

# WISDOM

The logo for Grande Prairie Regional College (GPRC) is a blue circle containing a white stylized building icon with the letters 'GPRC' to its right.

**Fairview  
College Campus  
60th Anniversary**

**Métis Nation  
\$250,000  
Scholarship Fund**

**National Bee  
Diagnostic  
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WINTER 2011/2012

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## EDITORIAL



Susan Bangrove,  
VP Academics and  
Research

“Would you like to write an editorial for WISDOM on the value of the liberal arts in post-secondary education?” Of course I would! Clearly, someone has heard my trumpeting of the importance of the liberal arts to the development of mature individuals who embrace their obligations as socially responsible citizens who are unafraid to challenge the status-quo, who have learned to think critically about the problems before them in the work place and who, as an added bonus, have discovered the sheer joy of music, literature, chemistry, and so many other branches of learning.

But colleges boast a glorious variety of programming – from “Motorcycles to Mozart” – as one slogan has it. What is the value of the liberal arts to students training to be electricians, nurses, plumbers, accountants, power engineers? Why would any student excited about taking one of these programs consider spending valuable time and money on a course that will not directly help them achieve their career goal? That is a valid question, and one post-secondary educators must answer to the satisfaction of students, parents and tax payers.

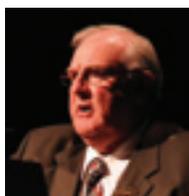
What is it that a study of the liberal arts – even a couple of courses – offers to our students? How does the study of English, political science or mathematics, “add value” for the student? For society? Perhaps a consideration of the root of the word “liberal” will help. “Liberal” has its roots in the Latin word “liberalis” – “liber” meaning “free” as in a “free man.” From the middle ages western society has held that a study of the liberal arts, encompassing subjects

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# Reading University: *Recipient of the ASBA "Friends of Education" award*

Reading University, a community partnership project of dedicated parents, three local school boards, and GPRC, is now the proud recipient of an award recognizing those who are demonstrably committed to the improvement of education for Alberta students.

The Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 1 Friends of Education Award recognizes organizations in the community who have made a special contribution to education in Alberta. Each of the three Boards in the zone typically submits a nomination for this award: In 2011, the Reading University was the unanimous choice of all three!

Last July, a record number of grade three students were busy in the classrooms and computer labs at GPRC – and by their graduation ceremony three weeks later, those 80

children were confident readers and ready to enter grade four as strong learners.

The Reading University project, launched in 2009, is the brainchild of concerned parents, patterned after a similar initiative in Camrose. It is designed to help students read at grade level, and has met a recognized need.

"Up to and including grade three, our children are learning to read," says Linda Side, one of the volunteers whose dedication has helped establish the program in Grande Prairie. "By the time they reach grade four, the model shifts and they are reading to learn. This is a tipping point. If our children are not reading at grade level here, they may miss their opportunity to ever reach grade level reading and comprehension. This is not Summer Camp. This is not Summer School. This is Reading University."

As parents and as community leaders, Linda Side and sister Rhonda Side are passionate about the importance of literacy for student success. They are also passionate about the importance of removing obstacles to learning by providing transportation, nutritious snacks and lunches, and other incentives such as field trips, prizes, backpacks, books and t-shirts.

"Ultimately, every child that has need should be able to attend," say the Sides. "This is a community driven program and while GPPSD acts as the banker board and provides the expertise in terms of instruction, the key is inclusion and ultimately, access to all those who need it regardless of where they attend school in the region."

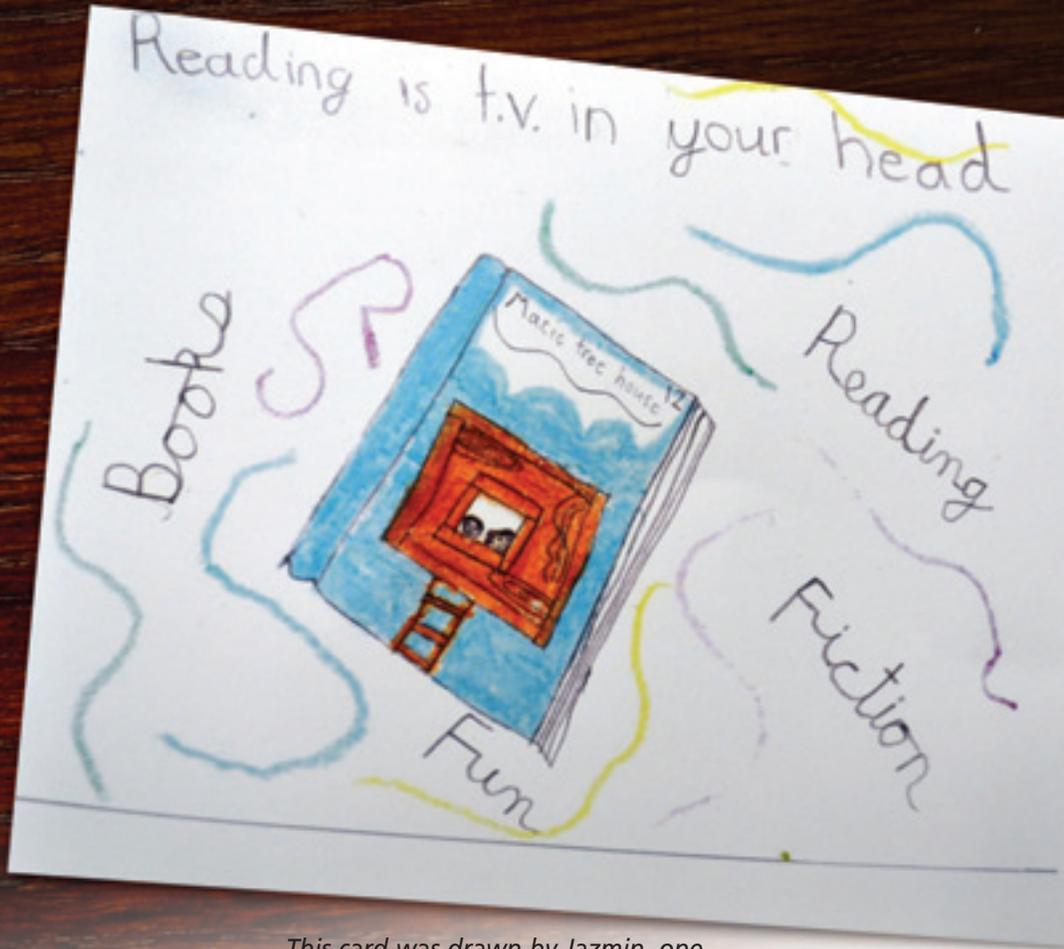
This is a community driven program and there is no Alberta Education funding for this initiative. Organizers such as Rhonda and Linda Side have been working diligently to secure ongoing funding from organizations and individuals to stabilize the future of the program. At present some 20 businesses and individuals have endowed the project, and gift-in-kind donations from numerous others have helped to defray costs.

GPRC provides the required classrooms and computer labs for the three weeks of the Reading University program, and the DJ Cardinal Performing Arts Centre for the graduation ceremony. In addition, the GPRC Foundation this year provided \$1,000 which purchased a refrigerator for the nutritious snacks and lunches which are part of the program.

"For me this is personal," says Susan Bangrove, Vice-President Academics and Research. "The future of our society is these children. We want them to be successful and to love reading and learning. GPRC is a natural partner in this initiative – nothing is more valuable than educating the youngest people in our community."

Bangrove makes it a priority to meet the children at the beginning of the program, welcoming them to "university," and is delighted by the change in confidence level she observes from the beginning to the end of the program. "These children are gaining skills and tools to create a new future for all of us. I really believe in the goals and efficacy of this initiative, and admire the parents whose passion has made it possible."

GPRC is proud to partner with parents and educators to provide Reading University to the children of our community.



*This card was drawn by Jazmin, one of the Reading University graduates.*

## **GPRC welcomes the new communities in our stewardship footprint!**

We are delighted to now be providing opportunities in post-secondary education for learners in:

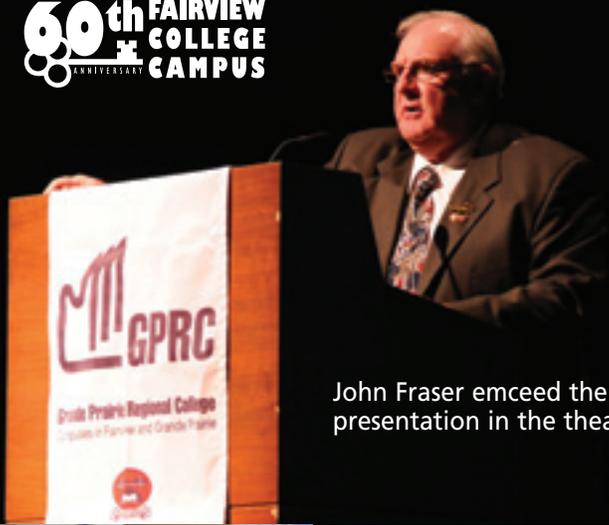
- Edson
- Hinton
- Grande Cache
- Jasper



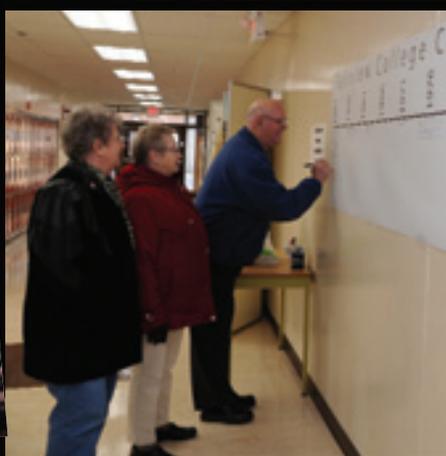
On November 5th, 2011, alumni and friends of Fairview College gathered to celebrated the 60th Anniversary of the campus.



