Update

Recent Developments at UBC’s Okanagan campus

SPECIAL EDITION | SUMMER 2010
QUICK STATS

ENROLLMENT GROWTH
Domestic Students

<table>
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ENROLLMENT GROWTH
International Students

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COUNTRIES REPRESENTED
21 66

FACULTY AND STAFF GROWTH
2005/06 2009/10

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ECONOMIC IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

Research awards

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• UBC’s Okanagan campus has an operating budget of $89 million. Including research grants and other external funds this campus has expenditures of over $100 million annually.

• A Sept. 2009 economic analysis estimates UBC’s Okanagan campus has an annual economic impact of $1 billion.

Milestones

March 17, 2004 — The Government of B.C. announced the establishment of UBC Okanagan and the new Okanagan College in the Okanagan region.

July 4, 2005 — The keys to the future of post-secondary education in the Okanagan were passed to Okanagan College and UBC Okanagan by Okanagan University College (OUC) Public Administrator Dr. J. Peter Meekison.

September 8, 2005 — Official Opening Ceremony of UBC Okanagan

November 2005 — Jim Meekison and friends committed $2 million to create the J. Peter Meekison Student Centre in honour of Dr. J. Peter Meekison, public administrator for the OUC transition process.

April 2006 — UBC Okanagan announced new Deputy Vice Chancellor Dr. Doug Owram.

June 2006 — History was made in Kelowna as 470 members of UBC Okanagan’s very first graduating class crossed the stage to receive their degrees in two ceremonies.

September 2006 — Charles Fipke, a UBC alumnus, and the discoverer of diamonds in Canada’s Far North, donated $6 million to UBC Okanagan for a new centre for innovative research. Dr. Fipke’s gift would later grow to $7 million.

March 2008 — UBC Okanagan unveiled its new varsity athletics team name — the UBC Okanagan Heat — at the Valley First UBC Okanagan Athletics Scholarship Breakfast.

June 2009 — Convocation ceremonies saw the first UBC degrees conferred upon students who started and completed their degree programs at the Okanagan campus.

June 2010 — More than 900 students — including the first Engineering graduates — receive their UBC degrees.

In July 2005, former UBC President Martha Piper and UBC Board of Governors Chair Brad Bennett signed an agreement for a new working relationship between UBC and Okanagan College.
A unique UBC experience. From here.

In September 2009, UBC launched a new brand: UBC is “A Place of Mind,” supported by a campaign about what we are doing “From Here.”

It is extremely rare to build a new institution and even rarer to do so within the fold of one of the world’s great research universities.

The doors of UBC’s Okanagan campus first opened in the summer of 2005, and since then the institution has grown dramatically — from 3,500 students to well over 6,000 students — and has become an important contributor to the social, cultural, and economic fabric of the region and a vital part of the UBC system.

UBC’s Okanagan campus was envisioned as an intimate learning environment where students and faculty know each other and learn from each other. That vision is the reality as the campus in Kelowna marks its fifth anniversary.

“This is an amazing place where students can learn, discover, and contribute in an intimate educational setting while earning the internationally-respected UBC degree,” says Doug Owram, Deputy Vice Chancellor and Principal.

“We offer an enriching and inclusive campus life and a place for discovery. Revealing new knowledge, solving a practical problem, or expressing one’s self are common-day experiences for our students,” he says.

“We also have a strong commitment to serving society in meaningful ways and provide an educational experience that prepares our students to make their own contribution to the world.”

In this special Update, we will illustrate a few of the many ways UBC’s Okanagan campus is making a difference, and preparing for an exciting future teaching, discovering, contributing, and creating opportunity. From here.
Building a Tier-One medical research university

As Chair of UBC’s Board of Governors for the past five years, Kelowna resident Brad Bennett has led one of the world’s top research-intensive universities to new levels of success and achievement.

In June, after six years, Bennett completed his service on the Board, which oversees the business of the entire UBC system and its $1.9-billion annual budget.

“I think a lot of people don’t realize there is one Board for UBC,” he says. “The Kelowna campus, although hugely important, is one part of a complex UBC system.”

Bennett reflects on his time as Board Chair as a remarkable experience — a time of constant change and success. One of the most prominent examples of this is the creation of UBC’s Okanagan campus in Kelowna.

“From the very beginning there was a very healthy debate around what kind of university should be built in the Okanagan,” says Bennett. “And it was really going two ways: to build a stand-alone university from the ground up, or invite a university with the stature of UBC to help create the best, most vibrant university opportunity we could in the shortest amount of time.

“The fact is, you don’t build reputations over night. You don’t build the value of a brand over night. Those are earned things that take a long time to achieve. What we’ve managed to do by leveraging UBC’s clout, UBC’s brand and balance sheet, is get a very quick, auspicious start in creating a university that — in its own right, although part of a great UBC system — is a Tier One medical research university.”

