

School Ties



SPRING 2017 | ST. MICHAELS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL

Waves of Disruption



CREDITS

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School Ties magazine and archive copies can be found at smus.ca/alumni/school_ties
If you are interested in attending alumni events, visit smus.ca/alumni



There was more snow than usual in Victoria this winter and it made for some very nice photos.

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Waves of Disruption | Thoughts from the Head of School

When the founders of our school established it over 100 years ago, could they have envisioned the school we have today? Yet it has endured. Despite a brush with insolvency in the Depression, when 15 or 20 students were taught by three or four staff whose income consisted of room and board, the school has not only survived, but thrived. The founding ethos that shaped the program of the school over 100 years ago can fairly be described as an ethos of muscular Christianity, supported by the mottos of the two founding schools: *mens sana in corpore sano* (a healthy mind in a healthy body) and *nil magnum nisi bonum* (nothing is great unless it is good). It is to the credit of the school, and to the alumni who return – often or occasionally – that they recognize the place as the school they attended decades ago. Something profound endures.

We have just begun construction of our new dining hall and student centre. It is to be named the Sun Centre in honour of Cliff Sun '72, the major donor whose cornerstone gift has made it possible. This building will make a huge difference in the lives of students, and in particular of boarders, who will gather there to eat three times a day. This facility brings to \$47 million the value of construction we have undertaken in the last 16 years, most of it fundraised. Yet it is very likely that when the dust settles a couple of decades from now, the Sun Centre will be seen as the halfway mark in facility redevelopment. We still plan to renovate the Chapel, install a pool, add a gymnasium and build a new Junior School. No doubt other ideas will assert themselves into the line-up, on top of significant endowment growth. These projects – and the endowment that goes with them – communicate the belief that our school will endure at least another hundred years.

“At least as important as identifying the ideas that will influence the future most powerfully is identifying the ideas that will endure most powerfully.”

Forecasting the next hundred years, of course, is a fruitless exercise. Even to forecast the next 10 years is a challenge. In the fall we held a symposium at SMUS, bringing together about 80 students, staff, parents, alumni, board members and friends of the school, to exchange ideas about the future. This symposium was another building block in the *Futures Project*, an exercise that brings together the main trends both inside and outside education, that will influence the next 10 to 20 years. Further, the *Futures Project* aims to distil from these ideas the three or four that are likely to influence the future of our school. For example, we all expect self-driving cars to be a common reality within this time. Although some people do propose it, we can't quite conceive of self-teaching classes.

At least as important as identifying the ideas that will influence the future most powerfully is identifying the ideas that will endure most powerfully. This list starts with the ideas in our Mission: excellence, passion and compassion, community, the pursuit of truth and goodness, and preparation for higher learning and for life. Most likely, too, is that the final *Futures* report will be the beginning of a conversation, rather than the last word.

R.T. Snowden



Alumni Basketball Celebration

It was a great day of hoops!



Update: Head of School Search

by Blair Hagkull, Chair, SMUS Society Board of Governors

This September, Bob Snowden announced that he would be retiring at the end of the 2016-2017 school year after leading our school as Head for the last 22 years. Known across the country as an outstanding independent school leader, an innovator and an exemplary educator, Bob's tenure has encompassed the development of the school's first strategic plan, the revitalization of our campus facilities and the incredible growth of our endowment, scholarships and financial aid. These achievements, along with his unwavering commitment to academic excellence, have resulted in the school's outstanding reputation on the international stage.

It will not be easy to fill his shoes; fortunately, we have assembled a very strong Head Search Committee who are committed to that task. Led by alumnus, former board member and current parent Chris Considine '70, QC, the committee started by selecting the executive search firm Janet Wright & Associates Inc. (JWA) after a competitive process. Coincidentally, JWA is the same firm the school engaged in 1995 to conduct the head search that led to hiring Bob.

With the Search Committee's help, JWA, led by its founder, Janet Wright, immediately set to work conducting consultation sessions with staff, students, parents, alumni and donors. During the sessions, participants were asked to think about the strengths and accomplishments of our school; the challenges and priorities we might face in the next several years; and the experience, qualifications and personal qualities we should be looking for in our next Head of School.

Chris Considine, Janet Wright, her colleagues and the Head Search Committee received input from more than 200 people. There were many common themes that emerged from this feedback about what the community most wants in our new Head of School:

- An energetic steward of the school's reputation for excellence;
- A forward-thinker who can call on a deep background of educational experience to lead the school into its next chapter as one of the most innovative centres of learning in Canada and the world;
- A collaborator who knows how to work effectively with the school's leadership team, the faculty and the Board;
- A relationship-builder who will be deeply involved in the life of the school – its students, staff, parents, alumni and friends in the broader school community; and
- A pragmatist who understands the school's business priorities and who is comfortable with the key responsibility of generating revenues to fund those priorities.

With that profile in hand, JWA advertised the position widely in Canada, the US, the UK and Australia. The worldwide response to advertising and direct recruitment was excellent leading to JWA having preliminary discussions with a number of promising candidates.

Following consultation with the Search Committee, the process of pre-interviewing and evaluating candidates began. In-person interviews with the shortlisted candidates will be conducted by the entire Search Committee.

When this comprehensive process has been completed, the Search Committee will make a recommendation to the Board of Governors, proposing the candidate who in their view best fits the search profile that has been adopted by the school.

To keep up with the latest developments in our school's search for a new Head, visit smus.ca/head. And be sure to read the summer edition of School Ties, when we wish Bob Snowden a fond farewell and get to know our new Head of School.



Kindergarten student Daniel listens intently as Grade 9 student Ines shows off her Electric House project in Science class.

School News

Every day at SMUS offers students the opportunity to experiment, discover and take another step closer to their dreams. The following pages highlight those daily opportunities at our school as captured in the *SMUSpaper*, our online news site at news.smus.ca.



Junior School

1 Students pile in to the photobooth and pose for the camera during the Junior School Family Fall Fest.

2 Grade 5 student Finley prepares to take aim with his bow during the Outdoor Leadership day at the start of the school year.

3 Grade 3 students Madison, Preeya and Nya fool around during recess.

4 Junior School cross-country runners assemble at the starting line before a race at Elk/Beaver Lake Park.

5 Grade 1 student Dishanna points to a number she found on a box, as she and her classmates learn how to identify numbers.

6 Katie, Madeline and Allie smile at the Junior School BBQ that welcomes students back to school in September.

7 Grade 4 students Willow, left, and Avery pose with their homemade cedar hats. Students learned about Canada's First Nations and created their own artifacts to better understand how the Coast Salish people lived.







Middle School



2

1 Grade 7 student Marina J. attempts to throw a frisbee through a hole as Paige R. watches closely. Students designed their own games in math class to put their knowledge of proportions and fair play into practice.

2 Grade 8 student Liam E. drives to the net during a basketball game against Spencer Middle School.

3 Naechel G. laughs as she falls victim to the hilarious blind-folded, no arms make-up challenge during the Japanese Cultural Fair in October.

4 Finn K., Ava G., Talia P., Jonah B., and Gaby S. are rehearsed and ready for the production of *Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka* at the McPherson Playhouse.

5 Grade 8 student Elizabeth H., a member of the U15 girls soccer team, plays in a game versus The Study. The team finished second at the SMUS-hosted invitational tournament.

6 Grade 8 student Jacob L. dons a laurel wreath while discussing and debating Roman history in social studies.

7 WEB Leader Kristina M. charges through a tunnel of Grade 8s on the first day back to school in September.

8 Grade 6 student Kelsey I. smiles after going "bobbing for worms" in chocolate pudding during Middle School Halloween festivities.



5



7



8



Senior School

1 Grade 10 student Laurenz Dahm demonstrates what he learned in self defence class as part of the Grade 10 experiential program. Classmate Mikhail Evdokimov was a good sport about it.

2 Senior School students happily record their friends performing in the Chapel during the Eurovision Acoustic Concert that was held as part of the Intercultural Council's European Week in November.

3 Grade 11 student Simon Gilmour learns how to make paper using flora during a visit from local artists and the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria.

4 Grade 12 student Jasmine Yu draws a portrait using charcoal.

5 Grade 10 student Ty Olynyk dives for the ball during a game in the inaugural season of SMUS's Senior boys volleyball team.

6 Members of the Senior girls field hockey team line up behind the backline to prepare for a penalty corner during a game against Oak Bay High.

7 The Senior boys soccer team proudly shows off the provincial AA banner after beating Bodwell to claim the BC title for the second time in three years.

8 Candle attendant Pascale Halliday during the Remembrance Day Ceremony.

9 Bolton Head of House Philippe Welter leads his boarding brothers in a cheer during the first house games of the 2016-17 school year.





The Big Swing Invitational



dream
big

SMUS annual fund
for scholarships
and special projects



Thanks to all our sponsors and golfers. With your help we raised \$14,000 for the Alumni Endowment Fund and Dream Big.





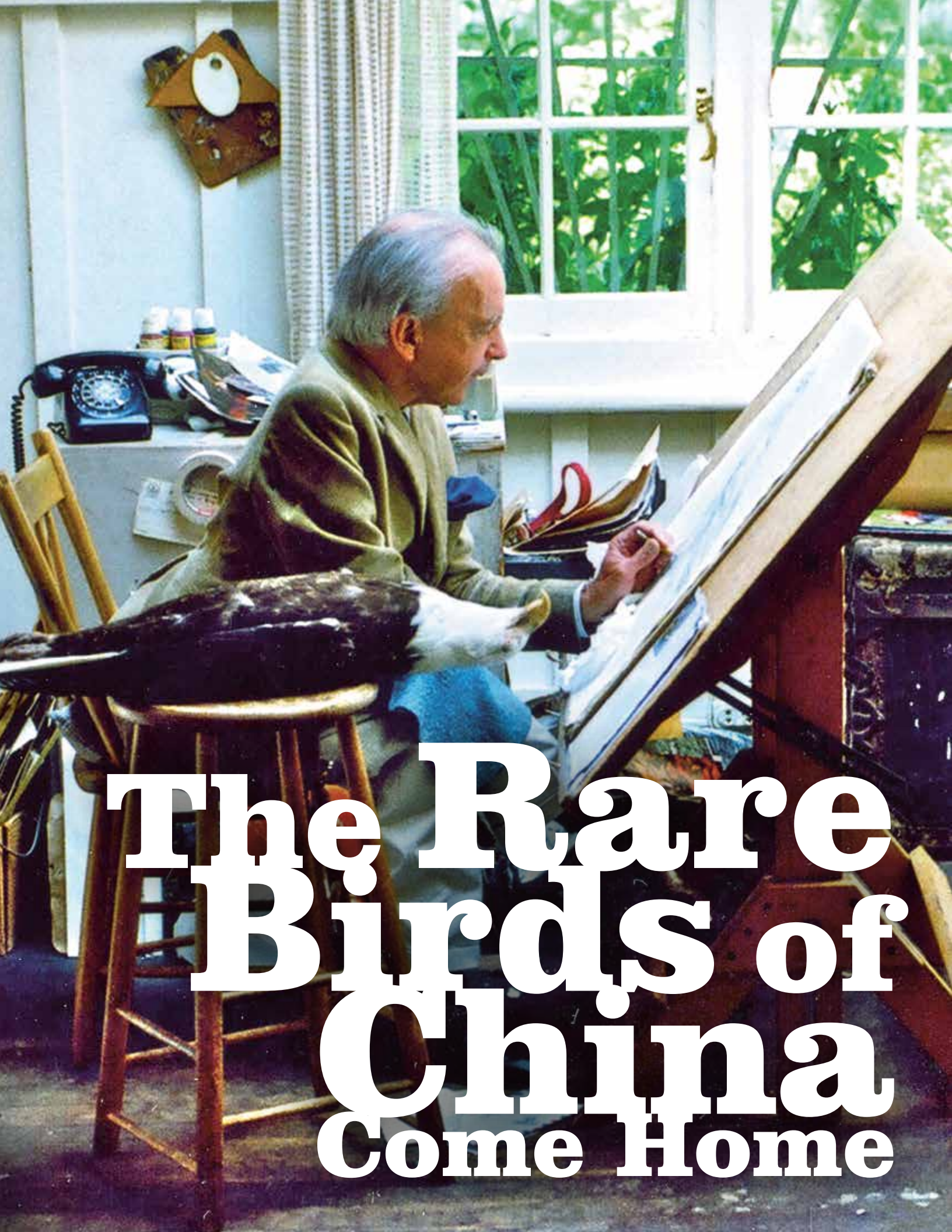
Share your passion for SMUS!

