ALUMNI NEWS

We heard from several folks recently including Lois M. Cudmore (BA 1938), Harold Munshill

50 years ago Walter Lewis (MA) and Job Knut (BS, Hon) were among the graduates.

Lyn Baldwin (Bradfield) has been appointed as an Assistant Professor at University College of the Cariboo

Mary Eillard (Douglas) is an Associate Professor, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, Washington

Paul J. Harrison (Professor of Botany and Earth & Ocean Sciences, 1975-2002) is Professor and Director of the Atmospheric, Marine and Coastal Environment Program, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

Eduardo Jovel (Towers) has been appointed Assistant Professor, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences the first Director of the UBC Institute for Aboriginal Health.

Christopher Lottie (Turkington) has been appointed as an Assistant Professor at York University, Toronto.

Ken Matt (Ganders) is working at the BC Provincial Museum in Victoria

Martha Nelson (Green) is spending a year in South Africa as a volunteer with the Kalahari Meerkat Project.

Jim Pojar left the Ministry of Forests and other friends of the department, on the site of the old huts (B5, B6, B7) immediately to the south of the Biosciences complex. Botany faculty members of the Michael Smith Laboratories (formerly the Biotechnology Lab) are moving into the new Michael Smith Building (between Biosciences and Wesbrook Mall). The BioImaging facility, directed by Elaine Humphrey, was the recipient of a Canada Foundation for Innovation infrastructure grant and has expanded in the basement of the North Wing. Botany links with the Botanical Garden (a unit within Agricultural Sciences) have been strengthened in recent years, as a new Director (Quentin Croteau) with strong research interests in plant evolution and development was recruited, along with two junior faculty members in the Botanical Garden and Centre for Plant Research (BCCPR) in plant biodiversity and evolutionary genomics, who have cross appointments to Botany.

The Department's home page, http://www.botany.ubc.ca, will give you the current details of our academic programs and people. I hope that we can add a section on alumnus that you can add to or use to track down each other. This newsletter will bring you regular (at least annual) summaries of Botany for you to check on news and events. Please take every chance you can send us information so that we can strengthen the links between the past and the present of Botany at UBC. For this purpose, we have established an email address to send your news and comments:

ALUMNI@mail.botany.ubc.ca

Iain Taylor, Editor

Professor Emeritus

HEAD'S MESSAGE

I have had the pleasure to serve as Department of Botany Head since 1999 (taking over from Ian Taylor), with a one-year sabbatical interlude spent in Vienna. It is gratifying to see how our department has grown over that time, and how faculty, staff, and students have collectively met the challenges of faculty renewal, ever increasing enrollment in the Biology Undergraduate Program, uncertain budgets, and the need to maintain high standards in research. We have moved into new strategic areas of research and teaching, with new strengths in proteomics, cell biology and genetics, conservation biology, and evolutionary biology. In 2004, the department is vibrant and exciting, and we feel is one of the strongest in Canada if not North America. Faculty, staff, students, postdoctoral fellows and visitors all contribute to the excitement of the department, but undergraduate and graduate students hold a special place. More undergraduates than ever are doing research projects in faculty labs, and our plant biology courses are full. Our graduate program is growing, with the largest

 incoming group of Ph.D. and M.Sc. students in 2004 for several years. I hope you enjoy this snapshot of the department, and let us hear from you.

Carol Douglas, Professor and Head

DEPARTMENT NEWS

From its one faculty and two staff (John Davidson, his assistant Miss Gichy, and one technician), the UBC Botany Department has grown by the year 2004 to a department with a research and teaching faculty of 32 (several of whom are cross appointed to other departments), 37 post-doctoral fellows, 15 staff, and 57 graduate students. Just as we were in the late 60s when I arrived, we are going through a phase of faculty “renewal”, with a bevy of retirements and new appointments. Coupled with the opportunities for hiring new faculty in the federal Canada Research Chairs (CRC) program, and other opportunities such as NSERC University Faculty Awards, the face of our department is rapidly changing.

