UBC Archives Serial

Philanthropist Walter Koerner (left) shows President David Strangway one of the ceramics from his collection during a lunch in his honor.

UBC Reports

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Koerner donates prized ceramics collection to UBC

By PAULA MARTIN

Philanthropist Walter Koerner has donated a $2.9-million ceramics collection to UBC's Museum of Anthropology.

"This new gift represents Dr. Koerner's ongoing commitment to UBC and we are absolutely delighted that we are now going to house one of the world's most outstanding collections of ceramics," said President David Strangway.

Koerner, a long-time UBC benefactor, has collected European art and artifacts for nearly 80 years -- since he was a schoolboy.

The collection is divided into three parts: Italian Renaissance ceramics; Anabaptist ceramics; and medieval, Renaissance and baroque ornamental tiles.

The Italian Renaissance ceramics were illustrated by well-known Italian painters.

The Anabaptist ceramic collection, originating in Moravia, was made primarily by the ancestors of the Hutterites and will be of particular interest to North Americans of Hutterite and Anabaptist descent.

The medieval, Renaissance and baroque ornamental tiles were originally made for decorated ovens and stoves.

"This is one of the finest private collections in existence today," said Michael Ames, director of the Museum of Anthropology.

"Some pieces are so rare they are probably one-of-a-kind. The main value to us is their research value and their sheer elegance."

Koerner previously donated a private collection of Northwest Coast masterpieces to the museum, Ames noted.

"His gift was instrumental in getting a federal grant that led to the construction of the Museum of Anthropology," which opened in 1976, he said.

Koerner has also contributed substantially to UBC's hospital and library over the years.

A former chairman of UBC's Board of Governors, Koerner arrived in British Columbia from his native Czechoslovakia in 1939, following the Nazi takeover of that country.

Although he and his brothers left behind a family forest products business, they soon established themselves in B.C.'s forest industry.

Arbitration is next step for stalled faculty talks

By GAVIN WILSON

Contract talks between the university and the Faculty Association are headed for arbitration after attempts at mediation failed.

Arbitration panel hearings, already scheduled to begin Dec. 15 or 16, will now take place. Under the terms of the framework agreement which governs talks, the panel can award only a one-year agreement.

The university had earlier offered the association a three-year contract.

Mediation efforts led by veteran labor negotiator Vincent Ready broke down late Nov. 30. Talks remain deadlocked on the issue of salaries.

"I regret very much that mediation did not bring a resolution to this dispute," said UBC President David Strangway.

Strangway added that it was difficult to understand why the Faculty Association, as the party that originally wanted to go into mediation, refused to move from its previously stated positions.

"It's a straightforward dispute," said faculty negotiator and economics professor John Cragg. "We think we deserve a little more money and they say they can't pay us that much. It's not profitable to start assigning blame."

The university had earlier offered the association a three-year package with a total increase of eight per cent in each year. This was made up of annual increases of 4.9, 4.9 and five per cent, a .1 per cent gender inequity fund in each of the first two years, as well as career progress, merit, anomaly and inequity increases of three per cent each year.

The Faculty Association is seeking greater increases to make up for income lost during the salary freeze of the early 1980s, as well as movement toward parity with faculty at other major Canadian universities.

The Faculty Association represents about 2,000 faculty members, librarians and continuing education program directors on campus.

In other negotiations, UBC teaching assistants have reached agreement on a new three-year contract with the university.

The settlement, ratified by the Board of Governors at its Dec. 1 meeting, calls for a five per cent salary increase effective Sept. 1, 1988, five per cent in the next year and six per cent in the final year.

The agreement covers about 1,400 teaching assistants, mostly graduate students, represented by the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 2278.

Contract talks have begun with CUPE Local 116, which represents about 1,600 trades workers on campus. Talks are also slated to begin with Canadian University Employees (also known as CUPE, Local 2950), which represents about 1,400 clerical and library staff, and the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 882, which bargains for 32 mechanical maintenance and steam plant workers. Their contracts expire March 31, 1989.

Trying to find balance

Rise in tuition proposed

By JO MOSS

UBC tuition fees may jump as much as 10 per cent for the 1989 fall term.

Recommendations to increase tuition for undergraduate and graduate programs were presented to the Board of Governors for discussion at the Dec. 1 meeting. The board will formally consider the recommendations early in 1989.

UBC is proposing to raise tuition fees by an additional five per cent over and above an anticipated five per cent increase for all undergraduate programs.

Dan Birch, Vice-President and Provost, said the extra five per cent increase reflects a specific budget strategy by the university to bring revenue in line with expenditures.

UBC is reducing its expenditures by $2-million across the board in 1988-89. The extra five per cent increase in tuition fees will generate an additional $1.8-million in revenue for the university, he said.

UBC has recommended that tuition fees for the first year of Masters and PhD programs be held at current levels.

Students in the third and following years of a Masters program, and the fourth and following years of a PhD program, however, will see their fees increase to $750 per year from $571.

"Graduate tuition revenue overall will also increase by 10 per cent," Birch said.

If the Board of Governors approves the fee rise, students enroling in first-year Arts and Science in the fall of 1989 will pay $107 per unit, up from $97. That amounts to $1605 for a 15-unit Arts or Science program.

Tim Bird, President of UBC's Alma Mater Society said students can't afford the increase. UBC already has one of the highest tuition fees in the country, he said, and students in B.C. face lower government financial aid programs and higher costs of living than do students in other parts of Canada.

Bird said the AMS is preparing a report on students' financial plight for presentation to the board in early 1989.

Birch said the university is trying to find a balance between two strategies.

"Students don't benefit by having fewer faculty and larger classes either," he said.

Last year's tuition fee increase was 4.5 per cent.

Construction to start on daycare building 'immediately:' official

By JO MOSS

Construction will begin almost immediately on UBC's new daycare building now that the university's proposal has cleared the last official hurdle.

UBC's Board of Governors approved the project, Dec. 1. The Child Care Society, which represents the 12 independent daycare centres on campus, voted unanimously on Nov. 22 with one abstention, to accept the proposal.

K.D. Srivastava, Vice-President Student and Academic Services, said no time will be wasted in moving ahead.

"We're ready to start immediately," he said.

UBC's Alma Mater Society came through at the eleventh hour with an additional $194,000 to eliminate a daycare fee increase for parents who are UBC students. The Child Care Society incurred repayment of a $336,000 debt as part of the proposal package and planned to institute a user surcharge of $11 a month.

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Next UBC Reports published Jan.12

The next edition of UBC Reports will be published on Thursday, Jan.12. The Calendar deadline for that issue is Wednesday, Jan. 4 at 4 p.m.

200 rooms set aside for 1990 gay games

By JO MOSS

UBC has allocated 200 rooms for use by the Third International Gay Games and Cultural Festival to be held in Vancouver in 1990.

But UBC President David Strangway said the university could not meet organizers' request for use of the Aquatic Centre and gymnasiums because those facilities are in full use.

UBC's facilities are in heavy demand during the summer months by campus and community groups, he said.

The university had earlier turned down a request by gay games organizers for use of campus rooms and facilities for the city-wide event.

Svend Robinson, Burnaby MP and honorary festival director, had joined games organizers in appealing the university's decision at a Board of Governors meeting in October.

Robinson said the decision was a denial of access to publicly funded facilities and that other gay and lesbian conferences as well as political events had been held on campus over the years.

Strangway conveyed the university's decision to Kevin Smith, Director of Celebration '90, in a Dec. 1 letter.

Santa came to campus to help the Forestry Undergraduate Society sell Christmas trees. They can be purchased at the Esso station at 10th and Alma until Dec. 22.

Expanded service is aim of UBC nurse-midwives

By JO MOSS

UBC Nursing professors Elaine Carty and Alison Rice are qualified nurse-midwives, but there are few places they can practice in Canada.

One is in a small, unique clinic operating out of Vancouver's Grace Hospital.

Carty and Rice would like to see the situation change.

For most of their professional careers, they have worked to establish midwifery as a recognized profession. They say midwives can complement existing provincial health-care services, and help cut maternity costs.

In 1981, they helped found the Nurse Midwifery Service (NMS)--the first clinic of its kind in Canada--which is now operated on a part-time basis by Grace Hospital's nursing department. In seven years, more than 300 families have taken advantage of its specialized services, some women returning for their second and third child.

Six qualified nurse-midwives, whose salaries are paid by the hospital, and three volunteer associate midwives, including Carty and Rice, practice in the clinic. The NMS is advertised only by word of mouth, yet they're hard pressed to keep up with demand and must turn away about 15 women a month.

Canada is one of the few developed countries that does not recognize midwifery as a profession. All midwives working in NMS are registered nurses and qualified midwives who can legally work in other countries. Carty took her training in the United States, Rice in England.

