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UBC REPORTS

3 Literary journal turns 50 4 Reversal of fortunes 5 Trivial similarities 7 Housing future

Law prof stands up for prisoners

PHOTO: DARIN DUECK

Michael Jackson has been selected as the recipient of the first Ed McIsaac Human Rights in Corrections Award.

BY SEAN SULLIVAN

UBC Law professor Michael Jackson is looking for justice.

Jackson, who has just won a national award for his work in advancing human rights and correctional practice in Canada, advocates on behalf of prisoners.

The nature of the prisoners' crimes – from robbery to murder – has often given the public an excuse to turn a blind eye to the suffering and discrimination prisoners may face both in and out of prison: assault by guards and other inmates, long stretches in solitary confinement, intimidation and threats of vigilante justice in the community.

Jackson isn't one to sit idly by.

"I think the idea of injustice flows in my bloodlines," says the British-born Jackson, who was recognized in September with the Ed McIsaac Human Rights in Corrections Award, which commemorates the work and dedication of those who have demonstrated a lifelong commitment to improving corrections and protecting the human rights of the incarcerated.

His 40-year career has spanned the classroom, the penitentiary cell, Parliament, the courtroom and the printed word, with two successful books and national recognition for his contribution to public policy.

He's just written a letter to Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff, with whom he taught at UBC in the 1970s, urging Ignatieff to stand up to the federal government's attempts to undermine human rights inside prisons.

Jackson is also working on a report that refutes the Canadian government's plan to "toughen" prison legislation, a move that he says would push the country back 30 years and "undo a whole generation of reform."

He makes no excuses for the work that exposes him to all sorts of criminals, many of whom are themselves suffering.

"Even though I can be repelled by the actual offense someone has committed, when I agree to help someone in prison, the nature of the offense is not relevant to that," he says.

continued on page 4

Learning with UBC Okanagan travel program

BY JODY JACOB

UBC Okanagan student Brooke Bailey recently returned from a two-month volunteer stint in South Africa, where she nursed baby elephants, tracked cheetahs and worked alongside veterinarians involved in wildlife conservation and management.

Volunteering through a group called Edge of Africa, the fourth-year Bachelor of Science student majoring in biology spent the first month at an elephant sanctuary in a town called Knysna, located in an area known as the Garden Route.

"We worked with orphan elephants and my primary role was to feed the babies," she says. "The second volunteer opportunity was at the Garden Route Game Lodge – a large reserve with lions, elephants, rhinos, and buffalo. They also had a cheetah breeding program where we would track and monitor cheetahs that had been bred in captivity and released into the wild."

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

UBC Okanagan student Brooke Bailey feeds a young cheetah while volunteering in Africa this summer.

Bailey hopes her experience in the field will help her reach her dream of being accepted into veterinary school, which she describes as a highlycompetitive process.

"I'm trying to gain as much different experience with as many different animals in as many different countries as I can," says Bailey. "I love working with the vets. It's something in my blood.."

Bailey's African adventure was made possible through the UBC Okanagan International Education Travel Subsidy. Eligible students are required to raise funds for a portion of their expenses, as well as submit a proposal detailing their desired international learning experience. Students may receive up to $4,000 in

continued on p.7

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IN THE NEWS

Highlights of UBC media coverage in September 2009. COMPILED BY LISSA COWAN

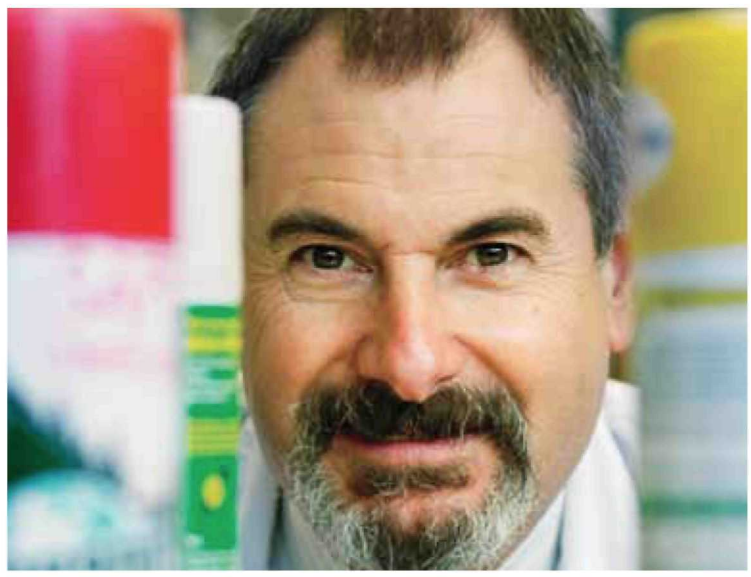

PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

Murray Isman

The skinny on how others influence our eating habits

Marketing experts at UBC, Arizona State University and Duke University released a study that shows we mirror the eating habits of a thin person we dine with and eat differently from a heavy person.

The researchers enlisted 210 college students to partake in what they said was a study about movie watching. Each student was paired with another student who was in fact a member of the research team and whose size was manipulated to make her appear to be either size 0 and 105 pounds (her actual build), or size 16 and 180 pounds (when wearing the obesity prosthesis). A UBC student was one of the undercover researchers who wore a prosthetic suit to make her look heavy.

