

LAND, FOOD AND COMMUNITY

## reach out

UBC Faculty of Agricultural Sciences

ISSUE 04 Summer/Fall



Masters of Landscape Architecture students: Erika Mashig, David Hohenschau (left), Kelly Rodgers, Ann Jackson and Claire Tebbs

## Designing Community

Student-led design initiative combines work experience, mentoring and community-based outreach projects.

Armed with sketchbooks, coloured pencils and the odd shovel, a team of Landscape Architecture graduate (MLA) students are using their design and planning expertise to make a difference in their community.

As part of the newly formed Community Studio, a collaborative involving more than 20 MLA graduate students and the support of numerous faculty and professional designers, the group provides planning and design assistance for neighbourhood improvement projects who otherwise couldn't afford such services.

Initiated in January 2004, the collaborative matches teams of students and mentoring professionals with community projects such as schoolyards, parks, play lots and community gardens.

"This work expresses an ethic that is integral to the research and practice of UBC's Landscape Architecture program," says MLA student David Hohenschau.

"Our students and faculty have already worked to support communities through research, studios and thesis projects. This forum creates a hands-on and cooperative context for students to learn, as well as an effective way to support smaller community improvement projects."

The collaborative allows Landscape Architecture students to build their experience and mentoring relationships with professors and designers on cross-Faculty projects. It's also a practical

*Continued on page 6*

### UBC Scientists Pop the Cork on Wine Project \$3.1M Genome Canada Award

*By Michelle Cook, UBC Public Affairs*

For centuries, winemakers have tested soil conditions and meticulously planned what harvest times produce the perfect grape. Now scientists at UBC's Wine Research Centre will be part of the mix thanks to a \$3.1million award from Genome Canada for sequencing and functional testing of genes important for ripening, flavour and aroma in Cabernet Sauvignon grapes.

"Working with scientists from Canada and Spain, we will discover and characterize molecules sampled from different vineyard environments to determine the best markers for ripening and quality," says Assistant Professor Steven Lund. "These could then be developed into DNA or protein-based diagnostic tools for viticulturists to fine-tune their management practices from season to season."

Lund says the role of scientists is to work with viticulturists who plan, supervise and coordinate the growing of wine grapes. "It's bringing 21st-century genomics to wine and wine science."



Steven Lund



Moura Quayle

**From dietetics and wine research, to aquaculture and food science, from the study of animal welfare to the planning of sustainable communities, a degree from this Faculty connects students to real everyday issues. – Moura Quayle, Dean**

## We are finally able to say we have a better idea how people perceive our Faculty and respond to the word ‘agriculture’.

What does Agricultural Sciences mean to you? After asking the question to more than 25,000 people (with 3000+ responses from faculty, staff, students, alumni, industry groups, high school students and teachers, government representatives and UBC colleagues), we are finally able to say we have a better idea how people both perceive our Faculty and respond to the word ‘agriculture’. And it’s not surprising.

As the Faculty has evolved over the years, there is no doubt that sustainable land, food and community systems are at the core of our mission. The challenge is how to attract students to the multitude of careers that include farming, but are not restricted to it. How do we honour our agricultural roots while expanding the definition of what our Faculty has to offer?

When we asked “would you consider an AgSci degree over the Faculty of Science?”



Okanagan valley

to almost 600 high school students, 63% said no. This is one example that clearly signals the need to reach out and change the image of our Faculty.

To survive in an increasingly competitive university context, we’ve had to make changes in the last seven years. The bar is rising in almost every area: research productivity, teaching excellence and student recruitment to name a few. So, this idea of testing the waters for a name change is actually another step in that continuing transformation that also includes refining our strategic academic plan, recruitment strategy, vision and mission.

Most of you will have heard of the ‘Faculty Story’ we initiated to collaborate on our goals, vision for the future and potential re-branding. Using Faculty-wide community meetings, Town Hall meetings, class visits, high school presentations, questionnaires, website updates and an extensive email survey we tried to consult as many stakeholders as possible.

