

UBC REPORTS

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Scientist Predicts Ocean Fisheries Disaster

Daniel Pauly says we are destroying world fish stocks

BY HILARY THOMSON

He describes himself as a bridge builder.

And that bridge is built over troubled waters, says UBC Fisheries Centre Prof. Daniel Pauly, a vocal and influential critic of current fishing practices that are depleting the world's fish stocks.

"We are destroying these resources for no reason," he says. "This systematic overfishing will soon leave nothing in the ocean but plankton."

The 56-year-old has been studying the declining bounty of the seas for about 25 years, in a career that spans four continents.

French by birth, Pauly was raised in Switzerland but at 16 years old left an unhappy home life and set out for Germany. There he worked at labouring jobs by day and by night attended classes to hone his language skills and complete high school.

He particularly wanted an applied and transferable skill that would allow him to work outside of Europe. As a person of colour – the son of a white mother and an Afro-American father – he had always felt like an outsider and was eager to move on.

His first stop was Ghana, West Africa, followed by a two-year stay in Indonesia where he helped develop new fisheries. His experience there led to the creation of a simple if sometimes disputed method of predicting the natural mortality of fish – a key factor in estimating sustainable catches.

The work was a complement to the theory of fish growth that led to his doctorate from the University of Kiel, Germany in

1979. His paper on the method – called the Pauly equation – is the most cited of his more than 400 publications.

His next stop, at the International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM) in the Philippines, is where he really made some waves.

A key accomplishment was the development of software system methods that use simple measurements of length to estimate age. The estimates help researchers study fish growth, which is important to fisheries management.

He spent 15 years at the Manila research facility and his achievements include launching FishBase, an online encyclopedia now covering more than 27,000 species of fish. The Web site gets up to five million hits a month. He also worked with international colleagues to develop Ecopath, a tool for describing ecosystems' food webs.

When ICLARM management shifted in 1994, Pauly accepted a position with UBC's Fisheries Centre.

His research here has included developing Ecopath to create a system called Ecosim, which predicts the effects of fisheries on ecosystems. He has also studied how fishers regularly 'overfish' large valuable stock like tuna and snapper and then work down the food web to smaller species. Dubbing the practice 'fishing down the food web,' Pauly has shown how devastating the practice is to the marine ecosystem.



PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

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UBC Fisheries Centre Prof. Daniel Pauly seeks a union between fisheries scientists and conservationists.

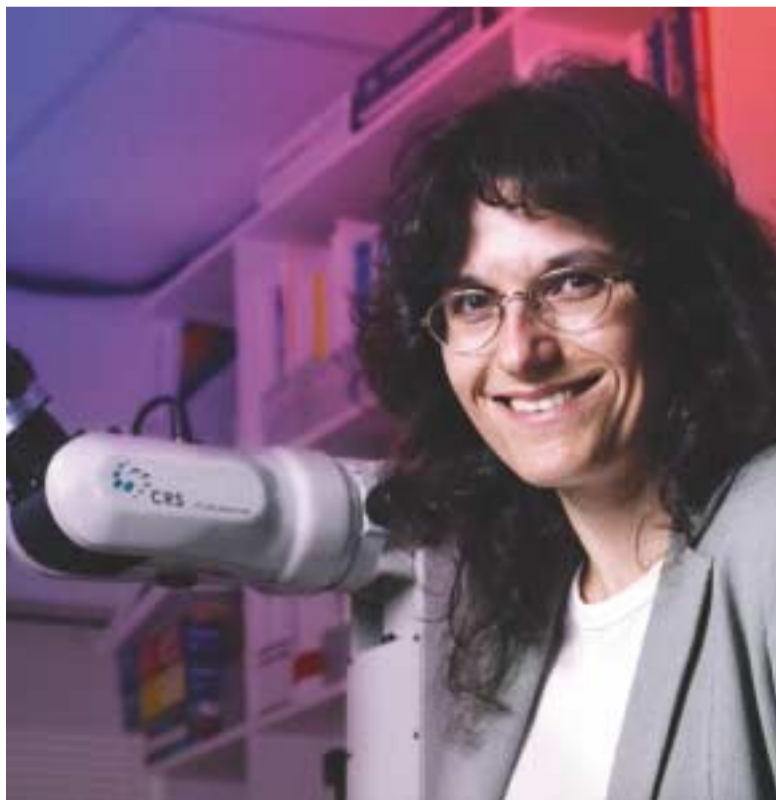


PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

Elizabeth Croft is looking at ways to bring humans and robots closer together.

Teaching Manners to House Robots

Engineering prof. working on a more polite robot for the future. BY MICHELLE COOK

Blame it on Rosie, the Jetsons' robot maid. The popular TV cartoon character helped to fuel our fascination with having automated help around the house but, in real life, Rosie would be too dangerous to let loose with the vacuum cleaner, says a UBC robotics expert.

"Robots are used extensively in industry but they haven't made the leap into everyday life because functions like vacuuming and loading a dishwasher require robotic arms and these can literally get in your face and injure you," says Elizabeth Croft, an associate professor in the Dept. of Mechanical Engineering and member of UBC's Institute of Computing, Information & Cognitive Systems.

Safety is the main reason why we have yet to bond with robots in the way envisioned on *The Jetsons* TV series. It's a problem that Croft

hopes to solve by designing machines that are more "polite."

"We talk all the time about bringing robots into our environment but the fundamental questions of safety haven't been answered," Croft says. "There's been a lot of work done on human-machine interaction but it's mainly been with computers or passive devices and not with robotic arms."

There are lots of potential applications for "well-mannered" robots, Croft says with a smile. They can be put to work in offices, helping people with spinal cord injuries to perform routine office functions. In labs, they can help researchers to conduct experiments with toxic substances; and in the home, they can assist the elderly and disabled with feeding themselves and other daily living tasks.

Before robots can be taken off the factory floor and put into settings where people can work more closely with them, there has to be some proof that they can consistently behave in a safe way. This is the focus of Croft's current research.

Current industry standards limit human-robot interaction by requiring physical barriers like big yellow lines to be put around a robot's workplace, and safety interlock circuits that shut the robot down if someone enters its space. As a result, industrial robots aren't very well mannered.

"We've got to get from the zero interaction that is prescribed now to the point where a robot is aware that there is a person in its space," Croft says.

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IN THE NEWS

Highlights of UBC Media Coverage in February 2003. COMPILED BY BRIAN LIN

Federal money promised

\$1.7 billion in federal money for research has been promised to universities over the next three years.

UBC President **Martha Piper** told *The Vancouver Sun* that she hopes that perhaps 15 per cent of 4,000 federally funded graduate students will be attracted to UBC.

"Those would be some of the most outstanding young minds of the future," Piper said. "That's just an extraordinary source of talent that we would be very actively trying to recruit."

The new federal budget also includes an initiative which will allow students to make as much as \$1,700 a year – up from \$600 annually – before their income reduces the amount they are eligible to borrow through students loans.

"There's no doubt that when it's fully implemented, it will have a tremendous impact," UBC AVP of Government Relations **Allan Tupper** told *The Globe and Mail*.

Not enough punishment

A B.C. Supreme Court judge recently sentenced two street racers to house arrest for killing a pedestrian.

"It's totally inappropriate to have somebody sentenced to house arrest, basically the punishment for



PHOTO: PAUL JOSEPH

UBC President Martha Piper is pleased with promise of federal funding.

killing a person is to go away and be a good citizen," UBC law senior instructor **Don Egleston** told *BCTV*.

Currently, a first-degree murder conviction is an automatic 25 years behind bars. Using a weapon during a robbery, even if no shots are fired, is a minimum four years in jail.

"If you get killed by a car you're just as dead as being killed by a rifle bullet, at the present time, the law doesn't seem to recognize that," said Egleston.

Demonstrations unprecedented

UBC political science Prof. **Richard Price**, who specializes in international relations, believes what drove so many people to take part in anti-war protests was a belief the U.S. has not made a credible case for war, and that attacking Iraq could have serious international consequences, including increased terrorism around the world.

Price told *The Vancouver Sun* that while it is impossible to gauge what direct impact such protests might have on government decision-making, history shows they do have an indirect effect.

Backcountry skiers undeterred

Veteran avalanche expert and UBC geography Prof. **Dave McClung** told *The Globe and Mail* that it would be folly to try to restrict backcountry skiing, despite the two recent disasters.

"Whose business is that to regulate it? What about rock-climbing? What about hang-gliding? Risk is related to reward, and it always will be," he said.

"I am philosophically opposed to some kind of government agency closing down the backcountry to people. Even when instability is high or extreme, you can always find a place to ski." □

LETTERS

Dear Editor,

"Putting an End to Expensive Print Journals" in the February 6, 2003 edition of UBC Reports brings up an important issue that UBC librarians have been struggling with for a number of years: the purchase of print vs. electronic journals.

With the advent of the Internet, the tradition of refereeing, printing, and distributing journals that had developed over the past century was turned on its head. No one today can deny the contribution electronic journals have made to facilitating ease and access to academic writing, but until we can be sure electronic journals are continuously available, the library will also purchase as many of their print equivalents as the budget allows.

I applaud UBC Education Professor John Willinsky's efforts to seek other means of providing information and cut the costs of what are admittedly a huge drain on the financial resources of the university in general and of its library system in particular. But there are important issues to consider and discuss so that articles are available over the long term and in the most cost-effective manner.

Academic provision of journal articles free on the Internet is also not without challenges for both present and future access. Clifford Lynch, director of the Coalition for Networked Information and adjunct professor at Berkeley's School of Information Management and Systems recently spoke at UBC,

saying that direct electronic access to academic research is occurring without an accompanying means of preserving it. There are countless projects on North American computers that have been abandoned and/or forgotten after a research grant has run out, after a leading researcher retires, after an operating system is changed, or after interest in a given issue wanes.

Also problematic is the more usual provision of electronic articles that come by way of third party providers (Gale, Ebsco, ProQuest etc.) that purchase rights to distribute individual journals. Unlike libraries, these private firms are not obligated and make no commitment to continue providing access to a given journal should it prove uneconomical to do so. Alternatively if one of these providers goes out of business or merges with another, any number of journals could be dropped and, at the stroke of a pen, 10 or more years of an electronic journal could no longer be accessible.

Ironically, the very journals that Professor Willinsky is sitting on in the photo accompanying this article may provide the only copy of an article he needs in five years' time if electronic access to them is arbitrarily wiped out by the provider or if they are inadequately preserved.

Donna Jean MacKinnon, Librarian
UBC Law Library

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Free Tuition for PhD Students

Tuition waived to make UBC more competitive. BY MICHELLE COOK

UBC is waiving tuition fees for PhD students in a bid to become more competitive in attracting top scholars nationally and internationally.

The waiver proposal, approved by the Board of Governors in January, will apply to all full-time research-based PhD students in the first four years of their program, and will take effect September 2003.

"We know funding is an issue for students at this level of their studies and this is an incentive to attract and retain the world's best PhD candidates to campus," said Barry McBride, UBC's vice-presi-

dent, Academic. "This is a very competitive environment, and most American universities offer tuition waivers to PhD candidates, and other Canadian universities are moving in this direction too."

McBride says the waiver is designed to help students focus on their studies, and to recognize the important contribution that PhD candidates make to UBC, especially in advancing research, often with little remuneration. Doctoral candidates typically take four to six years to complete their degree.

The proposal to waive PhD tuition comes out of a student financial assistance report

prepared by a committee of faculty and students. McBride says the waiver is the first step in defining a minimum financial assistance package for PhD students similar to those in place at the University of Toronto, which has offered tuition waivers to research-based PhD students, plus a minimum of \$12,000 in guaranteed funding, since 2001.

Of UBC's 7,000 graduate students, just more than 2,200 – or 30 per cent – are doctoral candidates. Currently, annual tuition costs are \$3,200 for domestic students and \$7,200 for international PhD students. □

Teaching Manners to House Robots

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Croft and her researchers are working to improve the design of robots to get them to move in ways that are less likely to hurt people. They are also looking at how to program robots with a set of guidelines, similar to the human rules of etiquette, to help them anticipate how a person in their space is going to act.

To do this, the team of mechanical engineers has had to learn a little more about human behaviour.

