

UBC REPORTS

Volume 43, Number 15

September 18, 1997

Find UBC Reports on the Web at www.external-affairs.ubc.ca/paweb/reports/

Meet the president



Sept. 25, 3:00 pm

Gravin Wilson photo

A president for the 21st century takes her place

Students will play a major role in the day's events as Martha Piper is installed as UBC's 11th president on Thursday, Sept. 25.

On that day students will meet Piper for breakfast, take part in a forum on undergraduate education, be recognized as entrance scholarship winners and even give an opera performance.

Piper's day begins with a 7:30 a.m. breakfast at which she will informally meet 25 students who were invited to attend on a first-come, first-served basis.

Later that morning, the new president will take part in a forum titled *Thinking the Future of Learning*, an exploration of the possibilities for undergraduate education at UBC.

At the forum, Piper will challenge the university community to come up with innovative methods of learning that take full advantage of UBC's

strengths in faculty, student, staff and research programs.

Each of the university's 12 deans and a student representing each faculty will respond to the challenge — some in person, others in a pre-taped video. The forum will then be opened up for discussion involving audience members. Every faculty and department was invited to nominate a class to attend the forum. More than 1,000 students are expected to attend.

The forum will be held in the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts from 10:10 to 11:30 a.m.

The installation ceremony runs from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Also held in the Chan Centre, the event is open to all wishing to attend.

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Events schedule page 2

Women to get boost in computing field

by Stephen Forgacs

Staff writer

The University of British Columbia launched a major project this month to increase the participation of B.C. women in information technology careers.

Called SWIFT (Supporting Women in InFormation Technology), the project stems from research undertaken by Prof. Maria Klawe who was recently named to the IBM/Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Chair for Women in Science and Engineering at UBC.

As one of five chairs established by NSERC across the country, Klawe will

focus on building a provincial action network for B.C. that will bring together schools, post-secondary institutions, industry, government, the news media and community organizations to address educational and cultural factors that discourage women from entering and succeeding in the information technology field.

"There are many cultural reasons for lower participation rates of women in this employment sector," Klawe said. "Perhaps the most important is society's 'computer nerd' image of information technology professionals."

"Most people think of these professionals as socially challenged individuals who

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Klawe

Donations help needy students balance books

Thanks to donations, students this fall will benefit from 50 new financial awards worth about \$415,000.

That's welcome news for those in financial need.

More than \$19 million is now available annually for student scholarships, bursaries, prizes, fellowships, research grants and loans.

"The funding available for students at UBC permits them to devote more time to their studies and less time to earning an income to support their study," says Awards and Financial Aid Director Carol Gibson.

"Since awards for academic merit appear on transcripts, they also become an important addition to the student's resume."

In addition to the new awards available this fall, Gibson says approximately 40 more are expected to be approved before December.

From 1993 to 1996, new donor funding

made an additional \$1.5 million available to students. Bursaries and UBC loans amounting to \$2.8 million were given last year to help students with demonstrated financial need.

"The funding provided to UBC expresses appreciation for the education students received while attending UBC as well as appreciation for the important role UBC plays within the community," says Shannon von Kaldenberg, director of the Development Office. "It also expresses confidence in the university and its programs, faculty, staff and stewardship."

Alumni, faculty, staff, graduating students and members of the community as well as unions, companies and organizations are among those donors supporting students.

The Awards and Financial Aid Office and the Faculty of Graduate Studies administer some 14,000 separate student awards.

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It's second only to lung cancer, yet this cancer is often ignored

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A new prevention project zeros in on a deadly disease

SWIFT

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learned to program before puberty and who spend their adult lives alone programming in darkened rooms. This image is reinforced by the macho computer culture found in many high school and university computer labs. As a result, most females do not see themselves as wanting, or being capable of, a successful career in information technology."

Klawe, who is also UBC's vice-president, Student and Academic Services, will work with existing educational programs as well as with other groups involved in similar or related initiatives across North America.

An important component of the SWIFT project is Klawe's E-GEMS research. E-GEMS (Electronic Games for Education in Math and Sciences), created in 1992 by Klawe, brings together researchers in computer science, mathematics, education and creative arts, with teachers, students and game developers to investigate how electronic games and other interactive multimedia activities can be used to improve math and science learning and motivation for girls and boys.

The SWIFT project will operate with a \$1-million budget over five years.

