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# UBC REPORTS

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## Government to fund more student spots

by Stephen Forgacs

Staff writer

UBC's financial outlook for the 1998/99 academic year is becoming clearer following the provincial government's announcement earlier this month of a continued tuition fee freeze and additional funding to B.C. colleges and universities to add new spaces for students.

UBC President Martha Piper said that while she doesn't yet know how much funding UBC will receive for new student spaces, the provincial government's financial commitment to post-secondary education is good for the province.

"I'm extremely pleased with the focus on post-secondary education in B.C.," Piper said. "It positions B.C. favorably within the country . . . it's very important as we move forward in a knowledge-based economy."

B.C.'s post-secondary institutions will receive a \$26-million increase in funding for 1998/99, including \$17.5 million to add 2,900 new spaces for students, announced Premier Glen Clark and Minister of Advanced Education, Training and Technology Andrew Petter on March 9.

The new funding is in addition to the \$13.4 million increase to student finan-

cial assistance announced earlier, meaning the total budget for the post-secondary sector rises by \$39 million.

"These increases reflect our conviction that investment in education is critical to providing opportunities for B.C.'s young people, and to building a strong economy for our province," said Clark.

In a move that Clark said is aimed at ensuring British Columbians have access to post-secondary education, the government extended its province-wide tuition freeze for a third consecutive year.

In recent years, UBC and other B.C. post-secondary institutions have been asked to increase the number of students admitted annually without an accompanying increase in funding. The university budget for the 1997/98 fiscal year saw the university trim \$8.6 million in spending, a cut of 2.5 per cent from the previous year. The General Purpose Operating Fund, representing revenues from the provincial grant, tuition and other sources, was \$340,281,000 in 1997/98 and the university projects a net accumulated deficit of \$3.5 million at the end of the current fiscal year.

In a memorandum to campus dated March 5, Piper stated that significant steps are required in the 1998/99 budget

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## English scholar earns top Arts faculty award

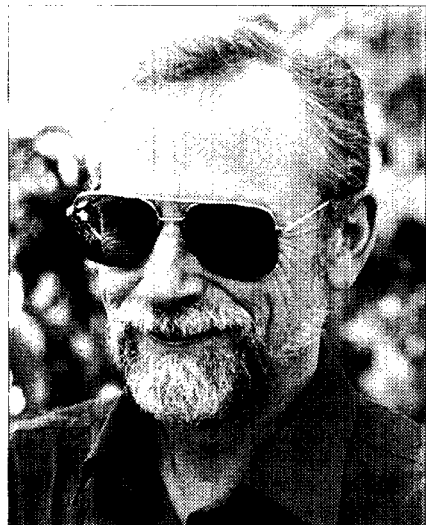
by Gavin Wilson

Staff writer

A Shakespeare scholar who has led efforts to computerize the humanities and promote gay and lesbian studies has won the Dean of Arts Award for 1998.

English Prof. Alexander Globe, a popular and respected teacher who won a Killam Teaching Prize in 1991, promotes student use of computers in a field not known for computer-aided research. He is credited as the driving force behind a \$250,000 computer lab set to open in the English Dept. this spring.

Globe has also earned praise for his efforts to introduce gay and lesbian studies to UBC. A minor in Gay and Lesbian Studies will soon go before the Faculty of Arts curriculum committee after several years of advocacy by Globe and others.



Globe

In the classroom, Globe vigorously promotes verbal skills among his students, which he sees as crucial for their success after graduation.

The \$5,000 Dean of Arts Award, established by an anonymous donor, is equal in value to the Killam Teaching Prize and recognizes exceptional contributions by a faculty member in teaching, research, administration and service.

The award is presented in the name of a living professor emeritus who has made a significant contribution to the faculty. This year the award will be presented by Prof. Emerita Kay Stockholder.

Stockholder is also a Shakespeare scholar and, like Globe, an advocate of human rights, especially through her work in recent years as president of the B.C. Civil Liberties Association.

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## UBC authors celebrated



Hilary Thomson photo

University Librarian Catherine Quinlan peruses a book by one of the more than 100 UBC authors to be honoured when the Library and the President's Office host the Eighth Annual Authors' Reception March 24 at Cecil Green Park House.

## Authors honoured March 24

by Hilary Thomson

Staff writer

Back in time, under the ocean or inside the human body, UBC authors know no bounds in their pursuit of scholarship. Their achievements will be recognized at UBC's Eighth Annual Authors' Reception taking place March 24 at Cecil Green Park House.

The reception celebrates UBC's reputation for excellence in research and academic enquiry, showcasing the work of more than 100 UBC authors pub-

lished during the past year.

The books represent an impressive range of disciplines, from medicine and animal science to statistics and literary criticism. Besides books, UBC authors and musicians have produced CDs, scripts and videos.

Hosted by the UBC Library and the  
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# Medical researchers get federal shot in the arm

UBC health scientists have received research grants worth more than \$2 million from the Medical Research Council of Canada (MRC).

Of 97 UBC projects submitted for funding, 16 projects have been approved for operating grants which support individual research. Eight projects not initially approved were funded retroactive to September 1997 following the recent federal budget's increased allotments to the MRC.

"I'm proud of the UBC researchers whose important work has been recognized by the council," says Bernie Bressler, vice-

president, Research. "Also, the recent restoration of the MRC budget to 1994-95 levels is encouraging to the research community."

Funding recipients come from a variety of health-care disciplines including medicine, dentistry, psychology and health services and policy research. Projects are funded from one to five years and range from a study of wait lists for selected surgical procedures to reducing hostility in cardiac patients.

As the major federal agency funding health research and

training, the MRC distributed a total of \$77.5 million in the form of 331 operating, equipment and clinical trials grants to Canadian universities, research institutions and teaching hospitals in the recent competition.

A list of the MRC operating grant recipients at UBC and a brief summary of their projects can be viewed at the MRC Web site at [www.hc-sc.gc.ca](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca).

UBC research has resulted in 71 spin-off companies and accounts for more than 20 per cent of the university spin-offs created in the country.

## Funding

Continued from Page 1

to address a "serious financial shortfall."

"In the coming year some budget reductions will be inevitable as we address the budget deficit and balance the budget for 1998/99," she wrote.

