

UBC REPORTS

Volume 42, Number 12

July 11, 1996

Deans named for Arts, Grad Studies

The faculties of Arts and Graduate Studies have appointed new deans for concurrent six-year terms.

Effective July 1, English Prof. Shirley Neuman, from the University of Alberta, and UBC Prof. Frieda Granot are the deans of Arts and Graduate Studies respectively.

"I know that in Dr. Neuman and Dr. Granot we have outstanding advocates for the faculties of Arts and Graduate Studies and for the university. I am certain they will maintain the tradition of strong leadership and will work with others to advance both disciplinary and interdisciplinary learning," said Dan Birch, vice-president, Academic and Provost.

Neuman, who chaired the English Dept. at the University of Alberta, successfully undertook several new initiatives including the introduction of full funding for PhD students, the creation of team-taught interdisciplinary modular graduate courses and the expansion of undergraduate studies. She

was also responsible for developing, implementing and chairing the university's Women's Studies Program.

In addition, Neuman served on many of the University of Alberta's senior

administrative committees including the Research Policy Committee, the President's Advisory Committee of Chairs, the Academic Planning Committee, the General Faculties Council and Senate.

She is a past president of the Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English and of the Canadian Association of Chairs of English. She also served as vice-president of the Aid to Scholarly Publications Program and as an executive member of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities.

Neuman currently is the president of the Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences of the Royal Society of Canada.

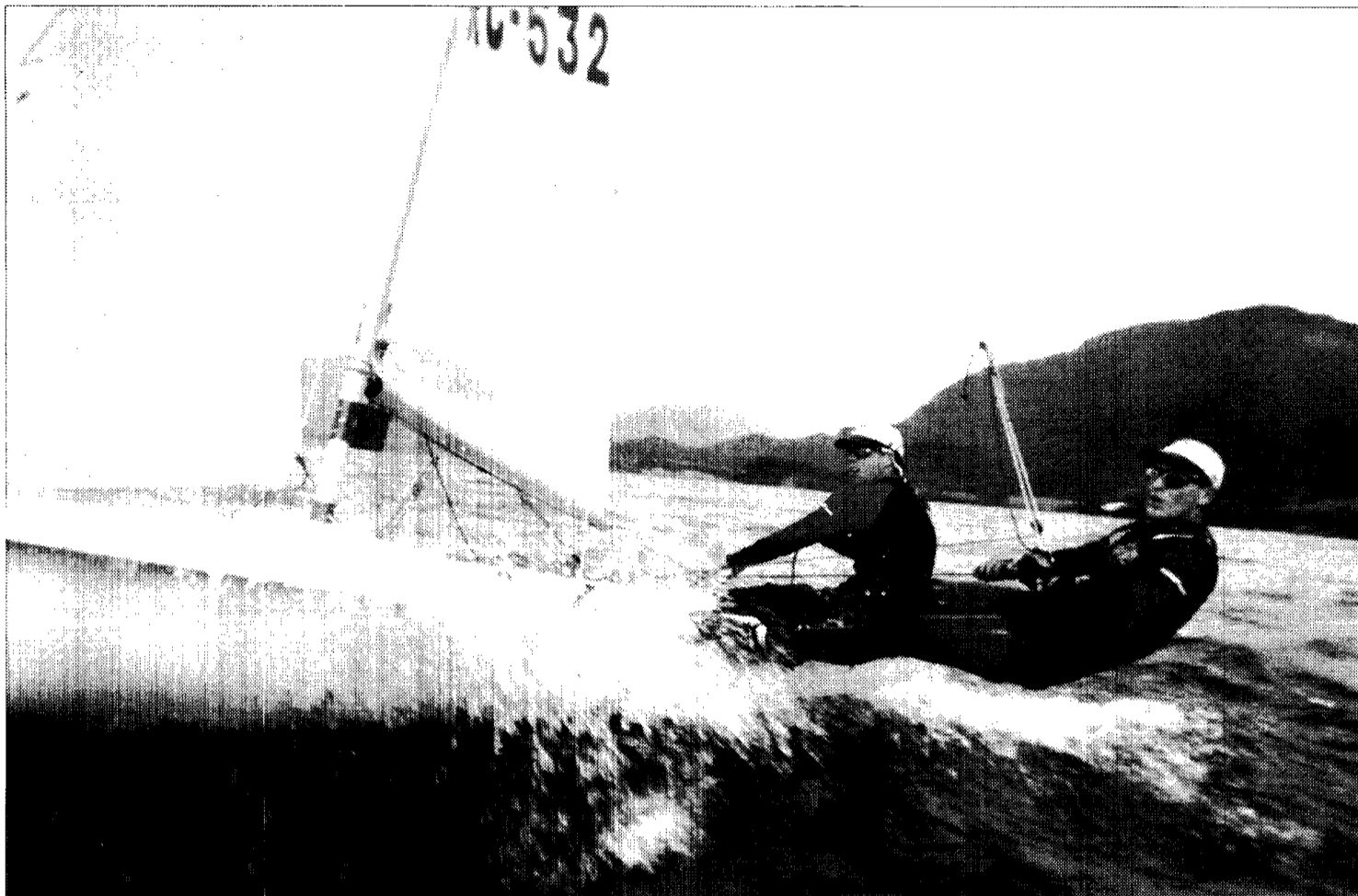
The founding editor of Canadian literary presses NeWest and Longspoon, Neuman's research interests include autobiography, Canadian literature and women's writing. She is presently beginning work on a biography of Canadian poet and novelist bpNichol.

Granot joined UBC's Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration in

See **DEANS** Page 4



Frieda Granot



G. Milne photo

Sailing For Gold

Second-year medicine student Paul Hannam (left) steers his 470 sailboat through choppy waters while crew member Bill Storey, a 1995 graduate from the School of Human Kinetics, enjoys the view from a trapeze. The duo recently won a berth on the Canadian Olympic team heading to Atlanta. Swimmer Sarah Evanetz (third-year Arts) will compete in Atlanta in the 100-metre butterfly and 1996 human kinetics graduate, runner Jeff Schiebler, will compete in the 3,000-metre event. Sprinter Harry Warren was UBC's first Olympian in 1928.

St. John's University alumni welcome new college at UBC

Construction has begun on St. John's College at UBC, fulfilling a life-long dream for graduates of St. John's University, which was closed in Shanghai 44 years ago.

Graduates led by the St. John's University Alumni Association, Hong Kong, along with chapters in Taipei, Singapore,

Vancouver and throughout North America, have collaborated with UBC to find a home for the college on the Point Grey campus.

Building on the success of UBC's first graduate college, Green College, St. John's will be a \$16-million residential college for master's and PhD students, senior scholars and distinguished visitors.

A focus on internationalism is the unifying theme of the new college, which will sponsor or offer workshops, think tanks, seminars and small conferences focusing on international issues. The college will also complement UBC's new Liu Centre for International Studies.

The goal is to attract outstanding international students to create a true international community that will enhance understanding and result in a strong

commitment to international co-operation.

"This international focus should help St. John's College capture the imagination of the university. It will build a group of alumni with the outlook and background needed to promote future international co-operation and linkages," said UBC President David Strangway.

When the first phase opens in September, 1997 with 33 students, it will, like its namesake, draw students from China, other parts of Asia, the West and around the world.

Two more phases are planned to house a total of 178 students by Sept. 1999, the 120th anniversary of the founding of the original St. John's University.

Established by American missionary- See **ST. JOHN'S** Page 4

Strangway to receive Order of Canada

UBC President David Strangway has been named to the Order of Canada.



David Strangway

Strangway was one of 24 people appointed officers of the order, the second of its three ranks. As well, 45 people were named members and three people were named companions of the order, the highest rank.

The honours will be presented by Governor-General Romeo LeBlanc in an investiture ceremony later this year at his official residence, Rideau Hall.

Strangway completes his second term See **ORDER** Page 2

Inside

Good Company

3

Five UBC faculty members are elected to the Royal Society of Canada

Heart Hope

5

A UBC spin-off company is working to prevent heart attack deaths

Explosive Lessons

11

An emergency drill brings teams together to practise for the real thing

Alien Invaders

12

Judy Myers seeks ways to tackle problem plants and insects in B.C.

Letters

BA good, but skills better

Editor:

I read with deep amusement Prof. Robert Allen's "The Economic Benefits of Post-Secondary Training and Education." (*UBC Reports* supplement, May 2).

In spite of Allen's ivory tower statistics, those of us with university degrees who are living in the real world have arrived at very different conclusions than he has, based on real life experience. University liberal arts graduates rarely find employment in their fields, usually find themselves under employed and under paid, and are usually rejected for many positions because they are considered over-educated and less flexible than non-graduates. (I base my findings upon the countless hundreds of graduates with whom I've spoken over the last few years).

Conversely, a very significant number of students who have attended university either pursue a professional diploma

LETTERS POLICY

UBC Reports welcomes letters to the editor on topics relevant to the university community. Letters must be signed and include an address and phone number for verification. Please limit letters, which may be edited for length, style and clarity, to 300 words. Deadline is 10 days before publication date. Submit letters in person or by mail to the UBC Public Affairs Office, 310 - 6251 Cecil Green Park Road, Vancouver B.C., V6T 1Z1, by fax to 822-2684 or by e-mail to paula.martin@ubc.ca.

after graduation, or drop out of university to pursue a professional program, because they discover that the benefit of a university education is badly overrated, and next to useless in an ever-shrinking job market. The reality is that the job market is becoming more and more super-specialized and technological. And if Prof. Allen is not convinced of this, he should try beating the pavement in search of a job in today's working world without specialized high-tech skills.

Most employers may view a degree as an added plus when they hire new people, but they are going to look at one's practical experience and skills first. The bottom line for them is always going to be productivity and dollar signs.

In short, a degree is nice to have, but it is like a sugar-coated candy that is becoming too impractical and cost-prohibitive to pursue in today's high-tech economy.

**Brian McGregor-Foxcroft, BA
Vancouver**

GSS Executive raises concerns

Editor:

On June 3, the GSS Executive suspended with pay Dale Reid, manager of the graduate lounge (Koerner's), and hired a forensic auditing firm (estimated cost: \$5-7,000) to investigate certain questions in relation to its operations.

While responsibility for staff relationships normally rests with the Lounge Committee, on this occasion the Executive assumed emergency powers. They then called an extraordinary meeting of the GSS Council for June 6, 1996. Entering the meeting with absolutely no background material, councillors were told that the meeting was to be in camera, that they were not allowed to have copies of any materials relevant to the issue, and that they were prohibited from divulging to outsiders any information proffered at the meeting. Faced with the prospect of Executive resignation, councillors were asked to retroactively ratify Executive actions. After two hours of discussion, the motion was passed.

