

Job prospects better if you have UBC degree

Getting a university degree substantially increases your chances of getting a job.

That's the message that comes through loud and clear in a 128-page



STANLEY WESTON

Graduate named to UBC Board

The provincial government has appointed UBC graduate Stanley Weston, an internationally recognized authority on land reclamation and erosion control, to UBC's Board of Governors for a three-year term of office.

He succeeds Sadie Boyles, professor emerita of Education at UBC, who has been a Board member since 1975. When UBC's 15-member Board was reconstituted last year through elections and provincial government appointments, Miss Boyles was asked to continue as a member until a new appointment was made.

Mr. Weston, who is president of Western Agricultural Consultants Ltd., of Vancouver, graduated from UBC in 1939 with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Agriculture.

As a student he was associated with one of UBC's early success stories. He worked on the test plots initiated by a group of UBC agriculture professors which led to the development of a variety of alfalfa rhizoma, which is now the premier animal-forage crop in North America and the largest acreage crop in B.C. Mr. Weston has incorporated the plant into his work on land reclamation.

Following graduation from UBC, Mr. Weston went to Malaya as an advisory officer to a fertilizer firm to act as a consultant on the production of rubber and agricultural crops. He joined the Malayan Volunteer Forces in 1940 when war broke out in the Far East. He was a prisoner of war of the Japanese from 1941 until 1945, when he returned to Vancouver.

Throughout the 1950s and most of the 1960s Mr. Weston operated a large farm in the Peace River area of B.C., where he grew seed of grasses, legumes and grain and oil seed crops.

In 1958 he was awarded the world championship for forage crop seeds at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto.

Mr. Weston has served as a consultant to a number of North American mining companies on land reclamation projects and has also undertaken assignments abroad on food production under the Colombo Plan and for the UN Food and Agricultural Organization and the Canadian International Development Agency.

study by UBC's Office of Student Services, which surveyed the post-graduation activities of the bulk of UBC's 1978 graduating class.

The survey of graduates from 20 UBC degree programs shows that only 4.9 per cent were unemployed when the study was carried out between October, 1978, and January, 1979.

And UBC's 1978 graduating class were more successful in finding employment than were their 1977 counterparts. A similar UBC survey of 1977 graduates showed an unemployment rate of 5.6 per cent.

Student Services director Dick Shirran says the results of the UBC survey reinforce a federal-government study of December, 1977, which shows that the unemployment rate for university graduates in B.C. was only 3.3 per cent.

This contrasts sharply with unemployment rates cited in the same federal study for other levels of educational attainment: the unemployment rate among people with eight years or less of education was 10.2 per cent; for those with nine to 13 years of education the figure was 10.1 per cent; and for those with some post-secondary education the unemployment rate was 7.4 per cent.

"Comparing our results with those of the federal study can only lead to the conclusion that young people stand a better chance of getting a job if they get a university degree," Mr. Shirran said. "And to say that there is a great deal of unemployment among university graduates is to fly in the face of the facts."

To gather data for the 1978 study, the UBC student services office sent questionnaires to 3,370 graduates and received replies from 86 per cent or 2,897.

The respondents' replies showed that:

- 26.1 per cent continued in some form of education in graduate or professional schools, with men (28.4 per cent) showing a greater tendency to continue than did women (23.4 per cent);

- More women (67.4 per cent) were employed than men (61.9 per cent); and

- The unemployment rate among men (5.8 per cent) was higher than the rate for women (3.9 per cent).

Mr. Shirran warns that some of the data used in the study have to be interpreted with caution because the responses of the graduates were unverified and some of the activities reported were probably of a temporary nature and don't represent long-term commitments. He also pointed out that in some cases the percentages quoted are based on small numbers of people.

"For instance," he said, "we found there was a 12.8 per cent unemployment rate among architecture graduates. That amounted to only five people out of the 32 that responded to our questionnaire, who represented nearly 85 per cent of the total graduating class."

What follows is a rundown of the 20 degree programs surveyed by the Office of Student Services.

ART GRADUATES - Nearly 88 per cent of the 1978 Arts graduating class of 1978 responded to the UBC survey, which showed that 43.4 per cent continued in other forms of education. The unemployment rate among respondents was 8.5 per cent, down from 9.9 per cent in 1977.

