

UBC REPORTS

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December 9, 1993



Gavin Wilson photo

Plants For The Holidays

David Tarrant and Judy Newton of the UBC Botanical Garden show off their handiwork as they give a workshop on making wreaths and other Christmas decorations from plant cuttings. Wreaths made by the volunteer group Friends of the Garden are on sale at the Shop-in-the-Garden. Proceeds support the Botanical Garden.

Science and humanities researchers receive prizes

by Gavin Wilson
Staff writer

Fourteen faculty members are winners of UBC's top research prizes for 1993.

The \$1,500 Jacob Biely Prize for Research goes to **Donald Calne**, director of the Neurodegenerative Disorders Centre. Calne is a leading neurologist who studies movement disorders such as Parkinsonism and dystonia using, in particular, positron emission tomography as a research tool.



Calne

Paul Yachnin, Dept. of English, wins the \$1,000 Alumni Prize for Research in the Humanities. Besides critical and theoretical writing on Elizabethan and Jacobean theatre, Yachnin is involved in a major editing project on the works of playwright Thomas Middleton

Darrin R. Lehman, Dept. of Psychology, is the winner of the \$1,000 Alumni Prize for Research in the Social Sciences. A social psychologist whose primary research focuses on coping with stressful life experiences, Lehman also studies reasoning in everyday-life contexts and the effects of culture on social cognition and behavior.

The Charles McDowell Award for Excellence in Research goes to **Catharine Rankin**, Dept. of Psychology. Rankin has introduced a new model for the neurobiology of learning and memory

based on her work with the nematode *C. elegans*.

Ten other faculty members, five in the social sciences and humanities and five in the natural, applied and health sciences, are winners of \$10,000 UBC Killam Research Prizes.



Rankin

The winners and their areas of expertise are:
Brett Finlay, Biotechnology Laboratory, microbial pathogenicity and cell biology of bacterial invasion.
David Jones, Dept. of Zoology, physiology of diving in air-breathing vertebrates, comparative cardiovascular physiology.

Paul LeBlond, Dept. of Oceanography, physical oceanography, especially ocean waves, their properties, propagation, dissipation and effects.

Peter Legzdins, Dept. of Chemistry, organometallic chemistry, particularly the chemistry of nitrosyl complexes of chromium, molybdenum and tungsten.
Thomas Tiedje, Dept. of Physics, semiconductor physics, quantum well structures and optoelectronics.

John Wilson Foster, Dept. of English, Irish culture from the beginning of Irish folklore to modern literary and political controversies.
Peter Graf, Dept. of Psychology, cognitive psychology, including the distinction between implicit and explicit remembering.

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Nobel Prize winner donates \$500,000

UBC's Michael Smith has created an endowment for schizophrenia research and promotion of science

by Gavin Wilson
Staff writer

Nobel Prize winner Michael Smith has donated his half-million-dollar prize money to fund schizophrenia research and science awareness programs in B.C.

Smith announced the creation of the endowment which will bear his name on the eve of his departure for Europe, where he is attending lectures and meetings before the Nobel Prize presentation Dec. 10 in Stockholm.

The endowment will support post-doctoral research in schizophrenia and will assist Science World and the Society for Canadian Women in Science and Technology in delivering science awareness programs for parents, teachers and young people.

"Beyond the personal satisfaction of winning the Nobel Prize, it provides me with the opportunity to share in a tangible and lasting way with other people some of the value and benefit science has given me," Smith said.

"Establishing this endowment does this by encouraging important areas of medical research which have been neglected and which will make real differences to the lives of individuals, as well as encouraging young people, particularly women, to explore exciting careers in science and technology," he added.

Premier Mike Harcourt and Glen Clark, minister responsible for science and technology, announced that the provincial government is making a \$1-million contribution to the Michael Smith Endowment.

"Michael Smith has brought great honour to himself and all of British Columbia's science and technology community," Harcourt said.

Smith said he hopes the federal government and private donors will also contribute to the endowment.

The endowment will fund research into the molecular genetics of schizophrenia.

Smith said such research is underfunded when compared with other diseases such as cancer and AIDS, but that the disease causes a great deal of human suffering and has a high cost to society.

The other area that will benefit from the endowment is science outreach.

"The fact that I have to explain my research using analogies reflects the cultural gap that exists between scientists and those who are not scientists," he said.

Contributions to Science World will be used to take programs to people living outside of the Lower Mainland.

The other beneficiary, the Society for Canadian Women in Science and Technology, is a Vancouver-based non-profit association that encourages equal opportunities for

women in science, technology and engineering careers, and holds workshops and conferences to interest young women in science.

One of the society's founding members is Mary Vickers, a Douglas College instructor who studied and taught at UBC and who recently won the Eve Savory Award for Science Communication from the B.C. Science Council.

CBC to broadcast award presentation

The presentation of Michael Smith's Nobel Prize will be broadcast live on CBC-TV's Newsworld on Dec. 10.

Broadcast of the ceremony in Stockholm, Sweden is scheduled to begin at 7:30 a.m. (PST). After Smith receives the award he will talk via satellite with colleagues and members of the media gathered at Science World to watch the presentation.

Later, between 9:15 a.m. and 9:45 a.m., Smith will field questions from Newsworld anchors based in Halifax.

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Letters

Survey raises questions

Editor:

I recently read the Maclean's survey on universities, and feel the figures prompt the question, "Where are the funds UBC receives being spent?"

UBC did maintain its fourth-place position in the 15 medical/doctoral universities surveyed, and we have every right to be proud of our "best reputation" ranking.

However, we dropped two

places to 10th in class sizes for first- and second-year level. We dropped one place to 14th in class sizes for third- and fourth-year level. We dropped two places to ninth in percentage of first year classes taught by tenured faculty. If we feel that "small classes are still the best - ones where a student can raise a hand and be heard, learn to debate, analyse, think" (Maclean's), UBC needs improvement.

We rose three places to second in money available for current expenses, but dropped three places to ninth in percentage of budget spent on scholarships and bursaries,

and dropped two places to 13th in percentage spent on student services. At an institution committed to the education and overall well-being of students, these figures are not encouraging.

Educational institutions do face financial problems, and this could affect class sizes and budget distribution. Yet, are we spending too much on the administration of the service we provide, rather than the service itself?

Tina Duke
University Computing Services

Program offers chance to improve English skills

by Abe Heffer

Staff writer

Colleen Garbe is getting another chance to upgrade her communication skills.

For the last three months, Garbe, a Faculty Club catering co-ordinator, has been participating in Better English Skills Training (BEST), a program administered by the Human Resources Dept. and delivered by the Hastings Institute in Vancouver. It is available to anyone on campus who would like to improve their English language skills including writing, pronunciation and communication.

"This program enables you to learn through interaction with other BEST class members," said Garbe.

"There are no textbooks, only a dictionary. We learn by sharing our ideas and personal experiences with our BEST classmates. There's no pressure, and as a result, participants learn at their own speed."

Theodora Tam, another group member employed by Limited Time Only, admits she was initially scared. She wondered how she could learn without a teacher "standing at the front, telling us what he or she is teaching that day."

"Now I feel I have gained more confidence using English. I have not only gotten more ideas to write but I have also learned more vocabulary, expressions and sentence structures."

