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What do Lego robots have to teach students?

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Years of study reap results for UBC graduates

ubc reports

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

UBC sews up silver spot in national standings

Ranking moves up in student body categories

FOR THE THIRD YEAR in a row, UBC has secured second position overall in rankings of Canada's medical/doctoral universities, according to the annual survey published this week in *Maclean's* magazine.

"We are pleased that our second spot in the *Maclean's* rankings reflects the fact that UBC is one of Canada's outstanding national educational resources," said UBC President Martha Piper.

"Earning the silver spot in these rankings for the third year in a row shows that students, faculty and staff are deeply committed to UBC's *Trek 2000* vision of a great university in a great city."

The key strategies of *Trek 2000* include improved access to education through greater financial support for students, encouraging curricula that include opportunities for undergraduate research, and attracting top faculty.

The University of Toronto again placed first overall in the category, which ranks 15 universities with a broad range of PhD programs and research as well as medical schools. Queen's University placed third.

For the second year running, UBC was ranked first in percentage of faculty with PhDs and in faculty receiving humanities and social science research grants.

UBC improved or maintained its *see Rankings, page 2*

Students keen on community: report

Focus groups suggest ways to bring students into loop

by Michelle Cook staff writer

LETTING STUDENTS know how they can get involved in campus life is the key to building a stronger UBC community according to a draft report prepared for the business process re-engineering team

in the Student Recruitment Office and for vice-president, Students, Brian Sullivan.

Based on input from student groups and administrators across campus, the report, *Building a Campus Community: The Community UBC*, puts forward several recommendations to improve the quality of university life for students.

"The original focus of the report was to help set the direction for student recruitment," says Janet Teasdale, director, Student Development.

"We wanted to address the importance of building the UBC community in order to attract potential students. And current students identified community as something they want to talk about and take leadership in building."

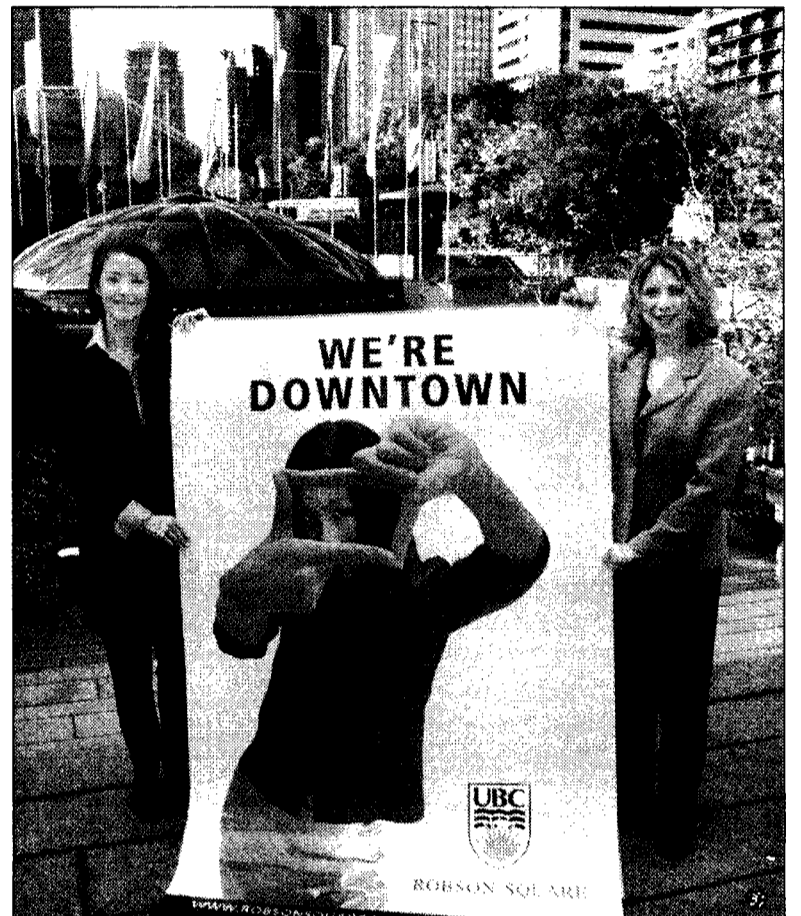
The findings in the report will be a tool to help people all over campus begin a dialogue about what it means to build a community and how to do that, says Teasdale.

Some of the suggestions for community building include creating a stronger visual identity for the university, establishing a buddy or mentorship program and emphasizing the importance of personal contact between students and university staff.

The report also identifies better communications between myriad groups on campus as the key to bringing students into the loop.

It calls for the establishment of a Centre for Student Involvement to act as an information clearing house, and for the vice-president, Students, and the Alma Mater Society president to send out monthly joint e-mail encouraging student involvement.

