**FEBRUARY 2010**
The University of Victoria’s community newspaper

**ring.uvic.ca**

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### UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

#### SPEED READING

**Distinguished Service Awards**

Celebrate the contributions of our colleagues

UVic President David Turpin is hosting the annual employee recognition event on Feb. 8 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in the foyer of the Bob Wright Centre. The campus community is invited to celebrate all nominees and recipients of the 2009 President’s Distinguished Service Awards. Details: [http://web.uvic.ca/hr/pdsa/](http://web.uvic.ca/hr/pdsa/)

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**FUNDRAISING CONCERT**

**Perfect pitch for Haiti**

Prof. Arthur Rowe, acclaimed pianist and acting director of UVic’s School of Music, will join four other performers Feb. 6 in a benefit concert to rebuild five schools in Haiti as well as the convent and medical dispensary run by the Sisters of St. Ann. The benefit concert will be held at Queenwood, 2494 Arbutus Rd. at 7 p.m.

Details: [www.queenwoodvictoria.ca/hati](http://www.queenwoodvictoria.ca/hati)

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### THE RING

#### UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS

**BY ROBIE LISCUMB**

Fifty-three UVic undergraduate students are getting the chance to make significant contributions to hands-on research projects this year, thanks to a new UVic scholarship program.

With mentoring and supervision from some of UVic’s top researchers, they are working on a wide range of projects, including studying the brains of children diagnosed with ADHD, the cycling of greenhouse gases in coastal environments, breast cancer vaccine development, and the use of nanomaterials for early detection of cancers.

UVic’s vice-president academic and provost initiated the Undergraduate Research Scholarship (URS) program this year to enhance opportunities for undergraduate students to engage in research as part of their academic programs—one of the objectives of UVic’s strategic plan.

It provides $3,000 annually to each academic unit to support one or two exceptional third- or fourth-year undergraduate students who might otherwise be unable to obtain direct research experience.

Students are nominated by their departments and the nomination process is administered by the Learning and Teaching Centre (LTC).

“Nearly every university supports the integration of research into the undergraduate curriculum, but this means different things at different institutions,” explains LTC Director Teresa Dawson, who was responsible for much of the development of the URS program.

“In my experience, the level of commitment here at UVic is quite rare. This program is unusual in its size—it represents a large amount of money and is comprehensive in its breadth in that every academic unit is entitled to one of the scholarships.”

“Based on our experience this first year, the program is successful in really enhancing the student experience on the research side,” Dawson adds. “The quality of the mentoring is quite high, and we feel that the experience will have a real impact on the lives of these students.”

“It’s been an invaluable opportunity for me to work one-on-one with a prof, doing actual research and working with primary source materials,” says Pacific and Asian studies student Dean Ashton. He is working with Dr. Richard King on a project to research and create an online archive of King’s collection of Chinese posters—some quite rare—from the latter part of the Cultural Revolution and immediate post-Mao years.

Ashton has conducted a literature search on this art form, reviewed available online collections and digitized 128 posters, developing valuable research and technical skills along the way.

SEE UNDERGRAD RESEARCH P.3

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**New MA prepares community leaders worldwide**

The School of Public Administration is launching a unique MA in community development to build leadership capacity for organizations and prepare community leaders around the world.

An international component of the program will be delivered in collaboration with the Society for Participatory Research in Asia (SPRIA). Application deadline is Feb. 15.


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### VIKES ATHLETICS

**Swimmer bathing in glory**

Vikes swimmer Nick Sinclair won four gold and two silver medals at the Canada West championships and was named Athlete of the Meet, Rookie of the Meet and Canada West and Canadian Interuniversity Sport Athlete of the Week.

Meet the Canada West and Canadian Interuniversity Sport Athlete of the Meet, Rookie of the Meet, Vikes swimmer Nick Sinclair won four gold and two silver medals at the Canada West championships and was named Athlete of the Meet, Rookie of the Meet and Canada West and Canadian Interuniversity Sport Athlete of the Week.

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### UNDERGRADS DIG INTO RESEARCH

#### Law scholar and former dean to be next SFU president

Law scholar and former dean to be next SFU president

Prof. Andrew Petter, constitutional law expert and former dean of the University of Victoria Faculty of Law, has been named president of Simon Fraser University for a five-year term, beginning Sept. 1.

Petter, who was appointed after an international search on this art form, reviewed available online collections and digitized 128 posters, developing valuable research and technical skills along the way.

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Not your typical science class
Twenty years of adventure in technology, engineering and science for Vancouver Island youth

BY ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

In the remote First Nations community of Yuquot on Nootka Island, the children know the name: Science Venture.

Last summer, the youth explored the island’s shoreline and learned about the area’s rich marine life and its traditional uses. It was part of a week-long outreach camp that saw members of UVic’s Science Venture program travel by land, boat and air to bring the excitement of science to local youth.

Yuquot is one of eight remote communities on Vancouver Island that hosted an outreach camp last summer.

The camps are only a part of Science Venture’s efforts to connect with First Nations youth, and just an indication of the program’s incredible reach.

This year Science Venture’s 20th anniversary. The program began as the brainchild of two UVic engineering students who wanted to bring kids the joys and possibilities of science through hands-on and interactive learning.

It was the first program of its kind in British Columbia. And from that first summer, 140 kids learned to love the sciences, the program has grown to reach 8,198 children and youth from Grade 1 to Grade 12 this past year.

Melisa Yestrau, executive director of Science Venture, says that growth will continue.

“We want to dispel the stereotypes of science and engineering and technology, and show that anyone can do it, and it’s so relevant to anything you do in your life.”

Innovative teaching is key to the program’s success. Science Venture hires UVic students to teach and facilitate its various programs—from summer camps and in-school workshops to clubs and special events. These students create dynamic, fun programming that brings science to life.

Their efforts were recognized this January through the Actua & GE Canada Award for Leadership and Innovation. Actua is a national organization of programs like Science Venture that seek to expose kids to science.

Jace Meyer, Camp Coordinator and fourth-year education student, says that Science Ventures’ “hands-on, minds-on” approach inspires youth to ask questions and pursue their curiosity, “creating life-long learners.”

The program seeks to reach not only the greatest number of youth, but also a wide diversity. Through all-girls programming, Aboriginal outreach and bursaries, Yestrau works to make sure no child is denied an encounter with blue-coloured goop in the chemistry lab or the chance to build their own remote-controlled car.

For Meyer, that inclusion is hugely important.

Last summer she worked with an autistic boy at one of the camps. They spent much of their time together in the biology labs. The boy had struggled in kindergarten and his parents were concerned about whether he would be able to enter Grade 1 in the fall.

“When we were looking through the microscope everything else seemed to go away,” says Meyer. “This little boy was able to rest for a moment and just focus on the beauty of the specimen under the microscope.”

The experience gave the boy’s parents confidence that he could go on to Grade 1.

Science Venture’s remarkable growth would be impossible without the support of UVic’s engineering, science and education faculties. Professors volunteer their time as mentors throughout the summer and help direct programming year-round.

“It’s exciting to see all the changes and growth in the program over the years,” says Yestrau. She wants to continue partnering with communities and growing both Science Venture’s reach and the quality of its programming.

“We are always looking at new and innovative ways to bring science to kids ex- cited.” To that end, Science Venture is launching a “mini-med camp” this year, its first foray into medical science.

Like that young boy with the micro- scope, a generation of Vancouver Island youth has been touched by Science Venture’s 20 years of programming.

Yestrau says students often pass her office and remark, “Hey, I did Science Venture.” It’s a refrain she’s likely to hear echo across the Vancouver Island in years to come. From Yuquot to Victoria and beyond.

Major upgrades for aging campus buildings

A sea of bright orange safety vests brightened an otherwise gray day on campus Jan. 11 as construction workers and local representatives joined UVic President David Turpin to officially launch $42.5 million in renovations to six university buildings.

The ambitious initiative is part of the Knowledge Infrastructure Program, a joint federal-provincial investment.

The project will upgrade the Clearihue, Cunningham, Elliot, MacLaurin, Cornell and University Centre buildings, all of which were built between 1962 and 1978. The renovations will extend the useful lives of the buildings, which include classrooms and laboratories, while improving safety and reducing maintenance requirements.

Federal Minister of State for Sport and Saanich-Gulf Islands MP Gary Lynn and provincial Minister of Healthy Living and Sport and Oak Bay-Gordon Head MLA Al Chong joined Turpin in shevelling gravel at the Elliot seminar upgrade project for television and newspaper photographers on campus to cover the event.

Collectively, the upgrade is expected to reduce annual energy costs by $18,000 and reduce CO2 emissions by 700 tonnes per year, the equivalent of taking 134 cars off the road.

“The University of Victoria is very grateful for the benefits we are gaining from the joint federal-provincial stimulus package to support research and teaching infrastructure enhancement at Canadian institutions,” said Turpin. “By renovating existing buildings, students, faculty and staff experience safer, more energy-efficient buildings right away, and the new jobs the program creates in the design, construction and trade sectors provide a welcome stimulus to the economy.”

Renovations for the buildings include seismic upgrading, enhancement of fire alarms and installation of sprinkler systems, resulting in students, staff and faculty having a safer place to learn and work.

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Bob Reimer
Guest director learns with students

BY MICHAEL SHAMATA, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, BELFRY THEATRE

It has been my pleasure to work with students at many institutions across Canada and the United States, but each time I have the opportunity, I am reminded again at the incredible learning opportunity this provides. Yes, for the students, but also for myself.

This winter I have had the honour of working with a fantastic team of students at the University of Victoria as we all prepare to present the prolific Canadian playwright, George F. Walker’s Problem Child in February.

The choice to present Walker’s Problem Child through these students seemed a pertinent and important exercise for the student company at the Department of Theatre. For one, the characters in Problem Child are fascinating but very flawed young people who, despite different life choices, are not dissimilar in age from our own students.

As well, the play—ina very short space of time since being written in 1997—has become a new Canadian classic and is regularly performed on stages from one end of the country to the other. It is a play I felt would be a critical component to a contemporary actor’s portfolio.

And thirdly, Problem Child, like so many of Walker’s brilliant plays, deftly portrays the urban underclass. His characters are on the lookout for their next meal in a broken and broken system, but Walker also shows us their humanity, that they are more than just another one of society’s messed-up, off-the-rails, throwaway, important message for our next generation, I believe. It has been an indescribable delight to work with these young actors. Together we tell the personal and sometimes comedic struggle of Denise, a mother with drug issues and her loveable, down-on-her-luck partner RJ as they fight to regain custody of their child from social services. These students have been open, brave, hard-working, and fun.

I am always conscious that my direction is not only guidance for the production of this particular play, but a process of monitoring our theatre artists for the future. Their young minds are like sponges and everything that happens in the rehearsal hall is experiential learning for the rest of their careers.

However, I am not only directing a team of student actors on stage. As with any play, a production requires the talent of design- ers, stage managers, technicians, craftspersons and artists. At UVic, these roles are also performed by students in the department. I am continually impressed as they commit hundreds of hours to designing, building and even wallpapering a set, or learning to master a lighting board.

I thank UVic for this opportunity because, while mentoring these students, I am learning with them. In their efforts to absorb knowledge and skills in this hands-on classroom, they challenge me, my ideas, and force me to be a better director.

Michael Shamata is an award-winning director who has directed in major theatres across Canada including the Stratford Festival, Cana- dian Stage Company, Soulpepper and the Manitoba Theatre Centre. He is currently the artistic director at the Belfry Theatre and is a guest director in the Department of Theatre for the Phoenix Theatre production of Problem Child, Feb. 18–27. Details: www.phoenixtheatrecas.ca

UNDERGRAD RESEARCH

Ashton and King share a keen interest in Chinese propaganda post- ers. While studying Mandarin at East China Normal University last year, supported in part by a departmental scholarship, Ashton bought about 100 propaganda posters. “And at least one of them is not a fake,” he jokes.

Ashton is writing his honour theses on Chinese peasant painting and hopes to return to China to further his language studies before applying to graduate school in anthropology or sociology.

Ellie Stephenson, pursuing a double major in environmental studies and English, echoes Ashton’s satisfaction with the experience the research scholarship has made possible. “It’s been one of the best learning opportunities I’ve had at UVic,” she says.

Stephenson is working with Dr. Eric Higgs (environmental studies) and his research team for the Mountain Legacy Project. They are working with the world’s largest collection of systematic, historical mountain photographs, taken by survey teams creating the first topographical maps of western Canada, and comparing them to 3,000 recent photos taken from exactly the same locations. Compar- ative analysis techniques are valuable data pertaining to use, age, usage processes and climate change.

Stephenson part of the research puzzle has been coordinating creation of an online map indicating photogra- phy locations and linking them to collections of data. “It’s entailed more responsibility than I expected,” she explains. “But I’ve been able to collaborate with a bunch of really talented and experi- enced people who have been incredibly supportive and encouraging. And it’s great to feel that the work I’ve been doing will have an impact and be useful to others.”

This year’s undergraduate research scholarship recipients will present their projects in a special public showcase event April 14 in the Hick- man Building. As well, they will be eligible to publish the results of their research in a new online scholarly journal, produced by the Learning and Teaching Centre and The Writ- ing Centre, that is planned for a fall 2010 launch.

More information, including a complete list of recipients and project abstracts: http://www.ltc.uvic.ca/schol- arships/ars.php

Pauquachin Nation gets exclusive purchase rights to Dunsmuir Lodge

Pauquachin Nation gets exclusive purchase rights to Dunsmuir Lodge as leaders from the Pauquachin Nation and members of UVic’s executive gathered in the First Peoples House on Jan. 19 to sign an agreement giving the Pauquachin exclusive priority, over the next 18 months, to negotiate the purchase of Dunsmuir Lodge from the university.

“My heart is in a good place today, ” said Pauquachin Nation Chief Bruce Underwood, speaking to members of his council and the Pauquachin Peninsula First Nations leaders and members of the UVic community. He thanked Student Services for the opportunity to purchase the North Saanich property adjacent to Pauquachin reserve and spoke of his hope “to ensure we end up with that piece of property in the Pauquachin name.”

UVic closed Dunsmuir Lodge at the end of March 2009 because the facility was not sustainable in the long term and required subsidies to operate. The Pauquachin Nation, the immediate neighbours to the property, expressed a very strong interest in the Dunsmuir lands and discussions over the summer and fall resulted in the exclusive agreement.

“For many years our community has felt the strong need to acquire ownership of this land and mountain. This agreement gives us the opportunity to take that first step,” said Underwood. “Our elders have felt very strongly about our territory and about the mountain in particular, and it is our time now to preserve something for our children and the next generation to come. “You have my commitment that over the next 18 months we do every- thing we can to make this a reality,” said UVic’s Vice-President Finance and Operations Gayle Gorrill. “Also, the Pauquachin are Dunsmuir’s neigh-
How can UVic Libraries serve you better?

From Feb. 8 to March 5, UVic Libraries will conduct another installment of LIQUID: "a survey to sample a random assortment of UVic students and faculty. LIQUID is a web-based survey developed by the Association of Research Libraries for academics worldwide. Designers, architects and students are invited to share their feedback on library services. A prize of a laptop will be awarded to one participant. Take the survey online at liQUID2010.uvic.ca.

Love of sports leads to AVONOC position

BY CEARA LORNIE

Kira Peterson has always had a love of sports, whether that meant competing in gymnastics as a child or snowboarding every weekend. When she joined UVic’s Co-operative Education Program as a recreation and health education student, she discovered another love—event planning. Peterson now combines the two as she helps plan one of the biggest sporting events of all time—the Vancouver 2010 Olympics.

Peterson, who graduated in 2008, is now working full-time for the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (AVONOC).

She first developed her event planning skills while working as a co-op student. She completed her first work term as a coordinator with Burton Snowboards Chill Program, which helps at-risk youth in Vancouver take part in snowboarding activities. After this experience, Peterson was determined to add more events to her résumé. She was set on working for Gymnastics Canada Gymnastics in Ottawa, so she approached the organization and successfully secured a co-op work term. “I worked as an assistant to the events coordinator and learned so much about organizing sporting events. I ended up taking most of my electives by distance education so that I could immerse myself in this passion.”

Love of sports leads to AVONOC position

Three super teachers have been awarded the Andy Farquharson Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Teaching for this year: Jonathan Chui (chemistry), Jonathan Morris (child and youth care) and James Rowe (environmental studies).

Jonathan Chui is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Chemistry with several years of experience as a teaching assistant. He grew up in Hong Kong and studied in Italy, Vancouver and Montreal prior to arriving in Victoria. Chui has devoted hundreds of volunteer hours to UVic’s peer-helping program providing one-on-one peer counseling to students on personal and academic issues. He has also served as a volunteer with the NEED Crisis and Information Line.

“For me, the most meaningful part of teaching is seeing the students light up when they understand,” he explains. “I teach labs, tutorials and at the help centre—relatively small classes—so I get many opportunities to know the students, gauge where they are at, and try to respond to their questions in a way that leads them on the right track but not rickshawing them to the destination.”

One of his nominators describes him as having “a perfect blend of personability and leadership.” Another says, “There is no doubt that he had a large impact on my approach to learning, my success and my career path.”

Jonathan Morris is a master’s candidate in the School of Child and Youth Care studying a school-based suicide prevention curriculum. Morris has volunteered for the NEED Crisis and Information Line, been a residence advisor, held elected positions in the UVic Students’ Society and the UVic senate, and is the Healthy Minds-Healthy Campuses Project Coordinator for the Canadian Mental Health Association-RC Division.

“I love having lively conversations with students about child and youth care practice,” says Morris. “I am often struck by what the students in my classes teach me about working with children, youth, and their families.”

His nominators praise his commitment to innovative and ethical practice and his supportive and passionate approach to teaching.

James Rowe is a senior instructor in the School of Environmental Studies. His teaching and research interests include environmental politics, alternative economies and social movement politics. He is co-chair of the board of directors of the Victoria Street New.

“What I enjoy most about teaching is the creativity,” he says. “The classroom is a creative space where we can collectively experiment with different ideas and spark new approaches to pressing problems. I particularly love teaching because of how much I learn from students.”

His tireless enthusiasm and relentless hopefulness create a classroom environment that is inspired and inspiring, where students can believe in the possibility of a more socially and ecologically just world,” says one of his nominators. Another says he “creates a trusting classroom environment where students from diverse backgrounds and skill levels feel invited to participate, and where tensions between perspectives are treated as possibility, not conflicts.”

Named in honour of Dr. Andy Farquharson, 3M Teaching Fellow and former director of the UVic Learning and Teaching Centre, the awards are administered by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and recognize those who have excelled in teaching during their graduate studies.
The University of Victoria celebrated the official opening of First Peoples House on Jan. 25. The Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, the Honourable Steven L. Point, and Her Honour Mrs. Gwendolyn Point—the patrons of First Peoples House—joined other guests in songs of honour and celebration inside the packed ceremonial hall.

With the opening of UVic’s First Peoples House, we fulfill one of our most significant strategic initiatives, said UVic President David Turpin. “This beautiful structure in the heart of our campus demonstrates our strong commitment to building on and expanding our valued relationship with Indigenous communities. The First Peoples House provides a welcoming and supportive space for the community and an academic and cultural centre for Indigenous students, faculty and staff. It will play an important role in linking UVic with the Indigenous communities in the years ahead.”

The building houses the Office of Indigenous Affairs, Aboriginal student counselling services, classroom space, a student lounges and Elders’ lounge, offices for faculty and the LE300QT project as well as a ceremonial hall and kitchen. Elders are on site three days a week to provide advice and guidance to students.

Welcome figures showcase family and teaching

BY KERISSA DICKIE

Greeting visitors from their eastern-facing posts, two distinguished figures stand outside First Peoples House. Carved of old growth cedar (300–400 years old) from northern Vancouver Island, the posts depict a mother holding her child, and a father with a young child. The mother holds her free hand up in a traditional gesture of thanks and welcome, her feet dancing, while the father holds a protective arm around his son. The artist, Doug Lafotune from the T’sartlip Nation, envisioned these figures to symbolize welcome and to showcase the importance of family and teaching. Doug’s son, Bear, and Doug’s younger brother, Aubrey, helped him carve these figures.

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“How that we have this beautiful space, we're able to provide holistic support to Indigenous students,” said Fran Hunt-Jinnouchi, director of the Office of Indigenous Affairs. “Our programming is rich and full, offering everything from a Good Food Box program to academic and career-related workshops to spiritual support and guidance in ceremony.”

“First Peoples House gives Indigenous students a place to come where they feel like they belong,” said Robin Thomas, co-chair, with Hunt-Jinnouchi, of the First Peoples House Advisory Council. “We're trying to find a balance between academics—a space where students can learn—and a place where people can learn about First Nations culture and history.”

The advisory council provides guidance and advice on the mission, purposes and priorities of the House and develops principles for the use of this unique campus space.

The council includes representatives appointed by chiefs of local First Nations communities, as well as UVic staff, faculty, graduate and undergraduate students.

An open house for the campus community is planned for March. Details: http://web.uvic.ca/fphouse/
Local heroes applauded at 2010 VLA event

All nominees of the 2010 Victoria's Leadership Awards (VLA) were lauded last month as local community heroes. The annual VLA program is like an Academy Awards for local community dedication and commitment, and the inspirational talents of Victoria's most tireless champions were celebrated at the sixth annual fundraising reception on Jan. 28.

VLA is a partnership between Leadership Victoria, the Victoria Foundation, the University of Victoria and the Rotary Clubs of Greater Victoria to recognize outstanding contributions to the city's vibrancy. The University of Victoria Community Leadership Award went to David Burns as former executive director of Greater Victoria's Child and Family Counselling Association for his ceaseless commitment to building bridges between the association and community-based researchers particularly at UVic.

Tom Downie, assistant director of UVic's Campus Security Services, was nominated in the same category for his unending efforts on behalf of the UVic campus community and for his 400–500 hours of volunteer time each year with Canada's Reserves.

Lydia Kiasianchuk, manager of the Lafayette String Quartet—the four-member artists-in-residence group at UVic's School of Music—was another highly regarded nominee for the UVic award.

Several other nominees, particularly in the youth award category, are directly affiliated with UVic and sustainability entrepreneur Joshua Schmidt; UVic alumnus (biology), author and mental health educator Matthew Norman Ward; and UVic alumnus (English) Lee Herrin, the Leadership Victoria Alumni Award nominee and executive director of the Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group.

Katie Shaw, UVic alumna (sociology), current UVic graduate student, indefatigable social justice activist and highly respected youth mentor, was the recipient of the 2010 VanCity Youth Award. Charlayne Thornton-Joe, recipient of the 2010 Rotary Community Leadership Award, and Laura Walsh, recipient of the 2010 Leadership Victoria Alumni Award, are also both UVic alumni.

The 2010 Leadership Victoria Lifetime Achievement Award went to Rev. Tom Oshiro, director of the Mustard Seed and long-time devotee to a ministry of care for the hungry, the addicted and the homeless; and the 2010 Victoria Foundation Community Leadership Award went to the Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre, the remarkable team of staff and volunteers that leads social change in Victoria against sexualized violence.

For a full list of nominees: www.leadershipvictoria.ca
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4
Other UVic Alumni Week 2010. Until Feb. 8. The annual celebration of everything that UVic grads do for their communities. It’s a great time to come back to campus, renew friendships, and bring back some of the old UVic memories. Various campus locations. http://alumni.uvic.ca/2010

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5
Positive Space Network Conference 9 a.m. Explore Your Space: Gender and Academia in UVic. An interdisciplinary approach to how academic work can and is being diversified through queer and non-traditional approaches. SUB Concourse.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7
Dance 7 p.m. Indus Temple Dance by Aryan (Anmol Vaid), MacLaurin A144. 250-383-5133

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10
Music 12:30 p.m. Lieder at Lunch. Sharon and Harald Krebs and guest Angelika Kendt. MacLaurin A180. 250-721-8848

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The Ring February 2010 Page 7

At the theatre

Phoenix Theatre

Other UVic Alumni Week 2010. Until Feb. 8. The annual celebration of everything that UVic grads do for their communities. It’s a great time to come back to campus, renew friendships, and bring back some of the old UVic memories. Various campus locations. http://alumni.uvic.ca/2010

Social Justice Studies Panel Discussion 7 p.m. The Olympic Torch: Symbolism and Politics. This discussion will situate and deconstruct the Vancouver Olympics, clarifying the social justice issues at stake. Hickman 105. 250-592-3715

March 3: UVic’s Social Justice Studies Lecture 7:15 p.m. Building Social Activism: Youth, Voice and Aesthetic Engagement. In conversation with Catherine Emirzian, Mike Sheenan and Kate Shaw. Strong Cory. 250-592-3715

Wednesday, February 24

HUB Research Conversations 12 p.m. Leading from Below: The Opportunities and Challenges of Indigenous Bureaucratic Leadership. Catherine Añhas, UVic. HUB A103. calabarte@uvic.ca


Lecture/Seminar 4 p.m. Visiting Artist Laurie Freeman. Visual Arts A162. 250-721-6477

Thursday, February 11

Conference. Visually Gifted. UVic World Campus, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences Building, B150. 250-592-3715

Music 12:30 p.m. Frigidomus. School of Music woodwind students. MacLaurin B125. 250-721-8848

Wednesday, February 23

UVic’s Social Justice Studies Lecture 7:15 p.m. Building Social Activism: Youth, Voice and Aesthetic Engagement. In conversation with Catherine Emirzian, Mike Sheenan and Kate Shaw. Strong Cory. 250-592-3715

Wednesday, February 24

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Friday, February 26

Music 12:30 p.m. Frigidomus. School of Music woodwind students. MacLaurin B185. 250-721-7357

Tuesday, March 2


Wednesday, March 3


TUESDAY, MARCH 2


Wednesday, March 3

By Mike Tucker

In a sport like swimming, medals are decided by hundredths of a second, so it should come as no surprise that UVic Vikes swimmer Nick Sinclair is not one to waste time.

In just his first year of varsity competition, the 18-year-old Victoria native rewrote the record books at the Canada West championships Jan. 22-24 by becoming the first swimmer to win Athlete of the Meet and Rookie of the Meet.

Sinclair’s performance was Michael Phelps-like. He captured gold in the 400m individual medley (IM), 200m butterfly, 200m backstroke, 100m backstroke, and added silver medals in the 50m backstroke and 400m medley relay.

“IT was good,” Sinclair stated modestly, taking little time to celebrate his achievements, as by Tuesday morning he was already back in the pool at 5:30 for the first of two scheduled workouts. “I didn’t expect it going in, but it worked out really well.”

Of Sinclair’s four first-place finishes, perhaps the most impressive was the victory in the 400 IM, as it is widely considered the most challenging race. Michael Phelps, the current world record holder in the 400 IM characterized it as “one of the hardest races” and says that he would rather not swim it in the future. The race includes all four strokes, swum in order—butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke, and freestyle—and can be as mentally draining as it is physically.

UVic swim coach Peter Vizzoli summarized the difficulty of the race. “There is never going to be a day that all of your strokes are on, and the challenge is learning how to deal with not everything being perfect.”

Sinclair’s two best strokes are the fly and the back, as evidenced by his elder medal success, and he had to balance attaining an early lead against saving enough stamina for the final push.

“The 400 IM was definitely the hardest race. I knew going in that most of the guys I was racing were a lot better at the breaststroke, which is the third length, so I took it out fast in the fly and back. They caught me on the breast, but I came back on the freestyle to win it.”

Sinclair’s medal haul included all four strokes, swum in individual medley (IM), 200m butterfly, 200m backstroke, 100m backstroke and 400m medley relay.

As bright as the rookie’s future appears in the pool, his prospects in the classroom provide an even higher ceiling. By his own admission, “academics is what sets me up for the rest of my life, but swimming is something I do to challenge myself.”

