The University of Victoria’s Board of Governors has approved preliminary planning and a funding feasibility study for renovations to the McKinnon Building and the construction of an adjacent new complex. This would dramatically improve access to athletics, recreation and health and wellness programs on campus. The project would also help the university retain and attract students, faculty and staff as well as top athletes. “This is an exciting opportunity for UVic,” says Clint Hamilton, the director of UVic’s Department of Athletics and Recreation. “The improved capacity and quality that can be realized through this project will enhance the academic, research, athletic and recreational experiences for users both on and off campus. It will reduce recreation waitlists, improve the quality and variety of recreation programs, enhance research facilities, provide state-of-the-art high-performance training and competition facilities for varsity athletes and increase our ability to address community needs.”

Tamnis Peterson, an undergradurate student in education, participant in UVic recreation programs and the student manager of intramurals for athletics and recreation, agrees “The lack of space in the current facility is a concern because education, recreation and athletics overlap so much. So there is only a limited amount of time for each activity to take place. With more space comes more time. When more space comes more time...”

Working out on the treadmills is the last Stewart Campbell. Photo: Tom Lee Music

See Athletics Upgrade P.2

Major athletics and rec upgrade planned
Indigenous grad student earns national teaching award

BY EMILY AGOPSOWICZ

Victoria High School teacher and UVic graduate student Catlin Anne Tenning’s unique teaching methods have earned her the respect of her peers, the enthusiasm of her students and now a Governor General’s Award for Excellence in Teaching History.

The award, which celebrates leadership and innovation in teaching Canadian youth about Canada’s past, is given to six teachers each year. It includes a medal and $2,500 prize as well as $1,000 given to the recipient’s school.

Tenning, a member of Chemainus First Nation, has been teaching First Nations studies at Victoria High School for seven years. Teaching “The Lands of Our Ancestors” is a course she offers to grade-12 students that immerse them in the history of local First Nations people. Tenning encourages hands-on learning with field trips outside the classroom to reflect traditional Aboriginal learning. Students hear from different First Nations facilitators and visit local areas such as Beacon Hill Park and Craigflower Creek. They learn how First Nations people have traditionally lived and the issues that they face today.

Every Friday, Tenning’s students form a “Talking Circle,” a traditional form of communication which allows students to share their learning and personal experiences. “It creates a sense of community with the class. We get to know each other really well by the end we create this kind of family,” says Tenning.

Tenning is currently completing a master’s degree in environmental and First Nations education at UVic. The supervision of Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Knowledge and Learning Dr. Lorna Williams, Tenning is writing a thesis examining Aboriginal high school students who are high achievers in physics, chemistry and biology. “I interviewed 10 students and asked them why they decided to take those courses, why they are interested in these subjects, and why they are successful,” says Tenning. “She wants to see whether aspects of Aboriginal culture play a role in their success.”

Tenning hopes to continue teaching Aboriginal studies. “Victoria High has a good history of supporting Aboriginal studies,” she says. “I hope that the Aboriginal program at Vic High becomes more popular and reaches more students.”

ATHLETICS UPGRADE

CONTINUED FROM P1

increasing range of needs

The new project would house the Department of Athletics and Recreation (ATRS), the University Centre, Physical and Health Education (EPHE) and CanAssist. UVic’s leading-edge disabilities support program EPHE would stay in the McKinnon Building, which will be renovated to address the research and teaching laboratory and office needs of the school. A new building would house ATRS and CanAssist.

“At CanAssist we spend a lot of time testing our products and getting feedback from people with disabilities,” says Leo Spalteholz, a graduate student in computer engineering doing academic research at CanAssist. “But the overcrowded labs don’t allow enough space and are too busy for our clients to test our inventions without being distracted. I think it would be fantastic to have one easily accessible centralized lab so our clients don’t have to go through the difficult and often strenuous task of moving to Can Assist’s three temporary labs that are spread across different buildings.”

The university is currently developing a program of requirements and a schematic design and conducting a feasibility study for the first phase of the project, valued at $85.7 million. The facility is expected to be funded through a combination of UVic, government, and philanthropic sources as well as student fees.

This spring the board of governors will make a decision about whether the construction phase of the project will proceed.

Further info: http://communicaus.uvic.ca/media/reproject.php

Penelope McAdam, Professor of English, University of Victoria

Peter McKinnon, Assistant Professor of English, University of Victoria

Governer General’s Award for Excellence in Teaching History

Beginning course at UVIC Starts January 15 for 15 weeks incurs

Tuesday 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

The first class is FREE

To pre-register call Rod 250-721-7453

Beginner courses start at the Taotai Taichi Centre, 855 Catherine St. in Vic West.

Jan 12: Monday 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Jan 12: Thursday 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Jan 12: Saturday 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Jan 20: Thursday 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

For details, visit www.taotai.org

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Governer General’s Award for Excellence in Teaching History
What factors contribute to this re-

Why are some Aboriginal commu-

well-being of Canada's most vulner-

Health Research.

find answers and translate them into

formed three years ago to unite re-

positions our faculty and student

task is to narrow the gap and bring

co-founder of the new centre. "Our

There are profound disparities in

work Environments for Aboriginal

Indigenous communities, seeking to

promoted partnerships with Aboriginal

institutions. He's also co-principal

have forged strong relationships with

The centre already has strong

The centre is a natural fit for

UVic's newest centre

"That's a big group, " says Lalonde.

"We want to build on that so that the

"This is a long journey, " says Reading.

"That's a big group," says Lalonde. "We

"Our role is to get the smartest minds tackling

GAIN research agendas through consulta-

The centre will tap into an exten-

In Canada, it is part of a network

UVic also has a growing Aboriginal

student population. In the last 10

UVic has a strong Aboriginal

next generation of Aboriginal health

The centre's first step is to set a

the centre's first step is to set a

The centre's first step is to set a

BY MELANIE GROVES

The university and the Canadian

smoking co-workers, who can sup-

We've had positive feedback from

smoke on campus," says Peter Sand-

The centre's first step is to set a

SMOKE-FREE CAMPUS

Get set to quit!

BY VALERIE SHORE

Why are some Aboriginal commu-

we are building better than others with

health issues as diabetes, teen-

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1195

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GAIN research agendas through consulta-

13 research institutes within the Ca-

have been set up to launch a

"We've had positive feedback from

"This smoking cessation program is another op-

Research and the Pan-American Health Or-

"This initiative makes it as effective as possible to

"We've had positive feedback from students and staff about our efforts to reduce second-hand

The university and the Canadian Cancer Society (BC and Yukon Division) have teamed up to launch

We've had positive feedback from students and staff about our efforts to reduce second-hand

"This smoking cessation program is another option we're providing to support staff and faculty to

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PRESIDENT’S DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS 2008

An accounting whiz, a business superman, a co-op matchmaker and a dynamic software duo were honoured in December as winners of the 2008 President’s Distinguished Service Awards (PDISA).

“UVic achieves its many successes because of our incredibly talented and dedicated employees,” says UVic President Dr. David Turpin. “We congratulate this year’s winners and thank them for their exceptional efforts and their unique contributions to our success as a university community.”

The awards were created in 2002 to honour the achievements of UVic’s 4,000-plus staff members.

BY TARA SHARPE

CELEBRATING STELLAR STAFF

STEWART ARNEIL AND MARTIN HOLMES

(Humanities Computing and Media Centre, de-
velopers of the successful software program Hot Potatoes, have won the 2008 PDISA Team Award for Innovation, which recognizes a team or group for innovations that improve an educational, administrative or other organizational process through creative approaches.

Arneil initially joined UVic as a programmer in 1992, and Holmes joined as an English lan-
guage instructor in 1995. They first developed Hot Potatoes in 1998, based on some simple tools they had written for their own use in creating language exercises for the Web. The program is like having a semi-intelligent quiz that gives helpful feedback as the student works on the questions.

The duo first introduced Hot Potatoes pub-
licly at a conference in Belgium in 1998, and now the software is on desktops of more than half a million users around the world on every continent except Antarctica.

Due to the product’s popularity, and in con-
sultation with the dean of humanities and UVic’s Innovation and Development Corporation (IDC), Arneil and Holmes formed the independent Half Baked Software, Inc. The university owns a share of the company, and from its profits Arneil and Holmes built the endowment for a new humanities scholarship named for humanities computing’s founding director Dr. Peter Liddell.

Revenue for the company comes from those users working in the commercial sector; those who do not wish to share content or who require a closed system, and those in privately funded local, national and international charities. In May 2008, they raised nearly $8,000 and ben-

SANDY BLIGH is a multi-talented individual who spends her workday piecing together numbers as if they were tiny patches on an elaborate quilt. This PDISA winner is familiar with complex ac-
counting calculations as she is with the societal intricacies hidden in the history of art.

Bligh is UVic’s manager of research account-
ing and in May received a Master of Arts (history in art) from UVic. The research accounting unit, an integral component of UVic’s accounting serv-
ices department, ensures UVic’s responsibilities are met for the financial administration of all ex-
ternally funded sponsored research accounts.

“The award is a sign of the University’s support of UVic’s research, a component of the mission statement,” says Heather Chestnutt, administrator for UVic’s Institute for Dispute Resolution.

Bligh enjoys a good game of golf, but art is her true passion. An award-winning watermedia artist and quilter, she has been involved in local art groups since 1987. Bligh doesn’t pursue this passion just for herself: she also helps coordinate the Sidney Fine Art Show and has been the show designer since the juried show began in 2003. She has been the volunteer coordinator and designer for several art exhibits in the community and has donated paintings to various charities and fund-raising efforts, includ-
ing the UVic United Way campaign.

“She brings her love of art to the work environment,” says members of the Research Administrative Group who helped nominate Bligh for this award. “A visit to Sandy’s office truly inspires.”

The Coolest Milk 2 Go!

High. photo: UVic photo SERVICES
The same strong facilitation skills, thoughtful mentoring of this position demonstrates his belief in the workplace and vice versa. He also plays a key role in volunteering for the downtown community, “says senior instructor Christina Thomas, a student who initially knew exactly how to approachUVic, but across the province. “Rozanne became involved in this program before there were other co-op education programs in British Columbia, and she quickly cornered the market on co-op jobs for molecular biology, biochemistry and microbiology,” says the department’s chair, Dr. Robert Burke. “Other universities saw these successes and set out to emulate them. Thus, our program is not just in the top tier—it is the best in Canada, but felt that if Rozanne had enough confidence in me to take on this adventure, there was no way I could fail.”

General information about the annual PSDA program and past award recipients is available on UVic’s Department of Human Resources website at http://web.uvic.ca/hr/psdas/.

As a champion of co-operative education, McCutcheon was instrumental in adding a position in the BCom office for an experiential learning officer.

DR. ROZANNE POULSON is a talent spotter. As the co-operative education coordinator for UVic’s biochemistry and microbiology department, she recruits students into the department’s co-op program with unrelenting enthusiasm. And she has led the way in doing so not just at UVic, but across the province. “Rozanne became involved in this program before there were other biochemistry co-op programs in British Columbia, and she quickly cornered the market on co-op jobs for molecular biology, biochemistry and microbiology,” says the department’s chair, Dr. Robert Burke. “Other universities saw these successes and set out to emulate them. Thus, our program is not just in the top tier—it is the program at the very top, leading all others.”

Poulson’s daily activities include maintaining professional relationships with a broad spectrum of local, national and international employers who are interested in providing workplace learning environments for the scientists of tomorrow. In 2007/08, she placed nearly 200 students in research positions and within biomedical sectors in communities and agencies ranging from the BC Centre for Disease Control to positions as far afield as Wellington, New Zealand.

Christina Thomas, a student who initially didn’t intend to take the co-op program until she attended one of Poulson’s information sessions, says, “Four years later, after having completed co-op, I have found an unexpected but delightful niche for myself in research. At every step of the way, from resumé building and finding the perfect work terms, to relocating overseas and also resolving registration issues, she has been a tremendous and irreplaceable resource.”

An integral member of the co-operative education program at UVic, Poulson devotes most of her spare time to the communication of scientific knowledge. She co-founded and, for more than two decades, has served as the editor of Tree Physiology, the leading international science journal in its field, and over the past 25 years has edited science books for several international publishing houses. She also volunteers in her community and received a UVic Women’s Recognition Award in 1993. Poulson is being honoured with a PSDA not just for being a talent spotter. She also plays the role of sophisticated and inspiring cheerleader when she needs to. Co-op student Susanne Hrynuik says, “I was hesitant to leave Canada, but felt that if Rozanne had enough confidence in me to take on this adventure, there was no way I could fail.”

“Experience the difference! State of the art dentistry right on the UVic campus, in the Student Union Building. Offering students, faculty and staff the most comprehensive, up to date dental services available. Please call for your next dental appointment! 250-380-1888.”
BY MARIA LIRONI

There will be fewer trips to the library, squinting at years of microfiche, for those who are interested in BC history. Thanks to a partnership between the University of Victoria and the Victoria Times Colonist, the world can now search through historic editions of the newspaper online.

The website, www.britishcolonist.ca, was officially launched on Dec. 11. It contains issues of The British Colonist, one of the oldest daily newspapers in Western Canada and one of the best records of colonial BC. Every page of every issue between the first one, on Dec. 11, 1858, and the end of June 1910 is now on line—a total of 100,544 pages.

