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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA | VOLUME 51 | NUMBER 4 | APRIL 7, 2005

UBC REPORTS

2 UBC in the News 3 UBC in Asia-Pacific 6 Breech Babies 8 Honorary Degrees 9 University Town Initiatives

New Centre will be a Hub for Vancouver Sustainability Initiatives

BY BRIAN LIN

UBC's first building at the new Great Northern Way Campus (GNWC) is not only good for the environment, it also makes excellent financial sense and offers opportunities for community service learning and increased export potential.

The Centre for Interactive Research on Sustainability (CIRS), to begin construction in spring 2006, is designed to serve as a living laboratory where sustainability researchers, businesses and policy makers will practice — and reap the benefits of — what they preach.

Designed with 3D virtual technology, which has already eliminated the need for an enormous amount of paper, CIRS will be built with sustainable materials and incorporate some of the most innovative sustainability technology. Features such as eventual net annual power generation — where a building generates more power than it uses — 100 per cent day-lighting, and oxygenated environments make it environmentally friendly, economical and a healthy place to work.

Meanwhile, the building's price tag, at $23.5 million, is comparable to conventional campus buildings of the same scale. Funding comes from the Canada Foundation for Innovation, private sources, and is expected from the BC Knowledge Development Fund.

"Sustainable infrastructure doesn't have to cost an arm and a leg," says John Robinson, a professor in UBC's Sustainable Development Research Institute and CIRS project leader. "Nor does it mean sacrificing the level of comfort we have become accustomed to."

"While certain sustainable features may cost more to construct — solar hot water tubes and natural ventilation systems, for example — other equally costly equipment, such as central air-conditioning and heating systems are not required. As a result, tenants are spared significant long-term energy costs," says Robinson.

As a showcase of its own innovative features, such as remote-source lighting that uses prism light guide technology invented by UBC physicist and VP Academic Lorne Whitehead, CIRS could also help catapult B.C. to be the leader of

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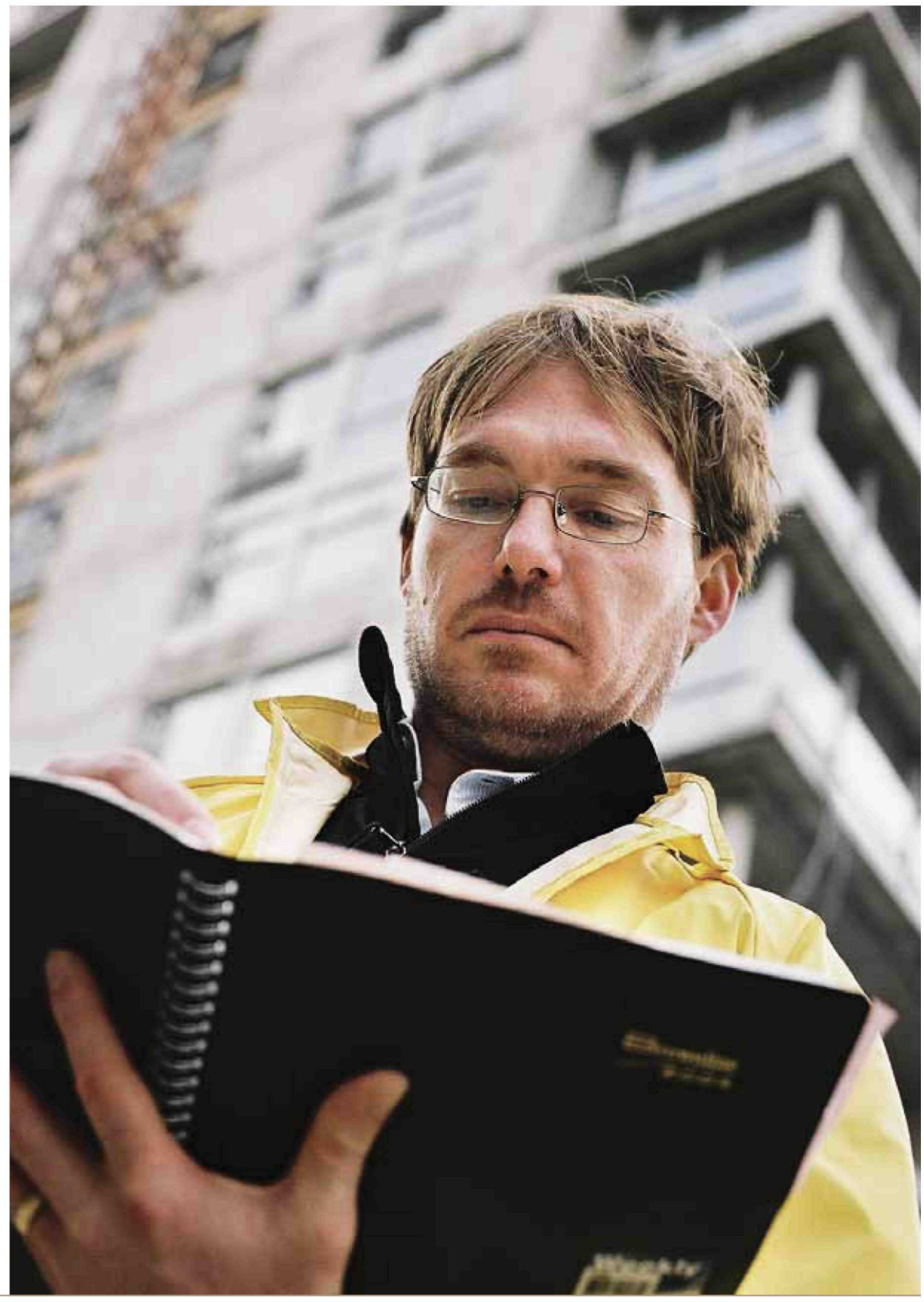

UBC Prof. Rob VanWynsberghe will co-instruct the first course at the Great Northern Way campus.

PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

Helen Burt and Tim Durance examine therapeutic potential of implantable sponge.

PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

Need a Joint Repair? Stick a Sponge in it.

BY HILARY THOMSON

Tiny, full of holes, yet effective — drug-filled implantable sponges may be a new way to promote bone growth in orthopedic surgeries, say a pair of UBC scientists.

Helen Burt, of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Tim Durance, of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, have teamed up to create a biodegradable sponge that can be filled with microspheres full of growth factors (proteins), antibiotics and stem cells for use in joint repairs.

The research is part of a five-year project, funded by $1.5 million from the Canadian Institutes for Health Research, that sees a team of UBC scientists working together to create a new fixative material.

Small chips or beads of sponge could be inserted into spaces at the site of bone defects and repairs, or at hip replacement surgical sites. The sponge would release its contents at a controlled rate to stimulate cells to produce bone material. This bony matrix would help the prosthetic joint to fuse into surrounding bone and tissue.

continued on page 4

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The Faculty of Medicine, University of British Columbia invites applications and nominations for the position of Senior Associate Dean, Academic Affairs. This is a part-time position expected to be filled by an internal candidate and is available July 1st, 2005.

The incumbent will be a key member of the senior management team of the Faculty of Medicine and report directly to the Dean. The senior management team provides strategic and operational support to the Departments, Schools, Centres, faculty and staff members. The Senior Associate Dean will provide leadership in the area of Academic Affairs. This includes but is not limited to ensuring that faculty recruitment and appointment, evaluation, promotion and tenure, reward and contracts are aligned to the educational, research and service mission of the Faculty; providing leadership in the areas of faculty development, retention and personal and professional development; supporting the development of leaders within the FOM; planning educational activities and policy development in support of career development of all faculty members; coordinating appropriate mentoring for all faculty members; developing standards of professional behavior and working to implement them; being responsible for equitable practices within the Faculty; participating in the development of the strategic direction of the Office of Clinical Faculty Affairs; providing leadership in ensuring that academic affairs priorities are aligned with the strategic plan.

The successful applicant will have qualifications as an MD and/or PhD in a health-related discipline and have a documented record of success and leadership in an academic environment.

UBC Medicine

Applications, accompanied by a detailed curriculum vitae and names of three references, should be directed by April 20, 2005 to:

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IN THE NEWS

Highlights of UBC Media Coverage in March 2005. COMPILED BY BRIAN LIN

CSI Reconstructed

Canadian company MacDonald, Dettwiler & Associates has come up with a prototype software that can stitch together a few seconds of video from a hand-held stereo camera into a detailed 3-D model of a room, a tool that could greatly help crime scene investigations.

Such technology is enabling new applications that were impossible just a few years ago, UBC computer scientist **David Lowe** told the ***New York Times***. Lowe developed an algorithm called Scale Invariant Feature Transform, which has been licensed by MD&A.

"Images are becoming so common with digital cameras, cellphone cameras and medical scanners," he said. "We just need ways for computers to automatically interpret all that information."

UBC pediatrician Ron Barr says 60 per cent of baby crying is due to fussiness.

