

UBC REPORTS

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AIDS in Africa: Up Close and Very Personal



Madeleine's Malawian family included her amayi (mother) and the woman's two 18-month-old grandsons, Prince and Praise, orphaned when their AIDS-stricken mother died of a secondary infection a week after their birth.

PHOTOS: MADELEINE LYONS

UBC student gets intense first-hand look at HIV/AIDS epidemic during summer seminar in Malawi. BY ERICA SMISHEK

If called upon to write that proverbial essay about how she spent her summer vacation, an uncommon one in Malawi, Africa, Madeleine Lyons would undoubtedly tell of attending five funerals in 10 days – each death attributed to AIDS.

“AIDS is beyond a crisis, it's beyond a pandemic, it's beyond anything we have words for,” says Lyons. “There is death everywhere.”

Entering her second year of Arts at UBC, the just-turned 19-year-old was one of 20 undergraduates from across Canada who participated in the 57th World University Service of Canada (WUSC) Summer Seminar. The project paired students with their Malawian counterparts to carry out research on

“I saw things I never thought I'd have to watch. By the end, I couldn't. It violated every single one of my code of ethics. The whole time this was happening to her, as the stones hit her, her face remained blank. She was embarrassed, you could see it in her eyes; ashamed of herself, ashamed that I was seeing this.”

HIV/AIDS or sustainable agriculture and learn about Malawi's strategy for meeting the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals in these areas.

It was Lyons' first time outside Canada, and it offered a profound first-hand look at poverty, racial and gender inequality, and the AIDS epidemic. She calls it “the most unbelievable eye-opening experience of my life.”

During her six-week stay, the delightful and determined Lyons interviewed project leaders from both government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) responsible for HIV/AIDS initiatives. She visited hospitals, clinics and maternal health centres to examine gender and equality issues affecting HIV infection as well as post-infection health care. And she spent 10 days living with a Malawian family in Dezda, a rural village decimated by the epidemic.

“Youth in these villages don't exist anymore – AIDS has wiped them out,” says Lyons, who stayed in a rusty tin-roofed hut with a married 50 something couple, their adult missionary son, and two 18-month-old grandchildren orphaned when their AIDS-stricken mother died of a secondary infection a week after their caesarean birth. The couple had also taken in three girls, aged 12, 14 (who is eight months pregnant) and 15, all orphaned by AIDS, as servants.

Located in southeastern Africa, Malawi's population is estimated at 11.6 million; the average life expectancy for the total population is 38 years. Malawi has one of the highest HIV/AIDS infection rates in the world, with conservative estimates pointing to 15 per cent of the adult population – one in seven – infected.

“There is a lot of pressure to keep it quiet within the country,” Lyons says. “In the cities, you can actually say the word ‘AIDS.’ But in the villages, you can't ask people if they have AIDS. You use the word ‘illness’ but it becomes pretty apparent what they have when you see shingles, a common

opportunistic infection, covering their faces and their children dying.

“They have no testing in rural areas. And in urban areas, nobody goes because nobody wants to know the truth. Without anti-retrovirals, it's a death sentence.”

The UN Millennium Development Goal for HIV/AIDS is to stop and begin to reverse the number of new infections. The Malawian government promotes abstinence as the most effective method against the spread of HIV, while the church, a powerful lobby in the country, refuses to support the use of condoms.

Upon her arrival, Lyons was given nine condoms to distribute.

“Many of our Malawian counterparts made a very obvious point of throwing them away, saying they were practicing abstinence,” she explains. “Later on in the program, however, they would be in bed with their boyfriends. It isn't having sex that is the problem, but saying one thing publicly and doing another privately just exacerbates the disease.”

In Malawi, the average age of a person's first sexual experience is 15. Often this experience isn't a choice but a reality of economic circumstances, especially in rural areas, as young orphaned girls use transactional sex as a means of generating income to support themselves and any siblings left under their charge, or cultural tradition. Fisi (“hyena” when translated), for example, is a sexual education ritual in which a group of young girls who have had their first menstrual period or are soon to be married are “initiated” with intercourse (often

unprotected) by the same man, a disguised figure who strikes in the dark.

Not surprisingly, six women for every one man are infected.

While the Malawian government recently received \$100 million from the Global AIDS Fund to support an anti-retroviral drug program, these drugs are distributed from only one hospital in the country and are currently given only to people in very advanced stages of the disease. Lyons says more money, more drugs and the infrastructure to distribute them are desperately needed.

“Anti-retrovirals are almost a miracle drug. They're not a cure; but when mothers go on them, they can actually look after their kids; kids can actually go to school instead of working. You stand a chance at breaking the poverty cycle, breaking the hold of this disease.”

In recent news reports, a senior UN official warned that sub-Saharan Africa will have 20 million HIV/AIDS orphans by 2010.

“There would be groups of 20 or 30 kids at the side of the road, playing with footballs they had fashioned out of plastic bags that had been melted,” she says of the orphans. “Or they would be skipping with ropes made out of grass. There are so many of them, there is nothing for them to do.”

As in the case of the family with whom Lyons stayed, many female orphans are taken in as servants and work from dawn to midnight, cooking, cleaning, washing, gathering firewood, tending to younger children and to chickens, goats and cows.

“These girls were so badly treated, not by the grandparents, but by the other five grandchildren who came to visit. I saw them kicking dust in the face of the young girl who was pregnant as she knelt. They spit on her; they threw rocks at her.

“I saw things I never thought I'd

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Lyons was taught to prepare nsima, a traditional Malawian dish made from maize flour and water.



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IN THE NEWS

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

Virtual Ocean

UBC researchers have developed a "new locomotion interface for swimming and floating in a virtual reality ocean," reports the *San Jose Mercury News*.

Showcased at a recent computer graphics conference in Los Angeles, the innovation involves suspending a "swimmer" and tracking his movements. A computer-generated animation of the swimmer is then projected on a screen.

The swimmer wears a virtual reality display over his head and sees a simulation of the ocean — with waves reacting to the movement and refracted sunlight. He can even hear the sounds of water slashing and sea birds calling.

UBC Second Most Cited

UBC researchers are the second most cited scholars in Canada, according to a ranking of citations in scholarly scientific and technical journals.

UBC came in behind the University of Toronto with 17 investigators identified as highly cited in leading journals such as *Nature* and *Science*.

UBC placed 19th among North American public universities in the rankings.

"This is a remarkable achievement, and illustrates how UBC research is contributing to discovery everywhere," said UBC VP research *Indira Samarasekera* told the *Vancouver Sun*.

Balancing Business and Family

More and more couples are opting for the flexibility of getting into business together because of the financial and family benefits, according to *David*

Bentall, chairman of the Business Families Centre at UBC.

"The norm of someone working for a company for their lifetime is disappearing," Bentall told *The Globe and Mail*. "From both the male and female side, there's a tremendous drive to have more flexibility in their careers.

"Those two forces are causing more and more people to say 'Hey, let's start something on our own.'"



Peter Hudson, pilot of the Thunderbird Project, trained three years for the test.

Thunderbird Grounded for Now

After six years of planning, design and construction on its human-powered helicopter, a team of faculty and students at UBC couldn't get the machine off the ground at a recent attempt to break the current world record.