Plans are moving ahead to construct a Biodiversity Research Centre building, which will include a new location for the university Herbarium and zoological collections as well as research space for Botany and Zoology faculty, on the site of the old huts (B5, B6, B7) immediately to the south of the Biosciences complex. Botany faculty members of the Michael Smith Laboratories (formerly the Biotechnology Lab) are moving into the new Michael Smith Building (between Biosciences and Wesbrook Mall). The BioImaging facility, directed by Elaine Humphrey, was the recipient of a Canada Foundation for Innovation infrastructure grant and has expanded in the basement of the North Wing. Botany links with the Botanical Garden (a unit within Agricultural Sciences) have been strengthened in recent years, as a new Director (Quentin Croteau) with strong research interests in plant evolution and development was recruited, along with two junior faculty members in the Botanical Garden and Centre for Plant Research (BCCPR) in plant biodiversity and evolutionary genomics, who have cross appointments to Botany.

The Department's office and management team, led by Elaine Simons (Administrative Manager) and Lebby Balakshin (Head Secretary and Graduate Secretary) continues the tradition of John Thorpe, Win Hunter, Pat Harrison and others in providing critical support to faculty, staff, and students.

AWARDS

Following are some of the awards recently received by Department members: Paul Keeling: NSERC Steacie Fellowship.

Reinhard Jetter, Geoff Wasteneys, and Wayne Maddinson: Canada Research Chairs.

Jorg Bohlmann, Patrick Keeling, and Philippe Tortell: UBC Scholar Awards

Brian Leander: CIAR Scholar

Tony Glass, Neil Towers, Paul J Harrison and David Tarpin: Among the top Canadians on the ISI Highly Cited Scientist list.

Jennifer Klee: Killam Teaching Award for 2003-04 in the Faculty of Science.

Mary Berbee: Weston Award for Teaching from the Mycological Society of America. This is the highest honor bestowed for teaching by the MSA.

Philippe Tortell: Early Career Scholar, Peter Wall Inst. for Advanced Studies, UBC Paul J Harrison: Phycology Society of America (PSA) Award of Excellence

Bruce Fan: NSERC University Faculty Award (UFA)

Beaverly Green and Shona Ellis were two of 20 women recognized for their leadership roles as Women in Science by the Society of Canadian Women in Science and Technology (SCWIST). 2002/03 Faculty of Science Achievement Awards: Tony Glass and Mac Taylor (Teaching), Ian Taylor, Fred Ganders and Lebby Balakshin (Service), Nora Holmes (Kunst Lab) (Student Service).

2003/04 Faculty of Science Achievement Awards: Joerg Bohlmann (Leadership), Lacey Samuel (Teaching).

Kathy Nomine: Sustainability Award for her proposal to maintain compost bins to raise red wigglers for classroom use and compost for teaching gardens.

Kella Sadler (Bradfield lab), Linda Jennings (Whitton lab), Andrew MacDougall (Turkington lab), Lyn Baldwin (Bradfield lab) - students who were awarded
**SPOTLIGHT ON BOTANY RESEARCH**

Assistant Professors Larry Samuels (Ph.D. 1989 [Bisalputra]) and Reinhard Jetter, together with their Associate Professor Ljeksa Kunst, have teamed up to study the genetics, cell biology, and chemistry of the plant cuticle and wax secretion. Their lab's recent work in Arabidopsis, demonstrate that a so-called ABC transporter, one of a large family of such membrane transporters found in all eukaryotes, is localized to the plasma membrane of Arabidopsis epidermal cells, and is required for wax secretion to leaf and stem surfaces. This work is in preparation (paper to appear in 306:702-704), and paves the way to a better understanding of this key plant surface. Ljeksa, Reinhard, and Lacey were recently awarded a joint NSERC Special Opportunities Grant to further pursue this work in the department.

