

SPRING 2012

Diversity

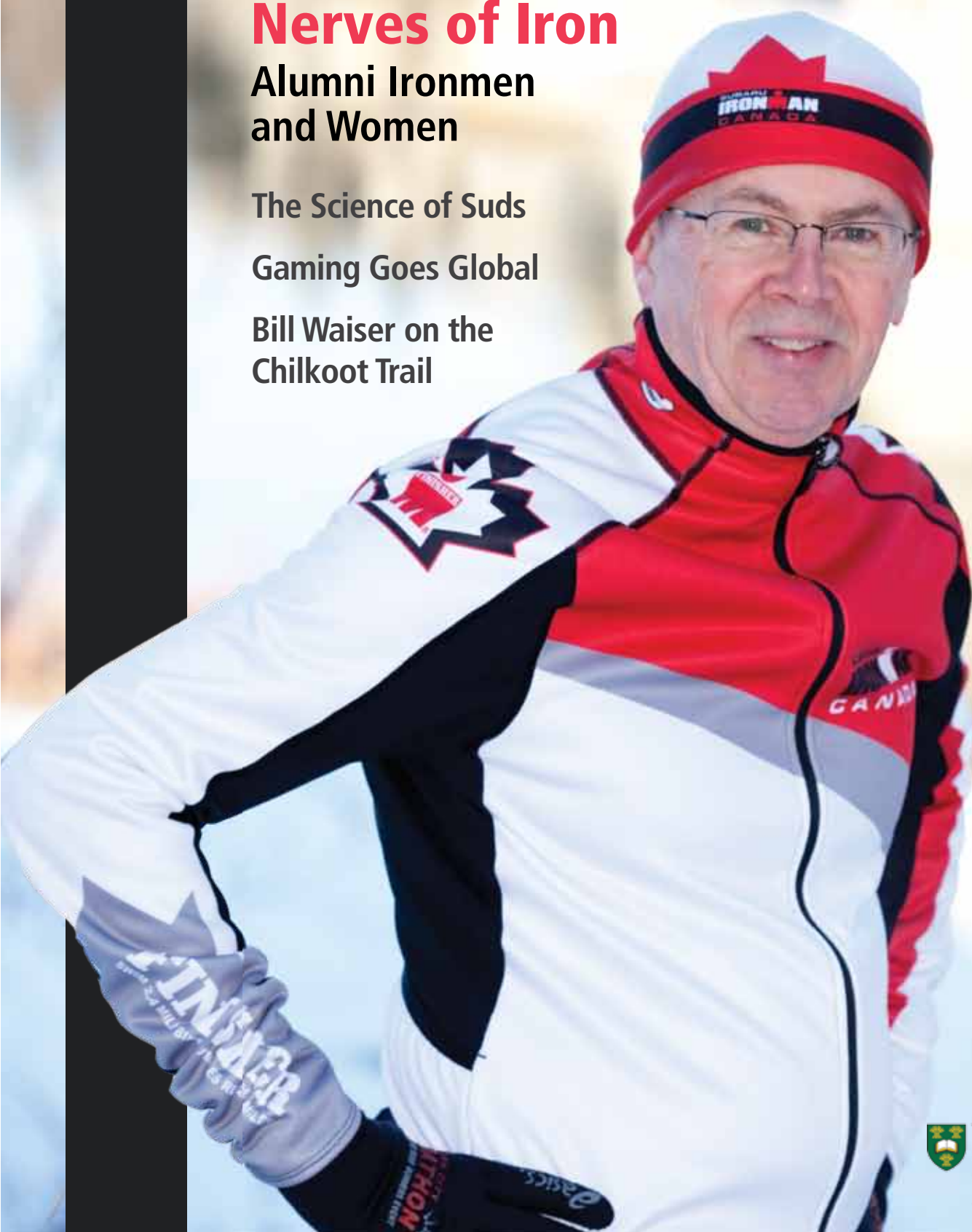
THE MAGAZINE FOR ARTS AND SCIENCE ALUMNI

Nerves of Iron Alumni Ironmen and Women

The Science of Suds

Gaming Goes Global

Bill Waiser on the
Chilkoot Trail



live & learn

Centre for Continuing & Distance Education



Brad started his career in the heart of Canada's Parliament and now works for the **Associate Vice-President, Information and Communications Technology**. In his spare time, you'll find him waxing show cars. He recently took our **Business Writing and Grammar Workout** to help polish his skills outside the garage.

Brad Flavell

2007: BA History & Philosophy (U of S)

2006-07: VP Academic (USSU)

2004-06: Member of Student Council (Arts & Science Students' Union)

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On the cover: Ironman Ian Colvine (photo: Karee Davidson)
 Top: Ian Colvine (Karee Davidson); bottom, left to right: Marie Lannoo (Shannon Brunner);
 Roman Shklanka (Mauricio Orozco); Bill Waiser (submitted)
 Background: detail of TTT #20 by Marie Lannoo (Shannon Brunner)

IN CONVERSATION WITH DEAN PETER STOICHEFF

A professor in the Department of English since 1986, Peter Stoicheff was named Dean of the College of Arts & Science in 2010. Born and raised in Ontario, Stoicheff completed his undergraduate studies at Queen's University and his graduate work at the University of Toronto. An author and contributor to books on American poetry, the history and future of the book, and literature and science, Stoicheff is also an accomplished classical guitarist. He has produced two acoustic guitar CDs, *Cantos 1* and *Ethereal Steel*, and is currently working on his third.



DiversitA&S: What role do you see alumni playing in the College's future?

DEAN STOICHEFF: Certainly engaging with students, that's one of the main things. There are many alumni who could talk to students about how they can find their way to success through an arts and science degree. I have talked to several alumni who are really excited about doing that, and I am really excited about them doing it. It's not based on income, but on experience....It could be young alumni, older alumni, they all have relevant things to tell our current students about how they can find their way through an arts and science degree and how the degree can lead to all kinds of success.

I think we need to focus on Aboriginal alumni. First and foremost, they can speak to Aboriginal students in their first year, as well as prospective Aboriginal students, about how they achieved success and found their way in the world after attending our college. That is something we have never done before and it could be enormously important.

There has been a lot of recent media attention surrounding the rising cost of a post-secondary education throughout the country. Why is a post-secondary education—in particular an education in arts and science—a worthwhile investment?

We know that our grads get higher paying jobs and find their way into their careers more quickly than people who do not have a university degree.

But leaving aside statistics, there is a real value in this college regarding all the disciplines and perspectives that a student can be exposed to. The challenges we face as a society will be solved only by bringing a variety of perspectives to the table. You are not going to get those perspectives from a single vocational institute or degree. It is only a college like ours that has the capacity to offer that.

We also offer skills in communication, leadership, good writing and, increasingly, in Aboriginal culture understandings and sensitivities. All those things create a package that is extremely attractive to employers.

Being an accomplished musician, how do you view Saskatoon's creative and cultural scene?

That Saskatoon is such a culturally vibrant, energetic and community-oriented city is certainly something that has motivated me to stay and raise my family here. It is a city that reflects what Richard Florida talks about when he talks about creative cities. It has the three Ts: talent, tolerance and technology—so I wasn't surprised when it was identified as a cultural capital of Canada.

I have been able to do things, guitar-wise, here that I wouldn't have been able to do in any other place. There are a ton of recording studios and performance venues I've been able to use, and that has been really great. If you're expressive artistically, Saskatoon is a place that is going to be valued.

Since taking this position, I'm sure you've encountered a lot of new challenges and pressures from both within and outside the college. What are some of your sources of inspiration? How do you derive energy for your work?

That is a great question, and there are a lot of ways of answering that. The one thing that allows me to stay optimistic about our ability to meet the challenges facing us is that we have loads of really, really good people here. I continually hear about exciting new work that's taking place, and meet people who care about the mission of their department and the college as a whole. So that is extremely uplifting.

Of course, we have our disagreements, but ultimately it's a really strong community and you can feel it wherever you are on this campus. We also have really great people in administrative positions across campus. I watch a lot of people in senior administrative positions with some awe, and I'm always learning from them.

I still get to do some of my own research, and writing and thinking academically, so I really appreciate that. I compose on the guitar and have another CD in the works, my third, and I find that really nourishing as well.

This interview has been edited and condensed. (photo: Dave Stobbe)

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DiversitA&S

THE MAGAZINE FOR ARTS AND SCIENCE ALUMNI

Contributors



Shannon Boklaschuk (BA'00)

After completing her BA at the U of S, Shannon Boklaschuk headed to Halifax to study journalism at the University of King's College. She is now pursuing a master's of public policy degree at the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy and is employed full-time as a communications coordinator on campus. Boklaschuk also writes for the *Saskatoon Express* and was previously a reporter at *The StarPhoenix* and the *Edmonton Sun*.



Mark A. Ferguson (BA'03)

Mark Ferguson majored in English at the U of S before studying journalism at the University of King's College in Halifax. Ferguson has worked as a reporter, photographer and freelance writer in Canada and Taiwan. He currently works in media relations on campus and calls Saskatoon home. His writing can be seen regularly in *On Campus News* at the U of S.



Stephen Johnson (BA'95)

Steve Johnson graduated from the U of S with a BA in History, and currently lives in Ottawa with his wife and son. His passions include playing trains with his son, writing and cheering on the Saskatchewan Roughriders. When asked to do a story about brewmaster, Patrick Fiori, and the art of brewing beer, Johnson thought he had landed the dream assignment of any avid freelance writer and beer drinker.



