

UBC REPORTS

CONGREGATION ISSUE

Something special happens at this time of year at UBC. More than 6,500 undergraduate and graduate students complete their studies and receive degrees at Congregation ceremonies from May 21 to 28 in Vancouver, and June 6 in Kelowna. They join the ranks of more than 250,000 UBC alumni worldwide. The personal stories and triumphs reflected in this edition give you just a taste of the remarkable UBC class of 2008.

For more information about graduation, visit: www.graduation.ubc.ca.

Getting to Beijing the Wright way

BY BASIL WAUGH

Forgive Olympic historians for experiencing déjà vu when Anthony Wright takes to the field hockey pitch in Beijing this summer.

In what surely is an Olympic record, the graduating Human Kinetics student and his national squad and UBC teammate Philip Wright, his younger brother, will become the fourth and fifth members of his family to sport the maple leaf in Olympic competition.

"It feels pretty special," says Anthony Wright, 24, who counts late grandfather Harold Wright (1932, track and field), mother Thelma Wright (1972, 1976; 1,500 m run) and father Lee Wright (1964, 1976; field hockey) as fellow Olympians.

"I've been dreaming of the Olympics since I was five," says the hard-nosed defender. "For field hockey players, qualifying for the Olympics is our Stanley Cup. You train with one goal in mind with no guarantee that you will achieve it. It is a dream come true."

Wright, whose parents are both UBC alumni, has added to his family's impressive athletic legacy in other ways. Winner of the 2008 Bobby Gaul Memorial Trophy as UBC's Outstanding Graduating Male Athlete of the Year, he followed in the footsteps of his mother, who received the equivalent honour for female athletes in 1974.

Wright chalks up his Olympic development to healthy doses of nature and nurture. "My parents have been incredibly supportive," he says. "But I guess it also helps when both your parents are Olympians, gene-wise."

With seven other current or former Thunderbirds joining Wright on Canada's 18-member Olympic team, Beijing should be something of a coming-out party for UBC's men's field hockey program. League champion for the past three years, the team has not lost a Vancouver Men's Field Hockey Premier Division game since 2005.

Wright attributes the program's powerhouse status to three factors: some serious globetrotting, the coaching of former Canadian Olympic team coach Shiaz Virjee, and the distinct advantage of playing home games on Wright Field, a world-class artificial turf facility named in honour of his Olympic forbear Harold Wright.

In addition to UBC trips to Spain and Malaysia, Wright has toured extensively with Canada's national team, attending the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Australia and qualifying for Beijing by winning gold at the 2007 Pan American Games in Brazil. He supplemented these team experiences with a semester of study at University of Queensland thanks to UBC's Go Global international exchange program.

"Field hockey is not a mainstream sport in North America, so you need to travel to play the top players," Wright says. "Seeing how huge the sport is in other countries and learning how they play the game has been essential to my development and an amazing experience."

Out of appreciation for the opportunities he has been given as an athlete, Wright has been a regular volunteer with *I'm Going To UBC*, which pairs varsity athletes with inner city kids for campus tours, sports clinics and T-Birds games, with the ultimate goal of increasing access to post-secondary education for children who may think it is beyond their grasp.

He also visits with local elementary students every



UBC athlete Anthony Wright is the fifth Canadian Olympian in his family.

month as part of the Canadian Olympic Committee's Adopt-an-Athlete program, and will write them weekly by email from Beijing.

Wright has also been a heavy-hitter in UBC's School of Human Kinetics where he has been a finalist for the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship and a three-time Academic All-Canadian for maintaining an average grade of 80 per cent or higher. **R**




Briefly identify one thing about your time at UBC that has prepared you to make a DIFFERENCE in the WORLD:

"The importance of being active in the community that has supported you. You need to leave a lasting impact for the next generation and give back as much as you take."




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IN THE NEWS

Highlights of UBC media coverage in April 2008. COMPILED BY BASIL WAUGH

UBC fisheries researcher Daniel Pauly appears in Vanity Fair's 2008 Green Issue.

Daniel Pauly, UBC's internationally renowned fisheries researcher, got the glam treatment in Vanity Fair's Green Issue last month.

Pauly, director of UBC's Fisheries Centre, was photographed standing in the Atlantic Ocean alongside celebrity environmental champions such as actors Ted Danson and Mary Steenburgen.

The popular U.S. magazine calls Pauly one of "the activists, agitators, scientists and superstars who are fighting for us all."

Slowing deforestation may be worth billions: study

Carbon credits could fight climate change and generate billions of dollars for tropical forest conservation, a UBC study has found.

Mai Yasue, a post-doctoral fellow at UBC Fisheries Centre, proposes that polluters - seeking to offset emissions and improve their environmental reputations - buy credits generated by preserving trees in a carbon trading system.

Reducing the loss of forests by as little as 10 per cent could generate as much as \$13.5 billion a year for conservation, Yasue co-wrote in the U.K. journal Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society.

Media around the world, including *Reuters*, *Agence France Press*, *Times of India*, *Irish Independent*, *Bloomberg*, *Forbes* and *Canada.com*, reported her research.

Testosterone spray improves sexual satisfaction in women

Washington Post and *Forbes* reported a UBC sexologist's criticism of an Australian study that says testosterone can



Sarah Morgan-Silvester.

improve sexual satisfaction in women.

Dr. Rosemary Basson, director of Sexual Medicine at UBC, argued that women's testosterone levels and libidos may decline as they age, but that doesn't mean the lack of testosterone is linked with sexual dissatisfaction.

Instead of prescribing testosterone for women with sexual dissatisfaction, Basson recommended that doctors examine health and relationship issues, sexual dysfunction in the partner, and treat problems using conventional methods such as sex therapy and psychotherapy.


Corporate director and community volunteer elected UBC Chancellor; new board members named

Sarah Morgan-Silvester, chair of the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority and B.C. Women's Hospital and Health Centre

Foundation, has been elected as UBC's 17th chancellor, the *Vancouver Sun* reported.

Morgan-Silvester is a member of David Suzuki Foundation's National Business Advisory Council and was HSBC Bank Canada's Executive Vice President for nine years. In 2007, she chaired a blue ribbon council on Vancouver's business climate. In 1998, she was named one of Canada's "Top 40 Under 40." The UBC alumna begins a three-year term on July 1, 2008.

