

UBC REPORTS

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Mysteries, racy romances, tell-all biographies. Every summer, the same old book picks make it into the beach bag. In search of more unusual reading, *UBC Reports* thought it only made sense to ask those who fill the UBC Library stacks what they'd check out of their own branches if they had a warm, lazy afternoon on campus to spare.

University Librarian **Catherine Quinlan** says she's gotten some "weird" looks in the past when she's recommended the *Oxford English Dictionary* (unabridged) but, given her druthers, it's still the tome she'd haul off the shelf on a summer day because "it's a fascinating source of information: how the definitions and usages of words have changed over time, word origins, new words. It's interesting to me that, in general, our day-to-day vocabulary is limited to a couple of thousand words when of course there are many, many more." And the best spot to read the hefty reference book? Given its weight, Quinlan says an outside reading spot is probably out of the question, so she'd choose a table and chair in one of the UBC libraries.

Law librarian **Sandra Wilkins** is another fan of Oxford reference books but her choice would be *The Oxford Companion to Law* by David M. Walker, a compendium on law and law-related topics, including legal systems, concepts, doctrines, principles, institutions and people.

Wilkins says it's highly readable, contains a wealth of information – making it a great starting point for anyone researching a law-related topic – and it readily lends itself to being put down and picked up again later – great for those who like a little nap between chapters. "It solves the mystique surrounding gowns and wigs, explains that a 'call to the bar' has nothing to do with libations, summarizes important cases such as *Donoghue v. Stevenson* (the ginger-beer case), and puts Latin phrases such as *res ipsa loquitur* into plain language." And her preferred reading spot? The Rose Garden because "it's

What the Librarians are Reading

Books the bookish boost. BY MICHELLE COOK



PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

UBC Librarian Catherine Quinlan's choice of "light" reading is the *Oxford English Dictionary* (unabridged).

close to the Law Library, near Sage Bistro where one can take a break for lunch, and has wonderful views when one needs a break from reading."

Tim Atkinson is UBC's assistant university librarian for arts, humanities and social sciences so it's no surprise that his top pick is a classic work of fiction, *Brideshead Revisited* by Evelyn Waugh. He likes the story, but also the way the words flow together. "There isn't a wasted word in the entire book and the author has chosen them to fit together in a really lyrical way." It's a book best read in the British countryside, says Atkinson, but a UBC alternative would be on a bench in the little grove of trees in front of Main Library and next to the Physics Building.

Chris Ball, head of the Education Library, suggests getting a good coffee, wandering down to the gardens outside the Asian Library (and, hopefully, scoring a bench in the sun) with the best seller *Tuesdays with Morrie: An Old Man, A Young Man, and Life's Greatest Lesson* by Mitch Albom. It's the story of a very busy young sports writer who has lost his way to some extent, in his quest for success in life. Reunited by mere chance with his favourite professor from years gone by, he finds himself re-examining what is important in life and exactly what success means.

"Whether it's because we boomers are getting older, because our parents are reminding us of our own mortality or because reflecting on the meaning of life is our privilege, this book hits home. How can it miss?" Ball says. "The professor as life mentor, the returning student looking back fondly on his years on campus, and courage in the face of a terminal illness? If you are at all curious about the psychology of death, the purpose of our search for meaning and happiness in life, or the potential importance of a single teacher in a person's life then this book will pull you in and leave you thinking."

If **Jan Wallace**, head librarian at

continued on page 8

SPECIAL ISSUE: SHARING IDEAS, RESOURCES AND INSPIRATION

UBC HAS A PROUD TRADITION OF PRODUCING AND SHARING PUBLISHED WORK – an intellectual and sensual feast of words, music and images. 🎧 Almost 150 UBC authors have been published in the last year, many creating award-winning works. 🎧 UBC Bookstore has been named Campus Bookseller of the Year. 🎧 Since 1971, UBC Press, the publishing arm of the university, has published about 40 UBC authors a year. 🎧 UBC's Main Library is being transformed into a unique centre of learning and our librarians use the latest in technology to support UBC staff, faculty and students. 🎧 UBC's creative writing program started in 1946 with a single course and has become a destination for creative writing students in Canada and from around the world. 🎧 This issue of UBC Reports is dedicated to the collection, preservation and transmission of ideas, experiences and inspiration.





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IN THE NEWS

Highlights of UBC Media Coverage in June 2004. COMPILED BY BRIAN LIN

Why Tattoos?

In the latest issue of *National Geographic* magazine, UBC anthropologist *John Barker* explains the reasons why people get tattoos.

"The reason people tattoo are incredibly varied," said Barker. "There are different motivations in different locations at different times."

For example, in many Polynesian cultures tattooing is extremely sacred, forging a connection to the ancestors, Barker said.

In Papua New Guinea the Maisin women cover their entire faces with exotic curvilinear patterns in a puberty ceremony. Until

they are tattooed, they are thought to have "blank" faces, not yet ready for marriage.

Walk Against Obesity

A new study led by UBC community and regional planning professor *Lawrence Frank* provides detailed evidence of the obesity-sprawl connection. Frank surveyed nearly 11,000 people in Atlanta and discovered that for every hour people spend in their cars, they are six per cent more likely to be obese.