Another recommendation is to *see Report, page 2*



ROBSON SQUARE Associate vice-president, Continuing Studies, Jane Hutton (left) and UBC at Robson Square business manager Melissa Picher display one of the advertising posters now in downtown bus shelters and Skytrain stations. UBC at Robson Square's official opening Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 will feature more than 80 events and presentations reflecting the best of UBC. The open house includes a Best of UBC speakers series. For a schedule of Best of UBC speakers see the Calendar in this issue. For a complete listing of Robson Square Open House events, visit www.robsonsquare.ubc.ca. Richard Lam photo

Zoologist Canada's professor of the year

He creates excitement for learning: vice-president

ZOOLOGY ASSOC. PROF. Lee Gass's reputation as one of Canada's foremost university educators has advanced even further with the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) naming him the top Canadian Professor of the Year.

Gass was unanimously chosen from among 16 nominees from Canadian universities.

The award recognizes Gass's dedication to undergraduate teaching and service to the university, community, and teaching profession.

"This is a great honour for Lee and wonderful news for UBC," says vice-president, Academic, Barry McBride. "Lee has and will continue to create an excitement for learning that is infectious."

A faculty member since 1974, Gass was a member of the Science One planning team and is the cur-



Award-winner Assoc. Prof. Lee Gass

rent director of the Integrated Sciences Program, as well as a teacher in both the Coordinated Sciences and Integrated Sciences programs. He has also maintained an active research career, but closed his lab two years ago in order to devote the remainder of his career to teaching and faculty development.

Gass received a University Killam Teaching Prize and a 3M Teaching Fellowship in 1999.

The CASE award is sponsored by the Royal Bank.

Interview with Gass, see page 3

War crimes prosecutor receives degree Nov. 22

Rwanda, Yugoslavia proving grounds for justice

ONE OF CANADA's leading jurists and international law experts will be awarded an honorary degree during Fall Congregation Nov. 22.

Supreme Court Justice Louise Arbour earned international recognition in 1996 when she was appointed by the United Nations Security Council to serve as prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia.

"Even at her relatively young age, she has a record of accomplishment and dedication to Canadian and international law that is second to none," says Law Dean Joost Blom.

More than 2,560 students will receive their degrees during Fall Congregation Nov. 22 and Nov. 23. Degrees will be awarded in eight ceremonies at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts.

Born and educated in Montreal, Arbour was called to the Quebec bar in 1971 and served as a faculty member and associate dean of



Supreme Court Justice Louise Arbour

York University's Osgoode Hall Law School.

While there, she also served as vice-president of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association.

Arbour was appointed judge of the Ontario High Court of Justice in 1987 and also served on the Ontario Court of Appeal. She was elected to the Supreme Court of Canada in 1999.

UBC graduates lead the way. See page 8

LETTERS

Remove car access, not pool, suggests reader

Editor:
It is hard to see how the proposed relocation of the bus loop and outdoor pool is going to create a more "pedestrian-friendly area," as claimed in your report of Nov. 1.

The pool and loop are perfectly well placed where they are. Why undergo the huge upheaval of moving them?

The main motive for the plan seems to be the inclusion of "commercial, institutional and residential space," not concern for pedestrians, who would be better served by much tighter restrictions on vehicle traffic generally on campus.

Car access to campus has greatly increased over the last 10 years, and inevitably some vehicles are

driven fast and aggressively. The effective way to get a more pedestrian-friendly campus is by limiting access strictly to authorized vehicles, not by moving the pool and bus loop.

*Prof. Graham Good
English Dept.*

Report

Continued from page 1
create a celebration, such as UBC Day, to bring the whole UBC community together, possibly on the anniversary of the 1922 Great Trek march to Point Grey to establish the UBC campus.

Earlier this year, 75 students, faculty and staff brainstormed on ideas to build a stronger UBC community in focus groups and through e-mail questionnaires.

The draft report will be presented to the Campus Advisory Board on Student Development later this month.

A copy of the report will be available at www.vpstudents.ubc.ca/index.htm.

Rankings

Continued from page 1
status in five of the seven Student Body categories.

Key gains include a move from eighth to third in the proportion of students who graduate and moving from third to second spot in terms of students whose average is 75 per cent or higher. UBC also maintained second place for the average entering grades for students.

The *Maclean's* ranking measures the undergraduate experience at Canadian universities, comparing post-secondary institutions in three groupings: medical/doctoral, comprehensive and primarily undergraduate.

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Wanted, Excellent Teachers
FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE
UBC KILLAM TEACHING PRIZE

The University is again recognising excellence in teaching through the awarding of teaching prizes to faculty members. Two prize winners from the Faculty of Applied Science will be selected for 2002.

Eligibility: The prizes are open to full-time tenure-track faculty in Architecture, Engineering or Nursing who have five or more years of teaching experience at UBC.

