Search the new libraries website

UVic Libraries launched a new website on August 27. Complete with a fresh look and feel, clear navigation, improved searching, integration with the main UVic website and plenty of important content describing the services and collections we provide. All website users can look forward to improved access to relevant resources, information and library services.

Thunder Fest and President’s Run Series

This Friday, Sept. 6 Vikes Athletics and Recreation are pleased to host the fourth annual Thunder Fest from noon to 4:30 p.m. outside the UVic Student Union Building. Thunder Fest is an opportunity for the UVic student body to kick off the varsity athletic season and gain information about campus and recreation. Also at noon, UVic President and Vice-Chancellor Prof. Jamie Cassels will lead the first of an open President’s Run Series, encouraging everyone of all fitness levels on campus to enjoy an active, healthy living style.

Celebrate award-worthy teaching

The UVic Alumni Association and the Learning and Teaching Centre invite nominations for the prestigious Harry Hickman Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching (Faculty) and the Gillian Sherwin Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching (Instruction). The awards include a $2,000 cash prize and the recipients’ photos are permanently displayed in the McPherson Library alongside more than 40 other accomplished teachers who have received the award since 1989. Nomination forms are available at alumni.uvic.ca Deadline: Oct. 18. The awards will be presented during Alumni Week 2014, Feb. 2–8.

Nominations for honorary degrees

Members of the university community are encouraged to nominate candidates to receive an honorary degree from UVic. Honorary degrees allow the university to recognize and honour individuals who have achieved great things, who have received the award since 1989. Nomination forms are available at alumni.uvic.ca Deadline: Oct. 18. The awards will be presented during Alumni Week 2014, Feb. 2–8.

An ocean full of change at Ocean Networks Canada

BY VIRGINIA KEAST

Having established the world’s first and largest comprehensive underwater calling ocean observatories, Ocean Networks Canada continues to expand the scope of its activities. This summer and fall, ONC is taking part in a major cruise investigating low-oxygen zones, adding new capabilities to its Arctic node, participating in a major international trade mission and making substantial enhancements to its website.

A monthlong cruise chasing “dead waters”

Since mid-August, ONC has been leading a scientifically oriented month-long expedition to study low-oxygen waters off the coast of Vancouver Island. The mission’s first leg is now complete, after two weeks of tracing the pathways of potentially harmful low-oxygen waters as they flow from the deep ocean toward our coast. The team of seven Canadian scientists, four technicians and five students have been on board the RV Falkor, the 272-foot, 862 million ocean research vessel provided by the Schmidt Ocean Institute—a private foundation established by Google co-founder Eric Schmidt and his wife, Wendy.

"This was a remarkable opportunity for our research community, to gain access to this world-class ship and conduct unrestricted observations in our local waters,” reflects Dr. Richard Dewey, who served as Chief Scientist during the first leg of the journey. “The ship is extremely well equipped, and the crew and officers were consummate professionals. We traversed over 3,400 km and collected 2,800 water column profiles."

Principal investigator Professor Jody Klymak from the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences was also on board working with UVic’s moving vessel profiler, an impressive workhorse on this expedition. Acting as part of the science team, UVic student Brianna Cerciewicz experienced the thrill and hard work of her very first cruise and blogged her shipboard adventures on the ONC Wiring the Abyss website.

The Falkor is now berthed at Victoria’s Ogden Point to re-mobilize for the second half of the expedition, which will run until September 18. For the second leg, the vessel will host another team of scientists who will re-visit the pathways with a focus on how ecosystems may be impacted. They’ll also watch the seafloor via ROPOS, a remotely operated submersible that streams live video during its dives to the seafloor. This portal to the ocean is open to everyone via the internet at WiringtheAbyss2013.ca

Arctic mini-observatory gets a reboot

Built with the same world-class technology as the YEVUS and NEPTUNE observatories, the mini-observatory at Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, has just...
CARBRC research shows how province can improve alcohol-related policies

BY MITCH WRIGHT

British Columbia comes in second among Canadian provinces for policies aimed at reducing alcohol-related harms and costs, but the impressive ranking belies the fact that even the national leaders are nowhere achieving an ideal score.

In earning the ranking, BC achieved just 53 per cent of a perfect score. It also lagged at or near the bottom in two of the most important policy categories, although the province does rank in first in four categories and second in two others.

The findings are included in research from the University of Victoria’s Centre for Addictions Research of BC (CARBC). It released its summary report Reducing Alcohol-Related Harms and Costs in British Columbia, just as the province announced on Aug. 6 it will undertake a major review of liquor licenses this fall.

The report compared the 10 provinces in 10 policy dimensions deemed most important to achieving public health and safety benefits. The re- search highlights current policy strengths in BC and offers recommenda- tions to turn unrealized potential into actual gains.

BC ranks ninth and 10th in the two most important policy categories, which include only pricing and regulatory controls. The contradiction of a low overall score earning such high marks for high alcohol taxes and control policies indicates that there are substantial oppor- tunities for BC and all provinces to further improve on them.

“Our study shows that BC is doing many things right, but could be doing much, much better,” says Kara Thompson, a psychology doctoral candidate who co-authored the report while working with CARBC director Tim Stockton. “The bad news is that we are at or near the bottom in two of the more important policy areas is sig- nificant. That is where the province can and should be focusing our attention to achieve the most impact to reduce alcohol-related harms and costs.”

Specific measures suggested for BC to address its weak pricing in regulatory control policies include increasing minimum alcohol prices to $1.39 per standard drink; adjust alcohol prices to keep pace with inflation; placing restrictions on discounted alcohol sold below minimum price; adjusting prices for alcohol content to make higher strengths per unit more expensive; reducing access to alcohol through channels such as online sales or delivery services; and increasing spending on social responsibility messaging.

“The provincial government’s panel to review liquor licensing is timely and necessary,” says Thompson. “What we’re showing in highlighting these strengths and weakness in alcohol policies is that there is still considerable room to improve, especially in the areas of pricing and control. Imple- menting these recommendations would be a significant step toward improving the balance between public access and better protecting public health.”

The CARBC comparison of BC alcohol policies with those of other provinces uses results from a com- prehensive study of the province’s 14th national study funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and builds on a model im- plemented by MADD Canada. The na- tional study was led by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) in Ontario, in collaboration with a Canada-wide network of alcohol and health experts, including from CARBC.

The 10 policy dimensions included in the assessment are based on rigor- ous systematic reviews of the effec- tiveness of alcohol prevention efforts. BC ranks first in policies on drinking and driving, marketing and advertising, legal drinking age and server training. It is also the only province to earn a perfect score in any category, which it achieved for its policies on screening, referrals and brief interventions. BC also ranked second for the physical availability of alcohol and its provincial alcohol strategy. Thompson notes that despite those highlights, alcohol consumption in BC has been above the national average for the past decade, and both consumer and hospitalization rates and the rate of hospitalizations for alcohol-related conditions have increased since 2002. And while BC ranked second while achieving just 53 per cent of the ideal score, it’s clear even those provinces leading the way have a lot more work to do, she says.

Some other recommendations for improvement in BC’s alcohol-related policies include reducing hours for on- and off-premise establishments; implementing remaining drinking zones and drinking countermeasures recom- mended by MADD Canada; restricting quantity of alcohol advertisements; considering of increasing legal drinking age to 21; improving server training, developing an on- specific provincial strategy; and im- plementing mandatory warning labels on alcoholic beverage packaging.

BY SUSAN HENDERSON

All the world’s a stage—and in September and October, UVic will be When Shakespeare plays a six-week, city-wide celebration of the works of the Bard. Shakespeare Onstage—Offset will bring exhibits and special events to libraries, art galleries, classrooms, concert halls and pubs on campus and around the city.

UVic Libraries, a lead partner in the celebrations, will host a major exhibition in collaboration with the UVic English Department and the Legacy Art Gallery: Shakespeare’s “Big Books” will bring together all four 17th-century Shakespeare collections (including the famous First Folio) for the first time in BC. This Legacy Art Gallery exhibition, curated by Erin E. Kelly and Janele Jenstad from the Department of English, is possible because of generous donations of Folio Two and Four from the Legislative Library of BC and Folio One and Three from the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library at the University of Toronto.

Shakespeare died in 1616, only about half of his plays had been printed, all in quartos or octavo volumes—traditional Shakespearean plays are often printed and sold together within the book.

Soon after, his friends and fellow actors began amassing manuscripts and print editions with the aim of compiling all of his dramatic works. John Heminges and Henry Condell, along with a consortium of printers, produced a mag- nificent folio volume of 36 plays, replete with dedica- tory poems and a portrait of Shakespeare himself.

Scholars refer to the 1623 collection of Shakespeare’s plays in one volume as the First Folio. It preserves the earliest surviving text of 18 plays. Without this Folio, we would not have Macbeth, The Tempest, As You Like It, Twelfth Night, Antony and Cleopatra or Julius Cæsar.

This book has long fascinated different groups of people. Editors search it for clues about the plays. Actors and directors believe it offers hints about performance. Col- lectors value it as one of the most important books in the English language.

Another exhibit, Falstaff and Music, opens September 16 and will trace the history of Shakespeare’s vain, inept, comic knight and will feature rags, rare books, and performance artifacts from the University of Victoria’s Special Collections in the Mearns Centre for Learning—McPherson Library.

More Shakespeare Onstage—Offset event information can be found at www.uvic.ca/library/ featured-events and on uvic.ca/ onstageoffset.

Hark! The Shakespeare celebrations approach!

Navegante el ever-changing market

A longtime resident and UVic grad, Dave is helping local residents and new-comers navigate their way through the real estate market. Whether buying or selling, he will assure smooth, successful transactions. Just ask his many clients at UVic.
Archaeology students discover ancient clam gardens on Russell Island

BY ANNE MACLAURIN

A dozen university students spent part of their summer exploring ancient First Nation villages in the Southern Gulf Islands and discovering 1,000-year-old clam gardens on Russell Island — and earned course credit doing it. The UVic’s “Archaeology of the Salish Sea” field school provided an opportunity to learn scientific methods and techniques and learn from and listen to Coast Salish Elders.

“Archaeology is a very “hands-on” type of social science,” said instructor Eric McLay (PhD candidate) students learn critical thinking and practical skills “even if it means getting a bit dirty.”

The Archaeology Field School included university students from UVic, SFU and University of Ottawa, instructor Eric McLay and teaching assistant David Range (MA, graduate student). Also this year, two Coast Salish interns were employed by Parks Canada — Philip Joe Sr. from Cowichan Tribes and Brandon Wilson from Tsartlip First Nation. Both men are also hereditary花园 workers in their communities and have previous experience in an archæological field research. They played an important role in advising the field school in Coast Salish cultural protocols when dealing with archaeological matters. For me, the main highlight of this field school included working with First Nations peoples,” said archaeology student Angela Dyck. “Learning how to be culturally sensitive while doing hands on work was invaluable; we did everything we could to ensure we were respectful and non-impinging on the site.”

Excavation of the ancient clam gardens on Russell Island presented students with an opportunity to gain practical training in identifying, recording and mapping archaeological sites. Students were also challenged to interpret archaeological data to understand the ancient past to figure out how and when the clam gardens were built. The island was once home to an aboriginal community and the clams may have been used for trade.

McLay hopes to publish the findings on Russell Island in a joint research project looking to validate a testing protocol for gathering accurate baseline information on cognitive function in youth hockey players. That effort partnered with the Victoria Raquet Club minor hockey program to test approximately 200 youth ages 6 to 17 over the past year, using the Neurotracker software donated by Quebec-based Cognisens Inc.

Major professional sports leagues—including the NHL and NFL—use the program to improve athletes’ performance, but its potential as a low-cost, accessible option to accurately assess concussion symptoms and severity in youth athletes has Christi interested.

The game involves a screen with visual and auditory stimuli where participants are asked to track four as they move rapidly and randomly. With each successful trial, the balls move faster and more difficult to follow. The recorded results could offer reliable baseline data on a number of different cognitive and perceptual abilities.

“Anytime they get a concussion, their ability to perform the game drops dramatically—almost in half—and as they return from a concussion we can see their speed in following the balls come back up,” says Christie.

Once reliable baseline data is established, it’s easier to determine if a player has sustained a concussion. Christie says it could also facilitate active recovery, through repeat testing to track cognitive improvements. Because the program involves testing a large group across a wide age range, it will result in year-by-year comparisons and longitudinal data, Christie says, adding that the UVic Vikes rugby team also began testing last year.

Standardized data will also help scientists better understand the symptoms that are the best prognostic indicators for poor recovery from concussion, Christie says. That research will provide coaching staff to work with athletes across Canada with more confidence in their diagnoses and empower doctors, parents, players and coaches to make better decisions about treatment, including when it is appropriate and safe for a patient to “return to play.”

“The majority of the traumatic brain injury research out there right now is based on adults, so we’re always speculating that maybe children have the same recovery times,” says Dr. Chand Taneja, a pediatric clinical neuropsychologist with the Queen Al exandra Centre for Children’s Health/Vancouver Island Health Authority. “The only as practising board-certified neuropsychologist on Vancouver Island, Taneja sees most of the Island’s children referred due to neurological impairment. She is also involved in the CIHR-funded concussion research project.

Christie, whose research also investigates how developmental disorders affect learning and memory processes, also believes there might be potential for the software to facilitate better perceptual awareness in developmental disorders like autism and fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, as well as having benefits for elderly drivers.

Christie spoke to parents, players and coaches about concussions during this week’s Ryan O’Byrne Charity Hockey Camp hosted at UVic’s Ian H. Stew art Complex, where the Toronto Maple Leafs’ defenceman also played minor hockey. The Neurotracker program was also demonstrated during UVic’s youth camp, with both guest coaches and camp participants given an opportunity to try it.

