THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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UBC REPORTS

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PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

Catching rays at UBC's lap pool is a popular activity, but not without risks that most people are aware of but still choose to ignore even after lesions appear.

Skin Cancer Patients Know the Risks but Fail to Act

Delay by doctors makes it worse. BY HILARY THOMSON

B.C. patients who suspect they have skin cancer don't seek medical attention for an average of almost five months – even when the lesion is invasive – according to a study done by a UBC graduate student.

Ingrid Tyler, a Master's of Health Science student, gave 175 patients in the Lower Mainland a 24-item questionnaire about their experience in seeking attention for skin lesions showing the cancerous changes known as malignant melanoma.

The study is the first in Canada to help assess how malignant melanoma is detected in B.C. and provides a better understanding of how patient education and other factors affect delays in diagnosis.

Between October 2002 and April 2003, Tyler, along with co-investigators Asst. Prof. Jean Shoveller of the Dept. of Health Care and Epidemiology and Jason Rivers, a professor of dermatology, examined the delay times between when the patient first noticed the lesion to when it was removed.

"We suspected that more significant and suspicious lesions might prompt people to get to their doctor quickly, but that wasn't the case," says Tyler, who is now pursuing a residency in community medicine.

She found that patients delayed a visit to their doctor no matter what the size or thickness of the skin lesion. Almost one-quarter of patients were unaware that skin cancer could develop from a mole. Patients surveyed had good understanding of melanoma in general, however, and understood its relationship to sun exposure. Almost 90 per cent of patients knew the value of early detection.

Melanomas usually start in pigment-producing cells and may start in an existing mole. They are the most aggressive and dangerous of all skin cancers, making early detection critical. Affecting about one in 100 Canadians, most melanomas are secondary to sun exposure.

Approximately 800 Canadians died of malignant melanoma in 1999, according to the B.C. Cancer Agency's Web site. The cure rate for all treated melanomas is about 80 per cent.

"There was no significant correlation between knowledge and delays – including knowledge about risks and early detection," says Tyler, adding that the findings were an all-too-common scenario in the field of public health education. "It's not enough that people know about risks, we need to find a way to help them change behaviour."

Common reasons for delay included thinking the lesion was not serious or that it would go away on its own.

A disturbing result, she says, was 25 per cent of the respondents went to their doctor only when the symptoms were advanced and the lesion was bleeding and crusting.

The study also found physician delays were almost four months on average, making the total delay in getting treatment for malignant melanoma nine and a half months among those surveyed. Doctor delays were most often due to administrative backlog, misdiagnosis by a general practitioner or multiple visits to physicians.

Tyler characterizes the delay in treatment of malignant melanoma as relatively short compared to other similar studies in Europe and the U.S. that have shown delays up to 14 months.

For more information about skin cancer risks, visit www.bccancer.bc.ca and click on information for patients. □

PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

UBC's new Law Dean Mary Anne Bobinski brings a strong record of achievement.

New Law Dean Committed to Lifelong Legal Education

Mary Anne Bobinski predicts a strong future for UBC law. BY ERICA SMISHEK

Like the Texas state she has until recently called home, Mary Anne Bobinski's vision for the UBC Faculty of Law is bold, varied and grand.

A few minutes in her dynamic, determined company and the new Dean of Law leaves little doubt she and her team have what it takes to shape the future of legal education and research at UBC.

"UBC is one of the best schools in North America if you look at the research productivity of the faculty and their outstanding teaching, if you look at the student body based on their grade point average, their LSAT scores and also at the background and experience that they bring here and what they do once they're here," Bobinski, 40, said in an interview with *UBC Reports*.

"A third of the students go out and participate in exchange programs. Many of them go into foreign countries and spend a semester away. Schools across North America aspire to be global law schools. UBC really is."

Bobinski comes to UBC from New York via Texas, where she spent 14 years at the University of Houston Law Center as a professor (with research interests in health care financing, legal aspects of HIV infection and reproductive health issues), associate dean for Academic Affairs and, most recently, director of its Health Law and Policy Institute.

Under her leadership, the Institute, which consistently receives the top ranking by *U.S. News and World Report* for health law programs in the nation, broadened its curriculum, enhanced its human resources and gained additional funding sources to finance new program initiatives.

Bobinski was also noted for building links with the community – something she has already started

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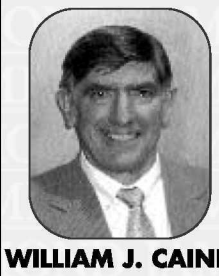

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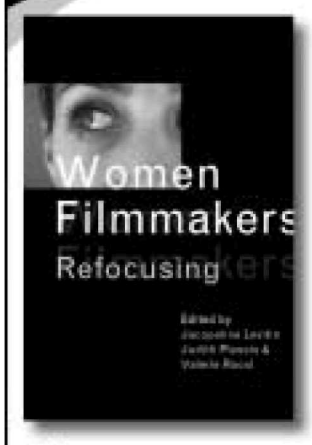

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IN THE NEWS

Highlights of UBC Media Coverage in July 2003. COMPILED BY BRIAN LIN

Oldest planet found

A group of U.S. and Canadian astronomers have found the oldest known planet. The huge gaseous object is almost three times as old as Earth and nearly as old as the universe itself.

UBC astronomy professor **Harvey Richer** told *The New York Times* it was "tremendously encouraging that planets are probably abundant in globular star clusters."

"We have been talking about a single planet from a single globular cluster," said Richer, who is a member of the team that made the discovery. "We ought not to extrapolate from a sample of one, and first look more closely to see if there are planets in other clusters."

