

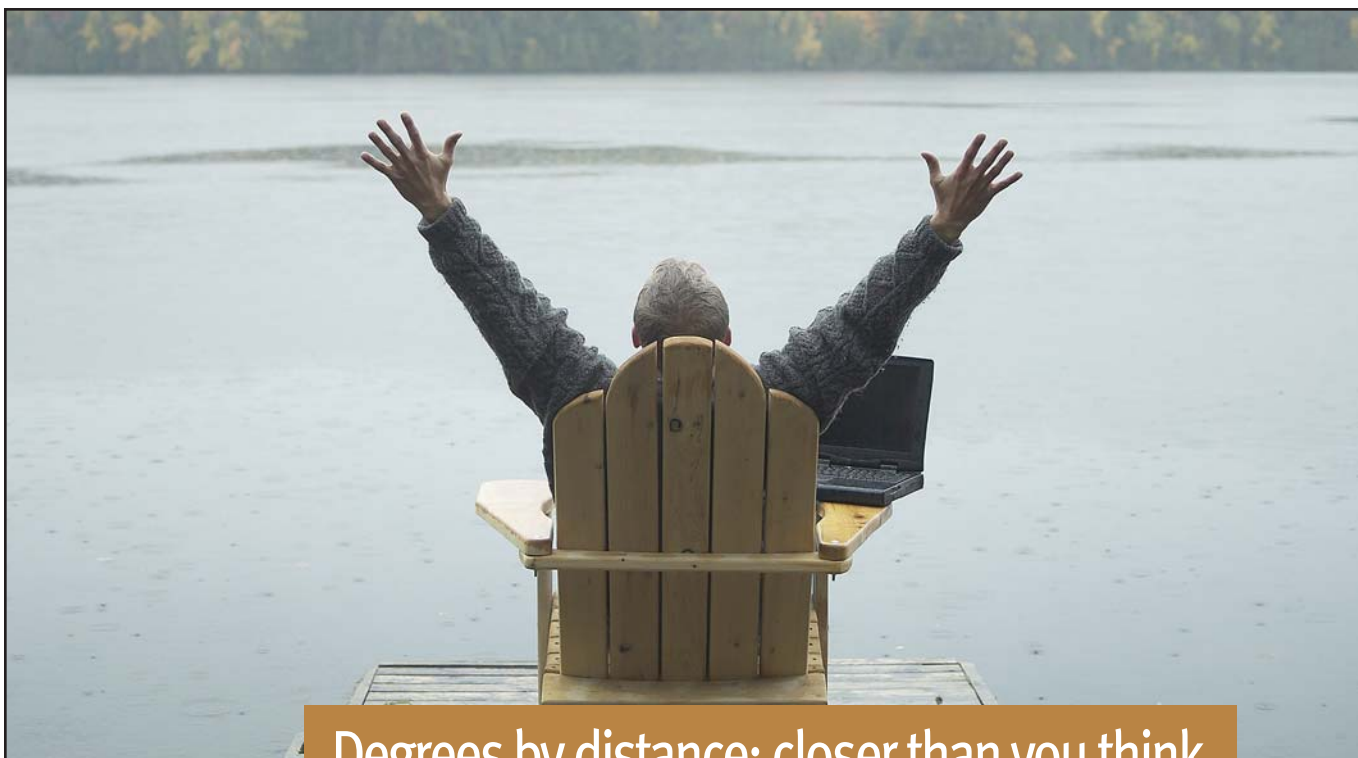
# ALUMNI network

THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY ALUMNI MAGAZINE • FALL 2005

**Nancy Greene Raine**  
**First Chancellor for**  
**New University**



THOMPSON RIVERS  
UNIVERSITY  
ALUMNI



## Degrees by distance: closer than you think

Thompson Rivers University, Open Learning (TRU-OL) offers flexible, recognized degree programs and courses by distance in a variety of disciplines:

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## TRU Alumni Association Board Chair

As we enter our first full year as the Thompson Rivers University Alumni Association, we are beginning to feel comfortable with our new name, our expanded family and our new directions. The Alumni Association continues to work with the institution and our partners at TRU to promote this "truly" excellent university.

The board of directors and staff of the TRU Alumni Association look forward with eager anticipation to another busy year full of activities where we will continue to build connections with graduates future and past. This year we also welcome graduates from BC Open University to our family.

Homecoming Weekend, October 14 – 15, 2005, is a terrific opportunity for past graduates to visit the campus and see what is new. See the ad in this magazine for more details of events. We encourage you to participate in the activities, bring your friends and family along and have some fun.

Visit our website at [www.trualumni.ca](http://www.trualumni.ca) and learn about the many services and benefits available to you through your association.

And above all – **Stay Connected!**



Denise Harper, CMC '74

## TRU President and Vice-Chancellor

On April 1st, 2005 The University College of the Cariboo and The British Columbia Open University officially became Thompson Rivers University, BC's newest university. This is one of the most significant changes in the 35 year history of our institution.

Although TRU is "new" we inherit the legacies of achievement and the reputations for excellence established by Cariboo College, The University College of the Cariboo and the British Columbia Open University. As a result, from the start Thompson Rivers University enjoys a provincial, national and international profile.

With a commitment to quality, opportunity, choice, flexibility and personal attention, TRU is making university accessible to all British Columbians. Our comprehensive range of programs and unique combinations of flexible learning options will establish TRU as a unique institution and a national benchmark for being student centered.

The TRU Alumni Association is your voice and provides you, our graduates, whether from Cariboo College, UCC or BCOU, many opportunities to stay connected to your alma mater. I invite and encourage each of you to attend Homecoming Weekend and the many events scheduled for October. Join me at the President's Reception to celebrate TRU's Distinguished Alumni, or come out and cheer your home team at the TRU WolfPack Men's Basketball Tournament. And for real fun, join your friends and faculty for an Alumni Homecoming Party at Heroes Pub.

On behalf of the Board of Governors and the Office of the President, I invite you to visit your university and see just how much we have grown.

Regards,

ROGER BARNSLEY  
President and Vice-Chancellor  
Thompson Rivers University



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# TRU's new Chancellor – Nancy Greene Raine

Nancy Greene Raine sits back in her chair and relaxes. Her eyes appear to be smiling as she recalls her desire to go for the gold in alpine skiing at the 1968 Winter Olympics in Grenoble, France.

"I had a lot of drive back then you know," said Greene Raine, who noted that she came from a family that

placed a high value on getting an education regardless of where her ski racing took her.

"My father was an engineer so university and education was important to him and he made it a priority for us." Greene Raine says that in order to continue to ski competitively, she had to maintain her school marks. A failing grade would mean that she would be forbidden to race in the year that followed.

"My father told me that I couldn't ski unless I kept my grades up," she said.

"I worked very hard while I was away skiing. I always brought my books and I took every opportunity I could and went to museums in the cities I visited in Europe."

Greene Raine said that school was very important to her parents.

