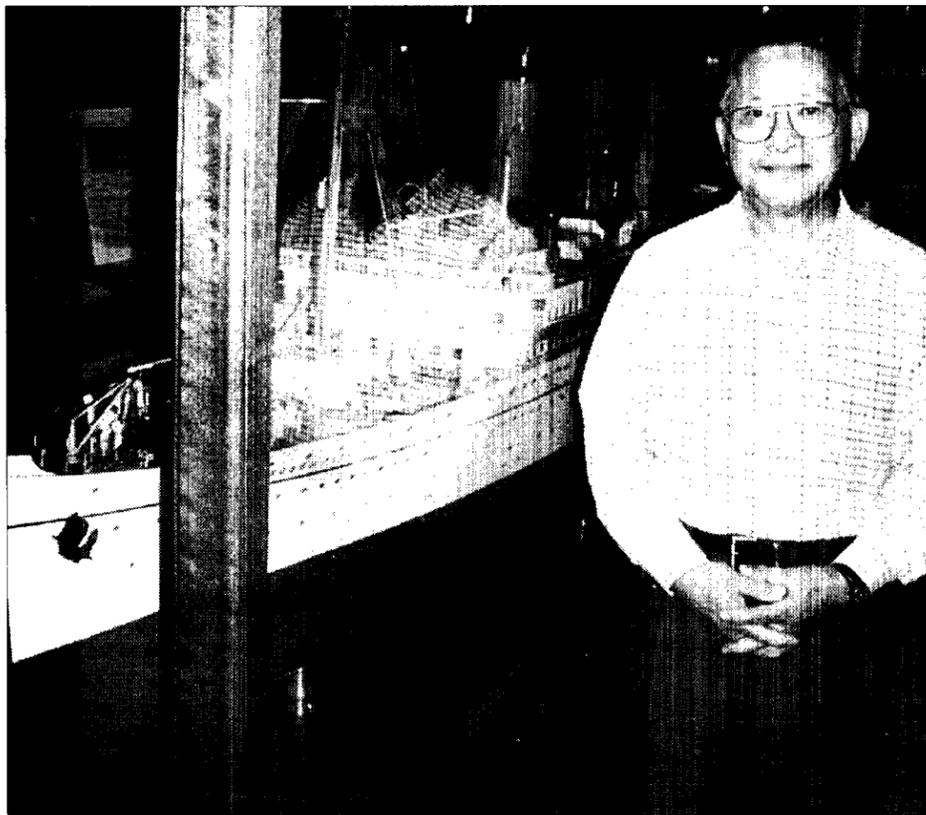


UBC REPORTS

Volume 45, Number 18

October 28, 1999

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Bruce Mason photo

Dr. Wally Chung poses with the pride of his unique collection — a white and gold model of the Empress of Asia. The former chair of the President's Advisory Council on the University Library is donating thousands of rare books and artifacts to UBC for the enjoyment of generations to come. The first exhibition of the collection will be in the year 2000.

Library receives priceless pieces of life's passion

by Bruce Mason

Staff writer

There are 12,000 books and 1,700 artifacts in the collection that Dr. Wally Chung, his wife Dr. Madeline H. Chung and their family are donating to UBC. University Librarian Catherine Quinlan says the gift, valued in the millions of dollars, is priceless.

"It is a unique and invaluable chronicle of so many aspects of B.C. and Canadian history," says Quinlan.

"A collection of this magnitude and significance brings the UBC Library's collections to a new level of enrichment and presents tremendous opportunities for interdisciplinary research and collaboration with many of UBC's academic units as well as the Museum of Anthropology," she adds.

"I have been asking myself what I was going to do with all this and who will look after it and enjoy it," Chung shrugs as he walks through irreplaceable, immaculate treasure that fills four rooms of his basement. "I spent so much time collecting it that I don't want it to be split up and dispersed."

His face beams as he begins to share the sheer joy of discovering rare books and objects in a lifetime obsession that began with a small boy's fascination.

"In my father's tailor shop in Victoria there was a poster of a big white beautiful ship steaming out of an Asian harbour with the sun setting behind it heading for the New World," he remembers.

It was the Empress of Asia, one of the Canadian Pacific Railway's trans-oceanic luxury liners that was the pride of the country's maritime fleet and the vessel that brought his mother from China.

He began cutting newspaper clippings and hoarding calendars, matchbooks, posters and silverware — any and every CPR collectible he could lay his hands on.

Years later, in 1953, when he had graduated from McGill University's medical school, he got even more serious. After finishing surgical training at the Vancouver General Hospital and joining UBC's medical school, he combed bookstores and second-hand shops in earnest, locally and in New York, Chicago and London between medical conferences.

"I found this in a basement of a condo in Toronto," he says pointing to a builder's model more than four metres long, which gleams in a glass case. "It had been stored in an unheated basement for 30 years and was in terrible condition. The paint was flaking off, a funnel was broken and a professional modeller said it would take three years of work by two men and tens of thousands of dollars to restore it."

Instead Chung reclaimed the exquisite detail himself in a labour of love which occupied 4,000 hours and many, many late nights.

It took three archivists six months just to catalogue the one-of-a-kind items in the collection which span time, borders and cultures. They are pieces of a puzzle collected over a lifetime to complete a vision and an odyssey which led from CPR memorabilia to a unique and important documentation of the Asian experience in North America and West Coast history.

There are champagne buckets and bedpans, railway timetables and "Stop the Oriental Menace!" pamphlets, first editions of books chronicling Cook's and Vancouver's voyages to the Pacific, the correspondence of nation builders and the photograph of the

See **PRICELESS** Page 2

Campus turns out to hear annual report

About 700 people packed the main floor of the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts for UBC's second campus annual general meeting Oct. 19 to hear UBC's administration report on its activities for the past year.

"We know that UBC will be defined in the next century, not only by our vision, but also by our actions," UBC President Martha Piper said. Many of the initial targets have been met which were set out in last year's launch of Trek 2000, the vision for the university in the coming century.

Some of UBC's significant accomplishments during the past year were highlighted. These include:

- Development of an academic plan to guide future faculty and staff recruitment and retention efforts.
- Offering early admission to more first-year students than ever before in the university's history.
- Expansion of co-op programs on campus. More than 2,000 students are currently gaining work experience through programs in five faculties, including the newly established program in the Faculty of Arts.

- Renovation of approximately 15 per cent of classrooms and development of 2,500 new information technology connections.
- In the area of research, attracting \$23 million of federal Canada Foundation for Innovation funding. When coupled with funding from the B.C. Knowledge

Development Fund, this will result in approximately \$60 million of new research infrastructure being built on campus.

Meeting university targets for the recruitment of international students.

"We will continue to rely on community support in the pursuit of adequate funding of education and research in British Columbia."



John Chong photo

UBC President Martha Piper fields media questions following the university's second annual general meeting for the community.

Piper said, emphasizing the importance of advocacy for higher education.

Dominating the meeting's question and answer session were comments and questions from members of UBC's CUPE locals who addressed their concerns regarding current labour negotiations and working conditions to senior administrators.

UBC held its community annual general meeting downtown Oct. 14 with about 200 in attendance.

Community remembers "ultimate sacrifice" Nov. 11

Thirteen campus and community groups will lay wreaths in the War Memorial Gymnasium foyer as part of UBC's annual Remembrance Day ceremony Nov. 11 from 10:45 a.m. to noon.

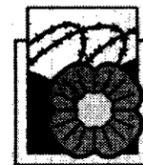
UBC President Martha Piper, Alma Mater Society President Ryan Marshall and Rev. John Mellis of the Vancouver School of Theology will participate in the ceremony which is expected to draw about 400 people.

A brass ensemble from UBC's School of Music will perform and refreshments will be served.

During the First World War, when annual enrolment averaged 600, 697

UBC students saw active military service — 78 were killed. In the Second World War 1,680 students enlisted and 169 made "the ultimate sacrifice," including R. Hampton "Hammy" Gray, posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross.