As a councillor, I have a number of concerns with these actions. First, whether action by Executive decree was necessary given that the GSS Lounge Committee has authority over staff, including the manager. Second, whether the request for an audit should have been made at a regular meeting, upon recommendation of the Lounge Committee. Third, whether the refusal to provide councillors with copies of any materials pertinent to the Executive's actions was appropriate in circumstances

where informed debate and decision-making are desirable. Fourth, whether the restriction on disclosure by councillors was compatible with their representative function.

The last action extended to the staff at Koerner's who were told verbally and in writing by Executive members on June 3 that if they communicated in any way with Dale Reid they could be subject to dismissal. In light of this, all of the staff signed a petition urging council to insist upon the resignation of those members of the Executive who initiated the investigation of Reid if no significant wrongdoing on his part is revealed.

It seems strangely coincidental that this costly investigation comes at a time when the Executive has come under criticism for the running deficit and mounting debt (\$120,000) that has not been addressed. Whether or not anything is revealed, the Executive will have at least diverted attention away from their own poor performance with respect to overall budgeting, GSS management of Koerner's and use of GSS resources. Meanwhile the increasing alienation of the graduate student body from the GSS goes unabated.

**David G. Murphy, Graduate
Student Society Councillor-
Political Science**

Halide light shines superior

Editor:

This is in support of a letter by Ian Fisher (*UBC Reports*, Feb. 22). He argues that sodium lighting is vastly inferior to halide. We (the Department of Anthropology and Sociology) have been trying for years to get adequate lighting around our building and particularly along the bush-lined path between us and the Museum of Anthropology. In one of the discussions by the departmental safety committee of the various options, the question of the relative safety of sodium against incandescent was raised but not answered. Since, in addition to lower illumination, sodium distorts colour, we decided that one is less likely to see someone hiding in the bushes than if lighting is incandescent or halide. We have been unable to find any research that would refute this expectation. The problems in our area are exacerbated by a historic aesthetic principle that specified lighting at waist height rather than having an elevated source. Incandescent lighting at waist height is worse, i.e., less safe, than elevated sodium lights; but neither of these is acceptable against the alternative of elevated incandescent or halide.

**Braxton M. Alfred
Associate Professor
Anthropology and Sociology**

Order

Continued from Page 1

as president one year from now. He has held the position since 1985.

As well, Education Prof. Emeritus Gordon Smith was named a member of the Order of Canada.

Smith is known for his support and encouragement of young talent as a founder and patron of the Artists for Kids Trust.

John Lang Nichol, a supporter of UBC's Movement Disorder Clinic, was named a Companion of the Order.



Please Recycle

Alan Donald, Ph.D. Biostatistical Consultant

Medicine, dentistry, biosciences, aquaculture

101-5805 Balsam Street, Vancouver, V6M 4B9

264-9918

donald@portal.ca

United Way UBC co-chairs begin 1996 team building

Prof. Ray Hall, from the Dept. of Theatre and Film, and Margaret Sayer of University Computing Services, have been named co-chairs of the 1996 UBC United Way Campaign.

Both have been active in previous campaigns and are currently planning, organizing and building the team of volunteers for the campaign kick-off on Sept. 26.

Volunteers are needed at the

department, service unit and faculty levels. A calendar of campus events will be published in *UBC Reports* leading up to the start of the campaign.

To join the fun and be a United Way volunteer please contact Ray Hall at 822-6405 (phone), 822-0508 (fax) or rjhall@unixg.ubc.ca. Margaret Sayer can be reached at 822-6141 (phone), 822-9837 (fax) or sayer@ucs.ubc.ca.

Berkowitz & Associates

Statistics and Mathematics Consulting

- research design
- data analysis
- sampling
- forecasting

Jonathan Berkowitz, Ph.D.

4160 Staulo Crescent, Vancouver, B.C., V6N 3S2

Office: (604) 263-1508

Home: (604) 263-5394

Wax - it

Histology Services

Providing Plastic and Wax sections for the research community

George Spurr RT, RLAT(R)

Kevin Gibbon ART FIBMS

Daytime (604) 266-7359

Daytime (604) 856-7370

Evening (604) 266-2597

Evening (604) 856-7370

E-Mail spurrwax@infomatch.com

STUDENT UNION GOES LOTTO!!

NOW YOU CAN PICK UP YOUR LUCKY
TICKETS FOR ALL THE BIG GAMES
INCLUDING SPORTS ACTION AT
SUBCETERA

LOCATED ON THE MAIN CONCOURSE
OF THE STUDENT UNION BUILDING

Edwin Jackson

224 3540

My karma ran over your dogma.

E-Mail: 102343.1610@compuserve.com

Robert Byrne: The 4th 637 Best Things Anybody Ever Said

http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/EdJackson

**Income Tax,
Financial,
Retirement
Income, &
Estate
Planning**

**Term
Deposits,
RRSP/RRIF's**
Competitive rates
with leading financial
institutions.

Mutual Funds
licenced through
**Ascot
Financial
Services Ltd.**

**Annuities,
Life and
Disability
Income
Insurance**



UBC REPORTS

UBC Reports is published twice monthly (monthly in December, June, July and August) for the entire university community by the UBC Public Affairs Office, 310 - 6251 Cecil Green Park Road, Vancouver B.C., V6T 1Z1. It is distributed on campus to most campus buildings and to Vancouver's West Side in the Sunday *Courier* newspaper.

Managing Editor: Paula Martin (paula.martin@ubc.ca)

Editor/Production: Janet Ansell (janet.ansell@ubc.ca)

Contributors: Connie Bagshaw (connie.bagshaw@ubc.ca),

Stephen Forgacs (stephen.forgacs@ubc.ca)

Charles Ker (charles.ker@ubc.ca),

Gavin Wilson (gavin.wilson@ubc.ca).

Editorial and advertising enquiries: (604) 822-3131 (phone), (604) 822-2684 (fax).

UBC Reports welcomes the submission of letters and opinion pieces. Opinions and advertising published in *UBC Reports* do not necessarily reflect official university policy.

Material may be reprinted in whole or in part with appropriate credit to *UBC Reports*.



Stephen Forgacs photo

A team of UBC engineering students beat a field of American and Canadian competitors to win the SAE Aerodesign competition held in April in Los Angeles. The team members include: (l-r) Terence Fan, Elaine Oum, Chris Elyva, Kevin Wilder, Matt Rektor and (not pictured) Mike Baker, Geoff Cattrall and Kristen Durham.

Engineering team soars to victory in U.S. skies

by Stephen Forgacs

Staff writer

A radio-controlled aircraft built by a team of eight UBC engineering students soared to victory over a field of American and Canadian competitors in an aircraft design and heavy lift competition in Los Angeles recently.

The Society of Advanced Mobility Land Sea Air Space (SAE) Aerodesign Competition requires that competitors attempt to design, build and fly a model aircraft capable of lifting the maximum possible payload given certain design constraints.

UBC's team won awards for best design and best overall, beating 30 competitors from the western region as well as the top team from the East.

This is the fifth year a UBC team has taken part in the nine-year-old competition, and the third time it has won.

Team leader Kevin Wilder, who graduated in May from Mechanical Engineering, is a veteran team member and team pilot. He credits hours of hard work and team effort for the victory.

"We use a practical design philosophy as opposed to an academic one. We tried to identify good common sense areas to focus on, whereas other teams try a lot of whiz-bang fancy stuff," Wilder said. "We tried to get as much performance out of every part as we could."

The team did score some competition firsts though, particularly with the design of a constant speed propeller system similar in principle to that used in the Dash 8 aircraft. Although the team did not use the constant speed propeller in competition—they couldn't get the bearings required—they scored top marks for their technical report and design. Other design features included low rolling resistance wheels, a larger wing and lightweight components.

The competition is divided into two categories: design and flight. The design portion comprises a written report on the rationale of the project, engineering drawings of the aircraft and an oral presenta-

tion. The flight portion is concerned with the amount of payload lifted by the plane and the accuracy of the performance prediction.

UBC's plane lifted 12 kilograms, almost half a kilogram more than predicted. One other competitor lifted slightly more, while the plane that lifted the most weight took off with 13 kilograms.

"We could have lifted more," said Wilder, adding that smoother runway conditions at the competition than at the Pitt Meadows airport where the test flights were carried out meant the team never needed to push the airplane to get it off the ground with the predicted payload. Flying with considerably more weight than the predicted amount would have cost the team points.

Prior to the competition, the team flew between 20 and 40 test flights using a prototype plane. The competition plane was tested only twice before the com-

petition.

"The prototype flew so well we knew the competition plane would fly without problems," Wilder said.

The team was very well prepared for the competition following the test flights and after putting between 40 and 70 hours a week into the design and construction of the plane between September 1995 and the competition.

"We were very well organized this year," said team member Chris Elyva, a graduate student in Metals and Materials Engineering. "Kevin's four years of experience at the competition helped us, as did having an incredibly dedicated team."

Team members other than Wilder and Elyva include: Mike Baker, Geoff Cattrall, Kristen Durham, Terence Fan, Elaine Oum and Matt Rektor, all engineering students.

Mechanical Engineering Assoc. Prof. Sheldon Green served as supervisor. Mechanical Engineering Instructor Dean Leonard worked closely with the team and has been involved with UBC's efforts since it first entered a team in the competition.

Royal Society honours faculty achievements

Five UBC faculty members have been elected to the Royal Society of Canada.

Professors Ira Nadel, Julian Davies, Nicholas Pippenger, Anthony Sinclair and F.J.R. (Max) Taylor are among 60 new fellows who will be formally inducted into the society at a ceremony in Ottawa in November.

The mandate of the Royal Society of Canada is to promote and develop learning and research in the arts and sciences. This is achieved through the work of its three academies: the Academie de lettres et des sciences humaines, the Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Academy of Science.

Prof. **Ira Nadel**, Dept. of English, is the sole UBC faculty member to be elected to the Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences this year. He has written extensively on 19th-century authors such as Pater, Trollope, Dickens, Thackeray, George Eliot, Wilkie Collins, and Queen Victoria. His *Biography: Fiction Fact and Form* has been praised as one of the best modern examinations of bi-



Julian Davies

ography as a literary genre and for the new level to which it raises discussion of biography. His *Joyce and the Jews* has been well received for its historical and cultural breadth, its convincing argument, and its objective scholarship. He has just completed a major biography of Leonard Cohen and is beginning a biography of the American poet Louis Zukofsky.