"December 11 is the exact date of the 150th anniversary of the Times Colonist," says Times Colonist Editor-in-Chief Lucinda Chodan. "We’re delighted to mark that occasion by giving something back to the community that has helped us thrive for the last century and a half—a legacy in perpetuity to the citizens of Victoria, Vancouver Island and British Columbia."

Until now, The British Colonist newspaper, under many differing titles, has been available only on microfilm in a few libraries. The newspaper is the sole source of some types of information. For instance, during the first 30 years of its existence the newspaper covered the proceedings of the British Columbia legislative assemblies, which makes it the only documentation of its kind of this body. The British Colonist also reported on most court cases and is the only surviving record of judicial proceedings in the early days of the colony.

"The new site is important for historical researchers and genealogists," says Head of Special Collections Chris Petter, who helped to manage the project. "Some of its content even predates the establishment of the province and Canada. As such, the site will provide historical researchers—including students and genealogists—with a rich full look at our history."

Petter and his team built an interface that provides the ability to search either chronologically or by using keywords. The interface also displays the digital image of each page of the newspaper with the search words highlighted.

A number of other UVic staff and faculty worked on the project including: Associate University Librarian I.T. and Technical Services Ken Cosley; John Durno, Maite Dulk and Ben Sheall (Library System Services); Ian Baird (Library Microforms); Drs. John Lutz and Patrick Dunne (history); and Pat Szpak (Humanities Computing & Media Centre).

"It’s been so hard to access over the last years; we’ve had to crank through microfilm, go to the archives. To be able to just look it up online is just going to change the way we do BC history," Lutz told the Times Colonist at the launch event.

The project is supported by the Times Colonist. UBC’s Ike Barber Learning Centre, the Electronic Library Network of British Columbia, the BC Public Library Services Branch and the Greater Victoria Public Library provided additional support.

OLD NEWS PAGES OFFER NEW INSIGHTS
UVic and the Times Colonist make it easier to search BC’s past online

A planned gift to the University of Victoria can create many bright futures. Just ask Nainesh Agarwal, who received a graduate scholarship from a planned gift. Nainesh now has a PhD and works for the government as a Technical Leader at the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

Your generosity will help ensure that future generations of talented students like Nainesh receive a quality education. You can establish a fund in your name, or the name of a loved one, to support any university program you wish. Planned gifts are forever.
Exploring the dynamic period of change and development that led to the University of Victoria.

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Roth elected Fellow of AAAS
One of few science educators to receive this honour

BY CRYSTAL BERGERON

Lansdowne Professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at UVic, Ted Riecken. "Members are fortunate to have him researching and teaching as a member of our faculty," says Dean of Education Ted Bueckert.

Being named an AAAS Fellow is definitely a career highlight for this award-winning educator, author/editor of over 30 books, and sought-after expert on teaching innovative science. "This is the foremost organization of support of science in North America," says Roth. "Members are mostly scientists, and few educators are elected fellows. Although there are numerous Canadian scientists among the fellows, I am not aware of any other educators."

As the coordinator for Women in Engineering and Computer Science, Anissa St. Pierre wears many hats. "Some days I need to take students to the Equity and Human Rights Office to get advice for how to help them, some days I'm doing LEGO robotics workshops with young kids, and some days I'm drafting proposals for how to make systemic changes," says St. Pierre.

Her job is to encourage more women and girls to consider computer science or engineering as a career and to support them in their studies at UVic. Part of the job includes making changes to the culture and teaching methods so that these fields are more attractive to women.

"St. Pierre has a BA in math and computer science from UVic. She was born in Iran and lived in Chad until she was 15 years old. Chad is a difficult place for women. That has fuelled some of my interest for doing this job. I see the need in the world, she says. St. Pierre's day-long workshops for middle-school students give participants both the hands-on engineering work of building a LEGO robot and the computer science experience of programming it.

"A lot of research has been done about what happens to minorities—when somebody feels like they don't belong to the majority, that lack of social support results in grades dropping. That immediately results in isolation," says St. Pierre.

"A lot of the work I'm doing is about bringing about inclusivity and trying to raise awareness, so that the students who graduate from this program are also socially respectful. Mostly, I talk to people about what the issues are and where the changes need to be made," says St. Pierre.

"A lot of research has been done about what happens to minorities—when somebody feels like they don't belong to the majority, that lack of social support results in grades dropping. That immediately results in isolation," says St. Pierre.

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