



## Awards celebrate UVic's outstanding staff

by Lynda Hills

Three individuals and a 14-member team have won the third annual President's Distinguished Service Awards.

The awards were created in 2002 to honour the achievements of UVic's 4,000 staff members.

"These awards celebrate the outstanding contributions of university employees to the betterment of the university and our community," says UVic President Dr. David Turpin. "But more than that, they recognize the importance of all UVic employees who through their hard work and dedication have made this the outstanding institution that it is today."

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

This year, the selection committee received 60 nominations for the Award for Distinguished Service and 13 nominations for the Team Award for Innovation. Each recipient received a plaque during a ceremony held in December.

The individual winners are Dr. David Berry (chemistry), Roger John (human & social development) and Darlene Pouliot (history in art).

The team award goes to the expertise database group which consists of Allan Berezny and Alyssa Grace (development), Nieves Forcada, Jane Mertz, Janine Olariu and Beth Rea (office of the vice president research), Rogier Gruys and Dave Wolowicz

(communications), Patricia Maedel (office of the vice president academic), Katy Nelson (library), Sabine Schuerholz-Lehr (international affairs), and Garry Sagert, Corey Scholefield and Morven Wilson (computing and systems services).

**Dave Berry** has been at UVic for more than 27 years, and his work as a senior laboratory instructor in the chemistry department has forged an important link between teaching and research. Colleagues cite his consistent commitment to people, quality, community and resources.

"Dave's leadership, extensive expertise in teaching, and approachable and down-to-earth manner are among his greatest assets," says Dr. Aaron Devor, dean of graduate studies.

Berry also takes a student advocacy role as associate director of teaching assistant development in the learning and teaching centre. His responsibilities include working with graduates

SEE AWARDS P.5



Berry



Medical students (left to right) Stephen Burgess, Averil Russell, Michelle Tousignant and Patrizia Moccia celebrate the opening of their new Island Medical Program home.

DIANA NETHERCOTT

## New medical building throws open its doors

by Beth Haysom

Flanked by dignitaries and doctors-to-be, Premier Gordon Campbell opened UVic's Medical Sciences Building on Dec. 10 and ceremonially launched undergraduate medical training on Vancouver Island.

"We've never educated physicians here before; it's time we changed that. I can't tell you how pleased I am that this is happening," Campbell told a packed audience in the building's spanking new lecture theatre.

The building, with its state-of-the-art equipment, puts UVic at the leading edge of providing medical education and better health care for the people of British Columbia, commented Campbell.

The new equipment was put to immediate use as many of the 230 guests overflowed to a second lec-

ture theatre, set up with widescreen monitors.

As well as the premier, ministers Shirley Bond and Colin Hansen, members of the UVic executive and board of governors, and medical leaders came to celebrate UVic's achievement in successfully establishing a home base for the Island Medical Program (IMP).

The IMP—part of the UBC faculty of medicine's new, province-wide MD undergraduate program—has come about thanks to the vision of the provincial government and key collaborations between the universities and the medical community, said Dr. Gavin Stuart, dean of UBC's medical school.

It's part of a long-term strategy to help ease regional shortages of doctors, particularly in medium-sized, small and rural communities

such as those on Vancouver Island. It will also nearly double the number of medical undergraduates in the province by 2010.

"This is a great day for health care on Vancouver Island," said UVic President Dr. David Turpin. "I'm proud of the central role this university is playing in providing more doctors on Vancouver Island and across the province."

"UVic's expertise in biomedical sciences, as well as the strength of its centres on aging and aboriginal people's health are among the assets here that will give students exposure to a wide range of medical issues and practices."

Turpin joined the premier and UVic Chancellor Ron Lou-Poy in unveiling a plaque commemorating

SEE IMP BUILDING P.3

## Campus traffic patterns changing, audit shows

UVic commuters are taking the bus more, taking their cars less and are even resorting to skateboards to make it to class, according to the latest campus traffic audit.

The 2004 audit, conducted by Bunt and Associates in mid-October, "is a snapshot of where the campus is at in terms of transit usage, car ridership and bicycle commuting," says Sarah Webb, UVic's sustainability co-ordinator.

