Ocean engineer to head NEPTUNE Canada

The new director of the NEPTUNE Canada ocean network is Dr. Kate Moran, a world-renowned ocean engineer who is completing a two-year term as assistant director in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy in Washington, DC. Moran starts her five-year term with NEPTUNE Canada in September. She succeeds founding director Dr. Chris Barnes, who retired on June 30. NEPTUNE Canada, part of the University of Victoria’s Ocean Networks Canada Observatory, is the world’s largest and most advanced cabled ocean network. Story: p.3

CENTRE FOR ATHLETICS, RECREATION & SPECIAL ABILITIES

Board gives green light to new facility

UVic’s Board of Governors has approved funding for the construction of the Centre for Athletics, Recreation and Special Abilities and the renovation of the McKinnon Building. The $59-million project will include a performance gymnasium, field house and a state-of-the-art fitness and weight-training space, room for teaching and research for the Department of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education and research and development space for CanAssist. Story: p.2

DIVING INTO HISTORY

UVic assists in search for Franklin’s ships

The search for the lost ships of Sir John Franklin, HMS Erebus and HMS Terror, will get some help this summer from UVic researchers and technology. In 1845, the ships set sail to explore the Northwest Passage but after 18 months they disappeared. In August, researchers from UVic’s Ocean Technology Lab will be using their specially designed Bluefin-12 autonomous underwater vehicle to help Parks Canada search in the area off Nunavut’s King William Island. More: http://bit.ly/jw2IZM

TOTEMS ON CAMPUS

Eagles coming home to roost

This summer, Kwakwaka’wakw artist and Hereditary Chief Tony Hunt Sr. will be replacing two carved eagles stolen in 2003 from the top of Eagle on Decayed Pole, a landmark UVic totem pole, standing with its companion pole, Raven Snoring, at the southwest corner of the UVic quadrangle. Hunt worked closely with his father, Henry Hunt, to carve the pole in the 1960s. Photo: p.6

UVic undergraduate student Lauren Michaud (Germanic and Slavic studies) at permanent exhibition “Kraków under Nazi Occupation 1939–1945” at Okrąg Schindler’s factory in Kraków. Photo: PHOTO LAUREN MICHAUD INTERIODER

150+

CANAASSIST FUNDING

Government funding boost for assistive technology projects

BY ELSA YAN

On June 27, BC Premier Christy Clark visited campus and announced a $8.5-million grant from the Ministry of Health for two innovative projects involving technology that will help seniors and people with disabilities remain as independent as possible. One partner in the projects is CanAssist, a University of Victoria organization dedicated to improving the quality of life and promoting the independence of those with disabilities. It focuses on developing practical, customized technologies that are not commercially available and innovative programs that address unmet community needs.

The first project, Connect for Care, is being developed through a unique partnership between CanAssist, TYZE Personal Networks and the PLAN Institute for Caregiving. The $500,000 will support CanFIT (CanAssist: Facilitating Independence Through Technology), a partnership between CanAssist and the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA).

“Our government is committed to putting in the proper supports for seniors and people with disabilities so that they can increase their independence,” said Clark. “We want to support families and communities in planning for the future, and this funding will help provide state-of-the-art devices to help eliminate challenges and create these opportunities.”

SEE CANCONNECT P.5

I-WITNESS HOLOCAUST FIELD SCHOOL

The eye of history

BY TARA SHARPE

Mounds of leather trunks. Thousands of prosthetic limbs. Streets dotted with brass stones carved with names.

These are some of the images now part of the personal history of nearly two dozen University of Victoria students after a visit to Central Europe in May. The I-witness Holocaust Field School, launched by the Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies this year, was held in Germany, Poland and Austria.

The new field school explores how the sights, memories and history of the Holocaust (Shoah in Hebrew) have been preserved, and it helps build a deeper understanding of anti-semitism, religious intolerance, homophobia and stigmatization of mentally and physically challenged communities, and how the lessons of that time are relevant today. UVic is the only Canadian university offering a course of this kind for undergraduate students.

