

journal

UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

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Going the Distance

Flying Doctors of Canada founder
Dr. Benjamin Cavilla (BSc '00)
takes medicine to new heights.

University of
Lethbridge





President's Message

Dear U of L Alumni,
Welcome to the fall 2008 issue of the Journal.



Today, there are more than 28,000 University of Lethbridge alumni all around the world. This edition of the Journal showcases a sampling of U of L alumni who are facing the world with confidence and pursuing their passions. I hope you enjoy reading their stories.

While continuing to maintain our tradition in undergraduate liberal education, the U of L is emerging as a leading comprehensive academic and research institution. Beginning in this issue of the Journal, we are featuring an expanded Spotlight on Research section that enables us to keep you, our alumni, up to date on the latest research taking place at the U of L. This issue highlights the Canadian Centre for Behavioural Neuroscience (CCBN) and the extraordinary work they are doing in brain research.

This fall, **Dr. Bruce McNaughton**, one of the world's foremost experts in neurophysiology, joined our CCBN team as the inaugural Alberta Heritage Foundation

for Medical Research (AHFMR) Polaris Award recipient. The award is a 10-year, \$10 million research grant that will ultimately result in \$20 million through matching funding from the University of Lethbridge and the Information Circle of Research Excellence (iCore). The Polaris Award is being called the biggest research hire for a university in Canada this year, and it took place at your university.

As always, our students are a source of pride as they shine brightly on national and international stages. This summer, U of L psychology/music student **Theo Tams** won the CTV 2008 Canadian Idol competition, and U of L Pronghorn **Jim Steacy** competed for Canada at the 2008 Beijing Olympics in hammer throw. The excitement for the Pronghorns continued this fall when the women's rugby team captured the CIS national championship for the second consecutive year. Go Horns!

As you read through this issue of the Journal, you'll notice a new look and feel to the magazine – a new design that you will continue to see throughout our publications and advertisements. We invite your feedback.

Wherever your path has taken you, I encourage you to contact the Alumni Relations office (alumni@uleth.ca), reconnect and share your story.

Bill Cade, PhD
President and Vice-Chancellor
Professor of Biological Sciences



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Spotlight on Research: Neuroscience

Meet the \$20 million man and the team of world-class researchers who are uncovering the mysteries of the mind within the walls of the U of L's Canadian Centre for Behavioural Neuroscience.

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Pursuing Passion

U of L alumni Dr. Benjamin Cavilla (BSc '00), Poul Mark (BA '94), Ramona Big Head (BA/BEEd '96), Dave Bulloch (BMgt '00), Dr. Tracy Burton (BSc '03), Dr. Bev Burton (BSc '03), Shawn Van Sluys (BFA '05) and Bill McKay (BN '06) all have one thing in common: they engage life with confidence.

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Distinguished Alumnus of the Year

This fall, Dr. Doug Schmitt (BAsC '80), a Canada Research Chair in rock physics and time-lapse geophysics at the University of Alberta, was recognized for his scientific contributions.

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Since the spring, there has been a continuous stream of exciting news and events taking place on the University campus. Here's a few of the highlights from May '08 until now.

U of L Students Shine With Confidence



(l-r) Canadian Olympian **Jim Steacy** was accompanied at the Beijing Olympics by U of L track coach **Larry Steinke (BA '94)**, who served as a member of the Canadian Olympic coaching staff.

Steacy (centre) with fellow Olympians (l-r) **Adam van Koeverden** and **Simon Whitfield**.

U of L student **Theo Tams** (top left photo) first grabbed the attention of the judges, then stole the hearts of a nation.

The psychology/music student captured the CTV 2008 Canadian Idol competition in September, capping a summer-long series of performances that demonstrated his well-rounded, powerful stage presence.

The 23-year-old turned the Idol program into a personal

showcase, displaying his penchant for taking some of music's best-known ballads and interpreting them with his unique style.

His victory, on a live national broadcast that attracted more than 1,000 supporters to the University's 1st Choice Savings Centre for Sport and Wellness, produced a hit single, "Sing," and netted Tams a recording contract with Sony BMG Canada.

In athletics, a nine-year quest became reality for U of L Pronghorn athlete **Jim Steacy** when, on a hot summer night in Beijing, he competed for Canada in the finals of the Olympic hammer throw competition.

Just 24, the Canadian record holder and five-time national champion was the youngest of 12 competitors to qualify, serving notice for what's to come at the London 2012 Games.

"Until you're in that final, you're just another young kid. I'll be on their radar now," Steacy says.

He now focuses on his final season of Canadian Interuniversity Sport eligibility and maintaining his unbeaten weight throw record as a Pronghorn.

New Spaces on Campus

Oct. 17, 2008, marked the official opening of Turcotte Hall – the new home of the Faculty of Education. The building provides cutting-edge math/science and computer laboratories, improved office and classroom space and allows room for further expansion.

In addition, the Alberta Water and Environmental Science Building opened on Nov. 13, 2008. This state-of-the-art facility increases the University’s applied research capacity in areas such as watersheds, water ecology, water quality and public health, environmental monitoring, hydrologic forecasting and water resource management. More than 100 graduate students will study at the facility.



Turcotte Hall



Alberta Water and Environmental Science Building

Rugby Team Continues Winning Streak

For the second consecutive year, the Pronghorns women’s rugby team captured the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) championship at the Oct. 31 to Nov. 2 tournament in Lethbridge, Alta. In the Horns’ previous appearances at the CIS championships, the team won gold in 2007, bronze in 2006 and silver in 2003.



Photo Submitted

U of L President Emeritus Dr. Howard Tennant Receives ASTech Award



Dr. Howard E. Tennant (LLD '05), a University of Lethbridge president and professor emeritus, recently received the 2008 Alberta Science and Technology (ASTech) Outstanding Contribution to the Alberta Science and Technology Community award.

Tennant’s 30-year career has been dedicated to the science and technology community in Alberta and Canada. His leadership in post-secondary education and in provincial, federal, public and private organizations has been instrumental in developing innovative policies to further science and technology.

Tennant is recognized as a member of the Order of Canada.

U of L Welcomes New Dean of Fine Arts and University Librarian



Zimbabwe-born muralist **Dr. Desmond Rochfort** assumed the position of dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts in July, taking over for Dr. Ches Skinner, who had presided over the Faculty for the previous 10 years. Rochfort, who was president of the Alberta College of Art & Design in 1999, was most recently head of the School of Fine Arts at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand. One of Britain's leading public mural artists, Rochfort was trained initially as a painter at the Byam Shaw School of Art in London before graduating with a master's in fine arts from the Royal Academy of Arts in London. He earned his PhD in art history from the Royal College of Art in London.



Also this summer, Edmonton-native **Alison Nussbaumer** began her term as the new university librarian. This is the fourth educational stop for Nussbaumer, who previously worked at Edmonton's Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) campus, as well as the University of Saskatchewan and most recently, Prince George's University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC). Nussbaumer is president of the Canadian Association of College and University Libraries, as well as a past-president of both the Library Association of Alberta and the British Columbia Library Association. She achieved her undergraduate and library degrees from the University of Alberta and her master of arts degree from Royal Roads University in Victoria, B.C.

Rethink About It



What can \$20 million do for brain research in Alberta? How can you teach students to think differently? What's good about wind erosion?

These are a few of the questions posed this year in the University's annual report to the community. The Report – based on the theme Rethink About It – asks readers to 'rethink' what they thought they knew about the U of L. The stories inside provide a sampling of the important advances the University of Lethbridge has made in teaching, research and creative achievement throughout the year.

To view the report, visit: www.ulethbridge.ca/report

Communicating Through Drama



U of L students (l-r) **Erin Lix** and **Janine Barsky** interacting with students in Malawi.

In May 2008, a group of University of Lethbridge students travelled to Malawi, Africa, where HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis are prevalent diseases to learn about health promotion. One of the students, U of L drama major **Lauren Jerke (BFA '08)** says, "Theatre can be used as a medium for addressing, discussing and educating audiences. I was expecting to teach the malaria program through drama because of the existing language barrier. In the end, I found that not only did we teach by using expressive arts techniques, but I also learned more about community theatre than I had ever expected. I observed how theatre helps foster communication in a village and how it can even influence the actions of a community."

2008 Teaching Chair



Dr. Richard Mrazek (BASc/Bed '79) is the Board of Governors Teaching Chair for 2008. The veteran Faculty of Education researcher has been internationally recognized as a leading science, technology and environmental educator. His research areas include science education, integrating environmental education in school curriculum, as well as using emerging technologies in teaching and assessment. His contributions over the past 30 years helped establish sustainable environmental and conservation education programs in K-12 schools, post-secondary institutions, parks and communities throughout Alberta and Canada.



Spotlight on Research: Neuroscience

The University of Lethbridge is leading the way in research and discovery. Read on to learn more about the important questions researchers at the U of L's Canadian Centre for Behavioural Neuroscience are asking and the answers they are finding.



