

# UBC REPORTS

## Nobel Laureates Receive Honorary Degrees from UBC



From left: UBC President Martha Piper, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nobel Laureate Shirin Ebadi and UBC Chancellor Allan McEachern.

Canada's national newspaper called it "a one-of-a-kind traveling road show, and we may never see its likes again."

The Globe and Mail reporter was referring to the historic visit to UBC's campus of three Nobel Peace Laureates. His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the exiled leader of Tibet and the winner of the 1989 peace prize, South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu who won the prize in 1984 and last year's winner Iranian human rights activist Shirin Ebadi all gathered at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts. They joined other spiritual leaders in a three-hour roundtable discussion of the importance of balancing educating the



mind with educating the heart. They also received honorary degrees from UBC.

The world visionaries came to Vancouver at the invitation of Pitman Potter, the director of the Institute of Asian Research, and his colleague Victor Chan a close associate of the Dalai Lama. The event also marked the official beginning of a new program being offered by the institute called Contemporary Tibetan Studies.

Thousands of British Columbians were able to see the Dalai Lama, many in person at the various events where he spoke and many more on television and web broadcasts. □

## SPECIAL ISSUE: CONGREGATION 2004



**More than 5,000** new graduates will receive their degree from Chancellor Allan McEachern at UBC's Spring Congregation, to be held May 26 to June 2. Both undergraduate and graduate degrees from all 12 faculties and schools will be conferred at 22 separate ceremonies at UBC's Chan Centre for the Performing Arts. In addition, nine honorary degrees will be given. Since the first degrees were granted in 1916, UBC's global alumni community has grown to more than 200,000. Congregation ceremonies will be web cast, allowing family, friends and alumni around the world to participate in the celebration. For more information about UBC's Congregation ceremonies, visit [www.graduation.ubc.ca](http://www.graduation.ubc.ca).





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# IN THE NEWS

Highlights of UBC Media Coverage in April 2004. COMPILED BY BRIAN LIN



Goldie Hawn was in the audience to see the Dalai Lama at UBC.

"In the past it was phrased in slightly more ambiguous ways related to supporting a One China policy."

### UBC honours Three Nobel Laureates

Hollywood actress Goldie Hawn joined hundreds of others in April to see the Dalai Lama and fellow Nobel Peace Prize laureates Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Iranian human rights fighter Shirin Edabi receive UBC honorary doctorate of law degrees.

### U.S. Ready to See Change in China-Taiwan Status Quo

U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Matthew Daley recently said Washington is not opposed to a change in the status quo involving arch foes Taiwan and China but any alteration must be peaceful and mutually agreed.

UBC political scientist Paul Evans says such remarks signal a U.S. desire to see the two resume talks frozen since 1999 and thus ease tensions created by moves by newly re-elected Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian towards independence and Chinese threats to respond with force.

"I think it's a shift not just from a year ago, but a shift from even a month ago," Evans told *Reuters News*.

"That is the most direct statement I have heard from a senior American official that the U.S. government will not support Taiwan independence," he said.

"People are hungry for answers," Hawn told *CP Wire*. "The human spirit, I guess you could say . . . we innately feel it's drying up."

Hawn, who lives in Vancouver with husband Kurt Russell, said people are more willing now to embrace the Dalai Lama's message of compassion.

"I watch all political processes around the world," she said. "They're driven by fear, the need to dominate. They're driven by ego, the need to conquer and possess. These are all very dangerous things we need to get over."

### 3,000-Year-Old Story a New Pop Cult Hit

Hollywood director Wolfgang Petersen's production of *Troy* will be released next month amid predictions that with a \$200-million U.S. budget, a timeless story and the likes of Brad Pitt and Peter O'Toole headlining, the film can't help but be a blockbuster.

But the Hollywood hype is being preceded on all sides by a flood of renewed interest in the epic poem about the clash of two cultures that is one of the best-sellers of the past 3,000 years.

The appeal of *Troy* is eternal, but the film has helped pique even more interest, UBC classics and archaeology professor Hector Williams told *The Ottawa Citizen*.

Williams knows of at least three *Troy* documentaries in the making, all timed to coincide with the release of the film.

### Svend Robinson's Fall From Grace

NDP MP Svend Robinson tearfully confessed in a news conference to "pocketing" an expensive piece of jewellery.

While no charges have yet been laid by police and the diamond ring — valued in a report by BCTV as high as \$50,000 — has been returned to the Vancouver auction house, Robinson announced he won't run for re-election in any near-term campaign and will be taking a medical leave from his duties in the Commons.

UBC political scientist Phillip Resnick said Robinson's long record of zero-to-60 moral outrage may be coming back to haunt him.

"He's sometimes taken positions that have put his own party in embarrassing situations and other times has actually been the standard-bearer," Resnick told *CP Wire*. "There was a side of Svend which played to that very moralizing, high moral road on broad issues of public policy." □

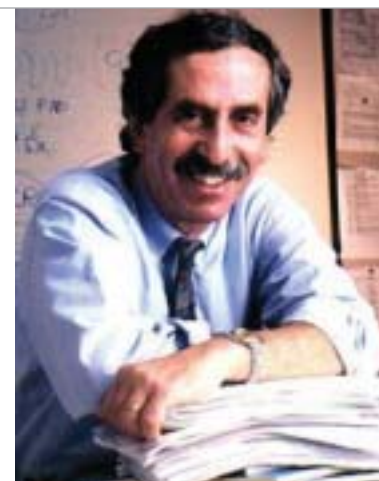
## The Inaugural CIHR Visiting Presidency at UBC

Dr. Alan Bernstein, president of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), will visit UBC May 17-21 to meet with members of the university's research community.