The inaugural class was composed of 19 undergraduates and four graduate students from a range of disciplines. The first week took place at UVic including guest lectures, followed by 20 days in Europe. The group, including the program’s founders—UVic professor Dr. Helga Thorson and project director Michael Giann—UVic graduate student—arrived in Berlin on May 8.

The site visits included Berlin’s Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, Jewish Museum, Roma-Sinti Holocaust Memorial, Gay Holocaust Memorial and Weißensee Cemetery; the former Sachsenhausen and Ravensbrück Concentration Camps and other memorial sites in Germany; the Galicia Jewish Museum in Krakow; the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and
around the ring

Do you have a venv for vine?

Hundreds of LPs in great condition are going for a song at UVic Library’s upcoming record sale. Classical, opera, jazz and pop albums are 50 each, with all proceeds going to the United Way of Greater Victoria. The sale runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. outside McPherson Library on Wednesday, July 27. To donate or for information, call 250-472-4077 or email jeannasm@uvic.ca.

Researchers help save Ontario community’s water supply

In the small Ontario towns of Fergus and Elora, population and water use are expected to double between 2008 and 2040. The University of Victoria’s POLIS Water Sustainability Project has developed a proposed water “soft path” strategy for the region. The strategy outlines steps to achieve water sustainability over the next 30 years and is a model that can be adapted for other communities. More info: http://bit.ly/3mS0w

CENTRE FOR ATHLETICS, RECREATION AND SPECIAL ABILITIES

Board gives green light to CARSA facility

UVic’s Board of Governors has approved funding for the construction of the Centre for Athletics, Recreation and Special Abilities and the rennovation of the McKinnon Building.

Among other features, the $9-million project will include a performance gymnasium, field house and a state-of-the-art fitness and weight-training space. It will greatly enhance UVic’s health-related research and educational programs by providing by room for teaching and research for the Department of Exercise Science, Physical Education and Health Health.

The 11,600-square-foot facility will also include research and development space for CARSA—a UVic organization that develops and delivers technologies, programs and services that improve the quality of life for those with disabilities. It is unique in North America.

The facility will involve an approximately $20-million investment from the university with the remaining funds coming from sponsorship, partnerships, external fundraising efforts and non-mandatory user fees.

Associate Vice-President Student Affairs Jim Dunson says building a new centre—rather than just renovating the aging McKinnon and Ian Stewart buildings to try to bring them up to standard—makes financial sense. The renovations would cost the university $27 million and UVic would still have buildings that were lacking in fundamental ways.

“We’re excited about this important step forward,” says Dunson. “With funding approval, we’re on the way to providing more learning and research opportunities for students, remaining competitive in recruiting the best and brightest students, supporting UVic’s tradition of athletic excellence, and increasing our ability to address the growing physical activity and recreational needs of UVic students, faculty and staff, and community users.”

The project is in the early stages but is expected to open in about three years. A formal announcement outlining the details of the project vision will be made in the fall.

CROZER NAMED TO ORDER OF CANADA

Lorna Crozer (writing) has been named an Officer of the Order of Canada by Governor General David Johnston. One of Canada’s most beloved and talented poets, Crozer became a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 2009 and won UVic’s Craigdarroch Award for Excellence in Artistic Expression in 2010. She has published 15 books of poetry and has received numerous awards—including the Governor General’s Literary Award, a pair of honourary doctorates for her contributions to Canadian literature and designation as a University of Victoria Distinguished Professor. She will be honoured at a special celebration at Rideau Hall in Ottawa this fall, along with a select list of other notable Canadians, including novelist Nino Ricci, comedian Eugene Levy, science broadcaster Bob MacDonald and musician Valdy.

The Order of Canada recognizes a lifetime of achievement and merit of a high degree, especially in service to Canada or to humanity at large.

Volunteers are the building blocks of community at UVic Family Centre

BY BRYNA HALLAM

After years on the job, the UVic Family Centre’s volunteers are definitely part of the family.

