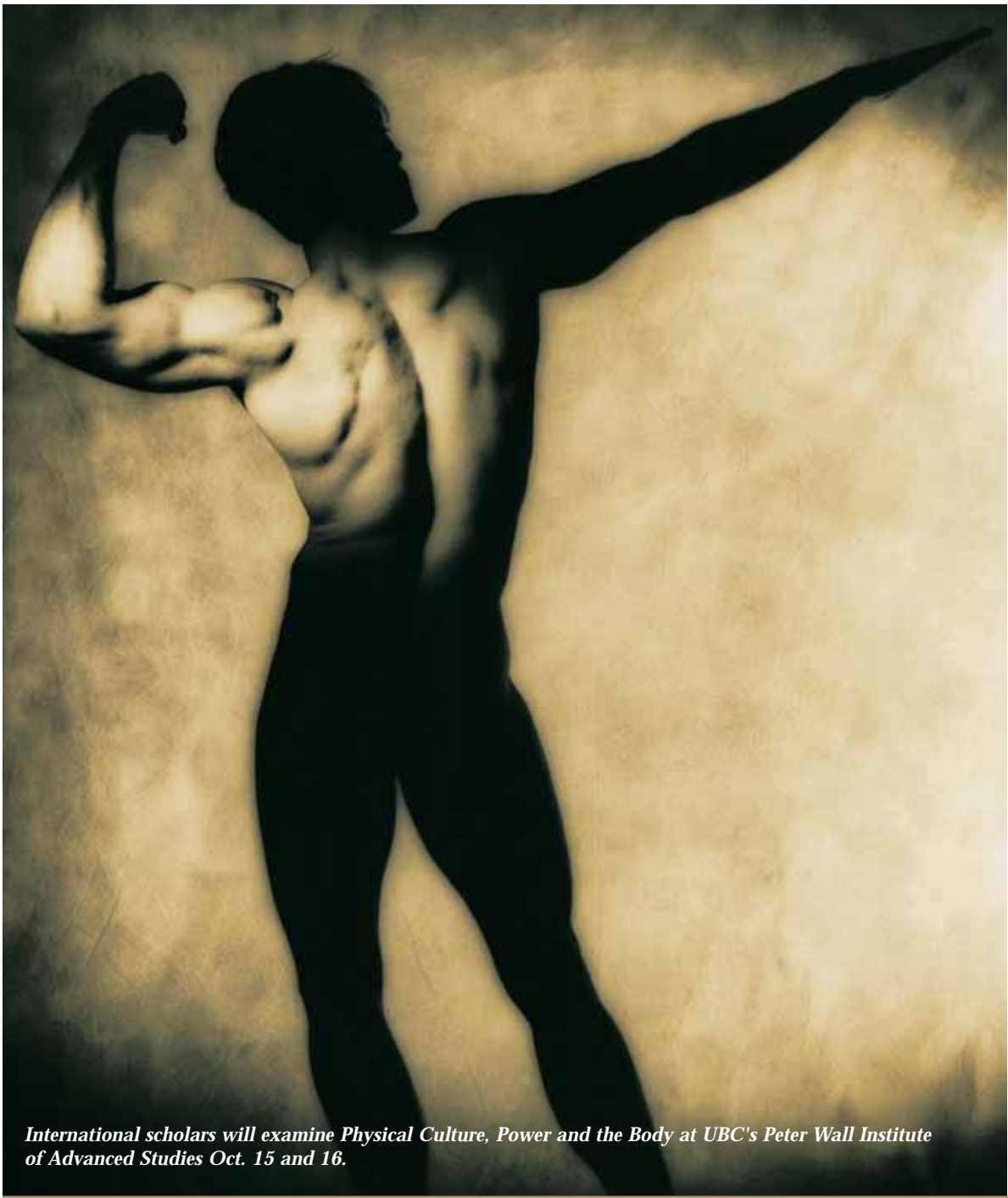




UBC REPORTS

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International scholars will examine *Physical Culture, Power and the Body* at UBC's Peter Wall Institute of Advanced Studies Oct. 15 and 16.

The Body Beautiful

Physical culture muscles its way into academia

BY ERICA SMISHEK

The body is big in the academy.

Once the territory of doctors and biologists, the body has emerged as a hot topic for scholars in an increasing number of disciplines including anthropology, sociology, literature and history. They argue that the body can only be fully understood in its social and cultural context and they're challenging long-held ideas about gender, sexuality, race and more.

"The ivory tower used to be all about the mind," says Patricia Vertinsky, a professor in UBC's School of Human Kinetics and a 2004 Peter Wall Distinguished Scholar. "Now it's well accepted that changing cultural conceptions of the body affect experience, policy and social theory, and that we need to understand better how body and mind work together."

Vertinsky and Jennifer Hargreaves, a feminist sociologist of sport from London's Brunel University, will convene an international conference, *Physical Culture, Power and the Body*, Oct. 15 and 16 at UBC's Peter Wall Institute of Advanced Studies. Presenters are all contributors to an upcoming book on physical culture to be published by Routledge in 2005.

Participants include UBC sociologist Becki Ross, who researches female striptease and the controls that have been placed on the nature of strippers' performances; Kate O'Riordan from the University of

Sussex, who studies the way technology is transforming the body and our understanding of what is "natural"; and John Hoberman, from the University of Texas, whose controversial book *Darwin's Athletes: How Sport Has Damaged Black America and Preserved the Myth of Race* focuses on society's fixation with black athletic achievement and how this obsession has come to play a troubling role in African-American life and the country's race relations.

