



UBC REPORTS

CLASS OF 2005



From May 25 to June 1 more than 5,000 undergraduate and graduate students from UBC's 12 faculties and schools will receive their hard-earned degrees in ceremonies at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts. In addition, 10 honorary degrees will be conferred to

distinguished guests that include Nobel prize-winner Anthony J. Leggett and singer Raffi Cavoukian. The 2005 graduating class will join UBC's global alumni community of more than 200,000. For more information, and to view ceremonies live via webcast, visit www.graduation.ubc.ca



PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHY: MARTIN DEE

Midwifery grads must attend at least 60 births as part of degree requirements.

UBC “Births” First Midwifery Class BY HILARY THOMSON

Seven UBC students will be picking up a BMW at Spring Congregation, but they won't be driving away in a luxury import. The grads will be getting a Bachelor of Midwifery degree, the first ever conferred at UBC.

“It's very exciting to birth our first graduating class,” says Elaine Carty, director of the program, which is part of the Faculty of Medicine's Dept. of Family Practice. “These are fabulous, motivated students and are UBC's first wave of what we know will be a valued part of maternity care in B.C.”

B.C. is the third province in Canada — after Ontario and Quebec — to offer such a program. About 2,300 births are attended by midwives in B.C. each year.

Carty, trained as a midwife in the U.S., receives about 100 applications annually for the class, which is currently funded for a maximum of 10 students. About 80 per cent of applicants have previous degrees, in both arts and sciences. The graduating class ranges in age from mid-20s to mid-40s and includes single and married women, mothers and a grandmother.

Carty describes the program as traditional curriculum mixed with apprenticeship. In addition to classes, all grads complete substantial practical placements — or preceptorships — in locations ranging from Cranbrook to Prince George. In their first nine-week placement in second year, they will attend 8-10 births and will have “caught” (delivered) at least one

baby themselves. Graduates must have attended a minimum of 60 births to earn their degree.

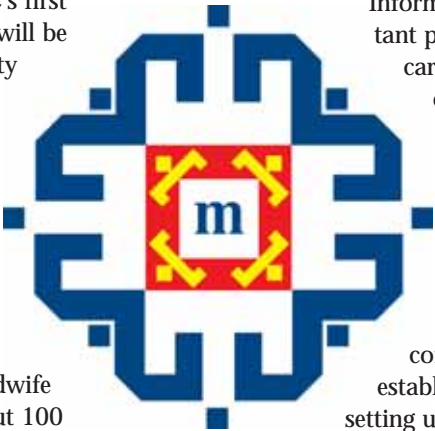
A midwife — the term means “with woman” — works with a mother throughout the pregnancy. Midwives offer care and education in 45-minute visits, do all the supportive care at home or hospital up to the birth, deliver the baby, and visit mother and baby at home at least 4-5 times.

Informed choice is an important principle of midwifery care and mothers can choose birthing location. B.C.'s 120 registered midwives attend about 70 per cent of deliveries in hospital and 30 per cent in the home.

After graduation, midwives must complete six months in an established practice before setting up their own private practice. Midwifery services are covered under the provincial health plan and midwives can expect to earn, after deducting business expenses, approximately \$70,000 per annum, similar pay to advanced-skilled nurses.

“I see midwifery as a perfect opportunity to be a supportive, positive and helpful influence at a momentous time in a family's life,” says Lindsay Brimblecombe, a 35-year-old grad whose background includes work with a variety of non-profit groups. “I was delighted to be trained in B.C. and to have practicums in such a variety of areas.” Brimblecombe's placements included Prince George,

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IN THE NEWS

Highlights of UBC Media Coverage in April 2005. COMPILED BY BRIAN LIN



UBC Prof. Patrick McGeer has found that painkillers may prevent vision loss.

Fish Farm Study Sparks Opposing Views
A new study by University of Alberta and University of Victoria researchers suggests fish farms are such prodigious producers of parasites that juvenile fish become very heavily infested just by swimming near them.

UBC fisheries expert **Scott McKinley** says the study, published in the British journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B, fails to establish cause-and-effect. "They would have to show that the lice that are on the fish originated on the farms," McKinley told *The New York Times*.

Meanwhile, **Daniel Pauly**, another fisheries researcher at UBC, said evidence so far was consistent with the hypothesis that wild fish near fish farms were affected by sea lice.

Rising Drug Cost in Canada
Leading health economist and UBC professor **Steve Morgan** says it is unclear whether Canada's massive investment in

medication is actually a wise use of limited health-care dollars.

Canadians spent a staggering \$21.8-billion on prescription and non-prescription drugs last year.

"We're spending a lot of money on drugs, and prescription drugs in particular, but we're not investing in systems to monitor drug use so we can't say we're getting value for money," Morgan told *The Globe and Mail*.

