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As a U of L alumnus and as a father, I believe in education.

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As you read through this issue, you’ll notice a theme flowing through the pages: water.

Water is our most precious resource. It’s the source of all life on Earth, and it’s an important economic and strategic resource. It’s also a research focus at the University of Lethbridge.

In fall 2008, years of hard work by many people came to fruition when we opened the Alberta Water and Environmental Science Building (AWESB). This new facility houses some of the world’s foremost scientists and enthusiastic graduate students who are making significant strides in research and discovery. In this issue of the Journal, we proudly provide a glimpse into the AWESB and some of the fascinating research our faculty members and students are engaged in.

U of L alumni are also making big waves in environment-related fields locally, provincially and abroad. I hope you enjoy reading about your fellow alumni: Kevin Rumsey (BSc ’00), Stephanie Palechek (BSc ’01), Ben Gadd (BASc ’72), Chad Willms (MSc ’05), Denise Calderwood (MEd ’93), Jeremy Emerson (BFA ’08), Shannon Flint (BMgt ’07) and J. Michael Miltenberger (BASc ’75) and the outstanding work they are doing in their respective areas.

Last summer, U of L co-op student Fiona Geldreich travelled to Africa to work with an organization implementing eco-friendly solutions in Botswana. She shares her photos and experiences with us in the Travel Journal.

As always, this issue of the Journal highlights all the exciting news and events that have taken place on campus as well as within the University of Lethbridge Alumni Association. I encourage you to stay connected with the U of L and share your story with the Alumni Office.

In the fall, we will debut a new University of Lethbridge magazine. You’ll continue to see your favourite features from the Journal in the new magazine, along with many new ones. Watch for it this fall.

Sincerely,

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

Dear U of L Alumni,
Welcome to the spring 2009 issue of the Journal.
Daycare sod turning

It was a big day for some of the smallest members of the University of Lethbridge family. On April 15, 2009, University of Lethbridge officials and representatives from campus groups supporting the creation of a new daycare facility officially launched the start of construction for the 50-space, $2 million project.

President Cade to step aside in 2010

On March 19, 2009, U of L President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Bill Cade announced he would be stepping aside at the completion of his second term, June 30, 2010. Cade was appointed president and vice-chancellor of the University of Lethbridge in July 2000. During his presidency he's overseen a decade of unprecedented growth and presided over an educational transformation that has repositioned the University as a leading research and graduate studies institution. Added to that, he has led the development of many major initiatives at the U of L, including two five-year strategic plans, $200 million in capital projects and improvements, and the successful completion of the institution's largest capital campaign.

The search for a new president is led by the University's Board of Governors and typically takes approximately a year to complete. A presidential search committee will be created, and it is expected that a new president will be in place by the summer of 2010.

Athletic achievements

(l-r) Jim Steacy and Ashley Patzer were named Male and Female Athletes of the Year, after outstanding seasons representing the Pronghorns. Steacy won his fifth Male Athlete of the Year honour after winning gold medals in both weight throw and shotput at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) track championships. Patzer led the women's rugby team to a second straight CIS title and was the MVP of the championship tournament.

University on Twitter

Twitter is quickly becoming a social, global information staple, and the University of Lethbridge has jumped on board.

In an effort to alert as many people as possible to the news and events happening at the U of L, the University's news website, UNews, has opened a Twitter account and daily offers Tweet updates.

Follow @ULethbridgenews on twitter, or for alumni specific Tweets, follow @ULethbridgeAlum.

Award recipients

Dr. Ian McAdam of the English Department in the Faculty of Arts & Science has been selected to receive the Distinguished Teaching Award, and Dr. Brian Titley of the Faculty of Education has been selected to receive the Ingrid Speaker Medal for Distinguished Research, Scholarship or Performance. Both awards will be presented at the spring 2009 convocation ceremonies held on May 28 and 29, 2009.
New programs for the fall

The University of Lethbridge continues to meet the needs of students by developing and delivering relevant programs. Beginning September 2009, the University will implement a new Bachelor of Music degree program in Digital Audio Arts, two new graduate degree programs in the creative arts through a Master of Fine Arts and a Master of Music, a new Bachelor of Nursing after-degree program in collaboration with Lethbridge College and a Land Agent Bachelor of Management degree program in conjunction with Olds College.

For more information on any of these programs, visit: discover.ulethbridge.ca

Prentice Institute welcomes new director

Dr. Susan McDaniel has been appointed director of the Prentice Institute for Global Population and Economy, a unique research institute that was founded thanks to a multi-million dollar donation from the late Dr. John Prentice (LLD ’06) and his family to promote the research of big-picture issues relating to global population change and demographics. McDaniel, an internationally recognized sociology researcher and demographics expert, will be heavily involved in research, graduate education and research leadership, as well as contributing to the undergraduate teaching program.

Strategic Plan all about U

The University of Lethbridge is charting a course for the next five years. The map – the 2009-2013 Strategic Plan. After months of consultation, the final plan is complete and was released to the University community at a campus event on Feb. 12, 2009.

To view the full plan, including feature videos, visit: www.uleth.ca/strategicplan

New coach for Horns

Dave Adams (BEd ’82), one-time Pronghorns basketball player and now two-time coach, has accepted the position as the new head coach of the men’s basketball program. This will be his second tour of duty, after guiding the team in the 2001-02 season, and brings Adams back to a place that’s always been in his heart.

“It comes down to being a proud alumnus, a proud former player, a proud former coach,” Adams says. “I understand the essence, the spirit, the heart and courage of being a Horn.”
Students surpass fundraising goals

Participating in the 5 Days for the Homeless campaign in March, a group of U of L students set out to raise $10,000 for Wood’s Homes Foundation, a multi-service charity that supports troubled young people in the Lethbridge community. During the five-day campaign, the students remained outdoors, on campus, living just outside the Students’ Union building. After a long week of cold days and even colder nights, the group surpassed the target, raising a total of $12,064.80.

In other fundraising efforts, a group of management students hosted Curling for the Cross, a human curling demonstration to raise money for the local chapter of the Red Cross. As the final project for the 2009 Integrated Management Experience, the 28 management students were tasked with taking an idea from concept to execution on behalf of a real client. Through their creative take on a bonspiel, the group exceeded their goal of $5,000, raising more than $6,500 for the Red Cross.

University bids farewell to Fitzpatrick

In June 2009, Dr. Dennis Fitzpatrick will conclude his second five-year term as vice-president (research). As a result of his “think-big, shoot-high and don’t-be-afraid-to-ask” philosophy, research funding at the University of Lethbridge has soared a phenomenal 610 per cent over the last 10 years, and the University has celebrated many significant research achievements.

Dr. Daniel Weeks will assume the position of vice-president (research). Weeks formerly served as a professor and Chair of Psychology at Simon Fraser University and has 17 years of experience in post-secondary teaching and research.

Researcher recognized

Dr. Olga Kovalchuk (Biological Sciences/Board of Governors Research Chair) is among six individuals in Canada to receive a prestigious Research Chair in New Perspectives in Gender, Sex and Health from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and its Institute of Gender and Health (IGH). The Research Chair program is intended for health researchers who have developed a reputation for excellence in research, and to support outstanding research programs that enhance the health of Canadians.

One of two Albertans named as a Chair, Kovalchuk’s position comes with $750,000 in funding over five years. Her work uses animal models to examine how radiation induces secondary tumours in cancer patients; the different effects radiation has on women and men; and what can be done to protect the children of radiation-exposed parents from contracting cancer.

To stay up-to-date on what’s happening at the University, visit the U of L’s official online news centre at: www.uleth.ca/unews
Spotlight on Research:
Water and the Environment

At the University of Lethbridge, researchers are asking the most pressing questions that face our planet. The answers they find will help protect our resources and ensure a healthy tomorrow.

Our freshwater supply and environment are threatened.

What is being done?

At the University of Lethbridge, researchers are asking the most pressing questions that face our planet. The answers they find will help protect our resources and ensure a healthy tomorrow.
Spotlight on Research: Water and the Environment

As the University continues to gain international recognition as a leader in water and environmental research, it is attracting a group of outstanding experts from around the world.

Representing a range of knowledge, these researchers focus on five main areas: social policy, ecology, toxicology, environmental impacts and water-climate interactions.

Read on to learn more about a few of the discoveries being made.

It’s a staggering statistic: more than 70 per cent of southern Alberta’s water consumption is used for farming.

But even as water issues are coming to the fore, farmers’ water choices are largely being made independently as government involvement is limited. However, as water sources become more scarce, that might change, so there’s a strong need to understand how to balance the interests of farmers with the protection of the resource before tough choices need to be made.

Dr. Henning Bjornlund, a professor in the U of L’s Department of Economics and a Canada Research Chair, has done extensive work on water management both in Australia and Alberta.

Collaborating with U of L economics professor Dr. Kurt Klein, Bjornlund is currently working on two projects that have received significant funding, including $1.7 million from the Alberta Water Research Institute.

Both projects aim to resolve the important issues about how to manage Alberta’s limited resources and how to share water between competing users while minimizing the socio-economic impact within the communities depending on irrigation for their livelihood.

Along with his associates, including two professors from the University of Alberta, Bjornlund is collecting data via surveys and focus groups with farmers and residents in surrounding communities. Understanding the viewpoints of the entire community is key to creating a comprehensive picture that will ultimately improve our knowledge base and help balance the tricky relationship between farming and water use.

SOCIAL POLICY:

What makes the relationship between farming and water so tricky?

Dr. Henning Bjornlund
Spotlight on Research: Water and the Environment

TOXICOLOGY:
What’s in the water you drink?

As Alberta’s economy and population grow, the demand for water is soaring and so is the need to know how well we’re managing this invaluable resource.

Canada Research Chair and U of L researcher Dr. Alice Hontela is adding to the well of knowledge by seeking to understand just exactly what’s in our water.

Hontela is part of MITHE (Metals in the Human Environment) strategic network. She says climate change and increasing industrial activity (especially farming and mining) are not only affecting the volume of available water, but the concentration of pollutants in it.

Through lab and fieldwork, she studies the endocrine systems of different fish species – whose systems resemble in some aspects those of humans – to determine the effects of certain pollutants.

She explains that some chemicals are safe at low doses (like selenium, which our bodies need), but toxic at higher concentrations. Since pollutants, like pharmaceuticals, are difficult or impossible to remove with filtration, the health of both human and aquatic species requires keeping these chemicals at non-toxic levels.

The answers Hontela and her colleagues discover are crucial to finding new ways to deal with our water and pollutants, and will aid in making sound management decisions for the future.

Fostering the future

The University isn’t just supporting established scientists. It’s also fostering the developing talents of students, like PhD candidate Lars Brinkmann (BSc ’04, MSc ’07) (right), who is working under the supervision of Dr. Joseph Rasmussen (left), a Canada Research Chair and University of Lethbridge researcher.

Last fall, Brinkmann received a $30,000 fellowship, the largest individual student award endowed at the University, made possible by Nexen Inc., an independent, Canadian-based global energy company. The fellowship is enabling Brinkmann to look at mercury levels in fish to determine how human activity affects local watersheds.

He is one of the many graduate students in water and environmental science who is benefiting from new infrastructure, outstanding researchers and funding the University is attracting.
ECOLOGY:
How can we tap into new water sources?

When it comes to Alberta’s spring systems — the points at which groundwater comes to the surface — very little is known.

However, as surface water resources become overextended in the province, it’s likely the region will look to aquifers, the underground layers of permeable rock, sand, silt or clay that have absorbed groundwater. Alberta is in a unique position of not yet having significantly tapped its extensive groundwater resources, so there is still time to plan for better management that will minimize or mitigate potential future impacts to aquifers or springs from groundwater use.

But the solutions don’t just spring from the ground. That’s why a team of researchers, through the Alberta Springs Project, are studying groundwater sources as a strategy to learn more about what lies below the surface.

The project, which has secured $200,000 in funding over four years from the Imperial Oil Foundation, has attracted researchers from across North America.

Dr. Stewart Rood, who holds the University of Lethbridge Board of Governors Research Chair in Environmental Science and is a 2008 recipient of the Killam Research Fellowship, is co-leading a group of researchers from Alberta, Saskatchewan and Arizona together with Dr. Abe Springer of Northern Arizona University.

The group is investigating springs throughout southern Alberta, studying their hydrology, water chemistry and aquatic and riparian ecology. They hope to find out, among other things, how springs are impacted by seasonal and climatic changes; how the type of spring affects the area’s biology; and how groundwater relates to surface water — information that will all contribute toward helping Alberta plan for a sustainable future.
Thoughts of wind erosion bring to mind vivid imagery of the 1930s dust bowl – wind ripping away valuable topsoil as it blackens prairie skies and paints a picture of agricultural devastation.

Dr. Christopher Hugenholtz, a University of Lethbridge geography professor, is creating a new portrait of wind erosion by examining its surprisingly positive role in sustaining the biodiversity of prairie grassland ecosystems.

He and his research team are finding that wind erosion is essential to preserving a balanced ecosystem. Sand dunes serve as a habitat for a variety of sensitive and endangered plant and animal species that need bare, sandy surfaces and a level of wind erosion to survive.

Through the innovative use of satellite imaging, Hugenholtz has observed a dramatic decrease in the number of active sand dunes across the southern prairies of Alberta and Saskatchewan, which in turn has resulted in a reduction in the number of species in particular areas.

Years of managing the dune areas by reducing stresses such as fire, the roaming of bison and the grazing of cattle have encouraged the growth of vegetation. Reduced wind erosion levels are a direct result.

As Hugenholtz explains, these disturbances are necessary to maintain biodiversity and keep the ecosystem functioning.

His work aims to develop unique, adaptive strategies for conserving habitat through a better understanding of wind erosion controls and processes.
As part of its leadership role in water research, the University of Lethbridge unveiled its Alberta Water and Environmental Science Building (AWESB) in November 2008.

Situated among mountains, streams, rivers, rural plains and urban cities, the new facility couples with the natural environment to create what has been described as a living lab. The $27-million centre is a partnership between the U of L and seven provincial and federal research partners, including Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Health Canada and Alberta Environment.

With two seminar rooms, 13 research labs and four fish labs, and 5,400-square-metres, the AWESB will initially house 20 researchers and has the capacity for up to 150 supporting technicians, graduate students and doctoral candidates from the departments of biological sciences, geography and physics and astronomy.

The space offers a toolbox to help researchers continue to excel in the field of water research, says Vice-President (Research) Dr. Dennis Fitzpatrick.

“Through the Aquatic Research Facility, researchers at the University are going to have opportunities to conduct experiments that we never would have even thought possible,” Fitzpatrick says.

Members from the U of L Facilities staff take gardening to new heights, using climbing equipment to maintain and tend to the 12-metre high bio wall.
Kevin Rumsey stands beside a recently completed hand-pump well. Installation doesn’t take long, but the work is risky.

Ripples in History

By providing access to clean water, Kevin Rumsey brings hope and tides of change to war-torn Afghanistan.

