

alumniUBC Trek

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"The site at Point Grey was to him the loveliest in the world and the University which was to move and grow there must be worthy of it."

UBC100

*UBC's first president,
Dr. Frank Fairchild Wesbrook,
visiting Point Grey, ca. 1916.*



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UBC commenced operations in the midst of an economic slump and the First World War.

*The unfinished Science Building at Point Grey.
(UBC Archives)*



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A teaching and research farm was one of UBC's early priorities. John Young was hired to help build one from scratch.

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Leader of the Build the University campaign Ab Richards, centre, with unknown students. (UBC Archives)



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COVER IMAGE:
Courtesy UBC Archives

QUOTE: Isobel Harvey, BA'18, MA'19, in a commemorative article that ran in the 1932 *Graduate Chronicle*.



FOREWORD TO THE PAST

UBC's first construction on the Point Grey campus site was a modest shack used to store dynamite for clearing the land of tree stumps. The shack was later commandeered for an office by Leonard Klinck, first dean of Agriculture and later UBC's second president, as he oversaw the establishment of agricultural experimental plots in 1915.

Looking out at today's campus from the comfort of the climate-controlled Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre - only five minutes' walk from where the shack stood on what is now Main Mall - you can see buildings old and new stretching to the horizon, and the omnipresent cranes are evidence of more growth to come.



The dynamite shack was located on what is now Main Mall. If it were still around today, it would be dwarfed (and upstaged) by the Beaty Biodiversity Museum on one side, and the Applied Science building on the other.



An early skateboard?



Students liked to have as much fun then as they do now.

Having spent the last few months engrossed in archival UBC images and footage, and nosing through boxes of decades-old university correspondence, I see striking contrasts with the past all around.

This month, for example, students returned to campus in their thousands - lugging backpacks, riding skateboards, texting friends, acclimatizing to student life. Judging by some candid black and white photos of early students on UBC's original Fairview campus (there were fewer than 400 of them back then), it's clear they indulged in as many antics as students do today - only they did it in long skirts and three-piece suits. Fashion isn't the only thing to have changed: the classroom setting has gone from straight-back-and-chalkboard to interactive and hi-tech, and the university's campuses are far more culturally diverse.

The passage of time is also apparent from the type and volume of research discovery. The first recorded invention disclosure at UBC was for a device to allow the more efficient planting of trees. More recently, forestry researchers have mapped the genomes of the spruce tree and the mountain pine beetle, and are also exploring how trees might best adapt to climate change.

Hand-in-hand with new areas of research, the university now has a staggering number of courses on offer in almost every subject imaginable - not only on campus but out in the community as well.

So UBC evidently started with a lot of big bangs (if the shack's anything to go by) and has been rapidly expanding ever since. There's a lot to cover in one Centennial issue, which is why we decided to have two:

This one focuses on UBC's first century - covering some of the institution's earliest stories, examining how student life and politics have helped shape its cultural identity, and highlighting just a few of the research areas in which it now enjoys a commanding reputation.

The less introspective spring 2016 issue, which coincides with the 100th anniversary of UBC's first graduating class, will check in with some of UBC's 305,000 alumni living and working in approximately 140 countries, and look ahead to a different world hinted at by emerging fields of research. It will also delve into some of the university's roles in the community, as well as its fast-expanding international activities and partnerships.

We'll never know exactly what Frank Wesbrook was envisioning as he looked out over Point Grey on a chilly day in 1916, or thereabouts, but it's safe to say he'd be mightily impressed by what UBC has become in just a hundred years.

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UBC Centennial Event Highlights

This is just a small sampling of the events on offer during UBC's Centennial year. Visit ubc100.ca for a full listing of events and regular updates.

**SEPT-
MAY** **One Day @UBC Centennial Lectures**
Vancouver - September 2015 through May 2016
UBC Continuing Studies is offering 20 free lectures over 10 Saturdays at the UBC Point Grey campus to anyone 15 years of age or older.

**SEPT
30** **Live Webcast: Centennial Launch and Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre Opening Ceremony**
Watch a live webcast at: ubc100.ca/live (10:00am to 11:00am)

**SEPT
30** **Distinguished Lecture Series - Wab Kinew: The Reason You Walk**
Kelowna
CBC host Wab Kinew offers an inside view of what it means to be an educated Aboriginal living in a country that is just beginning to wake up to its Aboriginal history and living presence.

**OCT
1** **2015 Allard Prize for International Integrity & Conferral of Centennial Honorary Degree**
Vancouver
Created and funded by alumnus Peter A. Allard, Q.C., the \$100,000 prize is one of the largest awards in the world recognizing efforts to combat corruption and promote human rights. The same evening, an honorary degree will be conferred upon Lieutenant-General, the Honourable Roméo Dallaire (Ret'd).

**OCT
2** **Wharton Lecture: 'Queen of the Canopies' Dr. Meg Lowman**
Vancouver
Dr. Lowman is a renowned biologist, educator and forest champion who has pioneered the science of treetop canopy research.

**OCT
6** **2015 Vancouver Human Rights Lecture, featuring Richard Goldstone**
Vancouver
Richard Goldstone discusses the successes and failures of reconciliation in post-Apartheid South Africa.

**OCT
8** **UBC Symphony Orchestra**
Vancouver
The orchestra will open its concert with a Centennial fanfare composed by alumnus Jared Miller, *BMus'10*.

**OCT
15** **WALL Exchange with Eyal Weizman: Forensic Architecture**
Vancouver
Can architecture provide new tools of political analysis and intervention? This question is central to the work of Eyal Weizman, Israeli architect and scholar.

**OCT
15** **Earthquake Day**
Vancouver
A day-long, city-wide effort to raise earthquake awareness and achieve earthquake resilience.

**OCT
29** **Janusz Korczak and the Importance of Listening to Children's Voices in Education**
Vancouver
This presentation will focus on the aspects of Janusz Korczak's work that can inform both present and future efforts to bring children's voices into schools.

**NOV
7** **Brock Talks: Earth's Astonishing Climate History**
Vancouver
A presentation by preeminent geologist Professor Paul F. Hoffman.

**NOV
20** **Nobel Laureate Joseph E. Stiglitz - The Great Divide: The Causes and Consequences of Inequality and What We Can Do About It**
Vancouver
Professor Stiglitz, who visits UBC this fall, is one of the world's foremost thinkers on the problem of inequality and wrote the article "Of the 1%, by the 1%, for the 1%" that helped give the Occupy movement its slogan "We are the 99%."

**NOV
21** **Vancouver Institute Lecture: The Astonishing Simplicity of Everything**
Vancouver
A presentation by Dr. Neil Turok, one of the world's leading theoretical physicists.

**DEC
10** **alumni UBC Hong Kong Centennial Gala**
Hong Kong
Join special guests, along with alumni and friends from across Asia, to celebrate UBC's Centennial in style.

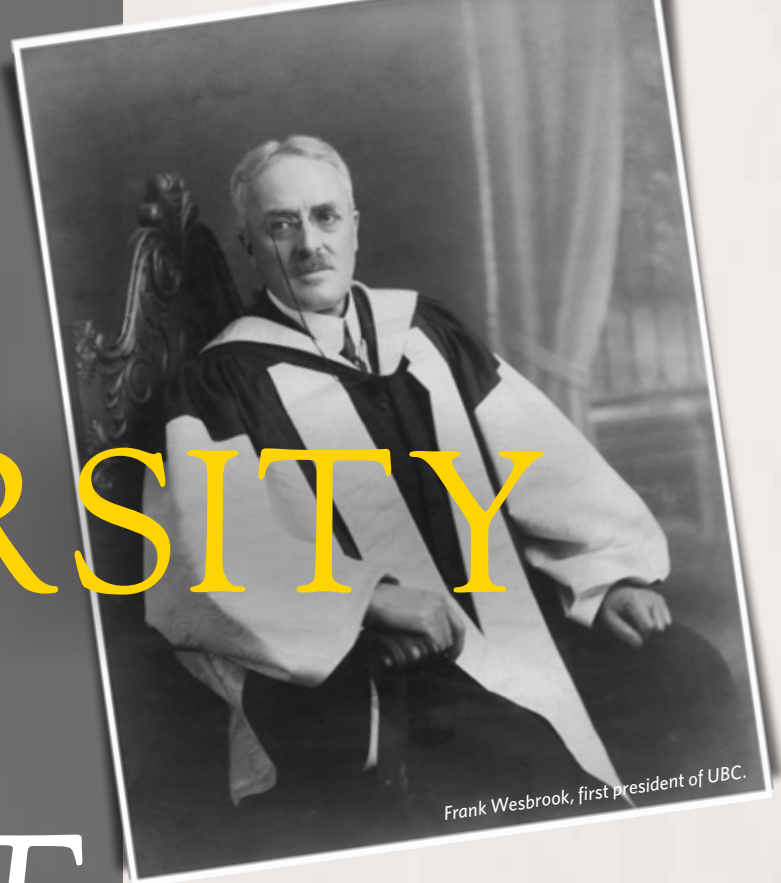
**JAN
21** **The Human Rights of Aboriginal Children**
Vancouver
Despite protection under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, many young people remain marginalized in our society. Aboriginal children are among those most at risk.

UBC100

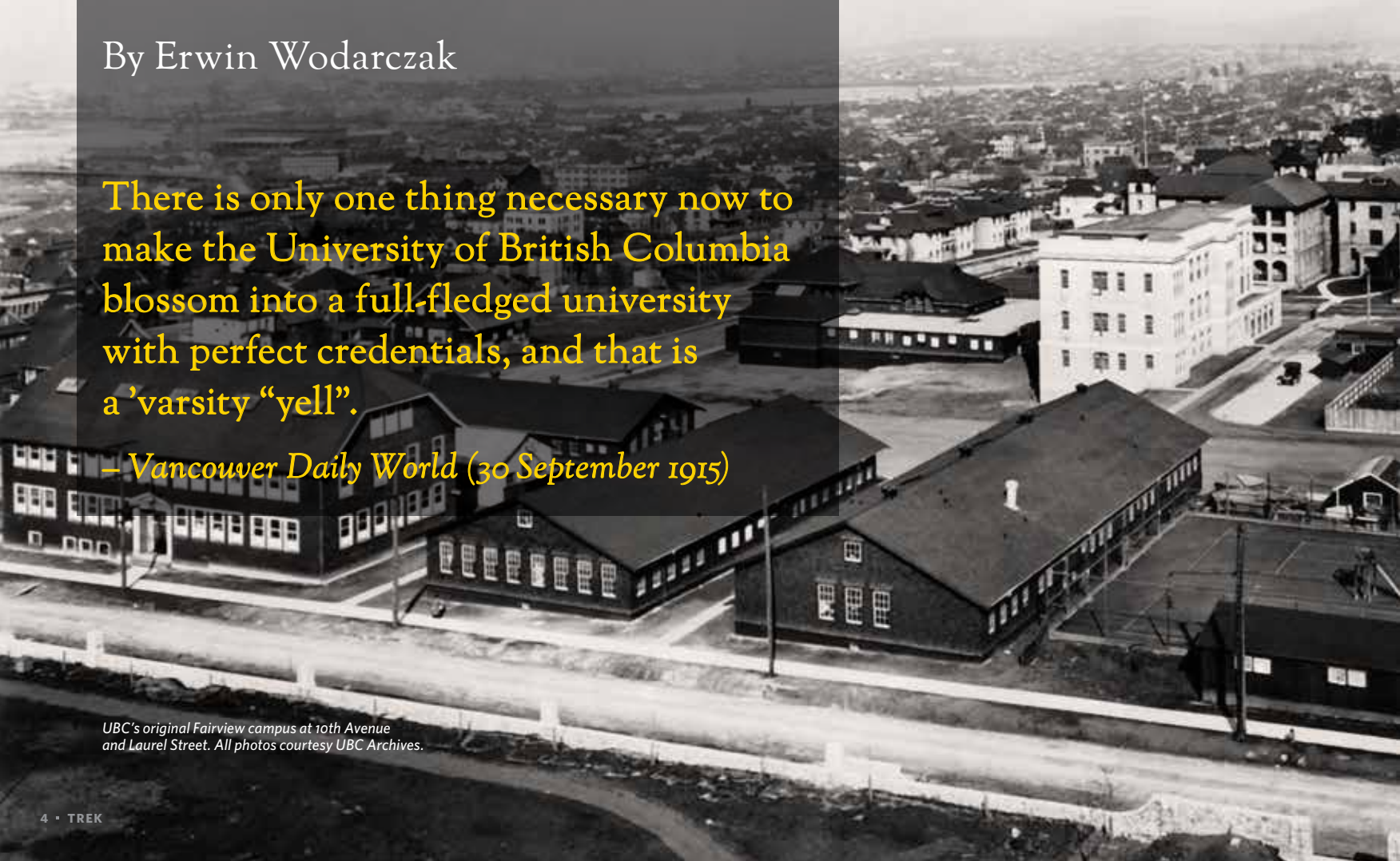
THE UNIVERSITY OPENS, AT LAST

By Erwin Wodarczak

There is only one thing necessary now to make the University of British Columbia blossom into a full-fledged university with perfect credentials, and that is a 'varsity "yell"'.
— *Vancouver Daily World* (30 September 1915)



Frank Wesbrook, first president of UBC.



UBC's original Fairview campus at 10th Avenue and Laurel Street. All photos courtesy UBC Archives.



When he first arrived in Vancouver in 1913 to assume the presidency of the University of British Columbia, Frank Fairchild Wesbrook was promised that the provincial government would spare practically no expense to establish the university and ensure that its facilities and academic programs were comparable to other Canadian universities. He was told at a meeting with Premier Sir Richard McBride on May 30 that UBC would receive \$2.8 million over its first two years, plus an additional “ten million if need be... [and] whatever [additional] sums were necessary from time to time.”

The campus designs proposed by the firm of Sharp & Thompson (see next page), chosen as university architects that same year, promised facilities as impressive as any in North America. The first buildings at Point Grey, which had been selected as the location of the campus in 1910, were due to be completed in time for the start of classes in 1915. Wesbrook’s dream of a “Cambridge on the Pacific” – for which he had given up his position as Dean of Medicine at the University of Minnesota – looked well within reach.

Two years later, the dream had given way to a harsh reality. An economic slump starting in 1913 and the beginning of the First World War the following year had combined to divert money, resources, and political will away from the university project. In January 1915 the initial budget was set at only \$175,000. Proposed courses of study were cancelled or postponed indefinitely. The Point Grey campus would not be finished, although land-clearing and construction of the Science Building had begun. It was still expected that UBC would open its doors to students in September 1915 – but where?

Since 1908, McGill University College of British Columbia had provided post-secondary education for the province. It was based in the Fairview neighbourhood of Vancouver, in two buildings erected three years earlier at 10th Avenue and Laurel Street, adjacent to Vancouver General Hospital. Only the first two years of arts and science instruction were offered; students wishing to complete their degrees had to go to McGill University in Montreal, or some other institution.

Premier McBride’s government insisted that UBC would have to begin operations in the buildings of McGill BC, which would cease operations upon the inauguration of the university. The president and Board of Governors protested strenuously, insisting that at the very least temporary facilities should be erected at Point Grey for 1915, with operations moving into the Science Building upon its completion. But the government was adamant. Only current work on the concrete skeleton of the Science Building would be funded to completion. UBC would have to make-do with the McGill BC facilities and whatever additional temporary structures could be erected at the Fairview site.

With the circumstances of the university’s immediate future out of their hands, Wesbrook and his staff proceeded with planning for its inauguration as best they could. Faculty were recruited from other institutions, sometimes after being interviewed by Wesbrook himself. In addition, many of the academic and administrative staff from McGill BC were retained by UBC. Altogether, for its first year of operation UBC would have a teaching staff of 34 – of whom two, classics professor Harry T. Logan and dean of Applied Science Reginald W. Brock, were on leave for overseas military service – and 12 administrative staff.

Registration for classes was scheduled to begin on September 27. McGill BC students were allowed to continue their courses of study at the new university, with those who had already completed their third year of study coming back for the fourth year and expected to finish as UBC’s first graduates in 1916. At the same time, more than half the projected student body would consist of first-years. Most new universities begin

with a freshman class and perhaps a handful of older students. By contrast, UBC would boast a full complement of undergraduates from all years, in the faculties of Arts and Applied Science:

		MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
ARTS:	4TH YEAR	21	17	38
	3RD YEAR	25	20	45
	2ND YEAR	40	33	73
	1ST YEAR	81	81	162
APPLIED SCIENCE:	3RD YEAR	9	–	9
	2ND YEAR	19	–	19
	1ST YEAR	33	–	33
		228	151	379

The third faculty, Agriculture, existed on paper only. Although Dean Leonard Klinck would offer an introductory course in agriculture that year, a full program of agriculture classes would not be offered until 1917.

In addition to those listed above, 56 McGill BC students who had enlisted – many of whom were already serving in the front lines in France – had declared that they would continue their studies at UBC at the end of their military service. Wesbrook and his colleagues decided that, as their college had ceased to exist, these soldier-students were without an “alma mater,” and so should be included in the UBC student body – in addition, any fees they might owe would be waived. With these overseas men included, the student body for 1915/16 would eventually total 435.

Students and staff would launch their academic careers in facilities that were a far cry from what Wesbrook had originally been promised. McGill BC had left its two buildings in Fairview to its successor: a two-and-a-half storey wood-frame building at the southeast corner of 10th Avenue and Laurel Street, and a single-storey structure, also of wood construction, immediately beside it. These would become known as the Physics and Chemistry buildings, respectively. Also included among the college’s assets left to UBC were its library collection of 1,910 volumes, and assorted laboratory and office furniture and equipment.

In addition, the Vancouver School Board agreed to loan the chairs and desks that had previously been used by McGill BC. The board also granted university students access to laboratory and workshop facilities at nearby King Edward High School.

Perhaps most importantly, Vancouver General Hospital was very generous in allowing the university to expand its presence across its property. VGH board chairman J. J. Banfield agreed to the construction of two additional “temporary” buildings, each single-storey and of wood-frame-and-shingle construction, on Laurel. Completed that summer, these would house classes and laboratories for geology and mining.

Finally, the provincial government had paid for the construction of a new, permanent building for VGH's use as a tuberculosis control and treatment centre, on the condition that it be loaned to the university for as long as it was based at the Fairview campus. For UBC it would serve as space for the university administration, the Library, and the Faculty of Arts – the latter gave it its unofficial name of the Arts Building.

By September the Library collections had grown to 30,000 volumes. The Library itself was located on the first floor of the east wing of the Arts Building. A small reading room, with seating for about 35 students, was established in space originally intended as a south-facing deck for hospital patients. The bookstacks were located in a larger room next door.

The Library collection was not yet fully catalogued – the books were simply grouped on the shelves according to general subject area. Acting librarian John Ridington had been hired on a temporary basis in August 1914 only to unpack and catalogue books. He was officially appointed in December 1914, “in charge of cataloguing Library,” although he had no formal training as a librarian.

August and September of 1915 presented a picture of controlled chaos in and around Fairview. The university's offices were still downtown; the new space in the Arts Building had to be made ready. Office walls and partitions were put up, and telephone lines installed. Wesbrook's attention to detail was such that the itemized costs of each project were noted in his diary. His diary was full of to-do lists, appointment reminders, and notes to see so-and-so re. such-and-such. A reminder of his wife's birthday on August 7 was written in red ink.

The finalized text for the first UBC calendar was sent to the King's Printer on August 2. When it was published the following month, Wesbrook made sure complimentary copies were sent to government officials, local dignitaries, and other university supporters. Demand for this first tangible product of the university became so great among the general public that copies of the calendar disappeared as quickly as they were produced.

The move of the university's offices from Hastings Street to Fairview happened on September 13. President Wesbrook wasn't even in town that day – the minister of education had delegated him to speak to a meeting of school trustees in Chilliwack. His first day at work in his new office was September 16. As he wrote in a letter a few days later: “We have left the Hastings Street offices and moved in on the workmen which hurried them and inconvenienced us but I think on the whole the results will be satisfactory.”

Even in the middle of such a period of unremitting activity, Wesbrook still had social obligations to fulfill. Perhaps the most important of these came on September 18 when he and his wife had the opportunity to meet Canada's Governor General, His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught. The Duke was very interested in military affairs and Canada's role in the war. Wesbrook took the opportunity to tell him about UBC's plans for an officers' training corps.

Other visitors to Vancouver had to be met and shown around. Local friends, colleagues, and dignitaries were invited for dinner. As new university staff arrived to assume their posts, Wesbrook would often meet them in person.

Another milestone came on the afternoon of September 27 when Wesbrook presided over the first meeting of the faculty. The president declared that he did not want the university administration decentralized among the faculties and departments, and preferred a unitary system. He proposed an administrative body consisting of the deans and department heads. Details of management would be assumed by committees, the functions and membership of which Wesbrook had already carefully considered before the meeting. Wesbrook's centralized system would persist until 1921, when administrative responsibilities were devolved to the academic units.

The university's actual opening was to be a quiet and understated affair. No special ceremonies were planned for Thursday, September 30. Wesbrook's diary entry for that day was brief: “9 a.m. – Students assembled meet classes in 4 groups with 1 Registrar & Mr. Klinck.”

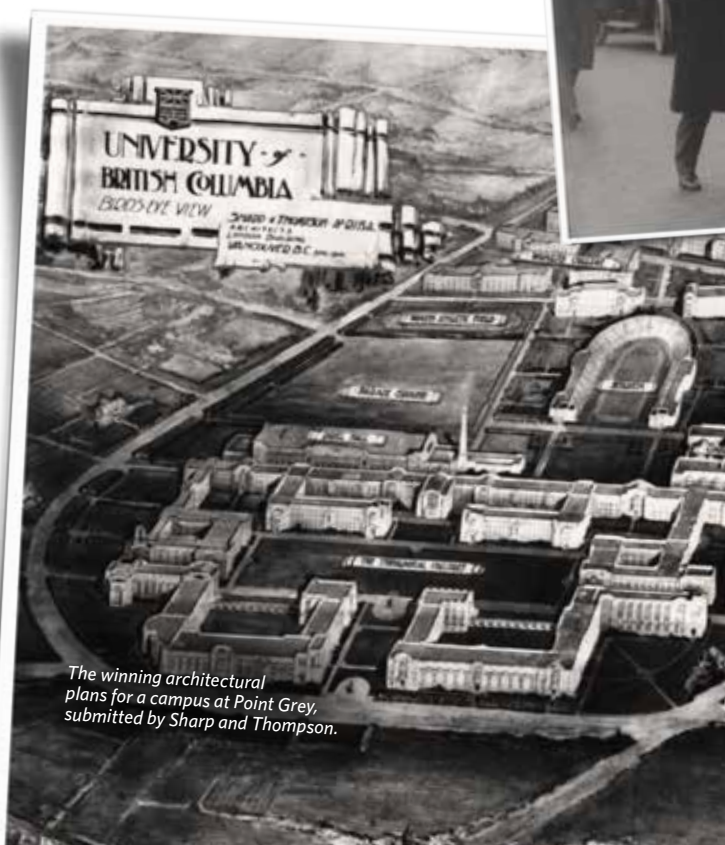
The Library collection was not yet fully catalogued – the books were simply grouped on the shelves according to general subject area.

One reason for the lack of fanfare was that there was no auditorium or other space large enough to hold the more than 300 students who were present that first day. Instead, they were organized into four groups in four classrooms. Each in turn was visited by the president and members of the university staff. To each group Wesbrook read a letter he had received from Premier McBride:

This being the week upon which University work in this Province begins, I take this opportunity of writing to you and expressing my pleasure at the fact that in educational matters we have reached another milestone of progress. I want to congratulate you upon having entered upon the actual duties for which you have for some time been so assiduously preparing, and to congratulate the people of British Columbia upon their at last possessing an institution that will some day rank with the great Universities of the Continent...

I want you, on my behalf, to extend greetings to your Colleagues and welcome the Students, many of whom will undoubtedly occupy positions of great responsibility in British Columbia, to fit them for which is one of the objects that gave the University being.

It was also felt that owing to wartime conditions and the general public anxiety regarding the war, then entering its second year, it would not be appropriate to hold any formal ceremony or celebration. Instead, Wesbrook looked to the future. Opening day was only the beginning for UBC – there would be opportunities ahead to celebrate the university's accomplishments. As he wrote to Premier McBride later that day,



We shall hope that when next spring we are able to present candidates for the first degrees granted by the University of British Columbia, there will be opportunity for some formal demonstration, at which time the people of the Province may see something of the work undertaken and accomplished, and that on such an occasion, they may have some right to congratulate themselves upon their determination to establish a people's university.

