THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

UBC Archives Serial

UBC REPORTS

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Bruce Mason photo

Truth In Acting

Fine Arts graduate Moya O'Connell — shown here backstage at the recent Vancouver hit play It's All True — has been busy in theatre and movies since earning a bachelor's degree at UBC. O'Connell is among the more than 2,200 students who will graduate during Fall Congregation Nov. 25 and 26 at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts. "I wanted an academic education as well as training in acting," says O'Connell who only applied at UBC. "Studying theatre history and literature, including Russian literature, gives me a context and an edge in creating characters." Among other roles, she is in upcoming productions of the TV series Outer Limits and a movie of the week, Y2K.

Graduate explores genetic test's effects

by Bruce Mason

Staff writer

It's highly unusual for a large crowd to attend and applaud a PhD defence, but more than 50 people were present when Sue Cox defended her doctoral research.

Many had first-hand experience with the topic of her 500-page thesis, "It's Not a Secret But...: Predictive Testing and Patterns of Communication about Genetic Information in Families at Risk for Huntington's disease."

Cox

Cox is one of more than 2,200 UBC students graduating during Fall Congregation Nov. 25 and 26. Degrees will be awarded in eight ceremonies at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts.

"My interest in what it's like to live with the knowledge that one may develop an unpreventable, degenerative disease in mid-life began nearly 20 years ago when a friend explained that he was at risk for Huntington's disease," recalls Cox who has earned a PhD in Sociology.

"I had no idea that his story would leave such an indelible impression or that I would later struggle to articulate something about the social and familial implications that he came to understand all too well," she adds.

Described as a "genetic time bomb," Huntington's disease typically occurs after age 35 and each child of a parent with the disease has a 50 per cent chance of developing it. In 1993, predictive testing with near 100 per cent certainty became available for the first time.

Focusing on how families communicate about hereditary risk, Cox conducted 102 interviews throughout B.C. with 16 people who were having the test and 33 of their family members.

"The phrase 'It's not a secret but' is intended to convey the profound sense of ambivalence that many at risk individuals feel about disclosing their test results to others," Cox says. "Such information is a powerful source and ever-present threat to self-identity, intimacy and social life."

Her research was part of a larger study headed up by UBC medical anthropologist Prof. William McKellin.

"Much of genetics research is undertaken in the lab, working at the molecular level with the hope of developing tests

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More Congregation stories, see Page 8

Supreme Court justice, economist earn degrees

Canada's Chief Justice Antonio Lamer, and one of Canada's leading economists, Richard Lipsey, will receive honorary degrees from the university at Fall Congregation Nov. 25.

Lamer

Lamer's appointment to the Supreme Court of Canada in 1980 coincided with the introduction of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and he is recognized as a leader in the development of charter law.

He was appointed chief justice in 1990. Under his leadership the Supreme Court has given judgements on issues that lie at the heart of Canadian law and nationhood, including the Delgamuukw decision on aboriginal title and the Quebec Secession Reference.

Lipsey

See ***DEGREES*** *Page 2*

Samarasekera at helm as new V-P, Research

Metals and Materials Engineering Prof. Indira Samarasekera, director of UBC's Centre for Metallurgical Process Engineering and university co-ordinator for the Canada Foundation for Innovation, has been named vice-president, Research.

Samarasekera

"Indira has an innovative mind and is a well-recognized spokesperson for the importance of research across an array of disciplines," says UBC President Martha Piper. "She has a strong understanding of the importance of university research to Canada's social and economic development."

Upon assuming the position May 1, 2000 Samarasekera's responsibilities will include developing, promoting and administering research at the university and establishing local, national and international partnerships.

She takes over from acting vice-president, Chemistry Prof. David Dolphin.

Samarasekera's research excellence has been recognized with numerous international awards and honours including being named a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and receiving the E.W.R. Steacie Fellowship from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada.

In 1997 she was awarded the B.C. Science Council Award for New Frontiers in Research. UBC has awarded her the Killam Prize and the Charles A. McDowell Award for research achievements.

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UBC medical research is good for economic health as well, says KPMG

Waste Not 4

Take the Eco-Challenge and help reduce UBC's energy use

Graduate

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that will eventually lead to clinical interventions," McKellin says. "Sue moved beyond the molecular genetics lab and clinic to understand the subtle and profound ways that genetic testing affects everyday family and social lives."

Cox is currently a post-doctoral fellow with the Centre for Applied Ethics and continues to collaborate with renowned researcher, Medical Genetics Prof. Michael Hayden, director of the Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics. She is also a very active volunteer in Huntington's societies.

Prof. Brian Elliott, head of the Anthropology and Sociology Dept. says, "In an era in which genetics is trumpeted, this is an enormous, original and sympathetic work which pioneers the study of the consequences, as well as the intellectual and ethical struggles, in dealing with the future when we know our fates."

VP

Continued from Page 1

Her research interest lies in the area of heat transfer and stress analysis related to the continuous casting and hot rolling of steel. She holds the Dofasco Chair in Advanced Steel Processing at UBC.

Samarasekera joined the Faculty of Applied Science in 1980. She served as acting head of the Metals and Materials Engineering Dept. in 1998.

A member of the Council of the National Research Council of Canada, Samarasekera is also a fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering.

Degrees

Continued from Page 1

He served for many years as a lecturer at the Université de Montréal and continues to promote excellence in university legal education.

Lipsey is a UBC alumnus known internationally for his contributions to the areas of micro-economic theory, public economics, international trade and industrial organization.

An active participant in public policy debates, he has written numerous articles in support of free trade and a widely used economic textbook. He is currently a professor of Economics at Simon Fraser University.

Lamer and Lipsey receive their degrees at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts today at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., respectively.

Faculty of Arts
UBC Killam Teaching Prizes

Once again the University is recognizing excellence in teaching through the awarding of prizes to faculty members. Five (5) prize winners will be selected in the Faculty of Arts for 2000.

Eligibility: Eligibility is open to faculty who have three or more years of teaching at UBC. The three years include 1999-2000.

Criteria: The awards will recognize distinguished teaching at all levels; introductory, advanced, graduate courses, graduate supervision, and any combination of levels.

Nomination Process: Members of faculty, students, or alumni may suggest candidates to the Head of the Department, the Director of the School, or Chair of the Program in which the nominee teaches. These suggestions should be in writing and signed by one or more students, alumni or faculty, and they should include a very brief statement of the basis for the nomination. You may write a letter of nomination or pick up a form from the Office of the Dean, Faculty of Arts in Buchanan B-130.

Deadline: 4 p.m. on Jan. 24, 2000. Submit nominations to the Department, School or Program Office in which the nominee teaches.

Winners will be announced in the Spring, and they will be identified as well during Spring convocation in May.

For further information about these awards contact either your Department, School or Program Office, or Dr. Errol Durbach, Associate Dean of Arts, at (604) 822-6703.

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UBC REPORTS

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Health research pays back province: report

The dividends — economic and social — of the $62.8 million UBC's Faculty of Medicine and the affiliated teaching hospitals succeeded in getting for research this year have been outlined in a report recently released by the faculty.

"We commissioned this report to document the value of what we do here — our aim is to secure more provincial government funding for research," says Dean of Medicine John Cairns. "Without this support, the quality of B.C. health care suffers and so does our goal of a knowledge-based economy in this province."

The faculty is part of the Coalition for Health Research in B.C. that is asking the government to set aside $50 million annually for health research.

The requested new funds would be used to recruit and train researchers in B.C. and to cover operating costs such as research scholar grants, matching operating grants and project support and for the commercialization of technologies developed here.

