



# Newsletter | Fall 2024

## From the Principal

Greetings to all members. I hope you have had a good summer, whether it was with travel, or just staying home and engaging in your hobbies. And I hope you kept well.

In this, my first contribution to the College Newsletter as Principal, I wish to thank last year's Principal, Paul Harrison. Paul had timely suggestions and advice, where needed, and was a good role model for me. He is still an ongoing source of advice.

The College held its annual retreat in early September in our new space, Brock Commons. There is a small amount of designated space for use by the College, which includes offices for the staff, and space for some meetings. However, there is other space that can be booked on a shared basis, and overall we were able to hold the retreat for about 40 people. The main room was buzzing with energy, and there were lots of suggestions and discussions. We will be working hard this year to have closer links with UBC Okanagan and were delighted to have two members, Deborah Buszard and Melanie Jones, attend from UBCO. After last year's retreat, goals that we wanted to achieve for this year were established and action groups were formed. Progress on these goals was reported at this retreat.

The College will have its official opening for its members this coming February, and the plans are now being made.

We now have eleven Special Interest Groups (SIGS). Many of you belong to one, and perhaps more, of these SIGS.

Our first of five General Meetings was held on Wednesday September 25. You will have been notified of this by an events notice which was sent out on e-mail. Please do try to attend the General Meetings either in person (if you are able) or online.

It promises to be a busy year, with lots of activities and meetings and I hope that most of us get to meet each other during the course of it.

## From the Newsletter Editor

This is the beginning of my second year as editor of the Emeritus College Newsletter and I am still amazed and impressed at the variety of activities in which members of the College participate. In this issue we are highlighting the events of two special days which occur one after the other. The first of these is the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation on September 30th, for which we asked Dr. Linc Kesler to discuss and provide a brief history of UBC's activities regarding this



**Bill McCutcheon,**  
Principal 2024-2025,  
UBC Emeritus College,  
Professor Emeritus,  
Physics and Astronomy

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Above: Brock Commons South, home of the new Emeritus College office! Photo courtesy of Matthew Ramsey/UBC Media Relations

topic. It is well worth a visit to the Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre for both the beauty and symbolism of the building, as well as its contents.

The second special day is the Day of Older Persons on October 1st, which we should all be celebrating and the reason for publishing the newsletter in early October. Dianne Newell has provided us with a history of the day as well as a listing of some of the activities that take place around the world to acknowledge the role of older persons in society. This is a follow-up to the talk by Carole Christopher, Leader of the SPEC (Society Promoting Environmental Conservation) Elders Circle at the General Meeting on Sept 25th.

This Fall issue of the Newsletter follows others in reviewing the activities of the many Special Interest Groups and Programs of the Emeritus College. We are happy to report that the UBCO Outdoor Activities Group and the Senior Sports Group, both new this past year, have gotten off to roaring starts, as you can see in the many activities they have organized with numerous participants involved.

Please read on for much more, including literary accomplishments as well as the move of the EC offices to brand new premises. We hope you enjoy this issue of the EC Newsletter. If you have comments or want to highlight your retirement activity, whatever it is, please don't hesitate to contact us.



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

## From the EC office

### A NEW HOME FOR THE EMERITUS COLLEGE

The College has moved to a fresh new space, befitting of its vibrant members and its support in helping them shape the retirement they want. It's a space for emeriti to meet, socialize, prepare for events, and meet with staff or executive. As of October, the office will be staffed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10–noon and 2–4pm. Please do give us call before you visit us as the office is in a closed area.

### SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR ANNUAL AWARDS

The College offers two annual awards to celebrate Emeriti's passionate commitment to excellence and advancement:

**UBC Emeritus College Award for Excellence in Innovative and Creative Endeavours** recognizes UBC Emeriti who have demonstrated excellence in their engagement and innovative research, artistic creation or new applications of previous research since attaining Emeritus status.

**President's Award for Distinguished Service** recognizes UBC Emeriti who have, since attaining Emeritus status, displayed exceptional leadership in volunteer community services.

Both Award nomination deadlines are **Feb 27, 2025**. More information can be found on [the Emeritus College website](#).

## Honours & Awards



**John Allan Cairns, C.M., O.B.C.,**  
Dean Emeritus, Medicine  
Order of Canada

**Jack Edward Taunton, C.M.,**  
Professor Emeritus,  
Kinesiology and Family Practice  
Order of Canada



**Clive P. Duncan,** Professor Emeritus,  
Orthopaedics  
Bill and Marilyn Webber Lifetime  
Achievement Award

The [Bill and Marilyn Webber Lifetime Achievement Award](#) recognizes extraordinary members of the Faculty of Medicine who have had sustained distinguished careers at UBC in the areas of research, teaching and/or service.



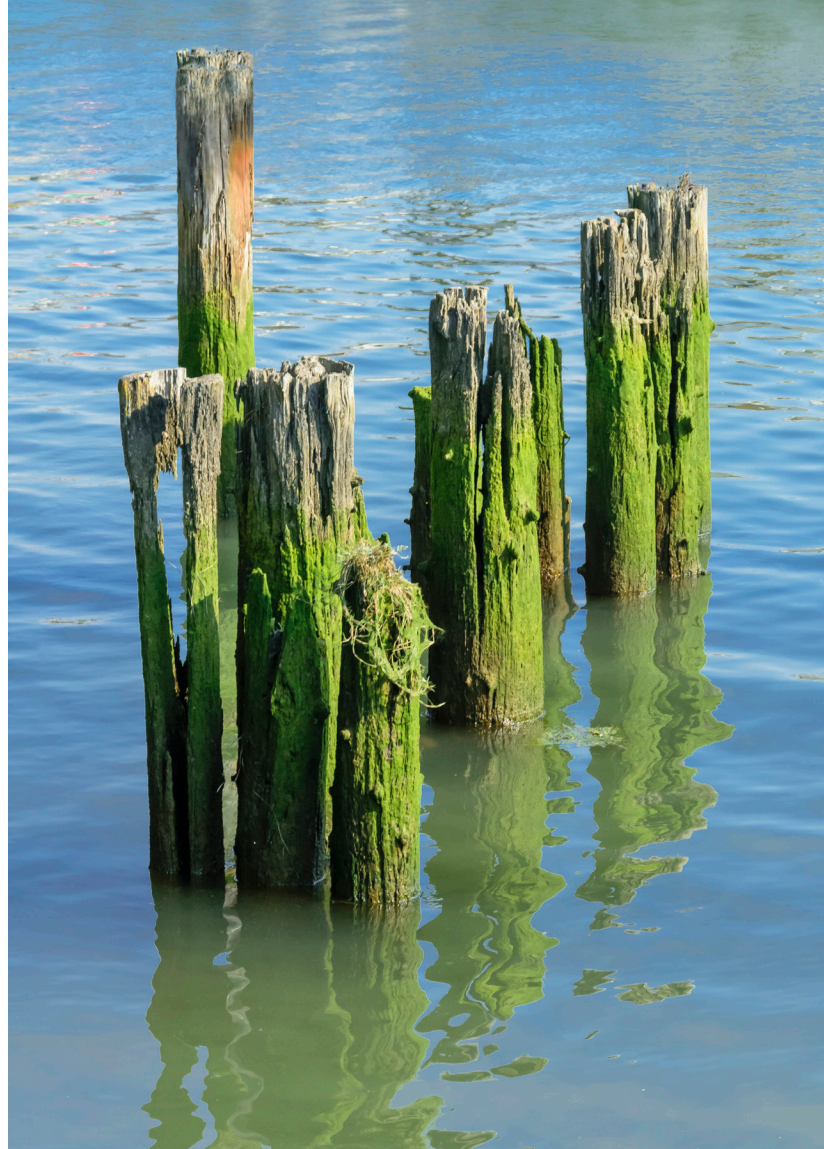
**Priscilla E. (Cindy) Greenwood,**  
Professor Emerita, Mathematics  
Gold Medal of the Canadian Statistical  
Society

The Gold Medal of the Canadian Statistical Society, 2024, is awarded to Priscilla E. (Cindy) Greenwood, Professor Emerita in the Department of Mathematics at the University of British Columbia.

The citation for the Gold Medal Award, which is given to one person each year for outstanding and continuing contributions to probability theory and/or statistical science, reads:

"To Priscilla E. (Cindy) Greenwood, for fundamental and highly original contributions to the theory of stochastic processes and to statistical inference for complex stochastic models; and for insightful illumination of stochastic mechanisms in neuroscience and other scientific disciplines."

Visit the [Statistical Society of Canada](#) for an extended version of the announcement.



Above: *Derelict Dolphins* by Roy Saunders, Clinical Associate Professor Emeritus, Paediatrics, member of the Emeritus College Photo Group.



**George McWhirter,**  
Professor Emeritus, Creative Writing  
Griffin Poetry Prize

George McWhirter wins \$78,000 for the international prize for his translation of *Self-Portrait in the Zone of Silence*, written in Spanish by Mexican poet Homero Aridjis, New Directions Publishing.

The [international prize](#) of C\$130,000 is shared 60% to the translator, 40% to the original author; each of the other finalists receive C\$10,000.

See our interview with George in the [Spring 2024 Newsletter](#). George will be appearing at [Event #43 at the Vancouver Writers Fest](#) at Granville Island on Oct 24, 2024.

## Interview with an Award Winner

**Robert Armstrong**, Professor Emeritus,  
Pediatrics and Aga Khan University, Kenya

*What was the name of award you received?*

President's Award for Distinguished Service by Emeriti

*What is this award given for generally?*

The UBC Emeritus College presents a President's Award to emeritus professors having displayed exceptional leadership in volunteer community services.

*For what work did you specifically receive the award?*

In 2010 I joined Aga Khan University in Nairobi, Kenya to assist in the development of a new medical school for East Africa that would be of an international standard of quality and would train specialists across the core disciplines of medicine with the goal to retain graduates within East Africa in public and private health care and universities. The initial focus on resident training established the capacity to develop undergraduate programs including the co-training of medical and nursing students. The award also recognized my initiative to capture the history of child health care in BC over the 25 years from 1995 – 2020.

*How does this relate to your work in general?*

My career interest has been in academic medicine primarily focused on child health and health care with a commitment to a global perspective.

*What part of your work are you most proud of?*

I am most proud of contributions to the development of programs and structures that are sustainable and have impact on health and health care.

*Are you continuing with the work as emeritus professor:*

While returning to BC in 2020, I have continued to support the Aga Khan University as an emeritus professor in the Department of Pediatrics with focus on child disability, sit on the Aga Khan Health Services Board, East Africa, and led the establishment of an Emeritus structure for AKU (modeled on that of UBC)



Above: Robert Armstrong enjoying time with family on Cortes Island

and currently Chair the Steering Committee. The history project continues as well.

*What advice do you have for upcoming members in the field?*

Professionals are a “global glue” that through, engagement and collaboration, build capacity, understanding and good will. Work to sustain these relationships.

*What has been the highlight of your retirement so far?*

Opportunity to be part of the lives of our children and grandchildren.

*What do you like to do in your spare time?*

Living and enjoying life on Cortes Island while still being locally and globally connected through the web!

## Nominate Someone!

Robert Armstrong received the President's Award for Distinguished Service by UBC Emeriti in the Spring.

The deadline for award nominations is **Feb 27, 2025**. If you know of a colleague you think may be eligible, consider nominating them!

More information can be found on the [Emeritus College website](#)



## Scholarly Activities of Members in Retirement

**Rhea Tregebov**, Associate Professor Emeritus,  
School of Creative Writing

When I retired from my position at UBC in July 2017, before turning 64 that August, I had a plan. I'd published my first book of poetry back in 1982 and my writing career had been sustained mostly by buying myself time to write through freelance work, a few grants and prizes, and a small income from royalties and subsidiary sales. Being hired by UBC Creative Writing in January 2005 meant the end of financial instability for me, and the opportunity to devote myself whole-heartedly to the



Above: Rhea Tregebov in front of a display for Talking to Strangers.

teaching that I'd previously had to shoehorn into a packed schedule of technical writing and editing. But the UBC position also meant that I continued to balance my own creative writing with my responsibilities in service and teaching. No complaints about work load!

Sabbaticals and the generous support of Creative Writing allowed me to publish an anthology of translations, [Arguing with the Storm](#) (2007) my first novel, [The Knife Sharpener's Bell](#) (2009) as well as my seventh collection of poetry, [All Souls'](#) (2012). But by the time I started considering retiring, I found myself longing to sweep my desk clear for my next project, a second novel. What followed retirement was every writer's dream, unimpeded time to focus on a large and demanding project. By June 2018, I had the contract for the novel, [Rue des Rosiers](#), in hand and an editor assigned. In April 2019, the book was published.

Of course, things changed once the pandemic got us in its grip. The travel I'd enjoyed, including a six-week teaching gig at a university in Tokyo, was off the table. And the social connections that I felt had too often been sidelined by work were now sidelined altogether. There were moments when I wished I was still teaching, despite the huge challenges, just to feel useful and to remain in community. But I had already begun my next writing project, an eighth collection of poetry. [Talking to Strangers](#) was contracted in December 2021, and with the logjam in the publishing industry due to the pandemic, just came out in April 2024. In the meanwhile, I continued to work on the manuscript, which was very much shaped by my experience of the constraints and losses of the pandemic.

Happily, the book has been well received, with positive reviews and readership. I'll be giving a reading at [Green College](#) on October 16, and will be part of a panel at [Event #58 at the Vancouver Writers' Fest](#) on October 25th.



Above: Photo of Linc Kesler (right) at his retirement in dialogue with Larry Grant at the Longhouse. Larry Grant's Musqueam name is sʔəyəʔəq, and since retiring as a machinist he has worked at UBC in many capacities: as Resident Elder at the First Nations House of Learning for more than 15 years, as advisor in First Nations Studies and in the First Nations and Endangered Languages program for more than 20 years, as a long-time member of the President's Advisory Committee on Aboriginal (now Indigenous) Affairs since 2009, and as member of probably a dozen faculty search committees. He is one of two primary liaisons with Musqueam, the other being Leona Sparrow. He has given at least a hundred Musqueam welcomes to events and ceremonies on campus. Dr. Linc Kesler was formerly director of First Nations Studies in the Arts Faculty, director of the First Nations House of Learning and senior advisor to four UBC presidents on Aboriginal affairs.

## Two Special Events to Recognize

### SEPTEMBER 30TH: NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

**Linc Kesler**, Associate Professor Emeritus  
Institute for Critical Indigenous Studies & English

### KNOWLEDGE, UNDERSTANDING . . . RECONCILIATION?

If you feel that you have lived in Canada for many years but still know little about Indigenous peoples or history, you are not alone, nor is it an accident. For more than a century it was government policy to suppress information about Indigenous people and cultural expression and to exclude all but the most cursory information from school curricula. When I arrived at UBC in 2003, with the exception of a few truly expert faculty, it seemed that very few people were at all aware of Indigenous issues, and the Indigenous people I met did not describe the campus as a friendly place.

Over the next twenty years, many of us have worked very hard to change that situation—to bring greater visibility to Indigenous people on campus and to create better circumstances for Indigenous students,

faculty, and staff, more functional curricula, and better relationships with Indigenous communities. The developments have been pervasive and extensive. Most are embedded in units, but some have also resulted in changes that you can easily see.

One of our strategies was to increase visual markers of Indigenous presence on campus, eventually including Musqueam building names and street signs, but beginning with west coast traditional mnemonic carvings. Some have been at UBC for decades, including the many located at [MOA](#), and ones, such as Ellen Neal's 1948 *Victory Through Honour* pole, that have a rich local history (you can read about it on [this website created for the UBC Centennial](#)). Among more recent additions are the qiyəplenəx<sup>w</sup> (Capilano) statue north of the Allard School of Law, the Musqueam sʔi:ʔqəy̓ qeqən post opposite the Alumni Centre, and the Reconciliation Pole carved by Haida chief 7idansuu (James Hart) at the south end of the Main Mall. That pole was pulled into place with ropes by hundreds of people on April 1, 2017. More about the pole and a video of the event may be [found here](#). The iconography of Reconciliation Pole addresses the history of the Indian residential schools, and its carving and placement were coincident with the opening of the UBC Indian Residential School History and Dialogue

Centre (IRSHDC) located between the Koerner Library and IK Barber Learning Centre. That opening event, attended by Indian residential school survivors and UBC and community leaders, also included a statement of apology read by President Santa Ono for the University's complicity in that and other oppressive systems. More about the Centre and its opening is [available here](#).

The IRSHDC was developed through years of work in conjunction with the Indian Residential School Survivors Society and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. The TRC was formed in 2008 as part of the settlement to the largest class-action lawsuit in Canadian history, brought by former students and survivors of the residential schools against the crown and the churches that operated the schools. The schools were one of the government policies that operated, largely away from the awareness of most Canadians, to deliberately undermine the viability of Indigenous communities and cultures. For more than a hundred years, Indigenous children, often at a very young age,



Above: qiyəplenəx<sup>w</sup> (Capilano) statue north of the Allard School of Law by Musqueam artist Brent Sparrow Jr.

were forcibly removed from their families and placed in the schools, often for years, where they were forbidden to speak their native languages, denied contact with their families, and subject to systematic malnutrition and harsh regimes of psychological, physical, and often sexual abuse. Many students died in the schools, with mortality rates at times in excess of 60%. Those who survived often left deeply traumatized, unable to return to their communities, and left to struggle with their trauma on unforgiving city streets. Those who did return were often alienated and passed on the patterns of abuse that had formed their lives to their children. The trauma of the schools is intergenerational, and their legacy is still very much with us today; it is the suffering of those students that we commemorate each year on Orange Shirt Day.

The residential schools were only one among many destabilizing practices pursued by governments, but they are perhaps the most easily understood, since the abuses they involved were perpetrated on defenseless children who had done nothing to deserve them. On November 8, 2011, after attending an Indian Residential School Survivors Society event on the North Shore, we worked with the IRSSS to conduct a day-long event in the UBC Longhouse to inform



Above: Archival photo of *Victory Through Honour Pole* by Kwakwaka'wakw carver Ellen Neal. Photo courtesy of the MOA archives.



Above: Aerial photo of the Reconciliation Pole carved by Haida chief 7idansuu (James Hart).

campus leaders about the residential school history, but also learn about how some units on campus were working to integrate understanding of it and other matters into their curricula. More than 300 campus leaders and community members attended for a long and difficult day, though it ended on a positive note—and it changed the dialogue on campus substantially: rather than having to constantly make the case for the need to address Indigenous concerns, we were now able to talk more directly about how they might be effectively addressed. The video record of that day is [available here](#).

When the TRC conducted its last major event on the west coast in September 2013, UBC conducted many events, including the most-attended exhibition in the history of the Belkin Gallery and exhibits at [MOA](#) and other locations. UBC also suspended classes on the first day of the event, the only university in Canada to do so, so that students and faculty could attend the event and hear survivor testimony. Thousands participated, some staying to the end of the day to cheer when, in a darkened auditorium, President Stephen Toope announced UBC's intention to work towards the formation of the IRSHDC at UBC so that the history of the schools would not be forgotten and that knowledge of it form a core part of a UBC education.

The term “Reconciliation” is very ambivalent for many Indigenous people, suggesting for some the idea that the injuries of the past—and those that continue

today—can somehow be overcome and “made right.” That is perhaps not really the most functional aspiration. Understanding what has happened here, recognizing our different histories for what they are, and working for better relationships are perhaps more realistic goals. If you would like to know more about these and other issues, including land (why, for instance, we acknowledge Musqueam territory as “unceded”) and the legal landscape that has transformed relations (two of the most influential in Canadian history coming from Musqueam), please see [Indigenous Foundations](#), a website designed to provide concise information on a range of Indigenous topics.

Also consider watching two films, *Kanesatake* (on the Oka crisis) and *Finding Dawn* (on missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls) on open access of the [National Film Board website](#): they are key entry points to understanding a broad range of issues. And if you are on campus, be sure to visit the IRSHDC, talk to people, and explore its advanced interactive displays.

After so many years of silence, there is now a growing body of high-quality information by both Indigenous and non-Indigenous scholars available—from UBC and many other institutions. There is a lot to know and understand for the prospect of better relations that can follow.





Above: *Strung Together* by Roy Saunders, Clinical Associate Professor Emeritus, Paediatrics, member of the Emeritus College Photo Group.

## OCTOBER 1ST: INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS

UBC Emeritus College Celebrating the Occasion of the United Nations International Day of Older Persons, October 1, 2024.

**Dianne Newell**, Professor Emerita, History and The Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries, former principal of the UBC Emeritus College, and founding member of the October 1 Committee on the World Day of Older Persons, October 1, European Association of Professors Emeriti.

October 1, 2024, marks the 34th celebration of the United Nations International Day of Older Persons. In Canada, this day is celebrated each year as National Seniors Day. The European Association of Professors Emeriti (EAPE) knows it as the World Day of Older Persons.

As part of the global celebration of this important date, the Emeritus College of the University of British Columbia designated its opening General Meeting for the 2024-2025 academic year to a special talk by Emeritus College member Carole Christopher on the important role that 'elders' are able to play in Canadian society and on aspects of the local-national initiative in Canada to organize Seniors Climate Action Day on October 1, 2024: *Lovin' the Earth: Elders and Climate Action*. The meeting and talk took place on 25th September.

Dr. Christopher is a retired member of the UBC Department of Food and Nutritional Sciences and contributes to the Volunteer special interest group of the Emeritus College. She is an executive member of the board of Vancouver's environmental non-profit organization, the Society for Promoting Environmental Conservation (SPEC), one of the oldest environmental non-profits in Canada, and Dr. Christopher is founder of the Elders Circle within that organization. In 2018 the City of Vancouver acknowledged Dr. Christopher for her thirty-five years of volunteer work in the community as the recipient of the Vancouver Award of Excellence in the category of "Healthy City for All."

## We Are Looking for Unit Reps!

The Membership Committee has been diligently working to fill several vacant unit representative positions. Unit reps play a critical role to foster the flow of information between departments and retired faculty. We're excited to share that we're seeking enthusiastic candidates to step into these roles. If you, or someone you know, is interested in becoming a unit representative for any of the departments listed below, please reach out to David Hill at [dhill02@mail.ubc.ca](mailto:dhill02@mail.ubc.ca) or Queenie Law at [office@emerituscollege.ubc.ca](mailto:office@emerituscollege.ubc.ca).

Your involvement would be greatly appreciated as we strive to strengthen our community and enhance Emeriti engagement. You can learn more about being a unit rep on [our website](#).

Departments with current vacancies include:

Civil Engineering  
SCARP School of Community and Regional Planning  
Art, History, Visual Art and Theory  
Economics  
Oral Biological and Medical Sciences  
Biochemistry & Molecular Biology  
Emergency Medicine  
Medicine Department  
Pathology and Laboratory Medicine  
Psychiatry  
Radiology  
English Language and Literatures



This presentation to members of the UBC Emeritus College aligns well with the mission of the College and a founding aspiration of the UN International Day of Older Persons: “Promoting Intergenerational Models.” In 1990 the United Nations General Assembly (res. 45/106) declared October 1 the International Day of Older Persons (or, UNIDOP). ‘Older persons’ is defined to mean people who are 65 years or older. The broad objective in undertaking this initiative was “to recognize the contributions of older persons and examine issues that affect their lives.” A recent annual theme of UNIDOP is: “Fulfilling the Promises of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for Older Persons: Across Generations.” The UN calculates that by 2030, older persons are projected to outnumber youth globally.

As a final note, the European Association for Professors Emeriti, under the direction of a former president and editor, Professor Emeritus Natale Gaspare De Santo, is responsible for the involvement of the Emeritus College in the October 1 celebrations. The European organization promotes and collects information on the events taking place in Europe and beyond, and it features its findings in a fall issue of the impressive *Bulletin of the Association of Professors Emeriti*.

In this regard EAPE had developed a special relationship with the UBC Emeritus College, including initiating and participating in a joint celebration on October 1, 2021, “[EAPE-Emeritus College international webinar panel on Healthy Aging](#).” Then in 2023, the Council of the UBC Emeritus College decided it would be in keeping with the current content of the College Newsletter to showcase in

a special supplement a sampling of the retiree activities of our members from a range of disciplines and interests, and to share the publication with EAPE members. The team of Carolyn Gilbert, Judith Hall, Wendy Hall, and Dianne Newell co-edited the Supplement: “[Celebrating Aging on the Occasion of the United Nations International Day of Older Persons 2023](#).” (pdf)

The date of this present issue of the College Newsletter has been moved up to 1 October in recognition of the importance of our commitment to the International Day of Older Persons celebration.

### **LOVIN’ THE EARTH: ELDERS AND CLIMATE ACTION**

with Dr. Carole Christopher, Founder and Leader of the SPEC Elders Circle  
General Meeting, Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Carole introduced the audience to the SPEC Elders Circle, described what it means to be an elder and why it’s crucial in this time of deep social polarization to have voices of experience and wisdom. You can view the recording of the event on the [Emeritus College YouTube](#).

Please save the date for the second [General Meeting](#) on Wednesday Nov 6, 2024.

# ALL MY RELATIONS

Indigenous Wisdom and the Climate, Environment Emergency

Above: Promotional still for 'All My Relations'.

## OTHER EVENTS CELEBRATING DAY OF THE OLDER PERSON

### CLIMATE CRAWL THROUGH ARTS, CULTURE & ACTION AT PERFORMANCE WORKS

Hosted by [Seniors for Climate](#), this will be an immersive experience to explore how the Arts can contribute to climate action and make an IMPACT across the generations. Engage with thought-provoking short film documentaries, participate in interactive line dancing and eco-creative workshops, and take part in a powerful letter-writing campaign for our leaders.

### SPECIAL EMERITUS COLLEGE HIGHLIGHT

At 4:15 pm there will be a sneak peak of the Emeritus College Climate and Nature Emergency Cohort film.

*All My Relations* is a 48-minute film, part of a 4-part series, currently in production. Directed and produced by UBC Emeritus Professor, **Frank Tester**, it deals with the climate/environment emergency as a cultural, social and spiritual challenge rather than something to be addressed by technical means.

With Siila Watt-Cloutier, former chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference and Nobel Prize nominee as a discussant with four students, the film identifies climate change as a human rights issue affecting not only Indigenous peoples. Based on the premise that we live in a culture that has, for hundreds of years, treated nature - all of it - as a means for economic growth,

development and 'progress', *All My Relations* focuses on the Indigenous conviction that we are an integral part of nature; that our survival on the planet is a profound challenge to current beliefs and human behaviour.

[More event Information](#)

## Join the Adventure!

# Climate Crawl through Arts, Culture & Action

Please join us at Performance Works on Granville Island to explore how the arts - **film, music, dance, etc.** are contributing to climate action and IMPACT across the generations.

October 1st, 1pm - 7pm  
Performance Works on Granville Island  
1218 Cartwright St, Vancouver

We are grateful to live, work, and play on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and salilwataʔ (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.



Scan QR code  
Free tickets on Eventbrite





Above: The iconic Kitsilano open air swimming pool, at 137 m, is the longest in North America. Courtesy of Helen Spencer.

## News from the Special Interest Groups

### NEW SIG

#### VETERANS, MILITARY AFFILIATED, EMERITI & ACADEMICS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

**Marv Westwood**, Professor Emeritus, Educational and Counselling Psychology and Special Education;

**Richard Vedan**, Associate Professor Emeritus, Social Work; and **Judith Hall**, Professor Emerita, Pediatrics.

In initiating the Veterans, Military affiliated, Emeriti and Academics, Special Interest Group (SIG), the three co-convenors will be drawing upon their experience with the UBC Institute for Veterans Education and Transition and the Senior Scholars Lecture Series: "Intergenerational Effects of Psychological Trauma". Past clinical experience and more recently programs such as "The Long Shadow of War" show us that immediate and extended family members of veterans are impacted over multiple generations.

From their past and current practice, the co-convenors are engaged with colleagues across a wide range of disciplines and fields of practice related to the topic being addressed; and are aware that members of the UBC community have a broad range of background and experience with Canada's Armed Forces. For some, experience may be relatively short while others have had careers of longer duration. Each have considerable experience which is an untapped

### Going for a Swim at Kits Pool

I walk down the hill  
under the cherry trees, a perch for angry crows,  
past the patients parked beside their minders.  
How long before I join them?  
Do they remember how it felt to swim?

Everyone is looking the same way,  
across the sparkling pool to the sea,  
to the etch-a-sketch city against the morning sky,  
and the mountains, slightly ashamed  
of their parcels of forested properties  
spread out like a moth-eaten blanket.  
I clutch my bag of swimming things and refuse to be  
distracted  
from thoughts of the pleasure to come.

I walk into the pool  
as the light plays in rippled  
rings of aqua and indigo,  
turquoise and silver,  
endlessly  
marrying sunlight and water.

I plunge into this gift,  
this glory. I grow a second skin,  
as the water slides over my hot shoulders,  
a net of silver bubbles, merging, dissolving.  
Each arm shapes an arc,  
each hand pushes down on cushions of water,  
my legs scissor me steadily forward.  
When I turn my head to breathe  
I look through amber lenses.  
I see stills from a movie:  
a woman hitching up her swimsuit,  
a child's face, eyes shut,  
streaming wet and laughing.  
I slip through the water,  
a seagull flaring away  
overhead.

Back in the world  
I climb the hill again,  
tired and happy.  
The patients have been wheeled away.  
The crows are silent.  
Behind me, across the bay,  
the mountains quietly nudge the sky.



Above: *Lunar Topography* by Roy Saunders, Clinical Associate Professor Emeritus, Paediatrics, member of the Emeritus College Photo Group.

resource for mentoring UBC veteran students; within the overall goal of making UBC a more “Veteran Friendly Campus”. Colleagues will be invited to participate in discussions at an inaugural meeting to be scheduled for late October 2024.

The changing geopolitical climate is bringing exponentially greater challenges locally and internationally to the role of Canada’s military. With increasing calls to assist civilian authorities with firefighting, floods, snowstorms, and health care emergencies; conventional roles for greater national security, long-term commitments to NATO and UN duties are also escalating. It can be anticipated that the demands upon Canada’s military personnel will increase. The need for support will increase for those entering the military and their families; and for veterans who have completed service. The SIG will enhance the ability to assist and support veterans past, present and future who will be studying at UBC; and the faculty and emeriti with whom they engage.

The support services will also be relevant to the situation of the increasing number of migrant and refugees coming to Canada.

Notice of the inaugural meeting will be sent out in the Emeritus College E-News as details become available.

### **PHOTO GROUP**

**Roy Saunders**, Convenor, Clinical Associate Professor Emeritus, Paediatrics

The Emeritus College Photo Group continues to meet monthly to share photos and offer advice in a friendly

non-competitive environment. All skill levels and abilities welcome. Watch the Emeritus College website for dates/themes or reach out to Roy for more information.

Roy also provided the wonderful photos from the group for this newsletter:

*My fascination with photography began very early but took off after I bought an Olympus OM-2 in 1978. I have lived and worked in UK, Germany, Australia and Canada, plus travelled to many other countries, where I enjoyed capturing regional nature, weather and scenery. As a hobby, it was eclipsed only by my love of aviation and I have pilot’s licences from UK, Australia, Canada and USA, since 1974. This has become a favoured theme of my photography ever since. I also have dabbled in astrophotography, but with very modest success, in view of limited equipment. The UBCEC PhotoGroup members have helped me develop better results in action, portrait, macrophotography and many other themes in recent years.*

### **POETIC ODYSSEYS GROUP**

**Philip Resnick**, Convenor, Professor Emeritus, Political Science

The Poetic Odysseys group was created in 2018 as a forum for emeritus faculty and their partners with an interest in poetry. In the early years, it met twice each term in one of the classrooms in the building where the Emeritus College had its offices, with a broad range of participants in attendance. With the onset of the

COVID pandemic, we went online and have continued to meet twice a term using Zoom. Members who write poetry have also taken to exchanging poems with each other online and have contributed poems to the College newsletter.

Interested participants should reach out [for more information](#).

## EASY RIDERS

**Graeme Wynn**, Convenor, Professor Emeritus, Geography

The EASY RIDERS Cycling SIG took full advantage of an uncommonly good summer in the Lower Mainland this year. We logged nine collective outings between late May and early September, venturing by various routes, through Vancouver and as far afield as New Westminster, Burnaby, Richmond, Steveston, and North Vancouver. Leadership of the rides was shared among five colleagues; groups ranged in size from five to more than a dozen, and outings were scheduled on different days of the "work week" - keeping weekends sacrosanct. All outings included a well-chosen stop for refreshment (lunch or a snack), and as the sun shone most days, conversation often flowed as folks lingered and reflected on the easy and ready accessibility of cycling opportunities in and around Vancouver. Our aims, from the outset, have been modest exercise, convivial conversation, the development of friendships, and the exploration of parts of Metro Vancouver unfamiliar to many. New riders are always welcome. Look for announcements about the 2025 Easy Riders season (between May and September) early next spring, or contact Graeme Wynn at [wynn@geog.ubc.ca](mailto:wynn@geog.ubc.ca)

## GROVES OF ACADEME

(otherwise known as a Book Club!)

**Graeme Wynn**, Convenor, Professor Emeritus, Geography

## A MEETING OF MINDS IN THE GROVES OF ACADEME

In April, members of the UBC Emeritus College book group (The Groves of Academe) discussed [The Deck](#), by [Fiona Farrell](#), one of New Zealand's leading writers who



Above: Easy Riders after lunch at the Milltown Pub

has published poetry, short story collections, works of non-fiction, and many novels.

*The Deck* is an intriguing, multi-layered work. Its title alludes to Giovanni Boccaccio's classic *The Decameron*, written in fourteenth-century Italy shortly after the Black Death; Farrell wrote her Dec(k) during the waning years of the COVID-19 pandemic. Like Boccaccio, who tells a tale of ten people sheltering from the plague in a villa outside Florence and distracting themselves from surrounding horrors by telling stories, Farrell gathers a slightly smaller group (relatives, friends, a microcosm of society), at a holiday home somewhere in New Zealand's South Island. They are there, in some indeterminate but not distant future, to escape a new lethal haemorrhagic virus that is sweeping the globe. The deck with a view of the bay, and hills and forest at its back, is where these folks (mostly) gather to eat and drink, share stories about their pasts, and reflect on a deeply uncertain future.

Scenes and characters are richly drawn. Worlds of understanding are encapsulated in a few lines. "He's one of those withered men, legs like dry kindling, polo shirt tucked into the waistband of knee-length shorts, hair scraped in damp strands over a pink scalp. Mainstay of the bowling club, Treasurer of the local branch of Rotary. A tidy man who amputates the branches from the trees on the boundary fence and mows his lawn with savage intent as if every blade might fight back. A man who has raised two terrorised kids and kept a lifetime grip on a dim, compliant wife." The entangled lives of Farrell's characters, and the experiences they choose to share, are surprisingly diverse, and revealing. They are also

## GROVES 2024-25 BOOKS AND SCHEDULE

Sept: Timothy Findlay, *Famous Last Words*

October: Eleanor Catton, *Birnam Wood*

November: Paul Lynch, *Prophet Song*

January: Jenny Erpenbeck, *Kairos*

Feb: Kate Cooper, *Queens of a Fallen World*

Mar: VV Ganeshanathan, *Brotherless Night*

April: Selva Almada, *Not a River*

thought-provoking -- inviting the reader to muse on the fortuitous qualities of lives lived, on the perils and rewards of decisions made, and on the consequences that flow from the often seemingly random draw of life-chances from the great deck of possibilities.

Thoughtful, evocative, and carefully-crafted, this dense and intricate work was well liked by members of the book group, not least perhaps because it raises important questions about the human place in the world – and goes some way to suggesting answers to them. Speaking at the Auckland Writers' Festival in 2018, Fiona Farrell insisted that all of her writing has been political. She also observed that “the past is always available to us, like that ancient cabin trunk that can be retrieved from the back of the garage, reworked and given new purpose as a coffee table.” *The Deck*, unimagined when these remarks were made, offers a terrific example of such repurposing, by an author at the top of her game. Among the many pearls and riches on/in this coffee table are profound insights into human character, examples of the ways in which stories give shape to lives and allow people to go on, and -- in a world exhibiting little regard for history and awash with “alternative truths” – a convincing rebuttal to those who would ignore the past and question “the point of fiction, imagining an alternative reality, as the world outside the window is relentlessly destroying itself.”

With the help of the Emeritus College Events Co-ordinator Sarah Close Humayun, Fiona Farrell joined book group members via Zoom for part of their discussion. This was, truly, a meeting of minds. Fiona Farrell (with whom I had talked several years ago about

her writing on the Christchurch earthquakes) expressed her delight at the “free flowing conversation, with some terrific people,” and appreciated the ways in which questions from the group “directed me ... into territory where I really had to think anew.” A recording of this informative discussion can be viewed on the [Emeritus College YouTube](#).

The GROVES OF ACADEME Book Group meets on Zoom every five or six weeks between September and May. We choose books for the year ahead in late spring, and generally arrange at least one opportunity each year for those interested to get together for lunch or perhaps in other informal settings. Zoom discussions have worked very well. Last spring, we were able to have the author of the book we had just read join our discussion for the last hour or so, and on the success of that initiative we will seek opportunities to repeat such arrangements.

Our first discussion this year was of Timothy Findley's *Famous Last Words* — Sherrill Grace, one of our number and Findley's distinguished biographer set up and guided the discussion of this complicated, beautifully written and compellingly imagined work, and the conversation was stimulating, intelligent, deeply moving, and, as always, articulate.

Please contact [Graeme Wynn](#) if you are interested in participating in this group as and when you can.



Above: Author Fiona Farrell, with her grand-daughters Huia and Ngaio, at the Dunedin, New Zealand, launch of *The Deck*.



Above: Leopard in India. Photo courtesy of Rick Stokes, Associate Professor Emeritus, Paediatrics

## TRAVEL GROUP

**Paul Steinbok**, Convenor, Professor Emeritus, Surgery

## SEPTEMBER MEETING

*Returning to Singapore and Bali*

**Uri Ascher**, Professor Emeritus, Computer Science

Last July we spent three weeks in Singapore and in Bali, Indonesia, in a trip that started a bit like a comedy of errors on my part but ended up being very good and interesting. The (probably only) common thread between the two locations of Bali and Singapore is the often rather significant changes that we found in both locations, compared to our previous trips there almost 20 years earlier. While Singapore is self-contained, in Bali we decided to avoid the popular south and travelled instead to Ubud, Munduk, Lovina, Amed, Sidemen, Lembongan and Ceningan.

## OCTOBER MEETING

*Namibia: The Land, The People, The Animals*

**Nancy Langton**, Associate Professor Emeritus, Sauder School of Business

In March I spent three weeks in Namibia. Namibia is a vast country on the southwest coast of Africa. It is about twice the size of California but has the second lowest population density in the world. So, it's largely unpopulated. The journey starts in Windhoek (the capital), travels to the Skeleton Coast, and then journeys northward to the edge of Angola with stops to visit tribal villages along the way, before returning to Windhoek.

The journey covered 3614 km round trip and reached temperatures of 43C.

The trip included a mix of landscape, culture (including tribal culture), and animals in the wild. The talk will explore these different areas to show how beautiful and interesting this country is, particularly its landscape and its people.

## NOVEMBER MEETING

*Gujarat and Rajasthan, India: Cities, Temples and Wildlife*

**Rick Stokes**, Associate Professor Emeritus, Paediatrics

In February and March of 2024, we spent over 5 weeks on 2 tours of Gujarat and Rajasthan in Northwest India. The first tour covered "cultural" aspects of the area, visiting numerous cities and towns, temples, stepwells, forts and textile artisans. This included visits to Ahmedabad, Bhuj, the Great Kutch desert, Gondal, a climb up 3500 steps to the Jain temple complex at Palitana, a luxurious stay in a lakeside palace hotel in Santrampur and visits to the forts and deserts of Rajasthan in Jaisalmer, Jodhpur and Jaipur. We then transferred to our wildlife tour that covered different areas of Gujarat and Rajasthan with visits to safari parks and areas known for their birding opportunities. Besides our usual quest for bird viewing, we spent a lot of time observing large mammals with numerous sightings of our top target mammal, the leopard. We were also lucky enough to sight Asian Lions at a kill, hyenas, wolves, jackals, wild boar, antelope, jungle cat and desert fox cubs.

Visit the [Upcoming Events](#) for date/time details.



## VEG (VEGAN ENTHUSIAST GROUP)

**Elizabeth Dean**, Convenor, Professor Emeritus,  
Physical Therapy

As part of its commitment to serving as a community resource, this review has been contributed through VEG (Vegan Enthusiast Group). For further information about VEG, an inclusive plant-based resource Special Interest Group, see [VEG | Vegan Enthusiast Group](#) or contact [elizabeth.dean@ubc.ca](mailto:elizabeth.dean@ubc.ca) to be added to the listserv.

## 'WE ARE THE WEATHER. SAVING THE PLANET BEGINS AT BREAKFAST'

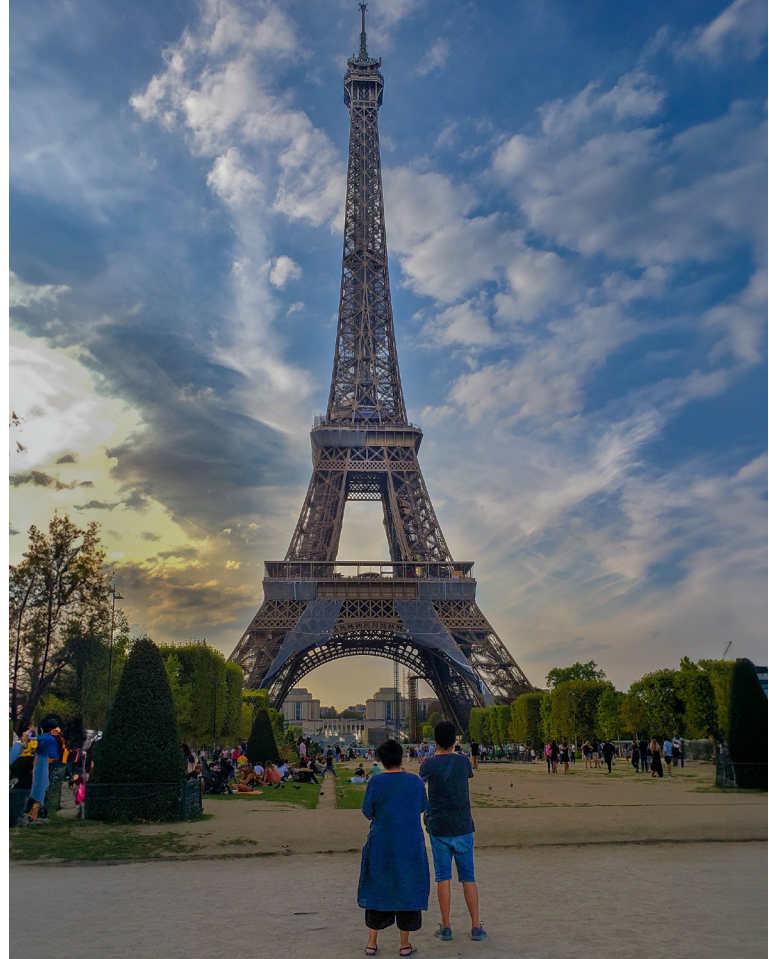
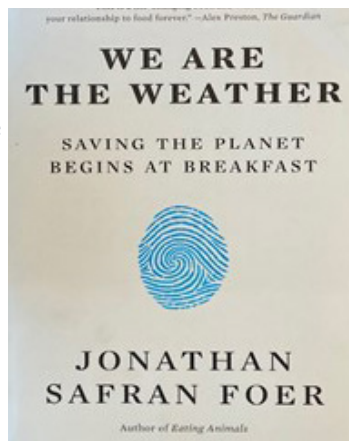
Jonathan Safran Foer

Publisher: Picador Farrar, Straus and Giroux, New York, NY, 2019. 272 pages; including 45 pages of notes and citations.

Jonathan Safran Foer, trained in philosophy, is an American novelist who is on faculty at New York University in the department of creative writing. He is known for his non-fiction works 'We Are the Weather: Saving the Planet Begins at Breakfast' and 'Eating Animals' as well as his novels 'Everything Is Illuminated', 'Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close', and 'Here I Am'.

Given his philosophical bent, 'We Are the Weather: Saving the Planet Begins at Breakfast' is a refreshing lens to climate change. I concur with Mark Bittman, in his New York Times Book Review, that '....Jonathan Safran Foer brings personality and passion to an issue that no one has figured out how to address in a way that inspires an adequate response.'

Foer describes how we have converted planet Earth into 'a farm for growing animal products' with the consequences being catastrophic. As members of the global family, he argues that the task of saving our planet needs to come from a place of reckoning



Above: *Bonsoir, Paris* by Roy Saunders, Clinical Associate Professor Emeritus, Paediatrics, member of the Emeritus College Photo Group.

whereby we forego some immediate comforts and pleasures for the future's sake, beyond electric cars, heat pumps, and solar panels. He makes a compelling case for solutions at the individual level, with each individual's choices counting – beginning with our choices about what we eat and don't eat for breakfast.

'We Are the Weather: Saving the Planet Begins at Breakfast' will be of interest to those committed to climate change solutions, and individual agency, in particular, what we can do, one meal at a time.

And, in case you wondered...

## IS WINE VEGAN?

### Wine is Generally Not Vegan but There Are Worthy Vegan Alternatives

According to ChatGPT and confirmed by my other sources:

*Wine is not always vegan due to the 'fining' agents used during the clarification process. Traditionally, substances like gelatin (derived from animal collagen), egg whites,*

casein (a milk protein), and isinglass (derived from fish bladder) have been used as fining agents to remove impurities and sediment from the wine. While these substances help clarify the wine, they may leave trace amounts of animal-derived materials in the final product, making it unsuitable for vegans. However, many winemakers are now using plant-based alternatives such as bentonite clay or activated charcoal for fining, making their wines vegan-friendly. It's always a good idea to check the label or contact the manufacturer if you're unsure about the vegan status of a particular wine.

The 8 most common 'fining' agents used today, 5 are animal-based; 1 using plastic (undesirable in my view); and 2 use clay and carbon processes which are likely more 'organic'. Specifically, based on ChatGPT and confirmed by other sources:

- Casein, a milk protein
- Gelatin, a protein found in animal bones and hides
- Chitosan, a carbohydrate found in crustacean shells
- Albumin, egg whites
- Isinglass, a protein found in fish bladders
- Poly-vinyl-poly-pyrrolidone (PVPP), a human-made plastic
- Bentonite, purified clay
- Activated charcoal, a carbon

[BC Liquor Stores](#) boast over 50 vegan wines.



Here's a Villa Teresa white than we have enjoyed. There is an increasing number of organic wines available, but this does not mean they are 'vegan'. For this Villa Teresa white, you have to look on the back for 'vegan' mentioned specifically.

## ARE DEALCOHOLIZED WINES VEGAN?

After I began having some reaction to the preservatives in wine 18 months ago, Don and I began investigating

dealcoholized wines (does not necessarily imply they are preservative free, but removing the alcohol has reduced my stuffy symptoms). We sampled several, and many were glorified sweet juices, not recommended really. Then, the next question was 'Are they vegan?'

A couple of brands that have vegan options have stood out and we are continuing to purchase them (available at Safeway). The Australian brand Loxton is one that is 'largely vegan'. From communication with Loxton company representative, Liisa Palla, she responded: *Currently all Loxton wines except the Cabernet Sauvignon are vegan. This wine will be vegan also in the future.*



Personally, I have taken a liking to the sparkling Loxton Brut; 'almost' my daily go-to. It makes terrific mimosas when inviting guests for brunch.

Another line of dealcoholized wine that is very good, is Vin O (also available at Safeway, if you're lucky, as we clear the shelf!). However, now (dahh...), I appreciated that dealcoholized wines are also 'fined', I am still waiting to hear from the Vin O company about whether they use vegan processes. I shall report back on Vin O. Don likes the Vin O Cab Sav but, as mentioned, I am awaiting to here whether Vin O products are vegan.

As the demand increases, the products will continue to improve.

## WINE APPRECIATION GROUP

**David McArthur**, Convenor, Land and Food Systems

Dusty bottles in old stone cellars, wine styles steeped with tradition and with lingering, mysteriously enticing aromas, sometimes sold at auctions for 20 times their release price. What "new" aromas/attributes are in these aged wines and how do they compare with those in the young wines? These are just a few of the topics covered in the Emeritus College Wine Appreciation Group and there are spaces available in this year's group!

This group cannot go ahead unless enough participants register. Please reach out to David MacArthur at [david.mcarthur@ubc.ca](mailto:david.mcarthur@ubc.ca) if you are interested.



Above: Members of the Emeriti/Seniors' Sports Program after a 4v4 indoor soccer game. Photo courtesy of Harry Hubball.

## EMERITI/SENIORS' SPORTS PROGRAM

**Harry Hubball**, Convenor, Professor Emeritus, Curriculum and Pedagogy

The 2024 UBC Emeritus College Seniors' Sports Program (March-September) was met with an impressive participant response across six different sports including competitive team games and racquet sports (level 3 and above) using modified rules and customized formats. Emphasis is placed on sport-specific competitive games and fun social interaction. The EC multi-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, Food and Nutrition and Social Connection.

The EC Sports program is not a 'drop-in' seniors' sports program - instead, each particular sport is rooted in a community of practice which includes

arriving early to meet colleagues and help with set-up, positive group contributions and team spirit, safety (i.e., ability and fitness level, active warm-ups and cool-downs, fair play ethos, regular drink breaks), and post-game social refreshments. Further, all matches are officiated collectively without formal referees.

The 2024 competitive team games and racquet sports (level 3 and above) activities included *4-a-side Soccer*, and *doubles/singles: Tennis, Squash, Pickleball and Table Tennis*. There were many highlights throughout the sports sessions particularly the camaraderie and positivity among sports participants - many of whom met new and old colleagues on the pitch/court/etc. Six specific sports highlights included 1) the most senior participant and cricket/soccer galactico Ian Franks; 2) Adele Diamond for her amazing table tennis consistency; 3) John Oliffe's impressive Australian fast bowling skills; 4) tennis players who adapted incredibly quick and effectively in pickleball especially Brenda Peterson; 5) our brilliant physician participants (Cathy Pattinson and Andrew Mason) who were also available in case of match injuries; and, 6) Malcolm Kennard (infamously known as "Super Malc") who played 5 out of the 6 sports!

A big thanks goes out for the enthusiastic support and significant help by EC staff and colleagues/spouses/partners, the retired (and pre-retirement) UBC faculty, staff and physician participants, as well as significant in-kind support from KIN for a successful 2024 EC Sports Program. The 2025 EC Sports-specific sign-ups and schedule will be posted in the New Year.



Above: Members of the Emeriti/Seniors' Sports Program socializing after a tennis game. Photo courtesy of Harry Hubball.

Contact [Harry.Hubball@ubc.ca](mailto:Harry.Hubball@ubc.ca) for further details.

## COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER GROUP

**Ruth Derksen**, Convenor, Professor Emeritus,  
Philosophy of Language

**Nancy Gallini**, Convenor, Professor Emeritus,  
Economics

Results from the questions regarding community volunteering that were included in the membership survey were received from participants during this past summer. Anne Junker, Nancy Gallini and Ruth Derksen met several times to initially make suggestions and then review results. Overall, 265 respondents completed the survey. Some preliminary results are as follows:

- 53% are engaged in community volunteer activities and 36% are interested in getting engaged. This reveals that nearly 70% of the EC members are currently active (or are interested in) volunteering.
- A large number of respondents prefer vignettes of volunteers' experiences presented at meetings rather than hosting outside speakers.
- A wide range is evident in the range of organizations that respondents are currently volunteering or would like to volunteer in. The Community/Civic category is dominant in both lists, followed by Education. Healthcare is high for those already engaged and primary for those who would like to volunteer. Hence, a slight predisposition is evident toward those in medicine/public health who engage in volunteering.
- Another prominent feature is that 80% of those already volunteering work with adults (age 25 plus) and 63% work with seniors; similar responses apply to those who would like to volunteer.
- Somewhat surprising is the large number of volunteer organizations listed: a total of 97! With office staff assistance, all organizations will be posted on the EC website with corresponding information.
- Office staff will also provide a summary of the survey results in accessible form. It is hoped that the posting will be completed before April 2025.
- 56% of the respondents specified that they would



Above: *Warmed-up Meal* by Roy Saunders, Clinical Associate Professor Emeritus, Paediatrics, member of the Emeritus College Photo Group.

like the College to facilitate connections between prospective volunteers and organizations that need volunteers.

Significantly, the survey indicates that there is definitely a need and appetite for a SIG like the Community Volunteer Group. 70% of those not volunteering indicated it was because they have not yet found the most suitable opportunity for them.

The first meeting of the Community Volunteer Group was held on September 17th in the new board room at Brock Commons. Attendance was offered in-person and online. Three speakers presented at the meeting.

**Nancy Gallini**, former Dean of UBC's Faculty of Arts, and past Convenor of the Community Volunteer Group, discussed her recent involvement with Academics Without Borders (AWB)

**Peter Dodek**, from the Department of Medicine, described his volunteer activities in public schools, speaking about the advantages of a science education. He also discussed his recent involvement in developing a statement of institutional neutrality for university administrators to adopt for political events.



Above: Okanagan Outdoor Activities Group a bike trip on the old Kettle Valley railbed in Myra Canyon. Photo courtesy of Ian Walker.

**Graeme Wynn**, former principal of the Emeritus College presented his views on the significance of the Emeritus College, and specifically the important role of the Community Volunteer Group.

If you are interested in attending a future meeting or speaking about your volunteer experience, please contact Ruth Derksen at [ruth.derksen@ubc.ca](mailto:ruth.derksen@ubc.ca)

### **OKANAGAN OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES GROUP**

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

Recent activities include:

### **UBCO EXCURSION ON KVR**

On Monday, June 10, nine participants set out on a bike trip on the old Kettle Valley railbed in Myra Canyon (Myra Bellevue Provincial Park) close to, and above Kelowna. The KVR and Myra Canyon are one of the Okanagan's most important historical locations as well as providing dramatic views of the valley some 600 metres below. This portion of the KVR is particularly noted for its restored 16 wooden and 2 steel trestles.

The bike trip was led by Maury Williams\*, author of a book on the men who built the KVR and one of the professors who led historical-archaeological digs in old KVR construction camps. The group began on the east side near the old Myra station and biked some 11 kilometers to the Ruth station on the west side of the

canyon. We made numerous stops where Maury pointed out the trestle characteristics, noted the mortar-less retaining walls, explained old construction techniques as well as explaining the construction methods used in 1912 – all this set in spectacular scenery highlighted by numerous clumps of blue/pink penstemon flowers (in full bloom).

En route we stopped for lunch at trestle #2 overlooking the valley below where the chipmunks and ground squirrels badgered us for their share of the food!! After our repast we resumed the journey to a restored construction camp from the 1912 era. The camp was the site of one of UBC's historical archaeological digs and has recently been opened to the public.

The group returned over the same route, although this time faster than the three hours of the outbound trip.

\*Williams, Maurice. Myra's Men: Building the Kettle Valley Railway Myra Canyon to Penticton. Kelowna: Myra Canyon Trestle Restoration Society, 2008. ISBN: 978-0-9809878-0-5. Can be ordered through Amazon or through the distributor: Sandhill Book Marketing, Kelowna.

### **PICNIC AT KALOYA REGIONAL**

July was so hot, that our sole outdoor activity was actually an "inactivity". A small group of Okanagan Emeriti gathered to enjoy a picnic at Kaloya Regional Park in Lake Country on July 16. Considering the stifling weather and blazing sun, the 180 m "hike" from the parking lot to the picnic shelter was deemed more than sufficient "activity" for one day!

## HIKE ALONG THE GLADSTONE TRAIL

Our planned August outing suffered from inadequate advertising. Although Diana French had arranged to lead a hike on Aug 14, nobody showed up. Our apologies to Diana, and to all who missed the opportunity.

## WALK ALONG THE HIGH RIM TRAIL

On September 16, nine people took part in a hike and mushroom foray along the High Rim Trail from Beaver Lake Road to Wrinkly Face Provincial Park. After Dan Durall (Biology), explained the major groups of macrofungal sporocarps to the group, we had a 'treasure hunt' to find as many types as possible. Jeff and Leslie won the contest by finding a club mushroom, puffball, gilled mushroom, bolete, crust, toothed fungus, cup, and coral. Then we enjoyed a 5-km round-trip hike up to the park, where we had a snack while overlooking Winfield and the Valley. The weather was spectacular.

## FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Diana French will lead a hike into [Angel Springs near Kelowna in October](#). We've also started kicking around other ideas for late fall and winter activities.

Melanie Jones has arranged a Listserv for our Okanagan Outdoors Activities Group. Anyone who wants to be added please email [melanie.jones@ubc.ca](mailto:melanie.jones@ubc.ca)



Above: Mushrooms discovered by the Okanagan Outdoor Activities Group on the High Rim Trail walk.

# Committee and Program News

## GENERAL MEETING

The first General Meeting of the academic year took place on Sept 25 in the Ponderosa Ballroom.

Dr Carole Christopher spoke about the [SPEC Elders Circle](#) and the need to have voices that bring balance and wisdom during this time of deep social polarization.

[Watch the recording here](#)

Save the Date for the next General Meeting  
November 6 at 1:00 pm

A Look Behind the Scenes with Nancy Hermiston

## GREEN COLLEGE SERIES

These events are co-organized with UBC Emeritus College.

## DISCIPLINES OVER TIME: MAKING, KEEPING AND BREAKING THE BOUNDARIES OF KNOWLEDGE

### October Meeting: Kinesiology Over Time

Patricia Vertinsky, Member of Common Room at Green College and Professor Emerita of Kinesiology, UBC; Nicola Hodges, Professor of Kinesiology, UBC; Jasmin Ma, Assistant Professor of Kinesiology, UBC; and Matthew Fliss, PhD Candidate, Kinesiology, UBC

This series, co-hosted with UBC Emeritus College, brings together scholars who inhabit the same academic discipline or field of study, and are at different stages of their careers, to talk about how the boundaries separating their field of specialization from other fields have shifted over time. This first event in the series will stage a conversation between scholars of Kinesiology. The moderator will ask the panelists a series of questions about their perspectives on the discipline, and the discussion will be opened at an early stage to members of the audience. The goal of

the event is to grasp the interdisciplinary nexus that is "Kinesiology" in Canadian and other universities and to peer into possible futures of the field.

### November Event: Political Science Over Time

Richard Johnston, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, UBC (and Canada Research Chair in Public Opinion, Elections, and Representation); Afsoun Asahi, Assistant Professor of Political Science, UBC; and Henrik Jacobsen, Society Member of Green College and PhD Candidate, Political Science, UBC

This second event in the series will stage a conversation between scholars of Political Science. These conversations will inevitably lead to a consideration of cross-disciplinary influences and interdisciplinary trends, as participants account for changes in the cognitive strength of sub-disciplines and the rise and fall of disciplinary paradigms. 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.

For more information and up-to-date dates and times please visit the [Emeritus College website](#).



Above: Carole Christopher speaking at the General Meeting.

### CORPORATE CULTURE AND CLIMATE EMERGENCY PROGRAM

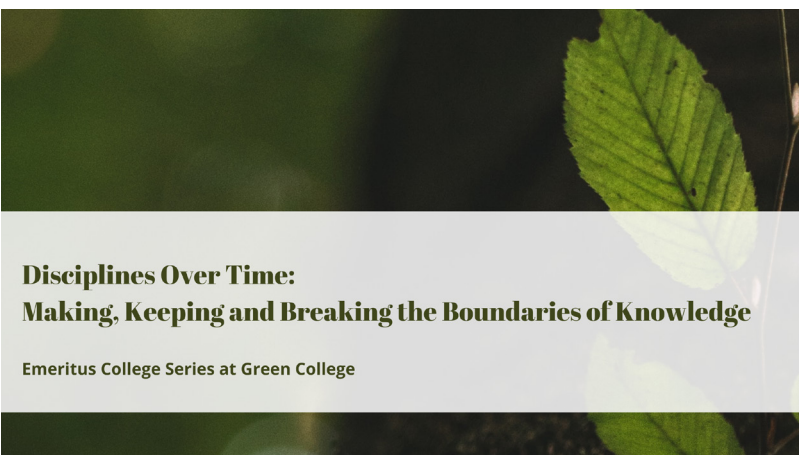
**Olav Slaymaker**, Convenor, Professor Emeritus, Geography, and

**Frank Tester**, Professor Emeritus, Social Work

This has been a busy summer for the Emeritus College Climate Emergency Cohort with seven regular Monday meetings (May 13–September 9), two meetings endorsing the Seniors for Climate Initiative (July 29 and August 19) and two full days of filming parts A and B of the Climate Emergency as a Cultural, Social and Spiritual Challenge (May 14 and July 23).

The regular Monday meetings were largely concerned with our on-going attempts to develop a genuinely interactive conversation with UBC's Senior Administration about the nature of the climate polycrisis and its implications for UBC's academic future. We met with Gage Averill and Moura Quayle on May 8 and sent a follow-up summary of the main points of discussion on May 28 to Moura, with a copy to Janice Stewart, who has now replaced Moura as Vice-Provost. Moura and Janice responded to the Cohort's critique on June 19 with an impressive list of UBC's Sustainability initiatives. On June 26, our Cohort responded to Janice and Moura, highlighting three points which have been sources of disagreement from the very beginning of this two and a half-year process:

- The "business as usual" model of constant growth needs to be complemented with a recognition of the importance of cultural, social and spiritual constraints.



### Disciplines Over Time: Making, Keeping and Breaking the Boundaries of Knowledge

Emeritus College Series at Green College



Above: Behind the scenes of 'All My Relations' in the Haida Longhouse at the MOA. Photo courtesy of Chad Galloway and Trail Films.

- The curriculum should promote wonder at humanity's privileged role as the consciousness of the living world and the need for incorporation of Indigenous ways of knowing, seeing and doing.
- The production of critical thinkers and inspired innovators is of at least comparable importance to that of creating employment-ready students.

The Seniors for Climate initiative occupied the Cohort on July 26 and August 19. Since August 19, Douw Steyn has represented the Cohort in supporting preparation for the October event and in communicating the eagerness of the Cohort to contribute Frank Tester's film "All My Relations" to the celebrations on October 1. Frank, as the director of the film, has contributed a huge amount of his pro bono time to editing.

The highlight of the summer's work has been the realization of two parts of the proposed four-part film; namely Part A "Voice" and Part B "All My Relations".

As promised in our last Newsletter report, Dr. Vanessa Andreotti, Dean of Education, University of



Above: Behind the scenes of 'All My Relations' in the Haida Longhouse. Photo courtesy of Chad Galloway and Trail Films.

Victoria was the professional discussant at the Telus Studio in UBC's Chan Centre on May 14, 2024. Vanessa was accompanied by five students, who grappled with the questions: "Who is being heard? Whose voices are missing from the discussion and action in dealing with the emergency? Why? What can be done about this?"

Dr. Siila Watt-Cloutier, OC and former Chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Council was the professional discussant at the Haida Longhouse at MOA on July 23. Siila was accompanied by four students, who bravely and maturely approached the question "What do Indigenous beliefs and perspectives offer in appreciating the cultural, social and spiritual nature of the polycrisis?"

Such was the maturity of the students' discussions that each of these films, after editing, has been deemed suitable for distribution to members of the Emeritus College on request.

The contribution of a screening of "All My Relations" to the Seniors for Climate initiative on October 1 is the first example of a public showing of this film and will enhance the Emeritus College's presence on campus.

The third and fourth filming sessions addressing the remaining sub-themes will be developed and filmed later this year, suitable funding dependent. "B-roll" film will be laid over segments of conversation to illustrate what is being discussed. A workshop meeting, following a rudimentary editing of the first shoot will include all those involved in the production - director, editor, 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 legacy of the Emeritus College to future generations confronting this continuing emergency.





Above: *House Rules* by Roy Saunders, Clinical Associate Professor Emeritus, Paediatrics, member of the Emeritus College Photo Group.

## Activities of Members

### REPORTS ON CONFERENCES OF "SISTER" ORGANIZATIONS

#### NEWS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN PROFESSORS EMERITI ('EAPE')

**Dianne Newell**, Professor Emeritus, History and Institute for the Oceans & Fisheries. UBC corresponding member and member of the World Day of Older Persons, October 1 Committee, EAPE.

#### REPORT OF THIRD EAPE CONGRESS, "THE CAPITAL OF KNOWLEDGE" APRIL 3-5, 2024, UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON, DOCKLANDS CAMPUS, LONDON, ENGLAND.

The Third Congress of the European Association of Professors Emeriti held in April of this year was a small and remarkably intimate, extremely well-organized gathering of about half the usual number of attendees of past EAPE congresses. The presentations were, as always, excellent. Because of the lower attendance, it was possible to do away with concurrent sessions, thus, to have quite spontaneous discussions following each talk. The venue for the meeting—the very modern new Docklands Campus of the University of East London (UEL), located on the north shore of the lower Thames River—was, to my mind, ideal.

Two plenary lectures approached ambitious topics: "University in a post-globalization World" and "The Two Big Bangs of Cognitive Evolution: from Homeostasis to Artificial Intelligence," respectively. These lectures set the tone for the remarkably interdisciplinary, high-level

formal responses and intense Q and A sessions that followed.

A special health session in memory of the achievements of two European pioneers in medicine included talks on one of the honorees, Professor Dimitar Nenov (1933-2024), a distinguished professor of Retinal Medicine who worked behind the "Iron Curtain" and who died just this year. Another innovator was Professor Zora Janzekovic (1918-2015), a genius in the field of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. The presentation on her focussed on the stellar international reputation Professor Janzikovic earned for her revolutionary treatment of severe burn injuries, in spite of her decision to spend her long professional career at a single hospital in her home country of Slovenia. This willingness to research and honour, and often reveal or remind us, of the humanitarian and scientific achievements of senior academics is a theme that runs through meetings, lectures, talks and publications of EAPE.

