

# UBC REPORTS

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## UBC Responds to Global Disaster

*Students, faculty, staff and alumni support Tsunami relief*

BY HILARY THOMSON

From direct on-the-ground help in the disaster zone, to a myriad of fundraisers back home, the UBC community has been active in aiding South Asian tsunami relief efforts.

Alumni Joey Dolcetti and Patrick Potvin were heading to Cambodia for a holiday from their jobs at the National Sports Institute of Malaysia, when a \$16 airfare lured them to Phuket en route. Because of their last-minute booking, they weren't able to get oceanfront accommodation but even so, the water got to within 100 metres of their hotel.

The friends decided to cancel their holiday and stay in Thailand as volunteers. For the next two weeks they helped recover bodies, washed and wrapped bodies in a hospital morgue and accompanied military personnel on searches of surrounding areas.

Potvin completed a master's degree in statistics in physiology and used his expertise to work with Dolcetti to create a database of patient records that has been used by families, local authorities and international organizations.

The duo have returned to Phuket to help organize a sports program for orphaned children.

David Sweet, director of UBC's



A UBC alumnus and tsunami relief volunteer views Phuket wreckage.

Bureau of Legal Dentistry, (BOLD) has been working with RCMP to identify Canadian tsunami victims through dental records and DNA matches.

The only forensic odontology (dentistry) lab in Canada, BOLD has organized and trained a group called B.C. Forensic Odontology Response Team (BC-FORT) a volunteer dental team designated to respond in the event of a mass casualty incident in B.C. It is the only such group in Canada.

Under Sweet's direction, the team was able to get dental X-rays of

missing persons onto a high resolution website, thanks to the quick work of the Faculty of Dentistry's Technology Support Team. Directed by Keith Munro, webmaster James Pagnotta and senior programmer Wei Zhang created a site that Thai personnel could refer to until original records arrived.

"This situation is both challenging and remarkable because of the number of countries involved," says Sweet. "We really have to collaborate as citizens of the world, not only as citizens of Canada."

Members of BC-FORT will travel

to Thailand in a series of two-week rotations.

A UBC chair of mining and the environment has been working in an emergency aid program in Banda Aceh, Indonesia. An expert in water treatment, Ward Wilson was recruited on a special leave to work with Canadian Food for the Hungry International to design and build two water treatment plants. He will also teach local people to maintain the facilities.

In addition to UBC individuals who have also volunteered time, effort and expertise, many groups

across campus jumped into action.

"I have been personally touched and impressed by the student response here," says Alma Mater Society (AMS) president Amina Rai. "There's been a huge volume of activities by student clubs who have worked together in a unified way as well as launched independent events."

*continued on page 11*

**How Can I Help**  
see page 12



Bruce Carleton is determined to create a better drug surveillance program in children's hospitals.

## Boosting Drug Safety for Children

*A new national surveillance network will help find adverse drug reactions*

BY HILARY THOMSON

Last year's recall of the arthritis pain drug, Vioxx®, left a big question in the mind of Bruce Carleton.

An associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, Carleton specializes in evaluating the effectiveness and safety of medications. The recall left him wondering why government-mandated drug safety surveillance programs worldwide didn't capture the risks associated with the popular medication.

Post-marketing surveillance involves manufacturers, health-care professionals and consumers reporting adverse drug reactions. But if the system failed to detect the life-threatening cardiovascular risks posed by Vioxx®, despite millions of prescriptions issued, are patients really being protected from potential adverse reactions, Carleton asks.

As director of the Pharmaceutical Outcomes Program at Vancouver's Children's & Women's Health Centre, he is especially interested in how well surveillance programs work to identify adverse drug outcomes among children.

In the U.S. alone, approximately 26,500 children die every year from adverse drug reactions, according to a 1998 study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Carleton and renowned UBC geneticist Michael Hayden aim to change that through a three-year, \$8.4 million project funded by Genome Canada. Called the Genotype-specific Approaches to Therapy in Childhood (GATC) program, the project officially gets underway this month.

The program will test a novel surveillance system and explore genetic influences in adverse drug reactions.

The researchers will establish a national network of "detectives" – nurses, pharmacists and other clinicians with expertise in identifying adverse drug reactions. The sleuths will work in pediatric hospitals across Canada specifically to find and report adverse drug reactions in children.

In addition, the GATC network will collect DNA samples from

patients to help understand causes of adverse reactions. The genetic information and other data will form a central data registry concerning drug effectiveness and safety.

"Our goal is to understand why a drug is safe for one child but not another, so that we can reduce adverse reactions," says Hayden, who directs Vancouver's Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics (CMMT). "We want to develop diagnostic tests to determine a child's genetic fingerprint. Once we can predict a child's risk, we can offer personalized dosing recommendations for some commonly used drugs. We want to be able to do this within five years."

Carleton is confident that a permanent national surveillance network operating in hospitals at a grassroots level would make a huge difference in our knowledge of drug effectiveness and safety.

About 95 per cent of adverse drug reactions go unreported worldwide, he says, but failure to report

*continued on page 12*





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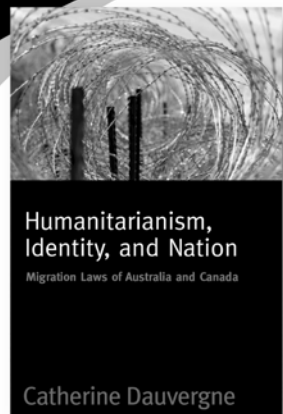
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## IN THE NEWS

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

### Nose-to-Spine Transplants Hold Promise

UBC neuroscientist **Jane Roskams** has found that when stem cells derived from noses of adult rats and mice are grown in culture and transplanted into the damaged spinal cords of rodents, those injuries are repaired and the nerves regenerated.

"When it comes to the nervous system, a rat is not a human. So we have to have safety and efficacy studies in animals first, and next there will be primate studies," Roskams told *The Washington Times*.

Roskams warns that much more research needs to be done and ads on the Internet for unproven nose-to-spine transplants available in Portugal and China have not been proven to be safe.

"People are desperate. They hear the hype and the hope, and they go for it ... but we have to prove first that these procedures are safe. We have to do it right," Roskams said.

### Lending a Hand to Tsunami Survivors

UBC clinical professor **Graham Reid** is volunteering with Relief International in Ullai, Sri Lanka.

Reid told *The Seattle Post-Intelligencer* that the community appears to have been simply ignored for a week or so because the tsunami took out the bridge that connected it to the main road, making it too difficult to reach.

Canadian and Sri Lankan military personnel are now running small boats to ferry people across the lagoon that separates Ullai from the main road.

UBC forensic identification expert **David Sweet** says dental records will likely be the first choice for identifying victims of the tsunami tragedy because they are the



PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

UBC forensic dentistry expert **David Sweet** says dental records are a reliable way to identify victims of the tsunami tragedy.

fastest and least expensive method. "You'd want to start with dental records because they're quick and they're very reliable," Sweet told *Canadian Press*. "They are also relatively inexpensive compared with DNA samples.

"The comparisons can be done with X-rays or written records or any other dental information available."

### No Mixing Warfarin and Celebrex

A new study by the Institute of Clinical Evaluative Sciences has found that older patients taking the blood-thinner warfarin have an elevated risk of potentially deadly stomach bleeding if they also take common anti-inflammatory drugs for arthritis such as ibuprofen and Naproxen.

Celebrex, Bextra and others Cox-2 inhibitors also pose a risk.

UBC clinical pharmacologist and internist **Jim Wright** told *Canadian Press* that the study has major implications because a lot of physicians would likely choose Cox-2s

for arthritis patients already on warfarin, believing the drugs have a lower risk than NSAIDs.

"I've been saying for a long time that these drugs are probably more harmful than beneficial compared to NSAIDs ... the evidence we have right now suggests we shouldn't use them."

### Genetic Tests could Save Children

UBC researchers **Michael Hayden** and **Bruce Carleton** are working to reduce adverse drug reactions that kill almost 30,000 North American children every year by developing quick genetic tests that can predict which children are slow and fast metabolizers.

The \$8.4-million project involves pediatric centres across Canada, which are tracking bad reactions and collecting DNA and plasma samples from affected youngsters.

"We hope to have some of these things ready for the clinic within five years, and we think we can live up to that," Hayden told *CanWest News Service*. □

## BLACK, SOMERSET, Biely, McDowell, and Killam Awards Announced

UBC faculty have been recognized with five prestigious awards.