While prescription drug makers claim that many treatments are cost-effective because they keep patients out of hospital, there is no way of determining if that is actually true in the real world, he said.

Painkillers may Slow Vision Loss
A new Canadian study suggests that common painkillers may prevent or slow the progression of macular degeneration, the most common form of age-related blindness in North America.

Authors **Patrick McGeer** of UBC and **John Sibley** of the University of Saskatchewan

published their findings in the current issue of *Neurobiology of Aging*.

"This is a good population to test the idea that anti-inflammatories would cause a sparing of age-related macular degeneration because these are people who are known to be heavy users of anti-inflammatory agents and they're generally on them prior to the age of risk for macular degeneration," McGeer told *The Globe and Mail*.

Children's Psychiatric Care Shortage
Canadian children and teens are having a tough time finding care for mental health problems due to an acute shortage of child psychiatrists in the country.

"We're talking about illnesses that affect a very significant number of children," UBC adolescent psychiatry head **Derryck Smith** told *Maclean's Magazine*. "One in five children and teens probably has a mental illness of some sort."

There are about 375 child psychiatrists in Canada, based on the membership of the Canadian Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Currently, the waiting list to see a child psychiatrist in Toronto for a first assessment is about nine months.

Canada's Frayed Welcome Mat
UBC Canada Research Chair in migration law **Catherine Dauvergne** says the two fundamental weaknesses of Canada's immigration laws are failure to enforce removal orders, and misuse of the humanitarian and compassionate review.

"What allows people to stay so long in Canada isn't their legal rights conferred by the 1985 Singh decision," Dauvergne told *The Globe and Mail*, referring to Harjit Singh, whose bid to stay in Canada was repeatedly spurned but appealed his way through more than a decade.

"It's the fact that we don't make them leave," Dauvergne adds that the criteria for humanitarian and compassionate reviews are too "loose and fluid," but believes Canada should retain the positive elements in its system — a fair adjudication process. □

UBC REPORTS

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Senior student Clarice Rummel inspired fellow students and professors with her commitment.

87 Years Young

Religious Studies grad can't wait to continue learning. BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Clarice Rummel, 87, has a twinkle in her eye when she tells you about her boyfriends at UBC. While living in residence and taking her BA in religious studies she had three boyfriends —

scholarship for her war service to study conducting and piano at the Royal Academy of Music in London. In 1953, she moved to Vancouver and studied nursing at Vancouver General

interest in religion and philosophy and wished I had gone to university when I was younger,” she said. Her daughter made enquiries and encouraged her to enrol at UBC.

I always had a burning interest in religion and philosophy and wished I had gone to university when I was younger.

one in each of her first 3 years, in their late teens and 20s — who watched out for her, took her out on Valentine’s day and, as one put it, offered protection, “so long as he was around.” Rummel seems to have earned the affection of many students, and likewise her instructors, with her open-mindedness, friendship and unusual commitment as a full-time senior student, living on campus.

Her passion is ancient Indian Vedic philosophy, but she has studied other religions over the course of her program, as well as the usual diverse requirements for a BA. This included a course in which she had the opportunity to bring history to life for fellow students. “I was in a huge first-year class of about 200,” she said, “when the professor talked of World War II and realised I had been a part of that. I had lots of exciting and tragic stories, so I lectured for one class period about my top secret work, intercepting the Germans’ coded messages.” Fluent in German, Rummel was in the air force in Britain at the time. Later, she got a

Hospital, but earned her living as a music teacher, retiring at 72. She travelled in Europe and went to India on her own when she was 81, staying for a while in an ashram. “I always had a burning

She’s enjoyed her time here and says she had very good relationships with her professors. Now, she can’t wait to continue her studies, reading widely and going deeper into the meditative aspects of Indian philosophy. □

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

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Agnes Huang, activist, volunteer and passionist advocate for justice.

Law School Equips Community Advocate

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

What makes Agnes Huang so special, her professors say, is the energy she has invested in her law studies and those around her. They agree many extracurricular activities reflect her spirit, character and dedication, and have enhanced the quality of life within the Faculty of Law.

Among other activities,

Huang initiated a monthly newspaper, *The Legal Eye*, organized the annual lecture series of the Centre for Feminist Legal Studies, and worked as a researcher on legal projects. All this reflects a passion for community involvement, which she says she learned from the example set by her parents.

“I was in my 30s when I

came to law school and I was already a volunteer, an activist and an advocate for various issues in the larger community,” Huang says.

“Law school did not change my political views, but it helped me better understand and analyze how laws and judicial decisions are made. It provided an opportunity to be a more

effective advocate and it totally expanded my knowledge of where to look for information and how things in law are connected.”

Huang is looking forward to a one-year Federal Court clerkship in Ottawa and then completion of her articles in Vancouver. In the long term, she sees herself in private

practice focusing on refugee law and criminal law, although she is also drawn to constitutional law issues, family law and legal reform.