"It was a no-go," UBC engineering department spokesperson *Sherry Green* told *The Globe and Mail*. "They had technical difficulties."

More than 160 students at UBC's mechanical engineering department have worked on the Thunderbird Project since its inception in 1998, but only six to 12 people, headed by team leader Mike Georgallis, work on it at any one time.

Rescue Bots Save the Day

A robot armed with toilet-bowl brushes recently won the UBC engineering department's annual robotics contest.

The robots, designed as "rescue-bots," had to rescue a stranded doll at the bottom of a pretend cliff.

The contest is the students' final exam for the course.

"It counts for marks and bragging rights for several years," physics professor *Andre Marziali* told *The Vancouver Sun*.

The robots use sensors and special filters to recognize parts of the course and computer programs written by the students to tell them what to do. No remote controls allowed.

Jeff Young, head of UBC's physics and astronomy department and one of the judges said he hopes the contest lets people know that physics can be fun. "It's not just drudgery and hard work." □



Put Another Fiver on the Barbie . . .

UBC United Way Campaign kicks off Sept. 22

The 2004 UBC United Way Campaign kicks off with a great BBQ later this month on Wednesday, Sept. 22. A burger and pop costs only \$5 at SUB from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. and all proceeds go to the United Way of the Lower Mainland, an umbrella organization that provides funding to a number of community organizations supporting social services across the Lower Mainland.

"Come out and join us for the Kick-off BBQ," says Stan Auerbach, a lecturer with the Faculty of Education, who will chair the campaign this year. "We have some surprises up our sleeves and we guarantee you'll have a good time."

As in previous years, volunteers were busy in August planning the campaign activities.

Thanks to the generosity of the campus community, last year's campaign exceeded the goal of \$500,000 by \$11,000. "We want to continue to build on that outstanding success by increasing the awareness of United Way throughout the campus," says Auerbach.

"One way of doing this is increasing the number of volunteers in the campaign. This is a great opportunity for staff, faculty and students to build their leadership, public speaking and event planning skills."

For more information on the campaign, the kick-off event or how to get involved, contact Liz King, UBC United Way Campaign Coordinator, at 604-822-8929 (UBC-UWAY), e-mail united.way@ubc.ca or check out the Web site at www.unitedway.ubc.ca □

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PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

The late Michael Smith envisioned a unique lab at the heart of campus.

UBC's New State-of-the-Art Facility

BY HILARY THOMSON

The curving coloured ribbons of glass that stretch across the 36-metre-wide front window tell the whole story.

If you're able to read DNA sequences, that is.

The swirling design represents the DNA segment that was the focus of the late Michael Smith's Nobel Prize-winning research. A UBC professor of biotechnology, Smith devised a way to re-program segments of DNA, a process called site-directed mutagenesis. The discovery earned him the 1993 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. The colourful glazing – the first window of its kind in a North American building – is a visual highlight of the Michael Smith Laboratories (MSL) that will be officially opened Sept. 24.

"Michael Smith not only made an extraordinary contribution to science, he also encouraged young scientists to learn and discover," says UBC President Martha Piper. "I can think of no more fitting legacy than to have this group of stellar scientists brought together in a state-of-the-art facility."

Smith's dream was to create a unique interdisciplinary centre dedicated to genomic research and located at the heart of campus. Now, almost two decades later, his vision has been realized with a \$30-million lab that covers 7,500 sq. metres adjacent to the UBC Bookstore.

"I remember Michael had a model of the building on his desk when I first came here," says microbiologist Brett Finlay, UBC Peter Wall Distinguished Professor whom Smith recruited in 1989.

Finlay is one of 15 principal investigators and approximately 225 people who will work in the three-storey building when it is at full capacity. Many of the researchers have been associated with UBC's Biotechnology Lab which Smith founded in 1987. Scientists in the lab have been recognized with numerous national and international research awards.

"This is a remarkable group of academic investigators whose research discoveries have crossed scientific disciplines in extraordinary ways and who represent international leadership in biotechnology," says Phil Hieter, MSL director. "A distinguishing feature of MSL scientists has been consistent development of new technologies to answer important biological questions. It would be no surprise if UBC's next Nobel Prize came from this lab."

A replica of Smith's Nobel Prize medal and his picture will be featured in a special alcove in the ground floor public lobby.

Other building features include a teaching lab directed by David Ng, who provides outreach programs to approximately 2,000 Lower Mainland high school students annually. There is also a 100-seat lecture theatre that is electronically linked to other UBC teaching sites, a multipurpose room, and an atrium offering common social space for scientists and research staff.

The building is the first on campus to use Voice Over IP, a technology that allows voice and data to travel on the

same infrastructure so that researchers can plug in computers anywhere in the building, giving greater mobility between interdisciplinary labs and lowering operating costs. In addition, the building will be part of UBC's high-speed wireless network.

Researchers have had significant input into the design of their workspace.

Electrical engineer Robin Turner, who develops new spectroscopic methods in biotechnology, will be working in a laser lab built to his specification.

"These labs are highly programmed space with features customized to the researchers' work so that scientists can move in and start work right away,"

says Ron Turner, project manager, who was a childhood friend of one of Smith's sons. In those days, he regarded the scientist as "just some guy in Birkenstocks."

MSL researchers, representing five faculties, explore organisms ranging from worms and mice to trees.

They include neurobiologist Terry Snutch whose work may lead to new therapies for migraines, stroke and cardiovascular disorders, and chemical engineer Charles Haynes who looks at the behaviour of biomolecules and how synthetic surfaces can be tailored for medical and industrial application. MSL associate director Brian Ellis, an expert on genetically engineered food, studies how plants adapt to environmental stresses such as fungus, insects and temperature extremes. Hieter analyzes genes involved in cancer and other human diseases.

The lower floor of the MSL will house the UBC Bioinformatics Centre. Directed by Francis Ouellette, the 450-sq. metre-facility will house five researchers and approximately 70 students, post-doctoral fellows, and lab workers when fully operational.

Bioinformatics integrates computers, software tools, and databases to address biological questions, particularly in the fields of genomics and proteomics.

The MSL represents the UBC component of the Centre for Integrated Genomics, a collaboration of UBC and the BC Cancer Agency.

Funding for the MSL has been provided by Canada Foundation for Innovation, the B.C. Knowledge Development Fund and private donors.

For more information on the Michael Smith Laboratories, visit www.biotech.ubc.ca. □

Disaster Course a Hit with Students

BY MICHELLE COOK

The combination of mass destruction and human drama that has made so many Hollywood disaster movies box office hits, has also proven to be a winning formula for a UBC Science course.

With 1,200 students expected to enrol this year, the earth and ocean sciences first-year course on The Catastrophic Earth – Natural Disasters is one of UBC's most popular elective courses. You could call it an academic blockbuster.

While many courses start off with large enrolments, then lose students after classes start, enrolment in EOS 114 usually increases by 100 students in the first few weeks. Talk about rave reviews.

"Students like it because we make disasters fun," says Prof. Roland Stull, the course's creator and lead instructor.

"We firmly believe that science doesn't have to be boring. We believe we can teach the science of disasters – the physics, the dynamics and those things – yet keep the

whole thing exciting."

With the aid of dramatic film footage, photos, statistics and news clips, students are taken on a wild trip through the science of earthquakes, volcanoes, landslides, storms, tsunamis, meteor impacts and mass extinctions.