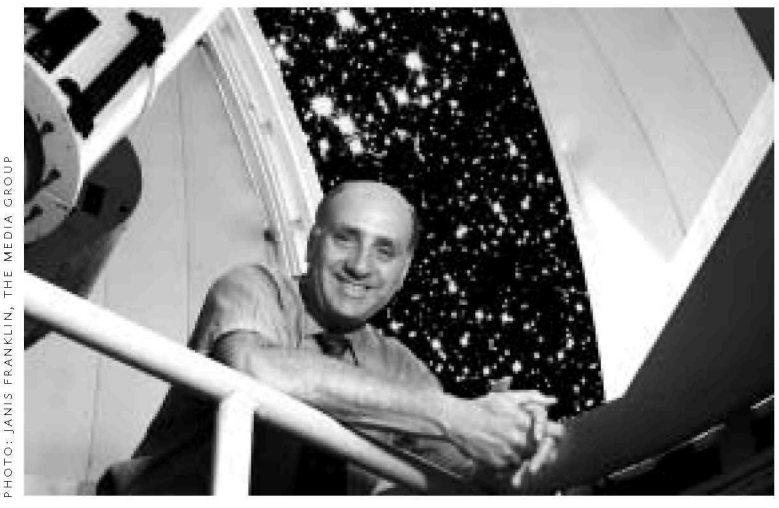

PHOTO: JANIS FRANKLIN, THE MEDIA GROUP

UBC astronomy professor Harvey Richer searches the cosmos.

Double-Cohort Paranoia

Thanks to "double-cohort paranoia", UBC received twice as many applications from Ontario this year, UBC assistant registrar **Rosalie Phillips** told the *Toronto Star.*

"The double cohort had kids scared, so on Mom and Dad's advice they sent out a lot of 'insurance applications' in case they didn't get into any Ontario university," said Phillips.

As it turns out, 46 per cent of Ontario students did get their first choice within the province, so UBC expects to register only 50 to 75 per cent more than usual.

Still Time to Save Fisheries

In an editorial in the *Taipei Times*, UBC fisheries professor **Daniel Pauly** says the decline of global marine catches will be difficult to halt.

"The rapid depletion of fish stocks is the inevitable outcome of sophisticated industrial technology being thrown at dwindling marine populations as demand rises, fueled by growth in human population and incomes," said Pauly.

"There is still time to save our fisheries, but only if they are reinvented not as the source of an endlessly growing supply of fish for an endlessly growing human population, but as a provider of a healthy complement to grain-based diets."

Stonehenge Mystery Solved?

UBC researcher **Anthony Perks** told the *UK Observer* that he has uncovered Stonehenge's true meaning: it is a giant fertility symbol, constructed in the shape of the female sexual organ.

"There was a concept in Neolithic times of a great goddess or Earth Mother," said Perks. "Stonehenge could represent the opening by which the Earth Mother gave birth to the plants and animals on which ancient people so depended."

Perks's analysis was published in the *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine.* □

UBC Host Program Encourages Faculty and Staff to Attract Conferences

Program provides novices with expert support. BY BRIAN LIN

Every year, thousands of conference delegates descend on UBC to discuss topics that could range from Organometallic Chemistry to Mountain Logging. These highly mobile academics and professionals bring in millions of dollars to the local economy and return home with a lasting impression of their Canadian host.

"Conference delegates become unofficial ambassadors of UBC," says Trish Brown, sales and marketing director of Conferences and Accommodation. "Not to mention the revenue generated to UBC, which goes to improve student residences and keeping rent affordable."

Conference specialists assist local hosts in bid preparations, promotions, and registration and exhibit management, so even a novice can put together a successful conference.

More than 85,000 square feet of meeting space and the ability to accommodate up to 3,000 guests make UBC one of the largest campus conference facilities in Canada. Its natural beauty coupled with its central location to the Asia-Pacific and North America also makes it a favourite for international conference organizers.

Brown says the Conference Services and Meeting Planning Division has been working with local hosts – UBC faculty and staff who are conference organizers – to successfully bring conferences to UBC and reap the benefits of this multi-million dollar industry.

Building on the success of its conference planning services, Conferences and Accommodation will officially launch the Local UBC Host program this fall, headed by sales manager Teresa Rempel, who was instrumental in Tourism Vancouver's "Be A Host" program.

"We already have a very strong repeat client base, and many of our new clients are referred to us by past hosts," says Rempel. "By launching the Local Host program, a program designed to assist local hosts with the process of securing meetings and events for Vancouver, we hope to make more people aware of the services we provide and encourage more local hosts to bring conferences to UBC." □

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Computer Science Professor Invents New Digital Camera

Old technology was the key. BY MICHELLE COOK

In a world of pocket-sized digital cameras and colour printers capable of turning any kitchen table into a high-tech photo lab, the UBC ScanCam seems an unlikely harbinger of the next wave of computer graphics technology.

With its bulky wooden frame and accordion-pleat bellows, the ScanCam could be an antique from another photographic era. But look a little closer and you'll see that the 8 x 10-inch film plate usually found at the back of vintage cameras has been replaced by a sleek flatbed scanner.

The odd-looking contraption can generate an 8.5 x 10-inch image and scan it at 1,200 dpi (dots per inch) to produce a digital graphic with a resolution of 122 million pixels. The image can then be enlarged into a 34 x 40-inch poster-sized print with a 300 dpi resolution. And it's all done with about $2,000 in equipment, says the ScanCam's creator Wolfgang Heidrich.

Heidrich, an assistant professor of computer science, began pairing old and new photographic technologies last summer in an attempt to find a cheaper way to capture high-quality computer images.

"In this area of research, we always want higher resolution images in order to get more detailed graphics and we want it to be inexpensive," Heidrich says. "With this camera, for the first time we have been able to produce digital photography that approaches large-format analogue photography in terms of resolution and quality."

The ScanCam is a bargain compared to the mass-market digital cameras currently available. Although less expensive, they only produce six-million-pixel images. Even a professional digital camera with a price tag of $30 - $40,000 only produces 20-million-pixel images.

Heidrich's only costs were the vintage-style camera kit, which he ordered online, a Canon Lide30 scanner, which he modified slightly, and a few other parts. He and graduate student Shuzhen Wang then developed the software necessary to operate the ScanCam.

The camera's ability to capture extremely high-resolution images and enlarge them inexpensively makes it an excellent tool for product photography and commercial art. It could also be used to electronically archive museum collections and, with an infrared function, to scan fruit to check for things like core rot.

