Two UVic women win Fulbright awards

As a visiting scholar in the University of Washington’s native voices program, Patrick will produce a documentary film tentatively titled, "Travel Across the Medicine Land.

"I want to look at the impact of the Canada-U.S. border on First Nations communities, how that artificial border bisected those communities," says Patrick. "I'll look at these issues in the context of post-9/11 and in particular how the 1792 Jay Treaty, which allowed First Nations to work and travel freely across the border, is now considered abrogated in light of global terrorism."

A member of the Stellat’en First Nation, Patrick has a BA in creative writing and history from UVic. Her background in film includes working as a writing intern with North of 60 in 1994 and as a production assistant and manager with Maori documentary filmmakers in 2002.

As a visiting Canadian-U.S. Fulbright scholar at Northern Arizona University, Campbell will learn about "Lurch," a forest management model which evaluates a forest’s response to predefined management actions.

"I'm interested in this model because of its potential for long-term planning, including First Nations’ knowledge and goals for their land," explains Campbell. She holds a master’s of science from UNBC and is currently pursuing her doctorate in forestry at UBC, with a focus on the potential impacts of climate change on the Cheslatta Carrier Nation’s Community Forest and the surrounding area in B.C.

"The success of these two women reflects the outstanding quality of students and programs at UVic," says Jamie Castells, vice president academic. "It also celebrates the university’s commitment to strengthening its unique relationships with First Nations communities and to making a major contribution to environmental research."

There was good news for four UVic researchers in the latest round of grants from the Canada Foundation for Innovation’s New Opportunities Fund, announced June 29.

The researchers—two engineers and two biologists—received a total of $808,472 from the fund, which provides research infrastructure for newly recruited faculty members in their first full-time academic appointment in a Canadian degree-granting institution.

A $224,898 grant to Dr. Perry Howard (biology/biochemistry & microbiology) will be used to establish a molecular oncology laboratory for the study of alternative approaches to cancer therapeutics. Howard is investigating an innovative method of controlling cancer that is based on how cells signal, or “talk,” to each other.

The new lab, to be located within the centre for biomedical research, will significantly enhance UVic’s capacity for collaborative cancer-related research. It coincides with the advent of the Island Medical Program at UVic (the first medical students are expected at UVic in January) and expansion of the BC Cancer Agency research facility on Vancouver Island.

Stephen Neville (electrical & computer engineering) will use his $167,914 grant to develop a cyber-security research and testing facility. The new facility—the first of its kind in Canada—is designed to simulate user activities on corporate-scale networks (3,000-plus users) and develop automated methods to assess, manage and minimize corporate cyber-security risks.

Edward Park (mechanical engineering) will use a $266,924 grant to set up an advanced mechatronics systems and control laboratory. The facility will focus on the development and application of new devices and control technologies for more advanced equipment.
Math may lead to new answers for Parkinson’s disease

by Joy Poliquin

With mathematics and Parkinson’s disease have in common with mathematics? For UVic mathematician Dr. Rod Edwards, this combination is the key to unlocking new answers to old problems about the debilitating disease.

Edwards is the applied mathematician on a team of experts from Brock University and the University of Western Ontario, who are studying the mathematical properties of Parkinsonian dyskinetic networks (undesirable involuntary movements), thanks to a $49,800 grant from the Parkinson Society of Canada.

Edwards will analyse the medical data recorded by his colleagues using mathematical concepts from nonlinear dynamics.

Edwards has previously worked with neuroscientists and physiotherapists on other symptoms of Parkinson’s disease, such as tremor. In this case, for example, he applied mathematical techniques to precise recordings of finger tremors to define and catch the subtle differences between normal tremor in a healthy individual and the minor tremor that indicates an early stage of Parkinson’s.

“Using the math, we could pick up on subtle differences that might not be detectable by a trained clinician,” he says.

Edwards developed simple model equations to represent interactions between the structures in the brain that comprise our motor circuitry and the movements.

“If you take the system of equations representing a healthy person’s motor circuitry, in which the activity is small and irregular, and then ‘damage’ part of this system, you typically see the mathematical equivalent of Parkinsonian tremor, which is a much more regular oscillation.”

Edwards’ research may lead to earlier detection of the disease and a better understanding of how the neuromotor system is affected.