Some have told her she should be a judge, but she shakes her head. Her interests will likely keep her on the other side of the bench — a passionate advocate for justice. □

Pharmacy a “Piping” Hot Career Choice

BY HILARY THOMSON

After eight years of post-secondary education, Craig Plain figures he’s finally found the prescription for success.

The 25-year-old picks up a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy degree this month, capping a previous four years studying kinesiology and human health at Simon Fraser University.

Pursuing pharmacy started as a light-hearted suggestion from his father, a practicing pharmacist and UBC alumnus. Once Plain researched the pharmaceutical sciences program, he realized it would be a good fit.

A veteran at hitting the books, he says his third year in Pharmacy, “where they throw everything at you” was the toughest.

To keep life balanced, he

skied and blew off steam with his music. A virtual one-man band, Plain plays classical, blues and jazz piano and has been known to do a mean Jerry Lee Lewis imitation.

In addition, he was inspired by SFU’s famous pipe band to learn how to play the bagpipes and has played professionally at a variety of high-profile events. He also plays guitar and has recently added the harmonica to his repertoire. He admits his apartments have often resembled a music store warehouse.

He believes his previous education and understanding of body mechanics will help him because pharmacists also counsel patients on how to use medical appliances such as neck braces and crutches.

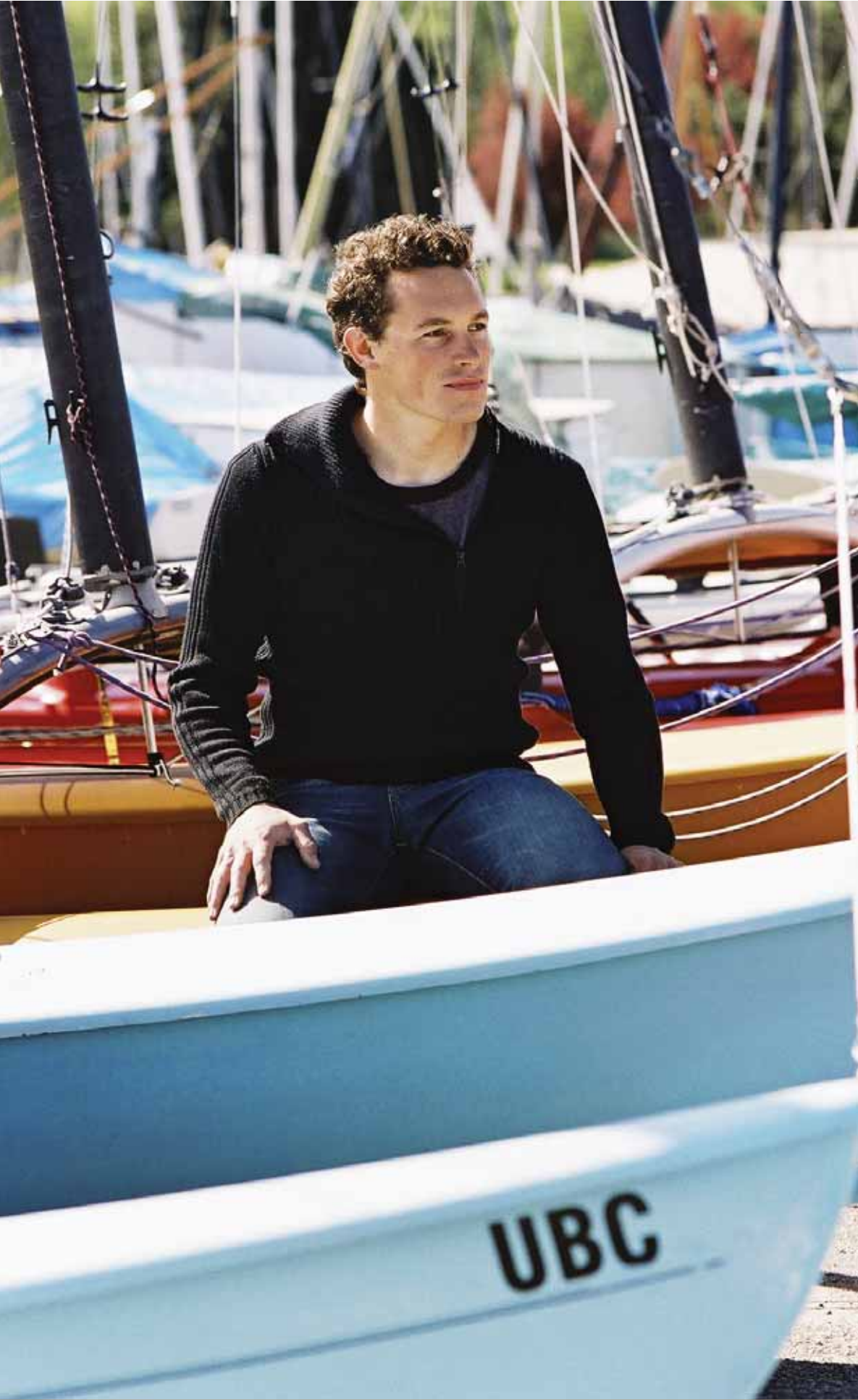
Canada’s aging population, retirement of “baby boomer” pharmacists and the introduction of a multitude of new medications have turned a pharmacy degree into a hot ticket. Plain and his classmates have been courted by major employers offering big salaries and signing bonuses. He prefers to keep his options open, however, and plans to work in a community pharmacy in Vancouver until the right opportunity comes along.