Sound like a photographer's dream? The ScanCam's biggest drawback is that, with five minutes of scan time needed for each image, it can't be used to snap shots of living subjects or moving objects. So far, the only subjects patient enough to pose for Heidrich and Wang have been toys.

Even so, Heidrich has approached a few Vancouver camera shops to field the ScanCam's commercial potential and they are interested. But don't consider trading in your Nikon Coolpix just yet.

Although Heidrich envisions a much more streamlined version of the camera commercially available 10 years from now, he says there's more research to be done on working with such high resolution images. Among the challenges still to tackle are developing an interface for the ScanCam software, addressing problems with distortion correction and digital zoom, and finding compression techniques for dealing with large digital images.

After that the ScanCam should be, as they say, picture perfect. □

PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

Assistant Professor of Computer Science Wolfgang Heidrich with the ScanCam.

Shortened Hospital Stays not Always a Blessing

Researchers look for a better way

BY HILARY THOMSON

Returning home after a hospital stay should be a relief.

For many patients, however, it can be a frustrating struggle to prepare special diets, juggle pain medications or even shower with bandages on.

The transition from hospital to home is one that Joan Anderson, a professor in the School of Nursing, is determined to improve.

"Many people just don't anticipate what it will be like when they get home," says Anderson. "They are told but often can't comprehend the full picture."

Anderson, and researchers from UBC's School of Nursing and the School of Rehabilitation Sciences, Trinity Western University and four Lower Mainland hospitals, have launched a three-year study to evaluate the experience of 90 patients from three different ethnocultural groups: first generation Indo- and Chinese-Canadians and Anglo-Canadians born in Canada.

The team, which includes hospital policy-makers and clinicians, has examined the impact of health-care reform – such as shortened hospital stays – on hospital patients and staff. They are also looking at the discharge planning process and difficulties patients may face on their return home.

"People in obvious need are easily assessed, but many people fall through the cracks," says Anderson, who is one of this year's Distinguished Scholars in Residence at the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Study at UBC.

Key issues include patients' ability to communicate with health-care professionals. Many non-English speakers don't realize hospitals provide interpreter services.

"I was able to ask only the ones [questions] I knew how to ask.... but there were some words that I didn't know how to say, so I couldn't ask those questions," said one Cantonese-speaking patient.

Information overload is another problem.

"The information that the dietician gave me... was overwhelming. I broke into tears... The stuff she told me was right, there was nothing wrong with that. It's just that you need to know where to start when you go home," said one patient.

Patients have suggested a phone line service would help them to consult easily with health professionals once they get home. They need detailed instructions and advice that the generic discharge pamphlet cannot provide.

People can also underestimate the length of time off work and the resulting financial strain. Especially difficult for self-employed workers, income loss is made worse by costs of medications or equipment.

Anderson emphasizes that information from the study is helping to improve practice already.

"The staff in hospitals are committed people and they are anxious to know what we are finding so that they can make necessary changes. We're finding that some of the things that are most distressing to people when they get home can be addressed in a cost-effective way and might indeed prevent them from ending up in the hospital again," she says.

When the study is completed, researchers will work with provincial policy makers to implement the research findings. □

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The Iona Building at Vancouver School of Theology on the UBC campus. Photo: Perry Danforth

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Campus Recruiters Step up Efforts to Attract First Nations Students

Traditional methods just aren't working. BY BRIAN LIN

What do a summer camp, a soccer tournament, a business program and a Web site have in common?

They are all examples of UBC's renewed commitment to increase aboriginal student enrolment and to support aboriginal students at UBC.

In 1996, Dan Birch, then-VP Academic, urged the Senate to pass the now famous "one thousand by 2000" motion, which stipulated that UBC was to recruit 1,000 First Nations students by the year 2000.

"Whatever methods were employed, we fell far short of the target," says Herbert Rosengarten, executive director, Office of the President, and official keeper of the *Trek 2000* vision.

There are currently approximately 500 self-identified First Nations students at UBC.

"Over the last couple of years, the university has recognized that we need to adopt very different methods if we hope to be more successful at recruiting First Nations students," says Rosengarten.

"We have to identify the community's goals and aspirations and be able to show aboriginal youth that higher education is as much their right as everyone else's.

"We need to work in the schools and assist potential students to achieve the necessary standards to meet entry requirements. We need to provide positive encouragement to non-traditional learners and to form an alliance among the native bands, government, and the universities to find – and fund – long-term solutions."

The following are highlights of some of the initiatives launched in the past year.

Musqueam Soccer Tournament

More than 1,000 First Nations kids and their families spent a recent weekend kicking back on UBC campus, and kicking some ball, too.

The Musqueam Indian Band All Native Youth Soccer Tournament, held June 27-29, 2003, was part of UBC Community Affairs' Bridge Through Sport program. The joint effort with the Musqueam Indian Band brought 39 teams of aboriginal youth, aged four to 16, onto campus, representing 15 Indian Bands across the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island.

In her opening remarks, greeting the players, UBC President Martha Piper said that many bursaries and scholarships allocated for aboriginal students at UBC went unused last year and encouraged aboriginal youth to set their sights on UBC.

PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

Dr. Shannon Waters of the Chemainus First Nation graduated from UBC medical school last year.

"UBC is here for everyone and it will always have a special place for B.C.'s first peoples," said Piper.

"We want to show First Nations youth what UBC has to offer and make them feel welcome at UBC," says Community Affairs Executive Director Sid Katz. "We want them to have fun here on campus, but more importantly, we want them to come back, to study here."

Musqueam band manager Daryl Hargitt says the feedback from First Nations communities has been overwhelmingly positive.

"It was a great opportunity for us to share in the camaraderie," says Hargitt. "To host the tournament on traditional Musqueam territory was very significant for the participants."

Katz says planning for next year's event is already underway.

Aboriginal Co-ordinators

The recent creation of aboriginal co-ordinator positions in a number of faculties has infused new energy into aboriginal student enrolment and support at the faculty level. The Faculty of Science, the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and the Faculty of Medicine are the latest to follow this trend.

