



# SimonSays

Fall 2016 Vol XIII Number III

## Why Is the World's First Laser By an Award Winning Physicist with an Honorary Degree from SFU in a Box In a Vault in a Bank in Vancouver?

by Andrew Rawicz

May 16, 1960. In a small laboratory of Hughes Research Labs two young men, Theodore Maiman and his half-time technician and graduate student, Irnee D'Haenens, experimented on something that nobody had demonstrated before – a coherent light source. After adjusting the voltage on the flash lamp several times, they finally observed a strong red beam of light exiting the ruby crystal rod illuminated by the lamp. They tested the beam and determined that it was monochromatic and coherent. The laser was born.

Many things happened after a demonstration of what *Nature* magazine considered to be one of the most important inventions of the 20th century. They are described in Maiman's memoir *The Laser Odyssey*.

In 1999, Ted and his wife Kathleen moved to Vancouver. I met Maiman in 2000 and invited him to give a talk at SFU on the invention of the laser. Later we invited him to join the School of Engineering Science at SFU as an adjunct professor. He agreed and, in fact, he attended two of the School of Engineering Science retreats and contributed to the design of the Photonics and Biophotonics courses that we created. We became close friends and spent long hours talking about everything. In 2002, Maiman received an Honorary Degree from SFU and in his convocation speech he addressed students with the following words:

For those of you who are willing to take the risk of blazing new trails, you need to appreciate a reality of life: you will find that the more you deviate from conventional wisdom and the well-beaten paths, the more your consensus of agreement will diminish.

Naturally, if you achieve your goal in spite of going against

## In this issue

- 1 First Laser
- 2 President's Report
- 4 Lake District Exhibition at SFU Library and Online
- 5 On Reflection
- 6 Socialist Report
- 8 SFURA Walking Group's Hikes on Burnaby Mountain
- 10 Free Traders Have Failed Free Trade
- 12 Writing on the Edge
- 13 Mathematics Education Across Time and Place
- 14 It's All About You
- 17 Thelma Finlayson 1914-2016
- 18 My Most Memorable Moment at SFU
- 20 Editorial

*continued on page 3*



## SFURA Executive

**PRESIDENT**

John D'Auria

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Frances Atkinson

**TREASURER**

Jay Burr

**SECRETARY**

Jean Trask

**PAST PRESIDENT**

Jim Boyd

**BOARD MEMBER**

Allen Seager

**MEMBER AT LARGE**

Reo Audette

**MEMBER AT LARGE**

Thea Hinds

**MEMBER AT LARGE**

Walter Piovesan

**BOARD ADVISORS**

Len Evenden, Tom O'Shea,  
Evelyn Palmer

**NEWSLETTER**

Maurice Gibbons

**SPEAKER PROGRAM**

Yasmin Jamal

# President's Report

## John D'Auria

Greetings to all. The summer is essentially over and it is the start of the next academic year at SFU. This connects well with the activities of the SFURA as our new Administrative Assistant, Annie, opened the office on Sept. 1 following a 2-month hiatus. We hope everyone has had a wonderful time this summer and are looking forward to an active Fall. To complement your activities, we have scheduled three excellent seminars which I am sure you have been informed about. They involve academic, political and real action topics. The Welcome Back luncheon is set for September 29 with a new format at the DAC and we hope you can make it. If this newsletter arrives after the event, we hope you enjoyed it and can provide feedback for next year's Welcome Back. The Fall Dinner is set for early in November at the Burnaby Golf club. Suggestions for a guest speaker would be welcomed. There is also a plan to organize a trip to one of the B.C. Lions' football games. Of course the Walking group is still quite active every week.

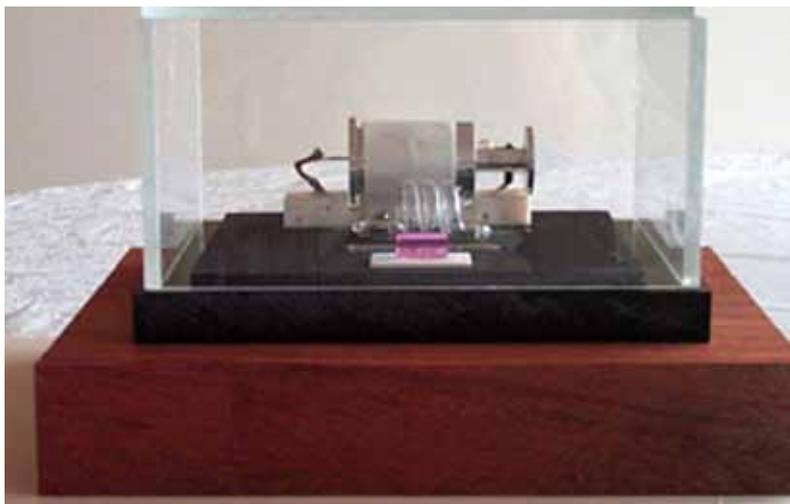
The focus of your SFURA Board at present is to increase the membership which is decreasing slowly. It is not clear why this is happening as we should have reached a steady state given that there is no longer a mandate to retire at a particular age. In fact this steady state should be higher as over 100 individuals retired this year and we only obtained 15% of them as new members. Your assistance with ideas would be appreciated. Other areas under consideration are redoing the constitution which needs updating due to changes made by the Government. Another item under consideration is a proposed program to mentor present SFU faculty and staff on plans for their retirement. We are also still working on a proposal to improve the care and storage of old photos taken in the early days at SFU. We are also planning a second workshop for SFU employees who are considering retirement to be held in December for those present SFU employees planning to retire. We are playing a role in this event and hopefully this leads to increasing membership. Another issue we will be assisting with is consulting the SFUFA on its development of new contractual arrangements with the University in the area of benefits, particularly those involving retirement.

Looking forward to seeing you at our events and please feel free to provide ideas for future activities that you think would interest our members.

*continued from page1*

established views, it is especially sweet. But even if your goal is not achieved, there is still a rich reward for your choice. You will experience the thrill and excitement of an adventure. I assure you it will not be boring.

At over 70, Ted's age did not slow him down in his research projects. One sizeable room in the Maimans' home in Vancouver, was converted to a lab/workshop where Maiman spent hours working on a vertical start airplane. This project was quite distinct from his work on the laser, but in it he utilized a laser-based gyroscope. His involvement in the School of Engineering Science at SFU was invaluable as he helped us to design Biophotonics, an academic program very close to his heart and the first of its kind in North America. Theodore Maiman passed away on May 5, 2007 in Vancouver General Hospital, taking with him a number of great inventions and discoveries that he had conceived. On May 16th of the same year, the date of the 47th anniversary of the invention of the laser, Simon Fraser University organized a tribute to Maiman to celebrate his eventful life. Many friends and collaborators from the early days arrived and gave their accounts of his life, many of them focusing on him as an exemplary human being. Irnee D'Haenens, Maiman's collaborator, dear



friend and a witness of the first laser trial, summarized the events preceding the demonstration of the first coherent light beam. The slate of speakers was concluded by Kathleen, Maiman's wife and friend of 23 years. Coincidentally, Irnee D'Haenens died of cancer just before Christmas in 2007.

