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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Selkirk College has had a year of revitalization. Our Tenth Street campus re-opened the Contemporary Music program's recital studio which has been re-named Shambhala Music & Performance Hall. Our recently renovated Tenth Street Student Residence is open for business and on May 24th our new centre for aboriginal students, The Gathering Place, will be open on our Castlegar campus. You can read more about these events in the pages to follow.

In this edition of *alumnUS* we feature Sean Arthur Joyce, 1991 alumnus, who shares his long history with local writers and publications. You will also read about the good work of the Canadian Federation of University Women, many of whom have attended Selkirk and now volunteer their time to support women's education.

We are always looking for opportunities to build and strengthen relationships and to stay connected with our alumni. To keep us informed about how Selkirk College has impacted your lives we encourage you to complete our Alumni Questionnaire. Your response will be submitted to me at alumni@selkirk.ca.

Best wishes for an amazing summer,

Pat Henman

Pat Henman,
Selkirk College Alumni Association Coordinator

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WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW?

After Graduation I asked some Grads what they would do next and here are some quotes captured at the reception following the ceremony:



782 GRADS QUALIFIED TO GRADUATE ; 278 ATTENDED THE CEREMONY

- Create my own company in web development
- Keep working with my existing clients
- I am going to go on and do my thesis
- Going back to work
- Might go back to school
- I am going to go on to the Millwright program – I just finished the SROAM program
- Off to travel, then to work in the (music) studio
- Nothing
- Joining the work world-staying in the Kootenay region for the summer
- Working – getting my career going
- Focus on my small apparel business
- Back to Vancouver to work after studying Gerontology
- Hope to retire next year
- Off to look for work in Aviation (while standing at the Alumni Association booth, the students' dad said he would buy her a plane – way to go Dad!)
- Cranbrook to begin casual work as an R.N.

And I Quote ...

"I really appreciated the collaborative and hands-on learning that I received at Selkirk College. The instructors were very involved and my relationships and experiences remain relevant after graduation."

SHERRY BROWN-RUSSELL, 2011 GRADUATE, RESORT/HOTEL MANAGEMENT; SALES MANAGER FOR THE SANDMAN HOTEL IN CASTLEGAR, B.C.



"Selkirk College was a good starting point for me in my subsequent career at Revelstoke Museum and Archives. I was in the "Arts 1" program, which gave me the opportunity to explore ideas and concepts in a way which I hadn't done before. It was a bonus to be able to attend college in my home town, and in small classes that supported my learning."

CATHY ENGLISH, 1976 GRADUATE, UNIVERSITY TRANSFER IN ARTS; CURATOR, REVELSTOKE MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES



Photo (left to right): Sherry Brown-Russell and her sister, Laura Neigel

ARTHUR LOW 1985 HONORS DIPLOMA IN ELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGY ALUMNI

After working as a technologist in Edmonton after graduation, Arthur attended University of Alberta and received his BSc in Engineering. In 1993, he moved to Ottawa and worked for Bell-Northern Research. He was soon recruited by IBM Microel Electronics to lead a research team to support IBM-Nortel and Cisco Systems in developing optical chips for internet networking equipment. In 2002, Arthur began his own company, Crack Semiconductor, offering consulting services. In 2009, he transitioned from consulting to product development, and with the support of the National Research Council of Canada, he developed the world's most advanced Public Key cryptographic accelerator that can be placed on a micro-chip. Arthur is currently writing his thesis in Technology Innovation Management at Carlton University.

LAURIER TIERNAN, 2001 CONTEMPORARY MUSIC AND TECHNOLOGY ALUMNI.

Laurier is now living in Tokyo. He has teamed up with Japanese vocalist Eiko Hosaka to create a lovecore duo, 'nature airliner' in June 2010. Since then they have released three singles and one EP, have toured internationally and have garnered endorsements from Levi Strauss (jeans), Yamaha (guitars) and Shubb (capos). Their latest single, "Celebration", was released on Valentine's Day, February 14th, 2012, along with a French version called "Temps de Fete".

