

'Literacy issue' sent back to admissions committee

The admissions committee of UBC's Senate has once again been handed the problem of finding a way to assess the writing ability of students seeking admission to first year at UBC.

This latest move in UBC's con-

tinuing saga of grappling with the so-called "literacy issue" came last week at the April meeting of Senate and resolved a dilemma which arose at the March meeting, when Senate rejected a proposal from the admissions committee that sought to

accomplish objectives enunciated by Senate in April, 1976.

At that time, Senate ruled that remedial workshops in English composition would end in August, 1979, and that "beginning in September, 1979, admission to UBC be limited to students demonstrating basic competence in English composition or whose work in subjects other than English is demonstrably outstanding."

The motion rejected by Senate at its March meeting called for admission of students from grade 12 to be based on marks obtained in high school English and other courses.

The dilemma that faced Senate in March after rejecting the admissions committee's motion was: "Where do we go from here?"

The problem of how to assess writing ability was referred back to the admissions committee again last week on the recommendation of Senate's agenda committee.

Since the March meeting, the Senate ad hoc committee on standards in English discussed alternatives for assessing English competence. The agenda committee recommended that three proposals contained in the ad hoc committee's report be discussed at the April meeting, "but that no attempt be made to arrive at a specific conclusion, and that the matter ... be referred back to the Senate admissions committee."

The ad hoc committee proposals discussed and referred to the admissions committee are that:

1. Senate endorse the principle that the University use results of an English composition exam as one of the criteria by which a student's writing ability is assessed for the purpose of admission in the first year;
2. Senate ask the admissions committee to select an examination in English composition to be available for use in admitting students entering the University in 1980; and
3. Senate ask the admissions committee to formulate means of identifying those students whose work in subjects other than English is demonstrably outstanding.

The ad hoc committee's proposals were presented to Senate by Dr. Jon Wisenthal of the English department, who said a special effort had been made to report to Senate in April. Unless action is taken on the proposals at the May Senate meeting, he said, "we are not going to be able to have an examination in place for students entering in September, 1980."

He emphasized that the results of the English examination proposed in Recommendation 2 would not be considered in isolation. "We propose that an exam be used as one of the criteria for admission purposes," he said, and went on to cite three advantages of such an exam.

The first of these, he said, was equity. Standards vary considerably from one secondary school to another and one teacher to another and it would be grossly unfair to make the individual teacher the sole arbiter of a student's writing ability.

A second advantage was the predictive value of the exam. It would be "patently unwise and clearly indefensible" for the University to rely on a single criterion—the English 12 grade—as the basis for determining whether a student is likely to be able to write competently. The results of a UBC-administered exam, taken in combination with the English 12 grade, would significantly increase the accuracy of prediction about the student's writing ability.

A third advantage of an English composition exam would be that the University would have control of its own entrance standards, Dr. Wisenthal said. An exam would enable the University to set a cutoff point and would not leave in the hands of high school teachers "working and marking independently

in all parts of B.C." the question of writing competence.

The ad hoc committee emphasized that it was not recommending the use of any particular exam but drew attention to the English Composition Test of the U.S. College Board, based in Princeton, New Jersey.

Dr. Wisenthal said one other issue arose out of the recommendations—the possible effect on University enrolment. He said he hoped that if there were a collision between "academic values and short-term commercial considerations" that the University will "remember the primacy of academic values."

After Senate voted to receive the report and refer it to the admissions committee, Dr. Wisenthal asked if that committee's recommendations would come forward for debate at the May 23 Senate meeting.

