UBC REPORTS

a place of mind

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Get Ready, Get Set:

This issue profiles the UBC learning, research and community service sparked by the upcoming 2010 Games.

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PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

Engineering a competitive edge

IN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION, the difference between a gold medal and missing the podium is often measured in split seconds. A team of UBC engineers is developing solutions to trim milliseconds from finishing times with the goal of providing a competitive edge for Canadian athletes. BY ERINROSE HANDY **PAGE 4**

Engineering Prof. Savvas Hatzikiriakos (above) leads a team that has copied nature to create a super-low friction surface on metals and polymers.

Torch fires up nursing student's Olympic aspirations

Treanna Delorme is a member of the First Nations Snowboard Team.

BY JODY JACOB

A COMPETITIVE SNOWBOARDER with the First Nations Snowboard Team (FNST), Treanna Delorme will carry the Olympic torch for one kilometre in Lillooet, B.C., on Feb. 6.

The UBC Okanagan first-year Nursing student says carrying the torch is a thrilling opportunity and one she believes could further inspire her own dreams of someday representing Canada on the Olympic podium.

"I was so stoked when I found out I was chosen for this honour," she says. "It's going to be an awesome experience."

Despite having an injury last year that kept her from competing at provincials, and consequently nationals, Delorme was ranked 33rd in Canada in her niche competition, boardercross, which requires snowboarders to race down an obstacle course, maneuvering through sharp turns and riding big jumps while at the same time avoiding collisions with fellow competitors.

"First one to cross the finish line wins," says Delorme. "It's pretty intense. You go full tilt, and it can get pretty physical at times."

Delorme, who is Cree and originally from the Cowessess First Nation in Saskatchewan, has been snowboarding for about eight years. She joined the FNST three years ago after moving to Kelowna from North Vancouver. During winter months she spends countless hours on the mountain, while off-season training includes dry-land and trampoline exercises.

As a first-year student athlete, Delorme admits it can sometimes be a challenge finding balance between academics, training, competition, and maintaining a social life. However, this year she received a scholarship of $3,750 from the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation and a $3,500 B.C. Aboriginal Student Award, which she says helped support her development and allowed her to focus on achieving her professional and personal dreams.

"The scholarships help me so much, as I was able to quit my job as a server and concentrate solely on school and snowboarding."

Delorme trains year-round with the FNST, which is the only snowboard body in Canada run by First Nations people. Formed in 2004, the organization's goals are to create the conditions for an Aboriginal person to win an Olympic medal in snowboarding as well as to inspire youth to increase physical activity, develop healthy habits, and achieve personal excellence. ■

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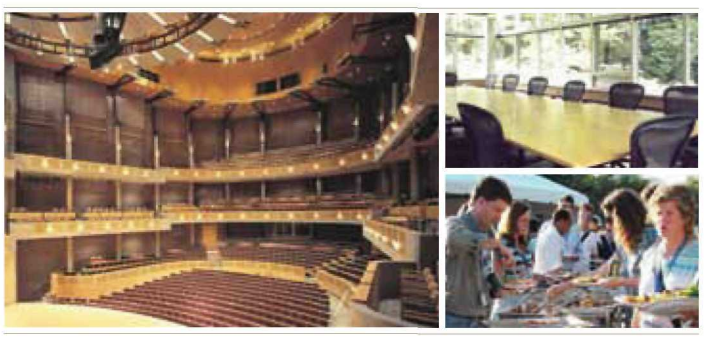

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IN THE NEWS Highlights of UBC media coverage in December 2009. COMPILED BY SEAN SULLIVAN

PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

Human Kinetics Prof. Rob VanWynsberghe and his Olympic Impact research team caught the attention of world media.

People hear with their skin

Research by UBC's **Bryan Gick** and **Donald Derrick** flips the traditional view of how we perceive the world on its head, news service ***LiveScience*** reported this month.

The researchers found that people can hear with their skin, suggesting our brains take in and integrate information from various senses to build a picture of our surroundings.

"[That's] very different from the more traditional ideas, based on the fact that we have eyes so we think of ourselves as seeing visible information, and we have ears so we think of ourselves as hearing auditory information. That's a little bit misleading," Gick said.

The New York Times, US News and World Report, Fox News, the Toronto Star, BBC, Boston Globe and others reported on the research.

New hope for MS patients

UBC made headlines across Canada when it announced plans to begin patient trials to test a potentially groundbreaking method of diagnosing and treating multiple sclerosis, a disease that afflicts up to 75,000 Canadians.

The Globe and Mail reported that it's the first research proposal in Canada to suggest evaluating the findings of Italian doctor Paolo Zamboni, whose early studies indicate that multiple sclerosis might be caused by vein blockages.

Anthony Traboulsee, medical director of the UBC MS Clinic, said Zamboni's studies have caused both hope and anxiety among people with MS. "MS is a lifelong disease. Young people are hungry for hope," he said. ***The Vancouver Sun*** and ***CTV*** also covered this story.

Psychotropic drugs boost fall risk in the elderly

Certain types of widely prescribed drugs, such as antidepressants and sedatives, can increase the risk of falling in older people, reported **Carlo Marra** of UBC and his colleagues in a study for the *Archives of Internal Medicine*.

Reuters, The Canadian Press, CTV and ***the Globe and Mail*** picked up on the team's findings, which analyzed the risk of falling associated with nine classes of drugs by reviewing 22 studies published between 1996 and 2007.

Falls often have serious consequences for older people, such as injuries leading to disability, or even death. Older people who are taking any of the drugs associated with falls should talk about the medication with their physician and their pharmacist, Marra told *Reuters*.

The impact of the Games

The latest Olympic Games Impact report, which measures the effects of the Olympic Games on its host city and region, garnered headlines around the world last month.

The New York Times, The Canadian Press, Associated Press and ***Reuters UK*** were among the media outlets that seized on the findings by UBC Prof. **Rob VanWynsberghe** and his multidisciplinary team of researchers.

Their report is the second of a four part study required by the International Olympic Committee. It found "a very slight positive impact" on Vancouver by the lead-up of the Games while cautioning that much of the data analyzed is inconclusive.

Clumsy kids' brains work differently

UBC researchers are shining a new light on a condition called developmental co-ordination disorder (DCD) that affects children's ability to print, tie their shoes or play sports, ***CBC*** reported.

Researchers performed scans to see how the brains of children with DCD were functioning while trying to trace objects on a piece of paper.

"We can see that the children with developmental co-ordination disorder are not activating the same brain areas as typically developing children," said **Jill Zwicker**, a PhD candidate in rehabilitation sciences at UBC.

UBC REPORTS

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Can sports advance world peace? UBC engages athletes, academics in dialogue

BY SEAN SULLIVAN

PHOTO: COURTESY JOHANN KOSS

Four-time Olympic gold medalist Johann Olav Koss, president of Right to Play, will lead a discussion at UBC on Feb. 12 on how sport can contribute to social change.

ACADEMICS AND INNOVATORS are joining athletes for a series of Olympic events at the University of British Columbia that will contribute to a forum for national dialogue on issues surrounding the 2010 Winter Games.

At the forefront is UBC's Sport and Society series, beginning in February at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts. The five events present discussions led by high-profile Olympic and Paralympic athletes including such heavyweights as Rick Hansen, Richard Pound and Johann Koss.

"We wanted to choose athletes, both Olympic and Paralympic, who have used their celebrity to make a difference," says Sid Katz, executive director of UBC Community Affairs. "This series is meant to inspire and engage Canadians through an open dialogue about sport and the social impacts of the Olympic Games."

Pound, a former Olympic swimmer and chair of the World Anti-Doping Agency, will lead off the seminar series on Feb. 8 by exploring the intersection of sport, ethics and technology. What advances in science, equipment and technology will change the competitive playing field, and what impact do these have on ethics and fairness?

"The Olympics provide a unique opportunity to talk more in depth about issues related not only to sports and athletics, but provocative topics like doping and ability," says Robert Sparks, director of UBC's School of Human Kinetics.

"We're proud to help host a forum that will give the people of this country a chance to take part in a discussion with such high-calibre athletes, activists and educators."

Johann Olav Koss, a four-time Olympic gold medalist in speed skating and the CEO and president of Right to Play, will lead a discussion on the opening day of the Games, Feb. 12, on how sport can contribute to positive social change.

Right to Play is an international humanitarian organization that uses sport and play to improve the lives of disadvantaged children in 23 countries around the world. Koss will be joined by Stephen Lewis, Canada's former special envoy to the UN on HIV and AIDS for Africa, and Wilfried Lemke, an advisor to the UN Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace.