This April in a

ceremony celebrating the university's name change from The University College of the Cariboo to Thompson Rivers University – Greene Raine was honoured by being named as the university's first chancellor.

As Chancellor Greene Raine's role is symbolic, "It is an honorary position which is given to a person who is an alumnus or supporter of the university."

Greene Raine has been a long time supporter of the university by serving as a member of the Thompson Rivers University Foundation Society.

She was presented with an Honorary Doctorate of Law from UCC in 1999. Greene Raine's support of the university and her national exposure will help to establish TRU as a recognized university.

Greene Raine has received world-wide recognition through her work in sports and tourism.

"The university is so diverse with its emphasis on sports, trades, academics," she said and added, "I think my national recognition will be beneficial to the university."

Greene Raine said that she is proud to be connected to TRU and the city of Kamloops. "Kamloops has a great location with it being a major crossroad. I think that students will be willing to come here because it's far enough way from home but it's close enough to go home for a visit."

Greene Raine says that having a university with such diverse offerings is useful for the area. "Kamloops is an amazing city because it combines a lot of different strengths such as a broad mix of businesses and industries which can all benefit from the university," she said.

"Every industry can take advantage of what the university has to offer. It can only be a positive thing."

Greene Raine says that the amount of planning that has been put into the campus is phenomenal. "It is important for students to feel like they have a sense of place and they [the university] have done a good job with picking a style and theme that has a lot of green space." Greene Raine said that she was so attracted to Kamloops that she and husband Al Raine, made the decision to invest in Sun Peaks Ski Resort.

Greene Raine listed three characteristics that people can look forward to when they choose to pursue their post-secondary education at TRU:

- 1) Students will find a friendly and welcoming campus that is open-minded and helpful.
- 2) The amazing geography of the area coupled with the beauty of the TRU campus and Sun peaks give Kamloops a quaint sense of place.
- 3) The education and programs offered at TRU are a unique combination of trades, technology and academics.

Greene Raine said "I would like to extend an invitation to all alumni from UCC, Cariboo College, and TRU to come back and see all the changes that are happening with the University. It really is amazing."



Who would have thought?

# Red wine protection from brain disease

When Alex Parker first decided to attend UCC he had no idea where the direction his life would take him, and especially not to France. Although not born and raised in Kamloops, he moved here in high school and graduated from Norkam Secondary School. Parker enrolled at UCC and graduated in 1994 with a Bachelor of Science in Biology.

Parker says that he chose to attend UCC because, "Living in Kamloops it just made sense to go to UCC and I really liked it there, it is a great institution."

Parker adds, "I think that small institutions are great because the access to the faculty is much easier in a smaller university than in larger institutions."

During his last year at UCC Parker was awarded a directed studies program with Dr. Mairi MacKay, UCC Biology professor.

"It is an on-going program in the science department where you are able to do research with access to a lot of lab work."

A directed studies program is recognized as a regular course in which you are given a grant to work with a professor and conduct research, "I worked with Dr. Mackay as part of my directed studies program and we studied the sexing of burrowing owls."

"I don't think I would have been able to get into a directed studies program as easy as I did, so it was a benefit to attend a smaller university." Parker adds that he became interested in lab research during his experience in the directed studies program.

After finishing his PhD in 2001 he immediately left for Paris, France, to conduct his post doctoral research in Huntington's disease, "For my post doctoral research we studied a gene that interacts with Huntington's disease and we use simple animals to study the interaction."

In his research, Parker found that a component called Resveratrol which is found in red wine has been linked to protect against inflammatory diseases. Parker and his colleagues have found that it also interacts with certain proteins in the brain which may suppress the deteriorating affects of Huntington's disease.

Parker explains, "We performed a genetic analysis by creating worms that have a version of Huntington's disease and found agents in red wine that have a therapeutic value in the worms."

Parker adds, "From this genetic analysis a certain pathway evolved and we put two and two together and saw that there was a component in red wine that is protective in cells that are linked to brain disease."

Basically Resveratrol reacts with certain proteins in the brain which decrease the death of certain cells that are linked to Huntington's disease.

With his finding Parker says it has opened up a whole new pathway for this type of research.

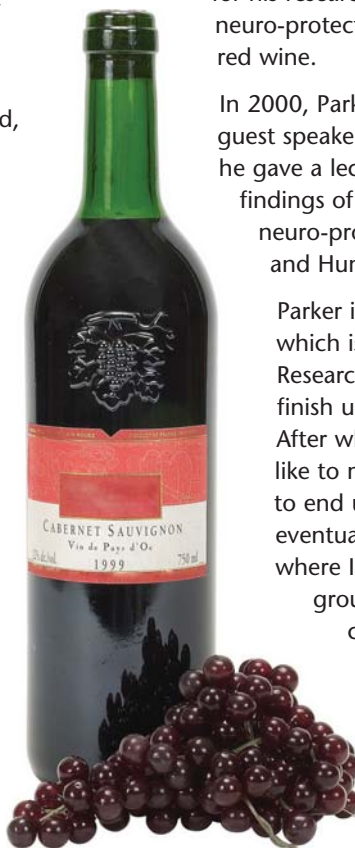
Due to his breakthrough research findings, Parker has been published in numerous medical and scientific journals but most recently he has been published "Nature Genetic" for his research in the neuro-protective agents in red wine.

In 2000, Parker was a guest speaker at UCC where he gave a lecture on his research findings of the link between the neuro-protective agents in red wine and Huntington's disease.

Parker is currently working at Inserm which is the French Biomedical Research Council where he will finish up his post doctoral research. After which he would eventually like to move back to B.C., "I want to end up in Canada; and I would eventually like to become a professor where I could start my own research group at a university and continue my medical research in orphan diseases."



Alex Parker, BSc '94



Research

Look way up...

## Development of new buildings under way at TRU

Even before there was a possibility of UCC becoming TRU, plans were in the making for the upgrade and the addition of many new facilities to the Kamloops Campus. According to Cliff Neufeld, VP of Finance and Facilities, "Currently on the Kamloops campus there are multiple projects under construction with many more to be completed over the next 5 years." According to Neufeld, "The planning has to start before you get the occupancy; you can't just start to build once you have the numbers or the need for it or else it will be too late." In 2003 there was a campus plan sketched in partnership with the city, "It is called the "McGill corridor plan" which shows significant changes that will occur and you will start to see these facilities emerge." "Included in this plan is the sports plex, the student building, and eventually you will see sectors start to emerge with the possibility of a technology park and a research and development park." "Once we see attendance move in that direction then the planning and the construction will begin," added Neufeld. When you drive through the campus you can see many of the construction sites in and around the existing buildings. Over half of the money that is being spent to build these facilities is from non-government money, "Of the 78.5 million dollars projected in spending-46.5 of it is non-government money." "We received no extra funding from the government when we became TRU, less than 50% of the money is funded by the government, and the rest is self-financed for the projects currently under construction."

