

UPDATES pg 2 | FEATURES pg 3 | REUNIONS pg 6 | GALA GALLERY pg 7 | PROFILES pg 8



## Letter from the Editor

The 2010-11 academic year has come and gone. Selkirk College has been as busy and productive as ever and I look forward to seeing the fruits of such labor.

It is my great pleasure to announce that Angus Graeme has been appointed President and CEO of Selkirk College. He officially began his tenure April 15, 2011.

After many months of diligent work by a college Search Committee, the Board of Governors and Davies Park executive search firm, the college found the person with the experience and the leadership attributes necessary to lead this institution into the future.

After 45 years, innovation continues to thrive at Selkirk. Instructor Ian Parfitt has been instrumental in securing grants for a Biodiversity Atlas project as part of the Geographical Information Systems (GIS) program and efforts of other partners. University Arts and Sciences alumnus Chris Pearson and Contemporary Music and Technology grad Kiesza are both moving and shaking in their own worlds, while Ski Resort Operations and Management (SROAM) alumnus Mike Adams received this year's Distinguished Alumni Award!

There is a lot more to read about, including what happened at the SROAM reunion in early May, and what will happen at the 25th Anniversary Reunion for International alumni in July.

Enjoy and have a fabulous summer!

Pat Henman  
Editor, AlumnUS

## Hats off to this year's grads!

Approximately 280 of Selkirk College's 716 graduates celebrated their accomplishments at the Graduation Ceremony and Tea at the Castlegar campus on Thursday, April 21, 2011. Congratulations everyone!

Visit [www.selkirk.ca/alumni](http://www.selkirk.ca/alumni) to view more photos and listen to/read President Angus Graeme's "Address to the Graduates" speech.



Photo: Vogue Photographics



**Dalraj Bassi** - 2009 Alumnus of Business and Aviation - Professional Pilot program and Commercial Pilot for Air Canada Jazz

"Selkirk College was the right choice for me! Their multi-million dollar facility along with invaluable instructor experience made it the perfect learning environment. Not to mention that it's recognized as one of the best aviation schools in all of Canada!"



**Carla Sinclair** - 2006 Alumna of the Digital Arts and New Media program and 2007 Alumna of the International Digital Film program

"Selkirk gave me the knowledge base I needed. My instructors invested their own time and interest in my education and that alone gave me an incentive to push myself to do the best work possible and instilled in me the confidence to pursue the work I truly love."

Dear Alumni,

I am very excited and honoured to serve in the role as president of Selkirk College.

Providing an accessible post-secondary education experience that is community-based, that prepares talented, empowered, effective citizens for the future, and that supports innovation and creativity are at the very heart and identity of our community college.

The sustained health and vitality of our college and exemplary service to our students and to our communities are central to our work at Selkirk College. As an alum, you are a critical part of our community. Selkirk College has been working to strengthen its connection with its alumni over the past years. I am committed to carrying on this work, with the goal of making your connection with Selkirk College a lifelong one that will be mutually beneficial.

I appreciate your support and continued involvement with the Selkirk College family of faculty, students, staff and fellow alumni.

Respectfully,



**Angus Graeme**  
President & CEO, Selkirk College



## GATHERING PLACE UPDATE

The site preparation and construction of the Aboriginal Gathering Place (Castlegar campus) is now complete!

Phase 2 of the project is due to start any day and primarily includes installation of the building air handling unit and associated structural and electrical components. This phase of work is expected to be completed mid-July.

Final interior completion (Phase 3) of the building is anticipated to be complete in the fall and correspond to an opening ceremony. The college is also developing a landscape plan and will complete the landscaping this summer.