"People are unpredictable and react in different ways," says Dana Kulic, one of Croft's PhD students. "Determining which responses are appropriate in terms of designing human-robot interaction control is a challenge."

The team has been monitoring how people interact with a robot by monitoring visual clues like body position and eye gaze, and physiological signals like heart rate, skin conductance and muscle contractions. The information is combined to provide an estimate of the person's intentions, and data can then be used to control the robot to adjust to how that person will interact with it.

"Just like we learn about the people we meet, a robot has to learn about each new person it comes into contact with, and with information we collect, we can provide the robot with a kind of user profile," Kulic says.

Croft hopes the work she and her researchers are doing will lead to the establishment of safety standards for human-robot interaction. But that doesn't mean Rosie will be vacuuming your house any time soon.

"The question of whether you have a robot in your home will be an economic one. It's difficult to predict how expensive they will be," Croft says. "There's also the question of whether people will accept robots in their homes; that's an issue of convenience over the need for human interaction." □

New Bus Makes it Safe to Go to School

A UBC-community partnership solves the problem

BY BRIAN LIN

Children attending University Hill Elementary School can now get to and from school more conveniently and safely thanks to a unique UBC-community partnership.

Launched last November, the U-Hill Bus Program runs between the Acadia housing area and the elementary school each morning and afternoon for \$10 per month per student. The initiative is a collaboration of the school's Parent Advisory Committee, TransLink, the RCMP and UBC's TREK Program Centre.

"It's exciting to see the community pull together," says Gord Lovegrove, UBC's director of Transportation Planning, whose own child has attended U-Hill Elementary. He knows first-hand the traffic problems, and the security and safety concerns associated with UBC residents with young children having to make the long trip to School.

"We used to walk and bike to school, travelling down Acadia Road," recalls Lovegrove. "Crossing the crosswalks was a little dicey, especially when the RCMP weren't there to patrol in morning rush hour to ensure that traffic slowed down or stopped for pedestrians and cyclists. The odd time I tried driving Sarah on rainy days was also a pain because there were always long line-ups and no space to pull over."

Lovegrove says the situation was the hardest on single parents who worked and lived on UBC

campus, and wanted to make sure their kids got to and from school safely.

"They had to either arrive at work/classes later and leave earlier to pick up their kids, or pay extra money for day care before and after school," says Lovegrove. "It also weighs heavily on parents to decide whether it was safe enough for their children to travel on their own, tempted to short-cut through Pacific Spirit Park."


With more than 180 subscribers and buses regularly packed to standing-room capacity, students, school officials and parents – most of whom are UBC faculty, staff and students – are calling it a godsend.

"Traffic problems around the school have virtually disappeared," says Fred Pritchard, director of Campus and Community Planning. "The demand on the RCMP has been eliminated and TransLink has filled two otherwise idle buses."

Lovegrove says the program provides a model for partnerships between UBC and the surrounding communities, and exemplifies UBC's commitment to build safer, more complete communities for recruitment and retention of world-class personnel.

"Programs like this say to potential faculty, students and staff: 'Come to UBC, we care about your families as well, your children are taken care of from door to door.'" □

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

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UBC Student Survives Year of Self-Imposed Exile on Desolate Island

His only companion an epileptic kitten

BY MICHELLE COOK

After six weeks of fierce winds and chilling downpours, Bob Kull didn't think things could get much worse on the desolate island off the coast of southern Chile where he was trying to set up camp.

Then, one night during a raging storm, the wind flipped his boat and submerged both its motors in saltwater.

"I remember thinking I had no way to get off the island. I had a strong sense that the wind – this elemental force of nature – was out to get me, and I remember looking out at the boat and thinking, 'maybe I've bitten off more than I can chew,'" recalls Kull, a PhD candidate in Interdisciplinary Studies.

That moment was the bleakest one Kull experienced during his year-long sojourn on the uninhabited chunk of land, separated from the nearest town 150 kilometres away by isolated ocean passages and the Andean mountains.

In February 2001, a Chilean navy boat dropped off Kull and his supplies on the island's slippery shore.

His self-enforced year of solitude in a "raw, cold" landscape of dense underbrush, wind and rain is the basis of an unusual PhD thesis project. Through what he calls "lived-experience" research, Kull wanted to explore the psychological, emotional and spiritual transformations that can happen in solitude, and how these shifts in consciousness might transform our relationship with the non-human world, and lead to new ways of feeling and behaving.

Kull, who recently returned to UBC after two years in South America, is affiliated with the Forestry faculty but his project spans psychology, biology, philosophy, education and spirituality. It also encompasses nature and wildlife conservation studies.

Integrating real-life experience with academic work was a natural step for Kull, aged 56. Born in California, he's worked as a logger on Vancouver Island and as a scuba diving instructor in the Caribbean. After losing his leg in a motorcycle accident, Kull entered university for the first time at the age of 40.

Kull's year on the Chilean island, 2,700 kilometres south of Santiago, was his longest retreat from civilization, but not his first. He spent several months alone in B.C.'s Chilcotin region when he was 28, and headed into the wilderness of Northern Quebec after finishing his undergraduate degree at McGill.

The location Kull chose to undertake his PhD research was so remote that he didn't see any planes or boats for 12 months, except once when the Chilean National Parks Service came to check on him. His only companions were "birds, dolphins, trees, the rain, the sea, the sky" and an epileptic kitten that the Parks Service suggested he bring along to

test for bad shellfish. Kull quickly became too attached to the cat to feed it anything but the same fish he ate.

Armed with self-taught survival skills, Kull eventually salvaged his boat motors, built a wood-frame cabin, and began the daily business of solitude. This included meditating, gathering firewood and fishing – when the strong winds let up – to supplement his staples of rice, beans, oatmeal, pasta, bouillon cubes and coffee.

Deciding how much food to bring was simple, Kull says. All he did was cook up a day's worth of food then multiply it by 365. More difficult was determining all the things he might need in a year – everything from rain and fishing gear, solar panels, and a wind generator to the tools needed to repair those things if they broke. His life-savers were three common household items: duct tape, shoe goo and wire.

"If Napoleon had had duct tape he would have conquered the world," Kull laughs.