As of right now there is a student building being constructed behind the Campus Activity Centre, "This is a resident building that will house 576 student beds and 8, 1-bedroom lofts for the parents of students to stay as well as dignitaries or other visitors." Neufeld added, "The student building will be 11 floors high have 1, 2, and 4 bedroom suites and includes 24/7 reception for security access." According to Neufeld, "In total the residence building will cost about forty-four and half millions dollars which will come from government grants, as well as money from the board and student fees." Neufeld added, "Completion is slated for September 2006."

In conjunction with the Athletic department and the City of Kamloops, a new sportsplex will be built at the Hillside Stadium. According to Neufeld, "There are a series of arrangements being made with the city to have access to the sportsplex." Neufeld added, "We will still utilize our gym but have access to a bigger track and variety of other amenities, as well as possibly renting some space at the sportsplex from the city."

When UCC became TRU, they also acquired the BC Open Learning University which is now the TRU-OL.

Although TRU will not physically have the Open Learning Centre on campus yet, construction has started for a warehouse to house all of the supplies attached to the TRU-OL and the Kamloops campus. The Open Learning facilities will move up to the Kamloops Campus once construction is completed on a facility to hold that type of institution. According to Neufeld, "The site preparation has started and construction will commence in January of 2006 and will be completed by the end of the year." The warehouse will be located behind the trades and technologies building and animal health science building, "We wanted to put the facility off campus to stop any big trucks from coming on campus" "We want a pedestrian friendly campus

*Continued next page*



Cranes at work on the new residence building.



# openlearning.tru.ca

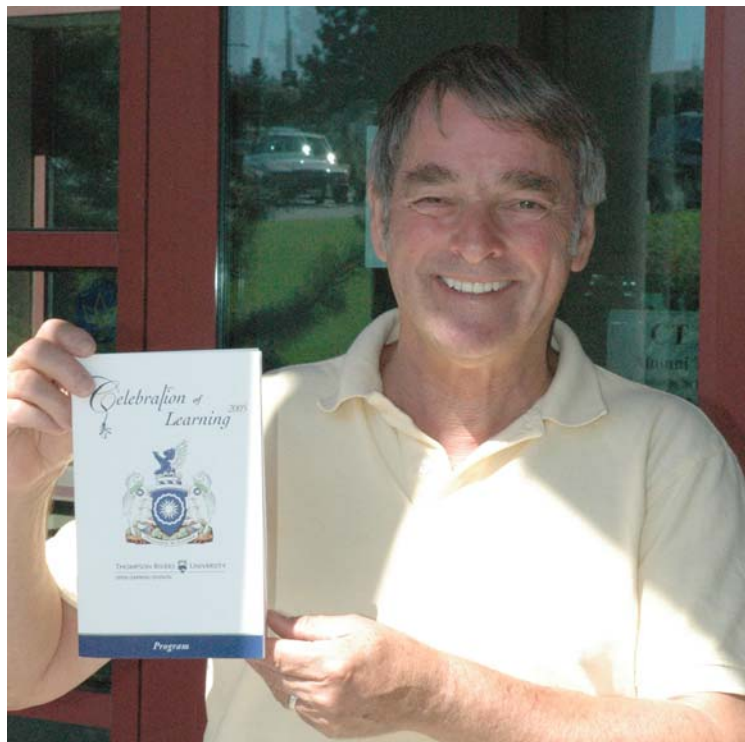
When Thompson Rivers University acquired the BC Open learning University plans were made with many changes happening over the next 5 years as the campus expands to fit the new facilities. Colin James, who is the Chief Operating Officer, will oversee the transition of the BCOU to Thompson Rivers University Open Learning TRU-OL. James said that physically we will see buildings being erected, and when the facilities are built the Burnaby operations will eventually move to the Kamloops campus. James said that, "Currently being constructed on the Kamloops campus are several new buildings including a warehouse that will house supplies for the Open Learning Division and TRU as well a four story building to house the BC Center for Open Learning to be completed by December 2006."

Acquiring BCOU opens up huge opportunities for TRU, "BCOU had a provincial mandate in which it was responsible for delivering open learning to the whole province, UCC had a regional mandate. Now as TRU the mandate is provincial and regional as well as national and international." Students can access courses from anywhere in the world through TRU-OL. James says that open learning courses gives students a lot of freedom, "Students can take courses but do not have to be enrolled in a program. They can be a 'visiting student' from another university and take courses which can be transferred to their program at their university."

Working towards a degree is easy through TRU-OL, "You only have to have two courses from TRU-OL and the rest can come from somewhere else." James added, "That is one of the best features of distance learning, the fact that it is so accessible." James also notes that it offers continuous registration and entry.

There are a large number of programs offered through TRU-OL, "At this point we have a wide range of Bachelor and Masters Degrees and almost certainly will expand as attendance and demand grow." James says that once the Open Learning Division is officially on the Kamloops campus, "We want to run both institutions side by side and be able to have interaction between the two operations." James pointed out that in the future some of the courses offered on campus will be offered on-line. He goes on to say that some of the programs being developed for TRU-OL are, "A water-treatment training program, some trades and technology theory courses, as well some animal health science courses will be offered for upgrading."

Advertising for the programs offered through TRU-OL is being aimed at graduates and professionals, "We are looking at people who are already working in their field but want to upgrade without having to quit their job." James added, "A much larger range of courses are



Colin James, Chief Operating Officer TRU-OL

available in a number of different programs, as part of a life long learning process."

James adds that having the TRU-OL is a great advantage to the Alumni Association, "This greatly expands the alumni database because anyone who has graduated through the open learning becomes an alumni, which entitles you too some of the features the Alumni Association has to offer."

## TRU Development

*Continued from page 6*

which is consistent with the McGill Corridor Plan. The plan includes pedestrian walkways, a research and development park and a new library at a new location." The McGill Corridor plan was drawn up in 2003, by UCC and the City of Kamloops. It illustrates what some of the changes and expansions that would happen to the university and the city. According to Neufeld, "Planning has to start before you have the occupancy." "There will be a lot of changes in the southwest part of the city, streetscapes will emerge on McGill with trees lining the streets and sectors will start to come into view." "It is an interesting perspective of what is happening with the expansion of the university and we will see some of these changes emerging over the next 3-5 years," added Neufeld. The plan can be found on the City of Kamloops website at [www.city.kamloops.bc.ca/planning/pdfs/mcgillconcept](http://www.city.kamloops.bc.ca/planning/pdfs/mcgillconcept)

# Convocation 2005



TRU Convocation Ceremonies outside the Campus Activity Centre.

This past spring, Thompson Rivers University held its first convocation ceremonies as B.C.'s newest university. The first ceremony on May 27 recognized the graduates of certificates, diplomas and associate degrees at the Williams Lake campus of TRU. The room was filled with family, friends and dignitaries, all gathered to celebrate the accomplishments of the graduates.

