

UBC REPORTS

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By Gavin Wilson photo

Bird's Eye View

The man behind the binoculars is birder Reto Riesen, a research associate in the Dept. of Chemistry. Riesen is one of the campus members of the Vancouver Natural History Society who leads a weekly birding walk on campus. They meet Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. at the Flagpole Plaza. For more information call Jeremy Gordon at 822-8966.

Hearing set to probe 49 APEC complaints

A public hearing into the conduct of members of the RCMP during the APEC leaders' meeting will be held in Vancouver beginning April 14.

The hearing will be conducted by the RCMP Public Complaints Commission, which has received 49 complaints related to demonstrations on the UBC campus during the APEC conference last November, including one filed by UBC President Martha Piper on behalf of the university.

The Public Complaints Commission is an independent federal agency that conducts impartial reviews of complaints against RCMP members.

Commission Chair Shirley Heafey said the hearing is the best means to assure the public that the complaints are thoroughly and impartially reviewed.

The hearing's agenda will include complaints regarding the use of force, inter-

ference with freedoms guaranteed by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and treatment of people in police custody, including female protesters who were strip-searched before being detained in police cells.

Before they can appear, complainants must satisfy the hearing's panel that they have a substantial and direct interest in the complaint. The panel has the power to summon witnesses by subpoena and to receive evidence under oath or by affidavit.

Members of the panel appointed by the commission include Vina Starr, John L. Wright and Gerald Morin.

The hearing is expected to take several weeks and will be held at 300 W. Georgia, room 214.

Meanwhile, an internal RCMP investigation of APEC-related incidents is continuing.

Access to education gets boost in budget

Federal budget initiatives aimed at improving access to post-secondary education and reducing student debt loads drew high marks from members of Canada's university community, although some said the measures didn't go far enough in improving access for students.

"The budget includes an integrated and focused approach that will transform the way Canadians view access to post-secondary education," said UBC President Martha Piper, following the budget announcement by Finance Minister Paul Martin Feb. 24.

"These measures are particularly relevant for B.C. We have one of the lowest participation rates in post-secondary education in the country. This will help us improve access," she said. "Restoration of funding to the major research granting agencies is also a very positive development that should result in a renewed flow of money into university research."

Paul Davenport, chair of the Association of Universities and Colleges of

Canada (AUCC) and president of the University of Western Ontario, also supported the budget, stating that measures to help lower student debt, improve access, and to restore funding to granting agencies reflect the government's commitment to knowledge and accessibility.

The budget included a number of tax incentives and new programs aimed at encouraging Canadians to pursue higher education by reducing financial barriers and making student debt loads easier to manage.

The Canadian Opportunities Strategy, costing in excess of \$5.5 billion to the end of 2000-2001, includes a number of key elements that will affect students.

• Canada Millennium Scholarships will be awarded annually to 100,000 full- and part-time students in financial need who demonstrate merit and who are studying in publicly funded institutions, including universities and colleges. Individuals can receive up to a maximum of \$15,000 over four academic

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Student film attracts festival attention

by Gavin Wilson

Staff writer

A photo of two young men embracing, a funeral announcement, a painting — these are the images that begin the student-produced short film *From the Ashes*.

About AIDS, grief and loss, *From the Ashes* is a first film by student Kevin Cottam, but one that's catching the attention of film festival programmers from Halifax to Tokyo.

Peggy Thompson, a

professor in the Dept. of Film, Theatre and Creative Writing, credits Cottam's background in modern dance and especially as a figure skating choreographer for *From the Ashes'* accomplished visual style.

Cottam has worked with some of the biggest names in the ice-skating world, including Kurt Browning and Kristi Yamaguchi, and is currently revamping a large ice show in Europe.

The film's story is told with few words. Instead, images, situation, mu-



Cottam

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“liking and learning mathematics”

MARIA KLAWE

Computer Science, Electronic Games for Education in Math and Science (E-GEMS)

Think About It.

UBC RESEARCH

Letters

Dying tree raises concern

Editor:

It is with alarm that I notice a second large tree slowly dying outside the Fine Arts Library, not 100 paces from the site of a redwood which

died a couple of years ago due to over-zealous garden building around its base.

The tree now in question is a western red cedar which has had almost its entire root system buried in tar and cement with cars parking right up to the trunk and doing extensive damage in the process.

Is this an institute of higher learning or what? Didn't the

people in charge of the trees around the library learn their lesson when the 75-year-old redwood died? Or will we watch another tree die and then say "Oh dear?" again? Or is there a quiet movement afoot to kill all the large trees in the vicinity of Main Library?

So many questions, so few answers!

**Neville West
Vancouver**

Budget

Continued from Page 1

years of undergraduate education. Commencing in the year 2000, the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation, with an initial immediate endowment of \$2.5 billion, will award scholarships with the intent that the endowment will be drawn down by the year 2010. The foundation will be managed by a quasi-independent board of directors composed of private citizens.

• Canada Study Grants of up to \$3,000 a year will be given to some 25,000 students in financial need who have children or other dependents.

• All students will be allowed a 17 per cent, non-refundable federal tax credit on the interest paid on their student loans. The Canada Student Loans Program will also be modified to extend interest relief to more students and to permit the deferral of repayments beyond the normal period.

• Beginning in 1999, students can make tax-free withdrawals from their RRSPs provided they

are enrolled in full-time education for at least three months during the year. Withdrawals must be repaid in installments over 10 years.

• Part-time students will now be permitted to claim the education tax credit of \$60 per month and can deduct child-care expenses.

However, some were not impressed with the budget and its implications for students and education.

Ryan Marshall, co-ordinator of external affairs for UBC's Alma Mater Society, applauded government efforts to improve access for students demonstrating need and merit, but expressed concern for students who will "fall through the cracks" before the scholarship program is implemented in 2000. And while the budget will help students deal with their debts, he said the government should take more action to ensure students are not forced to acquire large debts in the first place.

"They're using the balanced budget to put some money back into education, which is good. But it's a smaller amount than what they've already taken away."

UBC Economics Prof. Robert Allen, a nationally recognized expert on the economics of post-secondary education in Canada, also criticized the budget's contributions to post-secondary education.

"Except for the restoration of funding to the federal granting agencies, this budget does little for education, because it doesn't transfer money to universities. Since there is no extra money for universities, access to edu-

cation is not improved at all."

All three of Canada's federally funded research and development granting councils, the Medical Research Council (MRC), the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), had their budgets restored — to 1994-95 levels — following several years of budget cuts.

"The renewed support for university research is very encouraging," said Bernie Bressler, UBC's vice-president, Research. "Cuts to the MRC, NSERC, and SSHRC budgets in recent years have taken a toll on university research across Canada. The restoration of funds to these agencies shows the government is recognizing the value of our contributions."

"This budget shows that the government has acknowledged the role of education and research in maintaining Canada's competitiveness in the global economy. Moreover, the government has recognized the critical need to provide students with skills and experience required to meet the challenges and opportunities of our growing knowledge-based economy."

NSERC President Thomas Brzustowski called the funding of the research councils an "extraordinarily important decision."

"Canada's young people will be very encouraged by the increased allocation for university research. It will help many of them directly to pursue post-graduate studies in research and to develop their talents to the full," he said.

Ashes

Continued from Page 1

sic and dance are used to describe how a young concert pianist (played by Stephen T. Yorke, a doctoral student in the School of Music) has given up on life since the death of his lover.