Kevin Rumsey (BSc ’00) vividly remembers one of the first times he met with a group of elders and other survivors in an Afghan community ravaged by decades of war and extreme poverty. He was sitting on a dusty floor in a mud hut, sipping tea with the group and attempting to explain what he was there to do: provide clean water, sanitation facilities and hygiene solutions for their weary, war-torn town. It was the reaction of those in the gathering that stands out most in Rumsey’s memory.

“It was an overwhelming wave of gratitude,” Rumsey recalls. “The smiles and sheer joy on all of the people’s faces, hands over their hearts, genuine handshakes and sincere thanks – what a privilege to do this kind of work and receive that sort of reaction for it. It was a humbling experience.”
Rumsey, who recently concluded his service in Afghanistan, began his time there in November 2008 under the auspices of ACF (Action Against Hunger/Action Contre la Faim) International – a humanitarian organization founded in France in 1979. Active in more than 35 countries worldwide, ACF provides emergency aid and long-term solutions to populations suffering from malnutrition and food security, as well as lack of clean water, sanitation and access to public health. Rumsey first heard about ACF while working toward a master’s degree in Peacebuilding at Royal Roads University, but had an inclination toward this line of work much earlier. When the opportunity to work for ACF arose, Rumsey essentially leapt at it.

“I would have gone anywhere. It just happened to be Afghanistan,” he says. “ACF gave me the offer and 24 hours to accept or reject it. After a couple of hours of soul-searching, and discussions with family and friends, I accepted.”

While in Afghanistan, Rumsey traversed the country, venturing into remote, desolate and often volatile areas to make strides in providing legions of people with some very basic, yet essential services. While the posting wasn’t Rumsey’s first experience with humanitarian efforts (he previously volunteered on water projects in both east India and Kenya with Rotary International, and worked in post-tsunami
Indonesia as an environmental specialist with a private consultation company), it was the first time he had worked in the throws and fallout of a country at war. The dangers didn’t deter him. In fact, the risks are part of what attracted him to the job.

“I was drawn to the humanity of instability for some reason,” Rumsey says. “The impact for me was knowing that I was living in the moment and making a difference to people in need.”

As the coordinator for water, sanitation and hygiene for ACF in Afghanistan, Rumsey was in charge of six projects that will ultimately impact the lives of approximately 170,000 Afghan people. Heading up a 40-member national staff, Rumsey also oversaw the development of funding proposals for new water projects and represented ACF at strategic coordination meetings with various governments and international organizations, including UNICEF.

Rumsey’s objective may have been broad – to provide safe water, sanitation facilities and hygiene promotion to vulnerable people – but the tasks toward achieving it were specific and labour intensive. In Kabul, Rumsey and his team put in 100 hand-pump water wells, 300 pour-flush latrines and provided hygiene kits and education to 4,500 families. In Parwan province, the entourage headed up a pipeline project, rehabilitating a reservoir and installing a kiosk network to provide clean water to 7,000 families. In Samangan province, Rumsey laid the groundwork to combat cholera, an outbreak that affected 2,500 people last year.

It was exhaustive and dangerous work with the Taliban shoring up ranks and the risk of kidnapping very high. Suicide bombings were common, and men armed with AK-47’s walked the streets as casually as businessmen carry briefcases in any Canadian city. Still, Rumsey felt lucky to be there.

“I met some beautiful people and made many friends,” he says. “I admit I was nervous to go, but I felt prepared and excited too.”

Rumsey left Afghanistan at the end of April with mixed emotions.

“I leave behind many friends and colleagues who have been very supportive. I leave behind my national staff who has worked so hard. I will miss them very much. I have been so fortunate to have had this experience.”

While he acknowledges the challenges for Afghanistan are enormous, Rumsey remains hopeful for the country’s future, believing wholeheartedly that a safe, sustainable water supply is the foundation for peace and development.

“The impact for me is knowing that I am living in the moment and making a difference to people in need.”

With the unplanned influx of people coming to Kabul, people are taking over the steep hills in the city. There are no water, sewer or sanitation systems. Water must be hauled up the hills in heavy jerry cans and buckets, and waste, pulled by the force of gravity, runs down the hills through the living quarters along the easiest route available.

Young girls are often in charge of water collection for their families, typically making the laborious trip twice a day.
Stephanie Palechek explains the everyday changes that can help protect our water supply.

Who among us hasn’t washed a car in the driveway, sending soapy water into the gutter and smiling with satisfaction at the resulting shine? The activity seems harmless, even joyful – a small celebration of warm weather and pride of ownership. What most of us don’t realize is that the chemical residue in that sudsy rinse spills straight into the storm drain and trickles, untreated, back into the river from where it came. It’s true. Anything that goes into a storm drain – be it soap, oil, lawn fertilizer or any other potentially harmful substance – takes a direct path into the water we ultimately drink, cook with and bathe in. Surprised? You’re not alone.

Most of us are blissfully unaware of the many ways we negatively impact our water supply – a fact that Stephanie Palechek (BSc ’01) has made her life’s mission to change.

As executive director of the Oldman Watershed Council (OWC), Palechek works to raise awareness about the importance of healthy water systems and makes strides toward positive change.

“Everybody uses water, but not everyone thinks about where it comes from or how significant it really is,” Palechek says. “Literally everything we do every day relies on having a good, clean and abundant supply of water.”

Formed in 2003, the OWC is a non-profit organization that works in partnership with communities and individuals to maintain and improve the condition of the Oldman River watershed. Members of the OWC provide leadership and guidance in watershed planning, management and quality monitoring. In addition, they promote the implementation and integration of sustainable water-use practices.

Palechek joined the OWC after working on the Partners in Habitat Development program with the St. Mary River Irrigation District.

The list of issues Palechek and her dedicated team of colleagues and volunteers attempt to tackle is extensive, ranging from water scarcity and habitat protection, to irrigation and best gardening practices. As diverse as these issues seem, they boil down to one primary objective: increasing awareness of the importance of clean water and how to best use it.

“We’re not going to run out of water in Canada any time soon, but we do need to properly manage our supply to make sure that never happens,” Palechek says.

Increased recreation and development in the headwater areas of the Oldman River has put a strain on the water supply in recent years, as have the effects of climate change and a growing population. While the challenges are serious, Palechek sees positive changes in the way people think about water.

“Water issues are on the public’s radar now,” Palechek says. “We’re seeing more people come to our events and ask questions, looking for information and ways to help.”

In September 2009, the OWC will release a State of the Watershed report to the general public – a document that compiles studies that assess the overall health and cleanliness of the Oldman watershed. After the release, the OWC will look to community leaders, researchers and volunteers to help develop and implement an Integrated Watershed Management Plan to help ensure the ongoing maintenance and improvement of the watershed in southern Alberta.
When writing about conservation, Ben Gadd turned to the English writer for inspiration.

“People think they should conserve water by not letting the tap run. That’s fine, but conservation is about more than that.”

Geoffrey Chaucer, who wrote the Canterbury Tales, probably doesn’t come to mind as a conservation expert.

But when tracing the evolution of the idea, Ben Gadd (BASc ’72) discovered the English writer was the first person to write it down, in 1384.

Gadd argues that back then, ‘conservation’ meant – among other things – the preservation and protection of wildlife and its habitat. He feels it’s a big difference from some of the modern natural resource industry practices that interpret the term as a form of damage control.

“People think they should conserve water by not letting the tap run,” Gadd says. “That’s fine, but conservation is about more than that. At the root, it’s about protecting the wilderness.”