UBC chemistry professor Stephen Withers has been awarded the Jacob Biely Faculty Research Prize, and math and zoology professor Michael Doebeli has received the Charles A. McDowell Award for Excellence in Research.

The Sam Black Award goes to Professor George McWhirter from the department of theatre, film and creative writing and Scott Watson, a professor in the department of art history, visual art and theory, is the recipient of this year's Dorothy Somerset Award.

Winners of the 2004 Killam Research Prizes of \$5,000 are (in alphabetical order):

**Dale Griffin**, Sauder School of Business; **David Metzger**, Music; **Dianne Newell**, History; **Peter Paré**, Faculty of Medicine; **Catherine Rankin**, Psychology; **Lynn Raymond**, Psychiatry and Neurology; **Gordon Slade**, Math; **Mark**

**Vessey**, English; **Yu Tian Wang**, Faculty of Medicine; Brain Research Centre; **Rhodri Windsor-Liscombe**, Art History, Visual Art and Theory

The Biely and McDowell awards are named for former UBC researchers. Professor Emeritus Charles McDowell headed UBC's Chemistry department for 26 years. Biely, an international poultry scientist, was a UBC faculty member from 1935-68. He died in 1981.

The Somerset and Black awards pay tribute to two legendary figures in fine arts at UBC.

Sam Black's 41-year association with the university began in 1958 as a professor of fine arts and art education. He was a founder of the International Society for Education Through Art.

Dorothy Somerset became director of the UBC Players' Club in 1934. She served as first artistic administrative head of the Fredric Wood Theatre until her retirement in 1965. □

## UBC REPORTS

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# Law Student King of Public Speaking

BY BRIAN LIN

He's young, Muslim, and has no problem talking about it in front of 1,000 people.

That's probably why Rahim Moloo won the 2005 World Public Speaking Championship, which took place over the Christmas holidays in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

A veteran of public speaking and debate competitions, Moloo, a third-year UBC law student, wowed an international crowd of 1,000 attendees – and the judges – with humour and wit during the final round of the tournament, as he poked fun at stereotypes and prejudices faced by Muslims in North America.

"I told them that since 9/11, my dream of becoming a pilot has been crushed – along with those of becoming an air hostess," joked Moloo, who also has two national debating championship wins under his belt.

Moloo began defying the keener stereotype in ninth grade, when he found the excitement building up to tournaments intoxicating. "It's ironic that both the positive and negative stereotypes of debaters and public speakers are literally the same thing: smart and keen," says Moloo.

"There is great diversity in the field. Last year's top oralist in the debating competition was a medical student, and the World Public Speaking Champion two years ago was a computer science student."

So how does one come up with the courage and poise to inform, enlighten and entertain in front of a group of strangers? Moloo says practice builds confidence, but believing in what you're talking about makes a world of difference.

"When you know your topic and feel passionate about it, it comes through very evidently in your speech," says Moloo. "That's what

moves people."

Another triumph was UBC's successful bid to host the World Debating Championships in 2007, beating out the University of London and the University of Sydney.

The competition is expected to bring more than 1,000 students from around the world in 10 days of intense intellectual deliberation. This will be the first time the championship comes to western North America.

For more information on the UBC Debating Society, visit [www.ubcdebate.com](http://www.ubcdebate.com). □



UBC law student Rahim Moloo won the 2005 World Public Speaking championship after giving a speech in front of 1,000 people.

## United Way Campaign Hits Goal, Earns Exceptional Service Award

Having wrapped up the 2004 UBC United Way Campaign, committee members are looking back on the campaign and marveling at success.

"We've had an excellent campaign in so many ways," says Stan Auerbach, the 2004 Campaign Chair. "This year's campaign saw 30 special events, nearly 50 awareness-raising presentations to units across campus and over 200 faculty, staff and student volunteers."

"The campaign reached our goal of \$525,000 for the 400 programs and services that United Way supports in our communities," says Auerbach. "A big thank you to all the donors, volunteers, and community members who supported this campaign and made it a success!"

At United Way's Community Spirit Awards on Jan. 14, UBC was awarded with an Exceptional Service Award in Organizational Support.

"UBC has a long-standing relationship with United Way," says Ellis Courtney, director of UBC Ceremonies and Senior Volunteer for the campaign. "We have been involved not only by running an annual campaign, but also by supporting the Loaned Representative program, hosting the annual United Way Leadership Recognition Reception and participating in the Days of Caring initiative. We were thrilled to receive the award and look forward to continuing to partner with United Way."

For more information about United Way of the Lower Mainland or the Community Spirit Awards, please visit [www.uwlm.ca](http://www.uwlm.ca).

For more information about the UBC United Way campaign, please visit our website throughout the year at [www.unitedway.ubc.ca](http://www.unitedway.ubc.ca) □

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# REPORT ON UBC OKANAGAN BY BRIAN LIN

## UBC Okanagan: Combining Excellence with Innovation

A 300-bed residence, new faculty members and innovative programs are among the hallmarks of UBC Okanagan, set to open its doors in September.

Since the March 2004 announcement of the creation of UBC Okanagan, the transition team, which includes executives from both UBC and Okanagan University College (OUC), has been working non-stop to put in place programs and infrastructure for the school's

first class of 3,800 students.

Expansion to the existing arts and science buildings has begun and construction of a new 300-bed residence will begin early summer on what is currently OUC's north Kelowna campus. Resumes are pouring in for new faculty positions expected to be filled before the summer. New programs and research themes, based on extensive community consultation, are being fine-tuned to address regional demand.

Barry McBride, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of UBC Okanagan, says the new campus will uphold UBC's tradition of excellence in ways that are distinct from – yet complementary with – UBC Vancouver.

Students will be encouraged to shape their own learning experience by incorporating interdisciplinary, theme-based inquiry, community service learning and co-op and practicum opportunities that involve regional industry partners such as



PHOTO: PAUL JOSEPH

Agricultural Sciences dean Moura Quayle is working on the academic plan for UBC Okanagan.

the Summerland Pacific Agriculture Research Centre (PARC) and the Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory in Penticton.

"You'll see a university that is closely connected with the community throughout the Okanagan,"

says McBride. "You'll see a university whose research activities are broadly based and address issues of regional importance. You'll see a university that is committed to the idea of global citizenship and inter-

*continued on page 5*

### UBC Okanagan Timeline

2004

March 17

Provincial government announces the establishment of UBC Okanagan and a college in the Okanagan region

July 16

UBC Board of Governors approves \$18.4 million construction plan to accommodate 900 new student spaces

September 8

UBC Okanagan Community Advisory Council holds inaugural meeting in Kelowna

September 16

Program and research directions announced

September 30

UBC Board of Governors holds meeting in Kelowna, the first time in two decades it meets outside the Lower Mainland

October 22

Forestry giant Irving K. Barber announces a \$12.25 million endowment to establish the Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences

September – December

Academic Plan Working Group meetings and consultations held with students, staff, and faculty and communities on an every-two week basis

November 29

Job offers made to staff and faculty

2005

January - March

Idea Book Draft Academic Plan consultation with faculty for academic plan, students, staff and external community

April - May

Discussion of Academic Plan at UBC O Interim Senate

October

Approval of Academic Plan at UBC O Senate



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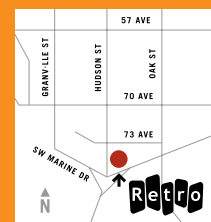
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# REPORT ON UBC OKANAGAN

## The Barber Legacy *Combining arts and science will encourage global citizenship*

The Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences at UBC Okanagan will give students in the UBC system the opportunity to choose where they learn – and how.

Set in north Kelowna, the school will combine the faculties of arts and science to create a truly interdisciplinary learning experience that promotes the value of a civil and sustainable society, says Bernard Bauer, dean of OUC's Faculty of Science, who will head up the school this fall.

"Post-secondary students these days tend to specialize in one particular field, to the detriment of broad-based education and responsible citizenship," says Bauer.

"With the Barber School we have a fresh slate to create something at UBC O that's unique and innovative, but speaks to the vision of the whole UBC system."

Bauer says a model of traditional liberal arts colleges such as Princeton and the University of Chicago, where outstanding pedagogy is married to research excellence, is central to his vision for the school.

"The Barber School will be a very nice compliment to UBC Vancouver – classes will be considerably smaller with a much more personal

focus, and the delivery of the courses will be different," says Bauer.

