



# UBC in **Your** Community

Powell River – Sunshine Coast

Issue **2** 2012



## People

As of Sept. 2012	NEW UNDERGRADS	TOTAL UNDERGRADS	TOTAL GRAD STUDENTS	TOTAL STUDENTS
Vancouver Campus	6,324	38,388	10,380	48,768
Okanagan Campus	1,933	7,652	655	8,307

### Students

The University of British Columbia is BC's university. With two campuses – Okanagan and Vancouver – and distributed programs, students can access BC's premier research university through programs across the province. The implementation of UBC's broad-based admission selection criteria means students are now admitted for their personal achievements as well as their academic ones. Once at UBC, students will put their education into action locally, nationally and internationally. Powell River's **Kelsey Louie**, a second-year UBC medical student, plans to pursue a career as an Aboriginal doctor and hopes to help make Aboriginal communities stronger and healthier.

### Alumni

UBC alumni comprise a global network of over 269,000 people in more than 135 countries, with most of our alumni putting their skills to work right here in BC. UBC's alumni are providing the needed human capital to help position BC as an economic leader in Canada. Our alumni are connecting with the communities where they live – creating businesses, engaging children and keeping community members healthy. UBC alumna **Charlotte Gill** (MFA '00) won the 2012 British Columbia National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction for her memoir *Eating Dirt*. Charlotte and her husband recently made the move to Powell River from their long-time home of Vancouver.



## Community Connections

UBC supports numerous local outreach programs and research projects in a wide range of areas including brain health, seismic safety and water conservation.

### Partnership for Work, Health and Safety

The UBC School of Population and Public Health and WorkSafeBC are investigating why people do and do not seek workers' compensation for mesothelioma, a rare cancer of the lining of internal organs that is caused by exposure to asbestos. Research by the investigators in the Partnership for Work, Health and Safety has shown that the rates of some asbestos-related diseases are high in the Powell River and Sunshine Coast regional districts compared to other parts of BC, likely as a legacy of the pulp and paper industry, where workers were exposed to asbestos in the past. Mesothelioma is almost always work-related and most cases are eligible for workers' compensation; however, half of cases go uncompensated. The researchers are currently conducting interviews with patients, physicians and family members to determine why individuals choose to or choose not to seek compensation.

### Ensuring Seismic Safety

A four-year study led by **Dr. Shahria Alam**, an assistant professor in the School of Engineering at the Okanagan campus, will help improve the safety and security of British Columbia's highway bridges in the event of a large magnitude quake. Shahria was awarded a collaborative R&D grant from the National Sciences and Engineering Research Council in collaboration with S-FRAME Software Inc. to inventory and evaluate highway bridges in BC. Using software provided by S-FRAME, the research will measure the structural integrity of the bridges to produce fragility curves for each one. The fragility curves will allow for accurate seismic risk assessment, priority of bridge retrofits and post-earthquake emergency response.

### DID YOU KNOW?

In 2010, UBC established the entrepreneurship@UBC initiative to support the entrepreneurial goals of students, recent alumni, staff and faculty on campus. The initiative provides educational opportunities, space, capital, services, mentorship and networks to help UBC's entrepreneurs succeed. The \$10 million entrepreneurship@UBC Seed Accelerator Fund, launched in partnership with alumni and the BC Innovation Council, anchors the initiative and invests in emerging companies that have their roots at UBC.

### More Community Connections

To learn more about what UBC is doing in communities throughout BC, please contact us at [your.community@ubc.ca](mailto:your.community@ubc.ca) or visit [governmentrelations.ubc.ca/ubc-in-your-community](http://governmentrelations.ubc.ca/ubc-in-your-community).