One participant, however, will help bring the topic home for audiences: Benjamin Nzobonankira is a former child refugee from Burundi who was first introduced to UN Sport for Development and Peace programs while living in a refugee camp in Northern Tanzania. When he steps in front of the microphone at the Chan, it will be as a Right to Play coach trainer.

"This gets to one of the most important topics: whether sport has been a mechanism for peace and development around the world," Katz explains. "Are we deluding ourselves, or is it really happening?

"These are very key issues I feel the university should be exploring, especially since they're the questions on people's minds. We want to help spur a global dialogue on the usefulness of the Games and the myriad issues that surround this event," he says.

Waneek Horn Miller will lend an Aboriginal perspective as she relates her story of being inspired by seeing fellow Mohawk Alwyin Morris compete in the 1984 Games. As a former Olympic athlete (water polo), activist and television personality, Miller will kick off a discussion about sports and inclusion (March 5).

The talks will close with discussions of challenge and legacy with former Paralympian and Man in Motion Rick Hansen (March 5), as well as Bruce Kidd, a former track and field athlete (March 13).

> ***"We wanted to choose athletes, both Olympic and Paralympic, who have used their celebrity to make a difference."***

Sport and Society will be the feature Games-time program on Intellectual Muscle: University Dialogues for Vancouver 2010. Developed by Vancouver 2010 and UBC, in collaboration with universities across Canada and the *Globe and Mail*, Intellectual Muscle already includes more than 20 podcasts by prominent and up-and-coming Canadians, including podcasts by UBC professors Judy Illes and Jim Rupert.

UBC's Sport and Society podcasts will be loaded on to Intellectual Muscle, along with polls, starting on Feb. 11, 2010. An online discussion forum will be added at the end of the Games in April 2010.

UBC is also throwing open the door to further online participation beyond the talks through the use of social media. The university will announce a special "hashtag" — a keyword that identifies a topic of discussion on the Internet — for Twitter users to discuss topics raised by the Sport and Society series, while schools can take advantage of a special Intellectual Muscle/Sport and Society teachers' guide developed by Vancouver 2010 in partnership with UBC.

The UBC Winter Games Event Series, meanwhile, brings 13 existing UBC speaker series under one umbrella. They include the relationship between sport, art and politics; technology and the body; symbolism in sport; ethics of the Olympic Games; and the historical context of the Games.

The annual Ziegler Visiting Speaker Series returns with a focus on sport, culture and body politics, culminating with a Jan. 14 talk on Poland and the 1936 Winter Olympics. The School of Human Kinetics' annual seminar series includes "Genetics in Sport: Detection, Correction, Perfection" and the influence of globalization and new social movements on the Games.

The Joan Carlisle-Irving Lecture Series focuses on art history, with upcoming talks that include "The Aesthetics of Performance" and "Bodies on Display: Gender Ambiguities and Riefenstahl's Olympia."

Follow the events on www.ubc.ca/2010 ■

UBC Faculty of Medicine

> *Through knowledge, creating health.*

Head, Department of Radiology

The Faculty of Medicine, University of British Columbia (UBC) invites applications and nominations for the position of Head of the Department of Radiology at UBC. The successful applicant would have administrative academic linkages with all six Health Authorities in British Columbia, with the expectation of a principal leadership position in one Health Authority.

We seek an academic leader to be responsible for directing and developing the teaching, research and service programs of the Department. The Department has 16 full-time, 9 part-time and 113 clinical faculty members and attracts strong research support. There is an extensive undergraduate education endeavour and an excellent residency program. The successful candidate should have broad and proven administrative experience, substantial academic and clinical experience, a proven record of scholarly activity with demonstrated excellence in teaching, and a commitment to undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate medical education. Anticipated start date will be July 1, 2010 or upon a date to be mutually agreed.

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

Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. It is expected that the successful candidate will qualify for and be offered a full-time appointment at the rank of Professor with Tenure.

For more information about the position and the department, please visit www.radiology.ubc.ca.

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Application letters, accompanied by detailed curriculum vitae, a teaching dossier, and names of four references, should be directed to:

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2194 Health Sciences Mall
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(email: **searches@medd.med.ubc.ca** with subject line: **Head, Radiology**)

Review of the applications will begin on January 31, 2010 and will continue until the position is filled.

The University of British Columbia is Canada's third largest university and consistently ranks among the 35 best universities in the world. Primarily situated in Vancouver, UBC is a research-intensive university and has an economic impact of $4 billion to the provincial economy.

The Faculty of Medicine at UBC, together with its partners including B.C.'s Health Authorities, provides innovative programs in the areas of health and life sciences through a province-wide delivery model. The Faculty teaches students at the undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate levels and generates more than $240 million in research funding each year, throughout the province.

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

UBC hires on the basis of merit and is committed to employment equity. All qualified persons are encouraged to apply. UBC is strongly committed to diversity within its community and especially welcomes applications from visible minority group members, women, Aboriginal persons, persons with disabilities, persons of any sexual orientation or gender identity, and others who may contribute to the further diversification of ideas. However, Canadian and permanent residents of Canada will be given priority.

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COMPETITIVE EDGE

continued from cover

The research is funded by Own the Podium (OTP), a technical sport program that is a partnership of Canada's 13 winter national sport organizations, the Canadian Olympic Committee, the Canadian Paralympic Committee, Sport Canada and the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC). Research being done for the OTP program is providing innovative new performance tools and knowledge to Canada's winter sports teams to help improve performance during the 2010 Games, although some of the technology will be implemented looking toward the 2014 Games.

The UBC engineering research focuses on improving speed on snow and ice by minimizing friction — the force that causes an object in motion to slow or stop.

Working closely with Canada's snow and ice sport national teams — alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, snowboard, biathlon, speed skating and luge — the UBC experts have been investigating ways to reduce friction at both the microscopic and macroscopic levels.

PHOTO: ANNE KIETZIG

The surface of the lotus leaf creates optimal glide, allowing a droplet of water to maintain perfect roundness and roll off.

Inspired by the lotus-leaf: creating super low-friction surfaces

Taking a lesson from nature, UBC engineers have mimicked the structure of the lotus leaf to create an edge for our athletes.

When a drop of water falls on a lotus leaf, it beads and rolls off the superhydrophobic — or super water-repellent — surface. The lotus' surface structure, composed of a unique nanopattern that under an electron microscope looks like a field of cone-shaped pom pom balls [see slide 3], creates minimal friction and allows the droplet of water to maintain a perfect bevel or roundness. With minimal friction, optimal glide exists, allowing the bead of water to roll off.

"We have mimicked nature to create a low-friction surface on various metals and polymers," says Prof. Savvas Hatzikiriakos. "We've copied the nanopatterns of the lotus leaf to engineer materials that reduce friction on both snow and ice."

Led by Hatzikiriakos, the microscopic friction team includes co-investigator Prof. Peter Englezos and PhD students Anne Kietzig — who specializes in metals — and Christos Stamboulides — who focuses on polymers — all from the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering.

In the case of metals, the team engineered a new material, laser-structured stainless steel, using the laser facilities in the UBC Department of Physics. "We were extremely surprised to find out that the laser-irradiated metallic surfaces turn superhydrophobic after a few days," says Hatzikiriakos.

Compared to the traditional steel used in skates, the new material has a much greater contact angle, which means that a bead of water stays more rounded on the surface and rolls off more easily. The new material drastically reduces friction and essentially repels water; the surface structure of the traditional material absorbs a bit of each droplet, creating friction that slows motion.

"The greatly increased hydrophobicity of the laser-structured steel increases the slider's ability to 'float' upon the ice, rather than become wetted into it," explains Hatzikiriakos. "This research enables the development of new skate bases with smaller friction coefficients, compared with the existing bases. With less friction, they simply go faster."

Hatzikiriakos and his team have also been developing ways to reduce friction of polymers — used for ski bases — on snow.

Using a plasma (ionized gas) treatment method to increase the level of water repellency, the researchers developed a new base modification for skis. With the plasma treatment, low-friction molecules attach to the exposed surface of the ski base, which renders the material nearly superhydrophobic.

Like the newly engineered steel, the plasma treatment for skis also increases the contact angle of a droplet of water, reducing friction by up to 25 per cent from previously used polymers.

Beyond the Olympics, these innovative materials can have broader applications. Essentially self-cleaning, superhydrophobic metals could improve surgical instruments and implants. The extreme water-repellent properties can also be applied to paper, offering a sustainable alternative to plastics.

"The greatly increased hydrophobicity of the laser-structured steel increases the slider's ability to 'float' upon the ice..."