In 1951, students initiated construction of the War Memorial Gymnasium as a memorial to British Columbia's war dead. Mounted in the gymnasium are plaques listing UBC students who lost their lives in the two world wars.



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Could something white hold the key to what's dark in the galaxy?

Barn Burger

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Offbeat: Looking for the real meal deal? Head to south campus.

Interdisciplinary Innovation

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Feature: The Faculty of Graduate Studies' reach is far and wide.

Letters

Dean sets the record straight

Editor:

I am writing to clarify some aspects of the article that appeared in the Oct. 14 issue of *UBC Reports*. That issue's profile, on the work of Peter Raabe, on the work of Peter Raabe, contains several errors of fact.

The Faculty of Education does not offer, nor has it ever offered a program in Philosophical Counselling. We do not have any faculty members who

Why swipe at Philosophy, head asks

Editor:

"Brutus is an honourable man; So are they all, all honourable men." So said Mark Antony, who hated Brutus. He realized that you don't get a lot of sympathy for yourself or your cause by directly vilifying another. Your article "Real World Philosophy 101" (Oct. 14) falls into the error Antony so adroitly avoided.

Praise whatever and whom ever takes your fancy, but why take a swipe at academic philosophy? Surely there are quite enough grouchy anti-intellectuals out there who wonder why public money should be spent on the humanities. Does *UBC Reports* need to swell their ranks?

I'll leave that homily with you. Ever the Stoic, I shall content myself with a simple statement of fact, thereby implicitly correcting an error in the article.

The Dept. of Philosophy does recognize the existence of "philosophical counselling." It would allow a qualified student in good standing to investigate it in a master's or doctoral thesis.

The UBC Dept. of Philosophy does not have the authority to issue professional credentials in "philosophical counselling." But then, no other academic department at UBC has that authority. (In particular, the Faculty of Education does not have that authority.)

I am aware of the existence of a quasi-professional body that issues such credentials on the basis of a Philosophy PhD. However, these credentials are recognized by very few, if any, North American jurisdictions. British Columbia is not one of these.

Prof. Mohan Matthen
Head, Philosophy Dept.

Priceless

Continued from Page 1

first person of Chinese descent born in B.C. They fill large gaps in history and tell innumerable and otherwise forgotten stories.

"It took a great deal of time and effort and we want people to enjoy it," says Chung, who will continue to add to the collection. "We are giving it to UBC so as many people as possible can have the opportunity to understand and appreciate the struggles and the joys of those who have come before them."

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 janet.ansell@ubc.ca.

specialize in this area, nor do we offer any courses in it. Peter Raabe earned a PhD in Educational Studies with a concentration in Philosophy of Education.

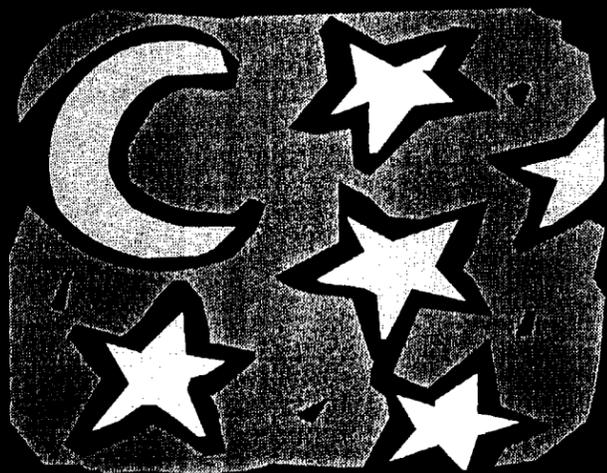
Prof. Jerrold Coombs of the Dept. of Educational Studies, who supervised Raabe's graduate work, gave the author the correct information regard-

ing his degree. It is regrettable that these facts were not included in the article.

I am very disappointed that *UBC Reports* would develop a profile based on inaccurate information.

Nancy Sheehan
Dean, Faculty of Education

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The Madeleine Sophie Barat Award THE USE OF FREEDOM ESSAY CONTEST 1999/2000 Prize: \$1000

Subject: "The Creative and Responsible Use of Freedom"

Choose your own focus, e.g. Literature, Art, Capitalism, Philosophy, the Environment, Interpersonal Relations, Economics, History, etc.

Eligibility: Open to third- and fourth-year undergraduate and graduate students of UBC and affiliated theological colleges.

Deadline for entries: Friday, May 26, 2000

Prize awarded: Friday, Sept. 29, 2000

Application forms may be picked up Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Mark's College, 5935 Iona Drive, at the extreme northeast corner of the campus.



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
PACIFIC SPIRIT REGIONAL PARK

Open House

on

Cliff Erosion

Management Planning

Sunday, Oct. 31, 1999,

11am-3pm, Dunbar Community Ctr.,
4747 Dunbar St., Vancouver

Monday, Nov. 1, 1999,

11am-3pm, Room 214-216
Student Union Building,
6138 Student Union Blvd., UBC

Two Open House sessions are being offered by a joint UBC, GVRD Parks and Musqueam Coordinating Committee to provide the public with an overview of the process and relevant considerations in developing a plan to manage the erosion of the Point Grey cliffs. Come and learn about what is happening to the Point Grey cliffs.



UBC REPORTS

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Dwarfs behind dark puzzle posit scientists

Andy Poon

Staff writer

UBC scientists may be a step closer to finding the answer to one of astronomy's most perplexing questions: What is the galaxy made of?

"We may have identified a component of the unknown dark matter in the galaxy — the 90 per cent of the mass of the galaxy which we thought was invisible," says Prof. Harvey Richer, an astronomer in the Physics and Astronomy Dept.

Research recently released by the four-member team which included Richer and fellow astronomer Asst. Prof. Douglas Scott indicates that ancient white dwarf stars — the burned-out remains of normal stars like the Sun — may make up more than half of the invisible dark matter in the Milky Way Galaxy.

The team of researchers, which also included Rodrigo Ibata from Germany and Roland Gilliland from the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore, arrived at the conclusion after they compared images of the Hubble Deep Field — the deepest optical image of the sky — from the Hubble Space Telescope in 1995 and 1997. They found that five objects

moved slightly in the foreground between the two images. The scientists believe that the objects may be old white dwarf stars.

"If this picture is correct, there will be an enormous rethinking of how galaxies formed and evolved," says Richer.

In the past, white dwarf stars have been suggested as a possible explanation of the missing matter in the galaxy but this may be the first time anybody has seen them, he says.

The team's results were published in the October issue of *The Astrophysical Journal Letters*. Meanwhile the team has plans to check their work this December when they will again use the Hubble Space Telescope to look at the same field and see if the previously detected motion in the five objects is confirmed.

A large consortium including astronomers from UBC, Victoria, Princeton University and Germany are also using the Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope in Hawaii to search for more local examples of these ancient white dwarfs.

For more information and images of the team's findings, visit the Web site www.astro.ubc.ca/people/richer/basic.html.



Andy Poon photo

Signs Of The Time

Enthusiastic UBC United Way Campaign volunteers (l-r) Kim Griffiths, Daphne Gagnon and Anatomy Dept. administrative technician Roseanne McIndoe were up bright and early recently to wave-in motorists along University Boulevard as part of the official campus campaign kick-off. Campaign chair, Ceremonies and Events manager Ellis Courtney reminds donors that along with the online bingo game, there are ongoing campaign events. An evening with the Harmony singers will take place Nov. 4 from 7:30 - 9 p.m. at Cecil Green Park House. Any faculty and staff who haven't received pledge forms in the mail can call the campaign office at (604) 822-8929. Pledge forms are also available at www.unitedway.ubc.ca.

Offbeat

by Dianne Longson, Treasury



Dianne Longson photo

I still miss the old Bus Stop Café. Once located where Trekkers now stands, it was the quintessential welcoming respite for students like myself to start each day — a standard campus ritual.

Regular customers always sat at a particular counter to be served by their favourite server. Besides the aroma of strong coffee and UBC cinnamon buns, the friendly service provided by Doris, her sister, and numerous other middle-aged women who treated us like family, made the Bus Stop a truly remarkable place.