The clinic's midwifery service is sanctioned by the B.C. College of Physicians and Surgeons and the administration board of Grace Hospital

"Many people associate midwifery with home delivery and they're surprised to find out that we work in conjunction with regular hospital services," Carty said.

Women give birth in hospital attended by the midwife who is the constant caregiver from the time conception is confirmed to six weeks after birth. Physician consultation is always available.

Midwives provide pre-natal care, including assessment of the mother and baby, nutrition and exercise counselling, and help the family prepare for the impact of an infant. Children are involved in the process as much as possible.

"That's what we see as the different focus of midwifery care," Rice explained. "Looking at the pregnancy in the context of the family."

At the 28th week, the midwife draws up a birth plan with the family. And in the last month, the midwife and family stage a birth rehearsal in the hospital delivery room, an exercise that helps alleviate apprehension, Carty said.

The midwife also assists the mother throughout labor and counsels her and her family during the first few weeks of adjustment after the birth.

Carty and Rice would like the Nurse Midwifery Service to expand to meet what they say is a gap in the health care system. Adolescents and immigrant women, in particular, would benefit from a midwifery service, Carty said.

Housing rights violations are subject of seminar

By PAULA MARTIN

A UBC housing specialist is trying to determine how Canadians' housing rights are being violated across the country.

"Nobody disputes that there are violations of housing rights -- discrimination being the major one," said David Hulchanski, director of the Centre for Human Settlements.

The right to housing is enshrined in several international treaties which Canada has ratified, including the 1976 Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements.

However, Hulchanski said, it is difficult to determine some of the more subtle ways in which Canadians' housing rights are being violated.

"There are still landlords who won't rent to black people, to single mothers, to Pakistani people," he said. "They find excuses, we all know that."

Some zoning bylaws may infringe on people's rights as well, he added.

"Is it a housing rights violation for the city to designate areas where tenants aren't allowed, which they indirectly do with single-family zoning?" he asked.

The Centre for Human Settlements is presenting a day-long seminar on the right to housing Dec. 9, to coincide with the 40th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations.

Staff at Food Services Bakeshop display traditional Christmas fare that can be ordered until Dec. 16. From left: Aaron Khan, Tom Zorbakis, Angie Jang and George Domoe.

Society to seek funds to reduce cost of debt

The $11 will now be charged only to daycare parents who are staff and faculty.

Michael Tretheway, commerce professor and treasurer of the Child Care Society said the AMS contribution takes the burden off those least able to afford a fee increase.

"I think the AMS has shown some real leadership on the daycare issue," he said. "They are to be commended for their support and committment."

About 60 per cent of daycare parents are UBC students.

Glenn Drover, President of the Child Care Society, said the society will attempt to raise further funding informally to reduce the cost of debt payments.

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"The extra $11 makes a difference, especially to parents who are staff," he said.

Costs for the new facility on Acadia Road, which will accomodate 275 children, is $2.2-million plus services to the site.

The extra funding from the AMS brings its total contribution to $544,000. UBC is footing $1.8-million of the construction bill.

The remainder of the funding will come from a number of sources. The teaching assistant's union has raised $5,000, faculty members have donated more than $40,000, and the Vancouver Foundation has committed $75,000.

Scientists to teach in public schools

By GAVIN WILSON

A new program to send scientists into public schools has been announced by Stan Hagen, Minister of Advanced Education and Job Training.

"I am excited about this new program," Hagen said . "Science is the way of the future and I think this program will help spark interest in children to consider science as a career."

Retired UBC chemistry professor Douglas Hayward said ministry officials told him they hoped his Do-It-Yourself Chemistry school program will serve as a model for the new plan.

Hayward has appeared before thousands of elementary school students in the Lower Mainland and elsewhere in B.C. to demonstrate that chemistry is "safe, fun and interesting."

Funded by the local section of the Chemical Institute of Canada, Hayward has also produced a video, writes a newspaper column and conducts a radio show.

Under the new program, the ministry will fund travel costs and related expenses for scientists to go into B.C. schools and talk to students. The program budget is $100,000 for the remainder of the fiscal year.

The program will start by focusing on two groups -- grades four to seven and high school students. Future plans are to expand the program to all age groups and even parents.

"Our goal is to ensure that every child in British Columbia has the opportunity to meet a scientist, face to face, at least once during the child's school years," said Hagen.

Hayward said he would take the minister's statements one step further, and suggest that students get the chance to meet a university professor face to face.

"I would especially urge women in science to go into the classrooms."

Teenagers attend Saturday lectures

Will teenagers eagerly go to school on a Saturday?

They will if they are attending the UBC Science Lecture Series, which brings together some of the university's top researchers and some of the Lower Mainland's best Grade 11 science students.

The project will introduce students to science and its applications in British Columbia.

"It is critical that today's high school students be encouraged to pursue careers in science and technology," said series organizer Alan Carter. "There will be an increased need for young, capable people to work as entrepreneurs in companies in technological development."

This is the second year that the Science Lecture Series for students in the International Baccalaureate or Advanced Placement programs has been held on campus. It is organized through the office of the Acting Dean of Science, David Dolphin.

Topics are chosen to cover a variety of disciplines and lecturers are asked to include hands-on activities where possible. Enthusiastic students come in from as far away as Port Moody and Langley, said Carter.

Also included in the series are demonstrations of lab equipment and tours of the campus, TRIUMF and the Geological Museum.

The series began Nov. 5 and continues on seven Saturdays until March, 1989.

The first session featured Julia Levy of Microbiology and a panel discussion on women in science and technology.

Other speakers include TRIUMF Director Erich Vogt and department heads such as Anthony Glass, Botany, Geoffrey Scudder, Zoology, Paul LeBlond, Oceanography and Barry McBride, Microbiology.

The series is funded by the President's office, the Faculty of Science Dean's office and the Science Council of B.C.

Carol Mayer, Curator of Collections at the Museum of Anthropology, shows off an African ceremonial figure donated recently to the museum.

2,000 gifts given

MOA exhibit says thanks to donors

By PAULA MARTIN

Donors to the Museum of Anthropology have big hearts -- they also have lots of Philippine storage jars, hundreds of Inuit artifacts and the occasional Australian bark painting.

These are a few of the 2,000 gifts that have been given to the museum over the past two years. About 250 of the donated artifacts are on display until January in an exhibition called "Gifts and Giving."

"Collections are mainly built with donations," said Carol Mayer, curator of collections. "The main objective of this exhibit is to thank the people who have chosen this museum as the home for their artifacts."

The Museum of Anthropology does not have the resources to purchase many pieces, she said, adding that donations make up about 80 per cent of its holdings.

The gifts come from many parts of the world, some singly and others in large bunches. Many are given by anonymous benefactors or bequeathed in wills.

"A few months ago, a lady came in carrying a plastic bag and inside was an absolutely beautiful Northwest Coast button blanket," Mayer said. "A number of things arrive on your doorstep that you don't expect."

Many donors collect pieces for years and then decide to move their collection into the museum, she added.

"Some donors like the fact that we're a teaching museum and their objects will be used to teach. Some like the fact that most gifts are displayed in visible storage and others like to give to a museum with high visibility," Mayer said.

More than 55 per cent of the gifts over the past two years have consisted of Asian material, 17 per cent have been Inuit -- mostly from one donation of 600 pieces -- and eight per cent have been Northwest Coast artifacts, she said.

Included in the exhibit is one of the most highly publicized gifts received by the Museum of Anthropology recently -- a Chilkat blanket, purchased last summer from the estate of the late American pop artist, Andy Warhol.

Free trade pact may hurt environment: professor

By GAVIN WILSON

The impending Free Trade Agreement with the United States could result in greater environmental problems for Canada, says an associate professor at UBC's School of Community and Regional Planning.

William Rees said one risk lies in provisions of the agreement which give U.S. companies the same access to Canadian energy reserves as Canadian companies.

If, as a result, these reserves are exploited at a more rapid pace, Canada will have to pay the price of the environmental problems that go hand in hand with resource extraction.

"By creating a continental market for energy resources, we may be stimulating an accelerated rate of production of frontier energy reserves with its potential for environmental problems," he said.

Rees is also disturbed at federal government initiatives to spend billions of dollars to develop the Hibernia offshore oil fields and the Lethbridge heavy oil project

"If the trade agreement goes through, and if the Americans enter into long-term contracts for Canadian oil and natural gas, what we are in effect doing is jeopardizing the Canadian environment while subsidizing U.S. consumers with lower energy prices," said Rees.

Growing concerns about global environmental issues such as the greenhouse effect may make traditional energy sources obsolete, he added. For example, with many scientists calling for reductions in emissions of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, there may be strong pressure to curb the use of coal and petroleum in the next decade.

