



Newsletter—Fall 2023

From the Principal

The start of the fall term was always an exciting time when I was teaching first-year biology—new students to guide, new opportunities for them to learn and make personal connections. And so it is with the Emeritus College. Already the College has had a New Emeriti Reception, a planning retreat, and the first General Meeting. Hosted by UBC President Buszard and emceed by your Principal, the virtual reception was well attended both by new emeriti and “old” and by Heads, Deans and others in the UBC administration. Five new emeriti described how they plan to devote their energies in retirement and Wendy Hall shared how important it is to be open to changing circumstances during retirement. Although the online format did not allow us to be in one room together, it did allow for emeriti from both the Okanagan and Vancouver campuses to “meet” each other.

On September 20th, your Council, Executive, and many other College leaders gathered to set the course for the coming year. First, we reviewed the goals in the Strategic Plan identified at last year’s retreat and the (many) accomplishments to date. Then we focused on the key objectives to be achieved in the coming year in each of the four “pillars” of the plan: enriching retirement for emeriti, increasing the community profile of emeriti and the College locally and globally, enhancing recognition within UBC of the contributions of emeriti and the College, and ensuring that the College is effective, efficient and sustainable. To be sustainable, the College needs your involvement, so please don’t hesitate to offer your time and talents. The first General Meeting (GM) also occurred in September. GMs are a combination of a business meeting (very short) and a presentation by an invited speaker. This was the first in-person General Meeting since Covid-19 shut everything down, and it provided an opportunity for attendees to talk to representatives of various committees and Special Interest Groups about ways to get involved. The opportunity to gather in one room was one reason that attendance was strong.

Looking ahead, UBC welcomes its 17th President and Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Benoit-Antoine Bacon on November 1st. The Emeritus College will be on his agenda early in his tenure: your Executive will meet him in early November to discuss the special role of the Emeritus College in UBC. We will be inviting him to a special open meeting of the College to meet more emeriti that I anticipate taking place in early 2024. I extend a special thanks to Carolyn Gilbert for stepping in to edit the last two issues of the Newsletter and a warm welcome to Valerie White as new editor.



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

Table of Contents

From the Editor	2
Honours & Awards	3
Interview with Award Winners	6
Special Interest Group Updates	9
Committee and Program Activities	15
Op-Ed	18
Other News	19
In Memoriam	23
Contact Us	25



Above: Photo by Marion Tipple from the Emeritus College Photo Group entitled Bald Eagle feeding on hake in the Salish Sea

From the Editor

I volunteered to try my hand as the editor of the EC newsletter earlier this year thinking that it would be a fun thing to do! And for the most part, with Sarah's help, it has been. These last two weeks have been a bit of a scramble making sure that we fill all the slots with informative, and for the most part, interesting material. Not being familiar with the inner workings of the Emeritus College, I have had to rely heavily on the office staff as well as Anne Junker, past principal, and Carolyn Gilbert, previous *pro tem* editor, for their guidance.

We've filled this issue with as much news as possible and aim to take a more structured approach to the contents with reports and updates from most of the groups and committees of the EC. We haven't achieved that goal in this newsletter but are hopeful for the next one.

In keeping with the goal of increasing the recognition of emeriti in the community and the University we have tried to mention the emeriti who received honours or awards in 2023. If we have neglected anyone, please inform me and/or the EC office so that you can be featured in the next newsletter. It is better to hear something twice, than not at all! In addition, we plan to schedule one or two email interviews in each issue to provide further insight into the activities of awardees.

Please remember that this is YOUR newsletter. If there is anything you would like to see featured here, do let us know. And, if you are so moved to comment on anything you read here, or wish to highlight your own retirement activities, be they academic, leisure or somewhere in-between, please let us know. You can send an article at any time to me or the office. Don't wait for the deadline!

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

Notes from the Office

Brock Commons Update

As many of you know, the office of the Emeritus College will move to their new space next year. The most recent information is that the building will be ready to move in by the end of June 2024. We plan to move in during the summer and be ready for the new academic year.

The College is planning a grand opening with several events. Interested? Join the first meeting of the Brock Commons Committee in November, led by Vice-Principal Bill McCutcheon. Please email Sandra van Ark at manager@emerituscollege.ubc.ca

In-Office Hours

The EC office staff will be in-office in the Ponderosa F building on the Vancouver Campus regularly on Wednesdays this fall. Please call ahead prior to dropping by to confirm someone is there to meet you! As always, the quickest way to reach us is still via email.



External Honours & Awards

Geoffrey K. Blair,

Clinical Professor Emeritus, Surgery
2023 Arnold Salzburg Mentorship Award of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Dr. Blair will be receiving the 2023 Arnold Salzburg Mentorship Award of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Surgery Section, in November in Washington DC at their National Conference. The award recognizes outstanding mentors of medical students, residents, fellows and other surgeons, both inside and outside North America. Dr. Blair has practised at BC Children’s Hospital since 1986.

Pieter Cullis,

Professor Emeritus, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
2023 NRC Killam Prize for Health Science and Elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society

These are two among the eight awards that Professor Cullis received this year (as well as 11 awards in 2022) for his work on lipid nanoparticles, molecules essential to the delivery of mRNA vaccines.

[Read more on Dr. Cullis' achievements here](#)



Above: Photo by Marion Tipple entitled Alpha female coastal wolf, Westcoast Vancouver Island

Dennis Danielson,

Professor Emeritus, English
Milton Society of America
Honoured Scholar of 2024

“Danielson has had an outsized influence on Milton studies and on studies of science, and particularly astronomy and cosmology, in the early modern period.”

Nancy Heckman,

Professor Emeritus, Statistics
Honorary Member of the Statistical Society of Canada (SSC)

Professor Emeritus Nancy Heckman has been named an Honorary Member of the Statistical Society of Canada (SSC). (cont. on next page)

External Honours & Awards Continued

The SSC has given Nancy this honour ".....in recognition of her extraordinary range and depth of contributions to statistical science in Canada, as a researcher, a mentor, an educator, and a community-builder."

To learn more please see the [full award announcement](#).

Anne Junker,

Associate Professor Emeritus, Pediatrics
The 2023 Leadership & Advocacy Award,
Clinical Trials BC

The award recognizes Dr. Junker's extraordinary leadership contributions to the establishment of formal pediatric clinical trial guidance and the advancement of pediatric ethics, quality assurance, rare disease research and clinical trial data management efficiencies at all levels of governance.

See our interview on page 6.

Stephen J. Tredwell,

Professor Emeritus, Orthopaedics
2023 induction into the Paediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America Hall of Fame in recognition of Leadership.

