



# Newsletter

## From the Principal

2024 is off to a good start for the Emeritus College. Would that the world at large were in such good shape. Many of the Special Interest Groups are active. I'm not picking a favourite among them, but I will mention the poetry group. I still haven't managed to attend one of the group's on-line meetings where poems are read and discussed, but just being on the email distribution list means that I receive intriguing poems that challenge my understanding of the world and its diversity of occupants—human and otherwise. I hear rumours that some of the poets among us will present at the General Meeting on April 17th.

One of the major events in January was the special General Meeting with guest speaker, President Benoit-Antoine Bacon. If you weren't able to attend the session, you can find a recording [here](#). The President emphasized how UBC's current status as one of the world's leading academic institutions has been achieved in a little over 100 years and then described some of the areas of research and knowledge-transfer where he sees great potential for growth. He left us with a challenge: "What is your vision for the Emeritus College?" To answer, we all need to focus on activities that advance the College's strategic plan and ensure that the President and other UBC leaders understand the value that emeriti bring to UBC.

Your Executive has been collating and analyzing the input from the strategic planning retreat last fall; the condensed output was discussed at Council in February. Many ideas were put forward—too many to tackle in one year—for activities in all four "pillars" of the strategic plan, i.e., enhancing the transition to retirement and programming for emeriti, providing opportunities to share community volunteer experiences, ensuring that key academic and administrative leaders understand the value that emeriti bring to UBC, and clarifying the roles of committee chairs, cohort convenors, and Council and Executive members, so that those newly recruited into those roles will know the expectations. On that point, one group of volunteers is going to receive considerable attention this year—the "Unit Reps". You may be one, but if not, they are emeriti who liaise between the College and their own academic unit. Gaps in membership are being filled and a group meeting is planned for early March to ensure that Unit Reps receive the support they need to keep their



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

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yet-to-retire colleagues up to date on issues around the transition to retirement as well as opportunities offered by participation in College activities.

I won't go on. I hope you find the content of this Newsletter informative and entertaining. Perhaps in it you will find a new way to engage with the Emeritus College.

## From the Newsletter Editor

First, I must thank all the emeriti who have submitted pieces spontaneously for this issue of the newsletter. After the Fall newsletter, we received a few funny anecdotal comments from readers, and after Sarah and I approached some UBC-O emeriti, several of those also submitted writings. I have barely had to cajole anyone!

It has been a joy to gather and read these experiences to present to the readership in our effort to revitalize the newsletter and really make it a showcase for all the diverse, interesting and truly good work that many are doing. I believe that just reading about what others are doing can stimulate us to think of ways to not only enhance our own lives but possibly even the lives of others.

Enjoy the wonderful photos of Michael Healey that are sprinkled throughout this newsletter as well as the photos of Barbara Zeigler's art exhibition, which we wanted to share even though the exhibition dates have passed.

Awards and honours have continued to rain down upon emeriti for their deserving work, some of whom continue that work in 'retirement'. See Leah Edelstein-Keshet's fascinating answers in the interview regarding her ongoing work after being nominated a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

I have recently moved from Delta, in the lower mainland, to Sidney on Vancouver Island as I write about in my piece Moving in Retirement. I am sure readers, some of whom might be contemplating a move, would like to hear about the experiences and perspectives of other emeriti who have made that momentous decision. I would be interested in having some discussion around this topic in future newsletters, regarding the pros, cons, and outcomes of such moves.

Remember this is YOUR newsletter. Please write to me and/or Sarah at any time if you have ideas for or finished pieces for publication. You can submit text in Word or Pages docs and separate photos in the highest resolution you have.



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

## Welcome to New Emeriti:

The UBC Emeritus College would like to welcome all those who have recently been given emeritus status by the university senate up to February 21, 2024. A list of names can be [found here](#).

We hope that you find something that interests you in these pages and stress that you are welcome to take part in all EC activities.



Above: Photo by Mike Healey from the Emeritus College Photo Group entitled "Grizzly Charging Across the Bella Coola River in Search of Salmon." If you are interested in bears, Bella Coola is a great place to watch them fishing for salmon. However, there are many other places in BC and Alaska where one can observe bears fishing for salmon. At the Bella Coola River we discovered that there is an informal "club" of people who go to these places every year to watch the bears.



Above: Photo by Mike Healey from the Emeritus College Photo Group entitled "Tygers Burning." Tiger Lilies in blossom on Sun Peaks. The photographer has manipulated the image to create a dreamy mood.

## From the EC office

### SUBSIDY FOR SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

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

Deadline to submit applications July 18, 2024.



Above: Members of the UBC Emeritus College Walk-for-Joy Team - (L to R) Sarah Close Humayun, Susan Barr, Paul Harrison, Queenie Law and Sandra van Ark.

### WALK-FOR-JOY

The Emeritus College Walk-for-Joy team is at it again this year! Paul, Susan, Sandra, Queenie and Sarah have kicked off this 9-week challenge by walking together on Wednesday February 8th. They are off to a great start with 935,094 steps by this newsletter publication. If you would like to join the team next year reach out to [communications@emerituscollege.ubc.ca](mailto:communications@emerituscollege.ubc.ca)

### BROCK COMMONS UPDATE

The new Brock Commons building project is progressing on schedule. A group of College representatives will visit the site on a hard hat tour in early March.

The College is planning a grand opening with several events. Join the the Brock Commons Planning Committee! Email: [manager@emerituscollege.ubc.ca](mailto:manager@emerituscollege.ubc.ca)



Above: Photo of Brock Commons in progress.



## Interesting Activities of Members in Retirement

**Sherrill Grace,**  
University Killam Professor Emeritus, English

Since publishing the biography of Timothy Findley—*Tiff: A Life of Timothy Findley* (2020)—I've continued to work on other Findley-related research. My article "'Pay Attention': Thornton Wilder's Correspondence: a Literary Friendship," has appeared in the *Thornton Wilder Journal* 3.2 2022: 149-76. This piece is an edited collection of surviving letters that the American playwright and novelist wrote to Findley between 1954 and 1970. Sadly, Findley's letters to Wilder do not appear to have survived and were probably destroyed after Wilder's death. Currently, I'm working on a collection of Findley's interviews that are being co-edited with Jackson R. Bryer (University of Maryland) to be published by the *University of Mississippi Press* in 2024 as *Conversations with Timothy Findley*. My larger research project these days is the preparation of a selection of Findley's letters to other artists, writers, actors, painters, etc. to be called *Significant Others: A Selection of Timothy Findley's Letters*. This title is taken from an essay Findley wrote about people of special importance in his life—his "significant others" (which also included certain animals dear to him!). He corresponded with some fascinating cultural figures such as Margaret Atwood, Pierre Berton, Alec Guinness, Marian Engel, American actress Ruth



Above: Sherrill Grace holding her copy of *Tiff: A Life of Timothy Findley*

Gordon, William Hutt, Martha Henry, Margaret Laurence, Isabel McLaughlin, Mordecai Richler, British actor Alec McCowan, and composer Sir Michael Tippett—to name just a few. Most of these "others" are, of course Canadian and, as a group, they illuminate the artistic and cultural networks active in Canada during the last 40 years of the 20th century. To date over 120 letters have been transcribed, but archival research is still underway. The final book will be published by *Wilfrid Laurier University Press*, hopefully by 2026.

