

WINTER  
2005/06



# Wisdom

Grande Prairie Regional College Magazine



## THIS ISSUE

Alberta Centennial  
Medal Presentations

Northern Nursing  
Wendy McMillan



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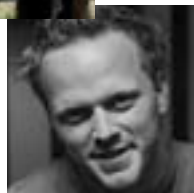


# RISLEY

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## Lifelong Alumni Community



I recently visited New York City when my friend Kristin called to say she would be working in the Big Apple for a week and would I please consider joining her for a few days. After all, Kristin reminded me, this was the third year in a row that she had invited me – and to top it off – Erin was considering joining us. That was it; flights were booked and emails started flying back and forth. It may have been a few years since the three of us had traveled together, but we were certainly no strangers and looked forward to the reunion with anticipation.

And so it was that a personal and business banker from Grande Prairie, a fundraiser from Vancouver, and an investor relations analyst from Calgary met in the city that never sleeps.

The trip was a once in a lifetime opportunity: I won't expect to be hosted again by the New York Stock Exchange at a prestigious meeting of the Economic Club of New York to hear guest speaker Prime Minister Paul Martin speak

– *continued on page 4*



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Grande Prairie Regional College congratulates Carmen Haakstad on his recent appointment as Vice President, External Affairs, Evergreen Park.



Please join us in welcoming John Travis as the new Executive Director of Community Relations at GPRC



—continued from page 3

unabashedly on the soft wood lumber dispute and urge the Bush administration to respect NAFTA's trade dispute mechanism (for the record, Martin's comments were hardly apocalyptic); I won't expect to stay again for four days in a luxury suite at the historic Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in the heart of Manhattan; and I won't ever expect to see Brooke Shields play Roxie again in the Broadway Musical Chicago.

What I do expect is to be inextricably linked to Kristin and Erin for my lifetime. And the memory of the trip to NYC will be added to the multitude of memories we share, including the trip we took together to Montreal in 1999 when we met as members of the Magic Marketing Tour – a group of business administration students from Grande Prairie Regional College.

At the time, what I wanted from GPRC was simple: to get an education so I could find a job that gave me some economic security. What I got was that and so much more. A few of the residual effects of the two years spent at GPRC include life long friendships; the confidence to transfer to a university where I got to study internationally; and a network that transcends geographic regions and industry sectors.

And just as important, in my view, was the open invitation and opportunity to give back to the college community as a member of the GPRC alumni.

North American education institutions put significant resources into alumni relations. I experienced this development first hand when, after leaving Grande Prairie in 2000 and completing an undergraduate degree in management at the University of Lethbridge, I worked for three years at the University of Victoria. There I was responsible for alumni relations,



Erin Lynch, Joanne Ballance and Kristin Briard in Times Square.

communications, and major gift fundraising for the Faculty of Business. As one of 34 people in the division of external relations, it was made clear to me right from the start that the University wanted to keep alumni involved. In our faculty, alumni relations were one of the Dean's top priorities.

There are reasons educational institutions are investing in alumni relations. And it's not just your wallet they are reaching for. There is considerable value to fostering life long relationships with alumni. An institution or faculty's brand (or its perceived value and prestige, if you prefer) is strengthened when a successful alumni is held up as an example for current students to aspire to. It can demonstrate to generous donors who finance awards, scholarships and bursaries that they made the right choice with their philanthropic dollars by investing in the college or university. Profiling and honoring alumni, for example, raises awareness about the institution and may help recruit talented instructors and students. As a result, pride in fellow alumni may be evoked and others may get involved, thus building a stronger community. Systems such as life long email accounts allow alumni to keep connected to each other and the institution. Alumni involved in governance, coaching, and in advisory capacities are in regular contact with bright students who they

can hire for summer placements or upon graduation, without going through costly hiring practices. Grateful alumni create scholarships and bursaries and may ultimately remember their alma mater in their will.

However, with the ever-increasing demands on our time and resources, it is imperative for educational institutions to give careful consideration to their alumni relations programs. Only those institutions who listen to alumni and who build systems to engage, involve and inspire them will reap the benefits of long term relationships, increased community involvement, and financial contributions. There are no short cuts.

So why do I give back to GPRC? Because I believe that with opportunity comes responsibility. Simply put, GPRC gave me the solid footing and the confidence to pursue my goals. Why wouldn't I want to share this incredible gift with current and succeeding generations?

And last but certainly not least, I met lifelong friends here who invite me along to cool places. Where to next Kristin and Erin?

— Joanne Ballance, B. Mgt. CFRE

*NB: Both of Joanne's children are current GPRC students. Joanne lives in Vancouver and is the manager of resource development for the Minerva Foundation for BC Women.*

# \$40,000 40 scholarships For 40 students



**Grande Prairie Regional College** will be celebrating its 40th Anniversary in 2006/07 and is beginning celebrations with recognition of the most important College constituent – the students. President Jim Henderson announced that \$40,000 in new \$1,000 entrance scholarships will be presented to students in the region in 2006, in addition to the existing GPRC scholarships and bursaries.

Funding for the scholarships was raised through this year's very successful President's Ball held in Grande Prairie on October 1, 2005. "On behalf of the students who will receive these scholarships we extend warm thanks to the sponsors, donors, volunteers and attendees of the GPRC President's Ball for helping to make these awards possible," says President Jim Henderson. Grande Prairie Regional College proudly points to the fact that it has one of the

highest ratios of student awards per student in the province. That ratio will increase significantly with the new awards and with the generosity of the many supporters of the College.

#### **PRESENTED TO STUDENTS NOW IN GRADE 12**

40 new scholarships in celebration of the 40th Anniversary of GPRC

\$1,000 scholarships available for study at GPRC, Fall 2006, based on:

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The event was greatly enhanced by the volunteer efforts of 25 students from the Department of Business Administration and Commerce. These included students from second year Marketing and first year Business Communications classes. Their efforts included serving the meals and assisting with some of the fundraising ticket sales.



## Recent Gifts

**Weyerhaeuser Canada** has generously donated \$1,500 to the Circle of Aboriginal Students to be used toward the year-end celebration hosted by the student group.

**Emergis**, considered to be a leader in business electronic communications in North America, donated a \$10,000 software package for the enhancement of Workforce Development programs at Grande Prairie Regional College.

**A group of faculty and staff at GPRC** with an interest in quilting created and sold by raffle the "Spirit of Christmas" quilt to contribute \$3,000 toward the Christmas Spirit Bursary for GPRC Students. Members of the group each stitched squares for the quilt, using beautiful fabric and supplies donated by Marian Clarkson of Patchwork Cottage. Sylvia Stephenson donated the machine quilting, and Anna Perra assembled the quilt. "Through sales of raffle tickets on this quilt we will be able to assist GPRC students who

demonstrate a passion for learning but find themselves in a position of financial need," say the quilters. The GPRC Christmas Spirit Bursary was established in 1999, and is supported each Christmas by various fundraising initiatives of the GPRC community. Each year two bursaries of \$400.00 have been awarded.

Together we set a new record, raising the most money ever in the history of the Ball - \$53,000 in support of students at GPRC.



Thank You



# Centennial Medal

The presentation of Alberta Centennial Medals marked the 19th GPRC President's Ball as extra special this year. The 475 guests at the annual formal event hosted by Grande Prairie Regional College applauded the announcements of 25 worthy recipients, 16 of whom were in attendance to receive their medals from Centennial Ambassadors Perky McCullough and Pat Reid. Grande Prairie – Wapiti MLA Honorable Minister Gordon Graydon, and Grande Prairie - Smoky MLA Mel Knight joined the Ambassadors to personally congratulate recipients.

