



UBC Emeritus College Newsletter

From the Principal

The College celebrates its 5th year in operation since formal approval by the UBC Senate and Board of Governors. We are still the only such emeritus organization in Canada and hear from colleagues across the country that they wish their institutions followed the lead of UBC in recognizing emeriti. There are now 1851 UBC emeriti, which represents 20% of UBC academics. We continue to work on showcasing the contributions of emeriti and work of the college, and to this end in recent months have had encouraging meetings with Interim President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Deborah Buszard, the new Provost Dr. Gage Averill, the Deans, Department Heads and Directors.

As co-sponsors with Faculty Relations, we are regularly involved in retirement planning workshops; 150 faculty considering retirement attended two workshops this year, and with 90 people on a waitlist, another workshop is being scheduled for June. Overall, it has been a busy year for the College, with 91 events carried out. There were 58 meetings of our eight special interest groups; three groups involved 37 speakers. And there were 21 program events, which involved another 37 speakers. I thank all our volunteer emeriti and our 3 three office staff who have worked so hard to plan and support these events.

—Anne Junker, Assoc. Prof. Emeritus, Pediatrics
Principal, UBC Emeritus College



Did you know that . . .

The following five Emeritus Professors were just re-elected for new 3-year terms to the UBC Senate as Convocation Senators:

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Francis Andrew | Paul Harrison |
| Lawrence Burr | Richard Spencer |
| John Gilbert | |



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Aging Unbound

Members of the University of British Columbia (UBC) Emeritus College can join other retirees in taking advantage of the **Bodyworks Changing Aging** outreach program designed by the UBC School of Kinesiology to promote healthy aging. This evidence-based program is a specialty class for adults aged 55+ years and has involved people in their 90s. It provides a safe space for like-minded older adults to exercise with supportive instructors. Memory exercises are integrated with physical exercises.

Classes including up to 18 participants are led by certified personal trainers and involve third- and fourth-year kinesiology student instructors with First Aid, CPR and Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) training. The program is designed by a clinical exercise physiologist and focuses on strength, mobility, and cardiovascular health through muscle- and bone-strengthening exercises followed by intervals of aerobic exercise with the aim to strengthen muscles used in activities of daily living. Additional focuses include exercises to improve change of direction, reaction time and core stability to improve walking confidence.

Small groups of up to six participants are each coached through the exercise routines by student volunteers. The small groups provide a way for older people to mix with youth and learn more about each other. There is a commitment to provide modifications to accommodate different abilities and limitations as some participants are recovering from injuries or surgery. In combating aging stereotypes, many participants gleefully declare that they are more active and fit than their children and grandchildren!

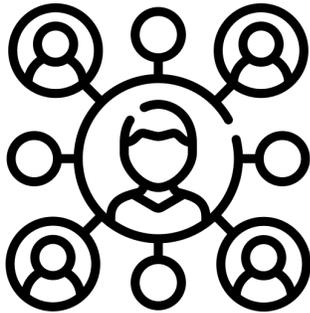
For further information, [visit the Changing Aging website.](#)

Anne Junker, MD, Assoc. Prof. Emeritus (Pediatrics), Principal, UBC Emeritus College, *Changing Aging* program participant

Marvin J. Westwood, PhD, Prof. Emeritus (Counselling Psychology), UBC Emeritus College Council Member, *Changing Aging* program participant

André Pelletier, MSc, CSEP-CEP, Exercise Physiologist, Bodyworks, Outreach Programs, School of Kinesiology, Faculty of Education

Invitation to Join A New Emeritus College Community Email List



The UBC Emeritus College is creating a list of email addresses that will facilitate the exchange of information and ideas among members. Members will be able to ask for information, respond to queries, and post announcements.

Participants will be able to share information on such matters as: their experience with local trades people; community events; volunteering opportunities; music and fitness classes; new local businesses; their experience with travel destinations, accommodations, and restaurants; ideas and resources for support to live independently in place; etc.

To become part of this email community, send an email message containing your full name to office@emerituscollege.ubc.ca. The office will verify your membership in the Emeritus College and enroll you in the email list. We expect the mailing list (utilizing UBC Listserv) to be active by the end of summer.

2023 UBC Emeritus College Walk-for-Joy

This year the Emeritus College participated in UBC’s Walk-for-Joy event! The annual 9-week walking challenge promotes healthy physical activity and acts as a great excuse to get away from our screens and get outside! Our team of 5 people walked a total of 3,241,653 steps with 75,000 of those being “social steps” when members of the team walked together. We hope to make the Emeritus College team an annual entry to the event. Interested?! Let Sarah know at events@emerituscollege.ubc.ca . Look for more information on the 2024 team in September! Below: *2023 Emeritus College Walk for Joy Team: Anne Junker, Sandra van Ark, Queenie Law and Sarah Close-Humayun. (Not pictured Jo-Anne Naslund)*



UBC EMERITUS COLLEGE SUBSIDY FOR SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

The UBC Emeritus 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.