After returning to campus a few years ago, I had forgotten about another good old-fashioned eatery until my department relocated across campus. I decided with some trepidation to check out another old haunt, The Barn, further down Main Mall near the Engineers' "E."

I was a little apprehensive because as we all know, things never stay the same, and you can never go home again. Right?

I took a stroll over to The Barn and cautiously stepped inside to size up the place and check out the menu. To my surprise I saw a daily soup and sandwich special advertised on the chalkboard and the soup didn't sound like Campbell's. Much to my delight the soup tasted home-made.

Since that day I've returned on numerous occasions. Of course the inevitable happened — one day I had a craving for a hamburger, and not McDonald's.

Something drew me to The Barn. My lucky day! The special was a Hawaiian burger with fries. Without a doubt, it was the best hamburger I ever remember eating.

Not long after, with the delectable memory still lingering, I had to return. On that fortuitous occasion, the special of the day was a Mexican burger. I think it was better than the first one, but I really can't be sure.

On both occasions I felt compelled to compliment the cook. I could tell this didn't happen too often because both times it took awhile for the shocked expressions to relax into smiles.

Seated beside an open, wood-frame window in the friendly dining room (with pink geraniums sprouting up over the windowsill), there's plenty of fresh air and an opportunity to let the mind wander. I sat and pondered how even the washrooms with their ancient plumbing fixtures, stuck away upstairs, have that old café feel.

Thank goodness for The Barn. It is better than I remember. It feels a lot like home, and reminds me of Doris and the others welcoming me on many dark, damp mornings.

And the added bonus? Now I know what *real* burgers taste like.

Interdisciplinary teams earn research grants

Two interdisciplinary teams of UBC researchers and external scholars have each received \$500,000 in the form of coveted thematic grants from the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies (PWIAS) this year.

A research team studying narratives on illness, disability and trauma, and a team working on the mechanisms of infectious diseases, are the recipients of the institute's 1999 Major Thematic Grant.

The grant provides funding of up to \$500,000 over a three-year period to a broad interdisciplinary team of UBC and external scholars to research a new area.

"More and more grant agencies base their awards solely on the practical applications of the research," says PWIAS director Prof. Ken MacCrimmon. "But without the basic research it makes it tough to do the applied research. It's all about challenging people to take risks here."

It's no easy task to receive one of the grants. Indeed the selection process is so rigorous that in the award's six-year history, no recipients were selected in 1994, 1995 or 1998.

French Prof. Valerie Raoul's research team will examine narratives of illness, disability and trauma from comparative cross-cultural and historical perspectives.

The team hopes to contribute to the understanding of these experiences and their cultural and social significance from the point of view of those who have illness, disability or trauma, as well as their caregivers.

"Among other things, it's a look at how people manage to express things that are unspeakable," says Raoul, the team's principal investigator and director of UBC's Centre for Research in Women's Studies and Gender Relations.

In total, 10 UBC faculty members and a number of graduate students and post-doctoral researchers from various disciplines are involved with the project.

Besides Raoul main faculty members involved are: Anthropology and Sociology Assoc. Prof. Janice Graham; English Assoc. Prof. Susanna Egan and Asst. Prof. Judy Segal; French Asst. Prof. Gloria

Onyeoziri; Education Prof. Patricia Vertinsky; Nursing Asst. Prof. Connie Canam and Assoc. Prof. Angela Henderson; Rehabilitation Sciences Assoc. Prof. Isabel Dyck; and Psychiatry Prof. Susan Penfold.

Medical Genetics Prof. Ann Rose heads a research team also awarded a Major Thematic Grant. Rose's team is taking a unique, interdisciplinary approach to studying infectious diseases.

Despite a host of physiological and biochemical studies in the mechanisms of infectious disease, there remains much to discover about the processes of infection of a host organism by microorganisms, says Rose.

Her team will use pathogenomics, a combination of genomics, the identification of the complete set of heritable material from an organism, and bioinformatics, the analysis of information content, to reveal additional mechanisms of pathogen-host interactions.

Besides Rose, the core investigators are: Bioinformatics specialists Steven Jones and Francis Ouellette; Prof. Brett Finlay of the Biotechnology Laboratory; Microbiology Prof. Robert Hancock and Asst. Prof. Rachel Fernandez; Zoology Assoc. Prof. Don Moerman and Asst. Prof. Sarah Otto; and researcher Fiona Brinkman.

The Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies brings together UBC researchers and noted scholars from around the world to work on fundamental research across a variety of different disciplines.

For more information on this year's winners and PWIAS, call the institute at (604) 822-4782 or visit the Web site at www.pwias.ubc.ca.

Correction

Peter Raabe has a PhD from the Educational Studies Dept. in the Faculty of Education. The faculty does not offer a PhD in Philosophical Counselling as was reported in the Oct. 14 issue of *UBC Reports*.

Calendar

October 31 through November 13

Sunday, Oct. 31

Please Touch - An Art Gallery Exhibition

Please Touch. Tactile Colour Communication Society. SUB Art Gallery from 12-6pm daily. Continues to Nov. 5. Call 822-5844.

Concert

David Spencer Memorial Concert. Jesse Read and David Agler, conductors. Chan Centre from 3-5pm. Admission by donation. Call 822-5574.

Monday, Nov. 1

Centre For Chinese Research Seminar

Local Government, Firms And Individuals: Local Economic Transfer In The Pearl River Delta - A Case Study Of Shunde City. Desheng Xue, China. CK Choi 120 from 12:30-2pm. Call 822-5207.

Mechanical Engineering Seminar

Some Problems Associated With High-Density Suspension Of Solid Particles. Prof. John Grace. CEME 1202 from 3:30-4:30pm. Refreshments at 3:25pm. Call 822-3770.

Oceanography Seminar

SOIREE: Results From The New Zealand Iron Fertilization Experiment In The Southern Ocean. Philip Boyd, U of Otago, New Zealand. BioSciences 1465 at 3:30pm. Call 822-3278.

Astronomy Seminar

Galaxy Morphology: Near And Far. Steve Odewahn. Appalachian State U. Hennings 318 at 4pm. Refreshments at 3:30pm. Call 822-2267.

Green College Member Speaker Series

From Global To Local: Our Role In The Change To A Sustainable Society. Maged Senbel. Green College at 5:30pm. Call 822-1878.

Tuesday, Nov. 2

Continuing Studies Public Lecture

An Art More Subtle: Music Of The Late Middle Ages. Pat Unruh, director, Vancouver Historical Performance Society. Vancouver Public Library (downtown), Peter Kaye Room from 10-11:30am. Continues to Nov. 23. \$47, seniors \$42. Call 822-1420.

China Programme For Integrated Research And Development

China's Economic Reform And Income Distribution. Prof. Zhao Renwei, Beijing. CK Choi 120 from 12:30-2pm. Call 822-2629.

Another Look At Human Development Speaker Series

Mental Health Professionals' And Teachers' (Mis-) Perceptions Of Adolescence. Kim Schonert-Reichl, Human Learning, Development and Instruction. Scarfe 278 from 12:30-1:20pm. Call 822-6593.

Seminar

The Who, How And Why Of Epiphyte Responses To Forest Management Alternatives. Bruce McCune, Oregon State U. BioSciences 2000 from 12:30-1:30pm. Call 822-2133.

Lectures In Modern Chemistry Seminar

Self-Coordinating Porphyrins. Chlorophylls, And Bacteriochlorins: Modelling Photosynthetic Special Pairs. Prof. Harvey

J. Schugar. Chem B-250 at 1pm. Call 822-3057.

Continuing Studies Public Lecture

The Politics Of Violence. Martin Toren. Vancouver Public Library (downtown), Peter Kaye Room from 2-3:30pm. Continues to Nov. 23. \$47, seniors \$42. Call 822-1420.

Centre For Applied Ethics Colloquium

Animals As Ends In Themselves: The Importance Of Goethe's Extension Of The Kantian Categorical Imperative. Rod Preece, Wilfred Laurier U. Angus 426 from 4-6pm. Call 822-5139.