Hush Little Baby Don't You Cry

UBC pediatrician **Ronald G. Barr**, a leading authority on colic, says most colicky babies are not in pain. About 60 per cent of crying is due to fussiness, 30 per cent is related to genuine upset and 10 per cent is emblematic of true colic, which means that it is unsoothable, he told the ***New York Times***.

Babies typically begin crying at two weeks of age. Colicky crying peaks at six weeks and ends by three to four months. It is not related to weak parental skills, being a single parent, postpartum depression or anything done by adults. Studies of infants around the world show that unsoothable colic is a natural phase of early infant development, Barr said.

Caring for Brittle Bones

A team of UBC researchers led by family practice professor **Karim Khan** has found that seniors need to be proactive in educating themselves — and seeking treatment — about osteoporosis.

The study found that doctors don't necessarily have time to counsel patients about osteoporosis treatment.

"It's unrealistic, even with all our technology, to expect physicians to be able to do it all in 15 minutes, an appointment time that probably hasn't changed since the 1940s," Khan told ***Macleans Magazine***.

"We have to educate patients to take more responsibility for their own health care and to turn up at the doctor's being more proactive. Osteoporosis is not painful and doesn't drive people to the doctor, so prevention is key."

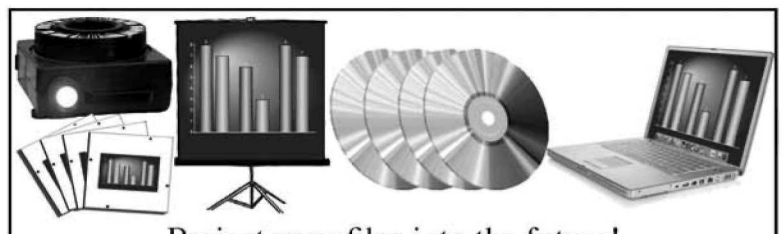
The Statin Dilemma

Two UBC experts offer insight on statins, drugs widely used to treat patients with high cholesterol.

Cardiologist and former medical school dean **John Mancini** calls statins a revolution in the treatment of heart disease and stroke. "Suggesting people only receive statins if they have a heart attack or stroke works if you survive the first one," he told ***The Globe and Mail***, "but one half of those who have a first heart attack do not survive."

Meanwhile, clinical pharmacologist and head of UBC's Therapeutics Initiative **Jim Wright** argues that there is "almost no preventative benefit" from taking statins — even among those who are at high risk of heart disease or stroke.

He estimates that 80 per cent of statin prescriptions are "for people who have never had an episode. There isn't sufficient evidence to justify the use for those people." □



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UBC Opens Asia-Pacific Office

BY BRIAN LIN

UBC's latest international foray will capitalize on the university's substantial strengths in the Asia-Pacific region for stronger partnerships and more opportunities for students, faculty and alumni to thrive in today's competitive world.

The Asia-Pacific Regional Office (APRO), set to open on May 3, 2005 in Hong Kong, marks the first time a Canadian university has established a permanent presence of this magnitude in the region. It will address UBC's various needs in the region, including student services and recruitment, development and alumni relations.

"APRO is a testament to UBC's appreciation of the extraordinary growth and resolve in working with the region's private, public and academic sectors," says Ken McGillivray, Director of the Office of UBC International and Acting Associate Vice President, International.

"It is also closely aligned with the internationalization pillar of Trek 2010, the university's mission statement. It's so critical because it ties into the pre-eminent concept of promoting global citizenship.

"UBC is Canada's leading university in Asian Pacific issues," says McGillivray, who will host President Martha Piper, Vice President, Students, Brian Sullivan, several deans, selected faculty and alumni from the entire region at the official opening.

"By establishing a permanent presence in the region, we're extending our academic and research expertise and strong alumni links to support UBC's various efforts in the area, as well as creating new opportunities that will help our students become global citizens."

In addition to establishing the Asia-Pacific Alumni Network, collaborating with regional universities through linkages such as Universitas 21 and the Association of Pacific Rim Universities, the APRO will also continue to work with local and regional organizations, businesses, non-governmental organizations and governmental agencies to identify opportunities for experiential and service learning for UBC students in the Asia Pacific.

"The aim is for even more UBC students to incorporate the international experience, through service learning, co-op placement or mobility exchange programs, into their post-secondary experience," says McGillivray.

While a small existing office — established in 1999 and one of the most active UBC alumni chapters around the world — has served as an excellent portal to UBC's activities in the region, a larger permanent presence is important given the cultural context of the region which places so much emphasis on relationship building, McGillivray adds.

"The 'drop-in' approach of sending delegations there a few times a year is not the way to do business in the region," says McGillivray. "Part of the strength — and more importantly, the expectation — of the region, is the development of relationships, particularly personal relationships. It really places the UBC stamp in the hearts and mind of our clients." □

UBC's new Asia-Pacific Regional office will bring students more experiential learning opportunities.

Trek 2010: The Global Vision

On March 10, UBC President Martha Piper inaugurated the Trek 2010 vision in a campus dialogue at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts. The dialogue included discussion about three important themes presented by UBC scholars including global citizenship (presented by Prof. Peter Boothroyd, School of Community and Regional Planning); civil society (Margo Fryer, Director, The UBC Learning Exchange), and Sustainability (John Robinson, Director, UBC Sustainable Research Institute).

Piper put forward the following challenge:

"…Let there be no doubt: This new vision presents us with a challenge. For underlying all of the Trek themes is the recognition that universities have an increasingly important role to play in society, not only as educators of our future leaders, but also as active participants in the search for solutions to the political, economic, and environmental problems of our time.

… Trek 2010 will only be a reality if each of us chooses to act, everyday — fulfilling our responsibilities as global citizens and promoting the values of a civil and sustainable society. Whether it is cleaning our buildings, processing our research applications, developing our information systems, serving our alumni, teaching our students, or conducting ground-breaking research, we all have a role to play." □

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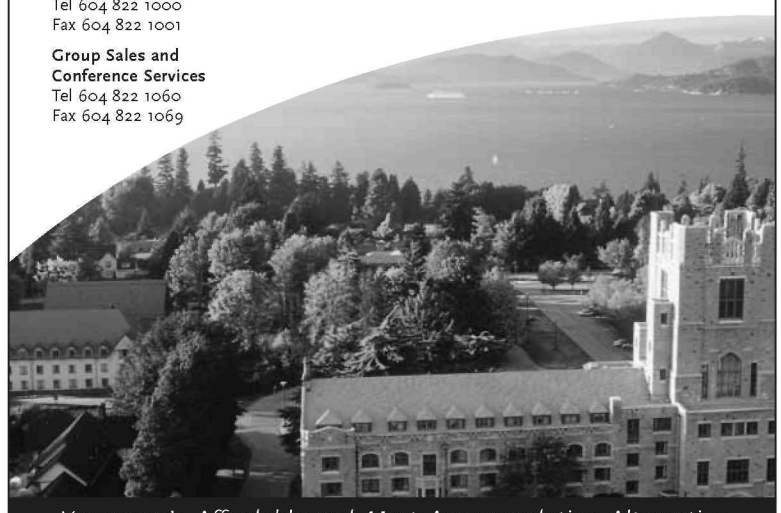

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Sustainability Centre a Living Lab *continued from page 1*

The Centre for Interactive Research on Sustainability will be a living laboratory for leading-edge sustainability technology.

sustainable building technology. CIRS is no ivory tower, either. Partnerships are being struck with private, public and non-governmental organization sectors, including the City of Vancouver, the David Suzuki Foundation, BC Hydro and Vancity Credit Union, to ensure ongoing knowledge and technology transfer. Some potential partners have requested to house their sustainability departments or retail outlets in the building.

"B.C. already has a number of advantages in sustainability development," says Robinson. "By working closely with our partners, we can help government develop better policies and businesses make better decisions."

