



SFU Student Joins Discovery of New Human Species

By Dr. Marina Elliott.

I'm not sure how many people can say Facebook changed their lives—but it certainly did mine. In October 2013, I was at SFU, trying to finish a PhD in biological anthropology. I was a 'mature student'—having taken what can only be described as a circuitous route to academia. I had spent almost 10 years as a veterinary nurse and done a host of other jobs: from tour guiding in the Rockies, to working as a dive master in Australia, to being an entertainment technician on cruise ships, and training airline ground staff on equipment for the handicapped.

But I had always been interested in evolution and anatomy, and when I eventually decided to go back to university, I discovered biological anthropology – the study of human anatomy, variation and adaptation. I did my undergrad at UBC, and then my masters at SFU, in the Archaeology department. I hadn't originally planned to do a doctorate, but the research was interesting, and I managed to secure funding, so I kept going.

By 2013, I was writing up my thesis, and like most people at that stage of their studies, I was a bit fed up with it all. Then, on Sunday, October 6th, I got an email from my supervisor, Professor Mark Collard. The subject line said: "Fieldwork opportunity". He knew I had been a sport climber and the next line said "I don't suppose you have caving experience?" And there was a link to a Facebook post. It was from Professor Lee Berger, a paleoanthropologist based in South Africa. He was looking for excavators for a short-term project. But the requirements were unusual; the ad asked for:

individuals with excellent archaeological/palaeontological and excavation skills... who are skinny and preferably small. They must not be claustrophobic, they must be fit, they should have some caving experience, climbing experience would be a bonus. They must be willing to work in cramped quarters, have a good attitude and be a team player.

Having done quite a bit of caving in the Badlands and Rockies over the years, I thought the ad described me! I applied, and a week later, had a skype interview with Lee. During the interview, Lee emphasized how unusual this expedition was going to be. He said the skeletal remains were in an underground chamber, about 200 m from the nearest entrance. But the route was difficult, with multiple crawls, climbs and a pinch-point only 18 cm wide in one fissure. He couldn't fit into the chamber himself, so excavations would be supervised remotely via

In this issue

- 1 SFU Student Joins Discovery of New Human Species
- 2 President's Report
- 7 On Reflection
- 8 For a Good Read
- 10 Not "Dinner At Antoine's" But Definitely Rogano's
- 11 You & Wi-Fi @ SFU
- 12 Socialist Report
- 14 Writing on the Edge
- 15 Universal Basic Income
- 18 It's All About You
- 20 Looking After Yourself
- 24 Editorial



continued on page 4

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Dear SFURA member,

I would like to welcome you back to our new Fall season and hope you have had a good summer.

Your Board has been working hard on a varied and interesting program of events in the Fall.

Watch for upcoming emails giving the details on two talks in September, one on taxes and wills, and the other on proportional representation.

On Sept 27 we have our annual Welcome Back lunch at Greka Taverna in New Westminster, a new venue for us, with a very reasonably priced lunch, a small jazz twosome, and the option of an interpreted historic walk along the river afterwards. Watch for an upcoming registration email for this lunch.

A full calendar of our upcoming events can be found on our SFURA website at www.sfu.ca/retirees.

Also on our website, all past SFURA newsletters are now available for your interest.

I would like to make another pitch for people willing to lead single events, such as trips to local museums, art galleries, tours of wineries or farms, sports events, or other activities with which you might be acquainted. As an example, recall Tom O'Shea's recent baseball and horse racing events where he simply arranged the dates and entrance criteria and put out a call by email for participants. Those events were enjoyed by 15 and 24 participants respectively. A board member can help you publicize your event. If you have an event you would be willing to organize, please contact me.

I would also like to take this opportunity to put out a call for new or returning speakers for our talks. We are particularly looking for speakers who may have an engaging travel talk to give, ideally with photos. We aim to balance the serious with the less serious in our speakers series. Travel talks and photographic slide shows have consistently proven to be popular.

Finally, a reminder to those of you have not yet renewed your membership, please do so via our SFURA website. Benefits of membership include subsidized events, free parking on Burnaby campus, options for travel or health insurance on the CURAC website (Canadian Universities Retirees Association), and social events where you can interact with your fellow retirees. In addition, the Board is donating 10% of this year's membership fees to help SFU students via our student scholarship fund. We are able to return value to SFU in this way thanks to a generous grant we get from the SFU President's Office and to healthy sales of our *Remembering SFU* book at convocation ceremonies.

We encourage the few who have not yet renewed your membership to do so at <http://www.sfu.ca/retirees/membership-registration.html>.



Our office at AQ3048 on Burnaby campus will reopen this week.

I and my fellow Board members look forward to seeing you at our events this Fall.❖



Len Evenden files this report: "On May 31st, SFU President Andrew Petter hosted his annual reception for recent and not so recent retirees. Here he welcomes SFURA President Frances Atkinson. Frances spoke briefly to inform newcomers about 'our happy band', encouraging them to join, while President Petter gave SFURA a ringing endorsement."



SFURA will present three talks in the Speakers Program this fall.

Tuesday September 18, 2018:

David Huntley *SFU Professor of Physics, emeritus,*

Title: *The B.C. Referendum on Proportional Representation*

SFU Burnaby. 114 Halpern Centre, 11:30 am

Tuesday October. 16, 2018

Ron Long *SFU photographer, retired*

Title: *The Amazing game parks of Namibia and Botswana and more*

SFU Burnaby. 114 Halpern Centre, 11:30 am

Tuesday November 20, 2018

Jack Little, *SFU Professor of History, Emeritus*

Title: *Our Lady of the Snows: Rudyard Kipling's Imperialist Vision of Canada*

SFU Burnaby. 114 Halpern Centre, 11:30 am

Each talk will last about 45 minutes, followed by an Question and Answer session.

All are free and open to all members and friends of the SFU community and the public. No reservations are required. More details are on the SFURA website; <http://www.sfu.ca/retirees.html>

continued from page1

telephones and cameras from a Command Centre on the surface. Every precaution was being taken to ensure the safety of the excavators, but it would still be dangerous, and he wanted to ensure we understood the risks. I was still game.

A week later, I was accepted and exactly one month after I saw the Facebook ad, I was in South Africa! From over 60 applicants, I joined five other women who had been selected to recover the fossil material – all of us with backgrounds in archaeology or anthropology, and at least some experience in caving or climbing.

We camped on site, with a team of over 50 cavers, scientists and volunteers, all there to assist in the expedition. At camp, we met Steven Tucker and Rick Hunter, the two recreational cavers who had first discovered the bones and who would be leading us to the chamber.

were hundreds of meters of cables safety equipment to check and myriad

On the second day on site, the would use, as far as the final descent known as the Chute. Looking down projections of rock and its infamous '18- I had made the right choice in coming. lay fossils I'd only seen photos of, and overcome the fear of getting to them.

When all the preparations were would be starting excavations, and the chamber. It was quite an honour, the big day came, Steve and Rick led and Hannah Morris. The second team

Feuerriegel and Alia Gurtov would come in the next shift. We crawled and climbed our way through the system and then one by one, wriggled down the Chute into the 'landing zone' – a small ante-chamber that led to the fossil area via a narrow hallway. Steve and Rick pointed the way and I slid sideways into the passage, working my way through the 4 meters that separated the staging area from where the bones lay. With only a head-lamp to see by, the effect of emerging into the chamber was how I imagined Howard Carter felt when he breached the final wall of Tutankhamun's tomb and saw the glittering wonders within. Everywhere I looked, I could see bits of bone – some amazingly well preserved and intact – and all of it hominin! It was a bit overwhelming. But then reality kicked in and we got down to work, clearing the surface material and planning the excavation strategy.

For 21 days, we worked in teams of two or three, excavating on our hands and knees, using toothpicks and tiny paint brushes to extract the fragments from the sediments. We concentrated on an area where the bones seemed most dense and opened a single excavation unit of less than a metre square. At first, we had planned to rotate in on 2-3 hour shifts, but the effort of getting up and down the Chute and through the system meant it was better to stay underground longer, so we tended to do two 4-6 hour stints a day. The cuts and bruises were proof of the unforgiving conditions, but I think all of us considered them trophies of a worthy undertaking. In fact, the resemblance to a space mission, with its high-tech control centre and "right-stuff" crew resulted in the six excavators being nick-named "The Underground Astronauts". And the operation was wildly successful, we recovered over 1300 fossils from the chamber – the largest single assemblage of hominin fossil material in Africa!

