Their Excellencies the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, and his wife Mrs. Sharon Johnston visited UVic campus on Sept. 26 as part of their visit to Victoria. The vice-regal couple, along with the Honourable Steven Point, the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, and his wife Mrs. Gowendoly Point, were among the guests at a discussion about UVic’s LE,NONET project in the ceremonial hall of First Nations elders, and educators and students involved in the LE,NONET project. This program, which has resulted in increased retention and graduation rates for participating Aboriginal students. During the afternoon visit, Their Excellencies met with UVic President David Turpin as well as First Nations elders, and educators and students involved in the LE,NONET project. More: http://web.uvic.ca/lenonet/
Three UVic scientists earn national honours

Two University of Victoria scientists have joined the ranks of Canada's academic elite. Geologist Dante Canali and astrophysicist Julio Navarro have been elected fellows of the Royal Society of Canada for outstanding scholarly and scientific achievements. The distinction is considered Canada's highest academic honour.

The society has also awarded its 2011 Miroslaw Romanowski Medal to UVic climatologist Andrew Weaver for "his exceptional research achievements, scholarly writings and resolute efforts to share his knowledge on climate change [which have been] critically influential in the world over."

Canali is an international leader in the study of the Earth's mantle, the super-heated layer of rock below the crust that makes up about 85 per cent of the planet's mass. His pioneering work has greatly expanded our understanding of volcanic rocks that host diamonds, ancient deep regions of the continents, and the evolution of oxygen in the Earth and atmosphere.

"A better understanding of diamond geology aids in the exploration of Canada's North where diamond deposits are concentrated," says Canali. "And the evolution of oxygen in the mantle—Earth's largest chemical reservoir—may be key to the rise of oxygen in the atmosphere over time, which led to the evolution of complex life forms on our planet."

Navarro is one of the world's leading astrophysicists, whose research on galaxy formation and evolution—primarily using sophisticated computer simulations—has shaped our current understanding of how structures in the universe formed. He is especially well known for his work on dark matter, a mysterious substance that holds galaxies together.

"Cosmology is undergoing a golden age of discovery that promises to rewrite the most fundamental laws of physics," says Navarro. "It's only in the past few decades that humankind has been able to piece together a scientifically verifiable account of how the universe began and evolved. It's a privilege to be active in this field at this time."

Weaver is one of the world's leading authorities on climate change. He is recognized nationally and internationally as a leader in climate modelling and analysis, and in particular, as an expert on the role of the ocean in climate variability and change. His recent research on ancient climates has contributed significantly to our understanding of climate change and variability over the last 130,000 years of Earth history.

Weaver is also well known for his tireless efforts to engage the public on climate change issues. He is the author of two books for general audiences on climate change: Keeping Our Cool in a Warming World (2008) and Generation Us: The Challenge of Global Warming (2011). Weaver has been a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada since 2001.

For more information about the Climate Impacts Consortium, visit www.cic.uvic.ca.
Basso
Elected staff member
Basso is the director of Academic and Administrative Services for University Systems at the University of Victoria as well as the chief technology officer for Project Management and the Project Division of Continuing Studies. Bassi holds a BSc in computer science and an MBA (service management) from UVic, as well as a Master's Certificate in Project Management and the Project Management Professional (PMP) credential. He has taught management information systems for the Gustason MBA program and economics for the Division of Continuing Studies at UVic.

Jenn Bowie
Elected student member
Bowie is pursuing an English major and film minor with a deep interest in film studies. She is known for her commitment to her community and UVic in general. Bowie has been involved in the University of Victoria Students' Society and currently serves as UVSS director of student affairs, a role that engages with all forms of student groups on campus. Having spent the last four years at UVic, Bowie has "learned a lot about the university and gained a lot of useful experience that I am eager to put to good use as a Board of Governors’ level.

Peter Driessen
Elected faculty member
Driessen was appointed at UVic in 1985, and is currently a professor in the Faculty of Engineering with research interests include music computer science. His teaching and computer science. His teaching and research interests include music technology, sound recording, audio signal processing and multimedia. He has over 100 publications and 14 patents and holds research funding from NSERC, SSHRC and the Canada Council for the Arts. Driessen was elected by members of the faculty to serve on the Board of Governors for a three-year term 2005-08. He served on the executive of the Faculty Association for four years, and is currently vice-president of the association. Other contributions to UVic include service on Senate, the Senate Committee on Libraries and as faculty library representative.

