Don’t blame seniors for soaring health costs

Grim predictions that our rapidly aging society will act like a “grey tsunami” to overwhelm and bankrupt our health care system aren’t accurate, according to UVic’s Canada Research Chair in Social Gerontology, Neoma Chappell and Marcus Hollander, president of Victoria-based Hollander Analytical Services.

In a groundbreaking new paper, the health policy researchers state an aging population will have less of a negative cost impact than so often claimed, and the primary factors in increasing health care costs are increased service provision to people of all ages—including those who are relatively healthy—and technological developments such as the increasing costs of pharmaceuticals.

The paper, “An Evidence-Based Policy Prescription for an Aging Population,” recently published in HealthcarePapers, lays out a plan for a more cost-efficient health care system.

“Increasing costs are not inevitable,” says Chappell. “In a more integrated system of care delivery, it is possible to both save money and increase the quality of care at the same time.”

Leading health policy experts from across Canada contributed 13 commentaries in response to the lead paper by Chappell and Hollander, who also wrote a response to the commentaries. Taken together, these 13 papers, and the guest editorial by the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation, provide a unique insight into the issues faced by federal and provincial governments as they try to hold the line on costs while ensuring that seniors receive appropriate health care.

“Rather than current systems where services such as home care and nursing homes may be in separate organizations, an integrated system of care delivery would provide lower-cost, seamless care for seniors across a wide range of health and supportive services,” says Chappell.

Hollander adds, “One system including community services such as meals on wheels, non-professional supportive services, professional home care services, supportive housing, long-term care facilities and specialized geriatric assessment would be more cost-effective and improve the quality of life for seniors.”

See seniors p.2
Distinguished lawyer and senior public servant named Lam Chair

BY CHRISTINE MCLAREN AND THOMAS WINTHROP

For as long as individuals and organizations have had disagreements with one another, they have tried to find just and cost-effective ways to resolve those issues. Although many cases end up before the courts, other innovative techniques exist to deal with profound differences of opinion. Public administrators and members of the legal profession are more frequently turning to a range of dispute resolution methods, including mediation, as effective procedures for resolving conflicts.

University of Victoria students will soon be able to draw on the experiences of another leader in this important area. M. Jerry McHale, Q.C. is a nationally recognized expert in collaborative dispute resolution and has been appointed the Lam Chair in Law and Public Policy. He will join the Faculty of Human and Social Development and the Faculty of Law for a two-year term starting on July 1. His extensive knowledge will benefit those studying and researching in this growing field, particularly students enrolled in the Master of Arts in Dispute Resolution (MADR) program in the School of Public Administration and the Juris Doctor program in the Faculty of Law.

McHale is currently assistant deputy minister in the Justice Services Branch of the BC Ministry of Attorney General. During his many years of service with the attorney general, McHale has made exceptional contributions to justice reform. He was the BC representative during the development of the dispute resolution chapter of the Nisga’a Final Agreement and led the way on the use of mediation in motor vehicle, commercial, family and child protection disputes.

“We are pleased to announce this joint appointment,” says Mary Ellen Parke, dean of the Faculty of Human and Social Development. “McHale’s experience as a practitioner and policy expert will be a valued addition to our program and the broader social justice interests within our faculty.”

Students in the MADR program draw on a combination of interdisciplinary courses and co-operative education opportunities as they develop skills to address conflicts and disputes in the context of public policy development and governance.

The field of collaborative dispute resolution has grown substantially over the past 15 years. Dispute resolution principles and processes play a rapidly expanding role in the management of a variety of conflicts, ranging from commercial and family law and personal injury matters through to public policy disputes and disputes between governments.

“McHale’s skills and knowledge are exceptionally well-suited for this interdisciplinary chair and its focus on justice policy and research,” says Donna Greschner, dean of the Faculty of Law. “Our students will greatly benefit from his instruction in this increasingly important area of legal practice.”

“I look forward to bringing what I have learned about dispute resolution and public policy into the classroom and exploring many of the exciting opportunities that exist for research,” says McHale. “I am particularly interested in the practical application of conflict management theories in the justice system, in government and in other large public institutions.”

Write to us

The Ring welcomes letters on issues of concern to the University community. Letters should be signed with university community affiliation noted and not exceed 300 words in length. The editor reserves the right to select letters for publication and to edit for style, grammar and length.

We’re on Twitter
Then follow the UVicRing twitter feed:
@uvicring

For your helmet has been a bit neglected over the winter, now is the perfect time to show it some love. The annual Bike to Work Week will take place this year from May 30 to June 5. Staff, faculty and students are encouraged to form or join a UVic team and get cycling.

Look for the campus celebration stations on May 31 from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. and on June 2 from 3 to 5 p.m. near the fountain in front of the library.

Last year UVic entered 46 teams varying in size from 3 to 25 people, and we are hoping for even greater participation this year. If your workplace doesn’t have a team and you’d like to get involved, contact Sustainability Coordinator Dan McKinnon at danm@uvic.ca or call 250-721-6678.

www.uvic.ca/sustainability

Getting cycling: Bike to Work Week 2011

BY MELANIE GROVES

and treatment units in hospitals would also have one overall budget. Professional case managers would coordinate case care and assess needs, develop customized care plans, and authorize access to any of the services in the integrated system. They would also coordinate care with other parts of the health system, such as hospitals. The authors note that budgets for most of the care for older persons.

Reference can be addressed primarily by non-professional supportive care such as feeding, bathing and maintaining a clean living environment. The paper also calls for reducing the debilitating effects of age discrimination, facilitating the development of healthy communities at the local level, evaluating promising preventive initiatives, and providing enhanced support to unpaid caregivers (family and friends) who actually provide most of the care for older persons.

More info: www.longwoods.com/content/22246 and www.longwoods.com/content/22258

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Imagine the seed a conversation can plant. New ways of fighting disease. A work of art that moves us. And University of Victoria students behind those achievements. Writing to you to thank you 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.

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Natasha Benn  |  250-721-6001  |  nbenn@uvic.ca

DAS ENDE
This registry and message board provides a place for survivors and those reconnecting after a catastrophic event. It has already shown there is massive interest in sharing updates about a collapsed building, a school closure or the state of emergency. More on technology in times of crisis can lead to building a solid base of knowledge for ongoing research success. "We're very fortunate to have such an experienced academic administration director," says Dr. Howard Brunt, vice-president research. "We look forward to the new ideas Michael will bring to the position." Score, whose research focus is on plant breeding and genetics, has been director of the Office of Research Services since 2006. As AVPR, she will continue to oversee research services, and now has additional responsibilities for the planning and operations of the major research infrastructure at UVic. "Our reorganization of roles within our office reflects the rapid growth and complexity of our institutional research effort in recent years," says Brunt. "The professional management of our research infrastructure and the services that support our researchers are critical for our ongoing research success."
UVic Sunscreen Film Festival highlights the best student filmmaking

50th from Maeva Gauthier's Arctic science documentary Before the Ice Melts, which won a pan of UVic Sunscreen awards for editing and cinematography.

BY JOHN THRELFALL

A naked woman wandering through the McPherson Library, a couple's last moments together hiding from a killer, the impact on climate change on the Arctic and the woes of undergrad dating—these were just a handful of the creative entries in the seventh annual UVic Student Film Festival.

Over a hundred people gathered to see the winners at Sunscreen's high-spirited screening night at the David Lam Auditorium on April 7, which kicked off with a toast and to fun fare beloved by veteran film pro Brian Hendricks, retiring after 20 years with the Department of Writing.

"Twelve thousand students, 1,500 films lectured on, 180 courses taught... you start feeling like you're living at the gift shop at the airport, where everyone's luring and you're not going anywhere," quipped Hendricks.

With almost 50 entries, this year's jury—documentary filmmaker Peter Campbell, Marlene Tamari Productions vice-president Sandy Maryzell and Times Colonist film writer Michael D. Reid—had to thin the pack to 20 finalists, of which six were selected as the ultimate winners.

With past Sunscreen champs having seen their work screened at various local and national film festivals, Sunscreen creator and Director of Writting film prof Maureen Bradley stresses the importance of having a professional jury for the process.