Gadd grew up in Colorado Springs, Colo. In 1959, when he was 13 years old, he and some friends took their first overnight hike in the Rockies, hacking down tree branches to build a lean-to – a common practice in those days.

Gadd went on to become a mountaineer and rock climber, overcoming his fear of heights and learning to go more lightly on the land. At the University of Lethbridge, he focused on geology, and during his studies completed two self-directed mini-thesis projects. After graduation, he was back in the mountains, working as a naturalist and park interpreter in Jasper, where he wrote the first of his nine books, Handbook of the Canadian Rockies.

A dedicated conservationist who often speaks about the importance of maintaining wilderness areas and wildlife habitat, he now spends summers leading guided walks and natural history tours. In the winter, he writes and gives lectures. As an environmental activist, Gadd speaks out against practices such as selling trees cut within the national parks and promotes research that shows how regions can generate more long-term income through non-destructive tourism than through resource extraction.

He also urges individuals interested in preserving the wilderness to consider the impact of their careers and lifestyles.

“As a kid, I knew some Quakers who didn’t have much money, but they did have a good life,” Gadd says. “They taught me that the more you make, the more you take. If you have a small income, you’re actually doing less damage to the environment. That’s one way to look at conservation.”
Though water has become a hot topic in academic circles, the broader community isn’t necessarily aware of the human impact on water systems.

“Water is one of those quiet, silent things that literally flows through your life unless it’s not there. Then everything stops,” says filmmaker and University of Lethbridge alumna Denise Calderwood (MEd ’93).

Water – specifically the watershed of Alberta’s east slopes – was a natural choice for her sixth documentary, Water Resources: The East Slopes of Alberta. The film, which features researchers, ranchers and environmentalists, examines...
The Municipal District of Rocky View virtually engulfs Calgary, covering approximately one million acres of land that stretch west toward Kananaskis country, north to the town of Crossfield and east onto the open prairie. Wetlands and water bodies in the district are many, which makes Chad Willms (MSc ’05) one very busy guy.

As the municipal ecologist for Rocky View, Willms is responsible for devising management recommendations that protect the water supply within the expansive region. “The main issue we’re facing is scarcity,” Willms says. “Rivers are experiencing reduced flows – a problem that’s been compounded by increased population and the corresponding demands of development. The challenge is to find a balance between water consumption and conservation in order to maintain a healthy, sustainable supply.”

Willms works with several watershed planning and advisory councils and watershed stewardship groups, all of which operate under Alberta’s Water for Life strategy – a plan developed in 2003 to proactively safeguard the province’s water sources. Willms is also involved in best management practice policy development for Rocky View’s riparian areas and wetlands. Although he believes that water-related issues are more widely understood now than ever before, Willms maintains that many people don’t know what a watershed is or why it’s necessary to monitor and protect it.

“What most people don’t realize is that every one of us lives in a watershed area,” Willms says. “The most basic, everyday decisions we make affect the quality and quantity of our water.”

By definition, a watershed is an area of land that drains into a river, river system or other body of water. A healthy watershed will actually improve the quality of water and run-off entering water bodies by filtering out pollutants and sediments, maintaining the water balance and supporting the organisms – including humans – that depend on it. Conversely, a polluted or damaged watershed will not function properly and water quality deteriorates.

“Awareness is key,” Willms says. “Once people have the vocabulary and the facts about protecting their water supply, they get motivated to do it.”

“Water is one of those quiet, silent things that literally flows through your life unless it’s not there. Then everything stops.”

Emerson (BFA ’08), then a fourth-year student, through the Faculty of Fine Arts New Media internship program. The program is one of the many ways the U of L partners with the community, in this case to promote education about the environment.

Emerson, who now works for a Yellowknife film society, says this project provided hands-on production experience, like camera operation and video editing, and opened his eyes to the complexity of water issues and the importance of research in this area.

“We don’t see the effects of what we’re doing to our watershed today,” he says. “We could be doing horribly bad things and we wouldn’t know it for a while – and by then, it could be too late.”

Water Resources: The East Slopes of Alberta was screened at the University of Lethbridge in November 2008 and is now being used as a resource by the provincial government.
The Honourable J. Michael Miltenberger (BASc ’75,) MLA Thebacha, Deputy Premier and Minister of Environment and Natural Resources for the Northwest Territories (NWT), is acutely aware of the increasing pressure for development activity in the NWT related to oil and gas, oil sands, mining, hydro and other industrial developments. These activities place great demands on water resources, land and wildlife – a concern for both Miltenberger and his constituents.

To ensure sound management of water resources in the NWT, the government of the Northwest Territories, in Politics of preservation

“We are managing our water differently than we have in the past.”

Drilling for solutions
Working in Alberta’s oil industry, Shannon Flint works to protect the province’s other liquid gold: water.
partnership with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, is developing the Northern Voices, Northern Waters, an NWT Water Resources Management Strategy. Three key areas of focus are: transboundary water management; the protection of community public water supply sources; and aquatic ecosystem integrity. The strategy will combine traditional Aboriginal knowledge of the environment with scientific knowledge to ensure future development is sustainable and compatible with protecting aquatic ecosystems.

As water is essential to all Canadians, Miltenberger challenges citizens to better understand water-related issues and lead by example.

“Encourage your community to continue improving knowledge and understanding of water and the environment through education and research,” Miltenberger says. “Push your elected representatives to make the case with the federal government on the need for a national water strategy to ensure the protection, preservation and good management of our aquatic ecosystems from coast to coast.”

To some, the concept of environmentally sustainable economic development of the Alberta oil sands is a paradox, but to Shannon Flint (BMgt ’07), executive director of the Strategic Policy and Innovation Branch with the Oil Sands Environmental Management Division of Alberta Environment, it is a responsibility.

Located in three major deposits in northern Alberta, the oil sands generate nearly 50 per cent of Canadian oil. They also generate controversy. Those who oppose the recent increase in development voice concern about greenhouse gas emissions, pollution of fresh water supplies, deforestation and danger to wildlife.

“Some of the biggest opposition and criticism we face is from international agencies like the Sierra Legal Defence Fund and the Natural Resources Defense Council. We are accused of a free-for-all,” Flint says.

While Flint acknowledges that development certainly has an environmental impact, she is adamant that good environmental practices take place up north. As director, she creates policies and management frameworks that support environmentally sustainable development of the oil sands to mitigate the ecological impacts of this development.

“In July 2007, we implemented Specified Gas Emitters Regulation which require oil sands plants to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. We do a lot of air, water and land monitoring and have a very active reclamation program,” Flint explains.

Although water usage plays an integral part in the development of oil sands, protecting Alberta’s water supply is of paramount importance.

“We have rigorous standards in place for water quantity and quality. We take thousands of water samples per year, both down and upstream of the development, and we monitor groundwater as well,” she says. “There is a lot of water tied up in tailings ponds that is re-used back in the operation, but we are looking at technology that will reduce tailings and let us start reclaiming these ponds.”

Flint is particularly proud of the Athabasca River Water Management Framework. The framework places strict limitations on company water usage and is based on the highest level of protection for the aquatic ecosystem afforded to any major river in Canada.

“We are managing our water differently than we have in the past,” says Flint. “We need to make sure oil sands development is sustainable and generate policies that look at what we have today and what we will have in the future.”
A U of L education doesn’t just take place within the walls of classrooms. This past summer U of L management student Fiona Geldreich learned that first hand during a co-op placement in Botswana, Africa.

Geldreich was one of the more than 20 students selected to receive funding from ConocoPhillips Canada Inc. to head out on world-wide placements.

