



UBC Department of Botany Newsletter

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Edited by Iain Taylor



WELCOME

Time marches on and the pressures of retirement soon place all imaginable obstacles to dilute the best laid plans of mice and...! So it is well past time for this Newsletter to bring you up to date with Botany people and events since September 2007. It is pleasant to be able to write of generally happy things rather than of crisis, but 2008 had its very sad moments with the passing of Glenn Rouse, Lionel Harrison (a colleague from Chemistry) and Wilf Schofield. Brief obituaries follow, but no words can really tell the impact that each of these scholars had on UBC as well as their chosen research and teaching fields.

As you can well imagine, the UBC Botany Department continues to flourish and made several to UBC's Centenary. For those who may be wondering what happened between 1908 and 1915, there were a few classes, but 2008 is the 100th anniversary year of the granting of UBC's charter. McGill established a 'branch plant' in the mid 1890s and there were some courses that were presented with intent to be part of the still gestating UBC.

In addition to being your newsletter editor, I am editing a history of UBC Science during its first 100 years. Colleagues from the 9 Science departments as well as Biochemistry, Geography and Psychology, which operate in other faculties, have come together to try to prepare a record of science past and present at UBC. The facts are of course buried in university calendars and in the UBC archives. Unfortunately there are big gaps in the record and this is an appeal to you, the Botany faculty, staff and student alumni, to send me your recollections of people and events that were part of your time at UBC. I will of course delete libelous, slanderous or scurrilous remarks, but your personal impressions will be very important to me. I can then verify the claims and memories of others. In short, tell me about the great teachers, your student contemporaries, and of course the notable eccentrics who were part of your time in Botany at UBC. So, PLEASE let me hear from you, by mail, e-mail (botalum@interchange.ubc.ca); or even by telephone (604-822-2340)

Iain Taylor

HEAD'S MESSAGE

A Head's eye view shows a departmental landscape that continues to evolve and thrive.

In research, Joerg Bohlmann received a \$4M Genome BC award to analyze the genomics related to the pine beetle epidemic 2007/2008.

Carl Douglas along with Shawn Mansfield as project leaders, were awarded \$7.6 M from Genome BC in autumn 2008 to use genomics to optimize breeding and selection of fast growing poplars to improve their potential as a biofuel resource. The team also includes 7 other faculty members who are mostly Botany faculty members or Associate members, nine postdoctoral fellows/research associates, two technicians, and various collaborators.

Patrick Keeling and Joerg Bohlmann published papers in Nature Reviews of Genetics and in PNAS respectively.

Faculty member Quentin Cronk, ex-Director of the UBC Botanic Garden and an international expert in plant evolution and development, joined the Botany Department as a Professor in autumn 2008. His primary appointment is in the Faculty of Land and Food Systems. Professor Fred Ganders retired in the spring of 2008. Though Emeritus, Rob DeWreede continues to teach some phycology at UBC. Wilf Schofield did field work on mosses, on his own, in northern Canada just months before he was hospitalized with cancer. Promotions include Joerg Bohlmann to Full Professor, Brian Leander to Associate Professor, and Sunita Chowrira to Instructor I. In addition, Reinhard Jetter's CRC II Canada Research Chair position was renewed.

A significant number of Botany faculty members will move into the Beaty Biodiversity Museum and the Biodiversity Research Centre, probably around June 2009. This will not only provide much needed new and attractive space for research, but will generate research synergies and highlight UBC's international leadership in Evolution and Diversity.

The July, Botany without Borders meeting, hosted keynote addresses by UBC's Loren Rieseberg, Dean Simon Peacock, and Nobel-prize winner Carl Wieman. At a banquet there were sustained cheers for our Department being one of the strongest (and remaining) Botany/Plant Biology Departments in North America. Speaking about borders, Iain Taylor and Roy Turkington were invited twice to China (Feb

to Kunming and November to Chengdu) to conduct a week-long workshop on how to write a scientific paper.

Graduate students continued to foster our Departmental community by sponsoring Prof. Phil Benfey as a seminar speaker, and by hosting summer barbecues and a Christmas/holiday party complete with the Mistletones Band and Shona Ellis the singing bumble bee.