Check out their web site:
www.reverbnation.com/natureairliner



Selkirk College Honours Its Extended Family

A tradition has been established at Selkirk College. Each year, on the evening prior to the annual graduation ceremony, the Board of Governors gathers to recognize individuals who have distinguished themselves in various walks of life.

The recipients of these Board Awards are in very good company with past award winners including such distinguished individuals as ex-Minister and MLA Corky Evans, Nelson Mayor John Dooley, Chartered Accountant Ron Anderson and J.J. Verigin Jr., head of the Union of Spiritual Communities of Christ (USCC).

The college awards honorary diplomas, recognizes distinguished educators and distinguished alumni. "It is through these awards that Selkirk College is able to formally recognize members of what we consider to be our extended family and honour the impact they have had on Selkirk and on the lives of others" said Angus Graeme, college President and CEO.



Photo: Selkirk College Board of Governors Chair, Bruce Morrison with Distinguished Alumnus recipient, Garry Merkel

On the evening of April 19th, members of the college's board and administration, award recipients, their families and nominators gathered on the Castlegar campus to present the awards to the 2012 recipients.

The first award, the Honorary Diploma, was awarded to an individual with deep roots at Selkirk College. Dr. Leo Perra was a long time president of Selkirk College and has remained a strong supporter since his departure in 2000. He received his Honorary Diploma in Contemporary Music and Technology in recognition of initiating the development of the music program for the college in the late 1980s. It was the first program of its kind at the time and a model on which many others have been fashioned. It continues to be one of Selkirk's most successful programs today.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award went to Garry Merkel, a class of 1979 Forestry graduate. Since graduation Mr. Merkel has distinguished himself nationally and internationally in the fields of business development, First Nations capacity building, education and nation governance. He is the Chair of the Columbia Basin Trust and the Tahltan Nation Development Corporation and has committed personal time over the past 15 years to speak to Selkirk students concerning First Nations treaty negotiations and capacity building.

This year, the nominees for Distinguished Educator were of such high caliber that it was not possible to select one over the other. As a result, Distinguished Educator awards were presented to both Mr. Don Wilson and Mr. Fred Wah.

Mr. Wilson's post-secondary teaching career spanned over a period of 38 years, and traces the history of post-secondary education in the West Kootenay region. An English instructor, he began teaching at Notre Dame University in 1965 and continued until his retirement from Selkirk College in 2004. During that time he taught over 7,000 students in 31 different courses! Mr. Wilson left his mark on many with his innovative and creative teaching style.

Mr. Wah began his teaching career in 1967, the very first days of Selkirk College and continued through till 1989. Mr. Wah built a reputation as a pioneer of innovative teaching methods and theories of higher education. He distinguished himself, and made Selkirk very proud, when appointed as Canada's Parliamentary Poet Laureate. Aside from making important contributions to Canadian literary arts, he continues to support Selkirk College; this summer he will participate in the Elephant Mountain Literary Arts Festival in Nelson.

The Board Award recipients were again honoured the following day at the graduation ceremony. The recognition of these distinguished individuals at this ceremony seemed very appropriate as the college celebrated students who have successfully completed their studies and at the same time those who have gone before and done so with such a positive impact on the college and the community.

Tenth Street Student Residence at Selkirk College



Selkirk College Board Chair Bruce Morrison, college President Angus Graeme, Kelowna-Lake Country MP Ron Cannan, CBT Board Member Am Naqvi and Nelson Mayor John Dooley cut the ceremonial ribbon to officially open the Tenth Street Student Residence.

It took almost 3 years but the Selkirk College Tenth Street Student Residence is officially opened. It all began with the submission of an application to Western Economic Diversification's (WED) Community Adjustment Fund for funding to renovate the old residences in June of 2009. That application was eventually approved and \$7 million was made available.

The completed facility, which actually opened in September 2011, provides on-campus accommodation for over 100 residents in modern 3 and 5 bedroom pods, complete with shared laundry and kitchen facilities or single rooms with shared amenities.