General Description

Recognizing that many faculty continue to contribute to the scholarly, scientific, and artistic life of the University after retirement and that the University has invested a great deal in faculty over the years, the College invites applications for partial subsidy of expenses incurred by members of the Emeritus College in conducting scholarly activities during the academic year 2022–2023. Applications for such support will be assessed by an Adjudication Committee, consisting of at least three members of the College, each representing a different discipline. The Committee will seek to support as many applications as can be funded, provided the expenses claimed are eligible. If requests for reimbursement exceed the monies available, requests may be refused or met only in part. The Committee will aim to achieve some level of balance among disciplines, while recognizing that this will not be possible every year, and will give priority to first-time applicants (i.e., those who have not received awards in previous years). Members of the Emeritus College should seek support from this fund only when no other sources of reimbursement (e.g., research grants; support from a department, an institution, or organization) are available to them.

The Adjudication Committee will be guided by three key principles:

1. Requests for subsidy must be consistent with the spirit of the program, and in support of scholarly activity as defined by the University’s Collective Agreement.
2. Requests must adhere to the University’s financial practices and procedures.
3. Requests must be for expenses for which no other resources are available (i.e., for which the applicant would be personally out of pocket).

Wendy Hall, Prof. Emerita of Nursing, reports:



The Emeritus College Subsidy is a wonderful way to support ongoing research for Emeritus College members. I was subsidized to purchase the rights to use the State-trait Anger questionnaire for a study we are doing examining parents’ experiences of stillbirth and neonatal death before and during the pandemic. In part, we wanted to compare effects of pandemic restrictions for parents at a time of profound loss. Without the subsidy, we would not have been able to include anger as a variable in the study.

This year, I used the subsidy to reimburse me for the cost of attending an online Community Health Nursing Conference: Community Health Nurses: Reflective, responsive, resilient (\$476.00). Using results from our studies, my former PhD student and I did a Fishbowl presentation that was a call to action for community health nurses to engage in promoting children s healthy sleep.

We have expanded that presentation as a broader call for sleep professionals to recognize and promote nurse’s skills and to provide them with opportunities to engage in promoting healthy sleep for individuals and families at all stages of the lifespan. We have submitted our work as an editorial for the Journal of Sleep Medicine.

Honouring Hennie van Vuuren, Professor Emeritus, Land and Food Sciences, and Founding Director of UBC's Wine Research Centre (1999–2016)

Over the past number of years, the **Federation of European Microbiological Societies (FEMS)** has highlighted the academic achievements of 21 leading yeast researchers in the world. In the latest issue of *FEMS Yeast Research*, Professor Hennie JJ van Vuuren, Founding Director of the Wine Research Centre at UBC and Blythe and Violet Eagles Chair in Food Microbiology, was honoured. The publication can be found at [on the FEMS website here](#). The article features Hennie's autobiography, which is fascinating to read. Several excerpts are included in the box below.

Throughout Hennie's career, he focused on the problems that plague wine makers and has been a pioneer in the field of metabolic enhancement of wine yeasts. The first two genetically engineered wine yeasts to receive Generally Regarded As Safe (GRAS) status from the US FDA were constructed in his laboratory. The malolactic wine yeast, *ML01*, degrades malic acid to lactic acid during the alcoholic fermentation, prevents spoilage of wines by other microorganisms and prevents or limits the formation of bioamines (allergens) in wines. *S. cerevisiae ML01* is the first genetically enhanced wine yeast to both receive GRAS status from the US FDA and to be commercialized by the wine industry. Notifications have been submitted to regulatory bodies in other wine producing countries to obtain permission for commercialization of *ML01*. Novel urea-degrading wine yeasts that will significantly limit the formation of ethyl carbamate (urethane) in wines and brandy have recently been engineered in Dr. van Vuuren's laboratory.

Over the years Hennie's lab hosted four Nobel Laureates and numerous other distinguished visitors. In 2012, when the UBC Emeritus College was still the UBC Association of Professors Emeriti, Hennie hosted a Wine Library visit for 20 lucky Emeriti. He raised \$14.8 million in research funding and funded renovation of two research laboratories, established the Core UBC Microarray facility, the Core Mass Spectrometry Laboratory in the WRC (along with Professor Joerg Bohlmann), and the UBC Wine Library (2001).



[Professor Hennie JJ van Vuuren](#)

From Hennie's story:

We had a great life as kids, I must have been a very busy kid since my mom sent me to school soon after turning 5 years old. After school, I was involved in racing pigeons, frog jumping, and playing rugby. The world's frog Olympiad was held in Angels Camp California and in Elsburg, South Africa where I grew up. We caught many frogs and tested each of them to find a good jumper, this went on every night for weeks. A frog is allowed three jumps and the total distance travelled is then measured. In the 1966 International Competition, my frog performed best winning me a 3-week holiday in a Margate hotel, one of the top hotels on the coast in Natal.