"Our focus is physical culture," says Vertinsky, "cultural practices in which the physical body – the way it moves, is represented, has meanings assigned to it, and is imbued with power – is central. We want to focus in a cohesive and broad way on how power impacts the way we use our bodies."

Considered one of the most influential thinkers and producers in sports studies and the body/society paradigm, Vertinsky studies how ideas about the female, male, youthful, aging, racial and disabled body have been fashioned in modern society through exercise, sport and dance.

"We have to look critically at the way in which our society decides what is normal in relation to the body as well as the mind," she says.

Her work examines how culture controls people, shaping our view of the normal body, the beautiful body, the toned and fit body, the athletic

continued on page 7

A New Entrance for UBC – by Design

International architectural competition will help

BY BRAD FOSTER

International architects and jurists will help the UBC community create a new social heart for the campus.

UBC will soon be inviting the world's best architects to participate in an architectural competition that will redefine UBC's main entrance on University Boulevard.

"UBC has always lacked a memorable entrance," said Dennis Pavlich, UBC's Vice President of External and Legal Affairs. "In the words of Gertrude Stein, 'There is no there there'."

"This competition will put the 'there' into the overall vision for a memorable and complete University Town community that is emerging at the University of British Columbia, and in doing so will create a vibrant academic village for the campus."

The competition jury will consist of internationally acclaimed architects including Arthur Erickson (Canada), Moshe Safdie (USA), Leon Krier (France) and Demitri Porphyrios (England), as well as UBC student, faculty and staff representatives who will have the respon-

sibility of assessing the submissions of the final three competitors and ensuring the designs serve the broad interests of the university community.

The design competition scope encompasses University Boulevard from Wesbrook Mall to Main Mall and asks architects to envision five building sites, which will include a new University Square, a new Greenway and all the associated pedestrian connections between the new and existing buildings in this area.


The new centrepiece of the University Boulevard neighbourhood will be University Square, located on the old Bus Loop site at University Boulevard. (The Timepiece on page 7 shows the architect's plan for the Point Grey campus drawn up in 1914.) While the design of the transit station is excluded from the competition, final submissions will be required to make recommendations regarding entrances and exits based on pedestrian flow and new building locations.

University Square will serve as a

continued on page 7



Artist concept of proposed University Square.




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IN THE NEWS

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

Is Stock Chat all Talk?

In a recently published paper entitled "Is All That Talk Just Noise?" UBC financial economists **Werner Antweiler** and **Murray Frank** examined the stock message board phenomenon and found that the characteristics of messages helped predict volume and volatility, reports *The New York Times*.

Published in the June 2004 issue of *The Journal of Finance*, the paper also shows the number of messages on one day helped predict returns the next day, even though the degree of predictability was weak and reversed itself the next trading day.

Antweiler and Frank collected more than 1.5 million messages from two online boards, Yahoo Finance and Raging Bull, and analyzed them using methods of computational linguistics and econometrics.

Cherry-Picking Immigrants Discouraged

Many researchers attending the recent United States Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City annual conference disagree with the popular belief that rich countries could ease the strains of ageing by accepting younger immigrants.

"For the rich countries to cherry-pick skilled international migrants to finance their own retirement ... seems almost unbelievably shortsighted and self-serving," UBC economist **John Helliwell** told the *Australian Financial Review*.

Helliwell said that outsourcing may achieve the same economic benefits of immigration but with far more social harmony. It spreads know-how and wealth in the poor country and minimizes immigration-related strains in the developed country.

Nobel Winner's Dream Lab Opened

The Michael Smith Laboratories opened at UBC's Vancouver campus last month. Smith, a Nobel Prize winner, had recruited a collection of brilliant young scientists to UBC before his death in 2000. Now his dream of creating a cross-disciplinary biomedical centre finally came true.

Brett Finlay, one of Smith's recruits who has been doing pioneering work on microbial pathogens, told *The Globe and Mail* he rejected a career at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to join Smith's team.

"[The concept of creating an interdisciplinary team] was a brainchild of his ... that we would mix engineers with biologists, with botanists. This was long before interdisciplinary [research] was trendy," said Finlay.

Terrance Snutch left the California Institute of Technology to join Smith at UBC. With the new building, "our students and postdocs can actually get together and brainstorm, that's never been there," said Snutch, who has produced breakthrough work on calcium channels in the brain.

Wilf Jefferies, who left a leading research institute in Sweden, said it's exciting that the new building is finally ready. "The space is fantastic. It's a marvelous building. Mike, I think, would have been proud," said Jefferies, who studies how pathogens are broken down and heads a team that is testing the first curative vaccine for cancer.



Brett Finlay is one of Michael Smith's recruits.

PHOTO: PAUL JOSEPH

Psychopaths Good at Climbing Corporate Ladder

"Corporate psychopaths" are ruthless, manipulative, superficially charming and impulsive, UBC psychopathy expert **Robert Hare** told *CNN.com*. And these traits are landing them high-powered managerial roles.

"Psychopaths are social predators and like all predators they are looking for feeding grounds," he said. "Wherever you get power, prestige and money you will find them."

Hare estimates that as much as one per cent of the British and North American population are clinically psychopathic. □

LETTERS

Editor:

I was pleasantly surprised to open up the UBC homepage to find an article on AIDS in Africa on September 3rd 2004. As an ardent proponent of the HIV/AIDS crisis in Africa, I was glad to finally see this topic placed on the forefront at a Canadian institution of higher learning. As an African student at UBC, I have learnt to expect very little in terms of representation in the UBC mainstream discourse. I was quite appalled to read further and watch stereotypes of my people replicated by an ill-informed and ill-researched article.