UBC also recently welcomed eight new Board of Governors members: provincial appointees Theresa Arsenaault, Robert Fung and Janet Pau; staff and faculty appointees Anne-Marie Fenger and Nassif Ghoussoub, and students Bijan Ahmadian, Tim Blair and Alexandra Caldwell.

For more information, visit www.bog.ubc.ca. 

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Bridging the Pharmaceutical Sciences and Naturopathic gap

BY CATHERINE LOIACONO

Conventional medicine and naturopathy are often in conflict, and Pharmaceutical Sciences graduate Shabita Nathwani plans to use her experience with both to bridge the gap.

As an award-winning community volunteer and activist – Shabita was instrumental in establishing UBC’s food bank – she already has the skills to make it happen.

The year she was accepted into the pharmacy program at UBC, Nathwani was also diagnosed with ulcerative colitis – a diagnosis that continues to have an impact on her life.

“Conventional medicine helped me significantly,” says Nathwani. “but naturopathic treatments boosted my immune system and without both, I don’t think I would feel as healthy as I do today.” Nathwani also believes that her experience will allow her to relate to her patients more effectively to make her a better Pharmacist and ultimately, a Naturopathic Doctor.

However, graduating with a Bachelor’s degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences is only the beginning for Nathwani. After graduation, she plans to continue her studies to become a Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine.

“I want to be able to bridge the gap between these often times opposing fields,” says Nathwani. “Having the knowledge of both these practices will only enhance my ability as a health care provider. As a pharmacist I will know what medications the patient is already taking and then be able to treat them holistically as a naturopathic physician.”

The Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences’ Structured Practice Education Program (SPEP) helped prepare Nathwani for the next stage in her career. “I have learned to trust the knowledge I have and to always look at an issue from all possible angles,”



PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

Shabita Nathwani was instrumental in developing UBC’s food bank and plans to study Naturopathic medicine.

says Nathwani. SPEP allows students to experience the practical application of knowledge outside the classroom through extensive clinical practice. Students develop technical knowledge while simultaneously gaining confidence and a sense of community.

As a pharmacist Nathwani has learned that she is a drug expert and not necessarily a drug advocate unless needed. “I believe that in some situations it is possible to slowly decrease the dose of

medication provided a patient has other supportive measures like naturopathy,” says Nathwani. “Combining pharmacy and naturopathic medicine is what I will make of it. I hope to use my knowledge and experience in both fields to become a holistic health care professional who bridges the gap between conventional and alternative medicine.”

In collaboration with the UBC Red Cross, the Alma Mater Society and the Ismaili Students Association, Nathwani

played a leadership role in developing the UBC Food Bank, in addition to volunteering at UBC Hospital and BC Children’s Hospital. **R**

✦ “All graduates who are fortunate enough to receive an education should be advocates for their professions. The way an individual’s profession develops is specific to each person and their motivation.”



PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

Forester to plant the seeds of learning

BY BRIAN LIN

When Carleigh Johnston graduates this spring, her pocketbook will be fuller than most of her fellow students.

“I have no student loan,” says the Faculty of Forestry graduate. “In fact, I’ll have some money in the bank.”

The first in her family to complete college, Johnston financed her education by painstakingly applying for various scholarships and bursaries while holding down summer jobs.

“You have to look, but financial support is out there,” says Johnston, who is a member of the Lhedli T’enneh Indian Band in Prince George.

Growing up in Vernon with close ties to her extended family on the reserve, Johnston says for many rural Aboriginal children, education is the farthest thing from their mind.

“Going to university is encouraged on the reserve, but is often thought of as an unobtainable goal,” says Johnston. That’s why she and her fiancé – a biologist she met at UBC and is marrying this June – plan on setting up their new home in Prince George, where Johnston hopes to take up teaching and impress upon youth the importance of education.

“I want to give back for all the opportunities I got growing up,” says Johnston. “I was raised in a small town and really fit in there. Besides, I hate rush hour in Vancouver.”

Johnston discovered her knack for teaching last summer when she took a summer job with the Interior Logging Association. She visited more than 40 schools over two months to educate K-9 students on the use of the forest by human

and animals, and to demystify forestry as a profession. Her free time was spent giving talks to campers – or “kids age 4 to 90,” as she put it – at three Provincial Parks.

The unadulterated enthusiasm for learning that she saw in children must be fostered and cultivated, says Johnston, especially in Aboriginal communities. To do her part, she sat on the faculty’s First Nations Council of Advisors and served as the student liaison with the Association of BC Forests Professionals for the Forestry Undergraduate Society.

This summer she’s working with Aboriginal children in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside to develop and deliver after-school programs, and then it’s on to a long list of to-dos that includes learning Carrier, her native tongue – a goal sparked by a serendipitous encounter.

“One of my roommates took Carrier here at UBC and one night I heard a familiar voice coming from her room,” Johnston recalls. “Turns out my grandmother recorded the audio materials for this course. There is so much richness in the language and I get to learn it from one of the best.” **R**

✦ “Loving and respecting your neighbour as you would yourself. It’s from the Book of Matthew in the Bible, which we studied as an example of poetry in my first-year English class. The same concept popped up again last year in my natural conservation class. It encompasses everything I believe in and everything I want to achieve in life.”

Carleigh Johnston wants children from her community to experience the joy of learning that has enriched her life.

Poli Sci student spans the Pacific

BY LORRAINE CHAN

If Jason Carroll has any advice for incoming UBC students, it would be to speak up in class and ask questions.

“I would tell them to take advantage of the opportunities they have and get to know the profs,” says Carroll who will graduate from UBC this month with a BA in political science.

During his time at UBC, says Carroll, he was delighted and surprised by just how approachable faculty members are.

“I had the image that they were there to lecture and leave, but most profs are more than willing to go out of their way to help you.”

In addition, Carroll says he was impressed by how his Political Science professors expected students to be fairly sophisticated in their analysis and discourse. “Dr. Kenneth Foster’s seminar class on Chinese politics was fantastic. And I also really enjoyed working on a U.S. studies project with Dr. Colin Campbell.”

In fact, it was UBC’s level of teaching quality and engagement that got him over a hump in fourth year, says Carroll.

“I found it hard to get back into school mode,” recalls Carroll, who had just returned from China where he had been working and living for two years.