Help us spread the word as an Admissions Ambassador.

We're looking for alumni from around the world to share the amazing experiences that await future students at SMUS. If you're passionate about sharing SMUS in your community, get in touch at: admissions@smus.ca



St. Michael's
University School



The Rare Birds of China Come Home

Swinhoe's Pheasant (Lophura swinhoei), 20.5 x 28, 1986.



The British Library, The National Library of China, the British Embassy in Beijing, Oundle School in England and now St. Michaels University School. What do they have in common? They each possess a full set of *Rare Birds of China*, a limited edition of fine prints depicting rare and endangered Chinese birds by world-renowned wildlife artist and St. Michael's alumnus, J. Fenwick Lansdowne '52.

The set was a gift to the school by another St. Michael's alumnus, Sir David Newbigging '45, which he presented in person to Head of School Bob Snowden in September.

"It was truly an honour to receive the *Rare Birds*," Bob says. "I think Sir David felt SMUS is a good home for the set, as he and Fenwick Lansdowne both have connections to Victoria and to the school."

The *Rare Birds* will be mounted and displayed in the Sun Centre, our new student centre and dining hall. Each image will be accompanied by a short statement that shares some history on the birds depicted.

What will be missing, though, is the incredible story of how *Rare Birds* came to be. As he shared the history during his visit to campus in September, Sir David wove a marvellous tale of intrigue featuring diplomatic pouches, retrieving the printing plates in the trunk of a cab and many layers of coincidence.

Sir David was born to British parents in Tianjin, China in 1934 and grew up initially in Hong Kong, while Fenwick was born in Hong Kong a few years later in 1937 – the year Japan invaded China. Their fathers both worked for Jardine Matheson, the Hong Kong-based British trading company. In the years leading up to the fall of Hong Kong in 1941, many Jardines families made their way to safety in Victoria while the fathers and husbands stayed behind. Both Sir David's and Fenwick's fathers were interned in Japanese camps until the end of the war.

Both boys were Jardines evacuees and attended St. Michael's School, and they were neighbours in Oak Bay. Their mothers were close friends. Fenwick didn't start at St. Michael's until 1948, three years after Sir David had left to continue his education in England, where he became head boy of Oundle School.

But their paths would cross much later, in 1980. By then Sir David was back in Hong Kong and had become CEO – or "Taipan" – of Jardine Matheson, which was about to celebrate the 150th anniversary of its founding.

"We set up a committee to recommend how the 150th should be recognised... A number of initiatives were approved, ranging from scholarships to Oxbridge, to gifts," Sir David says.

He had the idea to mark the occasion by commissioning a limited-edition portfolio of fine prints that could be given by the company as gifts. The subject of the portfolio would be birds of Hong Kong and there was only one artist in the world they considered – an artist who had been called the successor to John James Audubon and who had mounted exhibitions in New York, London, Edinburgh and Washington. That artist was J. Fenwick Lansdowne who, after all those years, continued to live in Victoria. The resulting print portfolio, published in 1982, was a set of six prints taken from 10 original paintings.

"The Hong Kong Birds [was a gift that was] unusual, high quality, non-controversial and non-political," Sir David says. "Added to this was the personal dimension of the artist being world renowned and the son of a former senior executive of Jardines."

The collaboration with Jardines was so successful that Sir David sought to replicate it and expand upon it as a personal initiative a couple of years later, on his retirement from Jardines. This time he had a more ambitious endeavour in mind – 32 paintings by Fenwick of rare and endangered Chinese birds. They would create 100 sets of limited edition fine prints of these paintings, packaged in a wooden presentation box. Sir David invited his good friend James D. Wolfensohn of New York (later President of The World Bank) to partner with him in the project.



Crested Ibis (Nipponia nippon), 28 x 20, 1988.





With input from organizations such as the Academia Sinica, the Beijing Natural History Museum and the Natural History Museum in London, together with advice from Dillon Ripley (Secretary Emeritus of the Smithsonian), they selected 32 birds based on their variety and rarity, in the hope that the project might give fuel to future conservation efforts.

"Conservation was very topical in China at the time, and indeed remains so today... That was at the time of ping pong diplomacy by China which encouraged companies doing business with China to focus not only on profit and loss, but also on wider aspects of China and things Chinese," Sir David says.

Fenwick's artistic style was to study his subjects in the field where possible, though childhood polio had rendered him paralyzed throughout his life. He enjoyed a trip to China to see some of the endangered birds, but the paintings were all created in his Victoria studio. Key information came from bird skins preserved by museums and private collectors. Chinese ornithologists, diplomats and friends were able to arrange the loan of skins to Fenwick from within China and from museums worldwide.

Over a period of eight years, Fenwick created his painstaking portraits of the birds in their habitats, towards the end of which Sir David looked for a printer whose work would show the same meticulous attention to detail. They decided on collotype printing, a rare process that requires great skill and manual work, to ensure the highest quality of reproduction. With less than a handful of print houses in the world with the capability to produce collotype, and with the advice of Budd Feheley (Fenwick's long-time associate), Sir David chose Jaffé Collotype of Vienna, Austria.

When Sir David took delivery of the last set of prints, what had become a 10-year labour of love was finally realized as the published portfolios made their way to museums and private art collections around the world. A few years after the release of *Rare Birds of China*, The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria mounted an exhibit of the works – the last time the complete set has been on display in the city that had welcomed Fenwick and Sir David as young boys so long ago.

As a result of their work together, Sir David and Fenwick remained close, and their families continue that connection long after Fenwick's death in 2008. The presentation ceremony at SMUS in September saw Sir David, his wife Lady Carolyn and daughters Susie Newbigging and Annabelle Audier reunited with Helen Lansdowne, Fenwick's wife.

Also in attendance was another family who arrived in Victoria as Hong Kong evacuees – the Andersons. Malcolm Anderson '47 was a common link to St. Michael's for Fenwick and Sir David, as he knew both boys. Although Malcolm passed away in 2013, his wife Moira and daughter Marianne '80 were there, as was Malcolm's sister Fiona Hyslop. Peter Bousfield, a former member of the teaching staff at St. Michael's and a wartime evacuee from Asia, was also present. Peter and his mother were good friends of Sir David and his mother, but Peter and Sir David had not seen each other for many years.

This brief reunion of old friends drawn together first by war, then by a mutual love for art, nature and China, was a fitting tribute to the school that first connected them. It feels like the *Rare Birds of China* has come home.



Steller's Sea Eagle (Haliaeetus pelagicus), 28.25 x 21, 1989.

In Conversation

In each issue, a soon-to-be graduate interviews a member of our alumni community to get a sense of what may lay ahead in work and in life. This time around, Rachel Curran '90 – self-described ex-lawyer, public policy wonk, politico, travel junkie, British Columbian in exile, and former Director of Policy to Prime Minister Stephen Harper – talks to Zach Zwicky '17.

BY ZACH ZWICKY '17

ZZ ▶ When did you first decide to pursue law and eventually politics? What helped you make that decision?

RC ▶ I first decided to go to law school after attending graduate school in English literature, where I realized that a career in academia would mean spending a great deal of time studying and writing about literary theory (truly terrible stuff) rather than works of literature themselves. Law seemed to be a practical alternative that would provide plenty of reading and writing opportunity, while having the side benefit of paying my bills.

My full-time participation in politics was almost accidental. As a university student in the 1990s, I became very concerned about the direction set by the then-government in BC, and the corresponding lack of economic opportunity for young graduates. At the same time, I joined the fledgling Reform Party. After practicing law in Vancouver for a few years, I went to work for the BC Liberal government – on what was supposed to be a temporary basis – a couple of years after it was first elected in 2001. Four years later, I was recruited to join the new Conservative government led by Stephen Harper, joined the PMO in 2009 and was appointed to Director of Policy in 2011.

ZZ ▶ How has the political landscape changed in your career?

RC ▶ The landscape shifts constantly. No two days are the same and circumstances often change quickly and in spectacularly unexpected fashion. That's part of what makes politics so addictive for me. The interconnectedness of our world now, and the almost-instantaneous access to information, means that everyone can be politicized and participate in politics on an individual basis, and also connect easily with like-minded communities. That interconnectedness is fuelling the so-called "populist" movements that are changing political landscapes across the globe today.

ZZ ▶ I'm interested in going into political journalism. You've written for magazines and newspapers, appeared on radio and television, and deal with the media regularly. Given the difficult times the media is in, is journalistic training obsolete?

RC ▶ I don't think journalistic training will ever be obsolete. I think there will always be a strong public appetite for stories about our lives and our world that tell us something new; that rely upon exhaustive research, an unbiased perspective and a desire to expose the truth. In other words, the appetite for great content will never be diminished.

Certain mediums of communication are becoming obsolete (and that is to be expected; we don't transmit information by carrier pigeon anymore, for instance). And the journalist as

"authoritative voice" is also becoming obsolete. Fewer readers tolerate being told what they "should" believe or think, partly as a result of the tremendous access to information that we have now. Also, fewer readers are inclined to believe that a journalist is the authoritative source on a particular issue simply because he or she has a public platform.

All of that makes a journalist's job more difficult, I think – but what it can also do is weed out bad or lazy journalism in favour of content that resonates, informs and inspires.

Yes, I think journalism school is worth the time and effort. What is important is learning HOW to think – how to identify problems, question assumptions, apply a critical lens, engage in robust investigation and analysis, reach informed conclusions, and communicate clearly with an audience.

ZZ ▶ What courses in university helped you get to where you are today?


RC ▶ Courses in history, literature and classical studies, because everything we encounter today has been seen and documented previously, often in ways that can help us better understand and navigate our current context. That's true whether we're dealing with the personal, professional or political.

ZZ ▶ Can you talk about any fond memories from your time at SMUS?

RC ▶ My fondest memories of SMUS are of the teaching staff, who I believe are of unparalleled excellence.

Peter Tongue's ability to make chemistry entertaining and relevant meant I had a much easier time with science courses in university. Brian Faulkner's minutely detailed overview of the First World War meant that I continued to dream of the Maginot Line (and incorporate military strategy into political strategy) long after I had graduated. Bob Richard's exhaustively thorough French instruction allowed me to survive and thrive in Ottawa, where I was required to read and edit complex materials in French on a daily basis. And it is no exaggeration to say that I owe a good part of whatever success I have achieved, both personally and professionally, to Grenfell Featherstone '67, who instilled in me an abiding love for literature and a healthy disregard for rules that don't make sense.

There are many others whose remarkable teaching abilities and instruction remain with me today, namely Hedda Thatcher, Rhodri Samuel, Peggy Murphy and Colleen McLeish.



