On April 5, 1978, Dr. Ches Skinner made his directorial debut at the University of Lethbridge with the play *Vanities*. The sold-out comedy was an instant success and was held over for two more performances.

Since that time, Skinner (who became dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts in 1997) has directed more than 30 plays at the U of L. His most recent production – *To Kill a Mockingbird* – ran in March and drew an audience of nearly 3,000 people. While the productions have evolved over the years, to Skinner the heart of the play remains the same.

"Today our productions reflect a better grasp of the conventions of theatre, but they still maintain the high degree of sincerity that has been a hallmark of the drama department’s work from day one," says Skinner. Much of this sincerity can be credited to Skinner’s thoughtful mentorship of his students. First and foremost he considers himself to be a teacher responsible for nurturing the talents and curiosities of drama students.

"My main concern is that fine artists at this university discover their voices and develop the confidence to speak," says Skinner. "Performance is often the means by which we try to discover the truth."

This spring, the curtain will close on Skinner’s years as dean, but it won’t be his final bow. In January, he will begin a position as a visiting scholar at University Technology Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur.

A Real Brainteaser
How does the brain control behaviour?
It’s a puzzle that biological neuroscientist and U of L alumna Dr. Evelyn Field is trying to solve.
The Next Step
U of L alumni Jeanette Barsky (BN ’94, MSc ’99), Dr. Evelyn Field (BASc ’72, MSc ’97, PhD ’06), Bryan Ellefson (BEd ’70, MEd ’94), Linda Ellefson (BASc ’72, MEd ’97), Rhona Kindopp (BSc ’91, MSc ’97), Kyle Franz (BA ’87) and Joanne Ellis (BA ’94, MEd ’03) have taken their educations beyond their bachelor’s degrees. Read on to see where graduate studies have taken them.

Special Feature on Graduate Studies
This special issue of the Journal celebrates lifelong learning. We are proud to highlight the growth of graduate studies at the U of L and feature graduate students and alumni.

Spotlight on Research
There’s a famous quote from Charles Darwin that says: “Doing what little one can to increase the general stock of knowledge is as respectable an object of life, as one can in any likelihood pursue.” Read on and learn how doctoral student Shannon Digweed is doing her part and what she’s discovering about the red squirrel, evolution and behaviour.

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Dear U of L Alumni:

Welcome to the spring 2008 Journal – a special issue that focuses on graduate studies at the University of Lethbridge.

When you enter the University Library, you are greeted by the words of Spanish painter Francisco de Goya: “I am still learning.”

These words capture the pursuit of knowledge that takes place at the University of Lethbridge each and every day. We are all students, and like de Goya says, we are all still learning.

This edition of the Journal features U of L alumni who have taken the next step in lifelong learning and have gone on to complete their graduate degrees at the U of L. I hope you enjoy reading about where their graduate degrees have taken them. You’ll also meet U of L doctoral student Shannon Digweed as well as our new graduate studies liaison officer, Jennifer Gruninger (BSc ’05, MSc ’07). If you’re inspired by these stories and interested in pursuing graduate studies at the U of L, Jennifer will be your first point of contact.

Also included in this issue is a report to alumni on the Legacy of Leadership Campaign – and what an exciting story it is.

I extend my personal thanks to the campaign Chair, U of L alumnus Dan Laplante (BMgt ’88). Dan did an outstanding job of motivating supporters, and I sincerely appreciate the enthusiasm and dedication he brought to this campaign.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the Journal. Here’s to lifelong learning!

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

It has been an honour to return to the University that gave me a foundation for life and to serve as Chair for the Legacy of Leadership Campaign. I am extremely proud of our University and what has been accomplished through this campaign.

In particular, I have been encouraged by my fellow alumni. For many of you, this campaign has been a way to reconnect and give back to your University. Like those of you who contributed, I am thankful to have a continued role in a vital and engaging learning environment that invests in students, groundbreaking research, the community and beyond.

I want to thank you – the magnitude of support has been fantastic. Because of the dedication of our volunteers and the many people who stepped forward to show their support, this campaign has had transformational effects on the U of L, and we’ll continue to see the positive impacts of this legacy for many years to come.

Dan Laplante  BMgt ’88
Chair, Legacy of Leadership Campaign
University of Lethbridge
LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP

In 2001, the University of Lethbridge began the Legacy of Leadership Campaign – the most ambitious campaign in the University’s history.

Six years later, we are celebrating the astounding success of the campaign, recognizing the nearly 5,000 individuals and organizations who contributed and thanking our alumni for providing an extraordinary outpouring of support. This generosity has enabled us to far exceed initial campaign goals and achieve our objectives to increase student support and provide resources for state-of-the-art facilities, including a centre for health and wellness and a building to house the Faculty of Management and School of Health Sciences.

SEPTEMBER 2001
- The Legacy of Leadership Campaign begins.

DECEMBER 2003
- Lethbridge City Council approves the long-range Capital Improvement Program, which includes a $5.3 million contribution to a new regional health and wellness centre at the U of L.

FEBRUARY 2005
- Co-Chairs Diane Boyle, Dr. Dennis Connolly and Kathy Lee help to officially launch the first Supporting Our Students campaign.

MAY 2005
- U of L, city and government representatives celebrate the official start of construction for a regional health and wellness centre.

OCTOBER 2005
- U of L students agree to contribute $2.5 million towards a regional health and wellness centre.

NOVEMBER 2005
- Dr. Allan Markin (LLD '06) makes a $3 million gift towards a building to house the Faculty of Management and School of Health Sciences.

DECEMBER 2006
- The Prentice family announces an $8.25 million gift to establish the Prentice Institute for Global Population and Economy.

As part of the campaign, the U of L established Supporting Our Students, an internal annual program to raise money for bursaries and scholarships. As a result, the University family – faculty, staff, retirees, Board of Governors and Senate members – contributed to meet specific student needs. Alumni also demonstrated an unprecedented commitment, and many reconnected by giving back to the institution that gave them their starts. Members of the University community have shown that when it comes to supporting students, they are the first to step forward.

1st Choice Savings Centre for Sport and Wellness

At the turn of the century, the University’s growing enrolment figures indicated an urgent need for expanded athletic and recreational facilities. The Physical Education Building, originally constructed in 1972, was intended to accommodate 3,500 students. With a student population that had more than doubled, a campaign priority was set to move forward and meet the needs of a growing campus.

Thanks to a $2.5 million donation from the student body, an anonymous donation of $184,000 facilitated through the Lethbridge Community Foundation, a $5.3 million contribution from the City of Lethbridge and a naming sponsorship agreement of $2.25 million from 1st Choice Savings and Credit Union Ltd., the dream for a new centre is now a reality.

Student Support

The University of Lethbridge has always placed students at the heart of everything we do. Increasing support for the more than 8,100 students attending the U of L was an important aspect of the Legacy of Leadership Campaign. U of L supporters helped to establish 136 new scholarships and awards, providing students with opportunities that otherwise may have been out of their reach simply because of limited financial means.

CAMPAGN BY THE NUMBERS

Campaign Goal: $20,000,000
Dollars Raised: $35,435,169
Total Participants: 4,930
First-time U of L Donors: 3,186
New Scholarships Established: 136
Total Gifts: $12,758
Areas Supported: 377
Areas Supported for the First Time: 189
On Feb. 8, 2007, more than 2,000 people celebrated the grand opening of the 1st Choice Savings Centre for Sport and Wellness at the launch of the U of L’s 40th anniversary celebrations. Today, the state-of-the-art facility enhances fitness and recreation services in the community; benefits students and athletes; and advances kinesiology-related research. Equipped with an indoor track, a triple gymnasium with seating for 2,000 spectators, expanded locker rooms and a climbing wall, the centre is helping to meet the health and wellness needs of both the community and the University.

A Culture of Giving

The Legacy of Leadership Campaign has created a new era of success and achievement at the University of Lethbridge. By creating a fundraising structure with a variety of innovative and efficient giving options, the U of L has become more flexible in meeting the individual needs of donors. This is evident in the diverse group of people who support the U of L — from organizations to foundations to students. Our growth can be measured in a variety of ways, including the more than 3,100 donors who contributed to the U of L for the first time during the campaign.

Our growth is also evident in the significant increase that the U of L has witnessed in endowment funds.

As part of our commitment to meet donor needs, a formalized planned giving program and advisory committee were established. This is helping to ensure that necessary support is in place for today as well as for the future.

The Legacy of Leadership Campaign enabled the University to connect with donors by matching their unique passions, values and goals with giving opportunities.

The greatest example of this was seen with the transformational gift from the late Dr. John Prentice (LLD ’06) and his wife Connie. The University was honoured to receive $8.25 million from the Prentice family to research global population changes, demographics and economic factors.

Markin Hall

With one of the fastest-growing post-secondary populations in the country, building a facility to house the Faculty of Management and School of Health Sciences was necessary to accommodate and maintain growth. The University also recognized the importance of contributing to the needs of a shifting economy and a changing province by increasing the number of management and health care professionals.

In 2005, Chairman of Canadian Natural Resources Limited Dr. Allan Markin (LLD ’96) made a visionary gift towards this capital project. Early private funding and support from national corporations, U of L’s friends and alumni helped to secure $50 million from the Government of Alberta to build Markin Hall. The four-level facility will allow the University to provide access to more than 400 health sciences students and more than 1,600 management students by 2010. The collaborative environment will enable the development of energetic, effective and strategic leaders prepared to meet today’s health and management challenges.

Through the Legacy of Leadership Campaign, the U of L has fulfilled commitments to build partnerships, create brighter futures and develop a strong community of support. The University marked the conclusion of the campaign on Dec. 31, 2007. With more than $35 million raised, the initial goal to raise $20 million was far exceeded.

Sources of Gifts


The Legacy of Leadership Campaign has resulted in $113 million raised. When combined with the $78 million contribution from the Government of Alberta, the Legacy of Leadership Campaign results in a $191 million investment in the U of L.

This campaign has made a significant difference in creating a legacy that will live on at the heart of the University of Lethbridge.

As we continue to build the most vital and engaging learning environment in Canada, this legacy of generosity will be witnessed again and again.

Thanks to the generosity of countless individuals and corporations, U of L students and professors alike will continue to be given new opportunities to engage in creativity, inquiry and discovery resulting in impacts far greater than we can begin to imagine.

And so, the journey continues...

To view the full campaign report, visit: www.ulethbridge.ca/legacy/index.html
The Steacy Siblings Strike Gold

Pronghorn throwers Heather and Sean Steacy both won gold medals in weight throw at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) nationals in March. Both of the Steacy siblings won their medals by throwing new personal bests. These victories top off Heather’s gold medal and Sean’s silver medal in the same event at the Canada West championships in February.

Precious Metal – The Steel Edge Award

The University of Lethbridge 1st Choice Savings Centre for Sport and Wellness was recognized with the Steel Edge Award in the Alberta 2007 Steel Design Awards of Excellence. This open category recognizes excellence in “the application of steel design, fabrication, detailing or finishing.” The award is shared by Gibbs Gage Architects & Barry John’s (Architecture) Ltd., Road Jones Christofferson Structural Engineering; Graham Construction and Engineering Inc.; Canam Solutions and Services; and Cannon Design & Ferrari Westwood Architects Ltd.

A Key in Thanks for Key Support

Since Oct. 25, 2007, the provincial government has announced $30 million in funding for Markin Hall, $10 million for the Alberta Water & Environmental Science Building and $18.4 million for upgrading University Hall. In recognition of the government’s support for the University of Lethbridge, Board of Governors Chair Robert Turner (left) met with Premier Ed Stelmach at the Alberta Legislature in November to present the premier with a ceremonial key to the University.

Arts & Science Co-ops Pay Off

Students in the Faculty of Arts & Science Co-operative Education program have much to look forward to in 2008. Students participating in the nearly 300 Arts & Science co-op work terms last year have posted record numbers on their paycheques – their cumulative earnings exceeded $2.6 million in 2007. “Not only are our students earning a tremendous paycheque, they are gaining invaluable experience in the working world and helping to finance their educations,” says Diana Yost, director of Arts Co-operative Education and Internships programs.

The Edmonton Campus Capitalizes on New Space

The Edmonton campus recently doubled its presence in the capital city by taking over a third floor in the University of Lethbridge Tower. The renovations were marked with a grand opening celebration that brought together students, faculty, staff and alumni in October 2007, but Campus Director Naomi Belke (BA ’92) says the additional space began enhancing the sense of community long before that party started. “Students are quite thrilled with the changes we’ve made. They’re now coming to campus throughout the day to meet and study instead of arriving just before class,” says Beke.

The approximately 500 students, staff and faculty at the Edmonton campus are enjoying such new facilities as four individual study rooms, two classrooms, additional office space for administration and a videoconferencing suite.

Bachelor of Health Sciences – Public Health Program Approved

The University of Lethbridge is introducing a new Bachelor of Health Sciences – Public Health program that will prepare students for non-clinical work and/or graduate study in the field of public health. This program is the first public health degree offered at the baccalaureate level in Alberta. Graduates will have the practical skills and the theoretical knowledge needed for employment in a variety of public health roles, including: health promotion (individual or population health focused); disease prevention, analysis and surveillance; health policy, administration/project management and community development.

Students may choose to complete an honours thesis or two practicum placements within three areas of focus (applied public health practice, health policy and promotion, or public health administration). The registration deadline for the Fall 2008 Semester is June 1. For more information, please contact the School of Health Sciences at (403) 329-2699 or visit its website at www.ulethbridge.ca/hls.

