Starting a revolution—from the ground up

BY LINDSAY GAGEL

It all begins with the seed. By its very nature, a seed can give so much: “You plant one seed, the seed will give you thousands.” From the seed comes food, and “food is creation itself.”

These are the sentiments of Dr. Vandana Shiva, who presented a President’s Distinguished Lecture on March 27, following a special 50th-anniversary convocation ceremony. During the event, in which she was awarded an honorary doctor of laws from the University of Victoria, she received two standing ovations—before she had even spoken a word.

“She’s done so much for the world,” one student explained while applauding.

Named an “environmental hero” by Time magazine, Shiva is working to change the way the world thinks about food security, globalization, biodiversity and environmental sustainability. She is a community leader, activist, scholar and author of 12 books.

In her lecture, “The Future of Food,” Shiva described how multinational corporations are hijacking local food production. “There isn’t freedom when five companies control 75 per cent of the seed supply,” Shiva explained. And we have “a culture of producing—and pushing—food.” In Shiva’s opinion, it’s time we addressed our “ignorance about food.”

Although she spoke of worldwide issues, she drew some examples from India, her home country. According to Shiva’s research, 270,000 Indian farmers have committed suicide since the government allowed multinational companies like Monsanto to enter the Indian seed market in the 1990s.

“Seed is the first link in the food chain,” said Shiva. If you control the seed, you control the food. And, Shiva warned, there’s huge profit to be made in large-scale food production. Shiva explained that the genetically modified organisms (GMOs) supplied to farmers by corporations require pesticides and fertilizers to grow.
BY ANNE MACLAURIN

How about making your own toothpaste or using handmade cloth bags to store food? A group of Geography 101 students got inspired and started their own “Kick the Plastic” project after they watched the movie, “The Green Bin Project.”

They immediately launched a blog called KickPlasticPlastic.wordpress.com and got down to business. Their project was for a semester-long assignment called RICO Action. They were part of the rest of the term, between January and March, they monitored their plastic consumption. After two weeks into the project, they started to discontinue their use of single-use plastic products.

“I found an alternative to ziplocks” said Kelsey Cunningham, “I discovered homemade cloth bags just well to carry fruit and vegetables.”

Another student commented on the waste from toothpaste tubes: “I realized that all my toothpaste containers will end up in the landfill, so I decided to make my own toothpaste.”

Allysa demonstrated for the class how easy it is to make your own toothpaste using items such as baking soda, salt and peppermint extract. The purpose of their project was to reduce plastic consumption. As a group, they wanted to reduce their impact on the masses of garbage produced by our society on a daily basis. Each group member consciously strove to reduce their use of plastics and shrink their plastic footprint. The students also researched the amount of plastics in landfills in Canada in order to gain insight on how much garbage we produce as a nation. Did you know that 280 million tons of plastic is consumed worldwide each year?

“More than half of all non-recycled plastic ends up in our oceans hurting fish and seals,” said the students during their presentation. They also pointed out that plastic grocery bags are probably the worst because they are produce-based and not recyclable. Currently, over 300 billion are used each year worldwide.

As a result of their project, the students saw a reduction in the use of plastics from each group member. They hope to change shopping habits and to consistently choose garbage bags with no less or no packaging, as well as inspiring friends and family to do the same.

New unit supports research partnership functions

On April 2, the University of Victoria launched its new Research Partnership and Knowledge Mobilization unit (RPKM) in the Office of Research Services (ORS). Led by director Brett Sternig, formerly president and CEO of UVic’s Industry Partnerships (UVic IP), RPKM is a one-stop shop that will facilitate research partnerships, develop research agreements and support knowledge mobilization between UVic’s research community and valued partners in government, industry, community-based organizations and other academic institutions.

A single, visible and accessible point, this new unit will integrate and enhance the services provided already through ORS and those previously provided by UVic IP and the Office of Community-Based Research (OCBR)—linking researchers with partners to address important social, economic and cultural challenges.

UVic President Dr. Jan Lindsay views this as a legal entity for holding intellectual property assets (patents, etc.) assigned to the university, but all of its services will now be provided through RPKM.

As of April 2, OCBR is closed and its suite of research support services has also been transferred to the new unit. The research initiatives led by OCBR are expected to continue in a new inter-faculty research centre led by UVic’s Faculty of Human and Social Development and Faculty of Social Sciences. A research partnership advisory committee—composed of key research, industry, nonprofit and community-based stakeholders—will be established to guide and provide advice to the new unit.