## INTERESTING ACTIVITIES OF MEMBERS IN RETIREMENT CONTINUED

**William Bates,**  
Associate Professor Emeritus, Biology

I've been retired now for 10 years as an emeritus professor of evolutionary developmental biology at UBCO and actively engaged in many projects. Twice a year I travel to the African wilderness to continue my research on wildlife bioacoustics plus reveling in God's Eden! My next safari (the 28th) will be a walking safari in northern Zambia exploring on foot about 80 kms of pure wilderness along the crystal clear Mupamadzi River, a tributary of the Zambezi River. Wild spaces are under extreme threat worldwide, especially the few remaining areas on the African continent. Wilderness is a global treasure beyond words, being a place of profound biological and spiritual respite from our deeply troubled planet. In October I will return to my beloved Kruger National Park in northern South Africa for another solo self-drive covering some 700 kms up to the mighty



Above: Here is a photo with a couple of my Masai buddies as we explore the Serengeti - behind us you can see their sacred mountain called the 'Mountain of God', an active volcano that releases ash - rich in nutrients that fertilize the surrounding grasslands, which in turn provides food for some 2 million migrating animals. Praise God! The Great Choir is singing a most glorious song!

Limpopo River—this is another Eden! It is absolute bliss to find a quiet spot along a river under an ancient fig tree filled with noisy vervet monkeys and hornbills surrounded by herds of trumpeting elephant and impala, switch off the engine and just listen for hours to the Greatest Choir on earth.....I can't find the words to

express my innermost feelings about this, except to say Praise God!

I am actively researching and writing about the new theology and the new biology in which both modern biology and Christianity are both taken seriously, and in which biology informs theology and theology informs modern biology. There are now many new academic journals and books on what some folks call 'the new natural theology' and thanks to our wonderful online library, I can continue my research on this topic—a topic dear to my heart since early childhood, initiated while sitting in deep meditation, sometimes all day, in a forest near my home, wondering how all this divine beauty arose - an experience that eventually led me to become a pioneer in researching and teaching evolutionary developmental biology. I now smile when I recall everyone telling me that studying sea squirt developmental biology would result in unemployment and that one should study either mice or flies—ah, very happy to say that I proved them all wrong and became one of the first biologists to study evolutionary developmental biology at University of Oxford, Kyoto University, and several other universities by way of research on our ancient chordate ancestors, sea squirts.

For most of academic history, theology has been regarded as the ultimate science, that is, the ultimate knowledge. Joyfully, many folks in academia (including physicists and biologists), once again realize this truth and so we have the birth of a friendly, dynamic dialog between scientists and theologians, a dialog that I am absolutely enjoying! To this end I have recently completed a 32-page discussion paper entitled "'Be Fruitful and Multiply': What Developmental Biology tells us about God", the basis for a forthcoming book that I am writing that explores the intersection of biology and theology.

## INTERESTING ACTIVITIES OF MEMBERS IN RETIREMENT CONTINUED

### Reflection Point: A Barbara Zeigler Retrospective

[www.barbarazeigler.com](http://www.barbarazeigler.com)

*Reflection Point* was a retrospective exhibition at the AHVA (Art History, Visual Art and Theory) Gallery in the Audain Art Centre on the UBC campus from Nov 2 - Dec 1, 2023. It featured artwork by **Barbara Zeigler**, Professor Emerita, Art History, Visual Art and Theory completed from the mid-70s to the present.

Barbara writes about her body of work:

From the beginning as an artist, I have viewed my role more as one of increasing understanding and awareness, as opposed to finding practical solutions to deal with our changing climate. It has always seemed important to me to attempt to increase appreciation of the ecosystems of which we are a part as I believe we feel differently about that for which we care and highly value.

The works displayed broadly focus on the ever-shifting relations between ecosystems and human cultural structures. They were completed in a variety of media including drawing, sculptural installation, video, and



Above: *Earthmakers*, a collaborative work by Barbara Zeigler and Joan Smith, a portion of which was shown in the AHVA Gallery. Pictured here, close-up of prints from the installation. The complete installation comprises two-hundred etchings on Kozo paper (each 24" x 36"), a sound component, an index, cedar chips, and *Earthmakers: Forest Floor*, an 18-panel mixed-media collage, which was shown in this exhibition.



Above: *Reflection Point*, AHVA Gallery, Audain Art Centre, UBC, installation view, Nov. 2023

printmaking (i.e., etching, lithography, serigraphy, digital imaging, and combinations thereof). Early works from the 1970s dealt with my initial recognition of issues related to environmental degradation, through which I began to look more closely at the environment of which I am a part and to wonder why more people were not concerned about what appeared to me to be increasingly problematic land-use practices. These works were followed in the 1980s by the *Precarious Balance Series* of Prints and Drawing through which I began to better understand the precariousness of human existence and to appreciate the importance of the interrelatedness of all life forms and human actions. In the 1990s a collaborative project titled *Earthmakers* was undertaken to further my understanding from yet another vantage point of the many related issues. This research involved a large-scale study undertaken with artist Joan Smith and the assistance of soil scientists. It focused on comprehending and understanding the ecological significance of the soil fauna inhabiting a square metre of old-growth forest soil on northern Vancouver Island, culminating in a large-scale print installation, that expanded print practice into the realm of installation art.

These works were followed in the 2000s and 2010s by further excursions on the land to the interior of BC, and by water up the coast. This time my focus was primarily on salmon, their habitat, and ecological and cultural significance. Initial interest in this general area was first peaked by a year-long project initiated with

my fourth-year printmaking students in the 1990s. Related to the Fraser river basin this project, *RiverLink*, was done in collaboration with Professor Emeritus Michael Healey, former director of UBC Westwater Research Centre, and at the time Director of BEST (the Fraser Basin Ecosystem Study), a major three-year program of interdisciplinary research on the ecosystem of the Lower Fraser river basin undertaken by the Westwater Research Centre in collaboration with the Sustainable Development Research Institute and nine other UBC faculties and schools. Printed works from the 2000s–2010s may be seen in the *Fraser River*, *Adams River*, *Journey's Junction*, and the *Past Desire Catches the Cloaked Present* series. More recent works have dealt with time and change, as evidenced in the three-channel video, *Passages*, and print titled *Change*. Both works function somewhat as metronomes, setting intervals of time, reflection points regarding climate change, the insufficient proactive action of humanity, and the need for equitable structural change.

At the exhibition, there was discussion about how most people now accept the problematic impact of human activities on the environments in which we live, even though specifically how one thing affects another within ecological systems is still not always understood or adequately valued. Additionally, the importance of specific species to specific regions is still not well appreciated. The benefits of interdisciplinary approaches



Above: *Reflecting Cycles*, combination lithograph, collagraph, and relief print, 68 x 95 cm (23 3/4 x 37"), 1989

to tackling and bringing awareness to important issues was also noted. Generally, there is growing awareness that for human survival, respect and equity for all human and non-human life forms must be paramount, indicating a profound need for political will and social structural change to catch up to our current reality.



Above: *Unearthing*, installation shot and close-up, Audain Art Centre, UBC campus, 72" diameter vinyl laminate, stones, 2023

## External Honours & Awards

**Morris Barer**, C.M. Professor Emeritus, School of Population and Public Health  
Order of Canada 2023  
Recognized for his leadership and groundbreaking research in health services policy.

**Jane Buxton**, Professor Emeritus,  
School of Population and Public Health  
Order of British Columbia, 2023  
Recognized for her contribution as a physician epidemiologist and tireless dedication to harm reduction and public health.

**Peiter Cullis**, Professor Emeritus,  
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
Order of British Columbia, 2023  
Recognized for his extensive contribution to nanomedicines.

**Leah Edelstein-Keshet**, Professor Emeritus,  
Mathematics  
Elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada  
Recognized for her distinguished contribution in the field of Mathematics.

*See our interview with Leah on page 7.*

**Sally Thorne**, C.M. Professor Emeritus, Nursing  
Order of Canada 2023

Recognized for her extensive contributions to the practice and discipline of nursing, as a researcher, academic and leader.



Above: From left is John Wong CNSS vice president, Dhany Charest CNSS president, Paul Steinbok, holding medal, and right, Gwynedd Pickett CNSS secretary treasurer.