"For many years, students at Selkirk College, in particular those attending programs in Nelson were challenged to find affordable housing," says Angus Graeme, President of Selkirk College. "More recently the situation was becoming

serious enough that in many cases it was affecting their decision regarding whether or not to attend Selkirk College. That is now changed. Adding this residence to the community of Nelson has also made rental accommodation more available for non students. It truly is a win-win for Nelson."

While the application for funding was submitted to WED, approval was only achieved through cooperation and contributions from Columbia Basin Trust, the BC Ministry of Advanced Education and the City of Nelson.

From the perspective of Kelowna – Lake Country MP Ron Cannan, "you had a shovel ready project, a project manager and you worked with a team; this is all about partnerships."

Columbia Basin Trust was an important member of that partnership. "This project is a great example of a community tackling a problem in an innovative way by making use of an underutilized community asset," said Am Naqvi, board member of the Trust. He went on to say that this project aligned very well to CBT's concerns around affordable housing.

Nelson Mayor John Dooley reminded the well wishers gathered in the residence atrium that the development had some key components attached to it. "It created employment when it was badly needed and it also created an opportunity to provide housing for students and that was one of the biggest needs in the development of Selkirk College."

Selkirk College

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Portrait frames are available on request

Selkirk College Alumni Association

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Donors impressed with new Shambhala Music & Performance Hall at Selkirk College

Selkirk College's new Shambhala Music & Performance Hall opened with a flourish last week, a gala event for donors that featured refreshments and plenty of musical talent.

The evening started out with a reception in the atrium of the new Tenth Street Student Residence. A toast was delivered by the college Board of Governor's Chair, Bruce Morrison. Guests then made the short walk to the new performance space on the lower floor. Along the way they were greeted with musical performances from students and spectacular fiery poi.

Murmurs of how great the space is could be heard as people entered. After taking their seats, guests were greeted with short speeches by Selkirk College President, Angus Graeme, a representative of the City of Nelson, Gord DeRosa of the Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust (SIDIT) and Corrine Zawaduk of the Shambhala Music Festival – both major sponsors of the new facility.

After the ribbon for the new facility was officially cut, the performances began. With introductions from emcee Wayne Kelly and beneath the state-of-the-art stage lights, students from Selkirk College's Contemporary Music and Technology program put their best foot forward for the donors with inspiring performances all around. The Selkirk College Music faculty rounded out the night with another great performance.

Donors at the event couldn't decide which was better, the performances or the design of the Shambhala Music & Performance Hall.



Anna Bundschuh, Corrine Zawaduk, Jimmy Bundschuh (Shambhala Music Festival), Angus Graeme (CEO and President, Selkirk College), and Gord DeRosa (Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust)



Selkirk College Performance majors on the new Shambhala Music & Performance Hall stage.

“It’s amazing to see this state-of-the-art facility and know we’re supporting such incredible talent,” said Corrine Zawaduk of the Shambhala Music Festival. “It was a real eye-opener to see the quality of music from Selkirk’s music program. It was outstanding. The new facility is beautiful and it’s great support for music, arts and culture. So I’m very proud.”

“This project was a golden fit for us,” said Gord DeRosa of SIDIT, a \$50 million trust that funds economic development projects in the BC Southern Interior. “We were pretty excited to invest a \$50,000 grant in this new facility. What impresses me most is not the aesthetics of the building, but the engineering of it. The acoustics are great!”

Selkirk College Development Coordinator, Pat Henman was happy with how the event turned out. “I felt that the

production of the show was top notch,” Henman said. “The production values could compete with anywhere else in the country – right here at home in Nelson. She added that feedback from everyone involved in the event, from donors to staff to students and music faculty was very rewarding.

“It was overwhelmingly positive in regards to the quality and the visual aspects of that new space, which is beautiful – as well as the sound and the student performances,” Henman said. “The commitment of the staff in the music program is so great. A special thanks specifically goes out to (Selkirk College Instructional Assistant) Don Ector, for all the time he contributed to the project and in helping to create such a special and memorable evening.”

She added a big thanks to all the donors who contributed to the project.

“The Selkirk College students, faculty and staff are full of gratitude for your contributions,” she said.

