

Fall 2008

## Season's Greetings from the President

On behalf of Selkirk College's students, staff and Board of Governors, I wish each of you a very joyous holiday season — a season filled with the West Kootenay & Boundary spirit. The spirit to which I refer is one of community.



It is at this time of year that one is reminded how, over the last 42 years,

Selkirk College has played an increasingly active role in the life of our community. Whether it is shopping at the annual Christmas sale of student work at Kootenay School of the Arts, joining hundreds of children at the Castlegar Children's Festival, being among the crowd of diners and dancers at the college's Gala Event at Mary Hall, taking a course in "Card - Making For Christmas" at our Trail campus or being part of the Kaslo Learning Centre's involvement in the Christmas Light Up Parade and Celebration, Selkirk is there — a part of the West Kootenay & Boundary community.

We are particularly thankful that you have remained a part of our college community through your membership in the Selkirk College Alumni Association.

All the best of the season and in the coming year.

Sincerely,  
Marilyn

## ...and I quote

"Well, I finished one year of college. I can't believe I did it! The power I feel within my inner spirit is amazing. I feel like I have developed new strengths within myself. I would like to thank you for your words of encouragement and friendship. I can't wait until next semester. "

*Lisa Lebedow, Business Administration*

An amusing anecdote was Santo Mignosa's comments on a student making utilitarian clay: "The world is full of teapots - be creative!" in some such words. We had a great time and miss those days!

Yours truly,  
Jim and Carolyn Moore  
KSA Alumni 1966

## Letter from the Editor

At Selkirk College we like to celebrate good news. The 2008 Gala was held on November 22nd to a sold out house. Mary Hall was alive with R & B sounds from the Contemporary Music & Technology program and incredible food was prepared and served by our students to staff and community members. A great time was had by all. A special thank you goes out to all staff and volunteers who helped make this annual event happen.

This issue of AlumnUS features our Chartered Students and faculty as they celebrated 42 years since the beginning of Selkirk College. On October 24th, 18 members and guests met for dinner hosted by the Selkirk College Alumni Association and President Marilyn Luscombe. Current students served and entertained alumni in our very own dining room, Scholars. The group hopes to do it again next year.

I know you will enjoy reading the updates and success stories of fellow grads. Keep sending in those stories and stay connected!

From all of us in Alumni and Development,  
"Happy Holidays"!

Best regards,

Pat Henman  
Selkirk College Alumni Association Coordinator



Photo taken at Gala 2008: Kim Adamson, Katrine Conroy and Pat Henman.

# Event News

## Orientation Day – Sept 2nd, 2008

Over 400 people participated in Orientation Day on September 2nd, 2008 at the Castlegar and Nelson Campuses, taking part in events such as sumo wrestling, tug-of-war competitions, “ski” races, campus tours and welcome speeches by Athletic Coordinator Kim Verigin and college President Marilyn Luscombe. Information booths featuring local companies and community supporters were set up to demonstrate the entertainment, recreation and business services available in the area. Students were also able to enjoy a free pancake breakfast and BBQ, along with musical entertainment provided by Canadian Idol finalist, Gary Morrisette and our own music students.



## KSA Gets “Out There”!

Instructors and graduates from Selkirk College’s Kootenay School of the Arts (KSA) showcased their diverse ceramic styles at the prestigious Gallery of BC Ceramics on Granville Island in Vancouver, BC, from Sept 6th – 29th, 2008.

The special ceramic exhibition KSA OUT THERE featured a wide range of virtuosity and expression from twelve professional clay artists. Each potter submitted a representation of their high end, mid-range and production styles to express their diversity in content, form, design and vision.

Participating in the display were KSA Clay Instructors Pamela Nagley-Stevenson, Garry Graham and David Lawson, along with nine KSA Alumni. Four of the artists that contributed to the show are well known potters working in the West Kootenay - Kathi Hofmann and Julia Gillmor, of Nelson, Sarah Lawless of Kaslo, and Robin DuPont of Winlaw. Three of the alumni are working in studios in Vancouver - Donna Partridge, Tanis Saxby and Lise Kuhr, while Samantha Dickie runs her studio out of Victoria. The twelfth potter of the show, Maggie Finlayson, is a resident artist at Anderson Ranch Studios in Colorado.



