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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

UBC REPORTS

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UBC REPORTS

VOLUME FIFTY EIGHT: NUMBER FIVE

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Publisher
UBC Reports is published monthly by:
The University of British Columbia
Public Affairs Office
310 – 6251 Cecil Green Park Road
Vancouver BC Canada V6T 1Z1

Next issue: 5 June 2012

Submissions
UBC Reports welcomes submissions.
For upcoming *UBC Reports* submission guidelines: www.publicaffairs.ubc.ca/ubcreports/about.html.
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Website: www.ubc.ca/news
Tel: 604.822.NEWS (6397)
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Twitter: @ubcnews

Publication mail agreement no. 40775044
Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to circulation department.
310 – 6251 Cecil Green Park Road, Vancouver, BC Canada V6T 1Z1

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Public Affairs

Highlights of UBC media coverage in April 2012

Heather Amos

UBC RESEARCH

Jellyfish on the rise

Jellyfish populations are exploding in the majority of the world's coastal ecosystems, according to a new UBC study. The jellyfish interfere with human activities by choking seawater intake valves and drainpipes, clogging fishermen's nets, and stinging swimmers.

"There has been anecdotal evidence that jellyfish were on the rise in recent decades but there hasn't been a global study that gathered together all the existing data, until now," **Lucas Brotz**, a PhD student with the *Sea Around Us* Project at UBC and lead author of the study, told the ***Vancouver Sun***. The ***Atantic Wire***, the ***National Post*** and several other ***Postmedia News*** outlets also reported on the story.

New perfume product from trees

Secreted by sperm whales to protect their digestive systems, ambergris, often referred to as whale vomit, is used as a fixative agent in high-end perfumes to make fragrances last longer.

A team of UBC scientists, led by **Joerg Bohlmann**, identified a gene that encodes for cis-abienol, a component of fir trees that can serve the same purpose as ambergris in perfumes, reported the ***New York Times***, the ***Telegraph***, ***ABC***, the ***Globe and Mail*** and others.

"We've now discovered that a gene from balsam fir is much more efficient at producing such natural compounds, which could make production of this bio-product less expensive and more sustainable," Bohlmann said.

World happiness

The first World Happiness Report was recently completed by UBC's **John Helliwell**, **Jeffrey Sachs** of Columbia University's Earth Institute, and **Richard Layard** of the London School of Economics, reported ***The Economist***, the ***New York Times***, the ***Guardian***, the ***National Post*** and others.

The report is based on five important economic predictors of happiness– family, good health, income, sense of freedom and lack of corruption. Helliwell said the goal of the study is to compel governments to consider the happiness of their citizens when making policy decisions.

Detecting liars

The Telegraph, ***Daily Mail***, ***Sydney Morning Herald***, ***MSNBC***, and others reported on a new UBC study that reveals that four different facial muscles may divulge when people are lying.

"Our research suggests that muscles of the face are not under complete conscious control and certain muscles are likely to betray the liar, particularly in high-stakes and highly emotional situations," said study author **Leanne ten Brinke** of the Centre for the Advancement of Psychological Science and Law at UBC's Okanagan campus.

Breast cancer genes

Using genetics, a group of researchers has identified 10 distinct subtypes of breast cancer–a discovery that could change the way the disease is diagnosed and treated, reported ***The Independent***, the ***Los Angeles Times***, the ***Globe and Mail***, and others.

Scientists at the BC Cancer Agency and UBC, in collaboration with Cancer Research UK's Cambridge Research Institute and the Manitoba Institute of Cell Biology at the University of Manitoba, analyzed 2,000 samples of breast-tumour tissue. The study, published in the journal *Nature*, is the largest global study of breast cancer tissue ever performed.

UBC REMEMBERS

Irving K. Barber

Prominent Canadian and British Columbian **Irving K. Barber** passed away on April 13 at the age of 89.

Dr. Barber, the founder of Slocan Forest Products Limited, graduated from UBC's Faculty of Forestry in 1950 and received an honorary degree from UBC in 2002.

Dr. Barber was closely involved with UBC both in Vancouver and in the Okanagan. The Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, to which he donated $20 million in 2006, remains a world-leading facility and a hub of the Vancouver campus. In 2004, he donated $10 million to establish the Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences and the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre Interface Program at UBC's campus in the Okanagan.

Chill out: graduating engineer helps invent therapeutic blanket

Lorraine Chan

Martin Dee Photograph

Found on the soccer pitch at least twice a week, **Anneliese Tjebbes** says the game is a great way to recharge.

Annelies Tjebbes' engineering student days are coming to a close—and with a storybook ending.

Tjebbes has already received a full-time job offer from a B.C. medical device company where she earned rave reviews during her co-op work term this winter.

Earlier this year, Tjebbes was recognized with the Faculty of Applied Science's Outstanding Future Alumnus Award for her stellar academic career, leadership, compassion and community service.

Tjebbes has founded Kaizen Biomedical with fellow UBC engineering and Sauder School of Business students for their medical device called MobiChill. The team met in the APSC 486-New Venture Design course, which connects senior engineering and business students.

By inducing therapeutic hypothermia in cardiac arrest patients, MobiChill can reduce the risk of devastating side effects such as long term neurological damage, explains Tjebbes, who is graduating with a degree in electrical engineering—biomedical option.

"The device looks like a small blanket and can be used to quickly bring down the patient's body temperature," says Tjebbes.

