The University of Victoria is driven to be the university of choice for outstanding students, faculty and staff who aspire to improve their world through exceptional learning and teaching, innovative research and real-life engagement within a welcoming and spectacular West Coast environment.
In June, I had the pleasure of greeting a most distinguished guest at the University of Victoria—Her Excellency, the Governor General of Canada, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean—as she visited with UVic researchers improving children’s rights and opportunities across the globe. Of course, we were delighted to receive Canada’s titular head of state, but more importantly, this visit emphasized her dedication to the rights and respectful, healthy, compassionate and sustainable communities. These ideals are integral parts of her leadership, driving her commitment to meaningful and real change for a better future. As she noted, a quest for understanding and a desire to find solutions to a myriad of scientific and social problems comes at the heart of all pursuits of knowledge, a quest for the improvement of the human condition.

The immense diversity of scholarly instruction and achievement is a defining characteristic of our university, helping UVic serve our community in many, many ways. The many endeavours of our faculty, researchers, students and staff would not have been possible, however, without the support of our many community partners. The ongoing support of governments, foundations and corporations is an essential element in helping UVic continue to flourish as a centre of excellence in teaching, learning and research. At the same time, this support promotes an exceptional learning and teaching environment on one of North America’s most vibrant and welcoming campuses.

I hope you’ll agree, on perusing this year’s Annual Review, that the breadth of achievement of our students, faculty and staff has been truly remarkable.

David H. Turpin, FRSC
President and Vice-Chancellor
Once every two years since 1998, historian Dr. John Lutz has taken graduate students on a month-long field school with the Stó:lō Nation in Chilliwack, BC. Students board with local families, travel to sites of historic significance in the area, and live in a longhouse for three weeks while they work together with local mentors. A staff member on a research project that the Stó:lō have identified as important to them. For the student participants, this kind of hands-on community research is educational in its own right. It allows them to learn about history and culture, and community development by expanding their business and helping new relationships based on respect and service to those communities.

Located in the heart of downtown Victoria, the Law Centre is a unique clinical education program that offers students a full term of experiential learning, providing advice, assistance and representation to clients who cannot afford to hire a lawyer. The Law Centre also runs public education programs and provides assistance in a number of specialized areas, including inmate legal services, housing and hospital law, First Nations and Metis outreach, and alumni relations. The centre reflects UVic’s ongoing commitment to the integration of academic achievement, real-life learning and community service.

At UVic, integrating research into the teaching curriculum is only the beginning for real-life learning. UVic has one of the largest experiential learning programs in Canada. With support and input from businesses, government and community partners, UVic students obtain practicum experiences to solve real-world problems, work with co-op placements around the globe, and engage in clinical education, service learning, laboratory and fieldwork opportunities. Every day, UVic students are gaining relevant, engaged and practical learning experiences far beyond the classroom.

UVic MBA top national investment challenge

For the second year in a row, UVic MBA student Amy Ganton has emerged on top in the Financial Post MBA portfolio management competition. The UVic team won by a “landslide” according to organizer David Pett of the Financial Post, ending the competition with a 43 per cent return.

“Our strategy focused on three main areas of the market—energy, commodities and technology stocks,” says team member Kourosh Ahmadian. “By engaging in vigorous stock research and analysis, we were able to identify value stocks that provided short-term gains and limited downside risk.”

Training lawyers in community service

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UVic’s co-operative education program has helped UVic students gain valuable real-world experience and develop important workplace skills. In addition to academic and experiential learning, UVic students can take advantage of a range of programs and services designed to help them develop the skills and connections they need to succeed in the workplace.

An education designed to grow with our world

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Celebrating science education with a bang and a bounce, through summer camps and classroom workshops across Vancouver Island and BC, UVic’s Science Venture program has been building excitement long enough that many of its student leaders can recall their own experiences with the program. In 2010, the program celebrates 20 years of inspiring youth to explore the possibilities of science, engineering and technology, safely exploding countless bottle rockets and batches of foaming elephant’s toothpaste. Science Venture received the 2009 Actua and GE Canada Award for leadership and innovation, recognizing Science Venture’s level of commitment to inspire youth, its willingness to share expertise with other non-profit science and engineering camps, and for its Aboriginal outreach programming.

