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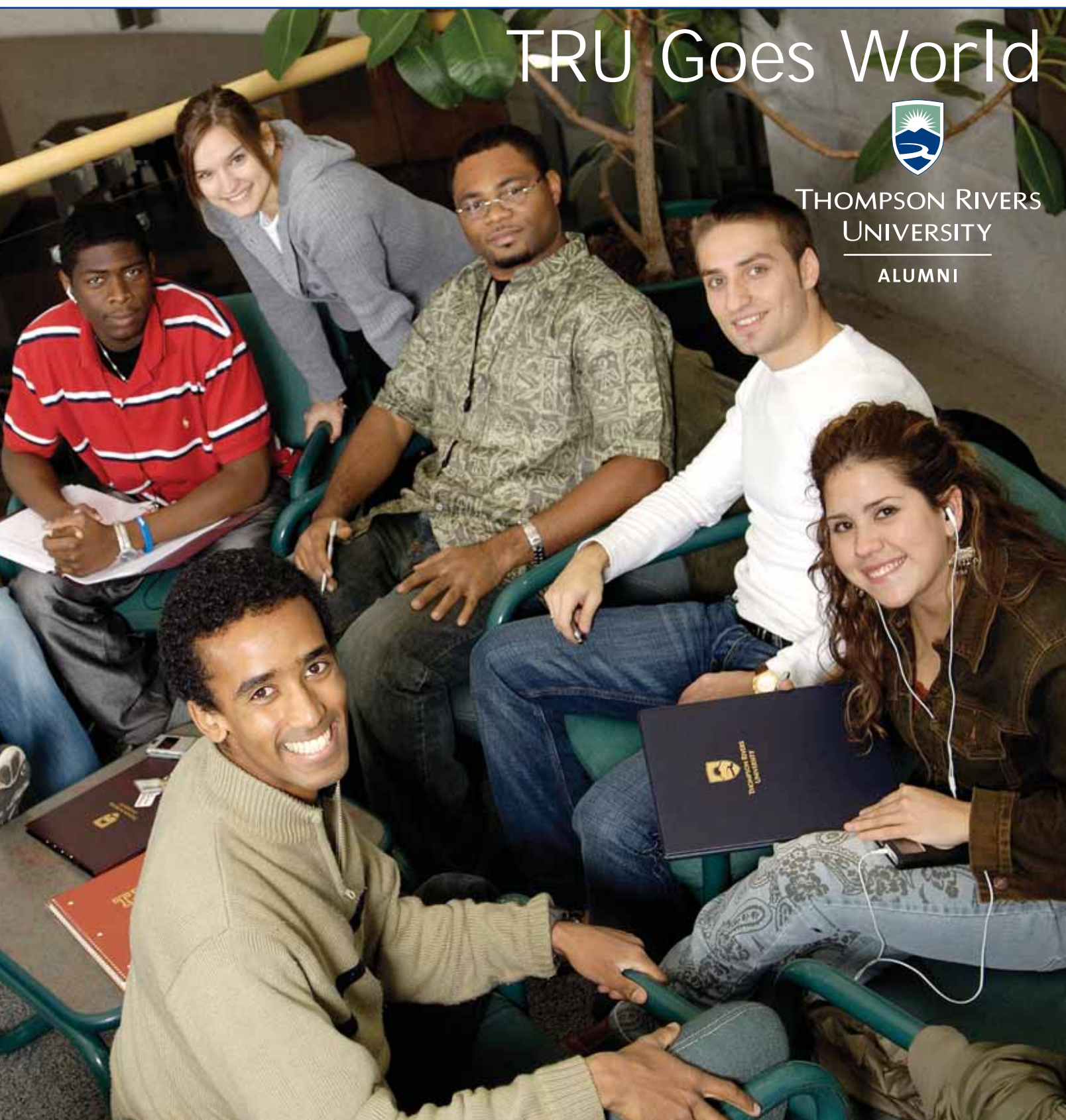
THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY ALUMNI MAGAZINE • SPRING 2006

## TRU Goes World



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## TRU Alumni Association Board Chair

I am pleased to bring greetings on behalf of the TRU Alumni Board of Directors. The board is extremely proud of the work of the association over the past year. In the fall of 2005 we developed a new strategic plan which will see the Alumni Association continue to evolve along with British Columbia's newest university.

In a year of highlights one of the more significant events of 2005 was the presentation of the Distinguished Alumni Awards during the President's Reception in October. This event continues to grow in scope and quality each year and we look forward to seeing it evolve as we honour graduates and faculty who have distinguished themselves in their careers.

Although October is many months away we are always looking for suitable nominees who deserve to be honoured as Distinguished Alumni. Please visit [www.trualumni.ca](http://www.trualumni.ca) for more information about the nomination process.

The Alumni Association has a number of events planned for the spring of 2006 and we hope to see you there. On April 1st we will sponsor the 2nd annual TRU Campus Classic 5 km and 10 km run. You are encouraged to enter a team or simply join us for a walk. All are welcome. The Pineridge Charity Golf Tournament in support of the Alumni Association is scheduled for Friday, May 12, 2006. This is a great opportunity to get together with fellow graduates, catch up on old times and

have fun doing it. Plan to sign up a team or two.

