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Engineering team makes a cement toboggan fly

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Prof. Michael Jackson goes to court for the underdog

# ubc reports

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## Events turn spotlight on Library's research role

### Workshops showcase new information technologies

A SELECTION OF ORIGINAL sketches by artist Jack Shadbolt, author Malcolm Lowry's manuscripts, and on-the-scene reports from the 1885 Riel Rebellion are some of the primary source materials to be discovered at workshops and displays offered by the UBC Library as part of Research Awareness Week (RAW) March 3-9.

"The challenge of research in arts and humanities lies in the enormous diversity of disciplines," says Anne Martin-Matthews, associate dean, Research and Graduate Studies, in the Faculty of Arts. "Our researchers' needs range from lab space to studio space and primary source materials span everything from medieval illustrations to current economic policy."

In E-space located on the second floor of Koerner Library, librarians will run drop-in work-

shops for students and faculty on electronic sources such as the Canadian Census and Early Canadiana Online (ECO).

A recent Library acquisition, ECO offers access to items formerly available on microfiche only. English-Canadian literature, women's history, native studies and the history of French Canada are some of the site's key subject areas.

A learning and research facility, E-space is used to showcase new information technologies and digital resources. The schedule of workshops for the week is available at [www.library.ubc.ca/home/research](http://www.library.ubc.ca/home/research).

In addition, reference librarians will demonstrate health science research databases, including the Community of Science Web site, on March 7 at the Woodward Instructional Resources Centre. Demonstrations will also take place at St. Paul's Hospital on March 6 and Children's and Women's Health Centre of B.C. on March 5.

UBC Library has invested more than \$1 million in the past year in electronic databases, according to Janice Kreider, assistant university librarian for Collections.

Also on view on the second floor of Koerner Library will be an exhibition called The Research Journey: from Primary Sources to Original Scholarship.

Designed to give people a sense of what research in the humanities is like, the week-long display includes items from UBC's Malcom Lowry collection of archival material—the largest such collection in the world.

Students can trace the challenging research trail followed by Lowry expert and English Dept. head Prof. Sherrill Grace. Research tasks included transcribing and referencing near-illegible handwritten letters and illustrations.

Also on display will be some of the contents of 38 boxes of artist Jack Shadbolt's early sketchbooks, journals, letters and photos.

The primary material was used by Scott Watson, curator of UBC's Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery, for his 1990 book about the artist.

For a complete listing of RAW activities, e-mail [celebrate.research@ubc.ca](mailto:celebrate.research@ubc.ca) or check the Web site at [www.research.ubc.ca/digest/celebrate.htm](http://www.research.ubc.ca/digest/celebrate.htm).

see Events page 2



**WHEEL ART** Showing proof that the creativity of self-sufficient souls who prefer to see the world on two wheels can't be contained in a bicycle helmet, UBC AMS Bike Co-op Coordinator Kari Hewett displays a hubcap cityscape. The item is among those featured in the Bike Art Show to be held in the AMS Art Gallery in the Student Union Building, Feb. 26 to March 2. The gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. *Bruce Mason photo*

## Math researchers take top national math prizes

### Faculty score three out of three in awards program

UBC MATHEMATICIANS swept the Canadian Mathematical Society's (CMS) research prizes gaining recognition for the researcher making outstanding contributions to mathematics in Canada as well as the top female and young researchers in the nation.

The recently announced prizes recognized Math Prof. Edwin Perkins for his outstanding contributions to mathematical research, Math Prof. Emerita Priscilla Greenwood as the outstanding female mathematics researcher, and Math Asst. Prof. Kai Behrend as the outstanding young mathematical researcher in Canada.

"This is overwhelming that we won all three research prizes announced in the same year," says Math Head Prof. George Bluman. "This shows the strength of our faculty, that we are second to none in the country."

Perkins received the 2002 Jeffery-Williams Prize for his out-

standing contributions to probability theory research.

Greenwood was awarded the 2002 Krieger-Nelson Prize for outstanding research by a female mathematician.

Her research career spans more than 35 years and includes work in topics ranging from probability to statistics.

Behrend received the 2001 Coxeter-James Prize as the outstanding young mathematician for his work in the field of algebraic geometry.

The CMS research prize lectureships are awarded annually to three outstanding Canadian math researchers. As part of the award, the winners will give lectures at selected upcoming CMS meetings across Canada.

Originally established in 1945, the CMS seeks to promote the discovery, learning and application of mathematics in businesses, governments and schools across the country.

For more information on the prizes and the CMS, visit [www.cms.math.ca](http://www.cms.math.ca).



**Celebrate Research**

## Exchange matches volunteers to need in Downtown Eastside

### Students work in schools and social agencies

by **Andy Poon** staff writer

VOLUNTEERING IN Vancouver's Downtown Eastside helps debunk many of the stereotypes previously held about people and issues in this community and in some cases may help students with choosing their careers, say those involved in UBC's Learning Exchange student volunteer program.

"Working as a volunteer in the area really lets you see the human aspects more," says Jennifer Mills. "You see that it's not the bad stereotypes but that people in the

Downtown Eastside are just like you and me."

Mills, a third-year Science student, volunteers four to six hours a week working alongside the area's residents in a hot lunch program and handling administrative work at the Quest Outreach Society. The organization also helps distribute food to food banks and other agencies which provide meal services.

Mills joined the Learning Exchange Trek 2000 volunteer program at its inception in January 2000. Since then, the program has grown from 30 student volunteers to its current complement of 50.

Margo Fryer, director of the Learning Exchange, hopes to increase these ranks even more with

a volunteer recruitment drive from Feb. 26-March 9.

Among the things that students can volunteer to do are to work with elementary school students in literacy training, help teenagers with their homework, or work at shelters for people with mental health issues.

Those who wish to join the program this September are asked to submit their resumés and a cover letter to the Learning Exchange office. They will receive orientation on the member organizations that participate in the program during a two-and-a-half-hour, on-campus evening session on March 21.

Workshops and training sessions see *Volunteers* page 2

## AIR QUALITY TIPS...

If everyone took transit to work once a week, there would be 20 per cent fewer cars on the road during rush hour.

Let's clear the air



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

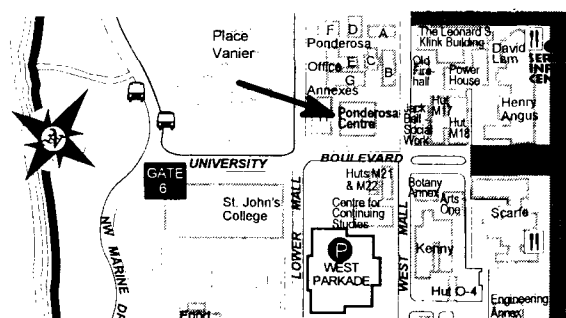
# Public Information Meeting

for the campus community

on the  
**Michael Smith Building**  
(Bio-technology, Phase 2)

Thursday, March 1, 2001, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Cedars Room, Ponderosa Building, 2071 West Mall



To present and review the schematic design for the Michael Smith Building (Bio-Technology Phase 2) proposed to be constructed on the south-west corner of University Boulevard and East Mall, above the UBC Bookstore. The proposed 7,419 square-metre building is a three-storey laboratory facility.

Subject to Board of Governors approval, construction is anticipated to begin January 2002 with occupancy in February 2004.



For information regarding access for persons with disabilities in the Ponderosa building, please call Gisela Haarbrucker at 822-9560 seven days before meeting date. Free parking will be available in the West Parkade. Please pick up a parking pass after the meeting in order to exit the parkade without charge.

Questions or for further information:

Contact Jim Carruthers, Campus Planning & Development at 822-0469

## Volunteers

Continued from page 1

sions covering topics such as listening skills, cross-cultural communications and empathy will follow to help prepare the volunteers for their work in the community.

Some of the organizations that students can volunteer for are Seymour and Strathcona elementary schools, YWCA Crabtree Corner, Triage, and the Ray-Cam Co-operative Community Centre.

"It's a great opportunity for students to get some real-life experience related to social issues and to broaden their life experience," says Fryer.

Some students say that experiences gained in the Downtown Eastside have helped them when considering career choices.

"The volunteer work gives them a sense of what career paths they may wish to take. For example,

some have said that they want to enter law to do advocacy work," says Fryer.