"Grades don't mean anything when you've put out a job or trying to get a grant or get attention in the media for your work. But screenings, awards—that's the real currency," she says. "That's why it's important to have a community and professional component to it. The jurors and prizes are all local industry or community contacts—memberships with MediaNet and Civic, for example—we are creating a lot of strong relationships there." (Writing graduate student) Scott Amos is a good example, actually—he won Best Experimental Film his first year here, and now he's president of the board at MediaNet.

And while Sunscreen is helmed by the Department of Writing, Bradley is quick to point out it's a campus-wide festival. "There's always a fair bit of Fine Arts content, of course—mainly writing and visual arts students—but some of the most interesting pieces have come out of the sciences," she says. "And I think the new Creativity 101 class, Creative Being, will spark a lot more general content in the future. It's so different today from when I was a student; it used to be so hard to get your hands on a film or video camera, now it's just ubiquitous, so it's more about quality."

But don't think having a camera in your hands will automatically make you a great filmmaker. "Digital technology was supposed to revolutionize filmmaking and I'm not sure it has," muses Bradley. "It's revolutionized access, and made millions and millions of hours of content available online, but how much of that is worth watching? What we're trying to do with Sunscreen is highlight students who've learned two key things: how to tell a good story or promote a compelling concept, and how to match the aesthetic to the story. It's very hard to do both, but these students have been raised on YouTube, but it's important to show them there are other ways to do film than just defaulting to that YouTube aesthetic."

"That said, what makes for a great Sunscreen entry? 'The wining films stand out because they're usually really short and make their point quickly,' says Bradley, who has been program- ming short film programs since 1992. "We get a lot of Tarantino-esque noirs, but dramas are a hard sell, because you need good acting and it's really hard to direct good drama, and there's often a couple of comedies—but again, comedy is hard to do well. My philosophy is long-short film programs are painful; it's better to have 70 minutes of really good content than 90 minutes of pretty good content.

BY LISA PASOLLI, PHD

Candidate (history)

Human rights activist, lecturer and author Dr. Marilyn Waring visited campuses in mid April at the invitation of UVic's Centre for Cooperative and Community-Based Economy (CCBCE), having served throughout her life as a politician, an internationally respected academic and consultant, and a passionate activist for women and the environment. Waring is uniquely positioned to offer insight into the making of public policy.

On April 14, she shared reflections on her career with an audience of students, faculty and community members who filled the Bob Whitehead auditorium to capacity for her public lecture "What Does Progress Mean for the People and our Communities?"

Waring, currently a professor of public policy at the Auckland Univer- sity of Technology in New Zealand, was elected at age 23 to the New Zealand Parliament. She served as a politician for nine years (1973–84) and is moving into academia. The 1988 publication of her book If Women Counted Warring as leading, an international voice for a feminist perspective in economics. In it, she called for a radical rethinkin of sys- tems of national income accounting to take into consideration women's unpaid work.

Along with issues of gender equal- ity, a commitment to environmental pro- motion has run throughout Waring's career. In her UVic lecture, she took the opportunity to look back on her environmental campaigns with a critical eye.

Waring admitted to having second thoughts about some of the arguments she advocated as a young politician and activist. "When I was desperate to save something, whether it's an ecosystem, a forest," she related, "the way in which I could empower [it] was not to give it a monetary value, to quantify it, to make it a commodity." But these days, Waring approaches these eco- nomic models with skepticism. She urged the audience to be wary of the "contagious illusion that everything can be reduced to a price."

Using solely economic terms to measure environmental factors, Waring warned, often misrepresents the reality of the situation. She pointed to the Exxon Valdez oil spill, for example, for which the cleanup and recovery efforts were actually economic genera- tors. In this sense, economic measure- ments such as the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Gross National Product (GNP) fail to take into account the declining health and quality of life of communities, individuals and the environment.

"Well-being is not an economic term." Waring stresses. Waring does not completely dis- count the utility of economics to account for the value of environmental resources. She spoke highly of Nova Scotia efforts, for example, to assign dollar values to the destruction of wet- lands and ecosystems, which played a powerful role in highlighting just how significant those losses were to the province. Waring cautioned, however, for the "colonizing power of economics... While economics certainly has its utility, it should be part of a multidimensional approach to measuring well being.

Waring, however, is not content to simply back away from long-time work with her internationally respected work as a consultant for the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN and the Ford Foundation. She is also a Founding Board Member of the Canadian Index of Wellbeing, which seeks to provide a holistic way to measure and improve quality of life.

