

# Kennedy played role in forestry challenges

By JO MOSS

Robert Kennedy has played a part in some of the most difficult and far-reaching challenges forest education has faced.

Many of the issues, which involve competing uses of forest land, wilderness areas, and more efficient use of the forest resource — are still with us. Although Kennedy stepped down after seven years as Dean of Forestry in July, he is actively involved in helping resolve them.

A wood scientist who successfully combined a university career with forest products research in government, Kennedy took over as dean in 1983 when B.C.'s forest industry was in the depths of recession. He recalls the provincial government announced cut-backs in university funding when he was about a week into his new job.

"Those were critical times," Kennedy said.

Environmental and wilderness concerns were becoming stronger public issues, and enrolment in forestry schools was declining as young people turned away from what they saw as a tarnished profession.

"Some young people still see it as a field to be avoided, instead of a challenge to be accepted," Kennedy said, noting that enrolment figures are still not as high as they were in the late 70s.

In his early years as dean, Kennedy worked to strengthen faculty specialities so that when economic recovery came, the school could provide the necessary technical and scientific support for the sector's mandate of more efficient and effective forest management and utilization.

The role of professional foresters changed from when he went to university. They became forest managers, forest biologists and industry/govern-

## Sziklai receives international honor

Recently retired Forestry Professor Oscar Sziklai has received a distinguished service award from the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO) for his nearly 30 years of contributions to international forestry research.

Sziklai has been involved in IUFRO studies of parent stands and seed procurement since 1965 when he coordinated collection of Douglas fir seed from B.C.'s west coast for tests in Europe and North America.

One of three forest scientists to receive the distinguished service award, he has also made substantial contributions to seed research in B.C. and to tree breeding and forest genetics in Sweden and China, where he is the only non-Chinese to be made a member of the Chinese Forestry Society.

IUFRO was founded in 1890 in Vienna and is one of the oldest forestry organizations with a worldwide membership.

Sziklai will also receive an honorary degree from Sopron University in Hungary this fall. He was one of 200 forestry students at Sopron university who fled to the west in 1956 after the short-lived Hungarian revolution.

He is the second member of the Sopron group in UBC's Faculty of Forestry to receive an honorary doctorate from Sopron. Antal Kozak has received one as well

ment spokespeople, with less emphasis on forest engineering.

"We are now in a stage where foresters have an even broader responsibility," said Kennedy, who has spent 37 years in forestry. Today's graduates need skills in conflict resolution, organizational behavior, and leadership psychology as well as a broad training in resource management and renewal. An ethical sense of stewardship is critical, Kennedy said.

He predicts part of the technical side of forestry, certain aspects of harvesting and silviculture, for example, will increasingly be done by forest technicians, allowing foresters to concentrate on broader management, biological and social issues.

In all, the demands on a forestry school to produce graduates with in-depth expertise in a variety of areas are strong. Kennedy said UBC's current four-year BSF program is only the beginning of the rounded education required to meet future demands on natural resource managers. Combinations of post-baccalaureate and continuing professional education will become increasingly important, he said.

Kennedy graduated from the College of Forestry at the State University of New York in 1953. He came to UBC to earn a Masters degree—one of only six graduate students in the Forestry faculty at that time.

Following graduate work at Yale University where he earned a Doctor of Philosophy in 1962, he joined the Forestry faculty at the University of Toronto, then took a position with Western Forest Products Lab (now Forintek) in 1966.

He was associated with the laboratory for 13 years, heading the wood biology section for four years, and serving as director from 1975 to 1979, when he joined UBC.

Throughout his career, he has been active in various national and international professional and forest-industry organizations including the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO). Recently president of the prestigious International Academy of Wood Science, Kennedy was only the third Canadian to be elected to its select membership of about 200 worldwide.

In 1989, Kennedy was named Commissioner of the B.C. Forest Resources Commission, a task force set up to determine what the role of forestry in the province should be. The commission is expected to define who is ultimately responsible for long-term forest management and make specific recommendations on tenure, harvesting practices, methods of public involvement, and allocation of resources.

Kennedy said the study is long overdue. "We have to deal with competing uses for the forest, and to that end we have to develop a broad land-use strategy, complete with better inventory data on all forest resources. Then we can have more realistic debate with better information on which to base our decisions," he explained.