UBC's relatively low profile on opening day did not mean that it escaped media attention. Newspapers from Vancouver to Victoria to Vernon all reported on the university's launch. An editorial in the *Vancouver News-Advertiser* noted its modest beginnings and the difficulties of launching such a major enterprise in wartime, but concluded that:

[President Wesbrook] is a resourceful and capable organizer and finds himself now at the head of a school which starts out much better equipped and manned, and with a far larger attendance, than the other universities of Western Canada. It is only just to say that the university would not have been in this position if it had not fallen heir to educational assets of McGill University College, which has laid a substantial foundation for the larger enterprise now undertaken by the provincial university.

A separate article in the *News-Advertiser* concluded, "the enthusiasm of the faculty is dominated by their desire to see that the university fills its proper place in the intellectual and industrial progress of the province... Its great future can but dimly be divined."


That day's feature article in the *Vancouver World* paints the most vivid surviving picture of UBC's inauguration:

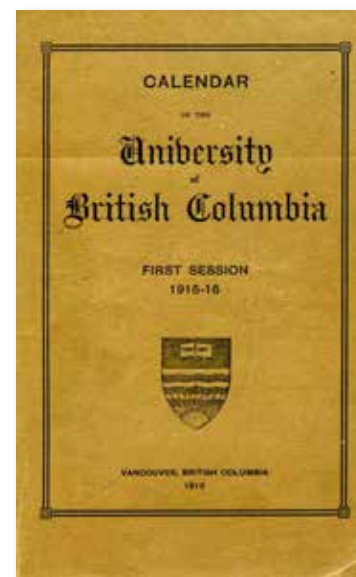
There is only one thing necessary now to make the University of British Columbia blossom into a full-fledged university with perfect credentials, and that is a 'varsity "yell"'. ... There were the fresh-faced and somewhat unsophisticated freshman, the sophomore with his year of college tending to make him regard the "new man" with mixed feelings of kindness and pity, the studious third-year man and the fourth-year student, eagerly waiting for the degree that shall be the "open sesame" to the great world of struggle and fame.

When the representative of The World crossed the threshold of the Arts building at 9 a.m. over 200 eager students were crowded together in the atrium waiting for the door to their respective class-rooms to be thrown open. The buzz of conversation, such as is only heard on first days, droned through the vestibule. In one corner a group of girls were enthusiastically examining new text books. In another two fourth-year men were debating the war and military training. Two Japanese students sat as motionless as statues on a long bench, while a group of young ladies and young men eagerly reviewed the names of the successful candidates at the recent supplemental examinations, published on the announcements' board on the wall.

After the president addressed each of the assembled student groups, the professors gave general outlines of study for each of their courses, and advised students as to where to purchase textbooks and other essentials. The students were then dismissed. Classes would start in earnest the next day.

With that, the University of British Columbia was launched as the country's newest post-secondary institution. Its beginnings were far more modest than had been imagined just two years before. Thoughts of the war weighed heavily on students and faculty alike. At spring convocation - which President Wesbrook intended as UBC's "real" coming-out party - the graduation gowns would be trimmed with khaki thread to honour those students who had enlisted.

Nevertheless, optimism and enthusiasm pervaded the Fairview campus. Those feelings would be embodied by President Wesbrook when he wrote later to his friend, provincial forester H.R. MacMillan: "If we do not accomplish good work, it will not be because we do not have good timber. I am delighted with the students individually and think they will develop the University spirit although as yet they have not had a chance." Wesbrook's optimism for the future of UBC would be justified over the next century. 



Copies of UBC's first calendar disappeared as quickly as they were produced.

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Wesbrook (second from left) and UBC board member Robert McKechnie (second from right), later Chancellor, at a public event - likely UBC's first graduation in 1916.



On September 22, 1925, the university held its first classes at the new Point Grey campus. The move from the site of what is now the Vancouver General Hospital to Point Grey was an important part of UBC's history, but that was not in and of itself the story. The real story was the massive student-conceived and executed publicity campaign that convinced the government to provide funds to build the university and move it from its overcrowded facilities at the Fairview site. The campaign culminated in the Pilgrimage, or what we now call the Great Trek.

The Legislature had approved funds to clear the 175-acre site at Point Grey in 1913, and work began on the Science Building the following summer. However, the First World War began soon after the concrete and steel framework began to take shape, and with the diversion of resources to the war effort, the government stopped construction. The bare girders of the Science Building would serve as a monument to the unrealized vision of the Point Grey campus for almost a decade.

Everyone viewed the use of the shacks at Fairview as an exigency measure and hoped that work would soon resume at Point Grey. But with a depleted

treasury, the provincial government did not consider the university a high priority. UBC spent its first decade at Fairview. Unfortunately, President Wesbrook died shortly before the armistice in 1918. He was replaced by Dean of Agriculture Leonard Klinck.

The inadequacy of the Fairview facilities became increasingly apparent with each passing year. Between 1916 and 1922 UBC enrolment expanded by 211 per cent (from 378 to 1,178), while the capacity of the buildings grew by only 25 per cent. The wards of a small three-floor former hospital building made reasonably good classrooms, while the rest of the facilities, including the Auditorium, offices and lecture rooms, were housed in old army shacks. Additional space had to be found as the number of students grew. Professors held agriculture classes in a private residence, French classes in the basement of a church unused by its congregation during the week, and chemistry classes in the famous chemistry tent erected on the site. Professors often had to repeat their lectures several times because not enough adequate classroom space existed and neither students nor faculty members had proper laboratory facilities. The Auditorium, used for general

THE GREAT

Students form 'UBC' in front of the Science Building. All photos courtesy of UBC Archives.



assemblies, held only 650 people. But the close quarters and relatively small student numbers produced a cohesive and united student body, and a strong sense of community between students and faculty. This spirit set the stage for the events of 1922.

By the spring of 1922, students began organizing a campaign to generate support for the resumption of construction at Point Grey. Returned war veteran and AMS president-elect Albert "Ab" Richards (Class of '23) became leader of the "Build the University" campaign. As a first step in what would become a massive and well-organized undertaking, students were asked to take petitions back to their hometowns in the summer and collect at least 25 signatures. The petition read, in part: "... we the undersigned humbly petition the Government of the Province of British Columbia to institute a definite and progressive policy toward the University of British Columbia, and to take immediate action toward the erection of permanent buildings on the chosen University site at Point Grey." While students collected signatures at home, the Publicity Campaign Committee consisting of Richards, Marjorie Agnew, Percy Barr, J.V. Clyne, Allan H. Finlay, Jack

Grant, and Aubrey Roberts co-ordinated activities in Vancouver and organized meetings with service clubs and business leaders to promote their cause.

Students returned in the fall with 17,000 signatures on their petitions. Leaders felt that the numbers, though impressive, were not enough to convince the government to take action. As part of Varsity Week (October 22-28), the students conducted a door-to-door canvas in Vancouver to increase the number of signatures. They divided the city with each class responsible for canvassing in specific sections. Just prior to the Vancouver canvas, a special edition of the *Ubyyssey* provided students with facts and figures they could use in promoting the cause. The instructions also made clear that the success of this exercise depended on every student doing his or her part, and reminded them that as representatives of the university their behaviour would have an effect on public opinion. At the end of the organized petition blitz, students had collected 56,000 signatures. Students also solicited support from service agencies and other organizations. During Varsity Week, many store windows included displays and posters supporting the campaign. Newspapers, too,

TREK

THE STUDENT PILGRIMAGE THAT CAME TO DEFINE A UNIVERSITY

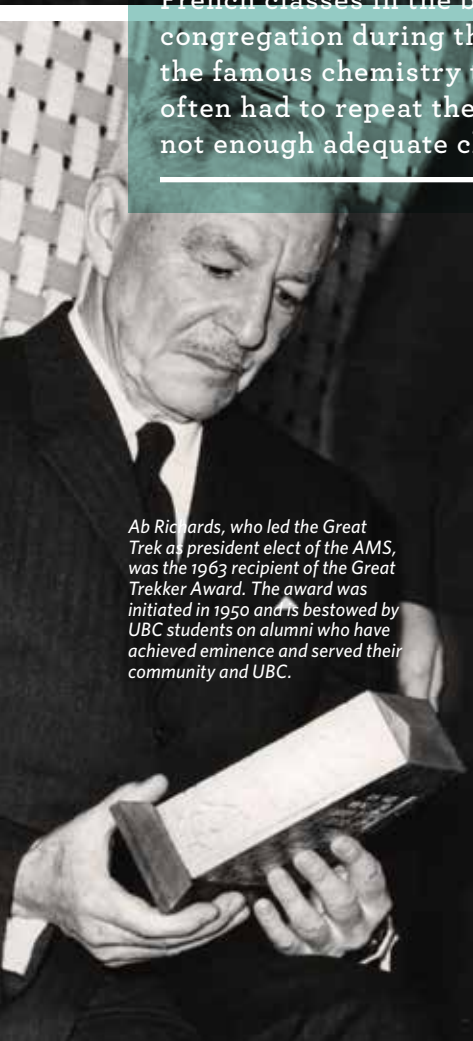
BY CHRIS HIVES





Marchers stream along the path of the future University Boulevard at the end of their pilgrimage. The barn and poultry pens can be seen in the distance.

Professors held agriculture classes in a private residence, French classes in the basement of a church unused by its congregation during the week, and chemistry classes in the famous chemistry tent erected on the site. Professors often had to repeat their lectures several times because not enough adequate classroom space existed.



Ab Richards, who led the Great Trek as president elect of the AMS, was the 1963 recipient of the Great Trekker Award. The award was initiated in 1950 and is bestowed by UBC students on alumni who have achieved eminence and served their community and UBC.

carried stories about the campaign as the students established their own news service to send regular campaign updates throughout the province. President Klinck observed:

No effort on the part of the authorities has ever attracted the attention of the public as has the campaign now being carried on by the students for removal of the University to Point Grey. Their enthusiasm is contagious. Everywhere one goes questions are asked as to the progress of the campaign and the best wishes are expressed for the success of the movement. The initiative, resource and energy with which the canvas is being prosecuted has caught and fired the imagination of men and women in all parts of the province.
(*The Ubyyssey*, 17 October 1922)

As the student campaign neared its end, only one critical event remained. The Pilgrimage (the term Great Trek would be coined some 25 years later) was set to end Varsity Week on Saturday, October 28. Nearly 1,200 students showed up, along with banners and placards, floats and a marching band. The procession began at the east end of the Georgia viaduct and made its way through downtown Vancouver along Main, Hastings and Granville. At Granville and Davie, the students boarded trolley buses provided by BC Electric

Railway and rode to the end of the line at 10th Avenue and Sasamat. They continued on foot along what was little more than a wagon trail to the Point Grey campus. Along the way students continued to sing and chant. Lyrics for one of the official marching songs composed for the event conveyed their sentiments.

*We're through with tents and hovels,
We're done with shingle stain,
That's why we want you to join us
And carry our Campaign.
The Government can't refuse us,
No matter what they say,
For we'll get the people voting
For our new home at Point Grey.*

The students gathered on the west side of the skeleton of the Science Building and then climbed the concrete stairs to take their place. That symbolic occupation and the familiar formation of the letters "UBC" with student bodies were staged so they could be recorded for posterity by newsreel cameramen conveniently attending the event.

The Pilgrimage ended with the dedication of the cairn that still stands on Main Mall in front of the Chemistry Building. Students threw stones in the hollow centre of the structure that had been designed by the university architects and built from rocks gathered on the campus site. It was fitting that the students completed the first structure at Point Grey. Richards expressed the hope that "very soon around our Cairn of rock buildings will rise and a university will be established which will bring honour and glory to our Alma Mater and renown to our Province and Dominion."

In the week following the Pilgrimage, a student delegation of Richards, Grant, Clyne and Barr packed the 56,000-name petition in seven suitcases and on November 1 met with the cabinet and the Legislature in Victoria. Captain Ian Mackenzie, a Vancouver MLA and an active supporter of the campaign introduced the delegation, and six page-boys hauled the petition roles into the House. Then Richards addressed the Legislature. This persuasive presentation and obvious public support helped convince the provincial government to resume work on the Point Grey campus and within a week the premier announced that the government would secure a \$1.5 million loan to proceed. These funds completed the Science Building and built the Library and powerhouse according to the original plans. Completed in 1923 and 1925 respectively, the Science Building and Library stood as impressive but isolated structures on the stark campus. In the spring of 1924, work began on six new frame and stucco “semi-permanent” buildings to house Agriculture, Applied Science, Arts, the Auditorium, and the administration.

On September 22, 1925, 1,400 students crowded into the Auditorium and stood for the university’s first inaugural general assembly. The campus to which the students travelled on that day was significantly less grandiose than that envisaged in the original 1914 plans. Only a few modest buildings dotted the landscape, there were no trees or grass, and roads and sidewalks were still under construction. Students had no playing fields or gymnasium, piles of construction debris littered the campus and mud and dust were everywhere. Despite these shortcomings, this was the university campus that the students had, with single-minded determination, worked so hard to achieve.

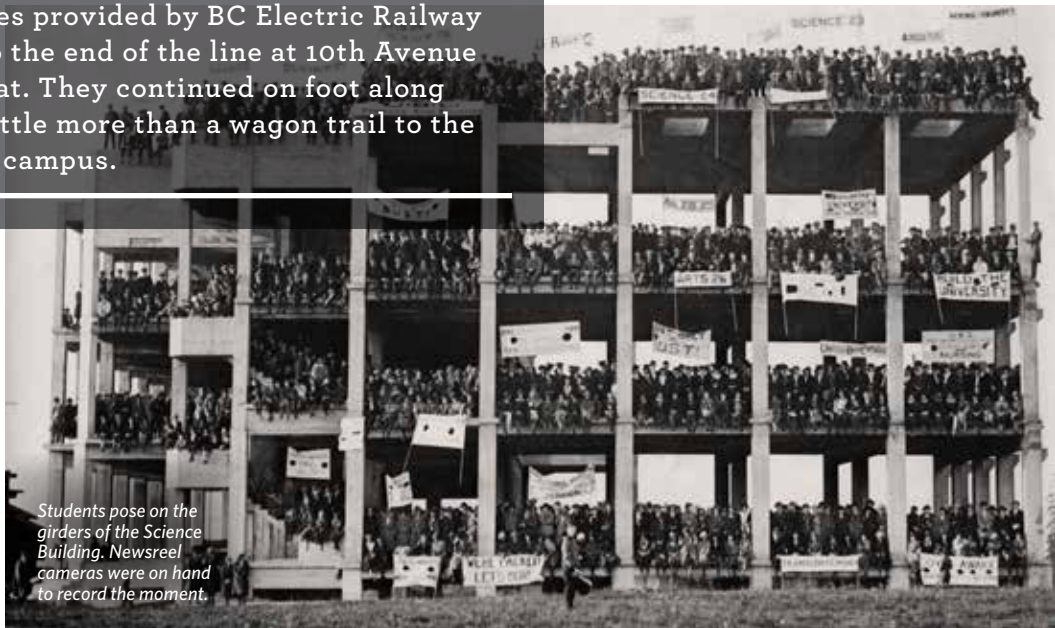
Student involvement in the Great Trek and the entire publicity campaign represents a remarkable, but not isolated, chapter in UBC’s history. The events of 1922 should be viewed as the beginning of a trend. Subsequent student initiatives led to the construction of several campus buildings including the Gymnasium (1929), Brock Hall (1940), Armoury (1941), War Memorial Gymnasium (1951) and the Student Union Building (1968). Although perhaps not on the scale of the Great Trek, these initiatives too, helped define the university. **T**

A version of this article was published in the inaugural issue of Trek magazine in 2001.

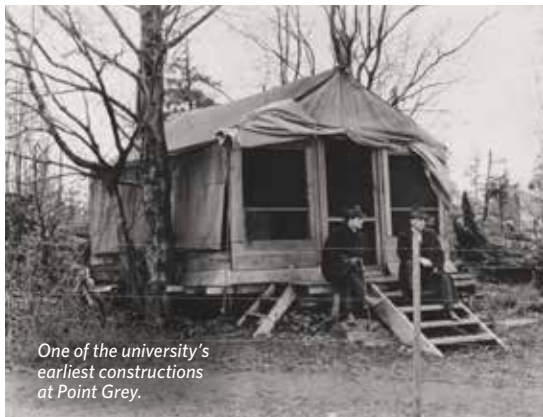


Marchers parade along Granville at Georgia.

At Granville and Davie the students boarded trolley buses provided by BC Electric Railway and rode to the end of the line at 10th Avenue and Sasamat. They continued on foot along what was little more than a wagon trail to the Point Grey campus.



Students pose on the girders of the Science Building. Newsreel cameras were on hand to record the moment.



One of the university's earliest constructions at Point Grey.



Crowded students on the Fairview campus.

Dr. Martha C. Piper

Interim President and Vice-Chancellor, University of British Columbia

AN INAUSPICIOUS START, BUT A GRAND FIRST CENTURY



Photo by Martin Dee

Ours were modest beginnings – which is never how it was supposed to be. In the decades before the University of British Columbia accepted its first students, BC’s intellectual and political leaders had ambitious designs. There were plans for a substantial new campus at Point Grey, and in 1913 the provincial government committed to the kind of budget that would put UBC immediately on the international academic map.

Yet a year later, the world slipped into war and the provincial treasury into deficit. With virtually none of the promised funding forthcoming, UBC opened its doors on September 30, 1915, in the “Fairview Shacks,” a clutch of rundown buildings on the grounds of what is now Vancouver General Hospital (see page 4).

In the opening pages of *UBC: The First 100 Years*, a wonderful book by Eric Damer and Herbert Rosengarten, the authors offer a compelling, if uninviting, picture of a university in its infancy:

“The institution had no history, no alumni, and no benefactors; its physical plant was embarrassingly inadequate and its budgetary situation precarious.”

Perhaps worse, the rousing ambition also seemed to have faded away. As Damer and Rosengarten report, our founders welcomed UBC’s charter students with a promise to “provide a satisfactory education... comparable to that offered by other Canadian universities.” We were going to validate that “satisfactory” standard by conducting “respectable” research.

Nothing special. And not nearly enough.

Seven short years later, the city, the region and the world got its first big UBC wake-up call when 1,178 UBC students, a handful of professors and a surprising number of alumni launched a protest march to demand that the province keep its old promise and build the university. It would come to be known as the Great Trek (see page 8). The next week, the AMS President delivered a petition to the Legislature with 56,000 names – an impressive proportion of the city’s population.

We know what followed: a century of innovation in everything from traditional sectors like forestry and mining to the most advanced industries like clean energy and biotechnology; a century of top-quality education in every discipline; and a century of athletic, artistic and cultural accomplishment. From its first 379 students in those cramped shacks, UBC now has 60,000, on Point Grey, in Kelowna, at Robson Square and Great Northern Way, in the Downtown Eastside Learning Exchange, and in co-op and internship placements across the country and around the world. Our annual economic impact is more than \$12 billion, which includes \$1.4 billion in Kelowna. In research alone we spend more than \$530 million a year, the lion’s share of which is earned in peer-reviewed competition with the other best research universities in the country.

And when I say “best,” the superlative is both intended and justified. UBC is consistently ranked in the top three medical-doctoral institutions in Canada and among the top 40 in the world. A significant amount of credit for that achievement goes to UBC’s 305,000 alumni, whose capacities and accomplishments are the primary measure by which a great institution must be judged. Certainly, the international rating agencies focus on how often UBC’s faculty and researchers are published and cited. They look for Nobel Prize winners – finding seven among our alumni and current and former faculty. But if you’re measuring the broad quality of one of the world’s foremost universities, you might also count the 69 Rhodes scholars who earned their undergraduate degree at UBC, and the Academic All-Canadians and Thunderbirds who have won as varsity athletes and gone on to represent Canada on every sporting podium, including the Olympics. Among alumni and former faculty, you might consider the BC premiers – there have been three (Mike Harcourt, Glen Clark, and Ujjal Dosanjh) – and the prime ministers (John Turner and Kim Campbell). You might ponder the impact of great jurists – including Frank Iacobucci and Beverley McLachlin – and spectacular artists and performers, like Sam Black, B.C. Binning, Ben Heppner and Judith Forst. You might, especially, look to the donors and supporters who, year after year, have enabled UBC to attain new levels of excellence.

So, to all UBC alumni I say take a bow, and accept my most heartfelt thanks. Since my first arrival at UBC in 1997, I have come to love this institution like no other; I mean it quite sincerely when I say, “thank you!” for the role that you have played in helping UBC achieve its position as one of the world’s leading universities.

And finally, don’t stop. We still need your support – and, I promise, we will reward your continued attention. If you thought the first century was grand, you’ll be amazed by what is to come. [T](#)

CONNECT AND YOU COULD WIN*



Connect with *alumni UBC* during Centennial for a chance to win a 2016 Volkswagen Jetta

alumni.ubc.ca/connect100

CONTEST GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY

COWELL
AUTO GROUP



* Eligibility applies to UBC alumni residing in Canada, excluding Quebec, and excluding UBC faculty and staff, and their families. Contest closes June 3, 2016. Limit one entry per person. Full terms and conditions at alumni.ubc.ca/terms100

alumniUBC

1915



1908 The Provincial Government Passes the University Act

"The University shall... provide for: Such instruction in all branches of liberal education as may enable students to become proficient in... science, commerce, arts, literature, law, medicine, and all other branches of knowledge..."
- from the British Columbia University Act of 1908

1915 The UBC Motto and Crest are created.



1915 The AMS is Established

Three students and a classics professor draft the Alma Mater Society constitution over the summer. The AMS advocates on behalf of students, directs student activities, levies student fees, and supervises student clubs.

1915 The UBC Players' Club is Established

Frederic "Freddy" Wood was the first director of the Players' Club, the longest running student drama society in Canada.

1915 The founding faculties are Arts, Applied Science and Agriculture.

1910

1913 The First President is Appointed

Accomplished academic and administrator Dr. Frank Fairchild Wesbrook is named the first president of UBC.



1916 The First Class Graduates

Jessie J. Anderson is the first student to receive a UBC degree. She is one of 17 women in a class of 38 graduating students.



UBC's First Century

A similar timeline can be viewed on the 2nd floor of the Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre.

Photos courtesy of UBC Archives, AMS Archives, the Ubsysey and the UBC Department of Athletics and Recreation Archives.



1915 UBC Opens on the Fairview Campus

The Fairview campus, originally constructed to house the McGill University College of British Columbia, welcomes its first students as the newly founded University of British Columbia. The temporary campus is nicknamed the "Fairview Shacks" due to its hasty construction.



1922 Students March in The Great Trek

Over the summer break, UBC students collect approximately 56,000 signatures in support of building the university at the Point Grey site. This public awareness campaign culminates on October 28, when 1,200 students organize a parade and rally downtown and then trek to the Point Grey site. The trek is a success, and the provincial government commits to raising \$1.5 million to construct permanent buildings on the site (see page 8).



1918 The First Issue of The Ubyyssey is Published

The student-run newspaper is first printed on October 17. Over the years its editors and contributors would include Pierre Berton, Eric Nicol and future prime minister John Turner.



1925 The Point Grey Campus Opens

On October 15, UBC officially opens the Point Grey campus. The site now has three permanent buildings, nine semi-permanent buildings, and a handful of agricultural outbuildings.

1932 The University's Future is Threatened

The Great Depression has devastating effects on the economy, and the provincial government threatens to close the university. Students mount a successful campaign to keep the university open, but the government drastically cuts annual grants by more than half.

1920

1917 The Alumni Association is Founded

The UBC Alumni Association is founded as an independent organization with the aim of fostering a life-long relationship between the university and its graduates.

1920 UBC Charges Tuition Fees

Due to a shortfall in funding from the provincial government, the UBC Board of Governors is compelled to charge students a \$40 tuition fee.



1920 Outdoor Club Builds Log Cabin on Grouse Mountain

More than 80 enthusiastic members painstakingly climb the old trail up the mountain, equipped with tools to construct the cabin. The cabin is completed in the fall of 1922 but, sadly, burns to the ground in mid-November, cause unknown.

1930

1930 Chinese Students Association is Formed



1927 Musqueam House Posts are Presented to UBC

The Musqueam First Nation sells two house posts to the UBC Alumni Association, with the agreement that the posts will remain on the UBC campus next to the Musqueam reserve. The Alumni Association presents the house posts as a gift to the university the same year at the second annual homecoming.



1919 UBC Offers the First Nursing Degree Program in the British Empire

In 1919 UBC took a great leap by being the first school in all of Canada to offer a nursing baccalaureate degree. The induction of the program at this time was not only important to the field of nursing, but also allowed for great advances in the women's rights movement, as well as combatting the influenza epidemic of the time.



1934 Sports Teams Adopt the Thunderbirds Name
The Ubyssy leads the search for a new sports team name to replace the "Blue & Gold," finally settling on Thunderbirds. The Thunderbird is a powerful symbol in West Coast First Nations culture. In 1948, Chief William Scow, his son, Alfred (a UBC law student) and the Neel family of the Kwikwasut'inuxw First Nation formally grant UBC permission to use the Thunderbird name (see page 28). A totem pole carved by Ellen Neel is gifted to the university to establish a bond between the Aboriginal community and the campus. Alfred Scow would go on to be the first Aboriginal person to graduate from UBC's law school and be appointed to the Bench.