The researcher was served first and helped herself to either a large or a small serving before the student participant was offered the same food. The study demonstrated that the participants tended to mirror the choices of a thin person, and choose differently from a heavy person.

"If you see a thin person eating a lot, you will eat the same portion," **Brent McFerran**, an assistant professor of marketing at UBC, told the *Toronto Star*. "You see a heavy person ordering a salad and you think, 'I'm not like that, I'm going to order more.' "

Because eating and socializing often go together, McFerran said it's important to be aware of how vulnerable we are to eating more or less based on the people around us even those we do not know.

This story was also covered in the *Los Angeles Times*, *Ottawa Citizen*, *The South African Star* and the *Vancouver Province*.

Dash of spice to keep away pests

Murray Isman, an entomologist at UBC, says farmers are starting to use oils from thyme, rosemary, mint, and other herbs and "killer spices" instead of synthetic pesticides. Just like any conventional garden pesticide, the plant oils repel insects, while other oils can kill them.

Research suggests the oils hinder the insect's nervous system, creating muscle spasms that kill the insects. The oils can also disturb an insect's cellular membranes, causing loss of vital fluids. The plant oils are most effective against bugs that feed off plant juices, such as aphids, whiteflies and spider mites.

The green pesticides should be inexpensive when they hit retail shelves, Isman told *National Geographic*, since they are already widely used in perfumes and food. Companies are already working to stock their retail shelves with spice oils for farmers, he said.

"At the end of the day, what matters is how much it costs and the health and environmental impacts," Isman said. "And there the plant-based pesticides have an advantage."

Broken bones can kill

Suffering a hip or spine fracture can dramatically increase the odds of an early death in people aged 50 and over, according to a new UBC study.

Karim Khan and **Maureen Ashe** of the Centre for Hip Health and Mobility at Vancouver's Coastal Health Research Institute and the UBC Department of Family Practice says health professionals have long known that a patient's health can decline rapidly after suffering a hip or spine fracture.

In the study, researchers followed a group of 7,753 Canadians over five years and found those with hip or spine fractures were much more likely to die within the follow-up period compared with those without fractures. The study published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal underlines the importance of osteoporosis screening and fall-prevention strategies in at-risk populations.

Health Canada estimates that one in four women and one in eight men over 50 will develop osteoporosis. Even so, patients often don't receive vital treatments such as bone mineral density assessments, vitamin D or calcium supplements, which could increase their chances of surviving years after a fall.

The *Ottawa Citizen*, the *Vancouver Sun* and the *Globe and Mail* reported the findings. ■

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Pioneering Canadian literary journal turns 50

The first issue of UBC's *Canadian Literature* journal appeared in 1959. Over the years it has gained an international readership with more than 200 published issues of criticism, reviews and poetry, helping profile this country's literature around the world.

"Preserved in these issues is the work of Canada's foremost writers," says current editor, Margery Fee. "From Margaret Laurence, Al Purdy, and Dorothy Livesay, to Margaret Atwood, Yves Beauchemin, M.G. Vassanji and Thomas King just to name a few."

Considering its standing in today's literary world, it's hard to believe that this journal of critical discussion of Canadian writing almost failed to see the light of day.

In the late 1950s many academics scoffed at the notion of a journal devoted to "Canadian" literature—many felt there was no such thing. Canadian writing was either the "daughter" of the English or French "mother" literature, or the "younger sibling" of its American counterpart.

"The general climate of Canadian letters in the 1950s suggested that Canadian literature could only exist once the country's culture had fully developed," says W.H. New, *Canadian Literature's* editor for more than 18 years. "Real literature happened elsewhere." With the immediate and ongoing success of the journal, this sentiment was quickly proven wrong.

Since its beginnings at the University of British Columbia, the journal has grown under the direction of five editors, starting with George Woodcock. R

Canadian Literature Gala
Sept. 30-Oct 3

The UBC Faculty of Arts gala will celebrate Canadian Literature's anniversary with readings and lectures by authors including Thomas King, Steven Galloway, Roch Carrier, and Aritha van Herk. The gala will include a reception and an auction of works of art donated by Margaret Atwood, Leonard Cohen, and Joni Mitchell.

For more information, visit: *http://www.canlit.ca/50th/*

UBC's Vancouver campus celebrates learning: October 24–30

BY SELINA FAST

UBC is gearing up to celebrate the myriad of teaching and learning opportunities offered across its Vancouver campus. There will be something for everyone in this year's *Celebrate Learning* week, which begins on Saturday, Oct. 24, with a conference for first-year students and ends on Friday, Oct.30, with performances by the School of Music and the Department of Theatre and Film.

This year's opening event, CLASS (the Conference for Learning and Academic Student Success), is an initiative for first-year students who are making the transition into the university learning environment. The concept of CLASS emerged from the *Get Learn'd* pilot conference in 2008, whose aim was to provide Science students with essential academic skills to succeed. CLASS expands on this goal by reaching out to all first-year students across UBC's Vancouver campus, with workshops, presentations, a campus resource fair and an opportunity to receive academic mentorship from senior students, faculty and staff. More information on this conference can be found at *http://class.ubc.ca/*.