Once a week for eight years, a group with the Garth Homer Society Community Access Team (CAT), which sets up volunteer opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities, comes to the centre to wash the toys.

For Brenda Crawford, who has been visiting the Family Centre with Edmund Choy, Scott Young and support worker Carla Lingard for about a year, volunteering is a way to contribute to the community and gain independence.

“I like coming here,” she says. “It’s something to do.”

It also teaches job skills, and Crawford says volunteering helped her get a job at a local coffee shop.

As Young puts it, there’s the social aspect, too—the chance to talk to people and find out about them. A favourite topic this spring, especially for Choy, was hockey.

But one of the biggest draws, Young says, is the chance to do meaningful work and help out. Crawford agrees.

“I like helping the kids, cleaning the toys so they don’t get germs and get sick,” she says.

The Family Centre appreciates the help, and sees the CAT group as an important part of the team.

“The have the toys cleaned is so important to us when we have kids four and under and everything goes in their mouth,” says Elizabeth-Qing, the centre’s director.

“The Family Centre runs playgroups, classes and after-school programs for UVic families, and depends on volunteers to help it run.

“One of the reasons we’re using volunteers is it is something we don’t have staff time,” she adds. “Volunteers enable us to do so much more.”

But more than that, she appreciates the sense of community created by bringing volunteers into the Family Centre.

“We’ve become friends,” she says of the current group of CAT volunteers. “It’s really been wonderful.”

Support worker Lingard agrees.

“For us, it’s about giving back to community and making connections around Victoria,” she says. “It’s nice to see that people with developmental disabilities are valued and can contribute to society.”

Navigate the 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 provide smooth sailing. Just ask his many clients at UVic.
Molecular machinations

BY PEIGI MCGILLIVRAY

Fraser Hof is on the hunt for ways to stop killer. No, he’s not a policeman or a crime scene investigator. But he is a detective of sorts.

Hof is a medicinal chemist at the University of Victoria and he’s hot on the trail of a molecule in our bodies that, when accidentally activated, can lead to a particularly aggressive form of prostate cancer. His mission is to find a way to neutralize it.

The culprit is a protein molecule known as EZH2. It partially controls the development of human embryos where cells divide and multiply at an astonishing rate—faster than at any other time of life. Once cells mature, EZH2 switches off and growth slows down. But sometimes the EZH2 protein molecule is accidentally switched on again, and mature cells start to grow and divide much faster than they should. This is bad news, because the growth is usually cancer.

“About half of those who develop prostate cancer have high EZH2 activity,” says Hof. “These patients are more likely to develop aggressive kinds of prostate cancer that spread to other parts of the body, resist normal treatment, and are often fatal even after the prostate has been removed. Finding a way to stop the out-of-control growth is crucial.”

Recently, Hof and his team made a breakthrough discovery—they created a molecule that binds to another molecule essential for EZH2 activity and turns it off in the test tube. It’s a critical first step in demonstrating that a drug that blocks EZH2 activity might also block tumour growth and aggression.

“There’s still a lot of work to do—probably eight to 10 years—before this discovery could become a drug for use on humans,” says Hof. “Right now, we’re working to make our experimental compounds stronger and more selective so that eventually, the drug we create will be more effective in combating this aggressive form of cancer.”

Hof’s research promises to have substantial impact beyond improving treatment for prostate cancer. As the Canada Research Chair in Supramolecular and Medicinal Chemistry, Hof studies how molecules bind together.

“We design, make and study molecules to see how they’re structured and how they bond with each other in biological settings—lessons that have the potential to improve a wide range of medical treatments.”

Hof collaborates closely with several biochemistry and cancer research laboratories so that his discoveries can be translated directly into practical advances in the treatment and understanding of disease.

Hof is training future scientists to advance our understanding of supramolecular chemistry. Working with fellow UVic chemist Jeremy Waff, he recently developed a new course in biological and medicinal chemistry that combines lectures with computer-based experiments using some of the most sophisticated software currently in use in the field.