Bennett adds that not only has the development of UBC’s Okanagan campus met his own expectations, but far exceeded them.

“I think it has gone better than I ever could have imagined,” he says. “Building a university is a very complex proposition. I am astounded by what has been accomplished in five years.”

Since it opened in 2005, the Okanagan campus has added five major student residence developments, two large new academic and student service buildings, and three more are under construction. Enrollment has grown from 3,500 students to more than 6,000 students — with graduate student numbers growing from 41 in 2005 to 442 this year.

And this has been achieved during a time when there isn’t another publicly funded Tier One university being built anywhere else in North America.

“It’s important to acknowledge that none of it would have happened if we didn’t have a willing government who wanted to make it happen,” says Bennett. “Our provincial government steadfastly stuck to their original promise and the original vision. They made good on every cent of the money they committed, plus created a medical school.”

Bennett notes that the Okanagan campus not only expanded access to post-secondary education in B.C., but it has allowed students to pursue a world-class UBC degree in a smaller, more intimate learning environment.

“I think now we have entered a mature stage in the development of UBC’s Okanagan campus,” he says. “Moving forward, we must continue to deliver the quality educational and research experience that was envisioned in the earliest stages.

“And the challenge is for everybody to think big and get it done, because the fact that we’ve gone this far shows it can happen. The bricks and mortar and building is one thing, and we’ve accomplished that. But the reputation is earned. And that responsibility belongs to everybody.”
Creating UBC’s Okanagan experience

Dr. Irving K. Barber wanted to create an outstanding learning environment that prepares students to become better citizens of the world. His generous gift to establish the Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences at UBC’s Okanagan campus provided the additional resources necessary to enrich the classroom experience — and push learning far beyond a university campus.

The endowment maintains a number of programs that support innovative teaching methods, experiential learning, distinguished visiting speakers and performers, and learning resources.

The Distinguished Speaker Series, presented by the Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences, brings to the Okanagan compelling speakers with unique perspectives on issues that affect our region, our country and our world. The theme of the series is A Civil and Sustainable Society.

This season’s speakers included David Dodge, former governor of the Bank of Canada, world water expert Robert Sandford, former National Chief Phil Fontaine, and war correspondent Kevin Sites. Last season, more than 3,000 people in the Okanagan attended Distinguished Speaker presentations.

Creating opportunity for students

Dr. Barber’s endowment also funds educational opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students to gain experiential learning related to their studies in an international setting. Examples of eligible activities for the International Education Travel Subsidy include volunteer overseas programs, faculty-led courses abroad, international field studies and co-operative international work experiences.

The Undergraduate Research Awards (URA) program was established to encourage undergraduate students enrolled in the Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences to pursue innovative and original research as part of their learning experience while at the university.

“We have the possibilities to figure out and cure a lot of the world’s problems — be it diseases, or poverty, or global warming,” says Sydney White, a fourth-year biochemistry student. White helped organize the Undergraduate Research Society on the Okanagan campus this year.

“We really want people throughout Kelowna and the Okanagan to know what the extraordinary students of UBC Okanagan are like — young people with intelligent minds and strong hearts,” White says.
“In 2020 ... UBC is known by name around the world. Leading-edge teaching and learning practices prevail across the University, creating an exceptional learning environment to which students, staff, faculty, and alumni are drawn from all over the globe.

“A diverse University community embraces the full spectrum of Canadian society, and Aboriginal perceptions and experiences are reflected in the curriculum and on campus.

“UBC research is seen by British Columbians as vital to their social and economic well-being, and citizens look to the University as a place for dialogue on the issues of the day.

“UBC is known by its contributions: to the people of British Columbia, Canada and the world.”

Professor Stephen J. Toope
President and Vice-Chancellor
The University of British Columbia
From A Place and Promise: The UBC Plan
The UBC Plan

A Place and Promise

UBC’s plan, A Place and Promise, was enacted in January 2010. In creating an exceptional learning environment, UBC has made specific commitments, each paired with goals and actions designed to see them through.

The university’s core commitments are to student learning, research excellence and community engagement. The remaining commitments have been chosen to support UBC’s core mission, capitalize on strengths and focus attention on where the University most needs to grow.

STUDENT LEARNING
The university actively supports students in their learning experience through transformative teaching, research, and rewarding campus life.

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE
The university creates and advances knowledge and understanding, and improves the quality of life through the discovery, dissemination, and application of research within and across disciplines.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
The university serves and engages society to enhance economic, social, and cultural well-being.

