The world’s most advanced microscope is here

By Valerie Shore

The University of Victoria is now home to the most powerful microscope ever built. On May 22, the 7-tonne, 4.5-metre tall Scanning Transmission Electron Holography Microscope (STEHM) arrived on campus in 22 pieces. The next day, four large pieces were lowered into a special room in the basement of the Bob Wright Centre, where the microscope is now being assembled.

The four pieces were so large that a hole had to be cut in advance in the entrance-way to the Bob Wright Centre so that they could be lowered into the basement, where UVic’s Advanced Microscopy Facility is located.

The STEHM is a one-of-a-kind machine built for UVic in Japan by Hitachi High Technologies Canada and is the highest-resolution microscope in the world. It will allow researchers to see things 20 million times smaller than the tiniest thing the unaided human eye can see.

Unlike conventional microscopes, which use light to peer at specimens, the STEHM uses an electron beam and holography techniques to observe the inside of materials and their surfaces to an expected resolution smaller than the size of an atom.

The STEHM will see materials beyond the nanoscale to the picoscale. A nanometre is one-billionth of a metre. Atoms are typically between 62 and 520 picometres in diameter.

The microscope is so sensitive that its image could be affected by little more than a passing cloud. For this reason, it is housed in a special self-contained, extra-tall room that is anchored to bedrock and encased in eight inches of insulation sandwiched between layers of galvanized steel.

Child and Youth Care grad helping thousands of HIV/AIDS-affected children

By Melanie Tromp Hoover

Jolly Nyeko loves children. For over three decades Nyeko—graduating from UVic with her PhD in child and youth care this month—has worked to provide programming and inspiration to countless young people in her native Uganda. She gives regular talks to fellow mothers, leads fundraising efforts for primary education centres and, in 1995, founded Action for Children, a non-profit group that cares for more than 20,000 children and families vulnerable to HIV/AIDS and poverty across the country.

And still—after 30 years of faces, stories, successes and hope—Nyeko felt she could use a bit more training.

“I found myself working more and more on children’s development issues and, even with a background in sociology and development studies, I needed to find some knowledge, some concepts, to make my skills work for children,” she explains.

After looking at a handful of programs in other corners of the globe, Nyeko met Dr. Alan Pence, a professor in UVic’s School of Child and Youth Care and the UNESCO Chair for Early Childhood Education, during an early childhood development summer school in Uganda in 1997. She kept in touch and, when a PhD program was added to the school in 2006, she began her studies under his supervision.

“Even in this first year I’ve felt the difference in our organization,” says Nyeko, who successfully defended her thesis in October 2011 and has since found dozens of opportunities to apply her new skills. “I think faster, find solutions faster and I’ve been able to work quickly in discussions to find alternatives.

“Somebody asks a question and I know the answer right away: I know what impact this situation will truly have on a young person.”

Tunisia agreement

UVic backs reforms sparked by Arab Spring

The Gustavson School of Business has signed agreements to work with the new government of the Republic of Tunisia, birthplace of the Arab Spring, to help its newly-elected leaders develop the new government’s administrative capacity. The agreements support reform of Tunisia’s higher education system, the exchange of administrative best practices, the exchange of scholars and researchers, and the development and delivery of training programs in leadership and governance.

President David Turpin announced on May 15 that he would step down from his position as president effective June 30, 2013. A search committee has been struck to find Turpin’s successor. A list of members of the committee and procedures for the search are posted on the University Secretary’s website.

World University Rankings

UVic makes QS Top 50 Under 50 ranking

On May 28, Quacquarelli Symonds Ltd. (QS) released its Top 50 Under 50 ranking, which ranks universities that have been established since 1962 according to their position in the 2011 QS World University Rankings. The Canadian universities to make the list are the University of Calgary (17), Simon Fraser University (23) and the University of Victoria (34).

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By Valerie Shore

The University of Victoria’s is here


convocation ceremonies at available as soon as possible after the and podcasts of the will be webcast live at www.uvic. Convocation ceremonies, June 11-15, members who want to watch the Convocation in person? Don’t have a ticket to attend Spring Convocation 2012.


Convocation 2012

Watch Spring Convocation on the web

Don’t have a ticket to attend Spring Convocation in person? Have family members who want to watch the ceremonies from afar? All eight Spring Convocation ceremonies, June 11-15, will be webcast live at www.uvic.ca/convoication and podcasts of the honorary degree recipients’ addresses will be available as soon as possible after the ceremonies at http://bit.ly/UVicConvoCast. 2012 Spring Convocation schedule: http://bit.ly/UVicConvSched
The University of Victoria has released the report of an external review commissioned by President David Turpin after a storage device containing employee payroll information was stolen in January.

The review by David Flaherty, an international academic, said the university “does not necessarily reflect official university policy.”

Flaherty’s recommendations for strengthening privacy and security protection include improvements in training and education, and development of encryption practices; additional enforcement of existing standards and policies; and the development of campus-wide physical security standards.

The report also recommends greater coordination of policies, clarification of roles and responsibilities, and a review of business continuity and disaster recovery plans on campus.

The report notes that UVic started making systemic changes immediately after the breach and is already acting on many of the recommendations.

Flaherty describes the university’s overall initial response as ‘exemplary’ and suggests that by implementing the recommendations, UVIC can become “a leader in North American higher education on privacy and security protection.”

UVIC has accepted Flaherty’s report and is considering how best to implement the recommendations.

UVIC law professor and former Vice-President Academic Jamie Cassels was also asked to look at what led to the specific incident, to assess the steps the university has taken in response, and to report his findings to Flaherty. Cassels’ assessment and recommendations are included in Flaherty’s report.

The report is available at www.uvic.ca/infobreach.

Turpin to step down as president in June 2013

President David Turpin has announced he will be stepping down as president of the University of Victoria after the 50th Anniversary Festival in June. The decision does not mean that his focus on what needs to be done in the coming year is any less intense.

Under Turpin’s leadership, UVIC has become an internationally renowned institution with significant growth in enrollment, programs and capital projects as well as the quadrupling of research funding.

Yet under his stewardship, UVIC has never lost sight of its most important feature—a community of outstanding students, faculty and staff.

‘The fact is, a year ahead, especially with the 50th anniversary celebrations,’ Turpin says. ‘We get to recognize the university’s achievements and the people who make it a special place. Also, this milestone is a springboard to the future.’