## Congratulations employees and retirees of Selkirk!

### 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Allison Alder, Ken Soroka, Julie Robertson, Larry Perepolkin, Dan Obradovic, Len Grayson, Paul Idle, Rhys Andrews, Robert Gurney, Donna Sterne and Ian McAlpine

### 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Lenka Lalonde, Denise Chernoff

### 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Margaret Poohachoff, Elizabeth Popoff, Shirley Hadikin and John Chernenkoff

### 35 YEARS OF SERVICE

Mickey Kinakin

### THE FOLLOWING RETIREES WILL BE HONoured:

Peggy Weinrauch, Bev Onischak, Stuart Deverney, Denise Chernoff, Deborah MacLean, Pauline Dupas, Cheryl Hodge, George Penfold, Carol Retzlaff, Terry Walker, Vi Kalesnikoff and Chris Boven.

## New version of Columbia River Basin Biodiversity Atlas launches

The team behind the Columbia River Basin Biodiversity Atlas is pleased to announce that, after much hard work and collaboration, a new version of the Atlas is now available for everyone to experience at: [www.biodiversityatlas.org](http://www.biodiversityatlas.org). Originally focused on the East Kootenay, the Atlas footprint now extends over most of the Columbia Basin. Currently, 32 species of management concern, three ecosystems, and three related topics or "influences" (conservation, restoration, history) are featured.

The Atlas helps improve conservation planning and decision making by providing science-based information in an easy-to-understand format. Through text-based profiles and the latest in Geographical Information System (GIS) technology, the Atlas links biodiversity information to specific locations within the Basin.

Ian Parfitt, project coordinator, sees the Atlas' value as such: "The diversity of nature in the Basin is amazing. It's important that people have an understanding of the abundance and distribution of native species in our region, and that these species are carefully considered in planning processes. The Atlas helps people appreciate our region's rich biodiversity, and helps plan for its ongoing health and survival!"

John Krebs, Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program crew lead, adds: "The Atlas is an excellent resource for the region. It will really help improve access to data, not just for decision makers but for anyone who has an interest in the environment. It is a great, dynamic tool that paints a rich picture illustrating local species and habitat values."

The Atlas has been a collaborative initiative since its beginning a decade ago. Always evolving, the Atlas team continues to seek out additional partners for general help and/or data sharing. This approach is essential to delivering high-quality information on biodiversity in the Basin, which will help both casual and scientific users and, ultimately, the fish, animals and plant life calling the area home.

To learn more about Selkirk's Geographic Information Systems program visit <http://selkirk.ca/programs/rr/>.

*Submitted*



*Ian Parfitt is a program coordinator for the Selkirk Geospatial Research Centre, Selkirk College.*

## Welcome new forestry professionals!



*Standing from left to right; Forest Technology instructor Stu Deverney, Raquel Milaire and School of Renewable Resources Chair Derek Marcoux.*

The Forest Technology program at Selkirk College held its annual Silver Ring Ceremony on Thursday, April 14, 2011. The Canadian Institute of Forestry (CIF) gives a silver ring to welcome new forestry professionals into the industry and recognize individuals that have completed a CIF recognized forestry program. Fifteen Selkirk College graduates received their silver rings. The 2010 CIF Gold Medal Award went to Raquel Milaire. She was selected in recognition of outstanding scholarship, sportsmanship and citizenship throughout the Forest Technology program.



# What is Development at Selkirk College?

At Selkirk, we are proud to be a rural community college. In addition to being an educational institution that is dedicated to providing quality and affordable education within our community, we are also a registered charity. At Selkirk College, the Development team is responsible for the administration and coordination of all fundraising activities for the college including raising monies for special projects, capital campaigns, scholarships and bursaries for students and the coordination of special events.

To support student success and enhance learning opportunities, the Development office organizes a variety of special events throughout the year. These events are focused on raising funds for Selkirk College students—showcasing the array of diverse talents and contributions of our students and recognizing the student recipients of our many scholarships, bursaries and financial awards.

Last year we successfully completed the Mir Centre for Peace Lecture Series Endowment by exceeding our fundraising target of \$200,000 to \$315,795. Thanks to the generosity and support of community members, organizations and companies this endowment will provide for an annual return which will help make the Lecture Series affordable and accessible for students and members of the general public for future years.

