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Where have all the nurses gone?

# ubc reports

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

UBC Archives Series



**DEFENCE DIG** Barb Bellini demonstrates defence Thunderbird-style in last weekend's defeat of the Saskatchewan Huskies in the Canada West women's volleyball semi-finals at War Memorial Gym. UBC defeated Saskatchewan in two straight matches and will defend its 1999 conference title against the defending national champion Alberta Pandas this weekend in Edmonton. The winner of that series advances to the CIAU National Championship Tournament March 2-4 at the University of Manitoba. Bellini, a fourth-year Arts student, is also a member of Canada's national team which is attempting to qualify for a berth in the 2000 Sydney Olympics. *Denise Lejcar photo*

## Medical researchers hunt for cells' production secrets

*Brain gain researchers show the power of taking an interdisciplinary approach to medical research*

by Hilary Thomson staff writer

WHY DOES ONE BLOOD CELL spend its lifetime fighting infection while another concentrates on clotting?

Kelly McNagny and Sarah Townsend, two researchers at UBC's Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) are working together to find out.

They're collaborating on a study of the molecular mechanics of stem cells, the single precursor cell that produces the wide variety of mature cells found in blood, each with its own function.

"Knowing how to trigger the production of specific cells could allow us to correct the imbalances that result from diseases or even from toxic therapies such as chemotherapy," says Medical Genetics

Asst. Prof. McNagny, who joined the BRC in 1998 from the European Molecular Biology Lab in Heidelberg, Germany.

Stem cells produce at least six types of cells: oxygen-carrying red blood cells; platelets that help blood coagulate; granulocytes that poison bacteria and parasites with toxic chemicals; macrophages that attack and consume infected cells; and T-cells and B-cells that help the body defend itself from infection.

Normal stem cells, also called progenitors, are rare—only one exists in 100,000 cells—and that makes them hard to find, track and study.

That's where immunologist Sarah Townsend comes in.

An expert in ultra-high sensitivity cell sorting recently recruited

## Students use break to deliver a message home

*Home for the Holidays is the student volunteers' show, says project co-ordinator Geordie Aitken*

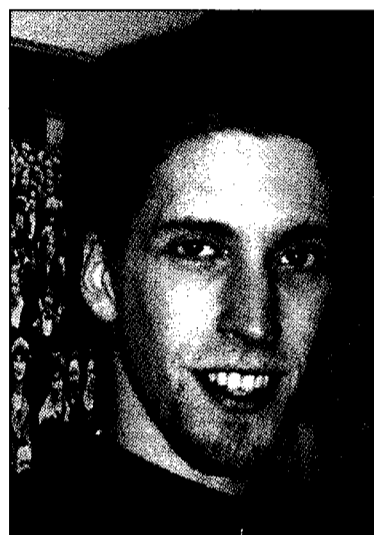
by Bruce Mason staff writer

APPROXIMATELY 90 UBC students decided to do something completely different during spring reading break. Rather than hit the books or the beaches, they went back to their hometown high schools to talk with students.

The driving force and co-ordinator of the pilot project, Home for the Holidays, is Geordie Aitken. The dynamic fourth-year English Honours co-op student has designed a workshop, "It's Yours: The World Beyond High School," which is in huge demand in Lower Mainland schools.

It focuses on how secondary school students can identify personal goals and values to take advantage of a world of opportunities.

Aitken's passion for sharing his university experience has encour-



English student Geordie Aitken

aged others to do the same and he helped train Home for the Holidays volunteers.

"Grade 12 students need to create a personal compass to navigate the overwhelming uncertainty and choices they face. It may or may not include university," he explains.

"I help them find their cardinal points based on their personal values, goals and beliefs," adds Aitken, who conducted 10 workshops during reading break week and will keep up that pace throughout March.

He also conducted a workshop at UBC Leader Day Feb. 22, organ-see *Message*, page 2

## Banker, communicator join Board of Governors

*Two students also elected to serve one-year board term*

A LEADER IN THE CANADIAN banking industry is among four new members joining UBC's 15-member Board of Governors.

Linda Crompton, chief executive officer of Citizens Bank—Canada's first branchless bank to offer core financial services and products electronically—has been appointed to the board for a three-year term.

Known in the business community for her strong commitment to social issues, Crompton is an advocate for corporate responsibility and ethical business practice.

She is especially interested in the role of business in developing an ecologically and socially relevant global economy.

Stephen Howard, director of communications and research for the Hospital Employees' Union (HEU), has also been appointed for a three-year term.

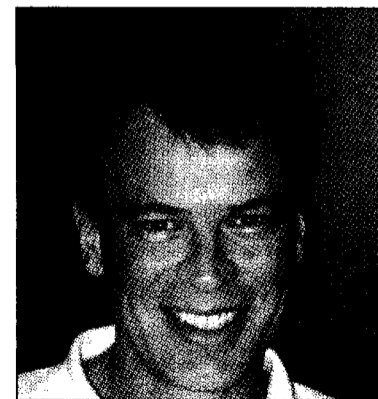
A graduate of Simon Fraser University, Howard oversees the union's communication plans, health-care policy development and government relations programs. HEU is the largest health-care union in B.C.

Third-year Commerce student Maili Wong has been elected to the board for a one-year term.

Wong sits on the Commerce Undergraduate Society student council and has served as an ex-



Linda Crompton



Stephen Howard

ecutive member of both the Chinese Varsity Club and UBC Dance Horizons. She is also a member of the UBC Portfolio Management Foundation where she helps manage a \$2-million securities portfolio.

Tieg Martin, a third-year Arts student, has also been elected for a one-year term. Martin aims to see *Board*, page 2

# Message delivered home

Continued from page 1

ized for the second year by the Student Recruitment, Information and Advising Office for 25 Grade 12 students who have been selected by their school counselors.

"They are academically capable students who demonstrate leadership qualities and are the next generation of UBC students," says Janet Teasdale, first year co-ordinator. "They are really excited and we want to meet their expectations, beginning with breakfast with Pres-

ident Piper, followed by sessions and panels including interactive learning and career planning, and finishing with Geordie's workshop."

"Home for the Holidays delivers the message far from campus," says Aitken. "It's the UBC volunteers' show: they called up the schools, negotiated the time and delivered the program by sharing their stories," he says. "There is no doubt that students in their hometown really want to hear about their personal experience, includ-

ing things they wished they had known before arriving at UBC."

About 70 of the UBC students in the Home for the Holidays initiative—who received an honorarium of \$20—spread out across the Lower Mainland. The remaining 20 students, who were given \$40, headed to northern Vancouver Island, Whitehorse, Calgary, Ontario and other destinations.

"This student-driven initiative accomplishes three goals simultaneously," says Brian Sullivan, vice-president, Students. "It is a powerful form of student recruitment and preparation, it enhances our own students' communication and leadership skills and it provides them with an opportunity to practice being UBC ambassadors."

The pilot program is funded by UBC's Innovative Project Fund and developed and co-ordinated by the Student Recruitment, Information and Advising Office.

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# Board

Continued from page 1

improve communication with students and help them better understand how the university works.

An international traveler, Martin has visited Australia, North Africa, the Balkans, Central America and other countries.

# Blood

Continued from page 1

discovered which can be used as a new marker to sort stem cells.