Carroll moved abroad in 2004 as part of his work term organized by the Faculty of Arts Co-op Program. Carroll was teaching English as a second language in Chongqing, a smoky, industrial city of 10 million in the province of Sichuan in western China.

After his Co-op placement ended, Carroll opted to continue working in Asia. He found a second job with a private language institute teaching adults and children, while enrolling in Mandarin courses at the Sichuan International Studies University.

The “organized discombobulation” of China fascinated him, says the Chilliwack native. And he thrived on teaching.

“There’s something really neat about communicating when you don’t share the same language, but there’s still a sense of connection.”

Despite the difficulties of re-integrating into campus life, Carroll says he’s glad he stuck it out. What really helped, he says, was being in the Co-op program that merges the academic and professional worlds.

“I can’t say enough about the Faculty of Arts Co-op



PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

The “organized discombobulation” of China fascinated Jason Carroll, who taught English in Chongqing for two years.

Program. It got me to China. It gave me a chance to work with a variety of employers. And it has given me mentors.”

Over the past year and a half since his return, Carroll has completed additional Co-op placements. He worked as a researcher at the Recycling Council of British Columbia and as a communications assistant at WorkSafeBC, where he created marketing and advertising materials.

And thanks again to Arts Co-op contacts, says Carroll, he has already lined up a job for the next year. As a member of the “Presidents Crew Program.” Carroll will be interning at Dillon Consulting, an international firm that provides consulting and design services related to facilities, the environment, community development and infrastructure.

In the meantime, Carroll aims to nurture his own fledgling business, one he launched last year with a friend. Called Lotusland Communications, the company has a website (www.lotuslandworldwide.com) and several contracts on the go, including organizing investment tours

for local realtors.

When not working, Carroll likes to hone his photography skills and stay fit through informal soccer and football games with friends.

Still fascinated by Asia and its dynamic politics, Carroll says he hopes to travel or work there again.

“I like the idea of being in a place that’s changing so fast and so important to the world. In many ways China has become a central focus for the world.” **R**



“Political science at UBC has really high standards and the department teaches students how to write properly – that is, to construct an argument and lay it out in clear, persuasive terms. These skills are absolutely key, especially if I choose to work abroad.”

Global issues on menu at the local café

BY BASIL WAUGH

If you are what you eat, Sophia Baker-French would be one of the home-made quiches at UBC’s Agora Café.

The graduating Faculty of Land and Food Systems student says the quiches are more than just healthy and delicious. Made with local and organic ingredients, they represent a way for people to take real action on pressing global issues like climate change and rising food prices.

“Some people think they are powerless to address these issues, but our daily food choices have huge implications,” the 23-year-old says. “When people learn the benefits of choosing stuff that’s local and organic – it’s usually a no-brainer, they’ll try to do what’s best for the planet within their ability.”

Agora is a great place to apply the teachings of her Bachelor of Science in Global Resource Systems, says Baker-French, who has managed the café for the past year. “Our program looks at how food gets onto our plates from a variety of perspectives, including environmental sustainability, economics, social justice and health and nutrition.”

Located in UBC’s MacMillan building, Agora has also given her a crash course in running a sustainable small business. Piling up to 40 hours per week on top of her studies, she trained volunteers, monitored food safety, improved ordering and inventory systems and sourced new local organic suppliers. Thanks to her efforts, the café now serves sustainable meals, snacks and beverages to as many as 150 students and faculty members every weekday.

Baker-French says mentoring Agora’s 70 student volunteers has been particularly rewarding. “Some have never set foot in a kitchen or held a knife, let alone prepared food properly,” she says. “These are really important skills they will be able to use for the rest of their lives.”

Two academic trips to Mexico with UBC and high



PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

Sophia Baker-French studies how food gets onto our plates.

school students were also highlights, she says. She studied corn tortillas from a variety of angles – politics, history, economics and nutrition.

Originally from Oakland, California, Baker-French is one of 1,150 U.S. students studying at UBC this year. She says she immediately fell in love with Vancouver’s physical beauty, its pursuit of green alternatives and especially her faculty’s passion for food.

“I actually got emotional when I first arrived here and saw how passionately our faculty was working with students and the community to improve our food system,” says Baker-French, who also prepares meals for community seniors and educates youth about food at UBC

farm. “I felt as if, ‘finally, this is where I belong.’”

While her own organic restaurant is a definite possibility in the future, Baker-French is currently applying for public health and food security positions. “Right now, I really want to combine my passion for food and education to make the biggest difference I can.” **R**



“Choices we make around food can have huge implications. The world isn’t going to change overnight, but small, incremental changes can add up to global change.”

Secrets of the notorious red car

BY BRIAN LIN

In **Bowinn Ma's world**, beer is an essential food group, the Cheeze is a place to hang, and having a birthday plus or minus six months from today could land you in a pond.

But when she graduates this spring from the Faculty of Applied Science, the outgoing president of the UBC Engineering Undergraduate Society (EUS) is leaving behind a legacy that could see one of the best known student societies in Canada become more in sync with its constituents.

"The EUS has traditionally focused very strongly on social events, and the governance structure reflects that – four and a half out of nine executive positions oversee social events and only one and a half portfolios look after academic and professional activities," says Ma, only the third female president in the society's 90-year history.

Ma undertook an 18-month campaign that culminated in a 94.5 per cent approval rating in a referendum this past January. It completely restructures the society, including the creation of a Vice-President Academic position and extensive changes to the EUS Constitution and Policy Manuals, which hadn't been so significantly updated since the 1960s.

"Within the first week after the election, the co-VPS adopted tutoring services and established the E-Team, a new concept

that will help us develop new professional development activities," says Ma. She has also striven to make the current engineering student clubhouse – also known as the "Cheeze" – a more welcoming space and to eradicate forced tankings, the age-old practice of throwing fellow students in a pond outside the Cheeze.

Built in 1919, the Cheeze is one of the oldest buildings on campus and got its nickname from one of its original uses as a dairy factory that supplemented income for then Department of Dairy in the School of Agriculture.

"These traditions – and the rich and colourful history behind them – have been such an important part of the EUS because they remind us of the integral role the student society played in student life," says Ma, "But each generation must leave its own mark."

