



# UBC REPORTS

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THIS SUMMER, nearly 40 members of the UBC community will participate in the 2008 Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Games as athletes, coaches sports doctors and staff.

In UBC's Centenary year, the 2008 Games are an exciting new chapter in our rich Olympic and Paralympic legacy,



which began in 1928 and includes 109 medals and 240 participants. This special edition of UBC Reports tells the stories of students, alumni, faculty and staff who embody the Games motto of "higher, farther, faster." For complete current and historical UBC coverage, see [www.ubc.ca/beijing](http://www.ubc.ca/beijing).

BEIJING OLYMPIC EMBLEM: ARMSTRONG DESIGN



PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

From Maui to the Yellow Sea, Nikola Girke competes on worldwide winds.

## Riding the waves to success

BY MEG WALKER

If there's a good wind up, West Vancouverite Nikola Girke can usually be found on the water. That's not unusual for a sailor. But what is unusual is that Girke is one of the few athletes who has successfully switched from one Olympic sport to another:

from sailing to windsurfing.

Girke had a chance to show off her sailing talents when she competed in the 470 class sailing competitions in the Athens Olympic games in 2004, placing 13th.

But Girke had started windsurfing in her early 20s when she was living in Maui. By 2005,

she was a five-time Canadian Women's Windsurf Champion. She loved the adrenaline of the solo sport and decided to take on the new challenge of training for Olympic competition in windsurfing.

Her challenges are supported by knowledge learned at UBC, where Girke completed a

bachelor's degree in Human Kinetics and a business minor in 1995. "I loved the program and I did well because I was interested in it," she recalls. "I definitely used what I learned in my sports career. When I go to a physio, or when a trainer explains things to me in the gym, I know what they're talking about and I can

ask good questions."


At the end of June, Girke goes to Mexico for three weeks to continue her rigorous training. Conditions there – light wind, lots of current and waves, and hot, humid weather – will help her acclimatize to what she can expect when she goes for gold in Beijing. **R**



PHOTO: COURTESY OF CANADIAN WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION


## Rolling for gold

UBC alumnus Jaimie Borisoff (No. 11, front row) will go for his third consecutive Paralympic gold in wheelchair basketball this summer.



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## IN THE NEWS

Highlights of UBC media coverage in June 2008. COMPILED BY MEG WALKER



An original billboard for the now-restored 1914 Edward S. Curtis film *In the Land of the Head Hunters*.

### Landmark sex exploitation study finds surprising number of female abusers

The results of Canada's largest study into the sexual exploitation of street kids and runaways were reported by *CanWest News Service* and *The Vancouver Sun*.

Elizabeth Saewyc, associate professor of nursing at UBC and principal investigator for the study, said researchers were surprised to find that many abusers are women seeking sex with young males.

Results were drawn from interviews with 1,845 youth – some as young as 12 – in surveys taken across the province between 2000 and 2006.

### Status of Therapeutics Initiative under heavy discussion

A review of Therapeutics Initiative (TI), a UBC-based group that independently evaluates drug trials and provides recommendations to doctors and to the government, was released as the Report of the Pharmaceutical Task Force.

The report's recommendations to overhaul TI were met with more than a month's worth of discussion about, and defense of, the watchdog organization in *The Canadian Medical Association Journal*, *The National Post* and

*The Vancouver Sun*. Many highlighted the work the TI has done in drawing attention to potentially dangerous drugs like Vioxx, which was later withdrawn from the market.

### Human trafficking in Canada

UBC law professor Benjamin Perrin was widely quoted for his comments on a recently released U.S. report on human trafficking. Canada looks good on paper, but has much more work to do.

"We know that human trafficking is continuing to flourish in Canada and that it's one of the most serious crimes in our country," said Perrin, founder of The Future Group, a non-governmental organization dedicated to ending human trafficking.

Perrin's research and advocacy work was discussed by media outlets across the country including *CTV*, *Canoe.ca*, *Victoria Star*, *Chronicle Herald*, *Vancouver Province*, *Metro*, *CKWS*, *Miramichi Leader*, *Bugle-Observer*, *Canadian Press*, *Canwest News Service* and *The Vancouver Sun*.

### Congress of the Humanities comes to UBC

More than 9,500 academics met at the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences at UBC to present cutting-edge

research and engage in panel discussions in 4,000 sessions at the university's four campuses.

The May 31 to June 8 conference was the largest Congress in the organization's history, and the biggest event UBC has ever hosted.

Their research was gathered under the umbrella theme, *Thinking Beyond Borders*.

Multiple stories about ideas presented during the Congress were picked up by *The Globe and Mail*, *The Vancouver Sun*, *The National Post*, *The Times Colonist* and papers across B.C.

### Rare Edward Curtis film restored and on tour

A restored and expanded edition of the 1914 film "In the Land of the Head Hunters," the only feature-length film made by acclaimed photographer Edward Curtis (1868-1952), played in Los Angeles and Seattle before coming to the UBC.

Aaron Glass, a UBC anthropologist who worked on the four-year restoration project and who found the film's original score at the Getty Institute in 2004, said the original work was very much a collaboration between the Kwakwaka'wakw people of B.C. and Curtis.

Stories appeared in *The Vancouver Sun* and Los Angeles and Seattle newspapers.

## UBC REPORTS

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Jack Taunton is responsible for basic and emergency health and doping control for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

## Sports doc has a dream come true

BY BASIL WAUGH

A ski jumper lands wrong and breaks her spine. Food poisoning takes out a bobsled team. A skate blade clips a speed skater and blood gushes onto the ice.

