

UBC REPORTS

SPECIAL ISSUE : UBC CONGREGATION 2002

Technology for the Art of Talking

Science grad makes computer learning fun.

BY HELEN LEWIS

When 10-year-old James Dai arrived in Canada, he couldn't speak a word of English. Ten years later, the BSc graduate is set to use technology to teach literacy to kids through MIT Media Lab's Gesture and Narrative Language Group.

Born in tiny Qin Huang Dao, where the Great Wall of China begins, Dai moved to Vancouver in 1990. Within five years he had completed elementary school and high school and enrolled at UBC.

Studying Computer Science from age 15, Dai broadened his horizons by joining a touring musical, taking UBC fine arts courses and performing with theatre groups.

Dai, 20, hopes to use his passion for the arts to "bridge the gap between the raw power of computers and their human audience."

Through UBC's Co-op program Dai worked at Microsoft on X-Box NBA Inside Drive 2002, Panasonic Research Labs in Japan, and UBC's Electronic Games for Education in Math and Science (E-GEMS) lab.

With fellow student Michael Wu, Dai designed and researched PrimeClimb, a collaborative educational computer game to be exhibited at the prestigious SIGGRAPH 2002 Conference in Texas. Dai and Wu were also invited to present at ED-MEDIA 2002 and CSCL 2002.

In PrimeClimb, two players work together to climb a mountain of numbers. It is notable among human-computer interaction research for its focus on social rather than digital aspects of the interaction. Dai and Wu used sociology methodology to develop the game and analyse resulting social interactions in classroom studies.

"We're proud we built a game that gets kids to talk to each other excitedly in a mathematical context. Technology should help people to interact with each other, otherwise it's just bells and whistles."

Dai starts at MIT this summer. ■



Among UBC's newest graduates are James Dai, who takes an unconventional approach to computer science, using art, theatre and sociology, and Dea Lloyd (right) who channels her passion for politics into improving student life on campus.

Leadership Makes a Difference

Student leader leaves UBC better than she found it.

BY MICHELLE COOK

Political Science major Dea Lloyd is an Arts student who knows how to do her math. When she and fellow members of the Arts Undergraduate Society (AUS) calculated the limited amount of social space available to the university's 10,000 Arts undergraduates, they saw a problem.

The group led an initiative to find more space, and Lloyd took charge of organizing a referendum on the plan. It attracted 1,500 voters who agreed to a student fee increase to help fund the project. Now, 6,000 sq. ft. of 'dead' space in Buchanan D Block is being transformed into a place for Arts students.

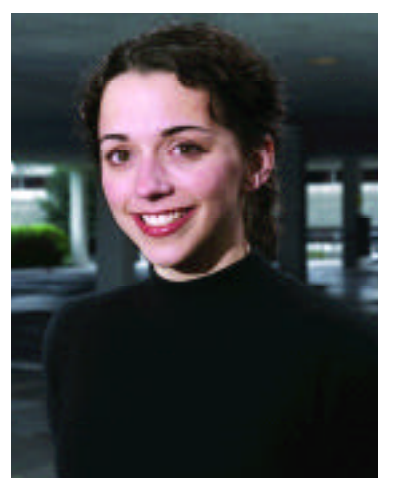
"It was a project I really believed in, that I thought we could do and get students behind it," Lloyd says. "Here was something they could benefit from tangibly, and I thought it would be exciting to coordinate something that would be a lasting contribution to UBC."

Lloyd's push for more space reflects a larger drive to make a difference through politics and community service. In addition to her work with the AUS, she served two years on the AMS council as Arts faculty representative. For the last two years, she has overseen logistics and security on the day of the Arts County Fair, a student-run charity event that attracted 16,000 participants this year.

Lloyd, 25, likes to be where the action is, and her passion for politics earned her a coveted spot on the UBC team that took part in a prestigious mock NATO conference held in Washington, D.C. earlier this year. Although they were the only Canadian team participating, the UBC team was assigned the role of the United States. They played the role so well that they walked away with title of Best Delegation. *continued on page 12*

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARTIN DEE

Since 1916, UBC graduates have gathered to celebrate their success as students in Congregation ceremonies that bring together faculty, staff, alumni, families and friends. ♪ From May 22-29 more than 5,000 graduates will cross the stage at UBC's Chan Centre for the Performing Arts to receive their degrees from UBC Chancellor William Sauder. In 22 separate ceremonies, degrees from 12 faculties as well as 12 honorary degrees will be conferred. ♪ This year's UBC graduates, whose ideas and innovation are creating new approaches to local and global issues, will join the more than 200,000 alumni now living and working in countries around the world. ♪ For more information about UBC's Congregation ceremonies visit www.graduation.ubc.ca



Highlights of UBC Media Coverage in April 2002. COMPILED BY BRIAN LIN

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Medical Breakthrough

A team of scientists headed by UBC's Prof. Keith Humphries has made a stem cell "breakthrough" that could one day lead to powerful new treatments for leukemia and other blood diseases and eliminate the need for bone marrow transplants.

The researchers discovered how to "supercharge" adult stem cells taken from the blood and mass-produce them in the lab. The researchers destroyed the blood systems in mice by radiation and then rebuilt them using blood stem cells grown in the lab.

"They're now perfectly healthy," Humphries told the *National Post*.

Geeks are Usually Boys

UBC Computer Science Prof. Anne Condon told the *Edmonton Sun* that part of the reason we don't see many female computer "geeks" is that the things you can do with a computer aren't as appealing to girls as they are to boys.

"Computers seem confining and boring, using a computer seems like glorified typing or something like that," she says. "But really they're integral to all fields of arts and sciences and instruments of creativity in so many ways – the potential is really exciting for people who dive in and get involved, and very different from what their images are."

Social Work

Commenting on the Liberal government's legislation to make it easier for grandparents and other extended family members to take custody of children when the province takes them away from their parents, UBC Social Work Prof. Richard Sullivan says that social workers already try first to place children in the homes of relatives, but since they remain in the legal custody of the province, the province remains responsible for providing them with financial and other support.

"This is a fiscal bid. It is not a change in terms of the actual placement options," Sullivan told the *Vancouver Sun*.

Another UBC Social Work Prof. Margaret Wright says it's still necessary for the province to provide support to people who take on children.

"Just because it's an extended family member doesn't mean they don't need the financial support to be able to cope with an additional mouth or a couple of mouths to feed," she adds.



Angus Reid

Questionable Language

In an editorial in the *Vancouver Sun*, UBC's Liu Centre for the Study of Global Issues Senior Fellow Angus Reid explains the significance of the use of language in a poll such as the aboriginal referendum.

"Thirty years in the polling business have taught me that even the most seemingly insignificant choices of wording can produce a huge difference in response," said Reid.

"In this context the British Columbia aboriginal referendum is one of the most amateurish, one-sided attempts to gauge the public will that I have seen in my professional career. Though we can be justifiably concerned about the cost of this initiative, its deeper harm comes in the false picture it will give of the true state of attitudes on this complex question and, even worse, its pretense that this kind of flimsy exercise is a legitimate way to divine the public will," Reid added.

New Textbook

UBC's Faculty of Asian Studies and Beijing Language University have published a Chinese language textbook that will be used by UBC and McGill University starting this September.

UBC Asian Studies Professor Robert Chen told *Sing Tao Daily* that 41 years ago, there were only 30 students studying Chinese at UBC, now more than 2,000 stu-

dents are taking Chinese as a foreign language at UBC. This fall the Faculty of Asian Studies will offer as many as 60 Chinese language sessions.

PMO Under Fire

UBC Law Professor and Nemetz chair in legal history Wesley Pue says the failure of the Prime Minister's Office to either rebuke Jean Carle or admit that it endorsed his disputed actions at the 1997 APEC conference in Vancouver is unacceptable and a "prescription for prime ministerial lawlessness."

Pue told the *National Post* that it is wrong for Jean Chretien's office to simply reject findings against Carle, the PMO's former director of operations, by the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP.

"It is unbecoming of the highest office in the land, having been found acting improperly by the only formal inquiry charged with investigating these matters, to simply announce that it 'rejects' the findings," he stated in a commentary published in the *Osgoode Law Journal* of York University.