This one-time commemorative medal was created by the Province of Alberta, as part of Alberta's 2005 Centennial celebrations, to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to society and to honour their outstanding achievements.

To ensure fair representation from all regions of the province, representatives from federal and provincial government, as well as provincial non-governmental organizations in various fields of endeavours, were invited to select recipients for the medal. The medal is being presented to 8,000 individuals across Alberta.

"Grande Prairie Regional College is privileged to have nominated these outstanding Albertans for this recognition," says President Jim Henderson. Henderson is also a recipient of the Centennial Medal, recognizing his extensive contributions to post-secondary education in the province.

**Fletcher Bootle** has worked to enhance post-secondary education at GPRC, serving on the Foundation Board of Directors, and the Board of Governors, of which he has been Chair since 2002. His extensive community involvement includes executive roles with Rotary, United Way, and the Chamber of Commerce. Fletcher Bootle is an executive member of the Alberta Council of Board Chairs, representing public post-secondary institutions across Alberta.

**Elmer Borstad** has given more than 50 years of service to our community, and it has been his personal commitment to keep our great citizens here in the north. He has been an active member of the Grande Prairie Business community, and has served on the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary International, as City Alderman, Mayor of Grande Prairie for two terms, and as Member of the Legislative Assembly. Since 2000 he has volunteered his time to meet the needs of Grande Prairie Regional College, securing the funding for new student residences, and for the restoration of the College theatre.

**Margaret Bowes** has given generously of her time and resources throughout the decades she has lived in Grande Prairie. She has been a dedicated advocate, organizer and volunteer for the Grande Prairie and District Music Festival, Grande Prairie Museum, Grande Prairie Regional College, local schools, hospital and care facilities. Through her personal efforts, Margaret Bowes has made a memorable difference in our community.

**Lyle Carlstrom** is a vocal and energetic supporter of educational and social opportunities in the community. He has devoted countless hours of his personal time working on behalf of Grande Prairie Regional College, and has helped develop the Alumni and Planned Giving programs at GPRC, while serving on the Alumni/Foundation Board of Directors.

**Clem Collins**, with his wife, the late Muriel Collins, has had a life-long commitment to our community. Their strong belief in the benefits of post-secondary education is supported by the quiet contribution of time and resources to support the education dreams of individuals and institutions.

**Willie deWit** has been an inspiration to youth throughout Alberta and Canada, first as an Olympian, and later as an adult student successfully accomplishing his education goals. Willie de Wit has given generously of his time to share his story with people of all ages.

**Dr. Rick Erlendson** began 25 years ago as a student at Grande Prairie Regional College, later becoming an instructor and recently accepting the appointment as Dean of Business. He has been a resource and inspiration to students throughout the years, leading InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, and initiating many creative instructional projects. He has been formally recognized by his students by the presentation of the Teaching Excellence award.



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# Presentations

**Paul Evaskevich** has long been committed to building and supporting the community through sponsorship and donation, as well as development. He is the donor of an ongoing Valedictorian Award at Grande Prairie Regional College which annually supports a cash award to the Valedictorian, and helps to celebrate student achievement at GPRC Convocation.

**Jane Friesen** has done much more than educate professionals in the field of human services. As an instructor in Human Services at GPRC she has found innovative ways to educate and enrich the lives of the individuals and families living with disabilities in the community. Jane Friesen was selected for the 2005 Distinguished Employee award at Grande Prairie Regional College.

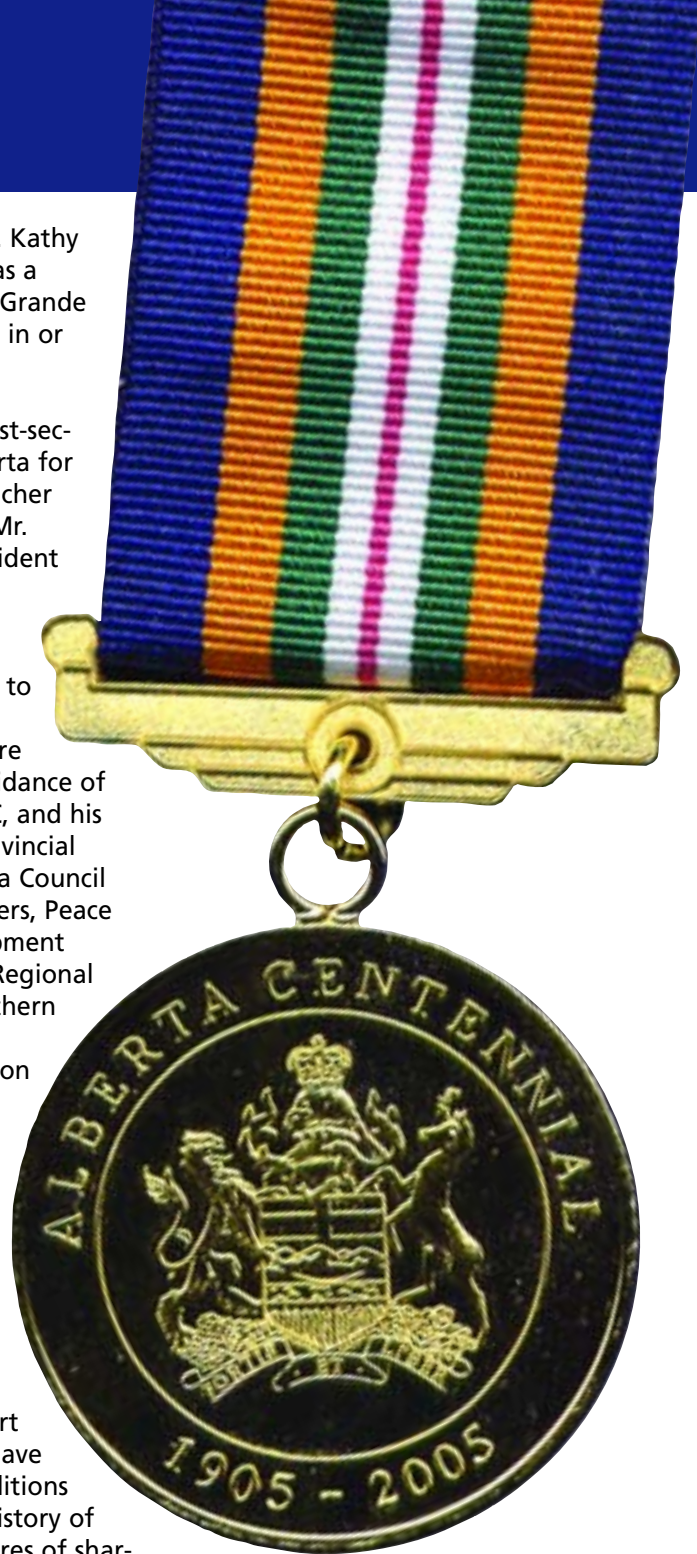
**Leigh Goldie** has spent the past 30 years teaching, coaching, and developing a love of sport among the youth of northwestern Alberta. He spearheaded the creation of the Wolves Club Volleyball program, creating opportunities for children in the community, and developing local athletes to compete on a national level. The program is now among the largest of its kind in Canada, and over the years has groomed many top national and international athletes.

**Kathy Harper**, served many roles prior to becoming Assistant Registrar, in which position she retired last year. She is particularly known for her career-long dedication to students, and was the recipient of the first ever Distinguished

Employee award at GPRC. Kathy Harper is also renowned as a duenna of live theatre in Grande Prairie, having performed in or directed over 80 plays.

