

# UBC REPORTS

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**The Gargirls are back.** This is one of three sculptures of nurses in WW I uniforms that grace the corners of the new Technology Enterprises Facility III Bldg. at the intersection of East Mall and Agronomy Rd. The statues, created by Joseph F. Watson, originally adorned Vancouver's first Art Deco building, the Medical-Dental Building on Georgia St. When the building was demolished in 1989, the 3.3-metre-sculptures were stored until they could find a new home. Replicas of the statues can be seen on the office tower at Vancouver's Cathedral Place. □

## Not Necessarily for Sale:

*Racial and ethnic discrimination alive and well in American mortgage lending*

BY ERICA SMISHEK

The more things change in the American inner city, the more they stay the same.

For decades, banks engaged in a practice called "red-lining," refusing to make loans for home purchases, renovations or business investment to low-income minorities. Today, everyone and their proverbial dog are lining up to lend people money. But according to UBC geography assistant professor Elvin Wyly, it's just creating new inequalities in the ways homes are financed and what the cost and risk of the credit will be.

He cites the example of Beatrice, an African-American woman in her 70s who has lived for almost 50 years in the

same house in Newark, New Jersey. After repeated targeted telephone solicitation, she entered into a contract for exterior home repairs. The agent got her a \$46,500 loan at an annual interest rate of 11.65 percent, adjustable after six months. At the time, the average initial rate for one-year adjustable loan was 5.73 percent. The loan was a "balloon" type, requiring monthly installments for 15 years and then a final payment of \$41,603.

Months later, after "unconscionably poor" workmanship, Beatrice was shocked to learn the precise loan terms and requirements when she re-read the numerous and confusing loan documents. She stopped making payments and the lending firm filed for foreclosure. Beatrice filed a counterclaim, claiming violations of the Law Against Discrimination and the Civil Rights Act, among others. The case eventually went to appeal and is believed to be the first appellate court decision recognizing that predatory lending practices can violate U.S. federal and state civil rights laws.

"There is a perception that we've gotten past racial discrimination and it's just simply not true," says Wyly, a spe-

cialist in urban housing and labour markets. "There are new ways that home ownership is being transformed that create new axes of inequality."

Inequalities are especially pronounced in gentrifying neighbourhoods. Between 1993 and 2000, Wyly found that capital investment for home purchases grew twice as fast in gentrified neighbourhoods as in the suburbs. Over the same period, African-American loan rejection odds in these neighbourhoods stood at 2.1 times those for non-Hispanic whites – even after accounting for differences in income and estimated credit risk.

He is currently studying changes in the U.S. banking industry and the implications for home ownership among low-income households and racial/ethnic minorities in inner-city U.S. neighbourhoods. Supported by a three-year grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, and assisted by Mona Atia, a doctoral student in geography, Wyly is analyzing how the institutional structure of mortgage lending has changed race and income inequalities among borrowers.

Preliminary results point to widening  
*continued on page 7*

## New Medical Dean makes a Positive Prognosis

*UBC's medical school will double in size by 2010*

BY HILARY THOMSON

The new head of one of Canada's largest medical schools feels like he's under a national microscope.

Observing from the other side of the lens are Canada's 15 other medical schools focused on the outcome of UBC's move to double the size of its medical school by 2010 with education distributed at three sites in the province.

"I like construction projects – making this ambitious expansion a reality is a big part of what attracted me here," says Gavin Stuart, a specialist in gynecological cancers and the new dean of the Faculty of Medicine. "One of my goals is to be a part of building the distributed education model to become a national and international benchmark for medical education and research."

Tackling complex projects is nothing new to the third generation physician who has served as professor and head of the department of oncology at the University of Calgary, vice-president of the Alberta Cancer Board and director of Calgary's Tom Baker Cancer Centre.

His challenge is to lead UBC's Faculty of Medicine as it expands in 2004, with students being educated and trained at the University of Northern B.C. and the University of Victoria in addition to the UBC campus. The number of medical students – who will all graduate with a UBC medical degree – will double to 256 by 2010. Both Ontario and Quebec have similar plans for distributed medical education but UBC will be the first to implement the model.

"UBC is in a leadership position right now and I feel proud to be part of a faculty with so much talent and so many innovations already in place. On the research side, we're very strong, and on the teaching side students will soon be learning in an exceptional multidisciplinary environment," says Stuart, referring to the construction of a \$110-million Life Sciences Centre at UBC.

The 40,000-square-metre facility is one of only a handful of Canadian med-

ical schools to provide integrated life sciences education in disciplines ranging from neuroscience to social work. It will also serve as a catalyst for life science research in B.C.

But there may be some squirming under the microscope as Stuart grapples with issues such as workloads, pace of change, maintaining research momentum in the face of increased teaching requirements, and recruiting faculty in a globally competitive market.

He is optimistic, however, that with health education a government priority

at both provincial and federal levels, the time is right to attract and retain top academics. He acknowledges that balancing the objectives of the partners, UBC and UNBC, in the distributed model will be a significant challenge.

"Creating a true working partnership among three very different universities in three distinct communities is the task that lies ahead," says the 49-year-old University of Western Ontario alumnus.

Despite the complexities of the model, he feels the payoff to the health of B.C. residents will be significant. A premise of the new system is that doctors trained and educated in their own communities are more likely to practice there, boosting the number of doctors in rural and underserved areas.