MEP21 closely resembles another molecule called CD34 that has been used for more than a decade to identify human stem cells in bone marrow and blood. With McNagney's identification of MEP21, scientists now have two independent markers to help them track down stem cells.

In studying MEP21 for its use as a potential marker, McNagney has learned that it may serve as "molecular Teflon" that makes cells more mobile.

McNagney's lab has found that a strain of mice with mutations in the MEP21 gene have a birth defect where tissues of the intestine stick too tightly to the abdominal wall.

This closely resembles a life-threatening birth defect that affects one in 6,000 human babies and McNagney's work may provide insights into new therapies for treating this defect. The protein may also be useful in treating thrombosis where cells are overly sticky and bind to form blood clots.

MORE INFORMATION  
 See [www.cytometry.brc.ca](http://www.cytometry.brc.ca)

# ubc reports

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## Students to profile?

UBC Reports is seeking students to profile in the May Congregation issue.

To suggest a student who is graduating in May, please contact the editor at [janet.ansell@ubc.ca](mailto:janet.ansell@ubc.ca) or (604) 822-6871.

# Notice of Public Information Meeting

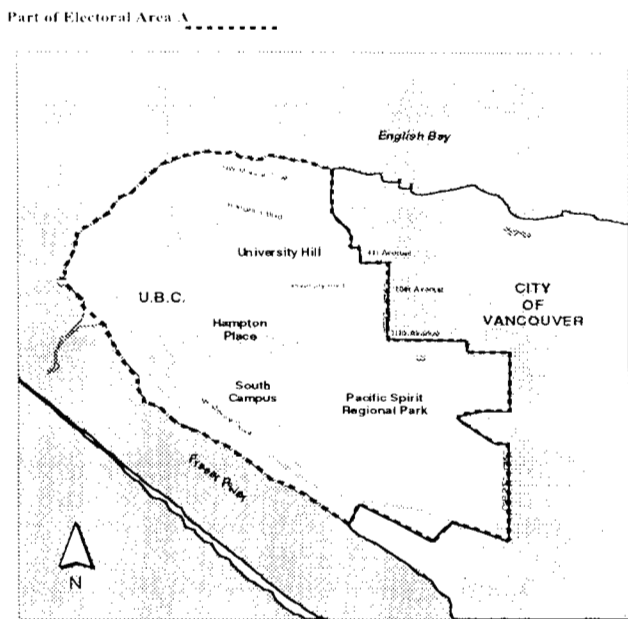
## Electoral Area A Governance

You are invited to attend a public information meeting on:

Tuesday, February 29, 2000

University Hill Secondary School – Auditorium  
 2896 Acadia Road

7:00pm – 9:00pm



The Electoral Area A Governance Committee has been studying the options for governance for that part of Electoral Area A which includes the University of British Columbia lands, the University Endowment Lands community, and Pacific Spirit Regional Park.

The Governance Committee will hold this public information meeting to inform the community on the activities and conclusions of the Committee.

Watch your mailbox for a copy of a newsletter summarizing the information to be presented at the meeting or visit the GVRD's website at [www.gvrd.bc.ca](http://www.gvrd.bc.ca)

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Finding a way to fund quality education without forcing students to line up more frequently at the cash machine is just one of Maryann Adamec's goals for the year as president of UBC's Alma Mater Society. Hilary Thomson photo

## Funding concerns new AMS president

*Recently elected student President Maryann Adamec suggests capping tuition to inflation*

IMPROVING AND EXPANDING student services is one of Maryann Adamec's top goals for the coming year along with lobbying to restore federal funding to post-secondary institutions and lower student loan interest rates for students in public institutions.

"Finding solutions to the funding crunch at UBC and improving the quality of education is the number one job," says the recently elected president of UBC's Alma Mater Society (AMS).

In an overwhelming majority vote, Adamec—who represents the Students for Students party and was last year's AMS vice-president—garnered 2,816 votes of the 4,338 ballots cast by UBC students. Approximately 15 per cent of eligible student voters voted in the election.

Adamec will chair the student council, the executive committee and both the community planning and working groups in the 35-hour-per-week position.

The third-year Marketing major joins vice-presidents Erfan Kazemi, Academic and University Affairs, Graham Senft, External, Mike Warner, Finance and Mark Fraser, Administration.

One way to maintain affordable and accessible education is to cap tuition to inflation she says, adding that surplus federal budget monies should be earmarked for the post-secondary sector.

Another prominent AMS issue is transit. The new president plans to negotiate with UBC administration and Translink to improve mass transit to campus and examine the feasibility of a universal bus pass.

Committed to encouraging a diversity of student opinion, Adamec says she is a consensus-builder who wants to hear a variety of perspectives before reaching decisions.

Other issues include a wider variety of AMS programs such as frosh week and orientation for the graduating class.

Adamec takes over from outgoing AMS president Ryan Marshall.

## Program arms students for growing software field

*Focus is on future problem solvers and managers*

by Andy Poon staff writer

A NEW 16-MONTH program that prepares science and engineering graduates for careers in the burgeoning field of computer software systems is off to a flying start.

With only 25 spots in the inaugural class up for grabs, students faced fierce competition to get into the Master of Software Systems (MSS) degree program in the Centre for Integrated Computer Systems Research (CICSR). The program was launched in January.

"We had more than 60 students apply for the program in one month," says Adjunct Prof. Panos Nasiopoulos, the program's director. He says the number of applicants would likely have been even higher had they not pre-screened as many applicants as possible.

"The fact is the software industry is probably the hottest industry right now," Nasiopoulos says. He cites research which suggests B.C. needs at least 5,000 software engineers with 300,000 needed in North America overall.

In the MSS degree program, students take 30 credits of core classes over three semesters with a four-month paid industry internship during the fall term.

The program's main focus is to provide knowledge of the concepts, tools and techniques involved in developing the software that is used to run computers, operate networks and allow people to work with computers. Applications range from microwave operating software to hybrid systems that control airplanes.

As Nasiopoulos puts it, the goal is to turn out not only program-

mers and software engineers but problem solvers and managers.

"Yes, we want more software engineers and programmers but we also want to turn out managers who can understand what their team of programmers face and what are realistic demands to ask of them," he says.

The program is offered by CICSR in collaboration with the Faculty of Science's Computer Science Dept. and the Faculty of Applied Sci-

ence's Electrical and Computer Engineering Dept.

The class will be expanded to 50 students next January and potential students are encouraged to apply as early as March 1. The deadline for applications is July 31.

MORE INFORMATION

Visit [www.cicsr.ubc.ca/mss](http://www.cicsr.ubc.ca/mss) or contact the MSS office at [cicsrinfo@cicsr.ubc.ca](mailto:cicsrinfo@cicsr.ubc.ca) or (604) 822-8807.

## Conference Centre offers popular venue

*Centre is largest at a Canadian university*

SMART PLANNERS KNOW UBC's Conference Centre consistently earns top marks. The office majors in meetings and conferences and takes events to the top of the class.

A "Toast the Host" reception Feb. 29 will recognize faculty and staff who have used the centre's services.

"Profits from UBC conference services go to help subsidize student residences," says Allan de Jong, general manager of the centre, which is the largest university conference centre in Canada.

Its activities currently generate approximately \$9 million and create about 175 full-time equivalent work positions, mostly filled by students during the summer, he says.