To that end, Ma in 2005 organized the first ever "OctoberfEUS" to be fully approved by the university. She produced and executed a meticulous event plan that addressed all aspects of what has long been considered a notorious "trouble-making" party.

"Having OctoberfEUS fully supported by the university is the first step towards showing our students that we want to be relevant to parts of their student life that doesn't involve socializing or drinking beer," says

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PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

Bowinn Ma is leaving the EUS a much more relevant student society to its constituents.



"The one thing I learned at UBC is that change is possible. A lot of students feel that change isn't possible so why bother getting involved? Knowing that change is possible, regardless of how frustrating and arduous the process might be, gives me a reason to get engaged and affect change."

Computer Engineer in position for UBC Okanagan's first MASc degree

BY BUD MORTENSON

UBC Okanagan's School of Engineering won't confer Bachelor of Applied Science degrees for another two years, but this year graduate student Carl Wong will receive the school's first Master of Applied Science degree.

As he finishes his master's thesis on wireless positioning systems, Wong couldn't be happier to hold the distinction as the school's first graduate.

"Studying at UBC Okanagan definitely helped me," he says. "For one thing, because it is relatively small, I get to ask a lot of questions of my supervisor." That's been very helpful in research, he adds, explaining that drawing on supervising faculty's expertise can help identify potential pitfalls.

"Knowing what to look for and having someone always there who is willing to help, and who has significant experience, allows you to not slow down," Wong says. "That's important because momentum is a key thing in research."

Wong is developing new techniques to accurately locate devices such as cell phones, no



"I've had lots of opportunity to do teaching and labs with undergraduates. My goal is to teach – I like to explain complex things in ways people can understand, to re-form concepts in multiple ways, reflecting the different ways people learn and understand information."

matter where they are. Satellite-based global positioning systems (GPS) available in today's cellular phones can provide a general location – within several metres. "But a GPS device won't work if you go indoors and, especially for emergency purposes, people with cell phones want to know where they are."

Using commonly available devices such as a building's existing wireless computer network and new, complex signal processing tools, Wong's technology could, for example, locate patients anywhere in a hospital building, with precision down to where in a room a person is standing.



PHOTO: BUD MORTENSON

Computer engineering student Carl Wong is UBC Okanagan's first Master of Applied Science graduate.

His master's thesis is an exploration of the concept and he has worked with actual signals to prove the concept works, so the technology appears viable and warrants further development, he says.

Always fascinated by science, before embarking on the path to

a master's degree Wong earned an undergraduate engineering degree at the University of Calgary. "I liked math and physics and did consider going into pure physics," he says, "but I like to see the practical application of what I'm doing – not just the equations developed

to explain some phenomenon. It's nice to have a final end-product and see it in action."

Through the Western Dean's Agreement, which allows graduate students to register with a program at one university and take courses at other Western Canadian institutions,

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PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

Mathew Li is equally at ease in the pool, at a triathlon and in the lab.

Science grad gives back on a global scale BY BRIAN LIN

Above all, Mathew Li wants it be known that he likes to “keep it loose,” although you wouldn’t know it from the list of accomplishments the 23-year-old has under his belt.

A competitive swimmer by age eight, Li went to multiple national championships and an international swim meet in Germany and competed in two Canadian triathlon nationals before graduating from high school. During a co-op term at

Roche Bioscience in Palo Alto, California last year, he developed a cell-based assay that the company now uses to screen for potential treatment of asthma – and he learned to surf.

He co-authored a paper that was published by top-tier medical journal *Rheumatology* and recently competed in his first Ironman triathlon in Tempe, Arizona. He finished 20th out of 83 in his age group in 11 hour and 46 minutes, surpassing his

own goal by 14 minutes.

“There’s room for improvement,” says Li. “I definitely want to give it another shot.”

The Faculty of Science graduate has also served as head coach of the Special Olympics Swim Club in Richmond and spent last summer in Tanzania with the Global Service Corps educating teenagers on HIV/AIDS.

What fuels the pharmacology major are a strong work ethic and volunteerism instilled by

his father. “My dad didn’t care how well my brother and I did as long as we finished what we started and gave it our best efforts.

“I try to bring the same commitment to my studies and athletics so at the end of the day, I can put all my cards on the table and walk away saying ‘I’ve done my best.’”

That perfect blend of easy-going and hard-hitting may just be his secret. His time in

Tanzania, which he describes as “a whirlwind of emotions,” started out simply enough.

“I went there just to see what I could do,” says Li. “We hear so much about the AIDS crisis in Africa and I wanted to see how one person can make a difference.”

Li and other volunteers trained students to be peer educators who would form a health club in their respective schools and become aggregators of accurate health information.

“People were really friendly and welcoming. They appreciated outside help but were most interested in being part of an African solution,” says Li.

Some of the volunteers he worked with came from Women in Action, an organization founded by a local woman that supports HIV-positive people and their families and empowers them to educate others in their community.

“Family and community ties are highly valued there, much more than material goods,” says Li. “When someone is stricken with HIV, tuberculosis or malaria, the first and greatest impact is to their ability to interact normally with family and community.”

Witnessing some of them overturn the stigma and insisting on making a positive contribution through their own painful experiences, says Li, made his experience “exciting, scary, inspiring and heart-breaking all at the same time.” **R**



“Every contribution you make is valuable. Small things can go a long way. Do what you love and give back in a way that’s meaningful to you.”



PHOTO: BUD MORTENSON

Heather McIntosh has a master’s degree in mathematics, and has just completed a Bachelor of Education degree from UBC Okanagan.

Teaching the beauty of math

BY BUD MORTENSON

Heather McIntosh loves math and she hopes to teach her students to love it, too. They can count on it.

Already prepared with a master’s degree in mathematics from Newfoundland’s Memorial University, on June 6 McIntosh will graduate with a Bachelor

of Education degree from UBC Okanagan.

“As a masters student I was given the opportunity to teach various mathematics labs and taught two undergraduate university courses,” says McIntosh. “Teaching these classes was the best part of my day. However, I was very surprised to see all of the negative attitudes

students had towards math and about their ability to do math. The main reason I am in teacher education is because I want to help students discover the beauty of mathematics, problem solving and, generally, the joy of learning.”

While studying education in the Secondary Teacher Education Program, McIntosh

has also applied her math and teaching talents to UBC Okanagan’s Math Resource Centre – not in a math lab on campus, but as an online math tutor.