Aware that momentum is important when a changeover is anticipated, Turpin has identified key areas of focus including student recruitment and student life, research funding and budget planning.

Construction of the Centre for Athletics, Recreation and Special Abilities is among the priorities. The facility, which still needs District of Saanich approval, will provide new home for athletics and recreation—including a 2,000-seat gymnasium—and for CanAssist, which develops technologies and programs for people with disabilities.

‘This facility will be an anniversary legacy that benefits people not only in our campus community and region, but internationally through the innovations of CanAssist,’ he says.

Building on the university’s success in attracting and supporting Indigenous students is high on Turpin’s agenda this year. More than 800 Indigenous students are registered at UVIC this year, compared to fewer than 100 just 11 years ago.

Initiatives such as the land mark LEADNET program, which helps Indigenous students succeed at university, and the First Peoples House, which provides a welcoming place for students to gather and support and promotes intercultural understanding, are making a lasting difference, says Turpin.

‘Recruiting and retaining outstanding students from diverse regions and backgrounds adds to the richness of the university community and builds relationships beyond our campus,’ he says.

It’s clear that Turpin thinks both locally and globally.

He points out that students from across Canada choose to study at UVIC, which has the highest per centage of out-of-province students west of McGill University in Montreal.

At the same time, he sees recruitment of international students, and the fostering of academic and research partnerships with countries such as Brazil, China and India, as fundamental for UVIC’s future.

Turpin made his announcement on May 15, saying the timing is right from an institutional perspective. The university released its multi-year visionary strategic plan earlier this year, and by next June will have completed campus-wide budget planning to accommodate changes in post-secondary funding.

With the renewal of the Campus Plan yet to come, the foundation is laid for a new president.

Susan Mehinagic, the chair of UVIC’s Board of Governors, remarked in mid-May that under Turpin’s leadership, “UVIC has emerged as one of the country’s leading universities... It will be a legacy that future presidents can continue for generations to come.”
There’s a new but familiar face heading over to UVic’s CanAssist program for the next year. Dr. Howard Brunt, UVic’s vice-president research for the last five years, has been appointed interim executive director of CanAssist as it undergoes organizational renewal.

Brunt, who recently agreed to remain as vice-president research for an additional year, will hold the two positions concurrently, with support from staff in the Office of the Vice-President and Research at CanAssist.

CanAssist (originally known as the UVic Assistive Technology Team, or UVATT) was created as a small volunteer venture in 1999 by UVic biologist Dr. Nigel Livington, who saw a need for customized technologies for specific disabilities. It now employs about 25 regular, full-time staff and many others who participate as co-op and graduate students, part-time researchers, technology testers and volunteers.

CanAssist became an official UVic entity in 2008 and reports to the provost through an advisory board chaired by Dr. Kathy Mateer. CanAssist has earned an international reputation for providing technology solutions and other services for the disabled. It’s the only program of its kind in North America.

Earlier this year, CanAssist went through its first extensive external organizational review. It got high marks for the benefits it provides to people with disabilities — through customized technologies, community programs, raising awareness of disability issues, and a high level of student engagement.

The review recommended that CanAssist develop a strategic plan to clarify its vision and mission and to guide its activities over the next three to five years.

Brunt’s appointment moves Livington — who continues as CanAssist director for research and development — to focus his efforts on increasing linkages with UVic’s research and educational programs in disability studies.

“I’m eager to put more of my energy back into research, education and student engagement,” says Livington. “These are the areas where CanAssist’s history began, and I look forward to contributing to them even further in the future.”

Rounding out CanAssist’s leadership team is Dr. Doug Telson, director of operations, and Robin Syne, director for partnerships.

“I’ve been a huge supporter and admirer of CanAssist for many years, so I’m very excited about joining such a passionate and talented team,” says Brunt. “I’ll be working closely with Nigel and the other members of CanAssist’s extraordinary team, as well as consulting extensively with members of the disability community, the wider university and other stakeholders, to develop a strong, focused strategic business plan that will sustain CanAssist well into the future.”

For more than 40 years, Robert Egely was a fixture in the Okanagan town of Enderby, cutting residents’ hair in his barber shop. But in 2010, following medical complications that resulted in the amputation of both legs, Bob reluctantly hung up his clippers.

This month, Egely starts up his business again thanks to a high-tech, customized barber chair developed by UVic’s CanAssist team. The one-of-a-kind chair includes a motorized seat that enables Egely to sit alongside customers, circle them as he cuts their hair, raise himself almost four feet off the ground to achieve various cutting angles, and transfer to his wheelchair when he’s done.

Four members of the CanAssist engineering team — Brandon Fry, Paul Green, Mike Lewis and Darcy Lane — travelled to Enderby to install the chair in Egely’s shop and watch as he served his first customer — 91-year-old Enderby resident John Harrison, who has been waiting for the moment when “Bob the Barber,” as he’s known around town, returns to work.

“The chair is fantastic,” Egely told the Victoria Times Colonist. “It’s like a little spaceship.”

Funding for the chair was provided to CanAssist through the Equipment and Assistive Technology Initiative, a program supported by the federal and BC governments, which helps people with disabilities achieve their employment-related goals.

“Being able to get back to being a barber gives me a sense of purpose again,” says Egely, who is 67 and has no intention of slowing down.

UVic’s CanAssist program is dedicated to developing and delivering technologies, programs and services that improve the quality of life of those with disabilities. More information: www.canassist.ca and video on bit.ly/canassist-barber
Bloodybelly comb jellies, sea pigs, deep-sea spiders—never before seen video of these and over 125 other little-known inhabitants of the Pacific Ocean, now can be viewed on an iPad. NEPTUNE Canada’s recently published Marine Life Field Guide is a “living book,” explains NEPTUNE Canada Director Dr. Kate Moran. “Not only does it show glimpses of deep-sea life by the science team—we observe the deep wilderness.”

Starting out as a print catalogue and evolving with the help of 20 experts around the world, the guide became electronic to incorporate beautiful video sequences and allow for future updating. “Of course, identification by imagery will always be limited,” adds Gervais, “but it is a beginning, and it shares our magnificent deep-sea biodiversity with the rest of the world.”

