

Winter
2008-2009



Wisdom

Grande Prairie Regional College Magazine

**Essential
China**

**Undergrad
Research**

Donor Profile
Brad Mates

Combining our Strengths

July 1, 2009

Grande Prairie Campus

The merger of Grande Prairie Regional College and the Fairview Campus is an opportunity offering benefits for both campuses, and enhancing our joint position as the portal for opportunities in advanced education for our region.

Together, we are a strong Comprehensive Community College offering broad programming including apprenticeship, prepared to meet the full range of our mandate.

The strengths of the individual institutions will create benefits for both, and expanded opportunities for our learners.



Fairview Campus

Trades and Agriculture programs effective September 2009:

Fairview Campus

- Animal Health Technology - diploma
- Apprenticeship Programs - Automotive Service Technician, Carpenter, Heavy Equipment Technician, Motorcycle Mechanic, Parts Technician, Plumber, Steamfitter-Pipefitter, Welder.
- Cooperative Trades Orientation
- General Mechanic, Pre-Employment
- Harley-Davidson® Technician
- Heavy Equipment Service
- Industry and Continuing Education Programs
- Motorcycle Mechanic, Pre-Employment
- Outdoor Power Equipment Technician, Pre-Employment
- Power Engineering Certificate
- Transitional Vocational
- Turf-grass Equipment Technician

Grande Prairie Campus

- Apprenticeship Programs - Electrician, Instrument Technician, Millwright
- Machinist, Pre-Employment
- Millwright, Pre-Employment
- Power Engineering Certificate
- Welder, Pre-Employment
- Workforce Development Safety Programs

Certificates, Diplomas and Degrees

Grande Prairie Campus

- Academic Upgrading – certificate
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- Computing Science – certificate, diploma, university transfer, degree completion
- Early Learning and Child Care – certificate, diploma
- Education – university transfer, degree completion
- Engineering – university transfer
- Fine Arts – certificate, diploma, university transfer
- Fitness – certificate, diploma
- Hospitality and Tourism – diploma
- Nursing – degree completion, Post-RN certificate
- Office Administration – certificate, diploma
- Physical Education – university transfer, degree completion
- Science – university transfer, associate diploma, degree completion
- Social Work – degree completion
- Teacher Assistant - certificate
- Unit Clerk - certificate

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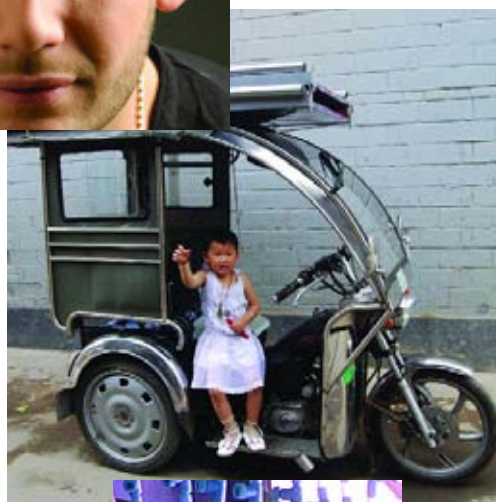
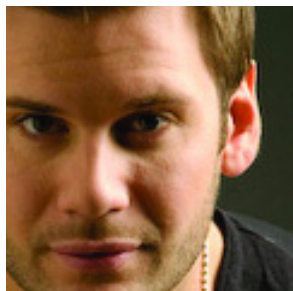
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Change from the Front



When a member of senior administration utters the words: “We are going to change the way we do things,” or “We are

embarking on a transitional management strategy for the future,” the hallways and lunchrooms immediately echo with the sounds of anxious discussion between people from all departments and levels of the organization.

Naturally so – each of these people has heard these words before and usually they were not involved in determining the new strategy or direction, and that strategy or direction may not have been positive for them or their colleagues ! But it might have been predictable! - Yet again, a new direction is set by the folks in the corner office without the input of those most affected by this supposedly brilliant new plan for improved efficiency, morale and service. Within days the new edict appears on posters and is published in promotional materials, leaving the corporate masses questioning: What does all this mean? Why did things change? What does it mean to me and to my department? But there’s no time to ask these questions – everyone

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DONOR PROFILE:

Brad Mates

STORY BY LYNNE NESS

A few days after the sold-out Emerson Drive benefit concert in Grande Prairie in September, lead vocalist Brad Mates and the band were on the road again in Ohio, and about to return to Alberta to do a private show in Lake Louise. Emerson Drive, the country music band that got its start in Grande Prairie, is firmly placed among the top groups in country music, and has dozens of CMT, CMA and CCMA awards on the shelf. As one fan puts it, "these guys are 100% Hot and 110% Canadian!"

And Brad Mates is 100% Peace Country – and excited about the role Emerson Drive now can have in the development of young musicians here in his home town. "It is very important to me to support new artists like we were. If Emerson Drive can come from a small town in Alberta, I don't see why it can't happen again." The 2008 concert donated \$20,600 in support of the Emerson Drive Scholarship at GPRC and an exciting new project to install a top-level recording studio at the College.

The recording studio now being established at GPRC - supported by the funds raised by Emerson Drive as well as a donation from Dr. Curtis Smith - is designed to bring a big-city advantage

to the students of Northwestern Alberta. A consulting team including the top North American expertise in the field is providing the perspective of a wide range of professionals such as musicians, sound designers, and acoustic architects to assess the needs and opportunities for this recording studio. The resulting studio will be a key factor in the development of musical performers and technicians.

"The bottom line I would like to get across to people is that this can happen again," Brad says, about the success of Emerson Drive. "Why not have a facility ready to use. Grow people through that system so they're not having to go to Edmonton or Calgary or Vancouver. . .we can do it all in house at the College – that's a pretty important thing to me.