Although no longer part of the coursework, in previous years, Stull even had students watch Hollywood disaster movies to critique them for scientific accuracy. (Just in case you were wondering, *The Core* gets a thumbs down, and *The Perfect Storm* a solid thumbs up.)

Sarah Chan and Samantha Tsang, both 2nd-year Arts students, signed up for the summer 2004 session of EOS 114 on the recommendation of a friend who had taken the course. They say they liked it so much they'll pass the recommendation on to others – but they're not ready to jump ship from Arts to Science – yet.

"The course was well taught and it put a lot of things into perspective."

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

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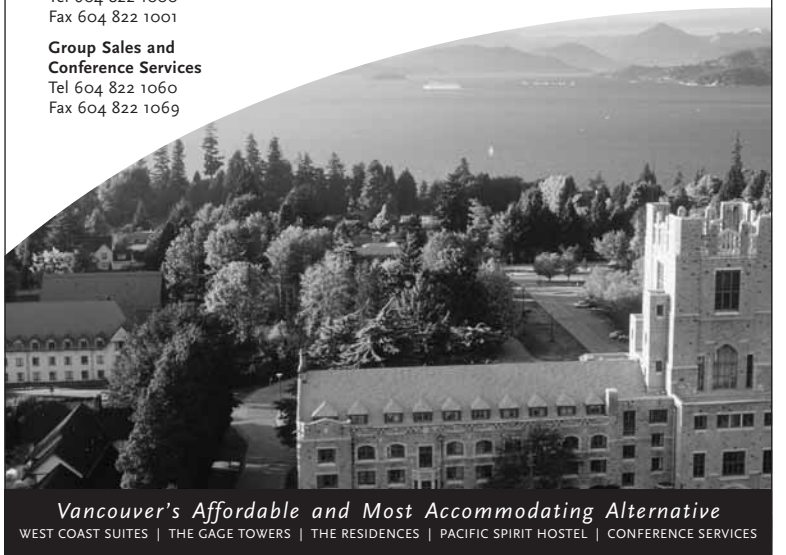
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Harvard-Educated Native American Scholar Joins UBC Forestry

BY BRIAN LIN

There are simply too few Aboriginal people employed in the forestry sector in B.C., especially considering that more than 80 per cent of Canada's First Nations are located on forest land, according to Ron Trosper, the latest faculty member of Forest Resource Management in the Faculty of Forestry.

Of more than 3,000 registered professional foresters in B.C., only 12 of them, or 0.4 per cent, are of Aboriginal ancestry.

Armed with a PhD from Harvard and the experience of founding the Native American Forestry Program at Northern Arizona University, Trosper, of Salish and Kootenai ancestry, is determined to change that. As an associate professor of aboriginal forestry he will participate in developing the faculty's Aboriginal Forestry Program.

"This is an exciting academic focus for the faculty," says dean Jack Saddler.

And a prudent one. Prior to 1994, only three Aboriginal students were known to have graduated from the faculty. Since then, 22 have completed their studies, including some at the master's and PhD level.

"There is an urgent need to increase the role of Aboriginal people in managing and caring for the land," says Trosper. "Recent court decisions are indicating that huge changes are in store in Aboriginal participation in forestry, yet there are still many barriers to Aboriginal students

who wish to pursue post-secondary education."

One of Trosper's main goals will be increasing university-level research with First Nations communities, without losing sight of proper research protocols that respect traditional culture and practical needs.

"There is a long history of dispossession in how the industry and researchers have worked with Aboriginal people," says Trosper. "It's important to realize that First Nations people don't reject advances in technology and science – in fact, they embrace them – but there's a very different way in which they see the world.

"The forest is surrounded in a social context, and to Aboriginal people, it's obvious that living in, modifying and taking care of the forest are one and the same. You can't manage the forest without getting to know the people."

Trosper has hit the ground running since he arrived in Vancouver in July. He and Saddler have already travelled up to Haida Gwaii off B.C.'s northwest coast to meet with community leaders, government officials and industry representatives.

When asked what attracted him to UBC, he pointed to the strong graduate program at the faculty. He wants to see more Aboriginal people pursue advanced degrees so there is a "permanent presence" of Aboriginal people in academia.

"There is great potential for UBC to be a leader in Aboriginal forestry education," he says. □

Prof. Ron Trosper will help develop the Aboriginal Forestry Program at UBC.



PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

THE UNIVERSITY OF  BRITISH COLUMBIA
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School of Rehabilitation Sciences, Director

The Faculty of Medicine, University of British Columbia, invites applications and nominations for the position of Director of the School of Rehabilitation Sciences.

The individual selected should have doctoral level qualifications or equivalent and a strong background in Occupational Therapy or Physical Therapy. He or she should also be familiar with the nature of practice in Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy, teaching and administrative experience and an academic reputation commensurate with a leadership role in the School. The individual selected will be expected to have a clear commitment to a framework for education and research that emphasizes the relationships among disciplines and between research and clinical practice.

As of 2004, the School offers two-year master's programs in Occupational Therapy and in Physical therapy and advanced graduate programs in rehabilitation (MSc, PhD, and MRSc, an on-line master's degree). The School has strong interprofessional links with other departments in the University and with both practice communities.

This is a full-time tenured position which is subject to final budgetary approval. Academic rank and salary is commensurate with qualifications and experience. The anticipated start date is January 1, 2005.

UBC hires on the basis of merit and is committed to employment equity. We encourage all qualified persons to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents of Canada will be given priority.

Letters of application accompanied by a curriculum vitae, three recent publications and the names of three referees should be submitted by September 30, 2004, and directed to:

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Disaster Course a Hit with Students

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tive," Chan says. "In the media, you're told the wrong things about disasters. It's very stereotyped. In this course, you learn the truth."

Chan and Tsang also say they'll never watch Hollywood disaster movies in quite the same way again.

"It's a lot of fantasy," Tsang says.

"But now we can be critical of it on the basis of scientific information," Chan adds.

But didn't all that talk of mass destruction leave them feeling a little paranoid?

"Yeah, living in Richmond, a little bit," Chan laughs. "If there's an earthquake, we're going to be the first to go."

Launched four years ago, EOS 114 is taught by a "dream team" of seven specialists in specific disasters who've all had first-hand experience in the field. Stull, for example, is a weather expert who used to chase storms in Oklahoma when he was a university student.

The instructors are supported by an army of TAs who also staff an Earth Course Assistance Centre during the term to give students one-on-one help.

The goal of the course is to teach students how and when natural disasters occur, how to recognize them, how to identify hazards, the science behind them, and what students can do to ensure their own safety and plan their lives. Things "like where they might and might not want to buy a house, like probably not along the shoreline of Florida

because a hurricane or storm surge will wipe it out," Stull says.

Despite his obvious enthusiasm for the course, Stull says it's not meant to make light of the often devastating natural occurrences that happen around the globe on a daily basis.

"I tell the students every day that our business is to help save lives and reduce economic losses," Stull explains. "Even so, this is our field of study and we're excited about it, so we teach it with the same excitement, but I let people know we're not insensitive."

"I think the students feel that. They can tell that when there's a really good storm or earthquake, we get excited about it."

Originally conceived as a way to increase enrolment in the department, the course is also designed to advertise related courses in the field, and encourage undeclared students to consider earth and ocean sciences as a major.

The approach has been so successful that it's even spawned a spin-off. Dinosaur's Earth (EOS 116) was launched last year after students raved about the segment of EOS 114 on mass extinction.

The popularity of EOS 114 doesn't surprise Stull.

"Everyone is interested in disasters," he says. But, he adds, if students learn one thing from the course, it should be that science is fun – and they should choose where they live very, very carefully. □

University of Victoria will be Home for Widely Travelled Student

Few Canadian Teenagers were Witness to the Horrors of Rwanda's 1994 Bloody Civil War

BY HILARY THOMSON



PHOTO: SHIRLEY TOUSIGNANT

Visiting Rwanda inspired Michelle Tousignant to pursue medicine.

UBC medical student Michelle Tousignant, 14 years old at the time, was there visiting her father who was part of the United Nations Assistance Mission. She says watching the Red Cross in action during the conflict strongly influenced her decision to become a doctor.

The 24-year old has just started her first year of UBC's medical undergraduate program, one of 24 students admitted to the Island Medical Program (IMP) – part of the Faculty of Medicine's expanded medical education program (see sidebar).

"I have always had a strong pull towards health and healing," says the well-travelled Tousignant, who says she grew up as a "military brat."

"I was truly inspired by what I saw – it was a big driving force for me," she says.

After high-school graduation in Belgium, she traveled to Honduras to work in rural health clinics and hospitals and "loved it."

A kinesiology grad from University of Victoria, Tousignant was attracted to the IMP because she felt she had roots – for the first time in her life – on Vancouver Island and because she would be learning with a small group of students, an experience she had enjoyed as an undergrad.

Students in the IMP and the Northern Medical Program are rated on a rural suitability index as part of the admissions process. Tousignant's interest in rural areas has much to do with her love of outdoor activities, especially skiing and snowboarding.

"I'm going into medicine with a really open mind in terms of where I'll end up," she says. "I'm looking at smaller communities close to ski hills, but who knows, I may change my mind more than once in the course of my studies."

As an IMP student, she will spend the first four months of medical school at UBC's Vancouver campus before moving back to the Island as part of the IMP's first class. □

Faculty of Medicine Expansion: The Facts

In March 2002, the provincial government announced its plan to ease B.C.'s doctor shortage by almost doubling the number of medical school students to 224 in 2005.

Currently B.C. has the lowest per capita ratio of places in medical school to population in any Canadian province or territory.

This year, UBC's Faculty of Medicine launches a system of distributed medical education with UBC students taught at three new facilities: the University of Northern British Columbia's (UNBC) Northern Health Sciences Centre; University of Victoria's (UVic) Medical Sciences Building and UBC's Life Sciences Centre (LSC). The facilities represent a provincial government capital commitment totalling \$134 million, which includes \$110 million for the UBC portion.

In the 2004-05 academic year, 200 students will be admitted to the Faculty of Medicine, with 152 students admitted to the Vancouver-Fraser Medical Program on UBC campus; 24 students to the Northern Medical Program (NMP) at UNBC and 24 to the Island Medical Program (IMP) at UVic.

Students in the NMP and the IMP will spend the first four months of the MD undergraduate program in Vancouver and the remainder of the first two years in the north or on Vancouver Island. In the third and fourth years of the program, students will have a range of experiences in the north and on Vancouver Island and will also have opportunities through UBC's network of 96 affiliated teaching hospitals and health facilities throughout B.C.

All three new facilities have IT infrastructure that is linked with BCNet's high speed broad band network to support the distributed e-learning model. □



Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies

Exploratory Workshop Grant

The Peter Wall Exploratory Workshop Program awards \$15,000 to \$25,000 to interdisciplinary teams of UBC researchers to create new research initiatives by bringing outstanding international experts to the University. Your proposal should be broadly interdisciplinary and involve basic research. The application deadline for the Fall 2004 competition is October 1, 2004.

For more information, please visit our website at www.pwias.ubc.ca or call us at (604) 822-4782.

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Construction is booming at UBC with more than \$600 million in institutional and housing projects underway. Projects range from student housing to galleries and research centres as well as town homes and condominiums in four of the eight campus neighbourhoods that comprise UBC's residentially oriented University Town.

Approximately 80 per cent of construction is for academic purposes with major funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation, B.C. Knowledge Development Fund and the provincial government's Double the Opportunity Fund that supports a plan to double the number of students graduating each year in computing science and engineering.

Here is a sampling of some current construction and design projects:

1. The UBC Life Sciences Centre is a fast-tracked construction program that will provide more than 40,000 sq. metres of interdisciplinary research and education facilities and help UBC's Faculty of Medicine reach its goal of almost doubling the number of graduating medical students by 2010.

Scheduled completion: August 2004-May 2005
Capital budget: \$109 million

2. The Irving K. Barber Learning Centre will retain the heritage core of the Main Library, add approximately 18,000 sq. metres of new building and more than 4,000 sq. metres of renovated floor space. The centre – fully equipped to support wireless technology – will offer a state-of-the-art storage and retrieval system.

Scheduled completion: May 2005 (Phase 1)
November 2006 (Phase 2)
Capital budget: \$68 million

3. The Michael Smith Laboratories and UBC Bioinformatics Centre is a 7,675-sq.-metre, four-storey leading edge laboratory that will help UBC continue its national leadership in the field of genomics. The building name honours the memory of the late Michael Smith, UBC professor, 1993 Nobel laureate and founder of UBC's Biotechnology Lab.

Scheduled completion: September 2004
Capital budget: \$30 million

4. The Aquatic Ecosystems Research Laboratory is a 5,752-sq.-metre four-storey facility that will bring three existing research units under one roof: the UBC Fisheries Centre, The Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability and the B.C. Fisheries Research Unit.

Scheduled completion: June 2005
Capital budget: \$15 million

5. The Multi-user Facility for Functional Proteomics will be attached to the existing Biomedical Research Centre. This new facility will provide space for a cluster of three multi-user facilities including the UBC Fluorescence Activated Cell Sorting Facility and a mass spectrometer.

Scheduled completion: December 2004
Capital budget: \$7 million

6. The Institute for Computing, Information and Cognitive Systems/Computer Science is a fast-tracked project designed to strengthen and create new interdisciplinary research links among computer science, electrical, computer and mechanical engineering, medicine and health care, educational technology, psychology, commerce, process industries and utility systems. The facilities will be directly connected to the existing Centre for Integrated Computer Systems Research building.

Scheduled completion: December 2004
Capital budget: \$40 million

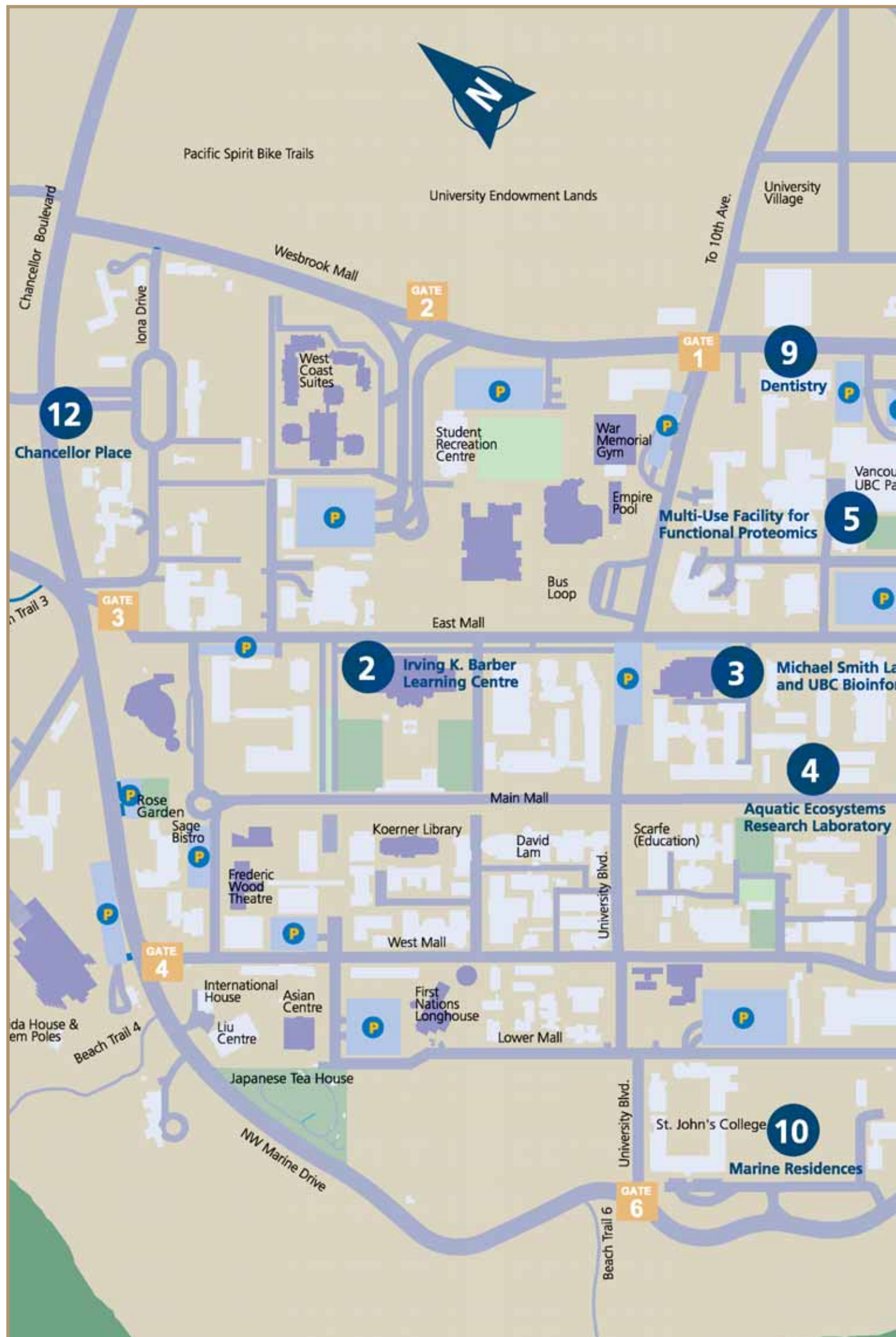
7. The Fred Kaiser Building, formerly the Electrical and Computer Engineering Building, is an 8,900-sq.-metre facility that will house the Faculty of Applied Science's Electrical and Computer Engineering departments. The site, between Main Mall and an inner courtyard framed by the existing MacLeod and Civil Engineering/Mechanical Engineering buildings, will link Main Mall and the Cheez Factory through an interior atrium, which will also serve as the new main entry for the Engineering precinct.

Scheduled completion: February 2005
Capital budget: \$26 million

8. The Chemical and Biological Engineering Building supports the provincial government initiative to double the number of graduates in Engineering and Science. The 11,500-sq.-metre building provides a replacement facility for the Chemistry and Biological Engineering Department and a new facility for the Clean Energy Research Centre.

Scheduled completion: September 2005
Capital budget: \$38 million

Cranes Flying for Academic / Re



TIMEPIECE 1925



Semi-permanent buildings (left to right, Agriculture, Arts, Auditorium, Administration) under construction. Dogged by financial constraints in 1925, nine buildings, all of wood-frame and stucco construction were classed as "semi-permanent" and designed to last 25 to 40 years "if necessary." (As of 1996, most were still in use.) □

Residential Growth Spurt

BY HILARY THOMSON



9. The new five-storey \$17 million **Dentistry Building** will serve as a gateway to the University Boulevard Neighbourhood, part of University Town. The approximately 11,000-sq.-metre building includes above- and below-ground parking, ground floor retail space, a new state-of-the-art dentistry clinic on the second floor and additional university office space.

Scheduled completion: September 2005

10. Almost 2,000 units of student housing will be available with the construction of **Marine Residences**, a six-building complex. The UBC Properties Trust development includes retail space and a one-storey Commons Block building with a reception area, ballroom, fireside lounge, exercise room and other amenities. Phase 1 is currently underway and includes 600 beds.

Capital budget: \$138 million

Scheduled completion date: Phase 1- August 2005

11. Residential housing includes a variety of condominiums and town homes located in the **Hawthorn Place** neighbourhood in the mid-campus area. Promontory, developed by Polygon, is an 18-storey tower that will be the most westerly high-rise in Vancouver. Reflections and Journey, two developments by Adera, comprise almost 160 condominium units in the same neighbourhood.

In addition, developer Ledingham McAllister is creating Westchester and Somerset, a group of 40 town homes in the heart of Hawthorn Place.

12. At **Chancellor Place**, Intracorp is developing more than 170 apartments, condominiums and town homes, including Chancellor House and Argyll House.

UBC Properties Trust, together with Polygon Homes Inc., initiated the relocation of fraternities from their existing leased land sites onto the UBC Campus at 2280 Wesbrook. The relocation provides seven new fraternity houses with accommodation for approximately 240 students.

UBC Properties Trust plans and oversees the construction of large institutional buildings on campus. For more information on these facilities, visit www.ubcproperties.com. Information on housing sites can be obtained through the commercial development companies responsible for construction. Information on University Town can be found at www.universitytown.ubc.ca. □

(with files from UBC Properties Trust)



The Institute for Computing, Information and Cognitive Systems.



The UBC Life Sciences Centre.

Co-Development Helps Campus Community Build a Sustainable Future

The brainchild of UBC Properties Trust, the innovative approach stems from UBC housing policy, which makes leased university land available to qualified employees when they come together in groups of at least ten owners. Faculty and staff co-developers can realize savings, depending on market conditions, as high as 30 per cent through the elimination of typical project management and marketing costs.

Logan Lane homes, scheduled for completion in June 2005, start at \$356,200 for a 2-bedroom garden home.

Co-development housing initia-

tives are a key sustainability strategy in UBC's University Town plan, whose goal is for 50 per cent of new residential market and non-market housing to serve faculty, staff and students.

For Judith Hall, professor of pediatrics and medical genetics, the chance to live within walking distance of work and diverse cultural, social and recreational venues – in UBC's extraordinary natural setting – was too good to pass up. She is one of 10 faculty and staff who developed Hawthorne Green, the first co-development housing project of 10 homes, which were completed

last month.

"For me working on campus has been a life-long pursuit. This co-development gave me the chance to be part of what I consider to be a great experiment in building community," said Hall.

Faculty and staff interested in hearing more about joining or starting a co-development group are invited to contact UBC Properties Trust.

Please e-mail: jhindle@ubcproperties.com or call 604-731-3103.

For more information on University Town please visit www.universitytown.ubc.ca □

kudos

The winning hand that feeds UBC. UBC Food Services achieved the culinary equivalent of a hat trick during the summer, winning three food industry awards.

During its annual conference, the Canadian College and University Food Service Association (CCUFSA) presented UBC with the association's Shine Award for excellence in teamwork, food service, and hospitality.

The conference also marked the first time UBC Food Services entered a team in the annual CCUFSA Culinary Challenge – and took first place. In the grueling two-day competition against three other schools (SFU, Northwest Community College and Brigham Young University), the UBC team of Steven Golob (residence chef at Vanier's), Rob Van Raes (Sage Bistro), and Chris Singleton (Sage Bistro) produced an internationally themed three-course meal and provided nutritional information for their menu.

Dishes they prepared included vanilla and black pepper marinated prawns and scallops paired with quinoa salad, pea sprouts, fresh roti and mango salsa; ahi and wild salmon served with grilled purple yam tiles with a sake watermelon butter reduction; and blackberry honey-glazed barbecued peach with brandy mascarpone cheese and maple syrup liquor sauce.

Adding to Food Services' list of summer successes, executive chef Piyush Sahay brought home a silver medal from a North America-wide culinary competition, held at the University of Massachusetts. The competition focused on Spanish, Thai and Indian cuisine. □

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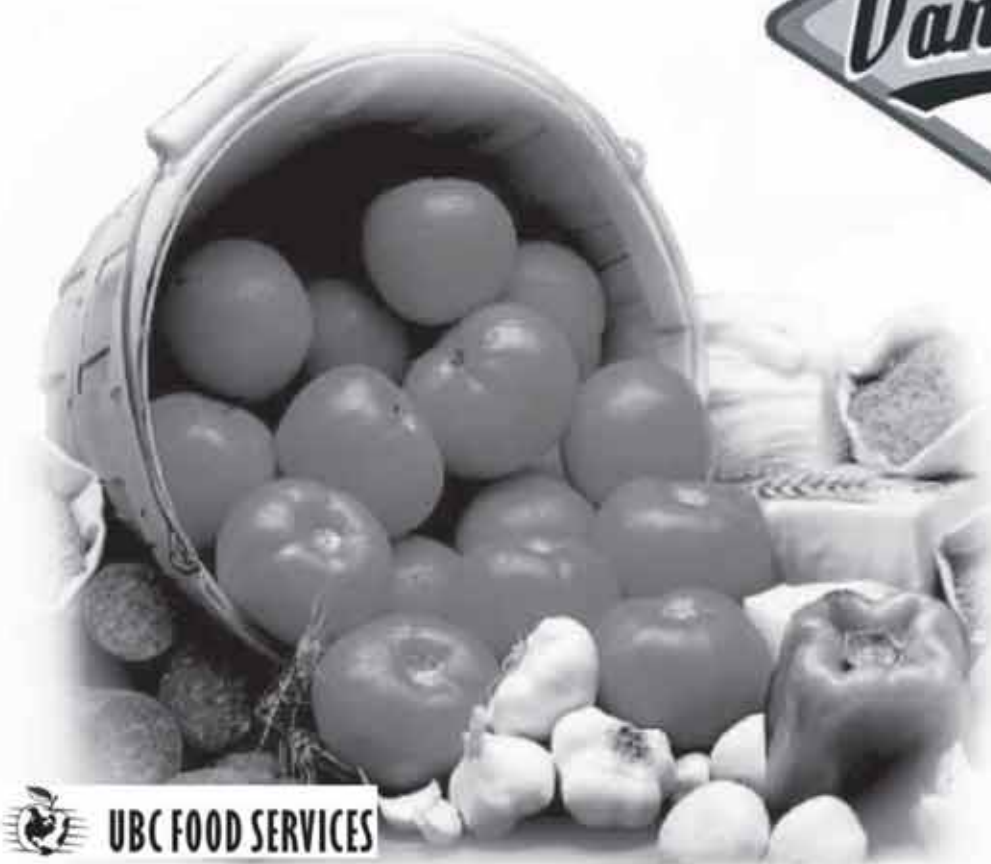
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The Return of the Native

After more than a decade abroad, international law expert Michael Byers has come home to western Canada. But will the new academic director of the Liu Institute for Global Issues see the world differently now that he's far from the centres of political power? BY MICHELLE COOK

Michael Byers knows that any story written about him is likely to start off like this: he left Canada more than a decade ago to pursue an academic career in international law and global politics, first in England at Cambridge and then Oxford, followed by a five-year stint at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina where he headed up the university's highly regarded Center for Canadian Studies. During that time, he gained an international reputation for his contributions to public and foreign policy debates and issues such as human rights and arms control.

"Anna Maria Tremonti at the CBC called me a poster boy for the Canadian brain drain," Byers laughs. "But Canada has always been home. I've been living out of the country for the last 12 years but I felt a strong pull back."

That pull, in large part, was the promise of a new era for Canada on the world stage.

"Canada is uniquely placed as a role model for the rest of the world as to what is possible in terms of a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic social welfare state that can co-operate with other countries in a constructive, multilateral way," says Byers.

Observing the post-9/11 world and Canada's role in it from south of the border has been professionally exciting but personally difficult for Byers. Part of his reason for moving to Vancouver is the feeling that he can best help Canada respond to emerging global issues from home.

Judging from his first few weeks at UBC, Byers, 38, hasn't been content to slip quietly back across the 49th parallel.

Since arriving in Vancouver earlier this summer with his wife, two young sons and a new Canada Research Chair in global politics and international law, he has written for the *Globe and Mail*, appeared on CTV's Canada AM and given numerous interviews. In his low-key but highly persuasive style, he's been raising issues such as the effects climate change could have on Canada's bilateral water treaty with the U.S. and on shipping activity in the Northwest Passage.

Watching him at work in his shady office at the Liu Centre, dressed casually in dark khakis and comfortably worn golf shirt, Byers looks and sounds very much like Mr. West Coast. He's already done the Grouse Grind, he'd love to spend more time on the beach with his laptop writing, and he and his wife recently bought a Toyota Prius gas-electric hybrid car that they "hope will send a tiny signal to car manufacturers that times have changed." He has just returned from a five-week writing retreat and is keen to talk about his move to Vancouver.

Before he can do that, Byers excuses himself to take a call from a national newspaper reporter in Toronto. He slips easily and eloquently into a conversation on missile defence. He laughs often and even playfully scolds his caller for failing to read an article he'd penned on the issue a few weeks earlier for the reporter's paper.

Byers knows the media game. You



Michael Byers, new Canada Research Chair in global politics and international law.

give interviews – even two-minute ones at 5 a.m. in the morning – you make good contacts, you write editorial pieces with a fresh and informed perspective that hasn't been heard before, and you use your expertise to tell stories journalists can't.

Byers does it because he wants media to know he's here at UBC and available to talk. He sees it as an integral part of his role as a public intellectual who contributes "in a meaningful way to long-term thinking" by identifying the issues that are going to be big a few years down the road and providing possible answers.

The public outreach work also complements Byers' goal of shaping the Liu Institute into a powerful intellectual think tank like the Brookings Institution [the renowned, oft-cited think tank in

Washington, D.C.] and, in the process, put UBC on the world map as a hugely influential public policy university.

"That's how I see the Liu Institute. I would want it to be at the forefront of all the major foreign policy debates in Canada in the future as well as some of the truly global debates regardless of whether they involve Canada in any substantial way."

Byers grew up in Ottawa speaking English and German (his mother was a first-generation immigrant) but his passion for international law and global politics was nurtured in the unlikely locale of rural Saskatchewan. As he explains it, the summers he spent on his grandparents' farm as a boy were a valuable prerequisite for his future studies.

"Anyone who spent a lot of time on a farm in southern Saskatchewan during the 1970s and early '80s knew that there was a world out there, partly because Canadian farmers are acutely sensitive to the importance of international trade," Byers explains.

"And I also have childhood memories of watching B-52 bombers fly overhead from U.S. bases on the circuit up to the Arctic in case war broke out. If you think about it, Canada was right smack in the middle of the Cold War, with the U.S. on one side and the Soviet Union on the other, and Stoughton, Saskatchewan was in the centre of that."

After finishing high school, Byers received his BA from the University of Saskatchewan in 1988, both his LLB and BCL from McGill University in 1992, and his PhD from Cambridge University (Queens' College) in 1996. For the next three years, he was a research fellow at Jesus College, Oxford (where he met wife Katharine) as well as a visiting fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law in Germany.

In 1999, he joined the faculty of Duke's law school. While he was there, Byers invited Lloyd Axworthy, then CEO of the Liu Institute, to lecture. They quickly realized they had common academic interests and Axworthy invited Byers to Vancouver. With the link to UBC established, Byers spent a month

on campus in April 2003 and arrived permanently in July.

Like many who return home after a long absence, Byers has great expectations for his native land.

He thinks Canadians have the potential to significantly influence future global debates because we're well respected worldwide, we're multilingual, we're very close to U.S. but we're not the U.S. and we've maintained a degree of independence in international affairs. Above all, he adds, we're incredibly wealthy – not in raw dollars but in terms of our natural and intellectual resources.

But will working on the West Coast affect his access to the key decision makers, power brokers, academics and journalists he worked with in Washington, London and Ottawa?

"For the first time in decades, B.C. has become politically significant in federal politics – every student and staff member here at UBC is now politically significant. Ottawa is paying attention to us and that's a huge opportunity to exercise influence, not just in voting but also in terms of demanding action on issues," Byers says, adding that he will still have a few geographic adjustments to make.

"I have to keep East Coast hours to be here when journalists in Washington, New York, Toronto and Ottawa start working on their stories. I have to be here and they have to know I'm here. And I have to be here before people in Europe go home at night.

"But the other exciting dimension is I'm now in the Asia Pacific, a part of the world that I don't know very well – yet."

Right now, in the waning days of summer before students return to campus and classes start, writing is what Byers is thinking about most. You can see he's passionate about it. The topic has come up several times in the conversation. He's a regular contributor to the London Review of Books and newspaper op/ed pages, and he thinks Vancouver is the perfect place to do what he loves best.

"To be honest, I'm looking forward to spending a lot of time writing with the rain falling outside. There are a lot of things I want to write and a lot of things I want to say," Byers says. □



South Campus Draft Neighbourhood Plan & University Town Consultation

The South Campus Neighbourhood is located south of 16th Avenue bounded by Pacific Spirit Regional Park and SW Marine Drive.

UBC, in consultation with the South Campus Plan Working Group and a Consultant Team, has prepared a draft neighbourhood plan for a portion of the South Campus area. The South Campus Plan Working Group engaged UBC stakeholders and adjacent community groups directly in the South Campus Neighbourhood plan making process.

PLEASE JOIN US
Attend the following Open Houses and Campus and Community Public Meeting and give us your feedback.

PUBLIC MEETING
Monday, September 13 @ 7:00 pm in the Asian Centre Auditorium, 1871 West Mall.
Parking is available in the adjacent Fraser Parkade.

SPECIAL MEETINGS
Your group can request a special meeting between August 16 and September 17 by contacting the University Town Inquiry Line at 604.822.6400 or by e-mailing info.universitytown@ubc.ca.

OPEN HOUSES

Tuesday	August 24	4 pm to 7 pm	Asian Centre	COMPLETE
Tuesday	September 7	10 am to 4 pm	SUB Plaza *	
Wednesday	September 8	10 am to 8 pm	SUB Plaza *	
Thursday	September 9	10 am to 4 pm	SUB Plaza *	
Monday	September 13	4 pm to 7 pm	Asian Centre	

* From September 7-9 visit our TENT beside the Goddess of Democracy. In addition to the South Campus Draft Plan, there will also be information about University Town.

DIRECTIONS
Asian Centre - 1871 West Mall; Student Union Building (SUB) - 6138 Student Union Boulevard
See www.maps.ubc.ca or call 604.822.6400 for more information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Linda Moore, Associate Director
External Affairs, University Town
Tel: 604.822.6400 Fax: 604.822.8102
Email: info.universitytown@ubc.ca


UNIVERSITY TOWN

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AIDS in Africa *continued from page 1*

have to watch. By the end, I couldn't. It violated every single one of my code of ethics. The whole time this was happening to her, as the stones hit her, her face remained blank. She was embarrassed, you could see it in her eyes; ashamed of herself, ashamed that I was seeing this."

Lyons, whose volunteer activities have included work with the Canadian Red Cross, War Child Canada and Save the Children, hopes sharing her insight of the HIV/AIDS epidemic will inspire youth in her own community to get more involved.

"I always had a passion for the issue, but how can you really get that across based on things in a textbook or statistics? Now that I've seen these things, I can show people the pictures. I can explain what it feels like to walk down the street, to see the orphaned children, to not see any adults, to see five funerals in 10 days.

"AIDS has become such a catastrophe that each and every person in the world, HIV-positive or not, Canadian or Malawian, needs to do their part, somehow needs to take action." □



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MARGARET VISSER on The Meaning of Saints

October 20-21, 2004

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Totem Park Residence Commonsblock, UBC

Thursday, October 21, 12:00 pm
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Thursday, October 21, 8:00 pm
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*Tickets are free but must be obtained in advance at the Regent College reception, 5800 University Boulevard, Vancouver, Phone: 604.224.3245



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Alumni



BY BRIAN LIN

UBC physics grad **Jeremy Hilton** is convinced he's part of an elite team destined for something great – something that will revolutionize the way we live.

Four years into his first full-time job, Hilton is now Director of Intellectual Property at D-Wave Systems, a Vancouver-based company specializing in quantum computing technology.

Hilton has helped D-Wave file almost 100 patents related to quantum computing, more than the number of patents filed by industry giants IBM, NEC and the U.S. Department of Defense combined.

Co-founded in 1999 by UBC physics PhD Geordie Rose with the help of his UBC mentor, venture capitalist Haig Farris, D-Wave has earned a reputation in the field as a serious contender in the race to build the first quantum computer in the world, an achievement that has been likened to electricity in the 1830s.

D-Wave was the first quantum computing start-up to receive venture capital backing, having impressed local and national investment funds. D-Wave recently became the first quantum computing company to receive financing from a top-tier US venture capital fund. At US\$8 million, the financing led by Silicon Valley venture fund Draper Fisher Jurvetson, and including investment from the \$60 billion British Columbia Investment Corporation, solidified the company's leadership role in the field.

Hilton and Rose have no doubt of the feasibility of the device that promises to blow all traditional computers right out of the water. Using quantum mechanics, the rules that govern all matter and energy, to accelerate computation, quantum computers are theorized to outperform any conceivable conventional supercomputer.

"We know it's going to work," says Hilton. "It's just a matter of time."

Both avid athletes – Hilton was on the UBC Varsity swim team and Rose has won numerous national wrestling titles – they learned more than just physics at UBC.

"I learned to think outside the box," says Hilton. "The ability to be creative in solving problems is invaluable."

Rose's eureka moment happened in Farris's entrepreneurship class at the business school. "We got to meet and speak to people who were successful Vancouver-based entrepreneurs, such as Norm Francis of Pivotal and Paul Lee of Electronic Arts," says Rose. "And my reaction was 'I can do that!'"

Already armed with a strong contingent of UBC alums – nine out of 22 full-time staff are UBC grads – Rose says he won't hesitate to hire some more. "UBC folks always live up to our expectations. They're extremely well trained compared to grads from other university and colleges." □

A NEW POINT OF VIEW.



INTRODUCING ARGYLL HOUSE EAST – a limited collection of cityhomes and apartments that back onto a green belt next to the historic Iona Building at UBC. You're close to the Chan Centre, the UBC Botanical Gardens and the Nitobe Garden where you can take in Japanese tea while enjoying the beautiful surroundings. Homes at Argyll House East can be as large as 2600 square feet. And, when you compare the cityhome prices to the cost of other homes of comparable size in West Point Grey, you get a lot of value which means that you really can relax and enjoy the views of your new backyard... and your new living room.

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ARGYLL HOUSE EAST
AT CHANCELLOR PLACE



Texan Jason Wood's love of movies led him to Vancouver and UBC.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF JASON WOOD

A Texan on Campus

First American recipient of International Leader of Tomorrow Award. BY MICHELLE COOK

As an American tourist visiting Canada, just one day in Vancouver was enough to convince Jason Wood that it might be a nice place to live. The teen from Texas liked the look of the city.

Back in his hometown of San Angelo, a west Texas community of 90,000 people deep in the heart of oil and ranch country, Wood started doing some research and liked what he found out.

Vancouver's film industry appealed to the avid movie buff and UBC had an award program for international students that could help him study in the city he had found so picturesque.

Four years later, Wood, 18, is back in Vancouver as the first American recipient of an International Leader of Tomorrow (ILOT) Award.

Wood is one of 12 students worldwide to receive an ILOT award to study at UBC this year. The awards – each worth about \$23,000 annually and renewable for up to three years – help outstanding international students who couldn't otherwise afford post-secondary education. The awards program is the largest of its kind at a Canadian university. It is funded by UBC's International Student Initiative (ISI) which was launched in 1996 to increase the number of international students on campus from a range of countries.

UBC has been offering ILOT awards since 2001 to help attract some of the world's brightest young minds to campus. Since then, 39 students from 29 countries have benefited from the program. This year, more than 145 applications were considered.

Wood, who will study commerce at the Sauder School of Business, doesn't seem fazed by the fact that he's the first U.S. student to receive the award. After all, he's worked hard to get here.

Karen McKellin is the associate director of ISI and a member of the ILOT awards committee who chose Wood. She says he was selected because of his high academic grades, his extracurricular activities which included working as the editor of his high school newspaper and co-editor of his school's yearbook, and his clear but unusual professional goals.

"Jason is completely interested in a career in the movie business and has made consistent choices to support that," McKellin says. "The feeling of the committee was that this was a very deserving young man from an economically disadvantaged background who worked after school at his local movie theatre.

"He's combined his love of film with a profound interest in learning the business of films – how to promote them, how they get to be blockbusters – and he'd done his research to see that we had a movie industry here in Hollywood North."

Wood, whose own movie preferences range from indie films to "pop-corn" blockbusters, says he considered going to NYU or UCLA – schools in the world's top two movie production centres. In the end, he opted for Vancouver.

He hopes to complement his commerce courses with electives in film studies and Chinese (when he was in high school, Wood spent a month in China with his grandmother who was teaching English there). While in Vancouver, he's also looking forward to experiencing different cultures, checking out places like Chinatown, and learning to kayak.

Wood is one of only a few of his classmates to leave Texas for post-secondary education, and the only person out of his graduating class of 770

to choose to study in Canada.

"Most people from San Angelo stay in Texas and most go to Texas schools," he explains. "My grandparents wanted me to stay in Texas, but my mom and stepdad have been supportive. San Angelo is not a place with lots of opportunities for younger people, so they're all excited for me. For my birthday, my grandmother even ordered stuff online from the UBC bookstore."

Wood says he's never been away from his family for any great length of time and he'll miss them and his friends – but one thing he won't miss is the hot, dry Texas weather.

"In Vancouver, I'm looking forward to starting something new, the scenery and the weather," Wood says.

Hopefully, he packed an umbrella. □



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With a record number of 22,429 participants last year, program manager Kavie Toor says UBC REC has the biggest intramurals program in the country. More than 30 per cent of all first year students participate. Toor says statistics show first-year participants have a higher grade point average (70.74 per cent) than non-participants (68.51 per cent) – more proof that exercise is good for you! □

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Judith Hall, Co-developer & Professor of Pediatrics and Medical Genetics, University of British Columbia.



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Dr. Judith Hall is one of ten new University Town residents.

She and nine fellow UBC faculty and staff just finished building and moving into their new townhouse complex, Hawthorn Green. Located in UBC's mid-campus neighbourhood, each townhouse has its own self-contained rental suite providing new opportunities for both owners and students to live and work on campus. This landmark initiative is unique in North America and symbolizes what University Town is all about: community, culture and academic pursuit.

Faculty and staff interested in hearing more about joining or starting a co-development group, are invited to contact UBC Properties Trust.

Please e-mail:
jcraig@ubcproperties.com or call 604-731-3103.

For more information on University Town please visit
www.universitytown.ubc.ca

CO-DEVELOPMENT IN A NUTSHELL

Co-development housing is a key sustainability strategy in UBC's University Town and also addresses UBC's commitment that 50 per cent of new residential market and non-market housing is for people who work or study on campus.

Co-development housing involves a group of future homeowners applying to lease land from UBC to create new townhouses or apartment condominiums. Because the co-developers are ultimately the owners, depending on market conditions, savings as high as 30 per cent can be realized through the elimination of typical project management and marketing costs.

On behalf of the co-developers, UBC Properties Trust, UBC's property management arm, arranges for the purchase of land from the university, plan and design the project, apply for the necessary approvals, arrange construction financing, and hire all of the necessary project consultants to complete the final construction of the project.

Hawthorn Green is UBC's first co-development plan and the first of its kind in North America. Construction is underway on the second co-development, Logan Lane Townhouses, a 61-unit project in the Hawthorn Place mid-campus neighbourhood.

UNIVERSITY TOWN



A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE