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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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Next issue: 4 November 2010

Submissions

UBC News Room

World pays high price for overfishing, studies say

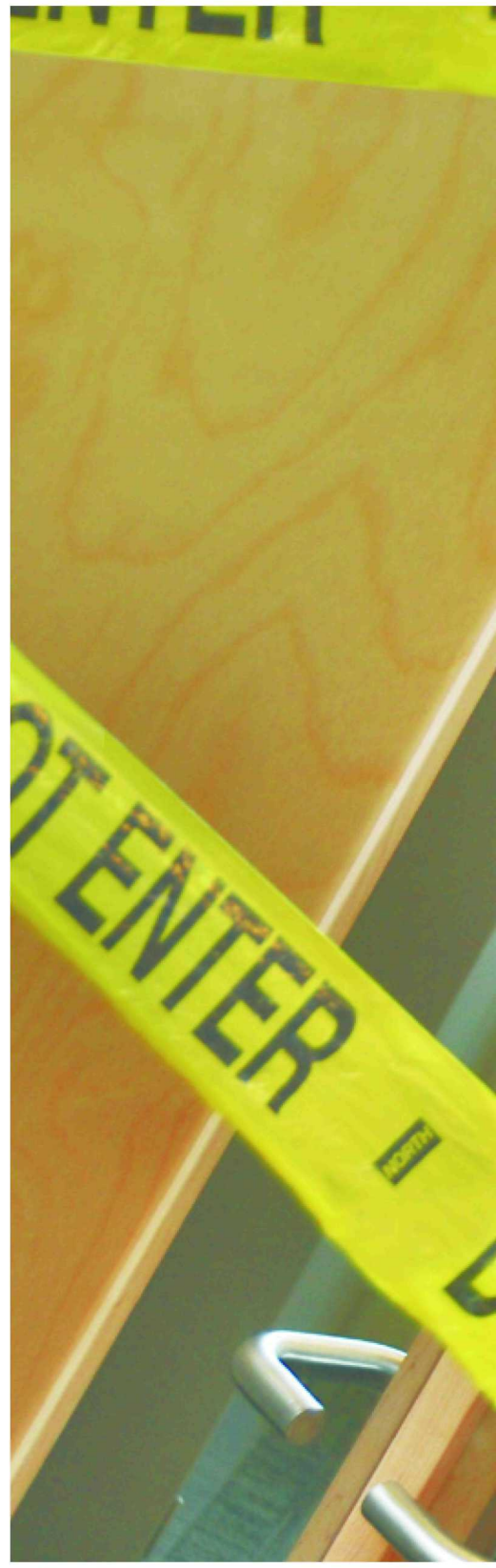
Canada's universities make the grade globally

