid reader and had a great appreciation for poetry, literature, fine art and classical music. Predeceased by his parents, Viva and Frank Flood, he is survived by his dog, Shadow, his brother, Steve, and his sister, Elspeth. He is also survived by nieces, nephews and cousins, and by many friends including his close friends, Ron and Sara, Danielle and James. He will be much missed by them, by his neighbours and by his church community.

KAREN ROWDEN MILNE, BA'68

Karen Rowden Milne passed away in comfort on June 12, 2014, after suffering 18 months with cancer. She is mourned by her partner of 44 years, Graham Milne. Born in Halifax, Karen grew up in Whitehorse and Kamloops. Karen was an artist with Canada Council Bursaries in 1970 and 1971, which led to an exhibition of her wearable sculpture at the Vancouver Art Gallery in 1971. She was awarded Canadian and US patents in 1973 and 1974 for a garment design and method of dressing. From 1974 to 2004 she and Graham operated Graham Milne Photolab, making fine prints for enthusiastic photographers. In 2002 Karen was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal for her relentless work in protecting the environmental values of North Vancouver. In 2014 she was given the Living City Award from the City of North Vancouver. She created mosquitocreek.org and urbanstreams.org. If you knew Karen please remember her well.

DAVID ALEXANDER VAN DRIESUM, BPE'84

1961 - 2012

In Prince George, on September 29, 1961, God blessed the van Driesum family with a most precious gift - a son, David Alexander. First and foremost, David loved God profoundly. Each day, he lived his motto for his life with his words and actions: love God, love family and love others. He taught us the art of living life to the fullest, as well as serving God and others wherever and however we can. David was and will always be the rock of our family. David spent his childhood roaming the forests and fishing along the banks of the Nechako River. In 1984, he married Mary and was blessed with two daughters, Emily and Alison. He loved all "his girls" dearly. No mountain was too high, no task too great - anything to put a smile on their faces - they were the centre of his being. After receiving his degree, he worked as a social worker in Prince George, later returning to school to pursue a career that became

his passion for the rest of his life. He received a Bachelor of Rehabilitation and Medicine degree at the University of Alberta, establishing the Hys Centre Physical Therapy clinic shortly thereafter. David sold the clinic to LifeMark and became a regional vice president of the company, managing clinics in Alberta and Manitoba. David was a man with numerous hobbies and interests who travelled the world. He loved being with young people and touched the hearts of many during Serve trips to Mexico and El Paso, and while coaching teams and leading youth groups. His playful mind games always left kids shaking their heads, scheming for their chance to retaliate. David always said that he would be forever young. He will live on in the hearts of those who knew him. We love you, Dad.

PROFESSOR EMERITUS GEOFFREY HAINSWORTH



1934 - 2011

Geoffrey was born in Bramley, Yorkshire. In 1952 he received a state scholarship to attend the University of London, graduating from the London School of Economics in 1954 and receiving the Allyn Young Honours Prize. A Fulbright Scholars grant enabled him to obtain his PhD at the University of California at Berkeley, his thesis being classical theories of overseas

development, a subject he pursued throughout his working life. He taught at Harvard from 1958 to 1960 while supervising the study program for foreign service fellows under the Harvard Development Advisory Service, along with participation in Pakistan's Second Five-Year Plan. He spent 1960 to 1965 as a research fellow and instructor at the Australian National University in Canberra, with research work in Papua New Guinea. His three children were born in Canberra. Returning to the US, he taught at Williams College in Massachusetts while supervising specially selected mature foreign student fellows at the Centre for Economic Development. Geoffrey started his career at UBC in 1968, where he founded the Centre for Southeast Asia Studies, retiring as its director in 2001. He was one of a select Canadian Educators Group invited in 1976 to visit institutions in China. He organized the first international conference for Southeast Asian Studies in 1979 and was twice elected president of the Canadian Council for Southeast Asian Studies. He was greatly respected and valued by colleagues in Canada and abroad, having lived in Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam working with their governmental agencies and their universities. Dedicated to equality, justice and compassion, he touched the lives of many. Learning, understanding and laughter was his way.

Please note that the next two print issues of *Trek* will be special centennial issues that may not include all of our usual departments. Although we are still accepting obituaries, unfortunately we are unable to guarantee their timely publication.

Please submit obituaries to trek.magazine@ubc.ca including "In Memoriam: first name, last name, class year" in the subject line, or mail to: **alumni UBC, 6163 University Boulevard, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1**

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



Photo credit: Huang Chen-Chang

THE LAST WORD

WITH WANTING QU

Wanting Qu moved to Canada from China as a teenager in order to improve her English and attend school. Although she stuck to the plan for the first few years, by 2005 she was focusing most of her attention on writing and performing songs on piano, while sidestepping parental pressure to pursue a career in business.