"Students in the UBC system will have more choices in terms of how they complete their education."

In October, a \$15-million endowment was set up thanks to forestry giant Irving K. Barber to create the Barber School of Arts and Sciences at UBC Okanagan. "In providing the endowment, Ike Barber challenged us to provide a value-added learning experience in innovative ways, to do things no one else can to enhance the education experience," says Bauer.

The Irving K. Barber Interface Program, for example, will allow a constant exchange of ideas and experience between the School of Arts and Sciences and the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, now under construction at UBC Vancouver.

As for the establishment of UBC Okanagan, Bauer says it's an exciting time to be part of the UBC family. "We know there's a tradition of excellence that we are expected to uphold," says Bauer. "UBC Okanagan will play a very strong role in the region in terms of providing intellectual and research leadership – and a place where people can turn to for unbiased opinion and information." □



PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

Forest giant Irving K. Barber, through his endowment for the Barber School of Arts & Sciences, challenges educators to provide unique learning experiences.

## Combining Excellence with Innovation *continued from page 4*

nationalization."

UBC Okanagan also presents a rare opportunity where the academic plan provides specific guidance for the physical development of the campus, says Moura Quayle, who is working on academic planning at UBC Okanagan, when she's not wearing her UBC Vancouver hat as Dean of Agricultural Sciences.

"As a result, students can count on an intimate learning environment, an integrated approach to teaching and research, leading edge technology to enhance the learning experience, and creative scheduling that encourages reflection and dialogue," says Quayle.

This September, UBC Okanagan will open its doors with the Faculty of Health Sciences, Faculty of Education, Faculty of Creative and Performing Arts, Faculty of Management and the Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences.

The four major research themes – indigenous studies, sustainability, health and wellness and creativity, culture and community – are designed to compliment teaching and learning, says Quayle.

"We aim to hire not just stellar researchers but excellent teachers," says Quayle. "It's a goal we're keeping front and centre because we want our faculty to be creative in how

their research informs their teaching and how the undergraduate students conduct research." □

### Have Your Say

The UBC Okanagan Academic Plan team welcomes input on the draft UBC Okanagan Academic Plan, available at <http://www.okanagan.ubc.ca/academicplan>

Please e-mail your comments to [academicplan.okanagan@ubc.ca](mailto:academicplan.okanagan@ubc.ca)

## OUC Student Leader Weighs In



PHOTO: BRIAN LIN

Karina Frisque, student representative on the UBC Okanagan President's Community Advisory Council.

As one of two student representatives on the UBC Okanagan President's Community Advisory Council, Karina Frisque, past president of the OUC Student Association, says UBC has done a fair job engaging students in the transition process.

"We are the ones who live the day-to-day experience, so the more student input there is, the better UBC Okanagan and Okanagan College will be," says Frisque, who is now a senior observer on the student council and news editor of the student newspaper *The Phoenix*.

"We know what OUC was like, what was wrong with it, how we'd

like to see it fixed and exactly what we want to see for the two future institutions."

Frisque says some students are excited that they will be graduating from UBC rather than from OUC "simply because [UBC] is a much more recognized institution," and that while OUC has provided an excellent quality of education, UBC O will bring opportunities for research activities.

However, the uncertainty of the transition did create some confusion and animosity amongst the student body, Frisque admits. "There are still a lot of questions that need to be answered, but I think students recognize the complexity of the transition and most of them realize that changes will happen gradually."

Pleased to see an emphasis on learner-centred education and small class sizes in UBC O's academic plan, Frisque says it'll be a challenge, one that students will be watching closely.

"Many students chose OUC because it is small and learner-centred," says Frisque, who has seen some class sizes grown from 40 to 100 in the past four years under OUC's own expansion. "Continuing the small, intimate learning environment will be a necessary key to UBC O's success as far as students are concerned." □

## No Wires, More Freedom

UBC has extended its enormous high-speed wireless network to its newest campus in Kelowna – all academic and student services buildings at UBC Okanagan have been outfitted with transceivers so students, faculty and staff can connect to the Internet without plugging into the wall.

The first and largest wireless campus network in the region, the UBC Okanagan initiative is part of UBC's University Networking Program, which completed Canada's largest wireless campus network at UBC Vancouver last year.

"The completion of the wireless network is a great example of how UBC and OUC are working together to ensure a smooth transition," says Gwen Zilm, Associate Vice President of Information Services at OUC.

"Wireless is an integral part of the e-Strategy Framework, and I am delighted to see it now poised to enable further innovation in learning, research and collaboration at UBC Okanagan," says Ted Dodds, Associate Vice President of Information Technology at UBC.

For more information on how to access the UBC Okanagan wireless network, please visit [www.wireless.ubc.ca/okanagan/](http://www.wireless.ubc.ca/okanagan/).

## Planning for the Great Northern Way Campus

In 2001, Finning International, Inc. donated 7.6 hectares of Vancouver land to four B.C. post-secondary institutions – UBC, SFU, BCIT and the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design.

Dubbed the Great Northern Way Campus (GNWC), the four institutions are working together to build a unique and integrated centre of excellence in teaching, learning, research and entrepreneurship. The campus is expected to house 4,000 students by 2020.

In the area of urban sustainability, UBC and SFU will begin offering a series of pilot courses in June and September 2005 that combines policy research with community action. Meanwhile, with funding from UBC and the Canada Foundation for Innovation, and further funds expected from the B.C. Knowledge Development Fund, construction will begin on the

first building of the Centre for Interactive Research on Sustainability, which will be both a test bed for innovative sustainable building technologies and a venue for research and teaching.

UBC and the Emily Carr Institute will soon begin offering courses at the GNWC in theatre, industrial design and the graphic arts. A UBC scenography class will be one of the first occupants of the innovative Black Box Studio, a 1,500-square-metre performance and workshop space based on the design recommendations of the UBC department of theatre.

The Learning and Teaching Centre at BCIT is currently assisting with a feasibility study for a proposed Master of Digital Entertainment program at GNWC that would provide Vancouver's thriving electronic gaming and animation community with highly qualified personnel. □

### 2005 PRESIDENT'S SERVICE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE NOMINATIONS

The committee is seeking nominations of outstanding staff and faculty who have made distinguished service to the university.

For a nomination form, please go to [www.ceremonies.ubc.ca](http://www.ceremonies.ubc.ca)

Please mail nominations to:  
PRESIDENT'S SERVICE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE  
C/O CEREMONIES OFFICE  
2ND FLOOR, PONDEROSA B  
CAMPUS ZONE 2.

Deadline for nominations is Feb 28, 2005

# Call for Comments

Proposed revisions to Policy #97, entitled "Conflict of Interest and Conflict of Commitment" were presented to the Board of Governors for information and review 7on January 28, 2005.


Policy #97 was approved in 1992 and has not been revised since 1995. With increased public attention on ethical conduct and conflict of interest issues in both the public and private sectors, increased vigilance on recognizing, disclosing and managing conflicts of interest at the University is desirable.

There is an increased emphasis on the research environment in the draft as current practice has changed significantly since the Board of Governors adopted the Policy in 1992. The revisions to Policy #97 and the creation of a Conflict of Interest Committee are driven primarily by American and Canadian government research agencies' recommendations of best practices and the volume of disclosures generated from the University's research enterprise.

Initial feedback on the proposed revisions has been obtained from a broad spectrum of units across campus including, the Office of Research Services, the University-Industry Liaison Office, Members of the Research Ethics Boards, Treasury, Business Development, Human Resources, Faculty Relations, the Committee of Deans and the Conflict of Interest Administrator for the UBC Board of Governors. In addition, a Committee drawn from these stakeholder groups was convened to review the draft.

The next stage in this process is to seek advice, guidance and comments from the University community. Please submit feedback to the Office of the University Counsel at [university.counsel@ubc.ca](mailto:university.counsel@ubc.ca). All feedback should be submitted by **4:30 pm on Monday, February 21, 2005**.

Subject to feedback from this public consultation process, these proposed documents will be submitted to the Board of Governors with a request for final approval at its regularly scheduled meeting in March of 2005.