Study finds too much testosterone a problem for young male CEO

Injection centres help addicts quit

UBC's Okanagan campus marks record enrolment

Discovery of gene mutations may be key vs. ovarian cancer



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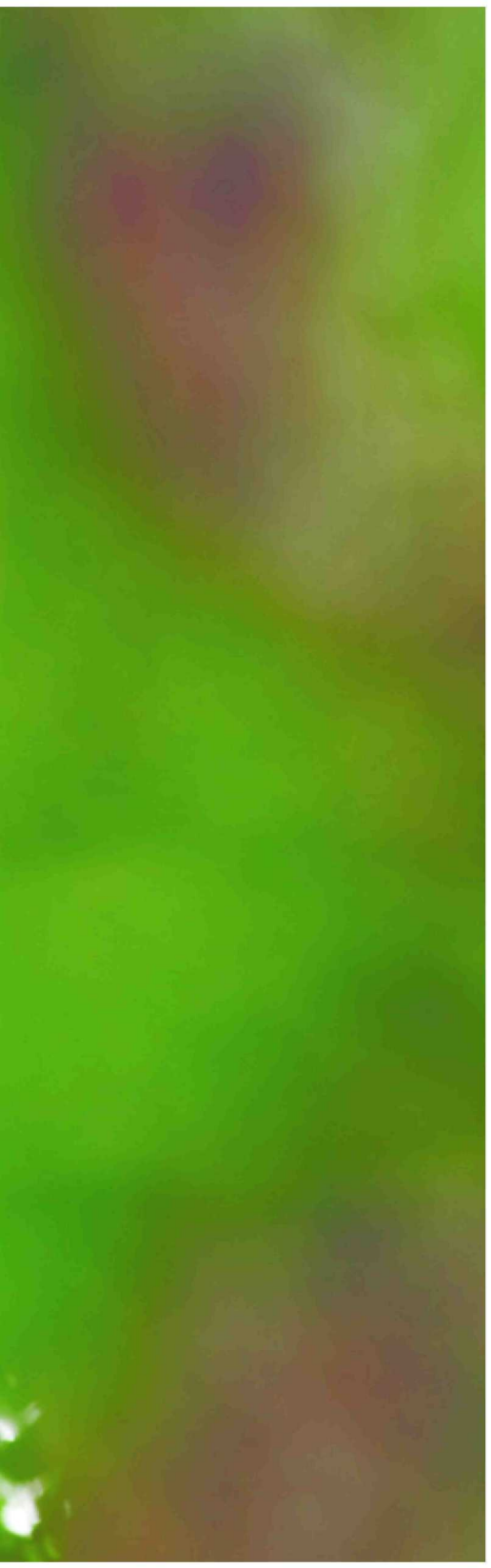
DR. GRAHAM BR

Cancer patients often seek to boost their immune systems by taking high doses of supplements such as vitamin E, garlic or green tea, which are all high in antioxidants.



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"It is helpful to hear from patients what aspects of the conditions affect [them] most as this 'priority' list may be different from the priorities outlined in the therapeutic plans in textbooks."

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Celebrate Learning

Vancouver campus profiles best practises.

October

By Heather Amos

Justin Bieber music videos, Twilight trailers and UBC tutorials on assessing joint injuries have something in common. They've all been watched more than 1 million times on YouTube.

"Sometimes I'll have to examine a patient with a knee injury in Emergency but I haven't done that examination in over a year," says Tonia Timperley, a third year medical student at UBC. "I can quickly review the special tests through the three minute video and off I go."

The videos for assessing knee, shoulder and hip and groin injuries were developed by Karim Khan, a professor in Human Kinetics and Family Practice at UBC. Now Khan and his team are developing videos that show how to prescribe treatments for these injuries.

To carry out this project, Khan received a grant from UBC's Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund (TLEF). The TLEF was created to fund projects that enable faculty and students to create and implement projects that enrich and make a positive difference in the learning experience for UBC's students.

Celebrate Learning is an annual week-long initiative on UBC's Vancouver campus that highlights student learning and development opportunities.

Khan's project is one of many TLEF projects that will be celebrated during UBC's Celebrate Learning Week, Oct. 23 – 31.

"We canvassed the health science students at UBC, the students in human kinetics, medicine and physiotherapy," says Khan. "They said they needed help with learning how to assess body parts."

Khan decided to develop some teaching aids and enlisted the help of Dr. Mark Hutchinson, a sport medicine and orthopedic surgeon, from the University of Illinois in Chicago. Khan and Hutchinson started with the knee, one of the most common injuries health care professionals come across.

In the video, Dr. Hutchinson demonstrates how to assess a patient who presents with a knee injury. He gets the patient to perform some basic movements, handles the knee and leg, and points out what to watch for. The video was broken into short segments and posted on YouTube.

"As a teacher I can direct my students to the videos," says Khan. "They serve as an extra teaching aid and they generate discussion."

"As a practitioner, I use the videos myself. I have a world-renowned expert at my fingertips."

The clips were posted on YouTube in response to UBC student feedback; students wanted to access the videos at anytime and from anywhere. And now, with more than 1 million views, it's certain UBC health science students aren't the only ones benefiting from this learning tool.

"Clinical examinations take time to learn and are challenging to learn through a book," says Timperley, who initially worked on developing the videos. "I can visualize what I saw on the video as I examine patients and go through a stepwise process that an expert has just done in front of me."