The university will address the shortfall through a one-year delay in filling a proportion of faculty and staff vacant positions, a reduction in non-salary expenditures and administrative efficiencies. Rehiring of faculty and staff will resume in 1999/2000 and 2000/01.

## Globe

Continued from Page 1

Last year, the first year in which the Dean of Arts Award was given, it went to Prof. Richard Pearson of Anthropology and Sociology in the name of Prof. Emeritus David Eberle of the same department.

## Authors

Continued from Page 1

Office of the President, the reception also provides an opportunity to recognize the role the Library plays in supporting research and scholarship.

"Many of the authors used the Library's own collections, electronic resources and inter-library loan service in producing these books," says University Librarian Catherine Quinlan.

"As the third largest research library in Canada, we are challenged to keep resources current and available to provide a foundation for faculty authors' work," Quinlan says.

Providing research materials isn't the only way the Library supports UBC authors. Many writers acknowledged the contributions of UBC Library assistants and research staff in their books. And one writer noted he was grateful to the Library simply as a congenial place in which to ponder.

In addition to the Library's recognition of authors' work, the UBC Bookstore is planning a special section dedicated to faculty publications, says Bookstore Director Debbie Harvie.

## SABBATICAL RETREAT

See Classified  
Mayne Island  
Gulf Islands



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

# Forum for the campus community on the Pacific Games 2001

Monday March 30, 1998

• 12:30-1:30pm, Hennings 200,  
6224 Agricultural Rd.

Organizers will present an overview of this international sporting event, including a proposal that UBC serve as one of the Lower Mainland's major venues.

For further information call UBC Public Affairs at 822-3131.

## Edwin Jackson

224 3540

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Peter Murtha,  
Forestry

Peter Murtha is finding new applications in forestry for the Canadian satellite RADARSAT. One of these is monitoring protected strips of forest next to fish-bearing streams in new, clearcut areas on northern Vancouver Island. Hundreds of kilometres of these strips, visible from space, are subject to storms which uproot trees and disturb delicate fish habitat. Murtha is integrating this and other satellite data into a new, remote-sensing system to monitor BC forests.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

# Vision Consultation Forum

for the campus community

with President Martha Piper

Friday, April 3, 1998

• 10:00am-12noon,

Chan Centre for the Performing Arts

Since last December, UBC faculty, staff, and students, as well as members of the external community, have been sending in their responses to the Vision contextual document which outlines some of the trends and challenges facing the University as it plans for the 21st century. Those responses have in turn helped to shape the first draft of the University's Vision Statement, an outline of the direction UBC plans to take over the next decade.

All members of the UBC community are invited to an open forum with President Martha Piper to discuss the first draft of the Vision Statement. For more information, visit the Vision Web site at [www.vision.ubc.ca](http://www.vision.ubc.ca).

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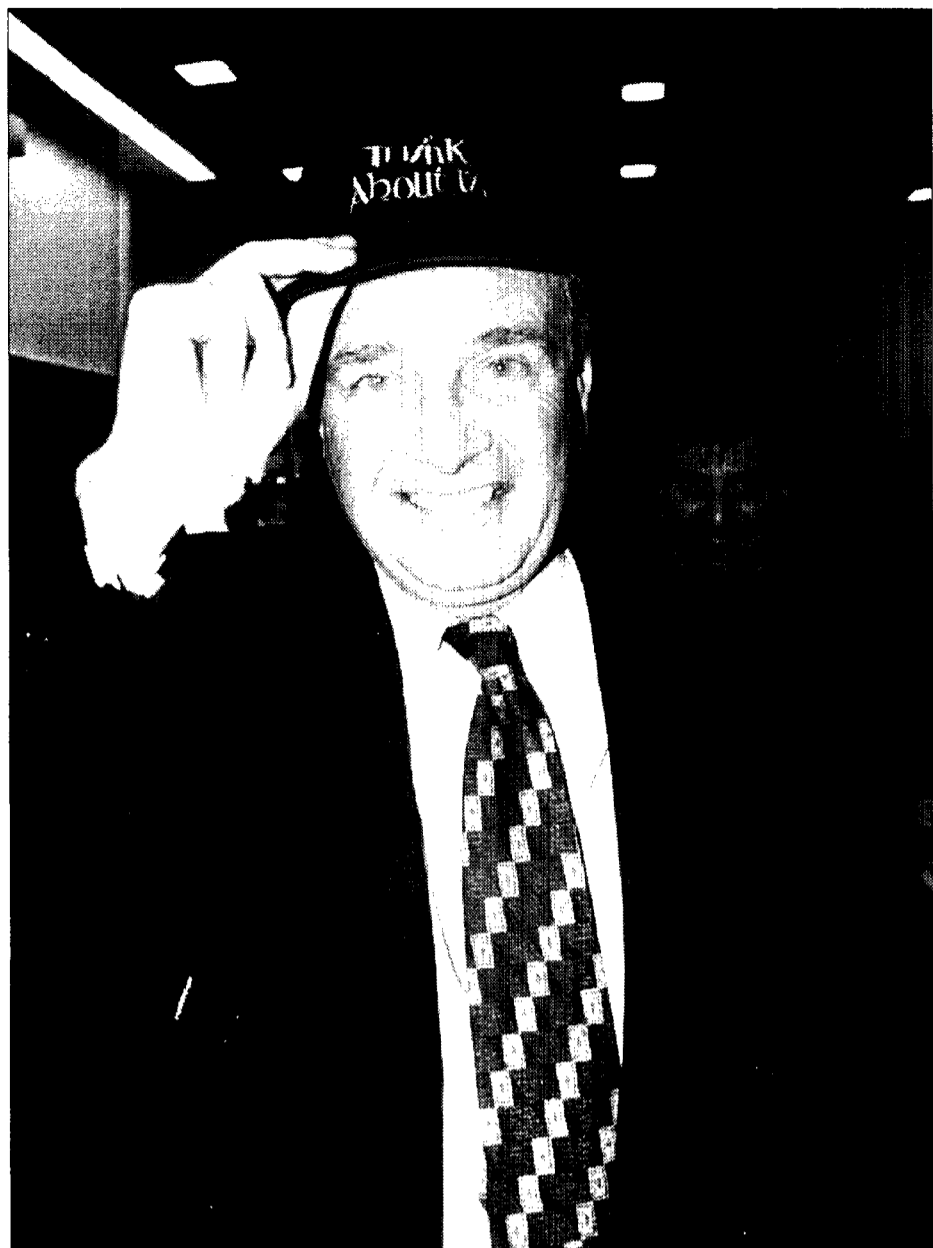
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Stephen Forgacs photo

