Grad research spotlights women in military

By Patty Pitts

When Sarah Buydens started undergradu-
ate studies at UVic, she was certain she
wanted to teach biology and chemistry to
high school students. But after summer
jobs at children's camps where she was
told she was "good with kids," Buydens
switched her studies from science to child
and youth care.

"I absolutely loved it," she recalls. "I
realized that I really wanted to work with
kids, not teach them. Then I realized that
I really wanted to work with their families."

That led her to pursue graduate studies
in educational psychology and leadership
studies, where she conducted ground-
breaking research on Canadian military
women veterans while earning a master's
degree in counseling psychology.

"I loved trauma work. I'm trained as a
trauma therapist, and I wanted to work
with people who encounter high risk in
the workplace," she says of her choice of
a research topic. "I had worked at the Es-
quamalt Military Family Resource Centre
and seen the work that the counselors do
there, and that led me to investigate the
experiences of women in the military. Sur-
prisingly, there was little existing research
about them."

Buydens added to that with her mas-
ter's thesis, The Lived Experience of
Women Veterans of the Canadian Forces.

Fundied by a $10,000 scholarship from the
Department of National Defence, Buydens'
research involved extensive interviews
with six women between 35 and 60 years
of age. All had completed their time in the
Canadian Forces in the post-1989 era of full
gender integration.

"I was not expecting the results that I re-
cieved," says Buydens. "As a civilian woman
I was surprised at how rough it was. I was
inspired by how they persevered."

All of her interview subjects reported
being ostracized by their male colleagues,
being the subject of demeaning gender
references and inappropriate sexual at-
tention and seldom being recognized as
an individual. While most of the women's
common experiences were negative, all
did report developing some supportive
relationships among their colleagues.

Buydens will pursue the importance of
mentorship among military women in her
PhD research, which she's already started,
under the guidance of her master's supervi-
Sires.

"Anything is possible—right now
there is so much opportunity," says
Sayers, who will also be involved
in activities related to the National
Aboriginal Economic Development
Chair program.

"We're extremely delighted to tap
into Ms. Sayers' expertise," says Dean
Sayers.

Aboriginal leader is new entrepreneur-in-residence

By Diane George

Judith Sayers plans to cover a lot
of ground while serving as entre-
preneur-in-residence and adjunct
professor for the faculties of busi-
ness and law. Sayers, known in the
Hupacasath language as Kekinaa,a,
will be on campus about five days
each month to share her legal and
trepreneurial expertise with the
UVic community.

"I am very excited to be here," says
Sayers. "It's a great opportunity to
mentor students and others about
building, new relationships and
working with Aboriginal communi-
ties, whether it is about regulatory
and legal issues, or entrepreneurship.

"We've come a long way in Aborigi-
nal law," says Sayers. "When I gradu-
ated in 1981, the topic was not very
fashionable," she says discrimination
and gender bias was also a problem.
"It was hard to find a place to article
as firms wanted to know how radical
I was, and whether or not I wanted
children."

She got her start from Willie Lit-
tchfield—former Member of Parlia-
ment and Cree lawyer—who offered
Sayers an opportunity to article with
him in Alberta, which is where she
first established her practice.

Sayers returned to BC in 1990 to
complete a Bora Laskin fellowship on
human rights and was called to the
BC bar. In addition to running a law
firm in Port Alberni, she served as the
elected chief of the Hupacasath
First Nation from 1993 to 2009, where
she focused on building capacity,
sustainable development and restor-
ing and rehabilitating Hupacasath
territory.

During her time as chief, she over-
saw the development of a woodlot,
helped establish a hydro "run-of-
river" project that generates enough
electricity to power 6,000 homes,
and launched tourism enterprises,
including a canoe tours company
and a gift shop. Some of the revenue
from these ventures was used to
build equity in other businesses. She
also helped acquire a sawmill through
the Island Corridor Foundation, an
organic gardening business, and is
in the process of building a cultural
centre and an aggregates company.

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there is so much opportunity," says
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"We're extremely delighted to tap
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Sayers.

Sayers. Photo: UVic photo services
Olympic torch comes to campus

October 30 was Olympic Torch Day at UVic as the torch relay crossed campus on its way to offer formal ceremonies at the BC legislative buildings, much to the delight of hundreds of people gathered for a community celebration of UVic’s tradition of excellence in athletics and campus recreation opportunities in the Centennial Stadium parking lot.

UVic’s athletics programs have developed and supported 136 athletes, coaches and alumni who have represented Canada at the Olympic and Paralympic Games, winning a total of 10 Olympic gold medals, six silver, five bronze, and 26 medals at the Paralympics.

Among torchbearers that first day of Canada’s Olympic Torch Relay was UVic psychology professor Bonnie Leadbeater. Olympic partner Royal Bank of Canada invited Leadbeater to participate in the Olympic Torch Relay in recognition of her contributions to children’s mental health.

Building capacity for peace in Africa

An advocate for peace and conflict studies in Africa will deliver a President’s Distinguished Lecture on Nov. 19 at 8 p.m. in the Bob Wright Centre, room B101. Dr. Juan Rosso-Butera is director of the Africa Programme at the University for Peace (UPEACE). The program focuses on the necessity to stimulate and strengthen Africa’s ability to teach, train and conduct research in areas of peace and conflict studies. In his lecture, “Building Capacity for Peace in Africa,” Butera will discuss how the program contributes to a better understanding of conflicts in Africa, their prevention and the creation of an environment for lasting peace to ensure the sustainable development of Africa. From 1995 to 2003, Butera was vice-rector at the National University of Rwanda. He is currently the patron of Never Again Rwanda, a chapter of Never Again International, a collaborative international network that promotes constructive exchange of ideas to prevent violent conflict and remedy its effects. The lecture is free of charge, but seating is reserved, and tickets should be booked in advance through the UVic Ticket Centre, 250-721-8490 or www.auditorium.uvic.ca. An evening parking permit of $2 can be purchased when booking tickets.

