**SPEED READING**

**CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS**

Share your most amazing summer experience

Have a terrific summer and don't forget to write! The Ring would like to hear about the most amazing thing you do this summer. Whether you're faculty, student or staff, email us by Aug. 27 with a short paragraph (photos welcome, too). We'll select some of the most impressive and unusual submissions for print and posting on The Ring website. Email address: ring@uvic.ca

**CLEAN ENERGY**

**FutureGrid forum outlines BC's energy options**

Climate change is expected to boost the performance of BC Hydro’s main reservoirs through increased water flows, and smart-grid technology promises to significantly reduce consumer electricity demand. These research results were reported at a Vancouver forum on BC’s future electricity regime in June, organized by the Pacific Institute for Climate Change. Participants also vigorously debated whether BC should become a major exporter of electricity.

More: www.pics.uvic.ca/futuregrid.php

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**CAMPUS RABBITS**

Plan establishes rabbit-free, rabbit control zones

U Vic’s new long-term feral rabbit management plan, announced in late June, calls for reducing the rabbit population on campus to around 200 sterilized animals, to be limited to areas within Ring Road. Keep up to date on the issue at http://communications.uvic.ca/rabbits/. Story, p.2

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**CO-OP MILESTONE**

Business Co-op makes 10,000th placement

The economy may be sluggish, but U Vic’s Business Co-op and career program is surging ahead, celebrating its 10,000th work-term placement. The big round number was reached with the hiring of third-year business student Fana Nordeen by the Vancouver Island Technology Park. More: http://bit.ly/0u1m3

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

Join the (virtual) UVic conversation

Facebook, Twitter, Flickr and YouTube — UVic has a growing presence in all these social media spaces and they can be easily accessed right from the main UVic homepage. Keep in touch, get the latest info, view a wide variety of photos and videos generated by members of the UVic community. You can join the conversation and also share your own creative contributions by posting your own photos and videos. Check it out: www.uvic.ca (and click on the “Join the conversation” tab)

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**CLEAN ENERGY PARTNERS WITH CHINA**

**Clean energy partners with China**

**P.7**

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**THE RING**

**VITAL STATISTICS**

**$62.9M**

**TOTAL FUNDING FROM BC GOVERNMENT, CANADA FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION AND TRIUMF TO SUPPORT NEW ELECTRON ACCELERATOR PROJECT**

UVic leads consortium to build powerful electron accelerator

New facility will produce isotopes for research and medical applications

**BY VALERIE SHORE**

The University of Victoria is playing a leading role in a major expansion at TRIUMF, Canada’s national laboratory for particle and nuclear physics.

On June 22, BC Premier Gordon Campbell announced a $30.7-million provincial investment in TRIUMF to support ARIEL (Advanced Rare Isotope Laboratory), a $62.9-million facility that will allow TRIUMF to broaden its research in particle and nuclear physics, and materials science. It will also develop the technology to advance Canada’s supply of medical isotopes.

ARIEL will house an electron linear accelerator (e-linac) that will produce intense beams of particles to create a variety of isotopes for pure and applied research. An underground beam tunnel—with walls up to 3m thick—will connect ARIEL to existing experimental halls at TRIUMF.

The e-linac will be one of the most powerful accelerators of its type in the world and the first of its kind in Canada. It is being designed and built by a 13-university consortium led by UVic physicist Dean Karlen, who is jointly appointed to TRIUMF. The project also involves collaborations with researchers in the US, the UK, Germany and India.

“We’re very excited about the tremendous potential of the ARIEL project and our role in it,” says UVic President David Turpin. “This facility will have a dramatic impact in multiple sectors of research, the health sciences and commercialization, and sends a clear signal to the world about Canada’s commitment to accelerator physics and engineering.”

Located in Vancouver, TRIUMF is owned and operated by a consortium of 15 Canadian universities, including UVic. It attracts top physicists from around the world who collaborate on research related to particle and nuclear physics, molecular and materials science, and nuclear medicine.