Lindsay LeBlanc
Order-in-council appointee
LeBlanc holds a BCom (Hons) from the University of Northern British Columbia and an LLB from the University of Victoria. She was admitted to the British Columbia bar in 2006. As a partner with the law firm of Cox, Taylor, she focuses on property land development, corporate and commercial law; estate planning, foreclosure, and administrative and municipal matters. LeBlanc has served as director-at-large on the Aboriginal Law Student Scholarship Trust Committee of the Canadian Bar Association and as legal director of the Vancouver Island Sexual Health Society, and was treasurer and director of the Victoria section of the Canadian Bar Association. Young Lawyers. Her current one-year term on the Board of Governors began on July 31, 2011.

Tara Paterson
Elected student member
Tara Paterson is chairperson of the University of Victoria Students’ Society, having served during 2010-11 as a UVSS director-at-large. She is pursuing a double major honours degree in political science and women's studies. Paterson is an active volunteer and organizer in the community and previously served on several student groups.

Bowie
Driessen
Paterson
LeBlanc
UVic Field School: a rich cultural experience

BY ANNE MacLAURIN

Travel in India is not for the faint of heart; the diverse culture, dense population and multiple language dialects are challenging for most travellers. In August, 20 UVic geography field school students took up the challenge and went to India, where they spent the next four weeks exploring issues of community governance, women’s empowerment, resource use and management, and conservation. The India Field School was a first for UVic in partnership with the Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA). UVic geography professor Phil Dearden and PhB candidate Crystal Tremblay led the group through Northern India from village to village, beginning in New Delhi and continuing to Haryana and the Himalayan region, followed by a number of days in the Alwar district of Rajasthan at the Sariska Tiger Reserve.

In each village the students observed and thought about areas of conservation, development and resource management. For many of the students this was their first time travelling outside Canada. “I’m overawed—overawed with joy, appreciation, satisfaction and inspiration. This school was more than I ever could have hoped for. I’ve learned so much, I’ve changed, and I’ve found so much more to explore,” says Ellen Hunter-Peirks.

“The whole field trip was very intense; the students were amazing and embraced all the challenges of travelling in a different culture,” says Tremblay.

“The India field school was invigorating and was unquestionably the highlight of my undergraduate degree experience,” writes Victoria Francis. “I feel I have gained many important skills and learned many valuable lessons, including interview skills.

On their final day of the field course the students presented their observations at the PRIA headquarters in New Delhi. A highlight for students was having the PRIA staff and visitors from the Canadian High Commission attend.

“Field school success is defined largely by the quality of the students,” says Dearden. “We could not have wished for a more engaged and perceptual group, and this resulted in an experience that many of them will remember for the rest of their lives.”

Since 1982, PRIA has focused on key initiatives including participatory research, citizen-centric development, capacity building, knowledge building and policy advocacy. For more information on PRIA: http://www.pria.org.

Pictures and a video about the UVic Geography Field School: http://crystaltremblay.com/
Hope drying up for Iraqi marshlands

A woman milks a water buffalo on a floating island near homes made from reeds.

This image of a simple yet sustainable life in the southern Iraqi marshes— an image formed by Willek Theisger’s classic text: The Marsh Arabs—is vastly different from the present reality. The University of Victoria’s Canada-Iraq Marshlands Initiative (CIM) wrapped up last year, but it is still not clear whether the traditional way of living will be anything in the future than descriptions of old photos or lives lived on the marshland margins.

The CIM, with $55 million in federal funding from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), was a large-scale collaborative project to revive the vibrancy and diversity of marshland life in the largest wetlands of southwest Asia. The southern Iraqi marshlands are cradled between the Euphrates and Tigris rivers north of where the two waterways drain into the Persian Gulf.

The initiative was launched in 2005, with the first phase headed by the University of Waterloo and devoted to training wetlands scientists in Iraq. UVic led the second phase, initiated in 2007 in cooperation with the Fraser Basin Council, British Columbia, University of Waterloo and Iraqi partners. Phase II focused on environmental management and good governance.