**Paul Steinbok**, Professor Emeritus, Surgery  
Drake Medal of CNS Society Lifetime Achievement and  
Harrison College Queens College Alumni Network  
(HCQCAN) - Night of Stars Award 2023

Dr. Steinbok was presented with a medal at the Canadian Neurosurgical Society (CNSS) reception at Banff Springs Hotel during the Canadian Neurological Sciences Federation Congress in June 2023. Dr. Steinbok was also awarded the Harrison College Queens College Alumni Network (HCQCAN)—Night of Stars Award 2023—for exceptional contributions to Barbados: Outstanding Achievement in Medical and Health Services. Presented in Barbados in October 2023.

[More Information on this achievement](#)



# Interview with an Award Winner

**Leah Edelstein-Keshet,**

Professor Emeritus, Mathematics

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

I have received several awards. The most recent is Fellowship in the Royal Society, Canada (2023). In 2022 I received the John von Neumann Award of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM). This is the premier research award of that scholarly society.

What is the award given for generally?

The [RSC Fellows](#) are described as follows:

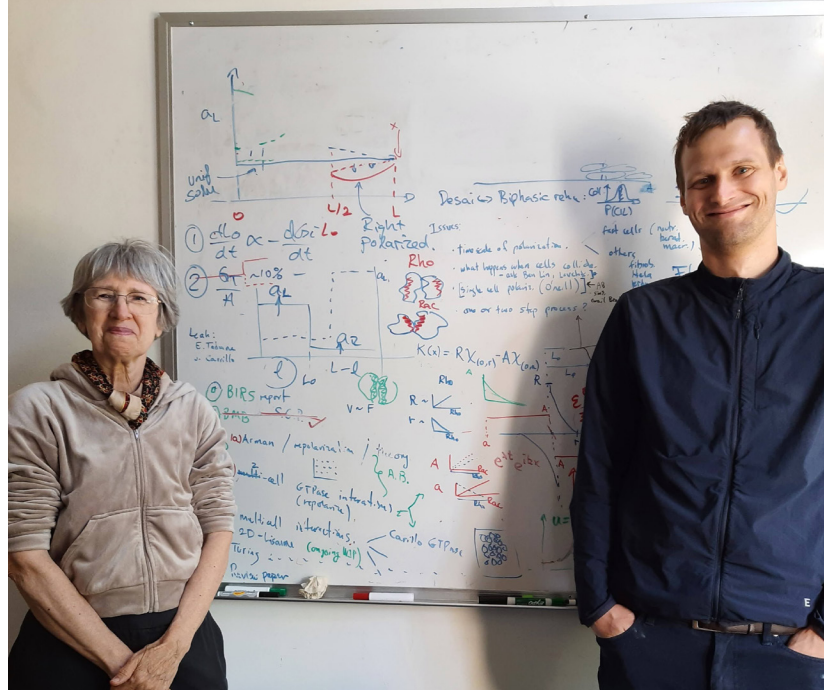
*"Fellows of the RSC are distinguished Canadians from all branches of learning who have made remarkable contributions in the arts, the humanities and the sciences, as well as in Canadian public life. There are 2,558 active Fellows of the SC."*

The [JvN Award \(SIAM\)](#) is described as follows:

*"This prize, established in 1959, is awarded for outstanding and distinguished contributions to the field of applied mathematical sciences and for the effective communication of these ideas to the community. The recipient will receive a monetary award and will present a survey lecture at the annual meeting."*

For what specific work did you receive the award?

A number of very kind and supportive colleagues took the time and effort to nominate me for the RSC Fellowship. The nomination for the SIAM award was assembled by SIAM's Award committee. It is hard for me to point to specific aspects of my work that were identified for these accolades. Perhaps, after a long career in interdisciplinary science (mathematics applied to biological problems) these kinds of lovely surprises happen occasionally.



Above: Leah with Prof Andreas Buttenshoen (former post-doc, now faculty at U Mass Amherst)

How does that relate to your work in general?

My work has combined mathematics and computational methods to model the behaviour of cells, and in particular, how the motility of cells is regulated by their internal signaling systems. I have been exceptionally lucky to have worked with many brilliant young scientists who have, collectively, contributed to a fascinating and exciting research program. I have also had huge luck in being a member of a supportive and collegial department, whose wonderful atmosphere has allowed all of us to flourish and do our best work.

What part of your work are you most proud of?

The group has studied how complex internal cell regulatory circuits work to guide cell migration, for example in white blood cells that home in on pathogens. Mathematical analysis has clarified what properties of proteins in those circuits can explain the polarization (front vs back) of such motile cells. Computations reveal the shapes and ability of cells to solve problems (obstacles, walls, etc.).



Above: L to R: Prof Bill Holmes (former post-doc, now faculty at Indiana University - he was visiting UBC that day and we all went out to lunch together), Vincent Nanadwa (Visiting PhD student)\*, Victor Juma (Postdoc shared by me and by UBC Math Prof. Madzvamuse)\*, Kudzanayi Mapfumo (PhD student with UBC Math Prof. Mazvamuse)\*, Leah Edelstein-Keshet, Jack Hughes (my PhD Student), Jupiter Algorta (my MSc student)

\* These young scientists from Africa are largely supervised by Anotida Madzvamuse, but we have a lot of joint group meetings and joint work on some projects.

*Are you continuing with your work as an emeritus professor?*

Yes, certainly. I love this research and I can't see giving it up anytime soon. I am continuing with active research since retirement, and I continue to supervise graduate students, write scientific papers, and develop educational material for my field.

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

Make special efforts to learn how to communicate your results and ideas both in writing and orally.



Above: Leah in her garden with abundant produce.

Find ways to network with others at all career stages. Find good partners that complement your skillset, and most of all, enjoy your research!

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

Great conferences (in [Lorentz Inst, Leiden](#)), new collaboration with a cell biologist, among many others.

*Are there any responsibilities that come along with being a member of the Royal Society of Canada?*

I have been asked to join the editorial board of an RSC journal, and to review a paper so far. (But it's still early days.)

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

In the summer, I love to garden. We extend the summer to early March by starting many seedlings inside our home with plant-spectrum LEDs. So that by May, many young plants are ready to go to the garden. However, December to February is not very good gardening time in Vancouver.

# News from the Special Interest Groups

## EMERITI/SENIORS' SPORTS PROGRAM

**Harry Hubball**, Convenor

Professor Emeritus, Curriculum and Pedagogy

### NEW Special Interest Group

We are delighted to announce a new SIG entitled UBC Emeriti/Seniors' Sports Program which focuses on modified small-sided games (e.g., walking soccer, walking basketball, and cricket 5s) and racquet sport opportunities (e.g., singles/doubles tennis, pickle ball, squash, badminton and table tennis). An integral part of the UBC Emeriti Seniors' Sports Program will include post-activity social. In the initial phase, we



Above: Seniors Football Coaching

expect to start programs in May until September.

The ethos of the fun and challenging UBC Emeriti/Seniors' Sports Program aligns with UBC's Wellbeing Strategic Framework and its six priority areas — Physical Activity, Mental Health and Resilience, Built and Natural Environments, Collaborative Leadership, Food and Nutrition and Social Connection. Caution: safety, ageing and sport—"Don't play sport to get fit, get fit to play sport".

Contact **Harry Hubball** at [harry.hubball@ubc.ca](mailto:harry.hubball@ubc.ca) if you are interested in participating. Partners/Spouses/Coed participants most welcome.

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

## RED

« The maple's loom is red. »  
Emily Dickinson

So it is this season, even here on the west coast, when conifers of every stripe usually overshadow the maples and the oaks, and the rain makes mush-pie of the leaves.

It has been a radiant autumn, crisp air, lots of sun, a deep texture to the colours on the trees, the stuff to fantasize and give reprieve from the devastation of this summer's heat.

And red seems to be the flavour of this tail end of the year, as news of yet another deadly hurricane,

another massacre or war, comes tinged with a colour that we dread.

