



# UBC Association of Professors Emeriti

## GENERAL MEETING:

Wednesday, November 15

Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre  
6163 University Boulevard

(partners and guests are welcome)

### Agenda

- 1:00 pm Coffee, cookies and conversation  
 1:45 pm Business meeting  
 2:00 pm **A Mid-Term Assessment of the Trudeau Liberal Government:**  
*A Presentation by Four UBC Experts*  
*Chaired by Ken Carty, Professor Emeritus of Political Science*

On November 4, 2017 the 'new' Trudeau Liberal government will celebrate two years in office. This makes it an appropriate time for a mid-term assessment of its record.

The government was elected on the basis that the country wanted a change from the policies and modalities of the Harper Conservative government. It ran on a platform of "Real Change" (<https://www.liberal.ca/realchange/>).

Our review will ask how they have performed:

- How do they compare to the previous Conservative government?
- How have they done in terms of their own platform promises?

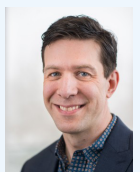
### Economy



**Angela Redish** is an economist whose work has focused on monetary policy and banking systems in North America. A

former Head of the Department of Economics, for the last two years she served as UBC's Provost and Academic Vice-President.

### Governance



**Gerald Baier** is a scholar of Canadian politics with a focus on its constitutional and judicial dimensions. He directs the Summer Institute for

Future Legislators hosted by UBC's Centre for the Study of Democratic Institutions.

### Environment



**Kathy Harrison**, Associate Dean of Arts, studies comparative environmental policy and the efficacy of alternative policy instruments. She recently co-edited

Global Commons, Domestic Decisions: The Comparative Politics of Climate Change.

### Aboriginal Issues



**Sheryl Lightfoot** is Canada Research Chair of Global Indigenous Rights and Politics. Her recent book Indigenous Global Politics pulls

together research drawn from her award winning dissertation.



Each expert will offer an assessment of the government's record in a given area. After hearing from them feel free to award an appropriate letter grade based on your own evaluation.

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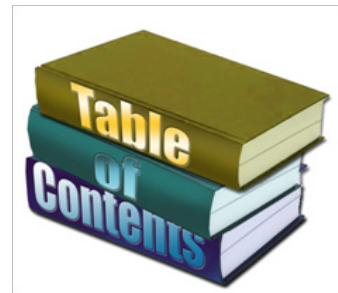
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## Association News

### October General Meeting

A huge audience at Cecil Green Park House was treated to a fascinating account by **Professor Wade Davis** (UBC Anthropology) of the efforts to climb Mount Everest by British mountaineers between 1921 and 1924—***Into the Silence: The Great War, Mallory and the Conquest of Everest***. Most of the men were survivors of



horrific experiences during World War I. *"As climbers they accepted a degree of risk unimaginable before the war."*

Professor Davis is off to Tibet again next year. UBCAPE looks forward to another talk upon his return. We can guarantee a receptive audience.



### UBC Harvest Festival

#### Don't you wish you had been there?

The annual UBC **Harvest Festival** was held on September 28<sup>th</sup> at University Commons. The weather was warm and dry, but, just in case, canopies had been erected over all the tables. Attendees were treated to a mouth-watering feast featuring fall favourites from the UBC Farm. Entertainment was provided by the UBC Symphony Orchestra and Vancouver Theatre Sports. Don't miss it next year. **UBCAPE** organized a table for this year's event and will do so next September as well.



*The UBCAPE table at this year's Harvest Festival*



## Recognizing Order of Canada Recipients November 29



Some 400 residents of British Columbia have been inducted into the order of Canada since its founding 50 years ago. UBC President **Santa J. Ono** will host a day-long celebration of their achievements on November 29. The day's activities are designed to recognize outstanding achievements, dedication to the community, and service to the nation. There will be multiple opportunities to meet and engage with peers from across the province, to speak with students and youth.

As the culmination of the event, UBC will be hosting a public event featuring a panel discussion involving prominent Order of Canada recipients.

Join special musical guests and speakers as they contemplate from their own unique viewpoints what we should all be considering. After the talks there will be a reception in the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts.