Based on these results, we did agree on a name in June within our own Faculty (members voted 82% in favour of *Environmental and Food Sciences*), but we knew having it approved at the university



level could be a challenge. In meeting with colleagues from other Faculties, it’s clear many UBC groups feel ownership of the ‘Environmental’ moniker. So, instead of straining relations, we are discussing ideas that would allow Faculties that have environmentally related programs to collaborate together on recruitment and promotion. The final phase of re-branding is underway and is estimated to be completed by December.

In addition, we have opportunities for Faculty growth at the new UBC Okanagan campus. With 4500 new students and 250 new faculty members being added to that campus in the next several years, some of our research and education programs will benefit from this collaboration.

I encourage you to visit [www.agsci.ubc.ca](http://www.agsci.ubc.ca) for more information on our Faculty progress and [www.okanagan.ubc.ca](http://www.okanagan.ubc.ca) for more information on UBC Okanagan. And, as always, please keep in touch and share your ideas. ■

*Moura Quayle, Dean  
Faculty of Agricultural Sciences*

# Changing Faces

Fresh faces infuse the Faculty with exciting new skills and research potential – here's a brief overview

**Cynthia Girling** *Associate Professor and Director, Centre for Landscape Research*

Cynthia Girling is the new Director of the Landscape Architecture Program, Environmental Design Program and Principal Investigator with the Faculty's NeighbourhoodsLAB, a consulting, research and community service group dedicated to environmental protection and smart growth. The LAB was founded with Ron Kellett at the University of Oregon's Center for Housing Innovation and recently brought to UBC (see pg 6). As a landscape architect and Associate Professor, Cynthia teaches, consults and conducts research related to open space networks and neighborhood planning and design. Her research focuses on neighborhood scale planning, open space systems and site design for stormwater management. She co-authored the 1994 book *Yard Street Park: The Design of Suburban Open Space* with Kenneth Helphand.

**Ronald Kellett** *Landscape Architecture Professor; Director, NeighbourhoodsLAB*

Joining the Centre for Landscape Research; Ron is a Professor with the Environmental Design program, Landscape Architecture program and Director of the new NeighbourhoodsLAB (see pg 6). He most recently worked with the University of Oregon as a Professor in the School of Architecture and Allied Arts. Ron worked as a registered architect in Vancouver before moving to Oregon, but is back to teach design studios and courses in urban settlement patterns. In 2005, Island Press will publish his book on *Green Neighborhoods*, written in partnership with Cynthia Girling.

**Lia Maria Dragan** *Graduate Programs Assistant*

Joining the Graduate programs team in Student Services, Lia coordinates online applications and advises graduate students from their application process through to the end of their degrees. She previously worked as a Human Resources Assistant and Board Secretary, but it wasn't until joining Educacentre, an educational and training centre for French-speaking adults that she realized her passion for working with students.

**Shana Johnstone** *Senior Research Associate, Centre for Landscape Research*

A recent graduate and winner of the John Wesley Neil prize in Landscape Architecture, Shana works with the Sustainable Communities Program and James Taylor Chair in Landscape and Liveable Environments. She conducts sustainability-related research for urban design and planning and coordinates joint community projects such as Smart Growth on the Ground's design charrettes for Britannia Beach, Squamish and Maple Ridge (see pg 6).

**Suzanne Kent** *Finance Clerk*

Suzanne coordinate inquiries and process requests for project grants, financial reports, expense reports and payment requisitions. She lived previously in New Zealand, owning her own travel agency, before continuing her career in Canada's travel sector and then as an IT consultant. Suzanne is currently pursuing her Certified General Accountant (CGA) designation.



Shana Johnstone



Ronald Kellett



Cynthia Girling

**Tram Nguyen** *Program Assistant, Food Science*

Tram provides administrative support to the Food Science Program Director, faculty, staff, graduate students and visiting professors. Along with maintaining financial records for laboratory and research supplies, she also coordinates the program's appointments, purchase orders and invoices.

**Winnie Pang** *Administrative Support, Food, Nutrition and Health Building*

As a UBC Dietetics alumna and former Dietitian's Assistant with Dial-A-Dietitian, Winnie feels right at home providing administrative and reception support for the Faculty she graduated from. She previously worked with the Vancouver Island Health Authority and Burnaby's Fellburn Care Centre.