John Lagimodiere (BA'06)

John Lagimodiere is the president of ACS Aboriginal Consulting Services and the editor/publisher of *Eagle Feather News*. He has hosted the award-winning national CBC radio show "As If," and delivered Aboriginal awareness training to many corporate and government clients. He is a recipient of the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal and was honoured with a Living in Harmony Award from the City of Saskatoon in 2006.



Kirk Sibbald (BA'04)

The editor of *DiversitA&S*, Kirk Sibbald completed a BA in English at the U of S before receiving an MA in journalism at the University of Western Ontario. After working as editor of the *Lloydminster Source* newspaper, Sibbald returned to Saskatoon and has been a communications officer in the College of Arts & Science since 2008. A proud father of two young girls, Sibbald's appreciation for language is heightened every day, particularly by his eldest daughter who, "wikes the ooniversity."



Bill Waiser (MA'76, PHD'83)

Bill Waiser's kids always thought he worked at the University of Saskatchewan farm because he would take them there on the weekends to see the animals. It came as something of a surprise for them to learn that he was actually a History professor. A member of the history department since 1984, Waiser is at present A.S. Morton Research Chair and a University of Saskatchewan Distinguished Professor.

Photos: Kirk Sibbald (Dave Stobbe), Bill Waiser (John Perret)

News briefs



(Left to right): Guy Vanderhaeghe (Margaret Vanderhaeghe); Beverley Brenna (courtesy of *On Campus News*); Kim Rossmo (file photo).

Vanderhaeghe Completes Trilogy

Nationally-renowned author Guy Vanderhaeghe's latest novel, *A Good Man* (2011), concluded his western trilogy, which began with *The Englishman's Boy* (1996) and *The Last Crossing* (2003).

Like the two preceding novels, *A Good Man* was released to critical acclaim and explores relationships between Canadians, Americans and First Nations. The last book in Vanderhaeghe's trilogy, it fittingly focuses on the end of the wild west and emergence of social order.

Vanderhaeghe (BA'71, MA'75) has established a reputation as one of Canada's finest and most internationally-recognized writers. His work has won or been shortlisted for numerous national and international awards over the past three decades, and he has been appointed to both the Royal Society of Canada and Order of Canada. Vanderhaeghe also named an inaugural College of Arts & Science Alumni of Influence in 2009.

Brenna Nets Book Prize

Children's author Beverley Brenna (BE'd'84, ME'd'91, BA'02) received the 2012 Dolly Gray Award for her latest book, *Waiting For No One*.

Her seventh title for young people, the book focuses on Taylor Jane Simon, a fictional 19-year-old with Asperger Syndrome. The Dolly Gray Award is presented by the American Council for Exceptional Children: Division of Autism and Developmental Disabilities.

Waiting For No One is the second in a three-book series. The first in the series was *Wild Orchid* (2005), and the third book, entitled *The White Bicycle*, will be published later this year.

Brenna, who was born and raised in Saskatoon, is currently an assistant professor in the College of Education, where she teaches curriculum courses and specializes in literacy and children's literature.

Rossmo Questions Pickton Investigation

Criminal profiler Kim Rossmo (BA'78), a former police detective turned criminal profiler, has been pulled into an inquiry aiming to find out why serial killer Robert Pickton wasn't arrested earlier.

Rossmo—who was named an inaugural Arts & Science Alumni of Influence in 2009—was working with the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) in 1998 and wanted to issue a public warning about a possible serial killer on the city's east side.

Testifying at the Missing Women Inquiry in January, Rossmo said he was prepared to issue a press release about the 27 women who were reported missing from the area over two decades, but his efforts were nixed by the VPD inspector overseeing the major crimes and missing persons unit.

At that time, Rossmo was considered a serial murder expert and had become the first police officer in Canada to earn a PhD in criminology. Throughout the inquiry, Rossmo noted several issues with the way this case was handled by the VPD, and said he believes Pickton could have been caught as early as 1999 if appropriate resources were granted for the investigation.

Rossmo is currently chair of criminology at Texas State University and head of the Centre for Geospatial Intelligence and Investigation. His methodologies, which combine geography and forensics, have gained widespread acceptance in law enforcement circles and been used to develop TV series and Hollywood thrillers.

Letters to the Editor

DiversitA&S welcomes letters from readers about articles in the magazine but cannot print or personally respond to all letters received. Please keep letters to 250 words or fewer. All letters are subject to editing for space and clarity. Please direct letters for publication "to the editor." Email us at: cdar@artsandscience.usask.ca



Frederick Mulder alongside his donated Picasso prints at the U of S on Jan. 30. (Dave Stobbe)

From Philosophy to Picasso

On Jan. 30, art dealer, philanthropist and philosophy grad Frederick Mulder (BA'64), one of the College's 2012 Alumni of Influence (see page 17), announced his donation of six prints by Pablo Picasso to the University of Saskatchewan's art collection.

"Picasso was one of the world's great artists, and it's been a wonderful, strange journey from a small prairie town to dealing in his work, meeting his family and his printers, and now bringing his work to the University of Saskatchewan," said Mulder.

Five of the prints were donated in honour of Saskatchewan people who are significant to Mulder: Rudy Krutzen, whom Mulder credits with "turning him on to philosophy;" photographer Courtney Milne; Don Kerr, Mulder's first U of S professor; and Peter Millard, a fellow alumnus who influenced Mulder's career in art. Mulder also donated a piece to honour U of S President Peter MacKinnon.



Geology alumnus Rui Feng (Dave Stobbe)

Geology Alumnus Rui Feng Donates \$1.1M Toward Scholarships

The U of S celebrated a \$1.1-million gift on Oct. 12, 2011 from Rui Feng (PhD'92), a U of S alumnus who completed his doctorate in geology. The gift will provide funding for scholarships for both undergraduate and graduate students in geological sciences, and an additional award for a graduate student in any discipline.

The winners of the geological sciences awards for 2011 were Dawson Holloway, John Shymr and Jinru Lin, and the College of Graduate Studies and Research will choose the first winner in another discipline in 2012.

"It's very nice to see my hard work in academics rewarded financially," said Holloway. "To receive

such a generous gift is a huge benefit, and hopefully it will encourage me to work even harder going forward. It's people like Mr. Feng who help make the U of S a great school, and it's an honour to be recognized with this award."

"We have a very strong, proud group of alumni that appreciate the value of giving back to students," said Vice-President Advancement, Heather Magotiaux. "Gifts like this one from Rui Feng support our commitment to provide students with additional opportunities."

Feng received his PhD in 1992 and became president and CEO of Spokane Resources in 2003, which became Silvercorp in 2005. Silvercorp has its headquarters in Vancouver, B.C. The gift was made in March 2011, and student scholarship winners were notified in September.



A Toolkit for Treatment

BY JOHN LAGIMODIERE (BA'06)

(photo: John Lagimodiere)

After her own battle with substance abuse, Jenny Gardipy (BA'09, MPH'11) is now part of the solution.

FIVE DAYS A WEEK, Priscilla (Jenny) Gardipy makes an hour-long, cross-country commute from the Beardy's and Okemasis First Nation to a little house tucked between the band office and health centre on the Muskoday First Nation.

Here, the single mother of six children works for the federal government's National Native Addiction Partnership Foundation (NNAPF), creating a safety toolkit for mental health and addictions workers in the Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program. This is heady and important work for a young woman who has lived on the other side of her current job, and defied the odds to get to where she is today.

As a child, Gardipy was raised between Beardy's and Okemasis First Nation and the Mistawasis First Nation. Living beside her grandparents at Mistawasis, Gardipy recalls a fun and carefree childhood. The time she spent growing up at Beardy's, however, was considerably darker.

Moving from home to home and lacking any real stability, her father was also popular amongst many local residents for all the wrong reasons.

"He was a drug dealer. I had friends that would ask about my dad, and where was he because they wanted to get stuff. Especially in my teenage years,

it was embarrassing," remembers Gardipy. "One of my friends said that she had bought some acid from my dad and that she had never seen so much acid in her life. I don't know what acid looks like but I guess my dad had lots of it," she added.

Gardipy went to high school in Duck Lake, and became pregnant in Grade 12. After having her first daughter before high school graduation, Gardipy moved in with her father at Beardy's and her downward spiral commenced.

Although she did enroll at the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST) in Prince Albert after high school, her education quickly took a back seat to the party scene.

"I didn't finish SIAST and I probably got seriously into drinking in 1998. I had three kids and my relationships were bad. I was a single mom by then and I just felt like, in my mentality at the time, that I deserved these breaks away from my kids."

Her biggest regret is that her children saw her drinking.

"My kids saw everything. They saw me being very destructive to myself. I would binge drink," she said.

"I would work during the week then go out on Friday and come back Sunday, leaving my babies

with my 12-year-old daughter. I knew my mom and dad would get them eventually. Then one time my parents didn't get them and Indian and Child Family Services got called on me. I blamed my parents. When you're an alcoholic you are very selfish... If I would have lost my kids, it would have been their fault because they didn't get them."

Realizing she needed help, Gardipy entered an alcohol treatment program in April 2002.

"This time I wanted to change. I wanted to feel better. The four letters my mom used to always tell me were making sense. That was 'pray.' That is when I started believing more in my spirituality, and that really changed who I was."

After completing treatment, Gardipy enrolled at the First Nations University of Canada (FNUC) with aspirations of becoming a social worker. Having been away from school for a few years, her return was, at first, overwhelming.

"I was almost nine months pregnant and everyone seemed so young. I felt like I didn't belong there. I had a bazillion kids. I was single again. What was I doing?" Gardipy remembers thinking. "I continued to go and I was really nervous because I never thought I was smart. When I got my first papers back I started getting A's. I was so shocked."

