

WINTER 2021

# *new.* trail

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA  
ALUMNI MAGAZINE

## **CAN SCIENCE MEND A DAMAGED SPINE?**

Innovative researchers  
across the U of A are pushing  
beyond the bounds of what  
we know. The results will  
change lives.



June. Caulfield received the Wilfrid Eggleston Award for Nonfiction for his recent release, *Relax, Dammit!: A User's Guide to the Age of Anxiety*. Bowling's piece, "The Floating Library," which was originally published in *Queen's Quarterly*, won the James H. Gray Award for Short Nonfiction.



'90 **Rebecca Calder (Saul)**, BA(Hons), '93 MA, was named one of the most influential people in gender policy by *Apolitical*. The website recognized her nearly 30 years of research, policy and field experience around the world as a feminist anthropologist and advocate for girls' and women's empowerment. In 2019, Calder co-founded Kore Global Consulting, a feminist, women-led consultancy practice. She is also a board member of KadAfrica, a social impact enterprise that works with adolescent girls and young women in Uganda.

'91 **Ish Uttam**, BSc(ElecEng), has earned the Certified Business Intermediary designation from the International Business Brokers Association. The designation is granted to individuals who have completed the required coursework, passed a competency exam and agreed to uphold the association's ethics and standards. Uttam has served as CEO at

Rebecca Calder



Edmonton's Sunbelt Business Brokers since 2017.

'94 **Karen Willsey**, BSc(Spec), has combined her knowledge of stretching and her love of technology in WeStretch, an app that pairs more than 5,500 physiotherapist-approved stretching exercises with artificial intelligence to build custom stretching routines. She also had the opportunity to speak at an Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute event to share what she has learned from creating WeStretch. Willsey, a former Pandalas gymnast, has thoroughly enjoyed app development and has big plans for future apps.

'95 **Shona Nichols**, BA, '99 LLB, created a YouTube channel, My Canadian English, to support English language learners making the shift to online learning during the pandemic. Tied to the federal government's Canadian Language Benchmarks, her video lessons focus on digital literacy, access to information and writing skills. Nichols credits her time at the U of A—including her current studies toward a master's of education in teaching English as a second language—for giving her the

Karen Willsey



skills, knowledge and confidence to launch this new initiative.

'96 **Paul Bourassa**, BA, was appointed to the Alberta Public Health Appeal Board and to the Alberta Parole Board. In June, he celebrated the first anniversary of his appointment as a board director and North American vice-president for the Altia software company. Among volunteer endeavours, Bourassa is a member of the boards for the Legal Education Society of Alberta and l'Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Alberta. He is also a member of the Canadian

Bar Association's policy committee and the criminal justice section.

'96 **Pam Liyanage**, BA, launched an educational technology company with **Ruwan Liyanage**, '96 BSc, and **Gene Lee**, '98 BA, during the pandemic. MoneyPrep uses video games to teach children financial skills like budgeting and saving. "The future is bright for MoneyPrep and we are excited to be teaching the

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MoneyPrep uses online games to help kids learn financial literacy skills.

Vik Kohli



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next generation money skills they will use in their everyday lives,” Liyanage writes.



'01 **Vik Kohli**, BSc(ElecEng), has been promoted to vice-president of safety and reliability at Enbridge. Here, Kohli is accountable for company-wide safety, environment and lands services for both operations and projects, as well as establishing cross-company governance of functions delivered through each business unit.

'02 **Stefania Cerisano**, BCom, helped launch Women+Power, an Alberta-based non-profit

organization addressing challenges surrounding the under-representation of women in the power industry. Cerisano writes: “As a power industry professional, I view diversity and inclusion efforts as a fundamental component of the transformational change currently underway throughout Alberta’s power industry.”

'03 **Kirk Nyquist**, Dip(Ed), has turned his longtime advocacy of cannabis into a passion project: a podcast called *Reefer MEDness*. In the podcast, Nyquist draws upon knowledge from his 40-year nursing career (spanning emergency and frontline management to community health in remote Manitoba communities) and interviews with cannabis scientists, prescribers, users and growers to explore society’s changing understanding of cannabis.

'04 **Robert Warburton**, BA, founded CloudWorks, a hybrid social enterprise



Stefania Cerisano



**DID YOU KNOW?**

The University Observatory was erected in 1942 to accommodate a reflecting telescope made and donated by hobbyist astronomer Cyril G. Wates.

# CHALLENGE

**We not only welcome change. We redefine it.**

Change is inevitable. How we take it on defines our purpose. Walk our hallways, our classrooms and our labs and you can feel the energy created by those *Leading with Purpose*.



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