

Fall 2009

## Event News

### Kootenay School of the Arts at Selkirk College 2010 Reunion

In 2007 KSA alumni pledged to reunite again in 2010. The Reunion Committee has been meeting for the last six months and plans are being made for May of this coming year. The weekend kicks off with an opening reception. Main attractions of the reunion include a

grad show at Touchstones Museum and an alumni non-juried exhibition in the new studio rooms in the KSA building. A dinner and dance complete the festivities on Saturday night.

If you are a graduate of any discipline ever offered at KSA since its inception, then you are invited to attend. Registration forms

will be available in February 2010 on line at [www.selkirk.ca/students/alumni/reunionsandevents/](http://www.selkirk.ca/students/alumni/reunionsandevents/). We will also be sending them out by email. Please share this information with alumni that may not have access to the internet.

Date: May 7 & 8, 2010  
Place: Nelson, BC  
Venue: Kootenay School of the Arts at Selkirk College  
606 Victoria Street, Nelson (and other venues in Nelson)  
Cost: TBA  
Contact: Pat Henman, Alumni Coordinator, 250.505.1324



## Letter from the Editor

### Happy Holidays to all!

The season is almost upon us and with that comes greetings of peace and harmony from Selkirk College. We have had a busy fall at Selkirk with the announcement of a residence restoration project in Nelson and the launch of a major fundraising campaign for the Mir Centre for Peace Lecture Series. There is a lot more going on which you can read about in this newsletter.

Selkirk College has some terrific news: Selkirk's enrolment has increased in each of the last two years. In 2008 we had our highest enrolment to that point at 2,165 full-time equivalent students. This year we beat that record with a 3.6% increase bringing 2009-2010 enrolment numbers to 2,244.

This edition will have updates on alumni, college news, event news and a reunion for Kootenay School of the Arts at Selkirk College. If you would like your program to have a reunion please contact me at the Alumni Association and I would be happy to help you. And keep sending me updates and news to share with other alums!

Once again, from everyone at Selkirk, have a safe and happy holiday season.

Best regards,

Pat Henman  
Editor, AlumnUS Newsletter  
Selkirk College Development & Alumni Coordinator  
[alumni@selkirk.ca](mailto:alumni@selkirk.ca) 250.505.1324



## ...and I quote

"I found Selkirk College to be a great transition between educational stages in my adult life. It was a beneficial step between high school and the more impersonal experience of university academia. The class sizes at Selkirk College were small enough to develop personal relationships with the professors that I will continue to maintain throughout my academic career. Due to the desirability of living in the Kootenays and the focus that Selkirk College has on teaching, the calibre of professors that are attracted to the college exceeds that of first year instructors of any university I have been a part of."

*Eric Cormier, 2006 AS, 2009 recipient of Jubilee Medal for Science, University of Victoria*

## ...Event News

### Selkirk College Gala

Saturday, November 28, 2009, marked the 20th anniversary of the Selkirk College Gala. Platinum cd's dangled from the ceiling of Mary Hall and created a brilliant show when touched by the light of the disco ball, literally highlighting this year's Gala theme "We've Gone Platinum".

The gala celebration featured a rap number written and performed by Resort and Hotel Management student Stephanie Schrempp. Stephanie rapped about the last twenty years of the Gala—reminiscing about past themes such as "The Festival of Trees" and "Share the Gift"—right up to the present Gala format.

224 guests enjoyed a mouthwatering five-course meal prepared by the Professional Cook students and served by students studying Hospitality & Tourism.

The President's Champagne Reception entertainment by instructors Gilles Parenteau and Cheryl Hodge was top notch. The after-dinner Broadway show, presented by Cheryl's Contemporary Music and Technology students, was a crowd-pleaser as well.



The evening was a success in many ways— including financially. Over \$12,000 was fundraised through the gala auction, and all items were donated by the communities Selkirk serves. Thank you to all who support Selkirk College and the students who attend. See you next year at the 2010 Selkirk College Gala!

