UVic’s board of governors has approved a budget framework for the 2004-05 fiscal year that provides for growth in student enrolment, maintains the quality of academic programs, and funds some modest improvements to programs and services.

The restoration of provincial government funding and trimming of anticipated expenditures are keeping proposed tuition increases less than originally forecast.

The board passed the budget with a vote of 11–3 after hearing submissions against the tuition hikes by students Joanna Groves and Nicole Lindsay. A motion was passed unanimously that the board write to the premier and minister of advanced education expressing concern about the cancelation of B.C.’s student grant program and encouraging the introduction of a replacement program.

The framework calls for a 16.6 per cent tuition increase for domestic undergraduate students and a seven per cent increase for graduate students. It also includes an additional $2 million in student financial assistance. With this package, UVic will exceed its goal to be among the top 20 per cent of Canadian universities in terms of financial aid for students.

The tuition increases in the budget framework are required because of increased operating costs, the additional costs associated with providing spaces for 372 more full-time students, and improvements in programs and student support services. The budget framework provides for a provincial operating grant of $512.8 million to UVic to fund the equivalent of spaces for 14,552 full-time undergraduate and graduate students. At the same time, the university’s financial commitments have risen $15.3 million over last year.

The university’s operating budget for 2004-05 is $224.7 million. Tuition accounts for 34 per cent of the university’s operating revenue. B.C. universities are required by law to balance their budgets.

Tuition for domestic arts and science undergraduates will rise in 2004-05 to $4,238 from $3,635, while graduate tuition will increase to $4,404 from $4,116. Tuition for international undergraduate students will increase to $4,731 from $4,238, while international graduate tuition will increase to $4,883 from $4,238.

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UVic awarded two new Canada Research Chairs

As you read this, 260 million cells in the retina of your eyes are busily generating, processing and transmitting visual signals to your brain. But even a small glitch in this process can lead to a subtle vision disorder or complete blindness.

As UVic’s new Canada Research Chair in Retinal and Early Eye Development, Dr. Robert Chow is trying to eliminate these glitches by achieving a greater understanding of hereditary human vision disorders and the complex biology of the retina. “More than 200 genetic lesions responsible for eye disease have been identified in humans,” says Chow. “An important point to keep in mind, however, is that the individual genes mutated in these diseases are actually team players that interact with a multitude of other genes in complex biological networks and pathways.”

Chow is currently a post-doctoral fellow at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. He’ll join UVic’s biology department in May.

Chow is one of two Canada Research Chairs awarded at UVic by the Canada Foundation for Innovation in 2003.

SIX SELECTED FOR SPRING HONORARY DEGREES

Stephen Lewis, United Nations special envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa, is part of a distinguished group of six who will accept honorary degrees during the university’s spring convocation ceremonies June 1-4.

Along with Lewis, honorary degrees will be presented to retired Supreme Court Justice Claire L’Heureux-Dubé, Kwa-guilth artist Richard Hunt, Victoria arts activist and fundraiser Jane Helfgillinger, American health information specialist Dr. Morris Collen, and Percy Wilkinson, a Victoria public service.

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UVic seeks new university secretary

UVic is looking for a new university secretary to replace Sheila Shadlin-Collier, who is retiring. Applications and nominations are invited for the position, which is responsible for the direction, efficient operation and general oversight of the major governing bodies of the university. As a key member of the university’s senior leadership team, the university secretary provides strategic input and advice to ensure the university’s successful management and good governance. The position reports to the president. The successful candidate will take Jan. 1, 2020, to have a track record of accomplished leadership in senior level administration within an organization of comparable complexity, and will possess strong expertise in policy development, consensus building, planning and co-ordination. The committee begins reviewing applications as early as May 2019. Send early inquiries to Janine Wright & Associates Inc., 21 Bedford Road, suite 300, Toronto, Ontario M5R 2B9, tel: (416) 923-3008 or e-mail uvicsec@jwasearch.com.

Law students argue their way to the top

Last month in Toronto, four UVic law students won the Guelph Cup Moot Competition, the country’s premier law event for students to showcase their courtroom skills. Coached by law professor Don Galloway, the team of Gordon Busk, Adam Cameron, Cameron Bider and Adam Perry beat out students from 15 other law schools for the title. This year’s competition revisited a Supreme Court decision on the right against self-incrimination. In the competition final, two UVic students were chosen at random to appeal the decision against a team from the University of Western Ontario. According to Galloway, the UVic law students “entered the realm of transcendence in their winning arguments. The team’s written brief on their appeal was judged the best in the competition.”

All-nighter puts student on the road to fame

Organizers of the Fringe Edinburgh Festival’s 24-Hour Playwriting Competition locked Leah Bailly in a Calgary office tower for 24 hours and told her to produce a script. When the UVic writing student emerged, her work, Stopped, would go on to win several awards, including the prestigious Global Genesis award. Bailly, who has lived in developed countries get in touch with those who live and choose to live in the developing world, has been recognized for her efforts to bridge the gap between the two worlds. Her play, Stopped, received a certificate, a pin and a cash award. This year’s recipients were announced earlier this month. The other is Dr. Raymond Siemens, Canada Research Chair in Humanities Computing, who is looking for new ways to adapt books, newspapers, magazines and journal articles to the electronic medium. Siemens’ work will help create new computing tools for data-harvesting, textual content analysis, document encoding application and conversion, and communication processes. As well as his research, Siemens will teach a course on Shakespeare and a course that traces the evolution of books from 2000 years ago to the present. Siemens is currently a lecturer in engineering ingenuity on display

A method of steering wild animals, using sound and motion detectors was just one of 21 projects on display when UVic’s fourth-year electrical and computer engineering students presented their final design projects last month. Other projects included a fuel-cell powered portable infant incubator, a voice processor that melds spoken perception and digital audio; a filter that allows musicians to custom-create their own audio files; and a fully-functional autonomous robot. Awards were given for the best designs by the local chapter of the international organization, Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers. For a complete list of projects and awards visit www.uvic.ca/ece/g4e.

Cycle safely—and with confidence!

Have you contemplated cycling to work or class but don’t feel comfortable in traffic? Boost your confidence levels by taking a free, one-day-cycling traffic skills course on Saturdays and Sundays in April, May and June. The eight-hour course, developed by the Bike to Work Society and sponsored by UVic, combines classroom and practical on-road training. Topics include: riding comfortably and safely in heavy traffic; tips for night riding and rain; how to maneuver around obstacles and make sudden stops; and bike safety checks. For more information visit www.biketoworkvictoria.ca or contact Susanna Grimes at 920-5705 or courses@biketoworkvictoria.ca.

Springing ahead with high-tech clocks

The new continuing studies building is sporting the latest in high-tech timekeeping—a wireless analog clock system that is accurate to the second and never needs an atomic clock, even during a power outage or a seasonal time change. The same technology will be part of the soon-to-be-opened medical science building. The wireless technology includes a transmitter that receives signals from a constellation of Global Positioning System (GPS) satellites, and then retransmits the signals via FM radio to the clock system. The clocks run on batteries that last more than five years, require no maintenance and costs less.