In the inaugural CIHR Visiting Presidency at UBC, Bernstein will participate in an open forum on Monday, May 17th at 3 p.m. to build relationships with investigators at all levels. He will also describe CIHR's plans for the future and opportunities for researchers.

For more information on the forum, visit [www.research.ubc.ca](http://www.research.ubc.ca).

CIHR is Canada's major federal funding agency for health research. UBC attracted more than \$42 million in funding from CIHR in 2002/03. □



Dr. Alan Bernstein, OC, PhD,  
FRSC CIHR Visiting President

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**UBC Reports** is published monthly by the UBC Public Affairs Office  
310 - 6251 Cecil Green Park Road  
Vancouver BC Canada V6T 1Z1

*UBC Reports* welcomes submissions.  
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# UBC was a Journey of Self-discovery for Dietetics Grad

*Yuka Asada found her calling.* BY APRIL WILSON-LANGE



*Yuka Asada grabs a healthy snack for her journey. Nutrition was the first course to spark her interest.*

**Yuka Asada has learned a lot** since she started her undergraduate degree at UBC in 1999. And it's not all school related.

Like many first year students, Asada, 22, didn't know what she was going to do with her life when she started university.

"I thought about wildlife preservation," says Asada, who graduates this month from the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences' food, nutrition and health program, "but I didn't have any ideas and I didn't know what my options were."

It wasn't until she took the Nutrition Concepts and Controversies course in second year that Asada found her calling. "It was the first course that really sparked my interest and I felt compelled to learn more about it."

But this was only the first step of her journey.

Feeling she needed to broaden her horizons further, Asada went to Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan in her third year as part of UBC's Student Exchange Program. "I learned so much about myself the year I was away."

One of the things she learned was that she loved teaching. To make some extra money, Asada taught English at a local school.

"I enjoyed motivating people to learn and tailoring lessons to each student," she recalls.

Wanting to share some of

her knowledge and insights, Asada worked as a Student Ambassador in her final semester at UBC, educating Vancouver students about the different programs available through Agricultural Sciences and creating awareness about issues related to land, food

and the community.

"A program like this would have really helped me when I was in high school," says the Vancouver resident.

The next step on Asada's journey is a one-year internship at Royal Columbian Hospital in New Westminster. □

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

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# Law Degree has Higher Purpose for Aboriginal Student

*She wants to eradicate racism and oppression.* BY APRIL WILSON-LANGE



Law graduate Tamara Starblanket plans on using her degree to help her people. She says indigenous people are treated unfairly by the legal system.

**While growing up in Saskatchewan,** Tamara Starblanket of the Ahtahkakoop First Nation experienced oppression and racism first-hand. That's why she wanted to study law.

"I saw the unfair way indigenous people were treated by the legal system, the school system and by society," says the 32-year-old. "I wanted to learn about the Canadian legal system to understand how it oppresses aboriginal people."

In fact, it was her mother's death that strengthened her resolve to study law.

"My mother's death was ruled an accident even though there was evidence that she was murdered,"

she explains. "The police only spent 12 hours on the investigation."

Starblanket, who graduates with a Bachelor of Laws this month, is committed to using her degree to help her people eradicate racism and oppression.

"Now that I have the legal understanding of treaty land entitlements, I'll be able to understand how the government undermines my people," she says.

Starblanket would also like to use her degree to help bridge the misunderstanding between non-native and aboriginal people. "A lot of misunderstanding is based on ignorance," she says.

Throughout her undergraduate and law studies,

Starblanket says she tried to help her fellow students understand her point of view; "I have a knowledge and perspective that's not taught in the classroom."

While at UBC, Starblanket fulfilled her dream of attending a United Nations meeting. In 2001, she went to the World Conference Against Racism in South Africa and in 2002 she took part in the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York.

She credits most of her success to the love and encouragement she receives from her sons Tylene, 13, and Jonas, 10.

Starblanket is hoping to article at a Vancouver-based law firm that specializes in aboriginal law. □

## The Anatomy of a UBC Diploma

COMPILED BY BRIAN LIN

**You've** burned the midnight oil and sat through four-hour exams for it. But do you know what makes up a UBC diploma? Other than your blood, sweat and tears, of course.

Lisa Collins, assistant registrar of senate and curriculum services, helps *UBC Reports* dissect a typical Bachelor of Arts diploma from UBC.

**1 The Coat-of-Arms,** in colour and gold foil. Designed in 1915, the Coat-of-Arms is UBC's original visual identity. It consists of a stylized book within a shield, containing the words *Tuum est (it's yours)* and graphics of the sun and waves.

**2 The Seal,** in gold foil. This more elaborate version of the Coat-of-Arms adds an official, ceremonial presence to the parchment. The seal is also key to verifying the diploma's authenticity.



**3 References to and signature of the Chancellor**

Under Section 17 of the University Act, the Chancellor confers all degrees on behalf of the university. When graduates cross the stage in the graduation ceremony, the Chancellor says "I admit you," meaning that the student has been admitted to the congregation of the University.

The President, the dean of the faculty recommending the degree, and the registrar also sign the parchment.

**4 Reference to the Senate**

As the university's highest academic governing body, the Senate approves all candidates for degrees before they may be conferred. For the May 2004 congregation, Senate will approve the candidates for degrees at its meeting scheduled for May 19. Senate approves the candidates for degrees based on the recommendation of each student's faculty.



## Nursing Grad Survived Bosnia's Civil War

*Determined to make life meaningful.* BY HILARY THOMSON

After spending three years as a refugee during Bosnia's civil war, Amra Dizdarevic knows the value of a caring community.

Her experiences as a refugee, a survivor and an immigrant have shaped the 25-year-old's life choices, including her decision to enter the School of Nursing in UBC's Faculty of Applied Science.