The Kamloops campus held four separate ceremonies held over two days in June and, for the first time in over 20 years, the ceremonies were held on campus. The days were sunny and the atmosphere was inspirational as graduates, esteemed guests and colleagues shared their thoughts on how far the university has come and

the anticipation for what the future will bring for TRU. In each ceremony valedictorians, medal winners, honorary degree recipients, and faculty were all recognized for their success.

The Open Learning Division held its Celebration of Learning on June 16 in Burnaby. The event formally recognized over 400 students who had completed programs through the BC Open University/Open College or through TRU Open Learning.

This year, a different valedictorian was selected for each of TRU's six Convocation ceremonies. Each valedictorian presented a speech which included praise to their professors for their endless support; the satisfaction of completing their educational goals; and the lifelong friendships they made.



Celebration of Learning Convocation Ceremonies at BCOU/TRU-OL in Burnaby.





### Christine Nickel TRU Kamloops

Graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Geography, Christine Nickel was awarded Valedictorian in the Arts and Humanities, in a ceremony marking the first graduating class of 2005 at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops. As well she was awarded the Hugh Neave Memorial 4th year Geography scholarship in her last year of study at TRU. Nickel grew up in Fernie, B.C. where she graduated high school in 1997. She attended UCC and pursued a Bachelor of Arts degree. Nickel says that although she didn't pick TRU because of its programs, she was drawn to this region because she had lived in Kamloops briefly when she was younger. Some of her best memories of attending UCC/ TRU include being treasurer of the TRU Geography club and a member of the Campus for Life team as well as hosting her own radio show, "The Nickel Bag" at the campus radio station. She says that being involved in school clubs and activities are what make your university experience memorable. Nickel says that she was never really involved in campus life until her last year, and she says that, "I have been the most involved I have ever been and I have met so many people...being proactive made me have an amazing year." She feels that being involved in university life is a rewarding experience, "It is really important to network and have people available to you for support." Nickel has set her sights on Vancouver and will be attending BCIT's Broadcast Journalism program in the fall. Her future goal would be to host a travel or nature show, which would combine her love of nature and geography with T.V. "Being paid to travel would be just an incredible job!" Nickel will spend her summer working at the campus radio station hosting her own show and interning for the summer. Nickel said she would eventually like to settle down in Kamloops because she loves the city and the region, "It just seems like the natural thing to do"



### Andrea Elzinga TRU Williams Lake

After working for 17 years and in many managerial positions, Andrea felt that she needed the credentials to be able to expand her horizons, "I always found myself in management positions but I never had the criteria to put on my resume. I wanted a better position and higher pay." Elzinga chose to attend TRU in Williams Lake because of the location, "For me it was the convenience of the school and I had also taken courses there before." "It was easy to enrol and I liked what the program had to offer." Elzinga enrolled in the Business Management Certificate program, which teaches you overall management in all areas. "It was very relevant to what I had learned in the workforce and it was very applicable to the area I was already working in," adds Elzinga. Elzinga said that one of the best parts about attending TRU in Williams Lake was the relationships she built with her fellow students, "You see the same people everyday and we built strong relationships, so we really supported each other." Although Elzinga was a mature student she said that she wasn't looked at differently and it wasn't a barrier in meeting other students. "The relationships we built with each other and the professors really made the experience at school memorable." Elzinga said that it was the support from her professors, fellow students and the administration that made her experience at TRU unique. Elzinga felt that Barbara Barman, a TRU business professor in Williams Lake, really inspired her the most, "You could really see how much she loved teaching, she was very challenging but also very fair and always pushed us to do better." Elzinga is currently applying for positions that she had always wanted but never had the credentials on her resume; with a completed Business Managerial certificate she is confident she is headed in the right direction. Elzinga says that in the future she may return to school and finish her Bachelor of Business, and would definitely consider returning TRU.

## TRU 2005 Valedictorians

### Monica McAlduff TRU Open Learning

When Monica McAlduff first enrolled at BCOU in 1998 she needed the flexibility that an on-line and distance learning program would offer, "I needed to be able to set my own pace, I was pregnant, had kids, and I worked...I had a busy life."

McAlduff completed her Health Sciences degree in Psychiatric



Nursing this past June marking the first valedictorian of TRU-OL.

McAlduff says that time-management was an issue and she had to be able to work independently, "I have no problems being self-motivated and organized, you need to be in this type of program."

McAlduff said that she had such a positive experience that she would recommend this type of education,

"Being able to set your own hours and have the accessibility of the tutors made it very flexible program, which is valuable with distance learning."

McAlduff said that there are pros and cons to both the on-line and distance courses but says that she liked that she was able to do both, "The best part about my program was the expansion of knowledge and the different perspectives each teacher gave you." McAlduff adds that the tutors were always available and gave great advice and support, "They were always prompt and professional when answering any questions and marking my assignments."

McAlduff is currently working at the Lions Gate Hospital in the Psychiatric emergency department and eventually wants to return to school in a few years and complete her Masters.

# TRU 2005 Valedictorian & Medal Winners



**Shawna Bava**  
**TRU Kamloops**

On her way back from doing an overseas practicum in India, Shawna Bava learned that she was nominated as Valedictorian, "I had no idea I was being nominated but I was honoured to find out," said Bava. She was the Valedictorian for Humanities and Arts

at the Thompson Rivers University Convocation Ceremony in June.

In an inspirational speech that was interrupted by rain, Bava told of her experience as the first overseas practicum volunteer from the social work program. She was situated in a small village where she lived amongst the people whose houses and possessions were destroyed by the Tsunami this past December.

She noted in her speech how lucky she felt to have grown up and educated in Canada,

"The foundation of knowledge I received allowed me to analyze and understand the situation." She quoted Rex Murphy who said, "If you were born in the West, you've won the only lottery that really counts from the very first moment you took air."

Bava was raised in Kamloops where she graduated from St. Ann's Academy. She completed two years of Science at UCC and then transferred to UBC where she obtained a Bachelor of Science degree. She worked for one year in the science field and decided that it was not for her. When deciding what she was going to do she thought about social work,

"I didn't like the job prospects with a science degree, and social work had always been on my mind," says Bava.

She decided to volunteer with at-risk youth for a year before she went back to school and pursued a degree in social work, "This allowed me to see if this was something I really wanted to do and I was able to make an informed decision."

After finalizing her decision she looked at a number of schools to complete her Bachelor of Social work degree and she decided to return to TRU, "I really appreciated the sense of community at UCC compared to a university like UBC, which is huge and anonymous."

Bava said that she really liked the teachers at TRU, "The professors in the Social Work program are experienced and committed and are deeply linked to the community." Bava said that having the opportunity to do her practicum overseas was very valuable,

"The experience really helped me gain a different perspective with the similarities and differences between the two cultures." Bava is currently working in Chilliwack as a program co-ordinator for youth at risk. She will use her experience as an overseas volunteer and take a group of youth to a village in Sri Lanka, "I will incorporate life skills and work experience to teach the youth and help re-build the village after the Tsunami."