The Learning Exchange is part of UBC's commitment to community outreach found in *Trek 2000*, the university's vision document.

It offers UBC's resources and expertise to the Downtown Eastside community, provides educational opportunities to people who live and work in the neighbourhood, and gives UBC students first-hand volunteer experience in community organizations.

Mills, a Quesnel-native, initially joined the volunteer program to "see more of Vancouver and to become more exposed" to different viewpoints and to help out. She plans to continue her participation in the program for a third session this fall and encourages fellow students to volunteer.

"It is definitely a good thing for people to do if they can find the time."

For more information on the Learning Exchange or to become a volunteer, contact the Learning Exchange office at (604) 408-5164, e-mail Sue Sorrell at [ssorrell@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:ssorrell@interchange.ubc.ca) or visit [www.learningexchange.ubc.ca](http://www.learningexchange.ubc.ca).

Applications must be submitted by March 16 via e-mail or to the Trek 2000 Volunteer Program, Learning Exchange, 121 Main St., Vancouver, B.C. V6A 2S5.

## Events

Continued from page 1

RESEARCH AWARENESS WEEK

March 3: Prof. Emeritus Tim Parsons, "Oceanography in the Services of Fisheries," Vancouver Institute Lecture, Woodward Instructional Resources Centre Lecture Hall 2

March 5: BC Research Institute for Children's and Women's Health Research Day, 985 West 28th Ave.

March 6: Four Corners of the World Research Café by residents, St. John's College Social Lounge from 2-5 p.m.; Providence Health Care Research Day, St. Paul's Hospital Conference Centre, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

March 7: GenderFlexing: New Media Technology and Young People's Thinking, Education Assoc. Prof. Ricki Goldman-Segall, St. John's College 1080 from 5-6 p.m.; UBC Health Sciences Research Day, Woodward Instructional Resources Centre concourse.

March 8: Celebrate Research Awards Gala, Chan Centre; Faculty of Graduate Studies Research Café: Sustainability, John Robinson, director, UBC's Sustainable Development Research Institute, St. John's College Social Lounge from 2-5 p.m.

March 9: UBC President Martha Piper, Commerce and Business Administration Dean Dan Muzyka and Assoc. Prof. Keith Head: Board of Trade breakfast symposium, Waterfront Hotel, 7:30 a.m.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

ANATOMY DEPT.

HEAD

The Faculty of Medicine, University of British Columbia invites applications and nominations for the position of Head of the Dept. of Anatomy.

We seek an academic leader to be responsible for directing and developing the teaching and research and service programs of the department. The department has 13 full-time faculty members and attracts strong research support. The successful candidate should have a proven record of scholarly achievement, a strong research background, a commitment to undergraduate and graduate medical education and the ability to encourage and develop interdisciplinary initiatives. Anticipated start date will be July 1, 2001. Academic rank and salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications.

The University of British Columbia hires on the basis of merit and is committed to employment equity. We encourage all qualified persons to apply. In accordance with Canadian immigration requirements, this advertisement is directed to Canadian citizens and permanent residents.

Applications, accompanied by a detailed curriculum vitae and names of three references, should be directed by March 31, 2001 to: Dr. J.A. Cairns, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of British Columbia, Room 317, Instructional Resources Centre, 2194 Health Sciences Mall, Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1Z3.



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

and

VANCOUVER HOSPITAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES CENTRE

MEDICINE DEPT.

HEAD

The Faculty of Medicine, University of British Columbia and the Vancouver Hospital and Health Sciences Centre invite applications and nominations for the position of Head of the Dept. of Medicine.

We seek an academic leader to be responsible for directing and developing the teaching and research and service programs of the department. The department has more than 300 faculty members and attracts strong research support. The successful candidate should hold a specialty qualification and have broad and proven administrative experience, substantial academic and clinical experience, a proven record of scholarly activity, and a commitment to undergraduate, graduate and post graduate medical education. Anticipated start date will be July 1, 2002.

Within the hospital, the successful candidate will be accountable for professional issues relevant to the strategic directions of the organisation. The candidate is responsible for quality of patient care and professional standards and collaborates with the senior executives for physician workforce planning, recruiting and performance management.

Academic rank (full-time) and salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications. The successful candidate must be eligible for registration with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of B.C. and must be a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

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# Scientists issue food biotechnology warning

*Absence of evidence of risk to humans is not enough, says Agricultural Sciences Prof. Brian Ellis*

by Bruce Mason staff writer

THE ROYAL SOCIETY of Canada has serious questions about the regulation of genetically modified (GM) foods and crops.

National attention and debate has focused on a report of its Expert Panel on the Future of Food Biotechnology, co-chaired by Brian Ellis, professor of Agricultural Sciences and associate director of UBC's Biotechnology Laboratory.

Among 53 recommendations by Ellis and 13 other top national scientists are the conclusions that more rigorous and independently reviewed testing is required along with a moratorium on growing GM fish in net-pens on Canada's coasts.

"Genetic engineering is a powerful technology and it won't be going away," Ellis says. "However, the public needs to be confident there will be thorough and objective assessment in which the public good remains the ultimate benchmark."

Ellis reports on new problems with control of herbicide-resistant

canola, a multibillion-dollar crop on the Prairies.

Three types of GM canola, each engineered to resist a different type of weedkiller, have crossed spontaneously to yield new strains resistant to multiple herbicides. These new "superweeds" are now sprouting where farmers don't want them and their control requires the use of older, more toxic chemicals.

"This development illustrates the unanticipated ecological outcomes that can accompany GM crops," Ellis says. "The next generation of GM crops will carry new genes that make them more frost or drought tolerant, providing potential advantages over their wild cousins."

The panel was strongly critical of the level of secrecy surrounding testing of genetically modified organisms.

"The credibility of scientific process requires peer review and independent analysis of results," Ellis told national media at a press conference in Ottawa.

With co-chair Conrad Brunk of the University of Waterloo, he warned that mere absence of evidence of risk to human and environmental safety is not enough.

The panel was established one year ago at the request of Health Canada, the Canadian Food In-

spection Agency and Environment Canada to provide advice to the federal government.

Asked specifically to assess the risks to human and animal health and the environment, it was strongly critical of inadequate funding levels for independent research.

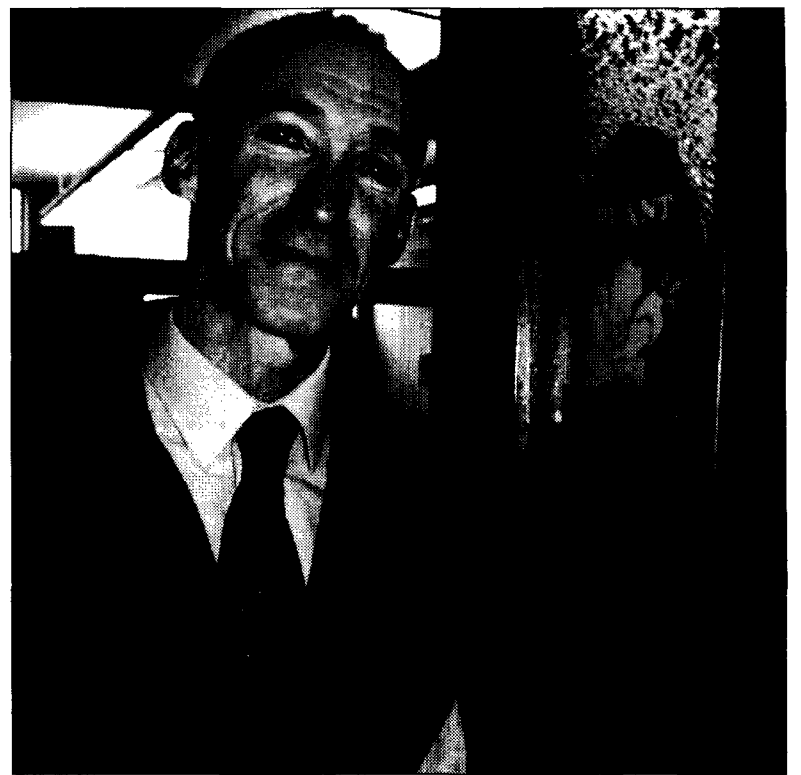
Increasing domination of university research by commercial interests is removing incentives for scientific research aimed at the public good the report warned and noted the need to maintain a strong pattern of such research.

