The board of governors has approved a 2009/2010 budget framework that funds program growth at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, increases student financial aid, and cushions the impact of the deteriorating world economy on disbursements from the university's endowment fund. Story, page 3

President Appointee Process

Turpin offered third term. The board of governors has accepted unanimously a recommendation from the university's committee for the appointment of the president that Dr. David Turpin be offered a third term as president. During the presidential review process, the UVic community demonstrated extraordinary support for Turpin's continued leadership. Turpin became UVic's sixth president in 2000. Story, page 2

CRAIGDARROCH RESEARCH AWARDS

Research leaders feted

An international pioneer in crystal growth, a scholar of English literature, a leader in European studies, an advocate for Aboriginal child health, and a university-wide team that assists people with special needs are winners of the University of Victoria's 2009 Craigdarroch Research Awards. Story, page 5

Rethinking The Economy

Forum explores co-operative economic models

The UVic-based BC Institute for Co-operative Studies is a catalyst in efforts to recast our economic life on the basis of community values. Story, page 4

Sustainability

We're officially green

UVic's well-established commitment to sustainability in teaching, research, operations and community partnerships has been formalized with approval of the university's sustainability policy by the board of governors. Story, page 4

On The Ring Website

All the news that's fit to post

For more stories that we couldn't squeeze into the print edition, go to The Ring website—ring.uvic.ca—where you'll find:

• Wind power research gets funding surge (UVic's role in the national Wind Energy Strategic Network)
• New residence building (106-bed dorm to be built)
• Mainframe decommissioned (the end of an era in computing)
• Ring survey results (we heard you loud and clear)

Reading In The Digital Environment

Uvic-led collaboration to study knowledge environments for the future

By Patty Pitts

From ancient cave paintings to hand-printed books to Facebook, people have been reading in various forms for thousands of years. But what will the act of reading look like in the future and what can we learn from the past to ensure digital applications enhance and expand the reading experience?

Ray Siemens, Canada Research Chair in Humanities Computing, gave visiting federal officials a sneak peek at the future during a March 16 ceremony to announce nearly $2.5 million in funding through the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Major Collaborative Research Initiative (MCRI) program for the “Implementing New Knowledge Environments” (INKE) project that Siemens is leading.

With Andrew Saxton, MP for North Vancouver and parliamentary secretary to the president of the Treasury Board, and Chad Gafiled, SSHRC president, looking on, Siemens demonstrated one of the tools his team will use as part of their project research.

A swirl of words appeared on a computer screen, representing the frequency and context of pre-selected words or phrases appearing in a designated work—in this case, a Shakespeare play. Siemens pointed out how the tool could help a graduate student conducting research on recurrent word use or themes in a body of work or a journalist wanting to quickly compare themes in US President Barack Obama’s inaugural address to those of previous presidents.

“...What we’re specifically looking at is how to read better, how to communicate better, and how to write better,” said Siemens. “We’re looking at implementing new knowledge environments for the future.”

The seven-year INKE project is assisted by an additional $10.4 million from institutional and research partners. Siemens and his international team of 35 researchers and 21 partner agencies will develop a better understanding of literacy in the digital age.

“We describe our work as ‘the future of the history of the book,’” says Siemens.

90% Reduction Of Landfill Waste By Black Stilt Coffee House Made With Doucette’s Assistance

By Diianne George

Working as a barista to fund her university studies has paid off in unexpected ways for biology student—and World Student Environmental Summit co-chair—Jill Doucette. On March 24 she placed first in the national Nicol entrepreneurship competition for her green business consulting practice, which focuses on the coffee, restaurant and retail industries.

“Winning this award is such an honour, and I’ve gained confidence in myself and my business idea,” says Doucette. “Through the mentorship and contacts I’ve made at UVic and at the Nicol awards, I feel I’ve learned what it takes to be an entrepreneur

Student wins national award for green consulting business

By Diianne George

Working as a barista to fund her university studies has paid off in unexpected ways for biology student—and World Student Environmental Summit co-chair—Jill Doucette. On March 24 she placed first in the national Nicol entrepreneurship competition for her green business consulting practice, which focuses on the coffee, restaurant and retail industries.