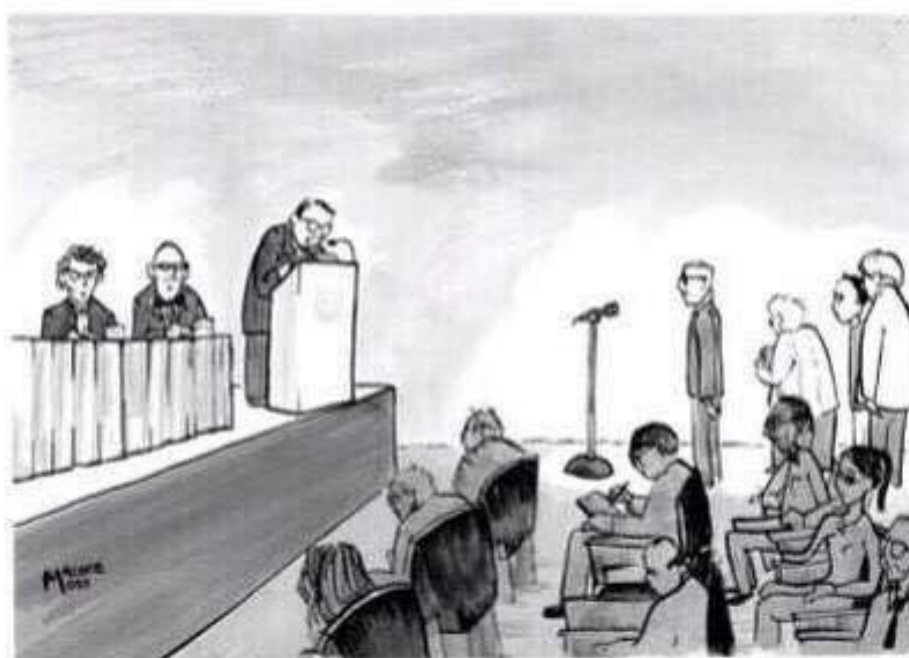
**Note: The public event requires pre-registration. For news and ticketing information go to:**

<https://research.ubc.ca/content/bc-celebration-order-canada-50th-anniversary-public-event>



*Photo taken August 22<sup>nd</sup> at Rideau Hall reception celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Order of Canada. UBC members Olav Slaymaker (left), Nancy Hermiston (second from left) and Ken Craig (second from right)*

*At least fourteen UBC Emeriti are members or officers of the Order of Canada. Four of them are current members of the UBCAPE Executive.*



*"We'd now like to open the floor to shorter speeches disguised as questions."*

## **News from AROHE** **(Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education)**

A recent survey of University of California retirees confirmed that many of them are reimagining, redefining and retooling their lives to make a difference while at the same time acting as supporters, ambassadors and advocates for the University. A survey report is nearing publication and will be shared in the November issue of AROHE Matters.

Various national studies have shown that today's retirees do not share the traditional view of retirement as a time of rest and relaxation. While retirees relish their freedom, they are busy contributing to the public good, pursuing creative endeavors, engaging in lifelong learning, caring for loved ones and participating in a wide range of activities. This survey illustrates that many UC retirees are "retired from working but not retired from living."

### **Survey Highlights** **4,478 University of California retirees completed the survey**

#### **Community Service**

- 2,769 (63%) volunteered in their communities
- 889 (20%) volunteered for UC
- 619 (14%) volunteered for both UC and their community

#### **Employment**

(vast majority part-time)

- 503 (12%) returned to work at UC
- 728 (16%) worked outside of UC
- 648 (15%) were self-employed

#### **Professional Engagement**

- 1,221 (27%) provided one or more professional services
- 653 (15%) published one or more written works

#### **Awards & Recognition**

- 573 (13%) received one or more awards/recognition

The survey was conducted by the Council of University of California Retiree Associations (CUCRA), a system-wide consortium of UC retiree associations. CUCRA advocates for UC retirees, represents the interests of the UC retiree associations, promotes mutually beneficial relationships between the University and its retirees, and supports the mission of the University of California.

*Note: CUCRA member organizations represent both retired faculty and staff.*

## UBCAPE ACTIVITY GROUPS

### Travel Group



Two meetings of the group were scheduled for Term 1. On October 19, Mike and Morag Whitfield gave an entertaining presentation based on a recent trip to Antarctica entitled: *Antarctica: More Than Just Penguins*.

Don and Lorna Blake are scheduled to present *A Taste of the Basque Country* on November 16, sharing their experiences of a trip to northern Spain in June 2017. *Time and place TBA*.

Meetings in term 2 are tentatively scheduled for January 18, February 15, March 15, and April 19. The meetings will be in the afternoon, and the time, location, and topic will be confirmed before each meeting.

All emeriti and partners are welcome. If you have a topic or travel experience you would like to discuss or present, please contact **Richard Spencer**, [richard@rhspencer.ca](mailto:richard@rhspencer.ca). Also, please contact Richard to be added to the email list for this group.

### Photography Group

The Photography Group is looking forward to another interesting year sharing photographs, picture-taking techniques, and post-production tips. At the October meeting attendees shared dozens of pix, tips and trix using travel photos, nature photography—even photos of grandchildren. The date and location of the November meeting will be announced in an e-blast.



The group welcomes new members. To get on the mailing list for meeting announcements, please contact Derek Applegarth: [derekjenny@shaw.ca](mailto:derekjenny@shaw.ca).