She’s helping other students improve their math skills virtually, via the phone and online messaging, using a drawing tablet and laptop computer from her home in Penticton, 60 kilometres south of UBC Okanagan’s campus in Kelowna. It’s a fairly new tool in the quest to provide math assistance, and one McIntosh strongly believes can make a difference in reducing the anxiety that math – and seeking math help – can create.

“I personally think that online tutoring is very neat,” she says. “It has the potential to reach students who normally are too embarrassed to go to the tutor centre.”

The Secondary Teacher Education Program culminates with a guided reflective inquiry project (GRIP). McIntosh’s project – a 25-page paper she will present in June – explores negative attitudes towards mathematics and math anxiety.

“Part of my GRIP talks about math outreach projects I have been involved in,” she says. “I recently created and helped organize a math sports day event at Columbia Elementary School in

Penticton. We set up four math-related games and stations in the gym, and the students rotated through them like a sports day.

“The teachers helped run the stations, and the goal is to show students that mathematics can be fun, exciting, and very applicable to real life. Ideally, it can also give elementary teachers new ideas to make mathematics more fun in their own classrooms.”

Teaching runs in the McIntosh family, and she credits that and the teachers she has had along the way for encouraging her to pursue the teaching profession.

“My father was a principal and a strong advocate for education, and many of my extended family are also teachers,” she says. “Like many other pre-service teachers, I have had some very inspiring teachers. I have really enjoyed the teacher education program

continued on page 8



“Reflection, reflection, reflection. My courses taught me how important it is to reflect on your experiences. In math something as simple as the order of your examples makes a huge difference. Reflection is a great tool to make good lessons even better.”

Sauder student Wall Street bound

BY LORRAINE CHAN

Nina Yang plans on using her business skills to close the gap between the haves and the have-nots.

“If used wisely, business can be a very powerful tool for shaping the direction of the world,” says Yang, who graduates this spring with a BComm from the Sauder School of Business.

Yang says her greatest achievement at UBC has been to apply a model of philanthropy that aligns the incentives of both the non-profit and business worlds and encourages cross-sector collaboration.

In 2006, Yang with 10 other UBC students founded Global Fund for Education Aid (GFEA), which operates business projects to generate the funding needed to send impoverished children to school.

“So far, we’ve helped 10 children ages 10-16 in Guiyang, which is in the province of Guizhou in central China.”

The students pooled their collective talents and skills in promotion, marketing, accounting and finance to make GFEA a success. After researching possible products, the students decided to help the villagers market their batik fabrics, framing and selling these one-of-a-kind textiles to businesses in Vancouver.

“GFEA is based on a creative and sustainable model of giving that we learned about in school,” says Yang, “It’s not another charity that gives out donations. Instead, we’re helping people find their own strength so they can pull themselves out of poverty.”

Yang has been accepted into the Harvard Business School, and has full-time offers from premier Wall Street investment banking firms, including Merrill Lynch.

Yang says she has always been drawn to corporate finance, analyzing how a company will perform given certain economic and industry trends.

Yang says she hopes to eventually join the ranks of management on Wall Street. “At the same time,” she stresses, “I want to stay connected with my community and empower those who are less fortunate.”

In her down time, Yang relaxes by playing soccer and tennis – she was varsity champion at her high school in Richmond.”

Already fluent in English, Mandarin and Cantonese, Yang is adding French to her repertoire thanks to the “fantastic French professors” at UBC. Lately, she has been savouring the existential angst of Jean-Paul Sartre.

“He’s my favourite author.” **R**



“Working in business is often about more than just improving one’s own destiny, but serving a larger collective, be it an institution, a group of people, or even a nation. As future business leaders, we must use our knowledge and power to generate both social and economic wealth for our world, while minimizing environmental, political, and financial risks.”



PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

B Comm grad Nina Yang’s passions include philanthropy, tennis, corporate finance and Sartre.

Distributed program puts doctors in small towns

BY CATHERINE LOIACONO

In Grade One, six-year-old Jennifer Douse, decided that she wanted to be a doctor when she grew up. A Metis from Fort Nelson, Douse is today among the first medical students to graduate from UBC’s distributed medical undergraduate program.

“Being a physician has been a lifelong dream for me,” says Douse, who plans to practice in a small town close to home. “Medicine is exciting and challenging and I really enjoy the aspect of caregiving for others.”

The distributed MD program is a unique collaboration of the UBC Faculty of Medicine with the University of Northern B.C., the University of Victoria and both regional and provincial health authorities. The goal has been to create a provincial medical program where medical students are educated at sites across the province. This year’s class of 200 also is the largest class of MD’s to graduate from UBC’s Faculty of Medicine.

UBC is the first Canadian university to apply the distributed learning model to the

entire four-year program. “One of the reasons I was attracted to UBC’s Faculty of Medicine is because it would allow me to do part of my training and rotations in a small town setting,” says Douse. “So far, it has been great. I love learning in a small town atmosphere.”

While Douse started her first semester of medical school at the UBC campus, the remainder of her medical education training was in rural settings. She finds learning in a rural setting quite different than in a big city. “I have learned a practical and useful skill set,” says Douse. “Basically, you are an integral part of the community and you learn to practice without necessarily having access to diagnostic tools or specialists.”

During one of her initial rotations, Douse learned that the biggest challenge is managing patients who need critical care until they can be transferred for appropriate treatment. She believes her medical training experiences at UBC have helped prepare her for a residency



PHOTO: DAVE MILNE

Jennifer Douse, one of this year’s Faculty Med grads, plans to practice in a small town close to home.

placement in a small town. “In the end, it will make me a better doctor, one who is more able to deal with these circumstances,” says Douse.

Douse plans to complete her residency requirement with a focus on palliative care and maternity care. While these two areas deal with the opposite ends of life. Douse believes that they are both within the mandate of a family physician. “Birth and death are part of life,” says

Douse. “I always feel privileged to be a part of a family’s journey to welcoming life and letting go.”

Should the chance arise, she would like to collaborate with First Nations traditional healers, which according to Douse, can help bridge the gap between spiritual and holistic treatment practices and conventional medicine.

