



UBC in **Your** Community

Penticton

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

UBC students are taking their knowledge and skills and working on real-world challenges. Penticton's **Chris Cochrane**, a fourth-year integrated sciences student, is President of the UBC Chapter of Students offering Support (SOS), a national network of student volunteers raising funds to raise the quality of education and life for those in developing nations. SOS raises funds by running group review sessions prior to mid-terms and finals for a \$20 donation. The SOS organization has implemented over \$700,000 in development projects around Latin America.

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 alumnus **Mark Holland** (BASc '95, MSc '99) is Vice-President of Development for New Monaco Enterprise Corporation - a company developing a large master-planned community in the District of Peachland. New Monaco, planned for occupancy in 2014, will be a leading edge sustainable community project with a mission to be the healthiest community in Canada. A Memorandum of Understanding between New Monaco and UBC's Okanagan campus will involve students and faculty in many projects of applied research on health and sustainability.



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.

Combating Replant Disease

A project led by **Dr. Louise Nelson** at UBC's Okanagan campus aims to help orchardists combat replant disease. Orchardists in the region have been replacing their old, large trees with high density dwarf varieties, paying up to \$10,000 per acre to replant the orchards, with trees taking 3-4 years to reach maturity and become fully productive. However, in some orchards these young trees do not thrive and may even die due to nutritional deficiencies and deleterious microbial soil populations. Louise, master's candidate **Molly Thurston**, and colleagues in the Organic Agriculture Cluster at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada have been looking at supplementing the soil with beneficial soil microorganisms and compost to reset the soil composition and address nutritional problems. The research group is currently testing the five most effective bacteria strains, as shown in laboratory experiments, in the greenhouse and on certified organic farms in the Okanagan Valley.

Using Technology to Prevent Forest Fires

Researchers at UBC's Faculty of Forestry have developed an app that could help prevent harm to communities from wildfires in the Okanagan Valley. PhD candidate **Colin Ferster** and **Professor Nicholas Coops** have designed the app for forestry professionals and members of the community. The app is used to record observations and take pictures of potential fire hazards including fallen wood, brush, or thick carpets of needles on the forest floor and upload the images and GPS coordinates to a database. This research aims both to provide more information for fuels maps, used by forest managers to direct fuels treatments, and to increase awareness and provide tools to members of the community to take positive actions, such as following FireSmart recommendations for landscaping on private property.

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 or visit governmentrelations.ubc.ca/ubc-in-your-community.