UVic geography professor Dr. Stephen Lonergan (now retired) and Management and Policy Studies professor of UVic’s Institute of Dispute Resolution (now with SFU’s School of Public Policy) worked with David Marshall, executive director of the Fraser Basin Council, and John Talbot, a professional facilitator, to coordinate development of the long-term plans.

In the late 1990s, approximately half a million people were living in the region, but the marshlands were drained under Saddam Hussein’s regime and the population dwindled to fewer than 100,000 by 2003.

The CIMI produced a report last year, “Managing for Change: The Present and Future State of the Marshes of Southern Iraq,” summarizing the dramatic changes over the decades as well as the results of the initiative, and identified key factors that still need to be addressed.

Due to challenges including security problems, frequent drought, the presence of oil and, most ominously, an ongoing water crisis, “it is doubtful whether the marshlands can support at some future point the same culture and livelihood that once sustained the people,” says Lonergan. “Their way of living literally dried up in front of them.” According to recent reports, fewer than 40,000 people live there now, with most residents situated at the edges of the marshes.

Maloney, in an earlier Ring article, acknowledged that one significant challenge was providing leadership “at distance” because the researchers couldn’t go into Iraq. (Original Ring story: http://bit.ly/pbhjkoz)

Everything had to be done through meetings at a distance. Syria and Jordan. The project took one and a half years to develop, with an initial meeting in Amman, Jordan in 2006, followed by a second in Syria in October 2007 with leaders of the three marshland governorates, federal officials, sheikhs from the area’s largest tribes and the three regional universities.

Despite the obstacles, the UVic team was able to finalize a management plan that is now being used by Iraq’s Ministry of State for the Marshlands to help develop a strategy for the future of the region. Meetings among stakeholders have continued, coordinated by a committee jointly chaired by the University of Bahau and the federal Committee to Restore the Marshlands. The project was also nominated for Harvard University’s prestigious Roy Family Award, which celebrates public-private partnerships that enhance environmental quality in a novel and creative manner.

Yet the future of the marshlands is unclear. “With upstream water withdrawals from Turkey and Syria, competing uses within Iraq, and the likelihood of more droughts caused by climate change, there simply won’t be enough water to sustain life in the Marshes,” notes Lonergan. “We are potentially looking at an environmental collapse on the order of the Aral Sea in Russia.”

Managing for Change, as well as a comprehensive atlas of 60 maps with full descriptions in English and Arabic, and a link to a 2010 interview with Lonergan, are available at http://bit.ly/ppeyzlM.

Copies of the report and atlas are available by emailing lennonge@uvic.ca.

Gold—good for development, toxic for children

BY TARA SHARPE

Small-scale gold mining may look like a treasure hunt to outsiders, but it is actually part of a global movement to escape poverty. Unfortunately, X [also marks the spot’ where children in Nigeria have grown ill over gold.

Dr. Kevin Telmer (earth and ocean sciences) was in northern Nigeria in July in his latest effort to help solve the global conundrum. “In Zamfara, 100,000 miners can’t produce enough mercury to make gold in one year and realize most of that profit,” says Telmer. “Unlike bananas, coffee or cotton—which bring in less than 10 per cent for workers and growers—with gold the miners are seeing direct returns of about 80 per cent.”

This informal industry produces approximately 15 per cent of the world’s extracted gold and is practiced in 70 developing countries by 10 million people. Miners and their families are exposed to toxic levels of mercury and lead even while the rare metal itself means better livelihoods, healthier lives and a chance at a more prosperous future.

The gold ore is ground up, then mercury is added to bind the gold into an amalgam; this is then heated into an amalgam; this is then heated to extract the gold. This ancient method—a fast and cheap way to extract gold—was used extensively in the Canadian gold rushes. The mercury poisons the small-scale miners, the local community and environment, and travels around the globe contaminating the world’s fisheries.

And in Zamfara, it’s just mercury. The world’s worst-lead epidemic has already killed hundreds of children this year in that region. Telmer was in the northeastern state of Nigeria to assess the current system and design a safer mining program that will improve the health, social and environmental conditions of mining communities.

