



Newsletter | Spring 2024

From the Principal

It has been a busy spring for the Emeritus College. I hope you have taken advantage of some of the many speakers and Interest Group meetings on offer. The diversity of opportunities to learn, to inform, to challenge ideas and to stay active—all components of a healthy lifestyle—are hallmarks of the Emeritus College. Efforts to reach faculty at the stage where they are contemplating retirement were ramped up in recent months. The Membership Committee along with the Transitions to Retirement Committee convened a meeting of “Unit Reps”, emeriti who will be supported in their efforts to ensure that their department colleagues have up-to-date and helpful information on the many and varied issues that surround the process of leaving paid employment at UBC as well, of course, as the benefits of becoming active members of the Emeritus College. And another successful Pre-retirement Seminar hosted by Faculty Relations was ably supported by Linda Leonard and Paul Marantz as well as several other emeriti who facilitated breakout sessions.

May and June see changes in the membership of your Executive and Council. Nominations and elections will have concluded when you read this, but please consider putting yourself forward for one of these roles in the future. They are opportunities to contribute your ideas to the broad spectrum of issues that the College addresses in its efforts to enrich the lives of emeriti, the lives of other UBC members, and the lives of others “beyond the Gates” of UBC. Serving on various operational committees provide other ways to contribute to the life of the College.

The Emeritus College chapter at UBC Okanagan is no longer just an idea on paper. Some recent emeriti are self-organizing and have already created a new Special Interest Group focussing on outdoor excursions. In early June they will gather to meet President Bacon and I will discuss how the College can involve and support them.

The rapid growth in activity since the inception of the Emeritus College in 2018 has outstripped even the most optimistic dreams of those who worked so hard over many years before that to provide a solid foundation on which to build. All the activities I have mentioned and many more require not only hours and hours of volunteer time but also a dedicated professional staff. To consolidate and grow further we need to ensure that the Provost and President understand the value we add to UBC. But we also must start supplementing the funds we receive from the



Paul Harrison,
Principal, UBC Emeritus College
Associate Professor Emeritus,
Botany

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Provost. The success of “dipping our toe” into the realm of fundraising with participation in the UBC Giving Day on April 4 demonstrated that we can do more, and so plans for a fundraising campaign are in development.

This is my last “From the Principal” message. The year has been filled with activities, but I will remember most of all the engaged, committed, insightful and entertaining emeriti I have met. With your support, the UBC Emeritus College will thrive.

From the Newsletter Editor

I must give out my heartfelt thanks to all those who provided such interesting articles for this Spring newsletter. So many emeriti have been engaged in scholarly activities, with awards accruing to some of those; see the interesting interview by Sima Godfrey explaining the genesis of the work for which she was given the College’s award for Excellence in Innovative and Creative Endeavours. She was fortunate in being able to fill a void in knowledge that led to both interesting and scholarly research.

The SIGs continue apace with the addition of the new Senior Sports SIG, which has already accrued a substantial following. The Easy Riders have produced a schedule for the summer months, facilitated by members of the group who will lead the various proposed routes. David McArthur has given us an overview of possible effects of the last few year’s weather events on wine production from the Okanagan but has still lined up a stellar list of wine appreciation and discussions for the fall.

UBCO has started up their first SIG, an Outdoors Activities Group and we report on their first outing, rattlesnakes and all! A second trip to the beautiful and historic Myra Canyon on the Kettle Valley Railway is planned for June. Trish Corner, a UBCO emerita, now living in New Zealand provided her take on moving in retirement, a continuation of the discussion I started in the last newsletter.

Please continue this tsunami of articles describing any and all activities taking place in your world. We all need to learn from each other how to live the best we can in these fraught times. And at the end of my first year as Editor of the EC newsletter, I’d like to give a big shout out to Sarah Close Humayun for her hard work and expertise with InDesign to make the newsletter look so professional!



Valerie A. White,
Newsletter Editor,
Professor Emeritus, Pathology and
Laboratory Medicine

Emeritus College Statement on Institutional Neutrality

March 27, 2024

As a unit of UBC, the Emeritus College is committed to the principle of institutional neutrality. This means that the College and its Principal will refrain from taking a stand on policy issues and current events that do not directly, substantially, and materially affect the academic mission of the College or UBC.

If a policy issue or event arises that directly affects the mission of the College or UBC, the Principal, in consultation with the Emeritus College Council, may issue statements that articulate the significance of the issue and its impact on the College or UBC ([Guidance for Ongoing Collegial Discussions | Vice President Academic \(ubc.ca\)](#)).

Rationale

The central mission of the university is the preservation, transmission, and discovery of knowledge. Universities must be protected as a forum where controversial ideas can be explored and debated. Should the university or its constituent units adopt an explicit position on controversial ideas, this act would risk inhibiting the investigation and critiquing of controversial ideas.

Members of the university community are free—and are actively encouraged—to engage in spirited discussion of controversial ideas. They should not hesitate to critique university policies. However, as the classic Kalven Report of the University of Chicago states: “The instrument of dissent and criticism is the individual faculty member or the individual student. The university is the home and sponsor of critics; it is not itself the critic.” ([Kalven Committee: Report on the University’s Role in Political and Social Action \(uchicago.edu\)](#))



From the EC office

SUBSIDY FOR SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

The UBC Emeritus College Subsidy for Scholarly Activities application is now open. The College seeks to assist in fostering, promoting, and disseminating the scholarly activities/academic pursuits of retired faculty, consonant with the University's mission, by disbursing funds provided for this purpose by the University, on the initiative of the President. For more information on eligibility [please visit our website](#).

Deadline to submit applications July 18, 2024.



Above: Members of the UBC Emeritus College on tour of the new Brock Commons building in March 2024.



Above: Sandra van Ark, Paul Harrison and Bill McCutcheon take a hard hat tour of the new Brock Commons building in March 2024.

INFORMATION MEETING ON EXTENDED HEALTH AND TRAVEL INSURANCE

The Emeritus College has organized a meeting to discuss extended health, dental, and travel insurance. Representatives from Sun Life, Johnson, RTOERO, and UBC Human Resources will each make short presentations and be available to respond to your questions concerning the insurance options available to you.

When: Thursday June 6 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Where: Online or in-person at the Irving K Barber Learning Centre (Vancouver Campus).

This event will also be recorded.

[Register to Attend](#)

Honours & Awards

Jo-ann Archibald,

Professor Emeritus, Educational Studies
Named Chancellor of University of the Fraser Valley

Jo-ann Archibald Q'um Q'um Xiim, PhD, OC, D.Litt, LL.D, is an esteemed scholar, member of the Soowahlie First Nation, Professor Emeritus of Educational Studies at UBC, and a recipient of an Honorary Degree from UFV (2022). In 2018, she was appointed as an officer of the Order of Canada for her substantial work in Indigenous education. Dr. Archibald has been named as the University of the Fraser Valley's fourth Chancellor.

[Read more about this achievement here](#)

Robert Armstrong, Professor Emeritus, Paediatrics
2024 President's Award for Distinguished Service by UBC Emeriti

Deborah Buszard, Principal Emerita, Biology
Honorary Doctor of Laws at UBCO Spring Convocation

Nancy Gallini, Dean Emeritus of Arts, Economics
Appointed Executive Director of
[Academics Without Borders](#)



Above: Jo-ann Archibald installed as Chancellor of the University of the Fraser Valley on May 9, 2024. Photo courtesy of the University of the Fraser Valley.

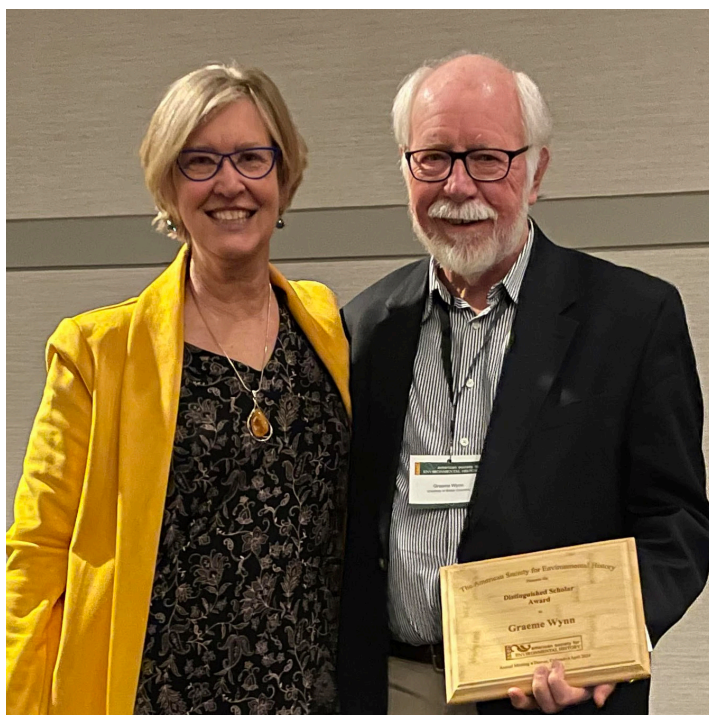
Sima Godfrey, Associate Professor Emeritus, French, Hispanic and Italian Studies
2024 Emeritus College Award for Excellence in Innovative and Creative Endeavours
(see interview on page 5)

George McWhirter, Professor Emeritus, School of Creative Writing
[Griffin Poetry Prize Shortlist](#)
(see article on page 6)

Graeme Wynn, Professor Emeritus, Geography
Distinguished Scholar of the American Society for Environmental History

Graeme Wynn has dedicated his professional life to enriching and expanding our understanding of the environmental past. Through his own work, he has expanded our understanding of landscape transformation in environments and periods ranging from the eighteenth-century Atlantic to the prospects of the Anthropocene. Even more importantly, he has been a tireless force for the generation of new scholarship, whether in mentoring students and colleagues, professional leadership, or editorial service. His transnational scholarly perspective, wide-ranging and carefully informed interests, humane and thoughtful approach, and intellectual generosity have had a profound and lasting effect on the field.