Garbe and Tam are two of 45 university employees currently enrolled in the 18-week pilot project, with another group of



Abe Heffer photo

Instructor Martin Wright offers Theodora Tam a few pointers during a Better English Skills Training (BEST) session.

employees scheduled to begin another training session at its conclusion.

BEST is a joint initiative between the university and CUPE locals 2950 and 116 and was implemented by a committee made up of union and UBC representatives.

"The program, funded by the university, has been implemented as part of the Staff Development Plan," said Frank Eastham, associate vice-president, Human Resources.

"Whether you're looking for help in a highly technical area or in general, this program offers participants an opportunity to improve their English skills through oral and written presentations in an informal class setting," said Eastham.

Participants spend a total of six hours per week in a campus

classroom setting, with one instructor assigned to four students, on average. Three hours are on university time, the other three are on personal time.

Gary Pharness, a consultant with the Hastings Institute, says the objective of the BEST program is to teach participants to look after their own learning needs.

"We hope people go away from BEST with the realization that the life experiences they bring into the class are crucial to the program's success. Regardless of a person's skill level, participants learn to accommodate one another. What we all have to say is important."

For more information on Better English Skills Training, call Maura Da Cruz in Human Resources at 822-8147 or Colleen Garbe at 822-4693.

Killam

Continued from Page 1

Kenneth Hendricks, Dept. of Economics, empirical economics, especially the strategic implications of various aspects of competition in the oil industry.

Margaret Slade, Dept. of Economics, natural resource economics, industrial organization and applied econometrics, including models of resource pricing

Richard Unger, Dept. of History, medieval economic history and technology such as shipbuilding and brewing.

As well, seven UBC Killam Faculty Research Fellowships are being awarded to: **Clarence**

de Silva, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering; **Michael Fryzuk**, Dept. of Chemistry; **Kenneth Hendricks**, Dept. of Economics; **Charlotte Johnston**, Dept. of Psychology; **Donald Moerman**, Dept. of Zoology; **Rajadurai Rajamahendran**, Dept. of Animal Science; and **Gary Schajer**, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering.

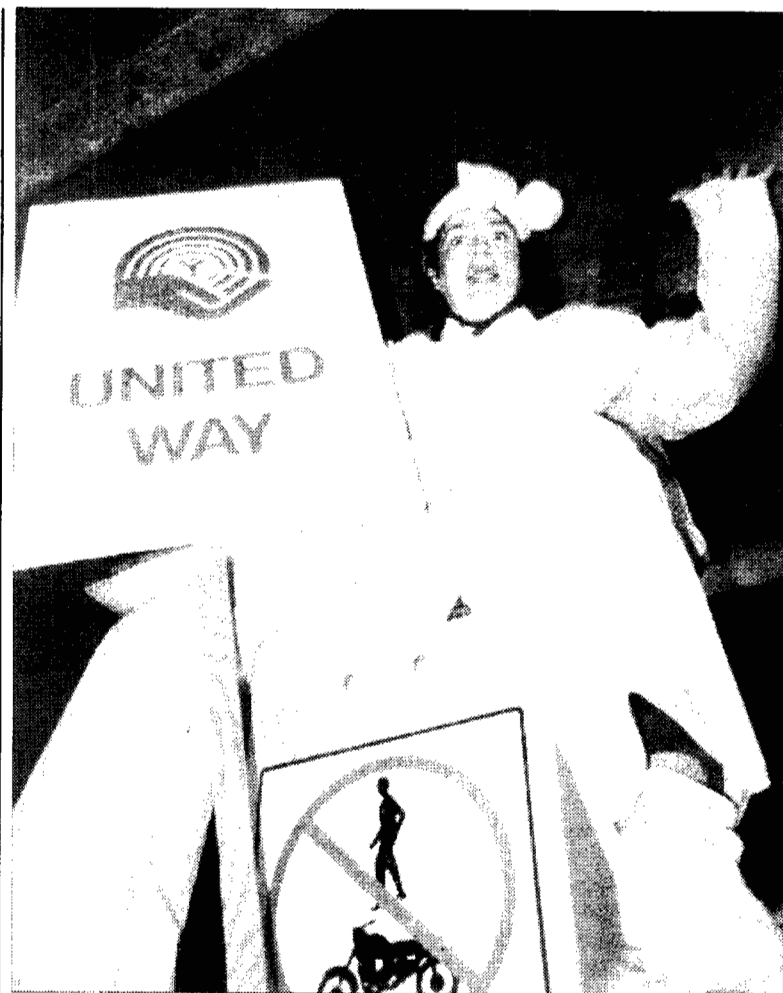
The fellowships give promising young faculty up to \$15,000 as a salary supplement and up to \$3,000 for research expenses, allowing them to pursue their research full-time during a study leave.

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Charles Ker photo

Almost There

United Way volunteer Ellis Courtney was up early to greet motorists in the Fraser Parkade and update them on the campus campaign. To date, the campaign has raised roughly \$285,000, and donations are still being accepted through December. Help the United Way reach its \$300,000 goal. Phone 822-6192 for further information.

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Terrific Christmas Savings on Books

from UBC Press



From now until Christmas all UBC Press books are on sale for 20-50% off list price. For a sale list and a catalogue, call Julie Sedger at UBC Press Marketing at 822-4547 or e-mail her at sedger@ubcpres.ubc.ca



UBC REPORTS

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Living with HIV

Emotional support linked to well-being

by Charles Ker

Staff writer

Allaying fear of AIDS among friends and families of gay men infected with the HIV virus would go a long way toward helping those infected cope with their condition, says a UBC report.

In interviews with 92 HIV-positive gay men in Vancouver, UBC psychologist Rebecca Collins noted a strong relationship between the psychological well-being of those infected and the emotional support they received.

"Personal relationships and the support they provide can play critical roles in adaptation to life-threatening illness in general and to HIV-infection in particular," said Collins, an assistant professor in the Dept. of Psychology.

"Identifying factors which influence social support, or lack of it, should be made a priority."

Collins' report, Social Support Provision to HIV-Infected Gay Men, examines how attitudes towards homosexuality and people's knowledge of AIDS influence their decisions to support those infected with it.

The report suggests that adjustment to HIV infection might be significantly improved through intervention with close friends and family to lessen their anxieties toward the disease and change negative attitudes they may harbour towards homosexuality. Collins said if those giving support could be induced to view the infected individual as less culpable for his illness, he would likely be better equipped to deal with the infection.

While "victim-blaming" occurs with other diseases, Collins' report says laying blame is more common toward persons with AIDS (PWAs). It goes on to say that, when present, blame exerts a strong influence on peoples' intentions to interact with those infected with HIV.

Participants interviewed for the year-long study were asked how they found out about their infection, their emotional reactions to the diagnosis and the reactions of family and friends. Questionnaires were then sent to members of their social network assessing their knowledge of AIDS, HIV infection and attitudes towards homosexuality.

Among the observations: blame of the person with AIDS for his illness, together with fear of AIDS, was associated with less social support; fear of AIDS had a negative impact on the quality of recipients' and providers' relationship; among heterosexuals, those with more negative attitudes toward homosexuality were more blaming of those infected with HIV; persons infected with the virus were less likely to blame others in the same situation. This suggests that it is helpful for persons with HIV to interact socially with others who have the virus.