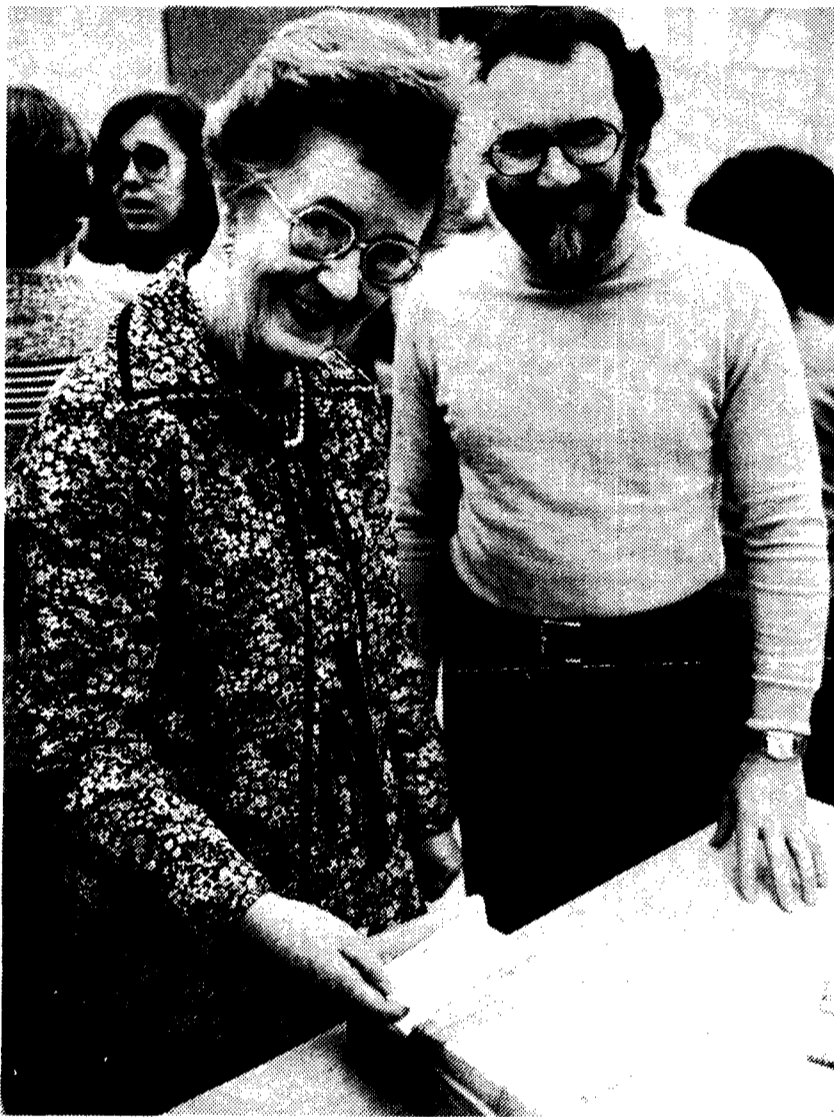
President Douglas Kenny, Senate's chairman, said he understood the admissions committee was reluctant

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Library staff gathered recently to mark the closing of the UBC card catalogue, which has swollen to more than 6.5 million items in the Main Library and various branch libraries on campus. From now on, all books entries will be made on microfiche which are magnified on readers in campus libraries. The honor of putting the last card in the catalogue went to Eleanor Mercer, a 40-year employee of the UBC library, who retires in June. Standing by is Basil Stuart-Stubbs, UBC's head librarian, whose report on the operations of the UBC library in the last fiscal year was presented to Senate last week. For a summary, turn to page three.

Continuing education just keeps on growing

UBC accounts for more than 19 per cent of the total number of annual registrations in B.C. for continuing education, UBC's Senate was told last week.

Jindra Kulich, the director of UBC's Centre for Continuing Education, said the 19 per cent figure included registrations for extra-session credit courses offered by the University. If credit courses are excluded, he said, UBC still accounts for more than 16 per cent of all continuing education registrations in the province.

He said the percentages cited would undoubtedly be higher if many UBC units that run continuing education programs on an informal basis were able to document their activities. "I am hopeful that this will be done in the future," Mr. Kulich added in speaking to a report he compiles annually on UBC's continuing education activities.

His report showed that a total of 8,699 students registered for extra-

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PROF. C.L. "MITCH" MITCHELL

Commerce prof heads association

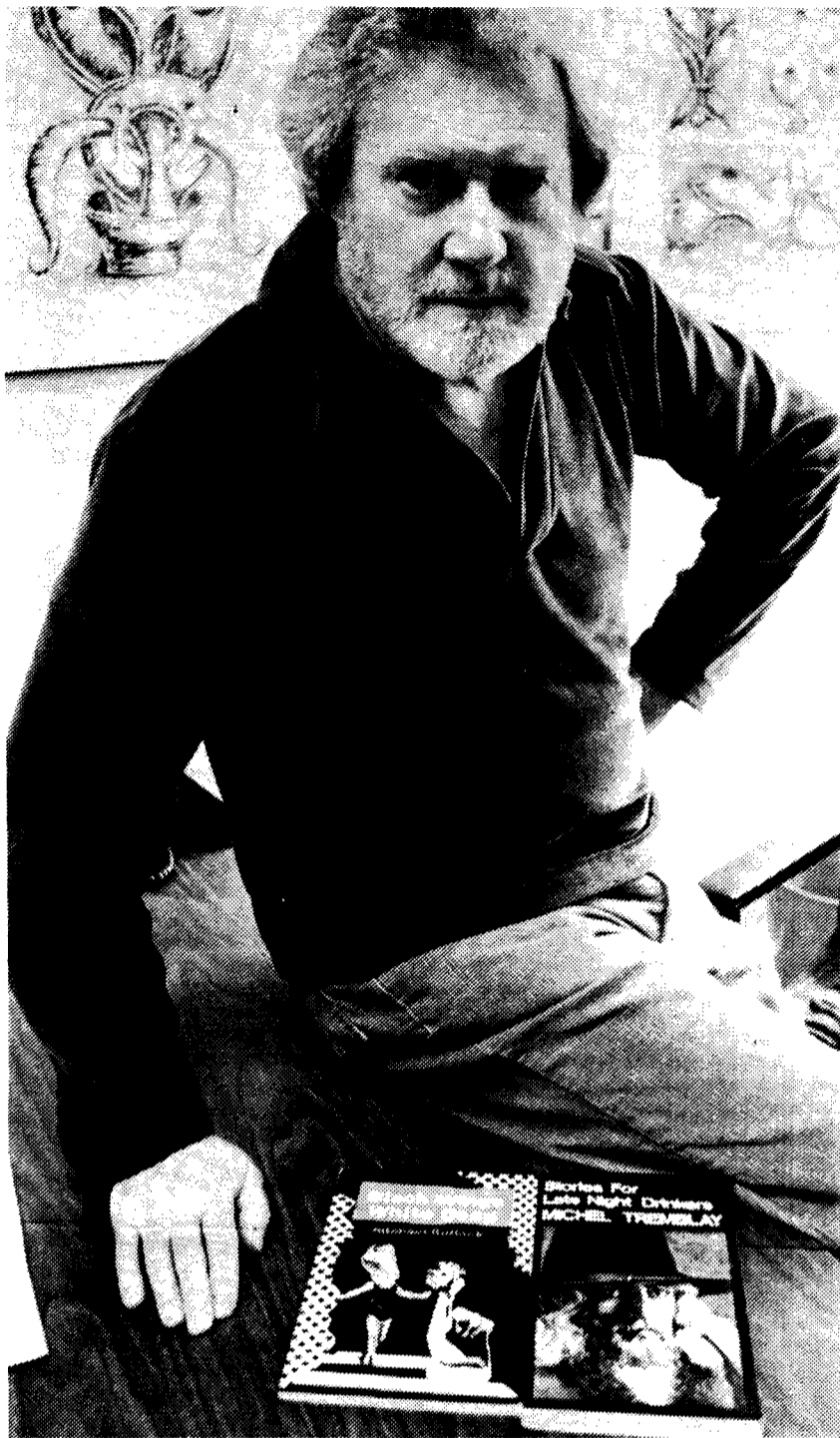
Prof. C.L. "Mitch" Mitchell, of the Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration has succeeded Dr. Olav Slaymaker of the geography department as president of the UBC Faculty Association.

The association's vice-president for 1979-80 is Dr. Jean Elder of the history department, and Dr. Frank Abbott of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences and last year's secretary is the new association treasurer.

Dr. Sidney Mindess of Civil Engineering, who served on the executive last year as a member-at-large, is the new secretary of the association, and Ms. Elizabeth Black of the humanities division of the UBC library occupies a new executive position, that of delegate to the Canadian Association of University Teachers.

Members-at-large for 1979-80 are (an asterisk indicates a new member): Dr. David Balzarini, Physics; Dr. Elizabeth Bongie*, Classics; Charles Culling, Pathology; Dr. Dennis J. Pavlich*, Law; Gail J. Spitzer*, Education; and Dr. Lawrence S. Weiler, Chemistry.