## A Cap On Finances

**Federal Finance Minister Paul Martin tries on a UBC Think About It cap following a question and answer session with several hundred Economics and Commerce students March 5. While Martin heard praise and criticism of measures to support students and post-secondary education in Canada announced in the recent federal budget, many students also voiced concerns regarding the Multilateral Agreement on Investment. Martin was on campus to participate in a distinguished visitor series organized by UBC's Centre for the Study of Government and Business.**

# Humanities 101 aims to break down barriers

by Gavin Wilson

Staff writer

What would happen if 20 people from Vancouver's poorest neighborhoods came to the university twice each week to study history, philosophy and literature. Would it change their lives? Would it change UBC?

That's what a student-organized program will discover this September when a three-month pilot project known as Humanities 101 begins.

Students Allison Dunnet and Am Johal, co-chairs of a committee planning the program, say the course will be barrier-free. Bus fare, child care, even meals will be provided to students who are referred by non-profit agencies.

The aim, says Dunnet, is "to offer non-vocational training that empowers students to use critical thinking in everyday life and inspire a passion for lifelong learning."

The idea for Humanities 101 came from an article in *Harper's* magazine. It described a similar program set up in New York's Lower East Side by author Earl Shorris. He started the program after an inmate in a women's prison told him the poor needed "a moral alternative to the street" to be able to rise above their circumstances.

Graduates of the program, none of whom had previous higher education, have gone on to college studies or full-time jobs.

Teaching the humanities contradicts the conventional wisdom that people need technical job skills in order to succeed in today's economy.

"There are lots of skill-based programs out there, but none that focus on the arts and humanities. We believe that teaching critical thinking skills is just as valid as teaching specific job skills," says Dunnet.

Everyone will benefit from having non-traditional students and their viewpoints on campus, the organizers say.

"A variety of backgrounds and opinions will make the class that much more interesting. And it will be good for UBC students and faculty too," says Johal.

Although the course will be non-credit, the organizers hope students successfully completing it will receive a certificate and be able to take part in Congregation ceremonies at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts.

The pilot program will be funded with a \$15,000 grant from the Innovative Projects Fund, which is jointly operated by the Alma Mater Society and the university.

The program, which is now housed in the UBC Faculty of Arts, has enlisted the help of UBC lecturer Jim Green. The former head of the Downtown Eastside Residents' Association, Green is currently a provincial civil servant in the Ministry of Employment and Investment.

For more information, contact Am Johal at 822-1601 or by e-mail at am.johal@ubc.ca

# Expert zeros in on snow — B.C.'s natural killer

by Gavin Wilson

Staff writer

As a mountaineer and backcountry skier, Prof. David McClung knows that his knowledge of avalanches can mean the difference between life and death.

Now new funding for his research on avalanche prediction and prevention means his knowledge will be more widely shared with the B.C. industries most affected by avalanches.

McClung has been named NSERC-FRBC-CMH Chair in Snow and Avalanche Science. The chair is funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), Forest Renewal BC (FRBC) and Canadian Mountain Holidays (CMH) Inc., the world's largest heli-skiing operator.

The chair will form the basis of a permanent research group, unique among Canadian universities, that will solve critical problems facing industries affected by avalanches and train geoscientists and engineers in avalanche science.

"This chair will allow me to focus my energy on research, provide significant technology transfer to industry and advanced training for professional avalanche workers," McClung said.

A professor of Geography and an associate member of Civil Engineering, McClung has led UBC's Avalanche Research Group since 1991. His research has focused on snow mechanics, avalanche dynamics, land use planning, avalanche prediction and the forces put on structures in deep snow cover.

McClung is also author of the *Avalanche Handbook*, a technical but accessible guide used in training schools and universities across North America.

Personal experience has added to his vast knowledge of the topic. In the past

30 years he has climbed nearly 200 peaks and routes in the Pacific Northwest and taken part in six major expeditions to the Himalayas, the Andes and Alaska.

Due to its mountainous terrain, 80 per cent of Canada's avalanches are in B.C. Although most occur in wilderness areas, they are still a major concern for industries such as forestry, winter tourism, transportation, construction, engineering and mining.

Avalanches account for more fatalities than any other natural hazard in the province, and the growing popularity of heli-skiing and other backcountry recreational pursuits has increased the number of deaths and injuries, McClung said.

The concern is greatest for heli-skiing companies, which

must deal with changing, but even fixed-lift ski areas must manage avalanche hazards. Whistler/Blackcomb, for example, has more than 500 avalanche paths in and around its ski areas.

McClung's research will provide the ski industry with better weather and avalanche forecasting, improved control methods and better risk assessment.

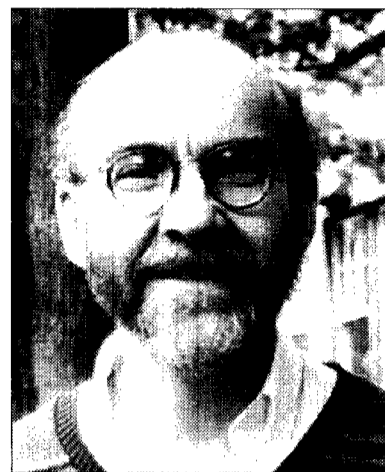
Increased knowledge of avalanches is also critical for the forest industry, McClung said. Avalanches that start in clearcuts or descend into them can destroy valuable timber, create new avalanche paths, remove soil cover and prevent forest regeneration.

"The problem in B.C. is unique and pervasive," he said, "but this is the first time it has been examined. We want to build a solid database of information, and using the expertise of our colleagues in the forest industry, develop decision-making tools for logging steep terrain."