## KSA 10 Year Reunion

Kootenay School of the Arts 1997 graduates met for an informal evening at Mike’s Place, at the Hume Hotel in Nelson. From left to right Dana-Jo Burdett, Jan Formby(CL), David Stryke (WD), Sherry Ewings, Robin Holbek-Wiltse(FI), Maggie Tchir and Kathleen Hill. Special thanks goes out to Dana-Jo for coordinating the event.



## Integrated Environmental Planning Technology Celebrates Tenth Cohort

The Selkirk College Integrated Environmental Planning Technology (IEPT) program is celebrating the graduation of its tenth cohort of students. The IEPT program has established itself as a leader in environmental technology and land use planning training. Further, the IEPT program is an innovator by offering its graduates a myriad of choices upon graduation. Many IEPT program applicants are drawn by the fact that upon graduation they may seek employment in the Canadian or international environmental field or transfer into the third year of several leading university degree programs.

## Chartered Student Event

On October 24, 2008, eight Chartered Students and Faculty members, along with their partners, came together in Scholars Restaurant to celebrate forty-two years since marching down Columbia Avenue in Castlegar to their new digs at our present Castlegar Campus. 2006 Contemporary Music & Technology graduate, Aspen Switzer, entertained the guests while our amazing students from Hotel and Resort Management and the Professional Cook Training program treated and fed us all like royalty.

“I’m unaware of any other technology program in BC with as many transfer agreements”, said Robert Macrae, IEPT Instructor and Chair of the BC Environmental Articulation Committee. “What’s more impressive is the range of transfer program choices from university environmental science degrees to public health inspection or water and wastewater treatment. Now IEPT graduates may elect to remain at Selkirk College and complete either the Advanced Diploma or Bachelor’s Degree in Geographic Information Systems.”



1966 Chartered Students and Faculty (photo left to right) Bruce Romney, Ray Lundquist, Alex Wallach, Mary Vanness, John Adams, Marillee Papau, Allan Whitley, John Mansbridge



# Short Good News

## Credit Union Commemorates 50 Years of Helping Students

The Credit Union Foundation of British Columbia and the Nelson and District Credit Union commemorated 50 years of helping students throughout BC by donating \$10,000 towards a bursary for Selkirk College students. The award will be available to BC resident students in attendance at Selkirk College in any program of study. Financial need is the prime criteria, however grades must be acceptable as well. Selkirk College also donated \$5000 towards the endowment, making them an equal partner in the establishment of the bursary.

From left to right, Nelson and District Credit Union employees Cherese Guillee, Tara Keirn and Karlene Meister and Director of Communications and Development at Selkirk College, Barry Auliffe.



## Selkirk Students Receive \$96,000 in Awards

At a special ceremony on Selkirk's Tenth Street campus in Nelson on September 15th related students received individual monetary awards ranging from \$750 to \$2,000. Over 50 people attended the event, including Selkirk College President Marilyn Luscombe and Nelson Mayor John Dooley.

All of the \$96,000 of award funding went to students in trades and technology programs. These programs include a broad range of subjects – from welding to digital media to aviation. More award money is on the horizon too. An additional \$192,000 will be awarded to students in these programs between 2009 and 2011.

Where is all this money coming from? The \$288,000 three year

commitment to Selkirk College trades and technology students was developed by the Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust (SIDIT). Thirteen private sector and political leaders living in the Southern Interior govern the trust fund, which was launched by the provincial government in 2006.



## Castlegar Rotary Club Donates to Selkirk Parents in Need

Selkirk College President Marilyn Luscombe accepted a \$5000 donation from Karen LeMoel on behalf of the Castlegar Rotary Club as part of a five year commitment to establish bursaries for single parents in need. To date, the total donation from the Club is \$25,000. Selkirk College has matched the donations, establishing an endowment worth \$50,000. The Castlegar Rotary Bursaries will be given annually to students in order to assist them financially while attending Selkirk College.



