

ubc reports

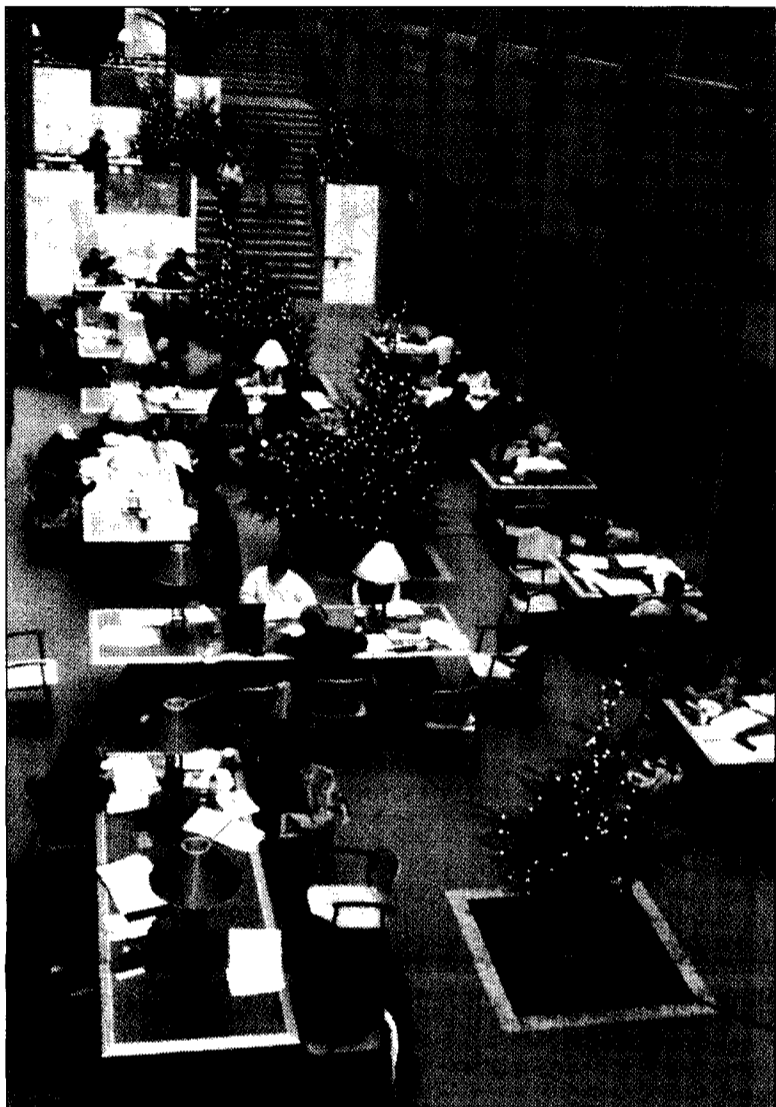
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

3 **Laptop learning**

Student teachers take technology to classrooms

8 **Heart to heart**

Practise understanding, suggests St. John's principal



LIGHTS OF LEARNING Students get in some last-minute studying in the festive setting of the Forest Sciences Centre atrium. Students in most faculties write their last exams next Thursday. *Michelle Cook photo*

Forester, Buddhist scholar among latest CRC chairs

Program funds work of innovative researchers

by Hilary Thomson, staff writer

A WOOD SCIENTIST whose work promotes sustainable forests and an expert in medieval Buddhism are among the UBC faculty recently named as Canada Research Chairs. The announcement brings the total number of UBC chairs to 43 positions valued at \$7.2 million.

UBC alumnus Shawn Mansfield, assistant professor in the Faculty of Forestry, analyses variations in trees' biosynthetic pathways or cellular building blocks as well as their chemistry and morphology to maximize the value of the wood fibre and correlate these properties to end-use.

"We want to help scientists choose seedlings and industry select trees that offer the greatest value as a product with the least impact on our forests," says Mansfield, who holds a master's degree in Medical Microbiology but turned his attention to forestry to help contribute to environmental sustainability.

The 32-year-old holds the Canada Research Chair in Wood Fibre Quality Improvement and worked as a research scientist and lecturer in New Zealand at Forest Research and the University of Waikato before joining the faculty last year.

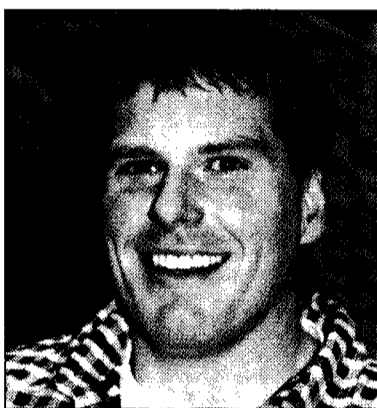
Factors such as genetic makeup and the environment influence how trees develop and affect the requirements to process them.

By studying genetic strengths and chemical characteristics of various tree families, Mansfield will help forest managers design plantings with higher quality and lower environmental impact.

Species with a genetic predisposition to long fibres and lower content of lignin — the substance in cell walls of plants that makes them rigid and woody — are ideally suited for pulp and paper manufacturing, he says.

Mansfield has applied for Canada Foundation for Innovation funding that will allow him to set up a wood fibre biotechnology and chemistry lab that will be unique in Canada.

"The greatest challenge in this work is educating the public about forestry," he says. "This is a high-tech industry that is breaking down barriers of traditional forestry to preserve our natural forests."



Forestry Asst. Prof. Shawn Mansfield



Arts Asst. Prof. Jinhua Chen

Jinhua Chen, the Canada Research Chair in East Asian Religions, aims to reconstruct a period of Buddhism in China and Japan during the fifth to seventh centuries.

His research focus is the relationship between the monastic institution and the state.

"All organized religions remain entangled to some degree in secular concerns," says Chen, an assistant professor who joined the Faculty of Arts from the University of Virginia in July this year. "Nowhere is this entanglement more obvious than in the relationship between church and state."

Medieval China rulers of different dynasties promoted Buddhism to unify their multi-racial and multi-cultural country, he says. Also, rulers used the religion as part of their state ideology and to justify seizure of power.

Chen hopes to broaden traditional scholarship in this area by examining the relationship between Buddhist monasteries and the state using sources such as biographies of monks.

"These biographies were strongly informed by sectarian concerns of the writers or their sponsors," he says. He has discovered new mate-

see CRC page 2

Satellite to launch in space next year

Tiny observatory has a big mission: date the universe

by Don Wells staff writer

PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY ASSOC. Prof. Jaymie Matthews' 2001 space odyssey will have to wait until 2002. December of 2002 to be exact.

That's when a Russian launch vehicle — once deployed as a nuclear intercontinental ballistic missile — is scheduled to carry his suitcase-sized satellite into orbit. That suitcase will be packed with Canada's first space telescope, designed and built by UBC scientists.

The Canadian Space Agency (CSA) and German-Russian consortium Eurokot Launch Services signed a contract last month to launch the Canadian Space Agency's Microvariability and Oscillations of STars (MOST) microsatellite.

Matthews leads a team of instrument scientists and engineers in the Physics and Astronomy Dept.,

as well as astrophysicists from across Canada, the US and Austria.

Together, they have constructed a tiny space observatory that will help address two questions that fire the imaginations of experts and laypeople alike: how old is our universe, and what are planets like outside our solar system?

"It should be a great Christmas gift next year," says Matthews, who just returned from a launch planning meeting in Moscow. "By that time, if all goes according to plan, the MOST team should be opening up brand new frontiers in astronomy and space technology."

MOST will measure subtle variations and vibrations in the light from distant stars, seeing changes in the relative brightness of the star as small as only one part in a million.

"No existing instrument on earth or space is able to detect that level of change in another star," says Matthews, "but MOST will be able to see it."

see Space page 2

Campus campaign shoots above goal

A DONATION of \$40,000 to the 2001 UBC United Way campaign from an anonymous UBC employee has vaulted this year's total well beyond the targeted goal of \$395,000.

As of last week, total donations stood at just over \$422,000.

"Who knows what might have touched this individual," says UBC United Way campaign chair, Michelle McCaughran. "It reflects someone's strong commitment to our community and we are very grateful."

UBC's commitment to the United Way campaign has grown steadily over the years, but the increase of the campaign goal to \$395,000 from \$340,000 the previous year marked the largest increase to date. According to McCaughran, many of the 2001 campaign organizers thought that the 15 per cent increase was a touch

ambitious. As it turns out, it wasn't.

"To raise the bar that high took a committed volunteer group," says McCaughran. "To exceed that objective took more than one person; it took our entire UBC community, including the Alma Mater Society as well as support from many of the deans, and for that we should all be very proud."

A total of 195 volunteers contrib-

see Goal page 2



United Way

Space

Continued from page 1

Matthews explains that the sun and stars like it are literally ringing due to sound waves bouncing around their gaseous interiors. The waves are generated by turbulent motions at the surface, but travel right through the core of the star, revealing its inner characteristics in the same manner that earthquake vibrations enable geoseismologists to explore the interior of the Earth.

By applying this technique, called asteroseismology, to some of

the oldest stars in the Milky Way, Matthews and his research team expect to set a meaningful lower limit on the age of the universe.

MOST will also study the sizes and compositions of sun-like stars known to have planets.

"MOST is an example of how small, dedicated space science missions can deliver a big bang for the buck," Matthews quips. "Canada is becoming a pioneer in this new approach to microsatellite research, thanks to spacecraft control technology developed in Toronto matched to scientific and technical expertise here at UBC."

The \$11 million project is a joint effort of the CSA, UBC, Dynacon

Enterprises Ltd. of Toronto and the University of Toronto Institute for Aerospace Studies.

And how does Matthews feel about this Canadian satellite going up on a Russian rocket?

"I think it's great. We're beating a nuclear sword into a scientific ploughshare."

Goal

Continued from page 1

uted their time to the 2001 UBC United Way campaign, including 42 UBC faculty, staff and students who served on the organizing committee. The campaign wrapped up Nov. 30, although Financial Services will continue accepting pledge forms until Dec. 31.

An umbrella organization with 104 member agencies and 32 affiliates spread throughout the Lower Mainland, the United Way supports health-care and rehabilitation services, crisis and emergency services, care for seniors, community services, and provides assistance to families and individuals.

CRC

Continued from page 1

rial that shows efforts by Buddhist monks and their imperial patrons to establish a Buddhist kingdom in China at the beginning of the 7th century.

Although the political program failed, it left far-reaching and profound legacies in political and religious life in medieval East Asia, says Chen.

In its 2000 budget, the Government of Canada provided \$900 million to support the establishment of 2,000 research appointments in universities across the country by 2005.

Other faculty recently named as Canada Research Chairs include: atmospheric chemist Alan Bertram; brain researcher Max Cynader; astrophysicist Brett Gladman; aquaculture expert Scott McKinley; orthopedic engineer Thomas Oxland; mathematician Edwin Perkins; physicist Steven Plotkin; computer scientist Michiel van de Panne; and physicist Mark Van Raamsdonk.

Snow?

"The University will remain open during snow storms but may cancel or reschedule classes on a university-wide basis and/or curtail non-essential services in response to the conditions."—UBC Policy on Disruption of Classes/Services by Snow, May 1994

In the event of extreme snow conditions, listen to CBC Radio, CKNW and other local radio stations for information.



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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 is available on the UBC Elections Web site www.students.ubc.ca/events/elections.

Polls will be open for voting 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

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Teachers in training (l-r) Davina Soumang, Cheryl Charnetski, and Mike Bagosy try out the new Macintosh iBooks they'll be toting to their practicum classes in Lower Mainland-area schools next term. They and fellow classmates in the Faculty of Education's Fine Arts and New Media Education program have been assigned the wireless computers as part of a pilot project to help teachers get creative in the classroom with new technologies. *Michelle Cook photo*

Have laptop, will teach

Students will mentor teachers in learning technologies

by Michelle Cook, staff writer

UBC STUDENT TEACHERS will reverse a long-standing tradition when they head off to Lower Mainland-area schools next term by bringing apples to their students, only their apples won't be crisp and red.

The 36 teachers-in-training from the Faculty of Education's Fine Arts and new Media in Education (FAME) group will be toting sleek, new Macintosh Apple iBook computers with wireless capabilities to their practicum classes. The laptops are part of a leading-edge initiative to integrate technology into teaching and learning.

The goal of the pilot project, the first of its kind in B.C., is to explore how to get teachers and students using technology in a creative, integrated way.

"This project is not about learning to push a mouse — with laptops the possibilities are endless," says Assoc. Prof. Peter Gouzouasis, who is leading the pilot with strong support from Education Dean Robert Tierney.

"FAME is preparing teachers to lead the way in implementing creative applications of new media and fine arts, as well as in developing content and teaching strategies for other subject areas. The only limit is imagination."

With the laptops provided to them by the Faculty of Education Faculty, FAME student teachers will have a wireless connection to their students, other teachers, and a world of Internet-based resources. The portable computer will free them from their desks to prepare and give multi-media lessons no matter where they are.

This term UBC students have been preparing to be technology mentors to the teachers they will be working with in area schools — a key component of the project.

"A lot of teachers aren't familiar with technology," says Barbra Leigh, a sessional instructor from the Burnaby School District who helped implement the wireless pilot with Gouzouasis.

"They're looking forward to our student teachers' visits and the opportunity to learn from them about technology and the rich teaching possibilities it offers."

Even with the enthusiastic response from teachers, Leigh admits there are challenges for the FAME student teachers to overcome. These include breaking down traditional ideas of how children should learn and how technology should be integrated across the curriculum.

At least one FAME student, Davina Soumang, sees her role as that of trailblazer at a time in history similar to when society gained widespread access to books for the first time.

"Just as that was revolutionary, the introduction of computers is revolutionizing our society," Soumang explains.

"If we're going to teach children to lead society, we need to understand the technology, how to use it and how to integrate it."

While FAME student teachers are currently the only ones involved in Education's wireless teaching pilot, several other groups will join in a partial capacity in the new year, says Gouzouasis, who would like to see it eventually become part of entire teacher education program at UBC.

Enzyme yields clue for AIDS treatments

Research team uncovers trigger that impedes work of body's natural immune defense system

UBC RESEARCHERS HAVE discovered an enzyme that increases the rate of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection of cells — a finding that may lead to new AIDS therapies.

Faculty of Dentistry Prof. Christopher Overall and an interdisciplinary research team discovered that the enzyme gelatinase cuts in two the protein called Stromal Cell-Derived Factor (SDF) that normally works to slow the AIDS virus by binding to cells.

"SDF is like a traffic signal. It has many roles in the body such as directing certain white blood cells such as stem cells to stay in bone marrow," says Overall.

The HIV virus stimulates cells to produce gelatinase in excessive amounts, a process that Overall describes as "making an end-run around one of the body's natural roadblocks to infection."

"We're now trying to determine if drugs that block gelatinase can be used to boost treatments such as protease inhibitor cocktails to slow the progression of AIDS," he says.

In the mid-1990s, scientists discovered that the cell receptor that the AIDS virus uses to adhere to cells was a protein. This is a good example of how viruses can hijack normal body proteins to cause disease, says Overall.

Several anti-gelatinase drugs that tested relatively unsuccessfully as a cancer therapy may now have potential in treating AIDS, he adds.

Overall, a Canada Research Chair in Metalloproteinase Biolo-



Prof. Christopher Overall

gy, says that considerable further work is needed to determine if such drugs can be effective and safe in treating AIDS patients.

"The exciting part of this discovery is that now we know that the body can be triggered to remove normal protective effects of SDF under certain circumstances," says Overall. "Now we can target these triggers as a possible avenue of treatment."

The discovery was reported last month in the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*. It builds on the work of research team member UBC Biochemistry Prof. Ian Clark-Lewis who reported in 1996 that synthetic variants of SDF lost their HIV-blocking ability.

Other team members include Prof. Chris Power of the University of Calgary and UBC alumnus Angus McQuibban who was part of a similar research project Overall led last year.

It found that gelatinase cut a similar protein called MCP-3 to help block inflammation such as arthritis. The widely publicized work led to several patents.

Lives touched, changed by professor's insights

Scholar focused attention on intersecting needs, rights

by Prof. Susan Boyd, Law

MARLEE KLINE, a professor of Law at UBC since 1989, died Nov. 29.

Since March 2000, Marlee fought leukemia with the courage, dignity, and quiet determination that characterized her life and her work. Her passing, at age 41, is a great loss to UBC's intellectual community, especially the feminist community.

Marlee will be remembered as a dedicated and inspiring teacher and a brilliant scholar. She was a compassionate and supportive colleague.

Colleague Ruth Buchanan said, "She had a quality of rapt attention that made you feel that when she listened to you there was absolutely nothing else on her mind," despite her numerous responsibilities within and beyond the university.

Marlee's research on child welfare law, restructuring of the welfare state and especially the structures of sexism and racism within law was foundational, inspiring academics around the world.

Within the law school, Marlee worked hard to strengthen the First Nations Law Program, as well as Feminist Legal Studies.

Marlee had a significant impact on many students, particularly those marginalized within society or within the law school. She taught Social Welfare Law, Feminist Perspectives on Law, Feminist Legal Theory, and Property Law.

Margot Young, currently the Walter Owen Visiting Chair at the Law Faculty, said, "I know how dedicated Marlee was to teaching, how much time she put into her classes and into providing exten-

IN MEMORIAM

sive feedback on student work. Marlee was committed to a critical, challenging, and engaged study of law and legal institutions.

"She worked hard to incorporate alternative and diverse perspectives into class materials and discussion.

"She also offered to many students the kind of support and regard that made it possible for them to flourish during their law school studies."

In 2001 the J.C. Smith Scholar Award was awarded to Marlee in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the law faculty.

Marlee leaves behind her partner Joel Bakan, also a professor in the faculty, and their five-year-old son Myim, as well as many cherished friends.



Assoc. Prof. Marlee Kline and son

Many lives were touched and changed by Marlee's approach to law, her teaching, and her insights about law, justice and power. We will miss her enormously.

Prof. Susan Boyd is the chair in Feminist Legal Studies in the Faculty of Law.

TUESDAY, DEC. 18

Pediatrics Seminar

Connective Tissue Disorders. Dr. R. Petty, Rheumatology. BC's Children's Hosp. 3D16 at 11am. Call 604-875-3257.

Pediatrics Seminar

Congestive Heart Failure. Dr. D. Duncan, Cardiology. BC's Children's Hosp. 3D16 at 11am. Call 604-875-3257.

Pediatrics Seminar

Renal Tubular Acidosis. Dr. D. Lirenman, Nephrology. BC's Children's Hosp. 3D16 at 12noon. Call 604-875-3257.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 19

Concert

Sol Invictus. Chor Leoni. Chan Centre at 8pm. \$22. Call 604-822-2697.

TUESDAY, JAN. 8

Lectures In Modern Chemistry

What Is Herring Doing With This Powerpoint Stuff Anyway? Or Teaching General Chemistry Using Information Technology And Interactive Engagement Methods. Prof. F. Geoffrey Herring. Chemistry B-250 from 12:45-1:45pm. Refreshments. Call 604-822-3341.

Statistics Seminar

To Infinity and Beyond! Prof. Bertrand Clarke. Klinck 301 from 4-5:30pm. Refreshments. Call 604-822-0570.

Green College Speaker Series

Do Males Matter? Starlings, Eggs And The Evolution Of Social Conflict. Jane Reid, Forest Sciences, U of Glasgow. Green College at 5pm. Reception, Green College Coach House from 6-6:30pm. Call 604-822-1878.

NOTICES

Positive Space**Resource People Wanted**

Help make UBC a positive space for its lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, transgendered, and two-spirited community. Workshops for volunteer resource people will be offered in January and February 2002. To register or for more information, e-mail positive.space@ubc.ca or visit www.positivespace.ubc.ca. Call 604-822-4859.

Participants Needed

The Adult Development Lab at UBC is looking for adults interested in volunteering for (a) a focus group study looking at what it means to be your age today and/or (b) studies on visual memory and visual abilities. Call Pam at 604-822-5250.

Participants Needed

Parents and adolescents are invited to participate together in research that addresses how parents and adolescents talk about the youth's future. If your family faces challenges such as unemployment or illness, call 604-822-4919.

Research Project Volunteers Needed

Stress And Coping In Female Clerical Workers. Educational and Counseling Psychology, and Special Education is seeking female clerical workers to participate in study on stress and coping. If you are experiencing workplace distress/frustration, we would like to learn more about your experiences. Call 604-822-9199.

Legal Clinic Open

UBC Law Students' Legal Advice Program (LSLAP) runs clinics all over the Lower Mainland. LSLAP has been working in the community for over thirty years and is currently British Columbia's second largest legal aid organization. For more information about the program, visit www.lslap.bc.ca or call 604-822-5723.

Volunteer Paid Participants Needed

CroMedica Prime is a Phase One research company located in Vancouver General Hospital. Our research studies require that volunteers take one or more doses of an investigational medication. We are currently looking for healthy volunteers, male/female, non-smoking aged 18 and older and not taking any medications. Volunteers are financially compensated upon completion of a study. If you are interested please call our research recruitment co-ordinator, Monday to Friday between 9am-5pm at 604-875-5122 or e-mail volunteers@cromedica.com.

Research Study

Researchers in the Psychology Dept. are conducting a study examining sexual functioning in women. The aim of this study is to help women who experience sexual difficulties. Your confidentiality will be assured. All participants will receive a detailed sexual psychophysiological profile for their participation. If you are a healthy, heterosexual, premenopausal woman who is currently in a relationship, please call 604-822-2952.

Habitat For Humanity UBC

Is looking for volunteers. Come help out on the construction site and build homes for low-income families — no skills required. For more information and to register for an orientation, e-mail habitat@vancouver.net or call 604-681-5618.

Parents With Toddlers

Did you know your child is a word-learning expert? We are looking for children (one to five years old) and their parent(s) to participate in language studies in the Psychology Dept. at UBC. You and your child, and a trained researcher will play a word game using puppets and toys or pictures. As you might imagine, children find these word games a lot of fun.

During your visit, you will remain with your child at all times. If you (or someone you know) might be interested in bringing your child for a 30-minute visit to our research playroom, please contact Dr. Hall's Language Development Centre at 604-822-9294.

Participants Wanted

Are you a postmenopausal woman with Type Two diabetes interested in beginning an exercise program? St. Paul's Hospital Healthy Heart Program and Diabetes Centre are recruiting participants, who do not smoke or use insulin, for a research project on the effect of exercise on diabetes for women. Call Darcy Cuff at 604-806-8601

Parkinson's Research

A research team from UBC is asking for the assistance of people with Parkinson's to participate in research. This research is aimed at understanding how Parkinson's may affect complex activities such as managing multiple tasks. Participation involves performing fairly simple tasks, some of which, involves responding verbally to computer screen displays. If you are a healthy person of the age 50 years or older, we are also in need of several people to participate as part of a non-Parkinson's comparison group. Call Todd Woodward, Psychology Dept. at 604-822-3227.

Sexual Assault Research

The Anxiety and Fear Laboratory in the Psychology Dept. requires female volunteers who have experienced unwanted sexual activity, to participate in a research project. If you have ever had sex with someone when you didn't want to, because the other person continued the event when you said no, forced or threatened to force you, or because you were given alcohol or drugs, and you would be interested in helping us with our research, please call 604-822-9028. Confidentiality and privacy protected.

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 or call 604-822-4826.

Museum Of Anthropology Exhibition

The Spirit Of Islam: Experiencing Islam Through Calligraphy. Continues to May 12, 2002. Dempsey Bob: The Art Goes Back To The Stories. MOA at 11am. Continues to Dec. 31, 2002. A Connoisseur's Collection: Chinese Ceramics From The Victor Shaw Donation. Continues to Feb. 28, 2002. Continuing Traditions. Continues to April 30, 2002. Anthropology 432 Student Projects: What is Missing? Continues to Dec. 31. Winter hours Wed.-Sun. 11am-5pm. Tues. to 9pm (5-9pm free). Call 604-822-5087.

calendar

DECEMBER 16 THROUGH JANUARY 12

FRIDAY, DEC. 21

Pediatrics Grand Rounds

Haematological Disorders Of Down's Syndrome. Various speakers. BC's Children's Hosp. Chan Centre at 8:30am. Call 604-875-3257.

Pediatrics Seminar

Hepatitis In A Young Girl With Hematuria. Various speakers. BC's Children's Hosp. 3D16 at 12noon. Call 604-875-3257.

THURSDAY, JAN. 3

Tabling Carpool Registration

SUB Main Concourse from 10am-3pm. E-mail trek.carpool@ubc.ca. Continues Jan. 4. Call 604-827-TREK (8735).