[Read More about this achievement here](#)



Above: ASEH President Nancy Jacobs presents the Distinguished Scholar Award to Graeme Wynn, in Denver, Colorado, April 6 2024.

Interview with an Award Winner

Sima Godfrey, Associate Professor Emeritus, French, Hispanic and Italian Studies

What is the name of the award(s) you received and when did you receive it (them)?

I am honoured to receive the 2024 Award for Excellence in Innovative and Creative Endeavours for my book, [*The Crimean War and Cultural Memory; The War France Won and Forgot*](#). (University of Toronto Press, 2023).

For what work did you specifically receive the award?

As a scholar of 19th-century French literature and cultural history, several years ago I was embarrassed to discover that from 1854-1856 the French had led Allied troops in the Crimean War against Russia where they sent over 300,000 men and lost close to 100,000. How did I not know this? I had never seen mention of this war in any French works written during the 1850s or, for that matter, in the decades following. I set about to unravel the mystery of the disappearance of this war from French cultural memory. Unlike the impact this war had in Britain and Russia, and despite vast amounts of material in France representing this war at the time, it did not make it into the national story. The book asks how and why. It was intellectually exciting and very rewarding to engage with discourses and materials from so many disciplines.

Are you continuing with the work as an emeritus professor?

Now that the book is out, I have started digging up old notes and drafts for half-baked articles that I never completed. I also keep my eye on conferences in attractive locations, especially if they are close to cities where my children live (in England and the US respectively). I now serve as their international dog sitter. Seeing my kids (and their dogs) outside of academic vacation times has been a treat.



Above: Oil painting by Sima Godfrey.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

As for new activities, this year I took up painting in oils, something I have long wanted to do. Here is a painting based on a photo of my son pulling his wagon around the block. I have not yet summoned the courage to paint a human face. To be continued!

Members Survey: We Want to Hear from You!

Every three years, we do an in-depth questionnaire to make sure we are serving you well. It will take about 15 minutes to answer the questions.

Please [**click here**](#) to go to the survey.

Thank you for your participation and time!



Scholarly Activities of Members in Retirement

GRIFFIN POETRY PRIZE SHORTLIST

George McWhirter,

Professor Emeritus, School of Creative Writing

George has been shortlisted for the Griffin Poetry Prize for his translation from Spanish to English of *Self-Portrait in the Zone of Silence* (New Directions, 2023) by the Mexican poet Homero Aridjis. The winner will be announced on June 5, 2024. He kindly provided his thoughts on being shortlisted for this prestigious and lucrative prize as a translator.

What does being longlisted or shortlisted for the Griffin Poetry Prize mean?

For a young poet or poet translator in their early or midcareer, being longlisted or shortlisted for The Griffin Poetry Prize would be a great boost, especially now it has gone entirely international without a separate prize for a Canadian book of poetry and another for an international book in English or English translation. To be shortlisted this year would mean international recognition for a younger poet and distinguish their book as one of five out of 592 submitted worldwide. Invitations to read on Zoom or live all over would follow. There would be meetings and new contacts that are so important in establishing a literary network.

Something like that happened for me when my book, *Catalan Poems* (Oberon Press, Ottawa, 1972) shared



Above: George McWhirter reading from *Zone of Silence*

the first Commonwealth Poetry Prize with Chinua Achebe's *Beware, Soul Brother* (Heinemann, 1972).

The Griffin Poetry Prize's great distinction is that books of poetry in English translation are eligible for the top honour, along with books written in English from all corners of the globe. Also, if the translator of the poetry can win 60% of a \$130,000 prize, it gives what they practise, their art of translation, status. After all, money talks.

But what does this mean for the translator's translations and their appreciation as they may be read in the book?

The two poetry books in English translation on the shortlist have the two language texts enface: *A Crash Course in Molotov Cocktails* (Arrowsmith Press, USA)

by the Ukrainian poet, Halyna Kruk, translated by Amelia M Glaser (USA) and Yuliya Ilchuk (Ukraine), and *Self-Portrait in the Zone of Silence* (New Directions, 2023) by Homero Aridjis, the Mexican poet, which I translated. This is a good and a bad thing in my opinion. Too often readers with knowledge of the language being translated never read either of the poems properly because they spend too much time checking for accuracy, which kills any real appreciation for both poems. I say both poems. This is important. By giving the translated poems a monetary value equal to and even more than the originals, the Griffin Poetry Prize treats the translated poem as an original poem and work of art in its own right, owned by the translator, the same as in copyright law.

The prize also draws the attention of aspiring poets, who would one day like to win the Griffin, and for them the Griffin organization through its publicity department



Above: Photo by Paul Steinbok, Professor Emeritus, Surgery. A solitary fern frond, performing a solo dance on a carpet of moss, growing on the bark of a maple tree, exemplified the symbiotic relationship of diverse flora in our Vancouver urban rain forest environment. Photo taken near Douglas Park, Vancouver. This photo was submitted to be considered for the UBC Sustainability Photo Pop-Up exhibition. See the final three exhibited photos on page 14.

posts advice from the long and shortlisted poets to young poets and translators on its website. I was asked to send advice to young poet translators, and this is what I sent.

Young poets, prose and play writer translators will come to translate a piece by a foreign language author with developing skills, styles and vision of their own. However, they should subject these to reproducing and acquiring those of the author they translate. The range and flexibility of their own craft as writers will be expanded, allowing them to manage differing subjects in their own different ways. An added benefit of translation is this: If the inspiration in their own work falters, like Rilke — they can turn to translation to keep their writing tuned up, ready for when that inspiration returns with something they have never tackled before.

Personally, I enjoy the challenge of becoming the writers that I translate into English and of assuming new literary identities.

I was then asked to provide a tip for young poets. This is it.

Pablo Neruda, when he despaired of inspirations for his poetry, turned to things as inspirations because there are an infinite number of things happening and simple things like socks and shoes in this world. Put two feet in them and they can wander outside of you into something remarkable going on that has significance for you, whereas the muse has only your mind to probe for poems, stories and dramas. I'm stretching Neruda a bit, but what I am saying is put your thoughts and feelings into things, let one thing lead to another and you will bump into something worth writing about. Or simply let your thoughts and feelings come out of observing things and things happening. A great example of this is Bertold Brecht's "The Mask of Evil". (Oh... you'll note the poem has a twist to it, a surprise for the expectations that Brecht sets up!)

The Mask of Evil

"On my wall hangs a Japanese carving,
The mask of an evil demon, decorated with
gold lacquer.

Sympathetically I observe

The swollen veins of the forehead, indicating
What a strain it is to be evil."

Bertold Brecht translated by H.R. Hays



ADVENTURES IN EVIDENCE-BASED MEDICINE

Brian Lentle, Professor Emeritus, Radiology

Brian received a [UBC Emeritus College Subsidy](#) to support his ongoing work.

I retired in 2000, when that was obligatory, and moved to distant parts (The Island), when I was called by Dr. Alan Tenenhouse, former Chief of Medicine at McGill, then living in Toronto. Shamelessly bribed with a ticket to Verdi's *Don Carlos* with Sondra Radvanovsky, then being produced by COC, I was asked to travel East and try to help with the radiology of CaMo, of which he was the first Director. This was a pan-Canadian study of the natural history of osteoporosis being conducted at a dozen centres in Canada, partly funded by CIHR and administered from Montreal.

The study included lateral radiographs of the spine made every 5 years over 20 years of several hundred persons. At that time, it was believed that spinal fractures, a common marker of osteoporosis, were best diagnosed by measuring vertebral bodies with any asymmetry of 5% or greater in the opposite sides being diagnostic of fracturing. This was the so-called morphometric tool. For CaMos it was thought most simple to employ radiological technologists to make these measurements which I found they had done and done well. The problem was that the data suggested that all the people who would be thus diagnosed rarely had other markers of the disease (low bone density, etc.).

