

ALUMNI network

THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY ALUMNI MAGAZINE • SPRING 2007



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2006|2007 Alumni Association Board of Directors invites you to Stay Connected

Top row from left: Nick Rinaldi BA '94, Brian Green BD '78, Cathy Ferguson BSN '91, Dwayne Geiger BEd '94, Amy Tucker PB BA '06, Jarrod Goddard CSOM '02,
Middle row: Rob Cupello BBA '97, Max Harris TRUSU student rep, Mike Koehn BA '01, Susan McIntyre EDHR '03, Larry Iles BEd '94, Brian Callander UT '88,
Bottom row: Butch Bagabuyo BA '95, Darlene McBain UT '95, Mary Ellen Grant BSc '02, Joanne Brown BA '00, Norma Watts BSN '95

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TRU Alumni Association Board Co-Chairs

In this issue you will find articles about community, both the alumni community at TRU and the community of alumni who live, work and play in Kamloops. We are happy to see that of the 27,000 graduates we have on record, almost one-half choose to make Kamloops their home. There are many Kamloops families who have three generations of alumni who have all attended this great institution when it was Cariboo College, UCC and now TRU, and they are grateful for the educational opportunities available on their doorstep. In this issue we have profiled a number of alumni who work at TRU or who have started their own businesses in Kamloops.


In the fall issue of the Alumni Network Magazine we asked you to help us by filling out a survey. In this issue, Nancy Plett, Executive Director of the Alumni Association, discusses the research and what it means to your Association in the

delivery of programs and services we provide to you. We also invite you to provide additional comments or ideas to us by e-mail to our office at trualumni.ca. Let us know where you are; stay connected to your alma mater. We invite you to check out our newly updated OnLine Community. Fill out a profile about yourself, tell us what you're doing, start your own social network, all in a secure environment. We want to help you to stay connected!

Sincerely,



Darlene McBain, UT '95
Board Co-Chair



Norma Watts, BSN '95,
Board Co-Chair

TRU President & Vice-Chancellor

TRU has come a long way in 36 years, from a community college to a provincial university with impacts reaching from the grassroots of the Interior of BC to our global village.

TRU contributes to regional economic prosperity with an overall economic impact of upwards of \$500 million per year. TRU also contributes to the Interior's economy through research, development and technology transfer, and business incubator, marketing and start-up advice.

Just as valuable is the enrichment of our social and cultural lives as TRU provides a catalyst and venue for many local and provincial cultural, athletic, social, political and educational events.

In terms of infrastructure, TRU continues to contribute to the community in joint ventures like the McGill Corridor Plan, the development of a fibre-optic network, and the new Kamloops Centre for Water Quality.

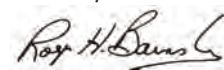
Finally, TRU and its graduates have been integral to the vitality and growth

of the city and surrounding region.

Many local entrepreneurs are TRU graduates, and alumni from our academic, career, professional and trades programs can also be found in politics, media, culture and the arts, teaching, nursing, advanced technologies, athletics, tourism, agriculture, finance, forestry, social service professions, and right here on campus.

As you read in this issue about the many ways in which TRU graduates enrich our lives and our community, please join me in celebrating their success.

Sincerely,



Roger H. Barnsley
President and Vice-Chancellor



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ALUMNI

network

THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY ALUMNI MAGAZINE • SPRING 2007

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Marketing and Communications Department employees: L-R Megan Lepp, recruitment officer (co-op student); Cindy Drescher, graphic designer; Diana Skoglund, communications officer; Shirley McCaffrey, graphic designer; Christine Nickel, liaison information officer and Graham Casselman, student recruitment coordinator; missing from photo Bronwen Scott.

TRU Grads are Staying Home

by Matthew Strader

They've completed their programs and are ready to take the next step. They're a community of over fifty graduates of TRU certificate, diploma and degree programs who have not only begun their lives here at Thompson Rivers University, but who have decided to build a career at the institution.

Lee Gaye Hicketts will take your name and set an appointment for you. A Medical Office Assistant graduate from UCC in 1990, she now happily patrols the desk at Health Services in Old Main. "I've been here since we opened the clinic in September 1999," says Hicketts.

Close ties in our Marketing and Communications office mean a personal and caring touch to the media produced for our school.

One cannot attend a TRU athletic event without seeing the intense gaze and quick fingers of Media and Sports Information Coordinator Bronwen Scott. Scott spent 1989-92 completing a Bachelor of Arts degree and graduated with the university medal in arts and sciences. In 1994 Scott was hired by public relations as the school's first media coordinator. Charged with

the duties of managing all press for the athletic department as well, Scott is well known by all coaches and media outlets in Kamloops.

"I can remember the first days I came to Cariboo College, each classroom desk was equipped with an ashtray," muses Scott.

"I have seen TRU develop from two buildings and sagebrush scrub to a beautiful university campus."

Scott's three children attended TRU. "We're very lucky to have a university like TRU in Kamloops. TRU has distinguished itself from the many university colleges that sprung up at the same time as TRU (then Cariboo College) by becoming bigger, having more unique programs, and by nurturing a diverse student body, in terms of age and origin (international and aboriginal)."