Collins said the reduction of societal prejudices regarding homosexuality must be a priority in the fight against AIDS. Targeting prejudices would reduce the tendency of others to lay blame, increase social support and ultimately influence PWAs' ability to live with HIV infection.

The study was conducted with the help of the Vancouver-based Persons with AIDS Society. Collins said the results should give agencies offering support to people with AIDS a better understanding of their emotional needs.

More Than Just A Paper Tiger

Origami expert Joseph Wu exhibits some of his menagerie at the UBC Bookstore while demonstrating the ancient Japanese art of paper folding. All of his creations are made from a single sheet of paper.

Gavin Wilson photo



"Dr. T" leaves mark on Dentistry

by Connie Filletti

Staff writer

There's nothing average about this Joe, at least not to the faculty, staff and students of the Oral Biology Dept.

Affectionately known as "Dr. T" by his colleagues in the Faculty of Dentistry, Joe Tonzetich is highly regarded for his contributions to the family atmosphere that exists in the faculty.

And although he will retire from the department this year after a teaching and research career that has spanned a

quarter century as a professor of Oral Biology and a Medical Research Council career investigator, his legacy of goodwill remains.

Tonzetich recently endowed a \$250,000 bursary from which a \$15,000 annual award will go to a PhD student in Oral Biology who demonstrates superior research ability and potential in the fields of biochemistry and cell biology of oral tissues.

"Joe's outstanding and distinguished career has culminated in this significant endowment in Oral Biology which will

contribute to the ongoing quality of life in this faculty," said Dr. Marcia Boyd, dean of the Faculty of Dentistry.

Boyd was speaking to nearly 100 well-wishers who gathered in the Oral Biology Dept. Nov. 17 to dedicate a common room named for Tonzetich.

"I couldn't have obtained my own graduate training without financial support," Tonzetich said. "Since then I've felt that if I was ever in a position to help, I would give the same opportunity to other worthy students to achieve their academic goals."

Shaughnessy volunteers fund bursary

by Connie Filletti

Staff writer

Don't tell Mae Corbett that junk food has little value.

Corbett, second vice-president of the recently disbanded Shaughnessy Hospital Volunteer Society, says the sale of thousands of bags of potato chips, chocolate bars and soft drinks helped to raise money to endow a \$265,000 bursary at UBC.

The annual fellowship of \$15,000 per year will be awarded to a graduate student in the health sciences who is recommended by the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Corbett credits the more than 300 Shaughnessy Hospital volunteers who gave more than 25,000 hours of service last year — the equivalent of 14 full-time staff positions — for the society's impressive sales figures in 1992.

Many of the volunteers worked in the hospital's gift shop, the society's largest and main money-maker.

"The volunteers were incredibly dedicated and hard working, even to the extent of putting in time after a day's regular work. They are really responsible for helping to make the fellowship a reality," Corbett said.

She also cites the efforts of Barbara Lever, president of the Shaughnessy Hospital Volunteer Society, and other board members.

Together with Corbett, they overcame the problem of what to do with the money, a dilemma sparked by the closure of Shaughnessy Hospital.

A clause in the society's constitution stipulated that in the event of the society's closure, its funds would revert to the hospital trustees, Corbett explained.

"But by this time the trustees had been relieved of their positions, and that meant the money would go to the government," she said. "We all felt tremendous frustration and sadness that this was happening."

Noting that the constitution made no provision for the funds should the hospital itself close, the society's board consulted a lawyer and the decision was made to amend the constitution to allow the society to disburse the funds as it deemed fit.

"We had given so much of our hearts and time to raising that money that we were determined that it wasn't just going to disappear into the government coffers," said Corbett.

"Instead, we wanted it used in a way that would be representative of Shaughnessy Hospital and, in its own small way, keep the name of the hospital and the society alive."

News Digest

The 20th anniversary of the Women's Resources Centre was celebrated Dec. 1 with a dinner hosted by UBC President David Strangway and Alice Strangway.

The centre's staff were honoured for their outstanding contributions and dedication to helping women and men with their life and career counselling needs.

Director Ruth Sigal said that collectively, the largely volunteer staff of about 60 give 600 hours of their time each month working at the centre, located in downtown Vancouver.

In addition to professionals who provide expertise on everything from personal growth to operating an independent business, volunteers include UBC graduate students in law, counselling psychology, social work, nursing and adult education. They assist 17,000 clients a year, Sigal said.

The Ernest C. Manning Awards Foundation will once again salute Canadian innovation by presenting cash awards to outstanding innovators in 1994.

The \$100,000 Principal Award, the \$25,000 Award of Distinction and two \$5,000 Innovation Awards will be presented to innovators who have conceived and developed new concepts, procedures, processes or products of benefit to Canada.

Nominees for the awards must be Canadian citizens resident in Canada. Nominations for the 1994 competition close on Feb. 11, 1994. Nomination pamphlets can be obtained from: The Manning Awards, 3900, 421-7 Ave. S.W., Calgary, Alberta. T2P 4K9.

A book about a little-known Vancouver activist has won the University of British Columbia Medal for Canadian Biography.

The award is for *The Struggle for Social Justice in British Columbia: Helena Gutteridge, the Unknown Reformer*, written by Irene Howard and published last year by UBC Press.

The book documents Gutteridge's activism as a suffragist and her 50-year fight for justice for women, workers, visible minorities and the poor.

The Struggle for Social Justice was also short-listed for the B.C. Book Awards and the City of Vancouver Book Prize.

Howard is a UBC alumna (BA '48, MA '64) and Vancouver writer who specializes in social history.

UBC's Pacific Educational Press has released the first in a series of books dealing with results from an international study based at UBC looking at mathematics and science education worldwide.

The Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) is investigating and comparing the math and science education of students in elementary and secondary schools in more than 50 countries.

Curriculum Frameworks for Mathematics and Science, the first publication of TIMSS research, is edited by UBC Prof. David Robitaille, who is also the international co-ordinator of the study.

Calendar

December 12 through January 15

Sunday, Dec. 12

Christmas At The Shop In The Garden

Annual December assortment of unique gifts; fresh green wreaths, dried arrangements, fine tools, seeds and books. Proceeds support the UBC Botanical Garden. 11am-5pm daily. Continues to Dec. 24. Free parking. Call 822-4529.

Christmas Music Concert

Held annually at the Museum of Anthropology. The UBC University Singers will perform Sunday, Dec. 12 at 2:30pm in the Great Hall. Concert free with admission. Call 822-5087.

Tuesday, Dec. 14

South Asia Research Seminar Series

Acronyms, Translation And Power In International Development: The Case Of Traditional Medical Practitioners In Nepal. Dr. Stacy Pigg, Anthropology, SFU. Asian Centre 604 from 12:30-2pm. Call 822-9266.

Statistics Seminar

Some Inequalities For U-Statistics With Application To Density Estimation. Ian McKay, Statistics. Angus 33 from 4-5:30pm. Refreshments. Call 822-2234.

Wednesday, Dec. 15

Orthopaedics Grand Rounds

A Paediatric Orthopaedic Clinical Pathological Conference. Chair: Dr. R.W. McGraw; guest speaker, Dr. S.J. Tredwell. VGH Eye Care Centre Auditorium at 7am. Call 875-4272.