## POETIC ODYSSEYS GROUP

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

The Poetic Odysseys group was created in 2018 as a forum for emeritus faculty and their partners with an interest in poetry. In the early years, it met twice each term in one of the classrooms in the building where the Emeritus College has its offices, with a broad range of participants in attendance. With the onset of the COVID pandemic, we went online, and have continued to meet twice a term using Zoom. Members who write poetry have also taken to exchanging poems with each other online and have contributed poems to the College newsletter.

On April 17, the group will be sponsoring a poetry reading at the College's general meeting. It will be an opportunity for members of the Poetic Odysseys group to showcase some of the poetry they have been writing in recent years.

### SAVE THE DATE FOR THIS GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday April 17 at 1:00 pm

[More information](#)

## TRAVEL GROUP

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

**New venture of EC Travel Group:** Some of our members have expressed an interest in meeting other members of the travel group in person in the hope that they might find someone compatible, with whom they might travel in the future. To facilitate that, we did hold 2 hybrid meetings, but in person attendance was almost zero. As a result, we went back to having our meetings by Zoom only. I have continued to think about how we could satisfy the desire of some members to meet in person with others. To that end, whether you're a solo traveler or a group of travelers looking to add new people to your group, we would love to connect you. Our hope is to organize a meet up so you can connect in person!

If you are looking to travel with other likeminded globetrotters contact [communications@emerituscollege.ubc.ca](mailto:communications@emerituscollege.ubc.ca) and we will put you on the list for an in-person meeting!



Above: A Roman amphitheatre in Hierapolis, Turkey.

## MARCH MEETING

*Türkiye and Rhodes*

**Peter Dodek**, Professor Emeritus, Critical Care Medicine

In September 2022 we visited Türkiye and Rhodes. After exploring Istanbul on foot, we flew to Kayseri and drove to Goreme for more exploring the beautiful landscape and a hot-air balloon ride. Then, we drove to Gaziantep, famous for its great food, and then on to Sanliurfa (birthplace of Abraham), and Mardin (a quaint ancient town on a hilltop in southeast Türkiye). After four days of exploring that area, including the region close to the Syrian border, we flew to Izmir to visit Ephesus (famous Roman library) and Pamukkale (beautiful limestone formations) before ending our time in Türkiye at Fethiye on the coast. From there, we took a ferry to Rhodes and spent 5 days there exploring the ancient town (famous as the center of the Knights of Jerusalem in the 1500s) and some of the coastal towns nearby.



Palmyra, Syria

## APRIL MEETING

*Our travel around Syria on the eve of the civil war*

**Joel Oger**, Professor Emeritus, Neurology and  
**Marie Louise Miginiac-Oger**

In late June 2010, the "Société Française de Neurologie" organized a joint meeting with its Syrian equivalent. As I was an invited speaker, we took this meeting in Damascus as a springboard to embark on 2 weeks of extensive bus travel around the country. We did not realize that this would be the last opportunity to see glorious ruins such as the city of Bosra, the city of Palmyra and the temple of Baâl before their near destruction. We finished our tour at the Kraak des Chevaliers which was soon to become a military warehouse for the "rebels" with the expected results.... We have been told that the Christian villages where we ended our trip have been spared even though orthodox priests and nuns were displaced. This would not be the first time and up to now has always been temporary... hopefully it will be the same, this time around.



## GROVES OF ACADEME

(otherwise known as a Book Club!)

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

*Your editor asked Graeme Wynn, convenor of this SIG if he or another member of the group could provide a brief review of one of the books they had read recently. Graeme was kind enough to provide a review that he had written for another group for a completely different reason!*

## REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

I am not a “natural blogger,” but I am inundated by requests to write short pieces. When our Newsletter editor asked that I provide a review of one of the books we have read in the Groves of Academe SIG this year, my initial reaction was negative. But my endlessly disconcerting sense of obligation brought me to “yes.” Foolishly, I had earlier responded to a similarly “undeniable” request in the same way and struggled painfully to deliver the required words enjoining colleagues to support an international organization and its quinquennial conference. Eventually I escaped that morass by drawing upon the book I was reading for our January Groves meeting. So being a good environmentally minded citizen, I figured I might help Val’s cause by reducing, reusing, and recycling some of what I had written earlier.

*Time Shelter* is a brilliant, powerful, strikingly original (and also funny and frightening) satire by Bulgarian author Georgi Gospodinov. A rich, thought-provoking

work, it was described by Sukla Chatterjee in *The Conversation* (May 24, 2023) as a “philosophical exploration of memory and nostalgia, about forgetting and trying to hold on to our past and make sense of our present and future.” Just the thing for an historical geographer’s holiday reading in 2023!

The book begins with the idea that people suffering from dementia might be spared the challenges and indignities of their condition by being allowed to exist in their “happy times.” So, the clinics in which they are treated recreate, to the last detail, rooms and settings of decades past. In these familiar, treasured places (that are in fact “times”), some find comfort. The treatment is not perfect; occasionally the settings trigger frightening repressed memories. But good news spreads, and soon perfectly sentient, healthy people are checking in to the clinics to escape the distresses of the present.

Nostalgia takes hold. Before long all the countries of Europe hold referendums to decide upon the decade in which they will live. Groups campaign—often mounting dramatic re-enactments of signal events in their chosen time, and eventually a new map appears, with Spain, France, Germany and Poland settling in the 1980s, Italy opting for 1968, most of the Nordic countries finding themselves in the 1970s, and so on. Ludicrous as this seems, it is handled with wit, to make telling points about the vacuity of populist programs that invoke the “good old days” (with Brexit and MAGA in mind). It also becomes evident that this is a work of autofiction: the story told in these 300 pages is presented as the product of an author caught in his own inexorable descent of the stairs of dementia.

Time, and the narrative, become increasingly fragmented; coherence is elusive. The book's last sentence, written on the eve of a full-scale re-enactment of World War II, is "Tomorrow was September 1."

With its often humorous, but unflinching, critique of the ways in which many now make use of the past, and its equally excoriating assessment of what the past is being turned into, the book offers a compelling call for rigorous historical scholarship. In some sense it turns geographer David Lowenthal's observation that "Nostalgia tells it like it never was," to very useful purpose indeed. With its insistence that we cannot forsake, or escape, the future, however grim it may appear to be, the book also offers a call to scholarly arms, to make that future as good and true as we can.

By its cunning conflation/substitution of space and time in retro-decorated clinics, and the new map of Timeurope (my coinage) the book reminds us that containers matter, and that those in which lives are lived can make all the difference. Further, it drives home the importance of remembering that although people within these containers hold a lot in common, it is certainly not everything.

Amid memory loss and nostalgia, connections between people are often weak or attenuated in *Time Shelter*. But readers see, in various ways, that communication and connection, friendships and relationships, give vital substance to ideas, and enable people to live their best lives. So, we read of "that rush of joy" produced by seeing or hearing a person one hasn't run into in a long time. Auden's "great line"— "We must love one another or die"—is invoked in discussion of the referendum choice between "living together in a shared past" and letting ourselves fall apart and begin "slaughtering one another"—both of which "we have... already done." This thread also runs through some banter about post-Brexit Britain. One speaker attributes the little Englanders' confidence that "an island can give you everything you need to survive" to *Robinson Crusoe*. "It would have been better," says another, "if they'd read Donne instead of Defoe." The reference is, of course, to "No man is an Iland (original spelling) ... I am involved in Mankinde" from *Meditation XVII of Devotions Upon Emergent Occasions* (1624).

"'Dun' instead of de Foe." There must be a joke or a pun



Above: Photo by Mike Healey from the Emeritus College Photo Group entitled "The Old Geisha Pleasure Houses in Kanazawa, Japan." Kanazawa has two old geisha districts that are now maintained as tourist attractions. For a modest fee a visitor can have a guided tour of one or more of the houses.

in there somewhere, but rather than vex myself over it, I shall sit back and savour Gospodinov's achievement before turning to our next Groves assignment, Abdulrazak Gurnah's *Paradise*.

