UBC Responds to Global Disaster

Students, faculty, staff and alumni support Tsunami relief

BY HILARY THOMSON

From direct-on-the-ground help in the disaster zone, to a myriad of fundraisers back home, the UBC community has been active in aiding South Asian tsunami relief efforts. Alumni Joey Dolcetti and Patrick Potvin were heading to Cambodia for a holiday from their jobs at the National Sports Institute of Malyasia, when a $16 airfare lured them to Phuket en route. Because of their last-minute booking, they weren’t able to get oceanfront accommodation but even so, the water got to within 100 metres of their hotel.

The friends decided to cancel their holiday and stay in Thailand as volunteers. For the next two weeks they helped recover bodies, washed and wrapped bodies in a hospital morgue and accompanied military personnel on searches of surrounding areas. Potvin completed a master’s degree in statistics in physiology and used his expertise to work with Dolcetti to create a database of patient records that has been used by families, local authorities and international organizations. The duo have returned to Phuket to help organize a sports program for orphaned children.

David Sweet, director of UBC’s Bureau of Legal Dentistry (BOLD) has been working with RCM P to identify Canadian tsunami victims through dental records and DNA matches.

The only forensic odontology (dentistry) lab in Canada, BOLD has organized and trained a group called B.C. Forensic Odontology Response Team (BC-FORT) a volunteer dental team designated to respond in the event of a mass casualty incident in B.C. It is the only such group in Canada. Under Sweet’s direction, the team was able to get dental X-rays of missing persons onto a high resolution website, thanks to the quick work of the Faculty of Dentistry’s Technology Support Team. Directed by Keith Munro, video editor James Pagnotto and senior programmer Wei Zhang created a site that Thai personnel could refer to until original records arrived. “This situation is both challenging and remarkable because of the number of countries involved,” says Sweet. “We really have to collaborate as citizens of the world, not only as citizens of Canada.”

Members of BC-FORT will travel to Thailand in a series of two-week rotations.

To volunteer, visit the website, continue on page 11

How Can I Help
see page 12

Boosting Drug Safety for Children

A new national surveillance network will help find adverse drug reactions

BY HILARY THOMSON

Last year’s recall of the arthritis pain drug, Vioxx, left a big question in the mind of Bruce Carleton.

An associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, Carleton specializes in evaluating the effectiveness and safety of medications. The recall left him wondering why governments mandated drug safety surveillance programs worldwide didn’t capture the risks associated with the popular medication.

Post-marketing surveillance involves manufacturers, health-care professionals and consumers reporting adverse drug reactions. But if the system failed to detect the life-threatening cardiovascular risks posed by Vioxx, despite millions of prescriptions issued, are patients really being protected from potential adverse reactions, Carleton asks.

As director of the Pharmaceutical Outcomes Program at Vancouver’s Children’s & Women’s Health Centre, he is especially interested in how well surveillance programs work to identify adverse drug outcomes among children.

In the U.S., alone, approximately 26,500 children die every year from adverse drug reactions, according to a 1998 study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association. Carleton and renowned UBC geneticist Michael Hayden aim to change that through a three-year, $8.4 million project funded by Genome Canada. Called the Genotype-specific Approaches to Therapy in Childhood (GATC) program, the project officially gets underway this month.

The program will test a novel surveillance system and explore genetic influences in adverse drug reactions. The researchers will establish a national network of “detectives” – nurses, pharmacists and other clinicians with expertise in identifying adverse drug reactions. The detectives will work in pediatric hospitals across Canada specifically to find and report adverse drug reactions in children.

In addition, the GATC network will collect DNA samples from patients to help understand causes of adverse reactions. The genetic information and other data will form a central data registry concerning drug effectiveness and safety.

“Our goal is to understand why a drug is safe for one child but not another, so that we can reduce adverse reactions,” says Hayden, who directs Vancouver’s Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics (CMMT). “We want to develop diagnostic tests to determine a child’s genetic fingerprint.

Once we can predict a child’s risk, we can offer personalized dosing recommendations for some commonly used drugs. We want to be able to do this within five years.”

Carleton is confident that a permanent national surveillance network operating in hospitals at a grassroots level would make a huge difference in our knowledge of drug effectiveness and safety.

About 95 per cent of adverse drug reactions go unreported worldwide, he says, but failure to report continued on page 12

UBC REPORTS

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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  VOLUME 51 | NUMBER 2 | FEBRUARY 3, 2005
IN THE NEWS

HIGHLIGHTS OF UBC MEDIA COVERAGE IN JANUARY 2005. COMPILED BY BRIAN LIN

UBC Forensic dentistry expert David Sweet says dental records are a reliable way to identify victims of the tsunami tragedy.

Vanny English, Yu Tian Wang. Faculty of Medicine, Brain Research Centre, Vancouver General Hospital, UBC.

“People are desperate. They hear that connected it to the main road, appears to have been simply ignored for a week or so because the tsunami took out the bridge that connected it to the main road, making it too difficult to reach. Canadian and Sri Lankan military personnel are now running making it too difficult to reach. Canadian and Sri Lankan military personnel are now running small boats to ferry people across the lagoon that separates Ullal from the main road.

UBC forensic identification expert David Sweet says dental records will likely be the first choice for identifying victims of the tsunami tragedy because they are the fastest and least expensive method.

“You’d want to start with dental records because they’re quick and they’re very reliable,” Sweet told Canadian Press. “They are also relatively inexpensive compared to DNA samples.

“The comparisons can be done with X-rays or written records or any other dental information available.”

No Mixing Warfarin and Celebrex

A new study by the Institute of Clinical Evaluative Sciences has found that older patients taking blood-thinner warfarin have an elevated risk of potentially deadly stomach bleeding if they also take common anti-inflammatory drugs for arthritis such as Bupropfen and Nison.

