Budget provides for student and capital growth

The board of governors has approved a 2005-06 budget framework for the university that provides for student and capital growth and increased investment in student financial assistance.

The $240-million operating budget includes a provincial operating grant of $130.4 million—up $4.9 million over 2004-05. The framework assumes domestic undergraduate and graduate tuition will increase by two per cent, consistent with the previously announced provincial tuition cap.

Effective May 1, annual undergraduate and science tuition rises to $4,324.50 from $4,329, while annual domestic graduate tuition rises to $4,692.20 from $4,694.

“With this budget UVic will provide space for more students and support them with improved facilities and resources,” says President Dr. David Turpin. “We will also maintain our position as a leading Canadian university in terms of student financial assistance. This budget keeps UVic on course as a leading research institution and a university of choice for outstanding students, faculty and staff.”

The budget framework funds 16,400 undergraduate and graduate full-time equivalent (FTE) student positions, an increase of 550 FTEs, including 133 international students, over the 2004-05 academic year. It also includes approximately $2.5 million for direct classroom investment to provide for this growth. This will fund new faculty positions, additional course sections, teaching assistants, lab and technology instructors and instructional materials and technology.

One million dollars has also been allocated to the Island Medical Program, which welcomed its first students to campus in January.

Donor and government fund centre for learning

by Patty Pitts

The provincial government and the family of one of UVic’s earliest supporters have each pledged $5 million to expand and renovate the university’s library and increase online access to its resources.

The complex, which will include new seminar and tutorial facilities and classrooms and encompass the existing McPherson Library, will be named the William C. Mearns Centre for Learning.

“This $5 million gift from the Mearns family and $5 million from the provincial government allow us to complete the fundraising for the Mearns Centre for Learning,” said UVic President Dr. David Turpin at the March 7 ceremony announcing the donations. “Students and faculty from every academic discipline will benefit from the centre’s expanded and improved collection and study space.”

The $20-million project includes a $5-million investment from UVic and an additional $5 million from other donors. Components of the centre include an information commons with workstations and a single access point for all library resources; a media commons integrating all formats of the library’s music, audio and video collections; improved facilities and resources for students with a disability; and an Internet café.

“We’re providing some of the capital funding needed to build a modern learning centre that reflects the needs of UVic’s students,” says Minister of Advanced Education Ida Chong. “The new facility will comprise so

SEE BUDGET P.2

UVic buys Vancouver Island Technology Park

by Maria Lironi

The University of Victoria is the new owner of the Vancouver Island Technology Park (VITP), an ultra-modern research and technology transfer centre located at the site of the former Glendale institution in Saanich.

The purchase of the VITP—which has the greatest concentration of high-tech companies and workers on Vancouver Island—will help power the continued growth of the region’s high-tech sector.

“This acquisition will allow UVic to continue fostering the start-up and growth of high-tech companies on Vancouver Island, moving the university, VITP and the sector to the next level,” says UVic President Dr. David Turpin.

“It also means that, by building on the solid foundation established by the B.C. Buildings Corporation (BCBC), we can provide a range of commercial space for UVic research-generated, spin-off businesses and outside high-tech companies.”

The university is funding the $20.2-million purchase through revenue from the facility. The purchase will not affect UVic’s operating budget or operations on campus. As well, staff in the existing VITP office will continue to run the facility and the change in ownership will not affect the status of VITP tenants.

“The park will be operated as a business under University of Victoria Property Investments Inc. and overseen by a separate board at

SEE TECHNOLOGY PARK P.3

New buildings will address future teaching and research needs

by Patty Pitts

The applause from UVic faculty, students and staff was long and loud on March 21 when Advanced Education Minister Ida Chong announced $60.4 million in provincial funding for two new buildings on campus.

A $50-million, 10,920-square-metre science building will consolidate all members of the school of earth and ocean sciences (SEOS) in one structure for the first time and will house chemistry researchers requiring special air-handling facilities.

A $30-million, 8,600-square-metre social sciences/mathematics building will house the departments of geography, environmental studies, political science, and mathematics and statistics. Both buildings will help address a serious shortfall in teaching and research space on campus.

The two buildings will cost nearly $81 million, with UVic providing over $20 million for the two projects. In thanking the provincial government, UVic President Dr. David Turpin pointed out that the new buildings will have a far-reaching impact.

“The students and researchers moving into these new buildings will benefit directly and the teaching and research space they free up will give other departments much-needed room to expand,” said Turpin.

“These two new buildings will be an important part of UVic’s ability to add nearly 2,000 new students by 2010.”

“By constructing new buildings along with increasing funding for seats, we’re ensuring that students have more access to post-secondary education,” added Chong. “Cost sharing with UVic is an effective way of ensuring the funds are in place to start building right away and it will boost the university’s capacity for introduction and significant research.”

Currently, SEOS faculty and students are scattered across campus in seven different locations ranging from the Ian Stewart Complex to Second World War army huts, making collaboration and knowledge-sharing difficult. Being together in one building will provide better opportunities for collaboration among the geophysics research group, the climate research group, and the geologists, earth scientists and biological oceanographers. SEOS researchers are world leaders in oceans and climate change research.

Speaking on behalf of the science students, chemistry PhD candidate Bryan Kovisto told an appreciative

SEE NEW BUILDINGS P.4
Donation launches fundraising drive for conservation professorship

The B.C. government has kickstarted UVic’s new science and mathematics building. These include the Mearns Centre for Learning, science building, and social science categories. The revenue generated from the parking rates at UVic to increase to $5.2 million in the past four years.

The budget framework provides a $500,000 increase to the library’s acquisition budget to meet the escalating costs for books and journals and $500,000 towards the operating costs for UVic’s new building project.

The budget includes the Mearns Centre for Learning, science building, and social science and mathematics building. The budget also calls for a reduction in domestic and international co-op fees to the levels at other B.C. institutions. The fee for domestic co-op placements will decrease from $358 to $1.36 per cent (single course) and $600 a term and the fee for international co-op placements will decrease from $1.36 per cent (single course) and $780 to $1.00.

UVic’s co-op education program is recognized as one of the best in the country.

The budget framework provides for parking rates at UVic to increase in 2005-06 to more accurately reflect the true cost of parking services. The monthly charge for an annual general parking pass will rise to $21 from $15 with similar increases in all other categories.