[The earlier post alluded to is at: [NiCHE](#) ]

## PHOTO GROUP

**Richard Spencer**, Convenor, Associate Professor Emeritus, Civil Engineering

### [Photo Group joins the Sustainability Hub Climate Emergency Week Photo Project](#)

The UBC Emeritus College Photo Group has joined [the UBC Sustainability Hub](#) photo project as a project partner. The Hub invited the Photo Group to explore themes of biodiversity, resilient communities, circular economy, or climate at a special photography workshop during the Climate Emergency Week (Feb 12-16) and the Photo Group will display their work at the Centre for Interactive Research on Sustainability in a pop-up gallery exhibition on March 21.

More details will be available in the upcoming weeks. Please watch the Emeritus College E-News for more updates.

## PHOTO GROUP CONTINUED

The wonderful photos from the group for this newsletter were provided by **Micheal Healey**, Professor Emeritus, Resources, Environment and Sustainability:

*Like many people, as a child I took snapshots with the simple and inexpensive box cameras produced by the Eastman Kodak company that made photography available to everyone. As a graduate student and as a practising scientist I used photography to help communicate results of my investigations. With time, however, I gradually became more interested in photography as a form of artistic expression. My wife and I have traveled widely in North, Central, and South America as well as Asia, SE Asia, and Africa, and these travels have given me unparalleled opportunity to develop photographic skills. I do not focus on any particular subject matter, letting the location dictate what I photograph, although I do not take a lot of photographs of people.*



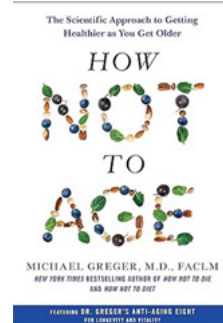
Above: Photo by Mike Healey from the Emeritus College Photo Group entitled "On the Road to Emerald Lake with Emerald Peak in the distance." Emerald peak is a 2700 m high mountain overlooking Emerald Lake in Yoho National Park. The peak is a popular hiking destination in the park as well as contributing to the beautiful scenery around Emerald Lake.

## VEG (VEGAN ENTHUSIAST GROUP)

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

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

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



## THE SCIENTIFIC APPROACH TO GETTING HEALTHIER AS YOU GET OLDER

A Book Review from VEG convenor **Elizabeth Dean**, Professor Emeritus, Physical Therapy  
Publisher: Flatiron Books: New York, NY, December 2023

New York Times best-selling author, Dr. Michael Greger, founder of [NutritionFacts.org](#), has built on his previous evidence syntheses, *How Not to Die* (2015) and *How Not to Diet* (2019) with this recently-released *The Scientific Approach to Getting Healthier as You Get Older: How Not to Age* (2023).

Given the potential for lucrative profits, the anti-aging field is rife with confusing nutrition-related mis- and dis-information and anti-aging quick-fixes. Dr. Greger is known not only for his encyclopedic nutrition knowledge and exhaustive reviews of the literature but also for having no corporate or other ties to his work. 100% of all proceeds of his books go to charity.

There are four sections in *How Not to Age*: I. Slowing Eleven Pathways of Aging; II. The Optimal Anti-aging Regimen; III. Preserving Function; and IV. Dr. Greger's Anti-aging Eight. The book can be described as 'four free-standing books in one' given the exhaustive review of the related literature in each.

According to Dr. Greger, what we have achieved is 'living longer sicker', rather than aspiring to chronic vibrant health—the latter being the goal of this book. He delves into the dietary and lifestyle patterns of centenarians and those living in the 'Blue Zones' where people have lived the longest. Sadly, with globalization, these health benefits are waning as the Standard American Diet (SAD) becomes ubiquitous.

This evidence synthesis, *How Not to Age*, is not a 'light' read given its dense scientific underpinnings. He writes well and links ideas effectively. The reader can select various sections to read independently. The topics are also well indexed for access to specific areas of

interest. Simple, accessible, and evidence-based methods and actionable take-aways are described that can preserve maximal physical and mental function over a long health span. This book will be of interest to those who are interested in a life that is not simply long but healthy, beyond simply the absence of disease.

An introduction and overview of Dr. Michael Greger's new book on *How Not to Age* can be viewed here: ['The Scientific Approach to Getting Healthier as You Get Older: How Not To Age'](#).

## COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER GROUP

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

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

The Community Volunteer Special Interest Group (CVSIG), now co-led by Ruth Derksen and Nancy Gallini, has been transitioning to a new framework that will hopefully have greater reach and impact. Consistent with one of the pillars of the Emeritus College strategic plan, the mission of the CVSIG is to "increase community outreach and awareness of the tremendous value emeriti add to local and global communities".

The new framework has three components:

1. During 2024, we hope to identify 50-100 local, national and international organizations, which we will contact throughout the year to inquire about their volunteer needs. The volunteer opportunities will be made accessible on the Emeritus College website.
2. A set of questions on emeriti volunteerism will be added to the Emeritus College survey; that process is expected to be completed and distributed in the Spring. The purpose is to learn about the many contributions that emeriti have made or would like to make. These include local, national and international communities, school boards, governments, and professional associations.
3. CVSIG plans to conduct two in-person meetings each year in which members will share their volunteer experiences. Topics of interest will be the

history of personal involvement, challenges and rewards, observation of best practices and recommendations for potential volunteer opportunities.

The first meeting of the CVSIG in the 2023-24 academic year was held on November 22. Several emeriti shared their volunteer experiences. Bob Armstrong spoke of his work with child disability in East Africa, Carole Christopher reported on her work with SPEC and its solutions for urban sustainability, Hilde Colenbrander outlined some of her experiences as a hospice volunteer over the past twenty years, Ruth Derksen spoke of her sponsorship, mentoring and settlement of newcomers from Iraq, Syria, Ukraine and Afghanistan, Judith Hall described her research on well-being and the range of activities undertaken by emeriti, and Pat Shaw shared her experiences working with Indigenous communities as a linguist.

The initial stages of transitioning to this new framework are underway. Feedback from interested emeriti regarding volunteer organizations, suggestions for survey questions, or interest in participating at the next meeting in May would be most welcome.

*If you have a volunteer experience you would like to share, please contact either Ruth or Nancy at [Ruth.Derksen@ubc.ca](mailto:Ruth.Derksen@ubc.ca) or [Nancy.Gallini@ubc.ca](mailto:Nancy.Gallini@ubc.ca)*



Above: Photo by Mike Healey entitled "Running on Empty." This is an image of an old truck abandoned beneath some trees in rural New Mexico. Dead vehicles are relatively common in the rural parts of North America and often offer interesting photographic opportunities.



# Committee and Program News

## GENERAL MEETING

A Special General Meeting with  
**Dr. Benoit-Antoine Bacon**  
UBC President and Vice-Chancellor

This first General Meeting of 2024 was held on January 25 and featured a lively discussion by UBC President and Vice-Chancellor Benoit-Antoine Bacon. Dr. Bacon shared with members his introduction to Vancouver, the present status of UBC, and his vision for the future.

[Watch the recording here](#)

## AT THE APRIL GENERAL MEETING

A Special Presentation with  
The Poetic Odysseys Group  
[More Information](#)

## 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



Above: UBC President Benoit-Antoine Bacon speaks to college members at the General Meeting on January 25, 2024.



Above: UBC President Benoit-Antoine Bacon speaks to college members at the General Meeting on January 25, 2024.

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.

## APRIL EVENT

*The Amazing Teen: From Problem Focus to Positive Youth Development*

**Dzung X. Vo, Head**, Division of Adolescent Health and Medicine, BC Children's Hospital  
Please [visit our website](#) for more info.

## PHILOSOPHERS' CAFE

**Nichola Hall**, Continuing Studies

The Philosophers' Cafe returns to the Club Room in Tapestry in March and May.