Reducing friction by understanding snow conditions

In-depth knowledge of local snow and weather conditions at the venues could prove a home-field advantage for Canada in the upcoming Olympics.

Mechanical engineering Professor Sheldon Green and research engineer Dan Dressler (MASc '06) have studied drag-reduction at the macro (snow-surface) level, creating tools to assist athletes and ski technicians in making the most informed decisions when selecting which materials — skis, snowboards, waxes and grinds (base structure of skis) — will perform best.

Through their comprehensive analysis of snow properties and conditions, the engineers have discovered ways to minimize friction at the ski-snow interface, enabling athletes to go faster.

Green and Dressler have worked extensively with Canada's Olympic-bound teams at the Olympic venues — Whistler Blackcomb, Callaghan Valley and Cypress Mountain Resort — to implement various tools for the teams to use for selecting the best materials.

One such tool is a database that includes variable conditions like air and snow temperature, wind speed and humidity. By entering the race-day conditions into the database, technicians and coaches will be able to obtain information on which materials will work best. For example, if the current snow is old and crystal-like, a hard wax will best reduce friction, helping to overcome the abrasiveness and slowing properties of this type of snow.

The team's research has also led to the development of a new approach for measuring the hydrophobicity of skis. Through the use of a portable high-resolution imaging system combined with image processing software, tests can be done on site at a fraction of the cost of other systems. The test includes measuring the contact angles of a water droplet on a ski surface. The greater the contact angle, the less friction. This information is especially useful for selecting materials for distance racers who depend on the longevity of a wax for optimal performance.

"Snow is an incredibly complex substance whose structure is dependent on temperature, relative humidity, stresses and a host of other factors. It is amazing how little was, and still is, known about the fundamental science of snow friction," says Green, an expert in fluid mechanics.

Many are hopeful the Own The Podium research will help Canada's athletes shine during the Winter 2010 Games and beyond.

"Our friction research and new materials could have a significant impact in the years a head in racing that measures in split seconds," explains Hatzikiriakos. "It could be the difference between fourth and first place for Canadian athletes in the years ahead." ■

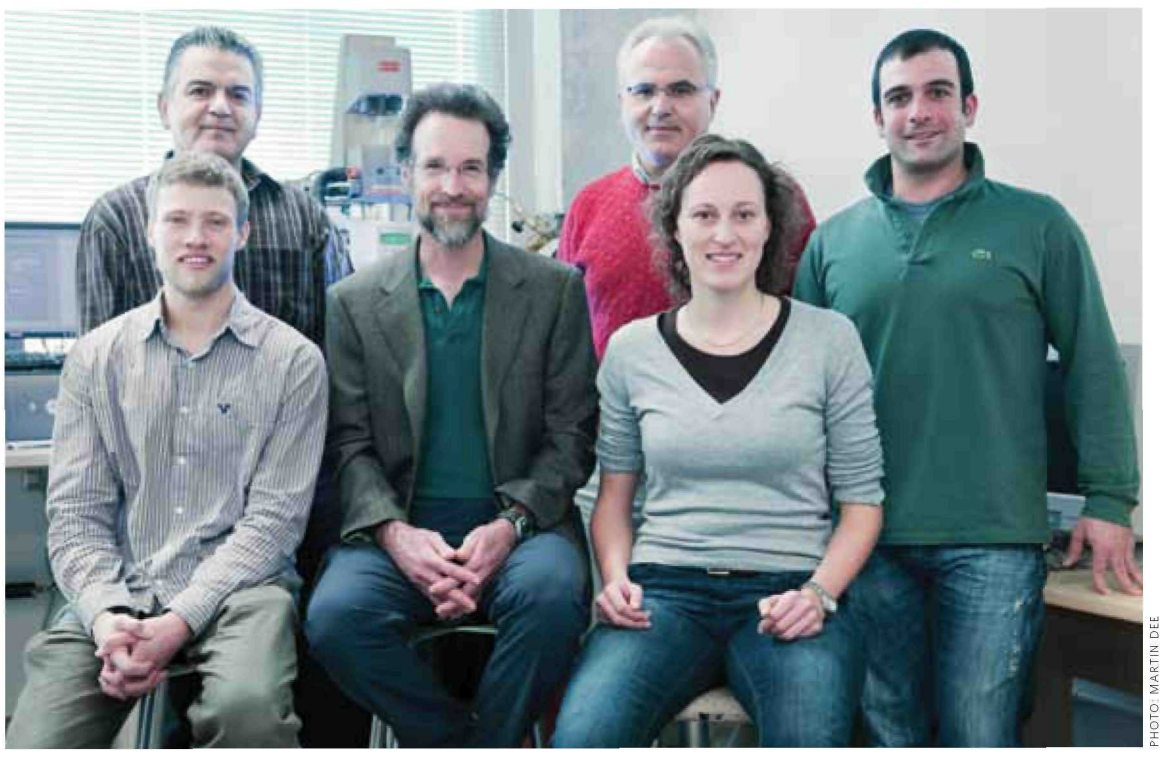

PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

UBC's Own The Podium engineering research team: (back) Profs. Savvas Hatzikiriakos and Peter Englezos; (front) Research engineer Dan Dressler (MASc '06), Prof. Sheldon Green, Phd students Anne Kietzig and Christos Stamboulides.

UBC Faculty of Medicine

> Through knowledge, creating health.

Head, Department of Pediatrics and Chief of Pediatrics, BC Children's Hospital

The Faculty of Medicine, University of British Columbia invites applications and nominations for the position of Head of the UBC Department of Pediatrics and Chief of Pediatrics, BC Children's Hospital. The successful applicant is expected to establish strong clinical and administrative linkages with all six Health Authorities in British Columbia.

As a recognized clinical and academic leader in Pediatrics, you will have the opportunity to share your vision and utilize your leadership skills in the development of teaching, research and clinical service programs in a Department with 153 site-based faculty (15 PhD scientists and 138 academic clinicians) and 119 community based clinical faculty.

In this challenging role, you will be accountable for the leadership and administration of the Department and for overseeing the quality of pediatric medical care. Your ability to be innovative and foster collaboration will be key in promoting pediatric academic excellence and partnerships in undergraduate, graduate and post graduate medical education programs and support for research across British Columbia.

The successful candidate will bring to this vital position a proven track record of success in senior clinical, academic and administrative leadership roles, demonstrated success in supporting the career development of MD and PhD faculty members and a proven record of scholarly achievement with demonstrated excellence in teaching. The anticipated start date will be July 1, 2010 or upon a date to be mutually agreed.

Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. The successful candidate will qualify for and be offered a full time appointment at the rank of Professor with Tenure.

For more information about the position and the department, please visit www.pediatrics.med.ubc.ca.

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c/o Darcie Prosser
Room 317, IRC, UBC
2194 Health Sciences Mall
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z3.
(email: **searches@medd.med.ubc.ca** with subject line: **Head, Pediatrics)**

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PHOTO: ISTOCK PHOTO

The Olympic torch will pass through UBC's Vancouver campus on Feb. 11. A Paralympic torch flame will be lit at UBC on March 11.

UBC members feel torch relay magic

BY HILARY THOMSON

THE OLYMPIC FLAME HAS IGNITED interest within the UBC community to serve as torch-bearers, helping to carry the Olympic Torch on its journey across Canada. The torch will pass through UBC's Vancouver campus on Feb. 11, and reach B.C. Place Stadium on Feb. 12 when the Olympic Cauldron will be lit, marking the official start of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

The route through UBC's campus has not yet been disclosed, but the UBC 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Secretariat and UBC REC are planning to mark the torch's passing through campus with an outdoor evening celebration near UBC Bookstore.

A number of students, faculty, staff and alumni are participating as torch-bearer in many other locations. Ten members of the Faculty of Medicine will be part of a 20-runner BC Medical Association relay team that runs at Olympic Park in Whistler on Feb. 5. Each team member will run 50 metres for a total of one kilometre.

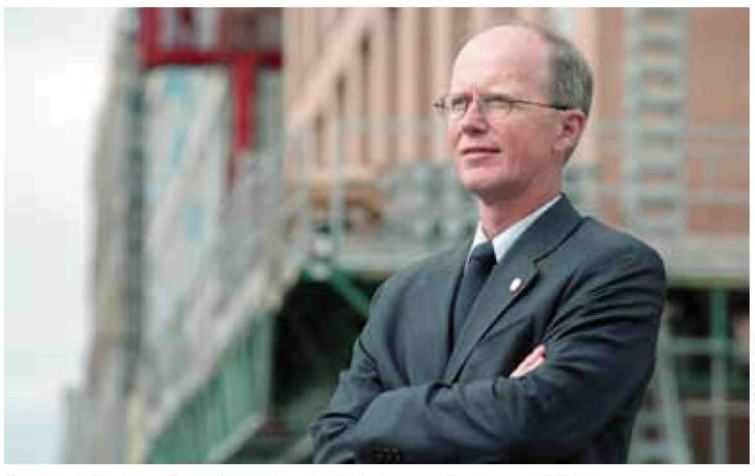

PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

Faculty of Medicine Dean Gavin Stuart will help carry the flame in Whistler.

Clinical Associate Prof. Tyler Dumont, of the Dept. of Physical Therapy, will carry the torch for a 300-metre segment in North Vancouver on Feb. 10. Dr. Dumont's participation recognizes the department's equipment loan to the Games.

UBC psychiatry resident Dr. Alan Bates carried the torch on Dec. 14 in Cornwall, Ontario as part of the Canadian Medical Association team. Bates is actively involved in Street Soccer Canada, which offers social inclusion through sport for people who struggle with homelessness and other challenges, and he organized the first Vancouver Street Soccer tournament.

"The torch relay highlights a spirit of community engagement, healthy living and teamwork," says Gavin Stuart, UBC Vice-Provost, Health and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine. Stuart is part of the Faculty of Medicine relay team in Whistler. "These same elements motivate us as educators and clinicians so it seems a great fit — and an honour — for us to participate."

More than 1,000 communities and 12,000 torch bearers are involved in the 45,000-kilometre-trans-Canada trek. Begun on Oct. 30, 2009, the relay will be the longest in history to be contained within the Olympic host country.

John Egan of the Office of Learning Technology says he entered the torchbearer selection competition more than 90 times. His persistence paid off with an opportunity to run between Whistler and Merritt on Feb. 6. When he got the congratulatory e-mail, he was moved to tears.

"For me, the torch relay is one of the most magical aspects of the Olympics," says the 45-year-old. "It's perhaps the most tangible way a non-athlete can feel connected to the Games."

Alumna Amanda Yuen, who runs Feb. 10, graduated in May 2009 with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Music.

"I have watched the Olympics since I was very young," says the 23-year-old. "I believe that the Games represent the ideals of human nature: inspiration, camaraderie and achieving your best."

Yuen says she was "absolutely ecstatic" when notified of her selection. Currently working for Certified General Accountants-Canada, Yuen will also volunteer at UBC Thunderbird Arena during the Paralympic Games.

Marisa Iuvancigh of UBC's Alumni Association will carry the torch on Feb. 11.

"I was absolutely elated to find out I was going to be carrying the torch," says the 28-year-old. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and will be a very special memory to have."

Iuvancigh, who joined UBC in 2007, has completed seven half-marathons, a triathlon and hopes to run a full marathon, but feels that carrying the torch for 300 metres will mean more to her than any of her long-distance accomplishments.

[Yuen and Iuvancigh run locations were not known at press time]

A Paralympics Torch flame will be lit at the Vancouver campus on March 11 in an Aboriginal lighting ceremony followed by a torch run. The flame will then be relit at UBC's Robson Square campus. Torch bearers for the Paralympics Torch relay have not yet been selected.

University Neighbourhoods Association (UNA) is part of the events planning team for both relays.

"We're really gearing up for this and excited that an Olympic venue is only two blocks away," says Jan Fialkowski, UNA executive director. "We want our kids to remember the year the Olympics came to UBC."

A variety of community celebrations are planned, including open-air parties and welcoming residents to a theatre-style screening of televised events at the Old Barn Community Centre. UNA has also been giving away Games tickets as prizes in competitions that involve community members of all ages.

More information on UBC's involvement in the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Torch Relays may be found at www.ubc.ca/2010. ■

PHOTO: COURTESY OF MOA

Magnificent canoe will carry torch

A MAGNIFICENT 38-FT CANOE carved by Calvin Hunt that was displayed last year at the UBC Museum of Anthropology will be part of the Olympic Torch Relay celebration in Port Hardy on Tuesday, Feb. 2. Hunt's long-tail canoe will carry the Olympic torch across Hardy Bay and be transported to the Civic Centre for an evening of celebration.

Born in 1956, Hunt is the youngest son of Kwagu'l hereditary chief Thomas Hunt, and grandson of renowned carver Mungo Martin and grandmother, Abayah. Born into a wealth of traditional knowledge, Hunt started carving at the age of 12. He continues working with wood, as well as silkscreening, jewelry-making, and stone carving. ■

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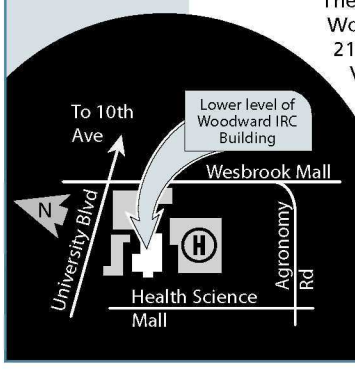

The Media Group

PHOTO: BUD MORTENSON

Research by UBC Okanagan Human Kinetics professors Gareth Jones and Jennifer Jakobi explores how we become frail and what interventions, such as exercise, can be done to prevent frailty.

Fit or frail? UBC Okanagan researchers recommend Olympic approach to aging well

BY BUD MORTENSON

FOR MANY OLDER ADULTS, aging with chronic disease, disability and frailty requires a daily Olympian effort just to survive. Exercise training inspired by Olympic regimens can allow older adults to turn back the clock on frailty, according to researchers Gareth Jones and Jennifer Jakobi, assistant professors of Human Kinetics at UBC Okanagan.

"In many ways, frailty is a natural part of aging — it's where we end up — but we all get there at different rates, and we move through different stages of it," says Jones. "At some point people just can't cope with the environment around them. Our research looks at how older adults progress towards becoming frail and what interventions, specifically exercise, might prevent people from ending up there.

Older people who are active can have a better quality of life, Jones says. "Exercise is the best medicine to reduce the impact of chronic disease. If we don't take the exercise medicine, we are more likely to become dependent longer, and become a greater burden to society."

Jakobi and Jones are currently studying the physiological changes that occur as people transition through stages of frailty and how healthcare providers recognize it. They say it is possible to reduce the impact of frailty and transform frail seniors into active, healthy and independent persons through daily exercise training that improves fitness.

The Olympic movement's motto Citius, Altius, Fortius can provide guidance for fitness for older adults:

• Citius (faster) — walk briskly, pick up the pace, and increase the intensity.

Currently, the majority of Canadians over age 65 live with chronic disease, almost half live with disability and the majority are inactive. More activity is important — but Jones and Jakobi advise that, at any age, for exercise to produce fitness benefits it needs to be done for a minimum of 30 minutes most days of the week, at moderate to vigorous intensity such as a brisk walk. Start with 30 minutes and progress to 60 minutes.

The keys to building fitness are the frequency, intensity, and duration of physical activity, says Jakobi.

• Altius (higher) — set higher goals. "It is remarkable what can be achieved," says Jones. "People think what Olympians do is out of reach, but really what they are doing is what we need to be doing in our society and in our lifestyles to maintain our health and improve our fitness.

"The only way to make a change is to add structured time into our day for exercise. We have to think about it like daily hygiene. As important as brushing your teeth morning and night, or flossing, exercise has to be structured into your day," he says. "The Olympian prepares their body for one event in time, but you need to physically and mentally train your body to support you for the rest of your life."

The researchers cite the example of Sister Madonna Budah, a 79-year-old Roman Catholic nun and triathlete from Spokane, Washington, who has completed 39 Ironman races and is expected to participate in the Penticton Ironman Canada again next summer at the age of 80.

• Fortius (stronger) — building strength can ward off disability and keep aging muscle moving the way we want it to.

"For most older adults, it is a gradual decline and they become frail before they realize it," says Jakobi. "You start to decline at about 30 years -- but it is not recognized until cardiovascular and strength changes become functionally noticeable."

To thwart the slow decline in function, aerobic exercise is important, says Jakobi, "but you can't get your heart rate up if you can't support your body weight."

Resistance training can produce extreme gains in muscle strength and can increase a person's ability to perform aerobic exercise -- leading to better balance, or the ability to do more brisk walking, for example.

The researchers note that high-intensity resistance exercise is well tolerated by frail older adults, and even novice older exercisers will benefit from any progressive resistance training.

Strength is important as we age: a healthy 80-year-old woman, for example, may have to use most or all of her leg strength to rise from a common armless chair. The same movement would demand only a 50 per cent effort in a young, sedentary female.