"With the recording studio you also set the bar for the music program at the College – students will have a chance to learn the basics, the ground roots, learning what the studio is all about. Re-creating a live sound in the studio is such a tough thing to do – I think if people at a young age can utilize the studio, use the technology that's there, they will be better prepared for anything that's going to happen after that.

Brad describes his first studio experience as being just the bare essentials of recording. "That was in the basement of GP Music - that was quite a while ago, but now I can see with the technology that we do have these days for recording – if we had had that available to us then, I know we could have made a CD that would have competed with a lot of bigger names. "That's what you have to remember when you are starting out as an artist, and you want to make a CD or you want to make a demo song, the music has to be as good or better than everything else that's on the radio.

Otherwise – people are going to turn away and you're going to have to start from zero again. That's a huge thing, making sure that whatever comes out of this facility, it has to be top notch. If that happens, then people start looking at Grande Prairie as a major centre for recording music." Emerson Drive was not an overnight success in Nashville, but they kept trying and learning until their music was recognized. They went to Nashville for six years, trying to get a record deal, meeting new people, getting feedback and criticism, before finally getting a break and a record deal – and immediate recognition. In 2002 Emerson Drive



was Billboard's Top Country Artist of the Year and top Group of the Year in the Canadian Country Music Awards – and they have never looked back. Their awards and nominations for Grammy and national and international music awards grow every year. "Now being a part of the Nashville community for the last seven or eight years, it really still amazes me how important it (Nashville) is for the rest of country music - 90% of artists signed to a record deal live out of Nashville – anyone who is trying to become a star goes to Nashville – it is still that place that you have to go – in order to achieve success in what you're chasing. It has never changed, and hopefully it never will because it is a pretty great place."

Brad Mates is vocal about the importance of Nashville to Emerson Drive – and equally vocal about the importance of the Peace Country to their success. "I always say that the

"I always say that the roots that have been laid in GP and throughout the Peace region, that's one of the top reasons why this band has been successful."

– Brad Mates

roots that have been laid in GP and throughout the Peace region, that's one of the top reasons why this band has been successful.

"I think the support in the community and around the Peace Country was over the top. From when we were 15 years old and deciding to give it a go, whether it was our parents, our friends, or playing BJs the first time and getting sup-

port from Byron - those small things have made a huge difference in our career. If it wasn't for this community giving us the opportunity to play our

music, to let us grow, we probably wouldn't be as far along as we are right now."

All of the members of Emerson Drive are enthusiastic about supporting the two annual fundraisers Brad has initiated in the Peace region – a



benefit concert at the College, and a golf tournament raising funds for Parkinsons. The performers volunteer their time, and Brad always makes sure that their trip includes seeing a bit of the countryside and meeting people in the community.

"That's when they really get it. Every single person I've ever had up here, whether from the US or from across Canada, they come back with the same comment. They can't believe how people support an event like this, how much they get behind it. I think that's something understood by anyone who grew up in this Peace



Dr. Curtis Smith was recognized at a media event in July for his donation of \$153,000 toward the establishment of the state-of-the-art recording studio at GPRC. He also plays keyboard with the GPRC Jazz Ensemble at public performances.



Brad (far right) discusses recording studio plans with (l-r) Geoff Whittall, Lane Borstad and Chris McIntyre of the Department of Fine Arts.

Country area – if it’s something that’s real, then people do get behind it 110% and that’s when you see something special get together. I’m so proud to be able to be part of a community of people each year that loves doing this kind of work, and get results out of it at the end of the year. “If it wasn’t something legit, if it wasn’t something real, we wouldn’t be involved in doing something like this. But it is. We’re real and we can turn this recording studio into something real.

“I know I’ve said this a few times, but once this new studio is up and run-

ning and ready to go, I think it lands at the perfect time. Within the next two years we’re probably going to be back in the studio recording a new album – I would love nothing more than to go up there and do a bunch of recordings in that facility. If at the bottom of the CD or on the pamphlet you could look and see that everything or part of it was recorded in Grande Prairie Alberta Canada, I think that would be phenomenal.

“There’s no reason why it can’t happen. All we have to do is get the studio up and running and we can go from there.”



Geoff Whittall and Carmen Haakstad accept the Emerson Drive donation funds raised at their 2008 Benefit Concert at the College.

Recognizing Our Donors



Don Gnatiuk, Jim Smith, Beth Sheehan and Carmen Haakstad.



Don Gnatiuk, Ken Truhn (Q99) and Carmen Haakstad.



Darrell Radbourne (Ernie's Sports Experts), Leigh Goldie, Don Gnatiuk and Dean Radbourne



Susan Bansgrove, Don McCready (RBC), Don Gnatiuk and Kevin Kleininger (RBC)



Matching Funds at Work

Two new passenger coaches, complete with colourful vinyl wraps announcing that GPRC is on the road, have been purchased through the Access to the Future fund, a Government of Alberta program which matches charitable donations to our College.

Your Donations Accomplish Great Things

If you would like to become a GPRC donor, we welcome your call to the Community Relations office. Contributions to the Student Life on Campus campaign and to Awards, Bursaries and Scholarships for GPRC students are warmly welcomed.

GPRC Foundation
 c/o Community Relations
 Grande Prairie Regional College
 780-539-2070 or 780-539-2021

Call for Nominations

Grande Prairie Regional College Board of Governors

Award of Distinction

The Board of Governors Award of Distinction is the College's highest tribute to individuals or groups within our community and region. This prestigious award was established in 2004 to honour exceptional commitment to supporting higher education for the people of our region.

Through this award, the Board of Governors will honour individuals whose actions have made exceptional contributions to their community and to the advancement of higher education.

