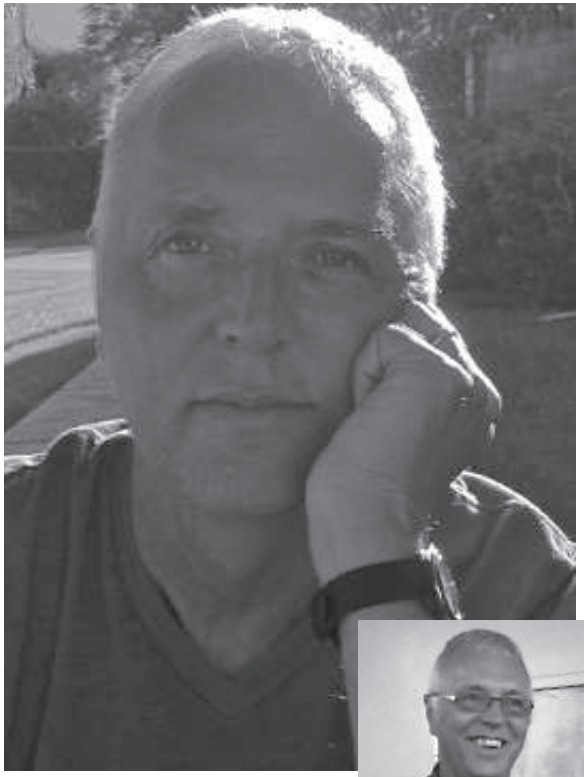
Brian De Vries *Medicine*



Inducted: 2014
Years at GCI & VS:
1969 - 1974

Brian de Vries was born in Clinton, Ontario in 1956. His family moved a great deal early in his life, but they settled in Hespeler (which would become Cambridge) in 1963—this became home for the family. He attended Centennial and Central Public Schools in Hespeler and was the only one of the six children in the family to attend GCI.

Brian graduated (Grade 13) as an Ontario Scholar in 1974. While at GCI, Brian participated in theater, performing in The Adding Machine (playing the role #3) and Harvey (playing the role of E.J. Lofgren), among other roles. He also studied languages and the arts.

In the fall of 1974, Brian moved to Vancouver, BC, entering the University of British Columbia (UBC) the following autumn—the start of his lifelong association with University education. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology in 1980 (with honors), his Master of Arts degree in Social Psychology in 1984 (winning the Belkin prize for outstanding thesis) and his Ph.D. in life-span social psychology in 1988 (having been awarded an SSHRC doctoral fellowship). Through these studies, Brian solidified his interest in the life-span and the many ways in which individuals change yet stay the same over time—this remains the framework of his research to date.

In 1988, he was awarded an SSHRC special post-doctoral fellowship in population aging and was a post-doctoral fellow at both Simon Fraser University (SFU) and the University of Southern California; in both these institutions, he studied in the Departments of Gerontology. At this time, he also accepted an adjunct (honorary) position at the University Texas, School of Public Health in Houston, TX.

In 1989, Brian was offered and accepted a position as Assistant Professor in the School of Family Sciences at UBC, where he remained until being offered a position of Associate Professor of Gerontology at San Francisco State University (SFSU). He is now Full Professor and Director of the Gerontology Program at SFSU.

Brian is committed to studying and promoting social justice and equity. He is well known throughout North America for his ground-breaking research in the field of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender adulthood and aging; he is also internationally known for his research in the field of bereavement and end of life studies as well as life review. He has written extensively about the role of friendship in the lives of women and men of all ages. He has written well over 100 academic articles and book chapters; he has edited, co-edited or co-written five books (one of which has been translated into Japanese); he has served as editor (or guest editor) of six academic journals; he has received over six million dollars in research grants in support of his work in the areas mentioned above; he has lectured throughout North America as well as Europe and South America. He is listed in Marquis "Who's Who" in North America; "he was appointed committee member of the Board on the Health of Select Populations of the prestigious US National Institute of Medicine"; he is a fellow of the Gerontological Society of America and a former board member of the American Society on Aging; he has consulted with local, state and provincial, and federal government agencies (in both the US and Canada). He has been interviewed by local, state and provincial as well as national and international media about his areas of research.

He remains a professor at SFSU and has recently accepted adjunct appointments at both SFU and the University of Alberta.