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## The Changing Face of Romance in 2006

### UBC EXPERT INSIGHT

#### Are Valentines Just for the Young?

BY DAN PERLMAN,  
Professor of Family Studies

When you think of dating couples, what sorts of romantic partners come to mind? Attractive couples like Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie in late adolescence or young adulthood, perhaps? Certainly many people associate dating with youth. But, should you? More mid-life Canadians are living alone and more are getting divorced. Added to this, Canadians are living longer. In the past 20 years, these trends have collectively contributed to the proportion of married Canadians shrinking and there being a lot of single individuals in our country. Indeed, today there are over 2.5 million unmarried Canadians aged 55 and up. Given the prevalence of single seniors and the needs that all humans have for enduring, close relationships, it is not surprising that later life dating is becoming more common.

Although it may be less so among the recently widowed and the very old, most single older adults are interested in dating. When asked why, they are likely to answer in terms of companionship, saying they would like to have someone with whom to do things, to talk/confide, and to have fun. Sex is of some interest, especially for men, but is nowhere near as likely to be mentioned as a reason for dating as is



Later life dating is becoming more common as the number of single Canadians above age 55 grows.

*While the human need for love has not changed, social trends are influencing relationships in new ways, for young and old. In this month of romance, three UBC professors illuminate some of these changes: youth no longer have the monopoly on dating; children of divorced parents aren't less happy; and the Internet makes relationships more vulnerable to deception.*

companionship. When it comes to the ideal date, both men and women are looking for partners

with a pleasing personality (e.g., a sense of humour), common interests, and a person with appropriate

moral, religious and/or personal values. The tendencies of younger females to seek partners offering

financial security and men to want physically attractive partner lingers into later life.

Friends, relatives, and work (for those still in the labour force) are still good ways at this point in the lifecycle to find dates. Social groups including singles clubs, matchmaking services, and the Internet are also helping older adults get together. Given that there are 2.4 women for every man aged 55+ in Canada, it is not surprising that men in this age group find it easier than women to locate dating partners.

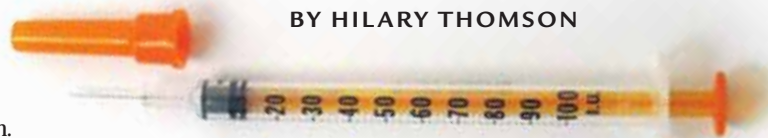
Men and women also differ in how quickly they establish new relationships after the death of a spouse. Men are three times as likely as women to do this within two years. Demographics play a part here but recent widows' attitudes are different than recent widowers'. Women who are recently widowed express more reservations about forming new romantic relationships than widowed men and are more apt to see it as a sign of disloyalty to their former spouse. Establishing new unions may, however, be adaptive: Greater psychological well-being has been demonstrated to be correlated with being remarried or in a new romance 25 months after the spouse's death.

Many older adults are happy to simply date without necessarily wanting to remarry. What is called Living Apart Together (LAT) is a form of relationship first noted in the Netherlands over 25 years ago that is now finding its way to Canada. In LAT relationships such as that of Simone de Beauvoir and John Paul Sartre, partners define themselves as a couple, see each other often, but maintain separate residences. For

*continued on page 7*

## Diabetes Researchers Convert Viruses into Agents for Good

BY HILARY THOMSON



If you think all viruses are all bad, all the time, think again.

UBC diabetes researcher Timothy Kieffer is using the sometimes-lethal life form as a harmless courier to transport genetic information into a diseased pancreas — information that can trigger regeneration and repair and may end the need for insulin injections.

Diabetes is caused by the inability of specialized cells of the pancreas, called beta cells, to produce sufficient amounts of insulin, a hormone critical for regulating blood sugar levels. Although causes are not entirely known, scientists believe the body's own immune system destroys the insulin-producing beta cells in Type 1 or juvenile diabetes, and that the cells are present but dysfunctional in Type 2 or adult onset diabetes.

Termed an epidemic by the World Health Organization, diabetes currently affects about 177 million people worldwide, including two million Canadians and 18 million Americans. The health-care costs associated with diabetes are about \$13 billion annually in Canada and \$132 billion in the U.S. according to Canadian and U.S. diabetes associations.

Kieffer and Assistant Prof. Jim Johnson at UBC's Life Sciences

Institute, along with Assoc. Prof. Bruce Verchere and Assoc. Prof. Rusung Tan from the Child & Family Research Institute in Vancouver, have launched a five-year study to develop a viral vector, or carrier, that can deliver new genetic instructions to pancreatic beta cells. The gene therapy involves removing the virus' own genetic blueprint and replacing it with genetic codes that can trigger growth of new beta cells and protect them from the immune system.

"Helping the body to regenerate its own cells would take us beyond treatment to a cure," says Kieffer, who is an associate professor in the Depts. of Cellular and Physiological Sciences and Surgery.

The research group is one of only a handful of researchers worldwide looking at viral vectors as a tool to combat diabetes. Investigators have teamed up with gene therapist Paul D. Robbins, director of the University of Pittsburgh's Viral Vector Core Facility, who is an expert in how genes can be transported

to specific cell types.

The research, conducted in animal models, offers scientists the first tool to deliver therapeutic genes specifically to beta cells within the pancreas.

The team's focus is Type 1 diabetes, which can be diagnosed from infancy to the late 30s. Patients must inject insulin several times every day.