Cover Story



Lee Gaye Hicketts

Besides Scott, the Marketing and Communications department employs Diana Skoglund, (B. Jour) overseeing the production of the campus publication 'InsideTRU'; DADD graduates Cindy Drescher and Shirley McCaffrey, and most recently, recruiters, BA grad Christine Nickel and BTM grad Graham Casselman.

McCaffrey graduated with a Digital Arts and Design diploma and now works as a graphic designer within the Marketing and Communications department. Part of her responsibility is the design of the *Alumni Network* magazine. McCaffrey says she enjoyed the opportunity to work at TRU during the transition to a full university. "It was a once-in-a-lifetime chance to be part of the birth of a university. It was an exciting year."

Katherine Sutherland says she didn't think she would stay. A former student of the university transfer program from 1980-81, Sutherland went on to finish her BA and Master degrees in English at the University of Victoria, before obtaining a PhD from York.

"I have seen both sides of the desk," says Sutherland, now a professor in TRU's English and Modern Languages department. "The amount of growth here at the school and within our department is very impressive. The town has had a change in tone since I was here, there are a lot more jobs, and a lot more opportunities for people."

"I grew up in Kamloops, and I've seen it expand from a pulp town, to a college town," says Sutherland. "The city takes itself more seriously now and there is a comprehensive feel to the town as well as the university."



Katherine Sutherland

Sutherland met her husband during her time at UVIC, and he has become a part of the TRU community as well, now running the Trades and Technology joinery program.

Wendy McKenzie built her skills here at TRU and has returned to teach as well. A Kamloops resident, McKenzie graduated from Kamloops High in 1976. She began university transfer courses, and by 1981 was involved in the nursing diploma program. She graduated with that diploma in 1984, and has since gone on to finish her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in the year 2000, and is presently working



Wendy McKenzie

on finishing a master's through cooperation between TRU and the University of British Columbia.

McKenzie has also served as a military reservist for 29 years, and is the deputy commanding officer for the Rocky Mountain Rangers. She currently teaches patho-physiology and clinical practice here at TRU, as well as being involved in the international nursing practicums in Thailand.

McKenzie has also contributed to a book being produced for military leaders on management of combat stress.

A believer in the growth and opportunity for students at TRU, McKenzie's two daughters now study on the same campus. Her 24-year-old daughter is a student in the Natural Resource Science program, while a 20-year-old daughter works on her BA.

The experiences shared by the alumni of TRU display nothing but optimism for the future of B.C.'s newest university.

"This is not the result of either luck or planning, although both have had influence upon our direction. Rather, I think that our development as a unique, flexible and dynamic institution has come about because our early administrators set the tone by allowing faculty the freedom and support to create courses, programs and initiatives according to their interests and the interests and needs of the people in the region they served," said Scott.

It is keeping this community in touch that will continue to build the strengths and relationships between faculty and students, friends, and family here at TRU. It is a comprehensive university by design; our success comes from our people.

One small step for a city, one giant leap for TRU scholarship

by Matthew Strader

Have you ever visited your local art gallery or theatre and wondered what impact such institutions have on the shape of local culture? Have you ever wondered how neighbourhoods develop?

These are some of the questions that have intrigued TRU professor Will Garrett-Petts and his group of community-based researchers since 2001. The team completed the first phase of its CURA-funded research, exploring the cultural future of small cities, last spring; the second phase has been fueled by a new \$1 million grant, which will support the research program until 2011.

The renewed Community-University Research Alliance, or CURA, continues to focus on cultural development, social planning, and small-city quality of life.

“For the first five years our focus was on mapping the cultural paths and futures of small cities,” says Garrett-Petts. “It was about defining cultural distinctiveness and figuring out the ways to preserve and build upon examples of local success.”

A significant aspect of the new grant is its focus on developing and testing quality-of-life indicators specific to small communities. Working with a number of national partners, including the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Dr. Gilles Viaud will lead a national dialogue helping to define how quality of life in small cities and small towns differs from life in larger urban centres.

“The entire team involves 26 university researchers, 34 community partners, and over

the five-year period we will be employing approximately 60 student researchers,” says Garrett-Petts. “It’s a wonderful opportunity for TRU’s faculty and students—a recognition of our research capacity.”

A number of exciting projects are already underway. In addition to the work on indicators, CURA researcher Dr. Alex Michalos has initiated a province-wide survey evaluating how the arts affect quality of life. Community research partner Nancy Duxbury is developing new ways to measure “culture,” while another research team is mapping cultural assets, with particular attention to children and teens.

One project that has emerged during the last few months is “The Second Life Initiative.”

Access to computer-generated virtual worlds expands the boundaries of smaller communities and allows communities to network in new ways.

“We are really impressed at Second Life’s potential as a vehicle for place promotion, for exhibiting and sharing research, and for teaching online,” says Garrett-Petts. The research team will be working with TRU’s Open Learning division, the Faculty of Arts, and the Office of Research and Graduate Studies, using Second Life to deliver some of the courses central to a planned Master degree in Small Cities Studies.

The CURA work gives TRU a national profile as a leader in small cities research.



TRU professor Will Garrett-Petts



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Contest ends May 11, 2007.

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- › Contact mentors
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The Online Community is FREE and available only to alumni, students, faculty and staff of TRU.