But all of a sudden, the expedition was over. No one had expected the volume, or quality of material that we recovered,



Preparations were intense, as there to run for the audio and video feeds, other details to consider.

cavers took us through the route we into the chamber – a 12 m high fissure the narrow crack with its shark-tooth cm pinch point', I wasn't entirely sure But just on the other side of the fissure the excitement of that was enough to

complete, Lee announced that we selected me to be the first scientist into but also a huge responsibility. When me into the cave, with Becca Peixotto of Lindsay Eaves (now Hunter), Elen



and the schedule only allowed three-weeks of work before everyone had to be back at their regular jobs. Knowing there was much more to do, Lee asked if I would be willing to come back again in a few months, for another round of excavation. He also told me that he could offer me a post-doctoral research position the following year if I could get my dissertation done.

Well, that was incentive enough for me! In March 2014, I returned to South Africa to do another 10 days of excavation at Rising Star with a smaller crew. I returned again in May for a six-week workshop to analyse and describe the material that we'd recovered, in preparation for publishing. During all this, I was feverishly finishing my dissertation and in Oct 2014, I moved to South Africa full-time to take the post-doc with Lee.

In September 2015, our team announced the results of the research to the world and named a new species of human relative: *Homo naledi*. 'Naledi' means 'star' in Sesotho, one of South Africa's eleven official languages, and referred to the name the cavers knew it by, Rising Star. The chamber itself was named the *Dinaledi Chamber*, meaning 'chamber of stars'.

The media and public interest in the announcement was enormous. I was suddenly doing hundreds of interviews and talks on the discovery and what it changed for paleoanthropology and for our understanding of what it means to be "human". As a story, the discovery of *Homo naledi* had all the makings of a great adventure: an exotic locale, danger, heroes, plot twists, and of course, a game-changing hoard of treasure. But what was important to me, was that for once, a group of scientists--and in particular, female scientists--were the celebrities, not sports players or debutantes. It felt great to think that there were kids all over the world thinking "I'd like to grow up to be a scientist" and that I might have played a small part in igniting that spark.

In 2016, I was named a *National Geographic Emerging Explorer*, a title that was both surreal and overwhelming. Like many kids, I had grown up on *National Geographic* magazines, but never imagined I would actually be featured in its pages! It was an honour to be grouped with some of the most dedicated and passionate scientists in the world, many of whom, like Jane Goodall and Sylvia Earle, were childhood heroes. But it also gave me a forum to talk about science, exploration, and what it means to be a woman in a high-risk field. Again, the opportunity to educate, motivate, and inspire people from all walks of life to engage with the research was one of the most rewarding aspects of the discovery for me.

But the work wasn't finished. In 2017, I became a staff researcher at Wits and we announced the discovery of another deposit of *Homo naledi* remains in a second chamber in the Rising Star System. This second area, named the *Lesedi Chamber* ('Lesedi' meaning 'light') is in a different part of the cave system from the *Dinaledi Chamber*, but has yielded another three *Homo naledi* individuals, including a very complete adult male and an infant! At the same time, we announced a date for the Dinaledi material--335 to 226,000 years old! That's amazingly young for a species that looks the way *Homo*

naledi does. And it means that this unusual human relative might actually have been on the African landscape at the same time as modern humans!

Since then, I have continued to excavate and conduct research on *Homo naledi*. I also lead a team of cavers who are exploring and mapping the caves of the Cradle of Humankind to help us understand the broader landscape. And I still spend a lot of time talking to the public, the media and other academics about the discovery and the research. Before the Rising Star expedition, I could never have imagined that social media and my vocational A.D.D. would help me land a job. And not just any job — a job that combined all my different skills in a unique and challenging way. I love it. And the opportunity to share the story and promote science and exploration has been an essential part of it. If, through it all, I inspire a young woman to pursue a career in STEM—Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (in whatever discipline), or anyone to get involved with science as a citizen of this fascinating but delicate planet, then it has been worth it. ❖



Marilyn Bowman

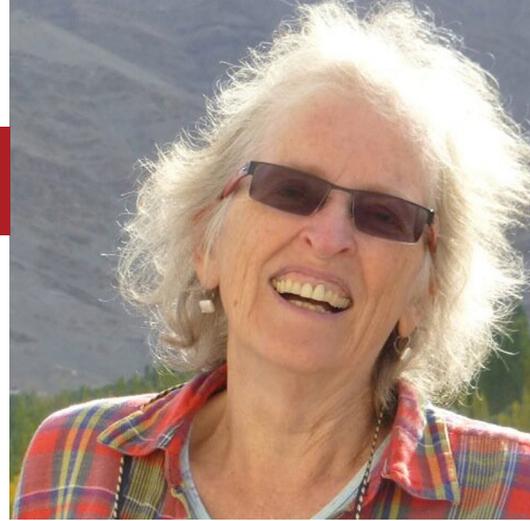
I have become interested in how cultures use the notion of the sacred in ways to gain specific advantages. Although I am not a believer in any religion, I recognize that I do have some kind of mental category that others might call the 'sacred', because it puts humans in a different category from all other animals and organisms. Arising from that private sense, I would always for example, oppose slavery, oppose cannibalism, oppose homicide and other drastic behaviour that might be considered rational if we were only members of the animal kingdom. But in thinking about the limits of my notion of humans as being somewhat sacred even though I don't believe our sacred status was given to us by a divine creator, I realize that my ideas relate to human rights.

When the UN in 1948 issued a declaration of human rights, it did so in a non-religious way, using the wonderful human skills of abstract reasoning and conceptual language, a skill unique to humans. It created a quality of the sacred for each human being without recourse to any religion. The humans writing this declaration created a set of values, very deliberately and explicitly. Article 1: 'All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.'

But I often see in public events, different groups making claims for special rights on the grounds of something being sacred to their group. This may range from saintly bones, to a natural landscape feature, to a building, to some other religious property. These claims make me deeply uneasy because the implicit assertion is that some divine power exists in their situation that demands special consideration from others. What is missing in this implicit message is that it is humans who have created the idea of the divine in whatever form, and we know humans are fallible. We even know that infallible humans are fallible, as in the case of the Popes. Papal infallibility was first fully defined as doctrine in 1870, quite modern times, but has drifted into modern confusions as when a Pope has had to apologize for past doctrine that has been obviously harmful. Modern churches often have orderly procedures for 'deconsecrating' a church building, explicitly removing its special religious status. In this, they demonstrate that the naming of the sacred is a human act that can be changed by humans.

Religions often have a core problem with the sacred, because if one person or group claims direct revelation from a god or creator, there is no way this can be disputed, and another group can make a competing claim with no way for resolution. It is basically a totalitarian claim, a claim based without any evidence and thus un-falsifiable by any means. In our times a major denomination in the US that has a doctrine of direct revelation from God to its leader, has had to change that revelation about the need to keep African-Americans in subsidiary roles in the church and in the afterlife, because of changed public policy. The divinity that gave direct revelation in the original model in support of racism, apparently changed his/her/its mind. This does not lead to confidence in the nature of the creator/god or in the content of any revelation.

We would all be best off if we remember that it is human groups who decide something is special they call sacred, and it is human groups, not a deity, who make arguments for special treatment based on claims from their group's religious ideas. The UN Declaration avoided all religion, all claims of divine revelation in its assertion that all humans have certain rights. In Article 2 it declares: "Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis *continued on page 9*





Reviews by Sandra Djwa, David Stouck, Jerry Zaslove

Making Indigenous Histories / by David Stouck

Stories and studies of Indigenous culture have become a flourishing industry. Last year I gave an account of what I believe is a remarkable novel, *Son of a Trickster* by Haisla/Heiltsuk author Eden Robinson. I have since come upon three new books I think are also outstanding—*Secwepemc People, Land, and Laws* by Marianne and Ronald Ignace (McGill-Queen's University Press), *Through Different Eyes*, a novel by Karen Charleson (Signature Editions), and an art book titled *Sonny Assu: A Selective History* (Heritage House / University of Washington Press).