No deficit, but financial future is challenging

It may still be fall but UVic administrators are already planning for next year’s university budget. Like universities across the country, UVic faces a much more uncertain financial environment over the next several years. But unlike many other universities, UVic is not currently facing a deficit or significant budget cuts.

“Our financial picture is currently healthier than at many other universities,” says Vice-President Academic and Provost Jamie Cassels. “But we face some of the same challenges.”

Those challenges include reduced endowment revenues due to investment losses and constrained government revenues and tuition capped at the rate of inflation. At the same time, the university must cope with mounting costs and a rate of inflation substantially higher than the general rate of inflation due mainly to negotiated agreements with employees and the higher costs of many educational resources.

“There is still hope,” says Cassels. “We may need to reallocate funds to achieve our goals and diversify our sources of funding. We may also have to reduce budgets in the future.”

With the magnitude of future cost increases difficult to estimate, Cassels says, “We’ve asked administrators to maintain some vacant positions to create flexibility in case we have to reallocate budget funding to deal with inflation or other cost pressures.”

UVic received an unexpected boost in its 2009/10 provincial operating grant. Those funds provided funding to deal with pressures in 2009/10 such as shortfalls on endowments and to cover a number of ongoing items including facilities costs, carbon offsets and increases to the university’s annual contributions to staff pension plans to maintain their values in the wake of last year’s financial market turmoil. 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Scientific breakthrough with light opens doors for virus research

BY PATTY PITTS

A Canada-Spain research collaboration between University of Victoria engineering professor Dr. Reuven Gordon and Institute of Photonic Sciences (ICFO) group leader Dr. Romain Eftekhari has developed a new method to gently trap, manipulate and study tiny, active objects as miniscule as viruses without inflicting any damage.

The research was reported this month in the online version of Nature Photonics.

Using a new approach to the established technology called “optical trapping,” the team demonstrated that it is possible to use the force of light to hold and manipulate 50 nanometre particles—two thousand times smaller than the width of a human hair—something previously considered impossible.

Since most viruses range from 10 to 300 nanometres in size, scientists hope that this new method of optical trapping will significantly expand viral research.

“The usual approach to optical trapping does not work well at the nanometre scale,” says Gordon, who spent several months at the Barcelona-based ICFO working on this project. “If the particle is made twice as small, a 30 times more powerful laser is required to hold it, meaning that damaging powers are needed for small particles—especially if they are biological particles such as viruses.

“We have discovered a much gentler way to hold virus-sized particles with a 100 times less power.”

The team, including UVic PhD students Yuanjie Pang and Fatima Elbashir, conducted their research by directing the light source through a small hole in a metal film that is only a few times as large as the tiny particles they were studying. When the particle gets close to the hole, it changes the flow of the light dramatically. This reaction has a favourable effect on trapping since it amplifies the light force but requires less light power.

“This means, for the first time, it may be possible to trap and study viruses, which is something we have started experimenting with,” says Gordon. “One interesting possibility would be to trap a virus and then bring it close to a living cell to see how they interact. Hopefully this will help us better understand the virus-cell interaction and help stop infection.”

Gordon’s research received support from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. A copy of the research report is available at www.nature.com/nph/ journal/vaop/incontent/full/nphys1422.html

Illustration showing the use of light and nanometre holes in a metal to hold and manipulate viruses. © 2009 ICFO-The Institute of Photonic Sciences

Two projects that give members of the community the opportunity to participate in groundbreaking UVic research are part of $10.5 million in funding announced recently by Canada’s Advanced Research and Innovation Network.

The $980,000 Data from the Deep, Judgments from the Crowds project will establish a satellite observatory at Brentwood College School on Vancouver Island to monitor the environment that’s home to the fountain in front of the library. UVic. The gathering will be held at UVic. The gathering will be held at

We're a top employer

UVic was named one of BC's top 50 employers in an annual competition organized by the editors of Canada's top employers. This special designation recognizes BC employers that lead their industries in offering exceptional places to work. UVic was recognized for the support it provides to employees who are new mothers with maternity leave-top-up benefits and to employees who are new fathers or adoptive parents. As well, UVic was acknowledged for its onsite childcare centre and the help it provides to employees as they prepare for retirement with contributions to a pension plan.

More info: www.canadasstop50.com/bc/

UVic asks “What would you do if you could do anything?”

On Nov. 2, the University of Victoria launched The Anything Project. It’s a new social media-oriented campaign for recruiting prospective undergraduate students, and it features UVic faculty and staff as well as students responding to the question, “If you could do anything, what would you do?” Everyone is invited to share responses to this question through the campaign—related microsite. Check it out: http://anythingproject.uvic.ca/

$1.55 million funds physics and oceans data access

20 years of remembering for a reason

Twenty years ago, on Dec. 6, 14 female engineering students were murdered by a gunman at Montreal's École Polytechnique. In honour of these women’s memories, every December since that day in 1989, universities and other communities have held a national day of remembrance and action to call for an end to violence against women. Everyone is invited to attend the annual National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women on Dec. 4 from 11:20 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at UVic. The gathering will be held at the fountain in front of the library.

Navigate the ever-changing market

A longtime resident and UVic grad, Dave is helping local residents and new-entrants to navigate their way through the real estate market. Whether buying or selling, he assures smooth sailing. Just ask his many clients at UVic.
Going with the flow

Mimicking Mother Nature may help us ward off floods caused by climate change

BY PEIGI MCGILLIVRAY

If climate change means more extreme rainfall, as scientists predict, how should we prepare to cope with all the extra water? Should we be installing larger storm water pipes? Diverting streams? Stockpiling sandbags?

Chris Jensen, a master’s student in geography, thinks there’s a better way. He’s investigating how to manage rainwater where it falls—on individual buildings, streets, gardens and subdivisions—rather than directing it into storm water systems buried under city streets.

“If rainwater is absorbed where it falls, there’s less risk of overload- ing our storm water systems and less flood damage to homes, businesses and sensitive aquatic habitats,” he says. “It’s a gentler, more natural way of managing rainfall.”

Funded in part by a graduate fellowship from the UVic-led Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions, Jensen is using sophisticated computer models to assess the ability of various low-impact development strategies to cope with rainwater.

His study site is the heavily urbanized Bowker Creek watershed, which straddles the municipalities of Victoria, Oak Bay and Saanich. Almost 90 per cent of the Bowker Creek watershed has been developed for commercial, industrial, institutional and residential use. Seventy per cent of the creek’s original channel is now confined to culverts, which form the backbone of municipal storm water drainage systems.

“Bowker Creek is an ideal case study,” he says. “About 50 per cent of its surface is impermeable due to roads, buildings and pavement, and a recent study led by the Capital Regional District predicts that there will be increased flooding there in the future.”

Low-impact development strategies include permeable paving materials, green roofs and rain gardens. “The idea is that we can use some combination of these,” says Jensen, “we can reduce flooding without expensive upgrades to the existing drainage infrastructure.”

Permeable paving includes paving stones as well as special porous asphalt that can be used on driveways and patios and on complete road systems, he says. These surfaces allow rainwater to soak into the ground naturally.

Green roofs are designed to support soil and plants. Some are able to reduce peak runoff by up to 75 per cent. “When you look at an aerial view of any city, you can see how much potential roofs offer for absorbing rainwater and slowing runoff,” says Jensen.

Rain gardens are sunken green spaces where ponds can form after a heavy rain. They can be placed in people’s yards and along the sides of roads, where they help filter pollutants and keep rain out of the storm water system.

“These theoretically, these treatments can absorb the increase in precipita- tion, thereby eliminating the need for costly engineering solutions,” says Jensen. Upgrading the watershed’s drainage systems could cost as much as $10 million.

Jensen has been involved with the Friends of Bowker Creek Society since 2001. He’s also worked extensively with municipal officials, engineering consultants, watershed societies and provincial staff to overcome the regu- latory, policy and technical challenges of low-impact development.

“This is really a ‘no regrets’ way to prepare for possible flooding,” he says. “If climate change doesn’t produce the extreme rainfall predicted, rain gardens, green roofs and permeable pavements will still make our neighbourhoods greener and more pleasant, create and protect natural habitats and improve the health of urban watersheds.

“Because this is the first climate change adaptation strategy of its kind, we have a chance to show the world how small changes can make a big difference to our cities.”
Talent, dedication and hard work will be rewarded this month as students receive 1,228 degrees, diplomas and certificates during the University of Victoria’s Fall Convocation. Congratulations one and all.

**HONOURS FOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE ARTS, BUSINESS AND LAW**

**BY MIKE MCNEENY**

Four Honorary Degrees—the university’s highest recognition—will be presented during Fall Convocation ceremonies. The recipients represent outstanding support of the visual arts in Canada, community-oriented leadership in business, advocacy for the wrongly accused and groundbreaking filmmaking.

**MICHAEL AUDAIN**

**HONORARY DOCTOR OF LAWS, (10 A.M., NOV. 10)**

Michael Audain, chair of the National Gallery of Canada’s board of trustees, is widely known for his deep interest in, and generous philanthropic support for, the arts. He was a founding member of the Bill Reid Foundation, served as president of the Vancouver Art Gallery and is chair of the Vancouver Art Gallery Foundation. In 1997 he created the Audain Foundation for the Visual Arts, which has become the single largest supporter of the Vancouver Art Gallery.

Audain was born in England and came to Victoria with his family when he was nine years old. A descendent of the Dunsmuir family, he attended Victoria College from 1959–60, completing two years of study in a single year. He studied political science at UBC and took an active role in the creation of the BC Civil Liberties Association, hosting the group’s inaugural meeting.

Audain later studied at the London School of Economics and, after a career in housing policy and social planning, he joined Vancouver-based Polygon Homes in 1980. Under his leadership (as CEO and now as chairman), Polygon has built more than 17,000 housing units across the Lower Mainland.

**ALEX A. CAMPBELL**

**HONORARY DOCTOR OF LAWS (2:15 P.M., NOV. 10)**

Alex A. Campbell started in the grocery business at the age of 15, stocking shelves and bagging groceries for the Super Valu chain. He worked his way up and, in 1973 he opened the 9th Parallel Grocery in Ladysmith. Four years later, he and co-founder Ernie Skinner opened their first Thrifty Foods store, in Victoria, beginning a tradition of “being in the business of building better communities.”

The success of Thrifty Foods is a testament to Campbell’s business acumen as well as his dedication to his customers, staff and suppliers. Campbell’s set a high standard of community involvement, making Thrifty Foods a model of corporate citizenship and encouraging individual employees to take leadership roles in their communities.

The company’s contributions to the BC Cancer Agency, the Greater Victoria Hospitals Foundation, Boys and Girls Clubs, and the ALS Society are just a few examples of the depth and breadth of its community initiatives. Campbell remained chair of Thrifty Foods until 2007 when the 21-store chain was sold to Sobeys. He now serves as chairman emeritus and continues to provide his guidance and advice as a member of the company’s advisory board.

**DEEPA MEHTA**

**HONORARY DOCTOR OF LAWS (2:30 P.M., NOV. 9)**

Filmmaker Deepa Mehta was born in India and after coming to Canada in 1973 began her career as an editor, producer and director of television dramas. In 1996, she wrote, directed and produced Fire, the first film in her “elemental trilogy.” It became the subject of controversy in India as Hindu fundamentalists pressured the Indian government to ban the film because of its lesbian content and its questioning of the destiny of marginalized Indian women. The film went on to receive 14 international awards.

The next installment, Earth, dealt with nationalism and the politics of land, friendship, identity and family during India’s partition from Pakistan. It, too, created controversy, drew criticism and generated wide acclaim from critics and audiences.

The final film in the series, Water, was delayed and forced to move from its principal filming location in the holy city of Varanasi when Hindu fundamentalists rioted and Mehta received death threats. Water, centring on the practice of child marriage and the treatment of widows, was nominated for an Academy Award in 2007 (Best Foreign Film) and won three Genie awards, including best film.
Convocation is a celebration of the accomplishments of our students and the great promise which they bring as they enter on a new stage of their careers. It is also an occasion at which the university recognizes the outstanding talent, dedication and creativity of the faculty members whose work defines the quality of a Uvic education. Each year, the various faculties celebrate the best among Uvic’s educators by bestowing awards for excellence in teaching. This year’s recipients—representing the best of Uvic’s teachers—are profiled below.

**Uvic’s Teaching Stars for 2009**

**Dr. Jens Bornemann**

**Electrical and Computer Engineering**

Dr. Jens Bornemann (electrical and computer engineering) has developed and taught a variety of courses in the areas of electrodynamics, microwaves, antennas and propagation at the undergraduate and graduate levels. For many years, his students have consistently rated him at or near the top of the scale for teaching effectiveness and overall teaching ability. His enthusiasm for the subjects he is teaching has inspired many students. Bornemann has also contributed significantly to curriculum development. He served as graduate advisor and department chair and oversaw the rapid growth of the graduate program. He further served as a member of the BEng/BEng first-year review task force, which produced a report that is having significant impact on the first-year engineering curriculum.

**Gillian Calder**

**Law**

Professor Gillian Calder joined the Faculty of Law in 2001 and very soon made her mark as an exceptional teacher. This is evident in the comments left by her students, and now in a row she has received this award—a remarkable tribute to her abilities as a legal educator. Calder is particularly known among colleagues and students not only for her enthusiastic and engaged teaching but also for innovation and creativity in the classroom. She is devoted to finding ways to make legal education more meaningful for law students and more respectful of and responsive to their individual diversities and learning styles. She not only practices innovative pedagogy; she also researches and writes about it, and takes time to hone her classroom skills by participating in national and international workshops dedicated to creating better teachers.

**Ignace Ng**

**Business**

Dr. Ignace Ng (business) played a key role in the development of the MBA’s Malaysia study-work program and was responsible for the establishment of the International Field Experience for undergraduate BCom students to Greater China. He then championed the creation of the MBA program’s International Integrative Management Exercise and spearheaded the implementation of the Global MBA option as its subsequent evolution to the new Master of Global Business program that is to be launched next year. His sense of humour and patience stand as hallmarks of his teaching style. In the words of his students, “Ignace has mastered his craft and possesses a charismatic enthusiasm which captivates the classroom. His depth of knowledge and passion about teaching strengthens students’ sense of control and self-confidence; a vivid example of educational experiences. He gains the support of his students and co-workers through his approachable and supportive personality.”

**Dr. Helen Raptis**

**Curriculum and Instruction**

Dr. Helen Raptis (curriculum and instruction) works with pre-service and in-service teachers to help them see the classroom as embedded in social and historical context. Stellar student ratings indicate that her pedagogical approach is highly effective and inclusive of students’ ideas and needs. As a colleague explained, “I marvel at the time she takes to develop materials, re-design courses, listen intently to students and then build better classroom experiences.” Students praise her use of a wide range of methods, her compassion, flexibility, passion and enthusiasm. Through lectures, case studies, videos, readings, discussion, role-plays, debates, guided discovery, mock lesson plans and problem-solving activities, she is highly effective in helping teachers identify what they do influence—and is influenced by—students’ lives, social situations and historical circumstance.

**Dr. Lisa Surridge**

**English**

Dr. Lisa Surridge (English) conducts research on Victorian literature, bringing the period alive for students historically, socially and culturally. Surridge’s teaching is always new, fresh and in a constant state of development—and this has inspired many of her colleagues to redesign key undergraduate courses to give their host in the classroom. She constantly seeks ways to make her classroom an exciting and informative place. One student commented: “Dr. Surridge is an exemplary teacher. She guides classes effectively without ever imposing control. She is helpful and enthusiastic and treats her students with respect, empathy and with a great sense of humour.” Another wrote: “Dr. Surridge stands out as the most remarkable teacher I have ever had. Being taught by her makes you want to do well. Her approach to students is so friendly and real. She makes me feel I can live up to my potential.”

**Dr. Karena Shaw**

**Environmental Studies**

Dr. Karena Shaw (environmental studies) arrived at Uvic in 2003 and quickly became a leading contributor to reorienting the school’s undergraduate program. She was also one of the designers of the new and highly successful Introduction to Environmental Studies course, which employs an overarching theme of food examined through the three pedagogical pillars of the School: political ecology, ethnoscience and restoration ecology. She has provided inspiration and advice related to the school’s new master’s program and its partnership in the Redshirt School of Change. Working with faculty in the Institute of Integrated Energy Systems, she developed a course on energy, ecology and politics that attracted students in environmental studies and mechanical engineering. Shaw has become the school’s go to specialist in innovative teaching and has served as mentor to several sessional instructors. Colleagues are impressed by the effort she gives to teaching undergraduate students through generous conversations, exhaustive notation of her work and extensive lecture preparation.

**Dr. Penelope Codding**

**Chemistry**

Dr. Penelope Codding (chemistry) has been part of the Uvic’s community since her arrival from the University of Calgary in 1996 as provost and vice-president academic. She has transformed the way introductory courses in science are taught, by integrating computer-based tools inside and outside the classroom. She has mentored new faculty, helping them become more effective teachers, and has never stopped refining course content and delivery. As one of her colleagues writes, “For a student at the back of a class of 200 to feel or she has been engaged by the professor is a clear indication that Penny is extremely effective in these large sections.” A first-year student commented that, “It is not only Dr. Codding’s captivating classes that render her an exceptional professor, but also the extra attention she provides to ensure her students succeed.” Codding has made, and continues to make, a major difference to her students’ lives, in many cases influencing their career choices.

**Lorna Jackson**

**Writing**

Lorna Jackson (writing) is a well-known Canadian short-story writer, novelist and writer of creative non-fiction. She has published four books, and her work has appeared in numerous Canadian journals and magazines. Her recent work, Cold-cocked: On Hockey, was declared by the Globe and Mail to be "absolutely one of the best hockey books of our era." She is known for her meticulous attention to the smallest details within a student’s writing and her insistence on learning good technique. Her deep commitment to her students and ingenuity in the classroom is recognized by her students and colleagues. One student wrote, “Her comments on that first piece were generous, compassionate and kind. I started to understand something about Lorna: she cared about my writing. She wanted me to be a better writer.” Another student said simply, “I would not have published a novel if not for Lorna Jackson.”
From art to education, nursing student finds inspiration

**BY CHRISTINE MCLAREN**

Mid-career nursing student and accomplished artist Gayle Allison is convoking this November with the first group of nine students to complete UVic’s new nurse educator option in the master’s of nursing program.

Advanced practice nurse educators work to create new clinical approach and patient care models, advise on practice guidelines or new protocols while providing support to nurses and health professionals.

In 2007 UVic’s School of Nursing and UBC piloted the Educator Pathway Project. It was developed in partnership with the two lower mainland health authorities and the BC Nurses’ Union to help prepare the nursing workforce to advance health services.

“This project gave birth to the school’s way Project. It was developed in part—while providing support to nurses and was looking for and taught her history, advocating this November with the first Union to help prepare the nursing gallery manager position.”

Heather MacKay isn’t one to shy away from opportunity. Originally from Halifaxes, she decided to kick-start her university career by nursing from one coast to the other.

As she graduates this fall, she has already embraced her next adventure—a full-time job in Whistler, BC.

MacKay pursued a degree in history and art because of its multi-disciplinary focus. Her degree gave her the broad academic experience she was looking for and taught her history, philosophy and even math.

MacKay’s hard work was rewarded—during her time at UVic, she received both the President’s Entrance Scholarship and the President’s Scholarship, along with the QEII Academic Achievement Award and the Mathias Michener-in-FluKid Memorial Scholarship.

In an effort to bring her courses to life, MacKay enrolled in the UVic Co-op Program and completed work terms with the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies, the Autism Society of Nova Scotia, Mountain Galaxies and the Fairmont in Whistler, and the Whistler Museum. “I am grateful to have worked with so many different organizations,” she says. “Each work term taught me new skills.”

Along with support from her co-op program staff, she is thankful to her professors for being passionate and dedicated and for challenging and inspiring her.

When MacKay wasn’t busy studying or working, she was involved with several intramural leagues at UVic. “The racquetball and squash ladders were a fun way to meet people, and playing soccer outdoors all year long was amazing,” she says. These experiences helped solidify her love of the West Coast.

Since completing her studies, MacKay has moved back to Whistler where she accepted a full-time position with Mountain Galaxies, her previous co-op employer. As the gallery’s assistant manager, she is having a real impact on operations. “I am excited that within six months of graduating, I am managing a gallery,” she says. “It’s been amazing.”

MacKay is also taking an events management course with Late and Unique Nighttime Alternatives (LUNA) in Whistler, which produces cool, alcohol-free, late night events as an alternative to the bar scene. “My time at UVic has given me the tools and knowledge and passion for inorganic chemistry were put to the test as he studied corrosion on military vehicles and established the best corrosion-preventative compound. He made such an impact that he was offered a full-time position with the DND working on similar projects.

Glendinning is already considering pursuing his master’s degree of science, which he can obtain while still working at the DND through the Government of Canada’s professional development academic grant program. “Career options with the DND are great, and there are many opportunities coming up,” he says. “I’m excited about the future.”

Glendinning was awarded numerous scholarships during his studies, including the Millennium Scholarship.
International business student finds his home in Canada

BY DIANNE GEORGE

While completing his UVic commerce degree, Damir Alnsour helped shape the experience of others by volunteering to introduce new international students to the UVic Business international exchange program. An international student himself, Alnsour arrived at UVic from Jordan and is comfortable in three languages: Arabic, Serbo-Croatian and English.

For his own exchange, he signed up to attend the BI Norwegian School of Management in Oslo. “It was one of the schools I had applied to attend as an undergrad, so it was fun to be accepted for the exchange," he says. "But I am planning to stay in Canada.”

Alnsour’s decision to stay in this country was also based on his co-op work term experiences and rooted in his overall perception of Canadian society.

“Working after school and on weekends isn’t that common for the majority of students who arrive from the Middle East,” he explains. “So I didn’t have any work experience to add to my resume.”

“The co-op advisers were really helpful and encouraged me to think outside of the box by highlighting my differentiating attributes, such as being multilingual. They also suggested that I network as much as possible in order to gain a better understanding of how Canadian social interactions differ on a professional footing.

“I was surprised at how easy it was to meet people. In the Middle East, social interactions take on a much more conservative form, and it takes much longer to build strong, lasting and meaningful relationships.”

Alnsour completed co-op work terms with Hyack Air and Scotiabank. He liked the banking experience so much that he is now studying the Canadian securities course with the goal of a rewarding career in the financial industry, possibly going on to acquire a master’s degree in finance.

For Alnsour, “Canada has definitely lived up to its reputation as a multicultural and welcoming country that fosters individual success and excellence and provides endless opportunities accompanied with hope for a better future.”

Law student sets sights on defending animals’ rights

BY ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

The environmental law program brought Cara Hunt to UVic. But she has ended up dedicating her time on campus to protecting and advancing the rights of animals.

“Animal law is the pre-eminent social justice issue of our time,” says Hunt. “More people are going vegan and vegetarian every day.”

Animal law is any legal issue, legislation or case law that relates to animals and their interests. Hunt, 35, graduates with numerous awards and scholarships. She sits on the executive of the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund.

In 2008 Hunt won the Advancement of Animal Law Award from the Animal Legal Defense Fund. Her research has been published in The Advocate—the journal of the Vancouver Bar Association.

Originally from Kentucky, Hunt came to UVic with a bachelor’s degree and graduate work in psychology already under her belt.

“I didn’t know there was anything called animal law,” she says. “Then she took a course with associate professor Maneesha Deckha that changed everything.

“She’s been a mentor and a good example of someone who thinks about these issues and writes about them and tries to advance animal rights,” says Hunt.

The main purpose of animal law as Hunt sees it is to bring the law up to speed with society’s changing attitudes towards animals.

Hunt herself believes in the interconnectedness of all life. Her thesis paper on veganism draws from personal experience as a vegan in a meat-eating world and was one of a handful of student works presented at the 2009 International Animal Law Conference in Montreal.

Her most recent work experience focused on creating the first exhaustive review of American laws that deal in any way with animals used in testing. The goal is to use that compilation to update American laws and eventually restrict the use of animals in toxicity testing.

Animal law isn’t the only area where Hunt excels. She won this year’s MacIsaac & Company Prize in Community Law, given to a student who has demonstrated excellence in working at UVic’s Law Centre legal aid clinic.

When it comes to defending animal rights, Hunt walks the walk. She volunteers with the BC SPCA and helps care for feral and abandoned cats. She’s also fostered chickens that were past their egg-laying years and is working on a vegan organic garden with her husband in their backyard.

Hunt sea kayaks and cycles in her spare time. “I like to read, even though I’ve read enough in law school to last me a lifetime.”

She recently was hired to do criminal law work for Green & Helme in Victoria. But there is no doubt about the kind of law she’ll end up practising.

“UVic is the best thing that ever happened to me,” Hunt says. “I’ve had my eyes opened to many different issues.

If it weren’t for UVic, she says she wouldn’t have discovered this passion. Or fallen in love with UVic’s hundreds of resident bunnies, which she will miss when she graduates.
From UVic to the lions’ lair

By AMBER McMILLAN

“Lion vomit might just be the worst smell in the world.” That juicy tidbit is just part of the ongoing education of geography master’s student Mary Smulders. Smulders won’t be on hand to receive her MSc degree during full Convocation because she’s busy conducting research on lions in Kenya.

Smulders came to UVic in 2007, and has been involved in the geography department’s Spatial Pattern and Analysis Research (SPAR) Laboratory, examining the spatial-temporal habitat use of grizzly bears in the Alberta Rocky Mountains.

Starting out with no background in biology, Smulders completed a highly praised thesis examining how grizzly bears use habitat and how habitat use changes through time as female bears have cubs.

Asked about her experience at UVic, Smulders notes the lasting relationships she developed with her classmates and her supervisor, Dr. Trislyn Nelson, adding, “My MSc field work was also a highlight of my time at UVic.” She spent two weeks in the Alberta Rocky Mountains climbing in and out of grizzly bear dens and exploring characteristics such as vegetation, climate and slope of the terrain. She was also able to hone her research skills by working on projects involving various branches of the Canadian government, including the Pacific Forestry Research Centre.

Encouraged by Nelson to attend academic conferences, Smulders presented her research at two national conferences in Vernon, BC, and an international conference in Las Vegas.

Born in Vancouver and raised in Toronto, Smulders chose UVic because of the “fantastic masters opportunity funding,” Smulders explains, “I hope to use spatial analysis techniques learned from my MSc to model lion movement in relation to their enclosures, called booms, where herders keep their livestock. With this information we hope to better examine the relationship between lions, livestock and herders as lion predation on cattle often results in their death.”

Sayers continued from p.1

of Business Dr. Ali Dastmalchian. “The Faculty of Business has wanted to connect with her for years, and we are very pleased she has agreed to work with us to expand our understanding and connections with the Aboriginal community.”

Sayers will be working closely with students and faculty members to raise awareness of issues and challenges related to Aboriginal economic development, and she will contribute her considerable knowledge and experience to UVic’s ongoing research in this field. She’s also writing a book about the treaty process and the transformation of Premiere Gordon Campbell on this topic.

We are very pleased to welcome Ms. Sayers to UVic Law,” says Dean of Law Donna Gieschen. “She has a wealth of knowledge to share with our students. The faculty is a leader in Indigenous legal education and has a long tradition of offering innovative programming and leadership in this area. Her appointment continues that tradition.”

Sayers holds a business degree and was one of the first Indigenous law school graduates of the University of British Columbia. She practised law for 18 years in Alberta and British Columbia and has extensive experience working with international agencies and government bodies in advance the causes of First Nations rights, sustainable development and Aboriginal title issues. She was Chief of the Hupacasath First Nation in Port Alberni for 14 years, as acted as its chief negotiator for many years, served as president of the Upright Power Corporation and was also elected to the political executive of the First Nation Summit in 2006 for a two-year term.

Her many honours include the 2008 Silver Medal in Climate Change from the Canadian Environmental Association and induction into the Canadian Aboriginal Business Hall of Fame. She was twice honoured with a Woman of Distinction Award from the Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Grad follows her passion for community involvement

By Vivian Kereki

Lauren Warbeck credits a passion for community involvement and a deep-seated commitment to her professors for starting her on a path that continues to allow her to realize her master’s of Women’s Studies.

James Rowe and Duncan Taylor were the School of Environmental Studies professors who are invested in my perspectives were valued. I am inspired by their drive to understand the way they speak and live and the way they explore characteristics such as vegetation, climate and slope of the terrain.

During her time at UVic, she has been an active member of the UVic community as well as the larger Victoria community. She was the co-coordinator of the Women’s Studies Equity and Outreach Committee in 2007–08, she teaches bicycle mechanics at Victoria High School (from which she graduated), and she worked with the Bike Lab Society to found the Free Hub Bike Cooperative, a non-profit bike shop. She also makes videos to promote cycling.

In May 2009, Warbeck was recognized for her efforts with one of the eight UVic Blue and Gold Awards (from which she graduated) and she was also a highlight of my time at UVic. She spent two weeks in the Alberta Rocky Mountains climbing in and out of grizzly bear dens and examining characteristics such as vegetation, climate and slope of the terrain.

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The University of British Columbia is planning to address a $25-million shortfall in central academic allocations and 2-per-cent cuts to faculties. Additional measures are being considered to deliver a balanced budget for fiscal 2010-11. The university plans to address a $25-million shortfall

UBC addressing $25-million shortfall


The University of Victoria is in a record enrolment position with a 7,000 increase in undergraduate programs and 136,500 in graduate programs—an increase of 29,000 and 9,000, respectively, since last fall. These figures include an additional 7,000 full-time international students gained this year. For UVic enrolment figures, see the item below.


The University of Victoria is planning to address $25-million shortfall

More: http://www.president.ubc.ca/ (see “Fall 2009 HEADS UP meeting”)

UBC achieves record enrolment numbers

UVic achieves record enrolment numbers

More info on sustainability at UVic: http://web.uvic.ca/sustainability/

UVic 2009 United Way in final stretch

The UVic 2009 United Way campaign strives to head off a downward boiling point with events taking place across campus.

The annual UVic Libraries’ book sale raised a whopping $13,532 last month, well over its $10,000 target. The UVic 2009 United Way campaign goal is $275,000 and as of press time, we are more than halfway to that target.

Everyone who fills out a pledge form is eligible for fabulous draw prizes including day-kayaking for two, a limited edition Emily Carr print, passes to a set of Salmon Kings games, and a grand prize of two tickets to a Vancouver Canucks hockey game and weekend accommodation in Vancouver.

Shelia Adams (medieval/religious studies) knows a thing or two about prizes, and it is people like her who are the gift behind the giving. Adams is actively involved as a UVic United Way campaign committee member and has been responsible every year for compiling the fantastic list of annual draw prizes, thanks to the willing generosity of our service sponsors.

Adams also helps organize the annual UVic Hearts and Hands Craft Fair, which takes place on Nov. 17 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the University Centre lobby.

It’s an early opportunity for great gift-giving ideas and meaningful deals before the holiday rush next month. The craft fair hosted its first set of stalls in November 2001, with founding members Helen Rezanowich (writing), Deb Renney (human resources) and Annette Barath (psychology). Rezanowich is currently one of three committee co-chairs along with Lynn McCaughy (cooperative education and career services) and Adams. Proceeds from registration fees and gift basket raffle go to the United Way campaign.

UVic chemistry profs Drs. Alex Brack and Scott McIndoe are stepping up to replace legendary Dr. Reg Mitchell (aka “Dr. Zonk”) who retired last year, so get ready for a science spectacle with stunning pyrotechnics and quickly extinguished explosions. That Chemistry Show Takes place at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 19 in the Rob Wright Centre. Tickets are $9 in person from the UVic box office. Online details: http://auditorium.uvic.ca/contact.html

The Sep. 21 kick-off BBQ, the Sep. 27 VW Bug Push and the Nov. 3 Chilliwack for Charity dunk tank event raised money for the campaign, and the campus coin drive continues to rack up a lot of change for a good cause.

Coming up in December: the plasma car race, the Commerce Students’ Society garage sale plus ongoing UVic United Way events.

More UVic United Way information: http://unitedway.uvic.ca

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More UVic United Way information: http://unitedway.uvic.ca
Leave your mark for future generations.

A planned gift to the University of Victoria can create many bright futures. Just ask Sumeet Leekha, a fourth year electrical engineering student. Thanks to an estate-established bursary, Sumeet has the means to pursue his passion.

Your generosity will help ensure that future generations of talented students like Sumeet 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.

Find out how you can create a lasting legacy in your will or estate plan by contacting Natasha Benn, Planned Giving Development Officer at 250-721-6001 or by e-mail at nbenn@uvic.ca

ringers
UVic writing alumni Deborah Willis (Vanishing and Other Stones) and First Nations poet Philip Kevin Paul (Little Hunger), along with writing department chair Joan MacLeod (Another Home Invasion), are finalists for the prestigious Governor General’s Literary Awards. The 2009 recipients will be announced on Nov. 17 in Montreal. Past UVic award winners include Tim Lilburn (Poetry, 2003), Don MacKaye (Poetry, 2000, 1991), Lorna Crozier (Writing, 1992), Joan MacLeod (Drama, 1991), Jack Hodgins (Writing, 1978), Patrick Lane (Writing, 1978), Stephen Sondheim (English, 1980), Jan Zwicky (Philosophy, 1999). More info: http://www. cmsdosociety.ca/poets/gdla

Kane Kilbey has been appointed associate vice-president human resources, effective Dec. 1. He comes to UVic from the Vancouver Island Health Authority where he served most recently as corporate director, HR consulting services; interim vice-president, human resources and organizational development; and interim corporate director, wellness and safety services. He has a B.A from UVic and an MBA from UBC.

antidote: Multiracial and Indigenous Girls and Women’s Network is the recipient of the Award of Excellence for Cultural Heritage and Diversity from the BC Representative for Children and Youth. A community grassroots organization, antidote emerged from a participatory action research project with Dr. Jo-Anne Lee (women’s studies) and included faculty from the School of Child and Youth Care. A not-for-profit organization of over 150 Victoria girls and women of diverse cultures and backgrounds, antidote has a unique inter-generational structure that uses creative multi-media approaches (documentaries, theatre, photography, poetry, art) to raise public awareness while building leadership skills and social justice activism among members. Info: www.antidoteweb.org
A DAY IN THE LIFE of Pierrette Brideau can include cooking up to 80 pizzas per day at the Sci Café, including the most popular "All Canadian Melt" ham-and-cheese. She also makes calzones, soups and salads, and does twice-daily appliance and food safety temperature checks. But Pierrette's day starts long before her shifts in any of the campus food outlets. She's up each weekday before 6 a.m. to take care of a special-needs child, getting to his house by 6:30 a.m. to wake him up, make his breakfast, get him ready for his day program and ensure he gets to his bus stop by 7:30 a.m. "Then he's on his way for the day!"

Rewind, reuse, recycle

Stephen Wylie, UVic's surplus asset coordinator, shows off surplus recording media before it is dropped to a local recycling facility. The kinds of media that can be recycled include hard drives, cell phones, PDAs, cameras, computer tape reels, audio cassettes, video tapes, CDs and DVDs, floppy discs and voice recorder tapes. For data security, all recorded media are shredded prior to recycling. Since taking up his new position at UVic's purchasing department two years ago, Wylie has expanded the scope of the campus electronic recycling program and held regular on-campus and online sales of surplus assets. "I take things that other people think have no value, and find their residual value—either by discovering a new use for them or recycling them," the say. Wylie can be contacted at swylie@uvic.ca. PHOTOS: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

In memoriam

Biology Professor Emeritus Alan P. Austin died on Sept. 29 of complications arising from Parkinson’s disease. For 40 years, Austin used his expertise in marine biology, physiology and freshwater ecology to build a research and teaching program encompassing aquatic sciences, ecology, water quality, pollution biology and aquaculture. He strove to understand the interactions within natural ecosystems and how we could use that knowledge to redress the environment. Alan believed in Aldo Leopold’s notion of an ecological conscience—a sense of our individual responsibility for the health of the land and its capacity for self-renewal. His research, focusing on local and regional issues in collaboration with government scientists, included macro-algal inventories; health assessments of Vancouver Island lakes, rivers and streams affected by mining, logging and urban development; as well as the effects of waste water effluent on pristine mountain streams. The past decade has vindicated Alan’s foresight regarding the magnitude of global threats to humanity. Following more than 20 years of basic ecological teaching and research, Alan shifted his focus to integrating the insights derived from understanding nature with a new ethos of human development in step with nature. He embraced Victor Hugo’s observation that “Nothing else in the world … not all the armies … is so powerful as an idea whose time has come.” He is survived by Nana, his wife of 50 years, son Jason and his wife Deanna, grandchildren Danielle, Joseph and Caitlyn. Alan’s wisdom, pursuit of truth and advocacy for wildlife will be missed by his colleagues, students and friends.

Submit by Wm. Patrick Lucy, friend and former colleague

The Day in the Life series features the diversity of UVic employers, who often working behind the scenes, contribute so much to university life. To suggest someone to profile, contact Robie Liscomb (721-7640 or robie@uvic.ca).