Green College Speaker Series

Fundraising Trends. Shannon von Kaldenberg, Development Office. Green College Coach House at 5pm. Reception following from 6-6:30pm. Call 822-1878.

Chalmers Institute Series

Should Your Conscience Always Be Your Guide? John Mellis. Highlands United Church, 3255 Edgemont Blvd., North Vancouver from 7:30-9:30pm. \$10. Call 822-9815.

Archaeological Institute Lecture

New Excavations In The Near East. Elizabeth Stone, State U of New York. MOA Theatre at 7:30pm. Call 822-2889.

Wednesday, Nov. 3

Orthopedics Grand Rounds

Five Minutes - Five Slide Presentations. Members of the Division of Athletic Injuries and Arthroscopy. VGH, Eye Care Centre Aud. from 7am-12pm. Call 875-4192.

Continuing Studies Public Lecture

Impressionism: Its Birth. Justin Newell. Vancouver Public Library (downtown), Peter Kaye Room from 10-11:30am. Continues to Nov. 24. \$47, seniors \$42. Call 822-1420.

Nursing Rounds

Through The Haze Of Cigarettes: Narratives Of Nicotine Dependency Among Teenage Girls. Barb Moffat, master's student. Call 822-7417.

Centre For Research In Women's Studies Colloquium

Read My Lips: Voicing The Feminist Body. Cate Poynton, U of Western Sydney. Women's Studies lounge from 12:30-1:30pm. Call 822-9173.

Concert

Wednesday Noon Hours. The Burney Ensemble. Music Recital Hall at 12:30pm. \$3. Call 822-5574.

OBST 506 Seminar

Gonadotropin-Releasing Hormone: Archetype And Evolution. Dr. Nancy Sherwood, U of Victoria. B.C.'s Women's Hosp. 2N35 from 2-3pm. Call 875-3108.

Geography Colloquium Speaker Series

Natural Obstacles And Production Contracts In Oregon's Logging Sector. Scott Prudham. Geography 201 from 3:30-5pm. Call 822-2663.

Respiratory Research Seminar Series

Evidence Based Treatment Of Obstructive Sleep Apnea. Dr. J. Fleetham. St. Paul's Hosp., Gourlay Conference Room from 5-6pm. Call 875-5653.

Green College Speaker Series
Art: Everywhere, Everybody, Useless, Transcendent. Prof. Robert Young, 1999 Murrin Lecturer.

Green College at 5pm. Call 822-1878.

Individual Interdisciplinary Studies Graduate Program (IISGP) Seminar

TBA. Prof. Robert Young. Green College from 5-6:30pm. Call 822-0954.

Cultural And Media Studies

The Ethical Conundrums Of Research In The Academy And Journalism. John Lowman and Ted Palys, SFU-Criminology; Terry Milewski, CBC; Marilyn MacCrimmon and Michael Jackson, Law. Green College Coach House at 7:30pm. Call 822-1878.

Thursday, Nov. 4

Interdisciplinary Colloquium In Praise Of Interdisciplinarity. M. Peter Oberlander and Tony Dorcey. Green College from 9am-3:30pm. Call 822-0954.

Seminar Series

ISO 9000 Series. Josef Otto and various speakers. Terminal City Club from 9am-5pm. \$440/single module. Includes lunch. Continues Nov. 5. Call 822-1884 to register.

Flu Vaccine Campaign

UBC Staff And Faculty Flu Vaccines. UBC Student Health Services from 11am-3pm. \$10. Call 822-7011.

Students For Forestry Awareness Panel Discussion

Forest Policy Review Panel Discussion. Gary Woulter, B.C. Government; Reid Carter, Industry analyst; Cheri Burda, David Suzuki Foundation; First Nations and value-added advocates. Forest Sciences Centre 1005 from 12:30-2:30pm. Call 873-5504.

Concert

UBC Symphonic Wind Ensemble. Clyde Mitchell, director. Chan Centre at 12:30pm. Call 822-5574.

Science First! Lecture Series

Ice Age Climate And Its Ugly Surprises. Garry Clarke, Earth and Ocean Sciences. Wesbrook 100 at 12:30pm. Call 822-5984.

Liu Centre And Institute Of International Relations Distinguished Speaker Series

Democratic Overdog: Strategy, Morality and Etiquette For The New Masters Of The Universe. Gwynne Dyer, journalist. Regent College Aud. from 12:45-2:30pm. Call 822-1558.

OBST 506 Seminar

Molecular Biochemical And Ultrasonographical Characterization Of Human Corpus Luteum Functions. Dr. Jan Olofsson. B.C.'s Women's Hosp. 2N35 from 2-3pm. Call 875-3108.

Comparative Literature

Beginning With A Film: From The Linguistic To The Visual Code. Carlo Chiarenza, California State U. Buchanan Penthouse at 3pm. Call 822-1878.

Canadian Studies

These Things Are Canadian Made: An Historian Thinks About Things. Joy Parr, SFU, History. Green College Coach House at 4:30pm. Reception to follow. Call 822-1878.

Harmony Singers

United Way Fundraiser. Cecil Green Park House from 7:30-9pm. \$5. Refreshments. Call 822-8929.

Poetic Persuasions

Poetry Reading. Jay Rusesky and Jason Dewinetz. Green College Coach House at 8pm. Call 822-1878.

Friday, Nov. 5

Third Annual UBC School Of Nursing Fall 1999 Institute

Institute On Program Evaluation. Prof. Ann Hilton. UBC Hosp., Koerner Pavilion G-279 and T-182 from 9am-4pm. Registration at 8:30am. \$245 students/\$375 non-students. Continues to Nov. 7. Information at www.nursing.ubc.ca or call 822-7453.

Symposium On Pharmacogenetics

Prof. Michael Smith And Other Experts. Frederic Wood Theatre from 8am-5pm. Refreshments. Call 822-7795.

HCEP Rounds

Establishment Of Best Practice Standards In Maternity Care. Dr. Michael Klein, Head, Maternity and Newborn Care. Mather 253 from 9-10am. Parking available in B Lot. Call 822-2772.

Seminar

Introduction To Information Security. Paul Tinari. CAWP 2916 from 9am-5pm. \$180, \$60 (students). Includes lunch. Call 822-1884.

The Fifth Annual Somerville Event

Spirituality And The Wisdom Of Older Persons. Joanne Chafe and Archbishop Douglas Hambidge. VST from 9:30am-4:30pm. Continues to Nov. 6. \$53/\$42 (team), \$27 (retired) day. \$98/\$84 team/\$49 (retired) both days. Call 822-9815.

Fish 500 Seminars Series

Application Of VMS To Fisheries Stock Assessment. Neil A. Gribble, Australia. Hut B-8, Ralf Yorke Room at 11:30am. Refreshments at 11am. Call 822-2731.

Occupational Hygiene Program Seminar Series

Reducing Musculoskeletal Injuries In Hospital Laundries. Judy Village, Ergonomist. UBC Hosp. Koerner Pavilion G-279 from 12:30-1:30pm. Call 822-9861.

Centre For India And South Asia Research Seminar

The Limits Of Economic Nationalism In India: Economic Policy Reform Under The BJP-Led Government. Prof. Baldev Nayar, McGill U. CK Choi 120 from 12:30-2pm. Call 822-5207.

Classics And Philosophy Lecture

Greek And Roman Education. Robin Barrow, SFU. Buchanan B-228 at 12:30pm. Call 822-2889.

Earth And Ocean Sciences Colloquia

The Northern Appalachians/British Caledonides: An Example Of An Accretionary Orogen. Cess van Staal, Geological Survey of Canada. GeoSciences 330-A at 3pm. Call 822-3278.

Chalmers Institute of Continuing Education

Tea And Conversation With Archbishop David Somerville. VST Boardroom from 3-4:30pm. By donation to the Somerville Fund for Spiritual Formation. Call 822-9815.

Political Science

Development Seminar

Animals And Nature As Ideological Tools In Contemporary Theory. Prof. Rod Preece, Wilfred Laurier U. Buchanan D-301 at 3pm. Call 822-6606.