Fluid camera work, a lush set that features paintings by Joe Average and Mandy Williams, and a film within a film of dancer Alvin Tolentino combine to create what Thompson calls a "visually stunning" effect.

"I'm so used to working with movement that for me the camera has to have movement as well," Cottam says.

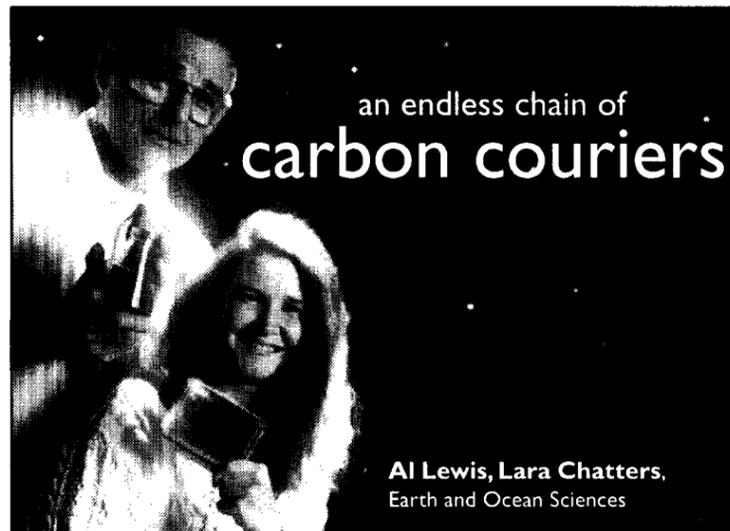
While the visuals came naturally, he admits that his screenwriting needed work, and he's grateful for the help Thompson and his fellow students gave as they critiqued his script.

"It's been brilliant. Peggy really pushes us to work within a structure, but in a way that is as creative as possible," he says.

Cottam also credits the department with helping to get the connections and resources needed to make the film, which was produced with the assistance of Cineworks, an independent filmmaking cooperative in Vancouver.

From the Ashes was the opening short for The Hanging Garden at the Atlantic Film Festival and has been seen at festivals in Ottawa, Barcelona and Madrid. It will also be screened later this year at gay and lesbian film festivals in Tokyo, Melbourne and Torino, Italy.

Watch for it on the Knowledge Network program The Independent Eye on March 16 at 10 p.m., and March 18 at 11 p.m.



Al Lewis, Lara Chatters,
Earth and Ocean Sciences

The world's oceans are a major buffer of carbon dioxide. Plant plankton on the ocean surface convert this greenhouse gas into organic carbon. Tiny animal plankton then eat the plants and carry the carbon to deeper waters. Like an endless chain of carbon couriers, they help reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide. Al Lewis and Lara Chatters observe the role of gravity on these couriers in ice-cube-sized chambers aboard the space shuttle to better understand the oceans' buffering ability.

Think About
Space

Think
About It.

UBC RESEARCH
www.research.ubc.ca

Breakfast with the President

If you would like to have breakfast with President Martha Piper on **Tuesday, March 17** from **7:30-9:00 a.m.**

please contact the Ceremonies Office (phone 822-2484) and leave your name, department, position and contact phone number.

Ceremonies will then contact the first 20 names received to reconfirm their attendance.



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Secondary students score in math, science

by Gavin Wilson

Staff writer

Canadian students score near the top of the class in math and science skills, according to a survey of senior secondary students in 24 countries released by UBC researchers.

Students from across Canada were among those tested in the latest round of the Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS). The results compare students in their last year of secondary school: Grade 12 in most provinces, Grade 12 and Ontario Academic Credits (OAC) in Ontario, and second and third year of CEGEP in Quebec.

"The results indicate that the achievement of Canadian students in math and science compares favorably to that of other countries, including our major trading partners," said Prof. David Robitaille, international co-ordinator of TIMSS and head of UBC's Dept. of Curriculum Studies in the Faculty of Education.

One part of the study looked at math and science literacy for all students, testing how much they knew and could apply. The study also surveyed physics and math skills among students studying these subjects at an advanced level.

In math and science literacy, Canadian students did as well as or better than students from 17 of the 20 countries taking part in the literacy component of the study. Scores for B.C., Alberta and Ontario were at the same level as Canada as a whole, while the literacy score was lower in New Brunswick.

Canadian students also performed strongly in advanced mathematics, doing as well as or better than students from 13 of the 15 countries taking part in the math component. Scores for Alberta and Ontario were at the same level as Canada's, while B.C.'s score was significantly lower.

Canada performed considerably less well in physics. Canadian student performance on the physics test was as good as or better than that of students from nine of the 15 countries taking part in the physics component. Alberta and Ontario students were at the same level as the Canadian average, while B.C. students performed significantly better.

The study also compared scores of the top five per cent of students. Canada's top five per cent scored significantly above the international average in both advanced math and in math and science literacy. Their scores were essentially the same as the international average in physics. Canada was the only G-8 country whose top students achieved two scores above the international average in this part of the study.

TIMSS is the largest international study of student achievement ever undertaken. Half a million students at five grade levels in 40 countries have been tested. The most recent results complement those released in 1996 for Grade 8 students and last year for Grade 4.

Funding for Canadian participation and international co-ordination of the study was provided by Human Resources Development Canada, Industry Canada and the B.C. Ministry of Education.



Stephen Forgacs photo

Room With A View

Cory Ripley, a Capilano College graphic design student, admires an installation entitled Activity Cell by Vancouver artist Steven Shearer. Shearer's artwork, and that of artists Myfanwy MacLeod, Damian Moppett, Ron Terada, Geoffrey Farmer and Kelly Wood, is on display at the Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery to March 29.

Advanced education ministry reborn in shuffle

A separate ministry for post-secondary education was revived in provincial cabinet changes announced Feb. 18. Andrew Petter will serve as the new minister of Advanced Education, Training and Technology.

"This is a positive move," says UBC President Martha Piper. "It shows that government values the contribution of education and university research to the economic strength of this province."

Advanced education last had its own ministry in 1993.

The change will help address B.C.'s economic challenges through a focus on jobs, investment, education and training, the government says.

In his new role Petter will oversee

universities and colleges, skills and worker retraining, student loans, social assistance recipient jobs, disabilities, science and technology, information and privacy.

UBC Economics alumnus Gerry Armstrong will serve as deputy minister of the new ministry. Stuart Culbertson will serve as deputy for the technology portion of the portfolio.

Petter takes over advanced education from Paul Ramsey, who will continue as minister of Education responsible for kindergarten through Grade 12.

Petter, who previously held the post of minister of Finance and Corporate Relations, is currently on leave from the University of Victoria where he is an associate professor in the Faculty of Law.

HIV mothers' decision focus of nurse's study

by Stephen Forgacs

Staff writer

Women living with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) face difficult decisions regarding child bearing. And despite the risks and challenges, many are deciding to bear children.

To better understand the factors that influence these decisions, UBC School of Nursing doctoral candidate and registered nurse Amandah Lea has launched a research project.

"Women with HIV will continue to have children," Lea says. "And with no cure, this has implications for the future."

The chance of a woman who is HIV-positive bearing a child with the virus is about 25 to 30 per cent, Lea says. However, use of the drug AZT during pregnancy reduces the likelihood of transmission to eight per cent, she adds.

Still in the early stages of her research, Lea has interviewed 19 women with HIV about their decisions to have, or not have children, and six primary support people — boyfriends, common-law partners or husbands — identified by some of the women.