Microbiology Seminar

Intracellular Parasites: Contrasting Styles Of Leishmania And Mycobacterium Tuberculosis. Dr. David G. Russell, Molecular Microbiology, Washington U., St. Louis. Westbrook 201 from 12:30-1:30pm. Call 822-3308.

Radiology Grand Rounds

Aspects Of Spinal Trauma. Dr. Paul Trepanier, resident V. VGH Eye Care Centre Auditorium from 5-6pm. Call 877-6000.

Friday, Dec. 17

Obstetrics/Gynaecology Grand Rounds

Perinatal Mortality, Morbidity Rounds/Case Presentations. Drs. D. Wilson, V. Baldwin. Uni-

versity Hospital Shaughnessy Site D308 at 8am. Call 875-3266.

Pediatrics Grand Rounds

Resident Case Management. Dr. Pargat Bhurji, CPC resident, Pathology. G.F. Strong Rehab Centre Auditorium at 9am. Call 875-2307.

Thursday, Jan. 6

Philosophy Lecture

Knowledge Of Negative Facts. Brendan Gillon, Linguistics, McGill U. Buchanan D348 from 1-2:30pm. Call 822-3292.

Physics Colloquium

Cancelled this week.

Friday, Jan. 7

Pediatrics Grand Rounds

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. How Should We Help The Families? Dr. D. Wensley, head, Critical Care, BCCCH; Dr. M. Norman, Pathology; Dr. S. Segal/Ms. Lori Shekter, Social Work Services. G.F. Strong Auditorium at 9am. Call 875-2307.

Faculty Seminar

Ugandan And Canadian Criminal Law: A Comparative Analysis. Prof. Daniel Nsereko. Curtis Faculty Conference Room from 12:30-2pm. Call 822-3403.

Monday, Jan. 10

French Colloquium

Voix Feminines Dans La Litterature Quebecoise. Martine Garand. Buchanan Tower 799 at 2:30pm. Call 822-4025.

Applied Mathematics Colloquium

Dr. Joel Friedman, Math. Mathematics 203 at 3:30pm. Call 822-4584.

Mechanical Engineering Seminar

Application Of Expert Systems On Ship Design. Ayhan Akinturk, PhD student. Civil/Mechanical Engineering 1202 from 3:30-4:30pm. Refreshments. Call 822-6671.

Tuesday, Jan. 11

Oceanography Seminar

Direct Disposal Of Fossil Fuel CO₂ Into The Oceans And Subterranean Reservoirs To Avert Global Warming: A Futuristic Scheme. Dr. C.S. Wong, Inst. of Ocean Sci-

ences, Sidney, B.C. BioSciences 1465 at 3:30pm. Call 822-3626.

Philosophy Lecture

Externalism/Elminativism/Epistemic Warrant. Martin Davies, Philosophy, Oxford U. Buchanan D306 from 1-2:30pm. Call 822-3292.

Centre for Applied Ethics Colloquium

The Allocation of Resources in Medicine: Fairness vs. Doing The Most Good. John Broome, visiting prof., Bristol. Henry Angus Bldg. Rm. 225. 4pm. Call 822-5139.

Wednesday, Jan. 12

Theatre Performance

Toronto, Mississippi by Joan MacLeod. Directed by Stephen Malloy. Frederic Wood Theatre at 8pm. Continues to Jan. 22. Call 822-2678/3880.

Thursday, Jan. 13

Philosophy Lecture

Must We Be Eliminativists About Language? Barry Smith, Birkbeck College, U. of London. Buchanan D348 from 1-2:30pm. Call 822-3292.

French Colloquium

Les Retouches Du Francais Par Les Enfants En Immersion Francaise. Marcia Santen. Buchanan Tower 799 at 2:30pm. Call 822-4025.

Physics Colloquium

Femtosecond Spin Dynamics In Magnetic Nanostructures. D. Awschalom, Physics, U. of California, Santa Barbara. Hennings 201 at 4pm. Call 822-3853.

Friday, Jan. 14

Pediatric Grand Rounds

Pediatric Thromboembolism. Dr. John Wu, Hematology/Oncology, BCCCH. G.F. Strong Auditorium at 9am. Call 875-2307.

Faculty Seminar

Population, Development And The Environment: Looking At A Feminist Internationality And Its Domestic Reflections. Curtis Faculty Conference Room from 12:30-2pm. Call 822-3403.

Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic

Totem Park Residence, Commonsblock Ballroom from 3-9pm. Donors are reminded to bring ID and eat a substantial meal 1-4 hrs. prior to donating. Call Red Cross Society at 431-4241.

Notices

Student Housing

The off-campus housing listing service offered by the UBC Housing Office has been discontinued. A new service offered by the AMS has been established to provide a housing listing service for both students and landlords. This new service utilizes a computer voice messaging system. Students call 822-9844, landlords call 822-9847.

Campus Tours

School and College Liaison tours provide prospective UBC students with an overview of campus activities/faculties/services. Every Friday at 9:30am. Reservations required one week in advance. Call 822-4319.

Disability Resource Centre

The Centre provides consultation and information for faculty members with students with disabilities. Guidebooks/services for student and faculty available. Call 822-5844.

Free Hearing Assessments

Now through December 17. Open to all UBC students/staff/faculty. Sponsored by the UBC Hearing Access Project. By appointment. Call 822-5798.

Women Students' Office

Advocacy/personal counselling services available. Call 822-2415.

Ergonomics Workshop

Beginning January, 1994. A Four Session Group Series: Problem Solving/Solutions/Brainstorming. Presented by Occupational Therapy Students. UBC Hospital, Times TBA. Call Lisa at 264-0305.

Dermatology Clinical Trials

Athlete's Foot Study requires volunteers aged 18-65 yrs. Must be able to attend 5 visits over a 6-week period. Honorarium upon completion. Call 875-5296.

Study on Acne Gels

Aged over 16 yrs. with bad acne and not currently under a physician's care. 5 visits over 2-month period. Call 875-5296.

Psoriasis Studies

Aged over 18 yrs. and not currently under a physician's care. 5-10 visits over a 2-month period. Division of Dermatology, VGH, 855 West 10th Ave. Call 875-5296.

Sexual Harassment Office

Advisors are available to discuss questions or concerns and are prepared to help any member of the UBC community who is being sexually harassed find a satisfactory resolution. Call Margaretha Hoek at 822-6353.

Depression/Sleep Study

Volunteers who suffer from both depression and sleep disturbances, age 18-55 required for study involving medication treatment. Honorarium. UBC Sleep Disorders Program. Call Carolyn at 822-7927.

Psychology Study In Parenting

Couples with a 5-11 yr. old son are wanted for a study on parenting style. Families will be paid for participating. UBC Parenting Lab. Call 822-9037.

Clinical Research Support Group

Faculty of Medicine data analysts supporting clinical research. To arrange a consultation, call Laurel at 822-4530.

Psychology Cognition/Emotion Study

Seeking participants ages 21-60 for studies exploring the cognitive effects of emotions. Participation involves three 90 minute sessions spread over 1-2 weeks. Honorarium of \$30. Call Dawn Layzell/Dr. Eric Eich at 822-2022.

