

# Bridges

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A Naturalist's Art pg 6

The Trick to  
**Being Greek** pg 8

Opportuni-Tee pg 14

Waste Not, Want Not pg 27

**Sustainability** pg 30



THOMPSON RIVERS  
UNIVERSITY

ALUMNI & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION





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*On the cover:*

Campus Life captured by photographer Kelly Funk. See more of his work at [www.kellyfunkphotography.com](http://www.kellyfunkphotography.com)



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## Student & Alumni Contributors



Sherry Bennett is a freelance writer and a graduate of TRU's Bachelor of Journalism program. Her affinity for local history has lured her to local libraries and archives, where she has spent many a pleasant hour.



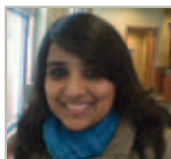
Amy Berard is a fourth-year Business Co-op student studying marketing and public relations. She was excited to interview the fraternity about Trick or Eat and work on her Halloween costume so she could join in the fun.



Rolena deBruyn is a fourth-year Science student majoring in Ecology and Environmental Biology. Apart from school she is also captain of the TRU Cross Country Running team and is an active volunteer in many community and school events.



Sarah MacMillan is a fourth-year Journalism student at TRU. She has lived in Kamloops for the last year and enjoys the change in climate after growing up in southern Alberta. After graduation she plans to travel, writing about her experiences as she goes.



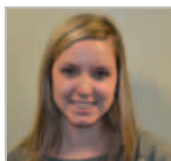
Rajeshwari Rajimwale is an international student in TRU's post-baccalaureate Journalism program. She came to Canada to pursue her dream of becoming a fashion writer. She has faith in God and for all things in her life she knows He will make a way.



Larkin Schmiedl is a budding journalist who after graduating from TRU's program spent a few months working for the local daily paper. His main areas of interest are food systems and environmental and social justice. His plan is to write and live on the land.



Devan C. Tasa is a fourth-year Journalism student. He is the news editor of the *Omega*, the independent student newspaper on campus. He graduates in the spring of 2013 and looks forward to finding out where his degree and life will take him next.



Jessica Wallace is a recent graduate of TRU's Journalism program and a reporter for the *Airdrie City View* and *Rocky View Weekly* in Airdrie, Alberta. She finds journalism is a way to learn about the world and explore creativity in writing.



This issue of Bridges Magazine emphasizes the great impact a community can have by initiating even the smallest change. Just as the TRU community extends beyond the walls and physical boundaries of the institution, to the city, province, nation and world, connecting each of us and giving us a greater sense of ourselves, the actions we take in our community, such as supporting environmental sustainability, cultural diversity, or global citizenship, ripple outward.

As you read this issue, consider the small choices that contribute to the big picture of climate change (Waste Not, page 27 and Sustainability, page 30), and the many ways scientists can learn about the natural world (Naturalist's Art, page 6, and Intertidal, page 13).

Serving the community can take many forms, from volunteering at the local level (Being Greek, page 8) to sharing knowledge internationally (Dog Days, page 9 and Africa, page 22).

TRU researchers are giving back with projects that support marginalized groups at home (Building Blocks, page 11) and abroad (Scheffel, page 18).

As TRU's new students arrive on campus, we're doing more every year to ensure they discover all the opportunities and supports available to them (Opportuni-tee, page 14), and more quickly become a part of our vibrant community.

Read the Report to Community (page 32) to learn more about the initiatives and connections that make TRU part of the larger community around us.

Together, by belonging, caring, giving, supporting and sharing, we are building a community and a legacy greater than any one individual. Contact us at [www.tru.ca/alumni](http://www.tru.ca/alumni) to find out how you can make an impact.

*Niki Remesz*

*TRU Alumni and Friends Association Chair*

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*Welcome Friends*

## Señora Emma's Survival Spanish

By Brenda Craig

Maybe it's because she makes it all so much fun that people keep coming back, year after year, to Emma Molinas' Conversational Spanish classes at TRU.

"Yes, we have a lot of interaction and conversation," says Molinas as her students begin to arrive for class in Old Main.

"And I learn a lot about Canadian culture by listening to my students."

"Hola, Señora Emma," they say as they take a seat and get ready for two hours of Spanish with an authentic speaker with genuine Latina flare. "Buenos noches," she says and gives them a smile as warm as the sun in El Salvador, the small Central American country where she was born and raised.

Molinas has been teaching Spanish to eager students for over 30 years. Most of those years, she's been teaching through Continuing Education at TRU.

"I have different kinds of students, people who want to travel to other places, especially Mexico or South America, and there are young people who come because they want to get ready for a credit Spanish course – they want to get started with the basics," says Molinas.

"They are different ages. There are some young people, some people who are still working, and some people who are retired," she says. Somehow the fact that everyone



Emma Molinas greets her Conversational Spanish students

in Señora Emma's class is learning a new language levels the playing field and everyone is just having a good time.

"They are all people who want to learn other languages and cultures."

After a few months with Señora Emma they can find a hotel, buy a travel ticket, get directions and a lot more. They can survive a trip to a Spanish-speaking country and are in a good position to learn more on their travels. "When they start they don't want to stop. They want to continue," says Molinas. "Some students I have had for 15 years and they are fluent in Spanish now."

"I am glad that continuing education gives people this opportunity to learn to speak Spanish. Continuing education is very important in the community. It gives

people who are not taking credit courses the opportunity to learn," says Molinas.

"It is important to always be learning."

In El Salvador, Molinas was an elementary school teacher until the start of a brutal 12-year civil war, during which 75,000 people were kidnapped and murdered or simply disappeared in the night. Like many El Salvadorans, Molinas and her husband Antonio sought safe harbour in Canada. After their first five years in Vancouver, Antonio got a job in Kamloops and they moved to the BC Interior.

Since then Molinas' five sisters and one brother have also moved to Kamloops. "We are very pleased to be in Kamloops. It has given us a lot of opportunities and happiness," she says. "It's a beautiful place to live."



### President's Lecture Presents: Steven Pinker

Best-selling author and acclaimed cognitive scientist Steven Pinker addressed a packed house at TRU at the TESL Interiors: Landscapes of Literacy and Language national conference and the 2012 President's Lecture. Over 700 international conference participants attended the Harvard professor's keynote,

The Stuff of Thought, on October 11, and 500 guests from TRU and the community turned out to hear his October 12 lecture on The Better Angels of Our Nature, a History of Violence, which explored violence through the ages and argued that ancient history was more violent than today.

Steven Pinker participates in a question and answer with students and others before his President's Lecture Series address on Oct. 12, 2012.

# From Toddler to the Top

By Devan C. Tasa

While many presidents of the TRU Students' Union (TRUSU) can claim a long-time connection to the university, not many have a tie stretching back as far as Dustin McIntyre's.

When McIntyre was young, his mother was the secretary for the University College of the Cariboo's student union, which later became TRUSU. One of his first memories involved the student union.

"I remember being a kid, sitting behind the front desk, playing with toys, while she worked the front desk and dealt with students," he said.

McIntyre moved to Vancouver at age 11 and finished high school there, followed by post-secondary courses, but after five years he returned home to attend theatre at TRU. When acting didn't fit, he took one anthropology class after another with professor Lisa Cook, finally becoming an anthropology major. "You get to study culture, as well as history and you get to study different people," said McIntyre. "It was challenging."

McIntyre decided to run for the student union in his first year, while working at the TRUSU coffee shop. "I was really passionate about helping students," he said. "I felt TRU could do a lot of great things and to do those properly I felt I had to be involved in TRUSU."

McIntyre became the arts and science representative, then vice president internal, then president. He was part of a successful effort to lobby the City of Kamloops on transit hours, and also lobbied the university to release exam dates earlier.

"It really makes an impact on every student," he said. "Students need to know if they can work, if they can go home, if they can travel back to their country. They need to know when their exams are."

Over the next year, McIntyre's goals as president are to convince TRU's board of governors not to hike tuition, and to increase student voter turnout in next year's provincial election.

Student apathy and lack of awareness are one of his challenges.

"Those are things we deal with every day, making sure that people understand and feel that the student union is valuable to them," he said.

*A version of this article originally appeared in The Omega on September 4, 2012*



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# A Naturalist's Art

## Field journaling with Lyn Baldwin

Story by Anita Rathje, Journals by Lyn Baldwin,  
Photos by Nancy Flood

On a sunny slope overlooking the panorama of Pyramid Mountain and the forests that shade TRU's Wilderness Research Centre, ten TRU students prop up journals on their knees, pens scratching busily against archival paper. It's day one of Field Methods in Terrestrial Ecology and Dr. Lyn Baldwin isn't lecturing—she's drawing.

Baldwin and co-instructor Dr. Nancy Flood are leading their annual field school in the wilds of Wells Gray Provincial Park, where one of the key methods being taught is field journaling: recording with word and image what is observed in the field.

Baldwin's current journal, her third volume devoted to Wells Gray since she began leading field schools here in 2005, represents a way of learning about the world that she says is being lost. Her upper-level biology students aren't just recording what they see; they're putting their acquired knowledge to the test with what she calls "close meditative observation".

"Field journaling frees biology students from the constraints of book knowledge, and allows them to gain knowledge first hand," said Baldwin, a plant ecologist and assistant professor in the Biology department. "I see them go from passive learner to active investigator."

Teaching an ecology field school in the tremendously diverse landscape of Wells Gray gives her an opportunity to overlay her students' knowledge of ecology and understanding of conservation with an element missing in most biology courses today—natural history.

"Natural history makes you attentive to the natural world. If you walk through a natural ecosystem with alert eyes, you see things," said Baldwin.

"The science of ecology gives you the toolbox to investigate what you experience."

Baldwin says field naturalist training is disappearing, both from provincial parks and biology programs, and with it society's connection to nature. She sees TRU's place in Wells Gray as an opportunity to reverse that. "Naturalists make better scientists, and citizens."

Throughout her journals, Baldwin's drawings and notations on plants and birds, ecology and geology blend with

stories and musings on natural history, field school, and other topics that evolve from those pages into published essays. TRU's broad definition of scholarship and research has enabled her to expand her journaling, in a project she calls "The Expeditionary Art of Home". The deep connection Baldwin feels between science and art has also resulted in a long-time collaboration with Fine Arts instructor Ila Crawford, with whom she is now curating an art exhibit for the







Canadian Botanical Conference, hosted by TRU next June. "The show will look at themes of art and science interacting, and what we can learn through facilitating exchange," said Baldwin.

For a few days at field school, students experience that interaction with the natural world, their professors, and each other, far away from computers, cellular phones, or social media. TRU is one of the rare institutions still offering biology students the chance to learn outside the classroom. They return with journals filled and eyes opened.

"Allowing opportunities for education to become transformative is what we do," said Baldwin. "Field courses are one of the places I see this happen." She looks forward to beginning the next journal on Wells Gray.



The Viridian Life:  
[viridianlife.sites.tru.ca](http://viridianlife.sites.tru.ca)

"Say the Names", essay in Terrain.org:  
[www.terrain.org/essays/29/baldwin.htm](http://www.terrain.org/essays/29/baldwin.htm)

## Wells Gray Wilderness Research

**W**ells Gray Provincial Park is British Columbia's fourth largest park and encapsulates an entire watershed. This rarity combined with ecological and geological baseline data gathered in the 50s and 60s makes Wells Gray an extraordinary site for learning and research.

TRU's Wells Gray Education and Research Centre, on five hectares adjoining the park north of Clearwater, BC, has been in operation since 1994. Each year nearly 1200 user days are logged at the Centre, including researchers from TRU and all over the world.

In an initiative to make Wells Gray a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Dean of Science Dr. Tom Dickinson and naturalist Trevor Goward (who donated the land and existing buildings for the Centre to TRU) are hosting Wells Gray World Heritage Year. A series of events at the park are celebrating Wells Gray and the opening in 2013 of the new Wilderness Centre, currently under construction.

Photos Cultines:

Above Left: Wells Gray offers Field School students a diverse landscape

Above Right: Through the window of TRU's research station at Wells Gray

Centre (Journal): Baldwin's hand-bound journals record and reflect on each visit

# The *Trick* to Being Greek

By Amy Berard

On Halloween night in Kamloops, the brothers of TRU's Kappa Sigma fraternity are dressed in costumes and throwing the largest party in town, but that is where the similarity to the Hollywood frat boy stereotype ends. Instead, they are going door-to-door collecting food bank donations and celebrating the night with volunteers.

Trick or Eat is a Halloween fundraiser collecting non-perishable food items instead of candy, run by the TRU brothers of Omicron-Theta, the 300th Canadian chapter of Kappa Sigma, since taking over from Kamloops Rotaract in the fall of 2010.

"We contact schools and churches to get their groups involved. We ask businesses to leave a drop box out for donations. We go to potential sponsors and ask for prize donations we can give to our volunteers," said Kevin Hendricks, a second year student in Business Administration.

The chapter members volunteer throughout Halloween night, sorting and counting the donations. It ends at a Halloween party with almost \$1,000 in prizes for top teams and generous donations to the Kamloops and TRU Students' Union Food Banks.

Hendricks became Grand Master of Omicron-Theta in April. He has seen donations to Trick or Eat rise from 9,700 pounds of food in 2010 to 11,900 pounds last Halloween. He hopes to continue to grow donations this year.

"The more volunteers that show up, the larger impact we will make on the people who need the help. I would like to collect a minimum of 15,000 pounds," said

"It's really the brotherhood that you are offered, that sense of community and trust that brought me in. The chance to be part of something bigger."

—Travis Siemens

Hendricks. Trick or Eat is the fraternity's largest event and shows their dedication to serving the community, the fourth Pillar of Kappa Sigma.

Jeremy Phelps ('07) is a founding member who helped start Omicron-Theta on campus in 2004. Over 30 of the 100 brothers Omicron-Theta has initiated since then were in attendance at his wedding, and it's that fellowship between

brothers, a first pillar of Kappa Sigma, that has kept him involved as one of 12 active alumni. Omicron-Theta enters this school year with 18 active members.

"It's really the brotherhood that you are offered, that sense of community and trust that brought me in. The chance to be part of something bigger," said Travis Siemens, who joined last fall during Rush, the fraternity's recruitment period.

New members called "pledges" have 60 days to immerse themselves in the Greek lifestyle before initiation. They study the history of Kappa Sigma in a Pledge book that covers everything from the Greek alphabet to how to set a table.

Siemens quickly took on a leadership role, the second pillar, as he moved into the role of Treasurer. He also attends weekly study sessions as part of the chapter's focus on scholarship, the third pillar. Five members have received scholarship funding since the chapter began.

Omicron-Theta's future hopefully includes another service event this spring. They want to continue their work of alleviating hunger in Kamloops.



Alumnus Jeremy Phelps with Grandmaster Kevin Hendricks and Treasurer Travis Siemens

## Dog Days in Granada

By Becky Mann

Love for our pets is a global phenomenon—that is what Erica Gray ('05) and Leanna Fooks ('12) discovered when they ventured to the humid city of Granada, Nicaragua.

Gray, a registered animal health technologist in the TRU Animal Health Technology (AHT) faculty, travelled to Granada in June to assist the staff at the World Vets Surgical Training Centre.



Erica Gray, left and Leanna Fooks, right care for a local pet in Granada

The Centre was designed to provide free veterinary care to the community's animals through volunteer veterinarians and veterinarian technicians, while offering students from around the globe valuable hands-on experience.

"I was looking for an adventure that would enable me to enhance my teaching and technical skills," said Gray. She was one of three foreign instructors on-site for an 11-day session starting on June 21, while Fooks, a recent AHT graduate, participated as one of 16 students in the International Veterinary Medicine Program.

Gray and Fooks immersed themselves in Nicaraguan culture while utilizing their skills. Gray educated students in the spay/neuter clinic on administering a physical exam, inserting IV catheters, and other techniques. Fooks spent time

at both the spay/neuter clinic and an equine facility, treating horses—essential in Granada, where carriages are used for waste removal and transporting supplies—for malnutrition and parasites. She also brought a donation of horseshoes and horseshoe nails. They found time outside work to explore Granada, including visiting a chocolate factory and testing their language skills at the local market.

World Vets provides veterinary aid in developing countries while offering learning opportunities for veterinary technician, pre-vet, and veterinarian students. Students pay \$1,550, which includes accommodations, transportation, and most meals. As a volunteer instructor, Gray paid a minimal fee to cover accommodations.

"It's good to be reminded of how lucky we are," said Gray, commenting about TRU's resources and amenities.

Fooks said her training at TRU helped her collaborate well with students and instructors from other countries. Each person came with a different level of experience, Gray noted, but with a common goal to provide quality service to the local people and animals.

## Wild First Solo Show

By Larkin Schmiedl



Emily Hope with "Wild Man" at the Kamloops Art Gallery. Photo by Larkin Schmiedl

She loves wild men, but not the kind you think. Emily Hope ('12) describes her first solo exhibit at the Kamloops Art Gallery, "The Wild Man Appreciation Society", as a travelling museum that preserves and promotes tales of the wild man.

Hope, who completed her Visual Arts degree in June, first got interested in the topic when she heard Paul Bunyan, legendary giant, actually came from Canada. Looking into other Canadian folklore and monsters led her to the Sasquatch. The more she learned, the more universal the wild man theme she uncovered became.

"People all over the world have been telling stories of this type of creature

for centuries," said Hope. "The wild man is best understood as our struggle to understand ourselves, and the way that we construct our culture and perceive ourselves within that culture."

Shown in The Cube through July and August, curated by Craig Wilms, KAG assistant curator, the exhibit encouraged guests to contribute by reading from a selection of books or drawing their own version of the wild man and pinning it to the wall.

"I turned the gallery into a social space," said Hope of her interactive exhibit, "where people came in and contributed to the work being shown."



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# Building Blocks

## Fostering bilingualism through early vocabulary

By Jessica Wallace

**A** TRU faculty member is bridging her two worlds and putting TRU on the international stage in language and literacy research.

Dr. Gloria Ramírez, an assistant professor of TRU's Faculty of Human, Social and Educational Development, received a federal Insight Development Grant for about \$75,000 from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council to research Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal vocabulary enrichment.

What started as an eight-week pilot project in January has expanded into a two-year project and correlates with her research in her native country of Colombia.

"For people like me who already belong to these two worlds, it's a great opportunity," Ramírez said.

Her research focuses on literacy in the early stages of development and started with Spanish-English and Chinese-English bilingualism. "I compared two languages that are very different and I saw the same skills transfer," she said. "Now we want to do the same with Aboriginal children."

Ramírez said children begin to develop vocabulary early on through immersion, but there are tremendous differences in vocabulary knowledge from one child to another. For children with poor vocabulary knowledge, learning becomes a challenge, particularly by the time they reach Grade 4, when most of the learning occurs through reading.

By working with teachers in six classrooms within the North Okanagan-Shuswap School District to develop a more systematic way of engaging students in vocabulary early on, Ramirez hopes to both aid in the transition to Grade 4 and in becoming bilingual.

"Sometimes languages are considered as separate systems," said Ramirez. "This study is bridging the commonalities. Languages have some universal characteristics."



Gloria Ramirez is working with local teachers on ways to enrich children's vocabulary earlier, bilingually.

If successful, she expects students to have better vocabulary, mental linguistic skills and reading comprehension.

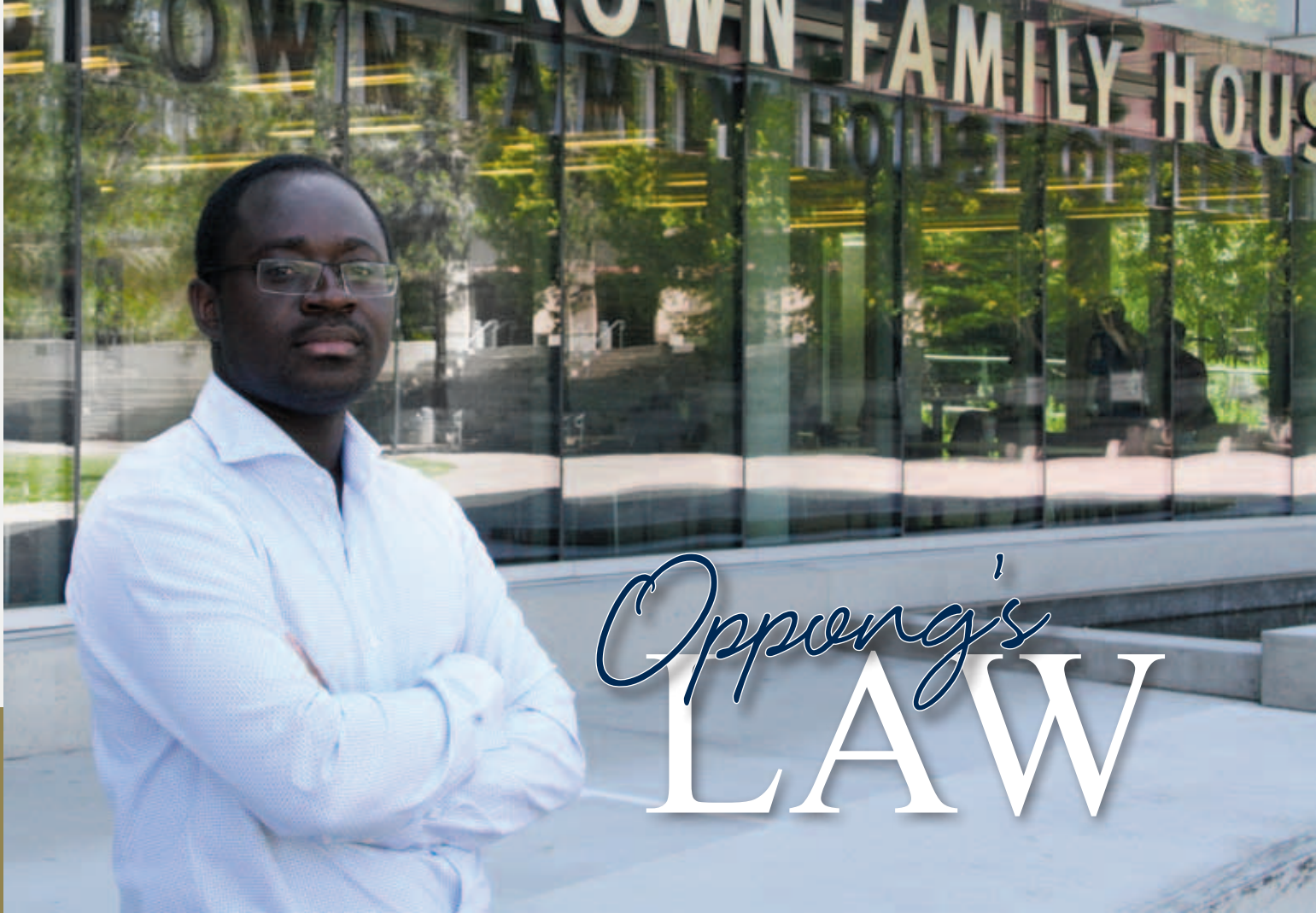
After graduating with a BA in Spanish and English language teaching at the University of Antioquia in Colombia, Ramírez moved to Canada to pursue an MEd in second language education at the University of Toronto. She continued at the University of Toronto to earn her PhD in Developmental Psychology and Education and taught there before coming to TRU.

