



UBC REPORTS

NEW FACES at UBC

Renewal: This month we take a look at people who are just joining UBC and whose influence will be felt when the academic year begins in September and far beyond. The highly qualified individuals who have chosen to make UBC their home — in Vancouver and in Kelowna — will undoubtedly be instrumental in solidifying and advancing the university’s position as one of the world’s 40 best.

We start with an interview with UBC’s 12th President, who joins UBC this month. Prof. Stephen Toope has enjoyed success as President of the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation, Dean of Law at McGill, and a distinguished career in human rights law with the United Nations and other international organizations.

A Conversation with President Stephen Toope

What attracted you to UBC?
I was attracted to UBC primarily for three reasons.
First, the Trek 2010 Plan. I was immensely impressed that a complex organization like UBC could agree on such a transformative mission, one that is so clearly committed to research excellence in service of the community, to a challenging and supportive learning environment for all students and to promoting the values of a civil and sustainable society.
I was also impressed that the even harder work had already begun to make this visionary set of objectives touch down in the world of budgets and concrete academic planning. I see the full implementation of Trek 2010 as my primary job.
Secondly, I was attracted by the people I met on the search committee. They convinced me that UBC is filled with extraordinary
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Scientist Puts Sunflower on Evolutionary Map

BY BRIAN LIN

A rose may be just a rose, but sunflowers hold the secret to species evolution, according to Prof. Loren Rieseberg, the Dept. of Botany’s latest recruit.
Rieseberg, who joins UBC this year from the University of Indiana, is one of the world’s leading evolutionary biologists. By studying wild sunflowers that colonize extreme habitats — such as deserts and salt marshes — he and his team seek to unravel the mystery of how species arise.
“We use a combination

Foundation “Genius” Fellowship in 2003 and is a Canada Research Chair in Natural Sciences and Engineering.
“The traditional belief is that hybridization — or mating of plants from different species — is an evolutionary dead end because hybrids often are sterile or inviable,” explains Rieseberg, whose research has been funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, and the Department of Agriculture.
“But my colleagues and I have found that for sunflowers,

Loren is widely acknowledged as one of the world’s leading evolutionary biologists, and arguably the best plant evolutionary biologist in the world currently.”

of genomic and ecological approaches to understand both the emergence of new species of sunflowers and how they became domesticated,” says Rieseberg, who received the US \$500,000 McArthur

hybridization with related species actually leads to an explosion of variation, allowing them to adapt to previously uninhabitable environments,” says Rieseberg.
Rieseberg’s lab has



Loren Rieseberg has been fascinated by sunflowers for more than two decades.

reproduced such naturally occurring hybrids in the greenhouse and successfully transplanted the resulting hybrid lineages to salt marshes in Mexico and sand dunes in Utah.

“This shows that natural selection is the driving force of speciation, and that evolution is recurring and repeatable,” says Rieseberg.
Born in Alberta and raised in the Okanagan Valley, Rieseberg

has fond memories of spending his summers in Vancouver and says he’s excited to return to British Columbia after spending most of his academic career in the United States.
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Congratulations to our Killam Postdoctoral Scholars

The University of British Columbia's Killam Postdoctoral Research Fellowships attract the brightest scholars from around the world who have recently completed their doctoral degrees at a university other than UBC. Established by Dorothy Killam in memory of her husband, candidates are nominated by UBC departments for the competition in the fall. The Faculty of Graduate Studies is proud to honour this year's recipients and their UBC supervisors.

New Killam Postdoctoral Research Fellows	Continuing Killam Postdoctoral Research Fellows
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Aaron Glass , Anthropology & Sociology with Dr. Bruce Miller	Michael Dodd , Psychology with Dr. Alan Kingstone
Niall MacKenzie , English with Dr. Mark Vessey	Sybilie Haeussler , Forest Sciences with Dr. Suzanne Simard
Heather Maughan , Zoology with Dr. Rosemary J. Redfield	Geoff Hamilton , English with Dr. Michael Zeilinn
Daniel Ortiz-Barrientos , Botany with Dr. Loren H. Rieseberg	Alison Holliday , Chemistry with Dr. David D. Y. Chen
Anja Slim , Mathematics with Dr. Neil Balmforth	Julia Hollowell , Anthropology & Sociology with Dr. Sue Rowley
Timur Tschertbul , Chemistry with Dr. Roman V. Krems	Christina Loren , Biomedical Research Centre with Dr. John Schrader
Sara Watson , Political Science with Dr. Alan Jacobs	Elizabeth Piper , History with Dr. Tina Loo
	Kyle Shen , Physics & Astronomy with Dr. George Sawatzky
	Raz Zarivach , Biochemistry & Molecular Biology with Dr. Natalie Strynadka