"Even a 10 or 20 per cent increase in strength would be enough to postpone this 80-year-old woman from dropping below the critical threshold required for maintaining functional independence," says Jones.

> ***"If older adults were to adopt these Olympian values, aging may become a positive life experience..."***

"If older adults were to adopt these Olympian values, aging may become a positive life experience rather than one that is often associated with decline," Jones says. "We'll see more older adults doing things we never believed they could achieve. It is remarkable how well our bodies adapt to exercise, no matter what age we are.

"Exercise is the best medicine we know," he says. "If we can get our bodies moving and working at intensities that engender fitness we're going to reverse the progression to frailty." ■

UBC Faculty of Medicine
> Through knowledge, creating health.

Provincial Health Services Authority

Head, Department of Medical Genetics

The Faculty of Medicine, University of British Columbia and the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) invite applications and nominations for the position of Head of the Department of Medical Genetics.

We seek an academic leader responsible for directing and developing the teaching and research programs of the Department, as well as providing leadership to the clinical Provincial Medical Genetics Program. The Department has 46 full-time and 32 clinical faculty members and attracts strong research support.

The successful candidate should hold a PhD and/or MD degree or equivalent with a proven record of scholarly achievement involving biomedical, clinical and translational research, with demonstrated excellence in teaching undergraduate, graduate and post graduate education.
Anticipated start date will be July 1, 2010 or upon a date to be mutually agreed.

Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. It is expected that the successful candidate will qualify for and be offered a full time appointment at the rank of Professor with Tenure.

For more information about the position and the department, please visit www.medgen.ubc.ca.

Faculty of Medicine | Medical Genetics
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Application letters, accompanied by detailed curriculum vitae, a teaching dossier, and names of four references, should be directed to:

Gavin Stuart, MD, FRCSC
Dean, Faculty of Medicine
c/o Darcie Prosser
Room 317, IRC, UBC
2194 Health Sciences Mall
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(email: **searches@medd.med.ubc.ca** with subject line: **Head, Medical Genetics**)

Review of the applications will begin on January 31, 2010 and will continue until the position is filled.

The University of British Columbia is Canada's third largest university and consistently ranks among the 35 best universities in the world. Primarily situated in Vancouver, UBC is a research-intensive university and has an economic impact of $4 billion to the provincial economy.

The Faculty of Medicine at UBC, together with its partners including B.C.'s Health Authorities, provides innovative programs in the areas of health and life sciences through a province-wide delivery model. The Faculty teaches students at the undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate levels and generates more than $240 million in research funding each year throughout the province.

Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) is one of six health authorities in B.C. With 10,000 employees, a $1.6B budget and a strong academic focus, PHSA's primary role is to ensure B.C. residents have access to a coordinated network of high-quality specialized health care services.

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

UBC hires on the basis of merit and is committed to employment equity. All qualified persons are encouraged to apply. UBC is strongly committed to diversity within its community and especially welcomes applications from visible minority group members, women, Aboriginal persons, persons with disabilities, persons of any sexual orientation or gender identity, and others who may contribute to the further diversification of ideas. However, Canadian and permanent residents of Canada will be given priority.

www.ubc.ca & www.med.ubc.ca

Design students light up Vancouver for Games

BY BRIAN LIN

ANY DESIGNER WILL TELL YOU that lighting makes or breaks a space. This February, the UBC Spacemakers will welcome Olympic visitors with *Northern Lights*, a series of architectural lanterns that will brighten downtown Vancouver.

The three "landform lanterns," resembling curvy icebergs rising from the ground, are constructed of B.C. wood and recycled PVC, illuminated by LED lights. Ranging from six to 12 metres in length and one to two metres tall, they will greet an estimated 6,000 pedestrians per hour on Granville Street between Dunsmuir and Georgia, a special car-free corridor during the Games.

More than 30 UBC architecture, landscape architecture and urban planning students in seven teams competed amongst themselves in a 24-hour "charette," or collaborative design workshop, for the winning design, aimed at animating the street with light and showcasing the quality of UBC designers.

Brady Del Rosario, an architecture Master's student and founding director of Spacemakers, says what began as casual conversation has turned into one of the most valuable learning experiences for him and his peers. "From finding sponsors for the $50,000 project, to applying for city permits, to working with contractors, the project has shown us what it takes to build things in the real world," says Del Rosario. "Not to mention this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to show Vancouver, Canada and the world what UBC students have to offer."

Del Rosario approached the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association, which endorsed the team's bid to City Hall for a public exhibition that creates visual and spatial interest without obstructing foot traffic to the Canada Line Skytrain station and shops. Special considerations were also paid to choosing materials that are recyclable and reusable.

The designers sourced Barrisol, a water-resistant material made of recycled PVC typically used for interior ceiling finishes, as the "lamp shade" to protect the lighting mechanism. The structures are weighted and secured using sand bags.

"We want to show the world that we can be part of the two-week celebration without being a detriment to the environment," says Del Rosario.

The UBC Spacemakers will install the lanterns in time for the Opening Ceremony on Feb. 12. The structures will be dissembled shortly after the Closing Ceremony on Feb. 28. ■

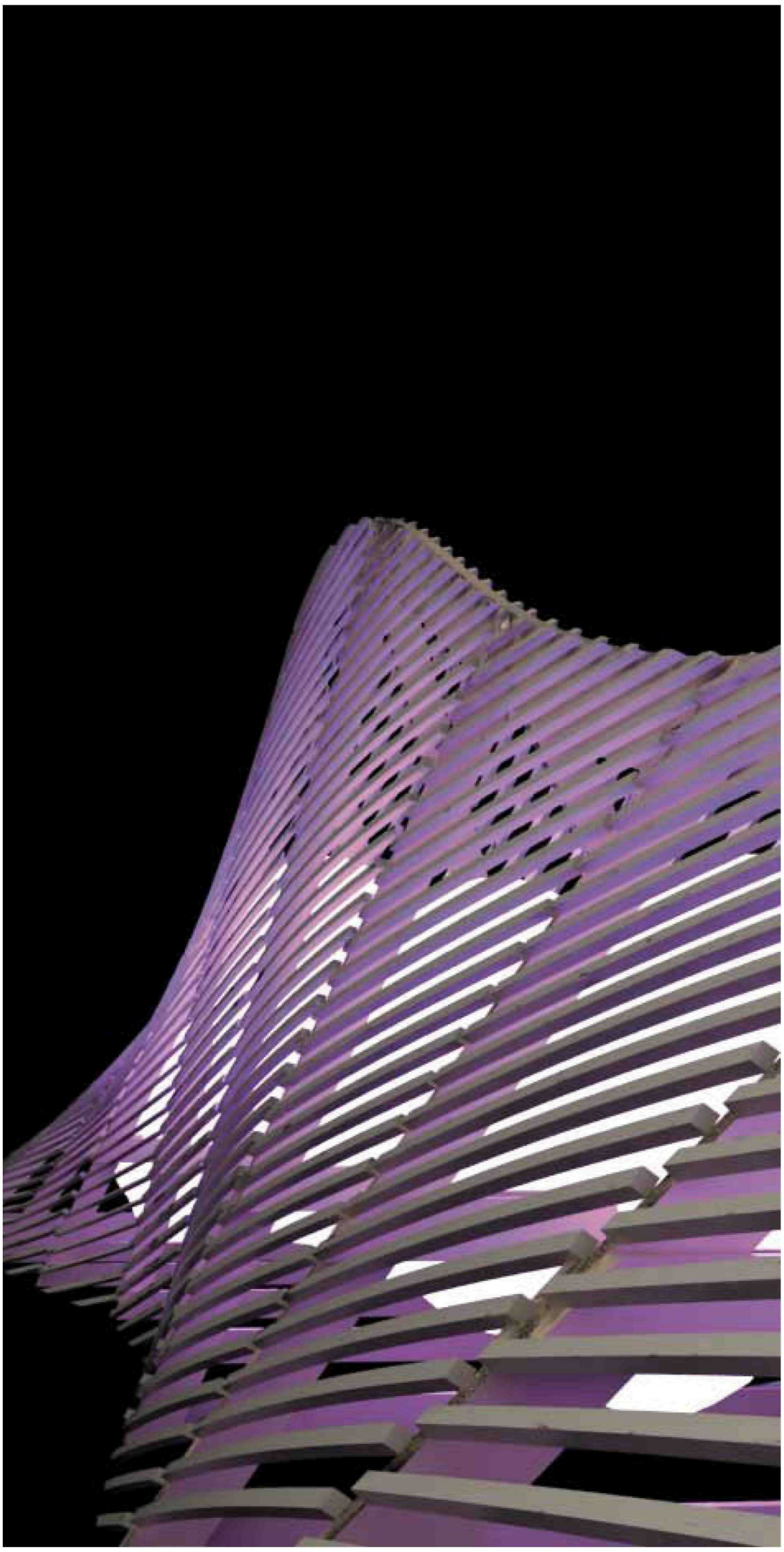

PHOTO: UBC SPACEMAKERS

UBC students have designed a series of architectural lanterns called Northern Lights to welcome visitors to downtown Vancouver.

