

# CONNECTS

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ANNUAL REPORT 2011/12



*Dr. Irving K. Barber – a passionate advocate of lifelong learning.*

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

**This issue of our annual review starts off on a sad note. Dr. Irving K. Barber, the principal donor for the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre and a passionate supporter of education and research in British Columbia, passed away on April 13, 2012.**

► DR. BARBER was a visionary thinker with a strong commitment to strengthening B.C., improving the quality of life for its residents and providing an enriched university experience for students. His gift of \$20 million was largely responsible for the development and construction of the Learning Centre and the realization of its mission: a facility dedicated to the intellectual, social, cultural and economic development of the people of British Columbia and beyond.

Dr. Barber's passion and commitment to student learning and the people of British Columbia never wavered. With their gift for the Learning Centre, Dr. Barber and his wife Jean created a place where all are inspired to learn – about themselves, and about the world around them.

As this issue of *Connects* reveals, the Learning Centre has been busy this past year engaging users and communities at UBC and throughout the province – and in doing so, supporting the strategic directions of UBC Library, the University and the provincial government.

promote their unique histories online. Another exciting initiative is enabling First Nations groups to digitize oral histories. The Small Business Accelerator is supporting the research needs of B.C. entrepreneurs. The Chapman Learning Commons is helping students plan for success. And our webcast programming provides a comprehensive selection of lectures, readings and presentations for users who can watch the proceedings online and at their own pace.

I encourage you to read on and discover more about these and other initiatives. As we move forward, we'll continue to work with our valued partners to offer programs and services for learners near and far – thereby fulfilling the mandate of, in Dr. Barber's words, "a 21st-century Learning Centre for British Columbians and, indeed, the world." ☉

**Simon Neame**

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Our digitization program has granted more than \$1 million to help communities

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

## Through the innovative use of technology, the Learning Centre provides a broad range of lifelong learning opportunities, extending the resources of UBC to citizens across B.C.

### ► Webcasts

Last fall the Learning Centre redesigned its webcast page to improve accessibility, and added many of its archived webcasts to UBC's YouTube channel. Archived webcasts were also added to cIRcle, UBC Library's digital repository, to ensure long-term preservation and future access. The archives include a growing number of lectures and talks of interest to the broader community.

Partners in the webcast initiative include Green College, St. John's College, the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies (SLAIS), and the Faculty of Education's Community to Reimagine Educational Alternatives for Teaching Education (CREATE).

**More Info:** [webcasts.ikebarberlearning-centre.ubc.ca](http://webcasts.ikebarberlearning-centre.ubc.ca)

### Community Events

Over the past year the Learning Centre partnered with many UBC groups to provide free lectures, dialogues and debates on topics of interest to the public.

The Robson Reading Series hosted a selection of dynamic authors and their poetry, fiction and creative non-fiction. These free public events were held at UBC's Robson Square and Vancouver campuses, and included authors Evelyn Lau, Ray Hsu, Timothy Taylor, Michael V. Smith, Kevin McNeilly, Lee Maracle and C.E. Gatchalian. The Robson Reading Series is a partnership between UBC Bookstore and the Learning Centre, and is funded in part by a Canada Council Grant.

The Health Information Series brought UBC health experts into the community through an innovative partnership between the Learning Centre, UBC's Woodward Library and various public libraries. Topics included perspectives on health

issues in the South Asian community, managing chronic health conditions, and Alzheimer's disease and dementia. Many of these talks were also webcast by the Learning Centre to provide access for the broader community.

The Learning Centre sponsored two talks as part of the Vancouver Institute's prestigious lecture series. Professor William McKibben's *Eaarth: Making a Life On a Tough New Planet* and Lawrence Krauss's *Life, the Universe, and Nothing: A Cosmic Mystery Story* captivated audiences at UBC's Vancouver campus. Dr. McKibben's lecture was also broadcast to several rural and remote school districts in B.C.

### Exhibits

The Learning Centre provided space and support for a range of intriguing exhibits over the past year. Highlights included *iFormations*, a set of studies on the subtle links between information, knowledge and meaning; *Worlds of Wonder: Weather and Other Phenomena* by Willa Downing, who explored how nature and science reveal the complexity and beauty of natural phenomena; and *Retell/Rethink/Recover – An Exhibit on Japan's Triple Disaster*, which examined the impact of Japan's 2011 earthquake on UBC students, staff and faculty. ☺

## GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS

#### IKBLC Advisory Committee on Community Engagement (as of December 2011):

**Andy Ackerman**, Trustee, Fort St. John Public Library Board; President, British Columbia Library Trustees Association

**Michelle Aucoin**, Managing Director of Community Engagement, External, Legal and Community Relations, UBC

**Don Black**, Director of Community Programs, Continuing Studies, UBC

**Ian Cavers**, Associate Dean, Curriculum and Learning, Faculty of Science, UBC

**Scott Graham**, Director of Community Development Education, Social Policy and Research Council of B.C.

**Sue Hanley**, Coordinator, First Nations Technology Council

**Eve Hope**, Head Librarian, Hazelton District Public Library

**Linc Kesler**, Director, First Nations House of Learning; Senior Advisor to the President on Aboriginal Affairs, UBC

**Michelle Lamberson**, Managing Director, Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology, UBC

**Rory McIvor**, Director, Community Futures Development Corporation of Okanagan Similkameen

**Doug McLachlan**, Vice-President, Education, College of the Rockies

**Cathy Mercer**, Director of Student and Enrolment Services, Selkirk College

**Deanna Nyce**, President of Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Institute, located in Gitwinksihlkw

**Chris van der Mark**, Superintendent, School District 54, Bulkley Valley

**Ex officio:** Irving K. Barber

#### UBC Partners include:

Alma Mater Society  
Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology  
Community Learning Initiative  
First Nations House of Learning  
Museum of Anthropology  
Sauder School of Business  
School of Community and Regional Planning  
Student Development and Services  
Writing Centre

#### External Partners include:

BCcampus  
B.C. Digitization Coalition  
British Columbia Electronic Library Network (BCELN)  
British Columbia Library Association (BCLA)  
Canadians.org  
Council of Post Secondary Library Directors, British Columbia (CPSLD)  
First Nations Technology Council (FNTC)  
Ministry of Advanced Education  
Ministry of Education, Libraries and Literacy  
Social Policy and Research Council of B.C. (SPARC BC)

## SUPPORTING STUDENT LEARNING

### The Learning Centre is a hub for student learning at UBC, connecting students with innovative and collaborative services that support recruitment and retention at B.C.'s largest university.

#### ► Chapman Learning Commons

The Chapman Learning Commons (CLC) provides learning technology and multimedia support as well as access to tutoring, coaching and learning services with a range of partners including AMS Tutoring, the UBC Writing Centre and UBC Student Development. It is a model for the development of other learning commons at the post-secondary and K-12 levels.

Coaches Corner, an award-winning program offered in the CLC in collaboration with Student Development, helped students assess their study habits and skills, reflect on academic strengths and weaknesses, and set goals for success.

In April 2012, about 500 students participated in "Stress Less for Exam Success," hosted by CLC Assistants and UBC's Wellness Centre. The event featured a variety of educational and interactive activities in the CLC that encouraged students to de-stress and learn more about healthy strategies during exams.

The Digital Tattoo project, which deals with digital identity management, was co-led by the CLC and the Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology. In fall 2011, the website ([digitaltattoo.ubc.ca](http://digitaltattoo.ubc.ca)) launched a new look and feel. It was featured in the media (including the CBC Morning Show), and the project team connected with more than 200 people thanks to workshops in B.C. and Alberta.



Teri Grant (l) and Hae Jung Min of Coaches Corner help students plan for success.

#### WriteAway

The Learning Centre is working with the British Columbia Electronic Library Network, BCcampus and post-secondary partners – including Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Douglas College, College of the Rockies and Simon Fraser University – to pilot a new online writing support service called *WriteAway*. This service will allow students from B.C. post-secondary institutions access to real-time online help from experienced writing tutors. In addition to providing funding for the pilot, the Learning Centre is a member of the Concept Committee, which is developing the service model for *WriteAway*. ☉

## COMMUNITY DIGITIZATION

### The Learning Centre is working with organizations across B.C. to build a digital infrastructure enabling communities to share their stories.

#### ► B.C. History Digitization Program

In 2012, the British Columbia History Digitization Program (BCHDP) surpassed the \$1-million funding mark as it continued to help B.C. communities promote their unique histories to audiences around the world.

The BCHDP provides matching grants to support projects that make B.C. historical materials freely accessible to the public.

This year nearly \$188,000 in matching funds was allocated for 23 projects throughout the province. In total, the BCHDP has awarded more than \$1 million for 120 grants over the past six years, representing a significant investment in B.C. communities.

Sixty-six of the 120 grants given out over the years have supported projects based outside of the Lower Mainland; nearly one-third of the projects have focused on the digitization of photographs.

**More Info:** [ikebarberlearningcentre.ubc.ca](http://ikebarberlearningcentre.ubc.ca)

#### Indigitization

The Indigitization Project is helping First Nations communities prepare their cultural materials for the digital age. The project is a partnership between the Learning Centre, the First Nations Technology Council, the First Nations House of Learning at UBC, the Museum of Anthropology (MOA), the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies (SLAIS) and three B.C. First Nations

communities – Heiltsuk, Ktunaxa and 'Namgis – that have helped shape the project's directions and goals.

**More Info:** [indigitization.ca](http://indigitization.ca)

#### B.C. Digitization Coalition

The B.C. Digitization Coalition is a community-based partnership between organizations and stakeholders interested in improving access to cultural and historical resources in the province. The Learning Centre provides the administrative home, staffing and funding to support the Coalition's activities. Members have invested additional funds for core initiatives, including the redevelopment of the West Beyond the West portal. These services will be launched later in 2012, providing an important infrastructure for digitization projects in B.C.'s rural and remote communities. ☉

**More Info:** [wbtw.ca](http://wbtw.ca)

## COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## The Learning Centre recognizes that local expertise is the key to building capacity and sustainability.

### ► Small Business Accelerator

In November 2010, the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre launched the Small Business Accelerator (SBA) – an online portal curated by business librarians that provides access to resources and information for entrepreneurs and small businesses in B.C.

Nearly a year after its launch, the SBA features more than 100 start-up guides related to 17 industries; it has attracted nearly 22,000 visitors from 91 different communities across B.C., and more than 29,000 visitors across Canada.

In October 2011, the SBA celebrated the entrepreneurial spirit of B.C. by presenting two special speaker events in Vancouver and Kelowna that attracted 580 participants (including in-person and webcast viewers). The *Smart Business, Small Business* speaker sessions were held in conjunction with Small Business Week, organized by the Business Development Bank of Canada.

The SBA also announced expanded public library access to the *Gale Business Plans Handbook* – which provides sample



Paul Cubbon and George Moen spoke at Smart Business, Small Business in Vancouver.

business plans for manufacturing, retail and services – thanks to support from the provincial government's Libraries and Literacy Branch and the British Columbia Libraries Cooperative.

The Irving K. Barber Learning Centre is grateful for the support of the Sutherland Foundation, and the contributions of Libraries and Literacy, the British Columbia Libraries Cooperative and Gale Publishing in these efforts.

**More Info:** [sba-bc.ca](http://sba-bc.ca)

### Rural Community Learning Initiative

The Rural Community Learning Initiative, now in its third year, is a partnership between UBC's Sauder School of Business, the Community Learning Initiative and the Learning Centre. Sauder students participate in service learning projects in rural communities around B.C., matching marketing and business-planning skills with local expertise. More than 286 Sauder students (40 at the MBA level) have worked with communities including Pemberton, Port Alberni, Courtenay, Campbell River, Tofino, Doig River, Ucluelet, Atlin and Terrace. ☺

# CONNECTS

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#### THE LEARNING CENTRE TEAM

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### The SBA – connecting entrepreneurs to B.C. libraries and other support agencies

- 580 virtual and in-person participants at *Smart Business, Smart Business* speaker events
- 600+ Twitter followers
- Virtual community of 800+ organizations and enterprises



a place of mind  
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