"Having a local host is vital to attracting a conference to UBC. We hope more faculty and staff will

promote the university as a destination within the city, particularly during the summer when up to 400 groups ranging in size from 10,000-30,000 delegates can be accommodated," he adds.

From May to September more than 25,500 square metres of meeting space is available for everything from meetings to trade shows.

The centre offers a wide range of options to facilitate the planning process, including conference coordination, on-site catering and audio-visual services, as well as registration services and meeting management.

Another feature of a Conference Centre event is affordable housing—47 suites in Gage Court Suites University are available year-round. During the non-academic year, Totem Park and Place Vanier student residences are also available.

MORE INFORMATION

Contact the Conference Centre by calling (604) 822-1060.

## Housing aimed at faculty, staff

*Planners hope a new campus housing development will help attract the best and the brightest to the university*

CONSTRUCTION CREWS have broken ground on the development of a 53-unit faculty and staff housing complex aimed at adding much-needed residential rental housing for faculty and staff on university grounds.

The development will mean a boost in campus housing for staff and faculty and should help the university in its faculty recruiting efforts.

According to the university's vision statement, Trek 2000, UBC expects more than 45 per cent of its faculty and 30 per cent of its staff to retire by 2005.

"Our ability to attract and retain outstanding people depends upon our competitiveness in the national and international market," says UBC President Martha Piper.

"Housing costs can be a serious deterrent to our recruitment and retention efforts. This initiative is a positive step towards addressing this issue."

The housing being constructed on the southeast corner of Thunderbird Boulevard and West Mall will comprise 11 two- and three-bedroom townhomes, 18 two-bedroom cityhomes and

24 one- and two-bedroom apartments.

It is the first portion of a two-phase, 95-unit project for the site.

Most units will have a designated study space and rent is expected to range from \$900 to \$1,680 a month.

The university currently has 300 units of staff and faculty housing on campus that offer temporary accommodations—occupants can stay for a maximum of three years.

"The housing currently under development will not have restrictions on term of rental," says Al Poettcker, president of UBC Properties Trust, a wholly-owned subsidiary of UBC which is in charge of the development.

TREK 2000

"As long as one of the occupants teaches or works at the university, they can reside in the units."

According to Fred Pritchard, UBC's director of planning, the unit's eventual occupants will have to apply for the new accommodations. Selection criteria have yet to be determined.

"The selection criteria is a work in progress right now," he says. "But it'll largely be driven by the Trek initiative to retain and recruit faculty and staff."

Poettcker expects construction of the townhomes to be completed by the fall with units available for rental next January.



## SUNDAY, FEB. 27

**Heritage Month Tea**

Celebrate Hycroft's Heritage Status With High Tea And Children's Vintage Clothing Display. Hycroft, 1489 McRae Ave. from 1-3pm. Call 738-2876.

**Green College****Performing Arts Group**

Birds Of Prey And The Human Relationship. Christian Duhme, Terry Spring, falconers. Green College at 2pm. Call 822-1878.

**Art Workshop**

Responding To Art. Pnina Granirer. Green College at 2pm. Bring a workbook. Call Graham Good 822-4086.

**Green College****Performing Arts Group**

Piano Performance. Libby Yu, classical pianist. Green College at 8pm. Call 822-1878.

## TUESDAY, FEB. 29

**Centre For Australian Studies Seminar**

Multicultural Policy And Local Governments: A Comparison Of Sydney And Vancouver. David Edgington, Geography; Tom Hutton, Community and Regional Planning. cK Choi 120 from 11:30am-1pm. Call 822-2629.

**Continuing Studies Public Lecture**

Conversation With A Classic. Leon Bibb, singer, talk show host. Vancouver Public Library (downtown) Peter Kaye Room from 12noon-1pm. \$8. To register call 822-1420.

**Botany Seminar**

Plants, Peoples And Phytochemicals: A New Perspective On Food And Medicinal Plant Resources Of The Secwepemc (Shuswap) First Nation. Kelly Bannister. BioSciences 2000 from 12:30-2pm. Call 822-2133.

**Law And Society**

International Indigenous Peoples' Rights. Sharon Venne. Green College at 12noon. Call 822-1878.

**Wednesday Noon Hour Concert**

Sound Moves: Clarinet, Saxophone And Piano. Music Recital Hall at 12:30pm. \$3 at the door. Call 822-5574.

**Sing Tao School of Journalism Lecture**

Is Political Correctness Inhibiting The Media? Chris Wood, senior technology writer, *Maclean's*. Sing Tao 104 from 12:30-2pm. Call 822-6688.

**Germanic Studies Lecture**

The Book Of My Life: Laxness, Iceland, Friends Of Freeland. Brad Leithauser, Mount Holyoke College. Buchanan D-230 from 12:30-2pm. Call 822-5158.

**Institute For European Studies**

North American Relations: Where Are They Headed? John Beck, former ambassador. cK Choi 120 from 12noon-2pm. Light lunch. Call 822-1452.

**School Of Music Concert**

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

**Centre For Feminist Legal Studies Lecture**

Achieving Employment Equity: Legislation Or Persuasion? Prof. Audrey Kobayashi, Women's Studies; Geography, Queens u. Curtis 157 from 12:30-2pm. Call 822-6523.

**Earth And Ocean Sciences Colloquium**

Emeralds In The Yukon. Lee Groat. GeoSciences 330-A at 12:30pm. Call 822-3278.

**Science First! Lecture**

Plants, Power And Profit: Plant Breeding And Biotechnology. Prof. Brian Holl, Plant Science. Wesbrook 100 at 12:30pm. Call 822-3336.

**Canadian Meteorological And Oceanographic Society Seminar**

Fog And Fog Collection: Exploring This Hidden Water Resource. Robert S. Schemenaur, Environment Canada. Geography 101 at 3:30pm. Call 822-2175.

**19th Century Studies**

A Loathsome Weed: The Tattooed Prostitute In 19th Century Europe. Jane Caplan, History, Bryn Mawr College. Green College at 5pm. Call 822-1878.

**Fundraiser**

Charity Auction Of Collectibles. Scarfe 1020 from 5:30-7:30pm. Proceeds to B.C.'s Children's Hospital Foundation. Refreshments. Call 221-4926.

**Poetic Persuasions**

Reading. Tom Wayman, poet. Green College at 8pm. Call 822-1878.

**Extra Sessional/ Canadian Studies Play**

All Fall Down. Andrea Heald, director. WISE Hall, 1882 Adanac St. at 8pm. Continues to March 10. \$10; \$8 with student ID. Call 512-8761.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 3

**Fish 500 Seminar**

Measuring The Influence Of Climate Variability And Predation Mortality On Single-Species Stock Assessment Advice. Anne Hollowed. Hut B-8, Ralf Yorke Room at 11:30am. Refreshments at 11am. Call 822-2731.

**Classical And Near Eastern Studies Lecture**

Imperial Images: Julio-Claudian Dynastic Portraiture. Prof. Brian Rose, u of Cincinnati. Lasserre 102 at 12:30pm. Call 822-2889.

**Occupational And Environmental Hygiene Seminar**

Wood Dust Exposure Analysis. Andrew Hall, occupational hygienist. UBC Hosp., Koerner Pavilion G-279 from 12:30-1:30pm. Call Kathryn Lewis 822-9861; Dr. Murray Hodgson 822-3073.