Criteria: The awards will recognise sustained teaching accomplishments at all levels at UBC, and will focus on those faculty who have demonstrated that they are able to motivate students and are responsive to students' intellectual needs, or have developed innovative laboratory or lecture materials.

Nomination process: Students, alumni or faculty members may nominate candidates to the Head of their department, the Director of their School, or the Head of the unit in which the nominee teaches. Letters of nomination and supporting information may also be sent directly to:

PROF. NEMY BANTHIA
CHAIR, KILLAM SELECTION COMMITTEE 2001-2002
DEPT. OF CIVIL ENGINEERING
The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, V6T 1Z4
E-mail: banthia@civil.ubc.ca, Tel: 604-822-9541

Deadline: JAN. 11, 2002

Winners: Winners will be identified in early 2002, and will also be honoured during the Spring Convocation in May.

For further information about the awards, please contact the Dean's Office, Faculty of Applied Science, your Department or School office, or the Selection Committee Chair.

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THEN AND NOW Are you in this picture? If so, you'll want to attend UBC Childcare Services 10th anniversary celebration, A Legacy of Caring, Saturday, Nov. 24 from 3-5 p.m. at 2881 Acadia Rd. All families, staff and alumni of UBC child-care programs are welcome to attend the reunion which will feature displays of old photos, videos and refreshments. More than 400 children annually attend the 16 child-care programs comprising UBC Childcare Services for the children of faculty, staff, students and members of the community. For more information about the reunion, call 604-822-6238. *UBC Childcare Services photo*

Students, robots pair up for timely lessons in ethics

Class looks beyond Battlebots to tackle technology issues

by Michelle Cook staff writer

CHILDREN HAVE BEEN using Lego building blocks to snap together skyscrapers and cars since 1932, but a UBC Philosophy professor has found a novel use for one of the world's most imaginative play toys.

Prof. Peter Danielson, who holds the Mary and Maurice Young Professorship in the Faculty of Graduate Studies' Centre for Applied Ethics, has incorporated the classic plastic blocks into the curriculum for his graduate seminar, Ethics for Robots.

But the Lego pieces Danielson uses don't come from starter sets. In his class, multidisciplinary teams of seminar students construct sophisticated Lego Mindstorm robots to compete in mini ethics games.

Unlike in the popular TV show *Battlebots*, these competitions don't involve robots dueling each other to the death. The challenges include getting the robots to work together to rescue a victim, find a landmine, or escape a fire in a crowded theatre.

The robots are the focus for solving different ethical problems presented to students each week.

"New technology is like manna from heaven," explains Danielson while activating a pair of wheeled robots on the desk in front of him. "When someone drops manna on you, you've got to figure out what you want to do with it."

"Our society's rapid adoption of advanced technologies has created new ethical problems, even as it solves others," he says. "We have to ask what our rules are going to be."

Danielson says that getting the robots to compete addresses two levels of applied ethics challenges.

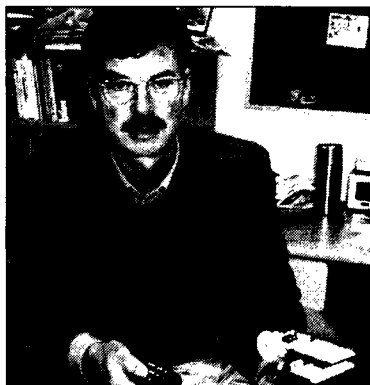
On one level, building, or modeling, a robot to perform specific tasks demonstrates that the ability to construct a purely competi-

tive "battlebot" may allow players to destroy other robots to "win" a game, but it isn't likely to solve any ethical problems.

Danielson's aim is to engage students in gentler games to show them that agents like robots can be designed to compete with moral features such as constraint and concern for others.

"Technology is just like nature," Danielson says. "When it comes out of the box, it doesn't care about us. It's amoral and risky, and in the seminar, students take that technology and produce something that is moral, sociable and able to get along with others and with us."

On a second level, the seminar allows students to experience the problems of negotiating and main-



Philosophy Prof. Peter Danielson

taining social contracts for building robots together and having competitions with them.

Danielson hopes the lessons learned from the weekly robot games will teach students how to create ethically better technology, as well as use new technology to improve their ethics.

Award affirms teaching matters, says Gass

Professor dreams of building true learning communities

Interview Don Wells, staff writer

DOES THIS AWARD HAVE ANY SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR YOU?

The most significant aspect is that the award acknowledges that teaching matters.

After decades of second-class citizenship for valuing my teaching as highly as research, it is wonderful to know that teaching can, in fact, matter greatly. In addition, my involvement in faculty development over the last decade has made me aware that many others also value teaching highly, and I know that an award like this can help to bring them the support and acknowledgement that they need and deserve.

In that sense, the award is as much a reminder to all of us that teaching matters as it is an ac-

knowledgement of my own accomplishments.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS CONCERNING UBC'S UNDERGRADUATE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT?

We have achieved a lot at UBC and elsewhere to make undergraduate education more vibrant, engaging, and effective than before, but we still have a long way to go.

Our most dramatic achievements have been to develop strong interdisciplinary programs in several faculties, but these reach relatively small numbers of students. An enormous challenge will be to apply the insights we've gained in those programs to larger numbers of students.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE THE FUTURE HOLDS FOR YOU AS AN EDUCATOR?

I hope to spend the rest of my career sharing insights we've

Sustainable quest makes public debut

Web, Science World sites for public participation

by Michelle Cook staff writer

WILL YOU RECYCLE this copy of *UBC Reports* after you've finished reading it, or toss it into the garbage bin? We know that many of the choices we make today will have an impact on our world in the years to come, but would we change the way we do things now if we could peer into the future and see the effects of our choices on society?

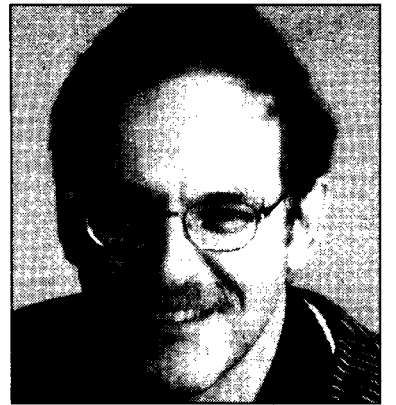
On Nov. 28, members of the community will have the chance to help answer that question when the Faculty of Graduate Studies' Sustainable Development Research Institute (SDRI) launches the public participation phase of its Georgia Basin Futures Project (GBFP) at Vancouver's Science World.

Now at its halfway mark, the five-year project is exploring ways of achieving long-term sustainability in the region with the help of a computer-based envisioning tool called QUEST.

With the look and appeal of a computer game, QUEST gets users to enter their individual preferences on housing, transportation, food and energy sources, and other lifestyle choices. It then generates scenarios to show the environmental, social and economic consequences of these decisions.

"QUEST gives people context for the choices they make," says John Robinson, head of the GBFP team.

"Over the next two and a half years, our goal is to get tens of thousands of adults and students to play it to provide us with their vision of the region, and a rich picture of the things people care about and what they want and don't want in their future."



John Robinson

Researchers will then have a database, Robinson explains, to determine ways to achieve those scenarios, and give senior decision-makers the information they need to set priorities and policy direction. The analysis will also include a look at whether computer games are an effective way to get people thinking about sustainable development, and change their views and behaviour.

QUEST has been in development since 1994, but the Internet-based game making its debut Nov. 28 is the most comprehensive version yet, with multiple levels of play and hundreds of possible choices.

Anyone with access to the Web can play by visiting the GBFP Web site at www.basinfutures.net.

The Georgia Basin Futures Project is funded by a \$2.5 million Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council grant, and \$3.5 million in cash and contributions from SDRI's community partners including Environment Canada, the Shell Foundation, Science World, the Greater Vancouver Regional District, BC Hydro, the David Suzuki Foundation, the provincial government, and the *Vancouver Sun*.

MORE INFORMATION
Call SDRI at 604-822-8198 or visit www.basinfutures.net.

Correction

In the Nov. 1 issue, an article on the Web-based e-business portal suggested the service is being developed by ITservices. The portal is the work of a number of project partners on campus and is an institution-wide collaborative project.

anything but traditional. How can interdisciplinary teams of faculty work together in the classroom to achieve both of the above objectives?

Again, this extremely effective approach flies in the face of academic tradition.

We know how to make it work, but those lessons were hard-won and are worth sharing.

How can we ensure interactive engagement among students about problems that they experience as real and important? This kind of teamwork is the most important pedagogical factor in achieving conceptual understanding by students of Science, and I suspect that it is similarly important in other disciplines.

How can faculties and other high-level units within universities develop effective interdisciplinary approaches to the content of courses, and how can they support and co-ordinate those efforts? This is a big question, and it implies kinds and degrees of co-operation and collaboration that are

Dr. Nelson Greidanus. vGH, Eye Care Centre Aud. from 7-8am. Call 604-875-4192.

Chemical And Biological Engineering Seminar

A Practical Example Of Bayesian Belief Networks As A Method Of Modelling And Predicting Benthic Impact Associated With Marine Aquaculture. Nara Mehlenbacher. ChemEng 206 at 12noon. Call 604-822-3238.

Obstetrics And Gynecology Seminar
Effect Of Electrofusion Parameters And Donor Cell Size On Bovine Embryo Nuclear Transfer. Ki Yon Kim. BC Women's Hosp. 2N35 from 2-3pm. Call 604-875-3108.

Physics Undergraduate Lecture
Cosmology Douglas Scott. Hennings 318 at 5pm. Refreshments. Call 604-822-3116.

Green College Writer-In-Residence
Poetry Reading. Nadine King Chambers, poet. Green College at 8pm. Call 604-822-1878.

THURSDAY, NOV. 29

Earth And Ocean Sciences Colloquium

Whales And Wild Salmon: The Consequences Of An Ecological Perspective In The 21st Century. Alexandra Morton, Raincoast Research. GeoSciences 330-A from 12noon-1pm. Call 604-822-5406.

United Way Talk

Travels In Ladakh. David Shackleton, Agricultural Sciences. MacMillan 160 at 12noon. Call 604-822-8929.

ICICS Distinguished Lecture

Tangible Bits: Towards A Seamless Interface Between People, Bits And Atoms. Hiroshi Ishii, founder, director Tangible Media Group. MIT Media Lab. C1CS8/CS 208 from 4-5:30pm. Call 604-822-6894.

Physics Colloquium

Ned Khan. Hennings 201 at 4pm. Call 604-822-3853.

Law And Society

An Aural History Of Property: Images Of Ownership In Music. Bruce Ziff, U of Alberta. Green College at 5pm. Call 604-822-1878.

FRIDAY, NOV. 30

Open House

UBC At Robson Square. 800 Robson St. from 9am-6pm. Continues Dec. 1. Call UBC-INFO (604-822-4636).

Health Care And Epidemiology Grand Rounds

Use Of Molecular Epidemiology Techniques In TB Control. Kevin Elwood, respirologist, director, TB Control/BC Centre for Disease Control. Mather 253 from 9-10am. Call 604-822-2772.

Public Seminar

A Web Of Small Tensions. Robert Francis, Aquatic and Fishery Science, U of Washington. Hut B-8 Ralf Yorquer Room from 11am-12:30pm. Call 604-822-2731.

Occupational And Environmental Hygiene Seminar

Determinants Of Dust Exposure In BC Sawmills: A Comparison Of Two Predictive Models. Melissa Friesen, occupational hygienist, BC Cancer Control Agency. BioSciences 2321 from 12:30-1:30pm. Call 604-822-9861.

Best Of UBC Speaker Series

The Role Of The Liu Centre And Current Foreign Policy Issues. Lloyd Axworthy, Liu Centre. Robson Square Theatre from 1:30-2:30pm. Call 604-822-4636.

Best Of UBC Speaker Series

Dynamic Growth Entrepreneurship: Building For The Future. Daniel Muzyka, dean, Commerce and Business

Administration. Robson Square Theatre from 3-4pm. Call 604-822-4636.

Geography Colloquium

Reflections Of Colonial Power And Its Discontents. Cole Harris. Geography 212 from 3-4pm. Refreshments. Call 604-822-2663.

Seminar

Continuity And Discontinuity Of Confucian Tradition In Late Choson Korean Society. Prof. Kim In-Geol, Seoul National U. CK Choi Seminar room from 3:30-5pm. Call 604-822-4688.

Earth And Ocean Sciences Seminar

Ice Sheets And The Ocean Thermohaline Circulation (THC) During Glacial Periods. Lawrence A. Mysak, Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, McGill U. GeoSciences 330-A from 4-5pm. Call 604-822-5406.

Best Of UBC Speaker Series

The Question Of Biography. Prof. Ira B. Nadel, English. Robson Square Theatre from 4:30-5:30pm. Call 604-822-4636

Best Of UBC Speaker Series

Biotechnology: Myths And Realities. Prof. Sid Katz, Pharmacology. Robson Square Theatre from 7-8pm. Call 604-822-4636.

Concert

The Dream Of Gerontius. Chan Centre at 8pm. Call 604-822-5574.

SATURDAY, DEC. 1

Best Of UBC Speaker Series

AIDS Update. Dr. Michael O'Shaughnessy, Pathology, director, BC Centre for Excellence; Dr. Martin Schecter, Canada Research Chair in HIV/AIDS and Urban Population Health. Robson Square Theatre at 9:30am. Call 604-822-4636..

Best Of UBC Speaker Series

Panel Discussion: Sustainable Transportation. Gordon Lovegrove, various speakers. Robson Square Theatre at 11am. Call 604-822-4636.

Best Of UBC Speaker Series

Astronomy And The Cosmos. Jaymie Matthews; Stephane Courteau, Physics and Astronomy. Robson Square Theatre at 12:30pm. Call 604-822-4636.

Best Of UBC Speaker Series

Keeping Ahead Of The Bugs. Prof. Brett Finlay, Biotechnology Laboratory. Robson Square Theatre at 2pm. Call 604-822-4636.

Best Of UBC Speaker Series

Body And Soul. David Tarrant, Agricultural Sciences. Robson Square Theatre at 3:30pm. Call 604-822-4636.

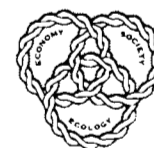
Best Of UBC Speaker Series

The Brain. The Next Frontier. Max Cynader, director, Brain Research Centre. Robson Square 2C.400 from 3:30-4:30pm. Call 604-822-4636.

Vancouver Institute Lecture

Insects As Friends And Foes. Prof. Judith Myers, Zoology. IRC #2 at 8:15pm. Call 604-822-4636.

Want to make a difference?



If you are a UBC faculty or staff member and interested in helping your department make sustainable choices, consider becoming a Sustainability Co-ordinator. Please contact Kara Ko at 604-822-0273 or kara.ko@ubc.ca.

If you would like more information about sustainability at UBC or sustainability issues please visit our Web site: www.sustain.ubc.ca

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UBC Elections
Call for Nominations

UBC Senate: Alumni Representatives
Alumni of The University of British Columbia are encouraged to run for eleven positions on the UBC Senate. Candidates for these Convocation Senator positions may not be current UBC faculty members. **Nominations are due at Enrolment Services by 4 p.m. on Dec. 20.**

UBC Chancellor
Nominations are being accepted for the position of Chancellor of The University of British Columbia. UBC's Convocation elects the Chancellor. The Convocation primarily consists of UBC graduates and full-time faculty members. Persons applying for the position of Chancellor may not be currently employed by a university. **Nominations are due at Enrolment Services by 4 p.m. on Dec. 20.**

Nomination forms for these positions are available at Enrolment Services, Brock Hall, 2016 - 1874 East Mall, UBC.

For further information, or to download nomination forms, please visit WWW.STUDENTS.UBC.CA/EVENTS/ELECTIONS.

Notice of election
An election will be held to elect at-large representatives of full-time faculty members to the UBC Senate and Board of Governors.

Candidate information will be available on the UBC Elections Web site www.students.ubc.ca/events/elections after Nov. 19.

Polls will be open for voting from Nov. 27 to Dec. 17.

Voters may vote on the Internet by visiting the UBC Elections Web site or may request paper ballots by sending an e-mail to elections.information@ubc.ca

The Iona Building at Vancouver School of Theology on the UBC campus. Photo: Perry Danforth

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DIGEST

Holy War topic of talk

Regent College Theology Prof. John Stackhouse will lead a discussion Nov. 22 to help people understand the events of Sept. 11 and its aftermath.

Called "Is This a Holy War? Islam, Jihad, and Obedience to God," the discussion begins at 7:30 p.m. at Regent College.

For more information, call 604-224-3245 or visit www.regent-college.edu or www.JohnStackhouse.com.

White Ribbon breakfast

The UBC community will hold a breakfast Thursday, Nov. 29 to raise awareness of men's violence against women.

The event is part of the White Ribbon campaign, launched in re-

sponse to the shooting of 14 women students at the Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal in 1989.

The pancake breakfast will be held in the second-floor SUB Partyroom from 7:30 - 11:30 a.m. Admission is a minimum \$2 donation.


Funds will support women's groups that address the issue of violence against women and services for abused women.

For more information, call 604-822-2181 or e-mail safewalk@ams.ubc.ca.

Exchange award

The UBC-Ritsumeikan Academic Exchange Program has been named the Outstanding Program in International Education for 2001 in the university category by the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIIE).

The program brings 100 Japanese students from Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto to live and study with UBC students for a year.

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United funds edge to goal

Response phenomenal, says campaign chair

FIFTEEN DAYS and counting — that's all the time left to make this year's United Way fundraising goal of \$395,000. But with \$336,000 already raised, organizers are confi-

dent that UBC will hit the target. "So far the campaign has been a phenomenal success," says Michelle McCaughran, UBC campaign chair. "UBC's United Way campaign is one of the largest in the Lower Mainland and despite the cancellation of this year's kick-off breakfast due to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, people

have come up with creative ways to raise funds."

Campus Security patrol members will be approaching motorists Nov. 22 offering cookies, coffee and gentle reminders to turn in pledge forms.

For those with wanderlust, the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences is hosting a series of travel presentations this month.

Assoc. Prof. Doug Patterson talks about his recent experiences in India on Nov. 16. Assoc. Dean David Shackleton describes his travels in Ladakh on Nov. 23, and graduate student Shawn Taylor recalls his adventures with grizzlies and mountain goats on Nov. 29.

All presentations take place at noon in Room 160 of the MacMillan Building. Admission is by donation.

Even after the campaign is officially wrapped up, the Alma Mater Society will be organizing a casino night Jan. 25 with proceeds going to United Way.

For more information, visit the UBC United Way Web site at www.unitedway.ubc.ca/



Honour Roll

Janet Teasdale is the new director, Student Development in Student Development and Services (formerly Student Services).

Teasdale will be responsible for the overall development and management of student development programs including orientation programs, peer programs, and student success. Student Development will also establish student development officers in faculties and other units.