Wickenheiser.

Clam gardens excavation on Russell Island

Study seeks consistency in concussion data

BY MITCH WRIGHT

It’s game night at the local rink and cheering parents pack the stands as young players churn up and down the ice. Every scoring chance is hailed with roars of support. The barn falls eerily silent though, as one young skater racing for a puck loses an edge and slides heading into the boards. He gets to his knees unsteadily, then stands wobbly-legged and obvi- ously shaken, and is rushed off the ice by coaches as white-faced parents are sprinting to meet them in the dressing room. They’re already worrying about concussion, a scourge throughout sports, but getting particular attention in hockey.

The popular Archaeology Field School on Russell Island in a joint research project looking to validate a testing protocol for gathering accurate baseline information on cognitive function in youth hockey players. That effort partnered with the Victoria Raquet Club minor hockey program to test approximately 200 youth ages 6 to 17 over the past year, using the Neurotracker software donated by Quebec-based Cognisens Inc.

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Wickenheiser.
Any map is only as good as the data whichan Tribes, BC's largest First University of Victoria anthropology First Nations initiatives. Josephson. Network—which develops training maps—likely the most turned-to facilities reside. ping lab, organized by anthropol- in involvement with Google Earth Google hosted its first Indigenous Outreach and the Google Trainers took part in a MapUp event at the blanks wasn't available through its buildings, landmarks and other facilities reside. Google was aware such gaps existed, particularly for First Na- tions lands, but the data to fill in the blanks wasn’t available through its usual channels such as government and other official sources. Recognizing the challenge, Google proposed a solution. Cowichan Tribes, BC’s largest First Nation, and thousands of other First Nations across Canada, the U.S. and overseas took part when Google hosted its first Indigenous Mapping Day on Aug. 9, United Nations Indigenous Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples. Four Cowichan Tribes members took part in a MapUp event at the University of Victoria anthropological department’s ethnographic mapping lab, organized by anthropol- ogy assistant professor Dr. Brian Thom and UVic cartographer Ken Josephson. The all-day event started with an hour of live training via webinar with Google staff, with whom Thom has worked since 2009 through his involvement with Google Earth Outreach and the Google Trainers Network—which develops training and research techniques for Indig- enous land-use mapping to support First Nations initiatives. The training session was fol- lowed by a full day of adding and correcting location information to Google’s basemap, using Google Map Maker. ‘For us, there are some basics like identifying buildings and roads. Our information doesn’t necessar- ily get out there and community members don’t necessarily know the process for getting it out there,’ says Tim Kulchysky, a biologist with Cowichan Tribes. “This is a way to do mapping on a smaller, low-key scale where we can do it ourselves.” The goal is to enable First Na- tions to update basic information about their communities (while avoiding any sensitive or traditional information) and fill in the gaps on the map, says Thom, who is also a partner in UVic’s Community Mapping Collaboratory, a SSHRC- funded initiative under Dr. Peter Keller. “It’s an empowering tool, really,” says Kulchysky. “It’s one of the most effective ways to communicate with people and relate a huge amount of information. This is going to help develop a more informed baseline for everything.” Filling in those gaps in public information is also another way to dismantle some of the walls that exist between cultures, Thom adds, by sharing basic knowledge about the First Nations community and educating the general public (Cow- ichan’s map updates include several traditional Hulqumi’num names and the locations of many important places in the community) in non- intrusive way. With interest from other First Nations on the Island and Lower Mainland, Thom expects to help make additional similar events happen. Thom also met with Stz’uminus First Nation in Ladysmith, who sent some of its community’s data to enter during the workshop. “There was definitely a desire to do more, it was a matter of keeping the ball rolling,” he says, adding that Cowichan Tribes members headed home with great skills they can share and a long list of previously collected GIS data that they plan to make available to the world through Google Maps.

The University of Victoria Board of Governors is one of two primary governing bodies of the university (the other being the UVic Senate). The board is responsible for the university’s investment management, administration and control of the property, revenue and business affairs of the university. The board consists of the chancellor, the president, two elected faculty members, one elected staff member, two students elected from the univer- sity’s undergraduate or graduate student societies and eight members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. A chair and vice-chair are elected annually to one-year terms. This fall sees several changes in the leadership and membership of the Board of Governors. Erich Mørh was appointed as vice chair, and Beverly Van Bayven was elected vice-chair. The board also welcomes two new non-in council appointed members, Ida Chong and Tracy Redies, as well as one new stu- dent member, Emily Rogers. Lucia Hafemann, outgoing vice-chair, returns for a sec- ond term, having been re-elected by members of the student societies. In May, the Board appointed the new chair, Thomson, and the vice chair, Treasurer, as well as a new UVic Alumni Relations representative to the Board as an ex officio member.

ID.A CHONG Order-in-council appointee Chong first entered public life as a municipal councillor in Saanich (1995–1996) and director at the CRD (1995–1996). Most recently, she served as MLA representing Oak Bay-Gordon Head (1996–2013). She has been minister responsible for 10 different portfolios including Scho- ringal Relations and Reconciliation; Community, Sport and Cultural De- velopment; Science and Technology; Healthy Living and Sport; Advanced Education; Minister responsible for the Asia-Pacific Initiative, Seniors and Women’s Issues. In addition to her role as Minister she served on the Cabinet Committee for Climate Action and 12 years on BC’s Treasury Board. A professional accountant, she is a fellow of the Certified General Accountants Association. For nearly 20 years, she was senior partner in a practice based in Saanich catering to small and medium-sized enterprises.

TRACY REDIES Order-in-council appointee Redies is President and Chief Execu- tive Officer of Coast Capital Savings Credit Union. She holds a BA with a double major in Economics and Finance from the University of Victoria and an MSc in Business Administration in International Trade and Finance from the University of British Columbia. She received a Distinguished Alumni award from the University of Victoria’s Faculty of Social Sciences and was recognized during UVic’s 50th anniversary cele- brations as one of 50 Alumni Who Made a Difference. A four-time recipi- ent of WXN’s Canada’s Most Powerful Women: Top 100 award and past inductee into the Top 100 Hall of Fame, Redies is on the Board of Governors for Canada’s 10 Most Admired Corporate Cultures and the Business Council of British Columbia. She is a director of the C.D. Howe Institute and Surrey Memorial Hospital Foundation.

‘Having been a student at UVic and having served on its board since 2010, I know what a terrific univer- sity this is and am delighted to have the opportunity to serve on the Board this year,’ says Dr. Mohr. “I look forward to working with President Cassels, my other Board colleagues and the other members of the uni- versity community.”

More information about the board, including the roster of current mem- bers, the meeting schedule and min- utes from past meetings: www.uvic.ca/ university/administration/board 

New members of the Board of Governors 2013–14

EVELY EMORY Rogers

Elected student member Rogers is completing the final year of her Bachelor of Child and Youth Care degree at the Univer- sity of Victoria. She served as the Chairperson of the University of Victoria Students’ Society in the 2012–2013 academic year and is currently serving her third term as a Student Senator representing the Faculty of Human and Social Development. Rogers has exten- sive volunteer, community organ- izing and government relations experience, and she is particularly passionate about mental health awareness and advocacy. Rogers will be serving a one-year term as one of the two student representa- tives on the Board of Governors for the upcoming year.

BC ocean technology explores commercial opportunity abroad

Across the Pacific Ocean, ONC’s In- novation Centre (formerly ONCCEE) is on a two-week trade mission to explore the commercial potential of the many engineering breakthroughs which made the observatories a reality. The first stop is Shanghai, for the inaugural International Oceanol- ogy exhibition, as China ramps up its plan for a “Blue Economy” focused on ocean resource and technology development. In Shanghai, BC’s Min- istry of International Trade hosted a BC Pavilion for eight organizations to highlight our province’s expertise in the ocean sector. The ONC delegation then visited five major cities spanning the eastern coast. To further exploit partnership opportunities.

A new look for ONC— and a new website

At the northern periphery of the UVic campus, the Iona Center for Marine Science hadn’t rushed off to the Arctic, or to China, or to explore water columns in the Northeast Pacific Ocean. It had been busy creating a brand new look for ONC, to accompany its new five-year strategic science plan and new organizational structure. Much like other changes afoot at ONC, the new website is designed to increase capacity, improve access and better encourage public engagement for the world-leading ocean observatories.

The new oncenetworks.ca site brings together four previous sites and improves access for everyone—for researchers to teachers, industry partners to citizen scientists.

