Fedex Funding

Ottawa creates big science operating fund

Industries Canada has announced the creation of a new Major Science Initiatives program within the Canada Foundation for Innovation. The $145-million fund will provide up to five years of operating support to a select number of big science projects, potentially including the UVic-based VENUS and NEPTUNE Canada ocean observatories. Story, p.3.

2010/11 priorities

President reports on priorities

President David Turpin outlined his report to Senate in October some key priorities for 2010/11. Topics included review and renewal of the strategic plan, student recruitment and retention, the budget, advocacy at both the provincial and federal levels of government, and fundraising. Story, p.3.

Rabbit Reduction

More rabbits removed

Trapping of feral rabbits for sanctuaries with Ministry of Environment permits has resumed on campus. Eighty rabbits were removed from campus in October, and trapping will continue this month in keeping with the sanctuaries’ capacity to sterilize and relocate the rabbits. More: uvic.ca/rabbits

On the Ring website

Grad profiles, Limners’ donation

Our website has more profiles of graduating UVic students and coverage of a donation of archival materials from The Limners to UVic, which is the prime repository of the work of this important group of artists. ring.uvic.ca

Business Faculty Renamed

What’s in a name? UVic’s Peter B. Gustavson School of Business

BY DIANNE GEORGE

The Michele Pujol Room was the site of an Oct. 22 event that saw more than 200 people celebrate the naming of the Faculty of Business to the Peter B. Gustavson School of Business. This is the first time in UVic’s history that a faculty has been named after an individual.

“Because this is such an important moment for us, we wanted to share it with the people who are critical to the development of our future leaders,” said Dr. Ali Dustmalchian, dean of business. The dean then invited 10 individuals representing students, alumni, staff, faculty, media, cop employers, First Nation communities, the business community and donors on stage to help insert puzzle pieces to create the new logo.

Gustavson has been involved with the Faculty of Business since 2003 as an employer, member of its advisory board, executive-in-residence and chair of the Distinguished Entrepreneur of the Year Award event that he helped establish. His March 2010 gift of $10 million is among the largest received by the university and the most substantial received by the 20-year-old business school. The funds will be used to finance scholarships, professorships and research, and to support innovation in student programs, all of which will help to ensure the Gustavson School of Business remains competitive with schools across Canada and internationally.

“Thank you, Peter, for this strong expression of your commitment to our business school,” said UVic President David Turpin.

“The Peter B. Gustavson School of Business can go from strength to strength; committed to outstanding teaching and research, providing an international and experiential education rooted in sustainability and social responsibility,” he said. “This excellence and bright future are made possible thanks to the support of friends like Peter.”

Accepting the honour and calling it the “highlight of his business career,” Gustavson thanked the Board of Governors and the Senate, saying how proud and honored he was to have his name associated with the business school.

“The day you sell your business for $370 million is a great day,” he deadpanned. “Today is an even better day.”

“As a business person and entrepreneur, I can think of no greater honour one can receive than to have one’s name associated with a business school. To have my name associated with such a great business school as we have here at the University of Victoria is simply unbelievable and something I am very grateful for.”

Krebs receives UVic’s highest academic honour

BY MARIA LIRONI

He’s the type of prof who bakes his students cookies, just because he likes to bake. He’s also a prof whom students thank after his lectures because they enjoy his classes. And while music theory isn’t every student’s bag, UVic music professor and head of theory Harald Krebs makes it engaging and fun.

In fact, Krebs’ students have nothing but praise for him. “He is one of the most talented men I’ve ever met,” says former student Anthony Theoscharis. “Music theory can be dry but always wanted to go to his class.”

Those are just some of the reasons why this talented researcher and author has been named a University of Victoria Distinguished Professor—the highest academic honour that the university can bestow on a faculty member.

“UVic is truly fortunate to have such an extraordinary, dedicated and internationally renowned scholar and a terrific and dedicated teacher.”

The title is awarded to individuals who have
President Turpin outlines priorities for 2010/11

At the first Senate meeting of the academic year, President David Turpin included in his report some key priorities for 2010/11 goals, approved by the university’s Board of Governors. Turpin presented these priorities in the broader context of the rapidly changing national and international environment for post-secondary education. He underscored the Senate’s leadership role in maintaining UVic’s commitment to excellence in teaching and research, stating that a commitment to a high quality UVic student experience both inside and outside the classroom remains one of UVic’s priorities.

Strategic Plan review and renewal

The Strategic Plan continues to serve as the university’s overall guide, and the current version is scheduled for renewal in 2011/12. At the beginning of the new year, UVic’s Planning and Priorities Committee will publish a progress report on the implementation of the most recent strategic plan and a discussion document to contextualize some of the issues facing UVic. Between January and April there will be a series of consultations across campus and beyond and, over next summer, the committee will pull all the information together and present a revised draft plan by the start of fall.

“Given the changes in the external environment, this is going to be a very important planning iter- ation,” said Turpin.

He emphasized that the ongoing integrated planning process ensures that the priorities of the Strategic Plan are still being addressed even during a tight economic climate.

New VPAC

Turpin said that one of his priorities within this process would be to facilitate and support the transition of Research, Innovation, and the wider community.

“Just as we have added substantial contribution to the university and the wider community. “It’s just really nice to receive this kind of an award from my own in- stitution,” says Krebs, who has been teaching at the School of Music since 1986. “It makes me very happy especially the fact that a colleague took the trouble to nominate me. The ad- ditional support for research travel and for attending conferences will be really useful.”

A Chilliwack native, Krebs started his career as a pianist, but by the time he attended university he recognized that he really didn’t enjoy practicing the same pieces over and over, but that he very much enjoyed music theory.

“Music theory is the study of how pieces of music are put together; students need this information so that they can perform in an informed way,” explains Krebs. “Another com- ponent of music theory is learning to write music; if we think of music as a language, pronunciation is speaking the language, and theory is writing the language.”

He has published widely on the tonal and theoretical structure of nine- teenth- and early-twentieth-century music. He has written two books, an award-winning Fantasy Pieces: Metric- cal Discordance in the Music of Robert Schumann, and Johannes Lang (Her- Life and Songs) (the latter co-authored with his wife, soprano Sharon Krebs), published two song cycles, and recorded three CDs (with Sharon Krebs). He lectures internationally, collaborates with colleagues across the United States and Europe, and conducts research in European libraries and archives.

The Krebses started a “Lieder at Lunch” series at UVic in 2001. Since 1991 the couple has been performing German Lieder for committees and through the UVic Speakers Bureau (http://communications.uvic.ca/36). “I have an ideal life where I get to remain active as a performer and a teacher, and I wouldn’t want to live without either activity” says Krebs. “My life is very busy, but everything I do I love.”

“Harald has developed an envi- able international reputation as a scholar and teacher and is a valued colleague to me and donors that will allow the university to generate that kind of support.”