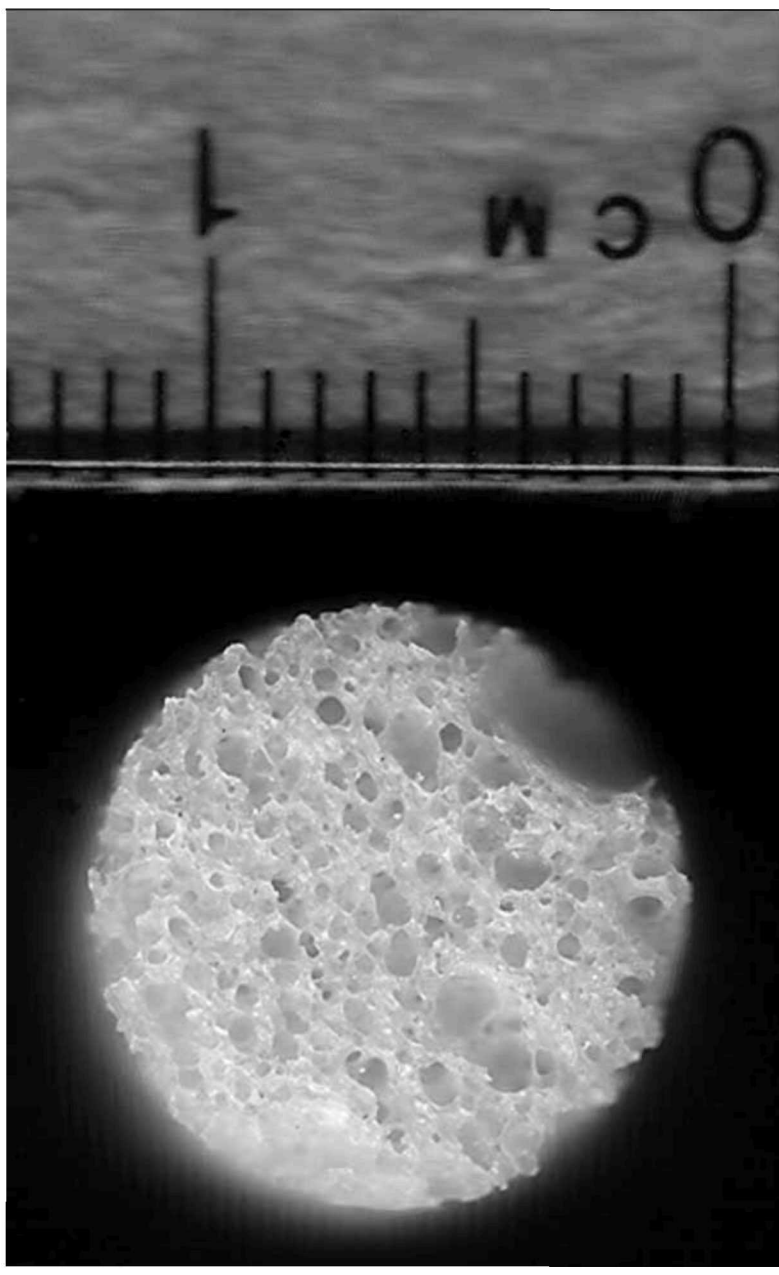
The Centre is providing valuable learning opportunities before the first shovel even goes into the ground. The Learning City Project, which brings together researchers from UBC, SFU, BCIT and Emily Carr Institute (the four GNWC institutional partners) to address sustainability issues, is creating academic programming that turns the GNWC into an open classroom.

The Project's first offering, a six-week intensive undergraduate course titled *Action and Awareness: Focus on Urban Sustainability*, starts in June 2005 and involves instructors from all four institutions and follows the construction of the Central Valley Greenway, a 26-kilometre stretch of urban trail that runs from Science World, through GNWC and Burnaby, and ends in New Westminster Quay. The course will be open to students from all GNWC institutions.

Between now and when the Greenway is completed in 2007, students in each year will develop proposals to address issues identified at various stages by community stakeholders, including the three municipalities, community organizations and residents.

"It's the first time anyone has taken the idea of community service learning to the level where undergraduates could impact policy development," says Institute of Health Promotion Research Asst. Prof. Rob VanWynsberghe, who co-designed the course with UBC graduate Janet Moore around the principle of university-community engagement. "We plan that students will get to see their proposals implemented or adopted as part of the Greenway.

"The trans-disciplinary nature of the course, incorporating design, architecture, geography and sustainability, allows us to provide creative solutions to a truly complex urban development project," he adds. □



Need a Joint Repair? *continued from page 1*

The two scientists connected in what Burt — an expert in drug delivery systems — calls "a stunning piece of good fortune."

She knew she needed a porous material and her research team was attempting, for the first time, to make sponges from a chemical recipe. It wasn't going well.

Meanwhile, Durance was looking for new applications for a technique used to dehydrate food. The technique produces porous material such as sponge, and allows the organic structure of the material to be maintained, even though it is completely dehydrated.

A colleague, who knew the work of both scientists, realized they were destined to collaborate and made the introductions.

"I knew that the technique had more potential, especially in the medical materials field, so this collaborative opportunity really came at the right time," says Durance, who directs the Food, Nutrition and Health program.

The technique evaporates liquids from biological materials via microwaves that are applied in a vacuum, which produces a boiling point of about 30 degrees Celsius, much lower than normal. The technique can create foams and sponges from all sorts of moist biological materials such as proteins, carbohydrates, gums and gels. However, the equipment was designed for batch sizes up to 10 lbs. The expense of the pharmaceutical materials Burt uses dictates an optimum batch size of less than a gram. Durance is now miniaturizing his equipment to handle the amounts required for the study.

"The ability to make sponge from almost any material has expanded our research ten-fold," says Burt, who is associate dean, Research and Graduate Studies, in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences. "We now have a staggering array of possibilities to test different sponge materials and see how they work with different drug-carrying microspheres."

The sponge would release its contents at a controlled rate to stimulate cells to produce bone material. This bony matrix would help the prosthetic joint to fuse into surrounding bone and tissue.

Sponge offers a multitude of spaces and surface areas for chemical reactions to take place. The researchers will develop a sponge that will allow stem cells to attach, proliferate and migrate, as well as provide the open spaces needed for cell movement and new

continued on page 11

Science Fair Put Prof on Track for UBC

BY HILARY THOMSON

PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

Asst. Prof. Leonard Foster(above), a silver medalist in high-school national science fair competitions(right), is one of 400 judges at this year's event, being held at UBC.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF LOENARD FOSTER

Curiosity, creativity and an "off-the-wall" way of looking at things will be found at UBC's student recreation centre when 500 high school students present their projects for judging at the Canada-Wide Science Fair (CWSF), to be held May 15-22.

"The enthusiasm of the students is just overwhelming," says chief judge Judith Soon, an assistant professor in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences. "They have an off-the-wall approach that yields some amazing conclusions."

An annual event of Youth Science Foundation Canada, the CWSF — last held at UBC in 1991 — brings together students in grades 7-12 who represent top-ranked competitors from almost 100 regional fairs. Held since 1981, the fair draws together more kids than are involved in hockey in this country, says Soon, citing an annual CWSF involvement of about 500,000 students.

In 1991, one of those kids was Leonard Foster, now a UBC assistant professor of biochemistry and molecular biology. Raised in the northern B.C. town of McBride, Foster was encouraged by his father, a science teacher.

"I was always interested in the world around me," says Foster, who joined UBC in January 2005. "As a kid, I got involved in the fair because experiments were fun. Winning some prizes and getting to travel kept me motivated."

As a high-school participant, Foster — one of a total of 400 judges Soon will be recruiting for this year's event — submitted entries that examined how heat affects tree seeds, in an investigation of regrowth after forest fire. Subsequent projects included experiments with propolis — a honeybee product with antibiotic and antifungal properties — derived from his mother's honeybee colonies.

Competing at the regional level for nine years and at the national level for six years, Foster won a silver medal in the last two years of national competition, as well as the award for the top chemistry project.

After post-doctoral work in proteomics (the study of all proteins in a cell or organism) at the University of South Denmark, the 30-year-old Foster is at UBC using mass spectroscopy to analyze proteomes of cell biological systems.

Active with regional science fair committees for more than eight years, this is Foster's first time as a national judge.

"I stay involved because the fair is a large part of why I'm here," he says. "It's a chance for me to repay what I've gotten out of it."

As a female scientist, Soon says a driving force in her involvement is to serve as a model for young women aspiring to science careers. In recent years, the gender mix at the competition has been about equal.

Working with organizers of the B.C. regional science fairs, Soon will recruit about 200 judges from UBC. Each student will be interviewed by five judges on the first day of judging. Additional judges will interview special award competitors on the second day. A total of 6,000 interviews will take place over a day and a half.

CWSF winners are eligible for cash prizes and scholarships. UBC is contributing Science and Engineering Entrance Awards with a total value of $28,000 for all gold and silver winners in each of seven divisions that range from earth and environmental sciences to automotive.

Apart from the competition, which usually draws hundreds of curious visitors, students participate in lectures, city tours, events at Science World and other activities. All participants in grades 7-9 will learn first-hand about UBC research during lab tours coordinated by the Faculty of Science.

The CWSF is the showcase program of Youth Science Foundation Canada, a national non-profit, charitable organization that offers leadership in providing extra-curricular science and technology educational opportunities for Canadian youth.

The fair is being co-hosted this year by the Science Fair Foundation of B.C., a non-profit, charitable organization that supports and promotes science fair activity in B.C.

For more information about CWSF, visit www.cwsf 2005.ca. □

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Senior Associate Dean, Education

The Faculty of Medicine, University of British Columbia invites applications and nominations for the position of Senior Associate Dean, Education. This is a part-time position expected to be filled by an internal candidate and is available July 1st, 2005.

The incumbent will be a key member of the senior management team of the Faculty of Medicine and report directly to the Dean. The senior management team provides strategic and operational support to Departments, Schools, Centres, faculty and staff members. This position will provide leadership to the educational and training programs of the Faculty of Medicine reflecting a model of a continuum of learning. This is consistent with our teaching of "life-long learners." The incumbent will work with the Associate Deans within this portfolio together with Heads and Directors in ensuring that the programs of education are innovative, effective, compliant with all appropriate accreditation bodies and reflective of the role of the Faculty in providing health care professionals for the Province of British Columbia and Canada; be responsible for the coordination of educational programs across the Faculty in order to meet the needs of students and faculty members; provide leadership in ensuring that health education research underpins all programs; and be responsible for recommending educational priorities for the Faculty that are aligned with the strategic plan.

