

# Bridges

THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2015 | ISSUE 13

**A Winning  
Attitude  
10**

**14** Let Me Sum Up

**20** Our Proud Past



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# CONTENTS

Spring 2015, Issue 13

## CAMPUS COMMONS

Apprentices Sharpen Skills for Forestry Industry	5
Accreditation Report	6
A Remarkable Richness of Heart	7
Bringing Emerging Technologies to the Online Classroom	8
Achieving Independence	9

## STUDENT STREET

A Winning Attitude	10
Philosophy in Action	12
Difference-Makers	13

## RESEARCH REVIEW

Let Me Sum Up	14
When It Rains	16
Sowing the Seeds of Collaboration	17

## INTERIOR SETTINGS

Donald Lawrence	18
-----------------	----

## INSIDE TRU

Our Proud Past	20
----------------	----

## TRACK THE 'PACK

Making Time for Excellence	25
----------------------------	----

## ALMA MATTERS

Fast Eddy	26
Family Ties	27
Distinguished Alumni Awards	29
Class Notes	30

## FOUNDATION

Cool Tools	32
Giving for Care	33

## WINDOW ON THE WILD

After the Pines	35
-----------------	----

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

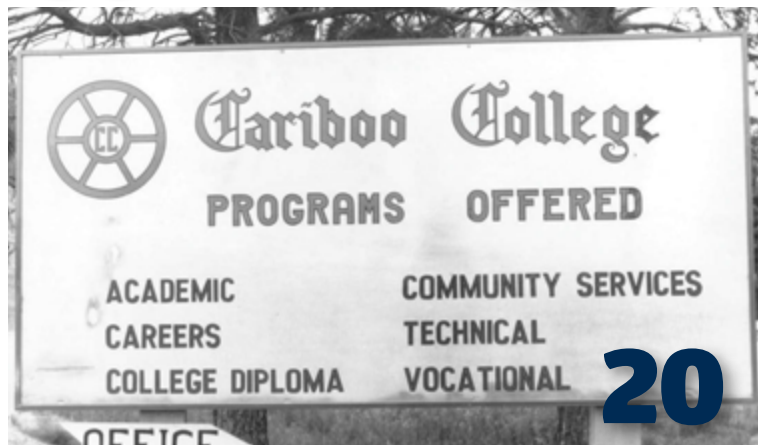
A Brand New TRU	36
-----------------	----



14



8



20



35



10



## ON THE COVER

TRU's Enactus club president Acacia Schmiertenknop was recognized with the National HSBC Women Leaders of Tomorrow Award at the Enactus National Competition on May 11, for her dedication over the past five years to the club and the Kamloops community. Cover story page 10. Photo by Eric Rankin.

# Bridges

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## Student and Alumni Contributors



**CHERRY AU** is a TRU alumna, having graduated from the Bachelor of Social Work program in June 2014. She is particularly enthusiastic about animals, biking and working with children, and plans to pursue graduate studies in Occupational Therapy.



**CARLI BERRY** is a third-year journalism student who enjoys long walks on the beach and romantic comedies. Her plans after university include living life to the fullest by traveling the world with her hedgehog.



**PAM ERIKSON** is a fourth-year English major who recently completed a crash course in journalistic writing through a communications bursary, working in the Marketing and Communications department. She looks forward to working on her UREAP project this summer before her final year.



**AFTON FLYNN** is a fourth-year marketing student, who has recently completed a communications and research assistant co-op term in the Office of the President. She looks forward to a summer of Oregon surfing and BC hiking before graduation.



**MARTIN MCFARLANE** is a second-year journalism student majoring in public relations. He hosts his own radio show, tutors writing, and occasionally rants about current events. He has an undying love for the road and enjoys travelling to new places.



**ERIC RANKIN** is a second-year public relations and communications major who enjoys dedicating time outside of the classroom to volunteering and photography. He looks forward to exploring public relations through experiential learning opportunities with the co-op program.



**LARKIN SCHMIEDL** is a freelance journalist and a housing support worker in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. He loves to write about social and environmental justice, food systems and queer issues. He graduated TRU's journalism program in 2012.

*Throughout Bridges Magazine, former iterations of the institution including UCC, Cariboo and Open Learning Agency are assumed in use of "TRU".*

*This Thompson Rivers University magazine is issued twice a year in spring and fall and distributed free of charge to approximately 22,000 alumni and friends. The views and opinions expressed in the magazine are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of Thompson Rivers University or the TRU Alumni and Friends Association. All material copyright ©. Bridges cannot be held responsible for unsolicited manuscripts or photographs.*



# Welcome

**THE THING ABOUT A BIG BIRTHDAY** is that it sneaks up on you. It seems like we were just rummaging through the archive files for our 40th, but here we are again celebrating another milestone, this year we celebrate TRU's 45th.

Once we got over how fast the last five years flew by, looking through the old news clippings and calendars was pretty interesting and we've pulled together the highlights revealed in our trip to the archives (p. 20) in photographs and newsprint.

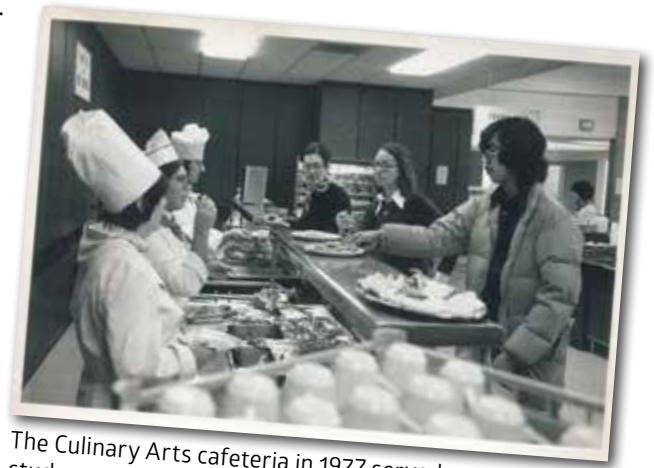
Looking back reminded us that in its evolution into a modern university TRU's program offerings have remained diverse. This issue showcases faculty teaching in a variety of settings, from COPE/MECA (p. 7) to the unique Saw Filer apprenticeship in Williams Lake (p. 5), and exploring research questions in everything from physics (p. 17) to visual arts (p. 18).

Since our first master's program opened in 2005, graduate studies has expanded to three programs with more in development, and researchers like Julie Taylor Schooling are making an impact across the province (p. 16). Students in our MBA, MEd and MSc programs competed again this year for a spot in the Western Canadian Three Minute Thesis (3MT), this time hosted by TRU (p. 14).

Our undergraduates are also making a difference and building connections with the community. They show us that every voice counts, from the Education and Skills Training (ESTR) students learning through campus interactions and local job placements (p. 9), to the arts students putting classroom theory into practice with awareness campaigns on issues in ethics and the environment (p. 13). The volunteer efforts of TRU's Enactus team earned them a trio of regional competition trophies (p. 10) and a national award for club president Acacia Schmietenknop (Cover).

Thanks to nominations from the TRU community, we recognized two alumni, a senior student and a community organization with Distinguished Alumni Awards (p. 29) this year. Nominate someone making your world a better place today.

One great change the future will bring is another evolution for Bridges. Production of the magazine will go to a request for proposal (RFP) soon, with the goal to make it a primarily web-based publication. We're excited to deliver future issues more sustainably online, with expanded web content—still featuring programs, projects and achievements by the TRU community. If you have a TRU story to share, contact [bridges@tru.ca](mailto:bridges@tru.ca) ■



The Culinary Arts cafeteria in 1977 served over 3,300 students and 244 faculty and staff.



Stay connected with TRU's YouTube channel:  
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*Diana*  
Diana Skoglund  
Editor, Bridges

## Survey "How would you read yours?"

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# Apprentices Sharpen Skills for Forestry Industry

By Myrissa Krenzler

**THE TOWN OF WILLIAMS LAKE** is known for many things: great mountain biking trails, the second oldest stampede in Canada, and now, saw filing.

Since 2013, TRU's Williams Lake campus has been home to the only Saw Filer Apprenticeship program in Western Canada, serving the needs of the forestry industry.

"We are responsible for maintaining all saws, knives and saw guides in the sawmill, as well as machine maintenance and alignments," says Greg Daykin, retired saw filer and instructor for the program.

Daykin, who lives in Prince George, travels to Williams Lake to teach whenever a new intake is offered. "It's more testing their abilities and competencies," he says. "They should have a working knowledge of the trade before they attend classes."

This working knowledge is more important than ever with the changes in technology in the industry.

"Our trade has changed a lot over the years, mainly with machine feed rates, kerf (width of a saw cut) reductions and lumber target size reductions," says Daykin. "These make the filing trade more technical. We have tighter tolerances on our fitting and benching."

Saw filer training consists of three levels. Level 1, Fitter, requires 840 hours of on-the-job training and 120 classroom hours. From there, apprentices must complete another 1,680 hours on the job and pass the Industry Training Authority (ITA) exam with a grade of 70 percent or higher before they are eligible for the next level.

Level 2, Circular Saw Filer, involves 100 hours of class time, and another 1,680 hours on the job before the ITA exam. Apprentices awarded Level 2 certification may move on to Level 3, Benchperson, for another 100 hours of class time and 1,680 hours of training, but may stop at circular saw filer due to the changing industry.

"A lot of the new sawmills do not have bandsaws in them," explains Daykin, "because log diameters are getting smaller and maintenance costs of bandmills and bandsaws are higher."