Prof. **Julian Davies**, Dept. of Microbiology and Immunology, and three other UBC professors were elected to the Academy of Science. Davies, a prominent microbiologist, has worked in both academia and industry. During his long career in science his research has focused on studies of antibiotics, and antibiotic resistance. Recently his work has focused on analyses of microbial diversity. He is a fellow of the Royal Society, and winner of the Hoechst-Roussel and Thom awards, two leading prizes in infectious diseases and industrial microbiology, respectively.

Prof. **Nicholas Pippenger**, Dept. of Computer Science, is a world leader in theoretical computer science and is a notable expert on switching networks. He has also made fundamental contributions to Boolean circuit complexity and the theory of parallel computation. He is noted both for technical prowess and mathematical erudition in his use of tools from mathematical analysis, algebra, combinatorics, probability theory, coding theory, and information theory.

Prof. **Anthony Sinclair**, Dept. of Zoology, is widely acknowledged as a world leader in ecosystem dynamics. He is pivotal to an innovative interdisciplinary study (ranging from molecular biology to ecology) aimed at biological control of pest populations. He is also one of the world's leading experts on population regulation of both animals and humans. His work during the past three decades on east African large mammals has broadened into analysis of long-term ecosystem dynamics, including the role of humans, and sets new standards for the field, while

his work on the boreal forests of the Yukon has opened up new avenues into the chemical ecology of plants and population dynamics of their herbivores.

Prof. **Max Taylor**, Dept. of Botany and Dept. of Earth and Ocean Sciences, has contributed significantly to understanding of the systematics, ultrastructure, evolution and applied biology of dinoflagellates (a group of micro-organisms most frequently involved in the harmful phenomenon known collectively as red tide). He has a strong interest in early cell evolution and developed the Serial Endosymbiosis Theory which is the most widely accepted view of the origin of mitochondria and chloroplasts. He was an active promoter of the field of protistology, which includes protozoa and algae. In conjunction with this he was the cofounder of the International Society for Evolutionary Protistology and recently founded the International Society for the Study of Harmful Algae.

Astronaut touches down on campus

Canadian astronaut Marc Garneau helped kick off a month-long educational program for 52 of Canada's top high school math and science students this month at UBC.

Students in the Shad Valley program and members of the public were treated to a video and slide presentation by the famous Canadian space pioneer at UBC's Hebb Theatre. Afterwards, Garneau fielded questions from the audience.

Garneau made his second flight into space on May 19 for a 10-day mission which showcased Canadian experiments and the use of the Canadarm, the Canadian-built robot arm used to retrieve satellites. One of Garneau's responsibilities during the flight was to monitor a UBC-based study which looked at how zero gravity affected the early muscle development of starfish embryos.

The Shad Valley program, which this

year celebrates its 10th anniversary at UBC, immerses some of Canada's brightest young minds in the world of science, technology and entrepreneurship. Students are selected for the program on the basis of their academic achievements and leadership potential.

Shad Valley Director Alice Cassidy said the program is supported by Canadian businesses who place students in jobs for the month of August upon completion of the Shad program.

Cassidy said one of the themes for this year's program is Greening the Environment.

"The students will be working to solve real problems that face our community from the planning of bicycle routes to overall green space allocation," she said. Cassidy added that the students will also design products aimed at helping people with physical disabilities.

St. John's

Continued from Page 1

in 1879, St. John's University was one of China's great educational institutions for more than 70 years. Since the university closed its doors in 1952, St. John's graduates, known as Johannians, have looked for an opportunity to rekindle the spirit of their alma mater and its motto, Light and Truth.

Although they still want to re-establish the university at its original site one day, Johannians — whose numbers include some of the most important leaders of government, industry, commerce and the media in East Asia and around the world — welcome the opportunity to continue their traditions at UBC.

Among the reasons that UBC is an ideal location for the college are its status as one of the leading research universities on the continent, its strengths in teaching and research on Asia and Vancouver's strategic location as an international crossroads.

The college will be consistent with both the historical character of St. John's University and the future needs of UBC graduate students.

Student admission will be based on academic merit and the desire to reflect the global community in which students from different parts of the world will learn from each other in a collegial setting.

Places at the college will be reserved for visiting graduate students, exchange students and visiting scholars from other countries. Links will also be sought with undergraduates interested in international issues, for example, those enrolled in the International Relations program.

St. John's College UBC, will be financially self-sufficient. Construction will be funded by donations from Johannians and other donors, and a mortgage taken out by the university. Student and resident fees will provide funds for operation, seminars and other activities of the college. An endowment will create scholarships.

UBC provided the one-hectare site for the college near the corner of University Boulevard and Lower Mall, at Gate 6. Symbolically, the site is near the Pacific Ocean facing Asia.



Martin Dee photo

Guests at a concrete-pouring ceremony at the site of St. John's College sign their names in the concrete. Many of the guests were graduates of the original St. John's University in Shanghai, who led a fund-raising campaign for the UBC facility. St. John's, a residential college for graduate students and visiting scholars, will focus on international issues.

Blake to head Faculty Association for two-year term

Zoology Prof. Robert Blake has been elected president of UBC's Faculty Association for a two-year term. He has served as the association's vice-president for the past two years.

Mary Russell, Social Work, an ex-officio member of last year's executive committee and chair of the Personnel Services Committee, replaces Blake in the vice-president's position.

Billie Housego, Educational Psychology and Special Education, was re-elected to a third term as the association's secretary. David Walker, Chemistry, one of last year's members-at-large, will serve as treasurer.

George Spiegelman, Microbi-

ology, Ross Labrie, English, and Ann Dusing, Classics, return as members-at-large for another year. Joining them are newly-elected Nicolas Jaeger, Electrical Engineering, Paul Marantz, Political Science, and Angela Redish, Economics.

Elected again as an ex-officio member is Norma Wieland, Germanic Studies, who was reaffirmed as chair of the Salaries and Economic Benefits Committee.

Serving their first terms as ex-officio members are Terry Crawford, Botany/Zoology, who will chair the Status of Women Committee, and Gloria Joachim, Nursing, as chair of the Personnel Services Committee.

Deans

Continued from Page 1

1975 after completing an interdisciplinary PhD in mathematics, computer science and business administration from the University of Texas at Austin.

An associate dean of Graduate Studies for the last five years, Granot's own research covers both theoretical and applied aspects in areas such as discrete mathematics, math-

ematical programming, game theory and network flows. In 1986, she was awarded the Advisory Council Chair Professor in Management Science in the Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration. Granot is also a member of UBC's Institute of Applied Mathematics and is associated with the research unit Forest Economics and Policy Analy-

sis. At UBC, Granot has worked with the PhD and MBA committees, was a member of the new MBA Core Committee and chairs the Faculty of Commerce committee on research development. She has successfully chaired the Faculty of Graduate Studies fundraising committee and serves on the faculty's long-range planning committee.



Martin Dee photo

UBC President David Strangway (r) and Ramon de la Pena, Rector of the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey in Mexico, sign a letter of intent to develop a joint academic program during the visit to B.C. last month of Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo. The joint program may include a residence, similar to Ritsumeikan House, and jointly developed academic and intercultural programs for undergraduate students.



UBC BOOKSTORE presents



the NOTEWORTHY Summer Sidewalk SALE

JULY 8 to 20

☔ Rain or shine ☔

SAVE on hundreds of Clearance Items including:

- Electronics
- Stationery Products
- Art Supplies

SAVE on hundreds of Clearance Items including:

- UBC Sportswear and Souvenirs
- Computer Accessories

Scores of hardcover and paperback books for just \$5.79, \$4.79, \$3.79, \$2.79, \$1.79 and even 79¢! "Hurts" from various Publishers at Bargain Prices

Bonus - Free Lunchtime Concerts at 12:30 PM at the Bookstore Plaza

- Thursday, July 11 UBC Music Institute - Intermediate Concert Band
- Wednesday, July 17 San Diego Youth Symphony
- Thursday, July 18 UBC Summer Music Institute Concert Band

Sale Hours: Weekdays 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Saturday 10:30 AM - 4:30 PM



Graduate students work with Prof. Michael Walker in his campus lab, where basic research is conducted that could lead to the development of pharmaceuticals by Walker's spin-off company. Students are (l-r) Penelope Poyah, Mariah Walker and Sandro Wong.

New drug responds to signs of heart attack

by Gavin Wilson

Staff writer

A UBC spin-off company is developing drugs that could save the lives of many of the half a million heart attack victims who die each year in North America.

Rhythm Search Developments Ltd. was founded four years ago based on the research of Michael Walker, a professor in the Dept. of Pharmacology and Therapeutics. It is now a wholly-owned subsidiary of Nortran

Pharmaceuticals.

Nortran's main focus is the development of antiarrhythmic drugs to prevent ventricular arrhythmias, which are the major cause of sudden cardiac death in heart attack victims.

"We want to get drugs out there that are significantly better than anything on the market now," Walker said.

A heart attack occurs when one of the heart's arteries is blocked by a blood clot. This chokes off the blood supply and precious oxygen to a part of the heart muscle, which then begins to die.

As the muscle dies, it generates aberrant electrical activity which can interfere with the heart's normal electrical signal. This may result in ventricular fibrillation, in which the heart ceases its normal rhythmic beating and begins to quiver uncontrollably.

The heart cannot pump blood in this state and the victim dies within minutes.

In a hospital, a patient can have a regular heart rhythm restored with a defibrillator—the device that uses paddles to give patients an electric shock. Otherwise, there are existing antiarrhythmic drugs, but their benefits are severely limited by adverse side effects.

Researchers in Walker's lab

have designed drugs that prevent the damaged portion of the heart from generating abnormal electrical activity, without causing toxic side effects.

This new type of antiarrhythmic remains dormant until activated by the specific conditions found during a heart attack in dying tissues, dramatically increasing a patient's chance of survival.

"We think we can make a drug that's safe enough to give as a pill a day to the millions of people who are at risk of a heart attack, in the same way people take aspirin or cholesterol-reducing drugs," Walker said.

The first generation of these antiarrhythmic drugs will enter clinical trials in China and Brazil later this year, but Nortran has much greater expectations of subsequent generations of drugs now in the pipeline.

Other UBC scientists, Dr. David Quastel, a professor in Pharmacology and Therapeutics, and Dr. Bernard MacLeod, associate professor in the Dept. of Anesthesia, have collaborated to develop novel analgesics which appear to work differently than existing analgesics.