“Here, mercury is used but lead is the more acutely dangerous element. When gold is ground out of the lead- rich ore using moisturized flour, lead dust is released into the air to poison the soil,” Telmer explained.

Telmer partnered in Nigeria with Médecins Sans Frontières, Blacksmith Institute (New York) and US environmental consultancy Terra Graphics to develop a solution they collectively refer to as a three-legged stool.

Medical care management provides emergency treatment for those already experiencing toxicity. This is accompanied by environmental remediation. “And then there is prevention—initiation of safer mining practices,” says Telmer. “That’s where we come in. We focus on the origin of the problem.”

The mill grinding process is very dusty. The short-term solutions are conceptually simple: use a wet processing method. Telmer assists with the set-up, and in Zamfara wet processing produces more gold—an easy sell. With the mercury, distillation can recycle 95 per cent of the heavy metal, resulting in 20 times less exposure.

“We’re experts, we Canadians,” Telmer adds. “Gold is how most of the West was built. The Fraser River, The Klondike. It is a very Canadian industry, and we’ve heavily involved in this. A lot of the capital required for gold exploration is raised on our nation’s stock market. And a lot of Canadian junior exploration companies use small-scale miners as an exploration tool—an ethically questionable practice. We can do better.”

Telmer founded the non-profit local Artisanal Gold Council (AGC), which is in the early stages of setting up a corporate social responsibility fund for the small-scale miners. Visit www.artisanalgold.org for more info.

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100g (3.5oz) of mercury used for amalgamating gold. PHOTO: KEVIN TELMER—VIKING, 2011

ringers

Professor Emeritus Wolfgang Hoefer (electrical and computer engineering) is one of two recipients of the IEEE Circuits and Systems Society 2011 Pioneer Award, which recognizes a major, lasting contribution in the field.

UVic writing instructor Joan MacLeod is among six playwrights sharing the 5,000 Eleonore and Louis Simonovich Prize, the largest award in Canadian theatre. The award recognizes accomplishments in design, direction and playwriting in three-year cycles, with this year’s focus on playwriting. MacLeod’s plays include Another Home Invasion, Homechild, The Shape Of A Girl, 2000, Little Sister, The Hope Slide, Amigo’s Blue Guitar, Torontoo, Mississippi and Jewel. The winner will be announced on Nov. 7 at a ceremony in Toronto.

Dr. John Eshig, chair of UVic’s Department of Linguistics, was elected president of the International Phonetic Association (IPA) in August. A linguist and phonetician whose research has helped advance scientific understanding of speech, Eshig taught at the University of Leeds before coming to UVic in 1961. The IPA is the largest international organization for phoneticians, established in Paris in 1886, with the aim of promoting the scientific study of speech. Eshig is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada; currently editor of the Journal of the International Phonetic Association; and director of UVic’s Phonetics Laboratory. Eshig has also participated in the development of several phonetics teaching and speech analysis software programs.

Vikes cross-country and track and field athlete Darren Mazzei (education) was named one of the Top Eight Academic All-Canadians, named by the Canadian Interuniversity Sport Sept. 27. Academic All-Canadians are athletes who have maintained an average of 90 per cent or better over the academic year while competing for one or more of their university’s varsity teams. Among these outstanding individuals, one female and one male student-athlete from each of the four CIS regional associations are selected annually as Top Eight Academic All-Canadians. The Vikes boast one of the highest percentages of Academic All-Canadians in the country, with one in over five receiving the distinction.

The Ring Sept 2011 Page 5
Music and computer science degree turns five

BY JOHN THRELFAIL

If you tweet it, they will come. That was the thinking behind the creation of the combined Music and Computer Science degree program five years ago.

“I’ve taught courses in music technology since I came to UVic in 1990,” says program co-creator Andrew Schloss. “We used to get emails asking, ‘Is there any way I can study music technology?’ and I’d have to say, ‘Not exactly—you could take these courses in music and these courses in engineering, and so on.’ We created this program because we saw a need, and it’s been a smashing success.”

Originally created by Schloss—who specializes in computer research in music and acoustics—and electrical and computer engineering professor Peter Drissen, the teaching faculty has doubled since 2006, thanks to the addition of audio engineer Kirk McNally and musician and computer scientist George Tsangakos.

