



KEYWORDS

A newsletter compiled by the University of British Columbia Chapter



PASSPORT TO THE WORLD

—By Simon Chow

The proud red-and-white Canada paraphernalia, the boisterous roar, and the cheer with a beat from the Canadian delegation during the opening evening session of Thursday, July 31st in Chicago, Illinois was as eye-catching, if not more so, than any of the other delegations. We were joined by more than a thousand other Golden Key members, chapter executives and staff in the ballroom of the Hyatt McCormick for the annual International Convention 2003. After all the cheering, we were rewarded with traditional Malaysian and Hawaiian dances, a performance from the South African delegates, slang from Australia, and finally a reception that featured the diverse cuisines of the seven Golden Key countries, Malaysia, Australia, the United Kingdom, the United States, New Zealand, South Africa, and of course Canada.

Friday, August 1st comprised of a selection of personal development workshops and meetings. At 12:30pm we were invited to the "Power of One: Leadership Luncheon" organized by LeaderShape. We learned an important lesson: leaders are not defined by the title of their position; anyone could be a leader. Later that evening was the first time since landing in Chicago that we left the hotel and enjoyed a free night at the navy pier. The surrounding waters of Chicago, the lights and buzz of people in the amusement park, greeted us while we met and talked

with new friends.

During the breakfast on Saturday morning, there was a career expo which featured displays of universities and Golden Key's corporate sponsors including Boeing, Ford, Merck, and IBM. Delegates spoke to the representatives from each of the corporations about career opportunities. During the afternoon, the UBC Chapter was in the spotlight as we collected our fourth straight Key Chapter Award, which is



awarded annually to the top 25 out of more than 300 chapters from around the world. After our congratulatory picture with the Golden Key C.E.O., Alex Perwich, it was time to get ready for the gala dinner and dance. Over a formal dinner with wine and accompanied

by our fellow Canadian delegates, the Keynote Speaker Nando Parrado shared his experience of surviving a plane crash in the Andes. He was left for days in sub-zero temperature with no food except a chocolate-covered peanut. On the first day of his ordeal he ate only the chocolate, the next day half the peanut, and on the third day the other half. As a result of his ordeal, to this day, Nando still looks at chocolate-covered peanuts in a different light. We were inspired by this speech. We learned about perseverance as well as the importance of telling those around us how much we appreciate them before it's too late, as might have been the case for Nando. After this inspiring speech, some delegates had a great time dancing, while others chose to mingle and meet new friends.

Sunday came and it was time to say goodbye to our Australian and Malaysian friends, our friends from Texas and Wisconsin, as well as fellow Canadians. The few of us who stayed behind spent the day together at the Field Museum and the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago, before the cloudless day quickly turned into a horribly windy rainstorm. Some Canadians made their way to the Sears Tower regardless of the weather, while I went to Jewels grocery store in search of Krispy Kremes. When the Canadians met up in the hotel later in the day, it was time to say goodbye to our friends from the University of Washington, who had also just returned from shopping. We hopped on the subway to O'Hare airport and after the two-hour delay due to the bad weather, we finally stepped aboard and said goodbye to Chicago.

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MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

-By Tiffany Chan

One of the highlights of the Golden Key Mentorship Program is the Career Networking dinner at Ramada Inn, which took place over the 2002 Reading Week break. Faculty, alumni and undergraduate members were invited to spend an evening dining and discussing career options and work experiences in a comfortable and relaxed atmosphere. The Tri-Mentorship program, organized by the Alumni director, Farzana Nayani, involved a three level structure of mentors and mentees. The first level consisted of second year students, who were paired with the 3rd or 4th year undergraduate students, who in turn comprised the second level. The final level was composed of alumni members in industry or faculty members, who were paired with the 3rd and 4th year students. This type of structure offered a multitude of benefits participants at each level. Students in both the 1st and 2nd levels had the opportunity to converse with their mentors who had work or academic experiences that would help students learn more about potential career paths and the necessary requirements to reach their career goals. For instance, a 3rd or 4th year student who went through the same courses as a 2nd year could pass on any tips or suggestions to help the 2nd year student succeed. The experience of being in the Mentorship Program was awarding for alumni and faculty members as well they helped make a significant difference in a young person's life by becoming involved in a student's career exploration and personal development.. Overall, for all those involved, this program allowed them to gain valuable interpersonal mentoring skills. By sharing their personal work experiences, students were able to gain more insight about a profession or career interest from someone who is already working in the field.