Sports Complex Clears Another Hurdle

The Regional Sports Stadium and Field Complex project, currently under construction on the south end of campus, got a financial boost from two key user groups recently. Superintendent Barry Litan from Lethbridge School District No. 51 and Superintendent David Krabane from the Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Separate Regional Division No. 4 presented U of L Associate Vice-President, Finance, Karen Clearwater (RASC ’80) and General Manager, Recreation, Parks and Culture, City of Lethbridge, Tom Hopkins with $35,000 toward the project. The funds come from the 1975 Canada Games Legacy Fund.

The Regional Sports Stadium and Field Complex is a partnership between the City of Lethbridge and the University of Lethbridge with extensive input from several community groups. It will consist of an artificial field for football and soccer, a natural practice field, a synthetic 400-metre track and related service buildings. The facility will also include dedicated off-street parking, 2,000-person bleacher seating and room for expansion as user demand and funding dictate.

You can read more about what’s happening at the U of L by reading the campus newspaper, The Legend, online at www.ulethbridge.ca/legend.

Faculty Kudos

U of L faculty members continue to be recognized for their research, scholarship and performance.

Dr. Hans-Joachim Wieden (Chemistry and Biochemistry) is the recipient of the Alberta Ingenuity New Faculty Award. Wieden is a Canada Research Chair in physical biochemistry. Among his many projects, he researches ways of making antibiotics more effective by focusing on a specific part of a bacterial cell called the ribosome.

This targeted support provides up to $100,000 per year for three years and recognizes new faculty members who have demonstrated balanced excellence in research and mentoring young researchers.

Lisa Doolittle (Theatre and Dramatic Arts), Dr. Claudia Malarcdia (Sociology) and Dr. Brian Titley (Education) are the U of L’s first University Scholars. The new two-year University Scholars program was initiated by the U of L to recognize especially promising faculty on the basis of their research, scholarship or performance. The award provides recipients with research funds totaling $6,500 over the two years of the designation plus one course relief in teaching duties per year. During their terms, each scholar will give a public lecture or performance as part of a newly established University Scholars Lecture Series at the University of Lethbridge.

Dr. Stewart Boud (Biological Sciences) has been chosen as one of 10 Killam Research Fellows for 2008. His award is for a project entitled Flowing to the Future: Impacts of Climate Change and River Regulation on Floodplain Forests in Western North America. Killam Research Fellowships, with a value of $70,000 a year, enable Canada’s best scientists and scholars to devise two years of full-time research.

Face Facts

The unofficial University of Lethbridge network on Facebook now has more than 7,100 members. The U of L network’s site has postings on everything from upcoming events to apartment rentals.
Grad Students
Where can it take you?

Graduate students substantially contribute to the scholarly, creative and research activities of the University of Lethbridge. They play a significant role in defining the University’s culture. Whether enrolled with a cohort of fellow students in education, health sciences or management, or working independently in close association with a research supervisor in arts and sciences, graduate students enjoy a student-focused personal environment that nurtures innovation, critical thought and creative endeavours. New and returning students enter a rich array of programs to rise to the challenges of the changing workforce needs of professionals in education, management and health sciences. They confront new frontiers in research and clinical and practical experiences they contribute to the local community and beyond to international communities of professional leaders and scholars.

This is an exciting time for graduate students at the University of Lethbridge, which has entered the 21st century with a new mandate to grow as a comprehensive institution that values its origins in undergraduate liberal education while it extends its horizons to a new world of graduate studies in diverse, innovative and creative programs.

Dr. Jo-Anne Fiske
Dean, Graduate Studies
University of Lethbridge

Graduate Studies
Grow at the U of L

Growing graduate studies is a key priority shared by universities across Canada, including the University of Lethbridge.

"Whether it be the retirement numbers and attrition in the civil service or greater demands for medical technology and complex health care, the labour force requires more highly trained individuals," says Dr. Jo-Anne Fiske, dean of the School of Graduate Studies. "Universities are responding by developing a greater number of graduate programs and by expanding existing programs."

Graduate studies at the U of L began in 1984 with the introduction of the Master of Education program, and the School itself was founded in 2000. Today, Fiske says, growth is a mandate.

"The culture of the U of L and its position within Alberta higher education are changing with a greater emphasis being placed on graduate studies," she says.

The U of L recently introduced a new individualized multidisciplinary social sciences master of arts program and is developing new graduate programs, including a master of fine arts and a master of music. As well, the School has introduced a $1.3 million endowment for short-term funding for recruiting students at the master’s level.

"I value the personal educational experiences that I received at the U of L, and I am excited to be a part of the current developments and opportunities available to our graduate students.”

Jennifer Gruninger (BSc ’05, MSc ’07)

I am very proud to have the Journal highlight the School of Graduate Studies and the achievements of our graduate students and alumni. The alumni featured in this edition are wonderful examples of where a graduate degree can take you.

Graduate Studies:
Doctorate Programs:
The PhD program is a thesis-based program and offers the student the ability to integrate universitiy coursework, professional training and practical fieldwork through blended instructional delivery.

Master of Arts: Students pursue research in more than 25 disciplines, including the U of L’s most recent addition, an individualized multidisciplinary program in the social sciences based on the collaboration of the anthropology, kinesiology, sociology and women’s studies departments.

Master of Science: Students explore innovative and interdisciplinary areas of research while working side-by-side with world-renowned faculty members in their fields of expertise. Students are encouraged to explore research possibilities available at the University and throughout the community.

The Master of Science in nursing, counselling and health sciences provides students with a solid groundwork in conducting health sciences research and establish a foundation for the uptake of knowledge to clinical practice.

Master of Science in Management: This 12- to 16-month thesis-based, research-oriented program is designed to provide students with the knowledge and hands-on experience to conduct rigorous and scholarly investigations into issues facing organizations and business management.

Master of Education: This program offers degrees in general education, counselling psychology and educational leadership. The Faculty of Education also offers the campus Alberta Applied Psychology (CAAP) Master of Counselling program, which is a distance education alternative. The MED programs are based on cohort models and offer students the ability to integrate university coursework, professional training and practical fieldwork through blended instructional delivery.

The master’s level.

opportunities.

The Master of Education: This program offers degrees in general education, counselling psychology and educational leadership. The Faculty of Education also offers the campus Alberta Applied Psychology (CAAP) Master of Counselling program, which is a distance education alternative. The MED programs are based on cohort models and offer students the ability to integrate university coursework, professional training and practical fieldwork through blended instructional delivery.

Doctorate Programs: The PhD program is thesis-based and offered in six multidisciplinary areas of study in sciences. The program is designed to immerse students into further investigation and research, while providing individualized-learning objectives and excellent research and publication opportunities.
Beyond Darwin

U of L graduate students, like doctoral student Shannon Digweed, seamlessly blend lab and fieldwork.

The subject of evolution typically brings to mind thoughts of apes and Charles Darwin, but it tells a larger story about how the world is organized, socially and biologically.