UVic has been conducting traffic audits every four years since 1992. The latest data shows that traffic to campus has declined 13 per cent since 2000 while cycling trips have risen by 12 per cent in the same period.

For the first time, less than 50 per cent of the trips to campus were in a single occupancy vehicle while transit ridership has increased by 33

per cent over 2000 levels, representing over one quarter of the trips made to campus.

The 2004 audit was the first one to measure trips to campus by skateboarders and rollerbladers and also documented the number of UVic employees who work from alternative locations.

Webb says the addition of nearly 400 residence rooms at UVic this fall has already had an impact on traffic to campus. "Parking pass sales are generally down this year. We can definitely correlate the difference to the addition of on-campus housing."

She says the data from this latest audit is encouraging and will further assist the university in implementing transportation demand management initiatives that encourage and reward sustainable travel behaviour.

## CIBC gift assists transition to workforce

by Chris Thackray

The shift from campus life to the working world is sometimes difficult for students, but a \$500,000 gift over five years from CIBC to UVic career services will make that easier.

The gift will support the development of the applied career transitions project. This five year pilot project is targeted at recent UVic graduates, not current students, and guides them through their transition into the labour market. In recognition of the gift, the library in career services will be named the CIBC Career Resource Library.

"This gift will allow us to continue developing the programs and services that our graduates need to make the

successful change from their studies into meaningful and productive careers," says Jennifer Margison, manager of career services. The program provides graduates with the guidance they need to build professional relationships and networks that are the foundations of a career.

"Our students are faced with so many questions when they graduate. 'What can I do with my degree? Where do I start to look? How do I get my foot in the door without any experience?' Thanks to CIBC's gift, we can provide support and coaching for new grads as they begin building their professional working lives," adds Margison.

SEE CIBC GIFT P.2

## Tsunami aid planned

Like the rest of the world, UVic students, staff and faculty returned to classes saddened and shocked by the images of devastation caused by the Boxing Day tsunamis in South Asia. At press time, several campus groups were discussing fundraising initiatives. Check the UVic homepage at [www.uvic.ca](http://www.uvic.ca) over the next few weeks for more details.

UVic co-op had contacted students in the affected regions to ensure that those who had stayed in the areas over Christmas break were safe. Several international students who arrived on campus this month come from countries that were hardest hit. They were offered assistance through counselling services, the interfaith chaplaincy and international exchange student services.

Men’s soccer team raises championship banner

UVic athletics kicks off the new year with a tribute to the Vikes men’s soccer team, the 2004 Canadian Interuniversity Sport champions. The team will be honoured with a banner-raising ceremony on Jan. 7 in the McKinnon Gym during the half time of the men’s basketball game. The men’s soccer squad captured their fourth title—their first since 1996—with a 3-1 victory over McGill University in November. Fifth-year midfielder Sean Battistoni was named Adidas player of the game and voted by coaches as tournament MVP. Vikes goalkeeper Trevor Stiles was named as a first-team All Canadian.

Find out what it’s like to be a refugee

Can you imagine what it would be like to leave friends and family in Canada and live in a strange country where you don’t even know the language? Now’s your chance to find out. The World University Service of Canada (WUSC) is challenging the public to live the life of a refugee for a day by holding a camp simulation in front of the McPherson Library. The event will focus on public awareness by creating mock feelings of intimidation, confusion, anger, disempowerment and hopelessness in the minds of the participants—experiences common to a refugee. The two-day event starts at noon on Jan. 6 and continues until the evening of Jan. 7. For more information, contact Ashley Holland at ashleyh@uvic.ca.

Alumni travel program showcases 2005 trips

The UVic Alumni and Friends Travel Program will host a Travel Expo on Jan. 20 starting at 4:30 p.m. and continuing to 9 p.m. in the Cadboro Commons (Arbutus/Queenswood rooms). The program’s travel partners—Merit Travel and University Travel—will be on hand to offer details and answer questions about their 2005 offerings. Available options range from weekend getaways to extended cruises. A portion of revenue generated by tour bookings helps support students and alumni programs.

