

AUTUMN 2020

new trail

SPECIAL CENTENARY ISSUE
1920-2020

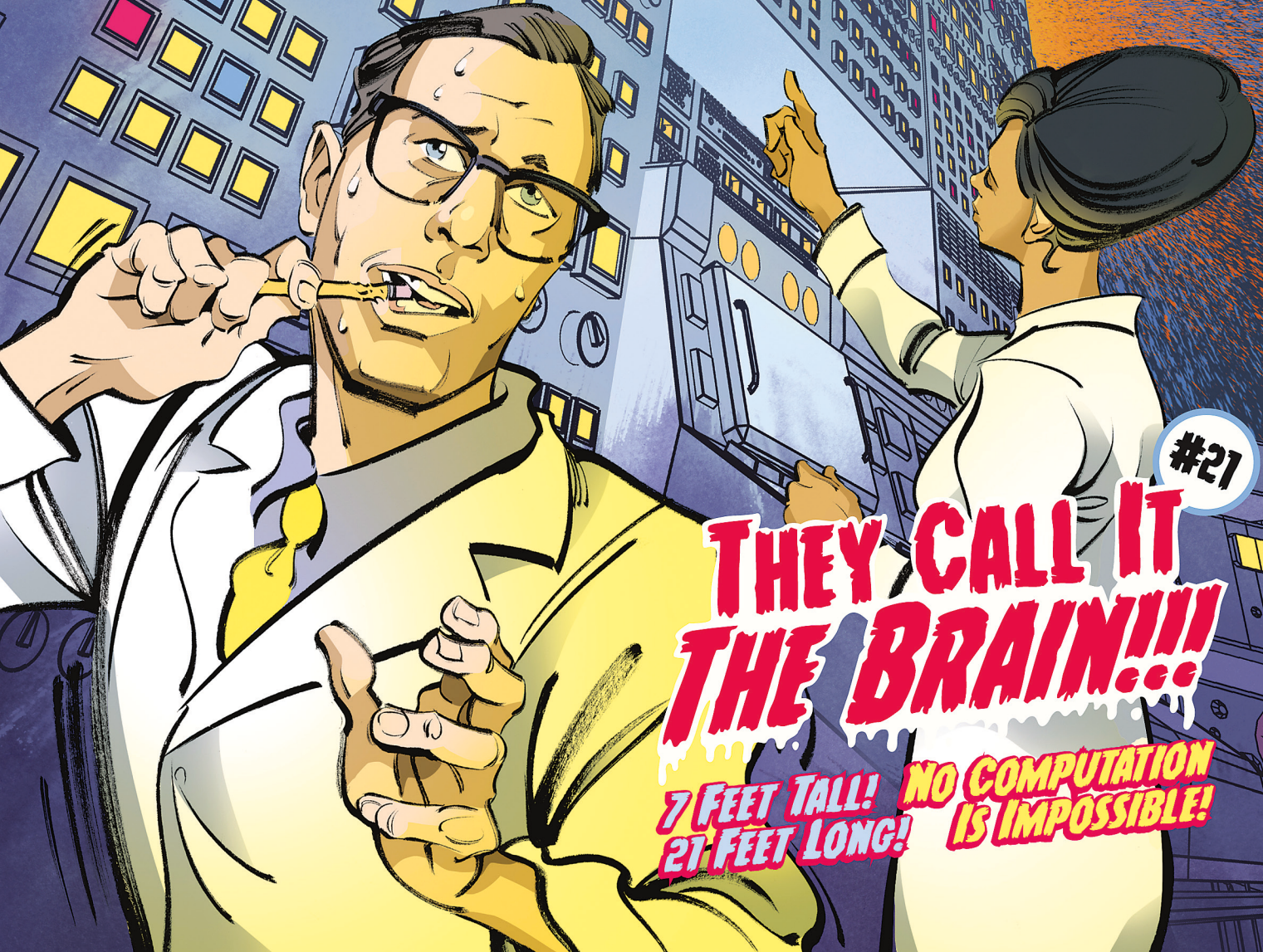


UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
ALUMNI MAGAZINE

U of **AMAZING** **ALUMNI** **STORIES**

**100 GREATEST MOMENTS
FROM 100 YEARS OF NEW TRAIL
INCLUDING...**

PART I



#27

**THEY CALL IT
THE BRAIN!!!**

**7 FEET TALL! NO COMPUTATION
21 FEET LONG! IS IMPOSSIBLE!**



No surprise, most of us won't celebrate this many.

It might surprise you to learn that in 2016, there were over 8,000 centenarians in Canada*. As Canadians, we're fortunate to enjoy a high life expectancy, yet no one ever really knows what the future will bring.

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* Source: The Star, 100-Year Old Canadians Fastest-Growing Age Group In The Country, 2017.

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contents

features

21
100 Things We Learned
Relive some of *New Trail's* greatest and weirdest moments in Part 1 of our centenary highlight reel

34
Meet the President
Avid reader, perennial optimist. Bill Flanagan faces challenges head-on with Prairie resilience

departments

3
Your Letters

5
Notes
What's new and noteworthy

11
Walking Together
Building a better world takes "heart work," but Patricia Makokis is optimistic

12
Continuing Education
Curtis Gillespie goes monastic

15
Thesis
Arrows on the floors, dirt paths through the grass. These are just a few of the many ways we explore "place"

41
Trails
Where you've been and where you're going

44
Class Notes

52
In Memoriam

56
Small Talk

ON THE COVER
Old technology takes on new life with the comic book treatment. This giant "calculating board" was purchased by the electrical engineering department in the '50s to solve complex problems in the power industry. Page 28.
Illustration by Kagan McLeod

Trail walkers make the five-day, 100-kilometre pilgrimage from Devon, Alta., to Fort Saskatchewan, Alta., as part of Camino Edmonton. Page 16.
Photo by John Ulan

The Stories That Bind Us

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE *New Trail* has been telling our stories for a century. When the magazine made its debut in 1920 as *The Trail*, its goal was to serve as a link between grads as they pursued new adventures across the province, country and world. That goal remains just as true for *New Trail* today. What began as a few rugged paths has expanded to a vast network of alumni, with *New Trail* sharing the stories of grads in more than 150 countries.

During my career as an educator, I've learned the stories we read become part of our identities. And looking back through these pages, I'm reminded what a gift it is to have a record of so many amazing alumni. In this issue, you'll read some of the wonderful and weird stories from the last 100 years of *New Trail*—stories that have forged our history and trickled into U of A lore. You'll meet some grads we wish we'd known, like **Margaret Hazelwood Brine (Gold)**, '18 BA, '24 MA, who climbed her way into the record books as one of the few female mountaineers of her time (more on page 27). You'll also find the tale of a 100-year-old campus prank that inspired stories—even poetry—and, as with any great myth, no one quite knows which parts are true!

Over the last century, *New Trail* has kept grads connected through times of war and unprecedented change—the space race, the advent of computer technology and the invention of the internet, to name a few. During the Second World War, the magazine shared university news with former classmates serving as soldiers on the home front (page 24). Just recently, *New Trail's* digital publication delivered COVID-19 research and tips to grads' inboxes within days of the World Health Organization declaring COVID-19 a pandemic.

Finding *New Trail* in your mailbox or inbox is an invitation to keep in touch—to reconnect with each other and with the stories that bind us together. In my experience, people talk about the university like they talk about home. They recount funny anecdotes and fond memories and they're reminded that no matter where they end up, they will always belong.

I hope as you read this special issue and the issues to come, you find yourself walking down a familiar trail—and meeting some old friends along the way.

HRay
Heather Raymond, '82 BEd, '86 Dip(Ed), '95 MEd, '02 PhD
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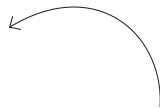
Students' Union

Rowan Ley





We would like to hear your comments about the magazine. Send us your letters by post or email to the addresses on page 4. Letters may be edited for length or clarity.



Can we please nominate **Deena Hinshaw**, '97 BSc, '04 MD, '08 MPH, for an Alumni Award of Excellence?

—Heike Juergens, '72 BA, '79 MEd, '87 PhD, Edmonton

Editor's note: Great idea! Visit uabgrad.ca/awards to learn how!

Hard on the Eyes

One of the benefits of being stuck in my house for the last six weeks is catching up on reading the large pile of magazines lying about. I just read the Winter 2019 issue of *New Trail* and quite enjoyed it. Lots of interesting content and smart people.

Just wanted to let you know that I found the layout a bit difficult, for those of us whose eyes are not as good as they once were. I've never had this problem to this extent before and I've been getting this magazine for close to 20 years. This issue has numerous examples of very small fonts, and lots of italics (hard to read at the best of times), some in small print with not enough contrast.

Wondering if you could please consider using slightly bigger fonts and more contrast, to help those of us with older eyes actually read this? I think many of us could live with slightly smaller pictures (e.g., on page 10) in exchange for more readability.

Thanks for putting out a good-quality product. I'd like to be able to read more of it in future.

—Leslie Treseder, '00 MSc, Edmonton

More Than a Treat

We all know the cinnamon buns at The Tuck and Hot Caf tasted fabulous! But there's so much more to what they meant to students, back when. First, their grandiose, "sticky-gooeyness" provided famished, low-on-money students with a full meal on a cold winter day. Second, when academically stressed students agreed to meet in the morning before and between classes for comfort food, it was always: buns at Tuck. Third, "Mom" served 'em up with real kindness and care like at home, not institutional cafeteria-style.

—Doug Ausman, '67 BSc, '76 MBA, North Vancouver, B.C.

Dad's Reading Chair

I have four children who are U of A grads. When they come home for a visit and see a copy of *New Trail* they'll always pick it up and browse through for recent articles and to find their classmates. So, I'm glad to have the hard copy of *New Trail* by my reading chair for them to look over.

—Peder Lodoen, '67 BSc(CivEng), St. Albert, Alta.

A Well-Timed Joke

How funny and timely was your most recent publication? About three days before receiving our mailed copy, an old hockey injury resurrected itself and a front tooth of mine snapped off. We then opened up *New Trail*, and there on the Manulife ad on the inside cover was a cake with the inscription "Congratulations on your broken tooth!" My wife burst out laughing: "How did they know?!"

—Keith Stefanick, '79 BA(Spec), '82 LLB, Edmonton

CORRECTION

In the Spring 2020 issue of *New Trail* magazine, you noted that you had missed a name in your list of grads elected as members of Parliament. You have missed another name. **Earl Dreeshen**, '74 BEd, was elected in 2008 as MP for Red Deer, Alta., and has served for the past 12 years. He currently sits as the MP for the new riding of Red Deer—Mountain View.

—Judy Dreeshen, '76 BEd, Red Deer, Alta.



MORE ONLINE Find these stories and more at ualberta.ca/newtrail.



'Defund the Police,' Explained

U of A experts dig into this contentious call to action



A Great Catch

Diversify your online dating pool. Swipe right on the stars of the Bugs 101 MOOC.

Website 2.0

New Trail has a new website chock full of stories like the ones to the left. Get tips on investing, learn how to help seniors feel less isolated and find a great podcast. Plus, learn about COVID-19 research at the U of A and meet grads who are making a difference in their communities.

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notes

WHAT'S NEW AND NOTEWORTHY



Not Who But Where

Researcher maps breeding grounds of two owl species to help protect them

A U OF A STUDY RECORDED FOREST SOUNDS—including owl calls— at 677 sites across northern Alberta to produce a map of where the hard-to-track boreal owl and northern saw-whet owl are most likely to breed and nest. The information produced by **Zoltán Domahidi**, '14 BSc(EnvSci), '18 MSc, and his team can now be used by pipeline, road or utility line planners to avoid the breeding grounds and by governments when planning protected areas. Neither owl is at risk in North America, but research in Finland found boreal owls became threatened after logging changed the forests. The birds are difficult to monitor as they're nocturnal, live in remote areas and spend most of their days hidden. —BEV BETKOWSKI

ENERGY

Upgrading Oilsands Technology Would Boost Profit and Cut Greenhouse Gases, Study Finds

Model finds the cost of implementing more efficient systems would end up saving money

INVESTING IN NEW ENERGY-EFFICIENT greenhouse gas mitigation strategies could net oilsands producers significant savings, according to a model developed by a U of A research group.

Engineering professor **Amit Kumar**, '04 PhD, and his team investigated 15 strategies covering all areas of the oilsands sector — in situ extraction, upgrading and surface mining — and found that each strategy could cut costs as well as reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The strategies were based on upgrading current operations and processes to more energy-efficient technology. Over time, the study found, the costs of upgrading would be outweighed by the money saved.

“These are all things that we see as being able to be implemented within a very short time frame,” says research engineer **Matthew Davis**, '17 MSc, one of the authors of the study.

The strategies could reduce cumulative energy consumption in the oilsands by eight per cent and greenhouse gas emissions by seven per cent by 2050, according to the study, published in the *Journal of Cleaner Production*.

That could have a significant impact on Canadian climate targets and the goal of moving towards net-zero emission, says Davis. “The oilsands currently contribute 10 per cent of Canadian greenhouse gas emissions, so it’s a good idea to take action as soon as possible to reduce energy use and emissions, especially when there is such a strong cost benefit.”

The study’s findings are based on a model the researchers created of all the energy inputs and energy uses in oilsands extraction processes. From equipment to utilities to transportation, all sources of emissions and energy-related steps were accounted for and quantified.

“It’s a bottom-up approach,” Davis explains. “Our analysis captures all the energy flow and greenhouse gas emissions tied into the process. We account for it all.”

The model was then used to project energy use and greenhouse gas emissions until 2050.

“We developed the model projections based on historical data since 2007. We could then assess how accurate the model was from that point until now by comparing it to industry data, and it was very close,” Davis says.

The model can be used to help oilsands producers assess their energy efficiencies and evaluate their options for greenhouse gas mitigation.

—CATHERINE TAYS, '13 BSc, '19 PhD

TOP 50

U OF A RANKS HIGH IN ENERGY RESEARCH

The U of A is among the top 50 universities in the world in energy research, according to QS World University Rankings by Subject. In three categories added to the 2020 rankings, petroleum engineering placed eighth, geophysics 46th and geology 50th. Mining and minerals placed 11th in the initial rankings.

The 2020 results put the U of A seventh in sport-related subjects, placing it in the top 10 for the fourth year in a row.

The original rankings, published in March, also placed other U of A subjects among the top 50: nursing at 18th, earth and marine sciences at 41st, education at 44th, and anatomy and physiology also at 44th.

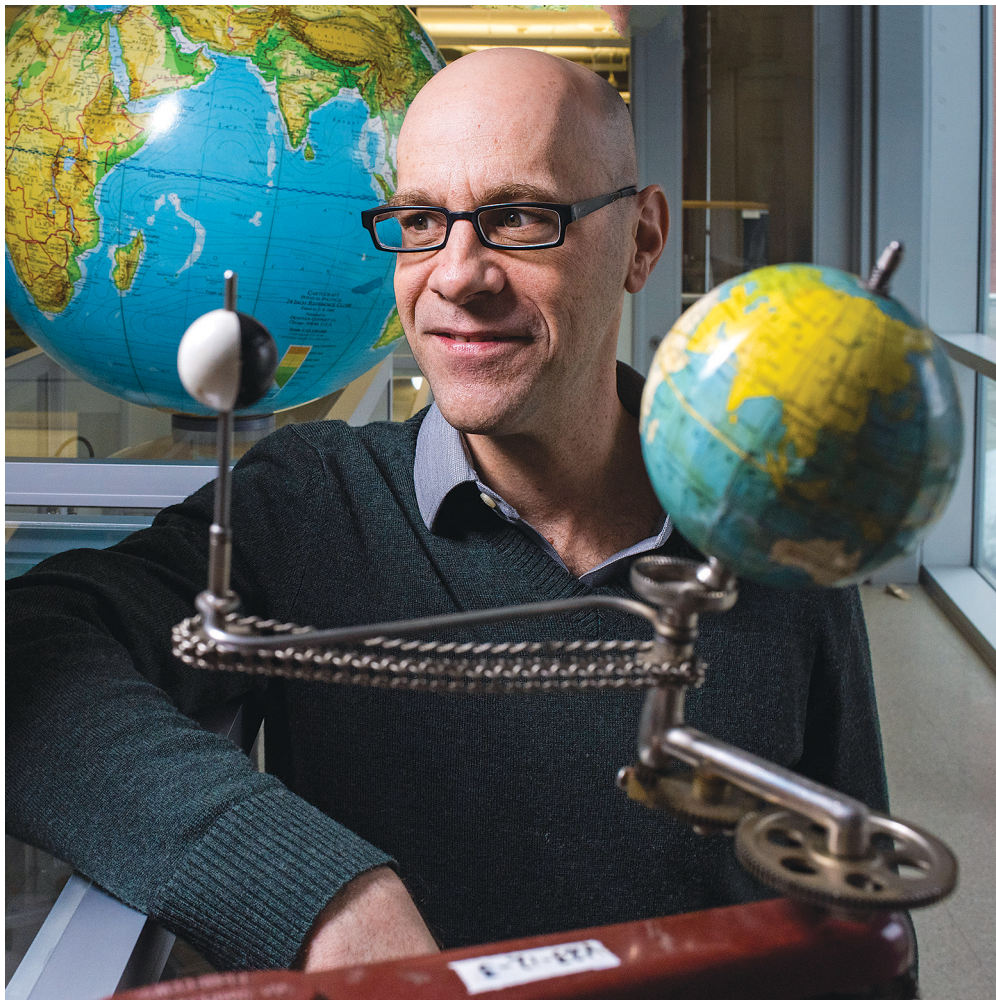
The university ranked in the top five in Canada in 21 categories. Globally, it was among the top 100 in 17 subjects, with 38 in the top 250. —MICHAEL BROWN

QUOTED

“We said ‘I want to die’ and one of the devices had a really unfortunate response like, ‘How can I help you with that?’”