UVic honours community-minded students

Eleven UVic students who combine good marks with good works in the university and wider community were honoured March 16 with Blue and Gold Circle Awards. The awards recognize those who combine solid scholastic achievement with community involvement and action. Each student received a certificate, a pin and a cash award. This year’s recipients were honoured for work in organizations as diverse as the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of the B.C. Special Olympics, the University of Victoria and the World University Services of Canada. To learn more about the award-winners, read their biographies at communications.uvic.ca/cphiԏps043317a.html.

Music students jamie Davis (left), Jessica Lott (right) and Jen Smith (background) in a practice session.
BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Planning for growth

The budget framework provides for:

- the addition of 372 full-time undergraduate and graduate students;
- improvements on campus including an additional $400,000 to UVic’s libraries for acquisitions; $687,000 for quality improvements such as new course selections and added faculty in high-demand areas; and $100,000 for new resources for students with a disability and counselling services;
- additional space on campus by allocating $1.6 million from international student tuition revenue to establish a building fund.

Tuition

The budget framework provides for:

- a 16.6 per cent increase in domestic undergraduate tuition, raising the cost of annual tuition to $4,238 in 2004-05 from $3,635 in 2003-04;
- a seven per cent hike in domestic graduate tuition, an increase from $4,116 in 2003-04 to $4,404 in 2004-05;
- an increase in tuition for international undergraduate students raising the cost of annual tuition to $12,500 in 2004-05 from $11,000 in 2003-04.

Student financial assistance

The budget framework provides for an increase of $2,009,500 in student financial assistance. With this commitment, UVic has surpassed the budget framework provides for an increase of $2,009,500 in student financial assistance. With this commitment, UVic has surpassed the

The 2004-05 program includes:

- $50,000 in graduate teaching fellowships
- $199,500 from international student revenue
- recurring funds of $779,000
- parking fees on campus will increase, on average, by about 15 per cent, reflecting a single monthly payment that covers all annual UVic's transportation demand management report.
- rents in family student housing will rise between 4.9 and 7 per cent with 10 per cent of the increase allocated to initiatives that interests Wild.
- student residence fees will increase between 1.19 and 2.13 per cent, the first increase in two years.
- there are two main pulping techniques: chemical pulping and mechanical pulping. It's the latter that interests Wild.
- mechanical pulping makes the wood chips between rotating metal disks to produce pulp. While this refining method provides a higher yield than chemical pulping, the resulting paper quality is lower. That's because the energy-intensive grinding method breaks many of the wood's fibers. As a result, the paper has a weaker fiber network and a high lignin content, which causes it to turn yellow when exposed to sunlight. Paper produced by this process is used mainly for newsprint, telephone books and other applications where high-quality paper is not really needed.

Peter Wild joined UVic’s mechanical engineering department in 2003, and is no stranger to this campus—Wild’s earned his PhD here in 1994. Wild’s main research focus is renewable energy. Along with colleagues in UVic’s institute for integrated energy systems, he’s working on an experimental computer system that will be used to study how to integrate renewable energy into real-world applications. In a related project, he’s developing an energy plan for a remote northern community. He finds this work particularly rewarding as “remote communities often are one of the most promising applications for renewable energy.”

Budget provides for growth continued from p.1

$12,500 from $11,000. This reflects year two of a four-year progression to move toward a cost-recovery model for international undergraduate students. The budget framework also provides for improvements such as: $400,000 to UVic’s libraries for acquisitions; $687,000 for quality improvements such as new course selections, added faculty in high-demand areas and new resources for students with a disability; and $180,000 for technical support for fixed bed. An MBA program fee. An MBA program consists of six terms, but the program fee only applies to the first five terms.

Other fee increases

- Student residence fees will increase between 1.19 and 2.13 per cent.
- Rents in family student housing will rise between 4.9 and 7 per cent, the first increase in two years.
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Differential fees and program fees

Differential fees are applied to base tuition in programs where there is a higher program delivery cost, where graduates tend to move into careers with substantially higher average earnings and where the faculties must remain competitive with other Canadian programs.

- The budget framework includes a $500 increase per term (to $1,000 per term) in the faculty of law differential fee, a combination of a three-year plan introduced last year. Similar differential fees are proposed for 2005-06. The fees will increase law tuition in 2004-05 to $3,710.60 from $2,824.70.
- The budget framework increases the MBA differential fee by $81 per term in 2004-05, bringing the cost of tuition per term to $3,334.60 from $2,426.70.
- There is a $110 increase to the existing $500-per-term MBA program fee. An MBA program consists of six terms, but the program fee only applies to the first five terms.

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Mechanical engineering professor Dr. Peter Wild’s newest invention is small enough to sit in the palm of your hand, yet it has the potential to make the pulp and paper industry more efficient. His device—known as a force sensor—could lower costs for the pulping stage of the paper-making process and allow the industry to become more competitive.

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A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away...

Sounds like the introduction to Star Wars, doesn’t it? It’s also a great way to summarize the work of Dr. Sara Ellison, whose scientific curiosity extends far beyond the boundaries of Earth—and into the far reaches of the universe.

Ellison is a UVic astronomer and Canada Research Chair in observational cosmology who studies the chemical evolution of galaxies. “It’s a quest to answer the most fundamental question of all,” she says. “How did we get from the simple ingredients that came out of the Big Bang to the rich fabric of galaxies and stars we see around us today?”

The Big Bang refers to the massive explosion that scientists believe created the universe more than 13 billion years ago. Over time the universe has expanded and cooled, and galaxies—essentially large cities of stars—were formed. Our own Milky Way galaxy, for example, has tens of billions of stars, including our sun.

It’s the distant galaxies that hold special interest for Ellison. “Light from these galaxies was transmitted millions or billions of years ago,” she says, “so as we look further and further away it’s like taking slices through the history of the universe.”

But the further away a galaxy is, the fainter it looks through even the most powerful telescopes. To get beyond that problem—literally—Ellison looks to the edge of the observable universe for intense points of light known as quasars.

“The light from these quasars has to travel far to get to me and my telescope, so the chances are it will go through a galaxy along the way” she explains. “If that happens, then some of the light will interact with the various gases in that galaxy.”

By studying the spectrum of the quasar light when it finally reaches Earth, Ellison can determine if there’s a galaxy in between, how far away it is and its chemical composition.

For the last six years, Ellison has led an international project to verify the accuracy of using quasars to study galaxies.

“The concern was that if we have a galaxy that’s far along in its evolution and has produced a lot of dust which absorbs light, we might not be seeing a quasar behind it,” she explains. “So our optical surveys might be biased against more evolved galaxies.”