UBC Faculty of Medicine

> *Through knowledge, creating health.*

Director, School of Population and Public Health

The Faculty of Medicine at The University of British Columbia invites applications and nominations for the position of Director, School of Population & Public Health (SPPH). The appointment is for a five year term and is expected to commence July 1, 2010 or upon a date to be mutually agreed. Located within the Faculty of Medicine, SPPH draws faculty and participation from seven different Faculties and two Colleges at the University. The resulting mix of professions and disciplines is seen as a means of connecting individuals and small research units to enhance learning, and galvanize the relationship between health research and health services. The School currently has 41 full-time, 58 clinical and 57 adjunct faculty members.

We seek an academic leader with strong leadership, interpersonal, and administrative skills who will be responsible for facilitating the integration of multiple academic units focusing on excellence in scholarship across multiple disciplines while promoting interdisciplinary and interprofessional education and research. The successful candidate will report to the Dean of Medicine and will be responsible for maintaining positive and constructive relationships on behalf of the Dean, and lead the School in obtaining additional operating funding, build consensus in the School and champion public and population health in the University. The Director of the School will also be expected to play a leadership role in relation to the Province's public health system, working with the Government and the six Health Authorities in B.C. The ideal candidate should have broad and proven administrative experience, substantial academic and professional experience, and a proven record of scholarly activity with demonstrated excellence in teaching. It is expected that the successful candidate will qualify for and be offered a full-time appointment at the rank of Professor with Tenure. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Candidates must have an MD or PhD in a health-related discipline and also a minimum of 10 years of professional/administrative experience working in a complex health environment.

Faculty of Medicine | School of Population and Public Health

www.med.ubc.ca

Application letters, accompanied by detailed curriculum vitae, a teaching dossier, and names of four references, should be directed to:

Gavin Stuart, MD, FRCSC
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Review of the applications will begin on January 31, 2010 and will continue until the position is filled.

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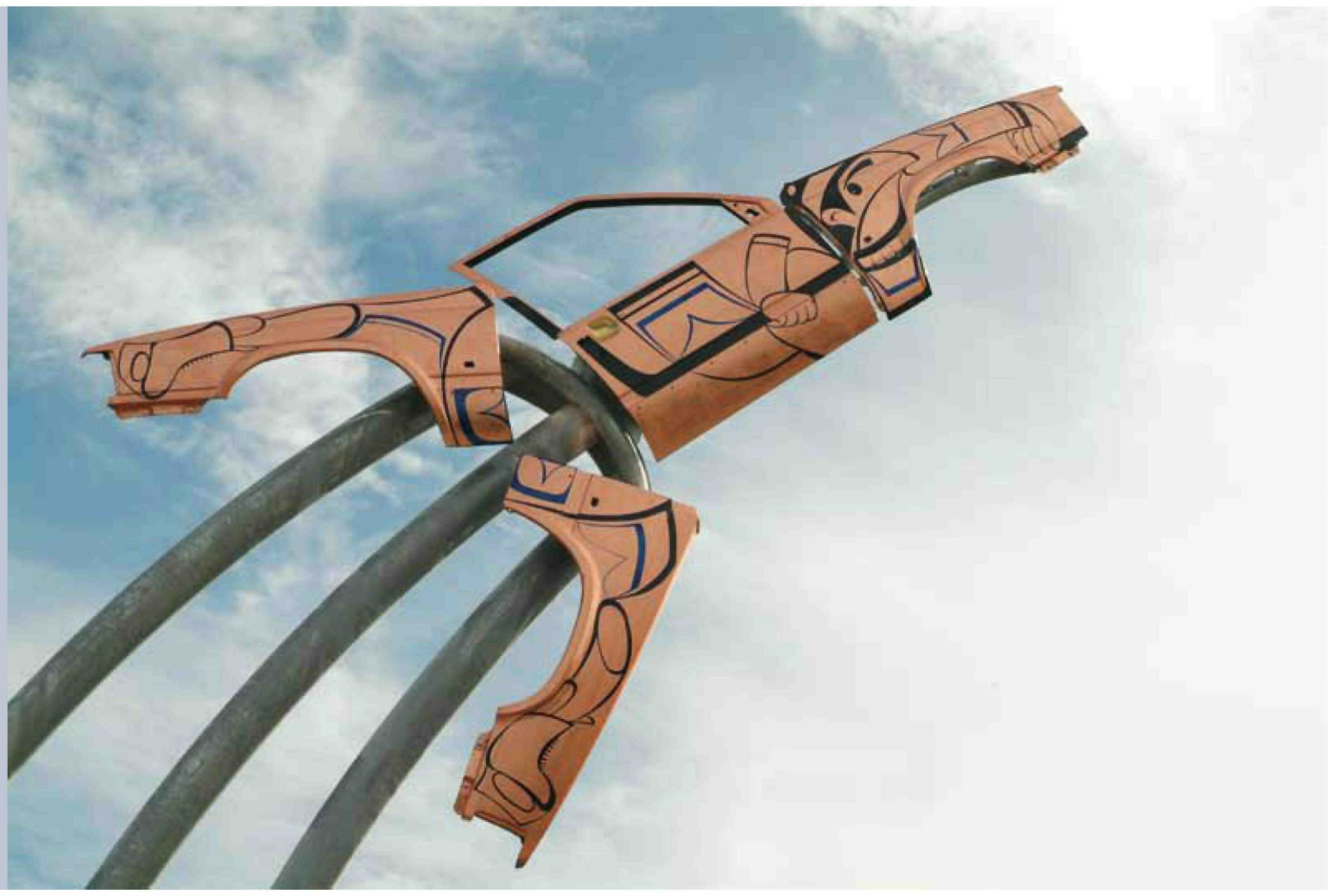

PHOTO: DARIN DUECK

TAKE-OFF on Thunderbird Boulevard is made from car parts by Haida artist Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas and youth from the Urban Native Youth Association.

Made in partnership with UBC's Museum of Anthropology, it is one of seven pieces of Aboriginal artwork at UBC's Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre, which will host Olympic hockey and Paralympic sledge hockey during the 2010 Winter Games.

The permanent installations are part of the Vancouver 2010 Venues' Aboriginal Art Program, which features art from more than 90 Aboriginal artists. First Nations, Inuit and Métis artists involved in the program hail from every province and territory in Canada. ■

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UBC researchers help cyclists avoid Olympic road closures

PHOTO: ISTOCK PHOTO

BY CHRISTIE HURRELL

WORRIED THAT GETTING AROUND the city could be the toughest event of the 2010 Winter Games? Thousands of athletes and visitors, along with road and parking restrictions, will all contribute to increased congestion in Metro Vancouver. A UBC research team is encouraging people to use their bikes to get around, and they've designed a special web-based tool to help cyclists plan hassle-free trips.

The route planner, located at www.cyclevancouver.ubc.ca, was first launched in spring 2008 and has become popular with local cyclists (and pedestrians, who find it useful for planning walking routes). Now, it is being updated to reflect all known Olympics-related road restrictions, so that cyclists can find efficient ways to get to their destination. The Olympics edition of the route planner launches this month, and will be available throughout the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

"Besides being able to plan a route that isn't affected by road restrictions, users can also choose routes that avoid hills, stick to designated cycle paths, or connect with public transit," says UBC researcher Meghan Winters, who helped develop the planner. The web-based tool, which uses the familiar Google Maps interface, also shows the location of covered bike storage facilities near Olympic venues.