“TRIUMF was created in 1968 to meet physics research needs that no single university could provide,” said Dr. Howard Brunt, UVic’s vice-president research, at the Vancouver announcement. “The

See TRIUMF p.4

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**PARTICLE PHYSICS**

**Governor General visits UVic researchers on children’s rights**

Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada, visited the University of Victoria on June 11. She met with researchers associated with the International Institute for Child Rights and Development (IICRD), based in the UVic Centre for Global Studies, whose work is dedicated to improving the lives of children around the world. Earlier this year she presented Dr. Gordon Smith, executive director of the Centre for Global Studies, with the 2009 Vanier Medal for public service to Canada, which subsequently led to her visit to UVic.

In June, the Governor General announced the appointment of UVic President David Turpin to the Order of Canada (see page 5). More information on the IICRD: www.iicrd.org

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**Canoe a vehicle for Indigenous learning and teaching**

This summer, students are learning about Strath Sahil culture, language and ways of life through hands-on participation in the creation of a traditional Wsáanék, dugout canoe and individual paddles.

Above, student Gallan Egleson works on her paddle with master carver Perry LaFortune (centre) and instructor Rick Couton (right). Story, page 3. PHOTO: Uvic/photo services

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**ARIEL**

A high-speed electron accelerator will become a major exporter of electricity.

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**Triumf**

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**Co-op milestone**

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$1.5-million gift to UVic has roots in science education

BY CHRIS THACKRAY

A love of learning and a strong commitment to science education are the source of a $1.5-million donation to the Faculty of Science at the University of Victoria.

The gift from Richard and Liz Flurry will go toward the capital costs of the new Bob Wright Centre, Ocean, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, UVic’s new science building complex.

“We are very grateful to Richard and Liz for their exceptional generosity,” says UVic President David Turpin. “They have been long-time friends of our university and the Faculty of Science. We’re delighted they have chosen to support our science students in this way.”

UVic’s quest for excellence places it among the very best universities, say the Flurys. “I can’t think of any place better,” says Richard. “We have worked and lived all over the world, and this helped me appreciate UVic’s strengths in science and the excellent education I received here.”

Richard Flury (BSc ’70) is a retired oil industry executive who feels strongly that his physics degree was essential to his success. “The value in a physics degree is that it teaches you to solve complex problems,” he says. “It teaches you to look at the variables, bring them together and look for alternate solutions. Business problems aren’t really all that different.”

A graduate of St. Margaret’s School in Victoria, Liz raised three children and ran a ballet academy for 10 years in Calgary. She is a graduate of Illinois Benedictine University and specializes in psychology and geriatric counseling. She volunteers with Habitat for Humanity in Florida and St. Matthew’s House, and says that she and Richard view higher education as the gateway to a fulfilling life.

On June 17, the Queenwood Society announced it would close Queenwood retreat centre by Oct. 1 because of financial challenges. The non-profit retreat centre is located on the six-hectare wooded site at the corner of Arbutus Road and Queenwood Drive.

Queenwood is one of several areas throughout BC and Canada that is wrestling with a growing rab-

The University of Victoria’s new long-term feral rabbit management plan establishes the grounds outside Ring Road as a rabbit-free zone but also designates the interior of campus as a rabbit control zone where a sustainable population of sterilized feral rabbits can remain.

“The Lion and the Fox: Art and Literary Works by Wyndham Lewis from the C.J. Fox Collection” exhibition catalogue is one of five winners for the 2010 Katherine Ayes Leub and Daniel J. Leub “American Book Prizes Current” Exhibition Awards. The 64-page catalogue with full-colour reproductions was produced by Information Service Librarian Danelle Forster. Copies of the catalogue are available in Special Collections and online versions of the exhibition are available at http://library.uvic.ca/site/spcoll/exhibits/fox/art.html

Queenswood to close Oct. 1

“UVic will trap and turn over to the university using the space. UVic will not have occupancy of the centre until January 2013.”

“We were sincerely hoping that Queenwood would continue to offer its special programming to the community for years to come,” says Gayle Goriell, UVic vice-president finance and operations. “It is truly regrettable this could not come to pass. Given that we only recently learned that the society would not be going ahead with the lease, UVic has not formed plans at this time on what might happen with the building once it is vacated.”

