

Spring 2008

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...and I quote

"I enjoyed reading the alumni newsletter – great job. I attended Selkirk College from 1990 to 1992, where I completed a Liberal Arts and Sciences diploma. I now teach at Okanagan College, and in many ways my decision to pursue college teaching was because of my positive experiences at Selkirk College. I like to think that my teaching technique reflects the styles of my former instructors: Don Wilson, Sally Willis and Peter Woods. Those three were perhaps some of the best instructors I have ever had."

Brett Wade

Liberal Arts and Sciences, '92

"Thanks to my key instructors at Selkirk College: Steve Bareham, Mitch Regiec and Wayne Schweitzer. You guys do a fantastic job and prepared me very well. Sometimes I miss the old classroom settings with you guys! And thank you to my mentor, the man who originally got me really started, Mr. Ken Oleschuk."

Blair Whyte

Golf Management, '01



"The skills I learned at Selkirk are really the reason I was hired at Teck Cominco, and I love my job."

Ashley Thompkins
Integrated Environmental Planning, '06

Photo credit: © 2007 Teck Cominco. Reproduced with permission.

Letter from the Coordinator

Spring has sprung in the Kootenays – almost. Outside my office window I still see snow even though it's April. We usually equate spring with warm weather, bright colours and more daylight. Well, this year we appeared to welcome spring with Graduation 2008.



On April 25, more than 690 Selkirk College students received graduating certificates and diplomas during the 41st convocation ceremony in the history of our college. No doubt the graduates are excited about their accomplishments, and they should be. Some graduating students might feel apprehension about leaving the security of their classrooms and instructors, but as you will see in this issue of the *AlumnUS*, the success stories are uplifting.

In this issue you will read about music graduate Neville Bowman, who came back to Studio 80 to speak to students about making it in the real world of music. Plus, Tessa MacDonald, a Renewable Resources program graduate, is now working with Selkirk College instructor Tim Thurston on a special research project you'll learn more about.

There's a lot more happening at Selkirk College so read on, and stay connected with the Selkirk College Alumni Association. We thrive on sharing good news about your time at Selkirk and beyond. Have a great summer!

Best regards,

Pat Henman
Selkirk College Alumni Association Coordinator

NURSING IN GUATEMALA: A poor nation offers a wealth of experience

Through the efforts of many dedicated individuals, Selkirk College has developed an international practicum experience in Guatemala for third-year nursing students. In the spring of 2006, I was fortunate to be a part of the first group of students to participate in this practicum. To encapsulate this experience in a brief article verges on impossible. Therefore, my hope is to provide a little insight into my personal experience and to share what I learned from it.

What is health? Is it simply the absence of physical disease? What makes us healthy or unhealthy? Nursing theory has taught me that many factors, including education, gender and income, have a direct relationship to the health of individuals and the larger communities in which they live.

While in Guatemala, I was able to expand my view of the world and see firsthand how social injustice and poverty can affect health. I was initially horrified and angry at the injustice I was witnessing. The unequal distribution of resources and wealth was shocking.

However, what I found in Guatemala was that the residents were not hopeless, dispirited people. In fact, I saw quite the opposite. I wrote the following shortly after returning from Guatemala:

“The people of Guatemala have taught me many valuable lessons. Their strength and resistance to the forces of racism and oppression have helped me to understand that they, in partnership with others, will be the catalyst for social change in the country. They do not need people to do for them, but rather they need people to walk alongside them in partnership. I was also struck by their deep sense of community and the services they provide for the betterment of the collective, as opposed to the individual. The health promoters in the rural communities do not receive any salary for the work they do; it goes unrecognized by the Guatemalan government. However, they persevere in spite of many obstacles because they understand the need for their work; it continues to improve the health of their communities. What I will remember most about my experience in Guatemala is the people: their strength, courage, resilience, grace, warmth and amazing hospitality.”

I still remember these warm feelings today, and I continue to be inspired by the realizations this experience brought to me both personally and professionally. I graduated almost a year ago now. Although I am working in an acute care hospital environment, I hope that what I have come to value in nursing is reflected in the way I practice today. I am striving to work in partnerships with people, as well as empower people to advocate for themselves to improve their health.