The report notes that the numbers of students who continued their formal education in 1978 was down considerably from 1977, when nearly 54 per cent went on. The difference is almost entirely accounted for in the number who decided not to enrol in

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Picture by Jim Banham

1979 graduating class president John Knappett, Applied Science 4, wielded the shovel and UBC Chancellor J.V. Clyne stood by with the watering can at last week's tree-planting ceremony that has been an annual graduating-class tradition at UBC since 1919. The native Canadian black gum, which will grow to a height of about 60 feet, went into the ground on the boulevard on the East Mall immediately in front of the Hebb Lecture Theatre.

Senate grapples again with the literacy issue

Observers of university affairs would be hard pressed to name a topic which has had more words and ink spilled over it in the last decade than the so-called "literacy issue," which boils down to the inability of many students to demonstrate basic competence in the use of the English language.

UBC's Senate last week wrote another chapter in its continuing saga of grappling with the problem.

The one thing that was clear following the 1½-hour debate on March 21 was that there are no sure and certain yardsticks for identifying among the students seeking admission to UBC those who lack basic competence in English.

The roots of last week's debate lay in a Senate decision of April, 1976, when it ruled that remedial workshops in English composition would end in August, 1979, and that "beginning in September, 1979, admission to UBC be limited to students demonstrating

basic competence in English composition or whose work in subjects other than English is demonstrably outstanding."

Another Senate decision charged UBC's Centre for Continuing Education with the task of providing remedial work in English for those students in need of it.

The task of recommending admissions procedures that would accomplish the objective set out in April, 1976, fell to Senate's admissions committee, which is chaired by Prof. Cyril Finnegan, who often enlivens Senate meetings with his sense of humor. (Sample: In the course of last week's debate he said that over the years he had become convinced that English was a language of subtleties and only Irishmen should be licensed to use it.)

Here is the proposal by the Senate admissions committee that was re-

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Early agreement reached

The University's first contract settlement for 1979-80 gives UBC's 1,200 clerical and library workers a wage increase of 7 per cent.

Members of Local 1 of the Association of University and College Employees (AUCE) voted overwhelmingly last week to accept the increase, effective April 1. The contract will run to March 31, 1980.

AUCE president Marcel Dionne said the local now is conducting a full vote by mail to give

formal ratification. He said the informal vote in favor of accepting the 7 per cent was almost unanimous by the 500 union members at last week's meeting.

Bob Grant, UBC's director of employee relations, said he would recommend ratification of the new contract to the University's Board of Governors.

Grant paid tribute to negotiators for both sides, saying agreement had been reached prior to the March 31 expiry date of the current contract because of the hard work of all concerned.

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jected last week by Senate: "That beginning in September, 1980, applicants from Grade 12, B.C., be admitted only if their standing in English 12 is C+ or better, except that those with a grade point average on the ten-course calculation of at least 3.0 (B) be admitted if their English 12 standing is C or better, and those with a 3.5 (B+) average be admitted if their English 12 is P (Pass) or better."

(UBC, to determine the grade point average of a prospective student, converts high school letter grades to a number system, such that an A receives four points, a B three points, a C + 2.5 points, a C two points and a Pass one point, for a maximum of 40 points for the 10 subjects most relevant to the student's proposed course of studies at UBC. General entrance requirement for UBC is a 2.5 (C+) grade point average. However, a bare pass (one point) in English could be offset by an A (four points) in another subject.)

Even the admissions committee was dissatisfied with the proposal it placed before Senate on March 21. The best they would say for it was that it was a "step in the right direction," while at the same time admitting that it had "failed to find a satisfactory resolution of the problem of identifying applicants relative to their capacity to demonstrate basic competence in English composition."

In introducing the proposal, Prof. Finnegan said the committee had examined the problem posed by the April, 1976, Senate motion "in every possible way," only to find that there were only two criteria that can be used for admission purposes — the student's grade 12 standing in English and the overall standing obtained in secondary school.

He said the committee would have preferred a third predictive instrument, which existed in the results of the annual English Placement Test administered by the provincial Ministry of Education.

