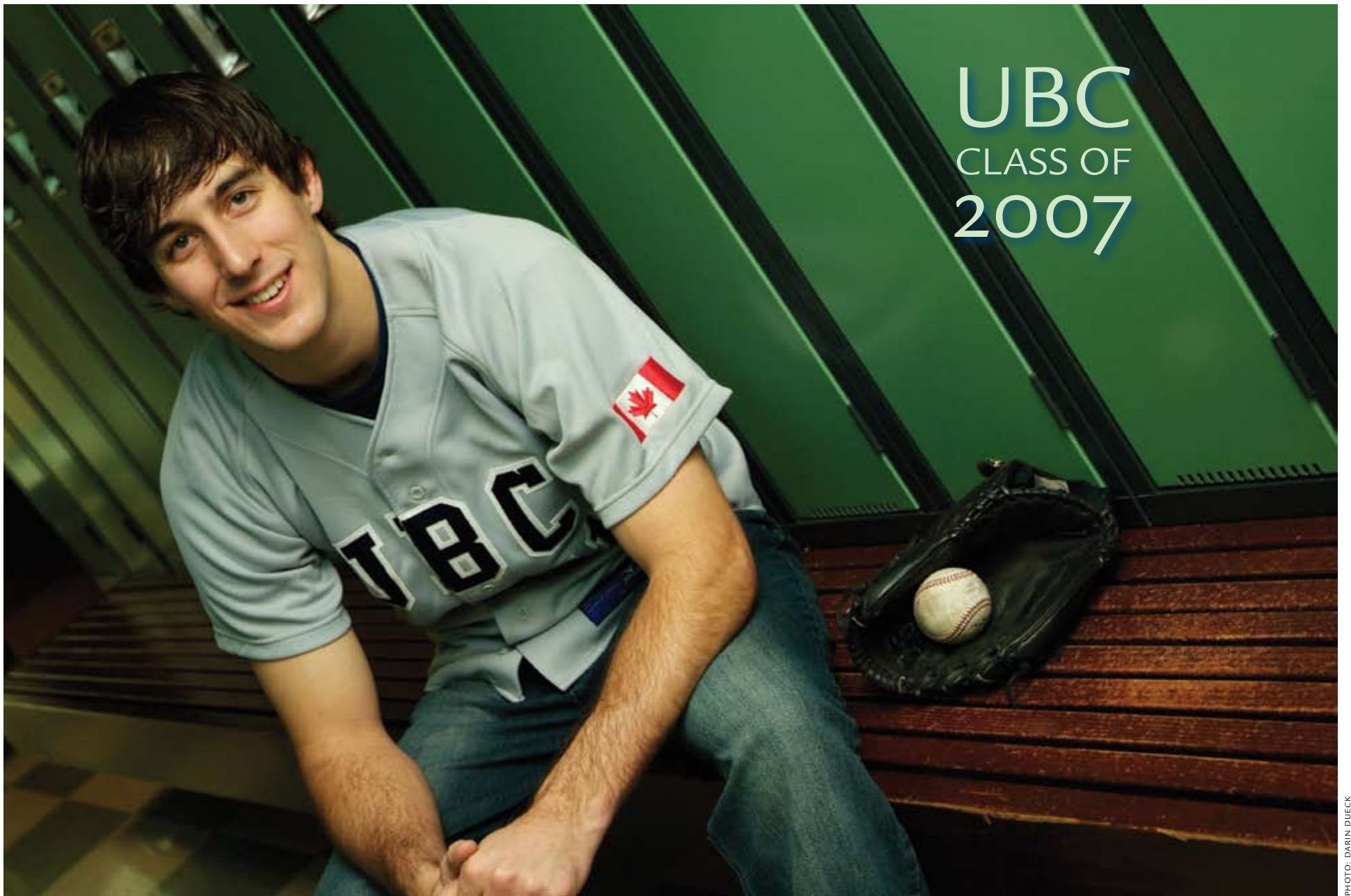




UBC REPORTS



Aspiring doctor Brad Ashman, who graduates this May, has thrown himself into varsity athletics, academics and community volunteering while at UBC.

PHOTO: DARIN DUECK

Science grad helped take UBC to World Series

By Basil Waugh

Some athletes are known for outlandish contracts and even worse behaviour, but graduating UBC baseball pitcher Brad Ashman is an athlete on whom the mantle of role model actually fits.

In addition to helping UBC clinch its first World Series appearance in the U.S.-based NAIA, the 23-year-old aspiring doctor has thrown himself into UBC's Learning Exchange community service learning programs, co-ordinating after-school programs for inner city schools and volunteering at a local hospice for people living with HIV/AIDS.

"I've tried to make a positive impact on the people I've volunteered with, but they've had just as positive an impact on me," says the six-foot-seven, Trail, B.C. product. "Coming from a small town, volunteering opened my eyes to different

people and cultures and made me a more well-rounded person."

Ashman has been a regular volunteer with *I'm Going To UBC*, a program that pairs varsity athletes with inner city kids for campus tours, sports clinics and Thunderbirds games, with the ultimate goal of increasing the accessibility of post-secondary education to children who may think it is beyond their grasp.

Breaking the stereotype of varsity athletes who play sports at the expense of their education, Ashman has also been a heavy-hitter in the Faculty of Science, where he has specialized in biology. He received several scholarships and for four consecutive years was recognized as an Academic All-Canadian for maintaining an average grade of 80 per cent or higher.

Ashman, who throws left-handed, has applied to medical schools in B.C. and Alberta, says his UBC experience will help

him make the transition from bullpen to operating room.

"Working with patients with serious physical and mental conditions at the hospice, explaining concepts that kids might not understand in the reading programs, and playing a key role on a high-performance team was great preparation for medical school," says Ashman.

Aside from the World Series, Ashman's varsity baseball highlights include representing Canada in the 2004 World University Games in Taiwan, traveling throughout the U.S. with his teammates and coaches and four seasons of incremental improvements, culminating with a program-best fourth place in 2006. Ashman broke T-Bird pitching records for most starts, appearances and innings in a season.

Ashman's advice to incoming students? As far as experiences go, the more the merrier.

"My advice is to get involved, manage your time and have fun," he says. "A complete education is about more than just good grades and going to class. I love learning, but I also love the thrill of competition and contact with the community – it's been great to satisfy all those interests and grow as a person." **R**

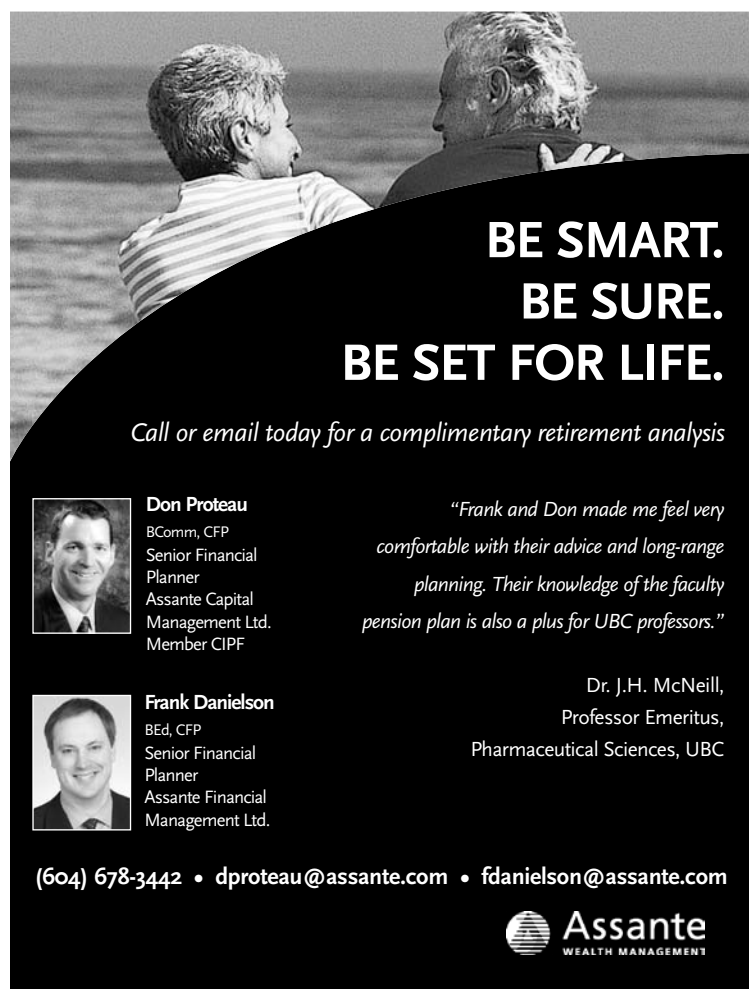
My best UBC memories:

"What I'll remember most about my time at UBC is all the relationships I've made through varsity sports, volunteering and classes," says Ashman. "I didn't know many people when I arrived at UBC, but I'll be keeping in touch with some of these people my whole life."

For complete comments from this graduate, check out the audio clip at: www.publicaffairs.ubc.ca/ubcreports/2007/07may03/

Special Congregation Issue

This UBC Reports profiles just a handful of the more than 6,500 undergraduate and graduate students who will receive their degrees at Congregation ceremonies from May 23-30 in Vancouver, and June 8 in Kelowna. They join almost 250,000 UBC alumni worldwide. Complementing each story, we are pleased to offer, for the first time in our online edition, the chance to hear these graduates – via audio clips – share what they'll remember most about their university. To listen to the clips, visit www.publicaffairs.ubc.ca/ubcreports. For more information about graduation, visit: www.graduation.ubc.ca www.graduation.ubc.ca.




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UBC Reports Earns GOLD for Best Newspaper

The Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education (CCAEE), which comprises members from 140 institutions across Canada, has awarded *UBC Reports* the Gold in the best newspaper category in its 2007 awards program. The judges cited "great story ideas," "excellent writing," and "very engaging and fun" photography. At least 28 *UBC Reports* stories were also picked up by external media outlets in the past year.

The annual awards program also recognized the International Student Initiative (Gold for best student recruitment viewbook); Alumni Affairs (Gold for the re-design of its web site), and; Telestudios photographer Martin Dee (Silver for best photograph for the picture of former T-Bird basketball star Pasha Bains on the cover of the March 2006 *UBC Reports*).

IN THE NEWS

Highlights of UBC Media Coverage in April 2007. COMPILED BY BASIL WAUGH

Moral Judgment on 'Sin Stocks' Means Higher Returns for Vice-Friendly Investors

Several North American media outlets, including *Reuters*, *CBC NewsWorld* and the *Vancouver Sun*, reported on a UBC study that looked at the profitability of so-called "sin stocks."

UBC Sauder School of Business Prof. Marcin Kacperczyk, co-author of the study *The Price of Sin: The Effects of Social Norms on Markets*, said investing in alcohol, tobacco and gambling stocks yields returns two to four per cent higher per year on average than comparable stocks.

"Our analysis associates social norms with significant price effects," said Kacperczyk. "While sinful stocks aren't necessarily good for the soul, they are under-priced and outperform comparable stocks."

More Women Surviving Heart Surgery

CNN, *Reuters* and *Scientific American* reported on a UBC study that found a significant decline in the number of women dying after coronary artery bypass surgery (CABG).

Despite the drop, UBC cardiologist Dr. Karin Humphries found that women still remain at higher risk of early



Robot Barista: taking the direct delivery approach.

death after CABG than men, due in part to the smaller size of their coronary arteries.

Humphries and her colleagues evaluated gender differences and trends in 30-day mortality after CABG in all adults who had the procedure between 1991 and 2004 in B.C. The team's findings were published in the April edition of the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*.

Discovery Enables Scientists To Convert Blood Types

UBC blood expert Dr. Stephen Withers appeared in international coverage of a Danish discovery that potentially enables blood from groups A,

B and AB to be converted into group O.

In a companion piece to the study in the journal *Nature Biotechnology*, Withers wrote: "The method may enable manufacture of universal red cells, which would substantially reduce pressure on the blood supply."

The *BBC* and a number of U.S. papers, including the *L.A. Times*, cited Withers' analysis.

Student-designed Robotic Baristas Squirt Coffee into Waiting Mouths

Robots created by UBC Engineering students served coffee samples in an unconventional manner outside a campus Starbucks in April.

Instead of serving drinks in sample-sized paper cups, the robots sprayed iced coffee directly into people's mouths. The event, covered by television crews from *CBC*, *Channel M* and *Fairchild TV*, showcased the final projects of UBC's second-year Integrated Engineering class.

"We challenged students to create an environmentally friendly, paperless way of serving coffee samples," said Leo Stocco, Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering. "If you like cream in your coffee, the robots will do that too." **R**

UBC REPORTS

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Degrees of Kindness *Education and service go hand-in-hand for grad*

By Lorraine Chan

True learning that transforms the world must connect the head, heart and hands.

That's what Arti Khanderia witnessed at UBC's Learning Exchange, which integrates students' volunteer service with academic course work, and in Thailand while researching her master's project on community service learning.

"There has to be the potential for academic theory to touch the heart's compassion, which then leads to on-the-ground action for social change," says Khanderia. She graduates this month with an MA degree from UBC's School of Community and Regional Planning.

In 2004, Khanderia enjoyed "a truly amazing" experience when her friend and fellow UBC student Marisol Peterson invited her to work on a student-led initiative with the residents of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. Peterson and Khanderia, through UBC's Learning Exchange in the neighbourhood, helped the residents provide ESL classes to immigrants and refugees. That pilot project has since evolved into a full-time program.

"I learned more about planning than I would have if I only sat within the walls of a classroom," says Khanderia. "And it was incredible how the project boosted people's self confidence and gave everyone a chance to form caring relationships."

She was further inspired in 2005 during four months of research throughout Thailand. Khanderia studied the spectrum of Thai educational models in a country where there's a movement among academics to merge the sacred and the secular.

Khanderia explains that in past centuries, Thai students learned in temples from Buddhist monks, "who not only taught the alphabet, but promoted human ideals of loving kindness and service to others."



Arti Khanderia spent four months in Thailand studying how different universities are merging the secular and the sacred.

Over the past 50 years, however, factors such as globalization have moved Thai universities closer to the Western model and its values.

"For my project, I was looking at how there's a resurgence among Thai universities to make the culture's implicit spiritual values more explicit in the way students learn through community engagement, learning-by-doing and inner-reflection."

Khanderia studied how one university got engineering students to work with a community to build schools and install toilets in villages. Or in another case, science professors provided villagers with practical skills so they could transform recycled beer bottles into jewelry and start up small businesses.

Khanderia says she was struck by a saying that was written on the walls of a Thai Buddhist monastery: "If you don't raise students to give to the world, you raise a society that does not give back to the world."

She plans to apply this maxim when she returns to her native Toronto. Khanderia hopes to land a job at the housing project Regent Park where she spent four years working with inner-city youth while earning a BA at the University of Toronto.

"I want those kids to know they can make changes and to provide them the tools and resources to do that." **R**

My best UBC memories:

"The time I've been able to spend with my professors and colleagues . . . the opportunity to engage with community in action-oriented projects...through compassion and citizenship of the heart... to create a holistic learning experience."

For complete comments from this graduate, check out the audio clip at: www.publicaffairs.ubc.ca/ubcreports/2007/07may03/

PHOTO: DARIN DUECK

Nursing Grad Brings First Nations Sensitivity to Her Role

By Bud Mortenson

Grandma Rose was thrilled when granddaughter Viola chose to pursue a nursing degree after her first year of university.

"My grandmother's health had been declining for a few years at the time, and when I visited her she kept saying 'I want you to be my nurse'," says nursing student Viola Rose Brown. "Grandma Rose was always a cheerleader through my years at school. She wanted all her grandchildren to go to school and encouraged us to be focused and dedicated to our studies. When I got into nursing she was so happy."

A member of the Okanagan Indian Band in Vernon, B.C., 22-year-old Brown graduates this month with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree from UBC Okanagan's School of Nursing.

One of the highlights of her education was a six-week volunteer mission to Western Africa last February and March, learning about nursing in the rural hospitals and clinics of northern Ghana.

Grandma Rose passed away just two weeks before Brown left for Ghana, but



Viola Rose Brown is one of 14 Aboriginal students graduating from UBC Okanagan this year. She has just completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

the support and encouragement over the years from her grandmother and her entire family have given Brown a clear sense of direction in her life: she wants to be a great nurse, and particularly a comfort to Aboriginal patients.

"Growing up, my parents taught me the importance of learning the values and teachings of my people's traditional way of life," says Brown. "As a result, I am now very active in my First Nations culture and it is a part of my everyday life."

"My involvement in my culture turned into a drive for me to go into the nursing profession. I want to be able to give back to my people and to assist them in improving their quality of living. Often that quality of living is low – and significantly compromised," she says.

The Okanagan Indian Band helped her financially through her post-secondary schooling. The entire First Nations community in Vernon also offered tremendous encouragement, she says, adding that she received support for her trip to Ghana from family, friends and community members.

"I realize who I am today has a lot to

PHOTO: BUD MORTENSON

US Grad Inspired by Global Mentors

By Brian Lin

An American student has learned the most important lesson of his Canadian university career from a Costa Rican farmer.

Mentors around the world have contributed to his education, says Luke Pritchard, who's receiving a Bachelor of Science degree from the Faculty of Land and Food Systems' Global Resource Systems program, where students study science in the context of a region of the world.

During an exchange semester at Escuela Agricultura en la Region Tropico Humido (EARTH) University in Costa Rica last year, Pritchard met a farmer who had spent his life savings on a five-acre piece of land 10 years earlier.

"He then found out that the land's run-off of pesticides and fertilizers was polluting watersheds downstream," says the 21-year-old Denver, Colorado, transplant.

"He contacted EARTH University, which helped him regenerate native old growth forest on the property and establish an eco-tourism business. But in the meantime, he lost his only source of income and had to raise his son by doing odd jobs and turning his home phone into a pay phone for the community for the past decade."

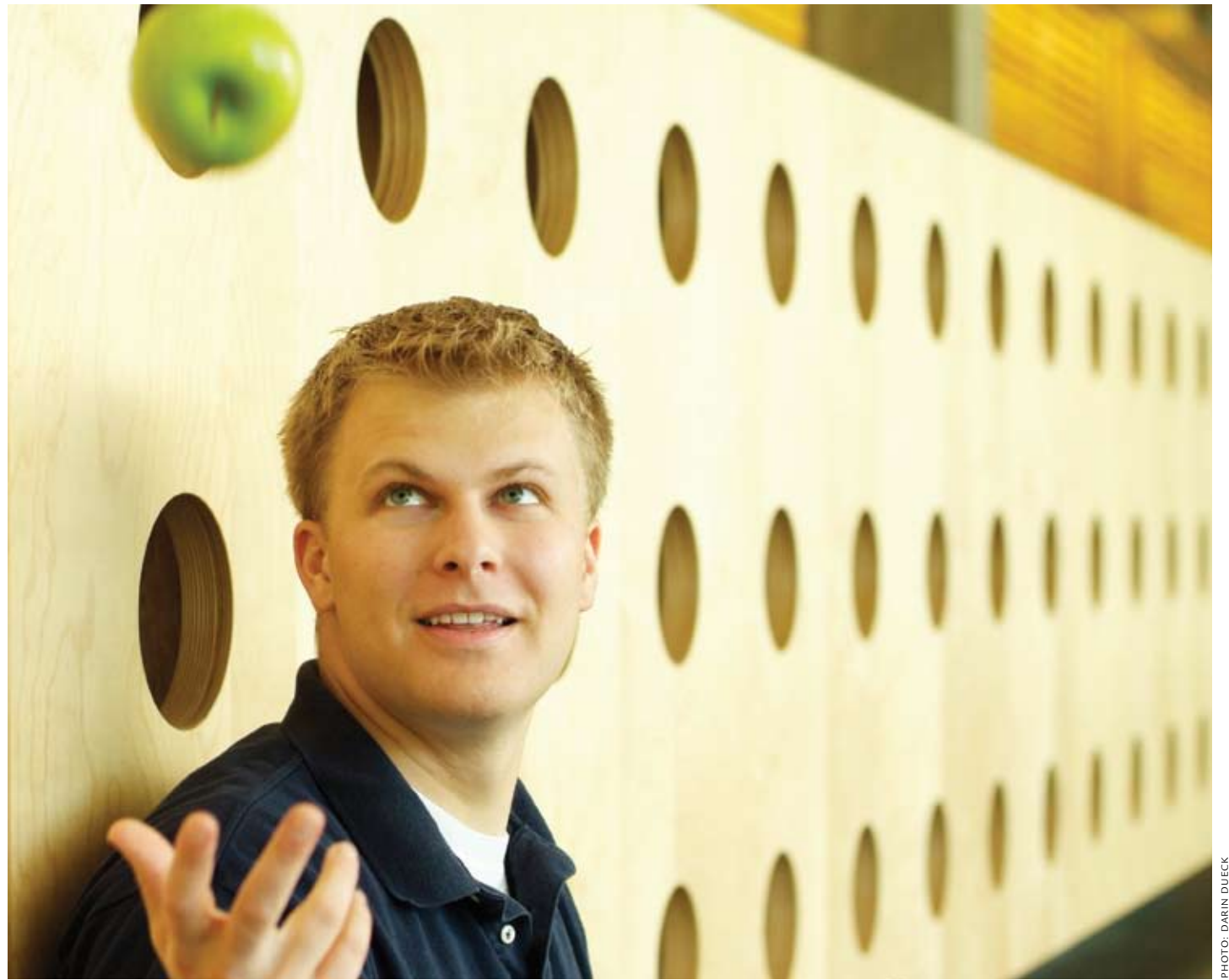


PHOTO: DARIN DUECK

Luke Pritchard credits his mentors at UBC and from around the world for a well-rounded education and a global perspective on sustainability.

The experience was "super inspiring," says Pritchard, who spent two months building a bunkhouse and a kitchen and put up signage for hiking trails on the property.

"He had so little to begin with and yet was willing to give up what he had for altruistic reasons – to help people

downstream and ensure the integrity of the watershed and ecosystem."

Add to that a six-week stint in Thailand and China doing biodiversity fieldwork with a University of California, Santa Barbara study, a trek in Tibet, and presenting a paper at the International Student Summit on Agriculture in

Japan, and Pritchard can truly say he accomplished what he came to UBC to do.

"I wanted to study environmental issues on a global scale, and I learned that everything is interconnected," says Pritchard. "What you do here can affect people halfway around the world."

"What I've noticed from the

continued on page 5



PHOTO: DARIN DUECK

Lesley So credits the thorough briefing of her Sauder professors in helping her land her dream job.

This BCom comes with a Rolls Royce

By Sarah Walker

Lesley So loves to travel. She also loves numbers, logistics and the creativity involved in problem-solving.

This September, So will combine these passions as a management trainee in Rolls Royce's leadership development program in the company's offices in England. With a new placement within the organization every six months over the next two years, her skills will be put to work.

This opportunity presented itself while So was on a five-month student exchange in Manchester this winter. Following the advice of her professors and career counselors at the Sauder School of Business, So did what she has been drilled to do: network, look out for opportunities, and then prepare until you can prepare no more. This put her above the field of 4,000 applicants, and landed her the job.

However, So does not see herself as out of the ordinary. "I think I was more prepared than anyone else. That's because of Sauder and how they tell you to prepare. I just listened to what I'm supposed to do and it really paid off."

So followed her heart to UBC, too. Growing up in Vancouver, her home since leaving Hong Kong at the age of eight,

she thought she would study medicine. However, her first-year economics elective opened her eyes to the possibility of business as a better fit. In her second year of commerce, a problem-solving class introduced her to the challenges of logistics. To her delight, UBC offers a rare commerce option in transportation and logistics (TLog), focusing on the flow of goods, information and money throughout an organization.

With this new focus, So chose to enter the commerce co-operative program, which offers four four-month work terms. She speaks enthusiastically about her time with companies such as LuluLemon and General Motors (Ontario), gaining direct experience in areas like logistics management and forecasting product demand. This Spring, with her résumé filled to the brim, she will receive her Bachelor of Commerce degree with a double focus in marketing and TLog.

Although excited about the future, So says she is sorry to leave. Her Manchester exchange was an intense learning experience, academically and culturally. Living with seven roommates, she quickly learned cultural cues. "Unlike UBC, no one wears sweat pants to class," she laughs. "The culture is very fashion-forward."

continued on page 5

US GRAD *continued from page 4*

communities I've visited is that they're actually more ecologically minded than we are – it's deeply embedded in their culture – they just don't have the resources to implement programs where they can both protect the environment and make a living," says Pritchard. "If you can offer them sustainable solutions, everybody wins."

This summer, Pritchard and seven other UBC Global Outreach Students' Association volunteers are heading to Ecuador to help local communities in water treatment, health education and sustainable agriculture.

Personally, the globetrotting has made him give up bananas ("I've seen the terrible working conditions in Central American banana plantations"), buy apples locally ("I'm trying to live with a smaller ecological footprint"), and rethink the connection between money and happiness.

"You hear so much about people living under the poverty level, but when I met these people who are supposedly so poor, they were actually some of the happiest people I've ever met in terms of spirit and culture. You can't take everything at face value." **R**

My best UBC memories:

"The one person I'll always remember is the farmer I met in rural Costa Rica who had turned a piece of farm land into a native old-growth forest. He had lost all his income by doing this and it was really inspiring that someone who had so little would give up the only thing he had to protect the environment and people downstream."

For complete comments from this graduate, check out the audio clip at: www.publicaffairs.ubc.ca/ubcreports/2007/07may03/



PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

Sacrificing a promising Olympic ski career in favour of post-secondary education and varsity sports yielded personal and career inspirations for Trevor Bruce.

Ski Racer Finds New World View

By Brian Lin

Five years at UBC has taught Trevor Bruce that no man, not even an Alpine skier, is an island.

The 26-year-old North Vancouver native has been hitting the slopes since age six and has represented both British Columbia and Canada in competitions in more than 20 countries.

"My upbringing and ski racing career has been one of intense individualism – everything from school work to physical training, I did on my own," says Bruce, who is graduating this spring with a Bachelor of Applied Science in Geological Engineering. "I was a one-man show and the team was my competition."

But giving up his Olympic dreams in favour of post-secondary education and varsity athletics in 2002 has brought profound changes in both his personality and career path.

"In collegiate races, the three best times of the five-person team determine your overall ranking," says Bruce. "I quickly learned that excelling on my own wasn't going to cut it."

As the unofficial technical coach, Bruce has led the UBC ski team – the only varsity ski team in Canada – to place consistently

in the top five out of 200 schools in the United States Collegiate Ski Association national championships, including three podium results in the last four years.

"We receive \$10,000-\$20,000 a year in funding for ten athletes and consistently beat out American skiers with budgets ten times as much – sometimes up to half a million dollars," says Bruce, who adds that the UBC team is now attracting prospects from as far as Ontario.

Meanwhile, Bruce was excelling academically by calling upon the drive and motivation developed from ski racing, and finding UBC courses that transformed his worldview.

"I chose engineering because it came naturally," says Bruce, whose late grandfather Ernest Watson was a UBC engineering professor. "But the emphasis at UBC engineering on the environmental and societal impacts of engineering – from dams to roads to even home electrical systems – was a complete eye-opener for me."

"Engineers take pride in being builders and creators – people who put things into action," says Bruce. "What I learned here at UBC is that our decisions have long-term consequences. I was a little guy who tried to find my place and this knowledge empowered me to believe that I can make

huge differences in the world."

With a game plan to "start small and take baby steps," Bruce wants to create a non-profit organization that provides sustainable housing options to low-income families.

"Low-income families typically live in older buildings that consume a lot of energy – and rack up utility bills – in winter months due to bad insulation, for example. I'd like to assemble a team of sustainability-minded volunteers to assess the situation and offer solutions that are both good for the environment and save money for home-owners – from a \$5 can of silicone to seal the windows to donated energy-efficient refrigerators.

"There's a better way and I'm setting my goals to find it." **R**

My best UBC memories:

"The atmosphere and state of mind that this is a growing environment – that you're with people who are constantly being inspired. This is where I find people who motivate me by being dedicated to what they're doing."

For complete comments from this graduate, check out the audio clip at: www.publicaffairs.ubc.ca/ubcreports/2007/07may03/

THIS BCOM *continued from page 4*



Being away also taught her to see UBC with new eyes. She appreciates the beauty of the campus and the wide variety of activities, and she tells new students to look around and take advantage of their time here. "Things are so accessible here," she notes, "even study space. I wouldn't have been able to appreciate UBC as much as I do now if I hadn't been on exchange. What you make of your time at UBC is up to you." **R**

My best UBC memories:

"Walking to class and seeing the cherry blossoms fall, squirrels running around... sometimes I really feel like this could be the most beautiful place in the world."

For complete comments from this graduate, check out the audio clip at: www.publicaffairs.ubc.ca/ubcreports/2007/07may03/

A Banjo on Her Knee *Pharm Sci Grad Loves to Strum, and Help Patients*



Songs with a sci-fi theme are among the passions of song-writer, musician and pharmacist Brooke Lunderville.

PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

By Hilary Thomson

If you pick up your prescription from Brooke Lunderville, you may get some impromptu musical medicine.

“I sometimes sing a few bars for some of the patients – it’s a bit of an ice-breaker, if they’re feeling anxious or sick,” says the Pharmaceutical Sciences grad, who is also a songwriter and musician.

The Vancouver native began a career as a licensed stockbroker, specializing in ethical investing, but after about five years started looking for something new. She happened to get some expert assistance from a community pharmacist and was sufficiently impressed to pursue pharmacy as a career. She spent two years completing pre-requisites for admission by working 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at a brokerage and taking classes in the afternoon and evening.

“When I finished my courses, working full-time just seemed like a vacation.”

In 2003, she married into a musical family. Her husband Joseph’s parents play guitar and enjoy folk music. Lunderville had played some guitar and discovered a lonely banjo at her in-laws’ house that she taught herself to play. It’s now her passion – she plays regularly, including performances at her church.

Her instrument of choice is a banjola, a hybrid with the neck of a banjo and the body of a large mandolin, or mandola. Also included in her collection, “a serious case of banjoitis,” are three more banjos and three guitars.

A science fiction aficionado since childhood, she has managed to integrate her two passions by getting involved in a musical genre called Filk music,

which references science fiction plots and personas in the lyrics. With a guitar-playing friend, she has created a “dorky filk duo,” and recently performed at a major sci-fi convention in Seattle.

She has also transformed Pharm Sci course content into music with songs about peptides, ribosomes and flaccid amino acids. She says her compositions “mug her in the middle of the night,” so that she has to get up and write them down immediately.

Although her broker days are pretty much behind her – “If I had money to invest in stocks, I wouldn’t have any student loans!” – she has given fellow students presentations on finance and has ghostwritten a tax advice column.

Lunderville speaks of two mentors in the faculty – Marguerite Yee, with whom she shared tea and conversation every month for four years, and James McCormack, who changed the way she looks at pharmacy, encouraging a critical view of the marketing hype surrounding many medications.

After graduation, the 26-year-old will vacation in France and then start work at community pharmacy in New Westminster.

“I love community pharmacy,” she says. “I like getting to know patients over a period of time, and helping them find a better place with their health.” **R**

My best UBC memories:

“What I’ll remember most about UBC is getting dressed up in my pressed pharmacy lab coat, strapping on my banjo and going to play outside the SUB for Pharmacy Awareness Week.”

For complete comments from this graduate, check out the audio clip at: www.publicaffairs.ubc.ca/ubcreports/2007/07may03/

Take as Needed: The Pills

The four members of Pharm Sci’s own rock band, The Pills, will be graduating this month, after more than three years of playing everything from covers of the Ramones and Tom Jones, to original songs. Glen Austen handles vocals and guitar; Dan Buschert plays bass; Vince Lin is on keyboard and piano and Eugenia Yeh is the drummer.

The group claims, “What we lack in technical prowess musically, we deliver in passion and volume.” Featured entertainers at various pharmacy events and galas, the group was a finalist in 2005 in UBC’s annual Battle of the Bands.

The Pills have recorded an EP called “Rock A.T.C.” which is now a collectors’ item since the band breaks up after their final gig at the Pharmacy Grad 2007 Banquet. **R**



Not sugar-coated but they go down easy, the Pills are four Pharm Sci grads who will give their farewell performance this spring.

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Rugby Champ Hangs up Cleats for Medicine



PHOTO: DARIN DUECK

After taking a year off med school to play rugby for Canada, Jim Douglas has left the field for a career in orthopedic surgery.

By Hilary Thomson

As a world-class rugby player, Jim Douglas knows how to perform under pressure, handle the unexpected and keep focused until the job is done. With that kind of experience, he probably won't even break a sweat as he trains to become an orthopedic surgeon.

Douglas, who graduates with an MD this month, has played competitive rugby as a flanker (forward) since he was 12 years old in his hometown of Kelowna, B.C., and he played for UBC's varsity team while completing a Bachelor of Human Kinetics degree.

"I've always been interested in biomechanics and how the body performs," says the 30-year-old. "Medicine, and orthopedics in particular, is a logical connection to my love of sport."

Douglas had played seven-a-side rugby at a national level since 2001, representing Canada around the world. In Beijing, where rugby is not well known, the team played in front of 200-300 soldiers "drafted" as spectators, and to a packed 45,000-seat stadium in Hong Kong. In Dubai, United Arab Emirates, they played on a grass field in the middle of the desert, to the cheers of the sultan himself.

A year after entering med school in 2002, Douglas had to make a critical decision. He had the chance to compete for Canada in the Rugby World Cup – a full-time commitment during the academic year. After some soul-searching and discussions

with Faculty of Medicine advisors, he took a year out for the opportunity to wear the Rugby Canada jersey.

"The faculty was very gracious in allowing me the time off," says Douglas. "I got great support, and now I've doubled my network of friends and classmates over two graduating classes."

The team spent six weeks in Australia, and although they didn't bring home gold, Douglas has no regrets. The remainder of the year off allowed him to complete a research project at Vancouver General Hospital that examined the amount of time residents were exposed to surgical training.

"That was a great experience. I got to know the residents, saw the positive results for patients and observed all kinds of orthopedic surgeries. It really confirmed where I wanted to be."

Back at school in September 2004, Douglas hung up his cleats to focus on his studies. He admits one of the hardest parts of med school was walking away from national and international competition. Apart from the time commitment, he didn't want to risk an injury that could jeopardize his mobility or dexterity.

In reflecting on his four years, Douglas talks about the high quality of teaching and guidance he received and singles out ethicist Alistair Browne, pediatric orthopedic surgeon Dr. Chris Reilly and anatomy instructor Majid Doroudi as significant positive influences.

After graduation, he'll take a

brief time-out to marry Hope, a UBC research co-ordinator, and then it's back onto the field for a five-year orthopedic residency in Lower Mainland hospitals. **R**

My best UBC memories:

"What I'll always remember most about UBC is the cherry blossoms in the spring time which used to always signify to me entering the home stretch of the year."

For complete comments from this graduate, check out the audio clip at: www.publicaffairs.ubc.ca/ubcreports/2007/07may03/

Timepiece 1957

1957: Sopron Students Found a Home at UBC

When the Soviet Union invaded Hungary in 1956, almost 250 faculty, students and their families from the forestry school at the university in Sopron fled to Austria. They set about looking for a more permanent home where students could continue their studies in their native language. Twenty letters were sent around the world asking for help. The University of British Columbia offered to "adopt" the Sopron University of Forestry, one of the oldest and best known forestry universities in Europe, and guaranteed its maintenance for five years until the current

students were able to graduate. On Jan. 1, 1957, 14 faculty members and 200 students left for Canada and in September 1957 they began their studies at UBC.

The faculty and students of Sopron have had a lasting impact on Canada, British Columbia and UBC. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of their arrival and their special part in the history of UBC, the UBC Faculty of Forestry is planning a celebration and special events for the university community and general public June 14-16. To learn more, visit: www.forestry.ubc.ca/sopron.



UBC Forestry Dean George Allen and Dean of the Sopron School of Forestry, Kalman Roller with Sopron graduate forestry students examining tree seedlings March 14, 1961.



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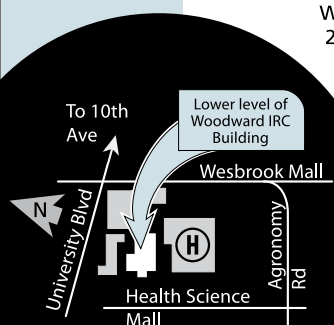
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PHOTO: DARIN DUECK

Dimitar Bakalov, originally from Bulgaria, has spent seven long years pursuing his goal of working in Canada.

Dentist perseveres to earn Canadian credentials

He delivered pizza before being accepted to his "dream university"

By Hilary Thomson

When Dimitar Bakalov crosses the Chan Centre stage to pick up his Doctor of Dental Medicine degree this month, he'll be taking the last few steps of a long and arduous academic journey.

Trained as a dentist in Bulgaria, Bakalov has completed UBC's two-year International Dental Degree Completion Program that offers a degree as well as qualification to work in Canada. He practiced dentistry in his hometown of Sofia for seven years following his graduation from dental school there in 1993.

"But at 28, I felt like I had done everything I could do there," says Bakalov, who says his homeland is like Greece but with a Slavic language. "Bulgaria was changing from a communist to a democratic country and things were very rough. There was no money for research or advanced academic programs."

In 2000, he left his fiancée behind to complete her degree in chemistry and moved to Toronto. He knew he had a long road ahead – he had to improve his English and take preparatory courses before being eligible to even apply to a Canadian dental school. And of course, he had to find work.

After being turned down for many jobs because he was overqualified, he worked at jobs that included truck and limousine driving, catering work and pizza delivery. He took English courses and completed an expensive, full-time six-month course in Toronto to prepare for theory exams and a course at University of Western Ontario in London to prepare him for the practical aspect of his eligibility exam.

His fiancée joined him in 2003 and both newcomers were frustrated by the many challenges they faced, including financial pressures and intense competition

for the few seats in Canadian dental schools available for foreign-trained dentists.

Bakalov was accepted to UBC in 2005 and calls it his "dream university" because of its new clinic and superior reputation among Canadian dental schools. As well, Vancouver's climate and mountainous terrain reminded him of home.

After his first summer off in a long time, Bakalov joined the third-year class in Fall 2005 and was delighted to feel so welcome. Since then it has been an intense two years, he says. However, his knowledge and skills have improved greatly and now he can consider specialty areas, such as periodontics, orthodontics and dental implants, that would not have been available to him in Bulgaria.

Although he and his wife would like to settle in Vancouver and start a family, the city's housing prices are out of reach

continued on page 9

Director adds MFA to his credits

By Lorraine Chan

Friends and family were somewhat puzzled by Camyar Chai's decision to return to school. After all, hasn't he already made it?

Chai, 39, is the founder and one of the artistic producers of Vancouver's newworld theatre, known for original and ambitious plays. Works such as *Adrift on the Nile* and *The Adventures of Ali and Ali and the Axes of Evil* plumb the political and social divide between East and West, mixing the forms of theatre and cabaret.

His recent film and television acting credits include Douglas Coupland's film *Everything's Gone Green*, *Stargate SG1* and the new Chris Haddock series, *Intelligence*.

However, when Chai crosses the stage at UBC's Chan Centre during graduation, it will be to receive his Master of Fine Arts degree.

"Coming back to UBC gave me the luxury of honing my directing skills and clarifying the kind of theatre I want to make," says Chai. "When you're working and face daily pressures of deadlines, bills, and performances, you just don't have time to ruminate on these issues."

Since graduating from UBC in 1993 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts, Chai has performed in 25 theatre productions, produced 14 and directed seven.

For his MFA thesis project, Chai directed Bertold Brecht's *Mother Courage and Her Children*. Compared to the open-ended creative process with his own and other new plays, he found a marked difference in directing an established work.

"Before I put my own ingenuity on the script, I had to understand what the writer



PHOTO: CAMYAR CHAI

Actor, writer and director Camyar Chai wants to put Vancouver on the map with plays that spur people to think beyond their borders.

left Iran at age 11 with his family. They eventually settled in North Vancouver in 1981. He says he's strongly influenced by Persian poetry and history that emphasizes respect and deference toward others, "looking toward the greater good – which for some is God, the universe or society as a whole."

My dream for Vancouver would be a city that moves toward tolerance and toward resolving some of the problems we're facing because of intolerance."

This month, Chai will be mounting the first U.S. run of *The Adventures of Ali and Ali and the Axes of Evil* in Seattle. He'll also be bringing the play for the first time to the Persian community in North Vancouver.

The newworld company is currently working to gain the rights for a Vancouver production of *My Name is Rachel Corrie*, the Royal Court Theatre play about a U.S. activist who was crushed by an Israeli bulldozer. It is also collaborating with Touchstone Theatre on a production of Quebec playwright Wajdi Mouawad's *Tideline*, set in the chaos of Lebanon. **R**

My best UBC memories:

"Interacting with the cast of students who acted and designed and worked on the technical crew of the show which I directed . . . I'll never forget sitting down in the Green Room . . . one of the actors said to me it looks like you've achieved what you wanted to with your play, 'Listen up, everyone's discussing global politics.'"

For complete comments from this graduate, check out the audio clip at: www.publicaffairs.ubc.ca/ubcreports/2007/07may03/

intended."

Technical proficiency in lighting and other design elements also comprised his MFA studies. "I was using those

tools before, but I can do so now with greater subtlety and depth."

Chai plans to continue working in Vancouver, concentrating on socially relevant

and intimate plays that challenge audiences to think and live beyond their established borders.

Chai, having grown up in London, New York and Tehran,

DENTIST continued from page 8

– "it would be like swimming against a fast-moving river," says the 39-year-old. The couple is considering Kelowna or Kamloops as possible new hometowns, among others.

For the next stage of his journey, Bakalov looks forward to reviving pastimes such as hiking – the couple has made a few treks on the Squamish Chieftain – biking and simply savouring some free time. **R**

My best UBC memories:

"What I'll always remember most about UBC is a warm welcome, how well-organized the interviews were, the respect and dignity they showed to every single candidate and how my classmates made us feel we were in the right place."

For complete comments from this graduate, check out the audio clip at: www.publicaffairs.ubc.ca/ubcreports/2007/07may03/



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Staff Members Receive President's Service Award for Excellence

By Basil Waugh



PHOTO: DARIN DUECK

PSAE winners are (L-R): Ian Burgess, Leeta Sokalski, Samson Cheung, Bridget Hamilton and Glen Peterson (not shown).

Five members of the university community are being recognized for outstanding contributions to campus life as recipients of the 2007 President's Service Award for Excellence (PSAE).

This year's winners are Ian Burgess, Director of the CFI/BCKDF Resource Office; Samson Cheung, Land and Building Services Head Service Worker; Bridget Hamilton, a receptionist in the Dept. of Astronomy and Physics; Glen Peterson, Professor of History, and Leeta Sokalski, Library Circulation and Office Manager.

Each recipient will receive a gold medal and \$5,000 in a presentation during Spring Congregation. This year's awards are the first to be presented by new UBC President Stephen J. Toope.

For the past seven years, Ian Burgess has played a crucial role in helping UBC scientists secure \$216 million in research funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) and the British Columbia Knowledge Development Fund (BCKDF), more than any other Canadian university.

UBC researchers say the skill, leadership and dedication that Burgess brings to each application has been essential

to the university's success in attracting national and provincial funding. Burgess is a 23-year employee of UBC.

Samson Cheung is responsible for the cleanliness of some of UBC's busiest buildings, including the Life Sciences Centre and Woodward IRC.

A 26-year employee, Cheung has a knack for customer service and addressing building issues and special requests. He assists in physical preparations for high profile university events, including graduation and exams. Cheung is also known for selling the most tickets each year to Land and Building Services' annual United Way Barbecue.

Each week in the Astronomy and Physics department, Bridget Hamilton fields calls and visits related to everything from UFOs to the origin of the universe – and she is renowned among colleagues for her ability to deal with these often eccentric inquires.

Hamilton, a UBC employee for 18 years, has a close relationship with faculty, staff and students and is a fixture at research seminars, graduate receptions and departmental social events.

During his 14 years at UBC, History Prof. Glen Peterson has inspired scores of Canadian and international student leaders as

a volunteer faculty advisor to the UBC chapter of the World University Service of Canada (WUSC).

Peterson, an expert on modern China and the Chinese diaspora, has build a support system for students who come from war-torn countries to attend WUSC-UBC's summer internship program. Since 1994, he has helped these students through the often difficult adjustment to life in a new country and nurtured their personal, academic and professional success.

Leeta Sokalski, Circulation and Office Manager of UBC's Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, has developed a reputation for being able to handle big jobs during her 31 years at UBC.

Most recently, Sokalski lead the transfer of 800,000 library items into the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre's Automatic Storage and Retrieval System (ASRS), the first of robotic retrieval system of its kind in Canada. Previously, she led the addition of anti-theft tapes to the library's collection and the conversion of the library's catalogue system from manual to online.

For lists of previous recipients, visit www.ceremonies.ubc.ca/ceremonies/honours/psae/psae_past.html. **R**

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Revitalized Social Space Links Campus to its Grad Roots

By Basil Waugh

A small outdoor plaza, rich with social and ceremonial significance, has been revitalized for the enjoyment of future generations at UBC.

First Graduation Tree Plaza is located behind the Geography Building, the Old Auditorium and the Mathematics Bldg. on UBC's Vancouver campus.

"In the 60s and 70s this area was *the* place to think, meet and visit with fellow students and to enjoy the natural beauty of the campus," says UBC Prof. Emeritus Peter Oberlander, former head of UBC's School of Community and Regional Planning.

Oberlander is Chair of the President's Advisory Committee on Campus Enhancement (PACCE), which worked with UBC Campus and Community Planning to landscape the area and remove the dumpsters that had taken over the once popular hangout in recent years.

In addition to its new benches, plants and commemorative plaque, the plaza features trees significant to the university's history and traditions. For nearly 90 years, UBC students



A new campus social space celebrates the UBC tradition of grad class trees.

have celebrated congregation by planting a tree on campus, and the first of these – two large leaf Linden trees planted by the classes of 1919 and 1920 – are planted on the site.

Class trees from 1921 to 1930 extend from the plaza south along Mathematics Rd. to Agricultural Rd. The 13 heritage trees, initially planted on the university's original Fairview Slopes site (now the Vancouver General Hospital),

were moved to their current location following UBC's move to Point Grey in 1925.

"It's a fantastic location to enjoy the sun," says Oberlander, "in the presence of these reminders of the previous generations of alumni who have enriched our campus." For more information on graduation class trees, visit www.graduation.ubc.ca/history/trees.php. **R**

Environmental Engineering graduates first class

By Brian Lin

Seven students will share the distinction this spring of being Canadian firsts: they're receiving a UBC-UNBC joint Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Environmental Engineering.

Established in September 2002, the program combines UNBC's strength in environmental science and UBC's engineering expertise to

offer students a unique blend of training in environmentally friendly technologies that is growing in demand.

The graduates spent their first two years at the College of Science and Management at UNBC, followed by two years at UBC's Dept. of Civil Engineering and Dept. of Chemical and Biological Engineering, before completing a final term at UNBC.

"Each student graduating this

spring is already employed, and most received job offers before graduating," says program co-director Prof. Sheldon Duff. "This demand for graduates is very gratifying as we designed the program to provide a comprehensive set of skills to graduates."

For more information on the UBC-UNBC Environmental Engineering Program, visit www.enve.ubc.ca. **R**

NURSING GRAD *continued from page 3*

do with my community," she acknowledges. "I really appreciate all the support my Band provided – they're the reason I am here."

Her immediate plans are to enjoy being a nurse, gaining experience and applying her cultural awareness and nursing skills for positive impact in the health-care system.

"I've always found myself to be a nurturer, able to jump in and help when someone is sick or injured," she says. "As a nurse, I'd like to emphasize the importance

of being culturally sensitive – and being an advocate for people who need that support."

Last year, Brown attended a conference in Prince George aimed at developing a plan to get more First Nations youth into health-related fields. As a new nursing degree recipient, Brown sees an opportunity to share with Aboriginal youth the kind of encouragement she has received.

"I think it's very important for youth to see that it is possible to achieve great things," she says.

"Now that I've done the work and look back, it's not as hard as you might think, but only as long as you apply yourself. I would like it to be an example for youth that no door is closed to them." **R**

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