These are just some of the nightmare scenarios that UBC's Jack Taunton is busy preparing for as VANOC's Chief Medical Officer (CMO) for the 2010 Winter Games. Responsible for basic and emergency health care and doping control for 2010, Taunton will be in Beijing this summer monitoring medical programs for the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

"For a sports physician, being CMO for 2010 is a dream come true," says Taunton, who

is assembling a team of 2,700 medical volunteers to care for the more than 1.5 million spectators, media, volunteers and athletes expected to attend. "It doesn't get any better than the biggest international sporting event in your city and country."

"We are working to make these the safest, healthiest games ever," says Taunton, who co-founded both Vancouver's Sun Run and UBC's Allan McGavin Sports Medicine Clinic. "We want our games drug-free, tobacco-free and – an Olympic first – transfat-free," he says. VANOC medical partners include B.C.'s Ministry of Health, Vancouver Coastal Health and the IOC.

Taunton will celebrate his

upcoming 61st birthday by running his 61st marathon. Despite being the picture of health, he is lucky to be alive. Shortly before the 2000 Sydney Games, where he was CMO for the Canadian Olympic team, he underwent surgery for a quadruple bypass heart attack.

"I have been given a second chance," says Taunton, who was attracted to medicine after suffering from polio as child and a severe car accident as a teen. "I'm cherishing my family, my team, and the challenge of preparing for 2010."

With VANOC vowing that the games will not materially impact B.C.'s health care system, and little existing medical infrastructure in Whistler, the

massive undertaking is well underway.

"There were 1,200 people hospitalized in the Torino Winter Olympics," says Taunton, who was born in Montreal. "Athletes represented only 15 per cent of medical encounters, the rest were volunteers, spectators and media with relatively minor injuries. We will be treating these people in our own facilities, outside the hospital system."

Aside from a clean bill of health, Taunton wants the 2010 Games to leave a rich medical legacy. So far, big ticket items include a new blood doping lab, a new CAT Scan in Whistler, 145 treatment beds, defibrillators and training. ■

**Want to volunteer at the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games?**

Members of the UBC community who want to volunteer for 2010 can apply through VANOC at [www.vancouver2010.com/en](http://www.vancouver2010.com/en). To view UBC's volunteer statement for faculty and staff, visit [www.hr.ubc.ca](http://www.hr.ubc.ca).

## Hungry for another gold

BY MEG WALKER

Peanut butter and jelly sandwich, a banana and half a granola bar. These simple comfort foods make up Jennifer Krempien's favorite pre-game meal and she plans to continue the ritual when she competes with the Canadian Women's National Wheelchair Basketball Team this September.

A pediatric clinical dietitian at B.C. Children's Hospital, Krempien has a unique relationship to food. For her Master's of Science in Human Nutrition at UBC, she is looking at the nutrient intakes of elite Canadian athletes with a spinal cord injury and some of the factors that are influencing those intakes.

"I am interested in this topic because as an athlete with a spinal cord injury, I was struggling to interpret

the performance nutrition recommendations made for able-bodied athletes," she says. "Physiologically and metabolically, athletes with a spinal cord injury are very different than their able-bodied colleagues."

Krempien started playing wheelchair basketball at age 9. In 1992, she joined the Canadian women's national team and played in her first Paralympic Games in Barcelona, where the team won gold. In her 16 years with the team, Canada has won three Paralympic gold medals, including the 1996 Atlanta Games and the 2000 Sydney Games. The team also won bronze at the Athens 2004 Paralympic Games and four World Championship gold medals.

The year leading up to Beijing has been very demanding, as the team has been to several

international competitions to prepare for the Paralympics. Krempien says her colleagues and especially her MSc supervisor, Dr. Susan Barr, have been extremely supportive and understanding of the time needed to prepare for committing to gold.

Krempien says the thing she looks forward to most at the 2008 Paralympic Games is leaving a legacy for the almost one million people with disabilities living in Beijing. "I hope that having Beijing host the Paralympics will initiate major improvements in overall accessibility and break down some of the cultural barriers that face people with disabilities currently," she says. "I am hopeful [the people of Beijing] will be able to look beyond the disability and be awed by the raw human potential on display."



Jennifer Krempien dominates the court.

# Olympic vet reflects on UBC education

BY BEN SCHACH

Brian Johns won 33 gold medals competing as a Thunderbird, claiming only one silver at the CIS level in his five years in the pool, a loss to fellow three-time Olympian Rick Say in his freshman season.

As Johns prepares to represent Canada at his third straight Olympic Games, he has had time to reflect on his time as a Thunderbird.

"UBC has allowed me to get a well-rounded education," said the 25-year-old Richmond native who plans to finish his Human Kinetics degree after Beijing. "The challenges that the university provided me, not only in the water but also in school, have helped me become a better athlete and a better leader on the team.

"Not only that, but the relationships that I've developed as part of the swim team have helped me not only be the best right now, but also after I'm done swimming." ■



The most decorated Thunderbird of all-time, Brian Johns, prepares to represent Canada at his third Olympic Games.

PHOTO: MARTIN DEE



# Pierse dynasty fuels UBC dominance

BY BEN SCHACH

When the swimming portion of the Olympic Games is held this August in Beijing's highly touted Water Cube, one Canadian to keep your eye on is going to be UBC Thunderbird Annamay Pierse.

The Canadian record holder in the 50, 100, and 200 metre breaststroke, Pierse is ranked in the top five in the world in the 200 m this year and could be in the mix to final in the 100 m as well.

"It's been a lot of hard work, and a lot of ups and downs, but the last year and a half has just been phenomenal and more than I could have ever asked for," said the 24-year-old first-time Olympian.

Another time to keep your eye out for the Pierse family name and that will be at the 2009 CIS Swimming Championships set for this coming February at the UBC Aquatic Centre.

That time, however, there will be three sets of Pierse results to compare.

A native of Edmonton, Pierse is the eldest from a family of five girls and two boys, and with the arrival of younger sister Grainee to the Point Grey Campus in September, the UBC women Thunderbirds pool will be stocked with three Pierses.