The Marine Life Field Guide is available at the iBook store for free and as a PDF on the NEPTUNE Canada website at neptunecanada.ca/fieldGuide.

On 25 May 1846 the fort was officially occupied, and by the end of the year was fully established and well enough equipped. The daily accounts of life at Fort Victoria have been transcribed, edited and then written an interpretive essay on a theme that emerged from the journal, while they learned about the process of editing historical documents. Some of their essays are part of the context section of the website. The entire project was not completed in the 13 weeks of class time, so several students carried on afterwards as volunteers to resolve annotations and edit questions until everyone was completely confident of their transcription.

Lutz describes the daily accounts of life at the fort “opening a time capsule and a treasure chest at the same time.” Over a thousand daily journal entries cover the critical time between May 1846 and May 1850. Among the momentous events during this period: the Oregon Boundary Settlement was reached; Vancouver Island was established as a British colony; Fort Victoria became the Pacific headquarters of the Hudson’s Bay Company; and treaties were signed with the neighbouring First Nations.

Against the backdrop of momentous events, daily life also had it’s dramatic moments, as evidenced in the journal post for Christmas, 1848.

**Monday 25th Had some frost over night. Weather alternately clear & cloudy during the day. This being Xmas it was kept accordingly & the following rations above what they usually were served out to the people viz: 1pt melasse, 1/2 pt rum, 6 lb fresh beef, 4 lb fresh pork & 1 lb flour. The day passed away quietly enough except that I received a severe cut on the left arm attempting to get a knife from Thomas the Interpreter, who took hold of it with the intention of stabbing some of the men in a drunken row. No other occurrence worthy of notice.**

**What was daily life like in Fort Victoria in the mid 1800s?**

*You can read first-hand accounts online and find out for yourself. To mark both the 100th anniversary of the City of Victoria’s incorporation and the 50th anniversary of the University of Victoria, two exciting online additions have been formed: the Fort Victoria Journals and the Historic Cartographic Collections.*

**By HENDERSON S.**

“In the year 1846, when the British government and private sector researchers were seeking to anticipate and develop technologies and strategies to anticipate marine hazards and improve response to hurricanes and more,”

**By HENDERSON S.**

“the Marine Environmental Observation, Prediction and Response Network (MEOPAR) Centre of Excellence was born. The centre brings together marine scientists from across the country to tackle issues related to human activity in the marine environment and improve our ability to assess marine hazards and respond to marine emergencies as coastal flooding, oil spills, tsunamis, hurricanes and more. **Four UVic scientists are involved in the network—Ken Denman and Verae Cummins (earth and ocean sciences/VENUS), Adam Monahan (earth and ocean sciences), and Francis Zwiers at U of Victoria’s Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium (PCI).**

Also participating are four UVic adjunct professors: James Christian with the Institute of Ocean Sciences/Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and climatologists Greg Flato, with Environment Canada; and James Welcome, George Roer and James Christian—all with Environment Canada’s Canadian Centre for Climate Modelling and Analysis (CCma), located on campus.

“With such strength in ocean research, playing an active role in this new network is a natural for UVic’s research community,” says UVic Vice-President Research Dr. Howard Brunt, who serves on the MEOPAR board of directors.

“The network will link to research already under way at PCC and the CCCma and UVic’s Ocean Networks Canada Observatory. For example, the VENUS underwater network, located in Saanich Inlet and the Strait of Georgia near Vancouver, has the most advanced continuous observing system in a coastal environment in Canada. “The Strait of Georgia is surrounded by up to three million Canadians and used for transportation of goods and people, and for fisheries, aquaculture, and recreation,” says VENUS chief scientist Ken Denman. “So the risk is high here of an environmental emergency caused by human activity that would affect many people.**

The first projects in MEOPAR, says Demens, is the development of a rapidly deployable forecasting model that could be implemented in any coastal region of Canada in the event of an emergency, such as an oil spill, a vessel collision or a search and rescue mission. “VENUS will be used as the first test of this model,” he says.

**More information on MEOPAR: meopar.ca.**

**For more about the Fort Victoria Journals:**

http://library.uvic.ca/dig/carto.html

http://library.uvic.ca/dig/dvcart.html

**For more about the Historic Cartographic Collections:**

http://library.uvic.ca/dig/dvcart.html
“I wanted to build the pyramids,” says Dr. Haytham El Miligi, when asked why he got interested in engineering. El Miligi, who received his PhD last fall, is an instructor and researcher in UVic’s Electrical and Computer Engineering Department and is being honoured with the Governor General’s Gold Medal at Spring Convocation this year.

Growing up in Cairo, El Miligi was always fascinated by engineering. “We went to the pyramids on a class trip,” he says. “It really is a wondrous thing, all that they didn’t know about those buildings back then.”

“I grew up in North Delta, BC. Her father, a psychologist, married her East African mother, a food technologist, and they moved to BC to start a family. Shah started her university education in math and science at UBC but switched to political science in her second year. “I was taking an English course when a professor, Gillian Jerome, saw my writing and encouraged me to pursue law,” she recalls. “It took me by surprise, but I looked into it and went for it.”

“She chose UVic because of its great reputation and because the program is relatively small and tight knit. “The program didn’t have a reputation for being cutthroat, which is what I’ve heard about other schools,” she says. “We all helped each other out, and everybody pulled for everyone else. It was a great experience and taught me the value of being collegial instead of competitive.”

Shah's academic excellence with a GPA of 9.38 earned her the Governor General’s Silver Medal for academic excellence with a GPA of 9.0. She also presented her research at 21 national and international conferences and edited a book that turned into a series, which included researchers from around the world, all this before completing his PhD.

El Miligi feels it is very important for engineers to share their expertise, “In this way we are able to collectively advance innovation and improve our lives.” He wants the contributions he makes through his research to last and be appreciated for a long time to come—not unlike the pyramids.

“I haven’t won it yet,” he says, smiling, “but it was nice to be acknowledged with a nomination by students, faculty and staff. It was an honour.”

Inspired by the mysteries of the pyramids and their efficiency of design, in his PhD dissertation El Miligi explores the problem of creating multiprocessor interconnects that help make computers and electronic devices more efficient. His work has resulted in a post-doctoral research project now under way at UVic.

“Initially, cell phone and iPod batteries will be able to run longer if the devices are more efficient,” he explains. “Our devices will last longer on a single charge and we won’t need to use as much energy. That’s really the point here.”