"Understanding the way multiple factors influence an HIV-positive woman's reproductive decisions will help create services and health policies to improve their and their families' quality of life," Lea says.

Lea will examine issues such as the influence social perceptions regarding HIV and child bearing, and family support, or lack of it, have on reproductive decision making.

The majority of Lea's initial participants

have a history of substance abuse, and have annual income levels of under \$20,000. Half received high school education, and the other half graduated from high school or have had some post-secondary education.

Lea, who is recruiting study participants with the assistance of doctors and HIV support workers, also intends to include women with higher income and education levels as well as women who do not have a history of substance abuse in the study.

Any woman with HIV interested in participating in the study who fits the previously listed criteria is encouraged to contact Lea at 222-1013. Participants will receive an honorarium for each

completed interview.

From March 6-7, Lea and other health-care professionals will participate in the Women, Children, Youth HIV/AIDS conference in Vancouver. The conference is sponsored by UBC's Continuing Education in Health Sciences. Call 822-4965 for information.

Lea's research is supported by the Medical Research Council/National Health Research Development Program, B.C. Health Research Foundation, the Canadian Nurses' Foundation, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing (USA) and the Canadian Nurses Foundation.

Correction

UBC Killam Research Prize recipients receive \$5,000. An incorrect figure was published in the Feb. 19 issue of UBC Reports.

T-Birds surf to top spot to take national titles

UBC swimmers dominated the national university swimming championships recently, winning 18 gold medals and bringing UBC its 39th and 40th national championship titles, and second and third in this academic year.

Both the men's and women's teams won championship titles in the Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union (CIAU) competition in Quebec. This is the first time UBC's men and women have won simultaneous titles, and the first time in 33 years that the men's team has claimed top spot. This is the women's fourth national title in five years.

The men won 10 gold medals and the women eight. The teams also won 10 silver and six bronze.

Olympian Sarah Evanetz and 1997 World Aquatic Championships medalist Mark Versfeld, who each won five gold medals and one silver in individual and relay events, led the attack.

Evanetz set a meet record in the 100-metre butterfly and was part of a

relay team that missed breaking a national record in the 4x100-metre freestyle by three-tenths of a second. The men's and women's relay teams won gold in every race with the exception of a silver medal performance in the women's 4x200-metre freestyle.

Medal winning swims also came from Katie Brambley, Glencora Maughan, Amanda Marin, Kelly Doody, Dustin Hersee, Greg Hamm, Jake Steele, Brent Sallee, Tim Peterson, and Shawn Van Hoof. Medal winning relay teams included swimmers listed above as well as Liz Edwards, Bambi Roy, Kevin Johns and Sveto Zvijerac.

Tom Johnson, coach of UBC's men's and women's teams, was selected as CIAU men's team Coach of the Year and tied for CIAU women's team Coach of the Year.

Final team standings saw UBC women with 488 points, ahead of Toronto with 417.5. UBC men finished with 660 points, ahead of Calgary with 437.

Calendar

March 8 through March 21

Sunday, Mar. 8

UBC Music At The Chan Centre Concert
Jane Coop, piano. Chan Centre at 3pm. Tickets available through Ticketmaster. Call 280-3311.

Monday, Mar. 9

UBC Student Composers' Concert
Music Recital Hall at 12:30pm. Call 822-5574.

Institute of Applied Mathematics Colloquium
Symmetries, Integrating Factors And Ode Patterns. Prof. Edgardo S. Cheb-Terrab, Math. CSCI 300 at 3:30pm. Call 822-4584.

Mechanical Engineering Seminar
Engineering Challenges At Noram. Clive Brereton, Project Engineer, Noram Engineering & Constructors. CEME 1204 from 3:30-4:30pm. Light refreshments. Call 822-3770.

Astronomy Seminar
Probing The Large Scale Inhomogeneities Through Weak Lensing Of Distant Radio Source. Arif Babul, UVic. Hennings 318 at 4pm. Refreshments at 3:30pm. Call 822-2267.

Biochemistry And Molecular Biology Discussion Group Seminar
RNA Folding And Recognition. James Williamson. IRC #5 at 3:45pm. Refreshments at 3:30pm. Call Dr. McIntosh 822-3341.

Green College Resident Speaker Series
True Tales Of The South Pacific: Canadian Expatriates In Papua New Guinea. Sian Upton, Anthropology and Sociology. Green College at 5:30pm. Call 822-1878.

Green College Special Lecture
The Problem Of Urban Crime: London 1660-1760. John Beattie, U of Toronto. Green College at 7:30pm. Call 822-1878.

UBC English Students' Society Presentation
The Orphan Muses. Vancouver Little Theatre at 8pm. Continues to Mar. 14. Tickets: \$9 adults; \$7 concession; \$6 (Mar. 9). For reservations, call 876-4165.

Tuesday, Mar. 10

Microbiology And Immunology Seminar Series
Tune In, Turn On, Develop Transcription Activation By The B. Subtilis Response Regulator. SpoOA. Dean Rowe-Magnus. Wesbrook 100 from 12:30-1:30pm. Call 822-3308.

Botany Seminar
Molecular Biology Of Phenylpropanoid Metabolism In Weeds And Trees. Carl Douglas. BioSciences 2000 from 12:30-1:30pm. Call 822-2133.

Animal Science Seminar Series
Extending Feeding Volumes In Sea Cages. Keng Pee Ang. MacMillan 256 at 12:30pm. Refreshments. Call 822-4593.

Pharmaceutical Sciences Seminar
Paclitaxel Loaded Microspheres: Solid-State Characterization And Evaluation In Vivo In A Rat Model. Richard Liggins. IRC #3 from 12:30-1:30pm. Call 822-4645.

Institute of Asian Research Seminar

Asian Financial Crises And Its Impacts On China. Fan Gang. National Economic Research Institute, China Reform Foundation. CK Choi 120 from 12:30-2pm. Call 822-2629.

Lectures In Modern Chemistry
Systematic Development And Assessment Of Bioactive Bismuth Compounds. Prof. Neil Burford. Dalhousie U. Chemistry B-250 (south wing) at 1pm. Refreshments at 12:40pm. Call 822-3266.

Oceanography Seminar
Ensemble Neural Networks And Probability Forecasts Of El Niño. Benyang Tang. Earth and Ocean Sciences. BioSciences 1465 at 3:30pm. Call 822-3278.

Metals And Materials Engineering
Composite Sol-Gel Coating. Quanzu Yang. Frank Forward 317 from 3:30-4:30pm. Call 822-1918.

Statistics Seminar
Robust Confidence Intervals And Bootstrap. Matias Salibián-Barrera. CSCI301 from 4-5:30pm. Refreshments, bring your own mug. Call 822-0570.

Centre for Applied Ethics Colloquium
Ethics Of Action Research. Lorraine Greaves. Centre for Excellence in Women's Health. Angus 415 from 4-6pm. Call 822-5139.

Green College Speakers Series
Statius' Thebaid And The Legacy Of Virgil's Aeneid. Karla Pollman. U of St. Andrews. Green College at 5:30pm. Reception. Graham House from 4:45-5:30pm. Call 822-1878.

Health And Medicine Lecture Series
TBA. Sharon Manson Singer. Social Work. Green College at 8pm. Call 822-1878.