Thunderbird Annamay Pierse, pictured above on her way to victory in the 200 m breaststroke at this year's CIS Championship, is currently ranked fifth in the world in the event.

PHOTO: RICHARD LAM

Already a teammate of Annamay, a psychology major, is younger sister, Hanna, who is studying Arts. The two breaststroke and individual medley specialists recently combined for six individual medals, including five gold, at the 2008 CIS Championships as UBC extended their dominance over CIS Swimming with an

eleventh straight national women's title.

"It's so good to get to train with Hanna now because growing up I was always in a different group than her because of age," said Pierse, who at 24 is five years older than her next youngest sister. "It has been really good to see how much she has improved in the last year."

Getting to train with family isn't all about hard work. "It can be really fun as well to train with Hanna, except sometimes she gets the brunt of my bad moods because I know she can take it and will always be there for me," said Pierse.

With younger sisters Fionnuala and Patricia, both swimmers on the rise in their own right, UBC's

dominance at the top of women's CIS swimming could continue for many years to come.

"If all goes to plan, hopefully one day each of my sisters will have the chance to come to UBC and enjoy it as much as I have."

For now, though, three seems to be more than enough fuel to keep UBC's streak alive and kicking. ■

# World champ seeking Olympic glory

BY BEN SCHACH

Athens in 2004 was supposed to be former UBC Thunderbird Brent Hayden's coming out party. A rising star on the Canadian swim scene, he was poised to make his mark on the world stage.

As most people know, however, even the best laid plans can go awry.

The whole Canadian team struggled and failed to claim a single medal in the pool, with Hayden not even contesting the 100 metre freestyle, an event he won at the 2007 World Championships in Melbourne.

Fast forward to 2008, and Hayden is once again seeking to make his mark on the biggest stage in the swimming world.

There can be no greater achievement for a Canadian swimmer than to earn a gold medal in the men's 100 m freestyle at the Olympic Games.

"I've gotten little bit more experience this time around, and I think before Athens I was just kind of getting ready to go the Olympics," said the 24-year-old Hayden. "This time I am getting



Defending 100 m freestyle world champion Brent Hayden will be battling for gold in Beijing.

ready to go and win medals, so my preparation is a little more serious but I've also had a few

more obstacles to overcome."

There are a number of obstacles Hayden will have to

navigate if he wishes to translate his 2007 world title into Olympic gold.

For one, a sub-48-second 100 freestyle, a result that seemed fairly improbable one year ago, appears now to be the standard necessary to claim any medal in Beijing.

As it stands, Hayden's Canadian record from his World Championships triumph of 48.43 must be erased by a significant margin if he is to earn gold.

Even with a Games appearance under his belt, the pressure and awe of the Olympic atmosphere can still be overwhelming.

And then there is Hayden's back, with a bulging disc that has given him problems all year and forced him to pass on the 50 m freestyle at this year's Olympic Trials.

Knowing all of this, Hayden has been able to maintain a level head and balanced approach.

"I am just looking at this one [the 100 freestyle in Beijing] as another race. I'm trying not to think about the pressure and expectations that people have of me because the pressure I have put on myself is enough," said Hayden. **R**

# Tap and rope guide swimmer to victory

BY BRIAN LIN

At age 24, new UBC grad Donovan Tildesley has broken two world records, won a dozen gold medals in international swim meets and is part of Team Canada for the third time in the Paralympic Games in Beijing this summer.

The Vancouver native is also a motivational speaker and part owner of a small radio station in Whistler, B.C.

Tildesley, who was born blind, won a bronze medal in the 2000 Sydney Paralympics and two silver and one more bronze medal in Athens in 2004. He's currently the No. 2-ranked swimmer with a disability in the world in the 400-metre freestyle.

"Competing in the Paralympics was one of the most amazing experiences in my life," says Tildesley, who began racing at age nine with the help of his father and coach Hugh, a former competitive swimmer.

Hugh is also Donovan's "tapper," charged with the vital task of tapping his son on the head with a pole when he's one stroke away from the wall.

"The questions I get asked

most is how do I avoid swimming into the wall, and how I swim in a straight line," explains Tildesley.

Using the lane rope as a guide, Tildesley must keep his arms straight and centred as to keep on course. "As I get tired, keeping my arms symmetrical becomes more difficult, but that's part of the sport."

Since graduating from UBC this spring with an English degree, Tildesley has been busy speaking at schools and community events on behalf of the RBC Olympians Program. "I love it as much as competing in the pool," says Tildesley. "It's a chance to step outside myself and tell my story."

"If I can enrich, inspire or help change someone's life, that makes me happy."

Another thing that makes Tildesley happy involves skis and may not be everybody's cup of tea. "There's nothing more thrilling than being on top of Spanky's Ladder on Blackcomb and making the 500 vertical feet drop."

Now imagine doing that with your eyes closed. **R**



Donovan Tildesley will be representing Canada in the Paralympic Games for the third time this summer.



# Broad strokes power Olympic success

BY CATHERINE LOIACONO

Jake Wetzel's conceptual goal for the Beijing Olympics is to take one eighth hundredths of a second out of his life. That was the margin of defeat for UBC student Wetzel and his three teammates in finishing second to Great Britain in the rowing coxless four event at the 2004 Athens Olympics.

"The Olympics is an accumulation of a lifetime of training brought together in a

six-minute race," says Wetzel. "Meeting and delivering on expectations is the greatest mental challenge of the Olympics."

Born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan to an American father and Swedish mother, Wetzel holds dual citizenship in Canada and the United States. He started out as a mountain biker on the Canadian Junior Cycling team, but was inspired by the 1996 Olympics rowing competition and in 1997 started

in the freshman eight at Berkley, California. His extraordinary talent was immediately noticed, and he made the Canadian National Team in his first year – a rare accomplishment for any rower. He has won three world championships – two for Canada and one for the United States. His latest world championship was in 2007 when he joined UBC.