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Shah is delighted with her success. “I have been very lucky. I’ve been teaching assistant to teaching early in his academic career. “I believe strongly that when you know something, or have an expertise, you should share it,” he says when explaining the free sessions he used to give to aspiring engineers at the Al Aithar University in Cairo where he did his bachelor’s and master’s degrees. “I had some industrial experience, so for me it was about noticing that students were missing the applicability and industrial portion of their education. I was pleased when the classes became so popular.”

With teaching being such a big part of his upbringing, it isn’t surprising that El Miligi was nominated for a teaching award soon after earning his Ph.D at UVic.

“Many of our students do not understand what it means to graduate from a law program at the top of their class, earning her a gold medal. But the difficulty is because of a language barrier, not a cultural one.

“My grandmother speaks Gujarati,” says Shah, who graduates this year with a Juris Doctor (JD) from UVic. “But Gujarati is not my first language. She understands that this is a great achievement.”

Shah grew up in Cairo where he did his bachelor’s and master’s degrees. “I used to give to aspiring engineers at the Al Aithar University in Cairo where I did my bachelor’s and master’s degrees. “I had some industrial experience, so for me it was about noticing that students were missing the applicability and industrial portion of their education. I was pleased when the classes became so popular.”

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Achievement & inspiration: Five receive honorary degrees

Recognizing extraordinary work and the ability to inspire, the university will grant five honorary degrees during Spring Convocation ceremonies. The senate selects honorary degree recipients on the basis of their accomplishments in community, national or international service and the examples they set for graduates of UVic.

Podcasts of the Convocation addresses of honorary degree recipients are available as soon as possible after the ceremonies at http://communications.uvic.ca/podcasting/convocation

MORE STORIES

Frances Backhouse
Recipient of an MFA in writing who has researched the beaver as a history maker, a landscape shaper and a national symbol

Geoffrey Burton
Recipient of the Canadian Society for Mechanical Engineering Medal who has built rocking chairs and carbon nanotubes

Rose Doerksen
Recipient of the Maxwell A. Cameron Award in Elementary Education, who creates a sense of community in the classroom

Rhonda Geres-Smith
Recipient of the Jubilee Medal for Social Sciences who is a former teacher and police officer and future school psychologist

Kristopher Koiner
Recipient of the IEEE Victoria Section Gold Medal in Computer Engineering who pursued his passion to understand how things work

Theresa Leask
Recipient of the Jubilee Medal for Humanities who will take her degree in applied linguistics and teach English as a second language

MORE GRADUATES

John
Honorary Doctor of Laws (10 a.m., June 12)

Grand Chief Edward John
Honorary Doctor of Laws (10 a.m., June 12)

Dr. David Sanborn Scott
Honorary Doctor of Engineering (10 a.m., June 13)

Dr. Henry Shimizu
Honorary Doctor of Laws (10 a.m., June 14)

Anne Wheeler
Honorary Doctor of Letters (2:30 p.m., June 14)

Jody Paterson
Honorary Doctor of Laws (2:30 p.m., June 15)

John Scott Shimizu Wheeler Paterson

Dr. Shimizu lives in Victoria and is the author and illustrator of Images of Internment: A Bitter-Sweet Memoir in Words and Images.

Jody Paterson’s journalism and social activism have brought together individuals and communities for a more just, involved and caring society. During more than 20 years as a reporter, editor, columnist and freelance writer with the Victoria Times Colonist, Paterson drew attention to issues of social justice, including homelessness, drug addiction and prostitution. Her compassion and incisiveness would invariably offer solutions or new ways of thinking about problems. While her written words are powerful, her actions demonstrate a personal commitment to social justice. Always a friend to someone who badly needs one, she let a woman in need pitch a tent in her yard, she co-signed car loans and she supervised parental visits.

When she organized Project Connect, Paterson recruited a large team of volunteers and service agencies. The effort delivered food, backpacks and supplies for the homeless or at-risk and it gave a cross-section of service providers the chance to meet and compare notes. As executive director of PEERS (Prostitutes Empowerment Education and Resource Society), she became a tireless advocate for the decriminalization of sex work and the creation of safe work places for sex workers.
BY TYLER ROWE

When Calgary native Jessica Dickson was a political science undergraduate at the University of British Columbia after starting her BA in humanities at the University of Calgary, like a lot of poli-sci students, she thought the natural progression of her education pointed towards the bar. Consequently, upon receiving her BA, she took a job at a law firm.

“When I was in poli-sci I started becoming familiar with some of the dispute resolution initiatives that were taking place in civil war contexts and that was really interesting to me,” she says. “Then when I went to the law firm it kind of solidified for me that maybe litigation as an approach to conflict resolution wasn’t always the best one. So I applied to UVic.”

But it wasn’t just UVic’s reputation that brought her east of the Rockies. The allure of West Coast living was too strong to resist. “I had to live on the coast,” explains Dickson, a self-described “music festival junkie.”

While pursuing UVic’s Master of Arts in Dispute Resolution, Dickson quickly found her path, one she said she would have never anticipated. “I came out to Vancouver for a concert and decided I had to live on the coast,” explains Dickson, who now works as a consultant with the Castlemain Group, a management consulting, finance, technology solutions and strategic communications firm for First Nations communities. “As a consultant working, pretty much exclusively with First Nations, it’s kind of like doing public sector work on private sector timelines,” Dickson explains. “Everything just happens a lot faster.”

Dickson’s understanding of the processes of dispute resolution has become more holistic as a result of her experience, with her focus on “the linkages between dispute resolution, governance, capacity building, and all of those processes that a community undertakes to move forward. That’s probably where I’ll take it from here.”

BY JORY MacKAY

If there’s anyone out there who still believes the old adage that playing videogames will rot your brain, they should talk to recent master’s in computer science graduate David Bartle.

Along with faculty members Drs. Bruce Gooch (computer science) and Kim Kerns (psychology), Bartle developed a suite of serious games meant to help with therapeutic purposes. “The work done by Bartle and his team gained him one of the 2011 Google Lime scholarships—the number-one focus is just getting the kids engaged. It’s hard work and it’s not just playing, they have to really focus,” says Bartle.