The University of Lethbridge’s Behaviour and Evolution Research Group (BERG) is working to unravel the mysteries underlying human and animal behaviour of all kinds—from helping behaviour to mate selection—in evolutionary terms.

BERG has attracted a host of world-renowned researchers from a number of different disciplines—including psychology, neuroscience and biology—who work together in an interdisciplinary fashion to answer research questions.

In addition to laboratory work, fieldwork is a major part of BERG research. Faculty and graduate students conduct research at sites across the world, including Independent Samoa, Belgium, Bonaire, France, Israel, Japan, South Africa, Panama and Texas.

Both the fieldwork and the interdisciplinary nature of the research group are of enormous advantage to graduate students who receive mentorship from the entire research team, not solely their supervisors.

Like BERG’s faculty, its graduate students are a diverse group and, like their mentors, many of these up-and-coming scholars seamlessly blend lab and fieldwork.

Shannon Digweed is exploring the vocal calls of the red squirrel, a species known for being bossy and loud, but also for living independently.

For several summers, she’s been tracking the squirrels in Alberta’s Sheep River Provincial Park, recording the alarm calls they make in the presence of predators to determine if their sounds are referential (acting as a “word” referring to a particular situation).

If the vocal calls are indeed referential, this could mean the squirrel isn’t only trying to deter predators, but alerting its peer species to danger (which would be surprising, since the species is solitary).

This result would also suggest that referential sounds don’t require as much intelligence as previously thought (many assumed only large-brained mammals like monkeys were capable of this).

“As humans, we bring so many biases to our research. Because we can do things this way, we automatically assume (animals) must be doing it this way too,” Digweed says. “(In BERG) we try to take a bottom-up approach to things—start with basic explanations and go from there.”

She adds that what she learns about squirrel communication can be extrapolated to many other animals—including humans—to learn more about how and why language is created.

Digweed conducts her research under psychology professor Dr. Drew Rendall. She says his reputation, experience and excellence, and that of the Department of Psychology, are what attracted her to the U of L to pursue her doctoral degree.

“Through the efforts of my supervisor, my department and the School of Graduate Studies, I have been able to conduct my fieldwork every year and have also been able to travel to several international conferences to present my findings to researchers in my field,” she says. “Through my graduate course work here I have been exposed to a wide variety of theory and research methods. Overall, my experience has allowed me to grow both academically and personally.”
Read on to see where graduate studies have taken U of L alumni Jeannette Barsky (BN ‘94, MSc ‘99), Dr. Evelyn Field (BASc ’93, MSc ’97, PhD ’06), Bryan Ellefson (BEd ’70, MEd ’94), Linda Ellefson (BASc ’72, MEd ’97), Rhona Kindopp (BSc ’03, MSc ’07), Kyle Franz (MA ’07) and Leanne Elias (BFA ’95, MEd ’03).

“I had the opportunity to work everywhere in the hospital, from the operating room to the recovery room, the case room, pediatrics and surgery,” says Barsky. “Then I also served as an air medical air-evacuation nurse, helping transport acutely ill patients to Edmonton on a small fixed-wing airplane. I loved flying, and I’m now taking lessons – it’s such an adrenaline rush!”

That level of activity is standard for Barsky, who also has a first-degree black belt in tae kwon do, two children (son Joe who is employed in health care in Canmore and daughter Janine who is a third-year nursing student at the U of L) and a busy professional career.

Originally from Saskatchewan, Barsky trained as a nurse in Regina before working in Slave Lake as a rural nurse for five years and eventually moving to Lethbridge, where she attended the U of L and earned a bachelor of nursing in 1994 and a master of science in management in 1999.

“After working on the front lines, I wanted to move into more of a research focus,” she says. “Using a life stages approach to women’s health, I found that blending the quantitative methods from management with the qualitative approach from health sciences was a perfect fit.”

After running the Lethbridge Continence Clinic from 2004 to 2007, Barsky began a position at Chinook Health in Community Care, Breast Health Program, and now coordinates the Cervical Health Program in the Women’s Health Program. As a clinical nurse specialist, Barsky is involved in the fields of chronic pain management, safe medication administration and continence care – a little-discussed condition that affects more than three million adults in Canada. She’s also helping develop a new chronic pain management clinic, and researches and writes about a variety of topics, most recently the retention and recruitment of Aboriginal nurses.

“The research and skills I learned during my master’s at the U of L really help with my current position,” she says. “As an educator and as someone who does health assessments, I’ve been able to continue my interest in research. I’m always looking at how to evaluate the different components of our program.”

During her graduate work at the U of L, Barsky was mentored by Dr. Karran Thorpe (Health Sciences) and Dr. Bob Boudreau (Management) and worked as a teaching assistant and research assistant. Her research examined occupational burnout for 692 registered nurses. She found that people with more “hardy” personalities, as measured by a 50-item scale, have less risk of job burnout.

“If people are actively involved in their job, whatever their life stage, their chance of burnout lessens,” she says. “It seems like common sense: the more active you are, the more your stress levels decline and the higher feeling of control you have.”

It’s a philosophy that has become second nature for Barsky.

When flying through the sky on a fixed wing plane, Jeannette Barsky (BN ‘94, MSc ‘99) thinks back to her time as a community nurse in northern Alberta, where she first discovered her love of flying.
A Real Brainteaser

How does the brain control behaviour?
It’s a puzzle that U of L alumna Dr. Evelyn Field (BASc ’93, MSc ‘97, PhD ‘06) is trying to solve.

But when it comes to leisure time, whether watching sports, scuba diving or hiking, Field tries to avoid being overly analytical. “I certainly notice that I move like a female,” she says with a laugh. “I live close to Banff and like to go skiing and hiking, but try not to pay too much attention to how I move.”

Field grew up in Taber, a small town near Lethbridge, as part of a family of small business owners. She originally planned to become an accountant, but undergraduate courses in biopsychology with Dr. Ian Whishaw and Dr. Sergio Pellis – who ultimately became Field’s PhD supervisors – re-ignited her scientific curiosity. “As a kid, I went to all the local science fairs, but never thought of a career in science,” she says. “But in university I was drawn to the puzzle of how the brain controls our behaviour. Neuroscience is one of the final frontiers in biological science; we’re only aware of a small percentage of what there is to know about how our brain determines who we are and what we do.”

During her time at the U of L, where she completed the majority of her post-secondary education, Field moved from undergraduate studies in psychology and sociology to graduate studies in behavioural neuroscience. Countering common thinking that sex differences in movement are based on physical traits, her master’s and doctoral theses examined the question of whether these differences may be driven by sex differences in how movement is organized at the neural level.

Working with Dr. Neil Watson from Simon Fraser University, Field used a transgenic rodent (a rat that looks and is built like a female, but has a masculine brain) to further explore sexual differences on movement that are controlled by the brain. For example, she places a rodent on its back on a tabletop and looks at how it coordinates the front and back of its body while rolling over. Transgenic animals that looked like females moved like males, suggesting that the way males and females organize their movements is determined by the brain and not solely by the body. “It’s a behaviour we all do – when we get out of bed, for example, we roll over,” says Field. “I’m interested in studying how the rodents complete this behaviour, and when they do, what circuits in their brains are involved. You’d be surprised at how much complexity takes place in the neural circuits involved in what seems like a very simple behaviour.”