Ex officio members of the executive are (an asterisk indicates a new member): past president Olav Slaymaker; Dr. Roland F. Gray*, Education; and Dr. Robert G. Evans, Economics.



Prof. Michael Bullock, of UBC's Department of Creative Writing, is the winner of the \$5,000 Canada Council Translation Prize for 1978 for his translation of *Stories for Late Night Drinkers*, by Quebec author Michel Tremblay, published by Intermedia Press of Vancouver. Prof. Bullock is multi-talented—the paintings on the wall in the background are by him and he has just had a volume of poetry, entitled *Black Wings White Death*, published.

Administrator studies UBC mailing lists

Those who depend on mailing lists at UBC to get their message around will be pleased to get in the next few weeks a questionnaire from the Computing Centre's Database Administrator.

The questionnaire will be used to gather information on all mailing lists on campus—who owns them, who uses them, who's on them, and so on. Everyone who has a mailing list, no matter how small or how specific, is requested to fill out the questionnaire.

Robin Russell, the database administrator at the Computing Centre, says this is a first step toward co-ordinating all the different mailing lists people use on campus. Much of the data in these mailing lists is duplicated, she says, and that duplication often means that an address or a name is right on one list and wrong on another.

Once the inventory of mailing lists is completed, it will be distributed to interested users with the

hope that more duplications won't be created.

The inventory might also be used to attempt to reduce the number of mailing lists in cases where duplications exist.

If you know of a mailing list, and want to make sure you'll be on the distribution list for the questionnaire, please contact Robin Russell at the Computing Centre, local 4791.

Another of Ms. Russell's projects is to standardize the codes and abbreviations which are used around the campus for computerized records and data. This standardization will be particularly important as people share their data more and more.

Establishing standard codes is a big job, Ms. Russell admits, and she'd like to start with two areas—faculty and department codes, and report identification for computer-produced reports. If you have comments, suggestions, or existing standards or codes for consideration, please forward them to Robin Russell.



Professor emeritus of Poultry Science Jacob Biely will be honored during meetings of the Canadian Federation of Biological Societies at UBC in June. He'll receive the Nutrition Society of Canada's \$1,000 Earle William McHenry Award for his teaching, research and advocacy of education in nutrition during a 33-year career at UBC. He was head of UBC's Department of Poultry Science from 1952 until his retirement from active teaching and research in 1968, when he became a research professor.



Dr. Richard Pearson, an archeologist in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology, is one of 13 Canadian university teachers who have been awarded prestigious fellowships by the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation of New York. He'll use the award to carry out a study of artifacts illustrating the economic and social life of people who lived during the Jomon, or prehistoric, culture of Japan. His research will lead to a book.

CONTINUING EDUCATION Continued from page 1

sessional credit courses offered at night during the winter session and during the spring and summer sessions. A breakdown of the registration total showed 2,107 students took courses during the winter session, 2,642 registered during the spring session and 3,975 attended summer session during the 1977-78 academic year.

Enrolment in Guided Independent Study (correspondence) courses offered by the University totalled 1,034, the report showed. Of this total, 865 were for degree credit, 29 for certificate credit and 140 were for non-credit courses.

Here are some other highlights from the report.

CENTRE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION. Registration in programs offered in this unit was up 6 per cent from 33,377 to 35,436. At least six new programs were offered by the centre, which expanded programming in the interior of B.C. and established citizens advisory committees in a number of Okanagan/Thompson centres to assist staff in exploring local needs and assisting in program arrangements.

CONTINUING EDUCATION IN THE HEALTH SCIENCES. This division staged a total of 238 courses—129 on campus and 109 off campus—which attracted 11,246 registrations. Additional emphasis was placed on development of inter-professional activities in 1977-78 and a network of continuing education co-ordinators was established in dentistry.

COMMERCE AND BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION. This unit registered 10,277 persons for courses and seminars operated by the diploma division, the real estate division and executive programs. Many of the seminars offered by the latter division were staged in off-campus centres, including Victoria, Kamloops, Kelowna, Cranbrook, Prince George, Calgary and Toronto.

FACULTY OF EDUCATION. The faculty is involved in continuing education for teachers in a

major way by offering on- and off-campus credit and non-credit courses and by meeting requests from school districts and teachers associations.