## CD Celebrates 20 Years of Music at Selkirk College



Selkirk College's current Contemporary Music and Technology faculty: Mark Spielman, Paul Landsberg, Steven Parish, Darren Mahe, Laura Landsberg, Kiyoshi Elkuf, Gilles Parenteau, Cheryl Hodge, Glenn Mitchell, Don Macdonald, Missing are John Tucker and Kelly Fawcett.

The faculty of the Selkirk College Contemporary Music and Technology program has released its first album in its 20 year history—*Souvenir*.

Produced by Don Macdonald and recorded by Steven Parish, the album celebrates 20 years of music instruction at Selkirk College. Performers include: Cheryl Hodge, Darren Mahe, Kiyoshi Elkuf, Mark Spielman, Glenn Mitchell, Paul Landsberg, Laura Landsberg, Gilles Parenteau, Don Macdonald and Steven Parish. Proceeds from the sale of the album will go towards a music scholarship that will be available to students enrolled in the program.

By combining a classic rhythm section of bass, drums, guitar and keys with vocals and horns, *Souvenir* covers classics such as the Beatles' "Come Together", Jeff Beck's "You Know What I Mean" and Chick Corea's

"Sea Journey". Original compositions showcase the stylistic range of this multi-talented troupe in genres including up-tempo modal jazz, rock and roll, funk and soulful blues.

"We love to play and we hope it shows," says Composition Instructor, Don Macdonald. "We wanted a way to showcase the talents of our faculty, assist our students, and mark the 20th anniversary of the Contemporary Music and Technology program at the college. This seemed like a natural way to cover all of our bases."

The Selkirk music faculty CD, *Souvenir*, is now available for digital download and CD ordering from CD Baby or selkirkmedia.com. It is also available at the bookshops on the Tenth Street and Castlegar campuses, Pack Rat Annie's, Otter Books and Coles in Nelson.

## Activist Builds on Nursing's Privilege and Potential

A mother of two growing boys and newly divorced, Trista Ling decided it was time to go back to school and pursue her dream of becoming a doctor. She had always wanted to go to medical school, but life had gotten in the way and she hadn't been able to realize that goal. But when she mentioned her plans to her family doctor, she recommended that Ling take a look at nursing instead—she would graduate faster, have a more reasonable schedule and get to spend time with her kids. Ling took that advice and hasn't looked back since: "Nursing is just so much more me. I would rather be in the role

of walking beside people through their health issues than leading the way for them."

She enrolled at Selkirk College, in Castlegar, BC, which offers a four-year baccalaureate degree in nursing with the University of Victoria. Although she's been a graduate for just a year, Ling has already obtained her perianesthesia nursing certificate and has been working in the post-anesthetic recovery unit at her local hospital.

An article on Trista Ling's experience has been published at [www.canadian-nurse.com](http://www.canadian-nurse.com). Search for "Trista Ling" to read the full story.

# Short Good News

## FOUNDERS' DAY CELEBRATION

On October 16, 2009 Selkirk College honoured its founders—the individuals who sowed the seeds and laid the cornerstones of our regional college.

Approximately 40 Selkirk College Founders, chartered students, retirees and current staff celebrated Founders' Day. Two of the college's original founders, Dr. John Hall and Mr. Glenn Weatherhead were on hand to celebrate this special event. Lloyd Wilson, son of Founder Lawrence Wilson, drove all the way from Calgary to take part.

President Marilyn Luscombe and Dr. John Hall were main speakers. "Because of the hard work and passion these founders brought to public post-secondary education in the West Kootenay and Boundary regions, tens of thousands of lives have been transformed through learning. The social, economic and cultural development of our communities has been impacted significantly," said Luscombe.

A Founders' Wall was unveiled, recognizing the importance of the contribution Selkirk College Founders made and is located outside the staff lounge on the Castlegar Campus. The wall is open for viewing to the general public.