“Winning this award is such an honour, and I’ve gained confidence in myself and my business idea,” says Doucette. “Through the mentorship and contacts I’ve made at UVic and at the Nicol awards, I feel I’ve learned what it takes to be an entrepreneur.

SEE DIGITAL READING P.8

SEE DOUCETTE P.8

University of Victoria
The Board of Governors has accepted Turpin’s leadership, and both the board and the appointment committee believe we are very fortunate to secure one of Canada’s truly exceptional education leaders to lead the university for another term,” says board chair Ray Protti. “The university has made great strides onto the national and international stages in the past eight years, and his continued presence as president will allow us to build on those substantial achievements. In addition, as UVic faces the significant challenges posed by our current economic climate, it can do so with confidence, knowing that it has a strong, experienced and innovative leader in place for the future.”

The appointment committee’s recommendation that Turpin be re-appointed was unanimous. It noted that the president “possesses a rare combination of strategic vision, excellence as a communicator and detailed understanding and knowledge of the university in all its aspects.”

The recommendation came after an extensive performance review that revealed very high levels of support from all constituencies.

The consultation process included advisory ballots of UVic faculty and staff as well as interviews with 32 government, academic and community leaders at the national, provincial and local levels.

Comments from individuals both inside and outside the university were exceptionally consistent, characterizing Turpin as thoughtful, strategic, energetic, enthusiastic and skilled in the future.

The committee concluded that Turpin “is extremely effective as an advocate and an ambassador for our university.”

During the presidential review process, the UVic community demonstrated extraordinary support for Turpin’s continued leadership.

With Turpin’s guidance, UVic has grown in size and stature and has emerged as an international leader in teaching and research. A number of new degree programs have been established, especially at the graduate level; student financial assistance has more than doubled; sponsored research funding across the disciplines has more than tripled to reach $106 million in the last fiscal year. Turpin also led UVic in the formulation and renewal of its strategic vision and in the development of a campus plan.

The rapidly changing external environment will present Turpin and the university with some significant challenges in the years ahead, UVic must become increasingly competitive when it comes to attracting both domestic and international students. It will continue to remove barriers to access by increasing financial aid to all students, reaching out to students from non-traditional backgrounds and constructing additional residences and athletic and recreational facilities.

The university will continue to recruit and retain the very best faculty and staff to support its position as a research powerhouse; large enough to have the critical mass necessary for research and graduate education, yet small enough to nurture a supportive learning environment for students. Finally, there will be financial challenges ahead and prudent financial management will be crucial.

“I am deeply honoured to be part of this remarkable institution,” says Turpin. “Serving as UVic president has been the most rewarding part of my professional career. I am extremely fortunate to be a member of the UVic community and proud to have been asked to continue as president.”

Turpin, 52, holds a PhD in botany and oceanography from UBC. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and an accomplished teacher. Born on Vancouver Island, he came to UVic from Queen’s University in Ontario, where he held a number of senior administrative posts including vice-principal (academic) and dean of arts and science. Turpin became UVic’s sixth president in 2000.

More information: http://web.uvic.ca/ring/university/presapptcomm.htm

President Turpin to be reappointed

UVic advocate for Indigenous families honoured

By TARA SHARPE

Dr. Jessica Ball (child and youth care) is the recipient of the Confederation of University Faculty Associations of BC’s (CUFA BC) 2009 Academic of the Year Award, and no doubt a certain circle of Indigenous parents would offer up a rousing ovation. An internationally recognized expert in Aboriginal child health and development, Ball is also particularly well known for her five-year inaugural study (2003–08) of Indigenous fathers, a project involving 80 First Nations and Métis fathers of young children.

The project on Indigenous fathers was one of seven undertaken nationally by the Father Involvement Research Alliance, a University-Community Research Alliance (CURA) study examining the nature of fatherhood. Ball’s efforts were oriented around the revitalization of Indigenous fatherhood, and she receives acclaim from her peers for this approach.

“She is a role model for all of us as the quintessential community-oriented academic,” says Dr. Marion Ehrenberg, director of clinical training in UVic’s Department of Psychology and one of the award nominators.

An example of Ball’s community-university approach was the engagement of an Aboriginal team from five partner communities in BC to advise her on the study; those fathers reviewed project plans and data interpretations as well as made recommendations such as the critical need for a documentary DVD (produced as Fatherhood: Indigenous Men’s Journeys) and booklets for Anglo-Aboriginal men telling their fatherhood stories in their own words.

“Jessica’s work truly exemplifies the principles of this award,” says Dr. Leslie Brown, associate dean of research for the Faculty of Human and Social Development and a fellow nominee. “She deserves this honour in so many ways, and particularly for her commitment to the protection of cultural diversity, for her research and perseverance, and her flexibility and creativity.”

Ball made sure her findings were readily available to her most important audience—parents and childlhood educators. She created a user-friendly website (jessicalball.ca) providing information on early education and the incorporation of Indigenous knowledge in programs for children and families.

She prepared a series of well-designed reports as hand-outs for community meetings and workshops. And, to accompany the DVD, she compiled a tool-kit of booklets, posters, fact sheets, tips and articles. Over 3,000 resource packages have been distributed nationally and internationally.

Committed to bringing research evidence on policy decision-making, she has presented her research findings to numerous federal policy roundtables and parliamentary committees and has received invitations from scholars and community leaders as far away as Hawaii, Australia and Bangladesh.

“She has earned trust and respect from community members, academics and educators through her many years of engaging in sound research with the intention of benefiting Aboriginal communities and global society as a whole,” says UVic’s fifth president, Dr. Sandra de Finney (child and youth care). “Jessica’s example extends across all borders.”

After completing three post-graduate degrees at the University of Cali- Page 2 The Ring April 2009

formia, Berkeley, Ball has spent more than 20 years teaching in universities in Asia and North America and is the co-author of three books as well as many journal articles and book chapters.

Ball is also recipient of the 2009 Craigdarroch Research Award for Research Communication (see story, page 5).
UVic prof headed for space?  
Steeves selected as Canadian astronaut candidate

BY CAMILLA GREGERSEN

Dr. Geoffroy Steeves, a faculty member in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, is one of 16 candidates vying for two spots as Canada’s newest astronauts. They were selected from among 5,351 applicants.

When Steeves was a child, his grandparents bought him all sorts of books. “I was always drawn to the ones about space exploration,” he says. He even remembers doing a school project on the Voyager spacecraft.

In 1992, when Steeves was an undergraduate, the Canadian Space Agency put a call out for recruits. This captured his imagination and, ever since, he’s been building his skills for the next opportunity to apply. He continued his post-secondary education, eventually receiving a PhD from the University of Alberta in 2001. He also began diving, frequently diving at Ogden Point and Race Rocks. He started flying at the Victoria Flying Club in 2005, and received his commercial pilot’s license and multi-engine instrument rating in 2009.

Final candidates for Canadian astronauts are mostly scientists, pilots, and medical doctors—and many more than one of these. The space agency looks for individuals showing dedication and having broad interests, because they need the ability to react instantly to any situation, then turn around and perform methodical research.

This time around the Canada Space Agency is looking for astronauts to go to the International Space Station, which is nearly completed. The most appealing part about this opportunity for Steeves is the chance to do scientific experiments in entirely different settings, collaborating with scientists from around the world.

It has been a long process for Steeves. The candidates submitted written applications in May and June 2008, and have supplemented them with more information when requested. In the fall, interviews were conducted at the Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics and medical tests were given at CFR Equiopol.

This spring Steeves and the other candidates had a week in Montreal, where they learned to use the Canada Arm 2 robotic arm and had a series of IQ tests. They also went through challenges used by the military for air crew selection when testing fighter pilots. They have been tested on their swimming and diving abilities, including an exercise that requires them to swim to the bottom of a pool and fit as many pieces into a block as possible. One test had them exiting a helicopter that was under water, and they were graded not on whether they exited successfully but on whether they followed the instructions precisely.