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT
The university engages its alumni fully in the life of the institution as valued supporters, advocates, and lifelong learners who contribute to and benefit from connections to each other and to the University.

ABORIGINAL ENGAGEMENT
The university engages Aboriginal people in mutually supportive and productive relationships, and works to integrate understandings of Indigenous cultures and histories into its curriculum and operations.

INTERCULTURAL UNDERSTANDING
The university engages in reflection and action to build intercultural aptitudes, create a strong sense of inclusion, and enrich our intellectual and social life.

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT
The university creates rich opportunities for international engagement for students, faculty, staff, and alumni, and collaborates and communicates globally.

OUTSTANDING WORK ENVIRONMENT
The university provides a fulfilling environment in which to work, learn, and live, reflecting our values and encouraging the open exchange of ideas and opinions.

SUSTAINABILITY
The university explores and exemplifies all aspects of economic, environmental, and social sustainability.

Learn much more about the plan at www.strategicplan.ubc.ca

Biology graduate student Natalie Melaschenko travelled to Kenya in 2009 to study field techniques at the Mpala Research Centre

Biology graduate program: A reputation for excellence

The Biology Graduate Program established three years ago at UBC’s Okanagan campus is already earning a reputation for student excellence.

About a third of the 15 master’s degree and six PhD students currently enrolled in the Biology Graduate Program are recipients of major external fellowships, such as the highly competitive Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) fellowship and Pacific Leaders Scholarship.

“To have such a high percentage of our graduate students receiving these prestigious and competitive fellowships is huge,” says Karen Hodges, Biology Graduate Program coordinator.

“It really points to the quality and relevance of the work being done by our students, as well as the depth of our program, which is able to offer students solid, meaningful projects with international relevance in a competitive, supportive environment.”
DONORS HELP UBC GROW

UBC’s Okanagan campus is building exciting partnerships with members of the community that will help students achieve their dreams and goals. Recent gifts include:

• $10,000 from Interior Savings to support the Mentoring Luncheon Series
• $15,000 from Interior Savings to support the purchase of 24 laptops for the Library’s Laptop Lending Program
• $30,000 from Summerhill Pyramid Winery to support research into drought-tolerant rootstock genotypes and a portable kit for early detection of water stress
• $78,000 from Genome BC to support the Lavender Research Fund
• $100,000 from the Estate of Lashley Haggman to establish the Lashley and Mary Haggman Memory Research Award Endowment Fund
• $250,000 from IEAFA Corporation of Canada to support graduate awards in social work

In addition, the Alumni Endowment Fund awarded its first bursary this year. The Alumni Endowment Fund Gala is an initiative of the Okanagan Alumni Chapter, to raise money for the endowment. This year’s gala will be held on September 29.

The first annual Alumni & Friends Curling Funspiel was held in January. This is a Chapter initiative established to raise money for a new student leadership (financial) award.

Donations from individuals, businesses and foundations are helping develop new awards for students and new infrastructure to support teaching, learning and research in the Okanagan.

New Student Centre

The new hub of student services and campus life on UBC’s Okanagan campus was officially opened April 9.

University Centre, a $33-million, 7,300 sq. m. (79,000-sq.-ft.) building, was completed in time for the start of classes last fall and is home to a host of student- and university-delivered services for students. The official opening ceremony included the formal dedication of the first floor as the J. Peter Meekison Student Centre. Peter Meekison’s brother Jim Meekison and friends contributed $2 million to the project.

Located on the first level of the University Centre building, the Student Centre is a place for students to meet, have a meal, study, and access a wide range of services and amenities including UBC Students’ Union Okanagan (UBCSUO) offices, the Students’ Union used bookstore, a 100-seat cinema, The Well pub, a branch of Valley First Credit Union, many clubs and The Phoenix student newspaper.

The UBCSUO’s contribution to the new facility included $3 million presented to the university in February.

“From the establishment of British Columbia’s first university at Fairview in 1908 to the Great Trek to Point Grey in 1922, and from the call for an Okanagan campus early in this new millennium to the support of these facilities by the UBC Students’ Union Okanagan, students have powerfully supported and shaped the university we know today as UBC,” said UBC President Stephen Toope.
Aboriginal language now on Okanagan campus street signs

Visitors to UBC’s Okanagan campus in Kelowna will get a bilingual experience while travelling the campus roads. New street signs feature both English and Nsyilxcen, the traditional language spoken by the Okanagan’s original people.

“UBC Okanagan is located in the traditional territory of the Okanagan Nation,” says Lyle Mueller, Director, Aboriginal Programs and Services. “It is customary among Aboriginal people to acknowledge and respect traditional territories. Knowing this, UBC Okanagan felt it was appropriate to acknowledge the traditional territory of the Okanagan Nation by using its language on campus.”