Check our website for weekly prize details.

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The Pulse Group, Jeff Kilduff, Jarrod Goddard, Neil Rachynski, Rob Cupello and Mike Koehn; missing from photo is Julie Johnson.

Getting known in Kamloops

by Matthew Strader

The Pulse Group is one of Kamloops' up and coming businesses, with a twist. It is owned and operated exclusively by TRU alumni.

Catering to clients who need advertising and marketing services, Suite 202 on Victoria Street has become a hub of creative power, with services that cover everything from

print advertising and reports and brochures, to scripting, voice casting, commercial photography and electronic press kits.

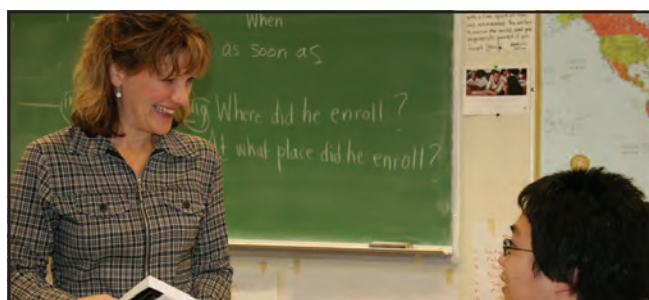
The group consists of Neil Rachynski, partner and president of the group. Rachynski graduated from TRU with a Bachelor of Journalism degree, Honours. "I embraced the laddering concept, and came in as a mature student to finish my journalism degree," said Rachynski. "It worked great for me in the respect of the career I had going, and allowed me to re-launch my career in the marketing direction I wanted to go."

"I had been moving from the journalism and communications side into the sales and marketing side. The program was diverse enough with its PR and communications content to help me make a push into marketing."

Rob Cupello, partner and director of client services, graduated from TRU with a Bachelor of Business Administration, Marketing Major.

He and Rachynski are joined by Jeff Kilduff, Creative Director. Kilduff graduated from TRU at the top of the Digital Art and Design class for the year 1999. Jarrod Goddard, web media and design, is a graduate of TRU where he studied computer information systems, databases, website design and development, and online application development. And finally there is Julie Johnson, the account and media coordinator. Johnson left TRU a graduate of the Events and Conventions Management program.

Since the creation of the group, the business has taken off, and is looking toward a prosperous future. "We looked at our skill sets, and it fit," said Rachynski. "We're a great group."



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Never letting his dreams die

by Wai Hung Ma

Wai Hung Ma was a proud graduate of the TRU Fine Arts program in 1996. Following graduation he was heavily involved in the music business, writing and producing songs. A chance meeting three years ago with a professional keynote speaker at TRU proved to be a turning point in his life. He became Wai's speech coach and mentor. He taught Wai to use his talking laptop computer as a tool to becoming a world-class motivational speaker.

Wai now devotes much of his time speaking at high schools all across BC about the challenges he has had to

overcome being wheelchair bound since childhood with cerebral palsy.

Not satisfied with reaching only a few hundred students at a time, Wai has written a motivational book entitled *Breaking Limitations*. The book is about using your limitations as strengths. You can get more information on his website <http://interiorauthorsgroup.com/breaking-limitations.htm>

When asked his philosophy for life, Wai says, "Dreams never die, but dreamers do. I never let my dreams die because I am breaking my own limitations."



Wai Hung Ma

Alumni brings health and wellness ideas home

by Matthew Strader

Greg Kozoris left Thompson Rivers University through a transfer program with the University of British Columbia, but a love for Kamloops brought him back.

"I just love this town," said Kozoris. "It sounds cliché, but I love it here."

Kozoris finished a recreation management diploma at Cariboo

College and then entered the transfer program with UBC for exercise sciences. He completed his exercise sciences degree at UBC and went on to finish an education degree as well.

After the beginnings of a business in Vancouver went south due to differences with his original partners, Kozoris brought himself back to Kamloops, and began

Acceleration-Kozoris Strength and Conditioning. The business offers rehabilitation services to high-performance athletic clients.

A former athlete himself, Kozoris played one year of semi-professional hockey in Nashville, Tennessee, making \$300 a week in the East Coast Hockey League.

"It was a fabulous experience," said Kozoris. "I knew I had no future as a pro athlete, and I didn't get to play a lot, but what a year!"

Kozoris now brings his enthusiasm for the human body to his business and teachings. A part-time job as a high school teacher, taken to originally support his business, has now turned into two teaching posts. Kozoris now teaches strength and conditioning at Brock Secondary School and TRU, within the physical education department.

"It's a lot of hats, and a lot of hours, but I love my work, and that makes it easy."



Greg Kozoris

New campus already feels like home

by Diana Skoglund

After nine years of course delivery in six different locations spread around the city's commercial buildings and high schools, staff and students are settled into the newly renovated TRU Williams Lake campus.

From the centrally located TRU at 1250 Western Avenue, Williams Lake mayor Scott Nelson anticipates great things for Williams Lake and its university.

"The new campus is a tremendous shot in the arm for the community," Nelson said. "A university is a huge economic driver for a city, not only in terms of attracting residents to work here, but to go to school here as well."