"By the time Hibernia crude is ready to flow, its use as fuel may be ecologically and socially unconscionable," said Rees.

In the meantime, while subsidies for the exploitation of conventional energy sources are permitted under free trade, there are concerns the agreement might restrict the public-private sector cooperation needed to develop new, more sustainable technologies.

Bald eagles flock to Fraser to escape northern winter

By JO MOSS

One of the world's largest concentrations of bald eagles is located right on Vancouver's doorstep, Forestry professor Fred Bunnell says.

A 21-kilometre stretch of the Fraser River between Chilliwack and Hope, and part of the Harrison River and Nicomen Slough area, provides winter habitat for vast numbers of the birds. A field worker last year counted 1,250 eagles from one site alone.

Some naturalists suspected the area housed a large wintering eagle population, but they weren't prepared for such high numbers.

"We were really surprised," Bunnell said. "The only other place that has such a high concentration of eagles is the Chilkat area in Alaska, and the numbers are probably comparable."

Bunnell can't say exactly how many eagles flock to the Fraser to escape harsh conditions in northern B.C. and Alaska. But experts estimate the wintering population for the whole province is in excess of 20,000 birds.

Up to now, B.C. eagles have received short shrift from scientists, Bunnell says. "We tend to take our natural resources for granted," he added.

Of the estimated 70,000 bald eagles in North America, 48,000 reside in B.C. and Alaska. The south coast of the province provides habitat for 900 breeding pairs compared to only 280 pairs in Washington, where eagles are an endangered species.

Tree harvesting has been identified as one of the greatest threats to bald eagles in the western United States and while eagle numbers in B.C. show no signs of diminishing, it's important to look at how logging could affect Canadian populations, Bunnell said.

With financial support from the World Wildlife Fund of Canada, he has spent three years documenting eagle night roosts in the Fraser Valley area. As many as 150 eagles at a time congregate in Douglas fir trees to escape the wind and wet.

"They have particularly favorite trees which are very large and usually old growth trees, remnants of old forest," explained project leader Anthea Farr.

Nests indicate the area also supports a sizeable year-round population, she said.

Bunnell and Farr are collaborating with Scott Paper Ltd., which holds a tree farm licence for part of the area. Eighteen night roosts have been identified to date; one is in the tree farm license area and has been set aside as a reserve. The company is also preserving perch trees where necessary and monitoring the productivity of eagle nesting sites.

"It's an ongoing program of managing the land for more than its timber value," explained Ken Stenerson, woodlands manager for Scott Paper, who said eagle numbers appear to have increased over the last few years.

Farr is now working to identify what makes a roost tree so special to eagles, so potential roosting sites can be preserved for the future.

This summer, Bunnell expanded his study to the coastal areas of B.C. in cooperation with two more forest companies. UBC forestry students helped conduct aerial surveys and followup ground checks of eagle nests.

Malcolm Knapp forest

Trail guide an aid for hikers

By JO MOSS

All you need to enjoy a day in the UBC Malcolm Knapp Research Forest, is a good pair of walking shoes and the new trail guide brochure.

Recent improvements to trails and signs in the forest demonstration area and publication of a detailed booklet outlining points of interest mean visitors can now wander the trails at their own pace.

"We've made it totally self-guiding," said Don Munro research forest director.

An annual grant of $10,000 from B.C.'s Ministry of Forests had previously allowed the Maple Ridge forest to provide public tours. That funding was cut earlier this year when the new Seymour demonstration forest opened on Vancouver's North Shore. As a result, UBC accelerated development of the research forest's self-guiding program, Munro said.

"From the very beginning we had identified items of interest in the demonstration area," said Munro. "The objective had always been to make it self-guiding."

Visitors can now select from three main routes in the demonstration area, located at the southern tip of the 5,517-hectare forest, ranging from one-and-a-half to seven kilometres. A variety of detours may be added and wheelchair visitors can follow the Wheelchair Trail, an asphalt path which runs through the Arboretum.

The self-guiding brochure is available for $1 at the main gate.

Open from dawn to dusk every day, the demonstration area illustrates proper forestry management techniques and allows visitors to learn about the environment, ecology and plant identification. Many ongoing research projects can also be viewed.

"As an outdoor laboratory, our primary function is research and education," Munro said. "Public participation and enjoyment of the forest is part of the research."

A popular site for school teachers and their classes, the UBC Malcolm Knapp Research Forest also attract families with young children as well as serious hikers.

One active group of senior citizens regularly visits for a 15 - 20 kilometre hike, Munro said.

Dogs bother the wildlife and visitors are asked to leave them at home. "That's always a sore point," Munro added.

Recent improvements to the demonstration area include resurfaced trails, a new bridge, better signage and a new trail running alongside the Alouette River with views of rapids and falls.

There are good opportunities to see wildlife such as blacktail deer, black bear, grouse, coyotes and rabbits. "The chances are pretty good visitors will see something," Munro said.

New method studied for producing pulp

By GAVIN WILSON

Researchers led by Acting Dean of Science and chemistry professor David Dolphin are developing methods of processing wood pulp that could one day replace the controversial bleaching process now used by the Canadian pulp and paper industry.

The current method of bleaching, which uses chlorine, has come under fire recently because it results in the creation of byproducts such as dioxins, extremely toxic substances that have been detected throughout the environment from heron eggs to milk cartons.

The chlorine is used to break down the wood fibre, stripping away everything except the cellulose, which is then used to make paper.

Dolphin's fellow researchers isolated the enzymes that naturally degrade the wood fibre in 1983. Efforts since then have been aimed at mimicking and then improving the enzyme using biotechnology.

The natural enzymes work only in a narrow range of temperature and acidity. But industrial operations prefer to work at high temperatures and extreme acidity levels to speed the chemical processes and, ultimately, production.

The manufactured enzymes have these advantages, but are not yet cost-effective for commercial use. Dolphin points out, too, that with the entire industry geared to chlorine bleaching, it would be very expensive to switch to other methods.

"It's too early to know if this will be useful in industry yet," he said. "But concerns about the environment are growing all the time. In Europe they have either cut down on or banned the use of chlorine in the bleaching process. If that happens here, then the industry could be more receptive to biotechnology."

Dolphin has worked in conjunction with Boston-based Replegen, a bio-tech company, and Sandoz, a company better known for its pharmaceuticals.

Research chairs receive approval

UBC's Senate and Board of Governors have approved the establishment of new research chairs in organizational behavior and applied ethics.

The Maurice Young chair in Applied Ethics will be located in the philosophy department, but the prospective appointee may hold a joint appointment in another faculty, said Robert Will, Dean of the Arts faculty.

The Edgar Kaiser Jr. Chair in Organizational Behavior, in the Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration, will be filled by Commerce professor Peter Frost.

Students' commercial for Orphans' Fund wins praise

By PAULA MARTIN

Ninety seconds of television may provide years of good advertising for the Theatre department's film studies program.

The department agreed to help Vancouver radio station CKNW by providing student volunteers and equipment to produce three 30-second spots for the station's Orphans' Fund.

Ray Hall, co-ordinator of the film studies program, said the public service announcements were "excellent."

"If they had been done by one of the commercial production companies in town, it would have cost $60,000-$70,000 to produce the three of them."

Hall described one, which simply shows a wheelchair being snapped together, as an award winner.

He said the department has received several requests in the past to make public service announcements and commercials for various associations and non-profit groups.

Although the production experience is valuable for the students, he said he is a bit reluctant to saddle them with such time-consuming projects.

"It has been good experience, but it does have an impact on the required course work the students have to keep doing as well."

Hall added he doesn't want to see the film program become too production-oriented.

John Prince and Michelle Bjornson, the students who wrote, directed, edited and produced the three announcements, have now graduated from the film studies program.

Prince said the experience was invaluable.

"If you're starting out, the agencies aren't going to believe you have any credibility if you don't have a track record," he said. "It gave us a lot of experience."

Although UBC donated expertise and equipment, film, post-production facilities and the sound recording were all donated by private firms.

Marty Matthews, administrator of the CKNW Orphans' Fund, said he approached UBC because he thought it would be a good project for students to take on.

He added that public reaction to the spots, which ran hundreds of times on three local television stations, was very favorable.

"The description I received was that they were a 'national' production on a zero budget," Matthews said.

Toronto painter Janids Vilks takes images from tabloid newspaper photographs and transforms them into oil paintings. The one above is part of a show called Chain of Consequences at the UBC Fine Arts Gallery until Dec. 17.

'Rather eccentric painter'

Artist interprets West Coast

By GAVIN WILSON

In the studio of UBC artist Judy Williams hangs a large canvas covered with what at first glance appears to be the image of a mottled green mass of dense foliage. Then the skeletons begin to appear.