Chemical Engineering Seminar

Kinetics Of Hybridoma Growth And Antibody Production. Olivier Henry, MASC candidate. ChemEng 206 at 3:30pm. Call 822-3238.

Mathematics Colloquium

Sharp Asymptotic Bounds On The Dimensions Of Harmonic Functions. Prof. Peter Li, U of California. Math 100 at 3:30pm. Refreshments at 3:15pm in Math Annex 1115. Call 822-2666.

Institute For European Studies

Poskarten: A Musical Reading. Music, Stefano Scodanibbio; poetry, Edoardo Sanguineti. Chan Centre, Royal Bank Cinema at 6:30pm. Call 822-1452.

Level II Computer Course

How The Church Is Becoming Present On The Internet. Gordon Laird, VST from 7-9pm. Continues to Nov. 6, 9am-3pm. Call 822-9815 to register.

Saturday, Nov. 6

Concert

UBC Symphonic Wind Ensemble. Clyde Mitchell, director. Chan Centre at 8pm. Call 822-5574.

Monday, Nov. 8

Seminar

The New Adulthood And The Relationship Between Education And Work. Prof. Johanna Wyn, U of Melbourne. Ponderosa H-115 from 12:30-2pm. Call 822-5708.

Mechanical Engineering Seminar

The New Project Integrated Program (PIP) In Second Year Electri-

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: UBC-INFO (822-4636). Fax: 822-2684. An electronic form is available at <http://www.publicaffairs.ubc.ca>. Please limit to 35 words. Submissions for the Calendar's Notices section may be limited due to space.

Deadline for the Nov. 11 issue of UBC Reports — which covers the period Nov. 14 to Nov. 27 — is noon, Nov. 2.

Calendar

October 31 through November 13

cal And Computer Engineering. Prof. Peter Lawrence. CEME 1202 from 3:30-4:30pm. Refreshments at 3:25pm. Call 822-2781.

Institute For European Studies Roundtable

The Berlin Wall - Ten Years Later. Goethe Institute, 944 West 8th Ave. at 6:30pm. Call 822-1452.

Institute For European Studies Art Exhibit

Zero Hour: The Berlin Wall - Ten Years Later. Vincent Trasov and Michael Morris. Western Front Gallery, 303 E. 8th Ave. at 9:30pm. Call 822-1452.

Tuesday, Nov. 9

Flu Vaccine Campaign

UBC Staff And Faculty Flu Vaccines. UBC Student Health Services from 11am-3pm. \$10. Call 822-7011.

Another Look At Human Development Speaker Series

Socio-Developmental Patterns In Children's Pain. Ken Craig, Psychology. Scarfe 278 from 12:30-1:20pm. Call 822-6593.

Pharmaceutical Sciences Seminar

Use Of Transgenic Technology To Answer Pharmacological Questions. Dr. Frank Jirik. IRC #3 from 12:30-1:30pm. Call 822-7795.

Seminar

Risk And Precaution In Canadian Agricultural Biotechnology. Katherine Barrett, PhD candidate. BioSciences 2000 from 12:30-1:30pm. Call 822-2133.

Sing Tao School Of Journalism Brown Bag Lunch

The Dumbing Down Of Canadian Journalism. Raymond Heard, Global TV News. Sing Tao 102 from 12:30-2pm. Call 822-6688.

Lectures In Modern Chemistry

Orbital Imaging By Electron Momentum Spectroscopy: Which Valence Orbital Descriptions Are Appropriate For Structure, Bonding And Reactivity Studies In Chemistry? Prof. Chris Brion. Chem B-250 at 1pm. Call 822-3057.

ECE Seminar

The Evolution Of Wide Area Wireless Data. Norman Toms, Sierra Wireless, Inc. MacLeod 410 at 1:30pm. Call 822-2872.

Political Science Lecture

Reformasi: Comparing Democratization Efforts In Malaysia And Indonesia. Diane Mauzy. CK Choi 120 from 4:30-6pm.

St. John's College Women, Science And Technology Speaker Series

Senior Women Scientists: Taking Off The Blinks. Prof. Maria Klawe and Prof. Janet Werker. St. John's College 1080 at 5:15pm. Call 822-8781.

Green College Speaker Series

The Inside Story On The Crisis Points Group. Priscilla (Cindy) Greenwood, Math. Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies. Green College Coach House at 5pm. Reception from 6-6:30pm. Call 822-1878.

Wednesday, Nov. 10

Orthopaedics Grand Rounds

Prosthetic Arthroscopy Of The Shoulder: Should The Glenoid

Be Replaced. Dr. Robert Hawkins. VGH, Eye Care Centre Aud. at 7am. Call 875-4192.

Centre For Research In Women's Studies Colloquium

A Case Study Of Domestic Violence In China. Tong Xin, Peking U. Women's Studies lounge from 12:30-1:30pm. Call 822-9173.

Geography Colloquium Speaker Series

The Elements Of Avalanche Forecasting. David McClung. Geography 201 from 3:30-5pm. Call 822-2663.

Respiratory Research Seminar Series

Regulation Of Mass Cell Activity By PI Lipids And Protein Kinase. Dr. V. Duronio. St. Paul's Hosp., Gourlay Conference Room from 5-6pm. Call 875-5653.

Continuing Studies Public Lecture

The VSO Companion. Rodney Sharman and David Phillips. University Women's Club (Hycroft), 1489 McRae Ave. from 7:30-9pm. \$47, \$42 (seniors). Call 822-1420.

Thursday, Nov. 11

Remembrance Day Ceremony

President Martha Piper, Alma Mater Society President Ryan Marshall and Rev. John Mellis. War Memorial Gym from 10:45am to noon. Call 822-4636.

Friday, Nov. 12

HCEP Rounds

Busy Intersections: The Narrative Study Of Informal Eldercare. Margaret Dorazio-Migliore, PhD candidate. Mather 253 from 9-10am. Parking available in B Lot. Call 822-2772.

Chalmers Institute Continuing Education Courses

Introduction To Centering Prayer. Cynthia Bourgeault. VST from 7-9:30pm. Continues Nov. 13 from 9:30am-4pm. \$78/\$70 (team), \$39 (retired). Lunch included. Call 822-9815.

Fish 500 Seminars Series

Habitat Associations Of Juvenile Cutthroat Trout: Implications For Forestry Management. Jordan Rosenfeld, B.C. Ministry of Fisheries. Hut B-8, Ralf Yorke Room at 11:30am. Refreshments at 11am. Call 822-2731.

Occupational Hygiene Program Seminar Series

Exposure Of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Patients To Particulate Air Pollution: An Assessment Of Respiratory Health Effects. Teri Fisher, MSc candidate. UBC Hosp. Koerner Pavilion G-279 from 12:30-1:30pm. Call 822-9861.

Centre For Japanese Research Seminar

WTO Rules And The Conduct Of Japanese Companies: Trade And Competition. Prof. Kaz Masui. CK Choi 120 from 12:30-2pm. Call 822-2629.

Institute For European Studies Lecture

Scenes From Heiner Muller. Holger Teschke, artistic director. Berlin Theatre Ensemble; Theatre students. Hut M-17, 6373 University Blvd. at 3:30pm. Call 822-1452.

Chemical Engineering Seminar

Gas Mixing In High Density Cir-

culating Fluidized Bed. Jinzhong Liu, PhD candidate. ChemEng 206 at 3:30pm. Call 822-3238.

The Centre For Korean Research Seminar

Birth, Death, And Reincarnation Of Shim Ch'ong; Mistress Of The Spiritual Domain. Chan E. Park-Miller, Ohio State U. CK Choi 120 from 3:30-5pm. Call 822-5207.

Saturday, Nov. 13

Concert

French Art Song Festival. Diane Loeb, director. Music Recital Hall at 8pm. \$10. Call 822-5574.