The faculty's field development office provided instructors who devoted 3,030 hours to teaching credit courses and 572.5 hours to non-credit courses.

Other figures for hours devoted to continuing education activities by education faculty members are: lectures - 1,092; seminars, workshops, etc. - 4,092; conferences - 2,685; and various performances (e.g., music) and exhibits - 809.

BOTANICAL GARDEN. The garden offered 81 classes with 1,417 participants and responded to 2,243 enquiries from the public. The Friends of the Garden were responsible for 46 guided tours with 1,525 participants.

MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY. Quite apart from paid admissions, the museum attracted 9,473 persons for Sunday afternoon and Tuesday evening lectures, demonstrations, concerts and film showings.

FREE PUBLIC LECTURES, COURSES AND SEMINARS. More than 7,800 persons attended 27 public lectures given by Cecil H. and Ida Green Visiting Professors. The UBC Computing Centre attracted more than 1,000 persons to 27 free, non-credit courses on 17 topics. The Institute of Applied Mathematics and Statistics offered 95 seminars and colloquia. Concerts staged by the Department of Music attracted 5,000 persons and 10 stage productions at the Frederic Wood Theatre and the Dorothy Somerset Studio were attended by an estimated 18,900 persons.

OFFICE OF EXTRA-SESSIONAL STUDIES. In association with the Faculty of Education, the office organized a total of 52 off-campus credit courses, held in 26 locations in B.C. These courses served 911 students. "This activity," the report comments, "was made possible through ... financial support from the Interior University Programs Board and the willingness of faculty to travel extensively, sometimes under rather adverse conditions."

Jim Banham photo

Growing book collection demands shelf space

"It may sound funny for a librarian to say for many years, please give me more money for books, and once he gets it then to say, please give me a place to put them. But this is the name of the game in university libraries, all over North America, all around the world."

So explained Dean Peter Larkin, chairman of the Senate Library Committee, as the librarian's annual report to Senate was presented last week.

Dean Larkin commended the librarian, Basil Stuart-Stubbs, for the "awesomely good job he has been able to do for us." And he emphasized that the single most important problem facing the library in the next few years is more space for books.

Both Dean Larkin and Mr. Stuart-Stubbs told Senate that by the end of the next eight years, all existing shelf space in the libraries, all closed storage, where more than 140,000 volumes are now housed, and all space that is now under construction will be filled. Within a decade, UBC's library will have three million volumes.

In his report, Mr. Stuart-Stubbs explained why finding more space, rather than cutting back on accessions, is the only solution to the problem: "The University deals in knowledge: its purpose is the creation, preservation and dissemination of knowledge. These processes are continuous, interrelated and endless, and they impose specific requirements on the University's Library, which must acquire, store and provide access to the published results of intellectual activity."

The library has added as many volumes in the past 10 years to its collection as were gathered in first 52 years of its existence. This, says the report, is "not because of the insidious workings of some variant of Parkinson's Law. There is simply more to be taught."

In spite of the rising costs of books and the declining value in recent years of the Canadian dollar when purchasing books from other countries, the rate of library accessions is relatively constant. "It isn't what it was in 1970," Mr. Stuart-Stubbs told Senate, "but at least it is no longer declining."

One of the projects designed to relieve some of the pressure on shelf space in the libraries is just being completed. The new Library Processing Centre welcomed its new tenants last week.

About 150 people who were working on the seventh and first floors of the Main Library and in Sedgewick library are settling in this week to their new quarters in the

Library Processing Centre just west of the Woodward Instructional Resources Centre on campus. Some 35,000 volumes were transported from the Main Library during the week-long move—25,000 books which were in the process of being prepared for the library stacks, catalogued, bound, and so on, and 10,000 books which are used as bibliographic tools by the cataloguers who will be working in the new quarters.

The Library Processing Centre is now home to everyone who was housed on the seventh floor of the Main Library—the serials division, the acquisition division and the catalogue divisions. Joining these groups from their former location on level one of the south wing of the Main Library is the catalogue preparations division, and from the Sedgewick Library the systems division. The move should make life simpler for Bob MacDonald, the assistant librarian for processing services and systems, to whom all these divisions report.

The new building was intended to fulfill two purposes—better conditions for the staff and more public space in the libraries. The first purpose is unquestionably being met.