As part of Celebrate Learning Week, a poster display featuring a variety of TLEF projects will be found on the main floor of the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, from Monday Oct. 25 through Friday Oct. 29.

Celebrate Learning is an annual week-long initiative on UBC's Vancouver campus that highlights student learning and development opportunities.

"Celebrate Learning is an opportunity to acknowledge teaching and learning innovation and to explore possibilities of further enhancing learning environments at UBC," says Anna Kindler, Vice Provost and Associate Vice-President of Academic Affairs.

"It also provides a chance to confirm UBC's commitment to excellence in teaching and to re- emphasize the value that we attribute to faculty contributions to the education of our students." ●

Celebrate Learning events will be held all over campus between Oct. 23 and Oct. 31.
For more information, visit: www.celebratelearning.ubc.ca

23
Conference for Learning and Academic Student Success (CLASS)
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Hebb Theatre and Irving K. Barber Learning Centre

24
Online AMS Tutoring: Chem, Econ, Physics, Math
4 – 10 p.m.
Windows Live Messenger

25
Learning Technology Vision Day
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Lillooet Room
Irving K. Barber Learning Centre
1961 East Mall

26
Learning Café (Oct. 25 – 27)
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Buchanan B214
1866 Main Mall

27
UBC Learning Circle
10 – 11:30 a.m.

28
Allies in Health Care: 2nd Annual Community and Patient Fair for Health Professional Education
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
West Atrium, Life Sciences Centre
2350 Health Sciences Mall

UBC Learning Conference: Exploring the Dimensions of an Exceptional Learning Environment
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Golden Jubilee Room
Irving K. Barber Learning Centre
1961 East Mall

29
Photography Competition Awards Ceremony—"What is Learning?"
12 p.m.
Buchanan B214
1866 Main Mall

30
Family Science Day at UBC Faculty of Education
11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Neville Scarfe Building
2125 Main Mall

31
Man Ray Curator Talk with Dr. Wendy Grossman
3 – 5 p.m.
Michael M. Ames Theatre
Museum of Anthropology
6393 N.W. Marine Drive

Putting it in writing

Okanagan undergrad travels to remote village to help preserve Indigenous language

By Jody Jacob

Student researcher **Chara DeVolder** visited remote Papua New Guinea villages to help preserve endangered Indigenous languages.

DeVolder worked within the PNG villages of Kamiali, Alēso, Kui, Apoze, Lambu, Kela. There are four slightly different dialects among the villages. Here is an example of some of the words that will be included in the dictionary:

Turtle

do *(Kamiali)*
do *(Alēso)*
do *(Kui)*
zo *(Apoze)*
za *(Lambu)*
sa *(Kela)*

Coconut

yu *(all villages)*

This is a good man

tambu deneŋ anda *(Kamiali)*
tambu deneŋ anda *(Alēso)*
tambu deneŋ anda *(Kui)*
tambu deneŋ anda *(Lambu)*
tamu deneŋ anda *(Apoze)*
tamu deneŋ anda *(Kela)*

Grandmother

abiya *(Kamiali)*
abiya *(Alēso)*
abiya *(Kui)*
abiya *(Apoze)*
nabo *(Lambu)*
anabo *(Kela)*

Chara DeVolder is helping preserve an Indigenous language by putting it into written form for the first time. The fourth-year anthropology student at UBC's Okanagan campus spent two months this summer in a remote village in Papua New Guinea (PNG), researching how words are created—the morphology—and how sentences are formed—the syntax—in the Kala language.

Under the direction of UBC researchers and anthropologists John Wagner and Christine Schreyer, DeVolder assisted in working with elders and community leaders from six villages to create a writing system for their language which, until very recently, was entirely oral. She spent the rest of the summer preparing the first draft of a dictionary that she plans to send back to the villages this fall for review.

"There are so many different languages in PNG that a common language was needed to communicate amongst one another easily," says DeVolder. "That language is called Tok Pisin. But the problem is that younger generations are learning Tok Pisin instead of their native languages, and because there was no standard alphabet or writing system, elders worried their native languages could eventually be lost, along with all the traditional knowledge that is embedded within them."

DeVolder's study of morphology showed the Kala language classifies plants and animals through the use of morphemes (parts of words that have meaning). For example, most fish names start with "i", most trees start with "e", and most birds start with "mã". These prefixes express what kind of plant or animal it is, while the rest of the word is usually a description of the species. So the fish name "imbiritam-bogadi" literally means "fish that has spear eyes."

The language preservation initiative began after Professor Wagner, who has been doing research in PNG for more than a decade, was approached by village elders about their language concerns. He contacted Schreyer, who specializes in linguistics research and endangered language preservation, to see if she was interested in the project. DeVolder has taken a number of Schreyer's classes and jumped at the chance to do undergraduate work with the pair in PNG.

"What I think made this project really special is that we didn't go into these villages and say, 'I think this is what you need to do,'" reflects DeVolder. "It was the people from the villages who approached John and said 'these are our concerns; are you able to help?'"

DeVolder says the researchers met with everyone from the community and formed a committee with at least one man and women from each village. "People were so welcoming and grateful," she says. "That made me feel like this project really meant something special."

Before they left, the UBC researchers brought together local teachers, committee members, and anyone else who was interested in the writing system from all six villages and held a workshop on the written language and developing language curricula materials.

"This isn't just something we did and handed over; we helped them learn how to use it and teach it and we provided them with some materials and tools so they could immediately begin teaching, learning and preserving the language," DeVolder says.

The dictionary she is making will give the communities another resource for children to use while learning their language, and will help adults from other villages become proficient in Kala as well.

DeVolder says her experience in PNG made a greater impression than she ever could have dreamed.

"It was so different there. We had to take a two-hour boat ride across the ocean to get to the village," she says. "I had to walk down a beach and climb a tree to get cell phone reception. We cooked over a fire. I planted banana trees, dug up potatoes and walked around barefoot."

After graduating in 2011 with her Bachelor of Arts degree, DeVolder wants to find a career that will allow her to continue working with people and their languages. ●

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Photographs courtesy of **Accessible Science Initiative**

Led by PhD student **Olga Pena**, UBC students (in green T-shirts) facilitated science experiments ar

Born and raised in a rural area in the Andean region of Tolima, Pena's elementary school-educated parents encouraged her and her siblings to pursue higher education for hopes of a better life—her brothers are a civil engineer, an agronomist and a soon-to-be lawyer. Pena, the only one in her family fluent in English and the first to pursue post-graduate studies, was admitted to the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, a top private university in Bogota, at the age of 16. Following her undergraduate degree in Bacteriology and two years of "adventure" that took her to the University of Southern California, Pena was recruited to UBC last year by world-renowned microbiologist Bob Hancock.

"Olga is a brilliant student," says Hancock, Canada Research Chair in Pathogenomics and Antimicrobials and best known for developing a peptide that fights infections from superbugs and salmonella by boosting the body's own immune system. "I'm extraordinarily pleased to have her in my lab."

And it was in Hancock's lab that Pena was exposed to a new idea: global citizenship.

Hancock's involvement with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's Grand Challenges in Global Health, UBC's Neglected Global Diseases Initiative and the campus chapter of Universities Allied for Essential Medicines rubbed off on her and her lab mates, says Pena.

"We have a very multicultural lab, with graduate students, post-docs and technicians from India, Spain, Germany, Serbia, Africa, Australia and Iran," says Pena. "In our discussions we came to the conclusion that developed countries place

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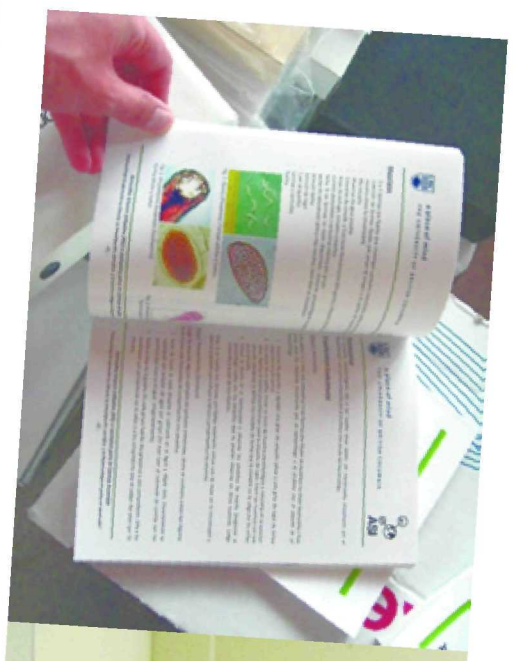

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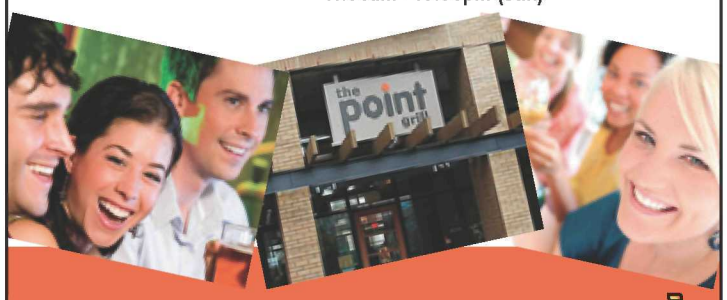

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Many events are ***FREE*** and open to UBC faculty, staff, students, and the community.
For a full listing and description of events, visit:
www.celebratelearning.ubc.ca
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The UBC Auto Rickshaw study team:
Prof. **Milind Kandlikar**, UBC Liu Institute for Global Issues and IRES
Prof. **Steve Rogak**, UBC Canada Research Chair in Clean Energy Systems
Doctoral student **Conor Reynolds**, Resource Management and Environmental Studies
Post-doctoral student **Andy Grieshop**, IRES
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Mechanical Engineering student **Christie Lagally**

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LAND USE PLAN WORKSHOPS: OCTOBER 13 AND 14
(PLEASE ATTEND ONLY ONE)

- Wednesday, October 13: 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., SUB Ballroom, 6138 Student Union Blvd., UBC
- Wednesday, Oct 13: 6 p.m. – 9 p.m., Tapestry, Wesbrook Village, 3338 Wesbrook Mall, UBC
- Thursday, Oct 14: 6 p.m. – 9 p.m., West Point Grey United Church, 4595 West 8th Avenue, Vancouver

Please RSVP to Stefani Lu, *stefani.lu@ubc.ca*, and let us know which workshop you'll be attending.
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Steven Davis
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Buchanan re-born

By Loren Plottel

Over the past 50 years, thousands of students, faculty and staff have made the Buchanan complex the hub of everything "Arts." And while each classroom, lecture hall and courtyard bench tells a story, it was high time for a makeover of the complex.

This fall, that makeover will be complete with the final landscaping of the Buchanan courtyards. The design concept will transform the courtyards into welcoming plazas filled with natural light and ample seating while retaining the buildings' Modernist roots.

Originally built between 1958 and 1960, the Buchanan complex has been a strong but subtle landmark at the north end of the campus. With more than 12,000 students comprising the Faculty of Arts, space has become a premium for the largest faculty at UBC. Students were badly in need of updated spaces to study and to connect with their peers and professors.

Renovations to the Buchanan complex have been underway for several years through UBC's sustainability building renovation program, UBC Renew. The buildings have been completely revitalized, their original structures kept intact but the interiors reconfigured, refurbished, and serviced with new energy-efficient building systems. UBC Renew diverts large amounts of material from the landfill by renovating older campus buildings instead of demolishing them and building new, and renovations meet Canada Green Building Council LEED silver standard or better.

A leader in green university development and infrastructure, UBC has also taken a holistic approach to sustainability in ways that support the community as a whole. Working with Trade Works Custom Products, a social enterprise that trains and employs women in the Downtown East Side, the wooden arms were removed from more than 420 recycled seats, carefully stripped of the old paint, hand-sanded, refinished and reinstalled on the seats. They are now proudly in place in a lecture theatre in Buchanan A, a fresh new look for old seats that might have otherwise been disposed of.

And the original seats that were removed from Buchanan A? They made it onto the walls as an acoustic treatment, a nod to the past that's both visually interesting and functional, and a way to further reduce renovation waste. ●

For more information on Trade Works Custom Products and the Women's Workshop, check out the Trade Works website at www.tradeworks.bc.ca.

For information about other Learning Space projects, visit the Classroom Services website at www.students.ubc.ca/classroomservices.

“We need to fully understand the fundamental molecular control of plant growth and development before we start planting genetically modified trees.”

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Each department sets its own submission deadline.
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UBC FA

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5
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91 refugee children can participate in a weekly after-school homework club that builds cognitive skills, self confidence, and social networks

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174 seniors can overcome social isolation through health and wellness programs, assistance accessing community services, and peer counseling

UBC's United Way Campaign

Michael McKnight, President and CEO of United Way of the Lower Mainland (left), with UBC President **Stephen Toope**.

UBC's Pierre Ouillet, vice-president finance, resources and operations, is going to jail and he won't come out. **Ouillet will be stuck behind bars until he raises $250 for bail.**

By Heather Amos

This year's campaign for the Lower Mainland is being co-chaired by UBC President Stephen Toope

Ouillet's jail stunt on Nov. 10 is one of many fundraisers planned for the 2010 UBC Community United Way Campaign, which kicked off Sept. 20.

UBC has been involved with the United Way campaign for more than 20 years. Every year, students, residents, staff and faculty join together to raise money for the United Way of the Lower Mainland.

UBC's annual campaign is one of many workplace campaigns that contribute to the overall annual campaign put on by the United Way of the Lower Mainland. This year's campaign for the Lower Mainland is being co-chaired by UBC President Stephen Toope.

"The United Way helps people right here in our own backyard," says Lynn Newman, who is co-chairing the UBC campaign with Steve Tuckwood. "One in three people in the Lower Mainland benefit from the services, programs or research funded by the United Way."

To get this message across, Newman and Tuckwood are hoping the entire UBC community—residents, students, staff and faculty—will get involved.

"This year we've broken the campaign up. Each vice-president portfolio is responsible for putting on a mini campaign," says Tuckwood, associate director of Development.

"We want people to get to know one another and get exposure to how other units work," says Newman. "After the campaign is over, it will be that much easier to work together on other projects."

UBC and the United Way of the Lower Mainland have collaborated for many years, examining social issues and identifying solutions with a focus on prevention.

UBC has also been involved in the Loaned Rep program for over 20 years. Each year, two UBC employees are 'loaned' to the United Way to serve as an extension of United Way staff.

"This program provides the loaned rep with significant professional development and the opportunity to learn about the community surrounding and supporting UBC, as well as the importance of social responsibility," says Prof. Toope.

"They return to UBC ready to take on greater challenges and enrich our community through the experience they gained."

While Prof. Toope and two other UBC employees are working away on the Lower Mainland campaign, the UBC community can get involved right here on campus. A pancakes race, a gala night, and many other fundraising activities are planned for the 2010 UBC Community United Way Campaign. ●

For more information about the campaign or to make a donation, visit www.unitedway.ubc.ca

UBC research and the United Way

A quarter of Grade 4 public school children in Vancouver say that they are not doing well in overall health and well-being, suggests research coming from a partnership between the Vancouver School Board, United Way of the Lower Mainland, and UBC's Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP).

The study found that 26 per cent of Grade 4 children were categorized as low in child health and well-being, and another 34 per cent were considered medium. These findings indicate that less than half of Vancouver's children are thriving and meeting their fullest potential.

"Our findings suggest a clear and urgent need for increased attention to the social and emotional well-being and health of children during the middle childhood years," said Kimberly Schonert-Reichl, the principal investigator of the study, and a professor in UBC's Faculty of Education and HELP. ●