The work done by Bartle and his team has been significant. “When I found out about the biomedical op- tions, I jumped on it, and the more time I spent with medical technology, the more I became interested in patient interaction and medical science as opposed to engineering aspects of biomedicine,” he says. “My co-op positions helped me identify that.”

A Halifaxes native who moved to Victoria as a toddler and attended Oak Bay High School, Mor- gan chose UVic because of its co-op program. “I was accepted into several other universities, but UVic’s co-op program is one of the best in the country. It provides contacts and opportuni- ties for networking that really help you get into your field.”

His work assisting the Vancouver Island Health Authority to install and activate software so paramedics can remotely transmit patient ECG data from ambulance to emergency room, after co-op and research positions involving car- diac performance and remote transmission of ECG data from ambulance to emergency room, this year’s winner of the IEEE Victoria Section Gold Medal in Electrical Engineering is heading for a medical, rather than engineering, future.

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The conference centre is three blocks long and three stories high and it’s going to be packed,” laughs Morgan. “It’s going to be amazing.”

BY JORY MacKAY

When Brendan Morgan first enrolled in UVic’s electrical engineering program, he had no idea it included a biomedical engineering option. But after co-op and research positions involving car- diac performance and remote transmission of ECG data from ambulance to emergency room, this year’s winner of the IEEE Victoria Section Gold Medal in Electrical Engineering is heading for a medical, rather than engineering, future.

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From Québec to the deep blue sea

BY TARA SHARPE

If humans could breathe water, Maëva Gauthier would spend weeks in the sea. Instead, the master’s graduate (earth and ocean sciences) must content herself with the robotic reach of an underwater vehicle.

Gauthier was born in the land-locked Laurentians and has no intention now of moving away from this coast. When she was eight, her family spent five months on a 30-foot sailboat in the Caribbean. That trip “opened my passion for the sea,” she says, and has no intention now of moving away from this coast. Since then, I’ve been fascinated by the ocean.”

Gauthier moved permanently to Victoria in 2007 and lived on a float home at Fisherman’s Wharf. Early on, Gauthier worked for NEPTUNE Canada as a co-op student. She is also a member of the Explorers Club and also sails, surfs and scuba dives. “I got involved in a few things, so my master’s took a while. I wanted a full experience and to fully enjoy this wave of opportunity.”

“I learned how to climb, belay and mountain-climbing. It was a combination of things that first brought Cox to UVic,” says Cox. “I grew up in Port Alberni, so I chose UVic because it was a good school and fairly close to home,” she says. “I was drawn to Cinemascope because I’ve always been involved in sports and I’m interested in human biology.”

Cox, now 23, learned about co-op during her first year when some students spoke to her class about the program. She found her first placement the summer after second year, as an outdoor recreation leader at Atlantic College in Wales. “During my first term work, I learned how to climb, belay and mountain-climbing,” says Cox. “I also gained a lot of confidence in leading and directing groups.”

Throughout the work term, Cox put her coursework to practical use in areas like anatomy, motor learning and program planning. She thoroughly enjoyed the experience, although there were adjustments to make living overseas. “It was the longest I’ve ever been away from home, so I missed people, and sharing a tiny room with three other girls for three months had its challenges,” she says. “But it was worth it, for sure.”

Next, Cox worked as a physiotherapy assistant at the Canadian Back Institute in Victoria. She learned about the inner workings of a clinic while she prepped clients for treatment, helped them with exercises and administered ultrasounds and electrical stimulation.

“This relevant work experience helped Cox land her most recent co-op position as a research assistant with the Institute of Applied Physical Activity and Health Research at UVic. She worked on a project called Inclusion Works! and received a Canadian Institute for Health Research grant of over $4,000. “My main project was to research, write, pilot and evaluate the first module of a training program for youth with intellectual and physical disabilities,” she says.

Currently living in Bristol, England, Cox plans to have some fun before taking her next steps towards a career in physiotherapy. “I’m going to travel as much as I can before applying to do my master’s degree in physiotherapy in 2013,” says Cox. “Someday, I hope to open my own wellness centre on Vancouver Island.”

BY MIKE HILLIAN

When Michelle Cox enrolled at UVic, she knew she wanted to study physiotherapy. What she didn’t know was that she’d gain hands-on experience working in the field with real physiotherapists.

Cox, who graduates this month with a medical degree in physiotherapy in 2013, “I grew up in Port Alberni, so I chose UVic because it was a good school and fairly close to home,” she says. “I was drawn to Cinemascope because I’ve always been involved in sports and I’m interested in human biology.”

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KINESIOLOGY

Co-op helps student affirm career goals

BY JOY FISHER

Jessica Nathan (nee Simpson) has always been fascinated by the human body. “When you think about it, it’s just amazing,” she says, enthusiasm ringing in her voice.

The 26-year-old, who received her MSc in biology from UVic in 2011, will, at this year’s June convocation, be awarded the Lieutenant Governor’s Silver Medal on the basis of her overall academic excellence (she maintained a 9.0 grade point average in her graduate studies) and an outstanding thesis.

Nathan’s thesis focused on changes in the hippocampus caused by Huntington’s disease, a neurodegenerative disease with no known cure. The hippocampus is a part of the brain associated with learning and memory. In humans affected by Huntington’s disease, symptoms begin to appear in their mid-thirties. Nathan’s work sought to characterize the development of degenerative changes in the disease in this specific brain region.

She spent two years conducting research in Dr. Brian Christie’s lab in UVic’s Division of Medical Sciences. Nathan preferred working in the lab to being in a classroom. “I liked being on the cutting edge of things,” she admits. Nevertheless, when she began to do volunteer work with vulnerable populations through the Canadian Cancer Society, she realized she liked working with people even more. Initially, she volunteered in a program called Cancer Connections, which is designed to provide emotional support for people newly diagnosed with cancer.

Then she began to volunteer in a Canadian Cancer Society program for children with cancer called Camp Goodtimes. She will be volunteering at Camp Goodtimes again this August. Her experience as a volunteer at the summer camp solidified Nathan’s decision to go to medical school so she can continue working with people, especially children. Ultimately, she would like to combine clinical trials with a medical practice.

While Nathan’s work in Christie’s lab ended when she completed her graduate work last year, she hasn’t been idle. In July, she married her sweetheart, a software engineer she met while they were both working at a recruitment centre—he as a lifeguard, she as a receptionist. A good part of Nathan’s time during the past year was taken up studying for the MCAT and completing her application for medical school.

