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Carolyn Robertson

## There's an accidental designer in all of us!

Look at what you've made. Beautiful isn't it? But does it work? Is it functional for everyone?

At the heart of every piece of practical design, whether it be a website, a piece of furniture or a tool, there is a function, a task the item is expected to perform.

This is where Viagra failed to measure up. Drug giant Pfizer conducted clinical trials to see if sildenafil lowered blood pressure. It turned out that something else stood out.

Despite the success of the little blue pill in the bedroom, Viagra is an example of "accidental design" which occurs when people use the product or service designed in a way that it wasn't intended.

When Tim Berners-Lee set out to create a document-sharing system for physicists he inadvertently invented the World Wide Web.

Artificial sweeteners aspartame and saccharin came about only because scientists didn't wash their hands.

The mask you wear over your mouth and nose to

protect you from inhaling noxious fumes? The good folks at 3M were actually working on a new brassiere.

Intentional design, on the other hand, is based on properly identifying a problem or opportunity and designing a solution. For example, frustrated California surfers fed up with flat waves invented the skateboard so they could "sidewalk surf."

Intrigued? Fascinating insights into the function and future of design will be provided at TALK's AGM by keynote speaker Carolyn Robertson, dean of the Chip and Shannon Wilson School of Design at KPU. Robertson will address The Accidental Designer in All of Us and provide everyday examples of both good and bad design and the role that we, as accidental designers, can have influence as we choose to live as third age learners.

The AGM includes a light lunch and will be held Saturday, Oct. 17, 11 am to 1:30 pm at the Richmond campus. TALK members free, non-members \$15. Register by Friday, Oct. 9.

## Courses fees increase to cover rising costs

TALK is not as cheap as it used to be.

Due to additional costs of operations, the board voted at its May meeting to increase course fees as of fall 2015.

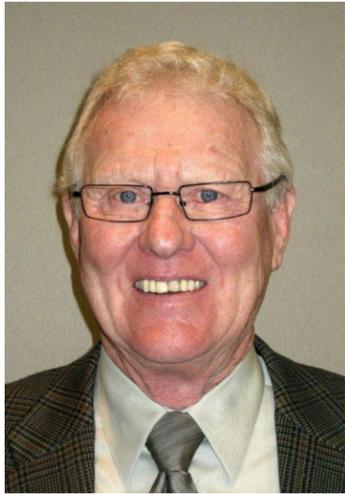
The fee increase is due to a shortfall of approximately \$5,000 in expenses year to date. Due to budget cutbacks at KPU and increased costs, the Faculty of Academic and Career is no longer able to subsidize TALK to such a great extent.

Course fees will increase to \$15 for one session, \$20 for two sessions, \$25 for three sessions and \$30 for four sessions. TALK fees remain low thanks to instructors who provide their expertise at no cost.

Membership dues will remain at \$10 per year. These fees are used by TALK for its operations. According to the Terms of Operation entered in December 2012 between TALK, the Faculty of Academic and Career Advancement and KPU, TALK is to operate as a revenue neutral program.

The board also voted to discontinue the financial relationship with CARP effective immediately. This will add \$920 to TALK coffers, based on this year's numbers.

Janis Foster | [janis.f@telus.net](mailto:janis.f@telus.net)



TALK chair, Al Sabey

## Message from the Chair

I find the acronym TALK. an oxymoron. TALK. is all about listening and learning. I wish my first grade teacher had impressed that upon me on my first day of school. It is too bad that it took most of my life to learn to “listen,” more than “talk.” (Still learning by the way)

A few years ago I was fortunate enough to have a neighbour who thought I may be interested in TALK. She was right. The TALK. Program at KPU has been very inspiring and has changed my view of learning and opened my mind to a wide variety of subjects.

I became a member of TALK. six years ago and joined the board one year later. The position of vice chair was open and I was elected to the position at that time. Under the expert leadership of former chair, Brian Bjarnasen, I was elected to the position of chair for a term of two years. I agreed to stay on as chair for one extra year. I will relinquish my position as chair at the upcoming Annual General Meeting to be held on Oct. 17.