The story behind the work is as mystical and arcane as the West Coast Williams loves to interpret through her art.

A friend and her companion were kayaking in the Queen Charlotte Islands when a storm blew up, forcing them into a deserted cove. Their attempts to pitch a tent were thwarted when the pegs failed to penetrate beyond the spongy green moss that covered the ground. Curious, they cut and rolled back the thick carpet of moss.

There they found stacks of human bones -- the remains of a Native Indian tribe decimated by smallpox.

"I feel that I have access to things on the coast that others don't have, because of the people I know and the length of time I've spent there," says Williams, who has had a home on West Redonda Island, near Desolation Sound, for 20 years.

Williams is one of seven members of the Fine Arts department who displayed their work at the Student Union Building gallery in a special exhibition in November.

Her studio occupies the top floor of the old firehall on West Mall. Pots of brushes, cardboard models and sketchbooks clutter a table; works in progress hang from the walls and claim floorspace; a bed is tucked away in one corner. Artists, she says, don't keep regular hours.

"I'm a rather eccentric painter so I find this space congenial. My paintings are odd. I can do them under these circumstances, and it suits me."

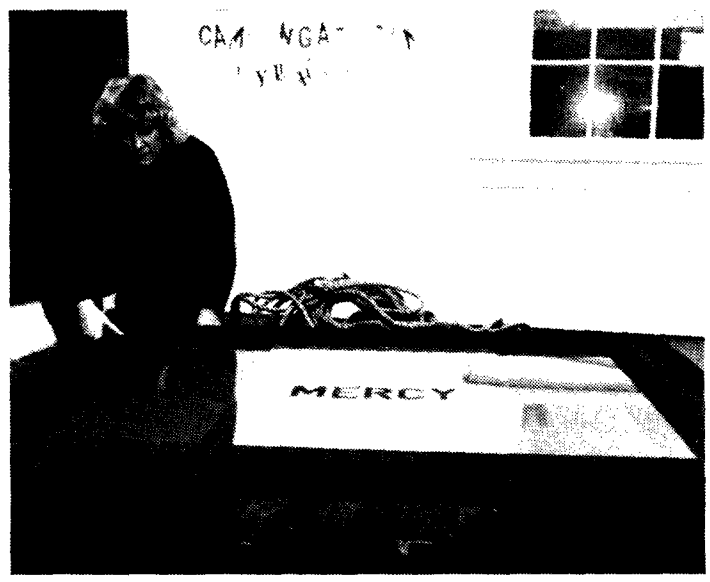
William's obsession is the West Coast. Her current work is leading up to a exhibition at the Museum of Anthropology in 1992 to commemorate the bicentennial of the exploration of Georgia Strait by captains Vancouver, Galiano and Valdez.

She has spent weeks re-tracing their voyages, probing the inlets, arms and sounds to understand more deeply their experience of the place.

"I'm looking for a visual language to talk about the coast. Artists have represented the coast as it looks, but I want to penetrate into the meaning of what is seen -- this is my job."

Other artists whose work was shown at the SUB gallery were Jeff Wall, Wendy Dobereiner, Barbara Sungur, Roy Kiyooka, Robert Young and Georgiana Chappell.

Williams' work is sponsored by a $5,000 Humanities and Social Sciences UBC Summer Research Grant.



Judy Williams of the Fine Arts department puts the finishing touches on one of her works destined for an exhibition at the SUB gallery.

UBC surpasses United Way goal

By DEBORA SWEENEY

UBC's United Way campaign has raised $156,417, significantly surpassing its $134,000 goal.

"We're pleased with the success of the campaign," said chairman John McNeill, Dean of Pharmaceutical Sciences. "We got a lot of people mobilized around campus and have a solid basis for a good team to carry on next year."

The campaign closed Nov. 28 but donations continue to trickle in.

The campaign's slogan was 's10 and 10' - a 10 per cent increase in money raised and a 10 per cent increase in participation.

The campaign fell short of its participation goal. While organizers had hoped 23 per cent of the campus community would contribute, the final tally was just over 18 per cent.

"We're always disappointed when some units have a zero per cent participation rate," said McNeill.

However, he pointed out that 39 departments came in with participation rates of 23 per cent and higher, including the Development Office which boasted 85 per cent, Guided Independent Studies with 83 per cent and Political Science with 56 per cent.

McNeill extended his thanks to this year's executive committee: Dean Jim Richards, Agricultural Sciences, who was vice-chairman; Ron Dumouchelle, Development Office; John Foster, Information Systems Management; Ian Franks, Media Services; Byron Hender, Awards and Financial Aid; Libby Kay, Extra-Sessional Studies; Marianne Koch, Financial Services; Judy Larsen, Community Relations Office; Michael Lee, Alma Mater Society; Shirley Louie, Food Services; and Gayle Smith, President's Office.

The overall United Way campaign in the Lower Mainland surpassed its goal of $12.6-million.

Vinod K. Sood

Helped UBC raise funds

Vinod K. Sood, chairman and CEO of Finning Ltd., died at his home Nov. 19. He was 53.

A member of UBC's campaign leadership committee for the upcoming university fundraising campaign, Sood was also a member of the Advisory Council for the Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration.

Vice-Chairman of the Business Council of B.C. and director of several companies including the Conference Board of Canada, Sood joined Finning in 1968 and was appointed vice-president of finance the following year. A gifted financial strategist, he became president in 1981, CEO in 1984 and chairman in 1986. Under his direction, Finning became one of the world's largest equipment distributors with revenue in excess of $660 million.

Born in India, Sood came to North America in 1964 on a fellowship to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Twenty-three years later, in 1987, MIT presented him with the Corporate Leadership Award. The Sales and Marketing Executives of Vancouver named him Marketing Executive of the Year in 1988.

A scholarship for graduate students has been established in his memory in the Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration.

Sood is survived by his wife and tw sons.

Norman Colbeck

Major benefactor of library

Norman Colbeck, a major private benefactor of the UBC library and recipient of an honorary doctor of letters degree from the university in 1987, died Sept. 23 at the age of 85.

He is survived by his wife, Mabel Colbeck.

Born in London, England, in 1903, Colbeck enjoyed a successful career as an antiquarian bookseller in the seaside town of Bournemouth for more than 40 years.

During those years he acquired an exceptional collection of works by 19th century English authors. When it came time to retire, he was persuaded by his friend and UBC professor William Fredeman to donate his private 13,000-volume collection to the university library.

Colbeck agreed on the condition he be allowed to serve as curator of the Colbeck Collection in order to complete a detailed catalogue of its contents, a position he held until 1972.

But Colbeck remained a familiar figure on campus for many years, as he continued to take an interest in the library's holdings. Up until last spring he was involved in editing the recently published two-volume catalogue of the collection.

"His collection of 19th century belles-lettres is one of the finest that I know of anywhere," said University Librarian Douglas McInnes. "It's acquisition by the library was really quite a surprising and wonderful event. We couldn't have gone out and purchased a collection of this kind."

STRESS

Eat a carrot . . .

By JO MOSS

Feeling stressed out? Eat a carrot.

That advice comes from Physical Education instructor Susan Crawford, who says chomping on a carrot may loosen tension.

Crawford, a registered dietician-nutritionist, offered her advice to about 60 managers from across Canada at a recent one-day seminar sponsored by the School of Physical Education.

Washed carrots are far superior to the normal snacks of muffins and cookies because carrots contain no fat and are loaded with fibre and nutrients.

And according to Crawford, fat is the number one dietary hazard for stressed-out executives. Heart disease, obesity and some forms of cancer have been linked to the high fat, North American diet.

"It's a message that often doesn't come across in the health ads for balanced meals," Crawford explained.

Many people consciously cut down on butter, margarine, and salad dressing and switch to two per cent milk instead of whole, but those visible fats account for only a small part of our fat intake, Crawford says.

A large amount of the fat we eat is hidden. It's in peanut butter, cheese, sauces, fried foods, baked goods, and gourmet desserts, as well as many processed and most fast foods.

"The hamburger in the bun is the least of the problem," Crawford explained. "Lean beef and bread don't contain excessively high amounts of fat. It's in the melted cheese, bacon, and sauces that are added." Add fries and a pie and you have a meal that is nearly 800 calories of which 60 per cent are pure fat.

About 42 per cent of the calories in an average North American's diet are fat. Health and Welfare Canada recommends cutting that back to about 30 to 35 per cent. Other health organizations tout even lower percentages.

"It all adds up to getting back to basics," Crawford said. "Eating original foods instead of heavily processed."