For every kilometre they walk in a day, they are five per cent less likely to be obese, Frank told *Time Magazine*. People who live in a mixed-use environment are

seven per cent less likely to be obese – probably because they walk more.

"The policy implication of this study," says Frank, "is that if we're going to solve our public-health issues, we're going to have to address the built environment."

Ethnic Votes may Sway Election

For the first time in Canada's history, the Chinese and South Asian communities are expected to greatly influence the results of the June 28 federal election, UBC political scientist *Richard Johnston* told *Agence France Presse English*.

The number of Chinese and South Asian Canadians have increased steadily in the past three decades, representing half of Canada's four million visible minorities. They are also asserting their political clout. "Their mere presence in Parliament will have a profound change in how we see ourselves," said Johnston. "We're getting used to seeing Asian faces in prominent places, as leaders of the community."

Labour Board Favours Unions

A recent report published by the Coalition of B.C. Businesses shows the B.C. Labour Relations Board failing to properly administer the provincial labour code by coming out with decisions that put the rights of unions ahead of those of individual workers.

In recent months the board has dealt with numerous requests by employee groups looking to abandon their unions, UBC labour relations professor *Mark Thompson* told the *National Post*.

Thompson said labour legislation put in place in the early '90s making it considerably easier for unions to sign up members caused frustration in the business sector and the government is still trying to find a balance that is fair to both sides. □



Ethnic votes were expected to greatly influence the June 28 federal election.

The Social Impact of Computers



PHOTO: GAYLE MAVOR

Mountains of Spam e-mails, viruses, worms, Internet predators luring children away. . . After 20 years of surveying the effects of computers and Internet use on society, Richard Rosenberg hasn't chucked his PC out the window yet. But the UBC computer science professor has catalogued enough computer-related social issues to fill three editions of his book *The Social Impact of Computers*. The third edition, released in April by Elsevier Academic Press, is almost 40 per cent larger than the previous version. Not a surprise considering that since his last update, we've faced the debate about downloading music files, post 9-11 computer security concerns, the Microsoft anti-trust proceedings and Internet crimes – just to name a few. □

Three editions later, Richard Rosenberg has plenty to say about computers' impact on society.

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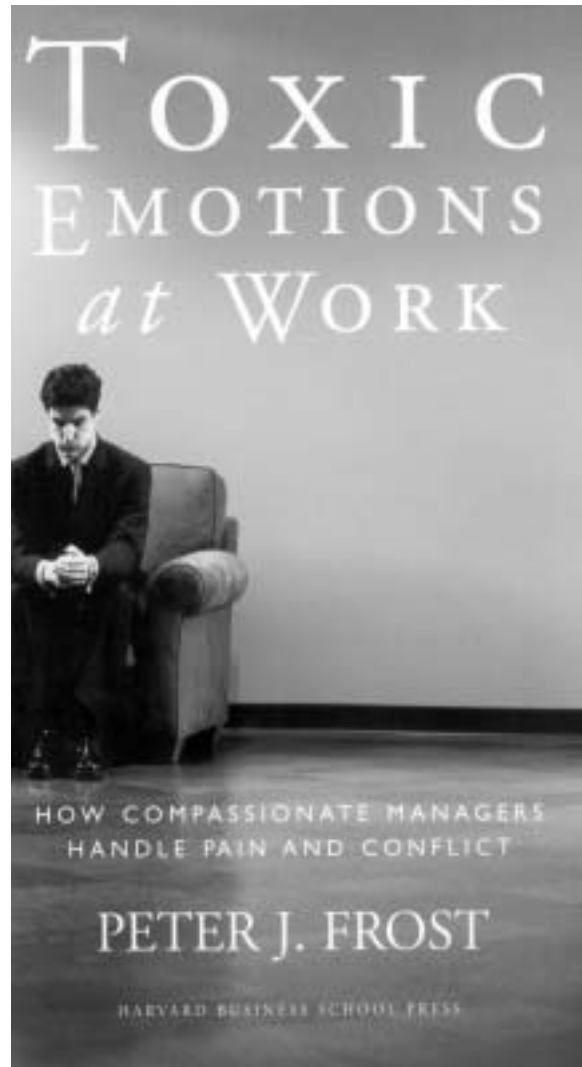
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Books that have Booksellers Sold

Here is a look at UBC Bookstore's five top-selling books by UBC authors from September 2003 to May 2004

1. *Toxic Emotions At Work: How Compassionate Managers Handle Pain and Conflict*
Peter J. Frost (Sauder School of Business)

Toxic Emotions At Work makes a compelling case for compassion in business by exploring how organizations and their leaders cause emotional pain, and how it affects performance. Through workplace stories, Peter Frost illustrates specific ways to combat toxicity, avoid burnout and achieve a healthier work/life balance.



2. *The Corporation: The Pathological Pursuit of Profit and Power*
Joel Bakan (Faculty of Law)



An eminent UBC law professor and legal theorist, Joel Bakan is the co-creator and writer of the award-winning documentary film *The Corporation*, which is based on this book. Bakan contends that the corporation functions much like a psychopathic personality which, left unchecked, can lead to scandal and ruin. The book

includes interviews with CEO Hank McKinnel of Pfizer, business guru Peter Drucker and critic Noam Chomsky of MIT.