The apprenticeship has attracted students from across BC and Alberta, filling to capacity in every intake offered. In an interview with the Williams Lake Tribune, Daykin noted that the current number of female students in the TRU program has increased to three, surpassing the number of women who attended when the program was offered elsewhere in the province. Due to its popularity, the Saw Filer program received additional provincial funding for an extra cohort of 16 seats in Winter 2015 and an additional 16 seats in this spring. ■



Students Clayton Smith from Vanderhoof and Meaghan Wolff from Port Alberni examine equipment during the Level 2 Circular Saw Filer apprenticeship program at Williams Lake.

Photo courtesy of the Williams Lake Tribune.

# Accreditation Report

In February 2014, TRU received Applicant Status for US Accreditation through the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). The pursuit of institutional accreditation will reinforce for TRU students and their families—past, present and future—that a TRU education is a high quality education, based on objective, comprehensive and internationally recognized criteria.

The full accreditation process, which is based on a series of institutional self-assessments and NWCCU member peer reviews, will take between six to eight years to complete. For the past year, an Accreditation Steering Committee has met to coordinate a university-wide consultation, review and writing process to complete the first stage of the application: an institution-wide self-evaluation examining how TRU's policies, procedures and practices relate to the five standards prescribed by the NWCCU.

TRU's draft self-evaluation report is currently posted for stakeholder feedback. Once all feedback has been reviewed, the final draft of the report will be presented to the Board of Governors for approval. TRU expects to submit the final Self-Evaluation Report in winter 2015/2016 and host an on-site peer evaluation visit in spring 2016.

The NWCCU is one of six regional organizations recognized by the United States Department of Education, and the Council

for Higher Education Accreditation, to provide quality assurance and evaluate institutional effectiveness.

Details on the process, Steering Committee membership, self-evaluation report and accreditation timeline may be accessed at: [tru.ca/accreditation](http://tru.ca/accreditation)

Accreditation will:

- ◆ enable TRU to receive an independent assessment of the institution as a whole, not just individual programs, disciplines or departments
- ◆ provide regular external assessment of TRU's adherence to best-practice standards
- ◆ increase the university's accountability to stakeholders
- ◆ foster public confidence in TRU's ability to fulfill its stated mission and strategic priorities
- ◆ help establish clearer benchmarks/standards for assessing learning outcomes and thus benefit students' learning experiences
- ◆ allow TRU to more easily share best practices with other institutions worldwide
- ◆ enhance the value of a TRU degree for alumni abroad, and for international students returning home ■

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# A Remarkable Richness of Heart

By Larkin Schmiedl

**A PASSION FOR DEEP HEALING** and transformation in the lives of students is what has driven Iris Rich (McQuay) forward in her 38-year career at TRU. Retiring in June, Rich leaves a legacy of advocacy and a remarkable richness of heart.

As a faculty member with the Career Orientation and Personal Empowerment (COPE) program, she's had the opportunity to spend 23 hours a week every semester with students needing help to get into academic life.

"One of the themes that has continually come up is: 'I'm not working to the potential that I think I could have,'" says Rich. "These students come to us saying, 'I'm filled with fear, I don't know how to navigate this huge institution, I don't even know how to navigate through my life.'" Students facing a variety of barriers to achieving their educational goals have found empowerment and success through COPE.

"A lot of our students come by word-of-mouth referral—they meet somebody that they know that took the class and they see the changes," says Rich. "People I haven't seen in 25 years will tell me something about their life and what a difference that class made."

COPE began in 1980 as part of a government initiative to get women into the workforce. Men's Education and Career Alternatives (MECA) developed as the male counterpart, and in 1998 the two joined. COPE/MECA also recently shifted to include an academic component so students gain 11 credits to apply to further educational pursuits. Beyond its core focus on personal development, networking in the community is also key to help students develop useful contacts.

Rich has committed to an EdD in educational leadership, investigating how and why the magic in her classroom unfolded as it did. Now tackling the last few chapters of her doctoral dissertation in transformational adult learning at Simon Fraser University, she's looking at how educators can cultivate a curriculum which supports students to make significant life changes.

"As an educator, there's a philosophy for me that it isn't about just teaching the mind, but it's about awakening the heart, and connecting the two." Offering presence, deep listening, unconditional acceptance and encouragement are central to her teaching philosophy.

"From a very young age in elementary school I often took on the role of champion in situations that were unjust," says Rich. She's grateful for the opportunity to turn that orientation into a lifelong career working with marginalized people. During her last semester at TRU, she is indigenizing COPE/MECA curriculum so it can be used to support Aboriginal students in transitioning to university.

"I've been truly really blessed. When I blink my eyes and say this is my career, well, I would do this over again in a heartbeat." ■



Iris Rich shared a bounty of free hugs to celebrate the start of the school year at the Back to School BBQ.

"As an educator, there's a philosophy for me that it isn't about just teaching the mind, but it's about awakening the heart, and connecting the two."  
—Iris Rich

# Bringing Emerging Technologies to the Online Classroom

By Lindsey Norris

**IT LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF** a science fiction movie, a strange, small helicopter that hovers noisily inches above the floor, squat legs projecting insect-like from its futuristic frame.

Jon Fulton, video producer for the Open Learning Curriculum Media Development Group, is demonstrating how he's using TRU's new drone as an aerial camera platform to create content for Open Learning's online and distance courses.

However, rather like an untamed animal, the drone isn't designed for indoor pursuits, so Fulton turns the machine off and shows footage he shot of the rolling hills that bracket the TRU campus. He'll use this footage for GEOG 2221: Regional Geography of Canada.

“The drone allows us to get angles and perspectives we couldn't before, which helps students visualize the material.”

—Jon Fulton



Jon Fulton demonstrates TRU's new drone on the lawn in front of the BC Centre for Open Learning building.

“In the past, to get these shots I would have had to drive out of town, climb up on the top of my car and shoot this with a DSLR,” Fulton explains. “The drone allows us to get angles and perspectives we couldn't before, which helps students visualize the material.”

Unmanned aerial vehicles, or UAVs, became famous when Amazon.com announced plans to use them to deliver packages, but they offer unique opportunities for educators as well as businesses.

“Traditionally education is heavily anchored in print, but we live in a highly visual culture. Alternative media in Open Learning courses is an important way to enrich the learning experience and engagement of students,” says Dr. Irwin DeVries, the director of Curriculum Development for Open Learning. “This drone, with a high quality camera, offers new opportunities to bring video angles and access that we never had before.”

The drone can travel 22 metres per second, or about 50 miles per hour (though you likely won't see the drone zooming around campus, because TRU is within nine kilometres of the airport, and any flights have to be cleared with Transport Canada). Fulton says the built-in gimbal system keeps the camera stable even when the drone is being buffeted by the wind, and though in-flight fine tuning is important, overall he finds it quite easy to use.

“The hardest part is developing muscle memory so you don't panic if you encounter an obstacle—you have to react the opposite way you would expect, so if you need the drone to go up, you need to steer down.” The drone had one unfortunate encounter with a sagebrush shrub that slightly damaged a propeller, but otherwise, Fulton says, it's been smooth sailing.

There are plans to use footage captured with the drone in other courses, including geography, sustainability, and possibly trades, after Fulton noticed the power poles used in trades training on campus. He thinks the drone could be used to show how those power components work—climbing on the top of his car not required. ■



James McFarlane hones his retail and communications skills at his ESTR practicum at Market Fresh Foods.

# Achieving Independence

By Martin McFarlane

**MOST OF TRU'S STUDENTS ARE HERE** to earn a degree, diploma, or a trades certificate, then to walk proudly across the convocation stage and start careers.

For a small group of students with cognitive challenges, that same walk across the stage symbolizes much more.

Similar to most TRU students, Education and Skills Training (ESTR) students discover independence through learning employment skills and becoming valuable contributors to the workforce.

But as they finish their first year of the program and look ahead to convocation in 2016 and entry into the workforce, ESTR students James McFarlane and Niculus Funk are also anticipating their second-year experiences as active members of the campus community.

"That's the main reason why I wanted to be at TRU in the first place," says McFarlane, who also looks forward to more practicum experience in service positions.

The ESTR program gives students who have cognitive challenges the opportunity to learn workplace skills and apply their learning in practicum placements as a kitchen assistant, retail worker, or automotive assistant, on- and off-campus in local businesses.

Beyond classes in communications, employability skills, workplace health and safety and job search, students improve on their social skills. By applying effective communication, they learn self-advocacy and independence, gaining confidence, pride, and a feeling of accomplishment.

"This program has helped me become more engaged with people. I'm usually the one that sits back," says Funk. "This year, I have been communicating with a whole lot of people and it has helped me come out of my shell."

McFarlane also believes social skills are very important and, when working at his practicum at Market Fresh Foods, learned how to handle situations like interacting with customers.

"The teachers have made me feel a lot more confident now," he says. "And my practicum has allowed me to develop a lot more skills."

The successes of students in the program show that even in the face of dealing with a mental condition, they can achieve their own goals and earn independence. Past graduate Keagan Jules was hired at Montana's Cookhouse in 2013 during his first-year practicum and is now working there full-time. Graduate Clara Aeichele works at Tim Hortons, was the first person in her family to go to post-secondary, and is now married. Both faced their challenges with the support of their instructors and families.

"We're good at overcoming whatever their barrier is," says Saskia Stinson, kitchen assistant instructor and practicum coordinator, noting that the confidence gained and friendships found at TRU go on much longer than the program.