President

Continued from Page 1

Piper will deliver a keynote address and introduce UBC's 77 new entrance scholarship winners. Students from the opera program in the School of Music will also give a performance.

Chancellor William Sauder will swear in Piper, who repeats the oath of office and exchanges her academic robes from McGill University, where she earned her doctorate, for the regalia of UBC's president.

After the official ceremony, all members of the university community are invited to meet the new president at an outdoor reception from 3 to 4 p.m. The reception will take place at the Flagpole Plaza, located at the north end of Main Mall adjacent to the Chan Centre.

Schedule of Events

Installation of President Martha Piper

- **10:10 - 11:30 a.m.**
Forum*
Thinking the Future of Learning
The Chan Centre for the Performing Arts
• limited number of rush tickets are available at the door
- **1:30 - 2:30 p.m.**
Installation Ceremony
The Chan Centre for the Performing Arts
- **3 - 4 p.m.**
Meet the President
Reception at Flagpole Plaza (north end of Main Mall)

Think About It.



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



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September 20th

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Naomi Wolf

Author of *The Beauty Myth*, *Fire with Fire* and *Promiscuities*

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- Roots** inside the Student Lounge at MacMillan Monday to Friday 8:00am - 2:45pm
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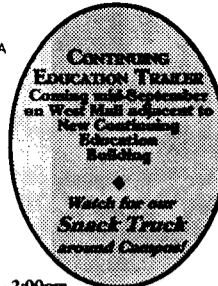
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Edwin Jackson

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UBC REPORTS

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Managing Editor: Paula Martin (paula.martin@ubc.ca)
Editor/Production: Janet Ansell (janet.ansell@ubc.ca),
Contributors: Stephen Forgacs (stephen.forgacs@ubc.ca), Sean Kelly (sean.kelly@ubc.ca), Hilary Thomson (hilary.thomson@ubc.ca), Gavin Wilson (gavin.wilson@ubc.ca).

Editorial and advertising enquiries: (604) 822-3131 (phone), (604) 822-2684 (fax). UBC Information Line: (604) UBC-INFO (822-4636)

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Stephen Forgacs photo

Back In Style

Ron Hawkins and the Rusty Nails kicked off the fall semester at UBC with a lunchtime performance outside the Student Union Building Sept. 2. Bands, booked by the Alma Mater Society, entertained many of the 33,261 students registered for this semester.

Prostate cancer needs closer study, experts say

by Hilary Thomson

Staff writer

Gram for gram it's the most diseased organ in the body, say local investigators.

Yet in 1995/96 only \$560,000 was spent in Canada for research into prostate cancer according to a survey of 22 granting agencies.

Second only to lung cancer as a cause of death from cancer among men, it's a disease that has been "shrouded in ignorance" according to molecular biologist Paul Rennie, director of the Prostate Cancer Research Program at the B.C. Cancer Agency and one of several UBC scientists researching various aspects of the disease.

Prostate cancer affects one man in eight, a similar incidence to breast cancer among women. In B.C. of the 3,500 men expected to be diagnosed with it this year, 550 will die.

Yet finding resources to investigate it is a huge problem, Rennie says. And with the number of prostate cancer cases expected to double in the next 19 years as baby boomers age, it's a problem of growing proportions.

"It's a crisis of the magnitude that may bankrupt our health care system," Rennie says. "There is an urgent need to fund research into prostate cancer but so far the disease has almost been ignored."

The walnut-shaped prostate gland surrounds part of the channel that drains the bladder. When enlarged or cancerous it may compress the channel, obstructing the free flow of urine.

While the gland's exact function is not fully understood it is susceptible to three common diseases: prostatitis (infection of the prostate), enlargement, called benign prostatic hyperplasia, and cancer.

Although prostate cancer is often associated with older men, about 20 per cent of patients with the disease are under 65 years old.

Rennie, cancer endocrinologist Dr. Nick Bruhovsky, urologists Dr. Martin Gleave and Dr. Larry Goldenberg of the UBC Prostate Clinic, and molecular biologist Colleen Nelson are working on two clinical trials focusing on suppressing the male sex hormone androgen.

One of the trials explores the limited suppression of the hormone for patients with localized prostate cancer.

Called neo-adjuvant therapy, it is used prior to surgery or other therapies to reduce the volume of the tumour, making subsequent treatment more effective.