Founders of Selkirk College honoured on the wall include: Burt Campbell, Robert (Dick) Palmer, Frank Beinder, Elizabeth Wallach, J.A. (Jim) Gray, J.L. (Lawrence) Wilson, C.S. (Colin) McKenzie, Gordon Sergent, Mickey Jacobson, A. (Albert) W. Hearn, Nancy Baker, R. John Welton, J.E. (Ted) Fletcher, Robert T. (Bob) Waldie, Joseph Kary, S.N. Mitchell and D.A. Perley.



Selkirk College President Marilyn Luscombe, Selkirk College (SC) Board of Governors Vice Chair Bruce Morrison, Founders Glenn Weatherhead and Dr. John Hall, Lloyd Wilson, son of Founder Lawrence Wilson and SC Board of Governors Chair Stefan Lehmann.

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD

A proposal creating the Distinguished Alumnus Award was approved by the Selkirk College Board of Governors on November 24, 2009. Beginning in 2010, one award will be presented annually to a former Selkirk College student whose work reflects well on Selkirk College and has led to outstanding achievements in his or her field of endeavor.

## NURSING PROGRAM

2009 Selkirk Nursing graduates Marieke Hiensch and Jessica Nilsen were honoured by being two of the four keynote speakers at Vancouver's Human Rights and Diversity Conference last November. Organized by the BC Nurses Union, the conference was attended by more than 150 nurses affiliated with the union.

Further afield, 2008 Nursing alumni Cailey Lynch is volunteering to be a guest nursing instructor in Bangladesh this winter. The International University of Business, Agriculture & Technology, in the city of Dhaka, asked Cailey to teach students in the Baccalaureate Nursing Program. The university opened its doors only four years ago with the assistance of a small Canadian NGO called Mid-Main Friends of Bangladesh.

## \$7M FUNDS SELKIRK COLLEGE STUDENT RESIDENCE UPGRADE

A \$6.9 million investment from the federal and provincial governments will create affordable student housing at Selkirk College. The project will upgrade an unused building on Selkirk's Tenth Street Campus. Boundary-Similkameen MLA John Slater and Okanagan-Shuswap MP Colin Mayes made the announcement in November 2009.

"This is a great day for Selkirk College. The upgrading of this building will create local jobs and help relieve the acute affordable housing shortages for students," said Slater.

The Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) has also committed to a financial contribution of \$100,000 and the City of Nelson has contributed the land and building.

The project involves upgrading the structure to current building standards, with the ultimate goal of LEED certification and



From left to right: Mike Berg, Chair of the Columbia Basin Trust Board, Colin Mayes, MP Okanagan-Shuswap, John Dooley, Mayor of Nelson, John Slater, BC Liberal MLA for Boundary-Similkameen, and Marilyn Luscombe, President and CEO of Selkirk College.

developing solar, geothermal and micro hydro energy sources.

The residence, built 50 years ago but unused for the last six, will help Selkirk College in the recruitment and retention of students while also increasing the availability of affordable housing off-campus for non-students in the community. Once the project is complete, approximately 100 students will live in the 2- or 3-bedroom units.

## SELKIRK STAFF STUDENT EMERGENCY FUND



In April of 2009, Maintenance staff member, Tom Cotton, approached the Development Department and asked if there was any way he could help the students at Selkirk College have an easier life while at college.

After considering several options Tom decided the best way to assist the students was to help fill the food banks and make sure emergency funds were available for students in need.

Tom couldn't do it by himself however, so he enlisted the help of his fellow employees and the Selkirk Staff Student Emergency Fund was born. It is commonly known around the college as the SSSEF.

Since June of 2009, Tom has signed up 44 staff members on a regular payroll deduction program and has collected five one time donations. All funds go directly to the students through food bank donations, grocery cards and emergency funds.

On behalf of Selkirk College and students, we would like to thank Tom for initiating the fund and to all staff and donors who have contributed to it.