**Tony Bujas** *AV/Computer Systems Support Technician*

The latest addition to the Learning Centre, Tony provides technical support and trouble-shooting for the Faculty's audio-visual and computing systems. Previously, he worked with 3M Touch Systems for 14 years as a Technical Service Representative and Test & Service Technician.

## A thirst for water research SSHRCC \$2.5M award

With a team of 17 Canadian and Chilean researchers, AgSci Faculty member Alejandro Rojas is the Co-Investigator in a recent successful bid to secure \$2.5 million from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).

The prestigious five-year grant will support: "Institutional Adaptations to Climate Change. Comparative Study of Dryland River Basins in Canada and Chile." Using Chile's desertification conditions as a model, the project will help forecast climate change impacts on Canada's prairie communities and help determine how Canadian regional institutions can better adapt to potential stresses placed on water supplies in agriculture and mining industries.

"This project is an extraordinary opportunity for our research team and graduate students to apply more knowledge and expertise to this critical area," said Rojas. "Ensuring water resources are less vulnerable to climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing our civilization."

Competing with hundreds of projects across Canada, the Major Collaborative Research Initiative (MCRI) is one of the most competitive programs funded by SSHRC.



## Bringing awareness to Vancouver high schools

# Addressing Food Security

Making the link between nutrition, food security and the local economy are some of the topics AgSci students will be bringing into local high schools this year.

With the help of Professors Art Bomke, Alejandro Rojas and Brent Skura, second year undergraduates will soon see their research projects come to life through an initiative with the City of Vancouver's newly formed Food Policy Council. Over the past four years more than 600 AgSci students have studied food security in Vancouver communities. Now, students will be working with the Vancouver School Board and local teachers to understand high school students' perception of food issues and to raise awareness about the problems affecting our food system.

"AgSci students have been working to promote and provide recommendations on sustainable food systems that foster equitable distribution and consumption,"

says Agroecology undergraduate student, Steven Lammers. "We've had two Vancouver City social planners visit the Faculty and listen to student research presentations – it's great to see our research in action."

The study of food security includes the production, processing, consumption, distribution, environmental impacts and ethics of food systems. Some topics of interest include local food banks, increased green space for community gardens and accessible food systems for all demographic groups.

"This initiative will provide our students with the opportunity to make connections with people from all walks of life," said Professor Art Bomke. "With recent approval for two Food Policy Council positions, there is potential for even greater collaboration with City Council on how our students can best contribute to high school education in this area." ■



Chilean agricultural landscape



Mahesh Upadhyaya

# India Exchange

Associate Dean Mahesh Upadhyaya recently signed an agreement on behalf of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences with India's Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) that will create increased opportunities for faculty and student exchanges between the two universities.

"PAU students can enroll in courses and research programs at UBC for up to one year, receiving credit towards their degree program at PAU," said Mahesh. "Similarly UBC students can take courses at PAU and receive credit at UBC." An endowment fund (India Fund) is being set up to support

the exchange of students and faculty in areas related to the culture, society, agriculture, aquaculture, food, nutrition, health, landscape and environment of India and Canada.

The Faculty has also entered into faculty/student exchange agreements with universities in Japan, Korea, Mexico, Poland and with SE Asian University Consortium member countries (Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Australia, and Germany). [www.searca.org](http://www.searca.org) ■

# Health Research

Human Nutrition research is making contributions to the health of post-menopausal women, inner-city families and Canadians in general

## Cooking Fun for Families

Thanks to a new family cooking program, inner-city parents are learning that preparing nutritious, low-cost meals is as much about health as it is about building community.

With the help of the Food, Nutrition and Health (FNH) program, Cooking Fun for Families is a food skill-building program that empowers families around a variety of issues including life skills, basic nutrition, safe food practices and food security.

While parents learn menu planning, cooking and clean-up, children participate in cooking, games and nutrition-related activities. At the end of each class, participants share a healthy, delicious meal together.

The programs are currently running in 12 Vancouver inner-city schools, working to become a part of each school's culture, and complementing breakfast and lunch programs.

Funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), FNH professors Ryna Levy Milne and Gwen Chapman recently completed an impact evaluation of the programs. [www.communitykitchens.ca](http://www.communitykitchens.ca) ■



## Eating 'Right'

The results of recent nutritional research may have you questioning what it means to 'eat right'. Many people, especially women, often make a conscious effort to restrict their food intake or choose reduced-calorie foods in order to lose or control their weight – a trait called cognitive dietary restraint (CDR).

New research by UBC Professor Susan Barr and Human Nutrition Ph.D. Candidate Candice Rideout is helping to determine whether this perceived need to 'eat right' is linked with negative health effects – specifically, stress and weaker bones.

"It seems appropriate to watch what you eat to avoid gaining weight," said Candice Rideout. "However, we are exploring whether the ongoing effort associated with CDR acts as a source of stress for women, and if so, whether women with high CDR produce more of the stress hormone cortisol. We know that extra cortisol can have negative, long-term impacts on bone, so we want to see whether there is a connection between cortisol levels and bone density."



Candice Rideout

## BC Nutrition survey

If you've ever wondered how your eating habits match up to the rest of the province, a new joint study by the BC Ministry of Health Services, Health Canada and UBC is about to put it all into perspective. Published in part by Food, Nutrition and Health professors Ryna Levy Milne and Susan Barr, the BC Nutrition survey (BCNS) assessed food consumption,

The first phase of their study involved a survey of 1000+ post-menopausal women's attitudes towards body image, diet and food choice. The preliminary results were presented at scientific conferences in Washington D.C. and Vancouver.

A group of 78 women have continued on to complete a detailed 3-month analysis of dietary restraint and intake, stress and urine cortisol excretion, as well as bone density and body composition measurements. The second phase will be completed shortly and will provide greater insight into whether dietary restraint has implications on bone density and osteoporosis risk.

[www.interchange.ubc.ca/cdrstudy](http://www.interchange.ubc.ca/cdrstudy) ■



nutritional concerns, physical activity and regional/ socioeconomic differences of more than 1800 BC adults (18-84 yrs).

The entire BCNS represents five reports on physical activity, body weight, food use, supplement use and food issues affecting seniors. For survey results visit:

[www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/prevent/nutrition/index.html](http://www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/prevent/nutrition/index.html) ■

# Designing Community

## Bringing Landscape Architecture to a new level through student design, Smart Growth on the Ground and the new NeighbourhoodsLAB

response to numerous inquiries for assistance from non-profit organizations seeking design services for community-based projects.

"Community projects can gain momentum from the services that we provide," says Hohenschau. "It gives the community group something concrete to refer to and build funding support with."

The group can provide a range of services such as site-specific design workshops, conceptual designs, mapping, consultations, site surveys and public art installations.

The projects initiated this year include: The Franklin School charrette, a design workshop on site planning that involves the school's students, parents, teachers, city planners, local grant administrators and neighborhood residents; The Environmental Youth Alliance community garden, a design workshop for youth gardeners on basic design analysis and problem solving; and The UBC Farm artist-in-residency community art project, involving a public art trail, site analysis and integrated development plan.

Both the Environmental Youth Alliance gardens and the Franklin School project were recently submitted to an international student design competition in Scotland.

The collaborative is building a network of design and planning professionals, students and faculty from Landscape Architecture, the School of Community and Regional Planning, the School of Architecture and the new Environmental Design Program.

The group hopes to create a future advisory board to include faculty from each of the partnering programs to coordinate potential projects and clients, recommend professional mentors and discuss project management. ■

### Sustainable Growth Strategies for Maple Ridge

A UBC-led design charrette has resulted in a proposed neighbourhood plan that would transform Maple Ridge into a vibrant, sustainable town centre.

Organized through Smart Growth on the Ground, a partnership of UBC's Sustainable Communities Program, the Real Estate Institute of BC and Smart Growth BC, the proposed plan recommends, among other ideas, the creation of a pedestrian friendly environment with 'greener' building guidelines and a reduction in car use.