The Complete Optical and Radio Absorption Line System Survey (CORALS) used radio telescopes—which measure electromagnetic waves that go straight through dust—to select distant quasars. The results were then compared to data from optical telescopes.

“What we’ve found out so far is that there’s not a big difference. That’s good news because it means we can still rely on data from optical surveys, which are lot easier to collect.”

Follow-up studies are planned over the next few years. One of these, using the Very Large Telescope (VLT) in Chile, will determine whether the galaxies identified by CORALS are more chemically evolved due to higher rates of star formation. Another study, using the Hubble Space Telescope and radio telescopes in West Virginia and India, will measure how much gas is in these galaxies, and their temperatures.

“These observations will provide one more piece of the puzzle toward figuring out the nature of distant galaxies,” she says.

Ellison joined UVic in 2003 after three years at an observatory in Chile. She’s also worked with telescopes in Australia, Spain and Hawaii and recently completed a project using the Hubble Space Telescope. Her ongoing work, funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council and the Canada Foundation for Innovation, enhances UVic’s growing reputation as a world-class centre for galaxy research.

“Our theory group uses simulations on how galaxy structure evolves over time, and my observations can test those theories,” she says. “It’s a perfect fit.”

Too busy? Connect online. telus.com/student

UVic grad wins prestigious Fulbright scholarship

by Patty Pitts

UVic alumnus Ian Scott has been awarded a prestigious Fulbright-OAS Ecology scholarship.

The award, valued at more than US $50,000 over two years, recognizes Scott’s outstanding academic achievement and extra-ordinary contribution to the fields of sustainable development and environmental protection.

Scott currently works for Ecora of Canada, where he coordinates community resource management and planning projects within B.C.’s Georgia Basin region. He holds a UVic bachelor’s degree in geography with a minor in environmental studies.

Every year, one individual from each country in the Western Hemisphere is awarded a Fulbright-OAS Ecology scholarship. Scott is the second Canadian to win it.

The scholarship supports exceptional individuals throughout the Americas who have contributed in important ways to sustainable development in their own countries. Scholars have the opportunity to pursue advanced academic degrees in the U.S.

Scott will pursue a master’s in community and regional planning at the American university of his choice. His research will focus on participatory planning and its application to regional and community economic development, with particular reference to First Nations communities. His interest lies at the intersection of economics, community development and environmental protection.

“Communities on both sides of the border are facing similar challenges, such as environmental degradation, changing economies and social upheaval,” he says. “I’m excited by the opportunity to study how planners and communities in the U.S. are dealing with these important issues.”

“I’m very proud to see a UVic graduate join the distinguished ranks of Fulbright scholars,” says UVic President Dr. David Turpin. “Ian’s success reflects the emphasis we place on interdisciplinary eduction, which prepares graduates to tackle the real issues facing our world.”

Long regarded as the world’s premier academic exchange program, the Fulbright program attracts scholars from more than 150 countries worldwide. The program has engaged nearly 600 scholars in academic exchanges since 1990.
University hires new director of human rights

by Patty Pitts

A UVic alumna with 14 years of experience delivering human rights programs to universities has been appointed to the new position of director of human rights at UVic. Cindy Player assumed the position effective May 1.

Creation of the new position within an amalgamated office of equity and human rights was a key initiative of the report of the external review on equity and fairness at UVic.

As human rights director, Player will provide leadership in consultation with groups and representatives of UVic, in the development and co-ordination of discrimination and harassment plans, policies, and procedures.

"I believe that Cindy is returning to UVic to fill this very important role," says UVic President Dr. David Tardiff. "Cindy's appointment is the significant step toward a new office structure that is better equipped to identify and address human rights and equity needs and priorities."

Player is currently a human rights consultant with the city of Hamilton, Ontario. Prior to that, she was the sexual harassment/anti-discrimination officer at McMaster University for 11 years and a human rights educator in Carleton University's status of women office.

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Honorary degrees continued from p.1

career in the Royal B.C. Museum's Thunderbird Park until the mid-80s when he began his career as an internationally admired artist. He has produced an amazing array of work that includes Kwa-giulth masks, totems, drums, rattles, prints, jewelry and art on clothing. His design, "The Kulus," was used for the bronze medal at the 1994 Commonwealth Games in Victoria.

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Honorary degrees continued from p.1

Honoraries of the Victoria Commonwealth Games, and served as a director of the CBC. Her fundraising skills have advanced the Greater Victoria Hospital Foundation and the UVic Foundation. (June 2, 2:30 p.m., DSc)

There are few areas of Victoria arts, culture, and health care that hasn't benefited from the efforts of Jane Hoffeldinger. She has actively supported Pacific Opera Victoria, was the arts and culture chair

in memoriam

Dr. Robin Wood, principal emeritus of the Victoria Conservatory and for many years the Landsdowne scholar for UVic's school of music, died after a lengthy battle with cancer on Feb. 28. Two nights before his death, the Lieutenant Governor presented Robin and his wife, Winifred Scott Wood, with Lifetime Achievement Awards for 30 years of service and support to the province's musical community. Robin wore many hats during his lifetime, including performer, host of a television music program, adjudicator and examiner. But he was pre-eminent the finest piano teacher of his generation in Western Canada. Known also for his many lectures and arts of generosity to those students, his pupils also tell affectionate stories about his love of cats, late night radio, computers and outrageous puns, and his obsession with the Vancouver Canucks. In January Robin told me, "I'm doing what I love doing. My only regret is that I won't likely see my present students past the end of their time here." Robin continued to teach until a week before his death.

Contributed by Bruce Vogt, head of piano in the school of music and a colleague for 24 years. For the full tribute to Dr. Wood visit www.finearts.uvic.ca/music/intro

Honorary degrees continued from p.1

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Honorary degrees continued from p.1

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There are few areas of Victoria arts, culture, and health care that hasn't benefited from the efforts of Jane Hoffeldinger. She has actively supported Pacific Opera Victoria, was the arts and culture chair of the Victoria Commonwealth Games, and served as a director of the CBC. Her fundraising skills have advanced the Greater Victoria Hospital Foundation and the UVic Foundation. (June 2, 2:30 p.m., DSc)

Born in 1903, Percy Wilkins was the Lansdowne scholar for UVic's school of music, died after a lengthy battle with cancer on Feb. 28. Two nights before his death, the Lieutenant Governor presented Robin and his wife, Winifred Scott Wood, with Lifetime Achievement Awards for 30 years of service and support to the province's musical community. Robin wore many hats during his lifetime, including performer, host of a television music program, adjudicator and examiner. But he was pre-eminent the finest piano teacher of his generation in Western Canada. Known also for his many lectures and arts of generosity to those students, his pupils also tell affectionate stories about his love of cats, late night radio, computers and outrageous puns, and his obsession with the Vancouver Canucks. In January Robin told me, "I'm doing what I love doing. My only regret is that I won't likely see my present students past the end of their time here." Robin continued to teach until a week before his death.