Celebrate Learning will also feature events aimed specifically at UBC faculty. The department of Health, Safety and Environment will be presenting Kevin Kecskes, Associate Vice Provost of Engagement at Portland State University, who will speak on the topic of faculty culture and faculty health.

The ninth annual UBC Learning Conference hosted by the Centre for Teaching and Academic Growth will take place on Oct. 29, focusing on the forces that drive curricular change. The day-long conference, held in the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, will look at how society-at-large, discipline, instructor and student drive changes at UBC.

Events for UBC staff include an Open House by Organizational Development and Learning, which will run for the second year in the Ponderosa Building. The afternoon will include a presentation and information booths from such UBC units as MOST and Continuing Studies.

For more information, visit: *http://celebratelearning.ubc.ca/*. R

U.N. honours Peter Oberlander posthumously

UBC Professor Emeritus H. Peter Oberlander (1922-2008), founder of the School of Community and Regional Planning (SCARP) and the Centre for Human Settlements at UBC, will be recognized posthumously by the United Nations Habitat agency (UN-Habitat) with a 2009 Scroll of Honour award.

The award, considered the most significant prize in the field of human settlements, will be celebrated in Washington D.C. and at UBC during the global observances of World Habitat Day on October 5.

Oberlander is considered a founding father of UN-Habitat. In 1952 he established SCARP, which has more than 1,100 graduates serving in communities around the world. In 1975 he established the Centre for Human Settlements at the UBC, providing faculty and students programs to engage in multidisciplinary research and furthering UBC's global perspective of regional, urban and community development.

In 1990, the Canadian International Development Agency recognized the Centre as a "Centre for Excellence in Human Settlements Planning." It is home to the global repository for UN Habitat Conference archives, the *Habitat Exchange*, a "venue for the dissemination and discussion of best practices, action plans and other tools relevant to the pursuit of ecologically sound and socially equitable urbanization."

A celebration of UN Habitat's *World Habitat Day*, of Oberlander's 2009 Scroll of Honour Award, and of the legacy he has left UBC will be held the afternoon of Monday, Oct. 5, at the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre. For more information, visit: *www.events.ubc.ca*. R

Reversal of fortunes:
Unemployment hits long-time employees hard

BY BASIL WAUGH

We'll call them Joe and Phil.

Joe, 56, has worked for the same auto manufacturer for 30 years. He mentors younger workers like Phil, 24, a recent hire, as they work side-by-side on the dayshift.

According to a new University of British Columbia study, when the economy tanks and layoffs occur, long-time workers like Joe find it dramatically more difficult to find other jobs than newer employees. And despite decades of Employment Insurance (EI) contributions, these workers may not be getting the support they need, the study suggests.

"People in the same job for long periods suffer much more when they lose their job than others," says UBC economics professor Craig Riddell, author of the study and a member of Canada's Expert Panel on Older Workers, a government panel of labour experts dedicated to improving support and conditions for older workers.

The study sheds new light on long-term workers, who are among the hardest hit by unemployment, and highlights a startling lack of national data on long-term job displacement and its consequences – information that other Western nations routinely collect and which could significantly enhance Canada's ability to create better unemployment policies.

Compared to workers who frequently flex their job-hunting skills, the financial and emotional toll of unemployment is significantly worse for those who've held a job for long periods, Riddell says. Their numbers have skyrocketed during the recent recession – most coming from Canada's manufacturing, forestry, fishing, pulp and paper sectors, he adds.

PHOTO: ©iStock/jimd_stock

Layoffs are more painful – money-wise and emotionally – for long-time workers than for newer employees, says UBC economics professor Craig Riddell.

Financially, long-tenure workers face a double-hit, Riddell says. Compared to other unemployed groups, they take as much as 35 per cent longer to find new work. But the greatest earning losses are actually after they find another job, he says.

"When these folks lose their jobs, they are looking at pay cuts by as much as 30 per cent when they find new work," says Riddell, who leads Canadian Labour Market and Skills Research Network (CLSRN), a network of researchers dedicated to improving our understanding of the Canadian labour market.

Why? According to Riddell, these workers typically have accrued premium wages through seniority. "When they find themselves back in the competitive labour market, most just can't find employment at a comparable salary with the qualifications they have," he says, noting most end up in entry- or medium-level positions in other industries.

"Imagine that car insurance paid the same amount for fender benders as for vehicles that are totaled," Riddell says. "That's what this is like for long-tenure workers: they are totaled."

For someone supporting a mortgage and a family, this gloomy financial portrait can take a significant emotional toll. According to Riddell, long-tenure workers who lose their jobs face a greater risk for stress, depression, divorce, suicide and overall life-expectancy.

Riddell says these impacts suggest a need for targeted increases in EI benefits for long-tenure workers. In fact, he argues that the issue is significantly more pressing than the question that has preoccupied Canada's federal political leaders during the recent election: harmonizing EI's regional qualifications.

In the eyes of EI, someone who has paid into EI for 30 years is essentially treated the same as someone who only has one year of unemployment under their belts, Riddell says. EI currently only looks at someone's last 12 months of service.

"Imagine that our car insurance paid the same amount for fender benders as for vehicles that are totaled," he says. "That's what this is tantamount to for long-tenure workers: they are totaled."