The successful applicant will have an MD and a documented record of success and leadership in academic/health education.

UBC Medicine

Applications, accompanied by a detailed curriculum vitae and names of three references, should be directed by April 20, 2005 to:

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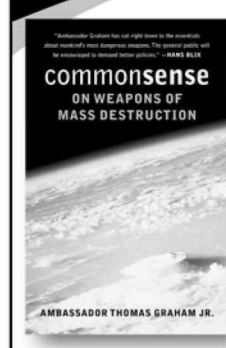

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Prof Turns Breech Baby Problem on its Head

BY HILARY THOMSON

PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

Eileen Hutton is launching a $2.8 million study to improve outcomes for breech babies by "turning" them earlier in the pregnancy.

It's a new approach to a traditional procedure and it may save thousands of mothers the risks and recuperation associated with Caesarean section surgery.

Called external cephalic version (ECV), the current procedure is used to re-position a fetus in breech (bottom down) presentation. Also known as "turning the baby," the manual, external procedure manoeuvres the baby by applying pressure on the mother's abdomen, causing the baby to somersault into a head-down position. ECV is traditionally employed in the last two weeks of a normal 40-week pregnancy, and enables a vaginal delivery in 30-50 per cent of cases.

Eileen Hutton, of UBC's division of midwifery, wants to boost the success rate by performing ECV as early as 34 weeks.

In the first study of its kind in the world, Hutton's research team will recruit 1,460 mothers-to-be whose babies are in breech position. In the five-year international randomized trial funded by $2.8 million from the Canadian Institutes for Health Research, some women will have an ECV at 34-35 weeks and others at 37 weeks and researchers will compare differences in outcomes at birth and in the one-month period following delivery.

Women will be recruited from more than 80 centres in countries that include Canada, the U.S., Argentina, Chile, Netherlands, Israel and Jordan.

Researchers will look at the impact of early ECVs on the rate of C-sections performed as well as rates of premature births associated with the procedure. Investigators will do a cost-analysis as part of the study and will compare costs associated with earlier and late ECVs. They'll look at costs of complications at the time of C-section, such as infection, which can require extended hospitalization, specialist attention and home care.

At full term, about three to four per cent of all babies will present in breech position, says Hutton, adding that the rate is constant internationally. The cause for breech presentation is not known.

"We know that most physicians now recommend C-sections for breech pregnancies, however, women who have this surgery have more problems compared to mothers who have vaginal births," says Hutton, pointing out that C-sections are the largest contributing factor to maternal deaths and serious illness associated with birth. In addition, the scar resulting from the surgery complicates all subsequent pregnancies.

When Velda McAlduff-Low discovered the baby she was expecting was in breech presentation, she didn't hesitate in choosing ECV in the hopes of avoiding a C-section.

"We know that most physicians now recommend C-sections for breech pregnancies, however, women who have this surgery have more problems compared to mothers who have vaginal births."

"I knew that the six-week recovery time needed for the surgery would make it next to impossible to care for my baby and my toddler at home," says the 44-year-old Delta resident, who last month successfully delivered a baby girl without surgery.

The procedure takes about five minutes and is usually performed without anaesthetic, although considerable pressure is applied to the abdomen. One obstetrician pushes her fingers against the mother's belly to lift the fetus' buttocks up. In a co-ordinated movement, another specialist pushes the head downward. The entire procedure is guided by ultrasound imaging.

"After several attempts, the team was successful in turning the baby," says McAlduff-Low. "The procedure was painful but well worth it I am absolutely glad I had it done."

"We want to reduce adverse outcomes for women with breech babies. If early ECVs are effective, they represent a low-tech, safe alternative to surgery," says Hutton, who is also a midwife and mother of three, none of whom required turning.

The study has started recruitment at BC Women's Hospital as the first site, under the leadership of Dr. Marie-France Delisle. Women wishing to be involved in the study must be pregnant with a single fetus with gestational age 33-35 weeks, in breech presentation.

For more information, contact BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre at 604.875.2253.

The study is co-ordinated through the Centre for Healthcare Innovation and Improvement at the B.C. Research Institute for Children's and Women's Health (BCRICWH) and the Maternal, Infant and Reproductive Health Research Unit at Sunnybrook and Women's Health Sciences centre in Toronto.

As part of Children's & Women's Health Centre of British Columbia, BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre is the only facility in B.C. devoted exclusively to the health of women, newborns and families.

BCRICWH operates in partnership with UBC and the Children's & Women's Health Centre of British Columbia, an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority.

For more information on the study, visit http://www.utoronto.ca/miru/eecv2 □

Education is Key says Student, Mother and Chief

BY BRIAN LIN

As the spring term draws to a close, Kim Baird is probably the only UBC student juggling term papers, final exams and a re-election campaign.

Recently elected to her fourth term as chief of the Tsawwassen First Nation, Baird first took office at the tender age of 28 — one of the youngest female chiefs ever elected. Her youth belies a long list of achievements, including a recent agreement-in-principle with the governments of B.C. and Canada for treaty negotiations and an accommodation agreement with the Vancouver Port Authority.

The former, when finalized, will mark the first urban treaty in Canada, while the latter will bring her community jobs, compensation, and economic opportunities to the tune of $47 million over 30 years and settle environmental concerns that stretch back three decades.

With ratification from 85 per cent of the Nation's voters, the agreement will allow Deltaport to embark on a $1 billion expansion and provide full-time jobs for dozens of Tsawwassen members, up from two at present time.

"It's a time of enormous change and enormous opportunities," says Baird, 34. "It's unfortunate that the biggest driver of the negotiation was economic uncertainty surrounding the expansion, rather than a desire to resolve outstanding issues.

"But that doesn't mean sincere relationship-building hasn't taken place."

While most progress in Aboriginal land claims thus far has been prompted by confrontation, Baird says, Tsawwassen's ultimate goal is reconciliation with provincial and federal governments so it could focus on moving forward to ensure economic and social stability, a task she feels must have education as a primary focus.

"For First Nations to be participants in the provincial economy, we need skilled people," says Baird, who at 17, was the first person in her community to graduate from high school in more than 20 years.

"There's a real movement now not only to encourage our children to pursue higher education, but for adults who have been out of school for a while to finish high school or seek advanced education."

Baird herself decided to pursue her Bachelor of Arts degree three years ago, almost a decade after she completed two years of college immediately after high school.

"My friends and family think I'm crazy!" says Baird, noting that she learned she was pregnant with her first child soon after beginning courses at the department of geography.

Baird admits it's a handful to be a mother, a student and chief all at the same time.

"But many of my friends are seeing to it that I don't let school fall by the wayside, and my family wants me to stick with it because they never had the opportunity.

"The way I see it, it really is an important aspect of my personal development," says Baird. "Besides, there have been a few instances at the negotiation table where I've used the latest academic buzz words to my advantage."

Baird says areas such as political and historical geography have helped her become more attuned to issues beyond her own community and given her a more well-rounded perspective that incorporates national and international experiences in the Aboriginal treaty process.

She hopes that her "back-to-school" experience will also rub off on her 18-month-old daughter, Amy, whom Baird considers her biggest accomplishment to date.