Tim Michel works with both the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and the Faculty of Science to turn the tide of minimal aboriginal student enrolment.

"Historically, there has been one aboriginal student entering the Faculty of Science per decade," says Michel. "On average there is only a 37 per cent high school graduation rate, and of these aboriginal students few continue on to university or college."

This fall, five aboriginal students will enter the Faculty of Science, bringing the total to 21. The only aboriginal student currently enrolled in the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences will be joined by three to five newcomers this September, thanks to Michel's tireless work.

In addition to organizing outreach events with the Musqueam Indian Band and other B.C. aboriginal communities, Michel has organized a panel on aboriginal science issues, encouraging dialogue among aboriginals in urban and rural areas, government agencies and alumni.

The Faculty of Science is also launching a new Web site – aboriginal.science.ubc.ca – in September.

"We'll be posting information useful to aboriginal science students at UBC and potential science students in the K-12 system, as well as teachers and school counsellors," says Michel. "The goal is to make science at UBC more accessible and approachable to aboriginal students."

The Faculty of Medicine hired its aboriginal programs co-ordinator in July 2002. James Andrew, who was previously the community liaison co-ordinator for UBC's Institute for Aboriginal Health, says his appointment coincided with a number of admission policy changes that encourage aboriginal students to join the Faculty of Medicine.

"For years our faculty has witnessed a severe under-representation of aboriginal students," says Andrew. "Last year we decided to target five per cent of the annual complement of funded seats for qualified aboriginal students."

As a result, the faculty received seven aboriginal applicants in 2002 and 12 in 2003. Five aboriginal students will begin medical school this fall.

Unlike other Canadian medical schools that also actively recruit aboriginal students, Andrew says the creation of his position ensures that students receive support after they enter medical school and that issues such as cultural knowledge and traditional practice are addressed.

Aboriginal Residency Program

Launched last spring, the Aboriginal Residency Program in the Dept. of Family Practice is a unique program that allows medical graduates to focus special attention on aboriginal health-care issues.

"Aboriginal people in B.C. and throughout Canada have the poorest health status of any identifiable group in Canada," says Dr. Isaac Sobol, director of the Division of Aboriginal People's Health and the Aboriginal Residency Program. "Until now, no Canadian medical schools provided specific training for physicians who plan to work with aboriginal individuals or communities."

In addition to specialized fields such as substance and physical abuse, the program offers electives in aboriginal cultures, history, and spirituality to prepare physicians to deal with complicated issues that affect aboriginal people's health status.

"Many factors have contributed to the state of aboriginal people's health today," says Sobol. "Physicians intending to work in aboriginal communities need to be aware of issues such as epidemics of infectious disease brought over by Europeans, the residue of the residential schools, and the relocation of aboriginal peoples to reserves in order to provide care that is truly sensitive to their needs."

Dr. Shannon Waters, who graduated from UBC medical school in 2002, was one of two candidates chosen from across Canada to enter the program last year. So far, she has worked with peri-natal women struggling with addictions and is planning a trip to New Zealand to learn about indigenous health in Maori communities.

"I've met with aboriginal physicians from across Canada and elders from reserves around B.C.," says Waters, of the Chemainus First Nation. "The program gives us the flexibility to address many aspects of health-care delivery in aboriginal communities."

B.C. ACADRE

The Institute of Aboriginal Health will receive $1.5 million over three years to establish the B.C. Aboriginal Capacity and Developmental Research Environment (ACADRE).

Led by UBC, the provincial initiative joins a network of ACADREs across Canada aimed at improving the health of aboriginal people. It is unique in its emphasis on the development of a community-driven research agenda.

The four main themes of the research project include: supporting community-determined research, promoting health research training for aboriginal people, supporting ethical research practices inclusive of aboriginal traditional knowledge, and promoting holistic wellness in mental health and addictions.

To date, eight research awards have been allocated, including two undergraduate students, three masters students and three PhD students. Six of the awards were won by UBC students.

Chinook Business Program

A new aboriginal business program will provide aboriginal entrepreneurs with the know-how to jump-start their careers in business.

Named after the ancient language of trade, the Chinook Aboriginal Education initiative was launched by the Sauder School of Business and the First Nations House of Learning on May 9, 2003.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by UBC President Martha Piper, presidents and deans from partner colleges and leaders in the aboriginal business community.

The program places great emphasis on aboriginal business issues and makes business education more accessible to aboriginal students through partnerships with six colleges across B.C.

Students can work towards a two-year Chinook Business Diploma at Camosun College, Capilano College, College of New Caledonia, the Institute of Indigenous Government, Langara College or Northwest Community College, and continue on to obtain the Bachelor of Commerce Degree, Chinook major, at UBC.

Sauder School of Business Dean Dan Muzyka says the foundation has been laid to bring the program to fruition and to serve the next generations.

For more information, visit www.chinook.ubc.ca. □

New Law Dean

continued from page 1

to do within UBC and with the external legal community.

Following her address to 250 members of the legal profession at a welcoming lunch co-hosted by the UBC Law Alumni Association in June, Howard Berge, QC, president of the Law Society of B.C., says he and other benchers were impressed by Bobinski's willingness to work with the bench and the bar and her commitment to lifelong legal education.

"There used to be a different emphasis on legal education," Berge says. "The law school worried about their curriculum and we looked after post-LL.B. training. There was certainly an interchange but it hasn't been seamless where there was some kind of overriding program that starts at law school and continues through a career.

"Mary Anne seems focused on getting students into a general education stream as soon as possible so they do know what it's like down the road and what's available when they are in the profession. Hopefully this will lead to a smoother transition from law school through bar training and the practice of law."

Bobinski, the first Law dean appointed who did not have a prior connection to UBC, has consulted widely with members of the faculty and legal community to help shape her vision for the school and sees a strong match between her experiences and the opportunities that exist at UBC.

Her goals include broadening an already comprehensive curriculum to balance traditional subject areas at the core of legal practice with developing practice areas like intellectual property and health law; expanding the integration of new technologies; skills training in advocacy, legal research and writing, problem solving and ethics with traditional teaching methods; empowering law graduates to succeed in a rapidly changing world by exposing them to critical perspectives about law and the role of law in the resolution of important social issues; attracting and retaining the best teaching and research faculty; and marshalling the necessary resources for these initiatives.