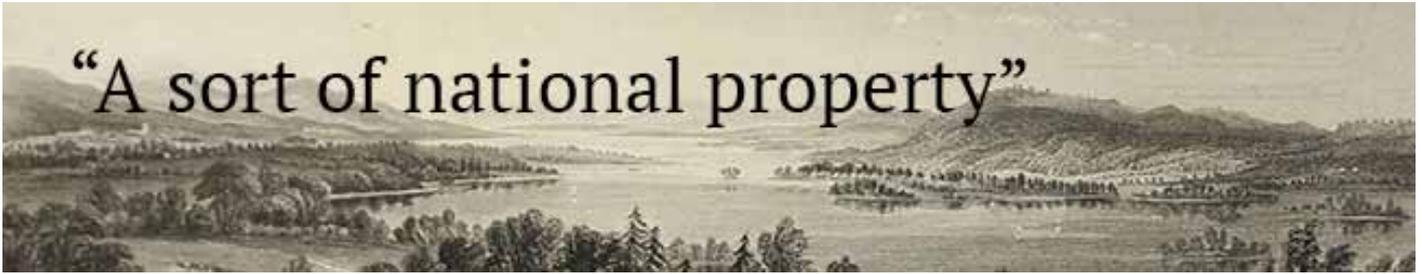
Ted's mentorship had a strong influence on my life. In his work towards the laser, Ted had a budget of only \$50,000 and the assistance of a half time technician. Researchers at Bell labs and Columbia University, with a three million dollar budget and an eight months head start did not make a laser. The conclusion for me was obvious: one does not need a lot of money to have a scientific accomplishment, but one must focus on solving a problem at hand and not on spending the money.

Maiman died on May 5, 2007. His first working laser is stored in a safety deposit box in a bank in downtown Vancouver. The white box has a label scrawled on top in bright red ink: "Maiman's laser." ❖



# Lake District Exhibition at SFU Library and Online

by Jared Curtis  
Seattle, WA



In June 2016 I traveled to Vancouver BC to take part in the launch of a joint exhibition by the Wordsworth Trust in Grasmere, England, and Simon Fraser University Library, Special Collections, in Burnaby, BC. Margaret Linley, Professor of English at SFU, welcomed the audience and spoke about the Library's exhibition, "Wordsworth Country: The English Lake District and the Pacific Northwest," that she and her colleagues created. Jeff Cowton, Librarian for The Wordsworth Trust, spoke by a live video broadcast about the successful collaboration with Professor Margaret Linley to link the Trust's current exhibition, also called "Wordsworth Country," with the one mounted in the SFU Library. She pointed out that the Scottish explorer, Simon Fraser, on his journey down what was later named the Fraser River, paused in scenic spots through the Canadian Rockies to note in his journal their sublime beauty. Wordsworth's vision had become an exportable way of seeing, of making connections with English landscape that the exhibition drew out and displayed on the Library's main floor and in Special Collections. Melanie Hardbottle, Head of Special Collections, spoke of her department's role in mounting the exhibition and the support given to this ongoing project to make this "special" collection digitally available to all.

I was invited to explain how, in 1973, shortly after joining the faculty at SFU, I began to collect the lifetime editions by the poet William Wordsworth and the eighteenth and nineteenth-century guides to the England Lake District that became the foundation of the SFU Wordsworth and Lake District Collections, the best such collection west of the Mississippi. The collection of first editions was an essential resource for the thirty-three volume series of scholarly editions of The Cornell Wordsworth published by Cornell University Press. The six guides, several composed by Wordsworth himself, served in this enterprise mainly as resources for annotations to the editions. The current exhibition at SFU, however, focusses on the illustrated guides, their authors' prose descriptions of the landscape, and the historical books of the period to reveal the extent to which they represent the emergence of a whole new way of seeing the landscape, stemming from Wordsworth's vision but also extending beyond his particular locale to influence the vision of landscapes encountered by travelers elsewhere, and especially in the Pacific Northwest. The program closed with the SFU English Professor and poet, Steve Collis, reading from his own poetry to illustrate what he called "eco-poetics," a fusing of poetic response to the landscape of the Northwest and the new consciousness of the cost to that landscape incurred by depredations by its human inhabitants.

Readers who did not have a chance to view the exhibition, can visit the website for a virtual tour at <http://lakedistrictonline.ca/exhibit> and catch glimpses of the launch event at this Dropbox site: [https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/39985469/Lake District Collection - SFU.m4v](https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/39985469/Lake%20District%20Collection%20-%20SFU.m4v) . ❖

## *On preparing for our cognitive problems*

**Marilyn Bowman**

**S**ome time ago I wrote about caring for someone with increasing cognitive problems, as in dementia. Now I want to look at the things we can do to create order in our own affairs if we find that our own cognitive errors are becoming intrusive and creating problems.

“ These errors may be just the gentle declines of memory and distractibility of normal aging, or may be the more troublesome problems arising from dementia or the sudden problems created by stroke and its aftermath. We all need to prepare some things to help those who are dealing with us if our own competence falters.

***... prepare some things to help those who are dealing with us”***

Within a married couple starting with average competence, both partners should have a full knowledge of all the important financial operations of both members of the couple and the household. If one member of a couple is already encountering problems, the other might need to consult a trusted friend or family member. For those of us who live alone, we need to create a document providing detailed information about these financial activities, located in the household where a trusted person will know where to find it. I send my brothers annual printed updates about all my financial affairs, as they may be called upon from

their distant cities to come and help me if my thinking becomes unreliable.

The information in this core document should include the exact locations of accounts, the sources of income and where it goes into bank and other accounts, the list of regular bills and the ways in which all bills are paid, and insurance policies. A useful way to manage this is by writing a document that explicitly outlines all our important “locations”, including those for all investment and bank accounts, safety deposit box keys, fine jewelry, the Will. We also need to include the location of the two extremely important additional documents to accompany our Will: the Power of Attorney document that allows the named person to handle our financial affairs if we become incapable, and in BC, the Representation Agreement which designates a named person to make medical decisions on our behalf if we become incapable.

One way of ensuring bills are paid normally, if we are worried about our cognitive clarity, is to arrange for automatic payments with the vendor and our bank. The monthly gas, water, cable, internet, telephone, hydro, house insurance etc., can all be automatically debited from our bank account or automatically charged to our credit card, which can also be automatically paid on time every month by the bank. If most financial work is done using the internet, then we must ensure that a trusted person also knows the passwords that give access to all online accounts, and that these passwords are stored in a way that our trusted person can find them – possibly in a folder with the Will and with the Locations master document. If we own our house and have taken

*Continued on page 6*



possession of our Deed from the BC Registry, the location of that Deed would be useful to have listed in our Locations master list.