In association with Nortran, a first generation compound could go into clinical trials in Vancouver by the end of the year.

ABOUT UBC NEWS! EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

We've Got A New Look

UBC's Web site is currently being redeveloped.

Visit www.ubc.ca and send your feedback to www@unixg.ubc.ca

Advisory Committee on Information Technology
-- Web Steering Subcommittee

ADMISSIONS & PROGRAMS OF STUDY	THE COMPLEAT STUDENT	ALUMNI & FRIENDS
FACULTY & RESEARCH	STAFF & ADMIN SERVICES	

Conference aims at reducing toll of major disasters

Nine years ago a tornado swept through Edmonton killing 26 people, half of whom died in a mobile home park in the north-east end of the city.

According to PhD candidate Laurie Pearce, of UBC's School of Community and Regional Planning, it took almost one hour before rescuers realized that the mobile homes had been wiped out.

"Communications from the top part of the city were cut off and response teams went to the industrial centre and residential areas to the south," said Pearce. "If they'd properly completed a hazard and risk analysis they would have known that the mobile home park was incredibly vulnerable."

Pearce will make a presentation about who is most vulnerable during a natural disaster at Pan Pacific Hazards '96, an international trade show and conference taking place July 29-Aug. 2 at the Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre.

Pan Pacific Hazards '96 - focusing particularly on earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis - has been organized as a major Canadian contribution supporting the United Nations International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR).

The conference includes 300 key speakers from 20 countries who are experts in topics ranging from business recovery challenges in the aftermath of a ma-

major earthquake to the importance of telecommunications in disaster preparedness programs.

Among the trade show's more than 80 exhibits are a simulated earthquake experience in the "Quakey Shakey Van" from the Los Angeles Fire Department.

For her own research, Pearce has examined hundreds of natural and person-induced hazard scenarios with an aim to developing programs to reduce "social vulnerabilities."

Some examples of social vulnerabilities are: inability to read English; dependency of senior citizens and young children on others for help; citizens in poor health, on medication or suffering from respiratory diseases; and people with little or no money to cope after a disaster strikes.

In the case of the Edmonton tornado, Pearce said most of the people killed in the mobile home park were low-income seniors over the age of 55 or youths under 18.

"I'm alerting people to things that they might not think of right away in the event of a disaster so that vulnerabilities are built into preparedness programs," said Pearce. "Certain groups have to be targeted for assistance before and after a disaster strikes."

The conference, organized in part by UBC's Disaster Preparedness Resources Centre, will be open to the public on July 31.

UBC DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

Students, faculty, staff and members of the public—**Does this affect you?** The following projects for the UBC Campus are currently being considered. You are encouraged to give us your opinions on these projects:

PERMIT REVIEWS IN PROGRESS

- new • Liu Centre for International Studies—Phase I
- new • Centre for Continuing Studies—Phase I
- new • St. John's College—Phase II&III
- hold • Creative Arts—Phase II

- TRIUMF-ISAC—Phase II New Building

& FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

- Permit Fees—All UBC Development & Building Permit fees have changed effective April 1, 1996
- Environmental Assessment for TRIUMF-ISAC Project is now available for review

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ANY OF THESE PROJECTS please contact BONNIE PERRY AT 822-8228, perry@cpd.ubc.ca or visit our Campus Planning & Development Home Page on the Internet at <http://www.cpd.ubc.ca/cpdhome/cpdhmpg.htm>

Information supplied by:
Regulatory Services, a division of Campus Planning & Development, 2210 West Mall, Vancouver, BC, V6T 1Z4, 822-8228 (ph), 822-6119 (fax).

campus planning & development

Calendar

July 14 through August 17

Monday, July 15

Science Summer Camp
Dept. of Physics and Astronomy Science Summer Camp For Kids Ages 8-13. One week sessions from July 8 - Aug. 2. Hebb. 9:30am-4:30pm. For camp and fee information call 822-3853.

Tuesday, July 16

Kathak Dance Performance
Evening With Joanna Das. Kathak Dancer. Museum of Anthropology theatre gallery. 7:30pm. Call 822-5087.

School of Theology Lecture Series

Coming Among Us: Ministry With Native People. Martin Brokenleg. Augustana College. S. Dakota. Chapel of the Epiphany. 6050 Chancellor Blvd. 7:30pm. Call 228-9031 ext. 221.

Wednesday, July 17

Lunchtime Concert
San Diego Youth Symphony. UBC Bookstore outdoor plaza. 12:30pm. Call 822-2665.

Thursday, July 18

Seminar
Thrombosis And Thrombolysis In Atherogenesis. Dr. Alexandra Lucas. U of Alberta. IRC#4. 12-1:30pm. Call 822-4838.

School of Theology Lecture Series

Renewing The Congregation For The 21st Century. Patrick Keifert. Luther Seminary. St. Paul. Chapel of the Epiphany. 6050 Chancellor Boulevard. 7:30pm. Call 228-9031 ext. 221.

Lunchtime Concert
UBC Summer Music Institute Concert Band. UBC Bookstore outdoor plaza. 12:30pm. Call 822-2665.

UBC Board of Governors Meeting
Old Administration Building. Board and Senate Room, 6328 Memorial Road. Open session begins at 9am.

Monday, July 22

Biotechnology Lab Seminar
Restriction Of Developmental Competence By The Drosophila Melanogaster Tramtrack Protein. Dr. Andrew Travers. Lab of Molecular Biology Medical Research Council. Cambridge. IRC#5. 2:30pm. Refreshments. Call 822-3317.

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Seminar

The Interaction of Cytochrome c and Cytochrome c Oxidase Analysed By Resonance Raman Spectroscopy. Peter Hildebrandt. Max-Planck Institute. Mülheim. IRC#4. 3:45pm. Refreshments at 3:30pm. Call 822-9871.

Continuing Studies Hands-On Workshop

Brainwaves - This is Math. July 22-26. Ron Klassen. MEd CEME. 1212. 10am-noon. \$120. for ages 10-12. Call 822-1450.

Continuing Studies Hands-On Workshop

Brainwaves - Chemistry I. July 22-26. Ron Klassen. MEd Scarfe. 1207. 1:30-3:30pm. \$120.00. for ages 10-12. Call 822-1450.

Tuesday, July 23

Lecture
Science And Classical Archaeology: A Perfect Match. William R. Biers. U. of Missouri. Columbia. Museum of Anthropology theatre gallery. 7:30pm. Refreshments. Call 822-2889.

School of Theology Lecture Series

The Odd Couple: Jezebel and Elijah. Phyllis Tribble. Union Theological Seminary. New York. Chapel of the Epiphany. 6050 Chancellor Boulevard. 7:30pm. Call 228-9031 ext. 221.

Thursday, July 25

Centre for the Study of Curriculum and Instruction Lecture

Deconstructing Differences In African-American And European-American Adolescents' Perspectives On U.S. History. Terrie Epstein. U of Michigan. Scarfe 310. 3pm. Call 822-6502.

School of Theology Lecture Series

New Landscapes In The Heart:

Notices

Volleyball
Faculty, Staff and Grad Student Volleyball Group. Every Monday and Wednesday. Osborne Centre. Gym A. 12-1pm during July and August. No fees. Drop-ins and regular attendees welcome for friendly competitive games. Call 822-4479 or e-mail: kdcs@unixg.ubc.ca.

Free Tai Chi at Grad Centre
Mondays from 6-7pm and Thursdays 12:45-2pm. Double Tai Chi system along with basic Chi Kung exercise. Taught by John Camp. Can join or drop in anytime. Call 822-3203.

Free Meditation Classes at Grad Centre
Tuesdays, Penthouse 7:30-8:30pm. Meditation practice will be followed with discussion, breathing, visualization and more. The Sri Chinmou Society. Can join or drop in anytime. Call 822-3203.

Free Trager Movement Classes at Grad Centre
Wednesdays, Penthouse. from 6:30-7:30pm. Practice simple, effortless movements that release stress, recreate feelings of aliveness and enhance lightness and flexibility. Tutor Michael Madrone. Join, or drop in. Call 822-3203.

Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery

Exhibition by local artist Attila Richard Lukacs until Aug. 14/96. A travelling exhibition organized by the Musée d'art contemporain de Montreal. Tues. - Fri. 10am-5pm; Sat., 12-5pm. 1825 Main Mall. Call 822-2759.

Surplus Equipment Recycling Facility

Weekly sales of furniture, computers, scientific etc. held every Wednesday, noon-5pm. SERF. Task Force Building. 2352 Health Sciences Mall. Call 822-2582 for information.

Studies in Hearing and Communication

Senior (65 years or older) and Junior (20-30 years) volunteers needed. Participants will attend up to three one-hour appointments at UBC. Experiments will examine

Worship As The Transfiguration Of Imagination. Thomas H. Troeger. Iliff School of Theology. Denver. Chapel of the Epiphany. 6050 Chancellor Blvd. 7:30pm. Call 228-9031 ext. 221.

Monday, July 29

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Seminar

Leucine Zippers As Simple Models To Study The Kinetics And Thermodynamics Of Protein Association And Folding. Hans Bosshard. Biochemical Institute. U of Zurich. IRC#4. 3:45pm. Refreshments at 3:30pm. Call 822-9871.

Continuing Studies Hands-On Workshop

Brainwaves - Chemistry II. July 29-August 2. Ron Klassen. MEd. Scarfe. 1207. 1:30-3:30pm. \$120.00. for ages 11-13. Call 822-1450.

Continuing Studies Workshop in Nelson, B.C.

Local Leadership For Sustainable Communities. July 29-Aug. 3. In partnership with the Social Planning and Research Council of B.C. Food, accommodation and trans-

portation to Nelson not included. Full brochure 822-1450. To register 736-8118.

Thursday, Aug. 1

Computer Application Information Series

Module 1. Part I - Microsoft Windows 95. Kevin Pashuk. CEME. 2206. 1:30-4:30pm or 6-9pm. \$70 by July 18, \$80 after. All modules \$450 by July 18, after \$500. Call 822-3347.

Computer Application Information Series

Module 1. Part II - Creating Presentation With Impact. Kevin Pashuk. CEME. 2206. 1:30-4:30pm or 6-9pm. \$70 by July 18, \$80 after. All modules \$450 by July 18, after \$500. Call 822-3347.

Tuesday, Aug. 6

Computer Application Information Series

Module 2. Implementing A Document Management Strategy. Edward Un. CEME. 2206. 1:30-4:30pm or 6-9pm. \$70 by July 18, \$80 after. All modules \$450 by July 18, after \$500. Call 822-3347.

