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At the centre of the media flurry was UVic climatologist Dr. Francis Zwiers, one of the paper’s co-authors, who suddenly became one of the most sought-after climate experts on the planet.

“We were completely overwhelmed by the storm of interest that was generated by this paper,” says Zwiers. “It was fun, but exhausting.”

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“We were completely overwhelmed by the storm of interest that was generated by this paper,” says Zwiers. “It was fun, but exhausting.”

Over a 24-hour period Zwiers responded to more than 25 media inquiries, including the New York Times, Scientific American, National Geographic, USA Today, the Washington Post, The Globe & Mail, CBC Quirks and Quarks and news agencies from Europe, Japan and Brazil.

Zwiers has since been asked to make a presentation on the study to a US Congress committee hearing in Washington.

The study, which was featured on the cover of the Feb. 17 edition of Nature, offers the strongest evidence to date that human-induced global warming may be responsible for the observed increase in the intensity of heavy rain and snow events in the northern hemisphere over the past several decades.

Zwiers, a former scientist with Environment Canada, participated in the research while with the government agency. The lead author of the study is Seung-Ki Min, an Environment Canada research scientist.

The study used a rigorous and scientifically
Award honours UVic psychology pioneer Catherine Mater

BY ANNE MacLAURIN

Acclaimed clinical neuropsychology professor and University of Victoria administrator Dr. Catherine Mater is the inaugural recipient of a special award from the BC Psychological Association, created in her name—the Catherine Mater Scientist-Practitioner Award.

Mater is widely known for her groundbreaking work in the area of cognitive rehabilitation for survivors of head trauma. She has helped people who have suffered problems with memory, attention and self-regulation following car accidents, falls, and blows to the head. Her work in neuroscience has demonstrated the tremendous neurolasticity of the brain that can help people compensate for problems, leading to better recoveries and more independence.

“In my work with people who are experiencing cognitive impairments as a result of brain injury, I have always tried to use scientific theory and methods to develop new interventions and to evaluate their effectiveness,” says Mater. “The work has been rewarding in and of itself, but to be recognized by a science-practitioner award named for me is an incredible honour.”

The BC Psychological Association created the award to recognize individuals who have made significant and distinguished advancements in the field of psychology using a scientist-practitioner model to bridge science with the application to real people in real situations.

Mater is a professor in UVic’s Department of Psychology, a previous director of clinical training and former departmental chair, and is currently UVic’s associate vice-president for academic planning.

She has authored three books and over 100 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters. Most of them address the management of acquired impairments in memory, attention, executive functions, emotional adjustment and behavioural self-regulation. Mater is also known for her kind heart, generous nature and willingness to “go the extra mile” for students, clients, colleagues and staff.

Individuals and groups are invited to share their thoughts with the Planning and Priorities Committee by March 31, 2011, as part of the renewal of A Vision for the Future: Building on Strength, the university’s current strategic plan.

Feedback may be submitted via email to strategicplanreview@uvic.ca, via the website at web.uvic.ca/strategicreview, or by mail to the Planning and Priorities Committee, c/o University Secretary’s Office, Administrative Services Building A138, PO Box 1700 STN CSC, Victoria BC, V8W 2T2. Provide your thoughts online about the future directions of UVic through the interactive version of the Renewing the Vision discussion document, at web.uvic.ca/strategicreview/discussion.php.

Faculty, staff, community members, UVic alumni and retirees have also been providing input through a series of internal and external consultations. To date, the Planning and Priorities Committee has met with six campus groups, including the faculties of fine arts and engineering, the Graduate Students’ Society and the Learning and Teaching Advisory Councils. Seventeen additional internal consultations are scheduled in the weeks to come.

External consultation sessions with community, government, business and educational leaders have also been held, with 16 completed and 24 to come.

Consultation schedule details and updates on the renewal process are available on the UVic website at web.uvic.ca/strategicreview.

The Planning and Priorities Committee will collect and review all the feedback during the summer and present a revised draft plan during the fall. The renewed strategic plan will be presented to Senate and the Board of Governors prior to UVic’s 50th anniversary in 2012/13.

One gift. Unlimited possibilities.

Imagine the seed a conversation can plant. New ways of fighting disease. A work of art that moves souls. A business that creates thousands of jobs. And the University of Victoria students behind these achievements will have you to thank for making it possible. Your gift. Your legacy.

As someone who has contributed so much, consider leaving a gift that will allow future generations to experience the UVic community that you’ve helped create. Contact Natasha to start the conversation about creating a lasting legacy in your will or estate plan.