Avalanches are far more frequent than other mountain slope hazards such as debris torrents, McClung said.

Every winter in Western Canada there are about 200,000 avalanches large enough to cause significant destruction of timber.

Aside from disease, avalanches rank with fires and humans as the greatest modifiers of forest cover in B.C.



McClung

## 80 per cent of Canada's avalanches are in B.C.

# Rick Hansen Institute names vice-president

Former London, Ont. Transit Commission head Greg Latham has been appointed vice-president of the Rick Hansen Institute effective April 15.

"I am thrilled to have someone of Greg's calibre on our team," says Rick Hansen, president and CEO of the institute.

"He brings not only a wealth of experience in the field of disability to our organization, but his operational strengths and project management expertise will help to take us to the next level of success. I truly believe our best work is yet to come."

Latham has 25 years of direct, collaborative experience in working to improve the status of persons with disabilities.

He chaired the steering committee that established the first Alberta Premier's Council on the Status of Persons

with Disabilities and is internationally known for his work on transportation programs for people with disabilities.

In this newly created position, Latham will be responsible for ensuring the long-term success of the institute by providing strategic and operational support to the president/CEO, and ensuring the efficient, effective and economic operation of the organization.

He will play a prominent role in providing corporate leadership to the institute as it continues to grow and meet its objectives.

In August 1997, UBC and Rick Hansen created the Rick Hansen Institute. Its mission is to provide leadership in the field of disability in the areas of fund development and awareness, with a special emphasis on spinal cord injury.





# Celebration of authors March 24

by Hilary Thomson

Staff writer

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Dr. Larry Goldenberg

## Coping with cancer

"The nicest thing about writing this book has been the thanks I've received from patients — that's been very gratifying," says Dr. Larry Goldenberg.

Goldenberg's readers are men with prostate cancer, a disease affecting one in eight men and the most common cancer among North American men.

Called *Prostate Cancer: All you need to know to take an active part in your treatment*, the book is a step-by-step guide designed to help patients better understand their condition and prospective treatment.

"Patients are faced with an enormous and often confusing amount of information," says Goldenberg, director of UBC's Prostate Clinic. "Learning about their disease can help restore a sense of control, giving them confidence to make decisions that are right for them."

The guide is the third in a series written by doctors from the patient's perspective in simple everyday language. It describes risk factors, symptoms, tests, medications and treatments such as radiation, hormone therapies and surgery.

The book also contains diagrams of the prostate and surrounding organs, examinations and surgical procedures such as biopsy and prostate removal.

Photographs of surgical instruments and machines used in testing also help familiarize patients with what lies ahead.

It took Goldenberg about a year to write the book, which is about 200 pages long.



Goldenberg

"Explaining controversial treatment or tests was a challenge," says Goldenberg. "I tried to clarify information that can be very confusing."

Two of Goldenberg's colleagues helped with sections of the book. Dr. Michael Pezim, a former associate professor in the Surgery Dept. who originated the patient guide series, wrote the introductory chapters describing the disease. Carolyn Baker, a clinical oncology nurse, wrote a chapter about living with prostate cancer. Topics include emotional responses to the disease, social isolation and the importance of maintaining hope.

In B.C. it is anticipated 3,500 men will be diagnosed with the disease this year.

Laurie Ricou

## Field guide for a poem

An 11-kilometre stretch of land jutting into the Strait of Juan de Fuca from Washington's Olympic Peninsula is the source of inspiration for a book its author describes as part guidebook, part literary criticism.

In *A Field Guide to "A Guide to Dungeness Spit"*, English Prof. Laurie Ricou gives readers not only a sense of the landscape that inspired David Wagoner's love poem, *A Guide to Dungeness Spit*, but a criticism of the poem itself.

"Dungeness Spit has a unique climate and ecology," Ricou says. "The birdlife, legends and folklore of the spit all contribute to the interdependence of landscape and culture as imagined in this poem."

Wagoner, a contemporary American poet whom Ricou describes as the Robert Frost of the Pacific Northwest, used the voice of a guide to structure his poem. It describes a trek to the end of the spit, an analogy for the life's journey of two lovers.

Ricou's book is a product of his admiration for Wagoner's poetry and his interest in different cultural responses to a shared environment. Research for the field guide took him from the hushed confines of Missouri's Washington University's Special Collections to the living-room-like Sequim-Dungeness Museum.

In the field guide Ricou alternates his commentary on the poem with descriptions of the wildlife, local legends and physical characteristics of the sand spit.

The book encourages readers to move step-by-step through the landscape, absorbing the local knowledge and stopping to examine the elements of the poem.

Significant words and phrases in the poem are treated as individual points of interest in the field guide. Excerpts from a Sierra Club guide describe the cormorants, gulls and plovers mentioned.

Quotations from articles in the *Seattle Times* and from Capt. George Vancouver's *A Voyage of Discovery*, archival photographs, and a reproduction of Wagoner's first draft scribbled on the back of an exam envelope all give further context to the poet's work.



Ricou

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# UBC authors share wealth of knowledge

Wendy Royal, Christine Hoppenrath

## Issues for ESL students

Abortion, crime, euthanasia — these subjects are almost guaranteed to generate debate.

That's what ESL instructors Wendy Royal and Christine Hoppenrath were counting on when they wrote *The World Around Us: Canadian Social Issues for ESL Students*.



Royal

"You learn when you're motivated," says Hoppenrath, who, with Royal, teaches in UBC's English Language Institute (ELI). "And you're motivated if the work is interesting and relevant."

With this in mind, the authors selected a variety of materials from North American newspapers, diaries, magazines and books to create a workbook for ESL students.

The learning revolves around short articles on current controversial issues. Working in small groups, students complete questionnaires or interviews with English speakers in the community. Instructors ask them to give opinions and compare arguments.

The book, Hoppenrath and Royal's first, is the product of more than 20 years of teaching at the ELI.

"It's very satisfying to see how this material really grabs the students," says Hoppenrath. "They don't hesitate — they jump right into discussions."

ELI students come from everywhere from Turkey to Taiwan. Participants include homestay students, business people from Canada and abroad, and UBC international students.



Hoppenrath

Hoppenrath and Royal encourage students to compare the values in their own country with those presented in the workbook.