During the summer of 2009, Qu took some music courses at UBC and was in the process of applying for a full-time program when something big happened: Terry McBride contacted her. McBride is CEO of the Nettwerk Music Group, which has managed artists such as Sarah McLachlan, Dido, and Coldplay, and Qu had sent him a demo of her music. Soon after meeting her, McBride signed Qu to the label. Since that pivotal summer, Qu, who sings in English and Mandarin, has become a platinum-plated superstar in Asia with millions of fans. (This has not gone unnoticed by Tourism Vancouver, which appointed her Vancouver's first tourism ambassador to China in 2013.)

With her home base in Vancouver, Qu has been leading a dual life: superstardom in Asia and relative obscurity in North America. Determined to crack the market here, she has released an English-language album and last year went on tour at venues across North America. You can watch how her career unfolds by following her on social media:

North America: @WantingQu | facebook.com/wantingqu
China: weibo.com/quwanting | site.douban.com/wanting

What is your most prized possession?

My life experiences. They are something nobody else has and they teach me how to become a better person.

Who was your childhood hero?

My mother. She is a hard worker and has given me the best life I can have, no matter what struggles she went through to do it.

Describe the place you most like to spend time.

Singer-songwriters need alone time. I like spending time in my home to think, reflect and write songs. If you'd asked me three years ago, I'd have said Hawaii, because I love warmth, nature and swimming with turtles.

What was the last thing you read?

The Consequences – a book I bought when stuck at the airport because

of the cover image. I spend a lot of time on planes and so have usually seen all the movies.

What or who makes you laugh out loud?

My friends.

What's the most important lesson you ever learned?

That everything happens for a reason. If you expect something to happen and it doesn't, just be patient and know there is a reason. You won't know what it is immediately, but you'll know eventually.

What's your idea of the perfect day?

It would start after a really good sleep. It has to be sunny and warm and I'd have to be near the oceans or mountains – close to nature. I would spend it surrounded by love.

What was your nickname at school?

Chili pepper. I was feisty and would always think I was right. Now I'm nicer and more diplomatic.

What would be the title of your biography?

The Things You Don't Know about Wanting
Or: *Life is Like a Movie*

What item have you owned for the longest time?

I came to Canada from China when I was 16. I still have a traditional Chinese dress from my childhood and a lot of photos.

What is your latest purchase?

Recording software for a friend.

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

I admire Amy Winehouse – not because of her personal lifestyle, but because she was so real and

so vulnerable. She didn't sugarcoat anything. I find her honesty brave and rare. It touched a lot of people.

What would you like your epitaph to say?

"She lives on through her music."

If you could invent something, what would it be?

A potion that makes someone understand how others feel and think. If everybody understood each other there would be more harmony in the world.

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

I'd be a flying dinosaur, millions of years ago.

What are you afraid of?

The unknown.

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

I wish I could do my own accounting and I wish I could speak more languages.

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

Coldplay: "Fix You"
Amy Winehouse: "Our Day Will Come"
Anything from the movie soundtrack by Hans Zimmer for *The Holiday*

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

My friends in Asia say I look like the writer Sanmao. My younger fans say my music style reminds them of Taylor Swift.

What is your pet peeve?

Stupid and slow computers that don't do what they're told.

What are some of your UBC highlights?

I took a Balinese music course in the summer of 2009. I had to learn to play a Balinese instrument and all the different rhythms, and the teacher was awesome. The campus is beautiful, but the music school is too far away from the SUB. Sometimes there wouldn't be time to get there and back for lunch! 

Build dreams



ALUMNI

INSURANCE PLANS

We are all bound by familiar milestones in life – and the financial responsibilities that come with them. Whether you're raising a family or a roof over your head, make sure you've got the right insurance plan in place for your family. Find out how **Alumni Insurance Plans** can help.

- **Term Life Insurance** • **Health & Dental Insurance** • **Major Accident Protection**
- **Income Protection Disability Insurance** • **Critical Illness Insurance**

To learn more visit manulife.com/alumnimilestones or call toll-free **1-888-913-6333**

alumniUBC

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

 Manulife

Underwritten by
The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company.

Manulife and the Block Design are trademarks of The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company and are used by it, and by its affiliates under license.
© 2015 The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company (Manulife). All rights reserved. Manulife, PO Box 4213, Stn A, Toronto, ON M5W 5M3.

Win
\$1,000
Cash!

Get an online quote
for **Alumni Term Life Insurance**
to enter!

No purchase necessary. Contest open to Canadian residents who are the age of majority in their province or territory of residence as of the contest start date. Approximate value of each prize is \$1,000 Canadian. Chances of winning depend on the number of valid entries received by the contest deadline. Contest closes Thursday, December 3, 2015, at 11:59 p.m. ET. Only one entry per person accepted. Skill testing question required.

Stay Smart!



B.C.'s smartest
leaders read
BCBusiness.
Do you?



Special Offer

Get *BCBusiness* for just \$1.25/issue*.
Delivered monthly to your door,
iPad and desktop.

BCBUSINESS



BCBusiness.ca/UBC
or call 604.299.1023

*12 issues, \$14.95 plus tax

05UBC15