In advanced prostate cancer, however, the prostate eventually becomes

insensitive to the hormonal treatment. The tumour grows back and is untreatable.

The second trial addresses that problem by withdrawing or suppressing androgen only intermittently. Preliminary studies suggest that this off and on application keeps tumours responsive to therapy.

"Prostate cancer is a 'silent disease,'" says Rennie. "Often there are no symptoms for years, or until the disease has spread."

Consequently, about one-half of the cases are discovered only when the cancer has spread to other parts of the body. What could have been curable in an early stage then becomes life-threatening.

Geography is just one of a number of the disease's risk factors.

B.C.'s rate is 32 per cent higher than the average for the rest of Canada. Researchers relate this difference to the influx of males over 50 years old who come here to retire.

Despite the higher incidence, B.C. has 16 per cent fewer prostate cancer deaths than other parts of the country due to consistent treatment policy and the most active research program in the country, according to Rennie.

Family history is important too. Men whose father or brother have the disease are three times more likely to develop it than the general population.

Epidemiologist Richard Gallagher is trying to identify the gene that causes inherited prostate cancer.

The first study in Canada to recruit whole families, Gallagher's investigation works with men from 40 B.C. households and is connected with a study of families across North America. His project recently became part of an international consortium to find the prostate cancer gene.

UBC researchers at the Institute of Health Promotion Research, as part of the nationwide Sociobehavioural Cancer Research Network, are also looking at the psychological and emotional issues surrounding prostate cancer.

This month the Canadian Cancer Society allocated \$1.25 million for researching the disease.

During Prostate Cancer Health and Awareness Week, which started Sept. 14, urologists, cancer specialists and researchers from UBC and around the province will be holding forums in service clubs and community centres. Their intention is to promote the formation of support groups and to help emphasize the need for research funding. For more information about forums in the Vancouver area, call (604) 872-4400.



Canada's Year of Asia Pacific



Debate broadens thanks to student forum

One of the grassroots organizations that has sprung up with the announcement that the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation Leaders' meeting would be held at UBC on Nov. 25 is the APEC-University Forum.

The forum was founded to create a fuller understanding of APEC and related issues among UBC students, especially the benefits it can bring to Canada as a member economy, and to UBC as a venue for the centre-piece meeting.

Forum members have hosted a series of panels and discussions to give students a chance to voice their interests and concerns on matters ranging from trade liberalization to human rights.

The forum is organized by graduate student Arnab Guha and a small group of students who wanted to broaden the debate on APEC.

"We don't claim to represent anyone, and I believe that's our strength," Guha said. "We are students and we welcome anyone who wants to join us."

And while this includes opponents of the event, such as APEC-Alert, Guha makes it clear that his group supports APEC, despite concerns about human rights issues in some of the member economies.

"I'm from India, and I'd like to see my country become a member of APEC. And as a student at UBC, I'm proud to have the leaders' meeting held here," Guha said.

"I think all of us have mixed feelings. I'm not happy with (Indonesian president) Suharto or Tiananmen Square, but I do have faith in the Canadian government in terms of dealing with these issues. I think the question is, how do you react to them?"

"I have a lot of hope in the Asia Pacific myself. In fact, that is where I would like to see myself in the future," said the Cambridge-educated Guha.

Now a doctoral student in UBC's Dept. of English, with dissertation research affiliation in the Media and Graphics Interdisciplinary Centre (MAGIC), Guha is a resident member of Green College, where most of the APEC-University Forum events have been held.

An introductory reception held in June brought together students, university administrators, and representatives of the Canadian government and foreign consulates.

Speakers at forum events have included John Klassen, director-general of APEC, Vinay Gidwani, a post doctoral fellow in the Dept. of Economics, Tinnie Chow of the AIESEC student group, Li-feng Wang of the Chinese Students and Scholars Association, and Jaggi Singh of APEC-Alert.

A communiqué based on the panel discussions will be presented at the time of the leaders' meeting. As well, the forum plans to produce a CD-ROM which will serve as a primer on APEC.

For more information on the forum, call (604) 221-1506.

More information about APEC and UBC's involvement can be found on the World Wide Web at www.ubc.ca under "News, Events, and Attractions."

Campus climate group first to predict El Niño

UBC's Climate Prediction Group were among the first in the world to predict this year's El Niño event — the first time an El Niño has been correctly forecast in Canada.

