

CONNECTS

Issue 4 | Spring 2006



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS

Making Connections

What's in a name? Quite a bit, actually. Indeed, picking the right one can be an all-important first step in setting the tone for a person, a place – or a publication. As you'll see from this latest Irving K. Barber Learning Centre newsletter, we've taken this advice to heart and adopted a new title: Connects.

CONTENTS

- 2 Reaching Out
- 3 Engineering Excellence, Community Access
- 4 Online Help, Coming Attractions

▶ AS ANY BUDDING PARENT, pet owner or publisher will attest, picking a name can be a tricky proposition. In the case of the Learning Centre newsletter, we wanted something fresh, simple and to-the-point. And so, after mulling over a range of possibilities, we chose Connects.

Why? Because it succinctly sums up what we are working to achieve with the

Learning Centre. Since the Centre's vision was first stated – long before the cranes or construction workers appeared on site to start the building's construction – the overriding concept was that this cutting-edge facility would connect with users at UBC, throughout the province and beyond.

continued on page 2 ▶

► Making Connections

continued from page 1

This latest Learning Centre newsletter highlights some of the steps we're taking to ensure that this vision becomes a reality. For example, the Learning Centre instigated the move to decrease inter-library loans fees for B.C. public and health libraries, a step that will increase and facilitate access to B.C.'s wealth of knowledge for libraries and their users throughout the province (please see page 3). This change was made in response to feedback

received during the Learning Centre's provincial consultations, which included travelling to communities throughout B.C. It's one of many initiatives being undertaken as part of the Learning Centre's 2005 update and summary report, available at www.ikebarberlearningcentre.ubc.ca/Barber.update.2005.pdf.

As always, if you have feedback, please feel free to contact Catherine Quinlan, University Librarian and IKBLC Managing Director at catherine.quinlan@ubc.ca or 604-822-2298; Irving K. Barber, IKBLC Honorary Director, at 604-943-9151 (phone) or 604-943-9200 (fax); or Simon

Neame, IKBLC Coordinator of Programs and Services at simon.neame@ubc.ca or 604-822-3096. And don't forget to check out the Learning Centre's website, www.ikebarberlearningcentre.ubc.ca. Happy reading – and connecting. ☎

Sincerely,

IRVING K. BARBER

OC, OBC, BSF, RPF, LLD (UNBC), LLD (UBC)
Honorary Director

CATHERINE QUINLAN

Managing Director

REACHING OUT

Webcasts feature diabetes research – and much more



Scenes from the Diabetes Research Forum and Live Webcast.

- **INSIGHTS INTO THE WORLD** of diabetes research were available to viewers throughout the province recently, thanks to a webcast sponsored by the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre.

On March 11, the Learning Centre and the UBC Faculty of Medicine, with the support of the Canadian Diabetes Association, presented the second annual Diabetes Research Forum and Live Webcast. The forum, held at UBC's Life Sciences Centre, featured presentations and a round-table involving a group of B.C. researchers.

Brian Rodrigues talked about the causes of cardiovascular disease during diabetes, while Christopher McIntosh and Garth Warnock reviewed new therapies for type 2 diabetes and cell transplantation therapies, respectively.

The talks were followed by a panel discussion, where the three speakers were joined by Geoff Payne, John McNeill and Kendall Ho. The researchers answered questions from the audience in atten-

dance, as well as from webcast viewers who submitted queries during the presentation.

If you missed the forum, don't worry – it's archived for viewing at www.ikebarberlearningcentre.ubc.ca. Other recent events have also been made available to the public via webcasts. In February, for example, the Learning Centre sponsored webcasts for a lecture featuring renowned Vancouver artist Stan Douglas and a panel that examined

city design as part of the Living the Global City series.

And in May, the Learning Centre sponsored a live webcast of the Price-waterhouseCoopers 19th Annual Global Forest and Paper Industry Conference. Entitled Global Sourcing, Local Impacts, the event featured presentations on topics including economic and market outlooks, supply chain management and views from the industry's leading executives. ☎

YOUR LINK TO THE LEARNING CENTRE – TOLL-FREE

The resources of the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre really are at your fingertips. First, you can visit www.ikebarberlearningcentre.ubc.ca (which will soon be redesigned) and find out about the latest

developments with a few clicks of your mouse.

But now there's more, thanks to the Learning Centre's new toll-free telephone number: 1-888-IKBLCTR (or 1-888-452-5287).

The number was launched in April, with initial services including an overview of the Learning Centre's hours of operation along with contact details for the InfoDIRECT document delivery staff.

This is just the beginning, as more services will be made available via the 1-888 number.

Stay tuned for more dialling developments.



Earth Tech's award-winning system for the Learning Centre.

ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE

Hot Learning Centre design lands award for Earth Tech

- **LIFELONG LEARNING** and connecting with communities are some of the key tenets of the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre.

But the facility is also defined by engineering expertise – a fact that was underlined recently with news of a prestigious award.

In March, the Consulting Engineers of British Columbia announced an award of merit for Earth Tech Canada Inc.

Earth Tech adopted a unique approach for the Learning Centre's mechanical systems, which include plumbing, fire

protection and HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning).

The company implemented a thermo active slab system. "What this does is it provides heating and cooling in a manner that is different from conventional systems," says Tony Leung, manager of the facilities division at Earth Tech's Burnaby office.

The Learning Centre's concrete slabs radiate heating and cooling. In the winter, warm water is pumped into plastic pipes embedded in the centre of the slabs. The slabs conduct the heat and reach a consistent temperature that's main-

tained by thermostats to warm the facility. In the summer, a chiller generator produces cold water, which is pumped through the piping to lower the slabs' temperature.

Energy savings are a big part of the equation. For example, chilled water is produced during the night, when electricity costs are lower. Cooler night-time temperatures also contribute to savings. And since the floor slabs provide the heating and cooling, air only needs to be supplied for ventilation – resulting in smaller and cheaper ventilation equipment.

The design of the mechanical systems also meshes with UBC's sustainable development policy.

The active slab system is up and running in phase one of the Learning Centre, and will be used for phase two as well. "Once this building's complete, it will be the largest system of its kind in Canada," Leung says. 🌱

COMMUNITY ACCESS

Fee cuts, pilot project target users throughout B.C.

- **THERE'S BEEN** some good news recently – courtesy of efforts led by the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre – for library aficionados throughout the province keen to tap into UBC Library's vast resources.

First, interlibrary loan fees have been reduced for all public libraries and most health libraries throughout B.C. The fees

fell to \$5 from a previous range of \$7.50 to \$12. As a result of the Learning Centre's leadership, all B.C. post-secondary libraries have also agreed to eliminate interlibrary loan charges for books.

These changes have been in place since the beginning of this year. Meanwhile, near the end of March, a pilot project involving Prince George

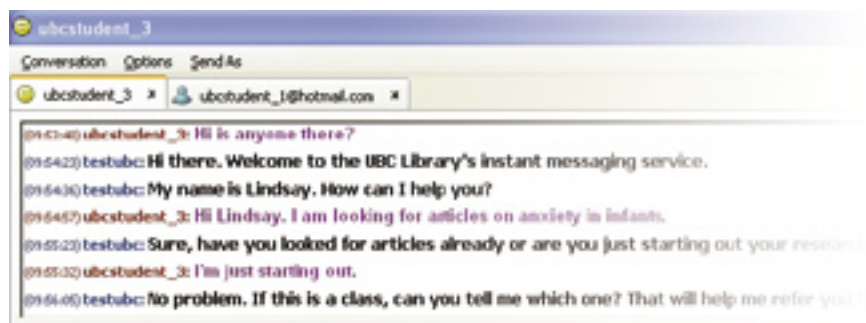
Public Library got underway involving the free delivery of UBC Library books and articles to participants living in rural areas. When the pilot is completed, the goal is to expand the service throughout B.C.

This project is part of the Learning Centre's InfoDIRECT program, a new service – in partnership with libraries across B.C. – that provides direct delivery of UBC Library items to users.

These developments were made following the Learning Centre's provincial consultations, when access to UBC Library for users around the province emerged as a key issue. 🌱

ONLINE HELP

Virtual Reference – the IM way



► Is IM it?

IF YOU'RE OVER 30, maybe not. But if you're younger and tech-savvy, then there's a good chance that IM – or instant messaging – plays a big role in the way you communicate with others. And recently, UBC Library and the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre entered this brave new IM world.

IM, essentially a real-time, online chat service, has come of age in just a few short years. Recent surveys indicate that 46% of "Generation Y" (ages 18 to 27) use instant messaging more than e-mail, while 50% of Canadian youth aged 15 to 17 prefer IM to the telephone or e-mail.

For younger generations, IM is the "communication tool of choice," says eHelp Librarian Lindsay Ure, who led an instant messaging pilot project at UBC Library.

During the past two months, Ure and her eHelp colleague Katherine Miller managed the pilot, which involved using IM

to communicate with users needing online reference assistance. "I think what's really cool here is we're responding to our users immediately," Miller says.

The project, the first of its kind for an academic library in B.C., was scheduled to run from February 6 to mid-April, and is likely to commence again in the summer.

The pilot used open source software called Gaim, which allows a librarian to open and monitor a number of IM accounts from a variety of providers, all in one window.

On their own initiative, various subject librarians at UBC have also used instant messaging for specific inquiries.

By mid-March, the IM pilot had received 61 requests to add UBC Library to users' IM "buddy lists," and 31 instant messages had been received.

The length of the online chats ran anywhere from two minutes to an hour, with the average lasting about 18 minutes. ☎

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Make sure to check out the next issue of *Connects*, which will be available this November. This special edition will serve as the Learning

Centre's formal annual report, and feature an overview of the Centre's developments as well as a preview of upcoming plans and prospects.

CONNECTS

is published by the
Irving K. Barber Learning Centre
at the University of British Columbia

EDITOR

Glenn Drexhage

DESIGN

KÜBE Communication
Design Inc.

PRINTING

Benwell Atkins

OFFICE

Irving K. Barber Learning Centre
1961 East Mall
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1

For further information:

T 604 822 3310

F 604 822 3242

E catherine.quinlan@ubc.ca

www.ikebarberlearningcentre.ca