### UBCAPE Film Series for Fall 2017 Series Four – Film Noir: Beyond Genre



Given its status as a popular medium, film frequently relies on genre conventions in its storytelling, as the easily identifiable codes supporting plot and character facilitate the engagement of the audience. Yet genre can also enable a strong social critique as its conventions, either played straight or parodied, invite the viewer to interrogate accepted values. Such is the case with film noir, a genre whose appearance after World War II found it reflecting the disquiet engendered by the conflict, even in victorious America.

Two films have already been screened— *The Breaking Point* (1950) by Michael Curtiz and *The Long Goodbye* (1973) by Robert Altman.

On **November 28**, you can view the last film in the this term's series, *Bastards* (2013), by auteur director Claire Denis. The movie recasts the noir plot staple of the revenge story (obliquely echoing Shakespeare's Hamlet) as a sea captain returns home when his sister and her husband are bankrupted by a ruthless business tycoon. Yet, Denis forsakes clear moral imperatives, as this revenger's motivations and actions are obscure, with all the characters driven by base impulses they can't fully understand, revealing a modern everyday world where individuals, unsure of how to behave, cling to ingrained, misogynistic gender roles. Denis subordinates the narrative to moments rendered in striking imagery, employing a visual logic also used by filmmakers such as such as David Lynch and Terence Malick and rooted in the cinema of Andrei Tarkovsky.



*Screenings begin at 2:00 pm [Note Earlier Start Time]  
Presented by John LeBlanc*

*Screening Locations will be announced in e-blasts and on the UBCAPE web site  
A brief introduction to the film will precede each screening  
A brief discussion of the film will follow each screening*

## Association Speakers' Series

### Celebrating Emeritus Research: Luncheon and Talks

Tuesday, November 21, 12:00 – 4:00

Peter Wall Institute, Seminar Room 307

Once again **Peter Suedfeld** (Professor Emeritus of Psychology) has lined up a stellar cast for the bi-annual event that showcases ongoing research by UBC emeriti. The series is organized by UBCAPE and co-sponsored by the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies. It exemplifies the breadth, vigour, and interest of scholarly work being done by professors emeriti.

#### Here is the afternoon's schedule:

**12:00 noon:** coffee and buffet lunch for those who have pre-registered.

**12:30 pm:** Opening remarks by Peter Suedfeld, Chair

**12:40 pm:** **Jean Barman**, FRSC, Professor Emerita, Department of Educational Studies.

#### ***British Columbia's Secret: Saved by Indigenous Women***

The British Columbia that became a province of Canada in 1871 had a problem. Its two founding economies, first the fur trade and then a gold rush, had each attracted men of ambition almost wholly unable, due to the vast distances, to bring a wife with them or acquire one from whence they came. Nor could they find one of similar background in British Columbia, given three times as many non-indigenous men as women. For at least 1,600 of them, and this is British Columbia's secret, indigenous women sufficed, with many of the unions so far tracked extending over the life span. Not unlike those that would have occurred back home with 'the girl next door' (which many indigenous women were), these unions were fundamental to bringing into being the British Columbia we know today. As to why British Columbia's secret has so long held, three factors coalesced to push indigenous women, unlike their menfolk, into the shadows of the past. Evolutionary theory argued for the 'survival of the fittest', which meant 'whites'; growing numbers of white women did their best to erase a past reflecting badly on themselves; and the federal government turned indigenous women married to non-indigenous men and their offspring across the generations into half-persons, unworthy of attention, by removing their indigenous status.

**1:30 pm:** **Robert Paterson**, Professor Emeritus, Allard School of Law

#### ***Mokomokai—the first curios***

*Mokomokai*, Maori-preserved tattooed heads, were first seen by English explorers and then collected by the earliest visitors to New Zealand at the beginning of the nineteenth century. This led to a barbaric trade and eventually to legal steps to breach it. The talk will discuss the law surrounding human remains and how complex legal issues surrounded attempts by New Zealand to repatriate mokomokai in foreign collections. Comprehensive measures to secure the return of these heads are now in place, but controversy still surrounds indigenous remains of this sort and how the law should deal generally with the question of ownership of human remains.

**2:30 pm:** **J. Evan Kreider**, Professor Emeritus, School of Music

#### ***From 16th-c. Hapsburg Manuscripts to 21st-c. International Concert Stages: Bringing Old Music Back to Life***

At the turn of the 16th century, no kingdom rivaled the wealth and majesty of the mighty Hapsburgs, particularly that of its Burgundian branch located in Brussels and Mechelen. Its titular head was Maximilian I, Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire. The Empire's favoured composer was Pierre de la Rue (c.1450–1518), whose music the court proudly copied into lavish enormous choir books (each page requiring the hide of one sheep), sending them as gifts to the Pope and even Frederick, Elector of the Holy Roman Empire (who would later protect Martin Luther, once he realized he could not buy enough votes to become Pope). How do musicologists even begin to recover those musical notes that once resounded through Europe's northern cathedrals on a daily basis? Since composers customarily drafted music using chalk on slate, autograph copies are unknown. How then can we



determine which of the many contemporary sources are trustworthy—the closest to the composer's wishes? After all that sleuthing, can the music be recreated in a way the composer would have appreciated?