Made up of Earth and Ocean Sciences Prof. William Hsieh, research associate Benyang Tang and several graduate students, the group issued its alert in May on the department's Web site.

The group used a unique detection method called a neural network model, in which computers are trained to recognize patterns, to make its prediction.

"Our neural network model learned which wind patterns would precede a warming of the eastern equatorial Pacific sea surface temperature — an El Niño," says Hsieh.

"When we presented new wind data to

the model, it issued the forecast that an El Niño event could be expected."

Hsieh says this year's El Niño is likely to surpass the 1982/83 event, which was considered the biggest of the century and caused more than \$8 billion US of damage globally.

Tropical areas can expect heavy rains or drought, Hsieh says.

El Niño's most noticeable effects on weather patterns in Western Canada at least will be more positive and will be felt in late fall and winter.

We can expect lower heating bills, Hsieh predicts, due to a warmer and somewhat drier winter, while prairie farmers may have a bumper crop of grain next summer.

The project was funded by a grant from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council.

Calendar

September 21 through October 4

Green College Speakers' Series

Is The Good Health Of British Columbians Sustainable? John Millar, Provincial Health Officer. Green College, 5:30pm. Reception, Graham House 4:45-5:30pm. Call 822-1878.

Wednesday, Oct. 1

Orthopedics Grand Rounds
Scaphoid Fracture Non-Union With Specific Reference To Proximal Pole Non-Union. Dr. Peter Gropper, Dr. Murray Penner. Vancouver Hospital/HSC, Eye Care Centre Auditorium, 7am. Call 875-4192.

Noon Hour Concert

Dale Throness, baritone; Jane Hayes, piano; Bruce Clausen, guitar. Music Recital Hall, 12:30pm. \$3. Call 822-5574.

Cecil and Ida Green Visiting Professor

Income Distribution In OECD Countries. Anthony Atkinson, Nuffield College, Oxford U. Buchanan D-225, 4pm. Call 822-5675.

Ecology, Evolution and Centre for Biodiversity Research Seminar

Opsin Evolution In The Dark: Visual Pigments In Blind Crawfish. Keith Crandell, Zoology, Brigham Young U. Family/Nutritional Sciences 60, 4:30pm. Call 822-3957.

Cultural and Media Studies Interdisciplinary Group

Phrasing Injustice: Critical Judgment In An Uncertain Ethos. George Pavlich, Sociology, U of Auckland. Green College, 7:30pm. Call 822-1878.

Thursday, Oct. 2

Concert

UBC Symphonic Wind Ensemble. Martin Berinbaum, director. Chan Centre, 12:30pm. Call 822-3113.

President's Lecture for Zoology/Botany

The Ideal Species Concept - And Why We Can't Get It. David Hull, Philosophy, Northwestern U. BioSciences 2000, 12:30-1:30pm. Call 822-2133.

Oceanography Seminar

Scale Dependent Patterns And Processes In Aquatic Ecosystems. John Kenneth Horne, Great Lakes Centre, SUNY at Buffalo. GeoSciences 330-A, 12:30pm. Call 822-3278.

Royal Society of Canada

Informal Talk. William Unruh, Physics and Astronomy. Green College, 12:30pm. \$15 includes lunch. To register call 822-5210.

Biotechnology Lab./Botany Seminar

New Insights Into The Functional, Temporal, And Spatial Complexity Of Pathogen Defense In Plants. Klaus Hahlbrock, Max-Planck

Institut, Cologne. Wesbrook 100, 3:30pm. Call 822-2133.

Philosophy Seminar

A Plea For Real Examples In Philosophy Of Science. Prof. David Hull, Philosophy, Northwestern U. Buchanan B-218, 4-6pm. Call 822-3967.

Policy Issues In Post-Secondary Education in BC

Intermediate Skill Development: New Directions For Policy And Research. Paul Gallagher, Robert Sweet, Lakehead U; Rick Rollins, Malaspina University College. Green College, 4:30pm. Call 822-1878.

Workshop

Building Construction Field Review. MacLeod 214, 6:30-9:30pm. Continues Tuesdays and Thursdays to Nov 18. \$730 including course materials. Call 822-3347.