Canada, the third largest producer of GM crops, has no law requiring labeling of GM foods, unlike Britain, Australia, New Zealand and Japan.

On this contentious issue, the panel favoured thorough and appropriate testing over labeling unless there is scientific evidence of significant risks to certain people, such as those with allergies. It did, however, advocate strong government support of a system of voluntary labeling.

## MORE INFORMATION

For a copy of the report including a citizen's summary by Ellis, visit the Royal Society Web site at [www.rsc.ca](http://www.rsc.ca).



More independent and rigorous testing of genetically modified foods is required suggests a recent report issued to the federal government by a panel of experts that includes Agroecology Prof. Brian Ellis. Bruce Mason photo

## Experts raise level of key public debates

The following excerpts feature some of the many members of the campus community who have recently shared their expertise with local and national news media.

Lead Time, UBC Public Affairs' on-line guide to UBC experts at [www.publicaffairs.ubc.ca/experts/](http://www.publicaffairs.ubc.ca/experts/) fielded more than 590 inquiries from the media last month.

## HEADLINERS

their personality and lifestyle.

"The key is to do stuff that you are comfortable with and to work at a comfortable pace. Diving headlong into it is great for some people but for others you are going to need to kind of slowly work yourself into it," Mr. Arida says.

### Invest for a non-Third-World future

The Vancouver Sun, Jan. 26, A17, Editorial  
If you are concerned about negative impacts of the oft-publicized brain drain, what you have read is nothing compared to what could happen at B.C. universities and colleges within a decade...

Without an excellent academic community, it is virtually impossible to make pioneering discoveries, transform them into innovative technologies, and thereby create economic opportunities that will continue to support our enlightened social programs.

Failure to do so may mean telling our children they are better off pursuing their education and creative aspirations elsewhere. Then, like many Third World nations, our most tragic export will be our brains.

John Steeves, professor and director of CORD at UBC.

### It's just a matter of time

The National Post, Jan. 29, C12

People toying with the prospect of juggling a job and university studies often ask... should they take their degree part-time or leave their job and pursue classes full-time?

Andrew Arida, co-ordinator of Student Recruitment at the University of British Columbia, suggests people decide what is best for

### Canada's 'time warp'

Ottawa Citizen, A1, Feb. 15

President George W. Bush's choice of Mexico rather than Canada for his first foreign visit is a "wake-up call" for Canadians, says former foreign affairs minister Lloyd Axworthy...

"We've been too reliant on the historical perception that we have a 'special relationship' with the United States," said Mr. Axworthy, who is now director of the University of British Columbia's Liu Centre for the Study of Global Issues.

"We need to broaden our perspective, priorities and policies into a North American context."

### Study probes organ donation impediments

The Vancouver Sun, A5, Jan. 30

Anecdotes abound about the apparent incompatibility between some ethnic groups and organ donation, but finally, B.C. researchers are setting out to gauge the actual attitudes and beliefs among some of the province's largest minorities.

Michael McDonald, director of the University of B.C.'s Centre for Applied Ethics, said that in some ethno-cultures, there is a reluctance to consider donating organs because of a belief that it may interfere with "bodily integrity and wholeness after death."

# Research funding aims to help patients breathe easier

*Study to probe how emphysema starts*

by Hilary Thomson staff writer

UBC PULMONARY RESEARCHER Dr. James Hogg has received \$1.26 million over four years from the U.S. funding agency the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to pursue his research on the causes of emphysema.

"This support provides operating funds that will allow us to hire new scientists and graduate students to continue this work," says Hogg, who is a senior scientist at the UBC McDonald Research Laboratory at St. Paul's Hospital.

The goal of Hogg's research is to understand how emphysema works at the molecular level.

"Everyone who smokes gets lung inflammation," says Hogg, a professor emeritus of Pathology who has been studying emphysema for 30 years. "But only 15-20 per cent of smokers get emphysema. We want to understand the mechanism of how inflammation develops into disease."

He and his team are looking at latent viral infections and how

they may amplify the lung irritation caused by cigarette smoking.

Viral genes persist in lung cells over time and these latent adenoviruses are suspected to combine with irritated tissue cells to produce disease.

He will also study why emphysema is resistant to treatment by steroids.

"Steroids are effective in managing asthma but not emphysema," he says. "By studying the mechanism of steroid resistance we hope to find features of the inflammatory response that will respond to other treatments."

There is no prevention or cure for emphysema. It can be controlled through antibiotics and oxygen therapy if detected in the early stages. Bronchial dilating medicine may be used to treat the asthma that can co-exist with the disease.

Emphysema, a name which comes from the Greek word to inflate, is characterized by enlarged lungs and irritated or infected bronchial tubes that connect the windpipe with the lungs.

When the bronchial tubes become irritated, some of the airways get obstructed and lung function reduces. In addition, the



Dr. James Hogg

stretching and destruction of the walls of the tiny air spaces at the ends of the bronchial tubes lead to the characteristic enlargement of the lungs.

Emphysema, in combination with chronic bronchitis, is the most common form of chronic obstructive lung disease which is the fifth most common cause of death in North America. More than 1,100 people die of emphysema annually.

Hogg received funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation for equipment to conduct his current investigations as part of the iCAPTURE project at St. Paul's Hospital that is looking for new solutions for cardiac, pulmonary and blood vessel diseases.

MONDAY, FEB. 26

**Chalmers Institute Seminar**  
Centering Prayer Intensive. Rev. Cynthia Bourgeault. vst at 10am. Continues to March 2. \$210 single; \$200 group; \$105 seniors. To register e-mail ci@vst.edu. Call 822-9815.

**AMS Bike Art Show**  
The Bicycle: An Expression Of The Self. sub Art Gallery from 10am-4pm. Reception from 7-9pm. Continues to March 2. Call 822-2453 (UBC-BIKE).

**Earth And Ocean Sciences Colloquium**  
Four Billion Years Of The Carbon Cycle: What's The Message For Us? Jan Veizer, u of Ottawa. GeoSciences 330-A at 12:30pm. Call 822-3278.

**Astronomy Seminar**  
The Galactic Underbelly. Chris Brunt, Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory. Hennings 318 at 4pm. Refreshments at 3:45pm. Call 822-2267.

**Botany Seminar**  
Medicinal Plants of Morocco: Characterization And Potential For Long-Term Health Benefits. Fatima Muohajir. BioSciences 2000 at 12:30pm. Call 822-2133.

**Peter Wall Institute Scholars Workshop**  
Geophysical Turbulence In The Real World: How Is The Observed Mesoscale Energy Spectrum Maintained? Kevin Hamilton, International Pacific Research Center, u of Hawaii. University Centre 307 at 3:30pm. Call 822-0198; 822-3278.

**Graduate And Faculty Christian Forum**  
Time, Chance And Life – Can Life Have A Simple Cause? Richard Johns, Philosophy. Buchanan B Penthouse at 4:15pm. Refreshments at 4pm. Call 822-3219.

Julie Dash (Illusions), Hiroko Yamazaki (Juxta), Fatimah Tobing Rony (On Cannibalism), Compilation (Shifting Sands 2). moa Theatre Gallery from 2:30-4:30pm. E-mail wmst@interchange.ubc.ca. Call 822-9171.

**Geography Colloquium**  
Sideways Looks At Biogeography. Barbara Kennedy, Oxford u. Geography 201 at 3:30pm. Call 822-2663.

**Asian Research Seminar**  
Between Heaven And Earth: Christianity In Papua New Guinea. Prof. John Barker, Anthropology/Sociology. ck Choi 120 from 4:30-6pm. E-mail kjew@interchange.ubc.ca. Call 822-4688.

**Canadian Studies Seminar**  
From Camp To Kitchen: Gender And Race In Post-World War II Canadian Immigration Policies. Christiane Harzig, u of Bremen. Green College at 5pm. Call 822-1878.

**India and South Asia Research Conference**  
Special Undergraduate Conference On South Asia. Various speakers. ck Choi 120 from 10am-3:30pm. Register by Feb. 22. E-mail magnolo@lightspeed.ca. Call 822-6463.