 <b>THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA BOARD OF GOVERNORS</b>	Policy No: <b>97</b>	<b>Approval Date:</b> September 1992	<b>Last Revision:</b> March 2005 [Anticipated]
	<b>Responsible Executive:</b> Vice-President, External and Legal Affairs		
<b>TITLE: Conflict of Interest and Conflict of Commitment</b>			
<p><b>Background &amp; Purposes:</b></p> <p>The University of British Columbia is responsible for the advancement and dissemination of knowledge. As such, it encourages its faculty and staff to seek and participate in research, to consult widely, and to engage in Non-University Activities so long as such activities do not interfere with their obligations to the University. While the University recognizes that such activities may benefit the participants, the University, and the public at large, it is committed to ensuring that those activities are conducted in a manner consistent with the interests and mission of the University and in a way that maintains the community's trust and confidence. Faculty and staff of the University must act with integrity and adhere to the highest ethical standard at all times.</p> <p>With increased public attention on ethical conduct and conflict of interest issues in both the public and private sectors, vigilance on recognizing, disclosing and managing conflicts of interest at the University continues to be essential. In addition, new requirements from the Tri-Council agencies, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and other bodies are coming into place. Faculty and staff are responsible for informing themselves and complying with requirements imposed on them by all agencies and organizations from which they receive funding.</p> <p>The purpose of this Policy is to identify and address potential, actual and apparent conflicts of interest and conflicts of commitment. Faculty and staff have certain commitments to the University and must not allow outside activities or financial interests to interfere with those commitments. This Policy is intended to identify for faculty and staff of the University areas of potential conflicts of interest and conflicts of commitment, and to provide procedures whereby conflicts are disclosed and either avoided or appropriately managed. Faculty and staff of the University are expected to vigilantly guard against potential, actual and apparent conflicts of interest and conflicts of commitment, and to disclose and address any conflicts promptly.</p>			

*Defined terms are capitalized in this Policy and can be found in Section 12 at the end of this Policy.*

## 1. SCOPE

- 1.1. This Policy applies to all full-time and part-time members of faculty and staff of the University and any person (including students and visiting professors) who teaches, conducts research, or works at or under the auspices of the University.

## 2. GENERAL

- 2.1. Conflicts of Commitment can arise where the Non-University Activities of a Member are so demanding or organized in such a manner that they interfere with the Member's responsibilities to the University, or where a Member uses University resources for Non-University Activities. Members must disclose Conflicts of Commitment and where appropriate, obtain written approval prior to engaging in any activity that may give rise to a Conflict of Commitment.
- 2.2. Conflicts of Interest can arise naturally from a Member's engagement inside and outside the University, and the mere existence of a Conflict of Interest does not necessarily imply wrongdoing on anyone's part. However, Conflicts of Interest must be recognized, disclosed, and assessed.
- 2.3. Conflicts of Interest fall into one of two categories: those that are permissible if appropriately managed; and those that are prohibited because they cannot be appropriately managed.
- 2.4. Members are responsible for seeking guidance from their Initial Reviewers before engaging in any activity that may be questionable.
- 2.5. Except as required by judicial process or law, any information disclosed by a Member to the University pursuant to this Policy will be held by the University in confidence and will only be available to those individuals who are responsible to the University for its review, management and administration, and to funding agencies where relevant to an application for research funding to that agency.

## 3. RECOGNIZING CONFLICTS OF COMMITMENT

- 3.1. A Conflict of Commitment occurs where a Member engages in Non-University Activities that impede or compromise the fulfillment of the normal duties of his or her employment. The following activities are examples of activities which give rise to a Conflict of Commitment:
  - 3.1.1. where a Member uses any University resource for Non-University Activities, unless the use is merely inconsequential;
  - 3.1.2. where a staff Member engages in Non-University Activities during their normal work hours at the University;
  - 3.1.3. where a full-time faculty Member's total involvement in Outside Professional Activities are greater than 52 days per year, including evenings, weekends and vacations; and
  - 3.1.4. where a full-time faculty Member will be off campus for a period of 30 consecutive days (excluding holidays) as a result of the Member's Outside Professional Activities.

## 4. RECOGNIZING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- 4.1. As each situation depends upon its specific facts, the University has not attempted to develop an exhaustive list of Conflicts of Interest. Rather, Members must conduct themselves at all times with the highest ethical standards in a manner that will bear the closest scrutiny. Conflicts of Interest will arise in the following situations.
  - 4.1.1. Where a Member's responsibility to instruct and evaluate students in a fair, unbiased and effective manner is or appears to be impeded or compromised. The inherent power imbalance that exists between a Member and a student must not be used for personal benefit. A Conflict of Interest exists where a Member receives a personal benefit when dealing with students.



- 4.1.2. Where a Member (or a Related Party of the Member) has a Financial Interest in the outcome of his or her research. In the area of research, vigilance is required. The University's commitment to liaise with industry and to transfer technology, the growth of industry sponsored research, and the substantial increase in the University's interactions with outside organizations generally all lead to a corresponding increase in the potential for Conflicts of Interest. In addition, various governmental and other agencies that fund research are imposing increasingly stringent Conflicts of Interest requirements on investigators and institutions applying for research funding. A Member must comply with this Policy and any applicable Conflicts of Interest policies imposed by other organizations, agencies or institutions.
- 4.1.3. Where a Member has influence over a decision about a proposed relationship between the University and a Business in which the Member or his or her Related Party has a Financial Interest or holds an Executive Position.
- 4.1.4. Where a Member or his or her Related Party obtains a Financial Interest or an Executive Position in a Business with which the University has an existing relationship and the Business is related to the Member's work at the University.
- 4.1.5. Where a Member is in a position to influence human resource decisions (such as recruitment, offer of employment, evaluation of performance, promotion, granting of tenure, or termination of employment) or admission decisions with respect to a person with whom the Member has a personal relationship that might reasonably be construed as a Conflict of Interest.
- 4.1.6. Where a Member uses his or her position with the University to solicit students, fellow Members, government agencies, private companies, or members of the public for Non-University Activities.
- 4.1.7. Where a Member uses information that is acquired as a result of his or her relationship with the University and not in the public domain for Non-University Activities unless the Member has proprietary rights (usually enforceable through copyright) to that information. Members should also be aware that insider trading restrictions may also apply to them.
- 4.1.8. Where a Member's obligations to a board of directors, advisory boards, or the like of an outside organization interfere with or compromise the Member's obligations to the University.
- 4.1.9. Where a Member accepts tokens of appreciation with a value of \$250 or more in connection with his or her position at the University.

## 5. DISCLOSING CONFLICTS OF COMMITMENT AND OUTSIDE PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 5.1. Where a Member intends to engage in any activity that may give rise to a Conflict of Commitment, whether or not that activity is within the scope of the Member's work at the University, the Member must disclose that activity and obtain the prior written approval of his or her Initial Reviewer.
- 5.2. At least annually and whenever there is a material change from the previously submitted disclosure, full-time faculty Members and recipients of Tri-Council funding (or other agencies that require annual disclosure) must disclose the extent, nature, and timing of their Outside Professional Activities and their use of University resources for any Non-University Activities.

## 6. DISCLOSING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- 6.1. In the University community, full and complete disclosure of Conflicts of Interest is a key element in protecting the integrity of Members, as well as that of the University. A Member must disclose Conflicts of Interest to his or her Initial Reviewer and to all parties affected by the Conflict of Interest.
- 6.2. Prior to commencing a research project, a Member who is a principal investigator must disclose all Conflicts of Interest that may arise in relation to the research project.
- 6.3. Prior to undertaking any activity that may give rise to a Conflict of Interest, whether or not that activity is within the scope of the Member's work at the University, a Member must disclose that activity. Where prior disclosure is impossible, disclosure must be made as soon as possible after commencement of the activity.
- 6.4. At least annually and whenever there is a material change, full-time faculty Members and recipients of Tri-Council funding (or funding from other agencies that require annual disclosure) must disclose any Financial Interests they or their Related Parties have in entities related to the Member's work at the University.

## 7. ROLE OF INITIAL REVIEWER IN APPROVING CONFLICTS OF COMMITMENT

- 7.1. Where a Member seeks approval for a Conflict of Commitment, the Initial Reviewer may, in his or her discretion, grant approval taking into consideration the following:
- 7.1.1. whether the activity interferes with the Member's obligations to the University; and
- 7.1.2. if so, whether the activity nonetheless contributes to or benefits the University in such a way that warrants the interference.