Friday, Oct. 3

Health Care and Epidemiology

Revisiting The Life Table: Epidemiology In Court. Dr. Terry Anderson, professor emeritus. Mather 253, 9-10am. Call 822-2772.

Graduate Student Conference on Evolutionary Perspective

The Heuristic Value Of An Evolutionary Perspective And Some Putative Problems And Disanalogies.

David Hull, Northwestern U. Green College, 10am. Call 822-3292.

Pharmaceutical Sciences Seminar

Steroid Regulation Of Epithelial Sodium Channels. Vugranam Venkatesh, B.C. Research Institute for Child and Family Health. Cunningham 160, 12:30-1:30pm. Call 822-7795.

Occupational Hygiene Program Seminar

New Developments In Asbestos Induced Lung Disease. Prof. David Schwartz, Internal Medicine, U of Iowa. Vancouver Hospital/HSC, UBC Pavilion, Koerner Theatre G-279, 12:30-1:30pm. Call 822-9861.

Physical Chemistry Seminar

Urea - Something Old, Something New: Urea Inclusion Compounds As Models For Understanding Structure-Property Relations. Prof. Mary Ann White, Chemistry, Dalhousie U. Chemistry B-250 (south wing), 1pm. Refreshments 12:40pm. Call 822-3266.

Oceanography Seminar

Spatial Energetics Of Mobile Predator Prey Interactions. John Kenneth Horne, Great Lakes Centre, SUNY at Buffalo. BioSciences 1465, 3:30pm. Call 822-3278.

Chemical Engineering Weekly Seminar

Rheological And Thermodynamic Analysis Of The Phase Separation In Poly(Styrene-Co-Maleic

Anhydride)/Poly(Methyl Methacrylate) Blends. Divya Chopra, MASC candidate. ChemEng 206, 3:30pm. Call 822-3238.

Mathematics Colloquium

Diffusion, Cross-Diffusion And Their Spike-Layer Steady States. Prof. Wei-Ming Ni, Mathematics, U of Minnesota. Mathematics 100, 3:30pm. Refreshments at 3:15pm. Math Annex, Room 1115. Call 822-2666.

Concert

UBC Symphonic Wind Ensemble. Martin Berinbaum, director. Chan Centre, 8pm. Call 822-3113.

Saturday, Oct. 4

Graduate Student Conference on Evolutionary Perspective

The Evolution Of Rationality. Peter Danielson, Philosophy. Green College, 10am. Call 822-3292.

Vancouver Institute Lecture

Can Welfare States Compete In A Global Economy? Prof. Anthony B. Atkinson, Warden, Nuffield College, Oxford U. IRC#2, 8:15pm. Call 822-3131.

Next deadline:
noon, Sept. 23



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News Digest

UBC's Equity Office has won the Government of Canada's 1997 Vision Award for achievements in employment equity.

The award recognizes special achievements made by organizations implementing an employment equity workplan and maintaining a representative workforce.

In 1996, UBC achieved workforce representation of 52 per cent women, one per cent aboriginal people, 21 per cent visible minorities, and five per cent persons with disabilities.

From 1990 through 1996, UBC hired women to fill 37 per cent of new tenure-track faculty positions.

Finalists for the award are chosen by a panel of previous award recipients. The Equity Office was previously recognized with certificates of merit.

Competition for the award is open to all organizations covered under the federal Employment Equity Act. Previous recipients include 3M Canada, the Bank of Montreal, and York University.

•••••

A new interdisciplinary program in Internet Marketing, the first of its kind anywhere, will be offered next month by Continuing Studies in partnership with the Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration's Executive Programs.

The certificate program will show marketing professionals and business entrepreneurs how to use the Internet to increase sales, develop new markets and expand customer service.

The program, developed with cooperation from industry leaders, covers such topics as on-line user behaviour, Internet technologies, products and services, Web site advertising and promotion, as well as the legal and regulatory issues of the Internet.


For more information call (604) 822-1438.

•••••

An award-winning exhibit that provides insight into early life on the south coast of British Columbia returns to the Museum of Anthropology until Dec. 31.

Written in the Earth, a collaboration between archeologists and local First Nations, won an award last year for outstanding achievement from the Canadian Museums Association.

Close to a third of the artifacts come from the 2,000-year-old Marpole site in south Vancouver, which contained one of the richest records of ancient art in Canada before much of it was destroyed by development.