3. *Navigating a New World: Canada's Global Future*



Lloyd Axworthy (former director and CEO of UBC's Liu Institute for Global Issues)

Former Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy is internationally known for advancing the concept of human security, a philosophy that promotes the interests of the individual rather than the interests of the nation-state or multinational corporations. Axworthy led the establishment of a global ban on landmines and the formation of the International Criminal Court. In *Navigating a New World*, he shows how Canada can lead the world into a 21st century where human security is a priority.

issues such as how television, the Internet and video games influence children as well as changes in public school finance and governance.

5. *Making Native Space: Colonialism, Resistance, and Reserves in British Columbia*



Cole Harris (retired from UBC Dept. of Geography, Faculty of Arts)

Cole Harris describes how native peoples were dispossessed of most of their land and relocated on reserves. He offers the first comprehensive account of the reserve system in British Columbia, focusing on local tactics and the strategies of colonialism. Harris also recommends how to establish a confident and secure native presence within a successful settler society.

4. *Failing Our Kids: How We are Ruining Our Public Schools*
Charles Ungerleider (UBC Dept. of Educational Studies, Faculty of Education)



Drawing on the latest research from across Canada and the U.S., Charles Ungerleider describes what's right and what's wrong with our public schools and provides solutions for improvement. Ungerleider examines

UBC Bookstore is open regular hours during the summer: weekdays 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.bookstore.ubc.ca. □

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

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Bookstore of the Year

UBC Bookstore has been named Campus Bookstore of the Year for 2004 by the Canadian Booksellers Association at their recent Libris Awards presentation. UBC Bookstore was recognized for initiatives such as hosting several successful author events including Lt.-Gen. Roméo Dallaire and sponsoring a five-event Robson Reading series for emerging local writers. In addition, the Bookstore and UBC Destinations group hosted a Neighbourhood Appreciation Night, the first time many campus residents came together in a community setting. UBC Bookstore also won this award in 1999, tied with the University of Toronto Bookstore. □

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The first co-development project on the UBC campus, Hawthorn Green, is now underway. Ten townhouses are being 'co-developed' by 10 enterprising faculty and staff members. The group has appointed UBC Properties Trust as Project Manager.

Following this success, further co-development groups are now evolving. Faculty and staff interested in participating in a co-development project are invited to register their interest with UBC Properties Trust.

UBC PROPERTIES TRUST

Making the Fantastic Matter-of-Fact

Anosh Irani takes readers and playgoers on magic-realist journeys. BY ERICA SMISHEK

Anosh Irani has always loved to tell stories. But only in recent years did he realize that writing them down was what he wanted to do with his life.

"I was not one of those kids who knew they wanted to be a writer," says Irani, who holds a BFA in creative writing from UBC and will complete his master's degree in the program this fall. "I didn't know what I wanted to do. Ever since I was little, I was good at telling stories, I was good at invention, making things up on the spot.

"I remember being in school and if we had some free time during class, the teacher would ask me to tell a story. I had no idea what I would say but by the time I got up from my chair and went to the head of the class, that's when I would start making a story up."

While Irani's audience was once limited to his pet cockatoo, classmates and instructors, his stories are now making their way to a broader audience.

His first full-length play, *The Matka King*, premiered in October

2003 at the Arts Club Theatre in Vancouver while his first novel, *The Cripple and His Talismans*, was published in Canada earlier this year to critical acclaim. It will be published in the U.S. in 2005.

Born and brought up in Bombay, Irani steeped his fiction in the city's suffering and strangely beautiful chaos.

The Cripple and His Talismans takes readers on a magic-realist journey in search of the narrator's severed arm. The novel alternates between darkness and light, violence and tenderness, humour and horror, and is infused with fascinating characters – a leper who bites off his own finger and gives it to the cripple, a woman who sells rainbows, a blind man who cannot defecate unless he hears the sound of a train, a beggar who lives under an egg cart.

The work originated with a horrible, albeit absurd, picture that came to the personable and playful 30-year-old's mind while he was writing the end to a short story.

"I had an image of just amputated limbs hanging from the ceiling in a dark place," he says. "I had no idea what that meant. But I just decided to make a note of it. I wrote the first sentence and I just didn't stop writing for four hours. And then the image refused to go away, the story refused to go away.

"I think that's the biggest lesson for a writer. When something refuses to go away, when it keeps coming back, it eventually has to be written."

Irani came to writing after he "wasted five years" earning a business degree.

"Initially I thought I'd take science because that's what men do in India. They try to become doctors or engineers," he explains. "But I had no interest in becoming anything. I just took it to make my parents happy and within two days I realized it was a complete disaster. So I shifted to commerce because it wasn't science. It's not that I liked commerce either. I hated it."

He wowed the creative director of an advertising agency with his rather imaginative application – "I had nothing to put on my resume obviously so I made a very funny resume. For skills, I wrote 'marbles' and 'kite flying,' which would be of no use at all." Irani spent a year writing ad copy before following friends to Vancouver in 1998.

While he misses his extended family and friends, and admits to brutal bouts of loneliness, the move has given him a fresh start and time to write every day.

"I think the separation has helped me. When you have distance, both physical and in terms of time, it helps you look at a place from a distance and you can be more objective. What's also interesting is as vivid as my memories are sometimes, I don't remember places. They're hazy. In this novel, that's what I've used for the character. He's someone who hallucinates. He's not entirely sure, he does not have a good sense of place. He's disoriented."

Irani's talent, charm and ability to mix realism with pure invention have caught the eye of many, including

UBC creative writing professor George McWhirter, who offered guidance and encouragement throughout the writing of the book (done for McWhirter's novel class).

"Anosh is very, very intelligent," McWhirter says. "He identifies problems with his work ahead of time. He's usually the one with the questions. He'll be able to be his own questioner and answerer some day."

Asked about Irani's penchant for succinctness, his instructor says, "It's so extravagant what he writes concisely about. He writes about fantastic things yet they seem so matter-of-fact. You know, he's also a terrific poet. He uses gorgeous, gorgeous images. He's got a gift for the image."

Irani graciously acknowledges the support and experience of his teachers at UBC as well as Arts Club Theatre artistic director Bill Millerd, who introduced him to playwriting during a summer internship.

Playwriting has given him a particular love for and skill with dialogue, which is evident in his fiction.

"Dialogue gives you a sense of what the people are like. And it gives you a chance to be humorous. I love listening to the way people speak; especially in Bombay, they have great one-liners. People just have that dry wit or they're completely ridiculous in the way they speak. I love that."

Still submitting assignments for his master's, Irani is working on a fourth draft of *Manja's Circus*, a play commissioned by the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, and writing notes for a new novel and for *Bombay Talkie*, a commission from Toronto dramaturgical company Nightswimming which shops scripts around to potential producers.

When asked about his achievements, Irani replies modestly, "I'm getting there. It's a good start. It's a good start." □

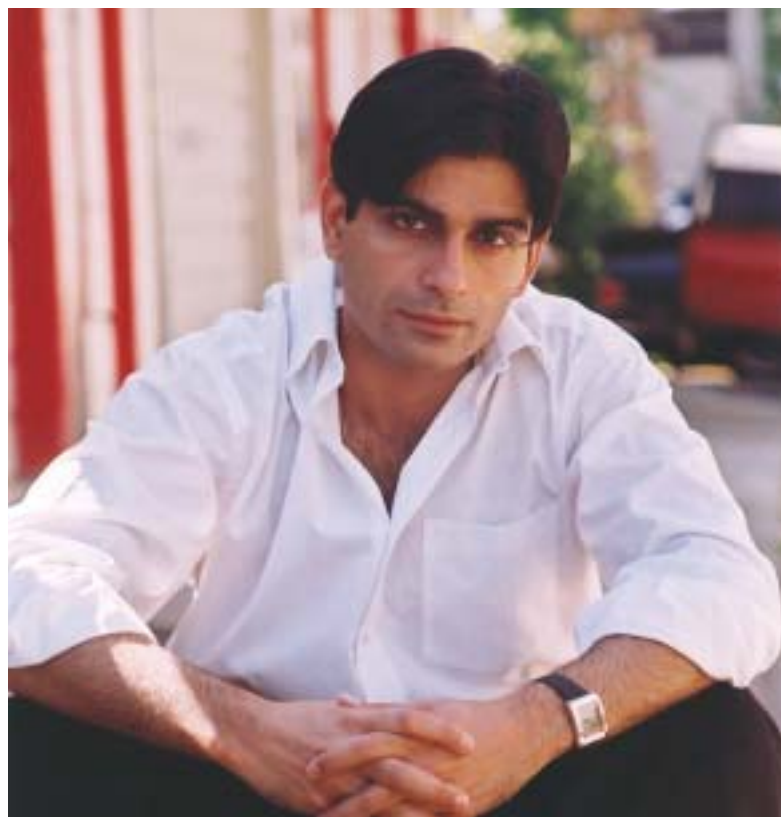
Irani's Recommended Reads

Too busy playing football and cricket to read much as a child, the adult Anosh Irani has become a voracious reader.

He chooses books based on the quality of the writing, perspective of the writer, voice, whether there is a story and whether he cares about the characters. He prefers to read writers from many countries and cultures to "get a sense of what different landscapes are doing in terms of the voice, of what kind of stories they're telling, what kind of style."

His suggested reads include:

- *Ham on Rye* by Charles Bukowski
- *Diary of a Mad Old Man* by Junichiro Tanizaki
- *The Key* by Junichiro Tanizaki
- *Thirst for Love* by Yukio Mishima
- *The Sailor Who Fell From Grace With the Sea* by Yukio Mishima
- *The Outsider* by Albert Camus
- *My Name is Aram* by William Saroyan
- *A Fine Balance* by Rohinton Mistry



Anosh Irani has dazzled critics with his debut novel, *The Cripple and His Talismans*.

Northeast view of *The Irving K. Barber Learning Centre* at UBC.



Books and Mortar – and a Whole Lot More

The \$60 million Irving K. Barber Learning Centre takes shape. BY ERICA SMISHEK

Her title reads University Librarian, but Catherine Quinlan could be mistaken for a kind of super project manager/contractor these days.

Outside her Main Library window, a construction crew combines concrete and metal for what will become the north wing of the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre at UBC. Inside her book-lined office, architectural and schematic designs illustrate how the historic Main Library will be transformed into a leading-edge education

and research facility that will act as a portal to information resources, services and technology for users at UBC, across the province and beyond.

"Libraries have been affected by technology for thousands of years," says Quinlan.

"Libraries have always been about helping people find information. We concentrate not only on getting you the information you need, but also teaching you how to find it and how to evaluate it – how to be a critical consumer of

information. You can't assume that just because you found the information on the Internet that it is credible. You have to be able to evaluate the information provided as well as the source that is providing that information."

As managing director for the \$60-million Learning Centre, Quinlan's responsibilities are massive. After first envisioning an interdisciplinary and technologically sophisticated building that will provide 15 years of growth space for UBC Library's print collec-

tion, she now works with the committee steering the project through development.

Irving K. Barber is as committed as Quinlan to the development of the Centre and its programs. A UBC alumnus and founding chairman of Slocan Forest Products who donated \$20 million for the Learning Centre, he was the first to envision a facility accessible to all British Columbians, whether they visit in person, by phone or electronically, as well as to learners worldwide.

Together, they have studied best practices at other North American institutions and visited 16 communities across B.C. to exchange ideas that will shape the facility's programming and services. A draft operational plan is anticipated early this fall for review.

And let's not forget the fine details. Following a recent visit to the just-opened Seattle Public Library, where library planners are already planning changes to the facility, Quinlan's current concern is the tables that must be purchased for the Learning Centre. She wants to ensure they are flexible as well as capable of concealing the wires and conduit connected to computers that will sit on them.

When complete, the Learning Centre will be the first facility in Canada to integrate information resources and services and interdisciplinary learning support facilities under one roof.

The Centre will house smart classrooms, a wireless environment, open space that can be configured as computer labs, seminar rooms, distance learning support activities and some of UBC's interdisciplinary learning programs such as Arts One and Science One. It will boast a laptop loan program for UBC and community users, Canada's first automated storage and retrieval system to support the library's print collection, and a fireproof and climate-controlled vault for the library's rare books, archives and special collections.

Quinlan and her team have made steady progress since the facility was first announced in October 2002 with Barber's gift, a \$10 million contribution from the B.C. government and

continued on page 5

Amber Lannon, Modern Librarian *Books play small role in information expert's work.* BY MICHELLE COOK

How hard is it for a modern-day librarian to overcome that pesky stereotype of the stern, bespectacled book-worm with a hair bun? Just ask Amber Lannon, a reference librarian at the David Lam Management Research Centre.

Despite the fact that she's never told anyone to "shush" and doesn't spend her days stamping books, Lannon says even a passing mention of her profession is a party conversation stopper.

"People say, 'that must be really boring' or they just don't believe me," says Lannon, 29, with a shake of her head. "They say, 'oh you're too young' or 'you don't look like a librarian,' and I just don't know what to say to that."

Dressed in a stylish black skirt and high heels, Lannon's look is more *Sex and the City* than 'old-maid behind the help desk' and, in the increasingly electronic world of reference where library work is less about books and more about knowledge management, Lannon and her fellow librarians may just be the ones who have the last laugh about all those tired clichés.

"Running a library is a lot like running a business," Lannon says. And that's one reason why, in addition to being a full-time librarian, she's enrolled in UBC's MBA program.

"An MBA is a more natural fit than some might think," she explains. "In the rapidly changing environment of the modern library with the emphasis on digital and electronic holdings, librarians can't be complacent. We've got to stay on the edge of these things."

On a typical day in her small but busy branch of UBC Library, Lannon can usually be found applying her friendly, open approach to many diverse tasks. These include evaluating large electronic databases, addressing access to information issues, managing the library's website, or helping students to access the data they need to prepare business plans for everything from tattoo parlours to Home Depot franchises.

With much of the library's holdings online, most days she doesn't even pick up a book.

"There is this idea that, in order to be a librarian, you have to really like books but that's not what makes a good librarian, and neither does being really good with computers. This is a service profession and that really should be part of the image," she says.

Lannon's career in the library biz began at an early age in her hometown



Shush! Telling people to be quiet isn't in Amber Lannon's job description.

PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

of Halifax. At 14, she got a summer job as a clerk at her neighbourhood library. The experience introduced her to the people who use libraries and the people who run them – and she liked what she saw enough to seriously consider library studies.

She went on to earn an undergraduate degree in English at St. Mary's University and master of library science from Dalhousie University. Five years ago, she followed her fiancé out to Vancouver (they are now married). She worked in libraries at Langara College and a private law firm before UBC Library hired her to help get the Robson Square branch up and running.

Six months ago, she left the downtown campus to come to the David Lam Library. These days, a big part of her job is training people how to use the facility effectively, especially e-resources.

It is an important aspect of library work and Lannon's boss, UBC

Librarian Catherine Quinlan, says she is particularly good at it.

"Amber is innovative, always looking for opportunities to involve the library in the work of the faculty and students at UBC," Quinlan says. "She is particularly astute in her dealings with students – teaching them how to develop a strategy that will help them find the information they need, rather than just giving them the information. The library works hard to ensure that we prepare people to be critical consumers of information, not just passive recipients. Amber does a remarkable job in this respect."

Lannon says helping people to help themselves in the electronic age has its challenges.

"You never have a clue who's going to come up to the desk and what they're going to ask for help with. It's fun if you at all enjoy the hunt or being a private detective, but as people

become better users of resources like Google, they don't need help with easy questions anymore," she says.

"They come to me with the really tough, complex questions – things like the latest consumer spending statistics for India or available commercial real estate in Fort McMurray – the kind of questions that can't easily be answered with an Internet search or by pulling just one book off a shelf."

Another challenge has been juggling her MBA studies and her job, but working in the David Lam Management Research Centre (part of the Sauder School of Business) has given Lannon an unusual edge. With her library science background, she has been able to make up for what she lacks in previous business experience with her ability to quickly put her finger on resources and reference materials.

It's a skill that has made her popular with her classmates.

"They often want to do projects with me because they think I'll take care of the research," she says.

When she's not at work or studying, Lannon spends time outdoors running, cycling and hiking. She also likes to cook but you won't necessarily find her burying her nose in a book.

"I enjoy reading but I don't have a lot of time to do it. Lots of my friends are more voracious readers than I am," says Lannon with a laugh.

As for the future, Lannon's not quite sure what kind of library work she'll be doing 10 years from now. In the rapidly evolving world of knowledge management, it may be a job that doesn't even exist yet. Whatever she ends up doing, she hopes she'll be able to apply her MBA skills to the library system.

By then, she also hopes to have found the perfect cocktail party comeback line for all those detractors who still think librarians are boring. □

Books and Mortar *continued from page 4*

\$30 million from UBC. While the bricks and mortar for the Learning Centre will take two more years to finish, innovative programs and services are already being offered.

"We can do things now – things that are not dependent on a physical building being accessible," says Simon Neame, co-ordinator of programs and services for the Learning Centre.

Five live webcasts, including the recent special UBC honorary degree ceremony for three Nobel Peace Prize laureates, have enabled people around the province to watch various events of interest.

And now, through eHelp, a virtual reference pilot project, people can ask experts for help without leaving their computers.

eHelp allows you to chat with an information specialist online, receive and send documents, co-browse databases and websites, and receive transcripts of your reference session directly to your email – all from the comfort of home, lab, office or neighbourhood Internet café.

"We're looking for activities and programs that mesh with our mandate," says Neame. "It's a very open slate."

While they have started with pro-

grams and services for which they knew there was an interest, what will remain and what will be added in months and years ahead depends on what people, both on campus and throughout the province, will need.

"There is remarkable consistency in what we're hearing from people so far," says Quinlan. "People want access to more information resources, continuing education opportunities, professional development programs brought to them through the Learning Centre, business information for small business, and up-to-date topical and dependable information."

Quinlan says the Learning Centre has broadened UBC Library's thinking about what it can do not only as a university library but also as the province's library.

"There is a shift in libraries everywhere," says Neame. "This is giving us an opportunity to jump way ahead, to be out there and be a facility whose initiatives will have an impact on people here and across B.C."

"We want the Learning Centre to be a gateway for people online and for people who walk in. It should be a destination for the campus as well as the province, both virtually and in the physical sense." □

The Irving K. Barber Learning Centre Chronicle of Events

2002

October

- Announcement of The Irving K. Barber Learning Centre

November

- First live webcast from The Irving K. Barber Learning Centre. Topic: Research, Collaboration and the Digital Library: Visions for 2010

December

- Downs/Archambault & Partners (Vancouver) and Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer Associates (Los Angeles) selected as the architects for the project
- The Irving K. Barber Learning Centre Building Project Committee established

2003

January

- Co-ordinator, Programs and Services hired

February

- Architects' first presentation to Library staff and campus community

May

- Ridington Room and Pages Café closed; Fine Arts Division and collections relocated

July

- Second live webcast, produced in partnership with UBC's Faculty of Education. Topic: Digital Literacy: The Myths, Realities, Threats and Possibilities

September

- Third live webcast, produced in partnership with the Dr. Tong and Geraldine Louie Family Foundation. Topic: The Power of Knowledge, The Promise of Healing; Preventative Healthcare

October

- First provincial consultation meeting held in Gold River, B.C.
- Demolition of north wing of Main Library in preparation for construction of Learning Centre

November

- Launch of eHelp Virtual Reference Pilot Project

2004

February

- Fourth live webcast. Topic: Premier Gordon Campbell's Address to the B.C. Chamber of Commerce

April

- Fifth live webcast. Topic: Special UBC Honorary Degree Ceremony for His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama and fellow Nobel Peace Prize laureates Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Shirin Ebadi and Keynote Address by His Holiness



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Mustica Breaks Ground in Interactive Music Preservation

BY BRIAN LIN

Roll over, Beethoven! Step aside, Mozart! A new generation of composers is revolutionizing the classical music industry with interactive music that is both composed and played on computers.

Around the world, computer keyboards are replacing old-fashioned ebonies and ivories. The computer itself has become an instrument and musicians literally “play” it by manipulating software as if it were strings and bow.

The result? Sounds that are unheard of, that both please and challenge the human ear. And no, we’re not talking about the screeching of tires or the scratching of finger nails on blackboard, although in the realm of interactive music, they are viable “raw materials” that could very well be turned into the background of a new Sarah McLachlan hit or *Lord of The Rings* sound track.

Interactive technology has boosted the creative capacity of musicians, but it has also created two problems rarely-faced in centuries of music composition. Many of the techniques, manoeuvres and the end products of interactive musical activity are unscorable – there are no musical notations in existence to adequately record what is created or performed. Also, the authenticity of the digital documents and computer systems that substitute for scores is threatened by data corruption and media obsolescence.

Enter Jill Teasley, a graduate student from UBC’s School of Library, Archival and Information Studies whose love of music and enthusiasm for the preservation of digital material led her to a stint in Paris earlier this year, where she worked closely with composers to gather information

about their preservation needs that would eventually help them accurately preserve interactive music.

As a research assistant for Mustica, a study that is part of the International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems project, Teasley is working to identify the kinds of documents generated while composing and performing interactive music.

“These composers write and perform music for unique instruments that become unplayable after five years,” says Teasley. “Unless they have all the records that show how the instruments worked and what they were supposed to play, the composers lose the ability to play their own music.”

For three months, Teasley interviewed musicians, software developers and administrators on current practices at two major French music research institutions, L’Institut National de L’Audiovisuel and L’Institut de Recherche et Coordination Acoustique/Musique (Ircam).

“At Ircam, for example, composers routinely work with musical assistants,” says Teasley. “Often composers themselves, the assistants turn the composers’ ideas into commands for the computer.”

“As a result, the assistants understand aspects of the music that may be taken for granted, such as how the software components work together to create a certain piece,” says Teasley, who recently presented her preliminary findings at the UBC e-Strategy Town Hall meeting.

“Unless this information is properly documented and preserved, the music, intended to be experienced as a live performance, may only be accessible as an audio recording. □



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ARGYLL HOUSE EAST
AT CHANCELLOR PLACE

Library a Gem in Aboriginal Scholarship

BY BRIAN LIN

Nestled between a driftwood waterfall and the First Nations Long House's Sty-Wet-Tan Great Hall is a gem of Aboriginal knowledge that has glistened despite its humble beginning.

The Xwi7xwa Library (pronounced whei-wha), named after the Squamish word "echo" with the blessing of Squamish Chief Simon Baker, began as a small collection in a mobile home in the '70s. For decades, it housed material selected by the B.C. Native Indian Teachers' Association and UBC's Native Indian Teacher Education Program until, in 1993, the Xwi7xwa Library was officially named and became part of the Longhouse.

Today, Xwi7xwa counts more than 12,000 books, videos, historical documents, art works and artifacts in its collection, all catalogued and available online to scholars worldwide.

"The size, scope and location of the Xwi7xwa Library makes it a unique Mecca for researchers in Aboriginal studies," says Acting Head Ann Doyle. "It is one of the only places in Canada you can find this amount of exclusively First Nations material – all in one distinct location – open to the public, and globally accessible on the web."

But it's the perspective from which the collection is managed that sets Xwi7xwa apart from the 41 other First Nations collections listed in the Canadian Directory of First Nations, Metis and Inuit Collections. It is catalogued using a First Nations classification system, which includes terminology for First Nations concepts such as self-government, and uses First Nations names rather than the European ones assigned by anthropologists.

In addition, Doyle and her predecessor, Xwi7xwa founder Gene Joseph, have painstakingly created subject headings for the entire collection that remedy gaps in the Library of Congress vocabulary for dealing with Aboriginal issues.

"The Xwi7xwa headings and classification allow the user to quickly and accurately narrow in on a subject matter and provide a range of related material that is not only retrievable through the online catalogue, but visible from where it is physically located on the shelf," says Doyle.

"For example, books on Tsimshian, a nation located along the Nass and Skeena Rivers in the Northern coast of B.C., are organized next to Nisga'a, its neighbour to the north, rather than its alphabetical successor Tubatulabal, a people in the southern Sierra Nevada."

Such pioneering work in Aboriginal scholarship has attracted visiting researchers from the U.S., Europe and New Zealand to use its unique collection and learn how it is managed.

So it comes as no surprise that Xwi7xwa has also become a hotbed for training Aboriginal library students and non-Aboriginal librarians who deal with First Nations collections at UBC and elsewhere.

"There are currently three Aboriginal graduate students in the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies who will be spreading their wings in the next year," says Doyle. "The knowledge and skills they've obtained from both the School and the Library will allow them to play a vital role in the



PHOTO: MARTIN DIE

The Xwi7xwa Library at UBC, named after the Squamish word for "echo."

preservation of First Nations cultural heritage and help foster mutual respect among the academic, Aboriginal and mainstream communities."

With such a stellar record of achievements, Doyle says the challenge is keeping up with the amazing growth – circulation has increased by 270 per cent in the past five years – in

a fiscal environment that has not improved since Xwi7xwa opened its doors in 1998.

"Most people are shocked to learn that we actually don't have a collections budget," says Doyle. "Everything housed in Xwi7xwa comes from community donations, bequests and supportive students and faculty members." □

TIMEPIECE 1950



Stacks, stamps and boxes of books surround librarian Edith Stewart, seen in a 1950 photo of UBC's Extension Library which serves registered students taking credit distance education courses. Extension library holdings are listed in the UBC Library online catalogue and distance students are eligible for most document delivery services free of charge. For more information, visit www.library.ubc.ca and click on branches. □

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PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

Special collections librarian Ralph Stanton cracks open a book in a quiet corner of UBC's Nitobe Memorial Garden.

What the Librarians are Reading continued from page 1

the David Lam Management Research Centre, had a free afternoon, she'd curl up in one of her library's comfy chairs with *The Experience Economy* by James Gilmore and B. Joseph Pine II. Wallace says she heard Gilmore speak at a conference in Virginia recently and found his theories "very intriguing."

"Gilmore and Pine argue that the service economy is about to be superseded by the experience economy. Just as the service economy superseded the commodity economy, the experience economy is likely to transform the service industry. Consumers today expect more than just good service – they want

to feel that they are being offered a memorable and enjoyable experience, too. Companies like Starbucks and Disney have already shown how to do this. How can libraries apply the experience economy to their own operations? Coffee areas? Live performances? Musical themes?"

As UBC's rare books and special collections librarian, you'd expect Ralph Stanton to pack a few old and musty favourites into his knapsack, but his top pick is more recent.

Stanton says *The Elements of Typographic Style* (second edition) by Robert Bringhurst is a very technical and specialized book, and

one that can be intimidating on first encounter. But it will appeal to anyone who wants to understand what good typography is and how it functions, or anyone concerned about how to communicate well in print, Stanton says.

"Bringhurst is both a poet and a typographer; his book is considered to be the '...undisputed standard reference in its field.' A real mine of information, it is well and often poetically written," adds Stanton, who recommends taking the book to the Nitobe Memorial Garden on "the calm of a day off so the reader can enter into the text and get caught up in the visual and written magic." □

KUDOS

Bruce Clayman has been appointed president of Great Northern Way Campus (GNWC), after 11 years as vice-president, Research, at Simon Fraser University.

GNWC is a consortium of Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design, BCIT, SFU and UBC. The campus encompasses approximately six city blocks on Great Northern Way between Main Street and Clark Drive. □

Imperial Gift



PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

Japan's Princess Takamado visited UBC in June to present a collection of books on Japanese society and culture to UBC's Asian Library. The donation was made in honour of her late husband, His Imperial Highness Prince Takamado. While on campus, Her Imperial Highness also toured the Nitobe Memorial Garden and stopped in at the Liu Centre for a reception with members of the UBC community involved in Japanese studies and research. □

UBC Press Hot List for Cool Reads BY HILARY THOMSON (with files from UBC Press)

UBC Press, established in 1971, is one of the largest university presses in Canada and publishes more than 40 new books annually. It is recognized by scholars as one of Canada's foremost publishers of political science, native studies and forestry books.

UBC Press staff have selected the following books to illustrate the variety of disciplines they publish.

Canadian Democratic Audit Series

The result of a milestone research project of the Centre for Canadian Studies at Mount Allison University, the Canadian Democratic Audit series will comprise a series of nine volumes, each examining a different aspect of Canadian democracy, and a 10th that will provide an overview of the project. Expertly designed to introduce undergraduates to the fundamentals of Canada's democratic institutions, this series will also be of interest to scholars, policy-makers, journalists, politicians, and the public.

The series includes: *Elections* by John C. Courtney; *Citizens* by Elisabeth Gidengil, André Blais, Neil Nevitte, and Richard Nadeau; *Political Parties* by William Cross; *Federalism* by Jennifer Smith; *Advocacy Groups* by Lisa Young and Joanna Everitt; *Legislatures* by David Docherty; *Cabinets and First Ministers* by Graham White; *Communications Technology* by Darin Barney; and *The Courts* by Ian Greene.

Unnatural Law: Rethinking Canadian Environmental Law and Policy

David R. Boyd
Law and Society series

Unnatural Law is the first book to critically assess the effectiveness of Canadian environmental laws and policies relative to a sustainable future. The evaluation lays the groundwork for modifying existing laws and policies.

Saints, Sinners, and Soldiers: Canada's Second World War

Jeffrey A. Keshen
Studies in Canadian Military History series

The first-ever synthesis of both the patriotic and the problematic in wartime Canada, *Saints, Sinners, and Soldiers* shows how moral and social changes – and the fears they generated – precipitated numerous, and often contradictory, legacies in law and society. From labour conflicts to prostitution, Keshen demonstrates that Canada's Second World War, known as the "Good War," was actually a complex tapestry of social forces.

Musqueam Reference Grammar

Wayne Suttles
First Nations Language series
Drawing on a half-century of linguistic research, former UBC faculty member Wayne Suttles documents an endangered First Nations language. Suttles, an anthropologist, worked with Musqueam elders to elicit traditional stories, personal narratives, and ethnographic accounts to produce a comprehensive account of this Salish language.

The Oriental Question: Consolidating a White Man's Province, 1914-41

Patricia E. Roy
The sequel to her 1989 book, *A White Man's Province: British Columbia Politicians and Chinese and Japanese Immigrants, 1858-1914*, UBC alumna Patricia E. Roy's latest book continues her examination of the opposition to Asian immigration. Drawing on contemporary press and government reports, as well as the correspondence and memoirs of individuals, Roy shows how British Columbians consolidated a "white man's province" by securing a virtual end to Asian immigration and restricting Asian competition in major industries. □