"It's heartbreaking to think that children as young as two or three have to do pinprick blood sugar checks up to a dozen times a day and use needles to deliver insulin for the rest of their lives," says Kieffer. "Also, the life expectancy for these kids can be shortened by up to 15 years."

Until now, scientists have been stumped by the problem of how to deliver genetic material directly and only to beta cells — because the cells are few in number and scattered throughout the pancreas.

Viruses make excellent messengers because they can target particular cell types with great efficiency. They are also very effective at transferring their own genetic information into the host

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## Iraq Three Years Later: What Should Be Done?

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## Towards a Cure continued from page 1

cell. By replacing the virus' replication genes with genes that trigger beta cell regeneration, scientists can exploit the vectors' natural ability to transfer genetic information to a specific target.

Additionally, vectors' ability to hit specific targets means therapies would affect the pancreas only. Currently, to combat severe cases of diabetes, doctors can transplant clusters of beta cells — called islets — from donated organs. However, the entire immune system must be suppressed with potent drugs to stop it destroying the new beta cells. Targeted viral vectors may mean the 'battle' can be fought in the pancreas alone, without disrupting the

body's entire immune system.

Viral vectors also have the potential to help combat a variety of inherited and acquired illness, including cancer, infectious disease and atherosclerosis, or narrowing of the arteries.

Kieffer emphasizes that viral vectors are a tool, not a therapy, and estimates it will be at least 10 years before his research can be translated into therapies. The research may also help combat Type 2 diabetes.

Project funding of \$300,000 annually comes from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation of Canada.

For more information on diabetes, visit [www.diabetes.ca](http://www.diabetes.ca). □

*Lifespans for children with diabetes can be shortened by 15 years.*



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CANADIAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION



## Xwi7xwa Library Gains Full Branch Status


What began as a dream of Indigenous scholarship 30 years ago came to fruition recently when the Xwi7xwa (pronounced whei-wha, for the word "echo" in Squamish language) Library became a full branch of the UBC library system.

Housed for decades in an old war hut in the Faculty of Education's parking lot, the small collection of curriculum resources maintained by the Native Indian Teacher Education Program (NITEP) was transferred to its current location when the First Nations House of Learning and Xwi7xwa Library opened in May 1993.

Relying on donations and volunteers, the collection of 12,000 books, videos, journals, newspapers, maps,

theses and dissertations is one of only a handful of publicly accessible Aboriginal libraries in the world. The materials are organized according to the Brian Deer Classification System, which includes terminology for First Nations concepts such as self-government, and uses First Nations names rather than the European ones assigned by anthropologists.

"As Xwi7xwa becomes stabilized with core funding, it's in a position to develop a leadership role in Canada as a centre of — and for — Indigenous scholarship, and a place where Aboriginal students can see their own experiences and history reflected — or echoed, if you will — from Aboriginal perspectives," says Ann Doyle, Acting Head of Xwi7xwa Library. □




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# KUDOS

**Biely, McDowell, Black, Somerset and Killam Awards Announced**

*UBC faculty have been recognized with five prestigious awards.*

UBC Microbiology and Biochemistry professor Brett Finlay has been awarded the Jacob Biely Faculty Research Prize, and Botany professor Patrick Keeling has received the Charles A. McDowell Award for Excellence in Research.

The Dorothy Somerset Award goes to Prof. Jerry Wasserman from the Department of Theatre, Film and Creative Writing and Anna Kindler, Associate Vice-President, Academic Programs, and a professor in the Dept. of Curriculum Studies, is the recipient of this year's Sam Black Award.

Winners of the 2005 Killam Research Prizes of \$5,000 are (in alphabetical order): Luciana Duranti, Library, Archival and Information Studies; Janice Eng, Rehabilitation Sciences; Patrick Francois, Economics; Steven Heine, Psychology; Nicholas Hudson, English; Sheila Innis, Pediatrics; Joy Johnson, Nursing; Christopher Overall, Oral Biology and Medical Sciences; Chris Orvig, Chemistry; Thomas Ross, Sauder School of Business.

The Biely and McDowell awards are named for former UBC researchers. Prof. Emeritus Charles McDowell headed UBC's chemistry department for 26 years and was named Officer of the Order of Canada in 1993. Jacob Biely, an international poultry scientist, was a UBC faculty member from 1935-68.

The Black and Somerset awards pay tribute to two illustrious figures in fine arts at UBC. Sam Black's 41-year association with the university began in 1958 as a professor of fine arts and art education. He was a founder of the International Society for Education Through Art. Dorothy Somerset became director of the UBC Players' Club in 1934. She served as first artistic administrative head of the Fredric Wood Theatre until her retirement in 1965.

Award recipients will be acknowledged at the UBC Celebrate Research Gala, which will be held March 9 at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts. To receive an invitation to the Gala, please contact [celebrate.research@ubc.ca](mailto:celebrate.research@ubc.ca). □

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# New Portal Gives Students One-Stop Access to Learning Resources

BY BASIL WAUGH

Students wanting to get a jump on academic success at UBC have a new study partner at their service.

Launched in September 2005, Learning Enhancement Academic Partnerships (LEAP) is a student-led web-portal that, for the first time, gives one-stop access to student learning resources, including academic coaching, peer-tutoring, study groups, student blogs and a wide variety of learning skills workshops.

By reducing the amount of time and distance between students and these resources, LEAP addresses a problem that faces university students and resource-providers around the globe, says Gavin Dew, Alma Mater Society (AMS) Vice-President Academic.