Two significant capital campaigns that we are currently working on are the “Count Me In” and “Closing the Circle” campaigns. The “Count Me In” campaign will provide upgrades to the Contemporary Music and Technology program’s performance and recital studio (previously known as Studio 80) on the Tenth Street campus. The “Closing the Circle” campaign will allow for the completion of the new construction of the aboriginal building, known as the Gathering Place, on the Castlegar campus.

Our goals for the studio upgrades will include new seats and state-of-the-art lighting and sound equipment which will benefit both the performers and the audience. The Gathering Place is a dedicated space which is utilized to promote aboriginal culture, tradition, ceremony and generally provide an environment that is welcoming and relevant to aboriginal students.

The Gala, which takes place on November 19, 2011, is one of our key fundraising events. The Gala raises funds to help meet the growing financial needs of our students while celebrating the festive season with our community. Through the aid of ticket and auction sales, the Gala also enables us to raise a significant portion of funds to support individual programs for field trips, special projects, scholarships or bursaries. It is also an opportunity to showcase several college programs that participate in the coordination of the event.

In 2010, thanks to the generous giving of our donors, more than \$400,000 was awarded to Selkirk College Students through scholarships, bursaries and awards. These awards help to provide the support students require to avoid financial hardship while trying to obtain their education.

We cannot help students without support from our donors and I would like to take this opportunity to say “Thank you!”

**Joyce Buckler**  
Donor Services Coordinator



*Joyce Buckler,  
Donor Services Coordinator.*

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# Residence renovation update

On November 9, 2009, the college received \$7 million dollars for the renovation, reconfiguration and greening of the residences at Tenth Street campus in Nelson, B.C. These funds were made possible through the federal and provincial governments with support from Columbia Basin Trust and the City of Nelson.

As of May 2011, most of the exterior siding is in place, windows are installed and the balconies that will serve as access to east wing suites have been built. In addition, much of the servicing such as electrical and plumbing is nearing completion.

A newly created main entrance atrium will provide future space for lounge, orientation and a possible concession area with a four-story glass wall to benefit from the warmth and light of the southern sun in the winter. The residence interior will be finished with a combination of wood, cork-boards and exposed concrete and exposed mechanicals. Wooden columns and beams frame the wide balconies which provide exterior access to each of the self-contained suites in the east wing.

The interior of Studio 80 will receive a completed sound isolation envelope and a new seating rake which will allow for an increase in capacity to 108 seats. Proceeds from the "Count Me In" fundraising campaign ([www.selkirk.ca/s/count-me-in](http://www.selkirk.ca/s/count-me-in)) will be used to purchase new seating, light and sound systems.

When the renovation is completed and the residence is reopened it will feature space for approximately 100 residents in accommodations that range from single rooms with central amenities to 3 and 5 bedroom 'pods' complete with kitchen, bathrooms and a living room/dining room area.

As with any complex construction project, timing is always a challenge. The college is optimistic that the residence will be ready for occupancy in time for the beginning of the 2011 fall semester. Visit [www.selkirk.ca/housing](http://www.selkirk.ca/housing) for more information.





# Selkirk International Celebrates 25 years!

Selkirk International is celebrating 25 years of International Education with an Anniversary Reunion Celebration on July 8, 9 and 10 at the Castlegar campus of Selkirk College.

International Education at Selkirk College dates back to when the Adult Basic Education (ABE) departments offered courses to new immigrants and refugees. Classes were offered in Castlegar, Trail, Nelson, Salmo, Grand Forks and New Denver and primarily focused on providing conversation opportunities and employment assistance.

It wasn't until the mid '80s that colleges and governments actively began recruiting students, particularly from Asia, to come to Canada to study. In August 1986, Castlegar campus received its first 7 students from Hong Kong and the international program began in earnest. With no bus service to the college, instructors took turns picking up and driving students home at the end of the day. However, by 1987, a second group of 14 students arrived from Hong Kong, the bus service started to the college and a separate department had been formed for International Education. Since then, the program has continued to develop and adapt to the ever-changing international market, and has seen hundreds of students from 6 continents come to study and experience life in Canada.