Thursday, Aug. 8

Computer Application Information Series

Module 3. Using Modems For Business And Professional Communication. Edward Un. CEME. 2206. 1:30-4:30pm or 6-9pm. \$70 by July 18, \$80 after. All modules \$450 by July 18, after \$500. Call 822-3347.

Tuesday, Aug. 13

Computer Application Information Series

Module 4. Database/Contact Management Software. Nick Springate. CEME. 2206. 1:30-4:30pm or 6-9pm. \$70 by July 18, \$80 after. All modules \$450 by July 18, after \$500. Call 822-3347.

Thursday, Aug. 15

Computer Application Information Series

Module 5. Desktop Publishing. Nancy Johnson. CEME. 2206. 1:30-4:30pm or 6-9pm. \$70 by July 18, \$80 after. All modules \$450 by July 18, after \$500. Call 822-3347.

different aspects of hearing and communication abilities. Honorarium for some studies. Please call the Hearing Lab, 822-9474.

Parents in Long-Term Care Study

Daughters with a parent in a care facility are invited to participate. Study focuses on the challenges of visiting/providing care and its effect on well-being. Involves interviews/responses to questionnaires. Call Allison, Counselling Psychology at 946-7803.

Chronic Low Back Pain Research

The Dept. of Counselling Psychology is looking for women with chronic low back pain to volunteer to participate in a research project. If you are a woman 19 years of age or older, have had low back pain for at least six months, experience back pain on a daily basis, have a spouse or partner living with you, and would be willing to invest approximately 10 minutes a day for 30 days, please call 987-3574 for more information. All information will be kept strictly confidential.

Physics Summer Camp for Kids

Last chance for Science Summer Camps for students ages 8-13. The Physics Outreach Program in the Department of Physics and Astronomy is holding four one-week sessions beginning July 8. For camp and fee information, call 822-3853 or 822-9107.

Garden Hours

Nitobe Memorial Garden, Botanical Garden and the Shop-in-the-Garden are open 10am-6pm daily (including weekends) until Oct. 13. Call 822-9666 (gardens), 822-4529 (shop).

Guided Tours of Botanical Garden

By Friends of the Garden. Every Wednesday and Saturday. 1pm, until Oct. 13. Free with admission. Call 822-9666.

English Language Institute
Homestay. English-speaking families are needed to host international students participating in ELI programs for periods of two to six

weeks. Remuneration is \$22/night. Call 822-1537.

Parents with Babies
Have you ever wondered how babies learn to talk? Help us find out! We are looking for parents with babies between one and 14 months of age to participate in language development studies. If you are interested in bringing your baby for a one hour visit, please call Dr. Janet Werker's Infant Studies Centre, Department of Psychology, UBC. 822-6408 (ask for Nancy).

The Anxiety Disorders Unit
At Vancouver Hospital on the UBC campus is about to begin a major treatment study for obsessive compulsive disorder. Free psychological treatment is provided. For information, please call 822-1788.

Faculty Development

Would you like to talk with an experienced faculty member, one on one, about your teaching concerns? Call the Centre for Faculty Development and Instructional Services at 822-0828 and ask for the Teaching Support Group.

Herpes Zoster (Shingles) Study

Participants required to take part in clinical dermatology trial at Division of Dermatology, 855 West

10 Avenue. Requirements, 50 years of age and older, within 72 hours of onset of first skin rash. Maximum 13 visits over 24 week period. Free medication and honorarium given. For further information call 875-5296.

Diabetes 1997 Conference
The Young Diabetic. Interprofessional Continuing Education Conference will take place Friday, April 4 and Saturday, Apr. 5, '97, in Vancouver, for all health professionals interested and involved in diabetic care. For information call 822-2626.

Vancouver Hospital Studies
Volunteers are needed as control group for research study. Study involves two test sessions. Each test session will involve two test days and will be one week apart - total time 16 hours. Volunteers should be between the ages of 18-65 and will be paid \$100 for the completion of both test sessions. For information call 822-7321.

International Student Orientation Week

August 26-30, 1996. International House. If interested in volunteering contact Wendy Ma at International House 822-5021. All new international students welcome.

UBC REPORTS

CALENDAR POLICY AND DEADLINES

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

Calendar items must be submitted on forms available from the UBC Public Affairs Office, 310 - 6251 Cecil Green Park Road, Vancouver B.C., V6T 1Z1. Phone: 822-3131. Fax: 822-2684. Please limit to 35 words. Submissions for the Calendar's Notices section may be limited due to space.

Deadline for the August 15 issue of UBC Reports — which covers the period August 18 to September 7 — is noon, August 6.



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT 1995-96



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

July 11, 1996

Dear Colleagues:

Here for your review is the Communications Report 1995-96 prepared by the university's Public Affairs Office. The report outlines communications programs and services provided by the External Affairs Division to support administration, faculties, departments and other campus units.

We welcome your feedback and comments.

Sincerely,

Peter W. Ufford
Vice-President, External Affairs

Overview

UBC's Public Affairs Office, housed within the University Relations Department, is responsible for communicating UBC's mission, key messages and values to both its internal community of faculty, staff and students and to the broader external community. It coordinates its programs and messages in concert with other units of the External Affairs Division, administration, faculties, and campus departments and units.

The office builds its programs upon several foundations, most notably the *Policy on Communications*, approved by the Board of Governors in May 1994, which formally acknowledges UBC's responsibility to keep its many communities informed and ensure two-way dialogue.

Programs are also built on the *UBC Communications Plan*, finalized in January 1995, which was developed with widespread campus input and designed to respond to the changing communications environment in which UBC operates. The plan includes five emphases: internal communication, two-way communication, external communication, critical issues management and a public information centre.

Public Affairs Office workplans are based on providing service, listening to constituents and on self-evaluation. Monitoring and assessment components are built into each program area.

1996-96 in review

In response to challenges facing UBC, this was a year of change for the Public Affairs Office, including major administrative reorganization, evolving roles and responsibilities, and ever-increasing critical issues management. In 1995-96, Public Affairs:

Administrative changes

- Moved from its longtime home in the Old Administration Building to Cecil Green Park House
- Changed its name from Media Relations and Publications to Public Affairs Office to reflect UBC's expanding communications priorities
- Reorganized staff positions to more properly reflect additional responsibilities
- Integrated communications services with other External Affairs Division units

Evolving Roles and Responsibilities

- Developed strategies to deal with Freedom of Information legislation and its effect on UBC and its handling of public issues
- Played a key role in the strategic development of the Official Community Plan (OCP)
- Provided support to senior administration on GVRD and City of Vancouver-related issues

Critical Issues Management

- McEwen Political Science Report
- OCP-related development issues
- Coca Cola Corporate Sponsorship Agreement
- Mr. Tube Steak labour issue
- Open House 1995

In 1995/96, the Public Affairs Office focused its efforts on defining and developing strategies for communicating UBC's mission and key messages to its internal and external audiences. The office was integral in the positioning of UBC's Official Community Plan process, one of the most critical issues facing the university and its future. The office played a strategic role in liaising with the GVRD, consultants, the Planning Advisory Committee and the public over the OCP. This role will continue into the next year as the plan is finalized and enacted.

The office took the Board of Governors' communications policy and brought it to life through communications strategies for issues such as international student tuition, university funding and domestic tuition, as well as for other university-wide initiatives such as Open House '95.

Another focus was the continued integration of services with other External Affairs units through communications collaboration and events planning. The Donor Relations unit of the Development Department was amalgamated with Public Affairs by year end.

Looking ahead

UBC's relationships with its many constituencies are key to its long-term institutional health and in 1996/97, we will continue to strengthen these relationships by:

- Assisting in the development of a public process for physical planning and development at UBC
- Creating consistent key messages and applying them throughout the communications process
- Emphasizing two-way communications and creating continuing opportunities for dialogue
- Publicizing the valuable teaching, research and other contributions of UBC's faculty and staff to the province of BC and beyond
- Continuing implementation of the long-range communications plan for UBC. The plan includes effective and affordable strategies for enhancing UBC's two-way communication with internal and external communities. These strategies focus on communicating UBC's mission and contributions to local, regional, national and international audiences
- Continuing to assist with UBC's relationship with the GVRD on the future development of the campus as part of a larger community
- Continuing to provide support to faculties and to administration through the growing demand for communications marketing services, including media relations, speech writing, publications such as *UBC Reports*, critical issues management, public awareness campaigns, and community events

Audiences and messages

UBC communicates with many varied audiences, including:

- internal (on-campus): faculty, staff, students
- external (local, regional, provincial, national and international)
- alumni
- government (municipal/provincial/federal)
- donors (individual/corporate/foundation)
- business/industry sector
- media (print/radio/TV/wire/magazine)
- public (UEL, regional/provincial/national/international)
- organized labour
- friends of UBC
- visitors to campus

UBC's messages reflect its mission statement and the goals set for the university. These many messages, for different audiences, include:

- UBC is a world-class educational and research facility
- UBC is open and accountable, is meeting and serving community needs, and is encouraging input and participation
- UBC fosters and contributes social, economic, scientific, cultural and educational benefits to society
- UBC plays a leadership role in advancing British Columbia on the provincial, national and international scene
- UBC's faculty, staff and students are part of a unique community and their participation in the university is valued

Communications services

The External Affairs Division utilizes a wide variety of means to communicate UBC's mission and messages and create opportunities for two-way dialogue, including:

- *UBC Reports*—tabloid newspaper published 21 times annually, circulation 37,000, includes *UBC Gazette*, policy and other inserts
- Media Releases—more than 150 research, teaching and policy announcements annually
- Phone contact—200 calls per day, about 50,000 annually
- Placement of UBC's people and stories—hundreds annually in TV, radio and print media
- News conferences
- Daily Clips Service—200 packages per year, 1,000 items
- *Facts and Figures* university brochure
- *Alumni Chronicle*, newsletters and events
- Public process and meetings
- Report to the Community—*Vancouver Sun* and *Province*
- President's tours
- Open House and Homecoming events
- Contributions to faculty/departmental newsletters
- President's Reports
- Speakers Bureau
- Media training services
- Communications consultation
- Campus Tours
- UBC experts contact service
- Brochures and other publications
- Speech writing services
- Congregation
- MLA/MP visits
- Donor publications
- ViewUBC electronic network
- Personal contact/one-on-one meetings
- Video productions



The Board of Governors took the following actions at its meeting held on May 23, 1996.