## 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 BC, V6T 1Z1. Phone: UBC-INFO (822-4636). Fax: 822-2684. An electronic form is available at [www.publicaffairs.ubc.ca](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 March 9 issue of *UBC Reports*—which covers the period March 12 to March 25—is noon, February 29.

## calendar

## FEBRUARY 27 THROUGH MARCH 11

## MONDAY, FEB. 28

**Centre For Chinese Research Seminar**

Tang And The Little Tigers Of The Ninth And Tenth Centuries: The Export Of Institutions. Prof. Denis Twitchett, Prof. Gordon Wu, Chinese Studies, Princeton u. cK Choi 120 from 12:30-2pm. Call 822-2629.

**Classics And Germanic Studies Lecture**

Latin Epic Poetry Through The Ages. Heinz Hofmann, u of Tuebingen. Buchanan D-238 at 12:30pm. Call 822-2889.

**School Of Music Concert**

Korean Ensemble. Grace J.E. Lee, director. Music Recital Hall at 12:30pm. Korean food reception. Call 822-5574; 714-1665.

**IAM-PIMS****Distinguished Colloquium**

Mathematics And Statistics Of Human DNA Polymorphisms: Forward And Backward To History. Prof. Marc Feldman, Biological Sciences, Stanford u. Klinck 301 at 3:30pm. Call 822-4584.

**Germanic Studies Multimedia Seminar**

Richard Wagner And The Greek Myth. Heinz Hofmann, u of Tuebingen. Buchanan B Penthouse at 3:30pm. Refreshments. Call 822-5154.

**Law And Society**

International Indigenous Rights. Russell Barsh, Native American Studies, u of Lethbridge. First Nations Longhouse Great Hall at 5pm. Call 822-1878.

**Member Speaker Series**

The Power Of Performance: Margery Kempe's Female Mysticism And Performance. Sheila Christie, English. Green College at 5:30pm. Call 822-1878.

**Institute For European Studies**

Myths And Reality Of Czechoslovakia And The Czech Republic. Zdenek Zboril. Green College Coach House at 7:30pm. Call 822-1452.

**Lectures In Modern****Chemistry - Laird Lecture**

The Single Cell Proteome Project. Prof. Norm Dovichi, u of Alberta. Chemistry B-250 at 1pm. Refreshments at 12:40pm. Call 822-3057.

**Statistics Seminar**

A Model Selection Approach To Partially Linear Regression. Fiorentina Bunea, u of Washington. Klinck 301 from 4-5:30pm. Refreshments; bring your own mug. Call 822-0570.

**Graduate And Faculty Christian Forum**

The Influence Of Postmodernism On Education. Harro Van Brummelen, dean, Undergraduate studies, Trinity Western u. Buchanan B Penthouse at 4:15pm. Refreshments at 4pm. Call 822-3219.

**Green College Speaker Series**

A Political Economy Of Hope: The Transition From Diagnostics To Therapeutics In Alzheimer's Disease. Janice Graham, Anthropology and Sociology. Green College at 5pm. Reception Green College Coach House from 6-6:30pm. Call 822-1878.

**University Women's Club Dinner/Speaker Series**

A Tribute To Great Vancouver Women. Elisabeth Riley, president; CEO, B.C.'s Children's and Women's Health Centre. Hycroft, 1489 McRae Ave. from 5:30-8:30pm. Call 738-2876.

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

**Orthopedics Grand Rounds**

Maintenance Of Certification. Dr. Kendall Ho, associate dean, Continuing Medical Education. VGH, Eye Care Centre Aud. at 7am. Call 875-4192.

**Linguistics Research Seminar**

An MRI, X-ray And Magnetometer Study Of The Pharyngeal Components Of American English Glides And Liquids. Bryan Gick. Angus 312 from 11:30-1:30pm. Call 822-4256.

**Faculty Financial****Planning Lecture Series**

E-Business And Your Investment Future. Tod Maffin, president, Investor Track.com. Chemistry 250 from 12:30-1:20pm. Call 822-1433.

**Centre For Research In****Women's Studies Colloquium**

Early Emigration Of Women From England To B.C.: Let's Send Them Our Surplus Female Population. Francoise Le Jeune, u de Nantes. Women's Studies lounge from 12:30-1:30pm. Call 822-9173.

**Asian Studies Lecture Series**

New Chinese Studies Of Chinese Popular Religion: A Critical Survey And Review. Prof. Daniel Overmyer. Asian Centre 604 at 12:30pm. Call 822-9266.

**Another Look At Human Development Colloquium**

From The U-Curve To Dragons: Culture And Understanding Of Artistic Development. Anna Kindler, Curriculum Studies. Scarfe 278 from 12:30-1:20pm. Call 822-5232.

**School Of Nursing Rounds**

Protecting Children From Environmental Tobacco Smoke: A Smoldering Issue. Sharon Secord. UBC Hosp., Koerner Pavilion T-206 from 3-4pm. Call 822-7453.

**Individual Interdisciplinary Studies Graduate Program**

Not Just Babes In Boyland: Women And Architecture In Canada. Annmarie Adams, Architecture, McGill u. Green College at 5pm. Call 822-1878.

**Artist's Gallery Opening**

Black And White Contemporary Dance Works. Daniel Collins; Sylvain Senez, photographers. Hycroft, 1489 McRae Ave. Call 738-2876.

## THURSDAY, MARCH 2

**B.C. Post-Secondary Education Policy Issues**

Lessons From Other Jurisdictions. TBA. Green College at 8:30am. Call 822-2593.

**Green College Special Lecture**

Postcolonialism As Postmodernism: Discursive Formations, Image Culture And The Coinciding Of The Two Posts. Ato Quayson, director, African Studies Centre, u of Cambridge. Green College at 12:30pm. Call 822-1878.

**Biotechnology Seminar**

Focal Membrane Exocytosis During Phagosome Formation. Sergio Grinstein, Cell Biology, Hosp. for Sick Children. IRC #1 at 1:30-2:30pm. Call Prof. Finlay 822-2210.

**Mathematics Colloquium**

The Diophantine Equation  $a^n + b^n = 2c^2$ . Christopher M. Skinner, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton u. Math 100 at 3:30pm. Refreshments Math Annex 1115 at 3:15pm. Call 822-2666.

**Chemical And Biological Engineering Seminar**

Biodegradation Of Petroleum Refinery Effluent. Brihas Sarathy. ChemEng 206 at 3:30pm. Call 822-3238.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 4

**Vancouver Institute Lecture**

New Excavations At Ancient Troy. Prof. Brian Rose, Classics, u of Cincinnati. IRC#2 at 8:15pm. Call 822-3131.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 5

**Green College****Performing Arts Group**

Chamber And Choral Music. Green College at 4:30pm. Call 822-1878.

## MONDAY, MARCH 6

**Mechanical Engineering**

Heat Transfer Problems In The Steel Processing Industry. Dan Fraser, assistant professor. CEME 1204 at 3:30pm. Refreshments at 3:25pm. Call 822-3770.

**Member Speaker Series**

The Charter: An Introduction To Rights In Canada. Jill Yates, Law. Green College at 5:30pm. Call 822-1878.