To learn more about the Shambhala Music & Performance Hall, visit selkirk.ca/programs/dmm/music/studios/shambhalamusicperformancehall/

SELKIRK COLLEGE RETIREES ASSOCIATION

A STRONG ENTITY

The Selkirk College Retirees Association (SCRA) was formed in January 1999 by a group of retirees that had been at the college since its beginning in the 1966/1970 period.

The aims and objectives of the association that were set at that time were to maintain contact with the college and past college employees and notify them through a variety of methods to disseminate information such as:



Photo: John Adams, SCRA Steering Committee

- a mailing list for college publications
- notification of social events
- informing of tutoring opportunities
- providing information for potential retirees at the college
- providing peer support among retirees
- lobbying for improvements in pensions, medical coverage, etc. as part of a provincial organization
- exchanging of information
- informing of "deals" for seniors
- providing information on travel, accommodations, banking, shopping, etc.
- supporting with publications and organizations - CARP, Mature Outlook, etc.
- organizing social events: ie. seminars, slide shows re peoples' travels, barbecues, etc.
- anything else that anyone might need support with

The organization is informal with the emphasis on fun and socializing. Meetings are three or four times a year starting with a fall barbecue in September followed, during the fall and winter, with meetings at the college for slide shows, socializing, a bit of business and entertainment.

SCRA members are eligible to join the BC Retired Teachers Association which provides access to group insurance plans - particularly out-of- province travel, medical coverage, plus other kinds of insurance at group rates.

Current membership, as of April, 2012 stands strong at about 90 paid members with representation from all employee groups at the college (faculty, administration and support staff). Membership fee is \$10. All retirees are considered to be members of the SCRA for the first year after retirement. If they have not joined during this time we drop their name from the mailing list. The fee is to offset any costs associated with meetings (primarily refreshments). To date the college has offered the use of the staff lounge on the Castlegar campus at no charge.

Submitted by John Adams



Have you submitted your Alumni Questionnaire?

If not, please do so by clicking on this link 

WHAT WE DO TODAY TOUCHES TOMORROW!

SUPPORT THE EDUCATION OF WOMEN

The Nelson District Club of University Women was formed in 1967 and as part of its mandate includes the education of women. At present it offers three awards: a LV Rogers Secondary School Scholarship (The Elizabeth Wallach Scholarship), a Selkirk College bursary (CFUW – Canadian Federation of University Women - Nelson District Bursary) and a Selkirk College scholarship (Trail and District University Women's Club Scholarship).

Due to several years of low interest rates gradually affecting trusts held by Selkirk College, many student awards are becoming smaller. As a result, additional donations from community groups and individuals giving to Selkirk College awards have become significant in helping maintain the amounts of the awards to students. Donations to the college on behalf of these awards can be made by club members and non-members.

Also, as part of a national CFUW and international (IFUW) organization, our Nelson District Club also supports CFUW Fellowships and Awards for women's access to higher education through The CFUW Charitable Trust set up in 1976. This trust depends upon donations from CFUW clubs, club members and non-members. These donations allow the trust to award ten or more post-graduate fellowships each year. Donations can be sent to CFUW at 331 Cooper Street, Suite 502, Ottawa, Ontario, K2P 0G5.

In 2012, our club's high school scholarship will increase to \$1000, and the Selkirk College Scholarship will be \$770, the Selkirk College CFUW Nelson District Bursary which we started in 2004 at \$250, has moved only to \$335. The 2011 bursary recipient was a single mother of two children.

To continue to support education for women, donations can be made to either the CFUW bursary or scholarship. Please contact Joyce Buckler, Donor Services Coordinator, at Selkirk College, 250.365.1360. You may also donate online: <http://selkirk.ca/about/ways-to-give/>. Tax receipts will be provided.

THEY ARE PART OF OUR FUTURE!

For more information please visit the Nelson District University Women's website : <https://sites.google.com/site/nelsoncfuw/home>.