Over the next months, Tjebbes and two team mates will be working to incorporate Kaizen Biomedical and getting MobiChill ready for market. "Though I'm apprehensive whether my current experience and skillset are enough to be able to bring this all the way to market, I'm certainly excited about taking our device as far as I can before passing it on to a team with more expertise. I'm really ready to be an entrepreneur and an engineer."

One of Tjebbes' motivating passions is to develop practical solutions for

"I'm really ready to be an entrepreneur and an engineer."

pressing world problems—especially in developing countries. For the past five years, she has volunteered with Engineers Without Borders (EWB). In 2009, Tjebbes received a 16-month EWB junior fellowship for international development, with a summer work term in Burkina Faso in West Africa where Tjebbes drew on her fluent French.

"It was a life changing experience," says Tjebbes, who assisted a local women's association to improve the waste reduction methods used by the community.

For recreation, Tjebbes plays with a division one team in the Vancouver Metro Women's Soccer League at least twice a week. Described as a skilled and formidable player, Tjebbes says. "It's a great way to work off frustrations." ●

For other outstanding Applied Science grads, please visit: www.apsc.ubc.ca/stars/congregation12

Brewing ideas to transform campus

Heather Amos

Martin Dee Photograph

AMS Vice President Finance **Elin Tayyar** has paved the way for change on the Vancouver campus.

When Elin Tayyar graduates from UBC in May, it will have taken him six years to complete a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and Economics. That's understandable, when you consider he's also been hard at work transforming the university.

For the past three years, Tayyar has been involved in the Alma Mater Society (AMS), UBC's student government—the last two years as Vice President Finance. Under his leadership, the AMS has eliminated a $287,000 yearly deficit and made changes that will ensure financial stability in the future.

"I saw the financial situation as a challenge," says Tayyar. "I have a passion for long-term planning and sustainability."

In turning things around, he's pioneered a number of popular campus initiatives. Among his achievements: the student-run brewpub that will go into the new Student Union Building.

The idea came from a friend who noticed the growing beer culture on campus—the UBC Brewing Club has hundreds of members and meets once a week to brew. Tayyar and AMS colleagues conducted a feasibility study that came back positive.

"The new SUB offered us the opportunity," he says. "It's a bit of a risk for a student union to take this on but it's exciting."

Of all he's done, Tayyar is most proud of setting up the AMS Sustainability Fund, where students can apply for funding for campus sustainability initiatives.

"I think it is important to value the community and collective achievements," he says.

But that's not all. Tayyar has been involved in bringing the water filling stations to campus. He also saved the AMS $1 million by renegotiating and restructuring the Student Health and Dental Plan, a plan that has previously seen several years of deficits. As a final project, Tayyar paved the way for the establishment of an arts endowment fund, which will support student art projects.

Tayyar is most proud of setting up the AMS Sustainability Fund.

After graduation, Tayyar, who has also been a member of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity since coming to UBC, plans to develop a web portal to simplify and compare information about a range of developments on energy issues. Currently named *Blue Terminal*, the site is to focus on public policy, technological, and business developments in the energy sector.

But the graduate isn't done with UBC yet. Next year, he's hoping to take on a very different role, as a host of his own music show on CiTR. ●

Richard Lam Photograph

Volleyball players **Rayel Quiring** (left) and **Kyla Richey** have won five consecutive Canadian Interuniversity Sport Championships.

Five for five

A volleyball championship for every year of study

Heather Amos

They first met when they played on rival volleyball teams in high school. They bonded at a volleyball summer camp at UBC. Now, after five years, Kyla Richey and Rayel Quiring are graduating from UBC as teammates, close friends and champions.

For each of the five years that Richey and Quiring have played on the UBC Thunderbirds women's volleyball team, they have won the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) Championships.

Richey, who grew up in Roberts Creek, B.C. and who will be graduating from the Faculty of Education's Kinesiology program, joked that after the first year championship she thought, "that felt pretty good—let's do that again four more times."

By the time Richey and Quiring made it to the playoffs in 2012, they'd decided they weren't coming home without the gold.

"There was a lot of pressure, but we put it on ourselves," said Quiring, who is from Langley, B.C. and who will be graduating with a major in human resources from Sauder School of Business.

The pair did more than win the national championships. In their last year as TBirds, both players received major awards in the sport. Quiring was named the Student-Athlete of the Year for the western division of the CIS.

Richey, a left side hitter for the team, was named the CIS player of the year, the third consecutive UBC player to win the award. She is also a member of Canada's National Team and will be in the qualifier for the 2012 Summer Olympic Games in London.

"I've learned that I have the ability to make change."

Next year, the two athletes are planning to move to Europe where they'll play pro-volleyball. But first, Quiring, is heading to El Salvador.

Quiring is leading a group of 10 UBC athletes who are volunteering with Habitat for Humanity. A partnership developed by UBC basketball alumnus Bill Humphries, this is the second contingent of UBC student-athletes that will travel to El Salvador to help build homes.

