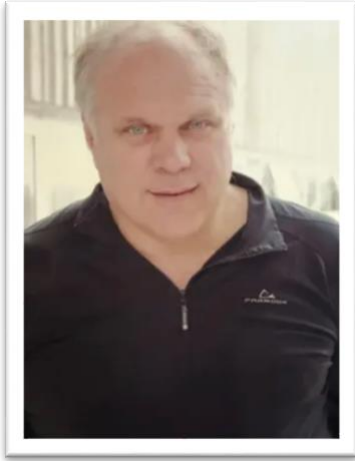


Frank Williams

October 21, 1958 - May 30, 2026



We are sad to announce the passing of a long-time Langara and retiree - Dr. Frank Williams, Faculty Emeritus. Frank retired in 2021 after 30 years of teaching. He served for many terms as Chair of both the Biology and the Interdisciplinary Studies Departments and as Coordinator of Environmental Studies and Coordinator of Canadian Studies. Frank received Langara's Emeritus Award in 2022 (<https://langara.ca/leadership/office-president/emeritus-and-emerita>).

Photo courtesy family via [Vancouver Sun Obituary](#)

If you have a memory or a story about Frank you'd like to share, you can address it to memorials@lcar.ca.

Frank Williams remembered

Frank and I first met in the first half of the 1980s when he was just beginning grad school and I was finishing my BSc, and since then we have followed surprisingly parallel paths. We ended up overlapping through grad school, and then I was hired on at Langara a couple of years after him.

After more than 40 years, what I remember most about him is the wonderful, rambling conversations that we had. Like most people who are deeply interested in the world, he knew something about a lot of different topics, and always had something new to contribute. That innate curiosity led him into diverse projects during his 30 years at Langara. He participated in field schools to the Mekong River, the Fraser River, and Haida Gwaii. He also participated in Langara-led public health initiatives in Tanzania, participated in Wetlandkeepers and Streamkeepers, was one of the charter instructors in the Health Science program, and organized and participated in the Environmental Studies field school.

Outside of Langara, Frank and Jan raised three children, and he coached soccer and was involved in the Boy Scouts for many years.

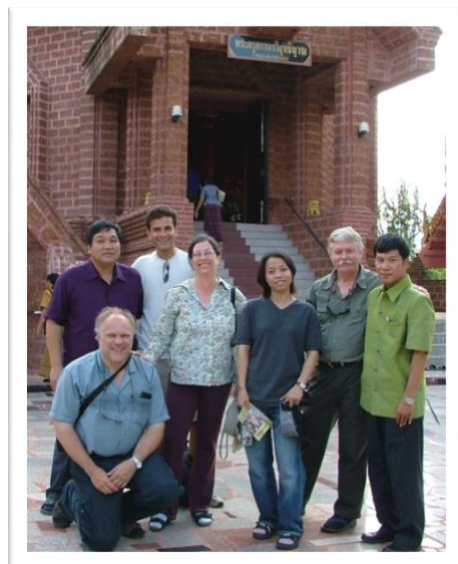
Frank had a strong sense of responsibility and believed in contributing to the good operation and growth of the college. He served as chair of the Biology and Interdisciplinary Studies departments and coordinator of Environmental Studies and Canadian Studies. He was a member of Academic Plan Action Group for environmental, financial, and social sustainability, and served as an LFA representative.

He helped ensure that diverse trees were planted around the campus. He was active in innumerable departmental committees and activities and was brave enough to host some of our departmental potlucks; biology is a big department.

But mostly, he will be remembered by those who knew him as a kind, funny, interesting and dedicated person. He liked teaching and he liked his students. Back in the 80s, I got to know him during a multi-day plant ecology field trip, where we may have shared a drink or two. I learned that he was keen on plants, British sports cars, and comedy. Like many of us in that era, he had a deep knowledge of Monty Python routines, but he took it one step farther by writing group comedy skits and shopping them to the media.

Health problems began to intrude into Frank's busy life near the beginning of this decade. He and Jan retired home to Victoria in 2022, but he never really had the opportunity to turn the big yard into the garden paradise that he had hoped for. He passed away at the end of May, while on the organ transplant wait list. Even in his last months, his eyes sparkled when he laughed.

*By Ken Naumann,
from And By The Way, Retirees., Volume 4, Issue 3 (Summer 2026)*



*Frank and Jan, Thailand Field School,
July 2004 (courtesy Anoush Dadgar)*

Additional Photos from **Anoush Dadgar**, Thailand, December 2014



Below are some reminiscences from former colleagues that have come our way so far.

Mary Goldie: Frank and I shared a large office (with several other folk) when I first came to work at Langara in the early 1990s. That was before the A building came into existence so there weren't enough individual offices for everyone. Frank was a joy to have as an office mate as he was always very funny and encouraging. I remember that I once brought in an unusual large beetle for his expert identification. Imagine my horror and surprise when he told me it was both rare and extremely poisonous! Of course that turned out to be a joke. He was a very fine man with a deep sense of dedication to his students. I was so sorry to hear of his untimely passing. Please accept my most sincere condolences.

Kathy Hanson: Thinking of you as you celebrate Frank's life. He was one of the good ones. Frank always had a good story to tell and was generous with his students and colleagues alike.

Frank and I bonded over our experiences cycling to work, he the ardent environmentalist, me just trying to get some exercise. I will remember him fondly.