

NETWORK ALUMNI

DISTINGUISHED
ALUMNI
2001

WINTER 2001 • VOLUME 11 • NUMBER 1

**INVESTING in
our FUTURE**

This year the UCC Alumni Association Endowment Fund generated \$10,000 for student scholarships and bursaries. These 18 deserving students each received a portion of that money at the Awards Ceremony on November 22.

BACK ROW: Elizabeth Rebellato, Bill Crabtree, Megan Fraser, Christina Myers, Grace Douglas

MIDDLE ROW: Sophia Sarrasin, Kathryn Hansen, Joel Bastedo, Meghan Neathway, Brenda Emery, Jewel Shenk

FRONT ROW: Lily Miller, Christa Perszon, Laura Knowles, Teresa Downs

FLOOR: Alison Krimmer, Amy Fripp, Jane Leamy

student photo by John Enman

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

Over 430 UCC students crowded into the Grand Hall in the Campus Activity Centre on November 22 to receive cheques amounting to over \$186,000 from donors and \$100,000 unrestricted funds from the UCC Foundation. "This is why the Foundation was established," says Kathleen Biagioni, Executive Director of the UCC Foundation. "Donors help students achieve their goals in education by providing funds that reward scholastic achievement or support financial need."

"Our endowments have grown to over \$4 million," says Kathleen. "During this academic year over 550 students will receive scholarships and bursaries from the interest generated on the endowment funds and from annual cash gifts. Donor funds are given out at the November awards ceremony, during the winter session, and at the end of the school year. This year we expect to surpass last year's total of \$563,000 given to students, which was the highest amount ever made available at UCC."

The Alumni Association Endowment fund is over \$150,000 and this year supported 18 scholarships and bursaries. "The Alumni Association has worked hard over 10 years to fundraise to support students," says Marilyn Poncelet, Chair of the Alumni Association Board of Directors. "The Alumni Association also donated over \$52,000 to the Library Campaign five years ago, which is how the Alumni Theatre in the Clocktower building was named. For our significant contribution, we were able to name a lecture theatre on campus and we chose the Clocktower because it is used for such a wide variety of student and community activities."

"Alumni are important supporters of UCC, and the Foundation values their contributions, whether through endowed gifts, cash gifts or gifts-in-kind," says Kathleen. "Alumni donors understand best what students need to afford a post-secondary education."

Students benefit from donations of cash and equipment. Scholarships and bursaries help students with the financial costs of tuition, books, rent and groceries while they attend. Providing teaching materials and equipment helps programs keep up with information and technological change. "On behalf of UCC, the Foundation has accepted gifts of computers, vehicles, heavy equipment, books and works of art," says Kathleen.

There are over 300 alumni of UCC who have given to various programs or established endowments, often in memory of a family member or friend. Roland Neave, one of this year's UCC Distinguished Alumni recipients, his family and friends,

and Wells Gray Tours Ltd., have contributed over \$110,000 to support UCC students in three different programs. After his father passed away, Roland helped establish the Hugh Neave Memorial Scholarships that provides six scholarships each year to students in the Geography program and two scholarships for high school students entering UCC. The Dr. Margaret Neave Memorial Award is given annually to a student in the Vocational Skills Training program. Roland, through his company Wells Gray Tours, provides funds for a scholarship for a Tourism Diploma program student who has completed first year.

Vicki Lyall, (Horticulture Certificate '86), has established the Gregory Edward Rodrigues Memorial Fund that annually gives a monetary award to a graduating horticulture certificate student continuing his or her studies. Vicki established the fund this year in memory of her grandson who passed away. "I wanted to do something to remember my grandson and because both myself and my son Gary graduated from UCC's Horticulture program, I thought a scholarship was a great idea."

Annual donations from alumni donors such as Tom McNulty, who attended Cariboo College in the mid 70's, provide ongoing support in a variety of programs. Tom says "because I attended the institution, my daughter attended UCC, and my wife Bonnie is graduating this year with her degree, I want to support UCC. I like to support the athletics program with a \$500 annual gift for a scholarship in any sport because I played basketball when I was there. I also like to show my support by attending Alumni Association, Foundation and Sports Task Force fundraising events."

The Foundation began in 1982 with the mandate to obtain financial support for UCC's students and programs. Nineteen years later, the Foundation is raising over \$1 million annually for UCC, student awards and specific programs. Each year the donor base of the Foundation grows. "We welcome the exciting prospect of UCC alumni making a significant impact as participants in our growing donor family," says Kathleen.

Alumni can invest in UCC's future by making a cash or credit card gift to established student awards in a specific program, or by creating a new annual fund. Alumni can also make donations to their programs to purchase much needed state-of-the-art equipment.

To discuss how your donation can best help a student or program at UCC, please call the UCC Foundation at (250) 828-5264. ■

2001 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

This year's recipients work in two very different professions yet both affect many people's lives on a daily basis in our community.

JANE ROWE, BSW '94 SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

Jane Rowe serves as a resource for the less fortunate in our community, providing them with information while fighting for their rights. She works at the Kamloops Legal Services Society, giving access to the justice system to anyone who requests the service.

"The people who need their rights enforced often don't have a voice." This job allows Jane to advocate for people in areas such as housing, income assistance, disability pensions and employment insurance.

Jane was recognized by the UCC Alumni Association in October as a Distinguished Alumna for her Service to the Community. This award recognizes significant service or contributions to the welfare and advancement of local, national and international communities.

Jane has been involved with numerous community agencies since 1985. She has worked with the Salmon Arm Women's Emergency Shelter, Secure Housing Options for Everyone, Kamloops Active Support Against Poverty, and the Kamloops Food Bank. Jane said that she is most proud of her contributions to the Food Bank. She worked at the Food Bank for a couple of years, then joined the Board and eventually became the President. She currently holds the position of past-president. Jane is also a Board member of Kamloops Active Support Against Poverty.

While attending UCC, Jane juggled a full course load, part-time work and was raising two young children as a single parent. She "painted, was a waitress, and did work study at UCC." Her Bachelor of Social Work courses taught her the skills needed to help people who suffer injustice and need their legal rights defended.

As Jane says about herself, "I think if you asked my children about growing up with me, they would say I was always at a meeting, or a protest march, or a fundraiser. But I say that I have shown them how to be good citizens and demonstrated participation, and responsibility, for a great community." ■



Helen Allen, Associate Dean of Social Work (l) with Jane Rowe, BSW

ROLAND NEAVE, UT '72 PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Roland Neave, owner of Wells Gray Tours Ltd., was recognized in October as a UCC Distinguished Alumnus for professional achievement in business.

Post-secondary education for Roland started in 1970 at Cariboo College. "I took a fairly general course load, although my interests were already developed. My favourites were geography and history." After enjoying two years at Cariboo, Roland transferred to Simon Fraser University, where he completed a BA in 1975 with a major in Geography.

Wells Gray Tours Ltd. was created from humble beginnings. From the summers of 1972 to 1975 Roland and some friends from SFU organized small tours at Wells Gray Park. "None of us imagined it would go on past school. At that time, it was simply summer work for us."

The company has since become one of the largest tour operators in British Columbia and carries over 3,000 people per year to locations throughout Canada and around the globe.

Roland has written a wealth of information over the years. He was first published when he was 17.

The book was entitled: *Hiking the High Points*. After encouragement from his instructors at Cariboo College, he wrote another book, *Wells Gray Park: A Visitor's Guide to the Park and Its Environs*, the new editions of this book are called *Exploring Wells Gray Park*. In 1997, he edited and published a second edition of *Rain People: The Story of Ocean Falls*, authored by Bruce Ramsey. Wells Gray Tours, celebrating 25 years in 1997, gave a copy of *Rain People* to the 1100 guests who joined Roland for an anniversary cruise up the BC coast on board The Rotterdam.

Roland Neave shares his expertise in tourism and geography with students. He also donates his time and company facilities to take a group of Geography students for a weekend of learning to Wells Gray Park each year, and he and his family have donated significant amounts to the UCC Foundation to support student learning. ■



David Twynam, Acting Dean of Professional Schools (l) with Roland Neave, UT

ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN

DIPLOMA PROGRAM



//The Accounting Technician program is geared towards getting students out into the job market within two years," says Ivan Desjardins, the Accounting Technician coordinator.

"Job opportunities are very good. Six months after graduating, most of our students are working in their field. Even when the

economy is slumping, there is no decrease in the demand for accountants," says Ivan.

The program accepts 36 students and each year it is full. Ivan, and a colleague, interview the prospective students because he "wants the students to understand what the program is about and we like to get a good sense of the individuals who are applying."

In the first year, students will take accounting, economics, mathematics and English. Some students only want to receive a certificate in Accounting, which they do after completing the first year. During second year, students focus on tax accounting, auditing, and management accounting. The graduating class typically has between 16 and 18, which according to Ivan, is a very good completion rate for an accounting program.

The education students receive in this program allows them several options. "Students can move on with their education and earn an accounting designation, a business degree, or they can work in business. Their diploma allows them to work closely with certified accountants and do what is essentially para-professional work, which is much more than bookkeeping."

"Our graduates work for large companies such as Tolko, Weyerhaeuser, public accounting firms, finance departments in government, or are accountants for small to medium-sized businesses," says Ivan. ■

CORY STRUMECKI, ATD '99

Like many of his fellow graduates, Cory found work soon after finishing the accounting technician program. He worked at Sun Peaks Resort for nine months, and then started working for BC Lottery Corporation in Kamloops. He works in the Casino Accounting Division doing audits of slot machines, table games and companies who operate casino facilities.



"The Accounting program at UCC got me ready with everything I needed for my current employment," says Cory. "Now I am negotiating with Athabasca University to receive credit for all my courses because I start my Bachelor of Business Administration through Athabasca in December." The Athabasca University BBA program is on-line so Cory will be able to continue working at BC Lotteries while he completes his degree.



GAIL ELLISON, ATD '91, CGA

Gail Ellison completed the two-year Accounting program in 1991. After graduation, Gail worked at Munro, Sheridan and Becker, a Kamloops public accounting practice, for three years. While there, she worked towards completing the 18 courses in the Certified General Accountant's program. Gail received her CGA designation in 1996 while working in the Finance Department at UCC. Gail is now the Accounting Manager at UCC, supervising the accounting department, payroll and accounts payable staff. The Accounting Technician Diploma program was directly responsible for Gail's job at Munro, Sheridan and Becker. "It





accounting courses required for her BBA degree. "The second year accounting courses in the Accounting Diploma program are basically the third year courses in the BBA. I found the second year of the diploma program to be much harder than first year because of all those accounting courses."

"I liked the economics courses in the diploma program and wanted to learn more," so even though Chrystal is majoring in accounting, she is also doing a concentration in business economics.

After graduating, Chrystal wants to work at a licensed auditing firm while completing the six accounting courses that will prepare her for the Uniform Final Exam. She will earn her Chartered Accountant designation once she successfully completes the exams.

JAY MOORE, ATD '97

Jay has decided to go back to school so he can compliment his Accounting Technician Diploma with a business degree concentrating in marketing.

After graduating from UCC, Jay took an accounting job at Sun Peaks Resort, where he applied what he had learned in the accounting program. Jay followed that by working as a sales representative for Radio NL Broadcasting in Merritt. His work experiences have led him to an important understanding about current business practices. "The accounting and marketing departments don't seem to understand what the other is doing. The marketing department wants to spend money while the accounting department wants to save it. When I get experience in both fields, I can help run both departments," says Jay.

Jay will graduate from the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Calgary, Alberta, with a business degree in

December 2001. He plans to apply his accounting and marketing education, along with previous work experience, to finding work in Calgary. "I'm participating in meetings with many different marketing firms in Calgary to get to know what each of them offers."



ERROL WILD, ATD '87

When Errol began taking courses towards his diploma, the accounting program at Cariboo College was only a few years old. While going to school over a six-year period, he worked at Weyerhaeuser as a log accounting clerk, then moved on to Balco Ltd. where he was an assistant mill accountant.

Errol found that the Accounting Technician program fit well into his work schedule. "There was always a good selection of night courses and there was always space available for me to register for the ones I needed to take."

Today, Errol is responsible for making the purchasing decisions for the City of Kamloops. "I am responsible for the procurement of anything and everything used by the City," says Errol. He estimates that his department is responsible for approximately \$25 million per year.

Errol has completed other post-secondary education to compliment his accounting diploma. "I've written an undergraduate diploma in public-sector management at the University of Victoria and am in the process of completing my certification as a public purchasing officer." ■

gave me the skills to qualify for the job. I also found that local employers like to hire local people."

Gail was impressed with the effort made by the instructors in the program. "They helped the students make contact with the local business community. They spent a lot of time helping us with our studies and a lot of time selling the program in the community."



CHRYSTAL VANDERLINDE, ATD '99

After receiving her diploma in 1999, Chrystal chose to continue her education at UCC, and is now enrolled in the Bachelor of Business Administration degree program. Chrystal's diploma courses gave her many of the third year

THE ALUMNI

1970'S

BILL O'DONOVAN, COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA

CERTIFICATE '76 Bill recently returned to Kamloops after 15 years in Regina, and is now the Anchor / Producer of the Evening News on CFJC-TV. Previously, he was with CTV Regina, first as Sports Director, then as News co-Anchor.

1980'S

CHRIS MANSON, NURSING DIPLOMA '81 Since completing her diploma, Chris has worked as a nurse at Royal Inland Hospital, Overlander Extended Care, and South Central Health Unit. She went on to complete her BSN by distance education through the University of Victoria in 1994. Chris is currently working as a Clinical Practice Consultant in Community Care for the Thompson Health Region, has a private practice as a Health Care Consultant, and is a part-time nursing instructor at UCC. On a personal note, Chris is married and has two teenagers. She enjoys gardening and relaxing at the Shuswap.

ALLEN MOSTYK, DRAFTING CERTIFICATE '82 Allen works in Kamloops for Coster & Singer Land Surveyors and is married to **LOUISE MOSTYK, NURSING DIPLOMA '86**. She is a regular part-time nurse at Royal Inland Hospital on the Maternity & Gynecology ward. They play and coach soccer, a sport they were both involved in while attending Cariboo College. Allen and Louise have 3 children.

PAT CUTLER, ANIMAL HEALTH TECHNOLOGY

DIPLOMA '86 Pat worked at several local veterinary clinics after completing her diploma. In 1992, she joined the faculty of the UCC Animal Health Technology program, teaching first and second year courses. She is a member of the UCC Harassment Committee and Friends of the Garden, as well as the Vice-President of the BC SPCA. For enjoyment, Pat participates in dog agility and Parelli Natural Horsemanship. She is married with two grown children and is looking forward to the arrival of her first grandchild.

HARRY KOTLARZ, RESPIRATORY THERAPY DIPLOMA

'88, CARDIOVASCULAR PERFUSION '91 After completing the Respiratory Therapy Diploma, Harry moved to Saskatchewan and completed Cardiovascular Perfusion while working at Plains Health Centre in Regina. He relocated to the USA in 1991, and gradually made the transition from clinical work to research. Harry is currently the Director of Healthcare Economics and Reimbursement for Johnson and Johnson. He lives in Cincinnati, Ohio, and is completing an MBA. For relaxation, Harry escapes to his mountain home in Montana.

1990'S

KEN JANSEN, HORTICULTURE CERTIFICATE '92

Ken is an arborist for the City of Kamloops, Parks and Recreation Department, responsible for all city-owned trees. After obtaining his Horticulture Certificate at UCC, Ken went on to complete a diploma in Urban Forestry at the University of Guelph. He is a Certified Arborist.

STEVE YARON,

COMPUTER SYSTEMS OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT '94

After leaving UCC, Steve spent 5 years in Smithers working for the Ministry of Forests as an Information Technology Specialist. He now works in Victoria for the Ministry of the Attorney General and the Solicitor General's office as a Senior Enterprise LAN Specialist.

CATHERINE GUY, NURSING DIPLOMA '97

Catherine recently completed the Canadian Nurses Association exam for the Occupational Health Nurse specialty. She currently works for the Workers Compensation Board in Prince George as a Nurse Advisor. Before her present position, she worked for Finlay Forest Products as an Occupational Health Coordinator.

MICHELLE BRITTON, RESORT AND HOTEL

MANAGEMENT DIPLOMA '96 Two years ago, immediately after completing her Bachelor of Commerce degree at the University of Victoria, Michelle suffered a stroke and was paralyzed from the mouth down. Since that time she has made progress and resides at an extended care facility in Victoria. Now, her friends and family are raising money to assist Michelle with her goal to achieve some independent living. Michelle needs continuing therapy as well as medical equipment such as a motorized bed, a hydraulic lift and much more. If you would like to help, cheques can be made out to the Michelle Britton Trust Fund and mailed to:

H.S.B.C. Bank Canada
380 Victoria St., Kamloops, BC
V2C 2A5

No tax receipts are available.