I remain passionate about international nursing practice as it provides nurses with valuable skills, regardless of whether we choose to practice at home or abroad. We live in a culturally diverse country and also deal with issues such as racism, marginalization and poverty and their direct impact on health and well-being. Guatemala taught me to ask why this is and believe that there is always a solution for positive change.

Alyssa Franklin graduated from the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program from the University of Victoria at Selkirk College in April of 2007.



Short Good News

Renewable Energy instructor Rob Macrae garnered third spot for Selkirk College in the World Proposal Championship, an international competition designed to recognize extraordinary skill in the area of proposal writing. Selkirk College's proposal was chosen from hundreds submitted by organizations from around the world.

“Getting the proposal accepted seemed to include all the recognition I could ever want because it met our programmatic goals,” Macrae says about the competition result. “But being acknowledged for creating one of the best proposals in the world is really something else.”

Selkirk College received a \$30,000 donation for the Mir Centre for Peace from Peter Rezansoff, CEO of Intertech Construction Group. Rezansoff has worked with Selkirk College instructor Myler Wilkinson on a DVD called Tolstoy & the Doukhobors. However, his philanthropy and engagement do not end there. Rezansoff recently donated an additional \$20,000 to create the Alex P. Relkoff Bursary Endowment and the Alex P. Relkoff Scholarship Endowment, which were established in memory of his uncle. The proceeds will be awarded to students in the Peace Studies program next year.

As part of its 100th anniversary celebrations, Teck Cominco has announced its support of Selkirk College through a generous financial donation of \$75,000. Teck Cominco will establish the Teck Cominco Community Leadership (TCCL) Endowment. Proposals are to be submitted to the TCCL Selection Panel, which includes representatives from both Teck Cominco and Selkirk College, for consideration. Proposals can originate either with the community or with students.

Students from communities across the Southern Interior of B.C. who are entering a trade, technology or academic program at Thompson Rivers University, Okanagan College, Selkirk College or the College of the Rockies will have access to \$6.94 million in support over the next three years. The funding for Selkirk College students – some \$588,000 which comes from both the Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust and the B.C. Innovation Council – is the single largest donation for student awards in the history of our college.

“We salute the SIDIT and BCIC for recognizing the key role that education plays in the economic development of our region,” says Marilyn Luscombe, president of Selkirk College.

Calling all chartered students! The Selkirk College Alumni Association has secured a display unit in the Castlegar campus library for your memorabilia. If you would like to share your memories with current staff and students, please call Pat Henman at 250.505.1324.

NEVILLE BOWMAN: accomplished musician returns with sage advice

On February 4, 2008, Selkirk College Contemporary Music graduate Neville Bowman returned to Studio 80 on the Tenth Street Campus to hold a mentoring clinic for current music students. Neville graduated in 1991 from what is now the Contemporary Music and Technology Program at Selkirk College. During his time at Selkirk, Neville developed certain work habits and beliefs that he credits his instructors for instilling in him. After 17 years of working as a professional musician, Neville returned to his roots to share his experience with musicians who are currently enrolled in the program. The students got more than just a clinic; they also were privy to a wonderful concert with Neville, backed by Selkirk's very own instructors.

WHERE DOES HE LIVE NOW AND HOW DOES HE MAKE A LIVING?

Neville lives in Kelowna, B.C., and makes his living strictly as a working musician, performing many different genres of music for a variety of audiences. He diversifies his career by accompanying singers, arranging scores for theatre, and collaborating with bands who play jazz, country or pop. He also writes charts for singers and has his own solo act. Jazz is Neville's favorite genre of music, but he says diversification is the key to surviving in a competitive market.

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PIECE OF ADVICE STUDENTS NEED TO HEAR?

Neville stresses the importance of having a good attitude and be willing to say "Yes" to everything that comes one's way, within reason. Any circumstance can lead to something else. For example, Neville began



working with a local theatre group, arranging and recording the score for a musical theatre show. This led to additional shows, and eventually Neville connected with other theatres and began working for companies in bigger centres. Technology is a huge asset for Neville, and he urges musicians to stay on top of developments. He typically arranges the score and sends it to his clients by internet or on a disc through the mail.

WHAT ADVICE DID HIS INSTRUCTORS PROVIDE AT GRADUATION?