Meanwhile the Biology Curriculum underwent major revisions, spearheaded by the Botany Zoology Curriculum Working Group, which is chaired by Trish Schulte and includes Jim Berger, Gulnur Birol, Shona Ellis, Lacey Samuels, and Jeannette Whitton. Forty plus Botany and Zoology faculty members discussed the issues and voted with clickers to approve the creation, revision or removal of various core courses and labs. Many of these changes will be supported by recurring funds (Strategic Priority Fund) awarded to Biology to hire new Instructors, lab technicians, and teaching assistants in order to improve experiential learning such as in laboratories and in smaller sections of core courses. These revisions are being planned by faculty, organized into course and discipline committees, who will prioritize key concepts and map learning objectives vertically throughout the curriculum. We are currently identifying the parts of the revision that will be supported by the Carl Wieman Science Education Initiative, through faculty teaching buyouts for planning and hiring Ph. D's - Scholars of Teaching and Learning (STLFs) - to work with faculty members. Finally, Botany and Zoology have taken leadership in inspiring graduate students to become excellent teachers, such as by mentorship in Biol 535, a small but intensive course in Teaching and Learning in the Life Sciences that provides experience to grad students teaching in large classes.

Fred Sack

IN MEMORIUM

Wilfred B. Schofield, 1927-2008

Wilfred Borden Schofield, beloved father of Linda, Muriel, and Pamela, and grandfather to Aisha, Elise, Shayden and Kai, passed away peacefully in the early morning of November 5, 2008 at Marion Hospice in Vancouver, following a brief battle with cancer. Wilf was born in Brooklyn Corner, NS, in 1927. He attended Acadia University to become a certified school teacher, but his passion for mosses led him into graduate

work at Stanford University (MSc 1956) and Duke University (PhD 1960). He met Peggy while at Stanford and they were engaged to be married after a one-month courtship. Their honeymoon in the Arctic, where Wilf conducted field research, produced many fond memories. He joined the UBC Botany Department in 1960. As an emeritus professor, up to the month before his passing, he was actively conducting research, writing scholarly texts, teaching and mentoring. His research took him to numerous places around the world, including New Zealand, Japan, Australia and Tasmania. Field work conducted in Alaska over the last 15 summers will provide data for a book on the Aleutian moss flora. The text will be completed posthumously through the generosity of friends and colleagues. Over the years, a number of mosses, other non-vascular plants, and one flowering plant have been described in his honour. Wilf's greatest joy was sharing his enthusiasm for bryophytes. He loved, in almost equal measure, literature, classical music, art, and a good cup of tea. Details of a memorial celebration will be announced soon on www.caringbridge.org/visit/wilfschofield.

The Canadian Journal of Botany has agreed to publish a Festschrift for Wilf. Rene Belland (former PDF with Wilf) and Iain Taylor will edit the papers for publication.

Glenn E. Rouse, 1928-2007

Glenn Rouse was born in Hamilton, Ontario, August 1, 1928, and passed away at the Arbutus Care Center, Vancouver, on December 9th 2007 after a prolonged battle with Parkinson's disease. He was 79. Predeceased by parents Lida and Lavell, sisters Marilyn and Patricia, Glenn leaves his wife, love, and best friend Carol, his dear son Clayton (Alla) and brother, Wayne (Margaret), many nieces and a nephew.

The following is abstracted from an obituary written by Rolf Mathewes, (PhD, UBC Botany, 1973), one of Glenn's students:

Glenn was a pioneering palynologist and paleobotanist in Canada who left a significant imprint as a researcher, teacher, and colleague at the University of British Columbia, where he held a joint appointment in the Departments of Botany and Geology. He graduated with a PhD from hometown McMaster University under the tutelage of Norman Radforth, and told many stories of his thesis research travels to British Columbia and Alberta, where he sampled Jurassic and Cretaceous rocks after occasionally "riding the rails" in the Rockies with various colourful characters for company.