Although Bava has completed two degrees, she still has future plans to return to school and obtain a Masters and PhD, and she would eventually like to teach at the university level.

## Lailani Mendoza

### Bachelor of Journalism Degree – Awarded Medal in Journalism



Lailani Mendoza was born in the Philippines and graduated from Mangatarem National High school in 1999. She studied at the University of the Philippines for a year where she was

named to the Dean's list. In 2001, she moved to Canada with her mother and sister at the age of 18. As far back as she can remember Lailani had always wanted to be a journalist, "I felt writing was something I could do, I could really express myself." Lailani enrolled at TRU and was excited that it offered a degree in journalism and enrolled in the program after her first year at TRU.

She says that the lectures and training she received in her program were very beneficial, "It allowed us to get real experience as a journalist in the community through the training and assignments." Mendoza credits her success as a student to her teachers because they were approachable and taught her to be passionate about her work. Lailani's favourite part about TRU is the small classroom size and the availability of teachers,

"It is one of the greatest assets of the program because the teachers are so passionate about the work, so they inspired you to do well."

Mendoza felt that her experience at TRU was unique because of the large amount of international students attending the university. Coming to a

new country at the age of 18, she found it difficult to make friends, but she says that "meeting the international students made the transition of moving to Canada easier."

Currently Lailani is a regular contributor to a youth-oriented on-line magazine and in the future hopes to be working for a magazine writing investigative stories. In the future, Mendoza hopes to go back to the Philippines and work as a journalist to, "I want to work to be a voice for the people." She wants to use her education to try and make a difference, "I will finally be in a position that I can do something."

# Two graduates are the second in their families to graduate with distinction at Thompson Rivers University

## Nathan Lucas Murray, Medal in Business Administration

At the 2005 Convocation Ceremony, Nathan Murray was awarded the Thompson Rivers University Medal in Business Administration. Murray graduated from Logan Lake Secondary School in 1997 and after graduation



completed a Professional Golf Management Program at Camosun College in 2001.

Nathan transferred to TRU to pursue a Bachelor of Business Administration degree, "It was a drain being in Victoria for two years with all of my family and friends back in Kamloops so I decided to enrol at UCC."

Murray's older sister, brother and mother are all TRU graduates. His mother won TRU medal in Social work in 1996. Murray says that,

"It is the convenience of living at home and the openness of learning that attracted us to enrol at TRU."

Murray said that education was an important part of his family, "My parents really encouraged all of us to go to school and supported us in any way they could."

Murray said the teachers and friendships he made at TRU were memorable, "The small classroom size was a big advantage and the fact that the teachers took a genuine interest in the students, made it a good place to learn."

Murray said that, "Often the teachers would give you their home phone numbers so that they would be available to help you at any time."

Murray said that Peter Tsigaris, his economics instructor was a big influence in his studies, "I think that getting to see

him and how smart he was and how he continues to learn really instilled in me the curiosity to keep learning."

During his three years at TRU, Murray maintained an exceptionally high grade point average while still playing hockey and golf. "It's like second nature to me to study hard and maintain good grades," said Murray.

He was the general manager for the UCC hockey club and organized junior golf clinics as well as events on campus and in the community.

"It a great experience to be involved with campus activities, it really allowed me to become an involved student," said Murray.

In the fall Murray will be attending the University of Victoria to study Law, "I have always been interested in law and feel like it is the next step, after completing my business degree."

Murray said that TRU gave him a good base for learning and is excited to begin this new chapter in his life, "I am excited to go away to Law School but I would like to possibly return to this area again."

## Jodi Vander Hoek, Medal in Natural Resource Science



Jodi Vander Hoek was born and raised in Salmon Arm and graduated from Salmon Arm Senior Secondary in 2000. Jodi was awarded the Thompson Rivers University Medal in

Natural Resource Science at the TRU Convocation Ceremony in June.

Jodi grew up on a farm and was a 4-H member until she graduated high school so the Bachelor of Natural Resource Science program seemed like the logical way to go, "I had always been interested in the environment and agriculture. I had heard about the program from my cousin and I knew I had wanted to do something that gave me a career with a number of different directions."

Before enrolling at TRU, she completed 1 year of Arts at the Okanagan University College. Jodi says having the NRS program close to home was big part of her decision, "I really liked that it was close to home and I didn't want to go to school on the coast."

Jodi credits her success as a student to excellent faculty and the small classroom sizes that made a great learning environment.

"The NRS program is very unique across not only in B.C but in Canada and it was a program that involved hands on learning."

While attending TRU, Jodi was a member of the TRU Range Club which she says added to her learning experience,

"It went above and beyond what I would have learned in school and enhanced what I could take away from this experience."

She was also secretary for the Natural Resource Science club in which she helped fundraise for money for her graduating class.

She is the second in her family to be awarded a medal from the University. Her sister Heather was awarded the Governor General's Collegiate Bronze medal in a diploma program. Jodi credits her family for instilling great values in her,

"My family taught me time management, organization and most importantly the drive to be successful...they really wanted us to succeed in something for our future."

Jodi currently works for the Fraser Basin council which deals with issues of environmental, social and economic sustainability.

## TRU 2005 Medal Winners



# Grad awarded for his contribution to the success of airport



## Ross Brown Bachelor of Tourism Management

In a room filled with tourism flair and flags, Ross Brown was given the School of Tourism Alumni Award. Brown was nominated and chosen for this award because of his outstanding achievements in the airline industry. Brown single-handedly turned the Abbotsford Airport passenger volume from 70,000 to 420,000 as Marketing and Sales Manager.

After graduating from high school, Brown enrolled in the Bachelor of Tourism program at UCC, "I didn't want to stay at home or go to a big University so I decided to go to UCC."

"The small classroom sizes and the interaction with faculty was one of the key reasons why I wanted to go to Kamloops," added Brown.

Even before Brown graduated with his Bachelor of Tourism degree he was hired on as the marketing manager for the Abbotsford International Airport,

"I helped develop a marketing plan for the airport through customer research which increased passenger volume and expanded airline routes outside of B.C."

He opened up flights to Toronto, Las Vegas, Kelowna, and Prince George,

"When we acquired WestJet it opened up a lot of flights and attracted more people to fly out of the Fraser Valley instead of Vancouver."

Brown says that they had a competitive edge because they offered the same flights but the parking was free at the Abbotsford airport whereas at Vancouver International Airport you had to pay to park,

"This attracted a lot of people to fly out of Abbotsford because of the price of parking."

Brown says that he combined a unique marketing plan with partnership programs and offered incentives to travellers,

"I made Abbotsford airport competitive by establishing partnership programs with hotels and ground transportation operations. This attracted people to book their vacation through us and fly out of Abbotsford."

Brown was the key piece in making the Abbotsford Airport into the fourth busiest passenger airport after Vancouver, Victoria, and Kelowna. Brown said that even after September 11th when all airports were seeing a huge decline, the Abbotsford airport stayed the same.

