

# CONNECTS

Issue 9 | Spring 2010

ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10



## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

### Learning for Life

**This was a year of new beginnings and growth for the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre. The facility's role as a focal point on campus was reinforced through increased building use, extraordinary events that forged on-campus community, new programs and services in the Chapman Learning Commons, and additional work and study spaces for our valued users.**

*Scenes from communities that the Learning Centre visited – Terrace, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Nanaimo and Campbell River. Centre image: Irving K. Barber and Sandra Singh, Learning Centre Director, in the Ridington Room.*

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► THE LEARNING CENTRE is also dedicated to supporting learners throughout British Columbia. To help us in this effort, we established the Advisory Committee on Community Engagement. With its consideration, we have developed an exciting path forward that anticipates the Learning Centre working on activities to

benefit communities at UBC and across the province.

Over the last year, we developed a number of existing programs and initiated some new ones, including working with campus and community partners

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## ► Learning for Life

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to take community service-learning (CSL) to rural and remote BC locales for the first time (CSL combines community service with classroom learning). And we launched collaborative community projects that will evolve during 2010/11. Additional details on these efforts are outlined in this report.

As ever, we are thankful for the ongoing financial support of the Province of British Columbia and the University of British Columbia. We were also fortunate to receive a significant donation from the Sutherland Foundation, which we will put to good use in support of community engagement initiatives. And we are grateful to the Mossrock Foundation for its generous support of a community newspaper digitization initiative that is now underway.

Finally, I offer congratulations to the Learning Centre team, and thanks to the many UBC departments and community organizations that worked with us this past year. We look forward to a promising and impactful year ahead! ☺

Sincerely,

**Sandra Singh**

*Director, Irving K. Barber Learning Centre*

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## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### Exchange and Access



*Terrace, famous for its fishing, is one of the BC locales that works with the Learning Centre.*

**The Learning Centre is dedicated to meaningful exchange with BC communities, as well as to making the intellectual life of this great campus accessible to a broader audience – in particular, to rural and remote communities.**

- THE VALUABLE ADVICE and feedback received from the Advisory Committee on Community Engagement helped determine the following priorities: rural and remote economic development, rural and remote K-12 engagement, and research mobilization.

The following includes some examples of the Learning Centre connecting with communities throughout BC in 2009/10.

#### **Small Business Accelerator**

The Small Business Accelerator (SBA) program continued to develop, with content created for several industries including manufacturing, retail and professional services. This project, developed in partnership with the David Lam Library at UBC's Sauder School of Business, will provide market research guides and related resources to assist entrepreneurs and the small business community. This year, with the support of the Sutherland

Foundation, the Learning Centre worked with the Public Library Services Branch and the publisher Gale to license *The Gale Business Plans Handbook* for rural and remote public libraries.

Sandra Singh, the Learning Centre's Director, and Aleha McCauley, the Community Business Services Librarian, visited many locations throughout the province – including Nanaimo, Campbell River, Terrace, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John and other locales – to test the Small Business Accelerator and gather feedback. The SBA's launch is anticipated for fall 2010.

#### **BC History Digitization Program**

The Learning Centre continued its commitment to the BC History Digitization Program. This initiative, launched in 2006, provides matching funds to help organizations such as libraries, archives and museums convert items (including images, sound or print materials) into digital files that can be accessed around the world.

The fourth round of successful applicants to the program was recently announced, and 25 projects received funding – including the first out-of-province grant for the United Church of Canada, headquartered in Toronto. This project involves digitizing visual and documentary records related to Methodist and United Church missions in BC. Other projects involve the digitization of photos and local newspapers. Since the digitization program's

inception, 77 projects throughout BC have been awarded total funding worth more than \$650,000.

### First Nations Knowledge Digitization

The Learning Centre also worked with the First Nations Technology Council and three First Nations communities – Heiltsuk, 'Namgis and Ktunaxa – to start planning a project that will explore the unique and important issues involved in managing First Nations heritage information within a digital context.

### BC Digitization Coalition

Simon Neame, the Learning Centre's Assistant Director, chaired the BC Digitization Coalition, a partnership of cultural organizations that is developing a provincial digitization strategy. The Learning Centre committed to hiring a Community Digitization Coordinator by summer 2010 to assist the coalition and manage community digitization initiatives.

### Community service-learning

The Learning Centre has been involved in an innovative community service-learning project. This pilot, which also involves the Sauder School of Business and the UBC Community Learning Initiative, connected 74 business students with rural entrepreneurs to help with business planning. In exchange, students have the opportunity to learn from business people and non-profit leaders and apply

their knowledge in real-world situations. Seventy-four students undertook 22 projects in Courtenay, Campbell River, Terrace and Atlin.