However, the ministry, he said, was adamant in the view that it could not allow the placement test results to be used as the basis for determining admission to post-secondary institutions.

He added that the ministry had not responded to several other suggestions by the admissions committee, including a proposal that the ministry design a province-wide composition test for students planning to enter university.

He said the committee had also rejected for several reasons a suggestion that College Entrance Exams be introduced in B.C., adding that the ministry had no objection to these as long as a complete battery was employed.

If the admission formula proposed by the committee had been applied to the 1977-78 academic year, Prof. Finnegan said, UBC would have rejected 247 students or nine per cent of those seeking admission, and if applied in the current year, UBC would have rejected 215 applicants or eight per cent of those seeking admission from grade 12.

Later in the debate, Rev. P.C. Burns, the principal of St. Mark's College and a member of the Senate committee on standards in English, said that 101, or 47 per cent, of those who would have been rejected in 1977 actually passed English 100 in April of 1978. UBC's president and Senate chairman Dr. Douglas Kenny pointed out, however, that many of those who did pass were probably members in the remedial courses operated by the English department.

Rev. Burns described the formula proposed by the admissions committee as a "blunt one," and suggested that the English department had data based on past experience that would enable the determination of an appropriate cut-off mark.

Prof. John Dennison of the education faculty said he felt the proposal by the admissions committee was premature and would lead to grade inflation in the high schools by teachers who wanted to give students the opportunity of attending university.

Dr. Dante Lupini, the superintendent of schools for Vancouver who sits on Senate as a representative appointed by the provincial government, pointed out that decisions on admission to UBC have a tremendous influence on the secondary schools. The new UBC entrance requirements had already resulted in a significant shift in course enrolments, he said, and it was important for Senate to know there was some pressure on students to make life decisions as early as grade eight.

He added that more than a third of Vancouver's students come from homes where English is a second language and in some schools 60 to 70 per cent of the students are in this category.

The dilemma that faced Senate once it had narrowly rejected the admission committee's proposal by a 24-30 vote was: "Where do we go from here?"

A suggestion that the committee think the problem through again was not received with open arms by Prof. Finnegan, who felt Senate should consider establishing another committee to grapple with it.

He was supported by student senator Eric Warren who said the committee would come back with the same recommendation if asked to consider the problem again. "If you want a different solution," he said, "you'll have to set a different set of parameters and a different problem."

President Douglas Kenny, Senate chairman, resolved the impasse for the moment by suggesting that the problem be left with him until the next Senate meeting, scheduled for April 18.

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the Faculty of Education for teacher training.

Mr. Shirran said Arts graduates probably feel there are fewer teaching jobs available, "which isn't necessarily true. A lot depends on the student's major and his or her willingness to go anywhere in the province to teach." (See section on Education below for more details.)

COMMERCE GRADUATES - The unemployment rate among the 1978 Commerce graduating class was 5.8 per cent, up slightly from 1977, when 4 per cent were unemployed.

All 14 students who graduated in 1978 with the Licentiate in Accounting degree offered in Commerce found employment.

APPLIED SCIENCE GRADUATES - The 1978 unemployment rate for engineers of 7.7 per cent was down from 9.8 per cent in 1977. Electrical engineering graduates had the highest unemployment rate in 1978 — 14 per cent — but this represented only seven students out of 50 who sought employment.

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE STUDENTS - Nearly 95 per cent of the 79-member graduating class in agriculture responded to the UBC survey. Nearly 18 per cent of the class continued their education and 62 per cent found work. The unemployment rate of 10.1 per cent, which amounted to only eight students, showed agriculture as one of the few areas surveyed which had an unemployment problem.

MUSIC GRADUATES - Thirty-seven of the 45-member graduating class in music replied to the UBC survey. More than 70 per cent entered graduate school or undertook professional programs and 20 per cent obtained employment. None was unemployed.

LAW GRADUATES - The perennial concern that Law graduates have trouble finding articles "appears to have no foundation in fact," the report found.

Just over 90 per cent of the 218-member Law class responded to the survey, which showed that no graduate was unemployed. A total of 190 graduates found articles. Those who did not enter professional school, travelled or took employment other than articling.