It did not take my reading long to convince me that it was not the technologists at fault but the morphometric tool which had been proposed with no adequate supporting evidence. I thus became part of the CaMos family and suggested a study to validate an approach to diagnosis that was evidence based. Many in the group had other priorities, but to their eternal credit, they agreed. I persuaded two other experienced clinicians to join me, one a recognized expert in Musculo-Skeletal (MSK-) radiology as I belonged to a generation before

radiologists were hyphenated. Also thinking this was a teaching opportunity, my MSK colleague and I recruited two residents each from UBC and UofT. All seven of us went to work to score the spine radiographs comparing the existing morphometric criteria with other approaches to diagnosis, each in several hundred volunteers, of course, after I had travelled around to ensure we were all on the same page. Fortunately, by this time the images were digitized and could be distributed on external hard drives. With virtually no observer differences to record we all agreed unanimously that other criteria (cortical breaks, end plate deformities) best matched the statisticians conclusions based on bone density, outcomes, etc.

With some help from the Emeritus College as well as my former colleagues in Nuclear Medicine at VGH, I took exhibits in successive years to the meeting of the American Society of Bone and Mineral Research



Above: Photo by Roy Saunders, Clinical Associate Professor Emeritus, Paediatrics. After a significant period of serious species threat, bald eagles are now thriving in our local areas, such as Boundary Bay. This photo was submitted to be considered for the UBC Sustainability Photo Pop-Up exhibition. See the final three exhibited photos on page 14.



(ASBMR), and we followed up with papers, all of which earned me some disfavor with the establishment. Fortunately, the radiologists at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam had come to similar conclusions by a different route and we shamelessly agreed to submit simultaneously to JASBMR. Eventually I was asked to write, in a collaboration between both groups, a review proposing these new criteria for diagnosis and, in a “Meet the Professor” session at the ASBMR Annual Meeting in 2022, to provide some instruction. We Canadians had finally become “establishment”.

Now another attempted retirement has been interrupted by a request for a paper dealing with these matters in a radiological issue of the European Archives of Medical Research although I fear my colleagues and I shall be overshadowed by the technological marvels in 2024 of modern radiology and its acronyms galore (CT, SPECT, SPECT/CT, MRI, fMRI, PET, etc. etc.).

But I do owe a debt to the Emeritus College as well as to UBC, which I am happy to acknowledge.

TRIALS OF CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION: EMPIRE AND ECONOMY IN THE PRE-MODERN INDIAN OCEAN 1400-1800

Richard Unger, Professor Emeritus, History

In the Fall of 2019, I met with a junior member of the history department and suggested we host a conference on the UBC-V campus, the topic to be around some of the findings in a book she had recently

published. It was a topic generally ignored here. The result was a two-day meeting on September 21 and 22, 2023, with the ambitious title *Empire and Economy in the Pre-Modern Indian Ocean 1400-1800*. The long hiatus was, thanks to the Covid pandemic, which proved consistently to be a thorn in the side of organization. Concentrating on trade and shipping including the economic, political and administrative implications of the commercial connections, this would then cover the era from the Chinese political and economic thrust into the Indian Ocean and the arrival of Europeans by an all-sea route down to the arrival of steam propulsion for ships and a consistent and, in the long term, sharp rise in the volume and value of exchange in the region.

We recruited a third organizer from our own department and two more from the departments of Asian Studies and Sociology. Participation was by invitation. Organizers suggested names of people they knew or whose work they knew. Once we explained the plan there was little trouble in finding willing speakers. We approached our own departments for possible funding and received enthusiastic responses from all three departments, and also from the office of the Dean of Arts. Green College agreed to offer us meeting rooms, integrated us into their speakers’ programme and supplied generous financial support as well. Organizers, too, offered financial support from their own research funds, as did a number of the speakers. Those participants came from Portugal, the Netherlands, the United States, and from Canada

including UBC.

As the meeting date approached posters and programmes were created, printed and distributed. Green College advertised the meeting, reporting to all of those on their mailing lists that the conference would surround the keynote speech on the evening of the first day. With help from the knowledgeable, and some difficulty, a website appeared so there was a worldwide source of information about who was speaking about what and when.

The timing was fortunate since we were early in the term. Attendance at the meeting was excellent with the keynote speaker at the end of the first afternoon drawing an overflow crowd. He covered the field, setting the context for a varied series of papers taking up specific topics. A selection of revised versions of selected papers given at the conference is expected to appear in the leading journal in maritime history later this year.

The failure to secure outside funding was a disappointment. The exact reasons for that were hard to identify at the time and remain so. The pandemic delayed the meeting and created scheduling problems for a number of potential speakers both among faculty



Above: Dutch and Portuguese ships in the Indian Ocean circa 1500s

individuals we hoped would speak to reluctantly turn down our invitations. Organization was not without its problems, all of which in the end got solved.

Participation of an emeritus professor proved valuable, both for the meeting and for me. My experience, knowledge of the functioning of the University, though that has changed a little, and the ability to take on details on short notice were some of the assets. For me, although being reacquainted with the sometimes frustrating intricacies of university administrative practices was not positive, the opportunity to work with faculty members at various stages of their careers, to find out what is expected of them and how they deal with the demands on them, was enlightening. It gave me a better understanding of how things work now and helped me to keep from saying too many stupid things about the way things are. It was a pleasure to listen to accomplished scholars with important things to say and to make contact with people here and elsewhere working in a relatively understudied field. The opportunity to promote among faculty members and students, interest in an otherwise misunderstood and poorly known field, was considerably more than just nostalgia.



Above: Portuguese 'Black-Ship' detail from a 17th century Japanese folding screen.

members here as well as from other universities. After effects of the pandemic were unpredictable, the greatest impact being from the rise in air fares. Staffing problems at some universities forced at least two



Above: Photo by Geoffrey Blair

News from the Special Interest Groups

POETIC ODYSSEYS GROUP

Philip Resnick, Professor Emeritus, Political Science

On April 17 at the Emeritus College General Meeting, several poets in Poetic Odysseys presented their poems to an enthusiastic audience.

Geoffrey K. Blair, Clinical Professor Emeritus, Surgery provided the poems in this newsletter that he read at the meeting along with visual accompaniment!

Watch the recording of the [April 17 General Meeting](#).

EMERITI/SENIORS' SPORTS PROGRAM

Harry Hubball, Convenor

Professor Emeritus, Curriculum and Pedagogy

The launch of the UBC Emeritus College Seniors' Sports Program was met with an impressive participant response across six different sports including competitive team games and racquet sports (level 3-4). Emphasis is placed on sport-specific social interaction and fun competition using modified rules and customized formats. This small-scale EC sports initiative aligns with UBC's Wellbeing Strategic Framework and its six priority areas — Physical Activity, Mental Health and Resilience, Built and Natural Environments, Collaborative Leadership,

A POEM SUBMITTED BY GEOFFREY K. BLAIR,
CLINICAL PROFESSOR EMERITUS, SURGERY

Medicine Lake

Yellow smoke from distant burning forests
Dims this morning's sun and
Hazes the view of this saddened lake.
One loon circles its heavy, still waters
Rippling the reflection
Of the burnt sticks which line the shore.
An osprey, wary of me, beats a tireless flight
Amongst the blackened pines
And I see her nest atop a charcoal tree.
Her young, on its edge,
Look out at the only world they know.
Yet throughout the cremated woods
And amidst the gray rocks
The hopeful fireweed flourishes.

Food and Nutrition and Social Connection.

As can be seen on [the Picture Gallery \(PDF\)](#), competitive team games and racquet sports events included Tennis, Squash, Cricket 6s, 4-a-side Soccer (a group with a long participation history at UBC), Table Tennis, and Pickleball. A big thanks goes out for the enthusiastic support and significant help by EC colleagues, sports-specific activity leaders, and UBC community for the successful launch of this initiative.

Please note, the upcoming EC sports schedule for June includes Tennis, Cricket 6s, 4-a-side Soccer, Table Tennis, Squash and Pickleball.

Please visit the [website for event dates/times](#).

If you are interested to play (or umpire/referee) any of the competitive team games, racquet sports (level 3-4), or wish to play Golf at The Musqueam Golf Course in July, contact harry.hubball@ubc.ca to add your name to a sport-specific roster.



Above: Brightly coloured carpets are for sale in every marketplace. Photo courtesy of the Travel Group.

TRAVEL GROUP

Paul Steinbok, Convenor, Professor Emeritus, Surgery

Note from the EC Travel Group: I am looking for speakers for the next year, starting in September 2024. If you are interested, please email me at psteinbok@cw.bc.ca. I am happy to entertain presentations that may not fill the entire time slot—usually 45-50 min. I may be able to organize 2 shorter presentations instead of just 1 presentation.

JUNE MEETING (Last of the Academic Year)

Hiking, Cycling and Hanging Out in Morocco, March 2023.