1946 Veterans and the Huts
With the end of the war, enrolment skyrockets to 9,035. To accommodate the nearly tripled student population, the university moves out-of-service coastal army huts by truck and barge to the Point Grey campus, where they are converted into classrooms and residences.



1940 The First Student Union Building Opens
The new student union building, with construction directed and funded by the AMS, provides a place to host student recreation activities, which helps combat the solemn wartime mood on campus. Originally called The Brock Memorial Hall to honour Dean Reginald Brock and his wife, Mildred, its name is later shortened to Brock Hall.

1940

1950



1935 The Grand Campus Washout
Heavy snowfall followed by driving rain in January causes a large pool of water to form on the north end of campus. A small ditch is dug to help the water drain into the ocean, but continuing rainfall turns the ditch into a rapidly expanding ravine that destroys several outlying buildings. The ravine is dubbed the "Campus Canyon" by students and is eventually filled in with numerous truckloads of gravel.

1945 Faculty of Law is established.

1947 Enrolment swells to 9,374. Almost 50 per cent of students are war veterans.

1949 The faculties of Pharmacy, Medicine and Graduate Studies are established.

1951 The Faculty of Forestry is established.

1951 Students Dedicate The New Gymnasium
War Memorial Gymnasium is built and dedicated to the men and women of British Columbia who served in the First and Second World Wars. The construction and funding of the new facility is led by students. The gym is designed in part by a UBC architecture alumnus, Ned Pratt, who was the first Olympic medal winner from UBC, winning a bronze for doubles rowing at the 1932 games hosted in Los Angeles.





1954 UBC Hosts The British Empire Games

UBC is one of the hosts for the games, utilising the newly constructed Empire Pool for the swimming and diving events. Off campus, the UBC men's rowing team defeats the heavily favoured English team and wins the gold medal.



1954 Brock Hall Fire

The then Student Union Building catches on fire on the evening of Tuesday, October 26. Campus fire trucks arrive shortly and put out the blaze. The AMS immediately starts a fund to "Rebuild the Brock" and within six months the building is repaired at a cost of \$400,000 and re-opened.

1964 The Faculty of Arts and Science is split into two separate faculties, and the Faculty of Dentistry is established.

1960

1956 The schools of Commerce and Education are promoted to faculty status.

1968 The New Student Union Building is Completed

UBC's first stadium, Varsity Stadium, is demolished to make way for the new SUB as the student population outgrows Brock Hall. Students direct the construction and contribute the majority of funding for the building.



1959 Construction of the Student Residence Begins

Construction of the Place Vanier Residence begins and facilities open in 1961. This is shortly followed by the opening of the Totem Park Residence in 1964.

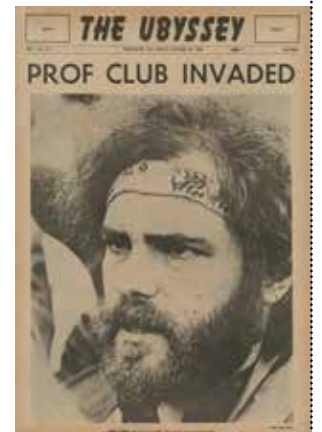


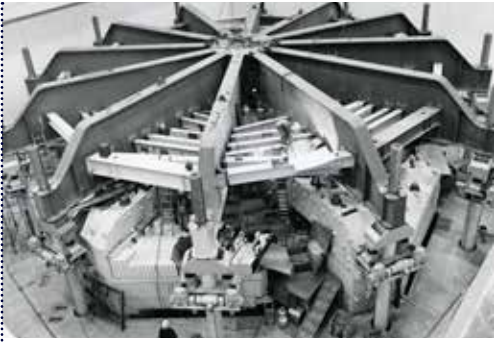
1958 UBC Celebrates its Golden Jubilee

UBC celebrates its Golden Jubilee and launches the UBC Development Fund, the first public appeal for capital funds by any Canadian university. Through government contributions and fund drives, it raises \$35 million.

1968 Students Take Over the Faculty Club

American social activist and Yippie Jerry Rubin leads a group of 2,000 students to a sit-in at UBC's faculty club in the name of liberation and an end to authoritarian structures at the university.





1970 Cyclotron Construction Begins at TRIUMF
 UBC's TRIUMF facility, in partnership with Simon Fraser University, The University of Victoria and The University of Alberta, begins construction of the world's largest cyclotron particle accelerator. TRIUMF is Canada's national laboratory for particle and nuclear physics.



1979 UBC awards its 100,000th degree
 Sixty-three years after UBC's first graduation ceremony, Clair Francis Wilson receives the university's 100,000th degree from then UBC President, Douglas Kenny. It was in Medicine.



1981 The Asian Centre Opens
 UBC expands its interest in Asia as ties between Canada and Pacific-Rim countries increase. The new Asian Centre - constructed in part from materials used for the Sanyo Pavilion at Expo '70 in Osaka, Japan - houses the Asian Studies library and offers space for the Asia-related interests of various departments on campus.

1973 Election of 196 Students as Full Voting Members In Faculties

Senate approves recommendations for the election of 196 students as full voting members in UBC's 12 faculties.

1974 The Native Indian Teacher Education Program is Introduced

NITEP begins as an elementary teacher education program in response to a need expressed by Aboriginal people throughout British Columbia for a more effective and relevant teacher education program. In 2004, a secondary teaching program is established. NITEP builds upon Aboriginal identity and cultural heritage while preparing persons of Aboriginal ancestry to be effective educators.

1970

1980

1976 The New Museum of Anthropology Opens

Originally opened in 1949, MOA moves to a new home designed by Canadian architect Arthur Erickson. The world-renowned museum houses an extensive ethnological collection of objects from Asia, South and Central America, the Pacific Islands, Africa, and the First Peoples of the Northwest Coast.

1969 The Leon Ladner Bell Tower is completed.



1982 The Football Team Wins the Vanier Cup

The UBC football team wins its first Vanier Cup after finishing the season undefeated. During the 1997 Vanier Cup telecast, TSN commentators agree this team is the best in Canadian university football history.

1982 Students Protest Increasing Fees and Government Cutbacks

A university budget shortfall of \$7.5 million and the provincial government's refusal to provide additional funding forces UBC to raise tuition fees an average of 32.8 per cent, and consider cutting faculty and support staff. Student protests, including a campus-wide "day of mourning," have little effect.



1978 The Inaugural Storm the Wall

Students participate in the inaugural Storm the Wall relay, where they compete in running, swimming, cycling and scaling a 12-foot wall. As of 2015, Storm the Wall holds the title of the largest intramural sporting event in North America.

1987 John Demco Establishes .ca Domain Name

Mr. Demco, an IT manager with Computer Science, conceives the .ca domain name. By the year 2000, UBC volunteers have registered more than 100,000 domain names.

1989 The World of Opportunity Campaign Launches

The goal of the World of Opportunity Campaign is to raise \$66 million in funds from private and corporate donors to pay for facilities, buildings and scholarships, with the provincial government providing matching funds. By the time the campaign ends in 1993, \$262 million has been raised.

1989 Pacific Spirit Regional Park Created

Pacific Spirit Regional Park is created from undeveloped areas of University Endowment Lands on traditional Musqueam territory. The park in total is 874.4 hectares and boasts pedestrian, cycling and equestrian trails.

1991 The Disability Resource Centre Opens

Alumnus Rick Hansen speaks at the opening of the Disability Resource Centre.

1995 C.K. Choi Building for the Institute of Asian Research Opens

The building is constructed using energy efficient systems and recycled materials and utilizes advanced environmental design principles.

1995 UBC offers its First Online Courses

The university offers one of the first 100 per cent online web-based courses.

1998 UBC Leads Sustainability Practices

UBC opens the first Campus Sustainability Office in Canada. It works with university and community partners to research and explore solutions to sustainability challenges. One of these challenges involves the volume of private vehicles travelling to and from campus. The U-Pass program, pioneered by the AMS in 2003, provides discounted transit passes to students. By 2013 daily transit trips to and from UBC Vancouver more than double.

2004 The UBC Distributed Medical Program is Established

Canada's first model of distributed medical education allows students to train in different areas of the province. It is originally offered in three regions: the Island, the North, and Vancouver Fraser. A fourth, the South, is established on UBC's Okanagan campus in 2011. The program aims for increased rural and Aboriginal medical student enrolment and is intended to encourage more medicine graduates to work in underserved rural communities.

1990



1993 Michael Smith is Awarded the Nobel Prize

Dr. Smith, the founding director of the UBC Biotechnology Laboratory, is awarded the Nobel Prize for his pioneering work in the development of site directed mutagenesis, a technique which allows the DNA sequence of any gene to be altered in a designated manner for use in medical and biological research.

1993 The Centre for Aboriginal Initiatives Opens

The First Nations Longhouse, built in consultation with the Musqueam First Nation, is an award winning building reflecting the architectural traditions of the Northwest Coast. As well as providing programming and services for Aboriginal students, the Longhouse welcomes people from the broader community who want to learn about Aboriginal culture.



1997 The APEC Riot

The Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) meeting is hosted by the federal government at the UBC Museum of Anthropology. More than 1,500 protesters converge on campus in an event that culminates in a confrontation with police involving pepper spray and mass arrests.

2001 Engineers Take Pranks to New Heights

UBC engineering students hang a Volkswagen Beetle from the Golden Gate Bridge. Of the many pranks they have pulled off, this is seen as one of the greatest. See page 38.

2001 The Downtown Campus Opens

UBC Robson Square opens in downtown Vancouver. The new campus offers both credit and non-credit courses and establishes a central location for university outreach and community activities.

2000



Photo: Craig Lee | San Francisco Chronicle | Polaris

Photo: Duane Storey

2007 of Sched

Five years... large incr... enrolment... its Kyoto... emission... The Okan... ambitiou... thermal... groundw... campus v...

2007 Energy U

The Okan... ambitiou... utilizes th... the camp... making t...

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The unive... formally... global ac...

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The Ame... to lead th... undergra...

2015



2005 UBC Opens the Okanagan Campus

The campus opens in Kelowna with an initial academic plan based on four themes: indigenous studies, sustainability, health and wellness, and creativity. The opening ceremony is preceded by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Educational Cooperation and Programming between the Okanagan Nation Alliance and UBC Okanagan. The MOU acknowledges the importance of a strong relationship between the Okanagan campus and the indigenous people of the southern interior of BC.

2005 The founding faculties of the Okanagan campus are Arts and Sciences, Creative and Critical Studies, Education, Applied Science, Health and Social Development, Management and Graduate Studies.

2006 UBC and Musqueam First Nation Sign Memorandum of Affiliation

The historic memorandum recognizes UBC's special relationship with the Musqueam community and reaffirms the university's educational commitment to Aboriginal students.

2011 The start an evolution Campaign Launches

In September, UBC launches the most ambitious fund raising and alumni engagement campaign in Canadian history. It aims to raise \$1.5 billion for students, research, and community engagement, and to double the annual number of alumni actively connected to the university by 2015. The campaign is a success, exceeding both goals well ahead of the September 2015 campaign close.

2012 UBC Honours Japanese Canadian Students

At a special ceremony, UBC grants honorary degrees to 61 students who were unable to complete their studies and confers the degrees of 15 students who were unable to attend graduation when they were sent away to WWII internment camps in 1942.



2015 The Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre Opens

The Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre opens September 30, 2015, the day UBC's Centennial launches. The centre is the home for alumni for life and the first of its kind in Canada.

2015 The New SUB Opens and the Seagull Returns

The new student union building on the Vancouver campus, The Nest, opens with a name and mascot that pays homage to the long since rejected UBC sports team name, the Seagulls. The construction of the building is directed and predominantly financed by students, continuing the long tradition of student-funded buildings on the Vancouver campus.

2015/2016 100 Years in the Making

UBC celebrates its centennial from fall 2015 to spring 2016. The Okanagan campus celebrates its 10th anniversary at the same time.

UBC 100

2010

Kyoto Targets are Met Ahead of Schedule

By 2010, the Vancouver campus meets its Kyoto targets by reducing greenhouse gas emissions by six percent from 1990 levels. The Okanagan campus embarks on an energy upgrade project that utilizes geothermal energy extracted from the campus water, with the goal of making the campus virtually emissions free.

Okanagan Thermal Energy Upgrade

The Okanagan campus embarks on an energy upgrade project that utilizes geothermal energy extracted from the campus groundwater with the goal of making the campus virtually emissions free.

UBC Formalizes Global Principles

UBC is the first in Canada to adopt a broad strategy to ensure access to its technologies and research.

Nobel Laureate Carl Wieman Joins Faculty of Science

American physicist is recruited to UBC as part of the university's initiative to improve graduate science education.



Photo: Stephanie Tracey



Photo: Martin Dee

2013 UBC offers its first Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)

UBC pilots three non-credit courses taught by renowned UBC faculty and researchers through Coursera's online learning platform.

2010 The Okanagan Campus Doubles in Size

By 2010, the Okanagan campus comprises 208.6 hectares of land and has 7,004 enrolled students. Both figures have doubled since the opening in 2005.

2010 UBC Hosts the Olympics and Paralympics

UBC Vancouver is one of the host sites for the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics and Paralympics. Robson Square and the Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre are used throughout the games. As of 2015, UBC Olympians total 241 and the UBC Point Grey campus holds the honour of being the only venue in the world to have hosted the Olympics, Paralympics, and Special Olympics.

2010 UBC Joins the Max Planck Institute

The Vancouver campus becomes the home of The Max Planck- UBC Centre for Quantum Materials, the first centre in North America for the world-renowned research organization.

2009 Students Rally to Save the Farm

On April 7, more than 2,000 people march across the Vancouver campus from the SUB to the UBC Farm to show support for maintaining the farm's size and location. They are successful and the university agrees to keep this important space for students, research, and community outreach.

SAVING THE FARM

(ROUND 1):

John Young's dairy

A teaching and research farm was a central focus of UBC in the early years. John Young was hired to help build one from scratch, starting with his fine herd of Ayrshire cattle.

BY CHRIS PETTY, MFA'86

The cattle on the dock in Quebec City after their trans-Atlantic journey. The small boy on the far right is Alistair Young, wearing clothes bought specially for the trip.

When John and Mary Young and their six children boarded a ship in Glasgow, Scotland, to move to UBC's farm in August 1929, they couldn't have known what they were getting into. With 24 cows (and one bull) in tow, John Young was charged with establishing and maintaining a dairy herd for the university's Faculty of Agriculture. There were already Jersey cows at the site, but Young and his herd of cattle were employed to ramp up the faculty's dairy cattle research program.

He could be forgiven for taking a flyer on the opportunity half a world away. As the tenant operator of his family farm, "Waterside Mains," in Dumfriesshire county, he had nursed his herd through a severe bout of brucellosis and was faced with a crippling rise in the cost of his farm's lease. When he was approached by a kindly gentleman from a university in the colonies, he saw the offer as something he couldn't refuse.

Young (and his cattle and family) were recruited by UBC professor H.M. King, who was dispatched to Scotland by the university to find a herd of Ayrshire cattle - along with their herdsman - to populate the dairy farm. A certain Captain J.C. Dun-Waters, a fellow Scot and owner of the *Glasgow Herald* newspaper, operated a farm in Fintry, BC (across the lake from Kelowna). He was interested in helping develop a powerful Faculty of Agriculture at the fledgling university, and saw a healthy dairy farm as key to that success. In fact, one of the essential elements in selecting the Point Grey site in 1911 was its ability to

support a teaching and research farm as the central focus of the university. Dun-Waters was convinced that the Ayrshire was the only breed of cattle worth using at a teaching farm, and offered to help fund the purchase and transport of a herd to UBC.

In June 1929, Young et al set sail and arrived 10 sea-sick days later in Quebec City. (His youngest son, Archie, now 87, remembers being the only member of the family who didn't spend most of the trip in the latrine.) After six weeks of quarantine the cattle were put into railcars and trained to Vancouver where they arrived on August 10 in the middle of the Canadian Pacific Exhibition (now the PNE). Loaded onto floats and preceded by a pipe band, the elegant, long-horned stock was paraded through the exhibition and Vancouver's downtown before being hauled up to Point Grey and their new lives as "the best examples of the breed ever seen in this part of the world," according to a newspaper report.



Loaded onto floats and preceded by a pipe band, the elegant, long-horned stock was paraded through the exhibition and Vancouver's downtown before being hauled up to Point Grey and their new lives as "the best examples of the breed ever seen in this part of the world."

But the UBC campus was still in its infancy. Sod had only recently been broken at the farm site – around the old "B" parking lot, which is now a residential district – and the new barn hadn't been fully prepared for a large-scale dairy operation. Vancouver was still a rugged frontier town with limited resources, and the downtown was a rough, hour-long tram ride away. John, Mary and their six children had to live in a two bedroom apartment over a store at the edge of campus for the first two years. The gentle nuances of life on a farm just outside the town of Thornhill in Dumfriesshire, Scotland, must have seemed like a misty dream.

But the Youngs were hearty Scots, used to the vagaries of farming life, and took to their new world with determination and high energy. Mary Young took a job teaching kindergarten, English and piano in Japantown, and became a champion of Japanese rights during the internments of World War II.

John Young began the arduous process of building the farm from scratch while helping develop programs to teach Aggie students the art of raising dairy cattle. Using his years of animal husbandry experience, he began to breed a larger Ayrshire herd. His spectacular stock included three of the most famous Ayrshires in the country: "Rainton Rosalind V" had such amazing milk production that she required milking four times a day and won many provincial and national awards, including the Grand Champion Female in 1934 for the highest daily, monthly and yearly

milk yields in Canada. "Ardgowan Gladness II" was consistently awarded for the high butterfat content of her milk and "Lochinch Lassie," as well as being an excellent milker, was a first rate breeder. She bore the famous bull "Ubysey White Cockade" that sired some of the later stock's most successful milking cows. These three cows were university stars in the Thirties.

In those days, managing a herd involved more than milking, feeding and breeding. Young and his family grew and harvested crops of hay, dealt with disease and injury to the animals, raised pigs and grew vegetables. Fortunately, he was able to use agriculture students and employ a small staff to work on the

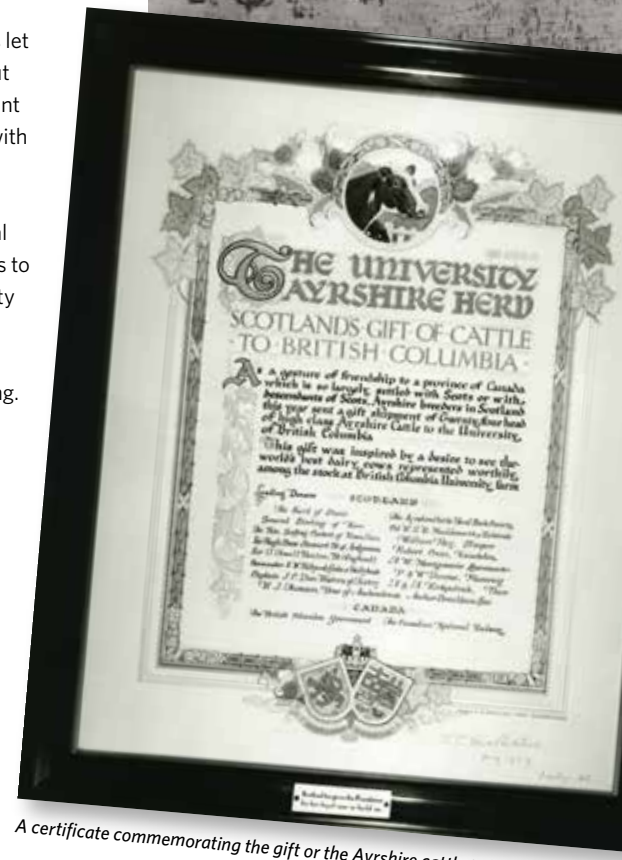
farm, but John and his family did the bulk of the work. Son Archie has fond memories of bringing in the wheat, working with the horse team and preparing prize cows for exhibition shows. All the hard work seemed to be paying off. Young was even able, after two years, to move his family into a four-bedroom house adjacent to the farm.

The Great Depression that started in 1929 began to have a serious impact on British Columbia by 1931. Provincial budgets were slashed, and money earmarked for the new university was severely curtailed. If not for a determined campaign by students and faculty, UBC itself would have been shuttered. As it was, budgets for the faculties were cut dramatically, and the farm, it was decided, would be closed down, employees let go and the stock sold. But John Young had a different idea. He worked a deal with the university where he and his family would run the farm as a commercial dairy, supplying products to residents in the University Endowment Lands area as a way of making the enterprise self-supporting. The university agreed, though administrators were dubious, and the UBC Dairy was born.

These were the days before automation, antibiotics and wide-spread pasteurization, which meant that long hours and hard work were the only pathways to success. John Jr. was required to quit school to help manage

the dairy, and his brothers, Dave, Alastair and Archie, and sisters Grace and Isobel devoted themselves to the arduous tasks of daily hand-milking and delivery. In later years, Jean and Andrew, two new "bairns" added in the early '30s, also pitched in. Archie received special dispensation from a local constable to drive the milk truck in the neighbourhood though he was only 14. But a real hardship befell the Youngs when John Jr. died in 1935 of a ruptured appendix. He had been his father's right-hand man since the family left Scotland, and his loss was keenly felt by the whole family.

In spite of it all, the family kept its strength and focus and maintained an efficient, well-run farm that supported the faculty's mission to advance research into cattle management, dairy production and animal husbandry. The commercial aspect of the dairy, during these economically bleak days, was a rare bright spot in UBC operations. As well, Young's acumen in business and animal husbandry turned the 24 cows and one bull into one of the finest Ayrshire herds in Canada.




A certificate commemorating the gift of the Ayrshire cattle to UBC.



The most famous of the original Ayrshire herd. (L-R): Ardgowan Gladness 2, Lochinch Lassie and Rainton Rosalind V. John Young is holding Rosalind's tether and son John is holding Gladness.

As the Thirties wore on, the university's finances eased enough to enable it to generate some funding for the farm, and Young was able to acquire new equipment, including a pasteurizer, which made the home delivery schedule a little less hectic. But the war began in the late 1930s, and sons Dave and Alastair enlisted in the Air Force. To the family's great anguish, Alastair was shot down in March 1944. Dave returned to the farm after the war and attended UBC, earning a BA in Agriculture in 1947. Younger brother Archie graduated the same year in Science.

By 1951, after 22 years of heroic work and dedication, Young decided it was time to retire. With Dave working in Ottawa with the federal government, and two of his other children studying at UBC, there was no one to take over the farm. Dairyland, then becoming one of the dominant agri-businesses in the province, took over the farm's delivery business, and the farm itself eventually divested itself of its livestock. But John Young's legacy – hard work, determination, a sense of constant improvement and advancement – was to establish a strong foundation for dairy cattle research at UBC and the development of the Dairy Education and Research Centre in 1996. His spirit has become a hallmark of the university and the prime inheritance of the Young family. 

Thanks to John Young's grandson, Don Young, BSc'89, MD'94, for his biography, For All Thy Kith 'n Kine, and to Archie Young, BA'47(Science), for his insights.

*The John and Mary Young scholarship was established in the Faculty of Land and Food Systems (the former Faculty of Agriculture) to support a grad student interested in dairy cattle research. For more information on contributing to the scholarship's endowment, please contact **Niki Glenning** at **604 822 8910** or **niki.glenning@ubc.ca**.*



John and Mary Young in their Sunday best. Photo courtesy Donald Young (grandson).

Saving the Farm (round 2): The Farm Reinvented

A farm of some description has been a part of UBC's Vancouver campus since the establishment of the university site on Point Grey. However, the farm's size, location, purpose, and operations have all seen many changes over the years.

In the decades following the Second World War, the diminishing socioeconomic importance of agriculture in the province was mirrored in campus growth patterns, as new athletics fields, parking lots, and academic buildings displaced former farmland.

Eventually, the second-growth forest on the far south of campus was cleared to make way for new agricultural facilities, but by the late 1990s, activity had declined significantly – some operations having moved to new locations in Agassiz, BC. By 1997 the farm had been earmarked as a "Future Housing Reserve" in UBC's Official Community Plan.

In 1999, however, students enrolled in the new Agroecology and Global Resource Systems programs "re-discovered" the south campus field areas. They envisioned the land as an integrated farm system, which would provide a practical, experiential complement to the sustainability theory being taught in the classroom. It was a vision that conflicted with the Official Community Plan, and it sparked a decade of discussion about the future uses of the land.

Meanwhile, after the publication in 2000 of a vision document entitled "Reinventing the UBC Farm," faculty, staff, students, and community members worked together to bring previously fragmented field areas together into a single working farm and forest system that delivered a growing number of programs to students and researchers in many different disciplines.

