JANUARY 16, 2013 | VOLUME XCV| ISSUE XXXIII
CAN I DO THAT ONE MORE TIME? SINCE 1918

THE UBYSSEY

THE FUTURE ISN'T WHAT YOU THINK

MOOCs were supposed to revolutionize higher education. What happened, and what's next? **P5**

TROUBLE BREWING

AMS council votes down proposal for a microbrewery at UBC **P4**

CANTONESE CLASSES

UBC Asian studies department to develop Canada's first for-credit university Cantonese program **P3**

UBC PROF HEADING TO SOCHI P2 RACIAL DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINT DISMISSED P3
DANCING FOR SIX STRAIGHT HOURS P10 **RUGBY RIVALRY P8** CHANCELLOR SEARCH P3

WHAT'S ON // THIS WEEK, MAY WE SUGGEST...

THURSDAY / 16

RAPE CULTURE: A YEAR IN REVIEW
6 P.M.–8 P.M. @ THE GALLERY
The Terry Project's latest BarTalk will discuss sexual assault, the media and our campus.
Free, 19+

FRIDAY / 17

NARDWUAR'S VIDEO VAULT 4.0
12 P.M.–2 P.M. @ SUB 212A
Kurt Cobain, Lady Gaga, Snoop Dogg, Jean Chretien — Nardwaur the Human Serviette has interviewed them all. Come and watch old interviews that the CiTR alumnus has done during your lunch hour. Doot doo!
Free

SATURDAY / 18

CHECK OUT SOME ART
12 P.M.–5 P.M. @ BELKIN ART GALLERY
Graduating soon? Better make use of your free gallery admission status. Into art? Check out the latest collection featured at the Belkin, *The Spaces Between: Contemporary Art From Havana.*
Free

ON THE COVER

Inspired by Bret Hansen's Designer Projector project, today's cover is our take on retro futurism — or just some Adobe Illustrator messing-about. Design by Ming Wong, photos from UBC Archive, including a shot of an Arts One seminar from 1985 (top, center).

Want to see your events listed here? Email your events listings to **printeditor@ubyssey.ca**.

THE UBYSSEY

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OUR CAMPUS // ONE ON ONE WITH THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE UBC

Bob McCormack, Olympic medic, is Sochi-bound

CJ Pentland
Managing Editor, Web

When he started medical school at Queen's University, Bob McCormack had hopes of competing at the 1980 Summer Olympics in Moscow. He had come off of a successful track career during his undergrad at Queen's, setting Canadian records in the 1000m and 1500m indoors, and negotiated with the dean to take some time off and give his Olympic dream a go.

Alas, Canada was part of the boycott of those Olympics, which abruptly ended his dream of competing. But 34 years later, McCormack will get his trip to Russia as a part of Team Canada, although this time it'll be as the chief medical officer at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi.

McCormack, a UBC professor in the Faculty of Medicine and orthopedic surgeon, will be heading to his fifth Olympics as Chief Medical Officer (CMO) for Team Canada, and his ninth overall since 1976. With the position, he focuses on athlete health issues and injuries, as well as doping issues.

"Being in sports I guess I had a little bit of an association with athletic injury and such, because like most athletes I'd had a few injuries myself," said McCormack. "I decided to do [sports medicine], ... and I ended up deciding to do orthopedics, which has worked out well for me."

The Ottawa native committed himself to helping out in any way he can to work his way up the ranks. What started out as volunteering at the *Vancouver Sun* Run led to helping out with provincial championships, which led to nationals, then the Canada Games, the Commonwealth Games, the Pan-American Games, the Student University Games — and in 2000, he made his Olympic debut in Sydney as a orthopedic surgeon for Team Canada. In 2006, he went to Turin as chief medical officer, a position he's held at each Olympics since. He'll also be heading to Rio de Janeiro in 2016, and it's possible that he'll head to more after.

"The strange irony is that I wasn't able to get to the Olympics as an athlete, ... but I've gotten to way more Olympics as part of the medical staff than I ever would have as an athlete," he said with a chuckle, adding that the continuity with the position has allowed him to make Canada more prominent on the world stage. "It's worked out pretty well for me."

McCormack originally came out west to UBC to do his orthopedic training before starting his practice, initially as a clinical instructor and then eventually as a clinical associate professor. He then switched over to the academic stream, which includes working with medical students and doing research. However, since his practice is based in New Westminster, he works more with SFU athletes, which leads to some ribbing from UBC colleagues when the rival schools face off.

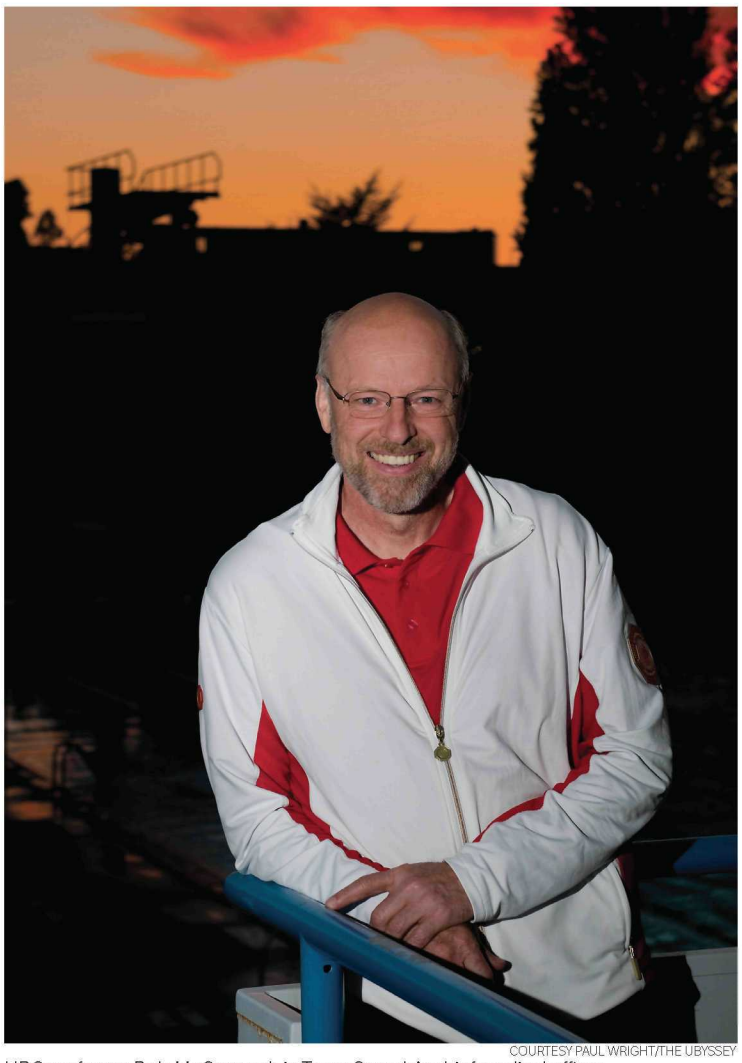
"One of the nice things about my work is that it's quite diversified. One day I'm doing research, the next day I'm doing patient care, the next day I'm at the gold medal game in hockey at the Olympics," he said. "The variety keeps it all interesting."

After working with so many athletes and at so many events, there are still specific moments that stick out. He described walking into his first opening ceremonies as "impactful," and was amazed at the support and excitement that all of Canada had during the Vancouver games. "That was amazing for me, to see how downtown Vancouver was in 2010, ... and the pride that people took in Canadian athletes."

At this point, the focus is on Sochi, and getting Team Canada to peak fitness. For some athletes, their health may not come until the day before their event, but when they eventually get out there in front of world and perhaps on the podium, it makes the work he does all the more impressive.

"I enjoy just going to the games and watching the sports because I'm a bit of a sports junkie, but it's very, very rewarding when you can help somebody else achieve their dream when everything is looking pretty black."

Turning black into gold, silver and bronze: that's what Bob McCormack does.



COURTESY PAUL WRIGHT/THE UBYSSEY
UBC professor Bob McCormack is Team Canada's chief medical officer.

OLYMPIC VETERAN

Summer or winter, Bob has been to all the Olympic games since Turin:

2006 Turin, Italy
2008 Beijing, China
2010 Vancouver, Canada
2012 London, United Kingdom

CORRECTION

Due to a miscommunication between writers and editors, we published on Jan. 10 after the AMS's all-candidates meeting in our article, "Candidates confirmed for 2014 AMS elections," that Jackson Chen was running as a joke candidate in the upcoming elections. Chen is in fact not running as a joke candidate.

The Ubyssey regrets the error, and apologizes to Jackson Chen.

EQUITY »

PHOTO STEVEN RICHARDS/THE UBYSSEY

Jennifer Chan claims UBC racially discriminated against her during their hiring process.

Racial discrimination complaint dismissed

Sarah Bigam
News Editor

The B.C. Human Rights Tribunal has dismissed the complaint of a UBC education professor who says she was the victim of racial discrimination.