While she plans to stay in Canada, she continues to research both in Canada and in Colombia, noting that her family still lives there. She said studying both cultures benefits her work academically.

"It is important to understand in this global world, how these problems are related across different countries."

While her research has an international impact, she said it is also significant at a local level. "It's a contribution to both the development and the acceleration of language and literacy skills in both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children."

Ramírez hopes to see more such projects. "As a university, to really be able to have an impact on society we have to contribute to both the creation of knowledge and the ability to help solve problems at a local, national, and international level."



# Oppong's LAW

By Sarah MacMillan

Richard Frimpong Oppong is fighting for individuals' rights in international justice

In a court of law when the verdict is read a person should be able to sigh with relief. The case is finally over. But for many individuals celebrating a win in the international court system, joy can quickly dissipate as reality sets in—the reality of how the judgment from the international court will be enforced or if it will be enforced at all.

"The current international justice system is an incomplete infrastructure," said Dr. Richard Frimpong Oppong, a leading expert on private international law and a founding member of TRU's Faculty of Law. "It's like holding a worthless currency." Oppong is tackling this issue in his project, Access to International Justice at the Post-adjudication Phase of International Dispute Settlement: The Role of National Courts.

Individuals who litigate in front of the international courts do not have the same certainty that rulings will be enforced as individuals who litigate in front of national courts. In a case that

was presented in front of the Southern African Development Community Tribunal in 2007, an individual challenged a Zimbabwe land policy, which allowed for the individual's land to be confiscated. Although the tribunal ruled in favour of the individual, indicating he should be compensated, the Zimbabwe government ignored the ruling. Oppong wants to change outcomes like these. "I want to see a regime for enforcing judgements of international courts that takes into account the individual."

Oppong's research into international judgements aims to evaluate the system and propose a radical reconstruction. He will meet with judges to discuss their rulings and possibly with the individuals involved, as part of visits to five international courts: the Court of Justice of the Economic Community of West African States, the African Court of Human Rights and Peoples Rights, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the Caribbean Court of Justice, and the European Court of Human Rights.

"It's something really interesting, it's really specialized," said Lisa Niro, a second year law student and one of Oppong's two research assistants. Her work will include identifying treaties and determining who is allowed to bring an action forward and how the treaties envision judgments will be enforced. "It's anything from finding cases and articles to creating citations," she said, excited by the opportunity to study an unexplored topic and gain research experience.

Oppong notes that there are currently only a few international cases involving individuals but the numbers are likely to grow. "I think it's going to be a huge problem unless something is done about it."

Oppong's Insight Development Grant of \$42,750 awarded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) will fund research assistants and travel to Africa, Europe, the Caribbean and the United States for the two-year project.

# An Intertidal Life

By Rolena DeBruyn

At the end of my third year of sciences, I was offered an opportunity to research marine invertebrates in the small town of Bamfield for three months. A bit hesitant, I discovered there are fewer full time residents in Bamfield than there were students in my second year organic chemistry lecture. Only half the town is accessible by car, the other half only by boat. But it is home to grey whales, humpbacks, black bears, wolves, seals, sea lions, and some of the greatest biodiversity of invertebrates seen in the intertidal zone along the west coast. These small creatures living in limbo between water and land draw researchers from all over the world to the Bamfield Marine Science Centre (BMSC). The last point was what convinced me to give up summer earnings in favour of research. In the beginning of June I packed up and said goodbye to Kamloops, and hello to middle-of-nowhere-will-they-find-me-if-I-disappear-Bamfield. Arriving "on station", I was met with a smile and a coffee by a familiar face. Although TRU is not a member of the Western Canadian Universities Marine

Science Society, which founded and operates BMSC, my supervisor and professor at TRU, Dr. Louis Gosselin, is a veteran of the Centre since completing his PhD with the University of Alberta here in 1994, and has been bringing TRU researchers and students to Bamfield for many years. Funding from the Undergraduate Research Experience Award Program (UREAP) and Dr. Gosselin's research grant gave me a sense of financial security and left us to determine what my honours project would entail. With his specialty being in Marine Ecology with a focus on snails, and my intent to work with as many species as I could get my hands on, we settled on comparing and contrasting colouration changes between many species of invertebrates.

In Bamfield I collected, weighed, photographed and analysed the colour of about twenty different species of barnacles, snails, crabs, hermit crabs, and tube worms, looking for patterns in colouration changes seen between species. Back at TRU I will analyse all my data and determine which

species undergo a colour change during their life cycle, and which do not.

I want to find out, for example, if there is a size range in which colouration changes generally occur, or if species which are able to move around change colour and those which are cemented down do not. I'm particularly fascinated by the snail *Nucella ostrina* which, from initial findings, appears to have more colour when it's exposed to UV and is white when it is kept in the dark.

This research has given me hands-on experience working with animals I never knew existed, such as the compact worm snail, a snail that cements itself to rocks and secretes

a tube like a tube worm—they are nearly impossible to tell apart from tube worms, yet they are from completely separate animal groups. It's amazing creatures like these that have encouraged me to continue with my research career. After my Bachelor of Science I hope to get my master's and PhD degrees in Terrestrial or Marine Ecology.

One more year at TRU and I'll be living in limbo as well between education and career; I can only hope I adapt to the changes and thrive as the creatures of Bamfield do.



Rolena DeBruyn collects a snail from a Bamfield tidal pool  
Photo by Jonathan Schwarz



The compact worm snail



Colour variation in *Nucella Canaculata* snails

# Opportuni-*Tee*

## Tee key:

- Faculty of Arts
- Faculty of Science
- School of Business and Economics
- School of Nursing
- Faculty of Adventure, Culinary Arts and Tourism
- Undeclared
- Faculty of Human, Social and Educational Development
- Volunteers





Coordinators Alexa Manuel, Brianna McIlquham and Tawni Ormrod model new student tees



## Why the first day at TRU is bigger than ever

By Anita Rathje

At first glance, visitors on the first day of fall semester at TRU might think orientation is all about the free tee-shirts. Right and left, droves of new students in matching "Discover TRU" tees—a colour for each faculty or school—follow flag-waving senior student ambassadors in yet another set of dark volunteer shirts, or question staff wearing "Ask Me" in bold type. From the steps of the International Building's mezzanine, neon-clad Business students run icebreaker games, and at the resource fair on the Commons, the students' union hands out shirts along with invitations to back-to-school festivities. The tees are the most visible aspect of a day devoted to one thing: helping new students make a successful, less stressful transition to university life.

*continued*

"Our objectives for orientation are to welcome new students into the TRU community and to connect them with resources that will support their academic and personal success," said Christine Adam, Dean of Students. Starting post-secondary studies away from home and family for the first time, juggling school and work, facing academic challenges, or simply adjusting to the differences between university and high school can be overwhelming. TRU welcomes new students to campus with an experience that introduces them to other students in their programs—instantly recognizable thanks to the tees, like Arts' bright blue—to faculty, the executive and staff, and to all the programs and services that support them.

Alumna Sukh Heer-Matonovich is Manager of Student Engagement and Retention at TRU's new Centre for Student Engagement and Learning Innovation. She has been responsible for running the orientation program at TRU for the past three years. When she first started attending classes at TRU in 1993, however, orientation didn't exist yet.

"I struggled to balance my studies, work and friends," said Heer-Matonovich. Finally, joining the varsity basketball team gave her a focus, and she made life-long friends and mentors.



Arts students assemble on the Campus Activity Centre steps for the faculty's Open House

"Orientation is about discovering the opportunities that are available to you as you connect with people and engage in your own learning."

Heer-Matonovich hires and advises senior Co-op students as orientation coordinators each year. Clad in black volunteer tees with the slogan, "Discover, Connect, Engage, Become", 2012 coordinators Brianna McIlquham and Tawni Ormrod have drawn on very different experiences to help define these themes, central to student success.

"I was super intimidated when I came here," said Ormrod, remembering her orientation in 2009. "Because I went that day and met so many new people, kind of got my nerves out of me, it made it a lot easier for my first couple of weeks of class to go talk to the professors, to say I need some help." The opportunities for discovery and connection at orientation helped Ormrod approach faculty earlier, make friends sooner, and get involved whenever she could.

Unlike Ormrod, McIlquham decided to skip orientation come September, because she was a Kamloops local and had already been on campus for Winter semester. She was scared to leave the Old Main building where her first two classes were held, however, and didn't make friends on campus until the end of her second year.

New science students learn about SIFE projects



Russell Currie, Dean of the School of Business and Economics, welcomes new SOBE students

"I was completely terrified to go to the Library, because I had no idea how to even search for anything," said McIlquham. "It would have been a lot easier if I had just gone. Even though I'm from here, there turned out to be a lot about TRU that I didn't know."

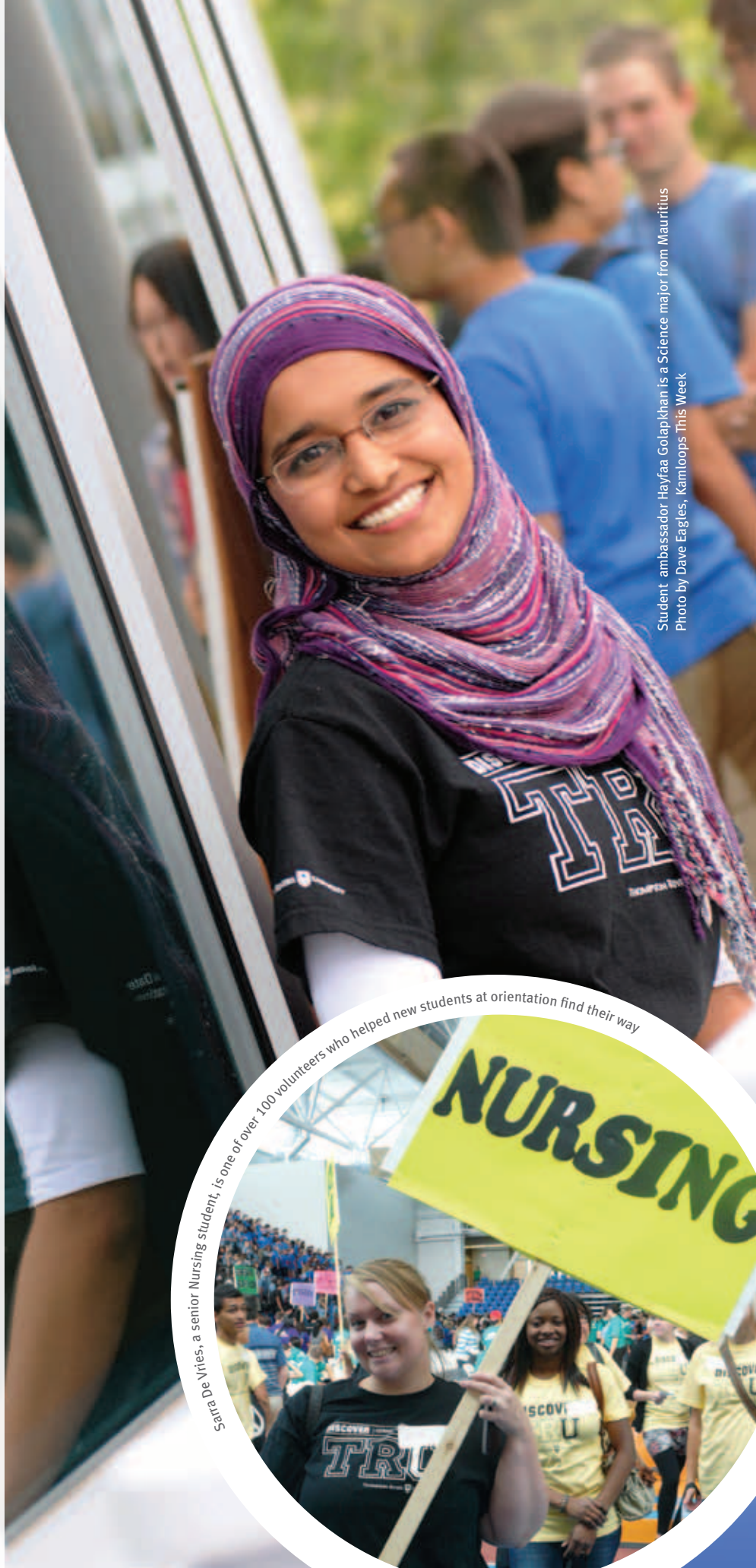
TRU's open admission policy in first-year Arts, Science and Business makes orientation particularly critical.

"Open admission provides access for students that may have struggled in high school," said Adam. "Feeling supported and knowing where to go when the rubber hits the road may be the difference between whether students stick it out for the whole year or leave partway through."

Alexa Manuel was also intimidated by the size of campus and the number of new faces when she arrived at TRU from her small, close-knit hometown of Quilchena, near Merritt, BC. As coordinator of this year's Aboriginal orientation program, *Sekusent*, Manuel's goal was to help new First Nations, Metis, and Inuit students meet each other prior to the main orientation day so they would have familiar faces to start the semester with. Workshops and tours helped participating students get to know the campus and their peers before joining the crowd of almost 1,400 students in the stands at the Tournament Capital Centre.

"It's knowing about all the services available," said Manuel. "Having that support there is part of my success."

By giving students a chance to meet faculty before classes start and to find out about support services like Counselling, Financial Aid and Awards, the Math and Writing Centres and the Gathering Place, orientation helps students do well in their courses and better handle the pressures of first year. It also helps students connect to their peers in a welcoming environment tailored specifically to new students.



Student ambassador Hayfaa Golapkhian is a Science major from Mauritius  
Photo by Dave Eagles, Kamloops This Week



Sara De Yries, a senior Nursing student, is one of over 100 volunteers who helped new students at orientation find their way



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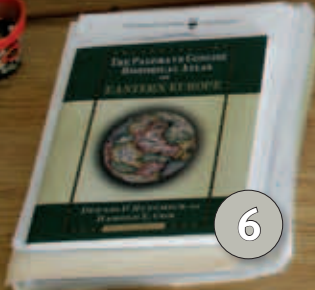
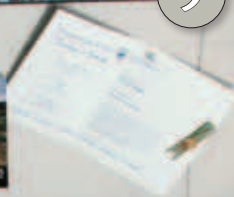


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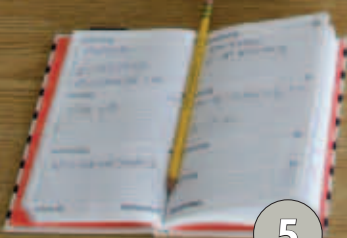
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# Interior Settings

featuring David Scheffel

Anthropology professor Dr. David Scheffel's desk reveals his research and advocacy for marginalized peoples around the world. Canada's leading expert on the Roma (Gypsies) of Slovakia, Scheffel is the author of *Svinia in Black and White: Slovak Roma and their Neighbours*. His latest research project, for which he won an Insight grant, is on Roma participation in municipal politics. His research also includes the indigenous Ati of the Phillipines and the Old Believers sect in northern Alberta.

1. This painting of an Ati tribal chieftain was a gift from the University of Iloilo in the Philippines, where he gave a guest lecture on the marginalization of modern hunters and gatherers.
2. Children from Berezovka, Alberta posed for a photo during Scheffel's doctoral research on the Old Believers, a fundamentalist Orthodox Russian community.
3. "Active landmines" warns this sign from Bosnia-Herzegovina, brought back from a field school in Eastern Europe with TRU students.
4. These Ati from Guimaras, Philippines are hunters and gatherers who have been displaced by farming. Scheffel and his wife, who comes from Guimaras, bought an acreage for them as a home base for hunting and foraging.
5. Scheffel buys a pocket diary in Holland every spring, reluctant to switch to an electronic calendar.
6. Course materials for ANTH 3030, The European Orient, which he is teaching this fall.
7. Scheffel has a large collection of historical postcards depicting stereotypical North American 'Indians', assembled over the years with the assistance of his students.
8. These Native artifacts from the BC Interior were donated by his Aboriginal students.
9. These Roma from Svinia are among thousands living in ghetto conditions in Slovakia. Scheffel is co-founder of the Slovak Roma Housing Fund, which works to improve living conditions for Romani families.
10. Scheffel has worked with the Slovak Roma since the mid 1990s, for both research and social development. This collection of black and white photos shows Svinia during the communist era.
11. A wooden shield from Papua New Guinea used in ceremonial and real skirmishes (along with the bamboo arrows resting on the desk) are among many artifacts local residents have donated to the anthropology program during his more than 25 years at TRU.
12. The National Film Board of Canada has made several documentaries based on Scheffel's research, including one on the "Euro-Indians", Europeans who admire and imitate the material and spiritual culture of North American Natives.

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# Worldly-Wise Advice Away from Home

By Rajeshwari Rajimwale

As an international student, relocating to a new country and adapting to both a different lifestyle and a different way of learning is always a challenge.

Jamshid Mirzabekov, one of TRU World's international student advisors (ISAs), is here to assist students to transition into the new environment. The Russian-speaking ISA first came to TRU as an international Business and Economics student and after graduating took up the role of advisor.

"Our relationship with the students does not end at just being their ISA," said Mirzabekov. "We become their friend and family. We are that one person they can call for assistance and be assured to get the right help."

In order to provide language- and culture-specific support, TRU World has invested in a unique team of nine international student advisors, the largest team of its kind in Canada.

"The idea of having such a huge team is to make it possible to reach students on a one-on-one basis," said Adrian Conradi, Associate Director of TRU World. The ISAs assist with typical new student priorities like housing, banking and cellular services, medical insurance and academic programs. They are also invaluable to students dealing with

homesickness and culture shock, or the challenges of study in a foreign language. Students representing the major cultural groups on campus can speak with ISAs before and during their TRU experience in their own language, whether Arabic, Spanish, Hindi, Mandarin, Russian, Korean, Urdu, or Punjabi.

To help make TRU feel like a home away from home, the ISAs help coordinate campus-wide events like Chinese New Year, International Days, and Rang de Basanti, that enable cross-cultural communication and enrich the diversity of TRU's campus.

"International Days is a creative outlet for students to showcase their culture," said ISA Amit Goel, who helps host the annual event. "These celebrations help fellow students to understand different cultures."

In an era when internationalization is increasingly popular on campuses across Canada, often for its economic merits alone, TRU sets the bar high. The personal, culturally-aware assistance international student advisors provide to over 1,600 students from 80 countries ensures the best possible experience of student life in Canada.



Spanish speaker Lolina Koopmans (left) is one of nine ISAs offering culture-specific advising



Yoshie Ozawa retires after 23 years

## Sayonara, Yoshie

Over two decades ago, Yoshie Ozawa joined what was then known as the International Education department, as the second member of a new student support team: the International Student Advisors (ISAs). From the early days as a team of three, to her role as International Support Services Supervisor with a team of eight ISAs, Ozawa has devoted herself to building TRU World and supporting the international students who have studied here.

As the Japanese-speaking ISA, Ozawa helped expand TRU's Japanese student population, and cemented TRU's relationships with Japan. Helping to build the International Student Services team from the ground up, Ozawa set the standard for service, resulting in national and international recognition of TRU World for student services. Approachable, understanding, and tireless, she's been known to stay late on Christmas Eve to help find a student a last-minute host family, or change her personal plans to help a colleague. Ozawa was a great resource for students and a mentor to her team, and her guidance will be greatly missed.

Ozawa retired in July of 2012, but her support of students continues: the Yoshie Ozawa and Ron Watson International Award will provide \$500 awards to two academically strong international students each year.



# Balance

— A lesson not learned  
from a textbook

By Lindsey Norris

**O**f all the concepts students are exposed to during their education, the one that may be most important to the distance learner can't be learned from a textbook. For mature learners, balance — achieved by the juggling of work, family and education, while still finding time to enjoy life — may be the single most difficult exercise to master.

Rebecca Merino maintains harmony in her life by placing an artful twist on work-life balance. While many would place schoolwork firmly on the work side of the equation, Merino equates completing courses as taking time for herself.

"People often ask me why I take all these courses on top of everything else I do," she explained. "But for me, learning new things and improving my education is something I do for me. I enjoy learning."

As a mother of three, a full-time employee and the pursuer of a Bachelor of Commerce, it's an invaluable attitude to have. After a full day of working with

clients at the BC Pension Corporation and chauffeuring her children to sports practice and other activities, at home she turns her attention to the study of business and management principles, her first venture into formal education in over 15 years.

"I completed a business administration (accounting) diploma at Camosun College straight out of high school and intended to continue in the CGA program," she said. But first came marriage, followed by three children, and Merino put further education on hold. It wasn't until 2009, with her children growing more independent, that she was able to enrol in an Open Learning course through TRU.

She acknowledged that even with a positive mindset and the flexibility inherent in online courses, it has not always been a smooth journey. "I am notorious for thinking I have more time to do things than I actually do,"

she said. "I have just registered for a paced course, and I am looking forward to the paced experience."

Even the best plans occasionally have to be modified. Merino was in the middle of a course when her youngest son became seriously ill and had to be hospitalized. He is now fully recovered, but Merino had to put her coursework aside for an extended period.

"I was able to take an extension," she said. "I simply could not do what I am able to do without the flexible options available through Open Learning."

After completing her bachelor's degree Merino intends to work towards an MBA — proving that anything, even a demanding program and busy life, can be manageable with the right mindset.



Mike Hawkins shares WolfPack swag with a South African sports fan.



# Impressions of Africa

## A WolfPack player's volunteer experience

By Larry Read

After Mike Hawkins played out his Canadian Interuniversity Sports eligibility this past spring with the WolfPack men's volleyball team, he packed his bags and a pile of donated WolfPack gear and took off for Cintsa, South Africa.

Hawkins spent two weeks in June on the Eastern Cape, working as an international student volunteer.

"I worked on a community development project restoring and constructing the township's Culture Center School as well as doing a lot of work on their sports field," said Hawkins, a native of Lethbridge, Alberta and the lone British Columbian student on the trip.

"We interacted with the children and helped run several Sports Days alongside other volunteers from Volunteer Africa."

The experience was something Hawkins will never forget. "It was humbling to see how everyone works together with the little they have to increase their well-being."

Hawkins found his experience doing community work as a WolfPack athlete helped him as a volunteer in South Africa.

"Whether it was work that needed to be done or interacting with the kids, my fellow volunteers looked to me to take the lead. Given that I have a lot of experience as a captain and member of a team, I showed others how to work well together while having a fun time."

Hawkins is grateful for the support of TRU Athletics, whose donations were given out to the kids during a Sports Day game.

The trip ended with a two-week Adventure Tour, including travel throughout South Africa, Swaziland and Mozambique. "Despite the wild time I had on the Adventure Tour, I would have gladly

traded in my last two weeks to continue volunteering," said Hawkins.

"The people there have impacted my life in such a profound way; I hope the work I did affected their lives as well."

Hawkins began his first year as a WolfPack volleyball assistant coach under Pat Hennelly in September and is finishing his Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies, focussing on Sports Psychology.



Mike Hawkins volunteers at Sports Days for kids in Cintsa, South Africa



# Alumni Networks

**K**elley O'Grady ('09) is TRU's new Alumni Network Liaison, helping to develop connections between alumni and TRU.

"I am excited to be back at TRU, starting this new challenge of bringing people closer to the institution and their fellow graduates," said O'Grady. The Bachelor of Journalism grad spent the past three and a half years as the Communications,

Marketing and Event Coordinator at the Tk'emlups Indian Band.

In the new liaison position, O'Grady's goal is to facilitate the set-up of Alumni Networks— groups of dedicated graduates and friends of TRU that have common connections such as academic, social, geographic or athletic. At TRU there are currently three networks, each with a unique vision and goal.



**WolfPack Baseball:** Alumni of the WolfPack baseball team have come together with the objective of developing a baseball endowment fund. The aim is for the endowment to reach a self-sustaining level where it can provide eight to ten scholarships per year to student athletes.

"It's a brotherhood that has a select number of members, all of which are upstanding young men. There is no doubt that this family would have no problem giving back to the program as well as keeping in touch and sharing memories with team mates," said Network Co-President Scott Nevison ('12).

**Health Care Assistant (HCA):** The HCA alumni came together in 2010 to stay connected socially and keep up-to-date on industry knowledge and learning opportunities. Since then, they have hosted a Palliative Care workshop as well as a wine and cheese social.

**Nursing:** The Nursing alumni got their start in 2010 to promote social interaction, continued education and networking opportunities. They hosted a reunion and keep in touch regularly over social media.

**Calling all TRU alumni and friends! We are looking for individuals interested in getting involved with our alumni networks. If you would like to be an alumni ambassador or join an alumni network, contact O'Grady at [kogrady@tru.ca](mailto:kogrady@tru.ca) or 778.471.8374. We would love to hear from you.**

## Did You Know?

You are a member of the TRU Alumni & Friends Association if you are a:

- Past Student of TRU who has completed 18 credits
- Mentor in our TRU Career Mentoring Program
- Donor to the Foundation and our student scholarship program
- Graduate of TRU

The Alumni and Friends Association is a not-for-profit society; membership is free. The programs, benefits and

student support we offer are made possible by:



(Convocation Photography)

- › Stay informed through our *Bridges* magazine, AGM, website and e-newsletters.
- › Get involved through our mentoring programs, golf tourneys and socials.
- › Stay connected.

To update your contact information, tell your story and get details on great services, visit our website.



[www.tru.ca/alumni](http://www.tru.ca/alumni)

# Class Notes



'89 Barbara Bearman



'89 Candice Magnowski



'96 Ian Gooding

'88, **Raymond Spencer**, Kelowna, BC, started taking Open Learning courses in 1984 while stationed at Jasper, Alberta to prepare for a police supervision role. He proudly received a Certificate in General Studies, the first in his family to advance beyond high school. Since retirement he has completed another certificate from Athabasca University in Human Resources and Labour Relations and is now working on his BA and looking for a post-retirement career in human resources.

'89 **Barbara Bearman**, Williams Lake, BC, took Arts at Williams Lake campus the first time a full year was offered. She completed her BA and MA at UBC and taught ESL courses at TRU while finishing her Master's. Work as a sessional instructor led to a full-time position at TRU, teaching first year English. Five years ago, she took over both first and second year classes in Williams Lake, and also teaches Kamloops classes remotely.

'89 **Candice Magnowski**, Williams Lake, BC, took university transfer courses at TRU in Williams Lake and completed her BA in English and Geography at UVic and her BEd at Dalhousie. She has worked at TRU, helped run her parent's business, and even assisted with her husband's veterinary clinic. Two years ago she started homeschooling her two daughters full-time. She is very involved with the Cariboo Chilcotin Youth Fiddle Society and anything her kids are a part of.

'93 **Christine Mills**, Williams Lake, BC, obtained her Registered Nurse diploma, then taught prenatal classes for ten years while raising two children. When her kids went to school full-time she returned to nursing, first in a casual position at Cariboo Memorial Hospital. Ten years

ago she joined Atwood Medical Clinic and is now a Registered Nurse and office manager. She mentors TRU Nursing students by giving them experience at the clinic.

'96 **Ian Gooding**, Surrey, BC, followed his BBA in Marketing with finance courses from SFU and an Instructor Diploma from Vancouver Community College. He has been an instructor at Sprott Shaw for ten years, but has also worked in financial services and as a content editor for a fantasy hockey website. Ian is married with a three-year-old son and volunteers as a coordinator for a youth mentorship program.

'00 **Jay Cheek**, Williams Lake, BC, received his BBA and articulated with an accounting firm in Kamloops. He obtained his Accounting Designation in 2003, then spent a year in the Cayman Islands, some time at KPMG in Kamloops and a stint in industry. In 2006, he returned to his hometown to join PMT Accountants, becoming a partner in 2008. Jay is involved in TRU Grit and the local Rotary, and is married with two daughters.

'00 **Jacqueline Read**, Aldergrove, BC, has worked as a child protection social worker since 2004. She started working for MCFD in Dease Lake and stayed there for over four years. When her son died in 2008 she got a job in the Lower Mainland at the Fraser Valley Aboriginal Children and Family Services Society. She was acting team leader for almost a year and has been acting for other team leaders when needed.

'00 **Gaurav Saxena**, California, USA, got the opportunity to join HCL Technologies in 2002 after completing his BTech in Computer Systems through

UBC. Since then he has worked with giants like HP, GE, Wipro and HCL, gaining 10 years of professional IT experience. His course curriculum, designed back in 1996, prepared him to handle the upcoming market and clients' needs and helped him survive tough labour competition globally.

'03 **Tracy Becker**, Williams Lake, BC, completed the Applied Business Technology program and has started working toward a Bachelor of Commerce through Open Learning. Since finishing the ABT program, she has worked as an Office Coordinator, a TRU ABT instructor and as an auxiliary at TRU. Currently, she is the Assistant Accountant at School District 27. She volunteers with TRU convocation, Williams Lake Little League, and various other activities and events through her children's schools.

'03 **Kelsey Hollett**, Williams Lake, BC, completed the Applied Business Technology program and now works in the Registrar's Office at TRU Williams Lake. Her husband **Lauren Hollett ('11)** completed a Human Service Diploma at Williams Lake and laddered into the Bachelor of Social Work program in Kamloops. His commute between Kamloops and Williams Lake has been challenging, so Kelsey and their two young children will be very excited when he graduates in 2013. They are grateful for all the support from instructors, co-workers and other students.

'04 **G. Lynn McGuire**, Calgary, AB, works as a land survey assistant at Morrison-Hershfield Geomatics. She graduated from the Office Assistant program at TRU in Williams Lake and was an office assistant at Morrison-Hershfield for her first six years there.



'00 Jay Cheek



'03 Tracy Becker



'03 Kelsey & '11 Lauren Hollet

## Let's Remember



**Rayel MacDonald** was a second year Nursing student at Williams Lake. Cheerful and compassionate, Rayel will be remembered by her fellow nursing students and instructors as a ray of sunshine that brightened the classroom, a model of professionalism and gentleness with patients, and a strong student. The 20-year-old was very involved in her community as a rugby player and volunteer. All who knew Rayel said you could not help but smile around her.

**Ben Kirkey**, son of TRU faculty member Bernie Kirkey, was an outstanding Bachelor of Business Administration student who had just completed his degree. An exceptionally bright student, Ben was an enthusiastic learner and a natural leader, always willing to support his fellow students from around the world and share his big smile and great sense of humour. He touched many people with his energy and his infectious zest for life.

**Peter Thompson** was a first year Adventure Studies student and an accomplished whitewater kayaker. At 19, Peter had already acted as the head coach for the Bow Valley Kayak Club, taught the sport to kids with disabilities, and paddled all over the world. His instructors described him as a talented young man with a promising future, a star in the making. He shared his passion for his sport and was an inspiration to many young aspiring kayakers.

*TRU community passings since May 2012*

**'04 Liam Mitchell**, Ontario, received his MA in political science from York, then completed his PhD at UVic where he studied contemporary, social and political thought. He has been accepted to the tenure track position of Assistant Professor of Cultural Studies and Media at Trent University.

**'04 Kim Newsted**, Williams Lake, BC, wanted a change after four years at RONA, and got his Partsperson Training at TRU. Post-secondary education opened him up to new possibilities and he started his own business, End of the Roll Discount Carpet and Flooring, soon after. Kim has a daughter and is married to Barbara, an instructor at TRU.

**'08 Brian Smith**, Surrey BC, graduated with a BBA and worked for BC Assessment in Kamloops for two years before transferring to its South Fraser office. He also has a professional designation in appraisal and hopes to further his education and work exclusively in the commercial real estate sector. An assistant coach for the TRU WolfPack men's basketball team after graduation, he now co-coaches the Brookwood Bobcats junior girls' basketball team in Langley.

**'09 Brandi Schier**, Sun Peaks, BC, completed a Bachelor of Journalism and did a stint at the Lloydminster Meridian Booster. An avid snowboarder, she joined the Sun Peaks Resort Corporation as a marketing assistant for two winters, and then worked as a marketing coordinator at Panorama Mountain Village Resort in Invermere. She now works for Tourism Sun Peaks as the company's media and marketing coordinator, and lives on the mountain.

**'11 Alamu Durand**, Deka Lake, BC, is off on an exciting adventure to Wales, where the Culinary Arts grad and Red Seal chef has been hired as the Chef de Partie at the New Country Inn in Cardiff. En route, he will spend several days in Scotland, and then has a work permit for a year.

**'11, Allison Whicher**, Kitimat, BC, obtained a BA in History and went on to UBC-O to complete a Bachelor of Education. She is now furthering her teaching career with the Coast Mountain School District in Kitimat.



'04 Liam Mitchell



'08 Brian Smith



'09 Brandi Schier



Photo by Murray Mitchell, Kamloops Daily News

## New Book Reveals Polygamy On Trial

By Anita Rathje

**A** *Cruel Arithmetic: Inside the Case Against Polygamy* tells the story of the unique trial debating the criminalization of polygamy, from an insider's perspective. Writing for a popular audience, Craig E. Jones, QC, former lead counsel for the Attorney General of British Columbia, recounts the case he and his colleagues in the British Columbia Ministry of Justice developed in answer to the argument that section 293 of the Criminal Code of Canada—the criminal prohibition of polygamy—was unconstitutional. Jones, a former president of the BC Civil Liberties Association, reveals how his own opinions altered as the trial progressed, and invites the reader to come into the debate with an open mind.

The phrase, "a cruel arithmetic" is reflective of how the harms of polygamy manifest in polygamous communities such as Bountiful, BC. "When some men have several wives, then others will have none, which creates a gender imbalance. This leads to societies that are measurably more violent and unstable, and to a demand for younger and younger girls to be the partners of older and older men. This in turn creates communities that are more authoritarian and abusive, particularly of women and girls," said Jones, "It's not unique to Bountiful, it happens wherever polygamy is practiced, from Yemen to Texas."

Jones, a Distinguished Alumnus of TRU who joined the Faculty of Law in 2011, was one of a team of lawyers representing government and public-interest groups that set out in 2009 to show the harms that could come of polygamy, using arguments from anthropology, history, economics, and evolutionary psychology, and the testimony of polygamists and those who grew up in polygamous communities. Exposing the community of Bountiful, the case, known as the Polygamy Reference, tallied those harms, to women and children, to society at large, and to the foundations of democracy.

*A Cruel Arithmetic* details the arguments and testimonies of both sides throughout the 44-day trial, spanning nearly two years and over 100 witnesses, which became the first "trial-court constitutional reference" in Canadian history. Chief Justice Robert Bauman of the Supreme Court of British Columbia called the evidence before him "the most comprehensive judicial record on the subject ever produced," and made a decision that set the world of constitutional law back on its heels.

Jones is currently Interim Associate Dean of the Faculty of Law and teaches courses in torts, civil litigation and legal ethics.

# Find us

### on campus:

The TRU Alumni and Friends office is **G301** on the top floor of the TRU gymnasium complex.

Call **250.828.5498** or stop by and say hello!

### online:

- Upcoming events
- Guest speakers
- New Alumni & Friends Card
- Affinity partners discounts
- Updates and story ideas
- Volunteer as a Career Mentor
- Nominate a Distinguished Alumnus

Email us at [alumni@tru.ca](mailto:alumni@tru.ca)

**web**extra  [www.tru.ca/alumni](http://www.tru.ca/alumni)

# Waste *Want* Not

By Bart Cummins

Imagine taking weeks, months, or even a year to fill your typical trash can found in your typical kitchen. Imagine extending that zero-waste lifestyle to include even the garbage you create while away from home: cardboard coffee cups, plastic water bottles, take-away containers, pens, wrappers, and the list goes on.

In a time when most of us are throwing that much away every few days, adopting a short-term zero-waste lifestyle sounded like a good challenge to Marcia Dick ('08). Inspired by the *Clean Bin Project*, an award-winning documentary by a Vancouver couple who attempted to produce zero landfill waste for one year, she took up the challenge with her husband Trevor in the spring of 2011.

"We said, 'Let's do it for a month and see how it goes'. We ended up doing eight months of zero waste," said Dick. "I knew it was the right thing to do and I had fun. I think it had an impact."

To be zero waste means avoiding garbage at all cost, by recycling or composting everything you can and thinking about the waste resulting from every purchase you make, such as electronics and food products with excessive packaging that we often don't give a second thought about buying. Above all, Dick's experience revealed how much waste can be avoided with a little conscious effort. Today, the couple still evaluates virtually every purchase, even their favourite foods.

During the challenge, Dick brought her own containers to the store when buying deli items, and avoided single-serving goods. "If the food had garbage, I wouldn't buy it." Dick laughed, "I didn't buy prawns for eight months." Dick's favourite ice cream comes in a plastic-lined box. "I would soak the cardboard until I could peel the plastic away."

Their experience during those eight months has had a lasting impact. Their newborn's cloth diapers are picked up by a diaper service. They preserve produce from their garden, maintain two

composters (one for typical items and another for cooked foods, meat and bones), and buy local meats in bulk. They watch out for plastic liners in boxes of crackers, cereal, cookies, and cat food, and the plastic bags, elastic bands, and tiny stickers used for produce. Meat has plastic wrap, Styrofoam trays, and plastic bags.

"You might buy something and think none of the packaging will go in the garbage, but then you open it up and unexpectedly, there's plastic," said Dick. "We might still buy the crackers, but we'll think hard about it. We're making a conscious decision."

"Marketers make things so convenient; save time, save money, save energy. Sure, using a plastic spoon may save time, but at what cost? Who pays the price? Our societies have gone too far with convenience and with packaging," said the Business Administration graduate, who sees the irony of being a marketing major while encouraging others to cut back. "Fifty years ago it wasn't this way." She's now using her marketing skills to teach others how to reduce or live with less.

After eight months of zero waste, home renovations created more garbage than the couple could keep up with. "Renovations are challenging because there's so much mess, and recycling is the last thing on your mind when you have a house full of dust and debris. You have to set yourself limits," said Dick. "The important thing is not to give up." Therein lies another lesson learned: do what you can live with. Dick said even the smallest of actions helps.

"You don't have to do what we did or do, but there are a lot of things you can do that are simple and easy," said Dick, who runs a consulting company, showing businesses how they can make green choices and still be profitable. "Probably the biggest thing is to compost food waste, which is about thirty percent of the average household's garbage. You can also plant a garden, and take your own coffee mug, water bottle and cloth bags with you when you go out. Turn the thermostat down by one degree. Watch the *Clean Bin Project*."

Marcia and Trevor Dick sort recyclables with daughter Elianna



**30%**

**said they  
did it on  
the couch.**

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# From Coveralls to Pinstripes: Old Main's latest transformation

By Sherry Bennett

**F**rom modest to magnificent, the Old Main building of 2012 bears little resemblance to its pragmatic beginnings.

The campus cornerstone for over four decades, the original 160,000 square foot building—set in the middle of vacant land near the city landfill—was under construction to house the BC Vocational School when Cariboo College was founded in 1970. It opened its doors in September 1971 to students of both the college and the Vocational School.

Fashioned for practicality, the multi-functional classroom, administration, and workshop building, known simply as Main or A, B, and C blocks, was envisioned by Jack White, superintendent with the Ministry of Education, and designed by Public Works architects D.S. McLelland and B.A. Pass.

While the Main building's unembellished concrete-block construction earned no accolades for architectural ingenuity, it was viewed as the Taj Mahal of technology and vocational education in the province at the time, said Duncan MacRae, who as vice-principal of vocational education for the Ministry of Education, helped select the building site. Cariboo's new vocational

division was officially launched by BC Premier W.A.C. Bennet in May of 1972, paving the way for the college to take over the Vocational School's programs in 1974.

As the college expanded and new construction rapidly began to fill the campus, the original building became known as Old Main. It was given the name officially in 1989, when Cariboo became a university college with a formalized campus plan. That same year a second floor of classrooms was added to B Block, Old Main's vocational wing.

After vocational programs relocated to the new Trades and Technology building in 1997, B Block adopted more of a cultural tone as welding and carpentry shops were renovated into an art gallery and theatre. It now also houses classrooms and offices for Fine Arts.

Student Street received a facelift in 2009, when the 7,000 square foot Student Services centre opened its doors. Beneath Student Street sits the carpentry shop's original, battered wooden floor, a quiet reminder of the vocational trades' deep roots in TRU's most renovated building.



Old Main opened in September, 1971



The main entrance to student street was once the vocational wing

## Where are YOU now?

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**What's New? Have a new job?**

**Married? Children? Moved?**

Photos are welcome and must be high resolution (300dpi).

It would be great to hear from you.



The transformation is well underway. Law students will begin classes here in September 2013.