FRIDAY, JAN. 4

Fisheries Seminar

Biodiversity In Fishbase: Geo-referencing Expedition Records From The Early 1800s. Maria Lourdes Palomares. Hut B-8. Ralf Yorke Room from 11am-12:30pm. Call 604-822-2731.

MONDAY, JAN. 7

Tabling Carpool Registration

Brock Hall Main Concourse from 10am-3pm. E-mail trek.carpool@ubc.ca. Call 604-827-TREK (8735).

Intercultural Studies In Asia Lecture

In Pursuit Of Science In 19th-Century Benares. Michael S. Dodson, Oriental Studies. U of Cambridge. CK Choi 120 from 12noon-1pm. Call 604-221-6186.

Chalmers Institute

Theological Forum Medicine And Ministry. Rev. Peter Newbery, United Church minister. VST boardroom from 4-5pm. Refreshments. To register visit www.vst.edu. E-mail ci@vst.edu. Call 604-822-9815.

Member Speaker Series

You're Armed, I Think You're Better Armed: Opinions On Genetic Counseling And Testing For Hereditary Cancer Susceptibility. Christina Holmes, Anthropology and Sociology. Green College at 7:45pm. Call 604-822-1878.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 9

Orthopedic Grand Rounds

Knee Stiffness After ACL Reconstruction. Dr. J. Patrick McConkey, Sports/Arthroscopy. VGH, Eye Care Centre Aud. from 7-8am. Call 604-875-4192.

Training Session

Sustainability Co-ordinator Training. MacMillan 350 from 8:30am-12noon. Continues Jan. 10. RSVP by Dec. 20. To register, visit www.sustain.ubc.ca. E-mail sandy.ho@ubc.ca. Call 604-822-0455.

Women's Studies And Gender Relations Lecture

Women's Experience Of Time. Tanya Bourlova. Centre for Research in Women's Studies and Gender Relations at 12noon. Call 604-822-9171.

Obstetrics And Gynecology Seminar

Structure-Function Studies On The Ligand-Binding Domains Of A Glucagon-Like Peptide-1 Receptor From Goldfish. Dr. Chung Man Yeung. BC Women's Hosp. 2N35 from 2-3pm. Call 604-875-3108.

THURSDAY, JAN. 10

Lecture

Negotiating Work And Family: Feminism After Law School. Nitya Iyer. Heenan Blaikie. Curtis 157 from 12:30-2pm. Call 604-822-6523.

Comparative Literature

Dramatic Reading: Dostoevsky's *Notes from Underground*. Andrew Litzky. Theater Simple. Green College Coach House from 5-6:30pm. Call 604-822-5157.

Science And Society

Experts And Scientific Authority In The Eighteenth-Century Public Sphere. Thomas Broman, U of Wisconsin-Madison. Green College at 7:30pm. Call 604-822-1878.

FRIDAY, JAN. 11

Fisheries Seminar

Towards Accurate Estimates Of Pinniped Diet Composition. Dom Tollit, Marine Mammal Unit. Hut B-8, Ralf Yorke Room from 11am-12:30pm. Call 604-822-2731.

STAR Breast Cancer Prevention Study

Volunteers are needed to participate in a breast cancer prevention trial being conducted at UBC Hospital. Two drugs, Raloxifene (Evista) and Tamoxifen, are being studied to see which works better at preventing breast cancer. Women must be postmenopausal and have an increased risk for developing breast cancer. Interested women should call Lynn or Janet at 604-822-7997.

Researchers

UBC student wants to participate in research projects. Is experienced in data management and analysis. E-mail gatench@interchange.ubc.ca.

UBC Research

Boys between seven and nine (with or without ADHD) and their mothers are needed for a study. Mothers receive \$20 and children get a UBC t-shirt. If interested, please call 604-822-9037.

Sexuality Study

Researchers at the Psychology Dept. and Division of Sexual Medicine are conducting a study examining sexual functioning in women receiving estrogen replacement therapy. Both sexually healthy women as well as women who have recently experienced a change in their orgasmic functioning are welcome. For information, call 604-822-2952. Your confidentiality will be assured. All participants will receive an honorarium.

Participants Wanted

Would you like to share your story about your experience with health-care professionals? We are conducting a study of patient perceptions about helpful and unhelpful communications in fibromyalgia. In order to learn more about what makes communication effective, we are asking individuals who have had fibromyalgia for at least five years to participate in our study. Participation will involve one or two interviews in a location convenient to you, and possibly a focus group interview at a later time. The interviews usually take about an hour. All information will be kept confidential. For more information, please e-mail andrea_con@hotmail.com or call 604-822-8070.

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: 604-UBC-INFO (604-822-4636). Fax: 604-822-2684. An electronic form is available at 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 Jan. 10 issue of *UBC Reports*—which covers the period Jan. 13 to Jan. 26—is noon, Dec. 31.

Group to probe efficacy of commonly prescribed drugs

Studies underway include effectiveness of birth control access programs and smoking cessation pills

CLOSELY CONTROLLED clinical trials may be just the beginning when it comes to determining drug effectiveness, say members of a new research group in UBC's Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Called Collaboration for Outcomes Research and Evaluation (COR_{RE}), the group aims to improve the outcomes of drug therapy.

"Surprisingly, there is little known about the true effectiveness of many commonly used pharmaceuticals," says Prof. David Fielding, COR_{RE} director. "A drug can be seen to work in controlled clinical trials but when used by a diverse patient population, the result can be quite different."

In addition to improving outcomes, the researchers seek to inform economic evaluation and government policy related to pharmaceuticals.

Asst. Prof. Elan Paluck is a COR_{RE} co-ordinator studying the effectiveness of bupropion.

Marketed as Zyban, the drug is used to treat smoking cessation and has been available in Canada since 1998. Wellbutrin SR, which

also contains bupropion, is intended for use in treating depression but is also being prescribed as an aid to quitting smoking.

Health Canada has received more than 1,100 reports concerning bupropion's suspected adverse side effects which can include headache, skin rash, hallucination and seizures, according to Paluck.

In what she believes is the only such study in Canada, Paluck is working with a network of 50 B.C. community pharmacists over the next five months to recruit 450 people who are using bupropion to quit smoking.

Individuals will be contacted at one, three, six and 12-month intervals to check on effectiveness and adverse reactions. A hotline will be set up to receive reports of symptoms and people with side effects will be directed to their doctor.

Results of the study will be distributed to Health Canada, the provincial ministry of health, participating pharmacists and others.

COR_{RE} co-ordinator Judith Soon is working with a team that includes representatives of government and advocacy groups to study use of the emergency contraceptive pill (ECP).

Last December, B.C. became the first province to authorize pharmacists to provide ECPs without a doctor's prescription.

In 1999 in B.C. more than 14,000 unwanted pregnancies were terminated with an abortion which represented 23 per cent of all pregnancies in the province, according to the provincial vital statistics office.

Almost 2,900 pharmacist-initiated ECP prescriptions in B.C. were dispensed in the first six months of the increased access program. About 50 per cent of women requested the drug due to failure of their regular birth control. Frequency of use is highest among 20- to 29-year-olds.

The COR_{RE} study will evaluate the impact of the expanded access program on the prevalence and patterns of ECP use in B.C. from 1995-2002. Rates of pregnancy, abortion and sexually transmitted disease will also be examined.

Researchers will use data from the interlinked HealthNet databases that record drug dispensing and medical information from pharmacies, hospitals and doctors' offices.

"Very few jurisdictions in Canada can generate information on this scale," says Soon, an assistant professor who joined the faculty last year.

Other current COR_{RE} members are: Assoc. Prof. Bruce Carleton, Prof. Mary Ensom, Prof. Marc Levine and Assoc. Prof. James McCormack.



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
DIRECTOR
CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN
WOMEN'S STUDIES AND
GENDER RELATIONS

UBC invites applications for the position of Director of the Centre for Research in Women's Studies and Gender Relations.

The successful candidate will be a tenured scholar of high standing with a demonstrated commitment to research and teaching in Women's Studies and Gender Relations, administrative ability, a proven record in obtaining research grants, and the capacity to work with scholars from a wide variety of disciplines. The new Director will have a cross-appointment in a regular academic department and will carry up to a 50 per cent teaching load there.

The initial appointment as Director will be for a period of five years, with the possibility of an extension for a second five-year period. Only internal candidates will be considered.

UBC hires on the basis of merit and is committed to employment equity. All qualified persons are encouraged to apply.

Applicants should send a letter describing their interest in the position, a curriculum vitae, and names and addresses of at least three references whom we can contact in confidence, to Dr. Tom Pedersen (pedersen@eos.ubc.ca), Associate Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies, The University of British Columbia, 6371 Crescent Rd, Vancouver, V6T 1Z2. The deadline for applications is Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2002. The appointment will begin July 1, 2002.



A FAMILY THAT STICKS TOGETHER While building a family of snow globes might not be in the cards, residence advisers are planning a variety of activities such as Christmas light tours and craft-making sessions for students remaining on campus over the holiday break. The annual Christmas dinner at International House, which features carolling and a visit from Santa, takes place Friday, Dec. 21 at 12:30 and 3 p.m. Students are encouraged to buy \$2 advance tickets for this sell-out event by calling International House at 604-822-5021. Any remaining tickets will be available at the door for \$5. Hilary Thomson photo

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DIGEST

New Ethical Review Board established

The UBC Office for the Ethical Review Board — Clinical Trials, has been established in the research pavilion at Vancouver Hospital and Health Sciences Centre.

Part of UBC's Office of Research Services, the new office aims to decrease the turn-around time for the ethical review process, says Susan Chunick, office manager.

An alumna with a master's degree in Health Planning and Administration, Chunick was also head of the Physiotherapy Program in UBC's School of Rehabilitation Sciences from 1984-86. She recently worked for ICBC as a customer satisfaction and market research manager.

For more information about the office, contact Chunick at 604-875-4149.

UNBC, UBC to offer joint BASC degree

UBC has developed a joint undergraduate engineering degree program with the University of Northern British Columbia.

The four-and-a-half year Envi-

ronmental Engineering Program will train students to assess environmental and economic factors in future developments. Graduates will receive a Bachelor of Applied Science awarded jointly by both institutions.

Students will complete the first two years at UNBC, followed by two years of study at UBC. They will return to UNBC for their final semester.

The degree will be offered beginning in fall 2002.

Library adds Chinese journals

With the recent acquisition of the China Journal Database, UBC's Asian Library has become the first institution in North America with on-line full-text access to 290 journals on Chinese literature, history, language and philosophy published in China from 1994-2001.

To date, the resource has only been available in academic libraries in China, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

The acquisition of the China Journal Database brings the Asian Library closer to its goal of introducing Web-based resources in Chinese, Japanese and Korean on campus.

Head librarian Eleanor Yuen plans to add major Japanese and Korean databases to the library's on-line resources soon.

classified

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PLACING CLASSIFIED ADS

Deadline: for the Jan. 10 issue: 12 noon, Dec. 31.

Enquiries: 604-UBC-INFO (604-822-4636) · 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.

Alzheimer's researcher drawn from Harvard

Research calibre and collaboration drew neuroscientist to UBC

by Hilary Thomson staff writer

AT A TIME WHEN most teenagers pick up nothing more important than pizza, Weihong Song was busy picking up a medical degree to become one of China's youngest physicians at age 19. That was 1983.

Today as the Jack Brown and Family Professorship and Chair in Alzheimer's Disease at UBC, Song is building on almost 20 years of neuroscientific research into genetic causes of brain disease.

"We're at the cutting edge of research in Alzheimer's disease," he says. "Pioneering work is going on — it's an exciting time to be involved."

Song has an impressive health science pedigree — his grandfather, father and sister all practice medicine in China.

As a child he played with children a few years older and would wait for them in school hallways. Finally a teacher invited the five-year-old to take a test with the class. He got the top mark and launched a stellar academic career.

After earning the highest score on his post-graduate exam, he began work in the Dept. of Psychiatry at West China University of Medical Sciences, one of the leading psychiatric departments in the country.

His research lab was the first in China to examine the role of genetics in mental disorders such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

After obtaining his Master of Science at Purdue University in Indiana, he started doctoral work in causes of Alzheimer's disease, completed his PhD at Indiana University School of Medicine in 1996 and continued his work as a post-doctoral fellow and faculty member at Harvard Medical School. Song joined UBC this summer.

"I came to UBC because of the calibre of its neuroscience," he says. "As well, the atmosphere here is competitive, but also collaborative."

He is emphatic about the need for new knowledge about Alzheimer's, a degenerative brain disease that affects 10 per cent of people over the age of 65 years. The illness costs Canadian taxpayers almost \$5.5 billion annually to manage.

"This is one of the major health concerns for developed countries with large aging populations," he says. "It represents a huge burden



Prof. Weihong Song

— for the individual, their family and for society. That's what makes it so important to find the causes of this disease."

Scientists have identified several genes that, in a mutant form, are implicated in causing the inherited form of the disease that is responsible for about 10 per cent of all cases. Song looks at how these genes — called presenilins and amyloid precursor protein genes — communicate and interact.

He is particularly interested in one activity in the disease-producing progression where a neurotoxic fragment is 'born' from the amyloid precursor protein genes. The result is the toxic amyloid beta protein — a known cause of brain cell death.

His work has demonstrated that presenilins are a key player in generating this fragment and in notch signalling, a process that dictates whether the cell will become a brain cell.

The discovery is widely recognized as a major contribution to understanding the cause of the disease.

"We see that there is a relationship between these mutations and the disease but we don't know the exact mechanisms — that's what I want to find out," says Song, who is also a member of the Brain Research Centre — a partnership of UBC and Vancouver Hospital and Health Sciences Centre.

In addition to the molecular mechanisms, he examines other factors such as stress or stroke that may contribute to the disease. Song says there are many unknowns still to unravel but suggests that the next breakthrough may lie with chemical inhibitors to block the pathways to limit or stop the progress of the disease.

A recent Canada Foundation for Innovation grant will allow Song to set up his new lab in renovated space in the Psychiatry Dept.

Honour Roll

Anne Martin-Matthews, associate dean, Research and Graduate Studies in the Faculty of Arts, has been appointed Arts dean pro tem.

Martin-Matthews, a professor of Family Studies in the School of Social Work and Family Studies, joined UBC in 1998 as director of the School of Family and Nutritional Sciences.

Dr. **Don McKenzie**, a professor in the School of Human Kinetics and the Family Practice Dept. has been awarded a Meritorious Service Medal from the Governor General of Canada.

The exercise physiologist and sports medicine physician was one of 24 recipients who recently received the decoration, which recognizes individuals whose achievements have brought honour to Canada.

A UBC alumnus and faculty member since 1982, McKenzie researches the effects of exercise on breast cancer patients.

He formed and coaches the Abreast in a Boat dragon boat paddling team consisting of women who have survived breast cancer. Currently, there are breast cancer dragon boat teams throughout Canada, the U.S., Australia and New Zealand.

Assoc. Prof. **Carol Jillings** of the School of Nursing has received the Ethel Johns Award from the Canadian Association of University



Prof. Anne Martin-Matthews

Schools of Nursing in recognition of distinguished service to nursing education in Canada.

A faculty member since 1977, Jillings contributes to curriculum development and teaches in the graduate program. She supervises graduate students in such areas as family support in critical care, cardiac rehabilitation and health reform in the context of palliative care.

Her areas of clinical and research interest revolve around the processes of education, support and rehabilitation for clients and families facing cardiac illness.

The annual award is named after the founding director of Canada's first university nursing program, located at UBC.

Geography Prof. **Michael Church**, English Prof. **Dennis Danielson**, Zoology Prof. **David Jones** and History Prof. **Dianne Newell** were recently selected as the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies Distinguished Scholars in Residence for 2002.

Each year the institute selects up to four faculty members, primarily for their outstanding research record particularly as it fits with the institute's mandate to support basic interdisciplinary research.

Each scholar receives an office at the institute, an infrastructure budget of \$10,000 for any research-related expenses and up to \$5,000 for their research project.

Medical Genetics Prof. **Michael Hayden** was one of three recipients of this year's Ottawa Life Sciences Council National Merit Award which recognizes contributions to the development of the life sciences community in Canada.

Hayden was honoured for outstanding contributions to genetics and Huntington's disease as well as his exceptional leadership in advancing Canadian science.

The Ottawa Life Sciences Council fosters development of new technologies and companies and raises awareness of the local life sciences industry, both nationally and internationally.



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

FACULTY OF MEDICINE

SENIOR ASSOCIATE DEAN,

MD UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

Applications/nominations are invited for the position of Senior Associate Dean, MD Undergraduate Education. This position is expected to be filled by an internal candidate and is available Jan. 1, 2002.

The incumbent will report to the Dean of Medicine and through the Dean is accountable to the Faculty Executive Committee, the Committee of Department Heads and School Directors, and Faculty (full faculty meetings).

The successful candidate will be the Senior Associate Dean in the MD Undergraduate Program. Associate Deans of Curriculum, Student Affairs, and Admissions are accountable to this position.

Responsibilities include: development of modified and new program components and assignment of responsibility for implementation; assuming leadership in the planning and communication of the evolving expanded MD Undergraduate Program including relationships with other university partners (University of Northern B.C. and University of Victoria); overall budget responsibility of the MD Undergraduate Program in collaboration with Associate Deans of Curriculum, Student Affairs and Admissions; in concert with the Dean maintains the accreditation of the MD Undergraduate Program; responsibility in collaboration with the Dean for external relations with accrediting bodies, medical associations, educational institutions, teaching hospitals, the public and others as appropriate.

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 Jan. 15, 2002. 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
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 2194 Health Sciences Mall
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Making a difference during the holidays

Open your eyes, ears and hearts, urges principal

by Prof. Grant Ingram

WHEN I WAS A CHILD, gathering around the holiday dinner table was a cherished way for my family to connect with each other.

The conversation and feelings flowed easily as we shared both food and thoughts. It's a special tradition at any time of the year, people sharing food around a table full of light, family and friends.

Two weeks ago, the residents of St. John's College gathered together one evening to share their celebrations in a Festival of Lights.

They shared Diwali, Hanukkah, Advent, Persian and Japanese New Year traditions, in recognition that people from all corners of the globe have ways of remembering, in the darkest of times, that the light will return.

The past three months have been particularly dark ones. We have witnessed considerable loss of life through violence.

People from many different countries and cultures have been affected by these events — some directly, through personal loss, others indirectly through the im-

mediate diffusion of images.

All of us were affected in some way. Events in one place touch others in distant lands.

I believe that the UBC community can learn from these events so as to help diminish the possibility of conflicts in future.