Celebrex, Bextra and other Cox-2 inhibitors also pose a risk. UBC clinical pharmacologist and immunologist Jim Wright told Canadian Press that the study has major implications because a lot of physicians would likely choose Cox-2s for arthritis patients already on warfarin, believing the drugs have a lower risk than NSIDs.

“I’ve been saying for a long time that these drugs are probably more harmful than beneficial compared to NSIDs... the evidence we have right now suggests we shouldn’t use them.”

Genetic Tests could Save Children

UBC researchers Michele Haydon and Bruce Carleton are working to reduce adverse drug reactions that kill almost 30,000 N with American children every year by developing quick genetic tests that can predict which children are slow and fast metabolizers.

The $8.4-million project involves pediatric centers across Canada, which are tracking bad reactions and collecting DNA and plasma samples from affected youngsters.

“We hope to have some of these things ready for the clinic within five years, and we think we can live up to that.” Haydon told Canadian Press.

UBC has been recognized with five prestigious awards:

UBC chemistry professor Stephen Withers has been awarded the Jacob Biely Faculty Research Prize, and math and zoology professor Michael Dobbs has received the Charles A. McDowell Award for Excellence in Research.

The Sam Black Award goes to Professor George M.C. Olier, former director of the department of theatre, film and creative writing and Scott Watson, a professor in the department of art history, visual art and theory, is the recipient of this year’s Dorothy Somerset Award.

Winners of the 2004 Killam Research Prizes of $5,000 are (in alphabetical order):

Catherine Dauvergne. Humanitarianism, identity, and nation

Dale Griffin. Sauer School of Business, David M. Meter. M. med., Diane N. Newell. History, Peter Pate. Faculty of Medicine, Catherine Rankin. Psychology, Lynn Raymond, Psychiatry and Nurology, Gordon Stade; M. H. Mark

Dexter Associates Realty

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Letters (100 words or less) must be signed and include an address and phone number for verification. Submit letters to: The Editor, UBC Reports, UBC Public Affairs Office (address above), by fax to 604.822.2684, or by e-mail to randy.schmidt@ubc.ca or call UBC NEWS (604.822.6397).
Law Student King of Public Speaking

BY BRIAN LIN

It's young, M. ulim, and has no problem talking about it in front of 1,000 people.

That’s probably why Rahim Moloo won the 2005 World Public Speaking Championship, which took place over the Christmas holidays in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

A veteran of public speaking and debate competitions, Moloo, a third-year UBC law student, won an international crowd of 3,000 attendees – and the judges – with humour and wit during the final round of the tournament, as he poked fun at stereotypes and prejudices faced by Muslims in North America.

“I told them that since 9/11, my dream of becoming a pilot has been crushed – along with those of Muslims in North America. That’s probably why Rahim Moloo was defying the keener stereotype in ninth grade, when he was a computer science student.”

“For more information about the UBC Debate Society, visit www.ubcdebate.com.”

UBC law student Rahim Moloo won the 2005 World Public Speaking championship after giving a speech in front of 1,000 people.

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UBC United Way campaign, please visit our website throughout the year or the Community Spirit Awards, United Way of the Lower Mainland.

Having wrapped up the 2004 UBC United Way Campaign, committee members are looking back on the campaign and marveling at success.

“We’ve had an excellent campaign in so many ways,” says Stan Auerbach, the 2004 Campaign Chair. “This year’s campaign saw 30 special events, nearly 50 awareness raising presentations to units across campus and over 200 faculty, staff and student volunteers.”

“"The campaign reached our goal of $525,000 for the 400 programs and services that United Way supports in our communities,” says Auerbach. “A big thank you to all the donors, volunteers, and community members who supported this campaign and made it a success!”

At United Way’s Community Spirit Awards on Jan. 14, UBC was awarded an Exceptional Service Award in recognition of its support.

“UBC has a long-standing relationship with United Way,” says Ellis Courneya, director of UBC Ceremonies and Senior Volunteer for the campaign. “We have been involved not only by running an annual campaign, but also by supporting the Loaned Rep Representative program, hosting the annual United Way Leadership Recognition Reception and participating in the Days of Caring initiative. We were thrilled to receive the award and look forward to continuing to partner with United Way.”

For more information about United Way of the Lower Mainland or the Community Spirit Awards, please visit www.uwilm.ca.

For more information about the UBC United Way campaign, please visit our website throughout the year at www.unite.ubc.ca.
A 300-bed residence, new faculty members and innovative programs are among the hallmarks of UBC Okanagan, set to open its doors in September. Since the March 2004 announcement of the creation of UBC Okanagan, the transition team, which includes executives from both UBC and Okanagan University College (OUC), has been working non-stop to put in place programs and infrastructure for the school’s first class of 3,800 students. Expansion to the existing arts and science buildings has begun and construction of a new 300-bed residence will begin early summer on what is currently OUC’s north Kelowna campus. Resumes are pouring in for new faculty positions expected to be filled before the summer. New programs and research themes, based on extensive community consultation, are being fine-tuned to address regional demand.

Barry M. Dirlie, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of UBC Okanagan, says the new campus will uphold UBC’s tradition of excellence in ways that are distinct from – yet complementary with – UBC Vancouver. Students will be encouraged to shape their own learning experience by incorporating interdisciplinary, theme-based inquiry, community service learning and co-op and practicum opportunities that involve regional industry partners such as the Summerland Pacific Agriculture Research Centre (PARC) and the Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory in Penticton.