Not in a single sentence did the article seek to tap into the resource of Malawian students or indeed East or Southern African students at UBC.

Indeed, as always, the African experience was glossed over, ignored and unacknowledged by the writer whose focus was on so called expert Western sources.

As a 'world class' institution of higher learning it is indeed disappointing to watch UBC replicate the power dynamics that have plagued the politics of the North and the South. It is time that Westerners ceased to speak for Africans, for we are capable of and interested

in speaking for ourselves. As the President of Students Against Global AIDS, my goal is to teach about the complexities and the multifaceted nature of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa. I derive my knowledge from a lifetime of experience, not a six-week summer project. It is out of the same frustration that has led me to respond to this article, that I placed a proposal to teach a student directed seminar on the politics of HIV/AIDS in Africa. I could easily share a number of pictures from the rural areas in my home country. But without an understanding of the rich African culture and the complexities of post- and neo-colonialism it would be too arrogant for me to purport to speak for the continent through a handful of digital experiences. As VP Academic within the AMS, I look forward to recognizing the World AIDS Day on December 1st 2004, a world-wide celebrated event that has in the past received little or no attention at UBC.

I have no problem with Canadian students including a component of International Studies in their education-

continued on page 8

UBC REPORTS

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UBC’s Learning Exchange Recognized for the Great Trekker Award

BY ERICA SMISHEK

UBC students have recognized a distinguished educator who is helping change the face of learning at UBC and in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside with the 2004 Great Trekker Award.

Margo Fryer is the director of UBC’s Learning Exchange, an innovative community outreach initiative that provides educational opportunities to people who live and work in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside and other inner-city communities. It also provides opportunities for UBC students to develop an understanding of society through first-hand volunteer work.

“The Learning Exchange brings learning alive for people,” says Fryer, who received her PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies from UBC in 2003.

“It’s really the Learning Exchange – not just me – that’s being recognized. And it’s especially fitting that the Great Trekker Award is coming to an initiative that is so tied to community and to the Trek vision (UBC’s strategic plan).”

The Great Trekker Award – with its 2004 theme of Community Outreach and Community Involvement in the Greater Vancouver Regional District – is presented by the student-run Alma Mater Society (AMS) of UBC to an alumni member who has achieved recognition in their chosen field, made a special contribution to the community and maintained a continued interest in UBC. The Award commemorates the spirit of the Great Trek of 1922, where UBC students marched from downtown Vancouver to the Point Grey campus in an effort to pressure the provincial government to provide funding for the campus.

“That event was about students making the statement that the conditions for learning weren’t good enough,” says Fryer.

“The students coming into the Learning Exchange Trek Program are saying something similar; that they need different learning conditions that connect them with the challenges of the 21st century. They want to be learning within the context of the community. They want to cultivate the qualities necessary to be responsible global citizens.

“People in the Downtown Eastside recognize that education is so important. The Learning Exchange is a setting where they can get access to resources that weren’t available to them before and where they too can reflect on their roles as global citizens.”

Fryer has directed the formation and growth of the Learning Exchange since its inception. The project began in 1999 when Fryer and another student were hired to consult with the Downtown Eastside community about how UBC could most effectively develop its presence in the area.

Since then, the Learning Exchange has operated a number of community-based educational programs and initiatives, including a storefront on Main Street where patrons can use computer resources to access the UBC Library, prepare resumes and letters and connect to the Internet. Several “101” level courses have also been offered free to low-income participants and include a meal before and transportation to and from each class.

“Dr. Fryer’s work has allowed many people to access educational services and programs in their own neighbourhoods,” says Holly Foxcroft, Vice-President of External Affairs for the AMS. “She is a pioneer in finding ways to increase the capacity of learning in the Downtown Eastside and for continuing to link the community back to the university.”

About 800 UBC students will participate in the Trek Program this year. UBC’s goal is to have 10 per cent of its students engaged in community service-learning by 2010.

Fryer says future plans for the

Learning Exchange include a staff volunteer initiative, a pilot program for alumni volunteers, a more integrated approach to the education events and programs offered at the Main Street storefront, enhanced partnerships with other Canadian universities, and, in conjunction with the Vancouver School Board, a more strategic approach to the work students are conducting in inner city schools.

“We hear time and time again that this is a ‘transformative’ experience for the people involved,” says Fryer. “We’re being driven by the power of what’s being created. We have to keep that momentum going.”

Prior to completing her PhD, Fryer was a researcher in the health and social service fields. She has collaborated with community groups, non-profit organizations and government agencies on research projects on a variety of issues, including childhood sexual abuse, immigrant women’s perinatal health, child poverty, the needs of seniors, women’s health care and multicultural service delivery.

She has also evaluated pilot projects related to community

development strategies for health promotion, community involvement in health care decision-making, and building collaborative partnerships among health care agencies, and has taught research and evaluation principles and skills to community members.

Previous recipients of the Great Trekker Award include former Prime Minister John Turner, author Pierre Berton, CBC journalist Eve Savory, and diplomat and international lawyer Maurice Copithorne. □



Learning Exchange director Margo Fryer has been honoured for her commitment to community outreach and community involvement.

PHOTO: SCOTT RUDD

United Way Campaign Well Under Way

With a successful September kick-off event behind them, and more than \$35,000 already raised, organizers have the 2004 UBC United Way Campaign well underway. “Pledge packages were delivered in late September, and donors have already been generous through their donations and event participation,” said Stan Auerbach, a sessional instructor in the faculty of education who is 2004 Campaign Chair. “One of our goals this year is to raise donor participation by five per cent so we are on our way to achieving that.”

