The University of Victoria's community newspaper

The education and economic prosperity plan submitted by the presidents of BC’s six research-intensive universities to the legislature in mid-October has been garnering support ever since, from student and faculty organizations to some of the province’s most prominent newspapers.

The Research Universities’ Council of BC (RUCIC) on Oct. 18 released an “Opportunity Agenda for BC”—a practical plan to expand post-secondary opportunities for young people, close the skills gap and create jobs throughout the province.

UVic President David Turpin presented the proposal to the BC Legislature’s Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services on behalf of RUCIC. “Today’s increasingly global economy requires that British Columbians have the right education and the right skills to be successful,” said Turpin. He said that the Opportunity Agenda is about supporting students and meeting the competitive needs of BC’s economy now and for the future.

The proposal sets out three key pillars for action: a space for every qualified student, a guarantee for students in need, and a commitment to innovation and jobs by providing stable funding sources for research and innovation initiatives.

Both the UVic Students’ Society and the UBC Alma Mater Society as well as the Confederation of University Faculty Associations of BC have supported the proposal.

An editorial in the Victoria Times Colonist of Oct. 26 urged legislators to “consider carefully what the university and college presidents are saying. Opportunity doesn’t happen. It is created, and education is one of the best ways to create opportunity.”

And an Oct. 26 Vancouver Sun editorial entitled “Education investment promises big return” concluded: “The bottom line is that the Opportunity Agenda is not an option, but something the government must do to prevent the erosion of the BC economy. Sometimes a small investment can pay big dividends. This is one of those times.”

According to the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation’s BC Labour Market Outlook, there will be approximately one million job openings in BC over the next decade. Of those, 78 percent will require post-secondary education: 35 percent will require a university degree, 28 percent will require a two-year college credential, and 15 percent a trades credential. By 2020, the demand for workers in British Columbia will outstrip supply by almost 62,000 people. At least 15,000 of those jobs will require a university degree and another
The University of Victoria has just been recognized as a national leader in its proactive strategies in recruiting, nominating and appointing Canada Research Chairs (CRC) across campus.

Thanks to a number of broad recruitment strategies—including equity planning and training for all search committees, a coaching and mentoring program for faculty chair candidates and inclusive job descriptions for chair postings—UVic consistently meets or exceeds equity targets in its CRC appointments within the four government-designated groups: Aboriginal peoples, persons with a disability, visible minorities and women.

On Oct. 19, Vice President Academic and Provost Roza Tremblay accepted on behalf of UVic a certificate from the CRC secretariat acknowledging the university’s innovative practices in this area.

**OPPORTUNITY AGENDA CONTINUED FROM P1**

17,000 will require a two-year college diploma or trade certificate.

The plan calls for 11,000 new funded spaces—3,000 in graduate programs, and 4,400 in college and trade programs—at a cost of approximately $1.3 billion over five years.

It proposes a $51-million expansion of student financial aid to include grants of $1,500 per year to 24,000 undergraduate students, for a total of $36 million.

The Opportunity Agenda also includes creation of an Innovative BC Academic Research Fund (I-BCARF), which include supporting formal and informal research partnerships across ten areas of research strength and extensive consultation with faculty groups to support members of these designated groups.

“Our emphasis on interdisci- plinary research and the broad thematic strengths in our CRC strategy plan provide a sound foundation on which to celebrate diversity and support,” explains Howard Brunt, vice-president of research at UVic.

In accepting the award, Tremblay made a brief presentation highlighting the goals and criteria in place at UVic to advance research strengths from the bottom up with clear metrics for achievement.

“We hire the very best,” says Tremblay. “And our success in attracting excellent faculty is ac- commodated by our best practices in equity.”

The University of Victoria and three CRC local committees reached tentative agreements last week with ratification processes now under way.

Agreements were reached Oct. 31 with CRCU locals 917 and 911, and on Nov. 2 with CRCU local 4163 (component 2).

As The Ring went to press, mem- bers of CRCU local 917 and 915 were voting on the tentative four-year agreements reached Oct. 31. The deals have no across-the-board language increases in the first two years (2010 and 2011) and 2-per-cent general increases in 2012 and 2013. CRCU 917 represents approximately 500 teaching assistants, lab instructors, library assistants, technicians and child care workers.

The tentative four-year agree- ment with campus local 4163 (components 1 and 2) has no across-the-board increases in the first two years, 2010 and 2011—similar to the agreement reached with CRCU locals 951 and 917.

Each component has an overall 4-per-cent increase in the last two years with the contract as follow: component 1: 1-per-cent general wage increases on each of Sept. 1, 2012, March 1, 2013, Sept. 1, 2013 and March 1, 2014; component 2: 2-per-cent gen- eral wage increases on Nov. 1, 2012 and Sept. 1, 2013.

The two components represent approximately 1,300 employees (190 FTs) and include teaching assistants, lab instructors, lab assistants, second language instructors and cultural assistants. Ratification votes will be held in the month ahead.

In mid-October, the university reached a tentative agreement for 2012 and 2013 with the campus local of the Professional Employees Asso- ciation. That agreement is now in the process of being ratified.

On Nov. 2 negotiations began between university negotiators and CRCU 4163 (component 3) represent- ing sessional and music performance instructors. It is also in mediation with the UVic Faculty Association.

More information: www.uvic.ca/ info/bargaining/
Lawyer & Notary Public
* Ask about alternatives to costly litigation *
4195 Shelbourne Street
(two blocks north of Fisgard Rd.)
Real Estate - Purchase/Sale/Mortgage
Estate/Litigation
Wills & Estate Probate/Administration
Power of Attorney/Representation
Family Law - Divorce & Separation
General Legal Advice & Referral
721-2441

Off-Broadway rap star Baba Brinkman back at his alma mater

If you were lucky enough to see Baba Brinkman on stage at UVic last month, you will never watch a rap video the same way again. The Faculty of Humanities, as part of UVic's 50th anniversary celebrations, brought back to town this celebrated and hip-hop artist whose off-Broadway performances are runaway hits. Brinkman (NIA, English), a modern-day troubadour who approach head-turning term and bar-face testing intellectual slate, performed two shows with music and rambunctious by Jaimie Sinnermno on Oct. 24. This New Guide to Evolution and The Canterbury Travels. Visit http://brinkman.com/50to74 for a wrap-up summary of his performances as well as his video interviews and a curated collection of tweets and news coverage. Brinkman’s exclusive appearance was not to be missed—a maestro display of originality and wit that did justice to words but to which words can’t fully do justice. Check out www.brinkman.com for details on future tour dates.

University continues to plan for budget reductions

As has been previously reported in The Ring, UVic is preparing for the potential provincial cuts to university operating grants as a result of the government “challenging the advanced education sector to find $100 million in savings in 2013-14 and 2014-15.” At the same time, UVic is looking for savings to fund salary increases negotiated with its employee groups under the provincial government’s “co-operative gains” bargaining mandate.