Contributed by Bruce Vogt, head of piano in the school of music and a colleague for 24 years. For the full tribute to Dr. Wood visit www.finearts.uvic.ca/music/intro

Uvic plant sale keeps gardens growing

by Mary-Lou Leidl

It's that blooming’ time of year again when Finney Garden Friends and volunteers host UVic's annual plant sale.

Whether you’re an avid collector or a first-time gardener, there are plenty of plants to choose from to help brighten the garden year-round. Hanging baskets, plants for the rockery or pond, trees, shrubs and vines, herbs and vegetables—native, exotic, annual or perennial—they'll all be at the McKinnon Gym on Sunday, May 2 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"Prices are better than at a nursery, but it’s the quality and selection that people come for," says Rhonda Rose (facilities management), one of two UVic gardeners who keep the Finney Gardens thriving. Dahlia and chrysanthemums are new at the sale this year, as is a stall for the younger ones, “Gardening for Kids.”

One of the largest and perhaps oldest plant sales in Victoria, the UVic Plant Sale is the financial backbone for the development of the gardens’ stunning six-acre site.

And to keep up with a trend for the more diverse and unusual, the sale now depends on professional growers as well as donations from private gardeners to supply many of the plants. Proceeds from the sale support special projects and acquisitions.

Thanks to last year’s sale, which netted close to $14,000, the 29-year-old gardens underwent an expansion and facelift along the west side of the Henderson Road entrance. And after a few too many dry summers, an improved irriga- tion system that gauges water use was installed.

As for the sale itself, it’s a good idea to bring carry-on boxes and to come early, says Carmen Varsce of Finney Garden Friends. Plant experts will be on hand to answer questions and give advice.

Guided tours of Finney Gardens are available Sunday. May 9 from 1-4 p.m. Meet at the chapel entrance.

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Two Uvic researchers awarded $3.35 million in CFI grants

by Valerie Shore

Climate and ocean research at Uvic has been boosted by two grants totalling more than $3.35 million from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI).

Climatologist Dr. Andrew Weaver will use a $2.42 million grant to create a regional supercomputer facility at Uvic for advanced studies on climate change. Geophysicist Dr. Ross Chapman will spend his $932,500 grant on improvements to ROPOS, Canada’s world-class deep sea research submersible. Both researchers are faculty members in Uvic’s school of earth and ocean sciences.

“This is excellent news for Uvic,” says Dr. Martin Taylor, vice president research. “Both projects are funding world-class research that will build Uvic’s role as an international leader in climate and ocean research.”

The new climate modelling facility will feature one of the world’s fastest supercomputers. “Over the last 10 years we’ve developed a systems-climate model that is now used by researchers around the world,” says Weaver. “Now we want to look at climate questions that haven’t been addressed by anyone, anywhere.”

In particular, the team will model the climate system over the last 135,000 years in order to understand its influence on human evolution. “To better inform industry and government policy decisions, we need climate models that represent the interactions of economic, social, technological and biogeochemical factors,” says Weaver. “This facility will help us do that.”

The ROPOS (Remotely Operated Platform for Ocean Science) submersible, operated by the Canadian Scientific Submersible Facility and housed at the Institute of Ocean Sciences in Sidney, is used by scientists from many universities, including Uvic.

The CFI-funded improvements — which will be managed by the facility on behalf of Uvic — will allow ROPOS to operate in deep water on both coasts of Canada; navigate accurately and operate more frequently in mid-depths; obtain more types of simultaneous observations; and conduct more precise and delicate manipulations.

The modifications will support Uvic research on gas hydrates and fluid flow in sediments, deep sea ecology and biodiversity, and resources from hydrothermal vents. ROPOS will also be equipped to transmit real-time video from the seafloor to scientists and students anywhere on the continent. “All of these changes will make ROPOS the first-choice submersible for ocean scientists worldwide,” says Chapman, who in 2002 used ROPOS to discover the largest amount of methane hydrates ever found on the seafloor off Canada.

In this latest round of Innovation Fund grants, CFI has awarded $470.7 million to 126 projects at universities, colleges, research hospitals and other non-profit research institutions across Canada. The CFI is an independent, not-for-profit corporation established by the federal government to support innovation in Canadian universities and research institutions.

The provincial government has announced it will fund an additional 1,900 student spaces at Uvic between 2004 and 2010. The March 26 announcement came after Uvic’s 2004-05 budget framework was drafted and any ongoing impacts will be incorporated into future budgets. A total of 4,008 new seats was announced for Vancouver Island’s five postsecondary institutions. Uvic was allotted its new seats as follows: 432 in 2004-05, 417 in 2005-06, 451 in 2006-07, 269 in 2007-08, 269 in 2008-09, and 270 in 2009-10. The 1,900 new spaces are in addition to the 24 new seats per year that will be added over the next four years as part of the new Island Medical Program.

“It’s crucial that we increase the capacity of postsecondary institutions throughout the province so students have more access,” said Shirley Bond, Minister of Advanced Education.

“These additional seats will help government meet its commitment to make university programs accessible to students who earn a B average.”

UVic will determine where the seats will be added while honouring a commitment to add seats in nursing, electrical and computer engineering.

National project makes crime pay for history teachers

Go online and get in touch with your inner sleuth

by Patty Pitts

What do the murder of 19 settlers in 19th-century B.C. and the unresolved death in 1920 of a 12-year-old Quebec schoolgirl have in common? Both cases remain unsolved and both are part of a national history teaching project giving all Canadians the opportunity to sift through evidence, play the role of sleuth and learn more about Canada’s rich history in the process.

These whoodunits are part of the “Great Unsolved Mysteries in Canadian History” national Web site which was launched April 2. Uvic historian Dr. John Lutz, the project’s co-director, also issued an invitation to Canadians to nominate other unsolved mysteries for inclusion.

“Crime does pay off for history teachers,” says Lutz. “We want to encourage students from junior high to university — and anyone else interested in Canadian history — to get in touch with their inner sleuth and become involved in historical research. Eventually we’d like to have up to 15 unsolved mysteries on this site.”

Lutz and University of Toronto historian Dr. Ruth Sandwell originated the award-winning Canadian Unsolved Mysteries project with their 2004 volume, Unsolved Mysteries: “For the Murder of a Black Settler.” It was voted the best educational site in North America in 2002 by the North American Web Network.

It also prompted the Department of Canadian Heritage to give Uvic $162,000 to expand the site to its current state with the addition of two new unsolved mysteries. Like its predecessor, the new sites include actual court transcripts and newspaper reports about the events, archival photos and other historical documents. In using the sites, students develop the analytical skills used by historians to identify, select and evaluate evidence from the past to create new knowledge and maybe even “solve” a mystery.

“Nobody Knows His Name: Klaasissin and the Chilliwack War” examines a crucial but nationally little-known war in 1864 between the Tsilhqot’in people and the colony of B.C. When 19 settlers were killed that year, it was the deadliest attack by aboriginal people on immigrants in Western Canada. Was it war, terrorism or murder? Was it revenge for the spread of smallpox? Survivors of the attack said the Tsilhqot’in chief, Klaasissin, was the ringleader, but who were the real killers?

The second Web site addition, “Assassins! The Mystery of the Murdered Child,” examines the case that became a cause célèbre in Quebec and is well known.

Did Gagnon die of natural causes, as was reported at the time, or did she die at the hands of her father and stepmother? How could the torture of a child happen in a small community where everyone knew everyone else’s business?

“Instead of telling students ‘what happened,’ the subjects themselves are invited to become detective-historians,” says Lutz. “As they discover who did it and why, they learn about the great themes of our history and gain an intimate knowledge of how Canadians lived and died in the past.”

Visit the site at www.canadianmysteries.ca.
FROM GRAFFITI TO TREASURES OF ANCIENT GREECE

by Marni Friesen

I n 2001, the Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery was filled with the dynamic, technicolor urban creations of local graffiti artists, part of a collaborative exhibition and fundraiser with the Victoria police’s Rock Solid Foundation.

“Some of the work was fabulous,” says Maltwood director Martin Segger, though he recalls, “we did get some nasty calls about why we’d display graffiti in an art gallery.”

The exhibit, which led to the Maltwood’s ongoing relationship with Rock Solid and Esquimalt’s outdoor Trackside Art Gallery, is a good example of how the museum continues to make cultural connections with the community around it.

“I like to stretch the concept of who and what an artist is, and who gets displayed in a gallery,” adds curator Caroline Riedel.

The art museum and gallery marks its 40th birthday this year. Its original benefactor was Katharine Maltwood, a sculptress born in Victorian England, who amassed an extensive collection of fine and decorative art during her lifetime. Initially housed in “The Thatch,” Maltwood’s Tudor-style cottage in Royal Oak, UVic moved the collection of paintings, sculptures, furniture and curiosities to its present University Centre location in 1978.

The current gallery space, tucked behind the auditorium, is one of dozens built across the country in the late ’70s. Funded by the federal government, the gallery and storage facility was built to Nation’s Museum and Gallery until 1978.

The current gallery space, tucked behind the auditorium, is one of dozens built across the country in the late ’70s. Funded by the federal government, the gallery and storage facility was built to support contemporary Indigenous artists, such as Myfawny Pavelic, Richard Hunt and Toni Onley.

Today, Riedel estimates the gallery’s holdings at about 15,000 items.

That extensive collection means the Maltwood has become a precious resource for UVic faculty and students, who use the collection as the basis for research projects. Last year alone, more than 500 students and staff used the gallery as a platform for research and study. Faculty are even curating exhibits, such as the current Nimp Chneekol, an exhibit put together by Dr. Andrea Walsh (anthropology), showing the multi-cultural influences at work in the art of Okanagan children during the 1930s and ’40s.

“Over the years, the gallery has become more public generally,” says Segger of the Maltwood’s continuing evolution.

Items from the Maltwood collection are housed around the university and throughout Victoria. Hundreds of works are on display across the city, from UVic’s McKinnon Library to Government House to Swans Hotel and Pub.

And with the advent of the Internet, people anywhere in the world can view much of the Maltwood’s collection online. Soon, people will be able to take a virtual tour of Swans Hotel and view all of its resident artworks via the Internet.

The Maltwood is also stepping entirely outside the physical gallery in its pursuit of art. One example is its continuing involvement with the Trackside Art Gallery, where the work of young local artists is reproduced on a grand scale on the concrete walls bordering an Esquimalt stretch of train tracks.

A d a r e s e a r c h project currently under way is examining modern architecture of Victoria and the 1950s-era suburban neighborhood of Topaz Heights.

“We’re making local connections to larger historical themes,” says Riedel.

Muses Segger, “It raises the question, where does the gallery end and the community begin?”

Donation enhances gallery’s northwest art collection

A UVic alumnus has donated nearly $70,000 worth of northwest coast art to the Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery.

The donor, Dr. Peter Smart, is a retired professor of mathematics from Royal Roads Military College and a friend of the late Kwakwaka’wakw artist Henry Hunt.

The two met while Hunt was working as the master carver at the Royal B.C. Museum, a position he held from 1962 to 1974.

Over the years of their acquaintance, Smart collected many of the master carver’s works. “I thought of selling the pieces,” he says, “but I love them so much I’d like many other people to enjoy them as well.” He felt the collection would be accessible to the largest number of viewers through the Maltwood.

The gift of five prints and 17 carvings represents a significant collection of Henry Hunt’s early carving and print-making work. It will complement pieces of Henry Hunt’s work already held by the university, including two totem poles that dominate the centre of campus, carved by Henry and his son Tony in the 1960s.

Henry Hunt received an honorary doctorate of fine arts from UVic in 1983. Another of his sons, the renowned carver Richard Hunt, will be awarded the same degree this June.

TODAY, THE GALLERY’S HOLDINGS ARE ESTIMATED AT ABOUT 15,000 ITEMS

Smart, left, and Riedel.
back issue of The Ring

PETER HOLST
in the organization

ism Victoria’s Environment Award

arts.

history in art, writing and visual

arts departments: music, theatre,

scholarships of about $2,000 for

fine arts will establish five annual

Audrey St. Denys-Johnson.

benefit from a $230,000 gift from

Fine arts students at UVic will

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New campus plan, which features

“Audrey and Maurice were

The bequest to the faculty of

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The Audrey St. Denys and

Maurice E. Johnson scholarships in

fine arts will honour a couple with

Maurice Johnson and

the estate of longtime Victoria arts

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Audrey St. Denys-Johnson.

The campus plan places an

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The preliminary results of a recent survey on academic integrity reflect a general climate of trust and respect at UVic and show strong agreement that academic misconduct debases the educational experience and the university's degree.

Yet 12 per cent of students and 25 per cent of faculty also agree that academic dishonesty is a serious problem at UVic.

The results were part of a recent presentation by Dr. Don McCabe of Rutgers University, whose study on academic integrity formed the basis for the survey conducted at UVic in February. Co-ordinated by the learning and teaching centre (LTC), with the endorsement of UVic’s vice president academic and the undergraduate and graduate student councils, the survey included more than 3,600 students, over 240 faculty and 104 teaching assistants—an average 20 per cent participation rate from each group.

“The results show there’s a reasonable understanding of our policies and procedures and a positive perception of how UVic deals with issues of academic integrity,” says Dr. Gez Van Gyn, director of the LTC. “But there’s also very strong evidence that education for students and instructors is needed, particularly around issues of collaboration and the appropriate use of resources from the Internet.”

Of the students surveyed, 80 per cent said they’ve never cheated on a test while just over half responded that they had never plagiarized or were dishonest on written assignments. Forty-nine percent of the student respondents own up to copying or paraphrasing material for a paper or project, usually from the Internet, without footnoting or referencing the source.

Moreover, the faculty surveys and written comments clearly indicate confusion over exactly what constitutes academic misconduct when it involves the use of information from the Internet.

One respondent felt that “if it’s on the Internet, it’s public knowledge, so it can’t be plagiarism.” Other students considered it acceptable to cheat when doing what they considered “make work” assignments or work superfluous to their main educational goals. Only two per cent admitted to using Internet paper mills as the source for their assignments or work superfluous to their main educational goals. Only 49 per cent of the students surveyed admitted to using Internet paper mills as the source for essays or papers. All of these data are very similar to those reported from 10 other Canadian universities.

“We’re asking students to be honest about their dishonesty,” says McCabe who, nonetheless, felt the data accurately reflected the situation at UVic. He noted that both students and faculty indicated high worldwide and demands on their time were factors on whether a student chose to cheat and whether an instructor chose to pursue those students suspected of unethical academic conduct.

“Students tend to uphold the values [of academic integrity] if they feel that the demands placed upon them are fair and reasonable and they believe they have the resources and capacity to meet those demands.”

Students said they wanted consistency in how instructors deal with those who cheat. In written comments, some complained that students who brought cell phones and calculators into exams were not always reprimanded, when the items were clearly forbidden.

Faculty said the main reasons they didn’t pursue students whom they suspected of academic misconduct were “lack of proof” or “lack of time.”

“The written observations of teaching assistants reflected a strong feeling of frustration and a sense of ‘futility’ in convincing faculty to pursue cases of misconduct.”

Survey results suggest that upholding academic integrity is not the daly of one group but the responsibility of all members of the UVic community. Written comments from all groups point toward a strong desire to correct the results of the survey into action.

“We’ll use the good relationships between students and faculty that was evident in the survey to enhance academic integrity,” says Van Gyn. “The results will inform the development of educational resources and support to help students be aware of and abide by our academic integrity guidelines.”

As an initial step, the May edition of the LTC newsletter Qwone University will contain academic integrity information and resources for instructors that they can consider for use in their fall term courses.

Over the summer, the LTC will complete a comprehensive statistical analysis of the numerical results and a content analysis of approximately 10,000 comments made by the survey participants. A formal report is expected in the fall.

Survey reveals strong views on academic dishonesty issues

by Patty Pitts

When Stephen Evans, right, joined the biochemistry and microbiology department in 2003 he brought with him some impressive hardware. A structural biologist, Evans uses x-ray crystallography to understand the function of proteins involved in cancer development and therapeutic drug discovery.

The centrepiece of his research program at UVic is a $550,000, state-of-the-art X-ray diffraction area detector, which he’s using to study the enzymes that make A, B and O human blood types. The detector was acquired with funds from the Canadian Institutes for Health Research and UVic. Evans earned his BSc and PhD at UBC. In 2002, he was named by the Thompson Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) as one of the world’s most-cited researchers in the field of computer science and medicine.

Daler Rakhmatov’s specialty is system-on-chip engineering, reputed to be one of today’s most exciting technologies behind mobile phones, personal digital assistants, and other portable devices. Rakhmatov joined UVic’s electrical and computer engineering department in 2003 after completing his doctorate at the University of Arizona. “The key design challenge today,” he says, “is to strike the right balance between system cost, performance and energy consumption, so that chips can be cheaper, faster and longer-lived portable devices tomorrow.”

Helen Raptis describes herself as a social historian and historical sociologist in education. She researches historical and contemporary developments in education and society including cultural diversity, race, gender, policy development and learners at risk of dropping out of school. Raptis earned her PhD from Uvic in 2001. “I love my work because the freedom it affords me to research critical questions, not only about our schools but about society at large,” she says. Raptis recently co-authored the C.D. Howe Institute study Reframing Education: How To Create Effective Schools.

After a 10-year hiatus in eastern Canada and the U.S., Anthony Goerzen has joined UVic’s faculty of business. Goerzen spent 15 years in various sales, marketing, and general management positions in retail, manufacturing, and distribution before returning to graduate study as vice-president of a multinational firm in Florida. Goerzen’s University of Western Ontario PhD thesis on multinational corporation strategy won several dissertation and best paper awards. “I think international strategies are interesting,” he says, “and my goal is to show UVic students why they should be interested too.”

Oliver Schmidtke, associate professor of the departments of history and political science, is busy co-directing the European studies program and developing studies in the history of his research and teaching is comparative European politics and the transformation of citizenship and national identity under the impact of migration and globalization. “It’s fascinating to see how European societies start to struggle with issues that have become part of Canada’s reality as a multicultural society,” says Schmidtke, who earned a PhD in social and political science from the European University Institute.


Government’s can’t make decisions on important issues such as distributing health care dollars, setting immigration quotas or counteracting the spread of diseases such as HIV without accurate demographic information about the populations they are trying to serve.

When a group of experts and university academics met at the university’s learning and teaching centre at a recent meeting, they agreed that a University of Victoria population research group is needed, says Dr. Eric Roth (anthropology) and Dr. Pauline van den Driessche (math and statistics). They’re working on population modeling of the spread of sexually transmitted infections in eastern Africa.

The formation of the population research group in early January has created a hub that will help UVic’s population scholars share expertise amongst themselves, says Mosk. Equally important, he hopes it will be a venue to share knowledge with undergraduate and graduate students, and with the wider academic community.

“We would like the national and international community of demographers to know that UVic is ‘on the map’ in the population field—that it’s a force promoting population-related research in Western Canada,” says Mosk.

“We want to encourage the local community, scholars and policy-makers to take advantage of the expertise we can offer.”

To learn more about the population research group and its members, visit www.pr.uvic.ca.

Group puts UVic “on the map” in population research field

by Mami Friesen

When Stephen Evans, right, joined the biochemistry and microbiology department in 2003 he brought with him some impressive hardware. A structural biologist, Evans uses x-ray crystallography to understand the function of proteins involved in cancer development and therapeutic drug discovery.

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At the annual athletics awards banquet in March UVic's women's basketball star Krystal O'Byrne was awarded the university's highest varsity athlete honour, the President's Cup, for her accomplishments on and off the basketball court. O'Byrne, who graduates this year with an A average and a BSc in biology, has also won the 2004 Sylvia Sweeney TSN Award from Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) for her commitment to athletics, academics and community involvement.

O'Byrne volunteers with the Queen Alexandra Centre for Children and as a fundraiser for cancer research through the Journey of Hope. Also at the awards banquet, rugby player Ed Fairhurst was named male outstanding athlete-of-the-year and paralympic swimmer Stephanie Dixon won top female honours. For a complete list of all award winners visit web.uvic.ca/calendars/multimedia/vcawards.html.

**Julie Navarro (physics & astronomy)** has won the Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in Germany. The award, valued at approximately $71,000 Cdn, recognizes Navarro's research accomplishments in galaxy formation and cosmology. This award is intended to assist extended research visits by foreign scientists to German science institutes and universities. Navarro, who begins a sabbatical year in July, is making plans to work with Dr. Simon White, director of the Max Planck Institute of Astrophysics in Garching, Germany.

**Dr. All Dastmalchian**, dean of business, is one of the newest members of the board of directors of the BC Venture Society, a non-profit entity that operates the TELUS New Ventures BC competition. One of North America’s largest technology business idea competitions, the provincial-wide contest includes a unique mix of business education seminars, networking, mentoring and $120,000 in cash and prizes. The exposure and cash help entrepreneurs acquire the business skills they need to get their technology ideas to market. UVic has been a supporter of the competition since it began in 2001.

The Canadian Council of Professional Psychology Programs has granted Dr. Marion Ehrenberg (psychology) the 2004 Award for Excellence in Professional Training. The award recognizes Ehrenberg’s outstanding contributions to students in her role as teacher and director of the clinical psychology graduate program at UVic. “Dr. Ehrenberg is alert to the way she can merge research and clinical practice,” says Jennifer Pringle, a doctoral student in the clinical lifespan program. “Her role as teacher and director of the clinical psychology graduate program at UVic. “Dr. Ehrenberg is alert to the way she can merge research and clinical practice,” says Jennifer Pringle, a doctoral student in the clinical lifespan program.

**Dr. Betty Hanley** (curriculum & instruction) has won the Jubilee Award, presented biennially by the Canadian Music Educators Association (CMEA) for outstanding contributions to music education in Canada. A faculty member at UVic since 1987, Hanley teaches music foundations and choral music in the elementary, secondary and graduate programs. She’s been very active in the CMEA through her work in organizing symposia and conferences, and co-edited a book to mark the organization’s 40th anniversary.

**Mark Colgate** (business), Thea Vakil (public administration) and business student Mario Ramos were on hand to receive the UVic Commerce Students’ Society (CSS) Award of Excellence at the 10th annual Commerce Business Banquet on March 18. Each year the CSS recognizes an instructor (in this case, two), student and business for their outstanding achievements and contributions to the faculty of business. KPMG was this year’s recipient for the business award.

**Anne Marshall** has been appointed to a three-year term as chair of the department of educational psychology & leadership studies, beginning July 1. Also, in our March Ringers column, it was incorrectly stated that Drs. Kathy Gillis (school of earth & ocean sciences) and Will Hinz (biology department) are heading their respective units for four-year terms. They are, in fact, serving five-year terms ending in December 2008.

**Daniel Scott** (child & youth care) and instructors Robin Thomas and Jacqui Green (social work) are the 2004 recipients of the faculty of human and social development's Excellence in Teaching Awards. Scott, a leading researcher in the field of spirituality and health, has had a major hand in developing postgraduate programs in child and youth care. Green and Thomas, of the Haisla and Coast Salish Nations, respectively, are the architects and co-teachers of two innovative First Nations specialization programs in the school of social work.

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*Campus development committee split in two*

UVic’s campus development committee (CDC), responsible for advising the president on the long-range planning of the campus’s physical development and on its new building projects, is undergoing a re-structuring.

On April 5, UVic’s board of governors approved a recommendation that the CDC be reconstituted into a policy committee and an operations committee. The change was one of the recommendations by the CDC review team which tabled its report on UVic’s management plan to the president finance and vice president operations and have 11 members each. The review team cited the immense demands made on the CDC and the need to create an integrated stormwater management plan to make recommendations on reducing the quantity and improving the quality of stormwater leaving the campus. The draft of the plan is now complete. It’s the result of research and consultation with neighbouring municipalities, members of community associations, and UVic students, faculty and staff by RCL Consulting, a group of leading-edge environmental engineers and specialists.

Members of the public viewed the plan at an open house at UVic on March 25 and public feedback will be accepted until April 19. The report determines that UVic has no urgent or serious stormwater-related problems requiring high-cost attention. Most remedial stormwater measures can be incorporated into new construction and ongoing building, road and parking lot renovations.

“The intent of the report is to guide UVic in making decisions about new building projects with the potential to decrease water run-off,” says Jerry Rohson, executive director of facilities management.

The study indicates that by reducing impervious surface areas and providing additional stormwater storage through on-site and surface storage, UVic could reduce its offsite discharges by up to 16 per cent.

“UVic already has a great deal of natural land contributing to stormwater storage and retention,” adds Sarah Webh, the university’s sustainability co-ordinator. “The report has identified initiatives such as landscape modification, permeable pathways and parking areas to reduce runoff and improve water quality.

Copies of the draft integrated stormwater management plan are available on the facilities management Web site at web.uvic.ca/fmgt.
A sugar-coated answer
The fungus that causes Dutch elm disease holds promise of new protein therapies for humans

by Kristi Skebo

T
they’re everywhere—on the ground after a rainfall, in the air you breathe and sometimes on the food you want to eat. “Fungi come in all shapes and sizes,” says UVic biologist Dr. Will Hintz, whose research on fungi may help to make more efficient drugs to treat human blood and immune system diseases. “They have unique genetic adaptations that allow them to live in so many different environments—marine, freshwater, terrestrial and even in your fridge.”

Off particular interest to Hintz is Ophiostoma novo-ulmi, the fungus that causes Dutch elm disease. Transferred from tree to tree by bark beetles, the fungus stops the water-conducting vessels within the tree, causing the leaves in the crown to wilt, curl, yellow and die.

Hintz studies the interactions between tree and fungus. Trees, like most other organisms, are able to identify foreign invaders such as fungi. Once a tree detects foreign organisms, it produces an arsenal of chemicals to rid itself of these invaders.

The outside of the fungus is covered in sugar-coated proteins produced by a process called glycosylation. The tree recognizes the fungal invader by this coating. By making the sugars more complex, the fungus is able to stay one step ahead of the host’s defences. “We’re interested in the sugar-coating process,” explains Hintz. “It determines the character of a protein, how it functions and how long it survives.”

Hintz, along with research associates Josh Eades and Paul de la Baskette, want to disrupt this sugar-coating process. “If we disrupt glycosylation, does the fungus become more vulnerable to the tree’s natural defences?”

Their work in understanding glycosylation in Ophiostoma may turn out to be very useful for humans, particularly in the synthesis of effective protein therapies. Glycosylation occurs in all eukaryotic organisms (organisms whose cell nuclei are surrounded by a membrane), and the human immune system identifies whether a foreign substance is friend or foe based on its protein coating.

Certain illnesses, including some blood-clotting and immune disorders, can be treated with protein pharmaceuticals, but these glycoproteins need to have the correct sugar coating to survive in the blood for relatively long periods of time and to avoid being recognized as foreign.

Currently, many protein therapeutics are manufactured in fungi such as yeast, but the glycosylation process in yeast is different from that in humans. Different types of sugars and different numbers of sugars are attached by the yeast. This means that, in humans, these much-needed proteins are recognized as foreign particles, and the immune system will, over time, destroy the proteins despite the body’s need for them.

To make the treatments more efficient, longer-lasting therapeutics need to be created. Hintz and his group are helping in this effort, working towards creating a fungal system that produces glycoproteins that closely mimic human proteins.

“If we’re able to copy the proteins that participate in the glycosylation process, we may be able to engineer therapeutic proteins that are more effective in treating these disorders,” he says.

Hintz with cultures of the Dutch elm fungus.

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calendar highlights
EVENTS FREE UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED. FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF EVENTS, SEE WWW.UVIC.CA/EVENTS

At the Galleries
Info: 721-6661

Thursday, April 8
Centre on Aging Seminar 1 p.m. Literacy, Older Adults & Health: What Do We Know? What Should We Know? Dr. Irving Rootman, UVic. Strong Class. 721-6568

Friday, April 16
Public Administration Seminar 4 p.m. Productivity to Reduce Poverty: The Case Study of a Micro Level Institution in Peru. Dr. Pierre Pineau, UVic. Strong Class. 721-8056

Monday, April 19
Physics & Astronomy Lecture 3:30 p.m. The Birth of Massive Galaxies in the Universe. Dr. Scott Chapman, California Institute of Technology. Elliot 606. 721-7900

Tuesday, April 20
Physics & Astronomy Seminar 3:30 p.m. Evolution of Luminous, Dusty Galaxies. Dr. Scott Chapman, California Institute of Technology. Elliot 606. 721-7900

Sunday, May 2
Plant Sale 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Proceeds support Finnerty Gardens. 721-7904

Friday, May 7
Music 8 p.m. 2nd B.K. Wrigel Concert—Faculty Recital. Lafayette String Quartet. MacLaurin B125. 819/4. 721-7903

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RING PUBLICATION SCHEDULE
SPRING-SUMMER 2004

Calendar items should be sent to UVic communications (sedgewick 149, fax 721-8955, e-mail ucom@uvic.ca) or entered into the online calendar (events: uvic.ca/events) by no later than 4 p.m. on the Wednesday prior to the week of publication. Calendar items are printed in The Ring on a space-available basis with priority given to academic events of broad appeal. For more information call 721-7036.

PUBLICATION DATE COPY DEADLINE
May 6 ............................ April 28
June 3 ........................... May 26
July 8 ........................... June 30
T he main UVic Web site is getting a fresh look.

The current site is nearly two-years-old and showing its age, says Roger Grusy, who heads the UVic Web site team in communications services. “It’s functional, but there are a lot of things that should be improved. The current site was intended as an interim solution while we worked on a larger redesign.”

With 12,000 visits a day, the UVic Web site is one of the most used resources on campus. The new site looks similar to the current one, but is more user-friendly and has brighter colours and more design elements.

“Because our users are so accustomed to the current layout, we wanted to maintain the basic navigation to ease the transition,” says designer Beth Doman. “But we greatly increased the choices on the homepage, but were very careful to keep it clean and concise.”

The most obvious change is a bright yellow bar across the top of the new homepage. The bar offers links to resources for UVic’s main audiences.

Secondary pages have been improved, as well. A new A-Z index links to all units on campus, building information, a map, and directory information. Most pages have been completely re-designed to make it easier to find important information.

There have also been improvements behind the scenes. Web programmer Dave Wolowicz has rewritten all the code to ensure that it complies with global Web standards. “The new site has less code, so it downloads faster than the current site. Yet it has a lot of additional features to make it more user-friendly,” says Wolowicz.

“We’re also added features to make it more accessible for disabled users. It’s important that all users can access our site, regardless of their browser or operating system.”

Wolowicz has tested the new site extensively with users. “We made a lot of changes to the initial design based on user feedback,” he says.

A draft of the new site is available at www.uvic.ca/test. “We encourage everyone to try it out and get familiar with it before we launch it in early May,” says Grusy. “We welcome any feedback, because a Web site is never ‘finished.’ We’ll continue to tweak the site, even after we launch it,” he says.

The pilot project will continue until June, data will be studied over the summer and Leadbeater hopes to launch it, he says. “We’ll still emphasize the ‘seek help’ element while recognizing that kids are moving into leadership roles and need to develop leadership skills. We’ll also explain how bystanders to bullying can contribute to the problem.”

WITS Leads will contain elements of the language arts and social responsibility curriculum. Police officers will visit students to reinforce non-violent ways of handling peer conflicts. The program will teach children to act as peer leaders for primary children on the playground. Noon-hour drama and games and video-making will provide extra support and mentoring for children referred by parents or teachers who are having difficulty resolving peer conflicts peacefully.

The pilot project will continue until June, data will be studied over the summer and Leadbeater hopes to make WITS Leads available to other schools in the fall.

Imagine designing and building electromagnetic car brakes that perform better, respond faster and are kinder to the environment. That’s exactly what a team of UVic mechanical engineering students did, and for their efforts they won a top award at the Advanced Systems Institute of BC (ASI) Exchange 2004 in Vancouver last month.

David Cruz, Luis da Luz and Stephen Ferguson received one of three ASI Innovation Awards for their research on magnetorheological and eddy current brakes.

The award honours university researchers and emerging companies for developing outstanding new technologies. Recipients are chosen based on their ability to show that their technologies are highly innovative and have potential for commercial success.

Three UVic students also won two of 15 ASI Exchange Communications Awards selected from more than 120 projects in the graduate category.

Gonçalo Pêloso and his team-mate Marc Secanell won the $500 communications award for their research using computational tools to modify existing aircraft design and to create new ones that are more efficient, environmentally friendly and secure.

Glen Mahoney, a UVic undergraduate student in computer sciences, received a communications award for his presentation on some leading edge research that uses computational models to evaluate trust in networked environments.

Grant expands successful anti-bullying program
by Patty Pitts

A successful anti-bullying program that is currently part of the K-3 curriculum in all Greater Victoria elementary schools could soon include older students, thanks to a US $20,000 grant from the American Foundation for Children’s Rights.

The award will allow UVic researchers to evaluate a pilot project extending the WITS program to Grade 4 and 5 students at Frank Hobbs School.

WITS, which stands for “Walk It Out Together,” is a Grade 3 program that uses creative dramatics to help students work through their peer problems.

“It’s the first time that the AFR has sponsored a project using research,” says Dr. Bonnie Leadbeater, the pilot project’s principal investigator. “UVic’s proposal in the category of social-change programs on violence prevention and intervention was chosen over 48 other submissions.”

The grant will be used as seed money for “WITS Leads,” a Grade 4 and 5 program that will address concerns raised by the three-year study of the WITS program. While that evaluation determined that levels of physical victimization fell

Engineering students win awards for brake-through technology
by Mary-Lou Leitch