## TUESDAY, MARCH 7

**Continuing Studies Public Lecture**

Conversation With A Classic. Joy Coghill, stage and screen performer; teacher; director. Vancouver Public Library (downtown) Peter Kaye Room from 12noon-1pm. \$8. To register call 822-1420.

**Institute For European Studies**

European Economic Policy And The Airbus Industry. Prof. Wolfgang Krieger, German foreign policy analyst, u of Toronto. Buchanan B Penthouse at 12noon. Light lunch. Call 822-1452.

**Asian Studies Lecture Series**

Icons Of Femininity: Japanese National Painting And The Paradox Of Modernity. Prof. Doris Ledderose-Croissant, Heidelberg u. Asian Centre 604 at 12:30pm. Call 822-9266.

**Botany Seminar**

What Grows There? The Diverse Community Of Ericoid Mycorrhizal Fungi. Tamara Allen. BioSciences 2000 from 12:30-2pm. Call 822-2133.

**UBC Teaching Community Seminar**

Raising The Bar: Evaluating Your Students At The Highest Level. Sue Stanton, Rehabilitation Sciences. TAG seminar room from 12:30-3pm. To register [www.cstudies.ubc.ca/facdev/](http://www.cstudies.ubc.ca/facdev/) or call 822-9149.

**Lectures In Modern Chemistry**

Ultrafast Phase Control—Making Molecules Dance. Prof. Stephen Leone, National Institute of Standards and Technology, U of Colorado. Chemistry B-250 at 1pm. Refreshments at 12:40pm. Call 822-3057.

**Faculty Seminar**

Promotion And Tenure Information. St. John's College social lounge from 3:30-6pm. Call 822-9149.

**Statistics Seminar**

Models For Two-State Disease Processes With Applications To Relapsing-Remitting Multiple Sclerosis. Jochen Brumm. Klinck 301 from 4-5:30pm. Refreshments, bring your own mug. Call 822-0570.

**Computer Science**

**Invited Speaker Seminar**  
Data Mining—Past And Future. Heikki Mannila, Microsoft Research. CICS/CS 208 from 4-5:30pm. Refreshments. Call 822-0557.

**Green College Speaker Series**

Talk And Piano Performance. Robert Silverman, Music. Green College at 5pm. Reception from 6-6:30pm. Call 822-1878.

**Chalmers Institute Seminar**

The Spirituality Of Christian Song. St. David's United Church, 1525 Taylor Way, West Vancouver from 7:30-9:30pm. \$35; \$10 per session. To register call 922-3461.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8**

**Orthopedics Grand Rounds**

Enthesitis: A Rheum With A View. Dr. Jean Gilles. VGH, Eye Care Centre Aud. at 7am. Call 875-4192.

**International Women's Day Workshop**

Women Making A Difference. Shari Ulrich. Hycroft, 1489 McRae Ave. from 10:30am-1pm. Reception at 6:30pm. Workshop \$10. To register call 731-4661.

**Balkans Emergency Relief Seminar**

Macedonia Experiences: Assisting Refugees With The International Red Cross. Jody Sydor, UBC's disaster planning co-ordinator. Wesbrook 201 from 12:15-1:15pm. Call 822-1237.

**Wednesday Noon Hour Concert**

Solo Piano Recital. Miranda Wong Wilson. Music Recital Hall at 12:30pm. \$3 at the door. Call 822-5574.

**History Lecture**

Ships And Shipping At The Dawn Of The Golden Age—The Mystery Of A Baltic Trader. Martijn R. Manders, chief archeologist, Netherlands Institute for Ship and Underwater Archeology. Buchanan B-224 at 12:30pm. Call 822-5178.

**Another Look At Human Development Colloquium**

Socio-Developmental Aspects Of Children's Pain. Ken Craig, Psychology. Scarfe 278 from 12:30-1:20pm. Call 822-5232.

**Centre For Japanese Research Seminar**

Japanese Direct Foreign Investment And The Asian Financial Crisis. David Edgington, Geography. CK Choi 120 from 12:30-2pm. Call 822-2629.

**Institute Of Asian Research Seminar**

Globalization And The Transformation Of Asian Societies – Modernization And Monotheism In Korea. CK Choi 120 from 4:30-6pm. Call 822-2629.

**Continuing Studies Public Seminar**

A Taste Of Multiculturalism. Buchanan D 3rd floor from 7-9:30pm. Continues to April 12. \$195. To register call 822-0804.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 9**

**St. John's College Open House**

St. John's College Fairmont Social Lounge from 12noon-4pm. Continues to March 10. Refreshments, door prizes, tours. Call 822-8781.

**Intercultural Studies In Asia Program**

Reading: Drifting Destinations. Vidyut Aklujkar, writer. CK Choi 120 from 12:30-2pm. Call 822-2629.

**Centre For Feminist Legal Studies Lecture**

When Is Physical Injury Social Injury? Sarah Jain, Cultural and Social Anthropology, Stanford U. Curtis 157 from 12:30-2pm. Call 822-6523.

**Botany Seminar**

A New Bidens Species From Starbuck Island Provides Evidence For A Second Colonization Of Pacific Islands By The Genus. Cindy Sayre. BioSciences 2000 from 12:30-2pm. Call 822-2133.

**Faculty Research Excellence Award Winner Lecture**

Trust And Betrayal In Organizations. Sandra Robinson, Commerce and Business Administration, Angus Ed McPhee Centre 125 at 1pm. Lunch at 12:30pm. Call 822-0188.

**Biostatistics/SFU Seminar**

Finding Genes In Genomic Sequence: A Comparative Approach. David Baillie, SFU. SFU Math and Statistics K-9509 at 3:30pm. Call 822-0570.

**Peter Wall Institute Exploratory Workshop**

Institutional Readings: Early Modern Europe And The Modern University. Various speakers. University Centre 307 from 4:30-6:45pm. Continues to March 11. To register call 822-4226.

**Classical And Near Eastern Studies Lecture**

Dreamers And Mantics: Homer And The Ancient Near-East. Scott Noegel, U of Washington. Buchanan B-228 from 4:30-6pm. Call 822-2889.

**School Of Music Concert**

UBC Collegium Musicaum Ensemble. John Sawyer, Ramona Luengen, directors. Music Recital Hall at 8pm. Call 822-5574.

**Poetic Persuasions**

TBA. Lynn Coody, writer. Green College at 8pm. Call 822-1878.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 10**

**Paul Jones Memorial Symposium**

Identity And The Language Of Disability. Rod Michalko. SUB 214/216 from 9:30am-4:30pm. \$75; \$25 students includes meals. To register call 822-5844.

**UBC Teaching Community Seminar**

Time And Stress Management. Valerie Chapman, Educational Studies; Ingrid Price, TAG/psychology. TAG seminar room from 10am-4pm. To register [www.cstudies.ubc.ca/facdev/](http://www.cstudies.ubc.ca/facdev/) or call 822-9149.

**Rehabilitation Sciences Workshop**

Beyond The Medical Model. Various speakers. GF Strong from 10:30-4:45pm. \$20 students; lunch included. Call Catherine Donnelly 231-8356; Patti O'Brien 733-5848.

**Classical And Near Eastern Studies Lecture**

Magic And Dream Interpretation In Ancient Egypt. Scott Noegel, U of Washington. Buchanan A-203 at 11:30am. Call 822-2889.