Douse also hopes to mentor other prospective medical students interested in rural family practice by being a strong education



“The profound knowledge that the more you learn the more you realize you don’t know. I already know the one phrase my patients will hear a lot from me: I don’t know, but I will find out.”

advocate in her community and encouraging other First Nations youth to apply to university. “I want them to know that if I can do it, so can they,” says Douse. **R**

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Using law to change the world



PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

For law student Brittany Skinner, the best discussions took place after class over a game of darts at Koerner's Pub.

BY LORRAINE CHAN

Fun, trust, idealism and collaboration – these words crop up repeatedly when Brittany Skinner describes her education at the UBC Faculty of Law.

"I would say these have been absolutely the best years of my life," says Skinner, who will receive her LLB diplomas during May Congregation.

One of her favourite moments was winning the law school's annual Guile Debate, which emphasizes humour and camaraderie. In front of visiting judges – actual members of the Supreme Court, Provincial Court and Court of Appeal – Skinner had to argue why passion and law aren't natural bedfellows.

"That's not my view at all," laughs Skinner, "but to make a convincing argument, I read out a supposed Valentine from my boyfriend that was written entirely in dry, legal language. It was entitled *A Memorandum of Lovestanding* and was written in triplicate."

Skinner says she's known around the law school as a strong advocate for work-life balance. Staying positive and working hard to create a culture of cooperation rather than competition has earned her that reputation.

"In your first year," recalls Skinner, "you hear horror stories

about the insane pressure, and how some students will rip pages out of reference texts so no one else can see them."

Yet, Skinner found the opposite to be true. A case in point, she says, were the CANs, which are annotated notes that students write up to amplify and explain lecture notes.

Skinner says no one recalls what the acronym CAN stands for other than annotated notes. "But everyone knows good ones are like gold."

Skinner says she and her friends made a point of sharing their knowledge.

"People are actually relieved when that happens. Everyone ends up doing better because someone will say, you've missed a point here, or have you thought of this argument?"

The diversity of people in the Faculty of Law also brought added depth to discussions, says Skinner. "It's so interesting to hear the perspectives of someone who's coming to law as an engineer or a biologist, people who come from all over Canada and the world."

Given their wide-ranging views, Skinner says she and her classmates often continued their debates long after lectures have ended.

"We love going to Koerner's Pub. Over some beers or a game of darts you get to talk about

✦ "The law is a foreign language to a lot of people. It's scary to a lot of people. Being able to speak that language frees your ability. You can speak the code, you know the secret handshake and it gives you the tools to make change."

ideas in a way that's not about grades, but rather the meaning of law and methods of change to the world."

Skinner is specializing in labour law. She says she's over the moon about landing her "dream job" which starts next month. Skinner will be articling with the in-house legal team at the B.C. Government Employees' Union in Vancouver.

There, Skinner says she hopes to put into action the principles she learned at UBC – that law is fluid, it always undergoes revision and "that I can effect that change."

Voted valedictorian by her classmates, Skinner has also received from the UBC Centre for Feminist Legal Studies the Auriol Gurner Young Award. This award recognizes LLB students for their feminist contributions to the Faculty of Law and to the community at large – either through their academic achievement, volunteer work or community activism. **R**

HEATHER MCINTOSH *continued from page 6*

and I've learned a lot in my practicum. I have been very lucky to get two great sponsor teachers, who both gave me lots of feedback and advice.

"I have always known that I wanted to teach and I am having

fun discovering the different levels," she says. "I originally thought I wanted to teach upper-level classes and college level, but in my practicum I have had the opportunity to teach three Grade 9 classes and I have really

enjoyed teaching those classes. Eventually I would love to be a math coordinator, and I am also looking forward to having my own classroom." **R**

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From fishing grounds to a nurse's rounds BY CATHERINE LOIACONO

It's a long way from being captain of a commercial fishing boat in Alaska to a Master of Nursing – Nurse Practitioner Degree at UBC, but Mark Schultz completes the journey this spring.

"You can find your calling in the most interesting places," says Schultz. "My experiences so far have demonstrated that you never know where you will be and your background might not dictate your eventual career path."

The adventure began when Mark met a Nurse Practitioner (NP) in the remote Alaskan fishing village of Dillingham.

The Seattle native recalls being impressed by health improvements the NP made in Alaskan communities. As advanced practice nurses, NPs can assess, diagnose and treat patients, prescribe medications and order tests for conditions. They can work both collaboratively and autonomously.

Schultz recognized how important the work of an NP is and the high demand for health care professionals in remote areas. In 1995, in the middle of a successful fishing and boat-building career, he started taking night classes with the eventual goal of becoming a Nurse Practitioner.

Following graduation from the University of Alaska, Schultz practiced nursing in the critical care unit at the Alaska Native Medical Care Centre in Anchorage, Alaska. It was here where he decided to look at universities that offered Master's degrees in Nursing. Schultz compared UBC's program to others in the United States and was impressed by the strength of UBC's program and faculty.

Today, Schultz is one of UBC's newest graduates to achieve a Master of Nursing - Nurse Practitioner. The Nurse Practitioner Program at UBC is an intensive two-year full-time program recognized by the College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia. Before prospective students are accepted into the program they must have a Bachelor's degree in nursing followed by a minimum of three years experience. To be licensed as a Nurse Practitioner in B.C., a student must pass both written and performance-based board exams.

"For me, approaching healthcare from the perspective of nursing is very rewarding and humbling," says Schultz. "As a nurse, you have the privilege of witnessing the



PHOTO: COURTESY MARK SCHULTZ

Mark Schultz completes his journey this spring and graduates in a Master of Nursing – Nurse Practitioner.

person's experience of an illness. Providing care at the bedside for an extended period of time, you encounter patients at turning points in their lives. The relationships we form tend to be more collaborative than hierarchical. The insights developed in nursing, I believe, enable NPs to provide a different kind of care."

Although this practice is relatively new to B.C. – UBC graduated its first group of Nurse Practitioners in August 2005 – it has been a field of study in the U.S. for more than 40 years.

Close to 90 Nurse Practitioners practice independently in rural and urban areas throughout the province, helping

to meet critical primary health care needs. Schultz plans to continue his practice in a small town in B.C., as he believes that Nurse Practitioners have an opportunity to improve outcomes, quality, and access to healthcare for all of BC's citizens. **R**



"The one key thing I will take with me from UBC is that my learning has only just begun. As I continue on my professional path as an NP, I know that I am on an ongoing learning process that will continue for the rest of my life in order to practice at the highest possible level."