A podcast of Waring's April 14 lecture is available at http://bit.ly/ mAkyde6

MARILYN WARING GUEST LECTURE

"Well-being is not an economic term."

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around the ring

Nominate a great teacher The UVic Alumni Association invites nominations for the Harry Rickman Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching. The award is open to regular faculty (including senior instructors), artists-in-residence and librarians. The recipient receives a $2,000- cash prize and will be recognized at the Legacy Awards gala in November. Advice on how to put together a nomination package can be obtained from the Learning and Teaching Centre. Deadline is May 16. Nomination forms: alumni.uvic.ca

Senate nominations sought

Nominations are open for four positions on the UVic Senate, elected by the university community, for three-year terms starting Jan. 1, 2012. Convocation members include alumni, past and present members of senate and the board of governors, regular and retired faculty members, regular and retired staff members, students and the university president. Senate members include alumni, past and present members of senate and the board of governors, regular and retired faculty members, regular and retired staff members, students and the university president.

Electronic submission of theses and dissertations now the standard

As of May 1, the Faculty of Graduate Studies will collect only digital copies of master's theses and doctoral dissertations. Paper submission will no longer be accepted. "The move to electronic submission is beneficial for UVic graduate students and better for the environment," says Dean of Graduate Studies Aaron Deve. The home for submitted theses is UViSpace, http://dspace.library.uvic.ca, the University of Victoria's institutional repository that preserves and provides access to the digital scholarly works of faculty, students and staff. The submission of electronic theses and dissertations began as a pilot project in 2005. Visit http://dspace.library.uvic.ca/site/uvic/ dp/ archives or contact Scott Johnston at scott.johnston@uvic.ca for more information.

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The 2010 Craigdarroch Research Awards, which recognize research excellence at UVic in six categories of achievement, were presented at a celebration event on May 3.

CRAIGDARROCH SILVER MEDAL FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

Dr. Alexandre Brolo
Department of Chemistry
Imagine a gold cube so small that its cross-width is about 5,000 times thinner than a human hair. The colour is not the usual yellow we associate with gold because metals at those dimensions change colour when molecules stick to their surface. Chemist Alexandre Brolo looks for new ways to fabricate very small metallic structures and explores their interesting properties in a variety of applications, such as sensors for cancer diagnostics and the fabrication of more efficient solar cells.

CRAIGDARROCH SILVER MEDAL FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

Dr. Reuven Gordon
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
When it comes to his research, engineer Reuven Gordon thinks big—but on a very small scale. Gordon is a rising star in the emerging field of nanoplasmonics, which studies the interaction of light with metal surfaces at scales as tiny as atoms and molecules. Advances by Gordon, who is the Canada Research Chair in Nanoplasmonics, may lead to the development of sensors for the early detection of cancers, new tools to study viral infection and more efficient solar devices.

CRAIGDARROCH SILVER MEDAL FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

Dr. Eric Roth
Department of Anthropology
For two decades, physical anthropologist Eric Roth has quietly and methodically helped improve lives in several parts of the world. Much of his fieldwork has been in northern Kenya, where he has collaborated with physicians, economists, statisticians, epidemiologists and community-based researchers on projects related to maternal-child health, childhood growth and economic recovery from drought. He currently works on HIV/AIDS risk factors and prevention in Kenya and BC. Roth’s commitment to making a difference extends through his mentorship of many students.

CRAIGDARROCH SILVER MEDAL FOR EXCELLENCE IN ARTISTIC EXPRESSION

Lorna Crozier
Department of Writing
Poet, essayist, teacher and public speaker Lorna Crozier is at the forefront Canadian literature. Winner of the 1992 Governor-General’s Award for Poetry for Inventing the Hawk, she continues to captivate readers across Canada and around the world with her poetry and creative non-fiction. The arresting, lyrical honesty for which she is best known infuses her 15 verse collections, as well as her 2009 memoir, Small Rooms: The Sky. Last year she was inducted into the Royal Society of Canada.