## Renewable Energy Goes International

Selkirk College's Renewable Energy Program has recently established an international exchange program, which includes Mexico, North Dakota and California. Selkirk students have the chance to study at progressive



colleges that are taking a lead in teaching about renewables. Human Resources and Social Development

Canada is funding the exchange so money is not an obstacle for Selkirk students.

The cross pollination of ideas from Selkirk's international partnership with American and Mexican colleges brings the possibility of economic success and environmental progress to our area.

## Selkirk College Students and Donors Celebrate at Scholarship Awards Ceremony

Over \$200,000 in scholarships was presented to students in various programs at Selkirk College in the beginning of September, as students and donors gathered to celebrate at the Scholarship Awards Ceremonies.

Scholarships were awarded to full time students entering Selkirk College for the first time who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement, and to students enrolled in a minimum of 80 percent course load who have also shown exceptional academic success while attending Selkirk College.

## Selkirk College Wins FortisBC PowerSense Conservation Excellence Award

Selkirk College is one of eleven local businesses and organizations that was awarded a FortisBC PowerSense Conservation Excellence Award for their outstanding achievements in energy efficiency in 2008.

FortisBC PowerSense Conservation Excellence Awards recognize customers who have shown a commitment to innovation, conservation and sustainability by completing energy efficiency projects that save more than 100,000 kilowatt hours annually.

Selkirk continues to lead by example with energy efficient projects throughout the campuses. This year's award is attributed to a retrofit of the Castlegar Campus data centre A/C which now uses "free cooling" by bringing in cool outside air during the cooler months. Selkirk College saved 111,000 kWh over the past year.



## Canada West Ski Areas Association Adds \$10,000 to Scholarship

The Canada West Ski Areas Association recently donated an additional \$10,000 to the Ski Resort Operations & Management Program at Selkirk College. The funds will go towards the Canada West Ski Areas Association Scholarship Endowment, which is annually awarded to four high ranking, full time, first year Ski Resort Operations and Management students who will be attending the second year of the program at Selkirk College. The Association has been donating to the college for over 15 years and their endowment has grown to \$67,000.

## Selkirk Students Opt for Extended Health

In partnership with Canada's only national non-profit insurance provider, Green Shield, and the National Student Health Network, the Selkirk College Student's Union (SCSU) now offers a comprehensive set of benefits through a campus-wide extended health and dental plan.

As of August 1st, an Extended Health Plan became mandatory for all full time students, unless they have extended health and dental insurance from another source. "The mandatory nature of the plan is how we are able to provide excellent coverage at an affordable rate," says David Lubbers, Health and Dental Coordinator for the SCSU. "It works out to approximately \$20 per month."

The plan went to student referendum and was passed with an over 90% mandate by students at the Castlegar campus back in 2006, and on the Nelson campuses the following year. The 2008 fall semester will be the first semester with the plan in place.



*Organizer, Varenka Schwarz, and Health and Dental Coordinator, David Lubbers, will be administering the extended health and dental plan for Selkirk College students in the fall of 2008.*

## Aspen Switzer Releases Second Album in Nelson, BC

Aspen's voice stops you in your tracks. It is powerful, subtle, pure and haunting, filled with longing and an ethereal yet grounded quality. She has a clear sense of who she is. Her songs illuminate the stories of a young woman, wide awake, striving for balance in love, independence, aspirations, social responsibility and caring. Her trio sings flawless three-part harmonies, balancing the charm and warmth of old time music with the contemporary.

As a Contemporary Music & Technology Alumni, Aspen Switzer continues to raise the profile of the program. Her social interest and love for humanity is reflected in her concert history. She has played fundraisers and peace events ranging from Amnesty International's presentation of Maher Arar, to the Our Way Home Reunion, opening for a presentation by George McGovern.

Although she is still an emerging artist, she came to national attention in 2007 when Hockey Day in Canada used three of her songs in their all day special when they visited her hometown, Nelson. When she released her first music video on YouTube, she received an editor's choice award which resulted in over 20,000 views in the first week.

Since graduating from Selkirk College in 2006, Aspen has released two CD's, *Narrow Sky* and her latest, *Humble but Bearing no Apology*. Most of the musicians playing on her new release have mentored her or instructed her while at Selkirk College.