Funding for the Olympics version of the route planner comes from the City of Vancouver and TransLink. Michael Brauer, professor at the UBC School of Environmental Health and leader of the route planner project, says that choosing to cycle during the Olympics contributes to both personal and environmental health: "Active transportation provides health benefits for individuals, and also cuts down on the amount of traffic-related air pollution in our region." ■

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Continuing Studies
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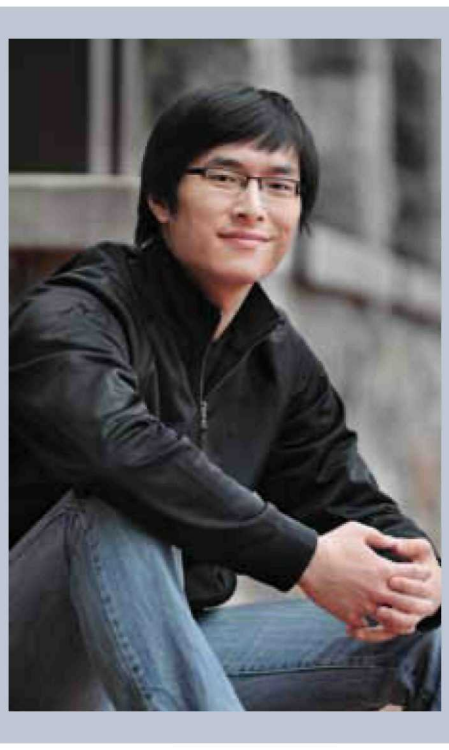
We asked UBC international students to share their unique perspectives on the 2010 Games

BY BASIL WAUGH

UBC is home to more than 7,000 international students from 155 countries. Read more of their stories at: grad.ubc.ca/international/meetstudents.asp

Aligarh, India
Arvind Saraswat, PhD candidate
College of Interdisciplinary Studies
Resource Management and Environmental Studies
Researching urban air pollution, human health and policy in India

"My advice to people coming to Vancouver for Games? Make sure to visit Stanley Park, Whistler and UBC, especially Nitobe Garden and, my favorite, Koerner's Pub. Bring lots of warm clothes. Don't worry about the food or people in Vancouver because they are the best. I am really looking forward to when the Olympic torch comes to UBC."



Kaifeng, China
Wei Shi, PhD Candidate
Faculty of Applied Science
Electrical and Computer Engineering
Researching next generation communication technologies

"My friends and I are getting tickets for a Chinese women's hockey game at UBC Thunderbird Arena. I also want to be a guide for Chinese people. UBC has a Chinese scholars' and students' association, so I am checking with them to see how I can best support my country. I didn't get to experience the Beijing Games first-hand because I was in Vancouver."

Arcore, Italy
Costanza Casiraghi, PhD Candidate
Faculty of Graduate Studies
Microbiology and Immunology
Researching the involvement of viruses in the development of multiple sclerosis

"These will be my second Olympics because I lived in Italy during the Torino Games. I will always remember the closing ceremonies, when former Vancouver mayor Sam Sullivan appeared on the stage in his wheelchair to accept the Olympic flame. We saw this as very progressive, because leaders with disabilities are unheard of in Italy."

Blaubeuren, Germany
Hannes Dempewolf, PhD candidate
Faculty of Science, Botany
Biodiversity Research Centre
Researching crop evolution and agriculture biodiversity conservation

"My sister lives in the town where Germany's national speed-skating team trains, so I will definitely be cheering for them. My fiancée – I met her at UBC – is a huge hockey fan, so we'll be watching that too. We are also going to try to check out some of the cultural events. I am really curious to see what life will be like during the Games."

Stoke-on-Trent, United Kingdom
Katie Morton, PhD Candidate
Faculty of Education
School of Human Kinetics
Exercise and Sport Psychology Lab
Researching transformational leadership and adolescent health promotion

"Normally you just hear the good things about the Olympics, but living in a host city has kind of opened my eyes. You get exposed to some of the more negative things, like homelessness and the environmental impacts of some of the big construction projects."

New York, United States
Sophia Woodman, PhD
Faculty of Arts, Sociology
Has researched social rights and social welfare in China on a US Student Fulbright Award

"I did fieldwork in China starting just after the Beijing Games, so it was interesting to hear people's thoughts. I was in Tianjin, about 160 km southeast of Beijing. Banners and slogans welcoming the Olympics were still visible everywhere. Generally, people were enthusiastic, proud of hosting the Games and spoke of a sense of ownership. Bear in mind though, leading up to the Games people elsewhere in the country who were critical of the Olympics were suppressed or imprisoned."

Tokyo, Japan
Yuki Shirato, MBA Candidate
Sauder School of Business
Researching business strategy and management

"I follow figure skating, so I am really excited to see Mao Asada and Miki Ando of Japan take on their big rivals Joannie Rochette of Canada and Yu-Na Kim of Korea. During the Games, my plan is to volunteer, hopefully as a Japanese-English translator."

ALL PHOTOS: MARTIN DEE

PHOTO COURTESY YUKI SHIRATO

UBC Faculty of Medicine

> Through knowledge, creating health.

Head, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

The Faculty of Medicine, University of British Columbia invites applications and nominations for the position of Head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. The successful applicant would have administrative academic linkages with all six Health Authorities in British Columbia, with the expectation of a principal leadership position in one Health Authority.

We seek an academic leader to be responsible for directing and developing the teaching, research and service programs of the Department. The leader will be responsible for supporting the highest standards of patient care, education and research. The Department is extensively involved in undergraduate and postgraduate education as well as continuing professional development. The Department has 23 full-time and 95 clinical faculty members and attracts strong research support. The Department has a presence across all facilities in Vancouver and is developing an academic Provincial profile.

The successful candidate should have clinical experience and credibility, significant administrative experience, a proven record of scholarly achievement, a commitment to and demonstrated excellence in teaching and proven communication skills. Anticipated start date will be July 1, 2010 or upon a date to be mutually agreed.

Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. It is expected that the successful candidate will qualify for and be offered a full-time appointment at the rank of Professor with Tenure.

For more information about the position and the department, please visit www.obstgyn.ca.

Faculty of Medicine | Obstetrics and Gynaecology — *www.med.ubc.ca*

Application letters, accompanied by detailed curriculum vitae, a teaching dossier, and names of four references, should be directed to:

Gavin Stuart, MD, FRCSC
Dean, Faculty of Medicine
c/o Darcie Prosser
Room 317, IRC, UBC
2194 Health Sciences Mall
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z3.
(email:
searches@medd.med.ubc.ca
with subject line: **Head, Obst & Gyn**)

Review of the applications will begin on January 31, 2010 and will continue until the position is filled.

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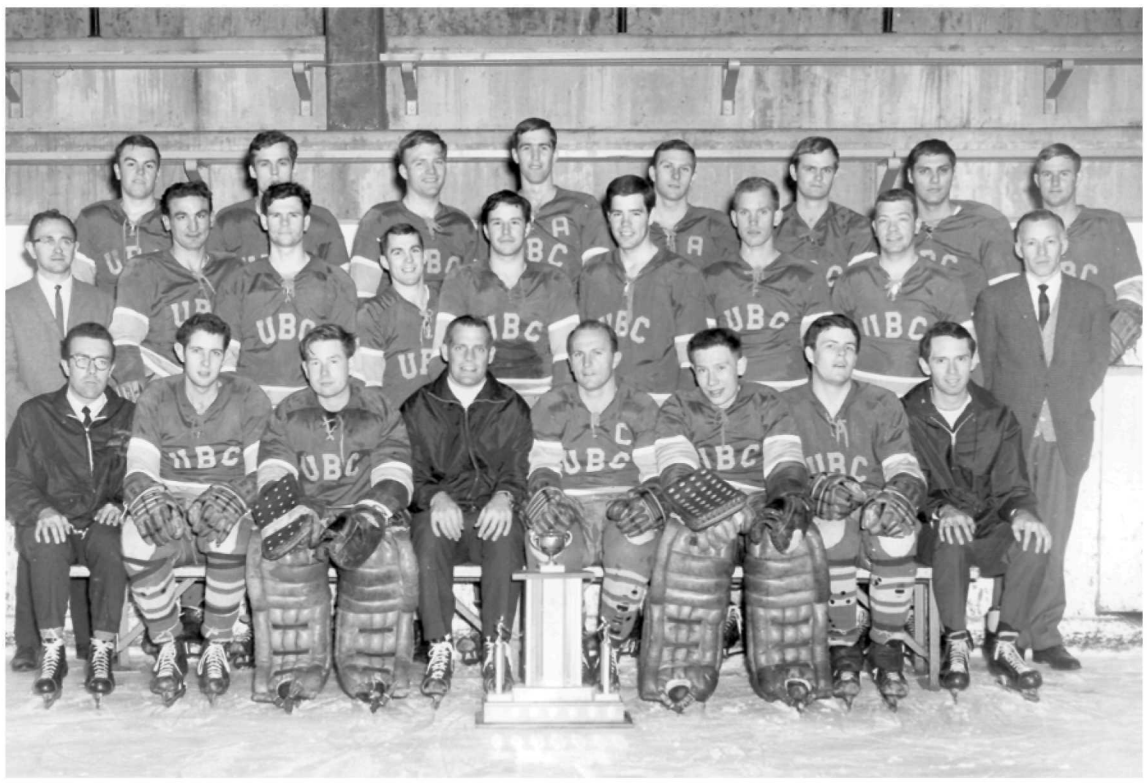

PHOTO: UBC ARCHIVES

The Rev. Father David Bauer's 1964 UBC-based Olympic hockey team.