This summer, Wetzel will be rowing in the men's eight event in Beijing and he is confident his team can win gold. "In the eight,

members of the boat must be completely synchronized, unified and in tune with each other so that together they function as one unit," says Wetzel.

His team recently raced in the Europe World Cup, which is the only pre-Olympic test event and won by a boat length. "Everyone will be facing in Beijing was at that race and we did exceptionally well," says Wetzel.

"Everything is coming together now. We are a well-oiled machine and we have the advantage that

the majority of the crew has Olympic experience. Over the next few weeks we will continue to improve physically and technically."

For Wetzel, the Beijing Olympics is his last shot to bring home a gold medal. "When the athletic chapter of my life draws to a close I look forward to the challenge of returning to UBC in order to complete my Masters in Finance and I hope to continue on and attain a PhD." **R**



Jake Wetzel (centre) will row for gold in the men's eight in Beijing, after winning a silver medal in the coxless fours in Athens.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF JAKE WETZEL

## UBC rowers living a legacy

BY DON WELLS

Seventy six years ago, a young oarsman named Ned Pratt became the first UBC student to win an Olympic medal, claiming a bronze in the double sculls in 1932 in Los Angeles and triggering a decades-long succession of Olympic appearances for UBC rowers.

Rarely has an Olympic year passed since when Thunderbird crew members and former crew members – both men and women - have not been among Canada's Olympic hopefuls. The Games of 1956, '60 and '64 were particularly fruitful, with crews consisting entirely of UBC students winning medals in each of those years.

Recent graduates Ben Rutledge of Cranbrook (Commerce) and Kyle Hamilton (Arts) of Richmond are currently vying to become the most recent in a

long line of UBC rowers to make their mark in Olympic history. Both are members of Canada's eight-man crew, which will go to Beijing ranked first in the world by the International Rowing Federation, following a gold-medal finish at a pre-Olympic World Cup event last month in Lucerne, Switzerland.

"We're going there to win," says Hamilton from the national team training site at Elk Lake just outside Victoria. "Lucerne was a really good tester. We were three seconds faster than the second-place boat which is a huge margin at that level."

While still attending UBC, the pair joined Canada's national team program in 2002, and in their first year won gold medals in the eight at the World Championships in Seville, Spain. In spite of numerous international podium finishes that followed, and a similar

first-place ranking going into the 2004 Olympics, Canada finished a disappointing fifth at the Athens games. Rutledge, however, is confident that experience will pay off this time around in Beijing.

"The pressure of being ranked number one is the same," he says. "Having been there before, we're better able to deal with that pressure."

The biggest challenges, according to Hamilton, will come from long-time traditional contenders from the USA, Australia, England and Germany, and more recently, China. "The Chinese are really coming on strong," he says. "These Olympics are very important to them."

While both admit that it has been a big leap from university rowing to elite international competition, they speak reverently of their early



Former UBC Rowers Ben Rutledge and Kyle Hamilton celebrate a triumph as part of Team Canada.

experiences at UBC.

"The spirit and camaraderie of a crew sport that I experienced at UBC led me to pursue my path," says Rutledge. "Rowing is very hard on your body, and the

better you get at it, the harder it becomes. Without the coaches and the excitement around rowing at UBC, I probably wouldn't have stuck with it." **R**

# T-Birds soar on field hockey team



PHOTO: EUGENE LIN

Canada's Olympic field hockey team could boast nine T-Birds: (from left to right) Mark Pearson, Scott Tupper, Philip Wright, Marian Schole, David Jameson, Anthony Wright and David Carter. Not pictured: Former T-Birds Mike Mahood and Connor Grimes.

**BY BASIL WAUGH**

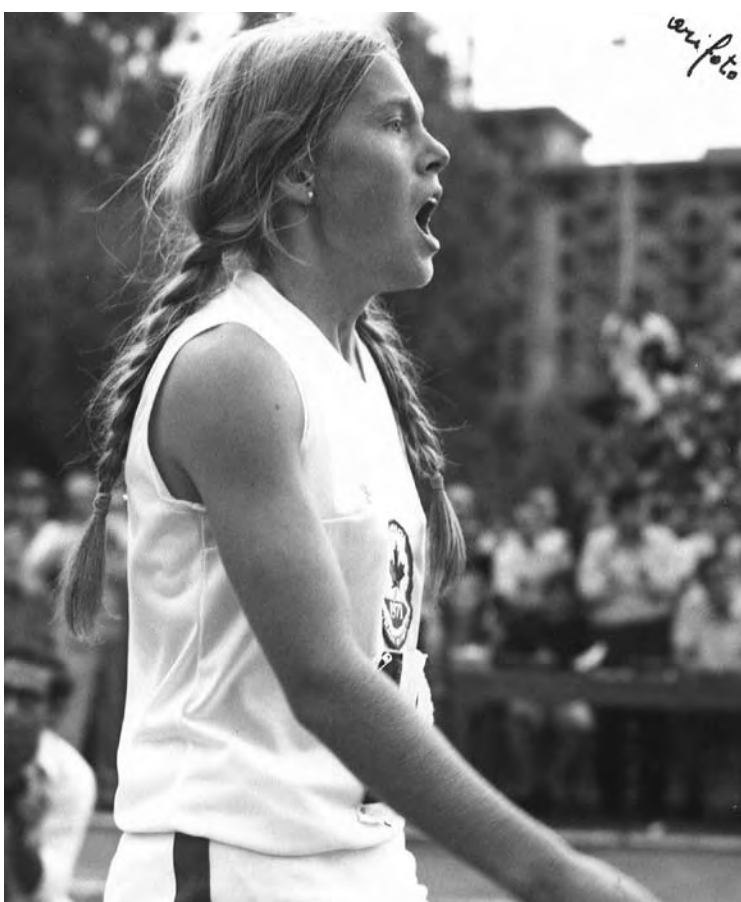
Before Canada created a national sports program, university teams donned the maple leaf for the Olympics. There were two UBC rowing teams at the 1958 Melbourne Games alone – one bringing home UBC's first Olympic gold medal, another winning silver. While this varsity tradition has largely fallen by the wayside, tell that to Canada's men's Olympic field hockey team. With as many of nine UBC Thunderbirds