Dr. Gerlinde Metz, a principal investigator at the CCBN



Rethinking Collaboration

What happens when world-class neuroscientists join together?

The brain – its depth and complexity have captured the attention of scientists for centuries. It's at the centre of all we do, and it plays a vital role in every single thought, action and decision we make.

It's also central to research taking place at the University of Lethbridge. At the U of L's Canadian Centre for Behavioural Neuroscience (CCBN) a group of scientists and scholars share a common dedication to one goal: uncovering the mysteries of the mind.

The U of L has attracted neuroscientists from around the world who have chosen to be part of the U of L's highly interactive and unique team of

internationally recognized scientific leaders. Together they represent a range of expertise in a variety of areas, including the neural mechanisms of learning, brain plasticity, recovery of function, brain development and neurological disorders.

With a commitment that does not stop at discovery, these researchers are making the world a better place. By seeking to understand health-related conditions like Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's and stroke, they ultimately open doors to new knowledge, technologies and treatments in the future.





Rethinking the Approach

What questions are brain experts asking?

The University recognizes that the strength of its research is tied directly to highly qualified people. Within the walls of the CCBN, researchers are constantly rethinking the brain by approaching questions from new perspectives. The answers they discover are changing our understanding of the brain and the world we live in. Here is a glimpse into a few of the important questions researchers at the CCBN are thinking about.

The Canadian Centre for Behavioural Neuroscience

The Canadian Centre for Behavioural Neuroscience (CCBN) is the only research facility of its kind in Canada. The 50,000 square-foot building opened in October 2001, and in 2006, a 10,000 square-foot expansion was added. The centre houses two magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) units that are among the most powerful in the province for research purposes. As an integral part of the undergraduate and graduate programs in neuroscience and psychology at the U of L, the facility has helped to attract post-doctoral fellows and scientists from around the world.

The 14 principal investigators at the CCBN are:

- Dr. Albert Cross
- Dr. David Euston
- Dr. Robbin Gibb (BAsc '77, MSc '01, PhD '04)
- Dr. Andrew Iwaniuk (MSc '00)
- Dr. Bryan Kolb
- Dr. Robert McDonald (BSc '89)
- Dr. Bruce McNaughton
- Dr. Gerlinde Metz
- Dr. Sergio Pellis
- Dr. Deborah Saucier
- Dr. Janice Sutherland
- Dr. Robert Sutherland
- Dr. Matthew Tata
- Dr. Ian Whishaw (DSc '08)

What makes you who you are?

Nature versus nurture is a long-standing debate – it questions whether a set of genes at birth determines everything about you or alternatively, whether your environment plays the most important role in shaping who you are. Researchers at the CCBN are finding that this question is similar to asking whether the length or width is more important to the shape of a rectangle – they are both significant. In a similar way, who you are is not limited exclusively to either nature or nurture.

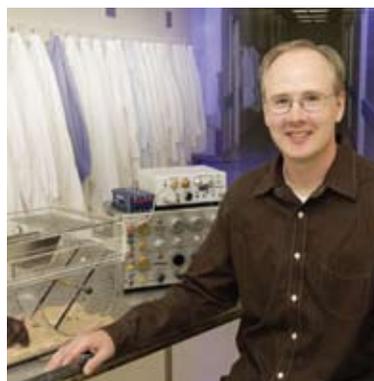
For example, you might possess a gene that pre-disposes you to breast cancer. However, if that gene is never “turned on,” it will not harm you. Research shows that in many cases, environmental factors can make a difference in activating certain genes. Findings demonstrate that early life experiences have the greatest effect on this gene expression. The wealth or poverty, happiness or sadness of a child can affect his or her health and wellness the rest of his or her life. Simple things parents do for themselves and their children, such as choosing balanced diets, reading bedtime stories or providing physical contact, can change the entire course of a child's life.

How do experiences you had before you were born affect your brain?

The experiences that occur during pregnancy play a key role in both the future brain development of a child and the way his or her brain recovers from injury. Researchers at the CCBN have found that during pregnancy, exercise combined with an interactive and social environment for the mother can enhance the problem-solving skills of her baby. Prenatal experiences also affect those babies who suffer early brain injury and can influence their recovery. In a related project,



researchers are planning to look at how the effects of negative experiences occurring before birth can be reversed to ensure the healthy development of children.



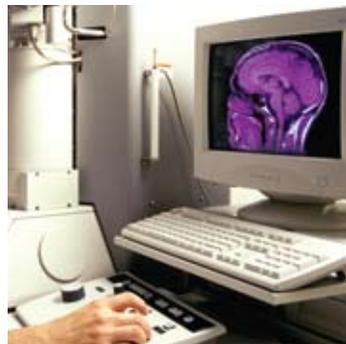
At the University of Lethbridge, research and teaching go hand in hand. (l-r) **Dr. Robbin Gibb (BAsc '77, MSc '01, PhD '04)**, **Dr. Andrew Iwaniuk (MSc '00)** and **Dr. Robert McDonald (BSc '89)** all studied at the U of L. Today, they are principal investigators at the CCBN and are among the world's leading neuroscientists.

How do our surroundings influence our thoughts?

Your perception, attention, language, memory and consciousness are influenced by complex interactions between the cognitive tasks you perform and the sensory information that surrounds you. For example, irrelevant stimuli can be distracting, especially for individuals with attention deficit disorder (ADD) or fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD). To better understand these interactions, researchers at the CCBN along with experts in the Mathematics and Computer Science Department are creating a virtual reality auditory and visual presentation space. Using this space, neuroscientists will study perception, attention and participants' behaviours in realistic environments such as virtual classrooms. They hope to characterize the symptoms of cognitive disorders such as ADD and find better treatments.

Are some people prone to gamble?

The CCBN and the School of Health Sciences are collaborating on a project that uses neuron-imaging techniques to compare



the brain activity of pathological gamblers and non-gamblers. If stereotypical differences can be found related to brain activity during gambling, there may be early warning signs available for individuals who are at high risk of progressing from occasional to pathological gambling. Furthermore, finding commonalities between pathological gambling and other forms of addictions will enable researchers to explore the broad spectrum of addiction disorders. This new understanding may help identify more effective prevention or treatment of addictions.

How can nicotine help stroke survivors?

The interruption of the normal flow of blood to the brain during a stroke can cause extensive damage to critical brain areas. People who have suffered from a stroke often need to build new networks in their brain as they relearn skills and movements that have been affected by the stroke. At the CCBN, investigations are underway to enhance this recovery process. The unique laboratory facilities at the CCBN allow researchers to test the effects of various drug stimulants on both the formation of new brain connections and the recovery of skills and movements. One promising discovery is that nicotine has been found to stimulate the formation of new brain connections and has positive effects on a large area of the brain, including the motor area that is critical for stroke recovery.

If you are interested in learning more about research taking place at the U of L, please call Research Services at 403-317-2869 to receive a copy of FIAT, the University's research publication.



Rethinking “Brain Gain”

What can \$20 million do for brain research in Alberta?

This fall, **Dr. Bruce McNaughton**, one of the world’s foremost experts in neurophysiology, proudly joined the University of Lethbridge’s Canadian Centre for Behavioural Neuroscience (CCBN). It’s a “brain gain” made possible through the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (AHFMR) Polaris Award – a 10-year, \$10 million grant that will ultimately result in \$20 million through matching funding from the University and the Informatics Circle of Research Excellence (iCore).

Lured from the University of Arizona, McNaughton says it’s the world-class expertise of the researchers at the CCBN that attracted him to the U of L.

“Drs. Bryan Kolb, Ian Whishaw, Robert Sutherland and many others at the CCBN are pioneers in the behavioural neuroscience field,” McNaughton says. “There is nothing in North America that is like what we’re building here.”

His addition is a major coup for the University.

“This is the most significant hire in Canadian universities this year,” says Dr. Dennis Fitzpatrick, vice-president (research). “The AHFMR Polaris Award is used to recruit

internationally significant scholars, and Dr. McNaughton is in that class.”

Neuropsychology looks at how the brain works by figuring out what it can or cannot do when pieces of the mechanism are broken. McNaughton, a neurophysiologist, studies the healthy brain, gaining an understanding of the basis of knowledge. Alzheimer’s patients, stroke victims and those with spinal injury all benefit from technology he has developed for measuring the activity of groups of healthy brain cells and how they interact with one another.

“The brain is what we call a dynamical system, and it is constantly active, processing information even while we sleep,” McNaughton says.

By unlocking the keys to how the brain generates knowledge, it opens the door to bypassing the broken connections in a damaged brain.

“The brain creates its own reality, and we’re finding out how that works.”

The CCBN has already established an unequalled reputation of innovative research; McNaughton’s addition primes the U of L neuroscience team for unprecedented breakthroughs.

“There is nothing in North America that is like what we’re building here.”

Dr. Bruce McNaughton



(l-r) **Dr. Robert Sutherland, Dr. Bryan Kolb and Dr. Bruce McNaughton** at the Polaris announcement on Oct. 23, 2008.