Christopher Picard, a master’s student in the Faculty of Nursing and co-author of a study that found virtual assistants often gave poor advice when asked first aid questions





SCIENTISTS ANSWER CENTURY-OLD QUESTION U of A physicists have a possible solution to the mystery of why changes to the Earth's magnetic field are weaker in the Pacific. That's useful, in part, because scientists use models of the magnetic field in a variety of ways, including determining orientation when you look at a map on your smartphone. Physicist Mathieu Dumberry says the answer has to do with electrical conductivity in the part of the mantle closest to the Earth's core. The core has fluid motions, similar to ocean currents, that generate the magnetic field. Higher conductivity under the Pacific weakens the fluid motions in the liquid core of the Earth. —**ANDREW LYLE**, '11 BSC(ELECENG)

SCIENCE

HOW TO FILTER COVID-19 FACT FROM FICTION

Information about COVID-19 is flowing fast and furious, populating news feeds all over the world with articles about the virus and what we should be doing to prevent its spread. But how can you tell what information is accurate, what's speculative and what's just plain wrong? **Kara Blizzard**, '10 BA, is a librarian at the U of A's Augustana Campus who teaches information literacy skills to students. She shares tips on how to make sure what you're reading, watching and listening to is worth taking to heart. —**JORDAN MAE COOK**, '07 BA

BE CRITICAL

The value of the information you see on social media depends on who your friends are and who you're following. Research the authors and organizations behind the messages to help reveal their experience with the topic.

SLOW DOWN

The information you pass on to other people can affect not only their actions but also the pandemic. So, take a moment to consider the source of the information before you hit "share."

FIND BALANCE

There's no completely neutral source out there, says Blizzard, so seek out multiple sources to help get a more balanced view. She recommends looking at a variety of major news publications and health organizations.

NUMBERS

2,000

Age, in years, of artifacts thought to be from reindeer harnesses, discovered by U of A archeologists in the Arctic tundra. Previous estimates put the earliest reindeer domestication between the 11th century and a few hundred years ago.

HEALTH

ASTHMA RISK FOR NIGHT-OWL TEENS

Teenagers who like to stay up late at night and sleep in the next day are more likely to develop asthma and allergies than their "early bird" counterparts, according to new research.

The study found teenagers who go to bed late are about three times more likely to develop asthma and twice as likely to develop allergic rhinitis symptoms," says lead investigator Subhabrata Moitra, a post-doctoral fellow in pulmonary medicine and a member of the U of A's Alberta Respiratory Centre.

This is the first study to examine "chronotype," or sleep time preference, and associations with asthma and allergies in teenagers, Moitra says. The researchers questioned 1,684 adolescents in the Indian state of West Bengal.

Of the late risers, 23.6 per cent reported having asthma, compared with 6.2 per cent of the early risers. The association between asthma and sleep pattern preference held whether the teens were male or female, had a pet, lived in a rural or urban area, had a parent with asthma or allergies, or were exposed to second-hand smoke.

The researchers suspect sleep deprivation and disruption of melatonin production to be the connection.

Moitra says his team intends to do further research to explore the findings, including more objective tests of sleep quality and lung function. —**GILLIAN RUTHERFORD**

COVID-19 Research

Teams across the U of A are working to help curb the pandemic's impact. Here are a few examples

MICROBIOLOGY

Study Will Analyze Whether Antibodies Provide Immunity

A U OF A STUDY will analyze thousands of blood samples to help determine whether COVID-19 antibodies create long-term immunity.

The year-long study will look for the presence

of COVID-19 antibodies in leftover blood samples from Canadian Blood Services donors, analyze the concentrations and study how effective they are in preventing the novel

coronavirus from infecting a host cell.

"This work will potentially guide our way forward if there are future waves in the pandemic," says U of A and Canadian Blood Services microbiologist Steven Drews. While he doesn't expect a treatment to emerge from the research, he says understanding immunity at a population level could help researchers develop more efficient tests.

The study will also help estimate immunity in the population, which is fundamental to formulating

public health policy.

It's not clear if people who have recovered from COVID-19 are immune to the coronavirus that causes it, although there is some evidence that immunity is probably occurring.

"But we really don't have a good sense of what the presence of just having antibodies means and what levels of antibodies we need to

be protected," says Drews. "One you've been infected, you can't stop that, but having enough pre-existing antibodies could blunt that infection and reduce your chances of having a severe disease or reduce the chance of having the virus, for example, move deeper into your respiratory tract."

Epidemiologists from Canadian Blood Services will look to see if there are different regions in Canada that have different exposure levels and if those populations, because they were affected at different times, have different antibody responses, says Drews.

The study is co-funded by the federal government's COVID-19 rapid response research fund and Alberta Innovates. —MICHAEL BROWN

For more on these and other great U of A stories, visit folio.ca.



PSYCHOLOGY

CHINESE-CANADIANS EXPERIENCE RACISM DURING PANDEMIC, STUDY FINDS

Many Chinese-Canadians report being insulted, called names or threatened since the COVID-19 pandemic began, a survey found.

Two-thirds, 64 per cent, reported at least some level of disrespect. Half said they had been called names or insulted. Forty-three per

cent had been intimidated or threatened. Sixty-one per cent said they had adjusted their routines to avoid unpleasant encounters, and more than half worried their children would be bullied.

The online survey by the U of A and the Angus

Reid Institute, conducted in June, questioned a randomized sample of 516 Canadian adults who self-identify as being ethnically Chinese. Just under half of those surveyed were born in Canada, while one in five were born in mainland China or Hong Kong.

"This is happening in proportions that are strikingly large," says U of A social psychologist Kim Noels, a researcher in the study. —GEOFF MCMASTER



GETTY IMAGES

NUMBERS

\$17.2M

Total received by 24 U of A projects from the federal government's COVID-19 rapid response research fund and other funders

GENETICS

Project Will Explore How Virus Mutates

Sequencing genome can contribute to new tests and treatment

A PROJECT TO SEQUENCE virus genomes from thousands of COVID-19 patients in Alberta promises to help us understand the virus better and create more effective ways to detect and combat it.

Professor Linda Chui, '75 BSc(Spec), '78 MSc, '05 PhD, says the researchers are looking for tiny changes or mutations that occur as the virus spreads—for example, between the first travel cases in Alberta and community-acquired cases, and between severe cases and people who had general symptoms and recovered with no problems.

Chui and assistant professor Matthew Croxen will work with researchers from the University of Calgary's Centre for Health Genomics and Informatics with funding from Genome Alberta and Genome Canada.

The first genome of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, was sequenced and made public in January. "As more genetic information comes out, it provides clues to how the virus is changing,"



BUSTING MISINFORMATION Printmaker and fine arts professor Sean Caulfield, '92 BFA, '96 MFA, has teamed up with his brother, fake-science buster Timothy Caulfield, '87 BSc(Spec), '90 LLB, to counter misinformation swirling around COVID-19. Part of a multi-pronged campaign against pseudoscience called Coronavirus Outbreak: Mapping and Countering Misinformation, the artwork is paired with hashtags like #ThinkAccuracy and #BreakThatFake on social media. The goal is to get people to stop and think, says the artist. "I'm trying to create images that ... talk about the body and the anxiety around COVID, and that are complex and not easy to read." —GEOFF MCMASTER

says Croxen. "The word 'mutate' does sound scary to the layman, but this is a common thing that happens in almost all microbes."

The anonymous data from Alberta will be shared publicly through the federal CanCOGeN initiative, which aims to sequence up to 150,000 viral genomes in Canada. Those data will be shared with international partners.

By examining the genome data, researchers

can track infections with a common genetic ancestor to see how the disease has spread. They'll also learn which parts of the virus are most stable and therefore best to target for testing, treatments or vaccines.

It's important to do the sequencing so the province can see where new cases are coming from, says Gijs van Rooijen, chief scientific officer of Genome Alberta. —GILLIAN RUTHERFORD

QUOTED

"I think of COVID-19 as being like a bonfire that's spitting sparks. We're all just walking around as pieces of tinder, and there's still lots of tinder."

Lynora Saxinger, U of A infectious diseases specialist and co-chair of Alberta Health Services' COVID-19 advisory group, about the need to follow public health restrictions



MENTAL HEALTH

Feel Like a Fraud? You're Not Alone

High achievers are particularly prone to the debilitating effects of impostor syndrome

DO YOU FEEL YOUR SUCCESS is a fluke or just good luck? Do you obsess over mistakes or brush off compliments? Maybe you stay quiet so people don't realize you're a fraud.

Research shows as many as 70 per cent of people experience “impostor syndrome” at least once in their lifetimes. It's not a mental health disorder, but the effects can be debilitating, says **Becky Ponting**, '04 MA, a psychologist with the university's Counselling and Clinical Service.

And, surprisingly, it's even more common among high achievers than in the general population.

Ponting runs a workshop for students on how to identify and overcome impostor syndrome. Here are some of the risk factors:

- Being a high achiever
- Comparing yourself with others
- Being a perfectionist
- Growing up in an achievement-oriented context
- Being different from peers in some way
- Uncertainty, such as a new job or learning a new skill
- Feeling pressure to never fail

Ponting says the first step to overcoming impostor syndrome is to understand what it is and why you might suffer from it. While it's a temporary issue for many, for others it can be a lifelong problem that damages their careers and relationships. —GILLIAN RUTHERFORD

10 TIPS TO OVERCOME IMPOSTOR SYNDROME

- 1/** Talk to others about your feelings.
- 2/** Avoid minimizing your accomplishments or expertise (“Yeah, but ...”).
- 3/** Mentor others in your field—it helps you realize how much you do know.
- 4/** List your achievements and “own” them. They can't all be due to luck.
- 5/** Keep a record of positive feedback.
- 6/** Stop comparing yourself with others.
- 7/** Write a list of people, such as employers and loved ones, who you think you have conned. Imagine how they would respond if you told them.
- 8/** Let go of perfectionism, which can lead to procrastination, harsh self-criticism and fear of risk-taking.
- 9/** Don't assume your self-perceptions are correct. Check with a trusted source by asking for feedback.
- 10/** Practise accepting compliments—just say “thanks!”

NUMBERS

5X

Increased speed in targeting moving cancer tumours (for example, as patients breathe) during radiation therapy, thanks to a process developed by U of A radiologists, medical physicists and computer scientists

CLOTHING

WHY IT'S TOUGH TO GET THE STINK OUT OF POLYESTER

Why does that favourite shirt still stink after you've washed it a bunch of times?

Chances are it contains polyester, which means that funky smell isn't going to go away. A new U of A study shows that odorants—smelly compounds like those in sweat—are more attracted to polyester than to other fabrics and don't completely wash out.

Polyester is a non-polar fibre—meaning it repels water—which is why it dries quickly. But that also means it naturally attracts oil from our skin, which can lead to body odour, says lead author **Mukhtar Abdul-Bari**, '18 MSc, who conducted the research for his master's degree in textile and apparel science.

“We found that polyester isn't easily releasing those sweaty-smelling compounds, and repeated wearing puts more of them into the fibre, so over time there's this buildup of odour.”

The research gives insight into why antimicrobial textiles only partly address the issue of stinky fabrics.

The good news? Your favourite shirt will probably only get to a certain level of smelliness. Between five and 10 wash cycles made no significant difference in the amounts of odorants extracted from the fabric. —BEV BETKOWSKI

Patricia Makokis, '79 BEd, has devoted her life to building bridges between Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultures. She guides us as we walk through some difficult spaces together and learn what it means to say we're all treaty people.



by Patricia Makokis



Let's Walk the Talk to End Racism

I DREAD TO THINK OF MY YOUNG GRANDSON SUFFERING THAT PAIN. IT'S UP TO ALL OF US TO CONTINUE THE 'HEART WORK' TOWARD UNDERSTANDING

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, my daughter and six-year-old grandson, Atayoh, moved back to Saddle Lake Cree Nation so we could support each other. As safety precautions eased, we put Atayoh in soccer and swimming camps.

As I walked into the local pool to register him, I was transported back to the time when my children, **Janice Makokis**, '05 BA(NativeStu), and **James Makokis**, '04 BSc(Nutr/Food), were competitive swimmers. I remembered the many times my husband and I volunteered at swim meets and the excitement of watching our children compete.

But I realized I also had a terrible feeling in the pit of my stomach. I felt worry for my grandson.

Atayoh knows he looks different. He has long braids and he's brown, and for some reason his appearance causes people to stare and sometimes even ask if he's a boy or a girl. So, when I went to the pool that day, I found myself trying to soften the blow by explaining to the receptionist that my grandson is a traditional Cree boy with long beautiful braids.

One day, as I sat watching Atayoh swim, I struck up a conversation with a young woman next to me. It turns out her younger brother was in the same Grade 5 class as my son 28 years ago. Talking to her sparked a memory of an incident at a school Christmas concert, when this young woman's brother told James he was black, he didn't belong and he "should burn." When my husband and I spoke to our son's teacher and the school administrator, they minimized the incident. We were told, essentially, to shrug it off. Get over it and move on. End of story.

Why am I sharing this memory? Because here we are in 2020 and—what has changed? Not enough. For four generations, my family has experienced racism and it's painful. As Atayoh's *kokum* (grandmother), it will break my heart to see him experience the pain we've all had to endure.

As a young mom, I was so busy working, raising my children, being involved in their education and in their sports activities that I dealt with racism on the fly.

Now, I feel a sense of urgency to create change for the sake of my grandson.

I remain optimistic. If we work together, if we do the intellectual and emotional work that's needed to counter racism, our grandchildren and those yet to be born will inherit a better world.

About a year ago, I participated with Indigenous and non-Indigenous allies in a two-week treaty education walk from Edmonton to Calgary. The mission was to educate other potential allies about the numbered treaties. We walked and talked all the way to Calgary. We stayed in church basements en route, and every night we watched a short film, *Treaty Talk: Sharing the River of Life*, followed by talking circles with residents from each community. We shared many tears and heartfelt stories over the two weeks.

One night, a white man in his 70s said: "I am here to unlearn what I learned as a young person and to learn about Indigenous Peoples from Indigenous Peoples." His words gave me hope. The hope I have for all of us. At his age he is still open to learning. None of us learned the true Indigenous world view in school, and we have all lost out as a result. We have lost out on opportunities to really know one another, to learn from the horrific stories of colonial history, to hear about Indigenous resilience despite ongoing racism and, most importantly, how we can all move toward making reconciliation more than an empty word.

It takes what I call "heart work." We are all called to do this work. It involves confronting difficult questions. It requires that we recognize and address racism head-on with honest, positive and respectful conversations.

And as we do this work, I will continue to love and laugh and wear my rose-coloured glasses that foresee a brighter future. ■

Patricia Makokis has a EdD in education. As an educator and consultant, she considers herself a servant leader, working for the people. She is co-producer of two educational documentaries: Treaty Talk: Sharing the River of Life and Treaty Walk: A Journey for Common Ground. She lives on the Saddle Lake Cree Nation.

Learning doesn't end when you accept your degree. We are all lifelong learners, whether we pursue lessons in a class or a lecture hall—or these lessons pursue us. **Curtis Gillespie**, '85 BA(Spec), reflects on the continuing opportunities for education that life throws our way, sometimes when we least expect them.



by Curtis Gillespie



Time Together and Apart

THE STRICTURES OF THE TIMES REMINDED ME OF THE BEAUTY OF SIMPLICITY AND THE PLEASURES OF SPENDING MORE TIME WITH FEWER PEOPLE

Back in the spring, our older daughter, Jess, came home from New York City, where she's been living for the last couple of years. Naturally, this was a relief on many levels because, by the third week of March, New York had passed France and South Korea in the number of positive cases of COVID-19 and the disease rates were climbing exponentially. But it also meant a two-week quarantine for Jess and anyone who would come into contact with her. My wife, Cathy, sensibly decided it would be better to stay with her parents. Our younger daughter, Grace, was living in Vancouver. So, I picked Jess up at the airport and then it was just her and me. For two weeks. In isolation.

A father and his 24-year-old daughter forced to spend every single minute together for two weeks, hunkered down in a house full of canned food, with no escape during a period of terrible March weather, no other human contact and the threat of plague hanging over us. It sounds like the script notes for a desperately existential black and white Ingmar Bergman movie where no one smiles and every conversation unravels different filaments of the futility of the human condition. Sign me up!

But it didn't go that route, for various reasons. For my part, it's because I was pre-quarantined. You see, I have spent the majority of my freelance writing career sitting by myself in my tiny basement office trying to make sense of one subject or another, after which I try to write something interesting about it. I have operated on the principle that no one knows or cares what I'm doing, which has kept the bar low enough for me to be fairly satisfied with my so-called career, while remaining uninfected by the bitterness of not having won the Nobel Prize in Literature (yet). Like professional athletes and parents of small children, writers rely on metronomic routine to maintain balance. This allows us to go about our business without having to wait around for our muse to arrive, which it never does until the exact moment we need to go to the bathroom. All this is to say, my workdays have involved the same routine for the last 25 years or so. Get up, eat breakfast, go down to the Panic Room, wrestle until lunchtime with the limits of my talent, insight, temperament and motivation, get some exercise, eat lunch, repeat the process in the afternoon.

When the implications of the pandemic were becoming clear and we were told that we had to stop seeing people, isolate, exist in bubbles, work from home and avoid large gatherings, my first thought was, *Same old, same old.*

"I sit at home in the basement every day," is how I describe my career to people when they ask what a writer does. I spend hours alone trying to come up with things to share with others. Bit of a weird occupation, to be honest. Self-isolation,



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social distancing, work at home, avoid physical contact. Those are just different ways of saying “freelance writer.”

All joking aside, there are different layers to the COVID-19 experience. It's been a harsh and intimidating time for many people, especially those who aren't well off, who are front-line workers, who have underlying health issues. For many, this time has been not an inconvenience but a mortal threat and we shouldn't lose sight of that. But for those lucky enough to live through the pandemic primarily as a worrisome inconvenience, we can learn valuable truths from the experience. They may not appear positive at first, but we would be wise to pay attention to them anyway.

The word *crisis* has its roots in Latin and Greek and one translation implies sifting or separating, clarifying or refining, in the same way you might pan for gold or separate the wheat from the chaff. It's not that you get out of a crisis what you put in. Rather, what you get out of it depends on what you are looking for. This line of thought makes me sound more philosophical than I am. I suppose if I actually had a life philosophy, it would be something like, “Drink good beer, make as few enemies as possible.” It has worked so far. But the pandemic created certain situations that otherwise would not have appeared. I think we can all relate to that. COVID-19 gives us all a baseline experience, positive and negative, for the stories we tell. Every person on the planet has something to relate about how the pandemic has or hasn't affected them. It's positive because shared experience helps generate empathy, something the world is going to need a whole lot of in the months and years to come. It's negative because, well, it's a pandemic.