expected on the squad, they will form nearly half of the team. "Making the Olympics is like our Stanley Cup," says Anthony Wright (defense), who hopes to be joined by his brother Philip (forward) on the Vancouver-based team. "I've been thinking about it since I was five, so it is a dream come true." Also expected in Beijing are fellow T-Birds Mark Pearson (forward), David Jameson (midfielder) Marian Schole (midfielder), Scott Tupper (defense), David Carter (goal)

and former T-Birds Mike Mahood (goal) and Connor Grimes (forward). Most have played together since they could first hold a stick, introduced to the sport by parents or siblings in Vancouver's tight-knit field hockey community. "We have played together so long that we are all kind of like brothers," says Tupper, who has played with the Wrights since grade school, and recently recovered from having his eye socket broken by an errant stick. "By now, we know where each

other is going to be on the field." Playing for UBC (and former Canadian Olympic) coach Shiaz Virjee, the T-Birds have racked up an impressive record, not losing a Vancouver Men's Field Hockey Premier Division game since 2005. More recently, UBC's players have helped Canada do what no men's field hockey team has done since 2000: qualify for the Olympics. While it would take a major upset over the sports' superpowers – Australia, Pakistan and Holland – for

Canada to medal, Anthony Wright is excited to hit the pitch in Beijing. "This gets Canada's foot in the door, and gives us an opportunity to play at the highest level," he says. "It is a great step and we are very excited to be involved." For more on UBC field hockey and the Wrights, who are third-generation Olympians, visit <http://www.publicaffairs.ubc.ca/ubcreports/2008/08may01/wright.html>. **R**



Thelma Wright at a 1971 Canada-Italy meet in Palermo, Sicily.

## Thelma Wright on the Munich Olympics

**BY LORRAINE CHAN**

Thelma Wright saw first hand how terrorism hijacked the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich. On September 5, Palestinian terrorists infiltrated the Olympic Village, captured hostages and killed 11 members of the Israeli Olympic team. "It was horrendous," says Wright, "to see how our German hosts' faces changed, from big open, friendly smiles, to looking stunned, sickened and even fearful." Just the previous day, Wright,

then a 20-year-old UBC student, had competed in the 1,500-metre event for women. She failed to make the finals and went out on the town with her husband, Lee Wright, a UBC graduate and field hockey star, to "drown her sorrows," recalls Wright. They returned late to the Olympic Village, bidding each other goodnight next to the Israeli building. Wright went upstairs to the women's quarters. The next morning, she was awakened by the screaming of an Israeli female athlete. Under military lockdown,

the entire three-block Olympic Village – once bright and festive – was now ringed "bumper to bumper by military trucks and soldiers with guns, including an armed escort in our elevator," says Wright. Four years later in 1976, Wright had a chance to experience a more peaceful Olympics, this time in Montreal. To read more about the Wrights, a remarkable Olympian family, visit: <http://www.publicaffairs.ubc.ca/ubcreports/2008/08may01/wright.html> **R**

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THELMA WRIGHT

# Achieving excellence one lap at a time



Canadian Olympic Swim Team (and former T-Bird) coach Tom Johnson says UBC swimmers will make a splash in Beijing.

PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

## BY CATHERINE LOIACONO

Under the guidance of head coach Tom Johnson, the 2008 Canadian Swim Team's chances for Olympic success look good. And UBC's swimmers are expected to bring home medals.

This veteran swim coach – who spent 16 successful years coaching UBC's Varsity team – has completed a few laps of the pool himself. Johnson placed 19 swimmers on the 2000, 2004 and 2008 Canadian Olympic teams. He was a member of Canada's coaching staff at eight Olympic Games, nine world championships and eight Commonwealth Games. His clubs won 15 national team titles and 21 Canadian Interuniversity Sport national championships.

Johnson believes his UBC Olympic hopefuls – Brian Johns and Brent Hayden, who are part of the 27-member team, are primed for the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics and will return with medals in hand.

"Patience, concentration, perseverance and self-discipline are the four fundamental tenets to achieve Olympic success," says Johnson, who also heads the National Aquatic Centre at UBC. "These 27 athletes are committed to their sport and continuously demonstrate that they are comfortable being uncomfortable. They have what it takes to make the podium."

As UBC's Varsity Swim Coach, Johnson was instrumental in developing UBC's reputation as a top destination for athletes wanting to pursue higher education and high performance

sport. "The same principles required in sport apply to academic and career success," says Johnson. "At UBC, we have been able to create an opportunity for prospective students to follow more than one passion and be successful in both."

Johnson's work led to Swim Canada designating UBC's Aquatic Centre as one of nine high performance centres in Canada in 1998. "We used an integrated approach and collaborated with community programs including the UBC Varsity Team, the National Team and the Pacific Dolphins," says Johnson. The UBC Aquatic Centre remains one of only two National Aquatic Centres in Canada following some structural reorganization after the 2004 Athens Olympics. The other is in Montreal.

Johnson says the Beijing Olympics will be more challenging and competitive because more nations have put a priority on swimming. However, he feels the unrealized potential at the last Olympics combined with the renewed focus on sport in advance of 2010 is helping coaches, athletes, administrators and the public at large to better understand what it takes to win.

According to Johnson no career is a linear progression. "Athletes must realize that they will not swim great all the time but need to swim great at the right time," says Johnson. "That is what the Olympics and life are all about - being the best you possibly can at the right moments."