"My experience of war left me with a determination to make my life meaningful and to help others," says Dizdarevic, who receives a Bachelor of Science in Nursing this month.

Dizdarevic and her family immigrated to Canada in 1995 when she was 17. She earned a BSc at UBC in 2001,

majoring in cell biology and genetics. An outstanding student, she is a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society that recognizes academic excellence.

Discovering that she was "not a lab person," she switched to nursing in 2002, taking advantage of the school's multiple entry program to enter at the third-year level. There she earned a perfect grade point average with special interest in infant and maternal health and a focus on community nursing.

"Back home, health-care services were inadequate because of the war so people had to keep themselves healthy," she says. "Seeing how that worked triggered my interest in health promo-

tion and disease prevention."

In addition, she has worked as a volunteer at UBC Hospital's palliative care unit and has twice earned the Detwiller Award which honours outstanding student volunteers at the hospital.

An active member of the Bosnian Cultural Association of B.C., where she has performed as a soloist and choir member, Dizdarevic is also committed to helping other new Canadians. She has volunteered since 1999 as a host for newcomers at the Immigrant Services Society of B.C.

Planning to work in Vancouver after graduation, Dizdarevic says she appreciates the city's multicultural environment. □



*Amra Dizdarevic's experience of war-time health care influenced her interest in community nursing.*

## New Doctor on Top of the World

*Fulfills life-long dream.* BY HILARY THOMSON

If you asked Geoff Gotto about the high point of his academic journey, he'd probably talk about the time he spent at base camp on Mt. Everest.

Gotto – who graduates with a medical degree this month – recently completed a month-long elective working at the Khunde Hospital, caring for local Sherpa villagers and climbers, including members of a Canadian expedition.

"It's been a life-long dream to go to Nepal and Everest," says the 25-year-old Victoria native. "Practicing medicine while being on the mountain gave me the best of both worlds."

A Wesbrook Scholar, Gotto has received many awards and honours, including the UBC President's Scholarship and the Hamber Scholarship.

He obtained an honours BSc at UBC, majoring in microbiology and immunology. During his co-op placements for the program, he worked with some of the university's most eminent investigators – his work in microbiologist Brett Finlay's lab was published in *Cell Microbiology*.

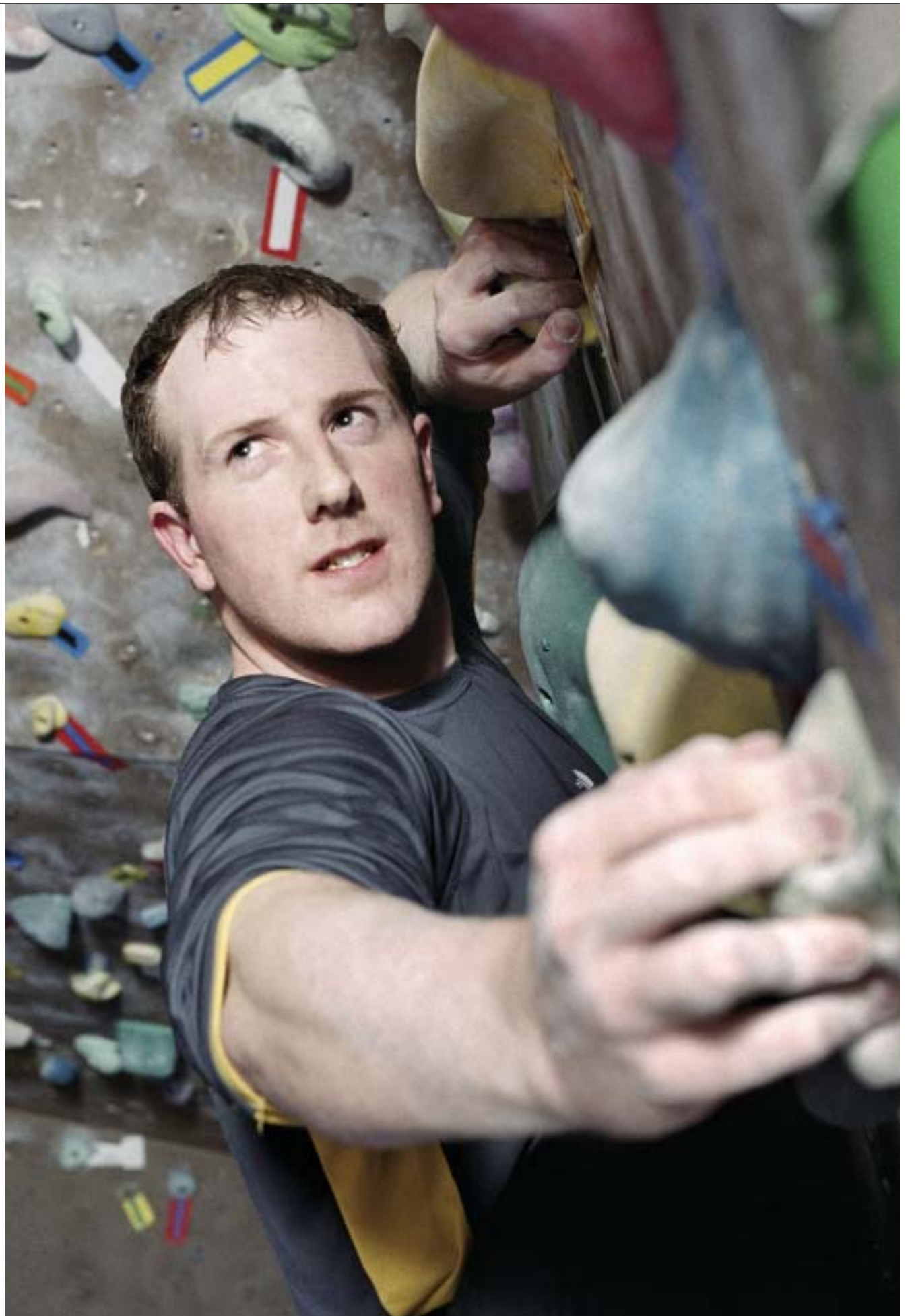
Gotto also has a passion for teaching. During his first two years of medical school, he earned a teaching award from Kaplan Education Centre while helping more than 500 students to prepare for the Medical Colleges Admission Test and other exams.