“Volunteers have really been working hard on campaigns throughout departments on campus,” Auerbach said. “If you’re

looking for a coffee and donut morning, an international food fair or a 50/50 draw, you can find one in an area near you,” Auerbach said of the range of fundraising activities available for campus participation.

Upcoming events this month include the annual Land and Building Services International Food Festival and the UBC-Ritsumeikan Open House. Visit the website at www.unitedway.ubc.ca for campaign event details.

For more information on this year’s campaign, upcoming events, or how to donate, please contact Liz King, Campaign Coordinator, at 604-822-8929 or united.way@ubc.ca. □

For the Record

The September 2 issue of UBC Reports provided an incomplete description of the new Institute for Computing, Information and Cognitive Systems/Computer Science building nearing completion at 2366 Main Mall. Half of this complex, which is directly linked to the existing Centre for Integrated Computer Systems/Computer Science building, pro-

vides office and laboratory space to accommodate the expansion of the Computer Science Department at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. This component together with the adjacent new teaching pavilion at 6245 Agronomy Road was funded by the provincial government’s “Double the Opportunity” (DTO) initiative. □

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

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Becoming a Mum after 35

A UBC researcher wonders if we really know the risks of delayed childbearing. BY HILARY THOMSON

As the mums and strollers roll by, it's obvious that more women over the age of 35 are having babies. In fact, there has been a 83 per cent increase from 1991 to 2000 for babies born to Canadian mothers over 35, according to the Canadian Perinatal Health Report, 2003.

In addition, many women wait until they are over 35 to have their first baby and a UBC researcher wonders if we know as much as we need to about the risks of delayed

line for births, but risks do start to accelerate in later years."

As reproductive organs age, function appears to diminish, says Lisonkova, and points to research that wanted pregnancies occur less frequently after the age of 35. However, research findings vary as to risks posed by increased maternal age.

Some studies report greater risk of pregnancy complications such as premature delivery, stillbirth and

“Women aren’t really told of the biological disadvantages – particularly for the first baby.”

childbearing.

PhD student Sarka Lisonkova has launched a two-year study to look at impacts of delayed childbearing in B.C. It is the only population-based study in North America to examine trends in pregnancy outcomes as well as individual risk, multiple births, and newborns' need for health-care services, in both rural and urban settings. She will compare statistics for mothers over 35 with those for mothers aged 20-35 years, and will also examine the whole spectrum of age categories.

“Women aren’t really told of the biological disadvantages – particularly for the first baby,” says Lisonkova, who had her first child at 28. “There’s no arbitrary dead-

low birth weight. Some risks might decrease, however, if mothers have already had a first child before the age of 35 years.

Other studies have reported no association between age and outcome when factors such as obesity, illness and prior reproductive problems are taken into account. Lisonkova will review the effect of such risk factors as smoking and fertility problems in her research.

In B.C., birth rates have dropped over the last five years for all age groups except mothers aged 35 years and older, who give birth to approximately 8,000 babies annually.

B.C. has the second highest proportion in Canada of live births to



A UBC study on mothers over 35 may help planning for maternal and infant health services

mothers over 35 years and the highest proportions for those 40-44 years.

Lisonkova is eager to find out at what age reproductive risks significantly increase and how risks may change over the decade 35-45.

“Maybe as new generations are getting healthier and living longer, the reproductive system functions quite well for longer,” she says. “Or maybe this is true only for certain groups of women who stick to a healthy lifestyle and are free of illness or complicating conditions.”

Lisonkova says B.C. offers the opportunity to create a uniquely comprehensive study, thanks to

resources offered by the B.C. Linked Health Database and the B.C Perinatal Database Registry. These databases allow her to study health services used by large population groups and link them to complete obstetrical data for approximately 200,000 births during the period 1998-2002. Using this and other B.C. vital statistics data, she will plot and compare a 10-year trend in health service use for babies of both older and young mothers.

Lisonkova believes that her study will help guide planning for maternal/infant health services and that differences between rural and urban areas may reveal valuable

information to help allocate resources in the province. Findings on individual risk may assist physicians and other health-care professionals to recognize risks during prenatal care and delivery and will aid prenatal counseling and planning.

The study is supported by the Centre for Healthcare Innovation and Improvement, located at Children’s & Women’s Health Centre of British Columbia, an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority. Funding for this research comes from a senior graduate studentship awarded by the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research. □

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[Link to the Webcast from 12 noon onward on October 29 at www.ubc.ca](http://www.ubc.ca)

UBC Education Alum Helps Restore Afghanistan Agriculture

BY ERICA SMISHEK



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TOORYALAI WESA

Proving that you can go home again, UBC alumnus Tooryalai (Toor) Wesa traveled to Afghanistan this summer as part of an international effort to revitalize his former country’s agriculture system after two decades of war.

At the invitation of the University of California Davis, Wesa trained 40 Afghanistan-native agricultural specialists (or “extension agents”) on issues related to grape growing, including use of chemicals, irrigation, picking, cleaning, storing and packag-

Suddenly there was international interest in Afghanistan.” Following 9/11 and the subsequent armed conflict, there was also international demand for someone with Wesa’s agricultural expertise, his knowledge of the language, culture and traditions of the country, and his contacts. After teaching a course in UBC’s Dept. of Asian Studies in fall 2002, Wesa contacted various international organizations, educational institutions and companies about opportunities in Afghanistan. He

or political issues on the side, people are skeptical and try not to get very close to them. If it’s purely a reconstruction issue, and if people are honest, hardworking and committed, the Afghan people will have respect for them.” Agriculture is central to Afghanistan’s economy, with more than 70 per cent of the population associated with the sector. Prior to years of conflict and drought, Afghans were self-sufficient in wheat production – the country’s main crop. Wheat must now be imported.