Fairview College came into being as Fairview School of Agriculture and Home Economics in 1951. On November 6, 1951, when Premier Manning officially opened the school, a wooden key was cut from plywood and painted silver and presented to Premier Manning who said "This surely must be the key to opportunity". The phrase "Key to Opportunity" was adopted as crest and motto for the Fairview school. That symbol of the opportunities which this campus has provided now for several generations of students, has been integral to the celebrations this year – from invitation to the décor.



John Fraser emceed the historical presentation in the theatre.



1 9 5 1 - 2 0 1 1

In the 60 years since that moment, GPRC Fairview has experienced many changes – in name, in leadership, and in its breadth of programs – this campus has continued to be the Key to Opportunity for its students, for this community, and for our region.

On July 1, 2009, the strengths of the Peace Country's two post-secondary institutions were combined through the merger of Fairview College Campus with Grande Prairie Regional College.

GPRC looks forward to the opportunities which will be realized in the coming decades.



Alumni of 1951 and 1952 reunited at Fairview's 60th Anniversary celebration. Stories of their shenanigans were heard throughout the weekend resulting in a lot of laughter and a flood of great memories. While many of the alumni still reside in the Peace Country, Mr. and Mrs. Hoecherl travelled from High River Alberta to take part. A reunion for 2013 for this group is being planned.

Back Row (L to R): Howard Nordin, Stan Sware, Eugene Cunningham, Albert Eggenberger, Bill Love, Willie Lichtner, Earl Smith.  
 Front Row (L to R): Hugh Harrop, Helen Milner, Gladys Eggenberger, Peter Dechant, Lloyd Hoecherl



Front Row: Lucien Coté, Jeannine Reid, Iowla Kulyna, Gladys Eggenberger, Howard Nordin, Helen Milner, Willie Licktner, Gill Hill, Hugh Harrop  
 Back Row: Ian Macdonald, Stan Sware, Eugene Cunningham, Albert Eggenberger, Bill Love, Norman Adolphson, Peter Dechant, Earl Smith, Lloyd Hoecherl, Melvin Hill

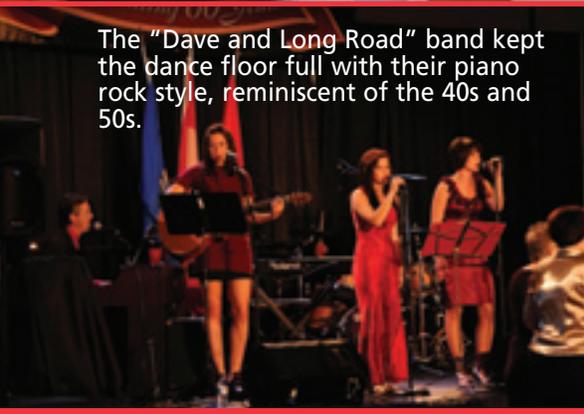




GPRC was highly honoured by the visit of Lieutenant Governor Donald S. Ethell, and grateful to MLA Hector Goudreau for issuing the invitation to His Honour and helping to host the visit.



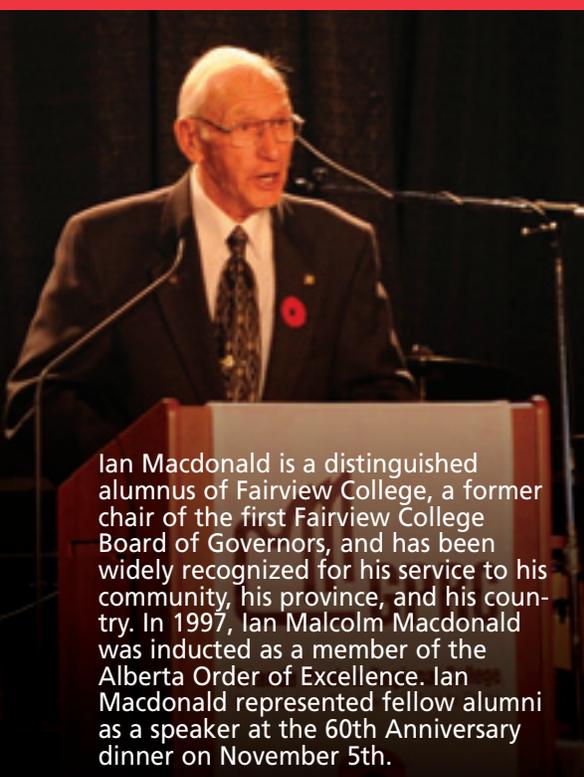
High school student and accomplished musician Dylan Mueller performed for honoured guests following the dinner.



The "Dave and Long Road" band kept the dance floor full with their piano rock style, reminiscent of the 40s and 50s.



Vincent Vavrek Chair of GPRC Board of Governors, Tracey Vavrek and the Hon. Donald Ethell.



Ian Macdonald is a distinguished alumnus of Fairview College, a former chair of the first Fairview College Board of Governors, and has been widely recognized for his service to his community, his province, and his country. In 1997, Ian Malcolm Macdonald was inducted as a member of the Alberta Order of Excellence. Ian Macdonald represented fellow alumni as a speaker at the 60th Anniversary dinner on November 5th.



MLA Hector Goudreau presented a commemorative plaque from the Province of Alberta to Marg McCuaig-Boyd, VP Fairview and GPRC Board Chair Vincent Vavrek



Honour, Lt. Gov. Ethell was exceptionally pleased to be present with a limited edition print of the A.Y. Jackson painting which is part of the GPRC Fairview campus collection, and which he had (incidentally!) admired earlier in the day.



Lt. Gov. Donald Ethell, JoAnn Gnatiuk, Her Honour Linda Ethell, and Don Gnatiuk, GPRC President and CEO

# Lt. Governor joined 60th Anniversary Celebrations



Honour, Col. (Retired) the Honourable Donald S. Ethell, the 17th Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, visited the Fairview College community in celebration of the 60th Anniversary on November 5, 2011. He was accompanied by Her Honour, Mrs. Linda Ethell. The couple mingled with alumni, staff and community members in the afternoon, and Lt. Gov. Ethell spoke during the Anniversary Dinner in the evening.



## DONOR PROFILE

# Pete and Lori Merlo

By Joanne Ballance

GPRC alumni Pete and Lori Merlo may have attended College years apart and may have had very different experiences as students, but they were certainly in sync when it came to making a legacy donation to their alma mater through a planned gift.

"I loved school - I was a good student and I enjoyed the environment," said Lori. "It was a very social time; I would see people from my home community in the hallways and in the College Pub. It was a great experience."

Pete also completed his first year at GPRC as a university transfer student (1976) before completing his Mechanical Engineering Degree at the University of Alberta.

"Engineering is tough, and every little bit of support makes a big difference. The transition was important for me - I don't know if I would have survived the program had it not been for my first year at GPRC."

One memory of GPRC that sticks in Pete's mind is that of Dan Cristall, his physics instructor, who had a unique way of getting his 18 students to Physics class. He would travel the hallways and upon locating one of his students he would holler - "All aboard the Physics Train" - and expect the student to 'fall in' one after another behind the Instructor as he headed for the round classroom dubbed the 'Cristall Palace'. (Daniel helped inspire the unique circular classroom design through the consultation process with Architect Douglas Cardinal.)

As a current member of the GPRC Board of Governors, Pete is proud to be positioned to help achieve great things for the College and region. "With the community behind us we will get there. It is a very exciting time to be a part of the leadership of GPRC. There is a lot of weight on our shoulders and a lot of responsibility because there are so many people watching who feel ownership of the College - and who want to make sure we are doing a good job of it.

"In the past GPRC may have been



criticized for not having a niche. Well you know what our niche is? If you need it, then we'll figure a way to do it!" We have that going for us right now - big time! We are lucky to be a part of it." "In part, the reason why our regional College is so important is so our young people can stay as close to home as possible to get their post-secondary education, because if they leave the community, you run the risk of not having them return."

This factor is certainly recognized by employers in the region, and Pete mentions apprenticeship training in the Peace Country as being of paramount importance. "When you can train your employees here, it's more affordable for the student, and better for the employer."

Pete Merlo is President and CEO of LSM Ltd. - a Grande Prairie company specializing in sheet metal fabrication that has grown from the four employees and two divisions (Residential and Commercial HVAC) when his father Lee Merlo started Lee's Sheet Metal in 1964, to a progressive company with close to 100 employees and divisions in Commercial, Residential, Industrial, Service, Manufactured Products, and Powder Coat Painting.

Training and education is as important to the Merlos - who have two sons, Carter and Spencer - as it is for their company. In 1995, LSM Ltd. represented Alberta and received a National Award for youth training, and they continue to make training a top priority. In April 2011, the first cohort of sheet metal workers began apprenticeship training in Grande Prairie. The SAIT program was offered in Grande Prairie through the collaborative efforts of Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training (AIT), LSM (Lee's Sheet Metal Ltd.), SAIT and GPRC. The 10-week program included afternoon theory in classrooms at GPRC and evening shop training using the facilities of LSM.

"We were all committed to this opportunity, and recognized the potential for long-term gain for our company and our industry," says Merlo. "It was pretty exciting to know that our apprentices had this opportunity without having to move so far away from their jobs and families - and not only that but they gained "real world" experience by training in a working shop instead of a lab!"

The Merlos have been involved in their community in many ways, and

for many years. GPRC is one of the organizations they support, and one about which Pete and Lori are both extremely proud and passionate. "It is so awesome that we have a college in Grande Prairie, and a great college!" said Lori. "I grew up north of Manning and, when I finished high school, spent a year at Grande Prairie Regional College before heading to the U of A to complete my dental hygienist studies. And you know what? It was an easy transition for me. And when we think of

kids from northern Alberta and northern BC, going to Edmonton or Calgary can be a scary step for them; this is a great starting point."