After his contract was up with the Abbotsford Airport, Brown decided to spread his wings and signed a one-year contract with Air North-The Yukon's Airline,

"I will be establishing air route analysis as well as marketing programs and packages to Yukon."

Brown hopes to heighten airline demand as well as expand charter and current scheduled routes,

"I want to encourage people to start travelling to the Yukon by offering hotel and flight packages."

Currently, Brown also sits as Director of the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce, Chairperson for the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce Tourism Committee and Director, Tourism Abbotsford.

Once his current contract is up in January 2006, Brown plans to continue to work in airport consulting. Brown says that the

education he received at UCC gave him a good foundation for the work he is doing today and would consider returning to TRU,

"I am considering the MBA and have wanted to do it for a while, and I would definitely consider the program at TRU."

**"I helped develop a marketing plan for the airport through customer research which increased passenger volume and expanded airline routes outside of B.C."**

**Ross Brown**



TRU Run for Fun on April 2, 2005

## Dignitaries, Staff, Faculty & Alumni celebrate our TRU Beginnings

Hundreds of graduates from Cariboo College, UCC, and BCOU came out to celebrate the inauguration of TRU at several events between March 31 – April 2.

The official ceremonies on March 31 saw the installation of our first Chancellor, Olympic medalist Dr. Nancy Greene Raine and Dr. Roger Barnsley as the President and Vice-Chancellor, as well as the granting of TRU's official Coat of Arms by the Chief Herald of Canada, Robert D. Watt. Dignitaries brought greetings from all levels of government and from academic institutions across the country and around the world. Earlier that day, the Convocation Wall was unveiled outside Old Main honouring the graduates of both UCC and BCOU.

On April 1st, Prime Minister Paul Martin visited the Thompson Rivers University campus as TRU's first official visitor, where he unveiled a plaque in his honour and met with various campus and community members.

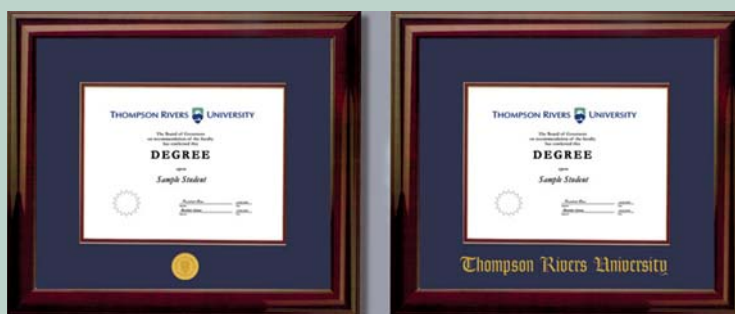
That evening, alumni, faculty, donors and community members attended the TRU Beginnings Celebration Dinner at the Campus Activity Centre. The festivities began with a cocktail hour featuring displays from many university programs and departments. The

350 guests then enjoyed entertainment by TRU students, faculty and graduates and closed the evening with keynote speaker, Dr. David Foot, author of the Boom, Bust & Echo books.

On Saturday, April 2, The TRU

Beginnings Run for Fun saw over 240 runners and walkers gather in front of the new International Building on April 2. The 5 and 10 km course wound around campus roads and grass lands for an interesting challenge.

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# TRU Foundation Planned Giving Donor



Planned Giving is an option for giving with the TRU Foundation in which a donor may set up a life insurance policy and would name the TRU Foundation as the beneficiary. The process is quite easy and it is a simple way of making a meaningful gift to the university. Long time supporter of the Foundation, Sandy Wiseman, has been contributing to a policy since 1991.

When Sandy Wiseman first became a donor to the UCC Foundation, she decided to take some extra money she had received and invest it in the university,

"I bought a life insurance policy and named TRU as the beneficiary,"

"I had always been a donor to the university but this [Planned Giving] made me realize that there is another way for people to give."

Wiseman has always been an advocate of education and felt that this was a good way to give back to the community,

"I would encourage anyone who believes in

education and opportunity, to support the university."

Both of Wiseman's children attended TRU, her daughter graduated from the Respiratory Health Therapy program and her son graduated with a

Bachelor of Business Administration degree.

Wiseman said, "I have worked in the school system and I am still going to school and I believe in the importance of a university in a community like Kamloops."

"(As a donor) you are giving such a small amount every month, for only a few dollars a day a person can make a huge difference."

Wiseman adds that there are benefits with being a donor, "Along with the tax deduction you are not only helping the university but the community as well."

"The young people are the future and they hold the future of the community in their hands," she said.

Wiseman noted that when you set up an endowment, "You can specify or direct the money to certain people or programs that you have a vested interest in; so you know where your money is going."

Wiseman and her family have been in Kamloops since the 1950s, "The people and the community have been good to me and this is an excellent way for people to give back to a community that has been good to them."

**"The young people are the future and they hold the future of the community in their hands."**

**Sandy Wiseman**

## I am pleased to support TRU and students through my gift to the TRU Foundation.

Please find my donation enclosed:

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

OR I would like to make a monthly donation of

☐ \$10 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

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☐ Specific Program: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ "Leave a Legacy" – please send me information about including TRU in my will or designating TRU as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy.

**Send donations to: TRU Foundation, Box 3010, Kamloops, BC V2B 5N3**

All donations are fully tax deductible. A receipt will be issued for all donations over \$10.  
(250) 828-5264 **Thank You!** [www.tru.ca/foundation](http://www.tru.ca/foundation)

## Making a Gift to TRU

The TRU Foundation is non profit society that accepts, administers and coordinates donations benefiting TRU and its constituents. TRU alumni can give back to their alma mater and make a difference either in the life of a student or in the success of Canada's newest University by making a contribution to one of our funds. These include Alumni Association Endowment Fund, Annual Fund Awards, Endowment Funds, Specific Purpose Fund and Planned Gifts.



Ken Olynyk

## Director of TRU Athletic Department

A push for top recruitments and a new team name has forced some great improvements to the Athletic Department at Thompson Rivers University. Along with the university expanding, the Athletics Department will see changes to its program. Ken Olynyk, Director of the Athletics department said, "TRU will have the basketball and volleyball teams move up the university chain and play at the Canadian Interuniversity Sports level." Players will be bumped into a higher class and will be playing at the western conference level and not colleges. According to Olynyk, "This will expand the playing season dramatically and we will now be able to compete in B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba." The recruitment of new players has been top priority for the athletics department. Representatives from the athletic departments and professional scouts have taken on the task of recruiting top players.

With the upgrade of playing level, Olynyk said that they will attract new athletes, "This will allow us the opportunity to recruit student athletes at a higher level, which will be students who have won provincial and national championships, these students will have ties with national programs." Olynyk says that the current players on the teams are able to benefit from this as well, "The good thing about this is the people we have here with us have had the opportunity to grow and get better." "They have had a better opportunity here than they would have had at another university." Olynyk said he is confident in the current players and feels that they are capable to play at the next level Olynyk said that, "Playing at this level will allow for us to host teams and to attend some of the better tournaments." Along with the upgrade of the playing level the UCC Sun Demons will now become the TRU Wolf Pack,

"There was a name change when we became UCC so we felt that it was only appropriate to change the name when we became TRU" said Olynyk.