Oceans Alive ready to take TV audiences to the deep

Later this month, after years of planning and polishing, the work of ONC will be brought to television audi- ences as well—appearing on ShawTV and online, in a series of programs designed to deepen public awareness of ocean science and its relevance to our changing world. The resulting tel- evision series integrates social media, mobile apps and interactive games to lead people into the world of the deep sea. The first Oceans Alive! special will be broadcast on ShawTV and online at oceannetworks.ca on Sept. 24. A sneak peak appears at rimos.com/67914755

Support for Indigenous mapping initiatives

BY MITCH WRIGHT

Any map is only as good as the data with which it’s created. For the Cowichan Tribes, Google maps—likely the most turned-to source of basic location information—showed empty, unused land where in fact hundreds of people, buildings, landmarks and other facilities reside. Google was aware such gaps existed, particularly for First Na- tions lands, but the data to fill in the blanks wasn’t available through its usual channels such as government and other official sources. Recognizing the challenge, Google proposed a solution. Cowichan Tribes, BC’s largest First Nation, and thousands of other First Nations across Canada, the U.S. and overseas took part when Google hosted its first Indigenous Mapping Day on Aug. 9, United Nations Indigenous Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples. Four Cowichan Tribes members took part in a MapUp event at the University of Victoria anthropological department’s ethnographic mapping lab, organized by anthropol- ogy assistant professor Dr. Brian Thom and UVic cartographer Ken Josephson. The all-day event started with an hour of live training via webinar with Google staff, with whom Thom has worked since 2009 through his involvement with Google Earth Outreach and the Google Trainers Network—which develops training and research techniques for Indig- enous land-use mapping to support First Nations initiatives. The training session was fol- lowed by a full day of adding and correcting location information to Google’s basemap, using Google Map Maker. ‘For us, there are some basics like identifying buildings and roads. Our information doesn’t necessar-
Student engagement

Sharing skills, making community

Cheema’s might seem like an extreme example of involvement—not everyone has the kind of enthusiasm needed to bike 6,000 kilometres—but the resulting sense of balance and connection with the world around you can be achieved while getting a post-secondary education in a connection that’s also echoed by Rebecca Harvey.

Harvey went to college in her hometown of Cranbrook, and never felt the need to look beyond already established support networks of friends and family. That all changed when she transferred to UVic two years ago.

Cheema started working with the peer helping program through the university’s counseling services. She and 60 other students were trained to help students deal with stressors, from academic to personal issues.

“I learned a lot of skills that are still helping me today,” said Harvey, who graduated in the spring with a BA in sociology and psychology. “I’m at school to get an education first, but my grades didn’t slip when I did this work, and I felt more connected. There was a lot of good networking. I made amazing friends and UVic started to feel more like a home rather than just a school.”

Harvey found that helping others helped her too.

“I learned it’s okay to ask for help and that having a support system is a huge necessity for students. It can be a really stressful time.”

A school is more than its courses

New students face many stressors, said Kate Hollefreund, events coordinator with UVic student recruitment. “Students are often nervous and anxious—and they want to succeed,” Hollefreund said. “They may have seen their big brothers and sisters come out of university and not get jobs right away. That adds to their stress.”

The new student orientation held on Sept. 1 was geared to ease some of those concerns, as well as providing a sense of community for students. More than 2,600 new students attended the rousing event. Listening to a keynote address by Craig Kielburger, co-founder of Free the Children and Make It to Win, and a welcome from President Jamie Cassels.

Students met the deans of their faculty, toured the areas where they’ll find most of their classes, stopped at the First Peoples House and visited the Mawrn Centre for Learning. The day ended with a welcome barbecue at the UVic fountain featuring a photo booth with Cassels and Thunder, the mascot.

“It’s meant to be fun, but with needed information available as well,” Hollefreund said.

“A lot of students don’t seek out support until they need it. They might not realize from the get-go that you need to get involved, to make friends and build that support network early. If you do have those dips in the road on your path, you won’t be as deep and they’ll be easier to come out of if you have a support network in place.”

That support network can be as simple as teammates on an intramural team, or fellow volunteers at CFUV or the friends made across campus. That support network can be as simple as teammates on an intramural team, or fellow volunteers at CFUV or the friends made across campus.

By choosing UVic, you have the opportunity to work hard and taking part—and have some fun along the way.”

Cheema, for example, has taken that sense of involvement out to the community in a big way: he recently finished cycling across Canada to raise money for the SOS Children’s Villages, a charity that helps abandoned and orphaned children in 133 countries. He raised more than $55,000 for the charity, made friends across Canada and learned a lot about himself—especially after his bike and all his belongings were stolen from a Winnipeg McDonald’s late one night.

“I was so upset at first, but I had determination and I knew I wasn’t going to give up,” Cheema said. Eight separate people and several businesses offered up their own bikes for Cheema—and he finished his journey on a new Cannondale given by a bike shop, rolling into Halifax on Aug. 14, accomplishing his goal in two months.

The Ring

The University of Victoria marked a major milestone this month with the appointment of Kundok, Dr. Jacquie Green (Haisla), as the first Indigenous director of UVic’s School of Social Work and the first Indigenous director of any mainstream post-secondary social-work program in Canada.

“Kundok belongs to the Haäsi, Kemano and Tsmishian peoples. In March, she successfully defended her doctoral dissertation on the role of Haisla Nuuyum Kitimaat, the role of Haisla Nuuyum Kitimaat in northern BC. In a recent Paces of UVic Research video (bit.ly/Kundok), she also discusses her graduate work as project manager for the Indigenous Child Well-Being Research Network and her vision for the future of Indigenous youth. Kundok belongs to the Haäsi, Kemano and Tsmishian peoples.

Situated on traditional Coast and Straits Salish territory, UVic is recognized for its commitment to and expertise in innovative programs and initiatives that support Indigenous students and communities. We are so privileged to have a strong leader in our School of Social Work—one who has a deep appreciation of the educational needs for students and the social and cultural needs of practitioners working with First Nations communities,” says Dr. Mary Ellen Purkis, dean of UVic’s Faculty of Human and Social Development.

Kundok’s research interests include decentralizing social work programs with Indigenous peoples. In March, she successfully defended her doctoral dissertation within her home community of Kitimaat Village in northern BC. In a recent Paces of UVic Research video (bit.ly/Kundok), she also discusses her graduate work as project manager for the Indigenous Child Well-Being Research Network and her vision for the future of Indigenous youth. Kundok belongs to the Haäsi, Kemano and Tsmishian peoples.

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McKenzie Avenue upgrades

Access to the University of Victoria campus will be vastly improved and safer when major upgrades along McKenzie Avenue by the District of Saanich are completed later this fall.

UVic acknowledges there will be disruptions during construction and is advising that people consider alternative routes to and from the university until the work is complete. For everyone’s safety, people are urged to use caution in construction areas, follow posted signs and the direction of traffic controllers.

“We appreciate people’s patience with the inconvenience as the work by Saanich on McKenzie Avenue progresses,” says Ron Proulx, executive director of facilities management. “These improvements will benefit the students, staff and faculty who work and study at the university, as well as the neighbouring community, for years to come.”

The work is intended to make McKenzie Avenue a more effective multi-use transportation corridor with improved overall safety, efficiency and aesthetics. New buffered bikes lanes in both directions will increase cyclist safety on what was previously a narrow road, while wider pathways on both sides of McKenzie Avenue and at McCly Road are expected to benefit pedestrians.

For motorists, a new roundabout at Finnerty Road and new centre turn-off lanes are designed to keep traffic flowing smoothly. Landscaped medians and new trees are being planted by Saanich in partnership with UVic to further green the corridor. Saanich also considered sustainability in planning its project, by better managing and treating storm water runoff along the upgraded corridor.

Unrelated to the work on McKenzie Avenue, effective Sept. 3 BC Transit will redirect all McKenzie-bound buses enroute to the university directly to the Finnerty Road. Those buses will get priority exchange, rather than around Ring Road. Those buses will get priority through the construction zone.

More information about the McKenzie Avenue upgrades is available on the District of Saanich website: saanich.ca/services/engineering/projects/.

BY ALLI LEE, VIKES COMMUNICATIONS

In June 2013, two University of Victoria Vikes student-athletes travelled to Uganda, seizing an opportunity to represent the Vikes and BC rugby programs internationally, while volunteering with Gainline Africa. Rugby players Sofia Novakovic and Caitlin Harvey left the island for 20 days to venture to Africa, supporting Gainline Africa’s international development work using the sport of rugby to support healthy communities.

Gainline Africa, a Canadian organization, is based in the formerly war-torn Gulu region of northern Uganda, where the organization works closely with a local club team known as the Gulu Elephants. The majority of the Elephants partner with high schools in the local area, gathering volunteers to help coach boys and girls after school. Both Novakovic and Harvey were the on-site Canadian coaches, educating the local coaches, as well as coaching the youth and highlighting their experiences in Canadian rugby.

"Running around with the boys and girls from these schools reminded me of why I fell in love with rugby in the first place," said Harvey upon return from the trip. "It was refreshing to revisit the grassroots of rugby and remind myself that the most important aspects of any sport involved a passion for the game and teammates you play for!"

The eye-opening experience was two-way, as both Vikes became leaders, coaches and role models immediately to the many aspiring rugby players who would often have to borrow cleats or just play barefoot. Gainline Africa helped organize donations from rugby associations in Canada, supplying jerseys and equipment to the program.

Both Harvey and Novakovic had to fundraise money for their trip down to Africa, a process which cemented their dedication to Gainline Africa and their passion for expanding the reach of rugby. Gainline Africa’s mission is to empower youth and improve their community’s quality of life through the sport of rugby.

