For much of the past year, discussion has focused on the economic functions of nearly every part of our society. For universities in particular, the opportunity could not come at a better time to explain how our core tasks—teaching and research—benefit our world.

While it has long been clear that universities play an essential role in producing the next generation of skilled, adaptable and creative citizens, their role in creating and nurturing productive knowledge economies has only recently entered the conversation. Building a knowledge economy means building the conditions such that innovations arise from many pools of talent and many local synergies of arts and science.

Canada is already in a remarkable position in this regard—our universities attract top students and faculty from across Canada and around the globe, enriching our society and linking it with the world at large. And as we prepare today’s students to face the changes they will make and adapt to tomorrow, we recognize that the educational experience we provide will help them create a more prosperous and inclusive society.

As president of one of Canada’s leading research universities, I see a wide variety of accomplishments and discoveries made by students, faculty and alumni on a regular basis. And whether their work fits within a well-established academic field, or, more often than not, brings together insights and discoveries from several fields, what their efforts have in common is the belief that inquiry, creativity and innovation lay the foundation for a brighter future.

This publication highlights a wide range of this year’s accomplishments—to celebrate the achievements of our community and to share their potential with our friends, partners and colleagues.

Many of these achievements would not have been possible without the assistance of our many community partners, and we are equally grateful for the contributions made by governments, foundations, corporations and individuals. Your support has allowed us to grow and build one of North America’s most vibrant and welcoming universities.

I find the sheer breadth of the activities profiled in this year’s Annual Review to be as remarkable as the promise they represent. I hope you will as well.

David H. Turpin, PhD, FRSC
President and Vice-Chancellor
Thanks to a recent graduate course at UVic, anthropology and social work students have a better understanding of the Ministry of Children and Family Development in ensuring that Aboriginal children’s needs are met. A mentoring and culturally appropriate upbringing. And the Roots program in the ministry has an evaluation framework that helps community workers gauge and improve their practices, designed by Siebold as part of an innovative course that matches partner agencies with students who can address complex research questions. “The framework Libby developed isn’t just a checkbox,” explains Bradley Dick, Roots program coordinator at the ministry. “We’re able to show the social development aspect of our work, and it’s been an excellent tool for opening discussion within the program.” Prior course partners included the Vancouver Island Health Authority and the Ministry of Environment.

Courses like these are rapidly becoming a keystone in UVic’s knowledge transfer activities, with clear benefit to partner agencies and students as well.

A legal guide for grandparents raising grandchildren

While researching the complex issues facing grandparents raising grandchildren without support in the home, Dr. Barb Whittington, professor in UVic’s School of Social Work, saw an opportunity to harness students’ growing legal expertise. Working with the Parent Support Services of BC and UVic’s co-op program, Whittington and several students helped develop Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: A Legal Guide. It is the first guidebook of its kind in Canada and helps grandparents understand and navigate the legal complexities involved in raising grandchildren. “The guidebook is meant to assist grandparents with the sometimes overwhelming legal responsibilities associated with raising grandchildren,” Whittington says, “and students were a key part in developing this valuable resource.”

Helping enterprise achieve green objectives

Two UVic students have made remarkable strides in reducing the environmental footprint of local businesses. Jill Doucette—biology student and World Student Environmental Summit co-chair—placed first in the national Nicol entrepreneurship competition for her green business consulting practice, which focuses on reducing waste in the coffee, restaurant and retail industries. “Winning this award is such an honour, and I’m so glad I decided to apply and see business ideas,” says Doucette. “Through the mentorship and contacts I’ve made at UVic and at the Nicol awards, I feel I’ve learned what it takes to be an entrepreneur, and I’m excited for the next step in the process.” Separately, business student Heather Weberg successfully developed an energy awareness program for a key energy-consuming industry. “Winning this award is such an honour, and I’m so glad I decided to apply and see business ideas,” says Weberg. “Through the mentorship and contacts I’ve made at UVic and at the Nicol awards, I feel I’ve learned what it takes to be an entrepreneur, and I’m excited for the next step in the process.” Separately, business student Heather Weberg successfully developed an energy awareness program for the company’s more than 60 public and private sector tenants. Through physical upgrades and the energy awareness program, the company met its goal of reducing energy use by 200 tonnes of greenhouse gas in 2008.
Acclaimed opera tenor and UVic music professor Benjamin Butterfield with graduate student Marilyn Arsenault. Coached by three-time Olympian Jon Brown and internationally recognized opera tenor Benjamin Butterfield, Marilyn Arsenault has energy and aspirations that couldn’t be higher for either running or singing. Going back to school at 40 to finish her master’s in voice performance, Arsenault has already had extraordinary turns onstage with Pacific Opera Victoria and the Victoria Symphony. But her tiny frame holds more than an outsized voice—it also holds the athletic passion to win. Arsenault’s first cross-country season with the Vikes earned her All-Canadian status. There’s no point telling Marilyn that an athlete’s body begins to diminish after 40, because in 2009, she also ran the Cross Internacional de Italica in Seville, Spain—finishing 19th place in a world-class field. She celebrated at home as well, setting a new course record in the half marathon event at the 2009 Royal Victoria Marathon. “Receiving an athletic award last year helped me pursue my studies,” she beams. “The experience of running on a varsity team was pretty special, and I am grateful that I had such a wonderful opportunity.”

Supporting student excellence

UVic’s academic programs, research projects and support services are all responding to a changing world. We constantly examine our support programs and teaching practices to ensure our students are challenged and engaged, so they develop a desire and capacity for learning and societal contribution that will last a lifetime.

Engaging Aboriginal students early

UVic’s science and engineering faculties aren’t waiting for Indigenous youth in Victoria to grow up before engaging them in cutting-edge science. The Aboriginal Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) program is partnering with local communities to ensure that science meets local needs and how much there is still to explore, such outreach projects including beach field trips, video editing workshops, and events that help the science behind many traditional practices. The relationship of several groups including UVic and the Victoria Native Friendship Centre, UVic’s Native Friendship Centre, Tsawout, T’Sou-ke, Tla-o-qui-aht, and Metis Nations helped them collaboratively develop hands-on science experiments that would be meaningful and exciting for students across the full K-12 spectrum—learning about science from both Aboriginal and Western perspectives and discovering the bridges that link them together.

Fostering academic success for Indigenous students at the university level

The University of Victoria’s LE,NONET project—a groundbreaking pilot project to measure ways of improving the retention and success of Indigenous students in post-secondary education—has made positive changes that will impact students across the country. Pronounced “le-non-git,” the LE,NONET project, named after a SENCOTEN (Straits Salish) word meaning “success after enduring many hardships,” was designed to address many of the pressing issues facing Indigenous students in post-secondary education. The project, which ended in 2009, included mentoring, community internships, research opportunities, financial support, and seminars for Indigenous students. It also included programs to make UVic staff and faculty more aware of Aboriginal history and contemporary issues, as well as the learning needs of Aboriginal students. While the final research report will be released in early 2010, feedback from student participants has shown the project to have had a very positive impact—creating a welcoming learning environment, fostering Aboriginal identity and community on campus, creating links with local First Nations, and improving awareness of Indigenous issues on campus. The final report will also include information on the impact the program had on term-to-term retention and graduation rates.

A solar collector lights up a student during one of the STEM school tours.

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The quality of our teaching sets the University of Victoria apart, securing our reputation as a supportive and stimulating learning community where students can realize their full potential. Backed by the resources of a leading comprehensive research university, our faculty bring the fruits of their investigations into an engaging classroom setting that encourages creative problem solving and original thought. Our students consistently rank their learning experience among Canada’s finest.

Developing innovative training materials for waterkeepers

It’s a lot easier for First Nations community members to become small water operators on their reserves, especially in remote areas of the country, thanks to a project led by education professor Dr. Don Bergland. For public health reasons, all water system operators, even those responsible for small systems in rural Aboriginal communities, and First Nations reserves, must hold valid certification from their respective provincial bodies. “But ‘textbook’ methods were not conducive to many learners,” says Bergland, who led a team effort to develop better training materials. The group’s initial needs assessment determined that many First Nations operators learn most effectively through visual, hands-on, experiential problem solving, so materials were produced by First Nations media interns under the mentorship of industry specialists and consultants from many Aboriginal communities in British Columbia. Dean of Education Dr. Ted Riecken is extremely supportive. “This project is exemplary because it bring together our strong interest in Aboriginal education and leading-edge research in the applications of digital technologies to education,” he says. That the project made a huge difference improving water quality training across Canada is proof that inspiring teaching takes many different shapes in a digital age.

Integrating research, teaching and social contribution

Psychology professor Dr. Bonnie Leadbeater expects students in her multidisciplinary social sciences courses to contribute to community youth health work as part of their studies. Through cooperative partnerships between UVic and community agencies, Leadbeater’s senior water؟ånting and graduate students engage in applied research that helps disseminate current research in the community. Here’s an example of the way programs for the prevention of peer victimization—Walk away, Ignore, Talk and Seek help—Leadbeater explains that course projects often include evaluation of services, development of educational material and literature reviews for grant proposals. “In these courses, the students’ work isn’t just being graded. It’s being used to make the world a better place,” says Leadbeater.

Growth in fine arts education

Two endowed positions are signalling growth in the Faculty of Fine Arts. The Williams Legacy Chair in Modern and Contemporary Arts of the Pacific Northwest, and the Audain Professorship in Contemporary Art Practice of the Pacific Northwest, will help ensure that UVic fine arts students continue to receive the challenging and engaging instruction needed to spur their own creativity.

Cognitive psychologist Dr. Jon Tanaka isn’t just an active and inspiring teacher. He’s renowned in the field of training protocols that reduce implicit racial bias. Tanaka and researchers at Harvard University in the US found that training people’s awareness of facial feature differences within a specific race is often the first step to reducing racial bias. Because implicit association tests—like Harvard University’s Project Implicit—are often the first step to reducing racial bias, because implicit association tests—like Harvard University’s Project Implicit—are often the first step to reducing it, the observation that implicit racial bias can diminish with training has compelling potential across society.

UVic’s Visual Cognition Lab, which Tanaka directs, examines how experience and biology shape the way we recognize objects. Students at the lab organized the popular “Face Camp” to collect research data while engaging children in the science of face recognition. In a related line of research, the lab has been working with children with autism to improve their face recognition abilities. In a recent training project, support people with autism perceive faces as just another object.
Climate, matter, and energy

UVic’s environmental achievements and basic science research have duly garnered international praise, and we continue to take strides to meet the challenges of the future. As issues of climate assessment and mitigation and sub-molecular research into the nature of matter and energy bring these fields into the spotlight, UVic is playing an increasingly prominent role on the national and international stage.

Making wave energy ready for the market

For UVic mechanical engineer Dr. Brad Buckham, the possibility of harvesting wave energy isn’t enough to guarantee its real-world viability. Buckham leads the West Coast Wave Collaboration program, a network of researchers, engineers, entrepreneurs and company modeling experts studying wave energy potential off the coast of Vancouver Island. Data on wave power and consistency at various sites, along with accurate computer models, are necessary “for wave energy to become a valued alternative energy supply,” Buckham explains. “We hope to be the first in the water with a coordinated modeling and field assessment program.” Buckham, who is also an associate of the SynWave power resonator that harnesses wave energy for sustainable power generation, is a recipient of one of two inaugural entrepreneurship fellowships awarded in 2009 by the British Columbia Innovation Council.

Investigating water quality impacts on fisheries

As Canada’s NSERC Industry Research Chair in the Environmental Management of Drinking Water, biologist Dr. Asit Mazumder examines the range of ecological forces at work on public water supplies. His Water and Aquatic Sciences Research lab is also investigating aquatic factors determining survival and growth rates for juvenile salmon. Recently, Mazumder’s lab has been investigating the nutritional quality of the plankton young salmon eat in coastal waters. The team has a particular interest in sockeye, a species that stays in fresh water for up to three years before moving to sea. They look at how sockeye fare in different kinds of lakes, and how their numbers change when they share lakes with other species. The lab also studies the impacts of various wind farm factors, particularly when it comes to the fish and shellfish First Nations people harvest for food.

UVic physicists help confirm Nobel-winning predictions

A team of UVic physicists has good reason to feel a bit of the glow from this year’s Nobel Prize in Physics, awarded to Makoto Kobayashi and Toshihide Maskawa of Japan. UVic principal investigator Dr. Michael Roney, together with Drs. Robert Kowalewski, Randall Sobie, Justin Albert and Srivagesh Rauvaneni and their graduate students are part of the international BaBar collaboration, based at Stanford. The UVic team played a major role in the 2002 BaBar confirmation of the theoretical predictions made by the two Nobel laureates in 1972, helping build a device that tracks particles produced during subatomic collisions within a particle accelerator. Tracking the particles and analyzing the resulting data helped the BaBar group confirm the Kobayashi-Maskawa theory of matter-antimatter asymmetry.

International leadership in climate, oceans, matter and energy

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Research depth

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Investigating wave energy potential off the west coast of Vancouver Island. The team has a resonator that harnesses wave energy for sustainable power generation, which makes use of the natural tidal range. For the first time, a reciprocating device that tracks particles produced during subatomic collisions within accelerators is being produced at UVic. This device is called a STEHM (Superconducting Tunneling Electron Microscope) and is being researched and developed by a team of UVic physicists. The microscopes are used to study materials in manufacturing, electronics, biotechnology, and medical research.

World’s most precise microscope

Funded by a pre-existing $8-million award, the STEHM is being built for the University of Victoria (UVic) and will house the world’s most precise microscope. The microscope will be the highest resolution microscope in the world, allowing researchers to see objects that are 100 times to millions of times magnification. It will be used to study materials in manufacturing, electronics, biotechnology, and medical research. The microscope will be an important tool for researchers from around the world.

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Neuroscientist and kinesiologist Dr. E. Paul Zehr is probably best known for engaging popular audiences with scientific concepts through public events and his recent book, *Becoming Batman*. But Zehr’s research on the neural control of rhythmic movement may have a much wider impact on improving rehabilitation practices for stroke and other neurotrauma patients. Building on his initial research on arm and leg coordination during rhythmic motor activities like walking and cycling, Zehr has been able to focus in on neurons in the spinal cord that link the arms and legs. Because activation of these neurons, which are partly regulated by feedback from movement, can be stimulated by rhythmic exercise, people who have experienced a neurotrauma injury where communication between the brain and spinal cord is weakened or absent altogether may be able to achieve much greater levels of physical rehabilitation when arms and legs are stimulated to work in coordinated action.

“We’re pushing the envelope,” Zehr explains, “in demonstrating that walking is actually a whole-body activity.”

Unraveling the mystery of syphilis

As syphilis infection rates rise across Canada to more than double the rates of ten years ago, Dr. Caroline Cameron, UVic’s microbiologist and Canada Research Chair in Molecular Pathogenesis, is one of a handful of researchers in the world is studying the deadly disease. Cameron is working to document how the syphilis bacterium attaches to the tissues of its host, how it passes through the body’s barrier to virtually every tissue and organ. That heartache, because most pathogens usually have one target organ. Syphilis goes everywhere, including the brain.

Leadership in longitudinal studies

In July 2009, noted longitudinal study specialists Scott Hofer and Andrea Piccinin joined the University of Victoria. Hofer, the Harold and William Mohr Chair in Adult Development and Aging, researches and why individuals age differently. His lab co-directed the international Integrative Analysis of Longitudinal Studies on Aging research network, which surveys over 10,000 people in eight countries tracking some 50,000 people, focusing on how their cognitive function changes over the age and how this relates to health, personality, and social factors. All the studies collect data over several years—sometimes over decades. Participants work with the network, focusing on how to design the studies and how to analyze the data.

Demystifying electronic health records

Today’s tech-savvy students are preparing for careers in clinical settings using UVic’s electronic health records (EHR) educational portal, while helping UVic researchers fine-tune a system that will help health professionals in the field navigate different and sometimes competing data formats. Over the past two years, Dr. Andre Kushniruk and Dr. Elizabeth Borycki have integrated new—an innovative approach for the education of medical, allied health professionals and health informatics students through support from the BC Ministry of Health and Hewlett Packard. “Students use hypothetical patient records to try our different EHR systems,” says Dr. Borycki. “An actual healthcare profession and feel, our training portal prepares them to use a range of products in the workplace.” Next steps are to evaluate best practices and extend use of the online portal to other health-related professionals such as social workers, dietitians and physiotherapists.
Improving our world

The University of Victoria has become a leading Canadian research university by promoting the mobilization and application of knowledge for societal benefit. Building research initiatives in Canada and across the globe that involve communities and address their priorities, we are helping our region thrive and are establishing national leadership in community-based research.

International leadership in cooperative enterprise

The BC Institute for Cooperative Studies has broadened its focus to become the Centre for Cooperative and Community-Based Economy. “This isn’t a major change in direction,” says UVic business professor Dr. Ana Maria Peredo, who was appointed the centre’s director in 2009. “This change reflects the natural breadth of interest we have in co-operation, but also in similar organizations that share their goals and some elements of their structure, all of them seeking to create community benefits.” The renamed research centre also welcomed the first members of a new residential fellowship program. Peredo is enthusiastic about the possibilities in creating a community conducive to high-quality research and dialogue connected with cooperatives and community-based economy. “We’re already seeing that dialogue go on, especially in our Friday morning tea gatherings,” she reports, “and I think the research outcomes will be exciting.”

Reading the future of the book

With its mission to benefit from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHR) and an additional five million from institutional and research partners, the “Implementing New Knowledge Environments” (INKE) project will take forward from the past twenty years of digital application research and expand the reading experience. English professor Dr. Ray Siemens leads an international team of 35 researchers and 21 partner agencies who will develop a better understanding of literacy in the digital age. “We’ll be looking at several thousands of years of societal interaction with book-like objects and examine through their history, their evolution and the interaction of the objects, all of them seeking to create community benefits.”

Supporting Aboriginal youth entrepreneurs

When the Nisga’a Lisims government decided to encourage their youth to see themselves as entrepreneurs, they called on Brent Mainprize, well-known entrepreneurship assistant professor in UVic Business. Mainprize has been instrumental in supporting Aboriginal community entrepreneurship through his work with a capital funding agency, conducting cross-border community-based research, training credit officers and incorporating cultural elements into standard business principles. As a result, loan defaults went down and community goodwill went up. To introduce more youth to the idea of individual entrepreneurship, Mainprize designed an entrepreneurship camp for Nisga’a youth. “It’s an exciting time in First Nations history,” says Mainprize. “Through the treaty process they are gaining control of their land, natural resources and money, and with that come all sorts of new opportunities for individual prosperity.”

The Real Cost of Health

Dr. Angela Downey prescribes evidence to improve treatment outcomes and reduce health care costs.

Downey, a management accountant and health economist, uses accounting tools and evidence-based practices to demonstrate that it is possible to save money and improve the quality of life of patients at the same time. One of her studies, sponsored by the Ontario government, examined the evidence and treatment options for pressure sores and found huge potential for cost savings. “Because pressure sores are messy and suffering from very expensive and prolonged treatment, it was assumed that treatment was more cost effective than surgery. But pressure ulcers can be treated successfully with surgery and pharmaceuticals,” she says. “It turns out that preventing the damage in the first place is the most economically viable solution.” The report concluded that using the improved surfaces at the start of treatment could cost as much as 7 per cent of compromised patients and could save the Ontario government $6 million over two years in acute care hospitalization.
This isn’t a major change in direction,” says UVic business professor Dr. Ray Siemens. “This change reflects the natural breadth of interest we have in addressing their priorities, we are helping our region thrive and are establishing national leadership in community-based research.

The renamed research centre also welcomed the first members of a new residential fellowship program. Peredo is enthusiastic about the possibilities she sees in creating a community conducive to high-quality literacy in the digital age. “We’ll be looking at several thousands of years of societal interaction with book-objects and examine through the digital lens the development of this cultural expression,” she says. “This allows us to ask new questions about what the future might look like — unexpected, fascinating, and completely different from what we have come to expect.”

With $2.5 million in funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, the centre’s “Implementing New Knowledge” project will form the heart of the business school’s international initiatives. “It’s a new way of thinking about business and building economic opportunities,” Siemens says. “We’re working with institutional and research partners, the ‘Implementing New Knowledge’ project will provide us with the opportunity to create a model for authentic research that is both beneficial to society and academically rigorous.”

This model is called “cooperative enterprise,” and it blends the best of both worlds — individual entrepreneurship, Mainprize designed an entrepreneurship training credit program for UVic students. His work with a capital funding agency, redesigning a more transparent lending process, his efforts to leverage the resources, says Mainprize, who is well-known entrepreneurship assistant professor Brent Mainprize. “Through the treaty process they are gaining control of their land, natural resources and money, and with that come all sorts of opportunities for those with disabilities, extensive R&D, programs that promote meaningful employment, and exceptional resources on campus—faculty, staff and students from virtually every discipline—with those in the wider community, helping Nisga’a youth discover the opportunities and interact with knowledge,” says Mainprize, who is also the director of the Centre for Community-Based Economy. “We’re already seeing that dialogue go on, especially in UVic Business. Mainprize has been instrumental in supporting co-operative enterprise, but also in similar organizations that share their goals.

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Mainprize, who works with a capital funding agency, redesigning a more transparent lending process, his efforts to leverage the resources, says Mainprize, who is well-known entrepreneurship assistant professor Brent Mainprize. “Through the treaty process they are gaining control of their land, natural resources and money, and with that come all sorts of opportunities for those with disabilities, extensive R&D, programs that promote meaningful employment, and exceptional resources on campus—faculty, staff and students from virtually every discipline—with those in the wider community, helping Nisga’a youth discover the opportunities and interact with knowledge.”
Local and global initiatives

The discoveries and innovations emanating from universities profoundly affect the well-being of society, in our neighbourhoods and around the globe. As UVic develops programs that are both locally relevant and internationally significant, we demonstrate our commitment to communities through positive, transforming initiatives that can be applied throughout Canada and around the world.

Child soldiers no more

Two powerful Canadian public figures turned out for Child Soldiers No More, an October 2008 benefit concert to help end the use of child soldiers in areas of military conflict. Singer-songwriter Bruce Cockburn and retired Lieutenant-General Roméo Dallaire joined in their efforts at the compelling event to fund the Child Soldiers Initiative in Africa. The event helped raise awareness about the impact and plight of child soldiers—and underscored social reintegration, championed by Child and Youth Care faculty members Drs. Phillip Lancaster, Sibylle Artz and Marie Hoskins. Lancaster, who has been involved in the Child Soldier Initiative since its inception, along with Artz and Hoskins, have travelled to Ghana to learn and work with former child soldiers at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre in Ghana. “It was amazing to hear them talk about their experience,” says Hoskins. “All of them had been rescued by some kind of UN mission and successfully reintegrated.”

While contributing to local efforts to overcome address and end homelessness in Greater Victoria, Dr. Bernie Pauly is highlighting the value of community-based research.

Ecotourism and entrepreneurship

Students in geography department chair Dr. Philip Dearden’s graduate-level courses are learning firsthand that one of the best ways to protect at-risk species and ecosystems is to engage local people in ecotourism and other sustainable development options. Stemming from Dearden’s work in the 1980s on coastal planning and conservation projects in Southeast Asia, Dearden and his graduate students are now working with authorities in China on an ecotourism and park—valued by its $5 million in tourism and ecotourism funding—combining conservation with poverty reduction and social enterprise in Tanzania and Ghana. Historically, developing countries have protected their national parks by relying on heavily armed guards. Dallaire explains, “We’re now trying to move to ‘social fencing,’ where the local people do the patrolling and have strong social sanctions against poaching and other ecological degradation.” During a recent Cambodian study tour, he discovered with senior government decision-makers how revenue generation strategies can make revenue generation possible without eliminating the forests. For China, for example, ecotourism development is helping the government reintroduce and protect tiger populations.
Care of our resources

Sustainability and stewardship

The availability, development and stewardship of financial, organizational and physical resources are key to the growth and success of our university. The University of Victoria is pledged to transparency in its stewardship of those resources—acquired from both public and private sources—that allow us to achieve our objectives in a sustainable manner.

A decade of universal bus pass benefits

Fall 2009 marked the tenth anniversary of UVic’s Universal Bus Pass (U-Pass) program—the first such program in Western Canada. Now widely replicated across the country, U-Pass programs benefit everyone who uses a roadway, substantially reducing traffic congestion and infrastructure demands while protecting air quality.

Combined with other elements of UVic’s transportation demand management initiative, U-Pass has helped UVic grow while at the same time reducing road traffic and from campus. Our 2008 traffic audit found that only 37% of campus visitors were arriving in single-occupant automobiles—cutting from levels by almost half. Reduced traffic on campus has allowed the university to turn several former parking lots into new building sites, with a wide spectrum of resulting environmental benefits.

A lot of squinting and searching through years of microfiche is over for those who are interested in BC history. Thanks to a partnership between UVic and the Victoria Times Colonist, the world can now search online through historic editions of The British Colonist, one of the oldest daily newspapers in Western Canada and one of the best records of colonial BC.

History graduate student Melanie Ihmels, whose research focuses on women’s organizations in early BC, is just one of many historians mining the new resource for insight into our heritage. “Some of its content even predates the establishment of the province and Canada,” explains Chris Petter, who helped to manage the project. The newspaper is the sole source of some types of information. For instance, during the first 30 years of its existence the newspaper covered the proceedings of the BC legislative assemblies, which makes it the only documentation of its kind of this body.

The British Colonist also reported on most court cases and is the only surviving record of judicial proceedings in the early days of the colony. Ihmels and other historians particularly appreciate that the archive is searchable, making it easy to find key terms among the 100,544 pages digitized so far.

Sustainability policy and action plan for operations

As the final step in a 14-month collaborative process that brought insights on sustainability from students, staff, faculty and community members as well as suggestions from the broader community, UVic formalized its well-established commitment to sustainability by approving a new campus sustainability policy in 2009. The policy is an overarching framework that provides a common understanding of UVic’s commitment to sustainability in teaching, research, operations and community partnerships. A comprehensive five-year sustainability action plan for campus operations has also been developed as a first step in implementing the policy.

New buildings on campus

UVic’s capital construction program completed two new—and vastly different—buildings in 2008/09. The facilities are part of a $130-million project to ease campus space shortages and accommodate growth in student enrollment.

The highly secure UVic-designed Enterprise Data Centre, which can house as many as 3,000 standard computer servers in 147 racks, became fully functional in June. And First Peoples House, an academic and cultural centre for Indigenous students, welcomed its first occupants in August 2009.

One additional building is under construction. The new 106-bed student residence building, with 84 student dorm rooms plus 22 student suites, will help address the increasing demand for residence accommodation. It is scheduled to open in January 2011.

Carefully tending our growth

From community to campus and back, there’s no question that this transit partnership has paid off for the whole region.

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Accountable to our community
We are grateful for the support of individuals, corporations, foundations and government agencies who make our accomplishments possible. We hold ourselves to the highest standards of stewardship of these resources and strive to provide a thorough accounting of our activities. Further elements of our accountability framework can be found in the Accountability section of the UVic website (http://web.uvic.ca/president/accountability).

An economic powerhouse for BC
Supporting over 12,000 jobs in BC, the University of Victoria generates more than $1.2 billion annually in economic activity. This includes direct and indirect expenditures such as salaries and benefits, student and visitor spending, taxes, spin-off companies, patents and license, and the effects of an educated workforce. The university is the fourth-largest employer in the Victoria area.

UVic and its Vancouver Island Technology Park are pivotal to the growing strength of Victoria’s high-technology industries, which, at an estimated $1.67 billion per year, surpass even our area’s $1.19-billion tourism sector.

Research capacity
Continued success in external research grant competitions at the national level attests to the importance and high quality of research conducted by UVic faculty and graduate students. UVic researchers were awarded more than $446 million in outside research grants in 2008/09, and contracts in 2008/09. The $446 million in external research grants awarded to UVic in the last five-year period more than doubles the research support of the previous five-year span.

UVic was named a Research University of the Year by Research Infosource in 2009. Research Infosource says UVic has “demonstrated superior achievement in nurturing research income and in publishing research in leading Canadian and international scientific journals.” Each year, UVic ranks as one of Canada’s top universities, and for the last three years Maclean’s magazine has ranked UVic either first or second in the national comprehensive university category.

Supporting our students
Helping students achieve their full academic potential is our first priority, and removing financial barriers helps students meet their goals. In 2008/09, UVic increased the number of major, multi-year scholarships by 70 per cent, adding $1.5 million to the financial assistance available to UVic students. One-quarter of new applicants were offered scholarships for the first or second time, and relocation grants are now available for UVic students. One quarter of UVic’s new students were offered scholarships for the first or second time. Financial support helps create a future full of promise for our students and for the wider community we serve.

UVic provided nearly $6 million in aid to undergraduates during 2008/09. Financial support to graduate students in this same period, including teaching assistant stipends and funds provided by sponsored research grants and awards, rose to $2 million.

A warm thanks to our donors
Thanks to the generosity of our valued donors, we will be able to invest more than $10 million this year to expand student support, educational programs and research initiatives. This support helps create a future full of promise for our students and for the wider community we serve.
Governance

With an array of natural spaces on a 410-acre campus, and spectacular views of the surrounding West Coast landscape—including the Pacific Ocean, the Olympic Mountains and Mount Baker—it’s easy to see why we are inspired by our natural environment, all year long. Along with Haro Woods and the 10-acre Mystic Vale site, UVic is home to 170 acres of camas fields in the Garry Oak meadow, at the southwest edge of campus. Tending and harvesting camas fields are important parts of traditional First Nations food practices in the region.
Eco Audit

The University of Victoria *Annual Review* has been printed on Forest Stewardship Council-certified paper with 100 per cent post-consumer recycled fibre, manufactured in a chlorine-free, biomass-fuelled carbon-neutral process approximately 100 miles from the UVic campus. In addition to the reduced transportation footprint achieved by printing locally on locally manufactured paper, choosing Gray’s Harbor paper for the UVic *Annual Review* provides the following benefits to our natural environment, when compared with the use of virgin paper:

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<th>Reduction in wood products used</th>
<th>Greenhouse gases prevented</th>
<th>Wastewater saved</th>
<th>Solid waste not generated</th>
<th>Sulfur dioxide (SO₂) prevented</th>
<th>Energy saved</th>
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<td>6,245 lbs</td>
<td>17,060 gallons</td>
<td>1,713 lbs</td>
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Above information is based on:
2880 lbs. of Grays Harbor 100 paper