EDUCATION GRADUATES - For a variety of reasons, UBC's 1978 graduating class in Education is the most difficult to make generalizations about.

The unemployment rate for elementary and secondary degree holders was up in 1978: 67.7 per cent of B.Ed. secondary grads who sought a full-time teaching position found one, compared to 80.9 per cent in 1977; and 60.7 per cent of the B.Ed. elementary grads who sought a full-time teaching position were employed, compared to 73.5 per cent in 1977.

However, more than half the graduates who were unable to obtain employment in teaching restricted their search to the Greater Vancouver area and were unwilling to take jobs elsewhere in the province.

In addition, many Education graduates found jobs unrelated to teaching. The report comments: "If the type of employment was not considered, the unemployment rate (among Education graduates) was low — elementary education 1.4 per cent; secondary education 2.5 per cent."

What this suggests, said Mr. Shirran, "is that a teaching degree may be good for something more than just teaching in a classroom. It appears to be an asset in finding other types of jobs."

In general, the report found, students who obtained high marks in practice teaching had a higher rate of employment as teachers and graduates with specialties in home

economics and industrial education had high employment rates.

Students who had concentrations in English, social studies, science and mathematics had the greatest difficulty in obtaining teaching positions.

FORESTRY GRADUATES - Almost 90 per cent of UBC's 49-member graduating class answered the Student Services questionnaire. The unemployment rate of 6.8 per cent represented only three students and was an advance on 1977 when 11.9 per cent of the graduating class was unemployed.

HOME ECONOMICS GRADUATES - Nearly half of the 1978 graduating class in home ec went on to graduate school or professional education. Of the remainder, 36.6 per cent were employed on a full- or part-time basis and only 1.2 per cent — one student — were unemployed.

SCIENCE GRADUATES - 57 per cent of the 1978 Science grads continued in some form of formal education and 5.7 per cent were unemployed, an improvement over 1977 when the unemployment rate was 9.5 per cent.

There has been a steady decline in recent years in the number of Science grads who seek employment after they graduate. The percentage has dropped from 51.4 per cent in 1972 to 30 per cent in 1978.

1978 graduates who had problems finding jobs were biology and zoology specialists. There was a zero unemployment rate for students graduating in computer science and microbiology.

ARCHITECTURE GRADUATES - The architecture unemployment rate of 12.8 per cent looks serious but when converted to numbers amounts only to five graduates. Twenty-three of the 33 members of the graduating class who responded to the UBC questionnaire said they'd found employment, five of them on a temporary basis.

DENTAL HYGIENE GRADUATES - All 20 graduates of the UBC program sought and obtained employment.

SOCIAL WORK GRADUATES - Just over a third of the 1978 graduating class entered graduate school and 5.5 per cent were unemployed. The unemployment rate was down noticeably from 1977, when more than 25 per cent of those who sought work were unemployed.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION GRADUATES - More than two-thirds of the graduates either entered graduate or professional schools. Only 1 per cent were unemployed, a decline from the 2.7 per cent unemployment rate of 1977.

REHABILITATION MEDICINE GRADUATES - 95 per cent of the 40-member rehab medicine class replied to the UBC questionnaire and only two of these were unemployed.

RECREATION GRADUATES - The unemployment rate for these graduates was 11.1 per cent, but represented only three students. Two-thirds of those grads who replied to the survey — 20 students — indicated they were working.

PHARMACY GRADUATES - The unemployment rate among pharmacy grads in 1978 was 6.2 per cent, an advance on 1977 when 7.5 per cent couldn't find a job. However, the 1978 unemployment rate represented only five students among those who responded to the UBC survey.

FINE ARTS GRADUATES - Not a single member of the 1978 graduating class in fine arts was unemployed. The 13 graduates either entered professional school (2), travelled (2), found work (7), or were involved in other activities (2).

NURSING GRADUATES - Just over 85 per cent of the 1978 Nursing class responded to the UBC survey and none was unemployed. Some reported they had four or five job offers after graduation.