There are many benefits available to TRU Alumni. You can find out more about them by visiting our website or by calling our office at 828-5498.

Finally, if you haven't already done so, we urge you to sign up for our On Line Community. You can do so by visiting our website at [www.trualumni.ca](http://www.trualumni.ca)

And above all – Stay Connected!



Denise Harper, CMC '74

## TRU President and Vice-Chancellor

Thompson Rivers University has developed into an internationalized university that provides students with opportunities to broaden their cultural experiences and knowledge in many ways.

Students from over 50 countries representing every continent come to TRU each year. As they learn about Canada's languages, customs and people, Canadian students gain cultural knowledge and forge intercultural friendships through interaction in and out of the classroom with their international peers.

International initiatives like TRU's Study Abroad Centre also foster international networks and immersion. A new reciprocity-based agreement between our university and the International Student Exchange Program (ISEP) means TRU students may now choose from more than 200 exchange destinations around the world, and TRU will see many more students coming here.

Thompson Rivers University also reaches out to the world's communities, delivering training and managing development projects the world over. These initiatives have given our university a global perspective, profile and reputation.

I encourage you to read this edition to see how internationalization has raised our university's standing in the world and enabled our students to develop lifelong skills and connections as they prepare for life and work as citizens of our global village.

Regards,

President and Vice-Chancellor  
Thompson Rivers University



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# Thompson Rivers University Goes World

by April Hoffman

With over 850 international students representing more than 50 countries on campus and over 1000 students registered in accredited, offshore programs, it's no wonder that when the transition to Thompson Rivers University occurred, UCC International changed

its name to reflect its mission, "Where the university meets the world". As the university continues to grow, so does its international presence -- thanks to the aptly titled TRU World.

"Thompson Rivers University is considered a Canadian leader in international education and this has significant benefits for our community, our faculty and our students," says associate vice-president, TRU World, Cyndi McLeod.

The scope of international programs at TRU is wide and contributes a special quality to the campus life and culture at TRU.

and accreditations, development projects, contract training and study abroad.

TRU World also collaborates with over 12 overseas partner institutions to deliver TRU programming abroad. One such partnership is with the Shanghai Institute of Technology in China where the first two years of the TRU business program are being offered, after which students have the option of coming to TRU to finish their degree.

TRU deans and faculty travel to the partner institutions to monitor the program for quality assurance. This type of initiative also provides an opportunity for faculty to meet their counterparts and to teach at the partner institution.

Currently, institutional linkages are primarily focused in the areas of business and computing; however, there may be future opportunities to include additional fields, such as respiratory therapy and trades and technology.

TRU has experienced a dramatic increase in international demand for specialized programs. Over the few past years, groups of senior administrators, school teachers, tourism specialists, and university students have studied at TRU from countries such as Japan, China, Taiwan and Chile.

Making a contribution to developing countries is also an important goal for TRU World. The university is engaged in a number of development projects whose goal is to provide assistance and share expertise. The university has been involved in projects in Indonesia, Slovakia and Nepal, and after being inspired by a presentation from humanitarian Stephen Lewis, is seeking ways to play a constructive role in Africa.

One of the important roles of TRU World is ensuring that international students who come to Thompson Rivers University have access to support services. To ensure this goal, TRU World employs a team of student advisors who speak a variety of different languages and help guide students in areas of regular daily life.

"We have a large, dedicated team who work with our international students. Our commitment is to ensure that when we



## Cover Story

"It's rare now to have a field that does not incorporate the international perspective in terms of research, initiatives or advances," says TRU World associate director, Vera Wojna. "Our international students bring an important resource directly into our classrooms."

Located in the new International Building, TRU World coordinates international initiatives on campus, focusing on major areas such as student affairs for academic programs, institutional linkages

"Thompson Rivers University is considered a Canadian leader in international education."

Cyndi McLeod,  
AVP, TRU World



invite a student to study at TRU, their experience is successful," says Wojna.

For the more social side of student life, the International Student Activity Program (ISAP) organizes between 18 to 24 activities annually, including horseback riding, skiing trips and an annual Christmas party to help introduce students to Canadian culture and the Kamloops area. In addition, ISAP helps international students integrate into campus life. The TRU Amazing Race event, which sees two international and two Canadian students teamed up to race around Kamloops, provides a natural opportunity for international students to meet Canadian students and learn more about campus and the community.

Canadian students also benefit from TRU World programs. The Study Abroad program offers Canadian students the opportunity to study abroad for one or two semesters. As well, students can gain a global perspective on their studies through their international classmates.

Outside of establishing connections between TRU and the rest of the world, the work done by TRU World is providing an extra boost to the Kamloops economy.



"In addition to the social and cultural enrichment to our community, there is an economic benefit to our institution and region," says Wojna. "There are numerous businesses benefiting from having our international students accessing their services and products."

Recent studies estimate that international activity at TRU contributes \$42 million annually to the local economy and is forecast to grow considerably in the next five years.



TRU Amazing Race



# International Students

## Canny Wan

In the Chinese zodiac, those who are born in the year of the dog generally make ideal business people. While Canny Wan may not have been born in the year of the dog, her professional career will be and she is hoping that some of that luck will transfer over.