“Students are involved directly in developing new drug candidates,” says Hof. “It’s exciting to think of the contributions they’ll be able to make in the future.”

Some of the funding for Hof’s research comes from the Westcoast Ride to Live, an annual, family-oriented motorcycle ride where participants gather pledges. All money generated by this event is directed to prostate cancer research in BC.

“It’s great to know that the money people donate in BC is contributing to advances in treatment right here in the province,” says Hof.

UVic research takes aim at an aggressive form of prostate cancer

The new director of the NEPTUNE Canada ocean network is Dr. Kate Moran, a world-renowned ocean engineer who is completing a two-year term as assistant director in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy in Washington, DC.

Moran started her five-year term with NEPTUNE Canada in September. She succeeds founding director Dr. Chris Barnes, who retired on June 30.

NEPTUNE Canada is the world’s largest and most advanced cable ocean network. It and the VENUS Canada a wealth of international experience through her engagement with the International Ocean Drilling Program and her leadership as chief scientist on many major research cruises and expeditions.

In her White House role, Moran advised the Obama administration on the oceans, the Arctic and global warming. She was seconded to the position from a faculty appointment at the University of Rhode Island where she was a professor of oceanography and associate dean of the Graduate School of Oceanography.

“Earth observation networks are critical for understanding the Earth system, particularly in the oceans as they become further impacted by climate change and in seismically active areas, such as Canada’s west coast,” says Moran. “I am honoured to be selected as the new NEPTUNE Canada director and excited about joining an extraordinary team that not only had the vision, but also the collective abilities to build the world’s first deep ocean cable network.”

Moran holds degrees in marine science and engineering from the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Rhode Island and Dalhousie University. Her research focuses on marine geotechnics and its application to the study of paleoceanography, tectonics and seafloor stability. She has authored more than 45 publications.

Moran has led several major oceanographic expeditions, including the first drilling expedition to the Arctic Ocean in 2004. The following year she led the first expedition to find the source of the earthquake that caused the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. She has also made major contributions to the assessment of hazards in Canada’s offshore regions.

At UVic, Moran will be a tenured professor in the Faculty of Science and an adjunct professor in the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences.

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The Ring July 2011 Page 3
Two new associate deans and half a dozen new department chairs have assumed their duties as of July 1, Dr. David Podolsky, the new associate dean of the Gustafson School of Business and Dr. Margaret Wilson is new associate dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Freshly minted chairs include: Dr. Lloyd Howard (Hispanic and Italian studies), Dr. Hiroko Noro (Pacific and Asian studies), Dr. Neil Burford (chemistry), Dr. Stephen Johnston (Earth and ocean sciences), Dr. Sean Hier (sociology) and Dr. Fayez Gebali (electrical and computer engineering).

Current UVic academic leadership list: http://web.uvic.ca/ops/academicLeadership/6.htm

Andrew Schloss (music) is the latest UVic faculty member presented on the BC government’s Year of Science website as a featured scientist. His work with electronic musical instruments is described in words, photos and a video. Other UVic faculty members among the featured scientists include Drs. Florin Diaconu (mathematics), Kim Juniper (earth and ocean sciences), Michael Masson (psychology) and Neil Djilali (mechanical engineering).

Four University of Victoria senators were elected by members of the UVic congregation in voting that took place between June 13 and June 27. Elected to a three-year term commencing Jan. 1, 2012 are: Nav Bassi (UVic Systems), Linda Hanhnk (MBA, PhD), Robyn Lanning (nursing), Cathy Whitehead McIntyre (MBA, MBA). Voting results: https://webvote.uvic.ca/results.php

Rich Chambers is the new head coach of the University of Victoria Vikes women’s basketball team. Chambers has been head coach of both the UVic men’s and women’s basketball squad since 2008. He previously coached at Terry Fox High School in Coquitlam, and at Simon Fraser and UBC.