Peter Wing, Clinical Professor Emeritus, Orthopaedics and **Claire Weeks**, Clinical Assistant Professor Emerita, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

In early March, 2023, in an effort to see exotic venues, use our aging muscles, visit family, reduce the wear and tear of travel and minimize our travel carbon footprint, we embarked on a 2-month trip to Morocco, Portugal, England and Scotland. This presentation will focus on the Moroccan segment of this trip: a 6-day guided hiking excursion in the High Atlas Mountains and a 2-week guided cycling trip in Morocco. We organized the hiking trip ourselves and joined a group of friends for the cycling trip, and we can talk about the advantages and disadvantages of each approach. One of us had been to Morocco more than 50 years ago and can comment on changes. We were there 6 months before the earthquake, and talk about the insights we gained about its effects from locals.

GROVES OF ACADEME

(otherwise known as a Book Club!)

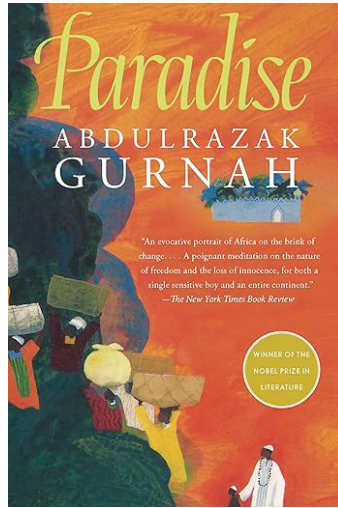
Graeme Wynn, Convenor, Professor Emeritus, Geography

Katerina Dorovini-Zis, Professor Emeritus, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, provides a review of Abdulrazak Gurnah's *Paradise*

On February 12, 2024, members of the “Groves of Academe” convened to discuss Abdulrazak Gurnah's book *Paradise*. The author was born in Zanzibar in 1948 and fled to England after the 1964 revolution. He taught English and Postcolonial Literature at the University of Kent in Canterbury. He has written 10 books, several essays and short stories. *Paradise*, published in 1994, is considered his most significant work. He received the Nobel Prize for literature in 2021.

The story is set in East Africa at the turn of the 20th century and is woven against the backdrop of the German colonial rule and the multiethnic, multicultural, multilingual and multireligious population of East Africa. The 12-year-old Yusuf lives with his parents in a village in East Africa. The family is impoverished and his father owes money to a wealthy merchant, a *seyyid* named Aziz. The merchant pays several visits to his parent's home and Yusuf is deceived by his father into believing that Aziz is his uncle. At one such visit, his father tells him that he must accompany “uncle” Aziz on a trip. Yusuf is unaware that he has been sold into bondage to pay his father's debt.

And so, his years of servitude begin. Aziz and his newly acquired slave travel to a coastal town where Aziz lives and has a shop. The shop is run by Khalil, a young man who becomes a good friend of Yusuf. He tries to convince Yusuf that Aziz is not his uncle, and that his father mortgaged him to Aziz till he paid his debt, the same way Khalil was pawned to Aziz to secure his own father's debt. But



Above: Cover of Abdulrazak Gurnah's *Paradise*.

Yusuf's innocence prevents him from believing this.

Every year Aziz travels with a large caravan with porters and guards to the interior to trade goods. When Yusuf turns 16, Aziz takes him on one of his trips and leaves him for a year with the family of Hamid, a shopkeeper and Aziz's business partner. One day, Yusuf travels with Hamid to a picturesque mountainous region, where he meets a man from India, Kalasinga and another shopkeeper, Hussein. The men enter into a vivid and colorful discussion of their respective religions, arguing, comparing and contrasting the virtues of each religion. They also express their concern and fear about the Germans taking over their land, displacing people and making servants of the rest of them. Surrounded by the beauty and serenity of the place, they fantasize about their "earthly Paradise with its gate of fire".

Yusuf accompanies Aziz on the next large expedition to the heart of Africa where they encounter "savages" and "Pagans". This expedition lasted many months and was dangerous and unsuccessful. They met suspicious and hostile people, lost porters and guards from animal attacks, malaria and other illnesses, lost merchandise, got into nasty arguments and had poor trade. Yusuf comes back having gained experience through his hardships.

He spends time in Aziz's garden where an old gardener, Hamdani, has been working for years. Hamdani was given as a wedding present to the seyyid's wife by her father and when, years later, she offered him his freedom, he rejected it. When Yusuf asks him why, he

replies: *"They offered me freedom as a gift. She did. Who told her that she had it to offer?... I had that freedom the moment I was born... They can lock you up, put you in chains, abuse all your small longings, but freedom is not something they can take away... When they have finished with you, they are still as far away from owning you as they were on the day you were born"*.

Yusuf now realizes that he had no control of his fate and that paradise after all is an illusion. He learns that his father is dead and no one knows what happened to his mother. Armed with experience and knowledge and realizing that there is no future other than perpetual slavery, he decides to take his fate in his own hands. So, when a German officer comes to town with his askaris and starts kidnapping people to serve as porters for his army, Yusuf observes them and then runs after the column of marching askaris. Thus, the story ends with an open question: does Yusuf choose to bow to a different master, or does he finally revolt against the injustice of it all?

The book is historical fiction, masterfully written, powerful, beautiful, poetic and in places funny. Gurnah is a great storyteller. Through the story of Yusuf coming of age in servitude, he paints a clear and compassionate picture of the land and its people, their identity and history, their differences and common hopes. His descriptions of the last Arab caravan trading expeditions from the coast to the interior, the traditional way of trading until colonization took over, are masterful and highlight the hardships and the power of the unknown during these excursions. In a compelling way he contrasts the innocence of a young boy with the deceit of his father and Aziz, and exposes extreme poverty and its evils, slavery, as well as the power of stories and myths of magic, wizardry, witchcraft and the supernatural in shaping peoples' lives and relationships. As Gurnah put it: *"Myths are often a simplification of a more complicated reality"*.



RICHARD SPENCER
Biodiversity : Wonderful worms! They shred food waste, remove heavy metals, add nutrient rich castings, aerate the rich soil and improve its water retention.

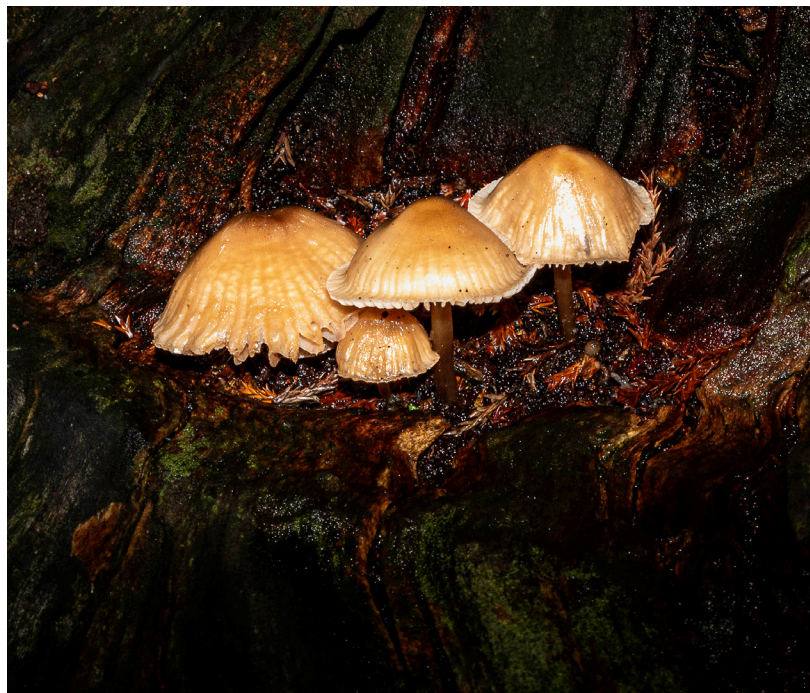


ROY SAUNDERS
Biodiversity: This image illustrates the importance of interspecies dependence

PHOTO GROUP

Richard Spencer, Convenor, Associate Professor Emeritus, Civil Engineering

Three members of the Emeritus College Photo Group submitted photos for a Sustainability Photo Pop-Up exhibition, organized by the UBC Sustainability Hub, and held at the Centre for Interactive Research on Sustainability (CIRS) in March. Photos selected for the exhibition are shown on this page, together with the 'prompts' that explain the intent of the photos.



PAUL STEINBOK
Biodiversity: Following the passage of an atmospheric river in the late fall, I perceived, for the first time in many years, delicate mushrooms growing on the richly coloured saturated wood of a rotting red cedar stump, demonstrating the relationship between climatic events and the flora. Photo taken in Douglas Park, Vancouver.

EASY RIDERS

Graeme Wynn, Convenor, Professor Emeritus, Geography

PEDALLERS UNITE.