In addition to building the medical education program, Stuart wants to support further development of research activities, both within the faculty and across the spectrum of health sciences investigation at the university.

"We have a lot of talent and research strength here. Success breeds success, which gives us some exciting opportunities for growth."

Although duties as dean will take up most of his time, Stuart will do some teaching and clinical work. An amateur athlete with a marathon or two to his credit, he also hopes to explore some of the running routes in his new hometown. □



*New Dean of Medicine, Gavin Stuart.*


PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

## kudos

Political science professor Ken Carty has been appointed director of Research and Education for the B.C. Citizens Assembly, which was created earlier this year by the B.C. government to evaluate electoral reform in the province. Carty brings to the position an extensive knowledge of Canadian and comparative western politics and experience as a member of the federal boundary commission.

The self-governing assembly, randomly chosen from across the province, will hold public hearings across B.C. to look at all possible models for electing MLAs. It has a mandate to recommend no more than one electoral system.

At UBC, Carty balances teaching with a research focus on the structure, organization and behaviour of political parties. He has published widely on the political recruitment, leadership and electoral activities of parties in Canada, Europe and Australia. □



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## IN THE NEWS

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

### Second thought on Statins

After an investigation of the research behind cholesterol-lowering pills, **Dr. James McCormack** and his colleagues with the UBC Therapeutics Initiative have concluded that the benefit of taking statins appears to be offset by equally tangible risks.

"What needs to be done is a large, long-term trial that compares statins and diet," Wright told the *National Post*.

Wright advises people to talk to their physicians about why they are being prescribed cholesterol-lowering drugs.

"They should be honest with them about the benefits, and say: 'Here is the real evidence.'"

### Top of the world wireless

UBC has a new wireless local area network that covers its huge 600-acre Vancouver campus, making it the largest and most advanced WLAN set up by any university or college in the world.

"It's already changing life on campus," AVP Information Technology **Ted Dodds** told *The Globe and Mail*.

"Students spend less time standing in line and more time learning," he explains, "while faculty spend less time administering research and are actively engaged in doing research."

The WLAN is just one part of UBC's three-year, \$30-million project to develop a comprehensive "e-Strategy" and upgrade its com-



PHOTO: BRIAN LIN

Math student **Arsia Assadipour** checks e-mail through the world's largest campus wireless network.

puter network that wraps up this month.

### Catch allergy before it hits

A new study has found that atopic eczema, an allergic skin condition, is best treated before it flares up.

"The traditional approach is reacting when the disease flares up and then dousing the fire. Now, we are talking about before the disease flares, at the very first sign of initiation. We are going to intervene at that stage to prevent it from getting out of hand," UBC dermatology professor **Vincent Ho** told *Reuters*.

### Airline crisis

Commenting on Sept. 11's impact on the U.S. airline industry, UBC organizational behaviour professor **Marc-David Seidel** told *United Press International* that the structures of the airline industry were creaking long before the terrorist attacks.

"The large major carriers that existed prior to deregulation (of the U.S. domestic market) in 1978 were founded and built for a regulated environment. They never fully restructured to the new deregulated environment," Seidel says.

## The Gee! In Genome

*Celebrating 50 years of DNA research*

BY HILARY THOMSON

Canada's first national travelling exhibition on the science of genomics – including a special module honouring the legacy of the late Michael Smith, UBC professor of biotechnology who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1993 – opened Oct. 2 at Vancouver's Science World and runs to Jan. 5, 2004.

*Called The Gee! in Genome*, the exhibit coincides with the 50th anniversary of the landmark scientific publication by James Watson and Francis Crick that described the double helix structure of DNA. The exhibition explores topics ranging from the ABCs of DNA, genes and genomics to the impact of this emerging field of science on agriculture, the environment and human health.

"I think it's wonderful that this Canada-wide exhibit has travelled to Vancouver first because B.C. scientists have been so instrumental in developing the knowledge base that we call genomics," says Prof. Sid Katz, UBC's executive director, Community Affairs, who helped develop the exhibit. "We hope the exhibit sparks a lot of public dialogue, not only about health, but also about fisheries, forestry, agriculture – everything connected with genome science."

*The Gee! in Genome* visitors will be introduced to

the intricate functions of genes and cells and they will learn and have an opportunity to debate controversial ethical issues such as genetic testing, gene therapy, human cloning, genetically modified organisms, labelling and safety, DNA databanks and privacy issues.

Katz worked on the exhibit with David Ng, who directs the Advanced Molecular Biology Lab at UBC's Biotechnology Lab, and Asst. Prof. David Anderson of the Faculty of Education. The team also helped create the workshop experience for visitors to the exhibit, the curriculum-based school programs as well as local speakers' forums to be held at Science World.

Michael Smith was director of B.C. Cancer Agency's Genome Sequence Centre in Vancouver and founding director of the UBC Biotechnology Lab. The Nobel Prize recognized his groundbreaking work in reprogramming segments of DNA, the building blocks of life. His work is credited by peers as launching a new era in genetics research. His legacy continues with the recent achievement of the agency being the first in the world to sequence the SARS virus.

The exhibit was produced by the Canadian Museum of Nature and is presented nationally by Genome Canada, in partnership with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. The exhibit is hosted by Science World and presented locally by Genome British Columbia.