Overall, this dinner was a great experience to not only network with professionals and explore various career options, but it was also an excellent opportunity to meet fellow Golden Key members, including the executive members of the SFU Golden Key chapter, in a fun social setting. This promoted

CHAPTER EXPANDS ITS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

-By Steven Yates and Sarah Yang

Over the last few years Golden Key at UBC has been developing a Sister Chapter Program with Macquarie University in Sydney Australia. Recently. This program has been expanded to include the University of Central Oklahoma and Waikato University in New Zealand.

This past August, the four universities engaged in their first major collaborative effort in presenting a workshop at the Golden Key International Convention in Chicago. A representative from each of the four universities presented an aspect of the workshop, the purpose of which was to make other universities aware of the benefits of the Sister Chapter Program and to help them in developing such a program.

In addition to advocating and promoting the Sister Chapter Program to other universities in the Golden Key network, the workshop has also fostered greater ties between the four member universities. By working together on this project, the Chapters involved developed a stronger relationship that will continue to grow. In fact, the UBC Chapter has extended the invitation to three other universities: University of Bath in England, University of Stellenbosch in Cape Town, South Africa and the University of Putra Malaysia. We hope that these three universities will soon become active members in the Sister Chapter relationship. The addition to the program means that all seven Golden Key nations will be represented in the relationship – the biggest of its kind in Golden Key --and will enable Golden Key to continue providing global opportunities for its members.

Thus far, UBC and Macquarie have established an international exchange spot for Golden Key members to help identify and assist members on exchange.. There are plans to expand this exchange program to the other sister chapters and to propose more tangible benefits to members venturing out on exchange (lower tuition costs, anyone?). Other projects that have been initiated include communicating with members from other chapters via pen pal letters and frequent on-line chats.

In addition to strengthening our relationships with our sister chapters, our chapter is also working on maintaining close connections with chapters in neighbouring areas, including the University of Washington and Simon Fraser University. These connections will eventually culminate into more joint activities between chapters in various locations.

Although a lot of work has been done to connect these different chapters, a great deal of help is still needed to ensure the continued success of these efforts in the future. If you are interested in taking part in some of these initiatives or if you just want to meet members from different countries, please e-mail Sarah at play_doh10@hotmail.com.

This is an exciting program for us all and we hope that you take advantage of it! ■

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

-By Tiffany Chan

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UBC-SFU JOINT BARBECUE

-By Virginia Gunn

UBC Thunderbirds and SFU Clan: two rivaling schools sharing the small territory of Vancouver. Can peace and harmony exist between them? Supposedly so, as seen by the 2003 summer UBC-SFU joint barbecue, the first ever joint event held by the two Golden Key chapters.

It was one of the larger events. Over sixty members and executives arrived at Central Park in Burnaby on a Sunday afternoon in June 2003. Plenty of food, games and enthusiasm created an ambiance of merriment and perfect leisure. Unexpectedly, there was no shyness or timidity among the members of the two schools. Everyone arrived with the (constructive) intent of not only filling their empty stomachs, but also meeting new people, and making new friends..

The helpful executives from both chapters provided a large variety of food. The executives brought hot-dogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers and rib burgers. In addition to these, there were cookies, chips, salads, fruits, vegetables, candy, drinks and any other edible items imaginable. When everyone had satisfied their hunger, members interacted by playing various icebreakers, including the challenging task of memorizing the names of twenty strangers, volleyball, soccer, football, or simply tossing a Frisbee. Despite all the activities to choose from, most members opted to sit under a tree to chat and form new bonds.

Although the event was cut short by rain, which is inevitable in Vancouver, overall, the event was very successful. The large member turnout permitted active interaction from all participants. Members from the UBC and the SFU chapters made new friends within and between chapters.. This fact alone made this event worthwhile, because after all, making new friends is one of the purposes of GK social events.

CANADA CONFERENCE 2003: A CAPITAL VENTURE

-By Collin Chan

Just when most UBC students were trying to catch up with school work and rest in the remaining days of the February reading break, a group of more than ten Golden Key members was ready to venture into a four-day annual conference taking place for the very first time in the national capital, Ottawa. Canada Conference (CanCon) is an annual event (during which) Golden Key members from across the country participate in personal, career and chapter development workshops, share ideas in roundtable discussions, elect a new Canadian student representative to voice their opinions at the international level, as well as network with other Golden Key members (meet friends) and have fun.