“You’ll see a university that is closely connected with the community throughout the Okanagan,” says Mr. Dirlie. “You’ll see a university whose research activities are broadly based and address issues of regional importance. You’ll see a university that is committed to the idea of global citizenship and inter-

UBC Okanagan Timeline

2004
March 17 Provincial government announces the establishment of UBC Okanagan and a college in the Okanagan region
July 16 UBC Board of Governors approves $18.4 million construction plan to accommodate 900 new student spaces
September 8 UBC Okanagan Community Advisory Council holds inaugural meeting in Kelowna
September 16 Program and research directions announced
September 30 UBC Board of Governors holds meeting in Kelowna, the first time in two decades it meets outside the Lower Mainland

October 22 Forestry giant Irving K. Barber announces a $12.25 million endowment to establish the Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences
September - December Academic Plan Working Group meetings and consultations held with students, staff, and faculty and community on an every-two-week basis
November 29 Job offers made to staff and faculty
2005
January - March Idea Book Draft Academic Plan consultation with faculty for academic plan, students, staff and external community
April - May Discussion of Academic Plan at UBC O Interim Senate
October Approval of Academic Plan at UBC O Senate

UBC Okanagan: Combining Excellence with Innovation

Agricultural Sciences dean Moura Quayle is working on the academic plan for UBC Okanagan.

“The university is committed to the idea of global citizenship and inter-

continued on page 5

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The Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences at UBC Okanagan will open its doors in September 2005. This September, UBC Okanagan will open its doors with the Faculty of Health Sciences, Faculty of Education, Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and the Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences. The four major research themes - indigenous studies, sustainability, health and well-being, creativity and community, and culture and community - are designed to complement teaching and learning, says Bauer. "We aim to hire not just stellar researchers but excellent teachers," says Quayle. "It's a goal we're keeping front and centre because we want our faculty to be creative in how they research informs their teaching and how the undergraduate students conduct research." Continued from page 4

**Planning for the Great Northern Way Campus**

In 2001, Finning International, Inc. donated 7.6 hectares of land to four B.C. post-secondary institutions - UBC, SFU, BCIT, and the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design. Dubbed the Great Northern Way Campus (GNWC), the four institutions are working together to build a unique and integrated centre of excellence in teaching, learning, research and entrepreneurship. The campus is expected to house 4,000 students by 2020. In the area of urban sustainability, UBC and SFU will begin offering a series of pilot courses in June and September 2005 that combines policy research with community action. Meanwhile, with funding from UBC and the Canada Foundation for Innovation, and further funds expected from the B.C. Knowledge Development Fund, construction will begin on the first building of the Centre for Interactive Research on Sustainability, which will be both a test bed for innovative sustainable building technologies and a venue for research and teaching.

**2005 PRESIDENT’S SERVICE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE NOMINATIONS**

The committee is seeking nominations of outstanding staff and faculty who have made distinguished service to the university.

For a nomination form, please go to www.ceremonies.ubc.ca

Please mail nominations to:

PRESIDENT’S SERVICE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE
CO CEREMONIES OFFICE
2ND FLOOR, PONDEROSA B
CAMPUS ZONE 2

Deadline for nominations is Feb 28, 2005

**REPORT ON UBC OKANAGAN**

**Combing Excellence with Innovation**

"Both the Barber School of Arts and Sciences and the Irving K. Barber School of Business at UBC Okanagan are part of UBC's focus on student success," says Bauer. "Both schools have the opportunity to make a difference in student success and in the student experience. They will combine the faculties of arts and sciences and the Irving K. Barber School Centre, now under control of the UBC system. As for the establishment of UBC Okanagan, Bauer says it's an exciting time to be part of the UBC family. "We now have a tradition of excellence that we are proud to uphold," says Bauer. "UBC Okanagan will play a very strong role in the region in terms of providing intellectual and research leadership - and a place where people can turn to for unbiased opinion and information." Continued from page 4

**No Wires, More Freedom**

UBC has extended its enormous high-speed wireless network to its newest campus in Kelowna - all academic and student services buildings at UBC Okanagan have been outfitted with transceivers as students, faculty and staff can connect to the Internet without plugging into the wall. The first and largest wireless campus network in the region, the UBC Okanagan initiative is part of UBC's University Networking Program, which completed Canada's largest wireless campus network at UBC Vancouver last year.

"The completion of the wireless network is a great example of how UBC and UBC Okanagan are working together to ensure a smooth transition," says Giri Prasad, Associate Vice President of Information Services at UBC. "Wireless is an integral part of the e-Strategy Framework, and it is delighted to see it now poised to enable further innovation in learning, research and collaboration at UBC Okanagan," says Ted Dodds, President and CEO of Interactive Research on Sustainability.
Call for Comments

Proposed revisions to Policy #97, entitled “Conflict of Interest and Conflict of Commitment” were presented to the Board of Governors for information and review on January 28, 2005.

Policy #97 was approved in 1992 and has not been revised since 1995. With increased public attention on ethical conduct and conflict of interest issues in both the public and private sectors, increased vigilance on recognizing, disclosing and managing conflicts of interest at the University is desirable.

There is an increased emphasis on the research environment in the draft as current practices have changed significantly since the Board of Governors adopted the Policy in 1992. The revisions to Policy #97 and the creation of a Conflict of Interest Committee are driven primarily by American and Canadian government research agencies’ recommendations of best practices and the volume of disclosures generated from the University’s research enterprise.

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5. DISCLOSING CONFLICTS OF COMMITMENT AND OUTSIDE PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

5.1. Where a Member intends to engage in any activity that may give rise to a Conflict of Commitment, whether or not that activity is within the scope of the Member's work at the University, the Member must disclose that activity.

5.2. At least annually and whenever there is a material change in the activity, the Member must disclose all Conflicts of Commitment that may arise in relation to that activity.

5.3. Where a Member has a personal relationship that might reasonably be construed as a Conflict of Interest, the Member must disclose that relationship.