One of the most satisfying aspects of the program has been our relationship with the administration and support of the staff of KPU. With their support, we have been able to keep the cost of the TALK

membership dues, as well as the cost of the courses, at a very low and reasonable rate. Unfortunately KPU is under financial pressure and has asked the Board to come up with ways to help finance a portion of the KPU support staff salary. The difficult decision to nominally increase the course fees year was taken at the most recent Board meeting. We appreciate your understanding as members of TALK.

Current and past members of the Board. They have offered their expertise and performed more than their fair share of the work involved in keeping the T.A.L.K. Program on track. I encourage all members of T.A.L.K. to consider joining the Board. Please mention T.A.L.K. to your friends, relatives and neighbors. Don't be shy to asked for a supply of T.A.L.K. booklets and hand them out at every chance. Don't forget our web-site: [kpu.ca/talk](http://kpu.ca/talk) for everything you need to know about T.A.L.K.

I am willing to offer any assistance to whoever is elected to replace me as Chair.

Sincerely,

Al Sabey, Chair

## New legislation pending on right to die

Twenty years ago Sue Rodriguez raised a lone voice in Parliament and the Supreme Court of Canada advocating for medically assisted death.

“If I cannot give consent to my own death, whose body is this? Who owns my life?” asked the then 42-year-old victim of ALS.

Although Rodriguez lost her battle and took her own life a year later with the help of an anonymous physician, her plight has continued to resonate in Canadian society. Today, 85 percent of Canadians support physician-assisted death (PAD).

Reflecting the court of public opinion, the Supreme Court of Canada struck down Canada's laws prohibiting PAD on Feb. 6, 2015 but the ban won't be lifted until February 2016. Consultation is underway, but an extension of the deadline is anticipated.

Public interest in the subject is reflected in two forums hosted this year by the White Rock/Surrey chapter of CARP. Communications director April Lewis said that 40 people had to be turned away from the first forum in February titled “Dying to Have a Conversation: Let's Talk About End of Life Issues.” More than 60 people attended Part II, held June 17 in White Rock.

The panel included Dr. Derryk Smith, Dying With Dignity Advisory Council; Dr. Bill Caver, outgoing president of Doctors of BC; Josh Paterson, ED of BC Liberties Assoc. and Marc Burchell, who recounted his sister's grisly death.

Suffering from excruciating, terminal stomach cancer, 75-pound Leyanne Burchell declined palliative sedation and chose lethal drugs and suffocation with a turkey bag over her head to ensure the drugs worked. Evelyn Martens, the right-to-die activist who had assisted her, had been followed by police to Leyanne's home that day and was promptly arrested. She was acquitted after a three-year court battle.

While the law already allows palliative sedation, refusing artificial nutrition/hydration and refusing life-sustaining medical equipment, life can be prolonged far beyond its natural course.

Dr. Smith recounted the recent court case of Katherine Hammond with Fraser Health regarding her mother Margot Bentley who has been in a 'vegetative state' for the last three years. Despite the “statement of wishes” that Bentley, a former nurse, wrote in 1991 stating that she did want to receive nourishment or liquids if there was no chance of recovery, workers at Maplewood Seniors Care Society continue to spoon feed her against the family's wishes, stating that when a spoon is tapped against her mouth she sometimes responds. In May the BC Court of Appeal dismissed a bid from petitioners to let her die after the BC Supreme Court ruled that Bentley must continue to be fed.

Following the new judgment by the Supreme Court, the conditions for PAD state:

- the person must be a competent adult who clearly consents to the termination of life
- the person must have a “grievous and irremediable medical condition which includes an illness, disease or disability
- the medical condition must cause “endless suffering” that is intolerable to the person, although that suffering can be physical or psychological”

As Smith noted, only 20 percent of doctors in Canada would be willing to participate if euthanasia was legal and just 16 per cent support PAD. The question remains: What is the most humane way to take a life?

