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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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CLASS2011

In ceremonies in Vancouver and the Okanagan, more than **7,500** students celebrate and receive UBC degrees

Screen capture from YouTube.

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UBC REPORTS

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Highlights of UBC media coverage in April 2011

Compiled by Heather Amos

STUDENTS TAKE ACTION

UBC takes LipDub to the next level

Maclean's, the ***Chronicle of Higher Education***, the ***Vancouver Sun*** and ***The Province*** featured UBC's LipDub video, a video created by UBC students and featuring more than one thousand students lip-synching and performing to pop songs.

The video was posted on YouTube and went viral with almost 500,000 views in the first four days. The video was produced and directed by UBC fine arts student **Andrew Cohen** and co-produced by **Bijan Ahmadian** who said he expects the video to be the most watched LipDub ever.

UBC Vote Mob

Hundreds of students at UBC gathered to form a vote mob, a popular new strategy on university campuses to mobilize youth to vote on May 2. ***CTV News***, the ***National Post*** and ***The Province*** covered the UBC Vote Mob.

These students are non-partisan, making sure students know it doesn't matter who they vote for, as long as they vote. Students are also concerned that most politicians don't care about the issues that affect them.

"Things like tuition, student loans, the economy, whether they'll get a job when they graduate, high cost of living, the environment," said **Mary Leong**, who organized the vote mob at UBC.

UBC GIFTS

$15 million donated to brain research facility

The ***Vancouver Sun***, ***Global***, ***CBC***, ***City TV***, ***CBC*** and others reported that philanthropist Djavad Mowafaghian donated $15 million toward a new brain research and patient care facility at UBC. The 135,000-square-foot building, to be completed by 2013, will be called the Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health.

"[Mr.] Mowafaghian's generous gift will unite research in neuroscience, mental health and addiction medicine while bringing research and patient care under one roof," said UBC president **Stephen Toope**.

UBC RESEARCH

"Superfish" with bigger hearts better equipped for climate change

According to new research from UBC, sockeye salmon with the most arduous spawning journeys have the strongest hearts. This adaptation may better their odds of surviving projected rises in water temperature because of climate change, reported ***National Geographic***, ***United Press International***, the ***Globe and Mail***, ***CBC***, ***Postmedia News*** and others.

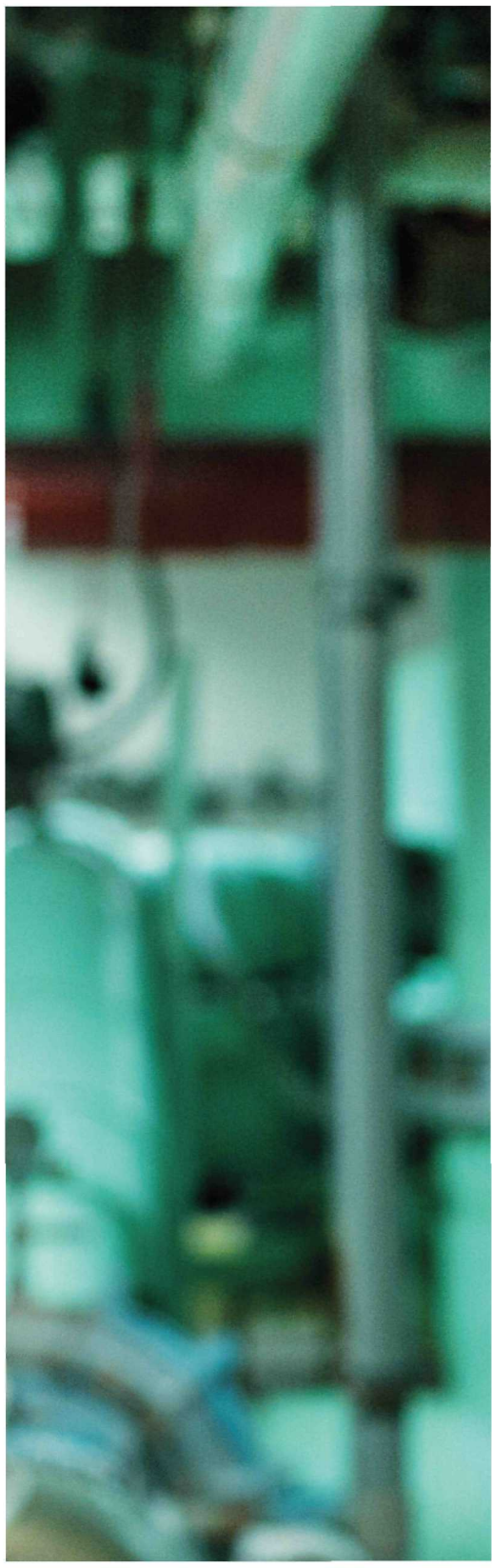
British Columbia's Fraser River is home to 100 distinct populations of sockeye salmon. The new study shows the ones that go the farthest and highest have evolved extremely efficient hearts.

"They have not only the largest hearts, but also special adaptations in their hearts provide them with more oxygen," said **Erika Eliason**, a PhD candidate in zoology at UBC.

Canadians will not pay for online news

An online survey by UBC researchers found that 81 per cent of adults would not pay for an online news subscription, reported ***The Guardian***, the ***Toronto Star***, the ***Canadian Press*** and the ***Globe and Mail***. The study also revealed that 90 per cent of the respondents indicated they would find free alternatives if their preferred news websites started charging for content.

"These results should give pause to any news corporations in Canada or abroad that are considering erecting paywalls around their content," says **Donna Logan**, a professor emerita of UBC's Graduate School of Journalism.



Martin Dee Photograph

The environmental payoff will be big, reducing UBC's carbon emissions by 450 tonnes.

UBC adopts grad's energy makeover project

By Basil Waugh

A class project by staff member Jeff Giffen will significantly reduce UBC's carbon footprint.

The UBC Aquatic Centre is getting a major clean energy makeover thanks to a class project by a graduating green engineer and UBC staff member Jeff Giffin.