Work hard, practice all the time and keep learning, says Neville, adding that everyone is different and it depends on your level of confidence. Although Neville agrees with his instructors about practicing frequently, he feels he learns more in one gig than in 10 practices, so he never turns down the opportunity to play.

Gilles Parenteau, one of Neville's instructors and mentors, suggested that Neville sing while playing the piano, and although he never considered himself a singer, he gave it a shot. It opened another opportunity for employment as a solo act. His employers now get two musical acts for the price of one.

Here are a few important points Neville had to share:

- Connect with employers
- Word of mouth is very important
- Dress appropriately (if it is a country gig, don't wear a tux!)
- Show up on time!
- Play with other musicians constantly
- Jam with musicians you don't know, and in any country – music is the same in any language
- Set realistic goals
- Practice a set number of hours a day
- Know your stuff – if you are a singer, learn the language of music
- Be good to your soul and stay healthy – play for yourself every now and again
- Practice and learn music you don't know or play a lot – that is how you learn

Pianist and vocalist Neville Bowman is best known as a member of the Just In Time jazz trio, but he also has performed with the Michael Garding Big Band and with Cathy-Ann Wells. His vocal style is often compared to that of Harry Connick, Jr. He is also an accomplished music writer, arranger and the musical director for the Nat King Cole tribute *Unforgettable* and for *Dem Crazy Blues: A Hundred-Year History of Female Blues Artists*.



Lacia Vogel, a 2007 Kootenay School of the Arts Metal Program graduate, received the 2007 Circle Craft Co-operative Scholarship of \$1,000. Her latest bronze piece, shown here and entitled Toby, was recently on display at Circle Craft Co-operative Shop & Gallery, Granville Island, Vancouver. Lacia has applied to UBC Okanagan for her Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree.

Photo credit: Stephen Trites, Dare to Dream Photography

Alumni Updates

- Aspen Switzer, '06, Contemporary Music graduate, is on tour! Check out her new website for tour dates and music samples at www.aspenswitzer.com.
- Jason Lowe, '99, has been promoted from Regional Sales Manager with GolfBC to General Manager at Arbutus Ridge Golf Club, another GolfBC property on Vancouver Island.
- Terry Ozem, '02, accepted the position of General Manager of Connaught Golf Club in Medicine Hat, Alta.
- Jason Kuiper, '05, has moved from Bearspaw Country Club in Calgary to the position of Clubhouse Manager at Desert Blume Golf Club in Medicine Hat, Alta.
- Michael Plouffe, '96, has accepted the position of General Manager at Chilliwack Golf & Country Club following seven years as Clubhouse Manager at Henderson Lake Golf Club.
- Nada Baali, '07, is completing her work term as Golf Administration Manager at Sharjah Golf and Shooting Club in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- Dan Warwaruk, '98, has moved to the Associate Golf Professional position at Tobiano in Kamloops, B.C., where he will be working for Miles Mortensen, another graduate of the Selkirk College Golf Club Management and Operations program.
- Doug Reid, '00, has accepted the position of Head Golf Professional at Port Carling Golf and Country Club in Port Carling, Ont.
- Blair Whyte, '01, is the newest member of the management team of the Sandpiper Golf Resort, Harrison Mills, B.C.
- Dave Fox, '95, Certified Club Manager, has taken the position of General Manager, Islington Golf Club, Islington, Ont.

Have you recently been promoted or changed positions? Send your updates to alumni@selkirk.ca



Contemporary Music graduate student, Terence Mazon, performs at the year end showcase, April 12, Mary Hall, Nelson.

Hawaiian-themed fundraiser a big success

On February 29th the Resort and Hotel Management students hosted a Hawaiian Luau to kick-start the 2008 summer season. This spectacular event was attended by 220 people and featured hula hooping, limbo dancing, sand, piñatas, a reggae band, ukulele player, silent auction, raffles and a live auction.

Numerous hospitality and tourism operators, many featuring Selkirk Grads, donated to the silent auction to ensure the success of the event, and to them, we say, "thank you." A Hawaiian feast was served featuring stuffed pigs, Mahi Mahi, Hawaiian shrimp, tuna and much more. We understand that guests went home completely satisfied.

