The Point is still to be determined. Proceeds from the sale of The Williams residence sells for $4.65 million.

The Point, the showpiece residence on Ten Mile Point, has been sold.

The sale of the residence for $4.65 million was conducted by Heritage Realty Properties Ltd., the company established by the university to administer the major assets provided to UVic from the Williams’ estate. Williams, who died suddenly in November 2000, designated UVic as the main beneficiary of his will.

The final disposition of the proceeds from the sale of The Point is still to be determined by Heritage Realty Properties and UVic, but will likely include settling the $2 million mortgage remaining on the property and retiming $1 million of the debt associated with the other properties Williams willed to the university.

The balance of the proceeds will be used to continue honouring Williams’ wishes, particularly the desire to see his art displayed publicly and his support for the study of marine biology.

“Once again, we want to acknowledge the tremendous legacy Michael’s gift has provided for teaching, learning and research at UVic,” says university President Dr. David Turpin. “We’ll look to use the net proceeds from the sale of the property for purposes that are consistent with Michael’s wishes. I particularly want to acknowledge the excellent work the Heritage Realty Properties board has done in managing this wonderful and complex gift on behalf of the university.”

“The successful completion of the sale will provide further cash resources for UVic to advance the education and enhance the lives of young people, in accordance with Michael’s wishes,” says John Williams, a Heritage Realty Properties board member and friend.

Two UVic students will be on their way to Oxford in the fall as recipients of 2004 Rhodes Scholarships. JanaLee Chernevski, 24, is one of three 2004 Rhodes scholars from the Prairies region. The scholarships, which cover all travel and study expenses at Oxford University for two years, are valued at well over $100,000.

“UVic is extremely proud of these young women who embody all the qualities sought in a Rhodes scholar,” says UVic President Dr. David Turpin. “This is the fourth consecutive year that a UVic student has earned a Rhodes scholarship. It’s a remarkable achievement that reflects what outstanding students we have at UVic.”

Zabojova is currently an honours student in biology, with a minor in psychology, who plans to pursue graduate studies in neuromuscular and neurological diseases at Oxford. A rower and gymnast who coaches both sports, she has received numerous academic awards and was a regular volunteer at a Victoria group home for people with developmental disabilities.

“He’s an extremely bright student who is mature beyond her years,” says biologist Dr. Robert Burke, who supervises Zabojova in his lab. “This couldn’t have happened to a better student. This scholarship will be life-changing for her.”

Zabojova is currently investigating the origin of a group of embryonic cells called neural crest cells which develop into most of the peripheral nervous system. Burke is so impressed by the quality of the data she’s collecting that he’ll seek to have them published—an unusual step for undergraduate research.

“They have very superior research teams in the area I’m interested in at Oxford and I’m looking forward to working with them,” says Zabojova, who hopes to become a medical doctor.

Cherneski will complete her master’s degree in English and contemporary social and political thought at UVic before studying political philosophy at Oxford. “It’s related to the field I’m studying at UVic but is much more in-depth.”

“JanaLee is extremely creative and committed to the work she’s doing,” says English professor Dr. Ed Berry. “She’s not content with established ideas and points of view, and is always pushing things to the next level. She’s a perfectionist who is always improving her work and who displays a strong social and political commitment to everything she does.”

Cherneski is just as eager to praise Berry. “He’s so enthusiastic and supportive and open to new ideas and interdisciplinarity.” She also singles out Drs. Stephen Ross (English), Feyman Vahabzadeh, a postdoctoral fellow in political studies from SFU, and Bill Carroll (sociology) for their support of undergraduates.

Two UVic students named Rhodes scholars

by Patty Pitts

Highlights of the year… pages 4-5

Report presents detailed picture of grad studies at UVic

by Valerie Shore

Graduate students are generally satisfied with the quality of education they receive at UVic, but degree completion times, program content and faculty supervision are a concern to some.

These are some of the findings in a report recently released by the faculty of graduate studies. The report, titled Research on Critical Aspects of Graduate Education at the University of Victoria, presents data collected in three separate studies—a survey of graduate student experiences, and two focus groups on timely degree completion and effective supervision.

The study team included: Dr. Frances Ricks, associate dean of graduate studies; Dr. Helena Kadlec, associate dean of social sciences; and two graduate students, Sue Corner (education) and Roxanne Paul (interdisciplinary studies).

The study is the first of its kind at UVic since the faculty of graduate studies was created in 1965. “We wanted to determine whether graduate studies at UVic should continue as it is, or whether we should be looking at new ways of doing things,” says Dr. Aaron Devor, dean of graduate studies. “To do that, we had to get a detailed picture of what’s happening right now because we can’t change what we don’t know about it.”

The survey portion of the study was distributed to 2,395 master’s and doctoral students enrolled at UVic in the fall 2002 term. Twenty-six per cent, or 599 students, responded.

The majority of them rated their graduate school experiences positively (either 4 or 5 on a 6-point scale).

“That’s good news,” says Dr. Aaron Devor.

TA strike possible

As The Ring went to press, CUPE Local 4163, representing teaching assistants and second-language instructors, served the university with strike notice, putting the union in a legal position to strike as of Friday, Jan. 9. It is possible that the university could experience labour disruptions beginning that day. Negotiations throughout the fall were unable to reach a new agreement between the two parties. A mediator was brought in to assist, but broke out of the talks Dec. 29 at the request of the union. Visit www.uvic.ca for links to the latest on negotiations, university services or rights and responsibilities in the event of a strike.
What is a road name? This In this, a better sense of direction around UVic campus. New road signs will be up soon because now that UVic's board of governors have officially named two previously unnamed roadways on campus. The entrance to campus from Gordon Head Road into parking lot 6 and the Fine Arts Building is now called West Campus Gate and the road leading from there to the Fraser building and parking lot 8, behind the University Club, is called West Campus Way. For more information, contact facilities management at 721-1951.

UVic researchers star on Knowledge Network Several UVic researchers will be featured in upcoming episodes of The Leading Edge: Innovation in BC. A Knowledge Network-produced series about research and innovation at B.C.'s postsecondary institutions. Each of the 13 half-hour episodes profiles three researchers whose work shares a similar theme. On Jan. 20, biology PhD candidate Purivada Giridharagoudar's research on the evolution of alien buffalo on Vernon bluffs will be featured. On Jan. 30 the spotlight is on the Discovery Research Lab's work on earth and ocean sciences, and the research on earthworms, which includes soil remediation. The Feb. 3 episode features psychologist Dr. Jim Tanaka and his work using computer games to assist children with autism with face recognition. Other UVic researchers will be featured throughout February and March. The shows air on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. and repeat the following Thursdays at 1 and 7 p.m. and Tuesdays at 2 p.m.

This is one Fever you want to catch Every writer the theatre department shows a spotlight on its alumni or, in this case, its almost alumni. After an 18-month hiatus, theatre student Meg Roe returns to UVic to finish her fine arts degree and perform. The Fever, running Jan. 29 to Feb. 7 at the Phoenix Theatre. It's a solo turn perfectly suited for Roe, who recently revisited audiences with her performances as Anne in The Diary of Anne Frank at Calgary and Juliet in Romeo and Julius at the Vancouver Playhouse. In The Fever, she'll command the stage for 90 minutes playing a traveller in a war-torn country sickened by the social injustice she sees around her. This discomforting reflection on privilege and poverty is written by acclaimed playwright Wallace Shawn, known to film audiences for his distinctive character roles in movies such as My Dinner With Andre and The Princess Bride. Previous performances at $5 after 5 p.m. prices are on Jan. 27 and 28 at 8 p.m. For tickets call 721-8000.

Survey examines academic integrity Early next month, UVic will follow in the steps of other Canadian universities and administer a survey to faculty, students and teaching assistants to assess the knowledge, understanding and practice of academic integrity on campus. The UVic project, co-ordinated through the learning and teaching centre (LTC), is endorsed by the vice president academic and the president and involves undergraduate and graduate students. "The survey will produce a snapshot of the culture of academic integrity on campus," says Dr. Geri Van Gyn, director of the LTC. "The process is meant to inform our future activities to support both faculty members and students to understand and follow academic standards that are fundamental in an intellectual community. These data will guide us in the development of educational resources and their promotion."

The survey evolved from one created by Dr. Don McCabe of Rutgers University in New Jersey and the president and founding member of the Center for Academic Integrity. By conducting this survey, UVic will join nine other Canadian universities, a Canadian college and over 100 American colleges and universities who have participated in McCabe’s 10-year longitudinal study on academic integrity. The survey will be accessible on the Web for a one-week period in February, delivering a prompt when users sign on with their Netlink ID to direct eligible respondents to the survey. A random sample of 2,000 additional students will be requested to complete the survey and participate in a sub-study as part of McCabe’s research. One thousand students will receive a paper copy of the survey, while the remaining 1,000 will complete it online. This group will be part of a comparison study investigating if the format affects survey responses.

Survey examines academic integrity

UVic's campus planning process is about to undergo some significant changes, the result of recommendations from the Campus Development Committee (CDC) review team appointed by UVic President David Turpin. The recommendations are contained in Planning Possibilities: Pathways for Governance Change, the 27-page report the review team forwarded to Turpin just before Christmas.

The team, made up of Dr. Marsh Halen, former University of Winnipeg president and current president of the Sheldon Chumir Foundation for Ethics in Leadership, Tom Austin, former vice president operations at Royal University, and Dr. Eric Higgs, director of UVic’s school of environmental studies, was asked to examine the role and structure of the CDC and to make recommendations about the university’s campus planning process in general.

The team meets with a wide range of groups and individuals from both on and off campus last fall and having had the report in September in order to make a final decision on the recommendations of the review team. The report is available on the UVic website <www.uvic.ca> and the executive of the University of Victoria in the campus planning process is about to undergo some significant changes, the result of recommendations from the Campus Development Committee (CDC) review team appointed by UVic President David Turpin. The recommendations are contained in Planning Possibilities: Pathways for Governance Change, the 27-page report the review team forwarded to Turpin just before Christmas. The team, made up of Dr. Marsh Halen, former University of Winnipeg president and current president of the Sheldon Chumir Foundation for Ethics in Leadership, Tom Austin, former vice president operations at Royal University, and Dr. Eric Higgs, director of UVic’s school of environmental studies, was asked to examine the role and structure of the CDC and to make recommendations about the university’s campus planning process in general. The team meets with a wide range of groups and individuals from both on and off campus last fall and having had the report in September in order to make a final decision on the recommendations of the review team. The report is available on the UVic website <www.uvic.ca>.

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By Patty Pitts

A renowned artist who still makes time to visit local classrooms, a communications professional with a strong belief in building bridges between different cultures, and a doctor with an unwavering commitment to public health are the 2003 recipients of UVic’s Community Leadership Awards.

Ted Harrison, Ben Pires and Dr. Richard Stanwick were honoured at a special ceremony at UVic Downtown on Dec. 9.

Ted Harrison is recognized internationally for his rainbow-coloured paintings, first inspired by the landscape of the Yukon where he travelled to teach in 1967. Growing up in England as a teenager during the Second World War prompted his lifetime commitment to community service. For nearly 30 years he taught all over the world and, since coming to Victoria in 1993, he’s donated his art and time to many charities.

Harrison serves in honorary capacities with several organizations and shares his teaching experience with student teachers in UVic’s faculty of education where he makes frequent appearances in their classrooms.

As a student at the University of the Witwatersrand in the 1950s and 1960s, Ben Pires defied a government ban to lead a student delegation to China to meet young people from other countries. His desire to bridge cultural differences continued after he came to Canada in 1969 and led to involvement in provincial and regional multi-culturalism and inter-cultural associations.