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Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences 2008

BY LORRAINE CHAN



Richard Florida will give a keynote address on the "creative class" and economic prosperity.

Some call it summer camp for scholars. Others see it as a nine-day banquet of ground-breaking ideas and debate.

Between May 31 and June 8, UBC will host the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, North America's largest multidisciplinary gathering of academics.

An expected 10,000 scholars and post-graduate students will explore pressing social and cultural concerns through workshops, panels and presentations. The conference will see on average 120 sessions taking place concurrently on any given day.

As the major academic event of UBC's centenary celebrations, Congress will also feature art exhibits and theatrical performances. This year's theme, "Thinking Beyond Borders: Global Ideas/Global Values," is meant to provide a framework for participants to probe ethical issues and dilemmas that arise with globalization, says Richard Cavell, Academic Convenor for Congress and a professor in UBC's English Department.

UBC is jointly organizing the 77th annual Congress with the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences (CFHSS), which represents 50,000 scholars, graduate students and practitioners. The mandate of CFHSS is to promote research, scholarship and teaching. It houses the permanent secretariat of the Congress.

The conference will bring together almost 80 scholarly associations from a multidisciplinary array of fields including linguistics, ethics, international development, political science, social work, literature and religion.

Cavell notes that this year's Congress will be the first ever to convene on four campuses: UBC Vancouver, UBC Okanagan, Robson Square and Great Northern Way.

On May 29th, UBC's Okanagan campus will kick off Congress with an opening panel dialogue that looks at the role of culture in the global knowledge economy. Speakers will include

fellows of the Royal Society of Canada, UBC Okanagan Canada Research Chairs and UBC Killam scholars. Proceedings will be podcast to the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre and archived on the Congress website at www.fedcan.ca/congress2008.

A major highlight at Congress is the Research in Society (RIS) lecture series, which features internationally distinguished academics commenting on current issues. Much anticipated is the address by Richard Florida, an economist and urban theorist who's currently teaching at the University of Toronto. Florida posits that cities with higher concentrations of the "creative class" will generate higher levels of economic development.

The RIS lecture series also features renowned ethicist Margaret Somerville. A professor in law and medicine at McGill University, Somerville will tackle in her keynote address some of the most exciting and pressing ethical challenges we face today.



Congress speaker: ethicist Margaret Somerville

Another favourite Congress event is the Breakfast on Campus speaker series, which highlights prominent public figures – novelists, poets, journalists and politicians – from outside academe.

This year's speakers include: journalist and author Stevie Cameron; International Olympic Committee member and former Olympic athlete Richard W. Pound; and Vancouver novelist and publisher David Chariandy, whose debut novel *Soucouyant* was nominated for the Giller

Prize and shortlisted for the Governor General's award.

As well, the ever-popular Congress Book Fair welcomes more than 150 publishers and government agencies to UBC's Student Recreation Centre (the Bird Coop).

Cavell says a sub theme of Congress: *Culture in the City* will be drawn from programming that explores the role of humanities and social science research in the urban context.

For example, UBC Robson Square will host a discussion on UBC's Community Service Learning initiatives on June 2. That will be followed by a June 5 panel on the role of culture in the global economy with Florida and other speakers including UBC Theatre Prof. Robert Gardiner, author Timothy Taylor and urban planning expert Larry Beasley.

At Great Northern Way campus, the Ottawa-based national theatre company Magnetic North will present *Hive2* during June 4-14. This interactive event will introduce 11 Canadian theatre companies performing 11 pieces in continuous rotation – followed by a musical performance.

Making Congress a green event has also been a priority for UBC and the Federation, says Cavell. In consultation with James Tansey, a professor at the Sauder School of Business, UBC's Congress will be the most sustainable Congress in history, setting the benchmark through enviro-friendly practices such as compostable plates and cutlery.

As well, CFHSS is partnering with the Canadian Society for the Study of Education (CSSE) in support of its initiative toward reducing the ecological footprint of the Congress. As part of the society's "sustainability challenge," CSSE members are encouraged to bring their own bag when picking up their registration receipts and delegate's kits. A full list of greening activities can be found online at <http://www.fedcan.ca/congress2008/GREEN.html>.

More Congress 2008 details are available at: <http://www.fedcan.ca/congress2008/>

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Training film fosters frank Aboriginal discussion



UBC students speak candidly in a documentary on Aboriginal issues in the classroom.

BY BASIL WAUGH

Dara Kelly remembers the day when a fellow student asked why aboriginal people were so “screwed up” in a class discussion.

To Kelly, one of seven UBC undergrads who speak candidly in a new documentary that explores race and aboriginality in the classroom, the comment felt like a slap in the face.

“I was speechless and totally disappointed and really hurt,” says Kelly, a member of the Fraser Valley Leq’a:mel First Nation. On film, she questions why no one, including herself, spoke up to counteract the statement. “Are you talking about me and my family?” she wish she had asked.

What I Learned in Class Today: Aboriginal Issues in the Classroom, directed by recent Faculty of Arts graduates Karmen Crey and Amy Perreault, grew out of a directed-studies project in UBC’s First Nations Studies Program (FNSP), which covers everything from Aboriginal art history to land claims.

By addressing how curriculum deals with questions of aboriginality, and the way

discussions around race in general play out in class, the filmmakers hope to draw a wide audience of educators and academics.

The 20-minute film, which will screen June 2 and 7 at the 2008 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences hosted at UBC, suggests ways teachers and students can begin to build a more sensitive and fruitful dialogue on these issues.

“We’ve also seen how profoundly affected people have been when watching the film,” says Crey, a Sto:lo First Nation member from the Cheam Band. “You read a report, you can look at statistics, but actually being faced with students who are experiencing these things is pretty powerful.”

Crey and Perreault, who is Métis, are expanding the project to include support materials for post-secondary instructors, administrators, and students. They are also in the process of interviewing instructors and administrators about their experiences dealing with these difficult classroom situations.

In the film, another Aboriginal student talks about the experience of regularly being put on the spot

to lead class discussions. She says the responsibility of constantly being turned to for an “aboriginal view” is a double-edged sword.

“It’s a responsibility sometimes I really relish in and sometimes I really feel like I’m carrying a brick on my back,” the student says to the camera.

