It gives me great pleasure to introduce myself as the new vice-president research at UVic, and to return to Canadian academic life as a professor in the School of Public Administration after five years abroad at the University of Edinburgh. During this fantastic summer we are having in Victoria, I am undertaking a walking tour of the faculties, research centres and core facilities on campus, and meeting with key research partners and organizations off campus.

Familiarizing myself as rapidly as possible with the many facets making up UVic research is a critical first step in the development of a strategic research plan for the university. Throughout this coming academic year a wide-ranging and comprehensive consultation process will elicit perspectives about what makes UVic special among research intensive universities nationally and internationally, and how our strengths can prepare us for our/the pursuit of new and exciting opportunities. I am looking forward to engaging with the university community, our research partners and off-campus communities to take stock of where we are now, and to articulate what UVic research can and should be in the future.

—David Castle, Vice-President Research

We would appreciate your feedback and suggestions on how to improve the research newsletter. Please take a few minutes to fill in the survey at http://bit.ly/1ICBnpl
The Centre on Aging Welcomes New Director, Dr. Scott Hofer

Dr. Scott Hofer

The Centre on Aging (COAG) is very pleased to announce that Dr. Scott Hofer is the next director, as of July 1st, 2014, following the successful leadership of Dr. Holly Tuokko. As the latest five-year review team noted, the Centre has flourished as one of excellence in research and community engagement and is a model Centre on Aging in all of Canada. Without a doubt, Dr. Hofer’s leadership will uphold this vital brand. With his superb research expertise, international collaborations, and record, he will further advance the Centre’s mission to contribute to improving the health and quality of life of an increasingly diverse population of older adults, and to assisting their families, health care providers, and policy makers in meeting the challenges and potentials of an aging society.

Dr. Hofer is Professor of Psychology and holds the Harald Mohr, M.D. and Wilhelma Mohr, M.D. Research Chair in Adult Development and Aging. He was recently elected President of Division 5 (Evaluation, Measurement, & Statistics) of the American Psychological Association and is Past President of the Society of Multivariate Experimental Psychology. Dr. Hofer’s own program of research is focused on optimizing the research and clinical power of longitudinal studies for identifying and explaining change in cognitive and physical functioning related to aging and age-related pathology. As Program Director (with Co-Program Director Andrea Piccinin) of the Integrative Analysis of Longitudinal Studies on Aging project (NIA 1P01AG043362; www.ialsa.org), an international network comprised of over 65 longitudinal studies, he is engaged in international comparison and replication of aging and health-related change in cognition, personality, and well-being. At the level of the individual, these types of studies rely on regular assessments of functioning for the early detection of within-person changes. The discovery of such changes can both generate and allow the evaluation of the impact of clinical interventions and health-promoting behaviours. Scott and his research group, with colleagues at Island Health, are actively exploring the inherent potential for participant-friendly technologies to optimize frequency and duration of reassessments to capture clinically-relevant change in both clinic and home-based data collection.

Welcome Dr. Hofer!

—Vincenza Gruppuso
When it comes to his creative practice, Jackson 2Bears straddles two worlds.

A Kanien’kehaka (Mohawk) multimedia artist who completed his Masters and PhD at UVic, 2Bears is the current Audain Professor of Contemporary Arts of the Pacific Northwest for the Department of Visual Arts. His creative practice focuses on “the aesthetics of Indigenous identity in contemporary times . . . I envision my practice as a form of cultural critique in which I explore alternative ways to engage with the question of Native spirituality in our modern, technological society.”

Created in 2009 as part of a $2-million gift from B.C. art philanthropist Michael Audain and the Audain Foundation, the Audain professorship brings in mid-career professional artists to both work with students and further their own work.

“Much of this past year was about intense research,” says 2Bears. “I really wanted to use this time to experiment. Sometimes at the mid-career level, you find yourself in ruts—I was conscious of trying to upset that for myself. I wanted to do the research in order to recreate my practice.”