When political issues began to plague and disrupt education at the FNUC, Gardipy applied to the U of S and was not only accepted, but entered on a scholarship based on academic performance. It took Gardipy a year-and-a-half to graduate with her BA (honours) in native studies, and she convocated in 2010 at the top of her class, netting her the Tania Balicki Memorial Award in Native Studies.

"When I was on the stage at convocation and I shook President (Peter) MacKinnon's hand, I said, 'I'll be back.' And then when I got my master's degree in public health (in 2011), I walked on stage and shook his hand and said, 'Told you I would be back.' He said, 'You're right to your word.'"

Gardipy credits her post-secondary success to several key mentors: at FNUC, Dean Winona Wheeler (now a U of S native studies professor); and at the U of S, Raven Sinclair (social work), Colleen Dell (sociology and school of public health) and Janet Smylie (an Aboriginal physician/researcher at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto).

"Those women inspired me and believed in me," said Gardipy. "On campus I had two offices where I could work in peace and quiet and hide from all the young white people who probably thought I was an Elder," she added with a laugh.

Gardipy began working with Dell while finishing her BA in 2007. Dell had just been named the new provincial research chair in substance abuse, and Gardipy was the first student she hired.

The two worked together on several projects over the next few years, one of the most notable being

the *From Stilettos to Moccasins* music video in 2009. This video—which documents Aboriginal women's struggles with substance abuse and ends with a message of hope—was shot in 2009 following nearly four years of research and more than 100 interviews with women at drug abuse centres across Canada.

The *From Stilettos to Moccasins* video project—which has been viewed nearly 20,000 times on YouTube—introduced Gardipy to the NNAPF, a sponsor for the research project. And after getting her current job with the NNAPF, Gardipy shared her own personal story of healing in a video for Dell's *Culture as Intervention* project (this video can be found at: tinyurl.com/cultureasintervention).

"We have to give more understanding to colonialism and how some clients want to use their culture for healing."

"Continuing to work with Jenny, with all her passion and her giving nature, is a real blessing for me," said Dell. "She is a stellar colleague, and I am so honoured to watch her grow and positively impact the lives of those around her. She is an inspiration."

In her current position, Gardipy is working to create a cultural safety toolkit for mental health and addictions workers in the Native Alcohol Drug Abuse Program (NADAP). Because many of NADAP's clients have different cultural beliefs and backgrounds than their counselors in the program, Gardipy hopes her toolkit will help counselors bridge that cultural gap and prescribe effective, individualized treatment programs.

"There is no one-size-fits-all program or service," she said.

Gardipy says her work for the NNAPF is somewhat of a "full-circle" situation, as it was her culture that saved her from going down the wrong path and her education at the U of S that gave her the skills to excel in her current position.

"What we do will allow addictions workers to understand why we are where we are as First Nations people," explained Gardipy. "We have to give more understanding to colonialism and how some clients want to come in and use their culture for healing. We have to be able to make that client feel safe—that they can use their culture if they want."

"I wouldn't change my life. All the good made me who I am. All the bad made me who I am. You have to let the Creator guide you. Whatever struggles you go through, you are not alone. With all the bad things, know that there are going to be good things."

6

THE SCIENCE OF SUDS

BY STEPHEN JOHNSON (BA'95)

Whether in the lab or the pub, brewmaster Patrick Fiori (BSc'04) knows just the right mix.

IF YOU WANT to get on Patrick Fiori's good side, don't ask him to name his favourite beer. He's a fairly easygoing guy, but just gets asked that question, well...a lot.

Fiori is the brewmaster at the popular Clocktower brew pub, located in the trendy Glebe district of Ottawa. We first met during a rare quiet moment at the Clocktower, and Fiori—dressed in tan workpants and faintly smelling of hops—certainly looked the part.

After exchanging initial pleasantries, I got down to business and ordered a pint of the Clocktower's locally-renowned pumpkin beer. "This is far and away our best selling specialty product," Fiori noted as I savoured my first sip. "People come from outside Ottawa for this beer."

"No doubt," I thought to myself before snapping back to reality.

An Education in Ale

Fiori's passion for beer began while completing a dual degree in chemistry and biochemistry at the U of S. However, it wasn't pub crawls or all night parties that reeled him in, but rather the chemical challenge the brewmaking process presented.

Matthew Paige, assistant professor in chemistry at the U of S, saw Fiori's brewmaster potential evolve when he hired the young student to work for him as a summer research student. He knew Fiori was brewing beer as a hobby, and when combined with his proficiency in the lab, an eventual career as a brewmaster hardly seemed a stretch.

"During the course of his bachelor of science, Patrick learned a wide range of chemical principles which would serve him well as brewmaster," noted Paige. "If you don't get the formulation and preparation of your beer just right, it ends up tasting terrible. Nobody is better than chemists at combining complicated ingredients together to make a great final product—it's what we do!"

After completing his degree at the U of S, Fiori did some soul-searching to decide upon his future career path. He knew a job in the lab wasn't his calling, and that those hours he spent perfecting beer batches as an undergraduate student had evolved into a quasi-obsession.

When he stumbled across a master's program in brewing and distilling at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, Scotland, all the pieces came together.

Some people might imagine a university offering a course in brewing playing host to huge parties. Fiori noted, though, that Heriot-Watt is far from a frat-heavy university and the masters in brewing and distilling is a very intensive program. It is necessary to have an undergraduate degree in sciences or engineering to be accepted, and a major research project is a requirement for graduation.

That's not to say there wasn't ample opportunity to sample the fruits of his, and others', labour.

"There was a brewery and distillery on campus, and we jumped right into brewing our own batches of beer and doing blind tastings," said Fiori. "There were 25 students from around the world, and we spent a lot of time going to pubs and sampling beers."



Patrick Fiori at The Clocktower Brew Pub in Ottawa. (Stephen Johnson)

We even had the opportunity to travel throughout Europe and meet people in the industry. Many of the students became great friends whom I stay in touch with today.”

Completing a master’s degree was a monumental experience for Fiori at that point in his life, but he says it wasn’t the most important. He became engaged to a Saskatchewan woman before leaving Canada, and the couple were married when he returned. The new union suited his future father-in-law just fine.

“I remember breaking the news to (him) and he said, ‘I am happy my daughter met someone who loves her, and I am happy to have a son-in-law who brews great beer!’”

On Home Soil

Fiori returned to Saskatchewan in September 2006 and was married that November. When his wife landed a job with the federal government, prompting a move for the newlyweds to Ottawa, Fiori was faced with the challenge of finding a new job in a new city.

“When I arrived in Ottawa, there was only one brew pub. The entire craft brewery industry had not really taken off yet in Ontario. I was lucky to walk into the Clocktower and ask if they needed a brewmaster. They did, so I started right away.”

Since taking the job, Fiori has put his own mark on it. The Clocktower currently brews five regular

beers along with an assortment of seasonal ones, like the pumpkin ale around Halloween and a darker, porter-style for the Christmas season.

When speaking to Fiori about brewing beer, his passion for the craft and its intricacies is obvious.

“I am fortunate at the Clocktower in that we only brew small batches. It is possible to order premium ingredients and we don’t add any preservatives, which results in a better-tasting beer,” he said.

“From grain to glass it takes about two weeks to produce a batch of beer. Brewing beer is relatively simple. Doing it well is another story.”

Being a brewmaster may seem like a dream job to many, but the position comes with its share of stress. Fiori said he must be present at various points during the brewing process, likening the job, at times, to “babysitting the beer.” During the summer, when temperatures in the brewing facility rise rapidly, he often starts work at 5 a.m. in order to beat the heat. With the birth of his son almost two years ago, Fiori must also juggle the demands of his craft with parenthood.

And even when he does manage to squirrel away a couple of hours for social time with his friends, work never seems very far away.

“When I am out having drinks with my buddies, they are always pestering me to recommend a good beer. So I can never really leave my job,” he said with a laugh.

All of Fiori’s hard work has certainly paid off, however. The Clocktower enjoys a loyal clientele and the pub maintains thriving Facebook and Twitter pages. His pumpkin beer was even featured on a local CBC radio program around Halloween, dubbed The Twelve Days of Pumpkin.

One More Happy Customer

I finished my pint and Fiori offered to take me on a tour where the beer is produced. The first thing I noticed was a seemingly well-used Saskatchewan Roughriders beer mug.

“This mug has seen good times and bad,” mused Fiori. “The beer from it tasted very good in 2009 and 2010. This past year, there were a few more tears mixed in.”

After hashing over the Riders, Fiori summed up his vocation with pride.

“The satisfaction I get is seeing a customer savouring the final product. It is rewarding to see people enjoying something I have created,” he said.

“I want a customer to drink responsibly but to come back and enjoy trying the same beer or a different one. We say in the industry, the most important beer in a six pack is the last one.” **6**



Left to right: Noodlecake Studio employees Ty Bader, Jordan Schidlowky, Cory Jacobsen, David Noete, Erik Frederikson at their Saskatoon office. (Mark Ferguson)

Making a Name in Games

BY MARK A. FERGUSON (BA'03)



Saskatoon gaming companies are enjoying international success.

LIKE HOLLYWOOD, New York and Nashville are to actors and musicians, not long ago people pursuing jobs in the video game market were clustered in a handful of cities around the world.

So for U of S grads wanting to make a splash in the gaming industry, most got one-way tickets out of Saskatoon to destinations such as Washington (Microsoft and Nintendo), California (Sony) or British Columbia (Electronic Arts)—places that house the headquarters of industry giants.

Today, not so much. With the rapid emergence of smartphone, tablet and computer apps into today's gaming marketplace, animators and developers are setting up shop from the comfort of their own homes and offices. Once an app is complete, the creators simply submit it to the Apples, RIMs and Microsofts of the world to have it approved and made available to millions of potential consumers.