### 3:30 pm: Closing remarks by Peter Suedfeld

Emeriti, faculty, students (graduate and undergraduate) and the general public are welcome to join us at this session. If you wish to join us for lunch, you must pre-register (lunch is free for members; \$15 for non-members), so we know how much food to order. Space is limited.

To register go to:

<https://www.emeriti.ubc.ca/celebrate-research-oct2017>

## Philosophers' Café

### Friday, November 17: *Healthcare in Canada*

Why does Canada only rank 9th out of 11 wealthy countries in its provision of health-care? Can't we do better? What's the best balance of public versus private health-care? For some suggested pre-café reading, see:

<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/interactives/2017/july/mirror-mirror/>

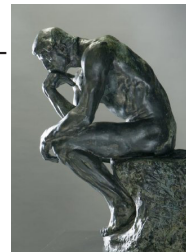
<http://international.commonwealthfund.org/countries/canada/?ga=2.135975025.1731838344.1508960267-1444690105.1508960267>

<https://beta.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/canada-must-address-the-problem-of-long-waits-for-medical-care/article34056251/?ref=http://www.theglobeandmail.com&>

<http://www.thesocial.ca/Wellness/Health/6-ideas-that-could-improve-Canadas-healthcare-syst>

<http://www.who.int/healthinfo/paper30.pdf>

All Cafés are in the Tapestry classroom, 3338 Wesbrook Mall, starting at 10:30 am. After the Café join us for lunch at Tapestry by calling 604-225-5000 or by checking in with the front desk before the Café to reserve a spot.



## Green College Senior Scholars' Series

### DRIVEN BY CURIOSITY: A LIFE OF DISCOVERY IN CLINICAL GENETICS

**Judith G. Hall**, Professor Emerita in Medical Genetics and Pediatrics, opened this year's **Senior Scholars Series** on October 3<sup>rd</sup> with a talk on her life as a pediatrician and clinical geneticist, noting that clinicians must simultaneously diagnose, treat, and learn, with the clinic as laboratory.

Judy talked both about the course of her life and developments in genetics over the last 60 or so years, in the contexts of several interesting frameworks. The first is the division of the life of an academic into three major parts: training, job(s), and "retirement." Her growing-up years, which included a curious mother who was interested in biology, an older brother who was someone to compete with, and lots of opportunities to explore and be curious, as well as her educational history, counted as the first third.



The second framework is the division of the academic life into five decades (to which we can all



relate): training; establishing oneself; engagement in profession, community, and institution; mentoring, complex situations, administration, innovation; and winding down, shifting gears, pursuing one's "heart's desire."

In explicating this, she interwove her personal history with decades of development in the field of genetics, and particularly in the understanding of congenital anomalies. Judy's specialties included genetic short stature, and multiple congenital contractures. She cited alarming statistics from the March of Dimes that, worldwide: 1) 7.9 million (6%) children per year are born with birth defects; 2) 3.3 million children under age 5 die from birth defects each year; 3) 94% of these births are in middle and low income countries; and 4) there is a 3.9 – 8.2% range of prevalence of birth defects caused genetically.

Along the way, Judy showed many baby pictures, but not of the type that are displayed in family photo albums.

A video of Professor Hall's talk is available at <https://www.emeriti.ubc.ca/videos>

### **The next two talks in the Senior Scholars series:**

#### **A CAREER OF SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY IN CHEMICAL PHYSICS, MATHEMATICS AND SPACE SCIENCE**

**Bernard Shizgal**, Chemistry  
**Tuesday, November 7, 2017**

Bernie Shizgal's multidisciplinary research work has been based on the kinetic theory of gases, applied to chemical reactions and later to the escape of planetary atmospheres and space science. This has led to collaborations with space scientists at NASA (Pioneer Venus), at ISAS (Japan) and at the University of Calgary (ePOP terrestrial satellite). Particular mathematical and numerical methods were developed for the solution of a multitude of applied problems in chemical kinetics, quantum mechanics, nucleation and image resolution for tomography. The talk will focus on his earliest research work and on the numerous scientists worldwide whose work had a profound and lasting effect on his scientific career.

#### **MULTIMEDIA, BRAIN-COMPUTER INTERFACES AND MEDICAL INSTRUMENTATION: DISPATCHES OF A PIONEER WOMAN IN ENGINEERING ACROSS CONTINENTS**

**Rabab Ward**, Electrical and Computer Engineering  
**Tuesday, December 5, 2017**

Rabab Ward grew up in a Moslem family in Lebanon and has worked there as well as in Zimbabwe and North America. A specialist in the field of signal processing, she has had to overcome many hurdles in the course of a career in engineering that began in the early 1960s. For much of her working life she was the only woman in otherwise all-male academic departments. In this talk she recalls some of her formative professional experiences and discusses some of the exciting developments and applications in electrical engineering that have kept her curiosity sharp over decades.

