

REMEMBERING DUNCAN BLEWETT

ON February 24, psychedelic research pioneer Duncan Blewett passed away at Nanaimo Hospital, British Columbia, after two years of loving post-stroke care at his home on Gabriola Island. Dr. Blewett was an athlete, husband, father, PHD from University of London (UK), WWII veteran, founding chairman of University of Saskatchewan's department of Psychology, and one of the earliest western scientists to study the effects and therapeutic applications of psychedelics. Blewett published numerous books, such as *Handbook for the Use of Lysergic Acid Diethylamide-25: Individual and Group Procedures* and *The Frontiers of Being*.

Handbook for the Use of LSD-25... is available in electronic format in the Free Books section of the MAPS website: maps.org/freebooks

Blewett and a team of forward-thinking research psychologists were recruited to work at the U. of Saskatchewan's (later known as the U. of Regina's) Weyburn Hospital by Dr. Humphrey Osmond in the early 1950s, where they conducted a wide variety of patient studies and



observations. Osmond, who passed away in 2004, is known for introducing Aldous Huxley to psychedelics (as described in *The Doors of Perception*) and for coining the term "psychedelic," in addition to his myriad research.

According to the *Gabriola Sounder*, Duncan "lived his life fabulously in the moment to the very end: the power of his joy will resonate on for many lifetimes... The afterlife just got a little lighter."

Following Duncan's death, longtime friend and associate, University of West Georgia Professor of Psychology Larry Schor wrote:

"Duncan was a trickster, a magician, an alchemist. In his company and under his spell, you could almost witness reality and imagination dancing together on the head of a pin. With Duncan by your side, you were always capable of more. More love. More compassion. More courage.

One of his favorite quotes was of the Chinese philosopher Mencius, who said, 'The ways are but two, love and want of love.' For Duncan, the only path was love."

New Face in the MAPS Office: **Troy Dayton**

MAPS' new (and first-ever) director of development, Troy Dayton, began work at MAPS this past January. With MAPS' increasing success in obtaining approval for psychedelic research, the amount of money needed to fund that research has increased dramatically.

Troy's primary role is to help raise that money. He will be meeting with MAPS' top few hundred donors to communicate MAPS' plans and gather feedback. He is also reaching out to new supporters who can consider making significant charitable gifts to this historic effort. In addition, he is helping MAPS increase revenue through product sales and membership growth. Troy is splitting his time 50-50 with our friends at the Marijuana Policy Project (MPP), also in a development capacity.

Troy is a longtime friend of MAPS and drug policy reform. He spent the last three years as the associate



director of the Interfaith Drug Policy Initiative (IDPI), mobilizing religious leaders behind ending the War on Drugs. He helped found and currently serves on the board of Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP), which has more than 100 chapters. He was the promotional director, fund-raiser, and a script consultant for Flex Your Rights' film, *BUSTED: The Citizen's Guide to Surviving Police Encounters*, now seen by more than 1 million

people. Troy also helped start Renewable Choice Energy, which recently made national headlines for making the largest sale of wind power in U.S. history. CNN recently profiled Troy in a special on the science of happiness where he explained that his occasional use of MDMA helps maximize his mental health.

We are excited to have Troy's passion and expertise at MAPS. I hope you get the chance to visit with him soon.