Notices

Sexual Assault Research

The Anxiety and Fear Laboratory in the Dept. of Psychology requires female volunteers who have experienced unwanted sexual activity, to participate in a research project. If you have ever had sex with someone when you didn't want to, because the other person continued the event when you said no, forced or threatened to force you, or because you were given alcohol or drugs, and you would be interested in helping us with our research, please call 822-9028. Confidentiality and privacy protected.

Beautiful Cut Flowers For Sale

Only \$3 per bunch on Fridays from 11am-1pm at the Horticultural Greenhouse. Call 822-3283.

Research Study

EcoRisk Research unit is seeking UBC staff members to volunteer for a research study investigating public perceptions about the benefits and risks of space exploration. A booklet and questionnaire will be campus-mailed to you to complete at your convenience. Call Joseph 822-9261.

Museum Of Anthropology Exhibition

Objects Of Intrigue. Continues to March 31. A Break In The Ice: Inuit Prints From The Linda J. Lemmens Collection. Continues to Feb 2. Attributed to Edenshaw: Identifying The Hand Of The Artist. Continues to Feb. 13. Lamps From The Greek And Roman World. Continues to Dec. 5. Three Case Studies. Northwest Coast Art. Continues to August. Unity Quilt. Continues to Dec. 31. Free to UBC students, staff, faculty. Web site: www.moa.ubc.ca or call 822-5087 or 822-5950.

Child Behaviour Research

How do parents see challenging child behaviours? We are asking parents of 7-14 year olds to tell us by completing an anonymous, 30 minute questionnaire. You can receive the results. Please call Assoc. Prof. Johnston's lab 822-9037.

Community Piano Program at UBC School of Music Jan. 2000

Beginner Piano Course: 7 to 9 yr-olds including both

60-min. group classes in multi-keyboard lab; keyboard fundamentals and class performances taught by Susan Chen (MMus, U of Michigan; BMus, UBC) and 30-min. private lessons - taught by selected piano majors in the graduate and undergraduate programs of the School of Music with supervision. 18 weeks for \$630 Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m. max. 10 students Interview/Readiness Assessment required Interview dates: Nov. 22-Dec. 3

Repertoire Classes: (bi-monthly) taught by Susan Chen

CLASS I (app. RCM 6 to 8): CLASS II (app. RCM 9 to ARCT):
Bach Dances, ed. Blickenstaff Sonatas, Scarlatti, ed. Kirkpatrick
Lyric Pieces, Grieg, Alfred Pub. Spanish Dances: Granados, Int. Pub
Masterclasses: Prof. Enns Masterclasses: Prof. Coop
Prof. Skovorodnikov Prof. Slasic

Classes will: study and perform listed repertoire and related topics, listen and discuss of recordings, have masterclasses with piano faculty (as listed) and play in formal recital (at the end of the course) Max. 12 per class
8 classes plus recital for \$120 Sat. afternoons Teacher referral required
Enrolment: registration form by Nov. 30th Contact: 822-5750
Please call 822-8293 for other available Music Preparatory Division courses.

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Pay parking opposite the Tennis Centre, B 5 Lot corner of East Mall & Thunderbird Blvd.

People

by staff writers

Dana Merritt has joined UBC as director of the Budget Office in the Office of the Vice-President, Administration and Finance.

Merritt will be responsible for ensuring that UBC's financial resources are aligned with its strategic priorities. She takes over from John Chase who retired this summer.

Merritt holds a Bachelor of Commerce from UBC and is a chartered accountant. She has experience in financial planning, budgeting and treasury. She was previously director of Financial Services at Vancouver Community College.

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Alan Donald, Ph.D. Biostatistical Consultant

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The classified advertising rate is \$16.50 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 journal voucher. Advertising enquiries: UBC-INFO (822-4636).

The deadline for the Nov. 11 issue of UBC Reports is noon, Nov. 2.

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 222-4104.

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House Exchange

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RETIRING in the next three years? As a specialist who has assisted many UBC faculty and staff members through the retirement process I can help sort out the options and provide you with free retirement projections. Call for a complimentary meeting at my office or yours! Don Proteau, BComm. CFP, RFP. E-mail: dproteau@hlp.fpc.ca or call 687-7526.

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Next deadline:
noon, Nov. 2

GREEN VISITING PROFESSOR IN RESIDENCE



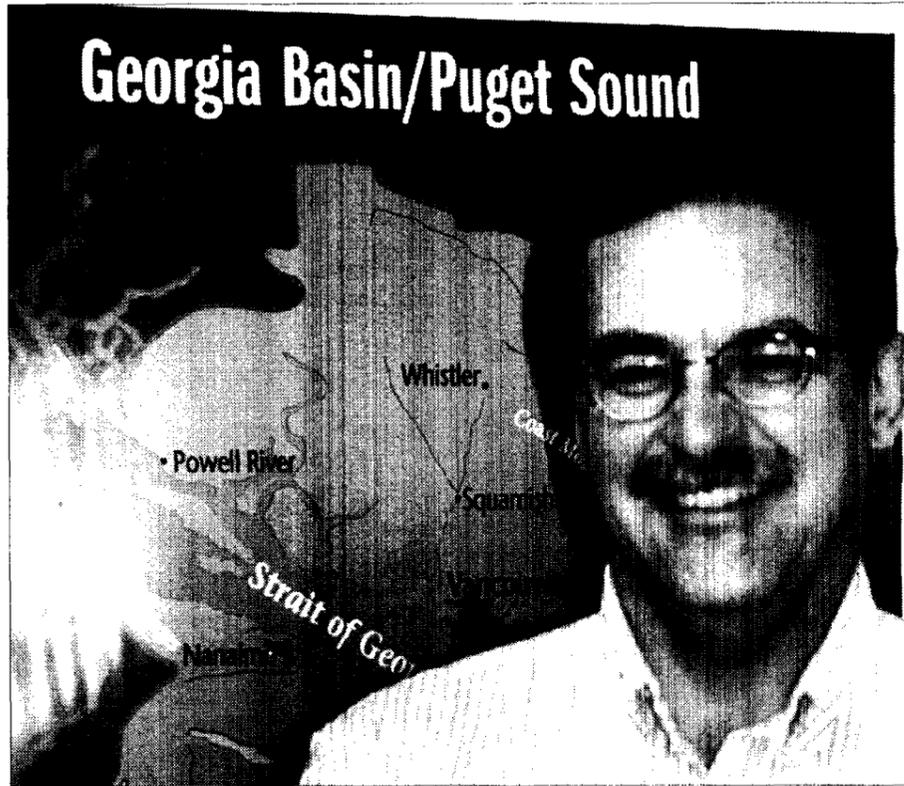
2000-2001 and Subsequent Years

Nominations are invited for the position of Cecil H. and Ida Green Visiting Professor in Residence. Nominees must be exceptional researchers from outside UBC whose work has the potential for significant impact in more than one discipline. The appointee will live at Green College for three months and conduct a seminar under the auspices of the Individual Interdisciplinary Studies Graduate Program. The first appointment will be made in 2000. Permanent deadlines: February 15 and October 31, but nominations are accepted at any time for the next competition.

For detailed terms and procedures, contact Rosanne Rumley at Green College, 6201 Cecil Green Park Road, Campus Zone 1 or vsp@interchange.ubc.ca or fax to 822-8742.

Faculty of Graduate Studies celebrates 50 years

Timely issues focus of research



Bruce Mason photo

John Robinson, director of the Sustainable Development Research Institute, is among the researchers from UBC, SFU and UVic who are working to help the public tap into planning the future development of the Georgia Basin area.

Project gives public say in area's future

by Bruce Mason

Staff writer

Reaching out to the community doesn't exceed the grasp of the Sustainable Development Research Institute (SDRI) in UBC's Faculty of Graduate Studies. It is developing exciting, innovative approaches to engage the public in both understanding and action.

"The world is awash in doom and gloom and too many people think nothing can be done to save the planet," says SDRI's director John Robinson, who leads the Georgia Basin Futures Project. "We disagree and are working with the public so they understand their options and roles they can play in determining their future."