**Doug Hart** has served post-secondary education in Alberta for the past 25 years, as a teacher and as an administrator. Mr. Hart is currently Vice President Academic and Dean of Health and Wellness at Grande Prairie Regional College. His contributions to post-secondary programming and opportunities are extensive, through his guidance of academic growth at GPRC, and his work on regional and provincial groups such as the Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfers, Peace Region Economic Development Association, Yellowhead Regional Education Consortia, Northern Alberta Development Council, and the Association of Canadian Community Colleges.

**Dr. Robert Hunt** teaches engineering courses at GPRC and has devoted his spare time for the past 25 years to the establishment of the Pipestone Creek Dinosaur Dig site. The efforts of Bert Hunt and his colleagues have resulted in significant additions to the palaeontological history of Alberta. Bert also never tires of sharing his enthusiasm for "the dig" with the youngsters of our community. *—continued on page 24*



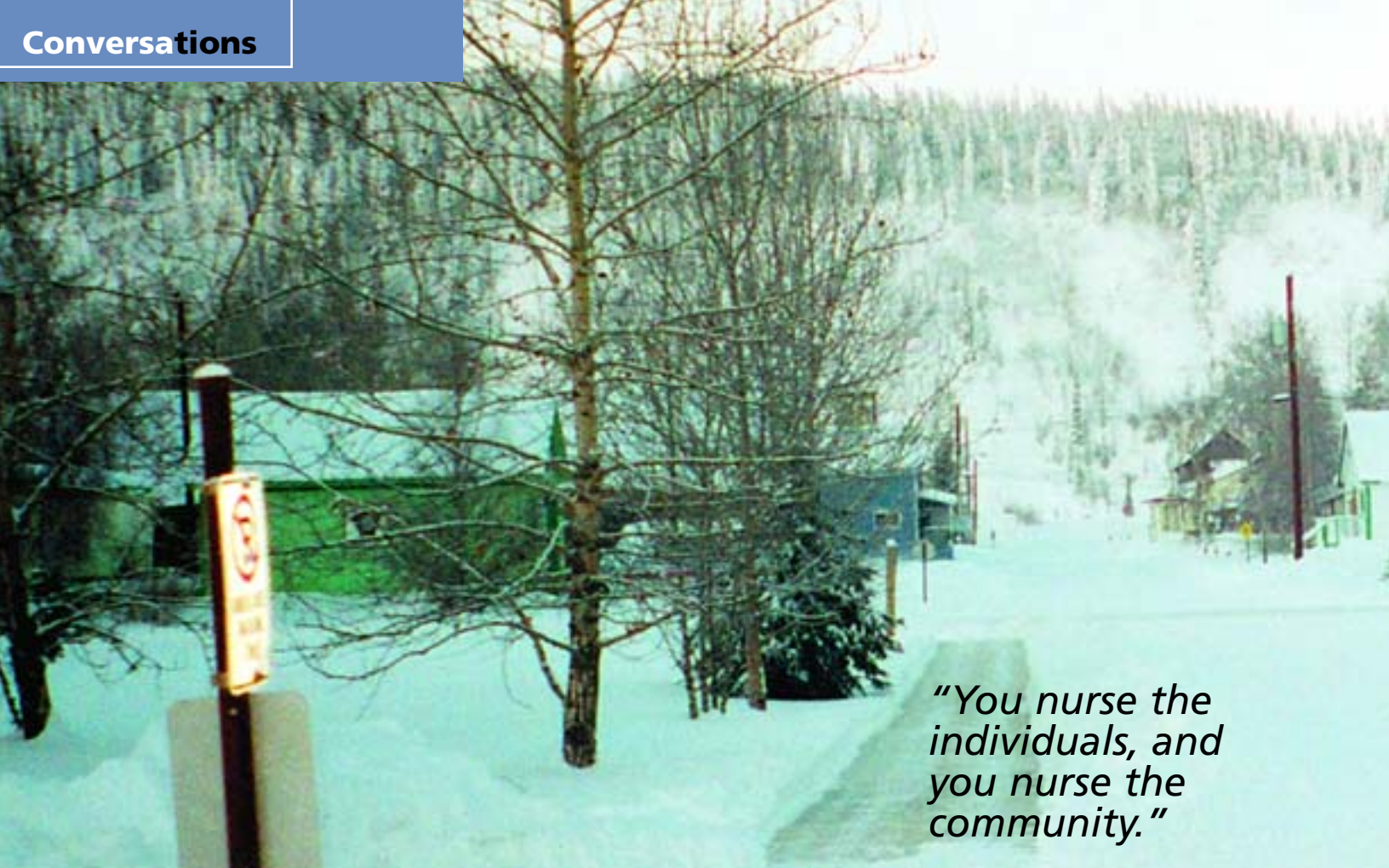
## President's Awards Reception

Grande Prairie Regional College  
April 8, 2006 • 7:30 pm  
Douglas J. Cardinal Performing Arts Centre and Theatre Concourse



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*“You nurse the individuals, and you nurse the community.”*

## Northern Nursing

# Wendy McMillan's Challenging Adventure



Four months in the dead of winter, a tiny remote community in the daytime darkness of the far north, and a job which knows no clock or weekends – the combination might sound like punishment to some of us. For Wendy McMillan it was irresistible.

“I went north because I wanted to develop as a nurse practitioner – the Yukon provided that opportunity for me. There are a number of communities in the north that are solely staffed by a nurse practitioner. That’s why the north called me – it was a professional development opportunity as a nurse and as a nursing instructor.”

Wendy McMillan has been teaching nursing at Grande Prairie Regional College for some 17 years – and utilized her sabbatical opportunity last year to expand her experience as a medical professional as well as to recharge as an instructor of nurses – especially nurses preparing to work in the north.

“The north has different challenges. The distance is a constant



north was not surprising to me – I think they appreciated that. Many nurses find that experience a bit shocking, but I was accustomed to it.” Wendy was prepared for driving alone on long stretches of

challenge, because there is no hospital in the community, there is only the clinic. If you have a very ill person at the clinic, you need to fly them out or drive them out – and that is not always possible because of the weather. Meanwhile, you don’t have any in-treatment facilities. The distance is a very big factor in medical care in the north.”

Wendy headed for the Yukon in early winter to spend two months in Dawson City, then another two in Pelly Crossing. In summer, Dawson City is a tourist destination, but the winter population dwindles to about 1200. Pelly Crossing, located on the Klondike Highway 282 kilometres northwest of Whitehorse and 254 km south-

east of Dawson City, is a community of 300 to 500 members of the Selkirk First Nation.

“I first went to Whitehorse and did some orientation there. The communities are all fly-in, and medical staff need to have access to the emergency services in Whitehorse. I toured the hospital, and got to know the personnel in emergency services in Whitehorse, met the members of the fly-in team, because those are really important connections to have.”

Although Wendy had never been to the Yukon before, she had been in northern Alberta. “Going





remote roads; she knew what to expect from life in a small community, and she was ready for a steep learning curve as a health practitioner. Even so, there were surprises in store for her.

"I anticipated the demand of the position when I was in the field – I was looking for the demands on my skills, the autonomy, the whole picture. That is the experience I was looking for, and I knew that the north was where I would get it. To be a real generalist, to be able to nurse everyone from babies to the elderly, medicine and surgery . . . that was my goal. I went in with a lot more paper qualifications than the staff there, but a lot less experience. I was able to go in and say what I needed from them. I brought my own stuff to them as well – I didn't know what it would be at the beginning, but I had stuff to bring to them. I moved out of my comfort zone."