Which is why it's not the worst thing to step back and ask, despite the awfulness of the situation and that we'd be better off without it, what can we sift through to find the positive? It's there. We just have to know what to look for.

Which brings us back to Jess and me. Every day had that quiet rhythm I alluded to earlier. She had work to do, I had work to do. We'd chat in the

mornings, work in different parts of the house, walk the dog, play crib and have a drink before dinner. One of us would make dinner, the other would clean up. In the evenings, she hung out with her friends via FaceTime. Some nights we made a fire. It was, more than anything else, quiet. That didn't change much once Jess's mandatory two-week quarantine was over and we moved into the same general stay-at-home period as everyone else. Cathy and Grace were able to come home. We had more dinners together as a family, played some board games and even had a couple of karaoke nights. The immediate enthusiasm for karaoke from my family members made me wonder if I was, in fact, related to them. We plugged a mic into my guitar amp, fired up a karaoke site on YouTube and away we went, windows wide open to let the sound vibrate through a gentle west Edmonton spring evening. I'm sure the neighbours must have thought I had entered mid-life-crisis mode when they heard me belting out my take on Bob Dylan's classic “Forever Young” across the cul-de-sac.

But it was also a period that involved a general reduction of obligations. We all have fantasies about what we would do if our lives were different or if we had to choose another path. Lots of people imagine what life would have been like had they decided to chase that rock star dream, that NHL career hope, that great business idea. But for me, although such flights of fancy are rare because I have been blessed with a happy life, I always imagine wistfully that I'd have been suited to a life of monasticism, of deep internal reflection. My wife, my children, my family—OK, anyone who has ever met me—will contest that. Though I am capable of calm, understated reflection, it is an act of will rather than a default state. But maybe we are attracted to what we don't have or what we can touch but cannot attain. So the peaceful introspection of monasticism—its standing outside the strictures of time and money, society and striving—has always appealed to me. (As long as the monasteries have good wireless and a beer fridge.)

There's something deeply attractive about simplicity, routine, regularity. I think it has to do with the removal of choice. We live in an age of myriad options for everything, from food to media, travel to entertainment. But it's a highly perplexing assumption that we are entitled to these options, that baby arugula, exotic holidays and Amazon Prime are basic human rights. We are blinded by our consumption patterns, and our lives now revolve around them. I am in no way exempting myself. I like baby arugula as much as the next guy. But the strictures of the pandemic, especially that two-week quarantine period, reminded me of the beauty of simplicity and of spending more time with fewer people. Having less choice does not mean less satisfaction. Quite the opposite. The gold standard for excess is probably Roman times, when the elite had orgies, gorged on every possible food and forced humans to battle lions. Sure, the Romans produced some pretty decent literature, not to mention plumbing, but it probably sucked being a Roman if you weren't in the senators' box. I mean, you saw *Gladiator*, right?!

My point is that forced simplicity and austerity were actually liberating. And that are. I realize now how much moving around I did and how much consuming I did, just because it was there and everyone else was doing it. There will certainly be less travel in the future, especially business travel. I wonder what real changes we'll make. The pandemic is a grievous human event, but maybe we could take it as a signal that we have collectively lost our way. For too long we have put blind faith in endless neo-liberal growth. We are addicted to our shiny distractions. We treat the animal kingdom with utter contempt and the Earth like a dumpster. Maybe it's a chance to take those moments of stillness some of us were gifted during a global crisis and realize that our better selves won't be found through more, but less. ■

Curtis Gillespie has written five books and earned seven National Magazine Awards. His New Trail article “A Hard Walk” won gold for best article of 2018 from CASE, an international post-secondary association.

thesis

DIVING DEEP INTO ONE IDEA



The World Underfoot

To experience a place is nuanced, depending as much on when and why you go as how you get there

HOW YOU PERCEIVE “PLACE” DEPENDS ON SO MUCH. Is it morning? Winter? Are you 14 or 54, frail or strong? Have you been before? Imagine a vista from a lookout, how different the experience if you climb to reach it versus driving there. Our sense of place can be indifferent: a half-forgotten smudge in a passport. Or, as when we follow a favourite path, it can fill us with an abiding delight. ■

What if Here is All We Have?

If you can't travel widely, travel deeply

DAY 1 STARTS near ancient dunes west of Edmonton. The land still speaks in outbursts of sand of ancient glacial waters and profound change. This is a day to walk softly through tall grass and, on reaching the forest, to pluck a spruce tip and taste its lemony piquancy. Farther along, we climb the long stairs named Legs of Fire, cheering (at a distance) for one another, even as young men on mountain bikes surge past us, glorying in fitness and the arrival of summer.

What if this place is all there is? *Amiskwaciy-wâskahikan*, this place where Edmonton grew, was for some 8,000 years a human gathering place, but its written history dates back less than 200 years. Northern, subject to harsh winters and unpredictable summers—how do we fully inhabit this place?

People aren't travelling much these days. What if the pandemic leaves in its wake a world of overbearing government surveillance, and the political and economic woes mean travel is out of reach for all but the wealthiest or most powerful few?

How do we fully inhabit a particular place, in my case, this northern city, hunched

frozen for half the year, consuming outside amounts of energy to keep the lines open, the water and power flowing?

If our scope of movement narrows, we could go deeper. For one thing, we can walk the river valley. Thanks to the years-long efforts of the River Valley Alliance, there is a network of trails threading the valley from Devon to Fort Saskatchewan. And for the past three years, a group of friends has walked this path together.

Sheila Thompson, '74 BEd, and Graham Hicks, both long-distance walkers, decided in 2018 to walk our river valley. They inaugurated the Camino Edmonton, named for Spain's famous pilgrim's trail, Camino de Santiago. Again this year, our goal is to celebrate what civic, corporate and volunteer collaborations have built—trails, paths, stairways and walking bridges—by making a secular 100-kilometre pilgrimage from Devon to Fort Saskatchewan over five days. Walkers reconvene daily at 8:30 a.m. to walk the day's segment. No need to camp in rude huts nor rise before dawn to chant the day's prayers, just a day of walking together.

This year, COVID-19 means



physical distancing, and face masks or shields and hand sanitizer are pilgrim gear. And we walk under an invisible pressure, grasping at ways to stay safe. Singing indoors makes the virus too transmissible—can we sing trail songs?

Day 2 begins walking past Fort Edmonton. In the forest, we discuss old names, dark histories, how to teach and learn together. Slippery potholes pockmark the path like wounds that bar our understanding. How are we to live as treaty people, all of us, weighted and unbalanced by the complex and difficult histories we carry? We don't sing together.

We gather for lunch above *kisiskâciwanisîpiy*, the North Saskatchewan River. Carefully spaced, we talk about negotiations with settler land owners who were reluctant to allow the River Valley Alliance to build walking trails along

the fringes of their farms. We talk about the possibility of one day seeing Cree, English and French signs. Below, swift brown waters roil and tumble, as murky as history, as apt to hide snags and sandbanks, the sturgeon muscling along on its sovereign, inscrutable trajectory.

Day 3 is blessed with misty rain, cooling us as we stroll through the city centre. Some of us are blistered, our age and conditioning telling on us. I push through, even though the extra two kilometres that make it the longest leg of the journey are two too far for my back. Dehydrated and overtaxed, I imagine myself a real pilgrim or refugee, and I labour up the last incline.

I pay in back spasms that lay me out for Day 4. It gives me time to ponder. What does it cost refugees and devotees when one of their number falls? I have a comfortable



bed, anti-inflammatories and a hot water bottle my husband filled before work. If this gets worse, I can call a friend, a cab, even an ambulance, to get medical help. That is where we live, too. I am profoundly thankful.

Day 5 finds me improved and I rejoin the walkers. Our last leg is open country to Fort Saskatchewan. Our morning meeting is brimful of energy. We are like the boys who galloped past us on the first day. We haven't gone hungry nor forced ourselves through storm or peril, nor huddled in fear of enemies.

We haven't begun touching the depth of history that lies like sand, and thrusts glacial erratics along our path. Whether we know which trailside plants might sustain or heal us hasn't mattered. We're full of confidence, like the sculpture we pass in a Fort Saskatchewan park, a bronze chain rearing straight

up into the sky, defying limits.

What if this pandemic is a harbinger of a global contraction that ends the freedom of movement we've come to see as normal for the middle class in industrialized nations? What if, like the poor throughout the centuries and the worldwide majority in the jet age, we find ourselves having to reduce our scope, let our sense of place become narrower but grow deeper?

Today, the sun is shining. We form a final circle on a broad swath of civic parkland, and I am invited to sing an Anishinaabe song to honour our river. "If I sing," I tell them, "you must join. It won't matter if you get the words wrong."

And they join me, and, physically distanced but with our hearts in the same flow, we softly sing our thanks for this Earth, this river valley, the possibility to walk it, again and again, deepening the path. —ANNA MARIE SEWELL,

'91 BA(SPEC)

WRONG WAY, AGAIN!

Can't follow that street map? It's not you, it's a design flaw

LIKE MANY THINGS, grocery shopping became more stressful after COVID-19. It's not only the shortages of yeast and toilet paper, but the slapdash wayfinding systems: those arrows taped to the floor. If you've found yourself halfway down the cereal aisle before realizing you're going the wrong way, you're not to blame, according to **Gillian Harvey, '00 BDes.**

"A wayfinding system falls apart if there's no consideration of the users of that space," says Harvey, assistant professor in design studies and president of the Edmonton Wayfinding Society. She has advice for those trying to direct human traffic.

1. Don't give too much information. Stick to what people need in that place and time. "Five to seven pieces of information is almost too much for people to remember," Harvey says. "Keep it minimal."

2. Use consistent language. "The system needs to be understandable by everyone, everywhere, all the time," she says. She advises using common, consistent terminology.

3. Make it comprehensive. For Harvey, one historic example of effective wayfinding in its time was the iconic pedway signs in Edmonton designed by Lance Wyman in 1987. They depict the word "ped/

way" in Helvetica typeface with pairs of footprints stacked vertically in three rows. Based on the placement of feet on the sign, you can see if the pedway is underground, at street level or elevated. Unfortunately, until recently, the system wasn't maintained or updated as new buildings and connections appeared. The lesson: wayfinding systems require upkeep and a budget.

4. Don't forget why the signs are there. Good wayfinding focuses on user experience. Distance indicators, for example, tell pedestrians how long it will take them to reach destinations, which promotes walking, Harvey says. It also helps people find their way in unfamiliar places and lets them navigate when the usual visual cues, such as city blocks, are absent. "User-centred design paints a picture of the space so people have a mental model," she says. "And it's not a simple task."

So, spare a thought for the hard-working staff in grocery stores and other public spaces, who have suddenly been called on to interpret public health instructions while learning wayfinding principles on the fly.

They are finding that the duct-taped arrows in aisles illustrate a common design pitfall: they're not visible enough.

"Signs or maps should catch your eye," Harvey says. —STEPHANIE BAILEY, '10 BA(HONS)

HONG KONG

香港

The Route of Memory

Maps say as much about time as they do about place

EVERY FEW YEARS my family returns to Hong Kong and my dad, **Sik-On Yu**, '74 BSc(CivEng), insists on a pilgrimage to the neighbourhoods where he grew up more than 50 years ago. We get on the bus and I'm skeptical that he can find the route he took as a teenager, but he has an undeniable faith that eventually the street will bend the same way it used to, a line on a map that no longer exists.

The word "map" dates to the early 16th century from the Latin *mappa mundi*, which means "sheet of the world." For my master's thesis in humanities computing, I looked at how we map experience, rethinking city spaces with user-generated data. Some maps record distance or show you the nearest Starbucks. Others record thoughts or hold the memory of where you bumped into a friend and had a spirited sidewalk reunion. Sometimes a map is less about finding a location and more about anchoring a place in time.

Cartographer Denis Wood asked, "What if map-making were an expressive art, a way of coming to terms with place, with the experience of place, with the love of place?" Our experience of place is personal and multi-layered, meaning no map is ever accurate; rather it represents a moment. Author and historian Rebecca Solnit says each of us is an atlas, containing versions of place as experience and desire and fear, as route and landmark and memory.

This speaks to my parents' experiences of growing up in Hong Kong. But that city, in a constant state of change, is unforgiving to nostalgia seekers. This merits the question: if Memory Lane is no longer visible, what do we gain from a trip down it? As our family trips to Hong Kong have shown me, a map is where we mark our stories, memories and lived experiences. —**JOYCE YU**, '07 BA, '15 MA

LAI CHI KOK
荔枝角



Dad's Home

Standing at the corner of Nanking Street and Nathan Road, my parents and I are looking up at the 31 storeys of the Man Yee Building. My dad's last home before he moved to Canada was on Nathan Road. Now the spot is a shopping centre and office building rising with the rest of Hong Kong in vertical waves. Nothing remains of his family home. In fact, every building that he lived in has been torn down, and "going home" means going back to Canada. My dad has been in Canada for far longer than he was in Hong Kong, and often far longer than some Canadians who ask him if he ever plans to return to Hong Kong to live.

NANKING & NATHAN
彌敦道

WANG TAU HOM 橫頭磡

The Convenience Store

My dad lived in Wang Tau Hom with his five brothers. He spent a lot of time running errands for the owner of the newsstand and convenience store. Each time we go, my dad looks for the store, and my pragmatic mom suggests that after so many decades, the store, like Hong Kong, has changed. So little remains of the life he shared with his family growing up. But on this street, he finds where he hid from smoke bombs during riots and the corner where he walked with his brothers to school and, finally, he stands in the spot where the newsstand stood. And, for a while, he is connected with his childhood and the people he has lost.

KOWLOON WALLED CITY 九龍城寨

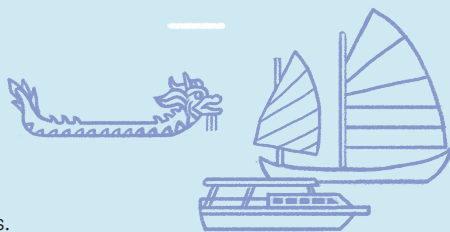
Kowloon Walled City

My parents also share the collective fear held by Hong Kong children of their generation: Kowloon Walled City. It was a lawless settlement in the larger Kowloon City that teetered between British and Chinese rule. Kids would make the trip to the walled city on a dare. My parents heard the same rumours about it: the bridges and stairways knotted together into a deep maze running through the city. It was controlled by triads. You couldn't see daylight in the city. You could hear the echo of clicking mah-jong tiles against the walls. That's where people hid dead bodies. Demolished in 1993, somehow it still looms.

TO KWA WAN 土瓜灣

Mom's Home

My parents met and got to know each other over pots of tea in Mae Lai Wah, a Chinese restaurant in Edmonton where Hong Kong students and Chinese immigrants would gather. It turns out that in Hong Kong, her neighbourhood (To Kwa Wan) was just 20 minutes from his. They never met there but share memories of Lai Chi Kok, an amusement park.



The Landscape of Desire

Choosing a packed dirt path over a sidewalk is deeply human

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT we needed a term for paths that cross unpaved spaces, built not by city planners but by the collaborative persistence of pedestrians? They're called "desire lines"—a term from landscape architecture—and something about them feels desirable. You might never see your co-creators, except by the path that their footsteps maintain. Stamped into an otherwise orderly Cartesian grid, desire lines feel strikingly human, even intimate.

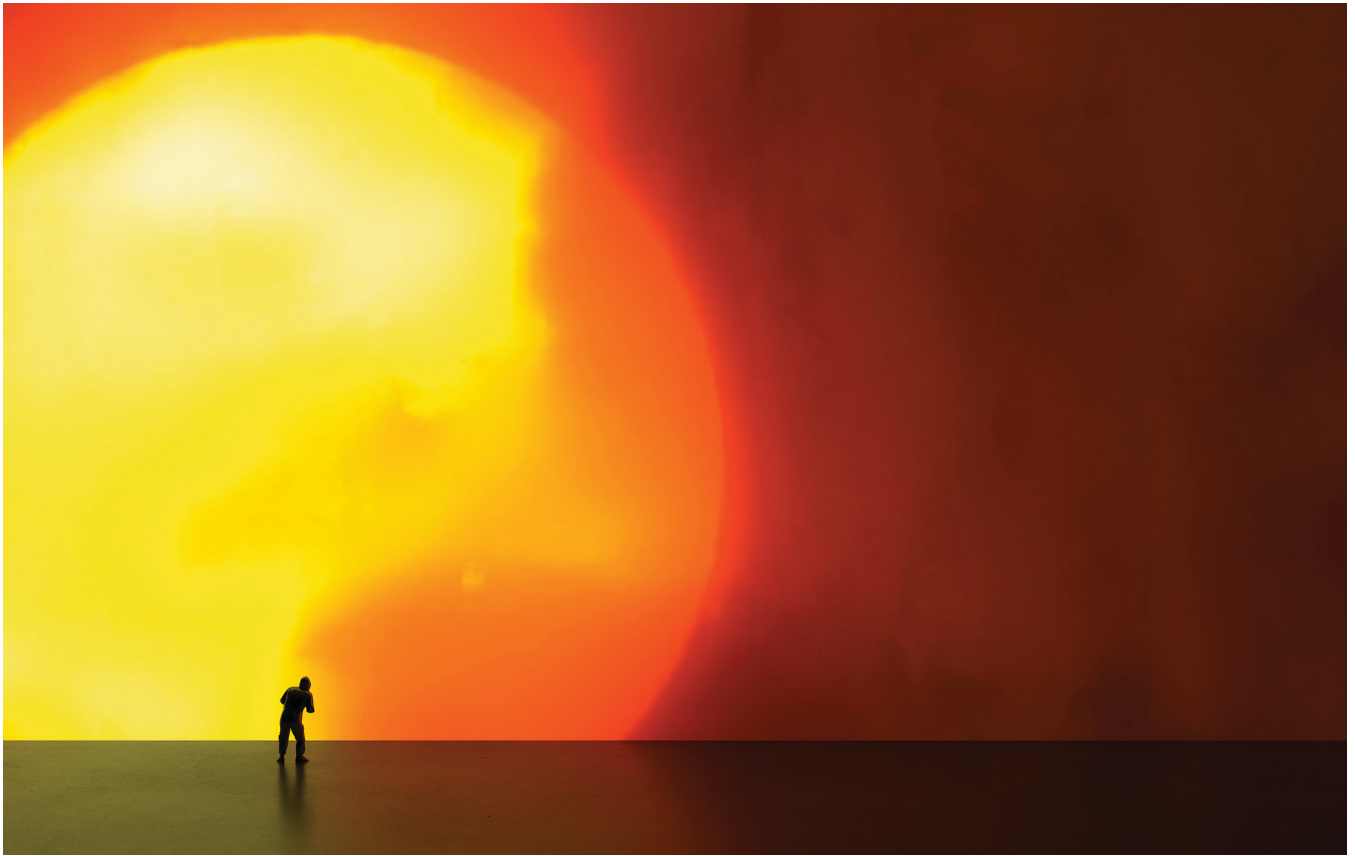
The process of forming a desire line is slow and requires help. When British landscape artist Richard Long set out to make a desire line alone in 1967, he paced the same stretch of grass until his work, *A Line Made by Walking*, was formed. It exists now only as a photograph—a solo effort too fragile to last.

Researchers have followed these paths in Detroit, as have conservationists in New York's Central Park. Information scientists and sociologists find in them metaphors for how we navigate information. When we follow a desire line, we're fitting ourselves into the shape of another city-dweller's desire—whether it's to get home more quickly, get closer to the water's edge or to remove our shoes and sink our toes into the pebbled sand.

In France, desire lines are called donkey trails. In the Netherlands, elephant paths. The German word is trampelpfad—literally "trample path," similar to the English term "beaten path." The word desire, though, testifies to something sensual: paths are made with human touch and time.

The term is often misattributed to French poet and philosopher Gaston Bachelard, whose book *The Poetics of Space* is a treatise toward an intimate, human view of domestic space. After one brief outing, he wrote, "what a dynamic, handsome object is a path!" Though he never mentioned them by name, I think Bachelard would have found such lines desirable, too.—**ERIKA LUCKERT**, '14 BA(HONS), '14 CERT(CSL)

Erika Luckert researched desire lines as a student with the Undergraduate Research Initiative, a donor-supported program.



When Home Doesn't Feel Like Home

Sometimes you leave a place. Sometimes it leaves you

WITH NO END IN SIGHT to the pandemic, the sad realization is beginning to sink in: things might never be the same again. Our world is getting ever stranger as the weeks turn into months, from wearing masks indoors to facing the corners in elevators. It turns out there's a word for that feeling, that sense of loss or longing for the carefree comforts of Life Before.

"Solastalgia," a portmanteau of solace, desolation and nostalgia, was coined by philosopher Glenn Albrecht in 2005. If nostalgia is the longing we feel for home after we leave, solastalgia is the distress we feel when home becomes unfamiliar — when it leaves us.

"[It] is the pain or sickness caused by the loss or lack of solace and the sense of isolation connected to the present state of one's home and territory," writes

Albrecht, a former environmental studies professor at the University of Newcastle in Australia.

The concept describes the anxiety we feel when our sense of place is challenged by environmental change, whether natural or manmade. Drought, flooding, war, terrorism. Or infectious disease.

Take, for example, the U.K.'s 2001 epidemic of foot-and-mouth disease. It had a serious psychological impact, Albrecht says. Farmers and other community members directly affected by the sudden change felt "distress, feelings of bereavement, fear of a new disaster ... flashbacks, nightmares and uncontrollable emotion."

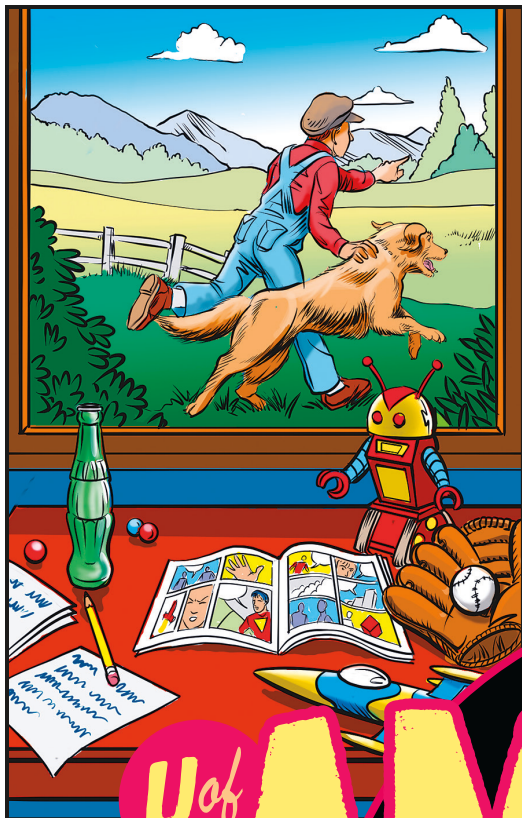
Solastalgia is a concept **Brad Necyk**, '06 BCom, '11 BFA, '14 MFA, '19 PhD, and Dan Harvey were exploring even before

the pandemic arrived. In 2019, as part of a group art show called *Dyscorpia* at the University of Alberta Enterprise Square Galleries, they produced a multimedia exhibition (above) that focused on solastalgia as a psychological effect of environmental change. Through hyperrealistic 3D renderings, their work depicts uncanny natural landscapes and people in radiation suits navigating them. The exhibition proved to be prescient, as art often is.

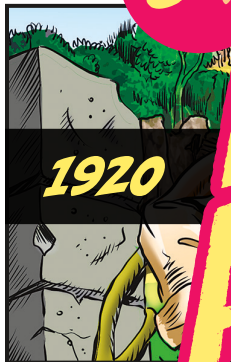
Just look at the way the coronavirus pandemic has destabilized our lives, whether it's through job loss, the strain on family life or fear for our own well-being. The life we once knew has been altered in ways we couldn't have imagined.

When our home becomes unrecognizable, says Albrecht, it no longer comforts us in the way it once did. "In short, solastalgia is a form of homesickness one gets when one is still at 'home.'"

As we continue to navigate the changes COVID-19 brings, it may be a helpful term to add to our growing pandemic lexicon. —STEPHANIE BAILEY, '10 BA(HONS)



A CENTURY AGO A GROUP OF GRADS GOT TOGETHER AND DECIDED TO START A MAGAZINE. **THE TRAIL**, AS IT WAS CALLED THEN, WAS A PLACE TO SWAP STORIES, SHARE UPDATES AND TALK ABOUT THE NEWS OF THE DAY, AND IT HELPED THEM STAY CONNECTED TO THE LEARNING AND DISCOVERY HAPPENING AT THE U OF A. HERE IS A LIST OF OUR FAVOURITE BITS FROM OUR ARCHIVES.



1920



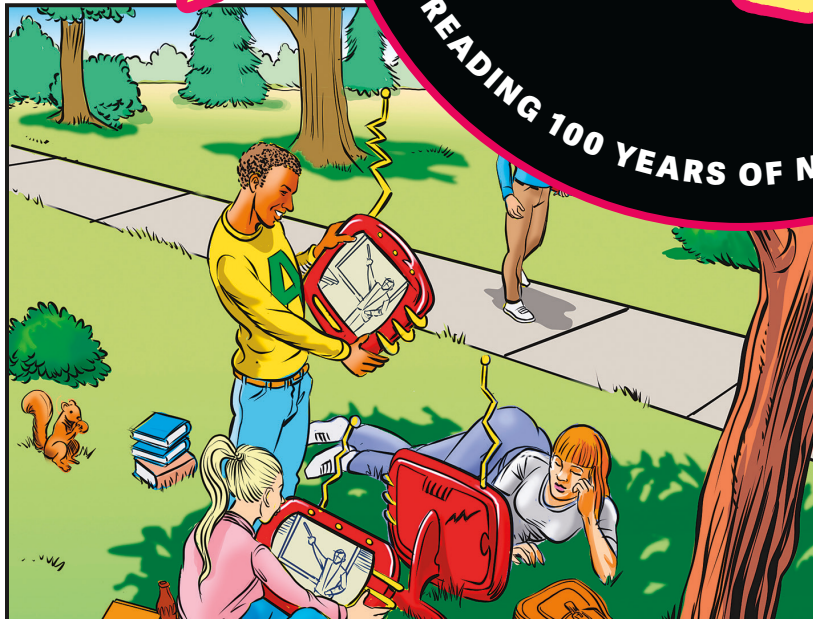
2020

U of A AMAZING ALUMNI STORIES

100 THINGS WE LEARNED

READING 100 YEARS OF NEW TRAIL

PART I



COMPILED BY MARCEY ANDREWS, STEPHANIE BAILEY, '10 BACHONS), LISA COOK, THERESE KEHLER, MIFI PURVIS, '93 BA, HERSHARON SANDHU, '15 BA, '19 BACHONS), KAREN SHERLOCK, LISA SZABO, '16 BA

WELCOME TO 100 YEARS OF CONNECTION AND INTELLECTUAL KINSHIP

BY LISA COOK



Here are the very first words shared in this magazine 100 years ago:

"*The Trail*, with this number, makes its initial bow or debut to its readers, the members of the Alumni Association of the University of Alberta and to all the friends of the alma mater into whose hands a copy may, from time to time, come. It is commended to your kind perusal."

That first issue of *The Trail* (as it was called then) does not actually have a date but the U of A Libraries says it came out in 1920 and who are we to question librarians? And so with this issue we kick off our centenary year.

In anticipation of this milestone, we've been rooting around in the *New Trail* archives looking for gems to share with you. And did we ever find some! Touching, funny, thoughtful—and some downright strange. So many stories made us laugh or gasp or run over to someone else's desk (when we could still do that sort of thing) and say, "Did you see this one?!"

So, in honour of our 100th anniversary, we're excited to share the first 50 in our list of "100 Things We Learned Reading 100 Years of *New Trail*."

(Stay tuned for Part II in our Winter issue.) In each case, we've made note of the original issue where we located the tidbit. (If you're the type who likes to do your own research, you can find the full archives of *New Trail* online at peel.library.ualberta.ca.)

Even after all these years, it's clear that the intention behind *New Trail* remains the same: let's stay in touch. In touch with each other, yes, and the U of A, too, but also connected to the student within each of us—that version of yourself that pushed for discovery and hungered for "all the rich associations of mind and heart," as they put it in 1920.

Or, as the U of A's first president, **Henry Marshall Tory**, '28 LLD (Honorary), wrote in that inaugural issue:

"If *The Trail* can be made a medium for the promotion among our graduates of a sense of intellectual kinship and of fellowship of effort in the solution of the pressing problems of our province and country, then it will perform a useful function indeed."

You'll find plenty of examples in our top 100 list of how the U of A community has been solving those pressing problems, especially here in Alberta, for more than a century.

Number 50 on our list, for example, is an excerpt from a three-page essay on soil surveys that we ran in 1945. Not the sort of thing I'm normally drawn to but I found it fascinating! For one thing, the author wrote about dirt in a way that you could only describe as loving. But, also, he was clearly working to find solutions. How do we get the most out of what we plant across the province? How do we remain good stewards of the land?

That solution-oriented mindset is evident throughout this list. The grad who improved on the ballpoint pen (No. 15) or the university's 1957 investment to solve the practical problems of the power industry (No. 21). One example that seems particularly prescient right now is establishment of the Li Ka Shing Institute of Virology in 2010 (No. 3), anticipating a COVID-19-like outbreak. A glance at the COVID-19 research stories on pages 8 and 9 demonstrates how we are benefiting now from that decade-old investment.

But one of my favourite "aha" moments is a short bit in the CKUA University Radio Programme listing from 1942, back when distance learning took place by radio instead of Zoom (No. 36). The listing invites people across the province to tune in for a discussion of The Pros and Cons of Food Refrigeration. What a thought! *New Trail* has been connecting people with practical solutions since before refrigeration was a de facto part of our lives.

U of A alumni are a community united by shared experience and shared values. The people picking up this magazine are of different ages and sometimes vastly different life experiences. They are flung across the globe and political spectrum. But as Tory foresaw 100 years ago, there is value in staying connected to that widespread and diverse community. To people who stay curious. Who apply their knowledge and skills to the betterment of the world around them.

In its first decades, *The Trail* served as a strange combination of Facebook, LinkedIn, your favourite TED Talks and a newsy handwritten letter. Each issue was a class reunion that took place on paper. In a year when our Alumni Weekend reunion has adapted to become a weeklong series of online events (Sept. 21-27!), these early issues are a reminder of the staying power of the humble printed word to keep us all connected regardless of geography or era.

And now, "intended for your kind perusal," we bring you Part I of our centenary celebration. ■

"IF THE TRAIL CAN BE MADE A MEDIUM FOR THE PROMOTION AMONG OUR GRADUATES OF A SENSE OF INTELLECTUAL KINSHIP AND OF FELLOWSHIP OF EFFORT IN THE SOLUTION OF THE PRESSING PROBLEMS OF OUR PROVINCE AND COUNTRY, THEN IT WILL PERFORM A USEFUL FUNCTION INDEED."

▲
**U OF A'S FIRST PRESIDENT,
HENRY MARSHALL TORY,
'28 LLD (HONORARY)**



WE SAW IT COMING

More than once we found articles that showed just how well U of A grads and researchers could predict the next big thing

1 LAPTOPS AND SMARTPHONES IN 1953

"Let us see, what summer school students are doing in the year 2000." We strolled over to where a group of students were sprawling in the grass and soaking in the hot July sun. "Better not interrupt them," Whiskeyjack cautioned me. "They are probably attending lectures right now. Each," he explained, "has his personalized portable television set. Do y'see?"

I did note that they were looking more or less intently at the screen of a small camera-like article each seemed to possess. I glanced from screen to screen. The subject matter, though different, seemed, for the most part, to be of an academic nature.

A student, laden with all the paraphernalia of

learning ... and gazing intently at the screen of her portable television set, seemed about to be walking smack into the south door. She didn't raise her eyes. When I thought she must go bang wham into the red panel, this panel very knowledgeably opened and, having let her in, closed after her.

"Isn't that wonderful?" cried Whiskeyjack. "Here one can sit in on lectures even while one is walking about. And one needn't take one's eyes off one's studies even to open a door." —*The author of the "Whiskeyjack" column imagines campus in 2000.*



OUR DETECTIVES COULD NOT UNCOVER THE IDENTITY OF THE WHISKEYJACK AUTHOR. IF ANY OF YOU KNOW, DROP US A LINE!

2 SELF-DRIVING CARS IN 1993

"I just drove two days ago to Drumheller. Coming back on the Calgary Trail is pretty damned boring. I don't know why the car can't drive itself. Why can't there be sensors in the car? Why can't it know where the right and left shoulder are? Why wouldn't it be possible to have a car that is smart enough to drive itself? I could program it to say here I am, here's my destination, here's the route I want to follow and it would do the rest." —*Jonathan Schaeffer, computing science professor (Summer 1993). Schaeffer went on to serve as dean of the Faculty of Science from 2012 to 2018 and continues his work at the U of A.*

3 THE NEED FOR A CURE IN 2010

"One need only think about the threat to human well-being posed by virus pandemics — avian flu, swine flu, the next unidentified killer — to see how today's gift has the potential to be transformational in the lives of literally millions of individuals." —*Frank Sixt, president of the Li Ka Shing (Canada) Foundation, during the announcement that Li Ka Shing had donated \$28 million toward the founding of the eponymous institute of virology. Now researchers at the institute are working on solutions to COVID-19. (Spring/Summer 2010)*

4 SCREENS IN CLASSROOMS IN 1965

"Closed-circuit television as a teaching aid has come to the campus. With the faculties of Education, Dentistry, and Medicine there is a growing trend to use TV as a supplement to certain courses where increasing enrolment and a relative inaccessibility of certain subject material demands it. ... All departments using closed-circuit TV indicate there is an increasing need for more video-tape equipment to expand what has become a valuable and effective method of teaching." (*Autumn 1965*)

More has been written in this magazine about the First and Second World Wars than nearly any other topic. During the Second World War, the magazine served as a record of current events as well as a tool for connecting grads fighting overseas to those a little closer to home. Now, these issues give us a glimpse of life on campus during wartimes and a line to the sentiments of a bygone era.

THE WAR YEARS



STUDENT IN WAR-TIME
By Mrs. O. J. Walker

THE APRIL 1943 ISSUE DEPICTS A STUDENT IN THE AFTERMATH OF A DAY OF LECTURES AND MILITARY TRAINING. WE GIVE IT THE 2020 TREATMENT ON THE FACING PAGE.

collect blood for transfusions in military hospitals overseas. *The New Trail* published the story of one donor's experience giving blood: "I felt triumphant, but deep down I felt grateful that the Red Cross had made it possible for me to give a bit of myself to help the boys over there."

10 SPRING 1971 Student Counselling Services at the U of A was developed largely to support war veterans who flooded campus in the late 1940s.

11 DECEMBER 1941 *The Trail* published the names of prisoners of war, soldiers killed in action and missing persons during the Second World War. However, after a request from the press censors, the magazine stopped publishing detailed information about men and women in the service.

12 SPRING 1954 During the Second World War, military training became compulsory for all students. "This resulted in the formation of the University Auxiliary Battalion. In 1942–43, the Air Training Corps and the Naval Training Division completed the permanent representation of the armed forces on the campus."

5 WINTER 1953 Despite having only 439 registered students when the First World War erupted, by July 1916, 222 members of the university community were serving in the Canadian Forces in some capacity, with 14 staff members on active service. "By the end of the war, the roll contained some 475 names; 82 died on active service."

6 JULY 1924 Grads were encouraged to donate \$10 or \$20 (equivalent to \$150 or \$300 today) to establish a memorial on campus for those killed in the First World War. "Remember that those who 'laid the world away' valued not lightly what they sacrificed—comfort, ambition, learning,

comradeship and life itself." The war memorial was erected three years later in the form of an organ in Convocation Hall.

7 NOVEMBER 1942 In the midst of the Second World War, *The Trail* was renamed *The New Trail*. University of Alberta president Robert Newton explains: "We have hit a new trail. ... The world war which consumes our wealth and drains our best blood is the reward of sins of omission. We failed to provide real equality of opportunity, whether for nations or for individuals. In this small world nothing less will do. We have fallen short and must do better. Naturally we must begin where we are. That need not discourage us."