The Ignace book is the work of two faculty members at SFU. Placing oral story-telling in dialogue with a wealth of knowledge derived from geology, archeology, ethnobiology, and linguistics, the Ignaces have created 10,000 years of human history for BC's Interior Plateau known as the Shuswap—a story extending from the Ice Age to the present. The uniqueness of this history emerges in the oral stories—the delightful comic narratives of Muskrat, and “The Priest and the Alter Boy,” for example. Other stories are more elusive and haunting. The non-Indigenous reader is not likely to feel equipped to parse, for example, the tale of Owl. The Owl saves a baby boy who is shamefully neglected by its parents, and Owl feeds and raises

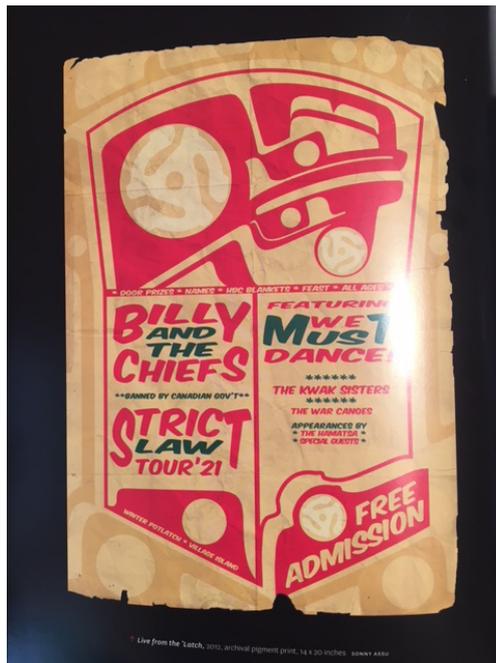
the young man kills Owl so he can live again with his human relations. This seemingly flies in the face of most such stories. And there is a girl described as dog-like, who is abandoned in the hills, freezes, and turns to stone. What do these stories of parental abandonment signify?

“The Unfolding of Dispossession,” is all. Here are rehearsed the terrible events of those years in the 19th century when the Shuswap people lost so much—their land, their lives. The restraints imposed by an academic project makes this narrative especially powerful. This book has deservedly won UBC Library's Stuart-Stubbs Prize for the outstanding scholarly book of 2017.

On his reference site for BC Indigenous authors, Alan Twigg lists more than 250 Indigenous authors, but for her novel *Through Different*

with Indigenous writing in British Columbia. Charleson's husband of forty years is a member of the Hesquiat band (Nuu-chah-nulth) located on northern Vancouver Island and his wife's novel captures beautifully the every day life of his people. At the same time she tells a lively story, wherein an aunt and a niece are having an affair with the same young man, the niece becoming pregnant. The soap opera dimension to this story, however, is undercut by the way the family works through this conflict that affirms rather than shatters the community. The story is told in an understated fashion and ends with all the village families gathering in spring to collect herring eggs. *Through Different Eyes* is set in the 1980s but the compassion and wisdom at its heart are timeless.

Vividly in time present is the visual art of Sonny Assu, a descendant of the Kwakwaka'wakw people of Quadra Island. *Sonny Assu: A Selective History* introduces in some depth the young artist whose work is receiving significant



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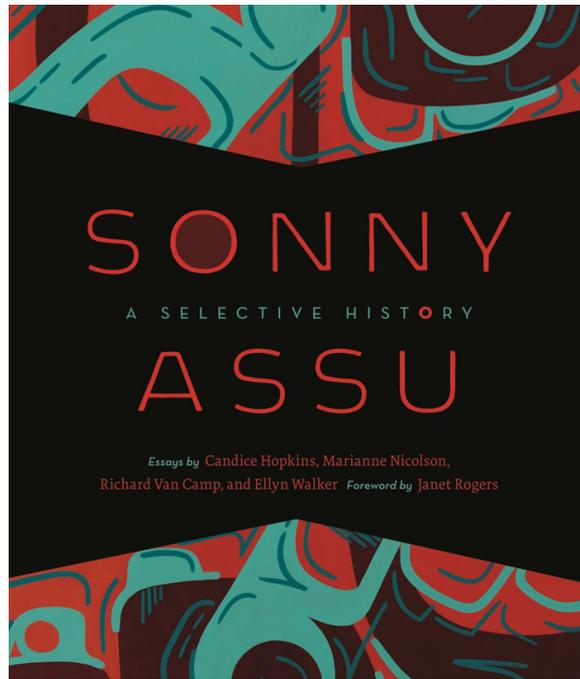
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national and international attention. the permanent collections of the the Seattle Art Museum, the UBC, the Audain Art Museum in book includes four short essays essay by Assu himself, but most illustrations of his work during the

Assu writes: “Most of my but as my practice grew, that the self to my family and to the ancestors is Chief Billy Assu (1867- for guiding his people through the longhouse to modern times. life figure, he broke the potlatch forming the Native Fishermen’s Association which merged with the Native Brotherhood of BC. He was the first to let Dr. Ida Halpern record his songs. Revered by his people, he was twice decorated by royalty; there was a fly past of sea planes at his funeral.



It has been accepted into National Gallery of Canada, Museum of Anthropology at Whistler, to name a few. This by art experts and a personal importantly it provides excellent past fifteen years. work is autobiographical autobiography expanded from ancestors.” Among those 1965) who has been credited the difficult transition from An exemplary, larger than law and was instrumental in

Sonny Assu takes this personal family legacy as a starting point to scrutinize the wider continuing effects of history and legal structures on Indigenous people. His signature piece is a satirical print titled “Live from the ‘Latch,” the drawing of a “copper” inscribed with an advertisement for a forthcoming potlatch being given by “Billy and the Chiefs” — on a Strict Law Tour, 1921. A list of persons and events includes the Kwak Sisters, the Hamatsa, The War Canoes. “We Must Dance” shouts the poster, but it is all “Banned by the Canadian Government.”

A series of pop art montages using images from Coca Cola and Disney interrogate Indigenous concepts of value and wealth in collision with capitalist and colonial ones. In an installation at the Audain Museum, Assu features a Hudson’s Bay blanket (infamously associated with the spread of small pox) covered by 67 “grande”-size copper “to-go” cups—in this case wealth boiled down to disposable coffee-cups but numbering the years of the potlatch ban.

Schooled in a non-Indigenous setting, Assu also interrogates the history of painting, most strikingly in a series of “interventions” in works by Emily Carr and her contemporaries. The effect is eerie; pop art renderings of ovoids and carved masks hover over the landscape and entwine with Carr’s figures as if space landings were taking place. This handsomely produced book of 225 pages is a superb introduction to an artist whose future is promising indeed.

Reviewed by David Stouck whose great aunt was a sister to Billy Assu. ❖



continued from page 7 of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.”

There is no necessity for the divine in this and no necessity to give special treatment to those who make special claims about the divine origin of things associated with their group. We should be very grateful for the UN Declaration, and should all work to ensure that this wonderful conception is fulfilled in practice, working for equal human rights for all without arguing for special rights for groups. ❖

Not “Dinner At Antoine’s” But Definitely Rogano’s

By Len Evenden

A splendid dinner. What better way to visit a colleague from SFU’s earliest days? Recently this snapshot came to light and I realized it must be one of the last photos in which Archie MacPherson appeared with a few of his long-time colleagues. Here’s what happened.