As the days lengthen and warmth returns to this part of the earth, EASY RIDERS, and all those who aspire to casual, convivial, intermittent, social outings by bicycle (traditional or electric) should limber up, grease their chains. We plan eight or so outings this summer. Each will be led by one of a handful of stalwarts who have agreed to guide us on our merry ways along the bikeways and trails of Vancouver, Richmond, Burnaby, New

Westminster, and possibly further afield. Most rides will pause for coffee and conversation along the way, and some will likely include a stop for lunch. No-one is out to break any records (except for enjoyment), and we ride in convoy with consideration for our "least revolutionary" (low cadence) pedallers"!!!

If you have a hankering to explore unfamiliar areas, to enjoy fresh air, to get a modicum of exercise and to meet folks from across the university, please send an email to wynn@geog.ubc.ca indicating as much and you will be added to our list of riders notified in timely fashion about upcoming rides.

The next ride is Tuesday June 4th - Central Valley Greenway to New Westminster (lunch) —optional return via skytrain (Departure time & place TBD)

Please reach out if you intend to join us and [visit the website](#) for the most up-to-date schedule.

VEG (VEGAN ENTHUSIAST GROUP)

Elizabeth Dean, Convenor, Professor Emeritus, Physical Therapy

In each Newsletter as a resource to Emeritus College members, VEG features an Apple Core, a Veggie Bite, or Asparagus Tip, related to plant-based nutrition.

For further information about VEG, an inclusive plant-based resource Special Interest Group, see [VEG | Vegan Enthusiast Group](#) or contact elizabeth.dean@ubc.ca to be added to the listserv. VEG is open to all in the UBC community and the community in general.



Above: Marquis de Riscal Winery, Eltziego, Spain. Photo courtesy of David McArthur



Above: Photo by Roy Saunders, Clinical Associate Professor Emeritus, Paediatrics. Orphaned as an infant cub, this now-adult is non-releasable and remains in a protected enclosure. This photo was submitted to be considered for the UBC Sustainability Photo Pop-Up exhibition. See the final three exhibited photos on page 14.

Pumpkin Seed From the VEG Patch



'True' aging reflects biological rather than chronological age. Reduce DNA damage associated with biological aging with whole-food, low-fat plant-based nutrition which is rich in antioxidants and carotenoids. Sources of both are whole grains, legumes, fruits, and a range of colourful vegetables.

Source: [Medawar E, et al.](#) The effects of plant-based diets on the body and the brain: a systematic review. [Transl Psychiatry](#). 2019; 9: 226. doi: [10.1038/s41398-019-0552-0](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41398-019-0552-0).

WINE APPRECIATION GROUP

David McArthur, Convenor, Land and Food Systems

Are you interested in learning about and tasting the wines of the world? The wines of BC? This SIG on Wine Appreciation explores classic and exciting wines from around the world... with discussion of the terroir where each wine is grown. The fee for the upcoming fall 2024 term will be \$85, but there will be a \$10 rebate if 20 or more people join. This fee is for wine purchases and various morsels - we often have select foods for wine & food pairings. And the more who join (guests are welcome to accompany UBC Emeriti) the better the budget for wine & food. Participants need to bring their own 3 ISO wine glasses to each tasting and if you don't have these - glasses are available at the first tasting



Above: Okanagan Valley. Photo by David McArthur

meeting (\$6/glass). To date, we have a free room for our meetings and no other costs.

The Wine Appreciation SIG started with events in the fall of 2022 we have explored quality wines from around the world. As a starting point for the 2024-2025 session I propose the following education/tasting themes - How fine-tuned are your wine evaluation skills? Has the BC wine industry been able to recover from recent climate change events? Exploring some of the many regions of France. Exploring some of the many regions of Spain. A comparison of what's new in Greece, Portugal, and Italy. Please email David david.mcarthur@ubc.ca for details.

For this newsletter, we asked David to provide a summary of the possible effects of the last two years' weather on the BC wine industry.

Herewith is the bad news....

In December 2014, a group of BC winery owners representing the core founders of the BC Vintners Quality Alliance (BC-VQA) program came together to toast the success they'd had in helping to build a strong wine industry over the past 25 years. In the early days, they brought in and shared wine and enological expertise from around the world, helped to set up a viable industry+government infrastructure (BC Wine Authority & BC VQA system) and they helped to found a strong marketing program to showcase and sell quality BC wine. The BC wine industry has continued to build on a good start and now has a reputation for good to great wines- some reaching world-wide acclaim. Recently, climate change appears poised to disrupt this success story, with an extreme winter cold period in each of the last two winter periods (Dec 2022 & January 2024), the wine grape growing and wine production have been hit hard (for vintages 2023 & 2024).

About the winter (December 2022) cold injury to vineyards in the interior of BC 2022-2023.

Some suggest that after a late harvest (reds especially), vines (and their buds) did not have enough time to acclimate to the early extreme winter cold. Cascadia Partners worked with the BC Wine Grape Council (BCWGC) and Wine Growers British Columbia (WGBC) on a Winter Bud Damage Report dated November 15, 2023. Wines of British Columbia presented these results with data from the 2023 harvest to confirm a vineyard crop loss of 54% across the board. Hence, bottles of wine produced by wineries in the Okanagan + Similkameen Valleys would be half of the typical amount for acreage planted.

About winter cold injury to vineyards in the interior of BC 2023-2024

From the report of February 2024: Anticipated Impact of January 2024 Cold Event on BC Wine Industry presented by Cascadia Partners for Wines of British Columbia. The production of BC grapes and wine is projected to be 97-99% lower in 2024 than is typical from previous years (excluding 2023). After the 2022-2023 cold damage, many growers re-planted young vines in the summer of 2023. These would have been more vulnerable to the ultra-cold in 2023-2024 and many appear to have been severely damaged, so growers lost money on that and will have to repeat the replacement of vines. After checking in with some viticulturists/winery staff working in the Okanagan Valley, the spring bud burst has been confirmed as very sparse and that many buds were desiccated/blackened.

A small percentage of the vines in the Okanagan and Similkameen Valleys are self-rooted (i.e. the wine grape variety is not grafted to phylloxera-resistant rootstock) and one grower hoped that the crown might be able to

grow back new shoots to start again (hence no re-planting needed). But it is too early to know if this is the case or if the amount of land planted in this manner is significant to overall numbers. Several growers commented that some new shoots are beginning to grow from the scion variety (above the rootstock); however, the current spring temperatures are still cool and it is too early to determine whether these shoots will be healthy and their numbers substantial. As some of the older vineyards were especially damaged by the cold, it was suggested that pathogenic viruses may have weakened these older plants and, although forcibly nudged into it by the killing cold temperatures, this was an opportune time to begin re-planting with young and healthy virus-free vines.

Were other BC viticultural areas affected by extreme winter temperatures?

The 2023-2024 report and local Fraser Valley growers indicated that damage to the vines in the Fraser Valley wasn't nearly as bad as in the Okanagan and Similkameen Valleys. The amount of acreage of wine grapes in the Fraser Valley is relatively small, however, and 2024 wine production from the Fraser Valley and other small Geographical Indications normally do not add much to the total wine production in BC. Some of the wineries in the Fraser Valley in fact buy Similkameen and Okanagan Valleys' grapes and process them, so they were/will also be affected by the significant drops in wine grapes last and this year.

What will the interior wineries do besides replant - options?

While there may be newer and perhaps somewhat attractive hybrid grapevines available that are generally more cold hardy than Syrah for example - the feeling is that for now, the "classic" wine grape varieties are still the most attractive to wine buyers and replanting will be back to these varieties. A small amount of experimentation with growing hybrids may be considered by some, but only if the BC Wine Authority allows them to be used for the BC VQA wines program. Also, there is some indication that some of the larger estate wineries may apply for a commercial license that will allow them to buy grapes/wine from elsewhere (perhaps Washington and California states for example) and process these for release as "their wine" but it



Above: Photo by Paul Steinbok, Professor Emeritus, Surgery. The sunlight percolating through the foliage lit up the young tree growing out of an old, rotting red cedar stump, beautifully demonstrating the natural cycle of rebirth and regeneration in the forest. Photo taken in Pacific Spirit Park, Vancouver. This photo was submitted to be considered for the UBC Sustainability Photo Pop-Up exhibition. See the final three exhibited photos on page 14.

cannot be sold as BC VQA wine. Wineries that currently sell both BC VQA and "other" wine include Jackson-Triggs, and Peller Estates (Calona Wines).

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER GROUP

Ruth Derksen, Convenor, Professor Emeritus, Philosophy of Language

Nancy Gallini, Convenor, Professor Emeritus, Economics

Beware! Volunteering is enticing

Dr. Ruth Derksen (PhD, Philosophy of Language) is an Emerita at the University of British Columbia and a first-generation Canadian of Russian-Mennonite descent. She is now co-convenor of the Emeritus College's volunteer SIG and personally involved in multiple volunteering activities. In this newsletter, Ruth provides the long view on her extended experience of volunteerism



The winning design – “Arc of Memory” – has now been constructed in the Garden of Territories and Provinces on Wellington St., Ottawa. It’s gently curving walls of short bronze rods (each one pointing to a unique angle of the sun for every day of the year) embraces both the darkness of the victims and the light experienced as they are remembered. Photo courtesy of Tribute to Liberty: Memorial to the Victims of Communism, 2024.