Glenn and Carol came to Vancouver in 1956, and he took up an assistant professor position at UBC in 1957. He began a variety of innovative research projects in the Vancouver area (stratigraphy and palynology of the Burrard and Kitsilano formations), and also worked on various projects in the

Interior of B.C. and in Northern Canada, as well as Alberta. Besides his main focus on Mesozoic and Cenozoic paleobotany, he also had an early interest in the Devonian, and co-authored a paper in *Science* (1962) on Devonian plants and another on *Perforosporites* from the Late Devonian of Quebec. He also convinced Rolf and another student, Richard Hebda, to do Quaternary palynology, which led them both to distinguished careers. Glenn spent a sabbatical in Nagasaki, after which his standard lunch came in a Bento box, and was washed down with Japanese tea (with puffed rice). Glenn also collaborated closely with colleagues in Botany and Geology at UBC, notably geologist W.H. Mathews who provided stratigraphy and geochronology to supplement Glenn's palynological analyses of many Interior B.C. localities. He is also well-known as a co-author of the well-reviewed textbook "An Evolutionary Survey of the Plant Kingdom" (Scagel, Bandoni, Rouse, Schofield, Stein, and Taylor, 1969), which was translated into several languages and went through several revisions and editions at Wadsworth Press.

One of his best known claims to fame is his naming of the important and now extinct angiosperm taxon *Aquilapollenites*. This distinctive pollen type was discovered in the Upper Cretaceous Brazeau Formation of Alberta and formally described in 1957. The "*Aquilapollenites* province" is a widely recognized biogeographic region of occurrence in western North America and adjacent Asia, but it is less well known that this pollen type is immortalized in stone in the spandrels of the House of Commons Chamber in Ottawa. David Jarzen arranged to have "Eagle-pollen" and other pollen types included in the limestone sculptural elements of the capital along with representations of trilobites, a Devonian fish and other vertebrates (see "*Aquilapollenites*: Carved in Stone!" on the Canadian Association of Palynologists web site). A fitting tribute to Glenn's memory.

Glenn always had strong inclinations to use his palynological skills to solve practical problems of coal and oil exploration, geological correlation, and even dating of placer gold deposits. Palynological range charts and stratigraphic sections were often tacked up on the walls of his laboratory in Hut 02. While Killam fellow Satish worked in the lab with me, I was often tempted to venture into pre-Quaternary palynology, based on beautiful images of Maastrichtian palynomorphs that were always on display around me. Satish and Glenn published 3 papers that were among the first to combine SEM and light images of fossil pollen. Satish Srivastava, a Killam post doctoral fellow, created the genus *Rousea* in Glenn's honour in 1969, following on the 1962 creation of *Rouseisporites* by Stanley Pocock.

Glenn's philosophy, was "Lead, follow, or get out of the way". He was a dedicated palynologist who contributed much to our

discipline, and a generous colleague and friend.

Lionel Harrison, 1929-2008

Lionel Harrison graduated in Chemistry from Liverpool University (BSc 1949, PhD 1952) died on March 17th 2008 after a brief battle with cancer. Lionel remained a physical chemist throughout his career, but from the early 1970s he studied biological systems, concentrating on research problems in the development of the shape of organisms, one of which was *Acetabularia*. His extensive publication record led to honours as an elected Fellow of the Chemical Institute of Canada and the Royal Society of Chemistry. He authored 2 books, *The Kinetic Theory of Living Pattern*, published in 1993, and *How does Life Devise its Shapes and Sizes?* to be published in 2009.

After post-doctoral work with ICI and at the National Research Council of Canada, in 1957, he was recruited into the Department of Chemistry at UBC by Charles A. McDowell, a former member of the Liverpool Chemistry Department.

Lionel's abiding interest was in mountaineering. He measured the total elevation climbed during his annual summer vacation to the Canadian Rockies in units of 'Everests'. He may also have been the only author of a scientific paper in which the abstract was written in blank verse (see Harrison, L.G., Morrison, J.A., and Rudham, R. 1957. *Trans. Faraday Soc.* 54:106-115).

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Curtis Suttle was featured at the *Vancouver Café Scientifique* in November 2007. The Café provides an informal evening for the discussion of science and technology that aims to reach a general audience. It meets at the Railway Club, 579 Dunsmuir St. (at Seymour) so that the audience can enjoy science in a casual setting with beverages. Topics ranging from fuel cells to climate change, networks to mad cow's disease.

In July 2008, UBC hosted *Botany without Borders* a combined meeting of Canadian and US Botanical societies. Official numbers vary, but it seems that at least 800 people attended. Thanks to Anne Bjorkman, Scott Black and Hannes Dempewolf for designing and organizing the BGSA's very popular T-shirts.

The 2008 *Krajina Memorial Lecturer* was Jim Bever (Indiana Univ., Dept. of Biology) who spoke on "Soil microbial control of plant community dynamics".

The once famous "*Travel with Botanists*" was temporarily reborn thanks to presentations by Roy Turkington on his sabbatical travels in China, Tibet, Nepal and a 13-day trek to the Mt. Everest Base Camp. Rumour has it that he also wrote and

published several papers during his time at the Chinese Institute of Botany in Kunming.

AWARDS

Curtis Suttle was elected a *Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, Academy III, Life Sciences*. The citation for his fellowship reads "Professor Suttle has changed our understanding of biological oceanographic processes by being among the first to recognize the abundance of viruses in seawater and their importance as major agents of mortality and drivers of global biogeochemical cycles. His work has influenced thinking in disciplines ranging from biological oceanography, through microbial diversity to virology and continues to break new ground."

Naomi Fast (Assistant Professor) received a 2008 *NSERC Discovery Accelerator Supplements (DAS)*. Each award provides substantial and timely additional resources to accelerate progress, and maximize the impact of outstanding research programs.

Joerg Bohlmann (Botany, Forestry, Michael Smith Laboratories) received the *Canadian Society of Plant Physiologists C.D. Nelson Award* in recognition of outstanding contributions by a young scientist to plant physiology in Canada.

Patrick Keeling and Curtis Suttle were appointed *Fellows in the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research* and Brian Leander was appointed as a *Scholar*.

Sean Shang (Botany IT Support), Carol Pollock (Senior Instructor, Director of 1st Year Biology) and Alexandra Brigham (Conservation Biology student) received *Faculty of Science Achievement Awards*.

Fred Sack (Botany Head) received a *Research Opportunities and Directory (ROAD), a UBC Undergraduate Mentorship Award* given in recognition of support and commitment to undergraduate research.

Toshiyuki Ohnishi (Bohlmann lab) has been awarded a postdoctoral fellowship from the *Japan Society for Promotion of Science (JSPS)*.

Heather McFarlane (Ph.D. candidate, Samuels Lab) received the *Canadian L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science Postgraduate Scholarship Supplement*. Created in 1998, the international L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science program seeks to improve the position of women in science by recognizing outstanding women researchers who have contributed to scientific progress, and young women scientists engaged in exemplary and promising projects.

Jeff Saarela won the 2008 *CBA Porsild Prize* for the best paper in Systematics published by a student in 2007.

Julia Nowak won the *CBA Taylor Steeves Prize*, for the best paper in Structure and Development published by a student in a 2007.

Michael Barker won the *Botanical Society of America Margaret Menzel Award* for best paper in genetics published by a student in 2007.

Eric Abbott, Apurva Bhargava, Emma Harrower, Zhaoqing Jin and Vivienne Lam, were awarded *NSERC Graduate Scholarships*.

Christopher Buschhaus, Hannes Dempewolf, Heather Esson, Hardy Hall, William Iles, Zorica Kotur, Shao-Lun (Allen) Liu, Wyth Marshall, Isidro Ojeda Alayón, and Qingning Zeng were awarded *University Graduate Fellowships*.

Toko Mori was awarded the *Edith Ashton Memorial Scholarship*.

Christopher Lee was awarded the *Frances Chave Memorial Scholarship*.

Wyth Marshall was awarded the *Kit Malkin Scholarship*.