**What is important
is learning
HOW to think –
how to identify
problems,
question
assumptions,
apply a
critical lens.**

A full-page photograph of a family of four in a field of tall, dry grass. A man with a shaved head and a goatee, wearing a dark blue textured sweater, stands behind a woman with long dark hair, wearing a grey cardigan over a red patterned top. They are both smiling. In front of them are two young children: a boy on the left with dark hair wearing a grey jacket, and a girl on the right with curly dark hair wearing a light blue sweater. The text "Gurpreet and Zareen: A Dream Big Profile" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

Gurpreet and Zareen: A Dream Big Profile

Drs. Gurpreet (Pete) Leekha '89 and Zareen Charania '96 both attended St. Michaels University School but never met while they were there.

At their wedding in 2010, Zareen made fun of their age difference by bringing a copy of the 1989 SMUS yearbook and making jokes like, "Imagine if Gurpreet and I had been dating then – what does a 10-year-old wear to the prom?"

They are a lighthearted couple who enjoy teasing each other but they are both very serious about their careers in optometry, which they see as a calling, and about recognizing SMUS for giving them the knowledge, skills and discipline to pursue that calling. The couple have been regular donors to scholarships and financial aid as part of the annual Dream Big fund for a number of years.

In fact, Gurpreet experienced the benefit of scholarship and financial aid firsthand. "I came to SMUS as a BCTV scholar," he says, recalling that he first saw a commercial for the school watching late-night TV during a teachers' strike in his hometown of Coquitlam. "That's what I want to do," he told himself, and by September he was in Victoria starting his Grade 11 year as a boarder.

He found the social adjustment to a new school and to boarding life tough but surmountable. The academic adjustment was tougher. "I had been acing everything in public school," he says, "but the academics at SMUS were a huge challenge." He feels fortunate to have found at SMUS champions who were eager to invest in him. "I have fond memories of Dr. Harvey, my Grade 12 calculus teacher. He could tell the subject frustrated me but that I really wanted to learn it, so he confided that he had failed calculus in high school. His patience and gentle approach worked, because it became one of my best subjects."

He also credits the support of his classmates and friends, particularly fellow BCTV scholar Ian Farish '89. "To this day," Gurpreet says, "Ian is one of my biggest cheerleaders in whatever endeavour I choose." Zareen agrees emphatically, saying of her own SMUS support team: "I had a great network of friends that I was lucky enough to see every day at school – we all wanted the best for each other."

Zareen's parents enrolled her at SMUS in Grade 3 after the first two years of her schooling failed to meet their expectations. "At the time," Zareen says, "my parents couldn't realize the profound effect the next 10 years of life at SMUS would have on me. I absolutely loved it." Her teachers were instrumental in developing her work ethic, her confidence and sense of curiosity in the classroom. "Everything from Mrs. Pollard as my Grade 3 homeroom teacher and her times tables dance, to Mr. Gardiner coaching us to a badminton provincials win in Grade 12 and being a wonderful (and terrifying!) mentor and friend," it all had a lasting impact on her life.

After graduating from SMUS as head girl, Zareen completed a biology degree at the University of Victoria and went on to the optometry program at the University of Waterloo. As a newly minted doctor of optometry, she moved to Campbell River and practiced there for three years before making her way back to Victoria.

As straightforward as Zareen's path was from SMUS to a thriving career, Gurpreet's was anything but. Going to Queen's University after graduation, Gurpreet's eclectic interests led him to do two undergraduate degrees – one in chemistry and the other in film studies. He then spent a year travelling the world, which included a stint working on a TV series in Hong Kong. Over the course of his travels, he met a number of people who approached their work as a calling and those connections led him to think more deeply about his own calling in life.

That contemplation led him back to a previous interest in optometry and he enrolled in the optometry program at SUNY in New York City, completing his degree in 2001. He stayed in the US for a few years, practicing in New York as well as in Miami, but like Zareen, he eventually found his way home to Coquitlam where he intended to settle. Little did he know that fate had other plans.

"There was a pharmaceutical rep I worked with who kept bugging me about this optometrist in Victoria she wanted to set me up with," Gurpreet remembers. The rep soon found her opportunity at a conference. "I spotted the rep across the room and noticed the woman she was talking to," says Gurpreet. "When they parted, I went to greet the rep and she was all excited, saying 'that was her!'" He was most definitely interested and asked the rep to call the woman back to introduce him. Although initially wary, Zareen agreed to go to a conference party with Gurpreet where they danced until the early hours. They discovered their SMUS connection when Gurpreet insisted he knew someone with the same last name as Zareen. It turned out that his younger brother Jasie and her older brother Jahangir graduated from SMUS together in 1993 – both Gurpreet and Zareen had attended the ceremony with their families.

Today, Gurpreet and Zareen are happily settled in Victoria with twin four-year-olds – a daughter and a son – and a growing practice as partners in Royal Oak Optometry. Having maintained the bonds they established with friends at SMUS, their social and moral support team still includes many alumni. That continued connection has also kept them close to the school, and when they felt financially stable enough to start giving back, SMUS was an obvious choice for their charitable contributions.

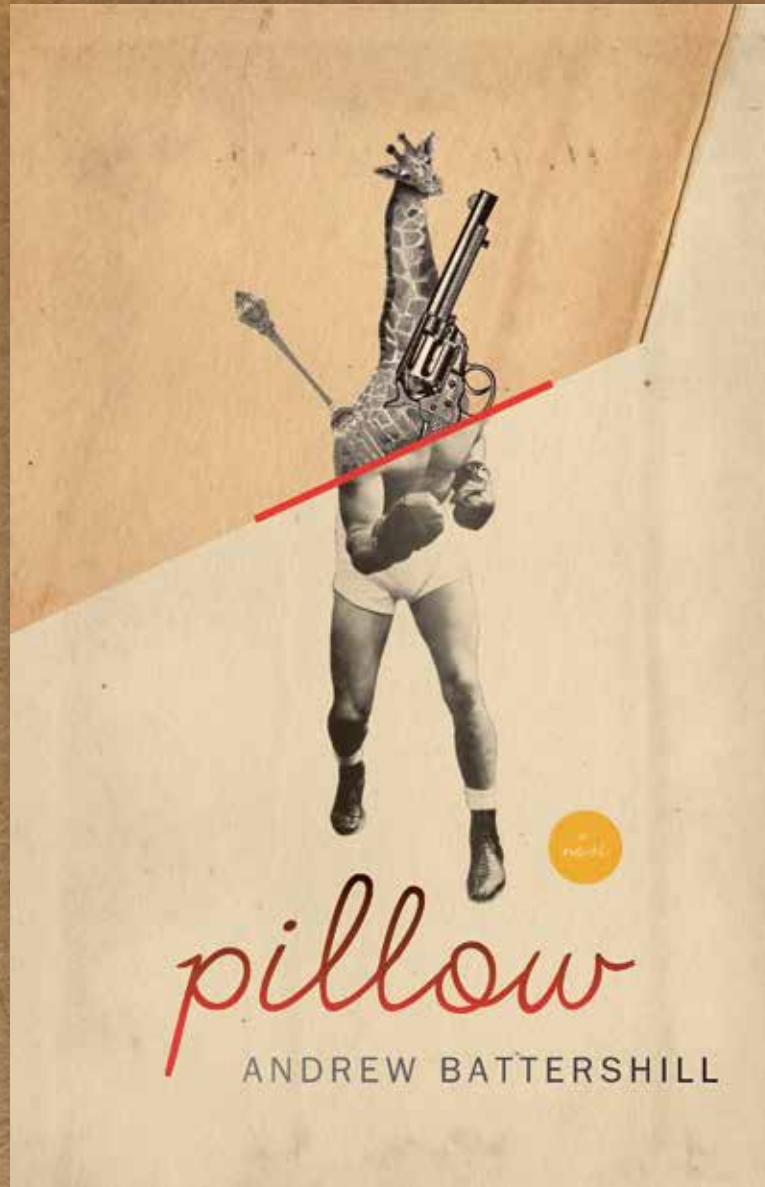
"My parents worked extremely hard to be able to send us to SMUS and they made a lot of sacrifices," says Zareen. "Unfortunately for some people, the financial barrier puts SMUS just out of reach. A donation means someone is out there who is willing to support you in reaching your fullest potential. If we can lessen the financial burden on families who need it, we are very grateful that we're able to do it. We've been given a great life and it's a privilege to be able to pay that forward."

Be part of the team that's supporting the dreams of our students. Make a contribution to the Dream Big fund at smus.ca/dreambig.



GREAT ALUMNI READS

Books by alumni authors receive a special place of honour in the Snowden Library and we're proud of all of them. But when they're mentioned in contention for a prestigious award like the Scotiabank Giller Prize, well, we just can't keep that to ourselves! Two SMUS alumni were honoured with longlist nominations for the 2016 prize and we are fortunate to excerpt both of them in this issue.



2006 graduate Andrew Battershill's debut novel, *Pillow*, was published by Coach House Books in 2015. Not only was *Pillow* longlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize (2016), but also the Sunburst Award (2015); the book was also a finalist for the Kobo Emerging Writer Award (2015).

“

If you're almost anyone, being talented at one thing will ruin you for all the other things. Had he, after a life of not doing much, stumbled into his work at the syndicate, it's possible that Pillow would have paid his dues, learned all the angles, and actually taken pride in the nuances of his job. But that hadn't happened. Instead Pillow had been elite at a thing he loved, and it had been one of those things you can't do forever, or even all that long. So he knew what talent was, what it felt like as you used it, and he knew, now, how it felt to do everything else.

Since retiring Pillow had done a lot. He'd confirmed that avoiding cocaine had (while he'd done it) been a good idea. He'd gone on a pretty good streak at the sports book then a really terrible streak at the sports book and then stopped going to the sports book. He'd put three people in the hospital. He'd waited out ten thousand cluster headaches. He'd watched deals, and checked perimeters and patted people down. And he hadn't been good enough at any of it to start to care.

Tonight, for instance, he'd absently checked the alleys, he'd absently noted the colour of the cars on the street, and he'd absently been keeping half an eye on the back entrance, somewhere between sitting and lying down on a folding chair next to the bar, his legs crossed at the ankle and halfway across the room under the dirty-yellow glow of the half-burned out lights of Mad Love.

Louise had explained, and Pillow had listened in the spinny and unprofessional manner that was common to him. Bataille being half an hour late had, by now, made Louise nervous, and Pillow mildly curious.

The boxer rotated his ankle in a circle until it made pretty much exactly the sound of two pool balls hitting each other from across the table. It was a technique he often used in place of clearing his throat to start a conversation.

Louise spun all the way to face him in her chair. "Can you go outside and look around?" Pillow's smile was about as thin as sauna blood. He finally hoisted himself up. He walked with a relaxed gait that seemed to generate power only from the hips, as if the bottom half of his body had somewhere to be in about an hour, and the top half would just as soon stay home.