The write stuff en français

Francophone and francophile students from across UVic will revel in the French language for 24 hours beginning Jan. 21 as part of the second annual Writing Marathon. During the marathon, participants will use their knowledge of the French language to create literary texts in a series of workshops held by French-language and literature professors. Marathon participants will share a potluck dinner and breakfast and recharge their creativity with a late night swim and morning activity before writing their final words on Jan. 22. The marathon is an opportunity to learn and practise different techniques of creative writing and meet new people. For more information and to register, visit web.uvic.ca/~lnpoulin/PW401/Assignments/Assignment\_3/Home/wmportal.htm.

History revealed by melting glaciers

Besides contributing to environmental change, melting glaciers are also solving historical mysteries. In an upcoming Women Scholars lecture “Melting Glaciers and Emerging Histories in the Saint Elias Mountains: Memories of the Little Ice Age,” Dr. Julie Cruikshank, professor emerita from UBC’s department of anthropology and sociology, will discuss new knowledge gained through melting glaciers in the Saint Elias range between Alaska and the Yukon. In Canada’s far northwest, glaciers figure prominently in both indigenous oral traditions and in the work of geophysical scientists. Cruikshank will explore questions about local knowledge, colonial encounters, environmental change and the imaginative force that glaciers exert in this region. The lecture takes place on Jan. 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the Strong Building, room C103.

Conference seeks nominations for outstanding UVic women

Members of the campus community are invited to put forward names for the UVic Women’s Conference Recognition Awards. Nominees should meet some or all of the following criteria: leadership; contribution and impact on UVic and its communities; and outstanding performance in her role in the UVic community. The nomination deadline is 4 p.m., Jan. 13. The goal of the Feb. 16 UVic Women’s Conference is the education and personal development of UVic women—students, staff, alumni or faculty. The keynote speaker is swimmer Stephanie Dixon, UVic student and Paralympic medal winner. For more information call 721-8050 or visit web.uvic.ca/womennet/.

CIBC gift continued from p.1

“In an increasingly competitive global economy, ensuring that students and graduates successfully make the transition into the labour market is integral to Canada’s future prosper-

ity,” says John Webber, director of commercial banking at CIBC. “CIBC strongly believes in investing in programs that help young Canadians reach their full potential.

Through this investment in UVic’s career services program and resources we hope to help students overcome some of the barriers they face when trying to enter today’s workforce”



DON PIERCE

Rose

New stewardship officer seeks to strengthen links with donors

by Chris Thackray

While fundraisers emphasize the importance of asking for support, UVic’s new officer of donor recognition and stewardship knows that showing gratitude and staying connected are just as important.

“It’s vital that we keep donors connected to the benefits their gifts bring,” says Marg Rose, who came from Winnipeg in November to take up the new donor recognition position in UVic’s development office.

“Marg is a great addition to our team,” says Birgit Castledine, director of central development in external relations. “Our donors are central to UVic’s position as one of Canada’s top-ranked universities, and donor recognition and stewardship is a vital part of the service we provide to our supporters.”

Rose has more than 20 years experience with college, corporate and non-profit organizations. As former executive director of Literacy Partners of Manitoba (LPM), she helped raise over \$4 million for research and services for adult learners in Manitoba. Her organizational skills helped LPM win the Canada Post Literacy Community Leadership award in 2001.

In 2003 she was called to the

House of Commons to act as policy advisor to federal officials. During her tenure with LPM, she achieved a 300 per cent increase in revenue and doubled its membership base. She’ll soon complete her master’s in adult education at St. Francis Xavier University.

“I’ve been making the case for supporting education for a long time,” says Rose. “UVic’s donors and supporters know the value of higher education. I want to strengthen their connection to our university’s mission and strategic plan. We want to provide a first-class education to people of all ages.”


For Rose, people always come first. “Future development is based on one-to-one, personal relationships. People give to people, not to institutions. So my first task is to listen, to find out what donors want from us as their lives change. I hope to help our team develop meaningful ways to help donors feel appreciated by UVic.”