Christopher Lee received the *Vladimir J. Krajina Scholarship in Plant Ecology*.

Jaclyn Dee was awarded the *Adam F. Szczawinski Prize in Botany*.

Elaine Simons received a Merit award for her print entitled "Shrouded Sunset" at the *Annual Print Competition of the Professional Photographers' Association of BC* held in Prince George. There were 174 entries and the judges were established Photographers from across Canada and the USA.

Santokh Singh received an Honourary Membership Award certificate by the *Golden Key International Honour Society*. The selection as an honorary member was based on his brilliant scholarship record, dedication in higher education, and strong promotion in community educational service programs such as the *UBC-Community Learning Initiative*".

SPOTLIGHT ON BOTANY RESEARCH

The Department's research productivity continues to be very high and the diversity of journal chosen seems to increase. The Department made the New York Times at least once and there were features on departmental research in several BC media.

Check the Botany department website for details of current research activity. The web address is: <http://www.botany.ubc.ca/>

The annual Botany Graduate Student Symposium was held on Wednesday, March 26th 2008. It was a great event and one of the easiest ways I know to catch up on research in the department. **Roy Turkington**, the keynote speaker, answered the question "What does an Ecologist do?"

The Herbarium has published the record of vascular plant type specimens held at UBC. The paper, by Saarela, Lipsen, Sayre, and Whitton, entitled "Catalogue of the vascular plant type specimens in the University of British Columbia Herbarium (UBC)" is published in the *Journal of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas* **1**: 437-448. (2007)

A 2008 review by Lacey Samuels, Ljerka Kunst and Reinhard Jetter published in *Annual Review of Plant Biology* is linked to a video starring Botany grad students, Allan DeBono, Patricia Lam and Miao Wen, which describes the use of Arabidopsis mutants to study the plant cuticle. [JOVE video](#)

The 29th June edition of the New York Times carried an article "Can weeds help solve the climate crisis?" The article featured some of the PhD research done by Andrew MacDougall on the Garry Oak meadows on Vancouver Island while he was a Ph.D. student with Roy Turkington. <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/29/magazine/29weeds-t.html>

Beverley Green and her former postdoc Marie-Pierre Oudot-Le Secq were members of the genome annotation team for the *Phaeodactylum* genome project.

Quentin Cronk and Hannes Dempewolf were one of 22 winners in the *Worldbank's Development Marketplace* competition. Their project, entitled '*Ancient Cacao: Modern Genomics Methods Benefiting Small Farmers*', is a collaboration between Bioversity International, Rome, UBC, the Department of Agriculture, Trinidad and Tobago and USDA).

MOMENTOUS MOMENTS AND NEWS

About our origins - The John Davidson web site has just been launched at <http://www.botanyjohn.org/>. John Davidson (1878-1970) also known as "Botany John", was a Canadian botanist, educator and conservationist who touched many lives through his teachings and public lectures. His accomplishments include the creation of the *University of British Columbia Botanical Garden*, the *University of British Columbia Herbarium* and the *Vancouver Natural History Society*.

UBC Herbarium and E-Flora BC remind past and present members of the Department that they have opportunities for gift shopping as you support the Herbarium. Plants of British Columbia Herbarium Prints (24 prints to choose from), unframed \$10 each/3 for \$25; framed \$20 each/3 for \$50. Wildflowers Photo Cards \$4 each/3 for \$10/10 for \$30. For more information and selection visit the UBC Herbarium or the herbarium shop @ <http://www.botany.ubc.ca/herbarium/>.

UBC Botanical Garden Canopy Walkway. The Greenheart Canopy Walkway is open at UBC Botanical Garden. This educational aerial adventure is a 308 m long and up to 17.5 m high, walkway through the upper forest canopy of the David Lam Asian Garden. Visitors to the walkway will receive fully guided 40-minute tours to learn about Pacific Coast flora and fauna, the environment, first nations and more, while towering over the forest floor. Open daily from 10 am to 5 pm at the UBC Botanical Garden at a cost of \$20 (Adult), \$14 (Youth), \$6 (Children) and \$16 (Seniors). For more information visit www.ubc.botanicalgarden.org or call 604.822.4208.