## 8. ROLE OF INITIAL REVIEWER IN ASSESSING AND MANAGING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- 8.1. When an Initial Reviewer becomes aware of a Conflict of Interest, he or she will assess the situation to determine what action, if any, is appropriate.
- 8.2. Where the Initial Reviewer determines that a proposed research project or activity is permissible as disclosed with no further action, the Initial Reviewer's determination will be recorded and Member may proceed with the proposed research project or activity.
- 8.3. Where the Initial Reviewer determines that the activity is permissible only if appropriately managed, the Initial Reviewer will develop and implement a protocol to manage the Conflict of Interest and the Member may proceed with the proposed activity provided that he or she complies with the protocol.
- 8.4. Where the Initial Reviewer determines that the activity is not permissible, the Member must not proceed with the proposed research project or activity.
- 8.5. Where the Initial Reviewer determines that the activity is not permissible or is unable to determine whether a proposed research project or activity is permissible, the Initial Reviewer will refer the disclosure in accordance with his or her unit's internal review process or to the Committee, if the unit has no internal review process.

## 9. INTERNAL REVIEW PROCESS FOR CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- 9.1. A Dean, in consultation with the Office of the University Counsel, may establish an internal process within his or her faculty for the assessment of Conflicts of Interest as appropriate for his or her faculty. Generally, a level of review within each faculty is desirable to facilitate the expeditious assessment of matters and ensure awareness and vigilance to Conflicts of Interest issues by all University Members. For example, the appropriate process may commence with a disclosure being reviewed by the Head of Department (as Initial Reviewer), then referred to the Dean, and finally referred to the Committee, as necessary. A Dean may establish additional reporting requirements for faculty members in his or her faculty. Provision may be made for those cases where a Member disagrees with the assessment of the Initial Reviewer.
- 9.2. In establishing an appropriate process, the Dean should consider the following factors:
- 9.2.1. the volume of disclosures the faculty generates; and
- 9.2.2. the need for specialized knowledge and expertise in the academic/professional discipline to assess the Conflict of Interest.

## 10. ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE IN ASSESSING AND MANAGING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- 10.1. The Committee is charged with the following responsibilities:
- 10.1.1. to assess disclosures of Conflict of Interest to determine whether:
- 10.1.1.1. the proposed research project or activity is permissible as disclosed with no further action;
- 10.1.1.2. the proposed research project or activity is permissible only if a protocol is implemented to ensure that the Conflict of Interest is appropriately managed; or
- 10.1.1.3. the proposed research project or activity is not permissible;
- 10.1.2. to serve as the final avenue of appeal (such as where a Member disagrees with the assessment of an Initial Reviewer or the assessment resulting from an internal process established by a Dean under Section 9.1);
- 10.1.3. to randomly audit disclosures reviewed and determined to be permissible by Initial Reviewers and by those reviewing disclosures in accordance with the process established within a particular unit. The Committee will also periodically randomly audit the implementation of protocols as set out in Section 10.3 below; and

10.1.4. to educate Members on Conflicts of Interest and Conflicts of Commitment and the application of this Policy.

- 10.2. Where the Committee determines that a proposed research project or activity is permissible as disclosed with no further action, the Member may proceed with the proposed research project or activity.
- 10.3. Where the Committee determines that a proposed research project or activity is permissible only if a protocol is implemented to ensure that the Conflict of Interest is appropriately managed, the Member may only proceed with the proposed research project or activity in accordance with the protocol.
- 10.4. Where the Committee determines that a proposed research project or activity is not permissible, the Member must not proceed with the proposed research project or activity.

## 11. ROLE OF OFFICE OF THE UNIVERSITY COUNSEL

- 11.1. An Initial Reviewer, Administrative Head of Unit or the Committee may at any time seek the advice from the Office of the University Counsel with respect to any matter pertaining to this Policy, including the establishment of a process for the assessment of Conflicts of Interest, the assessment of any disclosure and the development of appropriate protocols for managing Conflicts of Interest.

## 12. DEFINITIONS

- 12.1. "Administrative Head of Unit" means a Director of a service unit, a Head of an academic department, a Director of a centre, institute or school, a Principal of a college, a Dean, an Associate Vice-President, the Registrar, the University Librarian, a Vice-President or the President or the equivalent.
- 12.2. "Business" means a corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, firm, franchise, association, organization, holding company, joint stock company, receivership, business or real estate trust, or other legal entity organized for profit or charitable purposes, but excluding the University, an affiliated Hospital, a private medical practice, or other entity controlled by, controlling, or under common control with the University or an affiliated Hospital.
- 12.3. "Conflict of Commitment" means a situation where the Outside Professional Activities of a Member are so substantial or demanding of the Member's time and attention as to adversely affect the discharge of the Member's responsibilities to the University, or where the Non-University Activities of a Member involve the use of University resources.
- 12.4. "Conflict of Interest" means a situation where a Member is in a position to influence, either directly or indirectly, University business, research, or other decisions in ways that could advance the Member's own interests or the interests of a Related Party, to the detriment of the University's interests, integrity or fundamental mission. In the research context, Conflict of Interest includes a situation where financial or other personal considerations may compromise, or have the appearance of compromising, an investigator's professional judgment in conducting or reporting research. Conflicts of Interest may be potential, actual or apparent.
- 12.5. "Committee" means a committee established by the University Counsel to assess disclosures and to develop and monitor protocols in situations where Conflicts of Interest are identified.
- 12.6. "Executive Position" means any position that includes responsibilities for a material function of the operation or management of a Business.
- 12.7. "Financial Interest" means an opportunity to receive greater than 5% ownership interest in a single entity or anything having a monetary value exceeding \$10,000 per annum, including remuneration (e.g. salary, consulting fees, retainers, honoraria, bonuses, gifts, speaker's fees, advisory board remuneration, finders or recruitment fees), equity interests (e.g. stocks, stock options or other ownership interests), and intellectual property rights (e.g. patents, copyrights, royalties or other payments from such rights).
- 12.8. "Initial Reviewer" means the individual responsible for initially reviewing a Member's disclosures of Conflicts of Interest or approving a Member's Conflict of Commitment. Except as otherwise designated by the University Counsel, a Member's Administrative Head of Unit is the Initial Reviewer.
- 12.9. "Member" means any individual who teaches, conducts research, or works at or under the auspices of the University and includes without limitation, any person acting in his or her capacity as full-time or part-time faculty or staff, or clinical faculty.
- 12.10. "Non-University Activity" means any activity outside a Member's scope of work with the University and includes Outside Professional Activities.
- 12.11. "Outside Professional Activity" means any activity outside a Member's scope of work with the University that involves the same specialized skill and knowledge that the member utilizes in his or her work with the University and includes the operation of a Business, consulting or advisory services and speaking engagements.
- 12.12. "Related Party" means a Member's immediate family member (e.g. spouse, child, parent or sibling), or other person living in the same household, or any other person with whom the Member shares a Financial Interest, either directly or indirectly.

## PROCEDURES

Approved: September 1992

Revised: March 2005 [Anticipated]

*Pursuant to Policy #1: Administration of Policies, "Procedures may be amended by the President, provided the new procedures conform to the approved policy. Such amendments are reported at the next meeting of the Board of Governors and are incorporated in the next publication of the UBC Policy Handbook."*

### 1. ANNUAL DISCLOSURES AND DISCLOSING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND OUTSIDE PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 1.1. Full-time faculty Members and recipients of Tri-Council funding (or other agencies that require annual disclosure) will submit a completed annual report to his or her Initial Reviewer no later than July 31 (for the period between July 1 and June 30 of the previous year) that discloses the following:
- 1.1.1. the extent, nature, and timing of their Outside Professional Activities;
- 1.1.2. their use of University resources for any Non-University Activities; and
- 1.1.3. any Financial Interests they or their Related Parties have in entities related to the Member's work at the University.
- 1.2. Members will submit a completed disclosure report to his or her Initial Reviewer for each situation where disclosure or approval is required.

### 2. ASSESSING AND MANAGING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND CONFLICTS OF COMMITMENT

- 2.1. Each person who assesses a disclosure will complete a review report and provide a copy of the review report to the Member.
- 2.2. Without limiting the discretion of a person assessing a disclosure to consider all relevant factors, the following factors must be considered in assessing a disclosure:
- 2.2.1. the impact on the Member's ability to satisfy his or her obligations to the University;
- 2.2.2. the degree to which the proposed action will be detrimental to the interests of the University; and
- 2.2.3. the extent to which the proposed action or activity may be managed through an appropriate protocol.
- 2.3. Where a person who reviews a disclosure report is unable to determine that a disclosure is permissible with no further action, the disclosure will be referred to the next level of review with a copy of the disclosure report and all review report(s).
- 2.4. Where a disclosure is referred to the Committee, the Committee will complete a Committee report for each disclosure and provide the Member with a copy of the Committee report.
- 2.5. Where the Committee determines that a management protocol is appropriate, the Initial Reviewer will monitor compliance with the management protocol.
- 2.6. Where the Committee determines that a Conflict of Interest exists, the Committee will:
- 2.6.1. provide the Responsible Executive with a copy of the disclosure report, all review report(s) and the Committee report; and
- 2.6.2. disclose the existence of the Conflict of Interest to a funding agency where relevant to an application for research funding to that agency.
- 2.7. The forms of the reports described in these Procedures will be prescribed by the Office of the University Counsel in consultation with the academic community.