The Merlos' decision to make a planned gift to GPRC through an insurance policy made sense for them at this time in their lives. "The sooner you do it the less expensive it is. Ours is a ten year commitment; we make ten equal payments for ten years," explained Pete. They receive a charitable tax receipt each year from the GPRC

Alumni/Foundation for the insurance premiums paid, and upon their deaths GPRC will be the beneficiary of the \$100,000 value of the policy. "It's not a stretch for people our age to make such a gift; it is just a matter of deciding you want to do it, and then going out and asking the questions, and finding out which way works best," said Pete. "And as our College grows, offering more and more great programs, it is wonderful," added Lori. "I just want our College to grow."

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- Nevada Bob's
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- No Need to Knock

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- Northern Vision Centre
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- Watson's Foto Source
- Wayne Drysdale, MLA Grande Prairie-Wapiti
- The Zone Sports Grill

# Métis Nation of Alberta endows \$250,000 scholarship fund at GPRC



Increased access to post-secondary education for Métis students is a primary intent of a scholarship fund recently established at GPRC by the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA).

The \$250,000 cheque was presented to the College at the MNA annual general meeting which was held in Grande Prairie in August 2011.

This endowment will ensure the availability of several scholarships

annually, now and into the future. The administration of the Métis Education Foundation has been designated to Rupertsland Institute (RI), an affiliate of the MNA which is designed to assist Métis people enhance their skill levels and become self-sufficient. Rupertsland Institute and GPRC have agreed to work together to further the objectives of the Métis Education Foundation.

These objectives include increasing the number of Métis who enter and successfully complete post-secondary studies at GPRC, a fostering of stronger linkages between academia and the Métis community, and

promoting knowledge of Métis history and culture.

GPRC is well-known for its strong support for Aboriginal students; the on-campus Friendship Centre, an active Circle of Aboriginal Students, a dedicated Aboriginal Liaison coordinator, and an Elder-in-Residence program in cooperation with the Grande Prairie Friendship Centre are among the initiatives which have established GPRC as an institution of choice.

The *Métis Education Fund – Métis Scholar Awards* will add meaningful financial support for qualifying students in both one-year and two-year programs.

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# RECENT GIFTS



Thank you to alumnus Kelly Chalmers, current chair of the GPRC Alumni/Foundation and President of All Peace Protection, for a generous donation of \$25,000 in support of student life on campus at GPRC.



Kevin Chrenek presents two cheques to Joanne Ballance and Carmen Haakstad from GPRC Community Relations in support of the annual Chrenek Dion & Associates Scholarship.



Marianne Haugli of ConocoPhillips presents a cheque in the amount of \$15,000 to Joanne Ballance from GPRC Community Relations. The funds will be used towards refurbishing the video conference suite on campus in Grande Prairie.



GPRC President and CEO, Don Gnatiuk, and Alumni/Development Manager, Joanne Ballance, receive a generous donation from Fred Gardner, VP Commercial Banking and Kevin Kleininger, Regional Vice President Peace Country, on behalf of the RBC Foundation. The \$40,000 donation will support the Department of Business students' case competition team and a business student scholarship, as well as Aboriginal services on campus.



MNA President Audrey Poitras presents Susan Bansgrove GPRC Academics with a cheque to establish the Métis Scholar Endowment Fund at GPRC.

## Gifts \$5,000 and over from July 1, 2011

- Rupertsland Institute - Metis Education Foundation
- Grande Prairie Live Theatre
- Royal Bank Foundation
- Bear Creek Broadcasting Ltd. (Q99)
- All Peace Protection
- ConocoPhillips Canada
- Finning
- Calgary Foundation/The 581825 Alberta Ltd.
- Northern Vision Centre
- Custom Cellular
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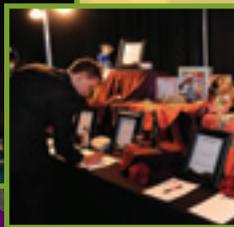
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2011 President's Ball  
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# Viva Italia!

GPRC President's Ball



# Shields Health and Education Centre

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Premier  
Honourable Ray Danyuk  
Minister of Infrastructure  
Honourable Gene Zwozdesky  
Minister of Health and Wellness

Project Investment: **1520 million**  
Completion: **Spring 2015**



**SHIELDS HEALTH  
& EDUCATION  
CENTRE**

**UNDER  
CONSTRUCTION**

The earthmoving equipment was busy at the west campus lands of GPRC Grande Prairie until late fall, preparing the site for the new Shields Health and Education Centre. GPRC donated the 30-acre parcel of land where the facility is being built, and has been integral to the planning of the education space within the new complex. This project is an exciting collaboration of many government departments, and will be a wonderful facility for our Community.



## IN CONVERSATION

**T**here is something about the ocean that is irresistible to boys from the prairies. The phenomenon was well noted during WWII when recruits from Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba – many of whom had never been near a boat, let alone an ocean - overwhelmingly chose the Navy when they enlisted in Canada's armed forces. It was a similar pull that drew Gary Borstad, a landlocked Grande Prairie boy, into his study of biological oceanography and a lifelong career at the leading edge of oceanic sciences.

camps at Saskatoon Lake when his father Elmer was the leader. Later when he joined cadets himself, he travelled several times to cadet camps at Comox on Vancouver Island and in Victoria, and even spent six weeks on a Navy vessel. "In a way I kind of grew up with the ocean in mind – and since I was a voracious reader, I had read all of the Jacques Cousteau books... I've been interested in the ocean for a long, long time," he explains. The choice of biological oceanography as a direction of study and ultimate career came about quite naturally... but he was still a prairie boy, and his graduate field work in Barbados was notable not only because of the research he was accomplishing, but also because of the undeniable fact

Gary started out in 1978 as an oceanographer for a small consulting company in Sidney, BC, and later became an independent consultant during an economic downturn in 1983. "Because I didn't have any overhead, I was perfectly able to survive on my own. There was plenty of work. At that time I was doing project work with the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, working with remote scientist Jim Gower. Jim had some equipment that I had helped develop to use for surveying, to measure the water colour from aircraft. I started taking contracts for US Minerals Management (despite its name the work was really aimed at ecology along the coast of Alaska, and particularly the ecology of bowhead

# GARY BORSTAD PHD

**Vice President, ASL Environmental Sciences Inc.**  
Senior Remote Sensing Scientist  
AND Alumnus of GPRC, charter class 1966/67

By Lynne Ness

In June of 2011, the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society awarded Dr. Gary Borstad the prestigious Francois J. Saucier Prize in Applied Oceanography for "his long-standing leadership in the application of science to a wide range of applied projects in the oceanographic sciences, with a particular focus on the application of remote sensing to the study of marine processes and ecosystems. His scientific vision in leading more than 200 oceanic/aquatic remote sensing projects worldwide has facilitated Canadian leadership in international oceanic science applications."

Gary spent many boyhood weekends and summers at Sea Cadet

that he became seasick every time he went out on the research boat. "Finally, I realized I would have to find another way. Oceanographers were just starting to look at the ocean from satellites at that time. There was kind of a revolution going on in oceanography, and I thought 'That's what I want to do.' So that's where it all started. When I graduated as a biological oceanographer, there were a lot of people like me around. I had to find my own little niche." That niche turned out to be remote sensing, using satellite and aircraft sensors to measure and map the earth – especially in remote and difficult to access areas such as oceans, coastlines and wetlands.

whales.) I was one of very few people doing this kind of airborne remote sensing work, and we ended up doing it for all kinds of purposes." Within two years, there was more work than could be done by one person, and Gary's independent consulting evolved into G. A. Borstad Associates Ltd, the company that he and his wife Lorraine operated until 2009.

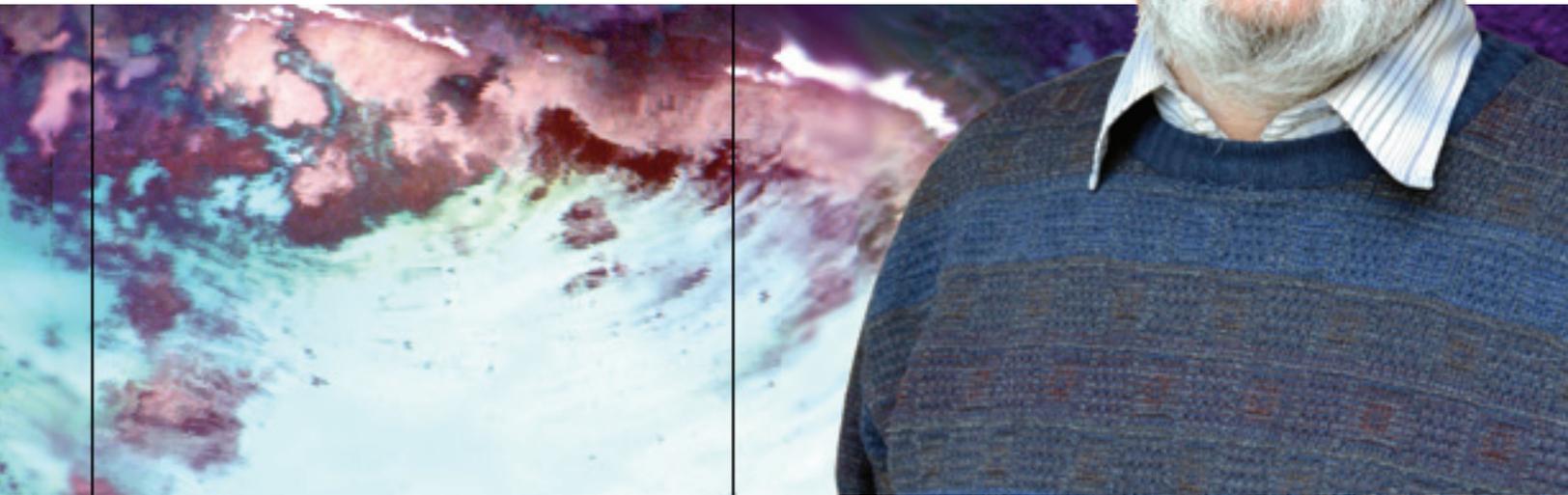
"In the early days we were working with the colour of the oceans, which allowed us to look at phytoplankton, the base of the ocean food chain. Those were the days before we had satellite based colour sensors, so we worked a lot on basic description of the productivity of the ocean. At about that time fund-

ing became available to develop a new airborne imaging device, that would eventually be launched on a satellite. That took several years at the beginning of my career – we developed a big complicated instrument that filled up a whole airplane, with reel-to-reel tape drives and water-cooling – the setup was a big deal to fly.