Last year's budget for the B.C. Health Research Foundation — the provincial granting agency — was about $1 million. Funds have not yet been allocated for next year.

"The shortage of provincial funding is severe," says Cairns. "B.C. spent only $1.54 per person on medical research in 1998 compared to Alberta's investment of $11.67."

Cairns is enthusiastic about support from the B.C. Knowledge Development Fund (BCKDF) but points out that BCKDF monies go entirely to capital costs of research infrastructure to match new federal contributions.

"Now B.C. must support the investigators and their programs if we are to compete effectively for federal funding and derive the benefits for the provincial economy," he says.

The 38-page report, prepared by management consulting firm KPMG, describes how medical research contributes to the economy, to science and to society.

Short-term economic impacts of health research conducted in the faculty and the teaching hospitals were calculated using the B.C. government's input-output model. The model looks at where expenditures are being made in the economy and their impact on economic activities in other sectors.

Using the model, it is estimated that the $62.8 million invested yields output in the B.C. economy of $94 to $118 million due to employment and activities such as the manufacture and sale of medical instruments and laboratory equipment.

The report also lists the longer term economic benefits of technology commercialization: the development of intellectual property and new private sector companies.

As of March 31, 1998 there were 29 license agreements between UBC and private companies involving medical research applications, generating approximately $770,000 in royalties for UBC and the teaching hospitals.

As of March 31, 1998, 18 active companies, of a total of 77 UBC spin-off companies, had been formed around discoveries by Faculty of Medicine researchers, according to the University-Industry Liaison Office. These companies reported creating 374 new jobs.

In addition, research laboratories provide employment to statisticians, programmers, co-op and graduate students, laboratory technicians and administrators.

The report also identifies social benefits of the faculty's research such as the development of basic science and clinical knowledge that provides the foundation for future advancements in health care.

"The contribution by the faculty and the teaching hospitals is recognized worldwide — our health researchers include a Nobel Prize winner and at least a dozen Order of Canada recipients," says Cairns. "But even with this level of excellence, B.C.'s share of total federal medical research funds has declined because of lack of provincial support."

Federal funding is increasing dramatically with the impending establishment of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, he adds, making it more important than ever for B.C. researchers to be able to capture a reasonable share of the $550 million per annum projected to become available within three years.

UBC's affiliated teaching hospitals are the B.C. Cancer Agency, Vancouver Hospital and Health Sciences Centre, Providence Health Care (St. Paul's Hospital) and Women's & Children's Health Centre of British Columbia.

The report has been sent to key provincial cabinet ministers, other members of the Legislative Assembly and B.C. members of Parliament. Copies of the report are available through the office of the associate dean, Research, in the Faculty of Medicine.

Bruce Mason photo

No Strings Attached

A framed violin top signed by violinist and conductor Pinchas Zukerman is held by Laurie Townsend, manager of concerts and communications for the School of Music and Prof. Jesse Read, director of the school. It's one of the items available at a silent auction to be held before a gala concert which starts at 8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 3 at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts. Other items to be auctioned include a UBC vocal group to perform at your holiday party. The concert will feature special guest soloists from the school, the university's symphony orchestra, opera ensemble, choral union, jazz ensemble and others. Tickets are $20 for adults and $15 for students and seniors. A $75 ticket includes a reception at the Sage Bistro beginning at 6:15 p.m. Tickets are available through Ticketmaster or in person at the Chan Centre Box Office.

Web site revamped to improve access

The university's main Web site at www.ubc.ca has a new look and feel. The redesign is the initial phase of a larger and more comprehensive project to radically reshape the use of the Web at UBC.

The primary goal of the redesign, carried out by UBC Public Affairs and ITServices, is to provide improved information access for prospective students who increasingly use university Web sites as a key information source. The second objective was to visually reshape the site and improve navigational links and search mechanisms.

The new home page features a current theme plus five primary links for prospective students, current students, UBC alumni, faculty and staff, and general visitors.

Only the top and secondary level pages have changed in this phase with minimal new content creation.

Ideas for future phases of the project include Web design templates and standards to facilitate a degree of consistency, but not uniformity, throughout UBC's Web presence. Other possibilities include creating personalized "portal" views of Web-based information.

Ideas and suggestions for the site are welcome and can be e-mailed to webdev@itservices.ubc.ca.

An on-line survey is also available on the Web site to solicit specific suggestions for future developments and improvements.

The previous site was voluntarily maintained and enhanced by a small group of dedicated staff in the Office of Budget and Planning.

Electronic Arts head named Great Trekker

One of Canada's leading marketing managers who has contributed to the success of companies ranging from produce growers to software manufacturers has been named the 1999 recipient of the Great Trekker Award.

Glenn Wong, president and general manager of Electronic Arts (Canada) Inc., graduated from UBC in 1980 with a degree in Commerce and Business Administration.

Wong

"I am surprised, honoured and thrilled to receive this award," says Wong. "UBC taught me so much about how to learn and how to keep learning. I've used that knowledge in every role I've had."

The award is given to alumni by the Alma Mater Society (AMS) to recognize outstanding achievement and contribution to the community. Previous recipients include author Pierre Berton and former prime minister John Turner.

"Mr. Wong embodies the qualities of a Great Trekker: service to students during his time at UBC, continued service to the community and success in his chosen career path," says AMS Vice-president Maryann Adamec.

A recipient of UBC's Outstanding Young Alumnus Award in 1995, Wong began his career with Procter and Gamble, Inc. He was vice-president of marketing at Nabob Foods in Vancouver for nine years before becoming president and chief executive officer of Western Greenhouse Growers' Co-operative Association, also known as B.C. Hot House Foods.

Under his leadership, B.C. Hot House Foods became the largest single producer and marketer of hydroponic vegetables in North America.

He started his current position in 1998. Electronic Arts (Canada) Inc. is the largest studio in the world for developing interactive software and employs 550 people.

While at UBC, Wong served on the AMS executive and was student representative to UBC's Board of Governors.

"I learned a lot about the relationship between service and leadership while I was at UBC, "says Wong. "I feel that I serve the employees I work with — I encourage them and figure out ways to free up their creativity."

A third-generation Vancouverite, Wong has also served on the board of directors of the Dragon Boat Festival.

The Great Trekker award, a UBC tradition since 1950, commemorates the Great Trek of 1922 when 1,200 UBC students marched from downtown Vancouver to the Point Grey site in a bid to pressure the government to complete construction of campus buildings that had remained unfinished for 15 years.

Plan to solve cliff erosion in works

A UBC-led effort to find long-term solutions to the steady erosion of the porous sandstone and silt cliffs along the tip of the Point Grey peninsula has emerged from public consultations and is ready to develop options to fix the problem.

Storm water overflow, tides, uprooted trees, groundwater seepage, and human activities have all played a part in the erosion of the cliffs, says David Grigg, associate director of Campus and Community Planning in Land and Building Services.

Grigg's office, in collaboration with the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD), has been working since last summer to find ways to minimize the erosion of the cliffs which border the foreshore of Pacific Spirit Regional Park on the north end of campus.

UBC areas in danger of sustaining damage from greater erosion are those immediately surrounding Cecil Green Park, the Museum of Anthropology and Norman MacKenzie House.

A committee addressing the issue prepared a draft discussion document which has been approved by UBC's Board of Governors, the GVRD Board of Directors and the Musqueam Band Council.

The document outlined the considerations that must be addressed in working out a long-term solution.

Some of those considerations include concerns about vegetation, habitat and wildlife, viewscapes, storm sewer infrastructure, earthquake preparation, and native rights of the Musqueam Band to the area.