The Beaty Biodiversity Museum and the Biodiversity Research Centre are close to completion. In November 2007, UBC awarded an Honorary Degree to Buzz Holling, who was among the earliest occupants of Hut B8 and one whose intellectual shoulders are at the foundation of the Biodiversity Centre.

Ian Stirling, Scientist Emeritus, Canadian Wildlife Services and Adjunct Prof., Univ. of Alberta, visited UBC in May and lectured on "Consequences of climate warming – Polar Bears and Seals in western Hudson Bay and the High Arctic", presented by Woodward IRC, Rm. #2, 6:00 pm.

The 2008 Botany Curling Bonspiel, at the Richmond Curling Club, was won by "Damanda", with team members Geoff Wasteneys, Amanda Kotzer, Chris Ambrose and Yi Zhang. They finally dethroned the Botanical Garden rink.

The debate over the UBC Farm continues and of course rumours abound. It is apparent that the UBC senior administration is supportive of retaining the Farm because it provides a great opportunity to show UBC's considerable commitment to sustainability. The season is over, but the Farm ran yet another excellent Saturday Market through the summer. Folks came from far and wide and carried away produce and a commitment to see the Farm continue as a gem of Point Grey.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Rob DeWreede retired in July 2008

Rob arrived at UBC in 1974 from the University of Hawaii and was the centre piece of UBC marine phycology for more than 30 years. He had broad research interests, but it often came back to "why and how do those seaweeds stick to those rocks when the surf is perpetually pounding on them? He supervised graduate degrees for more than 20 UBC students as well as advising students in Indonesia, the Philippines, Micronesia and Mexico. Many of those students have gone on to successful research, teaching and consulting careers. Rob was highly regarded for his excellent research and teaching at both undergraduate and graduate levels. However, it may be that his greatest impact was as wonderful mentor. People were always at the centre of his life and mentoring was never a duty. He set a personal example that always had the 'right thing to do' at its core.

It seems very appropriate that the Botany department has recruited a successor whose fundamental interests seem linked to the same pressures of being a seaweed that intrigued Rob throughout his career.

Welcome to Patrick Martone, Assistant Professor (Marine Phycology)

Patrick T. Martone (BS Duke; PhD Stanford) joined the Botany Department in July 2008. Patrick studies the biomechanics, evolution, and functional morphology of intertidal macroalgae. He explores the adaptive significance of seaweed anatomy and the physical constraints that shape biological structures, such as forces imposed by breaking waves. For example, Patrick has been studying the structure and mechanics of flexible joints in calcified coralline algae and has found that these mechanically-important tissues develop secondary cell walls and contain lignin -- two features never before described in a non-vascular organism. Ultimately, Patrick seeks to link cell wall chemistry and ultrastructure to seaweed morphology, mechanics and ecology.

Bob Kantymir retires

Bob Kantymir, long time Botany Greenhouse Manager, retired after more than 25 years service. He has moved on to his lifelong love of officiating in hockey and baseball and playing golf.

New Botany Greenhouse Manager

Kevin Kubeck, succeeded Bob Kantymir as the Botany Greenhouse Manager. Kevin is a fulltime plantsperson who was formerly in the Botanical Garden Nursery. As usual 'green thumbs' are in great demand and Botany has been very lucky to appoint Kevin.

Lebby Balakshin moves to the Beaty Biodiversity Museum and Biodiversity Research Centre

Sometimes a Department Head is lucky, other times you get even luckier. My good fortune when Lebby joined Botany during my time as department Head. She quickly found my flaws and gently provided actions for improvement – such as sending me to HR workshops! Somehow we got through some crazy times, largely because Lebby provided a clear guiding hand. A source of wise counsel who ran a very supportive office for the whole department, we wish her well as she moves to become the Administrative Manager for the Beaty Biodiversity Museum and Biodiversity Research Centre.
Iain Taylor

RECENT GRADUATES

November 2007

Ph.D.

