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Highlights of UBC media coverage in September 2010

Compiled by Heather Amos

World pays high price for overfishing, studies say

Reuters, Agence France Presse, CBC, CTV and the **Vancouver Sun** reported that decades of overfishing have deprived the food industry of billions of dollars in revenue and the world of fish that could have helped feed undernourished countries.

The research, led by **Rashid Sumaila**, an economist at UBC and the director of the Fisheries Centre, indicates that fisheries contribute between \$225 billion and \$240 billion to the world economy annually. If fishing practices were more sustainable that amount would be up to \$36 billion higher, according to four papers published in the **Journal of Bioeconomics**.

"Maintaining healthy fisheries makes good economic sense, while overfishing is clearly bad business," said Sumaila.

Study finds too much testosterone a problem for young male CEO

A new study by UBC researchers found that testosterone-fuelled chief executive officers were linked to the highest rate of dropped deals and hostile takeover bids in negotiations.

"We find a strong association between male CEOs being young and their withdrawal rate of initiated mergers and acquisitions," said **Maurice Levi**, a professor in UBC's Sauder School of Business.

Higher levels of hormones meant the executives lacked patience and co-operation, suggested the study that was picked up by the **Daily Telegraph**, a **Wall Street Journal** blog, the **Financial Post**, **CTV** and many others.

Discovery of gene mutations may be key vs. ovarian cancer

B.C. researchers have discovered that removing fallopian tubes as part of hysterectomies and tubal ligation could cut deaths from ovarian cancer by half.

In a related development, scientists have found gene mutations that may cause an estimated 10 per cent of ovarian cancers. This could help them develop new treatments and better understand which women are at high risk for the disease.

David Huntsman of UBC found the mutations only in certain types of ovarian cancer. The new research was described by **USA Today**, the **Globe and Mail**, the **Chicago Sun-Tribune** and others.

Canada's universities make the grade globally

Nine Canadian universities nabbed spots in this year's Times Higher Education's World University Rankings. Canada was the fifth-best performing country.

The Globe and Mail, Maclean's, the **Vancouver Sun** and others reported on the rankings: University of Toronto placed 17th overall, followed by UBC at 30th and McGill at 35th. Other Canadian universities to rank were McMaster (93rd), Alberta (127nd), Victoria (130th), l'Université de Montréal (138th), Dalhousie (193rd) and Simon Fraser (199th).

"It's very positive for us to be seen in the top tier of universities internationally," said UBC president **Stephen Toope**.

Injection centres help addicts quit

United Press International and the **Vancouver Courier** described research by the British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS and UBC that suggests that addicts who use supervised injection centers are more likely than others to quit drugs.

"Many people benefit from supervised injection facilities, which have been shown to increase addiction treatment, reduce rates of crime and incidence of HIV, prevent drug overdoses, and now help people who use drugs quit injecting," said study researcher Dr. Julio Montaner.

UBC's Okanagan campus marks record enrolment

The Vancouver Sun, CBC and the **Province** reported enrolment of first-year students at UBC's Okanagan campus is up by 22 per cent this year.

"About 25 per cent of our first year class are coming from outside the province," said **Doug Owram**, Deputy Vice Chancellor of UBC's Okanagan campus. "And about two thirds of our class are from outside the Okanagan valley. We've really become a destination university."



Jody Jacob Photograph

Science knows a lot about how animals mark and defend their territory, but how humans mark and defend their territory is a field far less explored. UBC researcher Graham Brown thinks it could have many practical implications, especially when it comes to how we interact at work.

"The dynamics of an office can be complicated and people often find themselves assuming roles beyond their job description, creating a sense of psychological ownership of a task or an item," says Brown, assistant professor with the Faculty of Management at UBC's Okanagan campus. "But how do people come to assume these roles? How do they communicate them? And what happens when someone else ventures into their 'territory' or infringes on their role?"

Staking your office territory

UBC prof studies the dynamics of territory and ownership at work.

“My research suggests that in some cases people will actually quit their jobs or resort to sabotage over issues of territoriality.”

By Jody Jacob



Assistant Professor **Graham Brown** says the dynamics of an office can be complicated.

By better understanding territoriality and psychological ownership at work, Brown believes companies could potentially create healthier, more productive work atmospheres. “My research suggests that in some cases people will actually quit their jobs or resort to sabotage over issues of territoriality,” says Brown. “Or perhaps more commonly, they may become unhappy, stressed, burnt-out, preoccupied, or bring a toxic attitude to work with them. Regardless, any of these scenarios can cost companies time and money.”

One of the specific workplace studies Brown has done examines how territoriality factors into negotiations.

“It’s called the ‘lure the tiger from the mountain’ study,” says Brown. “What that means is that it is harder to defeat

the tiger when they are in the mountain. Success is more likely if one can lure the tiger (the negotiation counterpart) from the mountain. In sports, there is the home field advantage. What I’ve done is look at this in terms of negotiation and found that the person who is on home turf is significantly more successful in negotiations.”

In other words, don’t go to the boss’s office to ask for a raise.

As well, Brown recently received a grant from SSHRC (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council) to study creativity and psychological ownership in business.

“There are definitely benefits to feeling ownership,” says Brown. “For example, entrepreneurs and idea-generators will feel ownership over the company, product, or idea and will often be more

committed and will work harder for its success than someone else. That is the positive side. But because of these feelings of ownership you might also feel territorial, which means owners may reject feedback if it’s positive, and reject potentially useful negative feedback.

“The general consensus is: feedback is a very important part of creativity and the success of a company, and by understanding this dynamic of territoriality and how it can potentially be an obstacle, small business owners in particular could prosper.”