He's encouraged by the proactive approach TRU is taking toward partnerships with the community for years to come and expects that the new facility will generate similar economic benefits for Williams Lake as the growth of the university has had for the Kamloops economy.

The move marks the beginning of "a whole new face to higher education in Williams Lake and the Cariboo-Chilcotin region," said Interim TRU-WL dean Martin Whittles.

"Each class we teach has application to our lives both at work and at home. As practical as education may first seem, it nonetheless extends relevance and

consequence into leisure and lifestyle, and the very way we live our lives on and off the job," Whittles said.

"Just by virtue of its size and location in the region, TRU offers programmes that are delivered by instructors who form personal bonds to their students, because they have already formed personal bonds to the community."

The new campus features architectural details similar to the Kamloops campus; brick exterior walls, arched roofs over the trades area and a curved glass main entrance. Entering from Western Avenue puts visitors and students directly into the hub of the campus, Student Street. From here, academic advising, counseling, registrar, admissions, the bookstore and the library are all easily accessible.

"We're finding that, compared to what we experienced at our old downtown location, we're now interacting more with students both in our offices and in our hallways," said Scott Taylor, Academic Advisor. Taylor, along with Kathy Lauriente, counselor and Rhonda Alphonse, Aboriginal Services Coordinator, make up the Student Services group in offices located directly off of Student Street.

"With our offices centrally located, it's helping to build a sort of critical mass

of student awareness for the services that Kathy, Rhonda, and I provide. The increase and higher quality of contact with the students is a welcomed change," Taylor noted.

The new campus opened for class January 8, with staff and faculty spending a few weeks over the winter semester break moving into the 75,000 square foot facility. "Common sense told us that having one location for the Williams Lake campus would be good," Taylor said. "But I am surprised at how quickly we've warmed up to the place; in some ways, it feels like we've been here much longer than we already have."

For Julie Bower, Continuing Studies Coordinator, the new facility means the



Scott Taylor, Academic Advisor

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New Williams Lake campus

end of hauling flip-charts, overhead projectors and first aid equipment around town to set up continuing studies classes. “No more renting classroom space,” Bower said. “I’ll always know that classes will be held in venues that meet the right criteria.”

It’s not all location, location, though, for assistant professor of nursing Carolyn Hosking who said there’s more to the new campus than the large, bright nursing lab. “It has been great getting to know the other faculty and making connections with these people I work with, instead of just a name on a staff email.”

Construction for the \$16 million renovation of Anne Stevenson Secondary started in July 2005, said David Graham, TRU’s Capital Project coordinator. The December 2006 completion was within the expected time frame; like many construction projects during recent years, TRU Williams Lake faced some delays due to trade shortages and increased costs because of the rising price of steel and concrete.

“One of the benefits of the renovation as opposed to a new build was getting a gymnasium,” Graham said. And it’s no accident that its hardwood floors are in such terrific condition. Graham made sure the floor was kept covered by tarps and plywood and reminded the contractor constantly to “make sure there wasn’t a screw dropped on the floor.”

The gym will be used for trades and tech shows and community sporting events.

Mechanical trades, welding, electrical, and residential construction programs relocate to the facility on Western Avenue in the spring.

Quick Facts >

Total cost: \$16 million

Area: 75,000 sq. ft

Wireless:

Internet access throughout campus

Classrooms: 13

Seminar rooms: 8

Faculty offices: 40

Labs:

3 nursing, biology and chemistry

Computer labs: 3

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Distinguished Alumni Nominations



Each year, a gala dinner is held in the fall to honour award recipients and spotlight the vital contributions they have made to the TRU community and beyond. Net proceeds are used to support student scholarships and awards.

Alumni Award recipients are hard-working, high achieving individuals who deserve recognition and thanks for the difference they have made through their outstanding achievements.

Nomination for Awards

The TRU Alumni Association invites you to nominate individuals that you feel are deserving of this prestigious award. All Cariboo College, The University College of the Cariboo and Thompson Rivers University graduates of a certificate, diploma or degree program are eligible for nomination.



TRU Distinguished Alumni 2006 L-R, Don Avison, Deanna Howell, Shelley Johnson, Susan Carpenter, Alan Corbishley

Please print a nomination package from www.trualumni.ca or contact the TRU Alumni office for a package at 250.828.5498 and return it to the TRU Alumni Association office. **The deadline for nominations is 4 pm, Friday, May 25, 2007.**



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OPEN LEARNING

The future's so bright, he's gotta wear shades

by Matthew Strader



Frank Ingram winding up

He's been a three-time pitcher of the year for the TRU WolfPack Men's baseball team (every year he's been in the program, actually!). He was a member of the TRU WolfPack championship baseball team from 2005, and each of the Fall Classic winning teams of the past three years. His name is Frank Ingram, and the surface hasn't even been scratched on where he's going.

Every great team begins with its management, and a quality coach is always something special. TRU's baseball program has been blessed with one of the best in Ray Chadwick. Chadwick has built the WolfPack program into one of the most successful baseball programs in the country, and the managers

of our team do not want to see that success leave with him.

"I receive numerous offers, whether professional or collegiate every summer, and the leaders of the program wanted to make sure, if I was going to leave, that I at least brought in and trained someone to take over. Frank solved that problem for me. I got to tell them that the person they were looking for was already here," said Chadwick. Coach Chadwick has no desire to leave Kamloops, but having a person of Ingram's calibre on his bench has benefited his team in all aspects of the game.