### 3. SANCTIONS

- 3.1. The Policy is meant to protect both the University and its Members. The Administrative Head of Unit will notify the University Counsel and take immediate and appropriate action when it becomes aware of violations of the Policy or Procedures.
- 3.2. Sanctions will be commensurate with the extent of the violation and may include termination of funding and reimbursement of any financial benefit gained as a result of the violation in addition to any disciplinary action taken by the University.
- 3.3. If a Member wishes to dispute the sanction imposed as a result of a violation, the Member may do so through the collective agreement or other contractual process applicable to the Member.



# Researchers take on Ecuador's Top Health Risks BY HILARY THOMSON

Simmering white sugar beaches, lush jungles and crystalline Andean air – Ecuador is rich with pristine natural environments. But as one of South America's poorest countries, its people struggle with serious environmental health issues such as poor sanitation and water supply, pesticide contamination and mining pollution. They also regularly battle effects of natural disasters such as earthquakes, volcanoes and flooding.

That's a scenario Jerry Spiegel and a team of UBC researchers hope to change.

Director of UBC's Centre for International Health, a part of the College of Health Disciplines, Spiegel is the principal investigator of a \$5-million, six-year project to help Ecuador reduce environmental health risks, preventable illness and deaths.

Working with team members from three Ecuadorian universities, institutes in Cuba and Mexico, 10 UBC research centres and institutes, and partner agencies and non-governmental organizations, Spiegel will collaborate with local community groups to build Ecuador's capacity to manage environmental health risks.

"This project gives us an opportunity to walk the talk – to achieve impact in communities and to build a sustainable program," says Spiegel, who is

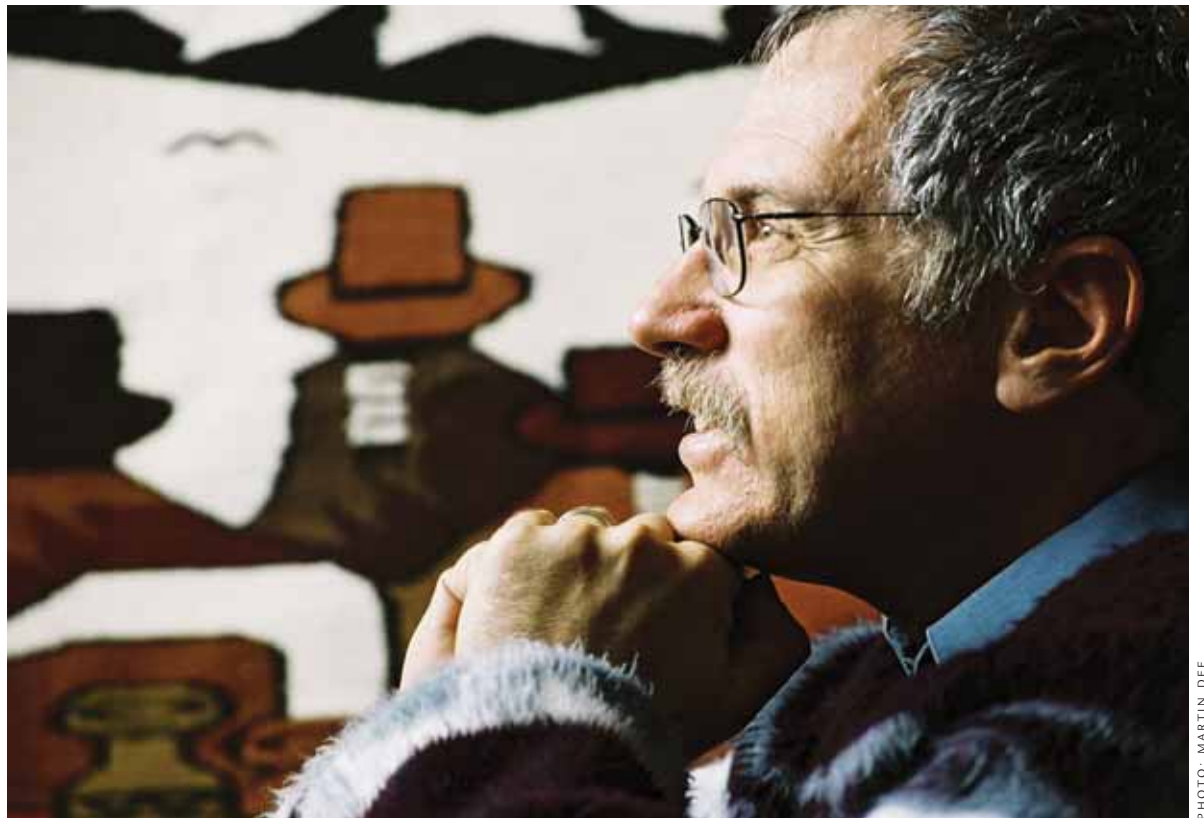
because of connections made in a similar project Spiegel has been conducting in Cuba. A 2001 Cuban workshop included health educators from Ecuador who were keen to start their own programs.

Ecuador's multiple environmental health challenges and the potential for exchange of information between Latin American countries made it a fascinating target for education and research, says Spiegel, who last month organized UBC's first forum on global citizenship and health.

Ecuador has a population of about 13 million and a weak health system infrastructure. Adequate sanitation and availability of clean water are paramount needs. Water problems are made worse by pesticide contamination from banana plantations and cut flower farms. In rainy season, flooding and mudslides aggravate the situation. In addition, inadequate drainage systems and poor sanitation provide breeding areas for mosquitoes that carry malaria and dengue fever.

Ecuador's gold, copper, lead, magnesium and other mines contribute to soil and water pollution, and direct handling of heavy metals such as mercury also creates environmental health hazards.

Project organizers plan to create a curriculum and core group of local



Jerry Spiegel is working with Latin American universities to improve environmental health education.

PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

communication technologies.

The approach is multi-disciplinary and holistic and will produce expertise at four levels:

requirements. This group will include community planners and health practitioners as well as university students.

In addition, a one-day outreach pro-

Universidad de Guayaquil, Universidad Técnica de Machala and Universidad Estatal de Bolívar.

To build a leadership group, the

**[Ecuador's] people struggle with serious environmental health issues such as poor sanitation and water supply, pesticide contamination and mining pollution. They also regularly battle effects of natural disasters such as earthquakes, volcanoes and flooding.**

also director, Global Health at the Liu Institute for Global Issues. "It's exciting because it integrates research and education – we'll only be successful if we transfer our knowledge to the community."

Ecuador was chosen as a target site

educators who specialize in environmental health. In addition to core topics such as water and sanitation, the curriculum will include courses on disaster preparedness, managing mosquito-borne and other infectious diseases, indigenous health, and building health

The team will develop a certificate program to be delivered in person or by distance education to about 150 students, all of whom will conduct community-based environmental health projects such as land clearing or building water tanks, as part of course

gram, or toolkit, will be developed and delivered by the certificate students to about 600 individuals in communities throughout the country.

A master's program in environmental health will produce at least 60 master's students at partner institutions of

project includes opportunities for Ecuadorian faculty members to study in Mexico, Cuba or Canada. This part of the program will produce four to six PhDs with formal commitments to teach in the three partner universities.

*continued on page 12*







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## Young Tenor's Star on the Rise BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Philippe Castagner was handed a unique opportunity last summer to showcase his talent. And he made the most of it. Asked to jump in at short notice, the former UBC opera student

bursts since various roles as an opera student at UBC in 2001-02. Castagner won a whirlwind set of auditions held by the Metropolitan Opera National Council while still

award-winner in a competition that included 300 applicants from 43 countries. The rewards include concert engagements, publicity and career development for three or

**"I had to stand behind him when he sang with one hand on top of his head, one arm around him and a leg over his ankles to refocus the energy," says Hermiston. "Over the course of two to three months this beautiful voice came out..."**

performed at the June 2004 Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina, earning reviews that dubbed him the next great tenor of this century.