Science News

Three articles in the latest issue of the prestigious journal *Science* featured UBC faculty members, including a profile of Fisheries Prof. Daniel Pauly, calling him "arguably the world's most prolific and widely cited living fisheries scientist, with recent headline-grabbing papers in *Science* and *Nature*."

A second article features Professor Emeritus Donald Calne's research on the cause of Parkinson's Disease. Calne is treating three patients, all of whom worked with actor Michael J. Fox on a CBC sitcom in the 1970s. Calne argues that a brief environmental exposure, or "event," may kill some neurons in the substantia nigra and damage many others.

Finally, Pathologist Maria Victoria Monsalve is running DNA tests on the Canadian ice-man discovered just south of the Yukon and dated to about 550 years ago. Monsalve says the ice-man is tied to far-flung living native people, including the Haida off the British Columbia coast, the Quecha of Guatemala, and the Amerindians of Brazil. ■

SUMMER HOURS

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Effective May 1 - Aug 15

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Bread Garden		7:45am - 3:45pm
Barn Coffee Shop	Closed for renovation April 28-July 2	
IRC /SUBWAY		8:00am - 3:00pm
Trek Express	Closed April 24-July 1	
	July 2 - August 9	7:30am - 3:00pm
99 Chairs	April 24 - July 1 / August 10 - 30	7:30am - 4:00pm
	July 2 - August 9	8:00am - 4:00pm
Pond Cafe at the Posters	M-F	8:00am - 3:00pm
Pacific Spirit Plaza at SUN		7:30am - 2:15pm
Koya Japan		10:00am-2:15pm
Subway	M-F	8:30am - 7:00pm
	Sat	11:00am-6:00pm
Espresso On the Go at SUN	M-F	7:00am - 3:00pm
Steakies at the Bookstore	M-F	9:30am - 3:00pm
Sage at the University Centre		
Lunch	M-F	11:30am-2:00pm
Tapas	Th-F	3:30pm - 7:30pm
Dinner	Th-F	5:00pm - 9:00pm

Breaker & Tapas on Deck begins June 3rd! 3:30pm-8:00pm (M - F)
Arts 200, Agnes, Edibles, Pops & Yum Yum's are closed for the summer.
Hours subject to change

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UBC REPORTS

Director, Public Affairs
Scott Macrae scott.macrae@ubc.ca

Editor
Paul Patterson paul.patterson@ubc.ca

Designer
Chris Dahl chris.dahl@ubc.ca

Contributors
Michelle Cook michelle.cook@ubc.ca
Brian Lin brian.lin@ubc.ca
Helen Lewis helen.lewis@ubc.ca
Hilary Thomson hilary.thomson@ubc.ca
Laurie Dawkins laurie.dawkins@ubc.ca

Advertising
Carol Price carolpr@exchange.ubc.ca

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Vancouver BC Canada V6T 1Z1

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UBC Public Affairs Office
(address above); by fax to 604.822.2684; or by e-mail to paul.patterson@ubc.ca

In their struggle to build new lives, scores of Afghani refugee women in Pakistan are relying on UBC Commerce valedictorian Salima Rawji and her colleagues.

One World Projects (OWP), the non-profit young entrepreneurial organization Rawji co-founded in 2000, is helping these women generate their own income by building a market for the intricate, traditional hand-embroidered shawls they create.

Under its Embroidering To Empower (E2E) program, OWP is importing the shawls to create a steady stream of income for the women, while giving its student volunteers invaluable experience in the business world. The program has raised more than \$30,000 for the women over the past year.

"It's a lot of responsibility because you're working with real people who are counting on you," 22-year-old Rawji says. "These women are doctors and lawyers – they have more education than I'll probably ever have – but because of political and social unrest they've been forced out of their country, they're living in tents and can't do their usual work.

"Doing this project feels great because we're helping people - not just giving charity but making real use of a skill they have."

Rawji says OWP aims to create a sense of global community, giving young people the chance to help less fortunate people around



Commerce Valedictorian Salima Rawji developed business skills helping refugee women.

the world through creative business strategies.

OWP's four directors, all under 25, oversee everything from transportation logistics to legal and tax issues to advertising and business development for the enterprise. Rawji, a human resources management major, has written the OWP marketing plan, developed the web site, and poured countless hours into running the organization.

"It's been hugely beneficial - OWP has helped me as much as it helps the women we're working with. I'm much more aware of international issues and the challenges of running a non-profit society. Through OWP, I've learned about working with people effectively and applying what I've learned in school," she says.

While working as one of OWP's directors, Rawji juggled her responsibilities as president of the Human Resource Management Club and co-director of the Commerce Mentor Program. She has also been completing an internship at gold mining giant Placer Dome.

The shawls are currently sold through Global Village Store and Interface Global Justice. For more information on OWP or to see the shawls, visit www.oneworldprojects.org. ■

Embroidering to Empower

Business student gives new hope to Afghani refugees. BY HELEN LEWIS

Bio-Pirates Anger Ethicist

Exploring the pros and cons of genetic testing.

BY MICHELLE COOK

Genetic testing is one of today's hottest news topics. Still, it is surprising to hear bioethicist Bryn Williams-Jones reveal that his research into the controversial issue began with a TV show.

Williams-Jones, who will graduate with a PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies, remembers watching a TV documentary on bio-piracy when he was a Philosophy undergraduate at McGill University.

"What got me going was an utter sense of outrage at researchers travelling to remote areas to take blood samples from tribal people, and then companies patenting their findings and profiting without giving anything back," he recalls.

The budding philosopher's new interest in genetics issues led him into a master's degree in Bioethics at McGill. He then headed to UBC to work with leading Canadian genetics and ethics expert, Prof. Michael Burgess of the Centre for Applied Ethics.

The Individual Interdisciplinary Studies Graduate Program, in the Graduate Studies Faculty, gave Williams-Jones the freedom and opportunity to reach into the realms of law, health policy and the social sciences to bring together the empirical and theoretical tools he needed for his thesis research on the social, ethical and policy implications of commercial genetic testing in Canada.

"These are complex problems you can't answer with one lens,"

Williams-Jones explains. "You need multiple lenses to bring out different bits of information and when you put all that information together, you get a much more complex, rich description of the issue."

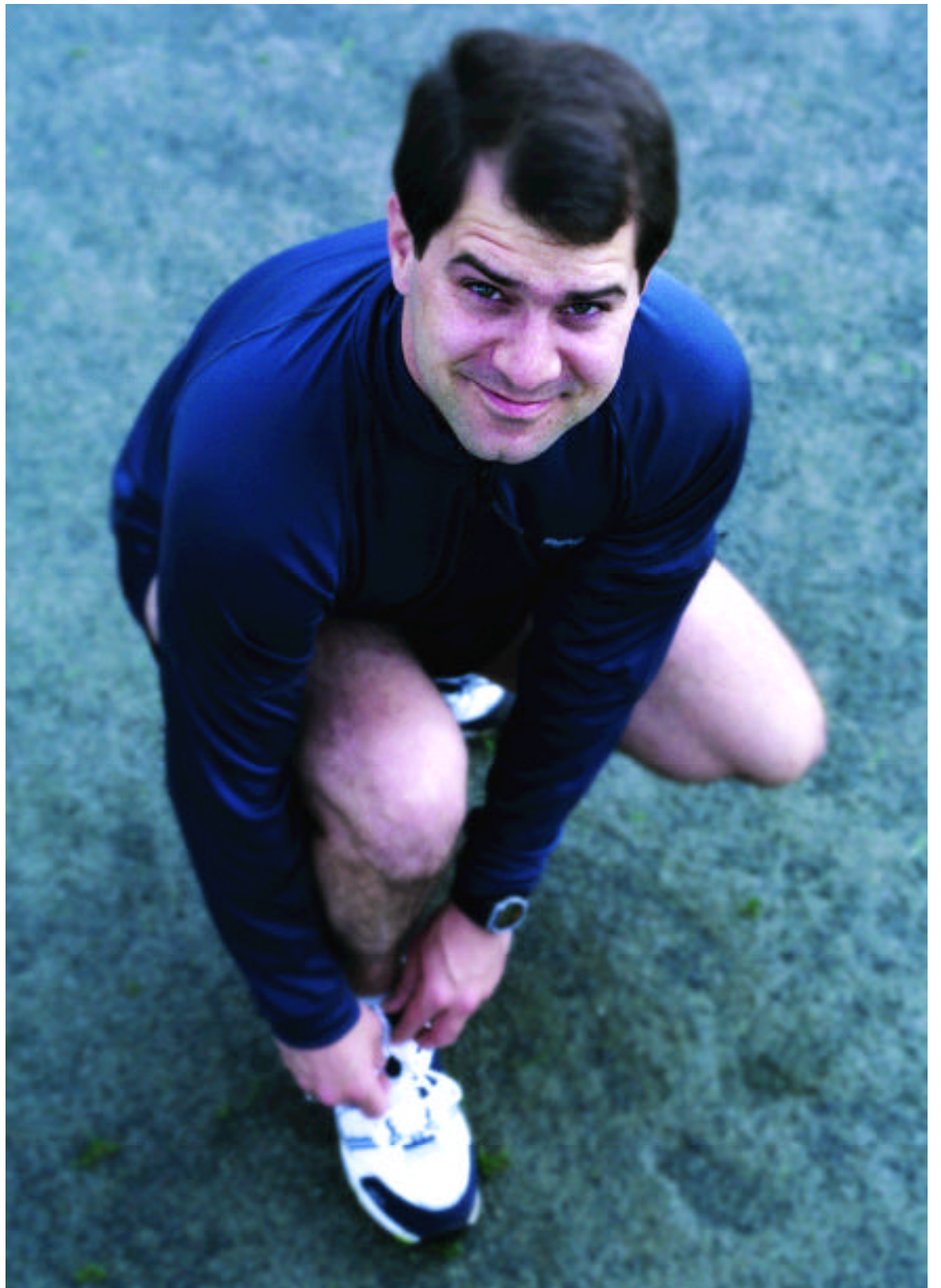
Specifically, Williams-Jones looked at the case of Myriad Genetics, an American company with patents on the two genes associated with hereditary breast cancer.

"The patents allow Myriad to control access to testing and to tell health care institutions like the B.C. Cancer Agency to stop their in-house testing and send the samples to Myriad for testing - at triple the price," Williams-Jones explains.

As the first in a potentially long line of gene patents, he says, the case offered a practical way to explore larger, more complex social, ethical and legal questions such as access to health care and gene patenting.

The topic also complemented his research goal of producing his thesis as a series of articles that could be quickly published to contribute to the education and debate on genetic testing.

Williams-Jones' next stop is Cambridge University where, with the help of a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council fellowship, he will study the beliefs and values that are driving genomics and biotech researchers to commercialize their research. ■



UBC's Interdisciplinary Studies program gave bioethicist Bryn Williams-Jones the freedom to tackle some tough questions about genetic testing.

A Pal for Pooches Everywhere

Homeless animals find a champion in Agricultural Science graduate.

BY MICHELLE COOK

From the local dog pound to the coast of Africa, Animal Science major Michelle Nelson has a habit of adopting strays wherever she goes.

Grommit, the gregarious Chinese pug at her feet, is one example. He's a foster pet from the B.C. SPCA. Nelson, who is graduating with a Bachelor of Science from the Agricultural Sciences Faculty, has two foster cats at home, and she cared for several homeless felines during field studies in Kenya last year.

"Seeing the homeless cats and dogs in Africa, hungry and diseased, just broke my heart," Nelson says. "For me, even just a few weeks of interaction made their life better because someone loved them."

Nelson has been passionate about animal welfare since she was five years old, and has volunteered with animals since she was 12. She and the attention-loving Grommit even strutted their stuff on the cat-walk recently at a dog fashion show fundraiser for the Vancouver City Pound.

When she arrived at UBC in 1997, Nelson was eager to get involved in and outside of class. She was active in the Agricultural Sciences Undergraduate Society, serving in various positions including vice-president and newsletter editor. She also focused her considerable energy and enthusiasm on organizing an undergraduate career fair, recruiting high school students to study agricultural sciences, getting fellow students



Michelle Nelson, with foster pet Grommit, hopes to make the world a better place for companion animals.

involved in the UBC Farm initiative, and volunteering for the Imagine UBC first-year student orientation.

"Agriculture is an applied science, so I think it's important to get the practical experience," Nelson says. "Also, for a well-rounded education, you really have to get involved outside your academic discipline."

Nelson relished the challenge of

her undergraduate honours thesis with the Animal Welfare Program at UBC, as well as a research project with the B.C. SPCA. Next year, she wants to pursue graduate research focusing on the control, care and rehabilitation of feral cats.

Then, Nelson is off to veterinary school to gain a background in the medical care of companion animals. Eventually she would like to develop a traveling Trap, Neuter and Release program for treating feral animals in developing nations, with a strong local consultation-education component. ■

Pharmacist has Prescription for Success

Researcher applies investigative solutions.

BY HILARY THOMSON

When colleagues say they can almost see Evan Kwong's wheels turning they're not talking about his mountain bike.

They're talking about his work as a researcher.

Kwong, who will graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy this month, has already shown himself to be a skilled investigator with an impressive list of publications and research awards to his credit.

"Evan is a perfect match for research," says Assoc. Prof. Kishor Wasan who directs the faculty's summer student research program. "He is an intellectual with an ability to examine a problem from all angles and think it through. As a researcher, that's what it's all about."

Kwong's interest in research sparked in high school, while completing co-op work experience programs at UBC's Zoology Dept. and at Kinetek Pharmaceuticals Inc., a UBC spin-off company.

"I like research because the work is all new and exciting, plus I can explore by myself."

After studying with Wasan as a student research scientist during first- and second-year Pharmacy, Kwong spent a summer at the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire working in the lab of one of Wasan's colleagues, who mistook the then 19-year-old for a talented grad student.

A lecture on pharmacogenetics – the study of how individual genetic differences affect the body's ability to accept and process drugs – got

him interested in clinical research being done by faculty members Prof. Marc Levine and Assoc. Prof. Thomas Chang. They are looking at how children's genetic differences affect the pain-killing capacity of codeine prescribed for dental pain.

Kwong has been developing genotyping assays to identify different gene types among participants in the clinical study.

His affinity for bench science is matched by a desire to counsel patients and do clinical research. As a student pharmacist at a Vancouver Island hospital, he was included in an interprofessional team that provided comprehensive patient care.

"Working in pharmacies has given me a chance to develop my skills," he says. "Getting familiar with the drugs and having contact with patients has tested and built my knowledge."

Although research projects are his passion, Kwong points to an engineering feat as one of the highlights of his undergraduate years. He worked with students from a variety of faculties to create UBC's first solar car – the Raven – and drove the vehicle in a preliminary qualifying event in Michigan.

Under his own power, he is a mountain-biker and has served as treasurer of the Alma Mater Society Bike Co-op and as a volunteer, building and fixing bicycles.

Kwong is the recipient of many awards for scholarship and research and recently earned a Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Masters Trainee Award. He returns to UBC this fall to continue his research work toward a master's degree. ■



Evan Kwong is gearing up for a career in Pharmacy research.

Graduation Last Stop on International Trek

Dental grad's academic path circles globe.

BY HILARY THOMSON

What started as a career path for Achala Bhalla turned into a 15-year odyssey spanning three continents.

The 33-year-old graduates this month with a Doctor of Dental Medicine degree, marking a final milestone in an academic journey that began in India in 1987.

Encouraged by her pathologist father to pursue a profession, Bhalla completed an undergraduate degree in dental surgery in New Delhi in 1991. She then obtained a Master of Dental Surgery at the University of Calcutta in 1996.

While completing her graduate work she met her husband Barry – also a dental student – and at that point her academic itinerary assumed global proportions.

The couple applied to emigrate to Canada. While the bureaucratic wheels turned, they moved to England – to build their skills in western dentistry. Bhalla found a job as a hospital dentist in Doncaster in northeast England.

“My first impression was – where is everybody?”

Her life in India had been protected – trips outside the home were accompanied by male family members. When she arrived in England, she did not know a single person in the country except her husband, who had found work in another northeastern town.

The couple lived and worked separately for about a year and a half. In 2000, Bhalla came to

Canada while her husband stayed behind to finance their further education. Once again, she did not know a single person in the country.

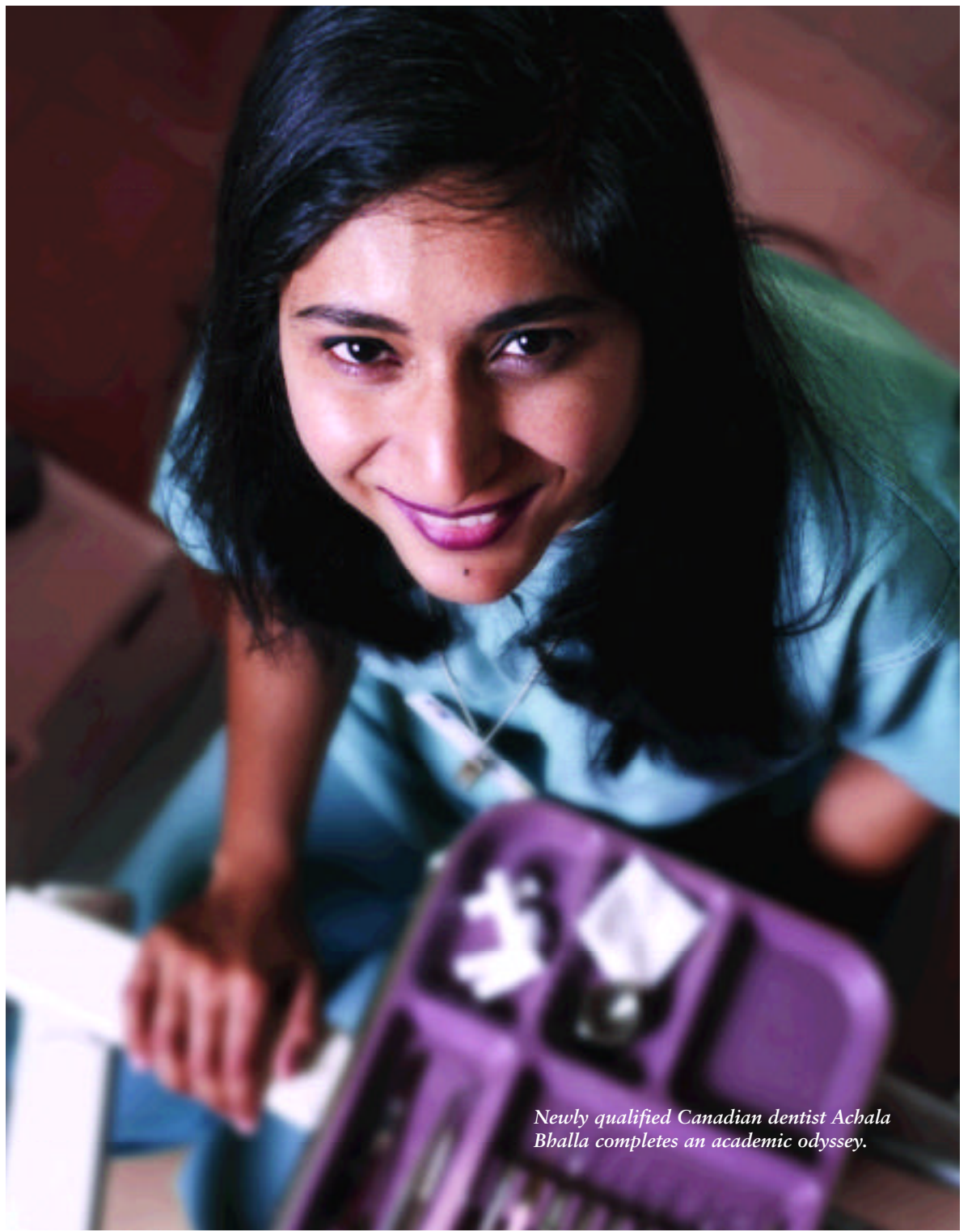
She was attracted to UBC because of the two-year International Dental Degree Completion Program that offers a degree as well as qualification to work in Canada.

“I thought it might be boring to do my training all over again but I was wrong,” she says. “The North American approach to patient care is much different and the skills standard is higher.”

Taking time to talk to patients and treating the whole person makes the job more meaningful and enjoyable, she says. In India the high volume of patients with poor dental health often meant a production line of extractions. It was rare to find patients in their 50s with all their teeth.

Her husband joined her last year and is also completing his dental degree at UBC. They have been impressed with the work ethic of fellow students and are grateful and pleased with the friendliness and welcoming attitude of Vancouverites.

Although she misses the Indian sun, Bhalla looks forward to working in Canada. The next step is to acquire business skills so that she and her husband can start another journey – working together in a shared practice. ■



Newly qualified Canadian dentist Achala Bhalla completes an academic odyssey.



Never Stop Learning

The key to growth is new ideas. BY MICHELLE COOK

The ink is barely dry on her Bachelor of Education degree, but new elementary school teacher Lori-Lynn Chin already has one professional development activity planned: learning to play golf.

Chin believes in continually taking up different activities – volleyball, guitar, and now golf – to remind her what it's like to enter a classroom for the first time, and learn new things. A commitment to growth and new ideas is the foundation of her teaching philosophy.

Chin's first foray into education was teaching children piano while she was in high school.

After graduating, the Fort McMurray, AB native went to Victoria but she ended up earning a science degree at UBC. She travelled around Australia and the South Pacific for a year before starting her Education degree, specializing in special needs.

Chin says the lure of the special needs field was that she didn't know a lot about it. Her interest was sparked when she volunteered at a hospital, working with physically and mentally challenged children.

“In the beginning, I really wasn't sure of my competence and comfort level,” Chin remembers. “Eventually, I was able to look

beyond that, and that made me think about working with these children.”

The experience left Chin with a firm belief that special needs students should be included in regular classes. She hopes her specialization will help her to reach each student in her classroom.

While at UBC, Chin continually sought out additional opportunities for professional development, attending numerous teachers' conferences and an autism workshop. She says working with UBC teachers who shared their own personal insights and imparted their passion for teaching was also a “phenomenal” learning experience.

Her enthusiasm and dedication to developing every child's academic, personal and social potential earned her a Dean of Education Scholarship, and high praise for her practicum work at Queen Mary Elementary School, where she taught 21 Grade 1 and 2 students.

This month Chin moves to Kelowna, where she will substitute teach. She says her ideal school would have lots of caring, competent teachers and parental involvement, and special needs students would be fully included. Maybe there will be a golf course nearby, too. ■

From guitar to golf lessons, new teacher Lori-Lynn Chin's approach to teaching includes challenging herself to try new things.

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



**ASSOCIATE DEAN – POSTGRADUATE
MEDICAL EDUCATION
FACULTY OF MEDICINE**

Applications/nominations are invited for the position of Associate Dean, Postgraduate Medical Education. This position is expected to be filled by an internal candidate and is available July 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 the Faculty. Responsibilities include: overall administration of the residency education program; chair of postgraduate education expansion task force; leadership in postgraduate medical educational development and assessment of objectives; representing the UBC Faculty of Medicine in internal and external discussions regarding postgraduate medical education; liaising with Ministry of Health Committees to discuss resident training requirements and funding; interacting with the Ministry of Health and Canada Immigration to prepare and submit applications for resident work permits and visas; liaising with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and the College of Family Physicians of Canada regarding educational and licensure requirements; participating on selected committees including Chair of the Faculty Residency Committee and the Faculty Residency Executive Committee.

A more detailed position description is available in the Dean's Office for those who wish to review it. This is approximately a half-time position.

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 May 31, 2002. Please direct your applications along with the names of 3 referees and nominations to:

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

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



**ASSOCIATE DEAN – MD
UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM
FACULTY OF MEDICINE**

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

The incumbent will report to the Senior Associate Dean, MD Undergraduate Education and through the Associate Dean and Dean is accountable to the Faculty Executive Committee, the Committee of Department Heads and School Directors, and the Faculty. Responsibilities include: overall management of the MD undergraduate curriculum throughout its 4 year duration; leadership of the planning and implementation of the Lower Mainland component of the MD Undergraduate Program expansion; liaison with Department and Division Heads on the contribution of their disciplines and individual members to the Undergraduate medical program; implementation of modified and new program components; annual budget development, as requested by Senior Associate Dean, MD Undergraduate Education.

A more detailed position description is available in the Dean's Office for those who wish to review it. This is approximately a half-time position.

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 May 31, 2002. Please direct your applications along with the names of 3 referees and nominations to:

Dr. Joanna M. Bates, MD, CM, CCFP, FCFP
Senior Associate Dean, MD Undergraduate Education
Faculty of Medicine
Room 317, Instructional Resources Centre
University of British Columbia
2194 Health Sciences Mall

Edgar for the Defense

Overcoming obstacles to give others a hand up.

BY HELEN LEWIS

Studying law is tough at the best of times, but Natasha Edgar's path to a UBC law degree has been even harder than most.

Quadriplegic since a spinal cord injury at 17, Edgar has overcome a host of challenges, throwing her energies into study, sport, work and community service with great success.

After completing a Diploma in Canadian Studies at Langara College and a Bachelor of Arts at UBC, Edgar took up half-time studies for the Bachelor of Laws at UBC in 1997.

"It seemed like a practical choice that would give me flexibility and enable me to work on disability issues from a legal perspective," she says.

UBC's Disability Resource Centre (DRC) helped her deal with many obstacles by providing note-takers, research assistants, exam scribes and special computer space.

In 1998 Edgar started working for the DRC as a Disability Awareness Trainer. She also worked for the Crane library as a student reader, helping visually impaired students. Since 1997 she has been president of the Tetra Development Society of North America, a non-profit society that focuses on the development of special adaptive devices for people with disabilities.

In her spare time, Edgar loves sailing around Jericho cove. A member of the Disabled Sailing Association at Jericho Sailing Centre, Edgar sails a specially

modified sailboat with a volunteer instructor.

"I like the feeling of freedom and being able to actually move without being attached to a wheelchair," she says. "For a while, it makes me feel as though I don't really have a disability and I've left that all on land. However, I have to store my wheelchair in a secure location as our organization has had a few calls of concern over empty wheelchairs at the end of the dock!"

After graduating and writing the Bar Exam, Edgar will work as an articling student for the BC Public Interest Advocacy Centre, which represents the interests of underrepresented and disadvantaged groups.

Edgar credits the Disability Resource Centre, the support of university staff, and her friends and family with giving her the strength and means to "persevere in the face of obstacles."

She says it has been particularly helpful to have her sister Melissa, a recent classical studies graduate, with her at UBC. "It's been great having her companionship ... her sense of humour and wit have helped to lift my spirits."

Vancouver City Councillor and Tetra Development Society CEO Sam Sullivan has also been a role model and mentor for her. "He has overcome the challenges of his quadriplegia ... his example has encouraged and inspired me, and has shown me that it is possible to live with a disability and still accomplish your goals," Edgar says. ■



Natasha Edgar balanced her law studies with community service, work experience and sport.

Check out www.liveat.ubc.ca for the UBC calendar of events for May 2002



Forced into Forestry But Learns to Love it

New life for student from Romania. BY HELEN LEWIS

In May, Iulia Litman will complete a journey that began 13 years ago and 9,200 km away when Romania's communists gave her little choice but to enroll in a forestry program. When Iulia Litman enrolled at the University of Transilvania in Brasov under the communist-dominated education system, her family background was considered "too intellectual" for her to be accepted into her first choice.

"I always wanted to be a history teacher when I grew up, but things were bad in communist Romania," Litman says. "One of my grandparents was a history teacher, another was a priest, and that didn't fit with the way the communists wanted to mould their people. I was part of the 'intellectual' kind of family and they didn't want to work with us – they wanted people from the village to be the new power in the country."

Desperately disappointed but determined to attend university, Litman decided in 1989 to enter the Wood Industry Faculty where "they didn't ask you the place of birth of your grandparents". She completed three years of the demanding five-year program, which required students to take six courses per semester and attend compulsory classes up to 12 hours a day.

Litman left her studies and her home in 1994 when her high school sweetheart, who had left Romania immediately after the revolution in 1989, convinced her to join him in Canada.

"I was 18 when John left Romania and I knew I would never see him again because I had no

chance to leave," Litman says. "But things changed and he didn't give up – he said he loved me and wanted to marry me."

The move was very difficult for Litman, then 22, who had to leave her family and friends, and struggle with a language she knew only from American TV soaps.

"I remember watching *Dallas* with a notebook and pen in my hand – it was on TV after the revolution and everybody in Romania knew about J.R. and Sue-Ellen and Bobby. I watched it and learned a lot of English."

In Canada, Litman helped make ends meet by working in a hardware store, but her desire to complete the journey she started in Romania eventually led her to UBC.

She juggled her studies with family life with her husband and daughter Hannah, who was two when Litman went back to school. She also had to devote time to learning English and to her summer jobs with UBC's Centre of Advanced Wood Processing and manufacturing company Unison Windows Inc.

It took her three years of study at UBC to complete the Bachelor of Wood Science.

"The best thing is the support I got both from faculty and my colleagues at UBC," Litman says. "Sometimes I didn't even have to ask them for help – they've been there step by step and that's why I'm here."

She is considering Masters research in a wood science-related area at UBC, and has no plans to return to Romania. "I feel Canada is my home now," she says. ■

Iulia Litman dreamed of being a history teacher but fell in love with forestry.

Next Best Thing to a Trip to the Stars

Science student lands dream job. BY HELEN LEWIS

Imagine making childhood plans to one day be an astronaut or a fighter pilot, and then imagine what it was like for Bachelor of Science student Sam Kohen to be invited to work at NASA.

"When I went there it was better than being a kid in a candy shop. It was amazing – it was everything I'd spent so much time reading about and dreaming about," he says. "I didn't want to be there just as a tourist – I wanted to be a part of it."

Having to wear glasses put an end to Kohen's early dreams of flying but he found an alternate route to NASA, spending last summer employed there as a researcher.

He plans to enter medical school later this year and is now thinking of pursuing space medicine. "This job taught me so much about NASA and what happens in space with medicine. It opened my eyes to great opportunities to treat astronauts and do research."

Working with NASA employees at the Kennedy Space Center Ecology and Nature Reserve at Cape Canaveral, Kohen conducted ecological fieldwork and helped with a medical research project on blood pressure in astronauts.

"Our ecological research focused on the tremendous mosquito problem at the reserve. One method they use to control the mosquitoes is to raise the water levels in areas around the Space Center, to stop the mosquitoes from laying their eggs. We were looking at the effects of raising the water levels and trying to work out which strategies would be best for the ecosystem," he says.

Kohen's work on the medical research project focused on blood pressure problems that can cause astronauts to faint when returning to earth from space-normal conditions.

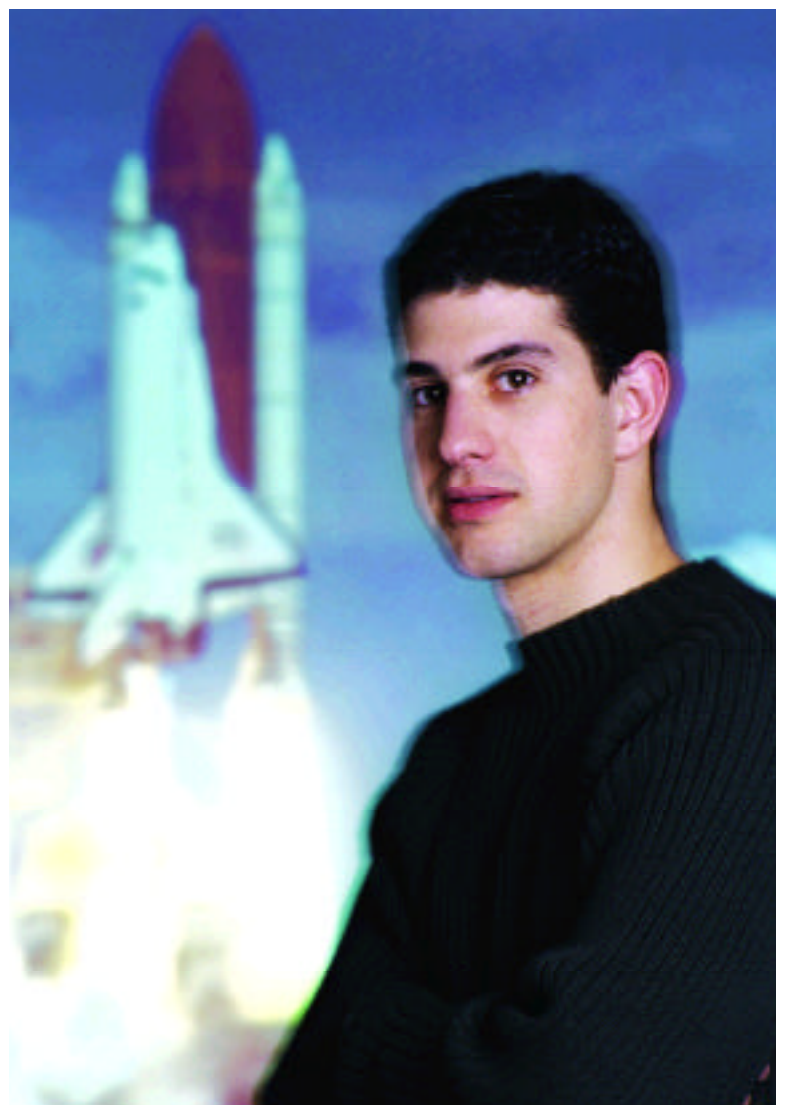
The stint at NASA wasn't Kohen's first foray into research,

nor into the medical field. Over the previous two summers, he worked at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto on three-month grants.

The first project, with Chief Pathologist Dr. Sylvia Asa, was in pathology and molecular genetics research on pituitary differentiation in fetuses. The next project, with Hematology Prof. Dr. Greg Denomme, looked at Rhesus disease in fetuses.

But Kohen doesn't spend all his time in the lab. A keen athlete, he has represented UBC in triathlons and cross-country running, and made the Ontario Provincial Triathlon team. He was offered a training spot with the Junior National Team, but turned it down to take the position at Mount Sinai Hospital.

His busy schedule also includes working as an adviser in UBC's Gage Residence, and teaching the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) courses. ■



Sam Kohen rose before dawn to watch a shuttle launch during his time at NASA.

Engineering a Caring Solution

Scholar hopes her skills will benefit people.

BY LAURIE DAWKINS

Engineering was Marnie Williston's first love but her second career choice.

Originally from Hastings, East Sussex in England where she left high school after Grade 10, Williston came to Vancouver in 1994 and took on a series of jobs in social services, working with the elderly as well as women and children in crisis.

Williston enjoyed helping people, but craved more challenge, so she took the advice of a close friend and returned to school to pursue her passion for quantum chemistry and "fixing things."

Today those passions, and a lot of hard work, have earned the Chemical and Biological Engineering/Honours Chemistry student the title of Wesbrook Scholar and nine other major scholarships. Williston, who graduates with a



Singing Japanese Christmas carols is all part of a day's work for new engineer Marnie Williston.

Bachelor of Applied Science, has served as president of the Chemical and Biological Engineering Student Club, acted as a keynote speaker for Engineers without Borders, and worked tirelessly to encourage other young people, men and women alike, to explore careers in engineering.

As a co-op student, Williston traveled more than 6,000 miles to become the first foreign employee of a Japanese cement company, where she acted as an intermediary to the United Nations. Another highlight was leading 200 people in a Japanese rendition of Rudolph the Reindeer at the company Christmas party.

Last spring, she trekked three days by bus to Houston, Texas to attend the world's largest oil and gas convention, to hand out resumes and UBC co-op brochures and get the "word on the street" about the best companies to work for after graduation. She set her sights on BP Canada Energy, and starts work as a plant engineer at their Medicine Hat, AB location this month.

Williston may still get to combine her first career with her second. Because BP operates extensively in developing countries, she hopes to work overseas and apply her engineering skills to benefit people who really need them.

At 28, Williston radiates enthusiasm, sincerity and above all, confidence.

"I've had so many opportunities, but the amazing thing is that I didn't have to look for them," she says. "I just had to be aware and always willing to say 'yes' at the right moment!" ■

GRADUATION FACTS

⊙ UBC's first Congregation ceremony took place on May 4, 1916 in the Hotel Vancouver ballroom. There were 41 graduates.

⊙ UBC's first graduate degrees were conferred in 1919. The first degrees in Agriculture were conferred in 1921. The first Bachelor of Applied Science in Nursing and Forestry degrees were awarded at the eighth Congregation in 1923.

⊙ The first Congregation ceremony on the present day campus was held in 1927.

⊙ UBC students now graduate from 12 faculties: Agricultural Sciences, Applied Science, Arts, Commerce and Business Administration, Dentistry, Education, Forestry, Graduate Studies, Law, Medicine, Pharmaceutical Sciences and Science.

⊙ Each year since 1919 the graduating class has planted a tree to mark Congregation. The first group of 12 trees is a row of oaks and basswoods planted along the east side of the Geography Building. The class of '02 recently planted a zelkova tree near the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts.

⊙ The Ladner Clock Tower in front of Main Library houses a 330-bell carillon, which is played during special occasions, including Congregation. The 40-metre tower was built in 1968 in memory of B.C. pioneers, especially members of the Ladner family who founded the town of the same name.

⊙ The wooden mace carried into the ceremonies and placed on stage symbolizes authority. It was designed by George Norris and First Nations artist Bill Reid and carved by Norris.

⊙ When graduating students are presented to the chancellor he or she says "I admit you,"

welcoming them to convocation, the body of graduates that elects the chancellor and some university senators.

⊙ More than 5,000 gowns and mortar boards are used for Congregation.

⊙ Hoods and gowns worn by graduates are lined with colours that indicate the degree to be conferred. Members of the Congregation processions wear colourful academic regalia from around the world signifying their university of graduation and highest degree awarded.

⊙ The gowns, hoods and mortarboards worn by graduating students evolved from clothes worn by European scholars in the Middle Ages.

⊙ UBC has presented more than 500 honorary degrees in its history. In 1958, John Diefenbaker, Lester Pearson and W.A.C. Bennett received degrees the same day. Other notable degree recipients: Pierre Trudeau, Louis St. Laurent, Joey Smallwood, Princess Margaret, Oscar Peterson, Ken Dryden, J.V. Clyne, Adlai Stevenson, Field Marshall Bernard Montgomery, Robertson Davies, Tommy Douglas, Karen Kain, and Raymond Burr.

⊙ UBC alumni include Senator Pat Carney, former B.C. premier Mike Harcourt, journalists Allan Fotheringham and Joe Schlesinger, former prime ministers Kim Campbell and John Turner, opera singers Ben Heppner and Judith Forst, author Pierre Berton, and Rick Hansen, advocate for the disabled.

⊙ During the receptions following Congregation ceremonies UBC Food Services serve almost 2,000 cinnamon buns, 6,000 cups of tea and coffee, 2,500 dozen pastry squares and 245 gallons of punch.

UBC's 18kg mace dates back to 1957 when President Norman Mackenzie commissioned its design. Carved from B.C. yew, it celebrates Native West Coast artistic traditions.



Medical Education Delivers Unexpected Benefits

Routine visit reveals long lost family. BY BRIAN LIN

When Shannon Waters entered UBC's medical school she always expected that one day she would graduate as a doctor, but she never expected the experience would unite her with a family she never thought she would ever meet.

It happened last summer when the 25-year-old from Chemainus First Nation was interning in Duncan, B.C. She was working with Dr. Stephen Faulkner, who has worked in the community for 15 years.

"One day we went to the native elder's centre for lunch and Dr. Faulkner mentioned my mother's childhood name, and a half-cousin of mine recognized it and came over to meet me," recalls Waters, who ended up meeting her cousins and great aunts. "They didn't know what had happened to my mother, and there I was. It was amazing."

"My mom was adopted off a reserve near Duncan when she was seven years old, but she didn't have much contact with [her birth family]," Waters explains.

The experience was just one of a few firsts for Waters since she is among three aboriginal medical students graduating this year and one of only two successful candidates across Canada to be admitted to the inaugural year of UBC's First Nations Family Practice Residency Program.

At a time when rural medicine is suffering from a shortage of doctors, Waters is eager to move to communities with large aboriginal populations, where her skills and



Shannon Waters brings a First Nations perspective to family practice.

passion are desperately needed.

"In these areas there is often only one resident doctor, and you're managing what comes in the door," Waters says. "In First Nations communities in particular, you forge a really close sense of family with the entire community."

Waters recalls when she worked in the Queen Charlotte Islands and a patient passed away. "Half the village came to the hospital," she said. "It really brings the humanity back to medicine."

Eventually, Waters wants to play a role in affecting health-care policy changes that will benefit rural and aboriginal communities, but not before making use of her medical knowledge to help patients achieve better health.

"It still amazes me to have the honour to be part of their lives," she says. "But I know that even if I can't cure them, the way I approach them will make a difference in how they live out the rest of their lives." ■



Green College Writer-in-Residence 2003-2004

Green College at the University of British Columbia invites applications from Canadian writers for the position of Writer-in-Residence. The term of the residency will be for three months between September 1, 2003 and April 30, 2004, subject to funding approval.

The Writer-in-Residence will work with the Green College community through individual consultations and through the College's established reading series. She or he must live at the College for the duration of the term, and will be provided with room, partial board and a stipend of \$16,000.

Writers with a minimum of one book in print, who have made a significant contribution to their area of specialty over a number of years, are invited to send their applications to:

Writer-in-Residence Selection Committee
Green College
4201 Cecil Green Park Road
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1

Applications must include a curriculum vitae, 20-30 page writing sample and two letters of reference. Applications deadline: July 15, 2002.

For further information, please go to: www.greencollege.ubc.ca



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

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Teaching the Teachers

Educators hone their skills.

BY HILARY THOMSON

A week before 5,000 UBC students step on stage to receive their degrees, a small and unique group of grads will be recognized for their commitment to learning.

They are the 22 participants – the largest class ever – in the UBC Faculty Certificate Program on Teaching and Learning in Higher Education who will receive their certificates from UBC President Martha Piper at a ceremony to be held May 15.

The program, sponsored by the Centre for Teaching and Academic Growth (TAG), is designed to help faculty members and graduate students develop a scholarly approach to university teaching.

“The best thing about this program is that it has depth,” says Gary Poole, director of TAG. “It reminds us that good teaching requires a considerable commitment.”

Preparing faculty members to function effectively in a learner-centred environment is one of the strategies of *Trek 2000*, the university’s vision statement.

Now in its fourth year, the UBC program is one of the most comprehensive programs in Canada and the list of those interested in participating stands at more than 100.

Participants have a range of teaching experience – first-time lecturers to award-winning teachers – and come from every faculty.

“One of the strongest elements of the program is the opportunity for participants to engage in in-depth conversations with colleagues about teaching and to learn from each other,” says Poole.

Integrating theory and practice with 150 hours of interactive modular workshops, the program includes discussion and analysis and independent professional development activities. Participants conduct what Poole calls ‘teaching anthropology’ or visiting colleagues’ classes to investigate other teaching cultures.

“The program allows you to sit back and re-think your approach to teaching, from the philosophy behind teaching to practical techniques in the class,” says participant Stephen Ward, associate professor in the School of Journalism. “The peer feedback is exciting, supportive and challenging. You leave the program with this huge motivation to continue along the path to being the best educator that you can be.”

To graduate, participants must demonstrate a scholarly approach to teaching through a teaching portfolio, self-reports, classroom research, teaching presentations and peer feedback. Participation in all aspects of the program is also required.

Program co-ordinator and Education Asst. Prof. Harry Hubball follows up with graduates annually to determine where the learning has aided their development as a teacher and affected their students’ academic experience.

For more information on the program, contact Hubball at (604) 822-9218. ■

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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Honorary degree nominations for 2003

The Tributes Committee is seeking nominations of outstanding candidates for honorary degrees to be awarded in 2003. Nomination forms can be found online at www.graduation.ubc.ca/awards. Otherwise call 604-822-2484.

Nominations should be mailed to: Chair, Tributes Committee, c/o Ceremonies and Events Office, 2025 West Mall, Campus Zone 2, DEADLINE FOR NOMINATION IS FRIDAY JUNE 28, 2002



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

PROGRAM DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY PROGRAMS UBC CONTINUING STUDIES

A position is available for a Program Director to lead Community Programs (Arts, Humanities and Public Affairs) Continuing Studies. This position reports to the Associate Vice President, Continuing Studies or a Divisional Director of Continuing Studies and works closely with other Program Directors. The candidate is responsible for:

- Providing leadership and direction to Community Programs
- Developing creative and innovative ways to share the rich expertise of the UBC campus with the general public
- Designing, developing and administering arts and humanities programs, forums and conferences on topical issues, programs for senior citizens and certificate programs
- Directing the staff, budgets, program activities and research in adult education of the Community Programs unit of Continuing Studies.

Candidates must have a Masters or PhD in an appropriate discipline; several years of programming experience in post-secondary education; familiarity with the university context and experience with community groups; excellent oral and written communication skills, including writing in an academic context; and demonstrated leadership, organizational, administrative and interpersonal skills.

Candidates should submit a covering letter and resume to: Office of the Associate Vice President, UBC Continuing Studies, 6997 Loug Drive, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1 Fax: 604-822-1811

This position is open to candidates internal to UBC.

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**ELECTIONS**

The University of British Columbia
Chancellor and Convocation Senators

UBC is conducting elections for a Chancellor and for Alumni Senators. As a UBC Alumnus, Senator or full-time Faculty member, you are entitled to vote in these elections. The elections run until May 20, 2002.

Cast your vote online at students.ubc.ca/elections, or by mail. To request a ballot, telephone 604-822-9952, 604-822-6002 or fax 604-822-5345 or 604-822-8856.

Paper ballots must be received by the elections office by May 20th, 2002, 4:00 pm PST.

Your vote automatically enters your name into our prize draw. Look on the website for details of sponsors and prizes.

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Recipients of this year's President's Service Award for Excellence are (left to right): Janice Austin, Christine Graham, Michelle McCaughran, Saroj Chand and Katriona MacDonald.

UBC Standouts Cited for Service

Dedicated employees earn presidential award. BY HILARY THOMSON

Five members of the university community are being recognized for their outstanding contributions to UBC and campus life as recipients of this year's President's Service Award for Excellence.

Each recipient will receive a gold medal and \$5,000 in a presentation during Spring Congregation ceremonies.

Janice Austin has served UBC as a library assistant for almost 35 years helping a generation of students and faculty with research, course work and theses.

She has spent most of her UBC career in the Education Library, building and maintaining its collection and serving on the Information Desk.

Known for both her efficiency and humour, Austin's knowledge of resources spans books, CD-ROMs, videos and databases. She is able to process a high volume of detailed work with speed and accuracy and her caring, calm manner and problem-solving abilities have helped hundreds of students with their searches.

Described by colleagues as the glue that holds together the Dept. of Curriculum Studies, **Saroj Chand** has been administrative assistant in the department for almost eight years.

Her responsibilities range from hiring instructors to scheduling

classes and overseeing budgets as well as managing her own staff.

Co-workers refer to her as the heart of the administrative team and she is praised for her nurturing and caring support to students, faculty and staff.

A blend of competence and practical vision is what co-workers say about **Christine Graham** who has worked in the Dept. of Statistics administering the graduate and undergraduate programs since 1988. Her tasks include processing applications, sorting out registration problems, advising students and organizing timetables. She is recognized as a leader in incorporating the use of new technologies and software.

Employees credit her warm welcome and training skills. Graduate students describe Graham as sincere, with a good sense of humour, enormous patience and inexhaustible energy.

A problem-solver known for her intellectual energy and humour, **Michelle McCaughran** has served UBC for 27 years and has been the administrator in the School of Audiology and Speech Sciences since 1990.

The volunteer chair of UBC's 2001 United Way Campaign, McCaughran led the effort that raised more than \$450,000 – an increase of more than 30 per cent

from the previous year's total.


Her duties in the school include academic operations management, labour relations and personnel management. Colleagues describe her financial acumen as exceptional and say her contributions are marked by humanity and good sense.

Talent, technical skills and innovation are some of the characteristics that co-workers ascribe to **Katriona MacDonald**, director of Graduate Student Academic Services in the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

She oversees student enrolment and records and almost single-handedly developed an on-line admissions system and a web-based international manual for processing applications. In addition, she developed a best practices manual to guide advisors in assisting graduate students.

MacDonald is described as the voice of reason in a sea of rules and regulations and a walking encyclopedia of procedures. She plays a key role among administrators in the Canadian Association of Graduate Schools.

Students value her personalized attention and sincere concern for their welfare and say she leads not only by example but also with her heart. ■




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ASSOCIATE DEAN – ADMISSIONS
FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Applications/nominations are invited for the position of Associate Dean, Admissions. This is a part-time appointment in the Dean's Office, Point Grey Campus which is expected to be filled by an internal candidate. The position is available August 1, 2002.