The $500,000 project, designed by Giffin in UBC's new Masters of Engineering in Clean Energy program, will harvest waste steam condensate from neighboring buildings to heat the popular recreation centre's indoor and outdoor swimming pools.

The environmental payoff will be big, reducing UBC's carbon emissions by 450 tonnes (the equivalent of taking 100 cars off the road), saving three swimming pools worth of water annually and improving the centre's energy efficiency by more than 60 per cent.

"Projects like this are what engineers live for, to work on something that actually makes the world a better place," says Giffin, 33, who moved from Boulder, Colorado to Vancouver three years ago when his wife began a PhD on neglected diseases at UBC. "I learned so much on this project, but knowing the university values it enough to make it real is a special feeling."

That feeling won't stop when he graduates on May 31, because Giffin will help oversee the project when construction begins as early as June. He has resumed a full time position at UBC's Building Operations, after working part-time during the program.

As Alternative Energy Projects Manager, Giffin is responsible for helping UBC to achieve its ambitious carbon reduction targets, including the elimination of institutional GHGs by 2050. Despite working on more than $110-million in clean energy projects, Giffin admits he was a little nervous about sharing this project.

"One day I mentioned the project to my supervisor, kind of in passing, that I was looking at using waste energy to heat the Aquatic Centre," says Giffin, who previously did a Bachelor of Inventions at the University of Colorado and has three patents to his name, including ski and snowboard bindings and a self-powered bike light.

"My boss asked me if there was a business case where the project would pays for itself in savings over two years—and there was," says Giffin. "After that we confirmed the technical assumptions with our internal experts. Since then, the project has received tremendous support within UBC. It's been pretty amazing."

Learn how UBC is transforming into a living laboratory for research and action on global sustainability issues at www.sustain.ubc.ca.

To discover more UBC Faculty of Applied Science rising stars, visit: www.apsc.ubc.ca/stars/congregation11

Weighing forest conservation and need

Forests of his youth drive a passion for trees

By Heather Amos

Cornelius Motsa hopes to return to Africa to work as a manager of forest and logging operations.

Martin Dee Photographs

When Cornelius Motsa got the call to his home in Swaziland that he was accepted into UBC's Forestry program and was the winner of an International Leader of Tomorrow (ILOT) Award, the first thing out of his mouth was: "What trees grow in British Columbia?"

Having grown up on a farm and with grandparents who were involved in community forestry projects, Motsa's passion for trees started at a young age. In rural Swaziland, Motsa's grandparents grew trees for fuel and construction.

"I grew up in an environment where forests are an immensely important resource, where we use wood to make charcoal for cooking," he says.

But as he grew up, Motsa noticed the forest resources were being depleted. "Areas that had been forested when I was a child became completely bare."

After high school, Motsa moved to CapeTown in South Africa to attend the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and become a forester. Driven by a passion to learn even more about sustainable forest management, Motsa applied to UBC and ended up in UBC's forest engineering program.

"I grew up in an environment where forests are an immensely important resource, where we use wood to make charcoal for cooking."

During his time at UBC, the 29-year-old has joined a number of clubs and organizations. He is part of the Forestry Undergraduate Society, the African Awareness Society, he volunteers with Go Global, plays soccer and is a member of the Logger Sports Team.

Now that he is finished his degree, Motsa is hoping to secure a job that will take him back to southern Africa to work as a manager of forest and logging operations.

"My goal has always been to go to where this knowledge is needed and it makes sense to go back to the community I came from," he says. "Success comes with responsibility."

Motsa will work with communities to prevent further depletion of forest resources and will look for solutions that balance economic interests and sustainable forest management. ●

Future vet champions animal welfare

Grad helped research how animals perceive their environment

By Lorraine Chan

Carly Moody calms Luciano, one of her rescue cats.

"Just knowing that an animal is happier because of something you've done is an incredible feeling."

Carly Moody wouldn't go so far as to call herself a cat whisperer. But over the years, she has learned a thing or two about fretful felines.

"Be very calm, very gentle. Let the cat know they can trust you," says Moody, who graduates this month with a BSc in applied animal biology from the Faculty of Land and Food Systems (LFS).

Moody has two rescue cats, both elderly females. When the one named Luciano began shredding her black leather couch, Moody says she didn't bother using negative reinforcement.

"You're better off to place a scratching post next to the furniture and train her to use that, especially if you spray it with a cat pheromone product like Feliway."

Moody will know by June whether she's been accepted into the Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan, the only Canadian veterinary school open to B.C. residents.

"I have this huge passion for wanting to help animals," says Burnaby native Moody. "They freely give love back. And; Just knowing that an animal is happier because of something you've done is an incredible feeling."

Moody credits the LFS Animal Welfare Program (AWP) for opening her eyes to the treatment and use of animals. "The undergraduate AWP courses have taught me so much, and have definitely been a highlight of my time here at UBC."

Moody assisted Animal Welfare Prof. Dan Weary in his research that explores how animals such as dairy cows or pigs interact and perceive their environment, and how to use that knowledge to create improvements.

" I have a great interest in research and see myself pursuing this as a veterinarian."

For the past five years, Moody has worked part-time at two animal hospitals. In addition to reception duties, Moody also has prepped animals for surgery and administered medications.

"We've dealt with hamsters, chickens, rabbits, reptiles, raccoons, ferrets, a seagull someone found on the road with a broken wing, and some really big snakes." ●

Research a dental hygiene degree highlight

Program graduates first class of 15

By Lorraine Chan

Eugene Chien was thrilled to assist Dr. Charles Schuler with research on causes of cleft palate.

"We can work not only as clinicians, but also as researchers, administrators or health advocates."

If Eugene Chien had one wish, it would be to give everyone a bright, healthy smile.

"Often we think we need to go abroad to help those less fortunate, "says Chien, whose family moved from Taipei to Vancouver when he was a child. "But if you really look around the city, there are a lot of people who aren't on dental plans and can't afford to get their teeth looked at."