Oliver Brandes has been invited to the Council of the Federation’s Water Partner Advisory Committee to provide advice to its Water Stewardship Council. The Water Stewardship Council is composed of one representative from each province and territory. It will provide information and strategic advice to premiers on key trends, issues and opportunities related to Canada’s water resources. More details: http://polwaterproject.org/news/415

BY DARICA BOYCE

Ray Siemens on the digital humanities and the future of the book

What do new reading technologies, such as the e-book, mean for the future of the humanities? Dr. Ray Siemens, Canada Research Chair in Humanities Computing, posed this question at the University Club on June 28 as the guest speaker at the UVic Alumni Association’s Annual General Meeting. This emerging field, at the intersection between computational methods and the humanities, could determine to a large degree the future of reading and interpretive practices.

Siemens began by outlining the past and present role of the humanities in academia, saying a chief function of the humanities is “to understand human experience over time, in the context of the past, and at the same time to flip that around and suggest that we can understand the present in the valuable context provided by human experience over time—not just yesterday, not 100 years ago, but hundreds—you name it.”

Thus, he says, “humanities scholarship is not just about knowing books from the past, or plays from the past, or understanding inscriptions on ancient vases. It’s about the value inherent in being able to bring to bear pertinent elements of the past on our experience of the present and to be able to comprehend the present through the lens of the past.”

Siemens noted that “the field of digital humanities doesn’t only address the modernization of books through the use of digital technology but also contributes valuable to the development of emerging digital technologies through reflection on the history of books.”

He showed his audience how information technology’s lineage has depended heavily on work done by humanities scholars, recalling that in the early days of computing and during the development of the internet, computer scientists drew inspiration from data retrieval systems previously used, in one case, to catalogue and store old manuscripts and printed books and, in another, to negotiate vast bodies of data in print form via tools such as concordances—these devices were a “reflection” of the traditional book. “An electronic document has a different functionality from the printed page. For instance, it is only recently that we have begun to be able to write in the margins of an e-book.”

He general opinion? “I believe the book is here to stay, and what’s best about the book will be brought into the world of the e-book—over time.”

Siemens is distinguished professor in the Department of English, specializing in Early Modern texts. He also contributes to the Department of Computer Science, and heads the SSERF-funded “Implementing New Knowledge Environments” project (INKE), a research group that seeks to investigate the many questions produced by this dynamic and burgeoning intersection between information technology and the humanities.

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Exploring human lysosomal storage diseases

UVic research offers new promise for future treatments of genetic diseases

BY MINA TAWARED

Dr. Francis Choy and his team at UVic’s Centre for Biomedical Research are investigating three rare, inherited diseases that affect young children and for which there are, as yet, no affordable and reliable treatments.

All three diseases—Gaucher disease, Sanfilippo syndrome and glycine encapheolapathy—involve the inability to produce certain enzymes necessary for intracellular structures called lysosomes and mitochondria to digest and eliminate used material.

People with Gaucher disease, a lethal condition, lack an enzyme responsible for breaking down a particular fat and preventing its accumulation in such essential organs as the spleen, liver, bones and brain. Although rare, Gaucher disease is the most common form of lysosomal storage disorder, affecting an estimated 1 in 50,000 people; however, the frequency is far greater in Eastern European Jews, estimated to be 1 in 80 people.

A promising project currently under way in Choy’s lab relies on the expression of a human synthetic (recombinant) enzyme to produce a protein component of this enzyme complex and deliver it to vital organs of the body. One of his graduate students, Agnes Zay, earned the Lieutenant Governor’s Silver Medal for her master’s thesis on this disease (see http://ringuvic.ca/7wbn/07/zay.html). Zay synthesized the protein, enabling researchers to produce it in large quantities—a first and critical step towards developing an inexpensive diagnostic test for the disorder.

The results of Zay’s trials are expected to aid in the diagnosis of glycine encapheolapathy during prenatal screening.