"Of particular concern is the storm water infrastructure constructed to dissipate all the north campus drainage to the ocean off Wreck Beach through a vertical spiral drain," says Grigg.

The committee included representatives from GVRD Regional Parks, the Musqueam First Nation, the Pacific Spirit Park Society, the Fraser River Coalition, the UBC Alma Mater Society, the University Endowment Land Ratepayers' Association, the Vancouver Natural History Society, and the Wreck Beach Preservation Society.

In late October and early November, two open house sessions were held on- and off-campus to hear public and expert opinions on the matter.

"This was the first step, to get out there and make sure that we had heard all the issues," says Grigg. "Now we need to move quickly into some of the options to fix the problem."

While options are being worked out for long-term solutions, work continues on campus to minimize the erosion affecting UBC.

Grigg says extra flood drains have been placed along Cecil Green Park Drive to lessen the pressure of storm overflow on the spiral drainpipe at the end of the drive. As well, work will begin shortly to improve drainage capacity near the Chan Centre.

Another series of public consultations will occur before a final recommendation and implementation strategy is presented to UBC's Board of Governors, the GVRD Board of Directors and various stakeholders.

Grigg says they hope to have an implementation plan in place by next spring.

Bruce Mason photo

Season's Shopping

UBC's Shop in the Garden is a local favourite for people who are picking a gift for gardeners throughout the year, but right now there is something for everyone on your Christmas list. Displaying items for sale are Friends of the Garden (FOGs) Denise Fiala (left) and Kathy McClean. There are very popular fresh and artificial wreaths, small trees and baskets made by FOGs and candles and ornaments starting at under $1. The Shop is open daily from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. at 6804 Southwest Marine Dr. Free parking is available.

Televised surgery places students on cutting edge

Surgical teaching in UBC's Faculty of Medicine will soon be using state-of-the-art electronics thanks to an innovative new facility called the Centre of Excellence for Surgical Education.

The centre will support patient care, medical education and research using electronic communications, telemedicine and computerized simulations.

"This program will be at the forefront worldwide of combining technology and education in medical services," says Karim Qayumi, associate professor of Surgery, who will be the centre's first director. "The centre will also serve as a powerful database for health care and educational research."

The new facility — to be set up in Vancouver General Hospital's Laurel Pavilion — will give medical students, nurses, residents and practicing surgeons a chance to observe surgical operations in a classroom setting via a telemonitor linked to the operating room.

Students will be able to ask questions of a surgical educator who can adjust the scope of the camera through a remote control and zoom in on specific areas of the operation.

In addition, the operations will be videotaped for continued study by medical students, residents and doctors. The centre will be linked to the 80 UBC-affiliated hospitals for telelearning and continuing medical education.

"We've wanted to implement Dr. Qayumi's vision of this centre for some time but needed technology to reach a certain level to be useful and cost-effective," says Dr. Richard Finley, head of the Surgery Dept. " Now, with the support of our industry partner, it's very exciting to make the vision a reality."

Once the system is fully operational, the technology will also be used in other areas of patient care with terminals placed in regional hospitals for on-line consultations and diagnosis.

For example, a trauma patient at a ski slope in B.C.'s interior may be assessed at the local hospital by world-class specialists located in Vancouver. Distance consultation will reduce discomfort and inconvenience to the patient as well as costs of medical transportation, adds Qayumi.

Auto Suture Canada, a medical equipment company, has donated $1 million towards the centre with $500,000 supplied now and another $500,000 within the next four years.

The centre will be completed in stages with the first stage to be completed by fall 2000. The entire project will be completed within three years.

Cut waste, earn points: challenge

In a bid to raise awareness and encourage environmentally sustainable practices across campus, academic and operational units will compete to attach their names to two new student scholarships. The scholarships will be given to two students who exhibit outstanding environmental stewardship next May.

"It is a way to get faculty and staff involved in reducing energy, water and paper use on campus," says Freda Pagani, director of the Sustainability Office. "And taking part in the Eco-Challenge is a good way to promote a greater sense of community here on campus."

Pagani's office, in conjunction with the Waste Management Program and the UBC Trek Program, is issuing a challenge to all faculties, administrative and operational units across campus to top one another in their efforts to conserve energy, water, paper, reduce car commuting, and reduce waste from now to May.

Each month, faculty and staff will earn points towards the honour of attaching their unit name to one of the scholarships by initiating and practicing ways to reduce, reuse, recycle and rethink how they do business.

The Sustainability Office has selected a topic each month along with the achievements required to win points. The challenge for November and December focuses on energy.

Monthly winners will receive prizes donated by: Waste Management, the Trek Program, Food Services, the Bookstore, the Museum of Anthropology, the Botanical Garden, the Chan Centre, the Frederic Wood Theatre, University Golf Club and Gabriola Cycle and Kayak.

Faculty and staff are also being asked to contribute to the scholarships. Contributors will have their names entered in a prize draw next year.

"This is a way to return the savings realized by faculty and staff in their environmentally sustainable practices to students," says Pagani.

Pagani has provided $1,000 in seed money towards the operational units' scholarship fund while the President's Office has matched that with $1,000 towards the academic units' contribution.

"That $1,000 is from the savings that we have accumulated already from the reduction in energy use here at UBC since the Sustainability Office opened last May," says Pagani.

For details about the Eco-Challenge, visit the Sustainability Office Web site at www.sustain.ubc.ca or phone (604) 822-0473.

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- professionals working with seniors (e.g., nurses, physicians, clergy, social workers, financial advisors, lawyers)
- students in the health disciplines (the process of offering academic credit to UBC students enrolled in this program is being explored).

Classes begin in January 2000 and run every Wednesday, 9 am-4 pm, through to June 2000 (150 hours total). Fee: $2225.

For information, call (604) 482-8588

www.cstudies.ubc.ca/aging

Calendar

November 28 through December 11

Sunday, Nov. 28

Art Exhibit
Unity Through Art: A Painting Exhibition To Commemorate The Fiftieth Anniversary Of Philippines-Canada Diplomatic Relations. Asian Centre Aud. from 10am-4pm. Continues to Dec. 2. Call 685-1619.

Green College Performing Arts Group
Medieval Song Duo. Performed by Chanterie. Green College at 8pm. Call 822-1878.

Monday, Nov. 29

Concert
UBC Percussion Ensemble. Sal Ferreras, director. Music Recital Hall at 12:30pm. Call 822-5574.

Operations And Logistics Seminar
Supplier's Pricing Policy In A Just-In-Time Environment. Christian Hofmann, U of Munich. Angus 423 from 3:30-5pm. Call 822-8505.

Member Speaker Series
TBA. Shreelatha Reddy, Computer Science. Green College Coach House at 5:30pm. Call 822-1878.

European Union Film Festival
Recent Films From The Fifteen Member States Of The European Union. Chan Centre, Royal Bank Cinema at 7pm. Continues to Dec. 2. Tickets available at door one hour before showtime. Call 822-1452.

Thematic Lecture Series – "Myths Of Nations"
Mythic Thought, Nationalist Logic: The Identity Of Modern Greece. Stathis Gourgouris, Princeton U. Green College Coach House at 7:30pm. Call 822-1452.

Tuesday, Nov. 30

Psychiatry Grand Rounds
Individual Differences In Risk For Posttraumatic Response, And Treatment Implications. Marilyn Bowman. VGH, Willow Chest Centre, 806 W. 10th Ave., TB Aud. from 8:30-10am. Refreshments. Call 875-4023.

Seminar
The Implications Of The Movement Towards Evidence Based Health Care For Complimentary And Alternative Medicine: A Sociological Perspective. Evan Willis, LaTrobe U. IRC #414 from 12noon-1pm. Call 822-4969.