**Fish 500 Seminar**

How Society And Fisheries Biologists Have Mismanaged Salmonids Due To Fear Of Phosphorus. Ken Ashley, B.C. Ministry of Fisheries. Hut B-8, Ralf Yorque Room at 11:30am. Refreshments at 11am. Call 822-2731.

**Occupational And Environmental Hygiene Seminar**

Anti-G Protection In Modern Fighter Aircraft. Tyler Bazant, project engineer, Mustang Survival. UBC Hosp., Koerner Pavilion G-279 from 12:30-1:30pm. Call Kathryn Lewis 822-9861; Dr. Murray Hodgson 822-3073.

**School Of Music Concert**

UBC Collegium Musicaum Ensemble. John Sawyer, Ramona Luengen, directors. Music Recital Hall at 12noon. Call 822-5574.

**Electrical And Computer Engineering Seminar 2000**

Implementing Logic In Memory Arrays. Steve Wilton. MacLeod 418 from 1-2pm. Call 822-2405.

**Chemical And Biological Engineering Seminar**

Scaling Of Calcium Oxalate In Pure Aqueous Solutions. Diana Lencar. ChemEng 206 at 3:30pm. Call 822-3238.

*Acadia Park resident Julia Garry demonstrates with daughter Georgia one of her favourite ways to get around. On March 1st, commuters are asked to find an alternative to a single-occupant vehicle for their daily trip to campus. Faculty, staff and students are encouraged to cycle, walk, telecommute, use public transit or car- or van-pool on the day, dubbed Trek to UBC: Commuter Challenge Day. For information on how to win a prize for participating, visit [www.trek.ubc.ca](http://www.trek.ubc.ca) or call (604) 827-TREK.*

Andy Poon photo



**Linguistics Colloquium**

Yeniseian And Athabaskan-Eyak-Tungit. Edward Vajda, Western Washington U. Buchanan B-332 from 3:30-5pm. Refreshments. Call 822-4256.

**Mathematics Colloquium**

A Mathematical Model Of Bioremediation In A Porous Medium. John Chadam, U of Pittsburgh. Math 100 at 3:30pm. Refreshments. Math Annex 1115 at 3:15pm. Call 822-2666.

**Chalmers Institute Workshop**

Women And Spirituality Dialogue 2000: Celebrating The Sacred Web Of Creation. VST from 5-9pm. Continues to March 11. \$70; \$35 seniors. To register e-mail: [cl@vst.edu](mailto:cl@vst.edu); call 822-9815.

**Theatre At UBC**

Life And A Lover. Kathleen Weiss, director. Frederic Wood at 7:30pm. Continues to Mar. 18. Call 822-2678.

**Green College**

**Performing Arts Group**  
Music Jam—Three Artists, Three Guitars. Belinda Bruce, Clive Goodman, Rick Maddocks. Green College at 8pm. Call 822-1878.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 11**

**Chalmers Institute Performance**

Spirit Of Women 2000. Epiphany Chapel at 7:30pm. \$15; \$20 at the door. To register e-mail: [cl@vst.edu](mailto:cl@vst.edu); call 822-9815.

**Vancouver Institute Lecture**

TBA. Beverley McLachlin, chief justice of Canada. IRC#2 at 8:15pm. Call 822-3131.

**NOTICES**

**Sage Bistro**

To the faculty, students, staff and admirers of UBC we present Sage Bistro at the University Centre. Truly food for thought. Sage is open Monday through Friday from 11am-2pm. Tapas will be served on the patio from May 15 to Oct. 15 from 3:30-8pm. Our luncheon menu changes weekly and features a wide selection of wines by the quarter litre and glass. For reservations please call 822-1500.

**Contemporary Art Exhibition**

Consolation Prize: Mike Kelley and John Miller. Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery. Tuesday-Friday, 10am-5pm; Saturday-Sunday, 12noon-5pm. Admission: \$3 adults; \$2 seniors; free for students, UBC faculty and staff with valid ID. Visit the Web site at [www.belkin-gallery.ubc.ca](http://www.belkin-gallery.ubc.ca) or call 822-2759.

**Call For Proposals**

Research papers on women and gender: Graduate Student Presentation Day April 26. Deadline for submission is March 17. Submit proposal to Graduate Student Centre room 200 or for more information call 822-9173.

**Faculty Women's Club**

The Faculty Women's Club brings together women connected to the university either through their work or that of their spouses, for social activities and lectures. The main purpose of the Faculty Women's Club is to raise funds for student scholarships. There are 19 different interest groups within the club, ranging from art appreciation and

bridge to hiking. Do come and join us! Call Barbara Tait, president 224-0938; Gwyneth Westwick, membership 263-6612.

**Twin Research**

Are you, or do you know a female adult twin? We are studying the relationship types of fraternal and identical female twins. If you can help by completing some questionnaires and being interviewed about relationships, please e-mail: [tmacbeth@cortex.psych.ubc.ca](mailto:tmacbeth@cortex.psych.ubc.ca) or call Tannis MacBeth, Psychology 822-4826.

**Research Study**

Hard-of-hearing university students are invited to discuss their post-secondary experiences for a PhD study. Involves interviews and the option of jotting down thoughts twice weekly over a three-week period. Honorarium. Contact Ruth Warick, graduate student, Dept. of Educational Services. Call/fax 224-4198 or e-mail [rwarrick@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:rwarrick@interchange.ubc.ca).

**UBC Utilities Advisory Notice**

UBC Utilities regularly performs maintenance work on underground piping and electrical systems. Work sites are always blocked off with appropriate signs and barriers, however sometimes unauthorized individuals remove these signs and barriers. Please approach work sites cautiously and respect signs and/or work crew instructions to avoid potential harm. Potential hazards including falling, electrical shock and burns. If you have any questions concerning a UBC Utilities work site, please call 822-9445.

## DIGEST

**Public relations project earns bronze award**

UBC's Public Affairs Office has won a bronze award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) for public relations projects.

The entry covered the wide range of initiatives under the "Define a University" project, including ads, media relations, annual re-

port, annual general meeting and Web site.

The award will be presented at the upcoming CASE District VIII conference in Seattle, Wash. which is held for member colleges, universities and independent schools in Western Canada and the U.S. Pacific Northwest.

CASE awards recognize exemplary achievements in all fields of advancement services including communications, development, public affairs and alumni relations.


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## PLACING CLASSIFIED ADS

Deadline: for the March 9 issue: 12 noon, February 29.

Enquiries: UBC-INFO (822-4636) • Rate: \$16.50 for 35 words or less.

Additional words: 50 cents each. Rate includes GST.

Submission guidelines: Ads must be submitted in writing 10 days before publication date to: UBC Public Affairs Office, 310 - 6251 Cecil Green Park Road, Vancouver BC, V6T 1Z1. Ads must be accompanied by payment in cash, cheque (made out to UBC Reports) or journal voucher.

# Co-presentations will bring big names to stage

## Arts groups and audiences cheer the "new" Chan

ONE OF THE WORLD'S greatest concert halls has exciting news for Vancouver audiences.

UBC's Chan Centre for the Performing Arts is announcing a new era of co-presentations featuring internationally acclaimed artists and performers.