CRAIGDARROCH SILVER MEDAL FOR EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNICATING RESEARCH

Dr. Eric Sager
Department of History
Promoting research in the public sphere has always been a priority for historian Eric Sager. Whether he’s publishing in journals and books, writing op ed columns, speaking to the news media or preparing briefs for parliamentary committees, Sager works tirelessly to ensure that we appreciate the relevance of history to our daily lives. He is particularly well known for his sustained efforts to connect historical research on the Canadian census to public policy decisions.

CRAIGDARROCH SILVER MEDAL FOR EXCELLENCE IN INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Dr. Caren Helbing
Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology
Pesticides, drugs and industrial effluents are being released into the environment daily, yet we know little about their adverse effects. Biochemist Caren Helbing is working hard to change that. Over the past decade, she has provided advanced scientific tools and technical training to regulatory agencies and private sector companies to help them generate meaningful environmental assessment information. She continues to develop new technology for environmental monitoring, which includes a US patent for tissue culture.
EASING THE FINAL JOURNEY
Strengthening support for end-of-life caregivers benefits the entire health care system

BY PEIGI MCGILLIVRAY

If you had a terminal illness, where would you choose to die? If you’re like most Canadians, you would choose to be at home. But while a quiet, peaceful death at home is the gold standard for patients, it may not be so good for their family members.

“People want to care for their dying loved ones at home,” says Dr. Kelli Stajduhar, a professor and researcher in the University of Victoria’s School of Nursing and Centre on Aging. “But many of them don’t have the skills, knowledge or support they need to provide this care without endangering their own health and well-being.”

Stajduhar has recently completed a five-year study into what is becoming a critical issue in health care—family caregiving at the end of life. The study, funded by $1.5 million from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, involved a team of researchers from across Canada working together to gather data.

The goal was to better understand the experiences of families during caregiving, and to minimize the long-term health consequences for those who take on this responsibility.

“Most family caregivers are women,” says Stajduhar. “They take on the caregiving role in addition to their jobs and other family responsibilities. Doing so can compromise their health, can have a negative impact on family relationships and can sometimes create real financial hardship.”

Family caregivers often have a steep learning curve—perhaps taking on additional household responsibilities as well as learning practical nursing skills and complex tasks. These include everything from how to turn someone over in bed without hurting them; to how to change bedding, clothing and diapers for someone who is incontinent; to assessing and providing pain-relieving medications.

Providing the right kinds of support is vital, says Stajduhar. “We have to focus not just on the needs of the patient,” she says, “but also on the needs and abilities of the caregiver.”

Stajduhar proposes several practical supports that can help family caregivers provide care without endangering their own physical, emotional or financial health.

“These are access to education and support in caregiving; practical support for household tasks and financial planning; access to hospice and palliative care resources; government support for caregiver health and well-being; respite breaks for rest and renewal; and an improved and more accessible compassion care benefit for those who have to stop working to provide care.”

“If we don’t provide the right support, family caregivers may suffer economic or health consequences, or may be unwilling or unable to take on this role,” says Stajduhar. “And that will be a long-term impact on individuals, families and our whole health care system.”

This study is just one of Stajduhar’s many research projects, which focus on identifying the elements needed for a comprehensive and coordinated systems of health care for people at the end of their lives.

Study results are disseminated to health authorities and the provincial and federal governments, says Stajduhar. “Our audience is direct care providers, managers and policy-makers, so our findings are informing policy development and front-line practice.”

As Canada’s population ages and health resources become strained, family caregivers will play an increasingly important role. “With the right support,” she says, “family members who choose to become caregivers can become key components of a strong, well-balanced health system.”

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The University of Victoria Convocation Senators

Nominations are invited for the positions of four members of the Senate elected by and from the Convocation, for three-year terms commencing January 1, 2012. Consistent with Section 35(2)(a) of the University Act, these positions are for persons who are not faculty members at the University of Victoria.

Members of the University of Victoria Convocation are eligible to make nominations and to vote. Convocation members include alumni, past and present members of Senate and the Board of Governors, regular and retired faculty members, regular staff members holding a university degree who have been employed at the University of Victoria for at least 12 months, and those who completed one full year at Victoria College prior to 1961.

For information about eligibility to serve or to obtain nomination forms, go to www.uvic.ca/university-secretary/voting/nominations, call 250-721-8100 or e-mail nominations@uvic.ca

Nominations forms must be received by the Office of the University Secretary by Monday, May 15, 2012 at 4:15 p.m. PST.