Working with 20+ stakeholders including residents, business representatives, the District of Maple Ridge, and members of regional, provincial and federal agencies, professional UBC designers led the group through an intensive, multi-day design workshop to build on ideas previously produced in resident workshops.

"This is a great example of a community-led, urban growth strategy," said James Taylor Chair and Professor, Patrick Condon. "Strategies like this are capable of producing a model for sustainable development which can be emulated in other parts of BC, Canada and North America."

Maple Ridge is the first of 10 BC communities to join the SGOG initiative in generating community-specific strategies to reduce urban sprawl through more sustainable growth principles.

The plan was publicly displayed in June and will be presented to Maple Ridge Council in Fall 2004. The next communities slated to participate in SGOG initiatives are Squamish and Oliver.

[www.sgog.bc.ca](http://www.sgog.bc.ca) or [www.sustainable-communities.agsci.ubc.ca](http://www.sustainable-communities.agsci.ubc.ca) ■



Franklin School student design plan



Photo illustration of Maple Ridge street

### NeighbourhoodsLAB Expertise brought to UBC

The LAB is a new consulting, research and community service group brought to the Faculty's Centre for Landscape Research. Formed in 1995 at the University of Oregon, the LAB pursues externally funded projects that improve neighborhood planning and design. Created by new Landscape Architecture Director Cynthia Girling and Professor Ronald Kellett, the LAB combines planning, architecture, landscape architecture and computer applications.

Integrating principles of environmental protection and 'smart growth,' the LAB has a strong record of successful courses, design studios, research, community service projects and publications.

"The LAB will be a tremendous addition to the already successful Smart Growth on the Ground and James Taylor Chair in Landscape and Liveable Environments," said Dean Moura Quayle. "It's an incredible opportunity to position the Centre for Landscape Research as a leader in sustainable growth management."

<http://neighborhood.uoregon.edu>



Eduardo Jovel

**“This new grant will promote research applications to improve the health of BC Aboriginals while balancing indigenous knowledge and community values.”**

*– Eduardo Jovel, Director, Institute for Aboriginal Health*

# Milestones

## **2004 UBC Outstanding Young Alumnus Award**

Heather Lovelace is recognized for outstanding contributions as a mentor, teacher, researcher and community outreach provider. A UBC sessional instructor and Registered Dietitian, she facilitates Dietetics research at VGH and Royal Columbian Hospitals, and leads Dietetics projects at the Downtown Eastside CHIUS clinic (Community Health Initiative by University Students).

## **CIHR Operating Grant**

Vivien Measday, Canada Research Chair and Assistant Professor in the Wine Research Centre, received a new operating grant of \$333,000 over three years from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). Her application was ranked fourth out of 33 to the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology panel. Her research uses yeast as a model organism to study how chromosomes are segregated during cell division.

## **Institute of Aboriginal Peoples Health (IAPH)**

With BC's damp conditions and an increased incidence of mould, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) has approved Assistant Professor Eduardo Jovel's funding for approximately \$200,000 over three years to study the health effects of mould in water-damaged homes in BC Aboriginal communities (above).

For additional AgSci Milestones, visit [www.agsci.ubc.ca](http://www.agsci.ubc.ca)

## **Leo Award**

Canadian gardening legend, David Tarrant recently added a Leo Award for “best host in a lifestyles series” to his years of TV experience with the UBC Botanical Garden. His winning episode was one of a 13-series documentary which followed spring gardening wonders around the world. The Leos are supported through the BC Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Foundation.

## **SSHRC/ Canadian Foundation for Dietetic Research**

Human Nutrition Ph.D. student Gail Hammond received a two-year Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Doctoral Fellowship worth \$40,000. She also won the national consumer-focused research competition, funded by the Canadian Foundation for Dietetic Research with Professors Gwen

Chapman and Susan Barr in recognition of her research on perimenopausal women's food choices regarding bone health and the contributions it will make to Canadian Dietitians.