And at Stellenbosch University:

I arrived at Stellenbosch with enough money for six months. I had to find money fast, so I set up a washing machine in the residence. Students had to pay for six months at a time and were then allowed to use the washing machine as much as they wished. Also, the food in the residence was bad. In my second year I cleared out a storeroom and opened a shop. I bought a microwave and a fridge. At 9 p.m. and midnight students could buy milk, pies, and fruit juices for 20 minutes. My washing machine and café solved all my financial problems while I studied.

Hector Williams, Professor Emeritus of Classics and Classical Archaeology, has been digging since 1968, and can't stop—

Hector has been busy lecturing both live in Los Angeles and by Zoom at the Univ. of Pennsylvania's local Archaeological Institute of America's Society, about UBC's archaeological excavations in Greece and Turkey at Mytilene (Lesbos, Greece), Stymphalos (Greece), and Anemurium (Turkey). His talk in LA last month, *Goddesses, Whores, Vampyres and Archaeologists: Digging Up Ancient Mytilene*, was a one-off that allowed him to spend two days examining the collections of the Getty Museums, where he especially wanted to see Getty Villa's special exhibition on treasures from ancient Nubia (now north Sudan), as well as the totally renovated Roman villa, with its rich collections from antiquity. His three talks at Penn were a series presenting UBC's three major archaeological projects in the 70s (directed by Professor Emeritus James Russell at Anemurium with HW as assistant director), 80s, 90s, and 2000s (Mytilene and Stymphalos, which continue annually with study seasons with HW as director). He reports that the Zoom talks went well but were pallid compared to speaking to a live audience; he is very grateful he did not have to teach on Zoom!



Tour of Stymphalos by Prof. Hector Williams. - with Andrew Brown and 6 others

Hector is now in Greece for two months of work on his sites. His areas of interest and expertise include: maritime and underwater archaeology in the Mediterranean and Arctic; classical archaeology in Greece and Turkey; maritime history of Canada and maritime museums; vampire archaeology (National Geographic TV special); Atlantis; and Greek and Roman art.

UBC honours Elektra Women's Choir Artistic Director Morna Edmundson with honorary degree



[Morna Edmundson](#)

Edmundson is cofounder and Artistic Director of Elektra Women's Choir and Artistic Director of EnChor Choir, an auditioned mixed choir of mature voices. UBC announced that, "as a choral conductor, administrator and builder, she has set a standard of excellence within her choirs that has been widely acknowledged in both performance and competition. Her professional reputation has propelled her into leadership positions on national and international choral governing bodies, while her generous mentorship, innovative programming and creative community engagement activities provide an inspirational legacy for the entire artistic community."

It's unusual for the UBC Emeritus College to honour someone in the newsletter who is not an emeritus professor, but she is the daughter of **Don Russell**, Prof. Emeritus of Physics and a past president of the UBC Association of Professors Emeriti, and a number of UBC emeriti sing with her in EnChor. EnChor performed several times for the Association of Professors Emeriti, with great success. Congratulations, Morna!

Judith Hall, Professor Emerita of Pediatrics and Medical Genetics, Reflects on Women Working Together

I recently had the opportunity to attend an annual weekend conference for women, who are invited to learn about, reflect on, and discuss a key concept, which changes each year. This experience led me to reflect on the unique experience of women working together.

Back in the 90s there were very few women in administrative roles in the UBC Faculty of Medicine. After the executive meetings, the three of us women who were department heads, would get together for dinner and ask ourselves “What did they say?” It was part of how we got oriented to our jobs as heads of departments (there were no orientation courses back then).

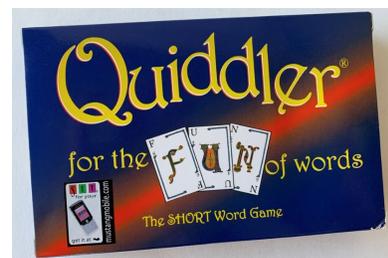
We realized most women were working alone, so we organized an evening dessert meeting for all of the women Professors in the Faculty of Medicine. It turned out most had never met each other! They formed new collaborations and totally enjoyed the opportunity to meet and identify each other. Many inequities and challenges were recognized during the evening’s discussions.

The Dean of the time allowed us to do a survey of all faculty and trainees (both men and women) about harassment, misconduct, and disparities. Shocked by the results, which identified many issues, he established an Assistant Dean of Gender Issues, long before the need for equity, diversity and inclusion was even dreamed of. Her role was to meet with departments and Schools in the Faculty and provide education about acceptable behaviour. Many faculty members were oblivious to the changes in acceptable behaviour, partly because much of medical teaching is learned by apprenticeship, where one learns by observation and bad habits are passed on without learners or teachers even being aware of it.