Supporting Our Students

Former Pronghorn basketball and soccer player Stacey Gammon (BSc/BEd '04) teaches physical education for Grades 1 to 12 students. This fall, she made a contribution towards Supporting Our Students.

"As alumni, we know first-hand the education and experience the University of Lethbridge offers; we need to 'pay it forward.' Making a gift to the University, an organization that has given me so much, feels incredible."

Stacey Gammon



Students have always been at the centre of the University of Lethbridge.

It's a focus reflected in everything we do, and as a U of L alumnus, it's a commitment that benefited you as a student.

This year, 8,000 students are attending the U of L on our campuses in Lethbridge, Calgary and Edmonton. We believe that every one of these students, regardless of finances, should be given opportunities to discover new thoughts, explore creativity and ultimately cross the stage at convocation with confidence.

Unfortunately, for some students the cost of education can be a barrier. With an increasing number of students working part, or even full time to cover the rising costs of books and tuition, the need for financial aid is greater than ever before.

Supporting Our Students 2008, an initiative to raise money for student awards, is now underway. Whether you graduated from the University years ago or are just starting your career, you have the opportunity to make a difference today.

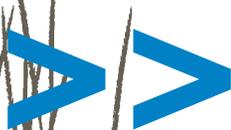
Please join us and contribute to a long-standing tradition of putting students first.

To make your gift towards student awards, visit www.ulethbridge.ca/giving or call University Advancement at 403-329-2582 for more information.





Photo Submitted



Dr. Benjamin Cavilla

Pursuing Passion

From big-city galleries to medical centres in Central America to stages off Broadway, you find University of Lethbridge alumni who are following their passions. **Dr. Benjamin Cavilla (BSc '00), Poul Mark (BA '94), Ramona Big Head (BA/BEEd '96), Dave Bulloch (BMgt '00), Dr. Tracy Burton (BSc '03), Dr. Bev Burton (BSc '03), Shawn Van Sluys (BFA '05) and Bill McKay (BN '06)** all share two common traits: they got their starts at the U of L, and they engage life with confidence. Read on to discover more about the unique paths they have taken and the journeys they are on.

Going the Distance

Dr. Benjamin Cavilla takes medical and social care to international destinations and new heights.



“Practising medicine in isolation provides only a temporary solution at best. I believe that as Canadians we not only can do better, we are obliged to do better.”

There are those who feel saddened by the plight of poverty-stricken people around the world, and then there are those who choose to do something about the situation. **Dr. Benjamin Cavilla (BSc '00)** falls distinctly into the latter category.

Cavilla is a resident physician and founder of the Flying Doctors of Canada (FDOC) – a not-for-profit independent organization of volunteers committed to long-term, sustainable humanitarian efforts in some of the most economically and socially bereft communities in the world. Cavilla

established FDOC in 2006 with colleagues and fellow medical school graduates Dr. Daniel Kopac and Dr. Rodrigo Onell. Their objective: to improve health care in developing countries by creating a multidisciplinary network of professionals that can cooperatively implement effective solutions to the health issues of targeted communities.

During his third year of medical school, Cavilla became involved with Los Médicos Voladores (LMV), a similarly inspired charity organization in the United States. Much to his surprise, Cavilla found

himself thrust into a lead role within LMV, and while his interest in humanitarian efforts grew exponentially, he came to realize that many well-meaning organizations lacked the medical leadership and insight needed to identify root problems and implement sustainable solutions.

“There’s a problem in the current approach to these efforts,” Cavilla says. “Practising medicine in isolation provides only a temporary solution at best. I believe that as Canadians we not only can do better, we are obliged to do better.”



Cavilla began talking to professionals and medical students, asking if anyone would be interested in committing their time and talents to a made-in-Canada solution to global health problems. The answer was a resounding yes.

“From there, it was simply a matter of catch up,” Cavilla says. “I had to wait for my knowledge and experience to catch up with my aspirations.”

Wanting to make himself as portable as possible, Cavilla set about getting his pilot’s license. He now has the ability to pilot the missions he’s leading, with goals to

reach remote communities around the world.

FDOC was founded on the belief that good health begins with the fulfillment of basic human needs: clean drinking water, nutritious food and reasonable shelter. Cavilla is creating a network of professionals willing to implement these basics so that health-care professionals can go in and offer sustainable health solutions on a solid foundation, knowing their progress will not be undone a few short weeks later. Each mission is tremendously complex, requiring months of

intense planning, but Cavilla is committed to the work.

“This is why I became a physician,” he says. “It’s about making a long-term difference in the lives of people who need it the most.”

While FDOC is currently focused on Central American countries, Cavilla hopes to visit more isolated and distant areas in the long-range future, including South America, Africa and parts of South East Asia. Cavilla will visit Angola early in 2009 to work and explore the possibility of expanding FDOC’s efforts into that country.

FDOC’s next mission will take place next summer, when they plan to lead a team of professionals and volunteers into Nicaragua. Cavilla, who is a graduate of the U of L’s co-op program, will include a group of applied studies students from the University of Lethbridge on this mission as part of FDOC’s Doctors of Tomorrow program.

Visit www.flyingdoctors.ca for more information or to become a volunteer.

Escaping the Daily Grind

After a short stint as a lawyer, Poul Mark chose to pursue his coffee dream.



“When I looked toward the horizon – 25 years in the future, as a partner sitting in some office – it didn’t excite me.”

Photo Credit: Michael Holly, U of A Creative Services

Whatever the bean, however strong or weak the brew, a piping hot cup of the black liquid is sure to get the job done for most students.

But as a sociology undergrad at the University of Lethbridge in the early '90s, long before he would visit Vancouver to learn about bean roasting or intern as a barista or open Transcend Coffee, **Poul Mark (BA '94)** knew the coffee he was drinking sucked.

“I remember having conversations with friends and speculating, ‘We should open a coffee shop,’” he says. “It was always in the back of my mind.”

After graduating with a bachelor of arts in 1994, Mark earned a law degree, but in the end he didn’t practise law for too long. Working with people was great, but the paperwork was draining.

“When I looked toward the horizon – 25 years in the future, as a partner sitting in some office – it didn’t excite me,” Mark says.

What did lift his spirits was the idea of pursuing his coffee dreams, travelling the world to meet producers and educating people about the commodity. His decision was clear: it was time to open that coffee shop.

So, he headed to Vancouver to learn how to roast beans at JJ Bean and took some time to work as a barista. In 2006, he opened Transcend Coffee in south Edmonton. Mark soon discovered how little he knew.

“I was a coffee snob, but I had no foundation for my beliefs whatsoever,” he laughs.

After a steep learning curve, the complex world of coffee – the world’s second most traded commodity after oil – revealed itself. Today, Mark has developed trade relationships with farmers in Hawaii, Guatemala and Panama; perfected his bean roasting;

discovered a fascination with entrepreneurship; and unravelled the complex factors that contribute to flavour.

Mark works harder than he ever did as a lawyer, but the rewards are far greater – like knowing his coffee improved someone’s day.

“I have so many customers who come into the shop and on one hand they love me, but they hate me too. They say, ‘You’ve wrecked us! You’ve made it so every other cup of coffee tastes terrible.’”

Past Scenes Set Today's Stage

Ramona Big Head and 23 students travelled to New York City to perform a play that brought to life a forgotten piece of history.



“I can talk about the Baker Massacre and not be angry about it. Why? Because I am doing something about it.”

It's a story that never should have been forgotten. This fall, **Ramona Big Head (BA/BEEd '96)** took 23 students from the Blackfoot Confederacy with her all the way to New York City to perform “Strike them Hard!” The Baker Massacre – a play that speaks to a long-lost tragedy that many have never heard about.

Big Head wrote the script as her final project while pursuing her master of education at the University of Lethbridge. It brings to life a piece of history that dates back more than 135 years to a cold day in January.

It was 1870 and U.S. Major Eugene Baker and his troops had been given orders to find a group

of troublemakers in the area and “strike them hard.” When they came across a Blackfeet camp set up along the Marias River in northern Montana, they mistook it as their target.

Despite a signed declaration from the superintendent of Indian Affairs stating that the peaceful camp was not to be attacked, 217 Blackfeet people – mostly women, children and the elderly – were killed.

When Big Head first learned about the massacre through an Aboriginal Elder mentor program she helped develop, she was shocked to discover that her great-great grandmother, who although only a child at the time, was among a small group who survived.

“I was really angry when I first heard about the massacre, especially when I realized there was a direct connection to my ancestry,” says Big Head.

“But today I can talk about the Baker Massacre and not be angry about it. Why? Because I am doing something about it. I wrote the play to remind my people of what our ancestors endured. We're a testimony to their strength.”