The Nominee must:

1. Promote goodwill between the College and the community
2. Further the aims of the College in creating partnerships – social, cultural or economic.
3. Provide service above self and one's employment, which involves contribution of personal time and effort to benefit others.
4. Demonstrate a willingness to assist the College in advancing education for our region.

You are invited to submit a nomination for the Board of Governors Award of Distinction.

This competition is open to groups and/or individuals in Alberta including non-alumni members of the public, alumni of Grande Prairie Regional College and members of the College academic and support staff. Posthumous nominations may be considered.

Further nomination and eligibility information may be obtained by contacting:
Office of the Board of Governors, Grande Prairie Regional College
10726 – 106 Avenue, Grande Prairie AB T8V 4C4
780-539-2023
Email: mclarke@gprc.ab.ca
www.gprc.ab.ca/about/board/

PAST RECIPIENTS

2004 - Clem and Muriel Collins

Clem and Muriel Collins were the inaugural recipients of the Award of Distinction in February 2004. The Collins' have always been tremendous supporters of Grande Prairie Regional College. Muriel Collins served as Chair of the College Board of Governors and Clem Collins has served as Chair of the Grande Prairie Regional College Foundation. They did this because of a deep commitment to our community, and a passionate belief in the benefits of post-secondary education, particularly for the people residing in the northern part of this province.

2005 - Charles Leslie (Les) Longmate

Les Longmate is a successful business entrepreneur who has served on numerous committees and community organizations to improve life for the citizens of our region. Mr. Longmate was an Alderman of the City of Grande Prairie, sat on the GPRC Foundation Board of Directors and the Grande Prairie Public Library Board, the Police Commission. He is a staunch Rotarian, and has supported countless fundraising and community events. His profound sense of community is widely recognized, and honoured by this award.

2006 - Lyle D. Carlstrom

Lyle D. Carlstrom is a Grande Prairie lawyer and an alumnus of GPRC who is closely involved with advanced education and countless other community activities to strengthen the social fabric of our region. Lyle Carlstrom is vocal about the importance of post-secondary education in general, and about the benefits of a College in the Peace Country in particular. He served several years as Chair of the GPRC Alumni Foundation Board of Directors, and has contributed generously of his time and resources in support of Grande Prairie Regional College.

2007-2008 - Paul J. Evaskevich

Paul J. Evaskevich has earned numerous awards and recognitions for his contributions to his community. At Grande Prairie Regional College, he served on the Board of Governors and is a founder and Past Chair of the GPRC Foundation. The Paul Evaskevich Valedictorian Award was established at GPRC in 1985, and continues to annually honour a student who has demonstrated academic merit, and who has made a contribution to college life. Grande Prairie Regional College has been greatly honoured and supported by the generosity of Paul and Coreen Evaskevich. In 2005, the couple served as honorary chairs of the GPRC President's Ball.





Alumni/Foundation hosts community recognition event

The Alumni/Foundation Board of Directors is pleased to host the annual President's Awards event to express the gratitude of our College for the generosity of our donors, the commitment of our volunteers, and the contributions to excellence in education by our community. This is also the occasion on which three prestigious community awards are presented. The 2008 event in March honoured recipients Suzanne Dunn, Darlene Horseman, and Paul Evaskevich.

2008 President's Awards

DISTINGUISHED VOLUNTEER AWARD

Presented in recognition of exceptional contributions of time and energy dedicated to the advancement of Grande Prairie Regional College. This award recognizes individuals who exemplify the many volunteers upon whose efforts the continued growth of our College depends.

- Elmer Borstad, Recipient 2004
- Rick Hryciuk, Recipient 2005
- Linda Side, Recipient 2006
- Rhonda Side, Recipient 2006

Suzanne Dunn, Distinguished Volunteer Award 2008

Suzanne Dunn has always contributed her time and energy to helping make the College and this Community the "greatest place to be." Born and raised in Grande Prairie, Suzanne has been a regular student of GPRC ever since high school, and has been employed at GPRC since she graduated with her second GPRC diploma in 1985. Suzanne is now working toward her Bachelor of Management degree through Athabasca University.

Throughout her busy schedule of work, family and ongoing study, Suzanne has maintained a phenomenal roster of volunteer activities. Her involvement has included everything from the On-Campus Daycare Society to coaching minor soccer, developing a website for GP Piranhas, and volunteering for various provincial and national tournaments such as the 1995 Canada Winter Games and all five years of CCAA Volleyball Nationals. The College has appreciated Suzanne's volunteer work for a variety of committees, including her work on both of our major fundraising events - the College Classic and the President's Ball - over the past years.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

This award is presented to recognize the distinguished achievement of GPRC alumni. The award honours outstanding accomplishments in the individual's profession, and/or in service to the community, to society, or to Grande Prairie Regional College.

- Dr. Cora Voyageur, Recipient 2004
- Willie de Wit, Recipient 2005
- Koralee Samaroden, Recipient 2006
- Bob McLean, Recipient 2006

Darlene Horseman, Distinguished Alumni 2008

Darlene Horseman has shown tremendous determination and dedication to her goals. After 11 years as a post-secondary student, she accepted her Bachelor of Education degree at GPRC Convocation in May.

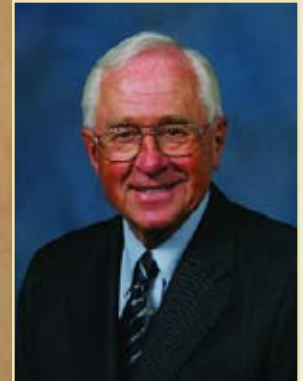
Darlene enrolled at Grande Prairie Regional College to pursue her lifelong dream of becoming a lawyer, and began by upgrading for her high school diploma. She discovered that she would be required to obtain a degree before she would be admitted into Law School and decided to pursue a degree in Education. Darlene's intention was to complete the necessary prerequisites at GPRC and then transfer to the U of A to complete the secondary route. These plans fell through but true to her nature Darlene was not deterred, she



Suzanne Dunn



Darlene Horseman



Paul Evaskevich



transferred into the Teacher Education North Program here at Grande Prairie Regional College and committed herself fully to her studies.