Jennifer Chan argued she was denied appointment to the David Lam Chair in Multicultural Education, which was granted to a white candidate, in part because she is Chinese-Canadian. The tribunal dismissed her complaint after four years of legal proceedings.

On Dec. 19, tribunal member Norman Trerise determined that, based on the evidence before him, the case had no reasonable chance of success at a hearing.

"There is really nothing to support that race, colour, ancestry or place of origin played a role in the outcome of the selection process," Trerise wrote.

He determined that the decision likely came down to the differences between the hiring committee and Chan's definitions of multiculturalism, since "breadth of representation of multicultural education" was a criterion for the position.

Chan asserts that five of the six members of the hiring committee were not experts in multiculturalism.

"It's huge pity because if [Trerise] had moved the case to hearing, then obviously the crucial thing would have been to hear the experts in the field," Chan said.

Chan first brought her complaint to UBC's Equity Office in 2009 after being denied the position. The office ran an investigation and then dismissed the complaint, which led Chan to bring her case to the tribunal in May 2010.

"I was disappointed all along the way. I think one of the most disappointing things ... would be the UBC Equity Office's way of handling the whole thing."

Chan alleges that the VP equity at the time, Tom Patch, had hired a friend of his to do the Equity Office review which dismissed her case.

UBC made multiple attempts to have the case dismissed, but in January 2012, the tribunal ruled that Chan's case would go to a full hearing, which was originally scheduled for September 2013.

In March 2012, UBC applied to the B.C. Supreme Court for a judicial review of the complaint on the grounds that the case had already been dealt with by UBC's investigation through the Equity Office. The Supreme Court ruled that the tribunal's decision not to dismiss the complaint "was based on a misapprehension of the evidence and on irrelevant factors." The court directed the tribunal to reconsider its decision.

Chan asked for the tribunal to include in its reconsideration evidence that she had obtained after filing her original complaint, and UBC said it should not consider materials submitted after that point. The tribunal sided with UBC.

Chan said that, had the case gone to hearing, the additional information would have helped her case.

Chan has no plans to continue pursuing this case.

"In terms of the legal realm, it's really over," she said.

"Dr. Chan is a respected scholar and a valued member of the UBC Faculty of Education," wrote UBC director of public affairs Lucie McNeill in an emailed statement. "UBC took her complaint very seriously and investigated her allegations thoroughly under the procedures set out in UBC's policy on discrimination and harassment.

"The tribunal's findings in December concur with our own, and that is gratifying."

Although the complaint was dismissed, Trerise did decide that UBC's Equity Office investigation was not a proceeding in the legal sense.

"There, we won, and it's extremely important in the sense that even though this case is dismissed, this part ... is going to set a legal precedent for future complaints," Chan said.

Chan hopes that her case has drawn attention to greater structural issues. In August 2012, only eight per cent of 110 education faculty members belonged to a visible minority.

"We're talking about a huge structural gap in the Canadian equity scene here. There's no effective and efficient system for any equity complaint, and for me that is very serious.."

During the case, Chan received no merit pay from the university, although she had every year since 2003 before that. She was also nominated twice for the Killam teaching award, and claims that she did not win because of her complaint.

"I thought of that as retaliation," Chan said.

Chan, who is still a tenured professor, said that re-establishing positive working relations with UBC will be tricky.

"I guess right now I have to deal with closure. After fighting for this for so long, it's almost like dealing with death — it's the death of the case, there's grieving and closure," said Chan. "I think it will take a long time."

ADMINISTRATION »

UBC accepting nominations for new chancellor

PHOTO COURTESY UBC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Current chancellor Sarah Morgan-Silvester's term in office ends in July 2014.

Jovana Vranic
Staff Writer

As the term of the current chancellor, Sarah Morgan-Silvester, nears its end in July of this year, the Alumni UBC Board of Directors is leading a search for candidates to fill the position.

Members of the UBC community, including staff and students, are able to make online nominations for candidates through the Alumni UBC website. Also posted is a candidate profile outlining the key requirements nominees should meet.

Judy Rogers, chair of both the Alumni Association board of directors and the chancellor search committee, outlined the process of building the profile. The search committee reviewed past candidate profiles at the times when past chancellors were appointed. Rogers said the committee solicited the UBC community for advice to develop the criteria for the new candidate. The criteria include leadership experience, communication skills, political acuity and diversity.

All nominations fitting the criteria are sent to Boyden Global Executive Search, an international staffing and recruiting company.

A timeline has not been set for the search, according to Rogers, as the search committee wishes to allow as much time as possible to choose the most suitable candidate.

"If one thinks of how much time the role of chancellor takes up in that person's life, you need to give somebody time to be able to be thoughtful about taking on the magnitude of the most senior volunteer at UBC," said Rogers.

The top nominees will be chosen and notified as soon as possible in order to allow enough time for an easy transition before the term of the current chancellor expires.

The nominations will be sorted through by the Alumni Association board of directors, and finalists will be submitted to the UBC Board of Governors for deliberation.

So far, there have been over a hundred nominations since submissions opened on Jan. 1. The deadline for nominations is Jan. 20.

NEWS BRIEFS

Harbour Air seaplane makes emergency landing off Point Grey coast

At 3:30 p.m. on Jan. 12, a Harbour Air seaplane had to make an emergency landing in the waters off UBC.

Eric Scott, VP flight operations and safety for Harbour Air, said there was only one passenger aboard the plane. The plane landed safely, with no one harmed and no damage to the aircraft.

The plane was towed to shore soon after the landing.

The seaplane was on its way from the Gulf Islands to downtown Vancouver when it began experiencing mechanical issues and had to make the landing.

"There was a mechanical failure with the engine, [and] it's still being investigated at this time as to what caused it," said Scott.

The end of days

This term, UBC is offering a new course called "Living with Nuclear Weapons" (POLI 369T). The course is the brainchild of engineering professor Matthew Yedlin and political science professor Allen Sens.

"There's a very powerful prestige element when it comes to some of the motives of some of the nuclear-weapon states. But in other cases, it's much more driven by security from the threat of an outside force," said Sens. "It's those motives that we'll look to uncover in the course."

ASIAN STUDIES »

UBC to introduce new Cantonese program

Maura Forrest
Contributor

UBC's department of Asian studies is developing Canada's first for-credit university Cantonese program, thanks to a $2-million donation received last year.

The donation from brothers Alex and Chi Shum Watt will be used to hire a full-time lecturer, and Cantonese classes will begin in September 2015.

"The department has wanted to be doing Cantonese for many, many years," said Ross King, head of the department of Asian studies. "We want to teach about China in a way that presents it ... as a really diverse place that has many regional Chinese languages."

The program will offer elementary and intermediate language courses, as well as one or two Cantonese history and culture courses throughout the year. Students will be required to complete some Mandarin prerequisites prior to taking the language classes. Students in the department of Asian studies will be given priority, as language classes are capped at 24 members.

"We are anticipating that [demand] will be pretty good," said King. "We anticipate that one lecturer position will not be enough to satisfy all of the demand for Cantonese language."

PHOTO STEVEN RICHARDS/THE UBYSSEY

UBC's department of Asian studies is starting a new program in Cantonese studies.

King hopes the program will eventually expand to offer more language, history and culture courses. Ideally, he would like to hire a professor for a full-time research position.

However, he said the funding for any future development will need to come from outside the university.

"There are no new professorial positions on offer right now, and Cantonese would not be first in line for university internal funding," King said.

Henry Yu, associate professor in the department of history, said programs like this are important in light of China's increasing emphasis on Mandarin to the exclusion of Cantonese.

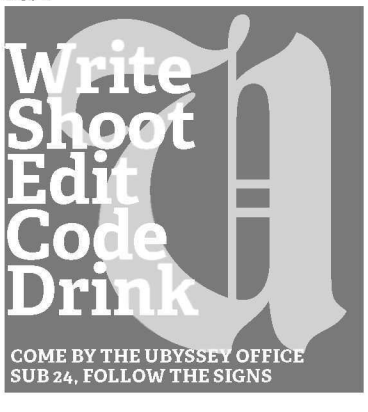
Though Cantonese is spoken by roughly 70 million people, particularly in Hong Kong and southern China, that number accounts for only five per cent of China's current population. Yu said Cantonese has been under threat since Hong Kong's reversion to China in 1997.

"There's been a real sense of a besieging or a potential loss of not just the language, but a kind of unique culture," said Yu.

Yu believes the Cantonese Studies program will join with a new Asian-Canadian and Asian Migrations minor starting this fall in the Department of History.

Cantonese has traditionally been the predominant Chinese dialect in Vancouver. Yu says the majority of early trans-Pacific Chinese migrants to Canada spoke Cantonese, and the language and culture have deep roots here.

"In order to understand ... the history of the Chinese in Canada and British Columbia and Vancouver in particular, Cantonese is an essential part."