"I've learned that I have the ability to make change," said Quiring, who is also heavily involved in the community through organizations like the Canadian Cancer Society and the Vancouver Board of Trade's Leader of Tomorrow program. ●

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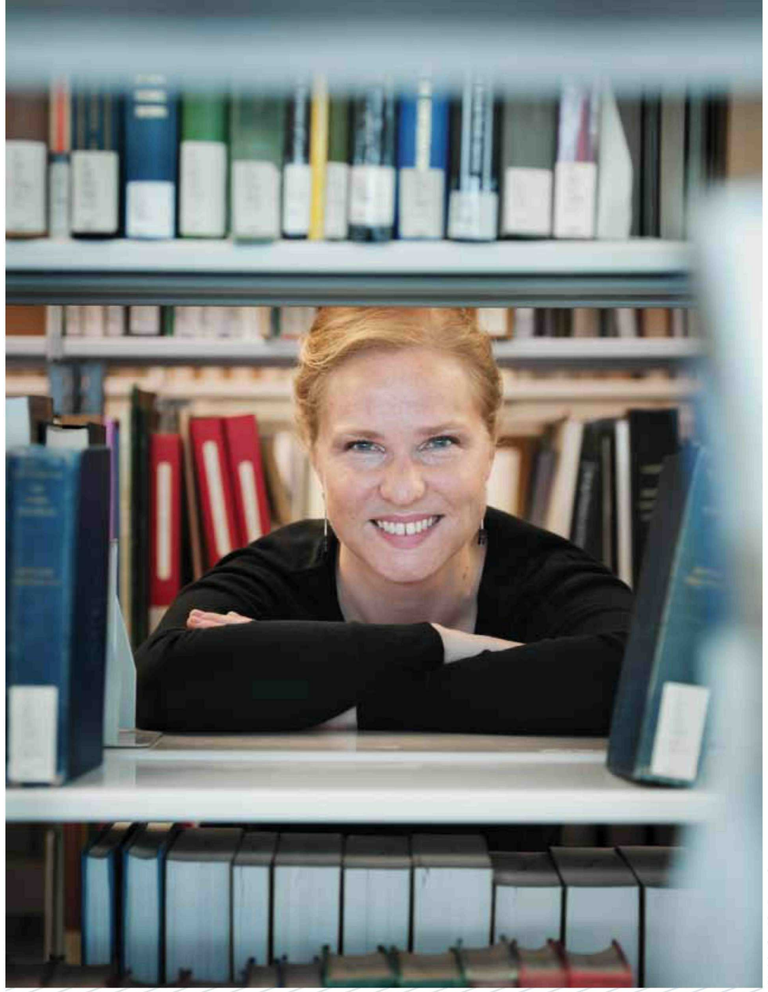
2012 HONORARY DEGREE CEREMONY

A special ceremony will be held on May 30th during UBC's spring congregation, to recognize and honour the Japanese Canadian students whose university experience was disrupted in 1942 when they were uprooted and exiled from the B.C. coast—a violation of their citizenship rights.

For more information visit: www.japanese-canadian-student-tribute.ubc.ca/the-ceremony



Martin Dee Photograph

Emily MacKinnon, a graduating law student and opera singer, will be mentored by Canada's top judge.

From opera to the Supreme Court

Simmi Puri

After graduating this May with her law degree, Emily MacKinnon will begin a prestigious clerkship with Beverley McLachlin, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada.

"One of my most memorable moments at UBC Law was the visits by various Supreme Court of Canada Justices," said MacKinnon, who is also an accomplished opera singer. "It was from them that I learned about this clerkship opportunity."

"They were unbelievably inspiring, and I was absolutely captivated by the behind-the-scenes process of coming to a decision on a case and then writing a judgment," MacKinnon said. "From the moment I discovered it was possible, I wanted nothing more than to clerk at the Supreme Court of Canada."

From performing arias to preparing court memorandums, MacKinnon's path from opera to law might not be the most traditional, but for her it was a natural fit.

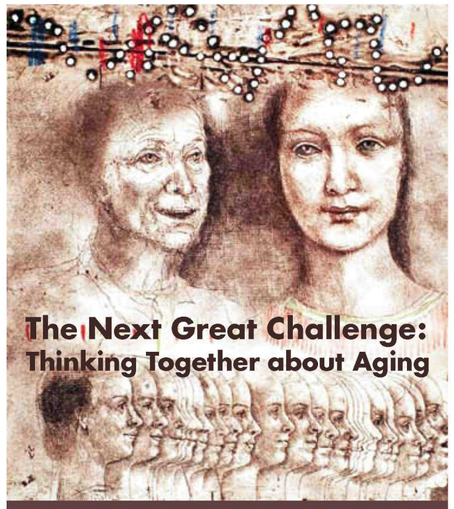
"I was craving a connection with the community and opera is a small part of the world" explained MacKinnon who obtained her masters in Ethnomusicology at UBC after completing her Bachelor's in music at the University of Ottawa. "Ethnomusicology was a way for me to reach out and be involved with something that is making a difference. But even that has its restrictions. With law, you are actually out there in the community making change happen."

MacKinnon's thesis for her Ethnomusicology MA looks at the way music is used around the world to educate people about HIV and AIDS. She carried those interests into law school, receiving a fellowship from the law firm Borden Ladner Gervais to research the criminalization of HIV nondisclosure.

"It has been exciting to use legal research to advocate for better criminal laws around non-disclosure of HIV status," said MacKinnon who is also a long-time volunteer with the Positive Living Society of B.C., a group dedicated to empowering persons living with HIV/AIDS.

After the clerkship, she returns to Vancouver to practice with the firm McCarthy Tétrault. She hopes to pursue a career in litigation. ●

Learn more about UBC Law at: www.law.ubc.ca.



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An alumna, 70 years later

Mary Nagata is one of 76 Japanese Canadian UBC students from 1942 who will be honoured this May

Heather Amos

Mary Nagata remembers how she felt, attending UBC in the 1940s as a young woman, the oldest of seven children and from a minority community.

"For me to be the first person in the family to go to university was a real privilege," said Nagata, now 90.