The event raised more than \$5,300 for the Alyce Ross Memorial Scholarship. Alyce, a 2007 Selkirk College graduate, was tragically killed in a car accident last summer, and Alyce's family, friends and classmates set up a scholarship to honour her memory. An endowment of over \$11,000 has been raised so far, with the proceeds to go to a deserving graduate of the Resort and Hotel Management program.

It should also be mentioned that with this event, the Selkirk College Resort and Hotel Management program marked the end of the food service activities for the year. The culinary students added the crowning touch to the season's activities.

During the scholastic year, more than 2,000 people were served in the Scholars Dining Room, as well as the other banquets, which included the Selkirk Gala, a grand Winter Buffet, the Chinese-themed banquet with the LVR Band, a dinner for the Board of Tourism BC, plus the theme weeks.

This practical training and hands-on approach has put the Selkirk College hospitality programs in the forefront of community activities and has given the students a chance to put theory into practice.



Joyce Buckler, Selkirk College Development Division, accepts a cheque for \$5300.00 from Resort and Hotel Management students for the Alyce Ross Memorial Scholarship.

Reunion Announcement

GREETINGS KSA VETS!

Ten years have come and gone and where are we now? I'd like to know. Is anyone else interested in finding out? I'd like to invite all of the KSA 1998 "First Graduates" for an informal reunion. How about some old familiar territory? Drinks and munchies at:

Mike's Place
Saturday, May 10, 2008
Celebration begins at 5 p.m.

For more information feel free to contact Dana-Jo Burdett, at dj_burdett@hotmail.com.

GOLF IN THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE:

letter from the far east | December 17, 2007

For the past few years, global investors have been busy buying land in Turkey for the purpose of golf resort development, as the industry is experiencing a boom. I came to the realization that golf could become the future of Turkish tourism and, perhaps, part of my future, too.

At first, I knew nothing about golf. I also didn't know how to speak English, so I decided I would have to live in another country in order to study both these subjects. It was scary to think about the difficulty of the task that was ahead of me. Yet, I decided to pursue my dream despite the obstacles. The big question I had to ask myself was "how?" The answer was that I had to find a school that could teach me both English and golf.



After a wide search, I found Selkirk College and contacted Bob Falle, chair of the School of Hospitality and Tourism. His approach was very professional, and he patiently answered all my questions.

In 2002, I moved to Canada to begin my education; after a year of English study I was accepted into the Golf Management and Operation program. I met with Mitch Regiec, golf program instructor, and Wayne Schweitzer, program coordinator, before being introduced to the other instructors.

What professionalism! Their approach was amazing. They gave me confidence and provided me with the opportunity to express myself. They took the time to train me in all the details and aspects of the golf industry, and they taught me how to be part of golf

culture. They also showed me how to find a place to work, so I could gain hands-on experience.

Right after I completed my work term, I was hired by Kananaskis Country Golf Course. General manager Darren Robinson, who also graduated from the program at Selkirk College, gave me an opportunity to work in almost all areas of the golf course. I worked at Kananaskis for four golf seasons and the experience was incredible.

In 2007, I returned to Turkey and began looking for opportunities in the industry. After a long process and several interviews, I was hired as a golf club executive by a company that is going to build a brand new golf resort. I am responsible for the construction process of the golf course, as well as establishing the 27-hole golf club with all facilities, including a five-star hotel and spa, in the beautiful Turkish Riviera of Kusadasi.

Today is my fifth day at my new position and my boss (a member of the board) told me that they were very impressed with my knowledge about the golf industry during the interview; they said they saw a great spark of passion in my eye, which Selkirk College gave me.

I owe my career and future to Selkirk College and the great friends I made there. By the way, they are still helping me whenever I have questions.

Best regards,

Can Yalcin
Golf Club Executive, Ephesus International Golf Resort
Kusadasi, Turkey

Reaching out to charter student alumni

An open letter to charter students from Norm Wolfe, SEC Communications Coordinator, January to June, 1967

Many of us who spent our first four months as college students slogging through mud, sulphur fumes and fly-ash at the "Celgar Campus" see our contributions to the development of the first community college in the province as a valuable addition to post-secondary education in B.C. The theme of the original yearbook, *Kak-si-luk*, which means "from vision to reality," stressed the importance of the pioneering spirit as the foundation for realizing future goals. The men and women who negotiated, planned and worked to get the flagship community college located in the West Kootenay had that pioneering, visionary spirit. After 41 years, the college continues to strive to fulfill the vision we conceived in 1966.