A recipient of the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award for leadership and community service, he has also been involved with the Community Health Initiative by University Students in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside as well as a high school outreach program called Talk To Your Doc.

Athletics helps keep Gotto's life balanced. He played championship level rugby in high school and at UBC, earning the designation Academic All-Canadian.

A residency in urology is the next step for the new doctor. The surgical specialty appeals to him because it offers a broad scope of care, ranging from medical interventions to cancer surgery and transplantation.

"I especially like the defined problems presented in surgical cases," he says. "I like fixing things." □



*Climber Geoff Gotto's month on Mt. Everest was his last step to a medical degree.*



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Christopher Zappavigna sees a future filled with good deeds, volunteer work and humanitarian activities.

## Giving Back to the Community Motivates Science Grad

Volunteering for humanitarian causes. BY APRIL WILSON-LANGE

By helping as many people as he can, Chris Zappavigna takes the Dalai Lama's message of love and compassion to heart.

As UBC's Student Senator for the Faculty of Science, Zappavigna was part of the academic procession at last month's honorary degree ceremony for the Dalai Lama, Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Iranian human rights activist Shirin Abadi.

"I felt excited and empowered to be there," he says. "After hearing these people talk, I felt I could do a lot more to help others. These three individuals have donated their lives to causes outside of their own lives."

Zappavigna wants to study medicine because he feels it's a profession where he can

have a positive influence on people's lives and the community.

But the integrated science undergraduate has already begun his humanitarian work.

As one of 12 Trek Leaders for UBC's Trek Program, he helps introduce fellow volunteers to Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

"Trek Leaders go over safety issues, shatter stereotypes and help new volunteers feel comfortable in this environment," he explains.

In addition, Zappavigna is a UBC volunteer at the Triage Emergency Shelter, a 28-bed homeless shelter for people with mental illness and substance abuse.

"I want to learn how to relate to different people in different socio-economic

groups," he says. "I hope to do this kind of work throughout my career."

For the past five years, Zappavigna, who graduates this month with a second science degree, has also volunteered at the Burnaby General Hospital's geriatric ward and emergency room.

Zappavigna graduated in 2000 with a chemistry degree and then went on to study biochemistry and genetics.

In addition to his local volunteer work, the Vancouver resident spent four weeks in the summer of 2001 building houses for needy families in a suburb of Mexico City.

"Volunteerism is important, you have to give back to the community."

Zappavigna hopes to go to UBC's School of Medicine in the fall. □



# Single Mom Conquers Learning Disabilities to Teach Others

*Her autistic son was her inspiration*

BY APRIL WILSON-LANGE

**Realizing her son was autistic** and he was going to need a special education, Cynthia Stark set out to learn everything she could about the disability. She also asked herself what she could do to help other children.

“I decided to take education so I could train other teachers to work with autistic kids,” says the 35-year-old.

Since last September, Stark, who also has learning disabilities, has trained to be a teacher in the Faculty of Education’s Fine Arts and Media Education (FAME) program.

Stark has perception and sensory disabilities that make it difficult for her to track words from left to right and to focus on more than one thing

at a time. She also developed dyslexia, a language-based learning disability, after contracting measles at 17.

“Since I learn through images and feelings, Fine Arts and Media Education is geared to the way I learn,” she says.

The program, she explains, integrates the arts and technology into every subject. For example, she used a Mac laptop to produce a 26-minute film to help teachers understand autism and give them some basic training tools.

“Many of the teaching methods taught in this course come from teaching kids with disabilities,” she adds.

The FAME program incorporates the theory of multiple intelligences, which advocates



*Cynthia Stark, with love and support from her son, Kieran, hopes to help children with autism.*

that kids are good at different things and should be taught according to their strengths. This is a technique that Stark uses everyday with her son Kieran.

“Autistic children don’t know how to make sense of the world and they can’t mod-

ulate the different sensations,” she says. “They can be taught but it takes a long time. You have to find out what they’re good at and go from there.”

Stark dreams of one day creating an organization in Canada like the U.S.-based Center for Autism and Related

Disorders, which develops individualized behavioural programs for children based on their capabilities.

Once she finishes her program, Stark hopes to work as a substitute teacher until she finds a full-time teaching position. □

# Pharmacy Grad Prepared to Perform on a New Stage

*Former dancer starts new career.* BY HILARY THOMSON

**What do professional ballet,** pediatric psychiatry and pharmaceutical sciences have in common?

Sara Ingram. The 28-year-old former dancer graduates this month with a BSc in Pharmacy, her third academic degree.

Originally interested in clinical psychiatry, Ingram obtained an undergraduate degree in psychology and a master’s degree in psychiatry, both from McGill University.

After working with children with acute psychiatric problems at Montreal’s Children’s Hospital, she switched paths to gain the flexibility and stability of a career in clinical hospital pharmacy.

“With hospitals, you either love them or hate

them,” she says. “I love the activity, the involvement in patient care and the clinical research that takes place in a hospital.”