## **Top NSERC Canada Graduate Scholarship**

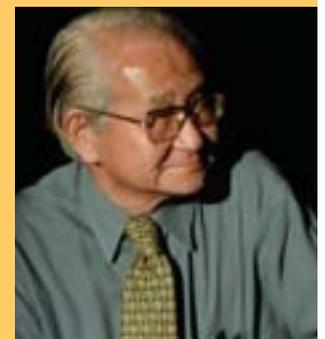
Animal Science Ph.D. student Trevor DeVries received a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Canada Graduate Scholarship, worth \$70,000 over two years. Trevor's research explores how the feeding and social behaviour of dairy cattle can make feeding management recommendations to improve cattle welfare. As one of 17 UBC students to receive this type of NSERC scholarship, seven AgSci students also received NSERC scholarships in other categories.

# Professor Emeritus Honoured

**Dr. Shuryo Nakai** has been elected as a Fellow of the Institute of Food Technologists and received an award for Advancement in the Application of Agricultural and Food Chemistry from the American Chemical Society.

With a career spanning more than half a century, Dr. Nakai is a leading authority on dairy products and food proteins and is widely recognized as a pioneer in computer-aided optimization and genetic engineering to study food systems. The practical applications of his research are demonstrated in international consultancies and nine patents held in Canada and Japan.

Dr. Nakai is a Fellow of the Canadian Institute of Food Science and Technology, the winner of a Killam Research prize, and was distinguished in 2002 as a 100 most-highly cited Agricultural Science researchers in the world.



Shuryo Nakai

## AgSci participates in Summer Kids camps

**GEERing UP! Kids camp** - a non-profit, student-run initiative to help students explore engineering, science and technology. The UBC Botanical Garden has hosted more than 500 elementary students through the garden this summer; [www.geeringup.apsc.ubc.ca](http://www.geeringup.apsc.ubc.ca)

**Let's Talk Science** - what is science and what's it like to be a scientist? A group of graduate students bring science into the classroom through activities and field trips; [www.gss.ubc.ca/LTS/](http://www.gss.ubc.ca/LTS/)

**UBC Farm Landed-Learning Project** - with the help of the Faculty of Education, children, teachers and local farmers are brought together to explore food-land issues and grow a garden plot at UBC Farm; <http://www.cust.educ.ubc.ca/projects/landedlearning.html>

**First Nations Science Camps** - a student-led program using cross-cultural curriculum helps excite young First Nations students about the career and education opportunities in Forestry, Science and AgSci; [www.forestry.ubc.ca/firstfor/intro.html](http://www.forestry.ubc.ca/firstfor/intro.html)



## Next Issue - Spring 2005

Faculty Story update

Plant genomics research

# Lifetime Achievement Retirement

## Les Lavkulich

Described as a visionary who has inspired more than three generations of students, Les recently retired from more than 35 years of UBC service, most recently as Director of the Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability (IRES). He is the recipient of the 2004 Margaret Fulton Award for significant contributions to student development and a Les Lavkulich Scholarship for Resources and Environment was recently established.

As a mentor, teacher, administrator and pioneer in interdisciplinary research and teaching programs, he has served on hundreds of UBC committees. He founded the Resource Management and Environmental Studies Program in 1979, transforming it into the renowned IRES interdisciplinary program with more than 100 graduate students.

His scientific contributions to land use impacts on nutrient dynamics, forest productivity, water pollution, clay mineralogy

and pesticide retention in soils are world recognized. Many of the analytical processes he pioneered for mine reclamation and acid mine drainage have become standard methods used in the mining industry.

An active member of the Soil Science community locally and internationally, he has published over 100-refereed publications and received numerous research grants. Les is continuing his research program. ■



Les Lavkulich

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'Developing life-long learners who create knowledge to make land, food & community healthy and sustainable'

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Faculty of Agricultural Sciences  
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

MacMillan Building, 248 - 2357 Main Mall,  
Vancouver, British Columbia V6T 1Z4 Canada

T 604.822.1219 F 604.822.6394  
[agsci.dean@ubc.ca](mailto:agsci.dean@ubc.ca) [www.agsci.ubc.ca](http://www.agsci.ubc.ca)

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MacMillan Building, 248 - 2357 Main Mall, Vancouver, BC, V6T 1Z4, Canada

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