In Victoria, he guided the expansion of the annual Folkfest to Ship Point. A former journalist who spent his later career in communications for the provincial government, he was also director of communications for the 1994 Commonwealth Games. Pires is a founding member of the non-profit society that established and now runs the Bayanhan Community Centre.

As chief medical officer for the Vancouver Island Health Authority, Dr. Richard Stanwick strives to prevent injuries and illness. During a decade as a professor at the University of Manitoba he fought for a ban on infant walkers and for the use of nonflammable fabrics for infant sleepers. Five years ago he was the driving force behind Victoria becoming the first city in Canada to enact an indoor smoking ban.

Stanwick co-founded the Capital Region Action Team to aid sexually exploited youth. With UVic’s centre for youth and society, the group co-sponsored an international conference on the issue. Stanwick teaches at UVic’s school of health information science and is an advisory member of the university’s centre on ageing.

The awards, which recognize the outstanding contributions made by individuals in Greater Victoria to their community and to UVic, were first presented in 1993. Recipients receive a medallion, certificate and their photo portrait is installed at UVic Downtown.

Rhodes scholars ... cont’d from p. 1

Par Rhodes scholars include Prime Minister John Turner, Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke, U.S. President Bill Clinton and UVic’s first chancellor and Victoria College grad Josephine Clearfield. The scholarship requires a high level of literacy and scholastic achievement, success in sports, strong qualities of leadership and character and evidence of public service.

Only 11 Rhodes scholarships are awarded in Canada each year.

Grad studies report is a first step... cont’d from p. 1

Ricks: “They’re no longer just 20 to 30-year-olds, getting their A+ report card here either. There’s room for improvement.”

While more than 55 per cent of respondents said that graduate programs were meeting their expectations, a significant portion—35 per cent—said they weren’t. Suggested areas for improvement included supervision, access to program information, and program content.

A sifting dissatisfaction with graduate program content is also seen in national studies, observes Ricks. “Students are saying they’re not getting the right courses they need for their Ph.Ds. They’re getting into. It almost’s like they’re saying the curriculum or the pedagogy being presented is out of date. I think we need to pay attention to this message.”

The UVic study also confirmed another national finding—that the graduate student population has been changing over the last 10 to 15 years. “We have an older population coming to graduate school,” says Ricks. “They’re no longer just PhDs and running off to work at a university. Many are coming with families and previous experience and have a different agenda.”

This trend has a direct bearing on degree completion time, which used to take an average of two years for a master’s and three years for a PhD. “What we’re noticing at UVic is that 30 per cent of students are taking up to six years to complete, and master’s students aren’t far behind,” says Ricks. “Completion times are longer because life is happening. They’re no longer rushing to get out.”

This has significant implications for the university, since funding at present is tied to two years for a master’s and three years for a PhD. “Universities in general are frustrated with the issue of completion, but it seems to think about is pushing students harder and faster to get through,” says Ricks. “Perhaps we need to recognize the realities of graduate student life and come up with new programs and financial assistance strategies.”

Perhaps the biggest surprise in the UVic study was in the area of supervision. More than 68 per cent of the graduate students said they don’t have regularly scheduled meetings with their supervisor. Although 55 per cent said their meetings were frequent enough, some said they didn’t meet with their supervisors at all.

“This really startled me,” says Ricks. “We knew it was a problematic area, but we had no idea it was an issue for so many.”

On the positive side, departments seem to have a clear sense of what makes good supervision and who their best supervisors are. “These people know what they’re doing and why they’re doing it and could mentor us,” observes Ricks. “That’s very encouraging,” says Ricks.

Other universities are grappling with similar issues. The University of Alberta, for example, has hired a full-time person to address issues of poor supervision and unsupportive or sick faculty. “They’re trying an occupational approach to change the culture,” says Ricks. “Perhaps it’s something we should consider here.”

The report doesn’t make specific recommendations for changes to graduate studies at UVic. Instead, its findings are being passed on to the other faculties for their consideration.

“We hope that each faculty will review their results and generate questions for discussion, interpretations of meaning based on their specific context, and solutions for issues identified as unique to their faculty or of particular interest to their faculty,” says Ricks.

To keep the process moving forward, the university has created a special task force to represent each faculty. Task force members are taking the report back to their faculties, where they’ll generate a change and then monitor what gets implemented and what doesn’t. Copies of the report are available online at www.uvic.ca/gradstudies. Readers are encouraged to contact graduate studies at 721-7970 for additional analyses and presentations at the faculty level.
January

To help buffer a 30 per cent rise in undergraduate tuition and a 15 per cent increase in graduate fees, the board of governors approves a budget framework for 2003-04 that boosts financial aid for students by $1.9 million.

UVic’s law school is again ranked number one in the country in a survey of recent law graduates by Canadian Lawyer magazine. The school has taken the top spot in seven of the last eight surveys.

Dr. John Borrows (law) wins one of 14 Canada Research Chairs. Dr. Sara Ellison (physics & astronomy), Dr. Allan Antliff (history in art) and Dr. Arthur Kroker (political science) get senate approval to expand graduate tuition and a 15 per cent increase.

April

John Kilcoyne (law) wins the 2003 Award for Excellence in Teaching from the UVic Alumni Association.

As the SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) crisis worsens in parts of Asia and Canada, UVic health services creates separate reception and examination areas for patients with suspected respiratory illnesses and offers secondary screening clinics for those arriving or returning from SARS-affected areas. Travel advisories and SARS updates are provided on the UVic Web site throughout the spring and summer.

UVic hosts a 2003 anniversary version of Community Week, a series of musical performances, lectures and other special events to celebrate the university’s ties with the community.

UVic’s Institute for Integrated Energy Systems (IESVic) is fueled by a $405,000 federal grant to advance its research on sustainable energy systems and clean energy alternatives.

May

The first annual Legacy Awards night (held in November 2002) celebrating UVic achievement wins gold for best alumni event from the Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education.

Funded with $250,000 from the Imperial Oil Charitable Foundation, the faculty of education launches CETUS—the centre of excellence in teaching and understanding science—to help elementary and secondary school educators teach science more effectively.

The division of continuing studies scoops up a half dozen individual, program and marketing awards from the Canadian Association for University Continuing Education.

June

UVic researchers are awarded a total of $7.7 million from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) to finance research projects and equipment across the full range of science and engineering disciplines.

The new chancellor (see photo above) confers degrees on 3,100 new graduates and awards six honorary degrees. To mark UVic’s 40th anniversary, the final convocation ceremony features graduates from the class of 64.

Sixteen UVic research projects receive a total of $3.6 million from the B.C. Knowledge Development Fund.

The new Technology Enterprise Facility—a technology transfer partnership between UVic and Discovery Parks—is officially opened at the north end of campus.

In June, a 4.5-metre house post, commissioned by UVic’s class of 2003, is erected in front of the Student Union Building. The post was carved out of a single red cedar log by Lekwungen artist Butch Dick, left.

In June, UVic astronomer Dr. Julio Navarro, who studies the structure and dynamics of galaxies, wins a prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship, worth $30,000 US.

In June, UVic’s 40th anniversary, the final convocation ceremony features graduates from the class of 64.

In June, UVic invites the community to celebrate its 40th birthday and the 100th anniversary of its predecessor, Victoria College. Pictured: alumnus Mario Biello models some of 1,200 commemorative scarves handed out to grads.

June

In June, Ron Lou-Poy is installed as UVic’s ninth chancellor. Congratulating him is former chancellor Norma Mickelson.

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In June, UVic invites the community to celebrate its 40th birthday and the 100th anniversary of its predecessor, Victoria College. With a two-day campus celebration featuring events, attractions and activities for the entire family. Pictured: alumnus Mario Biello models some of 1,200 commemorative scarves handed out to grads.

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In June, the flag went up, the cake was cut and so began a year-long celebration marking UVic’s 40th birthday and the 100th anniversary of its predecessor, Victoria College. Pictured: 2003 Celebration organizer Alison Ducharme with the anniversary flag.
UVic wins an Energy Innovators Initiative Award from Natural Resources Canada’s office of energy efficiency. Among B.C. postsecondary institutions, UVic is second in a 2002 audit of energy consumption.

Dr. Brad Anholt (biology) and Dr. Taneli Kukkonen (philosophy) are awarded Canada Research Chairs.

Electrical and computer engineering professor Dr. Wolfgang Hoefer is elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada—the country’s highest academic accolade.

July

Nine UVic researchers are awarded more than $3.1 million in grants from the Canada Foundation for Innovation.

UVic’s centre on aging is awarded $878,500 over three years from the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research. The grant will support research on health promotion in older adults and factors influencing everyday competence and cognition in later life.

August

UVic’s new regional facility for interdisciplinary environmental research hosts an Open House to showcase how the university is becoming a national and international leader in water quality research and watershed science.

September

UVic becomes the first B.C. university to offer a bachelor degree in software engineering.

In October, UVic is awarded $52.4 million—the largest research grant in its history—from the Canada Foundation for Innovation and the B.C. Knowledge Development Fund to lead Canada in the construction of NEPTUNE, the world’s largest cable-linked seafloor observatory.

Dr. Chris Barnes (earth & ocean sciences), Dr. John Oleson (Greek & Roman studies) is awarded a UVic Distinguished Professorship for career achievement.

At a special convocation ceremony, UVic awards an honorary degree to Mary Robinson, Ireland’s first woman president and the former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The campus development committee (CDC) review committee holds three public meetings to hear comments from people with an interest in the CDC and the associated planning process at UVic.

UVic faculty and staff earn three awards from the Canadian Bureau for International Education for their innovation, leadership and service in international education.

October

UVic ingenuity goes on display at an open house hosted by the University of Victoria's assistive technology team (UVATT). The multidisciplinary group of faculty, students and staff develops and tests new devices for people with disabilities.

The faculty of engineering celebrates its 20th anniversary with an open house, featuring a robot, animation workshops and a race car designed by students.

UVic is designated as one of five centres for European studies in Canada by the European Commission, which recently awarded the university a three-year, $300,000 grant.

The money will help strengthen the existing European studies program at UVic.

Dr. Jim Tully (political science) and Dr. Angus McLaren (European studies) are named UVic Distinguished Professors for their career accomplishments.

The B.C. Addictions Foundation gives UVic and its partners $10 million to operate a provincial centre for addictions research.

November

The second annual Legacy Awards celebrating the achievements of UVic alumni, faculty and athletes takes place at the Victoria Conference Centre. To celebrate the anniversary of UVic and its predecessor, Victoria College, 10 Distinguished Alumni Awards are presented—one for each decade since 1903.

UVic moves up a notch to third place in the annual Maclean’s magazine university rankings.

Ottawa gives UVic $4.5 million to pay for the indirect costs associated with federally funded research.

December

The division of continuing studies opens its new building at the intersection of Gabriola and Ring roads.

Two UVic students are awarded 2004 Rhodes scholarships (see story, p. 3).

Three of Victoria’s leading citizens—Ted Stanwick—win Community Leadership Awards from UVic.

At fall convocation, 1,250 students graduate and the university awards four honorary degrees, including one to jazz star Diana Krall (above, centre) who charmed a packed University Centre Farquhar Auditorium with a performance instead of a speech.

for their longstanding contributions to the community and the university (see story, p. 3).

UVic receives a $900,000 grant to finance a Community University Research Alliance partnership that will link UVic researchers with First Nations community members and elders to study and revitalize aboriginal languages.

Lois Jones, Marie Elliott, John Newcomb and the financial reporting team from accounting services and the budget office win President’s Distinguished Service Awards to recognize staff excellence (see story, p. 8).
At the Galleries
Info: 721-6964
www.maltwood.uvic.ca

Evolution (Dec. 8–Feb. 15)
Work by 38 artists from the Victoria College of Art Alumni.

Recapitulation (until Jan. 31)
Selected drawings and paintings by Sveva Caetani.

At the Theatres
www.phoenixtheatres info: 721-8600


FRIDAY, JANUARY 9

Friday, January 9
FREEDMUSIC 12:30 p.m. School of music students with various instruments. MacLaurin B125. Admission by donation. 721-7903

EARTH & OCEAN RESEARCH SEMINAR 4 p.m. Exporting Performance-based Reforms to Governments in Highly Indebted Poor Countries. Ian Davies, UVic. Strong C116. 721-8056

Wednesday, January 14

BROWN BAG SEMINAR 12:30 p.m. Habitat for Transnational Migration: The Case of Inter-country Adoption from China to Canada. Dr. Naudee Chen, UVic. Strong C310. 721-79020

EARTH & OCEAN RESEARCH SEMINAR 3:30 p.m. Geomorphology and Sea-level Rise on one of Canada’s Most Sensitive Coasts: Northeast Graham Island. Dr. Ian Walker, UVic. Elliot 066. 721-8848

STUDIES IN RELIGION & SOCIETY LECTURE 4 p.m. The Concept of Meditation in the Eyes of Children: Recognizing and Responding to the Child’s Perspective. Dr. Marion Ehrenberg, UVic. Fraser 158. 721-7020

Wednesday, January 21


Friday, January 23
FREEDMUSIC 12:30 p.m. School of music guitar students. MacLaurin B125. Admission by donation. 721-7903

Tuesday, January 27
ASIA-PACIFIC RESEARCH ROUNDTABLE 4 p.m. The Preparations of Collaborative Research Between Canada and China. Dr. Lily Dyson, UVic. Fraser 158. 721-7020

Wednesday, January 28

STUDIES IN RELIGION & SOCIETY LECTURE 4 p.m. Songs of the Thunder Drummers: Indigenous Knowledge and Bahai Teachings. Pauline Tuttel, CSRS fellow, UVic. Strong C116. 721-6154

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

Friday, January 16
FREEDMUSIC 12:30 p.m. School of music keyboard students. MacLaurin B125. Admission by donation. 721-7903

Wednesday, January 21


Monday, February 2

CHEMISTRY LECTURE 7:30 p.m. What To Eat, What Not To Eat? That’s the Question. Dr. Joe Schwarcz, McGill University. Centre for Innovative Teaching, room C106. To reserve free tickets call 721-7953

Tuesday, February 3

GERMAN FILM LECTURE 7:30 p.m. Die Widerkehr des neuen deutschen Films. Dr. Peter Gold, UVic. Centre for Innovative Teaching 110. 721-7120

Wednesday, February 4

LANSDOWNE LECTURE 11:30 a.m. Car

RING PUBLICATION SCHEDULE
SPRING-SUMMER 2004
Calendar items should be sent to UVic communications (Sidewick 149, fax 721-8895, e-mail ucom@uvic.ca) or entered into the online calendar (www.uvic.ca/events) by no later than 4 p.m. on the Wednesday prior to publication. Items are printed in The Ring on a space-available basis with priority given to academic events of broad appeal. For more information call 721-7636.

Pop u lar Views

Mike Devlin is the ultimate music fan. Whether it’s rock, reggae, rap, blues, jazz or country – Mike knows his stuff and covers it all. Want to read about the latest CDs? Wondering what’s happening in the club scene? Then check out Mike Devlin’s edgy, sometimes irreverent reviews in the Times Colonist’s Go! section.

Opinions you read and the news you need.

Mike Devlin
In the Times Colonist’s Go! Section

The Ring January 2004  Page 7
UVic salutes outstanding staff contributions

by Valerie Shore

Three individuals and a seven-member team have won the second annual President’s Distinguished Service Awards.

The awards were created in 2002 to recognize the hard work and dedication of UVic’s staff members. “We have more than 4,000 staff whose commitment enables the university to fulfill its mission,” says UVic President Dr. David Turpin. “It’s my pleasure to recognize their achievements and the outstanding contributions they make to the university community.”

Employees are nominated in two categories. The Award for Distinguished Service honours up to three employees, or groups of employees, for their outstanding contributions to the university’s learning and working environment. The Team Award for Innovation goes to a team or group for innovations that improve an educational, administrative or organizational process.

This year, the selection committee received 23 nominations for the Award for Distinguished Service and four nominations for the Team Award for Innovation. The individual winners are Marie Elliott (University Centre Farquhar Auditorium), Lois Jones (human resources) and John Newcomb (geography).

The team award goes to Murray Griffith, Shannon Hayward, Tracey MacNeil and Michele MacDonald. Absent: Mary Anne Gotaas.

For nearly 20 years, Marie Elliott has provided quiet, professional support to faculty, department and student alumni groups on campus who have used the Farquhar Auditorium or University Centre foyer for their events. She has also developed and nurtured special relationships with dozens of community not-for-profit groups that have formed the backbone of the auditorium’s public programming. “The combined audiences of these events over the years are in the millions—all efficiently cared for by Marie with a welcoming smile,” says a colleague.

“Marie has kept the complex auditorium mechanism running smoothly, despite the eccentricities, egos, short tempers and sometimes outrageous demands of artists and patrons alike.”

Elliott, a native of Prince Island, also holds a master of arts in history and has published three books on B.C. history, with another soon to be completed. She’s active with the Victoria chapter of the B.C. Historical Association, serves on the executive of the Friends of B.C. Archives, and played a leading role in preserving the historic gold rush townsite of Quesnel Forks.

As the university’s benefits manager, Lois Jones often deals with employees in great distress who must make important decisions for their future. It’s a role she approaches with respect for the dignity and well-being of every employee, says human resources director Peter Sanderson. “No person is treated as a number,” he says. “For Lois, a form does not suffice; face-to-face meetings with the employees and their support network are the norm.”

After working with Jones, employees consistently thank the university for the support and empathy they received. “This contributes greatly to a sense that UVic is a special and very human place to work,” says Sanderson.

As the university’s first return-to-work co-ordinator, Jones has successfully engaged employee groups and proven that the program is designed to support employees, employers and managers. Jones was also instrumental in bringing the employee and family assistance program to UVic.

During her 25-plus years at UVic, Jones has given her time and energy to a number of on- and off-campus initiatives, including the United Way, the UVic Retirees Association, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and the CIBC Run for the Cure.

To say that John Newcomb tackles his role as senior laboratory instructor in the geography department with enthusiasm and commitment seems an understatement. He is, in the words of department chair Dr. Dan Smith, “a consummate teacher, a dedicated undergraduate advisor and passionate departmental ambassador.”

Newcomb is responsible for all lab teaching, supervision of teaching assistants and development of lab exercises. He also assists with undergraduate registration and course selection, and counsels students on departmental and university procedures and on personal matters relating to career ambitions.

But his contributions go far beyond that. “John is a person to whom all department members look to for answers to difficult questions,” says Smith. “His energy and enthusiasm are unparalleled, and he goes above and beyond the call of duty almost on a daily basis.”

Newcomb was instrumental in forming the Society of Geography Students and continues to offer his time to university functions, departmental activities, and community projects such as the UVic Speakers Bureau. He also uses his personal time to track newspaper articles, Web sites and journals of interest to colegues.

For the seven-member financial reporting team, winning the 1999 Productivity Award from the Canadian Association of University Business Officers was the norm. “We have more than 120 units across campus paralleled, and he goes above and beyond the call of duty almost on a daily basis.”

The team led by Murray Griffith and Mary Anne Gotaas has met the deadline challenge without compromising the quality of information or raising the eyebrows of auditors, says Bob Worth, executive director of financial services. “The planning, creative information technology skills and disciplined execution by this team in co-operation with more than 300 people across campus makes this challenge achievable.”

Each award recipient received a framed certificate during a ceremony at the president’s holiday reception on Dec. 10.