The exhibition will visit about nine cities across Canada over a three-year period. For more information on the exhibit and the public forum schedule, visit [www.genomebc.ca](http://www.genomebc.ca). □

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# Violent Neighbourhoods can Lead to Violent Workplaces

Research proves the connection. BY ERICA SMISHEK



Sandra Robinson, professor of organizational behaviour and human resources at the Sauder School of Business.

**The risk of an employee** "going postal" may have more to do with an organization's postal code than with how people are treated inside the workplace.

In one of the first studies to empirically examine observed severe workplace aggression, a team of researchers including Sandra Robinson of the Sauder

gerous objects at another employee or property damage).

Robinson says the most interesting finding from the study, published in June in the Academy of Management Journal, is that the level of violence in the community surrounding an organization predicted workplace aggression, indicating a "spillover" effect. The

## We need to be aware of the environment that employees are coming from and consider what people bring from the outside to their work.

School of Business at UBC discovered that violent crime rates in a community have a significant influence on workplace aggression.

"If an organization exists in a high-crime neighbourhood, it's more likely that there will be violence or aggression in the workplace than if it's in a low-crime neighbourhood," says Robinson, a professor of organizational behaviour and human resources.

"It doesn't mean that management's treatment of employees doesn't matter. This is not to get bad management off the hook - but to point out that the external environment has an impact too."

Robinson and Sauder colleague Martin Schulz joined researchers from the University of Western Ontario, Tulane University in New Orleans and the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New Jersey to study workplace aggression in a large American public service organization. (The study does not reveal the organization and neither will Robinson).

The sample consisted of 250 independent plants spread across the United States. Plants had an average of 680 employees each, including plant workers, clerical and secretarial employees, equipment maintenance employees and supervisors.

The research team examined FBI statistics of official violent crime rates - number of murders, non-negligent manslaughters, forcible rapes, robberies and aggravated assaults - for the communities in which each plant was located. They also analyzed an employee attitude survey and reviewed the organization's official reports of workplace aggression incidents (physical assaults, credible threats and other severe incidents of workplace aggression such as throwing dan-

unit-wide training to deal with violence to supporting community efforts to curb social problems. All could translate into significant savings in personal and organizational costs.

Robinson, who has spent a number of years researching the darker, dysfunctional side of the employee/employer relationship, contract violations and workplace deviance, says more research is needed to explore the multiple factors determining employee aggression.

"We know that management's treatment of employees does matter," she says. "It can make for more productive employees and it can make for better workplaces."

"But other things influence employee behaviour in the workplace. We need to be aware of the environment that employees are coming from and consider what people bring from the outside to their work. People don't leave their personal stuff at the door." □

## UBC United Way

With a successful kick-off event behind them, and an amount of over \$20,000 raised to date, the 2003 UBC United Way Campaign is well underway.

"Pledge packages were delivered in late September, and donors have already been generous through their donations and event participation," said Deborah Austin, one of this year's co-chairs. "One of our goals this year is to raise donor participation and with the improvements we're seeing already, I believe we will achieve that."

"Volunteers have really been working hard on campaigns throughout departments on campus," noted Ellis Courtney, Austin's co-chair. "If you're looking for a coffee and donut morning, an international food fair or a 50/50 draw, you can find one in an area near you."

Upcoming events this month include the annual Health Sciences Pancake Breakfast, the Land and Building Services International Food Festival and the UBC-Ritsumeikan Open House. Visit our website at [www.unitedway.ubc.ca](http://www.unitedway.ubc.ca) for all of our campaign and event details.

For more information on this year's campaign, upcoming events, or how to donate, please contact Liz King, Campaign Coordinator, at 604.822.8929 or [united.way@ubc.ca](mailto:united.way@ubc.ca). □

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## Research Breakthrough gives New Hope to Schizophrenics

*Brain cell insulation may be the key*

BY HILARY THOMSON

A UBC researcher has made a breakthrough that promises new treatment for schizophrenia in the treatment of schizophrenia patients.

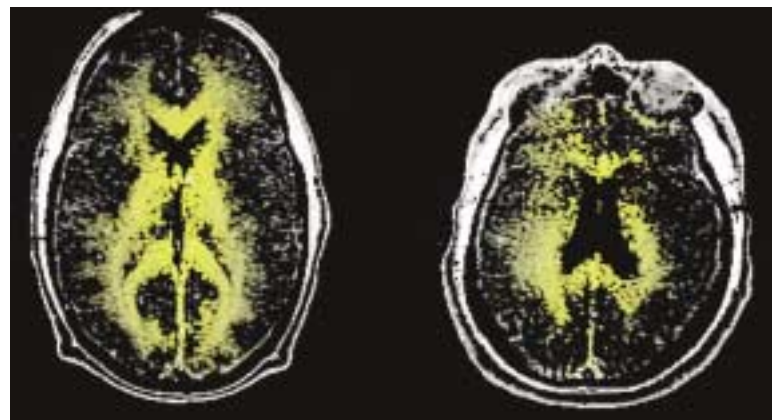
Psychiatry Prof. Bill Honer has discovered that schizophrenia patients show a significant loss of myelin – the material that surrounds and insulates brain cells and helps transmit messages within the brain – compared to people without the disease. Using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), he found there was particular loss of myelin in the frontal lobes of the brain that are the site of decision-making and memory functions. He believes the myelin abnormality could be a contributing factor in patients' slow recovery from the illness.