Testing continued in Halifax, with a day-long lesson in damage control, including fighting fires, floods and hazardous materials.

After that they had to perform their newly learned skills in a simulator for hours on end. “You know it’s a simulation,” Steeves says, “but once the freezing cold water hits, your body still reacts as if it’s in danger.”

The following week was taken up with medical testing about which Steeves says, “you have no control over whether or not they pass.”

The competition is nearly over and the Canada Space Agency will be announcing the final choices for the positions in May.

Further information: www.asc-csa.gc.ca/eng/astronauts/

UVic budget framework addresses growth and economic uncertainty

BY PATTY PITTS

The University of Victoria’s Board of Governors has approved a 2009/2010 budget framework that funds program growth at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, increases student financial aid, and cushions the impact of the deteriorating world economy on disbursements from the university’s endowment fund.

The 2009/10 budget framework is based on an operating budget of $397 million, a provincial grant of $177.7 million, in addition $882,000 in student financial aid. This is just over 10% of the university’s endowment fund.

The framework also provides for an additional $801,000 in student financial aid to maintain UVic’s position among the top 25 per cent of Canadian universities in this area. Another $300,000 is allocated to UVic’s library to ensure that subscriptions and periodicals remain current. A further $3.4 million will be allocated to positions that do not have on-going commitments, including potentially reduced payouts from the university’s endowment funds due to global market losses.

This budget framework maintains the quality of our programs and our commitment to student support, while, at the same time, it reflects the current climate of economic uncertainty,” says UVic President David Turpin. “A higher than anticipated provincial grant will greatly assist us to ensure that most of the benefits distributed through our endowment fund will be maintained for 2009/10 despite losses due to the worldwide economic downturn.

Although UVic is not immune to the world’s market fluctuations when it comes to our investments, through prudent financial management we have been able to avoid some of the worst effects,” says Associate Vice-President Financial Planning and Operations Kristi Simpson. “We are still assessing the precise impact on our 2009 endowment disbursements through the University of Victoria Foundation, which will approve its budget later this year.”

The framework contains a 2-per-cent increase in tuition fees, in keeping with the BC Consumer Price Index inflation rate. This increase brings annual domestic arts and science undergraduate tuition to $4,673 from $4,400. Graduate annual tuition rises to $4,853 from $4,646 effective May 1, 2009.

The UVic budget framework also includes modest increases in child care, housing and parking fees. A portion of parking fee revenue will be used to expand the employee subsidized bus pass program, create more on-campus housing and build new motorcycle shelters. These initiatives build on the success of UVic’s transportation demand management plan which has resulted in a 22-per-cent drop in single-occupancy vehicles travelling to and from campus since 2006.

The framework also provides for financing of 106 dormitory-style residence rooms to be built on campus by September 2010 to increase the supply of affordable, conveniently located housing for students.

The UVic prof headed for space?  
Steeves selected as Canadian astronaut candidate

BY CAMILLA GREGERSEN

Dr. Geoffroy Steeves, a faculty member in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, is one of 16 candidates vying for two spots as Canada’s newest astronauts. They were selected from among 5,351 applicants.

When Steeves was a child, his grandparents bought him all sorts of books. “I was always drawn to the ones about space exploration,” he says. He even remembers doing a school project on the Voyager spacecraft.

In 1992, when Steeves was an undergraduate, the Canadian Space Agency put a call out for recruits. This captured his imagination and, ever since, he’s been building his skills for the next opportunity to apply. He continued his post-secondary education, eventually receiving a PhD from the University of Alberta in 2001. He also began diving, frequently diving at Ogden Point and Race Rocks. He started flying at the Victoria Flying Club in 2005, and received his commercial pilot’s license and multi-engine instrument rating in 2009.

Final candidates for Canadian astronauts are mostly scientists, pilots, and medical doctors—and many more than one of these. The space agency looks for individuals showing dedication and having broad interests, because they need the ability to react instantly to any situation, then turn around and perform methodical research.

This time around the Canada Space Agency is looking for astronauts to go to the International Space Station, which is nearly completed. The most appealing part about this opportunity for Steeves is the chance to do scientific experiments in entirely different settings, collaborating with scientists from around the world.

It has been a long process for Steeves. The candidates submitted written applications in May and June 2008, and have supplemented them with more information when requested. In the fall, interviews were conducted at the Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics and medical tests were given at CFR Equiopol.

This spring Steeves and the other candidates had a week in Montreal, where they learned to use the Canada Arm 2 robotic arm and had a series of IQ tests. They also went through challenges used by the military for air crew selection when testing fighter pilots. They have been tested on their swimming and diving abilities, including an exercise that requires them to swim to the bottom of a pool and fit as many pieces into a block as possible. One test had them exiting a helicopter that was under water, and they were graded not on whether they exited successfully but on whether they followed the instructions precisely.

Testing continued in Halifax, with a day-long lesson in damage control, including fighting fires, floods and hazardous materials.

After that they had to perform their newly learned skills in a simulator for hours on end. “You know it’s a simulation,” Steeves says, “but once the freezing cold water hits, your body still reacts as if it’s in danger.”

The following week was taken up with medical testing about which Steeves says, “you have no control over whether or not they pass.”

The competition is nearly over and the Canada Space Agency will be announcing the final choices for the positions in May.

Further information: www.asc-csa.gc.ca/eng/astronauts/

UVic budget framework addresses growth and economic uncertainty

BY PATTY PITTS

The University of Victoria’s Board of Governors has approved a 2009/2010 budget framework that funds program growth at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, increases student financial aid, and cushions the impact of the deteriorating world economy on disbursements from the university’s endowment fund.

The 2009/10 budget framework is based on an operating budget of $397 million, a provincial grant of $177.7 million, increased by over $14 million from last year. The framework provides for an increase of $3.4 million in full-time-equivalent (FTE) undergraduate student positions and 126 FTE graduate positions for a total funded FTE university enrolment of 16,402 and incorporates $8.2 million in spending reductions that were required to balance the deficit budget approved last year.

New or expanded undergraduate programs addressing climate change, technology and society, and public administration will be among those launched in response to emerging social and educational needs. New graduate student programs, including new PhDs in business and anthropol- 

ogy and expanded master’s programs in nursing, social work and education, increase recognizing demand for post- graduate education and the key role that PhDs and master’s students play in a knowledge and innovation-based economy.

The framework provides an additional $801,000 in student financial aid to maintain UVic’s position among the top 25 per cent of Canadian universities in this area. Another $300,000 is allocated to UVic’s library to ensure that subscriptions and periodicals remain current. A further $3.4 million will be allocated to positions that do not have on-going commitments, including potentially reduced payouts from the university’s endowment funds due to global market losses.

This budget framework maintains the quality of our programs and our commitment to student support, while, at the same time, it reflects the current climate of economic uncertainty,” says UVic President David Turpin. “A higher than anticipated provincial grant will greatly assist us to ensure that most of the benefits distributed through our endowment fund will be maintained for 2009/10 despite losses due to the worldwide economic downturn.

Although UVic is not immune to the world’s market fluctuations when it comes to our investments, through prudent financial management we have been able to avoid some of the worst effects,” says Associate Vice-President Financial Planning and Operations Kristi Simpson. “We are still assessing the precise impact on our 2009 endowment disbursements through the University of Victoria Foundation, which will approve its budget later this year.”

The framework contains a 2-per-cent increase in tuition fees, in keeping with the BC Consumer Price Index inflation rate. This increase brings annual domestic arts and science undergraduate tuition to $4,673 from $4,400. Graduate annual tuition rises to $4,853 from $4,646 effective May 1, 2009.

The UVic budget framework also includes modest increases in child care, housing and parking fees. A portion of parking fee revenue will be used to expand the employee subsidized bus pass program, create more on-campus housing and build new motorcycle shelters. These initiatives build on the success of UVic’s transportation demand management plan which has resulted in a 22-per-cent drop in single-occupancy vehicles travelling to and from campus since 2006.