Selkirk International is excited to celebrate 25 years of friendship between students, homestay families, staff and instructors.

We welcome all friends and homestay families to come and participate in the weekend event. For more information, please go to [www.selkirk.ca/international](http://www.selkirk.ca/international) and follow the links to Selkirk International 25th Anniversary Reunion, or contact Robin Trudel at 250.365.1306, for more information.



Selkirk College

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*Portrait frames are available on request*

Selkirk College Alumni Association

820 Tenth Street Nelson BC V1L 3C7 | Phone 1.866.301.6601 ext 324 | Fax 250.352.0697 | Email [alumni@selkirk.ca](mailto:alumni@selkirk.ca)

# Ski Resort Operations and Management (SROAM) program celebrates 30 years of success



Approximately 130 people gathered on May 1 in Kelowna, B.C., at a reunion to celebrate the 30th anniversary of helping people establish Ski industry careers. The reunion was held in conjunction with the annual Canada West Ski Areas Association (CWSAA) spring conference.

Four graduates of the first class of 1981 were there along with representatives of 20 of the other 29 graduating classes. Rod Loftus, the original instructor and creator of the program, travelled from Ontario for the event. He addressed the audience and explained how the program came into being with the tremendous foresight and support of several industry leaders of the day. Four of those individuals were there to join the celebration; President and CEO of CWSAA Jimmie Spencer, former CEO of Intrawest Hugh Smythe, former General Manager of Red Mountain and Sunshine Village Fred Bosinger and former General Manager of Whistler Mountain, Peter Alder.

Fifty-two graduates who have had long and notably successful ski industry careers were honored by being inducted into the newly created SROAM Hall of Fame. Chief Resorts Officer with Resort of the Canadian Rockies John Shea, President and CEO of Kicking Horse Resort Steve Paccagnan, the chief ski lift inspector for the BC Safety Authority Jason Gill, and General Manager of Castle Mountain, the late Tom Tataryn, were a few notables to be included. Mike Adams from the class of 1984 and former owner of Whitewater Ski Resort, was also honored for being the recipient of the 2011 Selkirk College Distinguished Alumni Award.

Bob Dodge, a graduate of the class of '84 and current program coordinator of the SROAM program hosted the reunion. "I was pleased with the turnout by graduates, past instructors and so many friends in the ski industry who continuously support the program," said Bob. "Bringing all those people together at one time really emphasized the positive impact this program has had on the ski industry and our graduates."

School Chair Bob Falle also commented on the event's success. "The evening was very special to me on another point as we were there to celebrate the retirement of Jimmie Spencer, President and CEO for the CWSAA for the past 32 years. Jimmie stated that his involvement with our SROAM program was one of his most cherished accomplishments in his role. Our program's 30th anniversary celebration was said to be one of the highlights of the conference."

The event also proved to be very beneficial for future students. Bob Falle reported that through generous sponsorship from the ski industry, a silent auction and 50/50 draw, more than \$2,000 was raised for a newly created Alumni Scholarship Fund. To top off the event, a cheque for \$50,000 was presented at the conference banquet by Ralph Scurfield of Sunshine Village to establish two new scholarships for aspiring ski resort managers.

*Submitted*

*The Selkirk College Alumni Association was a proud sponsor of the reunion reception.*

Below: Graduates of 2011 from left to right, Spencer Melnyk, Doug Sharpe, Dustin Jensen, Chris Nason.



Principal owner, President and CEO of Sunshine Village Ralph Scurfield presents a \$50,000 cheque to School Chair Bob Falle.



Steve Paccagnan – 1988 SROAM Alumnus and President & CEO of Kicking Horse Resort.