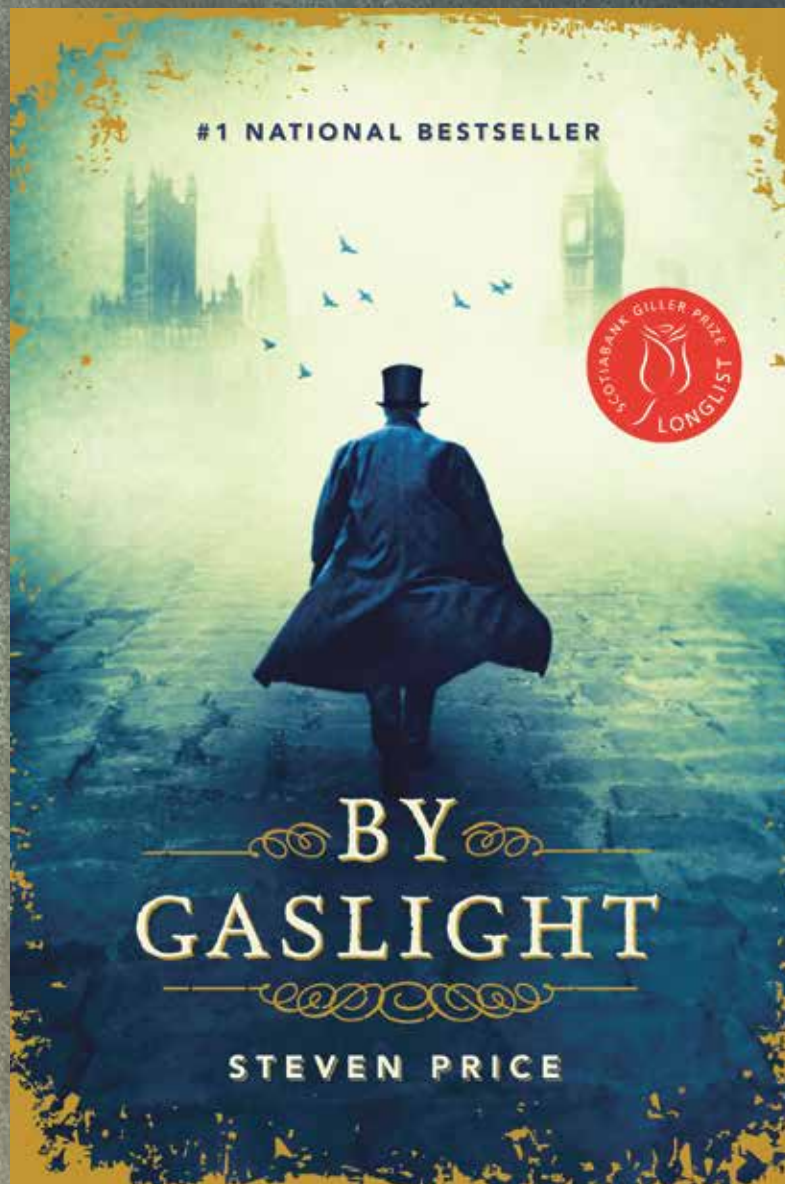
Pillow ducked out to the parking lot. He looked out across the street, empty and lifeless except for the streetlights and the neon spinning and fading out into the cleared out, half-cold air of the dead night. The back entrance and alley probably needed checking, but he had a headache and was enjoying the air and the view, so Pillow stayed still and right where he was and tried to distract himself by casually trying to figure out the situation he was in right now.

The four stolen coins Pillow was waiting to pick up were misprints, they were supposed to be these old Gaulish ones that showed centaurs, but some illiterate coin-maker guy had gotten confused and done them as horse bodies with four human arms for legs, instead of the other way around.

Pillow thought about how it would feel to be a misprinted Centaur. You get the big dumb head, the huge, terrible lungs and heart, the colicky stomach, all toppling around on the tiny arms of the smartest animal around. He imagined being that misprint and meeting some real Centaurs, seeing them and knowing, not in words because you've got the stupid horse brain, in the shallow, skittish, and profound way horses know things that you were the bad end of that coin. The Centaurs jaunting around all proud, doing math equations while they galloped. It was the kind of reverie that Pillow often distracted himself with in the long hours he was supposed to be paying attention to dangerous details in the real world.

Excerpted from Pillow, by Andrew Battershill (Coach House Books, 2015). Available at chbooks.com.

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Steven Price '94 is the author of two award-winning poetry books, *Anatomy of Keys* (2006), winner of the Gerald Lampert Award, and *Omens in the Year of the Ox* (2012), winner of the ReLit Award. His first novel, *Into That Darkness*, was published by Thomas Allen to acclaim in 2011.

“

He was the oldest son.

He wore his black moustaches long in the manner of an outlaw and his right thumb hooked at his hip where a Colt Navy should have hung. He was not yet forty but already his left knee went stiff in a damp cold from an exploding Confederate shell at Antietam. He had been sixteen then and the shrapnel had stood out from his knee like a knuckle of extra bone while the dirt heaved and sprayed around him. Since that day he had twice been thought killed and twice come upon his would-be killers like an avenging spectre. He had shot twenty-three men and one boy outlaws all and only the boy's death did not trouble him. He entered banks with his head low, his eyebrows drawn close, his huge menacing hands empty as if fixed for strangling. When he lurched aboard crowded streetcars men instinctively pulled away and women followed him with their eyelashes, bonnets tipped low. He had not been at home more than a month at a stretch for five years now though he loved his wife and daughters, loved them with the fear a powerful man feels who is given to breaking things. He had long yellow teeth, a wide face, sunken eyes, pupils as dark as the twist of a man's intestines.

So.

He loathed London. Its cobbled streets were filthy even to a man whose business was filth, who would take a saddle over a bed and huddle all night in a brothel's privy with his Colt drawn until the right arse stumbled in. Here he had seen nothing green in a month that was not holly or a cut bough carted in from a countryside he could not imagine. On Christmas he had watched the poor swarm a man in daylight, all-clutched rags and greed; on New Year's he had seen a lady kick a watercress girl from the step of a carriage, then curse the child's blood spotting her laces. A rot ate its way through London, a wretchedness older and more brutal than any he had known in Chicago. He was not the law. No matter. In America there was not a thief who did not fear him. By his own measure he feared no man living and only one man dead and that man his father.

It was a bitter January and that father six months buried when he descended at last into Bermondsey in search of an old operative of his father's, an old friend. Wading through the night's fog, another man's blood barnacling his knuckles, his own business in London nearly done. He was dressed like a gentleman though he had lost his gloves and he clutched his walking stick in one fist like a cudgel. A stain spotted his cuffs that might have been soot or mud but was not either. He had been waiting for what passed for morning in this miserable winter and paused now in a

narrow alley at the back of Snow Fields, opera hat collapsed in one hand, frost creaking in the timbers of the shopfronts, not sure it had come. Fog spilled over the cobblestones, foul and yellow and thick with coal fumes and a bitter stink that crusted the nostrils, scalded the back of the throat. That fog was everywhere, always, drifting through the streets and pulling apart low to the ground, a living thing. Some nights it gave off a low hiss, like steam escaping a valve.

Six weeks ago he had come to this city to interrogate a woman who last night after a long pursuit across Blackfriars Bridge had leaped the railing and vanished into the river. He thought of the darkness, the black water foaming outward, the slapping of the Yard sergeants' boots on the granite setts.

He could still feel the wet scrape of the bridge bollards against his wrists.

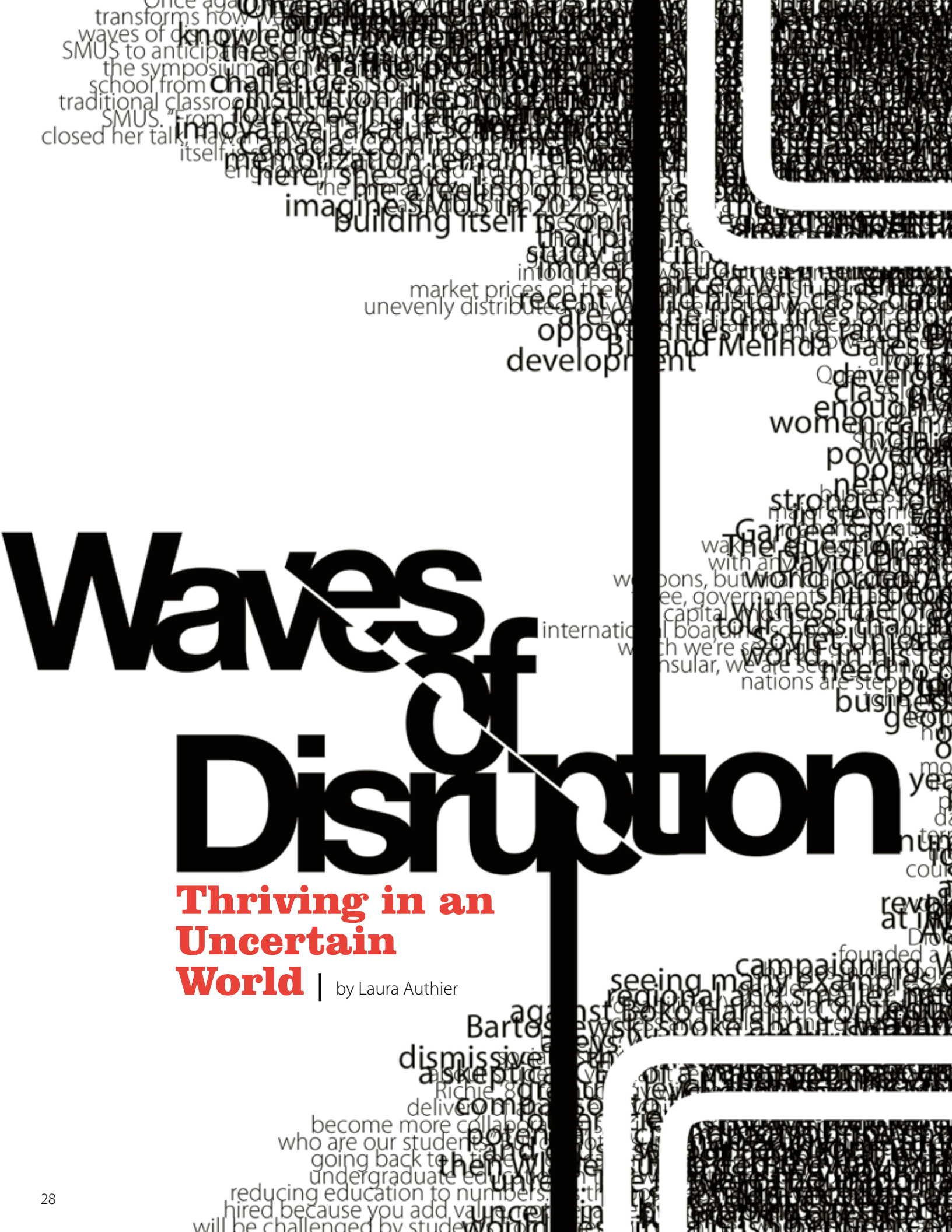
She had been living lawful in this city as if to pass for respectable and in this way absolve herself of a complicated life but as with anything it had not helped. She had been calling herself LeRoche but her real name was Reckitt and ten years earlier she had been an associate of the notorious cracksman and thief Edward Shade. That man Shade was the one he really hunted and until last night the Reckitt woman had been his one certain lead. She'd had small sharp teeth, long white fingers, a voice low and vicious and lovely.

The night faded, the streets began to fill. In the upper windows of the building across the street a pale sky glinted, reflected the watery silhouettes below, the passing shadows of the early horses hauling their waggons, the huddled cloth caps and woollens of the outsides perched on their sacks. The iron-shod wheels chattering and squeaking in the cold. He coughed and lit a cigar and smoked in silence, his small deep-set eyes predatory as any cutthroat's.

After a time he ground the cigar under one heel and punched out his hat and put it on. He withdrew a revolver from his pocket and clicked it open and dialed through its chambers for something to do and when he could wait no longer he hitched up one shoulder and started across.


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Waves of Disruption

Thriving in an Uncertain World | by Laura Authier



Since its founding 110 years ago, St. Michaels University School has faced a series of disruptive forces in the political, financial, educational and social arenas that threatened its continued existence. Each time, the school adapted to pursue its mission of academic excellence in an environment where character is equally important.


Once again, currents are flowing that suggest the world is changing dramatically. Advances in brain research challenge our judgement on what works in the classroom. Technology transforms how we share our lives, our dreams and our knowledge. Financial upheaval occurs with a swiftness that ignores rules and borders. What can we do to steady the ship in these waves of disruption?

In September, Head of School Bob Snowden gathered a group of alumni, students, parents and staff to probe and discuss these questions. Their goal was to enable SMUS to anticipate, address and adapt to the challenges so the school continues to flourish.