Seminar
Genetic Analysis Of Seed Coat Development In Arabidopsis Thaliana. Theo Popma, MSc candidate. BioSciences 2000 from 12:30-1:30pm. Call 822-2133.

Australian Studies Seminar
Performing Opinion: The Case Of John Laws. Cate Poynton, U of Western Sydney. CK Choi 129 from 12:30-2pm. Call 822-2629.

Lectures In Modern Chemistry
Analytical, Biological, and Chemical Applications Of Fournier Transform Ion Cyclotron Resonance Mass Spectrometry. Prof. Alan G. Marshall, Florida State U. Chemistry B-250 at 1pm. Refreshments at 12:40pm. Call 822-3226.

Writing Centre
Free Grammar Workshop For First-Year Students. Buchanan B-228 from 1-2pm. Register at Ponderosa C. Call 822-9564.

Statistics Seminar
Predictions With Experts, Coding Theory, Model Selection Principles Under A Log Scoring Rule. Bertrand Clarke. Klinck 301 from 4-5:30pm. Refreshments, bring own mug. Call 822-0570.

Graduate And Faculty Christian Forum
Christian Themes In Modern Canadian Literature. Barbara Pell, Trinity Western U. Buchanan Penthouse at 4:15pm. Refreshments at 4pm. Call 822-3219.

Museum Of Anthropology
Listen, Learn, Live: World AIDS Campaign With Young People. Film screenings, artwork, theatre, discussion. MOA Theatre Gallery from 7-9:30pm. Call 822-5087.

UBC United Way Campaign
Creative Writing Party. Dakota Hotel (downtown), Fred's Tavern from 7-10pm. $5, $3 (students). Includes refreshments. Door prizes. Call 822-8929.

Wednesday, Dec. 1

Orthopedics Grand Rounds
Chief Residents' Rounds. Dr. Brian Kwon, Dr. Rob Schweigel, Dr. Yaser Metwally. VGH, Eye Care Centre Aud. at 7am. Call 875-4192.

UBC Commerce Summit Dialogue Series
Education, Skills, Training And Human Resources. Various speakers. Waterfront Centre Hotel, 900 Canada Place, McKenzie 2 from 7-9:30am. $25. To register, call 822-9860.

Centre For Research In Women's Studies Colloquium
The Pedagogy Of Trauma: Testimony, Transference And Subject-Positions. Rosanne Kennedy, Australian National U. Women's Studies lounge from 12:30-1:30pm. Call 822-9173.

Wednesday Noon Hour Concert
The Devine Wind Quintet. Music Recital Hall at 12:30pm. $3. Call 822-5574.

School of Nursing Rounds
Making Sense Of Difference: Intergroup Health Care Provision, An Institutional Ethnography. Sheryl Reimer-Kirkham, PhD candidate. UBC Hosp., Koerner Pavilion T-206 from 3-4pm. Call 822-7453.

Geography Colloquium Series
On The History Of The Department Of Geography, UBC. Lew Robinson. Geography 201 from 3:30-5pm.

Respiratory Research Seminar Series
The TGF-Beta/CTGF Pathway In Fibrotic Disorders. Dr. G. Grotendorst, U of Miami. St. Paul's Hosp. Gourlay Conference Room from 5-6pm. Call 875-5653.

Critical Issues In Global Development
Migrants On Modernity: Discourses Of Possibility And Critical Ethnographies Of Experience. Vicky Lawson, U of Washington. Green College at 8pm. Call 822-1878.

Thursday, Dec. 2

Concert
UBC Jazz Ensemble. Fred Stride, director. Music Recital Hall at 12:30pm. Call 822-5574.

Lecture
Archaeology As Evidence: The Contested Claims On Monuments In Modern India. Tapati Guha-Thakurta, Getty Museum. Lasserre 102 at 12:30pm. Call 822-2757.

Friday, Dec. 3

HCEP Rounds
Planning Youth Tobacco Reduction: Web-Based Training For Public Health Service Providers. Dr. Chris Lovato. Mather 253 from 9-10am. Parking available in B-lot. Call 822-2772.

Child/Adolescent Psychiatry and Pediatrics Conjoint Academic Rounds
Child Maltreatment: An Evidence-Based Approach To Intervention. Harriet MacMillan, McMaster U. GF Strong Aud. from 9-10am. Call 875-2307.

FISH 500 Seminar Series
Bioenergetics Of Salmon Migration And Spawning: Running On Empty. Mike Healey. Hut B-8, Ralf Yorque Room at 11:30am. Refreshments at 11am. Call 822-2731.

Concert
Christmas Music. Erika Switzer, artistic director. Main Library 502 at 12:30pm. Call 822-5574.

Chemical Engineering Weekly Seminar
Modeling Of Particle Classification In Liquid Fluidized Bed – Momentum Dispersion Model. Aihua Chen, PhD candidate. ChemEng 206 at 3:30pm. Call 822-3238.

Vancouver School Of Theology
Computer Course: Learning To Use Presentation Software (Power Point) Level Three. Rev. Gordon Laird. VST from 7-9pm. Continues to Dec. 4 from 9am-3pm. $50, $45 (team), $25 (retired). Call 822-9815.

School Of Music Gala Concert
Special Guest Soloists and Ensembles. Chan Centre at 8pm. $75 (special seating), $20 (adults), $15 (students/seniors). Tickets at Ticketmaster 280-3311 or at Chan Box Office. Call 822-5574.

Saturday, Dec. 4

University Women's Club Conference
An Era Beyond Vulnerability: Issues Related To Violence Against Women. Jenny Kwan, Minister of Women's Equality and various speakers. University Women's Club, 1489 McRae Ave. from 9:30am-4pm. Continues to Dec. 5, 9:30am-1pm. $50. Includes lunch. Call 731-4661.

Longhouse Christmas Craft Fair
First Nations And Other Crafts. First Nations Longhouse from 10am-5pm. Call 822-2115.

United Way Campaign
United Way Day At The UBC Bookstore. Enjoy Christmas shopping and special sale items. Partial proceeds donated to the United Way. Bookstore from 11am-5pm. Call 822-8929.

Monday, Dec. 6

Burroughs Wellcome Lecture In The Basic Medical Sciences
Protein Dynamics From Vibrational Spectroscopy: The Case Of Hemoglobin. Prof. Thomas G. Spiro, Princeton U. IRC #4 from 3:45-4:45pm. Refreshments. Call 822-3719.

Tuesday, Dec. 7

Christmas Luncheon
Faculty Women's Club. Cecil Green Park at 12noon. Call 822-0434.

Exhibition
An Exhibition Of Chinese Paintings By Queenie Li. Asian Centre Aud. from 12noon-5pm. Continues to Dec. 12. Call 822-0810.

Equality/ Security/ Community Colloquium
Explaining Differences In Wage Patterns Between The United States And Germany. David Green and Paul Beaudry, Economics. Green College at 4pm. Call 822-1878.

Thematic Lecture Series – "Nature, Culture and Colonialism"
Orientalism And The Cultural Politics Of Nature. Derek Gregory, Geography. Green College at 7:30pm. Call 822-1878.

Wednesday, Dec. 8

Orthopedics Grand Rounds
Anterior Column Support In The Spine Reconstruction. Dr. Charles Fisher. VGH, Eye Care Centre Aud. at 7am. Call 875-4192.

OBST 506 Seminar
Is Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection Associated With Risk Of Genetic Disease? Dr. Sai Ma. B.C.'s Women's Hosp. 2N35 from 2-3pm. Call 875-3108.