SDRI, a UBC think-tank, involves researchers at UBC, SFU and the UVic. At the beginning of the year it was awarded \$2.5 million from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council for a five-year Georgia Basin Futures Project to enhance human well-being while protecting ecological health in the Lower Mainland and southeastern Vancouver Island by the year 2040.

An additional \$1.5 million has been raised from 12 partner organizations in the community. Among this group are B.C. Hydro, the Greater Vancouver Regional District, *The Vancouver Sun*, Science World, Environment Canada, the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, the David Suzuki Foundation, Westcoast Energy, and the National Research Council.

The Georgia Basin Futures Project includes two dozen researchers from a wide variety of disciplines such as planning, public policy, economics, sociology, health care, resource and environmental management, zoology and global environmental change.

The expert knowledge of the research team will be contained in QUEST, a user-friendly computer modelling system developed for the Lower Fraser Valley by SDRI and Envision Sustainability Tools, Inc.

In a series of workshops, public meetings, focus groups, school programs and Web-

based interactions with the public, the project will generate hundreds of scenarios.

Researchers will provide information on how ecological, social and economic systems interact. Citizens will then make decisions about populations, transportation, land use, social health and a wide range of other areas.

An example of the project's innovations in public involvement is the 540 square metres of exhibits and displays to be built at Science World by the year 2001.

"The centrepiece is a 75-seat decision theatre inside a geodesic dome," says Robinson. "It contains a personal envisioning game in which participants press buttons to vote on their planning preferences. They will then see the outcome of their decisions and be able to continue on through the decades."

"During this process the general public will become more aware of technical, ecological, social, economic and policy implications and see the trade-offs and consequences of their choices," he adds. "This information will become part of a database which will be analysed, for example, by age, ethnicity and gender."

The public consultation process will also involve a wide range of government planners, community leaders, decision-makers and non-government organizations.

As the project reaches out to the public it is also adding to its list of partners and collaborating with other similar case studies of rapidly urbanizing regions.

"The ecological goal is to remain within the earth's carrying capacity, the social goal is to create and maintain societies that satisfy individual and community aspirations, and the economic goal is to ensure adequate standards of living," says Robinson. "All three are linked and must be satisfied simultaneously."

"Our research is interdisciplinary, which is a hallmark of UBC's Faculty of Graduate Studies," he says. "But to actually achieve our goal — sustainability in the Georgia Basin in the next 40 years — we need to actively involve as many people as possible."

Health researcher digs the dirt on wood dust

by Hilary Thomson

Staff writer

Sucking in the pungent scent of sawdust on a trip to the lumberyard is aromatherapy for some people, but for Paul Demers wood dust and the respiratory system just don't mix.

An epidemiologist who specializes in occupational respiratory disease, Demers investigates the connections between wood dust and cancer.

An assistant professor in the Faculty of Graduate Studies' Occupational Hygiene Program since 1994, Demers is a principal investigator in a four-year study of 26,000 B.C. millworkers at 14 sawmills who have been exposed to wood dust from 1950-85.

"An agency of the World Health Organization classified wood dust as a carcinogen in 1995," says Demers, whose research earned him the designation Medical Research Council of Canada (MRC) /British Columbia Lung Association Scientist this year. "Now we're trying to determine which woods are the culprits and at what exposure level."

The 1995 classification focused on the dust of hardwoods such as oak and mahogany as a cause of sino-nasal cancer. There is one case of sino-nasal cancer for every 100 cases of lung cancer in North America, says Demers, although in Europe the incidence is higher in part due to wood dust exposure.

Airborne dust from softwoods such as hemlock and fir and mixed woods are also being investigated as a cause of cancer as well as asthma and chronic obstructive lung disease.

"Our aim is prevention," says Demers. "We want to determine risk factors and work practices that cause the problem."

Working with woodworkers' unions and mill management, the researchers examine data from employment records and match the information to Statistics Canada data on cancer and deaths due to respiratory illnesses.

Sawmill jobs include dumping and sorting logs and lumber in the yard as

well as sawing, moving and inspecting lumber inside the mill and clean up of the work area.

Clean-up procedures that involve vacuuming or sweeping dampened dust are preferable to blowing dust out of the work area using compressed air, says Demers.

He and the research team that includes Occupational Hygiene Program director Kay Teschke, professor of Health Care and Epidemiology Clyde Hertzman and up to six master's and PhD students and data analysts, study procedures at mills from New Westminster to Mackenzie.

"There have been very significant changes in practices over the time period of the study," says Demers. "Although some mills still have 100-year-old equipment, there's a lot less manual labour and more work is done from a sealed-off computer booth."

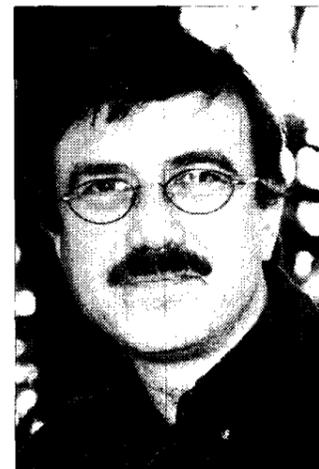
Recommendations made in 1997 by Demers, Teschke and Assoc. Prof. Susan Kennedy contributed to a Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) decision to cut acceptable levels of wood dust exposure in half to the current level of 2.5 milligrams per cubic metre of air. At this level dust particles are visible hanging in the air.

The abundance of data gathered for the current study is also being used in other research projects in the department.

PhD student Hugh Davies, who holds an MRC studentship award, is looking at the connection between industrial noise and heart disease and master's degree student Lisa Ronald is studying airborne mold levels related to respiratory disease.

Results from the study, due to be completed in 2000, may have implications for other industries such as the manufacture of pulp and paper, doors or furniture.

The Occupational Hygiene Program is an interdisciplinary graduate program and the only graduate-level program west of Toronto in Canada. The first class entered the program in 1992. It was established with an endowment from the WCB that was matched by provincial government funds.



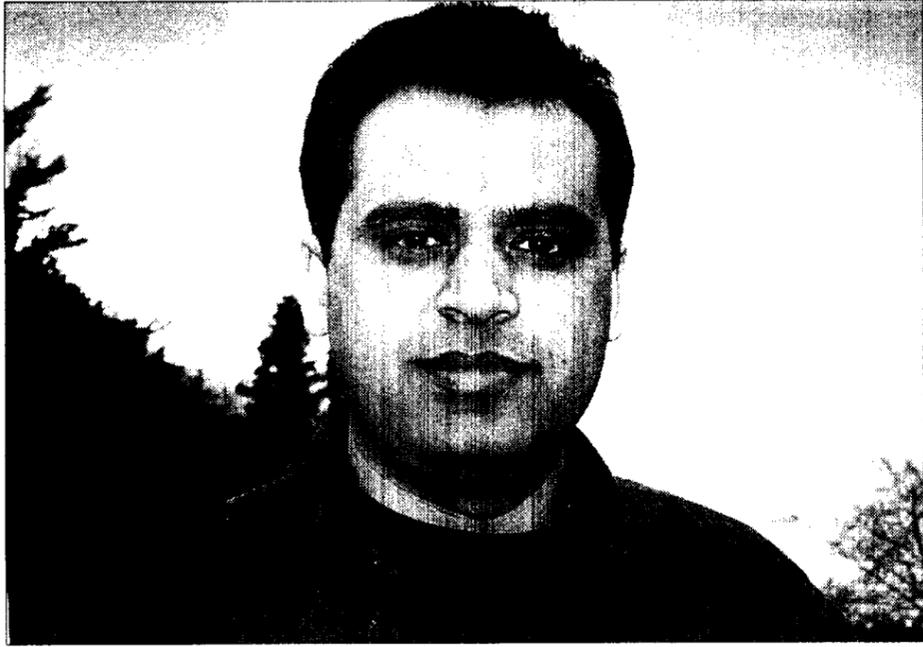
Demers

Faculty of Graduate Studies facts

- Total number of students: (1949) 364; (1999) 6,273
- Total number of degrees offered: (1949) 5; (1999) 32
- Total number of degree specializations (1949) 36; (1999) 90
- Number of master's students: (1949) 343; (1999) 4,223
- Number of doctoral students: (1949) 21; (1999) 2,050
- Number of male students: (1949) 311; (1999) 2,931
- Number of female students: (1949) 53; (1999) 3,342
- Total number of applications in 1999: 7,535
- Total number of graduates: (1949) 109; (1999) 1,655
- Tuition fees: (1949) \$180; (1999) \$2,934 (domestic), \$7,200 (international)
- University Graduate Fellowship (full): (1949) \$200; (1999) \$16,000
- St. John's College, an international residential college in the Faculty of Graduate Studies, this summer celebrated their grand opening in conjunction with the 120th anniversary of St. John's University in Shanghai. Close to 600 guests from around the world gathered in Vancouver to mark the event.
- The Faculty of Graduate Studies offered the first integrated on-line Web-based graduate application system at a Canadian university.
- The Faculty of Graduate Studies is launching a new Web site that will have more than 400 pages, including a comprehensive International Credential Evaluation Manual for faculty and staff.