Nagata's parents were adamant that she and her siblings get a good education. But as a Japanese Canadian student on Canada's West Coast during the Second World War, Nagata's education plans were curtailed.

In 1942, 21,000 Japanese Canadians living on the Pacific coast were forced to leave their homes under the federal government's internment policy. Nagata was one of 76 Japanese Canadian students at UBC at the time.

Now, 70 years later, UBC is recognizing what was lost. This May, the university is awarding honorary degrees to the students who were unable to complete their UBC education and re-conferring degrees on students who completed their studies but were unable to attend their graduation because of internment.

In 1940, Nagata and her family lived on Vancouver's east side. At the age of 18, she began working towards a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in English at UBC.

"University life was very, very nice for me," she said. "I liked to study. And sharing ideas with other students was my joy."

On December 7, 1941, Japan attacked Pearl Harbour. That night, two police officers showed up at Nagata's door and asked to see her father. Although he had done nothing wrong, Nagata said the police took him away "like a criminal."

Before the spring of 1942 when internment forced Japanese Canadians in Vancouver out of their homes, Nagata's family decided to leave the city for Edmonton. They thought that prisoners, like Nagata's father, might be interned nearby.

Nagata, her mother, and siblings stayed in Edmonton for about a year before deciding to continue east to Toronto where they settled permanently. Nagata's father joined the family towards the end of 1943 but never spoke of his experience in a prisoner of war camp.

As her parents had hoped, Nagata continued her education. She studied at the University of Toronto and completed her English degree in 1946.

Nagata will not be in Vancouver for the congregation ceremony where the Japanese Canadian students of 1942 are to be honoured. But she is deeply gratified that finally, she will be formally welcomed into the UBC alumni family. ●

To read the full story and hear a clip from Mary Nagata, visit: http://www.publicaffairs.ubc.ca/ubc-reports

Mary Nagata (left) and her sister **Ruth Nagata** in the *A Degree of Justice* documentary.

"For me to be the first person in the family to go to university was a real privilege."

UBC Archives Photograph

A photograph of **Mary Nagata** from the 1942 *AMS Totem*.

Best not lie to this Psychology PhD graduate

Leanne ten Brinke can spot a lie in your facial expression

Paul Marck

Darren Handschuh Photograph

Leanne ten Brinke graduates with the first PhD in Psychology at UBC's Okanagan campus.

Microbiology's gain would have been psychology's loss if Leanne ten Brinke had followed her original academic path.

"I came to UBC because my supervisor at Dalhousie, Dr. Steve Porter, had the fantastic opportunity to develop a world-class forensic psychology program at the Okanagan campus," says ten Brinke, a native of Antigonish, N.S. She also switched her area of study from microbiology to psychology.

Ten Brinke will be the Okanagan campus's first Psychology PhD graduate at convocation this June in Kelowna.

Ten Brinke's thesis is about the behavioural consequences of high-stake emotional lies. "In particular, I examined the facial expressions of genuine and deceptive 'pleaders'—individuals who have gone on television pleading for assistance in finding their missing relatives.

"In the case of the deceptive pleaders, they actually were responsible for their missing relative's death. We found these deceptive murderers failed in replicating the sadness commonly expressed by genuinely distressed pleaders."

Her research has attracted considerable attention in Canada, the U.S. and U.K., with CBC, MSNBC, and the London Daily Telegraph among the media reporting on ten Brinke's study.

"Lying is difficult, and controlling all aspects of your behaviour is nearly impossible," says ten Brinke. "In particular, muscles in your face are likely to 'give away' your true emotions. In daily life, being able to spot these signs may save us from being conned by a shady salesman, or duped by a cheating spouse."

Ten Brinke has been supported by the Social Sciences and Health Research Council for her PhD studies. She also held a Canada Graduate Scholarship and received a Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement to travel to London and conduct research at the London Business School.

Porter calls ten Brinke a consummate and brilliant scholar.

"Leanne is an inquisitive, open-minded, intelligent scientist with a love of evolutionary psychology and a genuine desire to make a difference," says Porter. "Her interests are diverse, but at her base is a passion for unveiling the secrets of human nature through science."

Ten Brinke has received an SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship to study at the Haas School of Business at the University of California Berkeley campus in September.

Martin Dee Photograph

Erica Kiemele is bound for Harvard Medical School and destined to help inner city communities.

Life story fosters vision to serve disadvantaged

Brian Lin

Erica Kiemele may be a poster child for cultural diversity, but the Harvard Medical School-bound grad most wants to be recognized for one thing: her talent.

Kiemele has an Aboriginal mother and a Taiwanese father, but was adopted at six months by a German-English father and a Taiwanese mother. Her adoptive older brother is ethnically Chinese.

"Visually I don't have an identifiable 'look.' People see me and have no idea what I am—in addition to Aboriginal and 'some kind of' Chinese, I've been called Hispanic, Filipino, and even Egyptian once," recalls Kiemele, who will receive her Master of Science degree from the Department of Chemistry before starting medical school in Boston this fall.

"I had plenty of access to my Taiwanese heritage through my family, but growing up in Calgary, attending French immersion school, I've felt a strong need to find my Aboriginal roots and assert my identity," Kiemele says.

She has attempted to obtain official Aboriginal status—"to become a card-carrying Aboriginal"—but with limited information on her biological mother, the task has proven challenging.

"As far as I know from adoption papers, my biological mother is Aboriginal and French and most likely part of the Blackfoot Nation," she says. "She ran away from home when she was 14 and somehow ended up in Los Angeles, where she met my biological father, and that's where I was born."