Bobinski acknowledges the difference between the Canadian and American legal systems – one of her first tasks is to become more familiar with Canadian legal practice and culture – but says both countries share similar issues in legal education, such as applying more learner-centred teaching methods and financing faculty research.

"With the old Socratic teaching method, you could have one brilliant person in a room full of many students and it's a relatively inexpensive way of educating future lawyers," says Bobinski. "But as soon as you start talking about doing things that are skills-based or involve problem-based learning, legal education becomes much more expensive and there is a question about how to respond to the need to change legal education."

Born in upstate New York, Bobinski comes by the academic life honestly – her father was dean of the School of Information and Library Studies at State University of New York (SUNY), Buffalo and a brother is the associate dean of the School of Management at SUNY, Binghamton – though she initially contemplated a career in medicine or legal practice after getting her B.A. in Psychology

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PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

Reaching out to Aboriginal High School Students

Forestry camp is a first for UBC. BY BRIAN LIN

Aboriginal high school students from across B.C. are at UBC this week for the first-ever aboriginal youth forestry camp.

Aimed at demystifying the role of natural resource managers and professional foresters, the Summer Forestry Camp for First Nations Youth, taking place August 4-10, brings 25 First Nations youth in Grades 8 and 9 to the Point Grey campus.

Participants will also spend three days at UBC's Malcolm Knapp Research Forest in Maple Ridge to learn about the practical application of math and science in forestry and natural resource management.

"This summer camp is an innovative way for us to reach out to aboriginal high school students who are considering post-secondary education," says Gordon Prest, First Nations co-ordinator at the Faculty of Forestry. "There has been a serious shortage of First Nations people in our faculty."

Prior to 1994, only three aboriginal students are known to have graduated from the faculty. Since then, 20 aboriginal students have received Forestry degrees. There are currently 18 undergraduate and two PhD students of aboriginal ancestry in the faculty.

Prest says part of the problem is that few aboriginal students are graduating from high school with the necessary academic pre-requisites to enter science-related programs.

"Traditionally school counsellors tend to steer First Nations students towards arts and teaching," says Prest. "In recent years, more students are venturing into social work and law, but there is still a shortage of First Nations students in sciences."

Prest says forestry presents many new opportunities for First Nations people, despite the common misconception that it is a sunset industry.

"We are tackling these problems at the root by offering a fun way for students to learn both about forestry and the importance of math and science to it."

The faculty will monitor participants' progress through high school and will work closely with student recruitment to offer any additional support needed through the admission process. It will also address issues such as bursary and future career options.

There is strong demand for forestry professionals with an aboriginal background, says Trish Osterberg, project co-ordinator for the summer camp and a recent graduate of the faculty.

"There is a trend to combine traditional aboriginal forestry practices and modern technology," says Osterberg, a member of the Sto:lo Nation. "Aboriginal forestry graduates have their work cut out for them in areas such as forestry policy changes and treaty negotiations." □

Gordon Prest, First Nations Co-ordinator at the Faculty of Forestry, drives the recruitment program for more aboriginal students.

New Law Dean

continued from page 4

and a J.D. She was working on a PhD in policy studies with a focus on health policy before switching to Harvard for her LL.M.

"Maybe as part of the Genome project they'll identify the academic gene and save all of this trauma as we try and figure out what we're going to do in life," she laughs.

Bobinski says she is driven by a love of teaching and "creating an environment where students can learn what they need to know to prepare them for the profession and for the other places that law can take them outside the traditional practice of law."

She will not teach during her first year as dean – but is already anxious to get back in the classroom.

"It's sort of like being a chef but not being able to taste the food," she says. "Who'd want that?"

In addition to professional challenges, Bobinski faces interesting times on the home front as she and her partner, Holly Harlow, also a lawyer, recently adopted an infant daughter from Guatemala.

She looks forward to their new life in Vancouver, a city Bobinski was familiar with thanks to a decade of frequent travel to western Canada.

"It is definitely a world-class city in every respect that I've encountered. I see in Vancouver this striving, entrepreneurial energy and also openness to people from different cultures and an excitement about ideas. I just can't think of any better place to be in the world." □

Deans New and Renewed

Law isn't the only faculty to get a new dean this year. The Faculties of Medicine and Science have also appointed new heads.

Dr. **Gavin Stuart**, an oncologist and noted cancer researcher, will take over as Dean of Medicine in September while Prof. **John Hepburn**, the current head of UBC's Chemistry Dept., will take up his duties as Dean of Science effective November 1.

Stuart currently heads the Dept. of Oncology at the University of Calgary, is vice-president of the Alberta Cancer Board and directs the Tom Baker Cancer Centre in Calgary. In addition to a broad understanding of academic administration, he is noted for his clinical skills and is highly visible on the national research scene for his work in cervical and ovarian cancers.

As dean, Stuart will lead initiatives such as the building of the Life Sciences Centre at Point Grey that joins medical and life sciences laboratories and the new distributed medical education program that will double the number of B.C.'s medical school graduates by 2010.

Hepburn is internationally renowned for his research in laser spectroscopy and laser chemistry. He came to UBC in 2001 from the University of Waterloo. As head of the Chemistry Dept., Hepburn has been a tireless promoter of excellence in research and teaching. He earned his BSc from the University of Waterloo in 1976. He continued his education at the University of Toronto where he obtained his PhD in 1980. He began his academic career at the University of Waterloo in 1982 as an assistant professor of Chemistry and Physics, becoming chair of the Chemistry Dept. in 1998.

Prof. **Moura Quayle** of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and Prof. **Michael Isaacson** of the Faculty of Applied Science have both been re-appointed for second terms. The two were first appointed in 1997.