According to the arrangement with the Sisters of St. Ann, UVic will not have occupancy of the centre until Jan. 1, 2011. The Sisters of St. Ann will continue to occupy the other building on the property. St. Ann’s Residence, until January 2013.


Plan calls for campus rabbit-free and rabbit control zones

On June 17, the Queenwood Society announced it would close Queenwood retreat centre by Oct. 1 because of financial challenges.

The non-profit retreat centre is located on the six-hectare wooded site at the corner of Arbutus Road and Queenwood Drive. UVic takes possession of the property from the Sisters of St. Ann, UVic will not have occupancy of the centre until January 2013. They are available at the university’s rabbit information website: www.uvic.ca/rabbits.

Smith estimates that over 1,000 rabbits currently live in the rabbit-free zones. They are pets or descendents of pets abandoned by their owners. Once rabbits have been removed from the rabbit-free zones, the focus will shift in 2011 to the proposed rabbit control zone in the interior of campus.

“We think we can maintain a population of about 200 sterilized rabbits in this area,” says Smith. “We’ll entertain proposals from the public and on-campus volunteers for assistance with the rabbit control zone and for the establishment of feeding stations. However, it is likely that we will initially also have to remove rabbits from this area to reduce the population to the proposed level.”

UVic is one of several areas throughout Canada and the United States that is wrestling with a growing rabbit population, usually caused by irresponsible pet owners. UVic is supporting the BCSPCA in its campaign to convince municipalities and regions to adopt bylaws making it illegal to sell unsterilized pet rabbits.

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Board elects new chair, vice-chair

Susan Mehinagic has been elected chair of the University of Victoria Board of Governors for a one-year term that started July 1. Mehinagic holds a BCom (honours) from Queen’s University and an LLB from UVic. A chartered accountant and a registered trust and estate practitioner, she is the managing partner of the Victoria office of Grant Thornton Chartered Accountants. She practices in the field of personal and corporate taxation with a focus on estate and succession planning and the not-for-profit sector, including structuring of not-for-profits for donation matters.

Mehinagic is a director of the Queen’s Alumni Association and a trustee of the University of Victoria Foundation and the Foundation for the University of Victoria. She is an order-in-council appointee to the board and served as vice-chair during the past year.

Tony Gage has been elected vice-chair of the board for a one-year term that started July 1.

Gage holds a BA in economics from UVic and an MBA (finance) from URC. A chartered financial analyst (CFA), Gage is a director of PSP Investments and Sky Investment Counsel and head of the management committee of JEA Pension System Solutions. He is a past chair of the board of Phillips, Hager and North Investment Management. His career at Phillips, Hager and North spanned more than 20 years, including five years as president and chief executive officer. He is a member of the Association of Investment Management and Research (AIMR) and an accredited chartered director (McMaster University). Gage is an order-in-council appointee to the board.

Noted linguist appointed new humanities dean

BY MARIA LIRONI

If you've ever taken a linguistics course, the name John Archibald will already be familiar to you. He's the co-editor of the longstanding best-selling introductory textbook on linguistics—Contemporary Linguistic Analysis—and he is also UVic's new dean of humanities.

Archibald comes to UVic after a 19-year career at the University of Calgary during which he held a variety of roles, most recently as a linguistics professor, interim director of linguistics and department and associate director of U of C's Language Research Centre.

For the past eight years he has also been the University's provost, and wrote citations for many honorary degree recipients including Roméo Dallaire, former UN peacekeeper, and Nobel laureates.

"Dr. Archibald already has a distinguished record of achievement as a researcher, teacher and administrator," says Vice-President Academic and Provost Jamie Cassels. "He comes to UVic with the strongest recommendations and a deep support within the faculty. The leadership skills, experience and interpersonal qualities he brings to his new role as dean will immensely benefit both the faculty and the university.

Archibald's research focuses on the acquisition of phonology, why some sound systems are easier to learn than others, including foreign-accented speech.

"Before I was a linguist I trained as an actor," explains Archibald, who graduated with a University of Toronto degree in English literature and drama in 1981. "While providing vocal coaching to some non-English-speaking actors, I started to wonder about the origins and structures of their accents. This led me to take further training as a speech teacher and, ultimately, to my career in linguistics.

"I'm interested in how children and adults acquire second languages. There's a lot of research available that shows how children from immigrant families can benefit linguistically, cognitively and socially—but maintaining more than one language the mother tongue should be maintained. Every immigrant family wonders about this, and I've been doing bits of outreach to help get this message out."

Archibald says his main role as dean will be to support the faculty in achieving its academic goals and vision. "For the faculty to continue to be successful, we need to recognize that every undergraduate and graduate student, every staff and faculty member are simultaneously working toward fulfilling their individual goals and, at the same time, working toward a common vision of creating an environment for an engaging student experience."

"The father of four children, he is married to linguistics professor Mariana Mithun, who begins his fifth year at UVic this fall.

Archibald’s five-year term began on July 1.

A vehicle for Indigenous learning & teaching

BY CRYSTAL BERGERON

In the Faculty of Education, teaching and learning go hand in hand, but not always in traditional classrooms.

In its efforts to celebrate Indigenous ways of learning and teaching and incorporate them into UVic’s teacher education programs, the Faculty of Education continues to push the envelope when it comes to innovative ways to learn.

One example is the extremely popular course EDCI 499: Learning and Teaching in an Indigenous World, an innovative course series pedagogically based on Indigenous teaching and learning experiences.

Currently, the sixth installment of the series, “CA & THE SPEECH” or “Working on the canoe,” is underway in the EDCI 499 series, and the name John Archibald will already be familiar to you. He's the co-editor of the longstanding best-selling introductory textbook on linguistics—Contemporary Linguistic Analysis—and he is also UVic's new dean of humanities.

"This rather extraordinary course has given our students a truly unique opportunity to witness, experience and actually contribute to the carrying of the canoe,” says Dr. Alison Pierre, associate dean of teacher education. “While immersed in carrying their own paddles, observing the carvers and engaging with members of the local First Nations communities, they’ve gained insights into all that the canoe means and represents culturally that runs so much deeper than simply ‘being told about it.’ They’ve lived a way of teaching and learning that, for many, will enrich and shift their understanding of what teaching and learning can be.”

For more information on courses in the EDCI 499 series, contact Indigenous Education at 250-721-7826 or via email at ied@uvic.ca. This course is open to all UVic students.
This year, the National Magazine Awards Foundation handed out gold in poetry for three years in a row and silver in the same category for her poem “Cullen in Old Age.” The magazine has now won gold in poetry for three years in a row and silver in the same category two of those three years. The AFI picture, taken in 2009, depicts a teacher and students from UVic’s Elementary Education program with a Muskox and is a heritage preservation project of the UVic Libraries, the Humanities Computing and Media Centre and the Department of History. The Governor’s Letters is a searchable database of correspondence from the first governors of what would become BC to the Colonial Office in London, England—from 1846 when the colony of Vancouver Island was first conceived to the end of 1857. When the colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia were created, the governors were ordered to report “everything of interest” to the Colonial Office. With several gold rushes, conflicts with Aboriginal people, a near-war with the United States, ships wrecked, treaties signed, murders committed and murderers hanged, towns created and other towns destroyed, the governors were busy getting it all down in the letters, which they called “The Colonial Despatches.” The project builds upon the work of UVic Historian Dr. Jim Hendrickson (emeritus). Its first phase was launched in 2008 as a prototype comprising despatches relevant to the 1850 Gold Rush. It’s taken a team of faculty, staff and students to transcribe from microfilm, annotate, scan the originals to transcripts, convert the transcripts into a modern database, create curriculum material for students and support materials for teachers. It has been a stellar collaboration of vision, creativity, technical expertise and collaboration that has brought students, scholars, First Nations and the wider public such easy access to these historically significant documents.

To draw students into the past, The Governor’s Letters is a linked website (http://www.govlet.ca) containing four curriculum challenges designed by teacher-educators and fitting into the grade 5—10 curricula in BC and across Canada. Students get to use the despatches, as well as other primary sources including maps, paintings, and photographs—all available in both French and English—to analyze the evidence and solve four challenges posed as puzzles. What were the real reasons for creating the Colony of British Columbia? Were the Douglas treaties and the numbered treaties fairly negotiated? Did the Gold Rush radically change daily life in Victoria? Did Governor James Douglas deserve to be knighted?

Phase three of The Colonial Despatches, to be undertaken when resources are found, will bring the entire correspondence up to British Columbia’s confederation with Canada in 1871. You can view The Colonial Despatches from 1846–58 along with all of the early BC maps from the Colonial Office at a publicly accessible website (http://bcgenesis.uvic.ca). Many maps have been annotated and enriched with links to place name information and date to the colonial period and before.
Communities and societies are grappling with many challenges in a rapidly changing world,” says Lynne Siemens, professor and graduate advisor in the School of Public Administration. “Addressing them requires new leadership and ways of working with individuals, communities, organizations and governments.

The challenges ahead for communities, indeed for human society and the planet, require leveraging the best of what citizens and community leaders bring to the table. This is what UVic’s new Master of Arts in Community Development (MACD) program is intended to do, not just within British Columbia, but around the world.

The program, offered by the School of Public Administration, has just welcomed its first cohort of students, eager to develop their careers and contribute more effectively to the social economy and civil society.

What do these buzz words mean? They refer to the third sector—the non-profit, co-operative, and non-governmental (NGO) people-centered economy—and address issues that impact communities such as food security, climate change, income disparity, lack of affordable housing, and support for the most vulnerable in our community.

The part-time master’s program was developed in collaboration with practitioners from the non-profit, co-operative, and community economic development sectors. It is delivered primarily online with three 10-day residential periods based at the University of Victoria. Students are able to study where they live and work while they learn through a variety of participatory methods including experiential learning, site visits and online dialogue.

“This program will provide opportunities to expand the scope of things I can do in my workplace and allow me to learn from people who understand the challenges of working in the non-profit sector,” says Stacy Chappel, current student and executive director of the UVic Grad Students’ Society.

The program is designed and delivered in collaboration with practitioners and scholars from across the university, including the faculties of human and social development, business, social sciences, humanities, and education, as well as research units such as the Office of Community-based Research and the Centre for Co-operative and Community-based Economy. It also includes collaborations and partnerships that the school and university have with organizations such as the Canadian Research Chair for Community Renewal, the BC-Alberta Research Alliances on the Social Economy, British Columbia Co-operative Association and the Centre for Co-operative and Community-based Economy.

“The courses are grounded in real experiences at the community level. Our course developers and instructors are themselves active in communites as leaders and researchers,” says Herman Bakvis, acting director of the School of Public Administration.

“I have looked at many different programs but the MACD content and multidisciplinary themes made the most sense to me, given my work experience and background,” says Carolyn Fast, current student and executive director of the UVic Grad Students’ Society.

“Graduate work is solidifying my leadership role,” says Fast.

More information: http://publicadmin.uvic.ca/macd

BY CHRISTINE MCLAREN

Grad student working to improve HIV testing

BY ANNE MACLAURIN

Daniel Grace is making a difference in the lives of people living with and vulnerable to HIV in BC. A doctoral student and sessional instructor in the department of sociology, he is researching new HIV testing methods among gay men in BC. He is presenting some of his early findings at the XVIII International AIDS Conference in Vienna this month.

“For me, issues such as HIV/AIDS are a litmus test of social inequality in and beyond Canadian society,” says Grace. “I find tremendous personal and professional satisfaction from working with people to address community health concerns.”

Grace is currently part of a multi-disciplinary investigation funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) developing a new generation of HIV tests that will shorten the waiting period between exposure to HIV and an HIV test result. Earlier detection is important for the treatment and prevention of HIV. It is during the early (or acute) phase of HIV infection that the risk of transmission is greatest.

Grace’s work in the area of social inequality, gender and HIV/AIDS is supported by two fellowships and a SSHRC Canadian Graduate Scholarship. His fellowships come from the University Without Walls and Duke University (Global Health Fellowship) to support his work in global health policy.

“My research has to involve people addressing the social inequalities they experience in their everyday lives,” says Grace. “It must work to inform policy, remove barriers to access for marginalized communities and critically address issues of power and ideology.”

Grace is part of the first Universities Without Walls (UWW) cohort—13 students from across Canada who meet once every two weeks in a virtual learning environment.