The state-of-the-art Mearns centre was one of the most significant gifts in UVic’s history. Craig Mears spoke on behalf of his family at the ceremony, calling on other affluent Victorians to follow in his father’s footsteps and contribute to their community by giving their time and money.

“Many of his family at the ceremony, called on other affluent Victorians to follow in his father’s footsteps and contribute to their community by giving their time and money.”

Craig Mears spoke on behalf of his family at the ceremony, calling on other affluent Victorians to follow in his father’s footsteps and contribute to their community by giving their time and money. His father was a great booster of B.C., especially Victoria, said Mears. “It’s time for Victorians to get behind community projects.”

The state-of-the-art Mearns Centre for Learning also includes study areas with electronic information access for faculty members and graduate students, a renovated special collections and archives area with appropriate environmental controls, and a 24-hour student study area.

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Vice president leaves for position at Vancouver Foundation

Faye Wightman, vice president of external relations, is leaving the university at the end of June to become the president and CEO of the Lower Mainland-based Vancouver Foundation.

President David Turpin made the announcement on April 1 in a letter to the president’s advisory council. “On behalf of the university community, I want to thank Faye for her outstanding leadership and substantial contributions to UVic and to wish her all the best in her new position,” Turpin said.

Since starting at UVic in 2003, Wightman has created a government relations office and a new university ceremonies and events unit, launched an institution-wide strategic communications planning process that is entering its final stages, overseen a re-organization and strengthening of the university’s development operations, and completed a strategic planning project that has integrated the advancement, alumni, community relations, communications, and development services of the division of external relations.

Wightman has also forged stronger ties between the university and communities both in and outside Greater Victoria. Since she arrived on campus, UVic has raised $38 million, including $10 million for acquisitions research and $5 million for the William C. Meekins Centre for Learning.

“I have enjoyed working at the university with its incredible staff, faculty and board. This is a jewel of an institution and I look forward to hearing about the great things it will continue to accomplish,” says Wightman.

“Faye has been a strong leader and a tremendous advocate for the university. Her role in raising the profile of the university and our work in the community can’t be overstated,” Turpin said.

Wightman came to UVic after 14 years as president of the B.C.’s Children’s Hospital Foundation. The Vancouver Foundation, Canada’s largest philanthropic community foundation, administers $564 million in endowed funds, distributing more than $30 million to charitable groups and organizations each year to enhance the quality of life in B.C.

Rippin will serve a second five-year term as associate vice-president academic planning, effective July 1. And Dr. Andrew Rippin will serve a second five-year term as dean of humanities, also beginning July 1.

Two senior UVic administrators have been appointed to second terms. Dr. Valerie Kuehne has been appointed to a second five-year term as associate vice-president academic planning, effective July 1. Dr. Andrew Rippin will serve a second five-year term as dean of humanities, also beginning July 1.

Study links salmon farms to lice outbreak

by Valerie Shore

The transfer of parasitic sea lice from salmon farms to wild salmon in B.C. is much larger and more extensive than previously believed, says a study co-authored by a UVic researcher.

The study was published in a recent edition of the journal of the British Royal Society. One of the authors is Dr. John Volpe, a faculty member in UVic’s school of environmental studies. The two other authors are University of Alberta researchers Mark Lewis and Marty Krkosek (a graduate student co-supervised by Volpe).

The study combined advanced models of disease transfer with extensive field work in the Broughton Archipelago off northeastern Vancouver Island, where commercial salmon farms are located.

The farms are open cages of closely packed pens, where salmon which provide ideal conditions for the spread of sea lice—exterior parasites that eat the slime, skin and blood of their fish hosts. In large numbers, the lice weaken and eventually kill the fish. Adult salmon can tolerate light infections, but young fish are particularly vulnerable.

Because sea lice occur naturally, a bitter debate rages in B.C. over whether fish farms contribute to sea lice infections in wild salmon. This study shows indisputably that they do, says Volpe. “There’s no ambiguity in our data whatsoever.”

Using new, non-lethal sampling techniques, the team studied lice infection levels of 5,500 young pink and chum salmon as they approached and passed a farm anchored in a long, thin fjord.

The team found that sea lice production from the farm was 30,000 times higher than natural levels. “Infection of the salmon was 73 times higher than ambient levels near the farm and exceeded ambient levels for 30 km of the wild migration route,” says Volpe.

The study also revealed another cause for concern. As the migrating school of lice-infected young salmon moves out to sea, new generations of lice may be infecting salmon from other streams—and possibly other species such as herring. “What we have is a moving, growing mass of contagion that has the potential to infect fish stocks all along the coast,” warns Volpe.

Volpe says he and Krkosek are now turning their attention to the impact of lice infestations as the population and ecosystem levels.

“The debate over the role of farms as a breeding ground for sea lice is over,” says Volpe. “Now we have to find out what it means and how we can deal with it.”

The study was funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, the David Suzuki Foundation and the Raincoast Conservation Society.

Kuehne, Rippin to serve second terms

Two senior UVic administrators have been appointed to second terms. Dr. Valerie Kuehne has been appointed to a second five-year term as associate vice-president academic planning, effective July 1. And Dr. Andrew Rippin will serve a second five-year term as dean of humanities, also beginning July 1.

Prior to coming to UVic, Kuehne was a pediatric nurse and nursing instructor in Edmonton. She joined UVic’s school of child and youth care in 1990 and was promoted to associate professor in 1994 and to professor in 2001. She has served as the associate vice president academic planning since 2000.

Wightman has been instrumental in the planning and development of the Island Medical Program and played a central role in the development of new teaching and research programs across the university.

“Valerie has represented the office of the provost in many capacities both internally and externally,” says Jamie Case, vice-president academic and international. “The [search] committee received extensive feedback from the university community and external constituents as well, which was uniformly positive.”

Rippin is a professor of Islamic history in the department of history, and the author and editor of many books on the Islamic religion. He came to UVic in July 2000 after 20 years at the University of Calgary.

“The [selection] committee found that Andrew has excellent administrative skills and a facilitative approach to leadership. He has a transparent approach to the task of consultation and preparation for fairness and integrity, and is a skilled communicator,” says Case. “He enjoys the confidence of members of the faculty and elsewhere in the university.”

UVic president David Turpin, left, and Dr. Andrew Rippin, head of the UVic Genome B.C. Proteomics Centre.