**Fish 500 Seminar**  
A Seascape Approach To Fisheries Management And Biodiversity Conservation. Ellen Pikitch, Bronx Zoo. Hut B-8 Ralf Yorke Room from 11:30am-1pm. E-mail j.doyle@fisheries.ubc.ca. Call 822-2731.

**Music And Theatre**  
Opera: The Crucible. Robert Ward. Chan Centre at 8pm. \$18 adults; \$12 students/seniors. Continues to March 4. Call Ticketmaster at 280-3311 or the Chan Centre Ticket Office at 822-2697.

FRIDAY, MARCH 2

**Interprofessional Continuing Education Workshop**  
Women And Cancer: Myths And Realities. Various speakers. Westin Bayshore Hotel, 1601 Bayshore St. from 8am-4pm. Continues to March 3. Call 822-0054.

**Health Care Seminar**  
New Directions For First Nations Health In The 21st Century. David Martin, Jay Wortman. Mather 253 from 9-10am. Call 822-2772.

**European Studies Colloquium**  
Globalization, Capitalism and Democracy. Various speakers. St John's College Lecture Hall from 9:30am-5:30pm. Lunch included. E-mail meggolay@interchange.ubc.ca. Call 822-1452.

**Seminar**  
Culture and Well-Being. Prof. Shigehiro Oishi, Psychology, u of Minnesota. ck Choi 120 from 12noon-1:15pm. E-mail kjew@interchange.ubc.ca. Call 822-4688.

**Reading**  
*Things That Must Not Be Forgotten*. Michael David Kwan. ck Choi 129 from 12:30-2pm. E-mail kjew@interchange.ubc.ca. Call 822-4688.

**Music Concert**  
UBC Guitar Ensemble. Music Recital Hall at 12:30pm. Call 822-5574.

**Occupational And Environmental Hygiene Seminar**  
Ergonomics In Minimally Invasive Surgery. Assoc. Prof. Tony Hodgson, Mechanical Engineering. ubc Hosp., Koerner Pavilion G-279 from 12:30-1:30pm. Call 822-9861 or 822-0585.

**Chemical And Biological Engineering Seminar**  
Displacement Chromatography Of Proteins Using Hydrophobic And Ion-Exchange Resins. Prof. Steven M. Cramer, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. ChemEng 206 at 3:30pm. Call 822-3238.

**Seminar**  
Developmental Ambiguities In East Asian Classical Politics. Prof. Alexander Woodside, History. ck Choi 120

from 4:30-6pm. E-mail kjew@interchange.ubc.ca. Call 822-4688.

**Ninth Annual Women And Spirituality Dialogue**  
2001 – Our Earth, Our Selves. Various speakers. vst from 5-9pm. Continues to March 3 from 8am-4:30pm. To register e-mail ci@vst.edu. Call 822-9815.

SATURDAY, MARCH 3

**Peter Wall Institute/Brain Research Centre**  
The Listening Brain. Various speakers. IRC #3 at 8am-2pm. Refreshments, lunch. Call 822-0394.

**Faculty Women's Club Social**  
Celebration Of Spring. Western Gold Theatre. Cecil Green Park House at 7pm. Call 224-5877.

**Vancouver Institute Lecture**  
Oceanography In The Service Of Fisheries. Prof. Emeritus Timothy Parsons. IRC #2 at 8:15pm. Call 822-4636.

MONDAY, MARCH 5

**Asian Studies Seminar**  
Jet Setting With The Dalai Lama: Some Notes On Tibet's Current Situation. Victor Chan. ck Choi 120 from 12:30-2pm. E-mail kjew@interchange.ubc.ca. Call Karen Jew 822-4688.

**Music Concert**  
UBC Percussion Ensemble. Old Aud. at 12:30pm. Call 822-5574.

**Astronomy Seminar**  
Genetic Algorithms And Application To Helioseismology. Paul Charbonneau, National Centre For Atmospheric Research. Hennings 318 at 4pm. Refreshments at 3:45pm. Call 822-2267.

**Thematic Lecture Series**  
Disability In Childhood: Views Within The Context Of Our Diverse Society. Marci Hanson, San Francisco State u. Green College at 5pm. Call 822-1878.

TUESDAY, MARCH 6

**Teaching And Academic Growth Seminar**  
Turning Research Assignments Into Learning Assignments. Sheryl Adam, Library. Koerner Library. Sedgewick Teaching Lab 217 from 9:30am-12:30pm. To register www.cstudies.ubc.ca/facdev/ or call 822-9149.

**Botany Seminar**  
Molecular Phylogenetics And Life History Strategies In The Ascomycete Fungi. Mary Berbee. BioSciences 2000 at 12:30pm. Call 822-2133.

**Lectures In Modern Chemistry**  
TRIUMF-ISAC: The World's Best Radioactive Beam Facility At Your Doorstep. Gordon Ball, TRIUMF. Chemistry B-250 from 1-2pm. Refreshments at 12:30 pm. Call 822-2996.

**Microbiology And Immunology Seminar**  
The Patchwork Assembly Of A Novel Metabolic Pathway For Degradation Of Pentachlorophenol. Shelley Copley, u of Colorado. Westbrook 201 from 12:30-1:30pm. E-mail srea@interchange.ubc.ca. Call 822-3308.

# calendar

FEBRUARY 25 THROUGH MARCH 10

**19th Century Studies**  
Medieval Cairo For The Modern World. Irene Bierman, Art History. UCLA. Buchanan B Penthouse at 4:30pm. Call 822-1878.

**Green College Special Lecture**  
Mercury In The Andes: An Appalling Tale Of Misunderstandings And Blunders. Marcello Veiga, Mining and Mineral Process Engineering. Green College at 5pm. Call 822-1878.

**Member Speaker Series**  
Perfectionism And Psychopathology. Simon Sherry, Psychology. Green College at 7:30pm. Call 822-1878.

TUESDAY, FEB. 27

**Teaching And Academic Growth Seminar**  
Teaching Portfolio For Promotion And Tenure. Simon Ellis, Wood Science. David Lam basement seminar room from 9:30am-12:30pm. To register www.cstudies.ubc.ca/facdev/. Call 822-9149.

**Peter Wall Institute Colloquium**  
Darwin And Valleys. Barbara Kennedy, Geography. Oxford u. University Centre 307 at 12:30pm. Call 822-6226.

**Brown Bag Lunch**  
Exploring the Personal Voice in Journalism. David Beers, journalist. Sing Tao 104 from 12:30-2pm. E-mail journal@interchange.ubc.ca. Call 822-1513.

**Lectures In Modern Chemistry**  
Routes To The Most Potent Known Oxidizers, And Some Uses Of Them. Prof. Emeritus Neil Bartlett, u of California. Chemistry B-250 from 1-2pm. Refreshments at 12:30pm. Call 822-2996.

**Microbiology And Immunology Seminar**  
A Ras Protein Exhibiting A Unique Nuclear Localization Has A Possible Role In Mitosis. Brent Sutherland. Westbrook 201 from 12:30-1:30pm. E-mail srea@interchange.ubc.ca. Call 822-3308.

**Green College Speaker Series**  
Human Security In Asia – Any Chance? A Lonely Planet Guide For Canadians. Paul Evans, Asian Research. Green College at 5pm. Reception Green College Coach House from 6-6:30pm. Call 822-1878.

**Health Promotion In Motion Seminar**  
Zen Hospice: Promoting Community Through Living And Dying. Anne Bruce, Nursing. Green College at 7:30pm. Call 822-1878.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 28

**Women's Studies Lecture**  
Reading: *Serial Selves*. Mary Meig's Autobiographical Texts. Prof. Helen M. Buss, English, u of Calgary. Centre For Research In Women's Studies and Gender Relations seminar room at 12:30pm. E-mail wmst1@interchange.ubc.ca. Call 822-9171 or 822-9173.

**Another Look At Human Development Colloquium**  
The Roots Of Empathy: A Parenting Program Teaching Students About Human Development And Nurturing The Growth Of Empathy. Alva Jensen, inner city consultant, Vancouver School Board. IRC #414 from 12:30-1:20pm. Call 822-6593.

**Wednesday Noon Hours**  
Making Art Of Klezmer Music. Tum Klezmer Ensemble. Music Recital Hall at 12:30pm. \$4 at the door. Call 822-5574.