One surprise waiting for Wendy was the discovery that there can be a veterinary component to nursing

practice in the north. During orientation in Whitehorse, Wendy was looking through the procedure manual when she noticed a policy in the back pages about veterinary medicine. "I said wow! What's this!?! But it is actually a part of our practice. I have a picture of us x-raying a dog. The dog had been attacked by a porcupine and had quills – we weren't sure if we had gotten all the quills out of its snout, and that is dangerous, can cause respiratory distress for example – and their dogs are very precious to them! During the Percy De Wolf dogsled races, I gave narcotics – more narcotics to dogs than humans, who were running and had sprained ankles or paws."

The busy clinic in Dawson City operated with 2 or 3 doctors and 3 or 4 nurse practitioners plus a community health nurse. "The clinic was busy all the time. The doctors do not take calls after 5 pm or on weekends – during those times, the nurse practitioner is the best you can get. Our contacts were the

Whitehorse doctors if a consult or anything was required." In Pelly Crossing, described as a community that exists to maintain the community, patients are three hours from Whitehorse, with no airport. Health personnel generally used ground transportation to get people out when necessary.

"There were times in Pelly Crossing when I was the only nurse in the community. "I didn't leave the community at all while I was there – I was always either on duty or on call – your profile is pretty high, and your presence as a role model is pretty important. It is a different kind of practice – in a city you can go places where people don't know who you are."

A nurse practitioner is the first line of health in a community; patients come to the clinic with a complaint, and the nurse practitioner is responsible to examine, prescribe, treat, and follow-up each case. Wendy and her colleagues did primary care, and then the public health component if that was

*“...the demands on my skills, the autonomy, the whole picture – that is the experience I was looking for and I knew the north was where I would get it.”*



needed, for issues such as communicable conditions. It was their responsibility to figure out the cause, and the appropriate treatment.

“We did our own x-rays, we did our own lab-work. That was new and surprising to me. We did our own casting, orthopedic work – including reading the x-rays. We did our own respiratory stuff, and provided palliative care. We were on call for patients in long-term care homes. We saw patients with mental health needs who are living in the community. There are not a lot of mental health services, so the

nurse practitioner assesses those patients, juggling medications to help keep them as stable as possible.

“You nurse the individuals, and you nurse the community. The nursing approach is very holistic. Nurse the individual, teach the families how to live with the disease (or prevent it) and go out to the schools and provide preventative information. It’s big!

“It gave me a huge understanding of the broad spectrum of what we teach in nursing. Students may not understand why they have to know all of these things – from

growth and development of the child to care of the elderly or public health – and I can tell them why! Because there are places where our students might practice that a nurse alone may need to figure out what’s going on with this person – put that knowledge into practice. I have seen it in practice – very, very autonomous practice. Very rewarding.

“My memorable days there of course have to do with patients; patients who we saved, or whose futures were changed because they came to us and we’d catch something. You quickly get reinforcement of what you do know and what your hands can do . . . I feel good that my instincts are still good on the line. I have been teaching for a long time – from textbooks, from old stories, old experiences. But on the front line I was able to confirm that my intuition is still good, my skills are still good, my decision-making is still good, my ability to problem-solve and critically think is still good.

"I had one patient for example who came in – he looked like a cardiac patient to me. He was an older man, he was sweating, he was grey – he was ill! Our lab tests didn't reveal anything. His ECG didn't reveal anything – we do that as well, we do all of that diagnostic work – I called the doctor in Whitehorse and he was saying to me give him Tylenol and send him home. I was looking at this man and saying to myself 'No, that is not what I am going to do.' So I called for another consult from a doctor in Yellowknife. And he said, okay, if you are not comfortable sending him home, then you have to fly him out. So I phoned around the north until I found someone that would take him – the two doctors then talked together and decided that the patient should be moved to Whitehorse since I was not comfortable with sending him home – and on the way in the ambulance, this man stroked. Because he was with paramedics when it happened they were able

to treat him in the ambulance and get him to the hospital in time. So that is one that I feel good about." The distance and the isolation were a constant challenge. Transportation of a patient from Pelly Crossing meant leaving the community with no nurse, no doctor, no medical help, so it was important to keep trips as quick and efficient as possible. When the weather was bad, roads were dangerous for the ground ambulance and flight was not an option. "One night we were on the road to meet the emergency team from Whitehorse – and the ambulance went off the road. By the time we met them, they were still shaken up by their experience, but time was critical on so many fronts and they had no choice but to press on. The very weather that had put us on the road in the first place had already made the air ambulance impossible, then made travel next to impossible for the ground ambulance, all of which would not have been initiated in the first place if

there were not a critical need to get the patient to hospital." While Wendy was in Pelly Crossing, there was an outbreak of tuberculosis which plunged clinic staff into a community-wide identification and treatment program. "We had to find all of the contacts (airborne) of the initial TB patient, and get them in to treat them daily. This TB patient was also HIV positive, so then we followed different contacts (body fluids) to identify, test and treat for HIV. We had to know who lived in whose home, who socialized with who . . . communicable diseases, that was very interesting for me, to have to follow the trail from one person to all of these contacts. I had not had much experience in this sort of medicine. Practically all of the community had been affected." The challenges of providing medical care were coupled with personal challenges for Wendy. "I am 51 – I didn't know if I could take on all of this new learning, plus a new work environment after



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such a long time in one place. It was a very steep learning curve for me. I learned that I am still capable of learning, and at a fast pace if I need to. I wondered if I would be able to take on the physical challenge – the long shifts, long on-call schedule. I did, and I could do it again. I didn't come away exhausted, I came away recharged, because it is so rewarding.

"I learned that caring and a sense of humour goes a long way. A long, long way. My sense of humour is my survival tool, and also my calling card, because I can laugh at myself and make people around me comfortable.

"I can now teach with fresh stories, real stories, that make the content of our program come alive for our students. This is an exciting result of my years work – I have come back with renewed energy, new perspective, new career avenues to offer my students. We have the students who want to go to work in the north. You have to be in the community to get to know the community, to learn how to care for the whole community. Now I talk to our students about this different role of the nurse practitioner, and it helps them to dream about the possibilities. Their positive possibilities are greater than perhaps they have yet imagined. The possibilities are as big as they can dream, for themselves or for the profession. It is about a two-year commitment after degree, including courses and practicum – Nurse Practitioner, or Advanced Practice Nurse, which is the Alberta term."

In this sabbatical adventure in the Yukon, Wendy McMillan completed a practicum component toward her own designation as Advanced Practice Nurse. She is eager to return for another adventure in northern nursing some time soon, and hopes to have students go there for practicum placements. "I would love to be the instructor who goes up and evaluates the practicum opportunity."

– Lynne Ness



*"I didn't leave the community at all while I was there – I was either on duty or on call."*

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# Where DUSK and DAWN Collide

*Writer Dr. Desh Mittra is an instructor of geological sciences at GPRC.*

**This** summer my wife Meera and I visited the Yukon and Alaska. It was a wonderful trip and fantastic experience. The vastness of the area, the mountains, glaciers, and ocean; the variety of sea life and vegetation were different than anything we'd ever seen. Plus, the Alaska pipeline is a sight in itself. But the most brilliant experience was the neverending day of Alaska.

