

FACING THE FUTURE

2011 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

WINTER SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

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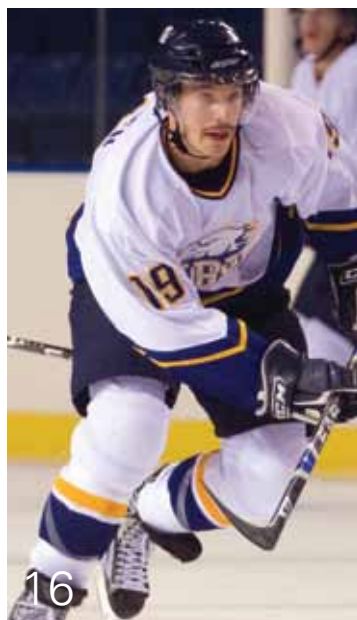
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# BLUE+GOLD

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### ON THE COVER ▶

Ski racer Ben Millar, pictured at US National Championships, is one of four extraordinary student-athletes featured (see page 8).





# MESSAGE

## FROM THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR



Occasionally we hear major research universities criticized for appearing to place disproportionate emphasis on research than on undergraduate learning. If you have ever gone on-line to read UBC's strategic plan, Place and Promise ([strategicplan.ubc.ca](http://strategicplan.ubc.ca)), you might have noticed that one of the plan's primary commitments is to Student Learning. A central component of that commitment focuses on enhancing what we call Enriched Educational Experiences. These experiences take various forms, including community and international service learning opportunities, co-op work placements, internships and mentorships, first-year small class experiences, undergraduate research projects, and other activities that focus on learning through practical experience and interactivity.

In this issue of Blue and Gold, you will meet four outstanding UBC student-athletes who are already committing their time and energy to a wide range of experiential learning initiatives and volunteer work in

support of various youth, community and international service organizations. Needless to say, we are very proud of these high achieving Thunderbird team members, and the countless others like them who have demonstrated a desire to learn by helping others. Once you read their story, I think you will agree that students like these are worthy of all the support we can collectively give them, and that your university is to be commended for making a strong commitment to enhancing their undergraduate learning environment.

With that in mind, I hope that you will continue to take an active interest in UBC and in Thunderbird Athletics, both in 2011 and in the years ahead. On behalf of all of our student-athletes, coaches and staff, I extend our best wishes and sincere thanks.

Bob Philip  
DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS



## MESSAGE

### FROM THUNDERBIRD ATHLETE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

I can vividly remember sitting in my Fairview Crescent residence last February listening to the horns, cheers and singing of thousands of international hockey fans making their way down Wesbrook Mall on their way to, or from, Olympic and Paralympic hockey games at Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre. Little did they know that they were about to enter an arena my 24 team-mates and I are fortunate to call home for eight months of the year.

The popular red mittens and blue jackets of last February are a rare sight these days, but even though the buzz and hype of the 2010 Games has dwindled away, there is still much to cheer about at UBC moving into 2011. The Games leave behind a world class, state of the art facility in the Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre, a venue that is sure to leave a lasting legacy not only for T-Bird athletes, but also for the Point Grey and surrounding communities. 2010 also saw the first full season on the beautiful new Rashpal Dhillon Track and Field Oval and all-weather Thunderbird Park baseball diamond, as well as a new turf field at Thunderbird Stadium. Indeed, campus is alive and thriving post-Olympics and life for a UBC Thunderbird Varsity Athlete is exciting and promising.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you, our alumni, for your unwavering support and commitment to helping UBC athletes accomplish our goals in sport and the classroom. The high standard of education, facilities, and resources is what continues to draw hundreds of the best young student-athletes in Canada and the World to UBC every year, all aspiring to one day be in your shoes. I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming Millennium Breakfast and Hall of Fame & Big Block Dinner. I encourage you to get even more involved by participating in an Alumni golf tournament, and keep your eyes open for a new Alumni Mentorship Program that is currently being developed through a partnership between alumni and current students. Lastly, I would like to personally invite you to check out the sparkling Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre for one of our men's or women's hockey games. You'll be happy to know that the ThunderBar has newly re-opened.

Tuum est  
Emily Grainger



# A BRUSH

*with Randy Celebrini*

**I**t's a pitch black night, typical for November, with wind-driven rain wreaking minor havoc on the streets of Gastown. In a loft apartment above, the atmosphere among a gathering of like-minded strangers is more agreeable, but far from typical. It is the studio of fine art painter Randy Celebrini, a standout for the UBC Thunderbird soccer team in one of its storied dynasty eras. The walls of both floors and the stairway are covered in canvases, large and small. In what normally would be the living room, a dozen or so chairs are aligned theatre style before an easel and electric piano, at which Esther Celebrini will play and sing jazz standards and the odd sultry Gershwin show tune to accompany and inspire the brush strokes of her husband.