**Applied Ethics Colloquium**  
Towards A Code Of Ethics For Science: Fabrication, Falsification And Plagiarism. Iain Taylor, UBC Botanical Garden, Scarfe 201 from 2-4pm. E-mail ethics@interchange.ubc.ca. Call 822-8625.

**Obstetrics And Gynecology Seminar**  
Effects Of Endocrine And Autocrine Factors In Normal And Neoplastic Ovarian Surface Epithelium (OSE) Cells. Kyung-Chul Choi. B.C.'s Women's Hosp. 2N35 at 2pm. Call 875-3108.

**Film Showings**  
Women And Film: The Politics, Psychology And Aesthetics Of Crisis.

**Poetic Persuasions**  
Reading: *Lady Driven*, An Anthology Of Fiction And Poetry About Women And Cars. Green College at 8pm. Call 822-1878.

THURSDAY, MARCH 1

**First Nations House Of Learning Career Day**  
Longhouse Sty-wet-tan from 12noon-3pm. Refreshments. E-mail wilhelms@interchange.ubc.ca. Call 822-8941.

**Earth And Ocean Sciences Colloquium**  
Atmospheric Dynamics And Climate Change: The Consequences Of Global Warming. Lionel Pandolfo. GeoSciences 330-A from 12:30-1:30pm. E-mail suttle@eos.ubc.ca. Call 822-8610.

**Alternative And Integrative Medical Society Seminar**  
Sports Nutrition. Franco Cavaleri, Nutritional Sciences, Biochemistry. IRC #5 from 12:30-1:30pm. Call 822-7604.

**Physics Colloquium**  
The Role Of Thermodynamic Fluctuations For The Function Of Biological Membranes. Thomas Heimburg, Max-Planck Institute. Hennings 201 from 4-5pm. Refreshments Hennings 325 at 3:30pm. E-mail tempsec@physics.ubc.ca. Call 822-3853.

**Computer Science Invited Speaker Seminar**  
How Computer Graphics Is Changing Hollywood. Tony de Rose, Pixar Animation Studios. CICS/CS 208 from 4-5:30pm. Refreshments. Call 822-0557.

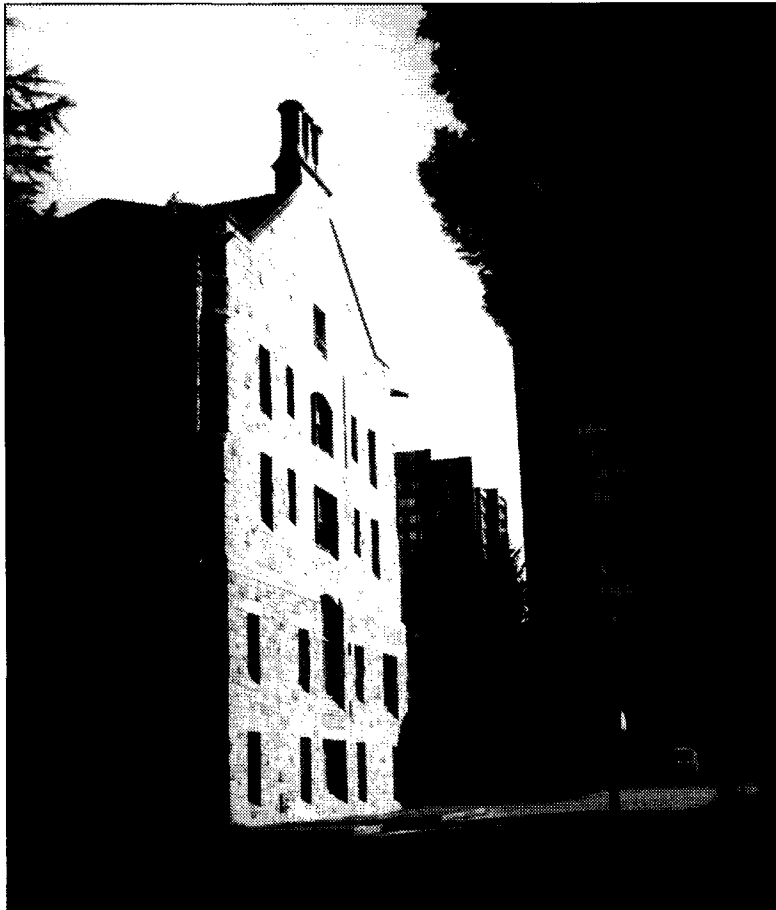
**Policy Issues In Post-Secondary Education**  
Social Change, The Life Course And Socialization. Ansgar Weymann, International Studies, u of Toronto. Green College at 4:30pm. Call 822-1878.

**Charity Auction**  
Stamps Coin And Stamp Club Supporting BC's Children's Hospital Foundation. Scarfe 200 at 5pm Refreshments. E-mail coinstampclub@hotmail.com. Call 522-5134 or 221-4926.

CALENDAR POLICY AND DEADLINES

The *UBC Reports* Calendar lists university-related or university-sponsored events on campus and off campus within the Lower Mainland. Calendar items must be submitted on forms available from the UBC Public Affairs Office, 310 – 6251 Cecil Green Park Road, Vancouver BC, V6T 1Z1. Phone: UBC-info (822-4636). Fax: 822-2684. An electronic form is available at www.publicaffairs.ubc.ca. Please limit to 35 words. Submissions for the Calendar's Notices section may be limited due to space. Deadline for the March 8 issue of *UBC Reports*—which covers the period March 11 to March 24—is noon, Feb. 27.





A seldom seen side of the Vancouver School of Theology is among the images featured in "Images UBC," a photo exhibit by UBC Treasury staff member Dianne Longson. The exhibit is at the new Pages Cafe, Feb. 27-28, in the Ridington Room, Main Library. Dianne Longson photo

#### Green College Speaker Series

Hitchcock And Duras: Melodrama, Gender And Trauma. Ann Kaplan, English and Comparative Literature, State U of New York. Green College at 5pm. Call 822-1878.

#### Chalmers Institute Seminar

What In The World Is Happening To Ecumenism? Marion Best. vst Epiphany Chapel at 7:30pm. Refreshments. To register e-mail ci@vst.edu. Call 822-9815.

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

##### Orthopedics Grand Rounds

Selected Cases From Orthopedic Trauma. Dr. H. Broekhuysen, Dr. P. Blachut. vgh. Eye Care Centre Aud. at 7am. Call 875-4192.

##### Brown Bag Lunch

Pitfalls Of Environmental Journalism. Ben Parfitt, freelance journalist, author. Sing Tao 104 from 12noon-1:30pm. E-mail journal@interchange.ubc.ca. Call 822-1513.

##### CUPE 2950 Lunch And Learn

UBC Pension: What's In It For You? Jay Parker. TBA. To register e-mail cupe2950@interchange.ubc.ca. Call 822-1494.

##### Wednesday Noon Hours

Flute, Viola And Harp Trios. Debussy and Gubaidulina. Music Recital Hall at 12:30pm. \$4 at the door. Call 822-5574.

##### Women's Studies Lecture Series

Reading: A Map To The Door Of No Return. Dionne Brand, poet, novelist, essayist, SFU. Thea Koerner House Penthouse at 12:30pm. E-mail wms1@interchange.ubc.ca. Call 822-9171 or 822-9173.

##### Another Look At Human Development Colloquium

The Symbolic Meaning Of Children For Infertile Couples. Prof. Ralph Matthews, Anthropology and Sociology; Prof. Anne Martin-Matthews, Social Work and Family Studies, associate dean, Arts. IRC #414 from 12:30-1:20pm. Call 822-6593.

#### Obstetrics And Gynecology Seminar

Genetic Modifiers Of Cancer Susceptibility: Meeting Report. Dr. Nelly Auerperg, professor. B.C.'s Women's Hosp. 2N35 at 2pm. Call 875-3108.

#### Film Showings

Women And Film: The Politics, Psychology And Aesthetics Of Crisis. Essie Coffey (My Survival As An Aboriginal); Bronwynn Kidd (Walking With My Sisters); Ivan Sen (Wind). MOA Theatre Gallery from 2:30-4:30pm. E-mail wms1@interchange.ubc.ca. Call 822-9171.