"The working conditions on the seventh level were deplorable," explained Bill Watson, the librarian who was in charge of the move. The space was designed for books with a few people working in the area, not the 100 or so bodies which have been there on a day-to-day basis. Air circulation was practically non-existent and the ceilings were less than seven feet high. "These are immeasurably better conditions," he said.

Whether or not more public space will be created by this move is still in question, however. It was the library's intention to move the Government Publications division from its present location on the sixth floor of the main library to the seventh floor left vacant by the move, and allow the sixth floor to be made into public stacks areas for book shelves. But that can't be done without upgrading the seventh floor, which will cost a considerable amount, whether the floor is upgraded to the National Building Code standards or some lesser standards.

The Main Library, built 54 years ago and having undergone three major additions, is below building standards, a fact which must be considered when alterations to it are planned.

A small relief to the shelving squeeze will result from the move of the catalogue preparations division from level one. That vacant space

will be made into stacks. And the vacant space left by the systems division in Sedgewick Library will be renovated into an orientation and meeting room.

It's not much relief for a problem which will continue to grow during the next decade—where to put the third million volume.



Catalogue librarian Mary Magrega is almost hidden behind boxes stacked on her desk in the new Library Processing Centre, where the library's book-processing divisions are now located. The five-day move last week from the Main Library to the new building was a smooth operation, with most personnel back in action within three days.

UBC will play host to Irish studies meeting

The 12th annual conference of the Canadian Association for Irish Studies (CAIS) will be held at UBC May 2 to May 5—the first time the conference has been held west of Winnipeg.

'Irish culture: New Directions' is this year's conference theme, and discussion topics include drama and theatre, cultural and historical perspectives, women in Ireland, the Irish language and current Joyce studies.

Speakers are from both sides of the Atlantic, including British playwrights Wilson John Haire and Stewart Parker, Ulster Folk Museum director Brian Trainor, linguist Michael Barry from Queen's University in Belfast, London-based novelist Aidan Higgins, Dublin poet Eavan Boland and New York critic Suzette Henke.

Maurice Elliott from Winters College, York University, Toronto will give the keynote address at 9 a.m. May 3: 'Getting Out of Oneself but Running to Where? True Criticism in All Directions.'

Most of the conference sessions will be held at International House, although the opening night reception and a few other functions will be held at the Graduate Student Centre.

Financial support for the conference has come from Dublin, Belfast, Ottawa and Victoria, enabling organizers to keep the registration fee to a minimum (\$27 to

CAIS members, \$32 to non-members, \$16 to students).

The conference is open to all persons interested in Irish life and studies, and information on registration may be obtained from the Centre for Continuing Education, 228-2181, local 225.

UBC Governors to meet in sunny Okanagan

The University's governors head for the sunny Okanagan this weekend, with the first-ever off-campus meeting of the Board of Governors scheduled for Monday afternoon in Kelowna.

It will be the official May meeting of the Board, advanced one day to April 30 to simplify travel arrangements.

Following Monday afternoon's meeting, the governors will be guests at a reception and dinner sponsored by the UBC Alumni Association, with about 300 Okanagan-based UBC graduates expected to attend.

President Douglas Kenny will speak at the dinner, and the following day he will be the guest speaker at a meeting of the Rotary Club of Kelowna.

Revised booklet reissued

Back by popular demand . . . At least, back by demand from high schools around the province, a booklet describing the broad range of career alternatives available to women students has been revised and reprinted by Student Services.

Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Sailor ... was first printed in 1976 and distributed widely to high schools in an effort to make girls still in high school aware of the career choices available to them and the high school courses they would need as prerequisites for these careers. The booklet proved to be very useful and, in 1977, was the recipient of an award from the Canadian Association of College and University Student Services. Another 5,000 copies have just been printed.

The booklet looks at careers not traditionally thought to be open to

women—engineering, architecture, commerce and business administration, dentistry, forestry, law, medicine and computer science—from the point of view of women working in these fields, women studying at UBC, employers and UBC faculty members.

This year, non-traditional fields for women were selected as those where less than 35 per cent of the enrolment at UBC was women. And that's an encouraging revision. Three years ago, when the booklet was first written, the criteria for inclusion was fields where less than 25 per cent of the enrolment was women.

Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Sailor ... is available at Student Services and at the Women Students' Office in Brock Hall.