The framework also provides for financing of 106 dormitory-style residence rooms to be built on campus by September 2010 to increase the supply of affordable, conveniently located housing for students.
Sustainability at UVic: Making policy, taking action

BY MELANIE GROVES

The University of Victoria formalized its well-established commitment to sustainability with approval by the Board of Governors of a new campus sustainability policy in March. The policy is an overarching framework that provides a comprehensive approach to sustainability in teaching, research, operations and community partnerships.

The policy takes a “triple bottom line” approach to sustainability, with the goal of ensuring that decisions simultaneously consider and advance ecological balance, economic prosperity and social development.

“I am very pleased that the board has approved the sustainability policy,” says Gayle Gurrill, vice-president finance and operations. “This is a significant moment for the university, and I would like to thank the members of the sustainability policy and plan advisory committee and the staff of the Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability for their dedication and vision in guiding the policy development process.”

The VENUS and NEPTUNE Canada observatories are viewed as continuous power, remotely operated sensors and instruments, and the streaming of real-time data through the Internet. They both involve a national consortium of university, government and private sector partners led by UVic.

The two observatories are viewed as prototypes by countries such as Japan, France, the US, Taiwan and China, who are building or planning ocean observatories of their own. “The eyes of the world are literally on Canada,” says Taylor. “We are in the lead and will be for the next few years.”

About 500 Canadian firms are involved in ocean technologies, exporting some $90 per cent of their goods and services internationally. In BC alone, the ocean technology sector generates about $1.2 billion worth of economic activity. ONCEE will help maintain this international competitiveness and the supply of trained people in four areas of market opportunity: subsea sensors and instruments, ocean observatory system technologies, advanced information technology products and services, and public outreach and education.

“We will build on existing partnerships between observatory researchers and relevant Canadian and foreign organizations,” says Taylor. “Where suitable industry partners can’t be found, ONCEE will help establish new spin-off companies.”

Through ONCEE, Canadian manufacturers will test and demonstrate their components, optimize their products for other markets, and link with other emerging observatories. Suppliers of ocean observatory technologies will market their products more effectively and exploit their world-leading position. Commercialization of new data management systems will create next-generation software applications in many sectors.

ONCEE’s education and outreach initiatives will lead to more informed public policy related to the oceans, greater public understanding of ocean issues, and increased awareness among young people of career opportunities in ocean-related science and technology.

Taylor says that the CEER funding, which is matched by an equal amount from partners, is especially important because it signals the vital linkage between investment in the capital and operating costs of research, and achieving returns on that investment.

“We will continue to work with the federal government to ensure that sustained operating funding is in place for the VENUS and NEPTUNE Canada observatories so that the benefits to Canada are fully realized.”

More information: www.oceannetworks.ca

WHOSE ECONOMY IS IT, ANYWAY?

Uvic forum says time is right for building the co-operative economy

BY ROBYE LISCUMB

Dr. Ana Maria Peredo, director of the UVic-based BC Institute for Co-operative Studies (BICS), looks beyond the recent bad economic news and sees a precious opportunity to do things differently.

“Maybe this is going to allow us to think about the way we put our economy together,” she says. “So much of the effort of governments everywhere seems to be aimed at remaking the economy in the way it was—rebuilding the machine that got us into this mess. Maybe we can rethink our economic life and bring it closer to what we value.”

So what are the options? A wide range of co-operative economy alternatives was explored at a March 7 forum entitled “Remaking the Economy for People’s Eyes,” presented by BICS and the BC Community Economic Development Network.

It brought together leaders in the field of social economy from UVic, BC and England and more than 300 participants to discuss such topics as co-operatives, community-based health promotion, food sovereignty, ecological economies, participatory economics, indigenous economic development and social enterprise. Keynote speakers James Tully (UVic), Mark Roseland (SFU), Helen Haugh (University of Cambridge) and Doug Wright (The Co-operators), challenged the forum with a variety of ideas as to the ways in which economies have been made, how they can be remade, and how they are being re-made, in Canada and abroad.

Practitioners working at the community level led workshops on subjects ranging from ecological economies to First Nations and the economy, all aimed at harnessing the economy to community values.