8 APRIL 1945 The U of A sent a monthly newsletter of university news to soldiers during the Second World War. *The New Trail* printed this as a column called "The Chipmunk." The inaugural newsletter included the lineup for a co-ed hockey game, news that the Tuck Shop had opened under new management and reflections on a talent night for which the author and his companion accidentally bought the ticket for the wrong night and so instead "plodded sadly homeward reflecting on such matters as youth and age and love and efficiency."

9 JANUARY 1944 In October 1943, the Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic was opened in Edmonton to

After A 9 Hr Day -
(4 hrs. Lectures, 3 hrs. Lab.
+ 2 hrs. training)



JONATHAN CARLSON '20
- AFTER -
O.J. WALKER

SIX GRADS WE WISH WE'D MET

Eight years after the University of Alberta feted its first graduating class in 1912, *The Trail* was launched to unite alumni scattered far and wide.

Letters, accompanied by the obligatory two bucks for dues, arrived at *The Trail* with postmarks from Vancouver or Chicago, China or South America. The gossipy “Sparks from the Anvil” column detailed the European adventures of Rhodes scholars alongside the LinkedIn-style job announcements of grads closer to home.

Part Facebook, part phone book, the magazine had a mission to connect alumni with their alma mater and with each other. Here are a handful of grads we'd love to have met from the magazine's first decade.

BY THERESE KEHLER



BEATRICE GEORGINA PARLBY (BUCKLEY)

'25 BA, '44 Dip(Ed),
'24-25 Pandas basketball
1903-89

13

After graduating, Buckley returned home to Gleichen, Alta., where she did “anything and everything” to earn enough to attend a teacher training program at an Alberta normal school. “My latest adventure,” she quips in a November 1925 letter to *The Trail*, “has been cooking for threshers to the tune of ‘Groans from the Crew.’” Farming and politics went hand-in-hand in her family. Her dad was party whip for the United Farmers of Alberta and her mother-in-law, Irene Parlby, was a UFA MLA and one of the Famous Five. Buckley also served as president of her local United Farm Women of Alberta. In another letter to *The Trail*, she made a convincing case for compiling an alumni reading list that rings true even today. “Many of us ... dread the possibility of dropping back into our haphazard, pre-Varsity habits of reading—yet are very much puzzled as to just what books to select.”

JOHN THOMAS “J.T.” JONES

'22 BA, '26 MA
1898-1986

14

The front-page editor's note in November 1923 wasted no time letting readers know that a new boss was in town. Jones steered the magazine for five issues and remained on its editorial committee for many years. He spent his career as an English professor at the U of A, teaching the poetry of his beloved John Milton. As Alumni Association president from 1925 to 1926, he took great pride in raising funds for the Convocation Hall pipe organ in memory of the 82 staff and students who died in the First World War. Under his guidance, *The Trail* went on a mission to cajole, guilt and otherwise motivate grads to donate to a memorial fund to raise \$12,000 for an organ in honour of those killed in the First World War. “If we have any self-respect, if we have any pride in our university ... we can do nothing but give increasingly to this fund.” The pipe organ was installed on Nov. 11, 1925.

WILLIAM “BILL” FREDERICK SEYER

'15 BA, '18 MSc
1890-1972

15

Seyer was among the first members of the U of A's lively alumni chapter in Vancouver in 1925, *The Trail* reports. As a professor at UBC, Seyer saw the potential for the then-emerging field of chemical engineering and helped start a department. In 1948, he moved to Los Angeles to take up a job as professor at UCLA, where he specialized in the study of corrosion. Amazingly, his work helped put better ballpoint pens in our pockets. When ballpoint pens were introduced in the 1940s, they used a wax-like solid for ink. Seyer developed a quick-drying, absorbent ink, patented the process and sold the rights to a company that was the forerunner of Paper Mate. In fact, Seyer later became a consultant to Paper Mate, according to a University of California website, and his corrosion research influenced how the pens were designed.

DANIEL ROLAND MICHENER

'20 BA, '67 LLD (Honorary)
1900-91

16

“Has anyone heard from D.R. Michener?” writes *The Trail* in November 1923. “Rumour says that having returned from Oxford, he has settled down in godless Ontario. Drop a line, Roly.” Michener, pride of Lacombe, Alta., was clearly a beloved target for some good-natured teasing. “Cheer up girls!” notes another *Trail* entry, sharing the news about the Rhodes Scholar's treks around Europe. “[He] assures us that he is still a single man.” Michener eventually became a lawyer, federal politician, Speaker of the House of Commons and, from 1967 to 1974, the Governor General of Canada—in which role he abolished the curtsy. While his name is synonymous with Canada's most important journalism awards, he also established several awards around sports, which were his true passion. As a young man, he played in the 1923 Canadian Tennis Open, partnered with his good friend Lester B. Pearson. (They were eliminated in the first round.)



MARGARET HAZELWOOD BRINE (GOLD)

'18 BA, '24 MA
1898-1985

17

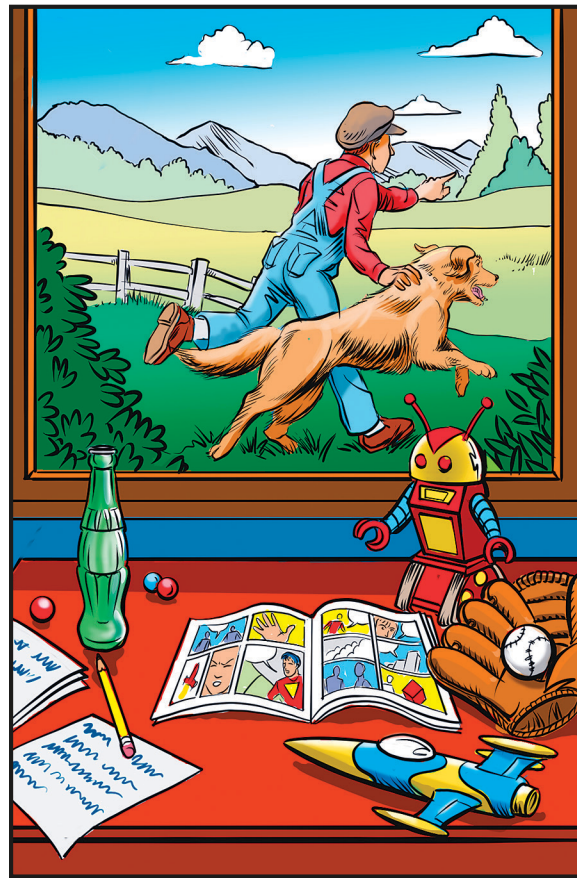
We meet Gold at the Hotel Macdonald, where she's serenading the Alumni Association with a solo performance. "A most pleasing number," sighed *The Trail* in February 1924. "Miss Gold has recently returned from studying abroad, and her singing was, as usual, much appreciated." Gold taught classics at the U of A for several years. She was also a trailblazing mountaineer who climbed peaks in the Rockies and the Alps. But the story we'd love to hear her tell is the one about how, in July 1924, she was to have been the first woman to ascend Mount Robson—until, as the story goes, she got partying with other members of the Alpine Club of Canada and gave up her spot. We'll never know if that's true. But it sounds a lot like the young, fun-loving woman who was singing her heart out at the Hotel Mac just a few months earlier.

MARGARET "PEG" MORNA STOBIE (ROSEBOROUGH)

'30 BA
1909-90

18

Roseborough, an honours English student from Vermilion, Alta., threw herself into life on campus: member of the French and Arts clubs, writer for *The Gateway* and star actor who "attained striking success for extra-curricular efforts" on stage, writes *The Trail* in 1930. That year, she also became the seventh U of A student to receive an IODE overseas scholarship and went on to study at King's College in London. After completing her master's and PhD at the University of Toronto, she and her husband taught English at post-secondaries around the United States. She later taught at the University of Manitoba and Winnipeg's United College. We'd like to hear the stories behind her books about two Prairie characters—Frederick Philip Grove, a Canadian writer with a mysterious Prussian past; and Charles Bremner, a Métis farmer who fought for government compensation after his furs were stolen by the militia during the 1885 Northwest Rebellion.



Distance Learning Isn't New

19

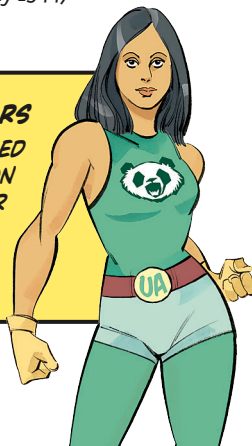
... and it's never been easy. In 1944, a Grade 8 student from the Correspondence School Branch of the Department of Education shared his experiences with distance learning in an article on the topic. The correspondence classes were a way to help students continue their education during a teacher shortage due to the war.

As with many trying to learn online today, these students found it more difficult to focus while not physically in the school, which this student summed up perfectly. "I am supposed to write you a letter of appreciation, but I do not know how to start it, how to end it, or what to put in the middle. Sometimes I think 'tis slow progress doing school work by correspondence, and I would rather take my .22 and dog team, and go into the bush to shoot squirrels." (July 1944)

#20

NOBODY'S TEDDY BEARS

THE PANDAS WERE NEARLY CALLED SOMETHING ELSE. THE NAME WAS VOTED ON BY STUDENTS IN 1945 AND WON OUT OVER "GOLDEN PANDAS," "TEDDY BEARS" AND "BRUINETTES." WE THINK VOTERS MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE. (WINTER 2010)





#21

THEY CALL IT
THE BRAIN!!!

This School Attracted (Really) Big Brains. Big, as in 7'3" tall, 21' long and 2'6" deep, and takes two people to operate. This giant machine was the Department of Electrical Engineering's first analogue Electronic Calculating Board, which at least one professor called a "brain." It cost \$100,000 (nearly \$935,000 in today's dollars) and was capable of "duplicating, in miniature, power systems and water and gas flows. ... It will be used for solving practical problems of the power industry in Alberta and to assist in the training of electrical engineers in the complexities of modern electric system design." (*Spring 1957*)

GEMS FROM THE MOUTHS OF GRADS

OK, not everyone quoted here is a grad but the people who appeared in *New Trail* definitely had some interesting things to say over the years. Here are a few standouts.

22

SPRING 1963

"Having ideas and disseminating them is a risky business. ... The march of civilization has been quick or slow in direct ratio to production, testing, and acceptance of ideas; yet virtually all great ideas were opposed when they were introduced." –*What Right Has This Man ...*

23

JANUARY 1944

"A pig not only makes a wonderful pet; he is also the finest little mortgage lifter you ever saw." –*Libbie Lloyd Elsey*, '12 BA

24

JANUARY 1943

"Varsity Tuck Shop would not rank high from the point of view of an architect, but from the point of view of anyone who has found there the young laughter and bright faces for which he has hungered, there is no building, whatever its magnificence, that is half as fine as the long, low shop named many years ago 'Varsity Tuck.'" –*M.D. Skelton*, '43 BA



THE SON OF MARJORIE DOROTHEA WARD (SKELTON), KIM WARD, '75 BCOM, TELLS US THAT SHE JUST CELEBRATED HER 98TH BIRTHDAY AND REMAINS IN GOOD HEALTH. HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY, MARJORIE!

25

AUTUMN 2010

"I believe we can build a better world! Of course, it'll take a whole lot of rock, water & dirt. Also, not sure where to put it." –*Marc MacKenzie*, '96 MSc, '00 PhD

26

SEPTEMBER 1928

"We too easily forget the fact that the child grows through his own activity and not by listening to instruction." –*M.E. LaZerte*, '25 MA, '27 BEd, '63 LLD (Honorary)

27

WINTER 1957-58

"I have never met you personally but statistics tell me you are a young woman of superior intelligence and high ideals." –*Mary B. Silcox of the Edmonton University Women's Club*

28

SPRING/SUMMER 2000

"When you wanted to look up a book you first went to the library. We even had card catalogues. Now you do your research through the Gate [the U of A library's online catalogue]." –*Paul Gervais*, '81 BSc(Ag), '00 MAg, '00 MBA

29

WINTER 1953

"We're back once more on the old trail, our own trail, the out



trail; We're down, hull down on the Long Trail, the trail that is always new." –*Rudyard Kipling*

30

APRIL 1945

"Fiddlesticks, it doesn't hurt you to go out in the daytime." –*Two Little Bats*"

31

NOVEMBER 1968

"Students used to spend a good deal of energy swallowing goldfish. They will get back to that sort of thing soon." –*The University in 1968*"

32

JANUARY 1948

"The student who takes his history from only one book, or from only one lecturer, is not apt to arrive at the understanding of very much." –*S.R. Mealing*, '49 BA(Hons)

33

AUTUMN/WINTER 1958

"Artists need stimulation, they need encouragement, but most of all they need money." –*James Stolee*, '53 BA

34

AUTUMN 1956

"Complete skeletal examples of every known group of pre-monkeys are included." –*University Purchases Dr. Rowan Collection*"

35

OCTOBER 1931

"*The Trail* solicits and will publish contributions, prose or poetry of an acceptable literary merit, on any topic, and by any person interested in the spiritual and material progress of Western Canada." –*Call for contributions*

36

LIKE TV GUIDE, BUT FOR THE RADIO

In 1942, *The New Trail* published "The University Radio Programme," a seven-page schedule of programs available on CKUA. Here is a selection of some offerings available to listeners as they settled down in front of their radios that winter. (November 1942)

Alberta Farm and Home Forum
Economics and General Series,
Mondays, 9 p.m.

Nov. 30: Starched Collars and Greasy Overalls; Discussion

Dec. 7: Social and Economic Adjustment in the Northern Plains

Animal Science Series
Wednesdays, 9 p.m.

Nov. 11: Feed Lot Ailments

Nov. 18: The Bacon Contract and Its Importance to Alberta

Plant Science Series
Fridays, 9 p.m.

Dec. 4: Wartime Use of Fertilizers

Dec. 11: Wartime Use of Soils: The Extent, Character and Possible Utilization of Alberta's Hard Pan Soils

Consumers' League
Fridays, 8:15 p.m.

Nov. 20: The Milk Situation

Nov. 27: The Pros and Cons of Food Refrigeration

Post-War Reconstruction
Tuesdays, 8:15 p.m.

Nov. 10: Water Supply Problems in Alberta

Dec. 1: Alberta Oils and Tar Sands in War and After

Societe D'Enseignement Postcolaire
Jeudi, 9:30 p.m.

Nov. 5: Quebec salut l'Ouest

Nov. 12: Folklore canadien-français

Student Presentations
Tuesday, 6:45 p.m.

"Gateway News," a weekly summary of university news and student activities. It is hoped that a programme of music and drama can be arranged for the very near future.

WE EMBRACED NEW JOURNALISM

37 The new journalism trend of the 1960s made its way into *New Trail* on the occasion of the retirement of **Walter H. Johns**, '70 LLD (Honorary), president of the university from 1959 to 1969. We reprinted this profile, which originally appeared in *The Gateway* student newspaper. The writer, Al Scarth, was editor-in-chief of *The Gateway* the following year when, presumably, he benefited from the knowledge that even a busy president always makes time for the press. (See our more contemporary take on a presidential profile on page 34.)

The President is busy.

He does not look up when you enter his office. An impressive stack of letters has just disappeared under his signature, Walter H. Johns, written with an 'a' almost as large as the 'W' and a 'J' with a monstrous stomach.

If he ignores you for the moment, there is already a hospitable cup of coffee by your chair. Funny, you didn't notice it and sat in the wrong chair. However, you might glance about and see that it is really a very nice office, the one they reserve for the President,

but then, it's all part of the insulation, part of the attempt to shelter, protect the administration from ... "First of all, before we do anything else," (oh, oh, he wants to run this show), "can you come to supper tonight?"

Huh?

"My wife will have some leftovers from a luncheon and if you don't mind leftovers ..."

There is a private phone in the President's office which he must keep tabs on in addition to calls routed through his secretary. As his constant companion,

it frequently makes its presence known, every few minutes: "Yup, yup, yup, yes. Well why don't I just send it to you?"

"I haven't time."

That stack of official looking letters? He is organizing a club of former university presidents, *Lucem Revidemus* (We See the Light Again) is the proposed title. And there is a personal invitation for tea in Victoria, which he must refuse because of a speaking engagement in Vancouver. "No time." His secretary pleads that he sign "one little short letter, I think that's the last one."

Getting around the President's phone is like feeding your girlfriend's little brother quarters: neither stay away for very long. "It's not a year of loafing," he tells it, "it's a year of work, what the young people say today is 'doing my thing.'"

That year starts September 1, when he leaves the post he has held for 10 years to return to his overstuffed bookcase and its many unread volumes. After that you will probably find him in a classics classroom teaching again.



We Have Royalty Among Us

"We have an increasing obligation to concentrate on developing our moral courage," said **Prince Charles**, '83 LLD (Honorary), who received an honorary degree in June 1983, with **Princess Diana** in attendance. The university was hosting *Universiade '83* and the royal couple were among the special guests. In his speech he mentions that his great uncle, **Edward**, then **Prince of Wales**, also received an honorary degree from the U of A in 1919. (Autumn 1983)



CLASS NOTES ARE ALWAYS IN STYLE

Through it all, updates from our grads remained the one constant in the magazine, and over the years *New Trail* has printed class notes of all stripes. Here are a few of our favourites.