## 2009 RETIREES

Shirley Boyes • Jacqueline Chapin • Barb Coombs • Marg Dolan • Kate Enewold Colleen Gibson • Duncan Grady • Jocelyn Heighton • Tom Kabatoff • Louise Krohn • Don Parks • Jim Paterson • Judy Schultz • Al Walker • John Waterer • Ardith White • Linda Wilkinson • Carol Zubick



# Flirting with Flame

Selkirk College C-Level Welding Graduate Builds Successful Sculpture Business



Kate Tupper is a welder turned artist who was born and raised in Nakusp, BC. For several years, she has been simultaneously building her art practice and her business, Spark Tart Designs. Tupper's work is individual and intriguing and one thing's for sure, she wields a wicked welding torch.

Her interest in metalwork began in high school shop classes. "At first I was not impressed because it was noisy and dirty," states Tupper, "but I love to build things and found steel to be such an amazing medium, that soon I was won over and came to love it."

When faced with the monumental decision of choosing a career path, Kate decided welding would be a good option for her. It would build on her metalworking interest and allow her to remain living in the West Kootenay, which was a priority. She graduated from Selkirk College's C-Level welding in 2004 and since then has been working in the area as a fabrication welder.

Kate's life has had its share of challenges. She was a mother of two before age 20, trying to finish high school, and then subsequently

went to college. She then had to prove she had the skills and determination to work in a male dominated industry. Nevertheless, she has soldiered through this to build a successful career doing something she loves.

Attending Selkirk College helped contribute to her success. "Selkirk College made sure my welding was solid," Tupper says, "to be a female tradesperson you have to always be on top of your game. If I hadn't attended Selkirk, my point of view as an artist and my practical skill level would be entirely different."

Kate's mind is always milling with a continuous clutter of conceptions for metal masterpieces. She thrives on challenge and cannot refuse an opportunity to be creative. Her work definitely has its own style, with production pieces such as the quirky best-selling "Honkey-Tonk Angels" (a decorative piece for the home created from old horseshoes and steel) and her steel sculptures of life-size antique furniture.

She is also kept busy doing custom commission work,

like building a headboard out of bike parts for some cycle-crazy comrades.

Considering the amount of artists in the area who also produce steel sculpture, Kate has been driven to experiment and come at the medium in a more memorable manner. Her main goal is to hear people say "Wow, I've never seen anything like that before!"

In the future, Kate plans to leave her fabricating roots behind to focus on Spark Tart Design and her artwork. She plans to continue living in Nakusp and growing her business throughout the Kootenays, working odd jobs as the need arises, but hoping to eventually live solely off her sculpture. Certainly, we can expect to see more of this innovative artist's work in local galleries, businesses and public spaces.

To see more of Kate Tupper's work, visit her websites at [www.sparktart.com](http://www.sparktart.com) and [www.katetupper.com](http://www.katetupper.com).

*Submitted by Sarah Fulcher*

## Selkirk College Bookshop

Your source for:

- Mugs
- Trade Books
- Clothing
- Stationary Supplies
- Cards and Gift Items



SELKIRK COLLEGE ALUMNI RECEIVE  
10% OFF ALL CRESTED ITEMS

BOOKSHOP HOURS: Castlegar (250.365.1281) Monday to Friday 8:30 am-3:00 pm  
Tenth Street (250.505.1359) & Silver King (250.505.1249) Monday to Thursday 8:30 am-1:30 pm

# Alumni Profile: Chris Habib

- **Where are you from, originally?**

I am from Truro, Nova Scotia.

- **How did you find out about Selkirk's Aviation program?**

I worked full-time at the Nova Scotia liquor corporation while I was at university. My co-worker's father was a retired Air Canada pilot and he recommended Selkirk College. His nephew graduated from Selkirk and now has a successful career at WestJet.

- **What is your current position with Cathay Pacific and what are you responsible for?**

I am a Cadet Second Officer. I'll be a cadet for 14 months while I train in Australia.