"We're going to have to put a value on things like wilderness and watershed protection. And it won't happen without some heated debates," he warned.

Kennedy will remain on faculty until he retires in December, 1991. He said he has no firm plans for the future other than a few months' leave early in the New Year to visit the University of Melbourne, Australia.

# Asian Library celebrates its 30th anniversary

By PAULA MARTIN

BC's Asian Library celebrates its 30th anniversary this Fall — which makes it a full 974 years younger than the oldest book in its collection.

The Chinese dictionary, one of 45,000 volumes in the P'u-Pan Collection, was published in 986 A.D., and is the oldest volume in the UBC Library system, said Asian Library Head Linda Joe.

"It's one of our treasures," she added.

The library is ranked first in Canada in terms of number of volumes, with more than 350,000 covering a full range of subjects in Chinese, Japanese, Hindi, Punjabi, Sanskrit and several other languages. It also carries current newspapers and scholarly journals and has material on 5,000 reels of microfilm and 17,000 sheets of microfiche.

"We are strong in literature, history, religious studies, language, and fine arts," Joe said. "We also have a good collection of materials about the current situation in East Asia and its economics, politics, and statistics."

The Asian Library also carries a number of special materials and is the Canadian depository of Japanese government publications.

"Our mission is to support the research and teaching at UBC about the Asia Pacific region," said Joe. "We also share our resources with the community, so anyone is welcome to use them."

The Asian Library also houses a special collection of Asian-Canadian



Photo by Media Services

Asian Library Head Linda Joe with the oldest book in the UBC library system - a Chinese dictionary published in 986 A.D., part of the P'u-Pan Collection.

archives, with material pertaining to the history of Chinese and Japanese immigrants in Canada. Another special collection, the George H. Beans Collection of Japanese Maps, contains 320 sets of rare maps of Japan produced between 1600 and 1867.

Joe said the library is heavily used by Asian scholars and people from business and government, as well as the general public. More than 27,000 transactions were made last year.

The Asian Library has several goals, she said, which include implementing a preservation program for its special collections, hooking into an international research network and obtaining special computer software that would allow Asian characters to be displayed onscreen.

"No East Asian library has this capability yet," Joe added.

# Women's group sponsors computer science workshop

By CONNIE FILLETTI

A multidisciplinary workshop exploring the challenges and themes in computer science over the next decade, with a focus on areas in which women excel, is scheduled to take place at UBC Sept. 8 and 9.

Organized by the Academic Women's Association and the Department of Computer Science, WINDOW: Women, Information technology, New Directions and Opportunities Workshop is aimed at a wide cross-section of women, from the computer novice to the expert user.

The greatest challenge in organizing the meeting has been to advertise it successfully, said Dr. Alison Buchan, an associate professor of Physiology and WINDOW coordinator.

"The impression of many women is that it will be too technical and that it is designed for members of a computer science department," said Dr. Buchan. "This is not true. The whole purpose of the workshop is to inform those with little or no computing experience about just how exciting computing is, and how many fields are changing due to the use of computers."

The program ranges from the use of computers in the arts, medicine and media to the impact of computers on our daily lives. Despite the high-tech subject matter, all workshops and overview talks will be accessible to a general audience, and although the

meeting is directed to encouraging women to attend, men are welcome.

While women excel in many areas of computing, Dr. Buchan thinks the problem is more the number of women in computing. The areas posing the greatest problem are those that overlap with engineering and advanced science due to the small number of women with the right backgrounds.

"The current climate for women in computer science is excellent. There is a 50 per cent enrolment at the undergraduate level, but this falls to 20 per cent in the graduate program at UBC and throughout North American universities," Dr. Buchan explained. "All the women graduates get good positions when they complete their degrees. Unfortunately, most go into industry leaving very few who become academics to serve as role models for students."

Dr. Buchan hopes that WINDOW will provide a better understanding of the scope available to computer users, while encouraging more women to make greater use of computers and to consider a career in computing.

She also feels that it will be an excellent opportunity for women in computing to share their experiences in their different fields, and to discuss problems encountered during their careers.

For more information on WINDOW fees and registration, call 228-2083.