At first glance, it's an incongruous performance duo, but the interplay between audio and visual artist soon becomes obvious and appreciated by a now crowded room of wine-

sipping guests. To the Celebrinis, it's a night among friends, and an opportunity to share their compelling collaboration. Among the assembled are former UBC team mates, including retired pros Chris Franks and Paul Dailly. There are also current members of the Vancouver Whitecaps, who are clients of Randy's physiotherapy practise. Sport Medicine guru Jack Taunton and kinesiologist wife Cheryl, who have three Celebrini works in their home, are seated near the front. Rick Celebrini, the other half of UBC soccer's once revered brother combination and himself an accomplished sport therapist, takes in the performance from the stairway. Also present is renowned Vancouver born painter Paul Chizik, who first introduced Randy to the classical traditions of the Masters, an experience he says marked the beginning of a new journey far from the comfort and familiarity of high performance sport. >>>

PHOTOS: MARTIN DEE



Celebrini in his Gastown studio: "I would say that I'm a progressionist."



As Thunderbirds, Randy and Rick Celebrini were known as much for their aggressive style of play as for their notable skill, the consequences of which were chronic injuries. But in spite of the bang-ups, they figured prominently together in three of UBC's four consecutive national championship victories between 1989 and 1993, including the better part of a 54-game unbeaten streak. The time they spent in the care of sport medicine staff may have further heightened their understanding of the continuum that injured athletes experience between the beginning of therapy and the return to competition. After graduating from the School of Rehabilitative Sciences, both went into clinical practise. Randy joined a top-notch operation led by former UBC trainer Ron Mattison. The mentorship opportunity was perfect for a recent graduate, which he augmented through working with Canada's alpine ski team, and later the national field hockey team and Soccer Canada. Things went well for the next three years, but the pressure of a high volume practise combined with team travel eventually took its toll. At 25, he was already feeling the symptoms of burnout, and needed a diversion.

"I feel I've always been an artist, but I put it on the back burner because of soccer and then my physiotherapy work," he says. "I took some art courses initially, and then I met some serious people. The first time I studied an old master painting with Paul Chizik, I thought 'that's your calling.' I dived headlong into it, and I loved the training. It was rigorous, just like being an athlete, but the nice part was that I knew that when I was 30 years old, it wouldn't be over."

He spent a total of four years studying with Chizik at the now defunct Vancouver Academy of Art, after which fate dealt a friendly, but life-altering card. Longing for those heady days as a Thunderbird, he returned to UBC in 2000 to play one more season and take art and art history classes. His team mates were a decade younger, but at 31 he became the oldest player in CIS history to be named an All Canadian. More importantly, he met Esther during that return to UBC. They were married shortly after and hatched a plan to build a getaway home and studio near the beach in Tofino. In order to finance the dream, Randy had to return to physiotherapy work, but in a manner that allowed him to balance two very different professions. "I didn't want to get burned out again in private practise, but I also realized that I was still passionate about the science of physiotherapy and working with athletes."

The solution turned out to be a serious, but part-time niche practise called the On-Field Clinic. Launched 10 years ago, the clients are athletes who have suffered complex orthopaedic injuries and require a transitional form of rehabilitation that bridges the gap between clinical treatment and a return to competition. The treatments take place outdoors and simulate activity and movement specific to the clients' particular sport. With Esther's support in running the business, he manages the roster of clients so that their time can be divided between Tofino and Vancouver, including ample quality time with 18-month-old daughter

Sirena. It's been tough at times, he admits. "There was one year that I made 56 one-day trips back and forth, but I feel really fortunate to have created a balance. I've never felt that burnout that I did when I was 25."

His thirst for knowledge and inspiration has resulted in extensive travel to art centres in Europe and North America – trips to paint new outdoor vistas, to study and to perform with Esther. "I would say that I'm a progressionist," he says, using a self-coined term to describe his style of work. "By that I mean that I'm committed to the old masters' methods and traditional systems of training, but I'm not locked in the past. I apply those methods to the world we live in. I can work from a roof top on the downtown east side, or at the edge of the ocean, or a hilltop in London painting a bridge, and Esther has opened up a whole new world for me with her music."

With another child on the way, and a growing demand for both his talent and professional service, life appears to be about to take on another level of complexity and creative magnitude. Still, one gets the sense the Celebrinis won't have any problems maintaining an appropriate balance. Moreover, what lies ahead lends credence to his claim to being a progressionist. "You've got to keep re-inventing things," he says with the inimitable passion of the artist. "You have to keep moving forward in your own way."+



# BIG BLOCK CLUB

## NEWS + NOTES FROM THE BIG BLOCK CLUB



Still making big gains for the Thunderbirds – Dan Smith, circa 1978.