Institute Of Asian Research Seminar
Globalization And The Transformation Of Asian Societies: Gender Dimensions Of Modernity And Globalization In Southeast Asia. Asst. Prof. Leonora Angeles. CK Choi 120 from 4:30-6pm. Call 822-2629.

Respiratory Research Seminar Series
The Use Of Inhaled Corticosteroids In Acute Asthma. Dr. M. Fitzgerald. St. Paul's Hosp. Gourlay Conference Room from 5-6pm. Call 875-5653.

Thursday, Dec. 9

Equity Office Workshop
Duty To Accommodate: A Matter Of Human Rights. Training workshop for Deans, Heads, directors and others with supervisory responsibility. Janet Mee, director, UBC Disability Resource Centre; Susan O'Donnell, B.C. Human Rights Coalition. OAB Board and Senate Room from 9:30am-12:30pm. Call 822-6353.

Friday, Dec. 10

HCEP Rounds
Occupational Health For Healthcare Workers: Challenges And Opportunities. Dr. Annaliee Yassi, U of Manitoba. Mather 253 from 9-10am. Parking available in B-lot. Call 822-2772.

Pediatric Grand Rounds
TBA. Dr. Tim Oberlander, Developmental Pediatrics. GF Strong Aud. from 9-10am. Call 875-2307.

Saturday, Dec. 11

Opera
Hansel Und Gretel: Opera In Three Acts. UBC Opera Ensemble with the Vancouver Philharmonic Orchestra. Nancy Hermiston, director and Richard Epp, conductor. Chan Centre at 8pm. $18 (adults), $10 (students/seniors). Call 822-5574.

Notices

UBC Food Services Christmas Hours
Christmas Exam hours are effective Dec. 3rd. For hours of operation for all locations, visit www.foodserv.ubc.ca or call UBC-FOOD (822-3663).

Christmas At The Shop In The Garden
Holiday Wreaths Made By Friends Of The Garden. Decorative giftware, books, garden accessories, and tools. UBC Botanical Garden Shop daily from 10am-5pm. Continues through December. Call 822-4529.

UBC Zen Society
Zazen (sitting meditation) each Monday (except holidays) from 1:30-2:20pm while classes in session. Asian Centre Tea Gallery. All are welcome. Call 822-2573.

UBC Birding
Join a one-hour birding walk around UBC Campus, every Thursday at 12:30pm. Meet at the Rose Garden flagpole. Bring binoculars if you have them. For details, call Jeremy Gordon 822-8966.

UBC REPORTS

CALENDAR POLICY AND DEADLINES

The *UBC Reports* Calendar lists university-related or university-sponsored events on campus and off campus within the Lower Mainland.

Calendar items must be submitted on forms available from the UBC Public Affairs Office, 310–6251 Cecil Green Park Road, Vancouver B.C., V6T 1Z1. Phone: UBC-INFO (822-4636). Fax: 822-2684. An electronic form is available at http://www.publicaffairs.ubc.ca. Please limit to 35 words. Submissions for the Calendar's Notices section may be limited due to space.

Deadline for the Dec. 9 issue of *UBC Reports* — which covers the period Dec. 12 to Jan. 15 — is noon, Nov. 30.

News Digest

UBC's Institute for European Studies (IES) and Pacific Cinémathèque have again joined forces to bring the European Union Film Festival to Vancouver. The festival features one entry chosen by each of the 15 member states.

Screenings are $4 for a double bill at 7 p.m. tonight and Nov. 29-Dec. 2 at the Royal Bank Cinema in the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts.

For the schedule and film descriptions, visit the Web site at www.ies.ubc.ca/events/film/ or call (604) 822-1452.

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UBC's Millennium Solutions Committee has produced a summary of information on the university's readiness to deal with millennium bug issues.

"Year 2000: An Overview of UBC Preparedness," compiled with the support and assistance of ITServices, is available as a brochure and at www.msc.ubc.ca.

The guide includes preparedness information and contacts for key areas such as emergency support, utilities, security and financial services. Also included is a list of government Web sites offering Y2K information to the public and tips for personal preparedness if there is a service disruption in your home or community.

To receive a copy of the brochure or for more information contact Nadine Hofmann, UBC's Y2K project co-ordinator at nadine.hofmann@ubc.ca.

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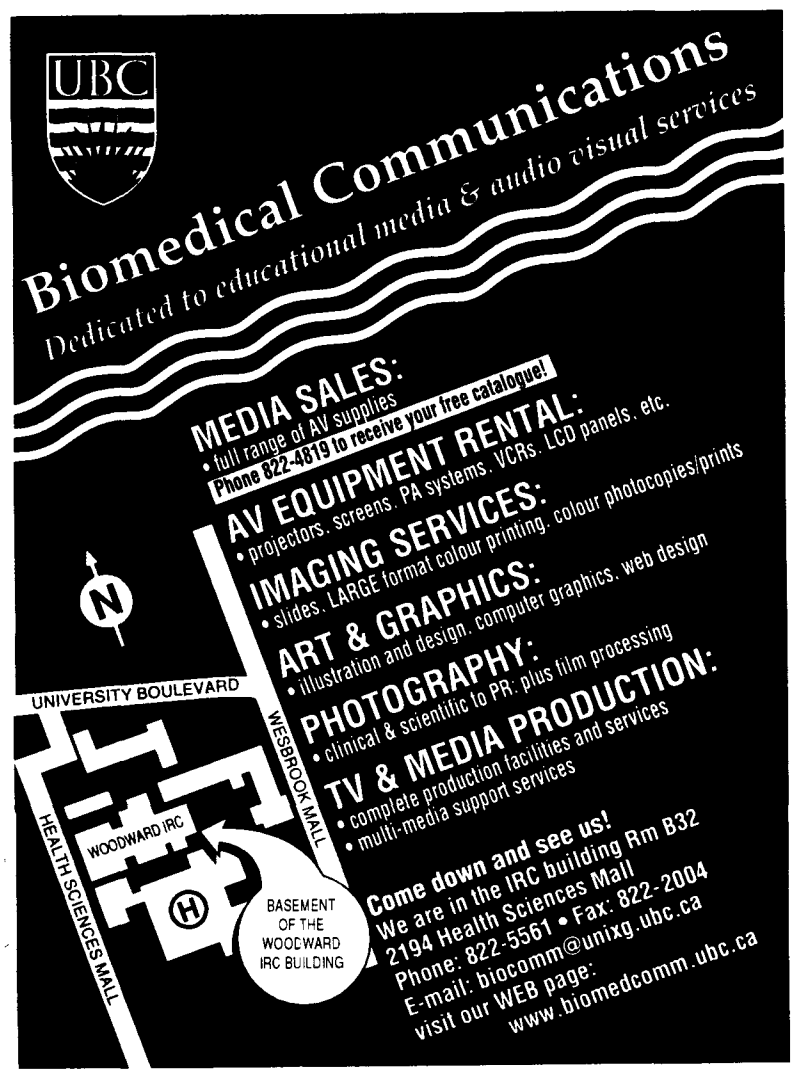
UBC has earned two of three 1999 Innovative Programming Awards of the North American University Continuing Education Association (UCEA, Western Region).

The UBC Certificate in Internet Marketing and the UBC Studies in Design/Build were singled out for original concepts and approaches to education.

Launched in September 1997, the Certificate in Internet Marketing is designed to help professionals use the Internet to expand marketing communications, manage electronic commerce transactions and provide new and innovative products and services.

Design/Build, a course in the graduate architectural program, has also won the 1999 Exemplary Credit Program Award from the Western Association of Summer Session Administrators (WASSA) in Canada and the U.S.