During her first term, Quayle oversaw the transformation of the undergraduate curriculum into four new degrees – Bachelors of Science in Agroecology, Food, Nutrition and Health, and Global Resource Systems, and Bachelor of Environmental Design (in collaboration with the Faculty of Applied Science School of Architecture), and the establishment of several new centres – the Wine Research Centre, the Centre for Aquaculture and Environment, the Centre for Plant Research, the Centre for Landscape Research, the Food and Resource Economics Research Group, and the UBC Farm.

Major accomplishments during Isaacson's first term include the development of several new programs including the Commerce Minor, the IT Minor, the combined BA/BASc degree, the Integrated Engineering Program, and the joint UBC/UNBC degree in Environmental Engineering, and the opening of the Clean Energy Research Centre. □

PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

Chemistry Dept. head John Hepburn is UBC's new Dean of Science.

Taking Education and Learning into Our Community

Canadian universities seek stable funding

BY MICHELLE COOK

UBC has joined forces with nine other Canadian universities to seek funding support for community service learning (CSL) initiatives.

Representatives from the universities of Alberta, Toronto, Western Ontario, McMaster, Guelph, Queens, St. Francis Xavier, Simon Fraser, and Memorial came to UBC in late June to discuss ways to build momentum for CSL across Canada. The result was the formation of a national coalition of universities and an action plan to help raise the profile of CSL in Canada. A key component of the plan is the creation of a long-term funding infrastructure to support service learning programs and pilot projects.

CSL is a pedagogical model that combines community volunteer activities with academic course work to give students the opportunity to make connections between theory and practice, engage in critical reflection and see how their studies can be applied. While the model has been popular in the U.S. for some time, Canadian universities have only recently begun to adopt it.

"In the U.S., a huge amount of money and support have gone into CSL initiatives," says Margo Fryer, director of UBC's Learning Exchange and the meeting's host. "We want to have enough money available nationally so that the CSL movement can grow on Canadian campuses and be sustainable in the long term."

One of the coalition's goals is to have a mechanism for stable funding in place by 2004 when a $1 million private grant that supports St. Francis Xavier University's CSL program runs out. The Nova Scotia university is considered the pioneer of the service learning movement in Canada.

"We need to find a way to sustain the St. Francis Xavier program and the others that have followed," says Fryer. "The idea is to have a pool of funding from different sources available to all Canadian universities in a year's time. We see government support playing a crucial role in our ability to integrate this important approach to experiential learning into the fabric of Canadian universities."

Fryer says the importance of CSL goes beyond enriching students' academic experiences.

"With CSL, we're strengthening civil society by bringing students' energy and enthusiasm to community organizations and by encouraging students to think critically about social issues and to become active and engaged members of their communities."

UBC has been involved in CSL since 1999 when the Learning Exchange Trek Program began placing student volunteers in community organizations. Two years ago, the program began incorporating CSL into course work. This year, 300 students from a wide range of disciplines have worked in 30 organizations that include inner-city schools, community centres, community gardens, homeless shelters and hospices.

Funding for the UBC Learning Exchange currently comes from the university and private donors, but the ability to respond to the increasing interest in CSL among students and community organizations depends on additional funding, Fryer adds.

In addition to developing stable funding sources, the coalition's action plan includes a commitment to share resources and curriculum ideas, encourage student involvement and empowerment in all aspects of CSL programming, and continue meeting annually.

Although the members have formalized their partnership, there are still many details to be worked out. But Fryer is optimistic that the group will reach its goals.

"The coalition schools are committed to growing CSL into a widespread movement in Canada because of its potential to strengthen our society. We believe it is possible to create a national infrastructure to support CSL much like research is currently supported in Canada through both public and private funding."

For more information on the Learning Exchange's CSL initiatives visit www.learningexchange.ubc.ca □

The Way We Were

Study reveals selective memories of Expo '86

BY ERICA SMISHEK

2010 Olympic organizers take note – despite your best efforts, people may remember conversations in line-ups or the state of washrooms more than the international displays, competitions and lavish ceremonies.

David Anderson, a museum learning specialist and science educator at UBC, has completed a study of long-term memories of world expositions. It shows that visitors to Vancouver's Expo '86 and Brisbane's Expo '88 are more likely to remember sharing a meal with a boyfriend or steering children through the crowd than any of the international displays.

"By and large, people can't remember what was displayed in the pavilions," says Anderson, an assistant professor in the Faculty of Education's Dept. of Curriculum Studies.

"Their memories are centred around their social experiences, culture and identity. Little kids, for example, remember going to McDonald's, fighting with their brothers and sisters, and climbing on the expositions' outdoor sculptures. Young moms remember what the bathrooms were like, shepherding kids around, setting up blankets for a picnic lunch, and conversations with other moms in the queue."

Anderson says the findings speak to the ways people filter their experiences as a function of who they were at the time of these experiences.

"They are only able to perceive a very thin set of memories," he says. "They have a sense they did a lot of things, saw a lot of things but they can't report many details of what they saw."

In the Expo '86 study, adult males aged 40 to 50 at the time of their visit stand out from all other visitors in terms of their abilities to report details of their experience. Anderson says the sample size is too small to make assertions about gender.

"It could be that these men went with different agendas," he says. "They went specifically to look at and learn from the exhibits. Perhaps they were by themselves while their wives went off somewhere else. Or perhaps what was in the pavilions – boats or trains, for example – was of a personal interest."

Anderson interviewed a total of 50 visitors, ranging in age from 25 to 65 years (therefore eight to 48 years at the time of their visits). Verbal questions, visual cues and stimulated recall were used in interviews to probe an individual's memories.

Anderson said even people who worked at Expo tend to recall the experience through the cultural filters of their own professions. Police officers, for example, recall the duties of crowd control, crime investigation or security for VIPs, but had difficulty recalling what was on display in pavilions despite the fact they visited many of them on numerous occasions.

Moreover, visitors often used Expo as a marker in time to differentiate other events and phenomena in life. One participant, for example, recalls driver courtesy being better before Expo '86.