Now boasting 40 students, it’s clear the program was ahead of its time. “At first, people just didn’t get it—it was outside their experience,” recalls Schloss. “We worked really hard to convince everyone—including our colleagues—that we should do this. Now everybody uses iPods and iPhones, everyone looks up songs on the web, so everybody understands.”

No surprise there. Once the sole interest of tech geeks and audio cliques, the two fields and how they relate have been forever changed by the digital revolution. From recording technology and computerized instruments to creating audio for video games and platforms for delivery of one of the world’s fastest telephony, data, speech and music and computers have now been irreversibly fused. “All music is in the clouds,” says Schloss. “There’s tremendous effort being made to figure out how to access it, transmit it and create it. Computer science and music are one of the most natural combinations.”

Schloss should know. As a percussionist and electronic musician, he’s a virtuoso on an instrument called the radiodrum and has played alongside some of the most natural combinations. “It’s pretty big now, and it’s getting more popular. We’re turning people away.”

THE SCIENCE OF SOUND

UVIC’S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Share your UVic Great Moments

BY PATTY PITTS

The organizers of UVic’s upcoming 50th anniversary celebrations are inviting you to take a stroll down memory lane and contribute to the anniversary website at the same time.

The link to “Great Moments at UVic” on the web is now live and ready to accept your nominations.

“A great moment can be an individual or team achievement, a physical campus development or a memorable UVic event that reflects UVic’s commitment to excellence and contributed in some way to UVic being one of Canada’s leading universities,” says Anniversary Events Manager James Burrough.

“We want to try to capture many of the ways that UVic and its people have had an impact on Canada, its communities and the world. A selection committee will review the submissions in the next year to ensure they meet the criteria and will recommend which great moments will be featured on the anniversary website during the 2012–13 celebration.”

Burrough also encourages people to share their own personal great moments. “Maybe you met your spouse while you were working or studying at UVic. That’s a great moment for you. And we plan on sharing as many submissions as possible on the website.”

Over the past 50 years there have been many great moments at UVic. Some that could receive nominations include the university launching its co-op program—now one of the biggest in Canada—and becoming one of the first Canadian universities to sign a partnership agreement with a Chinese university.

In the ‘80s both UVic’s men’s and women’s basketball teams had record-setting national title runs. In 1994 UVic helped host the Commonwealth Games and was the site of both the opening and closing ceremonies and many memorable athletic performances.

In the past decade UVic took delivery of one of the world’s fastest computers and installed both the NEPTUNE Canada ocean network and the VENUS coastal network.

Music and computer science degree turns five

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Friday, October 14

- Music 12:30 p.m. Friddman, School of Music voice students. MacLaurin B25, 250-721-8654
- Lecture/Seminar 2:45 p.m. Presentations of Relative Size-Change in the Canadian Arctic. Thomas James, Geological Survey of Canada. Social Sciences & Math B215, 250-721-7727

Monday, October 17

- Lansdowne Lecture 11:30 a.m. Sir James and Classical Female Emperors: Sappho and Sudden Death. Dr. Anton Lappin (University of Manchester). Strong C101, 250-721-7319
- Orion Series in Fine Arts 8 a.m. Apryl Huang, intern, internationally renowned soloist and educator. Apryl Huang (McGill U). MacLaurin B25, 250-721-8654

Tuesday, October 18

- Earth and Ocean Sciences Seminar 12:30 p.m. Subduction in the Upper Ocean. Fred R. Wiseman and Sarah Buoyancy Loss. Dr. Ben Garvert, Institute of Ocean Sciences, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Coastal Physical Oceanography, Old Dominion University. Harbour, IV, Victoria Centre Area, 250-721-6120

- Other 12:30 p.m. International Opportunities. Have you always dreamed about studying abroad but don't know where to start? University Centre Lobby, 250-472-4523

- Music 12:30 p.m. Lecture. Soprano with Sharon & Hendrik Krebs. Two and Three. MacLaurin B25, 250-721-8654

Wednesday, October 19

- Conference 10:00 a.m. Oct. 21. Migration in the Hispanic and Italian World. The Dept of Hispanic and Italian Studies presents its 21st annual symposium. The Thursday sessions will be presented in English, and the Friday morning session will be presented in Spanish. University Centre A100, 250-721-7719