From their experiences in the ESTR program, students earn lives they are proud of. ■

# A Winning Attitude

Photos by Eric Rankin

The Enactus team meets each challenge with a smile and takes home three trophies at the 2015 Enactus Canada Regional Exposition in Calgary.

**1.** (Left to Right) **Aditya Sadh**, **Gontran Nzobonimpa**, **Blessing Chiduuro**, and **Akash Arora** collaborate to perfect their respective speeches. **2.** **Nzobonimpa** and **Arora** celebrate their third place win in the TD Entrepreneurship Challenge. **3.** Team President **Acacia Schmietenkop** helps her team prepare to present in the Scotiabank Ecoliving Green Challenge. **4.** **Lisa Lake**, their faculty advisor. **5.** **Katie Doherty** gives a teammate a congratulatory hug after giving their Green Challenge presentation, which took third place. **6.** The team in Calgary. **7.** **Sadh**, dressed as the Enactus Cactus (a TRU creation), poses with **Emily Cantin** before the opening ceremonies. **8.** **Evan Choy** hands annual reports to the Capital One Financial Education Challenge judges—his team took second place. **9.** **Maria Shive** enjoys the journey en route to the regional competition in Calgary.



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# Philosophy in Action

By Pam Erikson

**THE INTANGIBLE NATURE OF PHILOSOPHY** leaves many wondering about its practical use beyond university walls. But students in Dr. Jeff McLaughlin's fourth-year environmental ethics class prove that philosophy is both important and practical.

Students were inspired to create group projects—McLaughlin's hands-on alternative to the usual essay—that consider everyday ethical topics in a new way, such as a side of recycling that many may not think about.

Take the ubiquitous plastic water bottle. Even when recycled, bottles are “downcycled” into lesser materials, creating more pollution and waste. The students' campaign aimed to encourage people to question the benefits of recycling and instead, practice reducing and reusing.

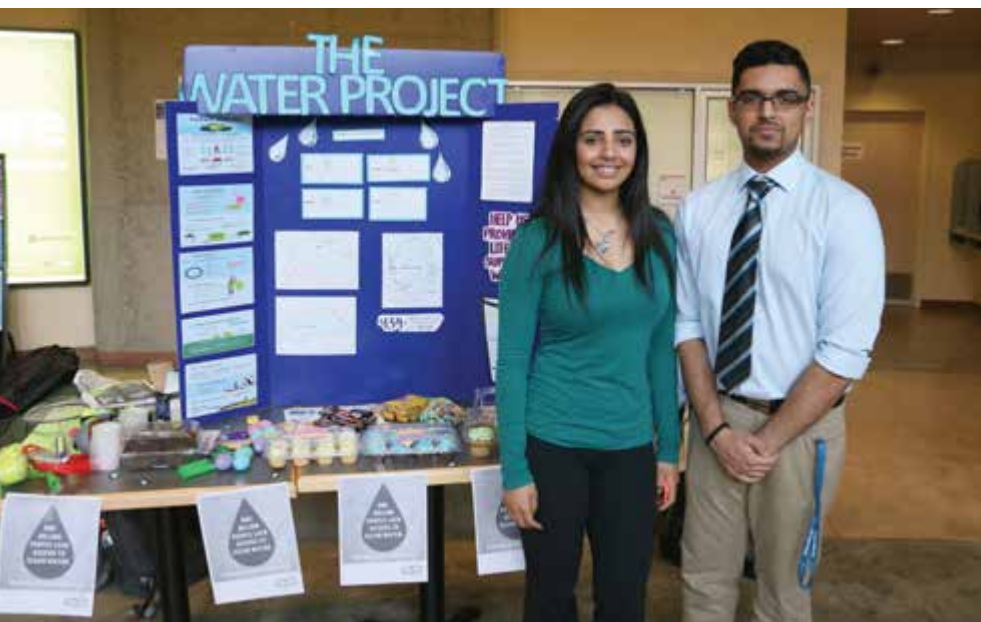
“Hopefully we can convince people to think outside their spheres and have a more global conscience,” says philosophy major Steve Leahy. “Instead of arguing abstract ideas we are practically applying ethics to everyday life.”

Another group is raising awareness about the risks of improper disposal of pharmaceutical medications for marine life and human beings. Although it might seem harmless to flush a few unused pills, says Bachelor of Arts student Alana Parker, people may not realize how those pills can add up, polluting waterways and ending up in drinking water.

“A project like this gives us the confidence to try to make a change,” she says.

McLaughlin first tried “ethics in action” last semester with his biomedical ethics class, who worked on blood and organ donation projects. He is proud of how students got involved and worked together to solve problems. This semester in his healthcare ethics class, students also tackled a clean water project, tobacco use awareness on campus, flu vaccines and a stem cell donor drive.

“Rather than simply writing an academic paper, we connect with the issue, learn about it, but then take the extra step and actually make a difference,” says Arts student Nic Senger. ■



“Rather than simply writing an academic paper, we connect with the issue, learn about it, but then take the extra step and actually make a difference.”  
—Nic Senger

A group in McLaughlin's Healthcare Ethics class campaigned to improve access to clean water in countries like Sierra Leone and Burkina Faso.

## Crowdfunding for change

Students in Dr. Michael Mehta's Environment and Resources course are also taking action. The geography professor asked students to create crowdfunded sustainability awareness campaigns, championing projects like rainwater collection, bike-sharing, community gardens, and an award for undergraduate environmental research.

Fourth-year biology major Haley Swindon is part of the campus community gardens project, which she believes could have multiple benefits for students, such as learning new skills and creating a sense of community. Navigating the approval process has taught her how much work goes into such a project.

*“I think learning experiences like this develop communication and teamwork skills more than traditional learning, and should be prominent in university settings,” she says.*

# Difference-Makers: *Innovation*

By Carli Berry



TRU's first Relay for Life, Mar. 28, 2015

“There’s support even if it’s not through a physical person. That’s the beauty of the app.”  
—Sara Gillis

BoosterBuddy co-creator Sara Gillis.



## TRU Relay for Life

**THE TRU RESIDENCE GAVE LIFE** to the idea of the university hosting its own “youth” Relay for Life. Sheena Erhardt, Residence Life Coordinator, proposed the idea to show that TRU students are contributing members of the Kamloops and campus community, choosing Mar. 28 instead of the usual summertime relay to allow more students to get involved.

“This is creating awareness for students on campus,” says Erhardt. “Yes, cancer exists, but the Canadian Cancer Society is here to support you.”

Nikki Fredrikson, community events and game day captain for the WolfPack cheerleaders, performed with her squad at the overnight event at Hillside Stadium. “You can hear the music, it’s lots of fun. The weather caused a little bit of hesitance,” —it was windy—“but there are a lot of people out here and they have great attitudes.”

## Lab Gives Fresh Ideas for Kamloops

**MORE THAN 400 PARTICIPANTS TURNED OUT** to talk about community sustainability at the CommUnity Innovation Lab at TRU from Feb. 3 to 5. Hosted by the Fresh Outlook Foundation, the event featured distinguished speakers and a variety of activities on and off campus.

Janelle Zimmer, project manager for the event and a TRU alumna, says the CIL surpassed their initial goal for attendance from the Kamloops community.

“It was really incredible to see people such as an investment banker and a master gardener in the same room together, working towards, and collaborating on, the same ideas and the same successes,” she says. “They all had a mutual end goal even though they all come from different backgrounds.”

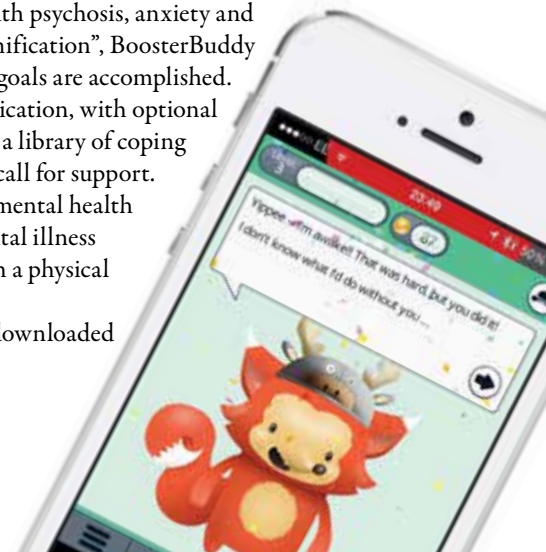
## An App for Your Mental Health

**SARA GILLIS IS A FIRST-YEAR PSYCHOLOGY STUDENT** who worked with Island Health and eight other youths to develop “BoosterBuddy,” a personalized, interactive mobile app that helps youth cope with psychosis, anxiety and depression. The first app of its kind to use “gamification”, BoosterBuddy works by giving the user rewards when certain goals are accomplished.

Calendar settings help track moods and medication, with optional check-ins and reminders. The app also features a library of coping mechanisms and a list of family and friends to call for support.

“It made it really new and refreshing for the mental health industry,” says Gillis, who has experienced mental illness herself. “There’s support even if it’s not through a physical person. That’s the beauty of the app.”

As of February, 2015, the free app had been downloaded 4,350 times, primarily in Canada and the US. Version 1.2 of the app has also been released. ■





BMT finalists and judges at TRU's local competition Mar. 27: back row, Tallon Milne (MSc), judge Dr. Terry Lake and Hasan Kettaneh (MEd); front row, Lesia Romaniuk (MBA), Amna Farooq (MSc), Kristen Marini (MSc) and judges Lori Marchand and Susan Duncan.



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# Let Me Sum Up: Three Minute Thesis at TRU

By Danna Bach

**AFTER A MONTH SPENT PREPARING**—attending workshops and practicing in front of friends, family, mirrors and shop windows—the day finally arrived.