A number of arts and science alumni have taken advantage of this phenomenon, successfully

launching gaming apps from Saskatoon and carving a successful niche in what is, according to Reuters, a \$65 billion global industry.

Going Global

"The introduction of the iPhone 3G a few years ago really changed everything and gave developers like ourselves the opportunity to reach people that wouldn't normally play games," said Jordan Schidlowski (BSc'07), a computer science grad and co-founder of Noodlecake Studios. "The size of the app gaming market is growing all the time."

Noodlecake was officially founded by Schidlowsky and Ty Bader (BA'00) in 2011, although the company's roots were planted considerably earlier. Working for a local web-based company, the two friends began spending their evenings and weekends working on an app, then called Stick Man Golf, from their home computers.

When the game was finally launched on Apple's app store it became a global sensation. It earned spots on Top 10 lists in the *New York Times* and *Wired*, and has been downloaded nearly 2.5 million times from users in more than 150 countries. While many of those downloads have been the game's free, promotional version, close to 300,000 have

downloaded the full version at a cost between 99 cents and \$2.99.

Now called Super Stickman Golf, the game is an addictive, physics-based golf game that, unlike the real-life version, is easy for anyone to pick up. An MTV reviewer proclaimed, “Super Stickman Golf is my new Angry Birds”—no small praise considering Angry Birds is one of the world’s most popular and highest grossing apps of all time.

“To know that millions of people are playing a game you worked on...is amazing,” said Bader, noting that Super Stickman Golf targets gamers looking for a “five-minute fix to kill some time.”

“What else are you going to do while you’re waiting for your girlfriend? Read?” jokes Schidlowski.

The surging popularity of Super Stickman Golf prompted Noodlecake to expand its staff. The team now also consists of David Noete (BSc’08), Erik Frederiksen (BEng’09) and Cory Jacobsen.

Although Noodlecake has already achieved phenomenal success, the team is hardly resting on its laurels. They hope to achieve new success with the launch of Super Stickman Golf’s multiplayer app, and the recently released gaming app, Lunar Racer.

“We’re constantly learning on the fly in this industry,” said Bader. “And as more and more people start to develop for this market, the competition is going to increase globally.”

Riding the Wave

Although the number of apps available for the Apple iPhone format far outnumbers those available for other smartphones, most of the world’s most popular apps are available on multiple formats.

Apps like Angry Birds and Google Earth have been downloaded millions of times and these highly successful programs are changing the way we gather information and go about our daily lives.

While not all apps are games, they are the most popular according to Nielsen Media Research’s website. Sixty-one per cent of surveyed smartphone users have played a game in the past month, with weather, maps/navigation, social networking, and music apps rounding out the top five.

With more than 500,000 available apps, Apple’s app store has nearly double that of its closest competitor, Google’s Android Market. Smaller app stores boast significantly less.

“If you want to make any money in this industry, Apple is hands down the best format to work in,” said Bader.

Schidlowski is also grateful for the ease at which Apple allows companies like Noodlecake Studios to upload their games onto the store. If Apple accepts the app, they do most of the work, taking 30 per cent of the profits while the company takes the other 70. “Apple deals with taxes and credit cards and everything, so it allows you as developers to work more on the development and we don’t deal with any of the sales.”

Not All About Apps...

Saskatoon-based Alientrap co-founder Lee Vermeulen (BSc’09) found success with a different style of game that he began developing in high school with his friend Jesse McGibney.

Nexuiz is what is known in the gaming industry as a first-person shooter. It was launched as open source PC software in 2005, and Vermeulen said the game was downloaded 100,000 times in the first day and more than 5 million times since then.

“To know millions of people are playing a game you worked on...is amazing.”

—Ty Bader


While Nexuiz was developed over several years by Alientrap and a number of third-party artists online, Vermeulen eventually sold the rights to the game to a company—Illfonic—now working to launch a new version for the Xbox, Playstation, and PC.

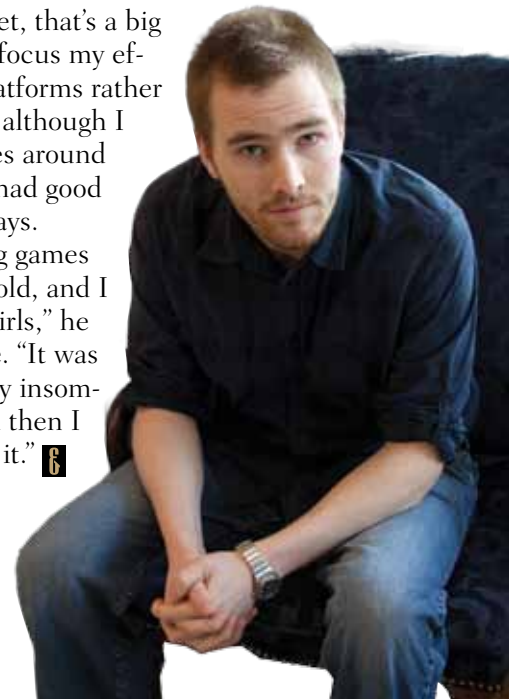
Vermeulen moved on to other projects and began designing a game called Capsized while working towards his computer science degree at the U of S. He needed a major project to graduate and knew that to successfully build a great game, he needed an artist to side with his programming skills.

“I was in a game design class when I started Capsized, and Jesse was taking illustration classes at Sheridan in Ontario,” said Vermeulen. “I think the game is so successful because of the different strengths that we bring to it—both my programming and Jesse’s artistic abilities make this a really sharp game to play.”

Capsized has been released for PC and sold about 50,000 copies so far. It will soon be released for Xbox, Playstation, and later for the Apple and Android platforms, but Vermeulen prefers to work on the PC market.

“If you can have success on the PC or the Xbox and Playstation market, that’s a big audience. I prefer to focus my efforts on the bigger platforms rather than the app market, although I know other companies around Saskatoon who have had good success with it,” he says.

“I’ve been designing games since I was 12-years-old, and I doubt I did it to get girls,” he said of his experience. “It was a great way to pass my insomnia as a teenager, and then I started to get good at it.” 



Lee Vermeulen (Mark Ferguson)

Nerves of Iron

BY SHANNON BOKLASCHUK (BA'00)





Sixty-year-old Ian Colvine completed his first Ironman race in 2010. (submitted photos)



Three alumni reflect on the Ironman experience, one of the world's most gruelling physical tests.

FOR IAN COLVINE (BA'73), it was about scratching off an item on his bucket list.

In 2010, the Saskatoon resident and longtime runner completed the infamous Subaru Ironman Canada race held annually in Penticton, B.C. The race has become one of the most popular Ironman competitions in the world, and Colvine was determined to cross the finish line.

"I always had this bucket list thing that I'd like to do Ironman Canada," Colvine, 60, said.

"A couple years ago I did the inaugural Calgary Ironman 70.3 km race and I thought if that one went well then I'd sign up for Ironman. I had a blast at it, even though it was really hot on the run.

"I signed up for Ironman for 2010, I hired a coach last winter and got training. Everything fell together."

Even with a dedicated training regime and the help and support of a coach, completing an Ironman race is no easy task. Competitors must swim 3.8 km, bike for 180 km and then run a full marathon of 42.2 km—all within 17 hours.

Not everybody completes the gruelling race, but Colvine was all smiles when he crossed the finish line. It meant a lot to him that his wife, daughter, son-in-law and two granddaughters were there to greet and congratulate him after the race.

"Just actually being there for that event was awesome," he said.

"I found it a little strange that standing in the water that morning, at 7 a.m. with about 2,700 other people, I wasn't nervous. I was looking around, trying to see where my wife and daughter were. Usually at a race you have some pre-race anxiety and stuff and your stomach's fluttering, but I was calm, and I had a really good swim.

"It turned out I swam about 10 minutes faster than I had hoped for. My transitions were slow, but I was in no hurry. I was there to experience the race."

Colvine had two goals during his Ironman training: to finish the race and to not scare his family.

"I didn't want to be collapsing at the finish line like you see sometimes and being carted off for an IV in the medical tent," he said.

It turns out Colvine had nothing to worry about. He felt great throughout the race, and didn't even feel hungry when he completed it—after 14 hours and 34 minutes.

"You couldn't wipe the grin off my face," he said.

Although Colvine "totally enjoyed the experience," he isn't sure he will compete in another Ironman Canada race in the future. After all, the item has been ticked off his bucket list.

"If I went back, it might not be as much fun, because it would be going back to go faster," he said. "But never say never."



Left: Amanda Stalwick (submitted); Right, top: Biking near Yellow Lake, B.C.; bottom: Swim start, Okanagan Lake, Pentiction, B.C. (Karee Davidson)

'Just Do It'

Colvine, who has been running for decades, is one of a number of arts and science alumni who have taken their interest in athletics and triathlon training to the next level and become Ironman competitors. After obtaining his BA (in sociology with a minor in psychology), he worked for the Ministry of Social Services for more than 30 years before taking on his current job at Brainsport, a well-known local running store.

In addition to completing the Ironman race, Colvine has entered a number of local races as well as the popular Frank Dunn triathlon in Waskesiu. His advice for people who are thinking of entering similar races: it's a doable goal, but you must commit yourself to the training.

He notes that running clinics can help non-runners become able to run for 30 minutes after just eight weeks.

"If you pay for a program, you are more likely to do it," he said. "Find a friend who's got the same level (of fitness) and make a date to get out and do something; you're more likely to get out and do it. But just do it. It feels so good to feel fit."

In addition to talking about his passion for running, Colvine has many positive things to say about the triathlon community in Saskatoon.

