

# alumni UBC 2018

## Achievement Awards

*alumni UBC* is committed to an exceptional UBC and a better world. This November at the *alumni UBC* Achievement Awards, we honoured eight inspiring members of the UBC community who, through their extraordinary endeavours, have demonstrated this vision.



**BACK ROW, L-R:** Randy Findlay (chair, alumni UBC), James McEwen, Charles Laszlo, Santa J. Ono (UBC President and Vice-Chancellor), Gerry Burch, Jeff Todd (Executive Director, alumni UBC/Associate Vice-President, Alumni), Deborah Buszard (Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Principal, UBC Okanagan).  
**FRONT ROW, L-R:** Dale Parker, Charles E. Fipke, Kathryn Shoemaker, Nemkumar Banthia, Kahlil Baker

### Congratulations to this Year's Recipients

#### YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD

**Kahlil Baker**  
*MSc'12, PhD'17*

Dr. Baker co-founded Taking Root, a nonprofit organization promoting reforestation in Nicaragua to fight both climate change and poverty. Taking Root discourages the practice of clearing land to grow crops by creating economic incentive (carbon credits and the sale of sustainable wood products) to grow trees, resulting in the reforestation of thousands of acres.

#### FACULTY COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

**Kathryn Shoemaker**  
*MA'06, PhD'14*

Through her work as a scholar, teacher, volunteer, writer and award-winning illustrator, Dr. Shoemaker is an influential advocate for reading and excellence in children's literature who is dedicated to the development, dissemination, and promotion of high-quality books. She has illustrated 40 children's books and produced an extraordinary collection of teaching and learning materials.

#### VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP AWARD

**Gerry Burch**  
*BASc'48*

Mr. Burch is a highly regarded forester who leads by example to support his community, his profession, and his alma mater. Active as a student leader in the 40s, he has maintained strong ties to UBC Forestry - establishing scholarships, leading fundraising efforts, and sharing his wealth of knowledge.

#### HONORARY ALUMNI AWARD

**Charles Laszlo**  
*CM, OBC*

Dr. Laszlo is a pioneer of biomedical engineering in Canada who has made remarkable contributions as an educator, researcher and inventor, including leading the creation of UBC's own biomedical program. Hard of hearing since his twenties, he is an advocate for those with hearing loss and is an entrepreneur in the development of electronic hearing aids.

#### HONORARY ALUMNI AWARD

**Dale Parker**

UBC is a fortunate beneficiary of Mr. Parker's vast experience in corporate governance and finance. His many contributions have included leadership of the university's Investment Management Trust, which manages several key UBC funds valued at over \$3.5 billion, and of the UBC Foundation, which encourages financial support. In the wider community, he serves several health-related organizations.

#### GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP AWARD

**Nemkumar Banthia**  
*PhD'87*

Dr. Banthia is a world-class researcher in the field of advanced building materials who is dedicated to improving the lives of people in marginalized communities through innovative solutions to improve infrastructure. He is the CEO and scientific director of the India-Canada Centre for Innovative Multidisciplinary Partnerships to Accelerate Community Transformation and Sustainability (IC-IMPACTS).

#### RESEARCH AND INNOVATION AWARD

**James McEwen**  
*OC, BASc'71, PhD'75, DSc'11*

Known as the grandfather of BC's biomedical engineering industry, Dr. McEwen invented the first microprocessor-controlled automatic surgical tourniquet system, which improved the precision, speed and safety of surgery and is now the standard of care worldwide. He established the Medical Device Development Centre - an incubator for many medical technology companies.

#### ALUMNI AWARD OF DISTINCTION

**Charles E. Fipke**  
*BSc'73*

Dr. Fipke is an internationally respected geologist who founded Canada's first commercial diamond mine, establishing the country as a major producer of high-quality stones and creating thousands of jobs. Among other causes close to his heart, Dr. Fipke's philanthropy has benefited Alzheimer's research, the protection of wild animals, and UBC's Okanagan campus in his hometown of Kelowna.