- 39 Charles E. Simmons**, '50 BSc(MiningEng), '57 BEd, reports that he retired in 1976. "I have been so busy doing nothing, I cannot find time to finish, and if I ever finish, I suppose I'll never know it." (Summer 1987)
- 40** In a recent letter from **Harold V. Weekes**, '48 BA, he notes that *The New Trail* serves as excellent propaganda to support his thesis that Toronto is not necessarily the only university in Canada. (Winter 1952)
- 41 Norma Christie**, '35 BA, says she couldn't marry the man she wanted and wouldn't marry the man who wanted her, so she stayed single. "I'm glad I'm a spinster." (Summer 1963)
- 42 Stewart Devine**, '82 BA, '84 MBA, and **Kelly Palmer**, '81 BA(RecAdmin), '84 MBA, '85 LLB, who now reside in Britain, report that they are putting the "entrepreneurial skills we learned at university to use" as the owners and managers of an adult entertainment centre in Soho in London's West End. (Summer 1989)
- 43 H.E. Rawlinson**, '27 MD, tells us that his hair is greyer, he is a few pounds heavier, not much wiser and poorer financially. (Summer 1952)
- 44 William Taylor**, '53 BSc, is eager to answer a newspaper story seeking a person with stamina, courage, and \$1,500, who is willing to leave for a one-year expedition to the mysterious lands of the Incas, in South America's wild Andes mountain area. "I fly a plane, have mountain climbed, have the money and can't think of anything more exciting and adventurous," said Taylor. (Winter 1957-58)
- 45 Ralph A. Grant**, '30 BSc(Ag), has a few troubles. Apparently, years ago he read a form saying, "If in doubt, omit," and so he is still a bachelor. Grant is afraid he took it too much to heart. (Spring 1953)
- 46 Edwin "Red" Davidson**, '34 BSc(Ag), and his wife are living a few miles out of Lethbridge, and are devoting all their energies to the raising of sheep, literally by the thousands—well, they do have five children as well, but you would never know it by the look of them. (August 1949)
- 47 Stephen Alvey**, '77 BSc(ElecEng), recently transferred to Nashville, Tenn., with Northern Telecom Inc. as director, product management. "I'm starting to talk funny already." (Summer 1986)

48

We Still Take the Long View

The university has weathered its share of difficult economic times and has always come out on top.

"Economic conditions are still difficult in Alberta. The registration of the university is growing at a natural rate, commensurably, I think, with the normal increase in the population of the province. But until our income begins again to expand and the economic tide definitely turns, we must be patient and the business affairs of the institution must be managed with extreme care. This doubtless is only a temporary phase through which we are passing. Anyone who takes a long view of Alberta has entire confidence in her future stability and prosperity. ...

"More than ever the intellectual point of view—and that is the university's age-long contribution to civilization—is required today when force and ignorance again raise their hideous heads. Let us all stand together. Between light and darkness there can be no compromise."

—William A.R. Kerr, university president (June 1937)

MYSTERY ON CAMPUS



#49

A COUPLE OF STUDENTS FAKED A CRIME ON CAMPUS THAT ALMOST FOOLED THE POLICE. AND THEY GOT AWAY WITH IT. WHILE PRANKS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A STAPLE OF UOF A LIFE, THIS ONE FROM 1926 LEFT US WITH EYEBROWS PERMANENTLY RAISED. IT WAS APPARENTLY SO DEEPLY INGRAINED IN U OF A LORE THAT ONE OF OUR GRADS EVEN WROTE A POEM ABOUT IT! THIS IS THE ORIGINAL STORY FROM *THE TRAIL* DESCRIBING THE CAPER.

It was after midnight. A shot rang out across the cabbage field behind Athabasca Hall: then another shot, and groans and cries for help. Little groups of half-dressed students came from the buildings and made their way to the scene. The snow showed unmistakable marks of a struggle. A torn purse spoke of robbery. Drops of blood marked the tracks of the wounded man, and the murderer's footsteps could be seen clearly in the moonlight leading in the opposite direction.

The detectives noted all this (four of them had come on the scene). This was a desperate case, and so they called out all the police who were on duty. They made a record run. Some of the students were inclined to look on the whole affair as

a practical joke. One of them even picked up a handful of red-stained snow and said, "This looks pretty thin for blood, if you ask me." But a detective pooh-poohed the fancy: "It's always thin when it first comes out." Policemen and detectives soon trooped off on the trail of the murdered man.

In the meanwhile, the murderer and his victim were safe in the dormitory. They saw their pursuers trailing off into the bush and over the playing fields. Then they made their mistake: they gave away the joke. It is said that the police were angry. Somebody has described the event as a hundred per cent "horse"—on the students, on the police force, and on the jokers themselves. For, it must be known, the two jokers were arraigned before the police magistrate and before the Students' Court. Fortunately, the police magistrate recognized a good joke, and dismissed the prisoners with a warning. The Students' Court dismissed them with stern and solemn reprimands.

Naturally, most of the university was highly amused at the exploit, and pleased at the display of originality, which some claimed the students did not possess. Many stories of the eventful night are going the rounds. Even some of the details we have narrated may be legendary, although many say they are true. (March 1926)

Rex Younge, '34 BA, '39 MD; **George Casper**, '36 BSc, '40 MD; **Lorne Oatway**, '41 DDS; and **Clem King**, '37 BCom, members of the Rally Club, model the U of A blazer in this illustration based on an image from the 1937 *Evergreen and Gold* yearbook. The club organized students into cheer sections at sporting events. (Summer 1987)

50

The Most Interesting Article You'll Ever Read About Dirt

Our grads could turn even dirt into poetry, as evidenced by this article about the value of soil surveys.

"Soil is not an inert mass of ground-up rock, which mantles the Earth's crust. Soil is the living, constantly changing home of millions of bacteria and the food provider of the Earth's vegetative cover and, therefore, of all life. Nor is soil homogeneous. The original rock from which the soil came differs greatly from place to place and these materials were, through the ages, moved and sorted by wind, by water, and by ice before they found a final resting place.

"The ultimate aim of a soil survey, if it can be put in one sentence, is to find the best, the most desirable, permanent use for every acre of our land—whether that use be for cereal crops, for hay crops, for grazing, for

commercial timber, or for play grounds. As long as land is used for purposes other than it is suited, just so long will soil deterioration and eventual abandonment be the result. Any planning for a better allocation of the 160 million acres of land in this province must be based on the natural characteristics of the soil.

"We are not landowners (would that that word had been stillborn); rather are we temporary custodians. Land should and must be a permanent resource to use, to husband, and to pass on—to pass on in at least as good a condition as we received it."

—William Earl Bowser, '30 BSc(Ag), '32 MSc



BONUS!

GREEN AND GOLD WAS ALWAYS IN FASHION

The blazer was the hoodie of yore, as we learned from this ad. "Bring back the Old Varsity Spirit — Revive forgotten memories" ... by wearing an Evergreen and Gold Blazer.

(Volume 46, printed between June 1937 and June 1940)



Where most people see challenge, Bill Flanagan sees opportunity.

He returns to Alberta to face his biggest challenge yet, as the U of A's new president

COMING HOME

By **Stephanie Bailey**, '10 BA(Hons)

Photos by John Ulan







When U of A President Bill Flanagan, right, isn't playing piano or listening to *The History of English Podcast*, he can often be found riding his bike in the river valley or trying out new places to eat with his husband, Saffron Sri.



WHEN BILL FLANAGAN WAS 16

he got a summer job at the experimental farm on the outskirts of his hometown, Lacombe, in central Alberta. He and a few classmates from the local high school were hired to sort seeds. Within hours of their first shift, they all came to the same horrible realization. *This was going to be one very long, very boring summer.*

But before the first workweek was through, Flanagan concocted a plan.

Take turns reading short stories aloud, he proposed, to distract them from the mindless task at hand. It was an unusual suggestion and his co-workers were vaguely skeptical but they agreed. Flanagan went first, reading “A Christmas Memory” by Truman Capote, a deeply moving—albeit out-of-season—tale about country life and friendship. By the time he finished, the workday was done and no one had noticed the long hours.

On a warm summer’s day some 40 years later, I meet Flanagan, now the newly appointed president of the University of Alberta. And though much has changed since he left the province years ago, one thing quickly becomes apparent: where most people see a challenge, he sees opportunity. Just as he was that summer he spent sorting seeds, he is still a man who thinks differently about a problem. This will be vital to the task before him as incoming president: a massive restructuring following cuts to provincial funding. Faced with a substantial budget reduction amid an economic downturn, he has his work cut out for him.

Flanagan is a tall man with a smile that puts me at ease and a knack for telling stories. We meet on a windy Quad, where we have our choice of picnic benches. With summer students learning from home due to the pandemic, it seems as though there are more maggies on campus than people. The Sweetgrass Bear sculpture by Indigenous artist Stewart Steinhauer stands as a backdrop to our conversation, with the words “We are all related” engraved on its side. The only sound my recorder picks up, between gusts of wind, is Flanagan’s voice as he reflects on his rural Alberta upbringing and his life since.

His return to Alberta is a homecoming in more ways than one. He grew up in the Alberta towns of Stony Plain and Lacombe with his parents and four siblings, and his connection to this province runs deep. Both parents were proud U of A education grads, he says. In fact, one of his first memories of the university is of a summer job painting dorm rooms with his brother at St. Joseph’s College, where his dad had studied years before. Both parents were raised on the Prairies; his mother grew up on a farm in Saskatchewan and his father went through the Great Depression in Medicine Hat, Alta., as one of 12 kids. Hard work and resilience were prized in the Flanagan household.

This attitude is baked into the very DNA of the family, says Flanagan’s husband, Saffron Sri, a registered dietitian who works in the health-care sector. “It’s a humble resilience,” he says, not a “drum your chest” approach to challenges. “It’s more like, ‘We did it. And, what’s next?’ That’s their humble approach.”

As you might expect, growing up with two teachers meant being under a certain level of scrutiny as a kid, says Flanagan — not only from his parents but also from his peers, just waiting for the teacher’s kid to make a mistake. Still, there were perks.

“I was fortunate and spoiled, in a way, because my mother was a librarian in the junior high school. And every week she’d just hand me a new stack of books that I had to read. I’d never had to pick anything. It was just, ‘Mom, what am I reading this week?’”

With not much space in the family bungalow, he would often pedal his bike around Lacombe looking for reading nooks. One day he ventured a bit out of town, down by the experimental farm — the same place where years later he would land that summer job. There he found a grassy spot overlooking a small lake that soon became his favourite hiding place. He’d spend hours in the prairie landscape, losing himself in the literature of the region.

Western Canadian literature was his mom’s favourite genre. Their family bookshelf boasted the entire McClelland & Stewart New Canadian Library collection, including works by W.O. Mitchell, Robert Stead and Martha Ostenso. *As for Me and My House*

by Sinclair Ross is one of Flanagan’s all-time favourites. Set against the backdrop of rural life, the stories of hardship, perseverance and coming-of-age deepened his understanding of his home — and of himself. “The novels gave me a sense of place, a sense of history, a sense of what it means to be from the Prairies.”

“Learning was everything in my childhood,” he adds. “In my family, the world began and ended with a good book. As long as I was diligently involved in reading a good book, my mother and father were happy. They thought education was the route to all that mattered in the world.”

It’s abundantly clear the message got through. Flanagan is one of three lawyers in the family. His other siblings are a physician and a journalist. You’d

U of A for Tomorrow

In the face of unprecedented cuts to the university’s provincial funding, U of A President Bill Flanagan unveiled a five-year proposal in June for major restructuring. The goal of U of A for Tomorrow is to transform the university in a way that will retain and enhance its global leadership in education and research. With major changes to be implemented by summer 2021, consultation on academic and administrative restructuring is already underway with university leaders, faculty and staff. —STEPHANIE BAILEY, ’10 BA(HONS)

THE GOAL

The proposal aims to streamline university activities and increase interdisciplinary collaboration and co-ordination. The university expects its annual operating budget to shrink by a total of \$127 million between 2019 and 2023. This would take into account additional income from tuition increases of an average of seven per cent a year, as allowed by the province.

“I can’t overstate the magnitude of the challenge facing the university, but I am convinced that with the right strategic approach, we can seize and reaffirm the key role the U of A has always played in

driving economic growth, innovation and creativity in Alberta and beyond,” Flanagan said in an online presentation to faculty and staff.

THE PROPOSAL

▶ Reorganize and consolidate faculties, departments and programs to avoid duplication. The current total of 18 faculties is expected to be reduced, Flanagan says.

▶ Reconfigure administrative services and centralize business operations to increase efficiency.

▶ Revisit how the university uses its assets, including buildings and leased spaces.

CHANGES BEGIN

Academic restructuring will begin as early as April 2021. Administrative restructuring has already begun. In July, the number of positions reporting to the president was reduced from nine to seven and salaries were reduced for new senior leadership hires. This change will reduce costs for senior leadership by 25 per cent from 2018 levels, an annual drop of almost \$900,000. The president’s compensation has also been reduced by 32 per cent since 2018.

To learn more, visit ualberta.ca/uofa-tomorrow.



At home, the couple meal preps as dinner cooks in the oven. It's roast chicken with tarragon, the first dish Flanagan ever cooked for the man who would become his husband. "Cooking is very much part of our daily routine," says Sri, who trained as a chef. Recently, they've been experimenting with local products, such as rhubarb, a Prairie summer staple.

run out of nails before you hung all their degrees. Flanagan, a legal academic and passionate educator for most of his career, holds four degrees, including a JD from the University of Toronto and an LLM from Columbia University in New York City. Most recently, he was dean of law at Queen's University in Kingston, Ont., from 2005 to 2019.

One of his proudest achievements is finishing his master's degree in international economic law from Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne in France. It was a demanding program, far from home and in a foreign language, no less. And so, at age 25, he momentarily entertained the idea of quitting. After all, he didn't need the degree to further his career—he already had a clerkship at the Supreme Court of Canada lined up for when he got home. But one thing stopped him short.

"There was just no way on planet Earth I was going to explain dropping out to my mother," says Flanagan, with a laugh.

"My mother's favourite expressions were, 'Get over it' and 'Get on with it.' She was also very kind and thoughtful, but she was a Prairie girl through and through." In the end, Flanagan pushed beyond what he thought was possible to finish what he'd started at the Sorbonne. "That's why I always say to my students, 'When you're miles outside your comfort zone, don't shy from that. That's where you need to push through because that's where you learn.'"

Flanagan regularly steps outside his comfort zone, says his husband. Sri recalls a vacation the pair took in Sri Lanka during which Flanagan arranged a bumpy, 16-hour overnight bus ride to visit Sri's hometown. Or when he created a study abroad program from scratch as a faculty member at Queen's University, giving law students the opportunity to study in the United Kingdom. "Take any problem and he'll be able to reimagine it," says Sri. "One fundamental characteristic of Bill is that he's not afraid of challenges."

And while Flanagan's upbringing was idyllic in many ways, there were definitely challenges. He was, after all, a young gay man growing up in rural Alberta in the 1970s. In hindsight, he says, that's probably one thing that motivated him to explore the world, which wasn't a bad thing.

There's nothing quite like leaving home to help you appreciate it. It's obvious Flanagan is relishing his Alberta homecoming. He's rediscovering many of the things he took for granted as a kid: the natural beauty, the scale of the sky and the Prairie sensibility.

"There is a sense of place, resilience and community that's wedded in the land around us,"



"There was just no way on planet Earth I was going to explain dropping out to my mother."

he says, adding it has been around long before Europeans settled here. "I see a tradition of community that's deeply rooted in the land reflected in the Indigenous histories and cultures of this territory, which continue to enrich our lives today."

People in Alberta band together during trying times, he says, whether it's weathering the Great Depression, a wildfire or flood—or a global pandemic. It's this Prairie sensibility that he will tap into as he guides the university community through the challenges of the coming years.

And he has a plan.

He has put forward an ambitious academic and administrative restructuring proposal to find tens of millions of dollars in savings over the next five years (*see sidebar*). "I know it's a challenging time, and I don't want to understate that," he says. "But I'm a perennial optimist, and I think there are great reasons for optimism. This restructuring will be of historic benefit to the university, to the province. It will bring the community together and position us in a very strong place to grow and thrive."

Reflecting on the challenges ahead, Flanagan recalls a story his father told from his childhood, when a barn outside of town burned down. The next day neighbours from the surrounding community and a nearby Hutterite colony got to work clearing the fields and doing whatever was needed to help the family through.

"You can see this sense of community throughout the Prairies," he says. "There is something striking about that pulling together and helping one another. It's a generosity of spirit, a sense of shared interest and common ground." ■

Watch Bill Flanagan's formal installation as U of A president on Sept. 16 at uab.ca/installation.

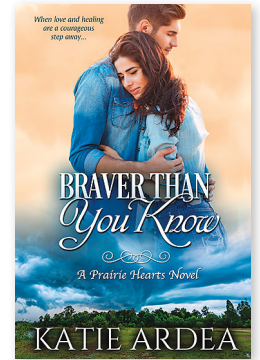
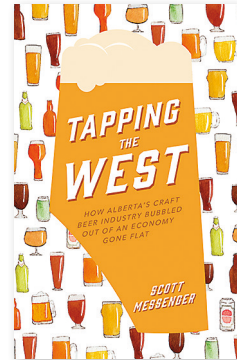
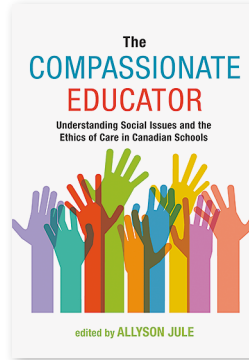
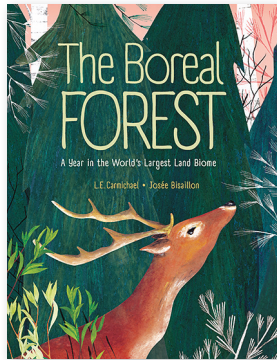
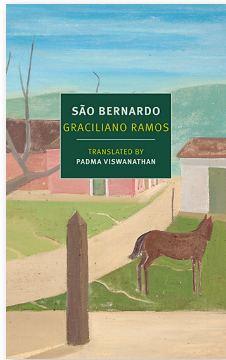
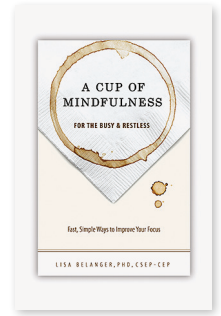
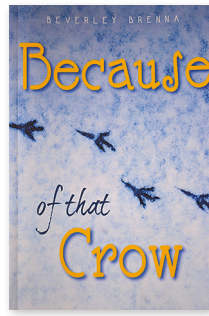
trails

WHERE YOU'VE

Laura Perron, '16 BDes, is channelling big creativity into tiny tiles as one of the brains behind Lego's new product line, Dots. Perron points to the U of A as the place she discovered her love for designing "delightful and joyful projects" — a fitting description for Dots, which allows kids to build small home-decor items and bracelets.