Despite this, by the summer of 2008 there was great concern among the farm's users and supporters that it would be replaced by market housing. A "Save the Farm" campaign mobilized significant support, culminating in a petition with 16,000 signatures and a Great Farm Trek on April 7, 2009, when 2,000 people marched from the Student Union Building to the farm, to show their support for retaining its existing size and location.

Later that year, the UBC Board of Governors stated that there would be no market housing on the farm provided that "the university's housing, community development and endowment goals could be met through transferring density to other parts of campus." The board also called for an academic plan for South Campus to advance "academically rigorous and globally significant" teaching and research around issues of sustainability.

By winter this plan – Cultivating Place – was in place and in 2011, following public consultation, the farm was re-zoned "Green Academic" in UBC's Land Use Plan.

As a result, the Centre for Sustainable Food Systems was soon established at the farm. It is a unique research centre that aims to understand and fundamentally transform local and global food systems towards a more sustainable, food-secure future. There have been approximately 10-15 active research projects on site every year since 2011. 



THE LIBRARIAN'S LATE RETURN

In 1914 James Thayer Gerould was hired for a book-purchasing mission in Europe on behalf of UBC's Library, but his trip would not go according to plan.

By Vanessa Clarke

Dr. Frank Wesbrook was faced with many competing priorities on being hired as UBC's first president, but one of the most pressing was the establishment of an adequate central library.

For advice, he turned to a former colleague from the University of Minnesota, the institution from which he had recently been recruited. James Thayer Gerould was librarian there. He agreed to help stock UBC's Library in time for the university's opening in 1915.

"My dear Doctor Wesbrook," he wrote in a letter dated March 14, 1914. "At your suggestion, I am sending for your consideration a plan by which, at a minimum of cost, your University may have, when it opens its doors, a library adequate to its needs at the outset and which will be the nucleus of a later and greater collection."

The plan involved travelling to Europe, where Gerould believed he would be able to secure a better price - as much as 20-30 per cent less - by going directly to dealers and bargaining on the spot.

"My suggestion is, therefore... that you appropriate the sum of \$50,000 for the immediate purchase of books for your library and that I be given a commission as your agent to visit England, France and Germany to buy the books."

Since Wesbrook had yet to hire a librarian, Gerould also offered to oversee classification and cataloguing. He asked for a salary of \$250 per month plus travelling expenses and requested a swift decision, because he thought it best to leave as soon as possible.

By the following month, an agreement was in place. The librarian set sail from Boston on May 5 on the *S. S. Cymric* of the White Star Line. "I am eager to get at the job and to make good on your gamble," he wrote to Wesbrook the day before.

Later that month another letter arrived in Vancouver, written on notepaper from the Imperial Hotel in London's Russell Square. Gerould reported that he had secured the services of export booksellers Messrs. Edw. G. Allen



James Thayer Gerould.



The reading room at UBC's original Fairview library (1919).

and Son, Ltd. Allen was one of only two sellers Gerould trusted to do the job, which was to include binding or rebinding books before they were shipped, via Blue Funnel Line, on a 72-day journey across the Pacific. Gerould and Wesbrook had initially discussed shipping the books in tin-lined cases, but instead – because it weighed less and was cheaper – Gerould recommended using heavy waterproof paper.

For the next few weeks, Gerould went about his business. A letter from Wesbrook dated June 16 indicates that they had inadvertently overlooked a subject: "It is strange that we missed mathematics," he wrote, instructing Gerould to cut \$1,500 proportionately from other subject areas and put it towards math books. Another time, a cable arrived asking Gerould to discontinue purchasing because of excessive exchange rates.

In July, after making large purchases in Oxford and Cambridge, Gerould made his way to Paris. After that, the plan was to go to Leipzig in Germany.

He found conditions in France less favourable. "I am not so well satisfied with what I have done here as I was in England," he admitted to Wesbrook towards the end of his stay there, "but... I don't suppose I can hold myself responsible for the disorderly condition of the Paris book trade."

He found most books unbound and stock to be poorly classified. It also rained a lot and he worked long hours. "I shall be glad to get out of it myself for the twelve and fourteen hours work which I am doing here is beginning to tell on me," he confided.

Although Gerould was eager to leave Paris, he would find things far more disagreeable in Leipzig. The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand had occurred a few days earlier, and war in Europe was imminent. In a letter to Wesbrook dated July 31, three days before Germany declared war on France, Gerould documented the situation in Paris.

"On the surface, perhaps the most striking thing is the scarcity of money," he wrote. "A week ago one almost always received gold in exchange for a note of the Bank of France but on Monday of this week it all disappeared..."

He observed that the streets were crowded yet orderly, with a strong police presence. But chaos would not be held in check for long. A trial involving a Madame Caillaux was underway in France at the time. She was

the wife of politician Joseph Caillaux and had shot dead the editor of *Le Figaro* newspaper, which had been publishing letters her husband was writing to another woman as part of a media campaign against him by political enemies. It was judged a crime of passion and she was acquitted. When the verdict was announced, the Paris streets erupted.

"In the tensivity of the moment it was enough to furnish the spark," described Gerould. "In a few moments, bands of largely young men were parading up and down chanting almost in the manner of an American university yell. As-sas-in, Cail-laux, Assassin Caillaux, Assassin Caillaux. Then the police would charge, drive the bands down the boulevard for some distance and then turning would drive the following crowd back again." Gerould took refuge in a café. Things calmed down before long: "The man who swallows fire was performing before the terrace of the café, the postcard seller and the rag man had reappeared and it was as usual."

Gerould still had a job to do. Would it be safe to go to Germany? "All sorts of advice has been given me but yesterday I wired my correspondent in Leipzig and as he advised me to come I am going to take a chance," he informed Wesbrook. "The books are there and I hope that mobilization if it comes will leave someone with whom I can do business. In any event I can only do my damndest."

The letter was likely delayed by wartime conditions, and Wesbrook would not receive it for a few weeks. Days went by with no word from Gerould.

"We are wondering what in the world you are doing in these times of war and desolation and shall be expecting to hear from you by cable or otherwise if it seems unwise to go on with your work," the university president wrote to him on August 3. "If Europe is embroiled in war, it may be better to stop purchasing and shipping at this time..." And on the bottom of the typed letter, scribbled in pencil: How will you be getting back again?

On August 8, another letter from Wesbrook expressed anxiety about the fate of the books:

"I have been wondering whether they are covered by insurance which would protect us against loss in case of seizure by Germany. These are things however, which perhaps we cannot help at this time."

By August 11, his anxiety was about the fate of Gerould:

"I was not at all disturbed about you until now. I do hope that everything has gone all right with you. We have not received an answer to the cable sent the other day..."

UBC's books were shipped from Europe on the Blue Funnel Line.

Gerould and Wesbrook kept in touch via letters and cables. This cable instructed Gerould to stop purchasing because of an excessive exchange rate.



Then a letter arrived that could only have added to the president's unease. It was from Miss S. L. Stewart, Gerould's secretary.

"Here at the University of Minnesota we are considerably exercised about the where-abouts of Mr. Gerould," she wrote. "... It is only in the hope that you may have a little more definite information about him that I am troubling you. If you can let us know where he is, I shall be much obliged to you."

Meanwhile, as concern mounted among his friends and colleagues back home, Gerould had fallen into a predicament that caused his regular stream of letters and cables to be abruptly cut off. Although he wrote to Wesbrook as soon as he was able, on September 2, with a detailed account of what had happened to him, the president would not receive that letter, nor any other news about the librarian's whereabouts and well-being, until much later that month.

Gerould had arrived in Leipzig in the small hours of August 3. Later that morning he telephoned his correspondent, who now advised him to leave Germany as quickly as possible. Gerould boarded the last scheduled train for Basel, Switzerland, but the train was stopped at Mannheim and passengers were instructed to take a ferry across the river to catch another train at Ludwigshafen. The crowds were so great that Gerould failed to catch the train and had to find lodging for the night. The next day he stayed in his room. On August 5, he continued on his journey towards Basel. He was delayed by police for four hours at Landau, then allowed to carry on. But not for long.

"About three stations further on I was arrested and taken to the jail at Kandel* where I was examined, my luggage mauled, and I was stripped in the hope of discovering that I was an English spy. I had, of course, a good many business papers with me and letters from dealers in London and Paris. Most damnable of all I had the cabin plan of the *Cymric* and the groundplan of the Univ. of BC. Fortunately there was in town a grocer who had for a number of years lived in the States and he was able to go through my papers and pronounce them 'alles harmlos.'"

The librarian spent the night in a cell and the next morning appeared before some judges: "... though when they left they assured me that I could not be released for two or three days," he wrote, "I was in point of fact freed at about two o'clock and committed to the care of the former American Mr. Stripf. He kept me at his house for three weeks and was very kind."

Gerould had little cash. He was aided by the American Consul in Mannheim and friends in Leipzig, eventually making his way to Vevey, Switzerland. With the embassy advising against Americans coming to Paris, he would need to find another route home.

On the bottom of a letter sent to Gerould on the day Germany declared war on France, Wesbrook scribbled: How will you be getting back again?

J.T. Gerould, Esq.,
C/o American Express Co.,
6 Haymarket,
London, England.

Yours very

How will you be getting back again?


Today's library: the Chapman Learning Commons in the Ike Barber Learning Centre. Photo courtesy UBC Library.



"I am in rather poor shape physically," he told Wesbrook in his September 2 letter, "but it looks now as if I should have time enough to recuperate but I assure you that even Switzerland is far from being a good place to be at the moment." The rest of Gerould's letter dealt with the comparatively mundane business of book-buying and the outstanding transactions from Paris.

Eventually, on September 17, Gerould was able to secure a route out of Europe, via Genoa, on a ship that was "large and comfortable, tho dirty." A few days before the sailing, he sent Wesbrook a letter from Le Grand Hotel in Nervi, eight miles from Genoa. "It is a lovely place overlooking the Mediterranean and I spend most of the day sitting under palm trees... It is rather hot in the middle of the day but the nights are cool and it is altogether delightful. The hotel is one of the best on the Italian Riviera..."

By this time, Wesbrook had finally learned, via a third party, that Gerould was safe and on his way back to the States - but he had yet to receive the librarian's letter containing the details of his encounter with the German authorities.

"My dear Gerould," he wrote on hearing the good news, "I have not the least idea how many letters and cables of mine reached you, but we have been very much exercised about you... The first consignment of thirteen cases of books arrived and I received the notice yesterday and ordered the cases taken to the storage warehouse... I shall be glad to see you sometime in the near future and to hear your adventures. As I wrote to Miss Stewart, I hope they will have been interesting, but not too interesting." 

* Please note that Gerould's handwritten letters are difficult to decipher in parts. The place names described above are, in our best judgment, correct.

Thanks to UBC Archives for providing access to correspondence between Wesbrook and Gerould.

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Message from *alumni UBC*

This issue of *Trek* is being released on the 100th anniversary of UBC's very first class of students and the official opening of the spectacular new Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre! In one short century UBC has entered into the top echelon of the world's universities, most of which are much older than UBC's youthful 100 years. There have been many great successes in UBC's history and, of course, numerous challenges as well.

Many of you will know by now that UBC is undergoing an unexpected leadership transition, as Professor Arvind Gupta resigned in August as President and Vice Chancellor after 13 months in office. We are grateful to Dr. Gupta for his dedication and service and specifically his desire to identify opportunities for greater alumni engagement and to encourage the university to be more outward facing. UBC is incredibly fortunate that former President Martha Piper has agreed to lead UBC through the transition period to the appointment of a new President. Dr. Piper's love of UBC and her unparalleled experience will be invaluable during this period.

Our alumni share the university's goal to be one of the top-ranked universities in the world, one that plays a leading and impactful role in the province, in Canada and internationally. In view of the challenges and opportunities facing UBC, this Centennial year is a particularly important

juncture that requires the entire university community to come together to advance UBC. On behalf of alumni, we look forward to working with our university's executive leadership, Board of Governors, faculty, students, and staff to build on and ensure UBC's continuing success.

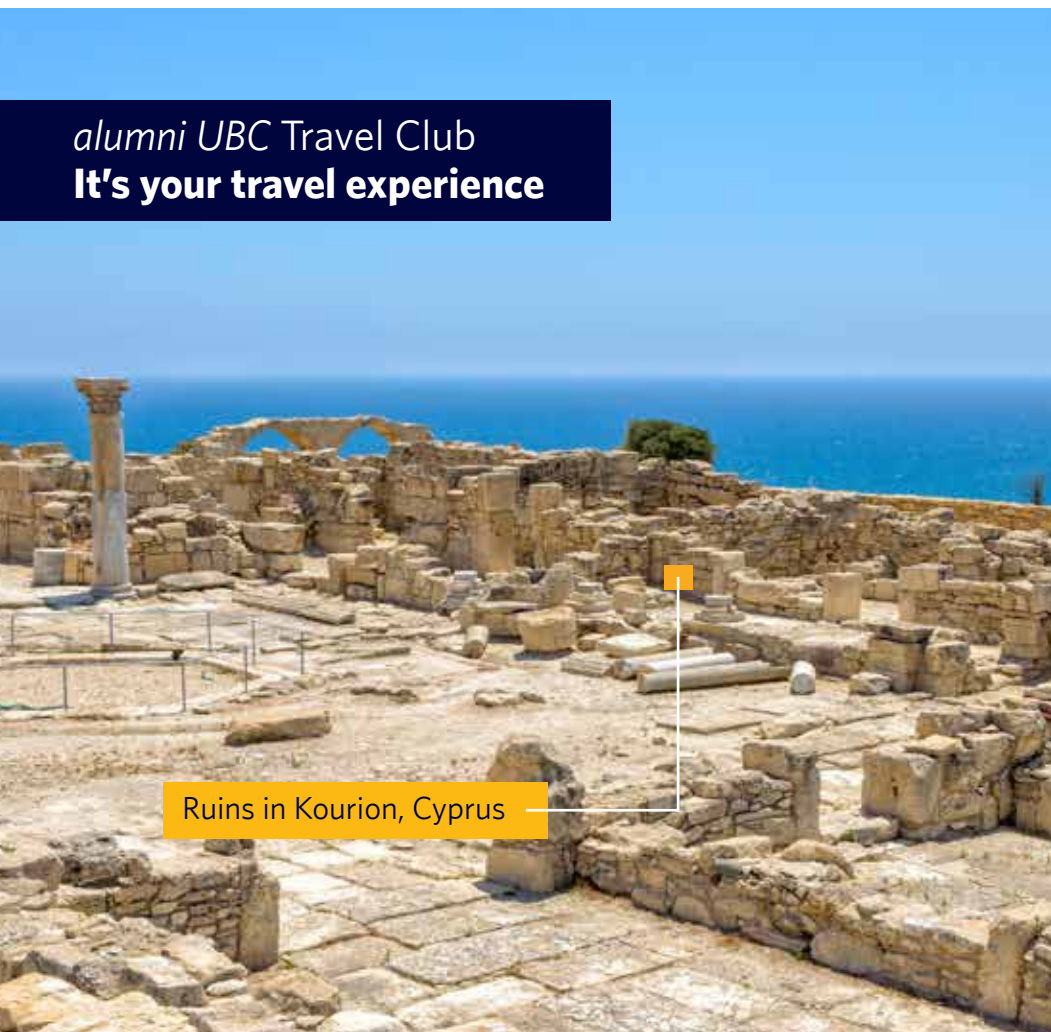
We will work hard to continue the growth in alumni engagement across both campuses, which has more than doubled during the *start an evolution* campaign. We have opened the Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre and created a much deeper and more enriching range of experiences for our alumni. This progress has occurred with the unwavering support of Presidents Piper, Toope and Gupta.

This coming year, as the university marks its Centennial, there will be more opportunities on both campuses for alumni to engage with UBC and with one another. Centennial activities will culminate officially with Alumni Weekend on May 28, 2016. As part of the Centennial, UBC's 305,000 alumni are being asked to pin themselves on the UBC global impact map (ubc100.ca/pin). If you live in the Lower Mainland, or find yourself in Vancouver, make a point of visiting your new UBC home for life at the Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre. You will be greeted warmly and provided with the help you need to make the most of your visit to the campus.

Michael Lee, BSc'86, BA'89, MA'92, LLB
Chair, *alumni UBC*

Jeff Todd, BA
Associate Vice President, *Alumni Executive Director, alumni UBC*

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HOW THE THUNDERBIRD CAME TO UBC

BY SHELDON GOLDFARB, PHD'92, MAS'96



In November 1933, the sports staff of the *Ubyyssey* published an article with the fanciful title "Zoological Cognomen Needed for Our Athletic Teams," which began:

"Students of U.B.C., are you aware that our institution is lacking an important phase of college life? So important is this deficiency that one wonders how it has gone unnoticed. While other universities possess admirable mascots, nicknames, or what have you, for their athletic teams, we have none. Why should not U.B.C. take its place among the horde of Bears, Trojans, Huskies, Mules, Muskrats, Giraffes, and other wonderful aggregations that cavort each Saturday."

The article called on students to suggest a name for UBC sports teams – something "that roars, screams, growls, or at least shrieks" – and jokingly offered "a complete set of season tickets (used)" for the best suggestion.

Perhaps because of the jocular tone of the article, few suggestions were submitted. Among these early entries were Lions, Pacific Pachyderms, and (an entry ahead of its time) Grizzlies.

Perturbed by the lack of response, the *Ubyyssey* sports department produced another article, this time with a more serious tone, calling for names "in keeping with the history or geographical location of our University."

At first, there were again only a few entries, among which were Cyclones, Seagulls, and Musqueams, the latter suggested because the campus was located on traditional Musqueam land. Then on November 24, 1933, Clarence Idyll, a member of the sports staff, suggested in a letter to the editor that the name Thunderbird be adopted, noting that it is "common in BC Indian mythology and seems appropriate."

Perhaps the Thunderbird name was thought appropriate for sports teams because

of its powerful connotations. In Aboriginal mythology, the Thunderbird is a supernatural creature that produces thunder by flapping its wings and lightning by opening and closing its eyes. It can also beat its enemies with its wings and rend them with its talons.

The Aboriginal connection also must have seemed appropriate. From very early times at UBC, Aboriginal names were used in various contexts, and in ways that today would be considered culturally inappropriate. For instance, one of the early UBC student cheers began with an invocation of the names of various tribes ("Kitsilano, Capilano..."). And the student annual formerly published by the Alma Mater Society was known as *The Totem*.

However, the name Thunderbird was not instantly accepted once it had been proposed. In fact, in late November and December 1933, there were suddenly a number of new entries in the contest to name the sports teams, including silly ones like Morons, Sea Slugs, and Peewits; ones that were already used by other universities, such as Huskies, Cougars, and Wildcats; and ones that the contest administrators said were not appropriate to UBC, such as Aztecs, Incas, Mohawks, and Apaches.

Still, there were enough serious entrants to have an election in which 25 names were listed on the ballot, among them Tartars, Cossacks, Philistines, and Prowlers. Other names on the final ballot included Golden Eagles, Corsairs, Musqueams, Spartans, and Seagulls – and unexpectedly Seagulls won. However, the sports staff at the *Ubyyssey* decided Seagulls was not the best name and determined to have a new vote.

Such a vote was eventually held at a special pep rally on January 31, 1934, at which time Thunderbird won, garnering 320 of the 839 votes cast. Runner-up was Golden Eagles with 178 votes, and Grizzlies came third with 101.

By February the *Ubyyssey* was referring to the basketball team as the Thunderbirds, and by March was using the term for the varsity rugby team and the ski team.

And that is how the Thunderbird came to UBC – although not yet with permission. That didn't come until 15 years later, when at a formal ceremony during half-time at the 1948 Homecoming football game, Chief William Scow of the Kwikwaka'wakw people granted permission for the use of the Thunderbird name and donated a totem pole named "Victory Through Honour" (carved by Ellen Neel) to the AMS.

And as to the poor seagull, cheated out of its rightful victory in 1933? Well, in 2014-15 the AMS brought it back to life, declaring the seagull to be the mascot for the new student union building, coincidentally named the AMS Student Nest, and someone in seagull costume could even be seen wandering the halls. **T**



Half-time at the 1948 Homecoming game, when UBC was granted permission by Chief William Scow (centre) to use the Thunderbird name for its sports teams. Ellen Neel is pictured right. (Photo courtesy the *Ubyyssey*. Photographer: Doug Barnett)

The Thunderbird is a supernatural creature which produces thunder by flapping its wings and lightning by opening and closing its eyes. It can also beat its enemies with its wings and rend them with its talons.

Ellen Neel (Kwicksutaineuk), *The Native Voice*, November 1948:

This May UBC celebrated more than 200 Aboriginal graduates, and 51 of them gathered with family, friends, staff and faculty at the UBC First Nations Long House for the largest Aboriginal graduation celebration in UBC's history. The graduates came from just about every discipline across the university. They are future doctors, anthropologists, lawyers and community leaders – and they are role models for future generations. Photo by Don Erhardt.

“To the Native people of the whole province we can give our assurance that your children will be accepted at this school by the Staff and Student Council, eager to smooth their paths with kindness and understanding. We need now only students to take advantage of the opportunity, so that some day our doctors, lawyers, social workers and departmental workers will be fully trained University graduates of our own race.”

(In 1948, Neel attended a conference at UBC held to discuss issues affecting Aboriginal people, including increased access to educational opportunities. The same year, a pole she carved was gifted to the AMS during a ceremony that officially granted UBC permission to use the Thunderbird name for its sports teams. See facing page.)



UNCOVERING UBC'S HIDDEN HISTORY

UBC's Point Grey and Okanagan campuses are located, respectively, on the traditional unceded territories of the Musqueam and Okanagan peoples. While faculty, staff and students have been working for many years to develop mutually beneficial relationships with these communities, it wasn't until late in UBC's first century that partnerships were formally recognized with the signing of memoranda of affiliation. A turning point in our history, these memoranda are the framework for UBC's commitment to increase engagement and educational opportunities for Aboriginal peoples and about indigenous culture.

In addition to many long-standing programs, UBC has formed an Aboriginal strategic plan, has one of the largest contingents of indigenous professors on permanent appointments at any research-intensive university, and has increased Aboriginal enrolment to more than a thousand students.

UBC researchers are working with communities to find solutions to Aboriginal issues through programs like the Cedar Project, a community-based research initiative that will address the impact of generational residential school trauma on HIV and Hepatitis C prevalence in at-risk Indigenous youth. The university has expanded curriculum offerings focusing on Aboriginal issues and perspectives in several disciplines, including the health sciences, law and community planning.

In both academics and operations, UBC is working to address educational failures of the past. In 1915, UBC began building on what is today the Point Grey campus, but for millennia had been home to the Musqueam people. It did so with little recognition of this community

or attention to their needs and aspirations. This history of the university has largely been unwritten, until now.

This Centennial year, after several years of planning and consultation with local and national groups, UBC is moving forward with plans to open the UBC Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre on the Point Grey campus. This major initiative will provide permanent local access to the records of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada and will provide a home for advanced research, dialogue, and interactions with indigenous communities for years to come.

“UBC understands and values the honour of sharing the traditional territories of the Musqueam and Okanagan peoples,” says UBC interim president Dr. Martha C. Piper. “We enter the university's second century with a renewed commitment to partnerships that ensure our common history is understood and our aspirations shared.” [T](#)

TEN YEARS IN THE OKANAGAN

“Ready, Set, Go!”

That was the *Daily Courier* front-page headline on September 8, 2005 – the first day of classes for UBC’s new Okanagan campus in Kelowna.

UBC Okanagan has grown dramatically since opening 10 years ago. Student enrolment has grown from 3,500 in 2005 to more than 8,200 students this year – including 680 research graduate students.

While growth has been a big part of the UBC Okanagan story, the community’s embrace of the new university campus has been one of the most remarkable aspects of UBC’s first decade in the Okanagan.

“Program offerings in the Okanagan reflect the needs of the rapidly developing communities in our region,” says Deborah Buszard, UBC Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the Okanagan campus. “We are excited about opportunities for growth in high demand areas such as management, engineering and health-related professional programs, which will ensure we are best able to serve the needs of Okanagan communities while providing a world class education to our students.”

The Southern Medical Program, established in September 2011, is just one of the university’s new programs designed to serve the BC Interior. This spring, the first class of physicians will graduate from the program and enter residency training in family medicine or various specialties for the next two to five years. Thanks to a partnership with Interior Health, medical students receive their clinical training at hospitals and clinics throughout the Interior.

The university’s partnerships with Aboriginal communities in the region have been mutually beneficial since the Okanagan Nation Alliance formally welcomed UBC to the Okanagan in 2005. Recognizing the value and importance of post-secondary education to Aboriginal students from across Canada, UBC works to increase enrolment and ensure academic success for all Aboriginal students.