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The deadline for the October 2, 1997 issue of *UBC Reports* is noon, September 23.

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. Call 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 coffeemaking, private phone/fridge. Weekly rates available. Call 222-3461. Fax:222-9279.

GREEN COLLEGE GUEST HOUSE. Five suites available for academic visitors to UBC only. Guests dine with residents and enjoy college life. Daily rate \$52, plus \$14/day for meals Sun.-Thurs. Call 822-8660 for more information and availability.

BROWN'S BY UBC B&B. Comfortable and relaxing accommodation close to UBC in quiet area. Private bath available. Reasonable daily rates. Special weekly/monthly rates available for visiting UBC scholars. Call 222-8073.

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Accommodation

GAGE COURT SUITES Spacious one BR guest suites with equipped kitchen, balcony, TV and telephone. Centrally located on Student Union Boulevard, near SUB, Aquatic Centre and transit. Ideal for UBC lecturers or campus visitors. 1997 rates - \$81 - \$110/night. Call (604) 822-1010.

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PENNY FARTHING INN 2855 West 6th. Heritage House, antiques, wood floors, original stained glass. Ten minutes UBC and downtown. Two blocks from restaurants, buses. Scrumptious full breakfasts. Entertaining cats. Views. Phones in rooms. Call (604)739-9002. E-mail: farthing@uniserve.com.

WEST END COMFORTABLY FURNISHED one and two BR suites with patios overlooking tree-lined street. Minutes to beach, shops, downtown. Laundry and sauna facilities. N/S, N/P. One BR, \$1,400/mo. Two BR, \$2,000/mo. Available immediately. Call Rosemary 684-1304.

Accommodation

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FURNISHED, EXECUTIVE ONE BR suite. Street level in private home on S.W. Marine Drive - Dunbar. Fireplace, private entrance. \$1100/month including utilities, cable, laundry. Prefer mature person or couple. Call 263-5101.

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE MID OCT to Dec. 1st. Three BR house near UBC. Ideal for visiting professors and families. Call 226-1980.

RICHMOND, LARGE CLEAN THREE BR, two bath house. Five appliances. Available Oct 1-March/April. Sundeck, yard. Small pet OK. \$975, unfurnished. \$1,050 furnished. Call 272-5409.

Housing Wanted

UBC STAFF MEMBER, professional, seeks four BR or larger unfurnished house, suitable for family, west of Granville, to rent for minimum one year, starting October or November. Call 822-0479 (leave message).

House Exchange

THREE BR, TWO BATHROOM HOUSE available in New Zealand - Christchurch - overlooking Pacific Ocean, southern Alps at Sumner Beach. Car available. March/98-March/2000 (negotiable). Swap for similar house in Vancouver. Contact Doug Blackman, phone 687-8080; fax 687-8218.

House Sitters

QUIET, RESPONSIBLE, RELIABLE female looking for a house sitting arrangement. (1) Nov. 1 - Dec. 15. (2) Long term suite required April 15/98. Call 261-4591.

Services

UBC FACULTY MEMBERS who are looking to optimize their RRSP, Faculty pension and retirement options call Don Proteau, RFP or Doug Hodgins, RFP of the HLP Financial Group for a complimentary consultation. Investments available on a no-load basis. Call for our free newsletter. Serving faculty members since 1982. Call 687-7526. E-mail: dproteau@hlp.fpc.ca dhodgins@hlp.fpc.ca.

DAYCARE OPENING Full-time. Ages: 2.5 to 5 yrs. University KinderCare Daycare. Pleasant, spacious surroundings, small group. Snacks and tender loving care provided by ECE-qualified staff. One block from UBC gates. 4595 West 8th Ave. Call 228-5885.

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Community care key to unique pharmacy program

Pharmaceutical Sciences is prescribing advanced clinical skills, unique projects and patient involvement for graduates taking its community pharmacy residency program.

The first program of its kind in Canada, the residency was re-established this year after an

eight-year suspension due to faculty and funding changes.

The one-year program is offered to two of the faculty's almost 120 graduates or any licensed pharmacist each year. It involves advanced training in clinical pharmacy skills and instruction on pharmacy manage-

ment and teaching techniques.

The majority of the residency is spent in three-, four- or six-week rotations in community, hospital outpatient and long-term care pharmacies and the Drug and Poison Information Centre.