Field has received several prestigious awards for her research, including two Governor General’s Academic Medals, and was one of four PhD supervisors were very gracious in letting me pursue research I was intuitively interested in.”

This collegiality, and quest for knowledge, is also a big part of the Neural Systems and Behaviour summer course she participated in at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. There, Field spent time examining how the nervous systems of animals from leeches to hawkworm moth caterpillars work at a cellular level. The highly competitive eight-week program takes in only 20 students from around the world, who work for 800 hours in an environment as rewarding as it is demanding. “Woods Hole is like a Top Gun school for science,” she says. “The place is amazing – you’ll be sitting in the cafeteria and see a Nobel Prize laureate pass by. The town is only a couple of blocks long, but every summer about 1,200 incredibly driven scientists descend on it to study and do research.”

“We know what the question is. Now figuring out how to solve it – that is the challenge.”

Now at the University of Calgary, Field is an Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research and Canadian Institutes of Health Research post-doctoral fellow – positions that in part speak to the fact that U of L neuroscience graduates are competitive in national competitions.

Field works alongside Dr. Quentin Pittman (BASc ’72) – an international authority in neuroendocrinology and neurophysiology and a fellow U of L graduate who was awarded Distinguished Alumnus of the Year in 1994. Attracted to the multidisciplinary nature of Pittman’s lab a year and a half ago, Field is now working to apply her findings to human problems. For example, she’s studying the effects of pre-natal infections on newborns. Being sick with the flu during critical times of pregnancy may be associated with an increased risk for the development of disorders such as schizophrenia and autism. In both of these disorders sex differences in symptomology and/or prevalence have been described but no one understands why this difference exists.

“We know what the question is,” she says. “Now figuring out how to solve it – that is the challenge.”

An expert in biological neuroscience, Field’s research focuses on how an organism’s brain structure, physical build and sex affect its movement. Using video, she captures how, for example, male and female rodents roll over, much like how we roll over to get out of bed. She carefully analyses each frame of an action that takes about a third of a second.

Dr. Evelyn Field (BASc ’93, MSc ‘97, PhD ‘06)
The couple met while they were undergraduate students at the U of L, and they built their relationship alongside a professional commitment to the field. “We both became deeply involved in improving our teaching practice through research,” says Linda. The Ellefsons began their journey to become educational leaders teaching in the County of Lethbridge and later, in what is currently known as, the Palliser Regional School Division and Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Separate Regional Division No. 4.

The couple now lives in Edmonton. Linda is the deputy superintendent of St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Schools. She works with staff across the district to inform educational leaders teaching in the County of Lethbridge, received her bachelor of arts and bachelor of education degree at the University of Lethbridge, and later, in what is currently known as, the Palliser Regional School Division and Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Separate Regional Division No. 4. The couple went on to become educational leaders teaching in the County of Lethbridge, received her bachelor of arts and bachelor of education degree at the University of Lethbridge, and later, in what is currently known as, the Palliser Regional School Division and Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Separate Regional Division No. 4.

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It’s not a long journey by car from Brooks to Blairmore – but in terms of political philosophy in the 1930s, it’s a trip of transcontinental proportions.

Kyle Franz (MA ’97) grew up in the politically conservative town of Brooks, AB, serving as the president of the Progressive Conservative Youth. Now, he’s a young historian specializing in leftist politics of Blairmore, a southern Alberta town that elected a Communist municipal government from 1933 to 1936 – a time when it was illegal to be a Communist in Canada.

“I’ve always found it fascinating to stand in the same place as an event that happened decades ago and try to understand how it affected the people involved,” he says. “During the Depression, many individuals who were associated with the Communist Party of Canada were jailed or deported for their beliefs. What was it about Blairmore that facilitated such leftist politics of Blairmore, a southern Alberta town that elected a Communist municipal council? That is what I hope to find out through my research.”

Franz explains that within dominant political systems, Franz blended academic work with positions in student politics when he was an undergraduate studying Soviet diplomatic history at Simon Fraser University. After graduation, he enrolled in the U of L’s Master of Arts program, thrilled at its flexibility and with who he calls “hands-down, four of the best professors possible for this project”: Dr. Christopher Burton, Henrie Beaulieu (BA ’93, MA ’95), Dr. Trevor Harrison and supervisor Dr. Sheila McManus.

“The greatest advantage of the program at the U of L is its small size – you literally receive one-on-one interaction with a professor who has tailored a course to fit your needs,” he says. “It ideally suited me to go out and do my research once the coursework was over.”

Now a doctoral student at Queen’s University, Franz is working under one of Canada’s foremost historians, Dr. Ian McKay. Franz says his research assumes to have the greatest chance of success in areas with large numbers of immigrants who are not socially or politically invested in the current government system. His research demonstrates that in Blairmore, support for the town council came from a broad coalition of different ethnic backgrounds. Franz is now compiling oral histories and writing a book on the subject that will be published in 2009 (proceeds go to the Crowsnest Museum).

“Blairmore’s experience shows that a community, when motivated, can find innovative and pragmatic solutions to their problems,” he says. “Studying that small town, I learned the importance of really standing up for what you believe in, even when there is pressure from all sides to change your stance. That message is just as applicable today as it was 75 years ago.”

While recent developments in information technology (IT) have revolutionized visual arts, they haven’t replaced old-fashioned inspiration. “Technology permeates our lives in every area, but it still comes down to content,” Elias says. “If we can make technology invisible, so the content and experience are all that users notice, then we’ve had real success.”

Elias grew up with an interest in visual communication and how it can be interpreted in a variety of ways. Drawn to photography and design, she decided to focus on fine arts at the University of L. She learned from professors like Janet Cardiff and programs like Art Now, which invited internationally renowned artists to weekly lectures.

After graduation, she pursued her growing interest in the relationship between technology and art, a burgeoning field at a time when the Internet and digital imaging first developed. Through the Multimedia Production program at Lethbridge College – a course she’s since taught – Elias used web development programs to create interactive art projects.

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“While recent developments in information technology (IT) have revolutionized visual arts, they haven’t replaced old-fashioned inspiration.”

Elias now is building an interactive environment to combine her design, art and technology skills.

After taking a job at a multimedia design firm, Elias soon turned back to the field of education – this time as a practitioner. She wanted to teach technological skills and techniques to students, but from the perspective of fine arts, rather than IT.

“While recent developments in information technology (IT) have revolutionized visual arts, they haven’t replaced old-fashioned inspiration.”

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“While recent developments in information technology (IT) have revolutionized visual arts, they haven’t replaced old-fashioned inspiration.”