“But I could see that there were bits and pieces of it that we could put together to make a smaller one. We worked with a company in Calgary to design and build a small device about the size of a desktop computer. The CASI (Compact Airborne Spectrographic Imager) was a kind of paradigm shift in remote sensing. Before CASI, we had to use a big aircraft full of

between. The operator basically had a screen and a keyboard and what looked like a computer, and a camera aimed down. “We would record imagery in many different spectral bands – many different colours – and then we could work with those spectral bands arithmetically to make mathematical constructs that might relate to phytoplankton concentration, oil pollution, sediment content or whatever. Leading from that work and other similar work by many others we now have satellite sensors that can do similar mapping. But in those days it was kind of a big deal. We used it to map coral reefs, jungle vegetation, bananas, oil spills... we were involved in all kinds of interesting and strange things by measuring colour.

This is important because some of those clays describe what geologists call a ‘hydrothermal alteration’. This is a geological event in which magma is pushed up to the surface from



equipment and our geographic range of operations was small. If you were based in San Francisco for example, you didn't get to the Arctic, you just worked around San Francisco. Now that we had this little device, we worked all over the world. We could pack it into four or five suitcases, take it as excess baggage, and wherever we went, we could just rent an airplane.”

Gary and his group have flown with that little device to all the provinces and territories of Canada, most US states, and over 35 countries. He has worked in the high Arctic, explored the spine of the Andes mountains, the deserts and jungles of Africa, tropical coral reefs and lagoons, and many places in

“That instrument and our experience with it led to our use of another similar device that was let go from a government lab that was being closed down in 1997. The SFSI (SWIR Full Spectrum Imager) as it's name says operates in the Short Wave Infra Red region, at longer wavelengths far out of the human visible range. It's as if we were doing lab spectroscopy with a lab spectrometer - where you put the little test tube in to measure the absorption. We were doing exactly that - chemistry from ten thousand feet, and we were also making an image out of it to map distributions.”

“With the SFSI device we are able to map many different clay minerals.

below, and the gradations of temperature, pressure and Ph change the way the aluminum and the hydroxyl groups combine, resulting in different clays. Luckily the spectral properties of many clays are different enough that they can be identified.

We were able to paint bulls-eyes for these things – and the gold miners went crazy, because the hydrothermal alterations were the places where they were finding gold. So we were flying in Kamchaka, most of the western states, Peru, Chile, many different places for several years doing gold exploration from aircraft and helicopters. We essentially rebuilt the instrument for this purpose and

then flew for the big mining companies for several years. We were doing very well until the gold prices plummeted, the phone stopped ringing, and we were back to doing other things."

"With both devices, the concept of operations was always that we would rent a plane locally— that meant we could go wherever we want. The downside of that is that we had to be extremely careful about who we chartered with; to make sure everything was done properly. Even so, we had one kind of near miss where two of our guys did a wheels up landing near a site in Chile, near the end of a mineral exploration project there. That event kind of slowed down our airborne operations. We were all getting older, less immortal and perhaps a little wiser.

"Now we do mostly satellite work – partly because there is such good space-based technology now. It is amazing what you can do. . .now some of our clients we never actually meet in person. They will send us an email, we will correspond back and forth, they tell us what they want, where they want it, what they are looking for... we will give them a little proposal, we will exchange a contract by email, we will download the imagery and produce their product and report and send it back." In 2009, the small consulting firm with 7 staff merged with ASL

**Projects OFFSHORE OIL & GAS**  
Cook Inlet, Alaska



ASL has completed a project that provided winter ice draft and ice velocity data in Cook Inlet, Alaska. These data are used to calibrate computer models of ice loads on multi-legged offshore oil platforms and these models are then used for studies of more severe ice environments.

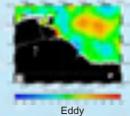
Because of high tidal currents (up to 6 knots), ASL designed a low profile bottom frame to incorporate the Ice Profiler, ADCP, and other instruments. The instruments were deployed at a depth of 29 meters in December 2003 and recovered in the summer of 2004. ASL has provided detailed analyses of the data collected for input to the computer models.

**ASL**  
www.aslenv.com

**Projects OFFSHORE OIL & GAS**  
Real time ADCP for oil rig off Trinidad



ASL was contracted to install a real-time ADCP system from an oil rig for a drilling program off Trinidad and Tobago, January - April, 2006. Current profile data was displayed in real-time on the rig and was also used for current predictions. Following completion of the program a report has been prepared that included tidal analyses.



**ASL**  
www.aslenv.com

in the government I would have been channeled into doing kind of one thing – and in Canada, not elsewhere. In a university I would have had more freedom, but

Environmental Science, and Gary and Lorraine's company now owns 25% of ASL. Meanwhile the merged company has grown from 28 to 50 at a time when downsizing is the norm. "We're bucking the trend, I think partly because we are involved with oil and gas, and doing a lot of oceanography in the Beaufort Sea, Alaska, Greenland, the Mediterranean – many different places. We have a remote sensing group that is more or less focused on the technology. The other side is focused more on oceanography, and largely on oil and gas operations. "We also have the group that manufactures acoustic instruments that use sound to do remote sensing in the water – like a sonar or depth recorder from a boat – but what we do is the other way around. We put the instrument on the ocean floor, looking at the surface – gathering information about zooplankton, fish, waves, wind and ice thickness. Ice thickness is important for us because there will be a lot of oil drilling in icy places in the next 10 – 20 years."

"Over the last 30 years being in a company environment rather than in government or university, I have been able to do all kinds of strange and interesting things. If I had been

because we (our firm) were consulting and we got involved in technology very early on, we were able to use that technology to support all sorts of government and university research. What we were doing was cutting edge. We were all over the world.

"There have been many changes during my career. I am interested in the changing environment, especially in the changing climate. We've done quite a bit of climate related work in the last ten years. Some of the environmental satellites have been up long enough that we can make time series with broad area coverage. That allows us to look at environmental parameters like temperature, water colour and land vegetation for example for the entire globe going back to the 1980s. This allows us to look for changes and examine how those changes relate to other changes such as variations in abundance of birds, fish and other animals". Another area of huge change has been technology. "When we started we were using graph paper and slide rules. The computing power of your iPhone today is equivalent of a \$20 Million CRAY mainframe super computer back in 1980. They only ran at 80 MHz and there were only

about 5 of them throughout the world. Completely amazing. It is hard to keep up with the technological development that has happened. Now we are more limited by people's ingenuity and imagination."

"That is kind of interesting to think about. If there was some way to teach ingenuity and imagination, it would be extremely successful. Lots of people look at a problem and go straight ahead – can't think sideways, can't think laterally. And that's really what's needed. People with that kind of ability are the ones who are really going to succeed I think, because technology is not limiting anymore."

The subject is front of mind because of the current challenges to hire the right people for ASL Environmental Sciences. Gary's advice for aspiring oceanographers is "lots of math, lots of math. That was one of my failures – I didn't take enough math. Now I would say take as much math and physics as you can – even if you want to study biology – it is important, really critical – everything you will do will involve technology, and big, huge data sets. The kind of descriptive biology that happened in the 1800s is long since past. It used to be that you could stare down the microscope and spend your career describing new species. Now technology is such that people are using all kinds of interesting tools. In our organization, we have these acoustic sonars, and other acoustic devices that measure currents in the water by sound, not by a little propeller. Because most modern instruments are recording constantly, there are large amounts of data. We

are working with terabytes of data sometimes. You can't handle that manually, it all has to be done statistically. Most kids these days don't have any trouble with technology because of their experience with computer games, the Internet, their I-phones and so on... but in my opinion most of them aren't getting enough statistics and mathematics.

Gary's own education began at home. "Our parents were interested in education – they taught my brother Lane and I to read before we went to school, and to question and to think critically from the time we were small." After university transfer studies at GPRC in chemistry and biology, Gary completed his Bachelor of Science (Zoology, Chemistry) at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. He returned to work at GPRC as a Teaching Assistant in chemistry in 1970 and 1971.

"Lorraine (also a GPRC alumnus in 1967/68) and I were married in fall of 1971 and we went to France, where she had a scholarship to do her masters in biochemistry." Gary did not have a scholarship, just a visitor visa, and Lorraine's advisors were faced with the challenge of how to cope with the change in status. "It was a big problem for them – eventually they found a scholarship for me to study oceanography. That's where I began my oceanography... in France." He later went on to complete a PhD in Marine Science at McGill in 1978.

In addition to the mentoring and

training necessary for the staff of his own projects, Gary has shared his knowledge as Adjunct Professor (at various times); graduate student supervisor and advisor at several Canadian and American Universities; has given several international EO training courses (Peru, China, Indonesia, Austria) and more informal training in France, England, Austria, United States and Canada. Dr. Borstad joined ASL Environmental Sciences Inc. on April 1, 2009 as President and Director of ASL Borstad Remote Sensing Inc, newly formed after merger of ASL with G. A. Borstad Associates Ltd. He

provides scientific and technical leadership in remote sensing, oceanography and biology. He is modest about his many accomplishments. "It is like anything else, kind of word of mouth almost. People hear about what we are doing, see reports, see papers, and then it kind of spreads out from there. In the beginning,

when you are kind of struggling to be recognized, the senior people are looking down at you... as you finally get to the place where you know how to do things, then it is time to retire!"