The [POSNA Hall of Fame](#) provides an enduring history to honour those POSNA members who have displayed dedication to the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America, teaching and mentoring, studying musculoskeletal conditions in children and caring for children with musculoskeletal conditions.

A small Emeritus College vignette from Steve:

My condominium is a good distance from UBC. Across the street is a small French themed coffee shop and restaurant; the staff are largely recent university graduates pausing to consider the rest of their lives. This makes for good conversation, and recently a new UBC graduate from political science chatted with me about her hopes to pursue her Master's and then perhaps a PHD. My background is in medicine which made for friendly conversation but certainly did not add to her decision making. I mentioned that as a member of the College I had an acquaintance who was an emeritus from Political Science, and if she would like, I would ask if he would be willing to sit down with her to discuss a future in Political Science. She was delighted and even more so after the conversation with him, and after topping up her finances is off to Ontario to pursue her future. Small things to us perhaps, but not to her, and one of the nice things that the College, with its diverse membership, has allowed me to do.

Steve Tredwell MD MA FRCS
Emeritus Professor Orthopaedics

Jerry Wasserman,

Professor Emeritus, English & Theatre
2023 Wyman Critical Writing prize

The annual award celebrates critical commentary on the visual, performing and literary arts in the province of British Columbia. "The jury was unanimous in its recognition of the way he has encouraged and enhanced a wider appreciation of the richness of the Vancouver arts scene and the talents of those who make that richness possible—both through his print and media reviews and through his website, which is a consistent source of information and critical context on all things theatre in Vancouver."

Have you or one of your colleagues' received an honour or award in the past year? Let us know at communications@emerituscollege.ubc.ca



UBC Emeritus College Awards

Robert Krell,

Professor Emeritus, Psychiatry
UBC President's Award for Distinguished
Service

Krell was selected for his lasting contributions to Holocaust Remembrance and Education. Of particular note was his founding of the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre, which remains a permanent community resource providing valuable education programs for students, teachers and anyone wanting to learn more about the Holocaust.

Patricia Shaw,

Professor Emeritus, Anthropology
UBC President's Award for Distinguished
Service

Shaw was selected for her lasting contributions to the documenting, teaching, revitalizing and promoting of *hən̓q̓əmiḥəm̓*. She continues to work on perfecting and expanding current pedagogical materials in anticipation of full publication, to supervise doctoral students, mentor community language scholars and to structure new initiatives to further *hən̓q̓əmiḥəm̓*—focused study.

Roger Wilson,

Emeritus College Award for Excellence in
Innovative & Creative Endeavours

Wilson continues to be a prolific author, and was selected in recognition of his numerous significant scholarly contributions, particularly to aspects of Roman rural life, the late Roman and early Byzantine transformation of settlements, and the archaeology of the Roman provinces.

See our interview on page 7.

The UBC Emeritus College Award for Excellence in Innovative and Creative Endeavours is presented to UBC emeriti who have demonstrated excellence in their engagement in innovative research or artistic creation.

The President's Award for Distinguished Service is presented to UBC emeriti who have displayed exceptional leadership in volunteer community services.

For more information on nominating a colleague, please visit the [Emeritus College website](#).



Interviews with Award Winners

Anne Junker MD,
Associate Professor Emeritus, Pediatrics

What is the name of the award you received and when did you receive it?

In May 2023 I received the Leadership & Advocacy award from Clinical Trials BC (CTBC), which is part of Michael Smith Health Research BC.

For what work did you specifically receive the award?

I had a role in developing the infrastructure and building capacity for clinical trials, and clinical research in general, at BC Children's Hospital (BCCH), within BC, and across Canada with international connections.

How does that relate to your work in general?

Clinical trials are the 'gold standard' whereby interventions used in people's health care are determined to be safe and effective.

What part of your work are you most proud of?

As a first in Canada, and only second site in the world, I established the BCCH Young Persons Advisory Group for researchers to meet with youth to get their perspective on the value of the proposed research and appropriateness of the study methods.

Consider nominating one of your colleagues for one of the many awards for which emeriti are eligible. See the [UBC website](#) for a list of awards, dates and requirements.

Are you continuing with the work as an emeritus professor?
No

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

Take advantage of trials support that is available and make your opinions known to people who are now in place; there is still lots that can be done to improve the way we test new therapies.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I love having projects to do, anything from sewing dress-up clothes for little kids to home renovations.



Above: Anne Junker at work tiling a wall in her home

Interviews Continued

Roger Wilson,

Director of the Centre for the Study of Ancient Sicily, Department of Ancient Mediterranean and Near Eastern Studies, Professor Emeritus, Archaeology of the Roman Empire

What is the name of the award you received and when did you receive it?

UBC Emeritus College Award for Excellence in Innovative and Creative Endeavours, on 17 May 2023.



Above: View of Gerace from the UBC excavation site

What is the award given for generally?

Out-of-the-ordinary levels of activity in research, teaching or in contributions to the local community, whether in BC or elsewhere.

For what work did you specifically receive the award?

Principally for my six seasons of archaeological excavation of a Roman estate in Sicily with UBC students, where we made many fascinating discoveries, including an intact mosaic floor in a bathhouse which has a long inscription telling us among other things



Above: Roger and Charlotte on the Greek island of Kefalonia.

the original name of the property in the fourth century CE. We think that the owner, Philippianus, ran a stud farm there, based on the very large quantity of horse bones we have found. We think he entered his horses for chariot races and won—victorious racehorses are shown on the stamped roof tiles he produced on the estate (we have excavated the kilns). DNA analysis shows the horses were a mixture of different breeds.

How does that relate to your work in general?

My research throughout my career has focussed on the Roman archaeology of Sicily, so I have been lucky enough to make exciting new contributions to that field since becoming an emeritus.



Above: UBC students cleaning a newly found late 4th century CE mosaic at Gerace Sicily

Interviews Continued

What part of your work are you most proud of?
The training (and later mentoring) of UBC students in the field, and opening young minds to the thrill of archaeological discovery—as well as, more generally, to Italian life and culture. It gives me great joy that as many as ten of those who have come on this project, directed by me while an emeritus, are now in full-time employment as professional archaeologists in BC, working on First Nations sites.



Above: Stamped roof tile made at Gerace with the image of a victorious race horse in the circus games. The name around is that of the landowner PHILIPPIANUS. A cat trod on the tile while it was still wet (bottom left). Scale in cms

Are you continuing with the work as an emeritus professor?