Elias now is building an interactive environment to combine her design, art and technology skills.
If you’re thinking of taking the next step in lifelong learning, think about the University of Lethbridge.

Your alma mater offers graduate degrees in diverse disciplines and provides students with a customized and personal experience.

“I am very grateful not only for the excellent mentorship and research opportunities that I received, but also for the investment which my supervisors, committee members and other faculty members in the History Department made in me as a person.”

Dave McMurray (MA ’07)

Graduate Studies at the U of L - The Master of Education program is offered in three areas plus a distance education alternative (Campus Alberta Applied Psychology), while the Master of Arts and Master of Science (MSc) programs are available in more than 50 areas in Arts & Science, Fine Arts and Health Sciences. The MSc (Management) program is offered in seven areas, and there are doctoral programs in six multidisciplinary areas in the sciences.

One of the central mandates of the alumni office is to help alumni communicate with the University and with each other. This spring we focused on this task, and as a result, two new communication tools were implemented: an e-newsletter and E-mail for Life.

In January, we launched our first alumni and friends e-newsletter, Aperture. Aimed at helping you stay connected with your alma mater, Aperture features alumni news and events, provides updates on alumni benefits and services, and keeps you informed about your University and former classmates. If you haven't already subscribed to Aperture, we encourage you to visit the alumni website to sign up and share it with your friends.

More recently, we were pleased to announce E-mail for Life. This service allows you to re-activate or create a U of L e-mail account, free of charge, for life. For students graduating this spring and onward, they will automatically maintain their current account for as long as they choose. We hope E-mail for Life will make it easier for alumni to keep in touch with each other long after graduation.

Another new initiative is the Alumni Ambassador program. This program builds links between alumni and the community. Ambassadors have the opportunity to participate in recruitment events, represent the U of L at special events in their areas and volunteer where needed. If you are interested in becoming an ambassador, contact the alumni office at 1-866-552-2582.

Maureen Schwartz  Jaime Morasch  BMgt ’01

Director, Alumni Relations  Alumni Relations Officer

“Whether the learning takes place during your undergraduate years or many years later, the University of Lethbridge is your alma mater, your lifetime learning partner throughout your life.”

“Our mission is to see that all alumni of the University of Lethbridge continue to find their way back throughout their lifetime.”
Greetings to members and friends of the University of Lethbridge Alumni Association!

MESSAGE FROM THE ULAA PRESIDENT

I am proud to announce the 2008 Alumni Honour Society inductees: Deb Chenery (BA Sc ’82), Trevor Cook (BASc ’76, BED ’81), Neil Langervin (BA/BEd ’91), Dean Setoguchi (BMgt ’88), Janice Varzari (BN ’90, MED ’02) and Nancy Walker (BMgt ’82). I encourage you to attend our Alumni Celebration event on May 28 to congratulate the inductees and to visit with your fellow alumni – it is always a fun evening.

We were all saddened and shocked by the passing of Alumni Association Past President and friend John Gill (BA ’94). In recognition of his commitment to the association and University, the alumni golf tournament that John was a key part of has been renamed the John Gill Memorial Golf Tournament. Proceeds from the tournament will continue to be donated towards bursaries for students in need – a cause that was close to John’s heart. We hope to see you there on June 6.

Sheila McHugh, DipEd ’94, MED ’97
President, Alumni Association
University of Lethbridge

REMEMBERING

John Gill (BA ’94)
1971 – 2007

On Nov. 20, 2007, the University of Lethbridge lost dear friend John Gill.

John Gill’s life stands as a testament to the difference one person can make.

Many will recall John’s sense of humour, zest for life, utmost integrity and compassionate nature. He is especially remembered for the great love and devotion he showed to his wife, Tanya (BA/BEd ’00), and two young sons, Alexander and Isaac.

John was also dedicated to supporting his alma mater, the University of Lethbridge. After graduating with distinction from the U of L in 1994 he completed a bachelor of laws degree at the University of Victoria in 1997. John then returned to Lethbridge to begin a law career that eventually led to his position as Crown prosecutor. It was at this time that he began to volunteer with the University of Lethbridge Alumni Association (ULAA).

As treasurer, vice-president and president of the ULAA, John’s positive influence affected many in the University community. As president of the ULAA, he took special care to welcome each new graduate with a handshake and personally signed letter of congratulations on their achievements, often signing more than 1,300 letters each spring. John always did his best to make everyone around him feel important and was a wonderful supporter of University events outside of his realm of responsibility, such as participating on the U of L Dragon boat team and volunteering for Operation Red Nose.

Supporting students also came naturally to John. He was heavily involved in the ULAA Birdies for Bursaries Golf Tournament, raising money for students in financial need. Despite his lack of golf skills, John always participated willingly – good-naturedly taking the ribbing that inevitably came his way. In honour of his service and commitment, the tournament has now been renamed the John Gill Memorial Golf Tournament.

While very humble about his achievements and accomplishments with the ULAA, John was quick to credit the Association’s success to the many alumni who generously volunteered their time since the ULAA began more than 40 years ago. In 2006, John began the tradition of honouring past presidents for their leadership, offering his heartfelt gratitude for their years of service and great foresight.

Past ULAA President Doug McArthur (Mgt Cert ’90) remembers John’s allegiance to the U of L’s liberal arts philosophy: “To John, the liberal arts tradition was a very important part in the development of character and intellect, and his belief in post-secondary education ran deep.”

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COMING EVENTS

May 13, Vancouver
Alumni Gathering
Meet fellow U of L graduates in Vancouver at a reception hosted by alumni.
Here’s where you’ll be welcomed.
Location: The Sandman Seafood Restaurant (1555 Johnston Street, Granville Island)
Time: 5 p.m.
RSVP by May 9.

May 22, Calgary
Calgary Chapter at the Barley Mill
Come out and meet fellow U of L graduates in Calgary at this casual mix ‘n
Calgary Chapter at the Barley Mill (1535 Johnston Street, Granville Island)
Time: 5 p.m.
RSVP by May 25.

June 4, Calgary
Big Rock Event
Dr. Ed McKillop, BSc ’76, founder of Big
Rock Brewery, and Dr. Bill Cadu, U of L
president and vice-chancellor, invite you to attend a special alumni gathering.
Location: Big Rock Brewery (5655 - 76 Avenue SW, Calgary)
Time: 6 p.m.
RSVP by May 30.

June 6, Lethbridge
John Giff Memorial Golf Tournament
Support U of L students while enjoying a round of golf with alumni and friends.
A portion of every entry fee will go toward bursaries to assist students in financial need.
Location: Picture Butte Golf & Winter Club
Teetime: start at 1 p.m.
Registration: $150
Deadline to register is May 28.
Corporate sponsorship available.

August 15, Calgary
Calgary Chapter Golf Tournament
Alumni and friends, register early for this annual golf tournament in Calgary.
Location: Shaw-Skille Golf Course (200 James McLeish Road SW, Calgary)
Registration: $150
To register or for more information, call Calgary Chapter President Karen Brown (403) 317-3090 or e-mail kbrown@lexis.com.