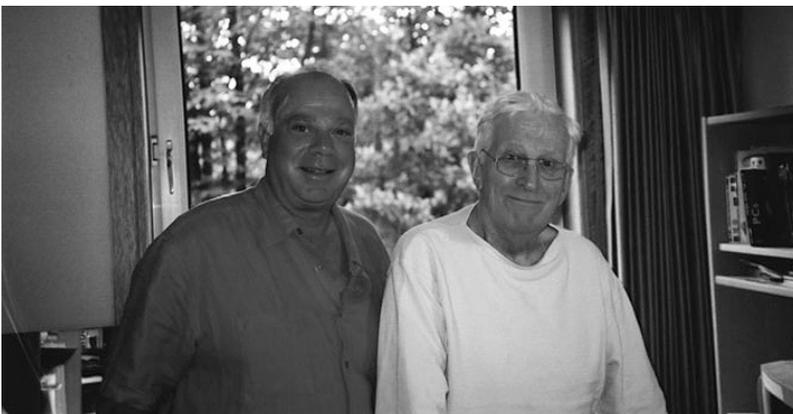
Despite his love for Vancouver, and several years after retiring from SFU, Archie returned to Glasgow, the centre of his home locale. But he kept in touch with Canadian colleagues, particularly Warren Gill, Ed Gibson and Len Evenden. As it happened, the International Geographical Union held its 108th anniversary Congress in Glasgow in 2004. SFU folks attending the Congress



arranged a dinner party to meet with Archie but needed him to suggest a suitable place. He was the guest, of course; but now, assuming the host’s role, he recommended Rogano in central Glasgow. The current website for Rogano reminds one of what Archie told us about the design and history of this icon of the gourmet life. “In 1935, as the great Cunard liner Queen Mary took shape in the Clyde, a restaurant was refitted in the same Art Deco style and a Glasgow legend was born.” In a study of the Vancouver and Glasgow cruise ship industries, which Warren and Archie were planning, they would surely have highlighted this. Unfortunately, the project could not be completed but, as one can tell from the table glassware in the photo, martinis were enjoyed in tribute as dinner commenced. Cultivated and elegant, well-informed, and ever the prompt chair of the meeting, Archie called the dinner to a close precisely at 10:30 PM, insisting that he needed his rest. This final SFU Geography party with Archie present was enjoyed by Warren Gill, Len Evenden, Alison

Gill (no relation to Warren), Archie and Shaundehl Runka, Warren’s wife.

For readers who were appointed in the later years of SFU’s first half century: Archie MacPherson was the founding Head of the Department of Geography and briefly the Temporary Acting President of SFU during the tumultuous summer of 1968. The Canadian Geographer published his obituary in 2011, Volume 55(2), pages 262-263, written by Roger Hayter. See the In Memoriam section of the SFURA website. ❖



Archie and Warren, Glasgow 2004

You & Wi-Fi @ SFU

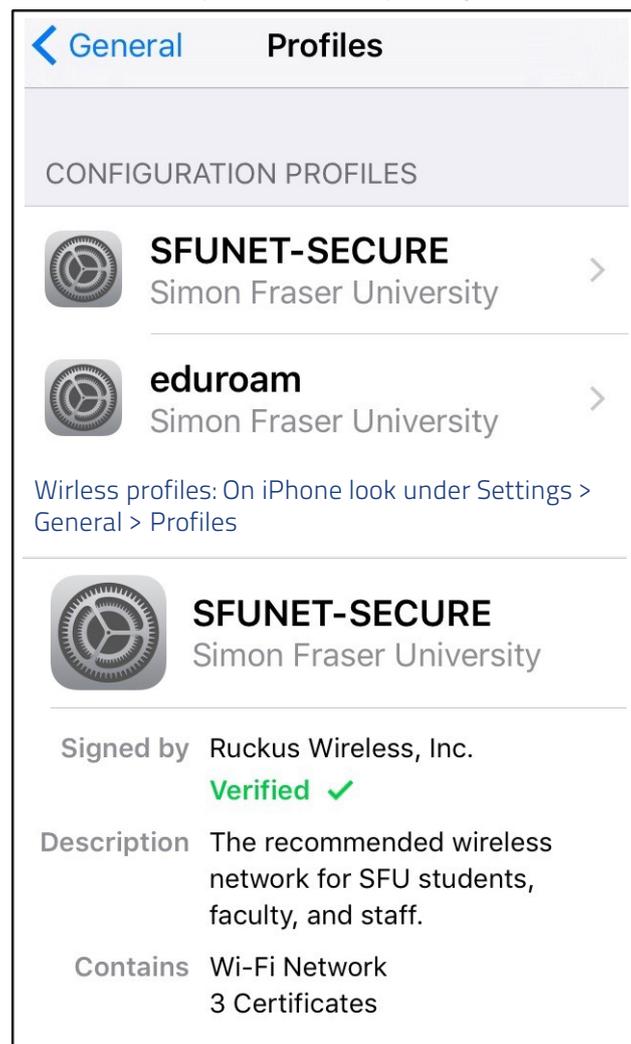
By Walter Piovesan

During the recent discussions regarding the migration of the university's email server to the Exchange system, a number of issues arose that touched on Wi-Fi access. There were a number of members who were not aware of the options for access to WI-FI services while on the campuses of SFU. (Wi-Fi is wireless networking technology that provides high-speed Internet and network connections).

Whenever you are on any of the SFU campuses -- SFU, Harbour Centre, and Surrey Campus with your portable devices - laptops, tablets or cell phones -- you have the options to logon to the SFU Network to access the web and to check your email. Of course, if you have Data Plans with your portable devices, you will not have to use SFU networks. But you may still wish to save data charges and use SFU Wi-Fi.

You will have three options of which Wi-Fi service to use when at SFU: **SFUNET**, **SFUNET-SECURE** and **eduroam**. For most people the default Wi-Fi service that will be offered is **SFUNET**. This is an older unsecured option and you are encouraged to use the secure alternative. In addition to not being a secure network connection, it requires you to login via a webpage before being connected and to proceed to surf the web or check your email.

The other two options; **SFUNET-SECURE** and **eduroam**, once installed on your devices, do not require any logins and you are automatically connected to the Internet and your emails. **SFUNET-SECURE** is used only when you are at one of the SFU Campuses. It is the primary wireless network recommended for SFU students, faculty, and staff. **eduroam**



is an international roaming service for users in research, higher education and further education. It provides researchers, teachers, and students easy and secure network access when visiting an institution other than their own. It is used at many universities in North America, Europe, and around the world. For an example close to home, if you find yourself at UBC or its various campuses, you would be able to use **eduroam** to connect to the web. But both of these latter two Wi-Fi services must be installed while you are *on an SFU campus*. And on *each of your devices*. The process is simple and can be installed in less than 2 minutes. You will be simply prompted for your campus ID and password. Your ID is usually your email address prior to the @ sign. For example, if your email is *betty@sfu.ca* your ID is *betty*. On mobile devices the certificates will be installed automatically, On laptops, a program file will be downloaded to your downloads folder, then you will be required to launch the file to complete the installation. For further information see: <https://www.sfu.ca/itservices/technical/wireless.html>

And don't forget, you will have to install these secure network certificates *while on one of the SFU campuses*.

Please write us if you have any questions. ✨

On a Patio in Greece

Tom O'Shea



This report was filed in early September from a patio on a bay of the Aegean Sea in Greece.

September 1: Email...Socialist to Editor:

Hi, Maurice...I bring you greetings from Damouchari, Greece, as I sit on our balcony overlooking the bay, under an arbour of ripe grape vines, listening to the strains of rubbish music from one of the three restaurants, and sipping ouzo. But enough of the preliminaries. The main message is that I just haven't been able to crank out a Socialist report for the newsletter. I hope you'll have enough material without my immortal prose. Anyway I'm sure I'll have something for you for the December issue.



September 1: Email...Editor to Socialist:

OH! OH! OH! THOMAS. Two days before publication. OH! OH! OH! No Socialist Report—how about a quickie emphasizing the importance of travel and socializing with a loved one, with an excuse for brevity in a snooze on the balcony overlooking the bay on a Greek island—with ouzo? You still have two days and obviously have nothing else to do.

September 2: Socialist to Editor:

OK, you smooth-talker...I can see why we hired you as Editor. Here we are in Hotel Ghermanikos, in the Romy room so-called because Romy Schneider (you remember her) used to stay here regularly. We overlook the small harbour that was used for the opening sequence of the film "Mamma Mia" (best forgotten in your Socialist's opinion, but loved by his wife). We just completed the first of three weeks here and have explored all that is possible by walking and sea-kayaking. The next two will be mainly swimming, sunning, and introspecting, broken by casual conversations with locals from surrounding villages who are drawn to the sea. English is widely spoken (as is Hebrew and German in our area). Sanpho, our breakfast server originally from Burkina Faso, has posed for me an intractable mathematics modelling problem related to food and nutrition.