Canada Conference 2003, titled "A Capital Venture," was hosted by the University of Ottawa, and attended by delegates from all sixteen Canadian chapters. UBC's delegation was among one of the largest and consisted not only of chapter executive officers, but also of general members who participated in one of the UBC Golden Key committees. We arrived at Ottawa on a Thursday morning and were welcomed by a clear sky with plenty of sunshine. This atypical temperature, which resembled that of Vancouver's, resulted in the closure of Rideau Canal for ice-skating. However, this did not dampen the enthusiasm of the delegates, which was still genuinely expressed during the opening ceremony. On Thursday night, many seeds for friendship were planted on as delegates mingled. Friday began with a brief breakfast during which the two CASR candidates presented their platforms. The highlight of Friday was a visit to Parliament Hill, followed by optional tours of some of the world-famous galleries and museums in Ottawa. Saturday morning started with (café-displays?), which featured (one?) of the most successful events organized by each of the chapters. During the community service luncheon, Mr. Matthew Keshwah from the University of Ottawa was elected as the new CASR for the year 2003-2004. The UBC Chapter presented two workshops in the afternoon. One of them was about providing "access" to the legal community, presented by Siao Li Chuah and Adrian Hui. Ambrose Wong and Tim Kaan presented the other one on the fundamentals of fundraising. The gala dinner was the last official item on the conference schedule, during which Mr. Jim Watson, the keynote speaker, presented an impressive speech and a couple of awards were handed out. UBC was awarded the Best Communication Award, the Canadian Student Award (won by Sarah Yang, our former-president), as well as the Advisor of the year Award (won by Julie Walchli, one of our chapter advisors).

I attended the CanCon as a general member, and the experience was very rewarding and memorable. It was impressive to realize that all my expectations of what Golden Key could offer

were well exceeded. I was truly amazed by everything that I saw during the conference. I am looking forward to Canada Conference 2004, which will take place here in Vancouver, and it will be co-hosted by the four universities in British Columbia: UNBC, UVic, SFU and UBC.

GOLDEN JUBILEES AND GOLDEN KEY

-By Shawn M. Wade

Golden Key is a most interesting association, and Golden Keyers are extraordinary individuals. Besides celebrating, and attaining high scholastic achievements, our association and its members engage in many charity activities and community service events. Besides being a member of Golden Key, I am also Assistant Honorary Treasurer for the Royal Commonwealth Society (Mainland of British Columbia Branch). The Queen of Canada (Elizabeth II), is head of the Commonwealth, and Patron of The Royal Commonwealth Society.

To celebrate the Golden Jubilee, many organizations have staged commemorative events. Our group commemorated the Jubilee in partnership with several other organizations. Members of our Golden Key Chapter also helped out.

After two months of planning, on a sunny Thursday more reminiscent of May than the October 24th Calendar date, The Royal Commonwealth Society, with Vice Regal grace, dedicated a Beech Tree in honour of the Queen's Golden Jubilee. The Honorable Iona Campagnolo unveiled the plaque, with the help of "The 100 Singing Voices" of General Brock Elementary School (125 strong!). In a most symbolic act, she also placed the tree, and the province, into the care of these children. In dedicating the tree Her Honour praised H. M.'s stellar record of service, the role of the Commonwealth as a force for good in the world, and the work of the Royal Commonwealth Society.

His Worship, Mayor Owen and Parks Commissioner Christopher Richardson, added their sincere best wishes to H. M., on her Golden Jubilee, extolled the beauty of Vancouver's parks and praised our Beech tree. The "100 Singing Voices", besides helping with the obligatory "O Canada" and "God Save the Queen", performed their version of that great Louis Armstrong hit, "What a Wonderful World". The sweet voices of the children, many of whom were attired in national dress, reminds us of the diversity, of both the Commonwealth, and our own city. Placing the tree and the Province into the care of children who so sweetly sing of the world's wonderment, for a time, allows us to forget the headlines and hope for a better tomorrow.