Darlene was appointed to the GPRC Board of Governors in 1997 and served two terms. She found this experience very enlightening and rewarding. Until this point Darlene's Board experience had been in working with her Band at Horse Lake. This was a whole different experience and one for which she is grateful.

Throughout all this Darlene was able to raise four boys who were very active in the community and sports, and has somehow also been able to run a very successful business, Dee's Groceries in Horse Lake and is has participated in countless hours of volunteer work. After teaching for a couple of years Darlene hopes to move to Saskatoon and get her Law Degree.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS AWARD OF DISTINCTION

The Award of Distinction is the College's highest tribute to individuals or

groups within our community. This award has been established to honour individuals whose actions have made exceptional contributions to our community and to the advancement of higher education.

Clem & Muriel Collins,
Recipients 2004

Les Longmate, Recipient 2005

Lyle Carlstrom, Recipient 2006

Paul Evaskevich, Board of Governors Award of Distinction 2008

Mr. Paul Evaskevich has been a builder of our community in every sense of the word throughout his career here as a real estate broker, house builder and land developer. His expertise and energies have contributed to a wide range of local, provincial and national organizations. His generosity has supported numerous social and cultural initiatives in our community over the decades. His wisdom and commitment to the community has garnered numerous prestigious awards.

The Paul Evaskevich Valedictorian Award was established at GPRC in 1985,

and continues to annually honour a student who has demonstrated academic merit, and who has made a contribution to college life. The Valedictorian is among the speakers at Convocation, and Paul is usually among the platform party to personally congratulate the recipient and present the generous cheque which accompanies the award.

Paul Evaskevich served on the Board of Governors of Grande Prairie Regional College, and is a founder and past Chair of the GPRC Foundation. His work toward building a strong foundation for post-secondary education in our region is a contribution that will continue to be felt long into the future.

Grande Prairie Regional College has been greatly honoured and supported by Paul and Coreen Evaskevich who have been integral to the growth and development of our community, through the family business, Alberta Lands, and through their volunteer commitments. In 2005, the couple served as honorary chairs of the GPRC President's Ball.

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Thank you



College Classic
and President's Ball
raised **\$180,000**



HELPED US TO SUPPORT THE
"CAMPUS" CAMPAIGN

Jir shir wo dee yee tsir dow juh-lee “It’s the first time I’ve been here”

STORY & PHOTOS BY DR. RENÉ R. GADACZ
(ARTS & EDUCATION)

Sitting with a colleague at lunch one day I admitted I really missed China. This was shortly after watching the opening ceremonies of the 29th Olympic summer games held in Beijing on August 8th, where viewers were offered scenes of the city, the streets, the parks, and the traffic – in addition to the breathtaking ceremony and Olympic venue itself. As I write this in September people are still talking about it and the 2008 Summer Paralympics are well underway in the same city. I had spent a month in China earlier in the summer, and the experience far exceeded my expectations. “But how can you miss China,” she remarked, “you’re not even remotely Chinese!” “Not only that,” she said, “you’re not from there and you’ve never even been there before.” I’ve talked to other travellers and I found I wasn’t unique in feeling ‘at home’ in a new country or in a particular geography. This despite the fact I have travelled to other countries and visited other places; the

impact this time was simply not the same. China, or Zhongguo, the middle kingdom (the Chinese word for China), was different. Should I ask my Dad to double-check our family tree and would he think that strange?

I have to admit my infatuation began as soon as I first arrived in Beijing in early June, the first destination city of my adventure and the first on my itinerary set by the tour company I booked with. This trip was billed as “Essential China” and promised the eleven of us that comprised our group a sweeping survey of major - and really big - cities (Chongqing Municipality on the Yangtze at 31 million!), the best of international shopping (Shanghai and Hong Kong – shoes! Rolex watches!), archaeological sites (the Great Wall at Badaling [up by gondola, down by steel toboggan], the Forbidden City in Beijing, the city walls of Xi’an and the Terracotta Warriors), world heritage sites (the Longman Grottos at Luoyang and Shaolin),







"ghost cities," ancient villages, and mystical rural landscapes (Fengdu; Yangshuo and Guilin are well-known and still seem to be the favorite hang-outs of western young people who insist on looking like hippies, and of course, more Rolex watches, these with Mao's face on them - wow!), three rainy days aboard the Ms. Fortune on the third largest river in the world (the Yangtze) en route to the Three Gorges Dam project, and the unforgettable experience of domestic travel by planes, trains, and buses. Nothing compares to sitting around train stations in 30°C+ temperatures with no air anticipating the rush to one's designated car, watching the locals watching you! And I can't say enough about the food and the restaurants; let's just say that I've developed a fondness for tofu, vegetables per se, interesting meat and fish morsels, and giant bottles

of beer. Chopsticks rule!

Sadly, Sechuan province and the city of Chengdu will have to wait for another trip; the world was witness to the major earthquakes that devastated this region of China in May that killed and injured thousands, threatened even the Three Gorges Dam (still under construction), and took a little of the edge off the hopeful exuberance leading up to the 29th Olympiad in August that was China's "coming out" from a dictatorial past to being an integrated member of the world community of nations. (In 1936 China sent a team to the Berlin Olympics, perhaps the most purely political games the Olympic movement has ever seen).