We are continually surprised by the warmth and openness of the Greeks who have had a very difficult ten years. Our host, when I suggested Greece has come out of the crisis, said they haven't come out of it--they just have got used to the reality of a severely reduced standard of living. Our kayaking leader was a young man from Albania who had trained

as an electrician but was unable to find an apprenticeship in the reduced Greek economy.

But I think the main lesson to be drawn from our time here is the value of an extended stay in one place, talking to people, and becoming part of the community. We get a much better appreciation of our own lifestyle in Canada (both positive and negative aspects). Too often we travel for the sake of seeing things rather than understanding them. If I never see another medieval church or another painting of St. Sebastian pierced by arrows I'll be a happy man. And I'm becoming impatient with friends who waste resources travelling to Antarctica to see the penguins. Get a National Geographic video.

September 3: Editor to Socialist:

Oh! Oh! Love the socialist rage. ❖



Writing on the Edge

Sheila Delany

OK, enough of politics for the moment. Today I want to write about something personal—a confession, in fact. Here it is: I love thrift shops! Having revealed this to a few women friends in my age cohort—among them a prize-winning activist and a published biographer, both living in tony west-side neighbourhoods— and discovered that they share this guilty pleasure, I'm guessing that among my retiree colleagues there are some who might welcome the information herein. A caveat: I only know Vancouver, not Burnaby or the north shore.

Why go to a thrift store? Lots of reasons. First, you're likely to find things that you wouldn't find in your normal rounds of the usual stores. Designer items that someone bought last year (or decades ago) in France, Italy, England, or elsewhere, at one-tenth or less the original price. I can proudly mention an Anne Klein floral-print dress in silky-fine cotton; Tahari wool plaid slacks; an Oscar de la Renta silk scarf; amber earrings set in gold, etc. Although I don't shop for men, I'm sure there are equally wonderful finds for them; actually, my son in New York has acquired an impressive collection of fine Italian and British duds—silk ties, tweed jackets—at upscale thrift stores on New York's upper east side. And the kitchen ware! Copper pots, old English dishes, depression glass pitchers. Furniture? Carved old wooden chairs, a cherry wood piano, a Roseville vase, wrought-brass candelabra, to mention a few prized finds. Of course, you have to enjoy the hunt, i.e., looking through a lot of non-wonderful stuff to spot the fabulous thing, but with a good eye it's pretty easy.

Then there's the social good, because many thrift shops are run by, and donate their earnings to, one or another charitable organization, whether local, national or international. Their staffs are generally volunteers.

For those who need an intellectual motive to spend money, most thrift shops have a big selection of used books both hardcover and paperback. Many will be fairly recently published, many will be classics, there may well be the odd collector's item or first edition. Records and tapes, too.

There's an aesthetic component as well. Sometimes it's like going to a museum of a certain type, say a museum of fabric art (Gathie Falk, anyone?) or of home design—I'm thinking here of the Bata shoe museum in Toronto, or the homewares gift shop of New York's Museum of Modern Art—because there is so much unexpected and interesting in the way of pattern and material. It's all art—on a continuum, to be sure, but sometimes there is much to pleasure the eye or the hand (silk, wool, polished wood, etc.) that because of someone's death or generosity turns up in a modest storefront.

Last but not least, it's a way to see more of your city. You find yourself in a different neighbourhood; there are restaurants you didn't know about that turn out to be worth lunching at; there are old or new buildings with amazing architecture and interesting solutions to spatial problems. (The Skyscraper Museum in lower Manhattan comes to mind, and although it won't be skyscrapers here, it's still architecture and urban design.) Put another way: there's a deep-seated inclination—hard wired, no doubt—for humans to get out and around, to go to the Souk to see what our fellow evolved apes are making, doing, showing.

There is a step up from the thrift shop, and that would be the fashion consignment store, of which there are now many in Vancouver and doubtless the suburbs. The main difference is that people don't donate to fashion consignment places, they sell, so the prices, while lower than original, can't be as seriously bargain-basement as at a thrift shop. (For anyone who remembers Filene's Basement—first in Boston, then in New



York, now defunct, alas!—the term “basement” is an honorific.)

So for the adventurous among you, here are a few of the thrift shops I like:

MCC (Mennonite Central Committee) store, Fraser at 43rd.

Salvation Army, 41st near Arbutus in Kerrisdale.

SOS Children’s Village, 41st near Balsam in Kerrisdale. ❖



A Universal Basic Income

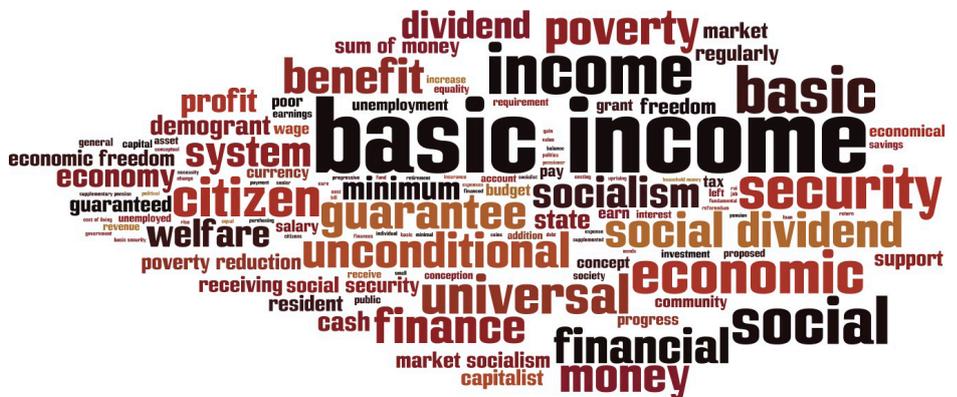
James Dean

Last month, at a small meeting of eminent but aging economists, I was stunned to hear one of the more conservative participants assert that given high and rising income inequality in most rich countries, it was time to consider a guaranteed annual income. To bolster his case, he also asserted that we are entering an age of ‘secular stagnation’ people are being replaced by robots, or even artificial intelligence.

Neither of these concerns is new to modern mainstream economists, but judging from the shock and horror that emitted from many of the aging conservatives around the table, they were new, threatening, or both. Yet viewed from the perspective of the aging right, these concerns are neither new nor threatening.

Globalism and Technology, and their Achilles’ Heels

The outstanding achievement of non-communist, free market economies after WW2 was to embed free trade between countries, and that achievement spread to most other countries after the effective collapse of communism in 1990. So-called ‘globalization’ greatly narrowed the gap between average per capita incomes in rich countries and those in poor countries. But the Achilles’ heel of globalism has widened income gaps within countries. Thus, for example, since the late 70s, income disparity has widened dramatically within the largest rich country, the US, as it has within the largest poor country, China. At the same time, average incomes in China have grown much more rapidly than in the US, and income disparity across the population of the world as a whole has declined.



The second outstanding achievement of modern economies has been high and even accelerating rates of productivity growth: technology, like globalization, has also driven multi-fold increases in per capita incomes. But the Achilles’ heel of productivity increase has raised a spectre of ‘secular stagnation’, and concomitant decreases in employment opportunities. Although many economists, myself included, believe secular stagnation to be a false alarm (unemployment rates are

currently very low) it is quite clear to most that the rapid technical change of our digital age has rendered employment less secure than it was in the age of large scale factories, often unionized, where the necessary job skills were more static.

Both of these Achilles' heels have caused rising inequality in Intra-county Income distribution. The knee-jerk reaction of those left behind by globalization has been to demand protection against competition from low-cost imports (notably from China), and the knee-jerk reaction of those left behind by technology has been to demand subsidies to keep old-technology industries like autos and steel at home rather than give them up to lower-productivity countries (like China). The knee-jerk reaction has also been to demand protection against immigrants. Populist politicians like Donald Trump and Victor Orban cater to these demands.