“There is a lot going on at the grassroots level,” says Peredo. “People are trying to do things differently,” says Peredo. “There are barter systems, community investment funds, co-ops, diverse models of community-based enterprise, micro-credit loan initiatives, local currencies—a whole range of what we call ‘social enterprises.’ These economies are not built on a model of individuals competing in an open market to increase their paper wealth. They are built, instead, on the visions of persons in the community creating real value; they are based on social innovation and on the social assets, investments and goodwill that are the strength of communities.”

The policy and action plan grew out of a review of current campus initiatives and best practices at other institutions, and an intensive 14-month consultation process with students, staff, faculty and community members.

We had an overwhelming response from the campus community in the development of the policy,” says Peredo. “Kudos and thanks for collaborating on sustainability initiatives with individuals, departments and external agencies to build on our successes and leave a legacy for the future,” says Neil Connolly, director of the Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability.

The policy furthers the goals set out in the university’s Strategic Plan which identifies sustainability as a priority.

More info: www.uvic.ca/sustainability
A mechanical engineer, an English scholar, an expert in European studies, an advocate for Aboriginal child health, and a university-community team that assists people with special needs are winners of the University of Victoria’s 2009 Craigdarroch Research Awards.

The winners will be presented with their awards at an event at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria on April 7. Also to be honoured are the two UVic graduates who are sharing the Innovation and Development Corporation’s 2009 entrepreneurship award.

“Choosing winners for the four Craigdarroch awards is always a daunting task for the selection committee,” says Dr. Howard Brunt, UVic’s vice-president for research. “This year the committee decided to exercise its prerogative to award gold medals to two outstanding recipients from very distinct fields, which speaks volumes about the depth and breadth of research talent at our university.”

Dr. Amy Verdun—Department of Political Science

Amy Verdun’s rise through the ranks of the Department of Political Science’s European studies program—now a Jean Monnet Chair herself, Verdun is broadly respected as a leading scholar on European macroeconomic and monetary affairs. Her work—published in a prodigious stream of books, articles and book chapters—is widely cited in Canada and beyond, and is increasingly influential in policy circles.

Dr. Nigel Livingston—Department of English

The remarkable story of CanAssist began in 1999 when Nigel Livingston, a UVic biologist and the father of a daughter with a disability, saw for himself the unique difficulties faced by other children with disabilities. He formed UVATT, now CanAssist, a UVic program that harnesses the ingenuity of faculty, students and staff as well as community volunteers, to develop and deliver customized technology, programs and services for those with special needs. To date, the talented CanAssist team has worked with many hundreds of clients. Unique in North America, CanAssist is a successful and inspiring example of how universities can engage the community to accomplish profound benefits for society.

Dr. Jessica Ball—School of Child and Youth Care

Whether she’s speaking about Aboriginal fathers, Indigenous children’s literacy and development or intercultural partnerships, Jessica Ball has determined that research—hers and that of others—is translated into improved social policies, effective community programs and informed individual decision-making. As a Canadian leader in Aboriginal child health, she is a popular speaker and news media resource, and the author of more than 40 journal articles, book chapters and books. Her passion for applying research to practice is reflected in the range of media materials she has created to make her work accessible and understandable to the public, government and practitioners in community-based programs.

Dr. Anthony Sukow and Andrew Sukow, Advanced E-commerce Research Systems (AERS)

In 2004, in partnership with the Innovation and Development Corporation, brothers Anthony and Andrew Sukow—both UVic students at the time—founded Advanced E-commerce Research Systems (AERS). The company provides statistical analysis for the eBay marketplace, helping buyers and sellers determine what their product is worth. Housed in UVic’s Vancouver Island Technology Park and employing 18 people, AERS is eBay’s only market data reseller and has developed relationships with Fortune 300 companies around the world. The company monitors more than 10 million consumer transactions a day.
Kim Hart-Wensley has crossed McGill Road— from the Fraser Building to the Administrative Services Building— taking her legal skills and knowledge and the extensive administrative experience she gained in the law faculty to her new position as associate vice-president, faculty relations and academic administration.

For the past three-and-a-half years, she has served as associate dean, academic and student relations, in the law faculty.