But Ingram’s first career began not in hospital corridors, but in front of the footlights. She started dancing at age three and attended the School of American Ballet in New York as well as schools in California and North Carolina. She performed as a soloist for Ballet West in Montreal until she hung up her pointe shoes at age 21 to focus on her education.

The hardest part of earning her degree, she says, was recovering from back surgery she had in her third year. Although she did manage to write her

finals last year, she is only now able to participate in sports again. An avid swimmer and runner, Ingram has participated in Iron woman and triathlon events at UBC.

She has also volunteered with Community Health Initiative by University Students, and especially enjoyed “beauty nights” where students work one-on-one with women in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside to give them a rare evening of pampering.

After a year of residency training, Ingram plans to work as a clinical hospital pharmacist.

“Hospital care is very rewarding – the things you do make a huge difference that you can see almost immediately.” □

*Versatile athlete Sara Ingram overcame back surgery to complete her latest degree.*







### LIVING AT UBC INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR FACULTY AND STAFF ON HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

If you're like most faculty and staff, your day starts in traffic. Fortunately, there are other options. UBC is creating residential neighbourhoods around the academic core that offer urban living, recreational and cultural amenities in a spectacular physical setting.

Faculty and staff could be among the first to have the opportunity to rent or own. For example, through the innovative co-development housing program, you could join a group to purchase and develop your own home. To register for an information session, call 604.731.3103.



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or call 604.731.3103 to register.

## BUILD YOUR FUTURE AT UBC



The first co-development project on the UBC campus, Hawthorn Green, is now underway. 10 townhouses are being 'co-developed' by 10 enterprising faculty and staff members. The group has appointed UBC Properties as Project Manager.

Following this success, a second co-development group is now evolving. Plans are being formulated for a larger townhouse development to be situated adjacent to a new park and close to the Hawthorn Place Community Centre.

This is not an offering for sale. The townhouses may only be sold pursuant to disclosure materials prescribed by legislation.

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# 25 YEAR CLUB



**Elizabeth Johnson**, curator, Ethnology at the Museum of Anthropology, is one of 59 staff members who will be inducted into UBC's 25 Year Club that recognizes employees who have worked for the university for a quarter century. Members will be congratulated by President Martha Piper at a dinner on May 11. For a complete listing of the members, check the website at [www.ceremonies.ubc.ca/25yearclub/](http://www.ceremonies.ubc.ca/25yearclub/)

## Join the MBA Program and See the Far East

*Business grad embraces  
cultural differences*

BY APRIL WILSON-LANGE

**For MBA grad** Gregor Irvine-Halliday the business world is a place where you can collaborate with interesting people from different backgrounds.

"I chose to pursue an MBA to equip myself with a set of practical professional skills and for the opportunity to work with people from a broad range of professions and cultures," says the 32-year-old.

With this in mind, Irvine-Halliday went to Shanghai in the summer of 2003 to do the summer placement required for graduation.

After finishing a placement at the Canadian Trade Office



*Riding on a horse in Mongolia, Gregor Irvine-Halliday is on his way to a promising career in business development.*

to restructure to adapt to the market economy," he says. "And working with the staff of UBC's International MBA at Jiao Tong was a great way

True to his adventurous nature, Irvine-Halliday took a position as a business development consultant for CHF International in

**"And working with the staff of UBC's International MBA at Jiao Tong was a great way to meet local business people and develop my network."**

in Taipei, Irvine-Halliday was supposed to start another job with Shanghai Tunnel Engineering but was delayed because of the SARS crisis. As luck would have it, UBC's International MBA program at Jiao Tong University in Shanghai needed marketing help and he was able to step into the role.

"I learned a great deal concerning the challenges facing many state-owned enterprises as they attempt

to meet local business people and develop my network."

Irvine-Halliday also took advantage of the university's exchange program. After completing his internship, he went to the China Europe International Business School (CEIBS) in Pudong for his final term.

"I had worked in North China before starting my MBA and CEIBS was a natural choice as an exchange school," he explains.

Mongolia when he completed his courses at CEIBS.

"Working with people from different professions and cultural backgrounds produces far superior results, even though it requires a lot more patience and wisdom than when working with like-minded people," he says.

Irvine-Halliday plans on continuing his work in business development in either Canada or Asia. □

## TIMEPIECE 1925



**Conferring honorary degrees at UBC**, as we did recently for the Nobel Peace Laureates, has a long tradition stretching back to 1925. These were the first people to ever receive an honorary UBC degree. From left: President of the University of Washington Henry Suzallo, Minister of Education J.D. Maclean, Chancellor R.E. McKechnie, B.C. Lieutenant-Governor W.C. Nichol, Principal of McGill University Sir Arthur Currie, former Minister of Education Henry Esson Young and the director of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory in Victoria, Dr. J.S. Plaskett. □





## Culture and Dance Shaped Wesbrook Scholar

*War drove her to Canada.* BY APRIL WILSON-LANGE

**Lisette Torres** has a passion for life that's fuelled by her culture and personal experience.

Torres, 22, immigrated to Canada with her family when she was seven years old to escape El Salvador's civil war.

"I'm amazed by my parents' courage and selflessness in deciding to immigrate to Canada," says Torres, a political science major who graduates this month. "They gave up everything for my sisters and I to have a better future. What they did inspires me."

Because of this experience, the Wesbrook scholar is fascinated with immigration policy and law.

That's why she jumped at the chance to work as a policy analyst for Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) in Ottawa. This was one of five co-op work terms she completed while at UBC.

"It was an exciting time to work for CIC," she recalls. "The government was in the process of passing a new immigration Act. This is an important issue for Canada because we are a nation shaped by the strength and diversity of people from all

over the world."