The Rise of Nationalism and Populism

From the US to Europe to the Middle and Far East, nationalism is on the rise as a reaction against the intra-country inequality that is, in part, a by-product of globalism. Similarly, populist politicians who cater to the concerns of those left

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Nationalists are a threat to the multilateral cooperation that has characterized the best of the postwar-war world”

behind by both globalism and by technology have proliferated world-wide. It is important to note that nationalists and populists emerge from both the traditional left and the traditional right of the political spectrum. In fact Italy at the moment is governed by a coalition of the two.

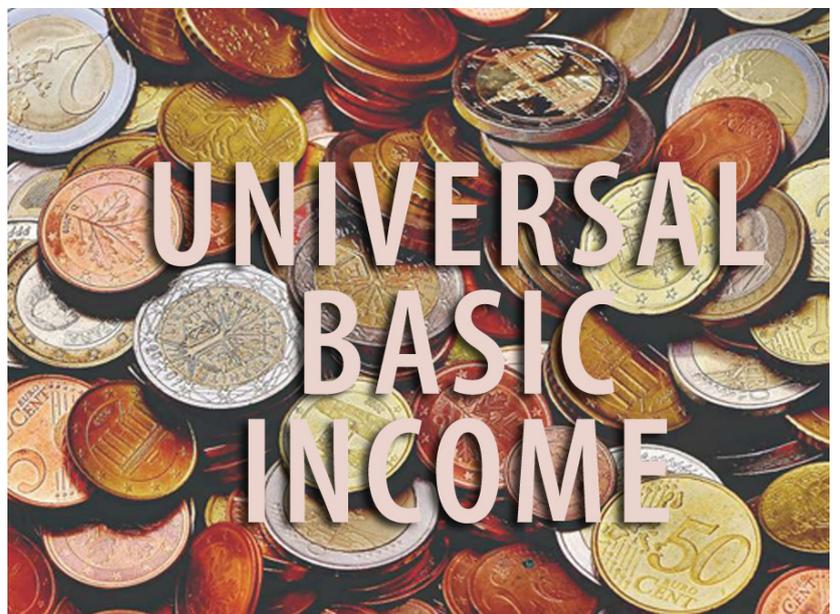
Nationalists are a threat to the multilateral cooperation that has characterized the best of the postwar-war world: think of the EU and NATO. Populists are a threat to the postwar proliferation of liberal democracies in fragile settings: think Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and the former Soviet Union, not least, Russia. Even the oldest democracy of all, the US, is under threat.

Inequality

The common denominator to the Achilles' heels of both globalism and technical advance is income inequality. As a palliative to inequality, both the far left and the far right advocate forms of mercantilism: barriers to cross-border trade, investment and technology flows (not to mention the free movement of people)—as well as modern forms of Luddite-ism, such as artificial life support for obsolete industries.

Universal Basic Incomes: A Policy That Should Unite Left and Right

There is no simple solution to satisfy the sorrows of those left behind by globalism and by technology. There is, indeed, agreement across the broad middle of the political spectrum that free trade—both international and international—should be preserved. There is also broad agreement that dying industries should not be kept alive artificially. But even in the US, epicentre of free trade and of the creative destruction of



obsolete industries, a disaffected 40% of the voting population backs a President who seems to advocate protectionism along with life-support for dying (and polluting) industries like coal. More imaginative and enlightened policies would encourage on-the-



job retraining (as in Germany), or subsidize labour mobility out of yesterday's industries and regions into tomorrow's.

“Advanced” countries should also address inter-generational mobility. Remarkably, in just half a century, the US has descended from the world's highest ranked country in terms of opportunity for upward mobility (the “American dream”) to number 15 amongst rich countries, after Canada, much of Western Europe, and rich Asian countries like South Korea (not to mention poorer countries like China and India, where the opportunity to do better than one's parents has risen dramatically).

But one policy about which both left and right, poor and rich, and free market and planned countries should agree is a Universal Basic Income. UBI has become fashionable recently—for example, temporarily in Finland, and right now, in a flawed form, in the UK—but its advocates, especially on the left, are often unaware that a cleverly designed UBI was proposed in 1963 by the iconic free-market, libertarian economist Milton Friedman. Central to his proposal was a feature that preserved incentives to work for earned income well beyond the “basic” level.

Friedman called his proposal the “Negative Income Tax”. Its key feature was that earned income would subtract from the guaranteed income only very marginally and very gradually, as the ‘negative’ tax gradually became positive once total income surpassed the country's threshold for taxes to kick in. Thus income earned above “welfare” income was not to be taxed at anything like a 100% rate, the way it is in countries that take away a dollar of welfare for every dollar earned. The incentive to work for income over-and-above the “guaranteed” leave is preserved. An additional advantage was that the guaranteed minimum income would be subtracted from any existing welfare income, thus greatly reducing its cost to the public purse. A final benefit, appealing to libertarians, would be that many of the intrusive aspects of conventional welfare—“Do you have a boyfriend?”, “Do you take drugs?”—would be eliminated.

Social Costs of Poverty Versus Social Costs of Inequality

A UBI would attack extreme poverty, the social and humanitarian costs of which are transparent: degradation, squalor, homelessness, crime and much more. No civilized society should tolerate it. But the UBI would do little to reduce extreme inequality and insecurity at levels of income above the very bottom. There is mounting evidence that a host of social ills are associated with high and rising income inequality and of income insecurity in rich countries, as well as declining prospects for upward mobility. This will be the subject of another essay. ❖



Available at SFU
Campus Bookstore



IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU

Evelyn Palmer



Walter Piovesan journeyed to Montreal in the summer to accept an IASSIST Award. He joins 21 other distinguished recipients of the award. IASSIST (International Association for Social Science Information Services and Technology) is an international organization of professionals working with information technology and data services to support research and teaching in the social sciences. Inaugurated in 1990 at the annual conference in Poughkeepsie, New York, the award recognizes the cumulative contributions of an individual to the organization and to the profession. The website is: <http://www.iassistdata.org/about/index.html>

Walter has served on the SFURA Board since 2015 as our Vice President, and principally our webmaster. He looks after the layout of our newsletters and brochures and was Associate Editor of *Remembering SFU*. He is our Go-to Guy for Everything IT and Everything Else! Let's have a huge round of applause for Wonderful Walter.

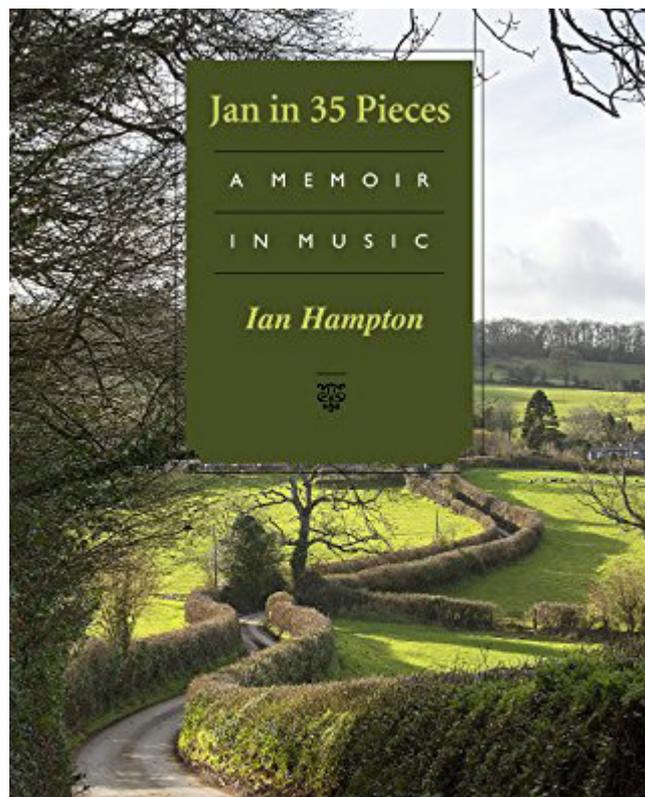
Raise your hand if you remember the Purcell String Quartet, in Residence at SFU from 1972 - 1982.