"Triathlon is kind of addicting," he said. "You meet a lot of nice people in running and triathlon, and it's a healthy lifestyle."

Another Face in the Crowd

Amanda Stalwick (BE'd'97, BA'98, MEd'05) is one of those "nice people" who has become deeply involved in the running and triathlon scene.

Stalwick, a certified personal trainer and group fitness instructor, is certainly no stranger to competition; she has competed in the Ironman Canada race five times between 2005 and 2010, and completed four of those races (she was pulled off the race course in 2010 due to a problem with her eyes caused by her contact lenses drying out).

Two years ago, she started her own business, Positively Fit, specializing in a number of areas, including personal training and triathlon coaching.

"I come from a high-performance running background. I was a track athlete for many years," explained Stalwick.

In her mid-20s, Stalwick started entering 10-km races and half marathons. She also became involved with the Just Tri-It Triathlon Program through the YWCA, which offers training opportunities for women in biking, swimming, running and walking.

After competing in triathlons for a few years, Stalwick went to watch a friend compete in Ironman. Because she had trained alongside her friend, Stalwick decided to seek her own spot in Ironman Canada.

"I did a half Ironman in Manitoba, and qualified for an Ironman spot there. So then it was seven weeks of cram to get ready for Ironman," she said.

“I was scared swimming,” she recalled. “When you look out, you can’t even see the end of the course, because you’re swimming out so far. And you’re on the beach, and you’ve got 2,500 people all trying to go in the same direction, so it’s just a mass of arms and legs. It’s pretty overwhelming at the start.”

“It’s happiness. It’s relief. It’s excitement. It’s satisfaction.”

—Amanda Stalwick

Still, not only was Stalwick able to complete the swimming portion of the Ironman competition in 2005, she completed the entire race. Her best Ironman time came three years later, in 2008, when she finished in just over 12 hours.

Stalwick said she experiences many emotions when she crosses the finish line.

“It’s happiness. It’s relief. It’s excitement. It’s satisfaction,” said Stalwick.

“I was at the finish (in 2011) as a volunteer catching people, and some people cry when they come across. Some people throw up. Some just can’t take another step and they collapse. Some people could go out and do another one—(they are) just fresh and totally with it. Some are a little bit confused,” she said.

Stalwick said her favourite Ironman race was in 2007, when she finished in 12 hours and 10 minutes. Although the race wasn’t her fastest, she was satisfied with the experience.

“I came across, and I just felt so good. I’d taken an hour and 40 minutes, I think, off my first time. I didn’t know it was possible.”

On Another Level

Stephen Johnson (BComm’85, MA’89) is certainly no stranger to crossing a finish line and all of the emotions that it brings.

In total, he has taken part in a whopping 42 Ironman distance races.

“A few of them were multiple ones, which is twice or three times or 10 times the distance,” the Regina resident said.

Johnson has competed in the Ironman Canada race in Penticton, B.C. six times—the first time in 1987, and the last in 1997.

“I was always a runner, a track guy mostly—800 metres. The course is just an injury magnet. So after that, I ran 10 (km) on the road and I did swimming to supplement my track, and I always biked to commute,” he said of his path to Ironman races.

“In 1986 was the first Bridge City Triathlon in Saskatoon. I thought it would maybe be kind of fun



Stephen Johnson (submitted)

to do that, and then I just got the bug. I just kept going farther, and did my first Ironman in ’87, and then my first double Ironman in ’93, and then triple in ’97,” Johnson said.

A double Ironman is exactly what it sounds like—competitors tackle double the distance of a regular Ironman race. That means they swim 7.6 km, bike 360 km and then run 84.4 km, all within a 36-hour time limit. As their names suggest, the triple and deca races are three and 10 times the distance, respectively.

When asked what inspires him to compete at such a high level, Johnson offered a succinct explanation: “Just because.”

“To do the deca was basically, well, it’s impossible. Only about 70 people on the planet have completed the deca,” he said.

Johnson is one of those few people, completing the deca in 2008 in Monterrey, Mexico. The race consisted of a 38 km swim in a pool, followed by 1,800 km of cycling on a two-km loop and then a 422-km run. The time limit was 14 days, and Johnson completed it in just over 12 days—on a fractured shin, no less.


“I realized my shin was fractured with about 120 km left to go running. I was only going to do it once, so I just kind of limped through it,” he said.

Johnson—who obtained his masters degree in economics at the U of S—lives in Regina and works at SaskGaming, which operates Casino Regina and Casino Moose Jaw. He said his best time at the Ironman Canada competition in Penticton, B.C., was 10 hours and 40 minutes.

He certainly doesn’t back away from a challenge.

“I found out I was actually good at doing double Ironman,” he said. “I actually held the Canadian record for that distance for 12 years, which was 22 hours and 44 minutes.”

When asked what advice he would give to others who want to pursue Ironman races, Johnson encourages people to “just do it.”

“It’s a wonderful experience,” he said, noting there is a mix of emotions upon crossing the finish line. “It’s euphoria and relief.” 

2012 Alumni of Influence

The Alumni of Influence awards recognize individuals whose life accomplishments have had tremendous influence locally, nationally and internationally. Each person represents the excellence and diversity upon which our College was established and continues to be defined. Their careers and life achievements are an inspiration and source of pride. Celebrating their success signals to our alumni, students and faculty that they are all part of a vibrant and accomplished College. Thanks to all nominators and selection committee members for their contributions.

Carol Greeyes, BFA'82, BEd'88

Whether on the stage or screen, in the office or community, Carol Greeyes has left indelible impressions throughout Canada's arts and Indigenous communities. A member of the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation, Greeyes obtained her BFA at the U of S in 1982, becoming one of the first Aboriginal fine arts graduates in Saskatchewan. She later graduated from the Indian Teachers Education Program (ITEP), received a BEd at U of S ('89), and MFA from York University ('92).



During and immediately following her studies, Greeyes became involved in establishing and delivering Aboriginal theatre training programs and workshops throughout Canada. For the past three decades, she has been highly sought after as a writer, director, actor, teacher and board member for numerous organizations.

Bringing boundless energy, conviction and professionalism to everything she does, Greeyes has become recognized as a generational leader, tirelessly supporting her fellow artists and working to expand the role and recognition of Indigenous arts on a national scale. After serving as the Saskatchewan Arts Board's Indigenous Arts consultant for eight years, Greeyes moved to Nova Scotia where she helped establish a leadership program for Aboriginal women at St. Francis Xavier University's Coady Institute. Her distinguished career has led to numerous honours and awards, and to her appointment as producer and project leader for ArtsLink, an online research project for the federal government's Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Freda Miller, BSc'79

A leader in the field of neuronal stem cells, Freda Miller's pioneering work could one day pave the way to significant advances in the treatment of everything from spinal cord injuries to Parkinson's disease. She currently works as a cell and molecular developmental neurobiologist at the Hospital for Sick Children Research Institute,



and as a professor at the University of Toronto where she holds a Canada Research Chair in Developmental Neurobiology.

Miller obtained her BSc (biochemistry) from the U of S in 1979 before receiving a PhD from the University of Calgary and completing her postdoctoral training at the Scripps Research Foundation. Her first faculty position was at the University of Alberta, and she later moved to the McGill University before accepting her current position in 2002.

Her innovative and globally-renowned work has been recognized through numerous awards and honours, including fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and Howard Hughes Medical Institute International Scholar. Miller is also a founder of Aegera Therapeutics Inc. and Reveille Inc., two Canadian biotechnology companies.

Robert Moody, BA'62

The namesake behind one of today's most well-known Lie algebras, Robert Moody has established himself as one of Canada's most accomplished and renowned mathematicians. Born in England and having spent his high school years in Ottawa, Moody received his BA at the U of S before obtaining his MA and PhD at the University of Toronto. His dissertation formed the basis of Kac-Moody algebras, which he discovered alongside Russian mathematician Victor Kac.



He took his first academic position at the U of S in 1966 and joined the University of Alberta in 1989. By the 1980s, Kac-Moody algebras and their offspring, Virasoro algebras, had become fundamental to mathematics and mathematical physics worldwide. His work in this regard earned both Moody and Kac the 1994 Wigner Medal, administered by the Group Theory and Fundamental Physics Foundation. Amongst his many other honours and awards, Moody has been named a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and officer of the Order of Canada. The Kac-Moody algebras, considered one of the seminal events in the history of modern mathematics, have been described as "a classic example of the fruitful interplay between mathematics and physics that has been at the heart of major scientific advances since the time of Newton."

Photos: Carol Greeyes (Ken Williams); Robert Moody (Michael Baake); Freda Miller (David Kaplan).

Frederick Mulder, BA'64

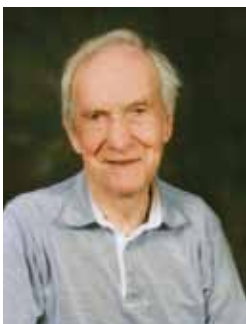
One of the world's major art dealers in Picasso's printmaking, Frederick Mulder's business acumen has allowed him, in turn, to become a noted philanthropist. After graduating from the U of S, Mulder went on to attend Brown University (MA, PhD) and Oxford University, where he wrote his dissertation.



Leaving Oxford in 1971, he set up a business dealing in original prints. From 1972–75 he worked with art dealers P and D Colnaghi, and since 1975 has been the director of Frederick Mulder Limited, which specializes in European printmaking 1460–1960. In particular, his holdings of Picasso linocuts are one of the most extensive worldwide.