"I felt the name "Wolf Pack" was a good choice it has a nice design and logo and I like the way it looks," added Olynyk.

A new mascot will also be revealed and ready for the fall, "We are in the process of doing that right now and it should be ready by the beginning of the school year."



## TRU Athletics & Recreation

### GET READY FOR AN EXCITING YEAR OF ACTION

#### WolfPack Varsity Sports teams include:

- Basketball • Volleyball • Soccer
- Baseball • Badminton

#### Varsity Basketball & Volleyball Move to CIS

TRU now competes in the Canada West Conference of CIS in men's and women's volleyball and basketball, going head-to-head with UBC, SFU and all other major universities in Canada.

#### TRU WolfPack Camps

TRU also provides week-long summer Camps to help improve your child's sport skills. Watch for specialty camps during the year.

For additional information and schedules, check out our website: [www.tru.ca/athletic](http://www.tru.ca/athletic)



THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY



#### Game Day Prices:

Adult \$7 • Senior/Student \$3  
Children 6 & Under Free

#### Season's Passes for Basketball \$80 & Volleyball \$60 • Buy both for \$100

Passes includes: • WolfPack T-Shirt

- Reserved Seating Area • Post Game Access
  - Newsletter • Soccer & Badminton Provincials
- LIMIT OF 300 PASSES TO BE SOLD

#### Event Highlights:

- Rec Fest, September 19-24
- McDonalds Desert Classic, October 13-15
- BDO Dunwoody Classic, October 21-23
- BC Lions Road Trip, October 22
- Weekend of Champions, October 28-30
- Iceskating Afternoon, November 27

## COME RUN WITH THE PACK

TRU Athletics & Recreation 900 McGill Road, PO Box 3010 Kamloops, BC V2C 5N3 Phone: 250.828.5009 [www.tru.ca/athletic](http://www.tru.ca/athletic)

# Pathfinders – where are they now?

## 1970's

### **Deborah Bostock, Business Administration '77**

Debbie is a Bookkeeper for MTM Plumbing and Heating and writes, "After graduating, I worked in Calgary and Regina before returning to Kamloops. I am very involved in the Kamloops Paddlewheelers Lions Club and volunteer many hours in the community."

### **Kate Hemenway, Fine Arts '77**

Kate is a Visual Artist and also completed a BFA at the Emily Carr Institute and a Diploma in Psychiatric Nursing at BCIT. She writes, "Thanks to the instruction in fine arts, I have had a sound foundation on which to build my career. The teachers taught me the rules before I broke them, not after."

### **Gayle Kroetsch (Bauman), Nursing '77**

Gayle is a practicing RN at Prince George Regional Hospital in Renal Services.

### **Jaymie Logan, Nursing '77**

Jaymie continued her studies at the University of Victoria and earned a BSc in Nursing. She is now working on a Masters in Health Science through Athabasca University and works as a Community Nurse for Sliammon Health.

### **Karen Ritchie (Bailey), Nursing '77**

Karen is a Clinical Practice Consultant with Interior Health and writes that she has "Worked in the East Kootenay since graduation. Experience in geriatric, surgical, obstetrical, public health and home care nursing. Married with 3 kids. Enjoying life in the greatest place on earth!"

### **Beverley June Threatful, Nursing '77**

June is retired and writes that she is "enjoying life in the Alpine City of Revelstoke." Friends and classmates can contact her at dbjt@rctvonline.net.

### **Norma Myers, Human Service Worker '78**

Norma is now retired and writes "My main pastime now is playing Duplicate Bridge, meaning continuous learning and involvement with people from all walks of life." Norma also enjoys travelling.

### **Mary Zacharias, Nursing '78**

Mary is a Registered Nurse for the Anchorage School District and earned a BSN at the University of Alaska, Anchorage.

### **Iris Unger (Orr), Recreation Management '79**

Iris is currently self-employed as a Janitorial Contractor. She writes that, "Our group at Cariboo College has a reputation of being a little different. I must admit we were a busy, noisy, rambunctious lot; after all, 'Play is the essence of youth.'"

## 1980's

### **Harold Crandall, Telecommunications '80**

Harold is a Technical Writer for SaskTel. He also attended UBC and the University of Regina and has earned a BA and a Certificate in Public Relations, and is a Cert. Tech. (SASTT).

### **Robert Drummond, Telecommunications '80**

Rob works as a Digital Systems Representative for Xerox Canada. Thomas Blair, Corrections Worker '81 After 23 years with the BC Government in Corrections, Tom is now retired.

### **Roberta Mercier (Graham), Nursing '81**

Roberta is married with 4 children and living in Langley. She recently finished a MEd from the University of Calgary and is currently working as a general nursing instructor at Douglas College.

### **Carol Suchorab, Long Term Care Aide '82**

After working in home care in BC and Saskatchewan, Carol attended the University of Regina and earned a certificate in Social Work. She then worked with Family Services and was also a Teacher's Aide before starting her current work at the Prince Albert Safe Shelter, counselling abused women. Carol writes that "my Long Term Care Aide Certificate helped me in my professional life and home life."

### **Annemarie Calder, Medical Lab Technologist '83**

Annemarie works as a Lab Technologist with Royal Inland Hospital in Kamloops.

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**Robert Nordin,  
Business Administration '83**

Rob is the owner of Chapter's Viewpoint Restaurant in Kamloops.

**Diane Dickins,  
Assoc. of Arts '84**

Diane also attended SFU and the Justice Institute of BC and holds an advanced certificate in Criminology. She is now retired after 19 years in Federal Corrections and continues to work as an advocate.

**Martin Howie,  
Drafting '84**

Martin is a Civil Technologist at BSEI Engineering Inc. He also attended BCIT and SAIT and earned his Civil Technologist designation.

**Troi Eisler,  
Computer Systems  
Operations Management '85**

Troi has his own business, Chameleon Consulting Inc., in the Lower Mainland.

**Stephen Kayer, Drafting '85**

Stephen works as an Electrical Draftsperson for Falcon Engineering Ltd. He also attended BCIT and Gonzaga University and earned a credential in CAD System Technology.

**Shirley Ryning (Morris),  
Nursing '85**

Shirley is a homemaker living in Calgary, Alberta.

**Kevin Vikse,  
Drafting '85**

Kevin is an Electrical Designer with Bantrel and also attended the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology.

**Gary Weninger,  
Recreation Management '85**

Gary works as a Recreation Coordinator for the City of Kelowna and also attended Red Deer College.

**Paul Bittner,  
Partsperson '86**

Paul is a Partsman at Dearborn Motors in Kamloops and earned his Journeyman Partsperson Certification. He writes that he "highly recommends the Partsperson Course. I learned a lot and had a lot of fun."

**Bernarda Ruffeli,  
Business Administration '86**

Berna also attended SFU and UBC and achieved both a BGS and a Bed. She currently works as an Elementary Teacher in the Surrey School District.

**Susanne Rupprecht-Smith,  
Animal Health '86**

Suzanne works as an Animal Health Technologist in Vancouver and achieved the Veterinary Technician Specialist in Emergency and Critical Care certification. She writes, "I have been working since graduation with the same employer. My employer encouraged and supported me to seek specialist credentials despite my impending maternity leave in 2000-01."

**Alan King-Jones,  
Cook Training '87**

Alan is currently an Executive Chef for the University of Victoria. As well, he holds a teaching position with the Vancouver Island Health Authority, teaching people in the mental health system basic cooking and food safety. Alan also attended Malaspina College and Camosun College and has achieved his Chef de Cuisine certification.

**Tony Vassallo,  
Meat Processing '87**

Tony is an Office Assistant with Visa Truck Rentals and has a part-time, home-based Meatcutting business. He has been married for 12 years and has two children. Tony also attended the College of New Caledonia.

**Cindylee Cordonier,  
Digital Art & Design '88**

Cindy works as the Manager of Budget Rent-A-Car.

**Bradley Huston, Business  
Administration '89**

Brad is self-employed and lives in Williams Lake.

**Rosemary Saint Michaels,  
Applied Business Technology '89**

Rosemary works as a Secretary/Office Assistant for Canadian Hearing Care.

**Richard Swan,  
Heavy Duty Mechanics '89**

Richard works as a Commercial Transport Mechanic for E.A.M. Road Maintenance in Boston Bar, BC.

**Want to connect  
with your old  
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Contact the Alumni Association for information about how we can assist you in planning an alumni social in your area or a class reunion. Assistance is available with contact lists, event planning and invitations and your event may be eligible to receive partial funding. For more information, contact us at 250-828-5498 or email [alumni@tru.ca](mailto:alumni@tru.ca)

**Keep In Touch with your Alma Mater!**

Don't forget to update your address to receive all the latest news, reunion information, benefits card updates and more! You can submit an update online at [www.trualumni.ca](http://www.trualumni.ca) or call us at 250-828-5498. Change of address cards can be sent to TRU Alumni Association, Box 3010, Kamloops, BC V2C 5N3



# Alumni Benefits



Alumni and faculty enjoying the annual Pineridge Charity Golf Tournament

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- Empire Landmark Hotel, Vancouver
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- Health Quest Chiropractic
- Home Hardware
- ICI Paints, Kamloops
- Kitchen Encounters
- Knights Inn
- Lordco Auto Parts, all BC locations
- My Travel Seven Seas
- PC Doctor Digital Cafe
- Pro Systems Beauty Centre, Aberdeen Mall
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2004 Distinguished Alumni Award Winners: from left, Hamish Plommer, Karla Mundle-Guido and Kris Stewart.



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# Provincial health plans cover less than you think

*Alison Naimool  
Product Manager –  
Manulife Financial*

The days when an employee remained with one company for a career span of 25-30 years are long gone. Self-employment is on the rise<sup>†</sup>. As a result, the loss of health benefits that corporations provide for employees and their families is leaving many Canadians without enough health and dental protection.

Most people assume they are covered sufficiently under their provincial health plan. What they don't realize is that provincial health plans cover less than they may think. To ensure your health and dental needs are covered, consider the Alumni Extended Health and Dental Plan.

Dental care, prescription drugs\*, alternative therapies (massage therapy, chiropractors, naturopaths, etc.) and vision benefits – these health care items and services are essential for the well-being of your family. Unfortunately, they are not covered under provincial health plans.

The Alumni Extended Health and Dental Plan features a variety of options to fit all needs and budgets. The value-added *ManuAssist*<sup>™</sup>, a 24-hour emergency travel assistance program, is included at no additional cost to you. ■

<sup>†</sup> As of January 2005, there were 2.47 million self-employed Canadians out of a total of 16.057 million in the labour force. There was also a 1.6% increase in self-employment from January 2004 to January 2005. Source: Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey, February 2005.

\* Not available to Québec residents.



# TRU Homecoming 2005

October 13, 14 & 15th

**We got the game, the spirit and lots of events... all we need is you!**

This Homecoming come back to campus and see how your college has grown up to be a university!

## Schedule of Events

### Thursday, October 13

#### TRU Foundation Annual Campaign Kick Off Breakfast

7:30-8:30 am – Grand Hall, Campus Activity Centre

The TRU Foundation kick's off this year's annual fundraising campaign with a breakfast event. Come out and enjoy a buffet breakfast, entertainment, and speakers. The featured speaker is TRU alumna and former Foundation award recipient, Melanie Conrad. Contact Karen Gamracy at 371-5715. Free Public event

#### President's Lecture Series

##### Lloyd Axworthy Foreign Affairs Globalization Expert

7:00pm – TRU Campus

Tickets are required but are complimentary. A limited number of reserved tickets are available free of charge for Homecoming attendees. Check the alumni website for details [www.trualumni.ca](http://www.trualumni.ca)

### Friday, October 14

#### TRU President's Reception & Distinguished Alumni Awards

7:00pm – International Building, Panorama Room

This evening will honour and celebrate TRU's most accomplished graduates with the 2005 Distinguished Alumni Awards. TRU President & Vice-Chancellor Roger Barnsley hosts this evening of alumni pride as the Alumni Association honours the selected award recipients. Tickets \$25.00

**ORDER EARLY! Advance tickets are available online at [www.trualumni.ca](http://www.trualumni.ca) or by calling (250) 371-5711.**

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### Saturday, October 15

#### TRU WolfPack Outdoor Basketball Party

Saturday afternoon – Outside the Gym

Attend this party Saturday afternoon during the McDonald's Desert Classic Basketball Tournament. Beer garden, food, entertainment and family play area.

#### 3 on 3 Recreational Basketball Challenge

Saturday afternoon – Outdoor Basketball Court

Sign up your team of 3; test your skills against other teams. Divisions for teens, TRU students and alumni. Games will be played on the outdoor court during the pre-game outdoor basketball party. Lots of prizes to be won. Check the alumni website for details on how to register your team.

#### McDonald's Desert Classic Men's Basketball Tournament

October 13, 14, 15th – TRU Gymnasium

The first basketball tournament of the season with the new WolfPack team. Check our website for game times.

Final Games 6 & 8 pm Saturday

Game Tickets: Adults \$7.00, Students/Seniors \$3.00 and Children 6 and under Free

#### Alumni Homecoming Party at Heroes

Saturday, October 15 – TRU Heroes Pub

8:00 pm doors open, 9:30pm Live Band

Come out and have a rocking good time with The Blues Jumpers. Enjoy this local band's upbeat blend of blues tunes that will make you tap your feet and get up and boogie. They are as entertaining as they are fun to dance to. Tickets only \$10.00

  
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