Students design and construct a residential house for use by the Hornby Island Elders' Society during the three-month course. The house is part of the society's plan to construct a cluster of dwellings that will enable the island's elderly to "age in place." Four homes have now been completed through the UBC program.



Classified

The classified advertising rate is $16.50 for 35 words or less. Each additional word is 50 cents. Rate includes GST. Ads must be submitted in writing 10 days before publication date to the UBC Public Affairs Office, 310 – 6251 Cecil Green Park Road, Vancouver B.C., V6T 1Z1, accompanied by payment in cash, cheque (made out to *UBC Reports*) or journal voucher. Advertising enquiries: UBC-INFO (822-4636).

The deadline for the Dec. 9 issue of *UBC Reports* is noon, Nov. 30.

Accommodation

POINT GREY GUEST HOUSE A perfect spot to reserve accommodation for guest lecturers or other university members who visit throughout the year. Close to UBC and other Vancouver attractions, a tasteful representation of our city and of UBC. 4103 W. 10th Ave., Vancouver, BC, V6R 2H2. Call or fax 222-4104.

TINA'S GUEST HOUSE Elegant accommodation in Point Grey area. Min. to UBC. On main bus routes. Close to shops and restaurants. Includes TV, tea and coffee making, private phone/fridge. Weekly rates available. Call 222-3461. Fax: 222-9279.

GREEN COLLEGE GUEST HOUSE Five suites available for academic visitors to UBC only. Guests dine with residents and enjoy college life. Daily rate $56 plus $14/day for meals Sun-Thurs. Call 822-8660 for more information and availability.

GAGE COURT SUITES Spacious one BR guest suites with equipped kitchen, TV and telephone. Centrally located near SUB, aquatic centre and transit. Ideal for visiting lecturers, colleagues and families. 1999 rates $85-$121 per night. Call 822-1010.

PENNY FARTHING INN 2855 West 6th. Heritage house, antiques, wood floors, original stained glass. 10 min. to UBC and downtown. Two blocks from restaurants, buses. Scrumptious full breakfasts. Entertaining cats. Views. Phones in rooms. E-mail: farthing@uniserve.com or call 739-9002.

B & B BY LOCARNO BEACH Walk to UBC along the ocean. Quiet exclusive neighborhood. Near buses and restaurants. Comfortable rooms with TV and private bath. Full breakfast. Reasonable rates. Non-smokers only please. Call 341-4975.

CAMILLA HOUSE Bed and Breakfast. Best accommodation on main bus routes. Includes television, private phone and bathroom. Weekly reduced rates. Call 737-2687. Fax 737-2586.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE GUEST Rooms. Private rooms, located on campus, available for visitors attending UBC on academic business. Private bathroom, double beds, telephone, television, fridge, and meals five days per week. Competitive rates. Call for information and availability 822-8788.

PETER WALL INSTITUTE University Centre. Residence offering superior hotel or kitchenette style rooms and suites. All rooms have private bathroom, queen bed, voice mail, cable T.V. and Internet linked PC. Beautiful view of sea and mountains. For rates and reservations, call 822-0430.

THOMAS GUEST HOUSE 2395 W. 18th Ave. Visitors and students of UBC are most welcome. 15 min. to UBC or downtown by bus. Close to restaurants and shops. Daily rates from $50 to $100. Please call and check it out at 737-2687.

Accommodation

CHARMING, BRIGHT, FURNISHED, LOFT BR chalet/apartment overlooking garden. Prime South Granville location. Private Entrance, parking, or direct UBC bus. $650/mo., utilities and cable included. No smokers or pets please. Call 261-7153.

HERITAGE HOUSE New, bright basement furnished suite in Kerrisdale heritage house available for rent. Light cooking & private entrance for visiting faculty/students or visitors. 1 bedroom, TV, quiet street close to bus on 48th. Available until summer 2000, possibly longer. $600/month incl. utilities. Call 263-4376.

DUNBAR HOME 2 BR fully furnished professor's house in Dunbar/Blenheim area. Available Jan. 11-March 8/2000. $1200/mo incl. utilities (except phone). Ideal for visiting professor/faculty. Call Zarina at 261-5407 (evenings).

KERRISDALE 1 BR bright, beautifully furnished garden suite in heritage home for 1 person. Fully furnished, 700 sq ft; $750/mo includes all util and cable. Close to shops and UBC bus. N/S, N/P. Prefer female; avail Dec. 15. Call 261-6708.

SABBATICAL Mayne Island, unique chalet, furnished, modern, walking distance to ferry, 3 bedroom/2 bathroom, w/w carpet, satellite TV, fireplace, rumpus room, lease, references, $750/mth, view by appt. or see portfolio. Call (604) 272-4930.

BRIGHT FABULOUS FURNISHED 1 BR apartment. View of mountains. Centrally located in West End, near Burrard St., aquatic center, buses, restaurants. $1850/mo. Incl. utilities, N/S, N/P. Ideal for visiting professor. Call (604) 649-2817; E-mail pbourbea@direct.ca.

Please recycle

Accommodation

PARIS FURNISHED STUDIO. Close to TGB, steps from transp. & shopping. Sunny, south exposure. Separate kitchen, 4-piece bath, UG parking, generous closet space. Phone/answ.,TV-video-stereo. Oct.00/June 01. $990/month (all inc). (604) 732-9016, or cpfb@interchange.ubc.ca.

DUNBAR Quiet 1 BR garden suite across from park and community centre. Well furnished includes kitchen equipment and linen. Immaculate condition. Private entry, f/p, d/w, FAX/TV/VCR, cable, carport, cleaning twice/month. Close to UBC & amenities, N/S, N/P, references. $1000/mo incl. utilities. Available Jan. 1, 2000. Call 222-1778.

House Sitter

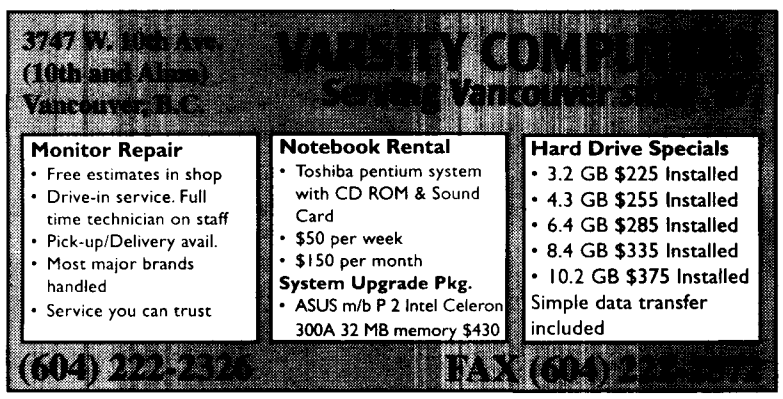
HOUSE SITTERS AVAILABLE Professional couple with impeccable references seeks *home in Vancouver's West Side* (house-sit/swap/rent) for 1-2 years from 2000. We are clean, quiet, non-smoking Victoria home-owners who have also been long-term renters overseas. (250) 475-2775.

Services

TRAVEL-TEACH ENGLISH 5 day/40 hr. March 22-26. TESOL teacher certification course (or by correspondence). 1,000s of jobs available NOW. FREE information package, toll free (888) 270-2941 or (403) 438-5704.

RETIRING in the next three years? As a specialist who has assisted many UBC faculty and staff members through the retirement process I can help sort out the options and provide you with free retirement projections. Call for a complimentary meeting at my office or yours! Don Proteau, B.Comm. CFP, RFP. E-mail: dproteau@hlp.fpc.ca or call 687-7526.