Mulder became accustomed to tithing his income as a child in Saskatchewan and this has continued through his career. Moreover, he has spent decades persuading others to do the same. He helped establish two organizations that focus on leveraging charitable efforts: The Network For Social Change (the first giving circle of its kind in the UK) and The Funding Network, which has been highly successful in both the UK and Canada. Both bring like-minded individuals together and pool donations, which tremendously increases the overall impact of one's charitable efforts. Mulder has also utilized several innovative approaches in his business dealings that ultimately benefit numerous charities. For his work in this regard, Mulder received the Beacon Fellowship Judges' Special Prize in 2004, and was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) by the Queen in the New Year Honours 2012.

Blair Neatby, BA'50



A renowned national historian, Blair Neatby was one of the first scholars to see English-French relations as central to our understanding of Canada. After graduating from the U of S, he undertook PhD studies at Oxford and completed his doctoral work at the University of Toronto. His doctoral thesis, *Laurier and a Liberal Quebec*—although it went unpublished until 1973—became an underground sensation.

His most lauded work, however, was as author of the official MacKenzie King biography, *W.L. Mackenzie King*, for the years 1923–32 and 1932–39. Neatby's tireless work on this project allowed him to acquire an encyclopedic knowledge of Canadian political history during the 1920s and 30s, and the resulting publications formed a foundation for our understanding of Canada's political history in the interwar period.

Neatby was a professor of history at Carleton University, where he currently holds the rank of professor emeritus. He put his scholarly work aside in the 1960s to serve as research director for the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism. This commission has been described as one of the most important in Canada's history, as it insisted on the importance of second-language acquisition for both English and French Canadians. For his tremendous body of work and history of public service, Neatby was named a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 1977 and, in 1987, was appointed president of the Canadian Historical Association.

Kenneth Norrie, BA'66

An economic historian and expert on Western Canadian economics at the turn of the century 19th century, Kenneth Norrie's extensive scholarly and administrative achievements have established him as a leader in his field. Born in Saskatoon, Norrie received his undergraduate degree from the U of S and both his MPhil and PhD from Yale University. Much



of his academic career was spent at the University of Alberta (U of A), which he joined in 1971. He held a number of senior administrative roles at the U of A, including dean of arts from 1999 to 2001.

Seconded to the MacDonald Commission in the mid-1980s, Norrie served as a key researcher for this landmark group, which recommended signing the Canadian-American Free Trade Agreement. In 2002 he joined McMaster University as a professor, as well as provost and vice-president (academic). He held the latter role until 2006, and was chosen to serve as vice-president (research) for the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario from 2007 to 2012. Norrie's research has been widely published in—and he has served on editorial boards for—many academic journals. He has also authored or co-authored five monographs, and was appointed the Clifford Clark Visiting Economist for the Government of Canada in 1990–91.

Cyril Richardson, BA'30 (d.1976)

An internationally esteemed church historian, Cyril Richardson's academic and theological work is revered by peers around the world. Born in England, Richardson moved to Canada as a child and graduated from the U of S as well as Emmanuel College (LTh'31). He then moved to New York and attended the Union Theological



2012 Alumni of Influence

Seminary, earning his doctor of theology degree in 1934. He joined the seminary's faculty in 1934 and remained there for nearly 42 years as both a teacher and administrator.

Highly admired for his work in the classroom, Richardson quickly became respected for his clarity, wit and genuine regard for his students. For two decades, Richardson served as the seminary's Dean of Graduate Studies, a position he held until his retirement in 1974. Richardson was also highly active in the church, and was named an honorary Canon of the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine in 1974.

A widely-published author and editor, Richardson also composed a Saskatchewan-inspired hymn, *God of the Prairies*. He was a longstanding member of various national organizations, including the American Society of Church History and the National Council Commission on Worship. Richardson received an honorary doctorate from Emmanuel College ('49) and the General Theological Seminary, New York ('72).

Roman Shklanka, BA'51, BComm'53, MA'57



An icon in the Canadian mining industry, Roman Shklanka's willingness to take geological risks at home and abroad helped enhance this country's global reputation for mining excellence. Shklanka entered the U of S at only 15 years old and

earned his BA in 1951, followed by a BComm degree in 1953. A summer job with the Saskatchewan Department of Mineral Resources inspired him to change directions. By 1956, he had earned his MA in geology and he completed his doctorate at Stanford University in 1963.

Over the next four decades, Shklanka held senior roles for several mining companies, and was instrumental in searching for and securing new mining projects around the world. Such work required Shklanka to exercise not only his economic and geological prowess, by political savvy as well. Associated with some 13 mine developments on five continents, he is sometimes referred to as The Mine Finder; others refer to him as the Father of Tanzanian Mining for his early contributions to the industry in that developing country. He is the recipient of a number of achievement awards and in 2009 was inducted into the Canadian Mining Hall of Fame.

Mary Spencer, BA'45



During Mary Spencer's professional career as a chemist, teacher and researcher, she strove for excellence in her work, and received many awards. Among women scientists, she became a symbol to emulate. Growing up in Saskatchewan, Spencer graduated from Regina College and the University of Saskatchewan (BA'45) before completing her MSc at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania. In 1946,

Spencer was married in Montreal, then completed her PhD at University of California, Berkeley, where she joined the academic staff. Spencer returned to Canada in 1953 and was appointed to the staff at the University of Alberta to teach in biochemistry, first in the medical faculty, then in agriculture. Her research centred on the influence of ethylene on biochemical processes.

Much of her work is still being quoted today, including ethylene's effect on the ageing process of all life forms. With high standards, dedicated teaching and inspirational leadership, she built an international reputation. She has received many awards and honours, including being named a member of Order of Canada and fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. A founding member of the Canadian Society of Plant Physiologists, and 1990 gold medalist, she is also a fellow of the Canadian Institute of Chemistry. Spencer was the first elected staff member of the U of A Board of Governors, and became one of the first two women members of the National Research Council (NSERC), to which she was appointed in 1970. She was also awarded two Queen's Jubilee Medals: silver in 1977 and gold in 2002.

Tillie Taylor, BA'41, LLB'56 (d. 2011)



Never one to shy away from controversy, Tillie Taylor's fearless quest to ensure equality and justice for others helped change the dynamics of human rights throughout Canada. Raised during the Great Depression and under threat of war, she became deeply involved with the Canadian arm of the international Youth Congress Movement. It was there she

met her future husband, George Taylor. The couple moved to Calgary and Tillie worked as a secretary when he returned to school and obtained his law degree in the 1940s.

As a mother of two daughters, Tillie returned to school and obtained her own law degree in 1956. There were few female lawyers in Canada at that time, and Tillie's first job was as deputy registrar in the Saskatoon Land Titles Office. In 1960, she was named a provincial magistrate, the first woman in Saskatchewan to be handed this post. Although this position meant she could no longer be active in provincial politics—she and George were formerly active in both the CCF and NDP—she found many other ways to make a difference. She worked with several organizations involved in prison and law reform, as well as issues related to poverty. In 1972 she was named the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission's first chairperson, and played a key role in developing its mandate. In 1976 she was elected a director of the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women, and, for nearly a decade prior to her retirement in 1987, sat on the board of governors for the Canadian Council on Social Development.

ALUMNI OF INFLUENCE NEWS

IN MEMORIAM

Three individuals who were honoured amongst the College of Arts & Science's first 100 Alumni of Influence in 2009 have died.

Gary Hyland (BA'62, BEd'64), poet, teacher and founder of the Moose Jaw-based Festival of Words, died in April 2011 following a lengthy illness. Hyland authored seven books of poetry, including *For the Love of Mirrors*, which won the 2008 Saskatchewan Book of the Year award.

Frances Morrison (BHSc'39) Saskatoon's chief librarian from 1961 to 1980, and one of the city's first women to lead a civic department, died in August 2011.

Robert Hinitt (BA'47, MA'49, BEd'52), drama teacher and mentor to generations of theatre-goers, died in November 2011. Hinitt, designer of the Aden Bowman Castle Theatre and founding member of the Gateway Players, will also be remembered for his annual Christmas displays, which raised thousands of dollars for charity.

AOI UPDATES

U of S health researcher **James Dosman** (BA'59, MD'63, MA'69), considered Canada's "father of agricultural medicine," has been appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada in recognition of his contributions to the advancement of agricultural health and safety in Canada.

Photographer **Courtney Milne** (BA'64) was invested (posthumously) into the Saskatchewan Order of Merit. He died in 2010.



The Interdisciplinary Centre for Culture and Creativity at the University of Saskatchewan

MFA in Writing



The Master of Fine Arts in Writing program at the University of Saskatchewan

trains writers in the professional and creative aspects of the craft. The MFA balances the intensive study and practice of writing with an interdisciplinary flexibility that fosters a wide variety of intellectual and aesthetic interests. Students write in several genres including fiction, poetry, creative non-fiction and playwriting. The two-year MFA includes a mentorship in which each student works on a creative project with a professional author from the Saskatchewan writing community.

For more information contact:

Jeanette Lynes, program coordinator at:
jeanette.lynes@usask.ca

artsandscience.usask.ca/iccc/writing/



GOT NEWS?

Send us your alumni
updates or story ideas to:
cdar@artsandscience.usask.ca





Bill Waiser (right) with his son, Mike, on day four of hiking the Chilkoot Trail in 2011. (photo submitted)

After the Gold Rush

A history prof revisits past glories hiking the Chilkoot Trail with his son. BY BILL WAISER (MA'76, PHD'83)

Bill Waiser, one of Canada's most well-known and celebrated historians, has been a professor in the Department of History at the U of S since 1984. The author of more than a dozen books, several of which have won or been shortlisted for prestigious awards, he also received the Saskatchewan Order of Merit in 2006 and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada the following year. He was recently presented with an Earned D.Litt. and named a university distinguished professor. A recreational runner and all-around outdoor enthusiast, Waiser and his son Mike hiked the Chilkoot Trail in June 2011. Retracing the steps of the thousands of prospectors who sought fortune during the Klondike Gold Rush, Waiser's trip marked a return to the region where he once worked as Yukon Historian before joining the U of S. Here, Waiser provides an overview of the Chilkoot Trail and some insight into his own personal experiences traversing this historic gateway into Canada's golden past.