Following a recommendation from her master's supervisor, Big Head submitted a proposal for the play to be included in Performing the World 2008 – a New York festival that brings together more than 400 activists, scholars and researchers from

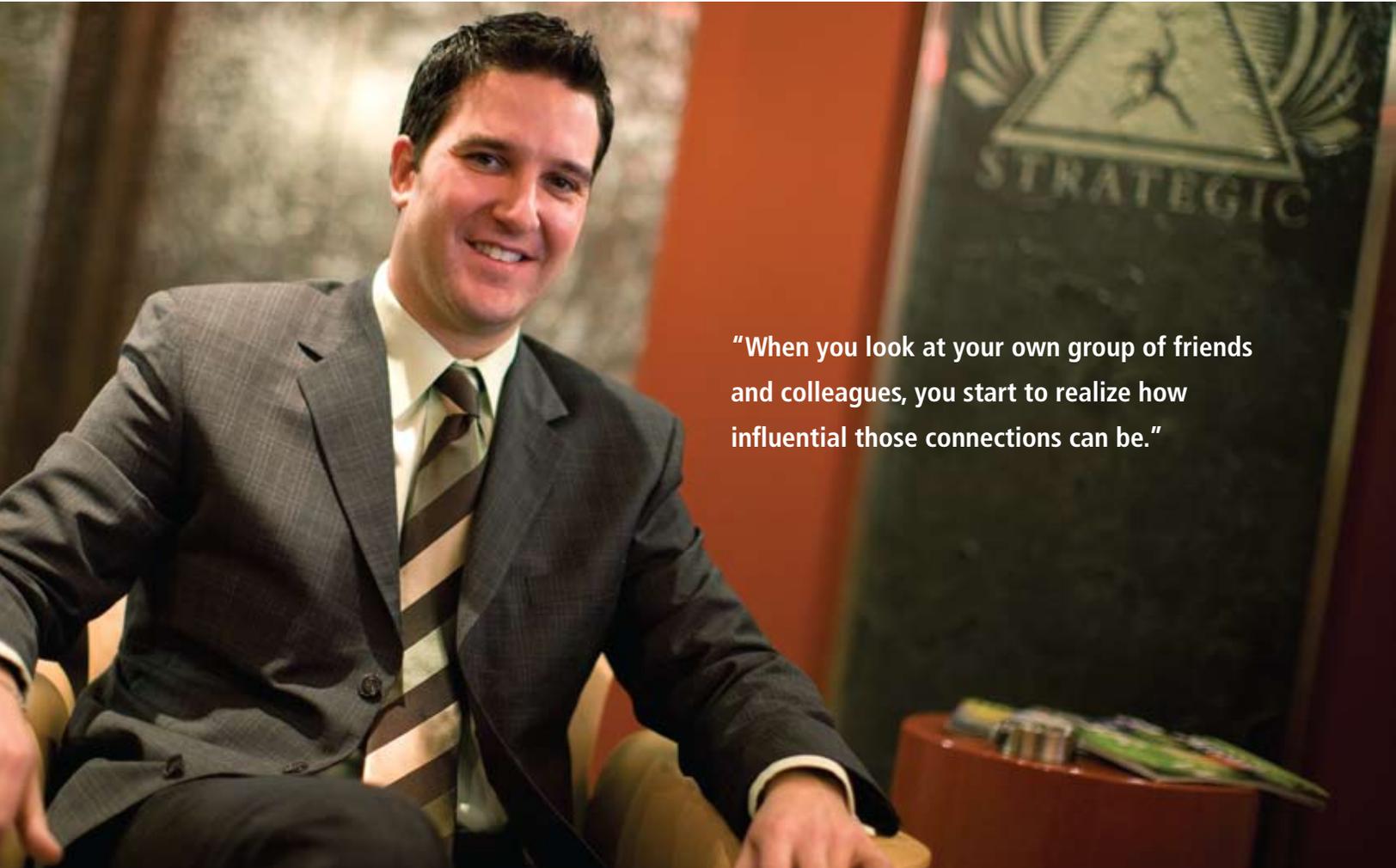
around the world who share a common goal to use performance to foster growth and development.

Exceeding Big Head's greatest expectations, the play was the first submission ever accepted from a First Nations group. In early October 2008, Big Head and a cast of students ranging in ages from six to 18 gave the performance of their lives on a stage off Broadway.

“While there are many ways to tell a story, for me this is the best way – to have children learn the story, perform it and share it with others. These kids learned and taught others about the strength and resiliency of our people. It is something they will never forget.”

Bright Mind, Big Business

Dave Bulloch's professional success is built on strong networks of support.



“When you look at your own group of friends and colleagues, you start to realize how influential those connections can be.”

Business runs in **Dave Bulloch's (BMgt '00)** blood. His father and grandfather were both successful businessmen – the former having built a thriving construction company after immigrating to Canada with mere pennies to his name, the latter the owner of a successful Edmonton insurance brokerage. Bulloch knew from an early age that he wanted to follow in their footsteps, but didn't have any idea just how big his own strides in the business world would be.

As vice-president of corporate development at Strategic Group, a Calgary-based commercial real estate and corporate finance

company, Bulloch oversees a portfolio of investments in small to mid-sized businesses, ensuring each turns a healthy profit. Since 2004, when Bulloch joined the company, the portfolio has earned Strategic Group more than \$20 million in annual revenue.

Bulloch credits his professional success to following his passion and surrounding himself with people who inspire him.

“I love business. Meeting people, learning about what they're doing and helping them out if they're onto something exciting, that's great fun for me,” Bulloch says. “Career success is just like achieving any other success in life – if you love

what you're doing, it's easy to dedicate yourself to it. You get out what you put in.”

Today, Strategic Group is 185 employees strong and growing at a pace that keeps Bulloch very busy. Twelve-hour workdays are not uncommon. That's OK by Bulloch, though – he's always been one to keep a full plate. Bulloch served as executive for the U of L Alumni Association – Calgary Chapter as vice-president during both the 2003/04 and 2004/05 terms.

In 2003, Bulloch also co-founded an organization called Bright Minds in Business (BMIBS) – a networking group for young entrepreneurs and professionals

in Calgary. BMIBS is currently undergoing restructuring, but in 2007, more than 250 members met bi-monthly and at annual fundraisers. Bulloch serves as financial manager and believes strongly in the importance of building relationships with peers.

“When you look at your own group of friends and colleagues, you start to realize how influential those connections can be,” Bulloch says.

In September, Bulloch was included on Calgary Inc. magazine's prestigious Top 40 Under 40 list – an annual compilation of the most significant movers and shakers on the Calgary business scene.

Double Impact

Rural clinic receives twice the benefits from Drs. Bev Burton and Tracy Burton.



(l-r) Drs. Bev Burton and Tracy Burton

You might think you're seeing double when you meet the Burton sisters – **Bev (BSc '03)** and **Tracy (BSc '03)** are identical twins. But their looks are just the beginning of their similarities. Both completed undergraduate degrees at the University of Lethbridge, went on to complete medical school and are now practising as rural doctors just a few office doors away from one another.

Ironically, the sisters share another similarity: neither Bev nor Tracy ever anticipated becoming a doctor. As undergraduates at the U of L, Bev focused on the study of genetics while Tracy studied inorganic chemistry, neuroscience

and biochemistry. Though medical school was not initially in their plans, the experiences they had at the U of L opened their eyes to new opportunities.

“Co-ops and independent studies were the first steps on the path towards a future in medicine,” Bev says.

When the Burtons realized what they had gained from their research as undergrads, they both made decisions to pursue careers in medicine.

Although Bev and Tracy had many opportunities following the completion of their medical school residencies in 2006, they stayed true to their rural

“The shortage of doctors is quite a desperate problem in many rural areas.”

Dr. Tracy Burton

roots and started their practices in the small town of Pincher Creek, Alta. Being from Lethbridge themselves, they say rural health care is something close to their hearts.

“The shortage of doctors is quite a desperate problem in many rural areas,” Tracy says. “It is important

that we create awareness so that emerging students can see how gratifying this type of practice is.”

For the Burtons, it has been easy to see the impact of the work being done at the Pincher Creek clinic, and the opportunity to be part of such a unique environment is extremely rewarding.

“The Pincher Creek team has a widely known reputation for excellence. They constantly push to raise the bar within the medical field,” Bev says. “Tracy and I both feel so honoured to be starting out with such an exceptional team of people. We love it here.”

Landscapes in Art

Shawn Van Sluys pictures the world of visual art in the rolling hills of southern Alberta as much as the galleries of Toronto.



“I think there’s a misconception that people who come from rural locales aren’t exposed to contemporary art.”

Twenty-seven-year-old **Shawn Van Sluys (BFA '05)**, now the Canadian Art Museum Directors' Organization's (CAMDO) executive director, explains that his interest in art grew from childhood on a farm near Fort Macleod, Alta.

“I think there’s a misconception that people who come from rural locales aren’t exposed to contemporary art,” he says. “But the reality is that the southern Alberta landscape is so poignant and real that engaging with formal visual aesthetics was an easy transition to make.”

Van Sluys has managed the 85-member Ottawa-based

organization since January 2006. He travels across Canada to network with art gallery directors, conduct professional development events, lobby government and discuss the future of visual art.

Initially an English and education student, Van Sluys became interested in the field through art history classes with Drs. Leslie Dawn, Anne Dymond and Josephine Mills. After switching majors, he volunteered at the University of Lethbridge Art Gallery and freelanced for art magazines. As one of the first two students in the Art History and Museum Studies program (**Hannah Wigle (BFA '05)** was the other), Van Sluys formed close relationships

with professors and artists presenting at the Art Now lectures.

In 2002, Van Sluys interned with Southern Alberta Art Gallery's director **Marilyn Smith (BFA '96)** as a research assistant for Lethbridge Modern: Aspects of Architectural Modernism in Lethbridge from 1945-1970. He also worked full time as the gallery's public relations manager, juggling classes while overhauling the gallery's brand.

“I think there’s a perspective that contemporary art is only accessible to those ‘in the know,’” Van Sluys says. “But so much of a work’s interpretation comes from what a viewer brings to the piece.”

Contemporary art builds on tradition and history, but Van Sluys explains it's also concerned with current issues like human rights and the environment. CAMDO aims to draw out these themes by making art exhibitions more accessible while addressing ever-present funding challenges.

In January 2009, Van Sluys starts a new position as the executive director for the Musagetes Foundation, a philanthropic organization based in Waterloo, Ont., that works to build links between art and human rights, the environment and inter-cultural relationships.

An Elevated Perspective

For Bill McKay, it was a long journey from working on the roof of Anderson Hall to studying inside.



“I remember watching students going in and out of classes, and the atmosphere of learning interested me.”

Bill McKay with fellow graduate nursing students.

From **Bill McKay’s (BN ’06)** vantage point high above the University of Lethbridge campus, the journeyman roofer decided to go back to school.

“I remember watching students going in and out of classes, and the atmosphere of learning interested me,” he says. “Roofing is seasonal employment, and it is very hard on your body. I knew I wanted a new career.”

It was a tough decision to walk away from the job, but McKay sold his possessions – including a new car – and started working towards a degree in nursing.

“I didn’t pursue post-secondary education until eight years after

high school, when I was 26, and I thought I might be too old to start. But it’s never too late for a career change if you find something you really enjoy.”

Drawn to nursing because of the field’s depth and variety, McKay is continually surprised by the opportunities, from occupational health and acute care to geriatrics and mental health.

He completed his bachelor of nursing at the U of L in 2006. After a year of nursing at the Chinook Regional Hospital, McKay returned to the University as an academic assistant in the nursing program. Now on a one-year education leave, he is pursuing his

master of science in nursing, and once complete, plans to return to teaching.

For his thesis, McKay hopes to examine depression and treatment options among university students – a situation due in part to factors like settling into life away from home, lack of sleep and financial burdens.

“Mental health can affect us all. Learning how mental-health issues can stem from the stresses of daily life helped me get over that stigma,” he explains. “I had an instructor who helped me realize that, and I wanted to guide others in making that connection.”

McKay believes having his

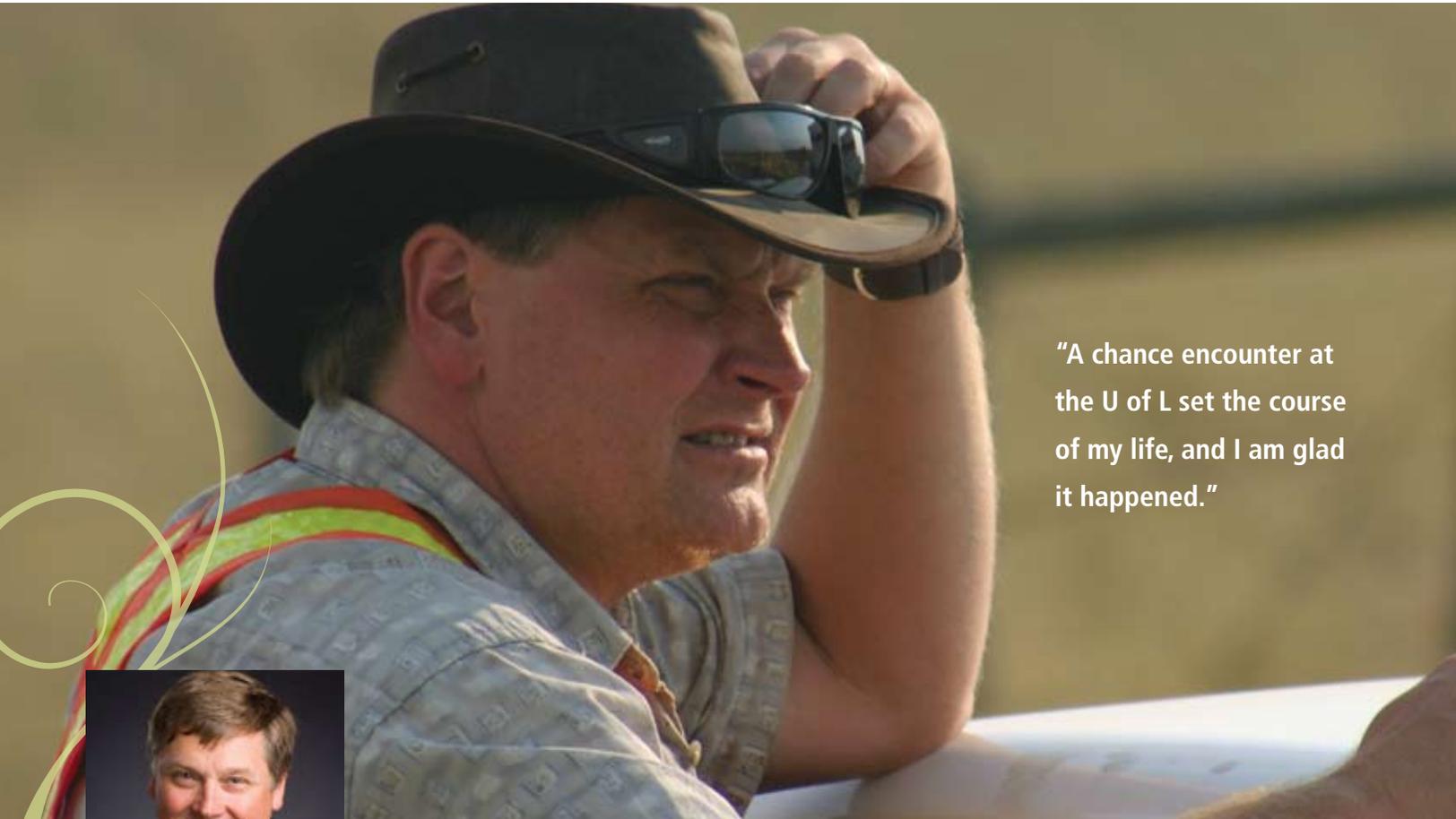
master’s degree will provide him the opportunity to critique and analyze current nursing knowledge, something that in the long-term will both increase his own practical knowledge base and help develop his leadership skills as a clinical instructor.

Bill McKay is one of the students to benefit from the generosity of Big Rock Brewery founder **Dr. Ed McNally (LLD ’05)**. This fall, McNally established a scholarship that provided \$4,000 to every graduate-level nursing student at the U of L.



Distinguished Alumnus of the Year: Dr. Douglas Schmitt BSc (BSc) '80

At Fall Convocation, the Alumni Association recognized world-renowned pioneer Dr. Douglas Schmitt for his research of rock physics and its application to time-lapse 4D geophysical monitoring.



"A chance encounter at the U of L set the course of my life, and I am glad it happened."



The University of Lethbridge Alumni Association Distinguished Alumnus of the Year award recognizes individuals for exceptional professional achievements, academic excellence and/or contributions to society.

During the Cold War era, the sight and sound of massive test explosions detonated at Suffield, Alta., likely inspired fear and dread in the average person.

Dr. Douglas Schmitt (BASC '80), however, professor of geophysics and physics at the University of Alberta and the University of Lethbridge's 2008 Distinguished

Alumnus of the Year award recipient, is anything but average.

For Schmitt, who was five years old at the time, the explosions proved very intriguing.

"My mom told me it was the scientists who blew things up; so from then on I wanted to be a scientist," Schmitt explains.

That love of science would

continue. After graduating from Erle Rivers High School (Milk River), Schmitt entered the University of Lethbridge where he earned a bachelor of science in physics in 1980.

In his last year at the U of L, Schmitt was undecided about what to do with the rest of his life. Fortune then smiled upon him.



a PhD in geophysics in 1987. Following his post-doctoral research at Stanford University in California, he began his current career at the University of Alberta in 1989.

He is a popular professor who inspires students to always continue learning.

“I think the best way to teach students is to give them the tools and skills to keep growing and learning, to teach them not

team of highly skilled field and laboratory researchers. Their world-renowned research yields valuable information with important implications for better management of hydrocarbon production in the oil industry, the search for new mineral and water resources, the safe geological sequestration of greenhouse gases and the safety of mine workers worldwide.