Although I have hung up my trowel as a field archaeologist, there remains the final report to write up, and I have numerous other research projects that I want to work on. I have no intention of stopping!

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

That there are no short-cuts to becoming happy and fulfilled in your chosen career: focus, perseverance, and sheer hard work are just as important in the modern technological world as they have always been.

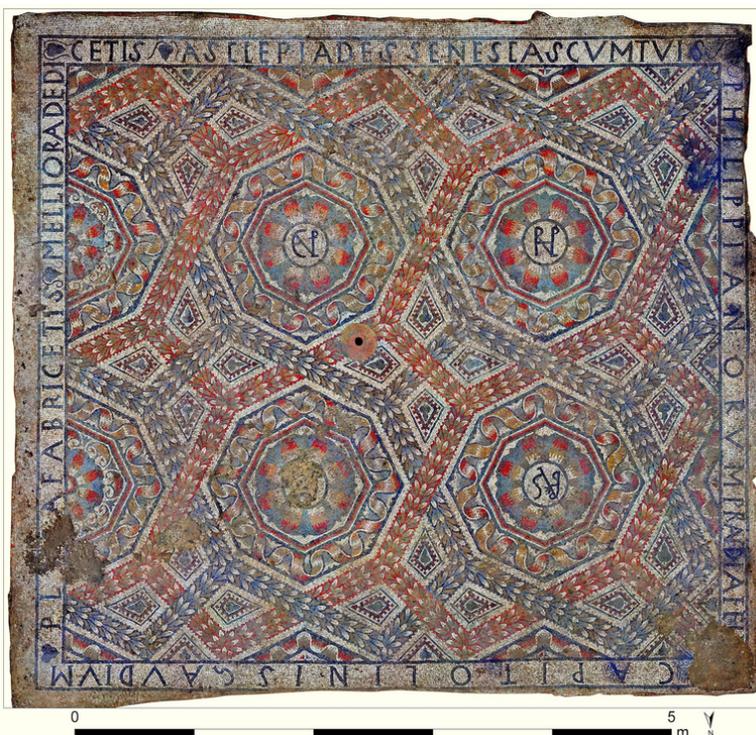
What do you like to do in your spare time?

Travelling the world. I relish any opportunity to travel and broaden horizons.



Above: UBC students Seona Aiulja, Avril Baldauf and Ambra Agricola in front of the furnace arch for a warm room in the Gerace bath-house. Photo Daniella Tsimbaliouk

Last week I went with my wife, in the company of two former students, to the remote Princess Louisa inlet on the Sunshine Coast, which was magical. Last year we were in eastern Canada visiting Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and PEI; and there have also been many trips to different parts of Europe. The photo shows myself and my wife Charlotte on the Greek island of Kefalonia, visiting an old university friend of mine I have known for fifty years.



Above: Intact mosaic covering the cold room floor in the Gerace bath-house, as exposed in 2018 for the first time in 1500 years



News from the Special Interest Groups

For up-to-date special interest group meeting dates and times [please consult our website](#).

EASY RIDERS

Graeme Wynn, Convenor,
Professor Emeritus, Geography

Easy Riders gather periodically during the summer to explore parts of Metro Vancouver on two wheels propelled by pedals—some with electric assist, and others doing it the old-fashioned way. We generally head out about 10:00 am and cycle between 25 and 45 km, with a stop for refreshment and conversation along the way, and an early afternoon (1:30 or 2:00pm) return in mind. We are, basically, a fair-weather and social group. We avoid heavy rain days, and have probably ended our 2023 season prematurely, and inadvertently, as COVID has quarantined our route-master.

Rides are planned and announced in advance, and participation is on a come-as-you-can basis. This year we have set out with groups of eight to fifteen riders—and returned with the same number! Vancouver, Richmond, and Burnaby have been our oyster in 2023, but we look forward to venturing further afield, and



Above: Five Easy Riders (Bernadette Duffy, Ken Reeder, Rosie Redfield, Graeme Wynn and Alan Marchant) gather at “The Drop” during their ARTFUL ride around Vancouver Public art installations on August 4th 2023 and contemplate their next cruise (by bike of course) at the Vancouver Convention Centre.

to a few longer rides, in 2024. For the most part we ride on what the City of Vancouver calls AAA (All Ages and Abilities) cycle routes, mostly on separated bike lanes. All members of the Emeritus College (including partners, of course) are welcome to join us. The group is congenial and offers a most pleasant mix of modest exertion, urban exploration, and opportunities to meet colleagues from across the range of the University’s departmental silos. There will be further announcements about this group’s plans for 2024, but if you are interested in joining an “easy ride” (or two—or more) next summer, why wait – and risk forgetting.

Send a note indicating your interest to the group convenor Graeme Wynn wynn@geog.ubc.ca to receive information about upcoming rides. We look forward to meeting you.

TRAVEL GROUP

Paul Steinbok, Convenor, Professor Emeritus, Surgery

The Travel group has been very active in 2023 and our email list includes over 200 interested members. After the 2023 summer recess, the first meeting was on September 14, when Kay Teschke gave a wonderful presentation about *Biking in the Alps from Innsbruck to Salzburg, then on to Vienna*. In October, Graeme Wynn presented on New Zealand in a talk titled *In the land of the long white cloud*. The final meeting of 2023 will be in November, when Linda Wong will talk about *Travels in Norway: Knitting, Northern Lights and more*. After trying two hybrid meetings in the spring, we have reverted to Zoom only meetings. All presentations are recorded and many are available on the [UBC Emeritus YouTube channel](#). Those who wish to join the travel group should contact Paul Steinbok at psteinbok@cw.bc.ca.



October Meeting

In the land of the long white cloud.

Graeme Wynn, Professor Emeritus, Geography

Aotearoa/ New Zealand has been something of a second home for me. I taught there in the mid-1970s and have made innumerable visits of varying duration since, the most recent of which was in April-May of this year. My original plan was to centre this talk on these recent travels, but as the weather was less co-operative than it might have been, I dug into my library of digital images (from the last twenty years) to display something of the New Zealand landscape and reveal some of the roots of my fascination, as an historical geographer and environmental historian, with this strikingly diverse and dynamic land.

November Meeting

Travels in Norway: Knitting, Northern Lights and more.

Linda Wong, Faculty Women's Club

After spending five days in Oslo, I joined an organized Knitting and Northern lights group trip. After touring Oslo, we travelled by train to Bergen, where we embarked on a ferry, which took us up the coast to the most northern and eastern points and then back down to Bergen, where the trip ended. As indicated by the name of the tour, we learned a lot about Norwegian wool and knitting, and I will share some of that in the talk. We were lucky to see the northern lights on four different evenings and learned how to photograph this spectacular phenomenon.