. . . run a mile

UBC's School of Physical Education is showing business managers how to incorporate a healthy diet and exercise into a corporate lifestyle.

Vancouver manager David McEown works long hours in a high pressure job and says he hasn't been really fit since first-year university.

That may change since he and 60 other managers from Dunwoody and Co., a national firm of chartered accountants, attended a one-day seminar at UBC.

Called the Care and Feeding of the Dunwoody Manager, it was the first seminar of its kind offered by the School of Physical Education, which has an ongoing program of coaching and sports-related workshops.

"It's just the beginning," said Sonya van Niekerk, conference coordinator, who said she hopes to see more health-related programs tailored to specific community groups in the future.

McEown, 30, who describes himself as "not perfectly fit," said the seminar encouraged him to set aside more time for playing squash and to have the occasional salad for lunch.

"I don't always think about eating the right things and it created more of an awareness about the food we're eating and the exercise we should be getting," he said.

It's the first time Dunwoody has offered a formal health and fitness program as part of its annual training seminars.

According to Howard Rosenthal, Dunwoody's National Training and Services Co-ordinator, it's not common for Canadian companies to encourage employees to improve their lifestyle. And while direct results are hard to measure, happier employees contribute to higher morale in the office and increased productivity, he said.

Rosenthal said offering an employee seminar on health was "a bit of a flyer." But feedback from participants was so positive it's high on his list for next year's topics.

Wolves decimate herd of rare B.C. caribou

By JO MOSS

Wolves are driving a herd of rare B.C. caribou to the brink of extinction.

About 120 western woodland caribou living around Quesnel Lake in B.C.'s central interior are being decimated by wolves. Calf survival rate is almost nil and according to UBC forestry research associate Dale Seip, the entire herd could be wiped out in a few years.

Last year, attempts to reduce wolf populations were stopped by conservation groups opposed to a wolf kill. Without wolf control, the Quesnel Lake caribou appear to be doomed, Seip says.

Western woodland caribou are larger than their barren ground caribou cousins and are listed as a rare species by the World Wildlife Fund which helped support Seip's research.

Alberta and the United States have gone one step farther, upgrading that classification to threatened, one step away from endangered and extinct.

Ironically, many B.C. residents believe the caribou has already joined the dodo, Seip said.

"When we arrived in some of these towns and told people we were there to tag caribou, their response was 'you're a little late.'"

For the past five years, Seip has been monitoring three caribou herds in different areas of the province. While studying the year-round interaction between wolves and caribou, he found moose play a key role in the scenario. In central B.C., they are the primary prey for wolves.

This sleepy moose has been mildly sedated to allow Forestry research associate Dale Siep to attach a radio collar. Siep is studying how moose, caribou and wolves interact.

"Moose are a relatively recent arrival to B.C.," Seip explained. "Nobody knows why, but they appear to have moved in from Alberta in the 1930s when B.C. colonization took off."

Seip believes that before the moose arrived there was an equitable balance between the caribou and wolves. Moose now sustain higher wolf populations and the predators add caribou to their diet during the spring and summer months. "With the moose there, the wolves occupy the caribou range all year round," Seip said. "It's a bad deal for the caribou and they seem to be disappearing from the Quesnel Lake area because of it."

Timing is critical if B.C. is to maintain its caribou population, he added.

"The reproductive rate is so low that even if conservation efforts began now, it may take 50 years to get the remnant population back to reasonable levels."

Charting electron movement

Billiards an aid to scientists

By GAVIN WILSON

Scientists at UBC are at the forefront of efforts to understand the movement of electrons in atoms and molecules by using techniques analogous to a game of billiards.

A team headed by Chemistry professor Chris Brion is one of only four groups of scientists in the world using Electron Momentum Spectroscopy (EMS) to capture images of individual electrons as they spin around nuclei.

The results promise to lead to a detailed understanding of chemical reaction at the most fundamental level. One day, Brion says, such knowledge could open the way for everything from a cure for cancer to the manufacture of high-temperature superconductors.

Although the research is conducted at highly sophisticated levels, Brion said that to perform the experiments researchers need only know some of the basic laws of physics. He added: "We also need to know how to play pool."

The researchers play billiards in the atomic dimension by knocking electrons out of their molecular orbits using projectile electrons fired from a gun similar to that found in a television tube. The energies and movements of all particles are determined before and after the collision using EMS.

"This experiment is enabling us to chart the motions of electrons as they move around the nuclei in atoms and molecules. For 60 years, this was only dreamt of in quantum mechanics . Even though freshmen chemistry textbooks have pictures of how it was supposed to be, no one knew whether it was right or not," said Brion.

The results of orbital imaging by EMS are expected to find increasing application in experimental quantum mechanics and in the understanding of chemical bonding, structure and reactivity.

Chris Brion

Down the road, applications may be found in many areas of science, technology and medicine including high-temperature superconductors, chemical catalysis and the biochemical nature of disease, he said.

"If one wants ultimately to understand and find a cure for cancer, we're going to have to understand the subtle biochemistry of the cancer cell, of how its chemical reactivity differs from a normal cell. This means understanding the detailed behavior of the electrons in the molecules concerned," said Brion.

The advent of quantum mechanics about 60 years ago allowed scientists to estimate the position and movement of electrons as they revolved around nuclei of atoms and molecules. But until the relatively recent development of EMS, measurements were not possible to directly test these ideas.

"We've found that some of the things that were thought to be correct in quantum mechanics -- even those that may be described as benchmark systems -- are incorrect, " he said. "For example, the water molecule has been shown to be larger than previously thought."

Pact signed by Alumni, Development Office

UBC's Alumni Association and Development Office have signed a contract which sets the ground rules for a close working relationship during the university's fundraising efforts.

"It represents the basis for a positive relationship," said John Diggens, President of the Alumni Association.

The three-year collaborative agreement, which became effective Sept. 1, formally defines what Diggens calls "a natural relationship" between the two units. UBC's Alumni Association has traditionally undertaken a large share of the university's fundraising and its links with more than 120,000 alumni around the world will be an integral part of ongoing efforts.

The Development Office, established as a university department in April 1987, was created to mount UBC's major fundraising drive.

Although the agreement was set up in anticipation of the major campaign, it extends well beyond it, Diggens said. "The term of the agreement is intentionally three years to get us past it," he explained.

Childhoods revisited

Growing up in far off lands

By GAVIN WILSON

At the age of seven, UBC President David Strangway jabbered a mixture of English, Portuguese and an African dialect at the dinner table. Academic Vice-President and Provost Daniel Birch, meanwhile, was running for cover as enemy aircraft strafed his railway train.

These are two of the fascinating insights into the childhoods of UBC personnel revealed in a seminar series entitled Childhood Revisited sponsored by the Canadian Childhood History Project in the Department of Social and Educational Studies.

"The goal is to bring people together within the UBC community to discuss childhood reminiscences," said Jean Barman, who runs the project along with Education Dean Nancy Sheehan and professors Neil Sutherland and Norah Lewis.

Added Sutherland: "We hold a seminar series every year and we thought that rather than one with academic papers this time we would try a series of people actually talking about their own childhoods. This oral history is one type of evidence we collect for research."

Strangway and Birch spoke as children of missionary parents who spent their youths in foreign cultures and were then faced with painful readjustments on their return to Canada.

Although born in Simcoe, Ont., Strangway spent much of his youth in the African nations of Angola and what was then Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), with parents who were missionaries for the United Church. His father, a physician, operated a mission hospital as well as a model farm that spanned thousands of acres.

Strangway, who would one day lead experiments on moon rocks for NASA, spent his first vacations in grass huts set by a tropical waterfall. He tasted his first beer on the frontier of the Belgian Congo (now Zaire).

Academic Vice-President and Provost Daniel Birch, seen here at the age of one with his nanny Wang Ma, told a recent seminar about his childhood in China.

Birch was also Canadian born -- on Saltspring Island -- but he was almost immediately whisked off to China with missionary parents.

The Japanese invasion of China before the Second World War tore apart the Birch family, resulting in a long separation of parents and their children. Birch, who had been attending a boarding school, made a perilous journey across war-torn China on his way to sanctuary in India and a reunion with parents he feared he would no longer recognize.

Returning to Canada brought its own adjustments.

"I came from a society in which there were no cars," said Birch. "Suddenly, I was back in Canada in a culture where it was assumed that boys knew all about different makes and models of cars."

In an earlier session, three faculty members recounted their Childhoods on the Edge of War. Roderick Barman and Philip Reid spoke of wartime childhoods in England, Nancy Sheehan of growing up in Halifax.

The Canadian Childhood History Project is a research project involving both faculty and graduate students at UBC. Simon Fraser University was also involved in the first phase.