"I have been very lucky to be in the right place at the right time, and to have had the very important support of family and excellent co-workers. Without the good start my parents provided, and the solid basis I got at the college, it would have been much more difficult."



# IN MEMORIAM

## Dr. Baratham (Barry) Ramaswamy

GPRC was saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Baratham (Barry) Ramaswamy, BSc (Madras), MSc (U of Bombay), PhD (York.)

Dr. Ramaswamy taught Science at GPRC for over 20 years, and was inducted as an Instructor Emeritus of the College in 2007 following his retirement. He passed away in January, 2011.

The College extends its deepest sympathy to the family and friends of our esteemed colleague.

## Ken Johnson

GPRC employee and colleague Ken Johnson passed away on Sunday, August 7, 2011 following a lengthy illness. Ken became a Grounds Worker in GPRC Campus Operations in November 2008, and was a valued friend and co-worker to many at the College.



## William Bowes

Mr. William Bowes, who passed away in October 2011, is well-remembered for his significant contributions to the social fabric

of our community.

The Bowes name has been synonymous with Community in Grande Prairie for the past 50 years. Bill Bowes with his wife Margaret was integral to the development and support of our community – from school to college, from cleaners to newspapers to real estate, in music festivals, church and Rotary – their mark is everywhere. In 1995 the Bowes Family Crystal Gardens was opened in conjunction with the Canada Games Arena, an enduring part of the Bowes legacy to our community.

Bill Bowes was born in Saskatchewan, and in 1943 joined the air force, serving as a navigator in Lancaster bombers. While overseas, he made the decision that once he was back home, he would get into the newspaper business with his brother Jim. They bought a weekly in Ontario,

and watched for a promising newspaper in the West. In 1950, they bought the Grande Prairie Herald-Tribune sight unseen for \$30,000.

Over the years, the Bowes' made donations to the College, and served as Honorary Chairs of the President's Ball 2004. In 2008 the Board of Governors of Grande Prairie Regional College proudly presented the Award of Distinction to Bill and Margaret Bowes in recognition of their exceptional contributions to community and to higher education.

## Kay Trelle

Kay Trelle, who passed away in October 2011, is warmly remembered for his passion for higher learning, his contributions to his field of Engineering and Science, and for the generous legacy he and his wife May Trelle established for GPRC several years ago.

Kay and Mae Trelle have made a major planned gift to Grande Prairie Regional College for complex reasons, including a wish to keep the name of Kay's father, Herman, alive in the region. Herman Trelle farmed in the Wembley area, and is known for developing a rust-free reward wheat.

A photograph of Wheat King Herman Trelle, striding through a chest-high crop in the Peace Country, is still widely recognized among wheat-growers worldwide. Trelle won the World Championship award for Wheat, Oats and Peas at the Chicago World Fair in 1926, 1927 and 1928. He also won the Alberta Seed Fair Trophy in 1927, 1928 and 1929.

It seems very appropriate that Herman Trelle is remembered through a legacy benefiting advanced education: he was only 15 years old when he first walked from Wembley to Edmonton and tried to get into University. He was not allowed to enrol, as he was too young. One year later, he walked out to Edmonton again, and that time was admitted to study physics at the University of

Alberta for a year.

Herman Trelle's son and daughter-in-law, Kay and Mae Trelle, have also devoted their lives to higher learning. Kay Trelle achieved the equivalent of a Master's degree in Aeronautical Engineering, and continued to add to his knowledge throughout a career which included work on the Poseidon Missile, the Cruise Missile, and the Moon Buggy which was used on the first moon landing. Kay concluded his career as a Professional Engineer in the Triumf particle physics laboratory which served three universities: University of British Columbia, University of Victoria, and University of Alberta.

When the Trelles began to plan for their retirement, their thoughts turned to Kay's childhood home near Wembley. They visited the Wembley area, and bought the property directly adjacent to the homestead where Kay had been born and raised. "I made my living in cities, but I hated living there," said Kay. "I like living in the country."

Retirement was sped up by a stroke Kay suffered in 1987. For many years, Kay continued to design and build models in his workshop over the garage. The couple delighted in their peaceful country home, which borders a wildlife sanctuary.

"This is another reason we have chosen to bequeath our home to the College," the Trelles explained.

"We would like this property to remain intact and undisturbed. We are pleased to think that the College could put it to good use without changing or subdividing it."

In 2009, Kay and Mae Trelle were presented with the GPRC Board of Governors Award of Distinction.





*Norm and Sandra Anderson with their children Alida (12), Erik (13) and Lauren (15) Anderson, in Grande Prairie for the "Henry Anderson Drive" announcement.*

## Dr. Henry Anderson Recognized Roadway named for first GPRC President

Over 80 guests witnessed the unveiling of a new street sign at GPRC in November: Henry Anderson Drive. Dr. Henry Anderson was the first President of GPRC, and his name had earlier been honoured through the student residence, Anderson Hall.

"When Anderson Hall was scheduled for demolition, our Alumni/Foundation Board of Directors began deliberations about an appropriate and enduring recognition," explains Don Gnatiuk, GPRC President and CEO. "The naming of Henry Anderson Drive provides a

highly visible and long-lasting opportunity to honour the memory of someone whose name will always be synonymous with post-secondary education in our region."

The campus roadway commonly referred to as the "College ring road" will soon be marked with the signage which will identify it as Henry Anderson Drive.

Son Norm Anderson and family travelled from Calgary to join the celebrations of their father and grandfather, and to participate in the unveiling. This was the first trip back to Grande Prairie for Anderson

in several decades. "I grew up here as part of the College community," he told the audience, "but after I graduated and went on to university, my family also left here, so I did not often come back." The family expressed their appreciation of the honour accorded Dr. Anderson.

Dr. Henry Anderson served as President of Grande Prairie Regional College from 1966 to 1981, and guided the institution through its formative years, leaving a strong legacy of commitment to the value of higher education.

# GPRC to Create National Bee Diagnostic Centre at Beaverlodge Research Farm



*“the only one of its kind in Canada”*

“Alberta is poised to become a global leader in beekeeping research and diagnostic technology thanks to an investment from the federal government,” according to a news release issued by the Government of Canada in October 2011.

Chris Warkentin, Member of Parliament for Peace River, on behalf of the Honourable Lynne Yelich, Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification, announced an investment of \$1,193,500 for Grande Prairie Regional College to create the National Bee Diagnostic Centre at the Beaverlodge Research Farm.

“Our Government recognizes the important economic impact of the bee and honey industry on communities throughout Alberta and across the West,” said MP Warkentin. “Today’s investment towards establishing the National Bee Diagnostic Centre will help ensure the continued health of this key sector while fostering the continued growth of beekeeping businesses.”

Federal funding will be used for capital expenses, including a mobile trailer and related diagnostic equipment. The National Bee Diagnostic

Centre will be managed by Grande Prairie Regional College and will complement the College’s “Commercial Beekeeping” Program.

“This funding is very welcome news for our region and for our College,” said Don Gnatiuk, GPRC President and CEO. “More than that, this project is of great importance to food production industries throughout the country. We are privileged to be a participant in this significant scientific project, and fully committed to its success.”

The Centre is expected to perform approximately 1,500 diagnostic services each year for businesses and other clients. These services will help increase the growth, international competitiveness and profitability of this important industry.

The Centre, which is located next to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada’s Beaverlodge Research Farm, will be the only one of its kind in Canada to offer a wide range of comprehensive services to beekeeping businesses all under one roof. It will focus on detecting and diagnosing the health of honey bees, providing scientific support to facilitate the importing and exporting of bees, and preventing or reducing winter losses.



## **NEW Commercial Beekeeping Certificate**

GPRC has also launched a new Commercial Beekeeping Certificate program based at GPRC Fairview, which will be the first beekeeping vocational program in Canada for the education and training of commercial beekeepers. The program, with its first intake of students in January 2012, will prepare students for employment such as apiary assistants and field supervisors with commercial beekeeping operations, technicians with government agriculture departments, and self-employment as beekeepers.

Previously, a beekeeping course was offered at Fairview College, and a total of 271 graduates completed the program between 1981 and 1999. Industry interest and support for the renewal of a beekeeping program has provided this opportunity for GPRC to develop a program which will meet the future needs of industry and international growth in the bee/honey industry. The program is welcomed by industry and researchers alike.

# RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

## ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENT

GPRC Wolves cross-country runner **Devin Woodland** won the featured 7.5 km distance at the Steve Burgess Memorial Cross Country Race for the second straight year. The featured 4 km women's race was won by Wolves rookie **Kayla Hardy**.

GPRC student-athlete **Andria Carlyon** was named 2010/11 Canadian Colleges Athletics Association (CCAA) Player of the Year. This goes with her CCAA All Canadian Award and her ACAC Player of the Year Award.

## RETIREMENTS

**Dr. Jaroslav (Jerry) Petryshyn** retired after 33 years at GPRC, having served as an instructor of History and as Dean of Health, Wellness and Career Studies. Colleagues established the Jaroslav Petryshyn History Bursary in his honour.

In March, 2011, **Mr. Ken Riley** retired as Vice President Administration, hav-

ing served GPRC for over 20 years, first as an instructor and later as administrator. He is noted as a passionate instructor who loved teaching and cared a great deal for his students. As an administrator he was very well-respected by his colleagues and committed to the advancement and progression of the College.

**Dr. Desh Mitra**, science instructor and palaeontology enthusiast retired after a career of over 30 years at the College.

## APPOINTMENTS

**Ms. Laurie Sutherland**, GPRC Alumna 1996-98, was appointed Vice-President Administration in February 2011, succeeding Ken Riley as the chief financial, strategic and administrative officer for the College, responsible for all financial matters, campus operations, information technology and services.