UBC professor and FNSP director Linc Kesler says while research tends to look at educational barriers at the institutional level, no one had looked into it at the classroom level.

Race is an anxiety-inducing topic for many educators, he says. “The reality, of course, is that as professors almost none of us have received any training in how to work with those kinds of discussions.”

One of the documentary’s main goals, Kesler says, is to make talk constructive and to create conversations around race where everyone feels engaged.

What I Learned in Class Today screens June 2 at the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre’s Victoria Lecture Theatre and June 7 in Buchanan A204. Both screenings will be followed by a discussion. To see a clip, visit www.publicaffairs.ubc.ca/download. **R**

BOWINN MA *continued from page 5*

Ma. “In order to do that, we must demonstrate our ability to work with faculty and administration, and be a responsible, professional organization.”

Ma’s contributions led to the creation by fellow executives of the Bowinn Ma Award last month to honour EUS executives for outstanding service. This is only the second award in the EUS history to be named after a student leader.

As for the other famous engineering tradition involving a certain red car, Ma had this to say:

“UBC Engineering students don’t do stunts, we don’t know anything about them or who does them.”

If they did, Ma says the EUS would only have approved stunts that demonstrated the engineers’ ingenuity and social consciousness. In 2006, canned goods were left in front of the Greater Vancouver Food Bank piled in the shape of the E-Cairn. The following year, the Inukshuk at English Bay was dressed in a giant Engineering Red jacket

stuffed with clothing donations.

“The stunts were never meant to be malicious, they are supposed to make a statement on social issues or bring attention to the marvels of our profession,” says Ma. “It’s supposed to make you go ‘huh, that’s neat. I wonder how they did that.’” **R**

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CARL WONG *con't from page 5*

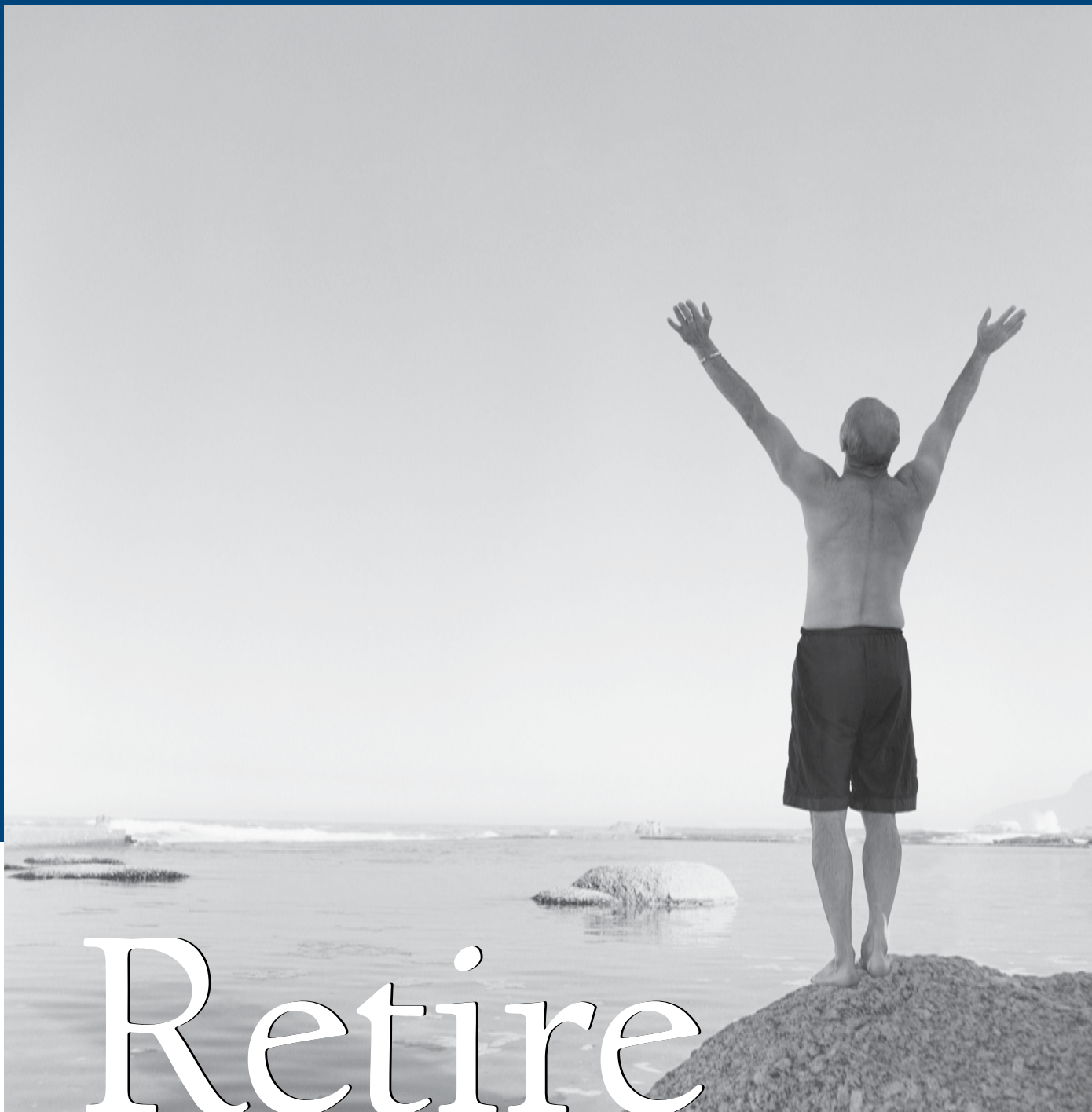
he chose a master’s program of UBC Okanagan design but began his graduate research at the University of Calgary under the supervision of Richard Klukas, UBC Okanagan Asst. Prof. of Engineering, and a co-supervisor at the University of Calgary.

“That saved a lot of hassle and the courses were very appropriate for what I wanted to do,” he says, adding that dividing

his graduate studies between Calgary and UBC Okanagan “was a natural fit for me, and it’s nice to be the first graduate student for the program at UBC Okanagan.”

Wong plans to continue with his education, pursuing a PhD at UBC Okanagan next year. “When I’ve done my PhD, I hope to be teaching,” he says. **R**

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