While acknowledging there are exciting challenges facing UVic in the coming year, Turpin remains posi- tive that the university will continue to excel and meet our obligations to our constituents, communication, research and service to the community. Advocacy

Turpin explained that the university’s advocacy agenda will be important. While economic recovery seems to be under way, governments are still deal- ing with significant deficit and debt issues, leaving them with little choice but to raise taxes and/or decrease spending. The latter are likely to affect big expenditure areas like health and education.

In addition, Turpin described the ongoing need to position UVic in a provincial post-secondary system with 11 universities, 11 colleges and three institutes.

Turpin said that advocacy at both levels of government is required to increase access and financial support for undergraduate and graduate students, to improve access for Aboriginal students, and to support opportunities to bring international students to Canada as well as send Canadian students overseas.

He said that the university is “lobbying hard” for increased support for research and knowledge crea- tion—federally through the granting councils and the Major Science Initiatives (MSIs), and in BC through the Knowledge Development Fund. The importance of support for the indirect costs of research is also being emphasized.

Discussions are also under way with the prov- incial to extricate universities from the government reporting entity (GRE), which limits universities’ flexibility to assume debt for capital projects. The universities and government are developing a framework that will allow institutions to move out- side of the GRE while maintaining those important elements of the social contract that define public education in this province.

Funding

Turpin said that fundraising is integral to supporting students, quality programs and aspects of capital growth. He described UVic as a “major gift culture” where the goal is to attract larger gifts of $10 million and more. He said that UVic is devel- oping and stewarding relationships with donors that will allow the university to generate that kind of support.

Navigating the ever-changing market

A longtime resident and UVic grad, Dave is helping local residents and new-comers to navigate their way through the real estate market. Whether buying or selling, he will ensure smooth sailing. Just ask his many clients at UVic.
Big science projects in Canada—such as the VENUS and NEPTUNE Canada ocean observatories—have a clear pathway to stable, predictable long-term funding for projects that are so vitally important to the advancement of science, training of the next generation of scientists and Canada’s global competitiveness,” says MacKinnon. “We look forward to working with CFI on the further development of this program in the coming months.”

“We are delighted with this decision,” says Turpin. “By providing ongoing funding for the operation and maintenance initiatives in our country that has invested, Ottawa is demonstrating its commitment to the world’s most advanced technology and equipment.”

The new program is recognition by the federal government that large-scale research facilities provide a platform for researchers across Canada and around the world to work with the most advanced technology and equipment.

Other big science facilities in Canada include the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory in Ontario, the Amundsen research icebreaker, and two facilities at the University of Saskatchewan—the Canadian Light Source synchrotron and the International Advanced Photonics Research Centre.

Creation of the new MSF program is in large part due to the efforts of University of Saskatchewan President David Turpin, who was originally estimated to be $5.8 million, but was reduced to $2.8 million by drawing on unallocated funds from previous years. Enrolment targets at the university will be maintained in 2011/12.

Deans and senior administrative managers will be asked to present plans that outline how 1.5 per cent cuts could be accomplished in their areas. These plans will be reviewed before the end of the year, with the university’s draft budget framework then moving on to the Board of Governors for approval in the first part of 2011.

“The work of deans and senior administrators will be critical to managing these cuts in a way that will minimize the impact on university operations,” says Cassels. “We are looking at fairly modest reductions, but even with that in mind, it’s not an easy or pleasant task. The Integrated Planning Committee is appreciative of the individual efforts that go into this and wants to acknowledge the important contributions to creating a budget that focuses on the priorities of teaching, research and student support.”

Earlier this fall, all university departments were asked to prepare for possible 2-2.5 per cent cuts, a process which will help to inform decisions around the cuts now being considered. Unit managers are being encouraged, to the extent possible, to look to position vacancies, attraction, and non-salary items as the first option for budget reductions.

Until there is a change in the provincial funding model for universities or new sources of revenue are found, it can be anticipated that there will be further gaps between costs and revenues in the next several years.

Victoria President David Turpin, who is responsible for the Amundsen research icebreaker, and will be maintained in 2011/12.

The 2010 budget process began in the fall with the drafting of the university’s draft budget framework. The Integrated Planning Committee is appreciative of the individual efforts that go into this and wants to acknowledge the important contributions to creating a budget that focuses on the priorities of teaching, research and student support.

The Ring 2010

Novembre 2010
Archeologist wins Royal Society medal

BY PATTY PITTS

A curiosity about the ancient world has taken University of Victoria archaeologist John Oleson from excavating the high Jordanian desert to harnessing the power of a nuclear submarine to scan the bottom of the Mediterranean Sea. His dedication to learning more about life millennia ago has earned him many academic honours, and recently the Royal Society of Canada added one more—the 2010 Pierre Chauveau Medal for distinguished contribution to knowledge in the humanities other than Canadian literature and history.

"Your award is a telling recognition of your remarkable accomplishments and an invitation by your colleagues to further the leadership you have already shown in advancing knowledge and scholarship in Canada," wrote Royal Society President Roderick Macdonald in notifying Oleson about his award.

"This latest honour for John is so well deserved. His dedication and commitment to bringing ancient civili- nations to life through his meticulous research, teaching and communication epitomizes the enthusiastic scholar, teacher and community leader that our students and faculty admire," said Dr. Howard Brunt, UVic's vice-president (research). 

"This means that UVic is once again held in high regard among the premier research universities in Canada," said Brian Dastmalchian, president of the University of Victoria Students Society, said he felt the naming was a "win-win" for everyone involved.

"Fourth-year business student Connor Edwards, president of the Commerce Students Society, said he felt the naming was a "win-win" for everyone involved. "I've come to know that the Gustavson family values consist of hard work, innovation and a commitment to excellence."

"With our unique brand of business education, and Peter's name and ongoing support, we will take this business school to the next level."
During Fall Convocation ceremonies, the university will award honorary degrees recognizing the outstanding accomplishments of five individuals in fields ranging from nursing to public sector management.

Honorary degrees are UVic’s highest form of recognition and are awarded by the Senate based on an exceptional record of achievement in scholarship, research, teaching, the creative arts or public service.

This fall’s recipients will be recognized at each of the four convocation ceremonies, and their acceptance remarks will be available online [http://communications.uvic.ca/podcasting/convocation/] soon after the ceremony.

**Dr. Jean Watson**
Honorary Doctor of Science in Nursing (10 a.m., Nov. 10)

Clinical nurses and academic programs throughout the world rely on Dr. Jean Watson’s published works on the philosophy and theory of human caring and the art and science of caring in nursing. A distinguished professor of nursing at the University of Colorado Denver, Watson has authored or co-authored 14 books on topics ranging from empirical measurements of caring to new postmodern philosophies of caring and healing.

Her approach to “caring science” is interdisciplinary and includes human caring processes, phenomena and experiences. It has relevance to all health, education and human service fields and professions.

Watson has also demonstrated a strong commitment and contribution to the development of the University of Victoria School of Nursing at a time, from 1989–94, when it was in the process of creating a new curriculum. She provided—without charge—her time, energy, innovation and creativity. She challenged the faculty members to create a curriculum based on human science and caring, which they achieved.