Left: Mike Waiser at the trail summit. Right: Bill Waiser hiking down from the summit. (photos submitted)

IT WAS THE kind of offer that was hard to decline. In February 2011, I was invited to participate in a Chilkoot Trail summer solstice “reunion” hike with some of the people that I had once worked with in the Yukon in the mid-1980s.

But what really made the invitation tempting was the opportunity to bring along my 31-year-old son, Mike, who had just returned to Canada after teaching overseas for several years and was now living in Vancouver with his partner.

I became involved in the story of the Klondike Gold Rush when I was hired as Yukon historian for the Canadian Parks Service in June 1983—just weeks after securing my PhD at Saskatchewan. My base was the Winnipeg Prairie and Northern Regional office, but I was on the road for long periods, either doing research in the Yukon, especially Dawson City, or other places in North America that had some connection to the gold rush story. But my favourite part of the job was the Chilkoot Trail. In fact, it was largely because my government position was term that I returned to Saskatchewan in 1984 to assume a tenure-track position with the history department.

Climbing the Golden Stairs

The 53-km Chilkoot Trail runs from Dyea, Alaska to Bennett, B.C. Although it was the most popular route to the Klondike goldfields, none of it falls in the Yukon Territory. The Tlingit First Nation had controlled the Chilkoot Pass for centuries as part of its maritime trade into the interior. Then, in the 1870s and 80s, prospectors used the foot trail to gain access to the Yukon River basin in their search for placer gold.

When the big strike was made in August 1896, the Chilkoot Trail was only one of several possible routes to the fabled goldfields. But it was the cheapest and shortest, and consequently, more than half (about 20,000) of the stampedees to actually reach Dawson City went over the Chilkoot summit. They also tended to be the most inexperienced.

Today, the image most readily identified with the trail is a photograph of a single line of stampedees working their way up the so-called golden stairs in the dead of winter. That was only part of the

Chilkoot story. The trail runs from tidewater at Dyea, Alaska (near Skagway) through a coastal rain forest to Sheep Camp, where stampedees planned their assault on the summit—no easy feat when they were expected to bring with them several hundreds pounds of provisions and food. At the summit (over 3,700 ft), stampedees were greeted by the North-West Mounted Police, who were not only there to enforce Canadian sovereignty but collect customs duties.

The descent on the Canadian side was perhaps not as daunting, but it was rugged, open, wind-swept, and often snow-covered. The trail ended at Lindeman City and Bennett, in present-day B.C., where stampedees had to build boats to take them several hundred miles down the Yukon River to the Klondike goldfields.

Ironically, by the time the majority of stampedees reached Dawson City in the spring of 1898, the better part of the goldfields had already been staked, and any hopes of overnight wealth were replaced by the memories of their Chilkoot experience.

A Blistering Dose of Reality

My first experience on the trail in August 1983 with three other parks people was not a particularly good one. The plan was to do the trail in two days—from Dyea to the American ranger headquarters at Sheep Camp and then over the summit to the Canadian warden headquarters at Lindeman City. These would be long, demanding days, but we would be travelling rather light because we would be guests of the ranger and warden services and staying in tent cabins both nights. Our job was to assess the interpretive signage along the trail.

Things started badly. It rained constantly our first day out, and even though we had good rain jackets, we were quickly soaked from the exertion. We seemed to get wetter—if that was possible—when we brushed against the thick vegetation along the narrow trail. My blistered feet inside my sodden boots were quite tender. And so were my shoulders. The packs at that time were designed to ride high up on the back, placing most of the weight there. Sheep Camp, with its dry bed and hot meal, was a welcome relief.

By the time we set off the next morning, the weather had cleared for our ascent to summit. We soon left the treeline behind as we slowly picked our way up a sea of large boulders to the Scales—so named because Aboriginal packers would stop there and demand a higher wage for their services. Reaching the summit was anti-climatic because the good weather had given way to a storm front that brought thick fog and then wet snow. The descent to Lindeman City was somewhat surreal. We were all fatigued and felt so alone as we silently trudged through the open, subdued landscape.

That's how Christine, the chief park warden, found us. She had set out from park headquarters at Lindeman earlier that day to check on any hikers on the trail. With firm but reassuring words, Christine talked us over the remaining miles to the park camp, where a warm meal was waiting for us.

The next morning, after a good sleep, the sun was shining as we explored the remains of what was once one of the largest tent communities in the world. The artifact scatter included well-worn shoes, glass bottles, and hundreds of rusty tin cans. We spent the next few days discussing plans for the trail, before being picked up by a float plane and taken to Whitehorse.

Like Father, Like Son

It was with a better appreciation and understanding of what to expect on the trail that I returned to the Chilkoot with my son in mid-June 2011. We were part of a party of 10. Because hikers must register and pay a user fee, we knew that there were going to be only 15 people in total on the trail that week.

This time, the plan was to do the hike in a leisurely five days: two days on the trail to Sheep Camp; a long, full day to get over the summit and to the nearest campsite at Happy Camp; a day to Bare Loon Lake, halfway between Lindeman and Bennett; and finally, a half-day hike out to the old White Pass and Yukon Railway station at Bennett, where we would catch the early afternoon train to Carcross.

I met up with my son in Whitehorse and spent several hours going through our gear and distributing the weight. Open fires are not allowed on the trail, and any garbage has to be packed out. Mike got to carry the tent.

The weather forecast was not promising. Rain was expected all that week, but it stayed away as we were driven from Skagway to the trailhead the first morning. Mike and I worked as a pair and spent much of our time chatting about what it would have been like on the trail during the winter of 1897–98, when not stopping to adjust our packs, eat a snack or grab a drink of incredibly cold water from one of the mountain-fed streams.

We reached Sheep Camp in the early afternoon of the second day, June 20, and as we set up camp, the sun chased the low-lying clouds away—it was a good omen. We had escaped the rain, had no blisters, and now walked as if we always had a pack on our backs.

Because summit day was to be long one, we were on the trail by 6 a.m. and soon hit snow on the ground as we worked our way above the treeline. The snow was a blessing in that it saved us from clambering over or around huge rocks, but it was still somewhat disconcerting to hear the rush of spring meltwater beneath the snow pack. Several times we broke through soft snow up to our knees and sometimes thighs.


Mike and I rested at the Scales, assessing what lay ahead to the summit. The trail markers led up a steep, snow-covered incline—to Canada. We soon found ourselves climbing on our hands and knees, kicking in snow stairs to help us gain a footing.

At the top and breathing heavily, we sought temporary shelter in a warm-up cabin, where we changed out of our sweat-drenched clothes and put on a pot of tea. There were still five miles to go to Happy Camp, most of it across snow and along still-frozen alpine lakes. The sky was a brilliant blue, though, and we covered the distance in good time, propelled by the feeling of our summit success.

The next day, heading towards Lindeman, we scrambled along the edge of a box canyon before it opened up into the boreal forest. As if on cue, Christine came around a corner on her way up to the summit warden cabin for a few days. I introduced her to my son and then reminded her how she had “saved” me during my first hike on the trail. At Lindeman, we examined a new display about the Aboriginal history of the Chilkoot before pushing on to Bare Loon Lake. The warm sunny weather coaxed us into taking a sponge bath.

The last morning on the trail took us to Bennett, where we had pre-booked a hot lunch in the train station dining room and then boarded the daily tourist train for Carcross. We were glad to ditch our packs and looked forward to hot showers and a few beers in Whitehorse.

My return to the Chilkoot was a real treat—not only because of the unusually fine weather, but more importantly, the chance to hike the trail with my son. And just like the stampeders who never forgot the experience, Mike and I will always remember our week in the remote Alaskan/British Columbian wilderness. I can't wait to give a lecture again on the Klondike Gold Rush.

Postscript—Since the hike, Mike has been recruited to be the head of physics at Northcote school in Melbourne, Australia. Bill is looking for a new hiking partner. 



Marie Lannoo with her installation piece, *TTT #20*, designed with help from Canadian Light Source synchrotron scientists for her 2010 exhibition, *Through and Through and Through*, at the Mendel Art Gallery. (Shannon Brunner)

An Arts and Science Alliance

BY KIRK SIBBALD (BA'04)

Artist Marie Lannoo's foray into the sciences continues to evolve.

INSPIRATION SOMETIMES STRIKES under the strangest of circumstances.

It was November of 2003, and Marie Lannoo was driving back to Saskatoon after attending the Grey Cup in Regina. It hadn't been a good day.

First, Lannoo didn't even like football—she was only there because her husband had been called away on business and one of her sons, who had invited a friend, was still clamouring to go. And after sitting through a four-hour sporting event in sub-zero temperatures, it was taking more than a while for her body to thaw.

With her two young travelling companions sleeping soundly, Lannoo was following an endless snake of taillights on Highway 11 and thinking only of getting home, wrapping herself in blankets and going to bed. Then she looked up.

"What was amazing that night was the aurora borealis was out. I still say, to this day, I could have turned the car lights off and found my way home. It was brilliant, the sky was just on fire," she said.

"It was around that time I was thinking about lighting the tops of my frames on a larger scale with multi-dimensional reflective colour, so I was definitely inspired by what I saw that night."

Lannoo's artwork since that time has undergone what she terms an "organic evolution," focusing on the melding of light and colour. And while many view the two disciplines as being worlds apart, none of her recent artwork would have been possible without science.