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IN THE NEWS

Highlights of the UBC Media Coverage in June 2006. COMPILED BY BASIL WAUGH

Eleven cousins have stomachs removed to avoid cancer risk

Media outlets in Britain, Ireland, India and the United States, including *CNN*, *USA Today* and *L.A. Times*, reported the *Associated Press* story of 11 cousins who had their stomachs removed when genetic testing revealed a 70 per cent chance of developing a rare hereditary stomach cancer.

“Rather than live in fear, they tackled their genetic destiny head-on,” said Dr. David Huntsman, UBC Assoc. Prof. of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, who found the gene mutation in the family.

Advances in genetic testing are increasingly giving families with bad genes a chance to see the future, sometimes with the hope of pre-emptive action. People have had stomachs, breasts, ovaries, colons or thyroid glands removed when genetic tests showed they carried a gene that gave them a high risk of cancer.

UBC’s Museum of Anthropology to grow by 50 per cent in \$52-million expansion

Dozens of national and international media outlets, including *CBS News*, *ABC News*, *China Post*, *Washington Post*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* and *Globe and Mail*, reported on a \$52-million, 48,800-square-foot expansion to UBC’s Museum of Anthropology, the largest teaching museum in Canada.

To be completed by 2009, the “Renewal Project” will represent a more than 50-per-cent increase in the amount of space the museum has for its current exhibits and travelling shows from other facilities.

The expansion will include a redesigned research centre and the Reciprocal Research Network, the world’s first web-based system for the exchange of collections information, which is being developed with the Musqueam Indian Band, Sto:lo Nation and the U’mista Cultural Society in Alert Bay.

UBC boy-band video spoof takes Internet by storm

A \$12 video made by UBC students has become one of the most-watched video clips on the Internet over the past three months.



The story of the four-minute boy-band spoof, known as UBC Numa Numa, was reported nationally by *Global TV* and internationally by Norway’s *VG*.

The brainchild of recent marketing graduates Jorgen Kjono of Oslo, Norway, and Tyson Miller of Vancouver, B.C., the video features students dancing and lip-synching to the European hit “Dragostea din Tei” by Romanian pop group O-Zone in a series of locations around UBC’s Vancouver campus, the clothing-optional Wreck Beach and Richmond, B.C.

Since being uploaded to *YouTube.com* on Feb. 10, 2006, the video has received upwards of an estimated five-million hits, even gaining mention on popular online encyclopedia *Wikipedia*. It was a feature video on *CollegeHumour.com*

for two weeks — receiving more than 200,000 hits in the first two days alone — and spent nearly 10 weeks as one of the most popular clips on *Google Video*.

UBC experts comment on domestic terrorism

UBC experts featured prominently in national media coverage of the thwarted alleged terrorist attack in Ontario last month.

Commenting in media outlets across Canada, including *Maclean’s*, *Toronto Star*, *Vancouver Province* and as a panellist on *CBC’s The National*, UBC Canada Research Chair of International Law and Global Politics Michael Byers cautioned that obsessing about terrorism can result in public willingness to concede power to government and a corresponding loss of individual rights.

Byers said Canadians should see last week’s arrests as a “spectacular success” that show Canada has the resources and legislation in place to manage terrorism.

Allan Tupper, UBC Associate Vice-President of Governmental Relations, said the issue will be a test for the Harper government, many of whose members only have experience in the partisan world of opposition.

“Major issues like this can’t be treated exclusively in a partisan way,” Tupper told *Canadian Press*. “A government governs for Canadians, and it requires objectivity and so on. This is one issue that has a lot of implications, including the very complex relationships for different Canadian citizens dealing with each other on a day to day basis.”

UBC REPORTS

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UBC Reports is published monthly by:

UBC Public Affairs Office:
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Vancouver BC Canada V6T 1Z1

UBC Reports welcomes submissions. For upcoming UBC Reports submission guidelines, please see www.publicaffairs.ubc.ca/ubcreports/about.html. Opinions and advertising published in UBC Reports do not necessarily reflect official university policy. Material may be reprinted in whole or in part with appropriate credit to UBC Reports.