Setting the Context: The Student View

Appropriately for a student-focused institution like SMUS, the symposium opened and closed with talks by those who are most impacted by these disruptive forces. Rawan Al Maawali, a Grade 12 student who came to the school from Oman as part of the innovative Takatuf Scholars program, focused on the cultural differences she has observed during two years in Canada. Coming from a very traditional classroom culture where rigid adherence to the textbook and long days of rote memorization remain the norm, Rawan expressed her appreciation for the whole-student focus at SMUS. "From there to here," she said, "I am a better student; from there to here, I am a better person," where involvement in the school "gives me a feeling of beauty and happiness."

As she closed her talk, Rawan asked her audience to close their eyes and imagine SMUS in 2025. "Notice the whole structure of the school is different," she urged. "Windows are wide and the building itself is sophisticated and modern." In the library, we see students reading but there are no books. We see posters that play music for an upcoming concert. In the classrooms, students are engaged in self-directed study and in other smaller rooms they hold passionate debates with their teachers. Field trips that immerse students in their education are among the primary courses on offer because all theory is balanced with practical learning.



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currently, currents are
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David Chmiel '91

Globalism

As essential as globalism is to a SMUS education, recent world history casts doubt on the inevitability of a more connected world. The symposium's alumni presenters work on the front lines of globalization, and each provided unique insight into the challenges and opportunities from a range of perspectives.

As director of development policy and finance for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Gargee Ghosh '93 has tackled problems of human and social development for more than a decade. She says trends that include greater consumption because of the rise of the middle class globally; the pensioner bulge that calls into question whether there are enough young people to support the old; and, of course, technology are among those that have the greatest impact on development.

"Kenyan women can reference the best market prices on their mobile phones. Students in India can access Stanford classes online," Gargee told the audience. But the power of technology is still unevenly distributed – only a quarter of the world's population have access to the Internet, she said, either because of a limited network or because of illiteracy.

Even as capitalism and consumption gains a stronger foothold around the world, it's still not certain that democracy will grow in step. "Empowered people threaten governments who are not ready to listen," Gargee says, "and empowered people don't always agree about how to go forward."

The question about democracy's future hung in the air when Tony Quaintain '46 addressed the ideas of globalism and isolation in the emerging world order. A long-time participant in global politics who has seen several seismic shifts, Tony talked about lining the parade route in Victoria as a young child to witness the only visit of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth during their 1939 royal tour. Less than a decade later, the British Empire was in decline while the US and the Soviet Union took its place, with this balance of power eventually giving way to today's polarized world.

In his follow-up to Tony's talk, David Chmiel '91 reminded the audience that you need to be over 75 years old to have lived in a time when the US was not the political, economic or military backstop of the world. Now he is advising businesses that operate internationally to understand the trends in a time of geopolitical uncertainty. The three major movements he briefs his clients on are what he calls the "weaponization of capital," the consequences of living in an information/disinformation age, and the re-emergence of nationalistic thinking in international politics.

"In the wake of 15 years of mixed results from military interventions there is absolutely no political will in the west anymore to deal with anything but the most existential crises," David said. "When countries refer to the nuclear option, they no longer mean weapons, but financial warfare." As the number of countries to maintain NATO's defined minimum spending on defence dwindles to five, governments are acting instead with sanctions – Russia and Ukraine are two recent examples. Countries are also weaponizing capital – most significantly for

“Empowered people threaten governments who are not ready to listen,” Gargee says, “and empowered people don’t always agree about how to go forward.”

a school like SMUS – by revoking study visas held by children of prominent Russians studying at international boarding schools.

Citing the Brexit campaign for creating a cynical atmosphere in politics, David also talked about the trend in which we’re seeing a loose relationship with the truth in political campaigning. With the world community seemingly becoming more insular, we are seeing many examples of an increasingly multipolar world. Conflict is more regional and smaller nations are stepping into the gap, such as West Africa’s consuming fight against Boko Haram.

Continuing with a similar tone, historian and cybersecurity consultant Wladek Bartoszewski spoke about the unpredictable nature of technology and its ability to lead us down blind alleys where the future of our way of life – and even our humanity – is at

stake. Many of us tend to be dismissive of the threats technology poses to our privacy, Wladek said. Driving the point home, he said he recently demonstrated to a skeptical CEO of a major company that his movements over the last month could be tracked to the most granular level, thanks to his unsecured iPad.

But privacy issues pale in comparison to the looming uncertainty posed by artificial intelligence (AI). Stephen Hawking and many other scientists have warned of the dangers of pursuing AI without a greater understanding of the potential social impacts. In the short term, AI technology such as self-driving cars could make mistakes and cause serious accidents. But in the long term, if AI takes over jobs at the rates currently predicted, then Wladek suggested the result could be an uprising of unemployed workers and other forms of social unrest.



The Future of Education and the Workplace

The second day of the symposium focused on the future of education and the workplace. Douglas Freeman '88 returned to the theme of global uncertainty by recalling a lesson from his English teacher Grenfell Featherstone '67. "In classes, Grenfell would describe a push between a Dionysian world, which is a world of chaos, and an Apollonian world, which is a world of order." It seems we're gravitating toward the Dionysian world.

Having founded a business that helps foster sustainable diversity in workplaces, Douglas has been focused on recent changes in demographics and attitudes that speak to a changing world. Besides the long-standing workplace shifts in gender, age and race, Douglas is also seeing major swings in abilities (or what we would have traditionally referred to as "disabilities"), in sexual orientation and in gender identity.

The important tasks for institutions like SMUS, Douglas said, is to determine access and scale. In the emerging world, who gets access to schools like SMUS and why? Does access mean inside the school walls or beyond? And when we think about scale, are we thinking about how the school transforms Victoria, Canada or the world?

"In these times of social disruption, think about how you're going to extend the SMUS brand of exceptional achievement beyond these walls," Douglas said. "Think about students you can't see in South Africa, Malaysia, Toronto – how are you going to make an impact there?"

According to historian and academic Alex Richie '81, technology will be a major force in helping the school make an impact beyond its walls. "What does the future look like?" Alex asked. "Digital delivery of almost everything. More emphasis on interactive tools. Digital youth networks and digital portfolios that will replace the traditional CV. We will become more collaborative, sharing information and connecting more. There will be more blended learning and methods that address the needs of the digital natives who are our students."

But do not assume the rise of technology means a decline in post-secondary education. In fact, Alex argued, everything old is new again: "We're going back to a time in education when the formation of character was important, when we learned how to learn," she said. "In my view, something went wrong in undergraduate education in the twentieth century – so many people had to be processed that standardized testing took over. We were jumping through hoops and reducing education to numbers."

As the post-secondary world and the workplace change, it's going to be less about the degree you get, Alex said. In the future, you will be hired because you add value, not because of a piece of paper. As a result, the sense of entitlement she sometimes sees in students from western Europe and North America will be challenged by students from emerging countries who are hungry and willing to work hard.

The Disruptors



Wladyslaw Bartoszewski, PhD, Warsaw, Poland

Wladyslaw is vice president of Exatel S.A., involved in cybersecurity issues, as well as chairman of the W. Bartoszewski Chair of History and International Studies at the Collegium Civitas in Warsaw. A management consultant, director, investment banker, social anthropologist and historian, he received his MA in anthropology and history at the University of Warsaw and his PhD in social anthropology from the University of Cambridge and has taught at many universities including Warwick University and the University of Oxford.



David Chmiel '91, London, England

David is the managing director of Global Torchlight, advising on geopolitical risk with a particular emphasis on issues in East and South Asia, Russia and the CIS as well as issues related to the politicization of international trade and commerce and the regulation of foreign direct investment for national security purposes. David holds an MA from the War Studies Department at King's College London, an LLB (Hons) degree from University College London and a BA from the University of Victoria.



Gargee Ghosh '93, Washington, DC

Gargee is the director of development policy and finance at Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, leading the team that supports ideas and innovations in policymaking at the global and national levels to advance human development and address extreme poverty. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Victoria, a master's degree in economics from the University of Oxford and a master's degree from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service.



Douglas Freeman, '88, New York, NY

Douglas is the CEO of Virtcom Consulting, a global diversity and inclusion consultancy that has developed a sophisticated line of client offerings called inclusive business solutions, which provide corporations with a deep portfolio of holistic diversity and inclusion best practices, customized to specific client business needs. Douglas received a master of public policy degree from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and a BA from University of California, Berkeley.



Ann Glazier Rothwell, '85, Victoria, BC

Ann is the Head of Business Development at RP Investment Advisors, a specialized fixed-income manager based in Toronto. A chartered financial analyst with more than 20 years of experience in Canadian capital markets and alternative investment strategies, Ann was named one of 50 Leading Women in Hedge Funds by the Ernst & Young and Hedge Fund Journal's global survey. Ann is a graduate of UBC's Sauder School of Business, where she was a Leslie Wong Fellow.



Robert Jawl '00, Victoria, BC

Robert is managing director with Jawl Properties Ltd, a Victoria-based owner, manager and developer of commercial real estate. Before getting into commercial property development, Robert was an analyst in the Investment Banking Division of Goldman Sachs and Co. Robert holds a degree in economics from UPenn's Wharton School of Business and a master of science in sustainable urban development from Oxford University.



Chris Noel, '98, Victoria, BC

Chris is the CEO and co-founder of Ticket Rocket and managing partner of Hipwood Digital. His background in business development and strategy has led Chris to found numerous businesses in Victoria and abroad. Outside of his work life Chris is very active in the local sports community, and can be spotted on the soccer pitch or rugby field, or helping out in the arts and music scenes.



Dr. Anthony (Tony) Quainton '46, Washington, DC

Tony is the Diplomat-in-Residence at the School of International Service at American University. Tony joined the United States Foreign Service in 1959, beginning a long and distinguished career including ambassadorships to the Central African Empire, Nicaragua, Kuwait and Peru as well as appointments as Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security and Director General of the Foreign Service. Tony completed his BA at Princeton University in 1955, and attended Oxford University as Marshall Scholar completing his BLitt in 1958.



Dr. Alexandra Richie '81, Warsaw, Poland

Alex is an historian of Germany, Central and Eastern Europe with a specialization in defense and security issues. She is the author of Faust's Metropolis: A History of Berlin and Warsaw 1944 which won the Newsweek Teresa Toranska Prize for best non-fiction book of 2014. She completed her BA (Hon) in political science at the University of Victoria and went on to study at St Antony's College, Oxford, where she wrote her doctoral thesis on the politics of history in East and West Germany.

SMUS

Past and Future

In an alumni panel discussion that included financial strategist Ann Glazier Rothwell '85, commercial developer Rob Jawl '00 and tech entrepreneur Chris Noel '98, the dialogue turned toward their own experience as students and they were asked to comment on the enduring lessons they'd received from their time at SMUS.

"The lesson I took away is the idea of finding your own motivation, your own challenges," Ann said. My experience was shaped by the fact that I came here when they had just started accepting girls. It was an environment that was embracing change but it was also a challenge. I used a lot from that experience when I entered a male-dominated industry like finance."

For Rob, the SMUS of the future is rooted in what has made it successful in the past. “The notion of a school as an idyllic island of learning is a relic,” he said. “Folks who are successful are those who open their doors and minds and embrace an array of inputs – no one has a monopoly on good ideas. One of the things that is most encouraging about an event like this symposium is that the school has been a leader in opening its doors. It’s great to see that SMUS has an outward-looking mindset.”

As the symposium wound down, Grade 11 student Aysha Emerson talked about the incredible opportunity to discuss these issues and gain insights from so many experts. She also underlined

“Folks who are successful are those who open their doors and minds and embrace an array of inputs – no one has a monopoly on good ideas.”