**Dr. Shirley Pasioka** was appointed Dean of the School of Health, Wellness

and Career Studies effective July 1, 2011. She brings over 15 years of instructional and administrative experience within the post-secondary system in Alberta and internationally, and holds a doctorate in Business Administration with a specialization in Organizational Leadership.

## CREDENTIALS, AWARDS and RECOGNITIONS

GPRC Wolves Volleyball coach **Ron Thomson** achieved his 500th career win in November 2011 – widely acknowledged as a remarkable achievement. Thus far in his career, Ron has been named ACAC Coach of the Year five times and CCAA Coach of the Year twice!

GPRC Distinguished Employee Awards 2011 were presented to **Dwayne Head**, Grande Prairie Campus, and **Bob Walsh**, Fairview Campus at annual recognition events held in May.

## Book now in ninth edition: Aboriginal Peoples in Canada

GPRC Instructor **Rene R. Gadacz** is co-author of "Aboriginal Peoples in Canada" which has just been published in its ninth edition (Pearson Canada, October 2011.) Gadacz and James S. Frideres began their collaboration on the book some years after Gadacz was a graduate student at University of Calgary, and a teaching assistant in one of the courses offered by Frideres. At present Jim Frideres is Dean of Research at the University of Calgary, and is President of the Canadian Sociology Association.

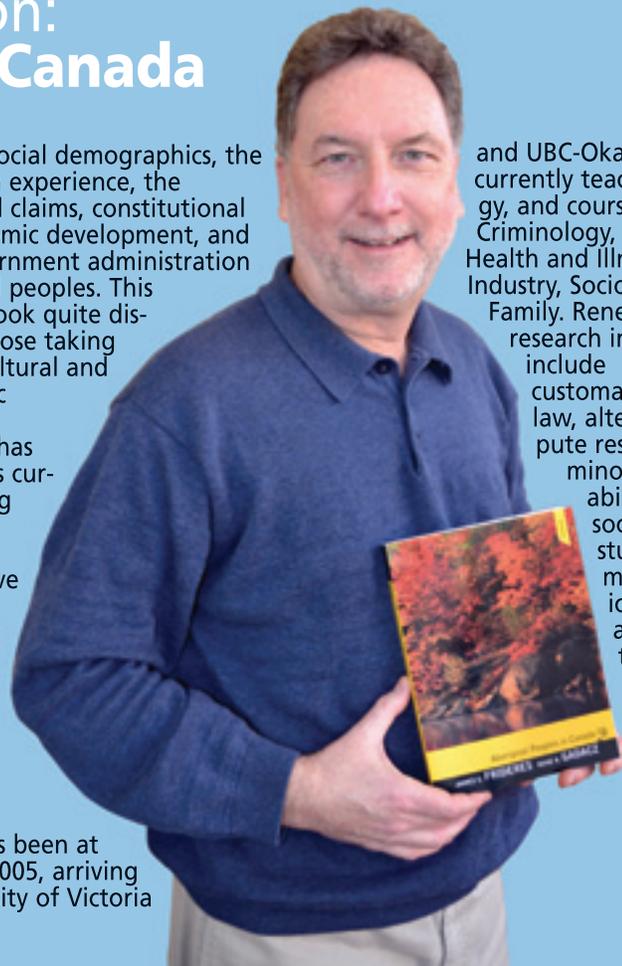
"Our text is one of a very small number of texts specializing in Native Studies in Canada, and is unique in that it approaches Aboriginal-non-Aboriginal relations from the perspective of both the majority and the minority, tracing the history and evolution of colonialist relations over time," says Gadacz. "Our text is analytical in nature, providing a macro sociological and legal/political science interpretation of the events that have shaped Aboriginal-Euro-Canadian realities, which in turn helped form the structure of Canadian society. We have

focused on social demographics, the Native urban experience, the treaties, land claims, constitutional issues, economic development, and federal government administration of aboriginal peoples. This makes the book quite distinct from those taking more of a cultural and ethnographic approach."

This book has been – and is currently – being used in a University of Alberta Native Studies course (NS 110) which is part of the Teacher Education North (TEN) program at GPRC.

Gadacz has been at GPRC since 2005, arriving from University of Victoria

and UBC-Okanagan. He is currently teaching sociology, and courses include Criminology, Sociology of Health and Illness, Work and Industry, Sociology of the Family. Rene Gadacz' research interests include customary/Aboriginal law, alternative dispute resolution, minority health/disability studies, social indicators studies in community economic development, and social justice/human rights.



Marina Chondros recently achieved Certified Human Resources Professional (CHRP) Designation, having passed the National Knowledge Exam in September 2010, and the National Professional Practice Assessment in September 2011.

GPRC instructor **Rob Young** achieved certification as a Heavy Equipment Technician, adding this to his growing list of qualifications. Rob currently instructs in the General Mechanic program (pre-employment automotive and heavy duty mechanics,) has taught high school Career and Technology Studies, and has been instrumental in developing training aids and equipment for instruction.

Only four candidates in Canada were accepted to the Banff Centre International Summer School residency, Sound and Recording 2011. Two of those accepted were **Sophia Gould** (IDD diploma) and **Chris McIntyre** (Instructor), both from GPRC, which underlines the high quality of instruction and graduates at GPRC.

**Carolyn Vasileiou**, instructor in the Hospitality program at GPRC, was selected as a recipient of the Alberta Colleges and Institutes Faculty Association (ACIFA) 2011 Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award.

#### **PUBLISHED WORKS and EXHIBITIONS**

Alberta artists **Robin Arseneault** (GPRC alumna) and Paul Jackson were commissioned by the Alberta Foundation for the Arts (AFA) and the Art Gallery of Alberta to create a new work for the AGA's City of Edmonton Terrace.

Writer (and GPRC Aboriginal Liaison) **Kelly Benning** was among the authors invited to do readings at the NorthWords Writers Festival 2011 in Yellowknife.

University of Toronto Press has just released a new scholarly tome in their 'Canadian Social History' series. Re – imagining Ukrainian Canadians takes a new direction in the history, politics and identity of Ukrainian Canadians as a current in mainstream Canadian history. **Dr. Jerry Petryshyn** (recently retired from GPRC) is one of the 13 contributors with a lengthy section entitled 'The Ethnic Question Personified: Ukrainian Canadians and Canadian – Soviet Relations, 1917 – 1991.'



## **“The Vivid Air” A Memoir by Sukumar Nayar**

*“Memoir explores educator’s life of culture, struggle, recognition. Sukumar Nayar’s “The Vivid Air” weaves a compelling narrative of life experiences in education, theatre and international development” – The Vivid Air news release, August 2011*

As is usual with a personal memoir, this is a book which will be of most interest to readers who are family, friends and colleagues of Sukumar Nayar. He is introduced on the book cover thus: “Prof. Sukumar Nayar describes himself as an ordinary man. But most ordinary men don’t visit 41 countries, climb Kilimanjaro, have dinner with Helen Hayes, meet extraordinary people like Sophie Freud and Peter Brook, or get introduced to His Highness the Aga Khan!” In the early pages of this memoir, the author expresses the hope that people will find his story interesting – and that the volume will find a readership outside his immediate circle of influence.

Sukumar Nayar, GPRC Instructor Emeritus, came to the College as an English teacher, later served as Chair of Continuing Education, and Chair of the Fine Arts department. During his tenure here he was known for establishing drama courses and the College Players drama group and for initiating a drama outreach program called Theatrix which regularly toured schools in the region.

The Vivid Air has been described as the memoir of a man who is “a passionate world citizen, (whose) zest for life translates into a compelling narrative sometimes surprising, often humorous, and always interesting.”

During the almost four decades during which the Nayars were in Grande Prairie Sukumar and Nalini were both instructors at GPRC, and later Sukumar took an administrative role with Fairview College. During those years, Sukumar also began his career in international development, so his reminiscences of theatre and post-secondary education in Grande Prairie overlap with his stories of assignments with the United Nations and the Canadian Executive Services Organization – assignments which took him from the steppes of Mongolia to the jungles of Bali.

The narrative also explores his family background, his own educational journey, and introduces many of the famous people he has met through the

years. Readers have commented that they learned things about the man which they had never known prior to The Vivid Air. “Reading it is just like enjoying a visit with Sukumar,” noted one long-time friend.

Kathy Harper, who was both a GPRC colleague and a fellow Grande Prairie thespian has shared her response to the memoir:

*Reading “The Vivid Air” was, for me, both enlightening and frustrating. Having known Sukumar for some 40 years, I felt I knew many details about his life. How wrong I was! The small bits of information he may have shared over the years were suddenly revealed more fully formed and made more sense in the written chronology of his life as a whole. My inner dialogue whilst reading the book was mainly “I didn’t know that!” or “Oh my God, really?”*

*By same token, I found myself wanting more – more information about his UNDP work; his immediate and extended family; theatre as an art form. Of course that would have required a Proust-sized collection of volumes rather than a slim, smart paperback!*

*And so, upon finishing “The Vivid Air”, I dug out a collection of letters which Sukumar wrote (and xeroxed for several friends) while he was on sabbatical in New York in 1979-80. Wonderful descriptions of New York, tennis, his courses & professors, assignments, news headlines, theatre productions – as well as personal observations about life and people. (I often wished that he had also published these letters as a collection.)*

*Sukumar admits that Hindus are basically fatalists. His life might well have taken a very different course – had he not gone to Africa, England, Canada. He admits though that he has no reason to be unhappy and is philosophically content. Selfishly, I am so very happy that fate (?) brought him to Grande Prairie and into my life. am a better person for being able to call him my friend.*

*– Kathy Harper*

# ALUMNI UPDATES

1966-67

**Pearl (Kramps) Gregor**  
**University Transfer – Bachelor of Education**

I attended GPRC in 1966-67, and completed both B Ed and M Ed at U of A. In 2008 I completed my doctorate at UBC. I am currently a sessional lecturer at the University of Alberta but I am secretly retired on my farm at New Sarepta, Alberta! I have worked as teacher, school administrator, education consultant with the Province. I was working with Alberta Education in 1994 and 1995 when I had the wonderful opportunity to work with all sectors of education to establish the regional consortium for professional development across the province, and became the Executive Director. As part of my regional consortium experience, my company was hired to participate in professional development leadership activities in South Africa in 2005. The regional college model enabled many rural students to access post secondary education. What a major advantage it

is to have local availability! I grew up attending the log school at Clarkson Valley, and later graduated from Ridgevalley in 1963. My rural roots have served to inspire my career in education! Thanks GPRC...small is truly beautiful!