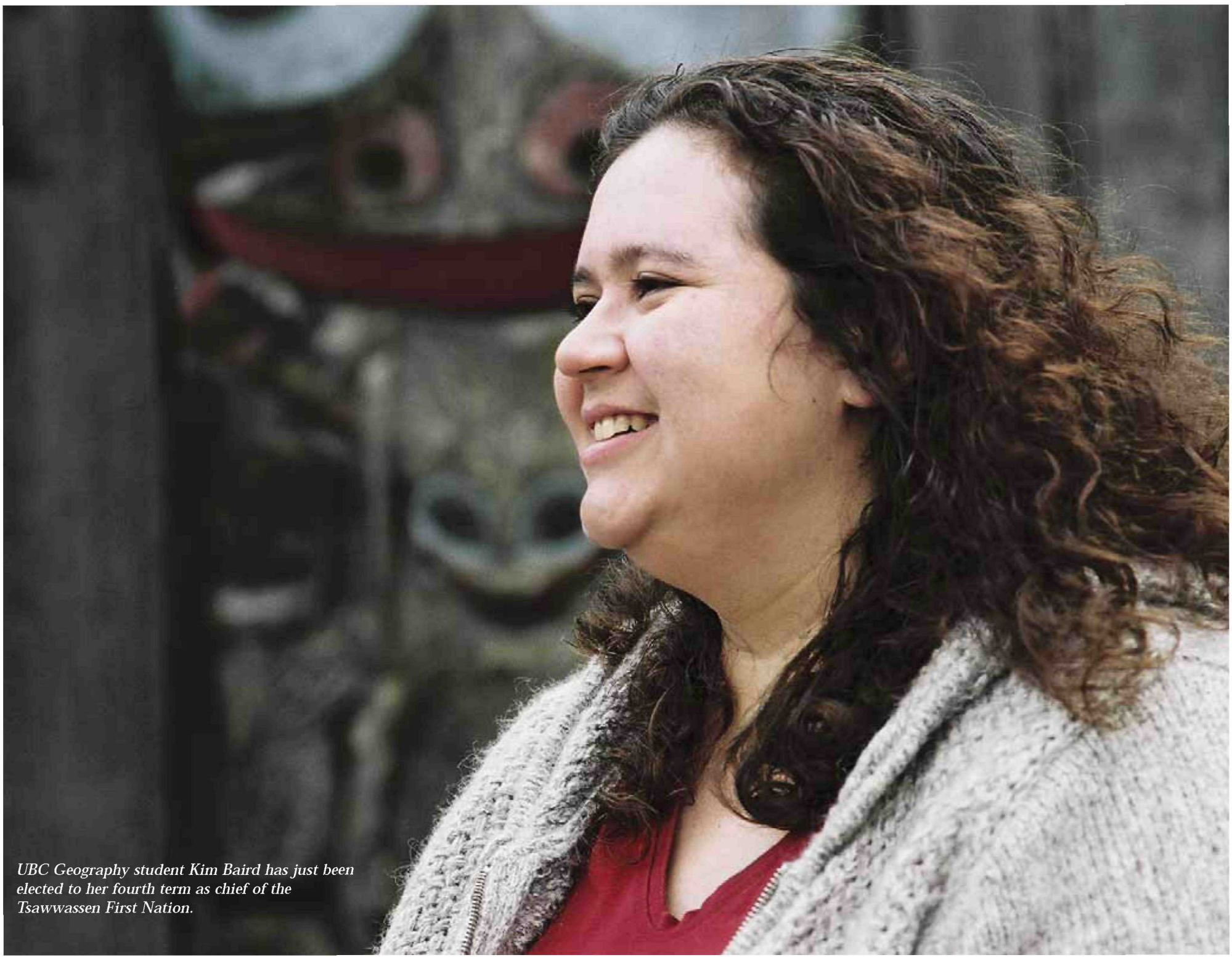
"I hope she has the luxury of spending as much time in university as she wants," says Baird. "I really think that post-secondary experiences can expand your knowledge about so many things, from the world down to your own community. But you really have to want to be there, as I do, to benefit from it."

As for being chief, Baird says in a small community like Tsawwassen the ability to work co-operatively with other leaders is key to a successful political career.

"In an election, you may be running against your cousin," says Baird, whose recent opponent is a former chief who recruited her to his staff 15 years ago.

"It's important that we maintain a high level of respect in our campaigns because more likely than not, you'll be working with them in some other leadership position." □

"There's a real movement now not only to encourage our children to pursue higher education, but for adults who have been out of school for a while to finish high school or seek advanced education."



UBC Geography student Kim Baird has just been elected to her fourth term as chief of the Tsawwassen First Nation.

PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

Distinguished Careers Recognized with Honorary Degrees

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

A Nobel Prize winner in physics, the director of Canada's first midwifery educational program and two acclaimed artists are among 11 recipients of UBC honorary degrees this year. The degrees are awarded for distinguished career achievements, as well as service to UBC and to Canada, and will be awarded mainly during the Spring Congregation, May 25 to June 1.

University of Illinois professor of physics Anthony J. Leggett is widely recognized as a world leader in the theory of low-temperature physics. UBC has benefited from his expertise and intellect through interactions with TRIUMF, the formation of the Pacific Institute of Theoretical Physics, and the co-organization of a Peter Wall Institute workshop at Green College. Educated at Oxford University, he received the 2003 Nobel Prize in physics for pioneering work on superfluidity.

Karyn Kaufman, professor of family medicine and head of the midwifery education program at McMaster University, has provided outstanding leadership in the development of the midwifery profession in Canada and internationally. Her work has shaped the conditions under which UBC will graduate the charter class of this province's Bachelor of Midwifery degree this year. Working collaboratively with governments and diverse stakeholders over many years, Dr. Kaufman overcame early resistance within the medical establishment to bring the concept of midwifery to the wider community.

Raffi Cavoukian, the internationally acclaimed singer and songwriter, and P.K. Page, one of Canada's most distinguished poets, painters and memoirists are two artists UBC will recognize with honorary degrees this year.

Born in Cairo and an immigrant to Canada in 1958, Raffi, as he is known to children and adults everywhere, has entertained and educated since the 1970s. He is the founder and president of The Troubadour Institute for Child Honouring, an honorary board member of the David Suzuki Foundation and a member of the Council of Human Development. The recipient of numerous awards and honours, including the UN Environment Program Global Roll of Honour and the Order of Canada, Raffi wrote and performed *Song for the Dalai Lama* to honour the Dalai Lama's 2004 Vancouver visit, and wrote and performed *Turn This World Around* for Nelson Mandela in 2000.

Patricia Kathleen "P.K." Page, came to Canada from England at an early age and was raised in the prairies and educated in England, Calgary and Winnipeg. She studied art in Brazil and New York. Now an octogenarian, she was the first winner of the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia's Arts Award, is an Officer of the Order of Canada and recipient of four honorary degrees from Canadian universities. Page received the Governor General's Award for poetry

continued on page 11

PHOTO: SANDY REBER

Poet and writer, Patricia Kathleen "P. K." Page adds a UBC honorary degree to her many awards.

Internationally acclaimed singer and songwriter, Raffi Cavoukian.

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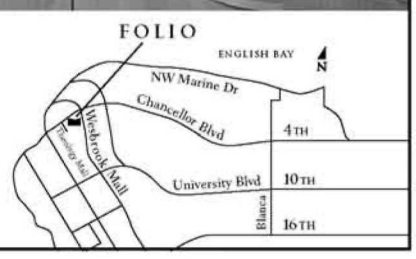
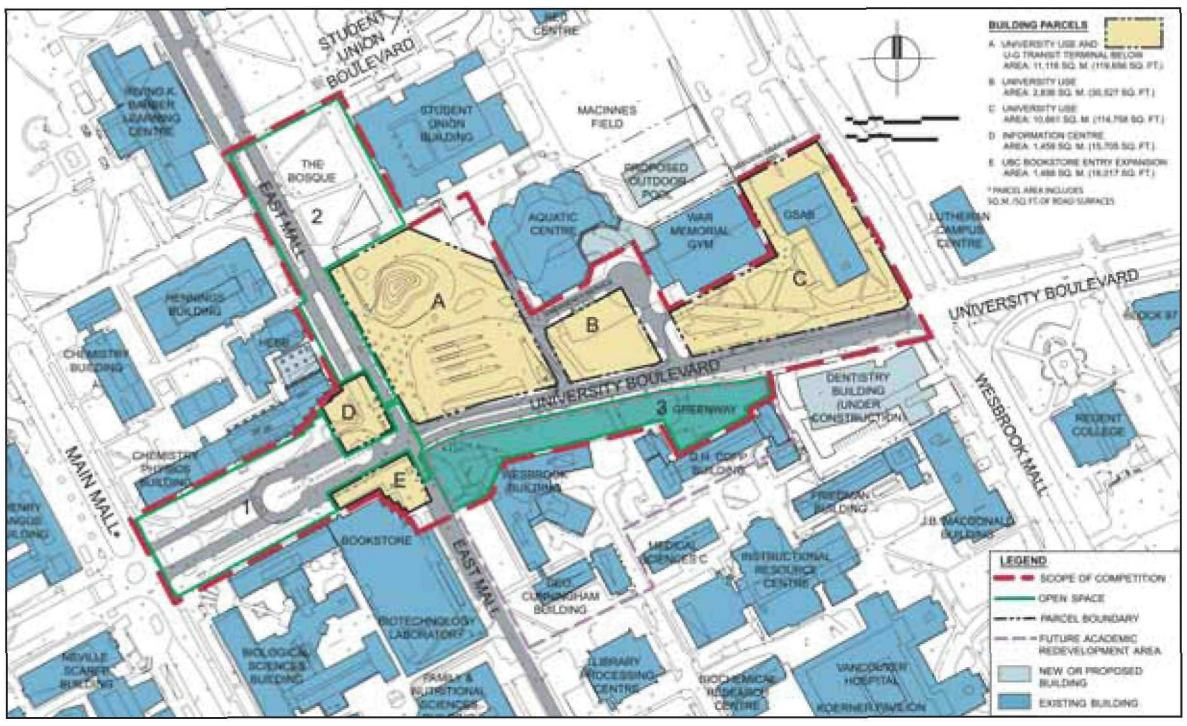


Choice Imminent for University Town Design

Three Teams: Three Visions BY BRENDA AUSTIN



The red line indicates the scope of the University Boulevard Architectural competition.

A space of any kind defines what happens within it, says Associate Director of External Affairs for University Town Linda Moore, a graduate architect and project manager for the University Boulevard Architectural Competition.