There is no question that volunteer opportunities are very appealing and numerous. Most of us have a general sense of the opportunities and many are already involved before retirement. But the time and energy commitments required are rarely predictable. Often (as in my case), it is difficult to measure workloads in advance. Overload and saturation can be a dark cloud hovering over the initial passion and a once-manageable schedule.

When Valerie asked me to write about some of my volunteer experiences, I felt obliged to provide a glimpse into my activities – hoping to inspire others, but also to demonstrate the often-unpredictable nature of volunteering.

One such opportunity began with the discovery of a collection of 463 letters shared among my extended family. Written mostly from Gulag prison camps (1930-38), the letters were from those caught in the horror of Joseph Stalin’s aggressive purges. I was astounded when I discovered these letters. This was my story! This was about the silence that was rarely broken. This was what happened to all my relatives who did not escape? How could I not respond?

The passion fueled my energy for years and continues to do so. The most oft-repeated phrase by the letter writers is “Remember Us. Do not forget us.” Sharing the letters with national and international archives, as well as conducting research at the Russian Slavonic Studies Centre, UK became an ongoing pursuit.

Subsequently, when asked by the National Commission in Ottawa to volunteer as a member of

the jury to choose a final design for the Memorial to the Victims of Communism in Ottawa, I could not refuse. Through this memorial, the voices of the letter writers and millions of others would now be heard. They would be remembered. The horrific effects of Totalitarian Communism would be projected into the 21st century.

It was clear that the purpose of the Memorial was to honour all victims from multiple countries by bringing their suffering into public consciousness. The Memorial pays tribute to Canada’s role as a land of refuge for those fleeing injustice and persecution; it reminds visitors of Canada’s commitment to freedom, democracy and human rights.

Meanwhile, I carry on raising awareness of the reality of Stalin’s atrocities by distributing a documentary film and speaking about the letters at national and international events. I also continue to guide students with professional communication skills in Applied Science. In addition, sponsoring and settling refugees from Syria, Iraq, Ukraine and most recently, Afghanistan is ongoing.

Other enticing prospects continue to appear – one such opportunity is as co-convenor (joining Nancy Gallini) for the Volunteer Special Interest Group (SIG) of the Emeritus College. Thus, organizing and inspiring others to volunteer is now another of my goals. But significantly, encouraging others will always be accompanied with the gentle caveat: Beware of over-committing. Learn when to say “yes” or “no” and have an exit strategy if things go awry.

Committee and Program News

GENERAL MEETING

The 2023-2024 Annual General Meeting took place at Ponderosa Commons Ballroom on May 15.

Robert Armstrong, Professor Emeritus, Paediatrics was awarded the 2024 President's Award for Distinguished Service by UBC Emeriti and **Sima Godfrey**, Associate Professor Emeritus, French, Hispanic and Italian Studies, was awarded the 2024 Emeritus College Award for Excellence in Innovative and Creative Endeavours. After the business meeting and awards ceremony, Dr. Jeremy Heyl, Head of UBC Physics and Astronomy, gave an enlightening presentation entitled *JWST: A successor to Hubble? No, it is so much more.*

[Watch the recording here](#)

GREEN COLLEGE SERIES

Presentation Series sponsored by the Emeritus College and Green College, 2024-2025:

[Disciplines Through Time: The Creation, Maintenance and Breakdown of Knowledge Boundaries.](#)

Emma Cunliffe (Principal-Elect, Green College) and Donald Fisher (Past-Principal, UBC Emeritus College)



Above: Anne Junker, Associate Professor Emerita, Paediatrics, gives the business meeting portion of the AGM on May 15, 2024.



Above: Award Recipient Robert Armstrong filming with UBC President Benoit-Antoine Bacon prior to the Annual General Meeting.

are convening a second series at Green College that focusses on disciplinarity/interdisciplinarity and brings together in each session an Emeritus Professor, and established scholar and a doctoral or post-doctoral student to have a conversation about the development and current state of their discipline or field. Mark Vessey and Donald Fisher ran the first series in 2021-2022.

The idea is to bring together scholars who inhabit the same academic discipline or field of study and who are at different points chronologically in their academic careers, to converse about how the boundary separating their knowledge unit from other fields and disciplines has changed through time. The conversation will inevitably morph into a consideration of cross-disciplinary influences and interdisciplinary trends as participants account for changes in the cognitive strength of sub-disciplines and sub-fields. The intent will be to identify underlying reasons for the observed changes and, by the end of the series, to draw some general conclusions about mechanisms of (inter)disciplinary interaction and development, in the spirit—if not necessarily the style—of Thomas Kuhn and Michel Foucault.

Each session will include three academics and a moderator. The academics will normally come from the following populations: relatively recent retirees who are members of the UBC Emeritus College; Green College Leading Scholars, Members of the Green College Common Room and Green College Alumni who have gone on to an academic career; and current or recent Resident Members of Green College who are currently post-doctoral or doctoral students at UBC. The format will be conversational where the

Moderator asks the three panelists a series of questions about their perspectives.

All sessions will be held in the Coach House at Green College, 5:00 to 6:30 pm, and will be followed by a wine and cheese reception with the first in the series beginning on October 24, 2024. We sincerely hope you will come and join us for what will be lively conversations.

Please visit the [Emeritus College website](#) for up-to-date event dates and times.

SCHOLARLY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Submitted by **Gail D. Bellward**, Associate Dean Emerita, Pharmaceutical Sciences

The Scholarly Engagement Committee has been “beaver away” attempting to bring back programs that were not possible during the Covid period. One of these was the display of books and book chapters written by emeriti, and, thanks to the Program Committee, we held this event at the last General Meeting on April 17, 2024. It was amazing to see approximately 40 books on a wide range of topics, all from our Emeritus College members. Truly wonderful! To see the range of books on display please visit the [Emeritus College website](#).

Next, we would like to have a display of artistic creations, as well as programs from performances by members, probably sometime during the 2024-25 academic year. We encourage people to start thinking about this event now. It will include projects from the



Above: Book Display at the April 17 General Meeting.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

UBC Botanical Gardens - Friends of the Garden (FOGs)

Founded in 1976, the Friends of the Garden (“FOGs”) is a group of UBC Botanical Garden volunteers dedicated to assisting the Garden in maintaining its position as a valued member of the University community and strengthening its reputation as a centre for horticultural and botanical garden research and education. Being a FOG is more than just volunteering, it’s a commitment to the mission of the garden, and to ensuring that the garden remains a sanctuary for the preservation of native and global biodiversity now and into the future.

[Visit their website](#) to learn how you become a FOG!

past 5 years, since we had our last such display.

We also encourage EC members to look at our Indigenous Information Booklet on the college’s website. Thanks to Jo-ann Archibald’s hard work, it is full of interesting information that will help us to achieve our goal of reconciliation.

You can find the [Indigenous Information Booklet on the Emeritus College website](#).

CORPORATE CULTURE AND CLIMATE EMERGENCY PROGRAM

Olav Slaymaker, Convenor, Professor Emeritus, Geography, and

Frank Tester, Professor Emeritus, Social Work

The Emeritus College Climate Emergency Program has two parts:

- A) Fostering a conversation between the Emeritus College cohort and the UBC Senior Administration addressing the question “What are the implications of the climate emergency for the University of British Columbia?” (convened by Professor Emeritus Olav Slaymaker) and
- B) Producing a documentary film intended to examine and introduce viewers to the climate and environmental emergency as a challenge that is fundamentally cultural, social and spiritual in its origins, and in what needs to change in addressing the emergency in a meaningful way. The film is directed by Professor Emeritus Frank Tester.

A. The “conversation” commenced in the Spring of 2023 with a series of meetings between the Emeritus College climate emergency cohort, consisting of 8-9 Professors

Emeritus, and the Associate Vice-President for UBC Planning and Security, Michael White and his team. Those meetings were constructive but have left no discernible impact on decision-making by the Senior Administration nor the Board of Governors. After requesting a meeting with President Antoine Bacon, the cohort was invited to meet with Vice-President Gage Averill and Vice-Provost Moura Quayle on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, just 12 months after the first meeting with Associate Vice-President White. The matters arising from UBC's Academic Futures Report that are most pressing from the perspective of the cohort are:

- (i) Creating a genuinely interactive conversation between UBC's Emeriti and UBC's Senior Administration
- (ii) Moving away from the "business-as-usual" model of constant growth and exponentially increasing exploitation of the campus ecology; and considering alternative models of campus response to the climate emergency that recognize the importance of cultural, social and spiritual factors
- (iii) Imagining a curriculum that promotes wonder at humanity's privileged role as the consciousness of the living world. We perceive a need to suffuse our

rationalist academic culture with Indigenous ways of knowing, seeing and doing.