At St. John's College we have graduate students and visiting scholars from 35 different countries residing in the college.

They live together, study together and sit around the dinner table each evening. They share their views, their culture, their values, and their celebrations.

It's not always easy for them to understand and accept differences, but they engage in dialogue with others because they want to try.

Like them, we can all make the effort to open our minds to understand people from different backgrounds than our own. And when we do so, we so often find that our differences are not as dramatic as we first thought.

Words may often fail us when we try to come to terms with the events of this fall, but perhaps it is words that can take us forward into

FORUM

the new year, a future where diversity is not merely tolerated, but celebrated — a future where light will indeed triumph over darkness.

If we can learn from tragedy by being ready to initiate open dialogue, if we can listen, open our eyes, ears and hearts to others, we can make a difference.

It's never been more important than right now.

During the holiday season, take the time to understand the world around you and the rich tapestry of diverse cultures that we live in.

We are each proud of our own culture and traditions.

Understanding how people from different areas of the world and diverse religions mark this time of the year by bringing light to brighten the short dark days is one step towards a world of greater acceptance.

We need to listen to one another and celebrate the value of diversity amongst us.

Grant Ingram is principal of St. John's College. The graduate residential college houses an international community of some 170 scholars.



CLOTHES CONNECTION Pharmaceutical Sciences students display some of the more than 500 kilograms of donated clothing that will be distributed by the Community Health Initiative by University Students, a multi-disciplinary UBC student-run project in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. Students in the faculty gathered the clothes the last two weeks of November. Faculty sponsor instructor Michael Pungente (top, left) is seen with clothing drive organizers (clockwise, from left) first-year students Cindy Huang, Zahra Sadikali, Brenda Law and Eva Fung. The faculty's third-year class gathered the most clothes to win the clothing drive competition. *Hilary Thomson photo*

\$1.25-million gift to fund Korean literature chair

A \$1.25-MILLION GIFT from the Seoul-based International Communication Foundation (ICF) will help establish UBC as a major centre of Korean language and literature in Canada.

The ICF gift, fully matched by UBC, will fund the Young Bin Min Chair in Korean Literature and Literary Translation in the Asian Studies Dept. A search for a world leader in the study of Korean literature and Korean to English translation to fill the chair will begin immediately.

"UBC and ICF share an appreciation of the significance and importance of Korean language and culture," says UBC President Martha Piper. "Now, with the support of the ICF, we feel our program will be unequalled."

Class enrolments and the university's Korean library is growing steadily, says Asian Studies Assoc. Prof. Ross King.

"It's clear that students have an interest in, and a demand for, Korean studies," he says. "The chair will in turn attract other outstanding teachers and researchers, allowing students to interact with some of the best Korean scholars in the world."

The chair is named for Young Bin Min, the founder of ICF and YBM Si-sa, one of the leading publishers in Korea. He founded the ICF to raise the profile of Korean literature overseas. This donation is the largest international gift that the foundation has made.

The chair will build on UBC's strengths in Korean studies, which also include the Centre for Korean Research and exchange agreements with 12 Korean universities and institutes. A recent agreement established a joint academic program with Korea University, which will bring approximately 100 Korean students to UBC each year.

Urban study partners with Italian language students

Project applies translation skills to greenways research

by Michelle Cook, staff writer

GEOGRAPHICALLY, British Columbia and Tuscany couldn't be much farther apart. Academically, the same can be said for the study of Italian language and landscape architecture.

Now, thanks to a unique multi-disciplinary pilot project, a group of Italian language students at UBC and a landscape architect visiting from the University of Florence are attempting to bring their landscapes and academic disciplines closer together.

The shared knowledge initiative is the brainchild of Assoc. Prof. Daniela Boccassini of the Dept. of French, Hispanic and Italian Studies and Sergio Maria Pelligra. Pelligra has been coming to British Columbia since 1996 to conduct research in association with the UBC Landscape Architecture Program.

Pelligra wanted to have his research on urban open spaces in British Columbia as a model for Italian cities translated from Italian to English in order to make it widely available on-line, and he wanted to get students involved in the project.

On the recommendation of Agricultural Sciences Dean Moura Quayle, Pelligra approached Boccassini who saw the potential to create a knowledge swap.

If Pelligra introduced the 10 students in her Italian 300 class to sustainability issues in the Lower Mainland — in Italian — they would translate his research paper on B.C. urban greenways.

The pilot would also give Boccassini's most senior-level Italian students the chance to apply their language skills on a practical level — a rare opportunity on a Pacific Rim campus.

"This pilot was an experiment, an opportunity that arose," Boccassini says. "But if I had to pick a project for my students, this one addressing issues of sustainability here in Vancouver was both interesting and relevant to them."

"They were very enthusiastic about doing it when they heard their translation work would be published on-line," adds Pelligra of the students' response to the proposal.

The challenge was getting students who knew very little about

urban development to translate an academic paper on the topic in four weeks. To prepare, Boccassini redesigned her course to provide some background on the development of Italian cities.

Pelligra's instruction included a guided bike tour of Vancouver's greenways to give his translators a first-hand look at his subject matter. The students then divided into teams to translate Pelligra's research, but by then the project had become more than a language exercise.

"I liked the idea that this project had so much to do with Vancouver but from an Italian perspective, and he not only taught us something new about our region, he introduced the Italian way of teaching," says student Emilia Finamore. She adds, laughing, that she found the Italian teaching style much more "blunt" than the approach she's used to at UBC.

"In the end, I think we had an equal exchange," Pelligra says of the unusual collaboration, adding that he hopes to return to UBC next year and expand his shared knowledge project to a full semester and involve more departments.

HSBC to provide banking services to university

THE UNIVERSITY HAS signed an agreement with HSBC Bank Canada to provide institutional banking services.

All tuition payments are now accepted by HSBC bank branches across Canada, or through HSBC telephone of Internet banking services. Tuition payments will no longer be accepted by the Bank of Montreal.

HSBC was awarded provision of the university's institutional banking services after a request for proposals

was undertaken by Supply Management. Responses to the request were reviewed by a committee composed of key campus stakeholders, including Student Services, Treasury, Food Services, the Faculty of Forestry and the Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration.

For details of the new institutional banking procedures now in effect, including procedures for petty cash and deposits, visit www.finance.ubc.ca/HSBC_banking_procedures.htm.