She has been accepted to UBC’s Island Medical Program, based at UVic.
Top honours for a down-to-earth graduate

BY CHRISTINE MCLAREN

Paul Payne is firmly planted in a profession that excites him, thanks to an undergraduate program that he describes as “a perfect fit.”

This multiple award-winning grad has chosen a career in health informatics where rapid expansion opportunities abound in the field of health care and information systems. Payne is graduating with a combined major in computer science and health information science with a near-perfect grade-point average, garnering him Outstanding Academic Distinction in the Faculty of Human and Social Development.

“Chose the program for the allure of a dynamic field where I could make a difference,” says Payne. “I appreciate the many opportunities for clinical interaction, transforming technology and developing business models.”

A self-described “outdoorsy guy,” Payne is an avid squash enthusiast and Frisbee golfer but above all he has an obvious passion for people. He talks in glowing terms about the School of Health Information Science and the group of students he has been with since first year.

“There is a wonderful sense of community that is fostered by the school, and I am looking forward to staying in touch with many of my fellow students,” says Payne. “And that connection may turn into something more engaging as Payne and a few like-minded students combine their talents to create an application designed for dentists.”

Payne did some travelling and working in England before choosing the “beautiful campus” of UVic and a program that fit his interests in health care and technology. Raised in Victoria, Payne travelled to northern Canada for summer work where he met his wife, Danielle, who graduated from UVic in 2011. He returned to the North where he combined three co-op work terms into two rewarding jobs and where Danielle found a job in her chosen field of teaching.

Currently, he is working as a senior systems analyst with the Department of Health Information Services in Yellowknife, NWT, and admits that the North has many attractive qualities for him, including friendly people, the ultimate playground and a brilliant 24 hours of daylight in the summer.

Payne will be returning to Victoria in September to begin a master’s of science in health information science and hopes to pursue a career in network or computer security. Described as a “breath of fresh air” by staff in the school’s main office, Payne will undoubtedly take that fresh outlook and kind determination into all his future endeavours.

MASTER’S IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Always willing to help

BY DIANNE GEORGE

Sunil Mysore, one of this year’s MBA leadership award winners, had done a lot of research into selecting an international business MBA to enhance his electronics and communication engineering skills. He felt UVic was the right university and Canada the right country, and he has not been disappointed.

“It’s been an awesome experience,” says Mysore. “I really liked the holistic approach, mix of academics with practice and very accessible faculty. They were always ready to help with lots of opportunities to involve them.”

He also worked with Research in Motion during one co-op work term and was able to draw on everything he learned in the MBA. “Working in business operations, I was involved in a bit of everything, from marketing to IT to finance. It was both a practical experience, but I received very positive feedback.”

Upon starting at UVic, Mysore was delighted to learn that he shared the same home town as one of his professors, Dr. A.R. Elangovan. They both come from Chennai, a city of 10 million people in southern India, formerly known as Madras. Meeting someone from home—along with many of his fellow students he has been with since first year.

“…and names Slam Dunk as a favourite band. Brydle is a pivotal member of UVic’s Uni 101 program (https://web.uvic.ca/uni101/), which offers free, non-credit university courses geared for those who face economic and social barriers to post-secondary education. Brydle has completed four-four month stints as a work-study student and summer program assistant, with a fifth upcoming this summer. The Faculty of Humanities launched the program in 2006 (“Uni 101”), followed by expansion to the Faculty of Social Sciences in Spring 2007 (“Uni 102”). UVic professors and graduate students volunteer their time to teach the classes. Uni 201, which Brydle led this year, is offered to 101 and 102 graduates who can then transfer to the Humanities Diploma Program. Uni 101 is funded by the university and through fundraising. Brydle wrote and produced a Uni 101 volunteer manual. As part of developing the much-needed content, she organized and helped facilitate focus group sessions with the program’s students to ensure the process was inclusive. “Ann brought a lot of energy and developed great relationships with the students,” says program coordinator Becky Cory. In November 2011, Brydle coordinated a spoken word event at Local Cornerstone Café in Fernwood that showcased Uni 201 students’ original work. “For people who have been marginalized by our society,” Cory points out, “this can be an especially powerful experience.” Brydle “loves the coffee culture” in Victoria. She moved to UVic in 2010 to complete her BA after a childhood in the White Rock area and preliminary undergraduate studies at UBC Okanagan. She enjoys the music scene in this city and names Slam Dunk as a favourite band. She also says she reads “a lot,” with Steinbeck’s Grapes of Wrath and Eden Robinson’s Monkey Beach as two of her favourites. Others include Margaret Atwood, Cormac McCarthy, Carolyn Kizer, Tom Robbins, bell hooks, Jack Kerouac and Chuck Palahniuk. author of Fight Club. Her copies of Haruki Murakami’s novels including Kafka on the Shore are well-thumbed and cherished, as is a voice from the distant past—William Shakespeare. In September 2012, she will head to Brazil and Argentina, and in future she wants to pursue social justice studies. She says Uni 101 “really resonated” for her. It’s clearly Brydle believes teaching is akin to adorning the soul, to echo Steinbeck’s sentiment. “Education is not a privilege,” she adds. “It is a right we all have.”
Kerra St John passed away suddenly and unexpectedly in May. For the past three years, she served the University of Victoria as director of Ceremonies and Events. During that time Kerra was appreciated across campus for her dedication and creativity she brought to managing UVic’s ceremonies and events.

Kerra was a member of the President’s Advisory Council as well as the Convocation and Honorary Degree Committee. She also oversaw the planning and execution of all of UVic’s signature events, such as the annual Legacy Awards and the Craigdarroch Research Awards. “Kerra took great pride and satisfaction in presenting memorable and meaningful university events and celebrations,” says Vice-President External Relations Valerie Kuehne.

Most recently Kerra was overseeing the detailed planning for the university’s 50th anniversary. Kerra attended UVic in the early 1970s, obtaining a BA in history in 1975. While an undergraduate, she was UVic’s first student representative elected to the Board of Governors. She returned to UVic in 2009 after a career in arts administration and event management in England. She was most recently a graduate student in theatre history, sharing her love of Shakespeare—and her prior experience with the Royal Shakespeare Company with her fellow students and professors alike. Her contributions to the university will long be appreciated and she will be greatly missed.