Chien is one of 15 students in the first graduating class of the Bachelor of Dental Science in Dental Hygiene "entry-to-practice" degree program. Established in 2007, this program offers an alternative to the Bachelor of Dental Science in Dental Hygiene degree that UBC launched in 1992 for dental hygienists who already hold a college diploma.

At the Faculty of Dentistry, Chien distinguished himself as an enthusiastic leader representing student issues. He also organized numerous free community clinics in New Westminster. Aimed at diverse communities, these oral health initiatives involved UBC faculty and student volunteers from both dental hygiene and dentistry programs.

"Overall, I've matured a lot. I know how to conduct myself in front of clients, how to be professional," says Chien.

Midway through his degree, Chien was thrilled to land a work-study position as a research assistant to Dentistry Dean Dr. Charles Schuler, looking at the causes of cleft palate. "When I started at UBC, I never dreamed I would be doing actual biomedical research."

Chien was able to hone interpersonal skills in settings including Vancouver's Downtown Eastside and a long-term care facility for seniors. Some of the care home residents faced cognitive difficulties such as dementia or Alzheimer's and would forget to brush their teeth or improperly store their dentures. Others with arthritis would struggle to hold a toothbrush.

"In these cases, we'd work closely with the care providers," says Chien. "For example, we'd suggest posting a reminder on the bathroom mirror or having them help clients with brushing."

Chien says he values the BDSc degree for opening up numerous career possibilities. "We can work not only as clinicians, but also as researchers, administrators or health advocates."

Social enterprise meets high fashion

By Lorraine Chan

Fashion designer and MBA graduate Maryanne Mathias.

Martin Dee Photographs

Ghana's vibrant culture, colours and textiles contrast sharply with the exacting demands of high-end fashion.

Yet, Sauder School of Business graduate Maryanne Mathias has been able to merge these worlds.

She co-owns Osei-Duro, a Ghana-based social enterprise that emphasizes hand-dyed fabrics and offers employment opportunities and job training for women in West Africa.

Osei-Duro, which in Ghana's Fante language means "honour" and "medicine," produces distinctive women's clothing and accessories. The collection has been featured in high-end shopping outlets such as Barneys New York and Selfridges through collaborations with a design company called complex geometries. This March, Mathias was in Paris showing pieces for the fall and winter season to international buyers.

Mathias started the company with high school friend and fashion designer Molly Keogh in early 2009—around the same time she began the 16-month MBA program at Sauder.

Linking fashion to social, economic and political change is an exciting challenge, says Mathias, a Vancouver native who had for many years called Montreal home. "I decided to attend Sauder because of its strength in sustainability."

As well, Mathias thought it necessary to get a handle on strategic management. Early on in the program, she took an entrepreneur course that stressed extensive preparation, product and market analyses as well as careful cost and revenue forecasting.

Linking fashion to social, economic and political change is an exciting challenge, says Mathias.

"We were told that it's certainly not a good idea to start a business with your friend from high school," laughs Mathias, who holds a bachelor's degree in fashion design and technology from Kwantlen Polytechnic University.

Jumping in feet first meant having to learn from her mistakes, says Mathias, who was named the 2010 Entrepreneur British Columbia champion by national charitable organization Advancing Canadian Entrepreneurship.

"But over analyzing can also deter people from taking risks and getting started."

Mathias says Osei-Duro's next steps will be to incorporate fabrics such as silks and wool knits along with the famous cottons produced in West Africa such as bogolan or "mud cloth," which is grown, woven and printed in Mali.

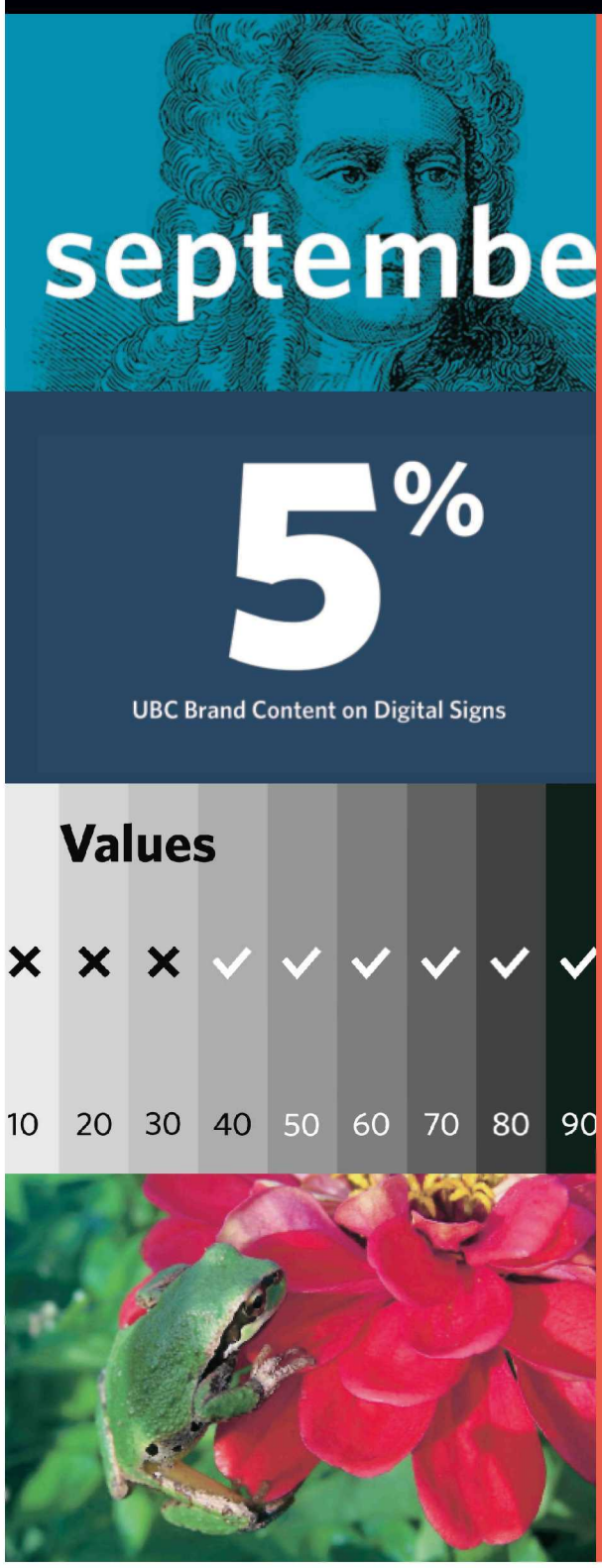
"In the future, we hope to work with printers to apply Ghana's ancient tradition batik printing techniques in new ways."

Are you digital-screen ready?

Digital signs are an effective new way to communicate with students, faculty and staff.

UBC now has a digital signage solution available for units on the Vancouver campus.

Discover how your unit can use the new system and find guidelines, templates and advice for creating quality digital content.



A role for gardens in health care

Graduate believes nature can heal

By Lorraine Chan

Landscape architecture grad Jingjing Sun would like to work with clients in Canada and China.

Martin Dee Photograph

Nature offers a potent healing force for those who need it, says Jingjing Sun, who graduates this month with a master of landscape architecture degree.

For her thesis project, Sun produced a therapeutic garden design for BC Children's and Women's Hospital.

To fully understand the garden site and context, Sun interviewed hospital staff and visited with the patients. She was struck by the quiet, dignified acceptance of children who in many cases are in intensive pediatric care. The patients range in age from newborn to late teens.

"If they're not in any pain, they love to play. Any worry they feel isn't for themselves, but for how sad their mom and dad are feeling," says Sun. "That's why I want to serve them in creating this garden."

The proposed design would transform a 1,200 square metre (12,916 square feet) area near the hospital's Oak Street entrance—currently lawn and shrubs—into a tranquil haven using low-maintenance plants and local materials. In one corner a birdbath will attract robins and sparrows. The soft rustle of wind through bamboo will soothe as scent and colour come from plants such as climbing wisteria.

To foster a sense of entry "from the profane or ordinary to a sacred space," says Sun, the design employs unifying elements such as a series of wooden trellises that wind through the L-shaped space. These create a sense of intimacy while providing cover from rain or bright sun.

The soft rustle of wind through bamboo will soothe as scent and colour comes from plants such as climbing wisteria.

The foliage has to be suitable

for children who may only access the garden while being pushed in a wheelchair or their beds, notes Sun, who also gained experience as a volunteer gardener at Canuck Place Children's Hospice.

"The height of the shrubs and trees is quite important as is the surface since uneven paving stones would clearly be a problem."

Sun says she hopes to one day share her vision and skills with clients in Canada as well as China. Growing up in Nanjing, Sun says the pace of modernization has stripped many cities of green spaces and residential gardens—a trend that she wants to help reverse.

"Nature is miraculous. It's sacred." ●

Discover more UBC Faculty of Applied Science rising stars at: www.apsc.ubc.ca/stars/congregation11

Friends celebrate law degrees

By Simmi Puri

Law grads Laura McPheeters and Andrea Petersen (L-R) became friends while juggling families and careers at UBC.

Don Erhardt Photograph

Attending law school part time can be a tough road to travel, but for Andrea Petersen and Laura McPheeters, their friendship and the support they received from friends, family and the Faculty helped make that journey a little easier.

Petersen, 48, and McPheeters, 42, met in their first year and soon developed a close bond after realizing they shared a common story. Both are mothers, both started law school after establishing careers in other fields and both understood the struggles of balancing competing priorities of school and family.

"I remember one experience I had, it was the day of the mock trial competition and I was nervous," said McPheeters, mother of three. "I was hoping to get to the courthouse early, but for some reason it seemed to be imperative that I fold my children's laundry right then. I was probably the only one in my class folding laundry at that moment."

Juggling family priorities with career responsibilities isn't new to the duo. Prior to entering law school, McPheeters was a freelance professional cellist who performed across North America. With two young children and another on the way, she wanted a profession that would keep her in town, and law school seemed to be a good option.

For Petersen, after teaching biology and chemistry for 13 years at Vancouver Community College, she was on the hunt for something more challenging.

"I love the fact that there are so many different avenues in law that I can pursue," explained Petersen who hopes to pursue a career in health law to complement her background in science.

On average, only about three students enter UBC's Faculty of Law as part-time students each year. Petersen and McPheeters took nearly five years to complete their degree, which they will celebrate with nearly 180 other graduating law students at congregation this May.

"The ability to do this degree part-time is a great privilege. I never for a second took that for granted. It's the degree that I'm most proud of."

"The ability to do this degree part-time is a great privilege," explained Petersen. "I never for a second took that for granted. It's the degree that I'm most proud of."

As for McPheeter's mock trial debate—she ended up winning the competition and the subsequent national competition. ●

Learn more about the UBC Faculty of Law at law.ubc.ca

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Call for Nominations and Applications

Senior Advisor to the Provost on Women Faculty

A key academic leadership role at UBC, Vancouver
The Senior Advisor to the Provost on Women Faculty will lead institutional transformation to enhance the environment and to develop leadership and advancement opportunities for women faculty at UBC.

The position will report directly to the Provost and Vice President Academic. The successful candidate will work closely with the Deans, Human Resources (in particular Faculty Relations), the Equity Office, and other units, and have responsibilities in the following areas:
Policy Development:
Revise current policies and develop new policies and mechanisms to advance women faculty and to promote equitable work environments. The Senior Advisor will also have a role to liaise with other University leaders with responsibility to ensure that initial and continuing working conditions are free of gender bias.
Advancement and Leadership:
Build understanding and ownership for advancement of women faculty at UBC among current and emerging University leaders; propose and implement strategies to increase the numbers of women faculty in leadership positions; ensure diversity among such women; develop and implement a leadership training program; share examples of exemplary practice; develop accountability networks to ensure advancement of women and inclusion of a diverse range of women in all of these initiatives.
Research:
Conduct research on issues of importance to the status of women faculty; barriers to women related to existing policy and university success in the advancement of women faculty; ensure regular and full collection of data on women faculty; develop and implement regular assessment of indicators to measure participation and advancement of women faculty.
Environment:
Work with department heads/directors, deans and faculty leaders to ensure relevant equity training.
Annual Evaluation and Assessment of Gender Equity:
Provide baseline information for measuring immediate and long-term changes in the recruitment, retention and advancement of women faculty. Ensure collection of such information by appropriate institutional entity and public availability of benchmark measures. Effectively communicate university progress in the advancement of women faculty.

The successful candidate will be a female faculty member with outstanding academic credentials, and proven leadership and administrative abilities, including creative problem-solving abilities. She will have a strong commitment to excellence in research, learning and service. A strategic, innovative and participatory leadership style and excellent communication and interpersonal skills are essential. The successful candidate should have a commitment to and understanding of substantive equity issues and the goals of inclusivity as they relate to women faculty in a university committed to effective and equitable support of all faculty members. The initial appointment is for a term of three years and is renewable.
The position is internal to the University.

UBC hires on the basis of merit and is committed to employment equity. All qualified persons are encouraged to apply. We especially welcome applications from visible minority group members, Aboriginal persons, persons with disabilities, persons of minority sexual orientations and gender identities, and others with the skills and knowledge to productively engage with diverse communities.

Applications and nominations should be submitted by May 26, 2011,
to Dr. David Farrar, Provost and Vice President Academic, and Chair of the search committee,
c/o Mary Hayden, Director in the Provost's office, mary.hayden@ubc.ca, fax 604-822-3134.
Applicants should submit a current CV, statement of interest, and the names of three referees.

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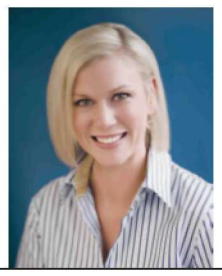

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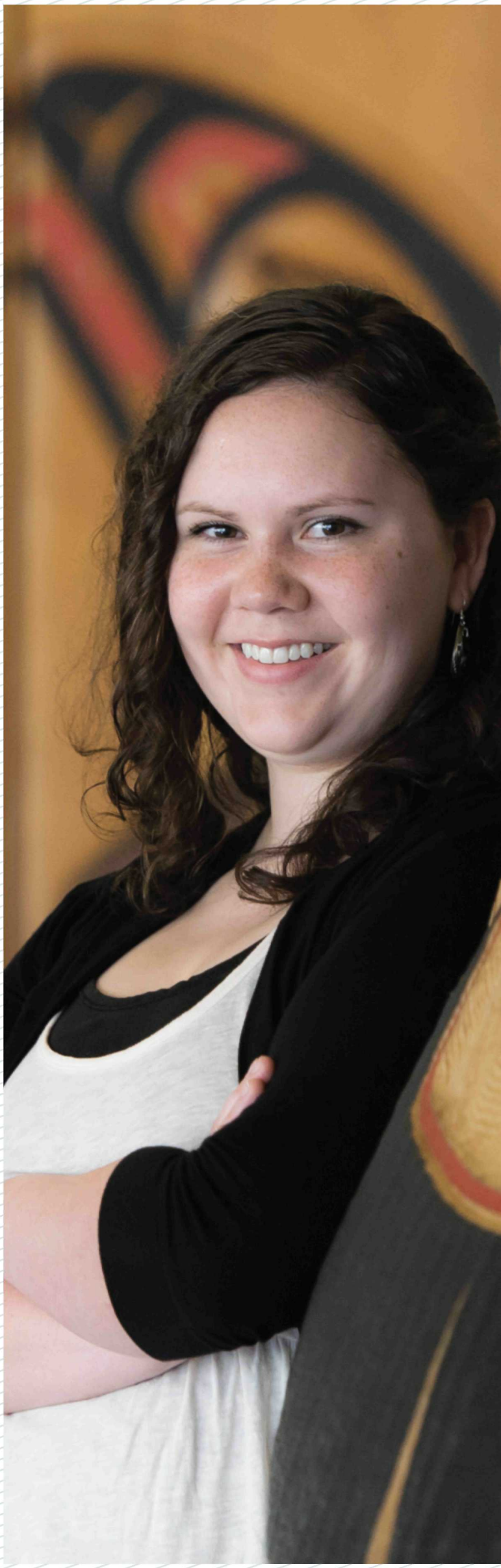
A passion for health care policy

Miranda Kelly doesn't shy away from talking about her Aboriginal heritage—and modern day issues affecting the health of Aboriginal people.

By Brian Lin

Medicine graduate Miranda Kelly helped keep a homeless shelter open du



Don Erhardt Photograph

But the graduate from the School of Population and Public Health's Master of Public Health program says it would be a mistake to assume all Aboriginal people are the same and face the same challenges.

"There's great diversity in Aboriginal peoples and today's generation is more interested in making connections amongst different cultures," says Kelly, a member of the Sto:lo Nation's Soowahlie Band in Chilliwack.

"Whether it's simple misunderstanding over terminology—what's the difference between native, Aboriginal and First Nations?—or more complex issues such as addiction and health care governance, we're more willing to say 'I don't know, but I'm willing to learn.'"

Kelly says the highlight of her UBC education was a practicum in the Northwest Territories, where she was instrumental in keeping a homeless shelter open.

"Nobody wants to see people sleeping on the street, especially in such an extreme climate. But within the confines of individual agencies, there was only so much they could do alone," says Kelly, who worked with the Inuvik Interagency Committee to identify potential long-term funding models while keeping the shelter in operation.

"There's great diversity in Aboriginal peoples and today's generation is more interested in making connections ..."

The experience cemented her passion for a career in health care policy and governance at a time when multiple levels of government are discussing the transfer of health care to First Nations.

"It comes down to equity—Aboriginal people have the right to the same level of health care that other populations in Canada receive—while respecting their diversity and culture," says Kelly, who adds that symbolic "consultations" must give way to decision-making authority by First Nations communities.

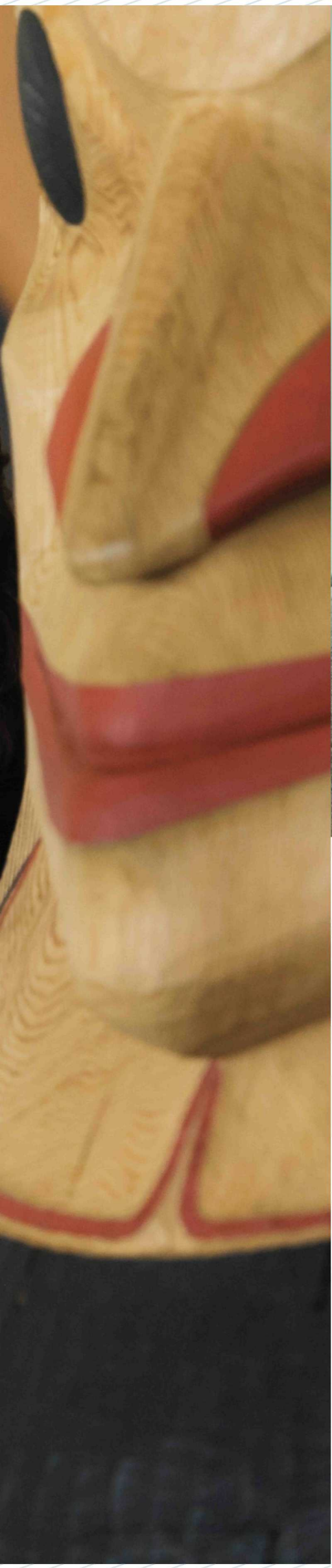
If Kelly sounds like a natural-born leader, she takes after her father, Grand Chief Doug Kelly, Chair of the First Nations Health Council and an executive of the First Nations Summit.

"I've learned a lot from him about striking a balance between the traditional First Nations lifestyle and modern society," she says. "He has inspired me to draw strengths from my ancestry while making the most out of my education to build a fulfilling career that will also benefit my community."

From the classroom to Afghanistan

By Mary Leong and Loren Plottel

ring her practicum in the NWT.



Eugene Lin Photograph

Art student leader Brian Platt spent two unforgettable weeks in Afghanistan.

After a whirlwind undergraduate experience including an eye-opening trip to Afghanistan and the presidency of the Arts Undergraduate Society (AUS), graduating History student Brian Platt is now ready for some real excitement.

One of Platt's first initiatives on campus was to start a Canada-Afghanistan club, which raises awareness about issues surrounding education and development in Afghanistan through articles on its website and speaker sessions.

"Canada's involvement in Afghanistan is such a major foreign policy commitment," says Platt, 25. "I'm especially interested when countries are going through a struggle from dictatorship to democracy, and I want to do what I can do to help that process."

In 2010, after raising money from organizations that published his articles, Platt spent two weeks travelling around Afghanistan, visiting schools and meeting people. His blog during his trip garnered over 2,000 page views each day, and he continues to write about his experiences for the Ubyssey.

"My articles have received quite a bit of feedback from people on campus," says Platt, a native of Neepawa, Manitoba. "University's a place where you can debate global issues, and it's great to be able to play a role in advancing that discussion here at UBC."

Platt joined the History Students' Association (HSA) in 2009 and became VP Finance, which ultimately led to his successful run for AUS President.

"University's a place where you can debate global issues, and it's great to be able to play a role in advancing that discussion here at UBC."

The AUS represents nearly 12,000 students in Arts, the largest faculty on campus. Under Platt's leadership, the group pioneered the AUS Arts Conference and organized concerts and educational and social events.

Platt calls his journey at UBC "a bit of a fluke."

"I'm grateful to have run into my friends as they were going to an HSA election that day, or I may never have gotten as involved. It's weird to think about how different things might have been," he says.

Looking back on his time here, Platt recalls his fondest memories.

"The best thing is when everyone gets together in one place, like at Block Party," says Platt. "All the different groups, the different constituencies, the AMS, clubs, UBC REC, students in residences, the Greek system—finding a community and getting involved somehow. You never know where it may lead."

Platt is considering a myriad of options for the future; however, if it's anything like his past, he will certainly be one to watch. ●

Learn more about the Faculty of Arts at: arts.ubc.ca

Read more about Platt's trip to Afghanistan at: ubyssey.ca/afghanistan

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Building a career to help youth

By Heather Amos

A graduate of the Teacher Education Program, Liam Hogan hopes to work with students with disabilities.

Martin Dee Photographs

Before Liam Hogan came to UBC to get his teacher education degree, he worked in elementary and secondary school life skills classes for youth with physical and cognitive disabilities. He felt that the school system needed far more teachers who were passionate about helping students with disabilities.

On top of working in schools as a Special Education Assistant, Hogan also worked at a mental health treatment centre and for the Coast Guard, studied youth criminal justice and almost pursued a career in social work. At the last minute, he changed his mind and ended up in the Faculty of Education's Teacher Education program, specializing in social justice and diversity.

Hogan always wanted a career that involved helping youth and he had been working with 14-18 year-olds with autism at a mental health treatment centre for the past five years.

"It's the small successes, like when they learn to brush their teeth or change the television channel, that make me appreciate this work," says Hogan.

Hogan, who is from Tsawwassen, isn't surprised where he's ended up. Many members of his family have found careers in teaching or working with people with disabilities. He says his grandmother was a nurse and her caring personality has been passed down. Hogan himself says he's always had a special connection with children.

"I like the way children engage in their environment and I try to understand their world," he says. "I make an effort to be honest and genuine with them and to listen to what they have to say."

> **"I like the way children engage in their environment and I try to understand their world."**

One of Hogan's best memories from his two-year program was during his practicum at Mount Pleasant Elementary School in Vancouver. He had to get the class involved in a social justice project and chose playground beautification.

After teaching about forests, Hogan got the students to paint cedar cutouts of trees shaped like maples and pines. He then stained the art projects and the class hung them on their playground fence.

"The idea is to get students involved in building their school community. By taking ownership of their play area, incidences of school vandalism decrease," says Hogan, who regularly walks by the school and still sees the evidence of his work hanging on the fence. ●

Bumping it up a level

Grad pursues excellence in athletics, academics and service

By Heather Amos

Volleyball star Jen Hinze plans to apply to medical school, travel, volunteer and compete in the Olympics qualifiers this year.

It must be hard to imagine topping your undergraduate experience when you've won four national volleyball championships, received top awards in academics and athletics and competed in the World Championships.

But for Jen Hinze, a graduate of the Faculty of Science and a member of the UBC women's volleyball team, there is still lots to look forward to. Over the next year, she plans to return to Canada's national volleyball team, write medical school entrance exams, volunteer and travel.

"I never expected . . . to get to play volleyball on a successful team but also to pursue my interest in the life sciences."

"I've learned a lot about myself and how much I can really handle at once," says Hinze, who is from Vancouver. "It's a great feeling of accomplishment."

Hinze is one of UBC's top athletes. During her five years at the university, Hinze and her teammates won four Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) championships, making the T-birds the most decorated team in the league.

"Being part of the volleyball team has been a really unique and incredible way to experience university," she says. "It makes you feel like you are part of something bigger."

But it isn't the big wins that Hinze will remember from her undergraduate days—it's her teammates.

"We're very close and I've made some lifelong friends," says Hinze.

UBC volleyball might be over for Hinze but she's not done with the sport. The graduate will spend the summer playing with Team Canada and in December will compete in the Olympic qualifiers.

Hinze is also deciding when to pursue the next part of her education. She wants to be a doctor but first plans to travel and volunteer. Hinze would like to get involved with the organization Right to Play, which aims to improve the lives of children through sport and play.

Despite the big part sports have played in Hinze's life, she stresses how important school has been too.

"Volleyball has been a big part of my life but academics is a *really important* part of my life."

Hinze says winning an academic scholarship, the Wesbrook Scholar Award, is one of the accomplishments she is most proud of. She also enjoyed studying nerve cells for a research project.

"I never expected my time at UBC to turn out this way—to get to play volleyball on a successful team but also to pursue my interest in the life sciences." ●

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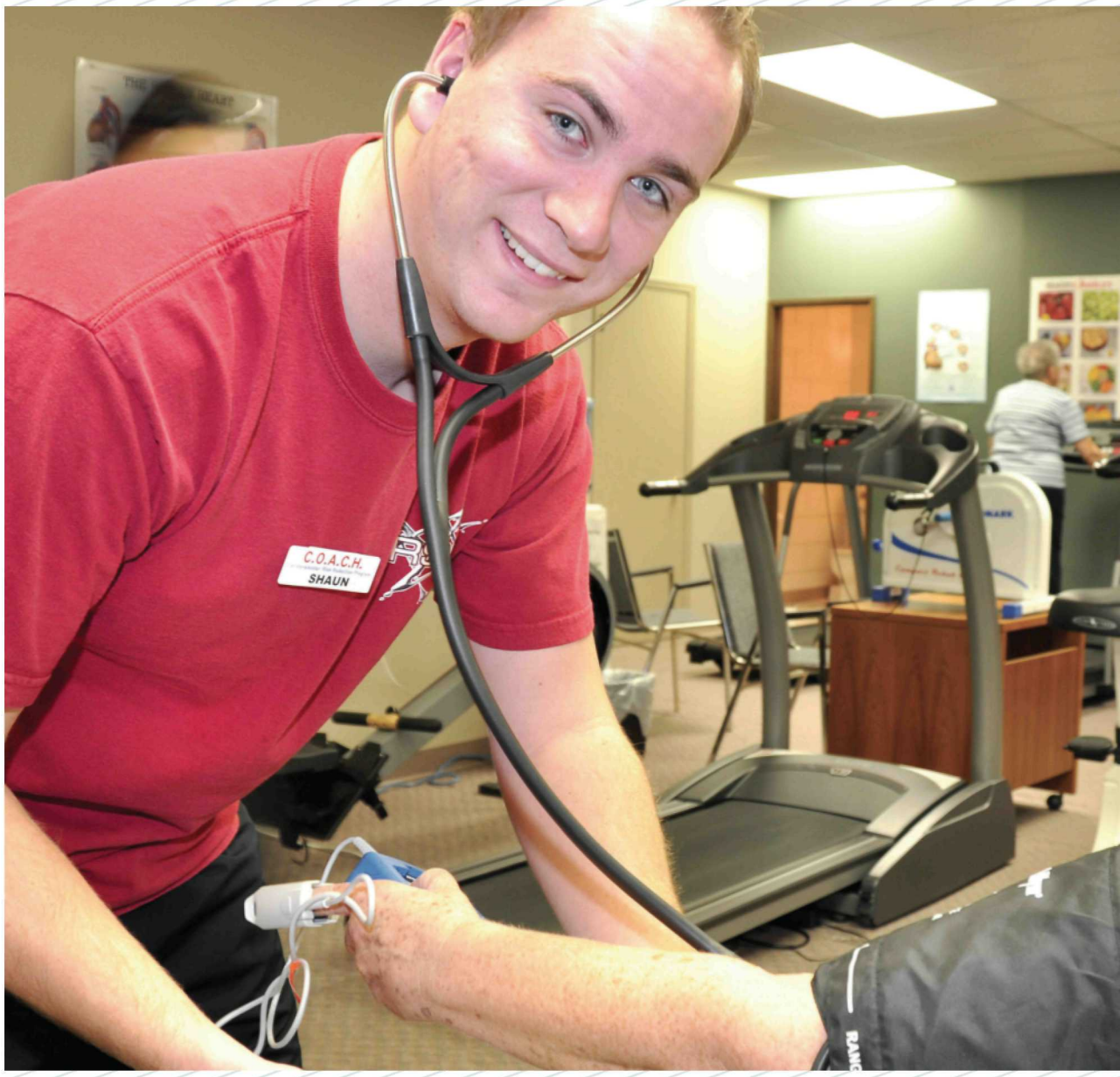
Human Kinetics at UBC's Okanagan campus graduates first cohort

By Jody Jacob

Fourth-year Human Kinetics student Shaun Crowell is expected to graduate at the top of the first graduating class.



Jody Jacob Photograph

The Human Kinetics program at UBC's Okanagan campus has undergone rapid growth and change since its inception in 2007. This June, its first students will graduate.

Fifty students will be presented with undergraduate degrees in human kinetics at this year's graduation ceremonies.

Mary Courtney, Dean of the Faculty of Health and Social Development, says she is confident the 2011 Human Kinetics graduating class is armed with the skills and tools needed to make an immediate impact in the health sciences profession.

"Whether graduates are transitioning to the workplace or furthering their educational aspirations, our program ensures they have the ability, experience and knowledge to build healthy communities and attitudes, to explore health and human movement in today's society, and to team up with others to create positive change in health," says Courtney.

Student numbers in Human Kinetics have exploded. More than 160 students were admitted last September into the first year of the program .

Student numbers in Human Kinetics have exploded. More than 160 students were admitted last September into the first year of the program—more than triple the number of graduating students this year. Human Kinetics is also home to seven MSc students and eight PhD students. That number is expected to grow to more than 25 graduate students by September. The program has two main areas of specialization: exercise physiology and community health promotion.

Gord Binsted, head of the Human Kinetics department, says the undergraduate program was developed from the very start with the goal of creating a program firmly entrenched in health sciences.

"Over the last four years we have brought together a qualified, diverse faculty with a wide range of expertise and research interests that provide students with the opportunity to explore, in depth, all areas of the discipline," he says, adding that faculty members were also chosen for their ability to increase the Human Kinetics research portfolio and compete for grants.

Research grants this fiscal year reached more than $972,000 up from $103,000 in 2008. ●

Max Jones makes PhD history at UBC

By Jody Jacob

Max Jones' research took him to Samoa, Hawaii and Florida.

Abhishek Chattopadhyay Photograph

Max Jones is on track to make UBC history this June as the first student to complete an entire PhD at UBC's Okanagan campus.

Although students have completed PhDs in past years at the Okanagan campus after transferring from other universities, this will be the first time a doctoral degree will be presented to a student who began and ended their studies at the Okanagan campus.

"I was pretty excited when I found this out," says Jones, who grew up in Elora, Ontario and will receive his PhD in biology. "I am honoured to be the first graduate and hope to represent UBC's Okanagan campus well in my future professional endeavours."

> **"I am honoured to be the first graduate and hope to represent UBC's Okanagan campus well in my future professional endeavours."**

Jones' main area of research focused on evaluating the immense diversity found among different types of breadfruit—a high-yielding staple food crop that grows in the wet tropics.

"As food prices and world hunger continue to rise, there is an increasing global need for increased production of nutritious staple foods such as breadfruit," says Jones. "These studies provide the framework to deliver high-yielding elite cultivars of breadfruit with superior nutritional value, improved fruit qualities, and complementary fruiting seasons to the wet tropics."

Jones says he enjoyed the intimate academic experience offered at UBC's Okanagan campus, and believes it helped enhance his educational pursuits and foster inter-lab collaboration. He notes he was offered ample research and travel opportunities, including field work in Hawaii and field courses in both Florida and Samoa. Jones also had the opportunity to conduct some chemical analysis at a United States Department of Agriculture lab in Oxford, Mississippi, and attended a number of academic conferences throughout North America.

Jones' future plans include the completion of a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Guelph, where he will work to develop disease-resistant American elm trees. Although his sights are firmly set on what lies ahead, Jones says he will always look back fondly at time spent at UBC's Okanagan campus. ●

Behind the scenes at graduation

The wearing of academic costume is a tradition from the Middle Ages. At UBC the undergraduate's and Master's gown are black. The PhD regalia consist of a maroon silk gown and sleeves with blue and gold piping.

Martin Dee Photograph

1916

The year of UBC's first graduation, held in the Hotel Vancouver ballroom for 41 graduates

28

The number of spring ceremonies held this year to confer degrees to all of UBC's graduating students in Vancouver and the Okanagan

7,500

The number of graduates, and handshakes UBC Chancellor Sarah Morgan-Sylvester gives when handing out degrees during spring ceremonies

75

The average duration in minutes for each ceremony

12

The number of staff, in addition to the dozens of volunteers who plan and organize the ceremonies

Katherine Beaumont

Carol E. Mayer

Dr. Patricia Mirwaldt

Michele Ng

Tangerine Twiss

President's Service Award for Excellence

by Heather Amos

Recognizing contributions to the UBC community, five Vancouver staff will receive the 2011 President's Service Award for Excellence.

As the Director of Go Global, **Katherine Beaumont** has helped ensure that UBC students have the opportunity to engage in global citizenship. Beaumont is recognized for her expertise in defining international learning opportunities and has helped build a broad range of successful programs for students on both the Vancouver and Okanagan campuses.

Carol E. Mayer, curator (Oceania & Africa) at the UBC's Museum of Anthroplogy and Associate to the Department of Anthropology, is known locally and internationally as an outstanding mentor, colleague, teacher and curator. Mayer has helped propel MOA's reputation as a world-class museum through her exhibitions, publications and community-based collaborations.

Recognizing the direct relationship between well-being and student success and learning, **Dr. Patricia Mirwaldt**, the Director of Student Health Services, has been committed to providing students with some of the best university health services in Canada. Mirwaldt has worked to ensure that students have access to a wide variety of health services.

Michele Ng, project coordinator in the Department of Computer Science, has been the driving force behind building industry liaisons, student engagement and alumni relations for her Department. Ng helped create the biggest tri-mentoring program in UBC and has spent countless hours offering support and advice for students and prospective students.

Tangerine Twiss has been with the central international office at UBC for the past 25 years, helping to move forward UBC's commitment to developing global relationships. Twiss ensures that international visitors feel welcome. Recognized for regularly going above and beyond the parameters of her duties, many students, faculty and staff have experienced first-hand Twiss' deep sense of caring for others. ●