Primarily inspired by electronic music and DJ/VJ culture, 2Bears uses remix as a tool for cultural critique by manipulating images of popular Native stereotypes. He’s currently fusing research with his creative practice by creating entirely new digital instruments for an on-campus exhibition in September 2014. “I’m adapting an old analogue synthesizer into a video performance machine,” he explains. “I want to treat video like sound, so it can warp and move like a synthesizer and music.”

He’s also in the process of building what he describes as a digital “pow wow drum”—which will project a video image whenever the beater strikes the skin—and working with software that allows wrap-around video mapping onto three-dimensional objects. “I’m investigating a lot of ‘false-face society’ masks and rituals from my own culture, so that will likely play into it as well,” he says.

2Bears will be returning to the Audain position for the 2014/15 academic year, allowing him to further develop his research, teaching and creative practice. Paraphrasing noted American Indian author Vine Desloria Jr., he says, “It’s a strange misconception of the traditionalists that indigenous culture happened a long time ago, that we’re always having to go back to the past. But a crucial part of our tradition is change, transformation, evolution.”

—John Threlfall

New Appointment for Dr. Alan Pence

Alan Pence, Professor, School of Child and Youth Care and UNESCO Chair for Early Childhood Education, Care and Development (ECD), has been appointed to the U.S. National Academies’ Institute of Medicine and National Research Council Forum on Investing in Young Children Globally. Dr. Pence is well known in the international ECD community for his work in Sub-Saharan Africa promoting capacity for early childhood programs, policies and training. Most recently, Pence has been working closely with key scholars based in Cameroon, Zambia and Kenya to advance an African-led base of research for future ECD efforts in Sub-Saharan Africa.

—Debbie Blakely
Science Confirms Two Distinct Wolf Types in BC

Dr. Chris Darimont, geography department, has been studying and researching wolves for over 10 yrs in the Great Bear Rainforest on the west coast of B.C. New research co-authored by Darimont provides genetic evidence that BC’s mainland wolves and coastal wolves appear to be genetically distinct.

The research, published June 10, 2014 in the scientific journal BMC Ecology, affirms what Chester Starr, an elder from the Heiltsuk First Nation on BC’s remote west coast, and his people have always known. In fact, Starr’s insight provided motivation for the study.

It was likely the profoundly different ecological environments that created the genetic separation, explains co-author Dr. Chris Darimont, Hakai-Raincoast professor at UVic and a scientist at the Raincoast Conservation Foundation. Coastal islands offer wolves more marine-based foods, such as salmon and marine mammals—preferences that are passed on from generation to generation. Over time, coastal wolves bred more frequently with one another and less frequently with their deer-loving relatives on the mainland.

“The fact that this is not supposed to happen over such a short distance is what makes this special,” says Darimont. “We’d absolutely expect wolves from Alberta and Alaska to differ, but we would not expect this genetic gradient within an area that is only 2,000 square kilometres.”

The scientists analyzed DNA samples from wolf scats collected in the field.

The discovery reminds us that although Indigenous and scientific approaches constitute different paths to knowledge, they’re rooted in the same reality and provide complementary information, adds Darimont. “Earlier in my career, I had assumed that ecological knowledge could only come from science. I was wrong, and it’s exciting to learn from this and similar experiences.”

Link to the study here.


—Anne MacLaurin
**Face Value**  
U Vic researchers give children with autism a fun way to hone their social skills

It looks and sounds like any computer game, quickly pulling youngsters into its world. Within seconds of starting FaceMaze, a seven-year-old boy is smiling school-photo style at the screen, then making the grumpiest face he can.

A few moments later, he’s playing Let’s Face It. It doesn’t take him long to recognize photos on the screen of his teacher, the girl next door—both of whom he had a difficult time recognizing earlier.

The games are about a lot more than having fun. They’re a key part of research taking place at the University of Victoria’s Centre for Autism Research Technology and Education (CARTE).

The centre opened in 2011 and pulls together resources from the university and the community. It develops innovative technologies to help the increasing number of people with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Projects at the centre range from workshops for early childhood teachers to the creation of groundbreaking computer games using the latest advances in software and hardware technologies.