How UBC has shaped Canada's role in Olympics

BY GLENN DREXHAGE

UBC'S RICH OLYMPIC LEGACY is on display for those wanting a closer look at the athletes and academics who have helped shape Canada's role in the global sporting event.

The Olympic Legacy Exhibit, undertaken by UBC Library, University Archives and UBC Public Affairs, features an array of images and documents that focus on UBC's sporting history, with exhibits of medalled athletes, athletes-turned-scholars, UBC research, influential alumni and sports teams, and multicultural traditions.

Highlights include photos of Quene Yip, described as "UBC's first Chinese-Canadian Sport Star," and Harry Warren, a Rhodes Scholar and sprinter who in 1928 became the first UBC athlete to compete in the Olympics. (Warren also participated in the Great Trek, an event held in 1922 to spur completion of the Point Grey campus, and went on to become a UBC professor.)

Various influential teams are featured, including UBC's "Cinderella Rowers," a four-man crew that won the gold at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, despite having trained for a mere nine months. Also on the roster is the UBC-based 1964 Olympic hockey team, established by the late Rev. Father David Bauer and UBC Sports Hall of Famer Bob Hindmarch.

Behind-the-scenes figures include veteran UBC and Olympic swim coach Tom Johnson; Doug Clement, a former Olympic athlete and coach who became a sports medicine pioneer; and Bob Osborne, a founder and long-time director of UBC's physical education faculty who played and coached Olympic basketball.

Among the featured scholars are Andrei Krassioukov, an associate professor in UBC's Department of Medicine; Margot Young, associate professor in the Faculty of Law; and Bob Sparks and Rob VanWynsberghe, both of the School of Human Kinetics.

Meanwhile, the multicultural aspect of the Games will be illustrated by displays of Chinese-Canadian soccer players (courtesy of the Chung Collection, located at UBC Library's Rare Books and Special Collections) and Q'aysca:m, a stone-carved female figure who played an important role in Musqueam sporting culture.

Material is provided by University Archives, Rare Books and Special Collections, Public Affairs, Musqueam Indian Band, clRcle (UBC's digital repository), and Athletics and Recreation.The exhibit is located at the Learning Centre Gallery, located on level two of the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, adjacent to the circulation desk.

For more information, contact Jessica Woolman at 604-827-4275 or jessica.woolman@ubc.ca, or visit. www.ikebarberlearningcentre.ubc.ca/ps/Olympics2010_event.html. ■

PHOTO: UBC ARCHIVES

From the Chung Collection: Chinese-Canadian soccer players.

PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

Robert Sparks, director of the UBC School of Human Kinetics and Prof. Rob VanWynsberghe want to help understand the effects of sport and mega sporting events.

Games inspire new research centre for sport

BY SEAN SULLIVAN

THE INTERPLAY OF SPORT and sustainability is being put under the microscope at the University of British Columbia, where a new, one-of-a-kind research centre is analyzing the opportunities and effects created by sport and mega sporting events.

The UBC Centre for Sports and Sustainability tackles questions about the environmental impacts of Olympic Games, society's perception of Paralympic athletes and how to give youth opportunities to learn through sport, among other topics.

"There's a growing need to better understand how sport transforms people, communities and cultures to deliver lasting economic, social and health benefits," says UBC President Stephen Toope.

"As a UBC legacy project from the 2010 Winter Olympic Games, the centre will fill an important niche as an international hub for knowledge on this very specialized area of research."

The centre already exists — virtually. Through a joint project between UBC and the Vancouver Organizing Committee (VANOC), the university is formalizing an existing network of researchers who are engaged in sport and sustainability research and instruction.

Researchers are considering how a large-scale sport event or infrastructure project can spur innovation in urban design, and what factors influence national pride, social cohesion and the inclusion in sport of groups such as new immigrants, indigenous populations and the economically disadvantaged.

"This is about more than sport itself," says Robert Sparks, director of the UBC School of Human Kinetics. "This is sport as it links to economic sustainability, environmental sustainability and social development in communities."

"How do you 'green' sports facilities and how do you use sport programs to foster community development and healthy lifestyles?"

Part of the centre's mandate will be to ensure this new knowledge is made available to local, national and international event organizers and host cities so they might optimize their planning and provide an enduring legacy. Already underway is the Paralympic Games Impact Survey, which looks at how the Paralympic Games impact the social perceptions of persons with a disability. A post-Paralympic Games survey will study changes in these perceptions.

"The overall idea is to look at how society might change its views of people with disabilities upon watching the quality performances of Paralympic athletes," says Rob VanWynsberghe, lecturer in Human Kinetics and Educational Studies and UBC lead for the project.

"How do you use sport programs to foster community development and healthy lifestyles?"

Researchers are also looking around the country to find programs that teach others how to coach athletes with a disability, Vanwynsberghe says. "We suspect that many Paralympic coaches are experts in a sport for athletes without disabilities. They'll draw on these skills to teach Paralympic athletes, but the cross-over isn't easy; sledge hockey and hockey, for example, are two very different things," he says.

"We want to make sure there are enough programs in place to train coaches and athletes for the Paralympics, and from a research perspective, consider the social perceptions that follow." This is baseline work for the Olympic Games Impact study, which is also being conducted at UBC and led by VanWynsberghe. The massive study was developed by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to introduce a standardized cross-Games method of monitoring, measuring and reporting on the economic, social and environmental impact of hosting the Olympic Games.

UBC and VANOC will also present a three-part think-tank series to analyze lessons learned from the 2010 Games, new precedents for large scale sport event sustainability, and the use of sustainability indicators in planning future Olympic bids.

"We want to capitalize on our research with the Olympics and Paralympics to become a knowledge hub capable of helping groups down the road who want to take on similar projects," Sparks says.

Another project under the centre's umbrella — the nascent Coaching Sustainability Initiative —has a local connection in Vancouver. By creating community service learning placements in the Downtown Eastside, this UBC legacy project supports leadership development and physical activity among secondary school students in Vancouver.

For more information, visit ubc.ca/2010 ■

UBC considers Olympic impact

BY SEAN SULLIVAN

A GROUNDBREAKING STUDY that shows the impact of the Olympic and Paralympic Games on its host city has found the 2010 Games have had a marginal impact on Vancouver so far, though researchers say the study's most important findings may be yet to come.

The Olympic Games Impact (OGI) Pre-Games Report, the second of four mandated by Olympic officials, sets the stage for two more detailed reports that will create a standard by which all future Games will be measured.

UBC Prof. Rob VanWynsberghe, from the School of Human Kinetics and Department of Educational Studies in the UBC Faculty of Education, is leading a multidisciplinary team of sociologists, engineers, creative writers and kinesiologists in exploring what impact the Games may have on its host city.

All Olympic organizing committees are required to undertake the OGI Study, which was developed by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to introduce a standardized cross-Games method of monitoring, measuring and reporting on the impact of hosting the Olympic Games.

"The project allows the IOC to build a long-term understanding of Games impacts, which will also help guide future bidders and organizing committees to maximize the benefits of the Games," Vanwynsberghe says.

The Pre-Games report, released in December, found benefits for economic growth and sport development so far, including a higher medal count for Canada in the Winter Games and an increase in the number of businesses in Vancouver and Whistler.

In controversial areas such as effects on housing and the environment, the results were inconclusive, Vanwynsberghe says.

"What this means is that as a research group, we were not confident in the data that we were gathering, so in order to be more conservative, to play it safe, we did not roll these up into our assessment of the overall impact," he says.

The OGI uses 126 IOC-mandated indicators to measure the economic, social and environmental conditions of the host city, region and country. The current study measures changes in the Metro Vancouver area between 2002 and 2006, compared to baseline data from 2001.

The next volume will be published in 2010 and the final report in 2013. ■

THE PLANET SUSTAINED FROM HERE.

Surrounded by beauty, it is no wonder innovative thinkers and doers at UBC are taking on towering environmental challenges. In 1997, UBC was the first university in Canada to make a commitment to sustainability. The community has extensively reduced campus emissions to below 1990 levels. And UBC professors and students came up with the concept of "our ecological footprint," launched the carbon offset company used by the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Games, and are developing what may be the greenest building on Earth. It's part of our nature.

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