To RSVP for more information or to volunteer for any of these events, call (403) 717-2825 or e-mail: alumni@uleth.ca.
Watch for more details on these and other upcoming events by visiting:
www.ulethbridge.ca/alumni

1974
David Miliukas
BMus ’91
Miliukas co-created a Christmas
two-act telling to the child. He is a
performing arts teacher at St. Francis
High School in Lethbridge.

1995
Gary Y Gan
BMus ’94
“I have been living overseas, mostly
Asia, for nearly 13 years, I am planning
to move back to Canada in 2008. I am
looking forward to the opportunity to
contribute my experiences back to my
alma mater.”

Sei Suda
BA ’94
“I am living in the UK and are
keeping up on my Canadian English.
I am applying to enrol in a master’s program.”

Justin Ferbury
BA ’95
Ferbury was selected as a
2007/2008 Action Canada Fellow. Selected for his
outstanding leadership initiative and commitment to Canada, Ferbury
was awarded $20,000 and is currently participating in a unique 10-month program
focused on leadership development and Canadian public policy issues. Ferbury
is executive director of the Cararoo/English First Nation.

Kimberly Irving
BA ’95
Irving is the intellectual property
manager for the technology
development office of the BC Cancer
Agency (RCCA) Genome Sciences Centre. Her primary role is to work
with researchers and clinicians in the development of research
agreements and agreements as well as the
identification and protection of
RCCA Intellectual Property
for commercialization.

Danna Schock
BA ’95
Schock is the curator of archaeologists at the
Dietrich Zoo’s National Anthropological
Conservation Center. She is responsible for all archaeology
department operations, including animal care,
conservation programs, guest and staff
education programs and staff training.
Schock joined the Detroit Zoo from
Arizona State University’s School of Life Sciences. In addition to conducting
graduate research and teaching at the
Arizona State University, she
worked as a contract biologist for the
Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada and as a
field ecologist for the Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation.
Two Honourable Alumni in Saskatchewan

Becky Baldwin BSc ’96, MSc ’00
“I am a PhD graduate student in fisheries at Oregon State University. I am doing my research at the Hatfield Marine Science Centre in Newport, OR, studying Pacific sardine populations and their macroparasites.”

Lilianne Jackson MSc ’96
In 2007, Jackson completed a PhD in computer science. She is now working at the University of Victoria.

Christine Misak BFA/BEd ’96
“I am currently teaching at a high school and teaching yoga. My partner and I just purchased a house and we are looking forward to living off the grid and knowing our impact on the environment.”

Marc Butler BA/BEd ’97
Butler is the principal of Big White Community School.

Ryan Doherty BA ’97
Doherty was appointed as curator for the Southern Alberta Art Gallery (SAAG). After graduating from the U of L, Doherty completed a master’s degree in curatorial studies from Bard College in New York.

Tammy (Praskach) Perlich BA ’97
Perlich is president of the Lethbridge Community Foundation. She is legal council for the Court of Queen’s Bench judge and provincial court judge of southern Alberta.

Cheryl Pommellt Mgmt Cert ’97
Pommellt, Chair of the Lethbridge College School of Business, was honoured with The Chair Academy’s 2008 International Exemplary Leader Award. She was presented with the award in April at the academy’s annual conference in Denver. Pommellt is a member of the U of L Alumni Association council.

Dr. Margaret Southern LLB ’97
Southern has been named to the highest level of membership in the Order of Canada as a companion. She received the award for her leadership and philanthropist.

Kay Earwood BEd ’97
“I am married with two daughters, ages one and three. I am presently enrolled in a master’s program at Gonzaga University.”

Michelle Casavant BFA ’98
Casavant is manager of the Arts in Healthcare program at the University Hospital in Edmonton.

Laura Johnson BMus ’98
In December 2007, Johnson opened the Cocoa Red Lounge in Nelson, BC, which serves a variety of hot chocolates and cocoa treats. In her spare time, she directs the Nelson Community Band, Glaciar Harmonies Choir and teaches clarinet.

Rosanne Cote Bmg ’99
“I am the manager of fund development for the Canadian Red Cross for the central and northern Alberta regions, based out of Edmonton. It has been a challenging and rewarding place of employment, and I am able to put many of my international skills to use.”

Brian Hopburn BASc ’99
Hopburn is a teaching post-doctoral fellow in the department of philosophy at the University of British Columbia.

‘00s
Sajan Alexander Bmg ’00
Alexander is a corporate commercial and securities lawyer with Parfie McLaws in Calgary.

Mark Baril Bmg ’00
Baril is a lawyer with Stinson Denley Law Office in Lethbridge.

Hugh Cameron Bmg ’00
“I am an investment advisor with ATB Investor Services.”

Melody Garner-Sparrow Bmg ’00
Gamer-Sparrow is executive officer of the Lethbridge Home Builders’ Association. After obtaining her management degree, she worked for IROC Office Solutions before moving on to the Ramada Hotel and Suites seven years ago. There, she worked in marketing, sales and operations, serving as the general manager when she left to join the Home Builders’ Association.

Asia Nelson BA ’00
“After returning from an around the world trip with the television show My Global Adventure, I moved to Waterloo, ON, to complete an MA in communications design. After graduating in 2005, I worked as an interaction design consultant with Canadian companies like RIM and Bell Canada before moving on to my own business venture in yoga instruction. Do I sound ADD? Sometimes I just take a lot of exploring before we find what we love. My business, Pranafit Yoga, has been booming over the past year and a half and I am about to expand it beyond Ontario. Mid January I’ll be living on the southern coast of Spain for three months to write a book on teaching yoga and to scout locations for yoga retreats. I figure everyone deserves a break from Canadian winters!”

Jo-Lynn Ajali BN ’01
Ajali is a registered nurse with Chinook Health.

Danny Balderson BA/BEd ’01
Balderson is a member of the Faculty of Education at Weber State University in Ogden, UT.

Heather Dillon Bmg ’01
Dillon is an account executive and media buyer at Parcom Marketing.

Michelle (Gay) Mericle BA ’01
Mericle has been teaching at elementary schools with the Calgary Board of Education since 2003. She married Greg Mericle on July 28, 2007.

Shannon Pestun BMgt ’02
Pestun is the director of marketing and communications for the Certified Management Accountants (CMA) of Alberta.

Tannis Arcuri BMgt ’02
“I am the marketing director for Avric Search Services Inc. We compile incorporations, trademark searches and registrations, web hosting and design, domain name registrations and e-commerce payment providers.”

Wilma Clark BEd ’02
Clark is a teacher at Gabrith Elementary School in Lethbridge.

Selina (Chisholm) Doucet BA ’02
“After graduation, I went on to Concordia University in Edmonton to obtain my bachelor of education degree. I moved back to Calgary to work for the Calgary School District in 2004. In July 2006, I married Richard Doucet, and we are now expecting our first child in January 2008.”