RPKM is a leading-edge initiative in Canada for supporting and promoting civically engaged research; this new unit represents a thoughtful and comprehensive approach to improving society through research and creative activities. UVic places a high value on community-engaged research, knowledge mobilization and innovative ideas for industry, community and social partners and its commitment to civic engagement is stronger than ever.

Details and contact info: www.uvic.ca/rgpm

Admission partnership clears path from NIC to UVic

BY MITCH WRIGHT

Post-secondary students from up- island are finding a clear path to the University of Victoria through dual admission and guaranteed admission partnerships with North Island College (NIC).

The success of the agreements—signed in 2010 and 2011, respectively—and both implemented in 2011—was celebrated March 6 at NIC’s campus in the Comox Valley during a special student reception involving UVic President Dr. David Turpin and NIC President Dr. Jan Lindsay.

The partnership has already seen close to 100 students benefit from the model, which eases some of the challenges that come with moving away to attend university.

“This program is valuable to students not only in that they save sizeable amounts of money, but because it allows them to ease into post-secondary with smaller class sizes and more individual attention,” says Emma Dube, who was one of the first students through the process and earned multiple financial awards from both schools. “The Dual Admission program takes away the shock factor that many experience when leaving high school, and makes this transition smoother administratively overall.”

The partnership encourages students to study for one or two years at NIC before completing their degree at UVic, strengthening the educational options on Vancouver Island.

“We are fortunate in BC that we have a well-integrated post-secondary system, where students can move seamlessly between colleges and universities,” says Turpin. “UVic’s collaboration agreement with NIC makes a UVic degree more accessible for North Island students, opening the door for a wide range of educational opportunities and fulfilling careers.”

Dual-admission students are admitted to a program at NIC as well as the related program at UVic, enabling them to save money on tuition and living expenses and gain access to a greater number of scholarships and awards for both undergraduate and graduate students who apply after achieving a C average in eight or more NIC courses (24 credits) are guaranteed admission to competitive UVic programs.

Can you “Kick the Plastic”?
The University of Victoria’s Board of Governors on March 25 approved a $314 million operating budget framework for the university for the 2013/14 fiscal year. The framework maintains student financial aid and library acquisitions, while implementing elsewhere the 4-per-cent across-the-board cuts for faculty and staff, the cost of across-the-board salary and wage increases in the agreements negotiated with staff last year, and a pending arbitrator’s salary increase for faculty members.

“The cumulative impact on university operations of cuts isn’t trivial,” says UVic President David Turpin. “I want to express my appreciation to faculty and staff across campus for their hard work and support in these very challenging times.”

Areas of uncertainty

The 2013/14 budget framework was developed in the context of a period of high uncertainty in two areas in particular:

1) $50 million in provincial cuts to post-secondary education funding have been announced—$55 million for 2013/14 and $45 million more in the two years after. After the May 14 provincial election the newly-elected government may introduce new budget plans and priorities. See http://bit.ly/YPZjy6

2) This fall an arbitrator will rule on a salary settlement for UVic faculty. Faculty arbitrators are one of the largest items in the university’s operating budget and, while assumptions about the possible cost of the settlement have been built into the 2013/14 framework, the award, once made, could have a major influence on the university’s bottom line.

The budget framework was developed through the integrated planning process led by Vice-President Academic and Provost Rostra Tremblay. Its goal is to ensure that the university’s financial resources are aligned with institutional priorities and areas of strategic focus.

The total number of students served by the university in government-funded credit programs will remain at 16,528 full-time equivalent FTEs—14,488 undergraduate FTEs and 2,040 graduate FTEs. UVic will also add 100 international student FTEs and 60 FTEs for undergraduate business students.

While every effort has been made to minimize the impact of the reductions on the quality of the educational experience for students and on people, the reductions will be felt. The specific implications at the unit and class level will not be clear until the fall.

Larger class sizes and reductions in teaching assistants, academic advising programs and field-based learning experiences are expected. On the administrative side, management positions have been eliminated and service levels in areas such as janitorial service, have been adjusted.

In addition, 82 FTE positions out of the university’s total faculty and staff complement of 4,500 employees will be eliminated. If these positions, 36 are already vacant due to retirements or departures. Vacancy management and attraction is expected to keep the number of actual layoffs to a minimum.

Some vital areas such as student financial aid, student recruitment, fundraising, and privacy protections are receiving funding to support specific initiatives.

The university is also mitigating the drop in government funding and rising costs through a 2-per-cent increase in tuition, equal to the increase in the consumer price index last year, and an equivalent $1.50 per term increase in the athletics and recreation fee. Fees in some ancillary areas outside of the university’s general operating budget such as housing, parking and child care are being increased by similar amounts to account for cost increases, and to support programs such as a residence resource centre, the student and employee bus pass program, and other transportation demand management initiatives.

The future

The extent of future budget reductions at UVic will depend on the faculty salary arbitration award, decisions by the new provincial government on operating grants to universities, and settlements in upcoming negotiations with a variety of employee groups on collective agreements which expire in 2014/15. The university community will be updated as the specific impact of these factors is determined.

In the meantime, university budget planning for 2014/15 will have to proceed in the context of these significant unknowns.

More detail about the university’s priorities, the components of the budget framework approved by the board on March 25, and the budget planning process can be found in the 2013/14 planning and operating budget framework document [http://bit.ly/uvicOPP] and on the budget planning website [http://uvic.wca.ca/fffis/budget.htm].

Display it with pride. You know you’re doing a good thing. There is a place for old electronics, unwanted furniture and other household items. Get the low down at myrecyclopedia.ca and before you know it you’re taking your reusable or recyclable items where they need to be. Look for the Jack FM Community Cruiser then let us know what sort of junk you see in the trunk by tweeting #junkit. You can win one of our weekly prizes.

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Tom Pedersen, executive director of the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS), plugged in his Mitsubishi Leaf electric vehicle for its inaugural on-campus charge on April 3 at one of UVic’s new electric vehicle charging stations. Two level-2 (240 volt) 60-amp stations are now available for use by faculty, staff, students and visitors to campus outside the Campus Security Building in parking lot 2Z. Located in metered parking spaces, the charging stations cost $1.50 per hour for a maximum of two hours. Funding was provided by the provincial government’s Community Charging Infrastructure Project, an initiative that has funded over 500 electric vehicle charging stations across BC.

Write to us

The Ring welcomes letters to the editor on issues of direct concern to the university community. Letters should be signed with university community affiliation and not exceed 500 words in length and not be submitted to other media outlets. The editor reserves the right to select letters for publication and to edit for style, grammar and length.

A little junk in the trunk is a good thing.
On March 16 UVic Residence Life and Education in partnership with Volunteer Victoria held Project Serve Day, where 70 UVic participants performed acts of service at six locations in the Greater Victoria area. Project Serve programs inspire students to be actively engaged in community and social change through volunteer action and structured, critical reflection about their experiences.

The Project Serve Day model is used by many institutions to introduce students to community service learning and applying their knowledge while making meaningful connections in their community.

The locations and activities included: Aberdeen Hospital, where participants organized and maintained medical equipment; March Parks Puliting It Together Program, where participants worked on an ecological restoration of a Garry oak ecosystem; Queen Alexandra Centre for Children's Health, where participants sanitized toys and worked on volunteer data organization; the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association's Creatively United for the Planet Festival, where participants distributed promotional materials and helped the artist in residence prepare a piece for the festival. UVic Clean-Up, where participants teamed up with the Alumni Student Ambassadors to pick up trash all over campus; and Woodwynn Farms, where students helped clients with general farming activities. The service was framed by reflection on the impact that their actions have on themselves, the organizations and the community.

Residence Life plans to make this an annual event and has already begun work on the next Project Serve Day for September 2013.

Thoughts of a Project Serve Day participant

My name is Torry Harris and I am a third-year psychology major at UVic. I got involved with Project Serve Day through my job as a community leader for Residence Life and Education. I try to get involved with every volunteer opportunity I am given. This motivated me to join the Project Serve Day team.

Throughout the last ten years, I have volunteered at various local organizations. Last summer, I was fortunate to lead a group of volunteers to India for five weeks to build a boarding house for an impoverished community through an organization that sends volunteers to developing countries all over the world. I have also volunteered on a trip to Guatemala, where I worked in a library. Volunteering has influenced everything I do in life—from what I purchase, to the classes I take at university, to the articles I want to read in the newspaper, to the summer jobs I apply for. For me, being a volunteer and seeing the impact of volunteer work is the drive behind working hard in school and, above all, following my dreams. My degree in psychology will not just be something that I will benefit from, but will allow me to help others too. I know that I am young and have this "I can change the world" attitude, but I think that empowers me and I hope to never lose it.

Project Serve Day is based on community service learning, which integrates community service with intentional learning and reflection activities to serve and learn.

The social power of gaming

BY MELANIE TROMP HOOVER

The nearly 3 billion hours per week spent playing video games across the world could be put to much better use—at least that’s the notion that was up for debate and discussion at IdeaFest’s Games Without Frontiers: The Social Power of Video Games symposium on March 9.

This day-long event explored the inherent value and possible productivity of gaming from a number of angles—there were presentations of success stories, panel discussions on both the potential for and future of socially beneficial gaming and a "game jam" for students to brainstorm game concepts that have the potential to improve journalism. Add to that a kid zone, rooms of game demonstrations from local developers and a seven-person band of mostly UVic students that exclusively perform musical scores from video games, and you’ve got a sense of how multi-faceted and interdisciplinary gaming culture really is.

"We were blown away by the positive response to Games Without Frontiers," says event co-organizer David Leach, director of UVic’s Technology and Society Program and a faculty member in the Department of Writing. "Students immediately embraced the idea of the social power of video games because it’s a medium they’ve grown up with. But so did faculty members, UVic’s admin, local media and visitors of all ages from off-campus, who were all intrigued by the intersection of research, social impact and virtual play."

"It was also a wonderful opportunity to connect with the vibrant but often overlooked game-development industry—a real creative hub in Victoria."

On top of attracting nearly 400 attendees into this diverse conversa-
tion, Games Without Frontiers threw a spotlight on several UVic-based re-
search projects that use gamification to either gather data or mobilize find-
ings, including a Hulafumi University-sponsored land treaty game from Brian Thomas and Yvonne Coady that teaches players about British Columbia’s treaty negotiation process (http://web.uvic.
ca/~htg/), the Digital Fishers project from the Centre for Global Studies that uses achievement-focused game techniques to gather citizen scientist-contributed video annota-
tions (http://digitalfishers.net/), and a suite of popular facial recognition games and exercises born out of Jim Tanaka’s work in the Centre for Autism Research Technology and Education (http://web.uvic.ca/~carte/).

As for where the UVic leg of this topical conversation is headed, Leach and his organizing commit-
tee have started thinking about the kinds of issues a second gaming-focused symposium might explore. "We definitely like to do it again next year, perhaps with an emphasis on the ‘gamification’ of education as a whole and more in-depth discus-
sions of the collaborative creative process that goes into designing innovative game projects.”
These "uniform seeds," which limit the future of food networks and trains farmers in susceptibility to pests and disease more frequently than do seeds native to food diversity, are more expensive financially, provides people with unhealthy food and undermines democratic principles.

Brandt Louis's business philosophy and entrepreneurial spirit drive the ongoing success of the I.Y. Louis group of companies. He has a passionate belief in customer service, fairness in all employee and vendor-partner relationships, and he actively encourages creativity and innovation.

Under his leadership, the group of companies has grown considerably and has become more diverse. In addition to I.Y. Louis Co. Limited and London Drugs, the group now includes LSAP, a4rcher airline, and Sonusa, a 105. Registration: 250-721-6369 or 250-837-2000.

The Ring is a joint program of the University of British Columbia and Beacon Community Services. More info: 250-217-8585, thering@uvic.ca

T h e f u t u r e o f F o o d (continued from p.1)

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New archive tells Holocaust survivor stories for future generations

By YARA SHARPE

A research team of scholars, students and community members has been busy collecting stories and perspectives over the past 15 months for a new archival project now serving as a collection point for local life narratives of individuals who experienced the Holocaust directly.

Building an Archival Local Stories and Experiences of the Holocaust was initiated in January 2012 by UVic professor Dr. Helga Thorson (Germanic and Slavic studies) as co-founder of the E-Witness Holocaust Field School (http://bit.ly/ExFHJP) in UVic's Faculty of Humanities, two former field school participants Jason Michael (German and Slavic studies history) and Andrea van Noord (English, religious studies) and former director of London Drugs, the group now includes LSAP, a charter airline, and Sonusa, a retails winner resort and conference center. Louie's company is also a leader in corporate and civic sustainability.

Louie's belief in the power of education is evidenced by his lifelong support of educational programmes and institutions. He serves on the boards of various educational and non-profit organizations, as well as being chancellor emeritus of Simon Fraser University.

The project is unique in involving Vancouver Island survivors and their relatives in questions of representation that move beyond the limits of conventional testimony. Most survivors are 85 years old.

"A real inspiration was seeing the work that youth were doing to perpetuate the memory of the Holocaust," says Michael, a graduate student in the department. "We thought, why can't we do that at home?"

The idea developed in Austria during the first field school in spring 2011. Andrea and Jason approached me separately wanting to do something to guarantee that local stories of the Holocaust would not get lost," explains Thorson.

The field school consists of one week of study at UVic followed by three weeks in Central Europe. It explores how the Holocaust is remembered and encourages a deeper understanding of antisemitism, racism, religious intolerance, homophobia and the stigmatization of those with mental and physical disabilities.

"That is a very distant history," Thorson asks. She echoes the words of another field school participant: "No, it is not past. It is present." In January 2012, an international group commemorated the 153-year-old Jewish cemetery on Cedar Hill Road in Saanich. In the next weekend, approximately 1,000 people gathered there to collectively reaffirm the community's commitment to combat racism and prejudice.

Van Noord adds, "Ensuring the archive is dynamic and dialogic is our contribution to the field of Holocaust education. This is a project about conversation across experiences; it is about saying what has already been said, and then thinking about new ways to say it again, so the Holocaust continues to resonate with future generations. For me, it is about challenging the silence and encouraging students to feel safe speaking about this history, so that they may continue to speak when the survivors have left us."

The presentation and communication of experiences across generations are presented in various forms including poetry, fiction and music. In addition to the oratorio and miniatures (see below), so far the collection includes commemorative medals, a single glove, personal documents and audio and video recordings.

The archive items are objects that tell stories. Thorson says people have donated what they have on hand—organized or not—what is housed in museums—or they create their own narratives. She will match interested people with or from survivors to facilitate the storytelling process.

"There's a reason the project can be set to the public, too. Applications for the next field school, scheduled for May 2014, are due Nov. 1, 2013.


"In April 1945, on his birthday, Gary was liberated from Bergen-Belsen. Thirty years later, he composed the miniatures as a birthday gift to his mother. "The music that made our seed saving a crime. " If you missed the lecture, a recording is available online. More info: http://bit.ly/qrJ1ha.

Artworks from Bergen-Belsen

A. Peter Garvy's musical composition. A Twentycentury Passion on the Holocaust, was one of the first creative donations to the new UVic project, Building an Archival Local Stories and Experiences of the Holocaust. It establishes the archive as one-of-a-kind in the world.

Before the Second World War, Gary studied music at the Franz Liszt Royal Academy in Budapest, Hungary, and participated in six master classes with the famous composer Béla Bartók. Garvy's composition, for full orchestra and two choirs, evokes the horror of the Holocaust.

Andrea van Noord, on his birthday, Gary was liberated from Bergen-Belsen. Thirty years later, he composed the miniatures as a birthday gift to his mother. "The music that made our seed saving a crime. " If you missed the lecture, a recording is available online. More info: http://bit.ly/qrJ1ha.
Anzac in northern Alberta, and Fort Pemmefrost cadboro bay merchants

Extended studies like Whiticar’s are needed to distinguish long-term trends from short, yearly fluctuations in weather.

“We have established four representative study areas along the McKenzie River Valley,” says Whiticar. “Anza in northern Alberta, and Fort Simpson, Norman Wells, and Inuvik in the Northwest Territories.”

The work is not easy. The season is short, the sites are remote and the preparation is painstaking because the permafrost surface is so easily damaged, says Whiticar. “Even our footsteps could cause significant damage and invalidate our results.”

Whiticar and his team, including graduate students and post doctoral fellows, use narrow boardwalks carefully built over the fragile surface to avoid damaging it as they take readings and maintain sophisticated measuring equipment. “This infrastructure—created with colleagues from the Northern Forest Service—is invaluable in allowing us to gather accurate information year after year,” says Whiticar. “And reliable data are essential to the models that will help us predict the future climate.”

Because the deposits of organic material in the Earth’s permafrost are so vast (worldwide about 2,000 billion metric tons or about 30 percent of the world’s active organic carbon), and temperatures are already rising, it is not clear how we could ‘put the brakes’ on thawing. “What we can do is find out as much as possible about how and where it’s happening,” says Whiticar. “We must accurately understand the processes and magnitude of these greenhouse gas emissions. Only then can our predictions be trusted by and useful to other scientists, policy makers, and especially the public.”

studying greenhouse gases in thawing Arctic permafrost peatlands to gather reliable information about this unprecedented global methane build-up.

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Undergrads creating knowledge

BY DARCIE SCOLLARD

A spark of excitement and an enthusiasm for learning were in the air of the Michel Pupil Room in the Student Union Building on Mar. 6 as this year’s Jamie Cussells Undergraduate Research Award (JCURA) recipients presented their findings as part of UVic’s IdeaFest.

The JCURA program, which began in 2009, offers undergraduate students from across the university a unique opportunity to conduct research on a topic they are interested in while working collaboratively with faculty members.

At the opening ceremonies Dr. Michael Miller, associate vice-president research, praised the JCURA program, saying, “I’ve been at the University of Victoria for 25 years, and I think one of the most important developments has been the integration of teaching and research, and particularly the creation of this festival.”

This year, 115 students presented their findings through posters or multimedia presentations, while a collection of faculty members, students and community members wandered through the room taking in the variety of topics.

For political science student Adrienne Sanders, the JCURA program was a means to investigate an issue that she is deeply passionate about. Her research politically examined food waste in Victoria, and aimed to answer the question, “Why does food waste occur and what are the implications?”

Sanders says she chose her topic after a customer ahead of her in a grocery store could not pay for their bulk food and was told that, per store policy, it would be thrown out. “I’m HOOKED into it, the more shocked I was. Currently around the world we waste about 40 percent of our food,” said Sanders.

With her political science background supporting her, Sanders surmised that food waste in Victoria, and nationwide, is not a problem that lies within supermarkets or the agricultural system. Instead, her research suggests that food waste is related to a larger sociological issue— the modern human being. She suggests that the solution to food waste is to question our wasteful practices.

Sanders also emphasized the professor and student relationship that JCURA encourages, saying in regards to her sponsor, Dr. James Tully, “He has been absolutely supportive; he’s a wonderful professor.”

Indian Studies student Ryan Nicolson used the JCURA program to research historical narrative of the socio-political framework of the Kwakwaka’wakw nation. He worked with Dr. Christine O’Bonsawin, director of the Indigenous Studies Minor Program.

Nicolson’s research investigated how, despite federal anti-potlatch laws, his ancestors preserved traditional governance and potlatch practices by incorporating literacy into cultural knowledge systems. By doing this, his ancestors were able to provide tools and information necessary to revitalize their traditional governance system.

Nicolson’s research focused on this because his belief is that, “unless we reestablish our traditional governance system, the Kwakwaka’wakw people will not move forward and progress as a nation.”

Yan worked with Dr. Xin Fun Li (electrical and computer engineering), whom she had previously worked for as a research assistant.

Yan explains the value of her research and the existence of this program saying, “This project has increased my interest in technology and health care.”

The fourth annual JCURA research fair brought forward a rich and varied collection of undegrad research, but more importantly this program continues to inspire UVic students to consider careers in research.

And this year, about half of the 2012/13 JCURA students—those with projects in the social sciences and humanities—will have a further opportunity to present their research during Congress 2013. Canada’s largest multidisciplinary academic conference, being hosted by UVic June 1–8.

The JCURA program is administered by UVic’s Learning and Teaching Centre for the Office of the Vice-President Academic and Provost.

More information on award winners and abstracts for their projects: http://bit.ly/10V1LhO

Ideafest 2013
Brenda Copeland (child and youth care) passed away unexpectedly on March 19. Brenda’s passion for her family and for improved quality of life for marginalized children and youth shone through all of her endeavors. She will be most remembered for her devotion to her beloved daughter Erene and husband Russ. Brenda’s physical and family life, a daughter and her family grew brought vibrance to her teaching in the School of Child and Youth Care, which was her academic family for 28 years.

She completed a BA with distinction from the School of Child and Youth Care in 1989. She went on to complete a Masters in Policy and Practice at UVU. She began teaching in the School of Child and Youth Care in 1995. Over the years she taught almost every undergraduate course offered in the school. She volunteered countless hours to developing and revising courses and mentoring new instructors, drawing on her wealth of experience both as an instructor and as a practitioner in a range of community service roles. At the time of her passing, she was preparing to continue as an instructor and a valued member of the Children’s Home Committee within the school.

Brenda's students consistently praised her organization and her skill in applying research and theory to practice. In a recent evaluation, a student said, “She loves what she does and it shows. She’s passionate and caring and makes it easy to learn.”

Another student said, “I really appreciated Brenda’s genuine consideration for the students. She was very respectful and kind, creating a comfortable class environment.”

Many students commented on how she illustrated points about family life and child development with “sweet stories about her daughter.”

For almost two decades, Brenda contributed to knowledge transfer in many areas affecting the well-being of children, families and communities in the southern Uck Island, especially in services for young adults with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder; youth in care, youth in transition, child and youth advocacy, women’s empowerment and parenting networks. Brenda taught so many students over the years that no doubt the quality of programs offered by the school of Child and Youth Care and beyond the UVic, was greatly missed by the faculty, students and staff in children and youth care, her determination, commitment to justice and good heart have left an indelible mark and will always be with us.

Students and community members wishing to share their thoughts and recollections for a memorial gift to Brenda’s family are invited to email Caroline Green (green@uvic.ca).

Submitted by Dr. Marie Hockes, Acting Director, School of Child and Youth Care

Dr. Louis Costa died in Arizona on March 12 at the age of 80. Costa came to the Department of Psychology in 1978 from City College in New York where he had trained and had been chair of the Psychology Department.

That same year, he and Byron Rourke of the University of Windsor established the Journal of Clinical Neuropsychology that later was renamed the Journal of Clinical and Experimental Neuropsychology when it became the official journal of the International Neuropsychological Society. Also, in 1978, Costa became the executive secretary of the International Neuropsychological Society and worked with many other neuropsychologists to establish the Division of Clinical Neuropsychology of the Canadian Psychological Association. In 2007, the Costa and Donald Stone (Rutgers Institute) took leadership in establishing a Section on Clinical Neuropsychology within the Canadian Psychological Association.

In 1980, Costa became the chair of the Department of Psychology at U Vic and the following year became the associate dean of social sciences. At that time, the Faculty of Arts and Science was reorganized into a three-department system, and he served as dean of social sciences for the balance of that decade.

During his engagement in administration at UVic, he promoted and facilitated considerable expansion of programs, faculty and other resources in the departments of the social sciences. For example, he was instrumental in the establishment of a program in Developmental Psychology and Aging (LP program) within the Department of Psychology and the Centre on Aging, a university-wide, multidisciplinary centre designed to facilitate research and teaching within the field of aging. Through his time at UVic, he was a strong advocate for the development of a graduate training program in clinical psychology (Clinical Psychology Training Program).

Research and graduate research supervision were also important contributions Costa made to the Department of Psychology. While serving as chair and dean, he provided mentorship and guidance to many graduate students (MSc and PhD) and continued to contribute to their professional development long after “hounding” them at completion.

In 1994, Costa, David Hultsch and Byron Rourke collaborated as the founding editors of Aging and Cognition: A Journal on Normal and Dysfunctional Development. Costa served as co-editor of the journal and the Journal of Clinical and Experimental Neuropsychology until 1996 when he retired from UVic. In 2008, Costa was honoured for his many foundational contributions to the International Neuropsychological Society at the 36th annual meeting held in Hawaii.

Following his retirement, Lou and his wife Brenda traveled extensively to various destinations in Europe and Asia. He is survived by Brenda and their son Andrew. The leadership Costa provided to influence UVic as it is today will be felt for many more years to come.

Submitted by Dr. Holly Tuokko, Director, Centre on Aging, Professor, Department of Psychology

in memoriam

**By Melanie Tromp Hoover**

This year’s IdeaFest, the University of Victoria’s second festival celebrating some of UVic’s brightest research, brought more than 5,000 people out to explore and debate all things world-changing and creative on campus—a level of public engagement that guarantees-IdeaFest will indeed be an annual spring event in Victoria.

“this year’s festival was far better than anything I could have imagined,” says Howard Brunt, vice-president research at UVic. “Many participants were taking in multiple events each, and more than half of the festival’s participants were community members—exactly what we were hoping for.”

Running from March 4–15, this second incarnation of the popular festival allows the stories of art- and science lovers of all kinds to come to life. The festival’s full roster of diverse public events included panel discussions, debates, guided tours, exhibits, film screenings, PechaKucha-style presentations, workshops and lectures.

“I’d like to thank the dozens of people—including more than 100 faculty members—whom I contributed to their time, creativity and energy towards bringing each of these 50 events to life,” Brunt says. Plans for IdeaFest 2014 include a weekly format, focusing even more on interactive presentation models and targeting some events specifically to elementary and high-school student audiences.

Coverage of IdeaFest events in this issue of The Ring: “The social power of gaming (p.4) and Undergrads creating knowledge (p.6)."
Successors (1987), Sam Macey was a real presence. His energy, his optimism and his amusement at life were always said with a mischievous twinkle in his eye. —Cheryl Rhode and Valma Lanceley

When Wes walked into a room you were immediately aware of his presence; call him the energizer bunny. His selfless efforts for over two decades, passed away on March 11, the eve of his 91st birthday. Born in inner London, within the sound of the bells of Bow Church, and orphaned by the age of two, Macey remained the physical space. His greatest legacy to Continuing Studies at UVic is the building in which the English Language Centre and many other program and administrative units are housed; we will be forever grateful for his tireless efforts in accomplishing that goal. My last memory of him are of when he was joking around, his references to his Hungarian ancestry. He was a distinguished member of the Department of English and author of two dozen books, including Cosmos: Time in Western Life and Thought (1980), Dynamics of Progress: Time, Method, and Measure (1989), Time: A Bibliographical Guide (1991) and The Encyclopaedia of Time (1994). Macey was always a mischievous twinkle in his eye. —Jane Anderson

We will miss Wes very much and feel very fortunate to have had the experience of working with him.