In addition to its summer day camps on the UVic campus, Science Venture keeps your crew busy with satellite camps and classroom workshops across BC.

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.

A big boost for business students

As UVic’s business school turns 20 this fall, entrepreneur and philanthropist Peter B. Gustavson gave the school and its future students a present to remember—$10 million to finance scholarships, professorships, research and innovation. The funds will also support student experiences gained through competitions, case studies and, of course, challenge to ensure UVic’s Business studies competitors with other business schools in Canada and internationally. “I know what it’s like to struggle to find the money for tuition and living expenses,” says Gustavson. “I’d rather see students spending their time pursuing their studies than coming up with ways to finance their education.”

Supporting undergraduate research

Thirty-five graduates from 12 academic units received new undergraduate research scholarships to support engaged research conducted alongside their professors. Initiated by the Vice-President Academic and administered by the Learning and Teaching Centre, these new scholarships remain exceptional and fund third-year undergraduate students who might otherwise not be able to obtain direct research experiences, providing them with truly formative learning experiences.

From hard knocks to Harvard

Graduating in June 2010 with a UVic degree in philosophy, Ryan Tonkin is already a world away from the life he found leaving home at the age of 14. Tonkin made his way to full-time studies at UVic after participating in UVic’s University 101 program. This free 10-week introductory course in the humanities is offered to adults in Victoria whose economic and social circumstances normally post obstacles to university education. UVic’s philosophy professor Carrie Klatt, who instructed Tonkin for two summer courses in 2008, took note of his outlook and high GPA and helped Tonkin attain a full scholarship for his studies at UVic. Tonkin now plans to squeeze a master’s degree in philosophy into just 16 months before he heads to Harvard in September 2011 to begin his law degree.

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With nationally recognized instructors including Lorna Crozier, Lynne Van Luven, Tim Lilburn and Bill Gaston shaping the curriculum, perhaps it’s no surprise that UVic... the Governor General’s Literary Awards in 2009. In the space of a year, Canadian literary legend Lorna Crozier’s memoir, Small Beneath the Sky, won the BC Book Prize for nonfiction, instructor David Leach followed up an award-winning book with several magazine writing... of the story, in which a community of writers seek the most compelling means to address a breadth of human experience.

WINNING WITH WORDS

Inspiring teaching

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 research-intensive 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.

Can you really teach creativity? Of course!

What does it mean to be engaged in the fine arts at a research-intensive university? Students and instructors are sharpening their senses around just that issue as part of a new interdisciplinary course launched this year, to explore and address the cognitive and behavioral science, as well as the aesthetics and skills, that underpin compelling creative processes. “The course approaches creativity as a complex and interesting...on human beings,” explains Faculty of Fine Arts Dean Dr. Sarah Blackstone. Open to students across all disciplines, the course is just the kind of creative hub that should help graduates unlock their own innate potential for years and years to come.

A national award for distance education

From hitting the road in the 70s to teach public administration courses in the BC Interior, to leading the development of Canada’s only fully online MPA program, Dr. John Langford has spent his career pushing the boundaries of distance education. This life-long commitment to innovative and effective teaching earned Langford the 2009 Pierre de Celles Award for excellence in teaching in public administration from the Institute of Public Administration in Canada. Early in Langford’s career, teaching a distance course meant literally going the distance. “I did ‘suitcase’ courses where I’d go to another town for a week and teach public sector management courses,” recalls Langford, who now relies more on the internet and sophisticated interactive teaching software to help students access lectures, interviews and even course readings online.