*This series is co-sponsored by UBCAPE and Green College  
and organized by Emeritus Professor John Gilbert.*

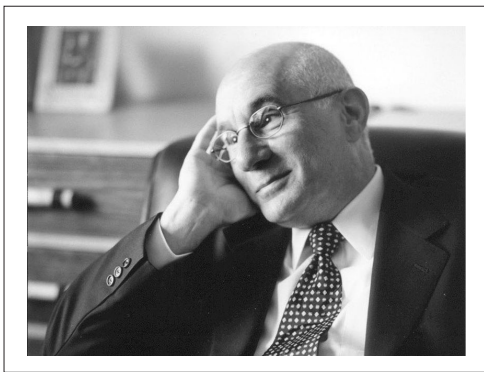
All talks begin at 5:00 pm in the Green College Coachhouse. For more information: [www.green-college.ubc.ca](http://www.green-college.ubc.ca) or [GC.events@ubc.ca](mailto:GC.events@ubc.ca)

*Come at 4:30 for tea and coffee in the Green College Piano Room and stay for refreshments after the talks. To stay for dinner, tickets can be purchased through the Green College Office—604-822-8660.*

## Emeriti in the News

### Promise of universal public education unfulfilled for students with special needs

Surveying its history, the promise of universal public education — an idea of the mid-19th century — has taken more than 150 years to achieve. But, when I look at the data about the performance of students with special needs, I don't think that promise has been fulfilled. Students with special needs do not achieve the same standards of performance or graduation as peers without such needs. The gap is wide.



*Charles Ungerleider  
Professor Emeritus of Education*

Some might argue that the expectation of equivalent performance and graduation is unreasonable precisely because of the distinction between students with and without special needs. It is the case that a minority of students with special needs are students with significant physical and health impairments, developmental disorders, brain injuries, and other conditions that will prevent them from achieving at the same standard as students who do not have such severe conditions. But the majority of students with special needs have challenges that are less severe. Eighty per cent or more are students with communication and attention challenges, learning disabilities, behaviour disorders, emotional problems and mild intellectual disabilities.

The nature and number of conditions that result in being identified as a student with special needs have expanded over time as a consequence of a suite of factors. We are increas-

ingly sophisticated in identifying conditions that were previously undetected, and parents concerned about the welfare of their struggling child put pressure on the system to produce a diagnosis that will call attention to the child's needs. In most jurisdictions, students with special needs attract additional resources to the school board to help address those needs. The classes in which students with special needs are enrolled are often reduced in size to allow the teacher to devote additional energy to their education.

None of this would be a problem if the additional resources and attention helped to produce better outcomes for these students. But it is not clear that they do, at least not with sufficient impact that the gap between them and their peers without such disabilities has been significantly diminished. It does not do them or anyone else a favour if students with special needs do not acquire the knowledge they need to live as productive adults.

Specialists in the field say that special education, at least for the vast majority of students with special needs, is simply good educational practice applied with careful consideration of the needs of the students. Students who are deaf, blind, or affected by brain injury, fetal alcohol syndrome, or any one of a number of more severe conditions require additional, and often more costly, supports. While it may not be reasonable to expect all of these students to achieve to the same standard as their unaffected peers, it is reasonable to expect them to achieve nonetheless. If they are not making progress, they are simply receiving compassionate, custodial care for about six hours a day.

Holding low expectations for the majority of students with special needs and providing compassionate, custodial care to the minority with needs that are even greater is not good enough. Not for them, for their parents, or for the larger community.

It is time to take a very close look how we address — or fail to address — the special needs of students. That examination should take into account the contingencies affecting their education, early identification of disabilities and imple-

*Continued next page*

mentation of effective remedial plans, addressing the additional expense that meeting some of their needs entails, monitoring their progress, measuring their success, and holding the system accountable for the results achieved.

Some may argue that the issue has been inadequate resources over the last 15 years. If that is true, the restoration of more than 3,000 teachers to the public school system should begin to produce improvement for all students and especially for students with special needs.

We cannot fulfill the promise of universal public education if there are sizeable groups of students who are under served, under-educated and unprepared for the responsibilities of adult citizenship.