Volunteers help students with their regalia, assist students with receiving their academic credentials and memorably for the students, their name slips into a headset, “she explained. “You have a partner at the other side of the stage with another headset who then makes sure the diplomas are in the correct order and removes any no-shows.” The best perk of the job for Morrison: when the university registrar allowed her to personally hand her friend’s PhD diploma.

Wes was a true leader, he enjoyed his role as dean and, apart from his plans to ensure that the goals of the division were realized, he always had ideas of what the division could become, where the division could expand and how people around the world could learn from each other. He took the University of Victoria, UVic, and three earlier universities, and gave many more students opportunities to grow educationally by living in a different country and meeting others from different cultures. The ripples fan out. His life had meaning. —Jane Anderson

It was a busy office and we all worked hard but thanks to “our Wes” we sure had a lot of laughs along the way. And his passion for music was rewarding to us all—critically—ensure that each student receives the right degree, diploma or certification. “I love seeing the excitement that comes with convocation—the happiness on the students’ faces that they’re graduating—that all the hard work has paid off—and the excitement on their families’ faces,” says Zoe Lu, who has been volunteering since 2005. Graduate Secretary in the Department of Sociology, Lu has worked mainly as a roving assistant, stationed in the Clearihue Building assisting students with their regalia and dealing with their last-minute jitters and questions. “As a graduate secretary, it’s wonderful to be part of the students’ journey from start to finish—from the time they’re accepted into the program to the time they’re defending and graduating with their master’s or doctoral degree.” Jane Morrison, UVic associate archivist, was encouraged to volunteer by a colleague in 2006 and serves as one of two stage assistants who make sure each student is handed the right diploma.

Helping to the highest degree

BY ROBY LISCOMB

Convocation. It’s the culmination of years of discipline, dedication and effort for the thousands of UVic students receiving their academic credentials each June and November. And ensuring that the ceremony goes smoothly and memorably for the students, their families and friends depends upon the efforts of hundreds of convocation volunteers.

Each Spring Convocation involves over 200 volunteers—and approximately 150 for Fall Convocation. Volunteers help students with their rubs, caps and hoods; serve as marshals, coordinating and directing the various processions to and from the auditorium and stage; distribute programs to audience members and critically ensure that each student receives the right degree, diploma or certification.

“One stage assistant is stationed at the stairs where the grads come down onto the stage and reads their name slips into a headset,” she explains. “You have a partner at the other side of the stage with another headset who then makes sure the diplomas are in the correct order and removes any no-shows.” The best perk of the job for Morrison: when the university registrar allowed her to personally hand her friend his PhD diploma.

“One thing I like about convocation is the students are always happy,” Harrington says. “The rest of the year, at least some of them will be unhappy about their grades, the way courses are going and so on, but on convocation day they always enjoy themselves. I like the colour and pageantry of the ceremony. And I have heard a lot of interesting addresses by honorary degree recipients.”

Spring Convocation this year takes place in nine ceremonies over the week of June 10–14. More information about convocation volunteering: www.uvic.ca/ceremonies/convocation/robing or contact Sandra Carlson at scarlson@uvic.ca

Prof. Samuel L. Macey, a distinguished member of the Department of English for two decades, passed away on March 11, the eve of his 91st birthday. Born in inner London, within the sound of the bells of Bow Church, and orphaned at twelve, Sam left school at sixteen, took a job at the London Stock Exchange, then enlisted as a seaman in the Royal Navy. He spent the war years (1940–46) adventurously, first in Coastal Forces (Djeeper), then the East Far Command (Bloms, near to the procession to the rank of lieutenant. During the next 11 years he was heavily and very successfully involved in a variety of businesses (in London, then on Jersey), married his life companion, and fathered two daughters. In 1957, for health reasons, he left the business world, planning a life of retired leisure in an agreeable setting. After considering alternatives, he moved with his family to Victoria in 1960. Retired, but ready to stop working and satisfying the acute and very wide-ranging intellectual curiosity that was central to his nature, Sam was ready to start a new life as a student, a scholar, a teacher and an academic leader. Sam had always desired higher education, and now he had the time and means to complete a B.A. (Honours) in English and German at UBC in 1964, then a PhD in English at the University of Washington in 1966, going our English Department the same year as an assistant professor. An excellent teacher, a dedicated and highly productive scholar and an efficient administrator, he rose to the rank of professor and served in the years before his retirement as associate dean (1975–83) and dean (1983–86) of graduate studies.


Submitter of Thomas Craven, a collector, also retired, in the Department of English

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