Navigating the ever-changing market

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

UVic colleagues establish scholarship in honour of Bill Gordon

A group of former colleagues and friends have banded together in an effort to establish a new scholarship in honour of Bill Gordon who died in December 2010.

The impetus for the W.R. (Bill) Gordon Scholarship—honouring one of the university’s most highly respected, dedicated and long-serving faculty members—comes from a group including former UVic President Howard Petch, former VP Academic Frederic Fraser, former VP Administration Trevor Matthews, former Finance Bob McQueen, former Dean of Science and Chair of Mathematic Roger Davidson, former Director of the School of Physical Education Dave Docherty, and longtime friend Peter Meekison, a former VP Academic at the University of Alberta.

Gordon was a major contributor to UVic’s development. He joined the Mathematics Department in 1965 and served UVic for more than 36 years until his retirement in 2001. He held the positions of assistant and associate dean of arts and science, head of mathematics, assistant to the VP academic, vice-chair of the UVic Pension Board, treasurer of the Western Canadian Universities Marine Biological Society, and for over 20 years, he was a member of senate—one of its longest-serving members.

Gordon was a seminal force and architect of UVic athletics and recreational programs, an active rugby player, jazz aficionado and a devoted family man.

“Bill was one of the pillars of the university,” says Petch. “His range of contributions was amazing: teaching, scholar- ship, curriculum development, administration, governance at the highest level and service on committees too numerous to list. Bill always put service above personal ambition.”

The goal is to raise an amount ($25,000) sufficient to fund an endowed scholarship. Anyone interested in contributing to this lasting tribute to Bill Gor don should contact Mary-Lynne Britt in the Development Office 250-721-8965 or mbrit@uvic.ca or make a cheque payable to the University of Victoria and send it to: Mary-Lynne Britt, UVic Development Office, University of Victoria, PO Box 3060 STN CSC, Victoria, BC V8W 2Z2.
On Feb. 16, nominees of the 2011 Victoria Leadership Awards (VLA) were celebrated as exceptional community heroes.

The 18 VLA nominees also include: [list of nominees]

There are also write-in options for a number of categories, many of which could include UVic talent, and plenty of FA alumni can be found amongst the nominees (e.g.: Jim Leard for his play Thank You. My Life., Greg Hooton for his book Otsulme. There’s even a student project on the ballet: theatre studies student Joel Oliphant and Glen Thompson for his new play For the Post-Zombie Apocalypse (Favourite Musical). The M Awards are a people’s-choice awards, with the winners named solely on the public’s voting. You can vote online at https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/UVicMMW2011 or by picking up a paper copy and doing it the old-fashioned way. Deadline for voting is 5 p.m. March 18.

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Viewpoint in the praise of humanities

By Dr. Shelly Chan (Pacific and Asian Studies)

Lately, a few other academic disciplines have been such a stranger to praise as the humanities. Branded as impractical and even disposable, the humanities have been criticized for seemingly failing to provide financial benefits compared to certain programs in business and the sciences.

Driven by short-term economic interests, such devaluation of the humanities questions the universality and place of humanities education and a destination for choice of students from across Canada.

The Tula Foundation agreement will provide funds to UVic Law students Dylan Kozlick, Mathias Sarrazin, Mila Shah and Katharina Spotzl for their Post-Zombie Apocalypse (Favourite Musical). The M Awards are a people’s-choice awards, with the winners named solely on the public’s voting. You can vote online at https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/UVicMMW2011 or by picking up a paper copy and doing it the old-fashioned way. Deadline for voting is 5 p.m. March 18.

Vice-Dean of humanities, professor Peter Most was named the BlackBerry Male Swimmer of the Year and Rookie of the Year following the Canadian Championships. In 2011, Mr. Most, who captured bronze in the 1500m freestyle in Beijing—won the gold in the 200, 400 and 1500 free races in Calgary, and added a bronze medal at the Pan Am Games.

UVic Law students Dylan Kozlick, Mathias Sarrazin, Mila Shah and Katharina Spotzl represented UVic in the 2011 British Columbia Law School Competition. Most, held last month in the Victoria Courthouse. They took first place, recapturing the title—one Mr. —who captured bronze in the 1500m freestyle in Beijing—won the gold in the 200, 400 and 1500 free races in Calgary, and added a bronze medal at the Pan Am Games.

UVic’s Fine Arts faculty are again well represented as nominees on the ballot for Monday's VLA. Voting is now open for voting till March 18. Included are Phoenix Theatre’s production of Yerma and Blue Bridge Theatre’s Life by an A Streetcar Named Desire (Favourite Overall Production); the Bell’s new feature The Life Inside, which featured FA graduate Jan Wood (Favourite New Play); artist-in-residence Joanna Halley of the Lafayette String Quartet and sessional instructor Yariv Aloni (Favourite Classical/ New Music Performer); head of voice Benjamin Butterfield (Favourite Vocalist); Professor Visual Arts Daniel Laskarin and sessional instructor Megan Dicks (Favourite Visual Artist); Legacy Gallery’s Graphic Radicals (Favourite Art Show); Department of Writing graduate advisor Maureen Bradley (Favourite Film-maker) plusKatharina Spotzl for their Post-Zombie Apocalypse (Favourite Musical). The M Awards are a people’s-choice awards, with the winners named solely on the public’s voting. You can vote online at https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/UVicMMW2011 or by picking up a paper copy and doing it the old-fashioned way. Deadline for voting is 5 p.m. March 18.

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President’s Distinguished Service Awards celebrate exceptional staff

BY MELANIE GROVES

The celebration of this year’s award recipients, hosted by UVic President David Turpin, took place on March 3 in the First Peoples House Ceremonial Hall. Reeta Tremblay, UVic’s vice-president academic and provost, and Kane Kilbey, associate vice-president human resources, made presentations before Turpin handed out the awards.

"Every year it gives me great pleasure to celebrate the nominees of the PDSA program and announce the award recipients," says Turpin. "I applaud the talent, dedication and innovation of this year’s recipients. They are representative of all of our exceptional employees, who contribute so much to the success of our university."

This year, the Team Award for Innovation was presented to the staff of the School of Public Administration. The individual award winners were: Chris Coy (linguistics), First Five Years—Outstanding Contribution; Ralph Scheurle (Office of Research Services), Award for Excellence in Service; and Martin Segger (University of Victoria Art Collections), Award for Excellence in Leadership.

More information on the PDSA program and previous award recipients: http://web.uvic.ca/hr/pdsa/

Congratulations to the School of Public Administration team members: administrative/professional staff for academic programs Jill Taylor, Heather Kirkham, Silvia Dule and Wendy Swim; clerical staff for academic programs Belle Young, Tara Da Silva, Judy Selma and Bonnie Kelber; Centre for Public Sector Studies staff Thea Vakil, Jennifer Guest and Arielle Guetta; and Co-operative Education staff Barbara Svec and Christine Corr.

Due to the hard work and “outside the box” creativity and collaboration of this staff team, the School of Public Administration has achieved its vision of significantly expanding graduate enrolment and diversifying on-campus and online programming.

"The accomplishments of the school have been the product of a team effort among professional and secretarial staff, which allowed for the pursuit of change and innovation across boundaries, while allowing each person to move forward with their responsibilities," says Evert Lindquist, director. “During a broad restructuring process, staff were instrumental in identifying efficiencies and new approaches, and demonstrated a willingness to adapt to change and program growth.”

Since 2006, enrolment has increased by 50 per cent in the Masters of Public Administration (MPA) on-campus program, and a parallel MPA online program with an equivalent enrolment has been introduced. The school took on responsibility for the MA in Dispute Resolution program in 2008, and introduced another new program, the MA in Community Development, in 2010. The school has also established a PhD program, introduced three graduate certificate programs and a graduate diploma, and an expanded co-op education program.

The staff rose to the challenge of administering new programs for an increased student intake with the addition of only one staff position and while simultaneously handling day-to-day responsibilities and initiatives. How did they do it? According to the school’s acting director, Herman Bakvis, “Our staff were able to step back to re-examine and re-align work responsibilities, explore and take up the possibilities of new technology for both online teaching and administrative processing, and proactively collaborate with staff colleagues in other units.”

“As a team, this group works with dedication and focus not only to fulfill the school’s strategic plan, but to do so with the values and goals of the university in mind and always with the benefit of students at the forefront of their efforts,” says Mary Ellen Purkis, dean of the Faculty of Human and Social Development. “Throughout all phases of a student’s experience with the school and with the university, staff are consistently professional and positive, exemplifying both the values and goals of the school in relation to public service as well as the values of the university for student-centredness.”
Walk into any building or through any public space on the UVic campus, and chances are you will pass a piece of the legacy of Martin Segger’s three-decade-long career. Over 7,000 works of art from the university collection now enhance the UVic campus, part of the 27,000-object collection that Segger built up and nurtured over many years as director and curator of the Malwood Art Museum and Gallery (now University of Victoria Art Collections).

Segger oversaw the 2007 opening of the Legacy Gallery—UVic’s gallery, teaching and meeting space in downtown Victoria—established and developed the groundbreaking Cultural Resource Management Program in Continuing Studies, and served as UVic’s first director of Government and Community Relations. Up until his retirement in December 2010, he mentored students through his roles at the Malwood and the University Centre Fanaghan Auditorium and as an adjunct professor in the Department of History in Art. “Over Martin’s 27 years at UVic, his steady leadership has grown to include national and international communities, organizations and cultural approaches that have rendered him and UVic as recognized leaders on community-university collaborations, cultural resource management and heritage initiatives,” says Valerie Kaechele, vice-president external relations. “He has, sometimes single-handedly, ensured that UVic’s art collection and related cultural commitments remain a priority for generations of administrators.”

An authority in the museum and heritage fields, Segger is past president of the International Council of Museums, and a fellow of the Canadian Museums Association and Royal Society of Arts. He served on Victoria City Council from 1982 to 1993 and has participated on countless local, national and international committees and boards, including the Provincial Capital Commission, Victoria Harbour Authority, BC Heritage Trust, Heritage Canada Foundation, City of Victoria Heritage Advisory Committee and Community Relations.

In his “spare time,” Segger has penned numerous books, articles, reviews and other publications. According to Alistair Kerr, senior manager in the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts, “Throughout his brilliant career, Martin strove for Victoria to be a better place to live, to have the university a more integral part of community life, for arts, culture and heritage to be an important part of that community at home and abroad.”

Ralph Scheurle, Office of Research Services

When people think of the Animal Services Unit at UVic, they think of Ralph Scheurle. For over 36 years, Scheurle has devoted his career to the growth and improvement of the unit, and has gone the extra mile in his work and his interactions with other members of the university community. “Ralph has been a key part of the growth of the research mission at UVic responding to the requirements of faculty in providing high quality infrastructure support,” notes Rachael Searle, acting associate vice-president research (planning and operations). “Ralph consistently focuses on the goal of providing high-quality services to UVic faculty, while ensuring the highest standards of animal care and the best possible working conditions for staff.”

During his career, Scheurle has provided support and mentoring for students, faculty and staff while supervising a large staff with diverse responsibilities in animal care. He has also been instrumental in coordinating the design and construction of several campus facilities: the Outdoor Aquatics Unit, the Medical Sciences Building animal care unit, and most recently the animal care unit in the Bob Wright Centre. Staff members, researchers and department colleagues speak of Scheurle’s unfailing positive attitude, dedication and “make it work” approach. Beyond Ring Road, he has volunteered his time with the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) as an animal facility inspection panel member and, in 2008, received a commendation from the CCAC for “his remarkable dedication to the animal care and use program.”

Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology Manager of Technical Support Albert Labossiere, who has worked with Scheurle for 25 years, sums up Scheurle’s contribution to the university community: “In essence Ralph has been the animal care equivalent of the one-man band but with the distinction that he has performed like a symphony orchestra.”

Scheurle characteristically deflects the applause onto his team. “I feel my success is the result of a team effort, and I’d like to acknowledge my dedicated staff, the university’s senior administration for their strong support of the Animal Care Unit and also the support of other units, particularly Facilities Management and Occupational Health, Safety and Environment,” he says. “This has not just been a job—it’s been a career, and working with the people here has been my true pleasure and incentive.”
Calling actor, director and playwright Daniel MacIvor a busy guy is a bit of an understatement. Within the span of the past few months, he opened his latest movie, Trigger, now playing in film festivals across Canada, and took over as a last-minute replacement director for David Mamet’s The Cryptogram at the Belfry Theatre.

A stalwart of the Canadian theatre scene, MacIvor will be back on the West Coast later this month to direct his play A Beautiful View at Vancouver’s Shadbolt Centre for the Arts before it travels to Montréal. Following that, he’ll perform his one-man show, This Is What Happens Next, at Great Canadian Theatre Company in Ottawa. Add in a production of his play Communication in Edmonton, mentoring a master class on playwriting at the prestigious Banff Centre and the off Broadway opening of his show The Soldier Dreams, as well as an appearance in the popular CBC TV series The Republic of Doyle, and “busy” doesn’t even begin to cut it.

And yet, somehow in between all this, MacIvor has been hard at work developing and workshopping the world premiere of his new play, Inside, for UVic’s own Phoenix Theatre. Running March 17–26 at the Phoenix, Inside is a modern tragedy that looks at a cross-section of Canadian experiences over the course of one evening at a nightclub.

Inside is adapted specifically for 11 students in the Department of Theatre from an earlier work and is helmed by acclaimed guest director David Ferry (MFA ’04).

MacIvor is clearly keen to be... uh... inside UVic. “I’m thrilled UVic is giving me the opportunity to work with David and these talented young actors while I develop this new play,” says MacIvor. “The students are well suited to the 20–30 characters in the play.”

Creating Inside for UVic has clearly been a different process for MacIvor. “I don’t often have anyone else direct first productions of my multi-character shows,” he explains. “But I love David’s style and his ease with the actors. I’m trying to take a back seat and keep my mouth shut for the most part—not my natural inclination—but he’s being generous with me, letting me throw my two cents in. He values having the writer in the room.”

Fourth-year theatre acting student Alex Plouffe concurs. Playing Brian, one of 20–30 somethings, he appreciated MacIvor’s contribution to rehearsal. “Obviously, as the writer, he knows all the answers to your character... he knows the script, well, inside and out,” he says chuckling at the inadvertent pun. “But he let us find our characters on our own. It was a very organic process. I could experiment and both Daniel and David were very supportive. No pressure.”

This play presents a once-in-a-lifetime challenge for its student actors—one that Ferry says they’ve definitely embraced. “Their energy and passion and willingness to try new things is undeniably exciting... and a joy to work with. If only I had such good fortune as a theatre student to premiere the work of a fabulous living playwright.”

“We’ve been looking forward to this for a year,” says Plouffe. “You never think you’re going to have the chance to work with someone of this calibre in your entire career, let alone by the time you’re 21. I feel incredibly lucky.”

And perhaps this is true for the playwright as well. “This is a great group of actors,” says MacIvor of his Phoenix experience and time in Victoria. “Life is good.”
MARCH 2011

One event each day
March 1
"The Ring", 7:30 p.m. at the ring. The University of Victoria Cricket Club, established just last year, is interested in tapping into a new cadre of players and in possibly starting a women’s team. The team reflects the international nature of the game, and includes players from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, South Africa and Canada. Last summer, the UVCC made it to the quarterfinals in the Victoria Masters Cricket League playoffs and soundly defeated the University of Fraser Valley Cricket Club in the first intercity cricket match in UVic history. The new season commences in April. All interested should contact UVCC Secretary, Dr. James Young (james.young@uvic.ca).

Have your say on expanding the smoke-free campus
As part of the university’s commitment to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and consultation, smokers are being held on a proposal to expand smoke-free areas on campus. Members of the university community are encouraged to attend one of two open house opportunities to provide input on this proposal on Monday, March 14 at the MacLaurin A atrium or on Tuesday, March 22 at the Student Union Building from noon to 1 p.m. or from 3 to 4 p.m. Members of the task group representing students, employee groups and other staff will be in attendance.

No Foolin’
The UVic Family Centre is getting ready for its eighth annual No Foolin’ event on Friday, April 1 from 4:30–6:30 p.m. outside the Family Centre in the student family housing complex on Lam Cote. No Foolin’ is an opportunity for UVic student families, community supporters and local businesses to come out and celebrate the energy and diversity that families and their children bring to campus life. It highlights UVic’s vibrant family community and helps raise awareness about the challenges and barriers that some student families face. Parachute games, relay races, ethnic food, pizza and ice cream are all part of the free program. Everyone is welcome. More information: family@uvic.ca

More Ring. More you.
Great UVic courses are everywhere, across campus and beyond. They’re in your story, your town, your career, your games. For years, they’ve been UVic’s community voice, sharing our stories in print and online. And now, with the launch of our new website, we’ll be sharing more of your stories than ever before.

And that’s where you come in. We’d like you to help us by becoming a volunteer contributor. We want more voices, more news, more conversation. It’s your turn, now.

To learn how you can contribute to the new ring, visit ring.uvic.ca and click on “Get involved.”

The Ring March 2011
New centre focuses on early childhood research

The Centre for Early Childhood Research and Policy isn’t the only new addition to UVic’s roster of research centres and organizations. There are two more:

The Victoria Subatomic Physics and Accelerator Centre (VISpA) brings together a number of faculty, even the faculty and subject faculty from the Department of Physics and Astronomy in the fields of theoretical, experimental and accelerator physics. The centre will coordinate UVic research activity in particle physics and accelerator science, promote collaborative and interdisciplinary research, support UVic’s prominent role in several international particle physics projects, and promote high-quality graduate and post-doctoral training. The interim director is Dr. Dean Karlen.

The Business Centre for Social and Sustainable Innovation (BCSSI) includes researchers in the faculty of business who study social and environmental issues as they pertain to business. The centre will help to build the faculty’s reputation in this area, enhance collaborative opportunities with researchers from other disciplines on campus, help build partnerships with business, community and public sector organizations, and provide enhanced learning and career opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students. The acting director is Dr. Monika Wilm.