Professor emerita Beverley Green has been active as an advocate for the development of the department's natural environment. She is a 12-month募资 to the conservation of the blackened coniferous grove of the diatom Thalassiosira pseudonana, ecologically important in ocean ecosystems. Beverley is a co-author on the paper describing the sequence and its analysis (Armbrust et al. 2004. Science, 306:78–86), and has been involved on several occasions by the media on this subject.

**SPOTLIGHT ON BOTANY TEACHING**

Shona Ellis (BSc, 1985; MSc, 1993 [Towers]) was appointed to the Botany Department in 2002. Shona has played a leadership role in the teaching of ornamental plant biology (Vascular and Non-Vascular Plant labs, Taxonomy labs; Bryology; Plants and People) and has a loyal following of undergraduate student fans (Faculty of Science Kiliman Teaching Prize, 2002; two AMS “Just Desserts” awards). Jennifer Klenz, a 12-month lecturer in Botany and Zoology, teaches in the re-structured Genetics, Laboratory and Association (BIOL 337), which covers the latest genetic approaches in both Arabidopsis and C. elegans. Her students obviously appreciate her enthusiastic hands-on approach to teaching and her mentoring of budding biologists. Jennifer won the Faculty of Science Kiliman Teaching Prize in 2004 and used the prize to return to southern Italy and volunteer on an organic farm.

**MOMENTOUS MOMENTS AND NEWS**

Do you remember the western red cedar tree in the display case outside Bio 2000? Well it and the lecture hall were both restored recently. The trunk, affectionately known as ‘Stumpy,’ was expertly sectioned and remounted as the entrance highlight outside Bio 2000. Thanks to Gary Braund and his collaborators and to John Gourlay who supervised the remounting. The lecture hall was gutted and fully renovated, with new seats, computer projection system, and ventilation.

New buildings and have sprung like mushrooms throughout the campus (if you haven’t been on campus recently, bring a compass, or a GPS device for your next visit). Most controversial is the impending redevelopment of the campus core around the bus loop to create a “University Town”.

The Herbarium has been active in fundraising and public outreach. It held a very successful social/fundraising-raising event in April.

Students in the Botany Department organize a very successful Bonspiel each winter, which draws participants from Zoology, the Botanical Garden, and the Michael Smith Labs as well as Botany. The Botany graduate students also continue the tradition of the Botany Christmas Party.

**COMINGS AND GOINGS**

The following faculty members have joined the department in the last two years: Naomii Faut (molecular biology), Reinhard Jetter (CRC in biological chemistry, joint appointment with Zoology), Brian Leander (CIAR Scholar in eukaryotic microbial diversity, joint with Zoology), Xin Li (plant molecular genetics and plant pathogen interactions; Michael Smith Labs), Wayne Maddison (CRC in phylogenetics and evolutionary biology; joint with Zoology), Philippe Trottier (biological oceanography; joint with EOS), Andrew Willers (Genetics and Botany) at the University of Saskatchewan, and the Michael Smith Labs as well as Botany. The Botany graduate students also continue the tradition of the Botany Christmas Party.

**OBITUARIES**

We are sad to report the deaths in 2003 of Katherine Beamish and Kathleen Cole. Dr. Katherine I. Beamish was born in Westminster, British Columbia, on June 24, 1929. She finished grade eleven in Burnaby, graduated from normal school in 1930, and taught for 12 years. In June 1943 she joined the R.C.A.F. and went to Halifax and to Gander, Newfoundland. In March 1946 she came back to Vancouver, recruited from Burnaby, and went to UBC where she earned both Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Science and Agriculture. She received a Ph.D. (Genetics and Botany) at the University of Wisconsin, Madison in June 1954 and taught there for 26 years before coming to work in the Herbarium. Kay was a stalwart in the University community.