5.4. Where a Member has influence over a decision about a proposed relationship between the University and a Business in which the Member or his or her Related Party has a Financial Interest or holds an Executive Position.

5.5. Where a Member or his or her Related Party obtains a Financial Interest or an Executive Position in a Business with which the University has an existing relationship and the Business is related to the Member's work at the University.

5.6. Where a Member is in a position to influence human resource decisions (such as recruitment, offer of employment, evaluation of performance, promotion, granting of tenure, or termination of employment) or admission decisions with respect to a person with whom the Member has a personal relationship that might reasonably be construed as a Conflict of Interest.

5.7. Where a Member uses his or her position with the University to solicit students, fellow Members, government agencies, private companies, or members of the public for Non-University Activities.

5.8. Where a Member uses information that is acquired as a result of his or her relationship with the University and not in the public domain for Non-University Activities unless the Member has proprietary rights (usually enforceable through copyright) to that information. Members should also be aware that insider trading restrictions may also apply to them.

5.9. Where a Member's obligations to a board of directors, advisory boards, or the like of an outside organization interfere with or compromise the Member's obligations to the University.

5.10. Where a Member accepts tokens of appreciation with a value of $250 or more in connection with his or her position at the University.

6. DISCLOSING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

6.1. In the University community, full and complete disclosure of Conflicts of Interest is a key element in protecting the integrity of Members, as well as that of the University. A Member must disclose Conflicts of Interest to his or her Initial Reviewer and to all parties affected by the Conflict of Interest.

6.2. Prior to commencing a research project, a Member who is a principal investigator must disclose all Conflicts of Interest that may arise in relation to the research project.

6.3. Prior to undertaking any activity that may give rise to a Conflict of Interest, whether or not that activity is within the scope of the Member's work at the University, a Member must disclose that activity. Where prior disclosure is impossible, disclosure must be made as soon as possible after commencement of the activity.

6.4. At least annually and whenever there is a material change, full-time faculty Members and recipients of Tri-Council funding (or other agencies that require annual disclosure) must disclose any Financial Interests they or their Related Parties have in entities related to the Member's work at the University.

7. ROLE OF INITIAL REVIEWER IN APPROVING CONFLICTS OF COMMITMENT

7.1. Where a Member seeks approval for a Conflict of Commitment, the Initial Reviewer may, in his or her discretion, grant approval taking into consideration the following:

7.1.1. whether the activity interferes with the Member's obligations to the University; and

7.1.2. if so, whether the activity nonetheless contributes to or benefits the University in such a way that warrants the interference.

7.2. In establishing an appropiate process, the Dean should consider the following factors:

7.2.1. whether the activity interferes with the Member's obligations to the University in such a way that warrants the interference.

7.2.2. if so, whether the activity nonetheless contributes to or benefits the University.

7.2.3. if not, whether the activity would cause a breach of the Code of Conduct.

7.2.4. where the activity involves the use of University resources for any Non-University Activities unless the Member has proprietary rights (usually enforceable through copyright) to that information.

7.2.5. whether the activity is permissible as disclosed with no further action, the Initial Reviewer's determination will be recorded and the Member may proceed with the proposed research project or activity.

7.2.6. where the Initial Reviewer determines that the activity is permissible only if appropriately managed, the Initial Reviewer will develop and implement a protocol to manage the Conflict of Interest and the Member may proceed with the proposed activity provided that he or she complies with the protocol.

7.2.7. where the Initial Reviewer determines that the activity is not permissible, the Member must not proceed with the proposed research project or activity.

7.2.8. where the Initial Reviewer determines that the activity is not permissible or is unable to determine whether a proposed research project or activity is permissible, the Initial Reviewer will refer the disclosure in accordance with his or her unit's internal review process or to the Committee, if the unit has no internal review process.

9. INTERNAL REVIEW PROCESS FOR CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

9.1. A Dean, in consultation with the Office of the University Counsel, may establish an internal process within his or her faculty for the assessment of Conflicts of Interest as appropriate for his or her faculty. Generally, a level of review within each faculty is desirable to facilitate the expedient assessment of matters and ensure awareness and vigilance to Conflicts of Interest issues by all University Members. For example, the appropriate process may commence with a disclosure being reviewed by the Head of Department (as Initial Reviewer), then referred to the Dean, and finally referred to the Committee, as necessary. A Dean may establish additional reporting requirements for faculty members in his or her faculty. Provision may be made for those cases where a Member disagrees with the assessment of the Initial Reviewer.

9.2. Where the Initial Reviewer determines that the activity is not permissible, the Member must not proceed with the proposed research project or activity.

9.3. Where the Initial Reviewer determines that the activity is permissible only if appropriately managed, the Initial Reviewer will develop and implement a protocol to manage the Conflict of Interest and the Member may proceed with the proposed activity provided that he or she complies with the protocol.

9.4. Where the Initial Reviewer determines that the activity is not permissible or is unable to determine whether a proposed research project or activity is permissible, the Initial Reviewer will refer the disclosure in accordance with his or her unit's internal review process or to the Committee, if the unit has no internal review process.

10. ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE IN ASSESSING AND MANAGING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

10.1. The Committee is charged with the following responsibilities:

10.1.1. to assess disclosures of Conflict of Interest to determine whether:

10.1.1.1. the proposed research project or activity is permissible as disclosed with no further action;

10.1.1.2. the proposed research project or activity is permissible only if a protocol is implemented to ensure that the Conflict of Interest is appropriately managed; or

10.1.1.3. the proposed research project or activity is not permissible;

10.1.2. to serve as the final avenue of appeal (such as where a Member disagrees with the assessment of an Initial Reviewer or the assessment resulting from an internal process established by a Dean under Section 9.1);

10.1.3. to randomly audit disclosures reviewed and determined to be permissible by Initial Reviewers and by those reviewing disclosures in accordance with the process established within a particular unit. The Committee will also periodically randomly audit the implementation of protocols as set out in Section 10.3 below; and
10.1.4. to educate Members on Conflicts of Interest and Conflicts of Commitment and the application of this Policy.

10.2. Where the Committee determines that a proposed research project or activity is permissible as disclosed with no further action, the Member may proceed with the proposed research project or activity.

10.3. Where the Committee determines that a proposed research project or activity is permissible only if a protocol is implemented to ensure that the Conflict of Interest is appropriately managed, the Member may only proceed with the proposed research project or activity in accordance with the protocol.

10.4. Where the Committee determines that a proposed research project or activity is not permissible, the Member must not proceed with the proposed research project or activity.

11. ROLE OF OFFICE OF THE UNIVERSITY COUNSEL

11.1. An Initial Reviewer, a Administrative Head of Unit or the Committee may at any time seek the advice from the Office of the University Counsel with respect to any matter pertaining to this Policy or the establishment of a process for the assessment of Conflicts of Interest, the assessment of any disclosure and the development of appropriate protocols for managing Conflicts of Interest.

12. DEFINITIONS

12.1. “Administrative Head of Unit” means a Director of a service unit, a Head of an academic department, a Director of a centre, institute or school, a Principal of a college, a Dean, an Associate Vice-President, the Registrar, the University Librarian, a Vice-President or the President or the equivalent.

12.2. “Business” means a corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, firm, franchise, association, organization, holding company, joint stock company, receivership, business or real estate trust, or other legal entity organized for profit or charitable purposes, but excluding the University, an affiliated Hospital, a private medical practice, or other entity controlled by, controlling, or under common control with the University or an affiliated Hospital.

12.3. “Conflict of Commitment” means a situation where the Outside Professional Activities of a Member involve the use of University resources.

12.4. “Conflict of Interest” means a situation where the Member or a Related Party, to the detriment of the University’s interests, integrity or fundamental mission. In the research context, Conflict of Interest includes a situation where financial or other personal considerations may compromise, or have the appearance of compromising, an investigator’s professional judgment in conducting or reporting research. Conflicts of Interest may be potential, actual or apparent.

12.5. Where the Committee determines that a management protocol is appropriate, the Conflict of Interest is appropriately managed through an appropriate protocol.

12.6. “Executive Position” means any position that includes responsibilities for University and includes the operation of a Business, consulting or advisory services and speaking engagements.

12.7. “Financial Interest” means an opportunity to receive greater than 5% ownership interest in a single entity or anything having a monetary value exceeding $10,000 per annum, including remuneration (e.g. salary, consulting fees, retainers, honoraria, bonuses, gifts, speaker’s fees, advisory board remuneration, finders or recruitment fees), equity interests (e.g. stocks, stock options or other ownership interests), and intellectual property rights (e.g. patents, copyrights, royalties or other payments from such rights).

12.8. “Initial Reviewer” means the individual responsible for initially reviewing a Member’s disclosures of Conflicts of Interest or approving a Member’s Conflict of Commitment. Except as otherwise designated by the University Counsel, a Member’s Administrative Head of Unit is the Initial Reviewer.

12.9. “Member” means any individual who teaches, conducts research, or works at or under the auspices of the University and includes without limitation, any person acting in his or her capacity as full-time or part-time faculty or staff, or clinical faculty.

12.10. “Non-University Activity” means any activity outside a Member’s scope of work with the University and includes Outside Professional Activities.

12.11. “Outside Professional Activity” means any activity outside a Member’s scope of work with the University that involves the same specialized skill and knowledge that the Member utilizes in his or her work with the University and includes the operation of a Business, consulting or advisory services and speaking engagements.

12.12. “Related Party” means a Member’s immediate family member (e.g. spouse, child, parent or sibling), or other person living in the same household, or any other person with whom the Member shares a Financial Interest, either directly or indirectly.

PROCEDURES

Approved: September 1992
Revised: March 2005 [Anticipated]

Pursuant to Policy #1: Administration of Policies, “Procedures may be amended by the President, provided the new procedures conform to the approved policy. Such amendments are reported at the next meeting of the Board of Governors and are incorporated in the next publication of the UBC Policy Handbook.”

1. ANNUAL DISCLOSURES AND DISCLOSING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND OUTSIDE PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

1.1. Full-time faculty Members and recipients of Tri-Council funding (or other agencies that require annual disclosure) will submit a completed annual report to the Initial Reviewer no later than July 31 for the period between July 1 and June 30 of the previous year that discloses the following:

1.1.1. the extent, nature, and timing of their Outside Professional Activities;

1.1.2. their use of University resources for any Non-University Activities;

1.1.3. any Financial Interests they or their Related Parties have in entities related to the Member’s work at the University.

1.2. Members will submit a completed disclosure report to the Initial Reviewer for each situation where disclosure or approval is required.

2. ASSESSING AND MANAGING Conflicts of interest and conflicts of commitment

2.1. Each person who assesses a disclosure will complete a review report and provide a copy of the review report to the Member.

2.2. Without limiting the discretion of a person assessing a disclosure to consider all, or select factors, the following factors must be considered in assessing a disclosure:

2.2.1. the impact on the Member’s ability to satisfy his or her obligations to the University;

2.2.2. the degree to which the proposed action will be detrimental to the University and its community;

2.2.3. the extent to which the proposed action or activity may be managed through an appropriate protocol.

2.3. Where a person who reviews a disclosure report is unable to determine that a disclosure is permissible with no further action, the disclosure will be referred to the next level of review with a copy of the disclosure report and all review report(s).

2.4. Where a disclosure is referred to the Committee, the Committee will complete a Committee report for each disclosure and provide the Member with a copy of the Committee report.

2.5. Where the Committee determines that a management protocol is appropriate, the Initial Reviewer will monitor compliance with the management protocol.

2.6. Where the Committee determines that a Conflict of Interest exists, the Committee will:

2.6.1. provide the Responsible Executive with a copy of the disclosure report, all review report(s) and the Committee report; and

2.6.2. disclose the existence of the Conflict of Interest to a funding agency where relevant to an application for research funding to that agency.

2.7. The forms of the reports described in these Procedures will be prescribed by the Office of the University Counsel in consultation with the academic community.

3. SANCTIONS

3.1. The Policy is meant to protect both the University and its Members. The Administrative Head of Unit will notify the University Counsel and take immediate and appropriate action when it becomes aware of violations of the Policy or Procedures.

3.2. Sanctions will be commensurate with the extent of the violation and may include termination of funding and reimbursement of any financial benefit gained as a result of the violation in addition to any disciplinary action taken by the University.

3.3. If a Member wishes to dispute the sanction imposed as a result of a violation, the Member may do so through the collective agreement or other contractual process applicable to the Member.
Researchers take on Ecuador’s Top Health Risks by Hilary Thomson

Simmering white sugar beaches, lush jungles and primitive Andean air – Ecuador is rich with pristine natural environments. But as one of South America’s poorest countries, its people struggle with serious environmental health issues such as poor sanitation and water supply, pesticide contamination and mining pollution. They also regularly battle effects of natural disasters such as earthquakes, volcanoes and flooding.

That’s a scenario Jerry Spiegel and a team of UBC researchers hope to change. Director of UBC’s Centre for International Health, a part of the College of Health Disciplines, Spiegel is the principal investigator of a $5-million, five-year project to help Ecuador reduce environmental health risks, preventable illness and deaths.

Working with team members from three Ecuadorian universities, institutes in Cuba and Mexico, 10 UBC research centres and institutes, and partner agencies and non-governmental organizations, Spiegel will collaborate with local community groups to build Ecuador’s capacity to manage environmental health risks.

“This project gives us an opportunity to exchange knowledge – to achieve impact in communities and to build a sustainable program,” says Spiegel, who is also director, Global Health at the Liu Institute for Global Issues.

Ecuador was chosen as a target site because of connections made in a similar project Spiegel has been conducting in Cuba. A 2003 Cuban workshop included health educators from Ecuador who were keen to start their own programs.

Ecuador’s multiple-environmental health challenges and the potential for exchange of information between Latin American countries made it a fascinating target for education and research, says Spiegel, who last month organized UBC’s first forum on global citizenship and health.

Ecuador has a population of about 13 million and a weak health-system infrastructure. Adequate sanitation and availability of clean water are paramount needs. Water problems are made worse by pesticide contamination from banana plantations and cut flower farms. In rainy season, flooding and mudslides aggravate the situation.

In addition, inadequate drainage systems and poor sanitation provide breeding areas for mosquitoes that carry malaria and dengue fever. Ecuador’s gold, copper, lead, magnesium and other mines contribute to soil and water pollution, and direct handling of heavy metals such as mercury also creates environmental health hazards.

Project organizers plan to create a curriculum and core group of local communication technologies. The approach is multi-disciplinary and holistic and will produce expertise at four levels: practitioners as well as university students.

In addition, a one-day outreach program, or toolkit, will be developed and delivered by the certificate students to about 600 individuals in communities throughout the country.

A master’s program in environmental health will produce at least 60 master’s students at partner institutions of Universidad de Guayaquil, Universidad Tecnica de M Aisala and Universidad Estatal de Bolivia.

Spiegel is working with Latin American universities to improve environmental health education.
Distinguished Scholar in Residence Application Deadline

May 13, 2005

Each year four outstanding UBC faculty members are chosen as Peter Wall Distinguished UBC Scholars in Residence for the next calendar year.

For details please visit our website at:
www.pwias.ubc.ca/program/sir.php
and
www.pwias.ubc.ca/awards/sir.php

Young Tenor’s Star on the Rise

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Philippe Castagner was handed a unique opportunity last summer to showcase his talent. And he made the most of it. Asked to jump in at short notice, the former UBC opera student performed at the June 2004 Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina, earning reviews that dubbed him the next great tenor of this century.

The 26-year-old’s star has risen in bursts since various roles as an opera student at UBC in 2001-02. Castagner won a whirlwind set of auditions held by the Metropolitan Opera National Council while still with UBC’s opera ensemble, first in Vancouver, then Seattle and finally New York, leading to his present role as Beppe in I Pagliacci at the Metropolitan Opera. And he has just been named a Young Concert Artist award-winner in a competition that included 300 applicants from 43 countries. The rewards include concert engagements, publicity, and career development for three or more years.

On his own admission, Castagner was an unfocused student in his early years at UBC. And he almost did not come in the first place. It was luck that led him here, when his high school choir teacher suggested he apply for university in Canada to study music. The Canadian-born, but New Jersey-raised, teenager did not read music and had never considered it, but worked hard on his grades and gained acceptance to UBC.

“He realized on the third floor couch much of his first two years in the School of Music,” recalls Nancy Hermiston, director of the UBC voice and opera programs. “Then he decided he wanted to be an opera singer.”

Castagner remembers himself as a twitchy singer, diagnosed at one time with attention deficit disorder. Hermiston remembers him in an acting class as unable to stand still.

“I had to stand behind him when he sang with one hand on top of his head, one arm around him and a leg over his ankles to refocus the energy,” says Hermiston. “Over the course of two to three months this beautiful voice came out...”

UBC taught Castagner the process, but he has continued to learn about himself and about opera. And about the attention deficit disorder he was diagnosed with.

A Profile: UBC Opera Ensemble

The UBC opera ensemble, now built into a 50-member company, performs two main productions at UBC every season. Main stage productions for the 2004/05 season at The Chan Centre for Performing Arts are Offenbach’s comedy Orpheus in the Underworld and Tchaikovsky’s Eugene Onegin. This year the ensemble will tour the Lower Mainland and Interior of B.C. with their children’s show Opera Night in Canada. Each summer, the ensemble also tours in the Czech Republic and Germany to provide performance opportunities for young opera singers, including the production of new operatic and music theatre works.

Spring 2004 saw two productions there of Puccini’s La Boheme and Tchaikovsky’s Eugene Onegin. Plans are being made for productions this summer of Mozart’s Così fan Tutte and Handel’s Xerxes.

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INTRODUCING ARGYLL HOUSE EAST – with wide-open views of the Pacific Ocean, Coastal Islands and Coast Mountains, surrounded by countless cultural, social and outdoor opportunities. Literally steps from the Chan Centre, the Museum of Anthropology, and Pacific Spirit Regional Park, Argyll House East is a rare collection of apartment homes, penthouses and chyphomes built to the highest standards. All this, and it’s in the established neighbourhood of West Point Grey on the grounds of the University of British Columbia. This could be the site of your new home. And with all that’s best about living in Vancouver at your doorstep, could you picture anything more perfect?
Students Around “Tuning Fork” Sculpture (1971)

By Chris Hives, University Archives

Long a campus landmark outside the Munsie Building, the 24-foot “Tuning Fork” sculpture was created by local artist Gerhard Class in 1968. Critics observed with some dismay that the sculpture began to rust soon after its installation. Unknown to them, Class had deliberately crafted the piece out of corten steel specifically because of its tendency to “rust” naturally to provide a protective barrier for the underlying metal. However, the sculpture did deteriorate to the point it had to be removed in the late 1990s as it became too rusty and was considered a hazard. A few years after the death of C. G., some of his colleagues worked to have the sculpture repaired, reinforced and reinstalled in the summer of 1999. [Page 12]

Correction: Congratulations to our sharp readers who discovered an error in the January UBC Reports Timepiece. We inadvertently used a photo of the Old Auditorium building, while intending to print an image of the 1925 construction of the M.A. Library.

Global Disaster

Ria reports that the AM5 has decided to donate 25 cents per student, or more than $10,000, to the Red Cross. Janet Tassadle, UBC director of student development, has been impressed with how quickly students organized fundraising events. “There was an immediate sense of ‘what can I do?’” she says, adding that UBC’s student experience is likely different from other Canadian universities because there are 344 student members from the countries affected by the tsunami.

The Sri Lanka Society set up donation stations in the Student Union Building and held a fundraising dinner and cultural pageant that raised $7,000. Ten years old, the society has about 40 students and about 45 community members. “The response has been wonderful — it can’t be expressed in words,” says president Ranil qp Chapel, an agricultural sciences student. “Student members have put in maximum effort and the AM5 and university administration have also been incredibly supportive.” Other campus initiatives include UBC Sport and Recreation’s run for tsunami relief where 150 participants raised $3,500. Theatre at UBC donated opening night proceeds of $1,750 from the current production, Village of the Idiots. The International Peer Program created a “1,000 cookies for $1,000 campaign” that had some students baking for the first time in their lives. The event raised $800 in five hours. UBC Bookstore offered a $1 round up for South Asia Tsunami Relief where individual sales toted were rounded up to the nearest dollar with the difference being donated. The total raised was more than $10,660.

In January, all employees at AM5 Food Services donated 100 per cent of their tips to relief efforts, with contributions matched by AM5 restaurateurs. A UBC engineering co-op student initiated a radiation in Calgary where he was completing a work term. Monty Raisinghani put out a challenge to all students in the Calgary area and helped raise more than $13,000. For more information on UBC’s contributions, visit www.ubc.ca/tsunami. [Page 12]
If Music be the Food of Love ... Play On

A handful of UBC School of Music professors reflect on love and music in honour of Valentine’s Day.

My specialties are chamber music and art song. Both of those genres are almost synonymous with romance, since their execution requires breathing intimacy between the players. When you add a substantial element of seductive intention to your partnership, rehearsals can get very intense.

There is a well-known painting of a violinist carried away by the emotion of the music, asking his lovely fiancée in a passionate embrace: It is an entirely plausible scenario! The best pieces for that sort of spontaneity impause! The choices are many, but my personal favourite would be any sonata of Johannes Brahms.

In the realm of song there are literally thousands of love-drenched examples, although song texts often focus on rejection or unrequited longing. A spectacularly memorable song of intimate sharing is Morgen by Richard Strauss. The poem states that the two will meet on a seashore on this “sun-breathing day” a few days before each other’s eyes in the silence of perfect joy. The music is transcendentally beautiful, creating the sense of that stillness through a mix of melody and quietude.

Rena Sharon, professor of collaborative piano studies, School of Music.

Boosting Drug Safety

continued from page 1

won’t be fixed by imposing a mandatory reporting system. He says the problem is that physicians don’t necessarily recognize when drug may be the culprits in adverse outcomes. “An adverse reaction to drug or sometimes interpreted as another symptom of illness, requiring treatment with — you guessed it — more drugs.

“It can be next to impossible to sort out if the disease is getting worse or the drugs are having an adverse effect,” Carlon says. “We’re patients are on more than one drug at the same time. It’s even more complicated.”

The GATC program will bring together experts in a variety of disciplines including pharmacogenomics (study of how an individual’s genetic inheritance affects the body’s response to drugs), pediatric pharmacology and genetics. This expertise combined with a focused, hospital-based monitoring system is expected to give researchers the information they need to reduce fatal and disabling adverse drug reactions in children.

For more information about drug safety, visit http://www.fda.gov/cder/rd/.

Genome Canada is the primary funding and information resource relating to genomics and proteomics in Canada.

Children’s & Women’s Health Centre of British Columbia is an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority, and includes BC Children’s Hospital and Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children, and BC Women’s Hospital & Health Centre.

The CMUT, a centre of the BC Research Institute for Children’s & Women’s Health, is a multidisciplinary approach to determining genetic contributions to different illnesses and developing new approaches to therapy.

I composed an orchestral work commissioned by the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, dedicated to and inspired by my wife, Tara. This premiered at the VSO’s first concert of the millennium, Jan. 6, 2000. The piece is a romantic dramatic sequence that includes a waltz, a lullaby, some romance and so on — all original pieces, changing in mood, spirit, tempo and idea throughout. Titled “Tara’s Dream,” the piece was selected for the international 2001 BBC Masterpiece Competition.

Stephen Chatman, professor of composition, School of Music.

My favourite romantic music is Johannes Brahms’ 3rd Symphony and the music of the ballet of Romeo and Juliet by Sergei Prokofiev. As for the link of love with music, “MUSIC expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is important to be silent.” (Victor Hugo.) It also fills a psychological space. “Where words leave off, music begins.” (H-enrich H-ame.)

Jesse Read, professor, School of Music.

I do have one memory that will never leave me, from a time when I was struggling in New York and teaching piano at a children’s music school. Walking into the teaching studio, I saw my first pupil of the day, a six-year-old girl who had practiced, standing behind the piano with her back to me. As I got near, she turned around and presented me with the most beautiful lily (because of her name) I have ever seen, and a handwritten card of thanks with a big red crayon heart on the front. It was Valentine’s Day — important to her and forgotten by me.

Sara Davis Buechner, assistant professor, School of Music.

Stephen Chatman remembers a romantic sequence he composed as an orchestral work, inspired by his wife, Tara.

Ecuador’s Top Health Risks

continued from page 9

The partnership with Médecins et Cubains is part of a strategy to build regional capacity in Latin America and countries that will be more sustainable than traditional links countries have with North America. “This multi-tiered approach provides a scaffolding for achieving impact,” says Spiegel. “With our partners, we can distribute environmental health education throughout the country and know it will continue after the project is finished.”

In addition to these plans, there will be opportunities for UBC students to participate in local projects. Science student Raine Stakla will be traveling to Ecuador this summer. A member of the Global Outreach Student Association (GO-SA) at the University of British Columbia’s Health Disciplines, Stakla will be working with several indigenous communities. “I want to be an active participant in health,” says Stakla, “and I have an opportunity to travel to a different country to try to help and to understand different ways of life was, I could not do it.”

Stakla and other students will present health education regarding nutrition, sexual health, alcoholism and other topics. They will also consult with community members about installing a water purification system. Oscar Lina, a fifth-year biochemistry student and GO-SA president, spent 10 weeks in Ecuador last summer, based in an area surrounded by indigenous communities. “These are the warmest people that I have ever met,” says Lina, who helped create a medical garden and health presentations in elementary schools. “Going to Ecuador changed my passionate list. It broadened what I could do more with my resources and reinforced my interest in practicing medicine in developing countries.”

This month, the UBC project team is conducting a workshop in Havana to evaluate the usefulness of material used in a similar environmental health education project in Cuba and to focus on curriculum that addresses Ecuador’s environmental health problems.

Attendees include 10 UBC faculty and students, eight participants from Ecuador and two from Cuba. Funding for this project was provided by the Canadian International Development Agency’s University Partnerships in Co-operation and Development Tier 1 program.

For more information on the Ecuador project, visit www.cih.ubc.ca.

UBC Centres and Institutes

Involved in the Ecuador Project:

• Institute of Health Promotion Research
• Disaster Preparedness Research Centre
• Continuing Medical Education
• School of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene
• Centre for Environmental Research in M Infections, Malaria and Other Mammals
• Institute for Aboriginal Health
• UBC Centre for Disease Control Department of Medicine
• LiU Institute for Global Issues
• Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability
• Centre for Human Settlements
• Health Disparities Research Unit
• Centre for International Health

Join the UBC Two Million Dollar Tsunami Challenge

Join students, faculty, staff and alumni who have committed to contributing $2 million to provide short- and long-term assistance to South Asian survivors of the tsunami disaster.

Here’s how:

1. Support your favourite relief agency. Continue to contribute to the eight major Canadian agencies collecting funds for improved disaster relief, either directly or via payroll deductions. Our goal for this effort is $1 million.

2. Help establish a Global Service Learning Endowment. This fund will support UBC students, as global citizens, in efforts to build a better world in areas where help is needed around the globe. UBC will match gifts to the endowment to a maximum of $3 million.

And make sure you record your gifts on the UBC attributed contribution form on our campaign website to help us track our progress.

www.ubc.tsunami

PHOTO: MARTIN DEEPHOTO: CHRISTIAN STEINER

Renowned tenor and UBC alumnus Ben Heppner appears at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts, Feb. 12 at 8 p.m., with a rich collection of beautiful love songs by Britten, Tchaikovsky, Sibelius and Grieg. (Ticketmaster 604-280-3311. 12th or visit www.chancentre.com)

A basket ball held on the stage of The Chan, Feb. 10, 7 p.m., just ahead of the Valentine weekend, provided music for the soul, delectable food for the palate and dancing to the sounds of Dal Richards and his orchestra in a spring fundraiser for the UBC opera ensemble.

(Call 604-822-8246 for your tickets. $125, with tax receipt for $75.)