- Music 12:30 p.m. Friddman, School of Music voice students. MacLaurin B25, 250-721-8654

- Café Scientifique Lecture 6:00 p.m. Engineering Replacement Organs: From Stem Cells to Reality. Dr. Stephanie Wilkens (Uvic). Maple Leaf, Strathcona, 919 Douglas St, 250-472-6460

Thursday, October 20

- Studies in Religion & Society Lecture 4:30 p.m. This Fall Show Us Your Current Valid Student ID Card For 10% Off! www.incharecordingcanada.com (250) 590-5421

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Friday, October 22

- Lecture/Seminar 6:30 p.m. Investigating the Migrations of Pacific Humpback Whales. Ecologist Dr. Jonathan Morin. Sponsored by the Dept. of Biology, Fraser 119.

Saturday, October 23


Saturday, October 24


Sunday, October 24


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10% Off!
The UVic 2011 United Way Campaign

The UVic 2011 United Way Campaign is officially away from the starting block, following the barbeque launch on Sept. 27. This year’s fundraising target of $290,000 is UVic’s most ambitious goal ever.

“The UVic has been a strong supporter of the United Way of Greater Victoria for over 35 years,” says campaign chair Charles McQuade. “This year one of our goals is to expand the number of employees who contribute through automatic payroll deduction.”

Faculty and staff who return the pledge form and sign up to give as little as $6 a month will be helping the nearly 138,000 Victorians who benefit from United Way-supported programs and services delivered through 67 agencies.

Pledge forms for UVic employees will arrive in the next few weeks. Staff and faculty who contribute through their pledge packages will be eligible to win weekly prizes from Oct. 11 to Dec. 16.

Mark your calendars for upcoming United Way campus events, including the Plasma Car Races, Oct. 29 to Dec. 2.

For more information, visit http://unitedway.uvic.ca or contact campaigns@uvic.ca.

ShakeOut earthquake drill Oct. 20

Do you know what to do when the earth starts shaking? Are you ready to “drop, cover and hold on”? UVic did a great job of “shaking out” during the first province-wide earthquake drill last October. As the annual date for BC has been changed to October, a second large provincial exercise is planned on Oct. 20 at exactly 10:20 a.m.

The two-minute drill will help you learn the immediate response procedures for an earthquake. “Practicing these simple procedures now could make a big difference to your health and safety when an earthquake occurs,” says Daphne Donaldson, UVic’s manager of emergency planning.


Therapy Dog University of Victoria

Aurora, a 10-year-old Golden Retriever, is a volunteer with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Victoria (SPCA). She helps UVic students de-stress during finals week with a “pawsome” therapy dog program.

Aurora is available in Sept. and Oct. to de-stress UVic students during finals week. She is available in the UVic Library as well as the Health and Wellness Centre.

The program is funded by a $500 donation from the UVic administration and by student fees. Each full-time undergraduate student pays $1.50 towards WUSC each semester.

This funding provides financial support for the sponsored students’ first year in Canada, and usually they find jobs and take out student loans to pay for the remainder of their education.

“Thanks to WUSC and UVic’s Student Refugee Program, students who contribute through automatic payroll deduction have the potential to support the sponsored students’ first year in Canada.”

The UVic WUSC local committee has helped hundreds of sponsored students in Canada, and the student club currently sponsors three students each year. In recent years, sponsored students have been from Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. For 2011, UVic WUSC is looking for students to help sponsor the chosen students.

Orry is a 7-year-old Golden Retriever who helps UVic students de-stress during finals week with a “pawsome” therapy dog program. She is available in Sept. and Oct. to de-stress UVic students during finals week. She is available in the UVic Library as well as the Health and Wellness Centre.

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The program is funded by a $500 donation from the UVic administration and by student fees. Each full-time undergraduate student pays $1.50 towards WUSC each semester.

This funding provides financial support for the sponsored students’ first year in Canada, and usually they find jobs and take out student loans to pay for the remainder of their education.

“Thanks to WUSC and UVic’s Student Refugee Program, students who contribute through automatic payroll deduction have the potential to support the sponsored students’ first year in Canada.”

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