



## UBC IN YOUR COMMUNITY BOUNDARY-SIMILKAMEEN



### Students and Alumni

#### Students

Since opening in 2005, UBC Okanagan's enrolment has increased dramatically, growing from 3,500 students to over 5,000 today. About 35 per cent of first-year students come from the Okanagan region, 18.8 per cent are from the Lower Mainland, and 16 per cent are from the rest of B.C.

#### Student Awards

Each year, \$4 million is delivered to UBCO students in awards, bursaries and fellowships; awards like the Community Builder Scholarship which has been awarded to students like Oliver's Melissa Machail, Keremeos's Cassie Clifton, Midway's Cole Mash and Grand Forks's Sean O'Brien.

#### UBC Alumni

Hundreds of UBC Alumni live in the Boundary-Similkameen area, including:

- **Juleen McElgunn**, Superintendent of Schools, School District 53, Bachelor of Education '75
- **Gene Covert**, Owner, Covert Farms; Partner, Dunham & Froese Estate Winery: Bachelor of Science '94
- **Brita Park**, School Teacher; Board member, World Neighbours Canada Society: Bachelor of Arts '72

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### Economic Impact

UBC Okanagan is a regional economic driver with an annual economic impact of \$300 million. Currently, a \$350-million construction boom is underway as the Okanagan campus adds major new buildings to accommodate the growing demand for academic, research and student facilities. Over the past year (2008), more than 300 research awards worth more than \$8 million were received by UBC Okanagan researchers from provincial, federal and international sources.

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### Community Connections

In addition, UBC supports numerous local outreach programs and research projects in such areas as public health, sustainable development, legal aid, education, and other community services.

#### Conservation in the South Okanagan-Similkameen

The South Okanagan-Similkameen region is about 3 per cent of the land area of B.C., yet it contains more than 10 per cent of Canada's federally listed at-risk species. UBC Okanagan researchers at the Centre for Species at Risk and Habitat Studies are working with the South Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Program on numerous projects, including methods for designating critical habitat as required under the Species at Risk Act.

#### Osoyoos Lake reveals clues about human settlement.

UBC Okanagan biology professor Ian Walker is studying sediments from Osoyoos Lake, looking for chemical and biological clues about environmental impacts from human settlement in the South Okanagan during the past century and a half. The research is a collaboration between the Okanagan Basin Water Board, the B.C. Ministry of Environment, Okanagan Nation Alliance, UBC Okanagan, and the Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society.

#### More Community Connections

To learn more about what UBC is doing in communities throughout BC, please contact us at (604) 822-5137, or visit <http://www.governmentrelations.ubc.ca/ubcinyourcommunity.html>.