Teasdale was formerly first-year co-ordinator, Office of the Vice-President, Students.

Psychology Prof. **Ken Craig** has received the American Pain Society 2002 Jeffrey Lawson Award for Advocacy in Children's Pain Relief.

The award recognizes advocacy efforts to improve management of pain in children.

Craig was honoured for his work in developing widely used measures for assessing and understanding pain in babies and young children experiencing pain from injuries, disease, and medical procedures.

Deborah Robinson is the new associate registrar, Student Recruitment, Admissions and Awards in Enrolment Services.

Her responsibilities include providing leadership and direction in the areas of undergraduate student recruitment, admissions and awards. She will also



Prof. Sid Katz

work with faculties to co-ordinate enrolment planning to achieve the university's admission goals.

Robinson was previously assistant dean, Strategic and Academic Planning, in the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Pharmaceutical Sciences Prof. **Sid Katz** has been named executive director, Community Affairs.

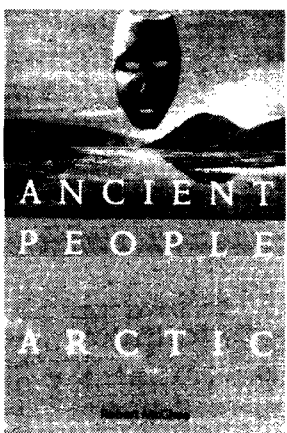
The objectives of the position are to strengthen the integration of UBC more visibly into the community by creating substantive programs and building meaningful relationships that make academia and university research more approachable and accessible to the university community, government, media and the community at large.

The position has been jointly created by the vice-president, Research, and the vice-president, External and Legal Affairs.

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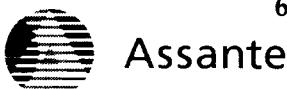
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Dr. J. H. McNeill, Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences, UBC

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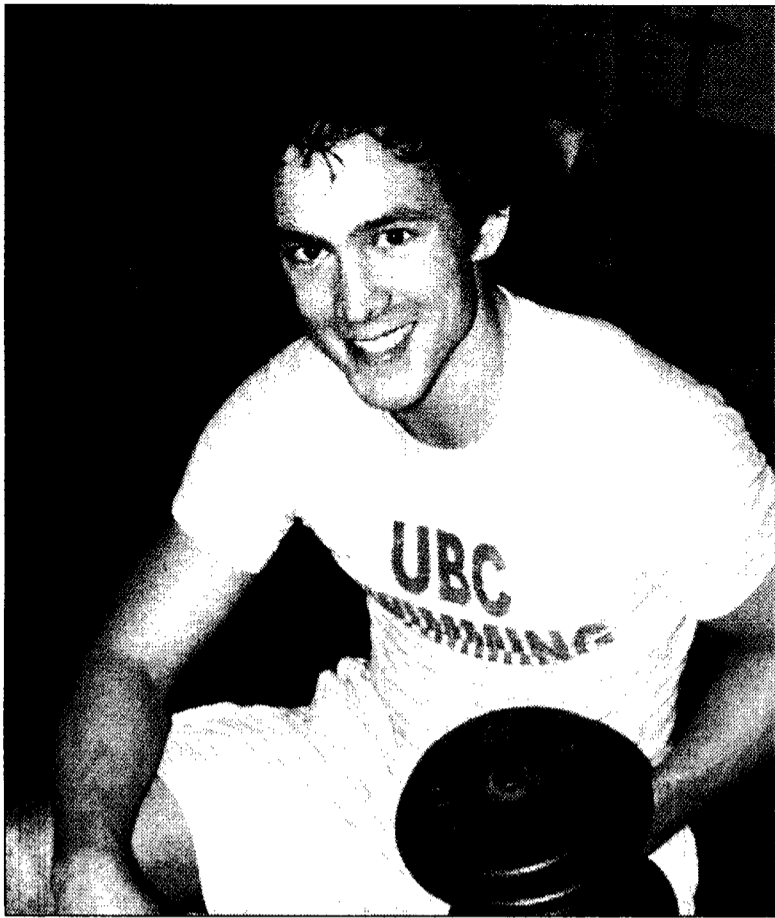
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Arts graduate Mark Versfeld combined medal-winning performances in the pool, team leadership and top marks in the classroom. *Don Wells photo*

FALL CONGREGATION

UBC graduates prepare to make waves in talent pools



Pharmaceutical Sciences graduate Lucy Marzban says her academic career started to happen all of a sudden for her after an introduction to UBC Prof. John McNeill. *Hilary Thomson photo*

Stellar student in the swim of things

Student 'example of all the great things that can happen in university sport,' says coach

by **Don Wells** staff writer

WITH THE GRADUATION of Faculty of Arts student and varsity swimmer Mark Versfeld, UBC will bid adieu to one of the most outstanding athletes in its 86-year history. But it won't just be the 28 international medals his coaches and teammates will remember him for or the 11 national titles.