According to many in the international renewal effort, one of the challenges of reviving the agricultural sector and moving it quickly towards self-sustainability is to give farmers an alternative to poppy cultivation, which provides the raw material for opium and heroin. A recent report released by the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime indicates that opium production in Afghanistan is estimated at 3,400 metric tons. Poppies are estimated to earn approximately eight times more income per hectare than wheat, with less water and fewer inputs.

“Farmers are not interested in poppies,” says Wesa. “It goes against religious and social norms. They want alternatives. If other economic sources are introduced to the farmer, the

marketing channels for surplus products, equal development and working opportunities for Afghan women, and protection of natural resources. Wesa says capacity building is not a priority for most international organizations. But he believes educating extension agents and farmers on issues such as orchard, farm and family management, tree crops, and post-harvest technology is key to a renewal plan. “You have to train people first, then bring the technology,” says Wesa, who knows first-hand how years of conflict have taken a toll on education and the very composition of Afghan society. “The main problem is the lack of professional people,” he explains. “We lost three or four generations. “Any child born since the first day

of the Soviet-backed government [April 27, 1978; the actual Soviet occupation occurred December 27, 1979] has had almost no formal education. There is no infrastructure now. There are no classrooms. There are no libraries. There are no teachers. There are no labs. Kabul University, as the mother of all universities within the country, is nothing more than a high school, with limited qualified faculties, a lack of research facilities and academic journals, and few teachers qualified to teach foreign languages.” Wesa intends to continue to participate in international renewal efforts in Afghanistan. And he hopes his own children – now 18, 21, and 22 and all students at UBC (the oldest in medicine, the others at the Sauder School of Business) – will travel there to share their expertise one day. □

“Farmers are not interested in poppies,” says Wesa. “It goes against religious and social norms. They want alternatives. If other economic sources are introduced to the farmer, the farmer will grow other crops. Right now, the warlords are forcing them to grow poppies.

ing. These agents will then train the country’s grape growers. “It’s exciting to be there and to see the impact these kinds of programs are having,” says Wesa, who received his PhD in Educational Studies, with a focus on adult education, from UBC in 2002. “I’m more effective there in Afghanistan than I am here.” Born in Kandahar in 1950, Wesa received a bachelor of science degree in agricultural economics and extension from Kabul University in the early 1970s and a master of science from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1977. He taught for many years at Kabul University, advised the Afghan government, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations and international NGOs, and served as the first President of Kandahar University for 10 months before leaving the country with his physician wife and three young daughters at the end of 1991.

After a period in Hungary and Switzerland, the family came to Canada and Wesa ended up at UBC. His work this year in Afghanistan (he had two other short-term assignments in the winter and spring) is a logical extension of his UBC PhD thesis, which focused on the Soviet occupation’s devastating impact on the agricultural infrastructure and, in particular, the educational component of agricultural extension. To collect data, he interviewed and surveyed expatriate Afghans who worked in during the Soviet occupation.

“My UBC classmates were worried about my country and wondered why I wanted to pursue my PhD thesis on the agricultural extension system there. They didn’t think it would ever return to normal life and were concerned I would never get the opportunity to apply my experience there,” says Wesa. “But I believe that without strong extension programs, there is very little hope for renewal. I believe in my people. I believe in my country. I thought that hopefully when I finished my PhD, I could go back and share my expertise. “I was in the last stages of my thesis when September 11 happened.

eventually completed three short-term assignments in the country for Chemonics International, a global consulting firm that performs its work under contract to the U.S. Agency for International Development and other bilateral and multilateral aid donors.

Wesa has been able to bridge the gap between local Afghans and the non-Afghans who are part of the international effort to revitalize the country. “Those who are really working in agriculture or any other development sector – they are welcome,” he explains. “But if they have religious

farmer will grow other crops. Right now, the warlords are forcing them to grow poppies. They are held hostage by the warlords. Farmers want a normal life for themselves and for their children.” Grapes are just one of many horticultural crops that can provide a high-income alternative to poppy cultivation. Such crops address the country’s own food and nutritional needs while also producing something for the international market. In addition to crop alternatives, most experts agree that restoring Afghanistan agriculture will take improved technology, capital, suitable



(Clockwise from top left) The international effort to revitalize agriculture took Wesa to Laghmani, a village in Parwan Province north of Kabul; UC Davis’ Ken Tourjee leads a grape marketing pilot project that sends grapes to India from Afghanistan; UBC alumnus Toor Wesa (far right) and agricultural extension agents meet with Afghani grape growers.





MARGARET VISSER on
The Meaning of Saints
October 20-21, 2004

Wednesday, October 20, 8:00 pm
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Thursday, October 21, 12:00 pm
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The Chan Centre, UBC*

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Growing Healthy at Work

Unique symposium will explore the connection between workplace and personal health.

BY HILARY THOMSON

Workplace bullies, humour and health, and the role of the manager are among the topics to be explored at UBC's second annual health symposium.

Called Cultivating Healthy Change, the free symposium will take place Wednesday, Oct. 27 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts.

UBC is the only Canadian university to offer such a day-long symposium supported by the organization and open to all employees, according to Deb Jones, a national consultant on healthy organizations, who has interviewed health promotion personnel at University of Victoria, University of Toronto and University of Calgary.

