CHILD CARE

Seeking solutions to the need for more child care spaces

The demand for spaces in UVic’s child care centres greatly exceeds the supply, but a recent contribution of $2 million, as well as other contributions and developments at UVic, is presenting a valuable opportunity to address the problem. Story, page 6

RESEARCH FUNDING

UVic researchers awarded $33.5 million

UVic claimed top spot among the nation’s comprehensive universities—and sixth place among all universities—in a recent competition for major funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI). Projects funded will cast new light on the most hidden aspects of our universe—from sub-atomic matter and energy to what is concealed deep in the oceans and in outer space. Story, page 2

FUNDRAISING

Donor support grows stronger

Despite the challenging economic climate, philanthropic support for UVic is stronger than ever. In the three-year period ending in fiscal year 2008/09, UVic’s Development Office posted a total of $78.5 million, a 122-per-cent increase in funds raised over 2003–06. Story, page 2

CLIMATE CHANGE

Pedersen to lead PICS

Dr. Tom Pedersen has been appointed director of the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS), starting Sept. 1. Pedersen will move from his current position of dean of science at Uvic, which he has held since 2003. PICS is hosted and led by Uvic in collaboration with UBC, Simon Fraser University and the University of Northern British Columbia. More: http://bit.ly/3rVtMd

TOMET POLE VANDALISM

Police seek public’s assistance

Oak Bay Police are investigating the theft of two carved eagles from the top of the 20-m Eagle-on-the-Decayed Pole near the MacLaurin Building. The pole, installed there in 1982, was carved by students of the Stó:lō—the Indigenous people who have made the Fraser River Valley and Fraser River Canyon their home for thousands of years.

From April 24 to May 22, we participated in the Ethnography Field School, based in Chilliwack, BC. It is a partnership of the University of Victoria, the University of Saskatchewan, the Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Centre, Stó:lō Nation and the Stó:lō Tribal Council. Faculty coordinators for the field school are Drs. John Lutz (UVic) and Keith Martin & Margaret Robbins (UofSask). We were given a tour of traditional territories; an introduction to Stó:lō archives, staff and elders; and semi-nel stories in an effort to understand the spiritual geography of the Stó:lō and to illuminate Stó:lō understandings of place and community. Kate worked with the Stó:lō to understand the impacts on individuals and the community of Bill C-31 (An Act to Amend the Indian Act, 1985), which allowed Stó:lō women who had lost their status, as well as their children and grandchildren, to apply for recognition under the act.

Megan looked at ways the Stó:lō have addressed settler governments around the "land question," comparing petitions from Stó:lō figures at the turn of the 20th century with the more recent treaty process. Her work could provide historical context for recognition under the act.
BY CHRIS THACKRAY

Uvic’s chief fundraiser Shannon von Kaldenberg has a lot to smile about these days. Despite a tougher economic climate, the associate vice-president alumni and development reports that philanthropic support for UVic is stronger than ever. In the three-year period ending in fiscal year 2008-09, UVic’s Development Office posted a total of $78.5 million, a 122-per-cent increase in funds raised over 2005-06.

“I’m very pleased with the team’s performance over the past three years,” says von Kaldenberg. “Our group has been through a lot of organizational change, and today we’ve moved to a sustainable, major gift fundraising program at the national and international level with a business model to support it.”

Von Kaldenberg, who arrived in 2005 from UBC’s Sauder School of Business, has led UVic’s Development Office through a significant restructuring.

“The Development Office works directly to secure funds for the university’s strategic priorities,” says UVic President David Turpin. “I’ve been consistently impressed with the way the team has focused on UVic’s academic priorities and engaged the academic leadership in fundraising. The success is outstanding.”

The Development Office posted $19.6 million in funding for academic chairs and professorships—an increase of 277 per cent over 2003-2006; capital projects went from $5.3 million to $16.7 million in the same period—a 193-per-cent increase; and funding for student awards increased 17 per cent to $37 million.

“Increasing the funding for student awards is a top priority for me,” says Turpin. “We want to ensure that finances are never a barrier to the students who want to come here.”

“The university’s Development Office falls under the wing of Vice-President External Relations Valerie Kuehn.

“Our success in fundraising mirrors the success we’ve had all across the division over the past three years,” says Kuehn. “We are seeing the results of a whole division working to support the university’s strategic goals and objectives with a very high level of collaboration and integration across campus and with our external communities of interest locally, provincially, nationally and internationally.”

The Development Office has set a goal of $34 million for student awards for 2006–2010, and despite economic woes, von Kaldenberg is optimistic.

“Yes, there have been some difficulties in financial markets, but our friends and supporters continue to see UVic as an investment that will always pay great dividends,” she says. “Collaboration at every level of our organization is key. The president, the deans and department chairs will continue to play a critical role in our success—it’s been a wonderful team effort all the way.”

The University of Victoria claimed top spot among the nation’s comprehensive universities in a recent major funding announcement by the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI). On June 25, CFI awarded more than $660 million for 133 projects at 41 Canadian research universities, with UVic researchers amassing $33.5 million for four projects. This places UVic sixth among all universities in the country and earned it the number one spot among regional universities.

The university’s projects include two major national and regional facilities led by UVic.

“The success of our researchers in this funding competition is simply spectacular,” says UVic’s Vice-President Research Dr. Howard Brunt.

“The reason for this success is clear—it is the result of the quality of UVic researchers and their teams. Thanks to this new funding, UVic will continue to cast new light on the most hidden aspects of our universe—from subatomic matter and energy to what is concealed deep in our oceans and in outer space.”

When fully matched, the CFI funding will result in over $80 million in new research infrastructure for UVic. The university will also receive another $10 million in institutional operating funds from CFI to offset the direct and indirect costs of operating the new infrastructure.

Dr. Dean Karlen (physics and astronomy) will receive $1.8 million for an adaptive optics testbed for use at the Canada France Hawaii telescope. The testbed will allow scientists to create high-resolution images of objects in the universe and is expected to be operational in 2012.

Dr. Researchers in the physics laboratories.

“The success of our research programs is directly connected to our success in attracting the world’s leading particle and nuclear physics laboratories.”

Dr. Kim Juniper (earth and ocean sciences) was awarded $8.9 million for a university-based vessel and ROV platform that will be a regional facility operated by UVic. For this project, Juniper leads a team of senior world-class researchers and emerging leaders in Canada’s ocean research community. The vessel will support multidisciplinary research and serve as a mother-ship for ROV dive operations to service the VENUS and NEPTUNE Canada cabled ocean observatories (led by UVic) and associated instruments.

Dr. Verena Tunncliffe (earth and ocean sciences) was awarded $4.4 million that will enable a large team of scientists to expand the scope of studies taking place on the VENUS ocean observatory (headed by Tunncliffe) by adding new instrument modules and extending measurements throughout the water column.

Dr. Colin Bradley (mechanical engineering) was granted $2.4 million for an adaptive optics testbed for use in a North American endeavour to build a 30-metre telescope, the largest ever built. The telescope will see 100 times further and more clearly than any other previous telescope. This grant will fund the development of an advanced optics system that will help remove distortion of the incoming light caused by the Earth’s atmosphere.

$33.5 million from CFI
UVic success in federal research funding competition “simply spectacular”
Watching body chemistry at work

Thanks to $620,000 provided by WEDC, UVic scientists are closer to being able to answer the complex question of how drugs know where they’re needed in the human body.

New technology on its way to the UVic Genome BC Proteomics Centre will allow researchers to view images—in two dimensions—of drugs travelling within body tissues. They will also be able to see how the tissue reacts to the specified agent and to the environment.

They’ll be able to see all this with the help of an imaging technique known as MALDI—short for Matrix-Assisted Laser Desorption Ionization. MALDI imaging allows for two-dimensional spatial resolution of proteins and small molecules using a slice of tissue and a fine laser beam. The result is an optical image of the tissue slice that shows the distribution patterns of proteins, peptides, lipids and drugs at the molecular level. It will lead to more rapid and accurate diagnosis of patients’ illnesses and to more effective treatments.

UVic’s Genome BC Proteomics Centre Director Dr. Christoph Borcherz says the information revealed “will be used to develop a 4D virtual reality atlas of the human body and improve a clinician’s ability to diagnose and treat disease. Of particular interest is the diagnosis of specific heart diseases that are currently very challenging to accurately diagnose.”

Diving into deep data, developing ocean tech

Another recent beneficiary of WEDC funding is UVic’s Ocean Technology Laboratory (OTL). With the help of an $880,000 award, UVic’s Laboratory for Automation, Communication and Information Systems Research (LACIR)—of which the OTL is a part—will take delivery of an autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV). Traditionally, underwater work that takes place below depths that are safe for divers has been done by Remotely Operated Underwater Vehicles (ROVs): small vehicles that get power and control commands through a tether connected to the surface. In contrast, AUVs operate autonomously, without a tether, minimizing the amount of surface support necessary.

UVic’s new bright yellow Bluefin-12 AUV measures 3.77 metres in length and 0.32 metres in diameter. The vehicle is rated to 200 metres, which will give researchers unlimited access to the depths of Saanich Inlet and beyond. In addition, since it is a well-recognized commercial platform, new instruments that UVic will create for it will have significant commercialization potential. UVic will take delivery of the custom-built vehicle in March 2010. It will be used in conjunction with the Ocean Technology Test Bed (OTTB) that UVic is constructing in Saanich Inlet, providing valuable ocean-technology research opportunities for students and faculty and increasing the facility’s revenue-generating potential. The OTLB will be operational in 2010.

Spreading the wealth of knowledge

It’s not just hardware WEDC is facilitating. Ocean Networks Canada (ONC), the non-profit society UVic created to manage the VENUS and NEPTUNE ocean observatories, has new backing for their work developing commercial applications for ocean science research.

A WEDC investment of $390,000—paired with $240,000 from ONC—will help pay for new Senior Business Development Officer Scott McLean.

The new appointment was announced by ONC President and CEO, Martin Taylor: “We’re delighted to have someone of Scott’s expertise and experience join ONC to lead our new centre of excellence,” says Taylor.

McLean comes to ONC from Halifax, where he worked for eight years as chief technology officer and vice-president of research and development at Satlantic Incorporated, a marine high-tech company.

The funding will help to cover the costs for the ONCCEO’s senior, office set-up, operating costs and equipment.

McLean, who assumed his position as ONCCEO director July 1, says he’s excited by the opportunity to promote and support commercialization and outreach for VENUS and NEPTUNE Canada. “Canada is currently leading the world in this new generation of ocean observing systems and we can build significantly on this competitive advantage.”

Recently announced investment from Western Economic Diversification Canada (WEDC) is contributing to the growth of several UVic initiatives. The welcome financial enhancement will help create fresh knowledge from the bottom of the sea, from within the human body, and from the expertise of new personnel. WEDC coordinates federal economic activities in the West and promotes development of the regional economy by working with communities, industry and the provinces.
On June 21, the sound of laughter and music echoed from the Highwoods’ music festival, held on Stó:lō lands. The festival, named “The Ring,” was organized by UVic’s Community Mapping Group, with over 50 students registered as contributors, several of whom are pursuing their learning-boundary studies. One student has taped a video tour of the campus and added it to the map. In another example, UVic student Melissa Hingston in Dr. Brenda Beckwith’s Environmental Studies class has created a web-based map. Hingston said the beauty of community mapping is how it inspires all ages of people to talk about what they value in life and to work together to tell each other’s stories. “Community mapping helps everyone understand the bigger picture.”

The UVic Community Mapping Resource Centre is a joint project of the Department of Geography and the Common Ground Community Mapping Project and has received funding from the Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability, the Learning and Teaching Centre, the Faculty of Social Sciences, the Department of Geography and the Office of Community-Based Research. It is affiliated with the New York-based GreenMap program, which promotes sustainability and community participation in the local, natural and built environment through its GreenMap System. For more information or to get involved, visit http://mapping.uvic.ca/.

Interview with Jill Doucette, UVic biology and environmental studies student and co-chair of 2009 World Student Environmental Summit

RIng: What are the most memorable moments of the World Student Environmental Summit hosted by UVic June 24 to 28?

Doucette: The most memorable moment for me and Chantal Orr (UVic business student and summit co-chair) was when a group of delegates told us that the summit was a life-changing experience. One delegate from Australia said the last day was the best day of her life. Knowing that we achieved our goal to educate, empower and engage those exceptional young leaders is an incredible feeling. Another moment is the closing ceremony on June 28 when our team of coordinators (Will Wright, Jeff Manner, Mike Fraser, Brian Nairn, Tery Casey, Dan Lafferty and Nick Clark) came onto stage for a surprise sentimental speech that we will never forget.

The third moment was in discussion. The delegates compared challenges in addressing climate change through civil engagement in developing and undeveloped countries. Although the face of global change is different, delegates made unexpected comparisons between the root challenges in society.

Stó:lō CONTINUED FROM P.1

current-day treaty processes and relationships. Our time at the field school was a transformative experience on several levels. We were received with a warm generosity by everyone we encountered. Stó:lō people expressed a very genuine willingness to engage with us and have us learn as much as possible while we were there. The number and variety of community events we were invited to witness is just one very memorable example of how we were made welcome. We were all deeply affected by this generosity, and it inspired a similar kind of feeling in us.

The field school was an incredible introduction to what grounded, community-based scholar- research can look like. It was a hands-on encounter across our cultural differences, and we learned first hand about our various points of convergence and divergence in a setting in which we were invited to participate in a meaningful and useful manner.

One of the things we will take away from the experience is a more sensitive awareness of the difference between reading histories and witnessing how people actually live their histories. While we all “live history” in some way, being in Stó:lō territory and learning from Stó:lō people about how they experience the past is quite different from reading about it in a book. The experience humbled us in important ways to what we couldn’t know respectfully building relationships and learning how to listen in the ways needed in this particular context.

Listening to people talk about what in a more conventional academic arena could be framed as current and historical ‘issues’ or ‘events,’ we got a very strong sense of how history is a lived experience. Pre- and post-contact histories and lives in Stó:lō communities—they are part of peoples’ personal stories. It is a remarkable thing to have somerso—whole communities even—share some of this with us as outsiders.

We also learned to work productively in a context that is not our own. Part of this meant learning how to behave, in the sense of protocol and manners—being conscious of how to listen and speak. We learned the basics in how to proceed respectfully in a cultural context that is largely unfamiliar to us as non-Indigenous students. Practicing oral history in Stó:lō communities, for example, is not about rushing into an interview and having someone tell you everything. It takes time, and this is assumed. Implicit in this is also that there is time, that there will be time to keep talking, to return and continue working in some capacity with the community, to keep building and reshaping the relationships we have begun. While some of this seems a bit abstract, it is these larger impressions and feelings that will act in our work and in our lives from now on. The field school experience helped to transform the way we think about the role of relationships and community building in research.

A collection of the best Ethnohistory Field School research papers has been published in a peer reviewed on-line journal, The Research Review (http://journal.ethnohist.ca/). More: www.ethnohist.ca
FAST, FRESH AND FUTURISTIC
Writing students get filmmaking experience with Internet video

BY ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

Writing instructor Maureen Bradley and a small class of students sit in a dark computer lab in the Fine Arts Building. Projecting on the wall is the result of months of planning and hard work: the Freshman’s Wharf web series.

Freshman’s Wharf blends the screenplay of writing student Rachel Warden with the enthusiasm of 11 other writing students to turn words on a page into two short pilot episodes. While Russell worked in the lighting crew, Warden and Eliza Robertson, who are passionate about writing and about being in the limelight, took the main acting roles. Robertson both acted and learned the ins and outs of recording sound.

“I wasn’t familiar with the genre of web-series,” says Robertson. “I wasn’t sure how to do it alone.”

“The idea came to Bradley—herself an award-winning independent filmmaker—when she reflected on the challenges that face screenplay writers who want to follow through the process and actually make a film. She held a competition for ready-to-go scripts, and Warden’s was chosen.

“Warden was able to take something she had written and make it immediate gratification for her. I gave her an opportunity,” Bradley says.

“I wanted the student to do something they could get immediate gratification for and immediate attention for,” Bradley says. “She showed interest in the genre and wanted to explore it.”

The shoot was a chance for Bradley to get behind the camera and do one of her favourite jobs: directing.

“The class began as a volunteer opportunity for students to work on a film and learn all the ins and outs of pre-production, filming and post-production,” says Bradley. “But the course’s main draw for students was the fact that we could make a directed study course, and a new class was born.

“It’s a very rare opportunity,” says Warden. “Filmmaking is collaborative, so when student writers want to get their work produced, they can’t do it alone.”

The project came together in short order thanks to the help of numerous community members, local actors, faculty members, the donation of a score from David Parfitt and equipment from Cinevic Society of Independent Filmmakers. Bradley’s recent Canada Foundation for Innovation grant for $390,000 also helped fund the film.

But the real source of the class’s success is the enthusiasm and commitment of students.

“Knowing this is possible with the limited budget we had and with a group of people who are passionate about writing and about filmmaking—it’s pretty awesome,” says Megan Russell.

For Russell and fellow student Eliza Robertson, the class was a chance to try filmmaking for the first time. Robertson both acted and learned the ins and outs of recording sound while Russell worked in the lighting crew.

“Filmmaking is collaborative, so when student writers want to get their work produced, they can’t do it alone,” says Robertson. “You don’t have to be in Hollywood.”

The class has been so successful that students have decided Freshman’s Wharf should keep on going. The group has formed Writers Room Productions and hopes to film more episodes in the fall.

For now, through, they have the gratification of an international audience for the launch of their first filmmaking effort. Watch Freshman’s Wharf online: www.youtube.com/TheWritersRoom.

NEPTUNE CONTINUED FROM P.1

“Is this truly transformative science,” says Uvic President David Turpin. “At a time when our understanding of the oceans is clearly becoming more essential than ever, NEPTUNE Canada will play a leadership role in advancing our knowledge of the oceans in ways not previously possible. We are launching a new era of ocean exploration.”

At each of the five node sites the submersible ROPOS, deployed from the research ship Atlantis, will guide the TRF into place if required. ROPOS will then plug a test device into each science port on the node to ensure they’re working before doing a final inspection.

Installation of the nodes and other infrastructure is scheduled for completion by Aug. 17.

Most of the main instrument installation, using the research ship Thompson, is scheduled to begin Aug. 20 with completion in late September. Final testing and commissioning should take about a month. Real-time data flow to scientists and the public is expected by late 2009. One of the node sites will be instrumented in 2010.

NEPTUNE Canada is funded with more than $100 million from the Government of Canada, the Canada Foundation for Innovation, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, CANARIE, and the Government of British Columbia, through the BC Knowledge Development Fund.


To follow NEPTUNE Canada’s progress: www.neptunecanada.ca

ringers

Dale Gunn is the new president of UVic Properties Investments Inc., which manages the Vancouver Island Technology Park (VITP) in Saanich and the Marine Technology Centre in North Saanich. UVic’s technology parks facilitate the growth of technology on Vancouver Island by providing physical infrastructure that links provincial, national and international resources with emerging or growing technology companies. Many VITP tenants employ UVic graduates and co-op students. VITP has the greatest concentration of high-tech companies and workers on Vancouver Island. The two parks are home to a total of 41 tenants and employ more than 1,350 workers.

Books by UVic history faculty members recently won two awards from the Canadian Historical Association. Dr. Greg Blue was one of the writers of Death by a Thousand Cuts, which explores the infamous form of imperial Chinese capital punishment and was the winner of the association’s Ferguson Prize for best book by Canadians on a non-Canadian history topic. Dr. John Lutz won the association’s Klo Award for best book on British Columbia history for Fatal Alliance: A History of Aboriginal-White Relations, which examines exchanges, conflicts of meaning, intercultural relations and work.

The UVic EcoCAR team placed second overall at the EcoCAR Challenge-student competition in Toronto last month for the design of its fuel-efficient, low-emission car of the future. It is also the winner of the MathWorks Modeling Award and has placed highly in numerous other competitions. The competition marks the end of the first year of the EcoCAR Challenge where 14 US and three Canadian teams work to advance car design by using leading-edge automotive technologies that are also easy on the environment. In year two of the competition, teams will incorporate their unique designs into a Saturn Vue. In year three, teams must refine their vehicles to near-showroom quality.

Dr. Eileen Van der Flier-Keller (earth and ocean sciences/geography) has been awarded the 2009 E.R. Ward Medal/Alaide by the Geological Association of Canada for her outstanding efforts to communicate and explain relevance to the public. Van der Flier-Keller has been a regular participant in the UVic Speakers Bureau, speaking on earth science for children. Her numerous publications include A Field Guide to the Identification of Pebbles and the South Vancouver Island Earth Science Fun Guide.

Dr. Nancy Turner (environmental studies) and Professor Emeritus Jack Hodgins (writing) have been appointed members of the Order of Canada. Hodgins was recognized for his contributions to Canadian literature and his leadership as a teacher and mentor. Turner was honored for her work in ethnobotany and her leadership in documenting First Nations traditions.

The course calendar with our fall line-up of continuing education classes is available August 8.
Psychologist was committed to family, students, research

Dr. Esther Strauss of the Department of Psychology passed away on June 17 at the Palliative Care Unit at Royal Jubilee Hospital after a three- and a half-year battle with ovarian cancer. Esther obtained her BA at McGill University in 1969, where she majored in psychology and sociology. She then earned master’s degrees in sociology from Northeastern University (1971) and in special education from Boston University (1972).

Between 1973 and 1975, she worked at the Aphasia Research Center in the Boston Veterans Administration Hospital, where she developed her long-standing commitment to neuropsychological research. She completed her doctorate in psychology under Prof. Morris Moscovitch at the University of Toronto. Esther then took up a position as assistant professor of psychology at the University of Victoria. She attained the rank of full professor in 1991.

Among her numerous accomplishments, Esther co-authored articles on brain organization based on neurological evidence. More recently, Esther forged a highly successful collaboration (Project MIND) with Professors David Hultsch and Michael Hunter in which they investigated how short-term fluctuations in a person’s reaction time predict later mental decline.

As part of her productive program of research, she mentored numerous graduate students who have gone on to successful careers in both academic and clinical settings. These are the objective achievements of an outstanding career. Although impressive, they do not convey the full measure of Esther’s impact on students, colleagues and the university.

Simply put, Esther was a treasure. She was smart, warm, funny and committed to her students, colleagues, department and university. To illustrate the latter, two weeks before her death she participated in one of her student’s dissertation defense. Even with all her professional accomplishments, Esther always knew that her greatest achievement was her kids Ze’ev, Avital, and Tamar. She was one of those people who did it all and did it well. We deeply mourn her passing.

Submitted by Dr. David Hultsch, Department of Psychology

UVic mourns Dr. Bill Gibson, former chancellor, friend and benefactor

Dr. William C. (Bill) Gibson, former chancellor and avid supporter of the University of Victoria, Victoria, was 95.

Gibson was born in Ottawa. He grew up in Victoria and graduated from UVic’s psychology institution, Victoria College, in 1931. He received a BA from the University of British Columbia in 1933, an MSc (1936) and an MD (1941) from McGill University and a DPhil from Oxford University in 1938.

Gibson served with distinction in the Royal Canadian Air Force, serving as deputy director of medical research during the Second World War and rising through the ranks to wing commander and senior medical officer for Vancouver in 1946. A specialist in neurology and psychiatry, Gibson taught at the University of Sydney, the University of California, Yale University, Stanford University and— from 1950 to 1979—at UBC, where he played a key role in developing the Faculty of Medicine and creating the Woodward Biomedical Library. He served as professor and director of the Kinsmen Laboratory for Neuropsychological Research, professor of psychiatry and head of the Department of History of Medicine and Science. From 1978 to 1984 he was chair of the Universities Council of British Columbia.

Over a long and productive scholarly career, Gibson published more than 125 scientific papers and 10 books. Among his earliest books was Young Endeavour: Contributions to Science by Medical Students of the Past Four Centuries (1938), and his last was Old Endeavour: Scientific and Humanitarian Contributions by Physicians Over Age 65 (2007).

UVic has benefited from Gibson’s long association with the university. In the late-seventies, Gibson envisaged a new type of professional who would have the knowledge and skills to introduce information technology into Canada’s health care system. His advocacy was instrumental in the creation of UVic’s ground-breaking School of Health Information Science in 1982, and he is acknowledged as its “intellectual founder.”

Elected the sixth chancellor of the University of Victoria in 1983, he served for two terms until 1990, conferring some 12,000 degrees.

His long and distinguished record of community service involved work with many societies and organizations involved in the health care area, including the Canadian Mental Health Association, Cedar Lodge School for Brain-injured Children, the Terry Fox Foundation of BC, the BC Cancer Control Agency, and the Muscular Dystrophy Association of the US. He served as chair of the advisory board for the UVic Centre on Aging and maintained close ties with the Faculty of Education and the School of Music.

Gibson’s many honours include the BC Centennial Medal (1967), the Queen’s Jubilee Medal (1977), an honorary doctorate from UVic (1991), and the Order of Canada (2002).

His many contributions to the university community serve as a living legacy rooted in his generosity of spirit and keen interest in the education of young people, particularly in the disciplines of medicine.

A large plane tree growing between the Cunningham and MacLaurin buildings stands as a vital symbol of Gibson’s legacy. It was grown from a seedling—the descendant of a tree on the Greek Island of Kos under which Hippocrates lectured his students in medicine—provided by Gibson and which he helped plant in May 1995.

UVic has benefited from Gibson’s long association with the university. In the late-seventies, Gibson envisaged a new type of professional who would have the understanding and skills to introduce information technology into Canada’s health care system.
Harrison murals add vibrancy to new building

Celebrated Canadian painter Ted Harrison was present June 17 for the unveiling of two large murals he donated to the University of Victoria. Harrison had painted the murals on the walls of his home and, when he moved last year, they were saved and now grace the walls of the university’s new Social Sciences and Mathematics Building. The Harrison murals add vibrancy to new building

Tuesday, September 8

President’s Day of Welcome 12 p.m. Take advantage of the last day before classes by joining us for an afternoon of free food, live bands, entertainment and games as well as campus-wide information fair. Meet and reconnect with new friends; address any remaining questions; and celebrate the start of term. Inner UVic quadrangle, around the University Fountain. 250-417-4012

Sunday, July 19

Lecture 1 p.m. A SummerSale of Pop-up Books. Pop-up and movable book aficionados will enjoy a free public lecture with internationally recognized book artist and literacy advocate Paul Johnson. McPherson Library 210. To register 250-721-8217 or email friends@uvic.ca.

Monday, August 24

Workshop 9 a.m. Introduction to Spatial Epidemiology. Two-day and half-day workshops provide an introduction to spatial epidemiology. Topics include spatial health and disease datasets in BC, techniques for assessing exposures in GIS, analysis methods, study interpretation and limitations, and advanced methods. For information and registration: training@popdata.bc.ca. Social Sciences & Math A253. 250-513-4118.

Monday, July 27

Workshop 9 a.m. Introduction to Spatial Epidemiology. Two-day and half-day workshops provide an introduction to spatial epidemiology. Topics include spatial health and disease datasets in BC, techniques for assessing exposures in GIS, analysis methods, study interpretation and limitations, and advanced methods. For information and registration: training@popdata.bc.ca. Social Sciences & Math A253. 250-513-4118.

Thursday, July 16

Blood Donor Clinic 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and July 17 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Canadian Blood Services is calling on donors across the country to give a life-saving gift during the critical summer months and ensure that the national blood inventory remains at acceptable levels. Student Union Bldg., Pujol Rm. 250-405-4308.

For a complete list of events, visit the online calendar at www.uvic.ca/events Events free unless otherwise indicated. For a complete list of events, visit the online calendar at www.uvic.ca/events

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The Ring

July 2009

therSMART.ca

open your mind.

The Ring July 2009 Page 7
BY ROBBIE LISCOMB

For the past several years, UVic students, faculty and staff have faced increasing difficulty finding suitable child care spaces on or off campus. The quality of care provided by UVic Child Care Services is stellar,” says Grace Wong Sneddon, interim associate director of Student and Ancillary Services. But the demand for spaces in UVic’s child care centres greatly exceeds the supply.

However, a constellation of recent initiatives and developments at UVic is presenting a valuable opportunity to address the problem.

“The university understands the need for increased access to quality child care,” says UVic Vice-President Finance and Operations Gayle Gorrill. “We have a shared interest in this with faculty, student and staff parents and are making efforts to find long-term, sustainable solutions to address the need for additional high-quality child care options.”

Currently, Child Care Services provides spaces for 88 children: 10 infants (with a waiting list of 47), 28 toddler spaces (with 122 on the wait list), 25 pre-schoolers (with 69 waiting), and 25 kindergarten age children (with 31 waitlisted). There are also 50 spaces in the out-of-school care program (with 19 on the wait list). Wait times for spaces range from several months to two or more years.

“Throughout there has always been a wait list for UVic child care,” explains Dr. Lynne Marks (history), “but in the last two years, things have become worse, in part because of developments beyond UVic. Marks has long been involved in the child care issue, most recently as chair of the UVic Academic Women’s Caucus and co-chair of the newly established UVic Child Care Action Group. She is also a member of the UVic Child Care Parent Advisory Board.

Child care spaces are very tight off-campus as well, leading to similarly lengthy wait lists. Marks cites the cancellation of the federal childcare policy and the failure of provincial child care subsidies to keep pace with costs as playing a major role in the reduction of available and affordable child care spaces locally.

UVic Administration, director of facility renewal and academic leadership initiatives, describes the child care situation in Victoria as an unfortunate perfect storm.” In recent years, there has been a combination of factors including low pay for child care workers, few spaces for child care training, and Victoria’s relative lack of a new Canadian population that, in other cities, has provided in-home child care as a means of generating income.

According to the Victoria Foundation, there were only 5,161 registered child care spaces in the Capital Region, to serve a population of 17,325 children under six years of age. Both Nolan and Marks point out that this situation will likely get worse, as three major child care centres in Victoria announced in March that they are closing, meaning the loss of an additional 100 spaces in the city.

Last year, Vice-President Academic and Provost Jamie Cassels asked Nolan and Wong Sneddon to explore maximizing the use of current resources on campus and to develop collaborations with others to help address the child care need.

Wong Sneddon has worked with Child Care Services to create 16 part-time pre-school-age spaces in Centre 6, which in the afternoons houses the out-of-school program. These spaces will be available, beginning in September, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on weekdays, not during public school holidays or professional development time, when it is needed for the most students.

Meanwhile, Nolan has been working closely with the UVic Family Child Care Network and on a program to provide training for Family Housing residents who wish to offer in-home child care. This has involved providing an information session for those interested, an infant/child first aid and CPR course, and a field trip to the Victoria Child Care Resource and Referral agency, which trains and registers such caregivers.

Further development of this approach awaits implementation of the recommendations of the external review of the UVic Family Centre, which was completed recently.

The university has also created a child care steering committee, charged with investigating the full range of model child care services, delivery, evaluating the suitability of various options in the local context, and identifying the associated capital and operating costs and the rate implications for families. Sponsored by Cassels and Gorrill, the committee includes Associate Vice-President Student Services, Dr. Nolan and Wong Sneddon.

“We want to proceed in a responsible and thorough manner in addressing this important need,” explains Gorrill. “We need to clearly understand the short-term and long-term needs, opportunities and challenges. We need to do this right so that we have a sustainable solution.” Their report is expected to go to the board of governors in late September.

New chancellor presides at Convocation

Murray Farner was installed as the sixth chancellor of the University of Victoria during Spring Convocation ceremonies June 15. Elected to a three-year term, Farner succeeds Ron Lou-Poy, who completed six years as chancellor on Dec. 31.

Farner earned his UVic bachelor’s degree in economics as one of the first generation of university student here. He went on to become president of Farmer Industries Group and a key volunteer leader of a number of community organizations in the capital region. During his time with UVic, he offered students here. He went on to become president of Farmer Industries Group and a key volunteer leader of a number of community organizations in the capital region. During Spring Convocation, the chancellor conferred 1,024 degrees, diplomas and certificates on graduating students.

Good work deserves to be highlighted.

Summer is a good time to start thinking about nominating your fellow employees for the 2009 President’s Distinguished Service Awards, which pay tribute every December to the effort and achievements of the University of Victoria’s 4,000 plus-staff members.

Nomination forms will soon be available on the PSGA website, which also contains information about the program itself and previous years’ winners.

Contact information and physical office locations for departments currently located within STAS and ORES will remain the same.

THE CHILD CARE CAPACITY CHALLENGE

The search is on for solutions to meet the need for more child care spaces.

New division to support student success

Student and Ancillary Services (STAS) and the Office of the Registrar and Enrolment Services (ORES) have merged into a single unit—the Division of Student Affairs.

The change is intended to improve the UVic student experience by creating a more comprehensive and integrated service environment and to create more opportunities for staff collaboration within a better integrated student support team.

“Student Affairs will offer a comprehensive range of services to students under all one portfolio—from their first contact with UVic through their academic careers and on to graduating. They will also coordinate our partnerships with vice-president student affairs. Current staff roles and staffing levels are not expected to change. Minor changes in reporting will occur to ensure that the information structure of each area is clearly aligned with its goals and objectives.

Contact information and physical office locations for departments currently located within STAS and ORES will remain the same.