When most physicists are asked about their work, they explain with big words, abstract concepts and confusing theories. Ask Alexander ‘Quinn’ Matthews and he’ll talk about the physics of cancer therapy and medical advances using terms that everyone can understand. Matthews is the top medical physics student to graduate from UVic in its history, and his communication skills are just one of the assets that have made him so successful.

His education began with an entrance scholarship to his undergraduate studies and he remained at the university for his graduate work, earning his PhD in October 2011. Though his schooling began in biochemistry and microbiology, it wasn’t long before he found his passion lay with physics. “I realized I had much more natural aptitude for physics and math courses than biology or chemistry courses,” he says.

After spending two co-op work terms in astronomy and particle physics, Matthews completed his final work term in medical physics with Dr. Andrew Jurasic, marking his beginning in the field in which he would eventually complete his PhD.

Matthews completed an MS project in instrument development constructing from scratch a Raman microscope—an instrument that he optimized to provide molecular information at the single-cell level. Matthews’ contributions were a tremendous breakthrough for understanding cancer treatment, allowing researchers to better understand the effects of radiation therapy on the biochemistry of cells. His work will have a lasting effect on cancer research.

Throughout his time at UVic, Matthews found himself working with people from all medical disciplines, particularly while completing his PhD. This, he says, was one of the outstanding features of his time at the university. “My experience has been incredibly collaborative and interdisciplinary. During my graduate studies I collaborated with physical and medical physicists, chemists and biochemists and microbiologists,” Matthews insists the collaboration was instrumental in helping him gain understanding of all the biological aspects of his graduate research project.

Matthews received a postdoctoral fellowship from the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research for his work on Raman spectroscopy, and he plans to continue his research developing novel techniques for studying the effects of radiation therapy on cancer cells.

VIÜC PROFILE

BY KATE MASTERS

University of Victoria graduate Laura Mitic leads a dual life. By day she is a varsity track and cross-country athlete and by night she is a musical powerhouse in the up-and-coming Victoria band known as Carmanah. Born in Nova Scotia and raised in Victoria, the Claremont High School Vikes cross-country and track team.

In 2011, Mitic placed eighth at the CIS cross-country national championships and was the first Vike to receive recording time.

Even with such a big commitment to Carmanah, Mitic completed five straight seasons as a member of the Vikes cross-country and track team. In that time, Mitic was twice named a Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS)-cross-country second team All-Canadian. In 2010, Mitic placed eighth at the CIS cross-country national championship and was the first Vike to cross the finish line.

When asked what she likes more—music or running, Mitic was quick to respond with music: “Music is everything to me, but I do both for as long as I can.”

When Mitic was nine years old she saw a live symphony. She was mesmerized by the violin section and asked her parents for a violin. After playing classical for eight years, Mitic switched to the fiddle since there was less structure and therefore more freedom to be musically creative.

Mitic and her band Carmanah have been on the Victoria music scene for a little over a year now and they have played at the Tall Firs Music Festival and sold out Sugar Night Club. In May, Carmanah made the top 10 in the CBC-sponsored Tracks on Tracks contest, but lost in the final round of voting. The Tracks on Tracks contest selects three fledging Canadian bands to play on a train across Canada with more established acts. Winners also receive recording time.

“Making the top 10 was exciting for us since we are still a pretty new band,” says Mitic. “It was super heartwarming to see how much support we received from people.”

Mitic cherished her time at UVic, but is now ready for things to slow down and let music become her main focus. “I’m a bit of a dreamer,” says Mitic, “I would like music to be my career. I would like to take Carmanah and run with it.”
When it comes to planning her academic future, Courtney Burrell looks for preserving the past. “It’s not the same experience and how the earthquake has impacted her life. Daphne Donaldson, manager of emergency management in Post-Communist Russia. Hickman studies for Neurodegeneration and Pain. Lecture/Seminar 6, 68 & 104. 250-472-5854

Wednesday, June 13

Other 9:30 a.m. Astronomy Open House. June 12 & 27 and July 4 & 11. Contact 250-221-7201 or phygen@uvic.ca to confirm. Wright Center, 5th Floor

Thursday, June 14

Other 9 a.m. Adrienne Lego House. June 12 & 27 and July 4 & 11. Contact 250-221-7201 or phygen@uvic.ca to confirm. Wright Center, 5th Floor

Friday, June 22

Lecture/Seminar 9 a.m. Alan Young’s 90th birthday celebration. A day of free public events. www.csc.uvic.ca/events/ 90birthday.htm Engineering Camp Science 66, 668 & 604. 250-221-3754

Lecture/Seminar 9 a.m. Regulation of (NAD) Receptors by Phos Proteins by Dr. Ronald Komor. Students in the Medieval Studies Program, Burrell not only runs the MEDI Student Union and helped organize this year’s interdisciplinary undergraduate research conference, but has also twice won the Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Award and will be the only Canadian student presenting a paper at the prestigious sixth Nordic-Celtic-Baltic Folklore Symposium, happening in Tartu, Estonia, this June. Her subject? The Alfaro—ancient Icelandic elves.

In Iceland, there is still a belief in elves, and I’m looking at where that comes from,” says Burrell. “My main study interest is Old Norse language, as well as literature, and the Alfaro are part of Old Norse mythology.” Her paper, “Alfar and the Early Icelandic Settlers,” is an ideal match for the Estonian conference’s theme of “Supernatural Places.”

“I’m looking at it on more of an analytical level,” she explains. “I’m trying the elves to how the Icelanders approached the landscape when they first arrived. Was it the very dramatic landscape that influenced the Old Norse settlers to create new ideas about the elves, or did they make the environment mystical and supernatural because they already had these ideas about elves and trolls and other beings? Is it the same as looking at Odin or Thor and their functions in society? I’m just looking at elves.”

But we’re not talking about Santa’s little helpers here; think more along the lines of The Lord of the Rings. “J.R.R. Tolkien’s representation of elves—especially in The Silmarillion—is very close to what we actually have that talks about elves,” says Burrell, referring to Old Norse Eddic poetry and the Prose Edda, a compilation of Old Norse myths by 13th-century Icelandic historian and poet Snorri Sturluson."What little there is written about Icelandic elves matches Tolkien’s description: they’re small, they’re beautiful, they shine like the light, they’re warriors . . . of course, Tolkien knew Old Icelandic and was a major scholar in that field.”