While in Botswana, she worked with Somarelang Tikologo - Environmental Watch Botswana (ST), an organization involved in many environmental projects including the operation of the only recycling centre in the country, a community organic gardening program, a playground made from recycled materials and an income generating Green Shop that sells locally-made products from recycled materials, in turn providing economic empowerment for women.

During her time in Africa, Geldreich was forced outside her comfort zone and faced multiple cultural challenges including issues such as appropriate dress, the widespread AIDS/HIV situation and language barriers.

“I was exposed to a new culture and a dynamic work environment. As a result, I became a more confident individual,” Geldreich reflects.

Taking what she had learned at the U of L, Geldreich applied textbook theory to real-life situations while serving as a PR and fundraising volunteer for ST. During the four-month term, she developed inventory databases for the Green Shop, implemented new marketing strategies and made presentations to local schools.

“It was the best experience of my life. My time in Botswana will always remain close to my heart and has inspired me to continue taking risks whether they be personal or professional,” Geldreich says. “I would do the whole thing over again in a second!”
Geldreich gives a presentation on the environment to approximately 200 local students.

During her time in Botswana, Geldreich had the opportunity to participate in a traditional dance festival, as well as a two-day wilderness safari.

Geldreich models a hat made in Botswana’s colours, made from recycled plastic bags and sold in the Green Shop.
Greetings to members and friends of the University of Lethbridge Alumni Association (ULAA):

While the academic school year is winding down, May and June are busy months for the University of Lethbridge Alumni Association as we prepare for the annual golf tournament and for our Annual General Meeting.

The John Gill Memorial Golf Tournament will be held on June 12. It is one of council’s top priorities as its purpose is to raise funds for bursaries while having fun. Our late ULAA President, John Gill (BA ’94), who initiated the golf tournament, saw the need for these bursaries to help students in financial need.

I urge you as alumni to join us either as a team, alone or with a friend, and participate in this worthwhile event. If you cannot, please consider supporting the ULAA through your presence and perhaps consider becoming involved as a member of council or by helping with alumni events.

The end of May brings us to one of the ULAA’s highlights of the year – the induction of our 2009 Alumni Honour Society Members. Congratulations to: Chris Burton (BEd ’74, DipEd ’78), Doug Colwell (BSc ’74), Delia Cross Child (BA ’96, BEd ’02), Dean Gallimore (BMgt ’84), Cecily Kenwood (BA ’78) and Guy McNab (BA ’82).

Read more about these outstanding alumni on the following page.

Welcome to the new members of the Calgary Chapter – Kristin Krause (BMgt ’05), Georgina Lieverse (BMgt ’07), Lindsay O’Neill (BMgt ’06) and Brock Melnyk (BMgt ’06) – and thank you to Luke Elford (BMgt ’04), Karen Filbert (BMgt ’90), Winky Lai (BMgt ’05) and Kelly Ngo (BMgt ’04) for their continued service. Council looks forward to working with you to ensure a strong representation of the U of L and its alumni in Calgary and the surrounding community.

Finally, as I finish my term as president, I want to thank the members of council, the chapters and all our volunteers for their dedication and commitment to the ULAA and the U of L over the past two years. Thanks also to Maureen Schwartz and Jaime Morasch (BMgt ’01) for all they do to support the Alumni Association and its chapters. I will continue to enjoy working with them as well as the present and new members during my term as past president of ULAA.

Sheila McHugh  DipEd ’84, MEd ’97
President, Alumni Association
University of Lethbridge
In celebration of the University's 35th Anniversary in 2002, the University of Lethbridge Alumni Association established the Alumni Honour Society to recognize the achievements of successful alumni within the global community. The individuals inducted into this prestigious group serve as role models through success in their vocation, outstanding community service or superior accomplishment in their avocation.

Christine Burton  
BEd (1974), DipEd (1978), BA  
Christine Burton is a champion of youth who has dedicated her life to teaching, coaching and participating in Girl Guides of Canada. Active in guiding for the past 50 years, she will take on the role of Chief Commissioner of Canada in 2009. Burton's commitment and enthusiasm to youth and the community is demonstrated through awards such as Lethbridge Woman of Distinction (1989), Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal (2002), Alberta Sports Hall of Fame (2006) and LCI Teacher of the Year (2008).

Douglas Duncan Colwell  
BASc (BSc) (1974), MSc, PhD, FRES  
Douglas Duncan Colwell is a research scientist at the Lethbridge Research Centre and is a valued adjunct professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Lethbridge. He is internationally recognized for his studies on the interactions between insect parasites and their animal hosts, and he is active on numerous top-tier editorial boards, professional associations and graduate student committees. For his expertise, integrity and substantial contribution to the field, Colwell was honoured as a Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society in 2006.

Delia Threasa Cross Child  
Delia Threasa Cross Child is a Blackfoot artist and educator whose creativity and compassion have brought pride to her community and awareness to First Nations issues. As a contemporary artist, she is known for integrating tradition and history with a modern sensibility. Her work has been exhibited at the Glenbow Museum, Walter Phillips Gallery and Southern Alberta Art Gallery. As a teacher, she has woven traditional visual literacy into her curriculum to successfully inspire and motivate learning in students.

Lawrence Dean Gallimore  
BMgt (1984), CA, CBV, FCA  
Lawrence Dean Gallimore is the office managing partner for KPMG LLP in Lethbridge. Dedicated to his profession and respected by his peers, he has received the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Alberta Distinguished Service Award (2001) and was honoured as a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Alberta (2008). Gallimore has generously served the community, chairing such committees as the Chartered Accountants Education Foundation of Alberta, the University of Lethbridge Planned Giving Advisory Committee and the Faculty of Management Advisory Committee.

Cecily Anne Kenwood  
BASc (BA) (1978), LLB  
Cecily Anne Kenwood is a local lawyer who has devoted much time to the Lethbridge community. She was a long-time member of the Lethbridge Regional Legal Aid committee and received an award of recognition from Legal Aid Alberta in 2008. At the University of Lethbridge, Kenwood has served as vice-president of the Alumni Association and as a member of the Senate. In addition, she has been a board member with diverse organizations including the Lethbridge John Howard Society, St. Michael’s Health Centre, Waterton Beargrass Festival and Nikka Yuko Japanese Gardens.

Alan Guy McNab  
BASc (BA) (1982), LLB  
Alan Guy McNab is a partner at MacLachlan McNab Hembroff, Barristers and Solicitors, in Lethbridge. He has served as counsel for the federal government of Canada on various provincial inquiries, volunteered his time providing public legal education workshops since 1990 and is an active member of the Lethbridge Legal Guidance Society. During his time on the University of Lethbridge Board of Governors, McNab was respected as a leading member who made significant investments of time and effort on behalf of the institution.
May 27, Lethbridge
Alumni Celebration
Please join us in celebrating the 2009 Alumni Honour Society inductees: Chris Burton (BEd ’74, DipEd ’78), Doug Colwell (BSc ’74), Delia Cross Child (BA ’96, BEd ’02), Dean Gallimore (BMgt ’84), Cecily Kenwood (BA ’78) and Guy McNab (BA ’82).
Wine and cheese reception.
Location: U of L Students’ Union Ballroom
Time: 7 p.m.
RSVP by May 25.

June 3, Medicine Hat
Medicine Hat Reception
Join U of L President Dr. Bill Cade and your fellow alumni at the Esplanade Museum.
Location: Esplanade Arts & Heritage Centre (401 First Street SE)
Time: 5 p.m.
RSVP by May 29.