Beginning this month, Grace will continue his research as a Global Health Fellow through Duke University, conducting research at the World Health Organization in the Department of Gender, Women and Health.

University of Victoria President David Turpin has been appointed to the Order of Canada. The appointment was announced June 30 by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada.

Turpin was recognized “for his contributions to education in Canada as a scholar, scientist and administrator, and for his community service in Victoria, serving with United Way of Greater Victoria and Leadership Victoria.”

“It’s an honour for Dr. Turpin, and the entire UVic community,” says university Board of Governors Chair Susan Mahoney. “We can all take pride in Dr. Turpin’s achievement. On behalf of the university I want to congratulate him on this richly deserved recognition. He’s an outstanding scholar and teacher, an extraordinary leader and someone whose efforts have made a difference in the lives of Canadians and communities across the country throughout his career. His impact on UVic and higher education in Canada has been profound.”

“David Turpin is a man who cares passionately about the students, faculty and staff of the University and the Greater Victoria community,” says former board chair Ray Protti. “The Order of Canada is a fitting award for him, given his significant contributions to post-secondary education in Victoria, British Columbia and, indeed, across all of Canada.”

Turpin was appointed president and vice-chancellor of UVic in 2000. He has overseen a major period of growth, including dramatic expansion of graduate education and a more than doubling of student financial assistance. Under his leadership, the university established a major emphasis on Indigenous issues and research that has resulted in a significant increase in Aboriginal student enrolment. He was instrumental in the development of the Island Medical Program and led UVic’s initial funding and development with the Vancouver Island Technology Park. He also oversaw the opening of an Office for Community-based Research to bring researchers and community groups together to tackle community issues.

Research funding to UVic has quadrupled during his tenure and UVic was successful in securing more than $100 million in funding for the VENUS and NEPTUNE ocean observatory projects. Turpin championed the establishment of the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions at the university, securing a $990 million-endowment— the largest single contribution to a university endowment in Canadian history.

Nationwide, he serves on the executive and board of directors of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada and currently chairs that group’s Standing Advisory Committee on International Affairs. He has chaired the Canadian Research Knowledge Network and the Research Universities Council of British Columbia. He also serves on the board of the Business Council of British Columbia, has chaired the annual Greater Victoria’s United Way campaign and is responsible for the close partnership between UVic and Leadership Victoria that is developing the next generation of volunteer leadership in the region.

Before coming to UVic, Turpin was vice-principal academic at Queens University. A biologist, he is one of the most highly cited scientific scholars in Canada and was elected to the Royal Society of Canada in 1998 for his contributions to science. He also received Queens University’s highest teaching honour, the Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Turpin is one of 74 new appointments to the Order from across Canada. Two, including the Honourable David Anderson, are from Victoria.

Order of Canada recipients at UVic include former chancellors Ron Lou-Pey and Norma Mickelson, ethno-botanist Nancy Turner, NEPTUNE project director Chris Barnes, trombonist and composer Ian McDougall, screenwriter Brian Paisley and novelist Jack Hodgins.
Engineering programs accredited to the max
The Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board—Engineers Canada (CEAB) is giving UVic’s Faculty of Engineering the maximum length of accreditation for all of its engineering programs. The CEAB has accredited programs in computer engineering, electrical engineering and mechanical engineering for six years. Software engineering has also been accredited for three years, and three more pending a satisfactory progress report in June 2012. “This is just about the best possible outcome,” says Engineering Dean Tom Tiedje. “This positive result is a vote of confidence in our academic programs and a credit to the many people who worked very hard to make this happen.” More info: www.engineerscanada.ca/accreditation

No idling matters
UVic recently passed amendments to the Motor Pool Vehicle Policy that prohibit university vehicles from idling more than one minute while parked on campus—two minutes less than the CRD Idling Control Bylaw. The policy also encourages the use of low emission vehicles. Details: web uvic.ca/sustainability/documents/MotorPoolPolicyJune11.pdf

How many pills do you pop daily to keep healthy? With pharmacies full of vitamins and supplements, and prescription and non-prescription drugs for everything that ails you, the number can add up quickly.