Successful as a university athlete can be, Ingram appears to leave it all on the field when he plays, but for the people who know him, the real talent is in the person, and not in the arm.

Ingram is enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts program with a major in geography. He is still one year away from completion of his academic career, but has already begun his coaching career.

"Frank will act as my assistant whenever he can't play," said Chadwick. "He's a talent on the field and in the dressing room, one of those special players who knows how to see the game in order to teach it."

Ingram has accepted a summer coaching position with the Calgary Dawgs youth program, but looks forward to returning to TRU to finish his academics and become involved in the WolfPack program again.

"Being here with Ray, you're going to be a success when you leave. You have no choice," said Ingram. "I can't say enough about TRU. It's given me an education on and off the field, and I have these opportunities because of this school, its programs, and Ray."

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TRU staff becomes award winner

by Matthew Strader

The human resources office at Thompson Rivers University can now boast housing an award-winning staff, thanks to Shannon Joly and her unstoppable work ethic.

"She's an inspiration to work with," said her boss Lynn Joly (no relation), the AVP Human Resources and Planning. "Working with Shannon is working with someone who loves and is great at their job."

Shannon Joly won the BC HRMA Rising Star award in 2006. This award is meant to identify someone who is "lighting the HR community on fire." Nominated by Lynn Joly and Susan McIntyre, a local HR

consultant, this is an achievement Joly will not soon forget.

A graduate of the 2000 BBA program with a concentration in Human Resource Management, Joly has kept a close connection with TRU through employment as well as volunteer work.

Joly participated as a director for the TRU Alumni Association Board of Directors from 2003-2006, recently taking a step back to take on the chairperson role for the Central Interior Regional Advisory Council for the British Columbia Human Resources Management Association (BC HRMA) and spend time with her new baby while on maternity leave.



Award winner Shannon Joly

For the award and her work, Joly remains humble, yet proud. "It is one thing to win an award for your contributions to the profession and another to know that my nominators are both well-respected HR professionals."

Kelvin Stretch believes in education



Kelvin Stretch

Secretary Treasurer of School District No. 73 (Kamloops/Thompson), Kelvin Stretch, has educational links to Thompson Rivers University that span four decades.

Stretch first attended Cariboo College in the late 1970's and completed an accounting technician diploma in 1979. "I played on the college hockey team for two years and participated in student government for one year." When Stretch took office as Student Association Council (SAC) President in 1977, SAC was under "Trusteeship" for mismanaging student fees entrusted to them. Stretch worked with the new council and College Affairs Manager, Chuck Bishop, to found the Cariboo College Student Society.

After leaving college Stretch worked a variety of accounting positions in BC and Alberta returning to Kamloops in 1991 to work for the Kamloops Daily News. In 1997, Stretch was hired by School District No. 73 as the Accounting Supervisor, in 2003 he was promoted to

Comptroller and in 2006 he was awarded the position of Secretary Treasurer.

When asked about his accounting technician diploma Stretch said, "It led me to a Certified Management Accounting (CMA) designation, a Graduate Diploma in Business Administration (GDBA) and Master of Business Administration from Simon Fraser University (SFU). The MBA program offered and delivered by SFU in Kamloops commenced before TRU was a university".

Stretch has fond memories of his learning experience at Cariboo College. "I believe in education," said Stretch, referring to his new position. "The transition programs between SD73 and TRU are a big plus and make Kamloops very distinctive. I believe in doing a better job for our kids, and any time you invest in kids it's a big plus for society."

Your Alumni Association is Listening!

"We are here for you, the alumni and students of TRU," said Nancy Plett, Executive Director of the Alumni Association.

With that message in mind, the Alumni Association included a reader-response survey in the fall edition of its *Network Magazine*. And there was no shortage of responses.

406 responses came in from you, the alumni of Thompson Rivers University. This information will serve to help guide the association's activities in the future.

"We strive to meet the needs of our graduates," said Plett. Poring over the results of the survey and analyzing the answers, suggestions, and quips received made the next few weeks a learning experience for the association.

The most encouraging results of the survey showed a continued connection and belief in TRU.



Denise Harper, Alumni Relations Officer

87% of respondents expressed pride in being alumni of TRU, with 93% asserting that they would recommend TRU to another student.

Over 60% of respondents have had a family member attend TRU, and 74% have visited the campus since their own graduation.

An alumnus of TRU is a student who has completed 30 credits within any part of the institution. The message which has been sent loud and clear through this survey is that the most important issue to our alumni is staying connected. In the near future, the Alumni Association will be furthering your ability to do that.

The Online Community is the best way for alumni to stay connected. "It gives you free email for life, it allows you to form groups based on programs or hobbies, meet others and, of course, network," said Plett.

The survey results have told us that while the majority of alumni connected to the Online Community are pleased with it, only 15% of respondents are using it.

In response to this the Association is excited to announce the re-launch of the Online Community on March 15, 2007.

Denise Harper, Alumni Relations Officer says, "We are interested in hosting chapter events in your area, assisting you in planning reunions, whatever we can do to help graduates remain connected to their friends and faculty at TRU. We know we can't reach everyone and be everywhere, but we are certainly willing to try."