It all fits into his philosophy of



(l-r) Chancellor Richard Davidson congratulates Dr. Douglas Schmitt on receiving the Distinguished Alumnus of the Year award at Fall 2008 Convocation.

“I was walking through University Hall when I ran into one of the former lab instructors, Dave Hemmings. He asked if I wanted a job and I said, ‘Sure.’ I interviewed and got a job at Texaco in geophysics,” Schmitt recalls. “Before I got the job, I didn’t know anything about geophysics so, in a sense, a chance encounter at the U of L set the course of my life, and I am glad it happened.”

Schmitt returned to graduate school at the California Institute of Technology and earned

to be afraid to get their hands dirty and to keep their minds open,” Schmitt says.

An interactive professor, Schmitt takes his fourth-year geophysics students to Doug’s Geophysics Field School (near his family farm east of Milk River), giving them the opportunity to perform a variety of geophysical experiments and gather data they will work with for the rest of the semester.

As a Tier I Canada Research Chair, Schmitt also leads a

continued learning and growth as he continues to work on numerous projects, including a major venture he is currently spearheading that involves scientific drilling into the deep permafrost of Canada’s Arctic regions.

Those explosions in the ’60s? They were in large part geophysics experiments, as Schmitt found out only after he was a professor at the U of A.

Call For Nominations

The Alumni Association is now accepting nominations for the 2009 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year and Alumni Honour Society awards. To obtain a nomination form, contact the Alumni Relations office: call toll free 1-866-552-2582 or e-mail alumni@uleth.ca.

The nomination deadline is Feb. 1, 2009.



University of
Lethbridge



Alumni Association

Message from the Alumni Association President



2008/2009 U of L ALUMNI ASSOCIATION COUNCIL

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First Nations, Métis and Inuit Chapter Chair

Leroy Little Bear BASc '72, DAsc '04

Contact Us:

The University of Lethbridge
Alumni Association

4401 University Drive W
Lethbridge, AB T1K 3M4

Phone: 403-317-2825

Toll-Free: 1-866-552-2582

E-mail: alumni@uleth.ca

Greetings to members and friends of the University of Lethbridge Alumni Association (ULAA). This has been an outstanding summer and fall for the ULAA.

The First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) chapter was officially launched on Oct. 17 at a celebratory dinner. Welcome and congratulations to the inaugural members of this important chapter; we look forward to working with you. To learn more about the FNMI chapter, see the following page.

In honour of the late **John Gill (BA '94)**, a former ULAA president, we hosted the now annual John Gill Memorial Golf Tournament in June. This special tournament was well attended and raised nearly \$9,000 that will support bursaries for students in need. Thank you to all those who participated.

Many of your ULAA Council's goals have been achieved as we continue to increase our presence on campus and to engage students. We supported the campus care-package program that provides

food and encouragement to students at exam time. We hosted a pancake breakfast for new students and their families during New Student Orientation on Sept. 1. As well, we continue to support and sponsor the many annual events to which the ULAA has been committed to over the years.

A few major events happened off campus this summer. For one, **Brett Holmes (BA/BMgt '08)**, **Kelly Kennedy (BMgt '08)**, **Vanessa Esau** and **Allan Hall** embarked on a coast-to-coast bicycle trip promoting the U of L and meeting alumni along the way (see page 25). As well, an alumni reception at the Big Rock Brewery in Calgary was held on June 4. Many thanks to Big Rock Brewery founder, **Dr. Ed McNally (LLD '05)**, for hosting this popular event. Finally,

in August, the Calgary chapter's annual golf tournament was held and once again was a big success.

I am proud to congratulate **Dr. Douglas Schmitt (BASc '80)** as the Distinguished Alumnus of the Year for his outstanding achievements in scientific research. You can read more about Dr. Schmitt's achievements on pages 20-21.

Finally, thanks to the ULAA Council, the Calgary chapter and the FNMI chapter and the many volunteers who helped with all our events and projects. With new members, ideas and challenges comes great opportunity. If you haven't already done so, consider reconnecting with your University and become involved!

Sheila McHugh DipEd '84, MEd '97
President, Alumni Association
University of Lethbridge

Cultivating Connections

New Chapter for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Alumni



Members of the inaugural FNMI chapter:

Back (l-r): **Troy Emery Twigg (BFA '03)**, faculty representative; **Mike Frank**, student representative; **Billy Wadsworth (BA '05)**, director; **Myles Bruised Head**, Students' Union representative. Middle (l-r): **Kate Shade**, NASA president; **Elizabeth Ferguson (BA '03, MA '05)**, resource; **Paulette Fox (MSc '05)**, director. Front (l-r): **Leroy Little Bear (BASc '72, DASc '04)**, Chair; **Annabel Crop Eared Wolf (BASc '77, MA '08)**, director; **Alvin Manychief (BA/BEd '06)**, director. Missing: **Elder Laverne First Rider**; **Jason Goodstriker (BA '95)**, director; **Ira Provost**, government/business representative; **Dimples Stump (BA '96, MEd '01)**, resource.



This fall, the U of L Alumni Association took an exciting step forward and launched a chapter for First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) alumni.

The chapter will renew, strengthen and enlighten life-long relationships among alumni, the University of Lethbridge and the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community.

“This inaugural group has been particularly passionate about connecting with graduates from our Native American Studies program and other programs that the University has developed over the years to serve members of FNMI communities,” says ULAA President **Sheila McHugh (DipEd '84, MEd '97)**.

Situated on Blackfoot land, the University has a long-standing tradition of support for FNMI students.

This year, approximately 400 FNMI students supported by 40 different bands are attending the University of Lethbridge – a clear indicator of the strength and diversity of the FNMI student and alumni populations. The chapter will seek to represent the unique needs of FNMI alumni while sharing the richness of Aboriginal culture and knowledge.

The new chapter was officially

launched at a sold-out event on Oct. 17, 2008. Chief Clarence Louie, from the Osoyoos Indian Band, provided an inspirational presentation to guests at the event.

The FNMI chapter is open, but not limited to, U of L alumni with self-declared status, non-status, Métis and Inuit ethnicity as well as alumni who have completed major, minor or graduate studies in: Native American Studies; Native Education; First Nations Governance;

Business Enterprises and Self-Governing Systems of Indian, Inuit and Métis People; the Support Program for Aboriginal Nursing Students; or the FNMI Transition Program.

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If you would like to be involved in shaping the future of this significant chapter or for more information, contact the Alumni Relations office by calling 403-317-2825 or e-mail alumni@uleth.ca.

The alumni social calendar has been full this year. Events since the spring include alumni award receptions, Canada Day celebrations, golf tournaments and special gatherings including a hockey night in Calgary and a reception in Hong Kong. Here are a few snapshots from these events.



Alumni Honour Society

In May, the Alumni Association inducted six alumni into the Alumni Honour Society for their exceptional professional achievements and service to the community. This year's recipients included: (l-r) **Nancy Walker (BMgt '82)**, vice-president of finance and administration at the University of Lethbridge and a veteran musician; **Janice Varzari (BN '90, MED '02)**, a counsellor with Lethbridge Family Services; **Trevor Cook (BAsc '76, BEd '81)**, executive director of the Brussels-based International Lesbian and Gay Association; **Dean Setoguchi (BMgt '89)**, vice-president and chief financial officer of Cordero Energy Inc. (represented by his parents, **Shirley and Sumio Setoguchi**); **Neil Langevin (BA/BEd '91)** an educator at G. S. Lakie Middle School and coach of the two-time national championship U of L Pronghorns women's rugby team; and **Deborah Chenery (BAsc '82)**, executive director of the Canadian Mental Health Association, Alberta South Region.



(l-r) **Viola Tse**, **Jay Leung (BAsc/BMgt '83)** and **Doug Horner**, Alberta Minister of Advanced Education and Technology, at the reception.

Hong Kong Reception

On Nov. 4, more than 65 alumni and friends gathered in Hong Kong with U of L President **Dr. Bill Cade** and Alberta Minister of Advanced Education and Technology, the **Honourable Doug Horner**. Hong Kong is home to the U of L's largest alumni population outside of Canada.



Convocation Celebration

(l-r) World renowned Canadian opera tenor **Dr. Ben Heppner (DFA '08)** visits with **Alex Wells**, **Dr. Kathleen Kerr (LLD '04)** and **Anne Kerr** at a luncheon on Oct. 18. The event celebrated the Distinguished Alumnus of the Year **Dr. Douglas Schmitt (BAsc '80)** and honorary degree recipients **Dr. Ben Heppner (DFA '08)** and **Dr. Constance Prentice (LLD '08)**.

S.E.A. 2 S.E.A. – Connecting Students, Employees and Alumni Across Canada

They had just over 60 days to travel 7,500 kilometres – by bicycle.

This past summer, U of L fourth-year student **Vanessa Esau**, employee and alumnus **Brett Holmes (BA/BMgt '08)**, 2007/08 Students' Union President **Kelly Kennedy (BMgt '08)** and U of L student **Allan Hall** chose to honour their university in a very unique way – they embarked on a cross-country bicycle tour to promote the University of Lethbridge.