### QUARTERBACK CLUB

The recently founded **Thunderbird Football Association** hasn't wasted any time mobilizing a growing number of friends and alumni. On January 7, they officially launched the UBC Football Hall of Fame with the induction of inaugural honourees coach **Frank Smith**, quarterback and former CFL coach Cal Murphy and linebacker and former CFL commissioner **Doug Mitchell**. Bronze plaques of each inductee now hang on an interior concourse wall of Thunderbird Stadium. The group also has short-term and long-term fundraising objectives. Former quarterback **Dick Gibbons** is at the helm of one initiative, which has its sights on raising \$500,000 to shore up immediate needs for scholarship money, while latter day pivot Dan Smith and others are heading up a longer term strategy to create an endowment of \$5 million to see to the program's future needs. Dan says the first order of business is to get a sound business plan in place, but that former team mate Chris Davies and wife Jill have already stepped up with a major gift which, along with support from the athletic department, has already established a firm foundation of \$200,000 to get the endowment started.

Staying with the subject of quarterbacks, former BC Lion legend **Joe Kapp** returns to Vancouver for this year's TELUS Millennium Scholarship Breakfast on March 1 at 7:00 am at the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre. The only quarterback in history to play in the Grey Cup, Super Bowl and Rose Bowl, Kapp's appearance will take the form of a one-on-one interview with Thunderbird football coach **Shawn Olson**. For tickets, contact the coach of the UBC team you want your ticket proceeds to support, or development coordinator **Leon Denenfeld** at 604-822-6183 or [leen.denenfeld@ubc.ca](mailto:leen.denenfeld@ubc.ca).

### ORDER! ORDER!

UBC rowing alumna extraordinaire **Tricia Smith's** most recent distinction was announced December 30. The four-time Olympian, silver medalist and Canadian Olympic Committee vice president will be invested as a Member of the Order of Canada later this spring at Rideau Hall. A graduate of UBC's Faculty of Law and 2001 honorary doctorate recipient, Tricia rowed for UBC's first women's crew and later for Canada in an international career that spanned 12 years. The daughter of UBC rugby great **Marshall Smith** and "Thunderette" basketball player **Patricia MacIntosh** is a member of the Executive Committee for the International Rowing Federation (FISA); chair of the FISA Women's Commission, an appointee to the Board of the International Council of Arbitration for Sport, and was a key member of the Vancouver 2010 Bid Committee and co-mayor of the 2010 Winter Games Athlete Village.

Another UBC rowing Olympian and Order of Canada member who received recent recognition is **George Hungerford**, who teamed up with UBC grad **Roger Jackson** to win gold in the pairs event at the 1964 Games. Hungerford chaired the **John M.S. Lecky UBC Boathouse Gold for Life Committee** that raised a legacy of \$10 million to build and equip the UBC Boathouse, completed in 2006 on the Fraser River just upstream from the Richmond Olympic Oval. Hungerford and his committee were the recipients of the Alumni Milestone Achievement Award at the UBC Blue and Gold Review event held November 29 at the Chan Centre. The rest of the honoured group is **Martin Gifford** (Vice Chair); **Jane Hungerford**; **Roy McIntosh**; **Doug Robinson**; **Rod Hoffmeister**; **Peter Jackson** and **Hugh Richardson**. >>>



## TEEING UP

Marty Zlotnik wants to remind all alumni about the annual Desert Golf Classic coming up in Palm Desert, March 15. This year's event will be held at The Classic Club, an Arnold Palmer designed course that has played host three times to the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic. This is a rare opportunity to play one of the finest desert tracks in the USA, plus enjoy a gourmet dinner with other T-Bird friends – all at an attractive price, and all in support of the Thunderbird golf teams.

The second annual **Spring Fling multi-team golf tournament** for alumni and friends goes May 26 at Green Acres in Richmond. Proceeds from the tournament will benefit alpine skiing, women's basketball, men's and women's field hockey, women's ice hockey, men's soccer, track and cross-country and men's and women's volleyball. Entry fee of \$175 per player includes a 12:30 pm shotgun start with dinner to follow.

Next up at Green Acres is the third annual **men's basketball alumni golf tournament**, scheduled for June 10th, at 1:00 pm. Any basketball alumni or friends wanting to register as a single or foursome, or donate prizes, can contact coach **Kevin Hanson** (kehanson@interchange.ubc.ca) or **Randy Nohr** (rnohr@interchange.ubc.ca). Finally, the 26th annual **Father Bauer Memorial Golf Tournament** returns to its traditional home at South Surrey's Hazelmere Golf Club on June 29.

For more information on UBC alumni golf tournaments, contact development coordinator **Leon Denenfeld** at leon.denenfeld@ubc.ca or 604-822-6183.

## MILESTONES

Three generations of UBC hockey alumni gathered at a November 20 T-Birds game to swap stories and roast former UBC men's athletic director **Rick Noonan**. The only bench the former national hockey team manager sees these days is the Naramata Bench vineyard region that he and wife Wendy have called home since his retirement. In addition to a salute to Rick for his years of service to Thunderbird hockey, the evening included a tribute to **Chris "Scoop" Brereton** who passed away recently. Chris was a rink-side fixture who served as the official game statistician and media relations assistant for 27 seasons without missing a single game. Exactly one week earlier (November 13) friends and family came together



Order of Canada distinction for rowing alumna Tricia Smith.

PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

in Summerland, BC to say goodbye to **Robert Parker**, who played hockey at UBC from 1960 to 1964 and passed away suddenly on November 8. Robert was a member of coach **Father David Bauer's** 1962-63 CIAU finalist team, and at the time of his graduation one of the team's top all-time scorers.

Former Thunderbird hockey goaltender and UBC Intramural Sports pioneer **Lorne Bodin** lost his battle with cancer on January 5th. A vice-principal and much-loved teacher at Richmond's McNair High School, Lorne played for the Thunderbirds from 1978 to 1981 and joined the Intramural Sports Department staff shortly after graduating. Thunderbird football alumni and members of the high school football community were shocked to learn that a heart attack claimed the life of **Carey Lapa** on January 9th. Carey was a member of the 1982 Vanier Cup Champion Thunderbirds squad and a popular teacher and football coach at Terry Fox Secondary in Port Coquitlam at the time of his passing.

In other sad news, UBC basketball alumni recently mourned the passing of **John Forsyth** at his Vancouver home on November 15. A 35-year school teacher and coach, John was an imposing figure and leading scorer for UBC from 1946 to 1950. Playing against tough US based competition during those years, he was named All American in the Evergreen Conference in his senior year. +

# 2011 UBC Desert Classic

March 15, 2011 • Palm Desert, CA

Brought to you by UBC Athletics and UBC Alumni Affairs



Join us in Palm Desert for the fifth annual UBC Desert Classic. Catch up with fellow UBC alumni and friends on the golf course at the Classic Club. Snowbirds and locals are welcome.

Get 10% off your Westjet flight when you book with their convention line at 1.877.952.4696 and quote reference number CC6706.

Golf Tournament and Dinner • Tuesday, March 15  
Classic Club, Palm Desert, CA.  
Registration is \$175 CDN per player.

To register, please visit [www.alumni.ubc.ca/events](http://www.alumni.ubc.ca/events). Questions? Contact Eleanor Battison at [eleanor.battison@ubc.ca](mailto:eleanor.battison@ubc.ca) or 604.822.9977 or 800.883.3088.



# FACING

*Pretty much everyone in the University community knows the answer to the question: “what is a UBC Thunderbird?” But not everybody can answer the more important question: “who is a UBC Thunderbird?”*

*The undergraduate landscape has changed in recent years, so much so that even a sizable portion of Big Block Club members may need to be reminded of the depth of character and commitment required by the student athletes now following in their footsteps. UBC’s modern undergraduate learning environment offers a vast range of experiential learning opportunities, and is therefore undeniably richer and wider in scope than ever before. At the same time, it is also unquestionably more challenging, as are the inaugural steps toward a fulfilling career following graduation.*



# THE FUTURE

*At every turn, theirs is an increasingly competitive existence, one that places greater and greater emphasis upon acquiring relevant work experience; squeezing in a community or international service learning opportunity; completing an undergrad research project; qualifying for graduate school; making connections with alumni; stretching finances; landing that first job, or fulfilling a desire to help fix some perilous aspect of an unpredictable world. At times, the going is so tough that they themselves are unable to pause long enough to fully recognize the merit of their efforts.*

*With that as context, here follows an examination of four student-athletes, who have been more or less randomly selected from among a deep pool of extraordinary young people who today wear the blue and gold colors of their university. >>10*





# DIANE RIZZARDO

**TEAM/YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY: SOCCER/4**  
**FACULTY: EDUCATION (HUMAN KINETICS)**



Diane Rizzardo says she is “keeping my options open” regarding life after her education is complete. Given her dizzying spectrum of activity away from both the field and the classroom, she may have many options from which to choose.

The fourth-year defender is not only a talented player; she is an Academic All Canadian and a torchbearer for the enriched educational experiences that have become a hallmark of a UBC’s undergraduate environment. Most of her activity focuses on exploring a wide range of career possibilities – physiotherapy, medicine or sports marketing – but not all. “I’ve participated in UBC Varsity Readers where we go into inner city schools and read with primary school children,” she says. “It’s a program that allows athletes to give back to the community, and since I personally love reading, it was great to share books with children.”

This spring she is travelling to El Salvador in a joint effort by UBC Athletics and Habitat for Humanity, where she and nine other Thunderbirds will spend two weeks building houses and running a sport camp on the weekend for the local children. She is also involved in the Human Kinetics mentorship program where she has been paired with alumna Joan Webster, one of the visionary founders of UBC’s renowned Intramural Sport program. She has been a volunteer youth soccer coach, worked as an anti-doping agent at the World Triathlon Championships, and volunteers in the exercise physiology lab at Children’s Hospital Heart Center. She augments her scholarship earnings as a work-study student in the Athletic Department, and by working summers at local golf courses and as a student kinesiologist at a physiotherapy clinic.