And that’s a big problem, especially for seniors. If you’re taking more than a single medication or supplement, you’re at risk of having what is called an Adverse Drug Reaction, or ADR. They range from minor reactions such as a skin rash to serious events such as a heart attack or liver damage.

ADRs are frighteningly common. In the US, they are the fifth-highest cause of death after heart disease, cancer, strokes and lung disease. In the UK, more people die from ADRs than in traffic accidents.

Not surprisingly, seniors experience far more of these reactions than younger people. The older people are, the more likely they are to be prescribed medications. And because seniors often see specialists in addition to their own doctors, they can receive new prescriptions without having their current ones properly assessed.

‘Adverse drug reactions often mimic illnesses common to the elderly,’ says UVic medical anthropologist Peter Stephenson. For example, the combination of anti-depressants and sleeping pills can cause the symptoms of Alzheimer’s and dementia. “In other words, seniors in reasonably good health may end up being treated with more drugs for an illness they don’t have,” he says.

It’s very easy for seniors to end up taking six or more prescription medications in addition to any supplements or over-the-counter painkillers, cold medications or antioxidants they use. “That’s a big problem,” says Stephenson, “because seniors taking more than six prescription drugs have an 80-per-cent chance of experiencing a serious or even fatal ADR.”

What can we do about it? The key, says Stephenson, is in understanding how seniors view medication. Recently, he and a team of researchers—including graduate students Britt Vegsund and Rosanne Beuthin—conducted a study in Parksville and Qualicum Beach, asking seniors about their attitudes toward medication.

The survey revealed that most seniors don’t know much about ADRs or how to avoid them. And despite the intended benefits of taking medication, many seniors feel that health products can limit the control they have over their own lives. “People told us their prescriptions often ‘got in the way’ of leading a normal life—making them too sleepy to enjoy an evening with friends, too dizzy to go for a walk, or too worried about urinary frequency to leave the house,” says Stephenson.

“But they didn’t have much technical knowledge about ADRs or how to avoid them. Many didn’t even know who to ask if they were concerned about the medications they were taking.”

The greatest need is for public education, says Stephenson. “We have to put ADRs on everyone’s radar—to spread the word about what symptoms to look for and who to talk to. We need physicians to pay more attention to the whole spectrum of drugs and supplements their patients may be taking.”

“And we need to ask why so many of us are taking so many medications in the first place.”

The CEAB has accredited programs for three years, and three more pending a satisfactory progress report in June 2012. “This is just about the best possible outcome,” says Engineering Dean Tom Tiedje. “This positive result is a vote of confidence in our academic programs and a credit to the many people who worked very hard to make this happen.” More info: www.engineerscanada.ca/accreditation

No idling matters
UVic recently passed amendments to the Motor Pool Vehicle Policy that prohibit university vehicles from idling more than one minute while parked on campus—two minutes less than the CRD Idling Control Bylaw. The policy also encourages the use of low emission vehicles. Details: web uvic.ca/sustainability/documents/MotorPoolPolicyJune11.pdf

How many pills do you pop daily to keep healthy? With pharmacies full of vitamins and supplements, and prescription and non-prescription drugs for everything that ails you, the number can add up quickly.

And that’s a big problem, especially for seniors. If you’re taking more than a single medication or supplement, you’re at risk of having what is called an Adverse Drug Reaction, or ADR. They range from minor reactions such as a skin rash to serious events such as a heart attack or liver damage.

ADRs are frighteningly common. In the US, they are the fifth-highest cause of death after heart disease, cancer, strokes and lung disease. In the UK, more people die from ADRs than in traffic accidents.

Not surprisingly, seniors experience far more of these reactions than younger people. The older people are, the more likely they are to be prescribed medications. And because seniors often see specialists in addition to their own doctors, they can receive new prescriptions without having their current ones properly assessed.

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In June, a team of University of Victoria researchers travelled to China to share insights with Chinese colleagues on emerging clean energy technologies.

Vice-President Research Dr. Howard Brunt and six researchers from the Institute for Integrated Energy Systems (IESVic)—Dr. Brad Buckham, Curran Crawford, Ned Djilali, Zhuomin Dong, Jay Sui and Peter Wild—participated in the first annual Canada-China Clean Energy Workshop. It was held at Peking University and attended by researchers from 10 of the top universities in China.