UBC's Peter Dauvergne at the Robson Reading Series.

### Robson Reading Series

The Robson Reading Series, put on by the Learning Centre and UBC Bookstore, presented talks by contemporary Canadian authors for the broader community – including readings from esteemed writers such as Lee Henderson and Ian Ferguson.

The Learning Centre also helped bring the Robson Reading Series to other BC locales. In October, Patty Gully read at the Prince George Public Library, and Lee Henderson appeared at Courtenay's Vancouver Island Public Library in April.



Chronicles of Pride at the Learning Centre Gallery.

### Learning Centre Gallery

The Learning Centre Gallery is a site of inspiring art and dialogue. In the past year, exhibits included *Antarctica: Passion and Obsession*, *Taiwan Sublime*, the *Chronicles of Pride* collection, a display on UBC's Olympic legacy and more.

### Webcasting

The Learning Centre increased its webcast offerings and enhanced its archive for the benefit of users near and far. A broad range of thought-provoking talks are now viewable at [www.ikebarberlearningcentre.ubc.ca/webcasts](http://www.ikebarberlearningcentre.ubc.ca/webcasts). Moving forward, the Learning Centre is planning to partner with UBC's Green College and the Vancouver Institute to webcast future lectures on an enticing range of subjects. ☺

## SETTING AND SPACE

Space can transform experiences – it inspires, intrigues and engages our senses and minds. Since the Learning Centre opened, students and UBC community members have established it as a focal point for campus activity. But opening doors does not mean the Learning Centre is done: it will always be a work in progress that changes to meet evolving user needs. 2009/10 saw many physical improvements.

### Finding a place

New signage and building directories were added in 2009/10, as were 200 new study spaces – an encouraging development given the ongoing demands for enhanced student space.

### 24/7 exam study periods

In April 2009, the Learning Centre piloted its first 24-hour opening for the spring exam period. After some adjustments, including an earlier start date, the Learning Centre is now open 24/7 for the Christmas and spring exam periods.



### Art commission – *The Journey*

The Learning Centre recognizes that it is situated on the traditional territories of the Musqueam people. As a gesture of respect, *The Journey* – an original artwork by Musqueam artist Brent Sparrow – was commissioned and installed in the facility's front lobby.

## CHAPMAN LEARNING COMMONS

## Learning Support and Services


Students bring the Learning Centre alive with their energy, enthusiasm and intelligence. Supporting student excellence and achievement through the provision of innovative spaces, services and programming is an ongoing commitment.

► THE CHAPMAN LEARNING COMMONS (CLC) – a stunning space located in the refurbished core of the 1925 Main Library – provided a range of innovative resources and services this past year.

- Student Peer Assistants answered more than 11,000 questions at the CLC Help Desk.
- Additional iMac workstations, video-editing software and digital camcorders were added to support student multi-media projects.
- The CLC continued to serve as a hub for learning support programs, including AMS Tutoring, the Math Tutorial Centre, Writing Centre Tutoring, Research Rescue and a new service called the Academic Peer Coaching Corner.

- In addition to the many drop-in workshops, classes were offered to more than 60 history students on the use of multimedia workstations, camcorders and video-editing software.

- CLC Peer Assistants collaborated with students and faculty to create original programs on current topics, such as *Freedom of Speech and the Olympics*, a well-attended event that featured speakers from the Faculty of Law. This forum was part of the student-driven Chapman Discussion Series.

As well, the Learning Centre continued to work with partners such as the Office of Learning Technology and the Learning Enhancement Academic Partnership Program on projects such as the development of the Assignment Calculator (<http://assignmentcalculator.library.ubc.ca>). 

## CAMPUS COMMUNITY

UBC is one of the province's most engaging communities, with conferences, speaker series, workshops and more. The Learning Centre is a home for campus dialogue and learning events.

### Campus dialogue and discovery

In 2009/10 the Learning Centre hosted these campus and community events:

- Vancouver Secondary School Crossroads Conference
- Celebrate Learning Week
- Celebrate Research Week
- the Multi-Disciplinary Undergraduate Research Conference (MURC)
- the mLibraries conference

- a symposium on Canadian university publishing
- the eLearning Open House
- the Student Learning Conference
- the annual conference of the Archives Association of BC
- the second instalment of the Human Orrery project, which involves UBC astronomy students modelling the solar system

### Connecting two campuses

As part of a commitment to community-building between UBC Okanagan (UBCO) and UBC Vancouver, the Learning Centre sponsored the attendance of 20 UBCO students for the Student Leadership Conference in Vancouver; 11 UBCO students also attended the Multi-Disciplinary Undergraduate Research Conference.

# CONNECTS

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