**FUTURE ASPIRATIONS:** I want to stay involved in sports in either a business or medical sense; I just don’t know which way I will go yet.

**FAVOURITE BOOK:** I have so many favourite books! I love *The Book of Negroes*, *The Time Travellers Wife*, *The English Patient*, and *Peter Pan*.

**FAVOURITE QUOTATION:** “Luck is not chance, it’s toil; fortune’s expensive smile is earned.” – Emily Dickinson

**COACH MARK ROGERS’ COMMENTS:** “Diane is a fantastic example for the first-year players. She is organized, disciplined, and hard-working and gives her best on the field and in the classroom. The younger players can watch her and learn how to balance the demands of a student athlete.”



# BEN MILLAR

**TEAM/YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY: ALPINE SKIING/4**  
**FACULTY: SCIENCE (CELL BIOLOGY AND GENETICS)**



Ben Millar arrived at UBC in 2006 as a pitcher for the Thunderbird baseball team. Recognizing the depth of left-handers on the roster, he joined the ski team in his second year. Now in his final season, he is not only a team member, he is also the coach, as well as de facto manager and fundraiser. Add in his demanding academic schedule, research work and volunteer activities, and you have a textbook case in effective time management.

The affable Oregon native balances a deeply competitive commitment to his sport with preparing for a career in Medicine. To that end, he has volunteered for two years as a research assistant with the Rare Disease Foundation (RDF) at BC Children's Hospital. "A large part of my time has been used to put together case reports and try to link these rare diseases to the current literature to both evolve scientific knowledge and aid in treatment of the patients," says Ben. "In previous years I volunteered at the Oregon Health and Science University in both the DNA lab and in the medical genetics departments."

He also lends time to the UBC Learning Exchange and its "I'm Going to UBC" program which encourages inner city children to pursue post-secondary education, and as a tutor for the "Thunder-study" program, working primarily with first and second year athletes. In addition to taking part in fundraising for the RDF, he and other ski team members raise money for training and travel by selling 50-50 tickets at Vancouver Canucks games.

A recipient of numerous academic awards, including the President's Entrance Scholarship, he has funded his education by working summers at a golf course in Oregon, in the Cytogenetics Lab at Oregon Health Sciences University, and at UBC Sports Camps.

**FUTURE ASPIRATIONS:** Medical school in the fall of 2011. I would love to be right back here at UBC.

**FAVOURITE BOOK:** I enjoyed reading *The Da Vinci code* by Dan Brown. I am part way through *A Brief History of Time* by Stephen Hawking, but it is fascinating.

**FAVOURITE QUOTATION:** "Don't measure yourself by what you have accomplished, but by what you should have accomplished with your ability."— John Wooden

**ASSOCIATE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR THERESA HANSON'S COMMENTS:** "He cares about something bigger than himself. He is inspiring in not only what he does, but how he does it. He has a never-give-up attitude that is contagious. There is no doubt in my mind that he will get into medical school and will help find a cure for something big."



# JENNIFER HINZE

**TEAM/YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY: VOLLEYBALL/5**  
**FACULTY: SCIENCE (CELL BIOLOGY AND GENETICS)**



Over the course of her five-year UBC career, Jen Hinze has become one of the most distinguished volleyball players in Thunderbird history. In 2009-10, she was named a first-team CIS all-Canadian after she led the country in a couple of statistical categories, and helped her team to an undefeated 25-match campaign. The year culminated in UBC winning a third consecutive CIS national title and Jen being named to the championship tournament all-star team. Later that spring, she became a member of Canada's senior national team, and last fall helped Canada qualify for the 2010 FIVB World Championship in Japan. She plans to re-join the national team this spring in hopes that she and her team mates will qualify for a berth in the 2012 Olympic Games.

With aspirations to eventually pursue a career in Medicine, she has been an Academic All-Canadian in each of her four years at UBC, having consistently maintained a GPA in excess of 80 % in a course of full-time study. To augment her practical experience, she has worked as a volunteer at the Blusson Spinal Cord Injury Research Centre at Vancouver General Hospital; completed two undergraduate research projects, and was recognized nationally as one of the 2010 Desjardins Top Eight Academic All Canadians in her sport. More recently, she has received a prestigious Wesbrook Scholar Designation, given to senior students with outstanding academic performance, leadership, and involvement in student and community activities.

**FUTURE ASPIRATIONS:** Playing in the 2012 London Olympics, then another year or so of national team and pro volleyball, then Med School.