The cellist **Ian Hampton** has included it in his new book *Jan in 35 Pieces, a Memoir in Music*. This book has stories of his life from his childhood, and as a cellist in the London Symphony Orchestra and the Edinburgh String Quartet, then in California, and finally his move to Vancouver in 1967 where he was principal cellist of the Vancouver Symphony orchestra and of the CBC Vancouver Chamber Orchestra. He was a cofounder of the Purcell String Quartet who began their SFU Residency in Fall 1972. **Nini Baird** was responsible for bringing the Purcell String Quartet to SFU.

In 1972 Nini, then Director of the Centre for Communications and the Arts, was developing a plan to secure funding for the Purcell String Quartet to become the first quartet in residence at Simon Fraser University. She knew that the members of the Quartet were keen to become artists-in-residence if the money could be found.

She approached Guy Huot at the Canada Council for support and through him met Hugh Davidson, then music administrator at the National Arts Centre and in 1973 Head of Music at the Canada Council. (Nini served on the Canada Council Board 1973-1979.) Both were enthusiastic about the opportunity for these well-known Vancouver Symphony Orchestra musicians: Norman Nelson Concertmaster, Ian Hampton Principal Cello, Philippe Etter Principal Viola, and Fred Nelson First Violinist. With the prospect of Canada Council support, Nini was able to persuade three SFU vice-presidents (Brian Wilson, Stan Roberts and George Stuart) to go along with her idea.

The PSQ, as they were known, took up residency in Fall 1972, with the first formal concert on Sunday, October 8. Over the years they often performed in the SFU Theatre and in what became known as "peripatetic concerts" popping up



all over the campus. Nini, with the assistance of Mary Trainer, toured the PSQ all over BC and across the country. She arranged a representation for the PSQ with a New York manager, who arranged for the PSQ to tour in the United States. Their community residencies and concerts often in remote BC communities brought SFU recognition as an institution that was willing to reach beyond Burnaby Mountain.

Nini, a member of the SFURA, is still very active in the community; she is Chair of the TELUS Vancouver Community Board and the TELUS Fund and is Chair of the Knowledge Network Board. She contributed a story in our book *Remembering SFU*, page 163 and she has been featured in some of our newsletters.

James Felter, the first Director of the SFU Art Gallery, celebrated his 75th birthday on August 25th in Buenos Aires Argentina with the opening of his solo exhibition at the Barraca Vorticista Gallery. The exhibit, *Arte Correo Etcétera (Mail Art Et cetera)*, consists of artistamps (pseudo postage stamps, envelopes, note cards, collages, rubberstamp prints, etc.) that he has created for various occasions and celebrations since 1958. The exhibit contains 314 objects. Of these, 124 are hung and in cases, and the remainder are in folios for the public to look through.



Jas came to SFU in 1969 as an Associate in Visual Arts and was appointed the Founding Director/Curator of the University Gallery. He taught visual communication and established the University's collection of contemporary art. He organized art exhibitions on campus in the Theatre, the Library and other locations as well as the Gallery in the Academic Quadrangle. He retired from SFU in 1985 and continued producing a massive amount of art in various forms. His list of Publications is at: <http://www.lulu.com/spotlight/jaswfelter> and his business, the House of Jas, is at: <http://thehouseofjas.ca>.

Jas also contributed a story in our book *Remembering SFU* on page 159. He lives in Gastown.❖



Parveen Bawa : Looking After Yourself



YOU STILL HAVE WORK TO DO

You have spent your life growing up, finding a job, contributing to the society, working and raising a family, and suddenly, retirement liberates you from everything — no more obligations or struggles.

Well, not so fast!

You probably still have yet to produce some of your finest documents. End of life decisions and discussions can feel weighty, but having your affairs in order will help leave behind happy rather than annoyed health care professionals, family and friends. Here is a check list of the documents you should prepare: Advance Directive (Living Will) and Medical Power of Attorney; Estate Planning, Last Will and Enduring Power of Attorney for finances. Special consideration should be given to: Housing and Downsizing; Driving & Transportation; Palliative Care wishes, and funeral arrangements. Each of these decisions require a lot of thought and discussion with different people, including friends and family, as well as healthcare and legal professionals. This article will provide you with a rough outline of documents you need to have ready, the discussions you need to have and some important Canadian web sites you can refer to.

ADVANCE CARE PLANNING: Advance Care Planning is a process that involves planning and sharing your wishes for your future health care, should you find yourself in a position where you are not be able to make these decisions yourself. Your choices are presented in a document called a “Living Will” or “Written Medical” or “Advance Directive”. This is first on my list because very few people pay attention to the Advanced Directive. For your family and health care professionals, it is an extremely important document, yet less than 25% of people have a well-written plan which is clear enough to follow. Most health regions have documents that walk you through the basics of planning your affairs, however there is some additional vital information that your Advance Directive should include. It should include information on your wishes regarding palliative care and hospice care. Both focus on pain management and comfort (physical and spiritual), but hospice care includes only the last six months of life. You may have different wishes with 1 year to live (e.g. remaining as independent as possible) versus nearing the end of your life (e.g. having no heroic treatments). There is a wide range of difference about how long people want to live and the kind of care they want. Some might want to extend their lives as much as the available medical care and advanced technology makes possible; others might request doctor assisted suicide



when they are not in control. A range of options is suggested in the forms. All of these wishes can be outlined in your Advance Directive. You are never too young to have this document ready; it is not just for seniors. You have to cover all eventualities. What kind of health care would you want if something happens to you suddenly today while you are active and independent? Cover as many treatments you would want and would not want. This document can give loved ones and health care professions a clear picture about how to make health care decisions that reflect your wishes.

Once you have it ready, give copies of your Advance Directive to your doctor and to as many friends as possible. When you cannot make decisions for yourself, you need to name a Health Care Proxy (also known as Health Care Power of Attorney, Medical Power of Attorney, Representative, or Health Care Agent). He/she will be your voice for your healthcare. You can have more than one person in that role.

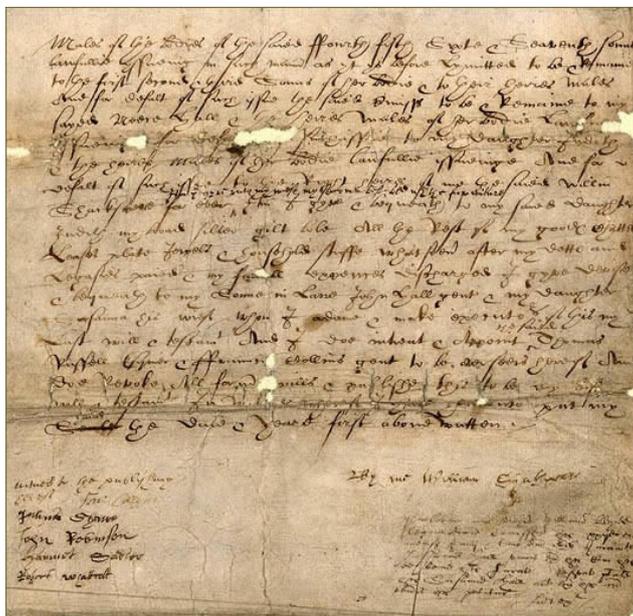
You can make changes to your advance care plan at any time, even after you have given it to others. If you do make changes, you should share the updated copy with your substitute decision maker and health care providers. Every province has legislation for advance care planning. However, the laws are not consistent across the country. The terms and forms that are used may differ between provinces and territories. You do not really need a form, you can take ideas from various forms and make one for yourself.