She is recognized as one of the first nurse-theorists to articulate the distinction between nursing and medicine. As a result, Watson has inspired nurses throughout the world to embrace caring science in their research, practice and education.

**Hon. Lorna Marsden**
Honorary Doctor of Laws (10:30 a.m., Nov. 10)

Raised in Sidney, Dr. Lorna Marsden attended Victoria College and went on to earn her PhD at Princeton. What followed was an academic and political career that led her to the presidencies of two Canadian universities and an appointment to the Canadian Senate.

A brilliant sociologist, a gifted and articulate statesperson, and a natural leader in Canadian post-secondary education, Marsden joined the University of Toronto in 1972 where she taught economic sociology and progressed to vice-provost (arts and science).

She was appointed to the Canadian Senate in 1984 by Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and resigned her seat in 1992 to return to academic life, becoming president of Wilfrid Laurier University that year. In 1997 she accepted the position of president and vice-chancellor of York University, remaining there for the next decade.

In her research, Marsden has been largely concerned with the major structural forces that cause social change in Canada and, particularly, the way women make a living and how that has evolved over time.

A past recipient of the UVic Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumni Award, Marsden has received numerous other accolades, including being named a Member of the Order of Canada and receiving the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal.

**Sheila Watt-Cloutier**
Honorary Doctor of Laws (10 a.m., Nov. 10)

Sheila Watt-Cloutier is a brave and tenacious defender of the human rights of the Inuit, particularly in the face of global climate change that threatens the way of life of thousands of her people.

Born in Kuujjuaq, Quebec, and raised in the traditional Inuit lifestyle in the first 18 years of her life, Watt-Cloutier has upheld this tradition in her life’s work. She has made the health and the emotional, spiritual and cultural well-being of the Inuit her primary focus.

In 1995, she became president of the Inuit Circumpolar Council. The ICC represents 860,000 Inuit living in the Arctic regions of Canada, Alaska, Greenland and Russia. In this capacity she has become increasingly involved in the climate change debate, arguing that global warming is a violation of the human rights of Inuit, who are contending with thinning sea ice, altered migration routes and other changes to their physical surroundings.

Among her past honours, Watt-Cloutier has received the Rachel Carson Prize and the Mabuhay al Hag Human Development Award and, in 2007, Norwegian parliamentarians publicly nominated her for the Nobel Peace Prize.

**Dr. Kevin Lynch**
Honorary Doctor of Laws (2:30 p.m., Nov. 10)

By the time he retired in 2009 as clerk of the Privy Council, secretary to cabinet and head of the public service of Canada, Dr. Kevin Lynch had established a well-deserved reputation for unfailing energy, rigorous intellectual capacity and an exceptional commitment to a strong public policy process and public service. Above all, Lynch is recognized for his consistent belief in the power of Canadian research and innovation to become key drivers of a stronger economy.

Raised in Nova Scotia, he earned his PhD in economics at McMaster University where he became known as a brilliant but practical scholar who combined business acumen with extensive knowledge of economic theory and international finance.

As deputy minister of Industry Canada, he was central to the inception and implementation of the innovation agenda, which effectively stemmed the brain drain from Canada. University-based research was a key component of Lynch’s vision. He fostered such programs as the Canada Foundation for Innovation and the Canada Research Chairs—all of which have gained international acclaim as models for investing in research infrastructure and intellectual capital.

Many researchers—at the University of Victoria and across Canada—have benefited from Lynch’s efforts to create a more productive and competitive country through investment in research and technology.

**Hon. Kevin Lynch**
Honorary Doctor of Laws (2:30 p.m., Nov. 11)

In leading the former Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation, Dr. Norman Riddell influenced support for post-secondary students in their pursuit of education and training and expanded the foundation’s mandate to include state-of-the-art research on its programs.

In his 10 years with the foundation, Riddell led various programs in cooperation with provincial and territorial governments that provided access to education and reduced student debt. The foundation disbursed nearly $2.5 billion in the form of non-refundable financial support to about 650,000 students.

At the University of Victoria, more than 14,000 awards totaling roughly $47 million were received. In addition, the university collaborated with the foundation on the LEAP Project (pronounced “leap” or “l-eap”) pilot project for improving the success rate of Aboriginal students. The foundation provided 80 per cent of the project’s $4.5-million budget. Support programs coupled with financial aid helped to reduce the withdrawal rate of Aboriginal students by 67 per cent and improve graduation rates by 20 per cent.

Earlier in his career, at the University of Alberta, Riddell was associate vice-president of international affairs. He also held deputy minister positions in the Saskatchewan and Quebec governments, and was a foreign service officer in the federal government.

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**Dr. Norm Riddell**
Honorary Doctor of Laws (10 a.m., Nov. 12)

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Celebrating Indigenous student success

The Office of Indigenous Affairs will host the 2010 Indigenous student graduation ceremony starting at 5 p.m. Nov. 10 in First Peoples House. During the celebration 10 students will be recognized from the first graduating class for the Diploma in Child and Youth Care in Indigenous Communities. Several of the graduating diploma students will be continuing on to the bachelor’s program in the School of Child and Youth Care.

To mark this occasion, the School of Child and Youth Care, together with North Island partners, will be creating an inter-community connection through the UVic and North Island Virtual Learning Lodge (VLL). The Indigenous graduation ceremony will be streamed live on www.virtuallearninglodge.ca, allowing family and community members unable to attend in person to share in the celebration and send messages of support.

The Virtual Learning Lodge is an evolving web space linking the UVic and Indigenous communities. It is intended to support the success of both distance and on-campus Indigenous learners through connection to home communities, to each other and to the university.
**PhD grad’s compassion shines a light on ‘stigma’**

Jeffrey Travernier, who graduates this month with a commerce degree and a specialization in entrepreneurship, says his UVic years were quite a bit different than anyone else’s in his graduating class. He’s right. Travernier spent almost two of his four years away from the UVic campus, studying and working overseas.

“I travelled for two years coming out of high school, backpacking around the world. I knew I needed to get to university but still had that travel bug,” says Travernier. “For me, travelling is about culture and people and understanding how the world works. We live in a world of conflict and limited resources, and travelling has helped me understand the world the way I do.”

Manner readily admits that his work term was very difficult, particularly the language barrier. Financing his education and travel was also challenging, but he benefited from scholarships and bursaries including a $5,000 Black Press Business Scholarship and the Marjorie and Lawrence Watts Bursary.

Looking to the future, Manner plans to get involved with his local community in Nelson, finding ways to use technology in BC to generate sustainable energy. He believes that following his passion will lead to success.

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**Lighting homes in rural Indonesia sparks business grad’s passion**

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**Joining the fight against cancer**

Eric Tran has known since high school that he wanted to use science to improve people’s lives. Now, as the first student to complete the doctoral program in cancer immunology at the BC Cancer Agency’s Deerly Research Centre (DRC), he’s in a position to do just that. Tran has recently begun postdoctoral work at the US National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD, with Dr. Steven Rosenberg, an internationally recognized leader in T-cell therapy of cancer.