On March 27, the five finalists in TRU's second ever Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition arrived early to Old Main's Black Box Theatre. The butterflies began from the moment they stepped under the marquee, and continued as they filed backstage. Some appeared relaxed and collected, while others rehearsed in time to quick steps.

The crowd traipsed in and then came the judges: Kamloops-North Thompson MLA and Minister of Health Dr. Terry Lake, Western Canada Theatre General Manager Lori Marchand and Interior Health Communications Officer Susan Duncan. The lights dimmed, a spotlight lit up the stage, a slide projected behind the first presenter, Master of Business Administration student Lesia Romaniuk, and the show began.

The presentations came in quick succession, and as soon as Romaniuk stepped off, Master of Science in Environmental Science student Kristen Marini hit the stage with "Living in the Ghetto: Effects of City Life on Chickadees," her slide—a split image of a forest and a city with a confused looking chickadee perched between the two—lit up behind her.



Kristen Marini takes first place in TRU's 3MT competition, presented by judge Dr. Terry Lake.

Tallon Milne, MSc, took to the stage next, followed by Master of Education student Hasan Kettaneh and Amna Farooq, MSc.

The judges agreed—it was a tough competition, but with her use of humour coupled with her confidence, carriage and effective slide, Marini was the winner.

"I loved Kristen's sweet enthusiasm, her excitement about her topic and the active way she told her story," remarked Duncan.

Marini then joined 13 other graduate students vying for top spot in the Western Canadian 3MT finals, hosted by TRU on April 30.

"The 3MT was a great chance to do something outside my normal comfort zone and practice talking about my research to a large audience," she says.

More than 100 people attended the regionals, and the event was live-streamed, with over 3,000 people casting votes for People's Choice. Judging were Kamloops lawyer and motivational speaker Lesra Martin, TRU Chancellor Wally Oppal, and CFJC-TV media personality Susan Edgell. The winners:

1st Place: Elizabeth Watt, University of Calgary

2nd Place: Erika Bachmann, University of Saskatchewan

3rd Place: Cameron Bye, University of Lethbridge

People's Choice: Rebecca (Delong) Dielschneider, University of Manitoba

Watt advanced to Canada's 3MT, hosted virtually in May, and in June was chosen first of the 11 finalists. This is the second year TRU has participated in the competition, originally developed in 2008 by the University of Queensland. Challenging thesis-based graduate students to deliver a compelling presentation of their research in three minutes or less forces them to consider all aspects of their research—from the fundamental to the practical. ■

**WEB EXTRA** → for more regional 3MT coverage see [inside.tru.ca/2015/04/30/and-the-western-canadian-3mt-winner-is/](http://inside.tru.ca/2015/04/30/and-the-western-canadian-3mt-winner-is/)

"The 3MT was a great chance to do something outside my normal comfort zone and practice talking about my research to a large audience."  
—Kristen Marini

# When It Rains: Opportunity pours in from graduate research



Photo by Elizabeth Sigalet.

“A really exciting part of the project was how many people came together to make it happen.”  
—Julie Schooling

By Larkin Schmiedl

**HOW TO KEEP URBAN RAINFALLS** from flooding and polluting waterways is the passion that kept Julie Taylor Schooling ('15) poring over detailed tree data in a Kamloops park.

Looking at how much rainwater flowed down different trees' trunks gave her a fresh take on a career she loved but had left years earlier.

“When I was working initially as a landscape architect, it was difficult to convince people to do things in different ways,” she says, “like having narrower roads and alternative standards that allowed for infiltration of runoff before it ended up in a pipe.”

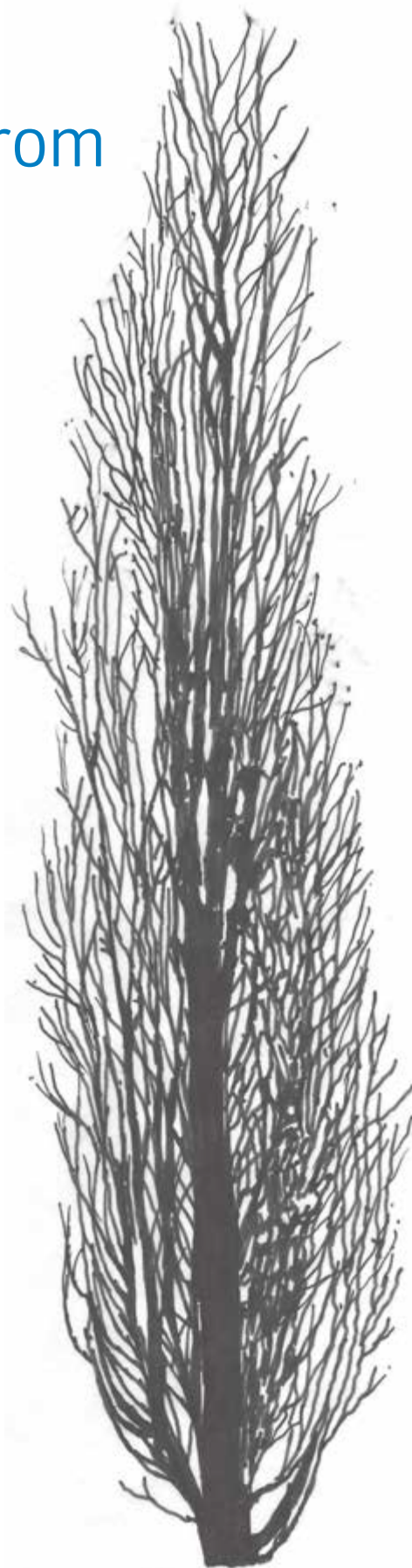
When Schooling started at TRU in 2011 in the Master of Science in Environmental Science program, she teamed up with Dr. Darryl Carlyle-Moses of the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies. Under his supervision, she devised an urban tree project with the exciting potential to identify tree species that funnel more water into soils at their base (stemflow), meaning less runoff from surrounding pavement. The City of Kamloops allowed the pair to collect data in a local park, which led to findings about different tree characteristics and how they affect stemflow.

Studying common deciduous species, Schooling found certain traits like high branch angles and smooth bark meant more stemflow—much more, particularly in species like columnar English oak, than occurs in forests. Her results illustrate the contributions urban trees make to the hydrological cycle, and have begun to influence urban planning and planting, such as using high stemflow trees to increase infiltration of water into soil rather than storm drains, or avoiding them where erosion is an issue.

“A really exciting part of the project was how many people came together to make it happen,” says Schooling. “Greg Houghton, arboriculture crew leader for the City, could see the value of this work. He was a champion of the project from the start.”

The project garnered support from more than 11 different organizations, and helped land Schooling a job before she finished her thesis. Working for the Kamloops branch of McElhanney Consulting Services Ltd., she's presently helping the City of Castlegar form a street tree master plan. Her work takes her all over BC and Alberta, and she's part of a team consulting with First Nations on environmental management plans, too.

Schooling continues to raise awareness of her thesis results, and she and Carlyle-Moses have published scientific journal articles in both *Urban Ecosystems* and *Hydrological Processes*. Carlyle-Moses and other TRU faculty members will conduct similar research on sagebrush and ponderosa pine on campus starting this year. ■



The columnar English oak's branching structure increased stemflow.



“It’s easy to start on these interdisciplinary collaborations and work together on amazing projects.”  
—Dr. Mark Paetkau

## Sowing the Seeds of Collaboration

By Cherry Au

**ASPIRING SCIENTISTS LEARN** a great deal about themselves as they learn to explain nature, observes Dr. Mark Paetkau.

The Physics faculty member has shared his enthusiasm for science through teaching, outreach and interdisciplinary research since arriving at TRU eight years ago. Paetkau’s collaboration on dwarf mistletoe research with Dr. Cynthia Ross Friedman, Biological Sciences, is one of several projects integrating physics and other branches of science.

“They had known for a long time that when the mistletoe’s seeds are explosively dispersed, they travel extremely fast,” he says. “So we rented a high-speed camera and clocked the seeds at about 60 mph.” He says the experiment was a great exercise for one of his undergraduate students.

“It is pure first-year physics: how a particle moves, its speed and acceleration, and the forces involved.”

In an article published in *Nature Communications* in February 2015, the collaboration looked at the question posed by Ross Friedman: what triggered the dispersal? Through two experiments devised by Paetkau it was discovered these seed pods are generating their own heat (thermogenesis) to induce the explosive discharge. “It was wonderful to be involved in exploration of such a fundamental question,” says Paetkau.

Paetkau is also partnering with Dr. Matthew Reudink, Biological Sciences, and Dr. David Hill, Geography, on a project to track bird movements in two parts of the world—on campus at TRU and at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Umea, Sweden.

“Mark is an incredible collaborator,” says Reudink. “He has worked together with many of us in biology to answer previously intractable questions and undertake projects we’d be otherwise unable to even consider or imagine.”

Paetkau and physics student Jerin Roberts created radio-frequency identification (RFID) tag readers mounted in bird feeders, which will be placed at both campuses to record visits by tagged birds. Collaborating with Hill, they will integrate wireless data uploading real-time visualization, and make the data accessible online. The project will create research opportunities for at least one graduate student and several undergraduates over the next two years, plus provide students around the world with real-time data to analyze and test their ideas.

“TRU’s science departments are located close to each other so it’s easy to start on these interdisciplinary collaborations and work together on amazing projects,” says Paetkau, who shows his students that research is not always a solitary endeavour.