While this will be Burrell’s first time presenting at an overseas academic conference, she has spent time living and studying in Denmark—where she first got interested in Old Norse culture (“Old Norse is a broad term for the Viking culture that came to Iceland,” she adds)—and plans to pursue a master’s degree in Nordic philology in Germany. More than just studying mythology, however, Burrell has a passion for preserving the past. “It’s not just the history and the stories,” she insists. “I believe it’s really important to keep those languages alive. As science and technology become more important, I hope universities and high schools don’t lose that focus of teaching history and literature.”

Helping sellers and buyers with research since 2002, Anthony and Andrew Sukow officially founded Advanced Ecommerce Research Systems, Inc. (“Terapeak”), in 2004. The company was realized through an idea the brothers had as eBay Power Sellers while attending university, and was launched with help from the University of Victoria. Terapeak is based in Victoria, BC, and San Francisco, California, and steadily continues to steadily improve on its products and add to its talented team.

Terapeak is today’s most consumer-oriented data analytics company, providing clients with the understanding to make informed decisions about the marketing, investment, and management of their online businesses.

Terapeak’s focus remains consistent: to illuminate opportunities for online merchants by making the market more transparent and taking surprises out of the sales process.

As an eBay Certified Provider and the first authorized third-party redistributor of eBay market data, hundreds of thousands of eBay Sellers world wide know Terapeak as the source for online marketplace research. Terapeak provides eBay sellers with pricing, listing, and competitive insight for their online businesses through Terapeak for eBay.
Weeds and verdure in literature and life
BY TARA SHARPE
Kita Douglas, who received the Lieu- tenant Governor’s Silver Medal as the top master’s student for program achievement, has a pot of okra grow- ing on her North Carolina porch. Her master’s thesis was about a different type of flora: the Jimson weed in William Faulkner’s *The Sound and the Fury*.

Douglas (MA, English) reads for pleasure, but this mother of two—now in a doctoral program at Duke University—has hardly enough time for hobbies let alone gardening. Her weekly summer book club is con- ducted on Skype.

It is ironic that she studied a plant- tiling the flora in her family back- ground. Douglas moved to Victoria after 10 years on the mainland and a childhood in BC’s interior, where her family’s farm was in the Columbia River basin.

She says both sides of her family experienced “profound physical and psychic displacement, and for my Asian family, disease.” Her father’s family was displaced from a farm in South Dakota because of the Revoltoke dam. “That land is their roots,” adds Douglas. “It still haunts them.” Her maternal grandmother’s forced relocation during internment in the Sec- ond World War also serves to reflect the difficulties of “putting down roots during a period of the 20th century marked by the upheaval of war and mass migrations.”

Douglas, who returned to UVic to continue her work, says she did research and work on the rail- way for peripatetic political scientist Assem Dandashly, who will return to UVic for an opportunity to travel during his PhD. She credits her family for making her read as a child; she has a natural gift.

Neelin cites associate profes- sor Christopher Thomas with determining her current passion. “His course on sacred structures— from Stonehenge to the Crystal Palace, and the environment in American literature. On the same evening as this interview, Douglas was meeting her book club online to discuss W.H. Whitman’s 19th-century poetry, Leaves of Grass.

The themes of verdancy do not seem accidental in her life, nor is her the faculty and her family. After originally starting in visual arts, Neelin cites associate profes- sor Christopher Thomas with determining her current passion. “His course on sacred structures— from Stonehenge to the Crystal Cathedral—was a huge influ- ence in making me decide to go into the field.” As for her family, she’s worked as a draftsman with her father’s Ottawa-based home design firm for seven years now. “You can see how hertage conservation would tie into the family business.” She pauses and chuckles. “So I’d like to thank my parents for making me read as a child; I guess I have a natural gift.”

Neelin is already busy back home at the drafting table, and her immediate plans involve pursuing a master’s at Ottawa’s Carleton University. “It will largely be focused on government policy in heritage conservation,” she explains. “Because I have a background in design, I’m hoping that I can integrate those and do some restoration work myself. It’s defi- nitely a growth industry.”

Has her view on cities changed now that she’s formally studied architecture? “It has, especially because I’ve been looking at mod- ern architecture recently. Walking down the street is so much more interesting now; a lot of buildings I thought were just ugly before I’m now seeing differently.”

And did she have a favourite building here at UVic? “The Fine Arts building,” she concludes with a laugh. “I pretty much lived there.”

Douglas started initially to do automotive engineering, and he still fixes cars and electronics as a hobby. He says that his interest in political science as a career evolved slowly during his undergraduate work. He graduated with a BA in political science and public administration, a prestigious Fulbright Scholarship took him to the UK for his graduate studies.

When he was beginning his PhD at the University of Oklahoma, however, supervisor Mitchell Smith told him to make the jump to UVic to work with the Department of Politi- cal Science’s Amy Verdun, renowned specialist on the euro. Dandashly was interested in focusing on “the transition that Poland and other countries in Central Europe took towards joining the EU” with a focus on the euro currency. “Mitchell told me it will be a loss for the department but it’s good for your career [to work with Verdun],” Dandashly says.

But ‘I never heard of Victoria before,’ he says. Did he want to move even farther away from his family in Lebanon and leave the new home he’d made in the US? “In the end, he took the plunge, and although it took a year for him to be certain it was the right decision, today he’s glad he did.”

“A year, given all the oppor- tunities I got during my PhD and especially because of Amy, I said it was a very, very good decision,” says Dan- dashly. “I got to do a lot of travelling, a lot of field work, a lot of exchange with European institutions, and all this was with the support of Amy.”

Dandashly, who speaks English, French, Arabic, “some German” and “some Polish,” did research and work in Italy, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, England and Toronto dur- ing his five-year stint as a UVic PhD student. He defended the final product of his research, his PhD dissertation, at UVic in January.

But the PhD is only a step in his career, says Dandashly, who hopes to return to Canada more permanently and find a tenure-track university faculty position.

“It’s a long-term career that, if one research project finishes, you’re already in the process or have started new research. It’s just one step in a long, long, long ladder,” he says.