"The students are learning not only the language, but also the cultural underpinnings of the language," says Royal.

Hoppenrath and Royal aren't concerned about the material in the text becoming dated.

"These issues come around again and again," says Royal.

John Wilson Foster

## Titanic: ship and more

When the "unsinkable" sank in 1912, a cultural phenomenon was born that has captivated the world ever since.

In *The Titanic Complex: A Cultural Manifest*, English Prof. John Wilson Foster uses the idea of a ship's manifest to survey the folklore, art, drama, songs and poems inspired by the disaster. He also looks at how the construction and loss of the ship fits into the industrial and socio-political culture of east Belfast.

"This ship began its career as a symbol of modernity and of industrial supremacy," says Foster. "It continues as a symbol of post-modernism."

Foster, whose specialty is modern British literature, identifies how writers such as Virginia Woolf, G.B. Shaw and Thomas Hardy responded to the tragedy in their work. The authors often used the sinking of the ship as an allegory for the social inequality of the times or a warning against pride in conquering nature through technology.

Foster also examines recent literary responses to the tragedy, many of which were published following the 1985 discovery of the wreck.

The second part of the book focuses on Belfast, birthplace of the *Titanic* and Foster's home town.

"Growing up in Belfast within sight of the Harland and Wolff shipyard, the *Titanic* had always been there for me in local legend," says Foster.

Work on the liner started in 1909.

When the ship was launched in 1911 the debate over Irish independence, or Home Rule, was at its height. Most of the *Titanic*'s shipwrights were Protestants opposed to Home Rule.

"The *Titanic* became a badge of pride for Protestant Unionists, eager to show the rest of Ireland and the world what they could achieve," says Foster. "When the ship sank, many in Ireland said it deserved to go down because it was a product of bigotry and arrogance."

Foster warns against becoming caught up in the *Titanic*'s significance as a cultural icon without recalling its enormous human tragedy. Using the words of E. M. Forster, he urges the reader to "remember the submerged."



Foster

Tony Podlecki

## Myth of ancient Greek

After 25 centuries, what is there left to say about one of the most legendary figures in Greek history?

That was the challenge for Classical Studies Prof. Tony Podlecki in writing *Perikles and his Circle*.

"Recently scholars have started to question some of the personal details of the Perikles myth," Podlecki says. "I wanted to bring together information scattered through the ancient sources and review it critically."

Born about 492 B.C., Perikles was Athens' leading statesman for more than 20 years. Given the nickname 'the Olympian' by his contemporaries, Perikles' larger-than-life legendry both idealizes and allegorizes his political achievements and allegations from his opponents that his companion, Aspasia, was the one making Athens' political and military decisions.

Perikles is credited with being the creative impulse behind the golden age of Athens, which included the building of the Parthenon. However, as Podlecki reveals, not everything about Perikles' golden age glitters.

To expand Athens' network of political alliances — a strategy that earned him a reputation as founder of the Athenian Empire — Perikles used the navy to coerce

and enforce tribute payments from less-than-enthusiastic city-states.

Podlecki examined the work of members of the Periklean intellectual circle, including dramatists Aeschylus and Sophocles, as well as the work of Perikles' political opponents to sort out where legend stops and history begins.

Since little has been written in English about the Athenian statesman, Podlecki researched German, French and ancient Greek sources.



Podlecki

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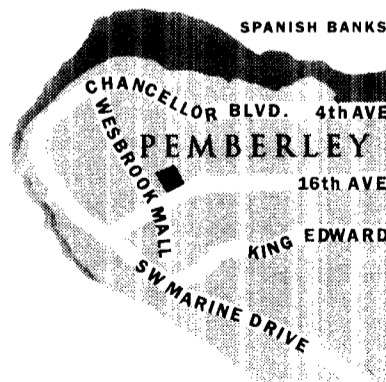
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# Ocean impact on fish chair's focus

by Stephen Forgacs

Staff writer

In formally bringing together fisheries and oceanography for the first time, the Faculty of Science has taken a step towards understanding the impact that physical and chemical changes in the oceans have on fish populations.

The first holder of a new Chair in the Ocean Environment and Its Living Resources, Prof. Paul J. Harrison, hopes that by combining the two disciplines, questions that do not fall into the traditional domains of oceanography or fisheries research can be answered.

"Fisheries science has been primarily concerned with the economic question of how much fish can be taken from the sea. Oceanography has been concerned with understanding the physics, chemistry, geology and biology of the oceans," says Harrison.

"Fisheries oceanography attempts to explain the abundance of certain economically important species of fish as a natural consequence of their evolution in hospitable oceanographic environments, or conversely, their diminishing abundance in previously favorable habitats."

The Fisheries Oceanography program has been 10 years in the works, says Harrison, since Oceanography/Zoology Prof. Emeritus Tim Parson recognized the need to link the disciplines. More recently, the support of an anonymous donor, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans and others made creation of the chair possible.

As a first step in bringing fisheries and oceanography together, UBC recently hosted a Fisheries Oceanography Symposium to launch the new program.

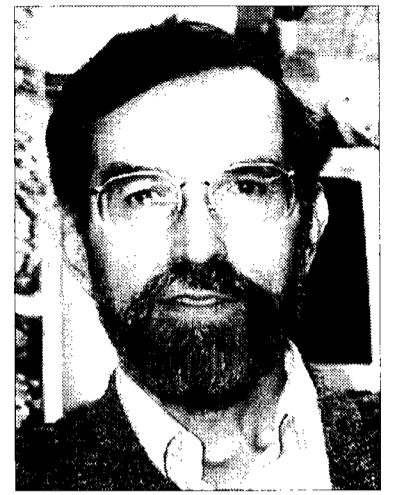
Lectures given during the symposium will be published for use as an upper undergraduate and graduate textbook titled *Fisheries Oceanography: A Science for the Next Millennium*, which will provide guidelines for the next generation in fisheries oceanography research.

Creation of the chair has allowed the Dept. of Earth and Ocean Sciences to hire junior faculty member John Dower, who will join UBC in July as an assistant professor in fisheries oceanography.