She acknowledges that UVic already has a number of outreach and donor relations programs. “UVic is doing great things in these areas. Now we’re focusing even more time and resources to make sure our supporters are appreciated on an individual level.”

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# Ringers

Things are flowing in the right direction for UVic's facilities management. The university has received the Capital Regional District EcoStar Award in the category of urban watershed quality. Lieutenant Governor Iona Campagnolo presented the award to facilities management director **Jerry Robson** and sustainability co-ordinator **Sarah Webb** in November. The EcoStar award honours individuals, groups or organizations that have shown a commitment to areas related to urban watersheds. UVic was recognized for the development of its integrated storm water management plan, and for its implementation of best management practices in both new developments and retrofits.

UVic's associate vice president legal affairs **Mary Anne Waldron** was among 30 distinguished B.C. lawyers appointed Queen's Counsel in December. The QC designation is an honour conferred on members of the legal profession to recognize exceptional merit and contribution. Appointments require that nominees demonstrate professional integrity and good character, and be a member of the B.C. bar for at least five years. Waldron has been a faculty member in UVic's law school since 1976, served as associate dean of law from 1988 to 1990, and was acting dean from 1993 to 1994. She's a former master teacher award winner and has served on several university committees.

Dr. **Harold Coward** (centre for studies in religion and society) has been elected president of Academy II of the Royal Society of Canada for a two-year term. Academy II, or the Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences, is designed to recognize excellence in the arts, humanities and social sciences. UVic has 36 current and former faculty members who are fellows of the Royal Society of Canada.

Biology PhD student **Chris Darimont** has won the Animal Action Award for Compassion in Science from the International Fund for Animal Welfare. Darimont, who shares the award with his research partner, Chester Starr (Lone Wolf) of the Heiltsuk Nation, uses non-invasive techniques to study wolves and predator-prey relationships in B.C.'s Great Bear Rainforest. The project is funded by the Raincoast Conservation Society. Darimont is also an outspoken critic of lethal and invasive wildlife management practices such as predator control and wolf sterilization.

**Marnie Swanson**, university librarian since 1988, has won the 2004 Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Alberta Library and Information Studies Alumni Association. Swanson was one of the first graduates of U of A's library studies program and has devoted more than three decades of her time and energy to the Canadian library community.

Former UVic chancellor Dr. **Norma Mickelson** was among 14 individuals named honorary citizens by the City of Victoria in December for their contributions to the city. "Collectively, these citizens have demonstrated exemplary leadership and public service," said Victoria mayor Alan Lowe. Mickelson was the first female academic dean at a major Canadian university, UVic's first advisor on equity issues, and the university's first female chancellor (1996-2002).

UVic's Dr. **Arif Babul** (physics & astronomy) was named Canadian Astronomer of the Month for December 2004 and January 2005 by the Canadian Astronomical Society. A feature on Babul on the organization's educational website ([www.cas-caeducation.ca](http://www.cas-caeducation.ca)) included background information on his research interests, why he studies and works in Canada, and why he chose to work at UVic. "With active high-calibre researchers, a reputation of being the highest impact astronomy and astrophysics group in Canada, and the drawing power to attract top-notch graduate students, UVic is a 'happenin' place," he says.

Dr. **Angelika Arend** (Germanic & Russian studies) is the winner of the Walter Bauer-Preis award, presented by the German cities of Merseburg and Leuna, for her writing on German-Canadian writer and poet Walter Bauer. Arend has written a book in English and German on Bauer's lyric poetry and a number of articles and lectures on aspects of his work and thought.

## UVic achieves another top three finish

UVic has emerged from the university rankings season with yet another top three finish, this time in the annual university accountability survey by professors in Wilfrid Laurier University's school of business and economics.

UVic finished third out of 46 Canadian universities ranked on their accountability to the public in 26 different categories. UVic was the only B.C. university to make the top 12.

The accountability survey rates the depth, clarity and quality of publicly available university in-

formation on everything from its mission statement and performance targets to detailed financial statements and research summaries.

UVic's success in the accountability survey follows a third-place finish in the comprehensive category of the annual *Maclean's* ranking of Canadian universities, a third-place finish among comprehensive universities across the country in the *ReSearch Infosource* measure of research activity, and an A- overall grade for education in the *Globe and Mail* national university report card.

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Left to right: Oscar Casiro, associate dean of IMP; Premier Gordon Campbell; Colin Hansen, former Minister of Health Services (now Finance); Eric Donald, chair of the board of governors; Greg Sam, member of the Tsartlip First Nation; UVic President David Turpin; UVic Chancellor Ron Lou-Poy; and Shirley Bond, former Minister of Advanced Education (now Health Services).

### IMP building opened continued from p.1

the event. Eric Donald, chair of UVic's board of governors, was emcee. Greg Sam, a member of the Tsartlip First Nation, welcomed guests with a traditional prayer and greeting.

The program has already evoked a strong community response, said Dr. Oscar Casiro, associate dean of IMP and head of UVic's medical sciences division. "We've been extremely successful in attracting local physicians to leadership and teaching positions."

The first 24 IMP students start their classes this month. At full capacity, the building will house 96

medical students.

At the building opening ceremony, student Dave Harris thanked the medical community of Vancouver Island for supporting the program. "In the next few months we look forward to meeting many of you and hope that we can match your commitment and energy in teaching us with equal enthusiasm as learners who care about health care in this region," he said.

It's full circle for 24-year-old Harris, who represents the IMP as vice president of the graduating class of 2008. He was born at the Royal Jubilee

Hospital and worked there as a candy-striper when he decided in Grade 10 that he wanted to become a doctor.

Nine of the first class of IMP medical students, who were doing final labs at UBC in the morning, dropped their textbooks, hopped onto a Helijet and arrived in the nick of time to participate in the afternoon ceremony.

Several of the students, who became instant celebrities at the reception following the ceremony, told reporters that they were planning to stay and practise on Vancouver Island when they graduate.

## Alumna heads campus planning and sustainability office

After 15 years of planning experience in areas as diverse as Toronto and the Okanagan, UVic alumna Tracy Corbett is back on campus. She's guiding implementation of the university's campus plan as UVic's new director of campus planning and sustainability.

Corbett sits on both the campus planning committee (CPC), a policy body, and the facilities development and sustainability committee (FDSC), responsible for operations. She reports to Jerry Robson, executive director of facilities management.

"There's no shortage of issues to be addressed as a result of the campus plan and the report of the planning review team, called the Hanen re-

port," says Corbett. "Some of the more immediate tasks include developing a consultation process and a set of principles for public involvement to guide future planning."

She's also working with committee members and adjacent municipalities to develop a strategy for dealing with parking needs as the university redevelops lots within the Ring Road for academic uses.

"I was pleased to see the strong commitment to sustainability and 'smart growth' principles articulated in the campus plan," says Corbett. "I think the university is well-positioned to become a model of sustainable and green development."

Some of the projects suggested in the campus plan—that Corbett

will be working on in the near future—include the Village Centre, the Southwest Quadrant Study, and future options for the CJVI lands, the large open area bordering on Cedar Hill Cross Road to the east of University Drive.

Corbett holds an undergraduate degree from UVic in geography and economics and a master's degree in science in planning from the University of Toronto. She started out working for Metro Toronto and has done stints with the central Okanagan Regional District, the city of Calgary and the Capital Regional District. Corbett has also been employed in the social services field as a consultant in social research and program evaluation.



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Malaysian field school guide Kumaradevan Saminathan with UVic biology students.

## It's a jungle out there

What better place to study tropical biodiversity than in the tropics?

by Lynda Hills

"In the tropics everything is different from the time you step off the plane until the time you come back," says UVic biology instructor Yousuf Ebrahim.

Last summer Ebrahim and nine biology students journeyed to the Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) to attend UVic's first biology field school. For six weeks, he and the students lived and worked on campus or in the Malaysian jungle.

"One day you're sleeping in nice clean comfortable sheets and the next day you're sleeping on the ground in the jungle," Ebrahim says.

In addition to academic and cultural experience, students earned credit for two UVic courses: tropical biodiversity and tropical field ecology. Requirements to attend the field school were completion of the core biology program, and third-year standing. Several information and orientation sessions took place beforehand.