Books



Check out the latest books penned by U of A grads, including a story about one boy's magical encounter with a mysterious crow and an inside look at Alberta's craft beer industry.

Compiled by Lisa Szabo, '16 BA

▼
YOUNG ADULT
Don't Call the Wolf
by Aleksandra Ross (Alexandra Roston, '19 MD), HarperCollins Publishers

A shape-shifter queen and a heroic dragon slayer team up in this fantasy novel rooted in eastern European folklore.

▼
CHILDREN'S BOOK
Because of That Crow
by Beverley Brenna, '10 PhD, Red Deer Press

A young boy is visited by an extraordinary crow who, through the magic of memory, helps him grapple with the death of his parents.

▼
FICTION
A Critical Human Error
by Barbara A. Glasier, '69 Dip(Nu), '70 BScN, self-published

When the granddaughter they had never met shows up on

Meredith and Andy's doorstep, their family is thrown into emotional turmoil.

▼
EDUCATION
Open(ing) Education: Theory and Practice
edited by Dianne Conrad, '87 Dip(Ed), '91 MEd, '02 PhD, and Paul Prinsloo, Brill Publishing

This collection of essays asks us to think more broadly about the possibilities of "open education," which refers to a range of issues from access to education to copyright licensing.

▼
CHILDREN'S BOOK
The Boreal Forest: A Year in the World's Largest Land Biome
by L.E. Carmichael, '99 BSc(Hons), '06 PhD; illustrated by Josée Bisailon, Kids Can Press

Carmichael's 22nd science book for children pairs a lyrical narrative with detailed scientific sidebars, answering

the question: "Why does the forest matter?"

▼
EDUCATION
The Compassionate Educator: Understanding Social Issues and the Ethics of Care in Canadian Schools
edited by Allyson Jule, '87 BEd, Canadian Scholars' Press

This collection of essays explores the evolution of student diversity in today's classrooms to give educators the background they need to better support students.

▼
ROMANCE
Braver Than You Know
by Katie Ardea (Margorie "Magi" Nams, '78 BSc(Hons), self-published

A wildlife photographer and a cattle rancher come to terms with their painful pasts in this contemporary romance novel.

▼
FICTION
São Bernardo
by Graciliano Ramos, translated by Padma Viswanathan, '89 BA(Spec), New York Review Books Classics

Originally published in Portuguese in 1934, São

Bernardo is a study of rural life written by one of Brazil's most celebrated novelists.

▼
NON-FICTION
A Cup of Mindfulness: For the Busy and Restless
by Lisa Belanger, '09 MSc, '14 PhD, self-published

Drawing on research, Belanger explains how to introduce mindfulness into your daily routine to relieve stress.

▼
NON-FICTION
Tapping the West: How Alberta's Craft Beer Industry Bubbled Out of an Economy Gone Flat
by Scott Messenger, '98 BSc(Spec), Touchwood

Messenger brings together social history, politics, science and tasting notes in this story of Alberta's craft beer boom.

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**FIVE THINGS
I'VE LEARNED
ABOUT...**

MAKING CHANGE

Andrew Parker, '08 BA, '14 BEEd, offers some advice on how to be anti-racist

By *Stephanie Bailey*, '10 BA(Hons)

IF YOU HAPPEN TO OVERHEAR students at M.E. LaZerte High School in north Edmonton talking about Wakanda, they're probably not talking about the fictional African country from the Marvel Cinematic Universe. It's the nickname they gave to the classroom of Andrew Parker, their charismatic social studies teacher and basketball coach. (He's a former Golden Bear.) One of two Black teachers in a school where around 40 per cent of the student body is Black, Parker takes his position as a role model seriously. Here he shares what he's learned about making a difference in the fight against racism.

1 HAVE TOUGH CONVERSATIONS

No topics are off limits in Parker's classroom. Whether it's racism or homophobia, he doesn't avoid difficult conversations and sees it as his duty to teach students how to talk about these things. "It's important that my students know how to deconstruct society, to think critically," says Parker, who was named one of *Avenue Edmonton* magazine's Top 40 Under 40 in 2017 for his work empowering youth and building

community. "Because critical thinking—for some people, it will save their life."

2 LEARN THE VALUE OF PROTEST

The road to human rights and equity is paved with protests, Parker says. So, he starts each semester with a week committed to the topic. He covers everything from Martin Luther King's Selma-to-Montgomery March of 1965 through to the demonstrations held after Colten Boushie was shot to death in Saskatchewan in 2016. So, of course he agreed when former students—now U of A and MacEwan students—asked him to speak at the Black Lives Matter rally in Edmonton on June 5 in the wake of the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

3 REPRESENT AND REFLECT

After speaking at the rally, Parker was inspired to seize the moment to make lasting change. That's

when he co-founded the Black Teachers' Association of Alberta with **Sarah Adomako-Ansah**, '13 BEEd. "We need teachers to reflect the diversity of the classrooms—we need more Black faces, more brown faces, more Arabic faces, more LGBTQ faces." Their mission is to help Black teachers network and land full-time positions, as well as to encourage more Black students to become teachers.

4 PRACTISE SELF-AWARENESS

When it comes to practical steps we can all take to fight racism, Parker says the key is self-reflection and self-awareness. "Be honest ... Be honest about whether you've benefited from white privilege. You have a chance to right the wrongs of previous generations, previous leaders, previous family members. And it all starts with honest conversations."

5 SHOW SOLIDARITY

These days Parker is optimistic about the momentum building for the anti-racism movement. He has colleagues reaching out, asking how they can help. And he's seeing people in positions of power speak publicly against racism. "The University of Alberta's president [David Turpin] coming out and saying Black lives matter is something that I never thought I'd see," says Parker. "When he said that Black lives matter—and he's a Caucasian man in a high position, in the school, academia and society—I said, 'This is hope, this is hope.' And with this hope we can do beautiful things." ■

We'd love to hear what you're doing. Tell us about your new baby or your new job. Celebrate a personal accomplishment or a volunteer activity or share your favourite campus memories. Submit a class note at uab.ca/classnotes or email newtrail@ualberta.ca. Notes will be edited for length, clarity and style.

Compiled by **Lisa Szabo**, '16 BA

Class Notes

1950s

'57 **Douglas Roy Stevenson**, BSc, '67 MSc, has re-released his self-published treatise *Global Warming: An Astrogeophysical Perspective*. The short book addresses factors affecting the Earth's changing temperature based on Stevenson's work as a hydrogeologist and engineer. It also highlights Stevenson's prolific sports career in an autobiographical update. He played eight seasons with the then-Edmonton Eskimos, including 1955 and 1956 when

the team won two Grey Cups. He also became an assistant coach for the Golden Bears while at the U of A for his master's degree and helped win the Vanier Cup. Stevenson is a member of the Alberta Sports Hall of Fame and the Steve Coad Memorial Athletic Hall of Fame.

1960s

'63 **Steven Kashuba**, BEd, has penned three books, *Once Lived a Village*, *To War Survive* and *Destination Gulag*. The first two novels



DID YOU KNOW?

In the 1960s, the university operated *in loco parentis*, or as a kind of guardian, for students under 21. This meant dress codes in residence and curfews for female students.

Edward Fergusson and his wife, Brenda



explore his Ukrainian-Polish heritage and take place during the aftermath of the Second World War in Eastern Europe. He is now working on his fourth book, *The German Olympics*.

'68 **Edward Fergusson**, BEd, who turned 85 in June, recently set new Canadian weightlifting records for the snatch event and clean and

jerk event at the B.C. Masters Weightlifting Championships. He and his wife, Brenda, both competed at the Canadian Masters Weightlifting Championship in 2018 and the World Masters Weightlifting Championships in 2019. When they're not competing, the couple enjoy travelling to countries like Scotland, Greece, Ukraine and Spain.



Donna Balzer

1970s

'77 **Sheryl Rothert**, BSc(HEc), '80 BEd, has updated her book *Found: Health, Wealth and Time in a Grocery Bag*, which shares recipes and ideas on how to save money on groceries. As a former home economics teacher, Rothert enjoys educating and presenting. She and her money-saving methods have been featured on various radio and TV programs, including ones on Global News and CTV.

'77 **Darrell Toma**, BSc(Ag), '79 MSc, received a Fellow Certified Management Consultant award from the Institute of Certified Consultants of Alberta after 40 years of consulting. As a certified management consultant and professional agrologist, Toma is grateful to have worked on more than 850 projects over the years, including a three-month development project in South Korea. Some career highlights include being elected chair of the Alberta Chamber of Commerce, dining with Queen Elizabeth, receiving the Alberta Centennial Medal from then-premier Ralph Klein and publishing a book chapter on leadership traits. He credits his time at the U of A for getting him off to a good start.

'78 **Donna Balzer**, BSc(Ag), is a horticulturist, speaker and author who teaches practical

(continues on page 46)

Fossil preparator Alan Lindoe examines the exposed *Centrosaurus* skull, discovered in 1969. ▶



Then-professor Richard C. Fox (left) and **David Schowalter**, '71 BSc, '86 BEd, take a break near a car hoist that has been strapped to a tripod over the dig site to lift the fossil into the bed of a pickup truck. ▼



Unearthing Mysteries

'69 **Leonard "Kris" Krishtalka**, BSc, '71 MSc, is a paleontologist, professor and museum director at the University of Kansas who previously worked at the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh and the National Science Foundation in Virginia. In 1969, as a U of A grad student, he discovered the complete skull of a *Centrosaurus* in the Red Deer River badlands. It is now on display at the university's Paleontology Museum in the Earth Sciences Building on campus. In addition, Krishtalka has written several novels. *Death Spoke*, the second book in the Harry Przewalski mystery series, was recently named the best novel in Fiction—Mystery/Thriller by the Midwest Independent Publishers Association.



▶ Then-grad student Leonard "Kris" Krishtalka helps excavate the dinosaur skull he discovered in the badlands. It is now on display at the U of A's Paleontology Museum.



IN THE NEWS

'We Have Resisted'

Poet **Billy-Ray Belcourt**, '16 BA(Hons), is celebrating another accolade, the 2020 Alberta Literary Awards prize for poetry for his second book, *NDN Coping Mechanisms: Notes From the Field*. The two-part volume explores the Indigenous experience of colonial violence, as well as the power of Indigenous Peoples to cope and flourish. Belcourt told the *Edmonton Journal*, "We are not simply defined by what has been done to us, but also by how we have resisted and done things differently and loved one another in the face of it all." —EDMONTON JOURNAL

(continued from page 45)

tips for gardeners of all skill levels. Balzer has co-written the Canadian bestseller *No Guff Vegetable Gardening*, as well as *Three Year Gardener's Gratitude Journal*. She is a regular guest on CBC Radio and recently started a podcast called *Helping Gardeners Grow*, which you can find at donnabalzer.com/podcasts.

1980s

'81 **Jim Raycroft**, BMus, has been lending his vocal talents to movie soundtracks for decades, but by far the biggest project he's worked



DID YOU KNOW?

You could rent a bachelor suite in HUB mall for \$90 a month in 1972.



on is *Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker*, which was released in 2019. In addition to contributing to movie scores from *Home Alone* to *Jurassic Park*, Raycroft recently worked on music for a new Disney World attraction, Mickey and Minnie's Runaway Railway. Raycroft is also a music director at a church, conducts choirs and prepares choruses for local symphony orchestras in Los Angeles, where he lives.

'85 **Joyce Assen**, BA(Spec), is pleased to announce that two of her short stories were chosen for publication in an international short story writing competition run by Exisle Publishing. "His Voice" and "Honor Thy Father and Mother" appear in the short story collections *Love and Loss* and *Struggle and Success*, respectively. In addition to writing, Assen

enjoys golfing in the summer and travelling in the winter; however, her recent knee replacement is keeping her closer to home. Assen retired from the U of A in 2010 after 22 years working in the board of governors office, as well as other departments. She is currently finding contentment as a stay-at-home grandma.

'86 **Paula Simons**, BA(Hons), recently launched a five-episode podcast called *Alberta Unbound*. Simons, who represents Alberta as an independent senator in the Senate of Canada, hosts a diverse panel of thoughtful Albertans to discuss topics like identity, alienation and the future of the province.

'87 **Blaine Riding**, BEd, retired from the Spirit River Regional Academy in the Peace Wapiti School Division after 31 years of

teaching. He has had an enjoyable career teaching social studies in a rural school and helping out with extracurricular activities. In his retirement, Riding looks forward to improving his golf game, continuing to serve as secretary of his local Royal Canadian Legion and catching up on sleep.

1990s

'91 **Sandra L. Hawes**, BSc, '96 LLB, was recently honoured with the Queen's counsel designation in Alberta. This appointment by the lieutenant governor in council recognizes her exceptional legal skill, professionalism and contributions to the administration of justice and to the community.

'96 **Bryan Ulrich**, MEng, was inducted into the Academy of Geotechnical Engineers at the American Society of Civil Engineers'



Bryan Ulrich, sixth from the right

Robert Murray



Bruce Cinnamon



Geo-Congress in Minneapolis. He was recognized for his accomplishments in the management of mine tailings—the leftover rock or soil that gets separated from the mined commodity. Ulrich has spent much of his career with Knight Piésold consulting, most recently as senior vice-president. He now owns a geotechnical engineering consultancy, Bryan Ulrich LLC, in Colorado.

Murray was the managing director of the government affairs and public policy group at Dentons Canada LLP, which specializes in providing business, policy and legal advice to clients.

'14 **Bruce Cinnamon**, BA(Hons), author of *The Melting Queen*, is one of 10 recipients of the 2020 Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Emerging Artist Awards. Cinnamon was also shortlisted for the 2020 Kobo Emerging Writer Prize in Literary Fiction.

'16 **Maren Kathleen Elliott**, BA, adapted her solo exhibition *Stringlism: Textures, Threads & Identity* into an online event in May. The weekend-long exhibition featured performances from Edmonton dance companies, an online yoga class and a 3D gallery of Elliott's string portraits, which she creates by layering and glazing strands of fibre.

In addition to her work creating string portraits, the multidisciplinary artist recently moderated a panel on creatively inclined queer activism and curated *Booty*

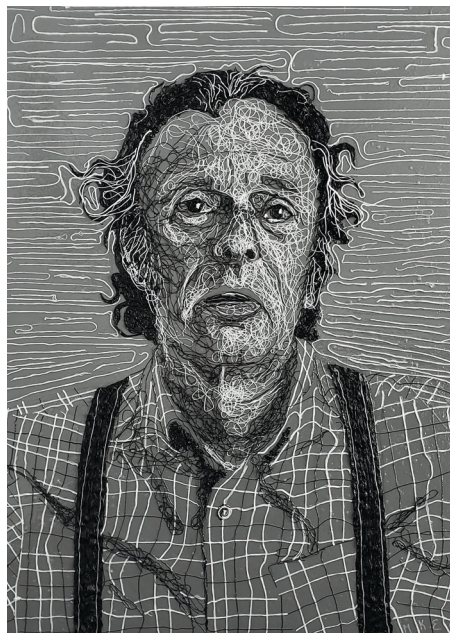
Call, a pop-up art exhibition in Ottawa that featured work by artists from across Canada and Italy. Elliott also recently completed a residency at the Ottawa School of Art. ■



'10 **Robert Murray**, PhD, recently became the president and CEO of Grande Prairie Regional College. Before taking on his new role,



This spring, alumni volunteers from regional chapters across Asia—including Beijing, Shanghai, the Greater Bay Area and Hong Kong—shipped more than 80,000 single-use surgical masks to Alberta. Many of the masks are now available free to students and staff at the university bookstore. Pictured: **Michelle Lu**, '12 MSc, in Shanghai



◀ Maren Elliott

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT...



LAUNCHING A CAREER IN 2020

Practical steps help you navigate the job search

By Anna Holtby

This year's graduates, as well as alumni of recent years, are attempting to start their careers during a global pandemic and the resulting economic crisis. But there are ways to successfully navigate the recession job search—and manage the stress that comes with it.

The tool kit

Blessie Mathew, '99 BSc(Spec), the director of the U of A's Career Centre, wants you to not worry too much about job titles.

Instead, she encourages job seekers to ask these questions: Who do I want to serve? What problems do I want to solve? What kind of person do I want to be?

Answering these questions prepares graduates to enter a tough job market with the ability to adapt. "Think about it like a tool kit," she says. "Each of your skills, areas of knowledge and personal characteristics can be taken out of the kit and blended in different ways, leading you down a different path."

The mindset

But even when job seekers are using that tool kit, it can be easy to get discouraged as rejection emails roll in. U of A

psychologist **Suman Varghese**, '04 BSc(Spec), '07 BEd, '13 MEd, says a practical way to stay positive is to remember that your job isn't your whole identity. "Career is part of your identity, but there's a whole spectrum of things that make you who you are—like your interests, values and relationships."

The actions

As a practical step to landing a job, Mathew recommends networking—and not the kind that involves cold-calling strangers or uncomfortable small talk. "Volunteering will immediately connect you with people who are like-minded and working towards similar goals," she says.

If you're looking for another place to start networking, U of A's Alumni and Career Services offers alumni-to-alumni career mentoring and free access to Switchboard, an online community where members can ask for career advice or discover a job opportunity.

The bigger picture

Finally, Varghese says that unemployed university graduates should understand that it's normal to feel anxious or disappointed, and there is hope for those just stepping into the professional world.

"It's not so much about where we end up—that will come," she says. "It's the process of getting there, where there's so much possibility for growth, learning and enjoyment." ■

Alumni-Powered Projects Tackle COVID-19

Remember those health experts telling us we'd be "in it for the long haul?" It was hard to fathom exactly what that would mean. But now weeks have turned into months of wearing masks and physically distancing from each other. It's clear COVID-19 isn't the temporary house guest we'd hoped for. Here are just a few of the ways alumni who own businesses and do research have refocused to help those most affected by the pandemic.