Every year he takes physics students on a field trip—this year they visited Quantum Stealth Technologies, SFU’s Mechatronics program, and TriUMF (the local particle accelerator)—to observe where and how physics is being used.

“It gives them an idea of what kind of jobs they could look for and the fact that their skills as physicists are relevant in our province,” he says. ■



8

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4

2

# Donald Lawrence

**DONALD LAWRENCE** is a professor in the Department of Visual and Performing Arts, teaching drawing, photography, sculpture, foundation, and a range of special topics courses. Through gallery and landscape-based projects his artistic and related research practice explores the meeting place of urban and wilderness culture. His current projects exploring the camera obscura in history and contemporary artistic practice culminate this June at the Midnight Sun Camera Obscura Festival, where TRU students, faculty and alumni will work as part of an international group of artists/researchers.

## INTERIOR SETTINGS

**1.** The Remaking Research conference at Emily Carr University illustrates Lawrence's interest in the meeting place of artistic and other forms of research. Works like *Kayak/Camera-Obscura*, which arose from a residency in Tasmania in 2011, combine his passions for seamanship, sculpture and the history of optical experimentation.

**2.** Introduced to students in Visual Arts photography courses, this modern 4"x5" view camera has its origins in Victorian times.

**3.** Lawrence carved and painted these two small kayaks, one showing the packing arrangement for a folding German Klepper kayak from a 1993 trip to Scotland, the other as a prop for a photography project. He is currently acquiring guiding certification with an interest in taking art students on wilderness-based trips.

**4.** His narrow office-studio is chock full of art-making supplies, tools, notebooks, and relics of TRU's former incarnation as Cariboo College. Hired during the transition to UCC, he has served two terms as department chair and in such roles as chair of the research committee of senate and Arts' promotion and tenure committee.

**5.** Representative of his long-standing interest in optics and vintage cameras, this 1950s twin-lens reflex camera is one of a pair that Lawrence used to create stereoscopic photographs as a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) student at the University of Victoria.

**6.** Friend, alumna and former research assistant Elizabeth Warner ('11) made this small maquette of what Lawrence's final walk-in camera obscura might look like; inside the black cloth, his stash of tea.

**7.** Carved by BFA student Levi Glass for a 3D Foundation course, this canoe paddle evokes links between art-making and wilderness exploration—like paddle carving on the beach.

**8.** This heavy flat iron is mirrored by two facsimiles created by a former student, one cast in plaster and the other carved of wood.

**9.** On June 17, the Midnight Sun Camera Obscura Festival opened in Dawson City, Yukon to coincide with summer solstice. Lawrence's portable, walk-in camera obscura will project an image of the Yukon landscape onto a table inside the darkened interior.



# OUR PROUD PAST...a trip through the archives



BIOLOGY INSTRUCTOR DAVE WILLIAMS ASSEMBLES ONE OF THE NEW MICROSCOPES...which students will use in teacher lab facilities at Carleton College

## College faces move to vocational school

KAMLOOPS DAILY SENTINEL  
CITY AND SUBURBS

Kamloops-Belleville - Vernon - Valleyview - Delta  
Powers Addition - Edwards Addition - Rayburn  
The Daily Sentinel, Wed., August 28, 1970 11



## Transfer planned for next year

Carleton College must open the new vocational school... transfer planned for next year... The college will be... transfer planned for next year... The college will be... transfer planned for next year...



## 27 appointed to faculty new Cariboo College

Carleton College... 27 appointed to faculty new Cariboo College... The college will be... 27 appointed to faculty new Cariboo College... The college will be... 27 appointed to faculty new Cariboo College... The college will be...

## KNOW YOUR CITY

KNOW YOUR CITY... The college will be... KNOW YOUR CITY... The college will be... KNOW YOUR CITY... The college will be...

## PLAYDAY RESULTS



PLAYDAY RESULTS... The college will be... PLAYDAY RESULTS... The college will be... PLAYDAY RESULTS... The college will be...



Area pioneers names asked... The college will be... Area pioneers names asked... The college will be... Area pioneers names asked... The college will be...



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Area pioneers names asked... The college will be... Area pioneers names asked... The college will be... Area pioneers names asked... The college will be...





## Cariboo faces future with spirit

Cariboo College is meeting its new challenges head-on.

The college is one of a new genre of educational institution, offering education in both degree-granting, academic university programs, and trade-oriented training.

"This university-slash-college is something new," college president [Name] will for

meeting its new commitments in degree-completion with university status.

"I think we have a faculty and staff committed to delivering the full range (of education)," he said.

Wright said the college hired 75 staff this year, 40 of those directly attributed to the five degree-completion programs Cariboo now offers. Next year, when those programs enter fourth year, even more staff will be added to the 500 or so

Wright said the college advertised nationally for the 24 senior faculty jobs created by the move to degree-completion at Cariboo. When more than 1,200 applications came from across the country, the school was in the "enviable" position of being able to select top-quality staff.

As a sign of continued growth, Wright said up to five new degree programs will be added by the end of the year.

### Cariboo College

#### PROGRAMS OFFERED

ACADEMIC  
CAREERS  
COLLEGE DIPLOMA

COMMUNITY SERVICES  
TECHNICAL  
VOCATIONAL

OFFICE



## B.C. colleges may grow into universities

BY ORLAND FRENCH  
The Globe and Mail  
VICTORIA

OCT 2/89

The University of Cariboo may have opened its doors last month. So may the University of Okanagan, but nobody will know for another 18 years.

For the next decade, community colleges in Kamloops, Kelowna and Nanaimo, B.C., will be providing degree-granting courses through contracts with the three universities in Vancouver and Victoria.

The immediate goal is to provide university education for students in the remote areas of British Columbia, but out of this program, says an optimistic Stanley Hagen, may emerge new universities to serve the interior.

Mr. Hagen, the provincial Minister of Advanced Education, is a believer in growing mighty oaks from little acorns.

"When those contracts expire at the end of 10 years, will the colleges ask, 'Are we ready to become the University of Okanagan? Or the University of Cariboo?'"

"The University of British Columbia started as an arm of McGill," he noted in a recent interview. "The University of Victoria was an arm of McGill, then an arm of UBC. Simon Fraser University was the only instant university." And even then, Simon Fraser in Vancouver took about 15 years to establish credibility, he said.

Mr. Hagen's role in nurturing these interior oaks might well enhance his own political career. Well liked and respected within the academic community and in political circles, he is sometimes mentioned as a potential successor to William Vander Zalm as Social Credit party leader.

British Columbia's colleges and universities have a close relationship, with the colleges offering two years of programs which are immediately transferable to one of the three universities.

This year, for the first time, a third year has been added, and next year a fourth will be included, to allow students to earn full university degrees on college campuses.

Most of the programs are relevant to the needs of smaller communities.

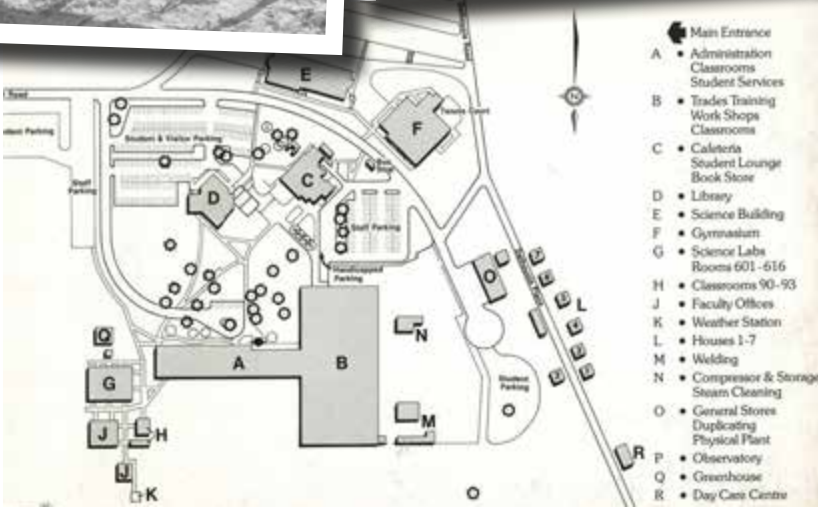
Okanagan College in Kelowna offers bachelor degrees in science, education and nursing. Cariboo College in Kamloops offers degrees in science, elementary education, business studies and science in nursing. Malaspina College in Nanaimo on Vancouver Island is offering degrees in education, science in nursing, social work and child and youth care. All also offer bachelor of arts degrees.

The co-operative program is the result of a long-term effort to integrate colleges and universities. It allows the use of college campuses in smaller centres to encourage young people to get a university education, and to get it closer to home.

Mr. Hagen, who is from the Comox Valley, understands the need to train professionals outside the highly populated Lower Mainland and Victoria.

"In the interior," he said, "people don't think of education beyond Grade 12. The questions they ask at the end of the day are, 'How many trees did you cut today?' or 'How were things down in the mines?'"

Interior and northern regions are envious of the Lower Mainland, and that translates into population migration, he said.



Dramatic changes marked the '70s and '80s on campus. From revolutions in computing to the evolution of buildings and gardens, Cariboo's growth was rapid and set the stage for its new identity as a university college. While the arrival of Rick Hansen at the end of his Man in Motion tour caused a stir in 1987, it was more than 1,200 applications for 24 senior faculty positions in new degree-granting programs that year which spoke loudly to our new place on the map.