"Hunting down resources at major universities has historically been time-consuming and a little overwhelming, particularly for first- and second-year students," says Dew, one of several students who guided LEAP's development with the assistance of the Office of Student Development and the Office of Learning Technology. "But LEAP makes UBC the exception to this rule. All our resources are now just one web-site away."

In addition to bringing together existing resources, LEAP is being used as a launching pad for two major new online resources. January saw the launch of online coaching, which enables students to connect online with peer coaches for academic advice, and, in February, students can access online tutoring for assistance in core subjects.

"Students have busy schedules and many cannot make the traditional versions of these services," says Dew. "By making coaching and tutoring available online, we are giving these students access to two really valuable services."

Although LEAP has only been active for six months, the UBC Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund-supported site has already received over 15,000 visitors and been recognized by the U.S. organization Academic Impressions as a model best practices for online student services. According to Janet Teasdale, director of the Office of Student Development, student leadership and LEAP's broad focus are responsible for these early signs of success.

"It's no mystery why students are finding that LEAP responds to their needs," says Teasdale. "Students took ownership of the project from day one and worked very hard to guide us to the right mix of resources and features."

"Other universities provide online learning resources, but their focus tends to be on struggling students," adds Teasdale. "What makes LEAP unique, not



Gavin Dew, AMS Vice-President Academic, is one of many students who have helped to make LEAP a one-stop portal for learning resources at UBC.

to mention a richer experience, is its focus on all students, whether they are at 60 percent trying to get to 70, or 80 percent trying to get to 90."

Behind the screen, LEAP is published using Movable Type, weblog software that allows resource-providers to easily upload new content, manage student feedback, and expand the site in the future. Unlike traditional content management systems, Movable Type empowers providers to publish content to the web quickly without going through gatekeepers or web administrators. In addition to

facilitating student commentary on LEAP's resources, the system's weblog software sends email notifications of new feedback directly to the relevant departmental contact.

"We have used technology in a way that really bends many of the rules of institutional web-sites," says Michelle Lamberson, director of the Office of Learning Technology. "Weblog software gives us a flexible site that can easily grow in whatever direction students or resource-providers want to take it."

For more information on LEAP, visit [www.leap.ubc.ca](http://www.leap.ubc.ca). □

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

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# Student Brings Music of Street Children to the World

BY BRIAN LIN

Julia Gerlitz can hardly contain her excitement. Her favorite band has just finished recording its first album.

But *The Bamboes* is not your run-of-the-mill teenage garage band. Most of the band members, aged nine to 21, are homeless and panhandle the streets of Indonesia between practice sessions. They play on instruments

made of recycled vodka bottles, beer caps and plastic buckets.

Gerlitz, a fourth-year Psychology and Political Science student, was just starting an internship last spring at Indonesia's Education and Information Center for Child Rights (KKSP), non-governmental organization focused on helping street kids, when she was introduced to a group of children who "hang out" at KKSP's shelter in the northern Sumatra capital of Medan.

"The shelter's manager asked some of the kids to play me a song they had written to break the ice," says Gerlitz, who at the time spoke no Bahasa Indonesia, the national language.

"I didn't know what the songs were about, but something happened as soon as they began singing — their body language changed, they transformed into a more confident and joyful version of themselves."

As time went on, 13 of the kids who live at the shelter began "jamming" regularly at Gerlitz's urging. Then she met

Reza Kowsari, a UBC engineering graduate student who was in the area doing seismic guidelines research, and a plan was hatched to record an album.

"A good friend of mine, Siavash Dezvareh, is a professor at the Sound and Audio Engineering school (SAE) in Kuala Lumpur," says Kowsari, who is now looking for sponsors to produce the CD in Canada.

"When I told him about the kids and their music, he volunteered to come to Medan to

work with the kids. He also convinced SAE to fund the equipment rental and studio time for post-production."

With specifications and instructions from Dezvareh, the kids went to work building their first sound-proof studio in a corner of the shelter. They collected recycled materials and enlisted their friends for the handy work.

"Before this project, the kids were just living day to day, their biggest concern being where their next meal would come from," says Gerlitz. "Building the studio and recording the album gave them the motivation to look past today, and for the first time in their lives, they had a reason to strive beyond just surviving what's dealt to them."

The kids chose 12 songs and came up with their band name — The



(Above) Iwan (l) and Adek of *The Bamboes* record original songs in their home-made studio. (Left) Julia Gerlitz and children from the KKSP shelter getting ready for a religious ceremony for Hari Raya, end of holy month fasting.

Bamboes. "They picked bamboo because it can survive almost anywhere and it grows stronger in groves — just like the street kids themselves," says Gerlitz, who has translated the lyrics into English.

"What truly amazes me about these songs is how altruistic they are," says Gerlitz. "There is so much compassion and sympathy in their songs, even when they depict some of the most gruesome situations, which is remarkable considering everything — poverty, war, abuse and natural disasters — the children have been through."

As the project progressed, Gerlitz has also noticed more hopeful notes in their songs. "They want to use proceeds from the CD to build a music school for street children," says Gerlitz. "Since I left them in December, they've organized a charity concert in the tsunami-ravaged town of Banda Aceh, where they raised money and taught other street children to play music."

"That's the most amazing part of this journey. I saw the positive impact on children when they felt someone believed in them — how it motivates

them into doing great things," says Gerlitz, who is visibly proud of the kids who affectionately call her "Bunda" which means "mama" in Indonesian.

Born and raised in Nelson, B.C., Gerlitz says her parents, a teacher and a nurse, have always instilled in her the importance of giving, a concept reinforced when she arrived at UBC and saw an emphasis on global citizenship in the curriculum.

"You get so much more back when you give. It's a cliché because it's true, and in the case of this internship, I learned so much about myself, about the world around us, and about how to overcome adversity."

As for the album, Gerlitz, who along with Kowsari funded part of the project out of their own pockets, is aiming for a spring/summer release, provided they can find a Canadian distributor.

"It just goes to show that even young students can initiate projects that make a difference," says Kowari.

"For everyone involved with the project, where the music came from and how it was made is as important as the songs themselves," says Gerlitz,

who is designing a booklet with lyrics and profiles of the band members.

"We want the world to hear their songs and know their story."

For pictures and a song clip go to [publicaffairs.ubc.ca/ubcreports/slide-shows](http://publicaffairs.ubc.ca/ubcreports/slide-shows). □

## Teaching me to Struggle

— By the Bamboes

*My feet step slowly  
Passing through the dark, avoiding  
the potholes in the street  
Through the misting rain and the  
striking storm  
I walk with courage and a fiery spirit  
This hard life makes me strong  
The bitter lessons of the street  
teach me to struggle  
With a song and a singing heart  
I keep this fire in my soul  
and maintain my courage  
To free my imprisoned mind  
So my life will not be wasted*

## CELEBRATE RESEARCH WEEK

CELEBRATE RESEARCH WEEK will showcase the many exciting areas of research at UBC and will feature an exceptionally wide array of faculties, departments, schools and partner institutions during March 4 — 11, 2006.

This year's theme "**Our Place in the World**" has produced an excellent line up of events. There will be a flurry of activities including lectures, seminars, displays and open houses at the Point Grey, Robson Square and UBC Okanagan campuses. If your department would like to participate, call 604.822.5675.

Keep an eye on [www.research.ubc.ca](http://www.research.ubc.ca) for a comprehensive and up to date Event Calendar soon to be posted.



# Iraq Three Years Later: What Should Be Done?

March 19 marks the third anniversary of U.S. President George W. Bush launching the war in Iraq. Since then, the country has been savaged by insurgents, tens of thousands of people have been killed, and the infrastructure of one of the Middle East's richest countries lies devastated. We asked three UBC experts the simple but intensely difficult question: What should be done?

## Baghdad With a Map

BY DEREK GREGORY, *Distinguished University Scholar and Professor of Geography. Author of The colonial present: Afghanistan, Palestine, Iraq (Blackwell).*

There's an old story about a tourist getting lost and stopping to ask for directions, only to be told: "I wouldn't try and get there from here..." The mess in Iraq is likely to produce much the same reaction, but telling the White House the same thing is pointless. Instead, we need to turn the map upside down. We should not be guided by how to get the United States out of the quagmire it has so maladroitly manufactured. We should stop appealing to the malignant calculus of domestic political advantage and economic profiteering. Instead, we should ask what can be done to help the people of Iraq. Like all compasses, this one has four cardinal points.

First, there must be a serious appraisal of the situation: not a Disneyesque fantasy (how many times has Bush identified a milestone that turns out to be a tombstone?) but a rigorous analysis of the political, economic and social damage wrought by Saddam, sanctions and the war combined. This means accepting that the present situation is a joint responsibility. Bush and Blair were in this together, and if their governments were to spend half the resources on critical analysis that they devote to spinning we might get somewhere.

Second, negotiations must be opened with the leaders of the nationalist insurgency. It is the height of madness to assume that opposition to the occupation is ungrounded in reason. Bush and Blair's mantra is that people resort to political violence because that is the sort of people they are, which conveniently means that the only solution is a military one: but in many (most) cases insurgents are responding to a series of real grievances that require other solutions.

Third, there must be a clear and proximate deadline for the complete withdrawal of all coalition forces from Iraq, and a complete cessation of the air war that has continued to devastate lives long after the vainglorious 'end of major combat operations'. To repeat: military violence is part of the problem, not the solution.

Fourth, there must be a major reconstruction programme that is not devoted to boosting the profits of foreign companies. The Iraqis must be allowed to determine their own economic policy and to benefit from their own skills and resources. The UN has been compromised by the sanctions regime, but it's still the best we've got: so I suggest a UN development agency that is not a creature of the Security Council, that works with a properly constituted Iraqi government, and that is supplied with funding adequate to the task.

## Let's Help Bush Out of his Mess

BY MICHAEL BYERS, *Canada Research Chair in Global Politics and International Law. Author of War Law: Understanding International Law and Armed Conflict (Douglas & McIntyre).*

Sept. 11, 2001 would have been the making of most U.S. presidents. The American people were united, sympathy for the United States was sky-high, and governments everywhere were terrified of further terrorist attacks.

George W. Bush should have seized the opportunity for global co-operation by framing the "war on terror" as a struggle against crime and engaging multilateral mechanisms such as the United Nations. Instead, he eschewed UN authorization for the intervention in Afghanistan, threatened other states and recklessly violated human rights. He then invaded Iraq, a country which played no role in the 9/11 attacks and posed no threat to America. More than 30,000 people have died as a result of the war, while the economic costs — according to Nobel laureate Joseph Stiglitz — exceed \$1 trillion.

Resolving the situation will be intensely difficult. The tactics of U.S. forces have generated so much hostility that they must be withdrawn, not just from Iraq's cities but also from its oilfields and airbases. Yet the Iraqi army is hardly prepared to take over, not least because it remains grossly unrepresentative of the country's religious diversity. A large, well-equipped UN force is needed, drawn from a wide range of countries, including Muslim ones. Such a mission would be lengthy, dangerous and expensive, and would have to operate with complete independence from the United

States.

Yet Washington would have to make some strong commitments before any UN mission could succeed. It would have to support unequivocally a UN Security Council resolution authorizing the mission. It would have to contribute financially, above and far beyond its regular UN dues. And it would have to become a team-player on other key issues such as climate change and nuclear proliferation. Creating the reciprocal political will within the international community would then require strong leadership by a widely-respected country not currently involved in Iraq. For a new Canadian prime minister intent on repairing this country's relationship with the United States and reclaiming our global influence, the mess in Iraq could provide a real — if risky — opportunity.

## What's a Nice Way of Saying: "Cut and Run"

BY COLIN CAMPBELL, *Canada Research Chair in U.S. Government and Politics. Author of Preparing for the Future: Strategic Planning in the U.S. Air Force (Brookings, winner of the 2004 Brownlow Prize of the U.S. National Academy of Public Administration).*

Apart from disseminating bogus claims about Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction capabilities, George W. Bush and Tony Blair dealt cavalierly with the difficult of invading and occupying Iraq. They did not pursue adroitly enough efforts to gain access for the U.S. Army 4th Division through Turkey to Northern Iraq. And, they grossly underestimated the force required to establish security after the overthrow of Hussein.

The continuing insurgency resulted from the inadequacy of initial force structure and poor planning. Disconcertingly, the U.S. administration still has not made the requisite moves to reverse this debacle. Condoleezza Rice and Donald Rumsfeld cannot agree on the structure and roles of Provincial Reconstruction Teams (a concept imported from the allied effort in Afghanistan). In the fall, the two top U.S. generals in Iraq locked in conflict over whether they should concentrate troops in urban



The tactics of U.S. forces have generated great hostility says Prof. Michael Byers.

centres or move them closer to the border with Syria. The Army and the Marines are grappling with two problems in responding to the ever-lethal improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Broken procurement procedures have produced persistent bottlenecks in provision of both armored vehicles and body armour. Perhaps more alarmingly, new body armour specifications would take troops beyond the load to bodyweight threshold of 30 per cent to 50 per cent.

Late last year, a British brigadier — Nigel Aylwin-Foster, who recently served in Iraq — lambasted the U.S. Army for "cultural insensitivity" bordering on "institutional racism." He also maintained that the Army simply has failed at the transition from con-

ventional warfighting to counterinsurgency. The Army chief of staff must see an element of truth in this assessment. He has circulated Aylwin-Foster's critique to all of his generals.

I suggest that you divest your Iraq counterinsurgency shares — including any in NATO and UN stocks. The U.S. military has to go through a massive transformation of its mind-set regarding its role in the world. Its entanglement, largely against its will, in the Iraqi quagmire has confounded this process. Without the U.S. operating effectively at the core, NATO and the UN would find little role in bringing peace to Iraq — the job is that large and the curve that sharp. Does "Sell!" sound better than "Cut and Run?" □

# Black Box Studio Largest in Western Canada

BY LORRAINE CHAN

**Bulldozer tread marks** still pit the cement floor, but a former factory space at Great Northern Way Campus (GNWC) has turned into a prized asset for Vancouver theatre and dance companies.

"This is the largest space of its kind in Western Canada," says Prof. Robert Gardiner, head of UBC Theatre, Film and Creative Writing Dept. "And it's two or three times bigger than anything else in Vancouver."

Measuring 892 sq. metres, the Black Box Studio offers affordable rental space for both rehearsal and performance. Even before the city's real estate crunch, this cavernous warehouse spelled heaven for performers mounting large-scale productions. The ceiling soars seven metres high and despite measuring 37 metres long by 24 metres wide, there are

only three posts to obscure sight lines.

In theatre, a "black box" refers to a space where the relationship of the stage with the audience is not fixed, but always changeable. A director is free to specify a traditional stage, theatre in the round or even have the audience move around the performers.

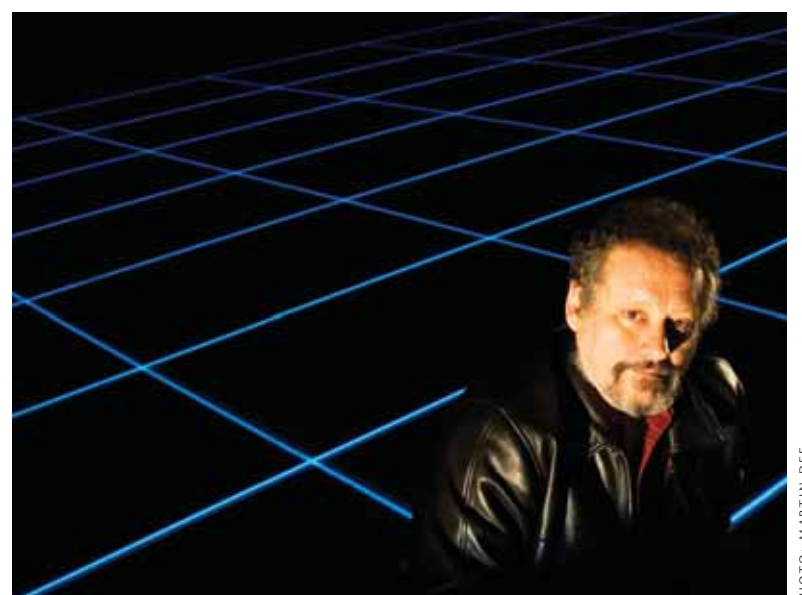
Gardiner, who teaches scenery and lighting design, is spearheading a joint venture to upgrade and further establish the Black Box Studio as a rehearsal, performance, research and training facility. He explains the City of Vancouver requires seismic, fire-safety and other upgrades in order to grant a permanent occupancy permit, which is necessary for regular performances.

GNWC is located east of Main St. and runs parallel to the old Canadian National railroad tracks in the False

Creek Flats.

In 2001, four major post-secondary institutions in B.C.'s Lower Mainland joined together to establish the GNWC. The British Columbia Institute of Technology, the Emily Carr Institute, Simon Fraser University and UBC are now co-owners of the 8.9-hectare parcel of land, previously owned by Finning International Inc.

The GNWC institutions are currently working together — in concert with the B.C. and federal governments, the City of Vancouver, industry and other agencies — to build a unique, integrated centre of excellence in teaching, learning, research and entrepreneurship. Initially focusing on two themes of Urban Sustainability and Transforming Arts and Culture, continued on page 7



UBC Theatre Prof. Robert Gardiner is spearheading efforts to upgrade a huge, former factory space into a prized venue for theatre and dance.



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For more information and application forms please visit <http://www.sustain.ubc.ca/fs.html>



The application deadline is February 24, 2006.

## Managing to Make a Difference

*New Faculty of Management at UBC Okanagan puts focus on small business and entrepreneurship*

BY BUD MORTENSON

A business school with a difference is taking shape at UBC Okanagan. The brand-new Faculty of Management is small right now — with just 30 students in this inaugural year — but expectations are for quick growth to more than 700 students in 2009. That kind of growth will be fueled by a curriculum focused on B.C.'s Okanagan economy, which is among the nation's hotspots for entrepreneurs.

"We looked around the region to see what was needed and what would make our Bachelor of Management program distinctive," says Blaize Horner Reich, dean of Management. "As a result, the focus of our program is on the kinds of businesses most common in the Okanagan and that create the most jobs — the small to medium-sized businesses."

These small to medium-sized enterprises, SMEs, are the backbone of the Okanagan economy. Last year, of the region's 6,845 businesses, only 887 had 20 or more employees.

"The program also puts a focus on service-based and knowledge-based businesses, both of which are very important in the Okanagan," Reich says. "These areas are growing the fastest and offer the most opportunity for students. And because we're focusing on emergent and medium-sized businesses, students can play leadership roles in building and developing these organizations."

The Okanagan's wealth of emerging businesses is, in part, a result of the region's strong appeal to entrepreneurs, says Robert Fine, executive director of the Central Okanagan Economic Development Commission.

"People come here to create their own lifestyle," says Fine, "so we have the highest rate of self-employment in the province and probably in Western Canada."

It's fitting, Fine says, for UBC Okanagan to build its programs around topics of great interest to Okanagan businesses. "Having the



Blaize Horner Reich, Dean of Management at UBC Okanagan, has a goal of 100 students in the new Bachelor of Management program this fall.

Faculty of Management focus its energy within the SME sector is going to be a big plus. It's very exciting for businesses in our region."

UBC Okanagan's Faculty of Management and UBC's world-renowned Sauder School of Business in Vancouver both prepare students for success in small businesses and as entrepreneurs — the Sauder School through a Bachelor of Commerce program with many options of its own. The Sauder School will also drive MBA-level and other graduate business education for UBC in Vancouver and the Okanagan, says Daniel Muzyka, dean of the Sauder School of Business.

"As a business school, Sauder has a full product offering," he says. "The UBC Okanagan program is another focused opportunity for business education inside the UBC family. This is a distinctive niche offering in the product line — it provides students with more opportunity for business education."

Muzyka notes that with the number of business students continuing to rise, more options are welcome. "UBC as a whole is offering more. There will be some clear choices for students. Based on their needs, they decide whether they go here or there."

At UBC Okanagan, the Bachelor of Management program's "2+2"

structure allows students to take a wide variety of elective courses during their first two years before immersion in business management courses in the final two years. They can also enter the Management program at UBC Okanagan in their third year as transfer students from colleges and university colleges.

"Because students have the opportunity to take a wide range of courses, they'll come into the third year with a diverse and sophisticated set of experiences," says Reich, whose own diverse experience includes 15 years as an information technology professional and consultant to Canadian and Asian businesses, before earning her PhD from UBC in 1993.

"When students enter the 'boot camp' third year in Management, they will be ready to do some critical thinking and come up with innovative ways to address business problems. By combining their learning about social responsibility and ethics, I think they're going to make the world a better place."

But courses alone are not an education, Reich cautions. "We plan to provide opportunities for students to engage in real business practice, whether this is in a co-op program, a course-based project, or some volunteer service learning," she says.

"These experiences will round out and extend the value of coursework and deliver on UBC's promise of global citizenship. I think students these days are looking for a deeper attachment, a richer experience. A small environment like the Okanagan valley can offer that."

To learn more:  
<http://web.ubc.ca/okanagan/management/welcome.html> □

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# The Changing Face of Romance in 2006

continued from page 1

some, creating this form of relationship stems from external constraints (job demands, responsibilities to family members, etc.) but for others it is the preferred way of relating. For them, it provides sufficient intimacy but also provides a time "to lead their own lives" in terms of friends, finances, and activities that they enjoy. It also gives greater freedom in how they bequeath their estate. For women, maintaining their own home constitutes a resource base from which to avoid the asymmetrical distribution of household labour that remains common in Canadian society.

To conclude, the basic processes of dating extend into old age. Throughout their lives, most humans have a need to belong, to form close relationships with others. Dating helps fulfill those needs. But there are also subtle differences between the dating experiences of younger and older adult. For example, the reproductive goals of young adult courtship are no longer central; and for older adults the romantic experiences of youth may be icing on the cake but they give way to more pragmatic concerns. Older daters seek partners for companionship and enjoyment. Some older adults find it hard to get back into the dating loop after years of being partnered. Once they do so, however, they typically find a comfort in the wisdom of age and experience that was missing from their earlier life dating activities. For all Canadians, young and old alike, dating can add vitality and enjoyment to their lives. The next time you think of dating, remember to include couples like 80-year-old Nelson Mandela and Graca Machel, the widow of the former president of Mozambique, who married late in life.

## Married or Single: Who is Happier? And What About their Children?

BY MARK HOLDER, Assistant Professor of Psychology, UBC Okanagan

Scientists have extensively researched negative emotions (e.g. depression, and anxiety) but not positive emotions (e.g. happiness and joy). For example, a search of 1,700 psychology journals identified over 100,000 articles on depression, and fewer than 5,000 articles on happiness. My research focuses on

happiness in children — particularly aged nine to twelve.

Relationships are important to happiness. Family and friends contribute strongly to happiness in adults and children. For example, researchers have found that married people are typically happier than single people, and single people are happier than divorced people.

However, we found that children's happiness does not differ with their parents' marital status. We found no difference in the happiness levels of children whose mother and father were married and living together, and those children whose parents were separated or divorced.

Happiness is associated with many aspects of our lifestyle. For adults, watching a lot of television is associated with lower levels of happiness (an interesting exception is watching soap operas). We found the same for children.

Our preliminary evidence suggests that children who report higher levels of spirituality are happier. Although people report that they think they would be happier with more money, money does not actually predict happiness for adults or children (at least once you are above the poverty line).

## Does the Internet Enhance or Trivialize Relationships?

BY RICHARD S. ROSENBERG, Professor Emeritus of Computer Science

We live in interesting times. It is possible to establish "relationships" with people around the world, in a variety of contexts and for a variety of purposes. I use the term relationship advisedly because in most cases the participants will never meet in person but will nevertheless often claim to have established deep and meaningful connections. My students vociferously argue that they have acquired real buddies all over the world. I raise my objections that never having met face to face must limit the depth of these encounters, given that human evolution has resulted in social animals, which



PHOTO: BUD MORTENSON

The next phase of Mark Holder's research at UBC Okanagan will look at how happiness affects the brain's physiology.

need to touch, feel, see, and smell one another. They respond with rolling eyes, that I must be really out of touch.

Now the Internet does provide a variety of modalities to meet various needs of individuals and groups, such as email, listservs, chat rooms, instant messaging, online games, wikis, with more to come. To varying degrees people make connections, establish relations for social, political, economic, and other reasons. Are they deep, are they meaningful, can they evolve or are they doomed to be superficial? If text is the most common medium of communication, then deception and lying are the coin of the realm.

While most of the communication over the Internet is innocent, probably silly, and surely wasteful of time and energy, there are some harmful and dangerous encounters. The seduction of children by predators, which moves from online interactions to real world encounters with occasional horrible results, cannot be ignored. Leaving children unattended on the Internet is somewhat equivalent to leaving them unattended in the evening, downtown, in large cities. Aside from the potential dangers to children, the Internet, as is the case for most technologies offers benefits and harms; it depends on an educated and experienced clientele to realize those benefits and to avoid the possible harms. □

# Black Box Studio Largest in Western Canada

continued from page 5

GNWC aims to provide program and collaborative research opportunities not available on any one campus.

Two UBC theatre production classes are taught at GNWC. And recently, Black Box Studio events drew Vancouverites to the raw, industrial site for Susan Kozel's video-dance installation Trajets, the Vancouver Art Gallery Gala and the Vancouver Arts Awards.

Gardiner hopes the Black Box Studio will provide Vancouver with a site for future international projects. "Theatre at UBC has been talking to Kaleidoskop Theatre in Copenhagen about a co-creation, but we don't really have a place to work. And several companies with the PuSH Festival have talked to us about possible collaboration with theatres in Europe. The Black Box Studio would be ideal for developing

new work of this kind."

Gardiner adds, "We want to pool resources to create an artistically experimental lab where there's opportunity to share ideas. This would be fabulous for teaching students or hosting site-specific performances, film projects and installation pieces."

In a 1,115 sq-metre warehouse next to the Black Box Studio, UBC operates a scenery production shop, which supports organizations as diverse as B.C. Ballet, PuSH Festival, Mortal Coil, NeWest, Pi Theatre, Bard on the Beach, The Electric Company, UBC School of Music Opera and Judith Marcuse Projects.

"It's great for innovation and sharing resources because the UBC facility acts as a hub where smaller companies can access a ready pool of designers and technicians," says Gardiner. "The below-market rental

rates mean smaller companies can build sets and also re-use stored scenic elements like stairs and walls."

During June 19-23, GNWC will host the seven-day International EARTH Village Festival, associated with the United Nations 2006 World Urban Forum. The Festival, a UNESCO-designated event, will be produced by Judith Marcuse Projects and will feature premiere performances of its EARTH production, a large-scale music, theatre, media and dance exploration of youth's thoughts and feeling about the planet.

More than 20 countries will take part in Festival events that include performances, exhibitions, street theatre, food, public dialogue and sustainability workshops.

Marcuse says the gritty setting of the Black Box Studio is part of its charm and that it readily "transforms into a magical venue." □

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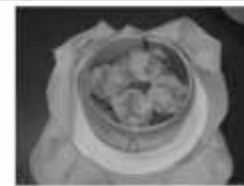


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## Sustainability Coordinator Disbursement Fund UBC PROJECTS: CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Sustainability Coordinator Disbursement Fund (SCDF) supports initiatives that offer creative solutions to specific sustainability issues at UBC. We are inviting everyone with innovative and creative ideas to strengthen campus sustainability to submit his or her proposal.

Energy savings made by Sustainability Coordinators and their departments funds the SCDF. Please note that UBC students, staff and faculty are all eligible to apply.

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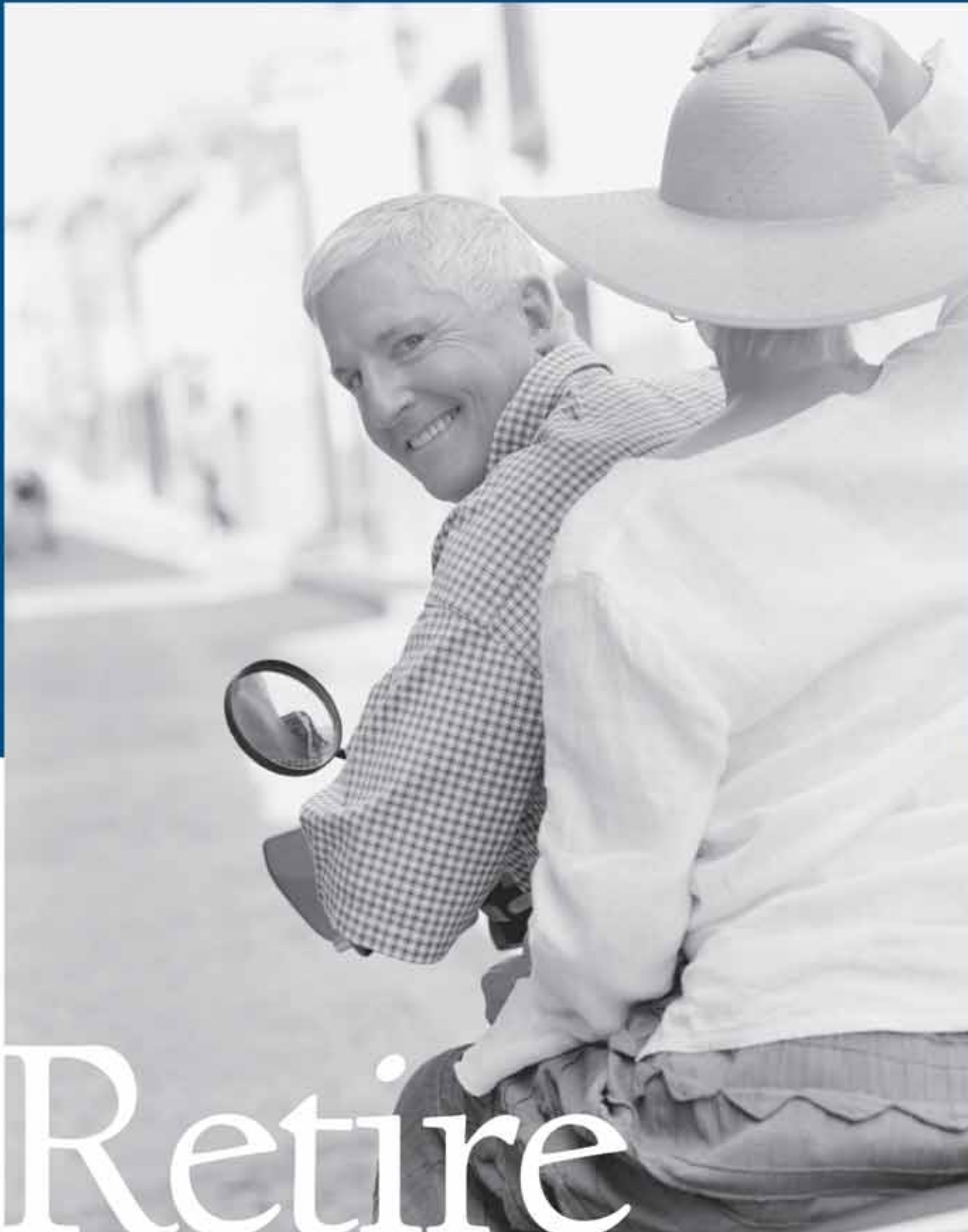
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5. Not exceed \$50,000
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For more information please visit <http://www.sustain.ubc.ca/scdfprojects.htm>

The application deadline is February 24, 2006.



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