Nancy Plett, Executive Director

One opportunity to come back to campus is for the Alumni Weekend which is usually held in the fall. "If you graduated in 2001 or 1997 you could organize a 5 or 10-year reunion of your class. It's a great time to take a tour of the campus and see how it has changed," says Harper.

"We are here for anyone," says Plett. "Trades, or arts, sciences and open learning, it is about staying connected and realizing that education can continue as a life-long experience."

Plett herself continues to do courses through the Open Learning branch of TRU. "We are a diverse university and we wish to foster that amongst our alumni. There is never an age to stop learning, and certainly never a time to stop being involved."

Top 10 Reasons to “Stay Connected” to the TRU Alumni Association

- 
- 1 Keep in touch with classmates; free email – Visit the Online Community
 - 2 Share news/achievements with fellow grads – Alumni Network magazine
 - 3 Get great discounts on goods and services – Alumni Benefits card
 - 4 Free money – Project Grants
 - 5 Volunteer to help a student – Mentoring opportunities
 - 6 Recognition for personal accomplishments – Distinguished Alumni Awards
 - 7 Network for your career – Chapter Network Socials
 - 8 Reconnect with old friends and faculty – Alumni Weekend & Reunion events
 - 9 Support your educational roots – Affinity programs, scholarships & bursaries
 - 10 Continue your education – Professional development opportunities

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TRU Foundation

One Alumnus can make a difference

by Matthew Strader

One alumnus taking one initiative can make a lifetime of difference for a student at Thompson Rivers University. Executive Director, Kathleen Biagioni and Development Officer, Karen Gamracy work every day to make sure that continues.

These leaders of the TRU Foundation were pleased to see 509 students receive awards at the November awards ceremony this year, and are looking forward to more in coming years.

The students of TRU are grateful for every gift they get, and one opportunity for you, the TRU alumnus, to give back to them and your fellow alumni is the Alumni Association Endowment fund.

Established in 1992, the endowment fund benefits alumni who want to return to school to further pursue education. Half of this year's beneficiaries will be those students who demonstrate a financial need. The other half will be those who have demonstrated impressive community involvement or service.

This particular endowment has been built up to \$167,000 since its creation, and in the next year will see 16 students benefit from \$11,500 in awards.

"This is a wonderful legacy for alumni to leave to TRU," said Karen Gamracy, Development Officer for the TRU Foundation. "If every alumnus gave just \$10, that makes another \$270,000

that would be generated to benefit future students and alumni. Everyone can play a huge role, with just a small donation."

The Foundation will be giving you numerous opportunities to support your community. Undergraduate students will be calling alumni each spring, a great way for you to give!

The TRU Foundation has an initiative called the graduation gift fund. When you or a family member graduates you can make a donation matching the year. This year participating graduates will donate \$20.07.

Both Kathleen and Karen work diligently to promote and build the funding at the TRU Foundation. As the Executive Director, Kathleen has the major gifts and planned giving portfolio while Karen, as the Development Officer, is responsible for the annual campaign, establishing new annual awards and direct mail and phone follow-up campaigns.

Watch for your opportunities, and support your TRU community in 2007.



Karen Gamracy and Kathleen Biagioni, Executive Director

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Jake Schmidt



Chad McIntosh



Ryan Porter



Will Blair



Steve Scott



Sean Wallace

TRU Athletics

Fitting into Kamloops

by Matthew Strader

A great number of university students admit to the nagging worry about what comes after school. For TRU athletics graduates, the city of Kamloops may bring them just the opportunities they are looking for.

Jake Schmidt played and coached men's volleyball at TRU and graduated with an elementary education degree. Schmidt was a Scholar Athlete of the Year and has gone on to teach and coach at Sa-Hali Secondary. He most recently has become a vice-principal at NorKam Secondary. Schmidt was coaching while completing his education degree and coached the volleyball team to their first trip to Nationals in 1997/98.

Chad McIntosh graduated with an arts degree from TRU and went on to get his secondary school education degree through UVic. He came back to act as an assistant coach for our men's soccer program at TRU and has spent time teaching and coaching at SouthKam Secondary before more recently taking a full-time position at Valleyview, coaching soccer and basketball and teaching. "A lot of the people I know now are because of the athletic program, and a lot of my friends are from my time at TRU," said McIntosh. "I love the town, my family is here and I plan to stay."

Chad was an assistant with our men's soccer program when they won the first CCAA National Gold medal in school history. "One of his claims to fame is that he held Steve Nash to four points while guarding him in junior high school basketball. He later went on to become friends with Steve Nash and play soccer with him," said Jonathon Shephard, TRU Athletics and Recreation Assistant.

Ryan Porter played basketball at TRU and graduated with an elementary education degree. He now teaches and coaches basketball at Westsyde. Porter almost didn't play basketball as he didn't think he was good enough to make the team. He joined halfway through the 1997/98 season and was red-shirted. Over the next four years he dominated the basketball court and was a three-time BCCAA 1st team all-star and a two-time CCAA All-Canadian and won CCAA Player of the Year in 2001/2002.