**FAVOURITE BOOK:** *The Harry Potter Series.*

**FAVOURITE QUOTATION:** "Success is not final. Failure is not fatal. The courage to continue is what counts."  
— Winston Churchill

**COACH DOUG REIMER'S COMMENTS:** "She is incredibly humble and supportive to every one of her teammates. That characteristic, combined with the work ethic on and off the court, makes her not just a good team member, but someone that I talk about when I speak to young players that want to make the jump to post-secondary athletics. They might see her athleticism, but they don't see all that goes on behind that has enabled her to get where she is today."





# ALEX MURPHY

**TEAM/YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY: BASKETBALL/5**  
**FACULTY: EDUCATION (HUMAN KINETICS)**



The UBC basketball team's captain has been credited with being many things, but the one heard most often is "unsung hero." The title is a fitting one for the 6-1 point guard, who has earned the respect and admiration of team mates, coaches and alumni for his quiet leadership, unselfish attitude and humble appreciation for those who have helped him along the way. He rarely misses an opportunity to express gratitude for the HSBC Scholarship he received in his grade 12 year at St. George's, or for the David MacLean Scholarship that has supported him throughout his UBC career.

He has been asked to play several roles over the past five years, graciously accepting whatever challenge was in the best interest of the team. Along the way he has selflessly mentored younger players, worked at UBC's summer basketball camps, refereed school tournaments, and counselled admiring kids and parents about the educational opportunities available through sport.

His rich family background has engendered a yeoman's work ethic and a deep curiosity about other cultures, and he lists international travel as one of the highlights of his UBC career. "My father grew up in Ireland and moved away from home as a teenager," says Alex. "He is completely self-made and I respect him so much for all he has done in his life. My mom was born in Uganda and had to endure many hardships and displacement as a result of the Idi Amin regime. Their character and strength were cemented during these hard times, and every day I strive to become as courageous and determined as they are."

**FUTURE ASPIRATIONS:** My short term goal is to play professional basketball in Europe. As for my career, I am interested in pursuing naturopathic medicine.

**FAVOURITE BOOK:** Taking philosophy classes at UBC has introduced me to authors and perspectives I would have never thought I would enjoy. "The Gay Science" by Nietzsche stands out as one of the best books I read in the past five years.

**FAVOURITE QUOTATION:** "The fight is won or lost far away from the witnesses, behind the lines, in the gym, and out there on the road; long before I dance under those lights."— Muhammad Ali

**COACH KEVIN HANSON'S COMMENTS:** "When we recruited Alex it was his character that sold us on him. He came to UBC as an introverted teenager, but five years later he is leaving as a solid student, a consummate team player, a team captain, a community volunteer and a great ambassador for UBC."



# 2011

## *Historian Hume*

Organizers of the 2011 Big Block Banquet will have to allow extra time for the Sport Hall of Fame induction part of the evening, as this year's class of honourees is a big one. A total of four athletes, two builders and one team will enter the Hall of Fame at the 19th induction event, which accompanies the Big Block Club Awards Banquet April 6 at the Vancouver Convention Centre.

The athlete inductees are the late Jack Cowan (soccer), Doug Kyle (track), Gayle Hitchens Borthwick (golf) and Leo Groenewegen (football). Inductees in the builder category are retired swim coach Jack Kelso and long-time UBC Athletics historian, football statistician and Hall of Fame co-founder Fred Hume. Rounding out the class of 2011 is the first-ever track team to be inducted – the combined women's track and field and cross country team that dominated competition in Western Canada and the Pacific Northwest from 1971 to 1973.

Coached by Lionel Pugh and led by future Olympians Thelma Wright and Cheryl Spowage, the cross country team won the 1971 Pacific Northwest Championship and the 1971 and 1972 Canada West Championships by large margins. Wright and Spowage also figured prominently in UBC dominating the competition at both the 1972 and 1973 Canada West Track and Field Championships, as did future Olympians Patti Loverock (sprints), Brenda Eisler (long jump) and Debbie Brill (high jump).

Described as perhaps the best soccer player in UBC history, the late Jack Cowan played for the Thunderbirds from 1945 to 1949, where he was a perennial Lower Mainland All-Star and the Vancouver and District League's Player of the Year in 1947-48. Immediately after graduating in 1949 he was signed by Dundee of the Scottish First Division where he played five seasons, helping Dundee to two league championships.

Doug Kyle's competitive career at UBC was the launch of one of the most impressive track resumes in Canadian history. He arrived at UBC in 1952 and immediately began setting new UBC and Canadian records in distance events. He was named to Canada's 1954 British Empire and Commonwealth Games team and continued competing internationally for almost another full decade, including the 1956 and 1960 Olympic Games and the 1959 and 1963 Pan American Games. He was later selected as head coach of Canada's 1967 Pan Am team and 1968 Olympic team.

Thelma Wright, circa 1971.

# UBC SPORT HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

## *inducted as builder*

Golfer Gail Hitchens won top honours at the 1962 Western Canadian Interuniversity Championship and led her UBC team to numerous subsequent victories along with playing partner Marilyn Palmer. Starting when she was still at UBC, she played for Canada at both the world amateur and commonwealth championships. She is the only Canadian golfer to win the Canadian Junior, Canadian Amateur, Canadian Mid-amateur and Canadian Senior Amateur Championships. After winning the first of two US Senior Amateur titles in 1996, she was inducted into the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame.