The signs display new names for several previously unnamed roads on campus, which will help emergency services such as police, fire and ambulance navigate the rapidly growing campus community. As well, address numbers are being placed on buildings for easy visibility from the street.

This year, 158 Aboriginal students were enrolled in programs ranging from Bachelor of Education degrees to interdisciplinary PhDs.

A welcoming community for Aboriginal students

The Aboriginal Centre at UBC’s Okanagan campus was officially opened in January. The 256-sq.m. (2,756 sq. ft.) centre, made possible by $600,000 in funding from B.C.’s Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development, has been designed as a special space that reflects the cultural characteristics of the Aboriginal students who use it, says Lyle Mueller, Director of Aboriginal Programs and Services.

“UBC Okanagan initiatives such as peer support and entire programs developed for Aboriginal students are proving very successful here,” says Mueller, explaining that the new centre is the new home to a host of academic services, tutorial and peer support, along with study skills and time management workshops.

One of the notable features of the new facility is a collegium or student lounge that provides a “home away from home” for Aboriginal students. The collegium is a gathering place, providing a welcoming and familiar space on campus for Aboriginal students.

“I really like this facility,” says Tamina de Montezuma, a fourth-year social work student of Métis ancestry who works in the Aboriginal collegium. “This is a great place for students — it’s quiet, and we have cultural things that a lot of students enjoy.”
The doors to the Southern Medical Program (SMP) are opening. The 2011 MD Undergraduate Program admissions cycle opened June 1, and will admit the first class of SMP students in May 2011.

The program offers 32 seats to incoming students, who will complete their first four months of training in Vancouver before moving to their new home in the Interior.

Two new buildings will be ready to greet them. Construction of the Health Sciences Centre, a $28-million, 4,266-square-metre building at UBC’s Okanagan campus is on schedule to open next year, and will serve as the home of the program, with high-tech classrooms, research and teaching laboratories, problem-based learning rooms and faculty and administrative offices.

The clinical teaching facility at Kelowna General Hospital officially opened in January. The building, part of the $37.6-million expansion of KGH, boasts a 180-seat lecture theatre, library, clinical skills rooms, administrative offices, and innovative video conferencing technology linking the program with other UBC medical students in the North, on Vancouver Island, and in the Vancouver-Fraser region.

Students will spend their first two years at UBC’s Okanagan campus and the clinical academic campus at KGH. In their third and fourth years, students will receive clinical education throughout the Interior, including Kamloops, Vernon, Penticton, Trail, and Cranbrook.

The Southern Medical Program is the fourth site in UBC’s MD Undergraduate program, which has more than doubled the number of students and distributed their training throughout the province to produce the next generation of physicians for B.C.
New Zoology program: global impact

Associate Professor William Bates and colleagues at UBC’s Okanagan campus are expecting big things to come from an innovative new Bachelor of Science degree with a major in zoology that emphasizes learning in the field.

“Planet Earth will reap the rewards of this program. The consequences are huge,” says Bates, who for three years has worked with fellow Associate Professor Scott Reid and Assistant Professor Mark Rheault to develop the program.

“Our program is integrative zoology,” says Bates. “It covers areas that are not covered anywhere else — at the ecosystem level, physiology, eco-physiology, developmental, ecology, molecular biology, state-of-the-art molecular techniques, you name it — and it’s all woven together, systematically.”

In addition to the hands-on experience students will receive in the laboratory, zoology students will have numerous fieldwork opportunities locally and internationally, tackling first-hand many issues that impact people, animals and the environment.

“Globally we’re seeing a huge number of examples of extinction,” Bates says. “We’re in the beginning of a whole new set of events that requires more zoologists who really understand zoology. This program is going to involve a lot of ramped-up field studies — not only in B.C., but in other continents, such as Africa.”

UBC funds new Okanagan research

Four research grants of $10,000 each were recently awarded as part of a Research Interest Group Grant Initiative of the Institute for Healthy Living and Chronic Disease Prevention (IHLCDP), headed by Dr. Joan Bottorff at UBC’s Okanagan campus. The projects include:

- A study of respiratory exercise and morbidly obese patients
- A study looking at the benefits of enhancing mobility for older adults in rural communities
- A partnership between UBC’s Okanagan campus, Interior Health and School District 23 to determine best practice programs for targeted prevention of the use of cannabis, tobacco and other substances of abuse among high-risk middle school students
- A collaboration between UBC, the Living Positive Resource Centre-Okanagan and the University of California, San Francisco.

The primary aim is to understand and improve upon the health and well-being of men who have sex with men (MSM) in the Interior of B.C.