Once I'm done training, I become a second officer. I'll be responsible for relieving the captain and first officer while they rest on long haul flights such as Hong Kong to Vancouver. As a second officer, I monitor the controls and radios, but am not permitted to control, take-off or land the aircraft.

- **What was the hiring process like?**

Long, tiring and exciting. The process had many stages. It began by applying online. If successful you are invited to an interview and three preliminary tests—an English test, reasoning test, and a quiz based on a booklet they send you. The interview and tests take place in the city closest to where Cathay flies in and out of. In my case it was Vancouver.

If you are successful in stage 1 they invite you to Hong Kong for stages 2 and possibly 3. Cathay takes care of the flight and hotel accommodation. Stage 2 is another interview with several other written and group exercises. If successful, stage 3 is a management interview, a medical exam and an English proficiency check.

Stage 4 is a two week flight grading in Adelaide, Australia. For me, the flight grading consisted of three flights and three simulator exercises to judge my learning ability, personality, and attitude.

- **How did your training and education at the college prepare you for this position?**

Without Selkirk's great teaching staff and structured flight program, I would not have had the confidence to apply for this position, let alone succeed in getting the job. The school's instructors and work ethic pushes students. They show you what it means to work hard and it prepares you for the future.

- **What are your future plans with the company?**

My goal right now is to work as hard as I can until I become a senior Captain. Once I achieve that I will set another goal and keep shooting higher.

- **Would you recommend Selkirk to other potential commercial pilots?**

I would definitely recommend Selkirk to other potential commercial pilots for the reasons I've mentioned already and also because flying in the mountains is very difficult. You have to be prepared and confident in your skills while at Selkirk. The instructors test your abilities and encourage you to do more. The facilities are in great shape and the new simulator (the ALSIM) is priceless. When you're not busy flying you will be busy preparing for your simulator exercises or studying for the week's assignments and tests. Like I said, they prepare you for everything. The small class size allows for an intimate learning experience where every student receives appropriate guidance. Also, the Kootenay landscape is beautiful. You'll have fun just flying throughout the area!

- **Other comments or experiences you would like to share?**

I have been so busy preparing for my move to Australia that I have probably forgotten other great things about the school. One of my regrets is that I will not be able to graduate with my classmates in May. They are a great group of people and I know we will all be successful in our endeavours. I would like to give a special thanks to the Chief Flying Instructor at Selkirk, Ray Preston. His knowledge, advice and teaching are something I will never forget as a pilot.



## 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?



To order call the Selkirk College Alumni Association at 250.505.1324 or email [alumni@selkirk.ca](mailto:alumni@selkirk.ca).

Selkirk College



# Alumni Updates

## **BREANNE LEVERE: 2006 Alumna - Contemporary Music & Technology Program**

Breanne has been traveling throughout North America singing rock music and performing the cover tunes of various bands. So far she has made stops in Boston, Nashville and New York City. Breanne is currently enjoying experimenting in all aspects of the music business: singing back-up for other singers, working in-studio as a session singer and singing on film soundtracks. Breanne commented, "I learned quickly that people will hire you because they've heard good things about you. I work hard to make a great first impression so that my name will get passed around." Good luck Breanne!



## **LAURIER TIERNAN: 2001 Alumnus - Contemporary Music & Technology Program**

In November 2009 Laurier played on the punk stage at Japan's first SXSW-style festival. The festival was part of Japan Music Week. Following up his widely broadcast demo tape, Tokyo's Prograde Records released his new album in December 2009. A video for the single "You Will Die as You Have Lived" was released at the same time. Visit his Myspace page for all his latest news at [www.myspace.com/lauriertiernan](http://www.myspace.com/lauriertiernan).



## **MEGHAN HILDEBRAND: 2001 Alumna - Kootenay School of the Arts**

If you are in the Powell River area you will be able to find Meghan's work at Bemused Bistro for the month of December. You can subscribe to her blog ([www.meghanhildebrand.wordpress.com](http://www.meghanhildebrand.wordpress.com)) and view a new "painting of the month". Her next event will be at the

Cornerstone Cafe in Victoria on January 7, 2010.