2000'S

VIPAL VEDD, BSC '00 After completing his degree, Vipal spent several months working for a sporting goods company, and volunteered locally for People in Motion, the Canadian Cancer Society, and the Kamloops Hindu Society. He was also the co-coach of the Norkam Saints Sr. Boys Basketball team. He found time to travel to Europe, Southeast Asia, and the Dominican Republic and spent a month volunteering in a Chicago hospital. He is currently a first-year medical student at UBC, and keeps active playing soccer in the Richmond Premier League and UBC's intramural ice hockey and basketball leagues.



CHRISTINE BUZINDE, BACHELOR OF TOURISM MANAGEMENT '01 After completing her courses in December '00, she worked in Thunder Bay for the Northern Ontario Tourism Marketing Corporation, traveling throughout the eastern US to promote the region's attractions. Christine is currently studying at the University of Waterloo in the Masters of Recreation and Leisure Studies program and is a Teaching Assistant for a first-year tourism course.

PETRA-ANN JONES, BA '99, BED '01 Petra-Ann, a former UCC Alumni Association work study & summer student, is now living in Lytton. She completed her practicum at Lytton Elementary School and this September secured a permanent full-time position there teaching a full-day kindergarten class.



DAVID TAYLOR, WELDING LEVEL B '01, won a bronze medal in June at the National Skills Competition after winning gold in the BC Provincials the month prior.

David made two steel objects, shown in the photo on left, in two days of timed competition. He was tested on different processes and welds in all positions.

The National Skills competition is held annually in Canada and promotes skills in trades and technology careers. Held over several days, the national competition allows thousands of young Canadians to test themselves against other provincial gold medal winners.

David is now working for Go-Getter Welding south of Edmonton completing his Level B apprenticeship. *Congratulations David!*



Back L-R: Brian McMillan, Brian Eremko, Bob Birks, Mike Hicketts, Wade Ball, Jordan Henry
Front L-R: Greg Kozoris, Vince Cavaliere, Paul Mumford, Ken Finnie, Lindsey Karpluk



CARIBOO COLLEGE CHIEFS ALUMNI

The UCC Hockey Club played the Cariboo Chiefs Alumni hockey team on Friday, October 26th as the kick-off to a weekend tournament in Kamloops between UCC, Selkirk College, the University of Northern BC and Trinity Western University's clubs.

The alumni team won the game 6-2! Way to go guys!

Do you want to surprise the graduate in your family with a unique gift? See our customized UCC degree and diploma frames on-line at www.degreeframes.com
Order on-line or by calling 1-800-884-3199.



ALUMNI BENEFITS CARD

It's New! It's Free! Give us a call to get your Alumni Benefits Card. (250)828-5267 or email us at alumni@cariboo.bc.ca

- a discount at the Canada Games Pool in Kamloops
- 10% off meals in the Food Training Dining Room on the UCC campus
- 15% off crested UCC products at Bookies in Williams Lake and Kamloops
- 50% off rack rates at all Sandman Inns in BC and Alberta
- access to the new weight room at the Gym on the UCC campus for a monthly fee
- and more benefits to come!

If you sign up on one, or both, of our email lists we will email you: UCC Sun Demon game schedules or Music, Theatre and Cultural Events on campus.

UCC Alumni Association Board of Directors 2001-2002:

Executive: Marilyn Poncellet, (Bus. Adm. '89), Chair; Carolyn Hepburn, (BA '95), Vice-Chair; Tom McNulty, (Bus. Adm. '77), Secretary/Treasurer. Directors: M-J Cousins, (BBA '97), Cathy Ferguson, (BSN '91), Dwayne Geiger, (BEd '94), Denise Harper, (Comm. Med. '74), Larry Iles, (BEd '94), Bill Jaswal, (BA '91), Aleece Laird, (BBA '98), Glen Poelzer, (BSc '91), Susie Russo, (BBA '97), Flo Tyson, (BSN '91), Errol Wild, (Acct. Tech. '87), Rod Andrew, UCC Board of Governors, Catherine McNeely, UCC Foundation Board.

Send correspondence to Pat Lee, Executive Director, UCC Alumni Association, or contact at Tel: (250) 828-5267, email: alumni@cariboo.bc.ca. The Alumni Network is published bi-annually and is produced by the UCC Alumni Association. Contributors: Kevin Hamilton, Pat Lee, Victoria Baker. Photos: John Enman, Pat Lee, Kevin Hamilton, Les Wiebe.

NETWORK

ALUMNI

RETURN REQUESTED
UCC Alumni Association
PO Box 3010, Kamloops, BC, V2C 5N3