- (iv) Rather than creating employment-ready students for the existing machine should we not be producing critical thinkers and inspired innovators?

B. The Climate Emergency Program is producing a documentary film that uses 4 roundtable discussions between a scholar with expertise related to a sub-theme, and four diverse students chosen for their interest in the sub-theme in question. These film shoots serve as 'script' for a film examining the climate emergency as a cultural, social and spiritual challenge.

The sub-themes are (a) limits to the 'technical fix' (b) grief, anxiety, despair, and collective fatigue. What does this look like for a generation that is inheriting what previous generations and logics have done to the planet? (c) Voice. Who is being heard? Whose voices are missing from discussion and action in dealing with the emergency? Why? What can be done about this? (d) and 'All my relations'. What do indigenous beliefs and perspectives offer in appreciating the cultural/social and spiritual nature of our problem?

The first film shoot took place Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at the Telus Studio in UBC's Chan Centre. The theme of this session was (c) "Voice". Dr. Vanessa Andreotti, Dean of Education, University of Victoria, was the discussant with 5 students.

A second film shoot will take place on Tuesday, July 23, 2024 in the Haida Longhouse at MOA. The theme of this session will be "All My Relations" Dr. Siila Watt-Cloutier, OC and former Chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Council will be the lead discussant with a group of students. The third and fourth filming sessions addressing sub-themes (a) and (b) will be developed and filmed in the fall, and the spring of the coming year. A workshop meeting, following a rudimentary edit of the first film shoot, will include all of those involved in the production—director, editor, student camera operators, advisors and student participants and will focus on the results of the first shoot, and explore other innovative ways to treat the subject matter going forward. The result can be seen as a lasting legacy of the Emeritus College to future generations confronting this emergency.



Above: View from the balcony of the May 14 filming session "Voice" in the Telus Studio at the Chan Centre.

News from UBCO

NEW SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

OKANAGAN OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES GROUP

Ian Walker, Convenor, Professor Emeritus of Biology, Earth, Environmental and Geographic Sciences and **Melanie Jones**, Co-Convenor, Professor Emerita, Biology

A new group has been created as an umbrella for Okanagan outdoor events associated with the Emeritus College. The exact activities of the group will evolve over time, but are likely to include hikes, cycling, skiing, snowshoe and canoe trips, as well as visits to sites of historical, archeological or scientific interest. Persons with an interest in participating, organizing, or leading, group activities should contact the convenor Ian Walker, ian.walker@ubc.ca or co-convenor Melanie Jones, melanie.jones@ubc.ca.

The newly minted Okanagan group hosted their very first event on 4 May 2024, a hike into Cosens Bay in



Above: Rattlesnake spotted by the the Outdoors Activities Group. For an overview of the wildflower/wildlife we saw, [see our photos as posted to iNaturalist](#).

Kalamalka Lake Provincial Park. The 2 km hike to the bay (mostly downhill) was followed by lunch and the 2 km return (mostly uphill). Nine hikers participated.

The area features a beautiful landscape, abundant



Above: The first outing of the Outdoor Activities Group. Thanks to Jeff Curtis for the group photo!

wildflowers and wildlife, and an interesting human history. It was formerly used by the Canadian military for target practice. Even in recent years unexploded ordinance have occasionally been discovered in the park.

Although spring came early, the Arrowleaf Balsamroot and Saskatoons were still in full bloom. The weather was warm and dry, with thin overcast skies. The diffuse light was ideal for wildflower photography.

The highlight of our day—being greeted by three rattlesnakes along the trail!

A second activity is planned for Monday, June 10.

The group has planned a bike trip on the old Kettle Valley railbed in Myra Canyon (Myra Bellevue Provincial Park). The KVR and Myra Canyon are one of the Okanagan's most important historical locations as well as having dramatic views of the Okanagan Valley. The bike trip will be led by Maury Williams (Myra's Men; Building the Kettle Valley Railway). See additional details regarding start times and meeting place [visit the website](#) or contact Maury maurice.williams@ubc.ca.

SAVE THE DATE

A Special Meeting for UBC Okanagan Emeriti

Dr. Benoit-Antoine Bacon

UBC President and Vice-Chancellor

Wednesday, June 5, 2024

[More information and register to attend.](#)

Op-ed

RESPONSE TO OP-ED ON MOVING IN RETIREMENT

Trish Corner, Professor Emeritus, Management

I write this from the North Island of New Zealand/Aotearoa, from a town called Hamilton. I am from the US originally and moved to New Zealand in 1992. I was completing my PhD from Arizona State University and I accepted a job at the University of Waikato. I built a good career over 28 years as a New Zealand academic employed by the University of Waikato and later Auckland University of Technology. So, how did I end up as Professor Emerita at UBCO? And why New Zealand for retirement when I could have stayed in beautiful BC?

The answer to the first question is that I was recruited by Perrett Laver for a full professorship in the Faculty of Management at UBCO. I was flattered, UBC is a top ranked university and it felt like a way to return to the beautiful western landscapes of North America (I lived in Wyoming and Arizona). Also, I could improve my financial position. UBC's offer reflected a substantial rise in salary and an excellent retirement package. New Zealand loses a lot of academics to Australia and elsewhere due to poor retirement options here in Aotearoa. I was attracted to the size and location of Kelowna; I could drive to winter and Nordic skiing. I also was attracted to the Faculty of Management. I had been in a management faculty at Waikato and had come to appreciate the broader lens it offered as compared to a business faculty. The faculty was small and growing and I was excited to contribute to this growth. I accepted the



Above: An iconic Canadian spot and features me with my daughter Sarah.

job, after being granted tenure, and moved to Kelowna, arriving on Canada Day which was fun and inspiring. The move was challenging as any international move is, but I feel like my time in Canada was a blessing.

The answer to the second question is that I returned to New Zealand for retirement because here I have the strong social connections that the experts say are so important in retirement. I have 2 daughters and a grandson in Aotearoa as well as decades long friendships and a strong yoga community. I had 28 years to build those connections in New Zealand in contrast to a little over 4 years to build connections in Canada. It didn't help that COVID prevented social interactions during 2 years of my time in British Columbia. I have meaningful work as a director of a yoga education trust called Anahata that oversees a retreat center in the South Island. Interestingly, I considered retiring in Canada for the Nordic skiing and summer hiking in the mountains but the social connections in New Zealand won the day. Even more interesting, I didn't consider retiring in the US, although I am still a citizen, due to the extreme politics and the expense of medical care. That was a sad realization for me since I still have six siblings in the US and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends there.

So, that's my story of how I came to UBC and made another international move, back to New Zealand, as I retired. To my fellow Emeriti professors who might also be considering a geographical move in retirement, I wish you strong family and social support wherever you may land and beautiful terrain to enjoy.



Above: Central North Island mountain, Ngarahoe, taken on a hike with my cousin Cath Gaitan from Minnesota.



Above: Painting "en plein air" by Geoffrey's son Alec Blair

Other Activities from Members

AGING BETTER TOGETHER: COLLABORATING TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES ACROSS BRITISH COLUMBIA

Edwin S.H. Leong Centre for Healthy Aging
November 19-20, 2023

Judith Hall, Linda Leonard, Steve Tredwell, Vijay Verma and Sandra van Ark attended the symposium last November on behalf of the EC and provided this report.

This was an exceptional inaugural symposium, hosted by the Edwin S.H. Leong Centre for Healthy Aging, which focused on the promotion of better health and quality of living outcomes for Canada's aging population. It called upon prominent and fledgling researchers from across British Columbia, Canada and a few internationally to share their research outcomes and inform us about effective interventions.

The opening address by Parminder Raina (McMaster University and Canada Research Chair in Geroscience and PI Longitudinal Study on Aging) painted a portrait of healthy aging in Canada and the opportunities and challenges for research on aging. Presentations on the social determinants of health, the impact of early childhood experiences on later health outcomes, development of neurological plasma biomarkers and the importance of digital literacy for older adults were featured. Of equal significance were the explorations of the avoidance of physical, psychological and social frailty in elders, ageing in the right place versus aging in place and [Nav-CARE](#). Added to the list were innovative (social robots), creative (art) and other effective approaches to

A POEM SUBMITTED BY GEOFFREY K. BLAIR,
CLINICAL PROFESSOR EMERITUS, SURGERY

I Sit with a Spruce Tree

I sit with a spruce tree,
While my son paints the scene
Of a lake beneath a mountain,
Below a cloud strewn sky.

The sun burns the glaciers
and I hear ancient water
Sprinkle down to the lake
Beneath the mountain,
Below the sky,
Just beyond where
I sit with a spruce tree,
While my son paints the scene.

We walk in larch lands,
We speak of dreams
His clear voice lost to me
In the wind.
I'm full of questions,
Not answers, it seems,
But should I be asking,
Or just hike in the sun
Across that rock scattered ground,
Stopping to listen
While my son paints a scene.

I sit, finally seeing,
While my son paints a scene
Of a lake and a mountain,
Below clouds in the sky.
The waters of ages
Siphon down to a stream
Now running beside us,
Beneath the mountain,
Beside the lake,
Where we sit with our souls
Now in silence—

Awake in our dream.

enhance the quality of life for those living with dementia. And, who could forget learning about Ikigai, the Japanese wellbeing construct for healthy aging!

We were amazed by the number and variety of initiatives occurring in BC to support older adults as well as the leading-edge interdisciplinary research, both qualitative and quantitative. Equally amazing was the realization that so many of our BC health authorities and universities such as UVic, SFU, UNBC, UBCO and of course, UBC-V are committed to research and initiatives which focus on interventions to address the challenges associated with aging.

We are most grateful for the opportunity to have attended the symposium on behalf of the UBC Emeritus College. It lays potential groundwork for future endeavours related to healthy aging of our members and beyond. The conference made it clear that there are many excellent resources available in BC and we are looking at ways to make them better known and to share this information with our members.

The program of the symposium is still available including abstracts of research presented [here](#).

If you are interested in contributing in any way, please contact Sandra van Ark at manager@emerituscollege.ubc.ca.



Above: Sandra van Ark in maternal mode with Mango, [the social robot LOVOT!](#) Photo taken by: Linda Leonard.



Above: Vijay Verma, Michael Kobor, Steve Tredwell, Linda Leonard, Judith Hall. Photo taken by: Sandra van Ark

Letters from Emeriti

- **Michael Klein**, Emeritus Professor, Family Practice & Pediatrics

Dear friends: While not necessarily related to awards, I attach an article I wrote as a physician/patient, in collaboration with the family doctor and surgeon who saved my life. As an almost 87-year-old UBC emeritus professor, my engagement with the clinical issues moved the diagnostic process in the right direction.

This case report is being widely quoted and discussed and is cited as a rare example of family physician and specialists collaborating in writing and researching the core issues. As well it is unusual in that the three protagonists and others speak first person in their own voices, rather than in the usual dry third person.

While we all know that our health care system is under great strain, it is reassuring that in a crisis it can function admirably, with the many players in this drama, selflessly working together on my behalf. Any break in the tight chain of interventions or links in the care and I would not be telling this story.

Read Michael's story "Aortic dissection: A story of rural assessment, evacuation, and survival" in [Canadian Family Physician Here](#)

Submit a letter, Op-Ed or Response to communications@emerituscollege.ubc.ca

In Memoriam UBC Professors Emeriti

Doug Cochrane
Professor Emeritus of Surgery
1950-2024
University Service 1986-2016

Rita De Grandis
Professor Emeritus of French, Hispanic and Italian
Studies
1951-2024
University Service 1996-2018

G. M. "Bud" Homsy
Professor Emeritus of Mathematics
1943-2024
University Service 2010-2013

Franco Lioy
Professor Emeritus of Physiology
1932-2024
University Service 1967-1993

Alan Lowe
Professor Emeritus of Oral Health Sciences
1948-2024
University Service 1976-2016

Peter McGinn
Anesthesiology, Pharmacology and Therapeutics
1948-2018
University Service 1982-2018

Thomas Raymond (Ray) Meadowcroft
Professor Emeritus of Metals and Materials
Engineering
1936-2024
University Service 1992-2001

Mary Louisa Miller
Clinical Assistant Professor Emerita of
Anesthesia
1927-2024
University Service 1982-1993

David J. Randall
Professor Emeritus of Zoology
1938-2024
University Service 1963-2004

Harvey Richer
Professor Emeritus of Physics and Astronomy
1944-2023
University Service 1970-2020

Richard Doncaster (Don) Russell
Professor Emeritus of Geophysics and Astronomy
1929-2024
University Service 1963-1991

Lorne D. Sullivan
Professor Emeritus of Surgery
1936-2024
University Service 1982-2001

Paul Thiele
Administrative Librarian I Emeritus
1942-2023
University Service 1971-2001

If you have news about the passing of a colleague,
please let us know: office@emerituscollege.ubc.ca



Remembering Richard Doncaster (Don) Russell (1929–2024)

Don Russell joined the UBC Association of Professors Emeriti in 1991 and was President from 1997 to 1999. He was instrumental in getting the Association into the new century by creating a website and an SQL-database for the membership. As with all technology, the website and database have been replaced with new technology, but not without very helpful and expert input from Don. Don was always open to helping staff with technology issues and had an almost complete archive of the Association at home until he and his wife, Ginny, moved to a smaller place. Don and Ginny were at every General Meeting until the commute from Ladner became too much and were loyal members of the newsletter envelope-stuffing group before the newsletter was sent out only by email.

Don joined the Dept of Geophysics at UBC in 1963 and retired in 1991 as Professor Emeritus of Geophysics and Astronomy. He became Head of Geophysics, then the first Director of the Institute of Astronomy and Space Sciences when it was created in 1970 (and then became the Department of Geophysics and Astronomy in 1978, then the Dept. of Earth and Ocean Sciences in 1996). Don was a lifelong scientist and curious thinker, with interests centred around the application of methods of physics to the solution of problems of interest to geophysics. His team were the first to demonstrate the existence of very ancient rocks in Australia, and to show that some rocks in Great Britain were much older than previously supposed. He was also part of the team that developed fluxgate magnetometers ultimately used in terrestrial geophysics and in space vehicles. His more recent research centred on seismoelectric techniques for mineral exploration, which also have significance for earthquake prediction and rock physics. We miss Don's engagement and friendly smile.

DIALOGUE ON AGING: PUBLIC PRESENTATION SERIES

In partnership with the Edwin S.H. Leong Centre for Healthy Aging, Providence Health Care is hosting a series of lectures on various topics related to aging. The theme this year is Society, Culture and Aging. Below are a few event listings. Please refer to [their website](#) for the most up-to-date information.

May 31 at 2:00 pm

Old Age is Made Up: How Identity and Aging is Changing in Profound Ways

Dr. Zayna Khayat, University of Toronto

Zoom

The presentation will describe the reckoning that has begun as we evolve from an ageist society, and how the identity of aging is changing. She will share ways to explore the complex thoughts and feelings associated with the process of aging.

June 27 at 2:00 pm

Aging in the Right Place

Dr. Samir Sinha, Mount Sinai and University Health Network Hospitals

Zoom

Dr. Sinha will discuss the importance of supporting older Canadians to age successfully in their own communities, known as "ageing in place," emphasizing the need for responsive systems and services. practices to reduce unnecessary admissions to Long Term Care.

[More information or to register.](#)



College Council 2023-2024

EXECUTIVE

Paul Harrison paulharr@mail.ubc.ca
Bill McCutcheon mccutche@phas.ubc.ca
Anne Junker* ajunker@mail.ubc.ca

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Nancy Gallini nancy.gallini@ubc.ca
Wendy Hall wendy.hall@ubc.ca
David Hill dhill02@mail.ubc.ca
Alan Mackworth* mack@cs.ubc.ca
Paul Rogers* progers@cw.bc.ca
Patricia Shaw* patricia.a.shaw@ubc.ca
Paul Steinbok psteinbok@cw.bc.ca
Vijay Verma vkverma49@gmail.com
Sandra Wilkins sandra.wilkins@ubc.ca

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Valerie A. White valerieawhite@gmail.com

UBC EMERITUS COLLEGE OFFICE

Sandra van Ark manager@emerituscollege.ubc.ca
Queenie Law office@emerituscollege.ubc.ca
Sarah Close Humayun events@emerituscollege.ubc.ca

We would like to hear from you!

The newsletter strives to include stories and information about all types of activities of emeriti in retirement, whether personal or scholarly. Accompanying photos are encouraged and appreciated. If you are uncertain as to whether a piece would be suitable don't hesitate to reach out. The EC Communications Committee has made a decision not to print lists of publications in the newsletter. To showcase your research, we welcome short descriptions of scholarly work that are written in a narrative style, without jargon related to a specific field, such that all members of the EC, regardless of faculty, can understand the substance of the work being described.

Please send your story to:
communications@emerituscollege.ubc.ca or
valerieawhite@gmail.com

WELCOME NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

On July 1, 2024, the Emeritus College Council will welcome the following members to Council.

Bill McCutcheon (Emeritus College Principal)
Sandra Bressler (Emeritus College Vice Principal)
Paul Harrison (Emeritus College Past Principal)

Robert Armstrong (Member-at-Large)
David Edgington (Member-at-Large)
Ruth Derksen (Member-at-Large)

*A special Thanks to our outgoing Council Members.

Room 110, Ponderosa Annex F 2008 Lower Mall, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z3

T 604 827 6359 emerituscollege.ubc.ca