Kull's other lifeline was a satellite phone linked to a laptop computer for emergencies and to send monthly "check-in" e-mails to the Chilean Parks Service, UBC and his family. The e-mail came in handy when he needed medical advice to treat torn rotator cuff muscles in his shoulders and pull an abscessed tooth. But when he found himself using it as a high-tech crutch to "escape emotional and spiritual difficulties," he weaned himself off of it.

Apart from the physical challenges of surviving, Kull faced many emotional, spiritual and psychological tests. The fierce winds were a constant source of anger, frustration and fear but they ultimately offered him the opportunity to examine his relationship to the natural flow of the world. Another low point was the feeling, several months into his stay, that he wasn't experiencing the enlightenment – spiritually or academically – he'd hoped for.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF BOB KULL

UBC's modern-day *Robinson Crusoe* Bob Kull (above) contemplates the nature of solitude amid the grandeur of southern Chile. His home for a year was a self-built wood frame cabin covered in tarp (below right), and his Man Friday, an epileptic kitten named Cat (below left).

Eventually, he had moments when he felt, unexpectedly, that he was a part of everything flowing through and around him. He still can't identify the catalyst for those brief transformations, but he's happy his exploration ended with some questions unresolved.

"In some sense, I was looking to fail," Kull says. "This project was not primarily about achieving personal success because failing is very much a part of spiritual practice, but I did experience feelings of sudden change, of joy and a sense of being deeply alive in a living universe when I was on the island."

Kull ended his solitude after a year, as planned, hauling away everything that he'd brought in and leaving the landscape almost exactly as he had found it. Perhaps that's why, despite the urging of others, Kull has no interest in claiming the island as his own.

"People have said I should name it, but I don't want to because part of what I was exploring was man's relationship to the non-human world and, as humans, we have the tendency to continually want to encompass nature and make it

ours," Kull says. "My experience was about surrendering to and integrating into nature, and trying to realize a deep inner connection. Now my work is to practice what I learned in solitude back here in the world of people."

Bob Kull is available to give

slide show presentations of his year of solitude in southern Chile. For more information call 604.737.1374 or e-mail bobkull@exchange.ubc.ca. To see more photos of Kull's journey, visit www.forestry.ubc.ca/portal/bobkull. □



It's Not Just Smoke and Mirrors

Putting the audience in a fog could put them at risk. BY HILARY THOMSON

Fake fog – special effect or special hazard?

In the first study of its kind in North America, researchers at UBC's School of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene have found significant ill effects associated with exposure to theatrical smokes and fogs.

Investigators Kay Teschke and Susan Kennedy looked at more than 100 entertainment industry employees working in TV, movies, theatre, music concerts and a video arcade in a four-year study conducted in the Lower Mainland. Previous studies have focused on stage performers only.

"This was an unusual study from a hygienist's perspective because it's not often that a chemical exposure is purposely introduced to a work site," says Teschke. "They don't want to contain the fog – they want it to make a big impression."

The investigators measured employees' lung function before

and after exposure and gathered data on the workers' lung health. Compared to a control group, the entertainment industry employees showed both chronic and acute effects, even after taking into account such factors as age, smoking, lung diseases and allergic conditions. Symptoms included lower average lung function, more chronic respiratory symptoms, nasal symptoms, cough, chest tightness and shortness of breath on exertion.

There is no data that looks at the risk to audiences, says Kennedy, but individuals could be susceptible to acute effects in smaller venues where they are close to the smoke sources. In these locations and in video arcades where customers are immersed in smoke there is every reason to think that their reaction to it would be the same as employees.

Signs at venues suggesting that a non-toxic haze is being used need to be changed to warn audiences

that the smoke can be irritating, she adds.

About half of theatre productions, 75 per cent of TV and movie productions and 100 per cent of rock concerts use these special effects created by machines spraying vapourized glycol or mineral oil.

There are Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) standards for exposure to mineral oils, but these were drafted primarily for machinists and there are no standards specifically for entertainment employees using the chemicals. The situation is complicated by the customized chemical concoctions that some technicians use and long hours on the job that boost employees' exposure.

Researchers recommend that the industry establish control plans for exposure to both glycol and mineral oil-based fogs. Suggestions to reduce exposure include the use of other methods, such as filters or computerized effects, to duplicate the look of theatrical fog. Also, crews could

ventilate sets with fresh air after fog use or schedule filming that uses fogs near the end of a production day so that residual airborne mist is given time to settle when no one is on the set.

The study was commissioned by Safety and Health in Arts, Production and Entertainment, an association that promotes workplace health and safety in the motion picture and performing arts industries in B.C. The organization will work with researchers, industry workers and the WCB to create safe work guidelines.

Other researchers involved in the study were Prof. of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene Mike Brauer and Assoc. Prof. of Health Care and Epidemiology Chris van Netten. Funding was provided by the B.C. Lung Association and the WCB.

For more information on the study, check the web at www.soeh.ubc.ca and click on research. □



Ocean Fisheries Disaster

continued from page 1

In addition, his international perspective – he speaks four languages – allows him to cater to a global base of scientists and students. He is very clear on the role universities must play in conserving fish stocks.

“We must be the engineers of the vision – not just doing more of the same. If we can’t do that, we shouldn’t be in business.”

Such outspoken stances have brought Pauly both acclaim and criticism. In 1995, he publicly aligned himself with marine conservationists – a trip to the dark side in the view of most fisheries scientists. The move earned him the label of heretic.

“Fisheries scientists help to build stocks so that the fishing industry can exploit them,” he says. “We can’t continue to treat industry as an exclusive client of our knowledge.”

Since 1999, Pauly has headed a Fisheries Centre project that looks at the impact of fisheries on the world’s marine ecosystems. Called *The Sea Around Us*, it is funded by a \$4-million grant from Philadelphia-based Pew Charitable Trusts.

Pauly and others at the centre last year published a comprehensive review of global fisheries in the prestigious journal, *Nature*. One of the questions they tackled was whether aquaculture could save the world’s fish stocks.

Typically, Pauly’s response is passionate and irreverent. He calls aquaculture facilities, such as those raising salmon, the equivalent of a “floating pig farm.” In his mind, aquaculture is just another example of the proliferation of unregulated fisheries – a machine that seems almost unstoppable. Salmon and other raised fish that are fed ground sardines and other smaller fishes cannot alleviate the fisheries problem, he says. The demand for fishmeal actually increases the pressure on wild stocks.

But even with this bleak outlook for the future of our fisheries, Pauly is hopeful. Determined to bring together fisheries scientists and conservationists, he has presented information from the *The Sea Around Us* study to international audiences and recently spoke to a U.S. House of Representatives Ocean Caucus. He is often quoted in mainstream media and has been profiled in *Science* and *The New York Times*.

After a quarter century, Daniel Pauly is far from exhausted in his campaign to save the world’s fish.

“I think we’re just at the cusp of getting the message across. There is still time to restore marine ecosystems. We can do this.” □

New \$9-Million CBC Mini-Series Driven by UBC Talent

Dramatic thriller probes the post-9/11 world of refugees. BY ERICA SMISHEK

On this day, Vancouver’s Orpheum Theatre doubles for Canada’s Parliament Buildings. Cables, lights, aluminum stands and frames, and assorted other gear line the foyer. Background performers wait in the theatre, their “holding” area, for their call. In a red-carpeted hall upstairs, well-known Canadian actors Kate Nelligan and R.H. Thompson work with director Brad Turner to nail their lines.

Combining creativity and the tight protocols of a military operation, this is Day 23 of shooting for *Third World*, a \$9-million, six-hour mini-series for CBC, and UBC creative writing Assoc. Prof. Linda Svendsen is right in the thick of the action.

“It’s great to be behind the scenes and be part of the process,” says Svendsen, who co-wrote the script with her partner, Brian McKeown, and is also co-producing. “Seeing people do their jobs is fascinating – the cast, the director, the grips, even locations. When I saw the house we used for Nina [Nelligan]’s house, I felt like I was getting married. It was all so perfect. I went back after

Mine.

Svendsen is also an acclaimed fiction writer and has taught in the creative writing program at UBC since 1989.

Third World is billed as an unflinching look at the post-9/11 world of refugees and the people who sacrifice their lives to help – or hinder – them. Production includes 35 shooting days in Vancouver and 20 days in Port St. John, South Africa. Svendsen, McKeown and their two young children will spend two months there this spring.

“It was supposed to be a novel set in the Philippines,” Svendsen says of a project that began more than eight years ago. “Then I got pregnant. Events were unfolding in Rwanda at the time. I saw the documentary, *Who Gets In*, about the Canadian immigration process. I was just really involved in the issue. I couldn’t travel so I started taking a closer look at the work. I had the main character of Nina, a politician, in my mind. Was it a novel? Was it a movie-of-the-week? Then I started attending refugee hearings and listening to people’s stories first hand.

Svendsen’s thoughts and it is surely more than chance that took her and the story there.

“I think about Rwanda and the fact that no one did anything. Romeo Dallaire [former commander of the UN Assistance Mission for Rwanda], Stephen Lewis [UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa] – the work they do amazes me. When Dallaire spoke here last year, he punctuated his speech many times with the tag, ‘are all humans human or are some humans more human than others?’

“We are living in a very curious time.”

Third World weaves together six characters whose stories intersect on the front lines of the world’s refugee crisis. They include an Afghan woman smuggled across the Canadian border in a produce truck; a committed refugee lawyer (played by Nicholas Campbell of *DaVinci’s Inquest*) involved in her claim; an ambitious right-wing politician (Nelligan) whose racist views enflame her colleagues and the legal community and eventually test the country’s perception of itself; her daughter, a relief agency

Third World weaves together six characters whose stories intersect on the front lines of the world’s refugee crisis

we struck the set to just walk through, I was so moved by it.”

Though wearing a producer’s hat for the first time, Svendsen is no stranger to film and television. In New York in the early 1980s, this UBC alumna worked as a freelance story analyst at Tri-Star Pictures and Samuel Goldwyn and adapted a short story for CBC. She has written extensively for the screen ever since; credits include *The Diviners*, *At the End of the Day: The Sue Rodriguez Story* and *These Arms of*

“We presented our idea to Susan Morgan [head of series] at CBC and she said ‘do it – but make it bigger. Go somewhere.’ We picked up a globe and put our finger on it and started in Africa.”

During the early stages of development, support from UBC helped fund library acquisitions, office expenses and travel to African refugee camps, a mine and South African locations for research purposes.

The continent is never far from

worker, caught in an ethnic conflict in central Africa; a mother battling shifting hierarchies, disease, starvation and child-soldier recruitment to keep herself and her three young children alive in Africa; and her brother, who endures torture and degradation before escaping and filing a refugee claim in Canada.

“We took six pieces of yellow lined paper,” says Svendsen, who until teaming with McKeown on the project had always written alone. “We laid them out on the



PHOTO: ROBERT ALBANESE

UBC creative writing Assoc. Prof. Linda Svendsen is co-writer and co-producer of *Third World*, a stark thriller being shot in Vancouver and Africa.

table and said ‘here are our characters.’ From there, we developed a pitch document, then a draft, then another and another. I took Nina and the female characters. Brian was with the men. We passed scenes back and forth. Brian had worked at CBC news and has a political background. I tend to deal with structure and be the story editor. His strength is being in the moment with the characters.”

The pair was well into a draft when Sept. 11 changed immigration laws, international relations, the whole refugee system – and the script.

“In Vancouver alone, there are 160 parts,” Svendsen explains, “with people from very different ethnic backgrounds. There is racism and some tough things in the script. It was very humbling. The performers thanked me for writing this. That has never happened to me before.” □



PHOTO: ROBERT ALBANESE

Afghan refugee Naila Zalmi (played by actress Myriam Acharki) passes a message to her husband through his friend Mahmoud (Camyar Chai) in this scene.

University Boulevard Neighborhood Plan

Tell us what you think

In keeping with UBC'S evolving University Town, a draft neighbourhood plan is being developed for the University Boulevard local area.

A campus and community consultation process is being conducted to gather feedback on the draft plan prior to its finalization and presentation to the UBC Board of Governors in May, 2003. You can participate in this consultation in a number of ways:

- Internet:** You can learn more about the University Boulevard draft plan by reading the Discussion Guide at www.universitytown.ubc.ca and give your opinion via the online feedback form.
- Open Houses**
March 6, 9 am to 3 pm at the War Memorial Gym
March 10, 6 pm to 9 pm in Room 212A of SUB
March 11, 6 pm to 9 pm in Room 214 of SUB
March 13, 9 am to 3 pm at the Aquatic Centre
- Small Group Meetings** (Feb.10 – March 31)
Your group can request a presentation by contacting the University Town inquiry line at 604.822.6400 or e-mail info.universitytown@ubc.ca
- Campus and Community Public Meeting**
Tuesday, April 1 – 7 pm
Room 214 – Student Union Building

How Campus & Community Feedback Will Be Used
Feedback gathered through this consultation via the web, fax, campus publications, open houses, small-group meetings and public meetings will be recorded and summarized in a Consultation Summary Report, which will be presented with a Technical report and revised neighbourhood plan to the UBC Board of Governors. The Consultation Summary Report will also be posted on the web.

For further information contact:
Linda Moore
Tel: 604.822.6400
Fax: 604.822.8102
or info.universitytown@ubc.ca



UNIVERSITY TOWN

UBC ALUMNI



> Katie Eliot, BA'80
Peter Wall Institute

Sustainable Writer

The university, it turns out, is a great place to study and a great place to work. Witness all the UBC grads who work here.

One of these, Katie Eliot, took her BA in Geography in 1980, then worked as a PR coordinator for Fisheries and Oceans, and, later, for the Urban Transit Authority, which became SkyTrain. She came back to UBC in 1984 to work on *Viewpoints* magazine for the faculty of Commerce. She moved to the Asian Centre in 1987 where, among other things, she coordinated their newsletter and other publications. She finally settled at the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies in 2000. As the Secretary for the Institute, she coordinates academic programs (Visiting Junior Scholars, UBC Distinguished Scholars in Residence), plays host to the visiting international researchers who stay at the Peter Wall residence, and, like most senior administrative staff at UBC, is the key person who keeps her unit from lurching to a grinding halt.

Katie is a member of UBC'S Sustainability Committee, and works on a sub-committee formed to help give back to departments some of the money they saved in energy consumption. UBC saved nearly \$4 million in power costs last year due to the committee's hard work and the high level of sustainability-consciousness it raised on campus, and 2 per cent of that saving, or \$75,000, will be ploughed back in to sustainability projects proposed by university units. The committee has received 36 proposals, and is currently reviewing them.

But in her real life, Katie is a writer. She's published a book of her own poetry and has had work published in many magazines including *Canadian Author and Bookman*, *Scrivener*, *Taproot* and *New Quarterly*. As a reviewer and critic, she has pieces in *World Literature Today*, *BC Books* and other Canadian magazines. Katie was the founding editor of *Spokes*, the quarterly newsletter of the Canadian Poetry Association in Vancouver, and SPEC'S newsletter, *Spectrum*. Her scripts have been featured on *Ecowatch*, a weekly radio show broadcast by CFRO. After returning to UBC, Katie was instrumental in starting the Geography Alumni Association, and also edited *Geogramme*, its quarterly newsletter. These days she has switched genres and is working on some magazine articles and a historical novel.

If you are a UBC grad working on campus, let us know. We want to keep in touch with you. Call the Alumni Association at 822-3313.

Students Vote in Favour of Mandatory Discount Bus Pass

U-Pass passes with record turnout

BY BRIAN LIN

In the highest voter turnout in the history of the University of British Columbia, students voted overwhelmingly in favour of a Universal Transportation Pass (U-Pass).

More than 15,000 people cast their votes recently, with 10,742 in favour.

"I am extremely pleased that students came out in force to endorse a transit plan that will have significant financial benefits for students," said Alma Mater Society VP External Tara Learn.

The pass will cost \$20 per month and will be mandatory for all students. With regular one-zone fare cards costing \$63 per month, the \$20 U-Pass price tag constitutes considerable savings. In addition, TransLink has committed to increasing the number of service hours to UBC by 23,000 per year.

Pass holders will be entitled to unlimited use of TransLink buses, SkyTrain and SeaBus services within the Greater Vancouver Regional District from September through April. U-Pass holders will also have free access to campus shuttles, bicycle and carpool programs, merchant discounts and a guaranteed ride home in an emergency.

"This is a great start for our community, especially since U-Pass is more than just a bus pass," said Gord Lovegrove, UBC's director of transportation planning.

"In the near future, we see the full U-Pass program being offered to students, staff, faculty and their families all year round. The variety of transportation options afforded by the pass will make it a true universal transportation pass program, benefiting all UBC commuters and campus residents." □

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Handling Emotional Pain in the Workplace

UBC Commerce professor says managers must have compassion. BY ERICA SMISHEK

Cancer changed Peter Frost's life and his research. Now that research just might change organizational life for leaders and employees around the world.

Frost, a professor of organizational behaviour in UBC's Faculty of Commerce, is the author of *Toxic Emotions at Work*. Just published by Harvard Business School Press, the book examines how organizations and their leaders cause emotional pain, how that pain affects performance and how to alleviate the pain before it becomes toxic.

"At some level, toxicity is everywhere," says Frost from his office, a well-lit, jam-packed yet noticeably peaceful place filled with colourful artwork, artifacts and small treasures that speak volumes about this open-hearted and inspiring man.

"It's not possible to have everyone happy all the time at work. You're dealing with scarce resources, with competition, budgets, mergers. There is nothing wrong with that. The problem is when the toxicity goes untreated or barely treated and builds up. It pools and starts to affect everyone in the organization.

"Now people realize that it can also impact the bottom line."

Frost's exploration of the need for compassionate managers to handle pain and conflict began in 1997. Diagnosed with an aggressive form of melanoma, he began thinking about the hidden forces that determine well-being and, in turn, how the behaviour of organizations and the people in them can affect the health of others at work.

While attending a seminar on health and healing, he heard seminar leader Dr. Joan Borysenko, co-founder of the Mind/Body Clinic at Harvard Medical School, talk about "sin eaters" – people who pick up the toxicity in a family or in a work system.

"I got goose bumps," he says. "The notion of people taking on others' pain was like a light going on. It started me on this track."

Thanks to hard work and a series of "serendipities" – a presentation to the Academy of Management; a connection through a colleague to a Harvard Business Review editor; a magazine article on David Marsing, an Intel executive who suffered a stress-related near-fatal heart attack at 36; and a CEO of a multimillion-dollar company willing to tell his story; among others – a book was born.

In *Toxic Emotions at Work*, Frost identifies emotional pain and sources of toxicity in organizations. He details the work of the "toxin handler" – those managers or staff members who step into toxic situations and help heal the people who are hurting.

Toxin handling comes at considerable risk. Too often the toxin handlers become toxic themselves, becoming so immersed with the work of healing others that they can't recognize the toll it's taking on their own health. As well, the handling is usually done behind-the-scenes so an organization rarely rewards, encourages or supports the handler.

Frost outlines ways organizations can heal these handlers and provides strategies for organizations to distribute pain management more widely, alter practices and policies to fight



PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

Commerce Prof. Peter Frost makes a compelling case for compassion in business with his new book, *Toxic Emotions at Work*.

toxicity and create a culture that institutionalizes compassionate responses to pain.

"Organizations reduce work to numbers and things and forget about people," he says. "That process dehumanizes the equation... I want toxicity to become part of the agenda for discussion in organizations. I want organizations to ask 'what can we do to mitigate this pain?'"

With initial translations in Portuguese and Italian, Frost believes the book has an international audience. It has already been hailed by business experts for breaking a taboo in business books by dealing with the darker side of leadership.

"A lot of the rhetoric around leadership has been heroic but it's been heroic without examining the consequences," Frost explains. "It focuses on charisma, on the positive effects. The idea that there is pain and somehow it's been created in an organization doesn't bear telling."

"Organizational cultures are macho. To talk about someone hurting runs the risk of being

labeled 'soft.'"

Born in South Africa, Frost started at UBC in 1975. Recognized with numerous academic and professional awards, including the 3M Canada Teaching Excellence Award and the 2002 MBA Professor of the Year, this husband, father, grandfather and body surfer has explored leadership and organizational culture for many years.

"One of the things that attracted me to organizational culture was that it brought expressions and emotions to the table. Prior to that, behaviour was assessed by stimulus and response, then by cognitive factors.

"But it's not just the head. It's not just the hands. It's also the heart."

While emotional engagement has guided his research, Frost says it is equally important in how he conducts his teaching and his life.

It comes as no surprise that a coffee mug on his desk carries the message, "Teaching is a journey into the mind through the heart." □



ANNOUNCEMENT

**3rd Child & Youth Health Congress
May 11 - 14, 2003
Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre**

The 3rd International Child & Youth Health Congress is being held from May 11-14 in Vancouver. The program is outstanding! UBC and Children's Hospital Foundation are co-sponsors of the event and all faculty and staff are able to register for the meeting at the significantly reduced rate of \$300CN rather than the regular early rate of \$395US. This is a great deal and will only last until March 31st. ****Please note, this reduced registration rate does not include a ticket to the Congress Dinner, which may be purchased separately****

Visit our website for online registration and program information: www.venuewest.com/childhealth2003
To register for this UBC Rate, please forward a copy of your Faculty/Staff status, along with a completed registration.

Information is also available from the Congress Secretariat:

c/o Venue West Conference Services, Ltd.
#645 - 375 Water Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 5C6
Tel: (604) 681-5226 / Fax: (604) 681-2503
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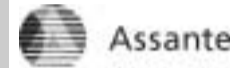
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Applications for Directorship, Centre for India and South Asia Research


The Institute of Asian Research is seeking applications from within the University for the post of Director of the Centre for India and South Asia Research. Applicants should hold academic appointments at UBC and have demonstrated commitment to research on India and/or South Asia. The successful applicant will be expected to take up the appointment on July 1, 2003.

The successful candidate will be expected to develop research programs focusing on India and/or South Asia, seek funding from external donors for the programs of the Centre, organize conferences and seminars on the Centre's research interests and projects, administer the budget of the Centre, and chair the Centre's management committee. The Centre Director will be expected to collaborate with the Director of the Institute of Asian Research in developing inter-Centre and interdisciplinary teaching and research initiatives. The Centre Director will also serve on the Council of the Institute. Issues regarding teaching relief, honorarium and/or other aspects of compensation will be subject to negotiation with the Director of the Institute of Asian Research.

UBC hires on the basis of merit and is committed to employment equity. We encourage all qualified persons to apply. The appointment will be for a fixed term of three to five years. The deadline for applications is May 31, 2003. Applicants should send a letter describing their interest in the position, a curriculum vitae, and the names and addresses of three references to:

Pitman B. Potter, Director
Institute of Asian Research
C.K. Choi Building, Room 251
1855 West Mall, UBC
V6T 1Z2.

Tel: (604) 822-4688
Fax: 604-822-5207
e-mail: potter@interchange.ubc.ca



Applications for Directorship, Centre for Australasian Studies

The Institute of Asian Research is seeking applications from within the University for the post of Director of the Centre for Australasian Studies. Applicants should hold academic appointments at UBC and have demonstrated commitment to research on Australasia. The successful applicant will be expected to take up the appointment on June 1, 2003.

The successful candidate will be expected to devote considerable attention to seeking funding from external donors for the programs of the Centre, as well as developing research programs focusing on Australasia, organizing conferences and seminars on the Centre's research interests and projects. The Director will administer the budget of the Centre, and chair the Centre's management committee. The Centre Director will be expected to collaborate with the Director of the Institute of Asian Research in developing inter-Centre and interdisciplinary teaching and research initiatives. The Centre Director will also serve on the Council of the Institute. Issues regarding teaching release, honorarium and/or other aspects of compensation will be subject to negotiation with the Director of the Institute of Asian Research.

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1855 West Mall, UBC
V6T 1Z2.

Tel: (604) 822-4688
Fax: (604) 822-5207

RESEARCH AWARENESS WEEK



Jean Barman, Dept. of Educational Studies, is one of the UBC researchers being honoured at Celebrate Research, a gala event to be held March 13 at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts. Barman, a leading post-colonial and feminist scholar and historian, was recently elected to the Royal Society of Canada. The gala is the highlight of Research Awareness Week (RAW), a series of free public forums and presentations focused on sustainability to be held March 8-15 at the Point Grey and Robson Square campus sites. For further information about RAW, link from the Web site at www.research.ubc.ca or call 604.822.1700.



kudos

UBC has gained two honours in BC Biotech's 2003 Biotechnology Awards.

Brett Finlay, UBC Peter Wall Distinguished Professor, was recognized with an Innovation and Achievement Award. It honours an individual whose pioneering work has led to important applications in the field of biotechnology. A professor at UBC's Biotechnology Laboratory and co-founder of Inimex Pharmaceuticals, Finlay's research in bacterial disease has led to the near-completion of a cattle vaccine to combat *E. coli*.

UBC's University-Industry Liaison Office was recognized with a Lifetime Achievement Award. The office, led by Angus Livingstone, has been instrumental in the creation of the majority of B.C.'s biotechnology companies. Started in 1984, it provides services such as technology screening and assessment, prototype development, technology commercialization and intellectual property protection.

Education Prof. Margaret Early and a team of researchers at five Canadian universities have received a \$750,000 grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) to make literacy education more relevant to the Internet age. Early and researchers will partner with three school boards and a teachers' union to determine exactly what kinds of skills students will need and how best to teach those skills.

The team will study innovative teaching practices that expand students' literacy skills by exploring a variety of media, including photography, video, art, music, drama and the Internet. The project will also allow teachers to learn from each other as they integrate multimedia resources and their students' cultural diversity into the curriculum.

The findings will form the basis of a Literacy Framework for the New Economy, designed to establish Canadian schools as leaders in literacy education, and give teachers tools to make technological, as well as cultural and linguistic skill development, a key component of all classroom activities.

Visual Art Prof. Ken Lum is this year's recipient of the Dorothy Somerset Award for Performance and Development in the Visual and Creative Arts.

Lum joined the Dept. of Fine Arts in 1990 and has an outstanding record of teaching, scholarship, artistic production, criticism and publication.

His work has been exhibited around the world and been included in the Carnegie International, the São Paulo Bienal, The Venice Biennale and the Johannesburg Biennale. He currently edits the critically acclaimed journal *YISHU: The Journal of Contemporary Chinese Art*.

Since his arrival at UBC, Lum has also taught two years as Invited Professor at L' école Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris as well as a full term in the same capacity with the



PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

Visual arts Prof. Ken Lum is this year's recipient of the Dorothy Somerset Award.

Akademie der Bildenden Kunst in Munich. More recently, he has worked on a number of public art commissions for the cities of Vienna, Austria and Leiden, the Netherlands and another for the State of Sienna in Italy.

Education Assoc. Prof. Peter Gouzouasis has been awarded the Sam Black Award for Education and Development in the Visual and Performing Arts.

Gouzouasis has launched several successful initiatives that have dramatically changed programs in the faculty. Gouzouasis created the Fine Arts and Multi-Media in Education cohort of student teachers being trained to teach in elementary schools. He also established the MUSES lab, a multimedia learning space for visual arts and music education and a precursor to the FAME cohort model.

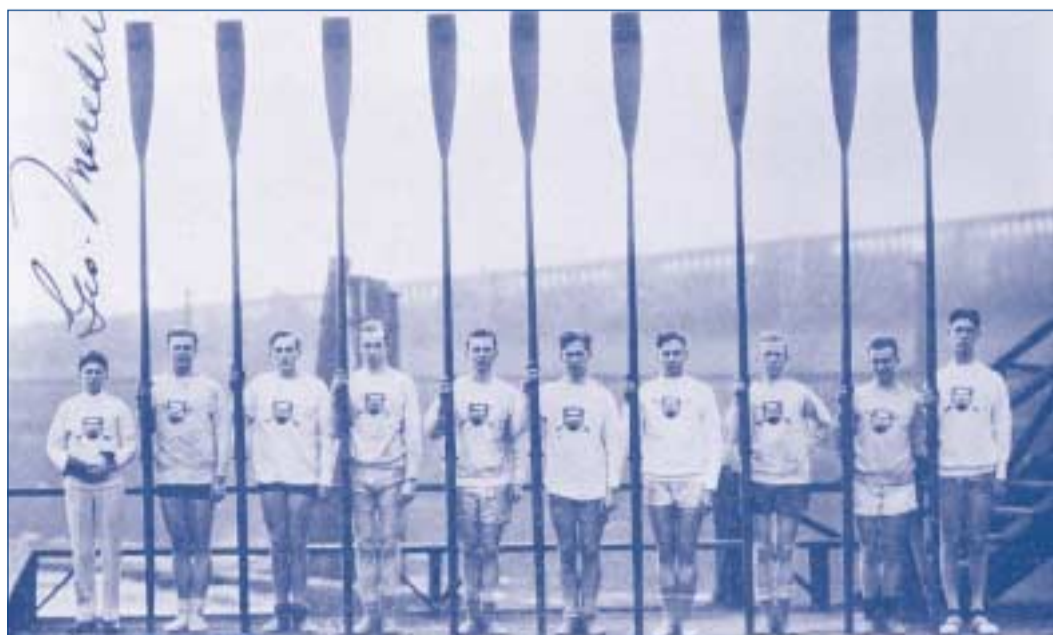
Gouzouasis is western Canada's only authorized trainer for Macromedia Director, the most powerful multimedia scripting tool for Macintosh, PC, and 3DO platforms, and has completed a working interface of *Interactive Wes*, an interactive ethnographic piece on the life of jazz guitarist Wes Montgomery.

Geography Prof. David Ley is one of four Canadian academics named to the Trudeau Foundation Fellowships to pursue research on public policy issues.

The awards are the first made by the Foundation, which was established to help foster the critical thinking championed by Pierre Trudeau and endowed with a \$125 million contribution by the Government of Canada last year.

Ley, the Canada Research Chair in Geography, studies how immigrant communities integrate into urban environments and how loss of identity in urban environments is resisted. □

TIME PIECE 1929



UBC has a proud tradition of rowing that dates back to the early days of the university. Many remember the "Golden Age" of rowing for UBC and for Canada when our university's eight-man crews took the world championship in Henley in 1954/55. The tradition continues today.