Those interested in this topic are encouraged to attend the Surrey Philosophers' Corner on Thursday, Sept, 24. The topic is “Under what circumstances, if any, would you consider doctor-assisted death?”

Janis Foster | [janis.f@telus.net](mailto:janis.f@telus.net)

## HELP WANTED:

### *We need you to talk up TALK*

TALK members! You are the most logical people to share what you find great about TALK. Pledge to do at least one of the these to widen the awareness of TALK in our community:

- Get some extra TALK brochures to let friends know about the diverse courses offered!
- Ask for a TALK poster to put up somewhere you frequent
- Get a few TALK postcards to send out recommending an interesting course from the brochure
- For very limited investment, you could treat a friend to his/her first TALK course. Sign her/him up and take her/him along
- After reading your TALK newsletter, pass it on to a friend or leave it in a library
- Ask a club you belong to if they would like a TALK representative to give a short presentation on TALK offerings
- If you get a magazine or newsletter from an organization you belong to, ask if they would do a story on a TALK course
- Tell your friends to attend the AGM and hear Carolyn Robertson speak on The Accidental Designer in All of Us

## In Memoriam



Elva Reid (1930-2015)



Wendy Figeon (1932-2015)

It is with sadness that we announce the passing earlier this year of two exceptional women who were instrumental in the development of TALK. Our condolences to the families.

**Elva Reid** died on March 25 at the age of 84. She was a member of the board of TALK from 1999 to 2009, serving as president from 2004 to 2007.

Elva was born in Toronto and grew up in Vancouver. A lifelong educator, she returned to UBC graduate school in 1964 and earned her Masters Degree in Early Childhood Education. She and her husband Jack moved to Pasadena, CA where they lived for 18 years. While simultaneously raising her three children and serving as the director of Hastings Ranch Nursery School, Elva earned her PhD. Her dissertation proved that parents who get involved early with their children's education stay involved and end up becoming better parents. The family returned to BC in 1985 and settled in Crescent Beach.

A quote from her obituary says that, Elva had a "razor sharp intellect, was inquisitive, funny, adventurous and loved everyone she met."

Elva's contributions to the community were many. She was central in creating the Tong Louie YMCA, ran the Tiny-Y Preschool, taught new ECE teachers at Douglas College and UBC. She was active in the White Rock Canadian Federation of University Women, the Surrey Historical Society, the 2010 Olympics, Crescent Beach Swim Club, Alexandra Community House and Dunsmuir Garden.

She is survived by her three children and eight grandchildren.

**Wendy Figeon** died on April 3 after an increasingly difficult battle with Parkinson's Disease. She was the first president of TALK in 1999 and served on the board for many years.

Born in Calcutta on Sept. 20, 1932, Wendy grew up in England and was one of the first women medical students at St. Thomas's Hospital in London and it was there she met Terry Figeon, the love of her life.

Wendy and Terry first practiced medicine in Hertfordshire raising their four children in the 16th Century Digswell Water House. They immigrated to Canada and bought a home on Panorama Ridge in Surrey.

Wendy worked as a physician at Woodlands School and lived an active life. A master gardener, she kept a magnificent garden, sailed, windsurfed, rode and kept horses, competed in cross country ski marathons, twice canoed the Bowron Lakes circuit and travelled widely.

She was trustee and then chair of the Surrey School Board, a member of the University Women's Club, the Colebrook Community Club and several gardening clubs. She volunteered in Dominica and at an orphanage in India.

Her obituary said, "Wendy was an amazing woman who set her own course and always achieved her goals. And as those who knew her will attest, she was never ever wrong!"

She is survived by her husband Terry, her four children and eight grandchildren.

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### To volunteer with TALK contact

Al Sabey, Board Chair

604.538.3209

alsabey@shaw.ca

Jean Garnett, Program Committee

604.277.1130

jeangarnett@shaw.ca

Selma Swaab, Philosophers' Café

604.572.0682

selmaswaab@shaw.ca

# TALK

Third Age Learning  
at Kwantlen

Third Age Learning at Kwantlen Newsletter

Fall 2015