In addition to enhancing the duration or amount of EI benefits for displaced long-tenure workers, Riddell's study makes a number of other recommendations. One is a call for Canada to consider a national wage insurance program. Recognizing that this group's biggest earnings hit is post-unemployment – when they are forced to take lower-paying jobs – wage insurance would offer salary top-ups to individuals who paid into the system in good times. Doing so would reduce the earnings loss and encourage displaced workers to become employed faster than they would otherwise be willing to, Riddell says.

Sign up for the Canadian Labour Market and Skills Research Network's e-newsletter *Labour Market Matters* at: ***www.clsrn.econ.ubc.ca***. R

LAW PROF NETS AWARD *continued from cover page*

"If they're experiencing injustice, if I think they deserve a chance that I can help them with, then I'll do that."

Jackson is familiar with injustice.

As a young man in London he was the only Jewish student in his primary school and one of very few in his secondary school. Older, bigger kids would follow him home from school, yelling and taunting him.

"I had a very personal experience of being an outsider, being hated and despised," he says. "The experience I had in my childhood, and the knowledge in my DNA of what happened to Jews over millennia, has made me more aware of what it's like to be the person isolated from society."

Still, Jackson didn't set out to become a human rights advocate.

That interest grew during his graduate work at Yale in the 1960s, which at that point was one of the hubs for the civil rights movement in the United States.

"I got caught up in that energy – one of the great human rights movements of all time," he says.

He came to Canada in 1970 and began teaching in the areas where human rights issues seemed most important in Canadian society: prisoners' rights and Aboriginal rights.

It was at UBC's law school that he made a career-changing discovery: handwritten letters from prisoners serving time in the B.C. Penitentiary, outlining their complaints and grievances. The school had received them for years, but no one had bothered to read them.

What he found was shocking. One man told of cruel and unusual conditions facing him and other prisoners. He had been in solitary confinement for two years, where he remained locked up for all but 30 minutes each day. Some prisoners were abused, tear gassed and beaten.

"It was completely inconsistent with what I thought were the prevailing conditions in Canadian prisons," he says.

Jackson launched the first case of its kind in Canadian history, winning a declaration from the federal court that the conditions inside the penitentiary indeed constituted cruel and unusual punishment.

Since then, he's represented people from all walks of life – and people who have committed some of the worst crimes imaginable.

One is Paul Callow, who in 1987 was sentenced to 20 years in jail after pleading guilty to five counts of rape. Dubbed the "balcony rapist" because he broke into women's apartment in Toronto by way of their balcony, Callow was released in New Westminster, B.C., after serving his full sentence.

The media flocked to the story, rousing threats of vigilante justice and "fear mongering" about the threat posed by Callow.

"Here's a man who committed some terrible offences and it's understandable that people were worried and frightened. But he has had served 20 years in prison and taken all the programs he could to improve himself," Jackson says. "None of this was being recognized."

Jackson began gathering information from correctional officers and prison files, eventually offering the *Vancouver Province* newspaper an exclusive interview with Callow. There was only one condition: the editors had to read Jackson's report first.

The result: the newspaper changed their editorial position.

"They understood what they were writing was based upon distorted and inaccurate information from the police," Jackson says. "They actually said this man had a right to demonstrate why he should be accepted back into society."

In 1980, Jackson and his students helped 80 men – most of them burglars and petty thieves who were serving indefinite sentences as repeat offenders – win pardons from the federal government.

"Some of these men had never committed an act of violence in their lives, but spent, on average, longer in prison than men who had been convicted of murder," he says.

"I thought this gave people their lives back, when they had already been punished beyond what is reasonable for the law."

Jackson plans to keep giving people their lives back, though he says the misery he encounters can take its toll on his emotional health.

"The day I walk into a prison and don't leave feeling outraged, I don't feel like screaming about what I'd heard about, I'll find something else to do," he says.

"I need that sense of outrage to toughen me to do this work."

Jackson's two books, *Prisoners of Isolation and Justice Behind the Walls*, are available online in expanded formats at ***www.justicebehindthewalls.net***. R

Trivial similarities translate into greater sales, but also greater risk

BY DEREK MOSCATO

Finding out that you share the same birthday, hometown or even first name with another stranger can be a great icebreaker in social situations.

A recent University of British Columbia study shows that for some retailers, these shared connections can benefit the bottom line.

The study finds that consumers who share a common trait with a salesperson might be quicker to open their wallet and make a purchase.

For companies looking to better connect with their customers, the research provides a new look into how trivial similarities can impact the relationship between a consumer and a sales agent. The study suggests that this consumer behavior is rooted in a universal desire among people to connect.

The strategy is not without risk, however. Having a personal connection in a retail environment can lead to a bigger backlash when a customer becomes unhappy or feels mistreated, the study finds. Companies are essentially raising the stakes when they personalize relationships in a retail or customer service setting, the study suggests.

The study, *The Persuasive Role of Incidental Similarity on Attitudes and Purchase Intentions in a Sales Context*, was conducted by UBC Sauder School of Business marketing researchers Prof. Darren Dahl, Prof. JoAndrea Hoegg and Lan Jiang, as well as Prof. Amitava Chattopadhyay of the European Institute of Business Administration (INSEAD).