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CONVERSATION
continued from page 1

people fired with ambition for themselves and for their institution. That impression has been confirmed in spades since the announcement of my appointment. I am deeply reassured by the people I meet, students, staff and faculty members — they make me feel that this job is possible and that I won’t ever be alone in striving to make UBC even better.

Thirdly, I was attracted to British Columbia, to Vancouver and to the Okanagan. This is pretty amazing for a dyed-in-the-wool Montrealer. Vancouver represents the future of Canadian urban society — with incredible diversity and openness to the world. At UBC we talk about global citizenship.

At its best, Vancouver is about what we could call “global cityship.” This is not just about welcoming the world of new immigrants, or the world of sport in 2010. It is about becoming a model for sustainable cities, for economically and culturally innovative cities and for healthy cities. The Okanagan can be a model for rural and small city life that is a culturally rich and healthy alternative to the big city. UBC must be at the centre of these hopes and goals.

What do you see as UBC’s greatest opportunities?

UBC can become the most creative and most influential university in Canada, and continue its march up the ranks of the very best universities in the world. It already attracts some of the best students in the country and from outside Canada; it has many of the best researchers in the country and from outside Canada; it is blessed with a supportive community and a provincial government that recognizes the importance of education and research; it has thousands of wonderful graduates who care about UBC.

And it is in Vancouver and the Okanagan.

What do you see as UBC’s greatest challenges?

To seize the day. Not to let past achievements serve as the

boundaries for our aspirations. Not to think that we have done enough. To be global in reach, yet firmly rooted in our own place — in Vancouver and the Okanagan.

Is there a natural conflict between teaching and research at a large, research-intensive university like UBC?

Every major research-intensive university has a challenge in figuring out how to link the research effort to student learning, especially at the undergraduate level. All big universities must admit that we haven’t always done the best possible job in valuing and inspiring our undergraduates.

My own teaching experience tells me, though, that there is no “conflict” between teaching and research. In my first year or two of teaching, I always felt that I was just a day or two ahead of my students; my resources were pretty thin. But as I delved into my subjects through research, I could draw on analogies, parallels and critical appreciations that made me a better and more interesting teacher.

And the process of learning is mutual. Every professor worth his or her salt will tell you that it is more fun to teach strong students because they inevitably challenge a professor to learn more. That is why we are so lucky at UBC to attract exceptional students.

Trek 2010 talks about global citizenship. What does that term mean to you?

My academic background is in international law and global politics, so for me UBC’s commitment to global citizenship is inspiring. I think that the term has meaning at both a personal and an institutional level.

For individuals, global citizenship means caring about the impact that our choices have on others, locally and across boundaries of nation, race, religion, etc. It means learning about other cultures and ways of thinking, mastering new languages. It means preparing oneself to make a difference in the world.

Universities can be global citizens by supporting research



UBC can become the most creative and most influential university in Canada, and continue its march up the ranks of the very best universities in the world.

PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

that affects the lives of people in every part of the planet — even if the focus of the research seems to be local. Universities also help to create full citizens with a sense of duty to their interlocking communities, local to global.

Universities can even act directly as global citizens by creating transnational student and research networks, by supporting sister institutions in the developing world, and by encouraging our students, staff and faculty to share the blessings of publicly funded education as widely as possible.

How will people come to know you?

UBC is a huge place with two campuses and tens of thousands of students, staff, faculty and graduates.

Many people will only know me as a video clip, a “talking head” or a quote. But I genuinely like meeting new people, so I will do my best to connect in person with the

various communities that make up UBC. I love President Piper’s idea of student breakfasts, a tradition I will definitely continue.

Student leaders will meet with me regularly. I want to meet as many faculty members as possible, and to engage with their scholarly interests, so I plan to visit all the Faculties in the fall. I will also host informal seminars where faculty members can share their research across disciplines. Over the summer and into the fall, plans are afoot for regular lunches with graduates.

Add in the staff barbeque ... and I should be on public view pretty often. I also believe that universities are a central space for public discourse, so I will be giving my fair share of public talks as well.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I fear that I won’t have much. Being with my family will be the top priority when

I am not working. I am delighted to say that my wife and all three children think that I am pretty goofy, with a completely undistinguished sense of humour. They keep me grounded, for which I am eternally grateful.

To relax I like to read fiction, history and memoirs, and to listen to classical music. I have a particular fondness for contemporary Baltic composers that no one else in my house can bear to listen to.

Why do you prefer to be called Professor Toope, not Doctor?