"There is a great interest in workplace health at all these universities, however, none have developed anything like UBC's annual symposium," says Jones.

Gerry Latham, manager of UBC's Health Promotion Program, says the understanding of organizational health and its relationship to personal health has risen tremendously on campus since last year's symposium.

"We know the pace of change is determined by employees themselves so this year we're emphasizing not only how individuals can make a change for themselves but also how they can lead a change toward a healthy workplace," says Latham.

Open to all UBC faculty and staff, the symposium includes two featured speakers. Linda Duxbury, of the Sprott School of Business at Carleton University, will talk about her study of 10,000 Canadian employees and their views on

work-life balance and conflict, including factors that make balance difficult and suggestions for coping. Canada's Man-in-Motion Rick Hansen will talk about the power of setting life goals, achieving balance and dreaming big dreams.

"The focus continues to be on both the individual as well as the organization and this year we want to address some deeper issues," says event co-ordinator Dana Mahon, of the Dept. of Health, Safety and the Environment, which is presenting the symposium.

The day will feature six breakout sessions that cover topics ranging from managerial skills needed for a healthy workplace, to depression, building personal resilience to change, the value of laughter and yoga.

A health fair will take place during the event in the concourse of the Chan Centre and will feature interactive exhibitions such as blood pressure, blood glucose, bone density and blood cholesterol testing, as well as information booths on health-care providers, fitness professionals and health and wellness resources.

"UBC senior administrators have made it clear that they're serious about creating a culture shift that will enable and reinforce employees' efforts to maintain a work-life balance," says Latham. "We want to give employees the right tools to help build a healthy workplace and to take responsibility for their own health once they leave work."

For more information on the symposium, visit www.hse.ubc.ca/health-symposium. □



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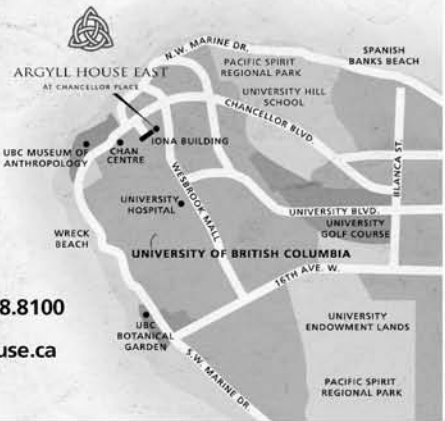


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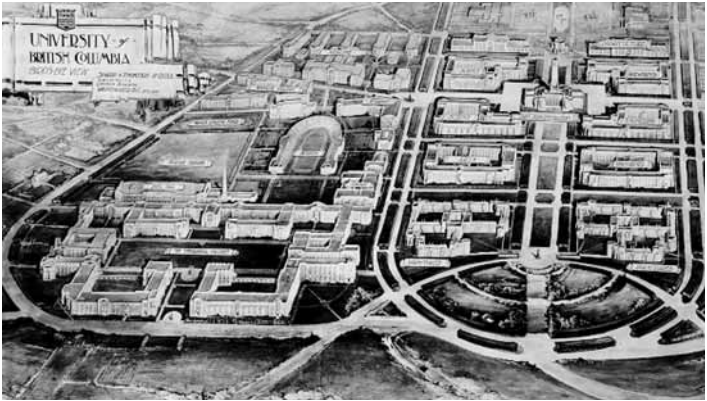


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TIMEPIECE 1914



The original architect's plan for the Point Grey campus, drawn up in June 1914, just before the beginning of the Great War, was broad and ambitious. It would take 60 years for anything resembling it to develop. □

New Computer Science Degree Program

Students from diverse working world backgrounds can gain computer expertise. BY GAYLE MAVOR

As classmates go, they couldn't be more different.

Laura Aslan is a 34-year-old single mom with a Master of Psychology who has spent most of the past four years since she arrived from Romania working in group homes with teenagers at risk and their parents.

Saylor Bale holds a Master of Neuroscience from Washington State University. Prior to coming to UBC, she was doing research related to cellular and molecular biology at the Max Planck Institute in Germany.

But these two new UBC students are among the first to be accepted into an unusual new bachelor of computer science degree designed for individuals who already hold at least a bachelor's degree and would like to add computer expertise to their education and work experience.

Offered through the department of computer science, the Bachelor of Computer Science (Integrated Computer Science) is 20-month second degree program that is the first of its kind in Western Canada.

Aslan says she gathered the courage to apply to the program in spite of "not being particularly great at math, and with only average computer skills", because it was one of the few programs she could find in her online search that was not designed for "computer geeks."

Her motivation was also ignited by the lack of computer experience she witnessed while working in group homes. She was often the person who ended up troubleshooting and, as a result, began to recognize a genuine interest in learning more. Since applying to BCS (ICS), she has also inspired her 15-year-old daughter Ioana to enroll in a technology immersion program offered through King George Secondary school in Vancouver's West End.

"I can envision," she says, "the future possibility that Ioana and I might actually be capable of creating our own consulting firm focused specifically on addressing the computing needs of the social services sector in Vancouver."

Smaller class sizes, a greater emphasis on communication and technical writing skills, and an optional Co-op component are some of the program's features. Twenty-nine students with backgrounds ranging from linguistics to medicine are currently enrolled, and the diversity of their education-

al backgrounds helps to enrich the learning environment.

BCS (ICS) director Paul Carter, an instructor in computer science, emphasizes that this two-year degree provides students with all the core courses that are expected of students taking the four year Bachelor of Science degree. In addition to Computer Science courses, the program offers 15 credits of upper level electives that allow students to expand on their previous education or branch out in a completely new direction and explore the interdisciplinary nature of computer science in the world.