## UNDUE INFLUENCE, EVEN CORRUPTION?

Gangs importing and selling drugs are making huge profits. Foreign donors may have influenced elections in Canada. Sam Cooper, the BC author of *Willful Blindness*, argued that various officials may be complicit in illicit underground transactions. Should we be concerned, and if so, what should we be doing?

What do you think? Join us for the discussion.

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

## SCHOLARLY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

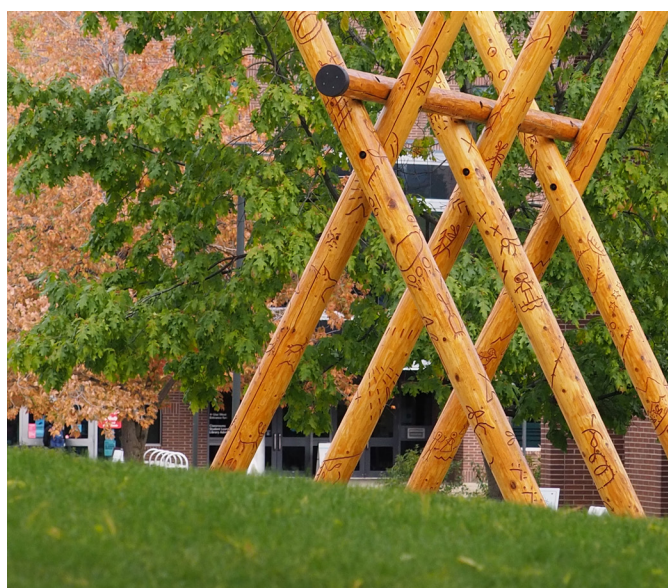
**Judith Hall**, Convenor, Professor Emerita, Pediatrics

The Scholarly Engagement Committee supports scholarly interests of the members and looks for ways to engage them within the College. The committee has a "think tank" format whereby we develop new proposals to present to the College. At present, the committee is initiating actions within the College in support of our Indigenous Strategic Plan.

## INDIGENOUS INFORMATION BOOKLET

Submitted by **Jo-ann Archibald**, Professor Emeritus, Educational Studies

In 2022, the Scholarly Engagement Committee (SEC) of the Emeritus College (EC) led the development of the EC's Indigenous Strategic Plan. One thematic action of this plan encouraged EC members to increase their knowledge and understanding of Indigenous historical and current topics, cultural approaches, issues of concern from Indigenous perspectives, and Indigenous services and businesses. In response, the SEC sponsored the development of an Indigenous Information Booklet to serve as a beginning learning guide for EC members. Jo-ann Archibald, SEC member, worked with Indigenous PhD student, Noah Chenoweth to compile information for



Above: Detail of shilq'tn, (story poles) a permanent installation by Syilx artist Les Louis on the UBC Okanagan campus. Photo by Margo Yacheshyn / University Relations.

## BOOK DISPLAY

At the April 17th Emeritus College General Meeting, the Scholarly Engagement Committee will be hosting a display of books or chapters written or edited by emeriti in the last 5 years. If you have written, edited or co-authored a book or chapter and would like to display it, please submit [this form with details](#) by March 20th.

this booklet about local Indigenous Nations of the UBC Vancouver and Okanagan campuses; University-wide Indigenous units and services; and a diverse range of Indigenous oriented learning opportunities and multi-media resources; as well as highlighting examples of local Indigenous businesses and services. The photos also provide valuable information about Indigenous language, art, and facilities on both UBC campuses. Special thanks to Sarah Close Humayun, EC Events and Engagement Coordinator for her superb assistance with finalizing the photos and formatting this booklet.

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

## CORPORATE CULTURE AND CLIMATE EMERGENCY PROGRAM

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

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

In 2023, our cohort converged on the view that the root of our global climate emergency is society's way of looking at the world. A philosophy that treats the world of nature as 'the Other' is fundamentally a cultural problem. Cohort members of the PWIAS Catalyst Program Climate and Nature Emergency made several contributions to this world view: "We chose the word *emergency* (in the singular) to underscore that in the same way that humans are not separate from nature, climate and nature are also inseparable". (PWIAS, 2023. *Moving with Storms*, p.1). Climate change is not strictly a technical problem but also a relational one.

From March, 2023,

- (i) when we expressed our concerns about UBC Vision 2050 being too narrowly technical (by letter to the Senior Administration),
- (ii) through three face-to-face meetings with Associate Vice-President Michael White, the last of which included the Vice-Provost, occurred in



November, 2023, and (iii) through watching the livestream of the BOG proceedings of November 5, 2023 and presenting a contrary perspective at a public hearing on November 7, 2023, we have struggled to be heard by the Senior Administration.

Specifically, at the Board meeting of November 5, 2023, the passing of the motion to move ahead with the UBC Vision 2050, including Land Use Plan and Housing Action Plan, shut the door of opportunity for cohort intervention in the process. The Board decision was made in spite of vigorous and creative objections raised by elected Board faculty members, Professors Anna Kindler and Charles Menzies.

At the November 7, 2023 Public Hearing, Olav Slaymaker made an oral submission, objecting to the Board decision in company with 60 or so members of the UBC Point Grey campus community (primarily students and young faculty).

Subsequently, the cohort has been debating alternative ways of making its voice heard. One of these ways is described below.

With financial support from the UBC Emeritus College, the Emeritus Catalyst cohort is undertaking the production of a film addressing the climate emergency as a cultural/social/spiritual problem. The film, an intergenerational undertaking, involves students in examining four dimensions of the emergency.

These are:

(1) the limits to technical solutions, (2) grief, anxiety, despair and collective fatigue in confronting the problem, (3) voice — who is being heard, who is silenced and what needs to change — and (4) 'All my relations', the central role of a different way of looking at our relationships in changing how we live with one another, including the world of nature we depend on for survival. This theme draws strength and inspiration from Indigenous peoples.

Four round table discussions between 4 students, and a discussant chosen for each of the dimensions will be filmed. The result will be edited into a half-hour documentary, with B-roll film used to illustrate discussions between students and a scholar chosen for the theme in question. Filming will be done by students from UBC's Department of Theatre and Film, at different settings on the UBC campus. The project is under the direction of UBC Emeritus Professor, Frank Tester, working cooperatively with UBC students Sagorika Haque and Jacob Power, both of whom played key roles in the Climate and Nature Emergency Catalyst Program of the now closed Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies. A 1-hour video of each session will be available for on-line access by interested Emeriti.

## News from UBC-O

In addition to the piece from William Bates (above on page 5), Melanie Jones, a UBC-O emerita, provided this description of her terrifying experience during the wildfires in the Okanagan last summer.

### WHAT IRREPLACEABLE ITEMS WOULD YOU GRAB FROM YOUR HOME IF YOU ONLY HAD 30 MINUTES TO DECIDE AND ONE CAR TO PACK THEM IN?

**Melanie Jones**, Professor Emerita, Biology

If you thought that you might never see your house again, which items would you grab? Tens of thousands of people in the Okanagan and Shuswap had to make that decision in mid-August this past summer, and I was one of them.

It has become a regular feature of life in the Okanagan that, once the heat of summer arrives, we are told to pack a “go bag” containing clothes, chargers for electronic items, and important papers. But what else do you pack into a single car if you have 30 minutes to decide?

In our household, it all started with almost simultaneous phone calls to my husband and me at around 7 am on the morning of Friday, August 18th: one from a friend, and one from a graduate student, both of whom had a clear view of our house from across the valley. “We can see the forest burning on the hill just south of you” they told us. “You need to get out of there!”. Unbeknownst to us, the West Kelowna fire had jumped Okanagan Lake during the night.