In June, UVic’s President David Turpin asked all vice-presidents to incorporate a 4 per cent cut into their 2013-14 operating budgets and to develop plans for a further reduction of up to 4 per cent in 2014-15. The Ring is providing this budget planning update to try to answer some of the questions from our community about the overall context and process.

Why does UVic have to cut its budget?

With the continuing economic uncertainty in the global economy, revenues at all levels of government are tight. This is having an effect on the funding available for the post-secondary sector across Canada and internationally. Provincial operating grants and other sources of operating revenue have not kept up with increases in educational costs. These costs are driven significantly by the single largest component of any university budget—faculty and staff salaries. University salary budgets increase each year as a result of the cumulative effect of the progress through salary ranges for many individual employees that occurs even in the absence of across-the-board salary increases. Universities are about people, and UVic is approximately 80 per cent of the university’s annual operating budget is devoted to salaries and benefits.

Why cut 4 per cent now when we won’t know what the actual reduction will be until at least spring 2013? The provincial government has sent strong signals that there will be cuts in the advanced education budget in each of the next two years. There will also be increases in compensation for UVic employee groups resulting from the across-the-board salary increases for 2012 and 2013. While the combined effect of these on the university budget can’t yet be determined, the university is projecting a deficit, even without a reduction in UVic’s provincial operating grant. By planning for reductions now, and providing as much notice as possible, UVic can minimize negative impact on quality, capacity or services, and reduce the need for layoffs by using existing vacancies or planned retirements. The university has insti-
tuted a vacancy management strategy so that wherever possible, faculty and staff vacancies are not filled, allowing reductions to occur through attrition rather than layoffs. Implementing some of the planned reductions in the current fiscal year will also allow institutions to accelerate the savings and free up one-time funds to help with the transition.

What about the following year? Given the greater uncertainty for 2014-15, units are being asked to develop plans to seek possible reductions in the range of up to 4 per cent. Announcement of these further cuts won’t occur until there is greater certainty of the university’s budget for the following year. The university usually finalizes budget parameters in November of each year for the following year. The current uncertainty related to provincial operating grants and compensation costs should be alleviated by then, allowing confirmation of any budget reductions at that time for 2014-15. Individual units may decide, however, to proceed with their reductions earlier in the year, particularly where these plans are part of a restructuring or change in service delivery. If the full amount of reductions implemented is not required, the unit will be in a position to reallocate any savings to its highest priorities.

What about finding efficiencies to address the government’s expectations for reductions in administrative and other costs not directly related to program delivery?
The last two years of cuts have meant that many administrative efficiencies have already been identified and implemented, so over the last two years a variety of different approaches have been explored, including optimizing resources and applying “smart growth” principles such as consolidating undersubscribed and duplicate sections of courses without shutting out students or increasing faculty course loads, and removing scheduling bottlenecks to free up space for more students without building more classrooms; looking to reduce costs by sharing and standardizing services such as couriers, travel or educational technology and reducing energy consumption across campus. The university is also in discussions with the province and other post-secondary institutions to determine if there are opportunities to reduce costs through enhanced purchasing power and sharing information technology infrastructure and licenses.

What is being done to address the provin-
cial funding situation? The Opportunity Agenda (see “research universities set out an Opportunity Agenda for BC” on p. 13) proposes a practical plan to expand post-secondary opportunities for young people, close the skills gap and create jobs. The agenda that has been put forward by the presidents of BC’s six research-intensive университетes is predicated on the provincial government maintaining operating grants for the post-secondary sector and increasing funding over time. The presidents will continue to advocate strongly for not proceeding with the potential reductions announced in the last budget.

How are decisions on budget reductions being made and communicated?
The Integrated Planning Committee, led by the provost and involving all of the university’s vice-presidents and associate vice-presidents, outlines institutional priorities to ensure that resources are allocated in a manner consistent with the objectives of the strategic plan. Some areas of highest institutional priority such as financial aid and scholarships for both under-graduate and graduate students and library acquisitions, have been protected from cuts. Deans, directors and heads of administrative units have been working with their respective vice-president to identify possible reductions that can be achieved with as little impact as possible on the university’s commitment to excellence; its teaching, research and service to the community; and its strategic priorities. Decisions made at the unit level will be communicated to faculty and staff by their unit heads. Unit budget reduction plans will be implemented throughout the next year keeping to mind the university’s goal of minimizing the impact on quality of programs and on students, faculty and staff. A budget planning website containing many of the key documents in the process has been created at www.uvic.ca/budgetplanning/.

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CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

FIVE ALUMNI REPRESENT UVIC’S TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

On Oct, 16, to celebrate the university’s global, national and local community impact, UVic paid tribute to five remarkable alumni whose inspiring stories of personal and professional accomplishments exemplify the university’s tradition of excellence. A Celebration of 30 Years of Excellence, held at the Crystal Garden in Victoria, also commemorated UVic’s path-breaking 30-year partnership with East China Normal University (ECNU).

“The celebration of this historic partnership and these exceptional alumni who make a difference to the world around us is another opportunity to collectively mark our 50th anniversary,” said Carmen Charette, vice-president of external relations. “It is also a chance to not only reflect on UVic’s past but to look ahead to its future influence on the betterment of society for generations to come.”

For more than 30 years, UVic’s partnership with East China Normal University, one of China’s most prestigious universities, has enabled hundreds of students and faculty to move between the two institutions to develop deeper cultural understanding, enrich diversity and nourish skills crucial for engaged global citizens.

Videos on each award recipient: http://bit.ly/TVUE26P

The five award recipients—whose achievements represent the university’s diverse academic and social strengths—are:

Stephanie Dixon, BA (psychology) 2009

UVic strives to instill inspiration and perseverance. These qualities lie at the heart of the accomplishments of Paralympic swimmer and medal winner Stephanie Dixon. Her inspiring attitude has taken her to the heart of her sport and motivates a new generation.

Grand Chief Edward John (Akiie Ch’oh), BA (sociology) 1974

UVic is dedicated to social justice and equal rights for all persons. Grand Chief Edward John (Akiie Ch’oh), a Hereditary Chief of Tl’atz’en Nation, exemplifies these values and is a leading voice—locally, provincially and internationally—of Indigenous governance, business and community development.

Paul Nicklen, BSc (biology) 1990

UVic values interdisciplinarity as a means of enriching our understanding of the world. Paul Nicklen, one of the world’s foremost nature photographers, uses the arts to translate science. His passion for documenting the effects of climate change aligns with UVic’s research focus in this area.

Alisa Smith, BA (history in art) 1994; MA (history) 1997

Sustainability is a commitment to future generations and is central to UVic’s mission. Alisa Smith personifies this commitment and has also captured the imagination of consumers in an innovative and very immediate way with the book The 100-Mile Diet: A Year of Local Eating.