A former PhD student of Choy, Dr. Graham Sinclair, is supervising the development of a program for screening every newborn in BC for 22 genetic diseases plus eight secondary disorders as of 2011.

Gaucher disease, a storage disorder, affects an estimated 1 in 100,000 people and results in the storage of glucocerebroside in various medical centres across Canada.

The next step was to find a way for March to shift gears while keeping her hands on the handlebars. They had to create something that would let her arms stay locked—rather than disturbed—while allowing her to change gears. This is why the team installed a “sip-n-puff” device that would allow March to change gears using her breath. By stopping or puffing into two tubo-ported positioned near her mouth, she could easily shift her bike’s front and back gears.

The next step was to find a way for March to brake without disengaging her arms from the handlebars. CanAssist’s Brandon Fry and co-op student Ken Von Schilling came up with a plan for a new housing and brake system that incorporated a one-way ball bearing device. The result is that the bike’s brakes are engaged by pedaling backwards—the same way an old-fashioned single-speed bike operates. The difference is that because March’s bike has many gears, making this work was extremely complex.

“With this generous support from the BC government, CanAssist and its community partners will continue to create practical and empowering tools to help special needs individuals and their families overcome the challenges they face,” says Lawless. Without CanAssist, people with disabilities could not have raced at the Paralympic World Cup. “Karen is effectively breaking open the entire class to all of the paracycling races out there,” says Lawless. “Without CanAssist I can say with complete certainty that Montreal and Spain wouldn’t have happened and, as a consequence, London wouldn’t be the target.”
cadboro bay merchants

Biology co-op students study raccoons in unorthodox “office”

BY SASHSA GRONSDAHL

Instead of a cubicle, Thomas Diesch and Ashley Currie call the picturesque Gulf Islands their office. And instead of pushing paper, they trap raccoons, document songbirds and pluck crabs out of the ocean.

It’s all in a day’s work for the two biology students who are spending the summer as research associates with UVic adjunct professor Dr. Michael Clinchy. Under the supervision of Clinchy and grad student David Hope, Diesch and Currie are researching raccoons in the Gulf Islands, collecting data on their location and numbers and the impact they have on songbirds and inter-tidal species.

Funded by a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada grant, Clinchy has just begun work on this topic. Diesch and Currie are collecting data from islands in the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve, and the research will eventually be used by Parks Canada to develop a conservation strategy that lessens the impact raccoons have on other species.

This summer, the co-op students will try to determine which of the Gulf Islands have raccoons. On a typical workday they hop in their little red boat and jet through the islands, settling on the one that will be their workplace for that day. Because crabs are a favourite food of raccoons, they begin with a “crab walk,” skirting the rocky shore looking for crabs along the shoreline and measuring the ones they find. They also scour the shoreline for crab shells, called carapaces, that appear to have been cracked open by hungry raccoons.

The students also gather data on the impact of raccoons on songbird populations. They listen for and document the songs of birds that nest close to the ground, where they are easy prey for raccoons. The information Dieesch and Currie record is preliminary data that may inform future decisions in the research project.

They have unusual hours to suit their unusual office. Sometimes the research team will set out for a work night instead of a work day in order to actually see their research subjects. They shine a spotlight along the shores of the islands, counting the number of raccoons (or raccoon eyes) they see. Throughout the summer, the students will also help trap and tag raccoons.

There are 35 Gulf Islands on their list to tackle this summer. It’s a lot of work, but Diesch and Currie are happy to spend their co-op term so close to nature. Both students appreciate the opportunity for hands-on fieldwork that co-op has provided. “We’re spending four months hiking and camping,” says Diesch. “Actually being out here and seeing what it’s like is awesome.”
Freshman’s Wharf wins Leo Award

BY JOHN THRELFA

UVic’s Department of Writing can now add the words “award-winning” to the description of its acclaimed web series, Freshman’s Wharf. The 10-episode, student-created, online comedic show beat out four other entries to win Best Web Series award at the 12th annual Leo Awards on June 11.