“The new project on diskinesias is in its early stages, but it looks promising,” he says. Edwards has also worked as an applied mathematician on a study involving the movement problems of people with Down Syndrome, in which he’s optimistic about the continuing development of applications of math in the biological world.

“Mathematical biology and physiology are ripe for exploration,” he says. “While biochemists, biologists and medical researchers can extract vital information about structures or components, the networks of interaction between these components are often complex and math is a useful tool to understand how they work.”

“People may think that abstract math is unapplicable to the real world,” he adds. “But when the same abstract patterns underlie many different phenomena, math can offer fundamental insights and new ways to look at the world.”

MAPPING OUT THE PATH

Tired of getting lost in Cornett?
Let the work of a UVic grad guide your way

by Joy Poliquin

For students new to the university, not to mention visitors or old hands, finding your way around the Cornett Building can be a daunting task. In fact, a long-held urban myth is that the building is modelled after the human brain.

But now, the Cornett labyrinth is a lot simpler to navigate, thanks to environmental psychology graduate Ryouuke Yoshii. As part of his term paper, Yoshii worked with psychology professor Dr. Bob Gifford to model and implement a new series of maps to help simplify the building’s plans.

“This building is so complicated,” says Yoshii. “On some floors you can only access the floor below, and not the floor above. Before this project there weren’t many maps, only emergency exit signs, so once you were in the building, there were few useful directions.”

Yoshii used his psychology studies to create maps that are easy to read.

“I tried to incorporate as many psychological theories as possible,” he says. He colour-coded the maps to distinguish between the A and B wings and added many small pieces of information, such as room numbers and the locations of photocopy machines and wheelchair-accessible washrooms.

The design eliminates details that a person doesn’t need to navigate the building.

Yoshii completed the project before graduating this June. Forty-three maps have been posted throughout the building, after Yoshii conferred with UVic’s facilities management department.

Originally from Nishinomiya-shi, Japan, Yoshii first came to B.C. in 1998 when he began ESL classes at Camosun College.

He joined the university transfer program six months later. After earning an associate’s degree in psychology he transferred to UVic in 2001. He graduated with a major in psychology and a minor in linguistics.

Yoshii is returning to Japan this summer with plans to pursue graduate studies in environmental psychology in Tokyo next April.

“I’m looking forward to the future,” he says, “but it’s kind of neat to be leaving something lasting and useful behind.”

Fulbright scholarships

The two scholarships bring the number of Fulbright scholars from UVic to six.

With the support of Foreign Affairs Canada, the U.S. State Department, and a host of private-sector partners, the Canada-U.S. Fulbright program has engaged more than 600 students and scholars in high-level academic exchange since its inception in 1990.

Protti honoured by 100k endowment fund

When health information sciences professor Denis Protti announced he was stepping down as chair of the Denis and Pat Protti endowment, he got more than the usual round of applause.

His colleagues from the forum were stunned Protti by announcing they had raised over $100,000 to establish the Denis and Pat Protti endowment fund for health information science.

“This is quite unexpected,” says a stunned Protti. “It’s a very generous gift for UVic. I’m touched and humbled by it.”

The endowment honours the leadership of Protti and his wife Pat, who were the founding organisers of the healthcare sector forum that began in 1985.

Partnership in Productivity was established to bring together industry professionals, government and academics to strategize the long-term future of healthcare delivery.

The forum is held every year at Dunsmuir Lodge.

“When I think of Pat and Denis working on diskinesias,” says Dr. Francis Lau, chair of the school of health information science. “This endowment will position our school to contribute to new ways of thinking about health care delivery in Canada.”

Ron Yamada, vice president of MDS Laboratories, and Dr. Michael Guerriere of the Toronto-based health care consultancy Courtyard Group led the fundraising initiative.

Income produced by the endowment will go toward enriching the educational experience of students in health information science.

“Our work is at a range of opportunities right now,” says Protti. Possible programs being considered include scholarships and graduate fellowships and an executive residency within the school.
next-generation machines and research tools. Potential users of next-generation machines will include researchers at the University of Victoria’s DNA Analysis Laboratory. The lab will combine bioinformatics, computational genomics, and comparative genomics research.

The Centre for Addictions Research of B.C. (CAR-BC) will have a new director as of July 1. David Good, who has won the 2004 Donald Smiley Prize from the Canadian Political Science Association for the best book treatment of addictions, will be the new director of CAR-BC. Good’s book, *The Politics of Public Management: The HRDC Audit of Grants and Contributions*, examined the activities surrounding the granting of HRDC funding, which dominated media, parliamentary, and public attention for many months. Good’s book reveals limitations about how new public management is actually implemented by government and offers suggestions for improvement.

Law professor Glenn Gallin, director of UVic’s law centre clinical education program, is the year’s recipient of the law faculty’s Terry Wooster Master Teaching Award. A previous award-winner, Gallin has been director of the law centre for 12 years. The clinical program has been offered to law students since 1977, and provides legal services to about 4,000 clients a year. Announcing Gallin’s award at the spring convocation ceremony for law students, associate vice-president (legal affairs) Mary Ann Waldron spoke of the “high and unswerving quality” of Gallin’s teaching and how the law students viewed the centre as the “crowning achievement of the law program.”

John Newcomb, a senior lab instructor in geography, has won the individual citizen award in the Saanich 2004 Environmental Awards for his UVic Speakers Bureau presentations on water conservation. Since 1998, Newcomb has given more than 30 presentations on water conservation to community groups, service clubs, seniors organizations, schools and business associations in the region. UVic’s **PUS Project on ecological governance** picked up the Environment Award in the community organizations category.

Political science professor Dr. Oliver Schmidtke has been appointed president of the European Community Studies Association–Canada, which promotes discussion, study and understanding of the European Union. The association seeks to encourage the study and teaching of the EU in Canada through the development of networks between academics nationally and internationally, the exchange of information and research findings, and assistance for the expansion and development of EU-related teaching and research activities. In 2000, the European Commission chose UVic’s European Studies programs as one of five Canadian centres and institutes that support through funding.

**CFI grants continued from p.1**

**Nursing researcher studies pros and cons of caregiving**

by Maria Lussin

The Canadian Cancer Society has awarded UVic’s Kelli Stajduhar more than $500,000 to study how families cope with providing palliative care at home.

Stajduhar is a Michael Smith Foundation postdoctoral fellow in the centre on aging and an assistant professor in the school of nursing. Until now, little attention has been given to the positive aspects of the palliative care experience. According to research, family caregivers represent the backbone of Canada’s health care system, providing up to 85 per cent of all care. Furthermore, in the past decade, shifts toward providing care at home have resulted in increased demands on family caregivers. This is particularly evident in the current trend to caring for patients with advanced cancer who are at home.

**Legacy Awards continued from p.1**

as much as a teacher of nursing—just one of the attributes that makes her approach to teaching so effective. Under her guidance, students gain confidence to apply what they’ve learned in the real-life situations they’ll face in professional practice. UVic Sports Hall of Fame inductees: At Morrow (coach) is the accomplished coach of the national women’s rowing program and a key player in the UVic Rowing Centre in London, Ontario, where the women’s team train during the summer. Between 1977 and 1988 he oversaw the growth of the successful UVic rowing program from a club to varsity-level sport. Jon Kelly (athlete) was one of the most successful swimmers to ever compete for the university. His powerful stroke earned him seven gold and nine silver medals at the CIAU swimmers championships during the mid-1980s. He was the 1986 Canadian University Swimmer-of-the-Year and won the 1986 UVic Male Athlete-of-the-Year award (which he won again the following year). Debbie Scott (athlete) emerged from Claremont High School to become one of the greatest female middle-distance runners in Canadian cross-country, road and track running history. She won 26 Canadian titles, held Canadian records in five distances, and was named to three Olympic teams. She had a stunning victory in the famed New York Mile in 1982. 1984 Women’s Field Hockey (team) captured the 1984 CIAU championship, the first national championship in a sport previously dominated by the University of Toronto and UVic. The program now has 10 women’s field hockey championships, making it the most successful program of any Canadian university sport.
SUSAN COLONVAL
community rallied against the cut, to budget woes. The entire musical elementary strings program due school board voted to cancel the extinction in 2000 when the Victoria School District faced strings program in the Greater Victoria School District is a huge win/win situation, echoes Colonval. “Our elementary students are getting by Maria Lironi

4th-year bachelor of education student Jessica Lott plays trumpet as music educator, composer and philanthropist Don Wright looks on. Wright was on campus June 29 for a ceremony to name the MacLaurin Building’s music education wing in his honour. Wright, 95, known as Canada’s “jingle king” for his prolific output of catchy advertising jingles, has donated $1 million to UVic’s music education program in the faculty of education.

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“Jingle king” gets his own wing

UVic music students are getting credit for helping to save one of the longest running school orchestra programs in Canada.

After 80 years of existence, the strings program in the Greater Victoria School District faced extinction in 2000 when the school board voted to cancel the elementary strings program due to budget woes. The entire musical community rallied against the cut, including faculty members from the school of music and members of the Lafayette String Quartet. They helped out by coaching their university music students to work alongside the district’s string teachers as mentors in the district’s beginning elementary classes in exchange for university credit.

The UVic string mentorship program has been such a success that this directed studies course is now part of the regular university curriculum.

Music student Bryan Deans, who plays the cello, has participated in the strings mentoring program since 2001. For the UVic mentors, the program provides insight into teacher training and job choices, and reinforces the importance of a university education, says Deans.

“On a personal level, my years in the mentorship program provided me with real life experience of what it would be like to work in public schools. It also provided me with an environment for developing strategies for dealing with a whole range of students,” Deans said.

The UVic mentorship program is a huge win/win situation, echoes Greater Victoria School District string orchestra teacher Susan Colovul. “Our elementary students love to work with their university mentors, and through these experiences with them they may feel more comfortable about continuing on to university themselves.”

In May, UVic’s faculty of fine arts and athletics and recreation hosted the Victoria School District’s annual Orchestra Finale which saw student mentors and more than 700 students—ranging in age from 10 to 17—from the district’s string orchestra program perform at the event. As part of its commitment to support the local community, UVic hosted the finale free of charge.

Students train tomorrow’s top musicians

University purchases nearby field facilities

UVic has acquired the Gordon Head Road property that is home to the Velon Valhallians Sports Association (VWSA). The university purchased the property from B.C. Hydro in June and has entered into a long-term lease agreement with VWSA which will continue to operate the facility. No change in the field or clubhouse use is anticipated.

“The university has been interested in purchasing this property for a long time,” says vice president finance and operations Jack Falk. “UVic wants to ensure it has sufficient field facilities to meet the future recreational needs of our students and this purchase helps us with that goal. Knowing we have this property gives us a bit more flexibility in the future use of some on-campus fields.”

The VWSA will continue to collect revenue from the field and building rentals and meter parking, but UVic parking passes are valid in the facility parking lot from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Friday.

UVic’s equity efforts have received the stamp of approval from Human Resources Skills Development Canada (HRSDC), the government department responsible for the Federal Contractors Program.

Under the program, any organization receiving federal grants and contracts is subject to a periodic review to ensure compliance with 11 workplace equity criteria.

UVic’s review took place between November 2003 when UVic submitted a compliance review report, and January 2004 when workplace equity officers from HRSDC’s Labour Program conducted a site visit. The compliance review findings were issued in June.

The HRSDC reviewers, Sergio Pieruccini and Joanne Ursino, find the university “in compliance” on all 11 criteria and report that UVic “has taken major steps in establishing equity as an integral part of the way the university operates.”

They note that the numbers and percentages of designated groups (women, aboriginal people, persons with disabilities and visible minorities) have increased and that the university’s “has seen progress for all four designated groups” since the last compliance review in 1993.

The reviewers also cite an interview with UVic President David Turpin as one of the highlights of their visit. “His dedication to employment equity was evident,” they say.

“Naturally, we’re pleased that the review of our equity program was such a positive one. Incorporating equity and fairness into all procedures and activities at UVic is one of the key objectives of our strategic plan,” says Sheila Sheldon Collyer, university secretary and chair of the university human rights committee.

“We’re deeply committed to that objective and, while we’re continuing to move ahead in this area, there’s still much to be done. The reviewers were so helpful and provided us with some helpful suggestions about where we could focus our attention in the immediate future.”

As part of the report, Pieruccini and Ursino make a number of recommendations to improve the employment equity program, such as ensuring the accessibility of all faculty and departmental Web sites, considering employment accountability measures for all managers, implementing a formal mentorship program, and developing special measures and reasonable accommodation to address identified gaps under representation.

They list only four measures that must be taken before the next compliance review for UVic, all of which relate to collecting workplace information and maintaining and monitoring records.

UVic’s next review under the program will take place in two years. A site visit and compliance review report are available online at web.artic.ca/equity/FCP2004/fapi.htm or through the equity and human rights office, room C123, Sedgwick Building.