We left Grande Prairie on the morning of June 10th and our first stop was the Liard Hot springs (B.C). These natural hot springs,

with fairly good facilities, are located in a beautiful surrounding. Our next stop was Carmacks (Yukon), a city established during the Gold Rush that is still being explored today. Being in the Yukon and not visiting Dawson City would be an incomplete trip, so we camped there for couple of days to witness how every inch of the land has been turned upside down for the search of gold. It is a "city for gold". We tried our luck (gold panning), but seeing as I'm back at GPRC, you may have guessed that we did not make it big!

After crossing the Yukon River by a ferry we travelled on 'the Top of the World' road, to enter into Alaska. This very winding road has many steep gradients and opens

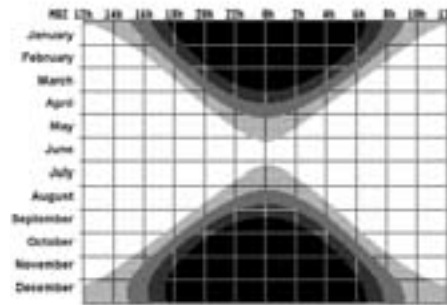
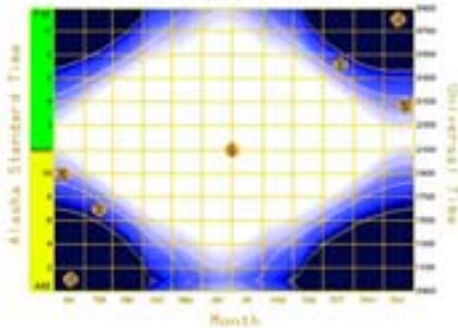
only during summer with US-Canada border operating for limited hours. We stopped in Tok with an idea to visit the largest animal refuge area but it was over 40 miles in the opposite direction. Travelling back on Alaska Highway, we reached Fairbanks, the largest city in the north most of Alaska.

My dream was to cross the Arctic Circle and see most of the daylight in June, especially June 21, the longest day of the year. For a couple of days we were advised not to travel because of the heavy smoke on the Dalton Highway. Finally when we reached Arctic Circle it was very disappointing, because other than a big sign there was nothing. Not even a serviced campground.





Sunrise and Sunset Times  
Fairbanks, Alaska



We drove about 60 miles North from Arctic Circle and camped in Coldfoot. Coldfoot is located at  $67^{\circ}14'55''$  North,  $150^{\circ}9'3''$  West ( $67.248575, 150.150735$ ). It was a gold mining center in the early 1900's and served as a construction camp for the Alaska Pipeline in the 1970's. Today's Coldfoot evolved from a hamburger stand operating out of a bus on the Dalton Highway. It has a good restaurant, a motel, gas station and a good size campground. Being almost halfway between Fairbanks and Deadhorse, there is a good visitor center in Coldfoot called Arctic Interagency Visitor Center. Top of the World Highway from Fairbanks to Tok (Alaska).

We parked our SUV in a very open area where from we could

see the sunset and sunrise with least obstacles. We were taking photographs every fifteen minutes starting at 10:25 pm. It was unreal to see that even at 1:30 am there was enough daylight that you could golf or read a newspaper easily. At 2:40 am it was still bright outside but we relaxed for a while, and when we got up at 4:00 am, the sun was already up.

Sometimes it is very hard to believe that there are areas on our planet where we do have twenty four hours of daylight during summer and same way it remains dark all the time in winter. People work in a regular way either in daylight or under electric light.

Why do we get so much of daylight in summer and no light in winter? As we know our earth is

tilted at about 23.5 degree and it is decreasing (varies from 22.5 to 24 degree) constantly. Tilting is the important reason that changes our seasons. This situates the northern hemisphere in a more direct path of the Sun's energy. What this means is less sunlight gets scattered before reaching the ground because it has less distance to travel through the atmosphere. In addition, the high sun angle produces long days. The opposite is true in the southern hemisphere, where the low sun angle produces short days. It was a wonderful trip that left so many memories, which I will never forget and I think every one who visits that part of the earth will have the same feelings.

– Desh Mittra

## *A Positive Solution to a Painful Situation*

# Muriel Stanley-Venne

*"I speak about Aboriginal women, but I feel a great sisterhood with all the women of the world."*



Muriel Stanley-Venne has a serious and painful message to deliver – but in spite of all the terrible information about violent crimes which she carries and shares, her sights are continually set on the positive.

One day several years ago, when Muriel was calling for information about an upcoming court case, the official at the other end of the phone demanded to know "Who are you with?" Muriel was quick to come up with a plausible answer: "The Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women!"

"I made it up on the spot – and got the information I wanted. At that point there was no such thing as IAAW, but I must have been thinking about it, because I did not have to search for the words. It was probably a year after that when we actually incorporated."

The IAAW is a non-profit organization in Edmonton "dedicated to the promotion, improvement and self-fulfillment of Aboriginal women within the concept of self-government and community, recognizing the Strength and Beauty of All Aboriginal Women." It is an organization to which Muriel Stanley-Venne has devoted all of her personal time and resources since its inception – and an achievement for which Muriel has been widely recognized. Most recently she has been awarded the Governor-General's Award in commemoration of the Person's Case,

*Muriel Stanley-Venne is a pre-eminent Canadian, who has made outstanding contribution to promoting the equality of women in Canada. In late November, 2005, she received the Governor-General's Award in commemoration of the Person's Case. Only a few days later, Ms. Stanley-Venne was inducted into the Order of Canada.*

*On December 6, 2005, Muriel Stanley-Venne was in Grande Prairie, Alberta, hosted by Family and Community Support Services,*

*the City of Grande Prairie, Grande Prairie Friendship Centre Campus Outreach, and Grande Prairie Regional College (GPRC).*

*She shared her message with classes of students, with members of the community at a remembrance ceremony in honour of the women killed in the Montreal Massacre, and in a public presentation as part of the GPRC Speakers Series.*

*Muriel Stanley-Venne has held a number of positions including*

*Executive Director of Native Outreach, Community Relations Officer at Bechtel Canada, and Marketing Officer at the National Film Board of Canada. As President and founder of the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women she works tirelessly and lends her expertise on the issues confronting Aboriginal Women. Under her leadership, IAAW and is an organization that advocates for Aboriginal Women and which has achieved recognition for Aboriginal*



and in November 2005, Ms. Stanley-Venne was inducted into the Order of Canada.

"I was so delighted, so thrilled to receive these honours," says Stanley-Venne. "I accepted the Order of Canada on behalf of Aboriginal Women. I felt very strongly that was the right thing to do, and that was how I felt about the award and my life's work. That meant a great deal to me – and the feedback that I am getting from the women is that they accept that the award is for us all."

Aboriginal women are the most vulnerable people in Canada,

according to Stanley-Venne. "Aboriginal women face discrimination and/or abuse in every area of their lives. We (IAAW) may not have all the answers, but we do know that our women need to know their rights. We have published a book written by Alberta lawyers, with information about legal rights, health rights, human rights, rights of equality. For instance, women need to be told that "when the police come to your door, you have the right to be treated with respect and without discrimination."

While the IAAW is actively

informing, encouraging and recognizing Aboriginal Women in Canada, it is also advocating for them on an international scale. Of particular concern is the fact that hundreds of Aboriginal women are missing or are known to have been murdered in Canada, yet their killers have not been caught or charged. "We don't even know the whole number – we may never know the number! – although the list of names has now exceeded 500."