Using a fitness centre as a research laboratory, they showed that following a sales promotion for a personal training program, consumers who found out that they shared the same birthday with the trainer were more favorable towards the program and were more inclined to enroll.

"Our research provides management insight into the power of cultivating similarity between consumers and sales agents in the retail context," says Dahl. "It turns out that in face-to-face situations, the need for social connectedness among individuals can result in their being persuaded more easily."

Dahl says some companies are already wise to the magic of shared connections. At Disney's theme parks, for example, employees have their hometowns displayed on their nametags.

"But it is important to note that salespeople that share a similarity also have the capacity to alienate consumers if their behavior is perceived to be negative," he says. "Distancing away from a similar salesperson is more likely in this type of context."

PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

Shoppers open their wallets for sales agents with shared traits, Prof. Darren Dahl, UBC Sauder School of Business says.

During the study, the research subjects witnessed the trainer taking a personal phone call, during which he berated the individual at the other end of the call. Since the salesperson was seen to exhibit rude and obnoxious behaviour, consumers with the shared birthday were even more likely to view the sales clerk in a negative light than those with a different birth date.

The publication of the sales-focused research coincides with two new executive development sales programs being offered at the Sauder School. The *Certificate in Sales Leadership*, as well as the *Certificate in Sales Management*, were developed in collaboration with the BC Innovation Council, which contributed $2.1 million towards creating the endowed BC Innovation Council`s Chair in Sales and Sales Management.

The introduction of the two programs comes at a time when there is a documented shortage of real sales curriculum in academic programs.

Learn more at ***sauder.ubc.ca***. R

Sharing island treasures

PHOTO: courtesy Salt Spring Island Archives

Images from Salt Spring Island journalist Marshall Sharp (1962 – 1965).

BY GLENN DREXHAGE

Without the support of a UBC-based program, the rich visual history of a local island community would remain confined to thousands of aging film negatives.

Thanks to the B.C. History Digitization Program and the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, photos of local events, people and ceremonies from Salt Spring Island, along with aerial shots from years past, will soon be available for viewing online.

The program has provided a matching grant of $10,000 to the Salt Spring Archives for a project that involves the digitization of 15,000 negatives from local photojournalist Marshall Sharp. The photos date from 1958 to 1973. (Digitization refers to the conversion of analogue objects – such as books, journals, audio and video recordings – into digital formats that can be accessed by anyone with a computer and an Internet connection.)

"[Our project] wouldn't have happened otherwise, because we needed to acquire additional equipment," says Barbara Dumoulin, secretary of the Salt Spring Island Historical Society, and a grant writer and volunteer archivist for the Salt Spring Archives.

The funding enabled the organization to purchase two additional scanners; so far, about 8,000 negatives have been scanned and Dumoulin hopes to have the rest completed by the end of the year. (Salt Spring Archives also received digitization program support for a 2007 project).

The Salt Spring Island initiative is one of 14 projects throughout British Columbia that received funding from the digitization program, launched by the Learning Centre in 2006. Since then, 52 projects around the province have received more than $450,000 in total funding, underlining the Learning Centre's commitment to community engagement

"We continue to be pleased with the breadth of material represented in this year's group of applications," says Chris Hives, University Archivist. "In addition to several photographic digitization projects, there have also been requests for funding to support the digitization of community newspapers and publications, oral histories, early British Columbia documents and graphic materials."

The assistance allows recipients to make the fascinating stories of B.C. communities accessible for audiences throughout the province and beyond.

"A number of us are smaller archives, and we rely on funding through grants," says Dumoulin.

For more information, and a complete listing of all projects, please visit ***www.ikebarberlearningcentre.ubc.ca/ps/BCDigitInfo.html***. R

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Grad student tackles cerebral palsy's long-term challenges

PHOTO: BUD MORTENSON

Marylyn Horsman

BY LISSA COWAN

Marylyn Horsman, a master's student in UBC's Rehabilitation Sciences has had her share of hurdles to overcome. Diagnosed with cerebral palsy as a young child she was worried she wouldn't be able to have a family, however she met and married her husband at the age of 18, had four healthy children and now has 10 grandchildren.

That could be why seeing others succeed motivates her.

"I pursued my degree not for the piece of paper per se," says Horsman. "It was in hopes that my research might make a difference in the lives of others."

She made good on that statement earlier this year. As part of her master's thesis, she examined secondary effects of cerebral palsy – a group of conditions affecting movement and muscle coordination – on adults.

At the start of her graduate degree in 2003, she was surprised to find most studies on cerebral palsy she came across ended at 18 years. "Once you become an adult with cerebral palsy, you fall through the cracks," says Horsman, now in her mid-fifties. In 2004-2005, she received a Shaughnessy Hospital Volunteer Society Fellowship in Health Care for $16,000 through UBC's Faculty of Graduate Studies that gave her the added support she needed to continue her research.

Her study encompassed 12 adults evenly divided into males and females and ranging in age from 25 to 58. Horsman looked at how adults were coping with secondary conditions associated with cerebral palsy such as pain, fatigue, and increasing musculoskeletal concerns.