Visit the [website](#) for info on future meetings.

Above: Landscape in Norway courtesy of Linda Wong



GROVES OF ACADEME

(otherwise known as a Book Club!)

Graeme Wynn, Convenor, Professor Emeritus, Geography

The UBC Emeritus College's first book group is known as The Groves of Academe, a title borrowed from Mary McCarthy's 1952 novel and derived from Roman poet Horace, who left a phrase translated as "And seek for truth in the groves of Academe."

We began reading, two winters back, a selection of "campus novels," so-called, and have gradually evolved away from this focus. This year we have developed our book list as democratically as possible (in discussions over email and lunch at a local restaurant). Our loose theme is "Identity"—but this is less important than the joy and stimulation that flow from reading really interesting books and discussing them with engaged and engaging colleagues. Many of us are still abuzz from our encounter with *The Weight of Ink* the wonderful, and wonderfully titled, work of Rachel Kadish. Our quest for truth continues, but we may be closer.

Our meetings occur at approximately six-week intervals and are, invariably, on Zoom, which works very well for our purposes. We anticipate gatherings in person (of those members of the group who wish to participate) for convivial purposes in December and again in the spring. We hope to have at least one of the authors whose books we read join us in a Zoom discussion at some point this year.

Our schedule for 2023-2024 is included. We meet MONDAY afternoons at 3:30pm.

Any member of the Emeritus College who wishes to join the group should contact Graeme Wynn, at wynn@geog.ubc.ca in advance, to register their interest and to receive the Zoom link for the upcoming meeting. All books are readily available in digital format.

2023-2024 Reading List

September	Rachel Kadish, <i>The Weight of Ink</i> (Mariner Books, [Reprint] 2017)
October	Janet S. Charles, <i>The Paris Library</i> (Simon & Schuster, 2021)
November	Annie Ernaux, <i>The Years</i> (Seven Stories Press, 2017)
January	Georgi Gospodinov, <i>Time Shelter</i> (Liveright 2022)
February	Abdulrazak Gurnah, <i>Paradise</i> (The New Press, 1995)
March	Tanya Tagaq, <i>Split Tooth</i> (Penguin, 2018)
April	Fiona Farrell, <i>The Deck</i> (Random House NZ, 2023)



PHOTO GROUP

Richard Spencer, Convenor,
Professor Emeritus, Civil Engineering

We meet regularly to share our photos, comment, and offer suggestions and advice in a friendly, non-competitive environment. Our members include a professional photographer who sells photos to commercial clients, enthusiastic amateurs, and all skill levels in between. The cameras we use range from smart phones to pro level SLRs. At our meetings we comment (constructively!) and learn from each other. Some of our photos can be seen at:

[UBC Emeritus College Photo Group | Flickr](#)

Meetings are online once every six weeks. We included both in-person and Zoom options for our October 20 meeting and hope to continue to do so going forward. At each meeting, about 15 to 20 members submit two photos on a theme chosen at the previous meeting, which we review and discuss. We also have meetings devoted to specific topics, such as macro photography, or how to use photo processing software, and talks by expert photographers on topics of interest (such as the use of AI in photography). From time to time, we meet to take photos in interesting locations.

The Photo Group is open to College members and their partners, and new members are welcome. There is more information on the College website at [Photo Group | UBC Emeritus College](#). Please contact Richard Spencer richard@rhspencer.ca to be added to the mailing list.



Above: Photo by Marion Tipple entitled Juvenile sea otter, Vancouver Island

The wonderful photos from the group for this newsletter were provided by **Marion Tipple**, Professor Emeritus, Pediatrics:

Photography became a creative balance to my scientific mind when, aged 11, I received a Kodak "Box Brownie" from my father. Born and educated in the UK, my love of wildlife photography was established many years later, when, following medical school graduation, I worked in South Africa which allowed me to explore the game parks of South and East Africa. Later my focus turned to ethnographic explorations of remote places as I travelled the world from home in Vancouver. Now in my virtual retirement, I've returned to photographing wildlife, documenting that of British Columbia and remote places around the world.

WINE APPRECIATION GROUP

David McArthur, Convenor, Honorary Lecturer,
Applied Biology & Food, Nutrition & Health

Join the Emeritus College Wine Group! This is a special interest group for members and their partners/guests who are interested in learning about all things “wine,” sharing information and experiences in the world of “wine” and of course... tasting wine!
Part 1: October to February, \$75 + cost of glasses required for sensory supplies and wines.



November meeting: Is there an Influence of Wine Glass Shape on Wine Sensory?
Blind tasting of 4–5 wine varieties/blends and discussion of the wines with professional reviews and ratings on each wine. Topics include: how to assess the “quality” of these wine; how blending helps to make quality wines better; and how certain aromas or attributes in wine from winemaking can lower wine quality. Please visit our website for up-to-date dates and contact David david.mcarthur@ubc.ca to register.

VEG (VEGAN ENTHUSIAST GROUP)

Elizabeth Dean, Convenor, Professor Emeritus, Physical Therapy

All are welcome to VEG in its inaugural year. VEG is founded on the idea that universities have a duty to translate the research they produce that supports transitioning to a plant-based food system that might be necessary to maximize health and longevity and address the climate emergency. To support this initiative, through its listserv, VEG will provide resources including recipes and fact sharing about plant-based nutrition and test-kitchen skills. Potlucks and opportunities to connect with each other are possibilities.

VEG is timely, given that the plant-based message and movement, backed by extensive health and climate literature as well as animal rights concerns, has become a singularly urgent social movement. Just weeks ago, the largest single instance of academic support for a “plant-based food system” was launched in the UK. The effort was spearheaded by the Plant-Based Universities campaign. Its Open Letter, supported by over 900 knowledgeable academics and important public figures, shows that [the momentum for a vegan future is escalating](#).

That humans may actually be ‘vegan-by-design’ comes as a surprise to people yet has been well known for several decades. Influential corporate interests and profit-motive have distorted the translation of this knowledge in national food guidelines to the public. Most of us have grown up in ‘carnist’ cultures believing consuming animal-sourced foods is ‘normal, natural, and necessary’, none of which is true (Dr. M. Joy [TedTalk Munich](#); nutritionfacts.org, founded by Dr. M. Greger; and the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine at pcrm.org).

‘Carnism’ is now being viewed as ‘smoking’ was through the 1960s. VEG looks forward to supporting the plant-based movement toward healthier people and planet for ourselves, children and grandchildren.