BZZR »

AMS votes down funds for microbrewery

Veronika Bondarenko
Senior News Writer

A microbrewery may not make it to campus after all.

At an AMS council meeting on Jan. 8, councillors voted down the decision to add a new student fee for the construction of the microbrewery. It was voted down because of a lack of information regarding the exact costs and benefits of such a project.

Aaron Bailey of the AMS brewery committee, who presented on behalf of the microbrewery to council on Wednesday, was surprised by the turn of events.

"Council had been in support of adding the microbrewery to the referendum on the AMS Yes! Campaign at past meetings. It took me by surprise when the vote went the other way only about a month later."

After the location of the microbrewery project was moved from the New SUB to the UBC Farm in 2012, the AMS brewery committee discovered that funding the project with the $1.2 million previously set aside through the Student Spaces Fund could not be used due to limitations on what constituted student space. The committee asked the AMS to make an exception to code and fund the microbrewery with this money anyway.

But VP Finance Joaquin Acevedo believes that, because of the immense costs in time and money of both constructing the New SUB and selling the Whistler Lodge, a microbrewery is not a financially feasible option for the UBC community.

"We don't have the money to invest [in the microbrewery] right now. And it's not just about the money, it's about the time of our staff, who are currently working on the Whistler Lodge and the New SUB."

PHOTO GEOFF LISTER/THE UBYSSEY

UBC won't be getting a brewery unless the question goes to referendum and then students vote to pay for it.

If further action is not taken to finance the construction, there will be no microbrewery on campus — a choice that, Bailey pointed out, would be unpopular with the larger UBC community.

"This is a project that's been almost half a decade in the works. It had an interesting journey in terms of its transformations, but in every single time that it's come to the AMS council besides this last time, it's passed through because there is quite a large number of support from students, whether it's through brUBC, online, or simply people in the community who see the added cultural benefit."

Acevedo pointed out that the original project included a brew pub that would both make and sell its own beer in the New SUB. A microbrewery that is moved to the UBC Farm area, he argued, would not have the same profit-generating or culture-building potential as outlined in the earlier proposal.

"There are many questions that still exist in terms of the operation of the actual brewery," he said. "I think that we need to have a solid plan and really do our due diligence in order to spend students' money responsibly and be able to know for a fact what we are actually spending money on."

brUBC VP Marketing and Promotions Patrick Warshawski pointed out that with the revisions to the brew pub idea that were made in 2011, the microbrewery does not need to be in the SUB to be successful.

"We decided against [the brew pub] two years ago. The argument has always been for a microbrewery, which would then put the kegs in a place like the Gallery or the Pit. So in that sense, the location doesn't matter because it's not like people are going to be interacting with this brewery every day."

Warshawski said building the microbrewery on the UBC Farm could bring in additional benefits, including opportunities for education and hands-on work experience.

"The whole exciting thing with the proposal for the farm would be that it would be mixed with the educational classroom and there is space for it to not only be a brewery, but also the hub of a certain space to do education on the farm."

Bailey also believes the UBC community should have a microbrewery and will continue fighting for its construction.

"People see the benefits to it. And as such, we definitely haven't given up in terms of lobbying it for it."

Along with several executive members of brUBC, Bailey and Warshawski are putting together a new campaign and circulating a petition. If it gets 1,000 signatures by this Friday, the petition will put the question of the microbrewery fee back on the referendum.

ELECTIONS »

Skiing, spending, saving and smog

AMS announces the questions that will be on their 2014 referendum

CJ Pentland
Managing Editor, Web

The AMS has announced the list of referendum questions for the 2014 AMS elections.

For the second time, the question of whether to sell the Whistler Lodge will be on the ballot. The question first appeared in 2012 and saw the majority of students vote yes in favour of the sale, but not enough students voted to meet quorum.

The question reads: "Do you authorize the AMS Student Council to dispose of the land located at 2124 Nordic Drive in Whistler, B.C., ... together with all buildings thereon, such land and buildings collectively being the 'AMS Whistler Lodge'?" All proceeds from the disposal of the lodge will go into the AMS Endowment Fund.

There are three questions on the ballot that focus on AMS student fees. None of the changes will increase or decrease the amount students pay.

The first question asks to consolidate the $7.25 fee for student services and the $4.14 fee for external and university lobbying and advocacy into an AMS membership fee. The second question asks to reduce the fee for the student spaces fund by $5.00 from $12.39 to $7.39, and transfer the $5.00 into the AMS membership fee.

FILE PHOTO KAI JACOBSON/THE UBYSSEY

For the second time, students will be asked to sell the Whistler Lodge.

The final proposal would rename the student spaces fund the "capital projects fund," and allow the AMS to spend this money on improvements to their software systems in addition to student spaces. If approved, the fee changes will take effect in Sept. 2014.

The AMS also proposed administrative amendments to their bylaws. There are a total of 10 amendments, which include changing the annual general meeting from February to October and removing some no-longer-performed duties of the VP academic.

UBCC350, a group of UBC students committed to climate action, will also have a question on the referendum after their campaign exceeded the 1,000 signatures required to put a divestment question on the ballot. The group is calling for UBC to divest from fossil fuels, and a "yes" vote on the referendum would call for the AMS to make all reasonable efforts to urge UBC to divest from fossil fuels.

Another group has put forward a petition to get a question on the referendum asking the AMS to lobby for lower tuition.

Voting on the referendum questions runs from Jan. 27 to 31. Each question must receive affirmative votes from 8 per cent of the student body, which totals to 4,663 people, in order to be passed.

(INFORMATION CUL DE SAC)

WITH MOOCs UNDER FIRE, WHAT WILL THE FUTURE OF UNIVERSITY EDUCATION LOOK LIKE?

_BY LAWRENCE NEAL GARCIA

In her first year at UBC, Ennas Abdussalam took an introductory computer science course, "Computation, Programs and Programming." Abdussalam sat with hundreds of others in a large lecture halls with hundreds in attendance, went to lab sections, wrote midterms, submitted projects and eventually completed the course — and like most students, she paid for the credits she received. Now a computer science major, Abdussalam is in her fourth year and the introductory course that she took is now offered online — for free.
Now called "Introduction to

_MOOCs AT UBC

Systematic Program Design, Part 1," the course is taught by Gregor Kiczales, Abdussalam's professor from first year, is one of four non-credit massive open online courses, or MOOCs, first offered by UBC in partnership with Coursera in May 2013.

MOOCs — online courses aimed at theoretically unlimited participation ("massive") and free access through the web ("open") — have captured much of the spotlight in debates of higher education practices over the past two years. Coursera first emerged in 2011 as a dominant platform for MOOCs from different universities, operated by Stanford University professors Andrew Ng and Daphne Koller. Two other major providers, Udacity and edX, swiftly followed; *The New York Times* even dubbed 2012 "The Year of the MOOC."

"When the MOOC thing started happening ... exactly how that was going to go was unclear, but that it was going to be important was pretty clear," said Kiczales, who had been teaching and reinventing his introductory computer science course for many years. The course became one of the first four MOOCs offered by UBC through Coursera. It has now been run twice, with another session offering in September 2014; during its first offering, Abdussalam was one of the teaching assistants.

But while UBC has jumped on the MOOC bandwagon, the university insists that is only one aspect of their pedagogical innovation — which may be for the best, given that MOOCs are not free of skeptics and critics. UBC's partnership with Coursera is one element of a broader project: the Flexible Learning Initiative.

The initiative falls under the domain of the Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology (CTLT) which academic director Simon Bates says is positioned to support faculty members and departments to transform teaching and learning at UBC.

According to Bates, the flexible learning initiative can be divided into four "planks" or "strands": the transformation of undergraduate courses; the development of new professional programs; non-credit space, which includes community access and lifelong learning; and finally, what is simply termed "experimentation."

For UBC, MOOCs fall under the fourth strand.

For now UBC has limited its offerings on Coursera to five MOOCs: "Introduction to Systematic Program Design, Part 1," "Climate Literacy: Navigating Climate Change Conversations," "Game Theory," and "Useful Genetics, Parts 1 and 2," — a choice which Bates says is deliberate in order for UBC to maintain a focus on both undergraduate and graduate education, as well as limit cost.

_PARADISE LOST

That even UBC, whose initial partnership with Coursera generated quite a bit of fanfare, is expressing caution when it comes to MOOCs speaks to a growing skepticism that has emerged in academic circles.

Coursera co-founder Daphne Koller has played up the the unprecedented reach of online education, particularly to underserved demographics, making the case that MOOCs may bring world class education to those who are otherwise excluded for socioeconomic or geographic reasons. But a recent study from the University of Pennsylvania revealed that over 80 per cent of surveyed individuals taking MOOCs already hold college degrees.

"What we're doing is providing an additional route to access learning, knowledge and courses for a group of people who, by and large, already have that," Bates said. Coursera "has not really delivered yet on the 'educate the world' promise that 12 months ago was being touted as the value proposition for platforms like this."