Brown is also studying leadership succession. After reading an article about leaders who sabotage their own company to prevent the next person in line from succeeding, Brown decided to look at the possible reasons behind the phenomenon.

“My theory is that territoriality plays a role,” he says. “I plan to interview people who have gone through a transition or succession in the past, who are planning to go through one, or who are currently doing so. I want to talk the person leaving and the person receiving the new role and their experiences, whether positive or negative.”

“Given that so many people spend so much time in organizations, the research around territoriality and psychological ownership, although fairly new, is very relevant and hopefully will stimulate more interest in the topic, as everyone experiences it on a day-to-day basis.”

Anyone interested in being part of this study is welcome contact Brown at graham.brown@ubc.ca. ●

Researchers find evidence for complementary therapies

By Lorraine Chan

A joint UBC-BC Cancer Agency initiative called the Complementary Medicine Education and Outcomes Research Program (CAMEO) is contributing to a paradigm shift for patients and health professionals alike, according to Assoc. Prof. Lynda Balneaves.



Nursing Associate Professor **Lynda Balneaves** says attitudes are changing towards alternative therapies.

Recent studies reveal that 50 - 80 per cent of Canadians diagnosed with cancer choose to explore complementary therapies. These include acupuncture, nutritional supplements, traditional Chinese medicine and yoga, along with mind-body therapies such as relaxation techniques, guided imagery and meditation.

“We’re providing knowledge translation for a group of patients who haven’t had information or support and we’re developing a research program that anyone can access and use,” says lead investigator Balneaves, who teaches in the UBC School of Nursing.

Launched in 2008, CAMEO provides evidence-based education and decision support for cancer patients and cancer health professionals. Along with one-on-one consultations for a

select number of patients, CAMEO also provides group workshops that walk participants through decision-making guidelines and recent findings about complementary medicine.

Fifteen years ago when Balneaves first started studying complementary and alternative medicine, she often heard the terms “quackery” or “unproven therapies” leveled at these practices.

It’s a different story today, she says. For example, a new and emerging field in the U.S. is integrative oncology which acknowledges the medical benefits of complementary medicine. And to Balneaves’ surprise and delight this summer, more than 400 oncologists attended the plenary presentation she gave on CAMEO’s research during a national medical conference held in Vancouver.

Cancer patients often seek to boost their immune systems by taking high doses of supplements such as vitamin E, garlic or green tea, which are all high in antioxidants.

“I was amazed at how many people were interested and asking where can you find evidence? Where can I get training?”

To train the trainers, CAMEO is launching an online program for healthcare providers through the Provincial Health Systems Authority, which hosts a continuing education hub on its website.

Balneaves says the CAMEO curriculum will equip health professionals to better discuss complementary therapies and

available scientific evidence along with patient support and additional resources.

A case in point is the current confusion over antioxidants. Cancer patients often seek to boost their immune systems by taking high doses of supplements such as vitamin E, garlic or green tea, which are all high in antioxidants.

“However, what we’ve seen in research are often negative outcomes,” says Balneaves. “These supplements can make treatments such as radiation and

A safe port in a storm

By Lorraine Chan

When a friend introduced Serena Gibson to a joint UBC – BC Cancer Agency initiative to help her assess complementary therapies, Gibson says it was like finding a safe port in a storm.

“Most of us with cancer want to do everything to maximize survival and lessen the horrible effects of chemo. And often, we’re just too tired and don’t have the energy to do the research. CAMEO gives you guidelines to make evidence-based decisions in the face of so many options.”

Earlier this year, Gibson was diagnosed with colon cancer that had also metastasized in her liver. Her oncologist prescribed a platinum-based chemotherapy drug effective in targeting cancer cells in those parts of her body. But the downside was potential neuropathy—damage to nerve cells in the hands and feet.

Launched in 2008, the Complementary Medicine Education and Outcomes Research Program (CAMEO) provides evidence-based education and support for cancer patients and cancer health professionals. The initiative is led by UBC Nursing Assoc. Prof. Lynda Balneaves and is based at the BC Cancer Agency in Vancouver.

“Most of us with cancer want to do everything to maximize survival and lessen the horrible effects of chemo,” says Gibson. “And often, we’re just too tired and don’t have the energy to do the research. CAMEO gives you guidelines to make evidence-based decisions in the face of so many options.”

Gibson was accepted as one of 15 patients in CAMEO’s pilot program that provides individualized assessments. The one-on-one sessions take into account the patient’s health and medical conditions and the types of complementary therapies they have in mind. Gibson’s earlier Internet searches had pointed her to possible options that included modified citrus pectin, mistletoe and L-glutathione, a powerful antioxidant.

Taking up to a day to prepare, CAMEO’s report translated for Gibson data from monographs, literature searches and abstracts along with contraindications for her specific health and medical conditions. With that in hand, Gibson decided to go with L-glutathione.

“I found it reassuring to see the body of scientific evidence that it could protect against peripheral nerve damage.”

Currently, Gibson is receiving these supplements prior to each chemo treatment via intravenous injections from a naturopath. To date, the results have been reassuring, she says.

“I was worried that I’d end up like other patients who are in too much pain to walk easily or hold a tea cup, but I have full range of movement in my hands and feet.” ●

Turning patients into professors

A UBC project is helping future doctors, nurses, social workers and other health professionals learn from those they are being trained to serve.

By Brian Lin

For the past three years, the Patient and Community Voices project has brought students from 16 disciplines—including medicine, nursing, social work, pharmacy, occupational therapy and counselling psychology—together with people living with chronic conditions such as arthritis, mental illness, epilepsy and HIV/AIDS.