For a non-medical doctor, the designation “Dr.” is a mark of achievement rather than a vocation. I prefer to use a title that is more about who I am than about a hurdle I have crossed. To “profess” is to be part of a university community, to be engaged in the gift of teaching and learning.

That’s how I view the UBC Presidency.



Doug Oworm

PHOTO: TIM SWANKY

Take Five With Doug Oworm, Deputy Vice Chancellor, UBC Okanagan

institution during a crucial phase. I was also drawn to UBC Okanagan in part by the fact that, although it builds on strong foundations, it is in many ways a brand new venture with incredible potential. On a personal level, I know the Okanagan from having vacationed here for many years and I have found it to be a dynamic, inviting community with a tremendous future.

How would you describe the relationship between the two campuses of UBC and what does UBC Okanagan offer the institution as a whole?

The relationship is and should remain synergistic. Each campus can add to the system as a whole and we can definitely learn from one another. For instance, because of our smaller campus, we are a great place to test new innovations and approaches that can then be implemented system-wide. I believe that both sides are watching this new experiment with curiosity. Everybody wonders how UBC as a whole will change with two campuses and what the impact will be on their own areas. So long as both sides recognize the strengths of

the other, I have no doubt at all both campuses can be partners in furthering UBC’s reputation as an international leader among universities.

What are the key challenges facing UBC Okanagan?

We are in a period of tremendous growth and transition. Expanding the student base, hiring excellent faculty, building the necessary facilities, and getting the UBC Okanagan story out will keep us all busy.

What will be your first priorities as you take the helm?

I very much want to learn

from those that are here, both within the UBC Okanagan community and throughout the Okanagan Valley. The strategic focus will be to meet the challenges that come with building a new institution while focusing on our key values of excellence and community. We must also stay true to the vision outlined in our Academic Plan.

As you look to the future, say 5 to 10 years out, what will UBC Okanagan be known for?

I believe that UBC Okanagan will be one of the finest undergraduate institutions in Canada and a central part of advanced education for both the Okanagan and the province. I look forward to working with the UBC Okanagan team, our cohorts at UBC Vancouver, and the external community, to ensure this vision is achieved.

What attracted you to UBC Okanagan?

The vision set out for UBC Okanagan is too important to resist. It combines community and excellence and I very much wanted to do what I could to assist in building the



Law professor Shigenori Matsui investigates how problems can be solved across different constitutional frameworks.

Japanese Constitutional Expert Keen on Freedoms

BY LORRAINE CHAN

The state can use law to hone or hobble freedom of expression and nowhere is that more evident than in cyberspace, says Prof. Shigenori Matsui. He says in Japan it's illegal for political candidates to renew information about themselves on the Internet during an election.

“Canada’s supreme court has been much more active in enforcing the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. In Japan, the court has been much more passive in enforcing individual rights.”

“That is to me an unreasonable and unjustified restriction of individual rights,” says Matsui, an internationally renowned expert in the fields of constitutional law, Internet law and medicine and law. Matsui joined UBC Faculty of Law this January as director of the Japanese Legal Studies Program. Prior to UBC, he served as associate dean at Osaka University’s Law School, where he taught during the past 22 years.

Matsui says while governments need to monitor the Internet for illegal or criminal activities such as child pornography, he says it’s vital that citizens keep an eye on excessive regulations. “My perspective is to respect freedom of expression as much as possible,” says Matsui. He adds that in Japan, it’s also illegal for political candidates to conduct door-

to-door canvassing or to hand out written materials during an election. “Canada’s Supreme Court has been much more active in enforcing the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. In Japan, the court has been much more passive in enforcing individual rights.” Matsui explains that in Japan, the Cabinet selects Supreme Court judges and the Cabinet has wide discretion.

“The main problem is that the conservative government has held power mostly since the 1950s.” Matsui says the main reason he came to UBC was the opportunity to give Canadian students “a much more clear picture of Japanese constitutional law.” “And for me the benefit is to be able to look at Japan

from outside,” says Matsui, who’s currently researching the differences between Canada and Japan in the areas of juvenile justice and Internet law. Matsui says he’s keen to promote academic exchange between UBC and Japanese universities and to conduct comparative constitutional studies. University of Washington Law Professor Veronica Taylor praises Matsui’s prowess in

grasping the legal and political processes within different countries. In 2001, Taylor, Director of the Asian Law Centre, invited Matsui to teach at the U of W as a visiting scholar.