Architects competing to design University Boulevard, one of eight neighbourhoods which make up University Town, have been given the daunting task of developing a central campus neighbourhood that meets the lofty ideals of livability, sociability and sustainability.

The architects must include a campus entrance with aesthetic appeal, buildings that speak of academic excellence, private living spaces and public areas and amenities that give a sense of a lively social milieu.

The juried competition to design such a space opened in October 2004. Fifty-two of the world's top architects responded with an expression of interest by Nov. 30. UBC developed a short list of seven in December, and narrowed the selection to three.

Now comes the final choice.

Although the models and drawings provided to the university are not identified, the names of the finalists are public knowledge. In alphabetical order, they are:

Allies and Morrison Architects of London, UK, partnered with Proscenium Architecture and Interiors Inc. of Vancouver;

Moore Ruble Yudell Architects and Planners, Santa Monica, California, with Hughes Condon Marler Architects; and Patkau Architects Inc. of Vancouver.

Their renderings show how each of the three finalists provide solutions to the integration of ideals. The drawings, as well as three-dimensional context models, are on view at the UBC Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery from April 1-10 for members of the university community to register feedback on their favourite.

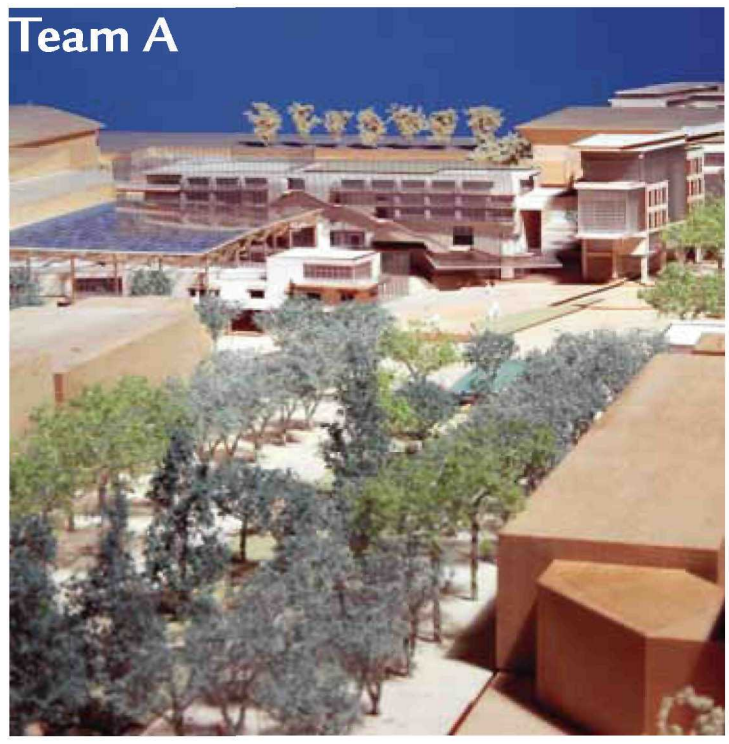
Moore sees the community input as a crucial step in the process. All alumni and current UBC students, faculty and staff members, professor emeriti and campus residents are eligible to participate.

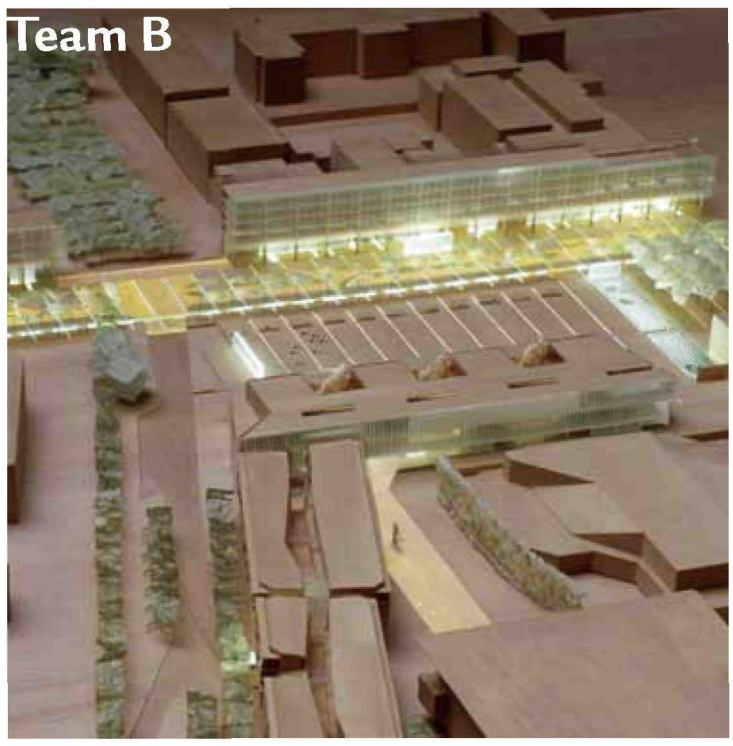
"Our poll is basic," Moore says. "Which team's vision do you prefer? Which submission is best? But, there is also an opportunity to provide comments that will give us direction on how we proceed, on refinements to plans and how we consult on livability.

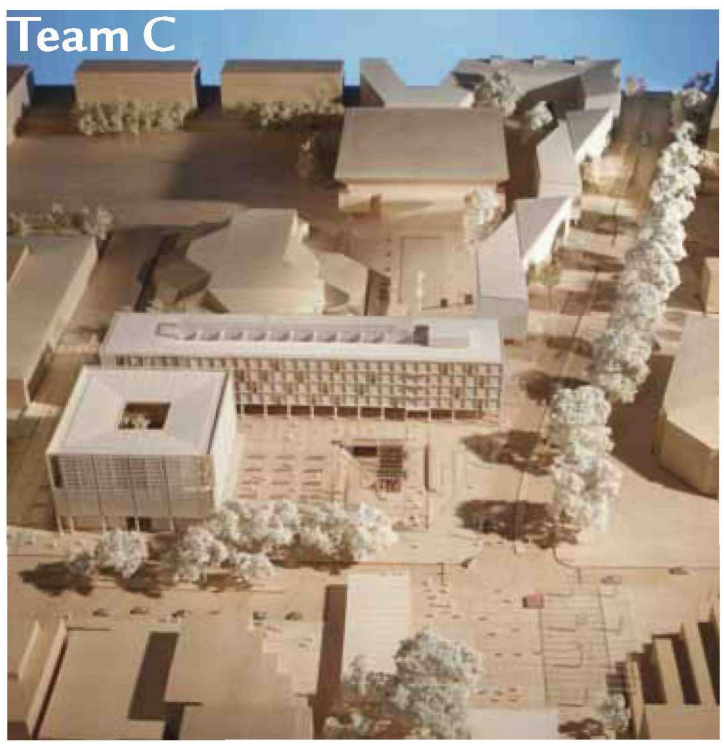
"Please take the time not only to cast your vote but offer qualitative comments," she stresses.

The unique nature of this project rests on the fact this is not a competition about

continued on page 10







(Left to right) Basil Robinson, Prof. Emeritus Geoffrey Robinson, and Michael Robinson share one of Canada's highest honours.

PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

One UBC Family:

Three Order of Canada Appointments

On February 8, 2005, Michael P. Robinson (at right) became the third member of his family to receive an appointment to the Order of Canada, in recognition of his efforts to build strong partnerships with Aboriginal peoples. A graduate of UBC's Faculty of Law (class of '78), he joins uncle Basil Robinson (class of '50, and a 1994 inductee into UBC's Sports Hall of Fame) who was appointed in 1991 for his work as a Canadian diplomat, and father Dr. Geoffrey Robinson, appointed in 2001. UBC Pediatrics Prof. Emeritus Geoffrey Robinson was instrumental in establishing provincial programs for children with hearing disorders, visual impairments and other disabilities. Both Michael and Basil Robinson were also UBC Rhodes Scholars. □

KUDOS

UBC Political Science professor **Ken Carty** is among the latest four recipients of the prestigious Peter Wall Distinguished Scholar in Residence award.

Carty, who recently served as the director of research for the Citizen's Assembly on Electoral Reform, has co-authored the summary study volume of the Canadian Democratic Audit.

Other recipients, selected for their excellence in interdisciplinary research, include Philosophy professor **Dominic Lopes**, Geography professor **Olav Slaymaker** and psychology professor **Lawrence Ward**.

UBC Dean of Applied Science **Michael Isaacson** has received the Julian C. Smith Medal from the Engineering Institute of Canada.

Founded in 1939 by a group of senior members to perpetuate the name of a Past President of the Institute, the Julian C. Smith Medal is awarded for "Achievement in the Development of Canada."

Isaacson, a professor of civil engineering, was honoured in an award ceremony held last month in Ottawa.

The Campus Advisory Board on Student Development has announced winners for its 2004/05 UBC Student Development Awards.

The Margaret Fulton Award went to **Chad Hyson**, **Regina Lyakhovetska** and **Dr. Neil Guppy**. The **International Relations Program** won the Alfred Scow Award for an undergraduate program or development and the Peter Larkin Award went to The **Ts`´kel Graduate Studies**.