## **ASPEN SWITZER: 2006 Alumna - Contemporary Music & Technology Program**

Aspen was nominated in three categories for the BC Interior Music Awards. She came home to Nelson with the Folk/Traditional album of the year and World Roots record of the year. Congratulations to Aspen from Selkirk College! Photo by: [www.GlennaTurnbull.com](http://www.GlennaTurnbull.com)



## **TOM SAMULAK: 2009 Alumnus - Contemporary Music & Technology Program**

Tom has been recognized nationally for his music by winning the prestigious MusiCounts Fred Sherratt Award. The award goes to Canadian musicians who are college or university graduates. The ceremony took place in Toronto's CTV studio. Fred Sherratt, a MuchMusic and CHUM radio executive and the award's namesake, paired up with etalk TV host Tanya Kim to present Tom with the award. The MusiCounts Award is worth \$3,500 and is granted by CARAS (Canadian Association of Recording Arts and Sciences).

## **MEGAN J. HAZEL: 2003 Alumna - Kootenay School of the Arts**



Megan has been building a successful career in jewellery design since graduating. After graduation she moved to Toronto and opened her own studio called "Made You Look". She has since returned to her roots in Regina where she has been instructing jewellery-making. She has also been the Artist-in-Residence at the Neil Balkwill Arts Centre for six years. Megan creates unique jewellery from a variety of metals such as silver and copper. Various galleries and shops across Canada feature her work. Megan is actively creating her own jewellery collections and is also being commissioned for one-of-a-kind gifts, wedding bands and other pieces.

## You're covered in more ways than one!



### Home Insurance

1.800.563.0677

[www.johnson.ca/selkirkalumni](http://www.johnson.ca/selkirkalumni)

**\$10 Gift Offer** - For each qualifying Alumnus not already insured with Johnson Inc., who receives a **Home Insurance quote**, Johnson Inc. will donate \$10 to the Selkirk College Alumni Association.



### MEDOC® Travel Insurance

1.866.606.3362

[www.johnson.ca/selkirkalumni](http://www.johnson.ca/selkirkalumni)



Home insurance is available through Johnson Inc., a licensed insurance intermediary. Policies are primarily underwritten by Unifund Assurance Company. Unifund and Johnson Inc. share common ownership. Discount may be available if policyholder has MEDOC® Travel Insurance. MEDOC® is a Registered Trademark of Johnson Inc. MEDOC® is underwritten by Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance Company of Canada and administered by Johnson Inc. Johnson Inc. and Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance Company of Canada share common ownership. Certain conditions may apply. In all instances official policy wording will prevail. LRP.11.08

# Mir Centre for Peace Lecture Series

Photo credit: Nathan Beninger, Pura Vida Foundation



## Donate to the Mir Centre for Peace Lecture Series

The Mir Centre for Peace Lecture Series can reach its potential through a successful campaign to raise **\$200,000**. These funds will go directly into the Mir Centre Speaker Series Endowment. The annual return on the endowment investment will help support the Lecture Series for years to come.

- The funds will support local/regional speakers and two internationally renowned speakers per year.
- Donations are tax deductible.
- A donor plaque recognizing all contributions to the Mir Lecture Series will be present in the Mir Centre for Peace.
- For a Campaign Donor Package contact the development office.

If you would like to support our efforts in building an endowment to support the Mir Lecture Series please call the Selkirk College Development office at 250.505.1324 or go online to [www.selkirk.ca/mir/campaign](http://www.selkirk.ca/mir/campaign).

**help us** INSPIRE OTHERS TO  
BUILD LIVES OF PEACE



Selkirk  College

### MISSION OF THE MIR CENTRE FOR PEACE:

*"To understand and build cultures of peace through learning."*