She has played in venues from Victoria to Charlottetown. Aspen is trying to live in Montréal but she has been in Nelson recording her new CD since finishing her BC / Alberta tour in April.

Her shows are reflective, funny and hauntingly beautiful. Her engaging stage presence, her powerful yet transparent voice, her love and ability with vocal harmonies and her clever and authentic song writing all fuse together seamlessly, making Aspen an exciting and charming performer.

To find out more about Aspen, or to order her CDs, visit her website at [aspenswitzer.com](http://aspenswitzer.com).



## frame your achievements

Your diploma, certificate or graduation photo will be around for a long time so why not frame them in a beautiful crested Selkirk College custom frame?

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Selkirk  College

# Conversation with Mike Truscott

MIKE GRADUATED FROM SELKIRK COLLEGE RESORT & HOTEL MANAGEMENT IN 2001. HE IS CURRENTLY THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES AT VANCOUVER MARRIOTT PINNACLE DOWNTOWN HOTEL IN VANCOUVER, BC. MIKE SITS ON THE SELKIRK COLLEGE RESORT & HOTEL INDUSTRY ADVISORY BOARD.

1. What inspired you to go into the hospitality industry?

I was working at the Balfour Golf & Country Club and it was there that I realized I had a passion for the service industry. I did not have experience in hospitality at the time, but while researching a suitable post-secondary program, hospitality caught my eye.

2. Why did you choose to attend Selkirk College?

I had attended high school in Nelson from grade 9 to graduation in grade 12. On arrival to Nelson I instantly feel in love with the city and wanted to stay as long as I could. Selkirk allowed me the ability to stay in Nelson for another 2 years. I also liked the class sizes, which gave all students the opportunity to get to know their instructors and classmates.

3. Tell me about your experience at Selkirk in 100 words or less.

Selkirk was a wonderful and rewarding experience. I first started in the Silver King Campus and was lucky to move to the new Tenth Street Campus the following year. Tenth Street offered a larger space which opened new learning opportunities. Class sizes were well appointed, and instructors were very approachable and always available. As the first class to attend Tenth Street, we were able to assist with setting up Scholars Dining room (including picking the name). Since that time, Scholars has become even better and continues to offer a phenomenal "hands-on" learning experience for students.

4. What is your most memorable moment from your time at Selkirk?

My most memorable time at Selkirk was the execution of events. From the planning stage to final execution, it was rewarding to see hard work lead to extraordinary results. Working with different students who brought diverse backgrounds to the table was also a great learning experience.



5. How did Selkirk prepare you for your current position? (Director of Human Resources)

Selkirk did not directly prepare me for my current position but certainly indirectly prepared me by giving me the fundamentals to start my hospitality career and excel it to where I am today.

6. Do you mentor new people coming into the business and what are your thoughts on mentoring? Do you have any comments on anyone who was a mentor to you?

I make a strong effort to mentor new people coming into the industry. It is nice to work with people who are first starting. I especially enjoy working with students, like those from Selkirk who are on their work terms, to help each achieve the goals he or she would like to achieve by the end of their work term.

I have worked with a General Manager, Ken Cretney, in three different hotels. Mr. Cretney, who is the past Chair of the Resort and Hotel Advisory Committee, first recruited me from Selkirk and since that time, I have worked with Mr. Cretney at the Rimrock Resort Hotel in Banff, the Delta Whistler Resort in Whistler, and the Vancouver Marriott Pinnacle Downtown Hotel in Vancouver. Mr. Cretney has been a very influential part of my career and I owe him a debt of gratitude for his willingness to mentor me.

7. Is the hospitality business on the rise? What are your aspirations for the business and for yourself?

With the current economic conditions the hospitality industry is in for tough times. However, there will always be a strong demand for tourism. What will be most interesting in the next 10 - 20 years will be the variety of different hotels and resorts that we will see built. From different and unique architecture, to offerings that meet and exceed the always changing discerning clientele, the industry will always be on the rise in exciting ways.

For me, I definitely plan to stay in the industry moving to a General Manager position in a full-service hotel and then into the corporate offices of a large brand similar to Marriott.