"I’m very pleased to have Kim join the provost’s office," says Vice-President and Provost Jamie Cassels. "She has the right combination of skills and experience as a lawyer, senior administrator and faculty member to do a superb job in her new role. She’s committed to excellence in our academic mission and fairness in our policies and practices, and I know that the entire university community will appreciate the leadership and support that she will provide."

Hart-Wensley received her LLB from UVic in 1992. Prior to joining the Faculty of Law in 2001 as a senior instructor, she practiced law in Victoria for six years and was a judicial law clerk to the justices of the BC Supreme Court. Her interest in attending law school was rooted in her legal training was rooted in her legal training, her interest in attending law school was rooted in her legal training and her interest in attending law school was rooted in her legal training and her interest in attending law school was rooted in her legal training and her interest in attending law school was rooted in her legal training.

"During the years that Mary Anne Waldron, as associate vice-president of corporate legal affairs, was responsible for these matters, the university gave tremendous, particularly in its research activities," says Hart-Wensley. "It was decided that the responsibilities of her position would be divided between UVic general counsel and the AVP. The general counsel will be able to provide legal services to the university and the extended administration."

Hart-Wensley brings legal, academic, and administrative experience to new AVP position

BY ROBIE LISCOMB
Leaving your mark for future generations.

Dr. Wolf-Michael Roth (curriculum and instruction), Lansdowne Professor, Applied Cognitive Science, has been selected to receive the most prestigious award and highest honor bestowed by the National Association for Research in Science Teaching—the NARST Distinguished Contribution through Research Award (DCRA).

The award recognizes scholarly contributions to, notable leadership in, and substantial impact on science education through their research over a period of at least 20 years. Two UVic Vikes women's basketball team members picked up Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) awards in March. Third-year kinesiology student Kayla Dykstra received the 2009 Nan Coppen Award for women's basketball player of the year, a student who demonstrated great leadership and perseverance during the regular season and her rebounding average set a new team season record. Dykstra was also named to the first OS basketball all-Canadian team.

Teammate and fellow kinesiology student Vanessa Frostbauer won the CIS Tracy MaCLeod Award in recognition of her determination and perseverance. Frostbauer played two seasons for the Vikes before a heart condition caused her to miss the entire 2007/08 season. She came back for the 2008/09 season, playing in all 23 games.

Both Dykstra and Frostbauer are also Academic All-Canadians.

For a complete list of events, visit the online calendar at www.uvic.ca/events.
Macdonald brings extensive experience in the federal halls of power, whether that message involves an ‘ask’ for a particular grant, or it’s gifting for a major appointment with a government agency.

A typical day for Macdonald might start with a scan of the morning news headlines, checking Facebook and Twitter for any announcements with implications for the institution, followed by meetings with external organizations, representatives of the UVic community about funding strategies and projects. This usually includes direct contact with key associations and government officials whether by email, phone or in person.

Macdonald works closely with members of parliament and MLAs, ministers’ offices, deputy ministers and assistant deputy ministers, policy development officials and representatives from both the federal and provincial governments. She is also regularly following up with granting agencies such as the National Research Council of Canada and the Canada Foundation for Innovation as well as post-secondary associations such as the Research Universities Council of BC and the Universities and Colleges of Canada.

In this current period of contraction and global economic downturn, Macdonald promotes UVic as a vital player in moving forward. “An educated workforce is one of the pillars of economic recovery,” says Macdonald. “While funding for universities during such economic times can often come in small packages, we have to be the big ongoing files that need ‘lifting’ in Ottawa and Victoria. I am ready to work hard to leverage all opportunities to ensure we continue to receive recognition as a leading research-intensive university.”

Before coming to Victoria, Macdonald most recently worked for Scherling-Plough, an international pharmaceutical company, and had implemented a highly successful federal business strategy as the corporation’s director of federal affairs from 2005 to 2009.

Macdonald has two political science degrees—a BA from McMaster University and an MA from York University. She looks forward to more introductions to members of the UVic community and may be reached at 250-472-5475 or nikkimac@uvic.ca.