#### School Of Nursing Rounds

The Discourse Of Culture In Health Care: Culture/Nature/Structure? Sannie Tang. UBC Hosp., Koerner Pavilion T-182 from 3-4pm. Call 822-7453.

#### Geography Colloquium

The Problematic Of Sacred Places: The Case Of The Holy Sites Of Jerusalem. A Geographical Approach To The Al-Aqsa Intifada. Geography 201 at 3:30pm. Call 822-2663.

#### Comparative Literature Colloquium

Herve Guibert: Traces And Shadows. Prof. Ralph Sarkonak, author, French, U of Toronto. Buchanan Tower lounge 599 from 4:15-6pm. Refreshments. E-mail abusza@interchange.ubc.ca. Call 822-4060 or 822-9817.

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 8

##### G. Peter Kaye Continuing Education Event

Sandra M. Schneiders, various speakers. vst from 9am-9pm. Continues to March 9. \$121; \$109 (group); \$60 (senior). To register e-mail ci@vst.edu. Call 822-9815.

##### European Studies Lecture

Common Currency-Divided Nations? Problems Of European Integration Between Maastricht And Enlargement. Ingo Schmidt, Economics, U of Gottingen. Buchanan B-216 from 12noon-2pm. Light lunch at 12noon. To register visit www.ies.ubc.ca/. E-mail meggolay@interchange.ubc.ca. Call 822-1452.

#### G. Peter Kaye Lecture

Let Those Who Can Hear Listen: Engaging The Biblical Test In A Post-modern Context. Sandra M. Schneiders. vst Epiphany Chapel at 12:30pm or 7:30pm. To register e-mail ci@vst.edu. Call 822-9815.

#### Botany Seminar

The Photosynthetic Iron Costs Of Marine Phytoplankton. Robert Strzepek. BioSciences 2000 at 12:30pm. Call 822-2133.

#### Fish 500 Seminar

Squamish River Watershed Restoration Program. Andrea Morgan, Steelhead Society Habitat Restoration Corp. Hut B-8, Ralf Yorke Room from 11:30am-1pm. E-mail j.doyle@fisheries.ubc.ca. Call 822-2731.

#### Earth And Ocean Sciences Colloquium

The Microbial Gourmet Dinner At High Temperature Hydrothermal Vents: H<sub>2</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub> And A Pinch Of O<sub>2</sub>. Anna-Louise Reysenback, Biology, Portland State U. GeoSciences 330-A at 12:30pm. Call 822-3278.

#### Advanced Therapeutics Seminar

Progress In The Antisense Biotechnology: The Cases Of Bcl-2, Bcl-Xl And PKC-Alpha. Assoc. Prof. Cy Stein, Columbia U. BC Cancer Research Centre Lecture Theatre from 1-2pm. E-mail ltse@bccancer.bc.ca. Call 877-6020.

#### Intercultural Studies In Asia Film Series

The Square Circle (India). ck Choi 120 from 1-3pm. E-mail kjew@interchange.ubc.ca. Call 822-4688.

#### Physics Colloquium

Working In Industry: The Myths And The Reality. Kathy O'Shaughnessy, R2 Technology, Inc. Hennings 201 from 4-5pm. Refreshments, Hennings 325 at 3:30. E-mail tempsec@physics.ubc.ca. Call 822-3853.

#### Thematic Lecture Series

The Canadian Cold War On Queers: Sexual Regulation And Resistance. Gary Kinsman, Sociology, Laurentian U. Green College at 5pm. Call 822-1878.

#### University Women's Club Dinner

Life's Like That: Life In The Justice System From A Uniquely Feminine Perspective. Judi Gedy, provincial judge. Hycroft, 1489 McRae Ave. from 5:30-8:30pm. \$35. Call 731-4661.

#### UBC Theatre

Greek. Steven Berkoff. Chan Telus Studio at 7:30pm. \$16; \$10 (students/seniors). Call 822-2678.

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 9

##### Peter Wall Institute Exploratory Workshop

Genes, Chromosomes And Human Reproduction. Various speakers. University Centre 307 from 8:30am-6pm. Continues March 10 from 8:30am-12:30pm. To register e-mail wendyr@interchange.ubc.ca. Call 822-4782.

##### Health Care Seminar

The Elderly Drive In B.C.: A Risk Assessment. Marily Malone. Mather 253 from 9-10am. Call 822-2772.

##### Seminar

UBC Visual Identity. Public Affairs staff. OAB Board and Senate room from 11:30am-12:30pm. To register call UBC-INFO (822-4636).

##### G. Peter Kaye Lecture

Let Those Who Can Hear Listen—Engaging The Biblical Test In A Post-modern Context. Sandra M. Schneiders. vst Epiphany Chapel at 12:30pm or 7:30pm. To register e-mail ci@vst.edu. Call 822-9815.

**Occupational And Environmental Hygiene Seminar**  
Air Pollution And Health: The Shift-

ing Base Of Concern. Prof. Emeritus David V. Bates, Medicine. UBC Hosp., Koerner Pavilion G-279 from 12:30-1:30pm. Call 822-9861 or 822-0585.

#### Chemical And Biological Engineering Seminar

The Effect Of Surface Energy Of Boron Nitride Powders In Polymer Processing. Manish Seth. ChemEng 206 at 3:30pm. Call 822-3238.

#### Music Concert

UBC Chamber Ensemble. Chan Centre at 8pm. Call 822-5574.

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 10

##### Dal Grauer Memorial Lecture

Piano Masterclasses. Leon Fleisher. Music Recital hall from 7-9:30pm. \$5; \$3 (students) at the door. Call 822-5574.

##### Vancouver Recital Society/Chan Centre Concert

String Series. Kyung-Wha Chung, violin, Itamar Golan, piano. Chan Centre from 8-10pm. \$12-\$55. Call Ticket Office at 822-2697.

##### Vancouver Institute Lecture

Diving The Titanic. Jim Delgado, Vancouver Maritime Museum. IRC #2 at 8:15pm. Call 822-4636.



## THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA 2001 President's Service Award for Excellence Nominations

The committee is seeking nominations of outstanding faculty and staff who have made distinguished contributions to the university.

For a nomination form call 822-2484. Please mail nominations to: President's Service Award for Excellence Committee, c/o Ceremonies Office, second floor, Ponderosa B, Campus Zone 2.

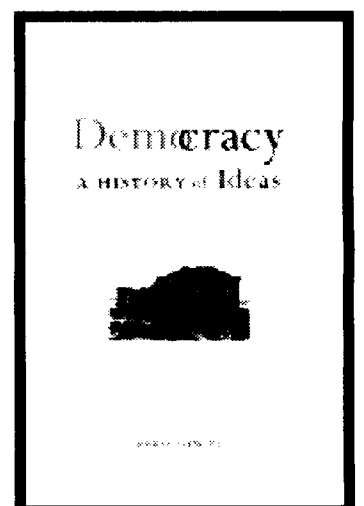
## Democracy: A History of Ideas

By Boris DeWiel

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Therefore, DeWiel asserts, our own political ideas may be traced to earlier beliefs about the good. By exploring the history of ideas, he uncovers the pattern of ideological conflicts in politics today.

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Boris DeWiel is an instructor in Political Science at the University of Northern British Columbia

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## DIGEST

**NSERC updates areas eligible for grants**

The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) has announced major changes to its Strategic Projects Grants competition.

The changes allocate \$32-million for grants in strategic target areas in science and engineering that have potential for significant contributions to the Canadian economy, society or environment within the next 10 years.

The changes are aimed at stimulating research in the categories of biosciences, environment and sustainable development, information and communications technologies, value-added products and processes, and new directions.

"We've made a special effort to update the eligible areas to accommodate some of the most exciting new developments in science and engineering," says Janet Walden, NSERC's director general of Research Partnerships.

While proposed projects must fall within one of the target areas, the "new directions" category is aimed at capturing proposals that fall outside the descriptions of the listed target areas but which may lead to advances in new areas of research for Canada.

NSERC is particularly interested in multidisciplinary research projects, says Walden.

The changes are effective for applications due April 15.

For detailed descriptions of the eligible categories of research, visit [www.nserc.ca/programs/res-guide/a7\\_e.htm](http://www.nserc.ca/programs/res-guide/a7_e.htm).