The best advice Johnson has to offer aspiring athletes and students is to live their dream, be present in the moment and value the journey. "Only then will they be able to experience and appreciate the highs and learn from the lows." **R**



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Faculty of Medicine, Dean's Office

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Applications, accompanied by a detailed curriculum vitae and names of three references, should be directed to:

Dr. Alison Buchan  
Senior Associate Dean, Research  
Faculty of Medicine  
University of British Columbia  
# 317, Instructional Resources  
Centre  
2194 Health Sciences Mall  
Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1Z3

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

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# Frick's wheel-life journey began at UBC



PHOTO: COURTESY OF CANADIAN WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL ASSOC.

Coached by UBC alumnus Tim Frick (back row, centre) and former T-Bird coach Bruce Enns (back row, 3rd from right), Canada's top-ranked women's wheelchair basketball squad includes UBC student Jennifer Krempien (No. 4, front row), alumna Patricia Nicholson (not pictured) and former UBC coach Misty Thomas (No. 14, second row). After multiple knee injuries, Thomas is set to become the first Canadian Olympian to compete in the Paralympics.

## BY DON WELLS

One of the most successful coaches in Canadian paralympic history, Tim Frick says his career path can be traced directly back to his undergraduate days in what was then UBC's School of Physical Education. It was there in 1977 he met a young wheelchair athlete and fellow physical education student named Rick Hansen.

Inspired by Hansen and others at UBC, Frick began a lifelong pursuit of coaching wheelchair athletes. His many coaching triumphs eventually culminated in him being named head coach of the Canadian National Women's Wheelchair Basketball Team in 1990. Under his guidance, Canada has won medals in every Paralympic Games and World Championships since 1992

– most of them gold.

“Rick had a big influence on my life,” says Frick. “My experiences with him made me decide to focus on adaptive physical education, which is the area in which I did my master's degree.”

“There were other incredible people at UBC in those days too – coaches like Peter Mullins, Lionel Pugh, Bob Hindmarch and Jack and Marilyn Pomfret. They all became my unofficial mentors. They didn't know it, but they were.”

Frick and Hansen remained close friends and colleagues after graduation, with Frick coaching Hansen in wheelchair marathon, and later playing a key role in helping to launch and stage the Man in Motion World Tour that raised millions for spinal cord research.

At the same time, he was a

devoted volunteer coach for both wheelchair basketball and volleyball. His commitment to advancing sport opportunities for disabled athletes one day led him to the bedside of Terry Fox, who had just lost his leg to cancer. He convinced Fox to play wheelchair basketball, and later became his coach too.

Currently on a one-year leave from his job teaching sport sciences at Douglas College, Frick is quietly optimistic about his team's chances in Beijing, although he agrees with many other coaches that the Chinese will rise to this historical occasion.

“Australia, Germany and the USA are always going to be strong,” says the Order of British Columbia recipient, “but I think the Chinese will surprise a lot of people.” <sup>R</sup>



PHOTO: BOGETTI-SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY

Head Coach Tim Frick has been leading the Canadian National Women's Wheelchair Basketball Team since 1990.

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# The 2008 UBC team



- UBC athletes have participated in the Olympic Games since the 1928 Games in Amsterdam
- At least 215 athletes, coaches and support staff from UBC have participated in the Olympic Games
- At least 25 athletes, coaches and support staff from UBC have participated in the Paralympic Games, including Man in Motion Rick Hansen
- UBC Olympians have captured 54 medals, including 15 gold, 22 silver and 17 bronze
- UBC Paralympians have captured 55 medals, including 24 gold, 13 silver and 17 bronze
- With three gold medals and one bronze, rower Kathleen Heddle is UBC's most decorated Olympian
- UBC's most decorated Paralympian is Walter Wu, whose 16 medals in swimming include 8 gold
- The most recent UBC medalist is Jeff Pain, a former UBC track and field athlete who captured silver in skeleton at the 2006 Games in Torino, Italy

For more UBC Olympic and Paralympic coverage, see [www.ubc.ca/beijing](http://www.ubc.ca/beijing).

BEIJING OLYMPIC PICTOGRAMS: CHINA CENTRAL ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS

## PETER WALL INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES

### EXPLORATORY WORKSHOP GRANT

Exploratory Workshops provide funding for bringing together researchers from different disciplines at UBC with distinguished external experts to work jointly toward assessing the research possibilities in a new area. Typically, Exploratory Workshops will take place over a period of several days and have a mix of open and closed sessions. The amount of the award is up to \$20,000.

Next Application Deadline: October 1, 2008

### MAJOR THEMATIC GRANT

The Major Thematic Grant provides funding of up to \$500,000 over a three to five-year period to a broad interdisciplinary team of UBC and external scholars to research a new area of basic research. It is expected that UBC will become a centre for research on the topic. Applicants for a Major Thematic Grant must first have applied for and held a successful Peter Wall Exploratory Workshop within the previous two years. Contact the Director for details.

Next Letter of Intent Deadline: October 1, 2008

### COLLOQUIA

Colloquia are usually held during the lunch hour or late afternoon in the Institute's conference rooms and are open to the University community. The Institute provides accommodation for a distinguished visiting speaker of interest to an interdisciplinary audience, the meeting venue, and a luncheon for up to twelve guests.

Requests may be made at any time during the year.

### THEME DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

Theme Development Workshops are very informal meetings of UBC researchers typically held in the Institute's conference rooms over several hours and closed to all but invited participants. The sessions, which often lead to Exploratory Workshop applications, allow researchers to come together with colleagues across the campus to share initial ideas on researching a particular theme. The meeting venue and a budget for a light meal are provided.

Requests may be made at any time during the year.

For more information, please drop in on the top floor of the University Centre, visit our website at [www.pwias.ubc.ca](http://www.pwias.ubc.ca), or call us at (604) 822-4782.