And what about some vacation time after all these years in academia?

“I’ll take a couple of weeks off, but I’m eager to use my knowledge and get started,” he says. “But I did give myself a great graduation present — a new car to take me to work.” □



Medication expert Craig Plain is also a pro bagpiper.



X-ray Vision: Geo-Scientist Uses Math to See Through Ice

BY BRIAN LIN

Nicolas Lhomme knows Antarctica and Greenland inside out, literally.

He has found a way to predict the composition of ice anywhere within the massive ice-sealed areas using a secret weapon – math.

Lhomme, who came to UBC from the University of Joseph Fourier (UJF) in the French Alps city of Grenoble, has devised a computer model that predicts, with amazing accuracy, the evolution of Antarctica and Greenland, without even putting on his snow boots.

“Polar ice sheets contain the earth’s environmental secrets,” says Lhomme. “From the composition of the ice sheets we can learn about the climate and atmospheric details going back hundreds of thousands of years.”

“I was able to learn, for example, that two-thirds of Greenland melted 125,000 years ago when the climate became particularly warm, raising the global sea level from 3.5 to 4.5 metres,” he says. “And that a similar rise of sea level could happen over the next centuries if the climate warming trend persists.”

Lhomme’s work has already received international recognition. University of California, Berkeley professor Kurt Cuffey, a world leader in the field

known for his high critical standards, examined the findings and called it “one of the most important contributions to glaciology in the past five years.”

This spring, Lhomme will receive a PhD from both UBC and UJF and to celebrate, he got up close and personal with the land that he’s spent years studying. He travelled from Ushuaia, Southern Argentina, to Antarctica on a 47-foot sailboat. It was place that was easier going to, than returning from.

“On the way out, you can take the beating of crossing the Drake Passage because you’re so thrilled to go to Antarctica,” says Lhomme. “On the way back, the crew and the novelty were worn out, and strong head winds and rough seas made the crossing longer and harder.”

Lhomme’s next project will save lives. He’s developing mathematical methods to locate unexploded bombs and land-mines based on electro-magnetic images taken in former war zones.

“It’s called inversion in mathematical language,” he explains. “And it allows me to take 2D measurements and turn them into 3D models, so we would know exactly how big a landmine is and how deep it is buried underground.” □

Nicolas Lhomme got to see Antarctic up close in a recent sailing adventure.

Nursing Degree Caps Family’s Long Journey

BY HILARY THOMSON

Sergey Volchkov’s nursing degree marks a major milestone in an academic journey that has spanned continents, cultures and careers.

Originally from Latvia, Volchkov earned a degree in mechanical engineering and

arrival, he became a distress line volunteer at the Vancouver Crisis Centre, where he gained a passion for communication and a keen interest in mental health.

“I was amazed at how much I could help, even with my

home, taking the graveyard shift while his wife, Natasha, worked full-time as a chemist.

“It’s been tough and I’m proud I got through,” he says. “I’ve had so much support — this is really a family accomplishment.” He is also grateful

“It’s been tough and I’m proud I got through,” he says. “I’ve had so much support — this is really a family accomplishment.”

worked as an engineer until 1999. Then he decided to change his life.

In what he calls “our best decision,” he, his wife, then five-year-old son Pavel and one-year-old daughter Sasha, immigrated to Canada to escape Latvia’s political uncertainty following the breakup of the Soviet Union. At the same time, he realized that he was “more interested in people than mechanical units” and set out to establish a new career.

Just three months after his

limited skills,” says the 34-year-old. “I saw how powerful communication can be and what might be possible if I were more qualified.”

His search for a health-care career that would also allow a balanced life led him to nursing. After a year at Douglas College, he enrolled at a third-year level in the School of Nursing, one of six men in his class.

In addition to his studies and family activities, he also had a part-time job as a community support worker at a group

for the encouragement shown by his classmates and School of Nursing faculty.

Volchkov is receiving a special graduation present — he and his brother recently sponsored their parents to immigrate to Canada. The couple arrives the week before Congregation and will be part of the family cheering section at the ceremonies.

After graduation, he hopes to work at a hospital mental health emergency service department, or with a community mental health team. □



Sergey Volchkov’s volunteer work sparked a switch from engineering to mental health nursing.

MBA Grad Embraces his Passions

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

The Sauder School of Business prepares students for the type of intense environment and group projects they will likely face at work, according to

Chris McNally, who graduated this year with an MBA. He should know — the energetic grad now works on one of the most complex urban trans-

portation projects in Canada, the Richmond-Airport-Vancouver (RAV) rapid transit line. “Courses in strategic man-

agement, real estate and finance helped me get a job with a small firm consulting on real estate development for the RAV project,” McNally says.

He was recommended for this by his professors, not only because he came to the MBA program with a degree in environmental/geotechnical engineering, but because he was a dynamic force at the business school. He was

“I analyze potential station sites from a developer’s point of view, to determine their economic viability as a development site complementary to the station node,” he explains.

In his “spare” time, McNally runs a sports league and event planning company. Until recently, when he merged with a competitor, he did everything himself.

“We arrange sports leagues



My driving force is entrepreneurial — passionate and positive energy for things I think should be done.

class president, and spent much time helping to improve the program and the student experience. He also ran his own business simultaneously with his studies.

Now, he works for consulting firm, Equitas, and is constantly on the move between his office and various proposed RAV project locations.

and events for the 20–35 year-old demographic,” says McNally. “It’s a large part of my life. I love to play in the games and my fiancée is also involved. The emphasis is on the social side.”

“That’s a marriage of who I am — business and sports,” he says. “My driving force is entrepreneurial — passionate and positive energy for things I think should be done.” □

Business and sports – that’s Chris McNally.

Global Experiences Shape New Doc’s Vision

BY HILARY THOMSON

Even as a high school student in a small B.C. town, Faculty of Medicine graduate Carly Peterson was looking for international opportunities.

She left Merritt to spend a year in Japan as an exchange student, living with Japanese families while going to school. She became fluent after a few lonely months learning the language. And, at 6 ft. 2 in. tall, she was a welcome addition to the school’s basketball team.

After completing undergrad studies at UBC, Peterson entered med school, partly influenced by her mother’s career as a nurse. Putting her personal life on hold and confronting the suffering of patients and their families have been tough parts of the last four years, she says. Meeting some “amazing” friends and mentors, and running, have helped to keep her focused.

She was surprised by her interest in anaesthesiology.

“I always thought I’d be heading toward surgery,” says the 28-year-old. “But it was anaesthesia that fired my enthusiasm. There’s a deep satisfaction in manipulating the complex interactions of physiology and pharmacology.

Anaesthesiology is really the application of medicine in its purest form.”

The diversity of care and patients influenced her choice to work as a perioperative physician, a doctor who provides care before, during, and after surgery. Her international outlook was



reinforced earlier this year when she accompanied a UBC group to Uganda to help promote the study and practice of anaesthesiology.

Working at a teaching hospital in Kampala, the country’s

capital, Peterson saw antiquated equipment and health problems rarely seen in North America, such as untreated birth defects, but also patients who were “so stoic.”

The experience strengthened

her view that doctors have a social responsibility to share their skills where they are most needed.

“You can give so much as a doctor.”

Balancing her life with

sewing, pottery and running with her dogs, Jack and Diane, Peterson is eager to get started on her five-year anaesthesiology residency at UBC and a career that is sure to include international service. □

Disability No Disadvantage, Says Poli Sci Grad

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

An internship at the B.C. Legislature next January will provide Justin Cheng invaluable experience. An honours graduate in political science, he will spend half his time working for an MLA and the other half working within a government ministry. His success in the political

science program is due partly to his positive attitude and partly to the excellent practical arrangements made for him by UBC's Access and Diversity Centre.

“I want to do something good in life and I have to take the initiative,” he says. “I haven't found a disability to be a disadvantage. I do talk a bit slower and it's harder for

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Positive attitude and practical arrangements of UBC's Access and Diversity Centre help Justin Cheng succeed.

me to speak, but I find people listen more closely then. I'm grateful for research into disabilities and for the accommodations made at UBC.”

Cheng has mild cerebral palsy which affects how he walks and talks. He recommends other students with a disability get in touch with the Access and Diversity Centre as soon as they know they want to study at UBC.

“Get it over with,” he says. “Provide the documentation necessary from your doctor, speech pathologist and psychiatrist and you will find the centre is able to arrange accommodations for you.”

Cheng used a computer for exams, was allowed to sit for them outside the classroom and was given time and a half to finish. He found his undergraduate years manageable with this kind of support and very fulfilling because of his long-time interest in political issues and democratic participation.

Russian literature and non-fiction books on the moral history of the 20th century are favourites with Cheng in his spare time. His other hobby is debating, which over the past three years has taught him how to articulate his arguments.

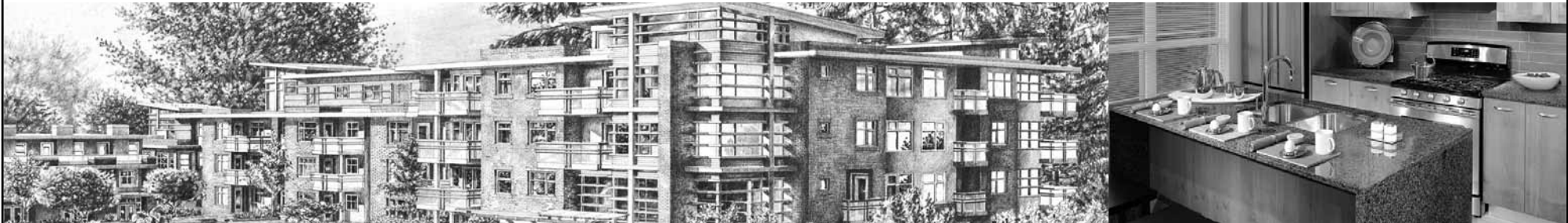
He will take an MA in political science at UBC after his internship and foresees a potential career in academia. □

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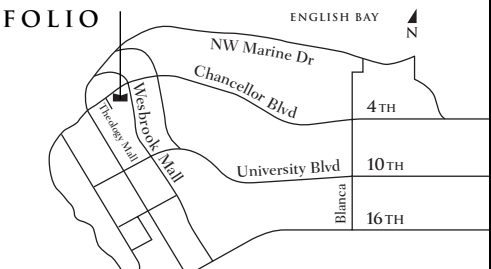
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Carpenter Picks up Dentist’s Drill

BY HILARY THOMSON

Same skills, different drills — for Gary Wessels, the shift from carpentry to dentistry was a natural transition.

“I’ve worked with tools my whole life,” says Wessels, a for-

mer carpenter who graduates with a Doctor of Dental Medicine degree this month. “Working in reverse using a mirror took a bit of practice, though.”

Wessels has worked as a welder and machinist, building mountain bike frames, following his graduation from the University of Texas at Austin, where he majored in zoology. A

third-generation carpenter, he operated his own building company in Vancouver for three years.

When he wasn’t building or studying, he traveled north to work as a mountain guide in the Princess Louisa Inlet area of B.C.’s west coast. That’s where he met his wife, Robyn, a Canadian and UBC alumna.

The couple was married in 1998 and Wessels immigrated to Canada. He started thinking about another career where he could use his hands, work with and help people and run his own business. When Robyn’s dentist suggested a career in dentistry, he realized it would be a perfect fit.

“Dentistry represents a union of science and art, a unique intersection of the classic and the romantic,” says the 30-year-old. “Dentists address concrete clinical problems but also need to understand form, light and

aesthetics.”

Wessels was accepted to UBC’s dental program in 2001 — in the same week that he and his wife had their first child, Abby. Two years ago, they had twin boys, Noah and Cody.

“Without my wife’s support, I couldn’t have made it through school,” he says. “This has been a joint effort.”

Having spent so much time out of doors, both recreationally and professionally, one of the toughest parts of the last four years has been feeling “cooped up,” he says. So even with a hectic schedule, he tries to find time for running and biking.

Following graduation, the couple plans to move to one of B.C.’s small towns where Wessels will join a practice. Once settled, he plans to realize a life’s dream.

“I’m going to pick up my tools again and build my family a home.” □



Dentistry was a smooth switch for Gary Wessels, who has worked as a carpenter, welder and machinist.

Forestry Grad Hears Call of the Wild

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Yulia Stange had never heard of the Faculty of Forestry. She was studying science at UBC when the student across the hall in her residence noticed Stange had a passion for the outdoors, and suggested she take a forestry course. Stange did so, and has never looked back.

“There are four possible programs to follow in Forestry and I am in the Natural Resources

heard my father discussing his difficulties as a land developer, [when he was] required to leave a stream buffer, and so on,” she says. “Now my dream job is protecting and saving the natural environment, to somehow make a difference in how we live.”

Stange has obtained a certificate in conflict resolution and leadership and served as a volunteer in a First Nations’ witness project in the

Stange laughs at the irony of her direction. Her father worked as a developer, and was often frustrated by environmental regulations.

Conservation program,” says Stange. “It’s a broad integrative program needing a background of sciences, but including studies in areas such as the social sciences, forest biology and ecology, fisheries science, and many more.”

Stange’s bent toward conservation stems from her love of many outdoor activities — she competes with her horse, Pete, in dressage when not studying or serving as a research assistant. Yet she laughs at the irony of her direction. Her father worked as a developer, and was often frustrated by environmental regulations.