VITP at a glance

The Vancouver Island Technology Park sits on 14.2 hectares in Saanich and is bordered by the Interurban Campus of Camosun College, the Forestry Research Centre, the Horticultural Centre of the Pacific, and Latoria Park.

The main building, the core of the former Glendale Lodge, offers approximately 14,870 square metres of leasable space. Ancillary buildings provide a further 2,799 square metres of leasable space.

Glendale Lodge, originally built in 1957, was a home for adults with severe disabilities until it was closed in 1996. The government and the B.C. Buildings Corporation tried to find alternative uses for the space with the film industry and various government agencies using small parts of the building for small periods of time.

In fall 2000, it was announced that the buildings would be renovated for use as a technology park to create opportunities for the growing high-tech sector in Victoria.

The renovation of the main building was completed early in 2002 for a reported budget of $11.9 million. The extensive renovations include a seismically upgraded concrete structure, fibre-optic broadband connectivity, and a 25kv electrical power feed.

The U.S. Green Buildings Council presented a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) gold award to the owners of the park in recognition of its cutting-edge environmental and energy-conscious design.

For more information on the technology park visit www.vitp.ca.
Top faculty award goes to business professor

by Dianne George

Had it not been for a bully who was also his boss, Dr. Craig Pinder might have gone into politics rather than becoming a leading scholar in the field of organizational behavior—and being honored as a UVic Distinguished Professor.

The five-year award is bestowed on a faculty member who has achieved distinction in teaching and scholarly research and has made substantial contributions to the university and the wider community. Each recipient receives a salary stipend and annual research allowance.

“I first thought I would try to become prime minister of Canada,” says Pinder in discussing his 30-year career as a researcher and educator. “But those events were central to changing my mind.”

“First, I grew up with a back-ground of respect for work. My parents were blue collar—they always worked, and worked hard, often as more than one job—and they involved me and my sister in discussions about how much money was needed to make the household run.

The second event took place while Pinder was an undergraduate at UBC and was working a part-time job in a local grocery store.

“My boss used to torment me—he would bugger me, and poke me in the arm while I trimmed vegetables. It was constant, relentless; it was harassment. I went home after night with a lump in my throat, full of rage and frustration and decided that there was something really ele-mentary about work and working relationships. I took a course in industrial psychology so that I could study this phenomenon and that was what changed my direction.”

Pinder went on to earn an MA from the University of Toronto and a PhD from Cornell University with a specialization in organizational behavior.

“Craig is the true all-rounder, and his contributions are felt in virtually every area of the university.”

Over his career, Pinder’s research has focused in three areas: on the prac-tice of companies moving people, as a sometimes philoso-phist of science calling for more facts and fewer analogues when describing or- ganizations; and for improving our un-dersetting of what motivates people to work. Pinder’s teaching philosophy is rooted in his knowl-edge of motivation theory. He creates a class environment that challenges students’ belief systems while creat-ing a culture of respect for differences of opinion. Over his career, Pinder will be returning to the classroom in the faculty of business after two years away on medical and study leaves. He says he’s deeply hon-ored at becoming a Distinguished Professor.

“Although I came to UVic only six years ago, I feel very much at home here, not only in business but across campus. This is a tremendous institution and I am very proud to serve it. I want to do all I can to help the university meet the needs of growing students.”

This August, Pinder will be one of the 12 Distinguished Professors at UVic and the highlight of my career.”

Distinguished professors are nomi-nated by their fac-culty and the final selection is made by the vice presi-dent academic. No more than three per cent of UVic regular faculty members can hold Distinguished Professorships at any time, and the positions are distributed among all faculties at the university.

Projects ranging from dementia patient care and health literacy to the benefits of a teleurn program for socially isolated older adults are the UVic recipients of more than $800,000 in the latest round of research grants from the Canadian Insti-tutes of Health Research (CIHR), announced last month.

UVic researchers are leading or co-leading the following funded projects:

Dr. Neena Chappel (centre on aging/sociology) receives $103,356 a year for three years to examine how dementia patients in long-term care facilities benefit from receiving individualized care—care that takes personaliy differences and personal likes and dislikes into account. The research will be conducted at 19 facilities in Greater Victoria, the Lower Mainland and the Okanagan.

Dr. Denise Courten-Fisher (cen-tre on aging/geography) and Kaoru Kobayashi (sociology) will use a one-year, $46,867 grant to conduct a pilot study of teleurban outreach intervention for socially isolated older adults in B.C. Socially isolated and lonely older adults populations are vulnerable to higher levels of service utilization and poorer health outcomes.

Dr. Irv Rootman (human & social development) and Deborah Begoray (curriculum & instruction) have been awarded $105,546 a year for three years to develop a measure-ment tool for Canadian middle and high schools to determine levels of health literacy among students. This includes examining the ability of young people to obtain and evaluate health information and fully partici-pate in the health care system.

Dr. Kellie Stejnhauer (centre on aging/nursing) receives $70,181 a year for three years to study commu-nication between cancer patients and their health care professionals from the perspective of the patient. By understanding how the needs, preferences and priorities of cancer patients change over time, Stejnhauer and her colleagues hope to improve communication between doctors and their patients.

“Craig is the true all-rounder, and his contributions are felt in virtually every area of the university”

New buildings continued from p.1

Audience: “I think I can speak for all of us when I say how welcome such new space will be. . . . the faculty of science has lacked the room to grow and increase its research and education through the recruitment of high-quality faculty members and aspiring graduate students. We simply have not had the room to expand and promote growth.”

Liza Levoska, an interdisciplinary master’s student in environment-al studies and geography, echoed Kevorin’s praises. She spoke of the difficulty in accessing the resources of the geomatics lab, located in a separate building from her cramped quarters in environmental studies.

“A new facility, where both faculty and technological resources are more physically accessible to students, will be a positive step in this regard.”

The planned science building will include 350-seat and 140-seat tiered lecture theatres. The researchers’ de-partments from Elliott will provide more room for other chemistry and physics programs. Without the new build-ing, extensive and costly ventilation renovations would soon be needed in Elliott to accommodate the synthetic chemistry program.

UVic’s new social sciences and mathematics building will include a 250-seat, a 140-seat and two 110-seat tiered lecture theatres. The univer-sity’s education services group will also move into the building. Space vacated in the Clearhouse Building by the mathematics and statistics department will give the faculty of humanities room to expand.

The new science building will be constructed adjacent to the Elliott Building. A new for the social sciences and mathematics building has not yet been approved. UVic is planning to complete the social sciences/math-ematics building by January 2008 and finish construction on the science building six months later.

The two new buildings are part of an extensive $120.5-million build-ing program at UVic to help the university meet the needs of growing student enrollment and research pro-grams acknowledged in among the best in the world.

UVic health researchers share more than $800,000 in funding

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Earthquakes and tsunamis in B.C.: what do we need to know?

The experts have been warning us for years that, sooner or later, a big earthquake will occur off the B.C. coast. What is the science behind that prediction? How would it compare to the major earthquakes off Sumatra? Would it produce a tsunami? And what can B.C. communities and individuals do to prepare and protect themselves?

Find out on Wednesday, May 4 at “Earthquake and Tsunami Hazards on Canada’s West Coast”, a special presentation co-sponsored by UVic’s centre for earth and ocean research and CH News.

The evening will feature a 20-minute news documentary on the science and history of earthquakes and tsunamis on the B.C. coast. Four informative talks will follow: Dr. Garry Rogers (Geological Survey of Canada); Dr. Fred Stephenson (Fisheries and Oceans Canada); Kevin Wallinger (Provincial Emergency Program); and Dr. Brian Bombold, co-chief scientist of NEPTUNE Canada.

Bombold will describe how the NEPTUNE undersea observatory project, led in Canada by UVic, will help us learn more about the occurrence of earthquakes and the processes that give rise to them, and give us an earlier warning and understanding of approaching tsunamis. Bombold has also done research on landslide-generated tsunamis, which he says are another natural hazard faced by coastal British Columbians.

The presentation takes place from 7–9 p.m. in the David Lam Auditorium in the MacLaurin Building. The event is free and open to the public, but seating is limited. For more information call 721-8848 or visit web.uvic.ca/ceo.\n
UVic faculty share in $23.8 million for research support

Thanks to the Canada Foundation for Innovation’s New Opportunities Fund, faculty members at UVic will soon be equipping labs to further their research.

The fund provides infrastructure support to newly recruited academic staff. It also helps universities attract high-caliber researchers in areas that are essential to their research objectives.

As UVic on March 10, Industry Minister David Emerson and Carmen Cherette, CFI senior vice-president, joined UVic President Dr. David Turpin to announce $23.8 million in funding to Canadian universities. $760,388 of which is coming to UVic.

“This funding strengthens Canada’s international research position,” says Turpin. “It helps UVic recruit and retain outstanding scientists whose research contributes to the betterment of all Canadians.”

The UVic researchers who received funding are:
- Dr. Badr Buckhout (mechanical engineering) receives $144,867 to build a small, remotely operated vehicle (ROV) system to test and develop advanced underwater vehicle technology. This technology is critical to maintaining Canada’s leading role in undersea exploration, and especially to the installation and maintenance of the VENUS and NEPTUNE ocean observatories, both led in Canada by UVic.
- Dr. Ranolje Ciganic (geography) receives $149,159 to create a marine visualization and spatial analysis lab for marine resources. The lab will test how GIS (geographic information systems) and other spatial technologies can help decision-makers manage resources, resolve user conflicts and protect key habitats in coastal areas.
- Dr. Laurent Cogean (earth & ocean sciences) receives $162,532 to equip a facility for the analysis of trace element abundance in Earth materials such as rocks, minerals and seawater. The facility will allow Cogean and his collaborators to continue their investigations into the chemical evolution of our planet.
- Dr. Jutta Gutherle (geography) receives $60,154 to establish a facility on sustainable community development. Using a variety of research tools, Gutherle and her colleagues will study theoretical frameworks for community development and how they can be translated into public policy. The primary focus will be on communities in Latin America, Asia and Africa.

Dr. Hendrik Hekstra (physics & astronomy) receives $83,920 to acquire computer resources for processing large amounts of astrophysical data. Hekstra, an observational cosmologist, is involved in a number of large international projects focusing on understanding the nature of dark matter and dark energy, two mysterious forces involved in the evolution of the universe.

Dr. David Sinton (mechanical engineering) receives $162,756 to establish a state-of-the-art microfluidic laboratory. Microfluidics is the manipulation of minute amounts of liquid in miniaturized systems, and has applications in the development of new biomedical devices and fuel cell technologies.

The B.C. Knowledge Development Fund is an equal matching partner in CFI projects.

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The Ring April 2005 Page 5
Chloe’s excellent adventure
A co-op student fundraises her way to a work term in Costa Rica

by Lynda Hills

Funding her own trip to work overseas in Costa Rica was a challenge, but UVic arts and writing co-op student Chloe Straw found a way to do it. Straw wanted to work and travel, so she conducted research on organizations that were involved in overseas community development, and sent a letter on one in Costa Rica called Youth Challenge International (YCI). Then she set to work.

The fee for three months in Costa Rica was $3,535, which covered building materials for the project. Straw took a multi-faceted approach to fundraising: Starting off with family assistance, she branched off to canvassing local businesses for support. Next, she networked with friends and contacts on campus and hosted a ‘Battle of the DJ’s’ event at Felicitas, which included a dance team performance. She then undertook a campus-wide bottle drive.

To help with her travel expenses Straw applied for, and won, the Graham Brand Endowment Fund. The $750 award supports co-op students who volunteer for placements overseas.

During her first five weeks in Costa Rica, Straw helped re-locate a retaining wall at a children’s rescue centre in Viera And. “It was pretty intense,” she says. “I’d never had such a physical task, but the kids who lived there were our continued motivation.” Straw’s second project took her near the Panamanian border and an eco-lodge called Casa Calateas in the small town of Carlton Dos. The group built a green filter to clean grey water coming from the kitchen and filter it into the jungle. They also built roads to improve the lodge’s accessibility and painted the lodge buildings.

As part of both projects Straw taught English to local communities, and while at Casa Calateas, she organized a conference for women and youth.

Straw believes the experience was important for her career goals and is now looking into a postgraduate program in international development. “I learned not to put limits on my own expectations because I did things on this project that I didn’t think I would even attempt to do,” she says. “It was easily the best thing that I’ve done.”

Straw at the children’s rescue centre in Costa Rica.

Qu and one of his photographs

Qu the credits
An international student develops a deeper appreciation of photography—and Canadian culture

by Lynda Hills

A s a small child in Shengyang, China, Leon Qu went with his father into the countryside every weekend to take pictures. Then, for his 12th birthday he received his own camera. He’s been experimenting with photography ever since. The UVic international student is now in his fourth year of a visual arts degree.

“I didn’t choose photography, photography chose me,” Qu says. Qu first studied sociology when he came to Canada, but soon realized that what he really wanted to do was take pictures. “Photography has altered my perspective about the world,” he says. “What I see from my eye is different from what I see through my camera.”

In an effort to put his skills to practical use, Qu joined the arts and writing co-op and completed a work term at Victoria’s Lens and Shutter photography store last summer.

Qu is impressed by Canada’s natural environment, the focus of much of his work. “The geographic landscape is very different here; the air is cleaner and the light very transparent. I especially love the sea,” he says.

Qu’s photographs are currently on display in the arts and writing co-op office and the co-op director’s office at the University Centre. “Visual art is really about what you see, but there are other, more important things that are behind a picture,” he says. “For me, photography is a bridge between the physical and internal worlds.”

International program provides real-world experience

by Lynda Hills

Promoting human rights and democracy in Thailand, improving the quality of life of people living with AIDS in the Pacific region, and protecting forest and marine resources in Micronesia—these are some of the eye-opening experiences gained by international students in Canada. UVic’s international internship program provides young people in Canada with overseas work experience and supports the work of UVic partners in the Asia-Pacific region.

“Through these kinds of placements young people have the opportunity to apply what they’ve learned in university and in a very practical and grounded way to complex issues,” says program officer Heidi Tyedmers.

Placements are for eight months, and usually start in June and end in February. The recruitment process is Canada-wide. Over the last two years, seven UVic students have been sent overseas.

Recently, four of last year’s interns took part in a joint panel presentation with CAPI and the Canadian-based international development organization, CUSO. They talked about their experiences in Thailand, Micronesia and the Cook Islands.

UVic education graduate Nathan Elliot worked in Bangkok, Thailand, with the Foundation for Child Development (FCD). Founded in 1982, FCD was one of the first organizations in Thailand to explore the issue of child labour. The foundation’s vision has since expanded to include a variety of initiatives to foster child development.

As child labour project officer, Elliot helped organize campaigns to raise awareness of child labour issues, and provided support to FCD’s community-based activities, and their communication and media relations initiatives.

“The experience gave me a look at a new career landscape,” says Elliot. The recent panel presentation brought together the separate programs of CAPI and CUSO in an effort to showcase both international programs and create more opportunities for interns after they return to Canada.

Participants learn a lot about themselves through these experiences,” says Tyedmers. “They develop a depth of confidence about their own abilities, and their ability to contribute in a meaningful way in diverse work environments.”

The CAPI international internship program is funded by Foreign Affairs Canada through the Young Professionals International program. For more information visit www.capi.uvic.ca or call 721-7020.
Nurse educator is UVic's newest dean

Dr. Mary Ellen Purkis, current director of the school of nursing, has been appointed dean of human and social development effective July 1.

A former practising nurse who received her RN and BSN from the University of Calgary and an MSc and PhD in nursing from the University of Edinburgh, Purkis joined UVic's school of nursing in 1993. She was appointed in director in 2001.

Prior to joining UVic, Purkis served as an assistant professor in the School of Nursing at the University of British Columbia and as an assistant professor in the School of Nursing at the University of British Columbia.

Purkis is a scholar in the area of nursing practice, education, and the effects of contemporary health promotion and self-care on nursing practice. She currently is the vice-chair of the Nursing Education Council of Canada and chairs the nominations committee for the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing.

Purkis is actively involved in graduate education, both as a supervisor and a committee member, and has an active program of ongoing research. She has considerable experience in distance and distributed education and has contributed to many administrative committees at the university.

"The search committee was impressed with Mary Ellen's intellectual capacity, breadth of experience, professionalism and commitment to the school, the faculty and the university," says Jane Zardo, vice-president academic and provost. "She's clearly dedicated to the advancement of teaching and scholarship in the university.

Budding filmmaker earns national kudos

by Lynda Hills

Experimenting with filmmaking has given UVic writing student Marjorie Celona another outlet for her creativity and it's paid off. The third-year writing student made a short movie for a film class at UVic which placed her as one of the finalists in the National Screen Institute's amateur movie contest, National Exposure.

The screenplay came from a story by UVic graduate Avi Lambert. Last year, Celona read one of Lambert's stories called, "The Monster Inside." For whatever reason, the story just stuck with me," she says.

Originally written as a children's story, "The Monster Inside" is a psychological drama between the man and his inner monster. "I found it to be a beautiful, quirky and visual piece of writing," Celona says.

She called the film "Georgie Monster and, taking the phrases that felt the most cinematic, adapted the story for the screen. Resources at UVic's studio for integrated media (SIM) allowed Celona to create her magic. The film uses voice-over narration with the Russian-accented talents of Alan Thain. One actor, Christopher Vickery, plays the main part.

"Christopher's very appealing to watch on film. I knew that for a film that followed one man, he could sustain the audience and the tension," she says.

When the movie was finished, Celona decided to enter Georgie Monster in the National Exposure contest. She was surprised to be one of the 12 finalists Canada-wide. Even though Georgie Monster wasn't the winner, the experience has been invigorating for her and Lambert.

"I am extremely happy with the movie's success, both for Marjorie and for the fact that people can identify with Georgie's story," says Lambert.

Celona received the best complement on the film from the co-ordinator of National Exposure. "She said that every time she watched the film, she found something new."
The Ring April 2005

Kudos and awards
wrap up busy Vikes season

by Lynda Hills

UVic Vikes athletes and coaches earned honours and respect last month for their gritty performances at home and on the road.

The men’s basketball team was seeded sixth heading into the semi-finals of the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) championship in Halina after winning the silver medal at the Canada West Final Four Championship. After a heartbreaking 62-60 loss to Brock University, UVic defended the University of Ottawa in the consolation round final.

As honorary chair, former UVic director of athletics Wayne MacDonald opened the tournament. MacDonald was recognized for his contributions to advancing Canadian university sport. During his time as athletic director from 1990-2004, UVic won 33 national titles.

The women’s basketball team also went to the national championships in Winnipeg, where they played against Université Laval for the bronze position. Laval won 60-47. Jody Potts was named Canada West defensive player-of-the-year, top defensive player in Canada, and a second-team all-star.

Vikes men’s basketball coach Craig Beaucamp and star guard Chris T rumpy received coach-of-the-year and defensive player-of-the-year honours at the 2004-2005 Canada West Championship respectively. CIS has renowned an award in honour of Kathy Shields, the long-time coach of the women’s Vikes basketball team. She presented the inaugural Kathy Shields Rookie of the Year Award at the CIS women’s basketball championship banquet in Winnipeg on March 15.

Shields coached for more than 20 seasons in CIS, and with the Canadian national team. She was a three-time CIS coach of the year and amassed a regular season record of 520 wins against 50 losses. Shields has recently stepped down from her coaching position due to ongoing medical reasons.

“This is a very sad day for me,” Shields said at an announcement attended by many of her former players. “I care deeply about the UVic program and have enjoyed 25 great coaching years at this school.”

Vikes Minch Gudjonson (basketball) and Stephanie Dixon (swimming) were also named Sport BC Athletes-of-the-Year. Gudjonson, in his first year with the Vikes, won in the high school male athlete-of-the-year category. Dixon won in the athlete-with-a-disability category for her eight-medal performance at the 2004 Paralympics in Athens, Greece.

Dixon was the first non-able-bodied swimmer to qualify for the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) Championship. She also broke her own record for swimmers with a disability in the 200-metre backstroke at the B.C. Seniors Swimming Championship.

At the same meet, Mackenzie Downings finished with a gold medal in the 200-metre butterfly. Veteran Dave Craig picked up third in the 400-metre individual medley and alumna Christiaan Fields added a bronze medal in the 100-metre breaststroke.

Institute investigates
energy options for remote community

by Maria Lippi

What do you do if you live in a remote community that has only one power source and it suddenly stops working?

That’s the question researchers in UVic’s Institute for Integrated Energy Systems (IESVic) are trying to answer in a two-year, $30,000 study sponsored by the Ministry of Energy and Mines.

The Huu-ay-aht First Nations community near Bamfield, a coastal village on the west coast of Vancouver Island, is ideally suited for such a study. And, if the Huu-ay-aht can generate their energy locally, it will create much-needed jobs and provide more autonomy.

To understand the current and future energy needs of the Huu-ay- aht, UVic’s engineering graduate student Christina Iannicelli spent last summer living in the village.

Iannicelli organized “energy activity days” to help residents become familiar with energy options. “We cooked hot dogs using solar energy, went on field trips, and participated in scavenger hunts,” she says. “It was a chance for me to meet members of the community and talk about their plans for the future. It was also a chance for the residents to get to know me.”

What Iannicelli discovered is that the village has a problem with the reliability of the power it receives from B.C. Hydro via a line from Port Alberni. Currently, it experiences as many as 50 outages annually averaging nine hours each.

The village is also interested in creating jobs and using energy more efficiently in its homes. This is especially timely as the main village of Ana’scl’a is being rebuilt and relocated to a higher location because of the possibility of damage from a tsunami. The village was severely damaged in a 1964 earthquake and the entire Ana’scl’a tribe, except for one person, was wiped out by a tsunami in the 1700s.

“As a result of Christina’s work we’ve come up with some ideas that have the potential to benefit the Huu-ay-aht economically and allow them to have consistent power,” says Dr. Peter Wild, IESVic’s acting director.

“For example, electrical storage may be the way to go for the community to ride out power outages. We’re also looking at using wind, micro-hydro and biomass energy.”

The IESVic team will present its recommendations to the Huu-ay-aht this summer.

“The timing of IESVic’s study is perfect,” says Tom Happynook, one of the hereditary chiefs and co-chief treaty negotiator for the Huu-ay-aht First Nations. “For the past six years we’ve been trying to build better homes for our families, as well as attempting to overcome the deficiencies in the current energy source from B.C. Hydro. This project and IESVic’s recommendations will help provide more rationale which we can take to the Department of Indian Affairs.”

Founded in 1989, IESVic is a leader in the promotion and development of creative energy alternatives through original research. With a successful track record in research collaboration, IESVic works with industrial partners across Canada and globally on all aspects of sustainable energy systems.

IESVic’s areas of expertise include fuel cells, biofuels, energy systems analysis and energy policy development. For more information visit www.iesvic.uvic.ca.
writing student wins coveted literary award

by Lynda Hills

UVic writing student Devin Krukoff had no idea that a trip to Nebraska would win him the Journey Prize.”

“I trained a distant family member and the dynamic there was so bizarre. It was the fourth of July and they had the radio tuned up to a baseball game and the entire stadium started humming ‘Take me out the ball game’ on kansas,” says. “I was a native of the region between the U.S. and Canada before that day.”

In March, the UVic master’s student won the coveted literary award for the short story “The Last Spark,” which came out of the trip. “Every once in a while it occurs to me that I’ve won the Journey Prize,” Krukoff says. “I can’t believe it.”

The $10,000 award, sponsored by the Writers’ Trust of Canada and Millennium/Stockle publishers, is given to a new and developing writer of distinction for a short story published in a Canadian literary journal.

Each year, literary journals in Canada forward three exceptional stories to the Writers’ Trust, and a dozen stories Canada-wide are selected for the Journey Prize anthology. The final winner is chosen from this anthology.

For Krukoff, even more pleasing is the fact that it’s the first story he’s published. “The Last Spark” was originally published in Grain, a journal that comes out of Saskatchewan. “I was surprised to even get into the anthology,” he says.

One of the winning perks was an all-expenses-paid trip to Toronto to receive the award. Celebrations involved a dinner the night before with authors including Alice Munro. Krukoff says he was somewhat nervous around the illustrious company, and especially Munro.

“She had this glow of celebrity about her,” Krukoff says. “It was a little daunting being around all that talent, but everyone was very gracious and kind.”

Previous winners of the prize include Yann Martel, author of Life of Pi. “As far as predecessors go,” Krukoff says, “that’s pretty good company to be in.”

By next year, Krukoff plans to finish his master’s thesis, which is a novel and collection of short fiction. “I’ve been humbled” by the award, he says.

The number of aboriginal students is increasing on campus, but UVic wants to attract even more. The university also wants to improve their opportunities for academic success.

Last summer a pilot study on postsecondary access and retention of aboriginal students, led by UVic psychologists Dr. Chris Lalonde, revealed several potential areas of focus. The university is now looking for feedback on suggested initiatives the university would like to implement by the fall.

The pilot study, funded by the Millennium Scholarship Foundation of Canada, focused on three main areas: on-campus consultation and information gathering about what UVic is currently doing for aboriginal students; an examination of programs and services offered at other postsecondary institutions; and consultation with current, and former UVic students, First Nations community representatives and UVic faculty and staff members.

“Our research steering group was very aware that the short time-line did not provide sufficient time for the extensive consultation the project required,” says Lalonde who now shares co-investigator duties with Roger John, the aboriginal student advisor in human and social development.

“We now want to do more extensive consultation on the four potential programs and intervention options that we developed.”

Aboriginal students, staff, faculty and alumni along with aboriginal community leaders, educators, counsellors and organizations, will be consulted in the coming weeks on the following initiatives:

- A peer mentorship program; direct financial support for students in the form of bursaries; research apprenticeships; and community internships to bring students, communities and university researchers together to focus on community-driven projects.

- The Ring April 2005

Dr. Alec Mccarter, a faculty member in biochemistry and microbiology from 1960-65, died Feb. 14 in Victoria. A retired UBC scientist, his career was as biochemist and author of over 50 scientific articles earned him many accolades, including the Queen’s Silver Jubilee Medal in 1977. While

serving as head of biochemistry at Dalhousie University from 1950-65 he was instrumental in establishing the division of medical research at the National Research Council and its transition into the Medical Research Council of Canada. In 1965 he joined the University of Western Ontario as director of the National Cancer Institute of Canada’s cancer research laboratory, where his team was the first to describe an important mammary tumor virus. The last years of Ricard’s life were spent at UBC, (1983) where he continued basic research in environmental toxicology. A quiet man, the family will be missed by all who knew him.

Contributed by friend and colleague Bob Duflo.
Grad student wins national scholarship award

by Lynda Hills

After growing up in the polluted climate of Mexico City and Toronto, Daphne Eerkes-Medrano has appreciation of clean air and nature. “Coming to Victoria was so amazing,” she says. “It seems so much more of the environment there is here.” She says, “I fell in love with it.”

Now the UVic graduate student in marine biology will extend that love overseas as she explores the ocean depths of other countries. Eerkes-Medrano is the winner of a 2005 Julie Payette Research Scholarship from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), worth $23,000. She’s one of 24 winners across the country.

The scholarship is named after Canadian astronaut Julie Payette, who “embodies the leadership qualities and excellence that NSERC is seeking to encourage and support.” Winners are chosen for their outstanding academic excellence, research ability and potential, as well as their leadership and communication skills.

Eerkes-Medrano credits her lifelong love of biology, the support of her teachers, and the UVic co-op program in getting her where she is today. “I think it was a really good idea that I had my first taste of research in co-op,” she says. “If it wasn’t for that experience I wouldn’t have known I liked it.”

Since graduating with a BSc in marine biology in 2004, Eerkes-Medrano has gained experience in and out of the lab. “I wanted to go abroad, so I looked for every scholarship that enabled me to gain research experience from an international institution,” she says. “That way I can bring the knowledge back to B.C.”

Too busy? Connect online. telus.com/student

Around thering

UVic families receive emergency help

UVic student families in need can now access emergency funds from the UVic Family Centre. “Whether it’s an illness, a loan not arriving when we expected, or any kind of emergency, the centre’s emergency fund can help,” says Barb Whittington (social work), the family member responsible for the centre. “Up to $500 is available on short notice, with a minimum of paperwork, to meet unexpected family emergencies.” The centre’s community advisory group administrates the fund according to guidelines developed together with student families. The decision to provide emergency funding will be made on a case-by-case basis and only in exceptional circumstances will a student family receive funds more than once in a six-month period. “The families have told us that this kind of ‘no shame help’ would take some of the debilitating pressure off when things go sideways and there’s nowhere to turn,” says Whittington. To make a donation or for more information contact the centre staff at 472-4682 or familycentre@uvic.ca.

Law students test their client counselling skills

Two UVic law students represented Canada when the American Bar Association held its World Client Counselling Competition in Hawaii this month. Stephanie Mitchell and Barry Robins, along with co-coach UVic law sessional instructor Shane Perks, were the only Canadian team to win regional honours earlier this year. That sent them to the North American finals at the Chapman School of Law in Orange, California in March where they placed third. The competition tests the students’ abilities to communicate with clients, identify their concerns and come up with possible solutions—all within a tight deadline. “The subject matter of this year’s competition is sports and entertainment law,” says the team’s co-coach, law professor Andrew Pirie. “The team is presented with brief scenarios and given 30 minutes to conduct a meeting with their clients, realistically portrayed by actors, while being observed by judges. Then the team has 15 minutes to discuss how the interview went and talk about realistic follow-up tasks.” Each team participates in several preliminary rounds, with the teams judged to be the best advancing to semi-final and final rounds. In Hawaii, the UVic students competed against teams from 15 countries.

Recycle your way to a healthy body

UVic students who want to blend ecology with exercise now have another option. The UVic bike bursary program SPOKES (Student Promotion of Kickstands Etc. Salvaging) is gearing up for its annual bike fleet giveaway this month and is accepting applications for bikes now. “The program combines waste diversion with volunteering and is an excellent opportunity for students to be introduced to the benefits of commuter cycling,” says sustainability co-ordinator Sarah Webb. “It’s recycling at its best.”

Three times a year, volunteers recondition old bikes, check them for safety, and then SPOKES gives them away to eligible UVic students. Begun in 2003 and funded through the UVic Students’ Society (UVSS) and the UVic sustainability project (UVSP), the bursary program is an excellent opportunity for students to be introduced to the benefits of commuter cycling, a look, and a subsidized cycling helmet for $20. Application forms can be downloaded from the UVSS or UVSP websites.

Family Centre.

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Family Centre.
Calendar highlights

Events free unless otherwise indicated. For a complete list of events, see www.uvic.ca/events

### At the Galleries

[www.maltwood.ca](http://www.maltwood.ca)

**Changing Hands: British watercolours from the 18th and 19th centuries**

April 21–June 26
Maltwood Art & Gallery

**Visions of the West Coast**

Celebrating the creative expression of artists living or working in the Alberni Valley region.

Works collected by artist and teacher Robert Aller. Until May 1
McPherson Library Gallery

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**Auctioneer founder wins entrepreneur award**

by Dianne George

Dare Ritchie, chairman of Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers, the world’s largest industrial auctioneer, has been named a Distinctive Entrepreneur. 

The annual award acknowledges an inspirational entrepreneur who has had a significant and positive influence on his or her business leadership.

Ritchie is a real inspiration,” says David Schneider, chair of the board of advisors. “He’s a role model of entrepreneurial leadership for the business community and for our students.”

Ritchie grew up in Kelowna where, working with his brothers, he built his father’s used furniture store into a global leader among industrial auctioneers. Ritchie Bros. is listed on the Toronto and New York stock exchanges and achieved gross auction sales in 2004 of approximately $1.71 billion, a 14 per cent increase over 2003.

Nominations for the award were considered by a five-person panel made up of members of the faculty’s board of advisors. It was chaired by Peter Gustavsson, president and CEO of Custom Home Global Foreign Exchange. The panel reviewed nominations based on a set of criteria including vision, entrepreneurial drive, and impact on the Canadian and global economies.

Ritchie will be presented with the award at a gala ceremony on May 25 at the Victoria Conference Centre. For more information visit www.business.uvic.ca/deya or call 721-6406.
A UVic research team tracks the effects of climate change in Canada's warming Arctic

by Shannon McCallum

It's possible that the coldest and least inhabited regions on Earth could influence the course of global warming? “Definitely,” says an international team of Arctic experts.

UVic geographer Dr. Terry Prowse is a member of this team and one of the lead authors of the Arctic Climate Impacts Assessment, which this month publishes its full scientific report detailing the impacts and consequences of climate change in the Arctic.

Climate scientists agree that without any reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, the Earth's surface temperature is projected to rise about three degrees Celsius by the year 2100. This warming won't be uniform.

Some regions could undergo slight cooling, but the Arctic will likely see drastic warming two or three times the global average.

The potential impacts on the Arctic—some of which are already occurring—are severe. And the consequences will be felt worldwide, warns Prowse.

“The changes will quicken the pace of global warming and intensify its impacts throughout the world. Not only will melting sea ice and glaciers increase global sea levels, but shrinking areas of reflective ice and snow will lead to more sunlight being absorbed by the exposed water and land, further heating up the planet,” Prowse says.

Prowse is a hydrologist who studies cold, freshwater systems. He holds the research chair in climate impacts on water resources, based in UVic's geography department. He also heads the Water and Climate Impacts Research Centre (W-CIRC), jointly sponsored by UVic and Environment Canada. The centre conducts interdisciplinary research on the impact of climate on Canadian and global water resources.

“Canada is a major study area for Prowse and his research team. ‘The Arctic is our canary in the coal mine,’ he says. ‘Since the Arctic is warming faster than the rest of the globe it makes sense to look here for the earliest signs of climate change.”

To keep an eye on these changes, Prowse has enlisted UVic graduate student Megan Thompson to work on the Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line for climate change, an Environment Canada-funded project that will monitor 22 lakes across the Canadian Arctic.

The team will track changes in temperature, nutrient availability, water budgets and lake ecosystems, creating a permanent record of how the lakes respond to changes in the regional environment.

The DEW Line project is a first for Canada and will provide valuable insights into how northern ecosystems and water resources react to environmental stresses such as pipeline construction, dam building and, of course, climate change.

“This is frontier science,” says Prowse. “We really don’t know what the effects of climate change on these systems will be, but we know they’ll be important.”

Among the key findings of the Arctic Climate Impacts Assessment:

• Arctic climate is now warming rapidly and much larger changes are projected.

• Arctic warming and its consequences have worldwide implications.

• Multiple influences will alter Arctic ecosystems, pushing some species toward extinction.

• Indigenous communities in the Arctic will face major economic and cultural impacts.

Loss of snow and freshwater ice will produce major changes in the ecological health of Arctic lakes and rivers. It will also affect global climate, biological diversity and the dispersal of contaminants originating from southern latitudes.

Loss of sea ice could provide economic benefits by making the Arctic's treasured resources, such as oil and gas, more accessible. But the benefits could be outweighed by environmental damage resulting from resource extraction and shipping.

The Water and Climate Impacts Research Centre (W-CIRC) places UVic in the forefront of climate and water-related research in Canada. It complements the work of UBC's climate modelling lab, which studies past, present and future climates, and the university's water and watershed research program, which conducts research related to ecosystem and human health, fisheries, agriculture, climate and politics.

For more information on W-CIRC visit office.geog.uvic.ca/w-circ.

A UVic research team tracks the effects of climate change in Canada’s warming Arctic

by Lyndsay Hills

An aeronautical engineer with expertise in how mechanical, electrical engineering and computer science intersect will be UVic's first associate dean of research in the faculty of engineering. Dr. Afzal Suleman starts his term in the newly created position on May 1.

“Dr. Suleman is an excellent choice as our first associate dean of research,” says Dr. Michael Miller, dean of engineering. “The position will contribute to the growth of the research activity, diversity funding support for research, and provide mentorship for the talented, new faculty members who have recently joined us.”

In his new position, Suleman will co-ordinate research proposals, cultivate new research partners, oversee publicity materials, and promote research activity within the faculty. He'll also seek funds and equipment for research infrastructure and serve as the principal liaison between engineering and other departments and faculties.

Suleman earned a BSc and MSc in aeronautical engineering at Imperial College in London, England, and a PhD in mechanical/aerospace engineering at UBC. He studied space sciences at the International Space University in Japan, and completed postdoctoral research work at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in the U.S.

Before joining UVic in 2000, he was an assistant professor at Instituto Superior Tecnico in Portugal. Currently, he's an associate fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society, an international aerospace engineering organization.

By Lyndsay Hills

Engineering creates new research position

There’s no secret to our winning formula.
We provide you with all the products you need.
We help you simplify your purchasing process.
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We are a single source for all your office needs.
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On this page:

DIANA NETHERCOTT

Page 12 The Ring April 2005