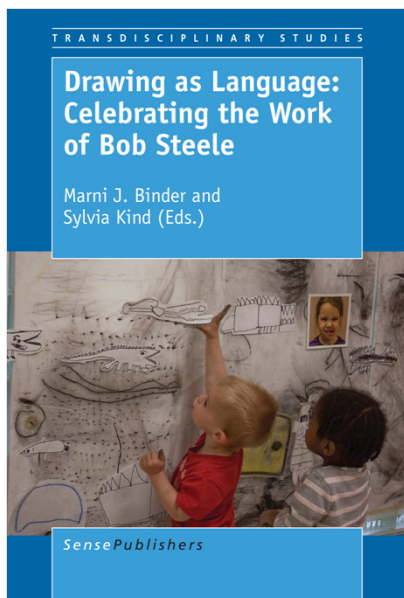
*(Vancouver Sun, October 19, 2017)*

### In Memoriam

Donald Brown	1925-2017	Assistant Professor Emeritus of Music University Service 1960-1990
Robert Kubicek	1935-2017	Professor Emeritus of History University Service 1964-2000
Jo-Ann McEachern	1950 - 2017	Professor Emerita of French, Hispanic and Italian Studies University Service 1993-2007
Patricia Rebbeck	1934-2017	Clinical Associate Professor Emerita of Surgery University Service 1982-1995
Sheila Stanton	1930-2017	Associate Professor Emerita of Nursing University Service 1975-1990
Patricia Wadsworth	1931-2017	Clinical Professor Emeritus of Health Care and Epidemiology University Service 1982-1997
William F. Wood	1928-2017	Assistant Professor Emeritus of Commerce and Business Administration University Service 1969-1990
William (Bill) Wray	1943-2017	Associate Professor Emeritus of History University Service 1978-2011



## Recent Publications by (or about) Emeriti



*Drawing as Language: Celebrating the work of Bob Steele* is a Festschrift in honour of **Bob Steele, Professor Emeritus of Art Education**, artist, educator and tireless advocate for bringing authentic aesthetic lived experiences to young children. As an artist, teacher and researcher, his prolific contribution to visual arts education brings our attention not only to the importance of drawing for everyone, but specifically young children. Bob Steele's lifetime of passionately advocating for the importance of what children learn through drawing is explored in this collection of invited educators and scholars whose work illustrates the continuing influence of his ideas in early childhood studies, art education and curriculum studies overall. The voices of the contributors provide the history of his development, from the onset of his early teaching in rural Saskatchewan to his ongoing work at 92 today. The book inspires and challenges the reader to think about and view children's drawings in new ways.



**Sneja Gunew**, Professor Emerita of English/Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice, has recently published *Post-Multicultural Writers as Neo-cosmopolitan Mediators*.

As described by Margery Fee, UBC Professor of English: *Sneja Gunew reads post-multicultural literatures to examine the lives of those who risk an escape across razor-wired borders or who live in conditions of colonial occupation: the neo-cosmopolitans. Her questions shatter*

*the familiarity of global English and unsettle the complacency of those who read and think within its hallucinated universality.*

*Professor Gunew is also a Department Representative for UBCAPE.*

### POST-MULTICULTURAL WRITERS AS NEO-COSMOPOLITAN MEDIATORS



Sneja Gunew



## "What are they up to now?" Department

In October, **George McWhirter**, Professor Emeritus of Creative Writing, took part in a panel discussion sponsored by the Mexican Consulate in Vancouver at Simon Fraser Harbour Centre: Diálogos sobre José Emilio Pacheco. The "dialogues" were conducted in Spanish. José Emilio Pacheco, the poet-storyteller—winner of the 2010 Cervantes Prize for Spanish Language Literature, who died in 2014—had a Vancouver UBC connection. He was a Visiting Professor in Hispanic & Italian Studies 1968-69, when George McWhirter became one of his translators and a friend. McWhirter was editor and principal translator for his *Selected Poems*, New Directions, 1987.

## Capacity Strengthening and Getting the 'Health Piece' Right in Health Care: Professor Emeritus Elizabeth Dean's Ongoing Professional Journey

As a physical therapist, my clinical focus shifted 180 degrees from delivering specialized care in the intensive care unit with respect to moving and positioning patients, to keeping patients out of the intensive care units of the world. During my academic research career, it became increasingly apparent that most patients are in intensive care units because of complications of lifestyle-related non-communicable diseases (e.g., those related to smoking, poor diets, overweight/obesity in addition to sedentary lifestyles and inactivity) or, if their conditions are not related to these factors directly, many would have superior outcomes if their general 'health' status was better.

Over the past decade, a consortium of international colleagues and I have conducted three summits on global health on this topic based on World Health Organization and other international databases which have concluded there is an urgent need to 'prioritize health' in health care worldwide. Most health systems in the world continue along the road of 'single diagnosis or disease framework' with a drugs and surgery fix-it solution for chronic conditions, with significantly less attention to prescribing 'healthy living' with the same tenacity and rigor.

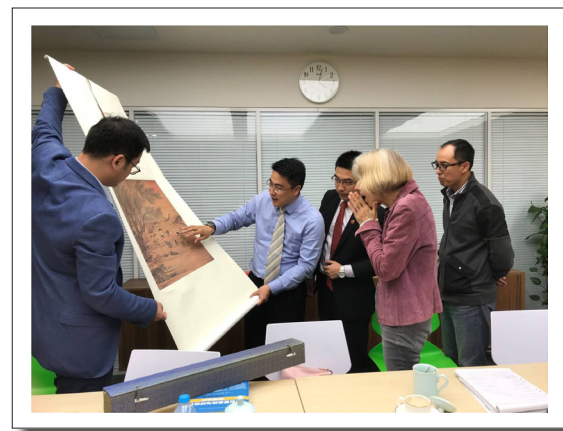
I never anticipated a career path that would take me to 35 countries, many several times, including years living in Kuwait and Hong Kong, which has been my gateway into China for the last 16 years. This fall, I had the pleasure of delivering opening keynote addresses to two European congresses.

From these meetings, I went on to China for two weeks to the Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine (Physical Therapy Program), where I conducted workshops on physical therapy competencies, consistent with world physical therapy accreditation standards on addressing health and wellbeing in practice, and on exercise testing and prescription. A third workshop was on publishing (successfully and 'happily') in leading English journals—an increasingly shared angst among non-native English speaking academics and their graduate students. Finally, I met with medical and



*With colleagues in Shanghai*

physical therapy colleagues about establishing research programs that combine the 'best of the West' in cardiac rehabilitation with traditional Chinese medicine. My colleagues and I were delighted that the Chinese translation of the fifth edition of our related text book came out in the summer, and was already being read (both the English and Chinese editions) by medical and physical therapy colleagues.



*Dr. Dean being presented with an original painting depicting the origins of traditional Chinese medicine*

Finally, on this same travel circuit, I went on to Chennai (formerly Madras), India, to deliver the opening keynote address at the Silver Jubilee STRIDE-2017 Conference of Physiotherapy, and speak to students at Saveetha University.

## Brain training can improve our understanding of speech in noisy places

A double-blind placebo-controlled study found that elderly people with hearing loss can triple their understanding of words in noisy situations by training on a custom audiomotor game

In fact, after playing the game, hearing impaired elderly people correctly made out 25 percent more words in the presence of high levels of background noise. The training provided about three times more benefit than hearing aids alone.

"These findings underscore that understanding speech in noisy listening conditions is a whole brain activity, and is not strictly governed by the ear," said Daniel Polley of Massachusetts Eye and Ear and Harvard Medical School. "The improvements in speech intelligibility following closed loop audiomotor perceptual training did not arise from an improved signal being transferred from the ear to the brain. Our subjects' hearing, strictly speaking, did not get better." And, yet, their ability to make sense of what they'd heard did.

Those improvements reflect better use of other cognitive resources, including selective auditory attention, Polley explained. In other words, participants were better able to filter out noise and distinguish between a target speaker and background distractions.

The study enrolled 24 older adults, at an average of 70 years old. All participants had mild to severe hearing loss and had worn hearing aids for an average of 7 years. Participants were randomly assigned to one of two training groups. Members of both groups were asked to spend 3.5 hours per week for 8 weeks playing a game. One group played a game designed with the intention of improving player's ability to follow conversations. It challenged them to monitor subtle deviations between predicted and actual auditory feedback as they moved their fingertip through a virtual soundscape. As a "placebo" control, the other group played a game that challenged player's auditory working memory and wasn't expected to help with speech intelligibility.

The study was designed so that the 24 participants and the researchers did not know who trained with the audiogame programmed for therapeutic benefit and who trained with a "placebo" game without therapeutic intent. Partici-

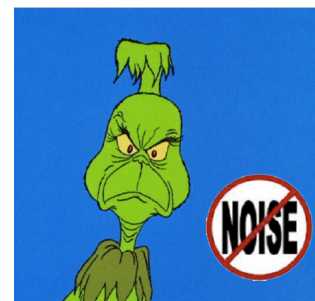
pants from each group reported equivalent expectations that their speech understanding would be improved.

People in both groups improved on their respective auditory tasks and had comparable expectations for improved speech processing. Despite those expectations, individuals that played the working memory game showed no improvement in their ability to make out words or even improvements on other working memory tasks. The other group showed marked improvements, correctly identifying 25 percent more words in spoken sentences or digit sequences presented in high levels of background noise. Those gains in speech intelligibility could also be predicted based on the accuracy with which those individuals played the game.

Those benefits didn't persist in the absence of continuing practice, the researchers report. However, they say, the findings show that "perceptual learning on a computerized audiogame can transfer to 'real world' communication challenges." Polley envisions a time when hearing challenges might be managed through a combination of auditory training software coupled with the latest in-ear listening devices.

"We look forward to a future where auditory perceptual training software that has been inspired by principles of brain plasticity, not audiological testing, is packaged with new advances in these listening devices," he said. "There is reason to believe that the sum of these benefits would be greater than could be expected from any one approach applied in isolation."

Abstracted from Science Daily, <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/10/171019143020.htm>





## Around Town

**CHOR LEONI MEN'S CHOIR**  
25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SEASON

**ONE LAST SONG**  
25th Annual Remembrance Day Concerts

**November 11**

1:30 PM | WEST VANCOUVER UNITED CHURCH 2062 ESQUIMALT AVE, WEST VANCOUVER  
8 PM | ST. ANDREW'S-WESLEY UNITED CHURCH 1022 NELSON ST AT BURRARD, VANCOUVER

[chorleoni.org](http://chorleoni.org) | 1.877.840.0457

BRITISH COLUMBIA ARTS COUNCIL | BRITISH COLUMBIA | Canada Council for the Arts / Conseil des Arts du Canada | CITY OF VANCOUVER Cultural Services | DLA PIPER | CONTACT | Wall GIBRATON VANCOUVER WALL CENTRE | straight | CBC

**CELEBRATE!**  
with  
*EnChor Choir*

Friday November 17, 7:30 pm  
Dunbar-Ryerson United Church  
45<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Yew Street

Tickets \$25  
(18 & under free)  
[ticketstonight.ca](http://ticketstonight.ca)  
(all charges included)





*Orfeo ed Euridice*

**UBC Opera**  
November 2, 3, 4 - 7:30 pm  
November 5 - 2:00 pm  
Old Auditorium  
[ubcooperatickets.com](http://ubcooperatickets.com)



This long-running series is ideally suited to those who prefer daytime concerts (and a seniors' discount). Wednesday & Thursday concerts are at

Dunbar-Ryerson United Church, 45th and Yew in Vancouver. Friday concerts are at West Vancouver United Church, 2062 Esquimalt Avenue. Starting in January, 2018, Wednesday & Thursday performances take place at the Vancouver Academy of Music, 1270 Chestnut Street. Coffee & cookies served at 10:00 am. Concert follows at 10:30 am.

For more information or to purchase tickets visit [www.musicinthemorning.org](http://www.musicinthemorning.org) or telephone 604-873-4612.

### Vancouver Institute Lectures



**November 4:** Mr. Andrew Feinstein, author and former politician, South Africa, *The Shadow World: Inside the Global Arms Trade*

**November 18:** Dr. Chris Gosden, Professor of European Archaeology

and Director of the Institute of Archaeology, University of Oxford, *30,000 Years of Magic: Why Magic is Still Relevant Today*

**November 25:** Dr. Philippe Tortell, Professor of Earth & Ocean Sciences and Director, Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies, UBC, *Ships, Satellites, and Social Media: How We Understand Arctic Climate Change*

**December 2:** Dr. Michael Doyle, Professor of International Affairs, Law and Political Science, Columbia University, *Crossing Borders in a Globalized World: A New Treaty for Migrants and Refugees*

All lectures take place in IRC 2 at 8:15 pm.



### Main Concert Series

**November 15-17:** Simone Osborne, soprano with Anne Larlee, piano (Note: Simone Osborne is a UBC graduate and one of the youngest winners of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions).

**December 13-15:** Made in Canada Ensemble (piano, violin, viola, cello), an all-female quartet that is taking Canada by storm.

**January 17-20:** Anagnoson and Kinton, Piano Duo.

**February 14-16:** Jan Lisiecki, piano.

### UBC School of Music Wednesday Noon Hour Concerts 12:00 pm, Barnett Hall Admission \$5

**November 1:** *Tom Keenlyside Quartet*. Tom Keenlyside, saxophones / flute; Miles Black, piano; Miles Hill, bass; Bernie Arai, drums. Swing, Latin, Brazilian, free jazz and more

**November 8:** *Dazzling Virtuoso Transcriptions*. Oleg Pokhanovski violin; Scott Meek piano: Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov, Scriabin, Glazunov, Schumann, Walton, Paganini and Ravel

**November 15:** *Skyros Quartet*, Eric Wilson cello. Shostakovich String Quartet No. 3 in F major, Op. 73; Górecki Elegy for Cello and String Quartet (Canadian Premiere)

**November 22:** *Winner of the Eckhardt-Gramatté Competition*. Alexandra Smither, soprano; Pierre André Doucet, piano. Lizée *Malfunxionleider* plus other works TBA.

**January 10:** *"Sanglots" Chansons of love and loss*. J. Patrick Raftery, tenor; Terence Dawson, piano. Featuring works of Bizet, Fauré, Duparc, Barber and Poulenc.

**January 17:** *Duo Concertante*. Nancy Dahn, violin; Timothy Steeves, piano. Dallapiccola, *Tartiniana seconda*; Gougeon, *Chant du Coeur*; Brahms, *Violin Sonata No 2 in A major, Op. 100*; Gillespie arr. Crawley, *Night in Tunisia*.