“I grew up camping, rafting and kayaking, but I also often

Elaho Valley. She has also been an assistant leader with an outdoor school for youth at risk.

Stange is also co-authoring two scientific papers from botanical and ecological research projects, undertaken during one of her summer positions as a forestry faculty research assistant. In 2005, she earned the Canadian Institute of Forestry Gold Medal for scholarship, sportsmanship and citizenship. □

Forestry is a good fit for outdoor enthusiast Yulia Stange.





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UBC “Births” First Midwifery Grads

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Campbell River and Vancouver. Carty was impressed with support shown by UBC administrators during the launch of the program, which borrows most of its curriculum from a similar program in Ontario. Special to the UBC program this year are international placements in Zambia, Mexico and Pakistan.

In addition, Carty has also

worked with health-care colleagues to create interprofessional opportunities where midwifery, medical and nursing students can learn together.

“We’re finding a real appetite for interprofessional work now and doctors are asking for midwives to work with them — that wasn’t happening five years ago,” says Carty, adding that numerous smaller hospital closures in the last five years have created a

greater need for more maternity care resources in rural and underserved areas.

UBC midwifery grads will soon have the opportunity to provide maternity care right on campus, with the opening of a new family practice clinic planned as part of the University Town development.

For more information on UBC’s midwifery program, visit <http://www.midwifery.ubc.ca>. □

A New Breed of Health-Care Providers BY HILARY THOMSON

UBC will celebrate B.C.’s newest providers of health-care services when the first graduates of the nurse practitioner program pick up their Master of Science in Nursing degrees this month.

The two-year program can qualify a maximum of 15 nurses to provide primary care such as diagnosing, prescribing, and referring to specialists. Nurse practitioners will work independently or in collaboration with other health professionals in the community.

“These students are willing to push the boundaries of their skills,” says Gloria Joachim, a

UBC associate professor of Nursing and program director. “They’re a dedicated group — many have given up full-time jobs to be part of this program.”


Students entering the program hold bachelor or master degrees in nursing. They study topics such as advanced health assessment and pharmacology and complete more than 700 hours of practical experience. This hands-on clinical learning is a key difference between nurse practitioners’ education and other graduate nursing degrees.

“The blend of medicine and nursing really attracted me,”

says grad Janet Baillies, a nurse with 28 years’ experience as a manager and director who wanted to return to clinical practice. “I was able to broaden my clinical experience learning from patients and expert physicians. I’ve been offered a job in a dynamic clinic and look forward to making a difference in how people cope with health issues.”

Students have completed practicums at clinics, hospitals and private practices in the Lower Mainland, the Fraser Valley and in Bella Bella, on

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Reg D'Silva believes technology can enrich literacy and language education.

Education Grad uses Engineer's Mind

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Reg D'Silva grew up in India and speaks at least five languages. He learned two or three from his parents, as well as English, which was also spoken at home.

"I was raised with seven

Dubai. He worked as a marketing engineer there and taught English as well, before deciding to settle in Vancouver.

While earning a computer diploma at the British Columbia Institute of Technology, he was

changing world."

D'Silva plans to develop a computer-based reading tutor for students in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside when he begins his doctoral work, immediately after graduating with an

D'Silva plans to develop a computer-based reading tutor for students in Vancouver's downtown east side when he begins his doctoral work.

siblings in an international and bilingual environment, as my father traveled with the military," says D'Silva, who first studied mechanical design engineering at the University of Mangalore, south of Bombay.

Later, he learned German while working for the Siemens corporation in India, then moved to the Middle East in

asked to teach a course. It was there he discovered his passion for education and technology, which led him to the UBC Faculty of Education for an MA in the Department of Language and Literacy Education.

"My vision is to be a researcher in education or allied fields," D'Silva says, "to help bring technology and education together, to find the common ground. This is about people and education techniques for a

MA. He has already worked on a Vancouver School Board voice-recognition project with the Faculty of Education to help ESL and Aboriginal students acquire more language skills.

D'Silva believes his engineering mind will be put to good use as technology becomes more advanced. By combining technology, literacy and language education, he hopes to enrich the learning experiences of students at all levels. □

Health Care Providers

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B.C.'s west coast.

"We know that professionals tend to work where they are trained," says Joachim, who will soon be qualified as a nurse practitioner herself. "I anticipate our grads will stay and work in B.C., as one component in addressing the crisis in primary care."

Joachim has been very impressed with how government, the Registered Nurses Association of B.C., the Chief Nursing Officers and post-secondary institutions have worked together in what she calls "a wonderful collaboration" to get the program off the ground.

"These grads will be excellent providers who know their limitations and will help shape public perception about this new way of delivering primary care."

For more information on nurse practitioners, visit www.nursing.ubc.ca. □

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The ABCs of Children’s Literature

Program feeds illustrator’s passion.