In 2004, Amnesty International published *Stolen Sisters*  
– continued on page 20

*Women by presentation of the Annual Esquao Awards and the Social Justice Awards.*

*Ms. Stanley-Venne chairs the Aboriginal Human Rights Commission and was instrumental in producing "The Rights Path-Alberta" a holistic booklet produced to inform Aboriginal people of their human rights and information of legal rights pertaining to their daily lives. In November of 1998 she presented the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights,*

*Mary Robinson, with the "Rights Path-Alberta" in Hobbema, Alberta, referring to the racism involved in the Connie and Ty Jacobs killing by an RCMP officer at the T'suu Tsina First Nations. She continues to bring Aboriginal human rights issues to the fore. The work of Muriel Stanley-Venne has been honoured by many groups and organizations including the National Aboriginal Achievement Award in 2004 for Justice for her advocacy work in social justice for*

*Aboriginal Women.*

*Muriel, born at Lamont, Alberta, is mother of four grown children and grandmother of three. She achieved her University entrance by correspondence in order to attain her BEd; attended for three years and then left her studies at the University of Alberta to work for the Métis Association of Alberta as Department Head for Job Opportunities and Placement.*

– continued from page 19  
Discrimination and Violence against Indigenous Women In Canada. Today, the Amnesty International website states that “On the first anniversary of the release of the Stolen Sisters report, significant, unacceptable gaps remain in the protections afforded Indigenous women in Canada. Amnesty International has published an update on the response to the original report, and an outline of what remains to be done. “Canada is not doing enough to stop violence against Indigenous women and girls,” the brief reads.

“I want to think that Canada is my country, not a place where these terrible things happen to our women. It is hard to realize that these things are happening, hard for an ordinary human being living in Canada to even imagine that this level of discrimination and abuse is part of our country.

“And yet it has happened, and is happening, and continues to happen. The Helen Betty Osborne case was so shocking, because that student, that young girl, was murdered only because she was Aboriginal. And Lepine murdered those fourteen girls (Montreal) just because they were women. They hadn’t done anything to him. He had no motive other than that they were women. That is so startling that we must address the men, the boys – how we bring up boys, how they think about us as women. We have to do it. And we have to address the way society as a whole thinks of Aboriginal women.

“Canada is a signator to the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights, and yet it has not by any measure reached the kind of attention and resources to women which are necessary. Instead, resources to women have been cut off – there used to be a National Council for Women . . . in Alberta

there was an Advisory Council on the Status of Women – it has been abolished. In the current government, there has been no focus on women – none! – it all comes under community. Not that community isn’t important – but to recognize the importance of women as the backbone of the community, the centre of the family.

“I speak about Aboriginal women, but I feel a great sisterhood with all the women of the world.

“When I spoke to those assembled in Ottawa at the awards ceremony, I spoke about the disgrace of the treatment of Aboriginal Women – and there was unanimous applause. Everyone there applauded – and I’m hoping this appointment to the Order of Canada will only bring more opportunities for that recognition of the issue.”

One change for which Muriel Stanley-Venne is advocating is a voice for Aboriginal women in government. “We need government help. We can’t do it alone, so we would hope to see resources put into organizations, schools, colleges. To have an aboriginal woman appointed would recognize the issues first of all. It would be very bold, very creative, for the Canadian government to do something like that. It is not being done anywhere in the world. Canada is very proud of its human rights record, but it seems to have blinders on with regard to the human rights issues pertaining to aboriginal women in Canada.”

Meanwhile, the IAAW maintains its course in Alberta. “Our plan is Awareness, Education, Action. Right now we are raising awareness.”

The over-riding comments from students at GPRC who heard Muriel’s presentation had a common theme: “I didn’t know . . . I didn’t realize. I had no idea this was

happening.”

“Everyone has the responsibility for ending family violence – end the silence, address the issues,” says Stanley-Venne. “Aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities alike must understand that family violence is NOT a part of Aboriginal culture!”

Muriel finds her strength and purpose in her knowledge of the deaths, the pain and the sorrow. “It could be my daughter, my granddaughter – your granddaughter. I have absolute belief that it doesn’t have to be this way. We don’t have to tolerate these murders; there is hope.

“I do it because things aren’t right. I do it for my parents. My dad who I love so much went only to grade three, because in those days they had to go to work on the farm. In some ways I think I am making up for that – speaking on behalf of my parents and grandparents – because they were intelligent, beautiful people who didn’t have the opportunities to say things the way they wanted to.

“There was very little conversation in our family about the injustices, the discrimination. My dad very seldom spoke about such things – and if you asked a question you weren’t supposed to ask, the subject was changed right away. There were a lot of secrets – like most families then, there was so much secrecy about what people did. It was a completely different era of persecution of women.

“We have changed. My granddaughter is in Regina now, training to be an RCMP officer. That gives me so much pride – she is finally breaking the cycle.

“So I am optimistic. I am very adamant about what I am saying, but I am very optimistic that things can change.”

– Lynne Ness



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## Actor Ben Meuser Returns to GPRC Drama Classes

By almost any measure, it is a long way from the farming communities of Eaglesham and Wanham to the stages of professional theatres in Ontario. Actor Ben Meuser is making the journey is small stages, but he is steadily building his portfolio of roles and reviews, and is about to begin his "apprenticeship" at the Stratford Festival in 2006.

Meuser, now in his mid-20s was back at GPRC in late fall to workshop with the Drama students of Karla Kordyban in a brief interlude before heading to Ottawa for a role in Ottawa Little Theatre's Christmas show, *Fruitcake Weather*, where he is billed as one of Ottawa's "finest actors."

The trip home was a great

opportunity to reminisce about discovering acting in the Eaglesham high school drama club with teacher Adrian Tanasichuk, the tutelage of Karla Kordyban in GPRC drama classes, and finally BFA studies in Performance at The University of Lethbridge. One of Ben's most notable roles to day is that of Keith in *Mourning Dove*. Reviews of his performance as the mentally challenged youth in this play based upon the Robert Latimer case are strong: "Ben Meuser as Keith is masterful", "Meuser's astonishing performance as Keith earned him an instant standing ovation. . ."

The role in the Ottawa Christmas show prevented Ben Meuser from a planned guest per-



formance in a GPRC Fine Arts production, but will take him one step closer to a coveted place in the Stratford Conservatory.

"My ultimate goal as an actor is to get a role on television." Meuser says. "I just want what anybody else wants; I want to make enough money to raise a family. If I can do that acting, great!"

## Business Grad Now at Sun FM



Ashley McDonald graduated in June 2005 with her GPRC diploma in business administration, marketing major, and has already begun an exciting career in radio.

In her new position as promo-

tions director at SunFM Radio in Grande Prairie, Ashley gets to work with some great community projects, including the recent New Year's party at the Corral.

As a student at GPRC, Ashley was president of a student group in Marketing Strategies which put on a Mardi Gras event. "This experience was priceless," Ashley says. "I could never have learned from a book what I learned in this class."

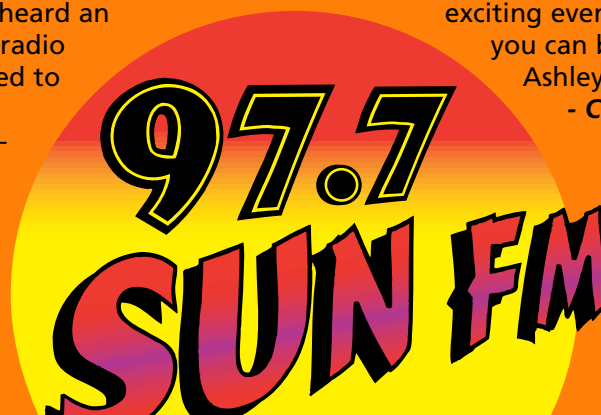
After graduation, Ashley was all set to go on to university when she heard an ad on the radio that seemed to have her name written on it. She applied

immediately and was hired.