Leo Groenewegen was an offensive tackle for UBC from 1983 to 1986, capping off his university football career as a Vanier Cup champion, an All Canadian and a finalist for the JP Metras Award for the country's top lineman. He was drafted first overall in the 1987 CFL draft and spent 17 seasons with Ottawa, BC and Edmonton. He retired in 2003 but retains the CFL Ironman Award for the most career starts for a non-kicker with 252.

A commonwealth and Pan Am Games gold medalist and current Master's swimming world record holder, Jack Kelso coached the UBC swim teams for 12 years, leading them to seven Canada West Championships, two CIAU national women's crowns, and set the stage for the subsequent and unprecedented success of UBC's swim program. He produced several Olympians along the way, including Bruce Berger and BC Sport Hall of Fame inductees Turlough O'Hare and Kevin Draxinger. A retired faculty member of the School of Human Kinetics, he continues to volunteer in support of his sport and has authored books on the history of swimming in BC and Canada.

UBC Athletics historian and long-time football statistician Fred Hume enters the Hall of Fame over 20 years after his work began to uncover the great UBC teams, athletes and builders of sport dating back to 1915. The UBC grad's efforts soon resulted in the foundation of the UBC Sport Hall of Fame in 1993, which has been instrumental in re-connecting the University to hundreds of its most accomplished athletic alumni and encouraging them to become more directly involved with their former teams. He has also authored hundreds of articles on UBC Athletics history and extensive biographies on all of the Hall of Fame inductees to date. ✚

UBC Athletics historian Fred Hume.

PHOTO: MARTIN DEE





# LOCKERROOM

## SOARING T-BIRDS HUNTING HOME BERTHS

Although all of UBC's winter teams remain in the playoff hunt as the regular season winds down, the prospects for hosting post-season play with home court advantage look particularly bright for both basketball teams and the three-time defending national champion women's volleyball squad.

Reigning CIS men's basketball Player of the Year **Josh Whyte** has averaged just less than 19 points a game as the Thunderbirds are chasing their sixth consecutive berth in the CIS national tournament. With just two losses on their record at press time, the Birds are looking favourable to finish first in the conference for the third straight year. Meanwhile, **Deb Huband's** scrappy women's team was riding a six-game regular season win streak at press time and sported a 6-2 road record, which bodes well for the final stretch. The final home basketball games for both teams are February 11 and 12 against Thompson Rivers, with the women tipping off at 6:00 pm and men at 8:00 pm. The T-Birds close out the schedule Feb 18 and 19 at Victoria.

The women's volleyball team went into the Christmas break in a familiar place – ranked number one in the nation, in spite of suffering two season-opening losses to Fraser Valley nemesis Trinity Western. The losses snapped a 40-game unbeaten streak in league play, but the Birds have been undefeated in all outings since. This feat is made even more impressive by the fact that UBC played the entire first half of the season without arguably its two best players, **Jen Hinze** and **Kyla Richey**, who have returned for the second half after competing with the national team in the fall.

The men's team's league mark of 4-6 at press time is somewhat misleading as the Canada West conference continues to dominate the national rankings, with six of the top ten coming from Manitoba west. **Blair Bann** is once again making a solid case for Canada West Libero of the Year for the fourth straight year, and possibly getting the national nod for a third time with a nation-leading 4.24 digs-per-game average. Both teams team play final regular season matches February 4 and 5 against Regina (women at 6:00 pm; men at 8:00 pm) and then head to Kamloops to finish against Thompson Rivers February 11 and 12. Trinity Western plays host to this year's CIS Championship tournament March 4-6.

On ice, the Thunderbird men's team clings to a .500 season record at press time and in the thick of the hunt with just six points separating the second and seventh place Canada West teams. UBC opened the season on a positive note by defeating the Alberta Golden Bears, only to repeat the act with a 3-2 shoot-out victory over the nation's top team in Edmonton on January 8. Chances are the playoff picture won't be determined with any detail until the final games. UBC closes out its season February 25 and 26 at home against Alberta at 7:00 pm both nights. Meanwhile, the post-season aspirations for the women's team look a bit more daunting, in spite of a similar upset over the always mighty Alberta Pandas in their season opener. UBC sported a 5-9-1 record at press time as they prepared to host **Hayley Wickenheiser** and the Calgary Dinos on January 14 and 15. UBC closes out its season at home February 11 and 12 against Manitoba. Game time is set for 7:00 pm both nights. >>17



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PHOTO: RICHARD LAM

## LOCKERROOM

### BIGGER BIG BLOCK BANQUET MOVES TO CONVENTION CENTER

Well, it had to happen sooner or later. After a 19-year run, the Big Block Awards and UBC Sport Hall of Fame Banquet has finally outgrown its traditional venue in the Hyatt Hotel Ballroom. The annual UBC Athletics wind-up party takes place April 6 and is expected to attract close to 1,000 guests this year, forcing a move to a larger venue at the all new Vancouver Convention Centre. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact **Leon Denenfeld** at 604-822-6183 or [leon.denenfeld@ubc.ca](mailto:leon.denenfeld@ubc.ca).