Kiemele originally thought she'd become an accountant like many of her family members. "It seemed kind of practical," she says. "But to get into the University of Calgary's business school you needed two science credits, so I took Chemistry and Physics."

She did so well in Chemistry that her high school teacher encouraged her to pursue it as a major. By the time she was pursuing a PhD in Chemistry at UBC, she found her true calling after volunteering with various projects with the First Nations House of Learning at UBC, Canucks Place Hospice, Vancouver Coastal Health, the Urban Native Youth Association and BC Children's Hospital.

"I love working with children, and issues concerning Aboriginal and inner-city health really resonate with me," she says. "My time volunteering at hospitals helped me realize that I can combine my passions into a life-long career helping people."

"Despite their cultural and ethnic differences, underserved populations have a lot in common—especially in inner city communities—in terms of their health needs, ranging from addiction to diabetes to mental health," says Kiemele, whose multicultural background will be an invaluable asset in serving these communities.

The opportunity to study—and later practice—in the U.S. appeals to Kiemele's desire to spread her wings, and having been born in the U.S. makes her eligible to do both.

"In a way, my biological mother running away from home to L.A. as a teenager paved the way to my destiny—long before I knew what it was."

Deathbed promises launched master's research

Paul Marck

Lorriane Topf had already spent 19 years as a nurse when a profound experience about a broken promise convinced her she needed to go back to school.

Working as an oncology nurse in her hometown of Vernon, she encountered an elderly married couple in a hospital room. The husband was very close to death. His wife was in tears, desperate because she was unable to keep her promise of allowing him to die at home.

"I realized there was something wrong with the expectations that people put upon themselves," said Topf. "Couples promise that they will take care of each other until death, but they are unable to keep that promise."

"This couple really didn't know what supports are available. That conversation had not occurred. And that put me on the path of researching how are we supporting people who really want to stay at home to die."

Topf enrolled in the Master's of Nursing program at UBC's Okanagan campus. Her thesis is called *When a desired home death does not occur: Family caregiver experiences*. It was considered ground-breaking research, and received funding support from the Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology, the Canadian Nurse Foundation and Psychosocial Oncology Research Training.

Topf's academic supervisor, Associate Nursing Professor Carole Robinson, says it takes a special person to conduct this type of research. Topf's background and experience prepared her in many ways to interview family caregivers.

"Lorriane's research has the potential to significantly change the way we support family caregivers," says Robinson. "It is particularly timely, given the trend to frame home deaths as the gold standard."

Topf says her research reveals an issue people face in every culture. Health-care providers have a strong role to play in counselling and advising family caregivers. "It may be that Plan A is to be at home until death, and Plan B is to be home as long as possible. The question is understanding how to help caregivers work that through, and accept it."

Topf continues her nursing career in palliative care and is currently Palliative Care Coordinator, North Okanagan Community Integration Health Services, Interior Health, in Vernon. Aside from a year when she was supported through the Bryce Carnine Memorial Prize scholarship, Topf has actively worked as a nurse during her return to school.

Darren Handschuh Photograph

Career nurse **Lorriane Topf** returned to school at UBC's Okanagan campus for her Master's degree in Nursing upon discovering gaps in palliative and oncology care that often left family caregivers without adequate support.

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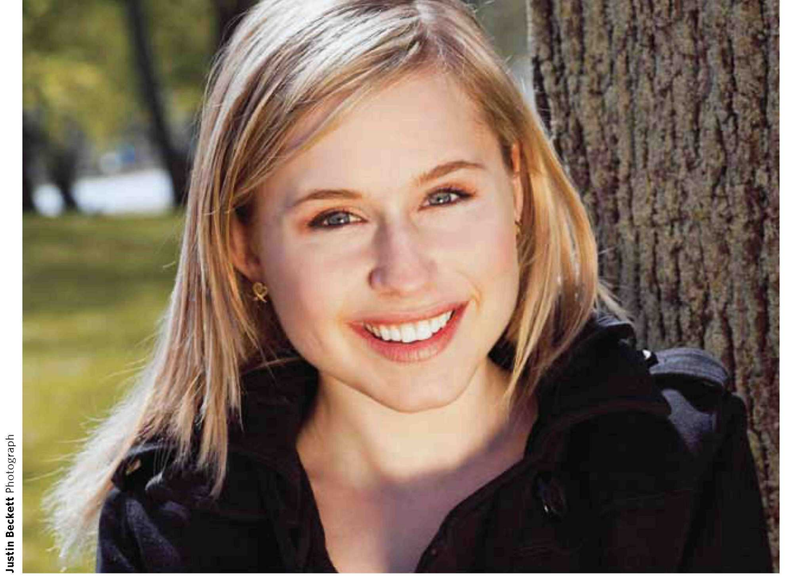

Justin Beckett Photograph

UBC psychology student **Ashley Whillans** is trading movie sets for happiness research.

‘Juno’ actress finding happiness in research

Basil Waugh

Ashley Whillans, the graduating UBC student and actress who cracked-up audiences in the hit movie Juno, has landed the perfect role.

She is set to play an award-winning research scientist working to advance global happiness. However, this time there will be no scripts or cameras. After 15 years acting, she is playing herself.

“If you follow your interests and work hard to create opportunities, life has a funny way of putting you on the right path.”

The 23-year-old will be doing her Master’s degree with UBC Dept. of Psychology happiness researcher Elizabeth Dunn to explore the benefits of volunteering.