Santiago Garitois BMgt ’02
Garitois is the founder and vice-president of operations for Enna Inc. Enna publishes corporate training packages and business books.

Jytina Babski ’03
Babski joined marketing agency Creative Intelligence in 2006 and was recently promoted to account executive.

Allison Ribar ’03
Ribar is the education and awareness coordinator for the Schizophrenia Society of Lethbridge and Area.

Shawn Van Slays BFA ’05
Van Slays is the executive director of the Canadian Art Museum Directors’ Organization (CAMDO), a national organization that advocates for galleries across Canada. He was one of the first two U of L students to graduate with an art history/museum studies major.

Ryan Gugyelka BMgt ’05
“I am working for EnviroFAB in Calgary as a land agent. My job involves negotiating land deals with landowners to allow access for drilling and pipeline activities. I have been working as a land agent since my graduation in 2005.”

Skye Dak Bmg ’06
Lindsey Boguski BMgt ’06
In October 2007, Dak and Boguski organized the inaugural Forget Me Not Ball in Calgary to raise money for Alzheimer’s disease. Their goal is to raise $1 million within the next five years.

Rocky Gao BMgt ’06
“I am the owner of EnviroFAB Inc., which produces structural insulated panels for residential and commercial buildings.”

Donna Lewis BA/BEd ’06
Lewis works for the Goldbriehl School Division and teaches social studies and language arts at Crowther Memorial Junior High.

Kim Anderson BA ’07
“I am currently a creative writing student at Malaspina University-College.”

Events and Conference Centre Service
Whether you are planning a tournament, camp, conference, team business meeting, a wellness getaway, or looking for accommodations during your travels, the University of Lethbridge can offer you affordable options!

We offer Village accommodation from May to August. We can also help you with management services for any of your events.

For more information call: 403 329 2244 or visit www.uleth.ca/anc-con.
IN MEMORIAM

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

Laughlin Taylor DSc ’01 passed away on April 7, 2007.
Maybelle Erickson BEd ’71 passed away on April 25, 2007.
John Gill BA ’94 passed away on November 20, 2007. See page 23 for a tribute to Gill.
Helen McAndrews BEd ’76 passed away on November 29, 2007.
Scott Gordon BSc ’96 passed away on December 15, 2007.
Janyce Erickson BEd ’82 passed away on December 19, 2007.
Robert A. Bennett BASc/BEd ’85 passed away on December 23, 2007.
Peter Orr BEd ’84 passed away on January 1, 2008.
W. Graeme Wigg BEd ’69, BA ’70 passed away on February 5, 2008.
Leah Hill BEd ’75 passed away on February 12, 2008.

ALMA MATTERS

News and notes from your classmates

Don Sun BMgt ’07
Sun is an improvement facilitator and project coordinator at Chinook Primary Care Network.

Magdalena von Eccher BMus ’07
Von Eccher won third prize at the inaugural Knigge Music Competition in Piano. The national competition, held at the UBC School of Music, is open to pianists ages 17 to 25.

Lana Ing Gabor BFA ’07
Earlier this year, Gabor’s Double Happiness art exhibition was featured at The New Gallery in Calgary. Her work was also recently exhibited at the Trianon Gallery in Lethbridge with Kevin Ei-Ichi de Forest in Euroasialicious, a collaborative show that explored the representation of Eurasian identity in popular culture.

2007

Lana Ing Gabor BFA ’07

Shawn Wagar BFA ’07
Wagar works at White Iron Digital in Calgary, AB.

Hailey Yanchishyn BMgt ’07
“I am currently the manager of HoJoe Coffee and Books, a gourmet coffee and bookstore. We are working on making it into a northwestern Ontario chain.”

Shawn Wagar BFA ’07

2007

Play Right Prize Begins With a Boom

(l-r) Playwright Corey Joyce on stage with actors Ben Hart, Ben McFee, Genevieve Pare and Marek Czuma to answer questions from the audience about his play Boom Boom.

Corey Joyce, a second-year drama major, was the inaugural recipient of the U of L Play Right Prize. Joyce won a $1,000 award, and his play – Boom Boom – received dramaturgical support from the adjudicating jury. A public reading was presented on March 19 in the David Spinks Theatre. The jury members were Theatre and Dramatic Arts faculty members Ron Chambers (BASc ’85) and Barbra French as well as 2007 Alumni Honour Society inductee Kate Connolly (BEd ’95).

Generously supported by U of L alumnus Terry Whitehead (BA ’94), the competition aims to encourage excellence and development in student playwriting. The steering committee, comprised of Theatre and Dramatic Arts faculty members Dr. Shelley Scott (BASc ’86) and Nicholas Hanson, were delighted with the quality and quantity of submissions, especially since this was the first year of the competition.

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Special Feature on Graduate Studies
This special issue of the Journal celebrates lifelong learning. We are proud to highlight the growth of graduate studies at the U of L and feature graduate students and alumni.

Spotlight on Research
There’s a famous quote from Charles Darwin that says: “Doing what little one can to increase the general stock of knowledge is as respectable an object of life, as one can in any likelihood pursue.” Read on and learn how doctoral student Shannon Digweed is doing her part and what she’s discovering about the red squirrel, evolution and behaviour.

The Next Step
U of L alumni Jeannette Barsky (BN ’94, MSc ’99), Dr. Evelyn Field (BASc ’73, MSc ’97, PhD ’06), Bryan Ellifson (BEd ’70, MEd ’94), Linda Ellifson (BASc ’72, MEd ’97), Rhona Kindopp (BSc ’93, MSc ’07), Kyle Franz (BA ’87) and Jeanne Elias (BFA ’95, MEd ’03) have taken their educations beyond their bachelor’s degrees. Read on to see where graduate studies have taken them.

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1978: Directory Debut

On April 5, 1978, Dr. Ches Skinner made his directorial debut at the University of Lethbridge with the play Vanities. The sold-out comedy was an instant success and was held over for two more performances.

Since that time, Skinner (who became dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts in 1997) has directed more than 30 plays at the U of L. His most recent production—To Kill a Mockingbird—ran in March and drew an audience of nearly 3,000 people. While the productions have evolved over the years, to Skinner the heart of the play remains the same.

"Today our productions reflect a better grasp of the conventions of theatre, but they still maintain the high degree of sincerity that has been a hallmark of the drama department’s work from day one," says Skinner. Much of this sincerity can be credited to Skinner’s thoughtful mentorship of his students. First and foremost he considers himself to be a teacher responsible for nurturing the talents and curiosities of drama students.

“My main concern is that fine artists at this university discover their voices and develop the confidence to speak,” says Skinner. “Performance is often the means by which we try to discover the truth.”

This spring, the curtain will close on Skinner’s years as dean, but it won’t be his final bow. In January, he will begin a position as a visiting scholar at University Technology Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur.