



VALERIE SHORE



Wightman with one of the new "pencil" ads.

UVic sharpens its pencil to boost student financial aid

UVic fundraisers are using a bright yellow pencil to make a point about their commitment to increasing financial aid to students.

A newspaper ad campaign has been created by UVic's development office using a pencil as an emotive symbol for students. The idea is to get the word out about UVic's goal to raise \$50 million from the private sector over the next decade for scholarships, bursaries and fellowships.

"The heart and soul of our fundraising mission is to help UVic students succeed," says Faye Wightman, UVic's vice president external relations. "We want the people of Victoria to know what we're raising money for, and why. UVic is their university, and without the community's generous support, it

would be impossible to maintain the high quality of education we offer our students."

With UVic students facing another tuition increase in 2004-05, the university is working hard to increase the amount of financial assistance available to students. The university will award \$9.9 million in student financial assistance in 2004-05, up more than \$2 million from the previous year.

The fundraising ad series is made possible by the *Times-Colonist* which provided UVic with sponsored advertising space. Five individual ad concepts were created for UVic by Malahat Group of Victoria. The text of each ad highlights the major objectives of UVic's fundraising strategy—scholarships, bursaries and

fellowships, and multi-million dollar facilities such as the library learning centre and the First Peoples House.

The ads will run over the coming year, with the first three in the series appearing in the spring and early summer. A new series of ads will continue in the fall.

"We want to sustain the message about the need for student financial aid to our audience over the long-term," says Chris Thackray, the development office's marketing and communications officer who initiated the project. "This is just one element of a communications strategy over the coming year to raise awareness of our fundraising priorities."

Sociologist honoured for improving seniors' lives

UVic sociologist Dr. Neena Chappell's lifetime of scholarship and service to the scientific and academic communities has earned her a Career Achievement Award from the Confederation of University Faculty Associations of B.C. (CUFA/BC).

Chappell, who holds the Canada Research Chair in social gerontology, has done ground-breaking research on the extent and importance of informal health care support services for seniors. She's internationally known for her work on home care, supporting the case for government expansion in this area to provide more efficient and appropriate health care for an aging society. Her work examines the integration of informal and formal care systems for seniors.

Over the past 26 years, Chappell has led the development of two world-class interdisciplinary research centres on aging at the University of Manitoba and UVic.

She's produced 170 peer-re-

viewed articles, five books, two edited books and 36 reports, delivered 89 invited addresses and attracted more than \$20 million in research funding.

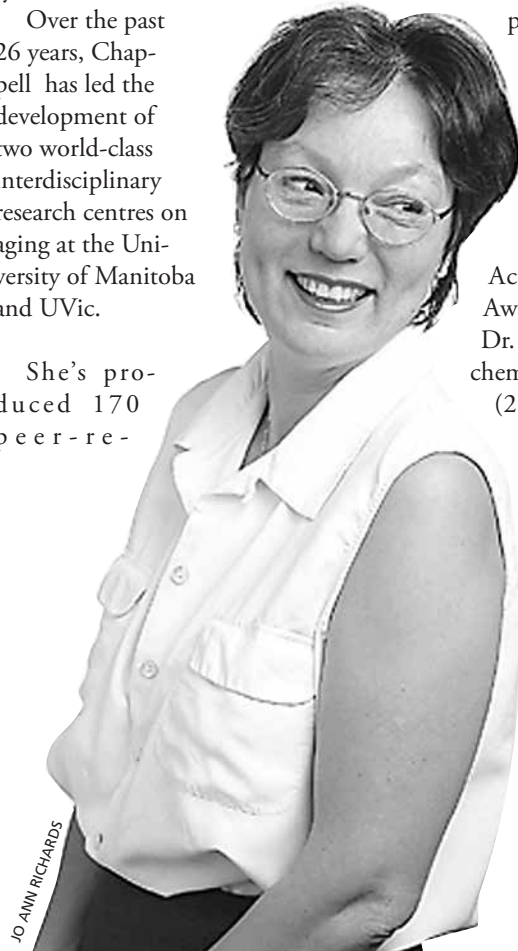
Chappell has also been actively involved in many scholarly and professional organizations and made major contributions to the development of research funding bodies in Canada.

"It's a privilege to spend my time doing what I believe in and enjoy so much," says Chappell. "To be recognized for doing so, is indeed an honour."

CUFA/BC represents approximately 3,600 faculty members, professional librarians and other academic staff at five B.C. universities. In 2002, UVic

physiologist Dr. Nancy Sherwood won the CUFA/BC Career Achievement Award. Over the years, a number of UVic professors have won CUFA/BC's Academic of the Year Award: ethno-botanist Dr. Nancy Turner (2002), chemist Dr. Reg Mitchell (2000), and child and youth care professor Dr. Sibylle Artz (1998).

The \$1,000 award was presented to Chappell at a CUFA/BC dinner in Vancouver last month.



Chappell

Link infrastructure grants to water conservation, urges UVic research group

by Patty Pitts

Water-guzzling Canadian municipalities should make a commitment to water conservation before being eligible for federal infrastructure grants, say the researchers behind a new report on urban water management.

The Future in Every Drop: The Benefits, Barriers, and Practice of Urban Water Demand Management in Canada by UVic's POLIS project on ecological governance, recommends

a fundamental shift in water usage in the country and calls for action by all levels of government to ensure a sustainable future for water.

"Governments must lead by example, demonstrate the importance of water conservation and the potential for innovative solutions, and help create a lasting 'water ethic' in its citizens," says Michael M'Gonigle, director of the POLIS project and eco-research professor of environmental law and policy. "A simple first step is for governments

to link infrastructure grants to conservation-based water planning. In many cases, conservation is the next best and cheapest source of 'new' water for Canadian cities."

The POLIS team's previous two reports on water management examined and diagnosed Canada's ailing urban water management system. *The Future in Every Drop* provides the prescription—practical action plans to implement demand management.

To promote the recom-menda-

tions in the report, the POLIS urban water team has presented their research to Environment Canada and encouraged the federal government to consider the report as a blueprint for action.

M'Gonigle believes this dialogue is a good first step toward the federal government taking the lead on water conservation.

"As Prime Minister Paul Martin knows, sustainable cities are critical to the future of our nation and water is a key starting point." The

POLIS team will continue to meet with other levels of government to further promote the key steps to incorporate demand management for urban water sustainability in Canada.

The latest report from the POLIS researchers emphasizes that the traditional supply-side approach to urban water management in Canada, which seeks new water sources and expands infrastructure,

SEE POLIS REPORT P.6

Historic water tower damaged by fire

UVic's facilities management department continues to assess the damage caused by a fire on the night of April 28 to the Hamsterley Farm water tower on Haro Road at the entrance to Alumni House. The blaze was reported at about 9:30 p.m. Saanich Fire Department extinguished the fire but there was extensive damage to the tower. The cause of the fire is still under investigation. The water tower was built in 1911 for an area farmer and was originally a tank on a timber structure. In 1933, it was enclosed, roofed and the tower shingled to incorporate it into the adjacent stables. It became part of UVic in the late 1960s. The tower was used by the university as storage for boats and other equipment.

Law duo nearly world champs

Two UVic law students narrowly missed being world champions and finished second in the recent International Client Counselling Competition, organized by the American Bar Association in Glasgow, Scotland. The competition requires students to demonstrate the range of skills needed to establish good lawyer-client relationships in a series of on-the-spot scenarios. Maria Barrett-Morris and teammate Darin Reeves persevered through 12 regional competitions in North America to take the national title in Florida, qualifying them to compete for the world title. UVic law professor Andrew Pirie and law sessional instructor Steve Perks shared the team's coaching duties. UVic placed second to a team from the University of Auckland, New Zealand—finishing only one point behind on total marks compiled from 15 different standards.

Hot off the press

UVic Research 2004, this year's edition of the prize-winning research annual, is now being distributed to key audiences, informing them of the great variety and outstanding quality of research endeavours conducted by UVic faculty. The colourful 12-page tabloid publication features profiles of researchers working at the forefront of a broad range of disciplines. It includes a special cover story on the research involvement of undergraduate and graduate students who, with the mentorship and guidance of outstanding faculty members, are well on their way to becoming the research leaders of tomorrow. *UVic Research 2004* was produced by communications services and designed by Malahat Group International. A PDF version is posted on the Web at: www.research.uvic.ca/research_uvic/Reports.htm.

Engineering students want your computer

This summer UVic engineering student Christina Kinch will be improving the lives of underprivileged Filipinos by setting up information technology centres in the Phillipines and providing training in computer literacy. She'll travel overseas with 11 other Canadian engineering students from Engineers Without Borders (EWB) to establish 12 IT training centres in the Philippines. To do this, EWB needs at least 200 donated computers, which should fit the following specifications: 133 MHz processor, 32 MB RAM, 15-inch colour monitor, network interface card, mouse and keyboard, CD-ROM and an optional 3GB hard drive. Any of these individual components are also welcome. Tax receipts will be issued for any donation that's worth more than \$20. If you would like to donate, or require more information, call EWB member and engineering student Dave Adams at 881-2546 or e-mail dadams@uvic.ca.

ringers

A book co-written Dr. **Naznin Virji-Babul** (psychology) hits the shelves this month after years of research working with kids with Down Syndrome. *Motor Development for Individuals with Down Syndrome: Play, Move and Grow* provides practical suggestions on how parents and professionals can help children with DS develop lifelong motor skills. "Our hope is to bridge the gap between theory and practice by providing practical intervention strategies that we hope will help maximize the potential of individuals with DS," says Virji-Babul.

Books by two UVic faculty members are among the finalists for the 2004 Canadian Political Science Association Book Prize. *Unnatural Law: Rethinking Canadian Environmental Law and Policy* by **David Boyd**, senior associate with the POLIS project on ecological governance and *The Politics of Public Management* by Dr. **David Good**, an adjunct professor with the school of public administration, are among the three finalists. The award will be presented next month in Winnipeg.

Climatologist Dr. **Andrew Weaver** (earth & ocean sciences) has been acclaimed president of the UVic Faculty Association for 2004-05. Weaver was chief negotiator for the recent round of faculty salary negotiations. Off campus, he's also serving a one-year term as president of the Victoria Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils.

Drs. Honoré France, Geoffrey Hett (educational psychology & leadership studies) and **María del Carmen Rodríguez** (education) are the authors of a new book, *Diversity, Culture and Counselling: A Canadian Perspective*. They describe it as the first book of its kind in the area of multicultural/diversity counselling. The authors say the book brings Canadian content and point of view to an area previously only serviced by American textbooks. The book gives voice to the people multicultural counsellors work with and includes chapters on First Nations people talking about the use of traditional helping and healing methods and counsellors advocating the use of nature to assist them in their work.

The board of governors recently approved two departmental chair appointments. Dr. **Ingrid Holmberg**, has been re-appointed chair of Greek and Roman studies for a two-year term, while Dr. **Tom Cleary** has been named chair of English for a one-year term. Both appointments take effect July 1.

Former Yahoo! head named distinguished entrepreneur

Jeff Mallett, former president and chief operating officer of Internet media giant Yahoo! Inc. and part-owner of the San Francisco Giants baseball team, has won the first Distinguished Entrepreneur of the Year Award from the faculty of business.

The annual award acknowledges an inspirational entrepreneur who has had a significant and positive impact on the global community through his or her business leadership.

"Jeff captures the spirit of what entrepreneurship is all about, and what we are trying to teach our students," says David Schneider, chair of the faculty's board of advisors. "His innovation and leadership inspire his peers and future leaders."

Mallett owns Vineyard Knolls Golf Club, a private, nine-hole U.S. Gold Association member golf



Mallett

course in Napa, California, as well as an independent vineyard growing world-class chardonnay and pinot noir grapes for local Napa wineries.

Born in Vancouver, Mallett grew up in Victoria and attended UVic

on a soccer scholarship where he was an all-Canadian and member of the national finalist team in 1982. He participated as a member of the Canadian national and Olympic soccer team program for two years.

Nominations for the UVic Distinguished Entrepreneur of the Year Award were considered by a five-person panel made up of members of the faculty of business' board of advisors. It was chaired by Peter Gustavson, president and CEO of Custom House Global Currency. The panel reviewed nominations based on a set of criteria including vision, entrepreneurial drive, and impact on the Canadian and global economies.

Mallett was presented with the award at a ceremony on May 6 at the Victoria Conference Centre.

University steps up attack on e-mail spam

Tired of those e-mail messages about inadequate body parts and get-rich-quick schemes? Blocking "spam" just got easier thanks to recent upgrades to UVic's e-mail filtering system.

Instead of having to set up spam filters in your e-mail program the university server now does the work for you. "It's a one-stop deal," says John Foxgord of computing and system services (CASS). He anticipates the changes will reduce the huge number of unwanted e-mail messages the university receives daily.

"The university receives up to 450,000 off-campus e-mail messages a day, and almost half of that is spam blocked by our server," says Foxgord. "However, more than 150,000 spam e-mails are still being received by users at UVic." He adds that if it takes two seconds to delete each spam message, then it collectively takes campus users more than 80 hours a day to delete all 150,000. That adds up to a lot of distraction and frustration.

Three years ago CASS initiated its first spam filtering system. It currently includes, among other methods, a global service that blocks viruses and e-mail messages with specific attachment types, as

well as two opt-in services: DNS Blacklist that rejects all e-mail from computers known to generate spam; and Spam Assassin, a product running on UVic's server that assesses

and scores the likelihood of e-mail being spam. By opting-in to these two methods of spam filtering, users can avoid the headache of deleting unsolicited e-mail.

"There's not one silver bullet for fighting spam," says Foxgord, "but we'll continue to add more mechanisms to improve this service."

To find out more go to: www.uvic.ca/spam/ or call the help desk at 721-7687 for assistance. Faculty and staff members can attend drop-in sessions in HSD B241 Thursdays from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Departments can also contact the education services group to arrange for help.



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ring

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Warning:

Relying on the Internet for sex and advice may harm your health

by Maria Lironi

Viewing online porn or using the Internet to become sexually aroused, in conjunction with using the Net as a source of sexual information, may harm your offline relationships and your health.

That's one of the findings from a survey of 760 UVic first-year psychology students.

Dr. Sylvain Boies, a psychologist in UVic counselling services, asked the students—96 per cent of whom were under the age of 25—to participate in the 2002 study by completing an online questionnaire. The 120-question survey asked respondents how they felt they performed socially, their bonds with family, their sexual practices, and their interest in relationships and sex on the Internet.

The study examined differences in Internet-related problems and psycho-social functioning among four patterns of participation in online sexual information and entertainment activities. The four subgroups were: entertainment seekers, who use the Web to access porn or become sexually aroused; information seekers, who use the Net to access sex information; seekers of both entertainment and

information; and students who said they don't use the Internet for either type of activity.

Respondents who don't use the Internet for arousal or information about sex were more satisfied and connected with their offline life than other groups. Students who only seek sexual information online had strong offline affiliations. Those who only view porn or seek sexual arousal online didn't show signs of being dissatisfied with their offline life either. However, students who use the Net for *both* types of activities found that their real-life relationships and overall functioning suffered.

"Young adults who overuse the Internet to a degree that limits their participation in real life appear to be at risk of developing sexual and relationship problems," Boies explains. "This can delay or distort the development of their sense of who they are and their ability to form intimate and satisfying relationships."

Boies study was published in last month's issue of *Cyberpsychology & Behavior*, a bimonthly peer-reviewed journal that explores the impact of the Internet, multimedia and virtual reality on behaviour and society.

And the nominees are...

Once again several members of the UVic community are among the nominees for the YM-YWCA Women of Distinction Awards. In its 10th year, the event takes place at the Victoria Conference Centre on May 12.

Nominated in the education, training and development category: **Mary Anne Waldron**, UVic's associate vice-president for legal affairs, who has helped hundreds of law students by creating a more supportive learning environment; and **Deborah Yaffe** who continues to challenge traditional views and open young minds as a women's studies professor at UVic.

Nominated in the science, information technology and research category: Dr. **Penny Coddling**, an internationally recognized chemist who was the first woman to serve as UVic's vice-president academic and provost; and Dr. **Kathy Gillis**, a professor of earth and ocean sciences, who encourages her students to

participate in shipboard field work on international projects.

Nominated in the category of community legacy: **Cathy Whitehead McIntyre**, principal of the consulting firm Strategic Initiatives, who shares her entrepreneurial skills with UVic's alumni association, Craigdarroch Castle and the World Partnership Walk.

Nominated in the young woman of distinction category: **Jeannie Coates**, director of the UVic Student Society and a member of the university's V-Day Collective; **Ashley Heaslip**, President of World University Services of Canada at UVic; **Megan Noakes** a musician, athlete and resident advisor at UVic; and **Sarah Webb**, UVic's interim sustainability co-ordinator, who helped develop a campus plan committed to sustainable growth and a bicycle bursary program.



A 3D image of the award-winning fuel station.

UVic students develop award-winning fuel station design

by Mary-Lou Leidl

Filling up your vehicle along the hydrogen highway may happen a lot sooner than you think, thanks to the efforts of a team of UVic business, economics and engineering students.

The team's design for a hydrogen fueling station that could open by March 2006 won the top prize in the first annual University Student Hydrogen Design Contest. The announcement was made by the U.S.-based National Hydrogen Association (NHA) and the U.S. Department of Energy, co-sponsors for the contest, on April 27 at the NHA's annual Hydrogen Conference in Los Angeles.

The nine-member team, seven of whom are members of UVic's institute for integrated energy systems (IESVic), spent a frenetic two months on a design that involves storing liquid hydrogen in elevated storage containers and vapourizing it to a low temperature of -20°C for a relatively quick four-minute fuel-up.

Reducing the costs of fueling a vehicle with hydrogen is vital to making it commercially viable. Apart from technical design and safety analysis, the design was also judged on economic viability, environmental performance and

the team's plans for marketing and education.

"This is a very big accomplishment for the team given the tremendous amount of attention hydrogen technologies are getting from research communities throughout North America," says Dr. Andrew Rowe, a mechanical engineering professor and member of IESVic. Rowe advised the team of John Dikeos, Jordan Haas, Jesse Maddaloni, Tom Owen, Tara Smolak, Pedrum Sodouri, Louise St. Germain, Ron Songprakorp and Armando Tura.

According to the team's report, the overall well-to-wheel pathway of the hydrogen fueling process generates up to 95 per cent less greenhouse gas emissions and requires up to 42 per cent less energy than the conventional gasoline pathway. The design for the Vancouver site requires a low-capital investment and uses components readily available from a proven supplier base.

As for costs to the consumer, for now the price of hydrogen would be higher than gasoline. But Tara Smolak, an economics graduate, says the after-tax price of hydrogen and gasoline could be more comparable, especially if hydrogen were to get special tax breaks due to its low environ-

mental impact. She notes that too often when doing an economic analysis, environmental impact is not taken into account.

Adds teammate Jordan Haas, "Hydrogen is an emerging technology, so it's expensive. Just the development of the infrastructure itself is huge. It's going to take more than academics developing technology; we need a policy push from government to make it work."

Appearance was also an important part of the design. "We didn't want the station to look like a scary industrial site," says Tom Owen, a mechanical engineering graduate. "We wanted a station that, while safe and innovative, was user-friendly and decent to look at." More importantly perhaps, the design had to allow for flexibility with a minimum of modification for future needs.

"Liquid hydrogen is a beautiful solution," adds Rowe. "It has many characteristics that make it a winner, but it requires a lot of energy to turn hydrogen into a liquid, so storage is a hot area of research." Rowe says there won't be one best solution for our energy needs, but a palette of solutions from which we can draw. Fortunately, versatility is one of hydrogen's strengths.

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Computing, complexity and the human factor

An interdisciplinary team studies the interplay of technology and human behaviour

by Melissa Doyle

Rapid growth in computing technologies challenges our ability to visualize and navigate large bodies of information. But Dr. Margaret-Anne Storey (computer science) and her team in UVic's computer-human interaction and software engineering lab (CHISEL) are developing tools to help.

Computer programs have become increasingly complex, and even everyday word processors commonly require millions of lines of code to provide instructions for how a program accomplishes its tasks. As users of these programs, we can be dazed by the range and complexity of their features. And the challenge is even greater for those who create these programs—software engineers who design their structure and programmers who write the code.

Faced with tasks of such astounding complexity, humans must rely on thinking aids to help them understand and mentally “map” the intricate conceptual relationships among large masses of information.

As director of CHISEL, Storey leads an interdisciplinary team of researchers and graduate students developing software solutions to help people manipulate large bodies of information and solve complex tasks.

At the heart of their success is an approach that stresses the importance of human factors as well as the technology. “We’re trying to understand the interplay of technology, human behaviour, cognitive ability and social structure,” says Storey. “This enables us to design and improve technologies that will increase the efficiency with which people can access, process and manipulate information.”

Among the current projects, PhD student Ian Bull is working on the development of tools to provide programmers with visual representations of the structure of a program linked to textual views of its code. Another study by PhD student Mechthild Maczewski focuses on how youth are affected socially and psychologically by the culture of technological connectedness fostered by the Internet, cell phones and other technologies.

The team is also working on

GILD (Groupware-enabled Integrated Learning and Development), a tool to aid in teaching and learning Java, a programming language. In developing GILD, Storey addresses the challenge of teaching students how to program and combines the two aspects of her work that she enjoys the most. “I’m here because I love research, and I love to teach. GILD allows me to do both.”

One obstacle to students and instructors when programming courses is the lack of integration of material from lectures, textbooks, overheads, drawing

and Web-based tools, in addition to the specific tools and methods of Java programming. “These resources,” says Storey, “are scattered and difficult to update, share, and interconnect with other relevant information.”

GILD reduces this complexity, allowing both parties to interact with course material and assignments, support material and each other without having to switch between resources. “The

power of GILD is its ability to smooth the progress of programming and help students and teachers more easily identify potential problem areas,” says Storey. “Information management of any kind is a human activity done by people for the benefit of other people.”

By placing an emphasis on the human factor—the sociology and psychology of human-computer interactions—Storey hopes to continue providing solutions that help us meet the technological challenges and complexities of the future.



This article was written by Melissa Doyle, a biochemistry student, as a participant in the UVic SPARK program (Students Promoting Awareness of Research Knowledge), supported by the vice president academic and the vice president research.

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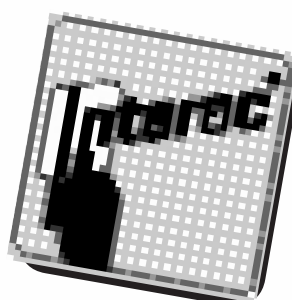
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newsmakers

UVic plans to have international students make up 10 per cent of its enrolment within a decade, up from the current level of six per cent, says Dr. **Jim Anglin**, director of international affairs, in an interview with CanWest News Service that appeared in several Canadian newspapers on April 29 and 30. Anglin emphasized that international students are not preventing domestic students from accessing spots at UVic. The article mentioned how the university has committed \$1.6 million of revenue from international student fees in the upcoming academic year to establish a building fund on campus.

Ideas have values but “unless there is a dollar figure, people don’t always take it seriously,” said Dr. **Smaro Kamboureli**, UVic’s associate dean of humanities, in discussing concerns over attracting research funding to humanities and social sciences. Kamboureli was commenting to the *Times Colonist* (April 4), in a story that also mentioned how the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council is re-examining its role. The council is considering, among other things, how it can be seen as more relevant to daily life in Canada. “What we do is everywhere,” said Kamboureli, “yet it is not immediately apparent to most people.”

Dr. **Kathy Sanford**, an education faculty member, said “Boys are clearly more capable and well-versed with technology, and that’s not seen in the formal schooling situation as literacy” in an interview in the *Globe and Mail* (April 10) on initiatives to improve academic records of boys. The article outlined programs throughout Canada that use teaching methods that appeal to boys. The article also mentioned that Sanford and fellow researcher Heather Blair from the University of Alberta are working with local school boards to make curricula and reading materials more appealing to boys, but don’t know if their efforts will be effective. “People really don’t seem to know how to respond to the issue,” said Sanford.

UVic’s **health information science program** was cited as one of the hot jobs for graduates in a story about top careers in the *Vancouver Province* (April 22). Grads in health informatics are being snatched up for jobs paying from \$40,000 to \$45,000 to start, said the article, which also mentioned a 2003 study showing that 98 per cent of UVic mechanical engineering students had jobs in their field five years out of school, compared to 97 per cent of students in business and law.

“We have a legacy and particularly young women need to know—all of us need to know—what’s happened in the past so we can really assess where we are and work on the future,” said UVic archivist **Jane Turner** in an article in the *Times Colonist* (April 25) about the archives of the Victoria women’s movement at the university. Turner said the archives are seeking material such as newsletters, flyers, correspondence, photos and posters for the archives’ collection.

Co-op Chronicles

Co-op student finds his niche in “adventure law”

by Marni Friesen

Third-year law student Simon Owen’s current co-op job has taken him from the security of UVic’s ivory towers to one of South Africa’s most vibrant urban centres—not to mention some of the country’s stickiest backroads.

The 25-year-old is working as an intern at the non-profit Legal Resources Centre in Durban, South Africa, which offers free legal services to poor and disadvantaged communities. He was inspired to take on the volunteer position after watching a documentary on the country’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Owen’s job puts him in the middle of a multicultural downtown that is the antithesis of wealthy, security-fenced neighbourhoods in other parts of the city. Owen describes the part of town he works in as “chaotic splendour.”

“Fruit stalls mingle with street-front barbers, beats pulsate from

bars and minibus taxis. It’s a city sweating out its pride and determination,” he says. “I love it because it rises above and exists in spite of the ever-present fear here.”

“I guess I’ve never felt less safe, but I’m energized and feel privileged to witness the courage of those struggling to re-create South Africa out of apartheid’s still-smouldering ashes.”

Owen’s job combines field work with behind-the-scenes research. He investigates issues such as how law reform works for women in the post-apartheid country, and the independence of court-martial tribunals.

He’s also spent time in poverty-stricken rural areas, investigating complaints of sub-standard school conditions in kwaZulu-Natal Province, on the country’s eastern extremities.

“They’re pretty easy to document when kids have no desks, no doors and no roof,” says Owen.

The internship is a chance for Owen to learn more about public interest law, his preferred

area of study. It requires him to pull together diverse streams of law practice, looking at pre-and post-apartheid law in South Africa, as well as traditional and international legal frameworks.

“I also get to participate in first-instance rights cases, such as the right to education, which haven’t been directly addressed by the courts before,” he says. “They’re breaking new ground and drawing the first lines on the constitutional map. I get to be much closer to the whole process than I ever could in Canada at this stage in my studies,” he says.

Another useful skill he’s picked up is how to extricate his vehicle from a rain-soaked sand road. The secret is to have lots of help.

“Half the students and the principal of the remote school we were visiting were helping dig us out,” he says. “Eventually, a Land Rover came by with a winch.”



Owen in South Africa

Hands-on education at the edge of the Earth

by Marni Friesen

At the age of 57, Marilyn Pitman isn’t your average university student, or your average camp counsellor.

But the ultra-fit fourth-year recreation and health education (RHED) student isn’t interested in being average—or in acting her age.

Last summer, Pitman joined dozens of students from all over the world, including two others from UVic, working as a recreation leader for groups of disabled and disadvantaged children attending summer camps at Atlantic College near Cardiff, Wales.

“It was like being on the edge of the Earth,” says Pitman of the college’s spectacular setting—800-year-old St. Donat’s Castle, perched over the Bristol Channel. Atlantic College is one of 10

United World Colleges around the world, including Victoria’s Pearson College, which evolved from the vision of German educator Karl Hahn. The institution has been a frequent employer of UVic physical education co-op students since the early ‘90s.

Pitman’s days were spent rock climbing, kayaking, orienteering and even jousting with young summer campers. Many of her co-workers were graduates of the college itself, and came from all corners of the globe.

“I’m a very mature student,” she laughs. “I mean, I was almost three times as old as most of the students I was working with. For me, the job presented a big social and physical challenge. But I never say, ‘I’m too old for this.’ You just have to throw yourself in.”

It’s the same attitude that brought Pitman to UVic. When she retired from a career as a

microbiology lab technologist, Pitman knew she wanted to turn her passion for fitness into a full-time job.

“I chose to go into the RHED program because of its mandatory co-op program,” she says. “I knew that with so many experiences available I’d figure out just what I wanted to do.” Recent co-op terms have seen her working as a personal trainer and as a recreation leader and conversation partner at a local English school. But that first co-op term in Wales made a lasting impression.

“The whole experience showed me that I could do things I never thought I could.”

All my jobs have been sickeningly fun,” she laughs. “I love this field because the job is to help people enjoy themselves.”



Pitman

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FACING OFF AGAINST AUTISM

Can a computer game help autistic children recognize faces and expressions?

by Shannon McCallum

What's the first thing you notice when you enter a room? For most of us, it's people or, more specifically, people's faces. Individuals with autism, however, are just as likely to first notice a chair, book or painting.

Dr. Jim Tanaka, a UVic cognitive neuroscientist, has developed a computer game that may improve the face-processing abilities of children with autism by jumpstarting the area of the brain that recognizes faces.

"Children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) seem to have deficits in processing faces—not only with recognizing to whom the face belongs, but also with the emotional expression of a face," explains Tanaka, whose research focuses on the perceptual processes involved in expert object recognition. This face-processing problem may explain why these children seem to have deficits in their social and emotional abilities.

To develop "face expertise" in children with autism, Tanaka has developed the Let's Face It! computer program. The research is a collaborative project with the Yale Child Study Centre, funded by a \$2-million five-year grant from the

U.S. National Institutes of Health.

One of Tanaka's goals is to confirm whether children with ASD really do have deficits in face processing. "We're trying to understand how the cognitive and neurological processes of children with ASD differ from those of non-ASD children," he says.

A second goal is to find out whether using Let's Face It! in an intensive intervention program can teach children with ASD to become experts at recognizing faces and whether face training produces changes in brain activity.

The program is a series of games that involve distinguishing faces from other everyday objects, attaching labels to facial expressions and interpreting the meaning of facial cues in a social context. Since the speed and accuracy of the responses are recorded by the program, it's possible to identify the tasks with which the child has difficulty. The games increase in difficulty with each successful completion of a level, enabling the children to sharpen their face-processing skills.

But the work doesn't end when the computer is turned off. "We know that children with ASD are pretty good with computers, but it's important for them to have one-on-one interaction with people, as well,

since that's what they tend to have problems with," says Tanaka.

So, enter "face tutors," who work individually with the kids using lessons tailored for each child's specific needs. Face tutors help the children build on their face-processing skills by performing activities similar to those in the games, but in a more realistic and demanding social setting.

Assisting in the project are two grads of Oberlin College in Ohio, Dave Swanson and Martha Kaiser, who

came to Victoria to continue working on the project with Tanaka when he left Oberlin to join UVic's psychology department this year. Such dedication is what Tanaka means when he refers to this project as a "labour of love."

"In my other lifetime, I was a teacher pursuing a master's degree in special education, so I've kind of come full circle. While we're excited about the scientific

questions that the research raises, we're equally motivated by the bene-

fits that the project might produce for children with autism."

This article was written by Shannon McCallum, a student in the faculty of graduate studies, as a participant in the UVic SPARK program (Students Promoting Awareness of Research Knowledge), supported by the vice president academic and provost and the vice president research.



DIANA NETHERCOTT

Tanaka

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POLIS report ...continued from p.1

is increasingly expensive and environmentally unsustainable. The report provides a blueprint for federal, provincial/territorial and municipal governments to take action through demand management to protect the future of Canadian fresh water resources.

"Conservation and demand management can no longer be seen as an emergency response to drought," says Oliver Brandes, research associate and co-author of the report with Keith Ferguson.

"Other industrialized countries have used demand management measures such as water-efficient fixtures, leak repair, public education and incentives to reduce water use, without affecting quality of life for end users. Simply put, using less water does not lower

quality of life."

While provinces and territories are the primary regulators and administrators of freshwater use, regional and municipal authorities set prices, deliver the water and treat the resulting wastewater. M'Gonigle says federal and provincial governments can play

a critical role in achieving long-term water sustainability through linking infrastructure grants to conservation, ensuring sufficient capacities for demand management exist at local levels, and making sure sufficient data and research exist to guide local decision-makers.

The Future in Every Drop report is available online at www.waterdsm.org.

In many cases, conservation is the next best and cheapest source of 'new' water for Canadian cities."

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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

www.maltwood.uvic.ca

Trackside Art Gallery exhibit Until May 14. Works by young B.C. artists. Maltwood Art Gallery.

Explorations in Wood May 25–Aug. 11. A juried exhibition of fine woodworking. Presented by the Vancouver Island Woodworkers' Guild. Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery.

Sunday, May 9

UVic Finnerty Gardens Tour and Tea 1–4 p.m. *Free guided tours of UVic's Finnerty Gardens.* Tours begin at the entrance near the Interfaith Chapel. **721-7014**

Tuesday, May 18

Mechanical Engineering Graduate Research Colloquium. 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Students describe their research in 15-minute presentations and/or display their posters. Cadboro Commons, McKenzie Sinclair room. **721-6039** or www.me.uvic.ca/~megrc.

Wednesday, May 19

Continuing Studies Lecture 7 p.m. *Linking Community, Business and Government: A Case Study in Systems Development from Australia.* Dr. Steve Benson, Edith Cowan University, Australia. Clearihue A311. **721-8779** or **472-4747**

Sunday, May 30

Woodworking Symposium Pre-sented by the Vancouver Island Woodworkers' Guild. 1–3 p.m. Strong C122. **721-8298.**



May 9 Finnerty Gardens Tour and Tea

DAPHNE DONALDSON

Tuesday, June 1

Convocation 10 a.m. Faculty of education. Honorary degree: Percy Wilkinson. University Centre Farquhar Auditorium. **721-7632**

Convocation 2:30 p.m. Faculties of fine arts, human & social development (child & youth care, health information science, and public administration). Honorary degree: Richard Hunt. University Centre Farquhar Auditorium. **721-7632**

Wednesday, June 2

Convocation 10 a.m. Faculty of humanities. University Centre Farquhar Auditorium. **721-7632**

Convocation 2:30 p.m. Faculties of business, engineering. Honorary degree: Jane Heffelfinger. University Centre Farquhar Auditorium. **721-7632**

Thursday, June 3

Convocation 10 a.m. Faculties of law, social sciences (economics, environmental studies, geography, sociology). Honorary degree: Claire L'Heureux-Dubé. University Centre Farquhar Auditorium. **721-7632**

Convocation 2:30 p.m. Faculty of social sciences (anthropology, political science, psychology). Honorary degree: Stephen Lewis. University Centre Farquhar Auditorium. **721-7632**

Friday, June 4

Convocation 10 a.m. Faculty of human & social development (nursing, social work). University Centre Farquhar Auditorium. **721-7632**

Convocation 2:30 p.m. Faculty of sciences. Honorary degree: Morris Collen. University Centre Farquhar Auditorium **721-7632**

Engineering outreach program awarded \$10,000 grant

Go WEST, a high school outreach program run by UVic engineering students, has been awarded \$10,000 from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council's annual PromoScience competition.

The Go WEST team seeks to break down the barriers and misconceptions that prevent students from pursuing careers in engineering and technology. The NSERC funds will allow Go WEST to reach more than 3,000 students on Vancouver Island, the Gulf

Islands, Sunshine Coast and the Lower Mainland.

"Giving high school students the chance to see if engineering interests them is what Go WEST is all about," says program director Jill Nishida. "Many students, especially girls, don't find out about engineering in high school. When I was in Grades 10 and 11 I had no idea what engineering was. Now I'm graduating from UVic's faculty of engineering next year."

The NSERC funds will also go

toward Go WEST summer camps.

The camps are designed to immerse secondary students—Grades 9 through 12—in all aspects of engineering, from campus life and course offerings to industry tours and discussions with engineers, scientists, professors, and current students. Participants take part in activities and workshops that involve problem-solving and design.

For more information go to www.gowest.uvic.ca or call 721-8983.





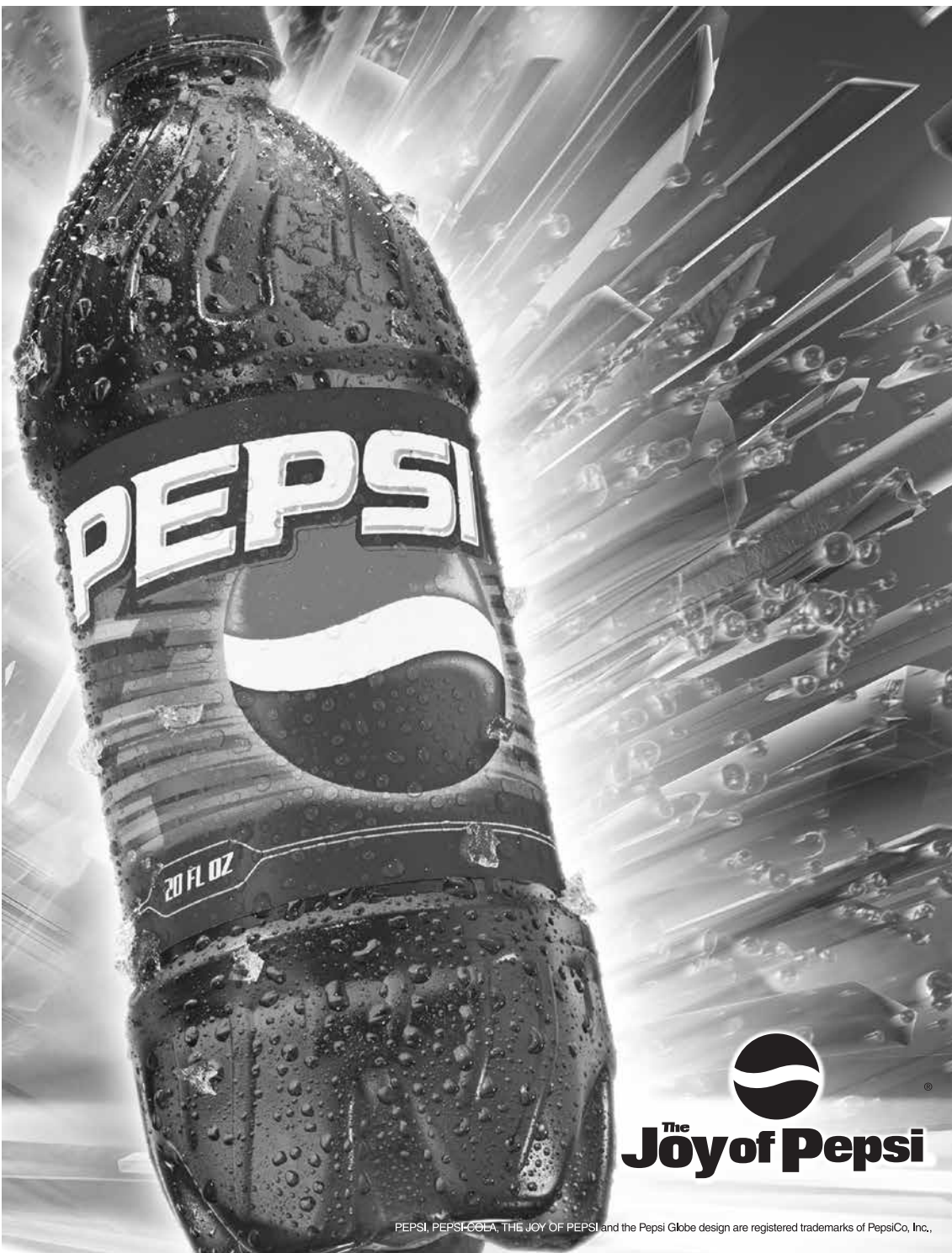
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RING PUBLICATION SCHEDULE SPRING-SUMMER 2004

Calendar items should be sent to UVic communications (Sedgewick 149, fax 721-8955, e-mail ucom@uvic.ca) or entered into the online calendar (www.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 721-7636.

PUBLICATION DATE	COPY DEADLINE
June 3	May 26
July 8	June 30

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Thanks to 124 UVic ambassadors

For 23 years the UVic Speakers Bureau has matched faculty, staff and graduate students with community groups and organizations throughout southern Vancouver Island.

Between September 2003 and May 2004, the bureau provided speakers for 440 engagements. A total of 153 UVic speakers offered to share their expertise and enthusiasm on 388 topics as far-ranging as art and architecture, fitness, animals and plants, parenting, computers, world cultures, social and justice issues, wellness, travel, history, employment, and world affairs.

A special thank you goes to the 124 Speakers Bureau members who spoke to community groups and organizations in the past year. To see the full list of speakers, visit: communications.uvic.ca/sb/thankyou.html.

It's not too late to sign up as a member of the 2004-05 UVic Speakers Bureau. For more information, call Mandy Crocker (communications services) at 721-8587 or e-mail speakers@uvic.ca.



VALERIE SHORE

Avid commuter cyclist Mary Sanseverino (computer science) poses with the Victoria Bike to Work Week 2004 official poster—featuring a photo of herself. Bike to Work Week takes place June 7–13.

It's time to sign up for Bike to Work Week 2004

Campus teams are already forming to participate in Bike to Work Week 2004 from June 7 to 13. Last year UVic had a record number of faculty and staff cycle to work and Bike to Work Week organizers hope for an even bigger turnout this year.

This year, as an incentive to get even more employees trying out commuter cycling, UVic facilities management will award all campus participants an individual prize.

“Cycling is a great way to get

exercise and reduce your impact on our local environment,” says UVic’s interim sustainability co-ordinator Sarah Webb, organizer for this year’s Bike to Work Week events at UVic.

“The support stations, cycling clinics and special events provide the chance for you to learn new skills and improve your confidence on the road.”

Webb has kits available for those who are acting as team captains. Participants who want to join an existing team or start a new

one can contact Webb at 472-5011 or sarahwebb@fmgt.uvic.ca.

“Cyclists are reminded to take advantage of the amenities on campus, such as showers, bike lockers and covered bike racks,” says Webb “There are also a number of designated safe bike routes to campus that are perfect for new riders.”

Participants can find more information about Bike to Work Week and can register their team or themselves online at www.biketoworkvictoria.ca.

Victoria teacher earns first volunteer award

Wendy Gedney, a teacher at Gordon Head Elementary School and a tireless supporter of the university, has been named the first recipient of the UVic Alumni Association’s Volunteer Appreciation Award.

Gedney’s list of volunteer activities reads like a curriculum vitae. Since 1970 she’s been teaching and raising a family, but when she finished her education degree in 1983 she jumped into volunteering for UVic’s Alumni Association. She served several terms as board member and president while sitting on numerous committees.

“I’m very honoured,” says Gedney. “I feel so strongly about the university and the Alumni Association that we brought our grandchildren to UVic’s 100th anniversary open house.”

Gedney was instrumental in establishing the Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching, the



Gedney

Distinguished Alumni Award, the Howard and Linda Petch Scholarship in Education and for granting, on behalf of the association, \$250,000 in capital funds to UVic’s centre for global studies and student residences.

Gedney’s work doesn’t stop there. Her interests and passions

touch all areas of the association. She helped create the history and archive committee and was key in getting Peter Smith’s book, *A Multitude of the Wise: UVic Remembered*, published. Thanks to Gedney, graduating students now receive an alumni pin, a small but meaningful token of membership into the association.

The UVic Alumni Association depends on the dedication of 700 volunteers who govern the association, participate in events and programs, offer mentoring services to current students, and organize alumni branches, chapters and affiliated groups.

The award will be presented to Gedney at the UVic Alumni Association’s annual general meeting at the University Club on June 8. The meeting is open to all alumni.