Submitted by Dorothy Fraser,
CFUW, Nelson




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Art Joyce, a.k.a. Sean Arthur Joyce

Sean Arthur Joyce is better known in the Kootenays as Art Joyce for his popular *Heritage Beat* column that ran in the Nelson Daily News from 1996-2000. Art attended Selkirk College in 1990-91, receiving his certificate in Magazine Journalism (Calvin Wharton, instructor) and Electronic Publishing, which included Magazine Design (Ron Woodward, instructor). The program was part of the Graphic Communications department on the Castlegar campus.

He spent over a decade working at dead-end jobs for minimum wage and decided at age 30 that it was time to develop his latent writing and creative skills. From his earliest years in public school, he had consistently garnered top marks in English, creative writing and art, so he decided it was well past time to put his abilities to work. While at Selkirk, Art averaged in the top five students of his class.

"The program itself was superb thanks to Ron Woodward's dynamic yet easygoing teaching style (Woodward went on to teach at SFU)", says Joyce. "For me it was my introduction to computers but ironically I became an early victim of technology's hyper-speed development. That is, by the time I graduated a year later cheaper, faster publishing software was already on the market that made it possible for a secretary to do what we had been trained to do at Selkirk.

"I still use the publication design skills I learned from Selkirk today. Ron Woodward wisely gave us foundational tools analogous to an artist taking life drawing or anatomy classes so that even as technology changed, our ability to use basic design skills would remain relevant. I have since designed numerous books by various authors for my limited editions press Chameleon Fire Editions, primarily poetry."



During the years Art was with the Nelson Daily News he wrote two books on Nelson's history, *A Perfect Childhood*, and *Hanging Fire & Heavy Horses*, on the city's historic homes and streetcars, respectively. The Knowledge Network, *BC Moments*, video short on the heritage homes of Nelson, B.C., quotes from *A Perfect Childhood*. Joyce has worked as a freelance journalist since 1990, writing mostly for regional BC newspapers and magazines. For the past seven years he has worked as a reporter and Arts and Culture Editor for the *Valley Voice*, one of the last independently owned newspapers in B.C.

Joyce has deep roots in the Kootenay region, with both sides of his family settling in the West Kootenays in the 1930s and '40s. He was born in the East Kootenay town of Kimberley, BC in 1959 and as a preschooler, his family moved to the West Arm of Kootenay Lake. It was while he was in high school

in Nelson that he began writing and publishing poetry. Since then his poems and essays have appeared in *Canadian Author*, *The Fiddlehead*, *Whetstone*, *The New Quarterly*, *Acumen* (UK), *CCPA Monitor*, *New Orphic Review*, *Horsefly* and others. In 1997, he was chosen to participate in the League of Canadian Poets Mentoring Program, studying with Robert Priest. In 2000 he directed and produced a 6-minute poetry video for BRAVO TV. Under his limited editions imprint, Chameleon Fire Editions, he has published several poetry collections.

Much of Joyce's poetry and journalism has focused on social and environmental justice. While at the *Valley Voice* he has done investigative reports on run-of-river microhydro systems, microwave radiation hazards from wireless devices such as cell phones, WiFi and 'smart' meters, and other topics. He was included in the international poetry anthology *The Book of Hopes and Dreams*, published in the UK in 2006, along with other notables such as Margaret Atwood and Lawrence Ferlinghetti. The anthology is a fundraiser for Scottish charity Spirit Aid, which raises money for child victims of war in Afghanistan and other war zones. His current project focuses on the history of poor British child immigrants sent to Canada during the 19th and early 20th centuries as indentured labourers, also known as 'home children'.

New Orphic Publishers of Nelson, B.C. published his first major collection of poetry, *The Charlatans of Paradise*, in 2005. Poet Mick Burrs wrote of that book: "Romanticism is not a dead school of poetry. We still have our 21st century successors to Blake, Shelley, and Wordsworth, poets not afraid to criticize civilization while they celebrate the natural world. Joyce belongs to this tradition." Joyce's second book of poetry with New Orphic, *Star Seeds*, was released during National Poetry Month in April 2009. Burrs wrote of these poems that "Joyce already possesses many of the gifts... which take a lifetime to master."

You can learn more about Art Joyce at www.chameleonfire.ca