China is the world's fourth largest country and is also the world's most populous country with some 1.3 billion people at the beginning of this millennium. Its





economy has been growing by an average of about 10% per year since the beginning of this century, and the signs of this astonishing growth can be seen everywhere: the sprouting of six lane highways, elevated connectors, freeways, and bridges (China is famous for them), urban sprawl as far as the eye can see (nothing under 20 stories!), smoke-belching stacks, every square centimetre under crop cultivation, never-ending construction on a truly gargantuan scale, and the relentless pace and movement of people and goods, 24/7. From what I can tell the focus is solely on infrastructure, the lifelines for the lifeblood of this economy. What energy! Traditional villages and quaint city quarters aside (the soon-to-be-demolished or gentrified hutongs of Beijing, and the Jewish, Muslim, and Christian quarters of Shanghai, Xi'an and Chongqing are a must-see), all

seems new, modern and clean, in contrast to the collapse and decay (my biased perception?) of western cities and their infrastructures. I certainly didn't miss the plastic bags, bottles, pop cans, and perpetual litter of home. Civic pride? Party discipline? Recycling? Who knows, but the result is rather nice. The rapidly rising middle class probably won't settle for less than this. Yet for the sheer size of some of China's cities, there was no sense of being crowded, or of clutter, or of the press of humanity (the exceptions being Shenzhen, Hong Kong, and Macau of course, the cities of my trip's departure) that left you anxious for your own personal space. Instead, things are spread out and there is an emphasis on lots of refreshing green spaces, trees, and parks. As for pollution, well, I've seen worse in Toronto. If it was as bad as sometimes the media make it out to be, the millions of citizens of Beijing couldn't indulge in their favourite pastime of kite flying, day or night! Of course, somewhere between what the media report and my rose-colored glasses lies the truth.

Naturally, there were lots of opportunities for friendly discussion among my fellow travellers and our twenty-something group leader, Ming Qiu (a.k.a. Milly, her English name), especially in the few hours before "lights out" on our over-night trains (best sleeps ever!). Over bottles of 'Great Wall'

- continued on page 18

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A China - GPRC Connection - What our graduates can do!

Ian Cooper is originally from Grande Prairie and was a former student at our college in 1999-2000 (taking courses in anthropology, sociology, history, philosophy, and psychology). He has been simultaneously pursuing a Masters degree in Sociology at the University of Saskatchewan and a Masters degree in Sociology and Social Policy at Xi'an Jiaotong University in China - a unique experience that he said he couldn't pass up. He is interested in state/society relations and how public policy is formulated and implemented in different national and cultural contexts. His thesis work examines how various segments of civil society are able to influence public policy in totalitarian political systems. He will complete the dual degree requirements this Fall and will be moving to Ottawa to work for the government as a Social Policy Analyst with Human Resources and Social Development Canada.

red wine (arguably China's best and a potential rival to Australia's finest, according to Geoff, a retired bricklayer and our group's sage elder who just put in a \$25,000 wine cellar in his new house in Melbourne) poured into cut-in-half water bottles that served as glasses, we talked about history, culture, and, yes, politics and even the environment. Earlier that day we visited a four hundred year-old village a short boat ride up the Li river from Yangshuo, and I mentioned that my city of Grande Prairie was celebrating its fiftieth birthday, and that Canada was soon to celebrate its 141st birthday. Milly said that was great, that we were a young country and full of promise for the future. A fellow traveller remarked that this might be the case, but that like a young child lacking the wisdom of

its parent, young countries seem to 'know everything' and have solutions for everything - necessarily subtle and oblique references to the West's position on Tian'anmen Square, Tibet, human rights, corruption, and other hot button issues. Millie, proud of her culture and country, and truly a diplomat, responded by citing the well-known observation that perhaps as children grow and mature they become amazed by how much their parents have learned. Point being that China has its own logic, and will address its issues in its own way and in its own time. The writing, in a manner of speaking, is on the wall. I'm ready to go back to China, perhaps now to spend more time in one place and get to know it in more depth. In the meantime, there is another trip I am planning to take...



AWARDS

Robin Arseneault, a former student at GPRC was one of the first recipients of the new Emerging Artists awards offered by The Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Arts Awards Foundation. Now of Calgary, Robin is an installation artist who was described as having: "a very strong voice, very fresh and vigorous. Already has international exposure and great potential."

Suzanne Dunn was recognized by the GPRC Alumni/Foundation for her volunteer contributions to College activities and events. She was presented with the Distinguished Volunteer Award in March 2008.

Paul Evaskevich was presented with the GPRC Board of Governors Award of Distinction, honouring his exceptional contributions to our community and to the advancement of higher education. This is the College's highest tribute to individuals or groups within our community.

Beth Goldie, GPRC instructor of Physical Education and Fitness programs, has been honoured with three awards in recent months: She was presented with the 2008 Grande Prairie Chamber of Commerce Small Business Employee of the Year Award, the GPRC Distinguished Employee Award and the 2008 HPEC Distinguished Service Award. These awards all recognized her dedication to excellence in teaching, and serving her community as an outstanding volunteer.

Darlene Horseman received the GPRC Distinguished Alumni Award 2008 in recognition of her inexhaustible passion for education, her tireless service to the College and her fellow students, and her contributions to her community.

Carla Rakestraw was presented with the Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award at the Small Business Week Awards. Carla is a GPRC graduate from Business Administration, majoring in marketing. Carla has achieved a designation as a Certified Advertising Specialist (CAS), and is the youngest person in Canada to have achieved this distinction.

ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS

Monique Sedgwick, instructor in the GPRC Department of Nursing, has successfully defended her dissertation and obtained her Ph.D.