Indeed, Kiczales shared that in the Coursera offering of his systematic program design course, a large number of students already had previous programming experience and were only taking the course to "clean up" their foundations. Similarly, Abdussalam, who has taken a few MOOCs in her own time, says she probably wouldn't have majored in computer science if she had only taken the online version of the CPSC 110 course. "I think that these free courses are valuable for me personally as a resource, to help my education in university, but I wouldn't view them as something that can replace that."

For UBC, then, the focus is on taking lessons from the MOOCs they offer and applying them to classrooms in Point Grey.

"There's things we can learn from teaching in this environment and teaching at this scale, [things] that we can ... bring back to on-campus courses, whether they're face-to-face, distance courses, or a blend of online and face-to-face," said Bates, a sentiment Kiczales agrees with.

"In some sense, you can't be doing a MOOC at UBC — or you shouldn't be doing a MOOC at UBC — without some notion that it's going to increase the quality of your on-campus course," Kiczales said.

UBC's reluctance to expand their free online offerings and instead use them as a sort of educational lab to glean lessons from can be further understood in the context of MOOC companies' financial troubles. But the absence of a concrete business model is certainly not for lack of trying.

Around two months ago, Coursera competitor Udacity shifted their focus from higher education to corporate professional development through the Open Education Alliance, a circle of industry partnerships. Ostensibly a move to address the efficacy of the courses, the move also provides a source of revenue. Currently, Coursera offers Signature Track, a service that allows one to link courses taken to their identity — a form of certification — for around $30 to $100 per course.

"There isn't really a business model for these things right now," observed Caroline Lemieux, a second-year honours math major and a teaching assistance in Kiczals' online course. "You'd hope that there wouldn't have to be a business model in education, but in our world you kind of do need to have one."

Many, including Eric Mazur, a Harvard psychics professor, see an impending "MOOC bust" — at least in the realm of higher education — as witnessed by Udacity's courting of corporate partners and Coursera's attempt to introduce a paid element to the classes.

Others, including Kiczales, contend otherwise.

"If [Udacity and Coursera] switch to corporate education now, start generating revenue and spend time getting better at what they do, then that's hardly failure," he wrote in a blog post entitled "Udacity: premature claims of demise?" Still, he admits, "Giving a very expensive product away is not a long-term business strategy."

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(continued from pg. 5)

AFTER MOOCs, RETHINKING HOW UNIVERSITIES TEACH

THE SKEPTIC
JON BEASLEY-MURRAY, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, UBC

But the entire question of whether or not the companies facilitating UBC and other universities' online offerings are able to turn a profit is irrelevant to other MOOC critics. For a great many — including Jon Beasley-Murray, an associate professor of French, Hispanic and Italian studies at UBC — the whole notion of a profit-seeking model is the problem.

"There's a possibility to really democratize higher education, really open it up," he said. "Unfortunately, what's actually happening is a kind of 'marketization' and privatization of education." Beasley-Murray speculates too that UBC's heart may not really be in online education in any case. "It seems to me that many of the so-called initiatives that are going on in flexible learning are about following a trend rather than thinking through what the role of the university is."

Bates said this is something the university has been careful about, but that he too sees the danger of viewing MOOCs as the hot new thing.

"A number of institutions have kind of gotten distracted by MOOCs, and in some ways, I think a bit seduced... There's a number of institutions that I think have dived in too deeply," Bates said. "It's not that MOOCs are going to drive everything and inform us about all aspects of on-campus teaching."

_LECTURES AND FLIPPED CLASSROOMS

Mazur, the Harvard professor, gave a talk at UBC earlier this year entitled "The Tyranny of the Lecture" where he discussed the drawbacks of the lecture as the primary method of teaching. In an interview, Mazur explained that he sees education as a two-step process: information transfer followed by assimilation, or contextualization, of that information. After his first few years at Harvard, Mazur found that step one was getting in the way of his students' learning. So, he threw it out — of the classroom at least.

The result is what is now widely termed the "flipped classroom," also a fixture of UBC's Flexible Learning Initiative. In the standard approach, the bulk of class time is placed on the transfer of information — typically through lectures — with little or none allotted for students to internalize that information. The flipped classroom inverts this sequence; the move is to frontload information. Students are given access to content in the form of textbooks, screencasts, online resources and so on, and are expected to engage with it beforehand. Class time is used for learning activities and discussion.

> "IT SEEMS MANY OF THE SO-CALLED INITATIVES IN FLEXIBLE LEARNING ARE ABOUT **FOLLOWING A TREND.**

"The information is already out there. It's widely ... and freely available," said Bates. "There [are] so many more digital educational resources ... that it just makes using lectures solely as the information delivery process a real waste of valuable time."

Both Mazur and Bates acknowledge that in areas outside of the sciences, where they both teach, this is hardly a novel approach. Mazur highlights the case method of instruction developed by Christopher Langdell of Harvard Law School around 1890, where learning was done through student-focused discussions of various cases rather than a strict lecture format.

"What's happening now is the continuation of that idea, but spreading [it] to other disciplines."

Along the same lines, Bates points out that the rebranded "flipped classroom" is already quite prevalent in the humanities at UBC.

In a post on his blog, Posthegemony, Beasley-Murray writes that in nine years of teaching, he has only given four formal lectures, and teaches almost exclusively in the seminar format. "My general rule of thumb for a seminar is that if the professor talks for more than 10 minutes consecutively at any one time, then something is going wrong," he wrote. "If that's a 'flipped classroom,' we have it already."

But the approach remains far less prevalent in other areas of study. "It's still a significant change in practice from using lectures as transmission vehicles for information ... for many departments, disciplines and instructors," said Bates.

This is not to say there is no place for the lecture — indeed, Mazur cites departmental colloquia, academic seminars and even TED talks as platforms for which the lecture is in fact ideal — only that it fails as the primary teaching model.

But transferring the flawed model to thousands of students may only compound the problems, not serve as an innovative type of education, Mazur argues.

"I think the 'massive open' part of it has been so overhyped. Imagine a company placing an ad saying 160,000 people have looked at the ad. No one would be impressed. It's not how many people look at the ad, it's how many buy the product. With MOOCs it has been exactly the same thing," Mazur said.

Part of the criticism of MOOCs is that they simply translate this flawed model to an online platform. By and large, MOOCs still look a lot like undergraduate courses, lasting six to 10 weeks, with quizzes, midterms, assignments and finals. While this is largely true, MOOCs still have the potential to offer something different.

Lemieux, who did the bulk of the video editing for Kiczales' course, pointed out that additional graphics and animations in online screencasts enhance learning in a way that wouldn't be possible in a traditional lecture. "It evolves a lot more," she said, also addressing the possibility of rapid improvement. "It's definitely not static."

But even proponents of MOOCs are quick to acknowledge their limitations.

"Right now when people look at MOOCs, they say, 'Well, that's nowhere near as good as a real university education.' And they're absolutely right. It's nowhere near as good as a real university education," said Kiczales, who stresses that MOOCs are simply one of many possibilities that have opened up. "The real thing is when the Internet becomes the channel [between students and educators]. A MOOC is just one thing that flows across that channel, but other things can flow across that channel too."

Even though MOOCs have not yet lived up to their initial ideals, that is not to say that they have no value. "There's a role for these open online courses, that doesn't have to be massive," said Bates, who sees real value in such courses on a local or niche level; and in any case, there is still something to be learned from this kind of experimentation—however bombastic or overblown.

"[The] one positive outcome from all this MOOC hype is that people have started questioning what is it that we should do in the classroom if we start transferring the information outside the classroom," says Mazur. "It's forcing people to reconsider both the architecture of classrooms as well as the type of educational activities that take place in the classroom."

_DISRUPTIVE INNOVATION

Whether it's lectures, MOOCs or variants of the flipped classroom approach, the salient fact is that, for better or worse, much of this is now happening online.

The recent flurries of activity with regards to higher education are all products of what is known as "disruptive innovation." The term, which refers to innovation that challenges old markets and creates new ones, was coined by Clayton M. Christensen in 1995, although in

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GREGOR KICZA
PROFESSOR + MOOC INST

> "WHEN PEOPLE LOOK AT MOOCs, THEY SAY, 'WELL, THAT'S **NO-WHERE NEAR AS GOOD** AS REAL UNIVERSITY EDUCATION.' AN THEY'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT.

LEMENTOR

ON BATES,
R OF CTLT, UBC

COULD LEARN LOCKED CUPBOARD WITH YOUR FAVORITE TEXTBOOK.

practice it goes back much further. Much like online platforms have radically altered traditional newspaper and print media models, the emergence of online platforms is affecting both higher education and its primary channels, namely universities.

"All of higher education is going to be dramatically influenced by the emergence of the Internet as a channel between educators and learners," said Kiczales. "Exactly how that's going to play out, nobody knows."

