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 Contact

Carine Vindeirinho, Development Officer

UBC Faculty of Science

T: 604.822.3444

F: 604.822.2391

E: [carine.v@ubc.ca](mailto:carine.v@ubc.ca)

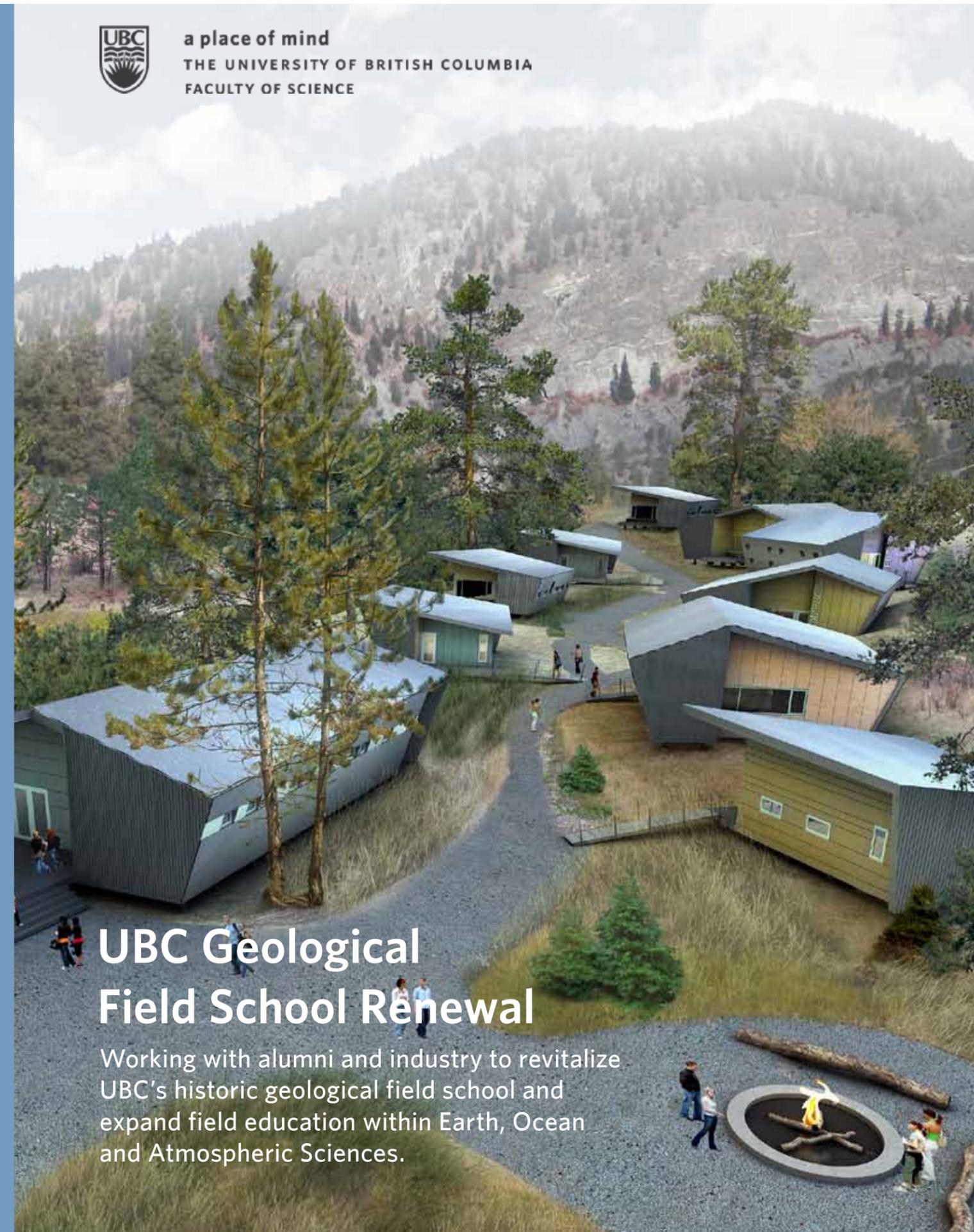
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FACULTY OF SCIENCE



## UBC Geological Field School Renewal

Working with alumni and industry to revitalize UBC's historic geological field school and expand field education within Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences.

# A three-season camp to enhance field education, attract community users, and support students for years to come.

Fieldwork--data collection, constructing measured sections, interpreting geologic features, and mapping--has been incorporated into UBC earth sciences curricula for almost 100 years.

Since the 1950s, the Department of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences has based its primary geological field school on a site near Oliver, British Columbia. Thanks to the generosity of alumni and industry partners (including companies such as Mobil and Shell) the University was able to purchase the property in 1961.

The facilities on the site range in age from 35 to 60 years, and are in urgent need of replacement. Maintaining the buildings--built or moved onto the property between 1950 and 1970--has become a significant drain on the Department's finances. The facilities' dilapidated condition restricts their use, and the need for continual repair diverts resources from financing the student field trips and geological fieldwork that are a vital and formative part of a geoscientist's education.

The planned \$2.5 million UBC Geological Field School redevelopment and associated \$500,000 fieldwork support funds will not only revitalize the current site, but also ensure that all students have access to the quality field training prized by the mineral industry.

## A Rich Heritage, Rich Potential

UBC's current geological field school facilities consist of metal trailers on skids, and wooden shacks. The uninsulated shacks are adorned with the names of generations of UBC Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences graduates

who have become the foundation of Vancouver's minerals community. The 88-acre camp is uniquely situated to take advantage of the varied local geology and is adjacent to a new provincial park in which many mapping exercises are conducted. The property also boasts a retired gold mine which has been mapped by UBC students for more than 40 years.

UBC earth sciences students pay approximately \$1,000 to attend the field school--costs that have increased steadily. Meanwhile, field experience has become more and more important to industry as demographic trends thrust geoscientists into senior roles at earlier stages of their careers.

## Geological Field School Renewal

The UBC geological field school redevelopment will transform the current site into a multi-use, three-season facility, creating an educational resource for both UBC campuses and institutes of higher education in British Columbia, Western Canada and beyond. The new complex will consist of 12 buildings (including a cookhouse, study space and bunkhouses) with a combined area of approximately 9,000 square feet. A model for sustainability, the new buildings will reuse components of the existing structures and incorporate green technologies for heating and water collection where possible.

A novel canted wall design staggers sleeping bunks and maximize use of the building volumes. This approach was honoured with a 2012 Award of Excellence by Canadian Architect magazine.

The stunning new design will help Field School attract users from the community. This will provide income to offset maintenance costs. The Field School facility used to bring in up to \$18,000 per year in rental fees from external users. Because of the site's current condition, it has not been rented out in two years. Until it is rebuilt, the facility will not bring in rental income--income that is needed to maintain the facility and offset student costs. Surveys of past and prospective show that a safe new facility would attract significant numbers of new users, and would generate up to \$20,000 a year in much-needed funds.

The revitalized geological field school and associated support funds will enable us to offer students a field experience on par with the facilities and programming offered in UBC's Earth Sciences Building, a \$75 million new home for the Department of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences. The complete renewal brought on by both projects will be not only help UBC meet growing demand for geoscientists and industry professionals, but also ensure that students have access to world-class field training at a reasonable cost.

## Environmental Education

The Field School is adjacent to the White Lake Grasslands Protected Area, which provides important habitat for many of British Columbia's red and blue-listed wildlife and plant communities. The field school property itself is home to sensitive ecosystems and endangered species. UBC has access agreements with BC Parks to conduct research in the area--long a focus of conservation efforts in the Okanagan. UBC,



SFU and Environment Canada use the Field School as a base for biodiversity and ecological research. Redevelopment of the site, and reestablishing its role as a year-round field school, will help ensure the survival of these habitats. With accommodations and teaching space for up to 80 students and 10 instructors, there will be an opportunity to use the new Field School as a base for undergraduate studies in biology, sustainability, environmental sciences and related subjects at UBC and other institutions.

## Achieving the Goal

The Field School renewal project offers an opportunity for alumni and supporters to ensure that UBC earth sciences students remain among the most sought-after in Canada, and in the world. A gift towards the \$2.5 million building fund or the \$500,000 educational enhancement fund will help to maintain and expand Vancouver's well-earned reputation as a leader in mineral exploration. Gifts can be designated to support the new buildings, create awards for undergraduates to offset field school costs, or to fund a dedicated field school instructor.

Naming opportunities for the Field School project are also available.

Field School Complex	\$1 million
Dining Hall	\$500,000
Mapping Cabin	\$250,000
Faculty Cabins	\$100,000 each
Student Cabins	\$100,000 each