APPOINTMENTS/ELECTIONS

Dr. René Gadacz, GPRC instructor in Arts and Education, has been appointed managing editor of *Lobstick* (GPRC's in-house interdisciplinary academic journal).

EXHIBITIONS

Ed Bader, GPRC fine arts instructor, mounted his exhibition *Quartet - 4 Project* April 4-24, 2008 at the Centre for the Creative Arts in Grande Prairie. The four bodies include *Interfaces 1998*,

Mediate/Mediate 2007-present, *The Seasons: Northern Rivers 2008*, *Northwest Narratives 2005-present*.

Carmen Haakstad, executive director of Community Relations at GPRC, has presented new work in two exhibitions this fall. *Outpost* was presented at the Fraser Group Gallery in Calgary, September 2008. *Domino II* opened in the Unique Gallery in Grande Prairie, October 2008.

Tina Martel, GPRC visual arts instructor, exhibited the project "Tenuous" during the 2008 Grande Prairie Street Performers Festival. The project was supported by grants including a Alberta Foundation for the Arts visual project grant, ACDI (Canada Council - Alberta Creative Development Initiative) funding, support from AACTI and from GPRC.

PUBLICATIONS

Dr. René R. Gadacz has published the 8th edition of *Aboriginal Peoples in Canada* (Pearson Education Canada/Prentice-Hall, 2008) co-authored with Dr. Jim Frideres from University of Calgary. This edition includes the most current Canadian census data, government policy initiatives, and law cases pertaining to Canada's Indian, Métis, and Inuit peoples.

GPRC's **Dr. Charles Backman** was one of twenty applicants selected to attend the first annual PhD Academy on Sustainability September 26 - 30, 2008, hosted through the University of Western Ontario's Ivey School of Business in London, Ontario. Participants from Canada, the United States, Europe and Africa were selected on the strength of their ideas. Backman's successful paper is called: "A systems approach to understanding sustainability, sustainable development, and system failure".

Dr. Louise Saldanha, instructor of English Literature and Language at GPRC published a chapter in a collection of scholarly/academic work entitled *Home Words: Discourse of Children's Literature in Canada* published by Wilfrid Laurier University Press. Dr. Saldanha's chapter in the collection is entitled "White Picket Fences: At Home With Multicultural Children's Literature in Canada?" and investigates the possibilities and limitations that Canadian multiculturalism poses for children's writers in Canada.

Dr. Weixing Tan published in *New Forests* (2008), "Summer planting performance of white spruce 1+0 container seedlings affected by nursery short-day treatment", co-authored with Steve Blanton, J.P. Bielech.

ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Four student-athletes at GPRC received the SIRC CCAA Academic All Canadian Award. This program is awarded to an athlete that attains an honors status in academics and is a member of the Conference's All Conference Team. Our winners are: Jen Seemann - Women's Basketball; Adam Jones - Men's Basketball; Katie Spencer - Women's Soccer; Ashley Piggot - Women's Soccer.

The **GPRC Wolves Women's Curling Team** won the 2008 ACAC Conference Championship for the second year in a row. The Wolves Mixed Team came home with the Silver Medal.

Wolves Curling coaches **Caryl Sallows** and **Garth Findlay** were named ACAC Curling Coaches of the Year 2008.

Fortalecen hermandad la ciudad de Grande Prairie, Canadá y Mazatlán

Luis Ángel Gómez

El día de ayer el Club Rotario Mazatlán, A.C., efectuó una reunión en el Hotel Aguanarina para presentar la continuidad del proyecto de hermandad entre la ciudad de Grande Prairie de Alberta, Canadá, y el puerto de Mazatlán.

En esta reunión estuvieron presentes miembros del Club Rotario como su presidente, José de Jesús Sánchez Reynoso, y



VINCULACIÓN

El Club Rotario realizará visitas a las universidades del puerto para que establezcan nexos con el Grande Prairie Regional College de Canadá:

■ CBTSIS S1

■ UAS

■ Universidad Interamericana del Norte

■ Universidad de Occidente

Early in 2008, GPRC instructor **Carolyn Vasileiou** traveled to Mazatlan, Mexico with a City of Grande Prairie delegation on a pre-trade mission. The aim was to explore opportunities for post-secondary collaboration, particularly in the field of tourism - she coordinates the Hospitality and Tourism program at GPRC.

The Mazatlan educational institutes were very interested, as they place a strong emphasis on education. Meetings

with the Mayor of Mazatlan, the local Rotary club, the University of Sinaloa, Occidente university and the Technological Institute of Monterey resulted in extensive news coverage of their visit, with over 12 articles in

In February, the Mazatlan Mayor returned the visit by visiting Grande Prairie where a document was signed ratifying an agreement for Mazatlan and Grande Prairie to become "Sister Cities."

Research a Rare Undergrad Opportunity

Dr. Weixing Tan has been involving students in research projects for many years, but this past summer Mitchell Goldsack had the honour of becoming the first ever full-time research assistant for a Grande Prairie Regional College (GPRC) research project. Mitchell had just completed his second year BSc in Biology at GPRC, and spent a summer of research before transferring to the University of Alberta to complete his degree – a rare opportunity for an undergrad student.

“The involvement of students really enhances student learning and provides significant motivation in terms of their study at GPRC,” says Dr. Tan, who says the motivation works both ways. “I was motivated myself by Mitchell – he had so much enthusiasm that he motivated me to spend much of my summer vacation time working with him!”




The three research projects were undertaken with the support of funding partners GPRC, the Centre for Research and Innovation (CRI), Alberta Association of Colleges and Technical Institutes (AACTI,) Forest Resources Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA) and STEP (a federal summer

student program.)