“The idea of cycling across Canada began as a goal that

Brett set for himself,” Esau says. “When he mentioned it to the rest of us, we wanted to become involved.”

As the plan for the trip developed, the focus became clear: the S.E.A. 2 S.E.A. team sought to connect with University of Lethbridge alumni across Canada and share their pride for the U of L with everyone they met along the way.

“Because of the trip, a new group of people all across the

country know that the U of L offers a first-class education,” Holmes says. “Our intention was not to recruit people today, but to raise awareness and make an impression so that tomorrow they will think of the University of Lethbridge.”

While the nine-week trip, which began in Victoria, B.C., and ended in St. Johns, N.L., left the team physically exhausted, it also left them astonished at what they could accomplish,

not only for themselves, but for their university.

“This tour was a way to give back,” Kennedy says. “But I think we all agree that what we gave back to the University was small considering the impact the U of L has had on our lives.”

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To read more personal excerpts about the trip, visit the S.E.A. 2 S.E.A. blog at: <http://bikingsea2sea.blogspot.com>.



Victoria, B.C.

(l-r) After a lunch with fellow alumni, Allan Hall (van driver), Brett Holmes, Kelly Kennedy and Vanessa Esau started their S.E.A. 2 S.E.A. trip at the Mile Zero marker.

“We wanted to increase the level of pride and campus spirit for the U of L,” Kennedy says. “If four individuals were willing to ride across Canada for their university, our goal was for others to ask why.”



Lethbridge, Alta.

When the team arrived at the U of L campus, more than 350 people came out to show their support.

“One major highlight of the trip was the welcome reception at the U of L following the first 1,500 km,” Kennedy remembers. “Having everyone there to cheer us on as we rode down the hill was incredibly inspiring.”



Winnipeg, Man.

The weather conditions during the trip ranged from 30 degrees Celsius in British Columbia to torrential rain with 70 km/h winds in Manitoba.



Ottawa, Ont.

Joanne Luu (BASC '08) surprised the team by gathering U of L alumni and co-op students for a reception.

“The largest gathering of alumni was in Ottawa. It was a great opportunity to meet other people who enjoyed the University of Lethbridge as much as we have,” Esau says.



WHAT'S NEW?

SHARE YOUR NEWS WITH US

Let your classmates know what you are up to by sharing a note about your life.

Contact us by e-mail, phone or mail.

Alumni Relations
University of Lethbridge
4401 University Drive W, Lethbridge, AB, T1K 3M4
Phone Toll-Free: 1-866-552-2582
E-mail: alumni@uleth.ca

We look forward to hearing from you!

Submissions chosen for publication may be edited for length and clarity. The requested information is collected under the authority of the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, for the purpose of managing the alumni records for use in University of Lethbridge publications. Questions concerning the collection, use and disposal of this information can be directed to University Advancement.

News and Notes from Your Classmates

'60s

Heiderose Garnett BEd '68

Garnett spent 31 years in the teaching profession before focusing her efforts on writing. She then retired from teaching to study with John Lent. Her first book of poetry, *Phosphorus*, was published in 2006. She has been published in a variety of literary journals including *Event*, *CV2*, *Antigonish Review*, *Arc*, *New Quarterly* and *Room*. She won the *Arc Poem of the Year* in 2006 and the *Great Blue Heron* award in 2007. She began studying under Sharon Thesen in the MFA program at UBC Okanagan this fall.

'70s

Judy Alexander BAsc '71

"I was employed by the Workers Compensation Board (WCB) of B.C. as a rehabilitation consultant specializing in brain injury, with some work in management. After 32 years with the WCB, I retired early to continue my work as a multimedia artist. I have shown my art in Canada and in the U.S. In 2008, I moved to Britain with my husband and have since been part of an exhibition there. I plan on relocating back to the Vancouver area in two years or so."

Ben Gadd BAsc '72

Gadd is an award-winning author who recently published *Canadian Rockies Geology Road Tour*. He is a recognized authority on the Canadian Rockies, best known for writing *Handbook of the Canadian Rockies*. Educated as a geologist, he has pursued a career in natural history, working in the summer as a freelance interpretive guide in Jasper National Park – a job he describes as "rent-a-naturalist." In the winter, he works as a writer and lecturer on Rockies topics. Gadd is the founder of the non-profit Jasper Institute, which offers natural-history courses to park visitors. He designs nature trails, produces interpretive signage and consults with protected-area managers. Heard frequently on CBC radio, he has appeared on television many times, as well as in several documentaries on the Rockies.

'80s

Barry Allen BAsc '80

Allen recently published *Artifice and Design* which discusses the philosophical implications of a series of interrelated

concepts – knowledge, artifact, design, tools, art and technology – and uses them to explore parallel questions about artistry in technology and techniques in art. Allen is a professor of philosophy at McMaster University. He is the author of *Truth in Philosophy and Knowledge and Civilization*.

Gayla Holt BEd '82

"As of July 1, 2008, at the age of 56, I retired early from teaching elementary school."

Sylvia Oishi BAsc '82

In October 2008, Oishi was appointed as judge to the Lethbridge Provincial Court. Oishi has worked as a crown prosecutor in Lethbridge since 1998, with a primary focus on criminal law. In 2004, she planned, developed and implemented a specialized Domestic Violence Court in Lethbridge to address the specific needs of victims, offenders and families. She received the YWCA Women of Distinction award for social advocacy and has been president of Lethbridge Family Services. In 2007, she was appointed Queen's Counsel and inducted into the U of L Alumni Honour Society.

Leslie Krushel BAsc '84

Krushel is an associate professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics at the University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine.

Susan Jarvis BEd '85

Jarvis is a faculty member at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, Mass.

Gail Shepley Mikla BFA '85

"I've taken this year off from teaching art classes to concentrate on joining the likes of Chief Little Plume by leaving my mark in painting portraits."

Lily Tsen BEd '87

"I am now teaching at All Saints' Anglican Academy, a school that uses the School of Tomorrow program."

Martin Whittles BAsc '87

After graduating from the U of L anthropology program, Whittles served five years in the RCMP, which included a year of study at the London School of Economics to complete a master of science degree in social anthropology. Later, he completed a PhD at the Scott Polar Research Institute, University

of Cambridge, based upon two years of on-site research among the Inuvialuit Inuit in the Native community of Ikaahuk – the farthest North and most remote settlement in the Northwest Territories.

Whittles' academic career has seen him teach social anthropology at Red Deer College, the University of Lethbridge and most recently, Thompson Rivers University (formerly the University College of the Cariboo) in Kamloops, B.C. He is currently an associate professor of anthropology and Canadian studies.

Brian Kaltenbruner BA '88

Kaltenbruner is the owner and partner of Harold's Auto Service Ltd. in Lethbridge.

'90s

Damian Gross BEd '90

Gross is an educational advisor for DeVry Calgary. He is married and has two sons.

Chris Holteen BEd '90

"I am starting my 20th year of teaching middle school physical education in Chestermere, Alta. I got the job while in my final semester at the U of L in 1989."

Dennis Sumara BAsc/BEd '80, MEd '90

Sumara is professor and head of the Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy at the University of British Columbia (UBC). Prior to his appointment at UBC in 2006, he held positions at the University of Alberta, York University and Simon Fraser University. During the 1980s he was a classroom teacher in rural southern Alberta, specializing in middle-school language arts instruction.

Mark Nixon BEd '90

Nixon received a doctor of ministry (DMin) degree from St. Stephen's College, University of Alberta in October 2008. His dissertation was entitled: *Coming to the Table of Mission Statement Based Bargaining – An Incarnational Paradigm*.

Roz Kapala BN '94

Kapala is working for Alberta Health Services (formerly Calgary Health Region) as a clinical education coordinator at the Claresholm Centre for Mental Health and Addictions.

Rhona-Mae Arca BA/BMgt '95

Arca was elected president of the Alberta Registered Music Teachers' Association (Calgary Branch). She maintains a busy private piano/theory studio in Calgary and does some work for the Calgary Arts Summer School Association.

Juliana Miller-MacPherson BFA/BEd '95

"Myles and I and our two boys – Liam (6) and Quinn (2) – recently moved to London, England, for professional challenges. This fall, we will celebrate our 10th wedding anniversary."

Michele Parent BN '95

Parent is the director of the School of Nursing at Nipissing University.

Duncan Bureau BMgt '96

Bureau is vice-president of sales and airline partnerships with WestJet Airlines. He joined WestJet in April 2002 as a senior analyst of route development. A year later, he was appointed director of sales and business development, and in April 2006, he was promoted to vice-president of sales.

Nicole Baker BA '97, BEd '02

"Shayne and I have two children: Rylan (2) and Mia (11 months). I'm currently on perpetual maternity leave and at home with my family – I've never had a better job! When I am getting paid in money, instead of love, it's as a Grade 1 teacher at Mike Mountain Horse School in Lethbridge. Shayne is an IT analyst with the Canada Border Services Agency and Canada Revenue Agency."