Tama Vrooman, BA (history) 1991; MA (history) 1994

Educating socially responsible leaders is at UVic tradition. The health and wealth of society are inseparable, and the thoughtful leadership in these areas of Tama Vrooman as president and CEO of Vancity—the first Canadian financial institution to join the Global Alliance for Banking on Values—is noteworthy.

BY MITCH WRIGHT

Grad’s robot dreams become reality

Growing up in southern China, Hui Zhang had the same dream as millions of children around the world—robots to do the household chores and farm work.

Zhang decided to pursue the dream of designing “intelligent machines” by earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees in mechanical engineering from China’s Harbin Institute of Technology and University of Victoria, respectively, and completing a PhD at the University of Victoria last June.

He transferred to UVic in 2009, after one year at the University of Saskatchewan, because he’d learned that the Applied Control and Information Processing Laboratory, led by Dr. Yang Shi, is one of the best in the world working on networked control systems. It’s a field he became intrigued with upon realizing that mechanical skills alone are not enough to design the best machines—he needed to be an expert in advanced controls.

His field, known as mechatronics, refers to the interdisciplinary integration of mechanical systems, control systems, electrical systems and software engineering.

“Mechatronic engineers have the most comprehensive knowledge in engineering,” says Zhang. “My supervisor, Dr. Yang Shi, told us that mechatronic engineers know everything about something and know something about everything.”

Zhang earned considerable academic recognition throughout his time at UVic, earning a number of scholarships and donor awards, including the prestigious 2010 China Government Award for Outstanding Self-financed PhD Students Abroad. Zhang’s accomplishments are the more impressive given that he started his PhD program with no background in advanced control systems.

“At the early stage, I knew nothing about my project and had no background on the project at all,” he says. “My supervisor and group-mates helped me a lot. With three years of hard work and constructive help, from zero background, I’ve become an expert in the field of advanced control.”

And his expertise is sought after. Now working on the design of diesel engines and electric vehicles at the Center for Automotive Research at the Ohio State University, Zhang has published more than a dozen articles in leading journals, which have been cited more than 130 times. Journals are also now turning to him to review and judge his peers’ work.

Zhang says he’s achieving his childhood dream, but the dream itself is becoming larger and larger as his knowledge expands. He’s also sharing his knowledge by co-supervising PhD students working to apply network control to electric vehicles.

“I am really enjoying the high-tech work and applying my theory to industry,” Zhang says, adding that he hopes to become a professor within the next couple of years.

“This is a great opportunity to see what other countries or cultures are doing. I thought a blog would be a great platform...to make that link between sustainability and that it’s an international thing.”

Traverse’s Sustainable Exchange blog gets intriguing posts from students around the world: carromcows are a regular part of Gustavson culture; the sustainable events checklist that he co-created is a welcome addition to websites across campus. And now Traverse sees potential to help his new employer, Teck Coal Ltd., which he sees as a sustainability-driven company, move forward with sustainability as well.

“When I take on something,” he explains, “I really want to succeed at it.” Judging by his legacy at Gustavson, Michael Traverse is already hitting his stride.

Michael Traverse is already hitting his stride.

Dr. Michael Traverse will take over as president and CEO of Vancity, the largest credit union in Canada, in November. Traverse, who has worked at Gustavson since 2009, is already well-recognized for his work on sustainability and innovation.

The Nanjing Massacre: 75 Years On

November 16
7:30pm: Chana Lary, Keynote Lecture
November 17
9am: Symposium
7pm: Screening of the movie, The Flowers of War (2011)

Harry Hickman Building Room 105
University of Victoria
For full schedule visit: www.caps.ucv.net or call 250-721-7020

The Nanjing Massacre: 75 Years On

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Grad shares expertise in Bangladesh

**By Denise Helm**

When Permin Soomial stepped off the plane in Bangladesh in October 2011, the nursing student was overwhelmed by the heat, smells and sounds.

She was also one step closer to realizing her dream—to make a difference in the world through working in the health sector.

“I wanted to create and support programs that will help alleviate poverty and improve health,” says Soomial, who graduated this year with her Master of Nursing (nurse educator option). “Nursing education does both.”

Soomial grew up in Golden, BC, after her family moved there from India when she was nine years old. She got a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from UVic in 2002 and returned in 2010 to do her master’s degree because of her positive experience as an undergrad, the supportive faculty and the school’s commitment to an international perspective.

“I was educated to be a global citizen, with curriculum that works across continents,” says Soomial. “My education was tailored so that I was able to pursue my dreams. Faculty at UVic have been and continue to be my mentors.”

As part of her program, Soomial did two practice placements, in October 2011 and from January to March 2012, at the International University of Business Agriculture and Technology in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The impoverished country has a severe shortage of nurses, who are poorly trained, underpaid and held in low esteem.

Soomial’s challenge was understanding the cultural differences that affect nursing, including religion, family relationships, social status and appropriate physical contact, while recommending teaching strategies. She discovered, for example, that students learn by rote and don’t question their teachers. This makes encouraging the critical, independent thinking that is essential in nursing difficult.

“I know teaching sometimes gets lost against a cultural norm is a huge challenge,” says Soomial. Yet she knows that quality nursing results in quality health care.

“Nursing education is important because women educated about health make healthy communities and nations. I am excited to be a small part of the health sector in improving quality of life.”

So that others could learn from her placements, Soomial shared her experiences, both difficult and rewarding, in a blog. “I wanted to inspire others through shared stories so that their hearts can be encouraged to act. Secondity, it was an opportunity to examine my own moral, social and ethical values.”

“I feel that I am born in this world to do something good, especially for women who are disempowered. This is an incredibly empowering experience.”

In September 2012, Soomial was hired for a project funded by the Canadian International Development Agency to strengthen nursing education and services in Bangladesh. She is, indeed, living her dream.

**Writing grad lights up film fest screens**

**By John Threlfall**

It’s one thing to have parents who have fame in the same field you’re studying; but who wants one as the head of their university department? Consider Connor Gaston, whose parents are author Dede Crane and acclaimed novelist and Department of Writing chair Bill Gaston. Big shoes, you bet.

But the younger Gaston isn’t just following in the family’s famous footsteps. Instead, he has already started making a name for himself as a filmmaker: one of short films, *Bare Light*, appeared at both Montreal’s Festival des Films du Monde and the Toronto International Film Festival; another—*Stock*—will be debuting later this month at the Whistler Film Festival.

“Getting into the Montréal film festival was enough—it showed that someone enjoyed my work,” he recalls with a chuckle. “But when Toronto called it was like, Oh god, what’s going on here?” Despite his early success, Gaston—already an MEA student in writing—remains realistic about his future as a filmmaker.

“I never really thought of myself as a director,” he admits. “UVic doesn’t even have a real film school—you can’t get a degree in film here yet—so I came at it from a writer’s perspective, which is pretty realistic if you want to become a director. Without a good script, any film is lost.”