Apple Core



Humans are anatomically more similar to herbivores than omnivores – [‘vegan-by-design’](#).



COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER GROUP

Nancy Gallini, Convenor,
Professor Emeritus, Economics

The Emeritus College Community Volunteer Special Interest Group (CVSIG), convened in January 2022, will be transitioning to a new model during 2023-24. After learning about various volunteer opportunities over the past 1-1/2 years, as presented by a diverse group of NGOs and individuals active in volunteerism in the meetings, several of us felt that the CVSIG could have a greater reach and impact by moving most of the activities online. In particular during 2023-24, we will begin to work on three new projects.

For the first project, members of the CVSIG will identify and contact 50-100 local, national and international organizations to learn of their volunteer needs. This "volunteer opportunity" database is planned to be reported on the Emeritus College website by area (e.g., education, women support programs, health) and nature of task (e.g., board member, hands-on work, research) and updated quarterly.

For the second project, the CVSIG will identify a set of questions to add to the Emeritus College survey that will be distributed in the Spring. The purpose of the questions will be two-fold: first for the College to learn about the valuable contributions that emeriti make to local, national and international communities, NGOs, school boards, governments, professional associations, and second, for emeriti to indicate the type of volunteer work in which they might wish to participate. The

A poem submitted by

Jess H. Brewer,

Professor Emeritus, Physics and Astronomy

Facts

Conspiracies converge and stick in clumps
like burdock burs in fur of ignorance.

"Trust no authorities, they all are chumps!"
cry theorists in chorus. . . "Join our dance!"

But past the Dunning-Kruger peak I find
the wisdom of self-questioning and doubt:

Opinion and belief infect my mind
like any other. I must root it out. . .

I thrash in a furious sea of firm opinions,
smothered in crashing waves of true belief,
wishing I could fly on reason's pinions
into the air of facts, and breathe relief.

12 Sep 2023

latter information could potentially be linked with the "volunteer opportunity" database to facilitate matches between emeriti and organizations urgently searching for expertise in certain areas.

Finally, the third part will involve two in-person meetings each year, where interested emeriti members will share their volunteer experiences with each other, including how they got involved, best practices, challenges and rewards, and potential volunteer opportunities. We hope to schedule the Fall meeting in November. This plan supports directly one of the pillars of the EC's strategic plan: to increase community outreach and awareness of the tremendous value emeriti add to local and global communities. If you are interested in participating in any of the three CVSIG projects, please contact Nancy Gallini at nancy.gallini@ubc.ca.

Committee and Program Activities

GENERAL MEETING

Hands Back, Hands Forward for Indigenous Education

Jo-ann Archibald Q'um Q'um Xiiem,
Professor Emeritus, Educational Studies

The first in-person UBC Emeritus College General Meeting was held on September 27th in the Ponderosa Ballroom at UBC. The Business Meeting was chaired by Paul Harrison, Principal of the Emeritus College, followed by a presentation by Jo-ann Archibald Q'um Q'um Xiiem, Emeritus Professor of Educational Studies. She shared her personal and professional experiences in Indigenous education, from early learning to graduate education. Some highlights of her lecture included the concept of "Hands Back, Hands Forward" using wise teaching and learnings to create opportunities, share information about Indigenous realities, initiatives, Indigenous-led Policy and Law, and their impact on individuals and families as well as the importance of different people participating in Indigenous change.

[Watch the recording](#)

Save the Date for the next General Meeting

Are Humans Obsolete in the Age of Artificial Intelligence?
with **Alan Mackworth**, Professor Emeritus,
Computer Science
Wednesday November 22, 2023

[Visit website to register.](#)



Above: Jo-ann Archibald Q'um Q'um Xiiem at the General Meeting on September 27, 2023

GREEN COLLEGE SERIES

Psychological Trauma and Resilience is a collaboration between Green College and the Emeritus College

Presentations in the Emeritus College Series at Green College, *Intergenerational Effects of Psychological Trauma*, (2021-22) revealed an interest, appetite and need for further conversations related to the development of resiliency among individuals and groups, and how they can cope more effectively and recover from the impact of various traumas. Building on this foundation, the series *Psychological Trauma and Resilience* will embark on a journey to consider the many ways in which individuals and groups respond to trauma, possible approaches to coping and specific strategies for recovery.

November Event

Intergenerational Stories Using Theatre

George Belliveau, Professor of Theatre Education

This session will share an emerging theatre-based project based on intergenerational stories. It explores a culture's resilience and its desire to hold on to its identity and language. After providing some brief context to the project, a performative theatre piece that spans several generations and countries will be shared and followed by conversation.

Please [visit our website](#) for event dates and times.

EMERGENCY CLIMATE COHORT UPDATE

Olav Slaymaker, Convenor,
Professor Emeritus, Geography

Evolution of the *Emeritus College/Peter Wall Institute of Advanced Studies (PWIAS) Climate and Nature Emergency Catalyst Program*, into the *Emeritus College Culture and Climate Change Crisis Program*, as of October 2023.

Part 1 Origins:

In July 2022, the Director of PWIAS, Vanessa Andreotti, asked Olav to invite a group of emeritus Professors with career-long experience of research in the field of climate change to participate in the PWIAS Climate and Nature Emergency Catalyst Program. Nine distinguished colleagues (including **Jo-ann Archibald, Penny Gurstein, Hadi Dowlatabadi** (withdrew in late 2022), **Ralph Matthews, William Rees, Olav Slaymaker, Douw Steyn, Frank Tester, and Graeme Wynn**) volunteered their services and organized a series of lectures by distinguished scholars on technical aspects of the emergency, internal seminars to debate the real nature of the crisis, and lunches to accommodate the lecturers.

Part II Achievements of the program: Lectures were polished and up to date, but the cohort discussions rapidly concluded that the climate crisis is more about relational problems than technical ones. With this awareness, the cohort submitted a letter to the Senior Administration suggesting that too much of the planning for the UBC 2050 Vision was focused on technical solutions, with a “business-as-usual” flavor. They were technically sophisticated plans which, in our unanimous opinion, were missing the lessons taught by Herman Daly, Schumacher and J.K. Galbraith in the early 1970s that there are strict limits to growth and that the climate crisis is primarily a consequence of our over-consumption of Earth’s resources. A conversation between UBC’s Associate Vice-President, Planning and Security, Michael White, and his team was thereby initiated

and is ongoing. Our cohort made significant contributions to the 100-page report “[Moving with Storms](#)” published by the PWIAS in May 2023. Jo-ann, Penny, Frank, Graeme and Olav thanked Vanessa for her creative contribution to UBC at the Connections Lunch on May 31, the concluding event of the *PWIAS Climate and Nature Emergency Catalyst Program*.