Engineers Without Boarders and the **Learning Exchange Trek Program** were awarded the Helen McCrae Award for AMS/GSS/UBC Student Service. □

Choice Imminent for University Town Design

continued from page 9

one building. The boulevard stretches from Wesbrook to Main Mall with boundary fingers north and south. This is an entire precinct and only one building, the General Services Administration Building, may be left standing with modifications.

At the gallery, animated computer graphics move viewers through the site to explore the relationship of spaces to buildings and the ground plan for pedestrians in each design vision. Panels illuminate particular aspects of each.

"We see University Boulevard becoming the epitome of our academic excellence and international standing, a defining architectural feature of our university in the twenty-first century," says Vice-President of External and Legal Affairs Dennis Pavlich.

For such an ambitious competition, Moore says, the jury must include world-class architects. They are:

- **Demetri Porthyrios**, a London, UK architect and academic
- **Moshe Safdie**, a Canadian, with offices in Boston and Jerusalem, who won the last large-scale competition in Vancouver to design the Vancouver Public Library
- **Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk**, a principal in her own company and dean of architecture at the University of Miami
- **Leon Krier**, from London, UK, who teaches at the Architectural Association there
- **Arthur Erickson**, who designed the UBC Museum of Anthropology, among many other buildings.

Jurists representing the university are:

Moura Quayle, dean of the Faculty of Land and Food Systems and associate vice-president of UBC Okanagan, and a landscape architect

Dennis Pavlich, Vice-President of External and Legal Affairs, chair of the jury

Linda Moore, Associate Director of External Affairs for University Town, graduate architect and University Boulevard Competition project manager

Rhodri Windsor-Liscombe, an architectural historian, professor and head of the UBC department of art history, visual arts and theory

Al Poettcker, president and chief executive officer of UBC Properties Trust

Colleen Brown, a graduate student of the School of Community and Regional Planning, representing the Alma Mater Society.

The jury's selection accomplishes the primary evaluation but is influenced by the campus community poll and a review by the University Boulevard Technical Committee, to estimate whether the chosen design complies with requirements and comes within the designated budget.

If you have not done so already, you can register your choice of design at the Belkin Gallery until April 10, Monday to Friday 10 a.m. until 7 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday noon until 5 p.m., or online at www.university-town.ubc.ca □

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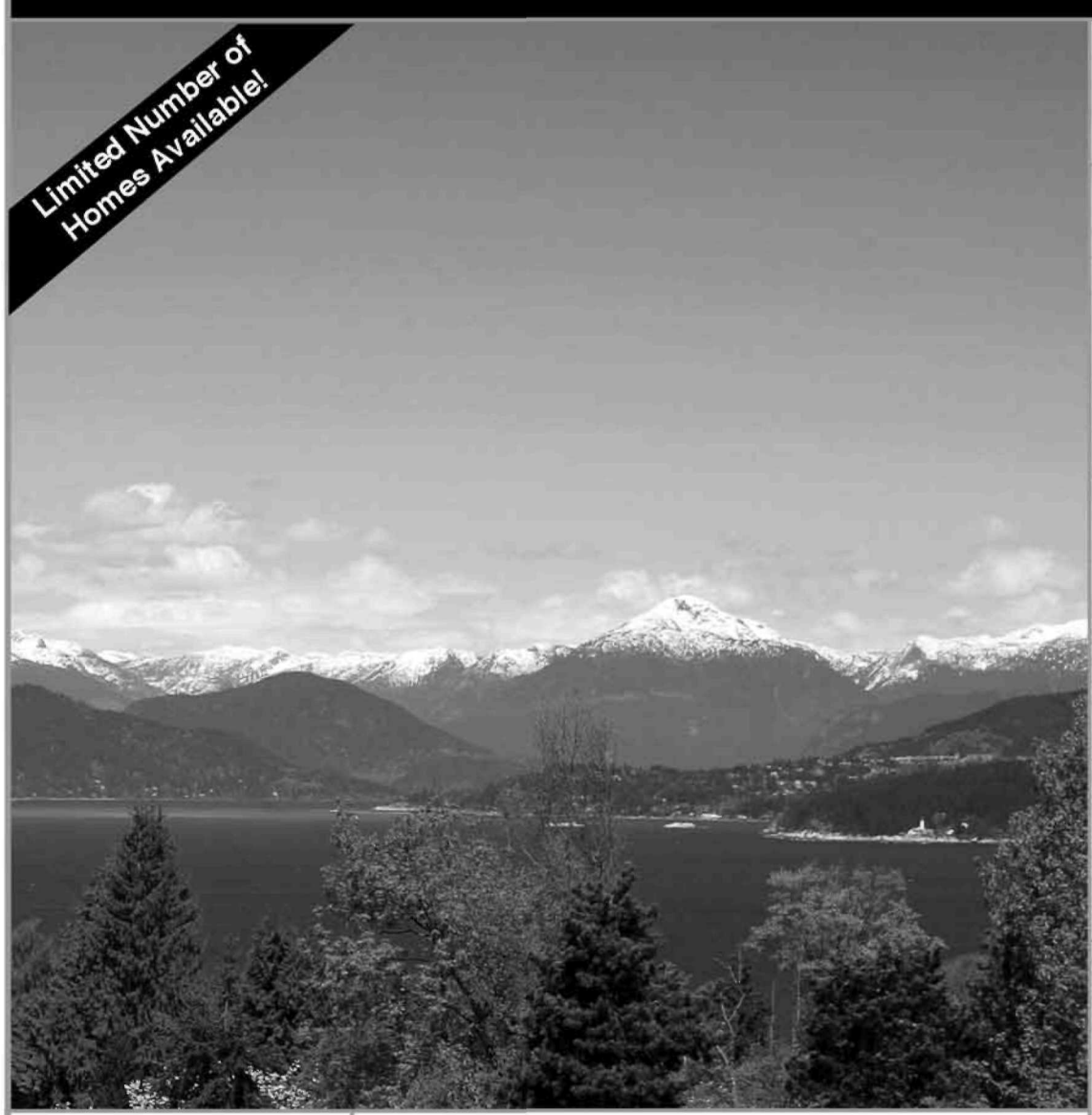

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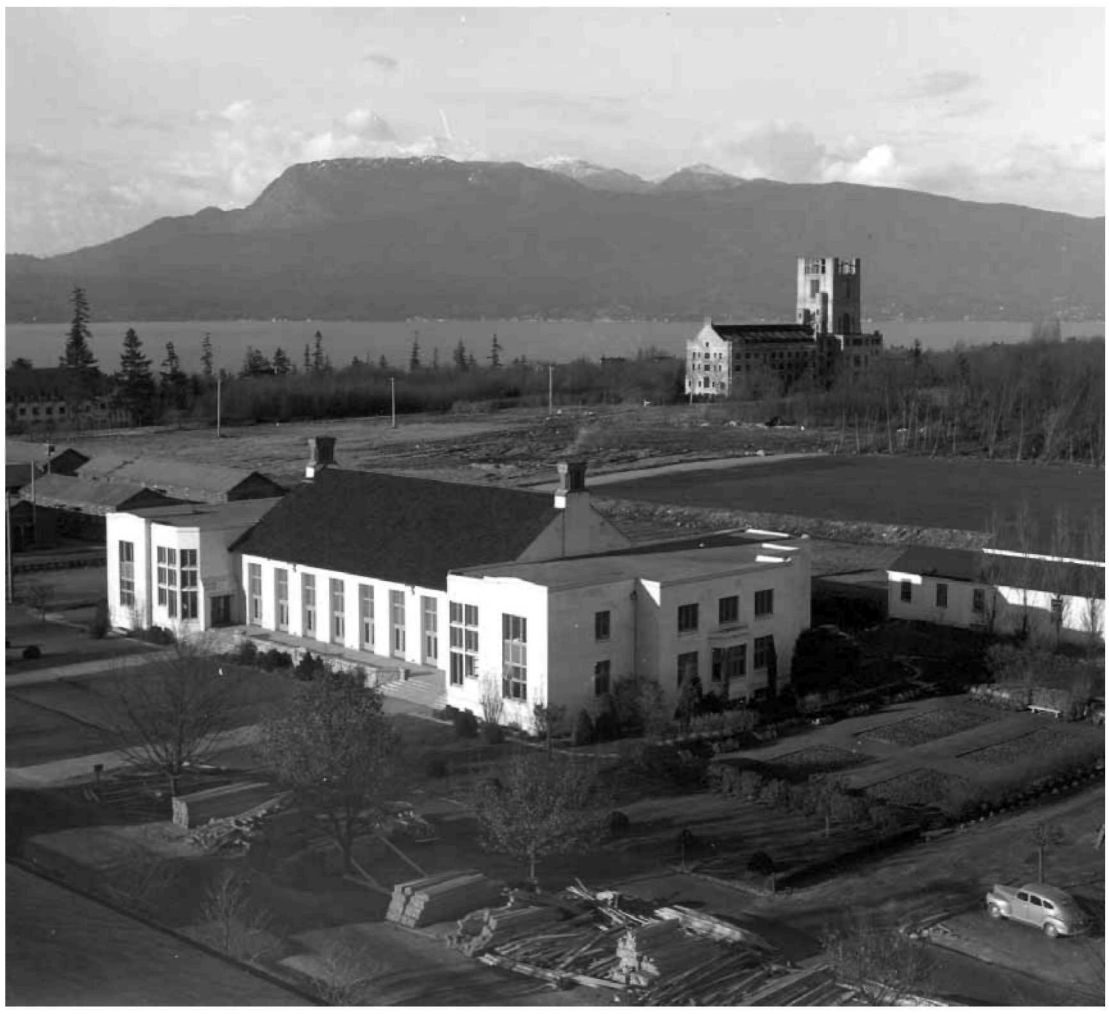

PHOTO: COURTESY OF UBC ARCHIVES

Brock Hall, Then and Now

BY CHRIS HIVES, *University Archives*

On March 21, UBC opened the newly renovated Welcome Centre at Brock Hall, an important part of UBC's student community throughout the years.