Next deadline:
noon, Nov. 30



Alan Donald, Ph.D.
Biostatistical Consultant

Medicine, dentistry, biosciences, aquaculture

101-5805 Balsam Street, Vancouver, V6M 4B9

264 -9918 donald@portal.ca

Bookstore gives part of proceeds to United Way

Thinking of buying books for holiday gifts?

If you do your shopping on Saturday, Dec. 4 at the UBC Bookstore, you can pick up some great presents and contribute to UBC's United Way campaign at the same time.

The first United Way Day at the Bookstore sees both a $300 donation plus an additional donation of a portion of Dec. 4 sales revenues going to UBC's United Way campaign.

"We're hoping this event helps to boost the campaign to its goal," says Vickie McLeod, marketing co-ordinator at the Bookstore. "If we get United Way donors and holiday shoppers both in the store that day, we should be able to make a significant contribution."

McLeod also hopes the event will encourage people to do more shopping at the Bookstore on Saturdays. In addition to literature, the Bookstore also sells clothing, quality pens and desk accessories, compact discs, journals, prints and gifts such as candleholders, scented soaps and decorative boxes. Holiday shoppers can also buy gift-wrap, ribbon and cards.

"The UBC community has been very generous," says Eilis Courtney, chair of this year's UBC campaign. "But it's important to remember that the campaign is not over — donations are being accepted until Dec. 31. If people are doing holiday gift-buying anyway, shopping at the Bookstore is great way to support the campaign while you're at it."

The campaign has raised $235,718 so far.

Courtney reminds donors that the grand prize draw for two Canadian Airlines tickets to any of the carrier's destinations worldwide will be made on Dec. 10. Raffle tickets are available for $5 at the War Memorial Gym equipment dispensary or at UBC's United Way campaign office in the Ceremonies and Events Office.

For more information on the United Way campaign, call (604) 822-8929 or visit the Web site at www.unitedway.ubc.ca.

United Way

BURROUGHS WELLCOME FUND

Protein Dynamics from Vibrational Spectroscopy: The Case of Hemoglobin

Professor Thomas G. Spiro
Wellcome Visiting Professor in the Basic Medical Sciences
Department of Chemistry
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

Monday, December 6, 1999
Woodward IRC Room at 3:45 p.m.

UBC BOOKSTORE

Drop by the most unique store in town -- UBC Bookstore
We have Bright Ideas for everyone on your gift list!

Bright Ideas

ON NOW UNTIL DECEMBER 24, 1999 (OR WHILE QUANTITIES LAST)

Save 20% on Selected Books
(Food, Hobbies, Children's Books, Gardening, Games, Sports and Fitness, Health, Parenting, Humour and Atlases)
A huge selection of sale books, too!

In a Hurry?
See the Bright Idea Gift Centre in our front lobby, for unique gift ideas.

More Bright Ideas
Check out the whole store including Computer Shop, Stationery, Art/Design, Electronics, Sportswear and Gifts/Souvenirs.

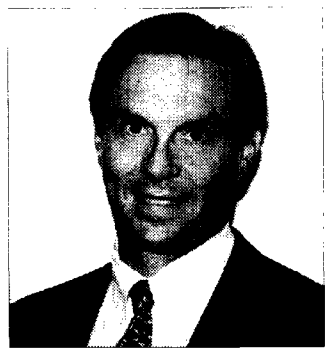
Gift Certificates
Can't decide? UBC Bookstore Gift Certificates are available at our front cashiers. Good for anything - including texts!

United Way Day at UBC Bookstore
The UBC Bookstore is proud to support the UBC Campus United Way Campaign by donating a portion of our sales on Saturday, December 4, 1999. Our hours on December 4 are from 11 AM to 5 PM.

UBC Bookstore, 6200 University Blvd., Vancouver, B.C. 822-2665 www.bookstore.ubc.ca
Weekdays 9:30 AM - 5 PM Saturday 11 AM - 5 PM
Discounts will be taken at the registers. Prices in effect until December 24, 1999 or while quantities last.

People

by staff writers



Fleming

Dr. **Bruce Fleming** has been named associate dean, Student Affairs, in the Faculty of Medicine.

A UBC graduate, Fleming is a specialist in emergency medicine and instructs both the trauma and cardiac life support programs.

A contributor to the core curriculum material for undergraduate medical students, Fleming was awarded the honour of outstanding teacher by the residents in Emergency Medicine in 1996 and by the fourth-year medical class at UBC in 1999.

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Statistics Prof. **Nancy Heckman** has been elected a member of the International Statistical Institute (ISI). Prof. Heckman was elected to the ISI in recognition of her contributions to the theory of function estimation.

Established in 1885, ISI is a Netherlands-based international scientific association that seeks to develop and improve statistical methods and their application through the promotion of international activity and co-operation.

• • • • •

Dr. **Robert Brunham** has been appointed director of the University of British Columbia Centre for Disease Control (UBC-CDC) and professor in the Dept. of Medicine in the Faculty of Medicine.

A UBC graduate, Brunham is also named the medical director of the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control Society. His own research focuses on sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV with the goal of developing vaccines.

The UBC-CDC is the newest of the Faculty of Medicine's eight research centres of excellence and was opened in 1997.

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UBC's women's field hockey team has won its second consecutive CIAU championship, defeating the University of Victoria Vikes, 1-0. The national championship is the team's seventh, number 44 for UBC.

The team is coached by **Hash Kanjee**.

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Under the direction of Electrical Engineering Prof. **Guy Dumont**, the collaborative efforts of the Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering, the Pulp and Paper Centre, and Universal Dynamics Ltd., have been recognized with a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) Synergy '99 Award.

The award was given for the development and commercialization of BrainWave, an adaptive controller that can be used in process industries including pulp and paper and food processing.

The award, co-sponsored by NSERC and The Conference Board of Canada, recognizes examples of university-industry collaboration that stand as a model of effective partnerships.

2000 THE ASI EXCHANGE

March 14, 2000
Robson Square
Conference Centre
Vancouver, BC

Come for an hour ... come for the day

The ASI Exchange is the one day event for BC's high technology community. Over 1,700 participants will be there to discover BC's leading edge technology, view 200 industry and university displays, attend seminars, generate ideas, contracts and research collaborations.

Who is going to be there?
- faculty
- graduate students
- undergraduate students
- high tech companies
- support organizations
- investors

How much does it cost?
- Free admission
- Free poster & display space
- Free seminar opportunities
- Free submission in the Academic Research Directory

To find out how you can participate, get registered and be included in the Academic Research Directory, visit ASI's website:

www.asi.bc.ca/asi/exchange

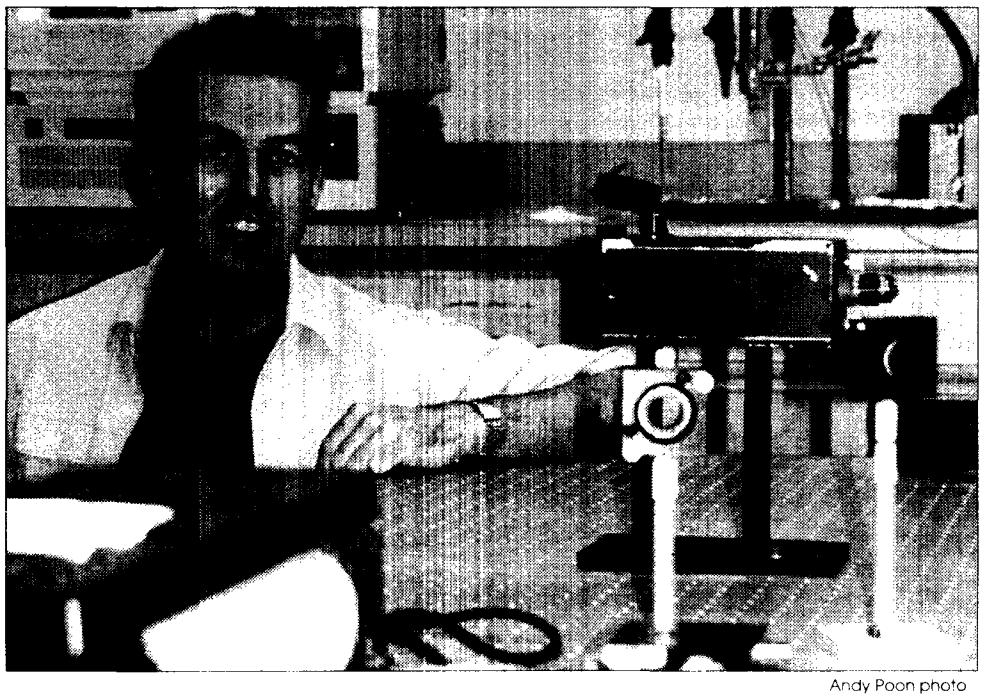
or contact the following for an event information package:

Lisa Welbourn - ASI
(604) 689-0551
lisa@asi.bc.ca

Gale Ross - CICSR
(604) 822-6894
ross@cicsr.ubc.ca

Rainforests hold answers for graduates

Students turn over new leaf with Fall Congregation



Andy Poon photo

"Science is not wholly a rational thing," says Philip Britz-McKibbin. The Chemistry doctoral graduate, who credits yoga and meditation for helping in his approach to research, heads to South America to travel and then may return to academia to pursue a love of teaching.

Travel puts pH in PhD for Chemistry graduate

by Andy Poon

Staff writer

After nine straight years of post-secondary education, PhD student Philip Britz-McKibbin will mark the end of his academic journey at this month's Fall Congregation and embark on a journey of a different sort — through the wilds of South America.

"I plan on spending the millennium in the Amazon," laughs the affable 27-year-old chemistry researcher.

With no definite plans as to what he will do once he arrives in South America next month or even where he may stay except for a vague reference to "distant family in Brazil," Britz-McKibbin sees the trip as his own version of a "practical post-doctorate program."

"In some ways it is kind of hard to step out from academia and all the expectations that once you get your doctorate you should go on to a post-doc or into industry," he says. "But it's necessary that I take a break and reflect on what I want to do with my life."

In many ways Britz-McKibbin's upcoming adventure should come as no surprise to those who know him well. The young man who recently completed his thesis on "Designing separation systems in capillary electrophoresis based on fundamental physiochemical properties of analytes," is the same individual who lists among his interests languages, world music, mythology, poetry, philosophy, martial arts, sunrises and sunsets.

"There is a lot to life," says Britz-McKibbin, who has always tried to maintain a balance between the classroom and the world outside. "There are other ways to learn besides school and travelling allows you to see life as it really is in the world."

Already fluent in French and proficient in German and Spanish, he is currently brushing up on his Portuguese for the trip. And although he's unsure what he will do on his sojourn south, Britz-McKibbin knows that he will return to the world of academia at some point.

"I love to teach," he says, admitting that he will likely return to teach at either the university or college level. And that passion for teaching manifests itself beyond the classroom and chemistry lab — he instructs a yoga class twice weekly for graduate students at UBC.

Britz-McKibbin says he got into yoga and meditation as an undergraduate student at the University of Toronto and immediately embraced the philosophy of searching for "self-understanding through contemplation." Not only does it provide balance in his busy life but he firmly believes that it has also helped in his approach to research.

"I like the discovery process and being open to unusual phenomena and being humble enough to know you don't know everything," he says. "Science is not wholly a rational thing."

His UBC doctoral research supervisor can vouch for his creativity.

"He is very creative in designing experiments," says Chemistry Assoc. Prof. David Chen. "Philip has the ability to relate the different things he does and put them together and make sense of them."

Chen relates how he and Britz-McKibbin were able to change focus during the course of their research from studying how molecules migrate to actually being able to control their migration through electric charges. Their research has applications in biomedical research, and environmental and pharmaceutical analyses.

For Britz-McKibbin, who was attracted to UBC because of its strong reputation for research, Chen's encouragement and support throughout the past five years has been invaluable.

"Working with David has been great," he says. "He gave me a lot of freedom to explore and really encouraged me to write and attend conferences and symposiums."

Coast forests' role in world climate studied

by Bruce Mason

Staff writer

Elyn Humphreys looks forward to climbing a 45-metre tower above the tree canopy of a mature second-growth Douglas fir forest near Campbell River, B.C.

There she carefully analyses the measurements of a three-dimensional sonic anemometer, infrared gas analyser and other meteorological instruments. No, she doesn't have her head in the clouds and this is no ivory tower.

Humphreys, who graduates this month with a master's degree in Agricultural Sciences, is making important discoveries about the role forest ecosystems play in the global water and carbon balances.

"It's the first time that the forest-atmosphere exchange of important greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and water vapour has been measured year-round and modeled for a temperate rainforest," she says.

"We are learning that our highly productive West Coast forests which thrive in long growing seasons and mild wet winters have important implications for global climate models," she adds.

As a member of UBC's Biometeorology and Soil Physics Group, Humphreys is trying to understand the limiting factors and driving forces behind water vapour fluxes above and within temperate forests in order to determine the impact of climate change on forest growth and water use.

Recent El Niño and La Niña events have shown just how variable weather around the world can be from one year to the next. In response, the seasonal and annual carbon uptake and water use by forests can vary dramatically.

The research team is studying the effects of soil, plant and atmospheric factors on photosynthesis and respiration of forests, which also include mature aspen, jack pine and black spruce forests in northern Saskatchewan.

Humphreys grew up in her native Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., with a love of botany and math. She combined these at the University of Guelph where she earned a Bachelor of Science in plant biology in 1997. Her supervisor at a summer job had studied with Andy Black, a professor of Soil Science at UBC. Intrigued by his work she contacted the university and packed her bags.

"She has become a key member of our research team," says Black, whose work is focused on measuring the amount of carbon dioxide being consumed by Canadian forests.

"These measurements are essential to determine how much of the carbon dioxide released by the burning of fossil fuels is taken up by our forests," he adds. "In fact, we know that only about half of the carbon dioxide released by human activities remains in the atmosphere while the fate of the remainder is still essentially unknown."

The UBC carbon dioxide and water vapour monitoring sites are part of an international network of approximately 80 sites called FluxNet, which aims to answer these questions.

Bruce Mason photo

Agricultural Sciences graduate Elyn Humphreys is a key member of a research team studying how much forests contribute to the exchange of greenhouse gases in the world's atmosphere.

Past honourees featured on Web page

Have you ever wondered who has received honorary degrees from UBC and why? The answer is only as far away as your nearest Internet connection.

A joint project undertaken by the Ceremonies Office and the University Archives has produced a new historical resource available as part of the Archives' homepage. The "Honorary Degrees" section found at www.library.ubc.ca/spcoll/ubc_arch/hondegre.html provides both a complete listing of recipients dating back to the inception of the practice in 1925 as well as the citation explaining the reasons for the honour.

"Because the university takes very seriously the awarding of honorary degrees we felt it important to find a way to disseminate this important source of information," says university archivist Chris Hives.

This project is part of a larger initiative that has seen the archives turn increasingly to the Internet to promote UBC's institutional history and memory by providing users with historical reference information, digitized photographs, detailed inventories to archival holdings and virtual displays.

"The Internet has become an invaluable tool in helping us to promote a greater understanding and awareness of the historical evolution of the university," says Hives.