Spring 2006 will mark a new chapter in Wan's life as she graduates from TRU with her Bachelor of Business Administration degree with a major in marketing and a minor in finance.

Originally from Guangzhou, located in the south of China near Hong Kong, Wan came to TRU looking for a different cultural experience. What she found was not only a cultural experience for herself, but one to which she was able to contribute personally.

For the last two years Wan has been involved in the Chinese Student and Scholars Association, a Chinese cultural association that hosts events such as the Full



Moon Festival and the annual Chinese New Year celebration. This past year she served as president of the club, giving her the opportunity to gain experience in not only the planning of events, but in the marketing and promotion of them as well.

Before heading back to China, Wan plans to stay in Canada in order to gain much-needed experience in the workplace, focusing on marketing, sales, promotions and planning.

"The China market is very competitive," said Wan. "I plan on working in Canada for a few years to gain the experience that will give me a competitive advantage back home."



## Kevin Wang

Kevin Wang loves to travel so it was no surprise when he made the decision to leave his home town of Taichung, Taiwan to come to Canada and study. But with all the different places to choose from, it was the relatively small size of Kamloops that appealed to Wang when he made his decision to attend TRU.

"I didn't look at schools in big cities like Vancouver or Toronto," said Wang. "I don't like really big cities so the size of Kamloops was just right for me."

Since his arrival, Wang has made use of his presence

in B.C., travelling all over the province from Vancouver Island to the Alaskan boarder.

"I've always liked to travel," said Wang. "I really wanted to immerse myself in Canadian culture and to see the country while I was here. I have even taken trips to the United States."

After graduating this spring with his Bachelor of Business Administration degree with majors in finance and marketing, Wang will be looking for a job that will give him the experience he craves before pursuing his dream of becoming a missionary or pastor in Vancouver.

"I believe that experience in marketing will help me to speak to the public and reach out to them. There are a lot of different cultures immigrating to Vancouver," said Wang. "I would like to help."

During his last year at TRU, Wang held the position of president for the International Student Ministry of Canada (ISMC) club.





# International Alumni

## Carlos Martinez

Journalism grad Carlos Martinez summed up his experience at TRU as coming to study Canadian culture, but instead meeting the world.

"Studying abroad has helped me a lot," said Martinez. "I got to learn a lot of different cultures ... and understand different points of view—not just personal, but cultural as well."

Now working as a researcher for the Los Angeles Times foreign desk in Mexico City, Martinez credits the multiculturalism found on the TRU campus with part of his success.

"I was able to learn a lot about different cultures, helping me to understand [different] mind sets," said Martinez. "This has helped me with my job in enabling me to analyze news stories in different ways."

"At first I didn't understand why an environmental story would be on the cover of a newspaper, now I

do," added Martinez. "This has helped me to understand what Americans read and do ... and look for stories that will interest them."

Next on his list Martinez plans on heading to England to obtain his Master's degree in International Business. Afterward he would like to start his own publication in Mexico.

"I've always wanted to start my own newspaper or magazine," said Martinez. "I've always felt that Mexico needs good information to empower [the] people. If I ever start my own magazine, it would definitely be a political magazine."



## Wayne Wei

When Wayne Wei decided to attend TRU, he came with the goal of improving his English skills in order to ensure a successful career in international business.

"Before enrolling at TRU I had realized my horrible English skills and became concerned about my career in the area of international business," said Wei. "Everything I was doing at my job was basically written in English."

Originally from China, Wei worked for the Chinese government and then for a private company before coming to TRU where he earned his Bachelor of Business Administration degree, majoring in both finance and economics.

"My studies at TRU allowed me to gain the confidence needed to perform my job," said Wei. "I think the key for me in gaining that confidence was being able to learn the language and improve myself."

Wei graduated in April of 2005, and now works as a registrar and advisor for Sprott Shaw International Language College in Victoria, where he acts as a liaison for students and agencies, both locally and internationally.

While Wei enjoys working at his job for now, he does plan to continue on his path of self-improvement by continuing with his education.

"I am planning on taking my master's in finance...or getting my MBA," said Wei. "I would like to continue my career in international business and will be watching the markets for potential opportunities in case I decide to start my own business."



## TRU Study Abroad Program

by April Hoffman

Exploring a foreign land, learning about a new culture and all the other adventures that come in between are what you can expect to read on Justin Daoust's web blog about his experiences while studying abroad. Along with fellow TRU student Ryan Steele, Daoust is a second-year TRU business student on exchange at the Tianjin University of Technology in China. With exchanges available to China, Japan, Austria, Germany, England, France, Australia and many more countries, the TRU Study Abroad program provides a number of options available to students who want the experience of studying internationally.

"The options are almost unlimited," says Study Abroad manager Geoff Wilmshurst. "We now have 300 or more options across every single academic field."



TRU BBA Student Justin Daoust in the historic Bell Tower in Xian, China. (photo contributed)

"It's so important for a student's development to have an international experience," adds Wilmshurst. "That experience is life changing—it's worth gold."

Bachelor of Journalism student Ina-Cristine Helljesen agrees with Wilmshurst. Helljesen recently returned from studying abroad in Australia where she was able to advance her education by taking journalism classes that aren't offered at TRU.