“In the U.S.,” says Taylor, “there’s a tendency to view every social problem through a constitutional lens, that it’s a rights issue. “But in Japan, there’s a different history of handling social issues or political friction, and Shigenori is a fresh and distinctive Japanese voice on how problems can be resolved across different constitutional frameworks,” says Taylor.

Matsui says his passion for law spills over into his leisure pursuits. “I really enjoy reading and writing, so that’s what I mostly do. But I also love jazz, so I’m looking forward to going to some festivals and concerts that Vancouver has during the summer.”

Shigenori Matsui

Director, Japanese Legal Studies Program, Professor, Faculty of Law

From: Osaka University Law School

Originally from: Toyohashi City

Education:
LLD, Kyoto University, Faculty of Law
JSD, Stanford Law School
LLM., Kyoto University, Faculty of Law
LLB, Kyoto University, Faculty of Law

What is the major issue in your field?
Cyberspace and law — safeguarding freedom of expression.

What can you do at UBC?
Enhance Canadian understanding of Japanese law and conduct comparative research on Canadian and Japanese law.

Cancer Researcher Sees Power of Tiny Enzyme

BY HILARY THOMSON

Tiny cellular timepieces that track human aging keep Judy Wong watching the clock. Wong is keeping her eye on telomeres. These molecular structures are found at each end of a chromosome and serve to protect and maintain it. Telomeres shorten after each round of cell division, making them effective age-markers, much like rings of a tree. When they become too short after many cell divisions, cell

Judy Wong
Canada Research Chair in Mechanisms of Genome Maintenance, Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Affiliated Research Scientist, BC Cancer Agency, Associate Member, UBC Genetics Graduate Program

From: University of California, Berkeley

Originally from: Toronto

Education: Post-doctoral, University of California, Berkeley
PhD, University of Toronto

What is the major issue in your field?
Trying to discover how telomerase promotes the survival and proliferation of cells in addition to its role in telomere maintenance.

What attracted you to UBC?
A Canada Research Chair and the dean's vision for the faculty made UBC an attractive option.

replication stops — a limiting process that ensures cells proliferate according to the plan of our human blueprint. Of particular interest to Wong is the connection between telomeres and cancer, and the role of the enzyme telomerase, which regulates the growth and function of telomeres. Nearly all cancer cells can activate telomerase to regenerate telomeres indefinitely, allowing for the unchecked spread of cells seen in the disease. “I’m fascinated by the power of this enzyme,” says Wong, who is a Canada Research Chair in Mechanisms of Genome Maintenance, in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences. “It’s a key target to combat cancer but it may also be exploited to grow cells that can be used to replace damaged tissue or blood vessels.” Originally from Hong Kong — where her father owned a pharmaceutical company — Wong moved to Ontario when she was a teen. She completed three pharmacology degrees at University of Toronto before her post-doctoral training at University of California, Berkeley. “I always intended to return to Canada, and the research chair and the dean’s vision for the faculty made UBC an attractive option,” she says. “I also appreciate the degree



PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

Pharmaceutical Sciences professor Judy Wong studies telomere — a key target to combat cancer.

of scientific collaboration in Canada, which is quite different from the U.S. We’re good at maximizing funding by working together.”

integrate with the diverse group of individuals in our faculty, frequently offering constructive suggestions. This in large part stems from her strong

maintaining the small portion of cancer cells that don’t exploit telomerase. “When we know that, we’ll really understand telomeres and

Wong predicts the next big advance in telomere science will be the discovery of the mechanism responsible for maintaining the small portion of cancer cells that don’t exploit telomerase.

“Judy has been a wonderful acquisition to the division of Pharmacology, and the faculty as a whole,” says division chair Brian Rodrigues. “She has been able to wonderfully

leadership abilities and her inherent gift of listening.” Wong predicts the next big advance in telomere science will be the discovery of the mechanism responsible for

be able use them as the basis of new therapies,” she says. When she’s not tuning in to telomeres, Wong enjoys walking in Stanley Park and Vancouver’s different cultural cuisines.

LOREN RIESEBERG *continued from page 1*

“There is a very strong evolutionary biology research group at UBC, and we’re head-to-head with the world’s top universities, particularly in speciation research,” he says. “The human resources here are simply amazing.” Rieseberg is also one of an increasing number of researchers in the world paying attention to the evolution of weeds, a project that could help industry better control invasive plants and weeds. “We’ve been developing gene catalogues for weeds in the sunflower family — including

various thistles, knapweeds, and dandelions — to identify the genetic changes that allow them to become invasive.” “Loren is widely acknowledged as one of the world’s leading evolutionary biologists, and arguably the best plant evolutionary biologist in the world currently,” says Carl Douglas, head of Dept. of Botany. “There are many practical spin-offs for his work, regarding the evolution of traits such as salt tolerance and invasiveness.” In a 2003 *Science* magazine profile, Vanderbilt University evolutionary biologist John Burke credits Rieseberg for putting sunflowers on the evolutionary map, alongside the fruit fly and finch.