### T-BIRDS ON HUMANITARIAN MISSION TO EL SALVADOR

A total of ten UBC Thunderbirds will accompany basketball alumnus **Bill Humphries** to San Vicente, El Salvador May 1-15 as part of a Habitat for Humanity trip. In addition to helping build houses, the group will also hold sport clinics for local kids. The athletes taking part are **Diane Rizzardo** (women's soccer); **Alex Vieweg** and **Chloe St. Amour** (women's basketball); **Lauren Whitehead** and **Rayel Quiring** (women's volleyball); **Jennika Efford** (swimming); **Amelia Rajala** (track and field); **Nicole Schuurman** (rowing); **Graham Bath** and **Nathan Yu** (men's basketball). ➕

## HAVE YOU CONSIDERED ADDING UBC ATHLETICS TO YOUR WILL?

Planned gifts can have a significant impact on students and student-athletes for generations to come while not impacting the donor's current lifestyle. If you would like to learn more about options for supporting UBC Athletics and Recreation please contact us. There are options beyond cash that can be considered when making financial gifts to UBC Athletics, whether supporting a capital project, Big Block Club or a scholarship endowment that will aid student-athletes in perpetuity: Thunderbirds helping Thunderbirds.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF US IN THE ATHLETICS AND RECREATION DEVELOPMENT OFFICE:

STEVE TUCKWOOD 604.822.1972 OR [STEVE.TUCKWOOD@UBC.CA](mailto:STEVE.TUCKWOOD@UBC.CA)  
JOHN FOSTER 604.822.6653 OR [JOHN.FOSTER@UBC.CA](mailto:JOHN.FOSTER@UBC.CA)

# WINTER SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

### CANADA WEST WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

Feb 25-27	Canada West Quarter-finals: Crossovers (Best of 3)
Mar 4-5	Canada West Final Four @ Highest Ranked Team 4 vs 1 / 3 vs 2
March 11-12	CIS Championships (Round 1) TBA
Mar 18-20	CIS Championships (Final 8) University of Windsor

### CANADA WEST MEN'S BASKETBALL PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

Feb 25-27	Canada West Quarter-finals: Division Crossovers (Best of 3)
Mar 4-5	Canada West Final Four @ Highest Ranked Team 4 vs 1 / 3 vs 2
Mar 11-13	CIS Championships (Final Eight) Halifax, NS

### CANADA WEST WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

Feb 18-20	Canada West Quarter-finals
Feb 25-27	Canada West Final Four @ High seed BC Team
March 4-6	CIS Championships Université Laval Details

### CANADA WEST MEN'S VOLLEYBALL PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

Feb 18-19	Canada West Quarter-finals
Feb 25-26	Canada West Final Four @ highest seed finalist
Mar 4-6	CIS Championships Trinity Western University

### CANADA WEST WOMEN'S HOCKEY PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

Feb 18-20	Canada West Semi-finals (4@1 / 3@2 - Best of 3)
Feb 25-27	Canada West Final at highest finisher (Best 2 of 3)
Mar 10-13	CIS Championships Wilfrid Laurier University

### CANADA WEST MEN'S HOCKEY PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

Mar 4-6	Canada West Semi-finals 4 @1 / 3 @ 2 (Best of 3)
Mar 11-13	Canada West Final at highest finisher (Best of 3)
Mar 24-27	CIS Championship University of New Brunswick

### CIS SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Feb 24-26	at University of Calgary
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### NAIA TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

May 26-28	Indiana Wesleyan, Marion, Ind
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### UBC BASEBALL REGULAR NAIA SEASON HOME GAMES

(All home games played at Thunderbird Park)

Mar 11	LC State 6:00 PM
Mar 12	LC State (DH) 12:00 PM
Mar 13	LC State 11:00 AM
April 1	Corban (DH) 12:00 PM
April	2 Corban (DH) 11:00 AM
April 9	Concordia (DH) 12:00 PM
April 10	Concordia (DH) 11:00 AM
April 23	College of Idaho (DH) 12:00 PM
April 24	College of Idaho (DH) 11:00 AM
May 4-7	NAIA West Grouping Tournament TBA
May 13-16	NAIA Sectionals TBD
May 27-June 3	NAIA World Series Lewiston, ID

FOR COMPLETE SCHEDULE AND RESULTS: [WWW.GOTHUNDERBIRDS.UBC.CA](http://WWW.GOTHUNDERBIRDS.UBC.CA)



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