The experience influenced Torres' academic work and research. She wrote a term paper on Canada's new Immigrant and Refugee Protection Act that was published in the *UBC Journal of Political Studies*.

After having a second paper published in the journal, Torres became its editor-in-chief last fall.

Reflecting her passion for public policy, international diplomacy and law, Torres has attended several Model United Nations (MUN) conferences across Canada. Last year, as director of UBC's MUN-International Criminal Court, she led the mock trial of General Augusto Pinochet for crimes against humanity in 1970s Chile.

When not engrossed in academic pursuits, Torres performs in Vancouver for a semi-professional Cuban salsa dance troupe.

"I've danced my whole life," she laughs. "It's part of my Latin culture."

Though a Vancouverite at heart, Torres will relocate to Ontario in the Fall to attend law school and hopes to eventually work with the Canadian Foreign Service. □

*Lisette Torres thanks her family and her culture for her academic and professional success.*

## UBC Architect Grad Builds a Better World

*Using her skills to help the less fortunate.* BY APRIL WILSON-LANGE

**Stephanie Gerbrandt's** love of travel and her desire to make a difference led her to architecture. Now she's helping people one building at a time.

Gerbrandt's interest in architecture began when the 29-year-old was in her last year of her undergraduate degree at Trinity Western University in Langley, B.C. In this year, she established a chapter of Habitat for Humanity and led a team of fellow students to Portland, Oregon, to renovate homes.

She also took part in a school-run work project in the Dominican Republic to build latrines and a foundation for a local church, after the destruction of hurricane Georges.

"These experiences confirmed that I wanted to study architecture," says Gerbrandt, who will receive her Master of Architecture degree from the Faculty of Graduate Studies this spring.

Gerbrandt's graduate thesis looked at ways to create inexpensive, sustainable housing for people in the Dominican Republic.

"I'm investigating the use of local materials to improve the living conditions of the people,"

she says. She explains that an inexpensive resource like bamboo can be used to build walls that can be used as storage space.

Wanting to learn how other countries practice architecture, Gerbrandt did a seven-month student placement in a small firm in London, England, in the second year of her program at UBC.

Directly after her work-term in the United Kingdom, she went to the Technical University of Siegen in Germany as an exchange student. While there, she worked on a studio project to convert a heritage factory in Hamburg into a residential building.

Gerbrandt's talent and desire to use her skills to help the less fortunate caught the attention of local architect Arthur Erickson, who, thanks to his recent Vancouver Arts Award, presented her with a \$5,000 travel scholarship to further her career.

The grant will allow her to present her thesis to Habitat for Humanity in Dominican Republic and travel to Southeast Asia.

Gerbrandt would like to work in Vancouver or abroad designing buildings for people in need. □



*Stephanie Gerbrandt hopes bamboo will improve the living conditions of people in the Dominican Republic.*



## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS AND NOMINATIONS



An exciting opportunity for two innovative and energetic people to join the hard-working team that will be instrumental in UBC's success in achieving the goals of Trek 2010.

The Provost's Office is seeking nominations and applications for two Associate Vice Presidents. Due to the evolving nature of the positions, and to optimize the chance of an ideal fit with interested internal candidates, the breakdown of responsibility has not yet been determined. A summary of the current combined responsibilities is as follows:

- participation in analysis and strategic planning in the Provost's office
- close coordination and interaction with the Deans and other Associate Vice Presidents on a variety of matters
- assist with the development and approval of new academic programs
- work with Faculties on new learning initiatives that incorporate interdisciplinarity, interactivity, global citizenship and the integration of research
- liaison activities with the provincial government, especially the Ministry of Advanced Education
- academic leadership relating to Robson Square and Great Northern Way
- work cooperatively on international academic issues with the Associate Vice President International and with related international units
- manage the Canada Research Chair program and work with others on federal and provincial research programs such as CFI and LEEF
- establish criteria for budget allocation, monitor all budgets that report to the Provost and supervise the preparation of all Board documentation
- work with the Faculties in planning faculty retention and renewal initiatives
- manage enrolment planning
- stewardship of all existing and new academic space belonging to UBC on behalf of the academic community
- oversee support units that report to the Provost including the Centre for Teaching and Academic Growth, First Nations House of Learning, Planning and Institutional Research, International Student Initiative, Office of Learning Technology, Distance Education and Technology
- work with IT Services and the Faculties to set priorities and goals for the use of Information Technology in research, teaching and administration
- leadership of a variety of academic committees
- assist with periodic reviews of all academic units and support units in the Provost's Office
- assist in the development and implementation of quality assurance standards
- assist in the development of materials for Senate and the Board of Governors

Reporting to the Provost (with the possibility of dual reporting to another Vice President), the Associate Vice Presidents will have outstanding academic credentials, proven leadership ability and administrative experience, a strong commitment to excellence in research, learning, and service, the ability to support and motivate research and learning activities, and excellent interpersonal skills.

These positions are internal to the University. UBC hires on the basis of merit and is committed to employment equity. We encourage all qualified persons to apply. Applications and nominations should be submitted to Charlotte Passmore in the Provost's Office by May 20, 2004. Applicants should submit current CV and the names of three referees.

## International Dentist Polishes her Degree with UBC Patina

*Gains greater experience with more training*

BY HILARY THOMSON

When **Lovedeep Kaur** Randhawa accepts her degree in dentistry this month, it will mark the end of an educational journey that has spanned 23 years and half the globe.

After obtaining a dentistry degree in India, the 26-year-old moved from Punjab to Canada in 2000 and to UBC in 2002 to participate in the Faculty of Dentistry's two-year International Dental Degree Completion program.

En route, she lived with relatives in Toronto where she met her husband, Jaspreet, an RCMP officer. The couple were married in 2001 and moved to Vancouver.