“In some ways, producing Freshman’s Wharf was painstakingly challenging,” says co-producer Julia Dillon-Davis. “But we are a group of students trying to film a web series that required a sailboat, an airplane, a tandem bike and half-naked professors dancing around a bonfire. The success of the series is really just indicative of our collective desire to create art.”

Originally created as a class project, Freshman’s Wharf evolved into a for-credit directed studies writing department course with 10 episodes being created, performed and shot by a mix of UVic students and alumni. Written by Rachel Ward, and mentored by writing prof. Maureen Bradley and digital media staffer Daniel Hogg, Freshman’s Wharf offers a light-hearted look at first-year student life at UVic.

“It’s a perfect fusion of research and teaching, a creative production engaging with the next generation—and that’s exactly what we’re supposed to be doing,” says Bradley, an award-winning filmmaker herself. “Our goal is to create innovative new media that’s Vancouver Island-based, and to engage students in our research creation, so it really was perfect.”

“I’ve had more fun on Freshman’s Wharf than any other student initiative,” says Eliza Robertson, who played the female lead, and was recently shortlisted for the Journey Prize, an annual contest for writers. “That might be why none of us expected to win: we’ve all enjoyed the experience so much that any concrete success is just whipped cream and cherries on top.”

Writer Rachel Ward, as well as Bradley, Hogg, Dillon-Davis and Robertson, were all in attendance at the gala Leo event, which was hosted by award-winning humorist and CBC personality Bill Richard-son at Vancouver’s Fairmont Hotel. The Leo Awards are an annual project of the Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Foundation of British Columbia and celebrate excellence in artistic achievement in B.C.’s film and television industry. See Freshman’s Wharf episodes: www.youtube.com/watch?v=BaETaAhnB_k

The 10-episode, student-created, online comedic show beat out four other entries to win Best Web Series award at the 12th annual Leo Awards on June 11.

The 10-episode, student-created, online comedic show beat out four other entries to win Best Web Series award at the 12th annual Leo Awards on June 11.

Staff and students take steps to end global poverty at World Partnership Walk

Five kilometres, positive team spirit and a shared goal of fighting global poverty—those were the key ingredients to UVic’s participation in the 2011 World Partnership Walk (WPW), held May 29 at Beacon Hill Park.

More than 25 UVic staff, students and their families took part in the WPW event, which is Canada’s largest fundraiser aimed at fighting global poverty. The UVic team walked 5 km along Dallas Road and raised over $6,000 towards the total of $200,000. One hundred per cent of those funds will go directly to support community-led social development projects in the most impoverished regions of Asia and Africa.

UVic had a high profile at this year’s event—Karina Rampi, Convener of the 2011 World Partnership Walk, also serves as international coordinator for the Co-operative Education Program and Career Services. The UVic team won the Top Universities and Colleges Team trophy for Victoria’s Walk. Vice-President Academic Dr. Reeta Tremblay accepted the trophy on behalf of UVic, along with Brian Inapahali, Dr. Ali Dastmalchian, Norah McRae and other members of the UVic community.

“Members of the UVic community have consistently supported this event, with teams from various program areas. This year, students from the Gustavson School of Business Sustainability Club also helped manage the waste management program for this green event,” says Rampi. “The World Partnership Walk takes place on the last Sunday in May every year—if you’re looking for a volunteer opportunity, it’s never too early to start thinking about next year.”

“On behalf of a girl in Afghanistan who can access quality education,” says Rampi, “on behalf of a farmer in Mozambique whose crop yields have doubled, on behalf of pre-school children in Bangladesh who are getting a foundation for lifelong learning and on behalf of a community organizations in Zanzibar who are developing 5-year strategic plans, Aga Khan Foundation Canada and the volunteers of World Partnership Walk wish to thank the UVic community for its tremendous and consistent support.”

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Karina Rampi presents the University and Colleges Team Trophy to Dr. Reeta Tremblay.