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

There are very few Master of Arts programs in children’s literature. For illustrator Kathryn Shoemaker, UBC’s program offered the perfect meld of library science, English, creative writing, language and literacy. To Shoemaker’s delight, the UBC School of Library Archival and Information Studies developed the new interdisciplinary

this fall. Shoemaker was born in Vancouver but moved to California as a child. After attending Occidental College and Otis Art Institute, she completed a fine arts major at Immaculate Heart College in Los Angeles, then worked for a large school district as a learning and art consultant while creating a

For her thesis, she created the illustrations and wrote a children’s graphic novel called *Crowgirl’s Amazing Adventure Scrapbook*.

program in children’s literature with the Faculty of Arts in January 2001. “I thought it would be wonderful to continue my own illustration work and teaching, yet take time to focus on different aspects of children’s literature amidst a group of like-minded people.” Shoemaker is a mother of two grown children, an exhibitor of book illustrations, an organizer of book camps and literacy drives, a presenter at academic conferences, and a committee member for various book prizes and awards. She has taught at the Shadbolt Art Centre, Kwantlen University College and Langara Community College. To this curriculum vitae, she will add a Master of Arts in Children’s Literature from UBC, after she defends her thesis

freelance career in illustration. Returning to Canada, she developed her career and started her MA in 2001. For her thesis, she created the illustrations and wrote a children’s graphic novel called *Crowgirl’s Amazing Adventure Scrapbook*. Now, she looks forward to starting a doctoral program in children’s literature at UBC in the fall. Says Shoemaker, “I love the experience of being at UBC with the range of ages in the classes. It keeps learning a great joy.” □



Learning is a great joy for multi-talented Kathryn Shoemaker.

Staff Members Receive President’s Service Award for Excellence

Five staff members have received the 2005 President’s Service Award for Excellence in recognition of their tireless work and ongoing commitment to the University. Anne-Marie Fenger has been assistant dean in the Faculty of Arts since 1997, although she has worked for her alma mater for 34 years. With responsibility over 200 administrative staff and 30 buildings, she is known for her professional expertise, wise perspective and commitment to UBC. She is recognized in particular for the substantial time she has dedicated to advancing her colleagues, for example, serving as an internal coach, in various roles in the Association of Administrative and Professional Staff, as a United Way campus representative and a myriad of other campus committees. Fenger is the champion of space, transforming broom closets into faculty offices and army huts into functional space. She is the dean’s representative on several multi-million dollar projects such as the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre. And she received the *Just Desserts* Award from students for helping

their dream of The Meekison Lounge become a reality. As a building service worker, Kris Reddy has worked for UBC since 1969. For the past 25 years, he has been responsible for cleaning and maintaining the Mather Building and, for the past eight years, Reddy has managed it on his own. Reddy has a great rapport with faculty, staff, and students, and is known for greeting everyone with a smile. Despite his increased workload and the increase in faculty, staff, and students who use the Mather Building, Kris is recognized for diligently and happily keeps the facilities clean, operational, and safe. Darlene Crowe has worked at UBC for the past 28 years, including the last 18 years as senior administrator of the Michael Smith Laboratories. Crowe spent many years managing the laboratory since it was established under the leadership of the late Nobel laureate Michael Smith. In 1997, Crowe wrote the manual for the UBC Financial Management Information System



Their colleagues say these UBC staff have gone above and beyond the call of duty. Left to right: Kris Reddy, Tammy Brimmer, Bridget Byrne, Ann-Marie Fenger and Darlene Crowe (below).

(FMIS) system, which users depended upon until the system was replaced last year. Crowe was also the major force behind moving the faculty, students, postdoctorate fellows, and staff of the Michael Smith Laboratories into its new facility. As the faculty administrator in the Faculty of Science for almost five years, Bridget Byrne has been described as a pillar of administrative prowess. She is an expert organizer and manager. And she has been the one constant in the midst of numerous Faculty transitions and turnovers. Byrne has served the University for almost 40 years, during which time she

earned a BA in English literature. A member of various committees, Byrne is an integral part of the Committee of Faculty Business Administrators. Working at UBC since 1992, and as senior manager of Faculty Relations for the past eight years, Tammy Brimmer has developed an encyclopedic knowledge of policies, procedures, and guidelines and she is acknowledged by colleagues for her wisdom and personal charm. Colleagues have sited her phenomenal contributions in her role advising on best employment practices, responding to important workplace issues and maintaining effective working relationships with

faculty representatives. This year, Tammy is recognized as having provided extraordinary leadership to faculty relations matters arising from UBC’s new Okanagan campus. She has made a significant contribution to redesigning the University’s faculty recruitment practices. She also serves on a task force evaluating how the University can serve better its postdoctoral fellows. □