"These findings represent another window into the mechanism of schizophrenia and open up a whole new area for developing treatments," says Honer, who holds the Jack Bell Chair in Schizophrenia and is a member of the Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute. "Our current treatments can regulate the disease to some extent, but even with medication many patients are still impaired."

This is the first study ever to focus specifically on myelin loss in living patients. Previous research has examined the general condition of white matter, the material in the central core of the brain that includes myelin and other components. Honer's work confirms in living patients what other researchers have recently discovered in gene studies using post-mortem samples.

The findings of the 1997-2001 study were reported recently in *Molecular Psychiatry*, a journal of the Nature Publishing Group.

Using MRI technology developed by UBC multiple sclerosis (MS) researchers, Honer and his research team looked at



The highlighted area on the MRI image (r) shows reduced brain cell insulation in patients with schizophrenia. The dark areas in the image on the left show normal levels of insulation.

MRI scans of 30 patients with schizophrenia and compared them to a control group. The patients, who agreed to participate in the study, were being treated by research team member Dr. Sean Flynn at Riverview Hospital, a site of the Provincial Health Services Authority.

The scans showed a 12 per cent loss of myelin, a biological effect that may be compared to the appearance of frayed insulation around electrical wiring. Researchers don't know the cause of the abnormalities, however, they do know that they can impair synchronization of signals between brain cells, which could give rise to schizophrenia symptoms such as hallucinations, delusions and distorted thinking.

In a second part of the study, Honer looked at 13 post-mortem samples of brain tissue collected from hospitals around the world. He analyzed two proteins found in the cells that make myelin. One of these proteins was 33 per cent lower in brain samples from patients who had schizophrenia. The information complements the MRI findings and will further help scientists understand how brain cell communication is impaired among schizophrenia patients.

Honer cautions that abnormal myelin does not necessarily mean a patient will develop schizophrenia. Scientists haven't

yet found a way to reverse myelin degradation, but drugs in development to treat MS patients – who also suffer myelin loss – may improve the condition in patients with schizophrenia.

Affecting an estimated one person in 100, schizophrenia most often develops in individuals aged 16-30 years. The mechanism of illness remains unclear. The disease affects women and men with equal frequency and often appears earlier in men. A biological disorder of the brain, schizophrenia is treated with a number of medications that help to balance complicated interrelated chemical systems of the brain. The medications can have serious side effects, however, ranging from drowsiness to loss of white blood cells. About 10 per cent of individuals with schizophrenia commit suicide.

"Schizophrenia is a tragic illness for both patients and their families and treatment hasn't changed much in 50 years," says Honer. "These new avenues of research reinforce that this is a biological disorder and gives further hope for better treatments."

Next steps in Honer's research program include studying how nerve cells communicate with cells that make myelin, looking at genetic variations in myelin and determining exactly how myelin loss affects function. □

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## 25 YEAR CLUB

### UBC honours the Quarter Century Club.

BY BRIAN LIN

For Richard Prince, the secret to his lengthy academic career is taking it one day at a time.

"It's impossible to predict, when you begin a job, how long you will stay," says Prince, an art history, visual art and theory professor who celebrates his induction into the Quarter Century Club this year with 25 other faculty members and librarians.

Established in 1996, the Quarter Century Club was established to recognize faculty members and librarians who have served at UBC full-time for 25 years. Each new member receives a certificate of membership, a gold pin or pendant, and a club membership card good for free admission to the Botanical Gardens and discounted admission to the UBC Aquatic Centre.

Having conducted research and taught at UBC for a quarter of a century, Prince says he hardly ever notices the passage of time, except on one occasion a couple of years ago when he walked past the grove of oaks adjacent to the SUB.

"There is now a beautiful canopy forest," Prince muses. "When I began working here, they were just little saplings."

Prince was hired as an assistant professor in 1978, but his relationship with UBC began long before.

"I was raised not far from campus and did both my undergraduate and graduate work here before I started teaching, so I feel like I've been here all my life."

Prince, best known for his series



PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

Visual arts professor Richard Prince celebrates his induction to the Quarter Century Club.

of sculptures based on the northern lights, which has spanned more than two decades, says interacting with students is by far the most rewarding aspect of university life.

"There hasn't been a single year where I haven't met students who were exceptionally brilliant and doing outstanding work," says Prince. "It's a privilege to be able to help them form the ideas and attitudes which, in the long run, will make a better world."

In addition to Quarter Century Club inductees, this year's annual dinner, held on Oct. 2 also honours 50 faculty members and librarians who have worked at UBC for 35 years, a group known collectively as Tempus Fugit (time flies).

For a complete list of this year's inductees to the Quarter Century Club and the members of Tempus Fugit, visit [www.external-affairs.ubc.ca/ceremonies/qcc](http://www.external-affairs.ubc.ca/ceremonies/qcc) □

# A Degree of Difference for First Nations Social Workers

*A huge impact for the Squamish Community*

BY BRIAN LIN

It's been 30 years in the making, but the first two-hour class of the new First Nations Bachelor of Social Work program is already changing the way Delhia Nahanee works as a resource social worker in the Squamish Nation.

Nahanee, who has worked as an employment counsellor in the Downtown Eastside and now recruits and trains foster parents for the Squamish Nation, says her psychology degree from UBC has been useful, but the new program has broadened her view and provides a unified vision of various aspects of social work.

A joint venture of the UBC School of Social Work and the Squamish Nation held at the Lucas Centre in North Vancouver, the five-year pilot program offers formal training to those aboriginal caseworkers who wish to obtain a certificate or diploma in social work.

"Social work is an intimate business," says social work Assoc. Prof. Richard Vedan. "People tell you intimate details of their lives and place great trust in you."

"Most of these students already have a world of experience and tacit knowledge in the practical aspects of social work," says Vedan, who is also director of the First Nations House of Learning. "Now the formal training will open doors for them that were previously shut."

Twenty-five of the 35 new students in the program come from the Squamish Nation and more than half of the students have worked more than 20 years in the field.

"There are people who work with elders, on income assistance, in drug and alcohol programs, and staff from the crisis centre," says Nahanee. "We're all working together to assist the Squamish Nation and the opportunity to learn together will give us some consistency in our formal training and a more solid foundation."

"The regular, interdepartmental communication will be an amazing spin-off benefit for the Squamish Nation's social development."

The program is the brainchild of Squamish Social Development Committee director Gloria Wilson and UBC social work alumnus and long time Squamish social program facilitator Stephen Kozey.

Kozey, who attended the UBC School of Social Work with Vedan in the early 1970s, was the first UBC student to carry out a field placement in the Squamish Nation. Since then, he has been working to create an environment where aboriginal social workers can receive formal training and the Registered Social Worker designation.

A satellite was set up briefly with the help of the B.C. Association of Social Workers in 1973 and six aboriginal caseworkers received a non-degree RSW designation, including Wilson.

"A few years later, the association cancelled the program and all social workers were required to have a bachelor's degree," Kozey explains.

Undeterred, Kozey facilitated the formation of an organizing committee, which includes Wilson, her assistant Linda George, Squamish Elder Barbara Charlie, and UBC Social Work and Family Studies director Graham Riches, to ensure the program is both culturally sensitive and practical.

"We were with them every step of the way through the information campaign, registration process and will continue to give one-on-one support throughout the course," says Kozey, who has been retained by the Social Development Committee of the Squamish Nation to tutor students in the program.

"It took a while, but it's now a tremendous opportunity for the participants to increase their skill levels and apply these skills and new knowledge to work with their clients immediately," says Kozey.

Historically there has been a large discrepancy between the number of aboriginal people accessing social workers and the number of aboriginal social workers.

The addition of social workers from their own community with a four-year degree or two-year diploma will significantly elevate the service delivery levels in the social and health programs of the Squamish Nation, says Kozey.

Squamish Hereditary Chief Leanne Joe says these students will have a huge impact on their community.

"Healthier communities and families will be the outcome." □

# University Town Continues to Grow

*The dream becomes reality.* BY ERICA SMISHEK



When you live and play close to where you work, life can take on a slower pace as it does for Prof. Raymond Ng and his son Kevin.

UBC computer science professor Raymond Ng likes to joke that if he has a class at 8:30 a.m., he doesn't have to get up until eight. As a resident of the town homes in Hawthorn Lane, a neighbourhood located in the middle of the UBC campus and named for anthropology professor emeritus Harry Hawthorn, he's not far from the truth.

Ng is one of 9,000 faculty members, staff and students who choose to live on campus. That number is expected to

**UBC has good potential to develop a university town that is vibrant, that offers academic training, culture and social interaction.**

reach 18,000 by 2021, when the collection of university neighbourhoods known as University Town reaches completion or "build-out."

"The UBC campus is a very unique sub-community in a geographical sense," says Ng, a faculty member since 1992 who lived for many years in Hampton Place before moving to Hawthorn Lane. "Compared to anywhere else in the city, it has low density, the air is fresh, the whole setting is beautiful and rather unique."

"UBC has good potential to develop a university town that is vibrant, that offers academic training, culture and social interaction. That's what students will remember when they leave UBC and that's why they will donate money back to UBC. They will remember the good times and the sense of community."

University architects first envisioned "a university city in an idyllic setting" for UBC in 1914. Ninety years, much consultation and various strategic and com-

institutional lands. Non-university community members will also form part of the future residential mix.

Market housing will be sold on a lease basis, with UBC retaining title to the land. Money generated by these leases will significantly increase the size of UBC's endowment, which is used for teaching and research purposes as well as student financial assistance.

While many share Pavlich's enthusiasm, the development has also had its

share of detractors. Some question the sustainability of both the plan and some of the actual buildings; others say not enough of the housing is affordable for people who work or study on campus.

Ng, who has been involved with a campus community planning committee through the University Neighbourhoods Association and whose partner also works on campus, supports University Town but has concerns nonetheless.

"If all the houses are going to cost more than half a million dollars, few faculty members can afford them," says Ng. "We need more balance. We need a certain percentage dedicated to affordable faculty housing, staff housing and student housing. We want the majority to benefit from what is happening."

Given the expensive housing market around UBC, Ng says affordable housing is vital for faculty retention and recruitment.

He sees some irony in the fact that a housing plan originally motivated to keep people who work or study on campus here and reduce traffic is now attracting people who will commute to work downtown and elsewhere.

Pavlich asks, "What's wrong with including people from other parts of the community? Why shouldn't students mix with people who live on campus but work elsewhere? We're not creating a monastery here."

"People are coming here to learn about life, about science, about the cultural and social aspects that make up life. They need a variety of people and experiences."

Ng, meanwhile, likens a more vibrant campus to an architectural concept from Italy, one of his favourite travel destinations.

"I think one of the reasons people find Italy so attractive is the piazza, the town square. It's a unique meeting place for people, somewhere where they can share time and ideas and enjoy life."

"To develop University Town so there is a real community here for people to get involved with each other is a great idea."

More information about University Town is available online at [www.universitytown.ubc.ca](http://www.universitytown.ubc.ca). □



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## Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, October 28 12:15 – 1 p.m.

The 2003 AGM will be held at UBC at Robson Square, celebrating UBC's accomplishments of the past year.

**Alexandre (Sacha) Trudeau**, documentary filmmaker and member of the board of directors for the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation, will be the guest speaker.

**The entire proceedings will be Webcast – all students, faculty and staff are invited to view and participate in the event.**

There will be an opportunity to submit questions to the speakers and university administration via the Webcast.

**Link to the Webcast from 12 noon onward on October 28 at [www.ubc.ca](http://www.ubc.ca)**

## SPECIAL LECTURE:

**DR. FRANCIS COLLINS**

Director of the U.S. National Human Genome Research Institute



Dr. Collins is a physician-scientist and has been involved in a remarkable series of genetic discoveries, including the discovery of the gene for cystic fibrosis. Since 1993 he has served as the leader of the International Human Genome Project, overseeing an unprecedented effort to map and sequence all of the human DNA, as well as determining aspects of its function. In April 2003, all of the goals of the Project were completed, more than two years ahead of schedule.

**"Are we more than our genes?"**

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A practicing Christian, Dr. Collins has written of his own spiritual journey from atheism to faith during his medical internship and has expressed in various ways the synthesis of his personal Christian faith and his scientific perspectives. He is also greatly appreciated for his reflections on the current status of the genome project and the possible future consequences and implications for humanity.

This lecture is organized by the **UBC Graduate and Faculty Christian Forum**, supported by a grant of the UBC Murrin Fund. For more info, please visit our website at <http://gfcf-ubc.ca>

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**You've Come A Long Way, Baby**

*UBC Women's Resources Centre celebrates 30 years*

BY CRISTINA CALBOREANU

When it first opened its doors in January 1973, the UBC Women's Resources Centre (WRC) consisted of a half-time coordinator in half an office. It answered 1,000 telephone inquiries in its first year. Thirty years later, the WRC has six professional counsellors and close to 50 volunteers donating approximately 7,000 hours a year, and provides services to more than 25,000 women and men a year.

The centre grew out of the Daytime Program of the UBC Centre for Continuing Education. Designed to provide non-credit courses for people interested in learning but not with a degree in view (the vast majority of whom were women), the Daytime Program looked to the only North American model, the University of California at Los Angeles.

The WRC has continued to evolve from a specialized resources centre for women re-entering the workforce, to a life planning and adult learning centre for women and men, offering free drop-in peer counselling, and personal development and life planning programs ranging from assertiveness training to financial planning and parent/child conflict resolution.

"There are, within universities, research units and women's studies programs that operate on an academic or student service basis," explains acting director Beth Hawkes, "but to have a university centre that operates in an integrated way, that is both a community service and a teaching and learning environment – that's rare."

Despite having expanded its services to include men, the WRC is holding

onto its name, in deference to its roots, but also because, in Hawkes' words, "it continues to be informed by skills and attitudes that remain strongly based in women's psychology and ways of being in community and in society: a lot of collaboration, a lot of de-emphasis on ego and hierarchical issues, a lot of mutual empowerment and support."

"Our curriculum is constantly being developed," says Hawkes. "In addition to our successful certificate programs, we are always bringing in guests and resources for our volunteer associates to help them deal with specific issues that clients bring up. Personal goals and work-life balance are big right now, because so much change is taking place in the workplace. We're also getting more highly skilled professionals through the door."

"With the baby boom generation,

there are emerging themes related to positive or creative aging; people are thinking about the meaning of their lives in new ways. The rise in uncertainty at all levels is also an issue, whether we talk about SARS, electrical infrastructure, or global terrorism – we see problems associated with fear and insecurity, which can lead to depression, substance abuse, family and workplace conflict, and so on."

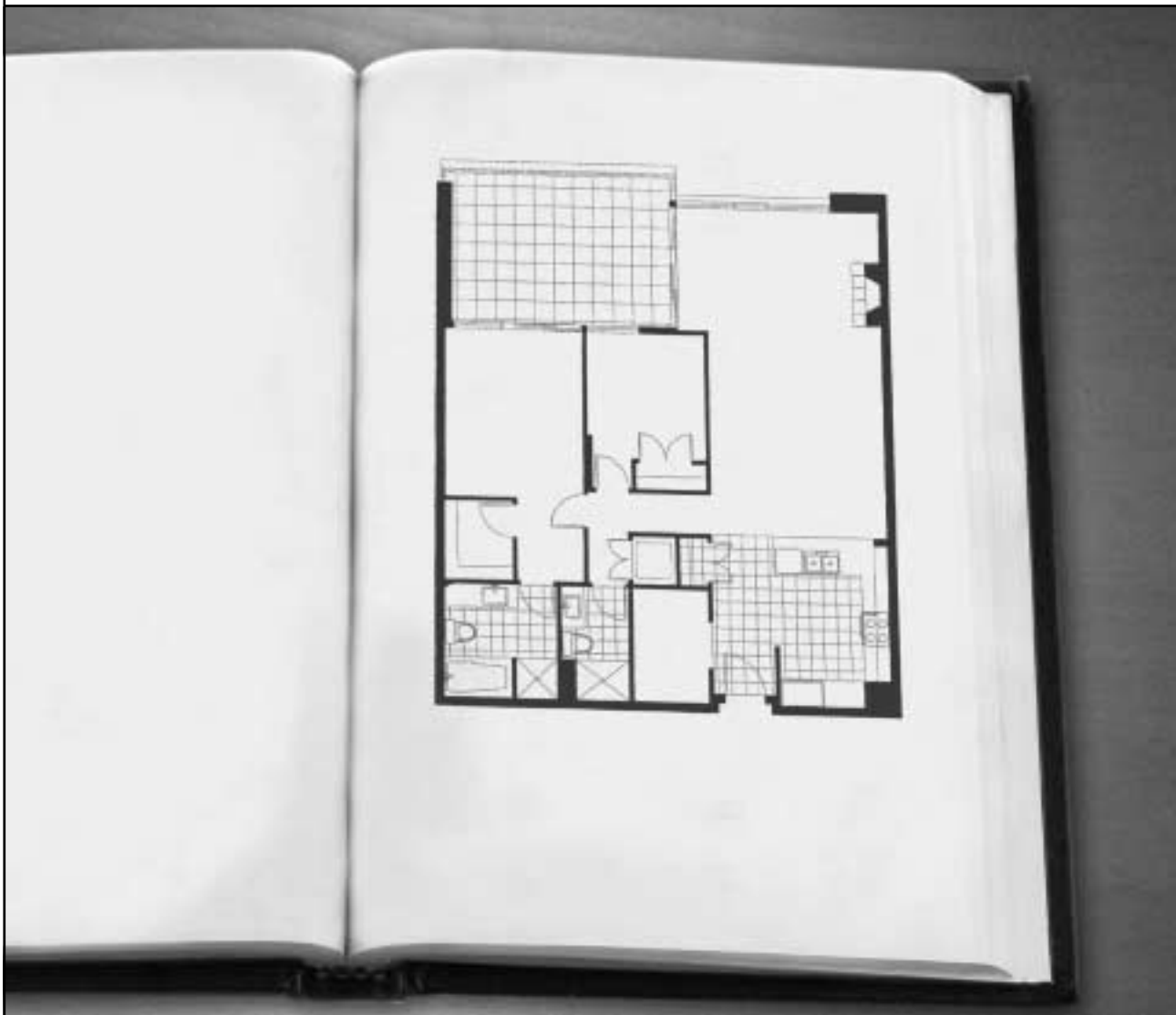
With the WRC's 2000 move to UBC's Robson Square campus have come new responsibilities and perspectives. "Here we are a window between the downtown campus and the community," says Hawkes. "That calls on us to take our traditional strengths, which have been very focused on the needs of individuals, and to expand our scope to include programming that addresses the health and well-being of the larger community." □

**TIME PIECE 1975**

In 1975 the biggest room on campus was the Armory. At the time, this former armed services drill hall was being used as an indoor tennis court but from Dec. 8 to 19, 40 tarpaulins capable of covering more than 20,000 square feet were laid down to protect a special asphalt-type finish and 726 tables and chairs were brought in to create UBC's biggest exam room. It took 12 physical plant workmen two days to make the conversion. □

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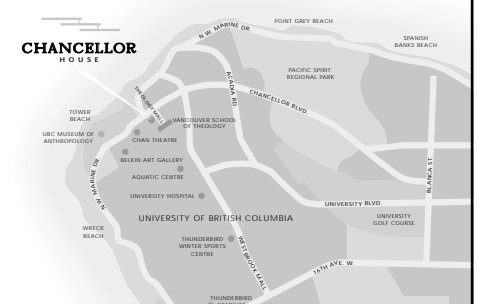
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# Not Necessarily For Sale

continued from page 1

inequalities in the ways homes are financed and used as vehicles of debt, creating new inequalities in the long-term material benefits of home ownership.

"Home ownership is presented as a solution to all the world's problems," says Wylie. "This research demonstrates that there are a lot of caveats to that."

Wylie has found that many minority and moderate-income households gained access to home ownership for the first time in the 1990s, but new waves of investment are making many parts of the city unaffordable and worsening the shortage of inexpensive rental housing. In addition, old inequalities of exclusion and discrimination remain.

The result is a complex urban system of old and new forms of inequality, with wide variations in racial exclusion.

"No matter how you slice and dice it, you still find persistent racial disparities," he says. "They vary across different cities. In one city, racism has an African-American face, in another Latino."

He has also uncovered discrimination along gender lines.