Bringing the francophone world to the classroom

Ensuring that real-world contexts are a part of language education is a driving passion for Dr. Catherine Caws, chair of UVic’s Department of French. Caws developed a set of more than 40 computer-based French language video clips to help students explore and understand the vast diversity of francophone communities around the world and enrich her students’ experience of language acquisition. Although it’s proven to be a useful tool on its own, Caws has found that the videos of the collection skyrockets as her students venture beyond the classroom, conducting their own interviews with Victoria-area francophones to help students explore and understand the vast diversity of francophone communities around the world and enrich her students’ experience of language acquisition. Although it’s proven to be a useful tool on its own, Caws has found that the video segments really seem to help the students feel more equipped to enter into a conversation, and stretch their own French skills to respond.

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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 change 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.

**Research depth**

**Climate, matter, and energy**

**TRIUMF builds powerful new accelerator**

UVic is a leading contributor to a major expansion at TRIUMF, Canada’s national laboratory for particle and nuclear physics. In June, the BC government announced a $62.9-million investment to support a new, 8.4-m-million facility that will allow TRIUMF to expand its research efforts in particle and nuclear physics, and in materials science. It will also develop the technology to advance Canada’s supply of medical isotopes.urses will have a powerful electron linear accelerator (e-linac), which is being built by a team led by UVic physics Dr. Dean Karlen. The accelerator is the first of its kind in Canada and will create a variety of isotopes for use in applied research. In addition to its medical applications, the e-linac is also supported by a $4 million investment from private and public partners, with an additional $18.7 million in support of the e-linac from the Canada Foundation for Innovation.

**Funding forest knowledge**

At risk from pests, fire, drought, overharvesting and from climate change too, Canada’s forests are a defining feature of the national landscape. And over the next six years, NSERC funding to UVic’s Centre for Forest Biology will help drive research on the interaction of forests and climate change, providing advanced scientific training to students in the field. “This is a tremendous boost for forest-related research in our centre,” says Dr. Peter Constabel, a UVic biologist and director of the Centre for Forest Biology. “Beyond the science, it will give the next generation of forest scientists and managers enhanced training and allow an understanding of the real-world implications of forest and climate interactions.”

**Circling new discoveries to unearth mysteries of matter**

To the UVic-ATLAS team, all the important action in particle physics is buried 100 metres beneath the Earth’s surface. More than two dozen UVic scientists, students, research associates, computer experts, technicians and engineers are now poring over data from the world’s biggest science experiment—the Large Hadron Collider, built inside a 27-km circular tunnel straddling the French-Swiss border to accelerate trillions of protons into billions of head-on collisions deep underground—in the hope of validating new discoveries about space, time and the very basis of nature. The UVic team designed and built several crucial components of the ATLAS detector which is recording debris from the proton collisions, the first of which occurred on March 30. As a founding ATLAS institute, UVic has closely collaborated with the other 10 Canadian institutions involved in the Canadian ATLAS adventure.

The Pan-Andromeda Archeological Survey (PAndAS) has garnered international praise, and we continue to take strides to meet the challenges of the future. As issues of climate change 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.

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Groundbreaking ocean science pioneered by UVic’s two cabled underwater ocean observatories is making a huge impact—not only in scientific knowledge and economic impact, but also in schools all across Canada. While students in Vancouver Island and mainland BC explore the mysteries of underwater life on NEPTUNE Canada and VENUS’s grid, students in Quebec use data on oceanography to enhance their understanding of natural processes and analysis methods. At the Robert College in Istanbul, students in Christian Lavrenov’s biology courses are getting a research-oriented curriculum in oceanography and aquatic biology, thousands of kilometres away from the university’s studying. Thanks to internet-accessible information from NEPTUNE Canada and VENUS. These are excellent resources to give students real learning experiences,” says Lavrenov, who notes that student enthusiasm for the projects are very high. A number of students “really want above and beyond,” in explaining and asking questions of the observation, methods and the guiding principles that help scientists shed light on natural phenomena. Beyond transforming how we study the oceans, the world’s most innovative ocean observatories are already generating economic opportunities for Canada in marine technology, fiber-optic communications, power system design, data management, and sensors and robotics. Long-term observations will inform public policy in areas such as climate and ecosystem change, natural hazards mitigation, resource management and national security. Our in-depth understanding of the ocean processes that regulate and transform our planet really begins here, with the world’s leading 24/7, internet-linked, cabled ocean observatories.
Health and society