The projects required a significant amount of biological background – Mitchell had completed this second year of study, and was able to put all of his knowledge to very good work. “Mitchell did one independent project to test the impact of Nitrogen supply on algae production, growing it in the lab to assess optimum conditions,” explains Dr. Tan. “Mitchell was involved in the initial experiment development – a very useful, very exceptional learning opportunity.”

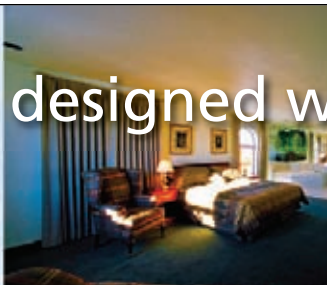
Dr. Tan had the option to choose a student from many programs in many other institutions, but wanted to present this opportunity to a student of GPRC. “Engaging in community-related biological research is a good thing for GPRC – it fits well with the new Roles and Mandates,” he says. “The advan-



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“The involvement of students really enhances student learning and provides significant motivation in terms of their study at GPRC.”

tage to the student is advanced learning, beyond the classroom and the textbook. It also provides motivation to develop lifelong learning capacity – learning to work with the community, to benefit the community by your efforts, to involve the community in solutions to common problems.”

The three projects undertaken over the summer explored the impact of nitrogen on algae production, CO2 sequestration through a biological system, and improving success of white spruce reforestation.

“I had a wonderful experience working with Weixing,” says Mitchell Goldsack. “The work wasn’t always glamorous, but it felt rewarding to help Dr. Tan with his projects. It was a great opportunity and I learned a lot and gained a lot of valuable experience.”



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– continued from page 3

is too busy implementing the new strategy!

Over time, the organization grapples with understanding the transition and the shine dims; soon the organization loses momentum and reverts to the known – and comforting - focus of day to day business. The potential for energy, hope and excitement quickly turns into frustration and disillusionment. No wonder pain is so closely associated with change!

Institutional change should be a slow and deliberate process. Change is only easy if you're in the know and have the power to drive it. But what about those of us who do not understand this particular change process or even the

reason for it? As leaders we have a responsibility to our owners, staff, students and customers to provide complete information, not just the headlines. How can we expect those around us to embrace the change process if we do not share our information, the process we intend to follow, and the contextual assumptions we are making?

As leaders, we often make the critical error of believing we are the only ones with the capacity to decide why, when and how to craft organizational change. In my experience this is a mistaken – and costly – belief. In my experience, the real savvy rests with those closest to the work. Unfortunately, our positional egos get in the way and blind us to what is truly important to the success of our organizations. If we could only get out of the way and allow the organization to

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make the important decisions we could see the supposedly impossible become our reality! As leaders in today's complicated, fast-paced world, it is impossible to be all seeing and all knowing – We must rely on all the members of our organizational family to help determine and then steer us towards our new direction. As leaders get out of the way, they must demonstrate the courage to allow experimentation and error. Whatever happened to our license to try and try again; to fall down, dust ourselves off and get up again? We can learn a lot from watching a six year old figure out how to ride that new two wheel-er!

Thus, the primary role of an effective leader at GPRC is to enable the creation of a culture where the people of our College

can create, together, a corporate vision and mission that responds to the needs of our owners within the context of mutually agreed upon rules or guidelines of interaction; our GPRC values – the values we all helped to determine. In this atmosphere, the change of the organization is driven by its heart and soul – its people. In this setting, change is now a personal quest and is owned by those who have the greatest stake in the process. As leaders we must provide guidance in the change process while ensuring congruence with the anticipated needs of owners and stakeholders. We must then empower those closest to the action to actually act! Leaders must have the courage to let go and trust those in the know to make the important decisions. This process is a conscious and deliber-

ate choice requiring conviction, courage and trust. Many leaders have tried to fake these attributes at their peril; a servant leader must be genuine. Insincere leaders are discovered for what they are in a "heart beat," stripping away all trust in their leadership and preventing their organization from proceeding with effective change!

At GPRC, moving information and decision-making authority as close to the student as possible allows the organization to change quickly, effectively and efficiently; transitioning to an organization that is energized by changing to meet the demands of its market place. A leader that freely shares information and moves decision-making as close to the student as possible harnesses the greatest asset of an institution – the heart and soul of its people!

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Joe Pagé



When Joe Pagé was a student at GPRC, he was sort of synonymous with trees. His time at the college was mid-way on his journey from tree-planter to lawyer, for one thing. He was among the first group of students who worked in GPRC's Training Forest, for another, and was one of the organizers of the "Woodchopper's Ball," a fundraising event hosted for a couple of New Year's Eves in support of the GPRC Foundation.

These days Joe's contact with trees (other than the great view of Stanley Park from his office window) is mostly on paper, in his work as a contract lawyer specializing in forest-related matters.

Joe Pagé came to GPRC with one undergraduate degree under his belt, and his yearning for the "bush" of western Canada well-fuelled by years as a tree planter. After working for a couple of years, he decided he "kind of liked this forester stuff" and decided to go back to school – choosing GPRC and the applied forestry degree then being offered. By the time Joe completed the applied degree and worked for Canfor for a couple of years, he had been working in the bush for 12 years and decided it was time for a change.

"I told my wife Angela: I will apply to one law school and if I get in that's what we'll do. And of course I was

accepted, finished my articles and went to work. They told me I'd be doing some forestry work where I first started practicing, but there really wasn't very much. Then one day I met a friend (from the firm I'm with now) and he said 'Well Joe, you doing lots of forestry work?' and I said no I'm not doing much. 'Well we're looking for someone with a forestry background to come join us.' So here I am now, and most of my work is forestry related."