The aim of the workshop—which focused on specialized areas of energy and fuel cell development—was to develop connections and opportunities for collaborative research and graduate-level education. It was organized by Dong, chair of UVic’s Department of Mechanical Engineering, and Prof. Xinrong Zhang of Beijing Institute of Technology.

In addition to attending the workshop, the UVic researchers travelled to eight Chinese universities where they toured laboratory facilities and further developed plans for research collaboration. "The global significance of developing clean technologies makes IESVic a natural for helping UVic to strategically forge deep and lasting research and educational linkages with international universities," says Brunt. "China is quickly emerging as a clean energy leader, making their universities natural partners for us."

With 15 UVic faculty members and more than 35 graduate students working with industry partners in Canada and abroad, IESVic has helped UVic become a world leader in energy and fuel research. According to the international newsletter Science Watch, UVic is the fifth most influential university in the world in the field of energy and fuels, as measured by the citation impact of the top 100 scientific articles per institution published between 1998 and 2008. In North America, only Princeton, Cornell and the US National Energy Lab performed better.

The trip to China was extremely successful, says Wild, director of IESVic. "Many opportunities for researcher-to-researcher collaboration were identified, and a framework to pursue these collaborations was developed."

The second annual workshop will be hosted by UVic in May 2011 and be hosted by UVic in May 2011 and the US National Energy Lab performed better. The trip to China was extremely successful, says Wild, director of IESVic. "Many opportunities for researcher-to-researcher collaboration were identified, and a framework to pursue these collaborations was developed."
Space still available in July PSN workshops

What does it mean to create a safer and inclusive space for people of all gender and sexual identities? UVic’s Positive Space Network (PSN) is hosting workshops this summer for members of the campus community who would like to learn more about issues affecting the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, two-spirit, intersex, asexual, queer and questioning communities. The three-hour discussion-based workshops are free and open to all members of the UVic community. No prior knowledge is necessary and people of any gender identity or sexual orientation are welcome to attend. Info/registration: web.univ.ca/~psn/get-involved/ workshops/

UVic gets new eye in the sky

The telescope installed this month on the roof of UVic’s new science building is the largest telescope located on a university campus in Canada. Telescopes are rated by the size of their mirrors, which determine how much light they can gather. This one boasts a 0.8-metre mirror—making it the country’s fifth largest overall—and is housed in a 6.25-metre-observatory dome capable of hosting 20 students at a time. Built by DFM Engineering in Colorado, the $700,000 telescope will be used for teaching undergraduate students and for research. “We’ll be using it to look for asteroids passing close to Earth and for planets crossing in front of stars,” says Russell Robb, senior lab instructor and senior scientific assistant in UVic’s Department of Physics and Astronomy. The telescope will also be available to the public on Wednesday nights, starting in the fall. UVic astronomers are world-renowned for their research on the formation of galaxies, stellar structure and evolution, and theoretical and observational cosmology.

Copyright legislation of concern to Canadian universities

An act to amend Canada’s copyright legislation, Bill-32, received first reading in the House of Commons on June 2 and public discussion and debate is expected to extend well into the fall when Parliament returns from recess. “Bill C-32 includes several recommendations proposed by the university community,” says UVic Copyright Offi cer Inba Kehoe (libraries). “Speciﬁ cally, it expands fair dealing provisions from private research and study, criticism and review to include education, satire and parody. These and other exceptions will allow, for example, educators and students to use internet material and viewing of ﬁ lms for teaching and learning purposes, as well as allow libraries to provide electronic copies to an interlibrary loan requester. However, provisions prohibiting the circumvention of Technological Protection Measures (TPMs) or ‘digital locks’ are especially contentious for users of digital media.”

Kehoe has created a UVic copyright blog with links to the full text of the legislation, media coverage and responses to the bill by such interested organizations as the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT), the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) and the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

Kehoe will be reviewing Bill C-32 against the current legislation to assess the impact on libraries and for teaching and learning at the university. UVic copyright blog: http://blogs.library.uvic.ca/index.php/copyright/