Gaston quickly credits his grad mentor, filmmaker Maureen Bradley, for keeping him focused. “She really inspired me to keep writing short films,” he explains. Using the Whistler-bound *Stock* as an example, Gaston notes that “while he directed it, Bradley produced it and offered continuous hands-on mentoring. ‘I give her all the credit for my successes.’”

When asked about future plans, Gaston hedges nervously. “I don’t like to think days ahead, let alone years,” he says. “So far I’m just doing what I like—I pitched a couple of feature film ideas to a Vancouver production company I met at TIFF, and they want to see a script—which I just finished writing the first draft of—and now I have to sign a release contract so they can read the script, which is kind of funny . . . and scary too.”

When asked about being the latest of the writing department’s many success stories, Gaston downplays his own achievements to date.

“There’s a whole bunch of super-talented writers and filmmakers up here and a lot of them have taken off recently,” he says with a nervous laugh. “I guess I’m scared this is going to be the high point of my life, and that it’ll all be downhill from here.”

Somehow that doesn’t seem likely—despite those big shoes.

**Words never fail for linguistics grad**

**By Tara Sharp**

Two years ago, a graduate student from a coastal province in eastern China chose UVic for his further studies in Canada. In the words of Jianxun Liu (MA, linguistics), “I said goodbye to so many things in China to move to Victoria. Graduation normally means completion, but for me, it is more a true beginning.”

Jianxun’s own beginnings were in Jinan, the capital city of Shandong province, a city known for its hundreds of artisanal springs.

Jianxun earned a BA from the Shanghai Institute of Foreign Trade in 1996 and an MA from Shandong University in 2004.

He chose UVic due to “good professors and the program I wanted,” and Canada because of “a dream and a birthday gift to my wife.”

Years ago, his wife was fascinated by a beautiful scene in Canada of a photography magazine. He bought the magazine as her birthday gift, and also made a promise: “We might go there someday.”

Jianxun says he “had been studying English for many years, and before I came to Canada, I had got my first MA in English language and literature.

I have long been puzzled, and more fascinated, by the differences between English and Chinese. I am interested in knowing more and in more depth; thus naturally I came into the field of linguistics.”

His master’s thesis explores an applicative approach to two grammatical constructions in Chinese. In the acknowledgments section of the paper, he says he is “happy that now I can look back at the writing process and express my thanks to the people who have helped me. In the whole past year, my brain has been occupied by organizing words and phrases into meaning; at this moment, however, I feel words and phrases fail me.”

“For me, life is simple, mainly from home to campus. At weekends, I like to walk in and enjoy the beautiful nature with my wife and my daughter, experiencing the change of the seasons.”

He adds, when asked if he faced any particular challenges. “At the beginning, cultural difference might be a little challenge, but I have got much better, and I begin to enjoy the culture here.”

He is now working toward his PhD in linguistics from UVic.
Counseling grad dedicated to Aboriginal community

BY PATTY PITTS

Few graduate students voluntarily add more course work to their degree programs, but Jennifer Coverdale isn’t like most grad students. She willingly took seven additional courses and an extra year of study so that she could graduate this month with an MA in Counseling (Aboriginal Communities Counseling Program (ACCP). "The reason? Coverdale wanted to be able to produce research results to support the changes and improvements her community is calling for.

Encouraged by her Métis Nation, Coverdale strived to do research that brings Aboriginal voices to the forefront. "I wanted to get enough letters behind my name so that policy makers and funders would listen to the lessons we have learned in our community.”

She balanced her studies with work at the urban Aboriginal child welfare agency. Surrounded by Cedar Child and Family Services, describing it as "an incredible grassroots organization committed to Aboriginal culture and youth." It’s where she applies the skills she learned in the ACCP, which combines Western and Aboriginal counseling methods giving her a deep understanding of the values and traditions of Aboriginal communities.

"Most tools developed within a Euro-Western worldview do not reflect the realities of our communities," says Coverdale, who has a Métis father and a Scottish mother. "In the ACCP, guided by Dr. Anne Marshall (educational psychology and leadership studies) and the advisory committee, we had a professor and an Elder stand side by side and deliver coursework collaboratively to ensure we kept our relations at the centre of our work.”

Her commitment to the urban Aboriginal community led her to a research apprenticeship with UVic’s Centre for Youth and Society, where she learned about community-based research. As part of her MA research, she found the evidence she needed to support her teachings of the importance of young, urban Aboriginals relationships with their friends, families and nations in their life transitions. "If young people are connected to their community and culture, it ignites a fire in them that breeds resilience.”

Coverdale’s interest in helping youth started when she was still a youth herself as a volunteer with the Métis Nation of Greater Victoria. She’s now enrolled in PhD studies at UVic and is continuing to study community-based research methodology and Aboriginal youth resilience.

While her Métis culture may be different from the cultural backgrounds of the youth she is helping and supporting, Coverdale says it is not hindrance to developing strong connections to younger people she gets to work with.

"If you’re working in the Aboriginal community, you need to know who you are and where you come from. You need to be genuine and transparent with good intentions. If you can do that, you can be part of someone’s story."

The Hon. Steven L. Point, Lieutenant Governor of BC

Honorary Doctor of Laws

Their Honours have provided outstanding public service and unparalleled work in bringing genuine reconciliation and mutual understanding between Indigenous and settler British Columbia and they are among the most respected leaders within the Coast Salish territory (on which UVic is situated).

Steven L. Point served as the 28th lieutenant governor, completing his five-year term on Nov. 2. He was the first Indigenous person to hold the position of the official representative of the Queen. In 2010, with the help of master carver Tony Hunt, he completed a dugout canoe carved on the grounds of Government House to symbolize unity and the bridging of cultures.

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Her Honour, Mrs. Gwendolyn Point

Honorary Doctor of Education (10 a.m., Nov. 14)

Her Honour, Gwendolyn Rose Point has served on the board of directors for the BC Treaty Commission, and he served for 15 years as an elected chief of the Skwakane First Nation. He also served as the tribal chair of the Stó:lo Nation. He has also served as the tribal chair of the Stó:lo Nation and the Fraser Valley and a driving force behind the Skwakane First Nation offices in Chilliwack, she dramatically extended the First Nations curriculum within the Fraser Valley School District and helped to improve outcomes for First Nations students in the K-12 system.

Dr. Dave Obee

Honorary Doctor of Laws (2:30 p.m., Nov. 13)

A noted journalist, Dave Obee is also a distinguished historian, author and genealogist. He is the editor-in-chief of the Victoria Times Colonist and a frequent contributor of features on local history. He is a co-founder of the annual Times Colonist Book Drive, raising more than $1 million for education and literacy projects on Vancouver Island.

Obee played a key role in the digitisation of the British Columbia and ensuring that the rights to the early newspaper were granted to UVic. His 2009 book, Making the News, is a comprehensive history of Victoria and Vancouver Island as told through newspapers and archival sources dating from 1858.

He produced Destination Canada, considered the most comprehensive guide to resources for immigration researchers. A sought-after speaker on genealogy, he has given more than 300 presentations on topics including Stalin’s Secret Files” and “Miming the Canadian Census.”