Office of the University Secretary, Room 1101, Administration Services Building, PO Box 1700 STN CSC, Victoria, British Columbia V8W 2Y2 Canada

If you are interested in becoming a Senate member, you can download the nomination forms from the University Secretary’s office website at www.uvic.ca/university-secretary

Kelli Stajduhar brings her passion for research into the classroom. “I don’t see any separation between teaching and research,” she says. “I use my findings to develop curriculum and to capture students’ attention, and their questions inspire new avenues of research.”

More on family caregiving

Almost one in four Canadians is caring for a seriously ill relative, according to a 2007 survey. Nearly six in 10 family caregivers are women. Forty-three per cent of caregivers are between the ages of 45 and 64, the age at which many Canadians still have children living at home. Nearly three out of four caregivers are married, and more than half are also employed.

If you are a caregiver and need advice or support, visit the Family Caregivers Network Society at www.4 commas.org, the Victoria Hospice Society at www.victori hospice.bc.ca or VIHA Home and Community Care Services at www.viha.bc.ca/hcc.

Kelli Stajduhar brings her passion for research into the classroom. “I don’t see any separation between teaching and research,” she says. “I use my findings to develop curriculum and to capture students’ attention, and their questions inspire new avenues of research.”
**calendar highlights**

Events free unless otherwise indicated. For a complete list of events, visit the online calendar at www.uvic.ca/events

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**at the galleries**

**UVic scores top marks for being green**

*BY MARIA LIRONI*

For the second year in a row, UVic has been named one of Canada's greenest employers. The editors of the Canada's Top 100 Employers project have included UVic in this year's list of Canada's 100 Greenest Employers, recognizing the university for its commitment to sustainability.

"The University of Victoria is extremely proud to receive this award because it recognizes the attention we give to incorporate sustainability interests and practices within all aspects of campus operations," says Neil Connelly, director of campus planning and sustainability.

Sustainability initiatives cited include: the efforts of the Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability in working with students, staff and faculty in advancing sustainability; a unique dual plumbing system in new buildings that recirculates treated water waste and will save over 10 million litres of potable water each year; UVic's Sustainability Action Plan goals to reduce water consumption by 25 per cent, reduce electricity consumption by 20 per cent and lower greenhouse gas emissions by 20 per cent; new construction on campus that meets Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification standards; and compost drop stations and a program for recycling and proper disposal of non recyclables to help achieve a 75 per cent waste diversion rate goal.

In addition to being identified as one of Canada's greenest employers, for the second year in a row the editors have named UVic as one of BC's top 100 employers. That announcement was made in February. More info: www.eluta.ca/green-at-university-of-victoria and http://bit.ly/9GkqAp

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**Uvic sorts it out**

This year UVic successfully competed for the first time in Recyclemania, an annual eight-week competition among universities and colleges across North America to see who can recycle the most and reduce the most waste. From Feb. 6 to Apr. 2, 630 colleges and universities recovered more than 41 million kilograms of recyclables and organic materials. UVic performed especially well in the organic waste diversion category (keeping food waste out of the garbage). UVic had the highest organic waste diversion rate per capita among participating Canadian universities and was 38th overall. Full list of results: www.recyclemania.org/results.aspx

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**around the ring**

**More BC history to be digitized**

One of UVic Libraries’ digitization projects has received a 2011 BC History Digitization Program (BDHDP) funding award. The Vancouver Island and British Columbia Colonies’ Governor’s and Colonial Office (CO) despatches, assorted minutes, enclosures and attachments for 1860, with the addition of 250 early BC maps from the Hudson’s Bay Archives and the B.C. Lands Title & Survey Office, will now be digitized. This project extends an earlier library initiative that digitized Vancouver Island and British Columbia despatches from 1846–59.

UVic achieves LEED gold standard

The Administrative Services Building is the fourth campus facility to achieve the gold-level standard in environmental design and sustainability. In mid April, the Canada Green Building Council officially recognized the building, opened in late 2008, with gold-level certification in its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building program.

“This building is a model of both sustainability and innovative design, incorporating creative use of wood and other materials,” says Neil Connelly, director of campus planning and sustainability.