Randhawa knew something of Canadian culture from North American students who attended her university at home. She was surprised, however, to find samosas and other popular Indian food in local supermarkets.

"Vancouver is so multicultural. I didn't feel like an outsider

when I got here. It was easy to fit in."

The oldest of three sisters, Randhawa's education has been greatly influenced by her father, a civil engineer. Encouraged to excel, she started school at age three and consistently placed first in her classes. Last year, she placed in the top 10 per cent of her dentistry class.

"My family is a huge support for me – I'm here today because of the way I was brought up," she says. "My parents inspire and motivate me."

There are many differences between

Indian and Canadian dentistry, she explains. There is no insurance coverage for dental services in India and many people can't afford treatment. This means general dentists do very basic dentistry with more interesting work performed by specialists who treat affluent patients.

"Here in Canada, the dentist

*continued on page 11*



*Lovedeep Kaur Randhawa enjoys the broad scope of Canadian dentistry.*



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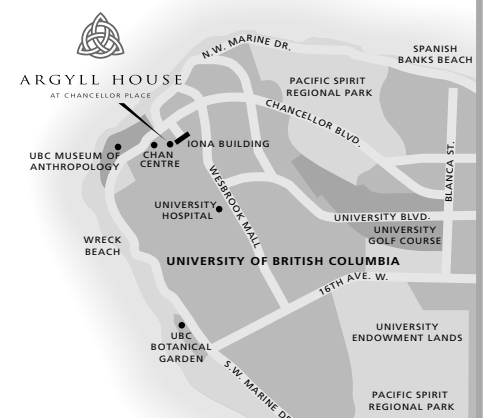
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A life protecting and studying birds suits Stephanie Topp.

## Life has Gone to the Birds for Forestry Grad

Solving conservation problems in the field. BY APRIL WILSON-LANGE

Four years ago Stephanie Topp quit her job in Toronto, packed her bags and headed west to study conservation at UBC.

"I was working in an administrative position in health care and I wasn't happy," says Topp, who graduates from the Faculty of Forestry's natural resources conservation program this month.

But it wasn't until the 31-year-old traveled to India, Singapore, New Zealand and Australia with her sister, that she made up her mind to change careers.

"This trip made me think about nature and conservation," she says. "I really got into birds in New Zealand."

Since New Zealand is an island, Topp explains, there are many unique species of flightless birds that didn't have natural predators. Now, with the introduction of rats and other predatory animals, these birds are becoming endangered.

Topp has integrated her desire to protect our feathered friends into her work at UBC.

In her first year, she worked for the Wildlife Rescue Association where she spent a lot of time handling birds.

"This experience sealed it with the birds for me," she says. "Watching them grow and develop is amazing."

She also used two of her Natural Sciences and

Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) scholarships to study the winter wren on Mount Seymour. Topp won NSERC fellowships in her second and third years. And this year she was awarded the highly competitive NSERC post-graduate scholarship.

One of the reasons Topp chose to study conservation at UBC was the program's mix of academic and practical experi-

ence. Students are required to attend field school in the fall term of their last year.

"Whatever I do in the future, I'll have to do some field work," she says.

After her winter wren research ends in July, Topp will be involved with a bird migration study until October. Then she plans to work on her master's degree at UBC next January. □

### UBC ALUMNI

## He d' Man

Haig DeB Farris, BA'60, LLD

Haig Farris is an early adapter. He's the guy who has the latest breakthrough gadget before anybody else. He wore out his first Palm Pilot before the rest of us even knew they existed. When they morphed into all-in-one organizer-camera-video-audio-telephone-television-GPS-MP3 machines, he thought, "What's next?"

Maybe that's why he was drawn to venture capitalism. The irresistible allure of "What's next?"

He's considered an angel in the high-tech, start-up world. When someone comes up with a surefire, killer business idea that has a tech focus, Farris and his partners sit down with the idea people, work out a business plan and provide seed money. He has become a key element in Vancouver's high-tech sector, a man sought after as much for his desire to foster new industry as he is for his uncanny business acumen.

In a recent cover article in *BC Business*, Farris was described as someone who knows everyone who counts. With his network of angels across the country, he has contributed significantly to the country's economy.

Farris is also a strong

community supporter. He has served as chair of the Science Council of BC, as a member of the Premier's Advisory Committee on Science and Technology, as director of the Vancouver Opera and the Vancouver Playhouse. He also served as president of the UBC Alumni Association, and is one of the university's staunchest advocates. He was also a close friend of Cecil Green, who died in 2003.

Farris' UBC connection goes back to his mother, Evelyn, who was the first woman in Canada to be a member of a governing board of a university. She also founded the University Women's Club. □

BY CHRIS PETTY



PHOTO: ROBERT KENNEY

## International Dentist

continued from page 10

is a primary oral health caregiver and there is greater variety and scope of care," she says. "I now have much greater experience in the procedures I was trained in."

Randhawa will work in general practice after graduation but her academic journey may not be over yet. She loves to study, she says, and may take further training as a specialist. □

## Retiring Within 5 Years?



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## Applications for Directorship, Centre for Chinese Research

The Institute of Asian Research is seeking applications from within the University for the post of Director of the Centre for Chinese Research.

Applicants should hold academic appointments at UBC and have demonstrated commitment to research on China. The successful applicant will be expected to take up the appointment on July 1, 2004.

The successful candidate will be expected to develop research programs focusing on China, seek funding from external donors for the programs of the Centre, organize conferences and seminars on the Centre's research interests and projects, administer the budget of the Centre, and chair the Centre's management committee. The Centre Director will be expected to collaborate with the Director of the Institute of Asian Research in developing inter-Centre and interdisciplinary teaching and research initiatives. The Centre Director will also serve on the Council of the Institute.