PROUD PAST  
PROMISING  
FUTURE

CELEBRATING  
**45**  
YEARS

# OUR PROUD PAST...a trip through the archives



## UCC Campus Focus

### Expanding international horizons

The 100-person travelling road show of a few years ago, the Education department in the University College of the West... staff includes secretary Joan Wright, who makes order and student advisors Helen Chin, Yoshie Osawa and... various cultural backgrounds and language skills... difficult transition for young students entering our...  
This year is Vera Wojna in the new position of Ac... responsible for student recruitment and other studen... had several reasons for leaving her job as the As... the English Language Institute at UCC, but high... preparation of the international program at Cariboo... more than just an addition to staff. It's a clear sig... ahead, UCC will expand the definition of "inter... horizons to the south and east.  
A primary objective is to create a team interna... That means a new marketing focus on Latin... followed by Europe and the recently opened...  
to increase the opportunities for local stu... work and study abroad through exchange... international students and their hosts is one of... being translated our... said We... of years ago.



Standing in front of their future home, the Campus Activity Centre, International Education department staff members IL to RD David Chen, Yoshie Osawa, Chuck Messop, Vera Wojna and Helen Chin demonstrate their vision of a global world at UCC. Missing is Joan Wright who was off on assignment.

# MEGA

The UCC Student Independent Campus Newspaper  
Censorship reflects a society's lack of confidence in itself — Peter Stewart



## 'Global world' is the mandate

# AMLOOPS Daily News

A Division of Hollinger Canadian Newspapers,

## Bank On Food For Students

Food Bank announces car wash to raise money for students in need. The car wash will be held on Friday, June 10, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the UCC parking lot. The proceeds will go to the UCC Food Bank. The car wash is a great way to help students who are struggling financially. The Food Bank provides food and clothing to students in need. The car wash is a great way to help students who are struggling financially. The Food Bank provides food and clothing to students in need. The car wash is a great way to help students who are struggling financially. The Food Bank provides food and clothing to students in need.



UCC SCHOOL OF NURSING graduates strain to watch friends cross the podium Friday as several thousand people packed Sport Mart Place for Convocation 2004. From right are Brianna Howell, Sonya Januchewski and Natasha Jensen.

## International Building art on campus

## 'We are very proud'

University college bids farewell to last and largest graduating class





# UCC researcher to focus on wild land restoration

By MIKE YOUNG  
Daily News Staff Reporter

As a botanical biologist, Laurence Hugh Fraser feels that one of the biggest challenges confronting the planet is the destruction of its wild lands.

Beginning July 1 he will tackle the issue in Kamloops with research aimed at wetlands and grasslands restoration.

Fraser was introduced on Thursday as UCC's new Canada Research Chair in community and ecosystem ecology. He will focus on about communities and wetland ecosystems.

"It was one of the most astounding images of the 20th century when the open steppes went up and they looked back down, and then



During research Fraser found that the University of British Columbia (UBC) is a Canada Research Chair.

**side**  
**UCC**



**DRUMMING IN AWARENESS**

THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2004 The Daily News, Kamloops B1

Native Awareness Week celebrations (March 8 to 12) are drumming like Jean Gabriel and Fawcett. The drumming is a traditional cultural practice. On Thursday, March 8 at 7:30 a.m. at the UCC Chapel Hall.

and the public is invited. A 1000 game called Land and a powwow will also take place on Wednesday from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the lobby of the UCC building. On Thursday, March 11, the day-long celebration will follow around noon.

By Adam Barnes

UCC is well on its way to getting a new sign for the main entrance... eventually.

According to Josh Keller, the Associate Director of Public Relations for UCC, the sign has encountered several material and construction difficulties. For example, the copper applied to be used in the sign was of the wrong grade, an error that was not detected until the application was half completed.

Last year the UCC Sign Committee put out a call for design proposals for UCC's new sign. Everyone from students to professional graphics designers responded, and 21 entries were received and considered. Although the Committee was impressed with all the entries, they eventually had to choose one, and settled on the design of Dennis Kwan, which was presented to the UCC Board of Governors on April 18th.

Mr. Kwan's design was innovative in its use of materials, including a copper-clad urethane (Copper is a locally mined metal).

It was eye-rolled with a \$2,000 price and the right is paid on the sign to his friends and bag. When it's finally installed, anyway.

There were some minor modifications to the design to satisfy safety and practical needs. "The length of the sign is 45 ft, which is 10 ft less than the original design."

has also been raised off the ground so that visibility is not obstructed."

The entire project is under taken on-campus instead of being driven by the Board of Governors. The whole process was driven by people on campus. Faculty, etc. Mr. Keller said. The funding for the project, including Mr. Kwan's prize money, came from a minor capital grant of about \$40,000. When asked if the project was under budget, Mr. Keller replied, "We have to be. There isn't any more (besides the Capital Grant)." Students should take note that this, and the construction presently being completed on the Old Main building, will likely be the last highly visible improvement there, as some minor capital projects involving improving exterior lighting, repairing college roads and sidewalks, but these

**Sign On The Way**  
And A Grand One It Is

THE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF THE CARIBOO

Student Society

**Arts and Education**



In the '90s students came from far and wide, and so did the public as UCC opened the Arts & Education Building, the Campus Activity Centre and the Wells Gray Education and Research Centre, and welcomed the 1993 Canada Summer Games. The International Education department took UCC to the world, celebrating our first International Students Day in the fall of '93, and new regional centres brought programs to communities in Merritt and Lillooet. UCC's 1,000th degree was granted in '96, and the City of Kamloops declared Nov. 16-22 as "College Week", recognizing UCC's role in shaping our community. Locally and then provincially, voices raised in favour of making UCC a full-fledged university, and as the 21st century began, government saw the potential in this institution to be something different. TRU was born.

**PROUD PAST  
PROMISING  
FUTURE**

CELEBRATING  
**45**  
YEARS

# PROUD PAST PROMISING FUTURE

CELEBRATING  
**45**  
YEARS

UCC joined with BC Open Learning in 2005 to become BC's newest university. Eminent visitors were on hand to celebrate our first convocation on Mar. 31. Later that year TRU's first master's program was announced, and fall enrollment reached almost 7,500 students. The first decade saw continued growth, with new degrees, new construction—from the International Building to the BC Centre for Open Learning, the new Williams Lake campus to the transformation of Old Main—and the country's first new law school in over 30 years. Internationalization, Indigenization and sustainability came to the fore, and research expanded for faculty and our three graduate programs, also bringing new hands-on learning opportunities for undergraduate students.

**WEB EXTRA** →  
Read more about these images and TRU's history at [inside.tru.ca/a-trip-through-the-archives/](http://inside.tru.ca/a-trip-through-the-archives/)



ABOVE: Funding for TRU's law school will help fund the Old Main building into a functional piece of art.  
 FAR LEFT: TRU law students Miranda Schrock, left, Lynda Phipps and Dennis Hargrave applaud funding of \$7.4 million for the law school's interior.  
 LEFT: Law school dean Chris Anagnostis, left, talks with Lt. At. Harry Laker and John Tapp, as well as Don Andrews, one of the men behind the creation of the law school.  
 RIGHT: Addressing the 2005 event.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION  
**TRU launches master's degree program**  
 Business students took to the air to celebrate the launch of the first master's degree program at TRU. The program is a two-year, full-time program that will start in the fall of 2008. The program is a joint venture between TRU and the University of British Columbia. The program is a joint venture between TRU and the University of British Columbia. The program is a joint venture between TRU and the University of British Columbia.

**SHE SHOULD BE THRILLED:** Kaitlin Jordan is one of four students who will be valedictorians during TRU's first convocation, which takes place tomorrow and Thursday at the Kamloops university campus.

# Making Time for Excellence: Scholar Athlete **Katie Sparrow**

By Afton Flynn

**SOCCER PLAYER KATIE SPARROW** has learned over her varsity career what it means to be a TRU WolfPack Scholar Athlete who excels both in class and on the field.

Although the bar is held high for players to be considered Scholar Athletes, Sparrow holds one of the top cumulative GPAs of all third- and fourth-year science students. A chemical biology major, playing striker since her freshman year in 2011, she credits her success to finding balance between athletics and academics.

“Get your priorities where you want them,” she says. “If athletics is first for you, that’s great, but you need to focus on school too.”

To maintain a competitive edge, she stays fit through an organized schedule of workouts, games, and practices. This dedication helped Sparrow and her team shine at the 2013 Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) Nationals, where she was named Player of the Match in the final game and TRU took home bronze.

The team faced a new challenge in fall 2014, when WolfPack soccer moved to the highest league of varsity sports. Sparrow, who suffered a concussion in a summer match, had to work hard to get her edge back after sitting out the first half of the season.

“Confidence is a big thing, too. If you’re not confident, you’re not going to do as well. If you’re worrying about school, you’re not going to be fully there,” she says.

A concussion didn’t keep her from her studies either. She has been nominated three times for the Alvin and Lydia Grunert Scholarship, awarded to the top undergraduate student of each faculty and to the top athlete. Out of 70 nominees this year (the top 10 in each category), Sparrow is the only student nominated in both athletics and academics. Recipients for 2015 will be announced in June.

Putting her passion into research, Sparrow worked alongside associate professor of Biological Sciences Dr. Matthew Reudink last summer on quantifying carotenoids in bird feathers. Funded by an Undergraduate Student Research Award from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), she visited an Edmonton museum for a week to learn from bird experts, and plans to continue her research again this summer.

In her spare time, Sparrow mentors other WolfPack players through the Pack Academic Edge (PACE) program, and facilitates a first-year chemistry lab. Modest in her achievements, she stresses the importance of organization for all students.