After informing our neighbours, some of whom already knew and others who did not, we started to pack our cars. My go bag was packed, as was a box of family photos. Another empty cardboard box was waiting beside the filing cabinet. I threw in important files from my Mom, for whom I am acting as Power of Attorney, and for us. But what next? People say that all your ‘things’ can be replaced, as long as you escape with your life, your kids and your pets. Well, we didn’t have kids or pets, so I took some clippings of some of my oldest houseplants. Then I remembered the advice to make a video recording of all the rooms in your house as a memory aid for discussions with the insurance company in case of a total loss.



Above: View of the fire from my friend Trudy's house

But while making the video, I thought about what it would be like to live in a motel or rented apartment for a year or two while our house was being rebuilt. Wouldn't it be nice to have a few familiar things with us? I love to cook, so into the car went appliances that I use several times per week: the Instant Pot, the toaster oven, the waffle maker. Then I saw the pasta maker, a gift from a special honour's student, who we now consider 'family'. I couldn't leave that behind! And then I thought of all the homemade gifts that my honours and grad students had made me over the years – received during our annual Secret Santa gift exchange– or brought from their home countries: the runner made by Bailey's Mom, the Bulgarian and Israeli tablecloths from Latina and Dan, the teapot and mugs (showing increasing skill over the years as Naomi developed as a potter), the wine glasses and decanter etched with mushroom motifs from Tirhas and Josh, the resin plaque with Vaccinium leaves in it from Emilie, etc. Still room in the car – should I pack skis or bikes? No, they can be replaced, but then the shelves with jars of canned peaches, plums, tomatoes, tomato sauce, peppers and pickled beets caught my eye. With 7 months invested in those, including starting the vegetables from seed, tending them in the garden, harvesting and preserving them – just like the Little Red Hen - there was no way I could leave them behind.

After shoving my parents' collapsible mid-century Danish dining room table on top of everything else in my little hatchback, I was ready to head to safety, comforted by the knowledge that wherever we ended up, I could putter in the kitchen with a few familiar items around me,



and turn the space into a home with reminders of many of the students *who have meant so much to me over the years.*

*Epilogue: From my viewpoint in our friend's house across the valley, I saw the winds shift late that morning to blow the fire away from our house. Those northerly winds lasted the rest of the week, and we were able to return home after six days. The fire had been less than a kilometre from our house when it first started.*

## Retirement News

### AROHE

Recordings and Resources for AROHE's Reimagining Retirement webinar series are Available!

A recording of each of the three highly informative AROHE webinars on Reimagining Retirement, plus the resource materials referenced by the presenters, are available on the AROHE website. Access is free for series-registrants and non-registrants. Please go to [the AROHE website for more details.](#)

### RTOERO

**Margery Fee**, Professor Emerita, English

RTO-ERO (formerly Retired Teachers of Ontario) provides insurance for retired educators, as you may have discovered by reading the comparison with our UBC Sun Life policy on the [Emeritus College website.](#) I just added the RTO-ERO plan to my Sun Life plan and discovered that they have a local branch that convenes social and educational events. If you are interested in their events, but not their insurance, they are happy to have you [join them.](#)

Here is the contact for [inquiries in Vancouver.](#) They have a Victoria branch, if you live on Vancouver Island.

**EAPF** (European Association of Professors Emeriti)

[The silver economy: An ageing society in the European Union.](#) Book Review.

Agata Niemczyk, Katarzyna Szalotka, Anna Gardocka-Jałowiec, Wioletta Nowak, Renata Seweryn, and Zofia Gródek-Szostak. Routledge, London, UK, 2023: 112 pp. Francis & Taylor Online, 28 Nov 2023.

The definition of “old” has evolved intensively over the years due to demographic changes, and the aging population is one of the most frequently discussed issues in recent decades. The profile of the 21st century senior is completely different from the senior in the second half of the 20th century, not to mention earlier periods in history. As an increasing group of benefactors of human activity, they create demand for products and experiences. The system of goods and services that aims to leverage their purchasing potential and satisfy their consumption needs, including living, health, tourism, cultural, information, and communication needs, has

## EAPE CONTINUED



### THE SILVER ECONOMY AN AGEING SOCIETY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Agata Niemczyk, Katarzyna Szalonka,  
Anna Gardocka-Jalowiec, Wioletta Nowak,  
Renata Seweryn and Zofia Gródek-Szostak



been referred to as the so-called Silver Economy. The book reviews the phenomenon of aging of the EU's population over 50. It also presents a multidimensional view of the potential for the development of this group's economic, social, medical, family, personal and technological demands in the early

21st century. The book analyzes the market behavior of seniors and argues that the Silver Economy will grow in importance and profitability every year in various areas, both public and private. This includes health, finance, employment, leisure and well-being, education, and the use of digital tools.

This publication is recommended for policymakers and business players who are considering how to achieve economic development through the growing and changing demand of the aging population. For the world is now facing a challenge that no community has ever faced before—the coexistence of a long-lived population on the one hand and the growing popularity of digital technologies on the other. [Open Access Link](#)

As retired professors, we can ask ourselves what the Silver Economy, of which we are an important part, means to us. We can also ask ourselves how we can contribute to its development for our own benefit and the benefit of our relatives and society as a whole. Professors emeriti play an additional role in finding answers to these questions due to their involvement in research and development, experience, multidisciplinary, and professional connections.

## THE EMERITUS COLLEGE IS SEEKING NEW UNIT REPRESENTATIVES

The Membership Committee is seeking volunteers to serve as Unit Representatives for a number of departments and schools for which the position is currently vacant.

All UBC departments and schools (and the faculty in non-departmentalized units) have an Emeritus College member who is the designated representative to facilitate the flow of information between the unit's emeriti (and those in the unit nearing retirement) and the administrative, governance and programmatic functions of the College.

The Membership Committee is anxious to fill the vacant Unit Representative position in the following departments:

- Applied Science - Civil Engineering
- Applied Science - Mechanical Engineering
- Applied Science - School of Community and Regional Planning
- Arts - Art History, Visual Art and Theory
- Arts - Economics
- Arts - School of Creative Writing
- Dentistry - Oral Biological and Medical Sciences
- Medicine - Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- Medicine - Emergency Medicine
- Medicine - Medicine
- Medicine - Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences
- Medicine - Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
- Medicine - Psychiatry
- Medicine - Radiology
- Medicine - School of Population and Public Health

If your department is listed here and you are interested in taking on the role of its Unit Representative (or possibly can refer a name to us) please contact Queenie Law at [office@emerituscollege.ubc.ca](mailto:office@emerituscollege.ubc.ca).

If you require more information about the role of a Unit Representative, please contact Dr. David Hill, Chair, Emeritus College Membership Committee at [dhill02@mail.ubc.ca](mailto:dhill02@mail.ubc.ca).

In an effort to re-engage all new and continuing Unit Representatives in the affairs of the Emeritus College, the Membership Committee is organizing an information meeting for Thursday, 7 March 2024. Further details concerning the meeting location and time will be released shortly.

## Op-ed

### MOVING IN RETIREMENT

**Valerie A. White**, Professor Emeritus,  
Pathology and Laboratory Medicine  
December 2023

One foot still here and one foot there. That's what it feels like to be moving to a new town after 34 years in the same location. Earlier this year my husband and I made the decision to move from our floating home in Ladner to dry land in Sidney BC. We took possession of the new residence in Sidney in November and my husband has been living and working there since, overseeing extensive renovations to a 25-year-old townhouse that has not seen a lot of upgrading or attention in the last several years. We are leaving a 14-year-old float home that we designed, and my husband built, after living in our first float home in the same community for 20 years. With 43 homes in the community, I know all of my neighbours so I will miss the closeness of life on the water. I will miss the weekly knit nights I have attended for years, rotating between the homes of group members. I will miss the great potluck parties that occurred to celebrate Christmas and July 1 and other random occasions and the almost weekly impromptu parties on the green throughout the summer. I will miss my other friends who live in the Vancouver area, although with traffic the way it is, we only get to see them a few times a year. I like to say that I love my community, but I don't like living in Ladner. I won't miss the traffic issues that plague the trip through the tunnel into Vancouver and the lack of a fast, easy transit alternative. I am a cyclist and won't miss feeling hemmed into a small area that that I have ridden for years with no new places to explore. I won't miss seeing the beautiful agricultural land that was given to the Tsawwassen nation being taken over by warehouses and their attendant truck traffic.

So, I am moving because I want to be close to goods and services that I can walk or ride to. I am looking forward to walking down the street to the cinema and up the street to the cultural centre that has concerts most weeks. I am looking forward to the expanded cycling network I will have access to and the one-bus transit trip to downtown



Above: Chaos of boxes in the kitchen.

Victoria. We are boaters and while we will be giving up the convenience of having our boat moored right next to our house, we won't have to endure the trip down the Fraser River and crossing the Georgia Strait to get to the Gulf Islands, as we will be so close to them.

There are many reasons to move or not to move at this time of life. We are fortunate in that we have some good friends and friends of friends in Sidney to help with our transition to another community. We will be living in a 4-unit townhouse complex, and we have already met our three neighbours, who have gladly turned a deaf ear to all the noise and commotion that our renovations have entailed because they are happy to see someone enhancing the place and getting ready to become a member of the community. I'll let you know the initial outcome in the next newsletter.

Trish Corner, a UBC-O emerita, also stepped up to the plate and wrote about her experience of moving back to New Zealand after life in the Okanagan. We will feature her experience in the spring newsletter.

*Are you contemplating moving or have you or others you know recently moved? Let us know your thoughts about the experience.*

## Musings, Comments and Letters from Emeriti

-**David Boyd**, Professor Emeritus, Mathematics

Hi Everyone,  
I wanted to express my appreciation to the other members of the travel group.

In spite of my Zoom problems which have now largely been solved (not by me!), I enjoyed the wonderful variety of mountainscapes. Paul Steinbok's photo of hot air balloons over the mountains of Cappadocia reminded me of my few years as Head of Mathematics (about 40 years ago!): In my "Head's office", I had mounted two posters purchased on my travels, one of hot air balloons rising over a California desert and the other a poster of Rodin's "Gates of Hell". I had the Gates of Hell mounted behind my desk so not visible to me, but visible to any visitor sitting across the desk facing me, while the balloon poster was mounted on the wall behind them, visible only to me.

It was surprising how short a time visitors spent in that office! (I had retained my own "research office" for dealing with "non-Head" matters but my own research students already knew of my somewhat strange sense of humour so there was no need for subliminal suggestion).

-**Stephen Withers**, Professor Emeritus,  
Conservation Sciences

Valerie  
Thanks for your work on the newsletter. I enjoyed reading it. I was amused to note two poems by Jesse Brewer, who I have not seen for years, but I used to do lunch time runs with him and others. I had no idea of his poetic leanings. Anyway...as it happens, I composed an "Ode to Jesse" back in 1989 at the height of the "Cold Fusion" debacle when claims were made that nuclear fusion could be done at room temperature. Jesse, as a UBC/Triumf physicist used to rail against these claims...hence my ditty below. I thought you might get a chuckle.

Ode to Jesse Brewer, written at the time of the Cold Fusion debacle, 1989

Said a frustrated fuser named Brewer  
Whose thoughts on the process were pure.  
"At high temperatures it's fine,  
Or on some beam line.  
But not underwater in a Dewar"

A POEM SUBMITTED BY SANDRA BRUNEAU,  
MEMBER OF THE POETIC ODYSSEYS GROUP

## BABOON

After the crowd left, Baboon stood on rocky outcrop, watching the leaves rustle when friends visited.

Everyone was too tired by day's attention, finger-pointing, nattering noise from the two-leggeds:

obese charmers, sybillant, cloying attitudes -  
the excited delirium of new recruits to  
civilization -

aiming to be like him, standing on the other side,  
balancing on two legs, proud, weirdly noisy,  
grinning toothily.

He'd been himself, a model for fellow inmates  
caged as "entertainment." He'd winked, nodded,  
grunted,

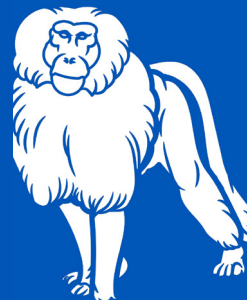
looked at his hands when they expected him to -  
anything to warrant the ticket price, the incessant  
stare.

Cagemates prodded, babies soothed, rivals  
groomed: taxing operations under glaring eyes.

But he was up to it. They'd look into his eyes;  
he'd tease and look away, not revealing his soul.  
Why should he? They weren't about to reciprocate,  
having little to share.

Untamed, they threw popcorn, jumped about, goaded  
with sticks, imitated his mating calls. And were they  
sex-starved? Clapping and woo-hooing on cue when  
his wives appeared.

A challenge it would be - yet he saw them as  
educable.





-**Richard Prince**, Professor Emeritus, Art History, Visual Art and Theory wrote to us with a question:

*Some of us might not wish to submit text submissions as our research is better documented in visual images. Some few years ago it was possible and, indeed, encouraged. Is the submission of visual images again suitable?*

*I have been making sculptures based on astronomical (or celestial) imagery for many decades and so current talk about missions to Mars and colonies on its surface led to reading information on Mars inevitable. I made this small correctly proportioned model of Mars and its two moons (actually much tinier than depicted) just before Christmas. Once completed, its small size made it an ideal gift for my brother, who lives in a house crowded with stuff. This small box could find a spot into which it could be tucked.*

All the best,

To answer Richard—Yes, it is certainly possible and encouraged.

-**Jo-Anne Naslund**, General Librarian Emerita

Hello Valerie

Please include this in the In Memorium section of the next newsletter

*Hans Burndorfer, age 93 of Vancouver, passed away on Friday, January 12, 2024. Hans began his career in the UBC Library as a reference librarian in the Humanities Division in 1964, then was appointed as the library system's first official bibliographer in 1965. Following two years in that position, he became head of the Music Library, and later added new responsibilities as Head of the Fine Arts Division (1985), Maps, and Special Collections & Archives (1992). He officially retired December 31, 1995. There is a [memorial page](#) where you can leave condolences to be shared with the family.*

Thanks



Above: A photo of a recently completed work completed as a Christmas gift for my brother, Peter (B.Sc. 1969).  
Richard Prince, *Mars Model*, 2023,  
3.675 x 5.25 x 2.125 cm  
Wood, plastic metal, paint

## In Memoriam UBC Professors Emeriti

Hans Burndorfer  
Administrative Librarian Emeritus  
1930–2024  
University Service 1964–1996

Michael Feller  
Associate Professor Emeritus of Forest Sciences  
1946–2024  
University Service 1979–2009

Jiri Frohlich  
Professor Emeritus of Pathology  
1942–2023  
University Service 1973–2013

Sneja Gunew  
Professor Emeritus of English  
1946–2024  
University Service 1995–2014

Lee M. Johnson  
Professor Emeritus of English  
1944–2023  
University Service 1970–2009

John K MacFarlane  
Professor Emeritus of Surgery  
1938–2023  
University Service 1984–2004

William Alastair McLeod  
Clinical Professor Emeritus of Medicine  
1934–2023  
University Service 1974–2002

Gary Dane Sinclair  
Associate Professor Emeritus of Human Kinetics  
1932–2023  
University Service 1973–1997

Warren Stevenson  
Associate Professor Emeritus of English  
1933–2023  
University Service 1961–1999

Robert Milton Will  
Dean Emeritus of Arts and Professor Emeritus of  
Economics  
1931–2023  
University Service 1957–1996

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



## College Council 2023-2024

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*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 Province, Canada, and internationally.*

*Accompanying photos are appreciated.*

*Please send your story to:*  
[communications@emerituscollege.ubc.ca](mailto:communications@emerituscollege.ubc.ca)