UBC hires on the basis of merit and is committed to employment equity. We encourage all qualified persons to apply.

The appointment will be for a fixed term of three to five years. The deadline for applications is May 31, 2004. Applicants should send a letter describing their interest in the position, a curriculum vitae, and the names and addresses of three references to:

**Pitman B. Potter, Director**  
Institute of Asian Research  
C.K. Choi Building, Room 251  
1855 West Mall, UBC V6T 1Z2  
Tel: (604) 822-4688 Fax: (604) 822-5207  
E-mail: potter@interchange.ubc.ca



## Applications for Directorship, Centre for Korean Research

The Institute of Asian Research is seeking applications from within the University for the post of Director of the Centre for Korean Research. Applicants should hold academic appointments at UBC and have a demonstrated record of research activities and achievements concentrated on Korea. The successful applicant will be expected to take up the appointment on July 1, 2004.

The successful candidate will be expected to develop research programs focusing on Korea, seek funding from external donors for the programs of the Centre for Korean Research, organize conferences and seminars on the Centre's research interests and projects, administer the budget of the Centre, and chair the Centre's management committee. The Centre Director will be expected to collaborate with the Director of the Institute of Asian Research in developing inter-Centre and interdisciplinary teaching and research initiatives. The Centre Director will also serve on the Council of the Institute.

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## Applications for Directorship, Centre for Southeast Asia Research

The Institute of Asian Research is seeking applications from within the University for the post of Director of the Centre for Southeast Asia Research. Applicants should hold academic appointments at UBC and have a demonstrated record of research activities and achievements concentrated on one or more countries or regions of Southeast Asia. The successful applicant will be expected to take up the appointment on July 1, 2004.

The successful candidate will be expected to develop research programs focusing on Southeast Asia, seek funding from external donors for the programs of the Centre, organize conferences and seminars on the Centre's research interests and projects, administer the budget of the Centre, and chair the Centre's management committee. The Centre Director will be expected to collaborate with the Director of the Institute of Asian Research in developing inter-Centre and interdisciplinary teaching and research initiatives. The Centre Director will also serve on the Council of the Institute.

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# Staff Members Receive President's Service Award for Excellence

BY HILARY THOMSON



PSAE recipients for this year are (l-r) Yashmin Kassam, Julie Walchli, Suzanne Poohkay, Audrey Lindsay and Belle Dale-Wills (bottom right).

As associate director, Facility Services, **Belle Dale-Wills** is responsible for planning, budgeting, directing and evaluating the operations of various facilities management and custodial functions throughout campus.

Peers acknowledge major changes she has made, including a shift to customer service, an emphasis on safety and training and redefining the role of facility manager to serve as a resource for campus clients.

She has made numerous improvements in the management of workplace injuries and in 2002, the Workers' Compensation Board recognized her achievements in workplace ergonomics by featuring her in their *WorkSafe* newsletter.

Dale-Wills' attention to staff is exceptional. She regularly works 10-12 hours per day to have contact with every shift and knows the name of each of our 300 custodial workers.

A dedicated communicator who keeps staff motivated, recognized and valued, she also is the driving force of her group's highly successful United Way campaigns.

**Yashmin Kassam**, advising officer and administrator for the first-year English program, is known to her colleagues as a "miracle of energy and commitment".

By listening to concerns, fixing problems and answering a myriad of questions, she helps make new students' experience at UBC a positive one. Well-known for her patience, diplomacy and compassion, Kassam has a special skill in helping international and multi-cultural students feel at home at UBC. She also co-ordinates the

program's instructors and teaching assistants.

Kassam embraces the idea of continuous learning and is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree part time. Her knowledge, organizational skills and spirit have prompted many colleagues to regard her as the heart of the department.

Alumna **Audrey Lindsay** is associate registrar and director of student systems in Enrolment Services.

Since joining UBC in 1972, Lindsay has envisioned, developed and provided technology systems for students that have spanned punch cards, telephone and Internet registration.

The student information system she established is considered the envy of universities across North America. In 2003, EDUCAUSE – a coalition of North American colleges and universities dedicated to advancing education through better use of information technology – honoured her for the online student self-evaluation and self-admission program she developed.

Known as a dynamic innovator, Lindsay's co-workers say she puts her whole mind and heart into her work, whether recruiting student workers, motivating team members, or fostering interdepartmental consultation.

**Suzanne Poohkay**, associate director, facilities and capital planning, in the Dept. of Campus and Community Planning, is UBC's acknowledged "doyenne of space." She is responsible for planning and



budgeting construction and maintenance programs for campus buildings.

Since joining UBC in 1989, she has headed projects ranging from better research labs to more usable student social space. She is respected across campus for her fairness, creativity, collaborative working style and energy.

She drafted UBC's first five-year and 10-year capital programs and her proposals have influenced the provincial government to commit funds to UBC over and above its normal allocation. She has also been instrumental in developing an innovative agreement to rehabilitate campus facilities – a \$120 million project known as UBC Renew.

As founder and director of UBC's Arts Co-op Program, alumna **Julie Walchli** has increased the image and value of an Arts degree to the community and the university.

She has worked tirelessly for the last five years at both campus and provincial levels to promote co-op education and is recognized as having developed the most successful student co-op association in B.C. Key among her accomplishments is campus-wide branding of all UBC co-op programs.

Walchli is also an advisor to the UBC chapter of the Golden Key International Honour Society where she guides and mentors some of UBC's most accomplished students.

Her staff says she is passionate about her work and a visionary pioneer whose leadership and commitment have helped hundreds of students realize their potential. □



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