



# UBC REPORTS

UBC CLASS OF  
**2006**

## SPECIAL CONGREGATION ISSUE

*This year more than 5,000 undergraduate and graduate students from UBC's faculties and schools will receive their hard-earned degrees. continued on page 3*





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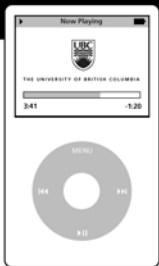
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## IN THE NEWS

Highlights of UBC Media Coverage in April 2006. COMPILED BY BASIL WAUGH

**UBC Chooses its 12th President: Stephen Toope**  
Most Canadian dailies, including the *Globe and Mail*, *Montreal Gazette*, *Ottawa Citizen* and the *Vancouver Sun* reported on the recent hiring of the renowned legal scholar of human rights and international law as UBC's 12th president.

Former McGill University Dean of Law **Stephen Toope**, a man known for his work on royal commissions, as an independent fact-finder in the case of Maher Arar, and his connections to the federal government, will assume the post in June.

"He is a rare combination of somebody who is brilliant, humane, considerate and fearless," said his friend, Madam Justice Rosalie Abella of the Supreme Court of Canada, in an interview after the announcement. "UBC should be electrified."

The university's selection committee considered more than 150 candidates in a seven-month search to replace outgoing president Martha Piper.

### Nobel Laureate Joins UBC to Advance Science Education Reform

Media outlets across North America, including the *Associated Press*, *Canadian Press*, *Denver Post*, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* and *Globe and Mail* reported on American Nobel Prize winner **Carl Wieman's** recent decision to join UBC from the University of Colorado to advance science education reform.

2004 United States Professor of the Year, Wieman, 54, was awarded a Nobel Prize in physics in 2001 for proving Albert Einstein's theory that a certain form of matter exists. With his appointment, UBC becomes one of only two schools in Canada with a Nobel laureate on its faculty.

"This is quite significant, to have someone of his stature in the science community," said UBC

President Martha Piper in an interview with the *Globe and Mail*. "It's incredibly exciting, and it fits right in with our strategic vision for UBC."

### Lives lived: Auschwitz Survivor Rudolf Vrba

More than 20 international dailies, including the *New York Times*, *L.A. Times*, the *UK Telegraph* and the *Globe and Mail* celebrated the life of **Rudolf Vrba**, who escaped from Auschwitz as a young man and provided the first eyewitness evidence not only of the magnitude of the tragedy unfolding at the death camp but also of the exact mechanics of Nazi mass extermination. He succumbed to cancer on March 27 at a hospital in Vancouver. He was 82.

In a document that became known as the Auschwitz Protocol, Vrba detailed the various corners of the death camp, including the gas chambers and crematories. He was one of only five Jewish inmates to successfully escape from Auschwitz.

In 1967, Vrba left the U.K. to join UBC, where he became a professor of pharmacology and continued to work for the rest of his life, authoring more than 50 scientific papers.

### Microsoft Takes Aim at Google with Scholarly Search Engine

The launch of Windows Live Academic Search, Microsoft's alternative to academic search engine Google Scholar, was reported by dozens of international dailies and technology publications,



Stephen Toope, President of the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation, takes up UBC presidential duties July 1 for a five-year term

including *Digital Media Asia*, *China's People's Daily*, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, *MacWorld* and *PC Magazine*.

Microsoft's initiative won't supplant Google Scholar or commercial databases used by researchers, but it does add a new element of competition, said UBC biomedical librarian **Dean Giustini**, a Google Scholar user who writes a blog about that service and part of a group invited to the Microsoft campus to preview the new tool.

Giustini said he was disappointed to see that Microsoft's offering doesn't yet have a feature for seeing which articles cite a particular document. He also raised questions about the robustness of Microsoft's infrastructure, noting that the broader MSN Search has been offline periodically in recent weeks. □

## UBC REPORTS

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# First Grad Class Takes its Place in UBC Okanagan History

BY BUD MORTENSON

The ranks of UBC alumni in the Okanagan will grow by nearly 10 per cent on June 9, when UBC Okanagan's very first graduates receive their degrees.

"There are over 5,000 UBC alumni in the region, and around

490 UBC Okanagan students have applied for graduation," says Shawn Swallow, Manager of Alumni Services at UBC Okanagan.

"It's an historic event for UBC — and for UBC alumni — to welcome these students into a

family of 220,000 alumni worldwide," he says. "Where else do you have an opportunity to create a new university campus and graduate a first class? It's an extraordinary thing to be a part of."

While the Vancouver campus has 23 ceremonies from May 24 to May 31, UBC Okanagan's June 9 Spring Congregation will take place in two sessions. A ceremony begins at 9:30 a.m. for Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences grads, followed by one at 2:30 p.m. for graduates from Creative and Health and Social Development.

Both Okanagan ceremonies will deliver all the tradition of UBC Congregations going back to the first granting of degrees in 1916.

"There is a lot of history in these ceremonies," says Eilis Courtney, director of Ceremonies and Events at UBC. "We're using the ceremonial mace and the Chancellor's chair from UBC's Vancouver campus. The ceremonies in Kelowna will be almost identical to the ceremonies in Vancouver, but with an Okanagan twist."

Unique to the Kelowna ceremonies, for example, is the presentation of a welcoming message from the Okanagan Nation Alliance.

When UBC's campus in Kelowna opened its doors in September 2005, Okanagan University College students entering their final year of study became UBC Okanagan students. They spent the past year completing requirements for UBC degrees in the faculties of Arts and Sciences, Education, Creative and Critical Studies, and Health and Social Development.

Robert Belton was the dean of Okanagan University College's Faculty of Arts before taking on the task of establishing a new kind of faculty at UBC Okanagan this year as dean of the Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies.

"We're doing something in this new faculty that's unlike anything anywhere," says Belton, describing how, for example, creative writing, theatre and fine arts are

blending and informing one another. Professors are developing courses that are "not just interdisciplinary, they're multidisciplinary — we're well on our way to creating a new hybrid here, and this year's graduates are a marker of that change."

"It's really exciting, it's vibrant and chaotic and fun. Things are really happening," he says. "That kind of excitement is perhaps most visible in the end-of-year graduate art exhibition."

The appropriately entitled *Ab Initio* — Latin for "from the beginning" — exhibition ran for 10 days in late April, showcasing the work of more than 30 Bachelor of Fine Arts graduates. Exhibiting grad Ryan Lillies described the ending-and-beginning show as

"the pinnacle of our studies — and, of course, we're hopeful it's also the catalyst for our artistic careers."

"Every one of our grads this year should be proud," says Swallow. "They worked hard, and they will contribute to UBC's reputation and achievements, going on to become community and corporate leaders and joining the ranks of UBC alumni."

Swallow adds that he's looking forward to the years ahead when today's grads come back to UBC Okanagan. "This class holds a special place in UBC's history," he says.

"They will be forever recognized for that — when they return to campus, they'll be coming back as members of that first class." □

*UBC's motto — it is yours — adorns the mace that symbolizes the Chancellor's authority. It has been used in congregation ceremonies since 1959.*



## Students Applying to Graduate this June at UBC Okanagan Represent the Following Faculties and Degree Programs:

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| <i>Faculty of Arts and Sciences:</i>             |            |
| Bachelor of Arts                                 | 148        |
| Bachelor of Science                              | 76         |
| <b>Total</b>                                     | <b>224</b> |
| <i>Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies:</i> |            |
| Bachelor of Arts                                 | 45         |
| Bachelor of Fine Arts                            | 33         |
| <b>Total</b>                                     | <b>78</b>  |
| <i>Faculty of Education:</i>                     |            |
| Bachelor of Education, Elementary                | 65         |
| Bachelor of Education, Secondary                 | 8          |
| <b>Total</b>                                     | <b>73</b>  |
| <i>Faculty of Health and Social Development:</i> |            |
| Bachelor of Science in Nursing                   | 77         |
| Bachelor of Social Work                          | 42         |
| <b>Total</b>                                     | <b>119</b> |
| <b>Total UBC Okanagan's Class of 2006</b>        | <b>494</b> |

## CONGREGATION ISSUE

*continued from page 1*

For the first time, 500 students will be receiving UBC degrees at UBC Okanagan.

In addition, between both campuses 11 honorary degrees will be conferred to distinguished guests that include opera tenor Richard Margison, best-selling

mystery writer Alexander McCall Smith, and former Okanagan University College president William Bowering.

For more information, and to view the Vancouver ceremonies live via webcast, visit [www.graduation.ubc.ca](http://www.graduation.ubc.ca).

## Staff Members Receive President's Service Award for Excellence

BY BASIL WAUGH

Five members of the university community are being recognized for their outstanding contributions to campus life as recipients of this year's President's Service Award for Excellence.

Each recipient will receive a gold medal and \$5,000 in a presentation during Spring Congregation ceremonies.

Anne Stanton has worked as a building service worker since 1978, and for the past 28 years has approached her responsibilities for cleaning and maintaining such facilities as the Life Sciences Centre and Memorial Gym with an unwavering dedication to health and safety.

Stanton holds the distinction of being the first Land and Building Services employee to volunteer for First Aid training. As a longstanding member of the Custodial Health and Safety committee, she initiated numerous safety programs and seminars. Stanton serves as a Canadian Union of

Public Employees (CUPE) shop steward, and often provides training and advocacy on her own time. Stanton participates in the annual Breast Cancer Research Walk for a Cure and volunteers for the United Way.

As the manager responsible for WebCT, the course management system developed at UBC and used around the world, 17-year employee Douglas Quinville supervises an IT Services team entrusted with the reliability and availability of one of the university's most-used student services. Outside of his formal duties, Quinville is best known for his leadership in the annual UBC Faculty and Staff Golf Tournament.

Quinville was the driving force behind the tournament's transformation from a modest, purely social event to a fundraiser for the Walter Gage Memorial Fund that attracts sell-out participation and has raised \$50,000 over the past



PSAE winners are (l-r) Douglas Quinville, Anne Stanton, Dorota Bartnik-Kapsa, Brian Lee and Catherine Alkenbrack (missing from photo).

five years for student initiatives. Since stepping down as tournament chair in 2003, the former UBC varsity athlete has served two terms as chair of the Walter Gage Memorial Fund. Quinville coaches his teenage daughters' soccer team, coordinates door-to-door canvassers for the Heart

and Stroke Fund, and captains his neighborhood Block Watch Program in West Vancouver.

Dorota Bartnik-Kapsa is Senior Early Childhood Educator with UBC Child Care Services and has been caring for the children and families of the faculty, staff, students and residents at the Summer

of '73 Daycare since 1988.

Bartnik-Kapsa champions programs that stimulate children intellectually, socially, physically and emotionally. Parents, colleagues, and students have described her as an inspiration and role model for quality childcare, education, and

*continued on page 8*



# Artist Made World Her Classroom on Way to Degrees BY BUD MORTENSON

A passion for travel has taken Katherine Pickering around the world. Along the way, she earned UBC degrees in anthropology and fine arts, and found a world of artistic inspiration.

"I don't think I've been in one place for more than two years since I was 18," says Pickering, a 28-year-old UBC Okanagan

Bachelor of Fine Arts student who will graduate in June.

"Travelling as a student wasn't the easiest thing to do educationally, but as far as scholarships and the relationships you make, it was great," she says. "There were minor challenges, but they're not very great compared to the benefits."

The day after graduating from high school in Vernon, B.C., Pickering left for India on a year-long Rotary exchange trip. When she returned, she signed up for a fine arts course at Okanagan University College and went on to complete a diploma in fine arts in 2000. Next up was a trip to Mexico on a scholarship to study Spanish for three months.

"I realized I wanted more of an academic slant to my education so I started an

so diverse and so incredibly beautiful," she says. "Geography and the effect that it has on us fascinates me. I've been able to explore this relationship through travelling, and art has become a tool that I can use to ask questions about that relationship."

She returned to UBC to finish her degree in anthropology, and in 2004 went to Romania to teach third-grade kids — an experience that would bring her back to studying art.

her work informed by her travels.

"It helped me to understand that there are so many different ways of doing things, our patterns of behavior are so culturally based," says Pickering. "Art is about opening yourself up to alternative possibilities — this is what it means to think creatively. Travelling makes you more open-minded, which helps a lot in problem-solving, a huge part of making art."

Pickering has been accepted to

**"Travelling makes you more open-minded, which helps a lot in problem solving, a huge part of making art."**

anthropology degree — applying to UBC's exchange program," she says. Pickering spent 2001 studying in New Zealand.

"I loved the landscape and geography of New Zealand. It is

"I thought I'd become a teacher and teach art," she says. "I came back to school and had some fantastic painting teachers."

She now paints big canvasses,

study for a master's degree at the University of Alberta. "I'm planning to take that one step at a time," she says. "I really want to go back to New Zealand — and I think I'll always travel." □

*Katherine Pickering paints on a large scale. In the UBC Okanagan fine arts studio her work in progress reveals layers of images that suggest landscapes and motion.*



PHOTO: BUD MORTENSON



PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

## Nursing Grad Cares for Victims of Sex Trade

BY HILARY THOMSON

A family photo of a four-year-old girl proudly wearing a plastic stethoscope may have been the first hint of her future career, says School of Nursing graduate Denise Valdecantos.

The 25-year-old's journey belies the innocence of that early picture: much of her work involves prostituted Asian women and children, both in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside and in the Philippines.

Working for a year as a Canadian International

She has worked with several Vancouver sexual health education programs targeted to youth, and she currently volunteers at the Philippine Women Centre of B.C. in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, where she works with migrant and trafficked women — some sold as "mail-order brides."

"The most satisfying part for me is therapeutic communication — hearing women's stories and knowing I have something to give," says Valdecantos, whose

**"The women were poor and uneducated about safe sex practices. Some were using candy wrappers for condoms."**

Development Agency intern, she spent time in Philippine "red light districts," usually near U.S. naval bases.

"Living conditions were often horrific," she says. "Some prostituted children were forced to live in cement stalls, like animals. The women were poor and uneducated about safe sex practices. Some were using candy wrappers for condoms."

Valdecantos helped develop a culturally sensitive HIV/AIDS education module and worked directly with prostituted women and children.

"It was very intense emotionally. When I came back to Canada, it was hard to re-adjust. I felt disconnected for a while."

family emigrated from the Philippines and includes many nurses.

Her other focus is mental health, which benefits her work with prostituted women.

"Many of the women I work with also suffer from depression and physical abuse. As a nurse, I can address both physical and psychiatric issues."

Valdecantos is now working at Lion's Gate Hospital Neurology Dept. and hopes to eventually return to the Philippines to work for a few years.

"A big part of why I love this profession is that it allows me to combine nursing care with teaching and travel — things I love to do." □

*Denise Valdecantos works with prostituted Asian women and children in the Downtown Eastside.*





In 2004, Ashfan Charania spent three and a half months living in Kabul where a homemade rocket exploded 100 metres from his guesthouse.

PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

## Not Your Average Internship *War-torn Afghanistan highlight of grad's business studies.* BY LORRAINE CHAN

Ashfan Charania names his overseas work experience in Afghanistan as the absolute highlight of his BComm studies.

"It's one of the best experiences of my life," says Charania, who graduates from the Sauder School of Business. "I'd love to go back."

In 2004, Charania completed as a third-year student his finance internship at Telecom Development Company Afghanistan (TDCA), the country's largest cell phone and service provider.

During his stay between May and August, he witnessed three rocket attacks, one of them landing 100 metres from his guesthouse.

"Security was always a top priority," he says, recalling how that near miss sent everyone diving for the basement. "No one really knew who was setting off these homemade rockets."

Despite the danger, Charania says he valued the opportunity to see how economic tools can help rebuild a war-torn country.

He explains that TDCA is 49 per cent privately owned with 51 per cent owned by the non-profit Aga Khan Development Network, which plows profits back into development through building schools, nutrition and health care.

"I was able to learn more about

microfinance, which is making small loans available to people who don't have access to capital so they can start their own businesses," says Charania.

He adds that microfinance, unlike debt relief or foreign aid, can address the root cause of poverty. "You can transform entire villages and stop the rural-to-urban migration."

While in Kabul, Charania — who speaks English, French, Swahili and the Indian language Kutchi — mastered a basic level of Dari and was able to converse easily with his Afghan hosts and co-workers.

"The Afghans are the most hospitable, generous people I've ever

met," says Charania. "They invite you into their homes and open their lives to you."

Charania traces his passion to help developing nations from his own family history and strong ties to East Africa where he still has relatives. "My great-grandfather emigrated from India to Kiisi, a small village in Kenya. I was born in Nairobi and then grew up in Kigali, Rwanda."

At the age of seven, Charania, his parents and two siblings moved from Rwanda to Canada in 1991. He says he felt a "reverse shock" at seeing such widespread wealth compared to what he was used to in Africa.

"It was strange seeing how the

majority of the population is so well off. People have ready access to education and decent health care, but most don't realize that other parts of the world don't."

Charania hopes to further his education with either an MBA or a Master's of International Development.

"But not right away," he says, "I'm hoping to go overseas to get direct, hands-on experience in microfinance."

He has applied for a fellowship with the Aga Khan Foundation Canada for an eight-month placement in either Bangladesh, India, or Tajikistan, which borders China and Afghanistan. □

## Teacher has Passion for Hearing and Deaf Children BY LORRAINE CHAN

Alayna Smith is starting to feel a few butterflies now that she's been accepted at the Vancouver School Board as a substitute teacher on call.

"It's more excitement than nervousness," says Smith, who graduates from the Faculty of Education this spring. "Since I was small, I've been interested in becoming a teacher."

She adds, "I love connecting with people and working with children, giving them the support so they can be the best they can be."

Smith has been deaf since birth and communicates using sign language and lip reading. Previously at UBC, she earned a BA in English literature and now holds a BED with a focus on children with special needs.

"I chose this field because I feel kids can benefit from my experience as a deaf person and I have an interest in learning to better support and work with students with special needs," says Smith.

However, her teacher training equips her to handle both special needs and regular classrooms. As a student teacher, Smith completed three "rich and wonderful" placements at Burnaby's South Slope Elementary School. There, she taught mainly hearing and a few deaf children since South Slope also houses a B.C. Provincial School for the Deaf Elementary Program.

"Because South Slope is very open to deaf culture, many of the kids are



"Kids are capable of reaching the stars," says teacher Alayna Smith, who was born deaf and communicates through lip reading and sign language.

PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

aware and know how to use sign language interpreters," says Smith.

Accompanied by interpreters and alongside South Slope teachers, Smith taught 30 students in Grades 4 and 5 in diverse subject areas including gym and language arts.

"It was really neat for me to see deaf students who joined my class

for a few subjects," says Smith. "It was interesting to look back at my experiences as a deaf child in elementary school. As a student teacher, I tried to provide the students with an open, welcoming community where children of all diversities connect, hearing or deaf."

Born and raised in Langley, Smith

says her parents made sure she and her brother, who was also born deaf, received the support and education to flourish.

"My parents really encouraged us to try different things. I was on a competitive swimming team with hearing and deaf kids."

Similarly, Smith hopes to see her

students grow and thrive. "Kids are capable of reaching the stars. You can see it. They have that spirit. I want to encourage them to go with it and succeed."

Smith acknowledges that for many students, she may be the first deaf person they meet and perhaps the first teacher they communicate with through sign language interpreters.

"I predict I'll have to do some educating," she says, "but kids are inherently curious when they see sign language. They're exceptionally open-minded, more so than many older people."

Besides, says Smith, her situation can open the door to students learning more about empathy and understanding. "I hope to use that opportunity to talk about using an interpreter and signing, and then segue into having them talk about their own cultures."

She says when she was in elementary school, lessons on First Nations history or the Japanese Canadian internment "only scratched the surface."

"I want to make sure in my classroom, that it's a rich experience and a rich history. I'll want to talk about different ways of being: abilities, ages, genders, sexualities, cultures, and so on."

But more than anything, she says she'd like to help children realize they can achieve anything they set their mind to. □



# Social Work Grad Taps into Aboriginal Community's Strengths

BY LORRAINE CHAN

*Michelle Cameron earned a certificate in the repair and maintenance of airplane and helicopter engines before she discovered her true calling.*

As a First Nations woman, Michelle Cameron has set her sights on working in a profession that holds as many rewards as

She points to her mother and grandmother as two role models who sustain her and exemplify that strength.

over-represented as clients in almost every social service setting.” Cameron says that while

valuable hands-on experience doing full-time qualitative research and program evaluation with the B.C. Ministry of

how historically some cultures valued gay and lesbian people for their greater understanding of male and female energy.

**During her social work training, Cameron used a Medicine Wheel to conduct client assessments. She invited clients to draw a circle with four quadrants that represented their spiritual, mental, physical and emotional states.**

minefields. Cameron will receive her Master of Social Work degree at Fall Congregation this November.

“You can sometimes feel torn because of that historical mistrust,” Cameron admits. “But one of the reasons I’ve decided to specialize in child welfare is that Aboriginal people need to be actively involved if we’re ever going to change the system.”

Cameron is a member of Burns Lake Band. On her mother’s side of the family, she is Carrier First Nations, Frog Clan. Her father’s side is Irish-Canadian.

“I see it as almost being bilingual — bringing an understanding of the concepts of the mainstream world, but making it culturally appropriate for the Aboriginal community.

For example, during her social work training, Cameron used a Medicine Wheel to conduct client assessments. She invited clients to draw a circle with four quadrants that represented their spiritual, mental, physical and emotional states.

“I find the Medicine Wheel is more holistic compared to conventional assessment tools, which can be too linear and deficit based,” says Cameron.

Overall, Cameron says she hopes to bring more balance to the social work picture. “There has been a lot of talk about alcoholism and fetal alcohol syndrome, but the huge strengths of the Aboriginal community are not acknowledged and are underutilized.”

“My grandmother is the backbone of the Reserve,” says Cameron. “She holds everyone together. My Mom is at UBC doing her PhD in educational studies right now. When you consider that about only 30 per cent of Aboriginal students finish high school, that’s pretty amazing.”

Previously at UBC, Cameron earned a BA with a double major in English literature and classics. After a fruitless job search, she then signed up for a year-long Aircraft Engine Mechanic course at BCIT.

“Kind of cool, right? Jet engines!”

At that time, however, Cameron “didn’t know a screwdriver from a wrench,” but says she wanted to challenge herself, especially since her father holds tickets as an electrician and heavy-duty mechanic.

As it was, she finished fourth out of a class of 16 in the repair and maintenance of aircraft and helicopter gas turbine engines. Unfortunately, she got her certificate shortly after Sept. 11, 2001.

“The aviation industry went into a bad state, so there were no jobs.”

Meanwhile, Cameron began taking introductory social work courses by correspondence and felt something click.

“That was one of the first times that I felt passionate about what I was doing,” she says. “Coming from an Aboriginal family, all the issues are so relevant. Aboriginal people are

Aboriginal people comprise eight per cent of B.C.’s population, 60 per cent of Vancouver children in the child welfare system are Aboriginal, and in northern B.C. that figure is 72 per cent or higher.

Cameron is currently gaining

Children and Family Development.

In January 2007, she will start her PhD in Women’s Studies at Simon Fraser University. Her dissertation research will focus on “Two-Spirited” members in Aboriginal communities, and

Also, by the end of this year, she and her partner are hoping to adopt a child, or possibly a „ sibling group.

“Adoption is something I’ve always wanted to do since I was little, knowing that so many Aboriginal children are in care.” □

## TIME PIECE: PROF. BRIAN JAMES

### A Long History of Advising: UBC Chemistry Prof. Emeritus Brian James

Prof. James’ 80th graduate student will earn his PhD in Chemistry this year.

Since his first UBC faculty appointment in 1964, James has served as thesis advisor to 54 PhD and 26 Master’s students, nine of whom went on to complete their PhD with James.

His first advisee served as President of the Royal Society of Canada, while a dozen others are on faculty at universities around the world.

“Prof. James represents all the finest features of excellent university research,” says UBC Vice-President, Research, John Hepburn. “Not only is he at the leading-edge of his field — in fact, he has defined new areas of research throughout his career — he has mentored a record number of students who have gone on to their own stellar careers in research.”

The prestigious journal *Inorganica Chimica Acta* will publish a special issue this month to celebrate



Prof. James (front row, third from left) and his 1970 soccer team, including Commerce Prof. Emeritus Trevor Heaver (back row from left), Physics prof. Emeritus Brian Turrel and Chemistry Prof. Emeritus Alan Storr (centre, back row).

James’ 70th birthday and his contributions to the field of inorganic chemistry.

“Although having accumulated 30 UBC, national and international awards, and close to 400 publications, I’m most proud of having graduated so many fantastic students,” says the former British citizen who shares the Queen’s birthday. □



# Double Vision *Sisters pursue international conservation* BY HILARY THOMSON



*Twin grads Louise (l) and Lydia Teh will use their Resource Management and Environmental Studies degrees to better understand coastal zone management and marine conservation.*

PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

Is it double vision, déjà vu or a doppelgänger?

The Chan Centre audience may be doing double takes when identical twins Lydia and Louise Teh pick up Master of Science degrees later this month.

The sisters and their family moved to Vancouver from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in 1989, and have been working in tandem throughout their academic life.

They both earned BComm degrees from UBC in 2000, with Louise specializing in finance and Lydia focused on marketing. But after working as financial analysts and researchers, they decided careers in commerce were not for them.

A self-directed course in their final year had introduced them to the subject of sustainability and brought them back to UBC in 2003 to pursue degrees in Resource Management and Environmental Studies.

The now 28-year-old sisters remained connected for their fieldwork on the island of Banggi, Malaysia.

"Actually, we didn't even know of this remote island's existence prior to our research," says

Louise, who along with her sister also speaks Malay, Cantonese, and Mandarin.

They stayed a total of three months on Banggi where Louise studied local reef fisheries.

"We didn't know what to expect when we went there, but people were very friendly and we spent lots of time with fishers both on the dock where we measured, weighed and counted fish, and on the water. They took us out and taught us how to fish," she says.

Lydia looked at the feasibility of sustainable eco-tourism.

"Expectations for tourism revenue are high and there's a need to help islanders understand the limits, such as biophysical conditions."

Both women hope to return to the island to continue research in coastal zone management and marine conservation.

"We got to know the people in these fishing communities — we want to go back there and make a positive difference," says Lydia.

When they aren't studying, the duo can be spotted in local recreation spots hiking, backpacking, snowshoeing, or diving. □

## Forecast Rosy for Sailing Champ, Meteorologist

BY BRIAN LIN

When Eric Holden's friends from Vancouver's False Creek Elementary School came to visit, they weren't welcomed into a house with a white picket fence. That's because Holden, who graduates from UBC this spring with a Bachelor of Science degree in atmospheric science, lived on a 50-foot yacht until the age of 12.

"My parents took me sailing when I was 10 days old," says Holden, who competed in his first race at age nine. "For me, it was just another sport. Some kids play soccer, I got into sailing."

The early start cemented Holden's interest — and inevitable success — in the grueling sport of yacht racing. At 18, he became the Canadian

racing-related weather forecasts.

"Weather is such a big part of sailing, but most athletes get into a race with just general rules of thumb that are often inaccurate," says Holden. "To me that wasn't enough."

His unique combination of skills in sailing and meteorology has led to a job advising Derek Hatfield, who finished a single-handed race around the world in 2003. Hatfield's 60-foot *Spirit of Canada* embarks on the 2006/07 Five Oceans around the World race this October.

"I started meteorology because of sailing, now I continue sailing because of what I could learn about meteorology," says Holden. "What I love is that it's both a

**"Weather is such a big part of sailing, but most athletes get into a race with just general rules of thumb that are often inaccurate. To me that wasn't enough."**

Youth Champion in 1998, only to become the World Champion a year later during his first year at UBC.

Since then, Holden has competed in multiple World Championships and finished second at the Canadian Olympic trials for the 2004 Athens games, all while keeping a near-perfect attendance record at UBC.

"I couldn't bear the thought of missing a class where they may be discussing something I could apply to sailing," says Holden. "I'll miss not having my professors around to consult with."

Admitting that he initially took up meteorology to get an edge in sailing, Holden says it has developed into a life-long passion and career. The 26-year-old entrepreneur recently started his own business specializing in yacht

science and an art. We can learn so much but it's still up to Mother Nature. It's variable and it's fast-changing."

With single-handed, around-the-world racing and future Olympics still ahead of him, Holden says while he's excited about a career as a meteorologist, he will likely never stop racing.

"Some people compare it to running a marathon and playing a game of chess at the same time," says Holden. "To me, the appeal lies in the nature of being on a vessel that you can steer without using any power except for the force of the wind."

"It's a beautiful thing to be so self-sufficient while all you can see for miles in any direction is water. People who've experienced it are usually sailors for life." □

*Eric Holden recently completed a 94-hour race from Hong Kong to Manila.*



PHOTO: MARTIN DEE



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A more detailed position description is available in the Dean's Office for those who wish to review it.

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## Young Mother Finds Dream to be Professor

*Hard work no deterrent*

BY BUD MORTENSON

Jennifer Lazaroff's road to a bachelor of arts degree took some twists and turns. But this full-time UBC Okanagan student and mother of a young son refuses to let hard work stand in the way of her desire to study philosophy.

Lazaroff, 25, attended university for a year after high school but decided more school wasn't what she wanted. Three years later, in a job that paid only modestly and with a baby on the way, she was determined to resume her education.

"I decided going to school was the only way for me," says Lazaroff. "I thought, 'I can't keep working for \$10 an hour and I can't get a better job without an education.'"

Less than a week before her son was born, she started three correspondence courses.

Her son Austin is three now,



PHOTO: BUD MORTENSON

UBC Okanagan student Jennifer Lazaroff shifted her focus from economics to philosophy in her final term in preparation for graduate studies in philosophy this fall.

two weeks and finally decided teaching wasn't where my heart is," she says. "I didn't really want a career that was just a job to me. I came to a fork in the road — should I do what I really want to

"but it was the toughest semester I ever had."

With her BA in hand, Lazaroff now hopes to enter the interdisciplinary master's program at UBC Okanagan this fall. Her long-term

**"I've been going to school non-stop for three years since my son was born. It has been a juggling act for sure, but it's worth the sacrifices — I have something to show for all that hard work."**

and Lazaroff is about to receive her BA in political science, philosophy and economics (PPE). Recently, her philosophy professor raised the notion of a master's degree in philosophy.

As Lazaroff considered a future in philosophy, a subject she particularly enjoyed, she also considered becoming a teacher — something she saw as a "pragmatic option."

"I thought about it for a good

do, or do what's pragmatic?"

After making the Dean's list several times — a feat she's particularly proud of — with one semester remaining Lazaroff switched her emphasis from economics to philosophy, taking three extra philosophy courses on top of the remaining courses she needed to graduate.

"This semester was supposed to be a walk in the park," she says,

goal is to earn a PhD and some day teach philosophy as a university professor.

That's the future, but right now she is just looking forward to graduating. "I've been going to school non-stop for three years since my son was born," she says. "It has been a juggling act for sure, but it's worth the sacrifices — I have something to show for all that hard work." □

## Staff Members Receive President's Service Award for Excellence

*continued from page 3*

community building. One former Summer of '73 parent says Bartnik-Kapsa cares for not only the children, but a child's entire family, adding that children under her care grow to be confident, happy individuals, ready to contribute in kindergarten and in the greater community. Bartnik-Kapsa's commitment to her field is demonstrated by her participation in volunteer committees focused on the development of best practices in early child education at UBC Child Care Services, which often take place outside of hours of work.

For the last 16 years, Brian Lee has dedicated his career to the financial health of the university — the past nine years as director of Finance in the Faculty of Arts, UBC's largest faculty with a budget of around \$60 million and 21 departments, schools and museums.

Lee, a UBC alumnus, is best known for decentralizing the Faculty's budget, a two-year

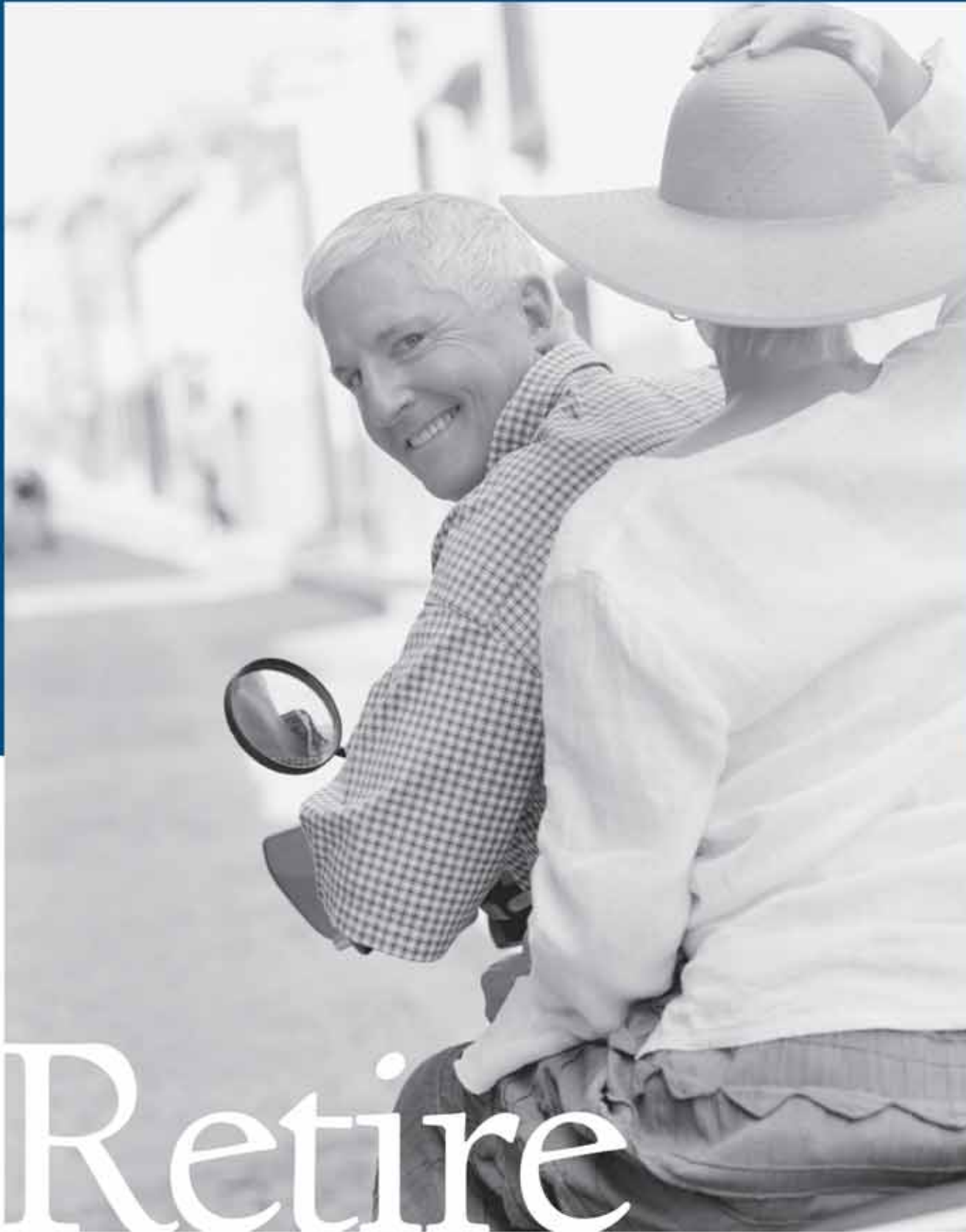
project that resulted in greater departmental flexibility, smaller classes, and more full-time positions. A past co-chair of the Committee of Faculty Business Administrators, he is also responsible for the faculty's five-year comprehensive financial plan, which provided a balanced fiscal outlook using various economic scenarios and enrollment projections. Lee is a member of the Killarney Secondary School Parent Advisory Committee and the Certified General Accountant's organization, where he marks student exams on a volunteer basis.

Catherine Alkenbrack, associate director of Facilities and Capital Planning, is the first point of contact when administrators, faculty, staff and students think about physical space on campus. Over the course of her 14 years of employment, a period of unprecedented growth at UBC, she has become known as the campus's space planning "conscience."

Alkenbrack manages over 250

annual requests for space or planning assistance. She has created space plans, budgets, and re-use scenarios for nearly 150 additional major projects, including UBC Okanagan and the Kuwait Institute of Business and Technology. When required, she is known to work late into the night to ensure major projects remain on deadline. A graduate of the UBC School of Architecture, Alkenbrack is author of the UBC Core Density Study, a key roadmap for campus growth. She was also instrumental in the creation of the recently completed Swing Space Building, used as temporary space for units whose facilities are being renovated. As a member of UBC's Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) team, Alkenbrack's ability to project and cost the physical implications of research proposals is seen as critical to the quality of the university's applications, which generated \$200 million in funding in the program's first year alone. □





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# Harold Cardinal

## An Inspirational Warrior

BY PROF. WESLEY PUE, *Assoc. Dean of Graduate Studies, Faculty of Law*



Maisie Cardinal will accept the degree on behalf of her late husband at the graduation ceremony on May 31. Cardinal is also a graduate of UBC, having received her PhD in Education in 2004.

Harold Cardinal, an outstanding First Nations leader, lawyer and scholar, receives his PhD in law posthumously at this spring's Convocation. He passed away on June 3, 2005.

Raised on the Sucker Creek Cree Reserve, Cardinal rose to national prominence as President of the Indian Association of Alberta. First elected at 23 years of age, he worked during nine terms in office to develop and preserve Indian culture. Cardinal was a key figure in the creation of the National Indian Brotherhood, the precursor of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), and took part in pivotal negotiations with the federal government of Canada over its Indian policy.

"I have known Dr. Harold Cardinal since long before he completed the triple crown of becoming a 'Doctor, Lawyer, and Indian Chief,'" said AFN National Chief Phil Fontaine. "He truly has been an inspirational warrior and leader for First Nations all of his life."

His first book, *The Unjust Society: the Tragedy of Canada's Indians* (1969), published before he was 25 years old, clearly outlined the historical, customary, and legal rights of First Nations peoples. Its impact was enormous. It for the first time educated large numbers of non-aboriginal Canadians about the profound injustices that characterize Canada's treatment of First Nations. Cardinal's example inspired new generations of First Nations women and men to assume leadership in their communities.

Prior to earning his doctorate in law at UBC, Cardinal completed his LLM at Harvard University and served as Indigenous Scholar in Residence in the Faculty of Law at the University of Alberta. A recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation, he was awarded an honorary LL.D. by the University of Alberta in 1999.

At UBC Cardinal is remembered by Prof. June McCue for "the support, humour and joy that he brought" to the gatherings of First Nations law students. He was, she said, "our philosopher, scholar, leader, and companion."

At UBC, Cardinal brought unique qualifications to his PhD research on the relationships between Cree and State law. Cardinal invested years in acquiring the learning offered by Cree elders and he uniquely, deeply, bridged two worlds. □

### Publications of Harold Cardinal:

- *The Unjust Society: the Tragedy of Canada's Indians* (Mel Hurtig Publishers, 1969; republished Douglas & McIntyre, 1999)
- *The Rebirth of Canada's Indians* (Mel Hurtig Publishers, 1977)
- *Alberta elders' Cree dictionary = Alberta ohci kehtehayak nehiyaw otwestamâkewasinahikan* by Nancy LeClaire & George Cardinal; edited by Earle Waugh; Cree consultants, Emily Hunter, Earle H. Waugh, and Harold Cardinal (University of Alberta Press, 1998)
- *Treaty elders of Saskatchewan: our dream is that our peoples will one day be clearly recognized as nations* (with W. Hildebrand). (University of Calgary Press, 2000)

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PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

Jordan Barlow is passionate about building timber-framed homes and custom furniture. But his dream job is as a writer on Saturday Night Live.

## Seeing the Forest for the Trees

Wood science grad has global perspective. BY BRIAN LIN

Jordan Barlow doesn't think he can solve all the problems in the world, but that won't stop him from making small contributions to a handful of people.

"If you learn something or discover something, you should share that with the world," says Barlow, who is graduating this spring with a BSc in wood

to operate the machinery. The others could be replaced at any time with any of the unemployed workers lining up outside."

The dispensable work force also means that employee health and safety programs are almost non-existent.

"In many cases, it makes

ing nations. Monetary aid is just a temporary band-aid. I definitely see myself taking time in the future to volunteer and share my knowledge."

Hoping to make a career building timber-framed homes and high-end custom furniture, the handy 24-year-old admits there's one job he'd drop

**"Sharing knowledge is the only way to empower developing nations. Monetary aid is just a temporary band-aid. I definitely see myself taking time in the future to volunteer and share my knowledge."**

product processing from the Faculty of Forestry.

"That way everyone grows and benefits from that knowledge. It's selfish to hoard it and die with it."

Barlow recently returned from a seven-month co-op term at the University of Stellenbosch. He visited local factories and interviewed plant managers and workers to help the South African university integrate industry practices into its academic-heavy wood science program.

"They're basically where UBC was 10 years ago," explains Barlow, who grew up in Castlegar, B.C., a small mill town in the Central Kootenay region.

Known for its inexpensive labour and fast-growing trees, the South African wood products sector is now facing stiff competition from China, which is taking a large share of the export furniture market with its cheap but knowledgeable work force and abundant high-tech equipment.

"What we're offering is Canada's experience in developing wood science curriculum and training programs so they can better educate their work force," says Barlow. "One factory I visited had 300 workers, and only 20 of them knew how

more sense for the employer to hand out condoms rather than safety goggles, because the worker is more likely to contract HIV before he is injured on the job. Parts of the factory close down every few days so the workers can attend the funeral of one of their colleagues."

Despite its growing pains and post-apartheid instability, the South African industry is slowly carving out its own niche, says Barlow.

"It's a case of working with what you have," he adds. "Unable to afford multi-million-dollar machinery, some of the smaller factories are now employing skilled workers to make unique, one-off custom furniture items by hand, and selling them to the UK at very high prices. That's a very effective model that many rural B.C. towns and First Nations communities could adopt."

Barlow learned an important lesson of his own. "Inequality is the root of all problems," says Barlow, who was confused to find two men's washrooms side-by-side in the Stellenbosch university's forestry building — until he realized that during apartheid, one was for white people, the other for non-white.

"Sharing knowledge is the only way to empower develop-

everything for.

"I want to be a writer for Saturday Night Live," says Barlow. "I just enjoy making people laugh. If people are smiling, I'm having a good time." □

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## UNIVERSITY TOWN



ISSUE NO.6 MAY 2006

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SERVING UBC'S EMERGING RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY

**UBC's Next Master Plan**

The UBC community will soon be asked to help the University define the vision of the academic campus for the next 25 years. UBC's Campus and Community Planning will lead a public consultation program to discuss the future of UBC's architecture, built form, public realm, and, critically, how planning on campus is implemented.

"UBC's Board of Governors adopted the Main Campus Plan in 1992," said Nancy Knight, Associate Vice President, Campus and Community Planning. "It's time to update that plan to incorporate the values of *Trek 2010*, the recent residential development, and to account for the planning needs of a leading global university."

Consultations for the next Campus Master Plan will roll out in four phases starting with an opportunity for the community to define UBC's planning challenges. This will be followed by a series of community workshops, and will end with the development of three community visions and a draft plan.

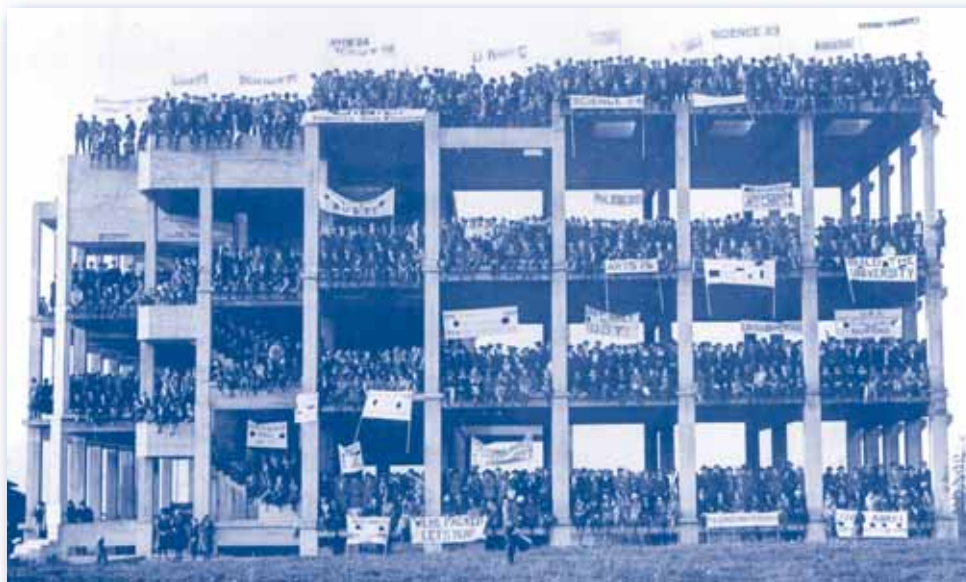
The Campus Master Plan exercise is scheduled to begin this spring with a series of technical reviews with planning and design experts. Public consultation opportunities will begin in the Fall of 2006. The exercise is expected to take 18 months to complete.

**A New Kind of Street Smarts**

Stores Road (between Main Mall and West Mall) is being transformed into Sustainability Street – living proof that research and new technologies can make our urban environments more sustainable.

"Sustainability Street is a showcase of UBC's leading research in a real world development scenario," said David Grigg, Associate Director, Campus and Community Planning. "The applications that work here will be used in other areas of the university's development, including the South Campus Wesbrook Place neighbourhood."

The initial phase of Sustainability Street focuses on two revolutionary closed-loop systems that integrate storm water management, wastewater treatment and ground source heating. This also includes a small-scale biodiesel production unit, which will transform waste cooking oil



Photograph courtesy UBC Archives

*UBC Campus and Community Planning wants to know where the UBC community stands when it comes to UBC's future (photo shows UBC students protesting about lack of building space for classes circa 1922)*



Photograph by Darin Dueck

*President Martha Piper and Geoff Atkins, Associate Vice-President Land and Building Services, unveil Sustainability Street*

generated on campus into a clean-burning fuel that powers UBC maintenance vehicles.

The street's storm water system will demonstrate how to collect and treat water in a small space, enabling the natural filtration of contaminants before the water enters the groundwater table and surrounding streams. Storm water will flow in over a series of cascading weirs and pools before reaching a pond where it will be allowed to infiltrate back into the ground. This surface water flow will be supplemented by groundwater that has been pumped from the ground and used to provide heating and cooling for one of the office buildings on the street.

Sustainability Street will also turn wastewater into clean water

by collecting wastewater from an adjacent building and treating it with the Smart Microbial Process (enables water treatment to be controlled remotely in real-time via the Internet) to a quality suitable for reuse. The result is the highly efficient transformation of wastewater into clean, reusable water.

Sustainability Street will be showcased at the World Urban Forum in June.

For further information on Sustainability Street please visit: [www.sustain.ubc.ca](http://www.sustain.ubc.ca)

**Ecotrek Will Save UBC \$3.4 Million in Annual Energy Costs**

Ecotrek, a \$35 million sustainability project championed by the campus Sustainability Office has just completed retrofitting building services and systems of nearly 300 buildings at UBC. As a result UBC will save \$2.5 million annually in energy and water costs and

dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The 36-month project was the largest of its kind in Canada and now provides a blueprint for schools, universities, colleges and institutions everywhere seeking cost recoverable ways to reduce utility costs and cut emissions. Specifically, Ecotrek has:

- Saved enough water to meet the needs of 29,000 people for a year
- Reduced enough electricity to heat 1,617 homes for a year
- Trimmed the use of steam to heat the equivalent of 3,171 homes for a year
- Cut greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to driving a car 1,000 times around the world

For further information about Ecotrek visit [www.sustain.ubc.ca/energy](http://www.sustain.ubc.ca/energy)

**University Town Bicycle Tours – Your chance to find out more about UBC**

The University Town Office, in partnership with the UBC TREK Program Centre, the UBC Sustainability Office, UBC Community Affairs, the UBC Bike Kitchen and the Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition (VACC) will be hosting University Town Bicycle Tours during the World Urban Forum in June 2006.

Participants will have the opportunity to explore the UBC Vancouver campus to learn more about UBC's new University Town.

Bikes will be provided by the UBC Bike Kitchen or you are



Photograph by Martin Dee

welcome to bring your own. The tours will be approximately two hours in duration, require basic cycling abilities and will proceed rain or shine.

Areas of focus will include academic and green buildings, new residential neighbourhoods, and prominent vistas and landscapes.

For more information on these tours, or to sign-up, please contact Lisa Slakov at [lslakov@telus.net](mailto:lslakov@telus.net).

Program details will be updated and will be posted at [www.universitytown.ubc.ca](http://www.universitytown.ubc.ca)