“Time management is the biggest thing,” she says, “because you don’t really have a lot of spare time, and when you do you have to figure out where you want to use it.” ■

Katie Sparrow keeps her eye on the ball in an October 2014 game against the UNBC Timberwolves, scoring her first goal of the season. Photo by Andrew Snucins.





Fast Eddy keeps supporters updated on his progress through his website and social media.

# Fast Eddy

By Bart Cummins



Residence & Conference Centre - Kamloops  
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**RUNNING ACROSS CANADA** is one thing, but doing it twice and without a support crew? That's 21,585 kilometres and a lot of unpleasant weather along the way. That's crazy.

"These days you have to do something out of the ordinary to stand out. I figured twice and without support hasn't been done before and is crazy enough for people to take notice," says TRU alumnus Eddy Dostaler, who is raising awareness and money to fight breast cancer and Alzheimer's disease.

Calling his campaign "There and Back", Dostaler's goal is to raise \$800,000 from March 1 when he set out from Victoria to his return next spring. About \$10,000 has been raised to date.

Through his website and social media his followers can feel like they are in step beside him—he posts photos, videos and tales from the road, poses questions, offers up Canadian facts, and declares supporters as unsung heroes. When he needs encouragement, he puts a challenge out and asks his followers to post their results. With only a jogging stroller to carry his things, he has been overwhelmed by generous offers of food, lodging or both. When a bed is not available, he pitches a tent a short distance from the road.

"It's a pacing game" he says of his running days of between 20 and 80 kilometres, depending on how he's feeling and how far it is to the next town. He earned the nickname Fast Eddy in high school because of an uncanny burst of speed in most sports he played. But you won't find him lighting up Highway 1 with sudden sprints, but rather his steely resolve and infectious smile. ■

**WEB EXTRA** → Read more: [fasteddycanada.com](http://fasteddycanada.com)

# Family Ties on a Global Campus

By Kara Evans

**WHEN YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT MOVING** 15,000 kilometres away from family and friends for school, homesickness is to be expected. Throw in adjusting to university life and cultural differences, and being an international student can be overwhelming. But when recent graduate Idah Msiska ('14) considered coming to TRU from her home country of Zambia, family made all the difference.

Msiska said one key factor in her choice was her father's diligence in researching post-secondary institutions.

"He's a man who values education highly," she said. "He's always had this belief that smaller universities will provide you with a better fit if you're studying in a country that you've never been in, because you won't feel as lost."

That belief had already led three of Msiska's nine siblings to attend TRU. When she arrived in Canada in turn to begin a Bachelor of Arts, her two brothers, Moses and Richard, as well as sister Wiza, became an essential reference point as she settled into campus life in a new country. She was later joined by two younger siblings, Berlin Jr. and Ezinara.

With her siblings to help her quickly make the most of student life, she switched programs to the Bachelor of Journalism, with a major in public relations, and enjoyed opportunities to interact with the diverse community at TRU. Getting involved on campus as Vice-President of the Pan African Club, as a member of the Intercultural Council, and as a volunteer at various events opened her to learning about other cultures.

"TRU is a global campus," said Msiska. "There is no better place for me to learn freely about other cultures and meet people from around the world than here."

In the spring of 2014 she had the opportunity to meet Rwandan Genocide survivor Clementine Wamariya when the Pan African Club welcomed her to TRU as the keynote speaker during IDays. That summer, TRU World asked Msiska to arrange and accompany Wamariya on visits to Zimbabwe and Zambia, promoting a new international student scholarship to bring other students like Msiska to TRU.

"Not many universities offer such opportunities to their students," she said.

Since completing her degree program in December 2014, Msiska decided to stay in Kamloops to start her career and continue learning. She attended Dr. Cornel West's Common Voices Lecture at TRU on Jan. 29, where she says she came to understand her father's passion for higher education.

"I can learn about things that are being done here that I wouldn't think of back home," she said. "For now staying in Canada and learning everything I can is something I want to do because it's a global village." ■

Alumna Idah Msiska (centre) joins siblings Moses (left), Berlin Jr. and Ezinara in the International Building. Of the 10 Msiska siblings, six have come to TRU.



## Contact the Alumni & Friends Office

The TRU Alumni & Friends office is on the first floor of the Clock Tower in room CT140.

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**WEB EXTRA** → [tru.ca/alumni](http://tru.ca/alumni)

# Alumnus Rides the Orange Wave

On May 5, 2015, a TRU Bachelor of Journalism alumnus made history as part of the “orange wave” in Alberta’s provincial election.

Craig Coolahan ('01) was elected by more than 3,200 votes in his north-central Calgary riding, helping his party win a 53-seat NDP majority—forming Alberta’s very first NDP government and ending a 44-year run with the PC party at the helm of the legislature.

The new MLA-elect, who lives in his riding of Calgary-Klein with his wife and two young children, has been a business representative for the United Utility Workers’ Association (UUWA) since 2012, negotiating contracts on behalf of hundreds of workers in the electric-transmission industry. He worked as a writer for several years after completing his BA in English Literature at the University of British Columbia and his journalism degree at TRU.

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# Distinguished Alumni Awards 2015

## JOKULL BERGMANN

### Young Alumni Award

Adventure Guide Diploma, 2005

Jokull Bergmann has distinguished himself in the adventure tourism field as a young entrepreneur, guide, instructor and mentor. As Iceland's first International Federation of Mountain Guides Associations certified mountain guide, he specializes in ski touring, ski mountaineering, heli-skiing, ice and alpine climbing in Iceland, Greenland and throughout the world. Bergmann's heli-skiing business in northern Iceland's Troll Peninsula was recently featured on the season premiere of the Outside Television series *Dispatches*.



## KEVIN LORING

### Arts & Culture Award

University Transfer (Arts), 1997

Kevin Loring has had a significant impact on Canadian arts and culture as a playwright, actor, instructor, and mentor. His first play, *Where the Blood Mixes*, won the 2009 Governor General's Award in Drama-English, as well as the Jessie Richardson Award for Outstanding Original Script, and the Sydney J. Risk Prize for Outstanding Original Script by an Emerging Playwright. Loring was critically acclaimed in his acting role in the National Art Council's 40th Anniversary production of *The Ecstasy of Rita Joe*.



## DYLAN ROBINSON

### Neil Russell Student Leadership Award

Bachelor of Arts, in progress

Dylan Robinson has inspired others and improved the campus community through his commitment to academic excellence and significant involvement in university affairs. Active in student government for the past five years, he has been the TRU Students' Union (TRUSU) President for the past two years, leading TRUSU to a much more concerted role in TRU governance. A philosophy major with a minor in political science, Robinson demonstrates a deep concern for a diversity of student needs.



## DALEY & COMPANY

### Milestone Achievement Award

Daley & Company has positively affected the lives and goals of TRU students and alumni in the accumulated contributions of its entire staff through mentorship, philanthropy, volunteerism and hiring practices. Three of five Daley & Co. partners, the entire senior management team, and 75 percent of the staff are TRU alumni. The firm has actively supported the university for more than 20 years, annually funding student financial awards, mentoring students, hiring graduates, sponsoring events, and participating on boards and committees.



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

**Nominate them for a TRU Distinguished Alumni Award. [tru.ca/alumni](http://tru.ca/alumni)**

# CLASS notes

**1995 Leianne Anderson, BFA**, continued operating her business, Changes Hair Studio, with her husband after completing her degree. She has since completed TRU's TESL program and earned a certificate in Global Competency, and occasionally teaches at TRU World's contract training. Two years ago she sold her business and is now a frequent traveler.

**1996 Alison McManus, CSOM**, started working at the BC Lottery Corporation (BCLC) after graduation. After working in various information technology roles at BCLC for nearly 21 years, she became the vice-president of information technology at the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority in 2008. In 2012, she left SIGA to join the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan Inc. as their senior director of applications.

**1999 Euan Mars, Adventure Management Diploma**, pursued a short career in adventure tourism, sea kayaking not only on the east and west coasts of North America, but also Georgian Bay, ON, Costa Rica and Antarctica. He has since settled down in Toronto to raise a family. He supports his three children by teaching elementary school for the Toronto District School Board.



**2004 Jeremy Meckler, BA**, wasn't sure what he would do with his major in geography. Upon graduation, he was hired by Vancity Credit Union. In less than four years he became a branch manager, entrusted with a merger between two credit unions. He also embarked on another

academic adventure, an MBA from Royal Roads University, with a co-operative studies program in Bologna, Italy. More recently he established a successful IT security company.



**2007 Rheannon Green, BTM**, worked as a program coordinator for ISAP at TRU, then as a recreation assistant, before moving to Edmonton in 2013 to take on the role of event programmer with the Alberta Culinary Tourism Alliance, a provincial non-profit. She collaborates with

top chefs, producers, farms, and events to showcase food stories provincially, nationally, and internationally while helping to shape the fast-growing industry.

**2009 Jude Zwickel, BA**, pursued her Master in Dispute Resolution at UVic in 2012, taking part in community-based research with an Aboriginal Child and Family Services Agency in northeastern BC, and co-writing a chapter of *Indigenous Conflict Management Strategies: Global Perspectives*

(2014). Since September, she has been a negotiations analyst for the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, on a team that negotiates treaty and non-treaty agreements with First Nations in northern BC.



**2010 Sarah Cameron, BA, Post-Bac HR**, played WolfPack basketball while at TRU. After graduation she worked as the human resources coordinator for Ten Feet Sports and Entertainment in Langley, BC. She is currently the west regional HR coordinator for Sleeman Breweries

Ltd. A volunteer basketball coach in the Fraser Valley, she has been coaching the Brookwood Jr. girls since 2011.