# Sustaina

By Anita Rathje with Research by James Gordon

With every new building project, every energy-saving measure, every food service contract or paper purchase, TRU is increasing the sustainability of our campus. But beyond the big initiatives, it's the day-to-day choices we make on campus that have the greatest affect, not least by inspiring everyone who studies, works or plays at TRU to embrace a new way of thinking.

The TRU community is reducing and mitigating the university's carbon footprint through a number of green initiatives that tackle CO<sub>2</sub> producers like campus buildings (which account for 91% of TRU's GHG emissions on the provincial assessment), transportation, and the goods we buy (food, water, paper, etc.). In addition, TRU's primary services, education and research, are two areas that we think act as carbon offsets, though hard to quantify. By spreading awareness and gaining knowledge, we're on the path to lasting change.

## Reducing Energy Consumption

A more walkable campus with green buildings like the Brown Family House of Learning is just the beginning of TRU's Campus Plan for sustainable development. From solar hot water heating and the new Continuous Optimization Program (COP), to staff, faculty and student participation in activities like Sweater Day and the Pulse Energy Dashboard, TRU is taking action to reduce emissions and conserve energy.

How we get to campus also makes a difference. Every time we walk, bike, take the bus or carpool, we are reducing CO<sub>2</sub> and using less energy. With 40 carpooling spaces, new bike barns, and more pedestrian routes, we're on the right track. Test drive TRU's new electric bike for a week – you'll reduce your emissions by 13 times over the average car, and see how easy it is to take that first step.



Students are active in international sustainability events such as Sweater Day, Earth Hour, and Do It In the Dark.

## Research: Bioremediation

Brown Family House of Learning

Campus-wide Recycling

Free Electric Bike Rental (New)

Chef-Farmer Collaborative (TSCFC)

## Minor in Environmental Economics

Yard Waste Composted

Department of Environmental Sustainability

Research: Cattle

Independent Industry Environmental Science Centre  
Electric Car Charging Station

Sustainability

Seminars

## Master of Science in Environmental Science

Silver Rating Under STARS

Continuous Optimization Program

Research: Responding to Climate Change

Wells Gray TRU Research Centre

Old Main Revitalization

Kamloops Centre for Water Quality

Environmental Advisory Committee



# ability



Test-drive TRU's new Ebike for up to a week, free of charge, and see how you could save 0.6 metric tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> a year (that's like 67 gallons of gas) over driving a car.

## Eating Responsibly

TRU's on-campus population of about 15,000 people (13,900 students and 1,100 employees) is walking the talk when it comes to food. We use biodegradable containers, compost kitchen scraps and retail outlet coffee grounds, and wash up in solar-heated water. Culinary Arts has led the way: 80% of the menu at Accolades is local and sustainable, and instructors and alumni are furthering the sustainable food movement with the founding of the Thompson-Shuswap Chef-Farmer Collaborative. Small choices like using refillable water bottles are adding up across campus, reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, keeping plastic and other waste out of landfills and oceans, and inspiring others to step up.

## Educating and Researching

From renowned guest speakers to international events, TRU spreads awareness about sustainability issues faced locally and globally. Our students excel in programs like the Minor in Environmental Economics and Sustainable Development or the Master of Science in Environmental Science, and soon, a new credential recognizing Leadership in Environmental Sustainability.

Research at TRU tackles global challenges in partnership with our community and industry. Our researchers are preserving threatened ecosystems, empowering communities to prepare for climate change-related disasters, understanding the relationships between cattle and grasslands, and developing microbes to clean up environmental pollutants. TRU's expanded learning and research facility at Wells Gray Provincial Park will contribute to global, interdisciplinary initiatives for cultural, economic and environmental sustainability.

40 Carpooling  
Parking Spots

Pulse  
Energy  
Dashboard

1150L/week  
of Composted Food  
Biodegradable Food Containers

Science  
Building  
Retrofit

Honey  
Bee Hives

Accolades Serves

30% 80% Local

Recycled  
Paper Content

Double-Sided Printing

Water Bottle  
Refill Stations

Used Cooking Oil Recycled

## TRU Campus Plan

## Research: Community and Ecosystem Ecology

Billion Dollar Green  
Challenge  
Participant

## Leadership in Environmental Sustainability

Solar Hot Water Heating

Green  
Dream Home

International  
Environmental Speakers

TRU Trash  
Bash

Student-Led  
Events

Environmental Achievement Awards

Energy  
Retro-Fit Project

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Solar panels on Old Main, the Campus Activity Centre, and Culinary Arts provide hot water heating year-round, reducing energy costs in these water-dependent facilities.



[www.tru.ca/sustain](http://www.tru.ca/sustain)



## A Report to the Community

Guided by our new Academic Plan, TRU promotes access to excellence through inquiry-based and creative learning, interdisciplinary approaches, Aboriginal, local and global cultural awareness, flexible learning options, and life-long learning. Building on these foundations, solidly grounded in our community and region, our students and faculty will explore academic themes of Science, Technology and Applied Skills in Society; Power, Politics and Social Justice; Health, Well-being and Leisure; and Environmental, Economic, Social and Cultural Sustainability, to prepare our graduates to succeed in a rapidly changing world.

### ► Debate, dialogue and celebration

TRU hosts research conferences and sports championships, science seminars and cultural showcases, and invites the community to engage with world-renowned speakers; Peter Mansbridge, Kartikeya Sarabhai, and Steven Pinker were just a few of this year's visitors. This fall also marked the start of Wells Gray World Heritage Year, with a series of events celebrating the diversity of this natural wonder at our doorstep.

### ► Sustainable development

Sustainability is central to our campus development, from transportation strategies to the revitalization of Old Main. The two-storey addition is incorporating Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) elements in the new construction, such as a high albedo roof, passive solar shading, and Wood First initiatives. A new corporate trustee, TRU Community Trust, will manage new development on TRU property following a "university village" model, to ensure the campus continues to grow as a community— a place to learn, live and play.

### ► Serving community needs

TRU Trades and Technology created two new Heavy Duty Equipment Operator programs which have now seen dozens of students, including women, First Nations and mature learners, attain much needed skills for jobs in BC's construction, mining and forestry industries.

Fourth-year School of Business and Economics students contributed their expertise in human resource management, project management, strategic planning and other areas to projects for local non-profits and small businesses, gaining experience with organizations such as Big

Brothers & Sisters, New Life Mission, Venture Kamloops, and Tk'emlúps Indian Band.

### ► Productive partnerships

TRU researchers like Dr. Lachlan Fraser, Canada Research Chair in Community and Ecosystem Ecology, and Dr. John Church, BC Regional Innovation Chair in Cattle Industry Sustainability, are collaborating on the economic and environmental sustainability of the ranching industry, including stewardship of rangeland, meat health and quality, and greenhouse gas emissions.

Responding to climate change at the community level, Dr. Julie Drolet is researching strategies for small communities locally and internationally to proactively address and mitigate the impact of climate related disasters.

In collaboration with Kamloops health care practitioners, nursing students, caregivers, and patients, Dr. Barbara Paterson, Dean of Nursing at TRU, is researching nurse education to address the increasing need for chronic illness care with new training for students in respite, residential and home care.

A new partnership between the Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) and the Kamloops United Way continues TRU's 12-year collaboration with community organizations to research culture in small cities and support policy-making and urban planning that generates vital, resilient, growing communities.

### ► Paying it forward

TRU's faculty, students and staff raised nearly \$57,000 in 2011 for the United Way campaign, with a 62% increase in employee participation over the previous year. TRU students meanwhile received \$466,861 in the form of scholarships, bursaries, and awards

at TRU's 29th annual Foundation Awards Ceremony last November.

As Kamloops' third-largest employer with over 1,100 full time employees, TRU significantly contributes to regional prosperity and growth with an overall economic impact of upwards of \$500 million a year. Indirect economic impacts also include research and development, graduate start-up enterprises, a diverse and accessible labour pool, and community promotion through national and overseas initiatives.

### ► Global understanding

Trades and Technology and TRU World coordinated the first international Trades practicum in Mexico. Electrical Foundation students and instructors installed solar panels in a small village in Oaxaca, providing an alternative to hydroelectric power and the village's first electric lights. They were one of several TRU faculties and schools to explore global connections for learning opportunities this year.

International Days continues to expand global awareness and celebrate diversity. Featuring approximately 80 events spread over five days, the 2012 program addressed challenges faced around the globe and opportunities we have for multidisciplinary approaches to solutions. Keynote speakers and international guest scholars spoke on a variety of subjects.

### ► Aboriginal health

On the Williams Lake Campus, the Gathering Place serves as a popular venue for the area's Aboriginal population, which comprises 25% of the region. A new partnership with the Northern Shuswap Tribal Council was created to assist them in growing healthy communities, and similar agreements are in negotiations with other Aboriginal governments.



40,000 square feet of new learning space is under construction in Old Main



Sara Burchnell ('12) researched happiness as the new GDP

Dr. Wendy Hulko, Social Work, partnered with Interior Health and Secwepemc Nation Elders on a community-based research project using traditional storytelling to help nurses provide culturally safe care for First Nation Elders with memory loss, research that has now expanded nationally.

TRU's School of Nursing faculty partnered with Aboriginal Elders and community health care staff to develop a clinical course to provide culturally relevant nursing education and address some of the health care needs of a rural Aboriginal community. Elders are sharing the history, traditions, health issues, and political context of Aboriginal people with nursing students. Faculty, students, and staff are developing projects and proposing research to determine the health care and interventions needed in the region.

► **Expanding access**

TRU is an anchor partner the Open Education Resource university (OERu), contributing to a new international collaboration to make education accessible to everyone, anywhere, through online learning materials that are low or zero cost. OERu's courses, in prototype this year,

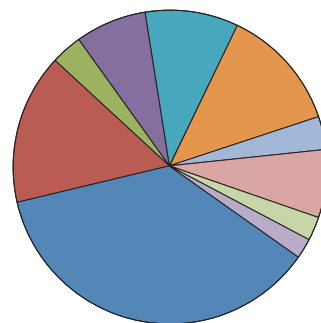
would piggy-back on TRU's and other partner institutions' existing open learning processes and policies, allowing learners to obtain credit for OER learning towards an accredited degree, such as a TRU Bachelor of Arts.

TRU's Faculty of Law, the first new Canadian law school opened in over thirty years, provides our region and province with much-needed access to a law education and legal services. Now with the financial support

of the Province of British Columbia, a permanent home for our Faculty of Law will be completed next year in the revitalized Old Main building. The provincial government's contribution of \$7.4 million, announced on October 9, will ensure our law students and faculty have a state-of-the-art facility for learning and research in the areas of energy and natural resources law, environmental law, and Aboriginal law, with the capacity to accommodate the growing program.