With its completion in 1940, Brock Memorial Hall became one of the three campus structures for which the students provided funding. The others were the original gymnasium (1929) and the stadium (1937). Fundraising began in 1936 for the original student union building named as a memorial to Dean and Mrs. R.W. Brock. The burden of financing the stadium proved too much for the students and it was two years before they again turned their attention to raising funds for the new student union building. The campaign resumed in 1938 and a generous grant from the Board of Governors allowed construction to proceed on a site near the Gymnasium and the Library on East Mall. At the opening of Brock Hall in January 1940, President Leonard Klinck commended the students for their effort, observing that "this building is sufficient proof that the spirit of adventure, enterprise and creative initiative is not lacking among the undergraduate body of the University." □

Need a Joint Repair?

continued from page 4

blood vessel growth. Sponges may also be useful for holding antibiotics, which could be released slowly to prevent infections at orthopedic surgical sites.

Other properties, such as being biodegradable, compatible with tissues and cells and having some mechanical strength make sponge an excellent material for this application, says Burt.

She says scientists know lots about microsphere release of drugs, but "absolutely zero" about how the release might work after microspheres are embedded in sponge. Research challenges include ensuring the molecular structural integrity of drugs that are encapsulated, confirming that stem cells can attach to sponge, and controlling the timed release of the drugs in the sponge environment. □

Distinguished Careers Recognized

continued from page 8

in 1954, and recently won the Terasen Award honoring the foremost writers in B.C. Her books have been highly praised and her poetry set to music by eminent composers.

Other distinguished recipients, in alphabetical order, are:

• **Peter Brown**, former chair UBC board of Governors, businessman and philanthropist • **Dr. John Hood**, vice-chancellor of Oxford University, business and academic leader • Economics Professor **Dr. Robert Lacroix**, instrumental in the design of the Canada Research Chairs program • **Reverend Shunmyo Masuno**, internationally acclaimed landscape architect • Canadian diplomat **Carolyn McAskie** • **Dr. Shirley Thomson**, chair of the Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board, who will receive her honorary degree during Fall congregation • **Dr. Elvi Whittaker**, anthropologist and former UBC professor.

UBC's Spring Congregation will be Webcast from The Chan Centre for the Performing Arts. For details, visit www.graduation.ubc.ca □

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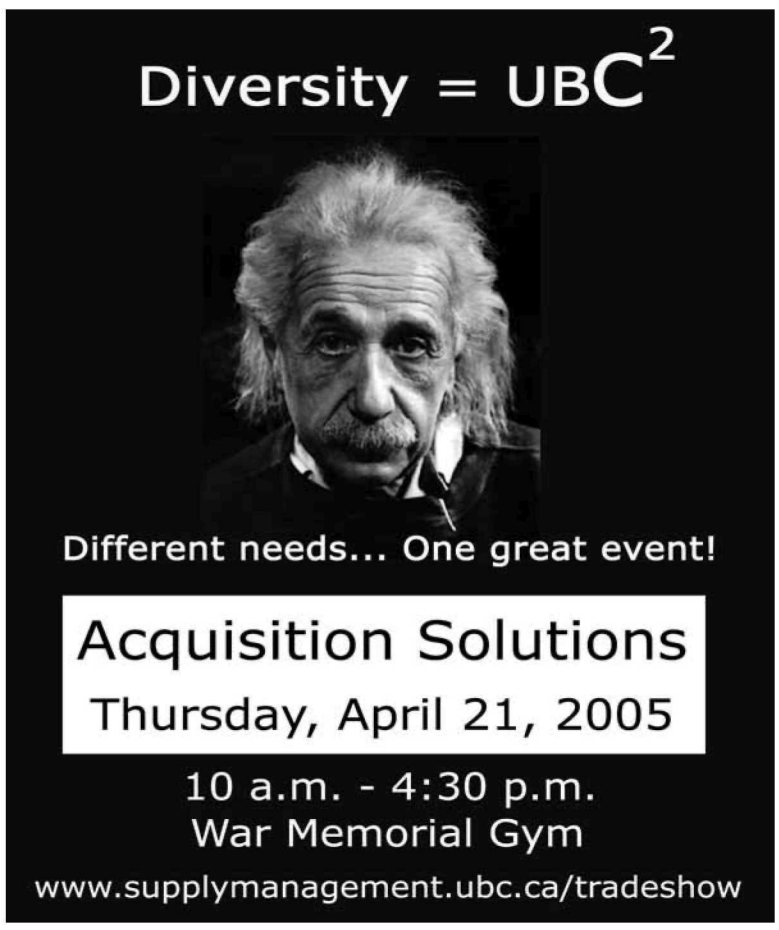

PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

The Certificate in International Development has attracted much interest from individuals and companies, says Program Manager Leah Macfadyen.

New UBC Program Essential for International Aid Workers

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Karen Lund prepared to change careers and teach in the nursing program in Dhaka, Bangladesh by taking the UBC course in international health and development.

This course is one of five in the new Certificate in International Development (CID), offered by Continuing Studies at the Centre for Intercultural Communication.

"This is a flexible, mainly web-based certificate that can be taken part-time while working, as long as it is completed within three years," says CID Program Manager Leah Macfadyen.

Although Lund has been a researcher in academic health sciences, many who take the course do not have a health-care background. They might be members of non-governmental organizations, engineers, bankers or educators — people who want to lend their skills in ways that enhance the broader vision of health.

This vision extends further than freedom from illness and disease to include sustainable development, access to clean water, human rights, security and safety.

The variety of backgrounds of the students is a positive factor, says Dr. Michael Seear, professor of clinical medicine and pediatric respirologist at BC's Children's Hospital. He is the instructor for the international health and development course and presently in Sri Lanka where he is providing assistance after the Tsunami disaster in December 2004.

"Every discipline and every profession or job in some way impacts on someone's health somewhere in the world," he says. "And for every activity we undertake there is a medical price to pay, whether it is due to agricultural policies or goods manufactured in sweatshops."

For his own participation in Sri Lanka, Seear and others, funded by the Asian Medical Doctors' Association, set up a functional children's ward from a rough hospital in the village of Srila Kalmunai, one of the poorest areas on the east coast of Sri Lanka. This includes a school and counselling services for children with depression.

Seear's course raises awareness of international health and aid issues as well as cultural, social, economic and political environments aid workers might encounter which could hinder effective use of relief monies.

"We sometimes suspend belief, thinking if we give money or goods to aid agencies, we are helping. But this is not always the case," Seear says. "We have to be aware of fakes and crooks, of money not reaching those for whom it is intended."

Seear stresses that no student should leave university without understanding the impact and importance of health issues around the world. Many students are idealistic, they are nice people and want to "do good," but it is more complicated than that.

"To tie in with the global vision UBC has, we need a university degree in International Health," Seear believes. "We would be first in the field and it would meet the needs for competent, aware people who could include this with studies in their own discipline."

Lund took the international health and development course after planning for two years to move from health sciences research into something that focused more on people and would allow her to see another part of the world. The project she chose focuses on improving the standard and status of nursing in Bangladesh.

"What Dr. Seear's course did more than anything was to teach me not to impose my own assumptions on other cultures," Lund said. "It was an eye-opener for me to discover how much well-intentioned aid funding is wasted because those who hope to help don't communicate well with the people receiving aid. Without the health course, I could have been one of that group.

"The Web-based framework was fabulous because it saved me so much time commuting to classes. You miss out on the personal interaction with the instructors, but the online communication is excellent," she said.

The CID program is also useful to people in Canada who work with multicultural communities, Macfadyen says. Marie-Claude Lavoie is one such person, currently working in Iqaluit, Nunavut as an occupational therapist.

"I have been very pleased with the CID program," Lavoie emailed from Nunavut. "There are unique challenges here of over-crowded housing, malnutrition and the presence of TB. There is much financial need, but the Inuit are very rich in culture and traditions."

For more information visit: www.cic.cstudies.ubc.ca/cid □