"Students learned a lot about tropical biology. They spent time in class, lectures, labs and also did a lot of field work," Ebrahim says. "The school went day and night, and if condi-

tions were right we went out. This way, students experienced the trials and tribulations of working in the bush. For example, you might come across a plant that looks very innocent and then you're told 'Careful don't touch, it's poisonous.'"

Because students from the Malaysian university were enjoying their holiday season, several USM professors taught the biology courses. Many of them were trained in the U.K., the U.S., Canada and Australia. "It's good to have our students exposed to the international scene and to know what's going on in other countries, particularly in terms of resource management," says Ebrahim.

"Field schools are an exciting way to explore the world and give students a combined academic and experiential learning experience," agrees Sabine Schuerholz-Lehr, assistant director of UVic's office of international affairs.

Combining school with travel motivated fourth-year biology student Sarah Baker to go. "The trip gave me a broader perspective of

biology and a more rounded education," she says. Adrienne Nye was looking for something different

coupled with adventure. "It opened our eyes to ecological issues around the world," she says.

The first thing that students noticed when they arrived was heat, humidity and a rich blend of smells. "There were palm trees everywhere and vegetation that was strange with weird adaptations," Nye says. "There were so many things to look at."

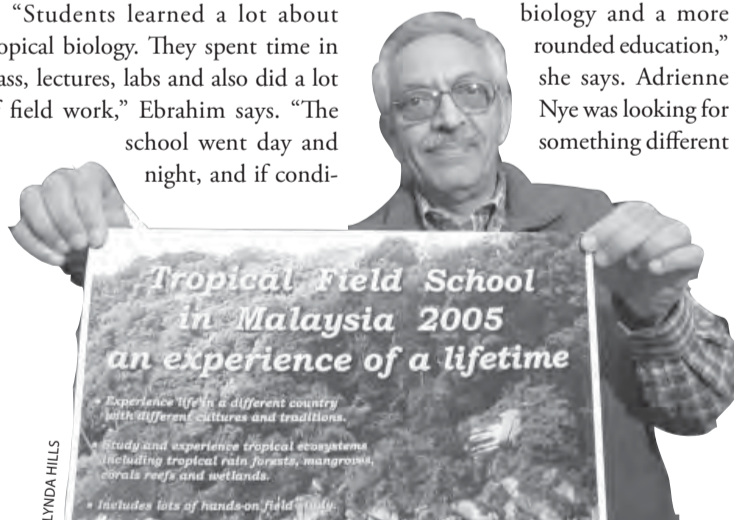
For both students the highlight was a side trip to Malaysian Borneo, where they spent time on an island refuge for sea turtles. "We watched as a female turtle came ashore to lay over 100 eggs," says Nye. "Then we released some other turtle hatchlings into the water."

The trip also included a visit to the Sepilok Forest Reserve, a rehabilitation station that fosters endangered orangutans. "The orangutans came bounding in on ropes doing cartwheels and landed on the platform where rangers fed them milk and bananas," Nye says.

Next, the students stayed at the Sukau River Lodge and toured the river of the same name. "It was a really great experience seeing so many animals in their native habitat," says Baker. "Malaysia has a little bit of everything."

Another biology field trip is slated for Malaysia this summer and Baker and Nye say they would go again if they could. "What better place to study tropical diversity than in the tropics?" Nye says. "For the experiences you get, it's the cheapest trip you'll ever invest in."

And Baker's advice? "Bring socks. In the jungle, there are crazy terrestrial leeches everywhere."



Ebrahim

## New website explores B.C.'s critical energy issues

More than 50 per cent of B.C.'s energy needs are met by oil and gas, most of which is produced in the northeast of the province. In order to inform the public about this critical issue, UVic biogeochemist Dr. Michael Whiticar (earth & ocean sciences) has developed a new website—[www.energybc.ca](http://www.energybc.ca).

"Although information on the topic is available elsewhere, it's our goal to provide an integrative and dynamic site with comprehensive coverage," says Whiticar. "We view our role as an independent knowledge broker."

The site tackles not only the natural science questions, such as geology and geophysics, but also deals with the myriad environmental, social and jurisdictional issues

surrounding the subject. The site focus is initially on B.C. offshore oil and gas questions.

The site does not advocate a position of keeping or lifting the B.C. offshore moratorium, but is built around the belief that "informed people make better choices." It's sponsored by UVic and the Coasts Under Stress program.

Whiticar, whose research includes petroleum geochemistry and climate change, is a major contributor to: the federal public review panel on the moratorium; the expert panel on science issues related to oil and gas activities, offshore British Columbia; and the B.C. government's scientific review panel's report on offshore oil and gas exploration.

## New buildings feature water re-use systems

by Lynda Hills

Every time students, staff and faculty flush the toilets in the new Medical Sciences Building they're helping the university conserve water.

That's due to the new campus water re-use initiative, which is taking treated waste water from the outdoor aquatic facility on campus and recycling it into toilets and urinals. The aquatic facility is located behind the Cunningham Building between Petch and the Engineering Lab Wing.

"Facilities management wanted to go beyond traditional water conservation and into water re-use applications," says Sarah Webb, UVic's sustainability co-ordinator.

The re-used water will come from the aquatic facility's fish and intertidal research tanks. "Water is treated through an ozonation process to ensure the highest water quality standard," says Webb.

Benefits include: lowering the demand for potable water, saving energy and money, and reducing the load on Oak Bay's sanitary sewer system.

Over the course of a year it's estimated that the project will save the CRD more than two million litres of potable water.

The second phase of the initiative will use the same water system for the new Engineering/Computer

Science Building, and will also augment the building's regular heating source. An additional system will capture energy from the water to heat the building through a water-to-water heat pump.

Both water re-use systems have been plumbed with extra pipes that use regular water. This will allow facilities management to automatically switch over to this backup system should the need arise.

"The university worked closely with engineering consultants, Oak Bay, the CRD and the Vancouver Island Health Authority to ensure a system that is safe and reliable," Webb says.

With these projects, UVic is able to submit an application to the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program (LEED).

"The LEED green building rating system recognizes buildings that emphasize low-impact design, construction and operations," Webb says. "The result is high-quality and high-performance buildings with reduced environmental impacts."

LEED building ratings are certified silver, gold or platinum. With this two-phase initiative, the Medical Sciences Building is aiming for gold level status.

"We're extremely excited about this project; it's a great opportunity to turn waste water into water for domestic use," says Webb.

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# PRESIDENT'S

## Distinguished Service Awards

### Awards continued from p.1

from most departments at UVic and developing resources for teaching assistant training.

"Dave continues to seek new and innovative ways to improve his programs," says master's candidate Kristin Atwood. "His adherence to the notion of peers teaching peers demonstrates his respect for graduate student skills."

Berry won the Alumni Award for Teaching Excellence at UVic in 1997 and the most coveted award in Canada for teaching excellence—the 3M Teaching Fellowship—in 2000.

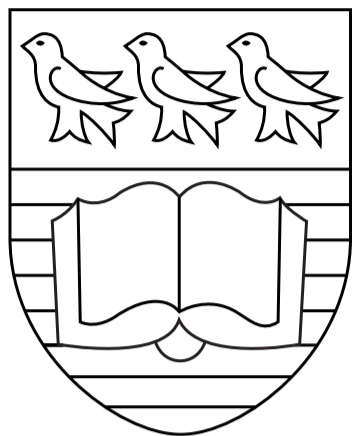
"Dave deserves to be recognized for his hard work, dedication, respect for all people and for the passion and enthusiasm with which he approaches his job," says Atwood.

**Roger John**, aboriginal student advisor in the faculty of human and social development, combines advocacy, moral support, referrals, academic advising and supportive counselling to create a sense of community for aboriginal students.

"Roger works closely with aboriginal students and staff and faculty, as well as non-aboriginal staff, faculty and students, offering advice, information, and counsel on respectful protocols across cultures and peoples, as well as ways of learning, knowing and conducting research," says Dr. Michael Prince, acting dean of human and social development.