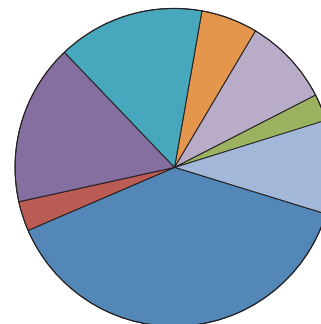
## By the Numbers

### Consolidated Expenses by Type (157.6 Million, % of total) For the year ended March 31, 2012



- Faculty (Campus & Distance) Compensation & Benefits 37% (57.7 Million)
- Support Compensation & Benefits 16% (24.5 Million)
- Other Excluded Compensation & Benefits 3% (5 Million)
- Management and Exec Compensation & Benefits 7% (11.8 Million)
- Building, Equipment, Operations, Maintenance & Amortization 10% (15.2 Million)
- Cost of Materials Sold & Other Supplies 13% (20.2 Million)
- Travel 3% (5.2 Million)
- Professional Fees & Contracted Services 7% (10.9 Million)
- Advertising and Public Relations 2% (3.9 Million)
- Bursaries, Awards & Scholarships 2% (3.2 Million)

### Consolidated Revenue by Source (166.1 Million, % of total) For the year ended March 31, 2012



- Ministry Operating Grant 39% (64.6 Million)
- Other Operating Grants 3% (5 Million)
- Tuition Fees — Domestic 16% (27 Million)
- Tuition Fees — International 15% (25.1 Million)
- Student fees 6% (9.5 Million)
- Ancillary Sales and Services 9% (14.8 Million)
- Contract, Donation and other revenues 3% (4.5 Million)
- Other 9%
- › Research Grants 2% (2.9 Million)
- › Specific Purpose Grants 1% (1.6 Million)
- › Investment Income 2% (3.9 Million)
- › Amortisation of Deferred Capital Contributions 2% (4.4 Million)
- › Unrealized gain (loss) on financial instruments 2% (2.8 Million)

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Interior Forest Labour Relations Association	Dr. Nathan & Marie Matthew	Margaret Patten	Jackie Shinkewski	Nels Vollo
Investors Group Matching Gift Program	Nan McBlane	Gordon & Mary Ellen Patterson	Shuswap Naturalist Club	Wesco Distribution-Canada Inc.
Karen & James Irving	Michael McCance	Ted Patterson	Sikh Cultural Society	Adrian Wall
Scott Janzen	Dr. Elspeth McDougall	Leigh & Rachann Pedersen	Kristin Simkins	Sean & Lynn Wallace
Johnson Controls	Tom & Bonnie McNulty	People in Focus Consulting	Simon Fraser University	Andrew Watson & Lisa Johnson
Joanne Jones	Gordon & Catherine McLeod	Peter Olsen Photography	Dr. Gur & Manju Singh	Wayside Press Inc.
Doug Jontz & Nancy Plett	Dr. Kathryn McNaughton	Peter Pietramala	The Honorable Madam Justice Daphne & Bud Smith	Guenter Weckerle
K-40 Club of Kamloops	Allan & Cathy McNeely	Jordan Piper	Sony Canada Charitable Foundation	WestJet Airlines
KGHM Ajax Mining Inc.	David McPherson	Paula Presta	Gord Sookaveiff	Western Roofing
Kal Tire	Lori Melnychuk	Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of BC	Spectra Energy	David Westfall
Kamloops Blazers Hockey Club	Janet Michael	Charleen Proznick	Rob Splane	Westwood Fibre Ltd.
Kamloops Chartered Accountants Assoc.	Lisa Michaels	PPWC Local 9	Joanne Spooner	Whistler Golf Club
Kamloops Council of Canadians	Rod Michell	R. Wales & Son Industrial Ribber	Stantec Architecture Ltd.	White Spot
Kamloops Exploration Group Society	Middleton Petroleum Services Ltd.	R.G. Dunn Electrical Services	Todd & Chantelle Stone	Wiebe & Leakos
Kamloops Farmers Market Society	Darrell Miller	RJL Development Industries	Taylor Stuart	Veterinary Services
Kamloops Ford Lincoln Ltd.	Dr. Jack & Verna Miller	Senator, Dr. Nancy Greene Raine & Al Raine	Sun Country Toyota	Michelle Wiegale
Kamloops Foundation	Peter & Lianne Milobar	Dennis & Helen Ralph	Sun Rivers	Alanna Wiens
Kamloops Home Based Business Assoc.	Kathleen Mitchell	Regency Towers (Owen Sound) Ltd.	Golf Resort Community	Barry Wilford
Tk'emlups Indian Band	Moly-Cop Canada	Brendan Reid	Dr. Katherine & John Sutherland	Williams Lake Lions Club
Kiwanis Club of Kamloops BC	Morelli Chertkow Lawyers LLP	Dr. Russ Reid	William Swaine	Robert & Rachel Wilson
Kamloops Medical Imaging Inc.	Linda Morray	Residential Construction ITO	TD Canada Trust	Peter Young
Kamloops Naturalist Club	Rob Morrison	Retired Teachers Association	TD Waterhouse	Yukon Service Supply Company
Kamloops Paddlewheelers Lions Club	Pete Mullins	Luz Elvira Reyes	TRU Assoc. of Professional Administrators	Dr. Cheryl Zawaduk
	Paul & Lindsay Mumford	Nick & Linda Rinaldi	Tulo Centre Of Indigenous Economics	
	Jeanette Murray	Rivershore Estates & Golf Links	Kent & Jennifer Taylor	
	Judith Murray	Shane Rollans	Larkin Taylor	
	Anthony Muzzillo & Evelina Coschizza	Rona Revy Inc.		
	NL Broadcasting Ltd.	Brian & Anne Ross		

*All efforts have been made to ensure accuracy in this list. If an error or omission has occurred, please call the Foundation office at 250.828.5264.*



# Giving Through Your Will

By Leah Card, Wills and Estates Lawyer, Fulton & Company LLP

Leaving a bequest in your will to your favourite charity is a simple, flexible way to make a substantial gift and take advantage of tax incentives for charitable donations. You may also be able to make a larger donation than you could have afforded in your lifetime.

If you presently have a will, you may be able to add a codicil providing for a bequest to Thompson Rivers University. If you don't have a will, this is the time to prepare one and you'll find that it is neither difficult nor expensive.

Your estate is entitled to a donation receipt for the full value of your bequest, which can significantly reduce the tax payable when your final income tax return is filed. For example, a widow leaves \$100,000 to the TRU Foundation and the remainder of her estate to her two children. Assuming the net income on her final tax return is large enough for the entire bequest to be claimed for a charitable tax credit, the bequest

may result in a combined federal and provincial tax savings of approximately \$50,000. If she had left the \$100,000 to her children instead of making the bequest, taxes could leave the children with only \$50,000.

Your bequest may take any of several forms, for example:

A **general bequest** is for a certain dollar amount of property, usually cash: "I give to the Thompson Rivers University Foundation the sum of \$100,000 to be used for the general purposes of the Foundation at the discretion of its directors."

A **specific bequest** directs that the TRU Foundation is to receive a specific piece of property: "I give the TRU Foundation 500 shares of XYZ stock."

A **residual bequest** designates all or a portion of whatever remains after all debts, taxes, expenses and other bequests have been paid: "I give the TRU Foundation fifty percent (50%) of the residue of my estate..."

A **contingent bequest** takes effect only under certain conditions: "In the event that my wife does not survive me, I give to the TRU Foundation the sum of..."

You also have options as to the **purpose** for which your bequest will be used. You may restrict a bequest to a particular TRU program or student award. Or you may specify that the principal be held as an endowment from which only the income is expended, establishing a fund in your name or as a memorial to a family member. It is important to confer in advance with a representative of the TRU Foundation to ensure that your wishes can be met and that your bequest provision is properly worded.



[www.tru.ca/foundation](http://www.tru.ca/foundation)

This information is not intended as nor does it constitute tax or legal advice. Readers should consult their own lawyer, accountant or other professional advisor when planning to implement any donation strategy.



# Message

from the  
**President and Vice-Chancellor**

This September TRU celebrated the 25th anniversary of one of its proudest traditions, the Welcome Back Barbecue. Since the early days of our campus, we have welcomed our students back to class and to the campus community with this event. Around our beautiful Commons that Friday afternoon, I found our alumni at their employers' booths, telling me they are grads and showing their pride in what we have built. You can feel the energy like electricity. A current of excitement, optimism, and determination flows between the students, faculty, staff, alumni, and out into the larger community.

It seemed particularly fitting that this exuberance capped off a week that began with the arrival of 1,600 first year students wondering what to expect at university. Orientation goes a long way to help new students feel at ease and to give them insight into the supports available to them for their success at TRU. The Canadian University Report, published by the Globe and Mail last month, reveals that TRU has improved

grades in 44 of 61 categories. Since 2005, TRU's grade for the quality of teaching and learning has increased from a B to an A-. And the quality of teaching does not stop when classes end each day. TRU has consistently received an A- for availability of faculty to students outside of classroom hours.

We have recently expanded our learning and teaching support resources by creating the Centre for Student Engagement and Learning Innovation, with the goal of continuing to improve the educational experience for all students. I believe our increasing student satisfaction is due to the dedication of TRU faculty and staff in and outside of the classroom.

As our students expect more from their campus experience, we are also looking at a potential revolution in the way that university education is delivered. It is called the Open Educational Resource (OER) movement. Since 2003 over 250 institutions around the world have put the content of over 15,000 courses online, and 7,308 open access research

journals have been created. Recently, free massive open online courses (MOOC) have appeared and are serving thousands of students. TRU is ready to embrace the OER revolution. It is the community we make here, which transcends bricks and mortar, that will enable TRU to be the leader in offering even greater access to post-secondary education. We are Canada's first modern university.

At TRU our feet are on the ground. Our teaching and research respond to our region's needs, knowing that those needs are also global. We are recognized for improving lives and communities. The pages of this magazine highlight just how determined this university is to improve ourselves, our communities, our society and the world. We are the ones to meet the challenges ahead. Change is up to us.

Alan Shaver  
*President and Vice-Chancellor*  
[president@tru.ca](mailto:president@tru.ca)

# Distinguished Alumni Awards

Know of a TRU, UCC, or Cariboo College graduate who is doing amazing things to make the world a better place?

Nominate them for a  
**TRU Distinguished Alumni Award**

Award event is April 12, 2013

For more information contact:

250.828.5264

[www.tru.ca/alumni](http://www.tru.ca/alumni)

## James McCreath

*BJour 2002 – Community Service Award 2012*

An Ironman athlete, journalist, and businessman, James McCreath devotes much of his time to youth, whether bringing affordable organized sports to kids, speaking at youth groups, or raising funds for school programs.

His mantra: *"If you give, you begin to live".*



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