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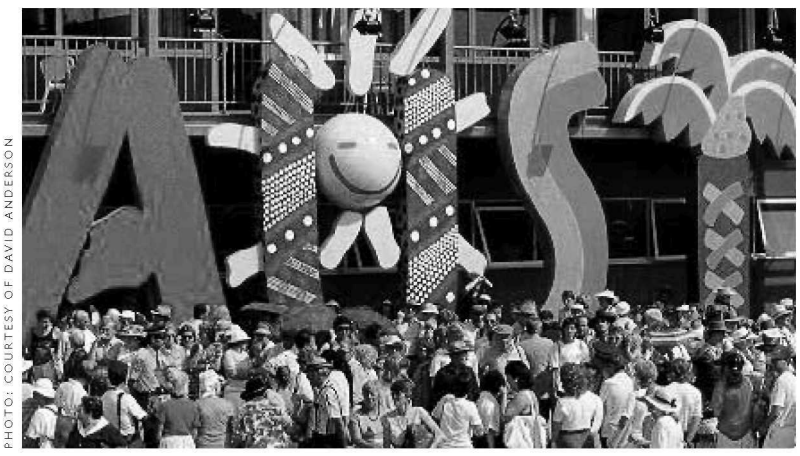

PHOTO: COURTESY OF DAVID ANDERSON

Study says Expo memories centred around social experiences, culture and identity.

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Global Epidemic of Hip Fractures

UBC leads international research team. BY HILARY THOMSON

It's a life-threatening condition that affects 1.6 million people around the world every year, costs $650 million annually for Canada to manage and carries a mortality rate of 20 per cent in the first year.

The statistics may look like data on infectious disease, but in fact, they describe hip fracture. A health problem that scientists are calling an epidemic, hip fractures are the focus of a new UBC-led international research project.

Karim Khan, assistant professor of Family Practice and Human Kinetics, is co-ordinating the project with input from researchers in Australia, Finland and UBC investigators in disicplines that include law, psychology and bioengineering. The project is the first to have a research team that spans many disciplines and is focused on prevention.

"Many people accept that falls and hip fractures are inevitable among older people, but new evidence shows they can be prevented, " says Khan, an expert in bone health.

Hip fracture primarily affects people 60 years and older with lighter-boned women suffering four times the number of fractures as men. Aging baby boomers are predicted to create a three-fold increase in the number of hip fractures by 2050. Even without demographic influence, the average individual risk is increasing rapidly worldwide.

"We have theories as to why the incidence is climbing over and above the rate explained by aging," says Khan. "However, if the trend continues it will choke health systems the world over."

What is known, he says, is that about 40 per cent of all hip fracture patients suffer from osteoporosis, a bone-thinning disease. The resulting skeletal fragility combined with factors such as impaired vision and reaction time, faulty balance, low blood pressure, muscle weakness and inappropriate use of medication all contribute to falls.

Risk factors that the researchers will explore include the effects of poor nutrition during periods of war and economic depression as well as increasingly sedentary lifestyles that result in lower, more fragile bone mass. Investigators will also look at previously unexplored causes such as living arrangements and educational status as well as legal perspectives relating to safety standards.

PHOTO: MARGIE BELL

Karim Khan shows Jacine Wilkinson how weight-training can reduce falls and fractures.

Evaluating all risk factors will allow doctors to better predict fractures.

The research team was created following a June international workshop at UBC's Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies that promotes innovative interdisciplinary research. The team is now applying for funding for a variety of investigations that will span five years.

UBC team members include Prof. Anne Martin-Matthews, of Social Work and Family Studies, who will lead a research group focused on socio-cultural risk factors and barriers to behaviour change among patients and health-care professionals. Law Assoc. Prof Janis Sarra will examine health law connections and Orthopedics Assoc. Prof. Heather McKay will direct a team promoting skeletal strength at the crucial hip site.

Khan, together with Assoc. Prof. Janice Eng, of Rehabilitation Sciences, will develop their earlier studies showing that resistance weight training and agility training can dramatically decrease fall risk in 80-year old women who are stroke survivors or who have low bone mass, two groups likely to experience hip fracture.

The international research project will be part of the proposed Centre for Hip Health: A Lifespan Approach, led by Assoc. Prof. Tom Oxland, Canada Research Chair in Biomedical Engineering. (see sidebar)

For more information visit http://www.familymed.ca/hip-health. ☐

New Centre Seeks Solutions

The Centre for Hip Health: A Lifespan Approach is a proposed research collaboration to improve prevention methods and treatment for hip fracture and osteoarthritis.

Led by Assoc. Prof. Tom Oxland, Canada Research Chair in Biomedical Engineering, the planned centre will comprise three major initiatives. The first is an international and interdisciplinary program of research (see accompanying story). Another initiative will target earlier detection of hip osteoarthritis (OA) and identification of key factors that contribute to the progression of the disease. Research will integrate medical imaging and genetic analysis to determine who is at high risk for developing hip OA as well as biomarking, a technique that reveals cartilage deterioration by tracking chemicals found in patients' blood.

A third initiative will investigate better surgical solutions for individuals with hip problems. Researchers will develop and assess new materials and surgical strategies to improve implant fixation, bone healing, and reduce infection in the treatment of both hip fractures and OA.

Researchers are now applying for funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation to support the proposed centre. ☐

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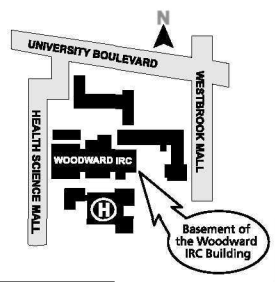

New Songwriting Course a First in Canada

Creative writing workshops teach lyrics and libretti

BY ERICA SMISHEK

PHOTO: COURTESY OF MERYN CADELL

Acclaimed songwriter Meryn Cadell.

Roll over Beethoven, give my regards to Broadway, and say hello to UBC, which could quite possibly be the next hotbed of hit tunes and hit-makers.

Beginning this September, the creative writing program will offer introductory and advanced classes in the writing of lyrics, libretti and songs. It's the first time songwriting will be taught at a Canadian university.

"The whole philosophy of the creative writing program, which makes us unique in the world, is our belief in the importance of training writers in multiple genres," says program chair Peggy Thompson. "The new courses help us continue to grow and reflect the changes in our cultural standards."