"Increasingly, computers are the driving force in research as witnessed in the Human Genome Project and other large research projects. Computing professionals are key partners in collaboration with other experts to propel advances in so many areas of society," says Carter.

Having a well-rounded background and up-to-date computer knowledge is definitely a plus by industry standards.

Jon Stevens, a program/product manager with Absolute Software, a downtown Vancouver firm that provides a guaranteed computer theft recovery and secure asset tracking service, says that when

he's recruiting for a software developer, he's more likely to choose someone with real world experience, in addition to their degree.

"The ideal candidate is someone who can understand the business needs and financial constraints of the project and can work in teams or on their own. Strong written and verbal communication is vitally important as is the ability to adjust the communication dependent on the audience – from sales to technical staff," Stevens says.

"A breadth of technical skills is also a bonus – most software involves a user interface and a database so I look for a developer with both these skill sets. Finally I look for experience in the complete software development lifecycle – from analysis/design through coding, testing and implementation. A candidate with all these skills will be very marketable."

BCS(ICS) evolved from a previous diploma program known as Alternate Routes to Computing (ARC) designed in 1998 by computer science instructors Ian Cavers and George Tsiknis.

The next intake to the BCS (ICS) program is in September 2005 with an application deadline of February 28, 2005. For more information, visit www.arc.cs.ubc.ca. □

A New Entrance for UBC

continued from page 1

hub for the campus with a major public space above a transit station accommodating 53,000 transit trips a day, and providing university-related shops and services for students, faculty, staff and campus residents.

Campus participation will be an important element of the competition, Pavlich said. UBC students, faculty and staff will be invited to take an active part in campus community roundtables at the shortlisting stage of the competition in November 2004. Similarly, finalists' proposals will be put on display for public viewing, and a campus community questionnaire and poll in March 2005 will help to inform the final juried selection of the winning entry in April 2005.

For further information on the competition visit www.university-town.ca or call the University Town hotline at 604-822-6400. □

The Body Beautiful

continued from page 1

body, the tattooed body – and bodies that deviate from these accepted standards – and influencing how we view ourselves, how we behave, how we interact with others, how we look, even how we are trained in physical education.

"Why do we teach the kinds of sports that we do in schools? Why do kids play basketball in gym class instead of swimming, bicycling or dancing?" says Vertinsky. "There are historical reasons in modern society for selecting the sports and physical activities that we find most appropriate for boys, girls, older people and so on."

For additional information about Physical Culture, Power and the Body, visit

http://www.hkin.educ.ubc.ca/faculty/vertinskyp/Conference_Main.htm □



PHOTO: JIM JENSON

Human Kinetics prof. Patricia Vertinsky studies the social and cultural history of the body, exercise and physical culture.

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Joanna Staniszkis harvests mulberry leaves for her silk project.

quarter century
club

The Pleasures of Silk

Novel program will see Vancouver street youth raise silk. BY HILARY THOMSON

Raising silk worms for a new project involving UBC landscape architecture students and Lower Mainland street youth is the next step in Joanna Staniszkis' long and creative association with UBC.

Staniszkis is a practicing textile artist who joined UBC in 1969. An associate professor in the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, she teaches textile design as well as design and creativity in the landscape architecture program. She is one of 29 individuals to be honoured for reaching 35 years of service at UBC. In addition to this group – known collectively as Tempus Fugit, or Time Flies – the Quarter Century Club will induct 47 faculty and librarians who have reached 25 years of service at a dinner to be held Oct. 19.

Staniszkis' project explores the cycle of silk production. Six mulberry trees have been planted at the rear of the MacMillan Bldg. on campus to serve as a leaves-to-go fast food outlet for the hundreds of silk worms she is raising.

"I have discovered there is a tradition in many countries of children raising silk worms as a hobby," says Staniszkis. "With these little creatures, I hope to give street youth something to care for and a low-tech pastime."

She has planted mulberry cuttings on the roof of Vancouver's Covenant House, a crisis intervention centre and residence for homeless and runaway youth. The trees will mature in about two years when she plans to engage the residents in raising worms, producing silk and creating art objects of silk cocoons and "reeled" or roughly spun silk.

In her own art, Staniszkis is using

both cocoons and worms – which look like caterpillars – to create installations such as an antique pair of silk slippers "decorated" with cocooning silk worms.

Of her 35 years at UBC, Staniszkis highlights a couple of changes: the increase in international students in her classes, and changes in the overall look of the campus as construction creates new and interesting spaces between and around buildings.

Something that hasn't changed is her love of teaching and joy working with students, she says.

"I have a whole big group of students who continue to correspond with me over the years about their careers and exhibitions of creative work."

For a complete list of 2004 Quarter Century Club inductees and Tempus Fugit members, visit www.ceremonies.ubc.ca/qcc. □



Green College Writer-in-Residence 2005-2006

Green College at the University of British Columbia invites applications from Canadian writers for the position of Writer-in-Residence. The term of the residency will be for three months between September 1, 2005 and April 30, 2006, subject to funding approval.

The Writer-in-Residence will work with the Green College community through individual consultations and through the College's established reading series. She or he must live at the College for the duration of the term, and will be provided with room, partial board and a stipend of \$16,000.

Writers with a minimum of one book in print, who have made a significant contribution to their area of specialty over a number of years, are invited to send their applications to:

Writer-in-Residence Selection Committee
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6201 Cecil Green Park Road
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Applications must include a curriculum vitae, 20-30 page writing sample and two letters of reference.