1970-71

**John A. Weber**  
**University Transfer - Physical Education**

**Involved with Wolves (1970-71)**

After several reincarnations, I am presently a Staff Development Educator for Registered Nurses at Kelowna General Hospital in Kelowna, B.C. In retrospect, I can truly say that out of my many years of post-secondary education (12), the year I spent at GPRC (Junior College back then) was the most enjoyable. I can't be too specific vis-a-vis the most memorable moment, as I am not sure of various Statutes of Limitation!

1973-74

**Bev Buckway**  
**Agriculture – Fairview College**

I graduated with a Diploma with Honors in Livestock

Production in 1974. As the first woman in the Agriculture Program, this caused all sorts of different experiences. There was no locker space for female Agriculture students, so I had to share with staff. The skills I learned at Fairview College were the strong basis for the rest of my career. I worked in a veterinarian clinic in Alberta for a time, and when I returned to Whitehorse, I used to glove up with the local vet when he did surgery, as he worked by himself. Being on Student's Council was also the start of my work in the non-profit, volunteer and service club world, including being President of our local Rotary International Club. The next step seemed obvious - City Council. I served



GPRC Fine Arts graduate **Josh Holinaty** was one of the artists who created an award-winning mural for the John Howard Society Building in Edmonton. Josh Holinaty and Luke Ramsey described their work on the website [lukeramseystudio.com](http://lukeramseystudio.com): "The giant on the right comes from a land of mass consumption and waste. His body is made-up of junk, trash and random

man-made objects. He feels burdened by the weight of his load and feels stress and fear because of it. The giant on the left is showing compassion for her new friend. She comes from a land of green space and an abundance of nature. Her body is made-up of rivers, animals, and vegetation. As a gesture of support and understanding, she calmly puts her hand on the other giant's shoulder. He's feeling a little

nervous about the change, but a positive transition begins to spread - a change that shares a common ground between the two. Their faces come together and form a complete circle, because they are in harmony with each other. "This mural won an award of excellence from The City of Edmonton. <http://lukeramseystudio.com/collaborative/edmonton-mural/>

one term as a Councillor, and then stepped up to be the Mayor of Whitehorse. I am in my second term for a total of nine years as an elected representative.

The mayor's role graduated me into the position of President of the Association of Yukon Communities and onto the Executive of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, a national organization representing about 90% of Canada's population. My educational years are diverse. After the two-year diploma from Fairview College, I obtained Journeyman Certification as a Barber and then Certification in Non-profit Management. This year I completed a MA in Professional Communication, studying through Royal Roads University. I'm not done with my education yet - I'm currently working on obtaining certification in Keirsey Temperament Theory with the goal of facilitating workshops to help people recognize the personality traits of the people around them. I must say that the positive learning environment at Fairview College set the stage for further learning and for all my board positions.

**1981-82**

**David K. Szucsko**  
**University Transfer - Bachelor of Education**

**Involved with Wolves (1981, 1982)**  
**Involved with S.A. (1982)**

I have been teaching at Northern Lights College in Tumbler Ridge for the last ten years. I am also the Acting Chair of my Department called Career and College Preparation (Adult Basic Education). I graduated at the University of Alberta in 1984 with an undergraduate degree in Education. It has been a long time since attending good old GPRC. I had lots of fun playing hockey for the Wolves and traveling for student council. I miss the great College experiences I have had at GPRC...cheers until next time!

**1982-90; 1995-96; 2000-02**

**J. Glen Thomson**  
**Academic Upgrading, Bachelor of Arts; Bachelor of Social Work**

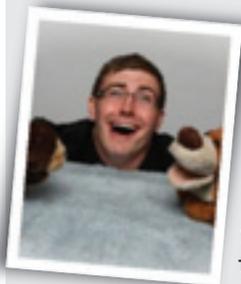
I recently moved from Grande Prairie to Edmonton for a job transfer and am presently employed with Alberta Health Services as a Social Worker. I was the first GPRC Alumni President and was involved first as a Research Assistant for

the Foundation in 1996 to explore the possibility of establishing an Alumni Association at the College. I wrote a report called "Open Doors" as a framework for founding the Association. I went on to be Co-President of the Steering Committee that eventually wrote and produced the Bylaws and Constitution of the Association, and then assumed the role as the Association's first President. Favourite memories of GPRC: All night study sessions in F163; all night computer assignments, water fights in the concourse, being involved in the Students' Association and Tapestry; Academic Council. Outstanding instructors: Scott McAlpine and Jerry Petryshyn.

**1986-90**

**Jeff L. Davis**  
**Business Administration & Bachelor of Music**

I'm currently a Sales Representative at Gregg Distributors (GP) Ltd. Some of my favorite memories are of working into the wee hours of the morning with G. Paul, Peter, and the guys at the Tapestry, drinking large volumes of coffee, smelling the layout wax, providing audio relief, and foraging for a "like-



GPRC  
Alumnus  
**Jonathan Nesbitt**, is making his mark as a pianist with a talent for outreach. Since transferring to the University of Alberta

Augustana to complete the final two years of his Bachelor of Music in piano, Jonathan has garnered prestigious awards as well as the attention of the media for his innovative approaches to both performance and to instruction. GPRC instructor Carmen Gorgichuk says "Students such as Jonathan have strengthened our relationship with Augustana University and other receiving institutions. These young people are making their mark in other institutions and other communities."

Recently Jonathan Nesbitt was featured in an article, reprinted here with permission of UofA Augustana, which points out the innovative nature of Jonathan's work:

### ***Student performs Prokofiev as both narrator and orchestra***

*Posted on Oct 21, 2011 by Christopher Thrall*

*Metamorphosis*, the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges' electronic journal of undergraduate research, has been publishing peer-reviewed student scholarly and creative work since Fall 2009.

With the current issue, the journal features a performance of one of Prokofiev's most famous works that is typically performed by narrator and orchestra. However, University of Alberta-Augustana Campus music major Jonathen Nesbitt does something that has rarely been done by professional pianists, let alone undergraduate ones; namely, he takes on both roles (narrator and orchestra).

Playing from Prokofiev's original piano version that was subsequently rewritten for orchestra by the composer, Jonathan displays remarkable theatrical skills. The combination of musical and acting abilities displayed is rare in pianists. Only a handful of audio recordings exist where pianists attempt to perform both roles, and there are none available by undergraduate-level

pianists.

As such, this video submission highlights creative work that is unique internationally. The genre of "speaking pianist" is sometimes encountered within more recent music written for piano, but it is seldom attempted at the undergraduate level because of the holistic demands it places on the performer.

Graduating from a public liberal arts and sciences campus that encourages exploration and skills beyond one's primary discipline, Nesbitt was cited by jury members grading this performance for his boldness and professionalism in bringing together two of the Fine Arts disciplines—that of drama and music.

Visit <http://news.augustana.ualberta.ca/2011/10/student-performs-prokofiev-as-both-narrator-and-orchestra/> to watch the YouTube performance.

ness of food" from the vending machines nearby in the concourse.

**1986-87**  
**Sandra (Abbott-Brown) Impey**  
**University Transfer – Bachelor of Science**

After completing my BScOT degree in 1990 from the U of A, I worked as an Occupational Therapist in the public system (acute care, long term care, rehabilitation and home care) for 12 years. In 2001 I began a very rewarding journey in private practice, first as a partner in Complete Rehab & Wellness Services and since 2007 as the sole owner of F.A.C.T. Services (Functional Assessment, Consultation and Therapy services). I completed my Masters degree in 2004. After 21 years, I am still passionate about my profession and the diversity it offers. "Howard" my English instructor was by far the most influential and powerful instructor I have ever had the privilege to learn from. His passion for English literature was evident the minute he walked to the stage (class was in the theater) carrying a stack of books and reciting many passages from memory.

**1988-90**  
**Joy Fehr**  
**Diploma in University Studies**

I completed my undergraduate program in English in 1994 and my Masters Degree in English in 1996 both at the University of Calgary. After contract work in a high school in Calgary, I was hired by Canadian University College, located in Lacombe, Alberta, in 1998 as an instructor in the English department. The University College granted me leave to begin my doctoral degree in 1999. After three years of full time study at the University of Calgary, I returned to teaching at Canadian University College and eventually received my Ph.D. in Canadian/Alberta Literature in 2005. In addition to becoming a full professor of English, I served as Dean of the Division of Arts at from 2006-2010, and am now Vice President, Academic Administration at CUC.

My favourite memory of GRPC? There are too many to narrow to just one, but I can say that my experience of learning



there was incredible. I loved arguing the finer points of philosophy in Mr. Langenbach's class, exploring Canadian Literature in Mr. Diemert's class, and discovering the magic of Shakespeare in Dr. Mighton's class, to name just a few memorable moments. I was (and still am) a high school dropout when I first walked through the doors of GPRC. Your school changed my life and I am extremely grateful. If it were not for the opportunities and encouragement I found there, I would not have a university education, let alone a PhD.