"With the Vancouver Recital Society (VRS) we will co-present a 2000/01 series which includes opera stars Dawn Upshaw and Renee Fleming, Korean violinist Kung-Wha Chung and pianist Jon Kimura Parker," says Michael Noon, director of the centre, which has earned an international reputation as one of the top three concert halls in the world since opening in May 1997.

"Clearly there is a limited audience in the city and we now have tremendous opportunities to pool resources," says Leila Getz, artistic director and founder of the VRS.

The society will stage five additional premier performances in its upcoming season at the centre, which she describes as "acoustically awesome."

Noon is confirming many other concerts for 2001 which include performances by the legendar

ary Preservation Hall Jazz Band, the Vienna Boys Choir, Paragon Ragtime Orchestra and Christopher Parkening with Jubilant Sykes.

He says a Feb. 25 concert by Canadian singer-songwriter Connie Kaldor is the "realization of a dream." Co-producer, Vancouver's Rogue Folk Club, heartily agrees.

"Ordinarily we would book multiple nights at a small venue," says Steve Edge, president of the club which presents dozens of local concerts each year.

"We now have this great opportunity to co-present a significant event in a prestigious location with its reputation as a wonder of acoustic engineering. It's something Michael, Connie and I have wanted to try for several years."

Noon was well aware that it would take five years to firmly establish the \$25-million multipurpose complex, which includes the 1,400-seat Chan Shun Concert Hall, the TELUS Studio Theatre and the Royal Bank Cinema.

He is currently concentrating on building a broader audience profile by joining forces with other professional and community-based arts organizations.

Recent successful co-presentations with the Chinese Cultural Society, the UBC Opera Ensemble, the

VRS and other organizations have set this new course.

Over the past 22 months the centre has become extremely popular. The UBC Music at the Chan Centre Series regularly features outstanding artists and performers.

The Vancouver Symphony Orchestra plays nine concerts a year and the CBC Symphony Orchestra has moved its Avison Series from the Orpheum Theatre to UBC.

Local jazz aficionados and swing phenomena fans have been treated to big band performances such as the Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Glenn Miller and Bill Holman bands. The Tommy Dorsey Orchestra is scheduled for Sept. 29.

The Chan Centre for the Performing Arts is also an integral part of valuable training for UBC music, theatre and film students and home to Congregation ceremonies.

### MORE INFORMATION

Free tours are available by calling (604) 822-1815 or e-mailing [tours@chancentre.com](mailto:tours@chancentre.com). The Web site is [www.chancentre.com](http://www.chancentre.com). Tickets for performances at the Chan Centre are available from Ticketmaster (604) 280-3311, or in person at the Chan Centre ticket office (6265 Crescent Road) after noon each day.

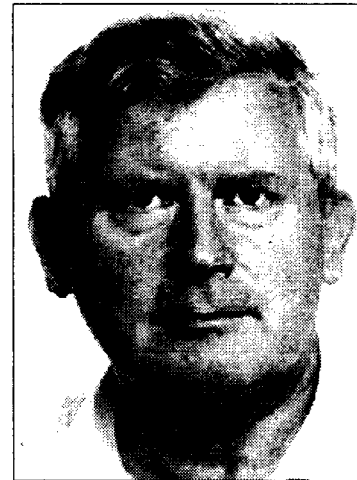
## Honour Roll

Prof. Susan Harris of the School of Rehabilitation Sciences was recently awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree from the University of Indianapolis in recognition of more than 30 years of leadership in the field of physical therapy.

A UBC faculty member since 1990, Harris's research and clinical interest is pediatric rehabilitation, particularly the early identification of cerebral palsy. She has also studied the effectiveness of early therapeutic interventions for infants and young children with neuromotor handicaps.

Recent studies include the effect of physical therapy following breast cancer treatment.

A well-known member of the university community, Geography Prof. **Olav Slaymaker**, has been appointed director of the Liu Centre for the Study of Global Issues.



Prof. Olav Slaymaker

Slaymaker has served as president of the Faculty Association, head of the Geography Dept. and associate vice-president, Research. His major research interests are the geomorphology and sustainability of mountain regions.

The Liu Centre—one of 15 research units in the Faculty of Graduate Studies—is an international centre of excellence for Canada which actively links the social and natural sciences to produce sustainable policies in relation to global issues.

Slaymaker replaces Law Prof. **Ivan Head**, first director of the centre, who retired Dec. 31.

**Stephane Lair** has successfully completed the certification examination of the American College of Zoological Medicine (ACZM). Lair has been the clinical veterinarian/veterinary pathologist at the Animal Care Centre since February 1999.

Lair is only the fourth Canada-based veterinarian to be certified by the ACZM, and is the first Canadian to be certified in the ACZM-Aquatic Animals Medicine Specialty.

**John Schrader**, director of UBC's Biomedical Research Centre, has won the Canadian Society for Immunology's Cinader Award for his outstanding contribution to the field as a researcher, teacher and administrator.



Prof. Susan Harris

**Schrader**, also a 1999 UBC Killam Research prize winner, will give the Cinader lecture at the society's annual meeting in March.

A UBC alumnus and Great Trekker-award winner who served as vice-president, senator and member of the Board of Governors is one of several in the UBC community to be named to the Order of Canada.

**Charles Connaghan** is an industrial relations and management consultant. He was vice-president of administrative services at UBC from 1975-80 and served on both the Senate and the Board of Governors.

Connaghan obtained both his undergraduate and graduate degrees at UBC and has been an active member of the Alumni Association.

**David Searle**, an adjunct professor of Law who teaches environmental law, was also named a member of the order.

An architect of fully representative government in the Northwest Territories, Searle served as the first elected speaker in the area's Legislative Assembly. He is the founding president of the Law Society of the Northwest Territories.

A total of 81 Canadians, including an additional six UBC alumni, were recently named to the Order.

Other alumni recognized include **Maurice Strong, Richard Fyfe, Douglas Knott, Gerald McGavin, Geoffrey Pawson, and William Saywell.**

Anatomy professor Dr. **Chuck Slonecker** has been appointed acting vice-president, External Affairs.

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

**Heather McCaw** has been appointed acting director, Development.

During the past 12 years, McCaw has worked in various positions in the Development Office and as manager of Business Relations. She most recently served as associate director, Development Office.



### THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSOCIATE DEAN, HEALTH CARE SYSTEM AND PLANNING FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Applications/nominations are invited for the position of Associate Dean, Health Care System and Planning. This is a part-time position expected to be filled by an internal candidate and is available May 1, 2000.

The incumbent will report to the Dean of Medicine and through the Dean is accountable to the Faculty Executive Committee and the Faculty. Responsibilities include: Health Care System Relations - proposing governance and policy plans for faculty at UBC, affiliated hospitals and government; finalizing and implementing all Faculty of Medicine affiliation agreements and related letters of intent; working with faculty leaders, hospitals, government and others to foster and implement focussed shared partnership in faculty research and teaching programs; working with Council of University Teaching Hospitals to enhance UBC/Hospital relations and working with Regional Health Boards and Hospitals throughout BC to maximize the provincial benefits of UBC programs. Academic Space - ensuring appropriate space distribution; creating strategies for space development, acquisition, funding and administration; working with government ministries, university administration, regional health boards, and hospitals to effect above; implementing processes for determining space construction plans and related endorsement of decisions; authorizing allocation of academic space for the University affiliated teaching hospitals; and maintaining data and space inventory and utilization.