Kay's best known graduate student, Jim Pajor, wrote: “Dr. Katherine Beamish...made an immediate favourable impression on me, and had a lasting effect on my life. I very soon realized she was a real botanist, and a kind but no-nonsense person who I instinctively knew I must not disappoint. Katherine was very knowledgeable and guided me through the unpredictable academic terrain with care and skill. Every Friday, for three years, she sat down with me and discussed what I had been working on that week, what progress I had made on the thesis. Few Ph.D. supervisors spend that much time with their grad students; these days some students count themselves lucky to have more than one or two substantive meetings per year with their high-powered professors. Katherine was an exception, she was especially noteworthy because I wasn’t working on any of her favourite projects or species, nor on my main phylogenetic interest. She was also remarkably tolerant of my headstrong and at times stubborn and smart-alecky behaviour. No doubt she had seen that sort of thing before. Looking back on that time, I recall that there was often a glint of amusement in her eyes, at some of my antics."

Katherine Beamish first took me to Lighthouse Park, to Ladner Marsh, Camosun Bog, Brigh Bog, Mill Hill, Thetis Lake Park, Long Beach, Lassen Ridge, Blackwall Meadows and Mt. Frosty in Manning Park, with the odd foraging for lichens. These trips and these places had a profound effect on me, a Minnesota boy new to mountains and the outdoors. I can only imagine that this woman over twice my age could go uphill like a mountain goat. She was a kind, gentlewoman. No humoured person who spoke no ill of unprepossessing people; at most she would grimace and shudder with exasperation. I am very grateful that I met her, because her kindness and generosity inspired me, and she settled in her beautiful province and country.

Kay died peacefully on February 4th, 2003. We all miss her.

(with thanks to Kay’s family and Jim Pajor)

Kay Cole (July 12, 1924 – Apr. 12, 2003) spent part of her early childhood in WIN, B.C. where she received her early schooling and graduated from West Vancouver High School. She completed her B.A. and M.A. at U.B.C. in the Department of Biology and her Ph.D. at the Botany Department. Kay and her husband were contemporaries at U.B.C. and during their Honours and graduate years, shared an office and served as teaching assistants in several courses, one of these was in histology and Kay Beamish was a student in the laboratory. Kathleen obtained her doctorate in Plant Genetics and Genomics in 2005, Master's in Genetics and Botany. She and Bob Scagel were both active in the Botany department, and remounting. It held a very successful social/fundraising-raising event in April.

Kay was also an accomplished mezzo-soprano soloist who had given recitals in Canada and the USA. A memorial was held in May 2003 at which Kay’s charm, cheerfulness and presence of a truly gentle woman. (with thanks to Bob Scagel and Bob Sheath)

**RECENT GRADUATES**

PhD:

Lyn Baldwin (Bradfield)
Len Dyck (DeWreede)
Sumin Han (Sanfacon)
Tatyia Hooker (Kunst)
Patrik Ikerdtsen (Borberg)
Asim Sharma (Kumar (Glass))
Andrés López (Towers)
Andrew MacDougall (Turkington)
Diane Neely (Bobbink)
Joseph Neddelko (PJ Harrison)
Nicole Peirce (Aubin)
Sherri Rodgers (DeWreede)
Juan Sallaragga (FJR Taylor/Keeling)
Steven Stout (Saul)
Robert Francis Strizpek (PJ Harrison)
Aleksandra Virag (Griffiths)
Qing Wang (Douglass lab)

MSc:

Sean Bridget (Santle)
Sarah Carty (DeWreede)
Brian Hillhouse (Towers)
Martha Nelson (Green)
Jim Pajor (Samuels)
Heather Toews (PJ Harrison)

BSc in Plant Biology:

Honours:

Sooyeol Adair
Ryan Philipine
Kimberley Irwin
Darren Low
Alvin TY Yang

BSc in Plant Biology:

Honours:

Solveig Adair
Robin Bhaliwal
Nicole A Haddad (Baker)
Philippe Trottier
Heather Esson
Waddy CT Ho
Kumiai lin Pan
Sarah Marz
Jan Plevin
Roxanne Chau
Darren Low
Jennifer Sarchuk
Geoffrey Bradley
Jeyran B Chavan
Hao-Chang Chen
Sara Hyslop
Kristin Greenough