Details about the research projects and the Institute for Healthy Living and Chronic Disease Prevention can be found online at www.ubc.ca/okanagan/IHLCDP.
The Faculty of Management has grown dramatically since it opened in 2005. In that first year, 27 students began the Bachelor of Management program. Four years later, in June 2009, the first graduating class of 72 students received their BMgmt degrees. This year, 603 students were enrolled in the undergraduate degree program.

Creating Masters of Management

A new one-year Master of Management degree will be offered starting this fall at UBC’s Okanagan campus.

Modeled on the very successful Early Career Master’s program offered by the Robert H. Lee Graduate School at the Sauder School of Business at UBC in Vancouver, the new Master of Management program is tailored to the needs of graduating and recently graduated students with bachelor’s degrees in non-business disciplines such as arts, sciences, and engineering.

“The program provides students with valuable foundational business skills that are beneficial to a career in any industry or sector,” says Daniel Muzyka, Dean of the Faculty of Management and Dean of the Sauder School of Business.

The Master of Management degree is the first program developed under a new alliance between the Faculty of Management at UBC’s Okanagan campus and the Sauder School of Business.

To learn more about the Master of Management degree program, contact the Faculty of Management at 250-807-9644 or mm.ubco@ubc.ca.
The Engineering-Management building at UBC’s Okanagan campus is currently under construction.

School of Engineering graduates first cohort

UBC Okanagan’s School of Engineering has undergone rapid growth and change since it opened just five years ago. This June, an important milestone will be reached with the graduation of the School’s first cohort of students, who began their studies in 2005.

“The ultimate goal of the School of Engineering is to graduate people who will make a difference in the world,” says Spiro Yannacopoulos, Associate Dean and Director of the School of Engineering. “As a school, we will measure our success by the success of our graduates.”

And thanks in part to a very dedicated and diverse group of faculty, staff and industry professionals, Yannacopoulos is confident graduating students have the tools they need to contribute to the engineering profession and the world.

“We hire faculty and staff who are extremely dedicated — they pay personal attention to students. We have small classes, so our professors are familiar with individual students,” he says. “We have put together a very innovative curriculum, and our professors are excellent researchers who keep up with the latest advancements in engineering science.

“Faculty members engage students in their research, which means undergraduate students have the opportunity to see the applications of the engineering principles they are taught in the classroom.”

The program also has built very close ties with the engineering industry. In fact, the School of Engineering was established, in part, through the efforts of people in the local industry. This year, fourth-year engineering students worked on projects submitted directly by industry through a mandatory Capstone Design Project course.

“Building strong relationships with the university is critical for our industry,” says Dick Fletcher, a professional engineer and principal with Urban Systems Ltd. “We are strongly committed to supporting the development of engineering graduates. Their knowledge and skills will ultimately benefit the engineering profession and contribute to our ability to provide the services required to develop a sustainable society in a global economy.”

Standing near the construction site of the future home of Engineering at UBC’s Okanagan campus, Spiro Yannacopoulos, Associate Dean and Director of the School of Engineering, holds a small version of the “E” that has become an icon of this rapidly growing school.

ENGINEERING

Undergraduate student numbers have exploded since the School’s inception in 2005, increasing from 76 students in the first year to 482 students studying toward their Bachelor of Applied Science degrees in Civil, Electrical or Mechanical Engineering. Today, the School has 36 master’s students and 34 PhD students, and the graduate program has received hundreds of applications from all over the world this year alone.
Researchers of the Year

Social science researcher Michael Evans and biochemistry researcher Susan Murch have been honoured as co-recipients of the 2009-2010 Researcher of the Year award.

“I am proud to say that we could not pick only one recipient for the award – the committee chose two very deserving co-recipients to share the award,” noted Provost and Vice-Principal Alaa Abd-El-Aziz, at the university’s Celebrate Research Week gala in March.

Evans, head of the Community, Culture and Global Studies in the Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences, was recognized for promoting and leading valuable interdisciplinary collaborations among academic and community researchers.

Murch is a Canada Research Chair in Natural Products Chemistry, and was cited as an exemplary researcher both nationally and internationally.

Teaching Excellence and Innovation Award

This year’s Teaching Excellence and Innovation Award at UBC’s Okanagan campus goes to two professors from the Computer Science and Psychology Unit in the Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences. The award recognizes Patricia Lasserre, associate professor of computer science, for her innovative teaching, and Michael Woodworth, associate professor of psychology, for connecting his courses with leading-edge research and current events.

At the May 4 announcement of the Teaching Excellence and Innovation Award were, from left, Provost and Vice-Principal Alaa Abd-El-Aziz, award co-recipients Patricia Lasserre and Michael Woodworth, and Deputy Vice- Chancellor and Principal Doug Owram.
Gigajoules from the ground

The campus geo-exchange system uses groundwater energy to heat and cool buildings. The net energy extracted for the campus is estimated to be about 14,200 gigajoules — enough to heat approximately 1,500 average homes.