Joe is an associate in the Business Law Group of the Vancouver firm Bull, Houser and Tupper. He assists senior lawyers with various aspects of corporate and commercial transactions with a focus on forestry related issues. "Most of our clients would be big forestry companies – we draft contracts for them, for their relationships with their contractors," Joe explains. "One thing in BC that piqued my interest was Aboriginal law. BC doesn't have many treaties compared to the rest of Canada. When I worked for Canfor in GP one of the things I

enjoyed doing was my role as a Canfor liaison with Sturgeon Lake Cree Nations. In Alberta there are treaties (Sturgeon is Treaty 8) but here in BC there are very few treaties so many First Nations have a constitutional right to claim title and rights over trees and land that have been allocated to forestry companies."

Joe says he has discovered many differences between BC And Alberta. "In Alberta, every year we sat down with our contractors and hashed out the terms of the contract for the upcoming season which were agreed to on a handshake. I rarely signed written contracts. Of course some difficulties would surface during the season but we dealt with them and we always came to some kind of an agreement. Here in B.C., licensee-contractor relationships are regulated by legislation, which adds another layer to what needs to be done before you can cut a tree. Unlike Alberta, licensee-contractor disputes in B.C. take time and can be expensive to resolve."

Joe is also one of the few French language lawyers in Vancouver, having completed his degree at the university of Ottawa in French, so he has also developed a clientele who require legal services in French. "The community is not that big, but it is here. I have been able to do a bit of work for a few French organizations, so that's



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kind of nice.”

Joe and Angela have one child, Johnny, who is being schooled in a Francophone school, and Joe devotes considerable time and energy to issues affecting the school and the community. “We speak French at home, and he goes to a French school, but he is kind of like me when I was a kid, many of his street friends speak English, so he is fluent in both French and English.”

Joe also attended Francophone school while he was growing up, earned his first degree and law degree in French, but is totally bilingual. “Our home language was French, but street language was English, so we always knew both – we were a French family but it was always natural to use both.” Life is good in Vancouver for the Pagé family, but Grande Prairie and the benefits of life in a smaller centre are still appreciated by Joe. “I had lots of fun in Grande Prairie - I think because it’s a nice mix. You get to live with an eclectic group of individuals, and the bush is only five minutes away. You start to take it for granted – I realized that when I went back to Ottawa. I miss my Saturday morning helicopter rides when we occasionally landed to catch lunch. I sometimes carried a collapsible rod, a bit of tinfoil, and lunch was always a few casts away. Who knows, maybe some day I’ll find my way back to Northwestern Alberta.”

Meanwhile, Joe Pagé has found a satisfactory way to keep the forest in his law office. He is looking forward to visiting old friends and forests in the Grande Prairie area some day soon.

– Lynne Ness



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GPRC Alumni

**'98 Elaine D. Trerice
(nee: Streeper)**

Program – Office Administration

I have been involved with the family business since graduation in 1998. I now look after all the finance and administration for our Real Estate Investments company called Hardcastle Developments Ltd. in Fort Nelson BC. I am married to a wonderful man and we have 2 beautiful children, and one more on the way.

'02 Carla Rakestraw

Program – Business Administration

After achieving my diploma from GPRC in Business Administration with a major in Marketing, I moved to Calgary to apply my skills. I worked for two years in inside sales at a promotional company and then moved back to Grande Prairie, got married and worked for three years in an outside sales position for a similar promotional company. My marketing career was taking off as profits were growing and I became the youngest female in Canada to achieve my CAS (Certified Advertising Specialist) designation. This spring I knew it was time to achieve my next goal - to open up my own business in promotional products advertising. With a lot of hard work, support, and a vision to really make a difference, I have opened the doors to my new business called Ultimate Promotions Inc. in July 2008. With hard work and dedication you really can achieve your dreams. I look forward to this new adventure and setting new goals along the way. Thank you GPRC for setting the foundation for my future success!

**'03 Cathy Rode (nee: de Git)
Program – BA, Education,
Phys Ed (Involved with Wolves:
'76, '77, '78, '79)**

I recently moved to Fairview as my husband is instructing at the NAIT Fairview Campus, soon to be the GPRC Fairview Campus. I remember the great parties and dances held in the Concourse in the '70's. We didn't have Howlers back then!

**'04 Barbara L. Appleton
(nee: Martin)**

Program – Office Administration Diploma AND University Transfer Program

I completed a Bachelor of Commerce degree at the University of Calgary with a major in Tourism and Hospitality Management. I am a mother of 4 girls and I am currently employed in the retail industry as a manager. My favourite memory at GPRC is Mr. Aslani and Economics classes (I never believed I could ever enjoy such a dry subject!). Thank you!

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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In Memory of

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d. January 13, 2008
GPRC student Fall, 2007

Clem Collins
d. October 17, 2008
Founding member of GPRC
Foundation

Lance Bonnes
d. November 07, 2008
GPRC Wolves athlete and student in
Academic Upgrading Fall, 2008.

Bruce G. Macdonald
d. November 24, 2008
GPRC instructor in Business
Administration and Office
Administration

Marlene Campbell
d. November 30, 2008
Former GPRC employee, Department
of Nursing Education

Call for Nominations

The **Distinguished Alumni Award** is the most prestigious award of the GPRC Alumni Association. The award has been established to recognize GPRC alumni for outstanding accomplishments in their professions, and/or in service to their community, society or GPRC. The Distinguished Alumni is an example of alumni success for current and future GPRC students.

Criteria:

- The nominee has demonstrated outstanding excellence in his/her profession, community or society and is therefore an example of alumni excellence for GPRC.
- The nominee must be an alumnus of GPRC.
- Alumni currently serving the College as board members are not eligible

Members of the public and the College community are invited to submit a nomination for the Distinguished Alumni Award by completing and submitting the provided nomination form..

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