Welcome, students!

Meng Wang (far left), Deni Belbin (centre), Wanjohi Mugo and Crystal Petrie (right—all in blue t-shirts) are among more than 160 UVic students volunteering this fall as orientation leaders welcoming new students to campus. The annual Week of Welcome features new student orientation activities including tours and the annual President’s BBQ. UVic expects to welcome over 20,000 students to campus this fall. Photo: UVic sustainability

OCEAN RESEARCH

The University of Victoria is aiming for a world-first in green shipping technology, thanks to new funding from the federal government.

In July, Western Economic Diversification Canada announced $1.19 million in funding to help transform UVic’s recently acquired research vessel into the world’s first plug-in hybrid “green ship” powered by electricity, hydrogen fuel cells and low-emission diesel fuel.

The hybrid system will provide energy for low-speed maneuvering and station-keeping and will supply high-quality power for ship systems, communications and instrumentation.

“This support for our world-class coastal research vessel is greatly appreciated and helps maintain Canada’s leadership in the design and application of clean energy technologies,” says Dr. Howard Brunt, UVic’s vice-president research. “The project is an excellent example of how governments, industry and universities are working together to enhance the well-being of Canadians.”

The 26.7-metre ship, previously known as Zetukia II, was acquired earlier this year for ship systems, communications and submersible operations. But first comes the transformation. During the refit, the ship will be cut in half for ship systems, communications and submersible operations. A hybrid system is quieter, more efficient and cleaner than traditional marine engines.

“UVic will manage the ship as a regional facility for research on changing ocean ecosystems, marine resources of coastal BC, and continental shelf dynamics. It will also service nearshore sections of UVic’s Ocean Networks Canada (ONC) Observatory.”

The refit contract is expected to go out for bids by the end of this year, with a relaunch targeted for late 2012. The ship’s new name has not yet been determined.

Funding for the refit has also been provided by the Canada Foundation for Innovation, the BC Knowledge Development Fund, and industry partners.

Video tour of the ship: http://bit.ly/pn4bGO

UVic’s new research vessel en route to its “green” refit. Photo: Valerie Shore

BY VALERIE SHORE

Ottawa funds green technology for UVic research ship
New chair focuses on health of people and forests

BY VALERIE SHORE

Imagine the day when we can use a simple screening test to detect diabetes, cardiovascular disease, or even HIV in their early stages—or have new and improved drugs for the treatment of Alzheimer’s and Creutzfeldt-Jakob diseases.

Or how about the day when we can breed trees that can naturally ward off attacks by pests like the mountain pine beetle? And trees that are super efficient at storing carbon and reducing global warming.

Those days might not be far off, thanks to a new research chair recently awarded to the University of Victoria by the BC government. The Don and Eleanor R X BC Leadership Chair in Biomedical and Environmental Proteomics will investigate the use of cutting-edge proteomics technologies and techniques to improve human and forest health.

The chair comes with an endowment of $4.5 million—split equally by the R X Family Foundation and the BC government’s Leading Edge Endowment Fund (LEEP). The chairholder is Dr. Christoph Borchers, a proteomics pioneer who helped found UVic-Genome BC Proteomics Centre since 2005.

Donald R X was a leading physician and philanthropist and an active member of the biotechnology industry. He was chairman of LifeLabs Diagnostic Systems, which was later acquired by LabCorp across BC, and chairman of Countdown Ltd., one of Canada’s leading analytical services. Due to his wife, Eleanor, died in 2007.

Dr. Mateer’s accomplishments are outstanding,” says Reeta Tremblay, vice-president academic planning. “She’s on Twitter

The Ring’s twitter feed is @uvicring, and an EdD in curriculum and an associate vice-president academic planning. “Riecken says Reeta Tremblay, vice-president academic planning. "Her effective advocacy for new programs, and her consultative and collaborative capacities within the broader university community and amongst the university-Genome BC Proteomics Centre.

We’re on Twitter

Then follow the UVicRing Twitter feed:

UVic plans to transform the north-ern part of the campus over the next few years and will offer members of the public an opportunity to learn more about the project. Presentations about the project will be offered at 5 and 7 p.m.

UVic plans to spend $59 million to construct the Centre for Athletics, Recreation and Special Abilities (CARSA) and renovate the McKinnon Building. UVic also plans to build a 817,650,000, sports parkade connected to CARSA. The buildings are on the site adjacent to Gabriola Road and McKenzie Avenue.

When UVic went to Saanich Council on Aug. 8 to request parking and height variances for CARSA (UVic requested fewer parking spaces in addition to the parkade building height than is currently permitted under zoning bylaws), councilors and residents expressed some concerns about the visual impacts of the project. They also requested further community consultation and asked that UVic identify a means to acknowledge the military history of the campus (an existing Second World War army base but will be removed to make way for the project.)

We’re responding to the concerns expressed at Saanich Council about the project,” says Neil Connelly, UVic’s director of campus planning and sustainability. “At the open house meeting we’ll have additional information and revised images for the parkade and CARSA, and staff will be available to answer questions. There will be an opportunity for those attending to comment and provide input.

CARSA will provide additional community recreation program availability, recreational and academic support for UVic, and improved facilities for varsity athletes. The proposed centre also would include research and development space for Cascadia, UVic’s organization that develops and delivers technologies, programs and services that improve the quality of life for those with disabilities. The program, unique in North America, currently operates out of one of the military baths.

Construction of the proposed parkade will displace 234 parking spaces in addition to the 230 eliminated over the past few years by UVic’s building on parking lots instead of green space. It’s anticipated CARSA will attract more people to campus, and the parkade will serve those visitors. CanAssist clients and those who come to campus to attend events in the University Centre and at the Student Union Building.

72-2441
Bengtson appointed university librarian

BY MARIA LIRONI

Here’s a riddle for you. What do medieval studies and digital humanities have in common? The answer comes in the form of UVic’s newest university librarian, Jonathan Bengtson.

Bengtson is currently the director of library and archives at the University of St. Michael’s College at the University of Toronto, as well as the library director for the Punahou School in Honolulu, Hawaii. Before arriving at UVic in 2004, Bengtson was head librarian of The Queen’s College, Oxford, and, afterwards, the executive director of the Providence Athenaeum in Providence, Rhode Island.

“Under the Athenaeum is one of the oldest cultural institutions in the State of Rhode Island, and it was established before there was even a bank in Providence,” Bengtson explains. “An independent membership library, it is part private club, part community centre, part special collections library and part local lending library—it’s a place where the card catalogue is still in use and it was a fascinating place to work.”

How many books?

However, what enticed Bengtson to UVic in 2004 was a desire to engage with the transformations to research, teaching and learning brought on by the digital revolution. “There has never been a more exciting time to be an academic librarian,” says Bengtson. “UVic’s interest in digital humanities and its Canada Research Chair in Humanities Computing were compelling reasons for my interest in working in the digital age.”

Bengtson is no stranger to digital information resources. “In my spare time, he enjoys browsing outdoor, camping, kayaking, playing ultimate Frisbee, squash, racquetball and beach volleyball,” he adds. “He also likes to travel. The father of two young children, Bengtson is married to a librarian. In fact, he and Sue met at University College London where they were both working on their master’s in library studies. One consequence is that their seven-year-old daughter is already beginning to classify books in her room.”

Bengtson’s predecessor is Marnie Swanson. She is only the second university librarian, having succeeded Dean Halliwell in 1988. Swanson will retire in December.

Navigate the ever-changing market

A longtime resident and UVic grad, Dave is helping local residents and new-communicators 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.

Bring your own bottle

There will be fewer plastic water bottles used at UVic as a result of the university’s newest strategic alliance. A new portable WaterFillz® water bottle refilling unit has been brought to campus by the offices of corporate relations and campus planning and sustainability in an effort to reduce the number of plastic water bottles on campus.

“The University of Victoria is thrilled to partner with Waste Management in our campus-wide effort to implement excellent sustainability practices,” says Vice-President External Relations Valerie Kuhnle. “The addition of the WaterFillz machine through a generous sponsor from Waste Management, will allow us to reduce the bottled water consumption on campus and the increased water fountains in buildings is a win-win.”

Change starts here for United Way

The kickoff date for the annual UVic United Way campaign is Sept. 21, and an advance note of celebration was sounded with the successful vinyl record sale on July 27. “An early event this summer is one hint of the fun-raising to come,” says Charles McQuade, UVic’s director of corporate relations and 2011 chairperson for the campaign steering committee. “I’m looking forward to seeing the momentum build for this year’s campaign, especially with UVic’s community — and campus — coming together to support the WaterFillz station, this partnership will dramatically reduce water bottle use on campus every year.”

The first is inaugural national winner Matt Shane in 2004. Now based in Edmonton, McQuill will return to Victoria in September to curate an exhibit at the on Douglas Street. BMI’s 1st Art! exhibit runs October 5-30 at the Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art.

Vises swimmer Ryan Cochrane won his second silver medal at the 2011 FINA World Aquatics Championships with a time of 14 minutes, 44.36 seconds in the men’s 1500-metre freestyle race held July 28-30 in Shanghai, China. Representing his Island Swimming Association club, Cochrane finished in second spot behind Sun Yang of China, who won the world-record time of 14 minutes, 34.14 seconds. Cochrane, the 22-year-old 2011 CIS male swimmer of the year, won a silver medal earlier that week in the non-Olympic men’s 400-metre freestyle and placed fifth in the men’s 400-metre freestyle.
Eagles return to roost
KwaGulth artist and Hereditary Chief Tony Hunt restores landmark UVic totem pole

BY ROBBY LANNING

Companion totem poles Eagle on Decayed Pole and Raven Soaring have been fixtures of the University Art Collections since their 1960s installation in the centre courtyard of the Coutard Building. The poles, relocated to the southwestern section of the campus quad since 1982, stand sentinel over the central campus green space.

Unfortunately, in 2009, someone scalped Eagle on Decayed Pole, inflicting considerable damage to the face of the pole and removing the two eagle sculptures from its top. Evidence indicates that the eagles were thrown to the ground as the thief dismantled the pole and removed the sculptural segment from the scene.

This summer Kwak'wala Hereditary Chief and artist Tony Hunt worked in situ at UVic to reinstate eagles to the pole's roost. In the 1960s, Tony Hunt had worked closely with his father, Henry Hunt, producing the poles as part of the Royal British Columbia Museum (RBCM) Thunderbird Park carving program. He reunited with Eagle on Decayed Pole in effort to transform the damage done to the work. During the restoration process—which included the mounting of two newly carved eaglets and restoring black and red paint to elements of the pole's design—Hunt provided insights into the history of the totem poles and the carving legacy of his grandfather Chief Mungo Martin.

Eagle on Decayed Pole and Raven Soaring are reproductions of Tsimshian poles originally erected in the villages of Kitwancool and Gitlakdamix. The replicas were carved by Henry and Tony Hunt as part of the Thunderbird Park carving program which brought damaged and deteriorating totem poles from abandoned villages throughout British Columbia to master carver Chief Mungo Martin (and later to Chief Martin’s son-in-law Henry Hunt) to be copied and preserved.

“Villages were abandoned because of smallpox and Christianity,” says Tony Hunt. “A lot of villages were abandoned, and the people no longer fully believed in the meaning of the poles. Now that we have these [replicas], we are able to understand what the people lost because of smallpox and religion.”

Hunt notes that the Thunderbird Park carving project is “special because of the teaching of Mungo Martin. At the time there were no Haida or Tsimshian artists that were capable of replicating their [traditional carving] style.”

Martin learned carving in the Southern Kwak'wala style from his uncle Charlie Hames and quickly amassed extensive knowledge and skill with carving. Having been hired by the RBCM, Martin used his expertise to replicate segments of deteriorating poles resulting in the preservation of many Tsimshian, Salish, Kwak'wala and Nisga’a art pieces and carving forms.

Henry and Tony Hunt apprenticed with Martin, gaining from his knowledge of Kwak’wala art and other carving styles. Tony Hunt explains that at this time “there were probably only about eight artists [carvers]. Mungo knew that, so the legacy and responsibility he left to me was to teach. And I did teach so many to survive, so the art wouldn’t die at a time when it was very weak. He knew what he was doing. When you see Salish artists and Nootka artists and now some Tsimshian artists producing today, it’s all the result of somehow being influenced and taught by Mungo’s teaching and my teaching them.”

Chief Tony Hunt sees Eagle on Decayed Pole and Raven Soaring differently from when he first carved them nearly 30 years ago. “The meaning of the twin totem poles has ‘changed since 1982—now it’s seen as works of art,’” they are ‘examples of tradition’ as that was done at Thunderbird Park that was maintained not to die out. If we had not done these, the old ones would have disappeared. There would be no examples from where they came from—to me that’s exciting—here they are; they are respected.”

Special thanks to Chief Tony Hunt, Guuwilddol Gold and Greg Ottenbrite for generously sharing their time and knowledge.

On the fringe of success
Theatre grads create their own careers on the Fringe circuit

BY ADRIENNE HOLIERHOEK

Not having a job after graduation can be scary for any student. But for many UVic Theatre alumni, playing on the Fringe circuit allows them to create their own jobs...and their own success.

Andrew Wade, who graduated this past spring along with a double major in theatre and writing, is working the Victoria and Vancouver Fringe Festivals to “get himself out there” and is using a variety of skills he developed at university. This summer he performed in his own play, William vs the World, directed by BFA’s ‘98 One-Man-Star Wars production made the leap from Best of Fringe and constant sold-out shows to touring main-stage theatres across the United States and even has the approval of George Lucas himself. Ingrid Hansen (BFA’s ‘99) and her SNAFU Dance Theatre’s production Pretty Little Liarbest Institute won Best of Fringe in Victoria and has been steadily touring across Canada. This year, it landed a coveted spot in Toronto’s SummerWorks Festival, the largest juried festival in Canada.

Perhaps the most exciting fringe-originated success this year is the triumph of director Britt Small (MFA ’10) and playwright Jacob Richmond’s Atomic Vaudeville. Their off-beat comedy Legolad was a sensation on the festival tour from Vancouver to Toronto and New York to Los Angeles, winning awards and accolades everywhere it went. This success greased the tracks for their most recent project Ride the Cyclone, which garnered an invitation to SummerWorks and received unprecedented critical acclaim from the Globe and Mail, as “…probably the most experimental and exciting piece of musical theatre Canada has ever produced.”

These awards and exultant praise transformed Andrew Wade into a Canadian tour and a deal for the American, Canadian and UK touring rights, plus the intention of going off-Broadway.

Back in Victoria, Andrew Wade doesn’t feel the angst of the characters in BFA’s The Musical! “Honestly, if I don’t find work, I’m not worried. I know that I can make my own.”

Theatre grads create their own careers on the Fringe circuit

WHAT’S NEW THIS FALL?

POLICIES AND SERVICES

New campus wayfinding signs
You may have noticed the new exterior signage being installed in several locations around campus. This new wayfinding system has been developed over the past two years in conjunction with consultants and numerous campus stakeholders. The signage program includes a family of signs that addresses the needs of both vehicular and pedestrian users and involves students in its development. This wayfinding strategy will become the new signage standard on campus and will be carried out in a phased approach over the next few years. Phase one of this work is being implemented this month in the North and East areas of campus. Info: Nate Greenland, Campus Planning and Sustainability, ngreenland@uvic.ca

Food services
Changes are under way for campus food services with a focus on sustainability, biodiversity, and fine-tuning the menu selection to be appealing to vehicular and pedestrian users and in effort to monitor weekdays between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Info: http://library.uvic.ca

Libraries go mobile
The UVic Libraries Mobile Web provides essential library information and services, anytime, anywhere, on your mobile device with an interface optimized for on-the-go access. The site automatically detects the device you’re using to deliver an experience optimized for it. UVic Libraries is also offering a trial service to UVic students and other library users can send questions by SMS/text directly from their telephones and receive an answering text from reference librarians. This service will be monitored weekdays between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Info: http://library.uvic.ca

State of the art dentistry right on the UVic campus, in the Student Union Building.
Offering the most comprehensive dental services available.
Please call for your next dental appointment.
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Campus dental centre

Experience the difference!
This June, Dr. Chris Barnes retired as founding director of NEPTUNE Canada, the world’s largest and most advanced cabled ocean observatory network. It and the VENUS coastal network make up the OCEAN Observatory, which is managed for the University of Victoria by Ocean Networks Canada. NEPTUNE Canada and VENUS pioneer a new generation of ocean observation systems that, using power and the Internet, provide continuous, long-term monitoring of ocean processes and events, as they happen, leading a new era of wiring the oceans.

What three qualities are essential to build something as complex as NEPTUNE Canada?

Vision—as we pushed the scientific community to arrive at a consensus on where it wanted to go with this concept. Determination—because many of us had no idea where the funding would come from. And patience—to keep going when there was no evidence that it would succeed.

What other big science can you equate NEPTUNE Canada to?

NAXA putting the rover robots on Mars is analogous. We can see the parallels in having the vision and courage to persevere, getting the funding, capturing the public’s imagination, and then achieving the technologies to pull it off.

Did you at any point wonder what you had gotten yourself into?

Not really. We knew it was high-risk and that failure was very real—not because we didn’t believe in the vision, but because there were so many impediments to overcome.

What was the biggest challenge?

Three big ones: marshalling the scientific community to determine what is achievable; making sure we had sensible funding proposals and a team of exceptional people behind us; and working with partners to design and install new technologies and develop the database. All within a tight timeline. It’s not a matter of steps where you go from point A to B to C. You have to do all these things concurrently and have people working at many different levels.

What was your biggest thrill?

The big event at the Esquimalt Graving Dock [in Victoria] this June, when we showed off the nodes and some of the equipment just before they went out to sea. Everything had finally come together. And it was an opportunity to thank many of the people who had shared the vision or had been part of it.

Any surprises?

A trivial one that stands out is when we found a rice cooker and a screwdriver side by side on the seafloor at 1,300 metres. When the Remotely Operated Vehicle opened the lid on the rice cooker there was an octopus inside. Her eggs were stuck to the lid. It was a remarkable surprise because it was so totally unexpected.

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Talking up the city

What does your city mean to you? Where do the arts fit into your urban experience?

On Saturday, Oct. 27 at 7:30 p.m., a free public lecture will focus on theatre in the city, kick-starting a series of downtown talks in Cadboro Bay’s second annual City Talks lecture series at the newly reopened Legacy Art Gallery.

The special lecture series, launched last year by UVic’s Committee for Urban Studies, encourages dialogue about many of the issues that confront urban dwellers. The downtown lectures drew upward of 80 to 120 people per session in the 2010/11 season. This year’s format will follow last year’s: there will be six sessions, one a month, with the first half of each event being an informative talk by a scholar, followed by an extended Q&A session from 8:15 to 9 p.m.

“There are a lot of mid-size cities like ours across Canada,” says UVic historian Jordan Stanger-Ross, committee chair. “Our experiences here are typical of city life across our country, with a whole range of issues worth considering. Setting the discussion downtown in a beautiful venue adds another source of vibrancy to an already energetic discussion and is in keeping with our aims of outreach and community engagement.”

The first talk in the 2011/12 series (Sept. 22, Oct. 27 and Nov. 24) will speak to how theatre and arts can impact the city. The second (Jan. 19, Feb. 16 and March 15) will delve into governance and the politics of urbanism.

UVic English professor Janelle Jenstad helped organize the initial three lectures under the theme of theatre in the city to “explore how the theatre negotiates social relationships and urban spaces.”

The Sept. 22 event is part of the Lansdowne Lecture program and will examine urban challenges and prospects as evolved in the playhouses of Early Modern London, presented by Columbia University’s Jean Howard.

The Oct. 27 lecture by University of Western Ontario’s Kim Solga will question how a play about genocide written for a Kigali stage can reach across urban space and time.

The last event in the first set, on Nov. 24 with Eugenie van Everen of Utrecht University in The Netherlands, is funded in part by the European Union through the UVic European Studies Program.

More info www.thecitytalks.ca

LEED gold for First Peoples House

UVic’s First Peoples House is the most recent campus facility to achieve the gold-level standard in environmental design and sustainability. On July 18, the Canada Green Building Council officially recognized the building, opened in 2010, with gold-level certification in its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building program.

First Peoples House provides a welcoming space for the community and an academic and cultural centre for Indigenous students, faculty and staff. The 1,641-sq.-m building houses the Office of Indigenous Affairs, Aboriginal student counselling services, a ceremonial hall, classroom and office space, and student and elders’ lounges.

“This is the first project that is a showpiece of sustainability, and we are delighted to be recognized with LEED gold certification,” says David Perry, UVic’s director of capital development. “The project uses wood as a primary building material in support of the university's broad range of sustainability initiatives.”

The building’s sustainability features include: recycled materials, including steel reinforcing bars and reclaimed red cedar; a green roof; natural light in 90 per cent of the building via exterior glazing; a seasonal storm retention pond fed by roof runoff; natural ventilation, including a ventilation corridor and window vents with sensors; and landscaping with native trees and vegetation.

Designed by Alfred Waugh Architects of Vancouver, the building reflects the Coast Salish style in features such as rammed earth walls, cedar plank exterior cladding and the ceremonial hall. In November 2010 First Peoples House was recognized as one of the best western red cedar architectural designs in the world in the Western Red Cedar Architectural Design Awards. UVic’s Medical Sciences, Engineering/Computer Science, Social Sciences and Mathematics and Administration Services buildings previously achieved LEED gold status. All major UVic building projects incorporate sustainability initiatives, including efficient energy and water management measures, locally sourced materials, natural landscaping and enhanced indoor air quality.

The university’s commitment to the LEED gold building standard is one of the reasons UVic is included in this year’s list of Canada’s 100 Greenest Employers (see http://bit.ly/eKUwwx).

BY MARIA LIRONI

Imagine being surrounded by original works of art from renowned artists of the Northwest—artists such as Emily Carr, J. E. Hughes and Max Maynard. Now imagine how inspiring it would be to study original art and curatorial practices in that space. That’s just what art students from the University of Victoria are doing now at UVic’s recently renovated Legacy Art Gallery.

The Legacy Art Gallery has undergone extensive renovations to include teaching and research space and to transform itself into UVic’s primary gallery venue.

“The Legacy Gallery is a great place for community members and tourists to see some amazing art, but it’s not just an art gallery—it’s a place for learning, teaching and research,” says University of Victoria Art Collections Interim Director Joy Davis.

The Legacy Art Gallery will continue to showcase the Michael Williams collection, as well as other material from UVic’s rich and diverse collections. However, to create more room for art and scholarship, there is no longer a café at the Legacy Art Gallery. That area has been made into a climate-controlled gallery area.

The main gallery can be rented for private functions, and there is a classroom available on an ad hoc basis for UVic faculty and staff who need space downtown for meetings.

In addition to the works at the Legacy Art Gallery, pieces from UVic’s critically acclaimed collection of 27,000 pieces can be seen in the many publicly accessible buildings on campus, through its “art for loan program,” and in off-campus locations such as the Royal Jubilee Hospital, Swanes Cottage, Government House and Cool Aid Community Health Centre (Access Health).

The Legacy Art Gallery reopened to the public in mid-August with the exhibit “Convergence/Divergence: Landscape and Identity on the West Coast” (http://legacygallery.ca/current.htm). The exhibit features the works of some of the area’s best-known artists including Emily Carr, Rande Cook, Donald Harvey, J. E. Hughes, Max Maynard, Marianne Nicolson, Toni Onley and Norman Yates. Through a selection of prints, drawings, sculpture, paintings and mixed media works, this exhibit shows some of the many ways that West Coast artists express identity in terms of a sense of self, place or community. It runs until Oct. 1.

The Legacy Art Gallery is located at 630 Yates Street in Victoria. Admission is free and the gallery is open Wednesday to Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

More information: http://uvic.uvic.ca/
Michael Finnissy in a recital of his own works.

Pre-eminent British composer and pianist

Music at 7:15 p.m. Phillip T. Young recital hall, MacInnis B125. Conducted by Bill Linwood. Preconcert talk celebrated Canadian soprano Helen Pridmore.

Finnissy's irreverent and wickedly amusing music

at the door. 250-592-9713

Calendar highlights

Your catchy slogan here.

We’d like you to consider what you shouldn’t be putting down a drain. Like unused or expired medications, for instance. Connect with Sustainable U on Facebook. Take the Slogan Master Challenge and you could win an Xbox 360 with Kinect bundle.

The winner of this challenge will be selected by a panel of judges, not by random draw.

Scan to connect with SustainableU.ca instantly.
Aiming at a more sustainable consumption, thousands of UVic students and alumni uncover their career possibilities and turn these into reality. Robertson, who holds an MBA as well as a diploma in applied linguistics from UVic, is part of a team of career educators that coaches students and alumni in their career development.

He covers basics like résumé and cover letter writing and interview prep, but, more importantly, he leads them through the processes of assessing their competencies, identifying and exploring possible careers, building professional networks, and connecting with meaningful career opportunities.

“One of my greatest satisfactions is witnessing the moment when students take charge of their career process and uncover possibilities and opportunities that they can get excited about,” says Robertson. “Seeing their self-confidence, optimism and sense of personal agency grow is the great reward of my work.”

Robertson spends 30 to 50 per cent of each day providing one-on-one career coaching via drop-in sessions and booked appointments, as well as by email and over the phone.

Three-bin recycling station expansion

This month, Facilities Management in conjunction with the Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability will be expanding the three-bin recycling stations into the hallways of class-room buildings campus wide. The three-bin stations consist of a bin for landfill waste (garbage), a mixed paper recycling bin, and a bottles/cans/hard-plastics recycling bin.

The university will remove all waste and recycling bins inside the classrooms in order to encourage the use of the new sorting stations in the hallways.

This new waste sorting procedure is a result of a pilot study conducted last year in two classroom buildings (David Strong Building and MacLaurin Building) that was deemed a success by building users and janitors. The pilot resulted in greater recycling rates and less garbage left in classrooms. This new procedure should also help enforce the university’s no drinking and no food policy inside classrooms.

The three-bin recycling station expansion is an important component of UVic’s ongoing efforts to reduce waste on campus and reach its goal of 75-per-cent waste diversion as set out in the Sustainability Action Plan: Campus Operations (2009-2014). It will also help UVic meet CBDC regulatory requirements that ban refundable containers and all mixed paper from the Hartland Landfill.

If you have any questions about the recycling stations or any of UVic’s recycling programs, contact the Waste Reduction Unit at waste@uvic.ca.

HELP PEER HELPING CELEBRATE 25 YEARS

Have you been positively affected by the UVic Peer Helping program? Are you a former UVic peer helper? The UVic Peer Helping program is turning 25 years old in 2011 and plans are underway for celebrating this unique student leadership and peer support program. Counselling Services, operator of the program, is seeking contact with former volunteers, staff or students who have been touched by the program. If you are interested in sharing memories and impressions of the program’s impact on your personal and professional development, or on the campus at large, please contact emason@uvic.ca. More: www.peershelter.uvic.ca/

UVic clinches another spot in elite “green” car competition

This fall, a new team of UVic students is participating in the next round of North America’s elite “green” car competition, EcoCar 2 — Plugging into the Future. Over the last three years, UVic’s EcoCAR team — composed of engineering, business and humanities students — competed in the EcoCAR—Next Challenge competition, winning 22 awards. It built a fuel-efficient, low-emission car of the future as part of an international contest that challenges 16 universities to create a next-generation “green” vehicle that minimizes fuel consumption and emissions and encourages energy diversity. More info: www.ecocar.ca/

UVic hosts Latin American and Spanish film week

From Sept. 19–25, UVic is hosting the second annual Latin American and Spanish Film Week. This event brings to Victoria some of the most interesting films produced in recent years in the Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking worlds. One film, Poet Mort by Pablo Larrain (Chile, 2009), raises the spectre of the 1973 overthrow of Salvador Allende in Chile, a topic recently in the news after a July 2011 autopsy proved that Allende was not assassinated but rather killed himself. Another film is about the privatization of water in Bolivia and a third is about an exceptional soccer player whose family is battling in the courts of Caracas. More info: www.cinesonta.com