"People don't often think about the extra energy it takes to live with a disability, and the stresses that creates on the body," says Horsman. It is estimated over 50,000 Canadians have cerebral palsy and one out of 500 babies is affected by aspects of the disorder.

A woman in the study was 37 years old, but said she felt 65.

"The aging process begins earlier with cerebral palsy," Horsman says. "Physical changes can make a 30-year-old feel isolated from a peer group because others won't be dealing with these issues for another 20 years."

One participant described her balance as "unpredictable," suggesting she could no longer trust her own judgment. Even though falling was a major issue among the participants, of equal concern was their declining ability to get up on their own when they did fall. Some adults Horsman interviewed said they felt doctors didn't understand the full consequences of their disability.

"The medical community often doesn't talk about the secondary conditions associated with cerebral palsy," she says. "For instance, doctors wouldn't necessarily say fatigue or certain types of pain are related to a patient's chronic disorder, and it is vital to recognize this when looking at different treatment programs." Treatments to address the disorder's secondary effects range from speech and language therapies to assist with fine motor skills such as writing and speaking, to exercises for arthritis such as swimming, which increase joint mobility and coordination, as well as helping with depression.

While many take for granted getting dressed in the morning, for those with a disability daily activities can be a struggle if the right supports aren't in place. Yet Horsman says community supports need to go further than just facilitating the basics.

"We still tend to go by the old-style medical model of dressed, cleaned and housed and forget the rest," she says. "But there are many facets to being supported such as having access to adequate homecare, which gives one the freedom to perform everyday activities, pursue job aspirations, go on outings with family and friends, and maintain overall health."

Most study participants believed they would maintain their abilities longer if they had greater access to therapies. Horsman gives the example of an existing B.C. government program, which increases independence by allocating a certain amount of money to those with a disability to hire a healthcare worker on their own.

Horsman's enthusiasm to shed light on adults living with cerebral palsy and the additional challenges aging brings has made an impression on her thesis advisor Prof. Susan Harris. "She is neither a physiotherapist nor occupational therapist," says Harris. "Yet as someone who has lived with a disability and rehabilitation throughout her life, she has taught me a lot."

After graduating this November with a Master of Science in Rehabilitation Sciences, Horsman plans to use data from her study as material for public presentations. Her passion for women's issues and specifically women with disabilities grew early in her academic career while she was completing a bachelor's degree. She intends to make this her focus once more when speaking to community groups.

"Those with cerebral palsy would like to be seen as individuals beyond our disabilities," she says. "Not as 'wowsers,' those who 'wow' because they function with their disability and manage to get out of bed in the morning, but as the people they are with their abilities." R

"Those with cerebral palsy would like to be seen as individuals beyond our disabilities," she says.

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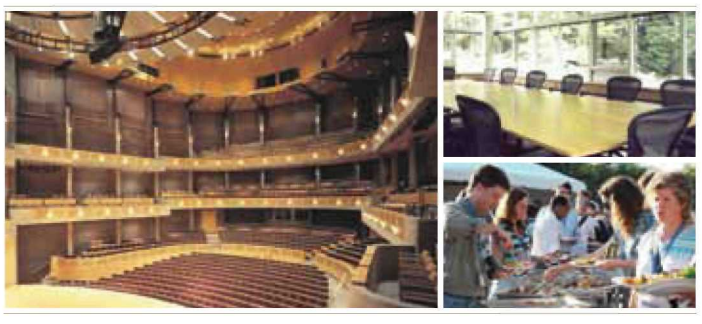

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Planning student surveys Vancouver's housing future

BY LISSA COWAN

PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

Latosia Campbell, MSc student at UBC's School of Community Planning.

When Latosia Campbell, MSc student at UBC's School of Community and Regional Planning (SCARP), first came from Jamaica to Canada to study she was surprised to find only a small selection of Vancouver rentals fit her student budget.

"After my first year at SCARP I looked at a couple of basement apartments and then decided to live on UBC campus because I felt what was being offered in the city wasn't giving me value for my money," says the international student.

That first brush with Vancouver's rental market prompted Campbell to enroll in a housing course taught by Michael Gordon, senior central area planner, City of Vancouver and adjunct professor at SCARP. Issues raised in the class sparked questions for Campbell about how the city, with a vacancy rate of 0.3 per cent compared to the national average of 2.2 and no plans to significantly increase the number of rental units, could sustain an estimated population increase from 578,000 to 668,000 by 2021 (2002 BC Stats projection).

In 2008, B.C.'s 1.1 per cent rental vacancy rate was slightly below Manitoba, at one per cent, and ahead of Saskatchewan, at 1.2 per cent making it one of the lowest in the country.

What she learned in Prof. Gordon's class prompted Campbell to research the significance of rented condominiums to the city's rental housing. "Over several years a developers' market has favoured condos over what's referred to as 'purpose built' or planned rental developments," she says. "There has also been a lack of government tax incentives to promote rental housing. Today approximately 27 per cent of condos are rented in Vancouver, the highest of any Canadian city."

For her study, Campbell interviewed 20 individuals including condo rental owners, housing advocates, researchers and developers about their involvement in the rented condo market. She learned that while owners rent out their condos for a number of reasons such as income security should they find themselves unemployed, or as income for their children while at school, the chief reason is for investment. Her study identified some challenges that may influence the willingness of condo owners to continue renting their units and also to remain in the market.