"It is important as a student to get involved in everything you can," Ashley says. She volunteered for all kinds of extracurricular activities. Her own experience included coordinating the Student Mentor program at GPRC, and before coming to College she was a Rotary exchange student to New Zealand. In 2004, Ashley was Miss Grande Prairie Stompede.

These days, when you are listening to SunFM and hear about an exciting event or promotion, you can be sure that Ashley is hard at work.

- Ciylla Rakestraw



# Diversity of job appeals to Carla Boyne

Carla Boyne wanted a career in business with a focus on working with people. The 2002 GPRC Business Administration grad has long been interested in marketing and advertising – and says she has found practical applications for everything she learned in class.

Today, Carla is a successful outside sales rep for Sportswear Plus, a large promotional products company in Grande Prairie. Carla specializes in developing customized packages for her many corporate clients, including programs such as safety awards, customer appreciation, employee



incentive and employee recognition among others.

Carla is always looking for new and creative ways to better meet the needs of clients, and loves the diversity her position provides.

“We deal with more than 1,000 suppliers from all over North America. There is always something new to learn, new products coming available.”

Luckily, Carla learned not to procrastinate while she was a student keeping on top of assignments – a quality she says helps her keep on top of things in the business world.

- Cibylla Rakestraw



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events, and on our website. Be sure to update your alumni profile, so that classmates and friends can learn about each other. Watch for announcements of special events and activities. Celebrate! [www.gprc.ab.ca/alumni](http://www.gprc.ab.ca/alumni)

# Celebrating 40 years!



Grande Prairie Regional Tourism Association



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The program will also incorporate an educational component. Grande Prairie Regional Tourism Association would arrange to give short informative training sessions for staff. Many of these employees are the first point of contact for tourists and subsequently have a huge impact on visitors. First impressions are very important, and with the right training we can ensure that our Region conveys a positive image!

If you would like to be a participating sponsor or if you would like to recognize someone as a superstar send in your nomination using the online form at [www.northernvisitor.com](http://www.northernvisitor.com) or drop your entry in a ballot box at participating businesses. Program will commence in April 2005

Please contact Grande Prairie Regional Tourism Association for more information at 780-539-7688.

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– continued from page 9

**Marg Mazer** is a long-term member of advising staff at Grande Prairie Regional College, who has worked selflessly to help meet the intellectual, academic and personal needs of countless students. She is one of ten advisors in North America to receive an award this year recognizing excellence in advising and positive influence on students. She has enriched many lives, and brought honour to our College.

**Dr. Desh Mittra** has spent his summers since 1972 working with the Tyrell Museum Pipestone Creek dig team, which has revealed a new species of dinosaur and many other significant paeleontological findings. He has enthusiastically volunteered his time and expertise to the discovery the pre-history of our region and our province, and has willingly shared his scientific knowledge with the community.

**Dr. Scott McAlpine** has committed the past 20 years to the College and community. In addition to his dedication to his students, he is known for his work with the Chamber of Commerce, Saskatoon Mountain Economic Development Authority (SMEDA), South Peace Social Planning Council, School boards, and the media. Dr. McAlpine spearheaded the Institutional Research Centre

at GPRC, which has helped to provide significant data for planning and development in our region.

**Doug Morris** has made enormous contributions to Grande Prairie Regional College over the past three decades. He has been a student athlete, a coach, and a tireless Wolf Pac Booster Club activist. He has added many titles to the athletic history of the College and the Community, and has steadily worked toward building athletic and educational opportunity in our region.

**Sukumar Nayar** completed a career as a teacher, instructor and administrator in Alberta schools and colleges, and has gone on to serve as an education consultant on various United Nations missions around the world. Wherever his work has taken him, Sukumar Nayar has shared his love of theatre, and he is well-known for his contributions to live theatre in Grande Prairie and region.

**Dr. Jaroslav (Jerry) Petryshyn** has shared his love of history as an instructor, as a volunteer, and as an author. He was commissioned to write the 25-year history of Grande Prairie Regional College in 1991, has published noted works on topics as diverse as the Ukrainian settlers of Canada and the history of Canadian automobile manufacture, and is now President of the Society publishing a

two-volume history of Alberta in recognition of the Centennial year: *Alberta Formed and Alberta Transformed*. In addition, Jerry Petryshyn serves on various community boards and committees.

**Nathan Stevens** has worked to enhance student life on campus, and has severed in several executive roles on the Students' Association. Now President of the GPRC Students' Association, Nathan has begun a term on the College Board of Governors. Nathan Stevens is known as a willing volunteer, who has mentored and encouraged fellow students, supported fundraising efforts of the GPRC Foundation and provided his assistance where needed.

**Mae and Kay Trelle** are lifelong supporters of post-secondary education, who have made the extraordinary planned gift of their entire estate including their home, to Grande Prairie Regional College. In addition to this gift, the Trelle's have regularly made generous donation of their time, energy and resources to the College and the community since their return to the homestead land of Herman Trelle. Herman Trelle was the Wembley Alberta farmer reknowned as the World Champion grower of wheat, oats and peas for three consecutive years: 1926, 1927 and 1928, in Chicago.

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# Recent Achievements of Faculty and Staff

## APPOINTMENTS

GPRC instructors **Dr. Laurie Nock** and **Dr. Alan Segal** have both been appointed adjunct professors of the University of Northern British Columbia. These appointments are consistent with the partnership GPRC has been establishing with UNBC for the past several years in many program areas. Laurie and Alan are commended by Dean Scott McAlpine for their leadership, innovation, and development of the interpersonal relationships necessary for these appointments which most clearly recognize GPRC faculty expertise and commitment.

**Cheryl Bereziuk**, instructor of Psychology at GPRC, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Grande Prairie Canadian Mental Health Association.

## SOLO EXHIBITION

GPRC instructor **Tina Martel** opened an exhibition of a new body of her work in November. *Mindscapes* was on display at *artfirm* gallery in Calgary, and Tina Martel was in attendance at the official opening November 12.

## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

**Cheryl Bereziuk**, instructor of Psychology at GPRC, was awarded a University Certificate in Counselling Women from Athabasca University.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

**Dr. Duff Crerar** was one of four keynote speakers invited by the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society at the University of Victoria. Dr. Crerar spoke of the chaplains quandary in the face of the violence of the First World War.

## RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

GPRC Board of Governors Vice-Chair **Grant Menzies** was presented an Alberta Community Merit Award by MLA Grande Prairie Wapiti, Gordon Graydon. Individuals across the province received this award in recognition of community involvement. The awards were a special Centennial project of the Province of Alberta.

**Chef Paul Pynn** of Chartwell's at GPRC was recently in Ottawa for a National Awards Banquet for Compass Group and received the Culinary Award of Excellence. The Culinary Award of Excellence is presented to the individual in a culinary manage-

ment role who best exemplifies high standards for quality, presentation and food safety offered in both cafeteria and catering food programs. This individual manages a successful kitchen or kitchens, develops culinary associates and encourages creativity while maintaining excellent cost control and adhering to culinary and purchasing program standards.

**GPRC Athletics** is honoured to have been chosen for the CCAA Innovation Award by the Canadian Colleges Athletics Association. The CCAA commends GPRC "for their initiative to add Men's and Women's Indoor and Outdoor Soccer to their Athletic Program. GPRC's new Soccer Program has provided opportunities for student-athletes in the Peace Country (Alberta and British-Columbia) to play soccer at a post-secondary level – an opportunity that was never available before, while at the same time creating numerous development opportunities for athletes, coaches and officials within the community."