“Patients and clients have always been involved in health professional education, but usually in a passive role as part of bedside teaching and clinical training,” says Angela Towle, an associate professor in the Faculty of Medicine and co-director of the Division of Health Care Communication in the College of Health Disciplines.

“They’d been, for lack of a better word, audio-visual aids.”

And despite an increase of patient participation over the past 20 years—speaking to students as a guest lecturer, for example—Towle says the project was designed to encourage the wealth of expertise and experiences from the community to “reach in” to the university, in contrast to the traditional university “outreach” approach.

Small groups of 10–15 students per workshop ensure an intimate and safe environment where patients, family members and their community advocates can share personal experiences that get at the heart of living 24/7 with an ailment. Funding from the Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund has helped deliver 10 workshops with organizations such as the Canadian Mental Health Association, the BC Persons With AIDS Society and the Indian Residential School Survivors Society. Feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive.

“It is helpful to hear from patients what aspects of the conditions affect [them] most as this ‘priority’ list may be different from the priorities outlined in the therapeutic plans in textbooks,” said one medical student.

“It is helpful to hear from patients what aspects of the conditions affect [them] most as this ‘priority’ list may be different from the priorities outlined in the therapeutic plans in textbooks.”

“We learned to be sensitive to that particular population . . . the barriers they face and what things we could change structurally as social workers to accommodate,” said a social work student.

Towle says the workshops have also invigorated community educators from a wide range of disease and disability services and multicultural groups.

“It was an experience that built my confidence and made me feel I was a worthwhile person with something to contribute,” said one community educator.

“The experience made something positive of their illness and disability,” says Towle. “For our students to experience that catharsis along with their peers in related disciplines that they may not otherwise come in contact with but who will be co-providers of health care in their future careers, that’s invaluable.”

The next Patient and Community Voices workshop is scheduled for November. The project is also organizing **Allies in Health Care: 2nd Annual Community & Patient Fair for Health Professional Education** on October 28th as part of Celebrate Learning Week. ●

Visit <http://meetingofexperts.org/> for more information.

chemotherapy less efficient and may be protecting cancer cells.”

CAMEO was made possible by a \$1 million gift in 2007 from the Lotte and John Hecht Memorial Foundation.

To sustain CAMEO’s trailblazing work, Balneaves says she aims to seed programs across the country through key partnerships, such as the one with Hamilton’s Juravinski Cancer Centre to provide complementary medicine support for women with breast cancer experiencing menopausal symptoms.

To learn more about CAMEO’s research programs and recruitment for study participants, please visit: www.bccancer.bc.ca/cameo

Martin Dee Photograph


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Celebrate Learning

Vancouver campus profiles best practises.

By Heather Amos

Justin Bieber music videos, Twilight trailers and UBC tutorials on assessing joint injuries have something in common. They've all been watched more than 1 million times on YouTube.

"Sometimes I'll have to examine a patient with a knee injury in Emergency but I haven't done that examination in over a year," says Tonia Timperley, a third year medical student at UBC. "I can quickly review the special tests through the three minute video and off I go."

The videos for assessing knee, shoulder and hip and groin injuries were developed by Karim Khan, a professor in Human Kinetics and Family Practice at UBC. Now Khan and his team are developing videos that show how to prescribe treatments for these injuries.

To carry out this project, Khan received a grant from UBC's Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund (TLEF). The TLEF was created to fund projects that enable faculty and students to create and implement projects that enrich and make a positive difference in the learning experience for UBC's students.

Celebrate Learning is an annual week-long initiative on UBC's Vancouver campus that highlights student learning and development opportunities.

Khan's project is one of many TLEF projects that will be celebrated during UBC's Celebrate Learning Week, Oct. 23 – 31.

"We canvassed the health science students at UBC, the students in human kinetics, medicine and physiotherapy," says Khan. "They said they needed help with learning how to assess body parts."

Khan decided to develop some teaching aids and enlisted the help of Dr. Mark Hutchinson, a sport medicine and orthopedic surgeon, from the University of Illinois in Chicago. Khan and Hutchinson started with the knee, one of the most common injuries health care professionals come across.

In the video, Dr. Hutchinson demonstrates how to assess a patient who presents with a knee injury. He gets the patient to perform some basic movements, handles the knee and leg, and points out what to watch for. The video was broken into short segments and posted on YouTube.

"As a teacher I can direct my students to the videos," says Khan. "They serve as an extra teaching aid and they generate discussion."

"As a practitioner, I use the videos myself. I have a world-renowned expert at my fingertips."

The clips were posted on YouTube in response to UBC student feedback; students wanted to access the videos at anytime and from anywhere. And now, with more than 1 million views, it's certain UBC health science students aren't the only ones benefiting from this learning tool.

"Clinical examinations take time to learn and are challenging to learn through a book," says Timperley, who initially worked on developing the videos. "I can visualize what I saw on the video as I examine patients and go through a stepwise process that an expert has just done in front of me."

As part of Celebrate Learning Week, a poster display featuring a variety of TLEF projects will be found on the main floor of the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, from Monday Oct. 25 through Friday Oct. 29.

Celebrate Learning is an annual week-long initiative on UBC's Vancouver campus that highlights student learning and development opportunities.

"Celebrate Learning is an opportunity to acknowledge teaching and learning innovation and to explore possibilities of further enhancing learning environments at UBC," says Anna Kindler, Vice Provost and Associate Vice-President of Academic Affairs.