“What excites me about psychology is how it can improve people’s lives,” says Whillans, a native of Coquitlam, B.C. “With acting you can bring people happiness for the length of a movie or a TV show, but as a happiness researcher, I feel like I have the chance to help make the world a fundamentally better place.”

Whillans’ best-known role was in the 2007 comedy Juno. During auditions, she was asked to show her best “stink eye,” to be directed at co-star Ellen Page, whose character was competing for the affection of indie it-boy Michael Cera. She left the room in stitches.

“It was a small part, so I actually thought it might get cut,” says Whillans. “But then a friend posted the trailer on Facebook with me in it. I still get recognized for it and have even had professors play the YouTube clip in meetings. I’m sure my gravestone will include something about the ‘stink-eye girl,’” she says laughing.

Accepted by several international acting schools, Whillans spent 2008 at London’s prestigious Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts. She returned and devoted her time to auditioning and acting in Vancouver’s “Hollywood North.”

After enrolling in UBC’s acting program, she says “something finally clicked” in a psychology course. She switched to honours psychology and has flourished, recently being named a Wesbrook Scholar as one of UBC’s top 20 senior students, and earning more than $15,000 in awards and scholarships in the past two years.

“If you follow your interests and work hard to create opportunities, life has a funny way of putting you on the right path,” says Whillans. “If a class excites you, ask the professor for advice, maybe you can work in their lab. There are so many opportunities once you. ●

Learn more about UBC's Dept. of Psychology at: www.psych.ubc.ca

Scan to watch **Ashley Whillans’** “stink-eye” scene in the 2007 movie Juno.

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Road to degree a personal journey

Lorraine Chan

Martin Dee Photograph

Phillip Chen is proud of having launched Sauder’s first LGBT business mentorship program for youth.

Bachelor of commerce graduate Phillip Chen has found an apartment in San Francisco and is keen to start exploring life beyond school.

Chen says he’s leaving UBC with a lot more confidence and peace of mind than when he first arrived. This past winter, Chen came out to friends and family—a process that was both terrifying and liberating.

“It took me 21 years to stop hating myself and to learn to love myself. UBC has been really, really good for me because of that,” says Chen, who was born and raised in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Chen credits the counselors at UBC Student Services for helping him navigate his way to self acceptance. Also crucial was a tight circle of friends “who sat up for hours talking with me, cooking for me, allowing me to vent, but also calling me on my b.s.”

Chen says he sees the truth in UBC’s motto of “tuum est—that it’s up to you.” In third year, Chen joined the UBC Marketing Association (UBCMA), one of Sauder’s largest student organizations aimed at networking and career opportunities. He served as UBCMA president during fourth year, where he was known for his hard work and clear, strategic thinking.

Chen is equally proud of successfully launching the first business mentorship program for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth at Sauder. Through contacts and cold calls, Chen recruited mentors from businesses that include the Certified General Accountants Association of B.C., Gay Whistler, Men’s Health Initiative and the Gay and Lesbian Business Association.

“Everyone was very responsive when I approached them because they understand about leveraging networks to help people who are just starting out.”

Chen is ready for his next adventure. “My plan is to get a job with a startup company or some other kind of business where I can observe and learn,” says Chen, who majored in marketing at the Sauder School of Business.

Eventually, Chen would like to open a “small, niche” business either in retail or the food services industry. “I would love to brand it myself.” ●

New dentist parks his longboard, but not for good

Lorraine Chan

Only a few years ago, Scott Martyna came to class on skateboard, sporting high top sneakers and a pink baseball cap worn backwards over his shaggy mane.

"Looking back on it now, I'm sure my profs were thinking, oh, man, who is this kid!" says Martyna, who graduates this month with a doctor of dental medicine (DMD) degree.

To celebrate, Dr. Martyna is heading off to Hawaii for a week with fellow grads. Martyna is also celebrating his acceptance into the prestigious oral and maxillofacial surgery program at the Washington Hospital Center, a renowned health care, research and teaching institution in Washington, D.C.

"I saw how rewarding it could be to help children function, feel and look normal."

Martyna was introduced to this field six years ago when he volunteered for a summer at the Children's Surgical Centre of Cambodia in Phnom Penh. Martyna was invited to scrub up and assist the oral surgery team treating patients including children with cleft lip and cleft palate.