"Lenders, brokers, realtors and home renovation agents often specialize in narrowly-defined markets. The transformation of the financial system has allowed some of these actors to extract profits in new ways. Elderly African-American widows have become an important target market for abusive home lending, particularly if they've built up some home equity over the years, but also have medical expenses or home repair needs," Wylie explains.

"Some of the new practices used in inner-city housing markets violate all our traditional assumptions about mortgages and lending. Foreclosure and default are supposed to be bad for everyone involved. But there are people who are learning to make a profit from it."

"The good and bad thing about the 1990s is that companies found ways of making a profit out of almost anything," Wylie says.

The 1990s saw widespread innovations in underwriting, risk modeling and ways of measuring and pricing the various components of risk and profit in making a loan – and selling these as securities on Wall Street. The decade also saw the rapid erosion of the traditional institutional structure of home mortgage lending – neighbourhood-based banks and thrifts were overshadowed by large financial services conglomerates catering to the wealthiest customers, specialized divisions of large banks making high-cost loans to borrowers with blemished "sub-prime" credit, and a new breed that have come to be called "predatory lenders" who specialize in the home equity and refinance loan markets and use deceptive tactics and hidden, excessive fees to strip out homeowners' equity.

"We need to talk about those connections in a very open way to understand what's good about those connections and what needs to be changed," he says. □



UBC's new executive chef Piyush Sahay shows off the new ThinkFood exotic sandwich.

## New Food for Thought

Cuisine goes "haute" at Place Vanier. BY BRIAN LIN

Students returning to Place Vanier residence this fall were greeted by a pleasant surprise sure to whet their appetites. UBC Food Services unveiled a newly renovated cafeteria last month, revealing a cozy and elegant space filled with aromas of both hearty and exotic cuisine.

"It's campus cafeteria meets Milestones," says Food Services director Andrew Parr, who supervised the first renovation to the cafeteria in more than 25 years. "There's a strong movement in North America towards gourmet-style residence dining and we are aiming to position ourselves ahead of the curve."

"The response from both parents and students has been overwhelmingly positive."

The new cafeteria, complete with wall-to-wall scenic windows and twin fireplaces, offers students, faculty and staff a variety of choices from cook-to-order pastas and ethnic gourmet to grab-and-go sandwiches.

"Integrating packaged food with individual gourmet stations speeds up the serving process," says residence chef Steve Golob. "The other day 250 people came through at lunch time, and we were able to serve everyone within 18 minutes."

"Everything is prepared fresh daily," says Piyush Sahay, who brings more than 15 years of experience in restaurant management to his new role as executive chef. "But students can decide whether they want to have a sit-down meal or pick up something quickly on their way to class."

Sahay, who joined UBC this summer, has worked in resorts and hotels in France, Bombay, South Africa and Mombasa. He spent seven years at Vancouver International Airport supervising the catering of more than 5,000 meals a day for Cathay Pacific, Lufthansa, Korean Air, Singapore Airlines and Japan Airlines.

Food Services also launched its new brand, ThinkFood, with brightly colour-coded packaging and gourmet fast food, available at all Food Services outlets on campus. Favourites like potato salad and chicken wraps now sit side-by-side with exotic palate-teasers like Cuban grilled chicken ciabatta and Thai beef wrap.

"We're also improving the quality and consistency of our packaged foods by introducing a commissary chef to the graveyard shift for the first time," says Parr. "And the selections will continue to grow according to feedback from students, faculty and staff."

Both Place Vanier and Totem

Residence dining rooms are open seven days a week (including holidays) for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The dining rooms are open to all students, faculty and staff. For menus, visit [www.food-serv.ubc.ca](http://www.food-serv.ubc.ca). □

## Come on get Healthy

New symposium shows how

BY HILARY THOMSON

Find yourself teetering on the seesaw of work-life balance? UBC's first health symposium may help.

The free event will take place Oct. 20 from 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts, in celebration of Canada's Healthy Workplace Week.

Hosted by UBC's department of health, safety and environment, the symposium is open to all UBC faculty and staff. The event features two keynote speakers, Dr. Martin Collis, an educator, humorist, scientist and singer, and Dr. Deborah Kern, an expert on mind-body health and author of *Everyday Wellness*. In addition, there are six breakout sessions with speakers presenting information on work-life balance, down-to-earth tips on preventing illness, recognizing depression and deciphering the world of alternative therapies.

"We recognize that many faculty and staff struggle to maintain a balanced lifestyle and that personal well-being often gets left by the wayside," says Gerry Latham, manager of UBC's Health Promotion Program and organizer of the symposium. "We hope this event will launch an exploration of wellness and help to equip people with the information and tools they need for healthy living."

Complementing the presentations is a health fair in the Chan Centre's lobby. Accessible throughout the day, the fair will showcase interactive health related exhibits. Staff and faculty will have an opportunity to participate in a screening clinic where they can discover their blood pressure, blood glucose, blood cholesterol and bone density status.

Individuals must register to attend the symposium. For further information and to register online, visit [www.hse.ubc.health-symposium](http://www.hse.ubc.health-symposium) or call 604.822.1451. □

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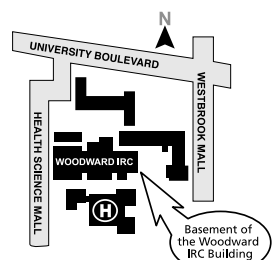
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