"It's just a great experience," says Helljesen. "To be introduced to a different culture and to meet people from all over the world. I was introduced to the Australian news world and was able to take different classes other than ones offered here...like broadcast."

"In my studies of journalism you need to know the world around you," says Helljesen. "What better way than to go to a different country. The experience doesn't just relate to journalism though. It will benefit other [academic] areas as well because of globalization."

Wilmshurst advises parents of students who are interested in studying abroad to start looking into the program early. "Second-year students are preferable because they have lots of study options left and don't need specific courses to graduate," says Wilmshurst.

For TRU alumni, Wilmshurst's message is "Get your kids excited and thinking about it early."

"If a student is interested then the first step is to take a look at our website and see where you would like to go and understand the requirements."

Finally Wilmshurst has a message for parents. "An international education is really one of the greatest gifts you can give your child, so please encourage their interest and give them a push if they need it." Wilmshurst is happy to meet with parents to discuss their child's study abroad options even before they get to TRU.

To check out the Study Abroad web site go to [www.truworld.ca/studyabroad.htm](http://www.truworld.ca/studyabroad.htm) To read more about Justin Daoust's adventures in China go to [www.bluealpha.com](http://www.bluealpha.com).





Lorianna Bennett

# TRU Grad Gives Back

by April Hoffman

When Lorianna Bennett entered her first year at (then named) The University College of the Cariboo, she did so on an entrance scholarship. Years later, when Bennett was contacted and asked to donate to the TRU Foundation, she jumped at the chance to give back.

"When I graduated from high school I had won the UCC Entrance Scholarship," said Bennett. "That was a significant financial assistance to me ... it paid for most of my undergraduate tuition. Years later when I was asked to contribute, I didn't hesitate for a moment because it [gave] me the chance to give back to those students who were in the same position I had once been in."

Born and raised in Kamloops, Bennett graduated from UCC with her Bachelor of Science (Animal Biology) degree in 1994. She then went straight to the University of Alberta where she obtained her law degree in 1997. Bennett came back to Kamloops to article and now works with her brother, David Paul, at Paul & Company, where she focuses on family law and personal injury.

Bennett started donating to the Foundation in 2000, when she was asked to sit on the Foundation Board of Directors. In 2002, Bennett lost her father, Ronald Paul, to cancer. It wasn't long afterward that the Ronald Paul Memorial Award was established, going to

a deserving student enrolled in the electronics program.

"I was already involved with the Foundation so I was aware of memorial awards," said Bennett. "I was looking for something to do in [my father's] memory so I talked to my family and we thought it was a good idea ... my dad had a career in electronics for most of his life."

**"I was looking for something to do in [my father's] memory so I talked to my family and we thought it was a good idea ... my dad had a career in electronics for most of his life."**

Lorianna Bennett

"Birthdays, Christmas and Father's Day ... the money that we would normally have spent on Dad gets put into the fund," added Bennett. "It has the personalized benefit of keeping Dad's memory alive. Last year was the first year we handed [an award] out and it was very rewarding. It was also very emotional to see a deserving electronics student with my father's name on his tag."

Both Bennett's brother, David, and her husband, Sean, are also alumni, and she hopes that one day her son will be going to TRU as well.

"Another reason we like to donate to the university is that, sooner or later, our children will be going [to TRU] and applying for scholarships," said Bennett. "The money they may be awarded has to come from somewhere."



Lorianna Bennett

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# Master of Business Administration

by April Hoffman

When the University College of the Cariboo sought full university status, academic deans knew there would be a natural expectation that the university would offer master's programs. Flash-forward to the 2005-06 academic year and Thompson Rivers University offers students a unique Master of Business Administration program. "The [development] process took two-and-a-half years," said Dean of Business and Economics Murray Young. "[Our first cohort] started September 1, 2005, and we have 27 full-time students who stay with us for 16 intensive months.

"I say intensive because instead of the usual four classes a semester, our students take five and continue straight through for the entire 16 months—there is no summer break," added Young.

Aside from the shorter time frame,

other unique attributes of the program include cohort learning, a business research and consulting requirement, and no prescribed amount of work experience. The new master's program also provides an internship option that helps to bridge the gap between the program itself and the workforce.

"It introduces students who graduate from the MBA program to the workforce, and not at the bottom but with access to the boardroom," said MBA administrative assistant Margaret Hohner.

For MBA student Jess Rothenburger, the attraction was more along the lines of location and cost, as he did not want to relocate to the coast.

"The program offers excellent value. You get a lot for what you pay for. I most enjoy working with

my counterparts; we are a pretty diverse group of people from all over the world," said Rothenburger.

Of the 27 students currently enrolled in the program, eight of them are international students.

"I think we are very fortunate to be able to work hand-in-hand with TRU World," said Hohner. "The international presence has added perspective and dimension to the students' experience. Business is global now."

While some students may be wary of entering a program in its first couple of years, Young believes it may be the best time to enter.

"Being part of the early years of a program is always an important decision," said Young. "The people who step out early probably get the benefit of a lot of new ideas and enthusiasm, and the interest of the administration."

International student Raghu Kadambi agrees.

"Being a part of the first years of a program has its advantages. Because you are the first graduating class they want to [promote] you more," said Kadambi.

While the MBA program may be the first of its kind at TRU, the deans of other academic areas are getting set to follow suit in the coming years as TRU continues to develop its mandate as Canada's most comprehensive university.

"Proposals for master's degrees in Environmental Studies and in Education are currently being reviewed by the Degree Quality Assessment Board of the province and master's degrees in Tourism, Social Work and Interdisciplinary Studies are also being developed," says Mark Evered, Provost and VP Academic.



TRU MBA Students Raghu Kadambi and Jess Rothenburger



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“ The students are so full of energy & eager to learn! It is amazing to see the integration of the students' creativity and energy with the tools that they learn in their courses – it is a very powerful combination!”

---

MBA Professor, Brock Dykeman



# Three Alumni – Three Sciences



## Stuart Chambers

Born and raised in Kamloops, B.C., Stuart Chambers attended Kamloops Senior Secondary School. After graduating in 1999, Chambers entered TRU with a full entrance scholarship where he obtained his Bachelor of Science, majoring in chemistry and minoring in physics. Today, Chambers is at the University of Alberta working toward his PhD in Chemistry and was recently awarded a prestigious Alberta Ingenuity Fund Studentship.

After making it into the top four per cent of the Alberta Ingenuity Fund's criteria and marking scale for 2005, Chambers was required to put forward project ideas that could stem off his research, as well as give a detailed explanation of his

research and how he was going to go about accomplishing his goals. The reward: an allowance of \$22,000 a year plus \$1,500 a year for travel and equipment guaranteed until 2009—the year Chambers hopes to graduate.

So what type of research is Chambers working on? Described as a project that is both novel and potentially very useful, Chambers's work involves a system to separate different chemical species in liquid samples into their individual components. In lay terms, it can be thought of as a filter purification system that would never require the filter to be changed.

"So far, the first results we have obtained are very promising," said Chambers. "Ultimately, if everything works, a version of the system could be used to desalinate salt water, making it usable for human consumption."

After graduation, Chambers would like to become a professor of chemistry at a smaller university or university college. While attending TRU, he worked for the Eureka! Science program for a summer allowing him to gain experience creating a science program for children.

"I had to come up with chemistry projects for children as well as chemical demonstrations that could be demonstrated by a professional to a live audience," said Chambers.

"I originally thought I was going to be a high school teacher, but I liked learning and research too much," added Chambers. "So being a professor at a smaller university or college seems like a great option."

## Jeff Guthrie

From over 100 applicants, TRU alumnus Jeff Guthrie was one of the 19 lucky recipients of an award from the 2005 Alberta Ingenuity Fund.

Guthrie graduated from TRU in 1999 with his Bachelor of Science degree, after which he continued on and graduated with his PhD from Carleton University in 2004. Now a postdoctoral researcher, Guthrie is at the University of Alberta working under the supervision of Dr. X. Chris Le from the Department of Public Health Sciences on the development of ultra-sensitive bioanalytical techniques for the study of DNA damage by environmental agents.

The fellowship awarded to Guthrie provides him with \$48,000 a year, with an additional \$7,000 per year research allowance, over two years.

Guthrie is currently working on two separate projects under Dr. Chris Le. The first looks at determining how arsenic exposure (found in contaminated drinking water) affects DNA damage caused by products of incomplete combustion, such as those from cigarette smoke and automobile

exhaust. The second project is studying a synthetic cyclodextrin-oligonucleotide complex (a cyclic sugar compound bound to a small synthetic DNA fragment) as a potential therapeutic agent.

"Both areas are completely different from the research I did as a PhD student in Ottawa," said Guthrie. "I knew I wanted to do something different, something more biochemistry-related to broaden my education. So far it's working out quite well for me."

Guthrie credits  
**Continued page 13**



## Kevin French

Kevin French loves nature. In fact, he is so passionate about it that he decided to pursue it as a career. French graduated from TRU in 2003 with his degree in Natural Resource Sciences. More recently, he defended his thesis and received his Master's degree in Rangeland Ecology and Management from Oregon State University.

"I have always enjoyed the outdoors and I have always wanted to work in the Natural Resource field and try to ensure that resource development is sustainable for years to come," said French.

In September of 2005, French received a Savery Outstanding Master's Student Award. Based on academic achievement and the benefits of his work on sustainable agriculture in Oregon, French received the award for his research on the effects of cattle grazing on sage-grouse nesting habitats within sagebrush ecosystems.

"Sage-grouse were petitioned to be a listed endangered species down in the U.S.," said French. "So there was an urgency to determine if grazing can coexist with sage-grouse populations in a manner that doesn't have a detrimental effect."

Now living in Calgary and working with Sustainable Resource Development as a rangeland agrologist, French is contemplating continuing his education and getting his PhD.

French isn't the only one in his family pursuing a love of the outdoors as a career; his younger sister Terri is currently finishing her fourth year of the Natural Resource Sciences program at TRU, and won a prestigious scholarship from the World Petroleum Council this past winter.

"I am proud of my sister for her accomplishments," said French. "It's great to see that she has the same aspirations and dedication to education."

### *Jeff Guthrie From page 12*

TRU assistant professor of chemistry Dr. Sharon Brewer in helping to prepare him for his present success.

"I found that my undergraduate research project with Dr. Sharon Brewer was helpful in that she gave me a taste of what research was like," said Guthrie.

While Guthrie's future plans are still up in the air, he does figure that his focus will remain related to the environment.

"For the last couple of years I have been leaning heavily toward an academic career as a university professor, but employment in industry or government is still a possibility," said Guthrie. "If I [do] end up as a professor with my own research group, the research will likely have an environmental flavour to it."

French attributes both his success and that of his sister's to the excellent teaching staff at TRU.

"They have presented us with an excellent opportunity to learn," said French. "I strongly believe this program is one of a kind for both professors and the opportunities they create.

"I believe it can [also] be attributed to our parents. They brought us up being outside all the time, whether it was camping in the Rockies, fishing or hiking. We have always spent time in the outdoors," added French.

"Both Terri and I enjoy all aspects of nature and value the resource and appreciate the need to manage it properly so that it can be enjoyed for generations to come."



An advertisement for TRU Bookstore. It features a photograph of a young woman with brown hair styled in a bun, smiling and looking down at a laptop. She is wearing a red top and a black choker necklace. The background is a soft, warm yellow. In the bottom right corner of the image, there is text: "Order your TRU products online at www.bookies.tru.ca". At the bottom center, there is the "bookies" logo, which consists of the word "bookies" in a blue, lowercase, sans-serif font, with a green graphic of several overlapping pages to the right. Below the logo, the tagline "For mind and matter" is written in a smaller, grey font.

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# Building a University

The Kamloops campus is bustling with activity and it is not just the students racing between classes. BC's newest university is growing with multiple construction projects, including a multi-million dollar campus project underway in Williams Lake.

The most visible project on the main Kamloops campus is the construction of a new 587-bed student residence. At 11-storeys, it will not only be the tallest building on campus, but also in the city. The university has partnered with Daycon, and its subsidiary, Campus Living Centres, to build the \$44.5 million facility with completion slated for September 2006.

Just below the site of the City of Kamloops' multi-million dollar upgrade to Hillside Stadium, construction crews are also hard at work building the BC Centre for Open Learning. The building will facilitate the physical relocation of TRU's open learning division from Burnaby to Kamloops and is expected to be completed in early 2007.



Artist rendering of new residence

A new warehouse facility is being built behind the Trades and Technology buildings to provide the necessary storage space required for OL course materials and to upgrade the Purchasing and Stores facilities; as well, the significant expansion to accommodate the high printing demands of distance learning programs is almost complete at Print Shop.

In Williams Lake, the former Anne Stevenson Secondary School is being transformed into a brand new campus for that community. Expected to be ready in the late fall of 2006, the new campus will bring the programs and administration of TRU Williams Lake back together under one roof and will include automotive and welding shops, an office complex and a Student Street. TRU Williams Lake will also boast of a few options rare in smaller post-secondary facilities--a gymnasium and sports playing field.



Artist rendering of BC Centre for Open Learning



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THOMPSON RIVERS  UNIVERSITY



# WolfPack Season Finale

The lead story of the WolfPack's inaugural season in Canadian Interuniversity Sport has to be the fact that our women's basketball team is the only team to have defeated SFU in conference play, when it downed the Clan in the WolfPack's first home game of the CIS season last October. The win was heralded in newspapers across Canada and trumpeted in The Province as "Thompson Rivers Slays the Giant."

The women finished their regular season with a 2-18 standing. The women fought hard throughout the winter semester, holding onto a chance at the playoffs almost to the end of the conference season when the 'Pack lost to the University of Victoria Vikes by only six points.

The men's basketball team also finished its first CIS season 2-18. The team steadily improved throughout the season, despite numerous mid-season injuries, losing its final game of the conference season against SFU by only a ten-point spread. Already committed to play with the 'Pack next season are 6'3" 185 pound Lucian Sauciuc of Centennial Secondary in Coquitlam and AA shooting sensation Siggy Skagfeld of Cedar Senior Secondary in Nanaimo.

Our women's volleyball team also went 2-18 this season. The women had some definite highlights in the winter semester, taking a set away from the Trinity Western Spartans, ranked #1 in the Canada West conference, in a nailbiter set that saw the teams battle it out to a 30-28 score for the WolfPack. The team also showed its mettle against SFU with a narrow loss in hard-fought five-set match followed by a win in four sets the next day.

Three outstanding BC athletes have committed to playing with the WolfPack next season. Left side Ashley Koehn of Langley, a 6'0" honour-roll scholar from Pacific Academy, all-around student athlete Katrina Beitel, a 5'10" setter from Revelstoke who was MVP at the junior club provincials, and Richelle Walton, a 5'7" outside hitter currently playing for Malaspina University College who is in 2nd place on the BCCAA stats leader board.

Men's volleyball ended its season 1-19. Season highlights include a win at its first home match of the season last fall, and taking a set from the University of Manitoba Bisons, ranked fourth in Canada West in its final match of the season, a

great ending to the CIS season in front of a big home crowd. Committed to WolfPack men's volleyball for next season is AAA Provincial High School Championships Most Outstanding Player Kyle Donen.

The season saw a major increase in fan support across the board. It was great to



look out at the stands and see lots of orange in support of the home team. The winter semester also marked the first appearance of our new WolfPack mascot.

WolfPack fans should mark their calendars for the Sports Task Force golf tournament fundraiser, to be held June 2nd. The 'Pack will also hold its annual Sports Camps again this summer, with registrations beginning in mid-April.



All camps allow for children to participate based on age, ability and camp intensity.

## Learn to Run with the Pack!

### TRU Sport Camps

#### Main Camps

- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Soccer
- Baseball
- Swimming
- Football
- Golf
- Gymnastics
- Lacrosse
- Track and Field
- Tennis
- Wrestling
- Alternate Camps Mornings & Afternoons
- Specialty Camps
- Special Needs Sport Camp
- Resident Camps
- Team Camps
- Traveling Camps
- Biking
- Casual Resident Camp
- Mountaineering
- Fit Camps
- Aerobic Camps
- BMX
- Fishing
- Paintball
- Rugby
- Yoga
- Ball Hockey
- Camping
- ECE Camps

#### Camp Formats

Mornings, Afternoons, Full Day & Resident

For more information about these camps please contact:

Sport Camp Coordinator  
 Phone: 250.377.6117 • Fax: 250.371.5672  
 email: [trucamps@tru.ca](mailto:trucamps@tru.ca)



THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY

# Pathfinders – where are they now?

Tom MacDougall  
BA, 1995

After graduation, Tom was the editor of the Burns Lake News, then transferred to Vancouver Island where he took up editorship of the Parksville-Qualicum Review. In 2003, he moved to East Central Alberta with his wife Vivian (BA '96) and three children to take a position of editor of a trio of community weeklies, the Stettler Independent, the Bashaw Star and the Castor Advance. He has won several awards as editor of those papers, including the Charles Hawkins Memorial Trophy from the Canadian Community Newspaper Association.

Sharron Ladd

BSc Animal Biology, 1997

After graduating, I enjoyed doing some field work in the forests of beautiful British Columbia. In 1997, I moved to Toronto, where I worked as Managing Editor for a brand-new publication called Geriatrics & Aging. After getting married in 2000, my husband and I moved to sunny Tampa, Florida. I've been working at the University of South Florida for five years in the Anatomy and Dermatopathology departments, as a Biological Scientist and Histotechnologist. I am currently working on a Master of Science degree in Health Systems through an online program at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ). We became home owners six months ago and I am thrilled to have my very own tangerine tree. I'd love to hear from my classmates at sharinflorida@yahoo.com.

James Mirtle  
BA, 2002

James completed grad studies at Ryerson's journalism school and is now the CIS reporter for the Globe and Mail's sports section.

Hsin-Kang Hsieh (Sidney)  
ESL/ Biology, 1998

I was an international student from Taiwan and spent my first Canadian experience in Kamloops. I really appreciate the great environment and teachers that helped to settle my life in Canada. After two years in UCC, I relocated to Montreal and gained Honours in Immunology from McGill University. Currently, I am finishing my MSc of Neuroscience from McGill and moving to San Francisco for a research position in UCSF. Hope I can get in contact with my former classmates and friends and hope everyone has a great year in 2006!  
(h\_sidney18@hotmail.com)

Shimpei Oishi

Bachelor of Tourism  
Management, 2000

After graduated I joined an organizing committee for the World Games, which is a mega sport event featuring 179 sport disciplines and over 4000 athletes and officials from 92 countries. My job was to communicate with the Olympic committee and international sport federations and to produce guide books and media books. Living and studying in Canada fully prepared me to pursue my dream, to be a bridge between countries. Over the past three years by working closely with the second-level government of Japan, Quebec Zoo and Warner Brother's theme park in Australia, I became a coordinator and established a friendship concord to conserve the environment and to have cultural exchanges. As a symbol of our friendship, an orphaned polar bear cub came to a new aquarium which we constructed by following Canadian regulations. Many professionals and officials worked together and will work together for years to come. It is also a great opportunity for local children; not

only they can grow up with the cub, but they will be more sensitive to the environmental issues and will be more responsible for their decisions and actions.

Tanja Hasler Mizher  
BSc Mathematics, 1999

Right after graduation I moved back to my second country of nationality, Switzerland. Here I met and married Adnan and we have started a successful business together that took four years of research and development prior to being operative. We offer spine rehabilitation for all types of back pain that brings excellent results for our patients: [www.dynasom.com](http://www.dynasom.com).

Megumi Noguchi  
Resort & Hotel

Management Diploma, 2002  
After completion of Diploma Program of Resort and Hotel Management at UCC, I have worked at a 5-star hotel in Tokyo called Sofitel Tokyo. I started off in F&B and now I am working as a Japanese Guest Relations Officer at Sofitel Bangkok. The experiences and knowledge that I gained at UCC brought me to where I stand today. I seek for more opportunities in the future in the hospitality industry.