Supported by a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council grant, much of the project has been dedicated to building an on-line computer database of literature on childhood. The original four-year project has been extended for three more years.

Parents are angry over health care for asthma: study

By JO MOSS

Parents of children with asthma are frustrated and sometimes angry because their needs aren't being met in the health care system, according to a UBC study.

Family physicians were singled out, more than any other health professional group, by parents who said they wished doctors were better informed.

"In the parents' eyes, physicians were not knowledgeable about management and drugs for the condition. One doctor would do one thing and another doctor something else," said Nursing professor Virginia Hayes, who conducted the study. "Parents also said they felt their views were not respected. They said they felt devalued by their doctors and wished that physicians would develop better communication skills."

"Parents learn to understand their child's condition and they want to be listened to, but they say their views aren't respected by the health profession. The way the doctor communicates with them is important," she added.

Asthma is one of the most common childhood conditions affecting about seven per cent of children. It's an allergic reaction to substances such as dust or pollens which cause the bronchial tubes--the airways to the lungs--to fill with liquid, narrow, and go into spasms. Characterized by wheezing and gasping for air, asthmatic attacks can occur twice a year, or twice a day, depending on the severity of the condition.

The attacks are frequently terrifying to children and parents alike, Hayes said.

Hayes, who has a teenage son with asthma, interviewed 92 parents of children with asthma to find out how families coped. Half of the parents had taken part in a Family Asthma Education Program sponsored by the B.C. Lung Association.

She found that parents often felt poorly-informed, isolated and misunderstood. "Neighbors couldn't understand why their child couldn't play in a friend's home," Hayes said. Parents were also frustrated because asthma is often diagnosed late, despite recurring symptoms such as bronchitis.

"A common scenario is that when a child is finally diagnosed, parents feel angry. It's obvious to them in hindsight that they could have made some changes that would have helped their child. They often feel bitter about it."

The anxiety of not knowing when asthma attacks will occur, administering daily medication, frequent trips to hospital emergencies, and worrying about whether siblings are getting enough attention, compound to place considerable stress on parents, Hayes said.

They often go to great trouble and expense to accomodate their child whose bedroom has to be free of fibres that attract dust, including carpet, drapes and fuzzy toys. Mattress and pillows must be covered with plastic and the whole house dusted and vacuumed every day.

"The bottom line is life with asthma is tough. It's tough for the child, the parents and the family," said Hayes. Parents feel life could be better, and they see one way as being through an improved health-care system, she added.

Contrary to popular belief, asthma doesn't disappear with age.

"It's generally a misconception that kids outgrow asthma," Hayes said. "In some cases, the symptoms do decrease as the child grows older. But really, it's a life-long condition."

She says parents who participated in the B.C. Lung Association's education program found it both informative and supportive. But B.C. desperately needs more programs like it, she said.

"Because the program is offered only in Vancouver, it isn't accessible enough to people," Hayes said. "It has to be more portable and get out to where it's needed."

Facsimile purchased

Library to house Book of Kells

By GAVIN WILSON

Fundraising efforts by the Lower Mainland's Irish community and UBC librarian Anne Yandle have resulted in the purchase of a facsimile of the legendary Book of Kells for the library.

Delivery won't be until 1990, and donations are still needed for the special display case required to house the book, said fundraiser Bernadette Percy.

The history of the Book of Kells is as colorful as its gilded pages. It has survived wars, fire and theft to sit in display at Dublin's Trinity College, where it has been under guard since 1661.

The work of eighth-century monks, the book is a masterpiece of medieval art and a cultural icon in Ireland. Up to 3,000 people a day line up to see the lavishly illustrated manuscript of New Testament gospels.

But due to the deteriorating condition of the original, its pages can no longer be turned. Trinity College commissioned a Swiss publishing firm specializing in fine art reproduction to create a limited edition of 1,480 identical facsimiles so that future generations could enjoy the book. Copies are being bought by art connoisseurs, scholars, libraries and investors.

"The Book of Kells is a splendid example of Celtic art and lettering, " said Yandle. "The facsimile will be a spectacular addition to the library's collection of fine printing."

To make the facsimile, a high-tech photo-electronic process reproduces the pages on paper closely resembling the original parchment, making it virtually indistinguishable from Trinity's copy. Only four pages are printed at a time, and these are checked against the original for the slightest differences.

The project is scheduled for completion in 1990 when a Trinity College librarian will personally deliver the facsimile -- valued at $16,000 -- to UBC.

Said fundraiser John Kelly, a Vancouver resident: "I became interested in the project because the Book of Kells represents not only an historic document important to the Irish community, but also a great medieval work of art and scholarship that could be shared with all Canadians."

After the facsimile is presented to the university, it will be on permanent exhibit in the Special Collections Division of the library. Individual donors' names will be inscribed by Celtic calligrapher Aidan Meehan in a special book of donors, which will be displayed along with the facsimile.

For more information, call John Kelly at 736-7858 or Bernadette Percy at 263-7800.

Kahn is appointed to employment equity post

By DEBORA SWEENEY

Kahn

UBC has appointed a Director of Employment Equity to ensure people in the campus workplace are treated fairly.

Sharon Kahn, an associate professor of counselling psychology, will assume the position Jan. 1. She has been at the university since 1975.

"UBC is committing itself to eliminate unfair employment barriers and discrimination," said Kahn.

Under the Federal Contractors Program established by Employment and Immigration Canada, Kahn will compile information on four target groups: women, native Indians, disabled people and visible minorities. She will identify barriers to the selection, hiring, training and promotion of people in those groups.

"We must find out where we stand and what the potential pool of applicants is. Then, we'll set goals for hiring and promotion," she said.

For example, Kahn said she might look at the pool of disabled people applying for jobs. She would determine access to facilities on campus and explore the type of jobs and working environment the university could provide.

Kahn admits her job will not be easy.

"The problem is that no one at UBC has the data -- the university has never asked its employees to self-identify in any of the target groups," she said.

Kahn will work with the personnel department, the faculty association, the association of administrative and professional staff, campus unions and senior administrators to compile the data.

As a research scholar, Kahn has studied the role of social, cultural and gender difference in counselling. Recently she has focussed on women's career concerns, specifically the ways in which women in management positions cope with stress.

She sees her appointment as an opportunity to expand her work by studying institutional and social barriers to career enhancement.

People

Harris awarded gold medal

Harris

Geography professor **Cole Harris** has been awarded a gold medal by the Royal Canadian Geographical Society for outstanding achievement in editing Volume One of the Historical Atlas of Canada.

The atlas, which was published in July, 1987, outlines Canada's development from the end of the last ice age to the year 1800.

The society's medal, which has been awarded only six times since 1972, was given to Harris for his "thoughtful approach to this innovative exercise in historical interpretation and for his adherence to excellence in presentation."

Geographer **William Dean** and cartographer **Geoffrey Matthews**, both of the University of Toronto, were also awarded gold medals by the society for producing the atlas.

Ian Affleck has been named co-winner of the Steacie Prize in the natural sciences. He is the fourth member of the UBC physics department to win the prestigious national award, a record unmatched in Canada, said department head Brian Turrell.

The Steacie Prize is awarded annually to a person under 40 years of age for outstanding scientific work. This year it consists of a cash award of $7,500. Affleck won the prize for research into magnetism and superconductivity.

The prize is named in memory of **E.W.R. Steacie**, a physical chemist and former president of the National Research Council of Canada. Past winners from UBC are **Myer Bloom** (1967), **Walter Hardy** (1978), and **William Unruh** (1983).

Artibise

Alan Artibise, director of the School of Community and Regional Planning and **Stanley Hamilton**, associate dean of the Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration, have been elected members of Lambda Alpha International.

The Chicago-based professional society fosters the study of land economics and honors individuals who have contributed to the preservation, development or better utilization of land resources.

Artibise is a noted urban historian and has worked extensively on urban policy analysis and planning issues. Hamilton's main areas of work have been in real estate investment analysis and appraisal, and property tax.

Yellowly

Mechanical Engineering professor **Ian Yellowly**, a recent arrival to UBC, has been elected a research fellow by the B.C. Advanced Systems Institute.

ASI announced two new fellowships--worth $70,000 annually--Nov. 28, boosting the total number of ASI fellows to eight. All were elected in 1988.

The other recipient is **Vijay Bhargava**, electrical engineering professor at the University of Victoria.

Yellowly's research focuses on low-cost, flexible ways of automating the manufacturing industry. Formerly at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ont., he joined UBC July 1.

ASI was created two years ago under a joint federal-provincial economic regional development agreement to enable top-notch scientists and engineers at B.C. universities to devote more time and resources to research, and to help attract first-rate researchers to the province.