**2010 Alixandria Stupich, BSW**, moved back to her hometown of Nanaimo to work as an intensive family support worker in 2011. Since December 2013, she has been a social worker at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital. The assistant women's basketball coach at Vancouver

Island University from 2012 to 2015, Alix gives back as a volunteer Basketball BC coach with the U-14 Central Vancouver Island girls' team, and plans to coach at a high school in the fall.

**2011 Lindsay Burkatsky, BA**, is currently working at Seasons Consulting Group in Kamloops as a vocational assistant, consulting with clients to administer comprehensive vocational assessments, and doing career and labor market research in order to help guide them towards suitable careers. She is also applying for a Master of Educational Counselling Psychology at UBC, with a focus in vocational rehabilitation, which will enable her to work as a certified vocational consultant and registered clinical counsellor.



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

**2011 Korey Gannon, BBA**, grew up in Kamloops and played WolfPack hockey. Upon graduation he was hired as an HR generalist for New Gold Mining Co., where he worked for 2.5 years. He relocated to Vancouver for a position with Canada's largest social media company, Hootsuite

Media Inc. as a talent coordinator, and has quickly advanced into a new role as talent advisor.



**2012 Courtney Russett, BBA**, is the internet marketing manager of the Rivershore Ram dealership in Kamloops. She manages a large portfolio of websites, blogs and social media accounts and recently helped guide the company through a multi-million-dollar building development. The founder of a local charity four-wheeling event, Take Your Top Off for Tatas, she gets a group of off-roaders together in July to raise funds for the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.

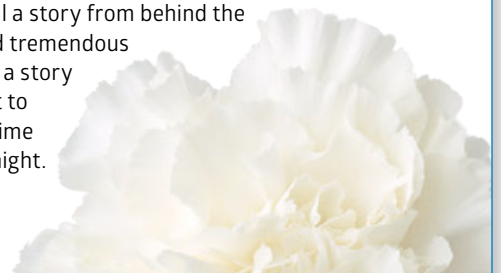
## Let's Remember

**SANDY BEVERIDGE, JANUARY 2015** emigrated to Canada from Scotland upon completing his PhD, and had a 50-year career as a forensic chemist, author, lawyer, and teacher. A world expert on forensics, he spent 30 years in the RCMP's Forensic Science Service, and taught thousands of students in chemistry and business through TRU Open Learning for 33 years.

**HEATHER ARLENE CARR, APRIL 2015** began her studies at TRU in 1998, completing a Bachelor of Arts, followed by a Bachelor of Social Work in 2007. Although her career as a social worker was short-lived, she continued to share her caring spirit.

**DERRICK MOFFAT, DECEMBER 2014** was a chef and faculty member in Culinary Arts whose great love of food and teaching equalled his giant 6'8" frame. During his 15-year career at TRU, he collaborated on the Sustainable Seafood Lunch and mentored culinary students on a practicum at the Chateau Fairmont Whistler during the 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

**TREVOR ROCKLIFFE, JUNE 2015** completed his Bachelor of Journalism degree in 2005 while working for Shaw (Kamloops). Later he worked for CTV and Castanet in Kelowna. Most recently he was a freelance videographer. He loved to tell a story from behind the lens and found tremendous joy in tracking a story and bringing it to viewers, any time of the day or night.



# Cool Tools

By Bart Cummins

**THIS ISN'T SCIENCE FICTION.** Students and faculty at TRU are exploring new environments and gaining new insights using cutting-edge technology. The latest tools of the trade ensure our graduates start their careers with confidence. Browse our catalogue to see how TRU is equipped for the future.


## CATALOGUE FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

### DRONE



The DJI Inspire 1 drone's capability to wirelessly stream, capture, and upload 4K video and 12 megapixel photos from up to two kilometres away allows research chair Dr. John Church to monitor his cattle subjects in difficult-to-reach environments. This lightweight, compact, out-of-the-box unit is able to automatically adjust for wind and return to the operator at a touch of a button.

**Dept:** Natural Resource Science


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**Dept:** Mechanical Trades


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**Dept:** Physics & Astronomy


 **\$27,000** (in 2005) with optional mount, heavy-duty tripod, and astronomy-grade digital camera

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**Dept:** Theatre Arts

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# Giving for Care

## Brothers support aspiring nurses

By Afton Flynn

**FULFILLING.** That's how these twin brothers describe over 15 years of supporting nursing students through TRU Foundation awards.

Greg and Don Garrish were involved with TRU from an early age when their parents helped out nursing students training in Kamloops. These students spent time with the twins and their sisters, and developed a special bond with the family.

After completing their own education and finding careers with government, Greg focusing on forestry and wildfire management and Don on municipal business licensing, the brothers continued the family tradition of supporting nursing students.

They established the Höll Bursary in 2000, awarded annually to a male, second- or third-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing student of Scandinavian heritage. In 2009 they added the Haraldur Award to support the Höll recipient through further years of study.

The Garrishes have built mentor relationships with their award recipients that go beyond financially assisting them in their educational goals. New jobs, promotions, first homes and engagements are all moments the brothers have shared with past recipients. Greg now spends his retirement as a dog therapy handler at the Royal Inland Hospital, where he bumps into many of the nurses he and his brother have helped over the years. The twins value the positive impact their awards can make on students, and the chance to give back to the community to inspire the next generation of professionals.

"I'm truly gratified that I've been able to go on this journey in such a positive environment with TRU," says Don. ■



Brothers Don (left) and Greg Garrish have been supporting and mentoring TRU nursing students for the past 15 years.



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# After the Pines Old Main branches out

By Diana Skoglund

**THERE'S A FUNNY LITTLE STORY** on campus about the real reason for the addition on the top of Old Main.

Sure, the campus needed more space. Yes, there was a new Faculty of Law to accommodate in 2011. But the real reason for the facelift was because no one knew just how unattractive the building was until the campus lost over 100 mature ponderosa pines between 2006 and 2008.

Although some campus lore attributes the original design of Old Main to a prison architect, a civil servant within the Ministry of Education designed it specifically as a technical school, in the same vein as BCIT and six other BC vocational training schools.

Construction on the grounds of Cariboo College had a unique attribute, however: much of the development of Old Main and succeeding buildings hinged on where the large ponderosas stood.

Since 1970, dozens of ponderosa pines screened the façade of the two-storey, T-shaped cinder block behemoth-with-a-cube-on-top. Some of the pines reached far past its roofline, a testament to the time they stood on the rolling grasslands.

At an estimated 160 to 200 years old, some of those pines were seedlings when Scottish botanist David Douglass named the species during an expedition near Spokane, Washington in 1826.

Their maturity was what made them susceptible to the wave of pine beetles that raged through the Interior. Adult beetles preferred the deep, thick-ridged bark of the mature pines to bore into to lay their eggs during the summer. The larvae would overwinter, hatch and fly in July, leaving tell-tale pitch holes around the trunk and larger branches.

Not long after the flight of hatchlings, needles would begin to brown, and soon after the entire tree died.

Although losing the trees seemed devastating at the time, the infestation has its silver lining. Because the species dominated the heart of campus, few options were left for other varieties of trees, for effective irrigation or open spaces for students to gather.

In 2011, without the trees, Diamond Schmitt Architects had a clear vision of where Old Main was situated within the landscape and offered up an inspired design for the two-storey addition.

And in front of Old Main, in a flower bed where it managed to avoid the crush of heavy construction equipment, a young green sentinel is biding its time. A ponderosa seedling that was carefully left to grow is now more than 2 metres tall. Maybe someday a law student will look out a third floor window and wonder at the majestic ponderosa pine that fills the view. ■

# A Brand New **TRU**

**THIS YEAR IS TRU'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY!** And it is our 45th anniversary as a post-secondary institution in Kamloops. Starting from Cariboo College in 1970, then the University College of the Cariboo and now Thompson Rivers University, this institution has grown up serving Kamloops, the Interior of BC, Canada and the world. There are over 48,000 Canadian alumni and over 15,000 international alumni. More than 60,000 TRU alumni are having an impact across Canada and around the world.

During our trajectory from college to university, we have integrated both on-campus and online education while maintaining open access to a broad range of programs and providing excellence in learning and career success for our students. We have become a “go-to” place for Aboriginal and international education as seen in our student body and our faculty members. The trades are experiencing a renaissance and our law school students are winning moot court competitions and getting admitted to the bar. And with our new Strategic Research Plan we have evolved from being not only a consumer of research results but also a creator of knowledge for the benefit of people. In short, after 45 years we now offer our students and communities access to the benefits of a full-service university.

“Our brand will be woven into everything TRU does. It will showcase how and why we are a distinctive, meaningful and credible university.”  
– Alan Shaver



**ALAN SHAVER**  
PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR

The “TRU Model” is unique and we are eager to share it with the rest of the country. We are enlisting our strong network of alumni and supportive friends around the world to get the word out. And we have undertaken a comprehensive branding exercise to showcase what lives in the hearts and minds of our students, faculty and staff; to clarify our essence, purpose, and promise and to present ourselves as a recognizable brand that we stand behind and will be known for. Through our brand attributes we will tell our story.

Our brand will be woven into everything TRU does. It will showcase how and why we are a distinctive, meaningful and credible university. It will be seen in small things—like how a student is greeted at a service desk—and in bigger things—such as the way we will celebrate our upcoming 45th anniversary in September.

Something very special has been created here, so dust off your party shoes and join us on the Kamloops campus September 11—we have lots to celebrate. ■

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