Christa Carpenter BSc '97

"Mark and I married on Aug. 13, 2005. Our baby boy turned one on Oct. 27, 2008!"

Ginny Jensen BMgt '97

"I am a realtor with Century 21 Hometown Brokers in Billings, Mont. I married Corey Jensen on June 20, 1998. We have two beautiful children: daughter, Livy (2) and son, Christopher (1)."

Kari Whan BA '97

Whan is teaching Grade 3 at Cold Lake Elementary School.

Chantelle Dubois Nishiyama BA '98

"I am currently a rail traffic controller for the Canadian Pacific Railway. In my spare time I am a private pilot (working on my commercial license) and an avid downhill skier."

Heather Hendry BFA '98

Hendry is a paper conservator for special collections at the Weissman Preservation Center, Harvard University Library.

Aaron Nakama BA '98

In September, Nakama was named Mentor of the Year in recognition of his commitment to mentoring with the Leaders of Tomorrow program at the Vancouver Board of Trade.

Diane Young BA '98

"After graduating from the U of L, I went to the University of Alberta and completed an after-degree in elementary education. I then taught in south Texas for five years as a Grade 2 teacher. I met and married my husband here in Texas, and we now have two beautiful daughters. I left teaching to be a stay-at-home mom, and I really enjoy the time spent with my family. I plan to continue my education once my children are in school."

Janna Laevens BMgt '99

"I am a human resources manager with an oil and gas services company in Calgary."

'00s**Madelene Heffel Ponting BN '00**

"I am a professor of nursing and the department Chair of the bachelor of science in nursing program at Vancouver Island University, formerly Malaspina University-College. Following graduation from the U of L, I obtained a master of nursing degree from the University of Calgary and then moved to Nanaimo, B.C., in 2003 where I have lived ever since. I miss Lethbridge and the Prairies, but I also appreciate the ocean and the pleasing weather of the coast."

Fintan Murphy BMgt '00

"I'm employed with Telus in Edmonton and now have an acreage near Bon Accord and Legal, Alta."

Seth Gregory BSc/BEd '01

"Kendra and I have three children – four, three and one years of age. We are both teaching for Edmonton Public Schools."

Myles Legacy BFA '01

Legacy lives in Yellowknife and works as an image researcher for Veer, a Calgary-based company that specializes in helping its clients find images and typefaces for any particular concept or idea.

Dee Danish BMgt '02

"I have been a controller for Epod Solar Inc. since September 2007. The company is a vertically integrated solar power utility operating out of Kelowna, B.C., with subsidiaries in Wales and Germany."

**Skye Dack BMgt '06**

In 2007, Dack created and organized the inaugural Forget-Me-Not Ball to raise money and awareness for Alzheimer's. In recognition of her efforts, Dack received the JCI (Junior Chamber International) Outstanding Young Person of Calgary Award from the Calgary Chamber of Commerce in June 2008. Following this, she was presented with the JCI Outstanding Young Canadian Award. The Outstanding Young Person Award program serves to recognize individuals between the ages of 18 and 40 who exemplify the best attributes of the world's young people.

Alicia Guilder BMus '02

"I am a full-time opera chorus member with the Edmonton Opera. I released my first self-titled debut album in 2006."

Janice Ottewell MEd '02

Ottewell is the curriculum learning facilitator for the Foothills School Division.

Trish van Doornum BFA '02

Following graduation, van Doornum moved to Edmonton. In January 2007, she began working with the MS Society of

Canada – Alberta Division in Fundraising and is currently the MS Walk coordinator. Still a regular performer, van Doornum has appeared in five Fringe productions (including the most recent installment – The Big Kahuna) and has performed with Kompany!, ELOPE and the Walterdale Theatre. She is recently engaged and travels whenever she can.

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IN MEMORIAM

The University of Lethbridge wishes to extend its sincerest condolences to the families and friends of the following alumni:

Shirley Orr BN '85

passed away on March 25, 2008.

Elliot Wheeler BSc/BMgt '08

passed away on April 6, 2008.

Dorothy Peterson BFA '78

passed away on April 12, 2008.

Gilbert Wolf Plume BASc '01

passed away on May 1, 2008.

Joseph Nassar BASc '86

passed away on July 7, 2008.

Cameron Lancaster BA '95

passed away on Aug. 21, 2008.

Cameron Williams BSc/BEd '00

passed away on Oct. 18, 2008.

U of L Alumni Go Far

Recent U of L graduates have gone on to study at prestigious Ivy League schools. **Philip Ney (BA '07)** is currently pursuing graduate studies at Princeton University. **Jamie Huckabay (BA '08)**, who was accepted into the John Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, received an esteemed Fulbright Scholarship and additional funding from the Donner Foundation to start his graduate studies. **Dustin Hines (BSc '02, MSc '04)** and **Rochelle (Bruneau) Hines (BSc '02)** are currently completing their doctoral studies at the University of British Columbia. In early 2009, they will head to Harvard University to embark on their post-doctoral research.



Religious studies major **Erika Jahn (BA '08)**, a recent U of L graduate, began her master's studies at Harvard University, where she is continuing her research of religious conflict, peace studies and ethnic violence, and is focusing on religion and politics.

Meghan Forsyth BMus '03

Forsyth was the 2008 recipient of the \$12,000 Sir Ernest MacMillan Foundation award for advanced music study. Forsyth is presently a second-year doctoral candidate in ethnomusicology at the University of Toronto. She holds a master's degree in ethnomusicology from the University of Cambridge. Her current doctoral thesis research focuses on traditional Acadian violin music in Prince Edward Island. She has published her master's research on the traditional violin music of the Shetland Isles in Shima, the International Journal of Research into Island Cultures and has given presentations on this research at conferences in Canada, the United States and England.

Christine Reinhart BSc '03, MSc '05, PhD '08

Aaron Puhl BSc '04, MSc '07
Reinhart and Puhl have both started chiropractic studies in Toronto.

Neal Pilger MSc '04

"I am in my last year of the PhD program at Queen's University."

Jeremy Tuff BA '04

Tuff is a recruitment and retention coordinator at the University of Calgary.

Jason Barron BMus '05

"I am married, living in Winnipeg and have recently been accepted into the master's program (music performance) at the University of Manitoba."

Jarrold Charron BMgt '05

Charron is a media strategist in Toronto at a media company called OMD. He develops media plans for VISA's brands.

Christy Cole BSc '05

"I am currently doing a PhD at the University of Toronto in physiology and neuroscience. I am newly engaged to an air traffic controller."

Jenn Friesen BA/BEEd '05

"I'm living and teaching in Trout Lake, Alta. (check it out on Google Earth). I teach junior and senior English, health and fine arts. I have added two beautiful puppies (Maggie and Max) to my family. I enjoy the diversity and challenges that comes with working in a remote area of northern Alberta."

Kathy Morrison BMus '05

Morrison is currently on full scholarship for an artist's diploma in opera at the Vancouver Academy of Music. She is studying with David Meek.

Melissa Treanor BMgt '05

Treanor is a human resources administrator for Bow Valley Electrical Services Ltd.

Melanie Nicol BMus '06

Nicol is a local voice teacher at the Prince George Conservatory of Music and is the musical director of the Cantata Singers.

Kimberlee Stadelmann BFA '06

Stadelmann is the theatre box-office manager for the Citadel Theatre in Edmonton.

Courtney Thomas BFA/BEEd '06

"I am currently teaching English at F. P. Walshe high school in Fort Macleod."

Ashley Lamothe BHS '07

Lamothe is completing a second undergraduate degree in the field of psychology.

Janetta Soup BMgt '07

"I am living in Calgary and working as an Aboriginal youth ambassador for a non-profit organization called CAREERS: The Next Generation."

Jordana Kohn BFA '97

Nicole Higginson BFA '06

Chase McMurren BA/BEEd '08

Kohn, Higginson and McMurren created and organized the Just Cuz fundraiser in February 2008 and raised more than \$9,000 for the Southern Alberta Kidney Foundation. They were later recognized by the foundation for their contribution to the cause.

Jennifer-Laura Kelly BA '08

Kelly was awarded a Queen Elizabeth II master's level scholarship. She is beginning graduate work in speech and hearing disorders at the University of Alberta.

Kent Pratt BMgt '08

"After graduation, I began my career in human resources with Imperial Oil. My first assignment with Imperial Oil is at their Sarnia, Ont., refinery as a HR analyst."

Jennifer Tamminga BA '08

"Since graduating, I have gone on an archaeological dig in Peru with Professor Ed Swenson of social anthropology from the University of Kent in England."

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"I look forward to the next couple of years of learning in the area I am passionate about and feel secure in the knowledge that my supervisor and the School of Graduate Studies are here for me to succeed."

Debra Gazeley, MA Anthropology student



What are you looking for in graduate studies?

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For Debra, the program has enabled her to customize her education and pursue a master's degree in medical anthropology.

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