"This program makes sense because 90 per cent of pharmacists work in the community," says program director Penny Miller.

Eighteen B.C. pharmacists, recognized for their high standard of practice and often unique services, serve as coaches. They are asked to challenge the residents with innovative projects, such as researching a sleeping medication withdrawal program.

"I believe there's more independence, flexibility and patient contact than in a hospital residency," says Afshin Jabeti, a recent graduate of the program. He now works at one of his residency sites, Reach Community Health Centre on Commercial Drive.

Although hospital residencies are well established, advanced training in community pharmacy practice reflects a change in the profession.

"We're trying to emphasize our consultative role, working with both patient and doctor," says Senior Instructor Marion Pearson, one of the program's advisers.

Energy and the ability to work with people is key to getting selected for the residency.

The program returns with financial support from the faculty and the B.C. Pharmacists' Association.

Pacific Institute for the Mathematical Sciences Director

Applications are invited for the post of Director of the Pacific Institute for the Mathematical Sciences. The initial appointment date will be between January 1, 1998 and July 1, 1998, and the Director will be resident in Vancouver. The length of appointment will be up to three years. Other conditions of service are to be negotiated according to the circumstances of the candidate. The appointee will have a distinguished record of scholarship in the mathematical sciences and superior leadership and management skills.

The Pacific Institute for the Mathematical Sciences (PIMS) is a new consortium set up by the five major universities in Alberta and British Columbia with major funding from the government of Canada, the two provincial governments (either guaranteed or still under negotiation), and the founding universities.

For comprehensive information on PIMS consult the Web site: <http://www.pims.math.ca/>

Enquiries and applications should be addressed to

Directorship Search Committee
PIMS, UBC Office
222-6356 Agricultural Rd.
UBC, Vancouver
V6T 1Z2

or sent by fax to 822-0883 and should be received by October 31, 1997.

People

by staff writers

Dr. **Steffanie Strathdee's** success in convincing young gay men and injection drug users in Vancouver to participate in two HIV-related research projects brought her to the attention of *Maclean's* magazine, which in July named her one of "100 Canadians to Watch."

Now, a National Health Scholar Award will enable Strathdee, an assistant professor in the Dept. of Health Care and Epidemiology, to continue her work on the two projects for the next five years.

The award, from the National Health Research and Development Program of Health Canada, recognizes Strathdee's contributions to excellence in public health sciences.

.....

Anatomy professor Dr. **Charles Slonecker** has received the J.C.B. Grant Award from the Canadian Association for Anatomy, Neurobiology and Cell Biology.



Slonecker

The award, the highest given by the association, recognizes Slonecker's significant contributions to the association and to science in Canada and acknowledges achievement in research and teaching.

Slonecker, who is also director of University Relations, served as head of Anatomy from 1981 to 1992. He received the Master Teacher Award in 1976 and the Killam University Teaching Prize in 1996.

.....

Valerie Raoul, a French professor who specializes in women's writing, autobiography and feminist theory, is the new director of the Centre for Research in Women's Studies and Gender Relations.



Raoul

Raoul intends to promote interdisciplinary research in women's studies on campus, forge links with researchers doing similar work at institutions in Canada and abroad, and increase the centre's involvement with community groups.

Along with Women's Studies Chair Dawn Currie, Raoul is working to set up a practicum in a community setting which would be part of the Women's Studies program.

.....

Geography Prof. **R. Cole Harris** has been appointed to the David and Brenda McLean Chair in Canadian Studies.

Harris, who edited the first volume of the *Historical Atlas of Canada*, plans to study the native land question in B.C., tracing the history of thought about native land, reserve policies and the impact of reserves on the lives of native people.

.....

Prof. **Sheldon Duff** of the Dept. of Chemical Engineering and MASC student **Belinda Larisch** are co-winners of the TAPPI Russell O. Blosser Memorial Best Paper Award in the Water Quality Category.

The award was presented at the International Environmental Conference recently held in Minneapolis.

Their winning paper looks at the effects on effluent of chemical alternatives to the chlorine-based bleaching process in pulp production.

.....

Dr. **Robert Hill**, professor emeritus and former head, Dept. of Pediatrics, has published *Paediatrics in B.C.*

The book outlines the growth of pediatric practice in the province and describes the development of the department.