### Beijing-bound UBC Olympians, Paralympians, coaches and support staff:

**Jaimie Borisoff**, Vancouver, B.C.

(Wheelchair basketball)

**Scott Fraser**, Vancouver, B.C. (Physiotherapist)

**Tim Frick**, Port Coquitlam, B.C.

(Wheelchair basketball coach)

**Nikola Girke**, West Vancouver, B.C. (Windsurfing)

**Kyle Hamilton**, Richmond, B.C. (Rowing)

**Brent Hayden**, Maple Ridge, B.C. (Swimming)

**Brian Johns**, Richmond, B.C. (Swimming)

**Tom Johnson**, Montreal, QC (Swimming coach)

**Eugene Liang**, Vancouver, B.C. (Massage therapist)

**Mike Leigh**, Vancouver, B.C. (Sailing)

**Ron Mattison**, Quesnel, B.C. (Physiotherapist)

**Bob McCormack** (Canada's Chief Medical Officer)

**Don McKenzie**, Richmond, B.C. (Physician)

**Joseph Nagy**, Hungary (Swimming coach)

**Patricia Nicholson**, Richmond B.C.

(Wheelchair basketball)

**Richard Peter**, Vancouver, B.C.

(Wheelchair basketball)

**Annamay Pierse**, Edmonton, AB (Swimming)

**Nadine Plotnikoff**, Vancouver, B.C. (Physiotherapist)

**Marc Rizzardo** (Soccer physiotherapist)

**Ben Rutledge**, Cranbrook, B.C. (Rowing)

**Babak Shadgan**, Tehran, Iran (Wrestling doctor)

**Jack Taunton**, Montreal, QC

(2010 Chief Medical Officer)

**Donovan Tildesley**, Vancouver, B.C. (Swimming)

**Hugh Tildesley**, Rosemere, QC (Swimming coach)

**Shiaz Virjee** (Field hockey)

**Jake Wetzel**, Saskatoon, SK (Rowing)

### Hopefuls (teams still pending):

**David Carter**, Vancouver, B.C. (Field hockey)

**Bruce Enns**, Winnipeg, MB

(Wheelchair basketball coach)

**David Jameson**, North Vancouver, B.C.

(Field hockey)

**Connor Grimes**, Duncan, B.C. (Field Hockey)

**Jennifer Krempien**, St. Albert, AB

(Wheelchair basketball)

**Mike Mahood**, North Vancouver, B.C.

(Field Hockey)

**Mike Mason**, Nanoose Bay, B.C. (Track and field)

**Brooks McNiven**, Terrace, B.C. (Baseball)

**Mark Pearson**, Vancouver, B.C. (Field hockey)

**Marian Schole**, Berlin, Germany (Field hockey)

**Jeff Standfield**, Vancouver, B.C. (Rowing)

**Misty Thomas**, Santa Monica, CA

(Wheelchair basketball)

**Scott Tupper**, Vancouver, B.C. (Field hockey)

**Rob Weitemeyer**, Coquitlam, B.C. (Rowing)

**Anthony Wright**, Vancouver, B.C. (Field hockey)

**Phillip Wright**, Vancouver, B.C. (Field hockey)



# Academic rigour makes for earned runs

BY BRIAN LIN

Rigorous academic demands at UBC have helped Olympic hopeful Brooks McNiven make a career out of playing baseball.

“Very few people in pro ball finish college,” says McNiven, who holds a Bachelor’s degree in Human Kinetics. “I received a first-rate education and more importantly, learned to manage my time and it’s made me a better player.

“Unlike some American schools that let athletes off easy, you earn your degree at UBC,” says the right-hand pitcher.

First drafted in the 46th round by the Blue Jays in 1999, McNiven came to UBC in the same year on a baseball scholarship. He played on the gold medal-winning Team BC at the Canada Games in 2001 and was on the NAIA All Region team for 2002 and 2003 before embarking on his first professional season with the Salem-Keizer Volcanoes in Salem, Oregon.

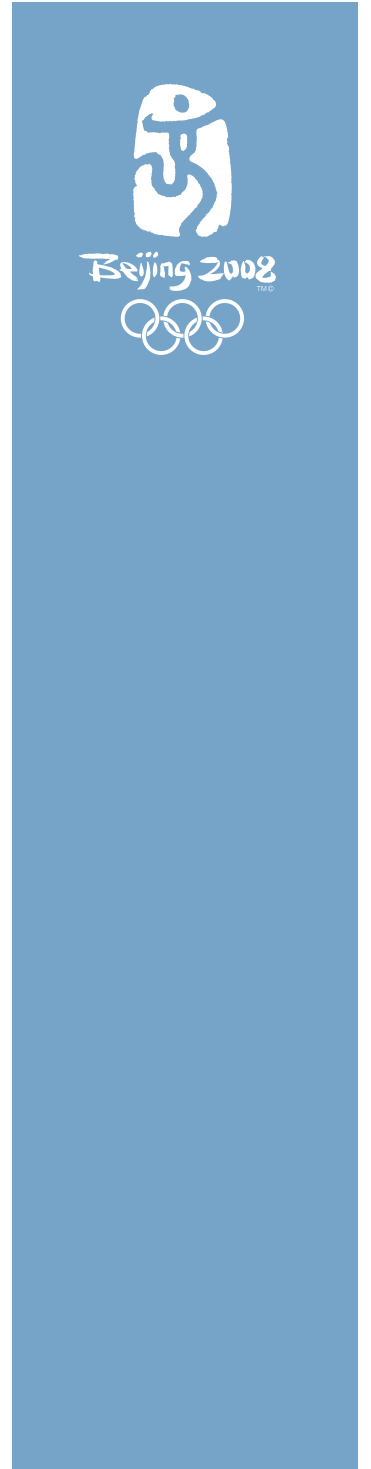
Since then, McNiven has played for the San Jose Giants, the Connecticut Defenders, as well as with Team Canada at the 2007 World Cup and the 2008 Olympic qualifier for the Beijing Games.