**YWCA seeks women of distinction**

The YWCA of Vancouver is seeking nominations for the Year 2001 Women of Distinction Awards.

The awards celebrate women whose outstanding activities and achievements contribute to the health and future well-being of the community.

Categories include Communications and Information Technology; Science, Research and Medicine; Young Women of Distinction; Health, Wellness and Active Living; and Education, Training and Development.

Last year UBC was represented by 10 women including Psychology Prof. Janet Werker and Pharmaceutical Sciences Prof. Helen Burt.

This year UBC is sponsoring the Life Achievement Award. The award recognizes an individual who has made multi-faceted contributions which profoundly and uniquely affect the lives of those around her.

To nominate an individual call (604) 895-5767 or visit the Web site at [www.ywcavan.org](http://www.ywcavan.org).

Deadline for nominations is March 1. The awards will be presented at a gala dinner on May 17.

## classified

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**PARIS FULLY FURNISHED STUDIO.** Separate kitchen, lots of closet space. Excellent south sunny location, steps from transportation and shopping. Phone/answering machine, TV, video, stereo. April 1-June 2 or any six month period. \$900/mo. (all inclusive). E-mail: [cpfb1@hotmail.com](mailto:cpfb1@hotmail.com). Call 732-9016.

## House Exchange

**HOUSE SWAP** with New York City July 1-21. Swap accommodation to house UBC visiting professors for their one BR lower-Eastside air-conditioned apt. E-mail [msgramsci@aol.com](mailto:msgramsci@aol.com). Call (732) 367-7679.

## Accommodation Wanted

**PROFESSIONAL MARRIED COUPLE** with child (two years old) looking to rent house or floor of house in Kitsilano or Point Grey starting April 1 or May 1, to \$1,600/mo. N/S, N/P, responsible, ref. Call Claudia or Brian 732-3445.

## Services

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Do you know someone who volunteers on campus? Or a volunteer program on campus?

Every year the university recognizes the enormous work performed by volunteers at UBC and UBC people who volunteer. A volunteer recognition event is planned for April 26 at Cecil Green Park House.

If you know of volunteers working on campus, please e-mail Eilis Courtney, Ceremonies Office at [eilis.courtney@ubc.ca](mailto:eilis.courtney@ubc.ca) by Feb. 28.



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## PLACING CLASSIFIED ADS

Deadline: for the March 8 issue: 12 noon, Feb. 27.

Enquiries: UBC-INFO (822-4636) • Rate: \$16.50 for 35 words or less.

Additional words: 50 cents each. Rate includes GST.

Submission guidelines: Ads must be submitted in writing 10 days before publication date to: UBC Public Affairs Office, 310 - 6251 Cecil Green Park Road, Vancouver BC, V6T 1Z1. Ads must be accompanied by payment in cash, cheque (made out to *UBC Reports*) or journal voucher.

# Engineers' first place finish cast in concrete

*A dedicated design team beats fierce competitors in the slide to build the best concrete toboggan*

by Bruce Mason staff writer

IN AN UPHILL BATTLE and complete turnaround, a team of 14 UBC engineering students clutched first place in the 27th annual Great Northern Concrete Toboggan Race

(GNCTR). Canada's largest civil engineering student competition, which was recently staged in Kingston, Ont., attracted 28 teams from universities across the country, the U.S. and Germany.

"UBC finished dead last in 2000

and we were determined to improve, despite our limited experience with snow and competing with teams comprised of 50 students," says Brad Tangjerd, co-captain of UBC's team.

The team's coveted awards for Top Speed of the Day and Most Improved Team as well as the overall trophy are proudly displayed in the cluttered clubs room of the Civil

and Mechanical Engineering Building.

"These amazing results were achieved by a team that really came together," says co-captain Radya Rifaat. "Everyone worked as hard as they could right from the start on everything from building concrete formwork to constructing a frame for technical display."

"We also showed a lot of spirit and co-operation while we were there," adds Mana Arabi, the third co-captain, who says the thrill is not gone even though the toboggan, dubbed Sam Jesse, is being shipped across the country by truck.

Fourth-year Civil Engineering students, Arabi, Rifaat and Tangjerd led the team to reach the objective of the GNCTR competition—to construct a toboggan with a concrete bottom that weighed less than 135 kilograms and had operating brakes.

In addition to weight restrictions and safety requirements design criteria included dimension limitations. Each toboggan also had to carry five students twice down the course and brake effectively.

Reaching a top speed of 46 kilometres per hour was a peak experience but the team was also judged on design, aesthetics, safety, theme, team spirit and ingenuity, as well as race results.

Naming themselves "The Fugitives" in honor of the infamous Kingston Penitentiary, the team



UBC toboggan crosses the finish line

wore orange coveralls emblazoned with "UBC Pen" on the back. They also wore handcuffs and shackles and regularly broke into songs and chants they composed for the occasion.

"The essence of engineering is to conceive, create and use objects and this flagship competition is an excellent test of student skills," says Alan Russell, professor and head of the Civil Engineering Dept.

"It's a labour of love by volunteers who do it themselves, above and beyond their courses," he adds. "We're delighted, not only with the results, but also with the enthusiasm and camaraderie they brought to a major competition."

The other team members are: fourth-year Civil Engineering students Mark Crabtree, Grayson Doyle, Brian Lee, Brad Parker, and Scott Wallace; third-year Civil Engineering students Chris Meisl and Richard Savage; third-year Mechanical Engineering students Mac Bell and Danielle Doran, and second-year Civil Engineering students Tom Furst and Shabnam Hosseini.

## Curator Wilde about Oscar

*Vilified and jailed for his sexual orientation, author understood loneliness deeply, says scholar*

by Bruce Mason staff writer

SARIKA BOSE VIVIDLY recalls the moment when she discovered Oscar Wilde. She was a teenager in a waiting room in her native Calcutta.

"A book caught my attention and I became fascinated with his appearance and his uncompromising aesthetic and determination to overcome the world's banalities through wit and art," she remembers.

A decade later, after earning a PhD from England's University of Birmingham on Wilde's representation of women, the sessional instructor in English is sharing her passion. She is curator of an exhibit, Oscar Wilde—The Apostle of Beauty, in Special Collections on the eighth floor of the Main Library.

"Remembered as an aesthete, a fop and a dandy, a witty and decadent writer, whose homosexuality had tragic consequences, he declared that he put his talent into his art and his genius into his life," says Bose.

Penniless and in exile in Paris, Wilde died Nov. 30, 1900 at age 46.

Bose and dozens of others at UBC paid homage and marked the centennial by reading his letters and excerpts from his work aloud at Cecil Green Park House. She also organized the conference, Wilde 2000, with English colleague and sessional lecturer Wilhelm Emilsson in December.

"Wilde's active career only spanned about 10 years from 1880, so his lasting cultural dominance and enduring universal appeal is extraordinary," she says.

It's not surprising that Bose would be amused and intrigued by Wilde. Her grandfather was head of English at Calcutta University. A child of graduate students, she grew up on the UBC campus.

Her mother, Mandakranta Bose, is director of India and South Asia Research in the Institute of Asian Research. Her father, Tirthankar Bose, is an English professor at SFU.

"I returned to UBC to earn a Bachelor of Arts and master's degree in Renaissance Drama, and when it was time to work on a PhD, I returned to Oscar," she says.

Wilde's philosophy of joy and pleasure continues to resonate with readers and theatre-goers, says Bose.



Wilde scholar Sarika Bose

The exhibition—including rare items such as a signed first edition of *The Picture of Dorian Gray*—draws primarily on the vast collection donated to the UBC Library by Norman Colbeck in 1967.

It will be on display until the end of the summer. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday and noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday.