Dr. Naomi Halas

Honorary Doctor of Science (2:30 p.m., Nov. 14)

Based at Rice University in Houston, Dr. Naomi Halas is a pioneer in the emerging field of “nanophotonics” — the interaction between light and structures at a scale 100,000 times smaller than the width of a human hair.

She is the inventor of nanoshells—tiny particles that can be used in biomedicine, including photothermal cancer therapy. Her key finding was that nanoshells (basically coated spheres with an inner core of glass and an outer core of gold) can capture and focus light around them.

One potential application of nanoshells in cancer therapy involves harnessing their ability to convert light into heat to thermally destroy a solid tumor while minimizing damage to healthy cells.

Halas hopes that the technology will dramatically improve the prospects of people suffering with cancer and that it could be used as a general approach for removing lumps in a variety of soft tissue types.
After her first year of university, Jan Clark decided maybe school wasn’t for her. But that’s not the end of this story: her CV now boasts analphabet of academic credentials after her name.

Clark always loved learning, but she started her post-secondary career taking “the usual courses” and nothing captured her imagination. Then she took a summer job with a geologist, and that experience fired her curiosity that stemmed from her very first day as a child, she says.

It took her a full day, but she filed the writ on Friday, Nov. 16 and Saturday, Nov. 17 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the UVic Michele Pjuel Room.

Law grad follows personal quest for knowledge

Grad’s climate change research helps communities

United Way fun coming up

Law—particularly how and why all the “quirky” traditions developed. After returning to Victoria, she decided to pursue the fascination by applying to UVic’s Graduate Program in Law and Society in 2009.

She graduates this month after completing her thesis delving into the history of the common law last summer.

As a master’s student, Jensen began a project on how to manage rainwater where it falls, rather than directing it into stormwater systems buried under city streets. Green roofs, rain gardens and permeable paving materials are some of the strategies that were evaluated to determine how they could mitigate the impacts of more extreme rainfall brought on by climate change.

“When I began my master’s degree,” says Jensen, “I am grateful for my family and my partner and their support during my studies.”

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“UVic is a great leader in climate change adaptation,” says Jensen. “The university is ‘walking the talk,’ when it comes to buildings with green roofs, rain gardens and other low-impact strategies.”

Jensen is currently working for the BC Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development. He works with local governments on addressing climate change in their development strategies. He also helps communities prepare for climate change by reducing vulnerabilities to crisis events such as flooding.

After her studies rain gardens, green roofs and climate change, Chris Jensen will graduate this month with an MSc degree in geography.

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Law—particularly how and why all the “quirky” traditions developed. After returning to Victoria, she decided to pursue the fascination by applying to UVic’s Graduate Program in Law and Society in 2009.

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When he is not studying the impact of extreme rainfall Jensen can be found in the alpine regions, rock climbing, skiing and mountaineering.

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Help homeless people kick the cold
Are there barely-used shoes, gloves or winter coats collecting dust in your home? Why not donate them to people who need them? Do something heartwarming this chilly holiday season. Three geography students are assisting the Good-Neigh Society by collecting clothing and necessities for Victoria’s homeless community. Donations can be dropped off in donation boxes outside the UVSS offices and in room 8327 of the SSM building until Nov 22. Particularly wanted are lightly used shoes, gloves, scarves, jackets, towels and reusable shopping bags, as well as new women’s underwear, women’s deodorant and makeup.

TRANS—the movie
Commemorating the 14th Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance (Nov. 20) and in celebration of the Transgender Archives at UVic, UVic Libraries and Cinemac are proud to present the 2012 feature-length award-winning documentary TRANS at Cinemac Nov 21 at 7 p.m. Following the showing there will be ample time for questions and answers with founding President of the Association for Transgender Health, Canadian Youth, and University Archivist, Dr. Aaron Devor, and University Archivist, Linda Wilson.

Details and a full schedule: http://bit.ly/canscipub.com. More: info or to RSVP email media@uvic.ca

Improve your research communications
Want to learn how to successfully communicate your research? Come to a free Workshop for Researchers on Nov. 13 from 9 a.m. to noon, Room 105, Hickman Bldg. This half-day workshop, presented by Canadian Science Publishing, will showcase three expert speakers who will help unlock the mysteries of scholarly publishing and communicating science. You’ll learn how to choose a journal, maximize your likelihood of acceptance, and get useful tips on author rights and copyright limitations. Learn about traditional journal publishing: for info or to RSVP email: cancsci.pub.com. More: http://bit.ly/Ttr6f

The Nanjing Massacre: 75 Years On
On Dec 13, 1937, the Japanese Imperial Army entered the former capital of the Republic of China. In the six weeks that followed, thousands of civilians and military personnel were found later in mass graves around the city. This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Nanjing atrocity. On Nov 14, UVic’s Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives and the Department of Pacific and Asian Studies are holding a symposium on the Nanjing massacre. The symposium will look at the events of 75 years ago and examine what they mean today for China, Japan, Canada and the Asia-Pacific region. Details and a full schedule: www.caps.uvic.ca

At Fall Convocation the university honours the outstanding talent, dedication and creativity of the faculty members and other teaching staff who provide such a high quality of education to our students. “We are extremely proud of the recipients of this year’s awards for excellence in teaching,” says Vice-President Academic and Provost Reuta Tremblay. “On behalf of the university, I would like to offer our gratitude and congratulations to these inspiring teachers who contribute so much to the lives of their students and to the value of a UVic education.”

This year’s recipients are profiled below:

Dr. Lianna Victorino
Peter B. Gustavson School of Business Excellence in Teaching Award
Dr. Lianna Victorino has received the Commerce Students’ Society Teaching Award for the last two years. Students feel comfortable sharing their opinions and asking questions in her classes. For her, the learning process is one of joint discovery, where both the student and the instructor actively think and interact in courses designed to be a challenging and rewarding experience. Victorino consistently incorporates real world business applications in her courses and provides learning experiences that steer students toward success and developing their own passion for the subject matter.

Dr. Deborah Begoray
Faculty of Education Award for Excellence in Research
Dr. Deborah Begoray (curriculum and instruction) is an internationally-recognized literacy researcher who demonstrates the important synergy between teaching and research. Her research has led to curriculum development and teaching strategies that are taken up in classrooms in public schools, community health clinics, a First Nations Community school and medical education classrooms. She consistently integrates her research findings and strategies into undergraduate and graduate courses she teaches. Much of the over $1 million in external funding secured by Begoray has been directed at research that focuses primarily on teaching issues and interventions.

Dr. Amirali Baniasadi
Faculty of Engineering Excellence in Teaching Award
Dr. Amirali Baniasadi (electrical and computer engineering) has consistently received excellent reviews including peer and student evaluations. His goal is to educate students to a level where they understand both the underlying fundamentals and the state of the art in computer design. He has regularly contributed to curriculum development and has designed lab manuals and new experiments to help students better understand fundamentals of computer engineering. Baniasadi has received teaching and Centre and NSERC design chair awards for his teaching contributions. His former students hold faculty positions at Canadian and U.S. universities.

Dr. Yang Shi
Faculty of Engineering Excellence in Teaching Award
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Dr. Michelle Fillion
Faculty of Fine Arts Excellence in Teaching Award
Dr. Michelle Fillion (music) inspires her students to make their music studies as much a vital part of their lives as breathing oxygen. Her teaching philosophy is “to infect them with some of the passion that I have always felt – for music, for research and for the ring of good prose, and for the intellectual and creative work that comes from mind and heart.” She shares what she knows and loves, and “plays it by heart.” She has published widely and has consistently demonstrated, to quote one of her doctoral students, “superior performance in the classroom.”

Jin-Sun Yoon
Faculty of Human and Social Development Award for Teaching Excellence
Jin-Sun Yoon (child and youth care) shows heartfelt dedication in supporting students and practitioners in developing an ethical and moral approach to professional practice. She provides an optimal learning environment where inclusion and belonging are the foundation. Her wide range of professional work in many countries has given Jin-Sun an intergenerational and intercultural lens that informs her teaching of social justice and diversity in working with children, youth, families and communities. She is committed to providing opportunities for students to expand on their classroom learning as she engages them in community practice, advocacy and activism.

Dr. Helga Thorson
Faculty of Humanities Excellence in Teaching Award
Dr. Helga Thorson (Germanic and Slavic studies) inspires her students to look not only inward but also back in time. She is a founding director of UVic’s 14th annual Holocaust Day of Remembrance, a unique course that explores the ways in which the Holocaust has become memorialized in Central Europe. It offers far more than the acquisition of skills and knowledge: it changes students’ lives. This success results from Thorson’s collaborative approach to learning and teaching, by which students are also producers of knowledge. Thorson has excelled as a graduate-level instructor and graduate advisor and revived the department’s tradition of graduate-student conferences.

Prof. Glenn Gallins
Faculty of Law Terry J. Wulster Teaching Award
Professor Glenn Gallins (law) is receiving this award for the third time in 10 years. Gallins directs the Law Centre, the legal aid clinic, where students deal with legal problems faced by some of Victoria’s neediest citizens. All clients are poor, many are homeless, many have mental illnesses, many are recent immigrants or Indigenous citizens. They are helped by students, and the students are helped by Gallins. He instructs them in law, procedure and—critically—the human context of legal practice. He teaches and exemplifies the highest ethical values of lawyering, maintaining his enthusiasm, serenity and humour.
Dr. George Spence (earth and ocean sciences) is an outstanding teacher who has contributed enormously to educational programs and to student learning in the Faculty of Science. He is passionate about science and inspires students. He is always respectful and available to students and genuinely cares that they learn and develop as professionals. The value of his personal mentoring to a large number of students cannot be overstated. Students praise his enthusiasm and dedication, broad and deep knowledge of the material, wide range of teaching techniques and ability to motivate learning and make classes enjoyable.

Dr. George Spence
Faculty of Science
Teaching Excellence Award

Dr. Andrew Wender (political science/history) is deeply committed to teaching and strives to bring intellectual breadth, rigor and excitement to his classes. He shares his devotion to learning and fostering nuanced understanding of religion and global affairs, and he works with colleagues to develop effective strategies for teaching and learning. At the core of his efforts is the belief in cultivating engaged and critically aware citizens. As well, his growing expertise on issues affected by the Middle East means that he is in demand to speak with community groups and local and national media.

Dr. Andrew Wender
(political science/history)

Dr. April Nowell (anthropology) is a scholar of early humankind whose passion inspires her students to pursue their own life passions. A dedicated teacher, Nowell is highly competent, energetic and motivates her students to learn. She is a strong advocate of effective mentoring, helping students discover their excitement for research, and fostering their individual creativity and their transition to professional careers. A graduate student says, ‘She has found the perfect balance between providing direction while still leaving enough space for students to be more self-directed and pursue their areas of interest.”

Dr. April Nowell
Faculty of Social Sciences Excellence in Teaching Award

Catherine Nutting (history in art) is an inspiring, compassionate and engaging teacher. Students view her as a positive and inspiring role model, noting often that her classes are the best they have experienced at UVic. She combines driving curiosity, enthusiasm and passion for the historical study of art with strong personal ethics and a desire to mentor others. She models in the classroom the values of compassion, integrity and collaboration. She not only encourages her students to think critically about art but she also fosters a positive learning environment, allowing each student to have a voice.

Catherine Nutting
Andy FAQAHURAN Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Teaching

Love of the ocean takes grad far

BY MELANIE TRUMP HOOVER

Most students—including Rhianannon Pretty—come to UVic for an education and a few years focused on something they truly love, but it’s not every undergraduate that ends up with a pair of seasoned sea legs to match their degree. Raised in Metochin and back on the coast after a UBC stopover and two years abroad in England, Pretty grew up close to—and achingly in love with—the ocean.

“When I went to the beach I could spend hours sitting next to a tidal pool watching crabs eating as the tide came in or identifying invertebrates or just staring,” laughs Pretty, who graduates this month with her bachelor’s in biology and a slew of on-the-job experience, including a field school term and 18 days at sea in the Arctic.

“When I finally came back to Vancouver Island I knew I wanted to do marine science,” explains Pretty, “and my term out in Bamfield really solidified this decision: I was spending six days a week in class and enjoying every minute of it.”

A typical day in Bamfield meant waking up at 5 a.m. to catch the tides with the ocean.

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“I was in the field all of the time in this tiny marine basin, connected to the local ecosystem in an amazing area for ocean productivity.”

But the hands-on side of Pretty’s degree just kept outdoing itself—earlier this spring she won an NSERC award that put her on an Arctic research expedition with associate professor Diana Varela’s phytoplankton project. July’s oceanographic cruise was part of the Distributed Biological Observatory, an international program aimed at monitoring ocean conditions in the north Bering Sea to create a time series of data that communicates (and eventually helps predict) changes happening in the Arctic region.

“It was an amazing experience,” says Pretty. “I was a first-timer crossing the Arctic Circle and one of the first undergraduate students to be given the job. I was the only student there from Di-anais diatom productivity lab, so I got to see the whole of the data collection processes were needed, what could and couldn’t be done, that kind of thing.”

Diatoms are a major group of algae and—as the base of the marine food chain—are useful for monitoring environmental conditions under the sea. “The data I collected this summer are different from what was collected just last year,” says Pretty, explaining that diatom numbers were smaller this year. Because an 18-day cruise only gives researchers a snapshot of Arctic conditions, this shift could be affected by a number of factors, but it does point to substantial transformation under the ocean’s surface. “These changes made me want to learn so much more about the Arctic.”

On top of the hunt for diatoms, Pretty was treated to a visual feast: every time she looked up from her work: walrus families ambling by on icy floes, orcas, humpbacks, minke whales and even a aerial shot of the caribou migration when her cruise was held up by ice and the team needed to be airlifted by helicopter.

“When you see the Arctic from the air, you get such a clear picture of everything that’s changing.”

This sobering view and her non-stop curiosity will add up to another degree for Pretty—the avid hiker plans to start her master’s someplace in the Pacific Northwest in 2013 with an eye towards the base of the food chain, either working even more closely with Arctic phytoplankton or looking for other predictive changes happening just below the surface.

Cristal Trembleay (geography) is a dynamic, enthusiastic and engaging teacher who creates supportive, learning environments that facilitate diverse learning styles and support the specific needs of students. During a field school experience in India, under sometimes trying circumstances, she served as an outstanding role model and inspiration to the students, providing teaching support as well as mental, physical and emotional support to the 20 female students. Helping all to see the additional learning opportunities this experience presented.

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Dr. Andrew Wender
(political science/history)
BY ANNE MacLAURIN

A summer camping trip in Hadia Gwan brought political science student Kat Zimmer an unexpected epiphany. “I was surrounded by natural beauty, and I thought, my academic life must reflect my passion for the outdoors,” remembers Zimmer. That moment became the catalyst for a change in her academic career. “I didn’t know about the environmental studies program and that it could also be political,” says Zimmer. “I was so excited that I could bring politics and the environment together.”

As an environmental studies/political science student, Zimmer was able to blend her love of nature with her academic studies. Four years later she is now finished her undergrad degree and looking to the future. “I want to do a master’s degree in environmental studies. I looked at other universities, but UVic has what I want in a program and campus culture.”

One of her most memorable experiences at UVic was the summer she spent at the O.U.R. (one unit-ed resource) Ecovillage located at Shawnigan Lake. At first she was at the ecovillage as part of a directed studies course then she was hired and stayed on for the rest of the summer. Her task was to make the permaculture program more accessible to university students.

“Permaculture is about systems that support each other, inputs and outputs, with very little waste,” she explains. “There is a synergy to the environment, and one can apply that to human systems as well.”

Because of her work, the School of Environmental Studies is seriously considering a partnership with the ecovillage for the delivery of a permaculture field school. Zimmer came to UVic from Cranbrook after attending the College of the Rockies. She immediately connected with the size of the campus and the friendly, approachable community. “In my time at UVic I have seen the universitythrough many different lenses,” says Zimmer. “I have been on student government boards, worked as a server and held a co-op job in the Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability. The university is such a welcoming, caring community.”

She thanks her professors Dr. Duncan Taylor and Dr. James Rowe for their vision and support during her degree program. She is hoping to start her master’s program under the supervision of Taylor. She says she was also supported by Helen Kobrc in the Co-op and Careers Office. “I feel so privileged,” says Zimmer. “I had such amazing support from faculty, co-op and the Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability.”

Social media causes boredom (and vice versa

BY AMANDA FARRELL-LOW

Who would have thought that goofing around on the internet would lead to cutting-edge research and gainful employment? Probably not Liam Mitchell, but that’s precisely where the UVic grad found inspiration for his recent PhD.

Mitchell originally came to UVic thinking he would do his research on consumer culture and how it related to German philosopher Martin Heidegger’s theories on boredom—until he found himself thinking about the times when he found himself the most bored.

“Paradoxically enough, it’s when I’m most engaged with something online,” explains Mitchell. “I will go online, click through links for minutes and then hours and then all of a sudden, an afternoon is gone. Having been interested and engaged that entire time, at the end of it, I don’t remember a thing about the entire experience, and I’ll be tremendously bored.”

So Mitchell decided to switch gears and apply Heidegger’s ideas about boredom to social-media use—in particular, two social media platforms that require their users to be relatively anonymous (Reddit and 4chan), and one that encourages users to provide more personal information (Facebook).

“Because I was making that theoretical connection, I decided this was going to be much more significant and much more interesting for me to talk about than something as abstract as consumerism,” he says.

In his dissertation abstract, Mitchell concludes that, while all three of the sites are used differently, they “express different aspects of the mood that holds sway over the internet” and that “social media is both the cause of, and solution to, boredom.” The boredom he associates with social media is giving rise to an increasingly dominant view of the world, he argues, that is characterized by a “preoccupation with preoccupation.”

He wasn’t the only one who felt the research was significant. When he formally receives his PhD in political science from UVic’s Cultural, Social, and Political Thought (CSPT) Program at this month’s convocation, Mitchell will be flying in from Peterborough, Ontario. That’s because a week after he presented his dissertation this past June, Mitchell secured a tenure-track assistant professor position in Trent University’s Cultural Studies department.

“Most people struggle for years. I think many people don’t get jobs at all, or they will get jobs teaching one course here and one course there while trying to publish and get some profile recognition, so I’m exceedingly lucky,” says Mitchell. At Trent, he is teaching an introductory course in their media studies program—which he describes as a “much-extended” version of the Technology and Sociology course he taught at UVic—and needs to constantly be updating his examples.

“Where I was talking about Kony 2012 in the spring, I now have to be working with something new, because people don’t even remember Kony 2012 anymore. It’s almost ancient history,” he says. “It means that not only is the teaching exciting because we are working with contemporary material, but I have to modify my ideas, too.”

During his time at UVic, Mitchell also helped found a political theory publication called Peninsula: A Journal of Relational Politics, and you will still find his name among the contributors. So while he may be across the country these days, Mitchell’s UVic ties—and legacy—remain strong.
BY RENAYE MAURICE

On Dec. 6, 1989, a horrific act of violence took the lives of 14 women in Montreal. As a result, a private member’s bill was brought to parliament by Dawn Black, a B.C. politician, and the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women was created. I remember. But now, 23 years later, it’s simply not enough just to remember. I want to inspire you. I decided to share a little of how I overcome violence in my life. I hope to reach you on a personal level. For many, going beyond remembering is a matter of survival.

The picture is at five. I used to make it sad to look at. I wonder how could someone hurt this little child? When this picture was taken I was already shamed, disembodied, held together by self-preservation and compartmentalization. I hurt the pain and let the horror inhabit me. This is true for many people who experience violence. I became complicit in my own abuse because I was silenced.

As I got older the dreams came, flashbacks, and anxiety attacks. I remember my father hattering me. Daily abuse included slaps, bites, being touched and forced. I remember him trying to drown me, holding me upside down by my feet in the freezing November creek. I remember being hungry and sad. And the pain did not end when we were free of my father, or years later when he died. There was no one event or person that “saved” me. Instead, it was a process that has become a daily practice of remembering, resisting and allowing love. Telling someone was the first step to my well-being. It started with a friend when I was 15 years old, then my aunt. At 21 I told my mother, and at 38 I told my daughters. Today I am telling you. I am still amazed I told all at, in the midst of the facade of a “progressive” Canada—where nothing bad happens and children are safe in their homes; where racism, homophobia, colonialism, environmental violence, domestic violence, aperism and ableism are things of the past, where bad things happen to “others.” How was I supposed to tell the truth, when no one else was?

For years the abuse dictated the patterns of all my relationships. I cared if I was ashamed of my body. I was angry and afraid. But today what hurts is not that my family didn’t know how to help me, it’s the culture of impunity we are all creating: a culture that requires silence and continues to ignore violence.

Remembering is no longer enough. Violence, in all its forms, is a social and a community issue. Showing up shows we care. Decide to come to the observation of National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women and celebrate:

• Acknowledge those in our community who work against violence on a daily basis.
• View the Clothingline Project (sponsored by the Anti-Violence Project)
• Honour survivors
• Commit to change

The Ring November 2012 Page 11
On any given day you may find the UVic Family Centre bustling at the seams with a children’s program, hosting a parent’s book club or busy with volunteers from the Garth Homer Centre who have been cleaning toys there for over eight years.

The centre is a community gathering place where learning and research takes place, where resources are shared, relationships are built and family support services are provided. It’s a big mandate for this small centre located in the family housing complex since 1998. And the person bringing it all together is director Elizabeth Quong.

“It is incredibly rewarding to see how student families thrive in this environment,” says Quong, who joined the centre in 2006 following years of working in the family resources services sector. “My background has been all about community and family, so the job is a perfect fit for me,” says Quong.

The centre began as an initiative of the Faculty of Human and Social Development in 1990 as a way to provide support for student families, and today, as enrolments grow for graduate, international and mature students, Quong believes the centre has an important role to play in maximizing student success.

“Being a student and a parent presents challenges, and in order to feel successful as a student it is important that the family feels strong as well,” says Quong, who believes that having families on campus enriches the university and facilitates a more supportive community.

“The centre is a unique model, not comparable to any other university family centre in Canada,” says Quong. “It brings direct service to student families and supports students in their learning through practice, research and volunteering.”

A network of collaborating stake-holders interested in the wellbeing of student families within UVic and the wider community has been developed over the years with recent community support coming from Island Savings, the centre hosts a number of special events throughout the year where the university and community can come together and engage in family-friendly events.

“It is incredibly satisfying to see this type of engagement taking place at the centre,” says Quong. “I feel privileged to work with such a wonderful team of staff, volunteers and families.”

Quong’s international roots run deep. She started life in India where her family were engaged in the international work of the YMCA. At 16 she moved to Switzerland and then embarked on a two-year commitment with CSU in South America. Quong understands the feeling of being a stranger in a new country and can empathize with student families who may struggle to feel a sense of belonging.

“I love creating opportunities for community,” says Quong, whose sincere appreciation of people, community and culture has infused her entire life.

Making the West Coast her home for over 30 years, Quong appreciates the natural beauty of her surroundings and enjoys hiking, cycling and kayaking. Her interests are varied as an avid reader, arts enthusiast and traveller, but when it comes to student families, Quong’s focus is crystal clear. “The centre is a place where all are welcome and everyone’s contribution is valued.”

Jimmy Gene Harris died in Seattle on Sept.10, 2012, at the age of 82. Harris began his long collaboration with UVic’s Department of Linguistics in 1966, having previously met the current chair of the department, Dr. John Eiling, while both were in Edinburgh. Raised in the Arkansas Ozarks, Harris led a remarkable life as a phonetic fieldworker undeterred by danger in some of the world’s remotest regions.

While a graduate student, he carried out fundamental language revitalization fieldwork with the Síid Na Nation (Sáilsh) in the Fraser River Valley. He received an MA from the University of Washington in 1966 and an MEd from the University of Southern California in 1971 then, on leave from his field duties, spent time refining his phonetic knowledge in Edinburgh and London.

Harris worked for many agencies and carried out phonetic research, in the field, on over 300 languages— in East Asia, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, South America, North America, West Africa and the former Soviet Union. Over a 25-year period, he taught general phonetics at several universities including in Armenia, Brazil, Laos, Nepal, Indonesia, Bangladesh and Thailand. Many academic phoneticians, particularly in Thailand, owe their training to him.

Once at UVic, Harris worked intensively with Eiling for approximately 10 years on the experimental phonetic analysis of several languages from diverse language families, including: Huschahnulth (Wakashan); Miskipamarch (Salish); Tsyphcri (Semitic); Palestinian Arabic (Semitic); Iraqi Arabic (Semitic); Samo’i (Cookish); Ams (Austroasian); Y’i (Tibeto-Burman); Bai (Sino-Tibetan/Tibeto- Burman); Tlapan (Tibeto-Burman); Sai Ram-Diaci; Thai (Tai); Qwiai (Diu-Manguaran); Akan (Niger-Congo, Kwa); and Kabiey (Niger-Congo, Gur).

Harris was instrumental in providing a link between Indigenous communities and pure phonetic laboratory research, bringing many speakers of Indigenous languages into the department’s lab and making the experience a pleasant, unimimidating and enjoyable one. Nothing was more important to Harris than teaching, learning and providing access to education.

Harris never stopped doing phonetic research. In his later years, he reviewed his passion for experimental methods and talent for working with people as an adjunct professor at UVic.

Based on a submission by Dr. John H. Eiling, Chair, Department of Linguistics

Nels Granewall, a member of the university’s first graduating class in 1964, long-serving staff member, and leader of more than 200 convocation ceremonies, died on Oct. 23.

Granewall was born near the Swedish town of Uppala. He was 11 when his family emigrated to Canada in 1951, choosing to settle in Saanich where they took over a farm with 50 acres of strawberry fields. As he neared completion of high school, he attended an open house at Victoria College, sparking his love for the atmosphere of learning and his passion for knowledge.

During a 33-year career at UVic that began in 1967, he managed and directed student financial aid services and scholarship programs, developing strong bonds with thousands of students. The Grad Class of 1974 founded the Nels Granewall Bursary as their graduation gift to the university.

In some 10 years of voluntary service as chief marshal of more than 200 convocations, Nels’ greatest joy and satisfaction was reconnecting with these students as each one prepared to cross the stage. His eventual transfer to the Office of Alumni Relations allowed him to remain in contact with former students worldwide as he helped establish 74 alumni branches. He also created the Student Alumni Association, still going strong as the UVic Student Ambassadors.

Nels contributed his knowledge and “institutional memory” to the alumni association’s history and archives and alumni awards initiatives. He was also a key resource for two university history books: A Multitude of the Wise: UVic Remembered and The Lansdowne Era: Victoria College 1946–1963.

Beyond UVic, his community service included executive roles with Rotary International (Student Exchange and Ambassadors Scholarship programs) and Victoria Swedish Club Cultural Events.

In honor of Nels’ commitment to student financial aid, donations may be made to the Nels Granewall Bursary (for students who are single parents) or the Speaker-Granewall Bursary (for engineering students) at the University of Victoria, Development Office, PO Box 5060, STN CSC, Victoria, BC, V8W 3R4.

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