Wednesday, Mar. 11

Orthopedics Grand Rounds
The North American Tour: A Report - The Seattle Ankle And Foot Experience. Dr. Alastair Younger. St. Paul's Hospital. Vancouver Hosp/HSC. Eye Care Centre Aud. at 7am. Call 875-4192.

Surplus Equipment Sale
SERF Task Force Warehouse from 12noon-5pm. Call 822-2582; 822-2813.

Pacific Spirit Family And Community Services Noon Hour Series
Connecting With Courage: Feminist Reflections On A Women's Outdoor Programme. Louise Cowin. McGill U. Social Work lower level 028 at 12noon. Call 822-4824.

Centre For India And South Asia Research Seminar
Rethinking Conventional Wisdom: Ethnicity, Ethnic Conflict And India As An Ethnic Democracy. Gurharpal Singh. Arts and Humanities. Montfort U. CK Choi 120 from 12:30-2pm. Call 822-2629.

Wednesday Noon Hours Concert
Terence Dawson, piano. Music Recital Hall at 12:30pm. Admission \$3 at the door. Call 822-5574.

Faculty Financial Planning Lecture Series
Internet Investing - A Live Demonstration. Simon Tan. TD Bank. Centre for Continuing Studies 213

from 12:30-1:20pm. Limited seating. Call 822-1433.

Opera Panel Discussion
Puccini's La Bohème: The Opera And The Production. Peggy Jameson. Vancouver Opera; Nancy Hermiston. Music; Floyd St. Clair. French. Buchanan B-212 from 12:30-1:20pm. Call 822-4060; 822-4450.

Centre For Southeast Asia Research Seminar
Community Forestry In Indonesia: Lesson From Experience For Other Southeast Asian Countries. Chris Bennett, consultant. Harvard Institute for International Development. CK Choi 129 from 12:30-2pm. Call 822-2629.

Obstetrics And Gynecology Research Seminar
Glutamate Receptors And Huntington's Disease: An In Vitro Model. Dr. Lynn Raymond. Psychiatry. BC Women's Hosp. 2N35 at 2pm. Call 875-3108.

Geophysics Seminar
Airborne Gravimetry As An Exploration Tool. Don Russell. Earth and Ocean Sciences. Geophysics. Geophysics and Astronomy 260 at 3:30pm. Call 822-1814.

Centre For Research In Women's Studies And Gender Relations Lecture Series
TBA. Amanda Goldrick-Jones. Centre of Academic Writing. Women's Studies. U of Winnipeg. Women's Studies Centre at 3:30pm. Call 822-9171.

Evolution, Ecology And Biodiversity Seminars
When Two Worlds Collide: Competition Between Feral Himalayan Tahr And European Chamois In The Southern Alps, New Zealand. David Forsyth. Zoology. FNCS 60 at 4:30pm. Refreshments Hut B-8 at 4pm. Call 822-3957.

The Interdisciplinary Seminar
Globalization: Curse Or Promise? Fred Dallmayr. Government And International Studies. Notre Dame. Green College at 5pm. Call 822-0954.

Theatre at UBC
End Game. Stephen Malloy, director. BC Tel Studio Theatre at 7:30pm. Continues to Mar. 21. Call 822-2678.

Canadian Studies Lecture
The Local Bias Of National Parties. Ken Carty. Political Science. Green College at 7:30pm. Call 822-1878.

Thursday, Mar. 12

Microbiology And Immunology Seminar
HIV-1 Vpr And Nuclear Transport. Dr. Marie Vodicka. Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Centre. Wesbrook 201 at 11:30am. Call 822-3308.

Biotechnology Lab Seminar
Interactions Between Loci Controlling Pathogen Recognition And Cell Death In Plants. Jeff Dangl. Biology. U of North Carolina. Wesbrook 201 at 12:30pm. Refreshments. Call Dr. C. Douglas 822-2618.

Human Kinetics Seminar
Stakeholder Management: The Case Of Intercollegiate Athletics. Richard Wolfe. Leisure and Sport Management. War Memorial Gym 100 from 12:30-1:30pm. Refreshments. Call 822-3913.

University Singers Concert
James Fankhauser, director. Music Recital Hall at 12:30pm. Call 822-5574.

CICSR's Distinguished Lecture Series
Trends In High-Speed NC Technology. Gunter Pritschow. U of Stuttgart. CICSR/CS 208 from 4-5:30pm. Refreshments. Call 822-6894.

Genetics Graduate Program Seminar Series
Multiple Signals Regulating GAL Transcription In Yeast. Ivan Sadowski. Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Wesbrook 201 at 4pm. Refreshments. Call 822-8764.

Physics And Astronomy Colloquium
Penrose Tiles And Quasicrystals. Paul Steinhardt. U of Pennsylvania. Hennings 202 at 4pm. Refreshments at 3:45pm. Call 822-3853.

Poetic Persuasions
Open Reading. Green College at 7:30pm. Call 822-1878.

Friday, Mar. 13

Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference
Reading, Rhetoric, Representation: The Politics Of Writing And Representation. Jo-Anne Fiske. UNBC; Frederick Hoxie. Newberry Library. Green College. Registration fee \$20. Continues to Mar. 15. Website www.interchange.ubc.ca/jennet/index.html or e-mail pmaureen@unixg.ubc.ca; kdsadiq@unixg.ubc.ca.

Centre For India And South Asia Research Conference
Fluid And Contested: Tradition In South Asia. CK Choi 120, from 12noon-9pm. Continues Mar. 14 from 9:30am-5pm. \$25; \$15 students. Call Larry Preston 822-5034; Mandakranta Bose 822-6463.

Pediatric Grand Rounds
Four Research Studies With Relevance For Pediatric Transport. Various speakers. GF Strong Aud. at 9am. Call 875-2307.

Health Care And Epidemiology Rounds
Community Health Care. Dr. Jack Altman. Community Health Services, Vancouver and Richmond Regional Health Board. Mather 253 from 9-10am. Call 822-2772.

Fish500 Seminars
Aboriginal Program: Opening Doors. Nigel Haggan. Hut B-8 Ralf Yorke at 11:30am. Refreshments at 11am. Call 822-2731.

Occupational Hygiene Program Seminar Series
Occupational Hygiene Challenges In BC's New Occupational Health And Safety Regulations. Peter

Gilmore. WCB. Vancouver Hosp/HSC. UBC. Koerner G-279 from 12:30-1:30pm. Call 822-9302.

Botany Seminar
Genetics Of Sex-Determination In Higher Plants. Sarah Grant. Biology. U of North Carolina. BioSciences 2449 from 12:30-1:30pm. Call 822-2133.

Pharmaceutical Sciences Seminar
Regulation Of Protein Kinase During Ischemia. Sung Ouk Kim. Pharmacology and Toxicology. Cunningham 160 from 12:30-1:30pm. Call 822-4645.

UBC Chamber Strings Concert
Eric Wilson, director. Music Recital Hall at 12:30pm. Call 822-5574.

Chemical Engineering Weekly Seminar
Confined Polymer Melts And Blends. Prof. A. Yethiraj. U of Wisconsin. ChemEng 206 at 3:30pm. Refreshments. ChemEng 204 at 3:15pm. Call 822-3238.

Mathematics Colloquium
Evaluation Of Fermion Loops By Iterated Residues. Prof. Horst Knoerr. Math 100 at 3:30pm. Refreshments. Math Annex 1115 at 3:15pm. Call 822-2666.

Physical Chemistry Seminar
The Spectrum Of YOH In The Visible Region. Jim Peers. Chemistry D-225 (centre block) at 4pm. Call 822-3266.