Dower's expertise in larval fish, their feeding and ocean turbulence complements Harrison's expertise as a biological oceanographer specializing in the ocean's primary products, phytoplankton and zooplankton, and their regulation by various environmental factors.

The pair will work with UBC oceanographers and researchers at UBC's Fisheries Centre, who have particular strengths in modelling and fish stock analysis, as well as with federal government scientists in the Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans.

While Harrison and Dower will examine the impact of one- or two-year events such as El Niño, they will focus on the relationship between fish population and gradual changes in ocean climates, known as re-



Harrison

gime shifts, that take place over periods of 10 to 15 years.

Harrison lists evidence and examples that emphasize the need to understand the link between ocean conditions and changes in fish populations: stock collapses and failures in management models tend to coincide with major shifts in climate; there is increasing evidence that large changes in fisheries yield may be influenced by environmental changes in addition to overfishing; and several West Coast fisheries are managed using various proxy indices of ocean conditions with little understanding of the real mechanisms.

Researchers will draw on data such as information on ocean temperature and chemistry that has been recorded over a period of 40 years at Station P in the north Pacific, where a weather

## Stock collapses ... tend to coincide with major shifts in climate.

ship was stationed for decades.

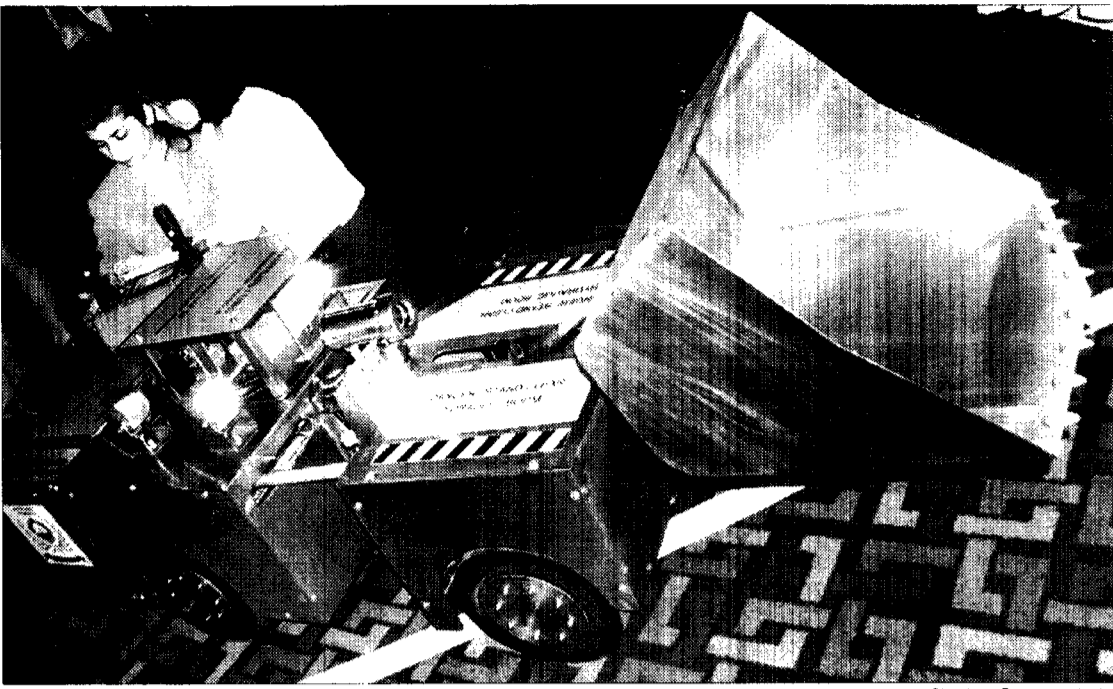
Since the advent of satellite-based weather monitoring systems made the ship redundant in the 1980s, Harrison and other researchers travel to the location three times each year to take water samples and record conditions.

"We're trying to look at what factors in nature might cause these oscillations in fish populations," he says.

Harrison cites Gobi Desert dust storms in China as an example of a weather phenomenon that can have an effect on ocean productivity. Dust particles from desert storms deliver iron to the North Pacific Ocean. Iron enrichment affects phytoplankton production which could in turn affect fish stocks.

Harrison will continue to participate in international research groups such as the 15-country Joint Ocean Global Fluxes Study. Backed by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, the study is trying to understand the relationship between ocean carbon cycles and global warming.

He also takes part in the Global Ocean Ecosystem Dynamics (GLOBEC) program, which combines physical and biological sciences to determine how ocean physics influence the productivity of oceans and fisheries.



Stephen Forgacs photo

## Ready To Roll

Fourth-year Mining and Mineral Process Engineering students Neda Farmer (left) and Yeen Shien Hwang make an adjustment to the remote control console of their tele-operated Load-Haul-Dump (LHD) model. The pair built the working scale model of a machine used in mining operations for a design competition which was part of the 1998 Engineers' Ball. The LHD model can be used as a training tool for operators and for research and development in mining automation. Nautilus International supplied the cameras and electronics required to transform the LHD from manual to remote control.

# Dam standoffs diverted thanks to IRE expert's work

by Sean Kelly

Staff writer

Bitter disputes surrounding dam megaprojects around the world are closer to being resolved, thanks to an agreement facilitated by Tony Dorcey, a UBC expert in sustainable development.

After months of negotiations, the World Bank and the World Conservation Union recently launched a two-year World Commission on Dams.

Dorcey's recommendations shaped the commission's design, and its statement of mandate is based on the international multi-stakeholder report he edited.

"Projects such as the Narmada Dam in India and the Three Gorges Dam in China have met with fierce resistance from affected communities and environmentalists," says Dorcey, a professor with UBC's Institute for Resources and Environment (IRE). "The result has been a virtual breakdown of constructive dialogue."

Dorcey says problems surrounding large dam projects seemed intractable a year ago. That's when senior government and non-government officials from around the world met for two days in Gland, Switzerland, at the invitation of the World Bank and the Conservation Union.

Dorcey, who has experience resolving sustainable development issues in multi-stakeholder processes, was asked to chair and facilitate the meeting.


The result was what Dorcey calls a "surprising and remarkable" agreement to work together in establishing the World Commission on Dams.