For those of us who live alone and without family nearby, all these arrangements are even more important. In addition we need to make visible lists in our home showing email and telephone numbers for the emergency contact friends who will know us enough to know who our distant family or friends are. A similar list could be included with our Will/PoA/RA documents. A further tactic to consider is a short regular email message to friends and distant family every few days, to let them know we are still functioning and have not fallen with a broken hip at the bottom of a garage stairwell with no hope of discovery. I started this kind of regular short message a few years ago when my partner died and I soon realized that I had to take some kind of initiative in order for my distant friends and family to know that I was OK. These little notes have become pleasurable chats for me and I have become closer with the thirteen people on my list, who often respond with comments and questions

I am sure that others have additional ideas about tactics to use that could help us carry on or that help us to reach out for assistance if we find that our thinking, remembering, and focusing are all becoming so unreliable that we are creating problems for ourselves. We have to use judgment in assessing our own competence, steering between the fear that exaggerating our problems might create, and avoiding the bland denial of real problems that do require changes in our arrangements. Most of us want to live as long as possible in our own homes, and the recent data provided to us by the BC Seniors' Advocate at last year's annual dinner showed that 93% of seniors in BC live independently in the community, with 26% living alone.

In this essay I have tried to think of some very specific things each of us can do to aid ourselves to continue living in the best situation we can, and to provide close family members and friends with the crucial information they will need if we need to be helped when serious problems arise. Passwords are important! ❖

## Socialist Report

### Tom O'Shea

In the Spring 2014 SFURA Newsletter, I raved about the New York Metropolitan Opera high definition broadcasts into local theatres <http://www.metopera.org/Season/In-Cinemas/>. And in the Summer 2016 Newsletter I said how much I was looking forward to their Lepage production of **L'Amour du Loin** in December. That set me thinking about local opera

opportunities. Some of you may remember that wonderful SFURA outing for an afternoon performance in May 2009 of Opera Appassionata's **Cavalleria Rusticana** at the Wellbrook Winery in Delta. Alas, Frank Klassen and OA closed up shop a couple of years later.

So here's a look at a very active opera scene in Vancouver. The most interesting, in my opinion, is the upcoming production of a version of **Macbeth** at the Vancouver Playhouse. This is collaboration of the Vancouver Opera Association (VOA), the PuSh Festival, Il CENTRO Italian Cultural Centre and is produced by the South African company Third World Bunfight. The scene is the Democratic Republic of Congo. Runs from January 16th



to 21st.

The VOA <https://www.vancouveropera.ca/> is also presenting Humperdinck's **Hansel and Gretel** at the Playhouse from Nov 24th to Dec 11th.

But the big news is that, in a major departure from the past, the VOA will move to a festival format in Spring 2017. Their inaugural opera festival will run from April 28th to May 18th and consists of alternating performances of Verdi's **Otello**, Mozart's **Marriage of Figaro**, and Heggie's **Dead Man Walking**. The latter features Coquitlam's own mezzo-soprano Judith Forst in one of the three major roles. A festival tent will cover the entire QE plaza, offering music, art, food, and drink..

Other major opera companies are:

**UBC Opera** <http://music.ubc.ca/student-ensembles/opera/> Old Auditorium, UBC.

UBC has a very strong opera program, under the direction of Nancy Hermiston. Of note this season, they offer two free talk/discussion events; one with Ben Heppner on September 29th and the second with Sondra Radvanovsky on April 1st. The season consists of

**The Consul** (Menotti): Nov 3 - 6, 2016

**Eugene Onegin** (Tchaikovsky): Feb 2 - 5, 2017

**Adriane auf Naxos** (Strauss): June 22 - 25, 2017

**City Opera** <http://cityoperavancouver.com/> Christchurch Cathedral, Vancouver

This year they plan to present in one concert three unfinished early Mozart operas.

**Lost Operas of Mozart**, Oct. 27 - 29, 2016.

Scheduled to premiere in November 2017 is **Missing Women**, based on events in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver and along the Highway of Tears, commissioned by the Vancouver Foundation.

**Opera Opulenza** <https://operaopulenza.ca/>

**Tales of Hoffman** (Offenbach) scheduled for January 2017.

Venue not known

Other Lower Mainland opera companies, whose 2016-17 programs have not yet been posted, are:

**Opera Mariposa** [www.operamariposa.com/](http://www.operamariposa.com/) Various venues

**Opera Pro Cantanti** [www.procantanti.com](http://www.procantanti.com) Cambrian Hall, 215 E. 17th Ave, Vancouver

**Burnaby Lyric Opera** [www.burnabylyricopera.org](http://www.burnabylyricopera.org) Shadbolt Centre, Burnaby

**North Shore Light Opera** <http://www.nslos.com/> Presentation House, North Vancouver

All-in-all quite a variety, ranging from full traditional productions to small specialized offerings with piano accompaniment. Most of the latter provide support and training for young graduates. Let us in turn give them as much support as we can. *See you at the opera.* ❖

# *SFURA Walking Group's Hikes on Burnaby Mountain*

*Brenda Harrison, Ted Cohn, Parveen Bawa, David Ryeburn, and the Walking Group.*

SFU campus is known for its views, but not so much as a venue for pleasant hikes. The SFURA walking group has taken 3 hiking routes on Burnaby Mountain: ascending the mountain from Pandora Drive; circling the top of the mountain from Centennial Park (Horizon's restaurant); and ascending the mountain from North Road in Burnaby. This is a short description of a hike sixteen of us took up Burnaby Mountain from North Road on August 17, 2016.

Most of these trails on the south side are designed for mountain bikes. We have always found the bikers to be polite. Before ascending the mountain we walked on the North Road trail and the Dead Moped trail, which are nicely wooded. On the Dead Moped trail we passed by a very interesting marker for Burnaby Heritage Site.

*"When New Westminster was chosen as the site for the first capital city of British Columbia in 1859, Colonel R.C. Moody, a Royal Engineer, developed a plan to defend the city from American attack. A primary concern was maintaining access to the ocean should the Fraser River be blocked by ice during the winter. Moody immediately ordered the survey and construction of North Road to connect the capital with Burrard Inlet. At the end of the road, land was reserved for a proposed dock and blockhouse with supplies and ammunition.*

*Fortunately, the feared assault never came and North Road was used primarily by Royal City residents who wished to picnic at the beach. In the 1880's the road was used more often as a route to the inlet where travellers could board a ferry for the City of Port Moody. Later the village of "Aliceville" developed at the end of the road with a railway station, two hotels and several summer cottages. The road's route over the mountain remained in use until the 1960's when this section was closed to traffic. North Road today is a historic trail and the oldest road in the Lower Mainland. A City of Burnaby Heritage Site."*

From Dead Moped trail, we began to climb Burnaby Mountain on the Trans-Canada trail (TCT). After walking a short distance on TCT we reached Mel's trail. Mel's trail is a rather challenging dual-use trail for hikers and bikers, which had many shaded areas and varied terrain. It climbs and also circles Burnaby mountain. It took

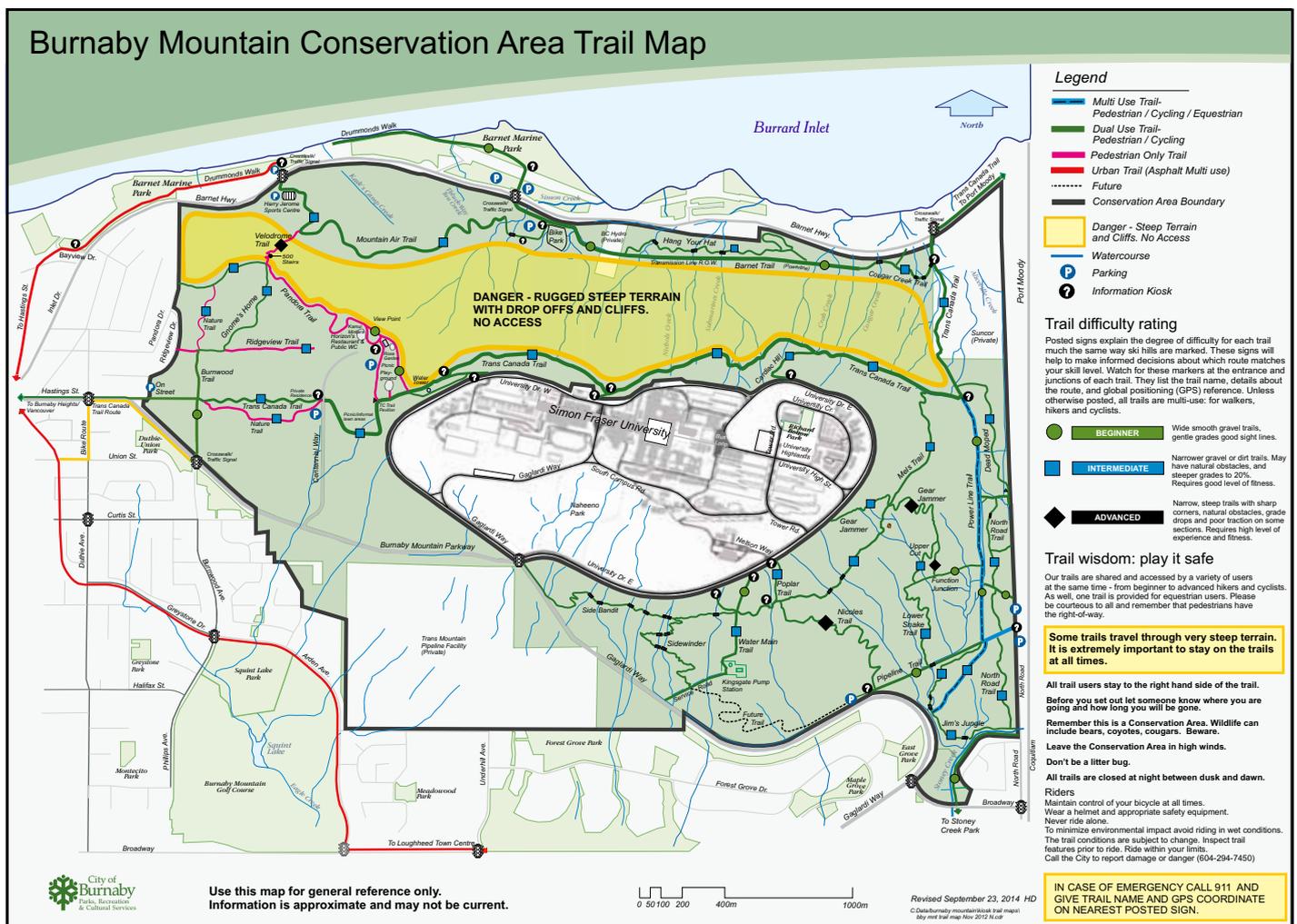


us to University Drive E where we crossed and entered Naheeno Park. The trails in Naheeno Park take one to the South Campus Road of SFU. Because the day was hot we decided to have lunch on the outside patio of the Business Building rather than continuing to our usual lunch place at Centennial Park. After lunch we descended Burnaby Mountain mainly via the Trans-Canada trail. This part of the TCT is very wide, and has some beautiful views through the trees of Burrard Inlet.

This is only a brief description of the varied, interesting, and often beautiful trails one can take on Burnaby Mountain.

This description, the pictures, and the map resulted from joint efforts of several SFURA hikers, just as our hikes involve cooperative efforts.

Sometimes a walk is a lot more than a walk. As the Zen proverb says, "If you are facing in the right direction, all you have to do is keep on walking." ❖



# Free Traders Have Failed Free Trade

by James W Dean and Vivek Dehejia

**F**or more than a century after Nelson trounced Napoleon in 1805 at the Battle of Trafalgar, the British and their Navy defended a world order of “small-l” liberal values and trade practices. By most measures, the world was more “globalized” in 1914 than it was until the United States and its Air Force began to enforce similar values and practices across the “free” world after World War 2.

Jump ahead another half-century: in 2016, Donald Trump strutted onto the American stage. Recently, he laid out his putative presidential economic platform. It embodies the most dramatic and plausible threat to liberal values that the post-war world has thus far encountered. Meanwhile, the United Kingdom has voted to leave the world’s largest free trade area. Those of us who cherish the liberal world order we have nourished for two centuries must examine why we have failed to defend it properly.

Globalization promulgates paradoxes. While it enriches us immeasurably, culturally as well as materially, it also gnaws at us viscerally: we are nostalgic for lost traditions, communities, and religions. And we feel powerless



***... conflict of globalization with national sovereignty, and their mutual conflict with democracy”***

to preserve these in the face of forces that seem to override our own governments’ supposed sovereignty.

Free trade with China has accelerated the transformation of our industrial heartlands into rustbelts. Open borders have transformed Britain from Shakespeare’s “sceptered isle”

into a multicultural melting pot that many old stock Anglo-Saxons find too spicy for their tastes. Meanwhile, the Soviet/US military duopoly, that kept the Cold War cold, tipped into US hegemony after 1990. But that, perversely, seems to have encouraged regional conflict and chaos.

At the core of these paradoxes is a conflict of globalization with national sovereignty, and their mutual conflict with democracy — something long understood by political scientists but until recently only dimly perceived by economists.

Voters resist both free trade and immigration that threatens their jobs, and nations resist treaties that undermine their sovereignty — even when forgoing them carries an economic cost. Hence Trump’s supporters sense (wrongly) that their job insecurity and stagnant wages can be cured by autarky. Hillary Clinton’s supporters are

suspicious that the Trans Pacific Partnership serves corporate over collective interests. British voters are fed up with Brussels because it appears to lay a bureaucratic blanket over a business community that is the most enterprising in Europe.

Where we professional economists have failed these voters is in our blind advocacy of globalization at all costs. We rightly argue that free trade across borders benefits all nations that participate. At the level of individuals, this is virtually tautological: if I freely choose to buy from you and you freely choose to buy from me, we are, by the very definition of “free choice”, both better off.

At the level of nations, we do concede that some sub-groups will lose from free trade, but we are, rightly, convinced that the net benefit is sure to be positive. But we blithely claim that losers can quickly be compensated via taxes and transfers, and in the long run through re-training and re-employment.

But in the real world, compensation doesn't happen so easily. As economists, we need to dirty our hands and devote much more energy to advising politicians and policy makers how to feed the golden goose of free trade without confiscating its eggs from the most vulnerable.

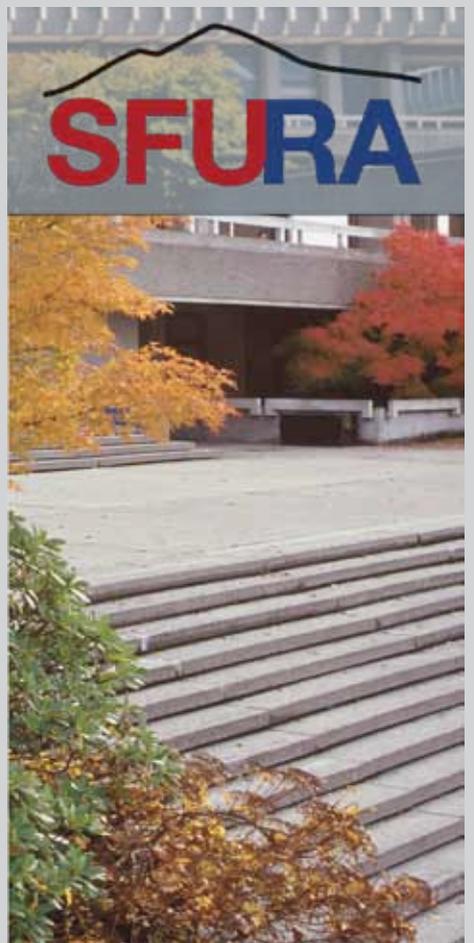
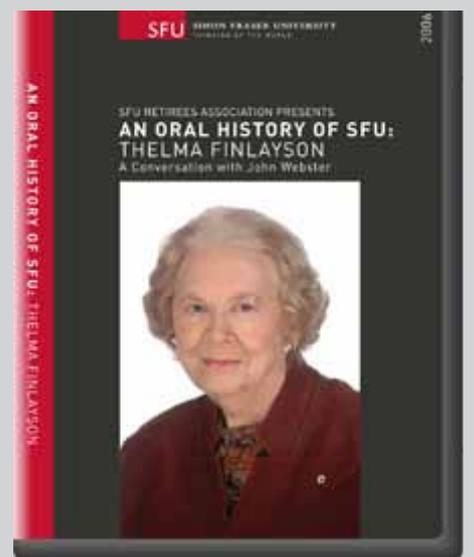
And, of course, globalization

means much more than just free trade: it means free movement of money, of people, and of ideas.

American paranoia about immigration, both illegal and legal, fuels Trump's support. It also fuelled support for Brexit in Britain. The Brexit movement began as a reaction to too much regulation from Brussels but was propelled by fear of excess immigration. Both of these could and should have been addressed by more flexible accommodation by both Brussels and London. Ideologues on left and right were to blame, but equally culpable were professional economists. We have the tools to deal with tradeoffs at the margin — such as the benefits and costs of temporary caps on surges of immigration — but got stuck in strictly bounded boxes — labeled “Leave” or “Remain”.

Rather than the doctrinaire certainty that feeds extreme solutions — sovereignty and democracy over globalization, or the reverse — we economists need once again to reclaim the nuanced world that lives at the margins.❖

*James W Dean and Vivek Dehejia are economics professors at, respectively, Simon Fraser University and Carleton University. Dean is writing a book called “Paradoxes of Globalization” :* [jdean@sfu.ca](mailto:jdean@sfu.ca).



# Writing on the Edge

Shelia Delany

**H**ello from Haida Gwai'i, the archipelago--formerly known as the Queen Charlotte Islands--at the northwestern edge of the province and the country. This is the ancient territory of the Haida nation, a seafaring, warfaring, slave-holding, trading and art-making people. It lies about 350 km (around 215 miles) north of Vancouver Island. Its southern portion, Gwai'i Haanas, is a protected National Park Reserve and Haida Heritage Site, uninhabited except for seasonal Haida Watchmen who supervise it, controlling access to trails, seashore and abandoned Haida villages decaying back into the forest; from these sites were taken many artifacts now at UBC's Museum of Anthropology. The Haida language is a linguistic isolate with several dialects; SFU supports a program there to record and teach it.

On the northern portion, one road connects six villages (one of which, until recently, called itself, with some grandiosity, Queen Charlotte City). Skidegate is an important cultural centre; carving and indigenous language are taught, and there is a fine small museum of artifacts and documents. Charles Edenshaw, Bill Reid, Robert Davidson and many other artists worked here and still do, weaving, painting, and carving in various materials. At Old Masset at the end of the road, artifacts are bought by collectors and institutions from around the world. Port Clements has a fascinating historical museum and is the site of the tragic story of the Golden Spruce. From the northern coast, a speck of southern Alaska--also part of Haida territory--is visible. The beaches are pristine, and isolation has given the area distinctive plant and animal species. If you walk along that road or by the tidal Tlell River, you get the scents of meadow, forest, and sea. I remember Emily Dickinson's lines: "Inebriate of air am I/ And débauchée of dew".

But Haida Gwai'i is more than natural features; it's also the struggle to maintain them. Haida numbers fell drastically after contact with European colonial settlers and their diseases; today about 5,000 people live on Haida Gwai'i, fewer than half of them Haida. The first export of interest to Europeans and Russians was sea-otter pelts, resulting in the near extinction of that animal. Fisheries, whaling and timber soon took over, with devastating consequences for the environment and limited access to their traditional lands for the Haida people. Major corporate players in the province were the Hudson's Bay Company (early on), MacMillan Bloedel, Weyerhaeuser, Western Forest Products and, more recently, BC Hydro.

The territory's condition and its new name are due to Haida militancy. BC differs from other provinces in that most of its land is unceded, i.e., lacking treaties with aboriginal inhabitants. Thus First Nations here have legal claims within the present colonial-settler system and have won significant court victories. First Nations blockades of logging roads were organized starting in the 70s; they continue to this day all over the province and the country to protect hunting, fishing and ceremonial sites from mining, dam construction, or new ski or golf resorts. One of the best known was at Clayoquot Sound near Tofino in 1993, preceded by several others there during the 80s. In Gwaii Hanaas, the long, militant 1985 blockade on Lyell Island, together with its ensuing legal cases and treaty agreements with federal and provincial governments, eventually produced the current cooperative system of governance. There are no guarantees for the future in this arrangement, as ownership remains tactfully undefined; and none of it compensates for Canada's national disgrace, the long genocidal



attack on aboriginal people and cultures. But see Haida Gwai'i for yourself, and meet some of the people who were here first.

To follow up:

John Vaillant, *The Golden Spruce: A true story of myth, madness and greed.*

Glen Coulthard, *Red skin, white masks. Rejecting the colonial politics of recognition.*

Karen Duffek, (ed.) *Bill Reid and beyond. Expanding on modern native art.* ❖

## Mathematics Education Across Time and Place: Over Two Millennia from Athens to Zimbabwe.

Thomas O'Shea. FriesenPress, Victoria B.C.

In 1989, as part of a new Master's Program in Secondary School Mathematics Education, I found myself in the enviable position of being able to put together a course with the following calendar description: "This course will examine the historical, cultural, and psychological forces shaping mathematical thinking and the secondary school mathematics curriculum. The course will emphasize the historical underpinning of the curriculum and the cyclical nature of reform in mathematics education, and will focus on crucial periods in the development of the school mathematics curriculum."

As I designed the course I recognized that students tend to think about mathematics education only in the day-to-day context in which they themselves are immersed. Much of what passes for professional development consists of struggles to contend with changes in the prescribed curriculum or with the most recent fashion in teaching. Little time is spent on trying to understand larger societal, political, and educational forces that affect the curriculum and may help teachers to respond thoughtfully to the question posed by students "Why do we have to learn this stuff?" I wished to devise some means to free them from the present and to immerse them in a different time and place. To this end, I devised the following assignment:

Assume that you are a mathematics educator at a time and location of your choice in history. Prepare a mini-autobiography that describes your life and times. Assume that your career spans a period of at least forty years. As well as giving your personal details, describe events and ideas--educational, philosophical, artistic, scientific, political, and others--that affected your thinking and your career. Describe the conditions under which you taught, your approach to teaching, your students, what you taught, the changes that took place, and any other features that will illuminate your experience as a mathematics educator in that period of history.

As might be expected, students in the first cohort were very anxious about this assignment. After all, as

*Continued on page 20...*



# IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU



## Evelyn Palmer

**O**ur SFURA Vice-President, **Frances Atkinson**, has been running like the Energizer Bunny. Her daughter was married on Gabriola Island in August, attended by visitors from Ireland. Sadly, shortly before that a family member passed away. She recently defended her PhD thesis at the University of Bath in the UK and she is now immersed in the final revisions. Now her house is being used as the location for multiple scenes in multiple episodes of the Bravo TV program *Girlfriend's Guide to Divorce*. And she was called for jury selection for two criminal trials. She was not selected but we think Frances will keep on going.

**Marilyn Bowman** has been pretty busy too. She has just been informed that her book about James Legge has been published by Friesen Press. The title is "*James Legge and the Chinese*

*Classics: a brilliant Scot in the turmoil of colonial Hong Kong*". She gave a talk to the SFURA about him a few years ago, and last year she was invited to give papers at two conferences in Hong Kong and Beijing on the 200th anniversary of Legge's birth. The book can be bought directly from Friesen, our favourite publisher. See: <http://www.friesenpress.com/bookstore/title/119734000032368133/Marilyn-Laura-Bowman-James-Legge-and-the-Chinese-Classics>. Marilyn is in Istanbul on a painting holiday now. Her painting holiday in Turkey two years ago was reported in the Winter 2014 issue of the SFURA Newsletter. She will again exhibit her paintings at the annual show in Kerrisdale in late October. To see her paintings, google <Marilyn Bowman's Paintings> on her Shaw website where she has three albums of paintings entered chronologically.

The seventh edition of **Ted Cohn's** textbook entitled *Global Political Economy: Theory and Practice* was published by Routledge (Taylor & Francis Group) in May, 2016. Earlier editions of the

text were published by Pearson/Longman. The textbook focuses on the political economy of monetary relations; financial crises; global, regional, and transregional trade relations; multinational corporations and international production; and international development. Ted has made extensive revisions for the seventh edition with emphasis on such issues as the effects of the global and European financial crises, the challenge China is posing to the West in most areas of the global political economy, and the controversy over trade related to NAFTA and the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). The first edition of his textbook was published in 1999/2000, and his text has been used in university and college courses in Canada, the US, the UK, Europe, Asia and Latin America.

**Len Berggren** has announced that he is publishing an expanded second edition of his book *Episodes in the Mathematics of Medieval Islam*. His publisher, Springer-Verlag, tells him it will be out sometime in November, just in time for holiday giving!



# Grants For Retirees From, Education, Fass, Science

**Tom O'Shea** recommends the book of a retired colleague, Cornel Hamm. Although Cornel is not a members of SFURA, his book should appeal to anyone interested in the early history of SFU or matters of personal religious belief.

Cornel Hamm published his autobiography *Back from Damascus: Leaving Religion Behind* in May 2016. Cornel taught philosophy of education in SFU's Faculty of Education from 1969 to 1995. His book combines personal and institutional history and provides an unvarnished look at the organization and politics of the early years at SFU. Cornel is unstinting in sharing his personal odyssey from Mennonite Christian to his current non-theist view of life. *Back from Damascus* is available from [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca) and [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).

**Frank Manuel** writes: After 12 years of teaching Physics and English in China, I am now retired and living in Squamish. My retirement is not as active as I had hoped, as I was recently diagnosed as having ALS. I can still travel, and do so as often as I can manage.

And now [Drum Roll] the Kiva Report from **Dan McDonald**.

The good news is that our team continues to do a little good in the world. We have now made loans in 76 of the 82 countries listed with Kiva, continuing to spread the name of SFU around the world and associating it with "good deeds".

Some of our members are country collectors aiming to make a loan in each of the 82 countries. That must surely beat stamp collecting in social value added.

The not so good news is that while our pace of lending per member is being maintained, our number of members is not increasing as fast as other teams. Chicago has moved up a notch to 42 among the 1769 university teams, passing Luther and leaving us stalled at #44.

There is a direct link to Kiva on our web home page; <http://sfu.ca/retirees/sfu-community/Kiva> Make a Small Development Loan, Make a Big Difference. Easy. <http://www.kiva.org/>

Retired Faculty may apply for research grants from three faculties; Education, Science and Arts and Social Sciences. These grants have been available for a few years and many retirees have found them useful in helping them to continue research.

## Faculty of Education

The Faculty of Education Retirees' Research Fund (RRF) has been developed to support on-going original research, scholarly activities and the dissemination of scholarly results of retirees who formerly held tenured appointments within the Faculty of Education at Simon Fraser University. On January 1 of each calendar year, \$25,000.00 will be committed to the Retirees' Research Fund. Allocations to the RRF are divided into 2 portions: travel, normally totaling not more than \$6000 per year; and research normally totaling not more than \$19,000 per year. Several retirees have benefited from these grants.

The Fund is administered by Professor Phil Winne, [winne@sfu.ca](mailto:winne@sfu.ca) Please write to him or phone

him at 778 782 4852 for a pdf of the document giving the details and application form.

### Faculty of Science

Since 2013, the Faculty of Science has provided its retirees the opportunity to apply for up to \$2000 each year for expenses related to ongoing research. They have funded travel for research, travel for conference presentations, and the cost of research itself. They have provided funds for at least 5 projects and have yet to turn anyone down. The process is very similar to that for the Professional Development Fund, as the kinds of expenses they support. They encourage applications for this under-utilized resource!

The Fund is administered by Peter Ruben, Assoc. Dean, Research and Advancement. Write him at <[pruben@sfu.ca](mailto:pruben@sfu.ca)> or phone him at 778 782 9351 for more details of the grant.

### Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

The FASS Retirees Research Fund provides support for retired faculty members from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) to conduct research. A maximum of \$5,000 will be available once every 24 months for a retired FASS faculty member. Funding is for research activities only; support

to attend conferences, for example, will not be provided.

Applications may be submitted at any time to the Associate Dean, Research. For more information see: <http://www.sfu.ca/fass/research/fassfunding.html> ❖

## IN MEMORIAM



We are sorry to report the deaths of two more of our colleagues, **Chris Dagg** and **Edgar Pechlaner**.

Chris Dagg had a career in the Foreign Service from 1968-1974, then came to SFU in the 1980's and was active in various efforts in International Development until 2015. He led the Indonesia Project from 1987-2003 and Phases IV and V of the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (2007-2015). His Obituary is at [http://www.sfu.ca/content/dam/sfu/retirees/memorial/Christopher\\_DAGG\\_Obit.pdf](http://www.sfu.ca/content/dam/sfu/retirees/memorial/Christopher_DAGG_Obit.pdf)

Edgar Pechlaner was a member of the Mathematics Department from 1967 until his retirement in 2002. Edgar was born in Innsbruck, Austria. After his retirement, Edgar continued his research and publications on earthquake prediction. His Obituary is at [http://www.sfu.ca/content/dam/sfu/retirees/memorial/Edgar\\_PECHLANER\\_Obit.pdf](http://www.sfu.ca/content/dam/sfu/retirees/memorial/Edgar_PECHLANER_Obit.pdf)

Obituaries of and tributes to our deceased members and colleagues may be found on our SFURA web pages at [http://www.sfu.ca/retirees/sfu-community/in-memorial/a\\_g.html](http://www.sfu.ca/retirees/sfu-community/in-memorial/a_g.html)

If you wish to add a tribute or obituary for any colleague, please send it to Walter Piovesan, <[walter@sfu.ca](mailto:walter@sfu.ca)>

# Thelma Finlayson

1914 - 2016



*James and Ronnie Weinkam*

Our dear friend and colleague, Thelma Finlayson, died peacefully in her sleep at 9:39 pm on September 15 at the age of 102 after having suffered a stroke on September 5. She was a regular attendee at SFURA dinners and receptions until her health started to fail after she turned 100.

Thelma was born on June 29, 1914. She received her BA(Hons) in Biology from the University of Toronto in 1936. She went on to earn a teaching certificate in 1937. However, she decided to leave teaching to pursue her real interest in biological research. Lacking the money to enter graduate school, she started as a volunteer, and through persistence and hard work was eventually hired as a Technical Officer at the Dominion Institute for Biological Control, the first woman to be hired.

After her marriage to Roy Finlayson in 1940, she was forced to retire as married women were not permitted to work for the Federal Government. Despite this regulation, she was subsequently rehired in 1942 due to the wartime shortage of workers. After the war she challenged the government and was instrumental in getting the regulation barring married female employees rescinded.

She was hired as the first female professor by the SFU Department of Biological Sciences in 1967 and with Brian Beirne and others became a founding member of the Center for Pest Management (called the Pestology Center at the time). During her career at SFU she compiled a distinguished record of teaching, research, and service to the University. She was active in the Entomological Society of British Columbia and served as a director and president.

When the Academic Advice Center was established in 1971, Thelma immediately volunteered and was instrumental in helping hundreds of students extricate themselves from academic difficulties and go on to earn degrees.

After her retirement in 1979, she continued to volunteer her time in the Academic Advice Center at least two days a week for more than thirty years until a young man in a hurry shoved her and her walker roughly aside as she was leaving her building. She suffered cracked ribs and vertebrae and was in pain for almost a year. She never fully recovered from this injury.

A great supporter of reducing pesticide usage via biological control, she endowed a Chair in Biological Control and established scholarships and fellowships to support students. Our daughter



Thelma was a recipient of a Thelma Finlayson Fellowship during her graduate studies.

In recognition of her outstanding achievements Thelma has received many honors and awards including the Order of Canada, honorary degrees, and honorary life memberships in several societies. Two species of insects have been named in her honor. In 2006 she received the President's 40th Anniversary Award from SFU. In 2012 SFU named the remodeled Academic Advice Center the Thelma Finlayson Center for Student Engagement. In the spring of 2014, the Biological Sciences Department held a Symposium in her honor. She was an amazing lady to the end and at the party held by the University for her 100th birthday she gave an excellent speech for twenty minutes without any notes.

During the last two years her health slowly declined and she had several falls two of which resulted in fractures. Nevertheless she was always in good spirits and enjoyed visits although she tired easily and would drift off to sleep after a while.

Goodbye Thelma. We all miss you. ❖

# My Most Memorable Moment at SFU

by Shue Tuck Wong



**When we published the Fall Issue of the newsletter *Simon Says*, we accidentally edited out three paragraphs from the excellent article by Shue Tuck Wong. The editors apologize for this error and offer a copy of the complete article below. - Editors**

-----

In my over 32 years of teaching at SFU, my most memorable moment was my suit against SFU over my promotion from Associate Professor to Full Professor in the Department of Geography in 1979. This was a case of malfeasance in administrative law.

The Department of Geography and the Dean of Arts, after

reviewing my application for promotion, recommended by majority decision that I be promoted to full professor. The matter was next sent to the Vice-President, Academic, for review. The latter objected to the positive recommendations of the Department of Geography and the Dean of Arts without giving reasons for his rejection.

The case was then referred to the University Tenure Committee (UTC) for examination. The chair of the UTC was the Vice-President, Academic. The UTC members concurred with the Vice-President's negative judgment. The negative recommendations of the UTC and the Vice-President, Academic, were

finally forwarded to the President, who concurred with the Vice-President, Academic, and the UTC, and accepted them without any questions. The President then recommended to the Board of Governors that I not be promoted to Full Professor at this time. Since no reasons were given by the President for the negative decision on my application for promotion, I decided to take the matter to court. I filed suit before the BC Supreme Court under the provisions of the Judicial Review Procedure Act, 1979, Chapter 209 and requested the BC Supreme Court to quash the decision of the President.