Colin Bates (DeWreede)
Sophie Dominique Boizard (DeWreede)
Justine Karst (Turkington)
Kella Darlene Sadler (Bradfield)
Clarice de Azevedo Souza

M.Sc.

Gina Choe (Whitton)

B.Sc. in Plant Biology

Amy Elizabeth Gwendelyn Passmore
Mathew Tanny Tan

May 2008

Ph.D.

Kimberley Ann Godard (Bohlman)
Jin Suk Lee (Ellis)
Michael Anthony Treberg (Turkington)

M.Sc.

Sharon Jeffery (DeWreede)
Patrick Lilley (Velland)
Qian Wang (Kunst)

B.Sc. in Plant Biology

Lok Ming Chen
Emma Harrower
Francisco Lee
Erin Marie Stacey (with Honours)
Laura Super
Atsuko Tsukamoto

November 2008

Ph.D.

Benjamin Davis Gilbert (Turkington)
Michael Lipsen (PJ Harrison)
Ryan Philippe (Bohlman)

M.Sc.

Anna Gangaeva (Keeling)
Peter Zhang

B.Sc. in Plant Biology

Mayana Ellena Kreitzman (with Honours)

ALUMNI NEWS

Alumni/ae. If your name is not here, then please send me an e-mail with an update of your doings! There are very few other ways to keep in touch with our community.

Thanks. Iain.

e-mail address:

botalumn@interchange.ubc.ca

Robert Falls (PhD I.E.P. Taylor) is Chief Executive Officer of Ecosystem Resource Associates and a Senior Advisor to the GLOBE Foundation of Canada.

Stacey Thompson (PhD Whitton) is a visiting fellow at the Laurentian Forestry Centre in Quebec City. She is working in population and environmental genomics to assess the environmental risks posed by genetically-modified trees, through population genomic modelling and molecular studies of gene flow between introduced and native poplars.

Nancy Turner, OBC (PhD R.L. Taylor), now a Distinguished Professor at UVic spoke to the Vancouver Institute on "The song of the salmonberry bird: Why diversity matters in nature and culture".

Mark Pidkowich (PhD Haughn) graduated with the degree of Juris Doctor from the UBC Faculty of Law. He is now articling at Smart & Biggar (an intellectual property firm), and UBC is a big client as far as patent applications go.

Brian Hillhouse (MSc Towers) graduated MD in May 2008. Brian was a member of the Prince George Medical School class.

50 YEARS AGO - GLEANINGS FROM UBC ARCHIVES

In 1958, B.Sc. degrees were first awarded at UBC. Graduates in the first class obtained degrees in Biochemistry, Chemistry, Zoology, Physics, Bacteriology and Immunology, Mathematics, and Physiology.

The 1958 Convocation Lists included:
Ph.D. (1958) Fred Florian Svatopluk.
Thesis "The effects of 8-azaguanine on the mitotic cycle and cell growth in *Vicia faba* roots."

M.A. (1958) Clarence Madosingh. Thesis "A study of the physiology and strains of *Ophiostoma fimbriatum* (E and H) Nann."

M.A. (1958) Douglas Malcolm Shrimpton. Thesis "The effect of frost defoliation upon

the respiratory rate of the sugar beet root and the oxidases present in the beet root."

B.Sc.F. (Sopron Division) Laszlo Orloci (1st class honours). Laszlo proceeded to graduate work in Botany and later became a professor at the University of Western Ontario.

Thomas Benjamin Widdowson. Awarded the *Edith Ashton Memorial Prize*.

Karen Leonore Sperrings. Awarded the *Vancouver Natural History Prize for the best student in Botany*.

Alma O. Peterson. Awarded the *Andrew Hutchinson Scholarship in Biology and Botany*.

Donald Emanuel LaBerge. Awarded the *Armstead Prize in Biology and Botany*.

To receive an email version of future newsletters or to send us any news, personal or professional, as well as news of other alumna and friends of the department with whom you are in touch, especially those who graduated in the pre- and immediate post-WWII eras, please contact us at: botalumn@interchange.ubc.ca In particular, we need addresses and e-mail contacts so that we can remake connections that have been lost over the years.