Rob came away with the impression that at SMUS it's not only important what you do, but how you do it. "Sportsmanship, ethics, integrity, grace under pressure: those were the important life skills that developed the whole person," he said. He also appreciates that the school prioritized lifelong learning and curiosity by providing a full spectrum of life experiences. "Having outdoor ed on an equal footing with academics seemed forward-thinking. The school recognized that not all learning happens in the classroom."

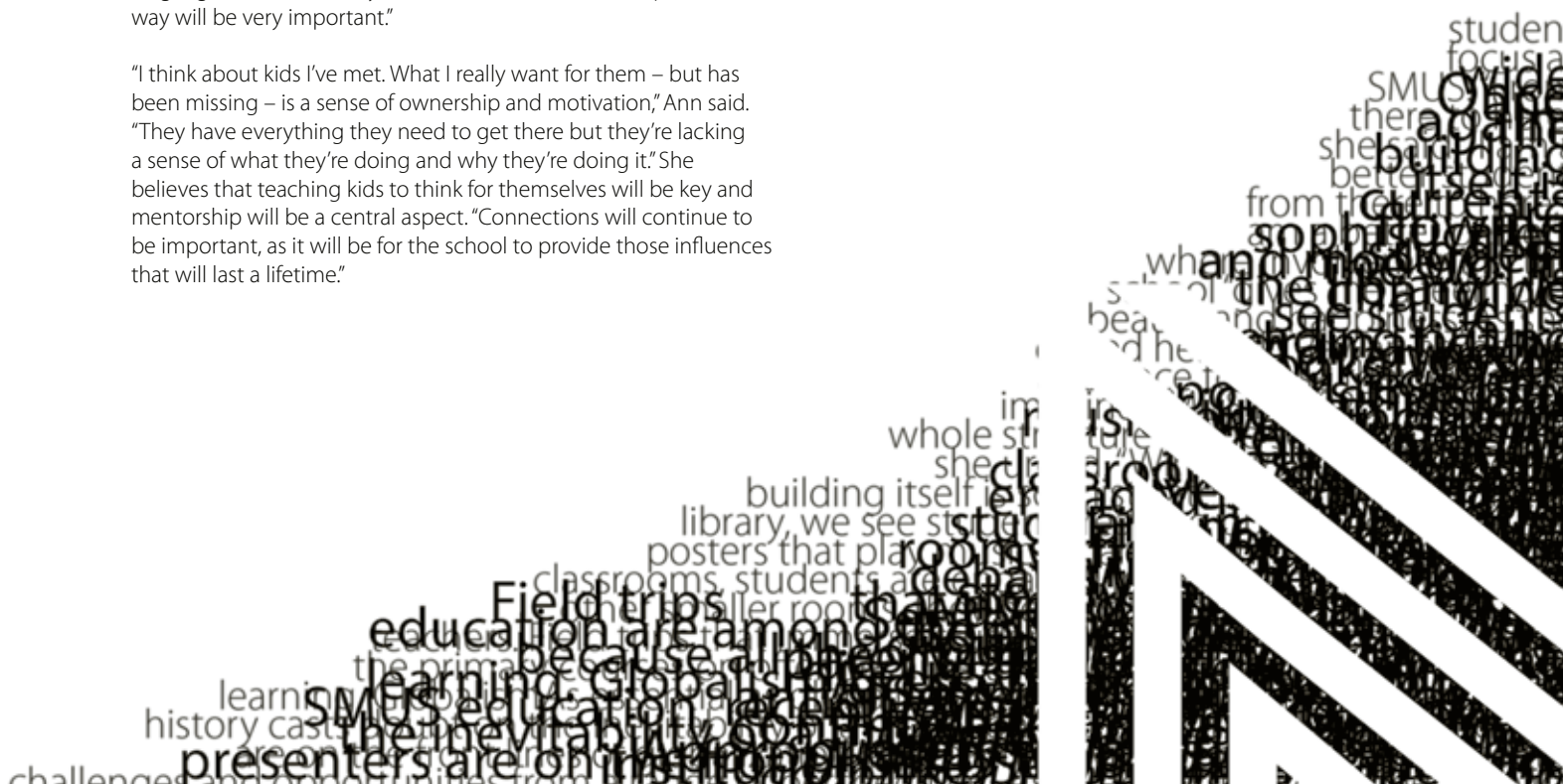
And what do they hope to see from the school in the future? “I hope the SMUS of the future spends time looking at soft skills,” said Chris. “So much comes down to people sitting across a table from each other and having a conversation. I find younger people somewhat lacking in those kind of skills – eye contact, body language – and the ability to connect one-on-one in a personal way will be very important.”

"I think about kids I've met. What I really want for them – but has been missing – is a sense of ownership and motivation," Ann said. "They have everything they need to get there but they're lacking a sense of what they're doing and why they're doing it." She believes that teaching kids to think for themselves will be key and mentorship will be a central aspect. "Connections will continue to be important, as it will be for the school to provide those influences that will last a lifetime."

the daunting task she and fellow student Sean Finamore had in closing the symposium. They wanted to share something the assembled quests didn't already know.

Asked to speak on the theme “Give me a compass, I’ll do the rest,” Aysha acknowledged that she and Sean felt momentarily overwhelmed by the many different directions in which their talks could go but they found inspiration in the cardinal points of the compass.

"North: Challenge me to think critically. South: push me to find myself. East: nurture my needs as a learner. West: encourage me to travel my own path. Give me these points and I will be able to navigate my future."





From the Archives

SCHOOL MEMORABILIA FROM WHITEHORSE, YUKON

The Archives recently received some interesting University School memorabilia from the Taylor family in Whitehorse. Charlie Taylor attended University School from 1926–1930 and his son, Gordon, from 1959–1964. The consignment was mostly in the form of photographs, of which there were plenty.



Pictured are two items: one is quite obviously impressive, while the other needs some explanation to see its true value. Above is a 1920s University School Cadet Uniform. It is khaki battle dress with red epaulets and old University School insignia. A forage cap, together with bloomer pants, to which puttees were added from the knees down completes the ensemble. It's one of a kind for the Archives, and seen by Archivist Brenda Waksel as a real treasure.



The least impressive of the photos is a pile of rubble stacked along the west side of Brown Hall. These rough looking bricks were obtained in 1961 from a demolished building on the site of the Royal Jubilee Hospital and would likely have been used for something like landfill. As the chapel was in its early days of construction and Ernie Hudson, University School parent and later a SMUS benefactor, was the owner of a local building supply company, Stewart & Hudson, he provided the truck to transport the bricks to the school. The loading and unloading was done by student volunteers, who then undertook the arduous task of making each brick ready for reuse: a long and painstaking task, but as the saying goes "many hands make light labour." Given the availability of volunteer student labour and Ernie Hudson's munificence, this whole operation was done at no cost!

The most amazing thing is that this very unimpressive photo can inspire such impressive memories of an inspiring achievement: the building of our Chapel, dedicated in 1962.



The SMUS Roll of Honour 2.0

For decades, the school's Remembrance Day Service has been a highlight of the Fall term. With an emphasis on our historical connections to the Great Wars and our responsibility to remember those who served, the service is a stark reminder of our good fortune. In many opinions, it is one of our best events of the year.

Some time ago, Colin Skinner had a vision of snuffing out a candle to represent each of those from St. Michael's School and University School who died in the World Wars. The tradition has been carried on each year since and this year technology allowed us to add another layer to the imagery.

SMUS archivists Rob Wilson and Brenda Waksel spent many hours compiling photos of the names from the Roll of Honour in order to project them onto the screen during the service. It was a huge success and provided some excellent context for the student body.

We hope to expand our collection of portraits from the Roll of Honour and to improve the quality of others. If your personal photo collections have any portraits of these brave young men, please contact Brenda Waksel at brenda.waksel@smus.ca

World War I

Baxter, C.
Beanlands, P.
Booth, A.D.
Bostock, A.H.
Chipman, R.
Christie, E.

Clayton, E.E.
Corsan, K.
Douglas, C.D.
Dunsmuir, J.
Fyson, G.
Holland, J.D.C.

Pryce-Jones, R.E.
Smith, W.F.
Startin, J.
Torey, G.A.
Wilbraham-Taylor, A.
Worsfold, B.

St. Michael's School

Carmichael, Brian
Crane, Alan
Curtis, Edward
Deakin, Arthur
Fulton, Jack

Golby, Tom
Heurtley, John
Idens, Richard
Mair, Jock
Martin, Sarsfield

Playfair, Anthony
Richardson, Patrick
Rose, Stephen
Twigg, Jack

University School and World War II

Ardies-Johnston, J.
Borden, R.H.M.
Brown, J. K.
Calvert, J.H.K.
Campbell, K.C.
Chapman, D.H.J.

Ditmars, E.S.
Hopkins, R.I.
Horsfield, R.W.
Mackenzie, J.S.
Nixon, R.F.W.
Pinhorn, A.J.

Parker, G.F.
Robinson, E.H.
Sutherland-Brown, I.M.
Scott, W.C.

Vivat Awards 2016

At the school's Founders' and Scholars' Dinner in late October, Head of School Bob Snowden presented five members of our community with a Vivat Award, which is the highest honour the school can bestow on someone who has made a longstanding and significant contribution to the school.

Chris Considine QC '70, Hugh McGillivray '64, Terry Harper, Kathy Jawl and Paul Merrick were each presented with an award.

Chris Considine



Chris Considine QC '70 is a longtime board member, an alumnus and a generous donor to scholarship funds. "He has long served the school and made numerous contributions at key times in the school's history."

Hugh McGillivray



Hugh McGillivray '64 is an alumnus and longstanding supporter of financial aid. "He is a great supporter of our scholarship programs and has helped many students thrive at SMUS. We are very fortunate that he is so active in promoting the growth of endowment at the school."

Terry Harper



Terry Harper and her family have donated to the school for many years and have helped steer our school in many ways. "Terry was the catalyst behind the school's first strategic plan: she funded it and made sure it happened."

Kathy Jawl



Kathy Jawl was a long serving board member and longtime supporter of advancement. "She sat on the board for nearly 10 years, including as vice-chair, sent three kids to SMUS, and she and her family have had a very positive influence on the school community, especially in our advancement goals."

Paul Merrick



Paul Merrick is the architect of the school's facilities redevelopment plans. Instrumental in Schaffter Hall, the Crothall Centre, the School House and boarding house renovations, The Monkman Athletic Complex, as well as the upcoming Sun Centre, Mr. Merrick "has created buildings that have transformed the campus, but also retained its historic character."

Since the Vivat Awards were established, 11 individuals have received the honour. Past recipients include Tony Quainton '46, Graeme Crothall, Tom Rigos '61, Stephen Martin, David Angus and Brian Graves '42.



Sidney Rich '10

In order to do further research for the forthcoming documentary about Sidney Rich '10 (1910), filmmakers Kathy Cuthbert and Cliff Caprani (pictured above) travelled to shoot in the UK and Belgium. "I like to tell stories in the places where the events take place," says Cliff on the website SidneyRich.ca. "There's just something about being there." Ross Friesen, a member of Sidney's family and the cameraman on the project, joined the trip to Europe, where they met up with Stephen Binks, a First World War expert. The film will premiere June 2 at the Genesis Theatre in Vancouver.



Tony Wilson QC '74

Tony Wilson '74 was recognized for his outstanding contributions to the legal profession and was appointed Queen's Council in December 2016. Tony practices in the areas of franchising, licensing and IP law and is an Adjunct Professor at Simon Fraser University, Thompson Rivers University Law School, and a Bencher of the Law Society of British Columbia. He is also an author and regular business columnist for the *Globe and Mail* and *Lawyers Weekly*.