Drug Inter-Action Study

Volunteers at least 18 years required for participation in Pharmacology/Therapeutics Study. Eligibility screening by appointment. Honorarium upon completion of study. Call 822-4270.

Statistical Consulting/Research Laboratory

SCARL is operated by the Dept. of Statistics to provide statistical advice to faculty/graduate students working on research problems. Call 822-4037.

Surplus Equipment Recycling Facility (SERF)

Disposal of all surplus items. Every Wednesday, 12-5pm. Task Force Bldg., 2352 Health Sciences Mall. Call Vince at 822-2582/Rich at 822-2813.

Badminton Club

Faculty/Staff are welcome to join in the fun at the Robert Osborne Centre-Gym A, on Fridays now through Mar/94 from 6:30-8:30pm. Cost is \$15, plus library card. Call John at 822-6933.

Nitobe Garden

Open weekdays only from 10am-3pm. Call 822-6038.

Botanical Garden

Open daily from 11-5pm. Shop In The Garden. Call 822-4529.



UBC GAZETTE

The Board of Governors at its meeting of November 18, 1993 approved the following recommendations and received notice about about the following items.

APPOINTMENTS

Brian Ellis, Acting Head, Department of Soil Science, August 16, 1993 to June 30, 1994.

Robert Woollard, Acting Head, Department of Family Practice, September 1, 1993 to February 28, 1994.

Charles Yang, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, October 1, 1993 to September 30, 1994 (joint with Psychiatry).

Jeffrey Coil, Assistant Profes-

or, Department of Oral Medical and Surgical Sciences, September 1, 1993 to June 30, 1996.

Robert Hogg, Assistant Professor, Department of Health Care and Epidemiology, September 1, 1993 to June 30, 1996.

Janet Raboud, Assistant Professor, Department of Health Care and Epidemiology, September 1, 1993 to June 30, 1996.

Timothy Oberlander, Assistant Professor, Department of Paediatrics, September 7, 1993 to June 30, 1996.

Vugranam Venkatesh, Assistant Professor, Department of Paediatrics, October 1, 1993 to June 30, 1996.

Lakshmi Yatham, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, January 1, 1994 to June 30, 1997.

Martin Gleave, Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery, January 1, 1993 to June 30, 1995.

Vanessa Auld, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology, January 1, 1994 to June 30, 1997.

RESIGNATIONS

The Board accepted the following resignations.

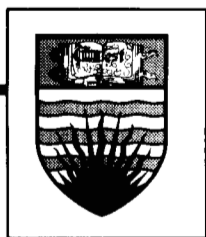
Christopher Shackleton, Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery, July 15, 1993.

Glen Rouse, Professor, Department of Botany (joint with Geological Sciences), December 30, 1993

UBC REPORTS

CALENDAR DEADLINES

Calendar items must be submitted on forms available from the UBC Community Relations Office, 207-6328 Memorial Road, Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1Z2. Phone: 822-3131. Fax: 822-2684. Please limit to 35 words. Submissions for the Calendar's Notices section may be limited due to space. Deadline for the January 13 issue of UBC Reports — which covers the period January 16 to January 29 — is noon, January 4.



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES - draft

Subjects: Environmental Protection Compliance/Records Management



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

December 9, 1993

Dear Colleagues:

Several changes have been incorporated in the Policy on Environmental Protection Compliance to reflect the organizational changes being made to support departments in complying with legislation and to highlight more prominently its educational focus.

The Board of Governors has approved organizational changes to assist in these additional responsibilities:

- Environmental issues coordination has been integrated with Occupational Health and Safety. This was done in recognition of the continuum of concerns which exists in the two areas, the similar methods and processes used, and the advantage of tapping existing structures for communication, education and enforcement. The department is now named the Department of Health, Safety and Environment.

- The responsibilities of Randy Alexander, formerly the Manager of the Hazardous Waste Program, have been expanded to Manager, Environmental Programs, to include responsibility for regulatory issues, effluent and other permits, hazardous waste, audits, emergency plan, liaison with government, the Board of Governors and the community.

- Similarly, the responsibilities of Mark Aston have been expanded to Environmental Programs Officer, and include hazardous waste minimization, solvent recovery, chemical exchange, program awareness and waste audits.

- An Advisory Committee on Environmental Programs will be established, with a mandate to be interested in broad environmental issues, not just those identified by legislation.

It is anticipated that Board of Governors approval for the draft policy on Environmental Protection Compliance will be sought at the January 1994 meeting. Please review the draft and provide any comments you may have to Libby Nason, Vice Provost.

Sincerely yours,

David W. Strangway
President

Policy on Environmental Protection Compliance - Draft #3

RESPONSIBLE VICE PRESIDENT:

Vice President Academic & Provost
Vice President Administration & Finance
Vice President Research
Vice President Student and Academic Services

PURPOSE:

- to provide a formal statement of commitment in response to global and

local concerns regarding environmental protection;

- to provide a framework for establishing procedures that will ensure consistent response to environmental issues, and demonstrate responsibility and due diligence on the part of the University;
- to develop auditing and monitoring procedures which are effective for a university setting;
- to ensure compliance with all applicable environmental regulations at all sites of University activity;
- to meet all legislated requirements as a minimum standard;
- to provide communication and

education about environmental issues;

- to provide a platform for sustainable development efforts at UBC.

POLICY:

UBC will act responsibly and demonstrate stewardship in protecting the environment. All individuals in the University community share the responsibility for protecting the environment. Administrative heads of unit are responsible for ensuring compliance with legislation and UBC procedures both on and off campus.

PROCEDURE SUMMARY:

Procedures and reporting structures for matters of compliance with environmental legislation are necessary to demonstrate due diligence of UBC, its Board of Governors, senior officers, students, and members of faculty and staff, by addressing responsibly activities which have potential for exposure to lawsuits and prosecution.

"Where a corporation commits an offence under this Act, any officer, director or agent of the corporation who directed, authorized, assented to or acquiesced in or participated in the commission of the offence is a party to and guilty of the offence, and is liable to punishment provided for the offence, whether or not the corporation has been prosecuted or convicted." ... Section 122 of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act

Procedures, guidelines and programs addressing specific environmental issues will be developed and updated as required to accomplish the objective of compliance with environmental legislation, with the full participation of the University community. These will include evaluation guidelines and monitoring procedures, effective measures of progress, reporting mechanisms, educational programs, and contingency plans for accidents that affect the environment.

The Manager, Environmental Programs, reporting through the Director, Health, Safety and Environment and the Vice President Administration and Finance, will be responsible for focusing efforts on the most serious problems, promoting development of environmental plans and coordinating activities through administrative heads of unit. These efforts include environmental audits, central monitoring, recording and reporting progress (and instances of non-compliance) on environmental protection issues, providing training to the campus community and serving as the central information source about current and anticipated legislation applicable to UBC

as well as providing linkages for sustainable development efforts.

DETAILED PROCEDURES:

Environmental audits will be performed of all areas and activities under the control of the University. Audits will include evaluation of waste, emissions, hazardous materials, emergency response procedures and the adequacy of training of students, faculty and staff. Such audits will measure the extent of compliance with federal and provincial legislation and identify potential environmental risks.