**1990-93**  
**Mark E. Calliou**  
**Business Administration**

Since leaving GPRC, I completed my Law Degree at the University of Ottawa. After deciding that I did not want to practice Law I have been in several Management positions including: Director, Aboriginal Center for Employment Strategies; Manager, Children's Services; Municipal Manager in Mayerthorpe, Cambridge Bay, and Nunavut; Manager, Regulatory Support for Alberta Environment. I am currently the Executive Director, Fort Nelson First Nations. I have been involved in many

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volunteer Boards and volunteer situations over the years as well. I really enjoyed associating with instructors, Bill Fletcher and Bill Corcoran. My classmates were often an inspiration to me and I certainly wonder what happened to the class of 1993.

**1991-92**  
**Grant Venables**  
**University Transfer - Bachelor of Education**

After GPRC and then U of A, I taught at Crystal Park in GP for two years and then went to International School Bangkok for 10 years (where I also got my Masters Degree from Michigan State). Since then, I've been at the International School of Kuala Lumpur for eight years; they granted me a writer-in-residence sabbatical, so here I sit, writing daily, loving every second, and finally having some time to catch up with old friends. While attending GPRC, I was the Board of Governors Students' Association representative in 1991. My two years at GPRC are remembered with fondness. We ran with a wild bunch and not only received a solid education from some excellent teachers, but also had a great deal of fun.



Pictured is me and my son (one of a pair of twins) Heathcliff-Manx, as we survey the crops on our organic farm in north-eastern Thailand, on the banks of the mighty Mae Kong River.

**1992-2003**  
**Ana H. (Rivas) Bolanos**  
**Office Administration, Community Rehabilitation**

I worked in Grande Prairie for AISH, Persons with Developmental Disabilities for 14 years - the last 7 years as a Residential Coordinator. Since May of 2011, I have been working with the Seniors and Community Support department of AISH with the Alberta Government as a AISH Generalist. I am very excited with my new job with the government and glad that I completed my education at the GPRC with a Diploma in Office Administration and a Diploma in Community Rehabilitation. All my memories from GPRC are good ones; the faculty and Student Services were always very helpful to me and I appreciated them very much. I am still living in Grande Prairie and planning to live here for a few more years.

**Jason Berg**  
**1996-98 Fairview College - Turfgrass Management & Equipment Technician**  
**2004-05 GPRC - University Transfer - Bachelor of Arts**

I attended Fairview College from '96 - 98 and obtained my Turfgrass Diploma and Equipment Technician Certificate. I owned an irrigation company in Calgary, and eventually returned to school to study history. After attending GPRC, I went to the U of A where I received a BA in Ancient and Medieval History. I have been in the UK since 2009; first I received my MPhil in Medieval History from the University of Cambridge and I am now a candidate for a PhD in Medieval History at the University of Leeds. My website is [www.jasonberg.org](http://www.jasonberg.org).



**2002-03**  
**David Stansfield**  
**Harley Davidson Program**

Thanks to Fairview College and his HD Technician training, David is running a small but successful motorcycle garage in Sidney, BC on Vancouver Island. He fondly remembers Wally and said that instructor Barry often pops into his mind, particularly when he is taking care to cover and protect a bike while working on it!

**2002-03**  
**Sabrina Lindquist**  
**University Transfer - Bachelor of Science**

Sabrina Lindquist was recently selected to a provincial position as Process Improvement Specialist for the Business Performance portfolio at Alberta Health Services. Sabrina was in a management role at the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital for 3 years and prior to that worked as a Clinical Dietitian in Peace Country Health. Sabrina has successfully completed her Green Belt and is currently enrolled in a Black Belt Certification course. These designations are part of the Six Sigma program - a business management strategy originally developed by Motorola, USA in 1986 and one that is widely used in many sectors of industry to



improve the quality of process outputs. Sabrina begins in her new role in January 2012 and will focus on supporting the growth of the Process Improvement culture within Nutrition and Food Services at Alberta Health Services. She attended GPRC as a University Transfer student and then attended the U of A where she received a BSc (Nutrition and Food Science) from the Department of Agriculture Food and Nutritional Science. She is a registered dietitian and lives in Grande Prairie.

**2002-07**  
**Darlene E. (Bushie) Hookanooza**  
**University Transfer**

From March 2003 to November 2005 I was the Director of Finance for Dene Tha' First Nation and from November 2005 to October 2009 I was an elected Councillor for Dene Tha' First Nation. I am currently an Accounts Clerk for Little Red River Forestry in High Level, Alberta.

**2003-05**  
**Michael B. Reeve**  
**Business Administration**

I am a video producer and owner of a small business which I started 5 years ago in Grande Prairie called Velocity Video Productions. Favorite memories at GPRC are Meltown parties & Corcoran dressing up as a cow for Halloween.

**2009-10**  
**Nikki St. Georges**  
**Animal Health Technology - GPRC Fairview Campus**

Nikki was featured in Cloverleaf Country Magazine about her recent employment opportunity with Cavalia, the Quebec-based equestrian show that combines acrobatics, dance, aerial stunts, live music and horses. Cavalia was created by one of the co-founders of the world-famous Cirque du Soleil, Normand Latourelle; the show travels extensively, currently in North America with plans to travel to China. Nikki helps look after the stars of the show - the 42 horses - along with a team of 20 people. Nikki attributes this opportunity to the vast amount of experience and hands-on training she received through the Animal Health Technology Diploma Program. She says of the two-year program that "learning was easy because the GPRC instructors are so passionate about animal care. I loved my instructors - you can tell they love what they do and that made me want to learn."

## IN OUR WISDOM

- continued from page 3

as seemingly disparate as rhetoric and music, astronomy and logic, fits a free person to participate actively and confidently in the democratic process because they have learned to reason, to question critically, to analyse. In short, it prepares citizens who are alert and sensitive to the political and social currents around them, but not overwhelmed by those currents. And it is through the liberal arts that a culture transfers the heritage that defines it to each successive generation. It is also how a culture examines and assesses new findings and new creations in each of these areas.

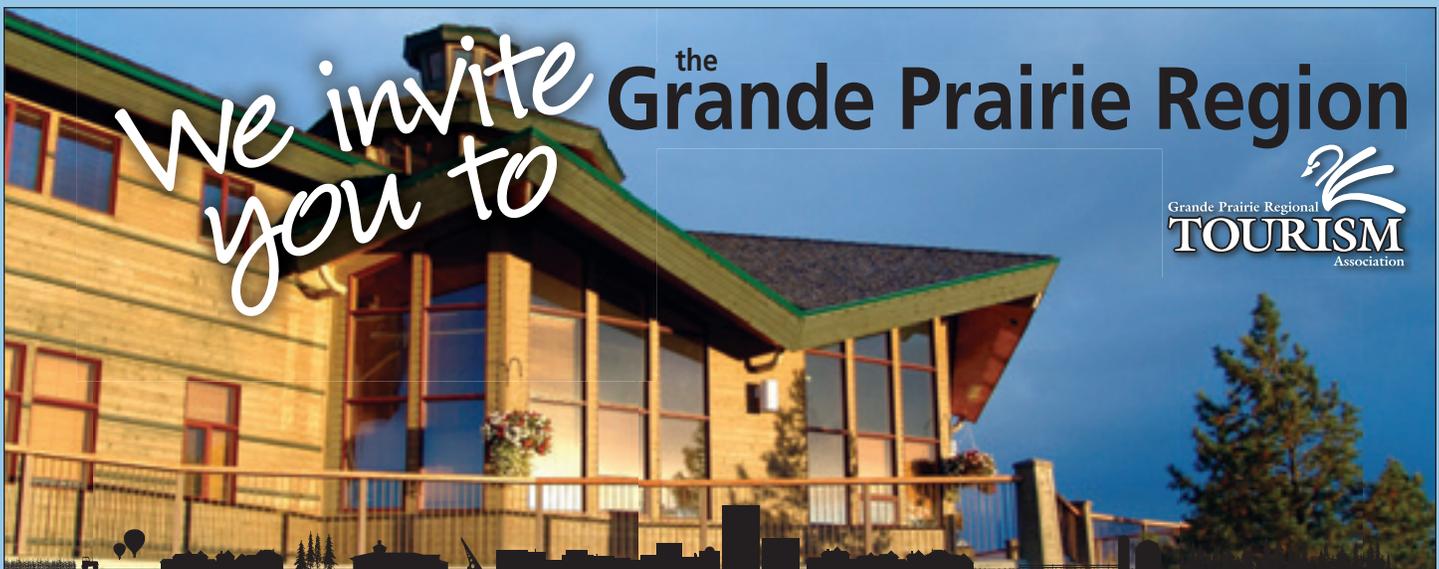
The canon of knowledge is constantly challenged and changing – it expands to recognize new knowledge, new ways of knowing, and the knowledge and understanding divined and created by other cultures. However, the

skills acquired through the study of that knowledge do not change. And they are “real world” skills that prepare students for the workplace just as much as they prepare them for the polling booth or the public forum.

A liberal education is a practical education. The communication skills, the habit of logical thinking, the analytical and problem solving skills, and the flexible thinking demanded by all employers in our fast paced and ever changing workplaces are the stock in trade of the liberal arts. The graduate who comes armed with these skills will quickly find meaningful employment in their field.

Several thousand years ago the Greek philosopher Heraclitus said that one can never step in the same river twice, meaning that both human beings and the physical world are in constant flux. Today, the workplace is in constant flux; skills and methods

that were essential yesterday are not relevant today. Technology is increasing exponentially. Change is a certainty. Increasingly, adapting to that change, even creating it, is an expectation of both tradespeople and professionals. 2012 college graduates will have the opportunity to enter professions and work in jobs that did not exist even ten years ago. Much will be demanded of them. Has GPRC prepared them? I am confident the technical education we offer is exceptional. But I am also confident that the required courses in communications, mathematics, the natural and social sciences, the humanities, are preparing our students not only to be successful employees, as important as that is, but to be successful and fulfilled citizens whose hearts and minds are enriched by the beauty of a new idea, a challenging problem, a work of art, a piece of music, a poem.



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