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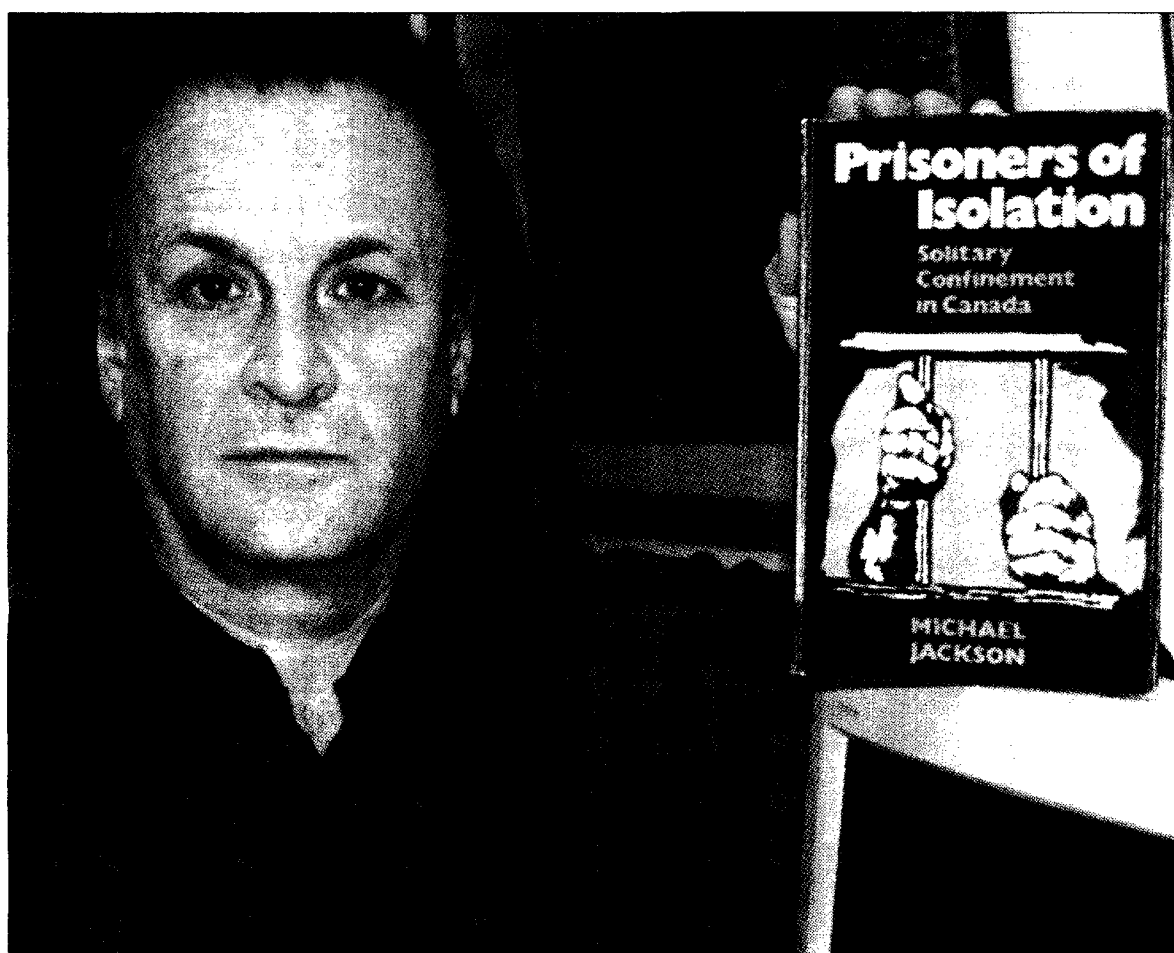
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## PROFILE

*Law Prof. Michael Jackson has made the case for human rights in Canada*

# Righter of human wrongs



by Daria Wojnarski staff writer

LAW PROF. Michael Jackson's consuming interest in civil rights took root in the United States during the unsettling and tumultuous '60s.

"Seeing the fragile state of human rights in the leading democratic country in the world left an indelible impression on me about the fragility of human rights and the need for lawyers to stand up for its vindication," says Jackson, who now teaches First Nations law and prison law.

The British-born Jackson attended Yale University on a Fulbright Fellowship in 1966, right in the middle of the American civil rights movement. He calls it "a fairly radicalizing experience."

"It was the first time I became aware of the larger obligations of lawyers in trying to achieve a just society," recalls Jackson.

To look at Jackson, you would never suspect the heart of a lawyer beats under his casual attire.

The 57-year-old father of two has shoulder-length hair and sports a turquoise silver ring on his right hand. The look is slightly radical.

But a lawyer he is, and one whose career has been marked by

*Prof. Michael Jackson's work includes fighting for the rights of those behind bars in Canadian prisons. His book Prisoners of Isolation chronicles the history of solitary confinement in North America and Europe. Daria Wojnarski photo*

major milestones in Canadian legal history.

"I have the luxury of taking cases I believe in, such as representing those who've been wrongly convicted," he says.

Jackson first became involved in aboriginal rights when a group of his students ran into problems while researching the legal needs of native people in Alert Bay.

"I spent some time meeting the chief and band council and learning for the first time about the lives of aboriginal people. I learned about the oppression of Indian people under the Indian Act and the history of Indian land claims in B.C. and how the government had refused to negotiate with them."

When Jackson returned to UBC, he suggested aboriginal rights be added to the Faculty of Law's curriculum. In 1973, the Faculty became the first law school in Canada to offer a course on aboriginal rights.

Jackson was part of the legal

team which represented the Gitksan Wetsuwet'en in northwest B.C. in an aboriginal rights case 13 years ago.

The case eventually went to the Supreme Court of Canada and resulted in the landmark decision that aboriginal title was a legal interest in land and that that right had never been extinguished in B.C., now known as the Delgamuukw decision.

Jackson also helped the Nimpkish band in Alert Bay change their health-care system.

When a child died, the band claimed health care for native people was inferior and the child's death was the result of medical malpractice.

At an inquiry, Jackson, acting as the band's lawyer, argued that native people were being treated as second-class citizens and should be allowed to manage their own health care.

The inquiry led to major changes in native health-care, including

the establishment of the first native-run health centre.

Then there's the work he does in the area of prisoner's rights.

"If he wasn't in my life I'd be completely buried in an abyss of human suffering," says Gary Weaver. The 32-year-old man is serving a life sentence at William Head Prison on Vancouver Island for second-degree murder.

What Jackson managed to do was get Weaver released from solitary confinement. Two years ago, Weaver was segregated from other prisoners for 80 days on the allegation of attempted murder, even though the RCMP had exonerated him of the charge.

"Michael fought and fought for me and even had my case brought up in the House of Commons," says Weaver.

tion, describes the history of solitary confinement in North America and Europe.

Although proud of his achievements, Jackson takes special pride in his students.

"I encourage my students to get involved in these issues because they're current ones, not just academic ones. They can contribute to their education and make a difference in someone's life."

In 1980 a class assignment helped lead to a federal government review of 90 cases of men who were serving indefinite sentences as habitual criminals.

After interviewing 18 inmates, many of whom had been in prison for almost 20 years, Jackson's students filed reports on whether the men met the criteria of dangerous offender.

When Jackson reviewed the reports he concluded only one of the men had a sufficiently violent record to be in that category. He also concluded there should be a judicial review.

Of the 90 cases eventually reviewed by the federal government, 83 were pardoned.

Jackson's book on what's changed in the Canadian prison system in the past 25 years, *Justice Behind The Walls*, will be published early next year.

Written with the assistance of the Bora Laskin Fellowship in Human Rights, the book features the results of interviews with prisoners, correctional officials and wardens.

In 1999, Jackson was appointed Queen's Counsel in recognition of the work he's done with aboriginal and prisoners' rights.

Jackson has accomplished a great deal, especially for someone who came to UBC for what he thought would be a brief stay.

"I took it thinking it would be a one-year appointment and then I would go back to Britain," he says of his acceptance of a position at UBC 31 years ago.

"My life is here in Vancouver. Picking up and going somewhere else—I have no desire to do that," he says.

Just days before his case was to be heard in the B.C. Supreme Court, Weaver was released into the general prisoner population. However, Jackson pressed ahead with the case and Weaver was eventually awarded legal costs.

Jackson's interest in prisoners' rights had begun more than 25 years earlier after reviewing a letter from a prisoner who wanted to file a legal writ challenging the conditions of solitary confinement.

"I interviewed him and some of the others in solitary confinement," Jackson says. "I then helped initiate a lawsuit that led to a landmark declaration in the federal court in 1975."

The court declared that conditions in solidarity confinement in the B.C. Penitentiary constituted cruel and unusual punishment.

"Many people think that decision was a contributing factor to the closure of the B.C. Penitentiary," says Jackson.

Jackson's book *Prisoners of Isola-*