Dr. Juhn A. Wada, Professor of Neurosciences and Neurology was awarded the 1988 Wilder Penfield Gold Medal for research and clinical contributions to the problems of epilepsy, at the Canadian Neurological Congress in Quebec City.

Dr. Wada is president of the American Epilepsy Society, the third Canadian to be elected to the office.

Brown

Peter Brown, chairman of UBC's Board of Governors and Chairman of Canarim Investment Corporation Ltd., has been awarded an honorary life membership by the university's alumni association.

The award was presented at a joint board and association dinner held at MacKenzie House, Nov. 3.

Recipients of honorary life memberships are non-UBC alumni who are honored for their long-term service and ongoing contributions to the university.

Researcher's discovery may help foresters

By JO MOSS

UBC artificial intelligence specialist Robert Woodham has found a better way to take advantage of forestry information gathered by satellite--a technique other experts thought too difficult.

The latest gains in reforestation, losses from logging, and damage from fire, disease and pests are regularly captured by remote sensing instruments on satellites orbiting the earth.

But until now, people involved in B.C.'s forest management haven't been able to exploit that information fully, because the images, which cover large areas, are too numerous to interpret manually.

Woodham may help to solve that problem.

The complication is B.C.'s mountainous terrain that creates light and dark shading in the images. It's compounded by the province's northerly location which puts the sun an an extreme angle for much of the year, and a host of other factors such as varying atmospheric conditions and reflection from snow-covered slopes.

"When you have flat areas, there's not much else that can change in an image. A computer can directly interpret changes in brightness and colour as changes in ground cover," explained Woodham. "When you complicate the terrain, it becomes more difficult for a machine to distinguish change in forest cover from something like change in slope and aspect."

Woodham, who holds posts in Forestry and Computer Science, is a specialist in computational vision--the design of algorithms that allow a machine to "see." He's developed a way to access the up-to-date information the images provide. In doing so, he's proved that remote sensing technology can be reliably applied to forest management, and improved Canada's ability to remain competitive in managing its natural resources.

"Geographically, we're not in an advantageous position to use existing remote sensing data," he added. "But we wanted to give the technology more flexibility and develop something that could be used on a routine basis."

Woodham has developed computational techniques which allow a computer to reason about what it sees in the satellite images.

"We don't believe machines can see in any useful sense unless they already know a lot," Woodham explained.

He says the task is comparable to asking a computer to identify all the golf courses in Vancouver from aerial photographs.

"It's not simply a question of 20-20 vision," he said. The computer has to relate what it sees to what it knows. It's a question of being able to understand the rules that govern how things work. To find golf courses, you need to know about golf."

By comparing the satellite images to topographical maps, the computer can work out geometrical problems such as the angle of the sun, and construct a set of corrections to implement.

If a certain species of tree shows up as a particular shade of green on the image, the computer can learn to recognize it whether that clump of trees is in sun or shadow, in a valley or on a slope.

"The practical result of this research is to extend the range of terrain and imaging conditions that can be handled by automatic image analysis systems," Woodham said. "It improves our ability to access and exploit existing information."

A fellow of the Artificial Intelligence and Robotics program of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research, Woodham is also co-director, with Computer Science professor Alan Mackworth, of UBC's Laboratory for Computational Vision which undertakes research in applications of computational vision to remote sensing, geographic information systems, and robotics.

"Basically, we're trying to identify the constraints and define the computations that make vision possible, by man or machine," Woodham explained.

Despite advances in computational vision, machines are far from having human vision, he says.

"We're a way yet from what goes in the brain in terms of raw processing power and the ability to integrate raw signal processing with general knowledge about a whole lot of things," Woodham said.

Remote sensing technology is already used in agriculture management and for geological surveys. But forestry is becoming the pre-eminent application, Woodham says. "We want to upgrade Canada's performance in this area," he added.

Environment ruled out

Cases of Down's syndrome not on rise

By DEBORA SWEENEY

A UBC study on Down's syndrome has refuted suggestions that environmental factors may be causing an increase in the incidence of the disease.

The study, which analyzes Down's syndrome infants born in B.C. during the last 20 years, found that the number of cases of the disease in relation to the age of the infants' mothers has remained constant since 1964.

"When you take into consideration the factors that have changed, for example, the ages of women having babies and the fact that Down's syndrome is now detected in pre-natal diagnosis programs, we found that the incidence has not changed over time," said Dr. Patricia Baird, head of Medical Genetics at UBC.

Down's syndrome is "the most common recognized cause of mental retardation," said Dr. Baird. The syndrome

Baird

occurs in about one birth in 800 in B.C, she said.

During the last decade, there have been suggestions that the incidence of Down's syndrome has increased over time.

"If that were indeed true, there must have been some environmental factor that was changing -- therefore, it would be important to identify it and get rid of it. Obviously, we want to minimize the number of families who have to cope with Down's syndrome," said Dr. Baird.

Some people have suggested that the use of oral contraceptives, or even fluoride in drinking water could be associated with the occurrence of Down's syndrome births, but there is no significant evidence to support those theories. Dr. Baird's study set out to evaluate whether the incidence had changed or not, in a definitive way.

The study analyzed data from the B.C. Health Surveillance Registry, one of the best population-based registries in the world. There were 731,842 babies born in B.C. from 1964-1983 and of those babies, 856 infants were identified as having Down's syndrome.

The disease, most common in children born to mothers over the age of 35, is caused by the presence of an extra chromosome. Statistics show that at the age of 20, a woman has a one-in-1,420 chance of giving birth to a Down's syndrome child, whereas by the age of 45, she has a one-in-30 chance.

By analyzing each case of Down's syndrome in relation to the mother's age at the birth of her child, Dr. Baird found those statistics have not changed in 20 years.

"We know that older mothers are at increased risk for Down's syndrome in their children. That risk has remained the same during the 20-year period of the study," said Dr. Baird. "Our conclusion is there is not any changing environmental factor which is impinging on the population and causing Down's syndrome."

calendar

Dec.11 - Jan.14

WHITE CHRISTMAS

Snowy campus scene from the early 1960s is portrayed on one of two Christmas cards being sold by the Special Collections Division of the UBC library. The cards are also available at the UBC Bookstore.

MONDAY, DEC. 12

Cancer Seminar
Cancer of the Ovary: Evolving Treatment. Dr. Kenneth Swinerton, CCABC. For information call 877-6010. Lecture Theatre, B.C. Cancer Foundation, 601 W. 10th Ave. noon - 1 p.m.

Biochemical Seminar
Post-Translational Modification & Activity of Yeast Iso-1-Cytochrome C. Dr. Fred Sherman, U. of Rochester. For information Call Dr. G. Brayer at 228-2792. Lecture Hall #4, IRC Bldg. 3:45 p.m.

Botany Seminar
Couplings Between Watersheds and Coastal Bays: The Role of Terrestrial Vegetation and Consequences for Macroalgae in Coastal Ecosystems. Dr. I. Valiela, Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, Mass. For information call 228-2133. Room 2361, Biological Sciences Bldg. 11 a.m.

Political Science Lecture
The Struggle for Glasnost and Democratization in the Soviet Union. Dr. Alexev Izyumov, USSR Academy of Sciences. For information call 228-4559. Room B313, Buchanan Bldg. noon - 1 p.m.

TUESDAY, DEC. 13

Political Science Seminar
Defining the New Priorities in Soviet Foreign Policy. Dr. Alexev Izyumov, USSR Academy of Sciences. For information call 228-4559. Penthouse, Buchanan Bldg. 3 - 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 14

Orthopaedics Grand Rounds
1. Arthroscopies of the Hip in Children - Dr. W. McKenzie and Dr. S.J. Tredwell. 2. Current Concepts in Childhood Amputation - Dr. R.D. Beauchamp. For information call 875-4646. Auditorium, Eye Care Centre, 2550 Willow St. (VGH Campus). 7:30 a.m.

Jazz and Blues Evening
D.J. John Fossum. People are encouraged to bring their own CDs or tapes. John is always looking for new and obscure Jazz and Blues musicians. For information call 228-3203. Fireside Lounge, Graduate Students Centre. 7 - 11 p.m.

THURSDAY, DEC. 15

Video Night
International Film Festival: Night Zoo - Canadian (subtitles). Joshua Gross, Film Student. For information call 228-3203. Fireside Lounge, Graduate Student Centre. 6:30 p.m.

Medical Grand Rounds
Christmas Quiz. Dr. H. Freeman, UBC. For information call Janet Pheasant at 228-7737. Room S-169, HSCH - ACU. noon

Public Sale
Surplus Equipment Recycling Facility. 2352 Health Sciences Mall. For information contact Vincent Grant at 228-2813. Task Force Bldg. noon - 3 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 16

Paediatric Grand Rounds
Resident Case Management. Dr. A. Al-Mazrou and Dr. M. Bond. For information call 875-2117. Auditorium. G.F. Strong Rehab Centre, 26th Ave. and Laurel. 9 a.m.