Compiled by Niall McKenna

HERE'S THE THING	WHAT IS IT?	WHY WOULD THEY DO THIS?	WHO ARE THE PROBLEM SOLVERS?
A look in the lung	Artificial intelligence ultrasound technology	To help diagnose, triage and track COVID-19 by detecting and monitoring lung abnormalities using machine learning and ultrasound imaging	Data analyst Danesh Zonoobi , '19 MSc; AI scientist Amir Forouzandeh , '19 MSc; AI strategist Roberto Vega , '17 MSc
Gang of debunkers	Map of how misinformation around COVID-19 spreads through mainstream and social media, and search engines	To develop an evidence-based guide for future policy, including recommendations to regulate social media content	Health policy expert Timothy Caulfield , '87 BSc(Spec), '90 LLB
Personal medical assistant	Machine learning technology and smartphone app	To create early-detection screening for COVID-19, using smartphone sensors to record breathing, pupil dilation and other data	Chief operating officer Patrick Earl , '01 BSc(Spec), '04 MSc
Salty doorknobs	Self-sanitizing, antimicrobial surfaces made of compressed salt (which helps kill viruses)	To prevent spread of viral infections on high-touch surfaces, such as door handles and handrails	Director of research Brayden Whitlock , '13 BSc(Hons); Co-founder Matt Hodgson , '13 BCom, '17 MBA
Easy breathing	Reusable, Alberta-made respirators	To provide an alternative to N95 masks, protecting against viral transmission	Team lead Warren Finlay , '83 BSc(ElecEng), '84 MSc; Researcher Andrew Martin , '02 BSc(EngPhys), '04 MSc, '08 PhD
Age of activity	Eight-week online fitness program for seniors	To keep seniors active at home with minimal equipment	Executive director Haidong Liang , '14 PhD
Power of knowledge	Educational resources on COVID-19 for parents: echokt.ca/tools/covid-19	To help families know what to expect when visiting emergency rooms during the pandemic	Researchers Shannon Scott , '06 PhD; Lisa Hartling , '90 BSc(PT), '10 PhD
Vegetable matters	Alumni-run mobile grocery store in Edmonton and Calgary	To deliver food to families in need during the pandemic. A spin on its original model	City lead for Edmonton Morgan Allen , '19 BSc(Nutr/Food)

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Westend Seniors Activity
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Fresh Routes



IN THE NEWS

Big Laughs and a Big Mall

'92 **Heidi L.M. Jacobs**, BA(Hons), '93 MA, won the 2020 Stephen Leacock Memorial Medal for Humour for her debut novel *Molly of the Mall: Literary Lass and Purveyor of Fine Footwear*. The satirical story draws on Jacobs' own experience working in a retail shoe store at a gigantic mall in Edmonton that shall remain unnamed, while completing her undergrad at the U of A. Now a librarian in Windsor, Ont., Jacobs beat 83 other contenders for the \$15,000 prize honouring the best book of humour written in Canada.—CBC

DID YOU KNOW?

The Butterdome is really called the Universiade Pavilion. It was built to accommodate events for the 1983 Summer Universiade—the international university games. At the time, it had never before been held in North America. **Prince Charles**, '83 LLD (Honorary), and Princess Diana attended.



The Alumni Association notes with sorrow the passing of the following graduates (based on information received between February 2020 and May 2020).

In Memoriam

1940s

'44 **Mary Ellen Larsen**, BA, of Mt. Lebanon, PA, in March 2020

'46 **Elizabeth Helen Filipkowski**, BEd, of Edmonton, AB, in 2020

'46 **Helen Walker (Riskin)**, BSc(HEc), of Calgary, AB, in March 2020

'47 **Harry Brent Scott**, BSc(CivEng), of Vancouver, BC, in March 2020

'48 **Robert George Jack**, BSc(Ag), of Surrey, BC, in December 2019

'48 **Malcolm Allister MacKay**, BSc, '52 BSc(Pharm), of Edmonton, AB, in February 2020

'48 **Victor Frank Mark**, BCom, of Lethbridge AB, in March 2020

'48 **Joyce Gertrude McNair (Lister)**, BSc(HEc), of Vancouver, BC, in February 2020

'48 **Hugh King Montgomery**, BEd, of Edmonton, AB, in March 2020

'48 **Keith Provost**, BSc(ElecEng), '50 MSc, in February 2020

'49 **Catherine Gail Pringle (Kettys)**, Dip(Nu), '50 BScN, of Banff, AB, in March 2020

'49 **Elmer Fraser Provost**, BSc(CivEng), of Windermere, BC, in February 2020

'49 **Mary Isabel Ramsay (Frizell)**, Dip(Nu), '51 BScN, of Calgary, AB, in April 2020

'49 **Ronald Lewis Rhine**, BEd, '65 MEd, in January 2020

'49 **Gordon C. Wells**, BSc(Hons), of Calgary, AB, in February 2020

1950s

'50 **Robert George Burland**, BCom, in March 2020

'50 **William McCarthy Costigan**, BSc, of Edmonton, AB, in April 2020

'50 **Hugh Brian Dunford**, BSc(Hons), '52 MSc, in February 2020

'50 **Robert Frank Fleming**, BSc(Hons), of Waterloo, ON, in October 2019

'50 **Ernest Lindsay Longair**, BSc(Ag), '59 BEd, of Lethbridge, AB, in February 2020

'50 **Michael Andrew Tkachyk**, BSc, of Calgary, AB, in March 2020

'50 **Harry Weitz**, BA(Hons), of Hamilton, ON, in February 2020

'51 **Cecile Marie Bielech**, Dip(Ed), '75 BEd, of St. Paul, AB, in February 2020

'51 **William Alexander R. Johnston**, BSc(ElecEng), of Winnipeg, MB, in December 2019

'51 **Margaret Maerov (Katz)**, BA, of Wilmington, DE, in April 2020

'51 **Christina Malchow**, Dip(Ed), of Claresholm, AB, in November 2019

'51 **Isobel Alice McDougall**, Dip(Ed), of Lethbridge, AB, in November 2019

'51 **Barbara Elizabeth Millar (Harford)**, BSc(HEc), of Calgary, AB, in January 2020

'51 **Allen Theodore Nikiforuk**, BSc(ElecEng), in February 2020

'51 **Amy Okazaki**, Dip(Ed), '53 Dip(Ed), '54 BEd, of Calgary, AB, in March 2020

'51 **Theodore Wilfred Paradis**, BSc(Pharm), in April 2020

'51 **John Havelock Parker**, BSc(Eng), of Sidney, BC, in March 2020

'52 **Edmund Paul Aboussafy**, BCom, of Calgary, AB, in February 2020

'52 **Doreen Elizabeth Hagen**, BSc(Pharm), of Barrhead, AB, in March 2020

'52 **Donald Clifford Hobbs**, BSc(Pharm), '55 MSc, of Randolph, VT, in April 2020

'52 **William George Jensen**, MD, in February 2020

'52 **Dorothy Margaret Lomas (Livingstone)**, BSc(HEc), of Calgary, AB, in April 2020

'53 **Henry Joseph Amerongen**, BA, of Edmonton, AB, in March 2020

'53 **Marion Gordon Atkinson (Inglis)**, BSc(HEc), of Calgary, AB, in April 2020

'53 **Borys Ferbey**, BSc(Pharm), of Edmonton, AB, in April 2020

'53 **Gerald Douglas Grover**, BEd, '66 BA, '69 Dip(Ed), of Edmonton, AB, in January 2020

'53 **Stanley Grywalski**, BEd, '54 BA, '58 MA, of Calgary, AB, in March 2020

'53 **William MacDonald Humphreys**, BSc(CivEng), of Calgary, AB, in January 2020

'53 **Patricia Anne Perry (Paterson)**, Dip(Ed), of Calgary, AB, in March 2020

'53 **Steve Skuba**, BEd, '71 Dip(Ed), of Westbank, BC, in April 2020

'53 **Betty Anne Smith**, Dip(Nu), '54 BScN, of Victoria, BC, in January 2020

'54 **Thomas Hugh Dobbin**, BA, of Calgary, AB, in April 2020

'54 **Leroy John Field**, BSc(PetEng), in February 2020

'54 **Marcel George Morin**, BSc(Ag), of Calgary, AB, in February 2020

'54 **Sidney Harold Pawlowski**, BSc(Ag), '59 MSc, of Edmonton, AB, in February 2020

'55 **Ronald Walter Edward McDonald**, BSc(ElecEng), of Edmonton, AB, in March 2020

'55 **John David Roberts**, BSc, '61 BEd, of Lethbridge, AB, in November 2019

'55 **Mary Anne Carolyn Rose (Devine)**, BEd, of Nanaimo, BC, in April 2020

'56 **Alice Doreen Bates**, Dip(Ed), of Calgary, AB, in February 2020

'56 **George Richard Gilholme**, BCom, '67 BEd, '76 Dip(Ed), of Edmonton, AB, in April 2020

'56 **Sheila Mae Grogan (MacAlister)**, BScN, of Calgary, AB, in March 2020

'56 **Clifford Walter Kroening**, BA, of Calgary, AB, in February 2020

'56 **Peggy Marie Marko (Kubik)**, BScN, of Edmonton, AB, in February 2020

'56 **James Edward Munro**, BA, of

Niagara Falls, ON, in February 2020

'56 **George William Robertson**, BA, '59 LLB, of Kelowna, BC, in March 2020

'56 **Edgar Patrick Stiles**, BSc(Pharm), of Kelowna, BC, in January 2020

'56 **Gary Dean Trimble**, BCom, of Red Deer, AB, in April 2020

'56 **Robert Dale West**, BEd, in October 2019

'57 **Anders Roldal Anderson**, BSc(ElecEng), of Edmonton, AB, in January 2020

'57 **Leslie Alan Campbell**, DDS, of Calgary, AB, in December 2019

'57 **Francis Mark Edgell**, BSc(ChemEng), of Chatham, ON, in February 2020

'57 **Cyril Arthur Ing**, BSc(CivEng), in February 2020

'57 **John William R. Lewis**, BSc(Ag), of Stony Plain, AB, in May 2020

'57 **Raymon Aaron Lieberman**, BSc(ChemEng), of Edmonton, AB, in February 2020

'57 **Lillie Doreen Makarenko**, Dip(Nu), of Fairview, AB, in February 2020

'57 **Henry Harold Unrau**, BEd, '63 MEd, in April 2020

'58 **Roselyn Matilda Byrtus**, BEd, '64 BSc, '68 MSc, of Edmonton, AB, in September 2019

'58 **Margaret Elizabeth Harrop (McLeod)**, BA, of Calgary, AB, in February 2020

'58 **James Thomas McCaffery**, BSc, '62 MD, of Edmonton, AB, in February 2020

'59 **Richard Nelson Jopling**, MD, of Visalia, CA, in January 2020

'59 **Rudolph Waldemar Klassen**, BSc, '60 MSc, of Calgary, AB, in February 2020

'59 **John William Kulba**, BEd, of Edmonton, AB, in January 2020

'59 **Clarence Rosario Shank**, BSc, '60 BEd, in January 2020

1960s

'60 **Roy John Abbott**, BSc, '64 DDS, in May 2020

'60 **Leroy Alton Bjorgum**, BEd, of Edmonton, AB, in January 2020

'60 **Robert Wallace Edén**, BSc(ChemEng), '63 LLB, of Calgary, AB, in February 2020

'60 **Valerie Elina Johnson (Logan)**, Dip(Nu), in February 2020

'60 **Winnifred Maude Kirk (Clare)**, BEd, in April 2020

'60 **Stanley Peter Kolomyjec**, BSc(CivEng), of St. Albert, AB, in October 2019

'60 **Milton William Petruk**, BSc(ElecEng), '67 MEd, '73 PhD, of Edmonton, AB, in January 2020

'60 **David Jon Thomson**, BA, of Toronto, ON, in February 2020

'61 **Thomas Peter Burns**, BA, of Calgary, AB, in March 2020

'61 **Ross Webb Christensen**, BA, of Ottawa, ON, in May 2020

'62 **Clarence Eugene Capjack**, BSc(ElecEng), '65 MSc, '68 PhD, of Edmonton, AB, in May 2020

'62 **Eileen Gwendolyn Mos (Gillies)**, Dip(Nu), '63 BScN, of Edmonton, AB, in April 2020

'62 **Dennis Allan Nikiforuk**, BSc(ChemEng), of Calgary, AB, in February 2020

'62 **Walter William Stanford**, BA, '63 LLB, of Calgary, AB, in May 2020

'62 **Gregory White**, DDS, of Regina, SK, in March 2020

'63 **Carol Lynne Bickell (Lewis)**, Dip(Nu), of Gabriola Island, BC, in January 2020

'63 **William George Laidlaw**, PhD, of Calgary, AB, in March 2020

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SPEAKER'S CORNER

RENEWABLE ENERGY MYTHS, BUSTED

By Anna Holtby

The interest in renewable energy may be growing, but there are still many misconceptions out there.

Pierre Mertiny, '05 PhD, comes across these myths all the time. He's a mechanical engineer and principal investigator with the U of A's Future Energy Systems. And now, he's here to share some facts.

MYTH 1: THE TECHNOLOGY ISN'T FULLY DEVELOPED

While renewable power sources will get cheaper and more efficient with time, much of the technology is already in place. Mertiny points to his native country, Germany, as a prime example. He says that on an ideal sunny, windy day, the country can get up to 75 per cent of its electricity production from renewables.

MYTH 2: RENEWABLE ENERGY COSTS MORE

That's not the case anymore. "Wind and solar are cost competitive, if not cheaper, than any of the conventional energy carriers these days," he says.

Now, companies are choosing to invest in wind farms not only for the



environmental benefits but also for the economics, adds Mertiny. For example, a company connected to U.S. investor Warren Buffet is building a \$200-million wind farm in southeastern Alberta this year.

MYTH 3: YOU HAVE TO PICK SIDES Undeniably, some people are skeptical of renewable energy. Others call for a system that depends on it. For Mertiny, the way forward requires balance—and collaboration.

He tackles the issue from a transdisciplinary approach, where engineers, economists, social scientists and others plan for a practical way forward.

"These are tough questions and there is no silver bullet," he says. "It's not like we can just stick with gas or coal or move to 100 per cent renewables right away. People have to

work together. It takes a collaborative effort to find the optimal solution."

MYTH 4: CANADA IS BEHIND THE CURVE

In reality, this country is a global leader in renewable energies and technologies, says Mertiny. Canada ranks seventh in the world for renewable energy production, with 17 per cent of the nation's energy coming from renewables. This is largely thanks to hydro power, which harnesses the energy of the country's many roaring waterways.

Mertiny is optimistic. He says, "Countrywide we are actually doing really well."

Pierre Mertiny is one of many speakers to share expertise through alumni webinars. Visit uabgrad.ca/OnDemand for more content.

DON'T MISS OUT ON ...

NEW BOOK CLUB

Feed your mind and fill your social calendar this fall by joining the new UAlberta Virtual Book Club. Enjoy networking and discussions with fellow grads on a diverse selection of books, starting with the memoir *From the Ashes* by Jesse Thistle. Watch for more details in September: uab.ca/alumni.



LIVING ROOM LESSONS

Job hunting in 2020? Learn tips to help turn uncertainty into opportunity in this on-demand webinar with **Margot Ross-Graham**, '86 BA(RecAdmin), CBC Radio Edmonton AM's workplace columnist. Or check out more free webinars featuring U of A experts: uabgrad.ca/OnDemand.



PODCAST WISDOM

"To think that a piece of RNA could bring the world to its knees ... and there are other viruses and pathogens out there that can do the same thing."

▼ **Lorne Tyrrell**, '64 BSc, '68 MD, founding director of the Li Ka Shing Institute of Virology, discusses the race against time to battle COVID-19, for the alumni podcast *The Line*.

18

The number of countries represented by alumni webinar attendees since March. Hailing from places such as Bangladesh and Switzerland, more than 2,500 grads have tuned in to learn from U of A experts on topics ranging from estate planning to mental health.

2,549

The number of active users on Switchboard, where members of the U of A community gather to share resources, advice and help of all kinds—whether it's piano lessons, mentoring or summer jobs. Sign up today: uab.ca/sboard



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Alumni

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smalltalk



Timely Tips

➤ The pandemic means that the first-year experience this fall will be unlike any before it. But some things never change, like the butterflies in your stomach as you step into the unknown. So, we asked grads to share the advice they wished they had received in advance of their first year of university. After all, good advice is evergreen.

Take a variety of courses, explore your options and enjoy the experience! It's amazing.

—Angela Podgurny, '76 BEd

If you have children, plan for them like you would your courses. You study better knowing they are taken care of, too. Plan your course load with your children in mind. Put in, like, 25 to 30 hours a week for study. Remember: used books are just as good and they save money. Enjoy your time getting smart!

—Rosie Vermilion, '97 BA(NativeStu)

Try not to miss classes — not because of your grade (though that is important!) but because you're missing the opportunity to learn something new. Also, there is a huge variety of mental health resources on campus. Please, if you ever feel like you need to, reach out.

—Amber Robinson, '17 BSc(EnvSci)



Know that a coffee with a classmate or two can give you insights your prof might not.

—Peg Young, '78 BEd

Focus on truly learning and understanding the material as opposed to memorizing. What does it mean? Why does it matter? Not only will you get better marks, but you'll enjoy the courses!"

—Dale Kaliel, '77 BSc(Ag), '82 MSc

Taking time out of your week to chat & laugh & commiserate with friends is just as important as all those hours studying!

—Shannon Nelson Evers, '96 BSc

I wish I had been taught to colour-code my notes with my highlighters, to create effective flash cards and to start studying one to two weeks before an exam! I didn't really know how to study until I finished my third year of university!

—Jamie Hudson, '16 BSc, '16 Cert(ResearchSci), '19 BScN, '19 Cert(IntLearning)



Reach out to your professors to discuss topics you don't fully understand. Think about your course choices and don't be afraid to change paths. Help others understand concepts — teaching is a surefire way to learn. Don't isolate yourself by retreating to your cellphone too much. Find balance between study and play. If stressed, enjoy the beautiful spots on campus or in the river valley. What a wonderful, terrifying, exhilarating stage of life.

—Carolyn Redl, '78 BA(Spec), '83 MA, '91 PhD



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Elise Noyes, fourth-year U of A music student (voice), practises in Convocation Hall.

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“Education is everything. The best way to encourage it is to help finance it for those who can’t afford it.”

Donors Alan Bell, '53 BA, '55 BEd, '67 MEd, and Alice Bell, '63 BEd

For general inquiries about ***New Trail*** or the Alumni Association, please contact us:
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