Above: School Chair of Hospitality and Tourism at Selkirk College Bob Falle and retiring President and CEO of CWSAA and honorary graduate of 1999, Jimmie Spencer.



Left: Technical Assistant of CWSAA Vicki Dalgleish and Office Manager of CWSAA Andy Spencer receive a gift for the tremendous support the CWSAA provides to the SROAM program.

## Mentoring at Selkirk College - Chris Pearson

Chris Pearson stood in front of Selkirk College's Applied Science class in early February and pitched University of Victoria's (UVic) Faculty of Engineering as an option for future education. Chris is an acting recruitment officer and graduate student at UVic working on his master's in the Faculty of Engineering's Department of Computer Science. He will continue on to complete the PhD program. But there is something more important about Chris acting as a recruitment officer for UVic: Chris is an alumnus of Selkirk College.

In the early '90s Chris attended the School of University Arts and Sciences (UAS) at Selkirk for two years, not quite sure of his future. In 2004 he returned knowing what his calling was—computer science. One of his instructors, Per Joensen, was a huge influence and motivator for Chris, so Chris was only too happy to return to Selkirk as part of UVic's strategy to recruit students after they finished their UAS program at Selkirk. He was eager to share his experience with students and visit Per.

Chris is married and currently living in Victoria. He plans on teaching after he has finished his studies. His master's is partially funded through assistance from research work and grants. He is also the recipient of the University of Victoria Fellowship award and a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Undergrad Student Research Award as an undergrad.

Visit <http://www.engr.uvic.ca/~seng462/ProjectWebSite/index.shtml> for more information on what Chris is working on.



Chris Pearson.

## Contemporary Music and Technology alumna - Kiesza



Kiesza.

*Kiesza is a 2008 alumna of the Contemporary Music and Technology program. She recently graduated from Berklee College of Music and we had the privilege of hearing about how her career is moving forward at an exciting pace.*

**This month I graduated from Berklee College of Music, with a Degree in Professional Music. I am training with the vocal trainer Don Lawrence in New York, who also trains Lady Gaga, Christina Aguilera, Bon Jovi and Bono. I am planning to release a single called "Oops," independently this summer and will be shooting a music video for it soon. Currently I am working on putting together my live show.**

During Selkirk, I won a radio grant of \$10,000 from Rwlco Radio to go towards producing an album. I worked on my first self-titled CD with my keyboard instructor Gilles Parenteau, who co-produced and arranged the entire album. Prior to the release of this album, with the sponsorship of The Bolt Supply House, I was able to donate 4,700 copies of my album to the Canadian troops fighting in Afghanistan, who could not be home for the holidays. The CD's were hand delivered to each soldier on Christmas day. This album received a lot of radio play in Calgary on Mix 97.7 and helped me develop a Canadian following.

After Selkirk, I moved to Boston to attend Berklee College of Music on a substantial scholarship. After being at Berklee for a few months, I was connected to a rising producer name Rami Afuni who has worked with such artists as Akon, Tincy Strider and Mos Def. He encouraged me to try writing in the dance/pop genre. We co-wrote the first track "Where Was You" together and shortly after, I was flown to London, England to play the Canada Day in London Festival for approximately 30,000 people. Following that event, I was then slotted in Virgin Mobile's U.S. music festival, which had about 45,000 people attending. At the moment I am finishing my next album with Rami and will be showcasing for several major labels in April 2011. I have also recorded with LMFAO, a successful electronic-hip hop band.

Selkirk was very important in directing my musical career. I owe a lot of credit to Gilles Parenteau for believing so strongly in my music and motivating me right from the start. I have never had a better teacher or mentor than him.

**Editors Note:** *Kiesza was once a member of the Canadian Navy, won Top Shot and was scouted as a sniper. She participated in the Miss Universe-Canada pageant and sailing is a major passion of hers. Visit her online at [www.reverbnation.com/kiesza](http://www.reverbnation.com/kiesza).*

Submitted





## Interview with Mike Adams

### RECIPIENT OF THE 2011 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Ski Resort Operations and Management alumnus Mike Adams was presented with Selkirk College's Distinguished Alumni Award at this year's Graduation Ceremony. Although he is currently traveling through parts of Europe, we managed to track him down and ask a few questions.