Above all, they will remember him for his leadership and selfless attitude.

"As team captain, it was the little things he did that were noticeable — posting team goals, getting the guys together to visit a sick teammate and always offering to assist the coaching staff in any way possible," says UBC head swim coach Tom Johnson. "He is an example of all the great things that can happen in university sport."

The 25-year-old Economics major and native of Fort McMurray also set an example in the classroom.

In each of his five years at UBC he was named a Royal Bank Academic All Canadian for maintaining a grade point average in excess of 80 per cent in a course of full-time study while competing as a varsity athlete.

His crowning academic achievement occurred just weeks ago, when he was honoured as Western Canada's top Royal Bank Academic All Canadian for 2000-2001, selected from a list of nominees from 11 other universities.

"UBC had everything I wanted," he says when asked why he chose UBC over the multitude of Canadi-

an and US schools that tried to recruit him. "It was a respected school and had the best atmosphere in Canada to train."

The year after he came to UBC, the men's swim team won the first of four consecutive national university championships. Between 1997 and '99 he won silver and bronze medals in backstroke at the Pan Pacific and World Championships, two gold at the Commonwealth Games and earned a spot on Canada's 2000 Olympic team.

He wrapped up his university swim career last March by winning the Bobby Gaul Trophy as the most outstanding graduating male athlete. He holds a total of five UBC records, as well as one Canada West, one Canadian and one Commonwealth Games record.

He also contributed to community activities undertaken by the Thunderbird Athlete's Council, including visits to Lower Mainland elementary schools designed to encourage kids to pursue sport and education.

His wide-ranging curiosity also compelled him to pursue other non-sport activities, including serving as vice-president of an investment club he helped form. Somehow he has found the time to dabble as a painter.

Versfeld remains uncertain about career plans, but says his broad-based education will equip him for life after his competitive career is over.

"Before I decide, I'll want to take a big breath and make sure it's the right thing," he says. "I feel like I've been given all the tools to go in any direction."

For the time being, that direction is Manchester and the 2002 Commonwealth Games where he will close out his competitive career, and one of the most remarkable chapters in UBC sport history.

A PhD in breakthroughs

Promising young researcher fled war-weary Iran to pursue passion for lab work in a peaceful country

by **Hilary Thomson** staff writer

IT'S TAKEN about four years but Lucy Marzban is finally getting used to Vancouver rain.

"I couldn't believe it when I came here—I've never seen so much rain," says the Iranian-born graduate who will receive a PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences during Fall Congregation this month.

She originally wanted to be a physician and was encouraged by her grandfather, a surgeon. She began working toward a medical degree in 1989 during Iran's eight-year war with Iraq.

Night bombing disrupted studies and sleep, and with hospital staff dispatched to the country's borders to treat casualties, many students volunteered for hospital shifts while attending university.

Marzban obtained the equivalent of a medical degree in laboratory medicine from Tehran University in 1994 with the second-highest mark in the class. After graduation, she worked as a research

assistant at the Diabetes Research Centre affiliated with the university and supervised a medical laboratory at the Health and Therapeutic Centre at Iran University.

"I liked medicine but I loved the bench work," she says of her studies.

She decided to pursue medical laboratory science in an English-speaking country and says she chose Canada for its reputation as a peaceful and hospitable country. Marzban arrived alone in Vancouver in May 1997 not knowing a single person in the country.

Her search for a doctoral supervisor began late in the academic year and it began to look as though she might have to return to Iran when she was introduced to Prof. John McNeill of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

McNeill explores how vanadium, a naturally occurring element used to strengthen steel, can be used as a therapeutic agent to treat diabetes. Marzban had studied the mechanisms of gestational diabetes for her medical degree.

"I was so lucky to work with Dr. McNeill — everything started to happen all of a sudden," she says.

She made a breakthrough discovery while at the lab.

Researchers had been focusing on muscle cells to test some aspects of vanadium's therapeutic properties, but were frustrated at the lack of response. Marzban suggested using diabetic liver cells. The approach worked and changed the whole research picture, according to McNeill.

Now working as a post-doctoral student in Pathology Asst. Prof. Bruce Verchere's lab, Marzban studies diabetes in children.

She relaxes by playing the piano at Thunderbird Residence lounge when she can and swimming at UBC's Aquatic Centre.

An enthusiastic skier who learned on the slopes of the Aboriz Mountains in northern Iran, she is pleased that her move to Vancouver gives her access to some excellent skiing.

After her post-doctoral work Marzban hopes to pursue an academic career — maybe even here in Vancouver now that she's finally used to the rain.

More than 2,560 students will graduate during UBC's Fall Congregation Nov. 22 and 23 in the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts. For a complete schedule of ceremonies visit www.external-affairs.ubc.ca/ceremonies