The theme of the original yearbook, Kak-si-luk, which means "from vision to reality," stressed the importance of the pioneering spirit as the foundation for realizing future goals.

Although much information has been lost, redeveloped, and lost again, there is an effort afoot to establish a lasting legacy for chartered students. Pat Henman, coordinator for the Selkirk College Alumni Association, has secured a space for a permanent display of charter student memorabilia and located a number of "lost" items, including the Selkirk College Marching Drum that accompanied students on the Great Trek from Celgar to Selkirk. Letters have also been mailed to the last-known addresses of charter students, so that an updated contact list can be created. In addition, we've asked for donations of memorabilia for the display.

I am trying to develop a website where we can share information and photos, both historic and current, and maintain contact information. This charter student alumni site is meant to be in addition to the college alumni site, not an alternative to it. It is a closed site that is password protected, so you need to be invited. Once you have joined the site you can invite others. Please send me your email address and I will add you to the list. I can be reached at wolfepprints@gmail.com or 1330 Cheveldave Rd., Castlegar, B.C. V1N 4T8.

Former student given green opportunity

Selkirk College has undertaken several research projects of varying sizes and financial benefits over the years; however, the main reason instructors participate in outside research is almost personal.

Selkirk College Recreation, Fish and Wildlife instructor Tim Thurston says he participates in research contracts that interest him – projects that he feels will have an outcome that betters the world in which we live.

One of his current contracts – Energy, Water and Waste Management Systems at Backcountry Facilities – has produced a unique opportunity for a former Selkirk College student, and this is yet another way the work benefits others.

Tim needed an assistant to help with the leg work and the up-front research for the project, which aims to identify the most efficient ways of managing energy, water and waste materials at off-grid locations.

With a recommendation from Selkirk College Instructor Rob Macrae, he approached alumnus Tessa MacDonald, a 2006 graduate of the Integrated Environmental Planning Technology program.

Tessa, who hails from Nelson, became deeply interested in the environment after traveling to Asia, where she found herself appalled with the state of the environment. Her concern prompted her to return to the Kootenays and study renewable resources. She says her education has become her “stepping stone” to the future.

Although Tessa loves working in the field, she is currently focused on the process of conducting on-line research and making the necessary phone calls to industry professionals and backcountry clubs and lodge owners.

Congratulations Graduates of 2008!



At the end of the day, Tessa and Tim – along with their contract employer, Backcountry Energy and Environmental Solutions (BEES) – want to find out what practices and technologies work best in the off-grid country lodges. One of their main goals is to share the information among all backcountry hut owners.

Tessa is very excited to be part of this ambitious project, and she felt honoured when asked by her former instructors to participate. Her mentors have now become her peers.

Tessa believes her studies at Selkirk College in the Renewable Resources program have thoroughly prepared her for her future. The small, intense classes consisting of the same 13 students throughout the two-year program fostered a creative and comfortable environment in which to learn.

The Canadian wilderness is becoming increasingly recognized by outdoor enthusiasts as the ultimate vacation and sporting destination. The question facing the Selkirk research team is: How do we manage things like waste, water and energy in the most pristine environments?

That is really what this project is all about – the environment. The Kootenays are one of the most renowned backcountry recreational areas in British Columbia; and it seems imperative to ensure correct planning for sustainability. Selkirk College is proud to be part of the process with Tessa and Tim at the helm, steering the project.

At the end of the day, Tessa and Tim – along with their contract employer, Backcountry Energy and Environmental Solutions (BEES) – want to find out what practices and technologies work best in the off-grid country lodges.



do you ...

- Want a more promising career?
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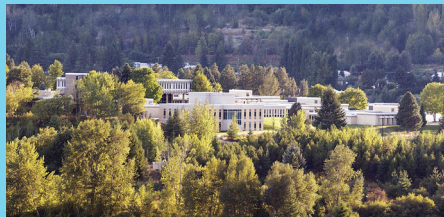


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"It is with sincere gratitude that I accept the bursary offered to me. I am currently attending Selkirk College for my second year. The support given to me by your foundation is very much appreciated and will help me achieve my goals. It is very nice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