## Appointments

The TRU Alumni Association is proud to announce the following appointments:

TRU Board of Governors:  
Brian Christianson, University Transfer '83  
Karl deBruijn, University Transfer '74

University Council:  
Cathy Ferguson, BSN '91

Planning Council for Open Learning:  
Darlene McBain, University Transfer '86

## Keep In Touch with your Alma Mater!

Don't forget to update your address to receive all the latest news, reunion information, benefits card updates and more! You can submit an update online at [www.trualumni.ca](http://www.trualumni.ca) or call us at 250-828-5498. Change of address cards can be sent to TRU Alumni Association, Box 3010, Kamloops, BC V2C 5N3

## Thais celebrate ties with TRU

TRU President and Vice-Chancellor Roger Barnsley receives an honorary Doctor of Education degree from Saint John's University in Bangkok, Thailand, for his outstanding knowledge, leadership and expertise throughout his long and distinguished career in public education.

photo submitted



**Want to connect with your old classmate?**  
**Want to meet other alumni in your area?**

Contact the Alumni Association for information about how we can assist you in planning an alumni social in your area or a class reunion.

Assistance is available with contact lists, event planning and invitations and your event may be eligible to receive partial funding.

For more information, contact us at 250-828-5498 or email [alumni@tru.ca](mailto:alumni@tru.ca)

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A portion of these sales support the TRU Alumni Association.

## Sign up on the TRU Online Community Today!

- Get a permanent [trualumni.ca](http://trualumni.ca) email address
- Access Travel and Relocation advice
- Online Career Mentoring
- Find old friends and classmates
- Post your Business Card

**It's FREE and only available to graduates and current students!**  
[www.trualumni.ca](http://www.trualumni.ca)



## Continuing Education at TRU

With the addition of many new distance and online options through the TRU Open Learning Division, students and alumni now have hundreds of options to add courses or credentials needed to advance their career. Whether choosing the flexibility offered by Distance Learning, enabling students to study when and where it fits their busy lifestyle, or courses offered through Continuing Studies, TRU offers a variety of courses, certificates, diplomas and degrees for continuing learners.

## Open Learning Division

Distance and Online courses and programs in:

- Adult Basic Education
- Arts and Sciences
- Business and Management Studies
- General Studies
- Health and Human Services
- Information Technology

For more information on distance options through Open Learning check out

<http://www.tru.ca/distance>

## Continuing Studies

- Professional Development
- Carpentry
- Driver Training
- Mechanical
- Business and Management
- Computer
- First Aid
- Health and Safety
- Teaching English as a Second Language
- Bartending

For more information on courses offered through Continuing Studies check out their website at <http://www.tru.ca/conted/>

# Upcoming Events



TRU Run

Dave Eagles photo

## TRU Campus Classic 5/10km Run

Saturday, April 1 – Mass start at 10am

TRU Campus

\$15 for high school and TRU students • \$25 for TRU alumni and general public

Entertainment, great food and participant prizes.

A prize will be awarded for the best “April Fool” costume. TRU student are eligible to win 1 of 2 – \$250 cash awards.

Registration:

online at [www.finishlinepromo.com](http://www.finishlinepromo.com)

or in person at

Runner's Sole, 74-1395 Hillside Dr, Phone: 250-377-4055



## 13th Annual Pineridge Charity Golf Tournament in support of the TRU Alumni Association

Friday, May 12

4:00pm Shotgun Start  
Teams of 3, Texas scramble

\$65 per person  
includes 18 holes of golf,  
great BBQ dinner  
and a chance at great prizes

To register, call  
Pineridge Golf Course at 573-4333

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Web: [www.kamloopshonda.bc.ca](http://www.kamloopshonda.bc.ca)



DL#7097



# Provincial health plans cover less than you think

*Alison Naimool  
Product Manager –  
Manulife Financial*

The days when an employee remained with one company for a career span of 25-30 years are long gone. Self-employment is on the rise†. As a result, the loss of health benefits that corporations provide for employees and their families is leaving many Canadians without enough health and dental protection.

Most people assume they are covered sufficiently under their provincial health plan. What they don't realize is that provincial health plans cover less than they may think. To ensure your health and dental needs are covered, consider the Alumni Extended Health and Dental Plan.

Dental care, prescription drugs\*, alternative therapies (massage therapy, chiropractors, naturopaths, etc.) and vision benefits – these health care items and services are essential for the well-being of your family. Unfortunately, they are not covered under provincial health plans.

The Alumni Extended Health and Dental Plan features a variety of options to fit all needs and budgets. The value-added *ManuAssist™*, a 24-hour emergency travel assistance program, is included at no additional cost to you. ■

† As of January 2005, there were 2.47 million self-employed Canadians out of a total of 16.057 million in the labour force. There was also a 1.6% increase in self-employment from January 2004 to January 2005. Source: Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey, February 2005.

\* Not available to Québec residents.

## Have you thought about your insurance coverage recently?

Did you know that, as a Thompson River University graduate, you and your family are entitled to affordable insurance plans, thanks to your alumni status?

Because this Alumni insurance plan is created to offer you exclusive coverage as a benefit of your alumni status, it costs very little.

**Plus, you have a comprehensive variety of insurance plans to choose from:**

- Term Life
- Major Accident Protection
- Disability
- Extended Health & Dental Care
- Critical Illness

Contact us today for your FREE no-obligation information package and join the growing number of alumni who use this plan to secure their families' financial security.

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or e-mail **[am\\_service@manulife.com](mailto:am_service@manulife.com)**

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