In some conversations regarding higher education — particularly those that dovetail with discussion on MOOCs — some have questioned the future existence of universities. Sebastian Thrun, the founder of Udacity, famously predicted that by 2060, there would be only 10 universities thanks to MOOCs, an assertion that appears much less likely given the

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LES,
TRUCTOR, UBC

floundering state of his company. And while the role of the university is indeed less certain than before, that it will continue to play a role is widely accepted. The consensus: universities are not going away any time soon.

For Beasley-Murray, those who predict MOOCs as the downfall of the university are simply wrong. "They miss the idea of what a university is about. They miss the embodiment of research, for example, [which] gets dropped out in many of these discussions."

In his aforementioned blog post, Kiczales also points out that the danger to universities was never MOOCs, but "the confluence of a number of macro forces," including increasing costs of education, the emergence of the Internet and its scaling power, increasing learner demand for flexibility in learning, and the breakdown of the idea that a university education guarantees a better career.

Others still point out the social aspects of colleges and universities. "You can learn locked in a cupboard with your favourite textbook or something like that," said Bates. "But I think for a lot of people, and what a lot of people get out of actually coming to be a member of an on-campus community, is you get direct access to that social component."

_THE FUTURE OF THE CLASSROOM

When I sat down with Bates just outside the Centre for Teaching and Learning Technology (CTLT), next to the main hall of the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre at UBC, he asked me to imagine the library of the future. Desks, couches and study areas are a thing of the past. Rows and rows of terminals line much of the building space. People come and plug themselves in, downloading or assimilating information as needed. Is this the future of the classroom?

"That's a very kind of dystopian view that I think would be a real backward step compared to the enhancement of the engagement, of the interactivity, which is what I think we're moving towards," said Bates, who maintains that the social aspect continues to be of vital importance.

In terms of actual classroom design, Mazur believes classrooms that are currently amphitheaters will increasingly be replaced by spaces that permit more interaction, such as studio classrooms, case study classrooms, design studios and the like — a move that he already sees on his own campus in Massachusetts.

"That's not to say that you can't have that social or interaction component in a purely online course," contended Bates. "You have to be more deliberate about creating those opportunities."

In the current digital age, the question now is: what will those opportunities look like?

At the centre of this innovation at UBC, at least in Bates' view, is the aforementioned Flexible Learning Initiative of the CTLT.

Bates is particularly excited for a flexible learning project that he is a part of: the pilot run of a "radical" 100-level physics course where students will be required to produce some of the learning material for the course. Bates describes it as a variant of the flipped classroom approach, since students will be given more autonomy to learn in their preferred modes, allowing them to choose a "learning object" to produce, which may be anything from a lecture slide to a concept map.

The methods may vary, but if there is a common thread, it is the increased emphasis on learners. "All these techniques that put the focus on the student rather than the instructor are likely to replace the lecture as more and more instructors are starting to use other means ... to transfer information," said Mazur.

THE CRITIC

ERIC MAZUR,
PROFESSOR, HARVARD

" I THINK THE 'MASSIVE OPEN' PART HAS BEEN SO OVERHYPED.

_A CHANGING LANDSCAPE

Whether through open platforms such as Arts One Open, variants of traditional approaches such as the "flipped classroom" or the increased prevalence of peer instruction, team-, problem- and project-based learning, the landscape of education is undergoing a fundamental shift — and one that's not primarily centered on MOOCs.

"It's a golden age for learners. Learners are going to have better resources than ever before," said Kiczales. "In some sense, it's a great time for people who want to teach better, too, because we're going to be in a very rapidly improving period of education."

Others, such as open education advocate Beasley-Murray, fear that in the midst of all this change and partnerships with outside entities, the basic ethos of the university is at risk of being forgotten. "A university is not meant to be a profit-making institution. A university is — it's in the name — universal. It's for all. It's for the common good."

Whether the trajectory of universities is heading in this direction remains to be seen. But if there is one thing that educators can agree on, it is that the precise future of higher education is practically impossible to predict.

"Even if I had a crystal ball, it would look really, really murky," Bates said with a laugh.

_Arts One Open and flexible learning

In the 1960s, a report emerged to try and transform the way the arts and humanities were taught at UBC. A pilot scheme, launched in 1967, became the Arts One program. Over four decades later, it is a well-established program that integrates the disciplines of history, English and philosophy, promoting "an interdisciplinary focus on the 'big questions.'"

"Arts One has always been a vanguard of experimentation, of doing things a bit differently," said Beasley-Murray, also a professor in the Arts One program, "and it remains in that position."

At the beginning of the 2012-2013 academic year, Arts One Open (then known as Arts One Digital) was launched as an extension of the existing program. Described as a do-it-yourself alternative to open learning ("Has the potential to be something a little bit like a MOOC," says Beasley-Murray), Arts One Open encourages the use of technology to break down the boundaries between the university and the public. Twitter is used as a form of live discussion during lectures, all which are later placed on YouTube. Student blogs are likewise hosted online. While there is a significant use of technology and experimentation with various forms of interaction within the program, what distinguishes Arts One Open — as its name suggests — is a commitment to openness.

"Arts One Open is distinct precisely because of its emphasis on openness on all levels: using open-source software, opening up beyond the walls of the university and being quite transparent on how we're doing this and why we're doing this," said Beasley-Murray.

While it is less obvious whether Arts One Open will become the envisioned educational force that it aspires to be, it is clear that innovation is occurring.

- Lawrence Neal Garcia

RUGBY »

UBC poised to end 17-year Wightman's Boot drought

Annual home-and-home series between UVic and UBC entering its 43rd year

CJ Pentland
Managing Editor, Web

When the UBC men's rugby team hits Wolfson Field on Saturday, they won't just be putting their perfect 10-0 record on the line — they'll also be looking to do something they haven't done in 17 years.

The Thunderbirds and University of Victoria Vikes will square off this weekend in the second leg of the Wightman's Boot series, an annual contest entering its 43rd year. UBC took the first leg of the series 29-16 back on Nov. 9 in Victoria, meaning the Boot title could be theirs with a win or a loss by fewer than 12 points.

"UVic in the last few years has pretty well had its way with us, and I think we just caught them by surprise," said UBC head coach Spence McTavish of the Nov. 9 contest. "The score probably could have been 40-something to 16; we had a number of opportunities we didn't finish off."

> UVic in the last few years has pretty well had its way with us, and I think we just caught them by surprise.
>
> **Spence McTavish**
> Head coach, UBC men's rugby

The 'Birds stormed out of the gate in that contest, scoring four tries in the first half to power them to a 26-6 lead at halftime. The second half proved more even, but UBC still held tough to close out the 13-point victory.

UBC holds a 13 point advantage heading into the second leg of the Wightman's Boot series with UVic. FILE PHOTO KAI JACOBSON/THE UBYSSEY

Nathan Rees and James Thompson are two of the players who scored tries in that game, and are also two players who have led the team all year. Rees is a Welshman in his first year at UBC, and Thompson plays No. 10 for the T-Birds, with his coach calling him one of the best at that position for UBC in a long time. However, Thompson will be out for the second half of the season with a torn ACL.

McTavish cites an older roster as a key to his team's success this year — in previous campaigns, the average age has hovered around 19. Mix that with what the coach calls one of the better recruiting classes in recent memory and the 'Birds are not only able to compete with these older and stronger squads, but beat them.

After the Boot series concludes, another tough test will soon greet the 'Birds when they face the University of California, always one of the top teams in the NCAA. The two squads have squared off every year since 1921, making it one of the oldest and most competitive cross-border rivalries in North America. But as of late, UBC hasn't been too competitive; Cal has won the home-and-home series seven straight times, and 14 of the last 17 in total. The first leg is in Berkeley on Feb. 15, while the second leg is at Point Grey on March 23.

"The last few times we've gone down there and played them the games have been exceptionally close," said McTavish. "We've come out on the wrong sides of them, but they've been very competitive games, [and] I think that if we can stay healthy and take the team that we want to take down there, I think that we're going to be successful."

The focus remains on this weekend, though, and UBC remains confident in their ability to knock down their provincial rival that holds a 38-17-1 record in the overall series; after 1996, the competition changed from an annual match to a two-game series. With another solid performance from the 'Birds on Saturday, the bronze-plated rugby boot of Brian Wightman will be back in their grasp.

Saturday's match begins at 2:30 p.m. at UBC's Wolfson Field.

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UBC
ATHLETES OF THE WEEK
TATIANA RAFTER

Tatiana Rafter is the Thunderbird Athletes Council's outstanding player of the week, leading the women's hockey team to a victory on Friday by scoring a hat trick and two assists. On Saturday night, she scored the game-winning shootout goal. The fourth-year forward now has 15 goals and 14 assists this season - the most points ever for a UBC player - and leads Canada West in goals and points. She also has a +12 rating, second-best on the team.

MORE ONLINE
Learn more about Rafter and the T-Birds at **http://ubyssey.ca/sports**.