Mr. Alex Downie, Supervisor of Queen Elizabeth Park, spoke on the symbolic value of trees and noted the longevity of Beech Trees. Since our tree is 50 years old, he hoped that we could catch up to the tallest Beech in the Commonwealth. This tree is located in England, is 150 years old, and quite a bit taller. For musical support, a Quintet from the Band of the 15th Field Artillery Regiment (R.C.A.), smartly attired in Mess Dress Reds, played a selection of music for our listening pleasure.

Members of the Vancouver Police ceremonial unit, resplendent in their Dress Blues, white gloves, and medals provided ceremonial support. Besides escorting Her Honour, they also carried Commonwealth flags, which added a great splash of colour to the proceedings. Other Commonwealth flags were already in position, held by volunteers from General Brock School, and by members of our Golden Key chapter.

The crowd was a diverse group, ranging in age from 8 to 80. It comprised members of the Burnaby Retired Teachers' Association, Vancouver Parks Commissioners, a City Councilor from Burnaby, members of the R.C.S and, most notably, the Honourable Garde B. Gardom, former Lieutenant Governor.

In summing up the Queen's reign, the President of the Royal Commonwealth Society, David Petitpierre, harkened back to H.M.'s 1947 speech, in South Africa, in which she dedicated herself to the Commonwealth, and its people. This was a commitment she has more than fulfilled. Besides chairing the Tree Dedication Committee, I was also the M. C. so I took that opportunity to thank the committee members, personally. Mr. Petitpierre thanked the rest of the participants.

Golden Key's participation in this enterprise is fully in keeping with our members' tradition of participating in socially useful causes. As some of the leaders of tomorrow, we take our rightful place, between today's leaders, and the General Brock students, who are the leaders of the day after tomorrow! While not an "official" Golden Key project, this is exactly the type of activity our members often become involved with. I would like to thank our President, Sarah Yang, for all of her support, and I would also like to thank all of those Golden Keyers who attended the event, and who came to help out. ■

THE RIGHT DECISION

-By Erina Chan

“Should I go?”

“Sure, go.”

“Why should I go? What is the Induction Ceremony about?”

This was the conversation that took place between my sister and me on Sunday, November 17, 2002 at 12pm. I was deciding whether or not I should attend the Golden Key Induction Ceremony that was taking place at 2:30 pm that day at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts at UBC.

After much debate, two hours later, I arrived at the Chan Centre. I wanted to satisfy my curiosity, and to find out for myself what the Induction Ceremony is really about. At the registration booth I was greeted by many executive members. They gave me a package filled with Golden Key information and most importantly, my Golden Key certificate. I then moved into the lobby where I browsed the booths filled with information on the Golden Key service project at Queen Alexandra elementary school. I also took a quick glance at the huge Golden Key cake, before I was ushered into the theatre. I took a seat near the front beside two of my friends and there we sat waiting for the ceremony to begin.

The president of the UBC GK chapter, Sarah Yang, gave her opening remarks, along with an executive member, Pavel Glazunov. The Canadian Regional Director, Jolyane A. Lightfoot and the UBC chapter advisor, Julie Walchli followed, respectively. The Honorary Members were introduced next by the following executives: Mark Chen, Gina Chong, Alison Palmer, Rachelle Yong, Siao Li Chuah, and Sarah Yang. Each Honorary member then gave a speech. We went from Dr. Lee Gass’ speech about anything and everything to Dr. Marina Roma-March’s touching story of a Filipino family’s journey to receive vision exams, then to Drs. Robert Hancock and David Dolphin’s praises of Golden Key executives, and finally to Ms. Jacqueline E. Davis’ struggles of bringing breast cancer awareness to people. And of course, who could forget the keynote speaker, Dr. Maria Klawe’s popular juggling act about efforts and rewards. Soon after, Justin Welsh, winner of a GK Performing Arts Showcase scholarship, provided entertainment with his performance of a sweet opera piece and amazed us with his beautiful voice.

And then it was my turn to go on the stage. One by one, each of the new inductees’ names were read out and we walked across the stage to shake hands with Sarah Yang and Jolyane Lightfoot. Scholarship recipients Leslie Tan, Aimee Pelletier

and Alym Amlani were then recognized. Cameras were flashing and people were applauding; our efforts in the academic world were being recognized. I walked proudly across the stage, and smiled at the people around me. They returned the smile and said “congratulations.” At that point, I knew that I had made the right choice to attend the Induction Ceremony.



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