Rented condominiums are 30-48 per cent higher in price than planned rentals and are generally newer and more sophisticated with modern fixtures and amenities. This poses a problem for 43.7 per cent of renters who – according to 2006 BC Stats figures – spend one third or more of their income on housing.

When Campbell interviewed researchers, housing specialists and rental housing advocates, most agreed more attention should be given to 'purpose built' rental housing.

Campbell says the current federal tax system discourages investment in rental properties, for example not allowing capital gains reinvested in rental housing to be exempt from capital gains tax. She adds the municipal government could help to stimulate greater interest in rental housing such as partnering with senior levels of government and stakeholders in the rental housing sector and lessening the burden for new rental development.

"Vancouver has a role to play in stimulating greater interest in rental housing and in helping solve the rental housing shortage," says Campbell.

She adds Canadian universities could contribute by forming countrywide research partnerships to better understand rental housing markets, the status of the current supply of rental housing, and the significance of rented condominiums in Canada's major cities.

Campbell will present her study on Oct. 16 at the UBC School of Community and Regional Planning Symposium on Affordable and Sustainable Housing. The symposium will look at three main themes: Provision of housing, housing policies and sustainability, and emerging housing needs related to housing and health. R

"Vancouver has a role to play in stimulating greater interest in rental housing and in helping solve the rental housing shortage," says Campbell.

"Condo investors complain they aren't making money off their investments because rents aren't enough to cover expenses such as ongoing repairs and strata fees," she says. "Another complaint they have is rent controls and rental restrictions, which either prevent them from raising the rent unless the tenant leaves or limit their ability to rent."

Even if there were government incentives and policies to encourage investors to provide rented condos on a long term basis, there are concerns by renters and rental housing advocates about housing affordability, she adds.

REAL-WORLD LEARNING *continued from cover page*

support, provided by the Irving K. Barber Endowment Fund.

"The International Education Travel Subsidy is designed to provide students the opportunity to gain experiential learning in an international setting," says Linda Hatt, Associate Dean, Curriculum and Student Affairs. "These opportunities reflect the founding principles of the Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences – in particular, to prepare students to become outstanding citizens of B.C. and the world."

In addition to Bailey, three other UBC students received the International Education Travel Subsidy in 2009:

Allison Tremain, a graduate student, developed a preliminary watershed assessment for Fair Trade Carbon Ltd. and learned about reforestation in southwestern Uganda.

Natalie Melaschenko studied savanna ecology through a UBC field course at the Mpala Research Centre in Kenya.

Lauren Bytelaar is completing courses in Norway and Uganda, and will conduct a case study of the relationship between annual and seasonal rainfall and malaria incidence in tropical East Africa.

To see video footage of Brooke Bailey's trip to Africa, visit *http://www.youtube.com/user/UBCOPeopleFromHere#play/uploads/1/VRYnKCaNgD4*. R

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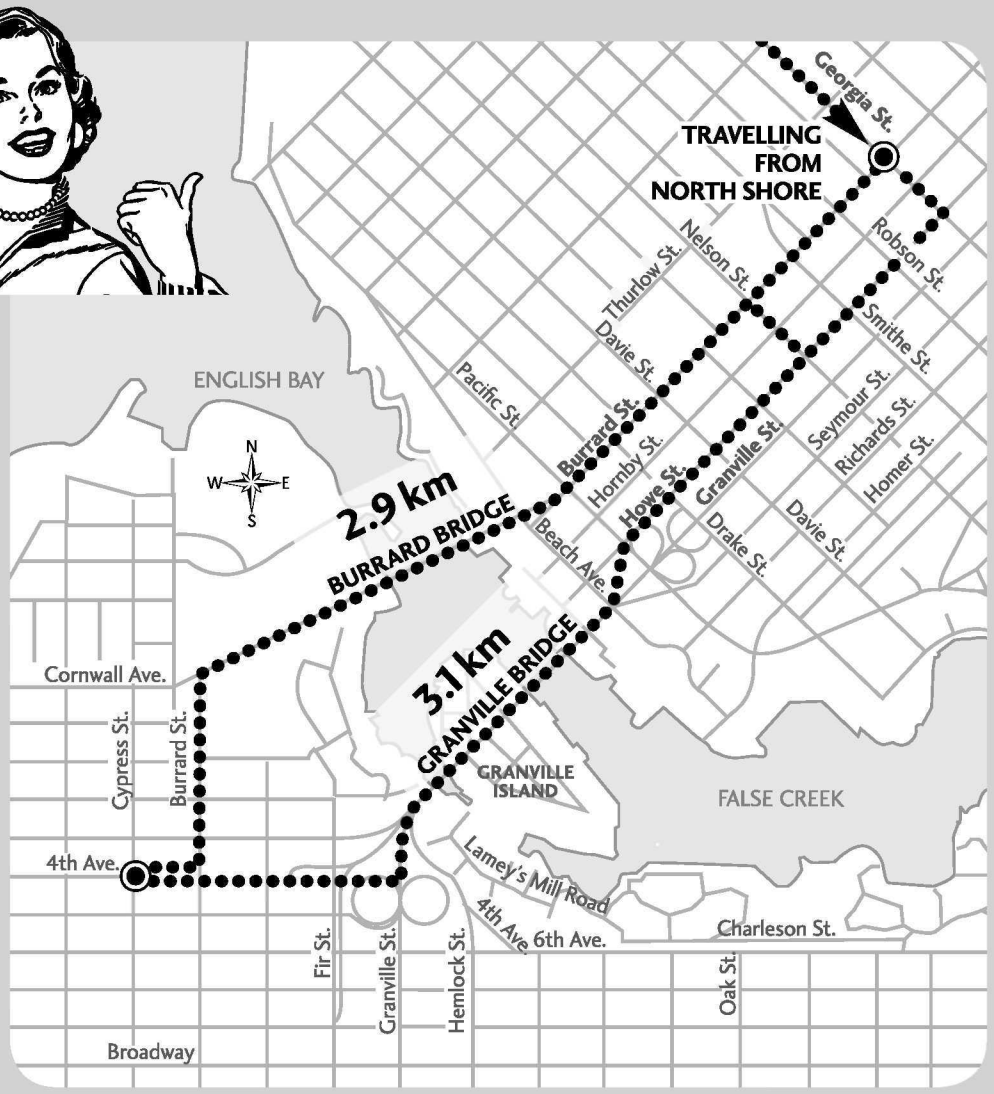