University Singers Concert
James Fankhauser, director. Music Recital Hall at 8pm. Call 822-5574.

Vancouver Institute Lecture
What Einstein Couldn't Have Known: Very Small Particles At Very High Densities. Prof. Martin Perl. Stanford U. IRC # 2 at 8:15pm. Call 822-3131.

Saturday, Mar. 14

Chinese Calligraphy Exhibition Opening Ceremony
A Foot Of Silk: A Bond Of Friendship. Yim Tse. Asian Centre Aud. at 2pm. Call 822-0810.

Sunday, Mar. 15

Chinese Calligraphy Exhibition
A Foot Of Silk: A Bond Of Friendship. Yim Tse. Asian Centre Aud. from 11am-5pm. Continues to Mar. 22. Call 822-0810.

UBC REPORTS

CALENDAR POLICY AND DEADLINES

The *UBC Reports* Calendar lists university-related or university-sponsored events on campus and off campus within the Lower Mainland.

Calendar items must be submitted on forms available from the UBC Public Affairs Office, 310-6251 Cecil Green Park Road, Vancouver B.C., V6T 1Z1. Phone: 822-3131. Fax: 822-2684. An electronic form is available on the *UBC Reports* Web page at <http://www.publicaffairs.ubc.ca>. Please limit to 35 words. Submissions for the Calendar's Notices section may be limited due to space.

Deadline for the March 19 issue of *UBC Reports* — which covers the period March 22 to April 4 — is noon, March 10.

Calendar

March 8 through March 21

Monday, Mar. 16

Nutrition Week
SUB concourse from 10am-3pm. Guest speaker. Free samples, contests. Call 221-6276; 221-8902.

Innovation '97 Spring Festival
Growing Imagination Flower Display. SUB Plaza. Call 822-3827

Peter Wall Institute Crisis Points Group Lectures
Biological Spatial Models: Stochastics Effects Of Fluctuations On Ecological And Epidemiological Models. Simon Levin, Princeton U; Birger Bergersen, Physics, St. John's College Lounge from 2:30-4:30pm. Refreshments. Call 822-3620.

Mechanical Engineering Seminar
On The Capture Of A Satellite Using A Variable Geometry Manipulator. S. Ueno, Yokohama National U. CEME 1204 from 3:30-4:30pm. Refreshments. Call 822-3770.

Biochemistry And Molecular Biology Discussion Group Seminar
Protein Tyrosine Phosphatases: Their Role In Signal Transduction. Jack Dixon, Biological Chemistry, U of Michigan. IRC #5 at 3:30pm. Refreshments. Call Dr. Johnson 822-8980.

Astronomy Seminar
Abundances In A Metal-Rich Open Cluster From A Blue Horizontal Branch Star. Ruth Peterson, Hennings 318 at 4pm. Refreshments at 3:30pm. Call 822-2267.

Tuesday, Mar. 17

Innovation '97 Spring Festival
Dumpsters in Bloom Painting Contest. SUB Plaza from 11:30am-1:30pm. Call 822-3827.

Microbiology And Immunology Seminar Series
C. Fimi's Sweet Dreams Mad-Man Mannan Degradation. Dominik Stoll, Wesbrook 100 from 12:30-1:30pm. Call 822-3308.

Botany Seminar
A Cis-Acting Element And A Putative Trans-Acting Factor Critical For Developmentally Regulated Expression Of The 4CL 1 Gene. Jennifer Jones, BioSciences 2000 from 12:30-1:30pm. Call 822-2133.

Animal Science Seminar Series
Physiology And Energetics Of Fishes In Tidepools. Kazumi Nakano, Animal Science, MacMillan 256 at 12:30pm. Refreshments. Call 822-4593.

Lectures In Modern Chemistry
Transition Metal Methylidynes: The Simplest Organometallic Compounds. Prof. Anthony Merer, Chemistry B-250 (south wing) at 1pm. Refreshments at 12:40pm. Call 822-3266.

Peter Wall Institute Crisis Points/Math Biology Seminar
Biological Spatial Models: Microbiology And Ocean Turbulence: Competition And Coexistence. Various speakers. Math 203 from 1:30-3:30pm. Refreshments. Call 822-3620.

Metals And Materials Engineering
Pressure Acid Leaching Of Lateralite. Guizhen Chen, Frank Forward 317 from 3:30-4:30pm. Call 822-1918.

Oceanography Seminar
Effects Of Advection And Diffusion On The Formation Of Red Tides. Tamiji Yamamoto, Applied Biological Sciences, Hiroshima U. BioSciences 1465 at 3:30pm. Call 822-3278.

Graduate And Faculty Christian Forum
Cosmic Coincidences: Is Modern Cosmology Consistent With A Divine Shaping Of The Universe? Sir John Houghton, Scarfe 100 at 4:30pm. Call 822-4351.

Green College Speakers' Series
Ethnocentric Assumptions In Social Science: The Example Of Family Roles Among SE-Asian Refugees In Canada. Phyllis Johnson, Family and Nutritional Sciences, Green College at 5:30pm. Reception Graham House from 4:45-5:30pm. Call 822-1878.

Wednesday, Mar. 18

Innovation '97 Spring Festival
Golden Dumpster Awards. SUB Plaza at 12noon. Call 822-3827.

Wednesday Noon Hours Concert
Chor Leon Men's Choir. Diane Loomer, director. Music Recital Hall at 12:30pm. Admission \$3 at the door. Call 822-5574.

Obstetrics And Gynecology Research Seminar
Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection Could Minimize The Incidence Of Prematurely Condensed Human Sperm Chromosomes. Dr. Sai Ma, BC Women's Hosp. 2N35 at 2pm. Call 875-3108.

Geophysics Seminar
Inversion In Applied Geophysics. Doug Oldenburg, Earth and Ocean Sciences, Geophysics, Geophysics and Astronomy 260 at 3:30pm. Call 822-1814.

Centre For Research In Women's Studies And Gender Relations Lecture Series
TBA. Svetlana Polenina, Institute of State and Law, Russian Academy of Sciences, Women's Studies Centre at 3:30pm. Call 822-9171.

Evolution, Ecology And Biodiversity Seminars
TBA. Simon Levin, Princeton U. FNSC 60 at 4:30pm. Refreshments Hut B-8 at 4pm. Call 822-3957.

Graduate And Faculty Christian Forum
Prayer In A Scientific Age: Does Prayer Make Sense To A Scientist? Sir John Houghton, Co-Chair of the Scientific Assessment for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Scarfe 100 at 4:30pm. Call 822-4351.

Respiratory Research Seminar Series
Tuberculosis: Elimination, Immigration And Confabulation. Dr. Kevin Elwood, Medicine, Vancouver Hosp/HSC, Doctors' Residence 3rd flr. conference from 5-6pm. Call 875-5653.

Comparative Literature
Contemporary Women Writers And Patriarchalism In Guatemala. Marcela Saldivia-Berglund, Hispanic and Italian Studies, Green College at 5:30pm. Call 822-1878.

Theatre At UBC
The Good Person Of Setzuan. Craig Holzschuh, director. BC Tel Studio Theatre at 7:30pm. Continues to Apr. 4. Call 822-2678.

History And Memory: Reposition The Past
Souvenir/Art/Histories: Iroquois Examples. Ruth Phillips, Director, MOA, Green College at 7:30pm. Call 822-1878.