HOLOCAUST CONTINUED FROM P.1

Museum in Poland: and the former Mauthausen Concentration Camp and the Schölln Hartheim castle in Austria. At Auschwitz, hallways are lined with encased piles of belongings such as artificial limbs and suitcases. In the Auschwitz-Birkenau museum: “It was poorly lit and chilly down in the cellar; being unable to leave caused a sense of powerlessness and slight panic. This feeling was incomparable to what actual prisoners felt during their time in Auschwitz and in this very jail. I was not forced to stand; I was not alone, or in complete darkness.”

Upon returning to Canada, the students are expected to share their experiences through formal presentations and discussions. On Wed., July 20, the public is invited to a special exhibit by several of the witness students. The exhibit will take place from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Michael Audain Gallery in UVic’s Visual Arts building. Visit http://bit.ly/whAmADE for a more detailed version of this story, including excerpts from the trip blog.

The next field school is May 2012. Application deadline Nov. 1. Info: http://web.uvic.ca/gero/wwtness/
A change is in the air.

Uvic is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for students, employees and visitors.

Effective September 1, 2011, smoking will only be permitted in designated areas outside Ring Road.

For more information, including a campus map showing the designated smoking areas, visit www.uvic.ca/smoking.

A change is in the air: Changes to campus smoking policy

Uvic is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for students, employees and visitors. Beginning September 1, 2011, smoking will only be permitted in designated areas outside Ring Road. Look for more information, including a campus map showing the designated smoking areas, at www.uvic.ca/smoking.

Look for more information, including FAQs and a campus map showing the locations of designated smoking areas, on the Occupational Health, Safety and Environment website. To provide feedback about this initiative, contact clearair@uvic.ca.

So you think you’re ready to quit?

Human Resources, Health Services and Occupational Health, Safety and Environment are pleased to present So You Think You’re Ready to Quit?, a summer lunch-and-learn series for UVic staff and students who want to stop smoking. In this fun and interactive series, participants will learn tools and strategies to support their smoking cessation efforts.

Workshop topics include Creating a Healthier You, Strategies for Success, Smoking Cessation Resources and Products, Nutrition, Stress Management and Physical Activity.

Bring your lunch and bring a friend. Wednesdays from 12-1 p.m., from July 20 to Aug. 31 (no workshop Aug. 24) in the Clearihue room A308. For more information, please visit www.uvic.ca/smoking.

United Way and UVic: Building a strong and caring community

The United Way of Greater Victoria (UWGV) has announced more than $95,000 in funding to support four initiatives undertaken at UVic.

Hallett points to recruiting and hiring many great people as a highlight of her career. Along with developing the Aboriginal Employee Handbook and integrating diversity training into UVic’s leadership training program, she was a member of the team that received a President’s Distinguished Service Award for the implementation of the initiative hiring system in 2007.

Informally, Hallett helped count less UVic employees track and improve their resumes. She also took the opportunity to further her own skills in the Leadership Victoria training program. Looking back on her 35 years on campus, Hallett chuckles that “everything has changed in the years I’ve been here—the buildings, the systems, the people. I see more diversity in the staff, more women in positions of power, and more support for services for staff like the coffee shops on campus.” She is looking forward to more travel in the future, with a summer cruise to Alaska already planned. She will also have more time for her creative passions—as a sewer, welder, dollmaker and fabric artist—and volunteering. Hallet is involved with Wear2Start, a local organization that provides appropriate interview clothing for young women who are trying to get a foot in the door of the workforce.

"Integrity and respect are the two words that I’d use to describe what I’ve done while I’ve been at UVic,” she says. “I’ll miss the people. You get to meet so many people and build friendships—the people here are fantastic.”

Change, a new citizen-based initiative to inform, enhance and build capability for UWGV support of long-term healthy community development, and to create an updated Community and University Resource Guide.

The Faculty of Humanities will receive $26,800 in support of University 101, which offers free, non-credit courses to people who have experienced poverty, homelessness, disabilities, discrimination and other barriers to learning.

For more details: www.uvic.ca/uvic/resourceguide.