Part III Transferral of the program:

With the tragic demise of the PWIAS on May 31, 2023, the Climate and Nature Emergency cohort decided to make a proposal to the Emeritus College Council to continue the work of the cohort. This we renamed the *Emeritus College Culture and Climate Change Crisis program* to signal our sense of the greater importance of cultural and social factors leading to rapid climate change. We were encouraged in our thinking by a generous grant of \$10,000 from the PWIAS, a grant that was predicated on the continuation of the spirit of the multi-generational “Moving with Storms” report. The intention of

A poem submitted by

Jess H. Brewer,

Professor Emeritus, Physics and Astronomy

Other

Other folks in other places suffer,
I’m told today on TV by the News.
It overflows my empathetic buffer
and makes me glad I’m not in their sad shoes.
They know, the entertainment media,
the numbing, callous, cynical effect
of the tragedy encyclopedia
inflicted daily as our world is wrecked.
“If it bleeds, it leads,” they say with knowing smiles.
Forgive them, for they know not what they do.
We all are plunging into climate trials,
and they will have to die and suffer too.



COMMITTEE AND PROGRAM ACTIVITIES CONTINUED

continuing the program was mentioned at the June 7 Emeritus College Council Meeting, at which time several councilors endorsed the importance of sustaining a climate change program at the College, but it was not until July 27 that the new proposal was finalized and approved by a special meeting of the Executive of the College on August 10.

Part IV Currently:

As soon as the College approval was obtained, our first task was to re-engage the interest of the undergraduate students' cohort from the *PWIAS Climate and Nature Emergency Catalyst Program*. The undergraduate student cohort elected representatives on the new *Culture and Climate Change Crisis program*. Their presence with the cohort has already inspired enthusiastic incorporation of their insights and skills as they are exceptionally gifted students. In addition, one new Professor Emeritus, **Robert Woollard**, has joined the cohort. His experience in the global health and development field is an invaluable addition to the cohort's expertise.

We are excited about the new ideas and actions that will be generated by this program and look forward to keeping the College at, or close to, the forefront of rapidly developing understanding of the so-called climate "polycrisis".

Submitted on behalf of the program by **Olav Slaymaker**, Professor Emeritus, Geography

(With special appreciation to **Graeme Wynn**, who took over the task of submitting the new proposal during Olav's wife's six weeks' confinement in hospital from mid-July to the end of August, and to **Frank Tester** for the spark of inspiration that led to a vigorous new direction of that proposal)

PHILOSOPHERS' CAFE

Nichola Hall, Continuing Studies

The Philosophers' Cafe is back at the Club Room in Tapestry after an extended hiatus. At this time two meetings are scheduled but the group is looking for a convenor for 2024. The role of the convenor is to choose topics for the Cafe and facilitate the discussion. Contact [the office](#) if you are interested.

November's Philosophers' Cafe
Housing in Vancouver

We have a housing crisis in Vancouver (and across the country). Various solutions—or remedies—have been proposed to this intractable problem. 70% of land in Vancouver has, up until now, been reserved for detached single-family homes. Should this be changed? Should we resurrect the old commitment to co-op housing? Should Air B&B be banned or restricted?

What do you think? Join us for the discussion. [Visit our website](#) for event dates and times.

OP-ED

Tarttologizing

Joseph Jones, General Librarian Emeritus,
Humanities & Social Sciences

In fall 2022, the UBC emeritus book group talked about Donna Tartt's *The Secret History* (*TSH*) (1992). This selection was for me a reread, after maybe two decades.

Starting with first publication, an aura of cult enveloped both *TSH* and Tartt. Of late, *TSH* is proclaimed the ur-text of "Dark Academia," a fad phenomenon stoked by pandemic-cloistered students.

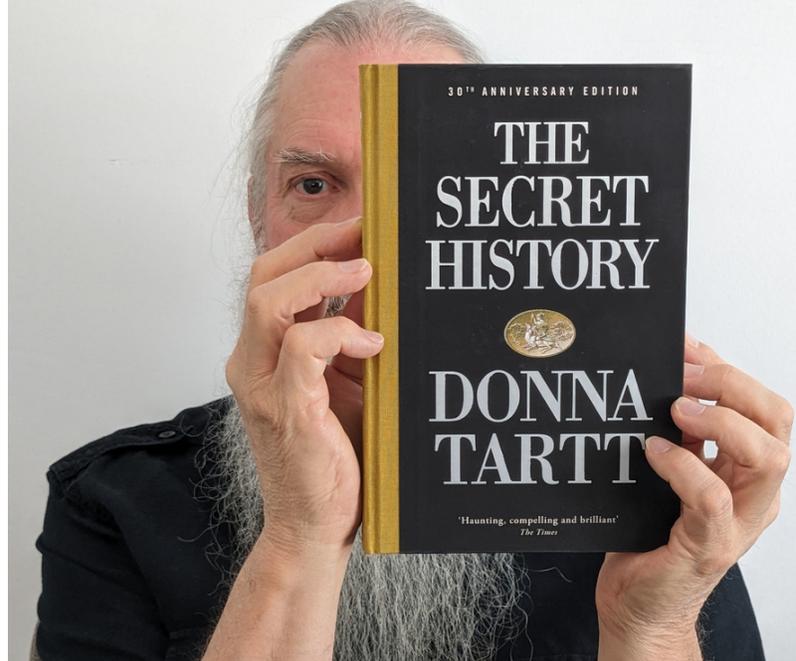
On the internet a "Donna Tartt Shrine" has been under construction at languageisavirus.com since early 2007. Before that, a *TSH* avatar, going back to 2001, flourished at the former website purpleglitter.com. *TSH* has sold more than five million copies and seen translation into dozens of languages. Last year the publisher put out a 30th anniversary edition.

Without stiff discipline, this short essay might never get beyond enumerating the multiplicity of dimensions that my pursuit of *TSH*/Tartt has sent me wandering through.

Lo, I descended into the Tartt-arus of formal bibliography, and here offer a single remark on that expedition through 200+ sources. For a librarian like me, a scrutinized work of fiction merges outward into its own reception. In the case of *TSH*/Tartt, the findings oddly recapitulate the text and author.