UBC hires on the basis of merit and is committed to employment equity. We encourage all qualified persons to apply.

Deadline for receipt of applications is March 24, 2000. Please direct your applications along with the names of three referees and nominations to:

Dr. John A. Cairns, MD, FRCPC  
Dean, Faculty of Medicine  
Room 317, Instructional Resources Centre  
University of British Columbia  
2194 Health Sciences Mall  
Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1Z3



# Director calls for action on nursing shortage

*An aging workforce, restructuring and education funding are contributing to a staffing crisis, says Acorn*

by **Sonia Acorn** School of Nursing

ALMOST DAILY IN THE MEDIA there are stories of hospitals in crisis and of nursing shortages.

Canada is facing a shortage of registered nurses that includes shortages in practicing nurses, nurses in leadership positions within health care agencies, and a looming shortage of academic nursing faculty.

While the shortages in these three areas are interrelated, this discussion will focus on the shortage of practicing registered nurses (RNs).

Factors contributing to the shortage of practicing registered nurses include an aging nursing workforce, health-care restructuring, and cuts in higher education.

Added to these factors are aging of the general population plus an increase in population, both contributing to an increase in demand for nursing services.

## Aging workforce

The Canadian nurse work force is aging and is not being replaced in numbers adequate to replace retiring nurses and meet increased needs for nursing service.

In 1995 the largest group of working RNs were in the 40-45 age range. By 2011, they will be in their mid- to late-50s and leaving the

profession for retirement.

The Canadian Nurses Association predicts that by 2011, Canada will be short 100,000 practicing nurses.

In B.C., 48 per cent or 13,428 nurses, are 45-64 years of age, with 15 per cent over the age of 55. In 10 years, 33 per cent will be considering retirement.

## Health-care restructuring

The past decade has seen radical downsizing of hospitals in B.C. and across the country, with the closure of beds and resulting elimination of nursing positions.

Many nurses, when their positions were terminated, left the profession or moved to other countries.

In addition to hospital downsizing there was major restructuring occurring within hospitals.

Positions such as head nurses, nurse educators and clinical nurse specialists were being eliminated or decreased in number.

Front-line management positions were being changed from head nurse positions to program manager positions with a much-enlarged scope of responsibility.

These changes decreased the available support for the practice of nursing and exacerbated the historic problem of a lack of upward career mobility for nurses.



Nursing Prof. Sonia Acorn

Nurses find it difficult to remain in a profession where they are unable to provide the level of care they recognize that patients require. This is a retention issue as well as a challenge for recruitment.

In spite of this widespread restructuring in Canadian hospitals as well as in the United States and Europe, there was minimal evaluation of its effects on practice. However, one cross-national study is now underway, aimed at assessing the effects of hospital restructuring on patient and nurse outcomes. B.C. is one of the seven sites in five countries involved in this study.

## Education funding

B.C. does not currently prepare the number of registered nurses required, with 45 per cent of its nurses coming from other provinces and countries.

## FORUM

With a countrywide and increasingly a global shortage of qualified RNs, health-care agencies are unable to fill vacancies.

There is a perception that people are not choosing nursing as a career. Yet in September 1999 there were 97 qualified applicants denied admission to UBC's School of Nursing due to a lack of space.

The UBC School of Nursing has a unique four-year baccalaureate program in which the elective and support courses are in years one and two and the nursing courses are delivered in years three and four with an intervening summer term.

Individuals entering directly from post-secondary schools complete all four years. Individuals with a previous degree or substantial credits toward a degree are admitted into year three and complete the program in 19 months.

Of the 97 qualified applicants denied admission, 55 were applicants to year one and 42 to year three of this program.

What can be done to alleviate the shortage of registered nurses provincially, nationally and internationally?

## Funding of additional nursing education spaces

In October 1999, the government announced the establishment of 400 new education spaces for nursing students. Where and how these spaces will be allocated has yet to be announced.

The nursing education leaders in British Columbia, and indeed across Canada, are unanimous in their conviction that all registered nurses now entering practice should hold baccalaureate degrees

in nursing. This is primarily because it is increasingly difficult for diploma programs to adequately prepare graduates for the national licensing examination and the demands of clinical practice.

## Transition programs for students and new graduates

With the hospitals downsizing, the patients who are hospitalized are sicker and remain in hospital for shorter periods of time. With this increase in acuity, increase in the complexity of care needs, together with increased use of technology, nursing students and new graduates need assistance to make the transition to practice.

## Attention to retention as well as recruitment

Organizations within which nursing is practiced must attend to issues in the work environment, including the restoration of leadership and support positions for the practice of nursing.

In part, employers must ensure that nurses are able to spend more time on direct patient care and less on duties such as delivering meal trays and answering phones.

Opportunities for clinical nurses to move into mentoring/teaching roles as part of their work role, exploration of clinical ladders in which practicing nurses can advance in their careers and remain at the bedside, and protected work leaves to allow practicing nurses to pursue additional education are strategies which must be explored.

*Prof. Sonia Acorn is acting director of the School of Nursing. She is co-investigator for the B.C. site of an international study on the effects of hospital restructuring on patient and nurse outcomes.*

## MARCH FORTH ON MARCH 1ST!

### Commuter Challenge Day!

Sign up for the UBC TREK Program Centre's Commuter Challenge!

Get your department/team to prove you're the "greenest" when it comes to commuting on Wednesday March 1st.

Call 827-TREK for your registration package.

#### MARCH 1ST: COMMUTER CHALLENGE DAY!

7:30 UBC Cinnamon Bun, Fruit and Coffee give away at the Bus Loop!  
UBC Cinnamon Bun Coupon Handout - Volunteers will be looking for persons who carpooled, vanpooled, hiked, biked or walked to UBC.

#### MARCH 1ST - 3RD: SPRING FEST DISPLAYS AND EVENTS

10:00-2:00 Displays and Bike Clinic near the UBC Bus Loop. Be sure to stop by our tents to check out the information, see the Dumpster Painting, pick up your Cinnamon Bun Coupons, register for the prize draw, and get some give aways!

12:30 March 3rd: Prize draws, award presentations, wrap-up events. E-mail Transportation Survey prizes announced.



Event Schedule updates are available @ [www.trek.ubc.ca](http://www.trek.ubc.ca)

[www.trek.ubc.ca](http://www.trek.ubc.ca)

827-TREK

e-mail: [trek.mktg@ubc.ca](mailto:trek.mktg@ubc.ca)

**Improving Your Transportation Choices**



Invites all members of the UBC teaching community to

## Faculty Night

Wednesday, March 1, 2000  
5:00 to 7:30 PM

Find out about the Fall 2000 textbook adoption -- including a demo of the new on-line adoption service

Staff will answer your questions about Custom Course Materials and Special Orders

See the Bookstore's evolving website, including new sections for General Books, Computer Shop and Stationery items

Save 20% on all regular priced general books

Save 10% on regular priced software and peripherals in stock

Save 5% on regular priced computer hardware in stock

Refreshments Served

Door Prizes

RSVP to  
[vmcleod@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:vmcleod@interchange.ubc.ca)  
or 822-2665