Faculty of Graduate Studies celebrates 50 years

Seeds for innovation find fertile ground



Andy Poon photo

"You can't solve any problem alone," says Maqsood Khan, who is completing his doctorate through the Individual Interdisciplinary Studies Graduate Program in the Faculty of Graduate Studies. An international student from Pakistan, Khan studies soil irrigation, an issue of vital importance in the semi-arid province in which he grew up.

Scholar crosses globe to tap into flow of ideas

by Andy Poon

Staff writer

An afternoon picnic with a patient cousin opened the floodgate to Maqsood Khan's present-day curiosity in irrigation engineering.

Khan is currently researching the movement of irrigation water in soil in pursuit of his doctorate degree through the Individual Interdisciplinary Studies Graduate Program (IISGP) at UBC.

He recounts how during Grade 11, he accompanied his cousin, a civil engineer, on a picnic in his home province of Balochistan, Pakistan. During the idyllic outing, Khan and his cousin encountered a weir — an irrigation structure that measures water flow in irrigation canals and channels — and the teenager asked his cousin how it worked.

"I was really interested in his explanation and how irrigation water management would help conserve water for the farmers," says Khan.

That incident helped him decide to pursue a career in agricultural and irrigation engineering.

As a youngster he had always been aware that his province, though semi-arid, produced more than half the apples and grapes in the country by using ground water as its main irrigation source.

"Water is scarce in my country," he says. "The occasional rain during growing season is a bonus to crops to be irrigated."

After he finished his undergraduate degree, Khan went to work for the Balochistan Dept. of Agriculture. But remembering his father's stories of how modern farming practices doubled crop yields in Australia, and realizing that many of the best agricultural minds in his country had studied abroad, Khan decided to study overseas.

After completing his master's degree in North Carolina and starting a PhD at Colorado State University, Khan transferred to UBC to complete his research through IISGP.

Founded in 1971, IISGP is the first program of its kind in Canada. It lets students design their own programs in consultation with a faculty supervisory committee to include more than one disciplinary field in their research.

The program was conceived as a "practical response to the desire for liberalization in the academic organization of knowledge," says Fine Arts Prof. Rhodri Windsor-Liscombe, chair of IISGP. There are currently 75 graduate students registered in the program.

Khan firmly believes in the value of an interdisciplinary approach to his research work.

"Nowadays, you can't solve any problem alone — you need an interdisciplinary approach," says Khan, who works under Bio-Resource Engineering Prof. Sietan Chieng.

Khan isn't sure whether he will return to Pakistan after he earns his doctorate but he has high praise for his time in B.C.

"The best thing about Vancouver and UBC is the multiculturalism," he says. "I have made friends from Canada, India, China, and other countries here."

Faculty's far-reaching role envelops campus

by Bruce Mason

Staff writer

Although the Faculty of Graduate Studies encompasses the entire university, the person in charge says it's one of UBC's best-kept secrets.

"It's understandable," says Frieda Granot, the eighth dean of UBC's Faculty of Graduate Studies. "Only a handful of graduate schools across North America share a similar structure and play a similar institutional role."

Officially recognized by Senate in 1949 the Faculty of Graduate Studies was given a key role and a dual mandate — to coordinate and promote interdisciplinary research and education and provide administrative services for graduate students across all faculties.

"The profound and pioneering vision which has guided us over 50 years is that a research-driven university has an opportunity to find innovative solutions to the challenges and problems facing society and to have an impact on the economy as well," says Granot.

The faculty embraces virtually all full-time faculty at the university and more than 6,200 graduate students. It is also home to almost 50 faculty, 15 interdisciplinary research units, two colleges, six graduate programs and one scholarly journal.

"We've come a long way since the establishment of the first interdisciplinary unit, the School of Community and Regional Planning, in 1949," says Granot.

"Today we hear buzzwords about the need to build bridges across traditional disciplines, but the Faculty of Graduate Studies has always been fundamentally grounded in interdisciplinary research," she says.

"We have always provided opportunities and encouraged disciplines to work together, to share and solve major societal and economic problems," she adds. "The

result is that research has not only crossed boundaries, it has been elevated and expanded beyond what is usually possible in individual disciplines."

When it first began, the School of Community and Regional Planning tackled the myriad problems associated with an explosion of growth in B.C.'s population. That established a tradition.

The faculty continues to gather together the finest researchers to work on emerging issues such as genetics, applied ethics, the need for sustainable development and environmental policies, women's issues and the rise of the Pacific Rim and the global economy.

In combination with the shift to a knowledge-based society has come a set of urgent and interconnected challenges related to jobs, housing, resource depletion,

crime and quality of life, says Granot. Increasingly, business and government require people with advanced degrees and familiarity with the latest research.

"Failure to compete in a more integrated global marketplace has swift repercussions," she says. "In such an environment, it is imperative for adequate resources to be devoted to research and for the results to be channeled into practice."

Despite the different research agendas there are common threads weaving through the faculty's history.

"These are interdisciplinarity, internationalization and community outreach — a perfect fit with Trek 2000," says Granot.

Ensuring the academic quality and integrity of graduate programs and providing a supportive and equitable environment for faculty and students alike will continue to be priorities for the faculty as it enters the next millennium.

"It is no accident that Trek 2000 recognizes people as UBC's most important resource. We want people in every faculty to think of the Faculty of Graduate Studies as their second home."



Granot

Research institute opens doors to building knowledge about Asia

by Bruce Mason

Staff writer

The economic downturn in Asia and its profound impact on B.C.'s economy illustrates the interdependence between these two regions.

A series of seminars hosted by UBC's Institute of Asian Research (IAR) on Globalization and the Transformation of Asian Societies is an example of how the institute is building important knowledge about Asia by strengthening its research contribution to the wider community.

"The immediate stimulus to organize the seminars was the economic crisis and the historic proportions of changing state organizations, increased popular participation and the dissolution of existing social categories," says Law Prof. Pitman Potter, director of the institute.

One of 15 research units in the Faculty of Graduate Studies, IAR was created in 1977 and is the leading centre in Canada for research on Asia.

The interdisciplinary institute is building on specialized research to create an interface with Asia for the UBC community.

Potter says IAR should provide information and assistance, not only to individuals formally attached to it, but also to other members of the UBC community who have projects or interests in the region.

"Faculty at the institute are an important resource for UBC, with Asian language skills, personal and professional experience in Asia, and a wealth of interdisciplinary expertise. We hope that scholars in other faculties and departments can benefit from the linkages that we have developed, and we welcome opportunities for joint research."

The institute is committed to the fundamental task of building knowledge.

"Our understanding of Asia should be sustained and strengthened to transcend short-term economic problems and should reflect the importance of our long-term ties," Potter says.

The institute is assisting with strategic planning for UBC's Asia linkages into the 21st century, says Graduate Studies Dean Frieda Granot.

"The importance of understanding Asia is undisputed," Potter says. "We are part of a dynamic community of scholars, which has contributed significantly to Canada's knowledge about Asia. Yet we face a challenging future for which we should prepare effectively by strengthening this community and its activities."