Alumni Updates



Gareth Rees '85

Gareth Rees '85 had the chance to reunite with his Eton College rugby protégé, Prince William, while the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge were in Canada in September. Rees, now the director of commercial projects and relations for Rugby Canada, took eight of the Canadian Rio Olympics bronze medal-winning women's rugby players to Vancouver to meet the prince. "It was quite an impressive group at Eton," Rees said in the *Victoria Times Colonist*. "I look back and think, 'was this little old me from Victoria actually in the midst of all this?' It was an amazing time."



Jason Kenney '86

In July, 2016, Jason Kenney '86 announced his intention to run for the leadership of the Progressive Conservative Association of Alberta in that party's 2017 leadership election. Jason resigned his seat in parliament in September of 2016 after sitting in the House of Commons for 19 years.



Suzanne Bradbury '88 and Jayne Bradbury '98

Bradbury sisters Suzanne '88 and Jayne '98 were featured on the cover of the Dec/Jan Entrepreneur issue of *Douglas* magazine.

As co-owners of Fort Properties Ltd. they were the driving force behind the Fort Common District, the "latest and most dramatic piece of an urban renewal project" based around Fort and Blanshard Streets in Victoria, writes Cinda Chavich. They transformed "a 'dead zone' into a lively cultural corner and food hub" where locals can "dine, shop and gather after a workout at the Y, a visit to the library or a night at the symphony."



Marvin Nicholson '89

Congratulations to Marvin Nicholson '89 and his new wife Helen Pajcic on their recent nuptials. US President Barack Obama was one of Nicholson's groomsmen, and Secretary of State John Kerry officiated.



Stewart Butterfield '91

In the December issue of Victoria's *Douglas Magazine*, Stewart Butterfield '91 holds court on the tech industry and what the future may look like. "If you look at Silicon Valley and tech start-ups, there are thousands of people doing tens of thousands of different things," he says. "It's a little bit like a lot of monkeys banging on typewriters – you'll get a handful of things that are successful because people are approaching things from all different angles."



Sarah Donald '90

Sarah Donald '90 took on the role of Jill Daum, in *Mom's the Word*, at The Belfry Theatre in August. It marked the first time the play has been produced without the original cast and the first time in Victoria since 1995. "I love Jill," Sarah said in the *Oak Bay News*. "She loves being a mother – we all do – but she really embraces the whole journey. She finds the beauty in so many things."



Cari Burdett '92

Awarded Vocalist of the Year in February of 2016 at the Vancouver Island Music Awards (among five other nominations), Cari Burdett '92 continued her genre-defying musical journey with tour dates around Vancouver Island. In September, she released a video for *Wild is the Wind*, from her latest album, *Magnolia*.



Markus Kirk '96

Markus Kirk '96 wrote in to let us know he received tenure as a business school professor at the University of Florida where he's taught since 2009. He is now a PricewaterhouseCoopers Associate Professor. In addition, *Poets and Quants* named him one of the World's Best 40 Under 40 Business School Professors for 2016. You can read the entire article on their website.



Bryce Soderberg '98

Radio.com interviewed bassist Bryce Soderberg '98 about his Alt-pop project Komox and their forthcoming album. He talked about his influences, collaborating with Nine Inch Nails sideman Alessandro Cortini, and the opportunity to make music that's different from his most well-known project, Lifehouse.



David Ingle '00

David Ingle '00 and his wife Jennifer Ingle (née Demers) wrote in to announce the birth of Hannah Louise Ingle on March 21, 2016. "She has her school uniform on and is ready to join the SMUS family!"



Jelena Mrdjenovich '00

In January, Jelena returned to SMUS for career day and was honoured with a display case in the Monkman Athletic Complex to highlight her achievements in the boxing world.



Anne-Marie (Pohorecky) Haddock '02

Anne-Marie Haddock (née Pohorecky) '02 wrote in to tell us that she and her husband, Colin, welcomed their daughter, Evangeline (Evie), in June 2016, after three years of married life. Currently on maternity leave, Anne-Marie says she is enjoying a different pace of life from her role as a marketing director in downtown Vancouver.



Felicia Chapheau '06

Felicia Chapheau '06 emailed to announce that she married Brenden Somerville in Toronto on June 4, 2016. SMUS alumni at the wedding included Stephan Chapheau '99, Christopher Chapheau '02, Taylor McKinnon '06, Gabrielle Quinlan '06, Sarah Goulding '06, Morgan-Lee Kliman '06, Lauren Johnson '06, Hayley Hudson '06, Matina Somlai '06 and Susan Ben-Oliel '82.



Nicole (Edgar) Laird '07

Nicole (Edgar) Laird '07 married Philip Laird on May 14, 2016 at Glad Tidings Church in Victoria. Guests with a SMUS connection included Joshua Edgar '10 (groomsman), John and Heidi Edgar, Samantha Shong (maid-of-honour) and Linda Shew. After the wedding they spent two amazing weeks travelling around France for their honeymoon. They are now settling down in Victoria, close to family and friends.



Josh Evans '08

Josh Evans '08 took a few minutes to send us an update. "The last few years with Nordic Food Lab have been very rich," he wrote. "I left at the end of May, after finishing a three-year research project on edible insects – we produced a documentary which is touring festivals now, and a book that will come out next spring. Soon I move to Cambridge to begin an MPhil in History and Philosophy of Science, and then start a PhD in Geography at Oxford next fall. I still think fondly of SMUS, and all the ways it enriched me while I was there."



Mike Fuailefau '10, Mike Pyke '02 and Luke McCloskey '10

Mike Fuailefau '10, Mike Pyke '02 and Luke McCloskey '10 had some time to catch up prior to the start of the Sydney 7s tournament, which is Stage 4 of the World Rugby 7s. Both Fuailefau and McCloskey suited-up for Canada in the tournament.



Cormac O'Brien '13 and Fintan O'Brien '14

O'Brien brothers Cormac '13 and Fintan '14 were featured along with their family band, the O'Briens, in the December issue of *YAM Magazine*. Fintan is embarking on a solo career, backed by local promoter Nick Blasco and Grammy-winning producer Joby Baker. Guitarist Joe Avio '15 has also backed Fintan in his solo band.



Callum Montgomery '15

Sophomore soccer defender Callum Montgomery '15 was named second-team Academic All-American by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). Playing Division 1 soccer for the Charlotte 49ers at the University of North Carolina, Montgomery became the fifth 49ers men's soccer player to earn All-American honors. Earlier in the year, he was named to the Conference USA All-Academic team.



Athena Kerins '15

Athena Kerins '15, who is currently studying at Sciences Po in Paris, France, visited with some of our Grade 11 and 12 students in January to offer up advice on transitioning from high school to university.



Sarah Hagkull '16 and Avnashi Dhillon '15

It was great to see Avnashi Dhillon '15 and Sarah Hagkull '16 out to support the Senior boys basketball team at the St. Thomas More Collegiate tournament in Vancouver.



Ann Makosinski '15

Congratulations to Ann Makosinski '15 on being named to the 2017 Forbes 30 Under 30 in the energy industry. Appearances on *CBC News*, *CTV News*, *CTV Morning Live* and in *The Victoria Times Colonist* followed. She was also named Young Inventor of the Year in *Popular Science* magazine and by the website A Mighty Girl.



Jasper Johnston '16

Jasper Johnston '16 was featured in the *Harvard Gazette* for his ongoing Instagram documentation of his first 100 days at Harvard (He's now on his second 100 days!). Johnston's project, aptly titled "100 Days of Harvard", has him posting an architectural photograph a day from his new Ivy League campus. "It came from the idea of the first 100 days in political office or a job being really crucial and important," he said in the article.

PASSAGES

Albert Levy '39: Carpenter, Chef, Gardener 1925–2016

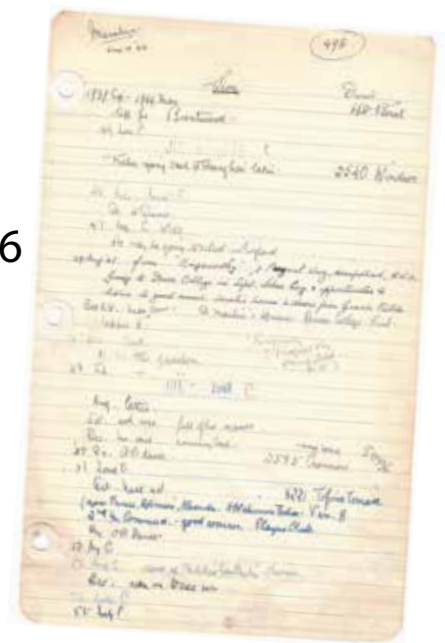
Albert Levy was born in Shanghai, China, to a prominent Jewish family that traced its roots back to Baghdad. His parents were Solomon and Vera Levy, who brought Bertie and his younger brother Dennis to Victoria. They both attended St. Michael's School and Brentwood College. The boys Bertie met in both communities remained close friends for the rest of their lives.

He excelled in woodwork and developed a lifelong passion for exotic woods, furniture-making and carpentry. He also collected and propagated plants and seeds, and was a marvelous cook who

took great delight in creating epicurean dishes, especially with vegetables from his own garden. His curries were famous and he loved to share his recipes.

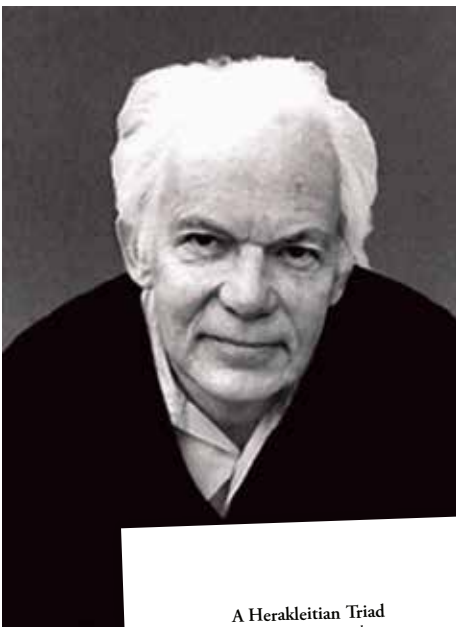
Bertie will be remembered for his courtly manner, his warmth and humour, his boundless energy and the unmistakable twinkle in his eye.

He is survived by his wife Pamela (née Owen-Flood) and children Eve, Margot, Michael and Caroline, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



Notes on Albert from KC Symons' diary. It seems they were written from 1939 (when Albert arrived) until 1958. The shorthand is difficult to decipher, but two entries in 1947 suggest that he may have been destined for school in England. It also seems Albert liked "Eng. + opportunities to listen to good music" (1947).

Allan Brown '51: Prolific Writer 1934–2016



This is excerpted from the obituary in the Powell River Peak and from various "About the Author" blurbs on his many books.

An established Canadian poet, prolific writer, teacher and mentor to many, Allan Brown '51 passed away peacefully at home in Powell River. Allan was born and raised in Victoria close to his family's fish plant business. An early encounter with James Joyce's *Ulysses* and Beethoven's *Seventh Symphony* started his lifetime involvement with language and music. Allan entered University School in January 1949, after a fire burned down his first school, Brentwood College. He attended both the University of British

Columbia and Queen's University. While in Kingston, Allan was literary editor of *Quarry* magazine.

Having written his first poem at age 17, he went on to publish 24 volumes of poetry, 11 chapbooks, a journal and more than 500 literary reviews. Allan took a deeper interest in writing haiku poetry in his later years and published his final book, *Before the Dark* (Leaf 2014), which was dedicated to his longtime wife, Patricia, who had passed away.

Precision and clarity were his guiding principles and he was a good listener. Allan moved through life with a philosophy of acceptance and living in the present "as much as could be tolerated."