STRATEGIC PLANNING & PROPERTY

Official Community Plan

It was agreed that a GVRD/UBC Task Force on the Official Community Plan would be established with three representatives from each Board. Members from the UBC Board are: Dr. Joanne Emerman, Mr. Harold Kalke and Mr. Michael Partridge. The task force was instructed to work with staff to prepare a revised Memorandum of Understanding for consideration of the GVRD and UBC Boards at their June meetings. The MOU will encompass:

- Terms of Reference and timelines for the Governance Study as prepared by GVRD to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs with the support of UBC.
- Interim arrangements regarding UBC land use decisions.
- Continued best efforts for completion of the Official Community Plan by Fall 1996 with resolution of the outstanding issues.

Minor Capital and Cyclical Maintenance Budgets

The Minor Capital (\$7,959,000) and Cyclical Maintenance (\$6,019,000) budgets for 1996/97 were approved by the Board.

FINANCE

The following 1996-97 operating budgets, and any rate changes contained therein, were approved.

- Co-operative Education - Faculty of Applied Science
- Faculty of Science Co-op Education Program
- Medical Student Alumni Centre
- NCE Administration Office
- UBC-Ritsumeikan Academic Exchange Program
- Student Aid Fund (Non Core)
- Teacher Education Expansion
- Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund
- Internal Awards in the Humanities and Social Sciences.
- Continuing Studies

TRIUMF-Contribution Agreement

The Board approved of the contribution agreement towards the operation of TRIUMF, noting that the contribution from the Federal Government (per National Research Council and Western Economic Diversification) is \$165,590,000 over 5 years.

Fees

The Board approved the following changes to fees:

In the case of tuition fees for continuing professional education, the charging of up to double the on-campus undergraduate course tuition fee for courses offered at a distance.

The proposed new fee for the Genetic Counsellor Training Program.

At the request of the Graduate Student Society, the Capital Improvement Fee of \$5.00 per graduate student per year was continued for a further two years i.e., 1996-98.

The Board approved the introduction of a \$200 cancellation fee for single student residence applicants who have accepted and prepaid the first instalment of their winter session residence room fees, and subsequently cancel their room assignment between August 2nd. Exceptions to this cancellation fee are to be granted where the assigned student receives notification after August 1st that he/she was not admitted to the University, or where substantiated medical reasons prevent the student from attending the University.

The establishment of new tuition fees for Non-Canadian Students in the Faculty of Dentistry were approved.

The Board approved the 1996/97 Special Fee increases as proposed. The fees pertain to a variety of student-related fees such as photocopying, field trips, laboratory fees, etc.

The Board passed the following resolution: "That the base tuition fee, exclusive of special fees, for 1996-97 remain at the level charged in 1995-96 i.e. \$76.50 - (\$2.68 + \$3.06) = \$70.76, rounded to \$70.75."

ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS

Acting on Senate recommendations, the Board approved the following:

- Prizes, Scholarships and Bursaries
- Curriculum Proposals
- Enrolment Plans, Quotas and Targets for 1996-97

APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Paul J. Harrison was re-appointed to the Management Council of the Western Canadian Universities Marine Biological Society for the period July 1, 1996 to June 30, 1998.

Dr. Sidney Mindess was appointed as Associate Vice President, Academic for an initial term of four years from July 1, 1996, through June 30, 2000.

The Board approved the confirmed appointment of **Lucia Cheung**.

OTHER

Prior to the establishment of the Presidential Search Committee, the Board of Governors commissioned a survey by Angus Reid Group (Vancouver) with respect to the profile of the next President of UBC. The Board of Governors wanted to share the conclusion of the survey with the community and thank the participants for their contribution. The conclusion of the survey follows:

"To conclude, what are the key elements of the next UBC president's profile? What are the clues, the evidence, on which to select the right candidate?"

- Firstly, the candidate must possess a blend of the essential C.E.O. skills discussed. To recap, the individual must understand the business, have excellent communications and people-skills, be able to establish and articulate a vision, and know how to effectively manage a large university.
- Secondly, the candidate should have a diversity of interests and professional experience. A well-rounded person is always an asset. In an

May 1996

The Board of Governors at its meeting of May 23, 1996 approved the following recommendations and received notice about the following items:

APPOINTMENTS

Errol Durbach, Associate Dean, Faculty of Arts, July 1, 1996 to June 30, 1997.

Susan B. Watts, Assistant Dean, Faculty of Forestry, July 1, 1995 to June 30, 1999.

Raymond John Cole, Acting Director, School of Architecture, July 1, 1996 to Dec 31, 1996.

A. P. Watkinson, Head, Department of Chemical & Bio-Resource Engineering, April 1, 1996 to June 30, 1997.

Graeme Wynn, Head, Department of Geography, July 1, 1996 to June 30, 2002.

Alan Tully, Head, Department of History, July 1, 1996 to June 30, 2001.

Kenneth Carty, Head, Department of Political Science, July 1, 1996 to June 30, 2001.

Terence McGee, Director, Institute of Asian Research, July 1, 1996 to June 30, 1997.

Valerie Raoul, Director, Centre for Research in Women's Studies & Gender Relations, July 1, 1997 to June 30, 2002.

Veronica Strong-Boag, Director, Centre for Research in Women's Studies & Gender Relations, July 1, 1996 to June 30, 1997.

Robert M. Ellis, Head, Department of Earth and Ocean Sciences, April 1, 1996 to June 30, 2001.

Charles Menzies, Instructor I, Department of Anthropology & Sociology, July 1, 1996 to June 30, 1998.

Kevin McNeilly, Assistant Professor, Department of English, July 1, 1996 to June 30, 1999.

Barbara Arneil, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, July 1, 1996 to June 30, 1999.

Liisa Ann Margaret Galea, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Jan 1, 1997 to June 30, 2000.

Mark Schaller, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, July 1, 1996 to June 30, 1999.

John J. Borrows, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, July 1, 1996 to June 30, 1999.

Anthony P. Cheung, Assistant Professor, Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Aug. 1, 1996 to June 30, 1999.

Peter Joseph O'Brien, Assistant Professor, Department of Orthopaedics, Jan 1, 1996 to June 30, 1999.

Maureen O'Donnell, Assistant Pro-

fessor, Department of Paediatrics, Jan 1, 1996 to June 30, 1999.

Thomas G. Beach, Assistant Professor, Department of Pathology, July 1, 1996 to June 30, 1999.

Philip Clement, Professor, Department of Pathology, Jan 1, 1996 (tenured).

Derek de Sa, Professor, Department of Pathology, July 1, 1996 (tenured).

William Schreiber, Associate Professor, Department of Pathology, Jan 1, 1996 (tenured).

Martin J. Trotter, Assistant Professor, Department of Pathology, July 1, 1996 to June 30, 1999.

Janice Eng, Assistant Professor, Department of Pathology, Jan 1, 1997 to June 30, 2000.

Darlene M. Redenbach, Assistant Professor, Department of Pathology, July 1, 1996 to June 30, 1999.

Thomas J. Keane, Professor, Department of Surgery, July 1, 1996 (tenured).

Roy A. Pursell, Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery, Jan. 1, 1996 to June 30, 1999.

RESIGNATIONS

Muhammad Iqbal, Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, June 29, 1996.

George A. Gray, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology & Sociology, June 30, 1996.

J. A. S. Evans, Professor, Department of Classical, Near Eastern & Religious Studies June 29, 1996.

Fred E. Stockholder, Assistant Professor, Department of English, June 29, 1996.

Richard E. Copley, Senior Instructor, Department of Geography, June 29, 1996.

Sunil Dutta, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Commerce & Business Administration, June 30, 1996.

Lawrence Jones, Professor, Faculty of Commerce & Business Administration, June 29, 1996.

John D. Friesen, Professor, Department of Counselling Psychology, Aug. 31, 1996.

Reza Tabrizchi, Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmacology & Therapeutics, April 30, 1996.

John R. Sams, Associate Dean (continues as Professor in Chemistry), Faculty of Science, June 30, 1996.

Diana Kent, General Librarian, Library, June 29, 1996.

DEATHS

The Board learned, with regret, the death of:

Lily Van Leeuwen, Senior Instructor, Department of Microbiology, Apr. 13, 1996.

ideal world, the person should have both private and public sector experience.

- Thirdly, the candidate should have a proven track record in university administration. While this person does not need to have been a university president, the candidate should have experience at the senior administrative level.
- Lastly, the successful candidate should have an outstanding history of achievements across a wide category of areas, especially in academics."



United Way

Classified

The classified advertising rate is \$15.75 for 35 words or less. Each additional word is 50 cents. Rate includes GST. Ads must be submitted in writing 10 days before publication date to the UBC Public Affairs Office, 310 - 6251 Cecil Green Park Road, Vancouver B.C., V6T 1Z1, accompanied by payment in cash, cheque (made out to UBC Reports) or internal requisition. Advertising enquiries: 822-3131.

The deadline for the August 15, 1996 issue of UBC Reports is noon, August 6.



MOA photo

Raven Cape

More than 400 people attended a fashion show celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Museum of Anthropology's opening in its current location. Canada's foremost First Nations designer Dorothy Grant displayed her work including the Raven Cape shown above. The Museum of Anthropology was designed by B.C. architect Arthur Erickson and draws thousands of visitors from around the world each year. The museum is renowned for its setting, design and extensive collection.

Accommodation

POINT GREY GUEST HOUSE A perfect spot to reserve accommodation for guest lecturers or other university members who visit throughout the year. Close to UBC and other Vancouver attractions, a tasteful representation of our city and of UBC. 4103 W. 10th Ave., Vancouver, BC. V6R 2H2. Phone or fax (604)222-4104.

TINA'S GUEST HOUSE Elegant accom. in Pt. Grey area. Minutes to UBC. On main bus routes. Close to shops and restaurants. Inc. TV, tea and coffee making, private phone/fridge. Weekly rates available. Tel: 222-3461. Fax:222-9279.

ENGLISH COUNTRY GARDEN bed and breakfast. Warm hospitality and full breakfast welcome you to this central view home. Close to UBC, downtown and bus service. Large ensuite rooms with TV and phone. 3466 West 15th Avenue. 737-2526.

OLD RECTORY, U.K. 17th Century seaside cottage. 20 mins. to Lancaster Univ./College and Lake District. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Furnished, central heating. House available October-May. Also summer B&B. Call 011-44-1524-85-9357.

Accommodation

AVAILABLE TO RENT IN VANCOUVER (Dunbar). Close to UBC. 3 bedroom furnished house. Quiet tree-lined street. Parks. Garden patio. Available Aug. 10-24. Call (604) 222-4113.