Tran describes his career progress in terms of the people who’ve inspired and supported him along the way. “I had a couple of great science teachers in high school,” says Tran. “I went on to do science, but science encompassed so many different subjects. What I did know was that I wanted to use science to help people.”

While a UVic undergrad, he attended lectures in introductory immunology by Dr. Terry Pearson, and says, “The immune system became the coolest thing in the world. It fascinated me because I saw it as our protector, fighting microscopic battles and wars within our bodies 24/7, to keep us safe from harmful things like bacteria and viruses.”

Then another lecturer inspired Tran: Dr. Brad Nelson, founding director of the DRC and an adjunct professor in UVic’s biochemistry department.

“He told us that the immune system could destroy cancers, and that he was opening up a lab to study tumor immunology. From that point on, I knew that I wanted to study ways to harness the immune system to help fight against cancer,” says Tran. He applied to the new cancer immunology graduate program at the DRC, which is available to students from UVic and UBC, and was accepted.

There, Tran conducted doctoral research relevant to T-cell therapy of cancer, which is the use of T cells (a type of white blood cell) to fight cancers, and involves the delivery of a large “army” of cancer-reactive T cells into a patient. Tran studied how T cells grow and proliferate, and also investigated whether certain proteins could boost the ability of T cells to destroy ovarian cancer cells.

Tran is thrilled to be working as a postdoc at the NHR with Rosenberg, who, for over 20 years, has been using T cells to treat patients with late-stage, incurable cancers, predominantly metastatic malignant melanoma—the deadliest form of skin cancer—with some positive results. In fact, says Tran, “a small subset of these ‘incurable’ patients can be cured with T-cell therapy; however, a large proportion is still succumbing to their disease—there’s still a lot of work to be done.”

“Hope to develop ways to improve T-cell therapy, as well as learn how to translate promising results seen in the lab to successful human clinical trials,” says Tran. “After my training at the NHR, I would like to join a team of researchers and clinicians who are dedicated to designing and evaluating new immunotherapies for the treatment of cancer.”
Law grad reaches out to Aboriginal youth

BY THOMAS WINTERHOF

UVic Law graduate Tara Williamson is deeply committed to helping First Nations youth overcome obstacles and strengthen their communities. The skills she developed at UVic will help her support young people through the provision of legal assistance and vital social services.

Williamson is a member of the Opaskwayak Cree First Nation of northern Manitoba and grew up in an Ojibway/Métis family in Swan Lake, a small town of about 300 people. She developed a strong interest in social issues and earned a bachelor of social work degree before entering UVic Law in 2006 to begin a double degree program (Juris Doctor and Master of Arts in Indigenous Governance).

Williamson was attracted to UVic because of its strong support of Aboriginal students and an educational program that she felt was second to none. “The Indigenous faculty here is the best there is, so that’s why I chose UVic,” she says.

Drawing on past work placement experiences, Williamson recognized that people who struggle with social issues often run into legal problems as well. She perceived a pressing need for more professionals who could help young people in both areas. “I’m really excited to bridge those two fields,” she says of her career goals.

Williamson get a better sense of how effectively that can be done when she participated in the Law Centre program, an acclaimed UVic Law initiative that provides legal assistance to people who can’t afford to hire a lawyer. The Law Centre program was unfortunatly and allowed her to apply classroom knowledge to challenging, real-life legal problems—a process she found extremely valuable.

Williamson was actively involved in the Law school community, participating in Pro Bono Students Canada, the Law For All outreach program, the Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Camp, the Indigenous Law Student Association, the ABA Client Counselling Competition and the Deals’ Advisory Committee on Ethnicity and Culture.

“That’s a really great, welcoming campus environment,” she says. “There’s such a host of young, progressive and supportive professors at the law school.”

Williamson excelled academically and received numerous awards, including a Law Foundation of British Columbia Entrepreneurship Scholarship, the Annie Cady Memorial Scholarship, the Law Foundation of B.C., David Strong Leadership in Legal Studies Award, the McCarthy Tetrault Scholarship in Memory of John Finlay, the James Gosnell Award, the Honourable Thomas A. Dochun Shield and the John McAlpine Prize in Civil Liberties and Human Rights.

“A talented singer and poet, Williamson plays the guitar and piano and also participated in a theatrical production of The Vagina Monologues while at UVic. She recently completed her Indigenous Governance project while working with at-risk youth in Manitoba. Williamson now lives with her husband in Peterborough, Ontario.

Lifelong learning—All in the family

BY CRYSTAL BERGERON

When Vikes soccer all-star and honour roll recipient Daniel Kilpatrick walked across the stage at Fall Convocation to receive his BSc (kinesiology) degree from the Faculty of Education, he be less missing one thing—having his mother cheering from the sidelines.

That’s because mom Kristy, a seasoned teacher, wife and mother of two, will be on the same stage, at the same time, receiving her Bachelor of Education degree.

While UVic was on the radar as a top choice for Oak Bay graduate Dan, he initially accepted a full-ride scholarship to Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas. After suffering what could have been a career ending injury, he came back to Victoria for reconstructive surgery. While recuperating, he decided that UVic was the place for him.

“Daniel had huge options, at both Canadian and American universities,” his mother explains. “He realized rather than going away where he had no connections, it would be wonderful to stay in Victoria where he had grown up, go to school and had so many supportive friends and family.”

“I wanted to go to a great school with good academics that supported its athletes,” says Dan. “Soccer is my sport so UVic was a natural choice. Also, my parents are both alumni and my sister is a creative writing student.”

Kristy first began her studies at UVic as a part-time education student in 1977 qualifying for her teaching certificate in 1986, and she has been teaching in the Victoria school district ever since. “I’m a UVic alumna and love Victoria, so UVic was my first choice to obtain my BEd degree.”

Both stellar students in their programs, Dan and Kristy have thoroughly enjoyed their time at UVic. “We were in different programs in the faculty and

Grad promotes social entrepreneurship

BY CHRISTINE MCLAREN

From an early age Master’s of Public Administration (MPA) graduate Kanika Gupta learned the importance of commitment to community. In high school she started a club to promote volunteering as a way of meeting new people, discovering the community and community engagement. “I am very passionate about in a new light, ” says Gupta.

She chose UVic’s MPA program to complement her commerce degree. What she found was an inspiring program, supportive faculty and a dream fulfilled in her co-op work term at the UN Development Programme in New York.

An accomplished young social entrepreneur, she was awarded the Alterna Savings Award for Social Responsibility Leadership in 2007, the same year she founded Nukuku, a Canadian nonprofit organization dedicated to sustainable development and universal primary education in Africa. Nukuku, which means “smile” in a Togolese dialect, is currently helping over 600 girls in West Africa gain access to school.

Following her participation in the 2009 Order of Canada Mentorship Program, established to provide an opportunity for members of the Order of Canada to mentor young Canadians, Gupta was invited to join a delegation last spring accompanying Canada’s then- Governor General, Michaelle Jean, on official state visits to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Benin, Senegal and the Republic of Cape Verde.