June 26, Calgary
Annual Calgary Chapter Golf Tournament
Alumni and friends, register now for this popular golf tournament in Calgary.
Location: Silverwing Golf Course (3434 48 Avenue NE)
Time: Shotgun start at 2 p.m.
Registration: $125 (registration due by June 10)
To register, contact: kfilbert@shaw.ca

June 17, Lethbridge
ULAA Annual General Meeting
Get involved and find out what is planned for your Alumni Association in 2009/2010.
Wine and cheese reception.
Location: U of L Coulee Junction Café
Time: 7 p.m.

June 12, Lethbridge
John Gill Memorial Golf Tournament
Support U of L students while enjoying a round of golf with alumni and friends. A portion of all entry fees will go toward bursaries to assist students in financial need.
Location: Picture Butte Golf Club
Time: Shotgun start at 1 p.m.
Registration: $150
Deadline to register is May 29.

May 28, Calgary
Pints, Platters and Patios
Come out and meet fellow U of L alumni in Calgary at this casual mix n’ mingle event. There is no cost to attend and appetizers will be provided.
Location: The Barley Mill (201 Barclay Place SW)
Time: 5 p.m.
To RSVP, e-mail Georgina Lieverse at: georgina.lieverse@gmail.com

September 17, Lethbridge
Health Sciences Alumni Dinner and Lecture
Health Sciences alumni are invited to reconnect with the U of L and fellow classmates. The alumni dinner will be followed by a public lecture featuring veteran Canadian Diplomat Stephen Lewis.
Dinner: 5:30 p.m.
Lecture: 7 p.m.
To RSVP, contact the Faculty of Health Sciences at 403-329-2699.

To RSVP, for more information or to volunteer for any of these events, e-mail alumni@uleth.ca or call 403-317-2825. Watch for more details on these and other upcoming events by visiting: www.ulethbridge.ca/alumni
WHAT’S NEW?
SHARE YOUR NEWS WITH US

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

News and notes from your classmates

'70s

Grant Ford BEd '71
“Following graduation from the U of L, I taught high school English and drama in Rimbee, Alta. I then chose a new career path in medicine and attended Lethbridge College. I graduated from the nursing program in 1974 and practised as a medical surgical RN for a number of years at the Lethbridge Municipal Hospital. In 1988, I transferred to the Royal Island Hospital in Kamloops, B.C. I am presently retired.”

John Nagy BASc ’71
For 14 years, Nagy researched grizzly bear populations for the Northwest Territories, Alberta and British Columbia. He also taught ecology and wildlife management at Lethbridge College for three years. Currently, Nagy is a senior biologist for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the Government of Northwest Territories, in Yellowknife. He is a PhD candidate (biological sciences) at the University of Alberta.

Donald Johnson BASc ’72
Johnson is president of the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties.

Norman Sheen BEd ’72
“Since retiring from teaching, I have enjoyed being a substitute teacher. I also spend my time on our acreage tending our few animals, working in our garden, and keeping our lawns and flower gardens beautiful. We are kept busy attending the numerous activities of our grandchildren in sports and cultural events.”

Edward Hofman BASc ’73
“I now have more than 33 years as a wildlife biologist with Alberta Fish and Wildlife, Sustainable Resource Development. I started in Lethbridge in 1974, then transferred to Brooks (1978), Red Deer (1988), Hanna (1994), Strathmore (2000) and finally Drumheller in 2004. My wife and I plan to retire in the Hanna area soon.”

Gary Yamashita BASc ’74
“I survived hurricane Charley in 2004, which destroyed my office. I have rebuilt a clinic in Port Charlotte, Fl.a.”

Gary Duell BASc ’76
“After being involved in the ownership and management of New Way Irrigation Ltd. in Taber, Lethbridge and Brooks for 30 years, I now own and operate a photo studio, Prairie Sky Photography, with my wife Beverly.”

Marilyn Kimmitt BEd ’76, DipEd ’85
“I have been living in Banff since 1982. After 34 years of teaching, I retired in June 2008.”

Jim Hillyer BEd ’77, MEd ’91
“Marianne and I started when the U of L was located at Lethbridge College. Her student number ended with 106 and mine ended with 114. We were just eight people apart on registration day and didn’t know it. I lived in the ATCO residence buildings and met Marianne when we both entered residence when the university opened in its present location. Marianne was in C321, and I was C333. We met often in the walkover on level D to watch TV and to do laundry, etc. We had many great and lasting friendships among our fellow students and faculty. Eleven of our children are grown and have left the roost. We are still raising the last three.”

Irene Pfeffel BASc ’77
“I am a client services coordinator with Persons with Developmental Disabilities, a division of Alberta Seniors and Community Supports.”

Alice Sheen BEd ’77, DipEd ’79, MEd ’87
“Since retiring from teaching and being a counsellor at Cardston High School, I went to the University of Calgary and obtained a degree in social work. I have worked at LDS Family Services in Lethbridge as a caseworker/counsellor for the past 15 years.”

Larry Nickel BEd ’78
Nickel has been a high school performing arts teacher for 25 years, teaching concert band, jazz ensembles, choir and drama. During this time, he has directed more than 50 stage productions, including several Gilbert and Sullivan operettas. He is an active music festival adjudicator and clinician. In 2001 and 2002, his senior choir was selected as Best of High School Choirs by Varsity Voclals’. In 2003, Nickel took a leave from teaching to pursue a doctorate in composition, which he completed in 2007.

Joanne Ovren BEd ’78
“I began my degree when the University was still housed at Lethbridge Community College in 1963. I taught full time and as a substitute teacher in Lethbridge and area for many years, taking time off to raise two daughters with my husband, Rick. I ended up working in libraries; obtaining a full-time position in the U of L Library in 1990 and am still here today. I love being a part of the University community, particularly my involvement with the students. I’m looking forward to retirement years when I will get to spend more time with my four grandchildren!”

Carmen Mikhail BASc ’79
Mikhail is an assistant professor in the Department of Pediatrics, Psychiatry and Behavioral Science at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. She is also director of the Eating Disorders Clinic at the Texas Children’s Hospital.

Dale Pytcia BASc ’85
Pytcia is the senior manager of licensing and merchandising for Hockey Canada (formerly known as the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association). In charge of creating revenue streams for HC, Pytcia sets up licensing contracts that allow companies access to intellectual property and trademark designs. Royalties generated from merchandise support grassroots hockey programs across the country.

Kim Lynch-Staunton BASc ’81
Lynch-Staunton is the communications coordinator for the Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools and a director for the Friends of the Royal Alberta Museum Society.

Alan Riley BASc ’81
Riley is coordinator of the golf management program at Grant MacEwan College.

Barbara Warren BEd ’81
“Having retired from teaching, my husband and I spend the winter months in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. While there, I spend my time working with pastels and John spends his time teaching English to the local children.”

Denise Bekkerin BEd ’82
“Harry and I have moved to Calgary after living in Saskatoon for five years. I am teaching at Lester B. Pearson High School.”

Mary-Jean Newman BEd ’83
“I am a full-time senior kindergarten teacher at St. Gregory Catholic Elementary School. I have been here for seven years, after returning from teaching and working in Thailand for four years.”

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.
Ruth Hempsey BEd ’84, BASc ’87
“After we moved to Edmonton in 1987, I worked in the reference department of the Edmonton Public Libraries’ main branch for several years, but left when I was overtaken by ill health. I am now retired. My husband retired a few years ago from a long career with the provincial government’s transportation department and is now working part-time as a professional engineer for a private company.”

Denise Dirk-Feininger BEd ’86
“I am currently working as the curriculum and instruction coordinator for the Medicine Hat Catholic School Division.”

Mark Mauthner BASc ’86
Mauthner is assistant curator and museum data specialist for the Gemological Institute of American in Carlsbad, Calif.

Maureen Newton BFA ’86
Newton has recently opened an art studio and gallery called Inspire Studio and Gallery in Medicine Hat. It is her painting studio and where she teaches drawing and painting classes to students of all ages. Inspire has a gallery that features not only the artwork of Newton but also that of other local artists. In 2008, Inspire Studio and Gallery won the Chinkon Entrepreneur Challenge.

Karen Reid BMgt ’86
Reid was recently honoured as a Fellow of the Society of Management Accountants of Canada. Reid resides in Lethbridge and is the chief financial officer for Charlton & Hill Group. She sits on Charlton & Hill Group’s Executive Leadership Team and oversees the accounting operations for three companies.

Wesley King-Hunter BSc/Bed ’88
“I moved to Medicine Hat in 1988 and currently am my 21st year as a teacher and administrator at Medicine Hat High School. I have spent numerous summers working with the Alberta provincial volleyball team and the Team Canada national volleyball team at different age levels.”

Trevor Movibrey BMgt ’91
Movibrey is president of St. City Roasters Ltd. and Spirit Bear Coffee Company Ltd., which specializes in organic and naturally certified coffees.

Memorese Walter BED ’91, MEd ’04
“I’m back up in the Peace Country, teaching again after a two-year personal leave, during which time I did contract work for an educational software company in Edmonton. It’s nice to be ‘home’.”

Ken Boessenkool BMgt ’92
In January, Boessenkool moved from Hill & Knowlton to Grey Communications Inc. Canada (GCI) to launch a public affairs practice. GCI is a Toronto-based communications company.

Judith Dormaar BA ’93, MEd ’03
Dormaar has owned Clasique Dancewear in Lethbridge for 14 years and recently opened up a contemporary home fashion store called Nicholai. As well, she has taught at Lethbridge College in the fashion design and merchandising program for the past nine years.

Chris Ryder BMgt ’93
“I got my chartered accountant designation in 1996 and later joined Dia Met Minerals Ltd. as controller. Dia Met was sold to BHP Billiton in 2001, and I am now the marketing director for BHP Billiton Diamonds, responsible for global handling, marketing strategy and sales of diamonds. I am based in Antwerp, Belgium—the world centre for the rough diamond trade—and also serve on the global BHP Billiton marketing executive committee as well as the diamonds and specialty products executive committee. Each is responsible for governance and global strategy in their respective categories. My wife Janet and I enjoy travelling and attending concerts and music festivals. We will likely return to Kelowna, B.C., once the time comes.”

Dwayne Latty BSc ’95
Latty is a fisheries biologist for Alberta Sustainable Resource Development.

Kevin Gaudet BA ’91
In 2007, Gaudet began working as the Ontario director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation (CTF) and became the federal director in January 2009. As director, he is responsible for looking at all policy matters relating to the federal government. The CTF advocates for lower taxes, less waste and a more accountable government. Gaudet does whatever is necessary to get that message out, whether it is planning a rally or presenting his flat tax message on the television show Dragons’ Den.
bronze horses with riders going full gallop. The enlargement and wax clay will be done by Peyachew, with the casting and bronzing completed by the Shidoni Foundry in Santa Fe, N.M. The sculpture is planned to be unveiled by the end of September 2009. Peyachew has been an assistant professor at the University of Regina and the First Nations University of Canada for the past four years.

Ellice Schneider BSc/BMgt ‘98
"We welcomed our second child, Jacob, in April 2008. Jacob is regularly adorned with kisses and punches from his big brother, Joshua, who was born in November 2006."

Connie Blomgren MED ‘99
"I am currently a postdoctoral research associate in the Department of Oral Biology, College of Dentistry at the University of Florida."

J. Todd Lybbert BA/Bed ‘99
Lybbert is a teacher (math, physical education) at Willow Creek Composite High School in Claresholm, as well as athletic director and head football coach.

‘00s
Michael Chikinda BMus ‘00
Chikinda completed his PhD in music theory at The State University of New York at Stony Brook. Chikinda completed his PhD in music theory at The State University of New York at Stony Brook.

Jason Masuda BSc ‘00, MSc ‘02
"Since January 2008, I have been an assistant professor at Saint Mary’s University. I specialize in inorganic chemistry."

Teri Lindquist Bed ‘01
Lindquist is an MEd student in teacher librarianship at the University of British Columbia.

Christina MacMillan BMgt ‘02, MgmtCert ‘08
"I am an HR advisor for the Edmonton division of Thomas and Betts. I am also still trying to go through all my miscellaneous boxes from moving so much."

Betty Poulsen Bed ‘02
After graduation from the U of L, Poulsen started a dance program at Lethbridge Collegiate Institute. Currently this is the only full high school dance program south of Calgary. The program produces two shows each year and offers travel study trips every two years. Students engage in field trips, work with professionals, participate in residencies with professionals and take in summer school opportunities.

Tracy Quinton BA ‘02
Quinton is an agricultural management instructor at Lakeland College in Vermillion.

Karan Sonpar MSc ‘02
"I’ve finished my PhD (I can’t believe it) and am now working as an assistant professor of strategy at the Instituto de Empresa in Spain, which is consistently ranked among the top 10 business schools of the world. Lethbridge was so foundational and essential to my success!"

Jessica Williamson BMgt ‘02
Williamson won the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce ABEX Young Entrepreneur of the Year award for her successful active-wear store in Moose Jaw, Sask.

Landon Kowalzik BA ‘03, Bed ‘06
Kowalzik is the social studies department head at Ecole Sir John Franklin High School in Yellowknife.

Aaron Bilawchuk BFA ‘04
Bilawchuk is working for White Iron Digital in Calgary. He assisted on the visual effects team for the Shaw high-speed internet “Snailskis” campaign, which won Best in Show at W3, an international web competition.

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Transdiscipline: In the Search for New Forms of Theatrical Expression
Lily Marquez MA ‘06
Marquez, the U of L Faculty of Fine Arts’ first international graduate student (Mexico), has published her master’s thesis. This document describes and analyzes the process of research and production for the experimental play Via Marina: A Woman’s Journey. Based on the author’s personal experience between the Mexican and the Canadian lifestyles, Via Marina presents a vision toward the benefits of transdisciplinarity for the stage.

Michael Davie BMgt ‘94
Davie’s first novel, Fishing for Bacon, follows Bacon Sobelowski, an 18-year-old boy with an absentee father, a neglectful mother and the worst timing one can possibly have. And all he wants is to find his “someone.”
Angela Grier BA '03
Grier is pursuing her master’s of counselling at the U of L while working as an academic assistant in the Addictions Counselling program in the Faculty of Health Sciences. Grier has been a presenter at the Aboriginal Sovereignty Series at the Banff Centre since 2002, and this past fall she taught a course on First Nations family and community development in the U of L’s Department of Native American Studies.

full-ride scholarship to complete my MBA in San Antonio, Texas. In February, I will take a position teaching business classes at a university in China."

Laurie Johnston MEd ’06
"After serving for two years as vice-principal at R. D. Parker Collegiate in Thompson, Man., I have returned to Alberta. I am now a vice-principal at Foothills Composite High School/Alberta High School of Fine Arts in Okotoks."

Patrick Sulatsky BMgt ’06
Sulatsky is the owner and operator of a Calgary-based sport and tourism business called Glory Kiteboarding. He is also a certified instructor with the International Kiteboarding Organization.