Honors & awards

UBC's top athletic honors for 1978-79 went to field hockey at recent awards banquets. Fourth-year Physical Education student Nancy Moore, top left, captain of the Thunderette field hockey team that won the national university championship this year, received the Sparling Trophy as UBC's outstanding female athlete. She's a four-time Big Block winner and will be a member of the team that will represent Canada in world championship play at UBC in August. Third-year Law student Alan Hobkirk, left, a five-time Big Block winner, was the recipient of the Bobby Gaul Memorial Trophy as the outstanding male athlete of the year for his long-time association with the men's field hockey teams at UBC and Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar in 1974. Hobkirk captained Canadian field hockey squads at the 1976 Olympic Games and in 1978 World Cup play in Argentina. First woman to be awarded a men's Big Block was Recreation Education student Kathy Campbell, above, an active member and manager of the UBC sailing club.



Insect expert Prof. William G. Wellington, director of UBC's Institute of Animal Resource Ecology and a member of the Department of Plant Science, will receive the 11th C.W. Woodworth Award of the Pacific Branch of the Entomological Society of America for "outstanding scientific achievement." An authority on the relationship of climate to population dynamics of insects, Prof. Wellington is also an accomplished scientific photographer. The resting dragonfly above is one of many enlargements of his own photographs that line the walls of his office.



UBC physicist Dr. John Berlinsky, above left, is the only Canadian university faculty member to be awarded a 1979 research fellowship by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation of New York. Sloan basic research fellowships are awarded to outstanding young scientists on the basis of their "exceptional potential to make creative contributions to scientific knowledge in the early stages of their careers." Dr. Berlinsky works in the field of low-temperature physics and often collaborates with fellow physicist Prof. Walter Hardy, right, above, who this year shared the E.W.R. Steacie Prize of the National Research Council with Prof. David W. Boyd, right, of the Department of Mathematics. Prof. Hardy has done pioneering research on atomic hydrogen at low temperatures, while Prof. Boyd is noted for his work in the field of numerical and functional analysis. The winners will share a \$3,000 cash award that goes with the honor and are the fifth and sixth winners of the coveted Steacie Prize. Past winners who are still at UBC are Prof. Myer Bloom, of Physics, and Prof. Hugh Greenwood, head of the Department of Geological Sciences.



Pictures by Jim Banham

UBC classes set in castle

A 13th-century castle in the heart of the Tuscany region in Italy seems an unlikely classroom, but if you're going to learn Italian, what better place?

One of the students who will be joining Dr. Carlo Chiarenza of Hispanic and Italian Studies this summer in his Italian castle classroom is Evelyn Crozier, who has been taking advantage of extrasessional courses for the last eight years to complete her Bachelor of Arts degree in Italian.

Mrs. Crozier, 73, and her husband will both be spending their summer in Italy. "I never intended actually to go right through to a degree," she explained, "but you get a little more interested, and a little more, and on it goes."

Her interest in Italian began with a course studying Dante in translation. She said to herself then, "I'm going to go on with this until I can appreciate Dante in the original."

She'll have one more course to take after this summer to complete her degree. She has nothing but good words to say for the Department of Hispanic and Italian Studies and the Registrar's Office at UBC. "They've been very co-operative. I couldn't have gone this far without them." Because Mrs. Crozier lives in Salmon Arm, B.C., most of her courses have been guided independent study or directed reading courses.

Studying Italian in a castle is one of two options for students who want to combine travel with credit programs this summer. An English program in modern and contemporary British drama, centred in London, is also offered.

Closer to home, many other courses are now being offered at UBC during the spring and summer sessions. Four faculties are giving courses during the spring session period, with most of these courses being held two evenings a week from May to mid-July.

Summer session courses, held during July and August, are expected to attract about 4,000 students, a number which has held steady for the last six years. The areas of interest of summer session students have gradually shifted over the years, however. About 20 years ago, Education students made up about 65 per cent of the population at summer session. Only about 30 per cent of the students take Education courses now.

Summer session attracts a number of visiting instructors to the campus. This year people are coming from Norway, Scotland and England as well as from universities across Canada as visiting professors.

For further information, and a calendar listing course offerings, call Extrasessional Studies at 228-2657, or the Registrar's Office at 228-2844.