“It would be fair to say the sunflower has developed into the system for the speciation of plants, largely — or solely — because of Loren,” said Burke.

Loren Rieseberg
Canada Research Chair in Natural Sciences and Engineering, Professor, Department of Botany

From: University of Indiana

Originally from: Lacombe, Alberta

Education: PhD, Washington State University
MS, University of Tennessee
BA, Southern College

What is the major issue in your field?
The looming challenge (and opportunity) for evolutionary biologists is to use the findings from the discipline to understand and mitigate many of society’s ills, ranging from combating disease to improving crops to predicting the consequences of environmental change.

What do you like about UBC?
A very strong evolutionary biology research group, which is head-to-head with the world’s top universities, particularly in speciation research.



PHOTO: MARTIN DEE



UBC Year in Review A Year in Headlines

2005|06 was a banner year for the University of British Columbia by many measures. Ranked again among the top 40 universities of the world, UBC’s faculty and students earned international media attention for research and teaching milestones.

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Borders No Barrier for Theatre Professor

BY BUD MORTENSON

When **Virginie Magnat** was just 15, she received a full scholarship to study at the Lester B. Pearson United World College of the Pacific, near Victoria. She traveled from her home in Southern France and discovered on the coast of Vancouver Island a new world and a passion for theatre.

“Spending two years with 200 students from over 70 countries in a ‘global village’ nestled in the coastal forest of Vancouver Island literally changed the course of my life,” says Magnat, who went on to become a theatre researcher, practitioner and professor.

“My early passion for theatre was deeply informed by this intense experience, and it was then that I became aware of the infinite potentialities that arise when people with different cultural legacies live and work together.”

This summer, Magnat moved to UBC Okanagan from the University of California, Santa

courses in the Theater Arts and Anthropology Departments for the last three years. She specializes in physically based performance practice, experimental and intercultural theatre, performance studies, and theatre anthropology.

A recipient of the International Federation for Theatre Research New Scholar’s Prize, Magnat’s essays and articles on theatre have been featured in journals and anthologies in the U.S., Canada, France, Poland, and Italy, and she has presented her research at American, Canadian, and international theatre conferences. Last April, she was awarded a University of California Professional Development Grant to travel to Poland and work with voice specialist Zygmunt Molik, a founding member of Jerzy Grotowski’s world-renowned Laboratory Theatre.

The Polish theatre journal *Didaskalia* is currently publishing a series of nine articles that Magnat wrote

member at UBC Okanagan because of the university’s focus on global and interdisciplinary research and pedagogy,” says Magnat.

“Professor Neil Cadger and I hope to build a more globally-conceived form of performance program that will be uniquely situated within the Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies, and will give students the opportunity to explore theatre across cultural and disciplinary boundaries.”

Virginie Magnat

Asst. Prof Dept. of Creative Studies, Performance program

From: University of California, Santa Cruz

Originally from: Southern France

Education: PhD, University of California, San Diego/Irvine
Graduate degrees, The Sorbonne Nouvelle, U of Paris III
Undergraduate, University of King’s College, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

What is the major issue in your field?
In my field, there is a pressing need to promote a more culturally inclusive curriculum, bridge the practice/theory divide, and develop cross-disciplinary approaches to performance research.

What can you do at UBC?
While the discipline of performance studies has opened up a wealth of perspectives for researchers by dramatically broadening their conception of cultural production, there is still much work to be done to expand our conception of the nature and function of performance. In my research, I investigate these questions at the intersection of performance studies, cultural anthropology and postcolonial theory.

Cruz (UCSC), to collaborate with Professor Neil Cadger on a brand new performance program at UBC Okanagan. The program in the Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies will offer a variety of courses in performance practice and theory.

Magnat held a Postdoctoral Faculty Fellowship at UCSC and taught interdisciplinary

on Grotowski’s last public conferences. Her next forthcoming publication, examining the work of Haitian master-performer Maud Robart, a long-time collaborator of Grotowski, will be featured in the July issue of the University of Rome theatre journal *Biblioteca Teatrale*.