Will Blair played basketball at TRU and helped the team win its first National Bronze medal in 1997/98. Blair graduated with Arts (English) and elementary education degrees and now teaches and coaches basketball at Brocklehurst. His playing days were cut short when he injured his tricep while playing basketball, but he has had a huge impact through assistant coaching our men's basketball team.

"I had a great experience as a player at TRU. When I acted as an assistant with Nevin (Gleddie – head coach of the men's basketball team) and we took the team to the National title that was a great experience."

Steve Scott played soccer, was awarded CCAA All-Canadian status in 1997/98, graduated with an elementary education degree and now teaches and coaches soccer at Westsyde. Steve also is the assistant for our men's soccer team at TRU, and was an assistant for TRU when it won our school's first-ever CCAA National Gold in soccer in 1998/99.

Finally, Sean Wallace played soccer for TRU and graduated with an accounting degree. He now works at BDO Dunwoody downtown and is our current men's soccer head coach at TRU.

Exceptional to note about some of these graduates is that they moved to Kamloops from other areas, and decided to stay. McIntosh came from Victoria, and Scott from Langley. Blair moved here from Williams Lake, and Porter from Cranbrook.

TRU is blessed by a beautiful campus, and as long as our athletic graduates find such success in our town, our children will be able to enjoy it for years to come.

Where Are They Now?

Kyle Aben

Bachelor of Business Administration 1999

After leaving TRU I spent a few years in Vancouver working in financial services. I then decided to go back to school and entered a Master of International Studies, Global Environmental Policy program, at UNBC in Prince George. My thesis focuses on climate change, greenhouse gas reductions and the Kyoto Protocol.

While in Prince George for grad school I started working full time at the Canadian Red Cross as the region's Business and Marketing Coordinator (also volunteered as Disaster Assistance Responder 2004, 2005). I also sat on the Community Partners Addressing Homelessness (CPAH) committee in Prince George, 2004. It is way too cold up here not to have a roof in January! I was the Graduate Student Representative on the UNBC Senate Committee on University Budget in 2003, 2004 and 2005. During a one-year contract with UNBC as Development Officer I managed a highly successful fund-raising campaign.

I continue to work for the Red Cross and am very proud to be part of the world's largest humanitarian organization. Please check us out at www.redcross.ca to see how we help. Please give what you can to support the amazing efforts that help vulnerable people. I want to continue working for the Canadian Red Cross and will continue to do all I can to educate people of the consequences of climate change and do my small part to find a solution.

I think the two coolest people on the planet are my niece (Lyndsay) and nephew (Evan). I want to thank Dr. Tsigaris and Dr. Tarzwell at TRU for their pedagogy. It always surprises me how much of what I learned at TRU I use in "the real world" – great business program and I am a proud alumni.

Ron Brandt

UT 1974

After leaving Cariboo College I went on to receive a BGS and MEd degree from SFU. This was followed by post-grad work in education administration at the University of Calgary. I taught in public education for many years, the last few as an administrator. I am proud to be the

first principal in B.C. to effect a four-day school week with no loss of instructional time or student achievement.

I've been retired from public school administration for two years but I'm about to leave retirement and return to the workforce. I have recently become a Certified Construction Safety Officer, and hold associated membership with the Alberta Construction Safety Association. I act as an independent safety consultant.

I have three children and one grandchild (brand new) with another on the way. I live at Fanny Bay on Vancouver Island.

Pat Chan

UT 1975

After leaving Cariboo College (TRU) I went on to earn a B.Sc. (Zoology) and an MBA from UBC. I married Cathy (nee LeDuc) in 1982 and we celebrated the birth of our daughter, Robyn, on New Years Eve, 1987. After graduation we lived in Vancouver and Los Angeles before moving to Charlottetown in 1988. We have recently moved to Edmonton where Cathy is a professor at the University of Alberta. Robyn is currently taking a year off from her studies at the University of Ottawa. I have worked for and been a consultant to a wide variety of businesses and organizations.

Family life, gardening and travelling across Canada and Europe keep us busy. I have been active in triathlons and adventure racing for many years but we are now looking to explore central and northern Canada by car, canoe, bicycle and on foot.

I look forward to visiting the campus soon to see more of how the college has grown into TRU.

Lucas Cockburn

Bachelor of Science 2002

Lucas came to TRU on an entrance scholarship in 1998. During his four years at TRU he was named Male Athlete of the Year three times. In his final year he won the Governor General's Silver Medal for achieving the highest marks of all degree graduates.

As a medical student at Queen's University in Kingston, Lucas continued to garner awards in academic achievement and medical proficiency. In

his final year he was awarded the Edgar Forrester Prize and Edgar Forrester Scholarship for achieving the highest standing in medicine in the final year, the Professor's Prize in Surgery for achieving the highest standing in surgical subjects, the W.W. Near and Susan Near Prizes for the highest standing throughout the course, the Hannah Washburn Polson Prize for proficiency in the final year in medicine, surgery and obstetrics, and the Dr. Osler Briggs Dickinson Scholarship for outstanding performance in surgery. He also received the Pamela C. Williams Memorial Award for a graduating medical student who, in addition to good academic standing, demonstrates fellowship, compassion for patients, significant extracurricular achievement and community involvement.