Coming out of Oak Bay High School a year ago, Sinclair had plenty of options both academically and athletically. However, despite entertaining offers from several US schools, he decided to enrol at UVic. “UVic is home, and studying here allows me to get the best training I can. I could have gone to the States, but it is expensive even with a full scholarship.”

With a 98-per-cent average, Sinclair qualified for a significant endorsement scholarship to UVic and is currently enrolled in general sciences. He plans eventually to attend medical school.

“In order to swim at this level and stay on top of your studies, you really need to be organized. Nick is incredibly determined to be a success in both aspects, and that type of focus spills over into competition,” says Vizzoli. “It’s something you don’t always see from first-year students right away and reflects his focus on both the classroom and the pool.”

Nick and the Vikes swim team will return to the pool for the CIS Championship Feb. 25-27 in Toronto.

By Tara Sharpe

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF Leah Stone, UVic’s national recruitment liaison officer for the Lower Mainland, often involves a ferry trip or two. She has been on enough BC Ferries voyages that she can probably recite the entire “welcome aboard” safety greeting.

Stone is a UVic alumna, and her job on campus as a member of the Varsity Women’s Rowing team have lent a great deal of polish to the pop talks and enthusiasm that she brings daily to her job as a member of UVic’s Student Recruitment team—a role which involves enticing prospective students from across Canada to attend UVic just like she did.

Stone received her BA in English from UVic in 2007 and was able to explore a variety of disciplines throughout her undergrad years. She acknowledges that the students she works with have uncertainty about their future goals and the transition to post-secondary studies. She is there to help even before they step across Ring Road.

“The part of my job I especially love is when I can assist prospective students in finding their path to post-secondary studies and show them that the UVic experience is a chance to explore their goals and ambitions,” she says.

“IT’s nice to be able to speak from the personal perspective. I chose to attend UVic too, and for me it was all about the community support, the academic possibilities, the athletics and other ways to get involved on campus.”

Stone grew up in Victoria and started rowing when she was 12 years old. She loved the team spirit—a characteristic that found a perfect match in her chosen voca-

tional and also travelling widely well before her frequent ferry trips for UVic. She lived in Australia as an exchange student in 2002, recently travelled to Kenya to be the maid of honour at her long-time pen pal’s wedding, and remembers well the exhilaration of racing down an English rowing course in Henley on Thames while the Queen and other spectators looked on.

Recently Stone has turned to swimming, hiking and photography as favourite pastimes. When she is on campus, not in a ferry line-up, she handles numerous in-office appointments and inquiries from prospective students, parents and high-schools. Stone also works with various departments on campus to further develop recruitment initiatives at UVic. Another important aspect of her job is event planning: she and her colleagues in the five-member national student recruitment team conduct information sessions and events for Grades 10, 11 and 12 students throughout Canada.

As UVic’s lower mainland liaison, Stone works primarily with high school students and counselors in Vancouver and surrounding areas, often attending three schools in one day and doing three 30- to 60-minute presentations at each school. This can mean she will start in one school at 8 a.m. and end up closing up her ninth and last ses-

sion at 9 p.m.

Stone says the fall “is the busiest time of travel for our national recruitment team. Our national liaisons are on the road for over 35 weeks of combined travel during these four months and spend a significant amount of time in Canadian high schools.”

As she sets off for another journey by ferry to coax Lower Mainland high-school students to Vancouver Island with an array of UVic programs, it is no accident that she gets to enjoy the same spectacular ocean scenery that beckons prospective UVic students from around the world.

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The career opportunities for graduates are worldwide, diverse and exciting with starting salaries exceeding $50,000.

For more information, visit http://hinf.uvic.ca or email his@uvic.ca

University of Victoria

School of Health Information Science

STUDENT RECRUITMENT OPEN HOUSE

When: 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm

Tuesday, February 9, 2010 and Thursday, March 11, 2010

Where: Room 300 (staff lounge)

Human and Social Development Building

Come join the faculty of the School of Health Information Science for FREE PIZZA and info on student recruitment. Our national student recruitment team conduct information sessions and events for Grades 10, 11 and 12 students throughout Canada.

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