The university established the Aboriginal Access Studies program in 2007, and works in close partnership with the Okanagan Nation’s En’owkin Centre in Penticton. Earlier this year, UBC established a pilot project with the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society to open the door to university to Aboriginal youths and adults interested in post-secondary studies. The Downtown Education Project works to help overcome barriers to success in a post-secondary environment.

The tremendous success of these programs is clear. Since 2005 the number of Aboriginal students at UBC Okanagan has grown from 58 to nearly 400 – including more than two dozen graduate students.

Research activities at UBC Okanagan are closely linked to the community and are on an upward trajectory. Funding for research has grown from \$6.9 million for 341 research projects in 2005 to more than \$18 million for 633 projects this past year. UBC’s total annual economic impact in the valley is \$1.4 billion and growing.

One exciting initiative that is contributing to innovation in the region is STAR (Survive and Thrive Applied Research). Launched last fall with a \$3.8 million contribution from Western Economic Diversification Canada, STAR is an \$8 million research centre focused on working with industry to bring to market novel technologies for human protection

and performance in extreme, remote or rural conditions.

One of the initial projects catalyzed by STAR is the result

We’re just getting started.

of a collaboration between UBC, Kelowna-based Helios Global Technologies, and Imperial College London (UK). Together, UBC researchers are developing a high-tech helmet that can reduce the risk of concussion in contact sports like hockey.

UBC Okanagan is entering a new period of transformation in its second decade, says Buszard.

“Together with the communities of our region, UBC Okanagan is growing and diversifying the regional economy,” says Buszard. “As we mark the 10th anniversary of the campus this year, we recommit to delivering on the promise to have a significant impact on the future of our region and beyond, through our students, our alumni, and new discoveries. We’re just getting started.”



Photo by Hover Collective.



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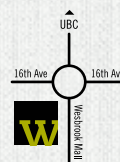
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UBC owes a lot to its students, who have contributed an astonishing amount over the generations – not only to the physical fabric of campus, through their initiatives to fund new buildings and amenities, but to UBC’s cultural history and identity. That’s why long-time archivist for the Alma Mater Society **Sheldon Goldfarb, PhD’92, MAS’96**, is writing a book about it all to mark the society’s 100th Anniversary.

It is a fascinating account of the life and times of the AMS that vividly captures the essence of student experience and self-governance through the decades. Here are some excerpts from a few different eras.



1915: Students in the Arts lecture theatre at UBC’s original Fairview campus. (UBC Archives)

1915-16

Year One: UBC opens. Classes begin on Thursday, September 30, 1915. Just over two weeks later, on Friday, October 15, the students gather in the Arts building on the original Fairview campus to create an association with the unusual name of Alma Mater Society. In the early years the Society is sometimes referred to as the Alma Mater, but later it becomes better known by its acronym (AMS), perhaps because Alma Mater made too many people think of the alumni: perhaps as well because no one was sure how to pronounce Mater.

1918-19

War Is Over: But at a cost. Another 11 UBC students died, bringing the total to 78. And while the fighting wound down overseas, the worldwide influenza epidemic struck Vancouver: three more students died, and the University closed for five weeks. One final blow landed in October 1918: UBC President Wesbrook died after being ill for several months. Still, the *Annual* struck a celebratory note about the war, speaking of the pride that students could feel in having taken part in “the greatest crusade ever entered upon by men in the history of the world.”

Ubysey: A new publication was born this year, a newspaper, the *Ubysey*, a respelling and a reimagining of the old literary monthly, the *Ubicee*. Skits and poems are all very well, the new paper commented, but what is needed is news while it is still “hot,” by which the editors meant no more than a week old.

Naughty Oscar: The Players’ Club provoked controversy by staging a production of Oscar Wilde’s *The Importance of Being Earnest*. The *Ubysey* expressed “disgust” at this “trash,” and said it would prefer something with “a healthy moral tone.”

1925-26

Refreshments will be served: There was talk this year of establishing a Student Court to deal with discipline cases, and already in September the *Ubysey* was registering the need for such a court by reporting on a “criminal” who was being charged with playing bridge for money, i.e., gambling in contravention of AMS Bylaws.

Though the defendant said the charges were a violation of his individual rights, a trial was going ahead; however, since there was not yet a court, the case was to be heard by a joint meeting of the Men’s and Women’s Literary societies (!). Everyone was welcome to attend, said the *Ubysey*, adding: “Refreshments will be served.”

A week later the defendant was acquitted by reason of “insanity”: the whole thing was treated as a bit of a joke, yet the push for a system of student-run discipline continued, resulting in: **The Vigilance Committee:** In November 1925 Council decided to create a secret body known as the Vigilance Committee, consisting of 10 men who would go undercover to try to catch smokers,

loiterers, and other wrongdoers. The *Ubysey* called the plan “obnoxious” and smacking of espionage. A general meeting of the students was called to vote on whether to abolish the new system, but voted in favour of keeping it. However, it was replaced the following year by the Honour System.

1931-32

The Depression hits home: Barely mentioned in previous years, at the beginning of 1931-32 the Depression was still someone else’s problem. In the fall the Women’s Undergraduate Society (WUS) launched a clothing drive for those affected by the recent economic difficulties.

“We are making an endeavor to help the more unfortunate members of the community who have been harder hit by the depression than ourselves,” said the WUS President.

But by January it was the students themselves who felt hit. Rumours began to fly about cuts by the provincial government, which might result in the closure of certain departments (Agriculture, Nursing, and Commerce were mentioned). There was even talk that the University might shut down altogether.

The students organized, launching a publicity campaign to enlist public support for the notion that the University was essential to the province. As in the days of the Great Trek, a petition was started (garnering 70,000 signatures), and there was large-scale public support (from the Archbishop of Vancouver to the Trades and Labour Congress), but this time the government did not give in. Major cuts were made to the University budget, resulting in layoffs and a reduction in library hours. There was even a plan to merge Agriculture and Applied Science, which the Agriculture students objected to but which won support in some AMS quarters, causing internal division among the students. (The plan did not go ahead.)

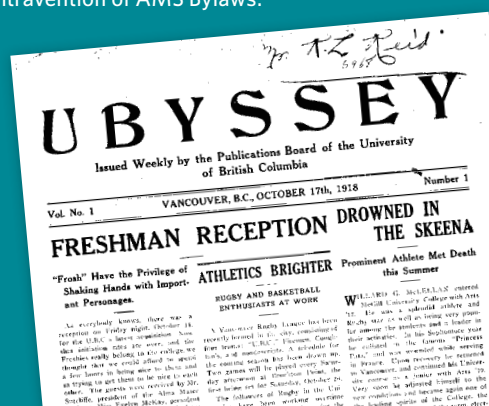
They Do Things Differently Here: The visiting editor of the student newspaper at the University of Toronto was shocked to discover that at UBC the male and female students sat together in the cafeteria and the library. He also noted how different it was that the students at UBC were the ones raising the money for campus buildings and



Captain Guy Borthwick Moore, KIA on April 17, 1918. (AMS Archives)



Oscar Wilde was trashed by UBC’s student newspaper, the *Ubysey*.



A new publication is born: 1918 saw the first issue of the *Ubysey*.

that there were no residences for students on campus (those wouldn't come till much later). The students were younger too: admission age at UBC was 16.

1945-46

Students to the left of them, students to the right of them: UBC had never seen so many students: 5,200 showed up in September, and another 1,200 (mostly ex-servicemen) arrived in January. The Library was crowded, the buses were crowded, everything was crowded.

One of the downtown papers wrote a piece about the supposed division between the more mature returning servicemen and the younger "bobby-soxers." The *Ubyyssey* ran an article deriding the idea, but felt compelled to revert to the topic more than once, so there may have been something to it.

The Jokers! Founded in the fall with the slogan, "Come and make an ace of yourself," the Jokers tried to liven up campus with their offbeat brand of humour. Members, all of whom were vice-presidents of the club, walked around carrying yo-yos. They organized goldfish swallowing contests to raise money for the new gym, along with a carnival, an egg auction in which students could buy eggs to hurl at one of the Jokers, and a roller-skating marathon for which the slogan was: "Break a Limb! Support the Gym!"

Students to the left, students to the right (Part 2, political version): Sid Zlotnick of the left-wing Labour-Progressive Party (LPP) got in trouble with the Discipline Committee for distributing leaflets. No publications allowed unless approved by Student Council, the committee said. Zlotnick then lobbied to allow a Labour-Progressive campus club to be formed. Council hesitated. We don't have political clubs, they said, but let's ask the Board of Governors. The Board said, This is a student matter; you decide. Grant Livingstone, a Conservative, said if the LPP can become a club, so should other political groups.

Still uncertain what to do, Council decided to hold a plebiscite of the whole student body; this seems to have been the first one held on campus, and it resulted in a 2:1 vote against political clubs. Politics would have to wait for another day.

We are, we are, we are... the AUS? The Arts Undergraduate Society fell on hard times again, finding it difficult to get their members out to vote. The ever helpful Engineers sent 200 of their members to an Arts election meeting. Only 15 Arts students showed up, so the Engineers happily elected themselves to all the positions on the Arts executive. (Of course, this was all ruled out of order, but it did not bode well for the AUS.)

1953-54

A Sexy Year: The Kinsey Report on female sexuality came out this year, and UBC students engaged with it in a formal debate competition, in which victory went to the side arguing that the report was a threat to Western civilization (!). But if sex was defeated on this occasion, which is how the *Ubyyssey* put it, nevertheless it seemed very much in the news, or at least in the *Ubyyssey*. Sex is more important than religion, the paper said.

It also ran an article on excessive kissing in Brock Hall and suggested that the kissing booth at the annual Blood Drive was responsible for the record turnout of male blood donors.



GREAT TREKKING:

A HUNDRED
YEARS OF
STUDENTS
AT UBC

1970-71 Cyclists protest
- see page 35. (UBC Archives)



1932 The AMS held a mass meeting about the cuts (The Ubyyssey)



Gambling: Were these UBC students from the 1920s up to no good?



1932 Students rallying the public to fight the cuts to education. (The Ubyyssey)



1945-46 The Jokers tried to liven up campus in the 40s. (AMS Archives)



1968-69 Hey, man, I'll tell you what it's all about. A protester explains things at the Faculty Club. (UBC Archives)

Off with her head! Lots of Queens around this year: Homecoming Queen, Mardi Gras Queen, Frosh Queen: in fact, two rival Frosh Queens (almost). The Frosh Undergraduate Society protested when one of the fraternities announced that they were anointing the Frosh Queen. That's just your Fraternity's Queen, said the official Frosh; we're going to choose our own. In the end, however, the official Frosh backed down, so no one ended up in the Tower, thankfully.

Apathy, Lethargy, and What is the AMS, anyway? Not for the first or last time, both Council and the *Ubyyssey* complained about a lack of student interest in the running of the Society, noting the number of Council seats that were filled by acclamation. The *Ubyyssey* also did a survey that revealed that some students didn't know that being the AMS President meant being president of the student body.

Perhaps the fault lay with the proliferation of mysterious acronyms, which had become so widespread that the *Ubyyssey* ran an "alphabet soup" contest, asking students to identify as many acronyms as they could, from MAD, PhUS, and CUS to SCM, NFCUS, and the like.

1968-69

It's the Sixties, Man: Paris, Chicago, Berkeley... UBC? For a day at least, the day Jerry Rubin came to town. The leader of the Youth International Party (the Yippies), fresh from confrontations with police during the Chicago protests, showed up with his pig (a protest candidate in the 1968 US presidential election) and asked the students of UBC what they would like to liberate. "The Faculty Club," someone called out, and 2,000 students invaded the professors' inner sanctum, liberating not only the space but the contents of liquor cabinets and the club pond (skinny dipping!). Someone even brought a band.

But what's it all about? The *Ubyyssey* thought the occupation was an undeveloped expression of protest against oppression. Radicals, like the visiting Rubin himself, talked about rejecting traditional institutions, not accepting minor positions in the existing power structure, opposing corporate control of education and society, and revolutionizing society. Rubin also talked about having fun. "Free yourself," he said. Also: "Wherever you see a rule, break it."

No, but what was it really about? Well, the occupation of the Faculty Club took place against a worldwide backdrop of student unrest, and at UBC itself the AMS had produced a brief calling for a variety of educational reforms to make courses more "relevant" and to give students a say in running the University. Demands were in the air: There should be students on governing bodies,

the students should have a say in making appointments, something should be done about overcrowding. Some said, We should not have to attend dull and boring courses. Indeed.

In fact, the University was already experimenting with new approaches to teaching (introducing a new sort of inter-disciplinary first year course called Arts One). It had also granted student representation on the University Senate, though radicals called the appointment of four student senators (out of 81) tokenism.

And what good came of it? Well, the next day there was a giant rally (5,000 students) which called for a teach-in on educational reform, and there was indeed a teach-in the following week, endorsed by AMS President Dave Zirnhelt and UBC President Kenneth Hare. Zirnhelt, later an NDP cabinet minister, played a moderating role in the events, as did Hare, who seemed quite sympathetic to the students' demands, so much so that even the radicals said nice things about him, though adding that of course he couldn't really do anything because of the conservative power structure.

Hare eventually resigned just seven months after taking office (making him the shortest-serving UBC president), and in response to AMS demands the committee to find a replacement for him included four students.

1970-71

The Battle of Jericho: And lo the people of Jericho did refuse to move from their hostel until the army and the police force did forcibly remove them, pushing them out of the Jericho army base and onto Fourth Avenue, from



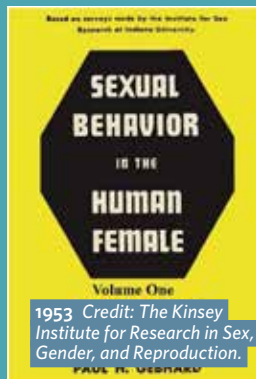
1970-71 *The Jericho Occupation* (*The Ubyyssey*. Photographers: Maurice Bridge and David Bowerman.)



1953-54 *UBC President MacKenzie crowning one of the year's queens.* (AMS Archives)



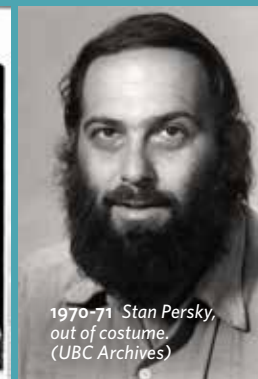
1968-69 *It's a party, man. A band plays an unscheduled set during the Faculty Club occupation.* (UBC Archives)



1953 *Credit: The Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction.*



1983-84 *Protesters hold a mock funeral to mourn the death of education.* (*The Ubyyssey*)



1970-71 *Stan Persky, out of costume.* (UBC Archives)

whence they journeyed to the Student Union Building at UBC campus, where the students had said, "O ye homeless ones in need of shelter, you can rest here" – but then on second thought had said, No, sorry, you can't.

But the people of Jericho, jobless youth with nowhere to go, did come anyway and occupied the SUB for 16 hours, staying overnight until the AMS Executive could find alternative lodging for them, while regular students grumbled that this was too much and the *Ubyyssey* said it was not enough: it was time to stand up to the police state and oppression...

And that was the high point of militancy and activism for the year, a carryover from the Sixties perhaps, and occurring the same weekend in October that the FLQ crisis erupted in Quebec and Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau invoked the War Measures Act, prompting protests at UBC, but not too much, despite the best efforts of the *Ubyyssey*.

Human Government: If activists had mixed results against evictions and the War Measures Act, they found more success at the ballot box, electing a new slate to all the positions on the AMS Executive. Steve Garrod's Human Government group swept all before them, though not before the AMS had to rerun the presidential election because of irregularities. Garrod pledged Canadianization and democratization of the university, and also promised a referendum in October to let the student body pass judgement on his program, a promise he would live to regret.

Shades of Stan Persky: The Human Government slate drew inspiration from Stan Persky, the radical leader of the late Sixties who had almost become AMS President. (Perskyists, the *Ubyyssey* called them.) Persky himself was still around and was even elected as a student Senator, though when he showed up for his first Senate meeting dressed up as an old man in a wheelchair, he was denied entrance.

Engineers Gone Wild: The Engineers reached new heights (or lows) this year, kidnapping a *Ubyyssey* columnist and putting him through a mock crucifixion, kidnapping the Ombudsman and covering him in honey and feathers, trashing the Commerce students' lounge and stealing their beer, vandalizing the Commerce students' chariot, and causing the injury of a Forestry participant in the annual chariot race. Some even accused them of plotting to attack the SUB during the Jericho occupation to oust the occupiers, but that may have simply been their reputation at work. They did get into a fight with Maoists distributing literature in the SUB, and altogether their antics were so extreme that one group of Engineers, unhappy to be associated with such things, started a petition to withdraw from the Engineering Undergraduate Society.

New forms of activism: If the AMS and students at large seemed uninterested in the *Ubyyssey's* agenda, new causes were arising that would capture more support in subsequent decades. One was feminism: there was talk of starting a Women's Studies program this year, and left-wing labour leader Michel Chartrand found himself called out for being dismissive of women: it was the old activism giving way to the new.

Also this year saw a cyclists' protest: about 400 of them disrupted traffic on University Boulevard to demonstrate in favour of bike paths. This protest even seemed to lead somewhere: within a month there was talk of improving cycling facilities on campus.

1983-84

The Cuts! The Cuts! Restraint, restraint, said the new Socred government, cutting back spending and taking away people's rights. Solidarity, solidarity, said the people, forming coalitions, marching in rallies, going out on strike. We will join you, said the AMS of UBC, worried about funding cuts and the tuition increases that might follow.

And they did: 33 per cent of them, and for good measure the government jumped in and cut student financial aid by 83 per cent and abolished all grants, leaving students free to accumulate debt.

And if you were a foreign student, good luck. For the first time in its history UBC began charging more to international students.

And there were petitions and marches, but the increases went ahead.

No good deed: And there were complaints that the AMS was becoming too much of a business, making too much money from such things as the Pit Pub and the Games Room. We're supposed to be a non-profit society, said a presidential candidate, and when General Manager Charles Redden was given a raise for his good work, the *Ubysey* complained bitterly and published his salary for all to see.

Politics: That's what the *Ubysey* wanted the AMS to spend more time on: the Solidarity movement, of course, and also the campaign against military research. Some students petitioned successfully for a referendum calling for an end to such research, but it failed for lack of quorum. The *Ubysey* took comfort in the fact that at least the majority of those who turned out to vote supported the anti-military side, but in general it sighed about apathy and wished there was more politics and less business on campus.

The Other Solidarity: The provincial Solidarity campaign took its name from the Polish movement of the day, and to bring things full circle, another Solidarity group sprang up on campus to protest the bringing to UBC of a Polish professor known for his connections to the pro-Soviet military government. Led by Bill Tieleman, later a Vancouver political analyst, Campus Solidarity picketed outside the visiting professor's classroom, prompting debate about free speech and academic freedom.

1997-98

Here's Pepper in Your Eye: And the world's leaders came to UBC to discuss free trade, and the students protested, and the police sprayed them with pepper spray. And Nardwuar the Human Serviette (from CiTR student radio) asked Jean Chrétien what he thought about it all, and the Prime Minister said pepper was just something he put on his plate. And the press went wild. Such was APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) in Vancouver in November 1997.

The Gagged Goddess: Even before November the students were protesting and for some reason vandalizing the Goddess of Democracy. At one point she was gagged with a label saying Coca-Cola, suggesting that the point was to attack what some saw as excessive corporatization of the campus. Not only was the Coke deal still in force [in the 1995-96 year, the AMS had joined the University in a ten-year exclusivity agreement with Coca-Cola], but there was talk of both the university and the AMS entering into other exclusivity deals. This sort of thing led to one graffiti artist putting up slogans on the new Koerner Library.

Feminist Triumphs? Meanwhile the AMS Executive achieved a high point of female power this year: four of the five Executives were women. And in the presidential election for 1998-99, the two serious candidates were both women: Vivian Hoffman, the outgoing Director of Finance, bested the Coordinator of External Affairs, Shirin Foroutan, to become the new president.

Kinder, gentler Engineers: The president of the Engineering Undergraduate Society vowed that the Engineers would henceforth be less rowdy and boisterous. Less drinking, fewer dunkings in the library pool. But still stunts: this year they performed their signature stunt of hoisting a Volkswagen Beetle on high, in this case on top of Rogers Arena (then known as GM Place).

They also stole the Great Trekker trophy and returned it with a new inscription, honouring that greatest of Great Trekkers: James T. Kirk.

2001-02

And the Pall of 9/11 Hangs Over It All: At least it did for a while. The attack on the World Trade Center captured the attention of the campus. There was a memorial service led by UBC President Martha Piper. The AMS started a blood drive and raised donations for the Red Cross. And when the Americans responded by entering Afghanistan some students countered with protests and "die-ins." But eventually life moved on.

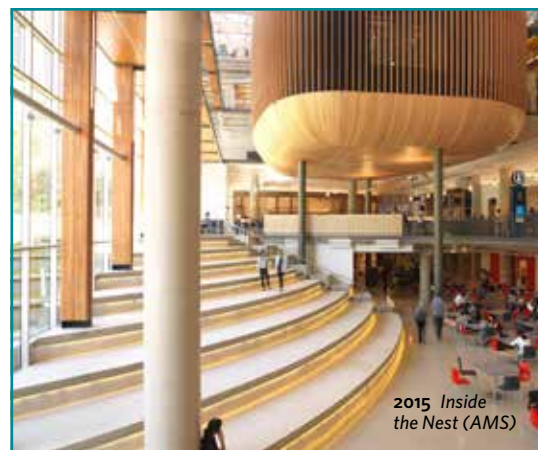
Bye-bye Freeze: The big news post-9/11 was the end of the tuition freeze, lifted by the new Liberal government of Gordon Campbell. UBC responded by saying it would raise tuition to match the national average. Why, said the AMS, wondering about the relevance of tuition levels in Ontario. Show us what you're going to spend the money on, and make sure some of it is on financial aid and other student services. The University did back down from its objective of matching the national average and did begin producing booklets showing where the money would go, but fees did rise.

Protests! While the AMS leadership made presentations to the Board of Governors, some students decided more radical action was needed, marching on campus, occupying the Administration Building, and even invading the Executive corridor at the SUB to criticize newly elected AMS President Kristen Harvey. Harvey said the protesters, who were calling not just for a continuation of the freeze but for a reduction in tuition, did not represent majority opinion on campus. They certainly did not represent the majority view on AMS Council, which defeated a motion to support the reduce tuition campaign; some Councillors said that the tuition freeze, coupled with government cutbacks, had jeopardized the quality of education at UBC and increases were needed.

Klahowya: Speaking of Kristen Harvey, her election meant that for the first time the AMS had an aboriginal president. It was a far cry from the days when UBC students appropriated aboriginal themes without being aboriginal themselves.



1997 Police disperse protesters at the APEC Summit. (The Ubysey. Photographer: Rich Lam)




2015 Inside the Nest (AMS)

2014-15

The Nest! The Nest! Finally, after years of planning and negotiating, delays in construction, and the appearance of Gus the Seagull as mascot, the New SUB, aka the AMS Student Nest, opened. The AMS moved from the suddenly shabby looking Old SUB to the spectacular new building next door, which quite dwarfed the Old SUB and everything else in the area. ■

Great Trekking will be available spring 2016. Details on purchasing copies will be posted on the AMS website (ams.ubc.ca). For more information, please contact AMS Archivist Sheldon Goldfarb at archives@ams.ubc.ca.



Lecture Theatre
in the Instructional
Resources Centre, 1974.
(UBC Archives)

FROM SAGE

For most of the last century, teaching was the same. A university lecture in 1920 did not look that different from a lecture in 1980. A professor stepped up to the podium and imparted wisdom in a 45-minute monologue. Students took notes. The end.

Those days are long gone at UBC. The introduction of the Internet and the advent of personal computing have changed everything.

Today, when Dr. Simon Bates holds a physics session for 300 undergraduates, they arrive having read and digested all the material in advance. His role is facilitating engagement, which includes problem solving, spontaneous questions and discussion in breakout groups. It's called a "flipped classroom" and it has changed the post-secondary learning environment at UBC and transformed the student experience.

"If you were to parachute into one of my lectures, you'd probably think I'd lost control of my class," says Bates, Professor of Teaching in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, and Academic Director of the Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology. "It's noisy, interactive and slightly unpredictable. I have a rough map of what I'd like to do, but I vary it. I spend time challenging understanding, highlighting connections or testing."

According to former UBC President Stephen Toope, four factors are driving a warp-speed acceleration of learning models at UBC: a better understanding of how we learn, transformative technologies, new demands for options and the rising costs of the traditional model.

First, thanks to advances in cognitive science, we know more about how to design effective learning. For example, research has shown that testing more often teaches us to retrieve information under stress and improves long-term memory.