Fraser Health has a plastic Green Sleeve, which holds your Advance Directive and other medical information. To request your Green Sleeve and related forms, phone 604-613-5810 or email cari.hoffmann@fraserhealth.ca. These are also available in other provinces. Here are some BC websites for advance care planning:

Fraser Health <https://www.fraserhealth.ca/health-info/health-topics/advance-care-planning/>

Link for BC <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-feature/advance-care-planning>

Canada <http://www.advancecareplanning.ca/about-advance-care-planning/>



Early example of a last will and testament

ESTATE PLANNING: This is one legal document that most people have prepared. Whether it is well done or not, only time will tell. In financial terms, “estate” refers to everything of value that an individual owns – real estate, art collections, antique items, investments, insurance and any other assets and entitlements. Basically, it is a person's net worth. Legally, “estate” refers to an individual's total assets minus any liabilities (debts, taxes, unpaid bills, etc). Estate planning is the act of managing the division and inheritance of your personal estate. This is probably the most important financial planning of an individual's life. There are some terms you need to understand prior to planning your estate. A testator is a person who makes a will about his/her estate. Generally, an individual like a lawyer draws up a will, which explains the testator's intentions for the distribution of their estate upon their death. A person who receives assets through inheritance is called a beneficiary. The testator appoints an executor(s). You can have one or multiple executors. An executor can be a family member, a friend or a company. An executor performs a number of tasks including arranging funeral services, notifying those who are entitled to part of the estate's property, and determining the value of the estate, minus any debts. He/she handles payments of all debts and expenses owed by both the deceased and the estate, and assesses income-tax and estate-tax liabilities. They file all needed tax returns on time and distribute estate property according to the will. The executor, generally has to work with lawyers and tax professionals to handle estate expenses and responsibilities. While

all executors should possess the basic qualities of honesty, stability and responsibility, it is obvious that there are many situations where choosing candidates with wide ranging skills, and perhaps knowledge, is necessary. For example, if an estate includes a significant share in an operating business, the choice of at least one executor with an understanding of business would be wise. Probate is an approval process administered by The Supreme Court of British Columbia that validates your will and confirms the appointment of your Executor. Upon the death of the testator the executor must first apply to the Court for a Representation Grant of Probate that provides authority to the executor(s) to settle the affairs of the deceased. The Court gives the executor documents, called the letters probate (Grant of Probate), as proof of his or her authority to deal with the estate. The fees payable to Probate Court for the Letters Probate are based on the value of the estate and are high in BC and lowest in Alberta.

A guidance for Estate Planning and Last Will in Canada can be found at these web sites:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/financial-consumer-agency/services/financial-toolkit/financial-planning/financial-planning-4/8.html>

<https://www.wonder.legal/en-ca/modele/last-will-testament>

HOUSING: Ageing-in-place can be easy if you choose the right place and plan ahead for future needs. Remodel your house/condo to make it more accessible. Seniors choose to age-in-place for many reasons: proximity to family, familiarity, convenience, a desire to maintain independence, as well as safety and security. You can use technology (e.g. monitors and fall alarms) for personal safety and communication. With advancing age there are physical changes related to declining health and chronic diseases which may compromise a person's ability to remain living independently. In this case, down-sizing, which can be physically and emotionally stressful, is frequently essential. You could move to a senior's facility that provides in-house opportunities for exercise, healthcare, food and entertainment so that you do not have to worry about driving or taking taxis. Additionally, there are special places for people with dementia including day care programs and respite services.

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Ageing-in-place can be easy if you choose the right place and plan ahead for future needs.”

DOCUMENT LOCATOR: Make a list of everyone who should be informed of medical emergency or death and give it to your executor along with other financial information (Will, Canada Pension Plan, Old Age Security, creditors, mortgage, insurance policies, retirement plans, safe deposit boxes, and personal properties of value, and all related telephone numbers). Appoint someone as your “digital Power of Attorney” to deal with email, online memberships, and social media

to close or delete those accounts.

Make sure your executor has access to personal information for you and your spouse [name, gender, date of birth, SIN and SSN (similar information for other countries), address, email, phone number(s)]. Also make a list with contact information of all the professionals (banking, auto insurance, house insurance, lawyer, financial planner, etc.) who you deal with.

Finally, let your executor(s), POA(s) know where various documents are. Important documents and items include: the Will, Trust agreements, Power of Attorney, Advance Directive, Buy & Sell agreements, Marriage certificates, Jewelry/artwork/collectible, necessary government records, and personal information.

DRIVING AND TRANSPORTATION: If you want to keep driving, at age 80 and every two years thereafter, you will be facing a Driver Medical Examination Report. Here is the information for senior drivers in BC;

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/driving-and-cycling/driver-medical/driver-medical-fitness/senior-drivers>

When you feel that you are not comfortable driving any more, give it up. If your family and friends ask you not to drive any more, don't fight it. It might be a good idea to use public transit and taxis more often even while you are still able to drive. That way, when you are ready to hand in your keys, you will be comfortable with public transit and taxis.

FUNERAL PLANNING: Funeral services and cremation are governed in BC under the Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act. More than 80% of BC families are opting for cremation over burial. Whether you want burial or cremation, it would be better if you pre-finance it, and get it done your way. Take care of all details now. It is a big industry; shop around for what you would like. Choose a burial or cremation; and a religious service, a private service, or a memorial reception. You may even choose to write your own obituary. There are strict rules that control the disposition of the human remains or cremated remains in BC. For someone with no family, one can pay insurance companies ahead of time and spell out the type of funeral services you would like. One such company in BC is Alternatives Funeral and Cremation Services: they work with the University of British Columbia Medical School in case you want to donate your body or organs to the University. Whatever remains, they will bury or cremate according to your wishes.

Preparing all of these documents and having these discussions may seem like a daunting task, but putting a little effort in now will allow for a comfortable, informed and peaceful end of life experience for you and your loved ones. Hopefully, you have done most of it already; otherwise, you have a lot of work waiting for you. ❖



BC Seniors' Advocate

The Office of the Seniors' Advocate monitors and analyzes seniors' services and issues in B.C., and makes recommendations to government and service providers to address systemic issues. .

Office of the Seniors' Advocate on the Internet: <https://www.seniorsadvocatebc.ca>

Phone toll free 1-877-952-3181

The first Seniors' Advocate in Canada was BC's Isobel Mackenzie. ❖



SFU Retirees Association 50th Anniversary Endowment Fund

<https://www.sfu.ca/retirees/sfu-community/scholarships.html>



Editorial

Maurice Gibbons, Editor

Recently I turned on a NOVA rerun called “Dawn of Humanity” that got me thinking about a lot of issues that concern us as retirees. In the program, Professor Lee Berger of the University of Witwatersrand, in Johannesburg, was searching for a big archeological hit when he remembered being urged to look at the familiar with new eyes rather than always wandering, hoping to stumble on a find. He did and found Rising Star, an amazing collection of bones in a familiar cavern but deep underground. After he arranged financial support for a thorough search, he advertised for a team of people who were tiny enough to get through the narrow passages leading deep underground, who were not claustrophobic, and who were knowledgeable about archaeology. He expected a few local replies but got over 60 from around the world, including one from the author of our lead article in this issue, Marina Elliot, then a grad student in anthropology at SFU, working with Professor Mark Collard. She stars in the video (to

see it, search for NOVA: Dawn of Humanity).

When I received a note from Marina agreeing to write for us, I noticed from her signature that it was now Doctor Elliot, that she is attached to the University in South Africa, and she is a special agent--an Explorer--for *National Geographic*. She is an inspiration to all graduate students and reminds us all to take that challenging step forward when it is offered to us.

There must be many more Marinas pursuing their careers courageously. Perhaps we, the SFURA and especially *Simon Says*, should be collecting their stories and celebrating them as models to be emulated. In the process why not celebrate the achievements of our professors, too. I think immediately of the contributions by the late past president of SFURA, John D’Auria, both to the creation of TRIUMF and research into deep space. And celebrate my colleagues from Education, such as Tasos Kazepedes, who went to Greece to face his accusers in a court action over his criticism of the church-controlled school system. We will redouble our

efforts to bring you these stories of students and faculty achievement; they are the models of our university enterprise. Please inform us if you know of a story of faculty or student excellence. We will pursue it and see that it gets recognition if it is a story of courageous and significant accomplishment.

We have space and support from the administration only to the degree that we are considered an advantage rather than a mere obligation. I suggest that we actively pursue every opportunity to remind them that we are the University’s memory. We created much of what has happened and as I think of my colleagues and friends across our faculty and the university, I am impressed by how much they contributed to the learning of students, to University operations and to their fields of study. As I think back, I am impressed by how dedicated they were. We will continue to tell their stories--it is part of our mission--and Marina reminds us that we are the memory for her achievements and the many more like her. May they continue to flourish. ❖