Tamara Wasiak BSc ’06
Wasiak recently graduated from the University of British Columbia with a master of science degree and is working for the Richmond School District as a master of science degree and is working for the Richmond School District as a

Morteza Ahmadi MSc ’07
"I am currently a PhD student at the department of system design engineering at the University of Waterloo, working in the advanced nano and micro device lab."

Colby Czeke BFA ’07
Czeke is an actor and playwright who has worked with the Downstage Performance Society in a number of productions since moving to Calgary in 2007. He has also been a part of Alberta Theatre Projects’ playRites Festival, One Yellow Rabbit’s High Performance Rodeo, and Sage Theatre’s Ignite! Festival, as well as a number of Fringe Festival productions across Alberta and Saskatchewan. Czeke is also a stand-up comedian and an ensemble member of Tickle Trunk Theatre, a theatre for young audiences company that promotes literacy through the arts."

Mitchell Eastley BSc ’07
"I’m working for the City of Steinbach as a GIS developer/technician maintaining the City’s GIS database for all city infrastructures and ensuring that our staff has the most up-to-date GIS information and resources at their request."

Ashley M. Fox BSc ’08
Fox was awarded the Northlands Leader of Tomorrow award which recognizes volunteers under the age of 25. She was nominated by the Farmfair International Beef Show committee for her contribution to programming that ensures sustainability of agriculture and youth opportunities in the beef industry. Specifically, she chaired the Junior Beef Showcase program. She is working toward a professional agrologist designation through the Alberta Institute of Agrologists. Fox is currently employed with Cargill AgHorizons as an assistant farm marketing representative.

Rob Izsak BMgt ’08
"I am employed by Rogers Sugar in Taber as an HR generalist. This position has helped me stay in southern Alberta and close to my four-year-old son Trysten."

Deryk Nilsson BA/BMgt ’08
"I am working as a financial analyst for Nexen Inc., a Canadian-based international oil and gas company. It’s an excellent position that I was offered seven months before graduation. I give a great deal of credit to the U of L’s co-op program for getting me where I am today. It’s a truly excellent program that puts you ahead of the crowd."

Andrea Nwobosi BMgt ’08
"I got married on July 23, 2008, in the Mayan Riviera, Mexico. Since graduating, I took the summer off and was recently hired as a store manager with Reitmans. I’m excited to put my management degree to work!"

Emma Parkinson BMus ’08
Mezzo-soprano Parkinson has been cast to sing in The Tragedy of Carmen at the Banff Centre this summer. Parkinson was the winner of the 2007 Lethbridge Symphony Orchestra Young Artists Competition. She travelled to Cuba with the U of L Singers in 2007."

Kurtis Pratt BA ’08
"I was accepted into the Alberta Governments Municipal Internship program and will be working for the Town of Raymond until at least May 2009."

Sandra Sommerville BFA/Bed ’08
"Surprisingly, I actually only started substitute teaching a few weeks ago. For the past year, I have been working as a professional fire performer and motivational speaker in schools. I learned about fire spinning while at the U of L and fell in love with it. After graduation, I decided to pursue my passion and so far I’ve performed in Hawaii and Las Vegas. Getting my teaching degree gave me both the confidence to get in front of a crowd and the organizational skills needed to run a business. It’s been a great experience all around."

Andrea Sproxton BA/BEd ’08
Sproxton has been nominated for the Alberta School Boards Association Edwin Parr Award, which is awarded to first-year teachers who demonstrate instructional excellence.

IN MEMORIAM

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

Agnes M. Monroe BEd ’75
passed away on July 24, 2008.

Irma E. Paul BEd ’74
passed away on July 29, 2008.

Helen M. MacKenzie BEd ’79
passed away on Oct. 16, 2008.

Judith C. Lopez-Damian MEd ’08
passed away on Nov. 10, 2008.

Myrna L. Churchill BN ’82
passed away on Nov. 11, 2008.

Marjorie Haugen BEd ’72
passed away on Dec. 12, 2008.

Erik O. Goble BEd ’84

Eileen Moltzahn BEd ’78
passed away on April 6, 2009.

Cody Maves BMgt ’08
passed away on April 10, 2009.

Carl Granzow
passed away on April 11, 2009.

As a founding member of the University of Lethbridge Faculty of Fine Arts (Art Department), Carl Granzow was an internationally–known sculptor, long-serving U of L faculty member, lecturer, creative influence and friend to many on campus and off.

Recently, Granzow had worked with the U of L Grounds staff to create the 100-Tree Grove, a project that consists of a large planting of trees and a rock spiral sculpture on a hill overlooking the lake on the U of L campus.

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As you read through this issue, you’ll notice a theme flowing through the pages: water.

Water is our most precious resource. It’s the source of all life on Earth, and it’s an important economic and strategic resource. It’s also a research focus at the University of Lethbridge.

In fall 2008, years of hard work by many people came to fruition when we opened the Alberta Water and Environmental Science Building (AWESB). This new facility houses some of the world’s foremost scientists and enthusiastic graduate students who are making significant strides in research and discovery. In this issue of the Journal, we proudly provide a glimpse into the AWESB and some of the fascinating research our faculty members and students are engaged in.

U of L alumni are also making big waves in environment-related fields locally, provincially and abroad. I hope you enjoy reading about your fellow alumni:

Kevin Rumsey (BSc ’00), Stephanie Palechek (BSc ’01), Ben Gadd (BASc ’72), Chad Willms (MSc ’05), Denise Calderwood (MEd ’93), Jeremy Emerson (BFA ’08), Shannon Flint (BMgt ’07) and J. Michael Miltenberger (BASc ’75) and the outstanding work they are doing in their respective areas.

Last summer, U of L co-op student Fiona Geldreich travelled to Africa to work with an organization implementing eco-friendly solutions in Botswana. She shares her photos and experiences with us in the Travel Journal.

As always, this issue of the Journal highlights all the exciting news and events that have taken place on campus as well as within the University of Lethbridge Alumni Association. I encourage you to stay connected with the U of L and share your story with the Alumni Office.

In the fall, we will debut a new University of Lethbridge magazine. You’ll continue to see your favourite features from the Journal in the new magazine, along with many new ones. Watch for it this fall.

Sincerely,

Bill Cade, PhD
President and Vice-Chancellor
Professor of Biological Sciences
How does graduate studies impact the globe?

Shilo Andrews, an MSc candidate working with Dr. Larry Flanagan, is conducting research that will help to determine the consequences of climate changes, such as warmer temperatures and shifts in the availability of water sources for the growth and functioning of mountain trees.

By combining expertise and experience from a range of academic disciplines, she can make use of a variety of research tools to better understand the functioning of plants, ecosystems and the atmosphere as an integrated system.

It’s a unique approach to research that is made possible because of the U of L’s new Alberta Water and Environmental Science Building, a state-of-the-art facility which unites scientists from biology, chemistry, geography and physics.

“Being part of the first wave of graduate students at the new Alberta Water and Environmental Science Building has been amazing. I’m especially thrilled to be so close to the foothills and Rocky Mountains where my fieldwork takes place.”

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At 40, I went back to school to fulfill my lifelong aspiration to become a nurse. I never anticipated the self-satisfaction and enjoyment going back to school would bring.

My professors were approachable and truly cared about my success. The nursing program’s problem-based learning style enabled me to develop my critical thinking abilities – skills that I use every day.

A few years into my program, my daughter Stacy joined the U of L. Together, we shared in the joys and struggles of learning. Stacy graduated in 2008, two short years after me.

As a U of L alumnus and as a father, I believe in education.

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We are Daniel and Stacy Derksen
THIS IS OUR U
The U of L has a 42-year history of excellence in education. Share the tradition in your family.

Application deadline: June 30
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