While the research is complex, the motto is straightforward—new tools for different minds. Says Jim Tanaka, a UVic psychologist and CARTE director: “Autism is not a disability. It’s simply a difference.”

See UVic’s KnowlEDGE to read the full story.

—Kim Westad

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**Coaching Moves from Athletes to Employees**

Mark Colgate’s research offers him myriad chances to use what he learned playing as a boy. His research is about bringing the athletic approach to coaching into the business context.

“If you walked up to an athlete and said ‘I want you to be a faster athlete or better at tennis, but you’re not allowed to practise, and I’m not going to give you any coaching …’ that athlete would say that was crazy.”

“But that’s what we do in business,” says Dr. Colgate. “We hire people, we don’t coach them, we expect them to perform …[yet] we don’t put the time and energy into developing people.”

“Athletic coaching is all about making people more efficient, more effective, [and] reaching their potential.” And those are business goals, as well.

Dr. Colgate, with Dr. Steve Tax, is involved in research that looks at athletic coaching asking: What can it teach business? In particular, what can it teach front-line service employees?

Dr. Colgate’s research findings show that employees getting mental (set goals, visualize success) and physical (how to eat and cross-train) coaching were the most energized and engaged at work – 75 per cent of employees who were receiving all three dimensions (mental, physical, and here’s-what-I-want-you-to-do coaching) reported feeling fully engaged at work. Only 40 per cent of employees receiving none of these said they felt engaged.

When front-line employees service employees, (banks, telecommunications, health care) were asked, they said they felt less engaged than people who weren’t getting any coaching when a coaching program didn’t live up to their expectations – so bad or sporadic coaching is worse than none at all.

An Associate Dean at the Gustavson School, Dr. Colgate also teaches in Executive Programs in addition to his work with BCom and MBA students. He uses coaching in his classes and is himself part of a coaching program among Gustavson professors, who observe each other teach and offer feedback.

“I love the framework,” he says. “What did you do well? What was tricky? What would you do differently?” Dr. Colgate hopes this research will inspire business to at least investigate coaching beyond an annual performance review.

—Moira Dann
**Indigenous Rights Meet Corporate Growth**

“Supporting the rights of indigenous people to control their own destiny … is something that’s owed to them,” says Dr. Matt Murphy.

Dr. Murphy's research marries his two great interests, business and anthropology. He'd taken an anthropology course in the final year of his undergrad and was enthralled to the point where he thought: “Oh my goodness, I took the wrong major.” He continued in business and managed to maintain and enrich his interest in anthropology until his research and his personal interest dovetailed: “It just kind of came to me and met up with an interest I’ve had for a long time.”

His work with indigenous communities affected by extractive industries provides plenty of material to engage both these interests. In one research stream, he’s examining how companies that want to improve their record on human rights and their relationships with indigenous communities can best do that. He also looks at how indigenous communities can develop their abilities to deal with companies and governments, and get their needs met as they define them. To do this, he talks to everyone: Staff and executives from a company, NGOs, government staff, indigenous community leaders, other interested community members, staff of political parties, experts in the field and other academics.

Another stream of research considers different historical contexts along with different approaches by government and industry to indigenous rights, and how these things affect outcomes.

Dr. Murphy is also involved with Vancouver Island First Nations: “They want to develop processes that will help evaluate economic development proposals to determine how … projects would affect the community in more than just economic terms.”

Another interest of Dr. Murphy's is taking fair trade to a new level. When he was living in Ireland, he co-founded an NGO called Value Added in Africa. It aims to support processing of commodities into goods in the developing countries where commodities are sourced to help producers make a quantum leap in improving their situation and their prospects. The solutions aren’t hi-tech, says Dr. Murphy. It’s putting tea in a bag and the bag in a box rather than selling the tea in bulk.

“Rather than selling tea in bulk and making 3 per cent of the final retail price, by selling tea in a bag and in a box, [producers] will make 15 to 17 per cent, and that’s way more than they’ve been making,” says Dr. Murphy.

Dr. Murphy is now doing research to help take this kind of fair trade to still another level, promoting trade in ethically-produced, environmentally friendly, value-added products from developing countries.

—Moira Dann

**The Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives Hosts Master Class on Migration**

On May 27-29, 2014, the first ever Migration Master Class was held at the University of Victoria, hosted by the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives. The three-day class was led by two experts in the field of Migration and Mobility: Jennifer Hirsch, Professor and Deputy Chair for Doctoral Studies at the Department of Sociomedical Sciences, Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University in New York; and Heather Horst, Vice-Chancellor’s Senior Research Fellow, School of Media and Communication, RMIT University, Melbourne.

The Migration Master Class was designed to establish critical new veins of research in the areas of family and migration and is the opening event of the SSHRC-funded research project, Southeast Asian Women, Migration and Family in the Global Era. This project is led by Dr. Leslie Butt and Dr. Lisa Mitchell (Department of Anthropology) and is housed at CAPI as part of its Migration and Mobility program.

The Master Class brought together the research team, graduate students, and regional experts from the West Coast to explore key issues relevant to forming cutting-edge research on contemporary migration movements. “The Master Class galvanized the research team into exploring new fields of inquiry around social media and collaborative approaches to research. It also provided a superb learning experience for the UVic graduate students,” said Leslie Butt. “We are delighted with the outcomes of this initiative.”

For more information, please see the CAPI [website](#).

—Catherine Dooner
Moving Trans* History Forward Symposium

On March 21-23 scholars, activists and community leaders from across North America and Europe came together in Victoria for the first-ever conference on collecting, preserving and accessing the records of trans history. Aaron Devor has spent much time and energy over the past several years pulling together the world’s largest trans archives, housed at UVic. Aaron and a small team organized the well-attended conference.

Saturday evening’s keynote address by Dr. Susan Stryker was open to the public. Stryker was the catalyst behind the new program in transgender studies being developed at the University of Arizona, as well as one of the co-founders of the new journal, Transgender Studies Quarterly.

Three other experts in their fields were invited keynote speakers, including Lt.-Col. Jennifer Pritzker, a transgender philanthropist and retired US Army officer; Viviane Namaste, the author of three books on trans studies and Concordia University professor; and Dallas Denny, an “accidental activist” and pioneer in the trans rights movement.

Among others, Michael Waldman, head librarian at NY’s Baruch College, stressed the important tasks that archivists have in shaping the recording of history; how what materials and information are organized relate to ideology. Devor confirms that one of the challenges in building archives is scope – who is and is not included. He wanted the collection to be as broad in scope as possible.

Other notable speakers included Ms Bob Davis from City College, San Francisco and Dr. Sara Davidmann from London’s University of the Arts. Davis discussed how researchers and archivists might identify archival images of trans people based only on visual clues. Dr. Davidmann shared a personal project of modifying old family photos of an uncle who she later discovered to be trans. Through various techniques, she reframed her uncle “as the person he was rather than the person the family wanted him to be.” This project highlighted how family photos can be used to “erase people and stories.”

Devor’s hope was for the symposium to link people who have been working, often in relative isolation, on various trans issues. Based on the enthusiastic response to the event, he was successful. Fully 26% of the people who filled out evaluations surveys said it was “one of the best conferences I’ve ever been to!” and another 22% said that it was “great.”

The next conference is planned for 2016.

For more information, connect to media coverage here, here and here.

—Aaron Devor
Research highlights cont.

Pipeline Palooza III

The Gustavson School of Business held its 3rd annual internal research conference, Pipeline Palooza III on March 14, 2014. Unlike traditional research conferences with a focus largely on full papers in the latter half of the research pipeline, “Pipeline Palooza” was created in 2012 to celebrate and support research at all stages of the research process – from initial idea to post-publication impact.

This year’s theme focused on interdisciplinary research that is insightful, innovative and impactful. This conference celebrates collaborative, interdisciplinary research that uses as a fulcrum the four pillars of the Gustavson School of Business (international, integrative, innovative, and sustainable/socially responsible).

Some key presentations:

- **Steve Tax**, a service marketing researcher, discussed how he moved to conduct research in the Operations Management and Human Resources field.
- **Jen Baggs**, an economist, discussed how she and Mary Yoko Brannen, a cross-cultural management researcher, worked on a SSHRC proposal together.
- **Sudhir Nair**, international strategy scholar, and Wade Danis, international management/entrepreneurship scholar, talked about the role of serendipity and their research in emerging economies.

All participants were asked to come prepared to give a two-minute pitch for a novel research project, a germinating research question, gap in the literature, research conundrum (etc.) that would benefit from collaborative and interdisciplinary thought. The rest of the afternoon was spent working collaboratively in groups to work on some of these research questions.

Gustavson School of Business would like to especially thank Holland Gidney, Research & Scholarship Coordinator, from the Faculty of Social Sciences department, for her presentation on demystifying the SSHRC Process.

—*Wendy Mah*

School of Music Announces Masters in String Quartet

Over the past few years, the School of Music’s string faculty has been working to establish a program for young musicians to study intensively; not as individual artists, however, but as a quartet. The School of Music is now proud to announce the launch of their Masters Degree Program in String Quartet Performance—a first in Canada.

While there are other institutions where individual musicians can earn graduate degrees in string performance, UVic is now the first Canadian degree-granting institution to offer a Masters with a specific string quartet emphasis. This program will allow previously formed quartets the opportunity to study with UVic’s acclaimed Artists-in-Residence, the Lafayette String Quartet.

“This will bring an outstanding student quartet to UVic to work directly with the Lafayette String Quartet for a two-year residency,” says School of Music director Susan Lewis Hammond. “The program will bring the high level of the LSQ’s creative activity directly to students. The result will be an innovative student experience that builds directly on the creative and research expertise of the Lafayette String Quartet.”

For more than two decades, the LSQ has taught some of Canada’s finest young string players, and also used their residency to enhance local performances and community involvement. “Not all universities have a resident string quartet, and there’s a real mentoring by having all of the string teachers in one ensemble,” says LSQ violinist Sharon Stanis. And, as the renewed success of their annual QuartetFest West summer teaching program proves, it seems only natural to have a Masters in String Quartet here at UVic.

—*John Threlfall*
External Research Funding Updates

Tri-Agency Competitions

The following graphs provide an overview of UVic researchers’ success in the major Tri-Agency competitions from 2009 to the current year 2013/14.

For each agency, the UVic success rate is shown in red with the national average in yellow.

Of note, CIHR is in the process of changing to the Foundation and Project based competitions. Information updates on the upcoming Foundation Scheme Live Pilot are available at http://www.uvic.ca/research/conduct/home/funding/externalgrants/index.php

NSERC Discovery success rates remained strong for UVic researchers at 67 per cent. 2013/14 was the first year of the institutional quota for the NSERC RTI competition. The UVic quota of 13 applications was selected by an internal review committee. In total, UVic received 5 grants, significantly above the national average.

SSHRC Insight and Insight Development grants success rates were equal to the national average, 24 per cent. UVic researchers achieved significant success in being awarded one Partnership grant and 4 Partnership Development grants for a total of $3.3M.
In 2013/14, UVic had 8 proposals approved for funding in the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) John R. Evans Leaders Fund (JELF), formerly the Leaders Opportunity Fund, for an allocation of $1,373,720 in CFI funds.

UVic also submitted 11 applications for support to the BC Knowledge Development Fund and received an allocation of $2.2M with approvals pending for an additional $1.2M.

In the recent major CFI Innovation Fund Competition 2014, UVic researchers led 4 proposals and were engaged as co-investigators in 8 other proposals. The results are expected in March 2015.

In the CFI Major Science Infrastructure Special Competition (May 2014), UVic led a proposal by the Bamfield Marine Science Centre for $985K over 3 years. The results are expected in November 2014.

UVic also submitted one proposal in the recent open WD competition from the Faculty of Engineering.

There were 7 Canada Research Chair nominations (4 new and 3 renewals) in 2013/14, with 6 approved and 1 pending for a total of $5.7M total over 5-7 year terms.

The information was presented to a joint meeting of the Research Advisory Committee and the Council of Centre Directors in June.
The Gustavson School of Business recognizes research excellence through its Gustavson Leader of Excellence (In Research) Award. This award is held for a three-year term and is announced annually at the School of Business’ Festival of Distinction Award in May.

Congratulations to Dr. Monika Winn, who is the 2014 recipient of the award. Following work on stakeholder conflicts, her globally recognized research more recently has focused on how climate change affects businesses and how firms can adapt to it. Her current work builds on that expertise from a slightly different angle. Dr. Winn has seen, in more than 20 years of scientific research on biodiversity and ecosystems, unequivocal evidence that genetic and functional diversity of life on Earth is critical for ecosystems to function and to continue to provide the resources and services needed for human well-being. In her own research, Dr. Winn examines the risks that businesses face when biodiversity is lost and ecosystems are degraded, leading initiatives and opportunities to transform current business models, and which competences will allow firms to manage biodiversity and support ecosystem resilience. She teaches Business and Sustainability courses in Gustavson’s core curricula to undergraduate, MBA and PhD students at Gustavson.

Dr. Graham Brown was last year’s recipient of the Gustavson Scholar for Research Excellence. Dr. Brown’s research focuses on territoriality and psychological ownership. He applies these two threads to a variety of research topics including negotiation, creativity and workplace conflict. His recent research focuses on the impact that feelings of ownership have on innovation and new venture success with the thesis that feelings of ownership are both positive in that they propel efforts but simultaneously negative in that they create resistance to help and feedback from others. His work has been published in the Academy of Management Review, Organization Science, and Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes and featured in Harvard Business Review online. His teaching focus is in the areas of human resource management, leadership and negotiation and he applies these concepts to help others discover and use their passion to lead and create.

Dr. Wade Danis received this previously in 2012 (inaugural year) and holds the title for one more year.

— Wendy Mah
Honours and awards cont.

Library Publication Awarded Prize in Canadian Book Design Competition

*The Seghers Collection: Old Books for a New World* by Dr. Hélène Cazes was awarded a third prize in the prose non-fiction illustrated category for the Alcuin Society Awards for Excellence in Book Design in Canada, 2014. All of the award winning books are posted to the Alcuin Society website, showcased in an awards catalogue produced by the Alcuin Society, and exhibited nationally and internationally. This is the first publication under the University Libraries’ imprint. The publication explores the bibliographic history of the Seghers Collection, their spiritual and religious significance within the catholic tradition and their attributed owner, Charles John Seghers, (the second Archbishop of Victoria). The Seghers Collection consists of approximately 4,000 books on Catholic theology and church history, canon law, liturgy and ritual, canonization and monasticism. It is on permanent loan from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria at the University of Victoria Libraries in Victoria, British Columbia. The Seghers books are of interest not only for their content, but also for the light that they throw on book production, printing, illustration and binding, especially on the European continent from 1550 through to the end of the hand-printing era.

—Susan Henderson

Mentoring Programs and International Student Success

Dr. Natalee Popadiuk, Associate Professor and Registered Psychologist in the Faculty of Education, was recently awarded two Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) grants. As Principal Investigator in the first study, “University Mentoring Programs and International Student Success,” she will use a focused ethnography to better understand how formal university mentoring programs support international student success at the University of Victoria and Simon Fraser University over a three-year period. In particular, Dr. Popadiuk will examine (a) the personal characteristics of international students who join, do not join, and who drop out of mentoring programs, (b) the relational processes that occur between international students and their mentors, and (c) the structures and components (e.g., frequency of contact, mentor training) of the variety of mentoring programs that international students might attend.

In the second five-year SSHRC-funded study, Dr. Popadiuk is a Co-Investigator who will investigate the key factors and experiences that lead to the success of international students’ career transitions. In particular, she will identify the primary influences for international student career planning and decision-making, track their career trajectories post-graduation, and generate best of policy and practice recommendations for student support.

—Natalee Popadiuk

Canadian Law Librarian of the Year Award

Kim Nayyer, Information Services Librarian (Diana M. Priestly Law Library), received the Canadian Law Librarian of the Year award given by the U.K. publisher Justis for librarians demonstrating a progressive and informed approach to the changing world of legal information. Kim was nominated by Colin Lachance, the CEO of the Canadian Legal Information Institute (CanLII), who noted how Kim’s example influences and encourages other law librarians to extend their professional mandate to include serving the public interest.

—Susan Henderson
School of Music Professor Earns Prestigious Harvard Fellowship

Dr. Dániel Péter Biró, professor of composition and music theory with the School of Music, has received a prestigious Fellowship from the Radcliffe Institute at Harvard University for the 2014/15 academic year—a first for UVic’s School of Music. “They only invite 55 researchers from all disciplines each year,” says Biró. “It’s not every day you get something like this.”

The Radcliffe Fellowship is only the latest accolade for Biró, an internationally acclaimed, multiple award-winning composer, co-creator of the SALT New Music Festival and Symposium and co-editor of the Search Journal for New Music and Culture.

“Dr. Biró’s appointment as a fellow at Radcliffe College is a great achievement,” says Dr. Susan Lewis Hammond, director of the School of Music. “This is a high honour that reflects the status of his work and his international reputation in the fields of composition and new music. It is a mark of the quality of research and teaching happening in the School of Music. Our students will benefit greatly when Dr. Biró returns and transfers the knowledge and experience that he gains from Harvard to his classes.”

Biró’s tenure at Harvard will be spent not teaching but completing a seven-part, three-hour composition cycle he has been creating since 2003. “It’s called Mishpatim, which means ‘laws’. It’s all coming from an archaic Hebrew text, and will involve large ensemble, voice, piano and electronics,” he explains. “There’s also interaction between the live musicians and what’s being processed via computer and then coming out of the speakers to the audience.”

An earlier version of Mishpatim was commissioned by the German city of Darmstadt and performed by the ensemble recherche in 2006 while Biró was a featured composer and lecturer at the Darmstadt International Summer Courses for New Music.

The Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study has awarded over 650 fellowships in a variety of disciplines since its founding in 1999.

—John Threlfall

Chris Hildreth Wins the PlanIt 2014 Social Venture Award Sponsored by CCCBE

Congratulations to Chris Hildreth for winning the Gustavson School of Business, Plan It 2014 Social Venture Award, co-created and sponsored by the Centre for Co-operative and Community-Based Economy (CCCBE).

Chris’s proposal titled TOPSOIL is for a for-profit urban agriculture company focused around small scale farming on a large area of rooftop surfaces. Vancouver Island is heavily dependent on mainland food supplies, but it also has an ideal climate to grow food all year round. Rooftop gardens are an untapped resource that can increase food security, provide space for food production and offer many economic and environmental benefits.

Dr. Ana María Peredo, former CCCBE Director and Professor says “I am pleased that we were able to create a social enterprise category. CCCBE has sponsored the award for the past 4 years. Encouraging and recognizing students for creating business plans that are sustainable and of benefit to the community has been very rewarding.”

—Sandy Polomark
I am very pleased to announce that Joaquin Trapero is the 2014 recipient of the Ralph Scheurle Staff Service Excellence Award for the Office of Research Services (ORS). This award recognizes and celebrates the achievements of our staff in support of research and research services, including community outreach.

The selection committee was impressed by the evidence of Joaquin’s significant contributions to knowledge mobilization at UVic, including his key role in the development of Interdisciplinary Research Practicum graduate courses that integrate teaching, learning, research and community engagement. He continues to contribute as a member of the planning committee of IdeaFest, a major KM event for UVic.

Joaquin’s nominees recognised his excitement about the ideas that researchers bring to institutional programs, and his dedication to work with them and the members of his team, to transform those ideas into successful proposals. This success has contributed to the growth of UVic’s reputation nationally and internationally as a leading research intensive university.

To quote from the nomination: “Joaquin is an exceptional advocate for researchers and ensures that they have every opportunity to achieve their goals. At the same time, however, he ensures that projects realize the best possible outcome for the University.”

It was also noted that in addition to these UVic contributions, Joaquin is a dedicated member of the Victoria soccer community, spending countless hours to coaching, managing and supporting youth soccer in Victoria.

Joaquin was presented with a plaque by Dr. Howard Brunt at the OVPR/ORS summer event on June 18 and will be provided with support for a professional development opportunity of his choice.

**Background to the award:** Ralph Scheurle retired from the University of Victoria in 2012, after over 38 years at the university. In his career, he made significant contributions to the area of animal care services, in his first position as a technician in the department of biology and his role as the manager of animal care services in the Office of Research Services.

In 2010, Ralph’s service to the university community was recognized in the President’s Distinguished Service Award for Excellence in Service. The award citation read in part:

*When people think of the Animal Services Unit at UVic, they think of Ralph Scheurle. Ralph consistently focuses on the goal of providing high quality services to UVic faculty, while ensuring the highest standards of animal care and the best possible working conditions for staff.*

—Rachael Scarth
Dr. Leigh Anne Swayne Receives MSFHR Scholar Award to Pursue Biomedical Research

“The brain and heart share the spark of life!” says Dr. Leigh Anne Swayne, Associate Professor in the Division of Medical Sciences. That is, the brain thinks and the heart beats because of electrical activity generated by ion channels. How exactly they work – and how they sometimes don’t work – shall be the focus of Dr. Swayne’s research project, Ion Channels: Molecular Determinants of Health and Disease in the Head and Heart – a project that has been successfully funded by a Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Scholar Award (jointly with the BC Schizophrenia Society Foundation).

Dr. Swayne is one of only 32 BC health researchers to receive this award, selected from a highly competitive pool of more than 120 applicants. According to MSFHR, the Scholar Award enables relatively new investigators like Dr. Swayne to build strong research programs through protecting research time, supporting student training, attracting additional funding, and facilitating team-building and collaboration.

Indeed, Dr. Swayne is quick to acknowledge the support of others: “I’m very excited about this award, most importantly the positive impact it will have on my research program. I also feel quite fortunate to be able to do research in such an amazing environment, at UVic, and in the Division of Medical Sciences, alongside absolutely stellar colleagues and students.”

With regard to the brain, her lab will investigate ion channels in neuronal development and injury-triggered plasticity. For example, after a brain injury, ion channels can both harm and help: they can render neurons vulnerable to damage, but they can also sensitize neurons to adapt and promote repair. Dr. Swayne’s team will collaborate with University of Ottawa as well as the UVic Genome BC Proteomics Centre to probe these disparate mechanisms. Filling these knowledge gaps may lead to improved therapies, such as for stroke recovery.

With regard to the heart, her lab will investigate how mutations in cardiac ion channels manifest as heart conditions. In particular, Dr. Swayne will collaborate with clinical geneticists at the UBC Community Genetics Research Program to understand how these mutations affect certain BC First Nations Communities.

Both research paths promise to advance the goal of Dr. Swayne and the Michael Smith Foundation to benefit the health of British Columbians. Congratulations to Dr. Swayne and all the best to her and her team!

— Brad Buie
Thank you for your submissions and continued interest in UVic research news.

Please consider contributing a story online for the next newsletter and be sure to keep up with the latest issues of The Ring and KnowLEDGE for the latest in research at UVic.

Your research bulletin board

This is a space where you can post quick notes to the research community at UVic. Use this page to announce an upcoming lecture or the publication of your work, tell us if you’ve won an award, share which graduate students and post-docs you’ve started working with—the possibilities are endless.

Posts should be submitted online and include approximately 100 words; please include dates, contact information and links where appropriate. All messages are moderated and published by the Office of the Vice-President Research.

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Contact for additional information:
Ashley Richards
Email: vpresec@uvic.ca
Phone: (250) 472-5416 (Campus Local: 5416)
Fax: (250) 472-5477 (Campus Local: 5477)

Office of the Vice-President Research
Administrative Services Building A Wing, A110
3800 Finnerty Road, Victoria, B.C. V8P 5C2