THUNDERBIRDS HOME GAMES THIS WEEKEND

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL (14-0)
UBC vs. Brandon (11-3)
Friday, Jan. 17 at 6 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 18 at 5 p.m.
War Memorial Gym

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL (9-5)
UBC vs. Brandon (7-7)
Friday, Jan. 17 at 8 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 18 at 7 p.m.
War Memorial Gym

MEN'S HOCKEY (7-10-1)
UBC vs. Alberta (16-2-0)
Friday, Jan. 17 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 18 at 7 p.m.
Thunderbird Arena

UBC THUNDERBIRDS

T-BIRDS 5-ON-5

THUNDERBIRD ATHLETES COUNCIL

	LAURA THOMPSON Swimming	ANGUS TODD Rowing	CHRISTINA DONNELLY Soccer Alpine Skiing	DEVIN RAJALA Track	BAILEY KOMISHKE Rugby
1. If you could have one super power, what would it be?	Flying! Imagine a world without the 99, or my campus bike. Although the rain in Vancouver might complicate things.	Batman's affluence.	Definitely being able to fly.	Unlimited speed.	Increasing the number of hours in a day on demand.
2. Which T-Bird, past or present, do you look up to most?	Brian Johns. Not only is he my amazing coach, but as a T-bird won 33 golds medals in his 34 CIS championships.	Ben Rutledge, because he achieved the highest accomplishment there is in sport: the Overall Men's Championship for Storm the Wall.	Andrea Neil. She's incredibly dedicated to being an all round good person and athlete.	Nigel Hole, former athlete and recruiting coordinator, built up the cross-country and track program here at UBC.	Laura Thompson is an awesome TAC president and has really pumped up T-Bird spirit on campus.
3. If you were to make one U.S. state part of Canada, which one would it be?	California, so Canada can experience the wonders of In-N-Out Burger.	Mexico. I really like Spanish food.	Hawaii, for sure. Even though I've never been there, it seems like the most beautiful state.	California. They'd strengthen our economy and give us a domestic vacation spot for the winter.	Oregon. It's the only state you hear people genuinely say 'it's really nice there,' and it already seems like Vancouver's distant cousin.
4. An item on our 95 List you haven't done but would really like to do?	Make a combination of #13 Do the Grouse Grind, with #47 Participate in a beer mile. Grouse Beer Grind anyone?	Go to a TAC event (#39). I've only ever heard stories about how much fun they are.	#25 Surf in Tofino! I'm actually planning on doing it this summer.	#71 Play a round at the University Golf Course.	Hiking the Chief (#14) and surfing in Tofino (#25) are for sure at the top of my must-do's!
5. Finish this sentence: If I ran for AMS Council I would...	...build an In-N-Out Burger in the new SUB.	...abolish umbrellas from campus.	...cancel the Sports Targeting Review.	...try to get Avicii to perform at the Welcome Back BBQ.	...have way less free time.

FILE PHOTO JOSH CURRAN/THE UBYSSEY

PHOTO KOSTA PRODANOVIC/THE UBYSSEY

FILE PHOTO JOSH CURRAN/THE UBYSSEY

Top: Tatiana Rafter is leading the Canada West scoring race with 29 points this season. Middle: Brylle Kamen, centre, led men's basketball to a 93-88 win over Saskatchewan. Bottom: Cole Wilson scored three times in UBC's two victories this weekend, including Saturday's overtime winner.

HOT

Our take on the latest happenings in the world of UBC sports

Tatiana Rafter We weren't surprised at all when the TAC chose Rafter as their athlete of the week, and she remains on top of our Hot/Not list too for the third straight week. A hat trick and two assists in last Friday's game helped her break two UBC records, and she's leading the Canada West women's hockey scoring race.

Brylle Kamen Kamen totalled 45 points and 23 rebounds last weekend with two double-doubles against top teams, and he was a big reason UBC managed to take down the CIS No. 7 Saskatchewan Huskies. He's clearly recovering well from the elbow surgery he underwent over winter break.

Men's hockey UBC is on a season-high six game win streak — four of which were regular season games. With 10 games to go, they're pulling closer to the .500 mark and have moved into the last playoff position, but they've got a tough weekend ahead against the 16-2 University of Alberta Bears.

Men's volleyball The men's volleyball team struggled last weekend without the help of kills leader Ben Chow, dropping two games at UBCO. Now sitting at 9-5, the losses bumped UBC from third to fifth in CIS rankings.

The women's basketball bench UBC's bench got outscored 25-4 in Friday's loss to Alberta and 12-7 in Saturday's loss to Saskatchewan. The starters have been solid, but they're going to need more help from the bench, especially against in the playoff stretch.

NOT

DANCE »

MOVE YOUR BODY TO THE RHYTHM

This weekend, hundreds of dancers — professional and amateur alike — will descend onto campus to celebrate two very different causes: one, a memorial to the colourful life of one of the world's most multi-talented performance artists; the other, a challenge to push the human body to its limits.

Danse Lhasa Danse arrives at the Chan

IMAGE COURTESY PUSH FESTIVAL

Lhasa's original accompanying band plays in the show, which combines theatre, video, music and dance.

Soumya Ghupta
Contributor

"There is no end to this story / No final tragedy or glory / Love came here and never left."

The lyrics of Love Came Here, by the late world music artist Lhasa de Sala, could very well describe the Canadian art community's sentiments toward her passing.

Danse Lhasa Danse is Montreal choreographer Pierre-Paul Savoie's tribute to the beloved Juno-award winning singer. Inspired by the poetic essence in her music, Savoie assembled a team of professional artists from different schools to help portray its depth, compounded through the medium of dance. Since the premiere of the first show in November 2011, the artists and the seven choreographers involved in the production have been motivated to spread the love and the message of Lhasa's work.

"She was someone with a reputation of a lot of soul and sensitivity," said Savoie. "After her passing, I felt like we lost something."

On Jan. 1, 2010, the singer-songwriter lost her battle with breast cancer at the age of 37. She was born in the United States, but spent most her life in Mexico, France and Montreal. Her diverse background was reflected in her music, which she sang in English, French and Spanish, all in keeping with the eclecticism of the folk genre.

Savoie created the performance, which toured throughout Quebec and Toronto last year, in an effort to immortalize Lhasa's contribution to the artistic world. "The dances have as many colours as did Lhasa and her music have colour," said Savoie.

Keeping true to Lhasa's expressiveness, *Danse Lhasa Danse* is a collection of dances from different disciplines, including neoclassical ballet, flamenco and contemporary dance. Each dance is accompanied by live music, played by five musicians and four singers.

"It is not so often you dance, especially contemporary dance, with live musicians," said Myriam Allard, a professional flamenco dancer who stars in the show. "But Pierre-Paul directs it such that we create a connection between the musicians and dancers to tell a story"

Savoie specializes in theatre and dancing, which is evident in his choreography. The show bridges music and dance in order to project a message to the audience, shedding light into the revolving themes of Lhasa's music.

"I spent over six months conceptualizing [*Danse Lhasa Danse*]" said the seasoned choreographer, "researching all her interviews, her music, her life, trying to visualize how to convey her passion for life on to the stage [with] the dual practices of live music and dance."

Danse Lhasa Danse *will play at the Chan Centre at 8 p.m. on Jan. 18. Alongside her music, there is also a pre-performance talk at 7:15 p.m., which will brush up the audience with a little background about the artist and the production of the show.*

Dance Horizons hosts first UBC danceathon

PHOTO CARTER BRUNDAGE/THE UBYSSEY

Dacia Goh, Jonathan Kim and Jenny Peng are among the organizers responsible for the intensive workout.

Olivia Law
Staff Writer

While six hours of exercise is not something many of us would consider an ideal way to spend a Sunday afternoon, members of UBC's Dance Horizons are planning on hosting a six-hour danceathon to raise funds for the Red Cross supporting Children of War.

Aiming to showcase some of campus' most talented dancers and provide a back-to-school entertainment opportunity, participants must dance continuously for a whole six hours — that's 360 minutes, or 21,600 seconds — without stopping.

Fortunately for some, the danceathon can be completed in teams of five — but a team will only be considered "dancing" if three or more members are on the dancefloor at a time. Some daring individuals, however, will be attempting the monumental challenge alone.

Dance Horizons emphasizes that dancing is an extremely effective form of exercise. Though the danceathon may seem intimidating, the club says the event can be a great way to explore a healthier lifestyle while doing something both enjoyable and sociable.

Jenny Peng, one of the event organizers, encouraged participants to think of the danceathon as "a big party."

"The event is more emphasized on endurance and participation — we aren't expecting everyone to come with fully choreographed routines," she said. "Perhaps everyone can learn something new."

Kunal Sethi, a second year civil engineering student from Tanzania, is looking forward to the event. "It's a different, maybe more attractive option than just parties. It's a party atmosphere but with more talent."

Although a student organization, several members of the club are highly skilled dancers; for this reason, some students are planning on attending not to dance, but simply to spectate. The organizers expect a number of talented dancers in various genres, from hip-hop to Latin and ballroom, to display their abilities on the dancefloor.

The ability to amalgamate so many different cultures through dance is partially what makes Dance Horizons so popular, according to Sethi. "I come from a hip-hop background back home, so I'm excited to combine my passion for dance with others like me."

As a club, Dance Horizons' mandate is to provide dance classes in multiple genres, from classical to street dance. Professional instructors from different studios are hired to provide technical classes as well as choreographing routines; the club works on minimizing the costs of events and classes in order to create a community for anyone who wants to get involved. Funds raised during the danceathon will also help the club provide affordable dance classes to dancers both on campus and in Vancouver.

The first event of its kind on campus, Dance Horizons is hoping for a large turnout at the event, and with a prize of $200 for the winner (or winners), there certainly is motivation for powering through the six hours of dance.

The Dance-a-thon will take place on January 19th from 1 till 7pm in the UBC SUB Ballroom.

ILLUSTRATION JETHRO AU/THE UBYSSEY

UBC's public affairs staff downs shots with President Stephen Toope and spokesperson Randy Schmidt takes the opportunity to draw on Toope's face. They are all wearing Thuggies. This comic has no deeper meaning, but we talk about drinking and Thuggies in our Last Words this week and thought we might illustrate that in the above manner.

LAST WORDS // PARTING SHOTS AND SNAP JUDGEMNTS FROM THE UBYSSEY EDITORIAL BOARD

TAKING JOKES SERIOUSLY

This year, three joke candidates are running in the AMS elections.

While some students may think joke candidates hurt the election process, we at *The Ubyssey* welcome joke candidates. While this year's candidates probably won't live up to the legacy of candidates like Kommander Keg who ran to protest liquor laws, they look like they'll give the other candidates a run for their money.

Joke candidates have an opportunity to call out other candidates and problems in the AMS in a way the other candidates do not. While some joke candidates just run for an opportunity to be silly in debates, we hope this year's contenders will take advantage of their opportunities run funny, relevant campaigns that aren't afraid to criticize the AMS.

TEACH ME HOW TO THUGGIE

You've seen their ads in the SUB washrooms. Their motto? "Life is short. Live it long." That's a nice way to market their oversized, knee-length hoodie to the YOLO generation. According to their website, the Thuggie began as a "seemingly silly inconsequential" idea, and maybe it should've stayed that way.

We support local businesses but our negativity boils down to a simple fact: Thuggies look ridiculous. They look silly. Don't wear them. Don't use the "it's like a dress" argument. It's an oversized hoodie. Don't say that you can wear a Thuggie and then not wear pants. No. We just can't take people who wear Thuggies seriously.

DEFEAT OF BREWERY A LOSS FOR STUDENTS

bruBC is rightfully angry that it appears there will be no student brewery on campus. Granted, by attaching their measure to a larger and more important spending bill they hurt their own cause at the AMS. For those who worked on the initiative for years, one might expect to see somewhat more political savvy.

Still, the AMS has to understand there are only so many things students care about at this university. Transit and fun rank near the top of these things. The student brewery would have been a unique feature for UBC, helping its image as a fun place to go to school instead of a commuter school and neighbourhood for wealthy Vancouverites.

Alas, it was not meant to be. For shame.

ON THAT NOTE, DRINK!

Just to let you all know, you should be drinking. Yes, that's right: in addition to your daily vitamins you should be scarfing down a glass of red or two. It will make you live longer, according to *TIME Magazine*. As long as you don't exceed the 14 drink cap a week, your liver will apparently stay golden, Ponyboy.

CONSTRUCTION WOES IN GEOGRAPHY BUILDING UNACCEPTABLE

The Geography Building's construction issues are pretty unacceptable. One would think a university aspiring to be an international powerhouse would respect its strongest departments — like geography — instead of subjecting them to prolonged, noisy, dirty and dangerous construction.

Perhaps if the geography professors gave up their offices and turned them into overpriced student housing, the university might get their act together and finish the work.

FREE MOHAMED FAHMY

We would like to add our relatively small voice to the chorus of Vancouver institutions calling for the release of Mohamed Fahmy, the Egyptian-Canadian Al Jazeera journalist being held by the Egyptian government in Cairo.

PHOTO COURTESY TWITTER

Detained Canadian-Egyptian journalist Mohamed Fahmy has Vancouver roots.

Fahmy has been detained for three weeks in what the *Vancouver Sun* described as "a cold, dark, insect-ridden cell at a notorious Cairo prison."

Fahmy graduated from Vancouver's City University in 1999, studying marketing before moving to the Middle East where he has worked as a driver and interpreter for the *Los Angeles Times* and now works as a producer for Al Jazeera English.

Both UBC President Stephen Toope and UBC journalism school director Peter Klein have called for his release.

"Here's this guy who went to school right here in Vancouver," Klein said in comments to the *Sun*. "He could have been a guy you were sitting next to in a coffee shop, but now he's sitting in one of the most brutal prisons in Egypt."

Toope said Fahmy's detention was "a worrying development as Egypt moves toward elections."

Indeed, any government too afraid to let journalists work freely is one that has given up on the last semblance of legitimacy. Here's to hoping Fahmy is released immediately, and that the Canadian government does its part to contribute to his release.

Canadian student press fiasco continues

GEOFF LISTER
Editor's Notebook

From time to time, we devote some column space to a little navel-gazing and discuss the wonderful world of student journalism.

Last year, *The Ubyssey* left the Canadian University Press (CUP), an organization claiming to represent the student press across the country. We did so reluctantly, but out of necessity — the organization cost us more than $5,700 a year to be part of, and we believed we could give you, our readers, better value for your money.

One of the main problems with CUP is its wire service. The organization devotes more than half of its non-conference resources to paying a national bureau chief and regional bureau chiefs, including travel, training, office space and other associated costs of having a staff who supposedly operate a wire service of aggregated and original articles covering university affairs nationwide.

None of that is necessary. Much of what CUP publishes is aggregated from student newspapers as part of a content-sharing agreement. The rest is written by regional bureau chiefs, but it often duplicates assignments these employees have at their respective newspapers, and many bureau chiefs fail to meet their quotas. Worst of all, perhaps, is its irrelevance at student newspapers that are increasingly focusing on providing great local news, rather than trying to keep up with *The Globe and Mail*, let alone the Internet at large.

Another major problem is CUP's governance structure. CUP's president serves as its head officer, which means that instead of being the organization's leader, she serves the board's wishes. Presidents are elected for their vision and then bogged down by red tape. They are rarely given the freedom they need to succeed and make important changes in the organization.

For these reasons, most large papers in Canada have made the same decision as *The Ubyssey* to leave CUP. In fact, when *The Ubyssey* left this year, we were one of the last large papers to go, following the University of Toronto, Western, McGill, Queen's and York.

So why am I talking about this now? This weekend at the organization's annual general meeting, the editor of U of T's *The Varsity* and I presented a plan to reunite CUP. This plan required the organization to make significant changes and cuts to maintain its membership and recruit those who have left. It was a holistic attempt to preserve CUP.

After several hours of debate, the proposal failed 19-15 in a vote that afforded papers at small colleges the same power as those at the University of Alberta and SFU. That the proposal failed is sad, because more student newspapers will leave the organization, frustrated with its status quo approach to fixing problems. And without CUP, it's difficult to see its phenomenally popular and educational national conferences continuing. It won't have the same oomph when its members are facing adversity.

So, in an effort to create an organization that does represent the interests of student papers, *The Ubyssey* and a handful of other papers are building up the National University Wire, an organization founded at the start of this year to replace the CUP wire for papers no longer in CUP. The organization will be initially free to join and work cooperatively to build community and services as member papers. It will offer an aggregated wire service using the miracle of the Internet, instead of hundreds of hours of manpower.

And most importantly, it will put pressure on CUP to change. The end goal of this campaign is to unite campus newspapers and strengthen the campus press, those tireless journalists who keep a watchful eye on campus administrators and showcase university achievement, in training to bring their skill set to wider audiences.

So we hope to bring you content from more campuses across Canada as more papers join the National University Wire, and we hope CUP changes, because we'll miss it when it's gone.