UBC Reports is published every second Thursday by the UBC Community Relations Office, 6328 Memorial Rd., Vancouver, B.C., V6T 1W5. Telephone 228-3131.
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CALENDAR DEADLINES

For events in the period Jan.15 to Jan.28, notices must be submitted on proper Calendar forms no later than 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 4 to the Community Relations Office, 6328 Memorial Rd., Room 207, Old Administration Building. The Community Relations Office will be closed from Dec. 26 to Jan. 2. For more information call 228-3131.

MONDAY, Dec. 19

Paediatrics Seminar
Update on Studies of the Pathogenesis of Neonatal Necrotizing Enterocolitis. Prof. David Scheifele, Head, Div. of Infectious Diseases, Children's Hospital. Refreshments served at 11:45 a.m. For information call Dr. J.P. Skala at 875-2492. Room D308, University Hospital, 4500 Oak St. noon

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 4

Noon-Hour Music
Douglas Finch, piano. Admission $2. For information call 228-3113. Recital Hall, Music Bldg. 12:30 p.m.

MONDAY, JAN. 9

Music at the Museum
UBC Asian Music Ensemble. Alan Thrasher, director. Free with museum admission. For information call 228-5087. Great Hall, Museum of Anthropology. 3 p.m.

TUESDAY, JAN. 10

Statistics Seminar
Minimax Bayes Estimation in Nonparametric Regression. Dr. Nancy Heckman, UBC. For information call 228-3319. Room 102, Ponderosa Annex C. 4 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 11

Noon-Hour Music
Kenneth Friedman, contrabass and Faculty String Quartet. Admission $2. For information call 228-3113. Recital Hall, Music Bldg. 12:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JAN. 12

Childhoods Revisited Series
Growing up Mennonite in Western Canada. Informal recollections by Harold Ratzlaff (Educational Psychology), Alfred Siemens (Geography) and Erich Vogt (Triumf). For information call 228-5331 or 228-6013. Room 209, Scarfe Bldg. 12:30 p.m.

Music - Guest Artist
International Guest Artist Oscar Shumsky, violin. Tickets $12-Adults; $6-Students/Seniors. For information call 228-3113. Recital Hall, Music Bldg. 8 p.m.

NOTICES

The Forestry Undergraduate Society will be selling trees this year. Trees will be available on campus towards the end of term and during the final exam period for $16 each. Information regarding the purchase and delivery is available at 228-6740.

Interior Douglas-fir trees will be available at 10th & Alma Esso Station from Dec 8- 22. The lot will be open from 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. (weekdays) and 9:30 a.m. - 10 p.m. (weekends). These trees are $12.

$1 from the sale of every tree will go to the Empty Stocking Fund.

Disabled - Christmas Exams
Disabled students requiring assistance with access to Christmas exams Dec. 6 - 22 or anticipating specialized needs. Contact Jan del Valle - coordinator of Services for Disabled Students at 228-4858 or 228-3811. Room 200, Brock Hall.

Theatre - Play
January 11 - 21, 1989. Play: Yerma by Federico Garcia Lorca. Tickets $10 for Adults, $7 for Students/Seniors. For information and reservations call 228-2678. Federic Wood Theatre.

Arts Gallery
Nov. 15 - Dec. 17. Chains of Consequence: Recent Paintings by Janis Vilks. Tues. - Fri. 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.; Sat. 12 noon - 5 p.m. Basement, Main Library

Christmas Sale
Botanical Gardens - 6250 Stadium Rd. December 8 - 11 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Fresh & Dried Wreaths, Gardening Books & Tools, Toys, Jewelry, Tree Ornaments. All welcome. For information call 228-4804.

M.Y. Williams Geological Museum
Open Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The Collectors Shop is open Wednesdays 1:30-4:30 p.m. or by appointment. For information call 228-5586.

Parents Wanted
Couples with children between the ages of five and 12 are wanted for a project studying parenting. Participation involves the mother and father discussing common child-rearing problems and completing questionnaires concerning several aspects of family life. Participation will take about one hour. Evening appointments can be arranged. Interpretation of questionnaire is available on request. For further information, please contact Dr. C. Johnston, Clinical Psychology, UBC at 228-6771.

Language Programs & Services
Non-credit daytime, evening and weekend programs in conversational French begin the week of Nov. 7. Also offered is course on Language Teaching Techniques. For more information call Language Programs and Services, Centre for Continuing Education, at 222-5227.

Walter Gage Toastmasters
Wednesdays. Public Speaking Club Meeting. Speeches and table topics. Guests are welcome. For information call Sulan at 224-9976. Room 215, SUB. 7:30 p.m.

Language Exchange Program
Ongoing. Free service to match up people who want to exchange their language for another. For information call Mawele Shamaila, International House at 228-5021.

Language Bank Program.
Free translation/interpretation services offered by International students and community in general. For information call Teresa Uyeno, International House at 228-5021.

International House
E.S.L. Classes and Keep Fit Classes. All classes are free. For information call 228-5021.

Native Expressions
Every Tues. night at the Extra Extra Bistro, 3347 West Broadway, from 8:00-10:30 p.m. $3 at the door. Native performers & creative artists on stage. For information call Kathy at 222-8940. Proceeds to First Nations' Student Fund.

Keep Fit Classes
Int'l House is looking for volunteers, certified Keep Fit instructors. Please call Vivian for further information at 228-5021.

Special Issue on Africa and the French Caribbean
Contemporary French Civilization is preparing a special issue on Francophone Africa and the Caribbean for 1989. Articles in English or French, 15-20 typed pages, on any contemporary culture/civilization topic in Africa or the Caribbean, must be submitted by March 1, 1989. For more information call Dr. Claude Bouygues, 228-2879.

Teaching Kids to Share
Mothers with 2 children between 2 1/2 and six years of age are invited to participate in a free parent-education program being evaluated in the Dept. of Psychology at UBC. The five-session program offers child development info and positive parenting strategies designed to help parents guide their children in the development of sharing and cooperative play skills. For further information call Georgia Tiedemann at the Sharing Project 228-6771.

Fitness Appraisal
Physical Education & Recreation, through the John M. Buchanan Fitness and Research Centre, is administering a physical fitness assessment program to students, faculty, staff and the general public. Approx. 1 hour, students $25, all others $30. For information call 228-4356.

Surplus Equipment Recycling Facility
All surplus items. For information call 228-2813. Every Wednesday noon - 3 p.m. Task Force Bldg, 2352 Health Sciences Mall.

Neville Scarfe Children's Garden
Visit the Neville Scarfe Children's Garden located west of the Education Building. Open all year - free. Families interested in planting, weeding and watering in the garden contact Jo-Anne Naslund at 434-1081 or 228-3767.

Badminton Club
Faculty, Staff and Graduate Student Badminton Club meets Thursdays 8:30-10:30 p.m. and Fridays 6:30-8:30 p.m. in Gym A of the Robert Osborne Sports Centre. Cost is $15 plus REC UBC card. For more information call Bernie 228-4025 or 731-9966.

Department of Psychology
Individuals 18 and older are needed for a research project on changes in memory across the adult life span. For information call Jo Ann Miller at 228-4772.

Nitobe Memorial Garden
Open 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Oct. 12 - Mar. 16, 1989. Monday - Friday Free.

Botanical Gardens
Open 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Oct. 12 - Mar. 16, 1989. Daily. Free.

Regent College has new home

By GAVIN WILSON

Regent College, Canada's largest graduate school of theology, has taken a major leap from makeshift classrooms and offices to a new $5.5 million building adjacent to the UBC campus.

About 400 full and part-time students started classes in mid-October in the new building at the corner of Wesbrook Mall and University Boulevard.

As well as classrooms and offices, the college boasts a basement library with a collection of 41,000 volumes, seminar rooms and a bookstore intended to serve the general UBC community as well as Regent students and staff.

It also houses the Lam Chi Fung Chapel, a gift from Lt.-Gov. David Lam in memory of his father, who ran a similar institution in Hong Kong.

Until recently, some college offices were above a restaurant, classes were held in old fraternity houses, portables and the homes of faculty.

The college's new home, with its soaring glass roof, was designed by Clive Grout, the architect for the B.C. Enterprise Centre on the Expo site.

Regent College, an interdenominational school, was founded by Vancouver businessmen in 1968. The first classes were held in the basement of Union college, which is now part of the Vancouver School of Theology.

About half the students come from outside Canada, drawn from 25 nations. They are taught by 17 full-time faculty members and a similar number of adjunct professors and sessional lecturers.