The classes are the brainchild of creative writing professor and poet George McWhirter, who has pushed for years to bring songwriting into the academy and make it accessible to a wider audience.

Designed for prospective songwriters, musicians and libretto writers, the workshops will address all aspects of words as they relate to and interplay with music. Each course has 12 students, from music or writing backgrounds, chosen on the strength of their portfolios.

"We're meeting on a mutual ground of looking at lyrics," says Meryn Cadell, who has joined the faculty to develop and teach the workshops. "We'll be on a big learning curve together."

An acclaimed writer-performer, musician and recording artist, Cadell has been nominated for Juno, Genie and CASBY (Canadian Artist Selected by You) awards for her recorded and live performances. She has toured extensively across North America and recorded three albums – *6 Blocks*, *bombazine* and *angel food for thought*, with its quirky hit "The Sweater." She was the poet laureate for Peter Gzowski's golf tournament for literacy and has been a frequent guest and performer on CBC Radio.

Students will examine works by major pop, folk, country, jazz and classical artists and also draw on Cadell's own working experience with lyrics to explore certain aspects of writing and editing.

The workshops will concentrate on developing pieces in all genres of song, lyrics or libretti composed by students, both individually and in collaboration with classmates. Rhythm and precision will be key points of instruction.

"It's shocking how simple good lyrics can be," says Cadell. "You need to look at clarity. A song needn't be narrative. In fact it can be entirely abstract. But you have to have clarity. You need flow and continuity."

She says good lyricists must be willing to re-write and edit their material, love what they produce and be able to get that emotion across to the listener.

"Think about how important music is to our lives," says Cadell. "It informs our memory just like smell. You hear a song and you are immediately transformed back to that moment in time when you first listened to it."

While they will focus on creativity, students will also learn about the business of songwriting.

"Vancouver is a centre for popular music now in a way it wasn't 10 or 20 years ago," says Thompson. "Vancouver has had a thriving independent music scene for years. The new writing workshops will be a great complement." ☐

The Way We Were

continued from page 6

Anderson says the study findings would be a valuable resource for developers of future world expositions, other international events and museum exhibitions.

In order to make an impact, he says developers must understand and factor in the needs of their audience so visitors can more successfully interact with what is being displayed. Then a young mother may remember the actual exhibits rather than the time she spent looking for a facility to wash her child's face.

"Developers have a lot of reasons for doing what they do. Educational impact is just one of them. You put an exhibition or event on for political reasons, for cultural reasons, for economic reasons.

"But if you were investing all this money with a view for impact, you need to provide experiences rich in social interaction while allowing for the diversity of the people and their agendas." ☐

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UBC Names New Chair

John Reid, president and chief executive officer of Vancouver-based Terasen Inc., has been named chair of UBC's Board of Governors, for a term ending August 31, 2004.

Reid has headed Terasen Inc. (formerly BC Gas Inc) since 1997. Prior to joining the company, he worked for many years for Scott Paper Ltd. in a number of executive positions and as president and CEO.

A UBC board member since 2002, Mr. Reid has served on several boards including MacDonald, Dettwiler and Associates Ltd., Lester B. Pearson College, B.C. Business Council, and the Vancouver Board of Trade. He is a past chair of the United Way campaign for the Lower Mainland.

Reid takes over from UBC alumnus and business executive Larry Bell who served as UBC board chair since 2000.

There are currently two vacancies on the board. For more information on UBC's Board of Governors, visit www.bog.ubc.ca.

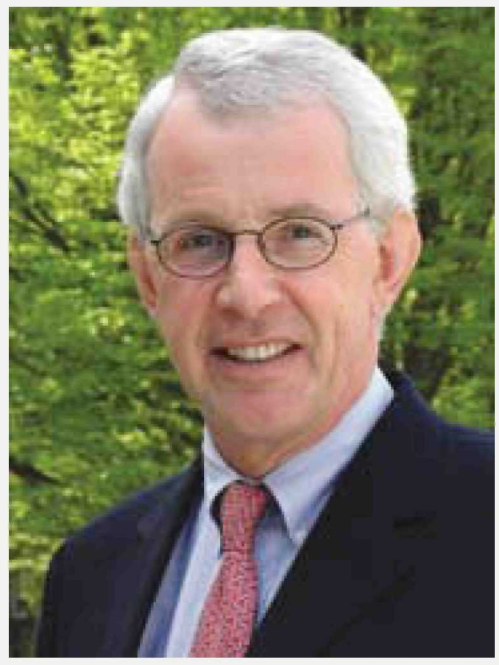

PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

John Reid, new chair of UBC's Board of Governors.

UBC Law Professor Awarded the 2003 Thérèse F.-Casgrain Fellowship

UBC Law Prof. **Claire Young**, an expert on the impact of tax policy changes on Canadian women, has been awarded the 2003 Thérèse F.-Casgrain Fellowship. Young will examine the negative impact on women of existing tax laws that give deductions for contributions to Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSPs) and workplace pension plans.

Women's ability to save for their retirement continues to be compromised by the fact they more often fall in the category of low-income earners and make up the majority of part-time or seasonal workers, homemakers and caregivers for their families, including their aging parents.

In addition to examining ways to increase the fairness of the tax system, Young will determine whether making changes to the pension system could help women to have more access to retirement savings. She will study the impact of recent changes to the pension systems in Australia and New Zealand to determine whether they might benefit Canadian women.

Awarded biennially, the 12-month, $40,000 fellowship advances research on the economic and social interests of women. Administered by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and sponsored by the Thérèse F.-Casgrain Foundation, it honours the late senator's work in the field of social justice. ☐

TIME PIECE 1969

Back in 1969 they called this "a happening." The students from fine arts decided to have a bake off for their happening, creating eye-popping bread sculptures. Here student Sherry McKay and Henry Gilbert, assistant professor of fine arts get a rise out of this fancy harvest loaf. The cutline on the original photograph printed in UBC Reports notes that the "harvest loaf shown above was eaten by participants in the happening."