Following the visits she joined roundtables, panel discussions and informal dialogues on issues related specifically to youth participation and community engagement. “I am very optimistic that the strong presence of youth activism in the African countries we visited will yield positive results and will be influential factors as these countries continue to develop,” says Gupta.

The required master’s project for her MPA provided the catalyst for a new venture called Social Journal. “Conducting academic research allowed me to explore an area I am very passionate about in a new light,” says Gupta. “I gained a more holistic understanding and appreciation for youth social entrepreneurship.”

Social Journal (socialjournal.net) is an online community that will connect individuals and young entrepreneurs wishing to start social ventures. “Through inspiring youth to turn their ideas of social change into reality, the intent is to provide the information, tools and resources to empower individuals to take action. “This is an exciting initiative and it all began because of my master’s project.”

The Ring Nov 2010 Page 7
Honouring Our Top Teachers

Convocation is a celebration of the accomplishments of our students and the great promise which they bring as they enter on a new stage of their careers. It is also an occasion at which the university recognizes the outstanding talent, dedication and creativity of the faculty members whose work defines the quality of a UVic education. Each year, the various faculties honour the best among UVic’s educators by bestowing awards for excellence in teaching. This year’s recipients are profiled below:

Dr. Erin J. Campbell
Department of History in Art
Faculty of Fine Arts

Dr. Erin Campbell began teaching at UVic in 2002 and has been described by her students as fair, rigorous, professional, organized and generous with her time. A scholar of early modern European art, Campbell dedicates herself with equal fervor to both her teaching and her research, for which she recently received a substantial SSHRC research grant. She is also a prolific writer and frequently presents papers at both national and international conferences. Campbell is known for her humanitarian approach to education as well as her skill in the classroom. In her statement of teaching philosophy, she writes, “I see myself as a mentor, ‘conductor’ and research facilitator rather than an information dispenser.”

Dr. A.R. Elangovan
Peter B. Gustavson School of Business

Dr. A.R. Elangovan, or Elango to those who know him, has a passion for teaching that reflects his own experience growing up in India where higher education is considered a privilege. He feels it is his duty to nurture his students’ dreams and hopes, and act as a catalyst to their growth and progress. “Not only is he a captivating lecturer who is skilled at generating energy within the classroom, he is the perfect example of the enjoyment you can have in life if you are lucky enough to find your calling and do what you love,” says one student. Elango’s sense of humour and his patience stand as hallmarks of his teaching style and contribute to the outstanding learning experience he provides his students.

Prof. Hamar Foster
Faculty of Law

Professor Hamar Foster has been a member of the Faculty of Law at UVic since 1976, and was the associate dean between 1998 and 2000. He is known for his spirit of inquisitiveness and excitement, his palpable passion for social justice and the humane quality of his writing. These factors have all made him one of Canada’s finest legal historians and an instructor whose enthusiasm for what he teaches is eclipsed only by his dedication to his students’ learning. A former student stated that Foster “taught me, by example, the three most important lessons I learned in law school: to proudly embrace curiosity, to be steadfast in my pursuit of the just, and that gentleness and compassion should be at the heart of what it means to be a lawyer.”

Dr. Sandra Gibbons
School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education
Faculty of Education

Dr. Sandra Gibbons is often described by her students as an exceptional mentor and is widely admired for her commitment to teaching. Her sense of humor, preparation and understanding of the educational process have all contributed to her success as an educator. In her own words, “...if I expect these future teachers to create interesting, challenging and motivating learning environments for their students, it stands to reason that I have a responsibility to provide the same for them.” She extends the same level of dedication to her research, where her work in gender equity within high school physical education programs has resulted in curriculum changes to better accommodate girls and young women throughout the country.

Dr. Marie Hoskins
School of Child and Youth Care
Faculty of Human and Social Development

During the 20 years that she has taught in the Faculty of Education and School of Child and Youth Care, Dr. Marie Hoskins has consistently displayed integrity and a genuine love of learning. She has been called “incredibly motivating and inspiring” by her students and is known for providing a creative and stimulating learning environment. Furthermore, Hoskins has used her research grants to support a number of students, including them in her own research projects, while helping them pursue their own interests. It is this generosity of spirit that endears her towards students, faculty and staff alike, and makes her a truly remarkable educator who is committed to bringing out the best in her students.

Dr. Timothy Iles
Department of Pacific and Asian Studies
Faculty of Humanities

Dr. Timothy Iles’ teaching process is one of provoking young minds—a process that often inspires him as much as it does his students. Iles considers himself responsible not only for presenting information to a class, but also for bringing life to the subject of a course. This responsibility, he feels, extends beyond mere recitation of the material—he strives to present relevant, absorbing content in a clear, comprehensive and accessible way. He also sets challenging assignments appropriate to the students’ abilities and helps those abilities develop. As a result, his students speak of him as a congenial and compassionate teacher who demands and fosters the best from them.

Dr. Ian O’Connell
Department of Geography
Faculty of Social Sciences

Dr. Ian O’Connell is a truly effective, inspirational and compassionate educator. As a senior instructor, he teaches a wide variety of courses to students, who describe his ability as exceptional. On course evaluations, his performance is consistently judged to be extremely high, even in courses that many students dread taking. Through his infectious sense of humour, his willingness to work tirelessly and individually with students, his ability to inspire students by pointing out their unique abilities, and his generosity in offering timely career advice, he has touched the lives of his students. He treats those in his classes with the utmost respect—a respect that is reciprocated deeply.

Stefan Scott
School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education
Faculty of Education

Before leaving UVic earlier this year, Stefan Scott was a senior lab instructor and anatomy co-coordinator. He taught a variety of classes on functional anatomy, nutrition for exercise and health, and introductory human anatomy, and was responsible for the coordination of UVic’s Human Anatomy Lab. He is regarded as a highly effective and remarkable educator who provides learning experiences that are both lively and academically challenging. Scott also strives to introduce new, experimental approaches to his teaching. He believes that teaching provides “an advanced opportunity to learn, as well as a commitment to helping others gain skills that will better prepare them for future endeavors.”

Dr. Jill Simmons
Department of Mathematics and Statistics
Faculty of Science

Dr. Jill Simmons approaches teaching with a greater goal in mind than simply delivering blocks of lecture material. She takes genuine pleasure in finding ways to break down complicated ideas so that they are interesting and accessible to all of her students. A professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Simmons has been extraordinarily successful in creating a nonthreatening and unimimidating classroom environment—not exactly an easy task for a teacher of first- and second-year mathematics courses, which many students often find stressful and demanding. With her high standards of quality and fairness, Simmons has continued to set the bar in her classes. Even so, there is no question that her students have benefited from her expertise, empathy and enthusiasm.

Dr. Henning Struchtrup
Department of Mechanical Engineering
Faculty of Engineering

During the ten years that Dr. Henning Struchtrup has taught at UVic, his students have constantly fed his enthusiasm and dedication to classroom teaching. Specializing in the field of thermodynamics, Struchtrup is also recognized for his leadership and his innovative approach to education. These qualities are illustrated by his willingness to adopt new techniques and technologies for classroom use (such as the iClicker, a device used to assess student comprehension during lectures), as well as his involvement in the department curriculum committee and faculty’s teaching evaluation task force. Outstanding teaching reviews and personal notes of thanks from his students continue to serve as a testament to his fine performance.
United Way campaign makes good use of words

BY TARA SHARPE

“Ever pushed a bug?” Ever seen “exploding gummy bears”? These are two of the messages posted on Twitter and the blogosphere to spread the word about the UVic 2010 United Way campaign and fundraising events.

But it’s not just 140-character postings on the new social media pages. It’s also about the thousands of words in old leather-bound editions and brightly coloured pulp fiction, because there will be something for everyone for every bibliophile at the 16th annual UVic Libraries book sale from Nov. 30 to Dec. 2 in the SUB.

The sales team is hoping everyone will dig through their bookshelves this month for any well-loved novels or old albums in need of a new home. Donations can be dropped off at the Mearns Centre Library Help Desk until Nov. 29. If you are interested in volunteering for the book sale, please contact Jean MacGregor at jeanmac@uvic.ca.

Most books, CDs, DVDs and vinyl will be $2. There is also a silent auction of collectible books. http://library.uvic.ca/sites/about/uvicbooksale.html

The “bug” was the VW Beetle pushed around Ring Road for 12 solid hours on Oct. 17 for the UVic Engineering Students’ Society annual fundraising event. The “exploding gummy bears” were part of the many scientific treats at the annual fundraising event. The “exploding gummy bears” were part of the many scientific treats at the annual fundraising event. The “exploding gummy bears” were part of the many scientific treats at the annual fundraising event. The “exploding gummy bears” were part of the many scientific treats at the annual fundraising event. The “exploding gummy bears” were part of the many scientific treats at the annual fundraising event. The “exploding gummy bears” were part of the many scientific treats at the annual fundraising event. The “exploding gummy bears” were part of the many scientific treats at the annual fundraising event. The “exploding gummy bears” were part of the many scientific treats at the annual fundraising event. The “exploding gummy bears” were part of the many scientific treats at the annual fundraising event. The “exploding gummy bears” were part of the many scientific treats at the annual fundraising event. The “exploding gummy bears” were part of the many scientific treats at the annual fundraising event. The “exploding gummy bears” were part of the many scientific treats at the annual fundraising event. The “exploding gummy bears” were part of the many scientific treats at the annual fundraising event. The “exploding gummy bears” were part of the many scientific treats at the annual fundraising event. The “exploding gummy bears” were part of the many scientific treats at the annual fundraising event. The “exploding gummy bears” were part of the many scientific treats at the annual fundraising event. The “exploding gummy bears” were part of the many scientific treats at the annual fundraising event. The “exploding gummy bears” were part of the many scientific treats at the annual fundraising event. The “exploding gummy bears” were part of the many scientific treats at the annual fundraising event. The “exploding gummy bears” were part of the many scientific treats at the annual fundraising event. The “exploding gummy bears” were part of the many scientific treats at the annual fundraising event. The “exploding gummy bears” were part of the many scientific treats at the annual fundraising event. The “exploding gummy bears” were part of the many scientific treats at the annual fundraising event. The “exploding gummy bears” were part of the many scientific treats at the annual fundraising event. The “exploding gummy bears” were part of the many scientific treats at the annual fundraising event.

The video, which went live on Oct. 23, logged over 20,000 hits in its first day and, by press time, it had been viewed 123,000 times.

The project was a labour of love for Slavin, who came up with the concept after Hollywood blogger Perez Hilton mistakenly gave UVic credit for a lip-dub video that was actually produced by a Spanish university that also uses “UVIC” as its shortened form. Although the mistake was quickly corrected, the incident caught Slavin’s attention.

“I saw an opportunity to bring the UVic community together in a way I’d never seen before. I knew we had to do it. He spent the next three months tirelessly arranging virtually every aspect of the video.

Slavin is quick to point out that while he initiated and directed the project, the video could not have happened without the help and support of over a hundred volunteers, corporate sponsors, and UVic itself.

Although the project was student-led from start to finish, numerous university departments chipped in with grants and supplies, including Student Affairs, the UVic Bookstore, Continuing Studies, Alumni Services, and numerous academic units, while other departments helped out in equally important ways, such as arranging access to the roof of McPherson Library for the final shot.

Political science faculty member Jummi Aragon was an outspoken supporter of the project, spreading the word to students via Twitter and Moodle and in her lectures. She and her family also came out on Sept. 25.

She says the project appealed to her because it “really demonstrated the positive, vibrant energy that exists on our campus and in our community.”

The video does an “incredible job capturing the energy of the day,” says Jim Dunson, associate vice-president, student affairs. “But what has been really special is the comments from current students, prospective students, alum and other people who have enjoyed a glimpse of what the campus spirit is like at UVic.”

Mitchell) whose wacky magic shows entertained children of all ages from the mid 1970s until Mitchell retired in 2008.

On Nov.16 in the University Center Lobby, the 10th annual Hearts and Hands Craft Fair will offer various goodies by UVic artisans for early holiday shoppers. Two baskets brimming with vendors’ handicrafts will be raffled off to raise additional funds for the campaign. Tickets will be available at the fair.

It’s a race to the finish on Nov. 30 with the PlasmaCar Race “Tour de MUR” in the SUB on the first day of the book sale, which is the last scheduled event (so far) for this year’s campaign.

Meanwhile, the campus coin drive continues to rattle up a lot of change for a good cause.

Everyone who fills out a pledge form is eligible for fabulous draw prizes. Visit www.unitedway.uvic.ca for a lot of events and prizes, and to learn more about the generous sponsors who have contributed to the campus campaign. You can also obtain another copy of the pledge form online. The UVic 2010 United Way campaign goal is $280,000 and as of press time, we are more than halfway to that target.
Kelsey was born and raised in Cobble Hill and studied biology at Victoria College with Prof. Jef-frey Cunningham, for whom UVic’s Cunningham Building is named. Kelsey is now 96, and resides near Washington, DC. One of her daughters will accept the Legacy Award on her behalf.

Retired BC Supreme Court Justice Robert Hutchinson. Victoria College ’49, is be- longing honoured in the Legacy Sport category. An accomplished athlete, he ran as a sprinter for Canada at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics.

He has remained involved in Victoria athletics throughout his life, as a coach and administrator. He played a pivotal role in organizing the fund-ing and the construction of Centennial Stadium at UVic.

Hutchinson was also instrumental in design- ing (along with former Board of Governors Chair Ian Stewart) the influential Vikes athletics and recreation policy of the mid-1970s. The policy emphasized a focus on the pursuit of excellence in a select number of varsity sports. UVic has now produced 65 national championships, fourth-highest among Canadian universities.

Francois Oldham Kelsey, who attended Victo- ria College in 1930 and became known for refus-ing to allow the harmful sleeping aid thalidomide to be distributed to pregnant women in the United States, is the UVic Alumni Association’s selection for the 2010 Alumni Legacy Award.

The award will be presented along with Legacy Awards for sport, teaching and research at the annual gala Nov. 23 at the Victoria Conference Centre. About 500 guests are expected to attend.

Kelsey was a recently-hired drug evaluation officer at the US Food and Drug Administration in 1960 when—concerned about the side-effects of thalidomide—she resisted corporate pres-sure to approve the drug. Shortly thereafter, thalidomide’s devastating effects became clear: more than 10,000 infants were born with birth defects worldwide.

In recognition of her work, Kelsey received the President’s Medal for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service from President John F. Kennedy in 1962.

Frances Oldham Kelsey

By Mike Menoney

Computer Science senior instructor Mary Sanseverino, MSc ’91, will receive the Harry Hickman Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching. Nominators cited her enthusiastic, scholarly and innovative approach to teaching along with her consistently outstanding post-term reviews from students.

Sanseverino is known for her groundbreak-ing use of instructional technology in particular remote control clickers that provide real-time quiz results during lectures and help to support her goal of involving and engaging students regardless of the class-size. As one student said, “She sparked an interest in computer science I never knew I had.”

Beyond the classroom, her influence can be found in her work on a variety of campus-wide initiatives such as the Learning and Teaching Centre and the Educational Technology Advisory Council. She is also a generous mentor for col-leagues in the areas of curriculum development and the art and science of teaching.

Sanseverino receives a cash prize from the UVic Alumni Association, and her photo will join the McPherson Library gallery of more than 40 past recipients of the award.

Biochemistry and Microbiology Prof. Terry Pearson will be recognized with the Legacy Award for Research for his work in anti-body technology and his study of the parasites that cause African sleeping sickness—one of the world’s most devastating tropical diseases. His recent work addresses the early diagnosis of cancer and infectious diseases.

After a post-doctoral fellowship at Cambridge, his career path took him into the southern hemisphere to battle African sleeping sickness. He introduced monoclonal antibody technology to Africa, and for three decades—in Kenya and at UVic—he used this technology to identify and characterize a variety of molecules important in the biology of the parasites that cause the disease. His investigations have also included Kupala parasites that kill salmon and other fish in BC and around the world. In recent years, Pearson has applied his expertise to a new area of study—biomarker validation—to aid the early diagnosis of cancer and infectious diseases.

New tool measures environmental impact of fish farming

Have your say on the Cedar Hill Corner property interim management plan

BY MIKE MENONEY

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How did you get to work today?

Did you know UVic offers employees who don’t have a parking pass a subsidized monthly bus pass for only $316 per month? That’s a 55% savings over the regular price!

We also offer employees a free membership in the Victoria Car Share Co-operative, and free access to the Jack Bell Rideshare program. Plus, we offer ample bike parking, showers and lockers across campus to make your cycling commute safe and efficient. See www.uvic.ca/sustainability for more details, or email alttrans@uvic.ca.

Want to learn more about how to travel sustainably and save money? The next TRANSPORTATION TUNE UP seminar will be held January 13th, 5 to 6:45 PM in SSMB A104.

Contact alttrans@uvic.ca or call 3758 to find out more and to register.

University of Victoria

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**Events Calendar**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6**

- Community Seminar 9 a.m., Writing and Religion: A Library Forum. Four Canadian writers address the place of religion, spirituality and contemporary practice in literature and the writing life. David Lam Auditorium Annex. Pre-registration: http://events.uvic.ca/events/semesters_conferences/community_seminars_9 registration to participate.

- Lansdowne Lecture 5:30 p.m., Abdomen, Abnormalities and War: Dr. Patricia Leighton, (Brake Uni.) Victoria Conference Centre, Lecture Theatre: 250-711-7177

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7**

- Music 2:30 p.m., Musical Smiths and Dinner: Intimate concert with the Lafayette String Quartet in the Fair Hall. Reservations: 250-711-7190. Proceeds to benefit the Lafayette Health Awareness forum. Fairmont Empress Hotel. $75 plus tax and gratuity. 250-711-7904

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8**


- Bekk Lecture 4:30 p.m., Island Transitions: The Culture of Translation: Dr. Astaðóra Eyjórsdóttir, (Univ. of Iceland). Cleanbuck, 250-873-7116.

- PICS Lecture 7:30 p.m., China’s Three Long-Debut Dun: Du Qing, Chinese environmental activist and journalist. Fraser 197, 250-873-9618

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9**


- CAHR Lecture 12 p.m., Language and Culture as Protective Factors, Resilience in Indigenous Communities. Aboriginal Health Prof. Dwena Michi, Saamis-Amer Indian 1976. 250-792-5435

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11**

- Lansdowne Lecture 5:30 p.m., Modernism, Antimilitarism and War: Dr. Patricia Leighton, (Brake Uni.) Victoria Conference Centre, Lecture Theatre: 250-711-7177

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13**

- Beck Lecture 5:30 p.m., Kant’s Crisis in History of Modernism. 19th Annual Modernist Studies Association Conference. Dr. Astaðóra Eyjórsdóttir (Univ. of Iceland). Empress Hotel and Victoria Conference Centre, Lecture Hall 1: 250-873-7166

- MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15


**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16**

- Other 10 a.m., with annual UVic Poets & Writers Ball, Civic Ballroom, University Centre lobby. 250-711-7378

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17**

- Studies in Religion & Society Lecture 4 p.m., The Phenomenon of “Islamic Radicalization” as a Threat to a Global System of World Politics. Anna Funder, Russian Academy of Social Sciences, & Maths 710, 250-711-6352

- Indigenous Governance & Social Justice Studies Lecture 7:30 p.m., Endgame: British sexism, revolutionary women, teacher’s assistant, small farmer. MacLaurin Annex. 250-573-8848

- THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18

- Lansdowne Lecture 7 p.m., The Ideal Character of Teaching and Learning. Dr. Robert L. Travers, Boston College. Strong/N 111, 250-792-7190

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**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5**

- Music 7:30 p.m., Poddy Music: School of Music brass students. MacLaurin B125. 250-711-7904

- Asia-Pacific Initiatives & PICS Lecture 7:30 p.m., Beyond the Green: Oceans, Environment, Civil Engagement and their International Relations. Dai Qing, Chinese environmental activist and journalist. Homer 150, 250-711-7904

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9**

- Beck Lecture 11:30 a.m., When the Ancestors Speak: On Indigenous Oral History and Literary-Historical Struggle: Dr. Astaðóra Eyjórsdóttir, (Univ. of Iceland). Cleanbuck, 250-873-7116

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11**

- Language and Culture as Protective Factors, Resilience in Indigenous Communities. Aboriginal Health Prof. Dwena Michi, Saamis-Amer Indian 1976. 250-792-5435

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19**

- Music 7:30 p.m., Poddy Music: School of Music composition students. MacLaurin B125. 250-711-7904

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20**

- Lecture/Seminar 2 p.m., Wither–or Wither–the Book Review? A panel discussion with moderator Lynne Van Loewen and guest panelists as they take the pulse of book reviewing in Canada. Oak Bay Public Library, 1424 Monterey Ave. 510-75 for Friends of The Malahat and students. Register 250-711-8514

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23**

- UVic Legacy Awards 6 p.m. Join us to honour achievements by alumni, faculty, researchers, and in athletics. Victoria Conference Centre 1175, 250-893-3126

- John Albert Hall Lecture 7:30 p.m., Postcolonialism and World Christianity. Prof. Kwikw Pal Lan, Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, MA, 250-711-6352

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24**


- Indigenous Governance & Social Justice Studies Lecture 7:30 p.m., Endgame: British sexism, revolutionary women, teacher’s assistant, small farmer. MacLaurin Annex. 250-573-8848

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**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3**

- Event 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., National Day for Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. This year’s ceremony will be followed by a procession to the plaque unveiling ceremony. University fountain.
Students give UVic top marks
UVic was ranked only one month ago as one of the world’s best universities, and now students here at home have given their university top marks. In the Globe and Mail 2011 Canadian University Report, UVic received an A+ for its environmental commitment and was specifically cited for being “tops in quality education for medium-sized universities” in arts, humanities and social sciences. UVic’s strategic plan will provide further opportunities to consider civic engagement among the university’s goals. As well, connections about civic engagement are being made with other universities, and UVic has joined with six other Canadian universities in a consortium to examine ways in which civic engagement activities may appropriately be included in tenure and promotion processes.

What is civic engagement in the university context? How do you define it, report it, measure and evaluate it, encourage it, improve it and otherwise incorporate it into the fabric of university life? These are some of the issues, philosophical and practical, that have been occupying the members of UVic’s Civic Engagement Steering Council over the past year.

UVic’s strategic plan, A Vision for the Future—Building on Strength, includes “promoting civic engagement as an important part of the university’s mission statement, and there’s no doubt that UVic is involved in a broad range and variety of initiatives with a strong civic engagement component, from community-based research and cooperative education to conferences and cultural events and much more.

Last year, the university established the steering council and gave it two-year mandate to recommend a method of measuring the impacts and outcomes of civic engagement at UVic and to propose options for incorporating civic engagement education into academic programs. Chaired by Dean of Fine Arts Sarah Blackstone, it includes prominent community members as well as representatives from across the university.

“Currently, we have no real way to measure the impact of our civic engagement,” says Blackstone. “How can we know whether we’re doing a good job at it? Developing a more comprehensive and systematic approach promises to help the university improve the ways it serves its communities and identify ways in which it can contribute further.”

Blackstone also sees the work of the steering council as helping to redress the imbalance created by relying on economic measures in conceptualizing the role and value of public post-secondary education. “The university has a very real impact on the civic life of the community,” she says. “And this is an opportunity to help us tell that part of the story that has often become lost in conversations about accountability, value for dollars and career preparation.”

After reviewing definitions of civic engagement, the steering council confirmed the high-level definition formulated by Thomas Ellicott, senior scholar at the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, as adequately broad and inclusive to encompass the range of civic activities in this vein. “Civic engagement means working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to make that difference,” wrote Ellicott. The steering council also identified key characteristics of civic engagement, including reciprocity of partnerships, collective leadership and achieving sustainable outcomes. In their discussions of measurement, the steering council agreed that assessment methods should be open and inclusive and of all university activities that involve the community and that established UVic processes of academic and research program review could provide a means of documenting civic engagement without adding new reporting requirements to participateing faculty and staff.

A working group within the steering council has also drafted a proposal to develop a course on civic engagement to be offered at the 800 level through the Faculty of Social Sciences. If successful, this pilot program might be expanded to other faculties.

Over the coming months, steering council members will be gathering input from academic leaders and incorporate their feedback into the planning process. The upcoming review of UVic’s strategic plan will provide further opportunities to consider civic engagement among the university’s goals.

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“Currently, we have no real way to measure the impact of our civic engagement,” says Blackstone. “How can we know whether we’re doing a good job at it? Developing a more comprehensive and systematic approach promises to help the university improve the ways it serves its communities and identify ways in which it can contribute further.”

Blackstone also sees the work of the steering council as helping to redress the imbalance created by relying on economic measures in conceptualizing the role and value of public post-secondary education. “The university has a very real impact on the civic life of the community,” she says. “And this is an opportunity to help us tell that part of the story that has often become lost in conversations about accountability, value for dollars and career preparation.”

After reviewing definitions of civic engagement, the steering council confirmed the high-level definition formulated by Thomas Ellicott, senior scholar at the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, as adequately broad and inclusive to encompass the range of civic activities in this vein. “Civic engagement means working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to make that difference,” wrote Ellicott. The steering council also identified key characteristics of civic engagement, including reciprocity of partnerships, collective leadership and achieving sustainable outcomes. In their discussions of measurement, the steering council agreed that assessment methods should be open and inclusive and of all university activities that involve the community and that established UVic processes of academic and research program review could provide a means of documenting civic engagement without adding new reporting requirements to participating faculty and staff.

A working group within the steering council has also drafted a proposal to develop a course on civic engagement to be offered at the 800 level through the Faculty of Social Sciences. If successful, this pilot program might be expanded to other faculties. Over the coming months, steering council members will be gathering input from academic leaders and incorporate their feedback into the planning process. The upcoming review of UVic’s strategic plan will provide further opportunities to consider civic engagement among the university’s goals.

As well, connections about civic engagement are being made with other universities, and UVic has joined with six other Canadian universities in a consortium to examine ways in which civic engagement activities may appropriately be included in tenure and promotion processes.

Getting a handle on community involvement
BY ROBY LISCUMB
Zero waste events reduce environmental footprint
Did you know that UVic has the resources to recycle all food waste, bottles, cans, hard plastics and mixed paper? Aim for a zero-waste impact at your next event. The first two zero-waste campus events, the President’s Day BBQ and orientation pizza lunch organized by Student Transition Services in September, attained a combined landfill diversion rate of 88 per cent. Attended by 2,200 students, the pizza lunch generated only one bag of garbage. A brochure available at www.uvic.ca/sustainability explains the zero-waste philosophy and provides guidelines for event planners. More info: Nadia Jeff, Waste Reduction Coordinator, nardit@uvic.ca or 250-853-3160

Love-A-Mug campaign a huge success
During National Waste Reduction Week (Oct. 18-24), hundreds of bright red “uvcoffemug” travel mugs were sold on campus. Consumers were also encouraged to use a reusable mug by a group of Applied Theatre students who performed their play “Maggie gets mugged” at venues across campus. Stickers saying “Campus mugs” were applied to paper cups to educate the community that all paper cups are compostable in the campus composting system. As a result, thousands of paper cups were saved from going into the landfill. See the video of the theatre performance: http://web.uvic.ca/sustainability/