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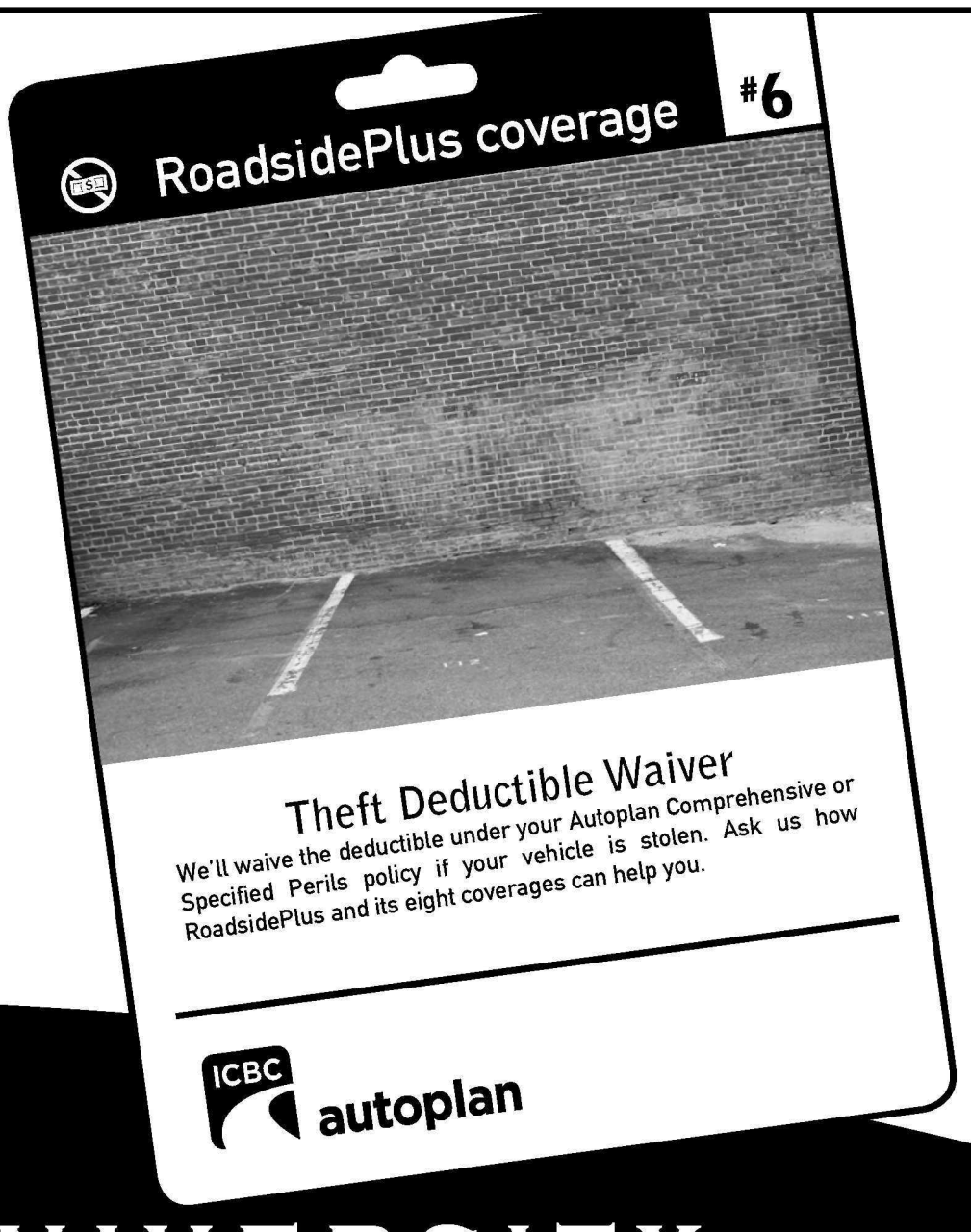

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