Lucas is currently completing a family practice residency at Toronto Western Hospital after which he plans to do a year of emergency medicine training and begin work in ER and family practice. While not yet sure where he plans to go, returning to BC is definitely an attractive option.

Sidney, Hsin-Kang, Hsieh, **ESL and first two years – Bachelor of Science (Biology) 1999**

After 10 years in Canada, life at UCC (TRU) is still the most unforgettable memory for me. My "first" Canada experiences all happened at UCC and in Kamloops. As an ESL student TRU offered me a great learning environment to adapt to cultural and social change. Due to small class sizes and close interaction with classmates and teachers, I had the opportunity to obtain a lot of after-class tutoring, which is very useful and important to a foreign student. I really appreciate all the help and encouragement from teachers and friends in TRU.

After two years at TRU I transferred to McGill University for the rest of my studies. Because of the preparation I received at TRU, I quickly adapted to McGill. I completed my B.Sc in Immunology and a M.Sc in Neuroscience from McGill.

Currently, I am a Neuroscience Research Specialist at the University of California,

San Francisco, and am preparing for the next step in my studies. I am really glad to keep in touch with TRU and hope I can visit Kamloops full of memory and appreciation!

Ryan Kipp

Bachelor of Business Administration 1999

After completing my BBA degree at UCC/ TRU in 1999 I took a year off to travel and then entered law school at the University of Manitoba. After graduating from law school in 2003 I returned to Kamloops to complete my articling. I then worked until the fall of 2005 as a lawyer with the firm of Gillespie Renkema Barnett Broadway in Kamloops.

In January of 2006 I accepted a position as corporate counsel to Canada Safeway Limited and now work at Safeway's head office here in Calgary, AB.

Dale R. Parkes

Bachelor of Science 1997

After graduating from the University College of the Cariboo (now TRU) in

1997 with a Bachelor of Science Degree (BSc), majoring in chemistry, I was accepted to the school of architecture at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Two years later I received a Bachelor of Environmental Design Studies Degree (BEDS). This was followed by two more years of study and completion of my masters degree in Architecture (March). As part of my education at Dalhousie, I completed cooperative education work terms in Calgary and Vancouver. Following graduation in 2001, I worked in Toronto and Halifax, before moving to Vancouver in 2003. After a productive three years of working with Hancock Bruckner Eng and Wright Architects as an intern architect, I was fortunate to be chosen for a teaching position at Thompson Rivers University in the department of Engineering Design and Drafting Technology. This new job has allowed me to move back to Kamloops, where I grew up, and to teach architecture, which is something that I have always aspired to do.

While at Dalhousie I met Heather who is also an architect. She and I were married in July 2004.

Lois Kathleen Rugg

CMMD Certificate, 1988

After receiving my Bachelor of Arts degree (87) from the University of Saskatchewan I came to Cariboo College for the Communications Certificate (CMMD). Following graduation in 1988 I proceeded to work in my chosen field as a video producer and then later as a program co-ordinator for Cable 10 Community TV. These were valuable learning years, where I worked in a variety of roles including working with volunteers, director/producer, camera operator, editor, and the real-estate channel co-ordinator. In 1990, I moved to Royal Inland Hospital where I worked in the education department as a media technician. While at RIH, I also worked occasionally for Cariboo College doing special projects for the AV department. In 1993 I joined the college on a permanent



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Where Are They Now?

basis. In my current position as Media Production Technician at TRU, I have the best of all worlds working with students, faculty and staff. Every day I enjoy working with ever-changing media technology and fresh and innovative thinking young and old minds as they aspire to succeed.

Dan Semenoff

Digital Arts And Design Diploma 1989

When I left UCC I returned to my previous career of film/video/photography in Calgary with CBC Newsworld and CBC Vancouver. Later I returned home to Saskatoon to start my own video production Company GIG Graphic Image and gigproductions.com. The computer graphics and animation course I took at the time was a great stepping stone for me, since then the whole computer/graphic world has truly put everyone into the 21st century with the demands of better computing power and software technology.

For the last 16 years my video production company has been able to incorporate computer graphics and computer graphic animations into most of the corporate videos we have done and the course has even helped in everything from quote cost to animation lengths.

In June of 2005 I retired GIG Graphic Image so I could spend more time in Saskatoon with my aging mother and start enjoying a much simpler life.

I would like to say hi to every one that was in the same program and I sure enjoyed my time at TRU.

You could check out my web site at <http://www.gigproductions.com>

Bill Uren

CMMD Certificate 1974

I attended Cariboo College during 1973-74, taking Communications Media in its initial year. I took what I learned to CFJC-TV for 18 months, before moving

to Edmonton, to work with ACCESS Alberta, the provincial Educational Television station. I have been employed there since March 1976. The station was sold by the province in 1995, and has gone through three other ownerships. As a result I am now an employee of the second-largest broadcaster in Canada, CTV Global Media. Not bad for a kid from a small college in Kamloops.

My wife Linda and I have two children and four grandchildren. Currently, we all live in Edmonton.

My memories of going to Cariboo College are all good and I'm proud to have been a part of the history of TRU. I learned the basics I needed to succeed there, and have had a long and satisfying career. My current project is a documentary series for BookTelevision and has kept me occupied for nearly a year. Good thing I learned to read...



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