Tartt is well-regarded—definitely widely and sometimes highly. Highly first of all owing to her *TSH* aggregation of literary references and allusions and overt claims to kinship with classics. Especially kinship to textual emanations from the ancient Greeks. Yet the writings about *TSH*/Tartt mostly seem oblique, scattered, thin, peculiar, repetitious, and often unsatisfying. Why? Two thoughts emerge. More than one observer has deemed Tartt's fiction "middlebrow." Entertaining, no question; literary, questionable.

The second notion is harder to formulate.



Despite the adept writing skills that *TSH* conjures with—narrative momentum, gripping scenes, vivid language, glimmers of genre, adumbration of portent—the overall after-effect dissipates into uneasy sense of absence. The characters have life of sorts, the life of wraiths dissociated out of one generating mind. Yet quite a horde of *TSH* readers latch onto particulars that aim to signify, notably onto Tartt's invocation of a Dostoyevskian miasma of conscience.

The elusive quality of *TSH* makes careful explicators wary and even fends them off. In her person Donna Tartt does likewise with interviewers. At roughly ten-year intervals, this celebrity recluse lifts her veil to promote a new novel. In so doing, Tartt refreshes the enigmatic persona that helped to attract a host of devotees at first eclat. Ever does she keep them wondering.

DO YOU HAVE AN OPINION ABOUT THIS ISSUE

In the May 2023 newsletter Carolyn Gilbert wanted to start a back-and-forth discussion between the newsletter readers on a topical issue. Unfortunately, no one took up her invitation to comment on the coronation of King Charles and whether Canada should remain monarchist or transition to a republic. There is still time to comment: we are never closed to comments! Joseph Jones has submitted a new op-ed about the well-known and controversial writer, Donna Tartt, author of *The Secret History* and *The Goldfinch*, among others. What do you think of this author? Send your responses or an op-ed of your own to communications@emerituscollege.ubc.ca.

Other News

A Short Trip in Newfoundland and Labrador

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

I was recently in Newfoundland visiting my family. It was quite a reunion as many relatives gathered in St. John's from across the country for my mother's 90th birthday celebration. As I return to NL most years to visit, we usually plan a little trip to another area of the province to avoid the monotony of spending all our time in the city. This year we visited Winterton, a tiny town on the eastern side of Trinity Bay about 130 km from St. John's. This is the location of the Wooden Boat Museum of Newfoundland and Labrador, where the tradition of wooden boat building, once so important to the economy of the area, is carried on by a devoted crew of teachers and builders. My husband had a special reason for visiting, in that he wanted to donate two caulking (pronounced 'corking') hammers and some cotton and hemp roving to the museum, items he had used once when building

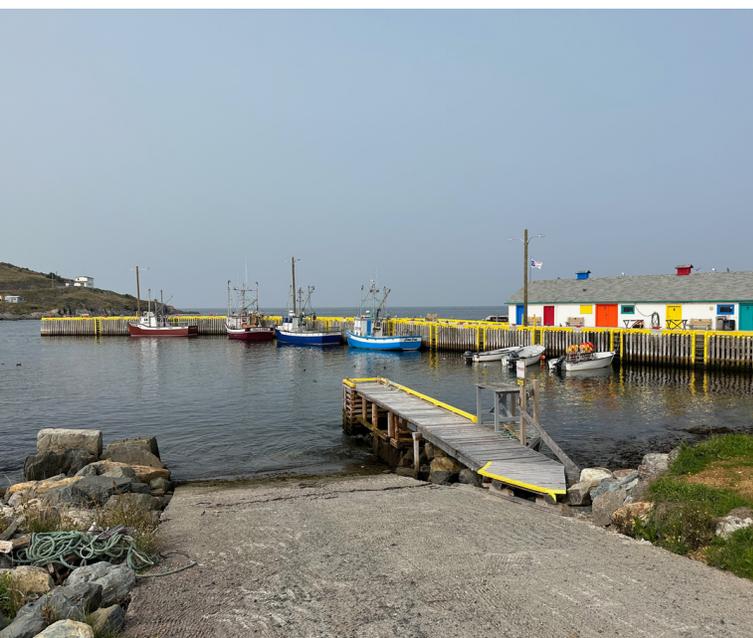


Above: Jerome with caulking hammers, Alex left, Val right

his own small wooden boat. We arrived unannounced and were directed to the boat building shed beside the main museum where we found Jerome Canning, the head boat builder and instructor, surrounded by three partially finished boats, products of his most recent week-long boat building workshops. The smell of sawdust permeated the air and glistened in the sun streaming into the building as he showed us the boats and explained where they would be going when completely finished. He received our items with enthusiasm; even though they don't normally need caulking hammers for the regular dories they build, next year they plan to build a wooden motorboat which will require caulking to create the necessary strength and stiffness in the hull for the increased speed of a motorized vessel.

The Wooden Boat Museum of Newfoundland and Labrador runs several types of hands-on workshops throughout the year, ranging in length from a day to a week. It also runs a research division which collects details of wooden boats from throughout the province using the 'tangible object of a wooden boat to capture the intangible heritage that surrounds it'.

You can find more information at www.woodenboatmuseum.com and www.boatsandbuilders.com



Above: Colorful Winterton

Other News Continued



Above: Top to bottom: recto, verso, sheath

EAPE: European Association of Professors Emeritus

Dianne Newell, Professor Emeritus, History

The freshly launched European Association of Professors Emeriti (EAPE) and the newly formed UBC Emeritus College connected in 2018. At that time EAPE, led by retired professors in Greece and Italy, had launched a website and organized a formal, international congress filled with serious, largely academic presentations on the ongoing research and outreach work of professors emeriti. EAPE organizers found out about UBC's Association of Professors Emeriti (UBCAPE) and invited us to present a paper at their first congress in the summer of 2019. Don Fisher (as EC Vice Principal) and I (as Principal) each gave a paper on the transition from a loosely tied, 30-year-old association to an actual College of the University.

The two of us also produced an invited review of the elegant proceedings volume of the international congress for the EAPE Bulletin, which was by then a well-produced, peer-reviewed journal, having 10 issues per year. EAPE leadership regards the publication as the cultural voice of the Association. Judith Hall and I have undertaken many tasks for EAPE, including writing blurbs and soliciting papers for the Bulletin from our College members (e.g., Philip Resnick's poetry; an essay on the new international Happiness Report by its co-editor, John Helliwell). I serve as an editor and a corresponding member of the editorial board, and, like Judy Hall, helped with work of the scientific committee of the second EAPE congress, held in Naples in 2022. The third EAPE congress is scheduled for 3-5 April, 2024.

October 1 is the annual UN International Day of Older Persons, and the EAPE takes these celebrations very seriously, both the subject of Older Persons and the international scope and responsibilities associated with that work. A link to the College's recording of the UBC Emeritus College EAPE international webinar on Healthy Aging, a joint celebration from October 1, 2021, [can be found here](#). This year, 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. This Special Supplement of the EC Newsletter was sent out October 4, 2023. Celebrating Aging opens with an explanation of the importance of celebrating the UN International Annual Day of Older Persons, October 1, 2023.

Most recently, Hon. Prof. Sergio Mattarella, President of the Italian Republic, awarded a bronze medal (pictured above left) to EAPE for participation in organising the Events of the International day of Older Persons in 2023. Vancouver participated along with Naples, Sarajevo, Frascineto (CS), Athens, Košice, Salerno and Catania.

Margaret E Arcus
Professor Emerita of Social Work and
Family Studies
1935-2023
University Service 1968-1999

David Vincent Godin
Professor Emeritus of Pharmacology
Therapeutics
1942-2023
University Service 1970-2007

George Simpson Beagrie
Dean Emeritus of Dentistry
1925-2023
University Service 1978-1990

John Kieran Kealy
Assistant Professor Emeritus of English
1939-2023
University Service 1970-2004

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

Ralph Keeler
Professor Emeritus of Physiology
1930-2023
University Service 1966-1992

Thelma Sharp Cook
Assistant Professor Emerita of
Educational Studies
1936-2023
University Service 1974-1998

Edith McGeer
Professor Emerita of Psychiatry
1923-2023
University Service 1954-1989

Norman Epstein
Professor Emeritus of Chemical Engineering
1923-2023
University Service 1951-1989

John McNeill
Dean Emeritus of Pharmaceutical Sciences
1938-2023
University Service 1971-2004

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

Andrew Moore
Clinical Associate Professor Emeritus of
Urological Sciences
1942-2023
University Service 1979-2007

In Memoriam UBC Professors Emeriti | Fall 2023

Anthony M Perks
Professor Emeritus of Zoology
1931-2023
University Service 1965-1997

James Edward Thornton
Associate Professor Emeritus of
Administrative, Adult and Higher Education
1927-2023
University Service 1969-1993

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

Juhn Wada
Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry
1924-2023
University Service 1960-1994

Anthony Podlecki
Professor Emeritus of Classical, Near Eastern
and Religious Studies
1936-2023
University Service 1975-1998

Richard Wall
Associate Professor Emeritus of
Pharmacology and Therapeutics
1929-2023
University Service 1981-1995

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

Neil James Yorkston
Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry
1928-2023
University Service 1980-1991

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

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

ODE TO THELMA COOK And a Bit of College History

Judith G. Hall, Professor Emerita,
Pediatrics and Medical Genetics

I came to know Thelma when she was a public representative on a BCMA Committee, on which I was a representative from Pediatrics. I noticed at that time that she had such good ideas and provided thoughtful representations from the general public. When I retired in 2004, she got me engaged in the UBC Association of Professors Emeriti (UBCAPE), and, shortly thereafter, on the Executive. There I was fascinated to watch what creative and outstanding ideas she had. She recognized that most emeritus groups were set up as social gatherings for people who missed their colleagues and wanted to get together. At that time, most of the activities of UBCAPE were related to social gatherings, sometimes with a program. When she became the president in 2007-2008, Thelma set up committees to look at other possible benefits for emeriti. One committee, with Paul Marantz as Chair (and continuing to do an amazing job ever since) looked at how to improve and expand our benefits. Mark Thompson was encouraged to look at rewriting the University's guidelines for hiring emeriti (UBC Policy 27). I was charged with the committee called Preparation for Retirement, which included members from the Faculty Association, UBC Administration, Human Resources, as well as UBCAPE. We put together a comprehensive package of material based on the many opportunities for individuals retiring from an academic life. Thelma clearly envisioned a much more active role for emeriti in university life. She saw many of these ideas come to fruition in our transformation to the UBC Emeritus College, but more importantly, she saw many options for emeriti in the broader community, volunteering, continuing scholarly activities, and using their skills in new and creative ways.



Above: Alumna and Assistant Professor Emerita, Dr. Thelma Cook

Thelma had a skill for picking out the right person for the right task and realized that women did things differently than men and had different goals for their retirement. Her leadership was a catalyst for the Association/College to become a space where retired academics could blossom in many different ways. Through her encouragement, past presidents/principals continued to come to Executive/Council meetings to provide wisdom and good ideas, and in fact, they continued to volunteer for much of the hard work that needs to be done behind the scenes. Through her initiative and Mark Thompson's encouragement, the Past President, President, and President-elect always went together to meet with UBC administrators, providing continuity of knowledge and wisdom.

I also had the pleasure of being on PACCE (the President's Advisory Committee on Campus Engagement) with Thelma. Set up by Peter Oberlander, its purpose is to give advice to the UBC President and Planning and Safety about how to enhance our beautiful campus. Needless to say, Thelma always had great ideas and infectious enthusiasm.

Thelma was much loved while part of the Education Faculty, spearheading Indigenous education programs and scholarships. She was greatly admired by her colleagues for her generosity of spirit, kindness, and generativity. Thelma put up a valiant fight with health problems since she retired but, in the midst of it all, continued to serve on PACCE and as a member of UBCAPE. Unfortunately, with her death, a great deal of history is lost, but I personally want to acknowledge Thelma's engagement and interest in all things emeriti and her thoughtful questions, encouragements, and contributions.

Read Thelma's Obituary in [the Vancouver Sun here](#)



Above: Group photo at the 2023–2024 Emeritus College Retreat

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Emeritus College Members' Forum

The Emeritus College is establishing a Members' Forum through the creation of a new email Listserv which we expect to be active by the beginning of November. This Forum is open to all members of the College and their spouses/partners. The new email Listserv that is being created to support this Forum will be entirely separate from the email lists that the College has for various administrative purposes.

This Forum will provide a platform to facilitate the exchange of information and ideas among members. Potential areas of interest include: locating a reliable plumber, electrician or house painter; experience with local trades people; having a suite to rent; seeking accommodation for a friend or relative; community events; volunteering opportunities; music and fitness classes; suggestions regarding medical practitioners; information about new local businesses; experience with a travel destination, accommodations, and restaurants; ideas and resources for support to live independently in place; etc.

To become part of this Members' Forum, send a request, along with your full name, to office@emerituscollege.ubc.ca. The office will verify your membership in the Emeritus College and then add your name (and/or the name of your spouse/partner, if you wish) to the email list.

We would like to hear from you!

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