Senate Meeting
Regular Meeting Of The Senate. UBC's Academic Parliament. Curtis 102 at 8pm. Call 822-2951.

Thursday, Mar. 19

Board of Governors Meeting
Open Session Begins At 8am. Fifteen tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis on application to the Board Secretary at least 24 hrs before each meeting. OAB Board and Senate room. Call 822-2127.

Innovation '97 Spring Festival
Our Buildings Shine Team Campus Cleanup. SUB Plaza from 11:30am-1:30pm. Call 822-3827.

Microbiology And Immunology Seminar
Engineering Enzymes For Bioremediation: Studies Of A PCB-Cleaving Dioxygenase. Lindsay Eltis, Biochemistry, U Laval, Wesbrook 201 at 12noon. Call 822-3308.

Science First Lecture Series
Repairs On Central Nervous System: Engines, Accelerators And Brakes. John Steeves, Zoology, Wesbrook 100 from 12:30-1:30pm. Website www.science.ubc.ca/seminars/seminarseries.html or call 822-5552.

Graduate And Faculty Christian Forum
Global Warming: Fact Or Fiction? Sir John Houghton, Co-Chair of the Scientific Assessment for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Scarfe 100 at 4:30pm. Call 822-4351.

Genetics Graduate Program Seminar Series
TBA. Dr. Keith Humphries, Medicine, Wesbrook 201 at 4pm. Refreshments. Call 822-8764.

Physics And Astronomy Colloquium
TBA. Evan Evans, Hennings 202 at 4pm. Refreshments at 3:45pm. E-mail arz@physics.ubc.ca; young@physics.ubc.ca.

1998 George J. Spencer Memorial Lecture
Why Do Insect Herbivores Specialize On Plant Hosts? Prof. E. Bernays, U of Arizona. FNSC 60 at 4:30pm.

Governing Modern Societies
Is Social Democracy Dead? Ronald Beiner, U of Toronto, Green College at 5pm. Call 822-1878. Reception Graham House from 4:15-5pm. Call 822-1878.

Agricultural Sciences Lecture
From Garbage To Green Peppers: A Partnership In Building Communities. Judy Zuk, Community Liaison, Brooklyn Botanical Gardens, Planetarium Pacific Space Centre at 7:30pm. Call 822-2620.

Critical Issues In Global Development
An African Niche Economy: The Challenges Of A Long-Term Study Of Urban Provisioning. Jane Guyer, Anthropology, Northwestern U. Green College at 8pm. Call 822-1878.

Friday, Mar. 20

Pediatric Grand Rounds
New Developments In Infant Psychiatry. Pratibha Reebye; Hira Panikkar, Infant Psychiatry, BC, Children's Hosp. GF Strong Aud. at 8:30am. Call 875-2307.

Health Care And Epidemiology Rounds
Stochastic Modelling Of Localized Outbreaks Of Measles. Dr. Steve Marion, Mather 253 at 9am. Paid parking available in Lot B. Call 822-2772.

Fish500 Seminars
Game Theory: Basic Concepts And Application To Fisheries Management. Rashid Sumaila, Chair, Michelsen Institute and Fisheries Centre, Hut B-8 Ralf Yorke at 11:30am. Refreshments at 11am. Call 822-2731.

Innovation '97 Spring Festival
Celebration Party. SUB Plaza from 12noon-2:00pm. Call 822-3827.

Earth And Ocean Sciences Colloquia
A Window On The Past: Tracking Global Climatic Changes Using Lake Sediments. John Smol, Paleocological Environmental Assessment and Research Lab, Queen's U. GeoSciences 330-A at 12:30pm. Call 822-3278.

Occupational Hygiene Program Seminar Series
Protein Adducts Of Benzene Oxide And Benzoquinone As Biomarkers Of Exposure To Benzene. Karen Yeowell-O'Connell, Environmental Science and Engineering, U of North Carolina, Vancouver Hosp/HSC, UBC, Koerner G-279 from 12:30-1:30pm. Call 822-9302.

Pharmaceutical Sciences Seminar
Optical Imaging Of Neuronal Activity In Limbic Structures Of Freely Behaving Cats. Morton Kristensen, Pharmacology and Toxicology, Cunningham 160 from 12:30-1:30pm. Call 822-4645.

Collegium Musicum Concert
John Sawyer; Ramona Luengren, directors. Music Recital Hall at 12:30pm. Call 822-5574.

Canadian Studies Lecture
Canada And The Five Chinas. Prof. Anthony Chan, Director, Canadian Studies Center, U of Washington, Green College Coach House at 12:30pm. Call 822-2147.

Chemical Engineering Weekly Seminar
Controlling The Dynamics Of Soft Spheres: From Polymeric To Colloidal Behaviour. Dimitris Vlassopoulos, Institute of Electronic Structure and Laser, ChemEng 206 at 3:30pm. Refreshments ChemEng 204 at 3:15pm. Call 822-3238.

Mathematics Colloquium
Metastability For Reaction-Diffusion Systems. Michael Ward, Math 100 at 3:30pm. Refreshments Math Annex 1115 at 3:15pm. Call 822-2666.

Graduate And Faculty Christian Forum
Stewardship Of A Biosphere In Crisis: Scientific And Religious Insights. Sir John Houghton, Scarfe 100 at 3:30pm. Call 822-4351.

Comparative Literature
Tango, Identity And The Circulation Of Texts. Richard Young, U of Alberta, Green College at 3:30pm. Call 822-1878.

Physical Chemistry Seminar
Density Corrections To The Transport Coefficients. Saman Alavi, Chemistry, Chemistry D-225 (centre block) at 4pm. Call 822-3266.

Commerce Faculty Research Excellence Award Winner Lecture
Billion Dollar Molecules: The Economics Of Pharmaceutical Research And Development. Iain Cockburn, Policy Division, Angus, E.D. MacPhee Centre 125 at 4:30pm. Refreshments at 4:15pm. Call Jessie Lam at 822-8518.

UBC Music At The Chan Centre Concert
Arditti String Quartet, Chan Centre at 8pm. Tickets through Ticketmaster. Call 280-3311.

Saturday, Mar. 21

Cecil And Ida Green Lecture
Two Versions Of Christian Warfare: The Crusades And The Byzantine Empire. Angeliki E. Laiou, Director, Dumbarton Oaks Centre, Harvard U. IRC #2 at 8:15pm. Call 822-3131.

Notices

UBC Medical School
Needs male and female volunteer patients of any age, healthy or ill, to help students learn how to interview and complete an external physical examination. Time commitment is two-four hours. Tues-Thurs. p.m. Travel expenses paid. Call Vancouver Hosp/HSC at 875-5943.

Parents With Adolescents
Are you interested in learning how family conversation and activities are integral to the career development of your adolescent? Mothers and fathers with their 14/15 year old(s) are invited to participate in parent adolescent conversations about career at UBC. Six-month follow-up. \$100 honorarium. Call Dr. Richard Young's project team, Counseling Psychology, 822-3985.

Relationship Research Study
Heterosexual men (25 years of age and older), in relationship of greater than six months needed. Complete questionnaire at home; receive \$10. Call 822-2151.

First Nations Career Fair
The First Nations House Of Learning is hosting a Career Fair on March 19. It is a mini-conference for First Nations high school students interested in attending UBC. UBC faculty, staff, or students who wish to provide information about their department, program or service can contact Verena Cootes-Wilhelmson, First Nations Student Services Co-ordinator. E-mail wilhelms@unixg.ubc.ca or call 822-8941.