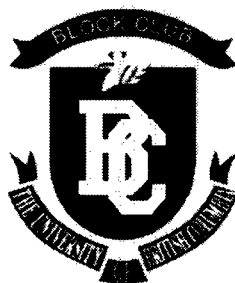
Its publication coincided with the department's 45th anniversary.

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UBC President



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UBC Alumni Association, (604) 822-3313
Department of Athletics and Recreation, (604) 822-8205

Don't miss the best Alumni and Athletics event of the year!

Doctor aims to prevent bone breaks among aged

by Hilary Thomson
Staff writer

It's called the silent thief. Affecting 1.4 million Canadians, it results in fractures, deformity, disability and is a significant cause of death among the elderly. Yet many people don't even consider osteoporosis to be a disease, according to European findings. Endocrinologist Dr. David Kendler hopes to improve the understanding and treatment of osteoporosis in B.C. with the Fractures and Falls Prevention Program, starting at St. Vincent's Hospital this month. The program, the first in Canada focused on the elderly, will offer clinical care on a referral basis.

Working closely with community groups such as the Osteoporosis Societies of B.C. and Canada, it will also educate doctors, other health care providers and the public. "This program is one of the few in the world attempting a coordinated approach to falls prevention and osteoporosis therapy," Kendler says. "Often people aren't aware they've got the disease until they've had their first fracture. We're looking at preventive measures to treat the problem before a fracture that could end someone's independence."

More common than breast or ovarian cancer and as common among women as cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis in the elderly costs Canadian taxpayers about \$1.3 billion per year, mostly for treatment of fractures.

"The disturbing news is that with baby boomers aging over the next 30 years, the incidence of hip fractures related to osteoporosis is expected to increase by 275 per cent," says Kendler, who is also a clinical assistant professor in Faculty of Medicine.

By 90 years of age, 30 per cent of women and 15 per cent of men will have suffered a hip fracture. Following a fracture, almost a third of patients are institutionalized.

Characterized by low bone density and deterioration of bone tissue, osteoporosis leads to increased bone fragility and risk of fracture—most often at the spine, wrist or hip. A bone is considered osteoporotic if it has weakened to the point where it may fracture with minimum trauma.

About 20 per cent of hip fracture patients die within the year from complications due to surgery and loss of mobility, says Kendler.

Measuring bone density is key to early detection and treatment. Although risk factors such as gender, age, inadequate calcium in diet or family history of osteoporosis are

significant, measuring bone mass is critical.

Bone density reaches a peak around age 20 and is maintained until menopause. After that time, a woman may lose 20 to 45 per cent of her bone mass due to lack of estrogen.

A specially developed X-ray device compares current bone mass measurements to the peak level.

In a simple procedure, the patient lies flat on a table while a mechanical arm, positioned about 10 inches above the table, moves back and forth across the width of the body from knee to chest.

A pencil-thin low radiation X-ray beam is directed vertically through the body. The X-ray unit measures how much of the beam passes through the bone, an indicator of calcium content and fracture risk.

Once the disease has been detected, preventive treatment may include hormone replacement, increased calcium and vitamin D intake or increase in weight-bearing exercise. Some drug therapies can reduce risk of fractures by 50 per cent.

New hormones called selective estrogens may be available next year. These hormones act as estrogen, preventing bone loss and reducing cholesterol, with no apparent increase in risk of breast cancer. Bone-forming agents are also expected to be available soon.

Work Study Opportunity Photo Archive Project Assistant

The Public Affairs Office seeks a UBC student to continue its photo archive project. Familiarity with archival principles and advanced technology for information storage and retrieval is required. To be eligible students must qualify for the Work Study Program. (Program information is available from the Awards and Financial Aid Office, Brock Hall). Please send applications by Friday, Oct. 3, 1997 to:

Manager, Public Affairs Office,
310-6251 Cecil Green Park Rd.
Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1Z1



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Public Information Meetings

for the campus and neighbouring community

on UBC's role in
APEC '97

and its impact on the campus and community

Oct. 7, 1997 • 12:30-1:30pm, Angus 104
• 7-8pm, Angus 104
2053 Main Mall

Nov. 6, 1997 • 12:30-1:30pm, Angus 104
• 7-8pm, Angus 104
2053 Main Mall

For further information on the meeting call Carolyn McLean, UBC APEC Office, 822-2080; fax 822-1936; e-mail apec@unixg.ubc.ca

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