

**VOLCANOES ON VENUS**Lessons for earth

THE POWER OF ONE Why even a single species matters

IN SEARCH OF ASYLUM Exploring immigration laws

# IS THE WORLD GETTING SAFER?

Human Security Report

kaldor Docket no.: 1127 Version no: 2 Client : UBC Research Date: 2005 April 03 Item: Frontier magazine Size: 8.5x11.75 inches Logos: repro Photos: fpo Line Screen: 150 line Fonts: DIN, A Garamond Pro Proofed by: gq





### A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT RESEARCH

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *frontier*, the University of British Columbia's new journal of research.

As part of UBC's vision to "conduct outstanding research to serve the people of British Columbia, Canada and the world," we are proud to showcase some of the innovative research activities — and the minds behind them — in the pages that follow.

At UBC, we are dedicated to fostering an environment that will incubate ideas, offer world-calibre and meaningful research, advance knowledge and impact the communities we serve.

The broad spectrum of disciplines across UBC mesh to create a unique environment for idea exchange and research collaboration that stimulates creativity and innovation. We are deeply committed to being an active and accessible member of local, national and international communities. This commitment, we believe, is evident through our participation in a variety of research ventures, from the sequencing of the SARS genome to addressing the changing face of global violence and championing human security in the 21st century.

The activities described in the pages that follow are just a few examples of the myriad of research activity taking place at UBC. I hope you find them to be of interest, and welcome your feedback.

Enjoy this first issue of frontier.



Dr. John Hepburn, Vice President Research

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#### FREEDOM FROM FEAR

A decline in the number of wars, genocides and human rights abuses over the past decade? The Human Security Report 2005 uncovers surprising trends in global conflict

#### **Digging Deeper**

UBC's Mineral Deposit Research Unit is advancing the long-term success of the exploration and mining industry within British Columbia

#### **Wood Wide Web**

Melanie Jones and Dan Durall aren't looking to the treetops for clues about the "wood wide web." They're looking to the soil at fungi that are crucial to renewing our forests

#### Chatman's Dilemma

Stephen Chatman flourishes in the demanding world of experimental composition. His choral compositions are winning him high praise as well

Cover photo> Panos Pictures/Lana Slezic

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# Frontier www.research.ubc.ca A Journal of Research and Discovery

Published By Office of the Vice President Research, UBC Fax 604.822.6295 Email info.frontier@ubc.ca Writing and Design kaldor.com Circulation 3,000 (two issues per year)

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Publications mail agreement no. 41268533 Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to: University of British Columbia Office of the Vice President Research Room 224, 6328 Memorial Road Vancouver, BC Canada V6T 1Z2

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