The 26-year-old's star has risen in

with UBC's opera ensemble, first in Vancouver, then Seattle and finally New York, leading to his present role as Beppe in *I Pagliacci* at the Metropolitan Opera. And he has just been named a Young Concert Artist

more years.

On his own admission, Castagner was an unfocused student in his early years at UBC. And he almost did not come in the first place. It was luck that led him here, when his high school choir teacher suggested he apply for university in Canada to study music. The Canadian-born, but New Jersey-raised, teenager did not read music and had never considered it, but worked hard on his grades and gained acceptance to UBC.

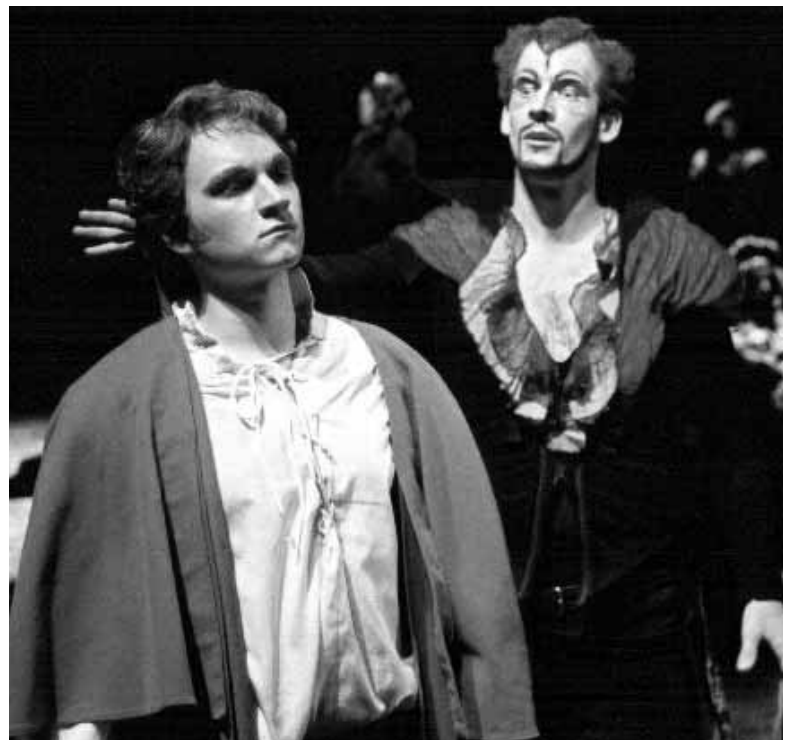
"He resided on the third floor couch much of his first two years in the School of Music," recalls Nancy Hermiston, director of the UBC voice and opera programs. "Then he decided he wanted to be an opera singer."

Castagner remembers himself as a twitchy singer, diagnosed at one time with attention deficit disorder. Hermiston remembers him in an acting class as unable to stand still.

"I had to stand behind him when he sang with one hand on top of his head, one arm around him and a leg over his ankles to refocus the energy," says Hermiston. "Over the course of two to three months this beautiful voice came out. It was like peeling off layers of tension to reveal an intensely musical performer."

UBC taught Castagner the process, but he has continued to learn about

*continued on page 11*



Philippe Castagner (left) plays an impressive Faust (by Gounod) in a 2002 UBC opera ensemble production, opposite fellow student David Jefferies as Mephistopheles.



### Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies

#### Distinguished Scholar in Residence Application Deadline May 13, 2005

Each year four outstanding UBC faculty members are chosen as Peter Wall Distinguished UBC Scholars in Residence for the next calendar year.

For details please visit our website at:  
[www.pwias.ubc.ca/program/sir.php](http://www.pwias.ubc.ca/program/sir.php)  
and  
[www.pwias.ubc.ca/awards/sir.php](http://www.pwias.ubc.ca/awards/sir.php)

### A Profile: UBC Opera Ensemble

The UBC opera ensemble, now built into a 50-member company, performs two main productions at UBC every season. Main stage productions for the 2004/05 season at The Chan Centre for Performing Arts are Offenbach's comedy *Orpheus in the Underworld* and Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*.

This year the ensemble will tour the Lower Mainland and Interior of B.C. with their children's show *Opera Night in Canada*.

Each summer, the ensemble also

tours in the Czech Republic and Germany to provide performance opportunities for young opera singers, including the production of new operatic and music theatre works.

Spring 2004 saw two productions there of Puccini's *La Boheme* and Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*. Plans are being made for productions this summer of Mozart's *Così fan Tutte* and Handel's

*Xerxes*. □

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# TIMEPIECE 1971



PHOTO: COURTESY OF UBC ARCHIVES

## Students Around "Tuning Fork" Sculpture (1971)

BY CHRIS HIVES, *University Archives*

Long a campus landmark outside the Music Building, the 24-foot "Tuning Fork" sculpture was created by local artist Gerhard Class in 1968. Critics observed with some dismay that the sculpture began to rust soon after its installation. Unknown to them, Class had deliberately crafted the piece out of corten steel specifically because of its tendency to "rust"

naturally to provide a protective barrier for the underlying metal. However, the sculpture did deteriorate to the point it had to be removed in the late 1990s as it became too rusty and was considered a hazard. A few years after the death of Class some of his colleagues worked to have the sculpture repaired, reinforced and reinstalled in the summer of 1999. □

**CORRECTION:** Congratulations to our sharp readers who discovered an error in the January UBC Reports Timepiece. We inadvertently used a photo of the Old Auditorium building, while intending to print an image of the 1925 construction of the Main Library.

## Star on the Rise

*continued from page 10*

the effective use of the body through the Alexander technique. He says, "The system doesn't discriminate between mind and body. It teaches one to inhibit habits and replace them with conscious choices, so one works through the body. This is very important in the theatre world, and gaining acceptance in the music world."

Coming from a French-Canadian family, he spoke French at home and English outside. Bilingualism leaves the mind receptive to other languages, he says, and he is now fluent in Italian and working on German.

Castagner had his stage debut with the UBC opera ensemble in the role of Slender in the *Merry Wives of Windsor*, and in 2001 and 2002 in the role of Danforth in the *Crucible*. His professional concert debut in 2001 was with the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra, performing the Verdi *Requiem*, and he returns there this season for performances of the Berlioz *Requiem*.

Castagner made his debut at the Metropolitan opera in the 2002-03 season, as the First Prisoner in *Fidelio*, and returned during the 2003-04 season as the Second Watchman in *Die Frau Ohne Schatten*. He has also worked with the San Francisco Opera, the Aspen Festival Orchestra and the Portland Opera.

Much as he appreciates the classics, Castagner would like to see new operas written to attract a larger audience.

"We don't want to be museum curators," he says. "The field is struggling artistically. We need innovation, to think outside of the box. It is hard to attract younger audiences. Perhaps we can use audio-visuals. If Wagner had known about animation he would have had no problem with it, as long as it was done well." □



PHOTO: P. POTVIN

## Global Disaster *continued from page 1*

Rai reports that the AMS has decided to donate 25 cents per student, or more than \$10,000, to the Red Cross.

Janet Teasdale, UBC director of student development, has been impressed with how quickly students organized fundraising events.

"There was an immediate sense of 'what can I do?' " she says, adding that UBC's student experience is likely different from other Canadian universities because there are 344 students here from the countries affected by the tsunami.

The Sri Lanka Society set up donation stations in the Student Union Building and held a fundraising dinner and cultural pageant that raised \$7,000.

Ten years old, the society has about 40 student and about 45 community members.

"The response has been wonderful – it can't be expressed in words," says society president Ranil Waliwitiya, an agricultural sciences student. "Student members have put in maximum effort and the AMS and university administration have also been incredibly supportive."

Other campus initiatives include UBC Sport and Recreation's run

for tsunami relief where 150 participants raised \$3,500. Theatre at UBC donated opening night proceeds of \$1,750 from the current production, *Village of Idiots*. The International Peer Program created a "1,000 cookies for \$1,000 campaign" that had some students baking for the first time in their lives. The event raised \$800 in five hours.

UBC Bookstore offered a Round up for South Asian Tsunami Relief where individual sales totals were rounded up to the nearest dollar with the difference being donated. The total raised was more than \$10,660.