The majority of sessions were organized around the current EAPE Sections (formerly named 'working groups') that have only recently been finalized: Culture; Ethics; Nature Protection: a European Perspective; Mental Health; Health Promotion and Prevention; Meeting the needs of children and old-olds (which is one of the original groups and one that UBC's Judith Hall contributes to). Each group is responsible for its own leadership and program. As a matter of policy, each of these groups will meet once per month and over the course of given year, each of them will sponsor one (usually hybrid) meeting that will be open to all members of EAPE.

While the turn-out at the EAPE congress this year was disappointing, the meeting was a success. The opportunity to visit UEL teaching facilities at their nearby Stratford campus was much appreciated, as was the prosecco reception and gala dinner held in the newly-restored 19th-century Great Hall. A generous host and major sponsor of the meeting, the University of East London was founded in this disadvantaged area, East London and the Docklands, at the high end of the industrial revolution to prepare local people to participate in emergent local industries. Our visit there reminded us of the seriousness of our commitment as educators. Sir Les Ebdon, who is widely recognized for his service in higher education and social mobility, and is outgoing president of EAPE, served as Conference Chair. The Proceedings of the 3rd Capital of Knowledge Congress should be available later this year. [More information on EAPE membership and programs.](#)

## **CURAC / ARUCC ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024**

**Joost Blom**, Professor Emeritus of Law

CURAC/ARUCC (College and Retiree Associations of Canada / Associations de retraite des universités et collèges du Canada) is, as the name specifies, a national Canadian organization whose members are university retiree associations. Currently its membership consists of 40 associations. They range a great deal in size, partly because the pool of retirees they represent reflects the size of the former employer, and partly because most include both faculty and non-academic staff retirees whereas others, like the UBC Emeritus College, consist of



Above: 2024 CURAC Conference

retired faculty only. Almost all require members to join and pay dues. By contrast, our College has universal and automatic membership of emeritus faculty and has no membership dues.

The 2024 Annual Conference of CURAC was hosted by the University of Waterloo Retirees Association (UWRA) and held in Waterloo on May 22-24. Sandra van Ark, our College's Office Manager, and I (a former Principal of the College) attended.

CURAC's Annual General Meeting preceded the conference. At this hybrid meeting, each member retiree association was represented by one delegate (I was our College's delegate in the absence of Principal Paul Harrison). Officers reported on CURAC's administration and finances; the executive summary is that both are in good order. The Presidency of CURAC passed from Kent Percival, of the University of Guelph Retirees Association, to Walter Archer, of the University of Alberta Association of Retired Academic Staff.

The conference proper opened with a reception Wednesday evening at Schlegel Village, a seniors' residence adjacent to the campus that doubles as a site for some of the University of Waterloo's academic research on aging. Thursday all day and Friday morning were dedicated to presentations on "Thriving in Retirement", with plenaries on "Designing Your Retirement", "The Science of Laughter", and "Resilience in Retirement". Breakout sessions were devoted to a range of subjects, two of which (ones I attended) were "Aging Well with Artificial Intelligence: Possibility or Pipe Dream?", and "Deceptive Realities: The Growing Threat of Fraud and Scams in the Era of Deep Fake Technology".



Above: Attendees enjoying the "Science of laughter" session at the 2024 CURAC Conference

The banquet on the Thursday evening included a presentation ceremony for CURAC's annual awards. Among these are the Tribute Awards, given to individuals nominated by their retiree association for their outstanding contribution to that association and its members. One of the recipients of these awards, though unfortunately not able to be there to receive it in person, was the long-serving co-chair of the UBC Emeritus College's Benefits Committee, Paul Marantz. The citation noted his leadership roles for over 16 years with the College and its predecessor, the Association of Professors Emeriti, and his extensive service to CURAC on its Benefits Committee as well as ours.

UWRA's local organizing committee, co-chaired by Ron Champion and Jim Frank, deserve warm congratulations on a very enjoyable and successful conference. The attendance (127) was good by the standards of previous (including pre-Covid) CURAC conferences. [UWRA has posted online](#) a summary of the conference, with photos and links to video recordings of presentations.

A POEM SUBMITTED BY PHILIP RESNICK,  
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, POLITICAL SCIENCE

## Sailing with the Argonauts

The craft our tiny party boards  
is a hybrid inflatable  
with sturdy 250 hp engine  
well adapted to these parts.

We pass the beach towns of Ag. Ioannis  
and Horefto heading north,  
noting some of the debris  
washed down by the atmospheric river a year ago,  
the lush greenery of Pelion's coast  
with its wild olives, brush,  
and shaded plane trees up above.

Arriving at our destination point,  
a large, inviting cave,  
we dive/jump off our boat  
making tracks for it,  
a rocky ledge for those who wish to sit,  
and up above a round opening to the sky  
dubbed Poseidon's Toilet in local lore.

Heading back we stop to swim  
at a nearby beach,  
lunching at a simple taverna  
known for its seafood and fresh fish.

The waves have picked up by now  
and the final stretch  
is more like a roller coaster  
than the smooth sailing from our starting point.

Still, the voyage has proven a memorable one,  
observing Pelion's cliffs and landscape  
from where the Argonauts once sailed,  
the Aegean's shifting colours,  
light green, turquoise, emerald, ultramarine,  
and in our mind's eye,  
the wine dark sea  
bequeathed us from antiquity.

## Are you wondering if you can strengthen your immune system?

We're asking the same question.



### RESILIENCE STUDY

A clinical study evaluating a new immunomodulator designed to enhance natural immunity

#### Who is conducting the study?



**Dr. Ted Steiner**  
Chief Medical Officer, Qu  
Biologics and Division Head  
in Infectious Diseases, UBC

#### What does the study involve?

- 28-day study treatment period
- Immune monitoring for an additional 5 months (blood will be collected 5 times)
- Regular interactions and support from clinical study staff


#### Who can participate?

- 65 years of age or older
- Living in the Greater Vancouver area

#### Study collaborators:



#### To learn more, contact:

 1-877-223-8637

 [info@isstudy.ca](mailto:info@isstudy.ca)

 [www.qubiologics.com/clinical-trials/resilience-study](http://www.qubiologics.com/clinical-trials/resilience-study)



## Musings and Comments from Emeriti

*A note from Rick Pollay, Professor Emeritus, Commerce and Business Administration, Sauder School of Business regarding his recent Global Scholar ranking in [ScholarGPS](#) via [Insights at UBC Sauder](#).*

**GOOD:** I had a birthday recently and am now into my 85th year, and despite some deterioration I am still singing and still cycling.

**BETTER:** Also, the creative sap still rises occasionally. I have a new song to share: the “Old Singer’s Blues.” It’s very autobiographical, but many aging singers may easily identify with it. You may cover this at will.

**BEST.** Despite retiring from University teaching 23 years ago, my research writing is proving to be more durable than most products. Based upon lifetime and last five years, I seem to some to be the highest ranked Global scholar of Advertising in the world! (Who knew?)

This truly surprises me, as I long admired the work of many others, leading me to wonder if this news should be filed as:

- a. Debatable distinctions and dubious data
- b. Fake news from artificial intelligence

- c. Typical of advertising: the promotional promise exceeds the actual product
- d. or, better late than never

**Richard Pollay**, Professor Emeritus, Commerce and Business Administration

*Comment from Rick’s neighbour Anne Junker, Associate Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics:*

Rick was instrumental in testifying at the big government and class action trials as to the power of advertising in seducing people to buy tobacco products. At one point he leaned over the fence to alert us to the fact that tobacco-industry spies would be hovering to ask if we ever saw him smoke and other such defaming observations.  
Anne

### LETTERS FROM EMERITI

Submit a musing, comment, Op-Ed or Response to [valerieawhite@gmail.com](mailto:valerieawhite@gmail.com)

## In Memoriam UBC Professors Emeriti

Friedhelm Felix Aubke  
Professor Emeritus of Chemistry  
1932–2024  
University Service 1966–1997

David Alexander Bain  
Associate Professor Emeritus of Educational  
Psychology and Special Education  
1930–2024  
University Service 1964–1997

Ingrida Deglavs Brenzinger  
Senior Instructor Emerita of Linguistics  
1930–2024  
University Service 1969–1995

Moira Mowa Chan-Yeung  
Professor Emerita of Respiratory Medicine  
1939–2024  
University Service 1973–2004

Anthony (Tony) Dawson  
Professor Emeritus of English  
1941–2024  
University Service 1970–2006

Ken G. Denike  
Assistant Professor Emeritus of Geography  
1939–2024  
University Service 1969–2004

Errol Durbach  
Professor Emeritus of Theatre, Film and  
Creative Writing  
1941–2024  
University Service 1967–2006

Lindsay Gordon  
Chancellor Emeritus  
1952–2024  
University Service 2014–2020

Billie Eleanor Jean Housego  
Associate Professor Emerita of Educational and  
Counselling Psychology and Special Education  
1935–2024  
University Service 1967–2000

Yoshikata (Yoshi) Koga  
Senior Instructor Emeritus of Chemistry  
1936–2024  
University Service 1971–2001

George Wagner  
Associate Professor Emeritus of Architecture  
1953–2024  
University Service 1993–2017

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

\* Information not available at time of publication.



## College Council 2024-2025

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*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.*

*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:*  
[valerieawwhite@gmail.com](mailto:valerieawwhite@gmail.com) or  
[events@emerituscollege.ubc.ca](mailto:events@emerituscollege.ubc.ca)

### CHANGE OF EMAIL ADDRESS

Please let Queenie at [office@emerituscollege.ubc.ca](mailto:office@emerituscollege.ubc.ca) know, so you won't miss out on our E-News and Newsletter emails!