At one of the practices in Kitgum, the rugby team was sharing the playing field with three other local schools and teams. At one point the football team tried to take priority of the field since they had almost triple the number of players. The relentless rugby youth still wanted to practice and stayed until late training with Harvey and the other coaches in the end zone of the field.

"The fact that the students wanted to continue training until they couldn’t anymore spoke volumes to me and shows just how resilient and passionate they really are," remarked Harvey.

Both Harvey and Novakovic will return to the Vikes for the upcoming 2013-14 season. Novakovic, a psychology and sociology major, has played rugby for over eight years, while Harvey has played since grade nine and is majoring in bio-psychology.

"The coaching tour was an excellent learning opportunity for both of us and was a great opportunity to give back to those who are less fortunate," added Novakovic. "We will also gain some great skills to bring back to our team in Victoria."

For more information about Gainline Africa, visit www.gainlineafrica.org and to read more about the Vikes visit govikeso.com.

Building community coaching rugby in Africa

Coral Harvey with program participants in Uganda.
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Student Life, 1:00–5:00 p.m. UVic Campus. Come jump in the pool at Ian MacLaurin Swimming Pool. Kick Off without the annual UVSS Pool Party. (On the Road) recital. Bring your lunch! MacLaurin Building B037. Free. 250-721-8480.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Other, 9:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m. Kick-Off Student Center ambassadors will provide registration assistance for new students who are experiencing difficulty in registering online. Sep. 3–6. University Centre Welcome Centre. Free 250-721-1948.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Other, 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Grad Student Orientation: Welcome and orientation for new graduate students to UVic. Students will have the opportunity to connect with their graduate student peers, meet and learn about graduate support services, and meet with various faculty members. Free. Please pre-register for one of the two sessions online: mgrad@uvic.ca.

Other, 3:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m. Registration Help! The Welcome Center student ambassadors will provide registration assistance for new students who are experiencing difficulty in registering online, for adding or dropping courses for the Fall 2013 term. Sep. 3–6. University Centre Welcome Centre. Free 250-721-1948.

Thursdays, 12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m. Lunchtime Reading with the Gallery: Read a poem of your choice to the public. Bring your poetry, a novel, or any written work you’d like to share. We’ll provide a microphone and table. The Ring, UVic’s student newsroom. Free 250-257-7106.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Other, 8:00–11:00 a.m. Student life. Student centre ambassadors will staff information tables from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Petch Fountain and 252-1000. Free 250-721-1948.

Other, 10:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Registration Help! The Welcome Center student ambassadors will provide registration assistance for new students who are experiencing difficulty in registering online, for adding or dropping courses at UVic. Sep. 3–6. University Centre Welcome Centre. Free 250-721-1948.

Other, 2:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m. UVSS Pool Party. Come jump in the pool at Ian Stewart for UVic, worldly and a good old-fashioned pool party. Ian Stewart Complex. Free. With Student ID. evans@uvic.ca.

OTHER, 8:00–11:00 a.m. UVic colour! Kick off UVic’s 2013. Kick off 2013. Formerly known as UVic’s New Student Orientation week. (On the Road) recital. Bring your lunch! MacLaurin Building B037. Free. 250-721-8480.

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Wednesday, September 11

Music, 2:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. Recital. Accompanist: Chao Chen, piano. MacLaurin Building—Phillip T. Young Recital Hall. Free. 250-721-8364.

Wednesday, September 11

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CanAssist engineering now available to campus units

BY ANNE TOLSON

Campus units and departments that require customized engineering services for their projects and research can look for help in a number of ways. First, UVic is a result of the organization's new strategic plan, which emphasizes increased academic engagement. While CanAssist’s goal is still to provide customized technologies to people with disabilities, the group is excited about increasing opportunities to engage those on campus—both in its disability work and through faculty—and student-initiated projects.

Lane says the team has already begun working on a variety of projects for clients on campus. One involves building miniature sensors for the biology department that will be used for research into stroke and other conditions. Another, for Dr. Kimberly Kems of the psychology department, involves refining software games that help assess children’s cognitive abilities.

“Working with CanAssist on my current project has been wonderful—they are professional, enthusiastic and understand the specific needs of research,” says Dr. Kerns. “Not only are they people aware of the best software and technologies to use, but if changes or upgrades are needed in the next few years, the ongoing support is readily available.”

While UVic provides significant resources to CanAssist, such as building space, utilities and some administrative services, the group’s operating budget is financed primarily through government grants, service contracts and philanthropy.

Working with researchers and others at UVic is one more way for CanAssist to be financially self-sustaining—and another goal highlighted in its strategic plan.