their Lives for the Common 'Good'

Michael Doebeli applies a mathematical model to bacteria to show how self-destructive traits can evolve in biological populations—and create more damaging infections.

Spiders Who Eat Together, Stay Together

UBC zoologists discover that social spiders that work together and capture larger prey can stretch the laws of nature and develop enormous colonies.

Canada's First Goldschmidt Conference Highlights Science Get-Togethers

UBC Science hosted two top-notch scientific gatherings this summer. In July, Dean Simon Peacock welcomed researchers to Canada's first Goldschmidt Conference, the world's largest and most prestigious geochemistry conference. The event was hosted by Canada Research Chair Dominique Weis and the Department of Earth and Ocean Sciences. Later in the same month, UBC and the Department of Botany helped put on Botany Without Borders, the annual get together of the Canadian and American botanical societies. The events brought nearly 3,000 delegates to Vancouver.

UBC Sci T-Shirts Up for Grabs

We want your feedback on Science Connect, and have the swag to prove it: t-shirts (designed by the Science Undergraduate Society), water bottles and business card holders. And congratulations to last issue's prize winners: Robert Blake (BA 1961, Math) and Wang Yip (BSc 2008, Computer Science).

FEATURED ALUMNI

Sashko Despotovski (2003, Genetics Honours)

Current position: Investment banker, health care and technology, Ascenta Capital Partners Inc.

Best UBC memory: Being bitten by the discovery bug and publishing manuscripts. Then learning how finance is the backbone of every industry. And cofounding the UBC Salsa Club in 2002—a club that's still active!

Favourite professor or course: Daniel Pauly, for encouraging me to think freely. Also some fantastic researchers with the Jack Bell Research Centre at Vancouver General Hospital, Vincent Duronio, K-John Cheng and Gang Li. I also owe a tip of the hat to the UBC ethics group—philosophy is the origin of science!

Importance of science background: I'm highly specialized in health care and biotechnology sector finance, given the science training I obtained at UBC and the University of the Fraser Valley. That, along with my network, allowed me to be positioned as somewhat of an expert, especially with the tremendous support from Ascenta and several mentors. The past years have allowed me to vet deals in Europe and North America, and deal with groups from the Middle East, Africa and Asia. It's been quite an uplifting experience, and a great journey.

Most memorable experience after graduation: Learning how to apply all my classroom learning to the real world. Travels and interaction with colleagues from many corners of the world. Getting a good sense of how the world functions.

Overall UBC Science experience: It was well spent exploring and learning. I look forward to guiding new graduates with their careers.

CLASS CONNECTIONS

1960's

Arv Hardin's (1963, Chemistry, 1970 Chemistry PhD) career in chemistry evolved from investigating poisonous and spontaneously combustible gases as a senior undergraduate to graduate studies in the infrared characteristics of ices at low temperatures, surface sciences, environmental sciences, catalysis, oil sands technology, and petrochemicals. During that process Hardin also shifted professional focus—from being a scientist to being a technical manager and consultant in research and development and strategic planning. He also got married and had three sons, now with four grandchildren! From 1993 to 2005 Hardin worked for the Saudi Arabian Basic Chemicals Corporation in Riyadh. Currently semi-retired, Hardin is still active—conducting some regional and international business management consulting. "I could have never imagined as a student where my career would take me, but my education at UBC prepared me well. Many mentors and teachers helped and guided me in so many ways."

1980's

Randy Roesler (1984, Computer Science) wanted to be a physicist but found his talents leaned more toward bits and bytes than neutrinos and quarks. And with the high tech industry continuously re-inventing itself, he's been well entertained as he has moved from one technology to another. From a start building simple maintenance programs, today Roesler is a software architect and team manager helping companies design, build and sell enterprise applications.

2000's

After earning her degree, **Vanessa Yu (2004, Biology)** followed her passion for health care by taking health sciences courses and graduating from the cytotechnology program at the British Columbia Cancer Agency. Diagnostic cytology involves studying cells to detect cancer. "The work is visual, interesting and challenging," says Yu. A cytotechnologist is responsible for the microscopic examination of slides prepared from specimens, and may even collect, prepare