"It also provides a chance to confirm UBC's commitment to excellence in teaching and to re-emphasize the value that we attribute to faculty contributions to the education of our students." ●

Celebrate Learning events will be held all over campus between Oct. 23 and Oct. 31.
For more information, visit: www.celebratelearning.ubc.ca

October

23

Conference for Learning and Academic Student Success (CLASS)

10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Hebb Theatre and Irving K. Barber Learning Centre

24

Online AMS Tutoring: Chem, Econ, Physics, Math

4 – 10 p.m.

Windows Live Messenger

25

Learning Technology Vision Day

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Lillooet Room

Irving K. Barber Learning Centre

1961 East Mall

26

Learning Café (Oct. 25 – 27)

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Buchanan B214

1866 Main Mall

27

UBC Learning Circle

10 – 11:30 a.m.

28

Allies in Health Care: 2nd Annual Community and Patient Fair for Health Professional Education

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

West Atrium, Life Sciences Centre

2350 Health Sciences Mall

UBC Learning Conference:

Exploring the Dimensions of an Exceptional Learning Environment

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Golden Jubilee Room

Irving K. Barber Learning Centre

1961 East Mall

29

Photography Competition Awards Ceremony—"What is Learning?"

12 p.m.

Buchanan B214

1866 Main Mall

30

Family Science Day at UBC Faculty of Education

11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Neville Scarfe Building

2125 Main Mall

31

Man Ray Curator Talk with Dr. Wendy Grossman

3 – 5 p.m.

Michael M. Ames Theatre

Museum of Anthropology

6393 N.W. Marine Drive

Putting it in writing

Okanagan undergrad travels to remote village to help preserve Indigenous language

By Jody Jacob



Student researcher **Chara DeVolder** visited remote Papua New Guinea villages to help preserve endangered Indigenous languages.

DeVolder worked within the PNG villages of Kamiali, Alēso, Kui, Apoze, Lambu, Kela. There are four slightly different dialects among the villages. Here is an example of some of the words that will be included in the dictionary:

Turtle

do (*Kamiali*)
do (*Alēso*)
do (*Kui*)
zo (*Apoze*)
za (*Lambu*)
sa (*Kela*)

Coconut

yu (*all villages*)

This is a good man

tambu denerj anda (*Kamiali*)
tambu denerj anda (*Alēso*)
tambu denerj anda (*Kui*)
tambu denerj anda (*Lambu*)
tamu denerj anda (*Apoze*)
tamu denerj anda (*Kela*)

Grandmother

abiya (*Kamiali*)
abiya (*Alēso*)
abiya (*Kui*)
abiya (*Apoze*)
nabo (*Lambu*)
anabo (*Kela*)

Chara DeVolder is helping preserve an Indigenous language by putting it into written form for the first time. The fourth-year anthropology student at UBC's Okanagan campus spent two months this summer in a remote village in Papua New Guinea (PNG), researching how words are created—the morphology—and how sentences are formed—the syntax—in the Kala language.

Under the direction of UBC researchers and anthropologists John Wagner and Christine Schreyer, DeVolder assisted in working with elders and community leaders from six villages to create a writing system for their language which, until very recently, was entirely oral. She spent the rest of the summer preparing the first draft of a dictionary that she plans to send back to the villages this fall for review.

“There are so many different languages in PNG that a common language was needed to communicate amongst one another easily,” says DeVolder. “That language is called Tok Pisin. But the problem is that younger generations are learning Tok Pisin instead of their native languages, and because there was no standard alphabet or writing system, elders worried their native languages could eventually be lost, along with all the traditional knowledge that is embedded within them.”

DeVolder's study of morphology showed the Kala language classifies plants and animals through the use of morphemes (parts of words that have meaning). For example, most fish names start with “i”, most trees start with “e”, and most birds start with

“mā”. These prefixes express what kind of plant or animal it is, while the rest of the word is usually a description of the species. So the fish name “imbitam-bogadi” literally means “fish that has spear eyes.”

The language preservation initiative began after Professor Wagner, who has been doing research in PNG for more than a decade, was approached by village elders about their language concerns. He contacted Schreyer, who specializes in linguistics research and endangered language preservation, to see if she was interested in the project. DeVolder has taken a number of Schreyer's classes and jumped at the chance to do undergraduate work with the pair in PNG.

“What I think made this project really special is that we didn't go into these villages and say, ‘I think this is what you need to do,’” reflects DeVolder. “It was the people from the villages who approached John and said ‘these are our concerns; are you able to help?’”

DeVolder says the researchers met with everyone from the community and formed a committee with at least one man and women from each village. “People were so welcoming and grateful,” she says. “That made me feel like this project really meant something special.”

Before they left, the UBC researchers brought together local teachers, committee members, and anyone else who was interested in the writing system from all six villages and held a workshop on the written language and developing language curricula materials.

“This isn't just something we did and handed over; we helped them learn how

to use it and teach it and we provided them with some materials and tools so they could immediately begin teaching, learning and preserving the language,” DeVolder says.

The dictionary she is making will give the communities another resource for children to use while learning their language, and will help adults from other villages become proficient in Kala as well.

DeVolder says her experience in PNG made a greater impression than she ever could have dreamed.

“It was so different there. We had to take a two-hour boat ride across the ocean to get to the village,” she says. “I had to walk down a beach and climb a tree to get cell phone reception. We cooked over a fire. I planted banana trees, dug up potatoes and walked around barefoot.”

After graduating in 2011 with her Bachelor of Arts degree, DeVolder wants to find a career that will allow her to continue working with people and their languages. ●



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Photographs courtesy of Accessible Science Initiative



Led by PhD student **Olga Pena**, UBC students (in green T-shirts) facilitated science experiments at

Born and raised in a rural area in the Andean region of Tolima, Pena's elementary school-educated parents encouraged her and her siblings to pursue higher education for hopes of a better life—her brothers are a civil engineer, an agronomist and a soon-to-be lawyer. Pena, the only one in her family fluent in English and the first to pursue post-graduate studies, was admitted to the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, a top private university in Bogota, at the age of 16. Following her undergraduate degree in Bacteriology and two years of "adventure" that took her to the University of Southern California, Pena was recruited to UBC last year by world-renowned microbiologist Bob Hancock.

"Olga is a brilliant student," says Hancock, Canada Research Chair in Pathogenomics and Antimicrobials and best known for developing a peptide that fights infections from superbugs and salmonella by boosting the body's own immune system. "I'm extraordinarily pleased to have her in my lab."

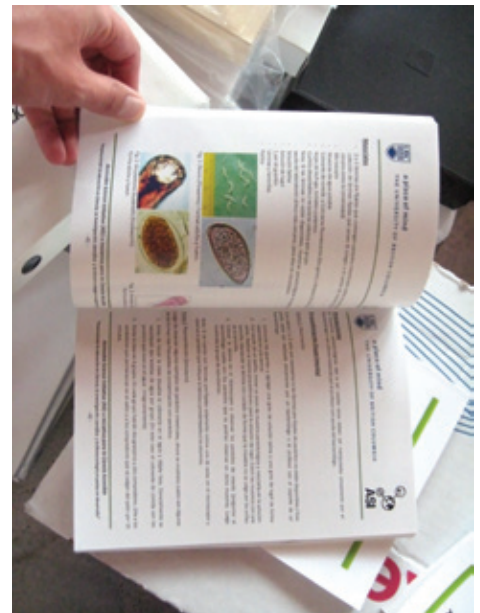
And it was in Hancock's lab that Pena was exposed to a new idea: global citizenship. Hancock's involvement with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's Grand Challenges in Global Health, UBC's Neglected Global Diseases Initiative and the campus chapter of Universities Allied for Essential Medicines rubbed off on her and her lab mates, says Pena.

"We have a very multicultural lab, with graduate students, post-docs and technicians from India, Spain, Germany, Serbia, Africa, Australia and Iran," says Pena. "In our discussions we came to the conclusion that developed countries place

Microscopes without borders

Anyone questioning the impact a single individual can have on the world should meet Olga Pena. The daughter of a housewife and dam builder, Pena led a team of UBC students on a “field trip” to Colombia this summer, where they inspired more than 1,000 students to take up beakers and microscopes as a means to combat poverty and neglected tropical diseases.

By Brian Lin



and activities design to inspire and educate Colombian high school students.

a lot more emphasis on and investments in science education and it positively affects the socioeconomic status and overall health of their populations.

“Whereas in a country like Colombia, where people are struggling on a day-to-day basis, there isn’t the culture or infrastructure to support science as an academic or career option.”

And that’s something Pena thought she could do something about.

She founded the Accessible Science Initiative (ASI) and in less than a year, assembled a team of UBC undergraduate and graduate students to fundraise their way to bring textbooks, microscopes—and most importantly, hope—to her home community of Tolima. The team, consisting of students from the Faculties of Science, Education, Arts, Applied Science and the Sauder School of Business, partnered with the University of Tolima, where they conducted workshops with 100 school teachers and facilitated interactive science activities and career talks with close to 1,000 students. They also developed a science symposium and delivered donations of lab materials and equipment such as microscopes and copies of a Spanish interactive science manual the team produced with 30 hands-on science activities that are sensitive to both the local culture and resources.

“For example, DNA extraction experiments are typically done with kiwi fruits here in North America,” says Pena. “But kiwis are expensive and hard to find in Colombia, so we designed the same activity using mangos.

“Another chapter introduces some of the intestinal parasites commonly affecting

the health of the local community to raise awareness among children and teenagers and show them how to properly clean their hands and food.”

“Their approach is extraordinarily innovative,” says Hancock, who adds that Pena’s enthusiasm is, well, infectious.

“If you ask people whether they care about underprivileged populations, they’ll probably say yes, but that’s a far cry from actually doing something about it,” Hancock says. “Olga knows from personal experience the importance of education in changing the lives of people in an impoverished community, and she’s inspired and mobilized her peers to make a tangible difference.”

Pena says the experience has added multiple dimensions to an area of academic research that was already close to her heart. Her PhD thesis will be on Sepsis, a blood infection caused by a highly resistant bacteria called MRSA—the same disease that took her father when she was 23.

“It took him away in less than 10 days, it was a very painful experience,” says Pena. “I knew very little about Sepsis at that time but five years later, when Bob offered me a spot in his lab and specifically in this field, I could not have been happier.” ●

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Photo: UBC Library

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The UBC Auto Rickshaw study team:

Prof. **Milind Kandlikar**, UBC Liu Institute for Global Issues and IRES

Prof. **Steve Rogak**, UBC Canada Research Chair in Clean Energy Systems

Doctoral student **Conor Reynolds**, Resource Management and Environmental Studies

Post-doctoral student **Andy Grieshop**, IRES

Mechanical Engineering student **Dan Boland**

Mechanical Engineering student **Christie Lagally**

Expensive programs to switch auto rickshaws to clean fuels may not reduce less harmful emissions.





Re-thinking the rickshaw

If you've been to parts of Asia or Africa, chances are a three-wheeled auto rickshaw got you from A to B. Cheap to drive and compact enough for a driver to whisk passengers through crowded streets, they are a vital mode of transportation for billions of people around the world everyday.

But under their brightly painted exteriors, auto rickshaws have a dark side, a new UBC study has found.

By Basil Waugh

With more than a million operating in India alone, and more in Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia and Kenya, rickshaws are a major cause of urban air pollution and contribute to climate change.

As a result, developing countries such as India—under pressure from the West to take action on climate change—have taken steps to reduce the environmental impacts of their rickshaw fleets. The problem is, the expensive programs may not be working.

“Auto rickshaws represent major potential savings in emissions that cause air pollution and can lead to climate change,” says Milind Kandlikar, a professor at UBC’s Liu Institute for Global Issues. “The problem is, surprisingly little research has been done on this, so some countries may be making expensive mistakes.”

Kandlikar’s team traveled to New Delhi, India, where they put rickshaws of different makes and models through extensive emissions testing at the International Center for Automotive Testing. Using real-world conditions, based on rickshaw driver surveys, they tested rickshaws idling, accelerating and at top speed—using a variety of fuel types, including conventional gas, natural gas and CNG, a clean fuel.

The decision to test CNG was no accident. In 2002, Indian cities such as New Delhi and Mumbai began requiring auto rickshaw drivers to switch to this expensive, state-subsidized clean fuel, Kandlikar says, despite scant data on its effectiveness.

Their findings? First, they discovered that auto rickshaws produce even more pollutants than previously thought, particularly those powered by two-stroke engines. They found larger amounts of particulate matter and volatile organics which are a major cause of heart and lung disease and contribute to climate change.

More importantly, while rickshaws with four-stroke engines performed better with CNG, they found that those with two-stroke engines produce similar amounts of pollutants using CNG as with conventional fuel.

“On balance, our findings suggest the greatest savings of harmful emissions can be had by phasing out two-strokes,” says Kandlikar, who is also a member of UBC’s Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability (IRES).

“Auto rickshaws represent major potential savings in emissions that cause air pollution and can contribute to climate change.”

“Many cities in developing countries have terrible air quality, so switching to clean fuel like CNG can sound like the right thing to do,” adds Kandlikar, who was born in Hyderabad, India. “But our research suggests it might be more cost-effective to invest in programs that help drivers upgrade from two-strokes.”

That is exactly what Kandlikar and his team is now working on. Next up is exploring ways that cities and nations can implement their findings that don’t hurt drivers’ pocketbooks. ●

Next steps

When Prof. Kandlikar next returns from research projects in India, he plans to bring an auto rickshaw back for UBC clean energy researchers.

“I want to let our engineers have their way with it,” says Kandlikar. “The developing world needs new and more sustainable technologies. Researchers in rich countries should play a role in helping develop them.”

Learn more about Milind Kandlikar and his research at www.ligi.ubc.ca.

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UPCOMING PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENTS**

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Participate in our consultation events to learn more about each issue, proposed amendments and to provide your feedback.

LAND USE PLAN E-CONSULTATION: SEPTEMBER 27 - OCTOBER 15

- Visit planning.ubc.ca to take part in our e-consultation process currently under way.

**LAND USE PLAN WORKSHOPS: OCTOBER 13 AND 14
(PLEASE ATTEND ONLY ONE)**

- Wednesday, October 13: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., SUB Ballroom, 6138 Student Union Blvd., UBC
- Wednesday, Oct 13: 6 p.m. - 9 p.m., Tapestry, Wesbrook Village, 3338 Wesbrook Mall, UBC
- Thursday, Oct 14: 6 p.m. - 9 p.m., West Point Grey United Church, 4595 West 8th Avenue, Vancouver

Please RSVP to Stefani Lu, stefani.lu@ubc.ca, and let us know which workshop you'll be attending.

For more information please visit planning.ubc.ca.



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Buchanan re-born

By Loren Plottel

Over the past 50 years, thousands of students, faculty and staff have made the Buchanan complex the hub of everything "Arts." And while each classroom, lecture hall and courtyard bench tells a story, it was high time for a makeover of the complex.

This fall, that makeover will be complete with the final landscaping of the Buchanan courtyards. The design concept will transform the courtyards into welcoming plazas filled with natural light and ample seating while retaining the buildings' Modernist roots.

Originally built between 1958 and 1960, the Buchanan complex has been a strong but subtle landmark at the north end of the campus. With more than 12,000 students comprising the Faculty of Arts, space has become a premium for the largest faculty at UBC. Students were badly in need of updated spaces to study and to connect with their peers and professors.

Renovations to the Buchanan complex have been underway for several years through UBC's sustainability building renovation program, UBC Renew. The buildings have been completely revitalized, their original structures kept intact but the interiors reconfigured, refurbished, and serviced with new energy-efficient building systems. UBC Renew diverts large amounts of material from the landfill by renovating older campus buildings instead of demolishing them and building new, and renovations meet Canada Green Building Council LEED silver standard or better.

A leader in green university development and infrastructure, UBC has also taken a holistic approach to sustainability in ways that support the community as a whole. Working with Trade Works Custom Products, a social enterprise that trains and employs women in the Downtown East Side, the wooden arms were removed from more than 420 recycled seats, carefully stripped of the old paint, hand-sanded, refinished and reinstalled on the seats. They are now proudly in place in a lecture theatre in Buchanan A, a fresh new look for old seats that might have otherwise been disposed of.

And the original seats that were removed from Buchanan A? They made it onto the walls as an acoustic treatment, a nod to the past that's both visually interesting and functional, and a way to further reduce renovation waste. ●

For more information on Trade Works Custom Products and the Women's Workshop, check out the Trade Works website at www.tradeworks.bc.ca.

For information about other Learning Space projects, visit the Classroom Services website at www.students.ubc.ca/classroomservices.



Forest of clean fuel

By Heather Amos

On Dec. 15, the government will require at least five per cent of the gasoline used for transportation in Canada to be made of renewable content. Per year, this translates to almost 2 billion litres of renewable fuel for small vehicles alone. **That's enough fuel to fill 800 Olympic-sized swimming pools.**

This new federal government policy sounds good to Shawn Mansfield, a professor in the Faculty of Forestry at UBC who advocates for reducing our reliance on petroleum.

But, he is unsure of where that fuel will come from. He says it is unlikely that the agricultural sector will be able to supply the renewable resources required for transportation, and especially not at the expense of producing food and feed.

For the past decade, Mansfield and his colleagues have been trying to find a solution. He hopes tree-derived transportation fuels can offset some of the pressure on the agricultural sector.

“We are trying to develop trees that have more cellulose,” says the molecular biologist, who works with the genes responsible for making up the cell walls in trees.

“Cellulose is the world’s most abundant polymer and is used to make everything from food supplements to clothing. Because it’s a carbohydrate, it can also be converted to ethanol and used to supplement gasoline.”

“We’re also trying to reduce the amount of lignin in the plant cell walls,” says the professor. Lignin restricts the processing of wood, making it difficult to convert cellulose to ethanol.

“We need to fully understand the fundamental molecular control of plant growth and development before we start planting genetically modified trees.”

Mansfield and his colleagues have successfully produced trees with about five per cent more cellulose and substantially less lignin. Now the professor is working to generate trees with both trait modifications.

“A five per cent increase, at industrial volumes, translates into substantial gain for a community whose economy relies on processing wood.”

Despite Mansfield’s success in the lab, he is not an advocate for applying his research to nature yet.

“In 2006, the first tree genome was released,” he says. “We need to fully understand the fundamental molecular control of plant growth and development before we start planting genetically modified trees.”

Despite his apprehensions, Mansfield is motivated to continue his research. With a growing population and increasing evidence of the impacts of climate change, there is more strain on the world’s food supplies and transportation needs.

“The only way to combat this problem is by combining plant biotechnology with breeding strategies,” says Mansfield.

“We’re going to need more resources to accommodate the growing population and to ensure that developing countries have the opportunities to attain the standard of living to which we have become accustomed.”

Forest scientists from all over the world echo Mansfield’s thoughts. Forests are integral to mitigating climate change—they sequester substantial volumes of carbon dioxide. In fact, this was the overarching theme at the International Union of Forest Research Organizations’ World Congress, a conference that Mansfield attended in August.

The professor was there collecting one of 10 Scientific Achievement Awards, given to scientists for their contributions to the field of forestry. Considered one of the most prestigious awards in the field, it was a surprising success for the 41-year-old.

Mansfield’s colleague, Yousry El-Kassaby, who studies applied forest genetics, was also recognized with a Scientific Achievement Award; marking the first time two people from a single institution have won the award. ●

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

UBC FARM



A new plan for the **UBC Farm** will make it a world-class hub for sustainability research, teaching and learning.

Numbers:

2 The Farm grows everything needed to brew beer, including these two ingredients: barley and hops. Volunteers also recently uncovered a lost vineyard.

5 Here are five examples of active research on the farm: helping honey bees resist pathogens causing their colonies to disappear; developing biofertilizer and biofuel; research in soil conservation; evolutionary biology, and; behavioural neuroscience.

UBC cultivates vision for farm

By Basil Waugh

“No one thing here does just one thing.”

These are words Mark Bomford says often about UBC Farm. The more the director of UBC’s Centre for Sustainable Food Systems talks about its cultivated fields, teaching gardens, forest stands, hedgerows and orchard plantings, the more you realize: he’s not kidding.



UBC students learn sustainable farming while growing fruits and vegetables for the popular farmers’ market. K-12 students on school trips learn basic science while reconnecting with nature. The covercrops that protect soil from erosion will become biofuel. Even the honeybees are research subjects, as scientists try to understand their mysterious global disappearing act.

Last year was a banner year at the Farm, Bomford says. Attendance was through the roof with 40,000 visitors and 500 volunteers. Students grew a record 250 types of crops, plants and animals, and more than 150 academic projects across six faculties took place. By popular demand, the farmers’ market runs twice weekly.

But ironically, the Farm’s two most important recent milestones happened away from its fertile soil, says Bomford.

The first was a commitment by UBC’s Board of Governors’ in Nov. 2008 that no family housing be built on the Farm, provided that the housing density previously allotted to the Farm can be moved elsewhere on campus. The second—also requested by the Board—is a new “globally significant, academically rigorous” plan that will ensure the Farm is world-class hub for sustainability research for years to come.

Back in 1997, before its 2001 re-invention, the Farm was designated as a “future housing reserve” during the Metro Vancouver-led Official Community Plan, which has guided UBC’s development as a model sustainable university community. However, the possibility of housing on the Farm raised concern for many in recent years.

“Sustainability and food security have grown exponentially as issues of absolute everyday importance to people over the last decade,” says Bomford. “The way the university and community have embraced the Farm over this period feels very special, and reflects this larger picture.”

In UBC’s current Land Use Plan consultations (see below for details), the university is seeking to re-designate the Farm—along with other green areas, including botanical gardens and athletic fields—as “green academic,” meaning academic lands that support land-based teaching, research, community engagement and athletics.

Other goals of the Land Use Plan consultations include: identifying where the housing density allotted to the Farm will be moved, and increasing campus housing options and affordability. The growth of housing at UBC is part of a long-term strategy to transform the university from a commuter campus into a model sustainable community.

With the Farm’s future secure, Bomford and his team are ready to hit the ground running with the new academic plan, Cultivating Place, which will transform the Farm into a

world-class academic resource and a core part of UBC’s sustainability strategy.

The centrepiece of the plan includes the creation of a small residential college and micro-lab. To be built to the highest green standards using existing building footprints, these new facilities will bring students, faculty and world experts together into an immersive environment for globally significant research on key sustainability issues, says Prof. Andrew Riseman, UBC Faculty of Land of Food Systems, who co-chaired the creation of Cultivating Place with Bomford.

Other highlights of the five-year plan include: green technology innovation, innovation grants, visiting sustainability laureates, sustainability dialogues, practicum courses, faculty memberships and farm-branded organic deliveries to campus homes and local restaurants.

“UBC Farm will be a living laboratory where students and researchers explore the major sustainability issues facing society, including food, energy, waste and greenhouse gas,” says Bomford. “We want to develop global best practices in the microcosm of UBC, and then share these broadly as an agent for positive social change.”

“No campus farm that I know of is attempting the level of integration between learning, teaching, research and operations, or the breadth of crucial issues that we are working to address at the UBC Farm,” says Riseman.

As Bomford likes to say, no one thing does just one thing. ●

Cultivating Place website:
www.landfood.ubc.ca/cultivatingplace

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online or in person.
Learn more at
planning.ubc.ca

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6+
These Vancouver eateries, among others, source local organics from the Farm: Bishop’s, Raincity Grill, Cru, Refuel, Pair Bistro and Sage Bistro.

700
At least this many Aboriginal people visited the Urban Aboriginal Community Kitchen Garden last year to reconnect with nature and traditional ways.

3,000
The number of elementary students visited the Children’s Learning Garden last year to learn ecosystem stewardship, agriculture, math, science and health and nutrition.

Amy Frye Photograph



\$1/day

\$1/day = \$365
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\$10/pay

\$10/pay = \$250
16 children and their parents get access to community-based parent/child drop-in programming like story time, snack and lunch programs and parenting sessions

\$25/pay

\$25/pay = \$600
91 refugee children can participate in a weekly after-school homework club that builds cognitive skills, self confidence, and social networks

\$50/pay

\$50/pay = \$1,200
174 seniors can overcome social isolation through health and wellness programs, assistance accessing community services, and peer counseling

UBC's United Way Campaign

Michael McKnight, President and CEO of United Way of the Lower Mainland (left), with UBC President **Stephen Toope**.

UBC's Pierre Ouillet, vice-president finance, resources and operations, is going to jail and he won't come out. **Ouillet will be stuck behind bars until he raises \$250 for bail.**

By Heather Amos

This year's campaign for the Lower Mainland is being co-chaired by UBC President Stephen Toope

Ouillet's jail stunt on Nov. 10 is one of many fundraisers planned for the 2010 UBC Community United Way Campaign, which kicked off Sept. 20.

UBC has been involved with the United Way campaign for more than 20 years. Every year, students, residents, staff and faculty join together to raise money for the United Way of the Lower Mainland.

UBC's annual campaign is one of many workplace campaigns that contribute to the overall annual campaign put on by the United Way of the Lower Mainland. This year's campaign for the Lower Mainland is being co-chaired by UBC President Stephen Toope.

"The United Way helps people right here in our own backyard," says Lynn Newman, who is co-chairing the UBC campaign with Steve Tuckwood. "One in three people in the Lower Mainland benefit from the services, programs or research funded by the United Way."

To get this message across, Newman and Tuckwood are hoping the entire UBC community—residents, students, staff and faculty—will get involved.

"This year we've broken the campaign up. Each vice-president portfolio is responsible for putting on a mini campaign," says Tuckwood, associate director of Development.

"We want people to get to know one another and get exposure to how other units work," says Newman. "After the campaign is over, it will be that much easier to work together on other projects."

UBC and the United Way of the Lower Mainland have collaborated for many years, examining social issues and identifying solutions with a focus on prevention.

UBC has also been involved in the Loaned Rep program for over 20 years. Each year, two UBC employees are 'loaned' to the United Way to serve as an extension of United Way staff.

"This program provides the loaned rep with significant professional development and the opportunity to learn about the community surrounding and supporting UBC, as well as the importance of social responsibility," says Prof. Toope.

"They return to UBC ready to take on greater challenges and enrich our community through the experience they gained."

While Prof. Toope and two other UBC employees are working away on the Lower Mainland campaign, the UBC community can get involved right here on campus. A pancakes race, a gala night, and many other fundraising activities are planned for the 2010 UBC Community United Way Campaign. ●

UBC research and the United Way

A quarter of Grade 4 public school children in Vancouver say that they are not doing well in overall health and well-being, suggests research coming from a partnership between the Vancouver School Board, United Way of the Lower Mainland, and UBC's Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP).

The study found that 26 per cent of Grade 4 children were categorized as low in child health and well-being, and another 34 per cent were considered medium. These findings indicate that less than half of Vancouver's children are thriving and meeting their fullest potential.

"Our findings suggest a clear and urgent need for increased attention to the social and emotional well-being and health of children during the middle childhood years," said Kimberly Schonert-Reichl, the principal investigator of the study, and a professor in UBC's Faculty of Education and HELP. ●

For more information about the campaign or to make a donation, visit www.unitedway.ubc.ca