Call For Proposals
Research on Women And Gender: Graduate Student Presentation Day, Thursday, April 1. Deadline for submission is March 20. Call 822-9173.

First Nations Print Collection Exhibit
Showcases 22 works by several well-known First Nations artists, including Mark Henderson and Richard Hunt (Kwakwaka'wakw), Vernon Stephens (Gitksan), Roy Henry Vickers (Tsimshian), and Robert Davidson (Haida). MOA to Apr. 12. Call 822-5087.

News Digest

English Assoc. Prof. Margaret Blom will be presenting "Tom Sawyer: A True Classic" today from noon-1:30 p.m. in the Peter Kaye room at the central branch of the Vancouver Public Library.

Blom teaches the Victorian novel and children's literature and in 1997 won the UBC Killam Teaching Prize given for excellence in teaching. Her lecture is part of the Favourite Professors Speaker Series which features UBC's best teachers speaking on the topics that interest them most.

Admission is \$10 for all talks in the series, a joint presentation of the UBC Alumni Association and the Dept. of Continuing Studies. The next lecture in the series will be held in October. For more information call 822-3313.

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UBC's Alumni Association is seeking nominations for the 1998 Achievement Awards.

The awards recognize outstanding achievement of UBC graduates or honorary alumni whose work in professional research, civic, business, arts, community or athletics activities have reflected well on the university.

Nominations may be made for the following awards: Alumni Awards of Distinction; Outstanding Young Alumnus Award; Blythe Eagles Volunteer Service Award; Outstanding Student Award; Faculty Citation; Lifetime Achievement Award; and the Branch Service Award.

Last year's recipients included Honorary Alumnus Award winners former Lt.-Gov. David Lam and the late Dorothy Lam, and Nobel Prize winner Prof. Michael Smith.

Deadline for nominations is April 1. Nominations can be submitted using a form available through the Alumni Association at 822-3313 or through its Web site at www.alumni.ubc.ca/awards/awnom.htm.

Awards will be made at the annual Achievement Dinner held in October.

•••••

UBC welcomed composer Jean Coulthard back to campus recently to celebrate her 90th birthday and recognize her gift of music manuscripts and recordings to the university.

An advocate, educator and composer, Coulthard is a major contributor to Canadian culture. She has written more than 350 works in virtually all musical genres and is one of UBC's most distinguished former faculty members.

Coulthard joined the newly created UBC Dept. of Music in 1947 and remained on staff as a senior instructor and lecturer until her retirement 1973.

The valuable collection she is giving to the university includes correspondence, family photographs, press clippings and original manuscripts of her compositions as well as published and unpublished sound recordings of performances of her work.

UBC President Martha Piper, Chancellor William Sauder, University Librarian Catherine Quinlan and guests from the music community were on hand for the celebration.

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The Science Council of B.C. is seeking nominations of individuals or small teams for the 1998 B.C. Science and Technology Awards in nine categories: new frontiers in research, solutions through research, business and education partnerships, young innovator, volunteer of the year, industrial innovation, entrepreneurial science, career achievement and science communication.

Among last year's award recipients were Metals and Materials Engineering Prof. Indira Samarasekera (New Frontiers in Research Award), and UBC alumni Gary Birch (Young Innovator Award) and Dr. Bill Hunter (Industrial Innovation Award).

The deadline for nominations is Tuesday, March 31 at 5 p.m. For information contact the Science Council at 438-2752 or visit its Web site at www.scbc.org.

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Classified

The classified advertising rate is \$16.50 for 35 words or less. Each additional word is 50 cents. Rate includes GST. Ads must be submitted in writing 10 days before publication date to the UBC Public Affairs Office, 310 - 6251 Cecil Green Park Road, Vancouver B.C., V6T 1Z1, accompanied by payment in cash, cheque (made out to UBC Reports) or internal requisition. Advertising enquiries: 822-3131.

The deadline for the March 19 issue of UBC Reports is noon, March 10.

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B & B BY LOCARNO BEACH Walk to UBC along the ocean. Quiet exclusive neighborhood. Near buses and restaurants. Comfortable rooms with TV and priv. bath. Full breakfast. Reasonable rates. Non-smokers only, please. Call 341-4975.

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Accommodation

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WESTSIDE (SALISH PARK) Furnished spacious two level executive home avail. from Sept. '98 to Apr. '99 (or shorter). 4 BR, LR, FR, library, 3.5 bath, garage. \$2200 plus util. and gardener. N/S, N/Pets, Ref. Call 266-1789.

PARIS FURNISHED STUDIO. Ideal for sabbatical. Fully equip. kit. and bathroom. U/G parking, generous closet space. S. Paris location, steps from new TGB, bus, metro, shopping. Sept. 1998 to June 1999 or negotiable. Call 732-9016.

SUNNY BASEMENT SUITE for a single non-smoking person in a quiet westside home one block north of Marine Drive on Balaclava Street. Available Apr. 1. \$550/month. Call 822-9370/266-1390(eve.)

House Sitters

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Shared Accommodation

ROOMIES Seeking mature responsible N/S environmentally/socially active female (male?), N/pets, Apr. 1. Lg. bsmt. room, own bath, cheerful Douglas Park house, garden, mountain view, mainly vegetarian, \$372/m excl. Geza, Annette 873-5504, geza@portal.ca.

Services

UBC FACULTY MEMBERS who are looking to optimize their RRSP, faculty pension and retirement options call Don Proteau, RFP or Doug Hodgins, RFP of the HLP Financial Group for a complimentary consultation. Investments available on a no-load basis. Call for our free newsletter. Serving faculty members since 1982. Call 687-7526. E-mail: dproteau@hlp.fpc.ca dhodgins@hlp.fpc.ca.

PRESCHOOL available for 3 and 4 year olds. Mornings or afternoons. UBC Child Care Services. Call 822-5343.

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Next ad deadline:
noon, March 10

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Sean Kelly photo

Warm Up

Early spring weather inspires third-year Music students Shalyn Stevens, natural horn (left), and Geeta Das, trumpet, to warm up outside the Music Building before band practice.

Poison Centre dispenses know-how 'round-the-clock

by Hilary Thomson

Staff writer

What do buttercups, vitamins and oven cleaners have in common?

They're among the everyday items that account for almost 44,000 poisoning inquiries per year to the B.C. Drug and Poison Information Centre (DPIC) housed in St. Paul's Hospital.

"A lot of people think they only have seconds to act," says Debra Kent, education program supervisor at DPIC. "But it takes a certain amount of time for the drug to dissolve and most

poisonings can be managed at home."

Staffed by UBC pharmacists, nurses and medical toxicologists 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the centre responds to incidents of poisoning called in by members of the public and health professionals province-wide.

The staff of poison specialists also includes many UBC graduates who first worked at the centre as pharmacy or emergency medicine residents or doctoral candidates.

Most calls are received within 30 minutes of the poisoning

while the situation can still be controlled.

Health professionals make about 4,000 calls per year to the centre looking for consultation on concerns ranging from patient management to new information on workplace toxins. Staff provide information on such topics as drug use in pregnancy, adverse drug reactions and foreign drug identification.

The centre's staff also educate Pharmaceutical Sciences and emergency medicine students in poison management.

"The opportunities for learning are never-ending," says Derek Daws, managing director of the centre. "There are always new products to be aware of, as well as new medications including herbal medicines."

The centre also produces and maintains a guide to frequently used drugs called the *Drug Information Reference*. Electronic versions are installed in hospital pharmacy departments in over 35 hospitals in Canada.

Most poisoning inquiries received by the centre concern children aged 10 years or younger whose parents need both first aid advice and reassurance.

With at least one child poisoned every hour in B.C., poison risks for children are the focus of Poison Prevention Week, an awareness campaign taking place March 15-21.

Kent and other DPIC staff will teach health professionals, parents, child-care supervisors and teachers around B.C. how to poison-proof a child's environment.

Kent says most poisonings result from a combination of factors. Visitors to the home may leave medicines within reach, parents may be ill or tired and unable to supervise their children well, or the child may be staying at a relative's home where toxic materials are not safely stored.

Despite the high incidence of poisonings, fewer than three children die from poisoning per year.

Individuals wishing more information on poison prevention can call DPIC at 682-5050 or toll-free at 1-800-567-8911.

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People

by staff writers

Richard Spratley, director of Research Services, has been reassigned to the Office of the Vice-President, Research.

Spratley retains responsibility for the overall management of UBC's Office of Research Services and gains responsibility for co-ordination of major UBC research proposals, research policy review and development, strategic planning, and external relations with major funding organizations.

Research Services Assoc. Dir. **Karen Moot** assumes day-to-day responsibility and signing authority for applications, contracts and agreements.

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The launch of the *Think About It: UBC Research* campaign has earned **Charles Ker** of the Public Affairs Office a bronze medal from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

The campaign promotes the diversity and value of UBC research.

The award was presented at the recent CASE District VIII conference in Seattle, Wash. which is held for member colleges, universities and independent schools in Western Canada and the U.S. Pacific Northwest.

CASE awards recognize exemplary achievements in all fields of advancement services including communications, development, public affairs and alumni relations.

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Community and Regional Planning Prof. Emeritus **Peter Oberlander** is among a group of distinguished experts who will advise the federal government on climate change issues.

Oberlander participated in the recent National Forum on Climate Change organized by the Canadian National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy. The forum comes in the wake of international talks on global warming held in Kyoto, Japan.

An expert on the relationship between rapid urbanization and climate change, Oberlander taught for four decades at UBC and is a member of the Order of Canada.

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Profile

Keeping the records straight

Prof. Luciana Duranti put 17th-century monks to work for the Pentagon

by Gavin Wilson

Staff writer

Three hundred years after a monk from Antwerp dared to ask a question that shook the Benedictine order to its foundations, the Pentagon came looking for the answer. Luciana Duranti was ready.

A professor in the School of Library, Archival and Information Sciences, Duranti knew the key lay in the field of diplomatics. This 17th-century science of authenticating records was developed by Benedictine scholars to defend against the monk's question, which challenged the order's right to its wealth and property.

The Pentagon had a problem common to every institution and business that uses computers — how to produce and maintain reliable and authentic electronic records. It had just spent \$2 million on a new records system. The system didn't work.

The search for a solution led them to Duranti, the only academic in North America doing theoretical research on the topic. Suddenly, she was working with experts in artificial intelligence, computer science and knowledge engineering.

Although archivists were once dismissed as the keepers of dusty old records, their knowledge is proving essential in this electronic age, when records and files can be as fleeting as electrons.

"Digital technology has given us record-making systems, not record-keeping systems. Their fragility is beyond belief," says Duranti. "But the solution is not so much a technological one as it is one of policy, procedure and method."

Why are record-keeping systems so important?

Ask Oliver North. The aide to former U.S. president Ronald Reagan was found guilty because a function of his computer's operating system exposed his role in the Iran-Contra scandal. He tried to cover his electronic tracks, only to leave a record of those same attempts.

"He was good, but not good enough," Duranti smiles.

Ask the pharmaceutical companies which are required by law to keep all their scientific notebooks for many decades.

Ask the businesses which are trying to find secure ways of conducting commerce on the Internet.

Records play a crucial role in most human endeavors. They are essential to all of our business and social interactions. They are the basis of our legal system. Government functions and accountability, medical treatment and



Gavin Wilson photo

When important information can be as fleeting as a blip on a computer screen, ensuring reliable records are kept is a challenge for even the largest organizations. Library, Archival and Information Sciences Prof. Luciana Duranti's research helps them find the solution.

scientific research all depend on them. Even records that may not seem important at the time they are produced may well have historical value later.

"The history of Renaissance art is written in the ledgers of the Vatican," Duranti says. "They tell you which artists were working, who commissioned their work, what colours they painted with, where they painted and who their collaborators were. They are much more reliable than biographical accounts because they were not written for posterity."

While no one can deny the importance of records, we have rushed into the computer age without considering the implications. Storing paper is one thing, but no standards exist for electronic records.

"The greatest threat we face is the nonchalance with which people treat electronic records. There is far too much accidental destruction and manipulation. We've already lost the last five generations of electronic records. The few we have cannot be proven reliable or authentic. It's a

tragedy," Duranti says.

Adding urgency is a recent U.S. court decision that ruled a printout of an e-mail is not a valid or even a complete copy of a record. E-mails must be kept in electronic form to be considered authentic.

More challenges lie ahead. Technological obsolescence is the monster, Duranti says.

"As technologies change, records will have to be migrated to new systems, and every time you do that, you may lose up to 40 per cent of the original information. The question is, what is it that we can afford to lose and still have a reliable and authentic document?"

To find a solution, Duranti turned to diplomatics. Scholars had continued to refine the Benedictines' science in the two centuries following its invention. The intellectual foundation of archival science, diplomatics is still taught in European law schools and in departments of history and philology.

Diplomatics defines records by their components. For example, all records

involve at least five persons: an author, addressee, writer, originator and creator. The relationship between them gives clues as to whether or not a record is to be trusted.

There are hundreds of such elements in each record and they can be applied to any form and medium of record, whether it is a clay tablet or an infrared photo taken from a satellite orbiting the earth.

The link between diplomatics and electronic records may not have happened if it were not for Duranti's unplanned move to Canada from Italy 10 years ago.

She was enjoying "la dolce vita" in one of the world's great cities, Rome. She had a tenured position at the university, her husband worked as a nuclear engineer, their two children were enrolled in good preschools and they had vacation homes in the mountains and by the sea.

"Our future," she says, "was all laid out for us."

Her husband's two-year stint at Atomic Energy of Canada to supervise a CANDU contract brought them to Toronto. While doing research, Duranti visited various universities, including UBC. Students who heard her speak asked her to apply for a position being advertised just then. She did.

"My husband and I never really talked about it, but subliminally we were both frustrated by the lack of movement in Italian universities and bureaucracy. We are proactive people who like to test new ideas. Italy was a no-risk environment. Here it is the opposite; we saw that we could try something different and went for it."

Since Duranti's work with the Pentagon, a stream of international visitors has followed, eager to learn more about the procedures and rules she has established for preserving records on electronic systems.

She is now embarking on a new four-year project, heading up an international team that includes five universities, resource and pharmaceutical companies and seven national archives.

They will look at the problems of setting international policies, procedures and standards for the long-term preservation of authentic electronic records.

A decade ago, Duranti felt the urge to escape the sometimes oppressive traditions of Europe. Now she is proving that some of these same traditions — inscribed by monks with quill and paper — can help us solve a potentially crippling problem in the age of the microchip.