*A teaching revolution
is transforming student
learning at UBC*

TO GUIDE

Then there are technological advances. Today, information is accessible anywhere, anytime. "From about age 14, we carry a device that gives us information about anything on demand," says Bates. "By 21, people have been exposed to more information than they were in an entire lifetime a generation ago. It's absolutely startling."

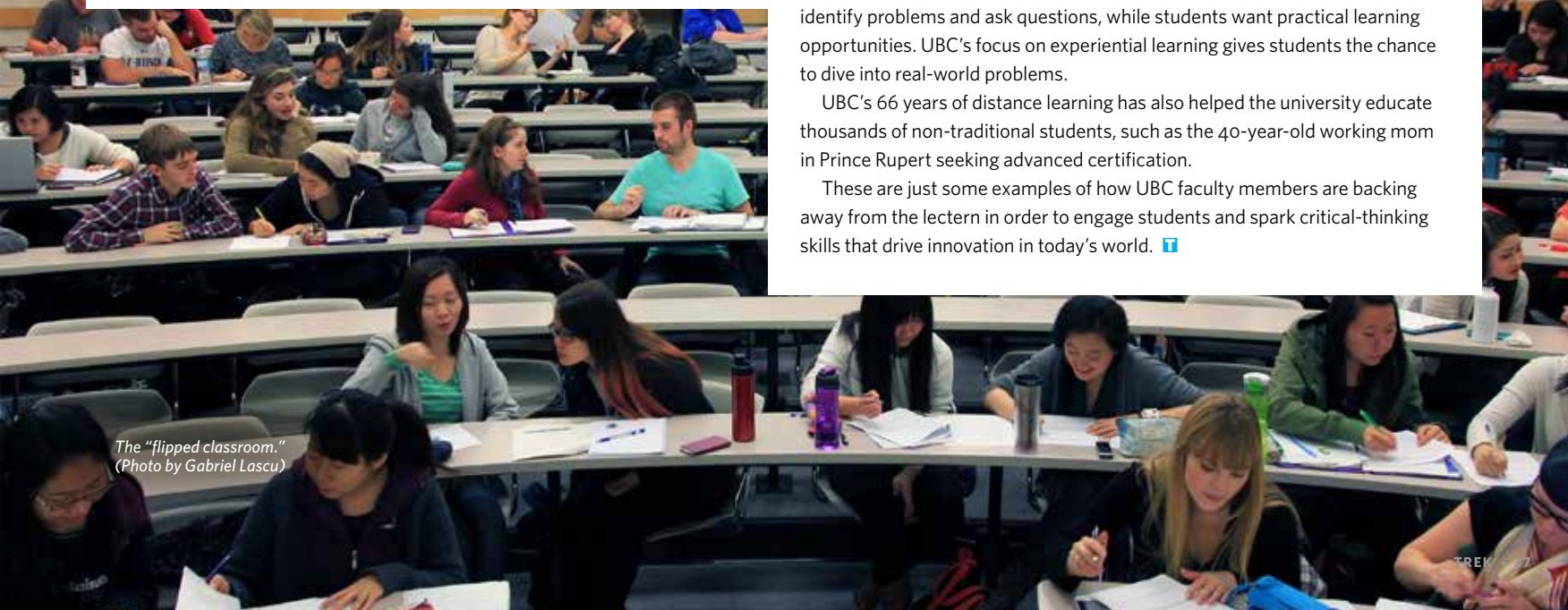
Technology also provides untold opportunities for collaboration. Professors can continue conversations online. Undergraduates studying food security can connect with peers in other countries. Says Bates: "Technology allows you to bring the world into the classroom in a very real, tangible way that has not been possible or practical before."

These changes have shifted the role of faculty at UBC. Rather than delivering content for the first time, professors are adding value as guides who help students navigate and evaluate the influx of information. UC Irvine Professor Alison King noticed this shift in 1993 and penned a seminal essay about it entitled "From Sage on the Stage to Guide on the Side" for the journal *College Teaching*.


The marketplace is also having an impact. Employers want staff that can identify problems and ask questions, while students want practical learning opportunities. UBC's focus on experiential learning gives students the chance to dive into real-world problems.

UBC's 66 years of distance learning has also helped the university educate thousands of non-traditional students, such as the 40-year-old working mom in Prince Rupert seeking advanced certification.

These are just some examples of how UBC faculty members are backing away from the lectern in order to engage students and spark critical-thinking skills that drive innovation in today's world. [f](#)



The "flipped classroom."
(Photo by Gabriel Lascu)



What's that dangling from
the Golden Gate Bridge?
Photo: Craig Lee/San Francisco
Chronicle/Polaris

I PRANK, THEREFORE I AM

UBC engineering students are known for their elaborate pranks and also for being stubbornly tight-lipped when asked to talk about them. In 2007, writer Erin Millar came closer than most to getting the inside scoop on one of the most ambitious student pranks ever attempted.

BY ERIN MILLAR

At about 3:40 AM on February 5, 2001, a moving-van stopped abruptly in the middle of the Golden Gate Bridge. Although it was still dark, witnesses said they saw around a dozen figures emerge and push a large object over the side of the bridge. They then reboarded the van, and sped away into the night. Nothing to see here. Move along.

A couple of hours later, as the morning light began to filter through the thick fog that often envelops San Francisco, viewers at Vista Point on the north end of the Golden Gate could make out the silhouette of a red Volkswagen Beetle. It was dangling from the underside of the bridge, 10 storeys above the water. A Canadian flag was painted on one side of the car. A big red "E" was on the other side.

The stunt caused traffic jams and stopped ships from passing under the bridge for hours, while the US Coast Guard and California Highway Patrol puzzled over the Bug and how it got there. The feat had involved stringing a 27-metre steel cable below the underside of one of the world's most famous and photographed structures, somehow manoeuvring what appeared to be a 1970s vintage VW Bug (which weighs more than 1,600 lb.) into position beneath the bridge, and attaching it to the cable - all without anyone noticing.

At about 8:10 AM, the Highway Patrol cut the nylon cord holding the car to the steel cable, plunging it into the water below. It sank quickly to the bottom of San Francisco Bay. The story was on evening newscasts across North America and articles followed in newspapers the next day, from Miami to Britain, making this one of the most widely covered pranks of all time.

The police were infuriated by the chaos, and pledged to prosecute the perpetrators. They threatened fines and charges of criminal conspiracy and trespassing, possibly leading to jail time. "We're pursuing every lead we have," one Highway Patrol officer told the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

The most obvious lead: a press release faxed that morning to the San Francisco media by anonymous engineering students from UBC. They claimed that they had executed the stunt in order to "draw attention to the masterful feats of professional engineers and to celebrate the skills of the tradespeople who built the bridges."

Canada's engineering students have a long history of pranks, and this one may have been the greatest of all time. It was an exceptional technical challenge, its execution provoked awe and wonder, and the UBC students who carried it out did so in total secrecy.

The rich history of university stunts brings a wide spectrum of differing opinions about what a good prank is. Notorious American prankster and anarchist Abbie Hoffman identified three types of pranks: "good" pranks," he said, "were amusingly satirical, 'bad' ones gratuitously vindictive, and 'neutral' ones surreal and soft on the victim." Hoffman's classic example of a "good" prank occurred in 1967 when he and a group of activists threw fistfuls of dollar bills into the trading pit at the New York Stock Exchange. They managed to pause the ticker tape for six minutes while traders scrambled below: some booed, some chased the money. In 1971, Hoffman essentially pranked himself, publishing *Steal This Book*. Many readers took his advice; bookstores and the publisher were less amused.

For ample cases of the vindictive sort of prank, look to any university frosh week. They are often targeted against freshmen, rival disciplines, or competing universities. At the annual Yale-Harvard football game in 2004, Yale University students, disguised as the non-existent "Harvard Pep Squad," distributed white and red placards to 1,800 unsuspecting Harvard fans. The fans were told that when they lifted the placards, they would spell "Go Harvard." They actually spelled "We Suck." Harvard fans, all sitting on the same side of the stands, were the only ones not in on the joke. Most didn't know they'd been duped until reading the next day's extensive media coverage.

The most diligent and technically ambitious university pranksters, however, are almost always engineering students. Stunts have become an engineering tradition, in part designed to show off the skills engineering students have learned from their education, which they consider much more valuable than a fluffy arts degree. The best engineering pranks go beyond being clever or poking fun. In the words of Massachusetts Institute of Technology's anonymous Institute Historian T. F. Peterson (whose initials refer to the MIT engineering signature:

IHTFP, or "I Hate This F-king Place"), engineering stunts require "accessing the inaccessible," and "making possible the improbable." An engineering signature – left on pranks across North America to identify engineering students as the tricksters – is ERTW, or "Engineers Rule the World."

MIT claims to be one of the founding fathers of engineering pranks, with the first-documented underground pranking society, the Dorm Goblin, established in the 1920s. Since then, cars and telephone booths have appeared on the roofs of campus domes and full-sized sailboats in swimming pools.

Like the Yale "We Suck" stunt, engineering pranks are often aimed at rival institutions. But UBC's pranksters have often set their sights beyond rival departments or universities and targeted more prominent victims, like government.

In 1978, after much planning, a trio of enterprising engineers broke into the British Columbia legislature in Victoria, entered the assembly chamber, and stole the Speaker's ceremonial chair. A white concrete cairn with a red "E" – the signature of the UBC engineers – was left on the Speaker's desk. The chair was returned a few weeks later. Over the years, UBC engineers have also stolen (and returned) the Rose Bowl trophy and Stanley Park's Nine O'Clock gun. Hundreds of citizens who had gathered to see the return of the gun were outraged when the engineers threw it into the ocean, but that was part of the stunt: the dunked artillery piece was a decoy.

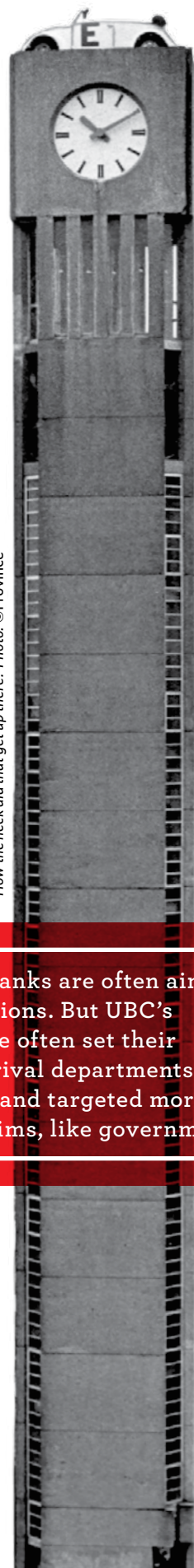
The individual identities of pranksters are closely guarded, as I discovered while pursuing the Golden Gate perpetrators. "The Engineering Undergraduate Society of UBC," goes the group's official statement, "has had, and continues to have, no knowledge regarding the planning of, execution of, or persons involved with any stunts past, present and future."

Bruce Dunwoody, now an associate professor emeritus of engineering, first heard of the Golden Gate prank when he arrived at his office that Monday morning in 2001. His first phone call of the day was from a San Francisco radio station.

Dunwoody was careful not to admit culpability on air, but that didn't stop authorities from trying to get information out of him.

"I had someone phone me from the California Highway Patrol looking for a list of names of students so they could try to figure out who had done this by comparing the students to the list of people who had come into the States," Dunwoody recalled. He refused to hand over the names without a request in writing.

"UBC proper had never been involved in [the stunt], as we never are," said Dunwoody. But did he or UBC ever find out who was responsible for the act? "Let's say we didn't ask," he said.



How the heck did that get up there? Photo: ©Province

Engineering pranks are often aimed at rival institutions. But UBC's pranksters have often set their sights beyond rival departments or universities and targeted more prominent victims, like government.

Dunwoody, who was an engineering student at UBC in the early '70s before becoming a professor in 1985, thinks that creativity is the key to great pranks. His favourite prank occurred in the mid-60s when a number of modern art sculptures mysteriously appeared on campus. "There was some questioning, but various folks chimed in that these were good and they became a part of UBC," Dunwoody said. "Later on that year, the engineers went around with a sledgehammer and started smashing these things up, at which point there was great furor that the engineers were heathen sorts of people who didn't appreciate fine art." The engineers allowed the outrage to reach a climax, then introduced photographs showing that all of this supposedly fine modern art was nothing but junk they had created themselves. "At that point," said Dunwoody, "everybody shut up real fast."

Dunwoody argues that the sculpture stunt's originality was what made it one of the best all-time hoaxes. "A lot of pranks are the same thing as last year," he said, and noted that the Golden Gate Bridge prank commemorated the 20th anniversary of the first VW Bug prank, when UBC engineers hung a car off Vancouver's Lions Gate Bridge. "Without the creativity, it comes down to audacity and technical difficulty."

While Canadian universities officially discourage pranks, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has practically incorporated pranking into the curriculum, believing that the technical ambition of most engineering stunts contributes to the students' education. MIT pranks (which the school calls "hacks") have become an establishment activity.

But at least one UBC engineering alumnus believes that MIT has nothing on UBC's trickster traditions. I was put in touch with a graduate who, in the words of one blogger, "is legendary at UBC for taking 14 years to complete a normally four-year bachelor's program, and leading the 'Geers in their drunken tomfoolery for most of that span."

"There is no rivalry," said the engineer, who asked to be identified only as Yo. "No one else has taken this to the degree that we have." He calls MIT's pranks "not clever," carried out on campus and without daring. For Yo, a great prank must appear difficult or impossible to the general public. Involving a famous landmark earns bonus points. But the most important part is the sense of accomplishment. "When you do something like this you are adding to decades of history," he said. "It feels great to belong to this organization that has done these things in the past." The stunts are also like advertisements for the department, according to Yo. "They say, 'Hire a UBC engineer.'"

Yo claimed to know people directly involved in the Golden Gate prank but would not reveal their names. "Stunts are done in the name of UBC, not in the name of an individual," he insisted, noting that some of the pranksters choose to stay silent to avoid liability or prosecution.

Cat Mills, a former UBC film student, can attest to the UBC pranksters' combination of pride and secrecy. They agreed to participate in *"Engineering Notoriety,"* a short documentary on UBC engineering stunts she produced for a school project. She found that while her subjects agreed to speak in detail about many stunts, the pinnacle of pranking, the Golden Gate stunt itself, was almost always out of bounds. But not entirely. She managed to get some key information about the prank on tape. She allowed me to watch the film, which is not intended for public viewing, so long as I agreed not to identify those she interviewed.

So how did they suspend a Beetle from the Golden Gate Bridge? Some insight into the stunt can be garnered from details of the prank it commemorated, the hanging of a VW Beetle 20 years earlier from the Lions Gate Bridge in Vancouver. According to a former engineering society president from the 1980s interviewed in Mills's film, that seminal stunt was carefully researched, and included retaining an engineering consulting firm to ensure that the weight of the car would not damage the bridge's support beams.

However, as US authorities involved in the Golden Gate stunt discovered, the weight dangling from the nylon cord was not as significant as it appeared: the vehicles hung from the Golden Gate and Lions Gate bridges were only shells, the heavy engines, wheels and windows having been removed. "A group of us tore down a Volkswagen in a basement," an engineering alumnus from the 1980s says in the film, recalling an earlier VW experience. In what was apparently UBC's first successful stunt involving a Beetle, he and three accomplices placed a car on the top of the university's Ladner Clock Tower. "We pulled the two halves of the Volkswagen up either side," he told Mills, "and bolted it together on the top."

The Golden Gate prank may also have been a two-step, two-day ordeal. The original Lions Gate stunt was. On the first day, according to the former engineering society president, a steel cable was hung in a loop from the support girders underneath the bridge. The loop

Since the Lions Gate stunt, vintage VW Bugs have been spotted hanging from almost every bridge in the Vancouver area, the Massey Tunnel, and the wooden rollercoaster at the Pacific National Exhibition.

was then clipped to the handrail for easy access. Attaching the cable required a delicate touch to avoid triggering an alarm, but once it was in place it was barely visible. On the second day, the students were given an unlikely gift: a minor car accident on the bridge stalled traffic. The traffic jam gave them just enough time to remove the shell of the VW from their flatbed truck, unclip the cable from the handrail, attach it to the car, and throw it over the side of the bridge – all in just minutes.

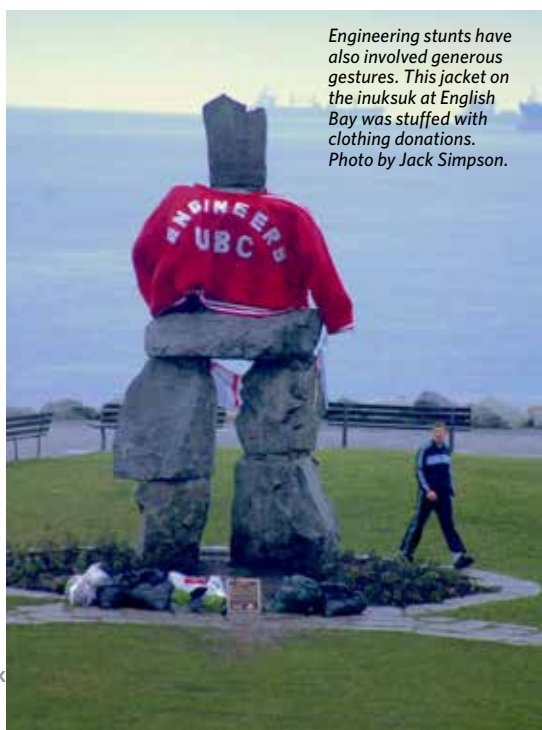
Since the Lions Gate stunt, vintage VW Bugs have been spotted hanging from almost every bridge in the Vancouver area, the Massey Tunnel, and the wooden rollercoaster at the Pacific National Exhibition. The preceding 20 years of experience must have contributed to the success of the most challenging part of the Golden Gate stunt: slinging a 27-metre cable under the bridge in advance, without detection.

In the film, an engineering student says that the team that laid the San Francisco cable stayed in hiding under the bridge for an entire day, waiting for the moving-van to arrive under the veil of darkness. When the van drove up, they quickly clipped the nylon cord and let the Bug drop.

The UBC engineers who hit the Golden Gate had also apparently originally planned for this to be a simultaneous, two-city prank, with a second Bug to have been hung from the Lions Gate Bridge. The Vancouver end of the plan was foiled when students triggered sensors on the crossing, and were discovered by the RCMP.

Though I spoke to a number of engineers who claimed to have knowledge of the event, no one ever admitted to being a Golden Gate prankster. And I suspected that, of all of those I spoke to, Yo had the most inside knowledge of the stunt. So, exasperated, I asked one more time: how the hell did they get the 27-metre cable under the bridge? "Oh," said Yo, slightly surprised by my question, "that was the easy part." [T](#)

The original version of this article was written by Erin Millar for Maclean's Magazine in 2007.



alumni UBC 98th Annual General Meeting

6:30pm | Thursday, October 15, 2015

Jack Poole Hall, Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre

Join us at our 98th AGM and hear what we've been up to in the past year.

GOVERNANCE AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEEKS RECOMMENDATIONS

The *alumni UBC* Governance and Nominating Committee is always seeking recommendations for alumni to be considered for service on the organization's Board of Directors and Advisory Council.

In particular, the committee seeks potential candidates who have the skill sets and experience necessary to effectively set strategic direction, engage alumni and ensure *alumni UBC* has the resources necessary to effectively fulfill its mission and vision. For more information on the role of the Board of Directors or Advisory Council, please contact:

Chair, Governance and Nominating Committee
c/o Sandra Girard, Manager, Board Relations
Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre
3rd Floor
6163 University Boulevard
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1
sandra.girard@ubc.ca

alumni UBC Event Highlights

Visit alumni.ubc.ca for a full list of events and updates.

Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre Home Opener

Vancouver | October 3, 2015

Join us to celebrate in this impressive new resource for UBC alumni.

Water Worries: What is the state of our most valuable resource?

Vancouver | October 7, 2015

This UBC Dialogues event will discuss threats to the quality and quantity of our fresh water supply and the steps we need to take now to protect it for decades to come.

alumNIGHTS at the Kiip Headquarters in San Francisco

San Francisco | October 8, 2015

Connect with fellow UBC alumni, including Kiip's founder and CEO, Brian Wong, BCom'09, over a glass of wine in a friendly, relaxed setting.

New Directions in Forestry

Kamloops | October 14, 2015

There are exciting opportunities for using state-of-the-art technology to improve the sustainable management of forests. Join us to learn how you can make an impact in your community.



a place of mind
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Gwyneth Gunn
1921-2003

Currently reporting on development pressures in Brazil

Gwyneth Gunn was known for her stories, her love of politics and the peace movement. Gunn appreciated the power of education and expressed this passion into a tax-efficient bequest to UBC. Today, her gift ensures vital funding for students in the Schools of Journalism and Social Work, and First Nations students in all fields of study.

UBC can help you plan a lasting legacy in a field important to you. Call 604.822.5373 or visit www.startanevolution.ca/Gunn

startanevolution.ca

Your Next Step Okanagan: Meet Your Mentor

Kelowna | October 21, 2015

Connect with entrepreneurs and community leaders, set realistic goals, and find that mentor who can help you define your career path.

Your Next Step: Crossing the Border

Vancouver | October 28

Considering immigrating to the US for employment? Learn about the steps required and considerations you should think about.

Master Mind, Master Class with Dr. Samantha Nutt

Vancouver | November 16

Hear from the award-winning humanitarian, medical doctor, founder of War Child & bestselling author as she shares experiences from her more than two decade career.

Taste of BC: A BC Craft Beer Evening

Victoria | November 19

Learn about BC's Craft Beer Revolution from the Thirsty Writer, Joe Wiebe, BFA'04, MFA'06, before enjoying a range of beer samples.

4th Annual Grape Debate

Vancouver | January 29

Should wine be made to age or made to drink?

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

UBC's research discoveries are hugely influential. They are advancing new knowledge and have led to countless new products, treatments and services that are improving lives around the world. Here are some of the research areas in which UBC is excelling.



BRAIN HEALTH

Collaboration key to unravelling mysteries of the mind

Call it the ultimate brain trust. At UBC's Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health, more than 250 researchers from the fields of neurology, neuroscience and psychiatry are working together to solve the world's greatest mystery: the human brain.

Bridging basic science and clinical care in a state-of-the-art facility, the centre provides opportunities for education, collaboration, and interaction with patients from across BC. It is the largest and most comprehensive brain care and research centre in Canada, and is a partnership between UBC's Faculty of Medicine, Vancouver Coastal Health, and Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute.

Under the leadership of co-directors Drs. Brian MacVicar and Jon Stoessl, the centre is poised to move research from the bedside to the bench and back again, in order to understand disease and translate research into better patient care and therapies.

"Interaction is key for us," says MacVicar of the collaborative nature of the centre. "We want scientists and clinicians working together, sitting down to talk about the possibilities out there, learning about each other's constraints, and talking about crazy ideas. We need the crazy ideas to challenge dogmas in brain science and come up with new solutions."

The good news is that it's working. The centre's unique approach is helping UBC to recruit some of the world's leading scientists, and is providing students with unprecedented experience in collaboration that could change the future of medicine. That's welcome news given that brain disease is on its way to becoming Canada's leading cause of death: it already affects one in three Canadians and costs the economy more than \$30 billion a year.

The centre is home to clinics that investigate and treat virtually every kind of brain illness and injury, from Parkinson's, ALS, Multiple Sclerosis, Huntington's and Alzheimer's, to concussion, addiction and mental health.

It's a hub for researchers such as Dr. Lara Boyd, a neuroscientist and physical therapist who holds the Canada Research Chair in Neurobiology of Motor Learning. Boyd's multidisciplinary team in the Brain Behaviour Lab is successfully curbing the effects of stroke through early intervention and innovative treatments that stimulate healthy parts of the brain to take over lost functions.

"The centre's integrated approach has been critical to my lab's success," says Boyd. "Solving problems such as strokes requires research from multiple angles. It's making connections and leveraging information that we share – drugs and therapies – to maximize solutions."

HEART AND LUNG

Predicting the unexpected: laying sudden cardiac deaths to rest

Sudden cardiac arrest kills more than 30,000 Canadians of all ages and all fitness levels every year.

In some of the most dramatic instances, seemingly healthy young athletes collapse suddenly on the playing field and die. Equally devastating are the cases that don't make the headlines: the teenage daughter who goes to sleep and never wakes, or the mother who loses two babies to sudden infant death.

Up to 60 per cent of such cardiac arrest cases are due to arrhythmias – irregular heartbeats – passed down through families. But what if your child or loved one had this condition, and you didn't know it?

It's a terrifying scenario, and one that UBC's head of Cardiology, Dr. Andrew Krahn, hopes to eliminate through his research into the genetic causes of arrhythmias.

An internationally recognized cardiac researcher, Krahn knows that with testing and timely intervention most of these deaths are preventable. He's determined to develop an accurate test to detect and treat these hereditary conditions in people who otherwise appear healthy.