Conversion of existing buildings to use the geo-exchange system was made possible by $2.9 million from the B.C. Government and the Government of Canada’s Knowledge Infrastructure Program. The completion of new and retrofit geothermal facilities are major contributing factors toward achieving the campus goal of zero emissions.

Turning waste into energy

A professor of Engineering is working with municipalities, farms, factories and mills to identify effective ways to turn their organic waste into renewable energy - methane - and organic fertilizer.

Cigdem Eskicioglu’s research is examining ways to improve energy production from agricultural and industrial waste, while also diverting waste from landfills and reducing pathogens, odour and greenhouse gas emissions.

“In Canada, our waste is not utilized as a resource,” says Eskicioglu. “If we can make use of the waste in innovative ways to extract energy and recycle it within our communities, this will take Canada a step closer to achieving its Kyoto targets for greenhouse gas reduction.”

Eskicioglu’s research group develops advanced anaerobic digestion processes for turning organic residues - manure, food processing waste, bioethanol plant stillage, sewage sludge, even the organic portions of garbage - into energy sources and nutrient-rich fertilizer.
Student website reduces food waste and helps people in need

Student Raja Wariach has created a website that directly connects people in need of food with farmers and orchardists who have excess to give.

The website, www.gleanok.com, was originally intended to be Okanagan specific. However, Wariach is expanding the website to include the entire country. He decided to do so after learning the concept was unique to Canada, and that the website was fairly easy to manage.

“This is a free service that allows food producers, such as a commercial orchardist or even a backyard gardener, to post online ads about their excess food and directly give it to people in need,” says Wariach.

Wariach, a fourth-year human geography major, came up with the idea of “people-to-people gleaning” for his Community Food Security class term project. Having lived on an acreage much of his life, Wariach saw first-hand the food waste that occurs when events such as hail storms damage crops, and set out to find a way to salvage excess or unwanted food in an efficient and sustainable manner.

Anthropology professors win Roosevelt Global Citizenship Awards

Anthropology professors Robin Dods and Hugo De Burgos in the Community, Culture and Global Studies Unit of the Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences have won Public Anthropology’s Eleanor Roosevelt Global Citizenship Awards. The awards recognize the professors for inspiring university students to take part in the global community and think critically, respond intelligently, and act responsibly.

“This honour is based on their exceptionally effective participation in Public Anthropology’s Community Action Online Website Project as well as their wider activities in the public sphere,” says Rob Borofsky, director of the Center for a Public Anthropology and professor of anthropology at Hawaii Pacific University.

“Only a select few — less than five per cent of the faculty teaching introductory anthropology courses across North America — receive this award,” Borofsky says.
UBC researchers have just applied to patent a device to detect pathogens in water in real time — a technology that currently doesn’t exist, and one that could potentially help prevent human illness caused from dangerous organisms that can infiltrate treated water systems, such as Cryptosporidium.

“Currently, plant operators can’t actually detect a pathogen in water on location at treatment facilities,” says Debbie Roberts, principal co-investigator and Associate Director of the School of Engineering at UBC’s Okanagan campus. “They send samples away to labs for further testing, and quite often that doesn’t happen until after people have started to get sick.

“The fact is, if I want to find out what is in my water to determine at that very moment if it is safe to drink, I couldn’t do it. So I wanted to develop the technology that can.”

The biggest challenge was developing the actual capture device or sample cell. Mina Hoorfar, Associate Professor of Engineering at UBC’s Okanagan campus and co-investigator in the project, was able to use her knowledge in fluid mechanics to put the last piece in the puzzle. “And now,” says Roberts, “we are confident we have a prototype that will help us show proof of concept, so we can secure funding and move the project forward.”

To make the detection system a practical tool for developing countries, some tweaking is necessary to address concerns related to temperature stability and potential lack of power sources. However, Roberts believes once the basic concept is proven, the device can be manipulated to serve a number of objectives.

“For example, take the earthquake in Haiti,” says Roberts. “This device could determine fairly quickly, in real time, what water sources contain the least amount of pathogens, or hopefully be clean and thus suitable for drinking with the least amount of treatment.”
Forensic psych group tackles tough community issues

Graduate students and faculty at UBC’s Okanagan campus have joined forces to form a Forensic Psychology Scholar Group that aims to deliver high-quality, practical education and research to the community.

The Forensic Psychology Scholar Group deals with issues at the intersection of psychology and the law, delving into topics such as psychopathy, deception detection, sex offending, juvenile offending, eyewitness memory, jury decision-making, factors leading to recidivism (offenders who reoffend), offender treatment, and the psychological effects of crime on victims.