After five days of deliberation



in the BC Supreme Court, Justice Murray ordered the President's negative decision be quashed. The verdict was that "the President breached a duty of fairness in failing to describe to the professor all the information which he considered prior to making his decision." (See, *Re Wong and Roberts et. al* , (1983), *Dominion Law Review* (3d), 376-378 )

The judgment of my promotion case was a very momentous and significant contribution to Canadian administrative law pertaining to duty of fairness and natural justice, especially in dealing with promotion and tenure decisions in university governance across Canada. My case became a precedent in Canadian Administrative Law. (See 147 *Dominion law Review*

(3d), 376-378)

As a result of my suit, SFU, under President Saywell, on October 3, 1983, made drastic changes to SFU's AC2 Policy. (See W.G. Saywell, October 3, 1983, Draft Memo to Deans and Chairmen, Interpretations of AC2)

My legal suit against SFU was my most memorable event in SFU history as it led to a drastic change and major re-orientation in favour of faculty of practices and procedures in relation to promotion and tenure policy at SFU. As my lawyer Mr. Lunny remarked,

"I am sure members of your faculty association appreciate the great service to faculty members at SFU and, indeed across Canada, which has been rendered by the Wong

case. It became a precedent in Canadian Administrative Law from which all members across Canada have benefitted in dealing with criteria of fairness and natural justice in matters of promotion and tenure. (See D. Lunny, Letter to CAUT and SFU Faculty Association, October 23, 1984)

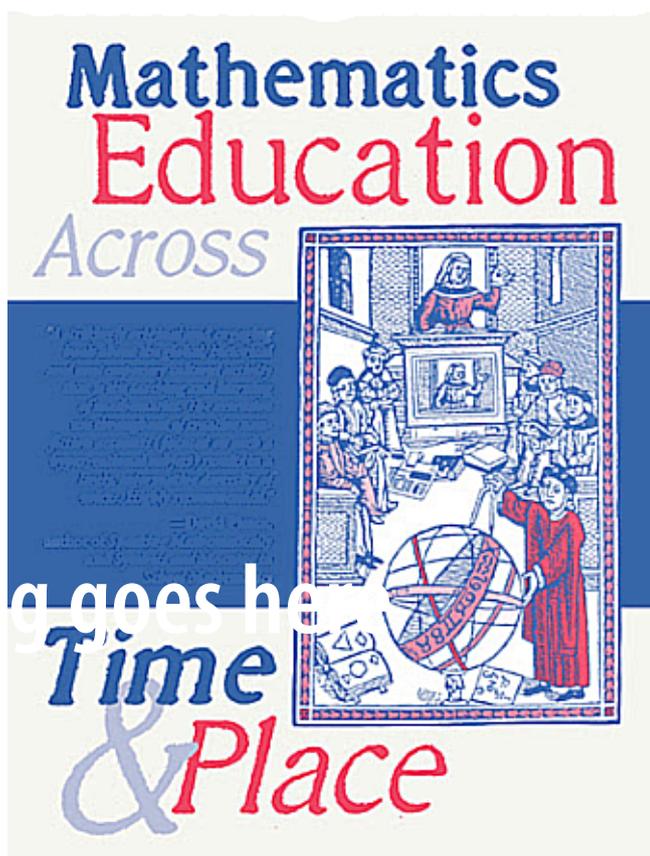
The significance of my suit in natural justice was recognized by the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT). On April 3, 1983, the CAUT Professional Officer, Mr. Howard Snow, wrote me and said, "The CAUT Committee views your case as being helpful in furthering the methods of the professorate across the country and was reassured by your letter."(Howard Snow, letter to S. T. Wong, April 3, 1985) ❖

*continued from page 13*

they explained, they had specialized in mathematics, not writing. I responded in turn that they could use any mechanism they wished to tell their story and that they could give full vent to their imagination. I also made it clear that they were not expected to investigate a “real” historical individual; that they were free to invent whatever character they wished. In the end, after some hand-holding and assurance that I did not have any pre-conceptions about content or form, most students enthusiastically embraced the task. I was delighted by the results. Students in this and following cohorts chose to tell their stories as straight autobiographies, as diaries, as letters to their grandchildren, as fragments of text found in an attic, and as poetry. Even now, when I meet graduates from years ago, they talk fondly of the character they invented for this course.

Over the next fifteen to seven cohorts of students assignment for each. As a eighty such autobiographies place from Ancient Greece Persia to British Columbia; to revolutionary France; practitioners to the factory from one-room rural schools Their stories enriched mathematics and education, appreciation for the links we

Now, by choosing autobiographies, I have been of mathematics education important developments of the past two thousand the history is framed by the most closely involved—the themselves. My task in all commentaries that link the lives of the mathematics teachers, that fill in the gaps in the historical record, and that provide more background to understand the context of the teachers’ lives. The result provides a valuable resource for mathematics teacher educators at all levels and will be of general interest to teachers themselves. If fortune smiles, perhaps even members of the general public will find satisfaction in learning that others as well, in different times and places, have struggled to develop an understanding of the role of mathematics in their world.



years, I taught the course and used the same result, I accumulated over ranging in time and to modern Eritrea; from from Islamic Baghdad from the mathematical model of schooling; and to large institutions. my understanding of and deepened my have to past societies. twenty of these able to construct a history that spans the most in western education years. More importantly, experiences of those mathematics educators

this was to provide brief

See [www.drthomasoshea.com](http://www.drthomasoshea.com) for a full description and extensions of the book’s themes. ❖



# Editorial

*Maurice Gibbons, Editor*

You may have already noticed some changes in our newsletter. This is the second edition that is glowing with Associate Editor Walter Piovesan's excellent layout. He is doing here what he already did so expertly with the layout of our book *Remembering SFU on the Occasion of its Fiftieth Birthday*.

You may also notice that we have expanded from 16 to 20 pages. Any increase has to be in fours; if you think about a sheet being added to the folio for stapling, you can see that adding one sheet also means adding four pages. The reasons for this expansion are that there is a lot happening, the Retirees' Association is growing, and while producing the book we discovered a mother lode of writers.

You will notice the first piece from our newest columnist, Sheila Delany; we finally convinced her to join us and to write about the issues that she thinks are important. She is an excellent writer and thinker, and we hope that she will provoke us to think about issues that should matter to us. Welcome Sheila.

We are searching for still another columnist, someone to urge us to read new books that we will find interesting. The original reader's column was excellent and aptly named For A Good Read by Percilla Groves; we are seeking someone to carry on the tradition. Wouldn't the return of Percilla be great news?

James Dean is always a little difficult to pin down. He has never

actually agreed to be a columnist, so we end up first having to find him--once in Buenos Aires in a café learning the new tango, the next on Lesbos following the migration story--and then to cajole him into writing for us. This time we put out a call for help and were told by an informant that he had died a few years earlier, so we put out a lamentation for his passing and finally received a perceptive column from him nude in a hot-tub on Saltspring Island.

Editing is hard work, but never dull. ❖