The 3,900-square-metre 816.3-milion building accommodates the university’s executive team as well as such services as accounting, research, pension and payroll, and institutional planning and analysis. More info: http://bit.ly/3KxUfT

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**The Ring May 2011 Page 7**
Taylor, secretary to the dean and associate dean of humanities, is the creator of "You Blew It," an exhibition that opened at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria on April 21 and that runs through July 3. It is comprised of a series of sculptures influenced by Taylor's dreams, which he has been recording and documenting for many years.

Between his full-time job and his artistic endeavors, he doesn't have a lot of spare time. "It's something you really have to dedicate yourself to," says Taylor of his artistic discipline. "It's almost like having two jobs—you work all day, then you go home and you do your other job, which in my case is making art. For other people it could be volunteering, or something like that. But art is not a career you can make a lot of money at in the beginning, so it's nice to have a day job."

Fortunately, through his training as an archivist, Taylor has developed skills that serve him in both fields. This gives him a natural affinity for administrative work, but also helps him lend order and structure to his sculptures, dismantling the common stereotype that artists are spacey and irrational.

"I like having things structured," says Taylor. "I like to simplify processes."

Much of Taylor's work reflects these values directly, displaying a decidedly minimalist aesthetic. "It's a melding of two sorts of worlds," says Taylor. "The left brain and the right brain."

Taylor describes his work at UVic as "fairly straightforward." As a secretary, he provides support for the dean—sending emails, checking calendars and "keeping the machine running." Taylor also schedules meetings with various committees, books rooms, distributes information and sends documents. He deals mostly with other faculty members, or functions as a liaison between the Faculty of Humanities and other offices.

After getting his degree in archival studies, Taylor worked as a government records archivist for a time in the Yukon. "It was a huge job, full of pressure, and it really became unpleasant," says Taylor. "So I said: 'That's it, I want to do art,' and I came back here... I thought maybe I could balance my career with my art."

Taylor is optimistic about what lies in store for him, but doesn't spend too much time thinking about it. He likes his work, and prefers to focus on the moment rather than worry about the future.

Taylor says, "You can draw from parts of whatever you do. I'm very attentive—I categorize things, and then use them for another purpose. Who would have thought my archival background would have any kind of influence on art? But it completely does... it made my project for me!"


Connect U:
UVic staff conference June 1 and 2

BY JESSICA SCOTT

Have you ever wondered how some of your coworkers' career paths evolved? Want to take a behind-the-scenes look at food services on campus? Curious about what life is like for students or faculty members?

Find out on June 1 and 2 at Connect U. UVic’s first all-staff conference. This new professional development opportunity provides a chance for staff to build professional skills, strengthen leadership abilities and learn more about UVic's structure, governance, research, projects and programs.

Keynote addresses include a town hall with President David Turpin and a presentation by Chris Hawker from the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand, who will tell the story of how the university responded to a 7.1 magnitude earthquake last September and a major aftershock in February.

Sessions are divided into four tracks: Develop U, Leader in U, Navigate U and Navigate Us (campus tours). Staff can register for any combination of sessions in the four tracks.

At the close of the conference, the first UVic sustainability awards will be presented to individuals who have been working to conserve energy, reduce waste and promote sustainable transportation choices on campus.

Please register and join us to celebrate your colleagues.

Registration is free and open to all staff. More information: www.uvic.ca/ connectu

UVic researchers to go on call

UVic is participating in a pilot program for the BC Year of Science known as Virtual Researcher on Call (VROC).

VROC links researchers with BC students in Grades 5–12 through video conferencing. The goal is to help teachers communicate scientific discovery and academic research to their students by connecting them—in real-time—with scientists, researchers and experts within the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics and health. The pilot program runs to the end of June and is funded by the BC government.

Teachers may request a session on any topic that relates to the Year of Science on any day and time that can be conveniently negotiated.

Researchers who participate make short presentations about their research to the students via video conferencing, and then participate in a discussion with the students and their teachers. Typically, the video conference is recorded and put on the VROC website.

If you’re a UVic researcher interested in participating, contact Dale Anderson, UVic knowledge mobilization coordinator. at 250-777-3262 or kmcoord@uvic.ca.

More information: www.vroc.ca