Dorcey's recommendations on the institutional and operational design of the commission on dams were adopted last August.

The commission's main goals are to review the effectiveness of dams with regard to a region's development, and to create standards, guidelines and criteria for the planning, construction and operation of them.

A 12-person international commission composed of environmentalists, distinguished scientists, politicians and representatives of major hydro-electric power companies will work with a consultative group of diverse stakeholders. These include affected communities and research institutions such as UBC.

"UBC will have a role to play because of our sustainable development expertise, and the quality of our research into the social, environmental and economic aspects of natural resources," says Dorcey.



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## News Digest

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is offering up to \$15,000 to master's students who want to work with institutions or organizations to undertake field research in eligible developing countries.

CIDA is also offering Professional Leadership Awards of up to \$15,000 to individuals with professional experience who wish to undertake volunteer research or work on projects in international development. The 1998 awards are for projects of three to 12 months' duration which address specific fields of endeavor within CIDA's aid policy.

The deadline for applications is April 30. For more information or to receive application materials, call the Canadian Bureau for International Education at (613) 237-4820, extension 234, or e-mail [flepage@cbie.ca](mailto:flepage@cbie.ca).

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An assessment of the health goals of different levels of government is under way at the Institute of Health Promotion Research (IHPR).

Health Canada's National Health Research Development Program recently awarded \$150,000 for the project to IHPR Assoc. Director James Frankish, Director Lawrence Green, Nursing Asst. Prof. Pamela Ratner, PhD candidate Treena Chomik and research co-ordinator Craig Larsen.

The researchers will assess the goals that regional health boards and provincial and national governments use as guidelines for developing and implementing health-care programs and policies.

By taking into account how health goals relate to broader determinants of health, such as poverty, the researchers hope to influence collaborative approaches to health system reform.

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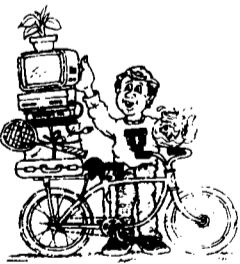
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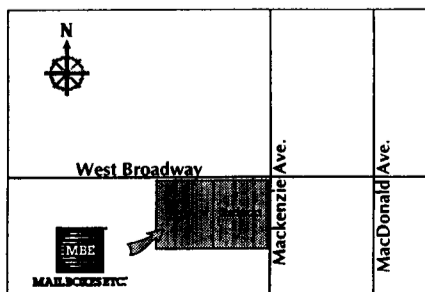


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The deadline for the April 2 issue of UBC Reports is noon, March 23.

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### Accommodation

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# Special *BC Studies* issue devoted to First Nations

by Gavin Wilson

Staff writer

An interview with First Nations cultural leader Doreen Jensen and an epic poem by the late Charles Lillard are two of the highlights of a special double issue of *BC Studies* published this month.

With its theme, Native Peoples and Colonialism, the issue continues the journal's tradition of examining aboriginal issues as well as all aspects of British Columbia, past and present.

And by including poems and photographs, it also reflects the editors' desire to expand beyond the conventions of scholarly journals. The journal has previously published many of B.C.'s major poets, including Susan Musgrave, Patrick Lane and Al Purdy.

"It is important to us that *BC Studies* is accessible," says Jean Barman, the historian and professor of Educational Studies who shares editing duties with Geography Prof. Cole Harris. "We think of it as a journal for serious writing, rather than for exclusively scholarly writing."

Barman is especially excited by the publication of Lillard's poem, "Revenge of the Pebble Town People: A Raid on the Tlingit." One of the last poems he wrote before his death, it is based on the true story of a Haida war party.

The special journal issue also features an interview with Gitksan cultural leader Doreen Jensen. An artist, curator, writer,

teacher and historian, Jensen is a widely recognized representative of First Nations people in B.C. She was awarded an honorary degree by UBC in 1992.

Another article examines the first diary kept by an aboriginal person in this province. It offers tremendous insight into life on the north coast in the early 1860s.

Another looks at the five founding families of Victoria, who were white fur traders and their aboriginal wives. The article is illustrated with 18 rarely seen archival photos.

Other articles look at how the

reserve system was set up in B.C. and how aboriginal law is being revived among other topics.

*BC Studies* is the only scholarly journal devoted to B.C. issues and is one of three major journals, with *Pacific Affairs* and *Canadian Literature*, published by the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Most major articles about B.C. appear in its pages.

Barman and Harris have been its editors for two and a half years, since replacing History Prof. Allan Smith.

For more information about *BC Studies* call 822-3727.



B.C. Archives photo

Rare archival photographs are featured in the current issue of *B.C. Studies*, a special edition that examines issues of native peoples and colonialism. This photo, identified only as "Jean-Baptiste Lolo dit St. Paul, his wife and two daughters" was taken by Charles Gentile in 1865 at Fort Kamloops.

# UBC geologists scout out BC's semi-precious stones

by Stephen Forgacs

Staff writer

First diamonds, now tourmaline. Recent geological discoveries in the Yukon and Northwest Territories show there's more than just ice crystals glittering in the nation's frozen North.

UBC Geology Assoc. Prof. Lee Groat and Scott Ercit, a scientist with the Canadian Museum of Nature (CMN), have uncovered Canada's first gem elbaite deposit in the Northwest Territories. Elbaite, the most coveted form of gem tourmaline, has a value similar to that of topaz or aquamarine. And the Northwest Territories find, known as the O'Grady deposit, may just be the tip of a Canadian tourmaline iceberg.

"Geochemical work we've done on rock samples has helped us identify other sites, including some in southeastern B.C.," says Groat.

Tourmaline, valued in jewelry and by collectors, is a transparent gem which ranges in color from emerald green to red to indigo blue. And while the assessed value of tourmaline from the O'Grady site is not yet known, high quality samples from other locations can sell for tens of thousands of dollars.

Groat and Ercit discovered the tourmaline deposit in 1994 while visiting remote sites thought to contain pegmatites

— mineral deposits formed as residual liquids crystallize near the top of a cooling mass of granitic magma. The residual liquids often contain elements such as lithium which are not easily incorporated into mineral structures. As they cool, these elements crystallize into unusual minerals such as tourmaline.