Finding Her Way

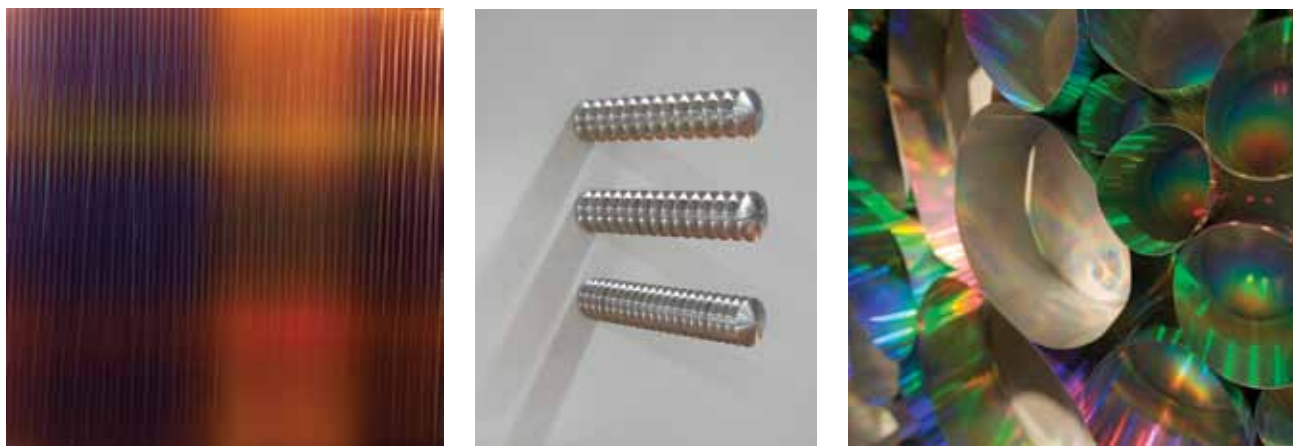
Growing up in Delhi, Ont., a small tobacco farming community, Lannoo dreamed of one day being a veterinarian. Even when she changed her mind and began pursuing a degree in French literature at Toronto's York University, a career, or even education, in the arts was never really on her radar.

After two years at York, she and her future husband wanted to move out of province. Considering he had just been accepted to law school at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon seemed as good a destination as any.

Lannoo finished her French degree at the U of S in 1977, and began working in the local Francophone community around the same time her husband was starting his law career. Although Lannoo enjoyed her work, it became increasingly difficult to ignore the nagging feeling that something was missing.

"I don't know what it was, but I felt I needed a change. I went back to the U of S and began taking fine arts classes, incrementally," she said. "I think I was probably destined to do this, but didn't maybe realize it for a long time. So I think it was one of those things where the arts really found me."

Now in the fine arts, everything began to fall into place. With professors such as Otto Rogers, Eli Bornstein, Mina Forsyth and Stan Day—all of whom were respected artists on a national scale—mentors and inspiration were never far away.



(Left to right): *Interference #2*, acrylic on panel, 2011; *Wavelengths*, 2011, red (top), yellow (centre), violet (bottom); *TTT#24*, Mixed media, 2009. (Shannon Brunner)

After leaving university, the fledgling artist's work was mainly based in abstraction. She diverged briefly into the figurative and narrative realm before returning to abstraction, utilizing the tactile language of braille in her paintings as her "conduit, or lifeline, to the world." Eventually, colour took the place of braille, and it remains her focus today.

"I always was interested in colour, but felt I needed a more literal connection to the world via braille. However, I soon came to realize that colour is an extremely literal connection to the world as well," she explained.

"My work became very interactive. Colour changes depending on where you are standing in front of it, so your human interactivity, your movement in front of that thing, determines what you see and what you don't."

Intrigued by her encounter with the aurora borealis, Lannoo stopped by a local sign manufacturing business to inquire about having lights embedded within the top of her frames. She wanted to add a 3-D element to her art, and it was at this sign shop that her foray into the sciences began to materialize.

"The sign maker suggested using this...diffraction grading material that has tiny slits, and when light hits this it splits up into its constituent wavelengths," she explained, holding up a piece of the material that gleams like a rainbow when light hits its surface.

"I didn't know anything about this and thought, 'I don't want to take a physics class.' So I figured I would go and try to find someone who could help me understand how to use it."

It was, again, in the most unlikely of places that this new artistic journey reached its tipping point. At a Ukrainian New Year's party, Lannoo began chatting with some scientists who worked at the Canadian Light Source synchrotron. When Lannoo mentioned she was looking to consult the scientific community for some new projects, Julie Thompson, Robert Blyth and Lucia Zuin indicated they would be happy to help.

Later, a colleague's husband referred Lannoo to Dean Chapman, Canada Research Chair in X-ray Imaging at the U of S, who was also quick to offer the artist any assistance she required.

"They were all incredibly generous, and whenever I needed information or advice, I either went to the synchrotron or they came to my studio," she said, noting these scientific partnerships made possible her 2010 Mendel Art Gallery exhibition *Through and Through and Through* curated by Dan Ring.

Lannoo began pushing her newfound connections with the sciences even further following an exhibition she attended at the Snelgrove Gallery on campus. Mesmerized by a 3-D computerized drawing of hurricanes by fine arts student Cory Schewaga, Lannoo started thinking of ways to create 3-D representations of colour wavelengths.


"It was another eureka moment, in a sense," she said. "I thought if Cory could create 3-D drawings of hurricanes, why couldn't the same thing be done with wavelengths across the colour spectrum?"

She eventually found her way to the College of Engineering, which oversees several shops equipped to undertake innovative projects for the campus community, local businesses or individuals. After meeting with several shop staff members, her search ended at Keith Palibroda, an instrument maker, who used a lathe and aluminum to create 3-D representations of red, yellow and violet wavelengths.

"When Keith finished the first one, it was like Christmas," she said. "I had never seen a light wavelength in 3-D form, and neither had any of the engineers, so it was pretty exciting."

Asked if these 3-D objects could have any practical applications, such as helping create or alter perceptions of colour in the blind community, Lannoo says it's a question that bears exploring. With an increasing number of people in the arts and science communities looking at colour multi-dimensionally, she said her work essentially reflects the evolution and confluence of both disciplines.

"Definitely I think that in the arts and sciences, there is a co-mingling taking place that is alive and well," she said.

"The work I do is very different from what Dean or Julie or Lucia do. I take light through an artistic transformation and they take it through a scientific transformation. But while we may think we speak different languages, in the end I think we understand each other." 

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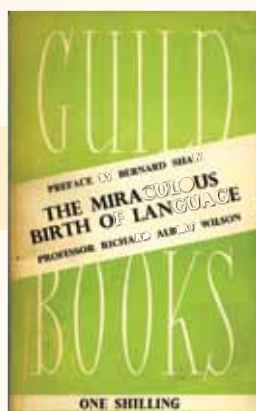
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FROM THE UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

A Saskatchewan professor's book inspires a lasting tribute from renowned author George Bernard Shaw

A LINGUIST'S LEGACY

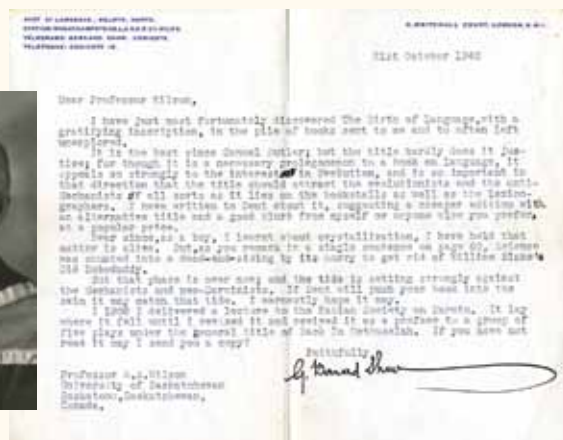
BY TIM HUTCHINSON

IN 1937, ENGLISH professor Richard Albert Wilson published a slim volume titled *The Birth of Language*. The book became a best seller not only in Canada, but England as well.

Wilson had worked for 20 years on the book which, he said, set out “to describe the problem that gave birth to language in the general scheme of world evolution, and to point out its basic relation to the two forms of sense, space and time.”

The renowned Irish comic dramatist, literary critic, and socialist propagandist, George Bernard Shaw, was so taken by the book that he used his influence to facilitate a paperback edition. When the second edition appeared it included a 26-page preface written by Shaw. He offered Wilson's book as proof that the University of Saskatchewan was “apparently half a century ahead of Cambridge in science and of Oxford in common sense.”

The book was published in 1941, and initially priced at a shilling. In September 1941, Shaw wrote to Wilson: “The book is fairly presentable at the price. Your part has been politely reviewed here, though not knowledgeably enough to make it worth while to collect the notices for you; and my part has been duly puffed and paragraphed.”



Indeed, it was a great commercial and critical success. With a few reprintings and an American edition, more than 100,000 copies were sold before it went out of print in the late 1940s.

Wilson died in January 1949, with *The Birth of Language* his only published book—but one with a lasting legacy. In 1980, the first Canadian edition of the book was published—as *The Birth of Language*, and without Shaw's preface. It had been out of print for three decades at that point.

The editor tried to explain the reaction of many who have stumbled onto the book: “(Modern interest) is aroused no doubt by the plain, concrete clarity of Wilson's prose, which makes his ideas so accessible, but perhaps also by the reasonableness of those ideas, which gives the book the kind of contemporary relevance that I have sketched above. For a linguist, it is an unexpected find: an original essay on language that predates the academic history of linguistics in Canada by a generation.”