Since women tend to be collaborative, and I had a cottage on Mayne Island, we decided to try a retreat of the medical faculty women in administration. What fun! There were between 8 and 12 of us in various years. Travelling on the ferry, bringing sleeping bags to sleep under the stars, and sharing meals that reflected ethnic and culinary specialties all brought us together in new and meaningful ways.

However, one of the most interesting experience was the word game *Quiddler*, which my family love to play. Cards are dealt and turns are taken to make words, a bit like *Scrabble*, with letter cards dealt or drawn. Normally players don’t help each other. Administrative women might be expected to be competitive—but we ended up always helping each other identify words from the cards we had been dealt, a special type of bonding. Learning collaboration from a silly card game was a memorable experience. It was a great hit, as was the retreat, lifelong friendships were formed, and we had to play the game year after year!

It is a lovely reflection from the perspective as a Professor Emerita to realize changes DO happen over time. Not only are women part of the administration within the Faculty of Medicine now, but support and encouragement are there for those of diversity of all kinds. Perhaps it takes emeriti to recognize the changes that occur over time.



Connecting Through VEG (Vegan Enthusiast Group)

Elizabeth Dean, Professor Emerita of Physical Therapy, would like to kick start a new special interest group:

We are looking to connect informally through **VEG (Vegan Enthusiast Group)** with individuals who are interested in exploring this lifestyle with like-minded others. Whether you are striving for simply 'meatless Mondays' and interested in having more plant-based menu options, or are completely vegan, this group is for you. VEG will be of interest to those committed to reducing their carbon footprint, factory farming, and climate change, as well as eating well as one way of maximizing their health and disease resistance.

Members will be able to identify ways in which VEG can best serve their needs, e.g., sharing recipes, 'veganizing' favourite recipes, resources, events, support of vegan restaurants, and possible potlucks. Members are encouraged to use whatever aspects of VEG that are best for them. There are no expectations. To pique your curiosity and answer common questions about vegan nutrition, trusted, evidence-based sources are: Dr. Michael Greger's nutritionfacts.org, with multiple well-indexed short videos; and the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine.

To be added to the VEG mailing list, please email Elizabeth at elizabeth.dean@ubc.ca.

To whet your appetites, have a look at Elizabeth's *Shepherd's Pie (sans Shepherd)*. This no-fail vegan recipe is robust and forgiving, keeps and freezes well, and is a convenient way to use up those veggies in the fridge that are passing their prime. You can adjust the ingredients to the amount you want to make based on your available ingredients. As you will see from the photo, Elizabeth makes many of her recipes in sufficient quantities to freeze and pull out for convenient meals in the future. This recipe freezes wonderfully and is equally as good when reheated. Other recipes in the line-up to be shared are *Moroccan Stew* and *Flat Bread*.



Elizabeth's Shepherd's Pie
(sans Shepherd)

Special Interest Groups

To provide a spirit of community and an environment of social and intellectual interaction and collaboration among emeriti, the College hosts a number of Special Interest Groups. Current groups include cycling (Easy Riders), Photography, Poetry, Reading, Travel, Community Volunteering, Wine Appreciation, and Women's Co-housing. For information about existing groups and upcoming meetings, and how to start a new interest group, visit the Emeritus College website.

2022–2023 Wall Scholars’ Catalyst Program: The Climate and Nature Emergency

In the spring of 2022, the **Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies (PWIAS)** reached out to the UBC Emeritus College to assemble a cohort of up to ten emeritus professors who would contribute to the **2022–2023 Wall Scholars Catalyst Program: The Climate and Nature Emergency**. **Olav Slaymaker**, Professor Emeritus of Geography, spearheaded this initiative, writing a proposal and enlisting a Cohort of nine emeriti. These individuals were profiled in the January newsletter. The proposal, written with the help of our office, was approved, and the program began in September.

The **objectives** of the initiative were 1) to bear witness to the life-time commitment of UBC’s emeriti to a societal problem of the utmost urgency; 2) to enhance the visibility of, and intellectual exchange, between the PWIAS and the UBC Emeritus College; and 3) to demonstrate both the progress in understanding of the Climate and Nature Emergency that has been achieved at local, regional and national scales, and our collective failure to protect our landscapes, seascapes and urbanscapes at global scale from unnecessary harm during this time of rapid climate change. To this end, the project funded an initial retreat, and speakers and lunch meetings at the PWIAS between September 2022 and May 2023. The Cohort’s commitment was to generate Op-ed pieces and/or manifestos in the public media and, where possible, reinforce local initiatives relevant to ameliorating environmental change impacts by the summer of 2023. A further goal was to generate College programs as a follow-up to the program.

