Computer Science Lectures Held for the First Time in Newly-completed Hugh Dempster Pavilion

On January 4, 2005, UBC Computer Science students and professors alike began the first day of Term 2 in the newly completed Hugh Dempster Pavilion located at 6245 Agronomy Road. The Pavilion houses three lecture theatres containing 160, 120, and 80 seats respectively as well as two smaller 40-seat rooms, and unifies the administrative and teaching centres of the growing UBC Department of Computer Science.

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The Hugh Dempster Pavilion was constructed as a result of the *Double the Opportunity* initiative and funding launched by the provincial government in 2002 and intended to double the number of computer science and engineering graduates in BC.

Newly-appointed Department Head William Aiello says the opening of the Dempster Pavilion is a significant step towards unifying administrative, teaching and research activities at one centralized location on campus as well as providing a hub for the growing computer science community. In addition it will provide a much needed space to host formal talks and other Departmental events. A second building that will house research labs and administrative offices for both the Department of Computer Science and the Institute for Computing Information and Cognitive Systems is also nearing completion.

The Pavilion is named after Hugh Dempster, a former computer science professor, who was renowned for his compassion for undergraduates and was one of the original four faculty members to join the Department in 1968. He retired in 1993 and worked tirelessly with the Anglican Church on social justice issues until passing away in September 2002.

The official opening of the Hugh Dempster Pavilion and the Computer Science/ICICS expansion is anticipated to take place some time in April with a definitive date yet to be set.

*UBC Computer Science is among the top Computer Science Departments in Canada, recognized internationally for excellence in research and teaching with a conscious focus on interdisciplinary programs. The Department encourages diversity both within its community and areas of study, and plays a leadership role in outreach activities to champion the understanding and integration of Computer Science into all aspects of society.*

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