Representing Canada in the Olympics would be “unbelievable,” says McNiven, who also played hockey, volleyball and basketball in high school in Vernon, B.C. “All of us have watched hockey players play for the country. To do that in baseball is the opportunity of a lifetime.” **R**



PHOTO: COURTESY OF BROOKS MCNIVEN

*Pitcher Brooks McNiven credits rigorous academic demands at UBC for making him a better baseball player.*



## Fast boat to China

BY MEG WALKER

When Mike Leigh was a student at UBC, the competitive sailor used some of the knowledge from his kinesiology courses to shape his training program.

That was in 2003, when the Vancouverite was preparing to sail a laser – a small, one-person sailboat – at the 2004 Olympics. In 2005, his hard work paid off: Leigh landed enough sponsorship to sail full time, and he put his studies on hold.

One of his favorite things about sailing is the constant learning the sport requires.

“In sailing, there’s always more to learn because in each course there is new information about currents and wind to absorb,” he explains. “You also have to get to know the other racers, learn their habits and tactically position yourself in relation to them on the course.”

Leigh also does some yacht racing, stretching his skills by learning new vessels whenever he can. In March 2008 he won the Laser Radial Championship in New Zealand.

Leigh will apply his skill at being able to move from vessel



PHOTO: COURTESY OF MIKE LEIGH

*Mike Leigh finds his best racing position.*

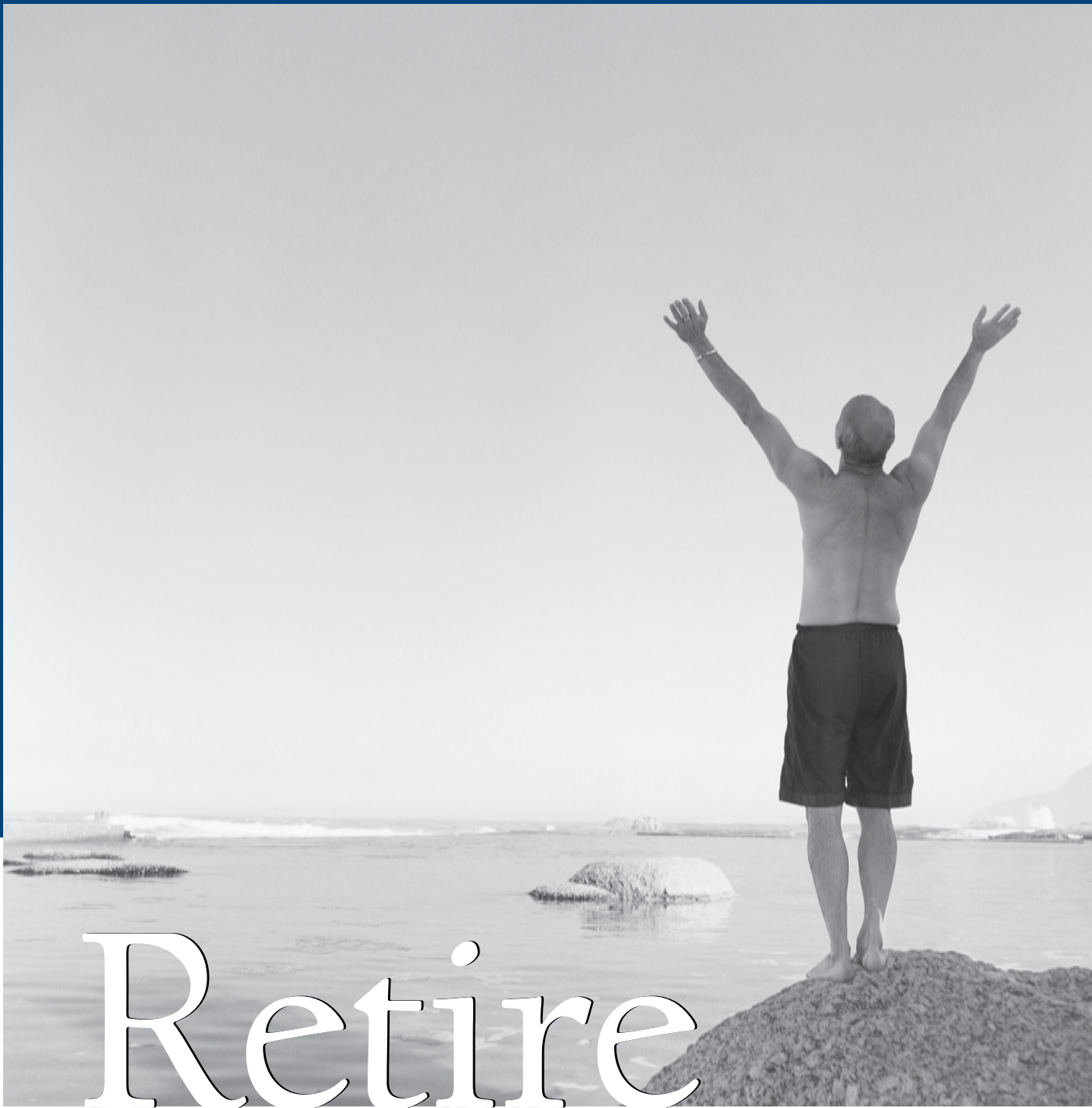
to vessel when he competes at the Olympics: the hull, mast and boom of the boats will only

be provided to the athletes on arrival, so there will be minimal time to learn the new equipment.

Leigh is pumping up the volume and intensity of his schedule before Beijing by

competing in several European regattas. He hopes to fly when the wind rises on the Yellow Sea. **R**

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