In January, all employees at AMS Food Services donated 100 per cent of their tips to relief efforts, with contributions matched by AMS restaurants.

A UBC engineering co-op student initiated a radiothon in Calgary where he was completing a work term. Monty Raisinghani put out a challenge to all students in the Calgary area and helped raise more than \$16,000.

For more information on UBC's contributions, visit [www.ubc.ca/tsunami](http://www.ubc.ca/tsunami). □

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# If Music be the Food of Love ...Play On

*A handful of UBC School of Music professors reflect on love and music in honour of Valentine's Day.*

My specialties are chamber music and art song. Both of those genres are almost synonymous with romance, since their execution requires breathtaking intimacy between the players. When you add a subtext of seductive intention to your partnership, rehearsals can get very intense.

There is a well-known painting of a violinist carried away by the emotion of the music, seizing his lovely pianist in a passionate embrace. It is an entirely plausible scenario! The best pieces for that sort of spontaneous impulse? The choices are many, but my personal favourite would be any sonata of Johannes Brahms.

In the realm of song there are literally thousands of love-drenched examples, although song texts more often focus on rejection or unrequited longing. A spectacularly memorable song of intimate sharing is *Morgen* by Richard Strauss. The poem states that the two will meet on a seashore on this "sun-breathing earth," and will gaze mutely into each other's eyes in the silence of perfect joy. The music is transcendently beautiful, creating the sense of that stillness through a mix of melody and quietude.

*Rena Sharon, professor of collaborative piano studies, School of Music.*

□ □ □

## Boosting Drug Safety

*continued from page 1*

won't be fixed by imposing a mandatory reporting system.

He says the problem is that physicians don't necessarily recognize when drugs may be the culprits in adverse outcomes. An adverse reaction to drugs is often interpreted as another symptom of illness, requiring treatment with – you guessed it – more drugs.

"It can be next to impossible to sort out if the disease is getting worse or the drugs are having an adverse effect," Carleton says. "When patients are on more than one drug at the same time, it's even more difficult."

The GATC program will bring together experts in a variety of disciplines including pharmacogenomics (study of how an individual's genetic inheritance affects the body's response to drugs), pediatric pharmacology and genetics. This expertise combined with a focused, hospital-based monitoring system is expected to give researchers the information they need to reduce fatal and disabling adverse drug reactions in children.

For more information about drug safety, visit <http://www.fda.gov/opa-com/hpchoice.html>.

Genome Canada is the primary funding and information resource relating to genomics and proteomics in Canada.

Children's & Women's Health Centre of British Columbia is an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority, and includes BC Children's Hospital and Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children, and BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre.

The CMMT, a centre of the B.C. Research Institute for Children's & Women's Health, is a multidisciplinary centre focused on determining genetic contributions to different illnesses and developing new approaches to therapy. □

I composed an orchestral work commissioned by the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, dedicated to and inspired by my wife, Tara. This premiered at the VSO's first concert of the millennium, Jan. 6, 2000. The piece is a romantic dream sequence that includes a waltz, a lullaby, some ragtime and so on – all original pieces, changing in mood, spirit, tempo and idea throughout. Titled "Tara's Dream," the piece was short-listed for the international 2001 BBC Masterprize in London.

*Stephen Chatman, professor of composition, School of Music*

□ □ □

My favourite romantic music is Johannes Brahms' 3rd Symphony and the music from the ballet of *Romeo and Juliet* by Serge Prokofiev. As for the link of love with music: "Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is important to be silent." (Victor Hugo.) It also fills a psychological space. "Where words leave off, music begins." (Heinrich Heine.)

*Jesse Read, professor, School of Music.*

□ □ □

I do have one memory that will never leave me, from a time when I was struggling in New York and teaching piano at a children's music school. Walking into the teaching studio, I saw my first pupil of the day, six-year-old Lily who never practiced, standing behind the piano with her back to me. As I got near, she turned



*Stephen Chatman remembers a romantic sequence he composed as an orchestral work, inspired by his wife, Tara.*

around and presented me with the most beautiful lily (because of her name) I have ever seen, and a handmade card of thanks with a big red crayon heart on the front. It was Valentine's Day – important to her and forgotten by me!

*Sara Davis Buechner, assistant professor of piano, School of Music*

□ □ □

Music has been associated with love from the beginning in the broad sweep of western musical history. It is at the very centre of most secular compositions of the 12th, 13th and 14th century and continues until this day in most popular songs, impervious to the times.

Even religious and sacred music is about love in a different sense. Songs from the Middle Ages and Renaissance often dealt with courtly love, the desire for the unattainable.

In later eras, music explored the violent passions of love, exposing the light and dark sides of this most fundamental of emotions.

*Alex Fisher, assistant professor of music history, School of Music*

□ □ □

And in a slightly different vein...

Renowned tenor and UBC alumnus Ben Heppner appears at The Chan Centre for the Performing Arts, Feb. 12 at 8 p.m., with a rich collection of beautiful love songs by Britten, Tchaikovsky, Sibelius and Grieg. (Ticketmaster 604-280-3311. Information: 604-822-2697 or [www.chancentre.com](http://www.chancentre.com))

A masked ball, held on the stage of The Chan, Feb. 10, 7 p.m., just ahead of the Valentine weekend, provides music for the soul, delectable food for the palette and dancing to the sounds of Dal Richards and his



*Renowned tenor and UBC alumnus Ben Heppner.*

orchestra in a spring fundraiser for the UBC opera ensemble. (Call 604-822-8246 for your tickets. \$125, with tax receipt for \$75.) □

## Ecuador's Top Health Risks *continued from page 9*

The partnership with Mexican and Cuban institutions is part of a strategy to build regional capacity in Latin and South America that will be more sustainable than traditional links these countries have with North America.

"This multi-tiered approach provides a scaffolding for achieving impact," says Spiegel. "With our partners, we can distribute environmental health education throughout the country and know it will continue after the project is finished."

In addition to these plans, there will be opportunities for UBC students to participate in local projects.

Science student Nadine Straka will be traveling to Ecuador this summer. A member of the Global Outreach Student Association (GOSA), a part of UBC's College of Health Disciplines, Straka will be working with several indigenous communities.

"I want to be an active participant in global health," says Straka. "The opportunity to travel to a different country to try to help and to understand different ways of life was a chance I could not dismiss."

Straka and other students will present health education regarding nutrition, sexual health, alcoholism and other topics. They will also consult with community members about installing a water purification system.

Oscar Lin, a fifth-year biochemistry student and GOSA president, spent 10 weeks in Ecuador last summer, based in an area surrounded by aboriginal communities.

"These are the warmest people that I have ever met," says Lin, who helped create a medicinal garden and give health presentations in elementary schools. "Going to Ecuador changed my perspective a lot. It showed me

what could be done with more resources and reinforced my interest in practicing medicine in developing countries."

This month, the UBC project team is conducting a workshop in Havana to evaluate the usefulness of material used in a similar environmental health education project in Cuba and to focus on curriculum that addresses Ecuador's environmental health priorities. Attendees include 10 UBC faculty and students, eight participants from Ecuador and 20 from Cuba.

Funding for this project was provided by the Canadian International Development Agency's University Partnerships in Co-operation and Development Tier 1 program.

For more information on the Ecuador project, visit [www.cih.ubc.ca](http://www.cih.ubc.ca). □

### UBC Centres and Institutes Involved in the Ecuador Project:

- Institute of Health Promotion Research
- Disaster Preparedness Resources Centre
- Continuing Medical Education
- School of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene
- Centre for Environmental Research in Minerals, Metals and Materials
- Institute for Aboriginal Health
- UBC Centre for Disease Control Department of Medicine
- Liu Institute for Global Issues
- Institute for Resource, Environment and Sustainability
- Centre for Human Settlements
- Health Disparities Research Unit
- Centre for International Health

## Join the UBC Two Million Dollar Tsunami Challenge

Join students, faculty, staff and alumni who have committed to contributing \$2 million to provide short- and long-term assistance to South Asian survivors of the tsunami disaster.

Here's how:

1. Support your favourite relief agency. Continue to contribute to the eight major Canadian agencies collecting funds for immediate disaster relief, either directly or via payroll deductions. Our goal for this effort is \$1 million.
2. Help establish a Global Service Learning Endowment. This fund will support UBC students, as global citizens, in efforts to build a better world in areas where help is needed around the globe. UBC will match gifts to the endowment to a maximum of \$1 million.

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