ONE BEDROOM LUXURIOUSLY FURNISHED apartment sublet Sept. 1/96-April 30/97. Located Vancouver west of Denman near Stanley Park, downtown and seawall. Nice southerly view, quiet location. \$870/month includes parking, heat, phone, cable, electricity. Non-smoker, no pets, references required. Phone/fax (416) 767-2729.

ELEGANT LARGE 2 BEDROOMED furnished/unfurnished apartment. 2 baths, 2 cars, sports complex, pool, view. Near Granville Island. From September. 6-9 months. \$2000 per month. Phone 737-0422.

MONET'S ROOM. BED AND BREAKFAST. Close to UBC. Close to ocean, shops and restaurants. Smoke-free environment, ensuite bathroom. Weekly rates available. Call 734-2921.

NEW TWO BEDROOM CONDO. Yaletown, \$1300.00/month, for August 15. Five appliances, furnished/unfurnished, enclosed balcony, two terraces, security system, secured parking, generous storage, weights, sauna, jacuzzi, view, no smoking/dogs. Contact Reg/Angelique (604) 682-5120.

BRIGHT FURNISHED SELF-CONTAINED 2 bedroom basement suite with private entrance, close to UBC, available now. No smokers, no pets. \$800 incl. utilities. 224-6274, eve.

FURNISHED, SINGLE OCCUPANCY basement suite ideal for visiting professor in UBC area. 5 min. walk to campus. TV, piano, gas f.p., full kitchen, shared laundry, private entry: N/S, N/P. \$850/month incl. utilities. Avail. Sept. 1/96. Call 224-8818.

COMFORTABLE AND RELAXING B & B accommodation. Close to UBC in quiet area. Quality breakfasts. Queen-sized beds.

Accommodation

Private bathroom available. Satisfaction is assured for your friends or professional guests. Brown's by UBC 222-8073.

AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY. Furnished, excellent condition, garden suite. Private entrance. 7 minutes from UBC. 1 BR, study, living dining area kitchen, bath. NS. No pets. Call 734-3513.

WEST POINT GREY - 2 bedroom furnished house at West 13th and Blanca Street available September 1 - April 15, 1997 (flexibility on dates). Suit visiting professor. Living room with fireplace, dining room, kitchen, 2 baths, five appliances. Non smokers, no pets. \$1500/month including utilities, house cleaning and lawn service. Contact: 224-3942.

Housing Wanted

SUBLET WANTED - 1-30 September, Kits or Point Grey area. One bedroom furnished apartment or suite in house. Parents visiting from Ireland. Tel. 604 737-1064.

Housesitting

PROFESSIONAL COUPLE RELOCATING from Queen's University seek housesitting opportunity in Vancouver area. Gardening and pets are great. Available late August. Local references. Kingston phone (613) 531-8181. West Van. phone 921-6911.

Services

DOES YOUR DOG NEED A WALK. The dog walker will walk your dog daily, weekly or when you are on holidays. Reasonable rates. Call the Dog Walker 224-5962.

Events

WANTED - SOCIABLE SINGLES to join our golf and/or nature walks and discussions. Most of the men and women are ages early 40s to 60s. No cost to join. Call 224-8621.

When it comes to value & price, nothing beats this Civic opportunity.

\$13,745^{\$}



UNBEATABLE BUYING POWER

'96 CX HATCHBACK

MORE POWER, ROOM & COMFORT. GREAT LOOKS PLUS DRIVER'S SIDE AIRBAG (SRS), 50/50 REAR SEAT & MORE.

\$210*

PER MONTH O.A.C. 48 MONTH LEASE WITH \$1,595 DOWN

\$250**

PER MONTH O.A.C. 48 MONTH LEASE WITH \$0 DOWN



\$16,650^{\$}



UNBEATABLE STYLE & DRIVING SPIRIT

'96 DX COUPE

DECKED OUT WITH AM/FM STEREO, DUAL AIRBAGS (SRS), AND WITH OPTIONAL RACY ALUMINUM ALLOY "MAG" WHEELS.

\$228†

PER MONTH O.A.C. 48 MONTH LEASE WITH \$1,595 DOWN

\$267††

PER MONTH O.A.C. 48 MONTH LEASE WITH \$0 DOWN



ABBOTSFORD THE HONDA WAY 857-1430	PORT MOODY WESTWOOD HONDA 461-0633	SURREY SUR-DEL HONDA 583-7421
LANGLEY LANGLEY HONDA 530-6281	WHITE ROCK WHITE ROCK HONDA 536-2111	MAPLE RIDGE/ PITT MEADOWS MARV JONES HONDA 465-5464

VANCOUVER CARTER HONDA 736-2821	RICHMOND RICHMOND HONDA 270-367	BURNABY NORTH HAPPY HONDA 294-2111
REGENCY HONDA 873-3676	BURNABY SOUTH/ NEW WEST MIDDLEGATE HONDA 525-4667	NORTH & WEST VANCOUVER PACIFIC HONDA 984-0331

YOUR B.C. **HONDA** DEALERS
AS RELIABLE AS THE CARS THEY SELL

BUILT WITHOUT COMPROMISE.

LAW STUDENT

Wanted. A 2nd or 3rd year law student to assist in interpreting of the B.C. WILLS and WILLS VARIATION ACTS, also other related matters. Fees to be negotiated on one of the following basis: hourly &/or contractual &/or piecemeal.

Please phone Dave Kirkwood
522-3392

\$ Purchase price includes freight and P.D.I. Taxes extra. (†) Based on a new 1996 Civic CX Hatchback (model EJ637). \$210, \$250 per month for 48 months includes \$750 for freight and P.D.I. Total payments of \$10,080 (\$2,000 down payment or equivalent trade of \$1,595 + \$0) required. First monthly payment and security deposit (\$250 + \$300) required. Option to purchase at lease end for \$8,107 plus taxes. (††) Based on a new 1996 Civic DX Coupe complete with Honda 180 wheels (model E36 171). \$228, \$267 per month for 48 months includes \$750 for freight and P.D.I. Total payments of \$10,944 (\$2,316 down payment or equivalent trade of \$1,595 + \$1,500) required. First monthly payment and security deposit (\$275 + \$325) required. Option to purchase at lease end for \$8,880 plus taxes. On all leases - Leases available only through Honda Canada Finance Inc. for a limited time. See your Honda Dealer for details. Zero down payment plan also available. \$6,000 km allowance (10c per km exceeding 96,000 km applies). O.A.C. Taxes, license and insurance extra. Dealer may incur for less.

Mindess named associate VP, Academic

Prof. Sidney Mindess has been appointed associate vice-president, Academic, for a four-year term starting July 1. He replaces Dr. William Webber who has served in the position since 1990.

"Prof. Mindess' broad knowledge of the university, its policies and practices together with his experience in academic research and administration make him an ideal choice for the job," said President David Strangway. "Dr. Webber's commitment to the university during his tenure was unwavering as were his efforts to foster a sense of collegiality on campus. He set the standard."

Mindess, a professor in UBC's Dept. of Civil Engineering, has served the university in numerous administrative posts since joining the faculty in 1969.

He was president of the Faculty Association in 1985-86 and served two terms on the Board of Governors from 1987-93 as one of two faculty representatives.

Since 1988, his administrative duties in the Faculty of Applied Science have included director of the Engineering Core Program and associate dean. Among his accomplishments are the development of annual semi-



Sidney Mindess

nars for science teachers and women secondary students who are considering careers in engineering. He also developed an access program for First Nations students interested in engineering, forestry or agricultural sciences.

Prof. Mindess' research interests include the chemistry of cement, concrete technology, materials testing and the fracture mechanics of concrete and wood. For the past six years he has been a principal investigator in the Network of Centres of Excellence - Concrete Canada.



Stephen Forgacs photo

Prior to closing his UBC lab, Michael Smith gathered there with 16 of the research associates and technicians, graduate and post-doctoral students, and a visiting professor with whom he has worked in past years.

Nobel Laureate heads south for year's sabbatical at U of W

UBC's Nobel Prize-winning professor Michael Smith has been elected as a foreign associate of the National Academy of Sciences, the most prestigious scientific organization in the United States.

Academy members are elected in recognition of their distinguished and continuing achieve-

ments in original research. The academy has about 1,800 members and 300 foreign associates, of whom 124 have won Nobel Prizes. Smith also recently received three more honorary degrees —from the Université de Montreal, the University of Alberta and Carleton University.

Meanwhile, Smith is prepar-

ing to close his lab at the Biotechnology Laboratory and spend a year's sabbatical at the University of Washington, where he will resume his research activities after several years of administrative duties at UBC.

Smith will continue his research when he returns to UBC the following year.

UBC REPORTS

ADVERTISING RATES 1996

Circulation: 37,000

Distribution: Twice monthly on the UBC campus and in *The Courier* on Vancouver's West Side except, once a month in June, July, August and December

Mechanical Requirements

Page Size: 260mm (W) x 390mm (H) (10.25" x 15.5")

Columns: five per page
Black and white copy only

Display ad rates:

\$15.50 per column inch, GST not included

Full page (260mm x 390mm, 10.25" x 15.5")	\$826.00
1/2 page (260mm x 195mm, 10.25" x 7.75")	\$551.00
1/4 page (152mm x 178mm, 6" x 7")	\$331.00
1/8 page (100mm x 120mm, 4" x 4.75")	\$149.00
1/16 page (48mm x 127mm, 1 7/8" x 5")	\$77.00
Business card (100mm x 50mm, 4" x 2")	\$62.00

Classified ad rates:

\$15.75 for 35 words or less, GST included. 50 cents for each additional word.

Discounts:

3-9 ads	10%
10+ ads	20%

1/8

2 columns (100mm) x 120mm

\$149

1/16

1 column (48mm) x 127mm

\$77

Business card

2 columns (100mm) x 50mm

\$62

1/4

3 columns (152mm) x 178mm

\$331

1/2

5 columns (260mm) x 195mm

\$551

For advertising information call Public Affairs at (604) 822-3131



Gavin Wilson photo

Firefighters taking part in a UBC drill use hoses and brushes to "decontaminate" a life-like mannequin while a colleague looks on. The drill is an annual exercise conducted to test emergency response on campus. The mannequin was used to mimic a research technician who had been hurt in a lab explosion and contaminated with simulated radioactive isotope and biohazardous material.

Emergency drill offers opportunity to test responses

A graduate student and a research technician are working in a campus lab on a quiet summer morning. Suddenly, there's an explosion that knocks the research technician to the floor, unconscious.

His shaken colleague calls 822-4567 — the UBC hazardous materials emergency response number.

"There's been an explosion involving hazardous materials in the Wesbrook building," she says, "and someone's been hurt."

That was the scenario used in recent elaborate emergency drill organized by UBC's Dept. of Health, Safety and Environment.

Code-named Operation Solstice and held on the first full day of summer, June 21, the drill co-ordinated the efforts of Health, Safety and Environment, Parking and Security Services,

Public Affairs, the Vancouver Fire Dept. and its Hazardous Materials Response Team, the RCMP, B.C. Ambulance Service and Vancouver Hospital, UBC Pavilion.

"If everything runs perfectly, then it's not worth doing the drill in the first place. The goal is to always find ways of improving what we do."

- Dorit Mason

"These exercises are really valuable in determining the sequence of events and what we need to work on in emergency planning," said Dorit Mason, environmental and emergency planning officer in Health, Safety and Environment.

"If everything runs perfectly, then it's not worth doing the drill in the first place. The goal is to always find ways of improving what we do."

The emergency scenario was especially useful this year because it marks the first time it has been conducted with the Vancouver Fire Dept., which now services the campus after absorbing the UEL Fire Dept.

People

by staff writers

Bill Bruneau, a professor of Educational Studies, has been elected president of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) for a one-year term.

Bruneau, a graduate of the University of Toronto and the University of Saskatchewan, joined the UBC faculty in 1971. He served as vice-president of CAUT in 1994/95, is a past president of the UBC Faculty Association and a former school trustee for the City of Vancouver.

Bruneau's areas of research include the history of universities and performance indicators in higher education.

••••

Prof. Michael Ames, director of the Museum of Anthropology (MOA), has been named a fellow of the Canadian Museums Association.

The lifetime designation recognizes his contribution to the museum profession and to the work of the association.

Ames succeeded founding MOA director Harry Hawthorn in 1974 and is credited with guiding its development into one of the world's most prominent research and educational museums. He recently presided over the 20th anniversary marking the museum's move to its current home.

A professor in the Dept. of Anthropology and Sociology, Ames is renowned for his teaching and publishing on the topics of anthropology, museums, public culture and for his research in Sri Lanka, India and British Columbia.



Ames

••••

UBC doctoral candidate **Mia Johnson** is among the scholars selected by the Getty Center for Education in the Arts to receive a 1996 fellowship in art education.

The fellowship was established in 1991 to support research in discipline-based art education. A program of the J. Paul Getty Trust, the California-based centre annually awards eight fellowships worth \$12,500 U.S. each.

Johnson, a student in the Faculty of Education, is preparing a dissertation on the conventions of computer artists.

PhD and EdD students in Canada and the United States who are exploring the role of the visual arts in education or related fields of the humanities are eligible to apply for the fellowship. Applicants must demonstrate that their work promises to make a substantial and original contribution to discipline-based art education and their dissertation proposals must be approved by their doctoral committees.

Deadline for the 1997 fellowships is Nov. 1, 1996. For more information, call (310) 395-0388, fax (310) 451-8750 or send e-mail to epaul@getty.edu

••••

Roopchand Seebaran, an assistant professor in the School of Social Work, has won the inaugural Honourable David C. Lam Award, presented by the United Way of the Lower Mainland.

Seebaran was honoured for his dedication to advancing the values of multiculturalism and fostering cultural diversity.

He was presented with the award at the United Way's annual general meeting, held May 30.

••••

Douglas Bonn, assistant professor in the Dept. of Physics, is one of 100 young scientists in the U.S. and Canada to receive a 1996 Sloan Research Fellowship worth \$35,000 over two years. The new fellows, who are involved in research at the frontiers of physics, chemistry, computer science, mathematics, neuroscience and economics, are drawn from faculties at 54 colleges and universities.

Bonn plans to use the Sloan grant to support his research which probes the fundamental properties and applications of high-temperature superconductors.

The 40-year-old Sloan Research Fellowship Program, administered by the New York-based Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, was created as a means of encouraging research by young scholars. Former Sloan Fellows include 19 Nobel Prize winners.

••••

Terry Snutch has won the 1996 International Albrecht Fleckenstein Award for his groundbreaking work in neurobiology.

The \$45,000 award was presented at a recent ceremony in Germany. Sponsored by Bayer AG, the award is given every two years to promote scientific work in calcium channel antagonism and modulation.

Excessive calcium in cells is responsible for many diseases and conditions like strokes, migraine headaches, epilepsy and various cardiovascular diseases.

Snutch, a biochemist and neurobiologist, has investigated new calcium channels in the central nervous system, describing their molecular basis and how they are regulated—an enormous contribution to understanding the role of calcium in cells.

Snutch is an associate professor in the Biotechnology Laboratory and departments of Neuroscience and Zoology.

Profile

Getting the Bugs Out

Ecologist Judy Myers hunts for exotic pests and 'alien invaders'

by Charles Ker

Staff writer

Tent caterpillars worship sunshine and will climb to the top of trees to find it.

On this particular day though, no climbing is necessary as tents fronting the east side of Northwest Marine Drive are drenched in sun.

Judy Myers' face is inches away from a roadside tent laden with motionless, basking caterpillars. Like sentries caught napping, 100 or more fuzzy bodies snap to attention as Myers coughs in their direction.

"Neat, eh?," says the career insect ecologist and recent associate dean of science. She explains that the colony's mass reflex to raise a collective peri-scope when disturbed by sound deters incoming flies from landing and laying eggs.

Myers' affinity for insects is evident upon entering her office in the modest confines of Hut B-8 on Main Mall. Visitors are greeted by a colourful tree of hand-puppets: a brown cockroach, a caterpillar that transforms into a butterfly, a lightning bug that glows in the dark and a Venus fly trap. These are the tools she uses in school programs to convey her message that bugs are beautiful. The key, she says, is to look at them as individuals.

Myers wasn't born a bug lover. She admits that she couldn't stand touching specimens collected for a Grade 11 science project.

After graduating with a BSc in biology from a small college in her home state of Pennsylvania, Myers promptly won a scholarship to study ecology at the prestigious Woods Hole Marine Biological Station in Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Studying the interactions between marine animals and plants proved a turning point.

"Ecology was practically unheard of in 1963 and the Woods Hole experience really opened my eyes to what science was all about," she says. "I made my mind up then to become a field biologist."

A fascination for insects was cultivated a year later when she met two biologists who invited her to Trinidad where they were studying Queen butterflies. A summer of chasing butterflies and dodging snakes in a prickly pineapple patch was enough to get Myers hooked. She went on to complete a master's degree on the courting ritual of Florida Queen butterflies looking specifically at how females received the male scent and what role the male perfume played in the mating process.

UBC offered Myers the chance to apply the basic biological research she undertook for her graduate degrees to biological control of agricultural problems. With a cross appointment to the departments of Plant Science and Zoology in 1972, Myers began investigating the "alien invaders" she says threaten Canada's agriculture, forestry and quality of life.



Charles Ker photo

Judy Myers developed an affinity for insects while studying butterflies in Trinidad. At UBC, she applies her expertise in an effort to find ways to control plant and insect invaders, such as the tent caterpillars shown above, that pose a threat to B.C. ecosystems.

Knapweed, purple loosestrife, tansy ragwort, European craneflies, thrips and winter moths are just a few of the exotic pests Myers and her graduate students attempt to control through the introduction of natural enemies.

On the weed front, Myers has an ongoing battle with knapweed which continues to run rampant over rangeland in the interior of the province. The low-nutrient weed is taking over from grass and proving to be a costly concern for cattle ranchers.

While the success rate for biological control of weeds stands at just 15 per cent, Myers knows it can be highly successful. An example is tansy ragwort, an introduced pasture weed which can be poisonous to cows. A small beetle brought in from Europe has successfully thwarted tansy ragwort in the Fraser Valley by attacking the plant year round.

"A lot of research is sold to the public as potentially providing a miraculous solution," says Myers. "If we were totally honest, we'd say that we do basic research because sometimes things fall out that you'd never predict, that you would never imagine to be useful down the line."

But Myers is concerned that not enough restrictions are being placed on the introduction of plants from exotic lands. Nearly a quarter of B.C.'s plants have been introduced from other parts of the world, an influx which has had detrimental effects on the province's natural diversity. Myers believes B.C. should be maintaining its own natural plant resources and using them more in local landscape projects.

Myers' research into tent caterpillars on the university south campus lands and the Gulf Islands is aimed at

understanding the 10-year population cycles of the insects. The summer of 1996 is a peak period in the cycle and Myers is set on finding out how one enemy of the caterpillars, a nuclear polyhedral virus, spreads and influences the insect populations. Its effect on caterpillars is similar to what the Ebola virus does to humans.

"It essentially causes them to disintegrate," says Myers. She adds that scientists are trying to develop virus sprays targeted at specific insect pests and harmless to others.

In 1992, Myers spoke out against Agriculture Canada's spraying program to combat the Asian Gypsy Moth in Vancouver.

"For me the issue was not the safety of the spray for humans, but that other caterpillars, perhaps even rare species, were killed over a large area," she says. "If you value biodiversity, then you don't spray large areas with insecticide unless absolutely necessary."

Myers credits her success in science to the teaching and encouragement she received early in her education. Since 1990, she has been offering support and encouragement to UBC students as associate dean for the Promotion of Women in Science.

When she accepted the position, women represented just three per cent of science faculty members, 40 per cent of science undergraduates and 25 per cent of the graduate students. As Myers steps down from the associate deanship, female faculty have more than doubled and close to 60 per cent of incoming first-year students are women. At the graduate level, 40 per cent of master's students are female while female doctoral candidates remain at a low 24 per cent. Myers also notes with satisfaction that women make up about half of the students majoring in mathematics at UBC.

Several projects initiated by Myers have contributed to the rise in numbers of women in science. Among these is a Faculty of Science teaching evaluation program and a mentoring program for all first-year students. She has also spearheaded a poster campaign to be launched this autumn for all labs and classrooms outlining the rights and privileges in academic situations.

Myers says the poster will "drive home the necessity of mutual respect among faculty, staff and students regardless of sex, race or position in the university hierarchy."

For now, Myers is anxious to explore the rugged 35-acre plot she and her family purchased on Saturna Island. Forty years ago, graduate students in zoology used to go to this area for field trips. Myers and her husband, zoology colleague Jamie Smith, look forward to reintroducing students to the local song birds, insects and natural history of the Gulf Islands. As for her son's two Madagascar hissing cockroaches, they will remain in Vancouver. Says Myers: "We aren't taking any chances of releasing any more aliens."