SELKIRK COLLEGE MUSIC FACULTY SHOW

# come together

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23 | 8:00 PM  
CAPITOL THEATRE NELSON BC

FEATURING 2008-09 SELKIRK COLLEGE (PERFORMANCE) STUDENTS

**TICKETS: Capitol Theatre and Eddy Music**

**TICKET PRICE:** Regular \$20.00 | Alumni \$15.00 | Students (with ID) \$10.00 | Seniors \$10.00 [General Seating]



# Alumni Updates

**KAREN MACKINNON:** 1974 Nursing Alumni, completed a PhD in Nursing at the University of Calgary in 2005 and now has an Assistant Professor position at the School of Nursing at the University of Victoria.

**ANTHONY CROSFIELD:** 1985 Hairdressing Alumni, 2008 Winner of the Superstar Hair Challenge.

Castlegar native and Selkirk College alumnus Anthony Crosfield beat out 11 other hair stylists in the nationally broadcast reality television show, "Superstar Hair Challenge," which aired on Slice TV.

Crosfield, who began cutting hair at the age of 12, always knew what he was destined to do in life, and winning the "Superstar Hair Challenge" appears to confirm that he's become the very best stylist he can be.

**JASON LOWE:** 1998 Golf Management Alumni, promoted to General Manager, Arbutus Ridge Golf Club, Vancouver Island in January 2008.

Jason worked in Sales and Marketing for the same company for five years before his promotion. Similar to many alumni of Selkirk College, Jason volunteers his time as a member of the Golf Management Advisory Board.

**KAREN HOSFORD:** 1999 Integrated Environmental Planning Technology Alumni.

Karen was recently appointed Environmental Superintendent for the Galore gold and copper mine development project in northern BC – a joint venture between partners Teck Cominco and Nova Resources.

"Our corporate goal is to recover the metals and leave the site in an environmentally sustainable condition," stated Hosford. "My task is to protect the land, water, air, and wildlife."

**SHELLY STANSBURY:** 2000 Resort and Hotel Management Alumni, promoted to Director of Housekeeping at Fairmont Hotel Vancouver.

Shelley began her Fairmont career at the Fairmont Chateau Whistler as a Guest Service Agent. She subsequently worked at The Fairmont Vancouver Airport as a Guest Service Agent, Guest Services Supervisor, Fairmont President's Club Manager, then finally as the Assistant Front Office Manager – the position she held prior to joining our hotel in June 2007 as Housekeeping Manager.

**WADE BRUNHAM:** 2002 Integrated Environmental Planning Technology Alumni.

Wade works at Rescan Environmental Services and is completing a Master of Science degree at Simon Fraser University.

"I completed a BSc at Royal Roads University specializing in wetland construction and remediation and helped design water treatment wetlands for the Victoria Airport Authority and for the City of Stockholm [Sweden]. When I returned to Canada, I took a position with Rescan Environmental Services as an Environmental Scientist. I currently study environmental impacts to wetlands for our clients and I am completing a Master of Science at Simon Fraser University on the effect of temperature on metal accumulation in cattail and bulrush dominated marsh wetlands."

**HÉLÈNE MARCOUX:** 2005 Integrated Environmental Planning Technology Alumni, graduated with a BSc from the University of Alberta in December, 2007. In recognition of her effort, her application for a National Science and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) grant to support her Master's degree was approved. NSERC is Canada's leading funding agency for advanced scientific and engineering research.

"I'm still unsure of my research plans. I hadn't made any decisions until I was sure of NSERC funding. I may look at reclamation of arctic gravel pits, peatland reclamation in the boreal, Rocky Mountain National Park restoration, or urban restoration in Manitoba," said Marcoux. "I've worked hard over the past four years. Receiving an NSERC grant is truly rewarding."

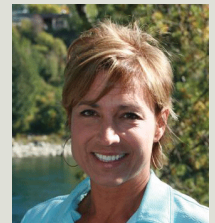
**SARAH LAWLESS:** 2006 KSA Alumni, Potter - Kaslo Studio, recipient of the 2008 BC Creative Achievement Award, two BC Arts Council Scholarships, the Purchase Award in the International Orton Cone Box show that toured the USA, and participant of the BC-Tajimi Exchange Exhibition in Tajimi, Japan.

**MANDY EBEL:** 2007 Selkirk College Contemporary Music & Technology Alumni, Winner of 2008 MusicCan Fred Sherratt Award of \$3500.

Known for her performing and songwriting abilities, Mandy's unique style has her writing music with infusions of rock, techno, and East Indian influences. The 22-year-old Selkirk College graduate possesses recognizable leadership and marketing skills.

"These graduating students have the potential to be the next generation of musical trend-setters in our country. Their leadership and tremendous talent have already left a positive mark on music programs across the country, and we are delighted to be able to recognize their achievements and highlight their potential. Thank you again to CTV for their generous contribution that allows us to continue to support young Canadian talent," said Srinka Wallia, Executive Director, MusiCan.

**LORENE MACGREGOR:** 2008 Golf Management Alumni, recipient of the Val Mason Scholarship Fund of the Canadian Society of Club Managers for \$1,000 each, for recognition and commitment to the golf industry. In addition, each recipient receives complimentary student membership in the CSCM for the membership year following the award.



**CARLA SMITH:** 4th year Nursing student, recently created a nursing alumni facebook group called Guatemala Nursing Experience [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

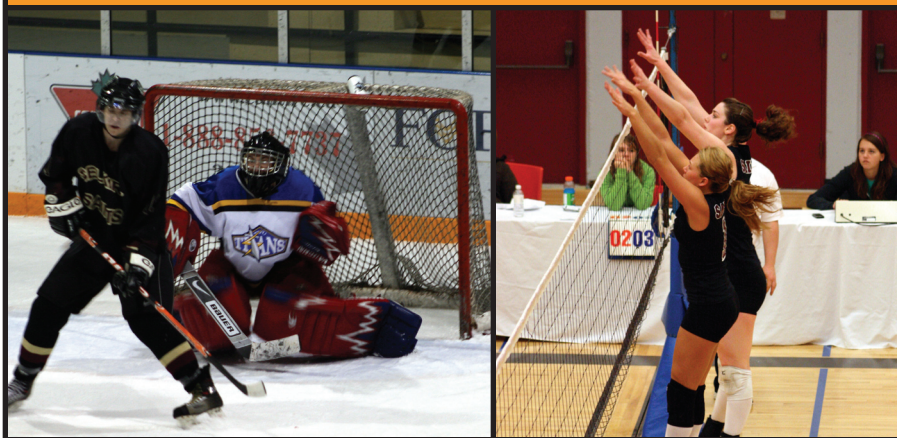
## Selkirk Saints - UPDATE

This year the Saints compete in golf, volleyball and hockey. The volleyball provincials will take place February 26 to 28, 2009. We welcome back our women's volleyball coach, Joe Moreira. With over 30 year's experience, Joe brings commitment and dedication to his third year of coaching the Saints.

The men's coach, Mike Perra, is a NCCP Level 3 certified coach. Mike has played for the Saints himself, back in 1989 and 1990. He coached the team until 1997 and is now back again as head coach.

The Saints hockey season consists of 16 regular season games and a championship tournament where the top four teams from the regular season face off to crown the provincial winner. Good luck to the players and their coaches, Darrin Kissock and Darrell "Frenchy" Boisvert.

For Saints' game schedules go to [selkirk.ca](http://selkirk.ca). If you would like to support our Saints and become a sponsor, call Kim Verigin or Pat Henman at Selkirk College, 1.888.953.1133.



*Go Saints Go!*

*"It is with sincere gratitude that I accept the bursary offered to me. I am currently attending Selkirk College for my second year. The support given to me by your foundation is very much appreciated and will help me achieve my goals. It is very nice to know the community cares about youth."*

Michelle Brown, Associate of KPE, '08

Each year Selkirk College awards scholarships and bursaries to our students through the generosity of our donors. In the 2007-08 school year, more than \$300,000 was awarded to nearly 400 students. This financial assistance not only rewards students for outstanding achievement, but often provides the critical financial support many need to complete their studies.

**Thank you to all our donors for supporting our students!**

Selkirk College Development Division

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