"Simply put, my goal is to stamp out sudden death," says Krahn. "With accurate detection, preventative treatments like the use of beta-blockers or implantable defibrillators are extremely successful at controlling arrhythmias."

Krahn's research, in collaboration with his peers in the fields of medical genetics and pediatrics, is making remarkable advances towards this goal.

In late 2013, the province launched the BC Inherited Arrhythmia Program (BCIAP), a groundbreaking initiative operating under Cardiac Services BC, an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority. BCIAP, where Krahn is co-medical director, brings together specialists in cardiology, pediatrics and genetics to diagnose and treat cardiac arrhythmias. There are an estimated 7,000 British Columbians living with, or at risk for developing, arrhythmias.

There are clinics at St. Paul's and BC Children's hospitals in Vancouver and Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria, with outreach programs in Northern BC and clinics across the province that connect via videoconferencing. People concerned about their family history of inherited heart arrhythmia can be referred to BCIAP by their family doctor.

Krahn believes that with his team's research and clinical work, and the leadership of institutions like UBC and the Heart and Stroke Foundation, the "lightning strike" of arrhythmia may soon be a thing of the past – not just in BC, but around the world.

ADVANCED MATERIALS

UBC Research takes a quantum leap forward

Mere decades ago, the Internet emerged full of limitless possibilities and as-yet-unimagined potential. No one quite knew what it might become – only that its future looked promising.

Welcome to the world of quantum materials at UBC, where researchers are emerging as global leaders in the hunt for materials that could trigger a technical revolution to rival the Industrial Revolution.

Just as silicon transformed the microelectronics industry, quantum materials are set to transform existing industries in areas such as information processing, nanoelectronics, medicine and sustainable medicine. And they may well spawn totally new industries.

UBC's Quantum Matter Institute, and the prestigious, state-of-the-art Max Planck-UBC Centre for Quantum Materials partnership have attracted some of the top quantum materials research scientists and students from around the world.

UBC researchers have made pioneering contributions to the field: original ideas and proof-of-principle experiments that have spurred new ways of thinking, launched new experimental methods, and led to new materials with unprecedented properties.

One such internationally recognized advance is in the understanding of superconductors that, unlike today's conductors, allow electricity to flow without resistance. This could have many applications, such as smarter and speedier computers, able to process intensely complex problems. Until now, however, superconductors have only functioned at extremely low temperatures – like minus-150 Celsius – rendering them completely impractical for everyday use.

Dr. Andrea Damascelli leads a team of international scientists that recently made a breakthrough in our understanding of some of the common principles of superconductors. The team's findings, published in *Science* in December 2013, could lead to the creation of a superconductor that works at a much higher temperature, and one day even at room temperature.

As quantum materials research advances, we are learning how to control the properties of the new materials we discover. With this comes the prospect of a whole new world of technical possibilities.



Julio Montaner
(Photo courtesy BC Centre
of Excellence in HIV/AIDS)

HIV and AIDS

From killer to chronic, epidemic to eliminated: stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS through effective, sustained treatment

Just two decades ago, an HIV diagnosis brought with it stigma and suffering and eventually, death. End of story. But not anymore, thanks in large part to ongoing work pioneered in the 1990s and continuing to this day at the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Julio Montaner is the determined and much-decorated head of UBC's Division of AIDS and the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, a UBC-affiliated centre based at Providence Health Care's St. Paul's Hospital.

Montaner was the principal investigator of an international 1996 study that showed a cocktail combination of drugs to be the most effective way to prevent HIV turning into AIDS. Known as HAART, or "highly active anti-retroviral therapies," the cocktail has essentially turned HIV/AIDS from a catastrophic diagnosis into something manageable with consistent, sustained lifelong treatment. This means people living with HIV can now lead healthy, normal lives, have children and plan for a future.

HAART was just the first step, however, in a battle that continues to this day in Canada and around the world. That is why Montaner developed a program he calls "Treatment as Prevention®," or TasP®.

Many UBC researchers at the Centre for Excellence have supported Montaner in his work towards eliminating the spread of HIV and other related diseases, including Drs. Evan Wood, Thomas Kerr and Richard Harrigan.

On a global scale, TasP® has been adopted by the United Nations as its standard of care for HIV and AIDS. By expanding testing and access to anti-retrovirals following a diagnosis, people living with HIV can receive effective, sustained treatment that improves their health and longevity, while dramatically reducing the likelihood that they will spread the disease.

So far, TasP® has been implemented to great success in BC. Between 1994 and 2013, the number of new AIDS cases in BC decreased from 696 to 84 – a drop of 88 per cent. It has also been embraced by China, Brazil, Spain, France, major US cities, and Queensland, Australia – among many others.

That is not to say the battle against HIV and AIDS has yet been won – there are still many barriers to accessing sustained treatment for some living with the disease – but the principles of TasP® are strengthening the global fight against it.

The UNAIDS 90-90-90 program aims to ensure 90 per cent of people infected with HIV are tested; 90 per cent of those diagnosed are on sustained antiretroviral treatment; and 90 per cent of those on treatment have undetectable viral loads. The goal: to virtually eliminate progression to AIDS, premature death and HIV transmission by 2020.

By 2030, the worldwide HIV/AIDS pandemic could be transformed into a low-level sporadic endemic.

"We turned what was a crazy idea into a sound public policy," says Montaner.

As the leader of both the BC-CfE and the Division of AIDS at UBC, a former head of the International AIDS Society and a special advisor to the United Nations, Montaner wears many hats. They all have one thing in common: to eliminate HIV and AIDS, no matter what it takes.

This October, Montaner will be honoured with an *alumni UBC Achievement Award* (see page 51).

ENVIRONMENT



Sally Otto

Preserving the planet, species by species

The earth is home to an estimated 30 to 50 million species – many of them not yet discovered, and virtually all of them threatened by our human footprint.

At UBC's Biodiversity Research Centre, more than 50 scientists representing disciplines from botany to zoology are conducting research aimed at helping us understand and conserve the diversity of plants and animals on the planet.

Researchers at the centre study the entire biological spectrum – from individual genes to entire ecosystems – to reveal the complexity and interrelated nature of life on our planet.

"Species extinctions, as well as widespread shifts in ecosystems, are on the rise due to human activities," says Dr. Sally Otto, the centre's director. "At the Biodiversity Research Centre, several of our teams study how global warming, ocean acidification, and habitat destruction impact the natural world and what steps are needed to reduce these impacts."

Using techniques such as mathematical modelling and evolutionary experiments with yeast, Otto, an evolutionary biologist, explores how different species evolve and adapt to changing environments.

Understanding the factors involved in biodiversity, evolution and adaptation can inform future decisions around conservation and preservation, and could also contribute to the development of new medical treatments.

With the 2010 opening of the Beaty Biodiversity Museum at UBC, researchers like Otto can now share their research and findings about ecology, evolution and conservation with each other and the public. The museum is home to more than two million specimens of plants, animals and fossils – including its iconic centerpiece: a blue whale skeleton (pictured behind Otto). But more importantly, it brings top biodiversity researchers and their teams together under one roof, where they are able to share their knowledge and discoveries, and inspire a more sustainable future.

Walking the talk as a clean energy powerhouse

When it comes to clean energy, UBC walks the talk.

Home to a living lab that fuels campus heat and electricity requirements from biomass, a state-of-the-art research centre, and partnerships with prestigious international institutions and corporations, UBC is leading the charge to develop and utilize cleaner energy sources at home and around the world.

Sixty faculty and more than 200 graduate students work in the Clean Energy Research Centre (CERC), a hub for advancements in greener, cleaner energy.

"There is little doubt that energy is one of the most important challenges facing humanity in the 21st century," says Dr. Walter Mérida, the centre's director. "Our scientists and engineers are doing pioneering, world-class work on sustainable power innovations in the areas of sustainable transportation, low-carbon fuels, renewable energy, conservation and energy conversion and storage."

The centre's work has also attracted funding from leading international academic and industrial energy experts to support both pure and applied research.

A \$5 million partnership with the Fraunhofer Society, Europe's largest applied-research institution, is currently focused on five areas of clean energy research, from wind energy to zero-emission vehicles.

The centre has also initiated collaborations with Tech Mahindra in India in smart grid technologies, the three South African centres of competence regarding hydrogen and fuel cells, the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Italy in climate change modelling, and the Korean Gas Corporation in natural gas processing and liquefaction – an important advancement for British Columbia's emerging LNG sector.

Closer to home, the centre has been running a Master's of Clean Energy Engineering program since 2009 (the first of its kind in North America). It is also working with provincial stakeholders to develop a sustainable transportation system. In 2012 UBC's partnership with local company Nexterra Systems Corporation and GE Energy resulted in the launch of its on-site Bioenergy Research and Demonstration Facility. This small-scale power production plant supplies heat and power to the 50,000 students, staff and faculty at UBC's Vancouver campus using biomass – mainly waste lumber production products such as tree trimmings and wood chips.



Walter Mérida

Another project utilizing the campus as a living lab features a new smart-grid storage system that efficiently stores energy from renewable sources. It was created in collaboration with Alpha Technologies and Corvus Energy.

Such innovation isn't new: Westport Innovations, one of the university's most successful spin-off companies, has commercialized technology discovered at UBC almost 30 years ago to allow diesel truck engines to run on clean-burning natural gas. That single innovation has ultimately led to Westport slashing the emissions of vehicle fleets through collaborations with partners around the world, and becoming a global leader in alternative fuel, low-emissions technologies that allow engines to operate on cleaner-burning fuels.

No fish tale: UBC centre fights to protect the world's oceans

As the planet's fisheries reach their ecological limits, marine ecosystems face a catastrophic collapse. Consumers can make a personal choice to eat responsibly harvested fish, but is it too little too late? Are we doing enough to stave off the impacts of overfishing and preserve a healthy ocean environment for future generations?

The UBC Fisheries Centre brings together leading multidisciplinary researchers to understand the impact we are having on our oceans and to work with maritime communities, government, NGOs and other partners to reverse the decline.

Their research runs the gamut, from looking at ways to run, restore and sustain fisheries, to a project that studies seahorses, all in an effort to advance our knowledge of marine conservation and the management of competing populations, habitats and trades.

Take Dr. Villy Christensen. The fisheries professor and co-director of the UBC Fisheries Centre is driven by a single, complex question: Will there be seafood and healthy oceans for our children and grandchildren to enjoy? To find the answer, he is using global ecosystem models to measure the effect of human activity and climate change on marine populations.

Dr. Rashid Sumaila leads the Fisheries Economics Research Unit, which explores how ecosystems can provide sustainable and equitable economic and social benefits to both present and future generations, while maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem services.

In 2010, UBC launched a \$13 million, nine-year international partnership with The Nippon Foundation, a non-profit organization based in Tokyo, with a mandate to research solutions to the over-exploitation of resources around the world.

The impetus was the serious decline in fish populations, which has led to widespread concerns for the future. The NF-UBC Nereus Program, named for the ancient Greek god of the ocean's bounty, is developing an international research network that is capable of evaluating future scenarios for managing fisheries in the world's oceans and change how we exploit them – for our children, grandchildren and descendants long after we are gone.

"One of the biggest challenges for conservation of fisheries is that most people can't see the state of our oceans with their own eyes because from the surface, everything seems unchanged," says Dr. Daniel Pauly, a professor at the Fisheries Centre and chair of the Nereus steering committee. "This program will bring the real impacts of our decision and actions right before our eyes."

Closer to home, fish, and salmon fishing in particular have always been an important part of BC's heritage and identity.

The Aboriginal Fisheries Unit marries traditional ecological knowledge to modern science in order to better support and manage ecosystems and aquatic resources.

Elsewhere, Dr. Tony Farrell in the Faculty of Land and Food Systems has looked at the impact of rising water temperatures on the province's salmon population. And from UBC Forestry Professor Scott Hinch and Carleton University Professor Steven Cooke comes important research that shows when sockeye salmon on the way to their spawning grounds are forced to "burst swim," or sprint, through rapids or areas downstream of dams, many of them die from the effort before they reach their destination.

Maintaining healthy diverse oceans and preserving our fish stocks has never faced greater pressures.



Imposing the right kind of order on the chaos of data

We are in the midst of a veritable information explosion. In the digital universe, we create, capture and store facts and figures at unprecedented rates on every topic imaginable. It has led to a unique 21st-century problem: Big Data overload. How can we possibly sift through the massive fog of complex and confounding data and make sense of it?

UBC researchers are developing the field of visual analytics to find the answers. This multidisciplinary field combines research in both computer science and psychology to create systems that turn vast quantities of interrelated information into visual images and patterns that are easily understood by the human brain.

In the same way that bar graphs and pie charts have helped us understand simple relationships between data, visual analytics is finding ways for us to understand relationships within even the most complex data sets.

By imposing the right kind of order on the chaos of data, visual analytics enables us to leverage uniquely human abilities – such as reasoning, problem-solving, and raw visual intelligence – to analyze the data.

"It's a marriage of sorts, blending complex computational processes with human cognitive abilities to let us quickly see the hidden gems of knowledge contained within diverse sets of data," explains UBC Computer Science and Psychology Professor Ronald Rensink.

In 2004, UBC incorporated its pioneering visual analytics research into the Media and Graphic Interdisciplinary Centre (MAGIC), which gathers academics from fields as diverse as music, graphic arts and computer science together under one roof.

Since then, researchers at MAGIC have been creating visual representations of large volumes of complex data, leading to improvements in areas as diverse as aircraft safety, childhood injuries and disaster relief.

These examples are just the beginning. Visual analytics can bring data to life in virtually every sector and topic imaginable, and the university is helping to do just that through the Vancouver Institute for Visual Analytics (VIVA), a collaborative project between UBC, Simon Fraser University and the British Columbia Institute of Technology.

Born out of a series of collaborations with the Boeing Company, VIVA bridges academic theory with real-life practice by connecting researcher with industry, as well as offering training courses to anyone – students, researchers, government or members of the public – interested in rendering massive, interlinked amounts of data comprehensible through images.

"Visual analytics is like using technology to find a needle in a haystack," says Rensink. "It allows us to pick out patterns, context and connections from data that would otherwise be too overwhelming on its own. Ultimately, it allows us, often at a glance, to better understand today's world."



GENOMICS

Breakthrough discoveries change how we understand cancer

Scientists at UBC and the BC Cancer Agency have transformed our understanding of breast cancer and set the stage for the development of new treatments.

It began with a landmark discovery in 2009.

By decoding – for the first time in history – the three billion letters in the DNA sequence of a patient’s metastatic lobular breast cancer and following its evolution over nine years, Dr. Samuel Aparicio, Dr. Marco Marra and Dr. Sohrab Shah were able to show how this complex cancer mutates and spreads.

Aparicio is a professor in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at UBC and heads the BC Cancer Agency’s Department of Molecular Oncology; Marra directs the Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre and the Department of Medical Genetics at UBC; and Shah is an associate professor in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at UBC, a scientist at the BC Cancer Agency, and Canada Research Chair in Computational Cancer Genomics.

The research team they led found that of the 32 mutations in the metastatic tumour, only five could have been present in all the cells of the original tumour, thereby identifying them as the suspected cause of the disease getting started in the first place.

The internationally significant findings were published in the prestigious journal *Nature*.

“This is a watershed event in our ability to understand the causes of breast cancer and to develop personalized medicines for our patients,” declared Aparicio at the time.

In 2012, international research led by Aparicio at the BC Cancer Agency and Dr. Carlos Caldas at the Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute was able to classify breast cancer into ten subtypes. They then grouped these subtypes by common genetic features, which correlate with survival, to suggest how treatments could be tailored to treat women with better defined types of breast cancer.

This discovery followed on the heels of Aparicio, Shah and Marra leading the decoding of the most deadly triple-negative breast cancer. This research similarly discovered new genes that had never before been linked to the disease and showed that breast cancer is an umbrella term for what is really a number of unique diseases.

Aparicio and Shah have since led further research to understand and predict how these complex cancers evolve over time.

The two researchers used Shah’s statistical modelling software, PyClone, to analyze the billions of pieces of genetic data gathered from the tumour samples. Their findings, published in *Nature* in 2014, provided a map for how certain breast cancers evolve to become drug resistant over time.

“By pinpointing which individual cancer cells are the ‘resilient’ ones that are most likely to have an impact on patient survival,” says Shah, “We are paving the way for drug development and treatment practices that will stop these cellular superbugs from taking over.”

“Because of this research we have a way to identify the cancer ‘super-cells’ and stay one step ahead of disease progression by tailoring effective treatments to individual patients,” adds Aparicio.

It’s a radical shift in the way we understand cancer – one that is of vital importance to both the global cancer research community and to future drug studies.

Seeing the forest and the trees – and making them stronger

It sounds like something out of science fiction: a wily scientist using state-of-the-art DNA bio-surveillance technology to defeat an invasive alien species. But voracious forest-destroying insects such as the Asian gypsy moth and the elm bark beetle are a clear, present and very real danger – and Dr. Richard Hamelin has them in his crosshairs.

Hamelin, a professor in UBC’s Faculty of Forestry, leads a \$2.43 million, cross-Canada research project aimed at protecting Canada’s 400 million hectares of forest and urban trees from devastating pests. It’s just one of several important environmental research initiatives at UBC involving genomics.

“Establishing a link to origin is crucial to prove scientifically the source of pests – and genomics can do that. This means that Canadian officials will have verifiable evidence when managing non-compliant exporters and trading partners,” says Hamelin, who is leading a team of scientists from UBC, Natural Resources Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency through a partnership with Genome Canada and Genome BC.


Most recently, the team discovered a deadly tree fungus – *Mycosphaerella populorum* – which uses extra genes to produce a toxin that causes fatal lesions on the leaves, stems and branches of poplar trees.

Other natural resource genomics projects at UBC have included mapping the genomes of the spruce tree and the mountain pine beetle, the insect that has devastated BC’s lodge-pole pine forests. It marked only the second time in the world that a beetle genome has been sequenced.

There is also the aptly named Adaptree, a UBC-led initiative led by Dr. Sally Aitken to understand where trees have historically been and understand where they should be in the future. This research is vital to improving provincial seed transfer policies and forest management responses to climate change. How do trees survive drastic changes in climate? How do they make it through year after year – after century – of harsher (or milder) winters? And how do they adapt to environments that are, to say the least, ecologically different?

“We know that those climatic niches are moving way faster than these tree species have historically been able to move,” Aitken says.

While this phenomenon challenges the forestry sector, that same industry – which plants 250 million trees a year in BC – is best positioned to do something about it. With the right information in hand, there is an opportunity to assist the adaptation of forests by relocating the right genomes to the right places in the course of normal business operations.

“We can at least increase diversity,” notes Aitken. “More diversity in the genomes of a population makes it more resilient, and with unpredictable and complex changes taking place, resilience is key to the health of the forest.” 

These stories, along with others, can be found on the website of UBC Research and International. To learn more about UBC research, please visit research.ubc.ca

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alumni UBC

A NEW HOME ON CAMPUS FOR UBC ALUMNI

Although there were only 40 students in UBC's first graduating class of 1916, the UBC Alumni Association was formed the following year – its stated aim being simply “To further the interests of the University and the Alumni.”

Since those early days, alumni have been one of the most influential forces shaping UBC's history. They have contributed to university governance through advisory roles and representation on the Board of Governors and the Senate. They have protected the university's interests with their political support when its future was uncertain. They have partnered on numerous bold student initiatives. And they have given financially to support important research, student scholarships, and campus development.

Today, there are 305,000 UBC alumni and they are just as vital to the university's continued success as their predecessors. The importance of a strong and mutually beneficial relationship between UBC and its graduates is symbolized by the recently completed Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre, the first of its kind in Canada.

The centre is an eye-catching four-level structure in the heart of UBC's Vancouver campus. It is a place for connection, collaboration and life-long learning, as well as a showcase for the exceptional accomplishments and aspirations of UBC alumni. It's also the university's official welcome centre – in effect, UBC's front door.

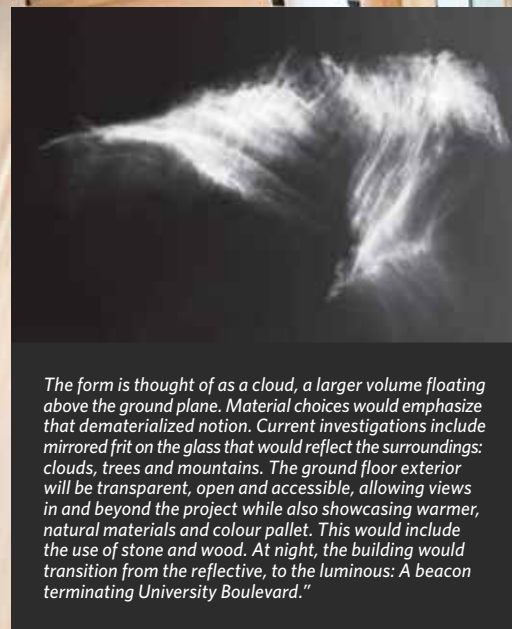
The building is named for Robert H. Lee, CM, OBC, BCom'56, LLD'96, a former university chancellor and governor, and the founder of UBC Properties Trust. As someone who has been lending his support and business expertise to the university for the past three decades, Dr. Lee was the natural choice for this honour. Despite a full schedule, he finds as much time as possible to accommodate frequent meeting requests from admiring commerce students, thus demonstrating his belief in the kind of interaction that will be a cornerstone of activity at the alumni centre.

Located next to the AMS Nest (the new student centre completed at the same time), the alumni centre is ideally placed for fostering all the natural connections between students and alumni – especially in the areas of mentorship, employment, and innovative learning opportunities.

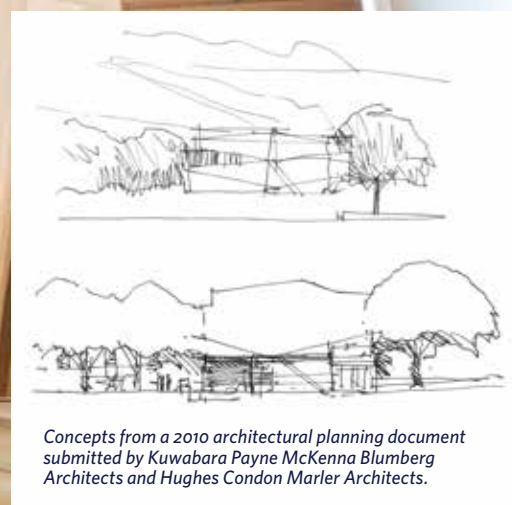
Other partnerships include the university's entrepreneurship program – e@UBC – which is now operating out of its new premises in the centre, and UBC Continuing Studies. Visitors will also discover a café, historical displays, an interactive screen showcasing all UBC graduates, stunning artwork, and a variety of beautiful spaces available for rent.

The idea for an alumni centre first surfaced in 1999, and many alumni volunteers have been involved in driving the project. When UBC's *start an evolution* campaign was launched in 2011, the centre was identified as one of its top five priorities. The university itself showed the way, committing the site and a sizeable annual grant towards building operations. Since then, more than 1,000 alumni and friends of UBC have contributed to making the dream of a UBC alumni centre a reality, and a tribute wall in the centre's main reception area is a permanent acknowledgement of their generosity.

The official opening of the Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre on September 30, 2015, kicks off UBC's Centennial year; the official close of the Centennial will be Alumni Weekend on May 28, 2016. As UBC's next hundred years unfold, it's clear alumni will be an integral part of the story – as they have always been. [t](#)



The form is thought of as a cloud, a larger volume floating above the ground plane. Material choices would emphasize that dematerialized notion. Current investigations include mirrored frit on the glass that would reflect the surroundings: clouds, trees and mountains. The ground floor exterior will be transparent, open and accessible, allowing views in and beyond the project while also showcasing warmer, natural materials and colour pallet. This would include the use of stone and wood. At night, the building would transition from the reflective, to the luminous: A beacon terminating University Boulevard.”



Concepts from a 2010 architectural planning document submitted by Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg Architects and Hughes Condon Marler Architects.



**Robert H. Lee
Alumni Centre**



Robert H. Lee

the Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre

a home for alumni for life

start an evolution

Our 300,000 alumni are at the heart of UBC. So UBC and *alumni UBC* have built the Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre at the heart of our Vancouver campus. The Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre is a new home for alumni; a place to welcome all who visit UBC; a place to connect and integrate, fostering entrepreneurship, networking, mentoring and learning.

The Centre is named in honour of alumnus, benefactor, former UBC Chancellor and founder of the UBC Properties Trust, **Dr. Robert H. Lee**, CM, OBC, BCom'56, LLD'96. Bob is affectionately known as 'Mr. UBC' due to his many contributions over three decades.

To help the new Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre become a vital and vibrant space, we invite your support.

alumniculture.ubc.ca



a place of mind

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The Queen with President Piper in 2002. (Photo by Martin Dee)

FAMOUS UBC VISITORS

From royalty and rock stars to playwrights and politicians, an eclectic mix of visitors has graced the university's campus over the years. Since it's impossible to name them all, we've captured a snapshot of some of UBC's most recognizable guests from the past six decades.