This Award was achieved thanks to the specific dedication of some key people: faculty members Harry Stevens and Leigh Goldie who provided the leadership and vision to create, implement, and manage the soccer program; and due in no small part to the hard work and dedication of athletic director François Fournier. GPRC particularly thanks Robin Watson who provided the inspiration to develop the soccer program and take it to the heights it has achieved thus far. Robin



is the coach of the Women's Team, a sponsor of Wolves Athletics, and is a volunteer on the GPRC Alumni/Foundation Board.

The CCAA award announcement states that "While the institution provided a base level of funding for the project, Wolves Athletics conducted several fundraising activities to generate the remaining costs including sponsorship and advertising programs, bingos, casinos, Adopt-A-Wolf, etc. Furthermore, through collaborative efforts and support of community partners, Grande Prairie Regional College was able to overcome the lack of resources to operate the new program.

"GPRC created a partnership with the Grande Prairie Soccer Association (GPSA) who operates and manages all the outdoor fields, to secure a suitable field for the outdoor ACAC games. To ensure credible officiating was available, GPRC developed a program in collaboration with the Grande Prairie Soccer Officials Association (GPSOA) to provide training opportunities to their members consisting of clinics and the officiating of games. Officials have been talent identified for their development to the ACAC level and continue to work towards this accreditation. GPRC also created partnerships with the Grande Prairie Minor Soccer Association (GPMSA) and the North West Peace Soccer Association (NWPSA) to provide Coach and Player development opportunities. The Wolves Coaching Staff provides all indoor and outdoor soccer Coaching Technical Courses to the NWPSA. GPRC also manages the GPMSA's GP Power Team Program, which consists of a series of developmental clinics to improve the level of Coach and Player; it is designed for U10-U14 boys and girls who are training for Provincial Championships. In addition, GPRC provides the similar opportunities for athletes U16 and older through their Junior Wolves Program, and Wolves Coaches mentor both Power Team and House League coaches. Finally, with the ever-growing population in Grande Prairie and the increased demand for the sport, GPRC is working closely with the GPSA to develop new and improved facilities.

"As a result of GPRC's innovative endeavour, the level of performance of both coaches and players has increased considerably in Grande Prairie and area, while the sport of soccer has taken a dramatic step forward."



## GPRC Alumni

### '85 Brad Buhr

Academic Upgrading/University Transfer, 80-85

Brad went on to complete his Bachelor of Education at the University of Alberta and has now been working in the educational field for 19 years. His first teaching job was in an Inuit community called Pauatuk on the Arctic Coast. He is currently a Senior Instructor at Northern Lakes College in Valleyview and is working on his Masters through Athabasca University.

### '92 Wendy Hoffman (née Hanson)

Visual and Performing Arts, 89-92

Wendy spent a year living in Arkansas before marrying her husband James, and moving to New Mexico, U.S.A. She is the owner of a small business called Wildflower Tech Creations LLC, and also teaches several computer courses at San Juan College.

### '92 Byron Stewart

Bachelor of Physical Education, 90-92

"I have been employed by the City of Fort St. John as the Recreation Programmer since 2003. Prior to working for the City, I was employed in various capacities, all of which involved working directly with local teenagers. I have many fond memories of my time at GPRC, including playing hockey for the Wolves, my classmates, the instructors, and falling in love for the first time. My hair is nowhere near as long as it once was and I dress a little more respectably, but I still like to get a bit wild when I can...young at heart!"

### '94 Brian Erickson

Computer Systems Technology, 91-94

Brian and his wife, Laura, currently live in Grande Prairie. In July 2005, he won a Gold Medal at the Provincial Special Olympics Summer Games in Lethbridge for Power-Lifting. He has recently been selected to participate in the Special Olympics National Summer Games which are being held in Brandon, Manitoba, from July 18 to July 22, 2006.

### '96 Leanne Koziar (née Bohnet)

Bachelor of Fine Arts, 94-96

Leanne graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 1998 from the University of Lethbridge. She is currently employed as a Portrait Photographer in Edmonton and is a Senior Trainer for PCA Canada Portrait Studios. "One of my favorite memories at GPRC was when I was doing a video project for drama. I took a video camera to most of my art classes and got some great footage of my classmates and my studio instructor Lionel (Allingham). I can never forget them thanks to that video!"

### '00 Charmaine Baxter (née Mattatall)

Office Administration Advanced, 2000-2001

"Since graduating from GPRC in 2001, I have been able to use my knowledge and skills to keep a competitive edge in today's ever changing workforce. I am currently working for the Department of Natural Resources in Nova Scotia as a Clerical Assistant. The job keeps me on my toes and I am constantly learning. I have great memories of GPRC. The instructors were wonderful – they made learning fun!"

### '00 Denis Simoneau

Engineering, 99-00

Denis graduated from SAIT with an Engineering Diploma in 2002 after completing a one year transfer program at GPRC. He has recently secured employment as the Office Manager for BC Bearing in Peace River, Alberta.

### '00 Arlene Volden

Office Administration Diploma, 99-00

"I started my current job as an administrative Assistant with Pengrowth Corporation in March of 2004. It's a fantastic job, with lots of room for advancement – a job I could not even have applied for without my training at GPRC. My favorite memory was the grand opening of the on-campus Friendship Centre. I understand it has flourished greatly. That is awesome."

### '01 Eva O'Handley (née Von Hertzberg)

Community Rehabilitation, 99-01

Eva is married with two boys, Tyler age 2, and Ryan who is 1 year old. She and her husband, Liam, live in Grande Prairie and are expecting their third child in the spring of 2006. "My favorite memory of GPRC was hanging around Howlers on Monday nights for wings."

### '02 Laura McCullough (née Burrell)

Nursing, 97-02

After graduating from the BScN program, Laura worked at the QEII Hospital in Grande Prairie for a year. Since then, she has been working as a contracted "Traveler" in the United States - first in Las Vegas, then in Yuma, Arizona, and now in New Bern, North Carolina. She has her sights set on working in the UK at some point in the future.

### '03 Shannon Johnston

Business Administration/E-Commerce, 00-03

"Upon graduation in 2003, I was welcomed at the Daily Herald Tribune where I worked in the Internet Department, designing and maintaining websites for newspapers online across Canada. Just recently, I was given an opportunity to utilize even more of my business skills when I was hired at Walisser Shavers LLP law firm as their Office Administrator."

### '05 Deanna Dautel

Administrative Technology, 03-05

"After completing a diploma in Administrative Technology, I accepted a position at Student Services (GPRC). I love the challenge of the job and my co-workers. The whole department works as a team and I absolutely love my job. My favorite memory of GPRC is convocation. I finally accomplished part of my dreams of bettering myself through education and am working toward my Bachelor of Professional Arts through Athabasca University. I look forward to completing my goals and the many opportunities that have come my way!"



Send us your news! Update your info with current career news etc., and we will include you in an upcoming edition of Wisdom magazine.

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An advertisement for Butler Construction Ltd. featuring a large hand saw as the central image. The saw has a black handle and a silver blade. On the blade, there is a circular emblem that says "CELEBRATING 20 YEARS". Above the saw, the text reads "Building to a Higher Standard" and "General • Commercial • Industrial • Renovation". Below the saw, there are logos for "BUTLER Authorized Builder" and "HWD CONSTRUCTION LTD.". At the bottom, the address "10533 - 98 Ave. • Grande Prairie, AB • 538 - 3616" is listed.

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