As the group was preparing to leave a site on the O'Grady batholith — a huge, previously subterranean granite dome partially exposed by thousands of years of erosion — former graduate student Mark Mauthner came across a handful of pink and purple crystals. A return visit in the summer of 1995 allowed Groat to determine the size of the deposit and take further samples for analysis.

"Ironically, the tourmaline was in the right part of the country, but based on existing scientific models, the O'Grady batholith seemed to be a poor host for a deposit," Ercit says. "Our job now is to redefine existing geological models so that they do a better job of predicting these sorts of occurrences."

The reassessment has economic potential, Groat says.

The recognition of the occurrence of rare metals, such as lithium, in granitic pegmatites can improve chances of discovering deposits of rare metals used in applications ranging from computer components to long-

life batteries and medical prostheses.

Groat and his colleagues, including UBC MSc student Anita Lam and CMN researcher Robert Gault, were conducting research on behalf of the Dept. of Indian Affairs and Northern Development with the support of the CMN and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council. Following publication of the group's first report in 1995, Ontario gem cutter Brad Wilson staked a claim on the deposit.

Next summer, Groat and his colleagues will focus on the Revelstoke area. The delay in exploring new sites is required so that Ercit and Groat can prepare scientific documentation of their research.

"We've been doing geochemical work on the pegmatite rocks from the O'Grady site and have found that they have a geochemical fingerprint that is diagnostic," Groat said.

By comparing this geochemical fingerprint with geological data in literature on areas in southeastern B.C., Groat and his colleagues have identified locations where further gem deposits may be found.

Groat is now looking for graduate students interested in working with him on the sites in southeastern B.C. and in basing their master's or doctoral theses on the research.

## People

by staff writers

**Janice Moshenko**, a lecturer in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, has been awarded the 1997 Bristol Myers Squibb Award for excellence in pharmaceutical teaching.

Moshenko started teaching in 1996, the same year she graduated from UBC with a master's degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences. She currently lectures and leads tutorials in two undergraduate courses in pharmaceuticals and biopharmaceuticals.

The teaching award is based on student evaluations and is made at all pharmacy faculties across Canada.

The Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences has been granting the award since 1985 for excellence in teaching required undergraduate courses.



Moshenko

Sociology and Law Prof. **Richard Ericson** has been awarded a Canada Council Killam Research Fellowship for a study of the insurance industry.

The prestigious research award is one of only nine given this year to provide for up to two years of full-time study and writing.

An expert in matters of risk assessment and security, Ericson says understanding how insurance products are marketed and consumed will allow Canadians to make more informed decisions about security provisions.

Ericson is also principal of Green College.

UBC post doctoral fellow **Shawn Marshall** has been awarded a silver medal for doctoral research by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council.

In a theoretical study, Marshall linked Ice Age surges — catastrophic events in which fast-flowing streams delivered huge volumes of ice to the oceans, influencing ocean levels and global climate — to intrinsic instability of ice motion processes.

His computer simulation of these surges, a world first, has provided new insight into the behavior and stability of ice sheets and a new test for global climate models.

Marshall is continuing his research in geophysics in the Dept. of Earth and Ocean Sciences.

UBC students captured first and second prizes at the 12th annual Pulp and Paper Graduate Students' Seminar held recently at McGill University.

This is the first time UBC has captured first and second prizes in the seminar.

Top prize went to MSc candidate **Sylvie Bouffard** for her presentation on using minerals to treat paper mill effluent. A presentation dealing with fluid mechanics in modern paper machines earned second prize for PhD candidate **Alireza Roshanzamir**.

## Extraordinary Evening with Chopin

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# Cost of ecology new unit's focus

by Sean Kelly

Staff writer

How much should British Columbians pay to increase wilderness protection? How much cost should fishers bear to bring back coho salmon?

Issues like these will be the focus of the new Eco-Risk Research Unit (ERRU) at UBC.

According to ERRU Director Tim McDaniels, the research unit will bring up-to-date technical knowledge, strategies and analytical methods to bear on key environmental policy questions.

"Society has to think about how they make decisions regarding such questions," says McDaniels, an associate professor in the School of Community and Regional Planning (SCARP) and the Institute for Resources and Environment (IRE).

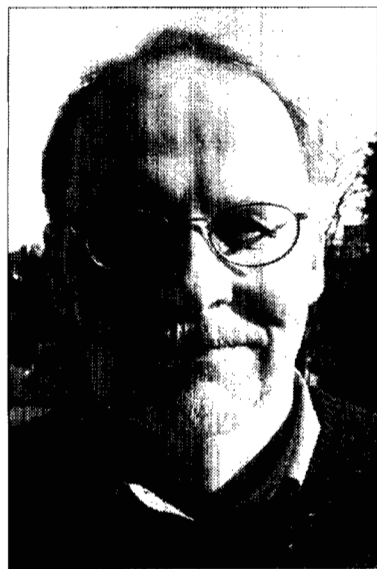
"Ecological risk as well as human values are key parts of solutions which balance environmental, economic and social goals. Human decisions are changing the environment rapidly. The stakes are high and they call for insightful research that crosses disciplinary boundaries."

The research unit brings together UBC policy analysts, risk management specialists and scientists from economics, psychology, ecology, engineering, law and other fields, including SCARP Director William Rees and Prof. Tony Dorcey.

The UBC group has established a long-term partnership with Decision Research, a non-profit research institute based in Eugene, Ore.

ERRU members already collaborate on several ongoing projects with Decision Research, including an estuary management study in Tillamook, Ore., and a study of public perceptions of ecological risk conducted at UBC.

McDaniels says in the future the unit will take on projects funded by both the private and public sector.



McDaniels

Simon Fraser University graduate student Rob MacDonald (right) spent the morning of March 4 at the UBC bus loop handing out coupons for free cinnamon buns for transit users. MacDonald was participating in an event organized by UBC's Student Environment Centre and UBC's Director of Transportation Planning to encourage students, faculty and staff to carpool, walk, bus or bike to campus. MacDonald hopes to incorporate UBC's experience with new initiatives aimed at dealing with campus commuting and local and regional transportation issues in his graduate research.

## Busing For Buns



Stephen Forgacs photo

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