A plan will be developed by the administrative head of unit for bringing all identified deficiencies into compliance with legislation, in consultation with the Manager, Environmental Programs, and will be forwarded to the Vice President responsible for the unit for approval of actions, timing, and funding.

Monitoring systems and procedures for handling and reporting accidents/incidents will be established for all activities and areas of concern. Administrative heads of unit are responsible for ensuring that the monitoring is carried out in accordance with established systems and for reporting on the monitoring to both the unit's vice president and the Manager, Environmental Programs. Deficiencies detected through monitoring or other means will be corrected as soon as possible.

When the impact or experimental design of activities to be conducted at off campus locations has unknown or potentially harmful environmental consequences, the member of faculty or staff responsible will apply in advance for a certificate of environmental protection from a University screening committee on the environment to review and authorize such activities. Research protocols, consistent with practices approved by the screening committee for individual experiments, may be authorized by the screening committee for experiments which are to be repeated. These steps are necessary because of the university's potential liability for problems arising from off-campus activities.

Administrative heads of unit are responsible for ensuring communication about the goal of compliance with environmental legislation and appropriate training of all persons working or studying within their units in relevant environmental issues and procedures for recognizing, dealing with and reporting accidents that affect the environment.

Reports of all audits, plans for correcting deficiencies, reports on satisfying monitoring requirements, accident-handling

See **Environment** Page 6



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

December 9, 1993

Dear Colleagues:

There were a few suggestions for improvements to the draft Records Management Policy published in October.

This second draft reflects the advice received. There is some urgency to starting the work needed to prepare for the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy legislation, which will have effect for B. C. universities in October, 1994.

If there are further comments, please provide them to Libby Nason, Vice Provost, by early January, so that they can be considered before the draft is taken for approval at the January meeting of the Board of Governors.

Sincerely yours,

David W. Strangway
President

Policy on Records Management - Draft # 2

RESPONSIBLE VICE PRESIDENT:

Vice President Academic & Provost
Vice President Administration & Finance
Vice President Student & Academic Services

PURPOSE:

- to promote economy and efficiency in the creation, maintenance, storage, retrieval and disposal of University records;
- to ensure preservation of records of permanent value;
- to support both protection of privacy and freedom of information services throughout the University.

POLICY:

All records, regardless of physical form or characteristics, created or received by

University officers or employees in the course of their duties on behalf of the University, are the property of the University and subject to its overall control. Employees leaving UBC or changing positions within UBC are to leave all records for their successors.

The University will provide guidelines for the retention of records based on legal, operational, financial, administrative and other considerations through the development of classification systems and schedules, including the destruction or transfer of records to the University Archives after the retention periods have expired.

PROCEDURE SUMMARY:

A standard records management program will be developed in order to permit the efficient maintenance and retrieval of information to help meet the operational needs of the University and UBC's obligations under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. Elements

See **Records** Page 6



Policy Drafts

Environment

Continued from Page 5

ding procedures and any minor accidents/incidents will be brought, through the senior officers of the University, to the Board of Governors at its regular meetings. Any accidents/incidents of significant environmental impact will be brought to the attention of the Chair of the Board of Governors by the President or his/her designate immediately.

When potentially harmful conditions arise or are discovered, the administrative head of unit is responsible for notifying individuals who might be affected and keeping them aware of efforts to correct the situation (see also the Industrial Health and Safety Regulations of the Workers' Compensation Board of B.C.).

The Manager, Environmental Programs ensures that consul-

tations with the campus and surrounding communities about the state of compliance and progress toward it take place.

The Manager, Environmental Programs will publish annually a report which includes information on the audits conducted, the compliance issues dealt with and outstanding, training and communication activities, and responses to accidents affecting the environment

See also the Policy and Procedures (to be developed) on Sustainable Development.

DEFINITIONS:

Due diligence means the care a reasonable person would take, having regard to all the circumstances and information about which that person knew or ought to have known.

Environment means the biophysical conditions under which people or things live or are developed.

Environmental audit means a systematic, objective method of identifying and verifying that laws, regulations, procedures and University guidelines for environmental, health, occupational hygiene, safety and emergency preparedness standards are being followed. The examination involves analysis, testing and confirmation of procedures and practices. In addition, the process evaluates the adequacy of the environmental management system — communications, clear delineation of employee responsibilities, training and quality control.

Stewardship in this policy means accountable management of the property and affairs of UBC.

University community means all persons associated with the University of British Columbia, including students, members of faculty and staff, visitors, contractors, suppliers, tenants, and users of facilities.

Records

Continued from Page 5

for consideration in such a system will include:

- development of a standard classification system for administrative records retained throughout the University;
- design of schedules for retention and destruction of records based on the standard classification system;
- provision of advice and assistance in the development of classification systems and accompanying schedules for operational records specific to each unit;
- training of staff in records management;
- development of standards for supplies and equipment used in maintaining records including the implementation and use of micrographics and microimaging systems;
- institution of forms design and control (to help avoid the creation of unnecessary records);
- provision of advice about storage for semi-active or inactive records;
- provision of advice concerning specific protection for vital records;
- preservation of and access to permanently valuable records;
- coordination of the destruction of records containing personal or other confidential information;
- promotion of records management requirements in future system development.

DETAILED PROCEDURES:

Until formal schedules are in place, the University will establish a University Records Disposition Committee which will develop preliminary guidelines for identifying permanently valuable records and to which administrative units may apply for authorization to dispose of records. The committee will have respon-

sibility for determining which records should be retained and which may be safely destroyed or archived.

Development of the records management program will be coordinated by the Archivist, University Archives in consultation with the Data Administrator, Computing and Communications, who is preparing Institutional Data Resource Management guidelines and standards.

DEFINITIONS:

Records, created or received by University officers or employees in the course of their duties on behalf of the University, can be in a variety of physical forms. In accordance with the definition of records in the legislation pertaining to freedom of information, *records* include books, documents, maps, drawings, photographs, letters, vouchers, papers, and any other thing on which information is recorded or stored by graphic, electronic or mechanical means, but does not include an individual faculty member's research records nor does it include computer programs or other mechanisms that produce records.

Active records are records which are required and referred to constantly for current use, and which need to be retained and maintained in office space and equipment close to users.

Semi-active records are records which are referred to infrequently and are not required constantly for current use. Semi-active records are removed from office space to lower cost off-site storage until they are no longer needed.

Inactive records are records for which the active and semi-active retention periods have lapsed and which are no longer required to carry out the functions for which they were created.

Permanently valuable records include those with cultural, social, scientific, administrative, financial, operational and legal

significance.

Records management is the application of systematic control to recorded information which is required in the administration and operation of University activities. The services provided through a records management program include correspondence management, manuals and directives management, forms management, files management, records retention scheduling, disaster planning, vital records programs, semi-active records storage, records conversion, and archival programming.

Records Retention Schedule means an established timetable for maintaining the organization's records, transferring inactive records to storage and permanently valuable records to the Archives, and destroying records which are no longer valuable to the organization.

Classified

The classified advertising rate is \$15 for 35 words or less. Each additional word is 50 cents. Rate includes GST. Ads must be submitted in writing 10 days before publication date to the UBC Community Relations Office, 207-6328 Memorial Road, Vancouver, B.C., V6T 1Z2, accompanied by payment in cash, cheque (made out to UBC Reports) or internal requisition. Advertising enquiries: 822-3131.

