



St. John's College

聖約翰學院

fall 2003

newsletter



St. John's College celebrates six years of success

Founding Principal reflects on memories and moments spent with residents

In April 1997, St. John's College at UBC was merely a construction site. Most people who passed by the chain link safety fences and the skeletal, half built residences knew little—if anything—of what the site would become. The exception was Grant Ingram, who, five months later took his place as the College's first Principal for a six-year term.

"I remember clearly my first view of the College in the spring of 1997. I wandered down Lower Mall and saw the unfinished buildings on the east side of the courtyard. There wasn't much to see, but I had a vision of what it could be, nonetheless.

"I came to St. John's College with a number of goals in mind. More than anything, I wanted foster a sense of belonging for all who would become part of the College. I wanted to create an environment that would facilitate the development of links and partnerships, within and outside of the UBC campus, and I wanted to provide a home for reasoned debate and research on issues ranging from local to global importance," recalls Principal Ingram.

Five months later, in September 1997, the College's first buildings opened to 32 pioneering Junior Fellows. Almost immediately, this unique group began to form an environment where everyone could take part in the exchange of ideas and knowledge, and promote flexible thinking. It might seem like yesterday, but now six years have passed: Construction of all buildings is complete, the College is home to 160 residents hailing from over 35 countries, and Principal Ingram has completed his term and handed over the reins to Acting Principal Shel Cherry, who will prepare staff and residents to welcome a new Principal in 2004.

For Principal Ingram, it is his memory of time spent with the residents that stands out most.

"St. John's College is all about its residents. I have so many memories of brilliant, generous, creative and talented Junior Fellows who contributed greatly to the success of the College community by putting on coffee houses, presenting plays and concerts, organizing the international choir or a sports team, giving talks, or coming into my office because they were concerned about a fellow resident.

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St. John's College Social Lounge under construction, April 1997.



Aerial view of the spectacular College courtyard, April 2003.



UBC President Martha Piper with St. John's University Johannans in Shanghai, China, 1997.

Discovering the dynamics of DNA with Dr. Nancy Lane

In keeping with College tradition, the first two terms of 2003 were marked by guest presentations from enlightening and interesting speakers. Among those that stood out was the January 17, 2003, presentation by Dr. Nancy Lane, who delivered a talk commemorating the 50th anniversary of the discovery of DNA in the College's Fairmont Social Lounge.

During her presentation, Dr. Lane reflected on the science of DNA and then went on to discuss the contributions of Rosalind Franklin, an industry pioneer whose x-ray diffraction pictures

of DNA were published in *Nature* in April 1953. This event played an important role in establishing the structure of DNA. In fact, as Dr. Lane revealed, many scientists now believe Franklin played an even larger role than previously acknowledged in the research that led to the 1962 Nobel Prize awarded to the trio of Maurice Wilkins, Francis Crick and James Watson, for their discovery of DNA's double helix.

Dr. Lane was born in Canada and earned her Doctor of Philosophy at Oxford University. She then carried out post-doctoral research in the United States, first at New

York's Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and then at Yale University's Department of Biology. From there, Dr. Lane joined a neurobiological research unit in the Department of Zoology at Cambridge University, where she is now a senior research associate. She is also an Official Fellow of Girton College, where she is a lecturer in cell biology.

Dr. Lane's visit was funded by the British High Commission in Canada and is the first in a number of similar lectures by well-known British scientists. Through her lecture at St. John's



From left to right: Vancouver's Consul General for the United Kingdom, James Rawlinson; Dr. Nancy Lane; and St. John's College Principal, Dr. Grant Ingram.

College, she conveyed the wider context of science and the challenges that confront female scientists. Her message was well received by a full house of students, staff and guests.

principal's message



Shel Cherry
Acting Principal

College residents will be aware that Grant Ingram, the Founding Principal of SJC, completed his six-year term of office in July. Grant is presently on administrative/sabbatical leave, after which he will be returning to his UBC academic position as Professor of Earth and Ocean Sciences. My tenure as Acting Principal of the College began on August 1st and will continue until the end of June 2004, at which time the Principal-Designate, Tim Brook, Professor of History, University of Toronto, will take up his assignment as the next Principal of St. John's College.

As Acting Principal, it is my privilege and pleasure to welcome warmly our new and continuing Junior Fellows, Post-Doctoral Fellows, and Visiting Scholars to the 2003/04 academic year at the College. Our new residents will quickly discover that there is a strong sense of community at SJC, which is the result of six years of dedicated service and outstanding leadership by Grant, and the associated traditions established by College residents and alumni.

St. John's College has often been categorized as a mini United Nations. This is a reflection of two important factors. First, we have a diverse resident population, which includes 168 members from 40 different countries who are engaged in 55 areas of post graduate study. Second, and equally important, we create opportunities for our residents to interact with each other and with the surrounding UBC population and external communities through our extensive academic and social programming. College life also offers residents the chance to be exposed to, and to associate with, individuals from diverse cultures and, by so doing, fosters an awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the richness they bring to our lives. In speaking directly to residents, I would say that by taking advantage of all of these opportunities, you develop an identity as a global citizen and make life-long friends; if you restrict yourself to a small clique, you will lose this opportunity. If you become a full member of the SJC community, you will leave here a better-educated person, and your College experiences will serve you well in your future activities and adventures. I urge you to help strengthen the College, and your life, by engaging in at least some of the many programs and opportunities that are available to you as a member of St. John's College.

The SJC staff joins me in wishing you all a successful academic year and many happy College experiences. We look forward to working with you in ways that will help make this happen.

St. John's College celebrates...Continued from page 1

"I take pride in knowing the College environment allows our residents to develop cultural and intellectual networks outside of their specific academic disciplines. Most important, however, is that this environment gives them the opportunity to forge meaningful, life-long friendships," he emphasized.

And the latter will last, he is sure, because of the wonderful example set by the original Johannians, the graduates of St. John's University in Shanghai, China, who continue to support the College.

One of the many performances of the St. John's College International Choir in the Social Lounge.



"Despite being separated by time and geography, the Shanghai Johannians maintain their links to their University and to our College at UBC. They have been generous with their contributions—be they financial, inspirational or educational—and I thank them for helping St. John's College become a reality," said Principal Ingram.

"Since coming to the College as founding principal in 1997, I have met people from 66 different countries in the van der Linden Dining Hall. For many, this community will be their strongest memory of Canada when they return home. For our Canadian Junior Fellows, this has been an opportunity to embrace cultural diversity and learn about our world. For me, it has been a wonderful adventure," Principal Ingram remarked. "I leave this position knowing that the world is in good hands because the St. John's College Junior Fellows will make positive contributions wherever they go and make a better world for all of us. Thank you for the past six years."



Left: UBC President Martha Piper, along with guests R. Ho (far left) and T.F. Ying (far right) and Principal Ingram, celebrates completion of the final phase of College construction, July 1999.

Below: A view down the walkway of St. John's courtyard, spring 2003.



Lessons in leadership

College partners with Minerva Foundation to host second annual leadership conference

Over the summer, St. John's College was home to the second annual "Learning to Lead" conference, held in conjunction with the Minerva Foundation. Like the inaugural conference in 2002, the event brought together high school students, UBC graduate students, and business and community leaders from around the province to interact and learn from one another through a series of workshops and activities. This year, however, conference organizers also welcomed graduate students from the University of Victoria and young, recently graduated, professional women.

The objective of the conference was to provide tools for all participants to achieve their personal, educational and professional goals, and to advance opportunities for pursuing leadership roles in all facets of society, including business, government and community. Participants were invited to continue their leadership journey by taking part in a Leadership Challenge sponsored by CBC Television, which offered two awards of \$750 each to recognize young women who have applied leadership lessons learned in their school, workplace or community.

Founded in 1999, the Minerva Foundation for BC Women is a provincial organization with a broad vision for improving the lives of girls and women by creating opportunities for them to realize their economic and leadership potential.

Resident Speaker Series

Life at St. John's College is made rich and interesting, in large part by the passion and experience of our residents who participate throughout the school year in our Resident Speakers Series. Highlights from the last year (September 2002—March 2003) include:

Victor Zatspine, History, UBC
"Travels in New Russia"

Li-Ling Tsai, Curriculum Studies, UBC
"With or Without Political Parties: How Does Taiwan's Women's Movement Come to this Stage?"

Yair Linn, Electrical Engineering, UBC
"Spies & Espionage: The American Intelligence Community"

Tara Barnett, Asian Studies, UBC
"The Practical Uses of Idle Pursuits"

Yvette Vera Perez, Mechanical Engineering, UBC
"Charlie Chaplin—The Little Tramp Who Became Sir"

Benny Mantin, Commerce, UBC
"Astrophilately: Rocket Mail and Other Space Covers"

Arash Farzaneh, French, Hispanic & Italian Studies, UBC
"Ramblings of a Love Sick Poet"

Ben Freeland, History, UBC
"Yukio Mishima: His Life, Times and Literary Works"

Kent den Heyer, Curriculum Studies, UBC
"Shadowy Selves and Nation States"

Eric Escobar, Chemistry, UBC
"Diego Rivera and Mexico Throughout the Centuries"

Laura Esmail, Pharmaceutical Sciences, UBC
"20,000 Drugs and 1 Doctor: The Prevalence of Inappropriate Prescribing and Efforts to Improve It"

Colin Green, History, UBC
"Taiwanese Politics and The Independence Movement"

Bob McMillan, History, UBC
"AIDS Before 1980"

Brett Abrahams, PhD Candidate, Neuroscience, UBC
"Genetic Control of Human Behaviour"

Spotlight on support

St. John's gratefully acknowledges Johannean T.F. Ying



Johannean and long-time College supporter, Mr. T.F. Ying

T.F. Ying is the immediate Past-President of the St. John's University Alumni Association (SJUAA) in Vancouver, and has been a tremendous supporter to St. John's College since the day we opened more than six years ago.

Born in 1922 in Shanghai, China, he graduated with a BA in Economics (1943) and a MBA (1944) from St. John's University in Shanghai. Mr. Ying moved to Hong Kong in 1957 and served with the Hong Kong SJUAA, before coming to Vancouver in

1994. He has given many talks at St. John's College and has supported our activities by attending most of the special dinners and events we host throughout the year. He also served as convenor of the 4th World Reunion of Johanneans held in Vancouver in July 1999, in cooperation with the College and UBC.

We are grateful for Mr. Ying's support and for that of all Johanneans who have made St. John's College what it is today.

College celebrates diversity with international dinner

The St. John's College community celebrated its unique international character earlier this year at the Second Annual International Dinner. Tables were decorated with 66 flags—one for every country from which a College Junior Fellow has originated since our inception six years ago. Many Junior Fellows marked the occasion by dressing in the traditional costume of their country and some even adopted the dress of countries not their own! Senior and Junior Fellows enjoyed a sumptuous buffet featuring dishes from North and South America, Europe and Asia.

Consider support for Academic Endowment Fund

St. John's College continues to benefit from the generosity of alumni eager to support the life, culture and education experience that is so unique to our facility at UBC. Time and expertise—given through lectures and participation in special events—are always welcome, as are financial gifts of any size.

Alumni interested in making a donation may wish to contribute to the Academic Endowment Fund, which is used to develop a self-sustaining academic and cultural program, intended to enrich the learning of graduate students and prepare them for citizenship in the global community. The Fund

focuses on the development of a diverse academic program that encompasses seven main areas of interest:

- Understanding Cultural Diversity
- Global Change Issues
- Science and Communication
- Shanghai Visiting Program
- Distinguished Visiting Scholars Program
- Community Understanding and Building
- Performing Arts Program

For more information about supporting the College and to learn about tax benefits, please contact Acting Principal Shel Cherry.



About St. John's College

St. John's College has roots that extend back to St. John's University in Shanghai, China. Graduates of the University—known as Johanneans—are able, through a blending of Chinese and Western approaches to teaching, to be at home anywhere in the world. Continuing in the tradition of excellence and internationalism of its namesake, St. John's College at UBC aims to build links between different parts of the world, and to serve as an intellectually and culturally diverse centre for its members.

For more information about St. John's College at UBC, please contact:

St. John's College
University of British Columbia
2111 Lower Mall
Vancouver, BC
Canada V6T 1Z4

Phone: (604) 822-8788
Fax: (604) 822-8885
E-mail: sjc.reception@ubc.ca
Website: www.stjohns.ubc.ca