“I am very much looking forward to being a faculty

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Race not a Black and White Issue, says Sociologist

BY LORRAINE CHAN

Do immigrants prefer the melting pot or the mosaic views of assimilation? Perhaps neither, says Asst. Prof. Wendy Roth, who completed her PhD at Harvard University in May and is joining the Dept. of Sociology this month.

“There is a change in the way people regard race and ethnic identities in the U.S., because of the large Latino immigrant population,” says Roth, a native of New York City.

“Many Latinos associate their race with their national or ethnic identities, not their skin color or physical features. When they come to the U.S., they’re not adopting American

She says her work can shed light on the seismic shifts taking place within the U.S. and help to clarify social policies. For example, with 13 per cent of the population, Latinos make up the largest minority group.

“However, we have a model in the U.S. where Latino is not a race and you have to fit into white or black,” says Roth. “By focusing on how racial identities are formed and transformed, one can realize how the classification categories that the government uses are inadequate and inappropriate.

“What’s different about my work,” says Roth, “is that most research focuses just on the immigrants who come to the U.S. My study also includes



PHOTO: IAN TIETJEN

Wendy Roth’s research includes looking at the effect of racial classification systems on immigration.

“Television shows have a very strong influence,” says Roth. “These shows are produced in the U.S., but rather than asserting, say a Dominican identity, they express a Latino identity, emphasizing aspects of different Latino cultures that

remarkable person,” says Waters. “She’s a big thinker and a very talented researcher. She produced a fantastic piece of work that’s cutting edge.”

Roth says it was an easy decision to come to Vancouver. “I loved UBC the first time I came to visit. I was also really impressed by the productivity and the number of publications coming out of the Sociology Department because that’s what I want for myself, to focus on both research and teaching.”

Roth says she’s eager to do a comparative study between Canada and the U.S. on how immigration alters concepts of race and identity within sending and receiving societies.

“Vancouver is so culturally diverse and close to the border, it would be the perfect location for that.”

Other reasons Roth gives for being excited about her move to

Vancouver are outdoor sports and traveling. “I definitely plan on doing some kayaking.”

Wendy Roth

Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology

From: Harvard University

Originally from: Toronto

Education: PhD, Harvard University
MPhil, Oxford University
BA, Yale University

What is the major issue in your field?
Transnationalism, which means immigrants’ lives and identity aren’t contained within the state.

What can you do at UBC?
Comparative research on immigration to Canada and to the U.S.

racial categories. And in doing so, they’re changing the way Americans view race.”

Roth completed her Harvard doctoral research on racial classification systems and how these systems can impact people’s economic and social experiences. For example, one area her study looks at is whether an immigrant’s skin colour affects their job opportunities and social mobility.

non-migrants and looks at how immigration is also affecting identities of people in the sending society who never migrate.”

For her research, Roth gained fluency in Spanish and travelled to New York City, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. She studied how a pan-Latino identity is being forged within the U.S. and is also being transmitted back to immigrants’ home countries.

are common. They do this to broaden their markets, but it also reinforces a pan-Latino identity.”

Prof. Mary Waters, who teaches at the Harvard Dept. of Sociology, was Roth’s PhD advisor. Waters lauds Roth’s skills and talent in coming up with original theories and backing them up with advanced analysis of qualitative data that spans three countries.

“Wendy is really a

In a Snapshot: Faculty Hiring at UBC

Faculty members hired
1996–2000: 291

Faculty members hired
2001–2005: 897*

Anticipated faculty hiring needs
2006–2010: 420**

*Includes 197 transfers from Okanagan University College
**Includes replacing retirements (339), medical expansion needs (37), remaining Canada Research Chairs (15) and known UBC Okanagan appointments for 2006–07 (29).

Bringing the Best to UBC

Where do some of our best faculty researchers, Canada Research Chairs, come from?

Canada: 56
U.S.: 61
Europe: 19
Australia: 6
Other: 3

Total: 145 to date

Trio Wins Trudeau Scholarships

Three UBC graduate students have been named 2006 Trudeau Scholars, Canada’s premier social sciences and humanities doctoral award. Of the 15 Trudeau Scholars announced in June, UBC garnered the largest number.

Winners receive scholarships worth up to \$200,000 over four years and are matched with prominent national and international leaders in their respective fields.