A Herakleitian Triad for George Sanderson

roads
The road goes up,
say the Downtown folk;
the road goes down,
say those in Uptown

rivers
Not
"twice—" dear me, no; you cannot
step into the same river once.

rollers
The logos? don't ask me.
Try those skateboarders circling
outside the temple of Artemis.

Considerations

Consider how
each naming, here a muse
there a muse, or somewhere
in between the yes and no
to no body's real surprise.

Consider also
that undeniable Greek Demokritos
who grew content (after a while)
with assuming pattern while
denying the taut relationships
of thing to thing, watching the bent
twig bud itself as one watches
moving water—wet, but complacent.

Poems from *Before the Dark* by Allan Brown.

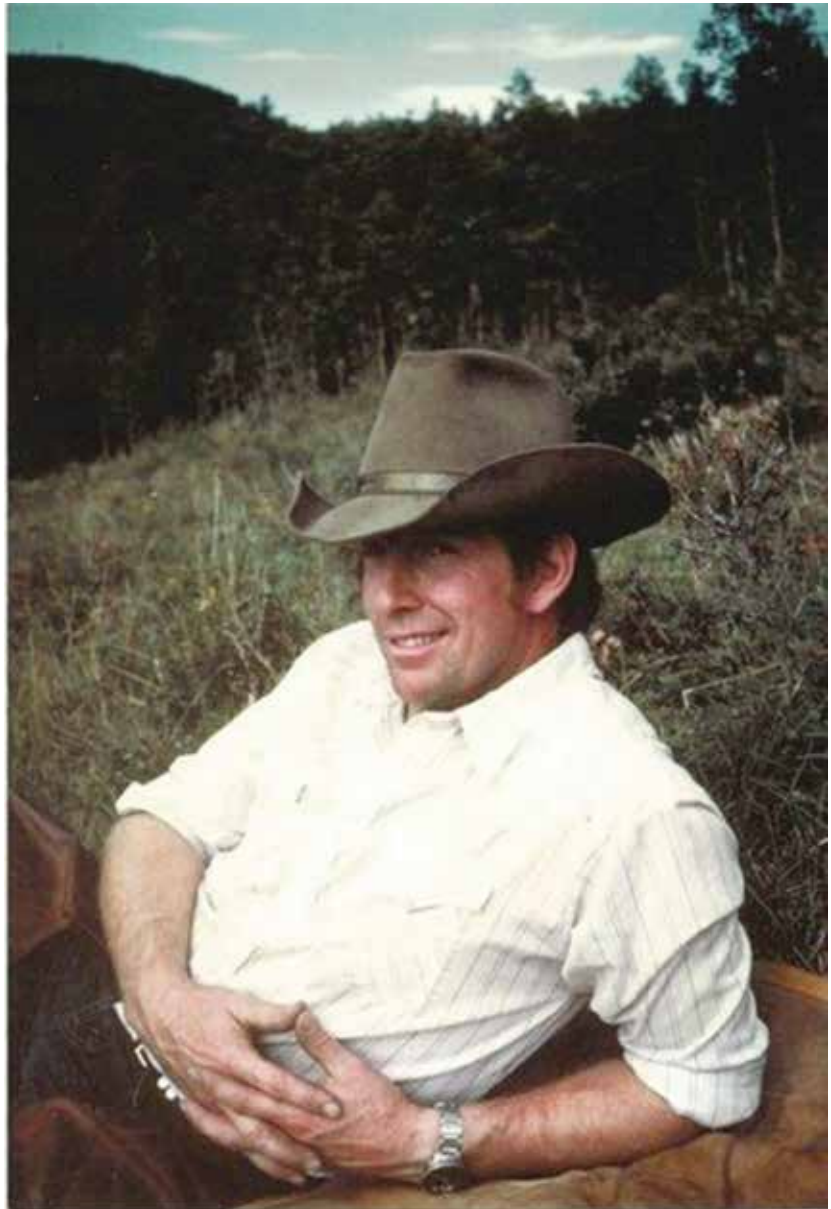
Francis Gardner '60: Renaissance Rancher 1942–2016

by Rob Wilson

In addition to his ranching roots in southern Alberta that stretched back to the late 1800s, Francis Gardner also had deep family roots in the school. His father, Richard, and uncle, Don, attended University School, while his son, Ian, graduated from SMUS.

After Francis completed his post-secondary education at Olds College and the University of Alberta, he took time to indulge in travel and other pursuits, which included attaining a pilot's license. In 1970, he became a third-generation rancher by taking over the Mount Sentinel Ranch in the Chain Lakes area of southern Alberta from his father. As the custodian of the ranch, Francis not only took care of his own land, but also became a strong and well-known advocate for the need to protect pasture land, water supply and the environment in general. In 1992, he won the first Environmental Stewardship Award from the Alberta Beef Producers. He was involved with several environment and government agencies and was described as a renaissance rancher who provided the community with ongoing inspiration over several decades. In 2005, he handed the ranch off to his daughter, Sarah.

Francis was highly respected in southern Alberta and his memorial service in High River attracted nearly 700 people. He was an occasional visitor to Victoria and always maintained a keen interest in the school.



2001 Alumni Weekend (Michael Kennaugh, Tom Rigos, Barry Phillips, Bill Monkman, Francis Gardner)

On a personal note, in the 1990s Chris Spicer and I held an Admissions/ Advancement reception in Nanton, Alberta, and stayed overnight at the Gardner ranch. Francis was quite excited to talk about his newest venture: selling organic cattle under their label Diamond Willow. Chris later arranged for the beef to be sold on the Island at Country Grocer – thanks to its owner, SMUS parent Leigh Large. The label has since sold and changed, but organic beef still flourishes as a food of choice. On visits to my family in Red Deer and St. Albert, I used to see Diamond Willow beef on display and it always made me think fondly of Francis and what he stood for.

Alumni Weekend 2017

APRIL 28 & 29

Mark your calendars. Alumni Weekend will be here before you know it!

Come back to campus to reconnect with old friends, meet new ones and see what's new on campus.

Did you graduate in a year that ends in 2 or 7? What about 1987 or earlier? Maybe the class of 1967? We have special events just for you – make sure you register!

smus.ca/alumni/events

If you would like help planning your reunion please contact Gillian Donald.
gillian.donald@smus.ca or 250.519.7508



Alumni

Distinguished Alumnus Award

The Distinguished Alumnus Award recognizes SMUS alumni who have excelled in their chosen field and who exemplify many of the core values of St. Michaels University School. Each year we select a different field and welcome nominations from across the school community. The selection process typically concludes in July and the award is presented the following October.

In 2017 we will recognize one of our alumni who has done remarkable work in the field of Literature. Nominees should demonstrate vision and innovation, dedication, achievement and accomplishment, as well as community involvement. To nominate an alumnus for the 2017 award, please complete the form online at smus.ca/alumni/daa

2017 Receptions & Notable Events



FEBRUARY 23-25

Senior School Musical,
Ragtime,
McPherson Playhouse



FEBRUARY 24

Spring Spark Open House, An
Open Day of Discovery at SMUS

Admissions visits Whitehorse,
Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver,
Seattle and Toronto



MARCH 1

Seattle Alumni
Reception



MARCH 2-4

Middle School Musical,
Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka,
McPherson Playhouse



MARCH

Admissions visits Brazil,
Courtenay, Comox
and Los Angeles



APRIL 20

New York Alumni
Reception



APRIL 28 & 29

Alumni Weekend

Admissions visits
San Francisco



JUNE 1 & 2

Junior School Musical,
Beauty and the Beast,
McPherson Playhouse

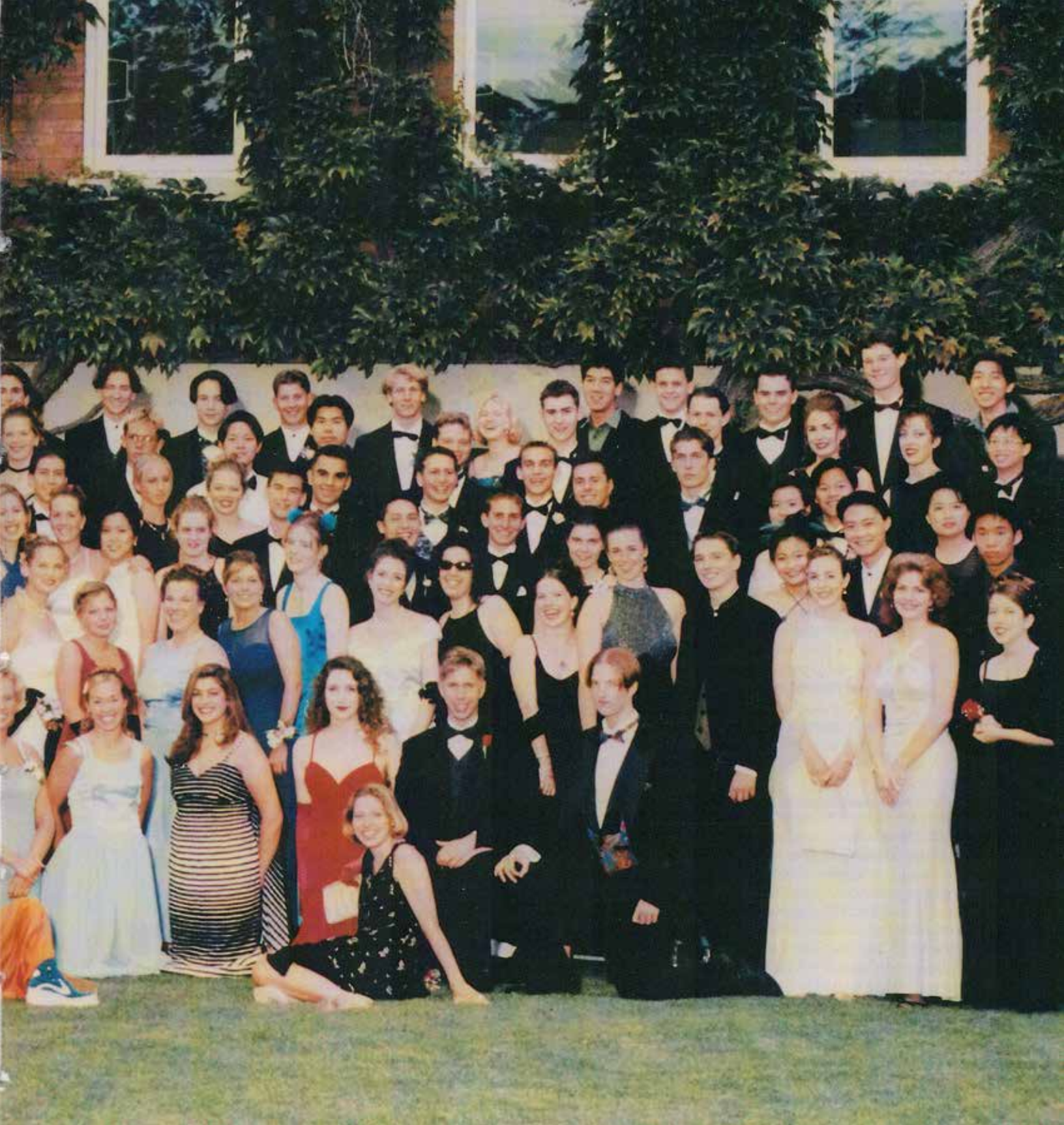
For more information about
Alumni events, contact
gillian.donald@smus.ca

For more information about
Admissions visits, contact
admissions@smus.ca



In the next issue:

- Farewell to Head of School Bob Snowden and retiring faculty
- Road-tripping to California with Bill Everett '40
- In Conversation with pilot Richard Cohen '01
- A recap of Alumni Weekend 2017
- Welcome to the Class of '17
- Your Alumni Updates



The Class of '97 are celebrating their 20-year reunion at Alumni Weekend.

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