**Q. Mike, could you please give a quick synopsis of when you attended Selkirk (years) and who your instructors were? Why did you decide to study Ski Resort Operations and Management, and at Selkirk College specifically?**

**A.** I attended the Ski Resort Operations and Management (SROAM) program from 1983-84 and Peter Wood was the instructor at that time. It was a one-year program and you had to select an Inside Operations or an Outside Operations stream. Peter allowed me to take a few of the outside courses which gave me exposure to a variety of subjects. There was also a winter practicum and I worked at Mt. Washington on Vancouver Island. Eddy Schum was the General Manager and he had me work in a number of different departments such as the cafeteria, bar, ski school, lifts and grooming.

Prior to Selkirk I had graduated from Carleton University with a Bachelor of Commerce Degree. I had moved to Whistler and was working as a ski instructor as well as a number of other tourism related jobs.

I knew I wanted to continue in the ski business and also knew that I needed to "kick start" my career as I was stuck as a ski instructor. I investigated the SROAM program in Nelson and knew it was exactly what I required to get a fresh start.

**Q. What did you do after you left Selkirk?**

**A.** As I was graduating from Selkirk College the Whitewater Ski Society was advertising the job for a new General Manager. Peter Wood encouraged me to apply for the position and I did thinking that if I was given an interview it would be a good experience to go through the interview process. To my surprise, they offered me the position and I started in September of '83.

**Q. Where are you right now and what did you think when you were contacted with the news that you had been awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award?**

**A.** My wife Shelley and I are in Europe for two months travelling in a camper van visiting different parts of France, Italy, Sardinia, Greece and possibly Switzerland. We are having a great time and the time is flying by.

When I was contacted with the news I was surprised that the Board of Governors would recognize me in such a fashion! I would also like to thank the people that nominated me for the award as their letter was very flattering.

**Q. This is only the second year the Distinguished Alumni Award has been given, why do you think it is an important award? What comes with the title for you on a personal level?**

**A.** The Selkirk alumni have played an important role at Selkirk College as it has allowed students presently attending the college to look to their future and see the possibilities and potential they will have when they graduate. It gives the student body a continuity factor. On a personal note I was honoured and flattered with the award.

**Q. Over the years you have stayed connected to your program. Could you describe your participation? Has it helped your business to stay connected?**

**A.** Since graduation, I have remained connected with Selkirk College through the ski resort and the Advisory Committee. Whitewater would often host groups of students and instructors, to give presentations and answer questions on the many aspects of the resort and the business in general.

The resort has hired more than 100 students either upon their graduation or for their practicum. I was also on the Advisory Committee for the course to assist the SROAM program to stay current and to keep abreast of the many changes in the ski business. The program has evolved and is now a two-year program studying all aspects of the ski business.

**Q. The SROAM alumni are celebrating their 30th anniversary this year. In your opinion, how has the ski business changed in the Kootenay region over the last 30 years and what do you see in the future?**

**A.** The ski business has changed dramatically over the past 30 years and the resorts are now four season resorts offering a wide variety of sports and activities and competing world wide for customers. The ski product has improved with large advances in lifts, grooming and customer service.

The ski business in the Kootenays has had to keep pace with the other resorts and at the same time they have kept their heritage charm that makes them so popular. They continue to offer some of the best skiing in North America and still have a family-type resort feel to them. It is this combination that has allowed them to be successful.

The ski business has some very real challenges in the future with a shrinking client base and increasing competition from all styles of resorts. All resorts will have to address the challenge of attempting to maintain and increase the number of overall skiers.

The Kootenay resorts will face this same problem but have a competitive edge as they are offering a unique product to a niche market.

- Interviewed by Pat Henman