“Each year we search for young, influential minds capable of generating public discussion on important Canadian and global topics in a fresh way,” says Roy L. Heenan, Chairman

of the Board of the Pierre Elliot Trudeau Foundation. “This new class of extraordinary Trudeau Scholars is destined for great things, and we are proud to support them in their diverse and fascinating pursuits.”

Kate Hennessy, of Galiano Island, B.C., received her BA in Anthropology from UBC and her MA in Anthropology of Media from the University of London’s School of Oriental and African Studies. A student in the Dept. of Anthropology, her research with communities in northern B.C., Alberta, and the Yukon analyzes First Nations culture through the story-telling effects of local film

and digital photography.

Rajdeep Singh Gill, of Galiano Island, B.C., received his BA and MA in Art History, Visual Arts and Theory from UBC. A student in Interdisciplinary Studies, his research explores the social and ethical role of art and creative processes as they relate to indigenous philosophies and global struggles for social and environmental justice.

Samuel Spiegel, of Winnipeg, Manitoba, received his BA from Whitman College in Washington State. A student in Interdisciplinary Studies, his research aims to improve the environmental impact of global

gold mining and protect the well-being of miners and their families.

In addition to UBC’s three recipients, other universities to garner Trudeau scholarships include the Universities of Toronto, Laval (two recipients, respectively), Harvard, Oxford, Stanford, Dalhousie, Montreal, Sherbrooke, Carleton and Manitoba (one recipient, respectively).

The Montreal-based Trudeau Foundation, established in 2002 as a living memorial to the late Prime Minister, encourages public debate and supports exceptional research on issues of public policy.



Kate Hennessy



Rajdeep Singh Gill



Samuel Spiegel

Exploring Ecology at the Molecular Level

BY BUD MORTENSON

The Galápagos islands — where Charles Darwin first found evidence that would lead to his theory of natural selection — became a little more diverse last summer. Michael Russello and research colleagues from Yale University used mitochondrial and nuclear DNA analyses to identify previously unknown genetic diversity among the endangered tortoises in that remote Pacific archipelago.

Where only one tortoise taxon had been thought to exist on the island of Santa Cruz, Russello’s research team identified genetic evidence that these tortoises actually represent three lineages — genetic divergence warranting the identification of at least one new taxon.

“Because accurate taxonomy underpins effective conservation policy, these results have fundamental importance for preserving the genetic and taxonomic diversity of these historically significant reptiles,” says Russello.

Russello, who is moving this summer from Yale University to a faculty position in the Department of Biology at UBC Okanagan, is currently exploring a range of questions in ecological and conservation genetics. One such study



Michael Russello and colleagues from Yale recently found evidence of previously unknown genetic diversity among the tortoises of the Galápagos Islands.

explores the molecular ecology and population dynamics of the Amur (Siberian) tiger, a recovering but highly endangered species.

“The conservation implications of the Amur tiger research project will aid the further development of an interactive management program — co-ordinating wild population surveys and habitat quality assessments with scientifically managed breeding and reintroduction of genetic variation,” he says.

The hallmarks of UBC

Okanagan — an intimate learning community with a strong research focus — are what drew Russello to the Okanagan campus.

“UBC Okanagan offers a remarkable balance of a research-intensive institution that offers small class sizes and a strong sense of community,” says Russello. “The proximity of UBC Okanagan to the southern Okanagan, a region of significant conservation interest, provides myriad opportunities for basic and applied research with both local and global

implications.”

One of his areas of interest in the Okanagan Valley is in exploring the genetic differences between kokanee (land-locked freshwater salmon) that spawn along the shores of Okanagan lakes, and those that spawn in the many creeks that feed the lakes. The number of kokanee stream spawners has plummeted in recent decades — some estimates say to as little as 10 per cent of their 1970 spawning numbers.

“We have more and more information on the salmon

genome — that will serve as a backbone to study the difference between shoreline and stream spawners,” says Russello. “We could potentially pinpoint the genetic region or regions that may allow for these different behaviours.

Michael Russello

Professor, Department of Biology, UBC Okanagan

From: Yale University

Originally from: Northern California

Education: PhD and Master’s degrees, Columbia University
BA (cum laude), University of San Diego

What is the major issue in your field?
I see a transition emerging from ecological genetics to ecological genomics. The field is moving at a rapid pace, driven by continued biotechnological innovation and reduced costs, enabling the direct quantification of ecologically-relevant genetic variation.

What attracted you to UBC?
My work aims to elucidate the genetic basis of adaptation in a variety of study systems including the invasive Monk parakeet in North America and, more locally, the Lake Okanagan kokanee.



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