The deadline for the Jan. 13, 1994 issue of UBC Reports is noon, Jan 4.



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UBC CHRISTMAS BAKESHOP Order by phone 822-5717 or in person at Lickety Split, next to SUB Cafeteria. Monday to Friday, 9 am - 2 pm. Last day for pickup is Tuesday, Dec. 21. Allow two days to process.

For Rent

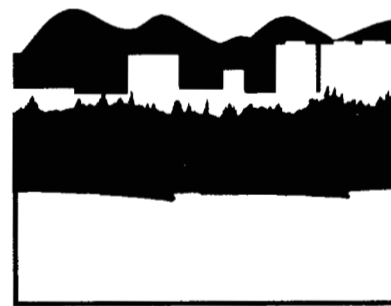
VANCOUVER APARTMENT for rent. One-bedroom on Beach Ave. by English Bay; 100 yards from Stanley Park. Partial view of water and mountains. Furnished; available Jan. 15 - April 30. Rent \$725. Phone 687-4008 (Vancouver) or 384-7473 (Victoria).

Miscellaneous

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SINGLES NETWORK Single science professionals and others interested in science or natural history are meeting through a nationwide network. Contact us for info: Science Connection, P.O. Box 389, Port Dover, Ontario, NOA 1N0; e-mail 71554.2160@compuserve.com; 1-800-667-5179.

HOMESTAY Billeting wanted for people attending Canadian Association for the Study of Adult Education conference in Vancouver May 11-13, 1994. If you can offer accommodation, please call Rosemary Taylor, 228-9966.



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A New Spirit of Giving

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Jeff Schiebler (80) and Graeme Fell (81) helped lead UBC to a first-place finish at the CIAU cross-country championships Nov. 6 in Halifax.

Cross-country teams place first and second

by Abe Heffer

Staff writer

Try as he may to savour the victory by the men's team at last month's Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union (CIAU) cross-country championships, UBC cross-country coach Marek Jedrzejek is already looking forward to next year's CIAU championships.

After a second-place finish at the national championships in Montreal last year, the men's cross-country team, anchored by Zeba Crook, Graeme Fell and Jeff Schiebler, took to the track at the CIAU championships in Halifax Nov. 6 and emerged with UBC's first-ever men's CIAU cross-country title.

"We lost by only three points to the University of Sherbrooke last year," said Jedrzejek. "However, we felt we could take that success and carry it over this year and be competitive.

"We knew we could win and we won. We beat out runner-up University of Toronto by 12 points."

Jedrzejek, who has coached the men's

and women's cross-country teams at UBC since 1987, was voted men's cross-country coach of the year for 1993.

Although the voting was done at the conclusion of the national championships, the award is a reflection of the season-long success the men's and women's cross-country teams enjoyed.

"Both teams performed extremely well with great team spirit," said Jedrzejek. "I'm looking forward to the men defending their national title at next year's CIAU championships, and the women building on their second-place showing."

With success comes the added expectation to repeat as national champions. As the other CIAU teams set their sights on UBC for next season, Jedrzejek will go into the 1994 campaign without Olympian and Canadian national team member Graeme Fell, a veteran of the cross-country wars.

"We'll miss Graeme, but this men's team has a lot of depth. I look for team captain Jeff Archibald to perhaps step up and fill Graeme's shoes."

Thunderbird hockey team to take Koreans under its wing

by Abe Heffer

Staff writer

The Thunderbird hockey team is about to embark on a 20,000-kilometre road trip.

From Dec. 14-23, the T-Birds will play four games in Seoul; two against Korea University and two more against the Korean national team.

"This trip is an extension of the relationship we have with Korea University on several sporting levels, including basketball and volleyball," said T-Birds hockey coach Mike Coffin.

"However, on this trip, winning isn't everything. We already know what to

expect from the Koreans in terms of competition. We're going over to try to teach them more about hockey."

During the last six summers, Korea University's hockey learning experience has featured the establishment of training camp headquarters at Thunderbird Stadium because of a lack of facilities in Seoul.

Coffin, who has helped coach the Koreans during their stints at UBC, has

tried to instill a level of confidence in their play.

"Their lack of size really hurts. They tend to back down from the physical aspects of the game, which is to be expected," said Coffin, who is hoping the Koreans will exhibit more confidence playing on home ice in front of a hometown crowd.

"Being a small hockey player doesn't mean you can't be an effective one," he explained. "You really have to rely on technique and teamwork."

This will be Coffin's first trip overseas as head coach of the Thunderbirds. As a player, he was a member of the 1983

T-Bird squad that played a series in Tokyo hosted by the two best professional teams in Japan.

"It was a tremendous opportunity, not only for athletic reasons. The cultural aspects associated with a trip like this are incredibly enriching and rewarding," he said.

Coffin says he's very proud to be taking this group of players overseas.

"They will represent UBC very well, both on and off the ice."

"On this trip, winning isn't everything. We already know what to expect from the Koreans in terms of competition. We're going over to try to teach them more about hockey."

- Mike Coffin

People

by staff writers

Connie Eaves, a professor of Medical Genetics, has been appointed co-chair of the Breast Cancer Research Challenge Fund management committee.

The federal government, in partnership with the Medical Research Council, has committed \$20 million over the next five years to establish the fund which is currently providing financial support for several major breast cancer studies.

Eaves, who joined UBC in 1973, also serves as deputy director of the Terry Fox Laboratory. She recently received \$1.5 million from the pharmaceutical company Sandoz Canada Inc. to develop new approaches to treating leukemia.



Eaves

Economics Prof. **Robert Evans** has been elected to the National Academy of Social Insurance.

Based in Washington, D.C., the academy is a non-profit organization devoted to advancing knowledge and understanding of social security and related programs such as workers' compensation and unemployment insurance.

Evans, a senior research associate of UBC's Centre for Health Services and Policy Research, recently served as a member of B.C.'s Royal Commission on Health Care and Costs.

He was inducted into the academy for his distinguished service to improving the quality of research, teaching, administration and policy-making in the field of social insurance.



Madsen

Civil Engineering Prof. Emeritus **Borg Madsen** has become the first recipient of the Canadian Wood Council's Robert F. DeGrace Award.

The new award recognizes the technical achievements of those who have raised the status of wood as a construction material through work in research, product development, education or codes and standards.

Madsen's career in timber engineering and research spans 40 years. Among his achievements is the creation of a new approach for determining the strength of softwood lumber, a method that is now used in structural design around the world.

Madsen was also responsible for taking UBC's wood engineering program from a single undergraduate course to a major education and research program.

Prof. **Richard Johnston** has been awarded the Harold Adams Innis Prize for his book, *Letting the People Decide: Dynamics of a Canadian Election*. The award was presented to Johnston, a co-author and UBC professor of political science, at the annual meeting of the Social Science Federation of Canada.

Published under the association's Aid to Scholarly Publications Program, the book is based on the findings of the 1988 National Election Study for which Johnston was principal investigator. The study tracked voters' reactions during the campaign and the various factors which influenced their intentions. The book also puts the 1988 campaign in historical context by looking at the previous century of Canadian election activity.

The Harold Adams Innis Prize recognizes Johnston's book as the best Canadian scholarly work written in English in the social sciences in 1992.

Fine Arts Prof. **Serge Guilbaut** has been awarded the rank of "Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Academiques" by the prime minister of France.

This distinction, somewhat equivalent to the Governor General's awards in Canada, is in recognition of his efforts to promote French language and culture.

An art historian specializing in the 20th century, Guilbaut has been teaching at UBC since 1975. In 1990, his book, *How New York Stole the Idea of Modern Art* was awarded the annual Prix des Libraires d'art de la Ville de Paris.

Earlier this year, Guilbaut edited the book, *Reconstructing Modernism: Art in New York, Paris and Montreal 1945-1964*.



Guilbaut

Bruce Carleton, an assistant professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, has been elected chair of the B.C. Task Force on Pharmaceutical Care.

Formed by the province's College of Pharmacists, the task force will develop initiatives designed to teach pharmacists how to identify patient-specific problems associated with drug therapy and optimize drug use in patient care.

A UBC faculty member since 1991, Carleton's research areas include the study of blood cell growth factors and the cost and consequences of drug use.

Profile

Edith and Pat McGeer

Hunting for answers to the riddle of Alzheimer's

by Connie Filletti

Staff writer

Edith and Pat McGeer just want to have fun. That's why the two retired UBC neuroscientists still work 12-hour days, often seven-days-a-week, looking for the cause of Alzheimer's disease.

"Research has all the fun of a treasure hunt," says Edith, a professor emerita of Psychiatry.

Her husband Pat, former head of Psychiatry's Neurological Sciences Division, nods in agreement.

"The sense of discovery involved in research is more fun than anything else I can think of. I'll be carried feet first out of a lab."

As newlyweds in 1954, the McGeers resigned their jobs as research chemists with E. I. DuPont in Wilmington, Delaware and headed for Vancouver, Pat's hometown.

He enrolled in UBC's Faculty of Medicine and Edith landed an unpaid position as a research associate at the university's neurological laboratory.

Their relationship as scientific collaborators blossomed when Pat found a summer job in the same laboratory. Founded in 1948 and now called the Kinsmen Laboratory of Neurological Research, it has been their second home ever since.

The couple began studying Alzheimer's disease — a progressive deterioration of intellectual functions leading to irreversible memory loss — more than a decade ago. But they hadn't made it their research focus until a fateful visit in 1983.

The McGeers recalled how Phyllis Forsythe, a woman who had lost her husband to the disease and singlehandedly began B.C.'s first Alzheimer's support group with no funds or help from important contacts, came calling.

Her message was blunt.

"She told us to do something useful," Pat said, still somewhat disbelievingly.

Forsythe had gone to the right source. In addition to being a professor of psychiatry, Pat had been a member of the B.C. legislature since 1962 and served at various times as the minister of Education, minister of Universities, Science and Communications, minister of International Trade, Science and Investment and minister of International Trade, Science and Communication.

He turned to then provincial minister of Health Jim Nielson for support. The minister provided funding for Alzheimer's research and an Alzheimer's clinic at UBC, one of the first in Canada.

"It was quite a coup, considering that at that time, Alzheimer's was not thought of as an active, malevolent disease. The connection between senility and old age was just being made," Pat said.

Turning his full attention to Alzheimer's when he retired from politics in 1986, he and Edith began exploring how the disease worked, not only for medical purposes, but because



Martin Dee photo

Research Team

Although both are "retired," Edith and Pat McGeer continue to spend 12-hour days looking for the cause of Alzheimer's disease.

of the social impact Alzheimer's was creating.

Usually occurring between ages 65 and 85 and more often in women than in men, there are an estimated 350,000 Alzheimer's patients in Canada.

"Our hope was, and remains, to find a successful way to intervene in the process to relieve people of the anxiety they have about getting Alzheimer's," Edith said. "If an effective treatment can be found, the fear can stop."

They are equally concerned about the effects the illness has on family caregivers of Alzheimer's patients.

"There is a terrible burden on the family who may feel humiliated and disguise the disease up to a point of crisis," Pat said. "Many times the spouse becomes responsible for providing care during the years when they are least capable of providing it. In some ways, it is probably easier on the patient."

Typical of the McGeers' drive and energy, they haven't limited their efforts

or support to Alzheimer's disease.

On Dec. 15, Edith and Pat will be presented with the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry Research Award for their outstanding contributions to knowledge in psychiatry and mental health.

They plan to donate the entire cash prize and have earmarked the Michael Smith Endowment, recently established by UBC's Nobel Prize winner to fund schizophrenia research and science outreach programs, as a recipient of half the prize.

Among the McGeers' more interesting research finds include a 1992 study which indicates that a drug commonly used to treat leprosy may reduce the incidence of dementia caused by Alzheimer's disease.

The neuroscientists, working in collaboration with Japanese colleagues, found that elderly leprosy patients being treated with dapsone — an antibacterial drug widely used against all forms of leprosy — have less chance of developing dementia than leprosy patients who have been off the drug for

at least five years.

"Japanese leprosy patients live in isolated communities, under close medical supervision, and therefore it is possible to compare drug-free and drug-treated patients under highly comparable conditions," Pat said.

In their study, the prevalence of dementia in patients over 65 who had received anti-leprosy drugs without interruption was 2.9 per cent. The figure rose to more than four per cent in the intermittently treated group, and to 6.25 per cent among the patients who were untreated for at least five years.

But the McGeers' most promising scientific discovery to date is that indomethacin, an anti-inflammatory drug widely prescribed for arthritis patients, may slow and even halt the progression of Alzheimer's disease. One indomethacin tablet is equivalent to about 15 aspirin.

Their results appear to support a hotly debated theory in the scientific community that Alzheimer's disease is a chronic inflammatory condition similar to arthritis.

"It's the expected reaction to something new and different," Pat reasoned. "Quite properly, scientists are cautious about new findings and confirmation needs to take place."

The McGeers readily acknowledge that the study was small and that additional research is needed before indomethacin can be considered as a treatment for Alzheimer's.

Both are eager to start larger clinical trials with their American colleagues at Arizona's Sun Health Research Institute. But scientists aren't the only ones who seem skeptical about the research trail the McGeers are exploring.

Pharmaceutical companies, a growing source of funding for many university researchers, are closing their doors to the couple as well.

"The difficult thing is that gaining clinical proof is a very expensive affair," Pat said. "We are proposing an agent to treat Alzheimer's that has been known for so long that pharmaceutical companies aren't interested. No one wants to undertake funding if the treatment is going to be cheap. That's what patients face."

After years of being refused grants to conduct their research projects by the pharmaceutical industry and the Medical Research Council, Pat formed his own company last year, Gerex Biotech Inc.

He hopes to raise \$5 million in private donations to support a multi-centre clinical trial to investigate the cause of nerve cell death. It's an area of brain research he described as previously overlooked and which he believes is vital to many neurological disease processes.

"The excitement and enjoyment of doing experiments that we couldn't do 20 years ago is extraordinary," Pat said. Edith smiles, indicating her enthusiasm for the enormous task they have set for themselves.

With all the energy and time the McGeers have devoted to their hunt for the cause of Alzheimer's disease, they may find treasure after all.