The Queen with President MacKenzie in 1959. (UBC Archives)

1950s

Queen Elizabeth II & Prince Philip

The royal couple have visited the campus on four occasions – one of them in 1951, shortly before Elizabeth's coronation, when they attended a UBC football game. They came again in 1959 and dined with university representatives, including then UBC president Norman MacKenzie, in the splendour of UBC's new faculty club. In 1983, they toured the Museum of Anthropology, the Asian Centre and the Health Sciences Centre. In October 2002, they visited as part of the golden jubilee celebrations commemorating the Queen's 50-year reign. During this visit, at a ceremony for the opening of the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre (part of the UBC Library), the BC Premier gave a speech about the centre's hi-tech facilities. While he was speaking, the Queen leant over to incumbent UBC president Martha Piper and said: "Will there be books?" Other British royalty to visit UBC include Princess Margaret, who was awarded an honorary degree, Prince Charles, and Prince Andrew.

Eleanor Roosevelt with President MacKenzie in 1959. (UBC Archives)



Eleanor Roosevelt

Former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt was invited to the opening ceremonies for UBC's International House on May 4, 1959, by Ellen Harris (pictured left) of Zonta International – a global organization that advances the status of women. International House is a centre for international and intercultural learning open to all members of the UBC community. "My mother thought Mrs. Roosevelt was a brilliant and charming woman," recalls Susan Pond, *BMus*'63, Harris' daughter.

Eleanor Roosevelt
Hyde Park, U.S.
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alumni UBC 2015 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

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UBC alumni are capable of amazing things. This October, we will honour seven inspiring members of the UBC community who, through their extraordinary endeavours, have created positive change.



ALUMNI AWARD OF DISTINCTION

Dr. Gordon McBean

BSc'64, PhD'70

Dr. Gordon McBean has led global efforts to raise awareness about climate change impacts and played a key role in the development of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which in 2007, along with Al Gore, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.



GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP AWARD

Sheila Purves

BSR'79

Sheila Purves has spent the past three decades promoting modern medical rehabilitation and community based approaches to the healthcare system in China. She has developed training programs for thousands of care providers, and her students have improved the quality of life immeasurably for patients and people with disabilities.



FACULTY COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Dr. John Gilbert

Dr. John Gilbert is founding director and professor emeritus of UBC's School of Audiology and Speech Sciences. He is internationally recognized for his pioneering role in the development of interprofessional health education as a vital component of collaborative practice and quality care.



HONORARY ALUMNUS AWARD

Dr. Julio Montaner

OC, OBC

Dr. Julio Montaner has been leading the fight against HIV/AIDS for the past three decades. His innovative drug therapies and treatment programs, now the standard of care globally, have transformed the disease from a death sentence into a long-term manageable condition, and dramatically reduced the spread of HIV.



HONORARY ALUMNUS AWARD

Hari Varshney

CPA, FCA, OBC

Prominent philanthropist and venture capitalist Hari Varshney credits the time he spent at UBC with planting the seeds for his success. A devoted community leader with a generous spirit, he has made several major gifts to the university and serves as a cabinet member for UBC's \$1.5 billion *start an evolution* campaign.



YOUNG ALUMNUS AWARD

Nimisha Mukerji

BA'06

Award-winning producer and director Nimisha Mukerji's powerful and inspiring documentaries create awareness and inspire change. Her critically acclaimed features, *65_RedRoses* and *Blood Relative*, won awards at film festivals around the globe, and inspired international fundraising and awareness campaigns for cystic fibrosis, thalassemia and organ donation.



FUTURE ALUMNUS AWARD

Dr. Michiko Maruyama

MD'15

Dr. Michiko Maruyama, a graduate of UBC's Northern Medical Program, is a talented artist who has integrated her background in industrial design and the arts with her medical studies through several projects, including her *Medical Daily Doodles*, educational toys and health books for children and learning resources for medical students and patients.

Find out more at alumni.ubc.ca/awards

UBC 100

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1960s



Image courtesy Library of Congress.

Alexander Kerensky

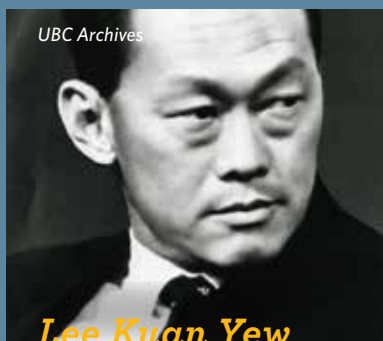
A key figure in the Russian Revolution, Kerensky led the Russian Provisional Government in 1917 before being overthrown by Lenin. He came to give a talk at UBC in 1966. "If the Russians realized Lenin wanted a totalitarian regime he wouldn't have lasted two days," the *Ubyyssey* reported him as saying. "Lenin won Russia as a democrat and offered constitutionalism to the people. He later revealed his true plan and the communist regime began." Professor Emeritus Herbert Rosengarten was on campus at the time. "I remember passing him in the Buchanan quadrangle, as he was being escorted to or from his talk by some students," he says. "It seemed amazing to me that he was still around, a figure from history and another age." Kerensky was 85 years old at the time of his visit.

Haile Selassie

Haile Selassie, Emperor of Ethiopia, visited UBC in April 1967. "I heard that the Emperor was coming to campus at lunchtime, so I grabbed my camera and hurried over to the Faculty Club," recalls Professor Emeritus Herbert Rosengarten. "There was a large black limo outside the entrance, with a driver and a Mountie, but there was no crowd to welcome our visitor; indeed, I think I was the only person in the parking lot. I didn't have to wait long: a large group tumbled out of the building - security people, various big-wigs, mostly tall men in dark suits almost obscuring the small figure of the Emperor. I stood on the far side of the limo, and took four or five snapshots; no-one stopped me, or asked for my credentials, or told me to step away from the car; but of course the world was a rather different place almost half a century ago."



Image courtesy Herbert Rosengarten



UBC Archives

Lee Kuan Yew

Lee Kuan Yew became Singapore's first Prime Minister in 1959 and remained in the post for 30 years. In 1968, he visited North America for a two-month period of study and rest and visited UBC to give two lectures, meet faculty members, and use the Library for study. According to the *Ubyyssey*, he wanted

little fuss: "I've heard it's beautiful and quiet here," he reportedly said a press conference. "I want to get away from the ceaseless administration I'm faced with in Singapore." Unfortunately for Lee, his visit coincided with the student take-over of the Faculty Club led by American activist Jerry Rubin, and he was in the building when it happened. *Ubyyssey* reporter James Conchie explained what went on: "Against the opposition of several very worried-looking faculty members, he agreed to speak to the *Ubyyssey*. Lee, who has indicated a strong desire for privacy during his stay, seemed amused by the occupation of the club. With a large grin, he said: 'All this isn't bothering me at all. It takes something of a much more serious nature than this to get me excited. What is happening here? Everyone seems to be running around in a great fluster,' he said. And then, after promising to speak to the *Ubyyssey* again before he leaves the city, the quiet prime minister locked the door and returned to reassuring some very, very upset faculty members."

1970s



Van Morrison

On February 17, 1974, more than 4,500 people crammed into the smoke-filled War Memorial Gym to hear Van Morrison belt out his hit song *Brown Eyed Girl*, among other fan favourites. "There wasn't a parking space available within a square mile of the War Memorial Gym," reported the *Ubyyssey* two days later. "People double and triple parked. Inside you couldn't move and the smoke was thick. If you didn't want to hear this concert stoned, you couldn't breathe. People crushed onto the floor space clutching bottles in paper bags. It was not a place for claustrophobia victims... The gym floor bounced up and down. In the back row asses jiggled and toes tapped."

Image courtesy the Ubyyssey. Photo by Greg Osadchuk.



UBC Archives

Pierre Trudeau

Pierre Elliott Trudeau visited in 1976 to speak at the official dedication ceremony for TRIUMF, a facility on the university's south campus that houses the world's largest example of a cyclotron, AKA a high energy particle accelerator. Trudeau candidly acknowledged that he knew nothing about cyclotrons but was excited about the research potential they offered. "I don't really know what a cyclotron is but I am certainly very happy Canada has one," he said.



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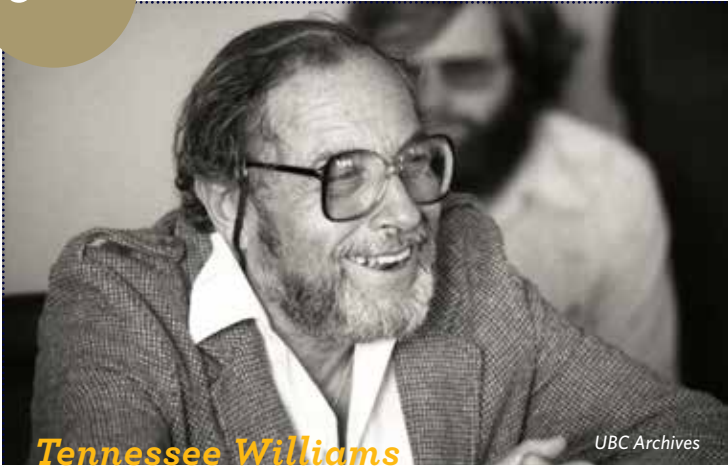
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1980s



Tennessee Williams

UBC Archives

In 1980, Tennessee Williams, one of the most critically acclaimed playwrights of the twentieth century, accepted the position of Distinguished Writer-in-Residence at UBC. Jo Ledingham, BA'82, MA'87, attended a creative writing class to which Tennessee Williams had been invited. "It was a highlight in my student life sitting around a table with him," she says. "I was overwhelmed to be in the same room with him and was, as I recall, speechless in his white linen-suited, panama-hatted presence." Many writers have visited UBC over the years for readings and book signings, including Margaret Atwood, who also taught at UBC in 1964, Michael Ondaatje, Northrop Frye, Alice Munro, Carol Shields, Robertson Davies, and Dylan Thomas, who described Vancouver as "a quite handsome hellhole."

1990s

Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin

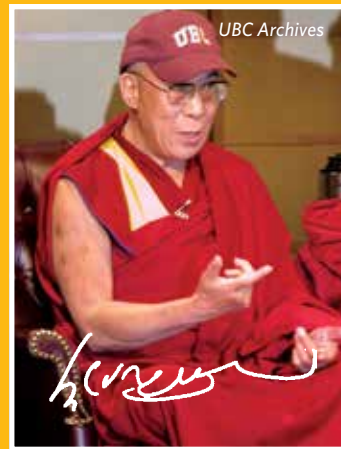
On April 3, 1993, UBC gained worldwide attention when two world leaders, US President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin, converged on campus for their two-day Vancouver Summit. The first formal meeting between the two leaders was held at Norman MacKenzie House, the residence of then UBC president David Strangway. Today, two brown-leather wingback chairs used by the two leaders serve as a lively topic of conversation for visitors to the house. "The beauty of Vancouver has inspired our work here, and this weekend I believe we have laid the foundation for a new democratic partnership between the United States and Russia," said Bill Clinton at a news conference following the summit.

UBC Archives

2000s



Photo courtesy Herbert Rosengarten.

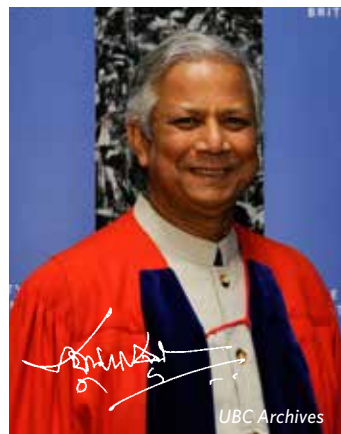


UBC Archives

Shirin Ebadi, Desmond Tutu, and the Dalai Lama

Honorary degrees were conferred upon Nobel Peace Prize recipients Archbishop Desmond Tutu, His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama and human-rights activist Professor Shirin Ebadi on April 19, 2004. Jo-ann Archibald, associate dean for Indigenous Education at UBC, remembers Musqueam's community leaders and elders welcoming the Dalai Lama to Musqueam's ancestral and

unceded lands at UBC. "The Dalai Lama was draped in a Salish robe while he stood on cedar boughs in the First Nations Longhouse," she recalls. "Eagle down feathers were sprinkled in the air to symbolize the highest respect Indigenous people have for a visitor. Imagine white fluffs of eagle down mingled with the scent of cedar; drumming and singing; and good feelings of mutual respect experienced by all who attended this ceremonial event." All three Nobel laureates attended a round table dialogue on the theme "Balancing Educating the Mind with Educating the Heart."



UBC Archives

Muhammad Yunus

In 2008, renowned economist and Nobel Peace Prize recipient Muhammad Yunus, received an honorary degree and participated in a colloquium on social corporate responsibility. Yunus, founder of the microfinance model and the Grameen Bank, has been praised for conceptualizing and building the field of "micro-credit," which has created financial independence for thousands of people in the world's poorest countries.

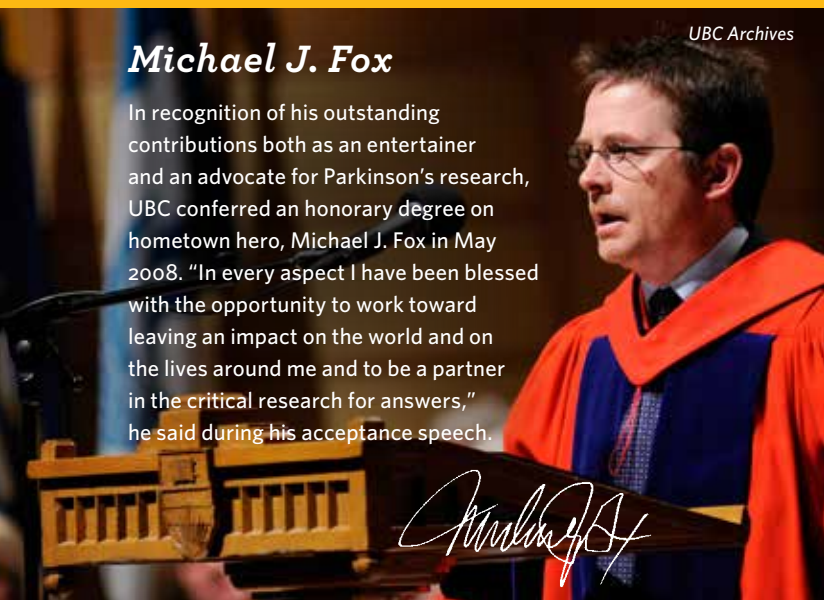
Princess Takamado

On June 9, 2004, Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado of Japan presented a collection of books on Japanese society and culture to UBC's Asian Library in honour of her late husband, Prince Takamado. During her visit, Professor Emeritus Herbert Rosengarten (pictured right) led her on a tour of the Nitobe Memorial Garden. "My stroll with the princess was very pleasant," he recalls. "We had both been students at Cambridge, and we exchanged reminiscences of struggling up Huntingdon Road on gearless bikes. After the walk we went to a reception in the Liu Centre; there were lots of people waiting to greet her, but despite all the handshakes and polite trivialities she had to endure, the smile never left her face." Their Imperial Highnesses the Emperor and Empress of Japan visited UBC in July 2009. Emperor Akihito's first visit to UBC was in 1953, when he was crown prince.

Michael J. Fox

UBC Archives

In recognition of his outstanding contributions both as an entertainer and an advocate for Parkinson's research, UBC conferred an honorary degree on hometown hero, Michael J. Fox in May 2008. "In every aspect I have been blessed with the opportunity to work toward leaving an impact on the world and on the lives around me and to be a partner in the critical research for answers," he said during his acceptance speech.



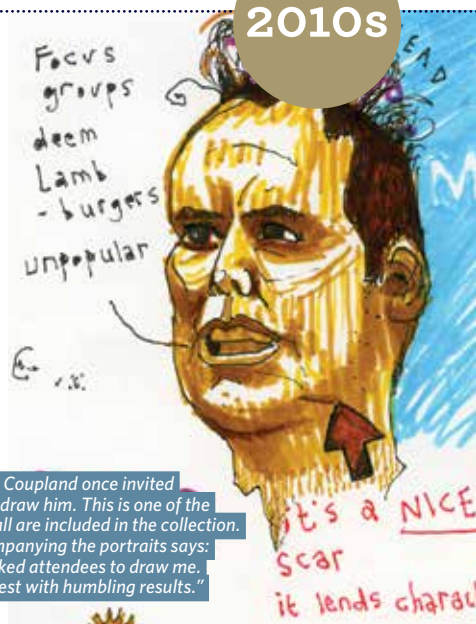
Chris Hadfield

In October 2013, astronaut Chris Hadfield gave a talk - *The Sky is Not the Limit* - at the Kelowna Community Theatre as part of UBC Okanagan's Distinguished Speaker Series. Stephen McNeil, an associate professor of chemistry, was one of those lucky enough to have dinner with Hadfield before the event. "What struck me most about Colonel Hadfield was his modesty," says McNeil. "An astronaut in command of the ISS has achieved the pinnacle of a career that only the elite of the elite may ever begin and from which the smallest deficiency is grounds for dismissal, but to his mind he's just a farm kid from Ontario who one day decided to be an astronaut."

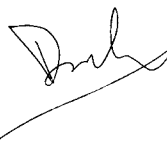
Photo by Patty Wellborn

Douglas Coupland

In 2010, Douglas Coupland donated his archival records to UBC Library. Dating back to 1980, these records include manuscripts, photos, visual art, fan mail, correspondence, press clippings, audio/visual material and the first hand-written manuscript of *Generation X*. On May 27, 2010, he was awarded an honorary degree for his prolific and prodigious contributions as a writer and artist.



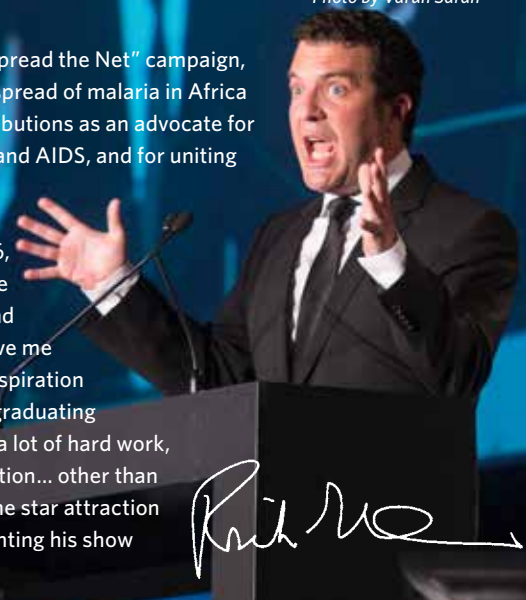
At a reading, Coupland once invited attendees to draw him. This is one of the results, and all are included in the collection. A note accompanying the portraits says: "Tonight I asked attendees to draw me. A brave request with humbling results."



Rick Mercer

Photo by Varun Saran

For his dedication to the "Spread the Net" campaign, which aims to prevent the spread of malaria in Africa with bed nets, for his contributions as an advocate for individuals living with HIV and AIDS, and for uniting Canadians in laughter, Rick Mercer was awarded an honorary degree on May 26, 2010. During his acceptance speech, he said: "... each and every one of you, and believe me when I say this, is a huge inspiration because we know nobody graduating today has done so without a lot of hard work, sacrifice, talent and dedication... other than me." In 2013, Mercer was the star attraction at Alumni Weekend, presenting his show at The Old Gym.



Own a Piece of UBC History

Many special visitors to campus would have been invited to the Faculty Club, where they might have been offered tea in a china cup like this one that features the UBC Coat of Arms. Did the Queen drink from this cup? Maybe Dylan Thomas? For more information on prices and other items on sale, go to: ceremonies.ubc.ca/china-sale

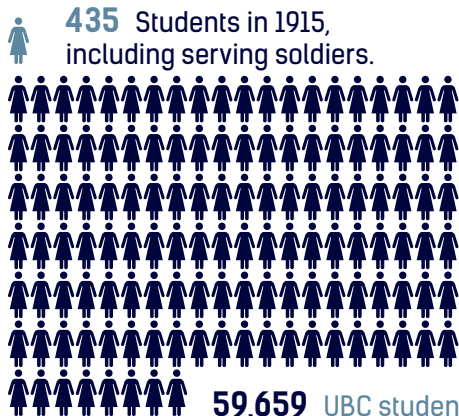
CHINA SALE

Wednesday, October 14, 2015, 4:00 to 6:00 pm
Sage Bistro (Vancouver campus)



Guestbook signatures courtesy UBC Ceremonies.

UBC IN NUMBERS



59,659 UBC students in 2015, (8,212 of them on the Okanagan campus, and 11,965 of them international students).

1,337 Number of Aboriginal students studying at UBC in 2014-15.

"When I arrived at UBC in 1974, there were more totem poles on campus than Aboriginal students,"

– Victor Jim, BEd'78, MEd'99, Wet'suwet'en First Nation member and graduate of the Native Indian Teacher Education Program established at UBC in 1974. [UBC News, October 21, 2014]

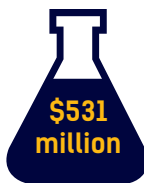


30,000 Number of volumes in UBC's library when it opened in 1915.

> 6 million The number of volumes (physical and digital), in UBC's Library 2014-15.

UBC's economic impact (2014-15)

\$12 billion



\$531 million

Research funding for **8,278** projects in 2014-15.

169 Number of companies spun off from UBC research.

\$175,000

UBC's annual operating budget in 1915.

\$2.1 billion

UBC's annual operating budget today.

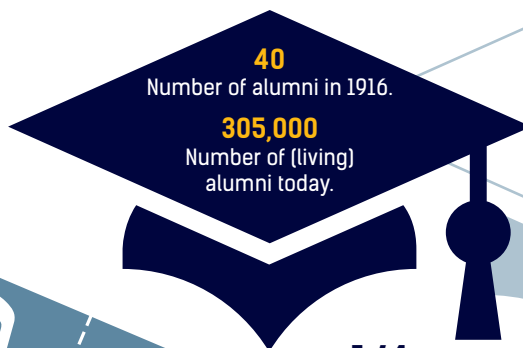
"... this university scheme contemplates erecting on a magnificent site, visible to every ship entering Vancouver, a small city capable of being made one of the most interesting and beautiful in the world."

– From the BC provincial government's 1912 document inviting architects to submit their plans for UBC's Point Grey campus.



\$5,000

The amount offered to architects by the provincial government in 1912 to reward the winning design for a campus at Point Grey.



40

Number of alumni in 1916.

305,000

Number of (living) alumni today.

\$40 per year

The university imposed its first tuition fees in 1920.

\$166.27 per credit

Tuition fee for Canadian citizens and permanent residents, 2014-15.

1/4

The proportion of all post-secondary research conducted in British Columbia for which UBC is responsible.



5 cents

Cost of a streetcar ticket in 1915.

U-PASS BC

\$38

Cost of a monthly U-Pass (a universal transit pass for UBC students).



34

Full- and part-time faculty members (1915-16).

5,145

UBC faculty (2014-15).

2,433,048

Number of YouTube views of UBC's 2011 LipDub Video "Raise Your Glass."



.40 cents

How much a bottle of beer set you back at the Pit in 1973.



\$4.75

Price of a domestic beer at today's Pit, now operating out of swanky new premises in the new students' building.

"We now have table service whereas in the old Pit it was walk-up service. And really, really, really good food. Now we are a proper pub bistro outlet."

– Gary Carlson, Pit Pub manager (Georgia Straight, June 26, 2015)



Among current or former faculty and alumni:

2 Canadian prime ministers

7 Nobel Prize winners

69 Rhodes Scholars

195 Royal Society of Canada members

241 Olympians, representing a tally of **65** medals

Build dreams



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**Get an online quote
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Life Insurance
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No purchase necessary. Contest open to Canadian residents who are the age of majority in their province or territory of residence as of the contest start date. Approximate value of each prize is \$1,000 Canadian. Chances of winning depend on the number of valid entries received by the contest deadline. Contest closes Thursday, December 3, 2015, at 11:59 p.m. ET. Only one entry per person accepted. Skill testing question required.



WHEN BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE IT'S GOOD TO LEAVE ROOM TO GROW.

At UBC we embrace our past and look forward to the future. Former student Cecil Green donated Cecil Green Park House (1912) to provide a unique venue for the wider community, including alumni. Now the university and alumni UBC have come together to create a new home for our 300,000 alumni and visitors to connect with each other and the campus. The Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre is a gathering place, physically and virtually, for continued learning, for entrepreneurship and for mentoring the next generation of students and alumni. Step by step we are building on past and present innovations. The UBC Centennial celebrates thinking that moves us all towards a better future.

SEE WHAT'S NEXT AT
UBC100.CA