The successful candidate will be responsible for all student admission processes including counselling pre-medical students, interviewing applicants, chairing the Admissions Selection Committee and the Admissions Policy Committee, and related administrative tasks. The incumbent will have the opportunity to undertake significant development of our admissions system as it relates to the medical school expansion.

A more detailed position description is available in the Dean's Office for those who wish to review it.

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 May 31, 2002. Please direct your applications along with the names of 3 referees and nominations to:

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



kudos



UBC's winning engineering team (left to right): Erin Lim, Lance Williams and Nelson Siu.

Engineering Students Take Top Canadian Design Prize

A team of UBC engineering students has designed their way to first place at a national engineering competition.

The three fourth-year Electrical and Computer Engineering students placed first in the senior team design portion of the 2002 Canadian Engineering Competition held in Quebec City in March.

The UBC team beat Canadian teams from McGill, Dalhousie and the University of Victoria as well as teams from the U.S., Sweden and Greece. In the timed event, **Erin Lim, Nelson Siu and Lance Williams** had 15-20 hours to develop a machine capable of carrying a small figure across a three-metre plywood ramp and then across two metres of water to a goal post. The event is designed to test students' communication, leadership, teamwork and design skills.

Winning is not Moot

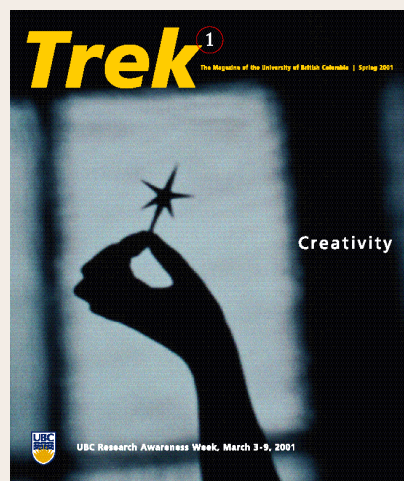
UBC Law students are proving their worth in the courtroom, winning the Canadian Corporate/Securities Moot and the Wilson Moot and taking awards in several others.

UBC's **Tanja Biegler, Amy Davison, Lesley Hayes, Jane MacRae, Bronwyn Turner and Mike Feder** beat 10 law schools from across Canada in the Corporate/Securities Moot. Biegler was named second place oralist and UBC took the second place prize for its written argument.

In the Wilson Moot, **Mark Fancourt-Smith, Fiona Hughes, Henry Leung, David Takagawa and Andrea Zappavigna** came first overall, with Fancourt-Smith placing second in the oralist competition.

UBC teams also won the UBC-UVic Moot, placed second in the Gale Moot, placed third in the nationals of the Client Counselling Competition, and took the Judge's Discretionary Prize in the Laskin Moot. UBC took first and third place in the Gale Moot factum competition.

Trek Magazine Wins The Big One



The University of British Columbia's *Trek* magazine has been awarded the gold medal for the best university magazine in Canada by the Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education (CAAE). *Trek* is published by The University of British Columbia Alumni Association and is produced by editor **Chris Petty**, designer **Chris Dahl** and assistant editor **Vanessa Clarke**.

CAAE is a professional organization for university development and alumni relations officers.

Trek beat out magazines from the University of Toronto, McGill, Queen's, the University of Alberta, and other universities across Canada. "Writing is excellent: lively, engaging, creditable . . . great covers and photos; a clean, crisp layout . . . a smart, attractive, informative magazine" were among the judges' comments regarding *Trek*.

The award will be presented at CCAE's national convention to be held June 11 in Saskatoon.

Reduce the Stigma Attached to Financial Assistance

But increase the number of students who receive it, survey says.

A recent series of consultation meetings and open forums coupled with on-line surveys and e-mail feedback have revealed that students would like to see an increase in financial support along with a reduction in the stigma some students associate with that support.

Last March, when the Board of Governors approved tuition increases, it set aside \$4.2 million, or 20 per cent of the increase for student financial support, and designated \$7.5 million for enhanced learning and student support. This was in further support of the board's long-standing policy that no qualified BC student should ever be denied admission strictly for financial reasons.

During tuition consultations prior to the Board meeting last March, students made it clear that they wanted the allocation of tuition revenue to be transparent as well as a provision for accountability. The Board of Governors agreed and requested details on the proposed allocations for the May

2002 meeting.

Since the March board meeting, hundreds of students have attended open forums, more than 400 e-mails have been received and about 3,000 students responded to an on-line survey.

"We were thrilled with how many students took the opportunity to respond," says Michelle Aucoin, a development officer in the office of the Vice-president, Students.

Feedback from undergraduates and post-baccalaureate students includes support for the work-study program, need-based financial support, more flexibility in the Canada Student Loan program, and financial awards to recognize student leadership, mentorship and volunteer activities. They also suggest increasing the value of the University Scholars program and reducing the stigma that some students associate with financial assistance.

Graduate students agree that the stigma should be reduced but they

would like to see an increase in the number of students receiving financial support rather than increasing support to students who already receive it. Other suggestions include ensuring greater equity of funding across faculties, providing financial support that can be recognized within academia, allocating funding to attract graduate students to UBC and providing need-based assistance for students without other financial support.

Last year, UBC awarded more than \$36 million in merit-based scholarships and \$5 million in need-based bursaries. More than 11,000 UBC students benefit from assistance.

If you would like to contribute a comment or suggestion please e-mail them to tuition@interchange.ubc.ca.

Information received from that feedback will be tabled at the next Board of Governors meeting on May 16th along with a suggested allocation of the revenue from the tuition increase.

TIME PIECE 30 YEARS AGO

In an April 1972 UBC Reports article featuring the new electronic music studio at the School of Music, the late Music Prof. **Cortland Hultberg** explained why he didn't think electronic music would be branded a gimmick and gradually disappear into limbo as a curiosity.

Hultberg pointed out that in every age composers have made significant breakthroughs in musical thought that were not understood at the time. "With so many musical styles in existence, it's difficult to think of a new musical form as an extension of something that has developed from previous musical thought," said Hultberg. "As a result, it's not always easy to see where an electronic composition came from."

Prof. Cortland Hultberg with the brand new Buchla and Moog synthesizer, which he called an "electronic music box."



Flintbox Sparks Wider Audience

A new path to access UBC technology. BY BRIAN LIN

It just got a lot easier to purchase and download Information Technology software created at UBC.

The UBC University-Industry Liaison Office has created Flintbox, a web-based application for marketing and licensing technology online. For the first time, you'll be able to search information technology applications, get details, purchase an end-user license and download the software in just a few minutes.

When software is not suitable for patent or exclusive license arrangements, the costs and arduous process of administering higher-volume lower-value licenses can deter academics who may otherwise have been wanting to build a business case or generate some rev-

enue from their work.

With Flintbox, researchers can disclose their technology to the UILO and then have their software licensed and sold online within a few days. "The disclosure and due diligence process is much easier for copyrighted materials intended for Flintbox," says Project Manager Stephen Smith. "With Flintbox researchers get access to a much wider audience than through their personal web site. All the licensing issues and considerations have been taken care of for them, and through Flintbox they can get valuable feedback."

Flintbox is intended to fill the void between open source licensing and the more conventional bilateral license agreements that are undertaken by the UILO. "The real benefit to researchers isn't making \$50 on a transaction, but the ability to efficiently do hundreds of transactions, garner feedback and find a larger audience and interest for their work."

"It's something we have never done before and frankly, no UILOs have done," says Smith. But

they're quickly catching on. Westlink Innovation Network (see Westlink.ca) and the Federal Partners In Technology Transfer have adopted the application as their portal for IT technology.

The UBC implementation of Flintbox is accessible at www.ubcsoftware.ca. Researchers who have technologies to post on Flintbox can contact kate.hall@uilo.ubc.ca or get more information at www.uilo.ubc.ca. ■

Leadership

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The experience gave Lloyd a taste of international diplomacy and backroom politics and has whetted her appetite to explore possible careers in law, foreign service or journalism.

But she credits UBC with already giving her a taste of 'real life' experiences.

"UBC is a microcosm of the best of society," Lloyd says. "It's been a wonderful place to mature and become a citizen." ■