Application deadline: Postmarked December 31, 2004.

For further information, please go to: www.greencollege.ubc.ca

Letter to the Editor *continued from page 2*

al experience. If anything, I believe that this international perspective is critical in shaping 'exceptional global citizens'. However, I do have a problem with these experiences speaking for and being held more highly in regard than the lived experiences of those in and from Developing countries. We do not seek western pity, instead we seek respect. For without this respect, the west continues to violate the freedoms and rights of those in developing countries.

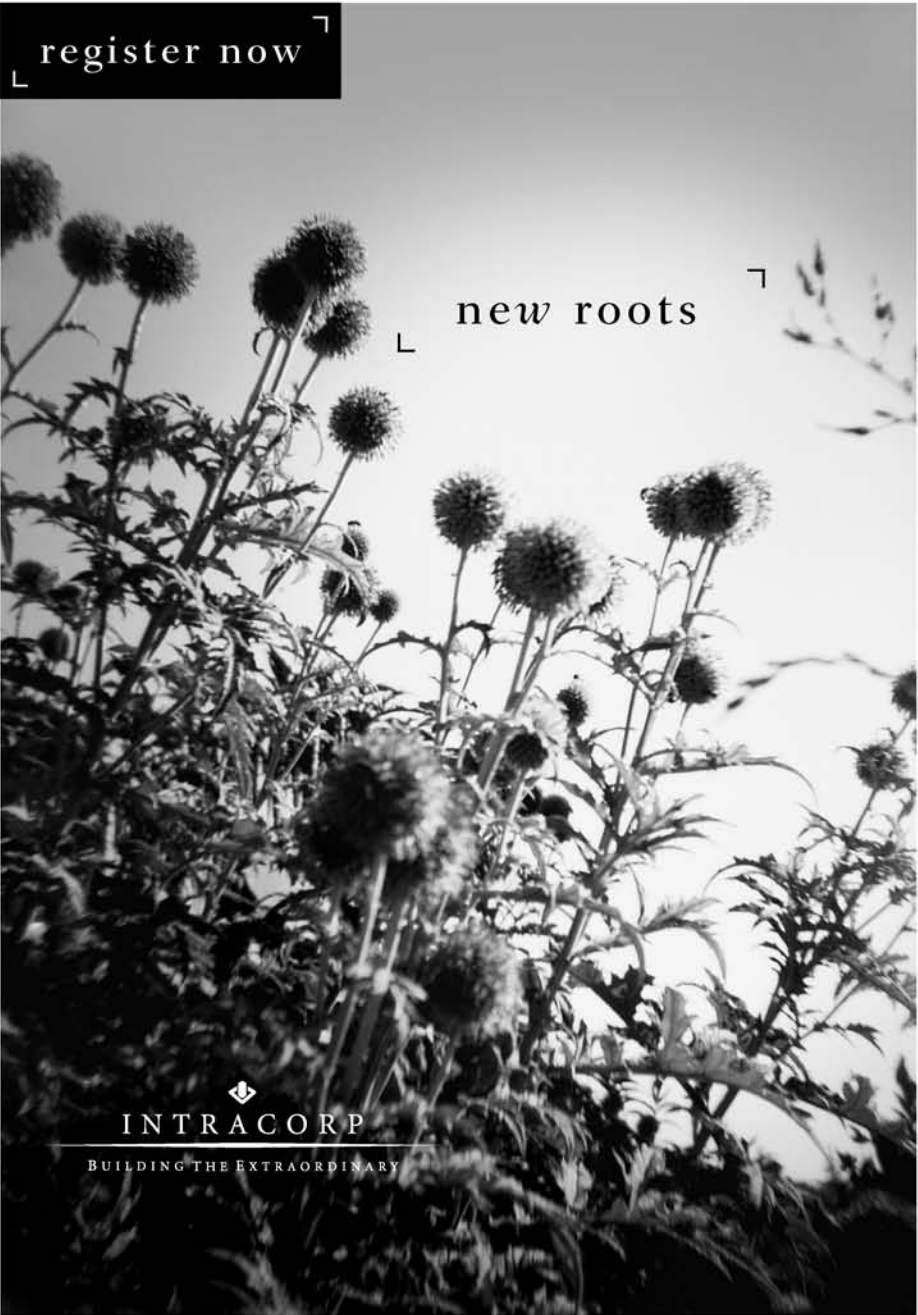
The two dominant images of Africa are wild animals and safaris and poverty and strife. And while we do not disagree that these two images are present in Africa, there is a lot more to the continent. What this article should have and could have acknowledged was the successes that have been achieved in Uganda and Senegal where the HIV/AIDS statistics have actually reduced. In Uganda, the prevalence rates have reduced from 14% to 8%. The article could have acknowledged that part of the reason why there is such limited access to treatment is because the rich pharmaceutical companies of the west would

rather make astronomical profits than save millions of lives. The article could have presented a more balanced picture of the AIDS crisis in Africa. But the article was not interested in doing so. The moral finger-pointing on Africans for not accepting western remedies such as condoms without recognizing the sexual politics of southern Africa and the fact that a condom may be meaningless in a situation where one sometimes has little freedom to exercise the choice to have sex or not presents a simplistic and poor analysis of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa.

It is time that Africa was represented for what it is. Moreover, it is time that Africans were empowered to speak for themselves. In the 21st century, with technology at its peak, we need not rely on others to tell our story. We are capable of telling it ourselves.

Brenda Adhiambo Ogembo
VP Academic and University Affairs,
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