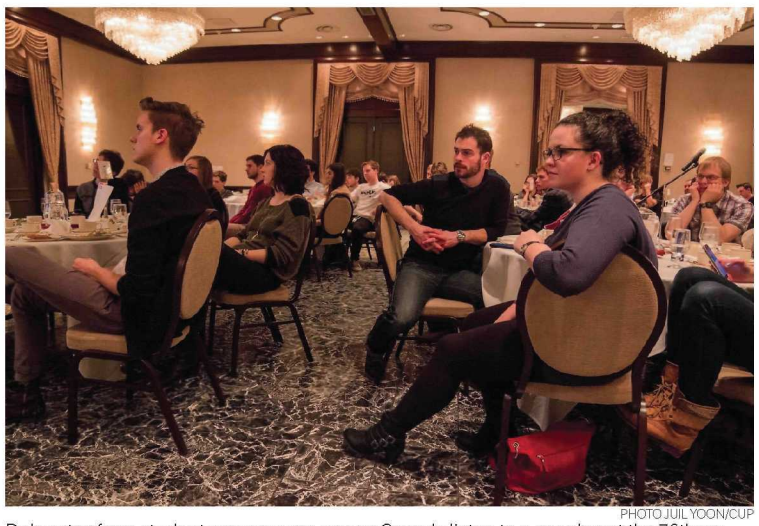
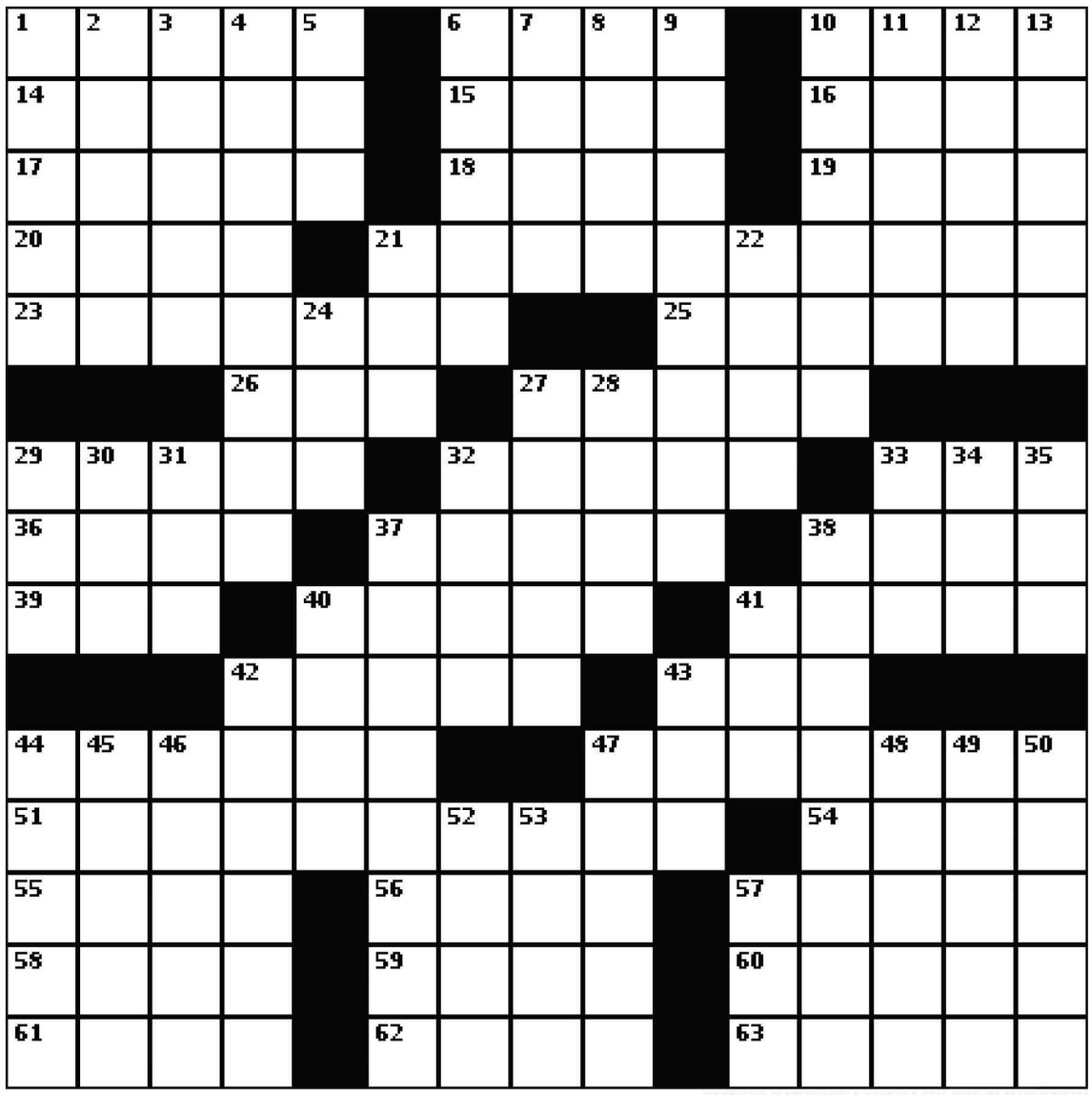


PHOTO JUIL YOON/CUP

Delegates from student newspapers across Canada listen to a speaker at the 76th national conference organized by the Canadian University Press in Edmonton this year.

Got something you want to rant/rave/write about? Write for Opinions! Email editor Arno Rosenfeld at features@ubyssey.ca

CROSSWORD



PUZZLE COURTESY BESTCROSSWORDS.COM. USED WITH PERMISSION.

ACROSS

1- City near Kobe
6- First Arabic letter
10- 1998 Wimbledon winner Novotna
14- Birth-related
15- Completed
16- Hydroxyl compound
17- Championship
18- A Chaplin
19- Having a sound mind
20- Inter ___
21- Antagonism
23- Crown of ancient Egypt
25- Actually existing
26- Primate with a short tail or no tail
27- Cavalry sword
29- Musical drama
32- Viscounts' superiors
33- "Lord, is ___?": Matthew
36- *The Time Machine* people
37- Dispute
38- H.S. exam
39- Deli bread
40- Extra-terrestrial being
41- Back in
42- Peaks of Peru
43- Orch. section
44- Virginal
47- Interruption
51- Knot uniting the ends of two lines
54- ___ about (approximately)
55- Winglike parts
56- Marquand sleuth
57- Conductor Dorati
58- Frond plant
59- Med school subject
60- ___ Selassie
61- Worry
62- AMEX counterpart
63- Luges

DOWN

1- Available
2- Leaves port
3- Room at the top
4- Desert region in SW Africa
5- Bass, e.g.
6- Take as one's own
7- Coil
8- ___ uncertain terms
9- Probable
10- Clown
11- Diarist Nin
12- Taboos
13- Coeur d'___
21- Any person
22- Supermodel Sastre
24- Clean air org.
27- Wise ones
28- Give ___ for one's money
29- Not 'neath
30- Layer
31- Fair-hiring abbr.
32- Buffalo's lake
33- Believer's suffix
34- Pitch
35- Figure skater Midori
37- Councillor
38- Private
40- Chip in
41- Numbered rd.
42- Thumbs-up
43- Melancholic
44- Grain husks
45- More healthy
46- Alert
47- Benjamin
48- Free laces, say
49- Author Dahl
50- City on the Rhone
52- Emaciated
53- Greek letters
57- Sighs of relief

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			7	8			5	
	5				6			
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PUZZLE COURTESY KRAZYDAD. USED WITH PERMISSION.

Jan. 12 answers

1 O	2 S	3 H	4 A		5 M	6 A	7 N	8 O	9 R		10 A	11 R	12 T	13 E
14 O	N	U	S		15 A	S	O	N	E		16 D	E	E	R
17 N	O	T	W	18 I	T	H	S	T	A	19 N	D	I	N	G
20 A	B	S	E	N	T	E	E		21 C	O	U	N	T	S
				22 G	E	N		23 S	T	E	P			
24 C	25 A	26 N	27 T	E	R		28 P	E	A	L		29 S	30 O	31 S
32 A	N	E	R	A		33 E	R	I	N		34 A	L	O	E
35 D	E	P	A	R	36 T	M	E	N	T	37 A	L	I	Z	E
38 R	E	A	P		39 H	O	P	E		40 R	A	C	E	R
41 E	L	L		42 A	R	T	S		43 S	T	R	E	S	S
			44 I	D	E	E		45 R	A	I				
46 L	47 U	48 R	D	A	N		49 N	O	N	E	50 V	51 E	52 N	53 T
54 A	T	H	E	R	O	55 S	C	L	E	R	O	S	I	S
56 O	N	E	A		57 D	I	A	L	S		58 L	A	N	A
59 S	E	A	L		60 Y	E	A	S	T		61 T	I	E	R

Volunteer for *The Ubyssey*
What are you interested in?

Design, layout, natural lighting
email editor Ming Wong **printeditor@ubyssey.ca**

Lights, camera, selfies
email editors Carter Brundage **photo@ubyssey.ca**
Lu Zhang + Nick Grossman **video@ubyssey.ca**

Toope, AMS elections, current events
email editors Will McDonald and Sarah Bigam **news@ubyssey.ca**

Arts, entertainment, sophistry
email editor Rhys Edwards **culture@ubyssey.ca**

Varsity sports, athletic reviews, milkshakes
email editor Natalie Scadden **sports@ubyssey.ca**

Investigative pieces, longform journalism, pizza
email editor Arno Rosenfeld **features@ubyssey.ca**

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