“The group provides a network for research collaboration and aims to distribute knowledge to the community that helps the public form evidence-based opinions about crime and the justice system,” says Julia Shaw, a PhD student working with faculty on forensic psychology research.

Undergrads get hands-on scientific experience in law and crime

It’s unique in Canada, and the start of even bigger things to come. A new honours certificate program at UBC’s Okanagan campus gives top psychology undergraduate students the opportunity to concentrate their studies in forensic psychology.

“The science and application of psychology to the legal system, or psychology and law, is a rapidly developing area of psychological science, and one with the potential to greatly benefit society,” says forensic psychologist Stephen Porter, the psychology professor directing the program in the first year.

“This is the only program of its type in Canada,” says Porter. “Undergrad students will have an incredible opportunity to learn about psychology and law through their research projects, as well as by working with forensic psychologists and other staff directly with the populations of interest — offenders and victims of crime.”
Creative professors receive 2010 Okanagan Arts Awards

Associate Professors Nancy Holmes and Gary Pearson in the Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies received prestigious Okanagan Arts Awards at the Okanagan Arts Council’s third-annual Okanagan Arts Awards ceremonies this spring.

Holmes, associate professor of creative writing and poetry, and head of the Department of Creative Studies, won the award for Literary Arts. Pearson, associate professor of painting and drawing, received the Visual Arts award.

Samantha Nutt to receive honorary degree

Dr. Samantha Nutt, MD, MSc, CCFP, FRCPC, LLD, founder of the humanitarian organization War Child Canada, will receive an honorary doctorate from UBC during the UBC Okanagan convocation ceremonies on June 11, 2010.

Over the course of her professional career and as the founder and executive director of War Child Canada, Nutt has spearheaded efforts to provide direct humanitarian support and long-term programming to war-affected children and their families, and to promote greater awareness in Canada concerning the rights of children everywhere.

Shakespearian student wins annual essay prize

Martina Steuri, now in the Faculty of Education’s Secondary Teacher Education Program, was one of the recipients for the annual essay prize in the Canadian Undergraduate category by the North American Conference on British Studies.

Steuri’s essay, “Too Evil to Feel Guilty: Guilt in King Lear and Macbeth,” was adapted from a paper for professor Sean Lawrence’s Late Shakespeare course last term.

Media Award

Christopher Schneider, assistant professor of sociology, was honoured for outstanding service to the university and the community by actively and creatively sharing his research expertise via the news media. He received the Provost’s Award for Public Education Through Media.

Political Science professor publishes new textbook

The Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences celebrated Barrie McCullough’s latest book publication in March.

McCullough — an associate professor of political science with degrees from the University of Alberta, Harvard University, Oxford University, and the London School of Economics — has just published Political Ideologies (Oxford University Press), a comprehensive core text for political ideology and political theory courses found at the second- and third-year university level.

McCoubrey named Canada’s Art Educator of the Year

Sharon McCoubrey, Associate Dean of the Faculty of Education, has been named Canadian Art Educator of the Year. She received the award from the Canadian Society for Education through Art (CSEA), recognizing excellence in art education through long-term achievement as an art educator, contributions to the profession, leadership within the discipline of art education, and work to enhance the arts in the community context.

Beyond her involvement with the university, McCoubrey is a dedicated member of the Okanagan arts community, improving public access to and understanding of art through service on the Kelowna and District Arts Council board, the Central Okanagan Foundation board, the Arts Council of the Central Okanagan, the Lake Country Public Art Commission and Lake Country ArtWalk.
Conferences and Accommodations

Okanagan campus a hot summer destination

The number of groups coming to UBC’s Okanagan campus this summer will increase from 43 last year to over 60 — with even more bookings expected as summer arrives.

Last summer, the campus had capacity to accommodate 650 people, but with construction of more student residence buildings, this summer the campus will be able to host groups of up to 900 people.

“Our number of youth groups has increased, and educational workshops of all kinds — from student-based conferences to Health and Wellness workshops, sport associations, and religious-based conferences — are meeting on campus,” notes Suzanne Nazareno, Manager of Conferences and Accommodations.

“Everyone Can Stay’ is a message we’d like to get out,” she says. “We are open to individual travelers and can provide a variety of accommodation to suit people’s needs. Budgets for everyone and it’s easy — you can book online.”

On-campus accommodations include townhouse-style City Homes, Cascades four-bedroom apartments, Monashee Studio Suites and one-bedroom apartments. More budget-conscious alternatives are the Okanagan single rooms with shared kitchen and common area space.