As the initiative is drawing to a conclusion this month, members of the Cohort have written evaluative comments about the program.



Above: Six of nine members of the [EC Cohort](#), Frank Tester, Jo-ann Archibald, Graeme Wynn, Penny Gurstein, Ralph Matthews, and Olav Slaymaker. Photo by Roy Saunders.

Here are five responses, led by Olav, as primary creator and champion of the project:

Olav Slaymaker (Geography)

As a personal evaluative statement of the achievements of the Emeritus College Cohort after nine months of discussion, I have the following observations. This has been a mutually enriching program with which Emeriti/ae have had few previous experiences at UBC. The nine individuals who make up this cohort are superb communicators of their scholarship and of their sense of the urgency of the climate and nature emergency. They come from different UBC departments and different disciplinary traditions. Yet they have built up a sense of mutual confidence. They are not univocal (it would be hard to imagine such gifted individuals coming to identical conclusions); however, they have listened to one another’s insights, and that experience alone would have provided fundamental validation of this program.

Climate and Nature Emergency Program Evaluative Comments, cont.

Emeriti/ae are definitely not used to this kind of activity. I note that the nine individuals who make up this cohort have built up a sense of mutual confidence, which is exciting from my perspective.

Future plans are still in flux, but the intervention in the UBC 2050 Vision guarantees continued co-operation. For this experience, we express our collective gratitude to PWIAS and regret that some aspects of our collaboration will be impossible to achieve in the future absence of an institution such as the PWIAS.

Jo-ann Archibald Q'um Q'um Xiim (Educational Studies)

Personally, I have gained a broader understanding and deeper appreciation of the issues, actions, possibilities, and difficulties related to the Climate and Nature Climate Emergency. During our various sessions, the other College members of this Cohort have shared their expertise, experiences, concerns, and considerations for dealing with urgent problems of the Climate and Nature Emergency, social justice, human overconsumption, and the multidimensional impact on Indigenous communities. The invited speakers have added much to these conversations through their research and applied work in many difference areas to result in a larger picture of the Climate and Nature Emergency. Many of the speakers shared stories and insights of working with Indigenous Peoples, particularly First Nations in British Columbia, in which Indigenous knowledge, Indigenous sovereignty, Indigenous opposition, adaptation, and relationships were experienced. Despite experiencing issues of colonization and racism during environmental emergencies, some First Nations communities are developing and practicing cultural and local approaches for sustainability of their lands and resources. Being able to talk to, listen, and learn from each other has been an invaluable first step in moving across disciplinary and institutional silos for future development of transdisciplinary approaches to the Climate and Nature Emergency.

Penny Gurstein (Community and Regional Planning)

I joined the Emeritus College Cohort with trepidation because, though I respect the Cohort members' enormous contributions to our thinking the CNE, I was wondering what impact our cohort's discussions could have. The presentations by distinguished academics brought up any questions and gaps, most glaringly in how to create a societal cultural shift. Coinciding with the activities of the cohort, UBC is undergoing a visioning process, Campus Vision 2050. Upon reading this draft document, along with supporting documents, it became apparent that the visioning does not address the climate crisis we are in, or the housing crisis in Vancouver. The Cohort drafted a cogent response, and we have been asked to engage more fully with the process, including meeting with the UBC Board of Governors in June. While there is no guarantee that our efforts will bear any fruit, focusing on what UBC can do has rejuvenated for me the importance of the work we are doing.

Climate and Nature Emergency Program Evaluative Comments, cont.

Douw Steyn (Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences)

As an atmospheric scientist, I have long been aware of, taught about, and been personally concerned about the Climate and Nature Emergency faced by planet Earth. Over the past decade or so I have come to the realization that we need no more advances in climate science—all we need to know is already known. Where we need knowledge and action is in the realms of Economics, Politics, Sociology, and Psychology. My participation in the Cohort lunch meetings, presentations and continuing conversations with colleagues from a wide range of disciplines and with diverse perspectives has helped me understand, from a broader perspective than my academic discipline, how the global society must approach the Climate and Nature Emergency if we are to adapt to and mitigate the direst possible outcomes predicted by climate models. Conversations in the Cohort have led me to read widely and deeply on societal imbedding in the Climate and Nature Emergency.

Graeme Wynn (Geography)

The initiative has been stimulating and intellectually worthwhile. Our diverse cohort has brought widely different perspectives to our in-person, Zoom, and email interactions. I have found the circulation of opinion pieces and articles, as well as occasional book recommendations by cohort members especially interesting and helpful and exemplary of the benefits of promoting cross-disciplinary engagement. Further, I was heartened by the open, engaged, and collegial manner of all our interactions; our views, approaches, and commitments differ (inevitably), but bringing this group together under the auspices of the Emeritus College and PWIAS opened the door to the kinds of cross-disciplinary exchanges that the University, and the world, would do well to foster.

Our speakers to date have been earnest (invariably) and polished (generally). For whatever reasons, however, I would rank the speaker series (to date) only partly successful. Each presentation offered deeply informed perspectives on one or another facet of the Climate and Nature Emergency, but together they were rather more orientated to calibrating the enormity of the problem than to suggesting ways in which it might be addressed. The larger issues that frame our collective plight were rarely engaged in ways that grapple with the fundamental challenges entailed in moving global societies to a more equitable, just, and sustainable foundation.

I have observed before that ‘the world ’needs a new operating system. Capitalism, predicated on continuing economic growth and expanding extractivism, reflected in rampant accumulation and consumerism, is a major driver of the ills that confront us; governance, debilitated by the short-term horizons of election cycles and the associated self-interest of politicians, is failing us in its inability to grapple effectively with deep seated, long-run concerns.



Above: Speakers from the PWIAS lecture “Political Economy of Extinction”. Audrey Irvine-Broque, Rashid Sumaila, Olav Slaymaker (EC Cohort), Jessica Dempsey, and Louise Teh.

Climate and Nature Emergency Program Evaluative Comments, cont.

As the crisis deepens and disquiet grows, systemic obstacles to real change produce reductive simplifications that are mere sops, designed to blunt opposition and perpetuate business-as-usual by other means.

In this light, the much-touted electrification revolution (heavily dependent on rare earth metals) is a chimera given credence by ignoring the social, environmental, and geopolitical implications of the mining it entails. And so on. As we confront the Climate and Nature Emergency, it seems to me that we desperately need more inquiry and reflection of this sort, attuned to the large, ramifying dimensions of the current crises we face, directed to developing a new vision of the future, indicating what a better, more durable way of living on Earth will entail, and pointing out how and why we must strive to realize such a goal. Sadly, there is much left to do.

The Cohort sent a unanimously agreed letter to the UBC 2050 Vision planners identifying four concerns that differ somewhat from those that are central to the draft UBC 2050 Vision

1. There are finite limits to growth and overshoot has already exceeded these limits in the Western industrialized world;
2. The emphasis on the Climate and Nature Emergency should be replaced by a focus on humanity's role in degrading the environment;
3. A new mindset is needed in which we talk about a future of less instead of a future of more; and
4. The achievement of social and environmental justice in light of the differential impact of climate change on impoverished communities should be a central objective.

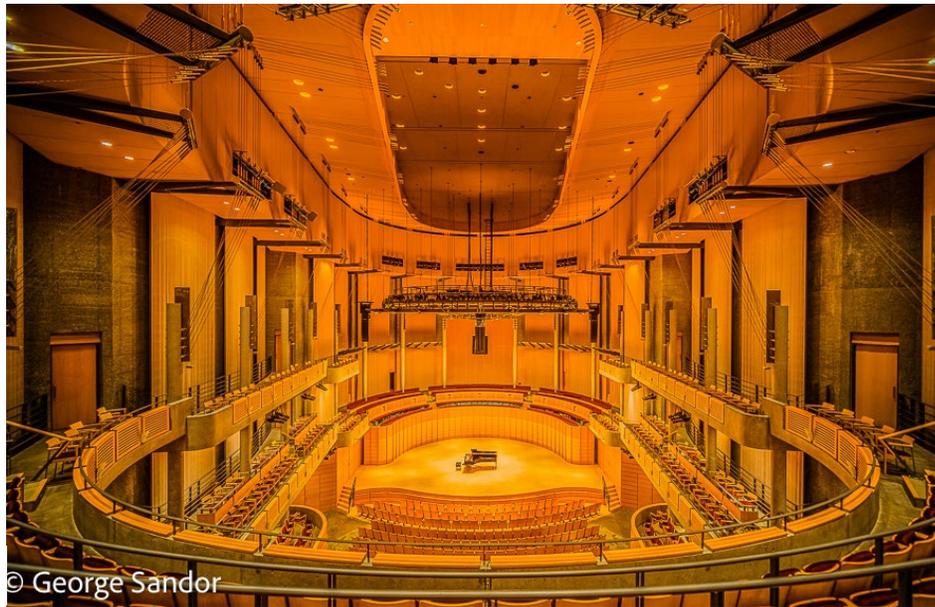
This letter has been graciously received by the planning team, and discussions are proceeding.

9 conclusions from 9 months of discussion by 9 UBC Emeriti/ae and 10 invited scholars

1. The unanimously agreed letter sent to the UBC 2050 Vision planners (all); Campus programming and planning should be in line with de-growth strategies. (Letter to UBC 2050 Vision: all)
2. The importance of limits to growth and overshoot. Redirecting the emphasis on climate change to the broader focus on environmental change and humanity's role in degrading that environment. (Bill Rees, Graeme Wynn, Frank Tester, Olav Slaymaker)
3. A new mindset is required. Fundamentally, we need to talk about a future of less instead of a future of more. (Bill Rees, Douw Steyn, Graeme Wynn)

Climate and Nature Emergency Program, cont.

4. The importance of social and environmental justice in the light of the differential impact of climate change on impoverished communities.
(Jo-ann Archibald; Frank Tester; Penny Gurstein; Ralph Matthews)
5. The complexity of the interdependence of humanity and the environment, illustrated by the destabilizing effects of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic.
(Jo-ann Archibald, Craig Brown, Penny Gurstein)
6. Achieving global governance is a distant goal in the absence of political integrity in a polarizing world.
(Kathy Harrison; Andrew Weaver)
7. The difficulty of aligning Indigenous and Western legal systems with respect to Indigenous forestry.
(Lori Daniels; Nicholas Coops; Jocelyn Stacey; Jo-ann Archibald)
8. The irony of finding that we are subsidizing species extinction.
(Jessica Dempsey; Rashid Sumaila, Nancy Langston)
9. The long-term inadequacy of Net zero 2050 (David Wilkinson; Douw Steyn)



1. © George Sandor

Photos of UBC’s Chan Centre for the Performing Arts in this issue of the newsletter are by **George Sandor, Professor Emeritus, Pediatrics**. George reports, *I have been taking photographs since my undergraduate days in Edinburgh. These were black and white prints. I then moved into taking colour slides, mostly of my family and on holidays, as there was not enough time to do more. I got a basic digital camera about 20 years ago but did not give up film till about 15 years ago when I bought a digital SLR. I now find myself acquiring more gear and upgrading equipment. I have also done a number of courses to improve my technical skills, my ability to process the photos and, hopefully, my ‘vision’. These three photos are different views in the Chan Centre, which were taken after I took a photography course for architecture.*

A Coronation Day Poem

As the Brits proceed
to consecrate a newly crowned head
with the pomp and puffery
of rituals finely honed -
jewels plundered from the Raj,
state coaches on parade,
horse guards in Gilbert and Sullivan array -
what is this country's stance?

We have shed our colonial underpinnings,
bit by tiny bit,
dominion status, Red Ensign flag,
judicial appeals to London,
and for constitutional amendments
requests to Westminster on bended knee.

A country whose demography
resembles the UN
must still confront this throwback
to Victorian times,
a British monarch,
orb and sceptre in hand,
masquerading as our sovereign king.

And though increasingly
Canadians from sea to sea
would like to turn the page,
when will our politicians
have the gumption
to put paid to this charade?

– Philip Resnick

??? DO YOU HAVE AN OPINION ABOUT THIS ISSUE???

We'd like to try something new in the College newsletter. We'll publish a point-of-view piece about something topical, in the nature of an *op ed*—political, personal, academic—and solicit responses from you, the emeriti. This issue is a good one to start with. It remains topical, and views among emeriti no doubt range from solidly monarchist to staunchly republican, as is true of Canadian public opinion as a whole. Please keep your contributions to about 150 words. In the next newsletter we will publish a sampling of what you send. Please send your opinions to carolyn.gilbert@ubc.ca.

Should Canada Become a Republic?

On March 6, Philip Resnick (Political Science) published an article with that title in [The Conversation Canada](#), a newsletter publishing articles by academics that are free to read and republish. UBC was a founding member and is a member and financial supporter of the newsletter, which is operated by The Academic Journalism Society in Toronto. Philip's article got extensive coverage; it was reprinted in *The Globe and Mail's* BC edition, in the *Winnipeg Free Press*, the *London Free Press*, and a number of smaller papers. It was also made available on the *Yahoo Canada* website, the *UBC Alumni Magazine* website, and the *Varsity Student Newspaper* website.

Philip found it interesting that he was approached for an interview by both *Al Jazeera* and, more tellingly, the *Yahoo UK Royal Reporter*, who wrote an article entitled "Will countries like Canada ditch Charles and become Republics?" on the occasion of Commonwealth Day, March 13.

To read the article, visit [The Conversation Canada website](#)

The link will also tell you how you can subscribe to the free daily newsletter. It's filled with the insights of academic experts, written so that everyone can understand what's going on in the world. Each newsletter has articles that will inform and intrigue you.



Velleity

Colourful thesauri spread along the length
like fabric samples in a milliner’s eye
too many options, ornate but opportune

spread with liberty like a Phrygian cap
freeing us to search pages and toss
them high in the air for first landing

we have the desire, avidity of wants
to make word sonnets where none
have gone before; alas directionless;

exhilarating to the touch, we see
what we can’t yet write, yearn to
land with metaphoric skill and finesse

a poem or short story strewn with
ancient references, and after, with
trembling fingers, hold aloft our words.

Hearts aflutter imagined by our steely
quest for innovation, not for the ages
but to compose something, anything.

I did not realize early on what desires
a thesaurus might foster in me; several
might spin me out of control, out of range—

and since I awakened late to their treas-
ures
realizing Philo of Byblos was only trying to
help those like me—desires yet unmotivated—

I shout ‘Calliope! Where art thou? Abandon
me not in my hour of need!’ Will Thesaur’s
descriptors, hierarchies, associations, scope notes
work for me?

‘Daylight illuminates; motivation intensifies
as with the gods and goddesses of old who
now envelop you. Ignore Oizys!

Your subject is your angst.’

— Sandra Bruneau



2. © George Sandor

College Council 2023–2024

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The Morels of Modern War

Each spring the children
 picked morel mushrooms
 on a fertile patch of earth
 beyond the village common.

Everyone agreed
 those morels were so
 sweet and flavourful.
 The best for miles around.

One spring, the patch of ground
 Was dug up to reveal
 remains of men and boys
 with bound hands and crushed skulls.

The soldiers took the bones.
 After that the morels
 Did not grow any more.
 The children were so sad.

—Mike Healey

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In future newsletters, we would like to feature personal stories from Emeriti, as well as stories about their volunteer work within the University, the City of Vancouver, the Province, Canada, and internationally. Accompanying photos are appreciated. Please send your story to: communications@emerituscollege.ubc.ca

In Memoriam

George Simpson Beagrie (1925–2023)
Dean Emeritus of Dentistry
University Service 1978–1990

Kenneth (Ken) Brown (1951–2023)
Clinical Professor Emeritus of Orthopaedics
University Service 2008–2021

Daniel Walter Froese (1926–2022)
Clinical Associate Professor Emeritus of
Family Practice
University Service 1986–1995

John Kieran Kealy (1939–2023)
Assistant Professor Emeritus of English (2004)
University Service 1970–2004

William (Bill) Eugene Piper (1945–2023)
Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry
University Service 1997–2011

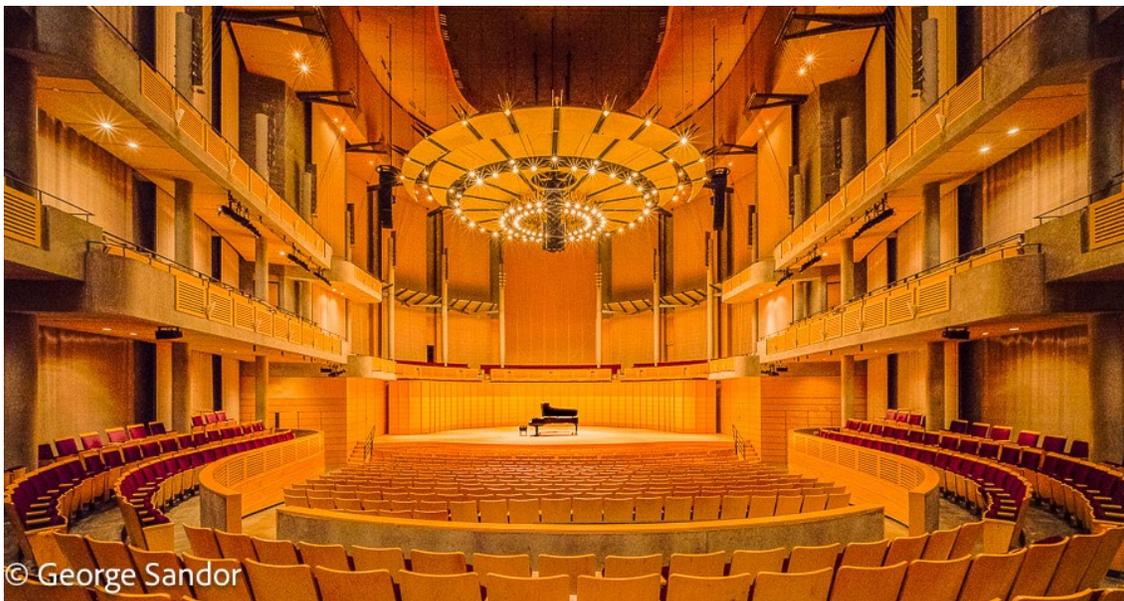
James Joseph Ponzetti Jr. (1955–2023)
Associate Professor Emeritus of Sociology
University Service 2000–2014

Danny (Dan) William Rurak (1946–2023)
Professor Emeritus of Obstetrics and
Gynaecology
University Service 1977–2012

Juhn Wada (1924–2023)
Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry
University Service 1960–1994

Neil James Yorkston (1928–2023)
Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry
University Service 1980–1991

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



3. © George Sandor