UVic engineering professor Dr. Reuven Gordon’s research is helping to create sensors for the early detection of cancers, new tools to study viral infection and more efficient solar devices that can be manufactured at less expense than current devices. The Canada Research Chair in Nanoplasmonics, Gordon made news this year when he—together with a colleague in Spain and two UVic graduate students—developed a new method to trap, manipulate and study tiny, active objects as miniscule as viruses without inflicting any damage. Using a new approach to an established technology called “optical trapping,” the team demonstrated that it is possible to use the force of light to hold and manipulate 50 nanometre particles—two thousand times smaller than the width of a human hair—something previously considered impossible.

Since most viruses range from 10 to 300 nanometres in size, this new method of optical trapping is likely to significantly expand viral research.

An early warning system for cardiovascular disease

Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in North America, where an estimated one in six people have some form of it. UVic engineering PhD student Yuanjue Pang and Dr. Reuven Gordon refined a system for trapping particles as small as viruses.

Placing harmful radiation in the right places

Anyone who has had radiation therapy for cancer, or has seen relatives or friends go through it, knows how debilitating the side effects can be. Dr. Andrew Jirasek, a UVic physicist specializing in imaging radiation, is working to reduce these side effects by improving the delivery of radiation to different parts of the body. Jirasek is working with researchers at the BC Cancer Agency on a technique that ensures that radiation does not hit that unintended mark—maximizing damage to cancer cells while minimizing damage to the surrounding healthy cells and, consequently, limiting the side effects. “It will allow us to say with more confidence that the dose we think we’re giving is actually what the patient is receiving,” explains Jirasek.

Advancing our understanding of brain recovery

A group of neuroscientists at UVic, led by biology and Division of Medical Sciences researcher Craig Brown, is observing changes in brain function as they happen, shedding new light on how the brain heals itself. Brown’s team monitored the brains of mice, and observed that the brain’s ability to redirect circuits around damaged areas is very limited in the brains of mice with diabetes. “No one really knew, for example, why stroke recovery was so difficult for diabetics,” says Brown. “This look into the brain’s function is helping us understand how the brain adapts to and recovers from injuries.”

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Placing harmful radiation in the right places

Anyone who has had radiation therapy for cancer, or has seen relatives or friends go through it, knows how debilitating the side effects can be. Dr. Andrew Jirasek, a UVic physicist specializing in imaging radiation, is working to reduce these side effects by improving the delivery of radiation to different parts of the body. Jirasek is working with researchers at the BC Cancer Agency on a technique that ensures that radiation does not hit that unintended mark—maximizing damage to cancer cells while minimizing damage to the surrounding healthy cells and, consequently, limiting the side effects. “It will allow us to say with more confidence that the dose we think we’re giving is actually what the patient is receiving,” explains Jirasek.

Advancing our understanding of brain recovery

A group of neuroscientists at UVic, led by biology and Division of Medical Sciences researcher Craig Brown, is observing changes in brain function as they happen, shedding new light on how the brain heals itself. Brown’s team monitored the brains of mice, and observed that the brain’s ability to redirect circuits around damaged areas is very limited in the brains of mice with diabetes. “No one really knew, for example, why stroke recovery was so difficult for diabetics,” says Brown. “This look into the brain’s function is helping us understand how the brain adapts to and recovers from injuries.”
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.

Casting light on the margins

Over the past 20 years, Dr. Cecilia Benoit’s community-based research with vulnerable populations has helped to improve the lives of those who are outside the mainstream. This year, Benoit, who is a scientist at UVic’s Centre for Addictions Research and a professor of sociology, was recognized with a 2010 BC Community Achievement Award—the only Victorian to receive the award this year. Benoit studies the link between social determinants, risk behaviours, health status and access to health care services. “I am very humbled to be chosen,” says Benoit, “and thank the awards committee for giving recognition to scholarship aimed at improving the health and well being of the province’s most vulnerable population.”

Making sense of electronic health records

Health Information Science researcher Dr. Francis Lau believes that active engagement is the best medicine for the burgeoning field of electronic health records. As the Canadian Institute for Health Research Chair in Applied eHealth, Lau has developed an electronic observatory to not only assess the effectiveness of electronic health records but to also improve the way doctors use those records as their use becomes more widespread throughout the industry.

Rethinking law and diversity

In political and constitutional expert James Tully’s world there is no political apathy—only citizens exercising their civic freedom cooperatively and effectively to address complex issues such as minority rights, the rights of Indigenous peoples and environmental challenges. Tully’s work developing a public philosophy that draws on contemporary political theory and its history to empower citizens earned him a 2010 Killam Prize for the Humanities from the Canada Council for the Arts, recognizing his distinguished career and exceptional contributions to Canadian scholarship and public life. Tully was the only scholar in Western Canada to receive the prestigious award this year. “I am deeply honoured and humbled by this award because the research that this prize recognizes would not be possible without the collaboration of a whole network of colleagues, students and staff over many years and universities who have helped to support, inspire and create it,” says Tully. “I would also like to thank UVic, the best university in the world for this kind of interdisciplinary research and teaching.”

Does client-based governance make a difference for community service organizations working to house the homeless? It’s a question that education grad student River Chandler helped the Victoria Cool Aid Society answer, based on a survey of participation models used at other community service organizations around the world. Building on several years of immersion, research-based partnerships with federal and provincial agencies, UVic’s interdisciplinary research practicum helped graduate student researchers like Chandler working across a variety of fields, find answers to the real-world questions of local community service organizations this spring. Along with the Cool Aid Society, the Victoria Native Friendship Centre and AIDS Vancouver Island put grad students under the direction of a seasoned community researcher to the task of providing solid, evidence-based solutions to managerial issues in human services delivery. The result, explains Cool Aid Society Director Kathy Stinson, was really exciting. “River’s summary of participation models helped show not only what we’re already doing well as an organization, but also some of the possible paths we might take as our organization responds to new challenges.”
Although the great pictographs scattered across the caves of Europe have been the focus of scholarly research for generations, UVic anthropology grad student Genevieve von Petzinger found something truly remarkable this spring—the regularity and similarity of 26 smaller signs, scattered across 146 different cave sites in France. “Modern technology allowed me to compare inventories and digital images from nearly 150 locations, giving me the ability to observe and document the similarities among the different sites,” recalls von Petzinger, explaining why such a large scale comparison hadn’t been undertaken before. Her professor, Dr. April Nowell, was equally surprised by the clear patterning of the symbols across distance and time, noting that some of the symbols appear to have been in continuous use for over 20,000 years. The 26 distinct, repeated symbols von Petzinger has identified as significant may provide the first glimmers of proof that a graphic code—the foundation of written language—was being used by ancient humans shortly after their arrival in Europe from Africa, and may have been an imported cultural practice. If correct, these findings will contribute to the growing body of evidence that what anthropologists call the “creative explosion” leading to modernity occurred tens of thousands of years earlier than scholars once thought.

Homelessness research

UVic health information science student Tyrone Austen knew he’d finally found the right master’s thesis topic when he was introduced to the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness. “I wanted to work on something that would provide immediate, benevolent and involved the underprivileged community,” says the recent graduate. “The coalition was a totally good fit. They involved me immediately and trusted the research topic I could really believe in.” The result was the 2010 Report on Housing and Supports delivered at the coalition’s annual general meeting in June. Austen’s unique framework provides the coalition with an annual means of evaluating and reporting the effectiveness of the many agencies, programs and initiatives involved in the complex issue of homelessness. Austen determined that better integration of data gathering among the more than 20 agencies addressing the housing issue would improve both evaluation and service delivery. Based on these findings, several of the agencies involved in the research have already begun planning to advance their information management capabilities. “This data showed that Victoria’s hostile housing market and unbalanced living wage mean that homelessness is not a choice people make,” says Austen.

Many prehistoric cave paintings in Europe, like this horse depiction at Peche Merle, in southwest France, include smaller illustrations at their periphery.
The prospects for improving university graduation rates among Aboriginal students are growing brighter, based on the findings of UVic’s groundbreaking LE,NONET project. The four-year pilot study, with six complementary student-focused programs and a workshop for faculty and staff, demonstrated remarkable improvements for retention and graduation rates among participating Indigenous students. Peer mentoring, preparation seminars, community internships, bursaries and an innovative research apprenticeship program all helped student participants feel part of the Aboriginal community on campus, and more likely see themselves as part of the general UVic community—key indicators of the improved persistence and retention rates the program achieved. The program is just part of the university’s ongoing commitment to Indigenous education. Over the past ten years, Aboriginal enrolment at UVic has climbed from 87 to nearly 700 students. UVic has developed programs that are both locally relevant and internationally significant, demonstrating our commitment to communities through positive, transforming initiatives that can be applied throughout Canada and around the world.

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.

How does our food get from field to fridge, and how many miles must it go first? Where can a homeless person go after a midnight perch on rough pavement to find the warmth of reliable indoor shelter? These are some of the many questions for the University of Victoria’s Office of Community-Based Research (OCBR). The office opened its doors in June 2007 and continues to draw researchers and community advocates together to identify realistic approaches to improve local and regional initiatives that resonate on a national and global level. Highlights for this year include findings from the three-year Aboriginal Secondary Transitions Research Project, carried out jointly by UVic and the University of Indigenous Affairs to support and strengthen community-controlled Indigenous adult and higher education centres throughout BC and the beginning of a Vancouver Island food production action plan to explore how to source quality, sustainable food closer to home.

The university’s commitment to community-based research extended as well to the 2010 launch of a unique online MA program in community development. Offered by UVic’s Department of Public Administration, the program is designed to prepare leaders for the challenges of today’s global issues in communities around the world.

Advancing public health and policy

As the first new UVic school in 20 years, the School of Public Health and Social Policy in the Faculty of Human and Social Development will offer one undergraduate and two graduate programs beginning in September 2011. All three programs—aimed at protecting and promoting the health of the population—will provide practical experiences in the field. The areas of focus for the school include Indigenous Peoples’ health, public health informatics, public health nursing, disability studies, gerontology and social policy. UVic has delivered distance and on-campus health and community service programs in applied and professional practice for over 30 years. Establishing a new school will help UVic better support community-based practice that promotes health and social justice, as well as serving professionals seeking to further their education while working in the field.
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.

The University of Victoria is benefitting from a joint federal-provincial economic stimulus package that supports research and teaching infrastructure enhancement at Canadian institutions. UVic is one of 33 recipients of a $42.5 million grant through the Canada-British Columbia Knowledge Infrastructure Program to renovate six campus buildings averaging 40 years of age. The work includes seismic upgrades, safety improvements (sprinklers and fire alarms), mechanical upgrades to heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, electrical improvements and hazardous materials abatement—with an impact on an estimated 1,300 jobs by the end of the project in 2011.

One of Canada’s Top 50 Green Employers

UVic has been recognized for its commitment to sustainability by the editors of Canada’s Top 50 Green Employers project, placing it in the top 50 of Canada’s 500 largest employers. “We are very pleased to have been chosen as one of Canada’s greenest employers,” said Neil Connelly, director of campus planning and sustainability. “The award recognizes UVic’s strong commitment to integrating sustainability initiatives throughout our operations and across our campus.” The university’s support for sustainable transportation options, including cycling infrastructure and a subsidized bus pass program, new green buildings, a unique dual plumbing system in new buildings that recirculates treated waste water, a campus program to use green cleaning products, creation of native plant demonstration gardens, food waste composting initiatives, renovation programs and facilities, and a green island that includes electric, hybrid and biodiesel fueled vehicles as well as achievements were all cited by the awarding council as significant achievements towards this award.

Third building on campus to strike gold

The Social Sciences and Mathematics Building, which opened in 2008, was the third campus facility to be certified for achieving the gold-level standard in environmental design and sustainability by the Canada Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program. The building’s two green roofs and several patio gardens help insulate and capture rain and moisture. Other sustainability features include energy-efficient lighting, natural ventilation, facilities for cyclists including showers and lockers, and the use of treated wastewater in toilets and urinals. The lobby area features the first architectural application of pine-beetle damaged wood in BC, while the courtyard contains the Ian Ross Memorial Garden, a living laboratory of native plants.

UVic’s Medical Sciences and Engineering/Computer Science Buildings previously achieved gold status. UVic is also targeting gold certification for its recently completed First Peoples House, and for the new South Tower student residence building, slated to open in January 2011. All new campus building and renovation projects incorporate sustainability initiatives, including efficient energy and water management systems, locally sourced materials, natural landscaping, storm water management systems and enhanced indoor air quality.
Accountable to our community

We are grateful for the support of individuals, corporations, foundations and government agencies that help 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).

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. Preliminary totals show that UVic researchers won nearly $106 million in external research grants and contracts in 2009/10, more than triple the amount achieved 10 years ago.

For the seventh year in a row, UVic was ranked a Research University of the Year by Research Infosource based on 2008/09 research performance. Research Infosource says UVic has “demonstrated superior achievement in earning research income and in publishing research in leading Canadian and international scientific journals.”

According to the international newsletter Science Watch, UVic is the fifth most influential university in the world in the field of energy and fuels, as measured by the citation impact of the top 100 scientific articles per institution published between 1998 and 2008. In North America, only Princeton, Cornell and the US National Energy Lab ranked higher.

Supporting our students

Helping students achieve their full academic potential is our first priority, and removing financial barriers helps students achieve their goals. UVic provided nearly $106 million in aid to undergraduates during 2009/10. Financial support to graduate students in this same period, including teaching assistant stipends and funds provided by sponsored research grants and awards, rose to $18.7 million.

A warm thanks to our donors

Thanks to the generosity of our valued donors, we will be able to invest more than $25 million 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.

External research grants and contracts

Revenues by source 2009/10 (Fund accounting basis. In millions.)

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<th>Source</th>
<th>Revenues</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provincial grants</td>
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<td>Sales</td>
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<td>Federal grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total revenues</td>
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Expenditures by fund 2009/10 (Fund accounting basis. In millions.)

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<th>Account</th>
<th>Expenditures</th>
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<td>General operating</td>
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<td>Student awards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support of research chairs and professorships</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total student aid</td>
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Fundraising sources 2009/10

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<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Gifts, grants and bequests</td>
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<td>Corporations</td>
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<td>Estates</td>
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<td>Other organizations</td>
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<td>Total fundraising</td>
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</table>

External research grants and contracts

Investment income—$49 [9%]

Tuition—$107 [20%]

Provincial grants—$200 [38%]

Sales—$58 [11%]

Federal grants—$76 [14%]

Other—$21 [4%]

Gifts, grants and bequests—$21 [4%]

Total revenues $532 million Total expenditures $503 million

Support of research chairs and professorships—$5 million [20%]

2009/10 values are based on preliminary data.

Fluctuation between years is in part due to the timing of CFI/BCKDF disbursements.

Beginning in 2003-04, research totals include the indirect costs of conducting research, in compliance with CAUBO accounting standards.
Governance

Honours

Student athletics and recreation

Some of Canada’s best athletes compete for the Vikes in varsity sports. With its university national championships, a strong selection of University teams, and hundreds of campus teams—summer and winter—UVic’s athletes are among the best in the country. Our teams have earned a reputation as one of the best athletic programs in Canada, and we are widely recognized for our commitment to excellence in our student athletes. University teams play in 11 varsity sports—men’s and women’s soccer, baseball, hockey, basketball, volleyball, water polo, swimming, track and field, and men’s and women’s rugby. In addition to intersports, intramurals, sport clubs, recreational classes, and more.

For more information contact UVic Communications at 250-721-7636.