Revenue from conferences and accommodation operations helps to pay for the campus student residences. With the addition of new Upper Cascades and Nicola student residences last fall, UBC surpassed its original goal of having 1,000 student beds on the Okanagan campus.

More information is online at okanagan.ubcconferences.com.
Mapping Okanagan fire history

Two fourth-year geography students took home a prestigious award recently for their innovative directed studies project. Aidan Whiteley and Samantha Brennan were awarded the Best Undergraduate Presentation award at the 2010 Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers conference in Edmonton, Alberta, for their newly developed social media website.

Under the supervision of Jon Corbett, assistant professor of geography, the two are mapping historical forest fires in the Okanagan—a project that will ultimately enhance our working knowledge of the human impacts of forest fires.

The project uses Geolive, a JavaScript-based online mapping platform developed on campus by Nick Blackwell, a web programmer at the Centre for Social, Spatial, and Economic Justice, that allows user generated content to be geographically located on a map.

Whitely and Brennan’s map focuses on the spatial and temporal distribution of forest fires in the Okanagan from 1984-2009. Fires appear as interactive polygons on the base map: clicking on the polygon generates an article containing fire descriptions, probable cause, statistics, personal stories, and media.

The site’s content is largely user-generated; the public plays an active role in data collection and creation by sharing their photos, stories, and thoughts about forest fires in the region for the last 25 years.

The students are conducting ongoing usability assessments to improve the workings of the site and make it more universally accessible to the public.

geolive.ca/firehistory
A research program with nearly $1-million in funding is underway in the Okanagan and Alberta to look at ways to improve the care of seniors when sudden health issues force them into a hospital.

The “Older Persons’ Transitions in Care (OPTIC)” research team includes Colin Reid, assistant professor of human kinetics at UBC’s Okanagan campus, working with principal investigator Greta Cummings, professor in the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Alberta, and lead decision maker Joanne Konnert, chief operating officer for the Okanagan area of the Interior Health Authority (IHA).

The study underway in Edmonton and Kelowna involves emergency departments, residential care facilities, and the emergency medical services used to transfer residents.

“The primary purpose of this research is to improve care for elderly residents in nursing homes, but also to reduce stress on residents, their families, staff, and system resources. At the same time, we intend to provide evidence to improve management of these transfers,” says Reid, co-leader of the B.C. Network for Aging Research. Reid is joined on the project by co-investigators Joan Bottorff, Carole Robinson and Meredith Lilly from UBC’s Okanagan campus.

This three-year research project is funded by $350,000 from the Canadian Institute of Health Research’s Partnerships for Health System Improvement program, and $630,780 over three years in partner contributions from the IHA, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (now Alberta Innovates, Health Solutions), and the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research.

Kaitlyn Roland, a PhD student at UBC’s Okanagan campus studying the development of “frailty” in older adults, was invited by the provincial government to present her research to key government officials at a student-led research symposium in Victoria in March.

The symposium brought together top students who have produced impressive and policy-relevant research in the field of social policy. Roland’s work explores community therapists’ experiences of “frailty” with the goal of developing a subsequent theory of “frailty” from their perspectives.
Canada West welcomes UBC Okanagan Heat

UBC’s Okanagan campus was officially accepted as a probationary member of the Canada West Universities Athletic Association (CWUAA) at the Canada West annual meeting May 6.

“We are absolutely thrilled,” says Rob Johnson, Director of Athletics. “We’ve been working hard on this for two or three years. It is wonderful for our entire program and everyone who worked so hard on our application — and it’s a big group of people — to see that work come to such a positive result.”

Canada West says the UBC Okanagan Heat will begin a three-year term as probationary members effective September 2010, and will begin inter-university athletic competition in the sports of men’s and women’s basketball and volleyball in the fall of 2011.

“We start competition in September 2011, so we have one more year in the Canadian Colleges Athletics Association, but obviously we have a lot to do in terms of preparation,” says Johnson. That preparation will include hiring full-time coaches and filling several support positions required for Canada West member institutions.

Okanagan campus hosts CCAA nationals

Canada’s top teams competed at UBC’s Okanagan campus for the national women’s collegiate basketball championship in March. The 2010 CCAA Women’s Basketball National Championship is the premier event in Canada for women’s collegiate basketball, bringing together the champions from each of the CCAA’s five conferences in addition to the host school and two wildcard teams.

It was the first national event of its kind to come to Kelowna since the former Okanagan University College hosted the CCAA Men’s Volleyball Championships in 2001 and 2002.

Heat women win national volleyball championship

The UBC Okanagan Heat women’s volleyball team, led by Championship MVP Alex Basso, are the 2010 CCAA National Champions after winning the final in Gateneau, Quebec in March. This is the second consecutive national title for the Heat.
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