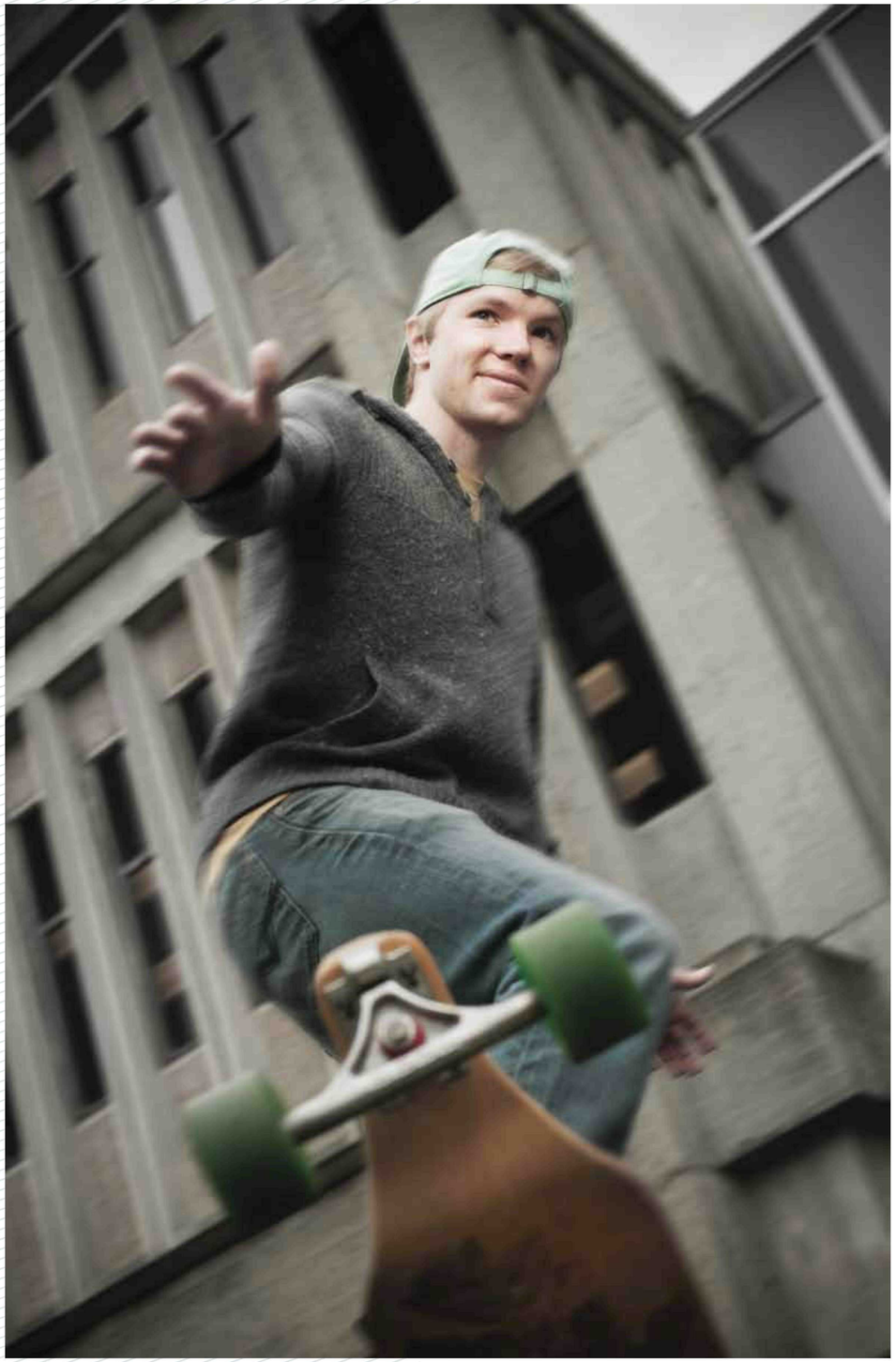
Prior to their operations, the children with these deformities had difficulty eating and speaking, Martyna recalls. "And because of cultural superstition, these kids and even their families were shunned. I saw how rewarding it could be to help children function, feel and look normal."

Martyna says the years ahead will build upon the discipline, critical thinking and decision-making skills he acquired at UBC. "The UBC program has been great for teaching us how to be very methodical and also open minded."

Martyna says he'll greatly miss the Faculty's annual "Battle of the Bands." Over beers and much competitive spirit, instructors and students jammed on their instruments and forged close friendships.

"I thought everyone would be bookworms, but I've never met a more interesting and diverse group of people. Everyone is so talented," says Martyna, who enjoys playing guitar and banjo.

Growing up in a tight-knit family, Martyna says his heart is set on eventually returning to B.C. "Both my wife and I are from Kelowna. I grew up working in the cherry orchards. And there's nothing like summer in the Okanagan, kayaking, biking, wakeboarding and swimming in the lake." ●



Scott Martyna will miss the faculty's "Battle of the Bands," a fierce but friendly competition over beers.

Martin Dee Photographs

Lizzy Foulkes aims to earn a master's degree in international public health and also see more of the world.

Grad sprouts vision of wholesome food

Lorraine Chan

Anyone who's a regular at Sprouts would recognize Lizzy Foulkes.

Located in the basement of the Student Union Building, Sprouts is a student-run café and store that promotes food security along with local, sustainable and healthy food options. Foulkes got involved right away when she came to UBC in 2008, and for the past three years has served on the Sprouts executive board, working closely with 70-plus volunteers.

Every Friday, Sprouts puts on "Community Eats." The by-donation lunch attracts close to 400 diners, eager for the wholesome soups, stews and other welcomed alternatives to the student mainstays of pizza and subway sandwiches.

Graduating with a bachelor's degree in nutritional sciences from the Faculty of Land and Food Systems (LFS), Foulkes explains her commitment to Sprouts and similar projects. "Food is one of the universal things that has the capacity to bring people together."

This was especially true at a Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood House, a non-profit society on East Hastings Street, where Foulkes completed a fourth-year LFS internship. She liked the approach of serving visitors high quality foods packed with nutrition. To eliminate long line ups, the meals were self serve, which also allowed guests to make their own food selections.

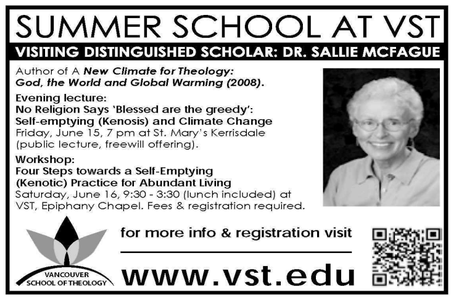
Foulkes observes, "Often, there's an attitude that we can feed vulnerable populations the stuff that no one else wants, like day-old bread or pasta past its expiry date, mixed with cheap, bottled sauce. But vulnerable populations need foods of higher nutrient density than you or I, not less."

"Food is one of the universal things that has the capacity to bring people together."

With new horizons beckoning, Foulkes says she would like to live abroad. During 2006, the Chilliwack native spent a year in Saraburi, Thailand while attending first-year university at a small college. "That experience opened my eyes to how life and humanity are so much bigger than one culture, and how important it is to keep exploring and expanding."

To challenge herself, Foulkes has also trained and volunteers as a "doula," whose role is provide physical, emotional and informational support for women through pregnancy and birthing.

"It's been a huge growth experience and as a result of working with single mums, I'm interested in seeing more accessible and woman-centred healthcare," says Foulkes. Next phase of the journey: she plans to pursue a master's degree in international public health. ●



extraordinary

SERVICE

UBC honours staff excellence

Four staff members will be recognized during graduation ceremonies for extraordinary service to UBC

Rose Harper
As the senior program assistant for Arts One and the Coordinated Arts Program, Rose Harper is known for dedication and creativity in service to faculty and students. She is recognized for her innovative efforts to promote programs, her initiatives to improve the student experience, and her success in helping students thrive in a myriad of ways in the humanities. ●

Jarnail Mehroke
Motivating students, improving techniques and modeling safe lab practices, Jarnail Mehroke is a teaching lab technician in the Department of Botany, Biology Program. He is known for always having time for students. Mehroke has been co-author of more than fifty conference presentations, He has also participated in UBC Reading Week projects that involved training high school students in science fair projects. ●

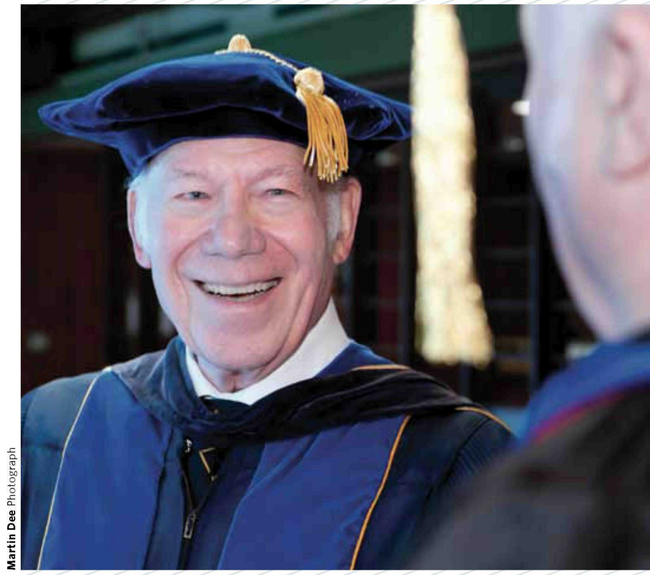
Maureen Lisle
Maureen Lisle is the visual arts technician in the Department of Creative Studies at UBC's Okanagan campus. The woodshop is her primary domain, where she assists faculty and students with wood-related art projects. She is known as a model staff member, mentor, colleague and volunteer – she volunteers for various charitable causes and has raised money for a memorial fund scholarship. ●

Peter Milroy
As director of UBC Press, Peter Milroy's leadership and technological innovation have been a driving force. UBC Press has seen a significant expansion of book production and sales, and an increase in book awards. Milroy has strengthened UBC Press' ties to a range of associations and networks that support scholarly publishing. He is recognized as a generous and consistent mentor, encouraging staff members to pursue new areas of expertise, and supporting creative thinking and innovative ideas. ●

outtakes

Shouldering ceremonial tasks

Afton Cayford



Martin Dee Photograph

Prof. Emeritus **Afton Cayford** will carry the mace again this year.

Afton Cayford, associate professor emeritus in Mathematics, is the 2011 recipient of the Slonecker Award for Outstanding Volunteer Contribution. Cayford has volunteered for graduation ceremonies on the Vancouver campus for more than 45 years. He will be carrying the mace again this year.

In the mid-1960s I was asked to help with graduation ceremonies, then supervised with great flair by Professor Malcolm McGregor. At that time, Professor Ben Moyles carried the mace and I led student processions, caught students who tripped coming down the steps, and performed various other tasks. When Ben gave up carrying the mace, Prof. John Denison and I began to share the job.

Graduation ceremonies were then held in the War Memorial Gymnasium. The move to the Chan Centre for Performing Arts increased the number of ceremonies to 23, with four ceremonies often being held each day. We soon decided to encourage other faculty members to help carry the mace.

The mace was designed by Haida carvers Bill Reid and George Norris. It was carved from a solid block of wood from a yew tree that was donated by alumni. Carrying the mace could appear daunting because it weighs about 20 pounds, but it can easily be cradled in the crook of the arm and the shoulder. Professor Moura Quayle was the first woman to carry the mace and now Professor Elizabeth Edinger often does so for Law School graduations.

"By now, I will have been one of the most photographed people at UBC."

One of the most pleasurable duties comes at the end of each graduation ceremony when the chancellor and the mace bearer oblige proud families by posing for pictures with graduating students. By now, I will have been one of the most photographed people at UBC.

The most memorable occasion for me was in April 2004, when UBC, along with SFU, granted in the same ceremony honorary degrees to three Nobel Laureates: His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Professor Shirin Ebadi. On that occasion I carried the mace for the ceremony and had the great pleasure of meeting the three illustrious degree recipients. ●

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