John seeks to bridge the gap between UVic and aboriginal students in high schools. Through his efforts, the often-intimidating size and culture of UVic has become more approachable to First Nations high school students.

John also established and facilitates the indigenous students recognition ceremony, an annual event that recognizes the accomplishments of aboriginal students.



"Roger has worked tirelessly in developing connections among First Nations students, faculty members, staff and communities, making UVic a more welcoming learning environment for First Nations students," says Angela Antoine, assistant aboriginal student advisor.

**Darlene Pouliot**, administrative assistant in the department of history in art and a UVic employee for 19 years, is considered "the nerve centre" of the department.

"Darlene performs her duties with outstanding competence, efficiency, dedication, cheerfulness and generosity," says one of her nominators.

Pouliot's proficiency and grasp of university policy and procedures impresses co-workers and students alike. She's an advocate for students and is especially aware and protective of their rights. Throughout her day she helps with everything from the most complex procedural matter to a blown light bulb.

"Darlene has a caring, helpful attitude that she exhibits to all her colleagues in all situations," says Anne Heintz, undergraduate advisor in the faculty of fine arts. "She's the most thoughtful person I know."

Pouliot's dedication also extends to a range of faculty, university and civic involvements. She's active in her own community, whether it's teaching folk art painting, organizing the campaign for the Diabetes Foundation in her neighbourhood or arranging a Christmas fund to provide gifts for a needy single parent family.

Fourteen people from several departments put their collective heads together to streamline access to UVic's research expertise. The **expertise database group** developed and implemented an online database that taps into university knowledge.

"With this resource, faculty can look for collaborators, administrators can locate expert committee members, and industrialists can find new partners," says Dr. Richard Keeler, associate vice president research. "Prospective graduate students can also search for potential supervisors and the general public can explore the depth and breadth of research at the university."

"The expertise database group is a wonderful example of how administrative staff across several units are dedicated to the efficient and effective operation of UVic," says Keeler.

The expertise database can be accessed through the research link on the UVic home page, or by visiting [uvic.ca/experts](http://uvic.ca/experts).

## GOT A QUESTION?

### Ask UVic provides 24-hour answers

by Patty Pitts

Increasingly, current and potential UVic students don't want to wait for office hours to get answers to their questions about the university. Thanks to a new online program called *Ask UVic*, answers are now available around the clock.

Up and running since September, *Ask UVic* does more than offer up responses from an ever-increasing databank; it also provides valuable, up-to-the-minute feedback on its own efficiency and the kind of questions on the minds at a given time of current students, prospective students, counsellors, parents, and other users.

"We can request reports for any frequency—daily, weekly, monthly—on the top questions that are being asked and our success rate at providing responses for those questions," says project manager Kathleen Boland. "When we first launched *Ask UVic*, our initial accurate response rate was between 50 and 60 per cent. Now, we're at 70 per cent and we're aiming to end up with an over 80 per cent accuracy rate."

The continual improvement is the result of adjusting current answers and adding new ones, based on the data the team mines from the IntelliResponse software program. When the project first started, it contained 255 answers. Now there are 419.

"For example, students kept keying in the question, 'How do I apply?' and weren't getting a specific response, because there wasn't one. So we've created an answer that discusses the various application options for students," says Boland.

She's also noticing that questions change depending on the time of year. In December, students were typing in questions dealing with exams and marks. In the fall, questions involved applications and course selection.

If re-submission of their questions fails to prompt the correct answers, users have the option of sending an e-mail directly to the administrative registrar's office where they'll receive a prompt, personalized response. *Ask UVic* tracks these too, categorizes the questions and identifies the origin cities of the questions.

*Ask UVic* is especially useful for international students who find themselves in front of their computers when it's the middle of the night on the Pacific coast. In fact, the software was developed at Canadian universities to handle the increasing volume of e-mail from inquiring students.

Boland's team is already working on improvements to *Ask UVic* including a browse feature that provides a user with a folder full of applicable questions to their chosen subject area.

A link to *Ask UVic* is available through the home pages of undergraduate and graduate admissions, undergraduate and graduate records and student awards and financial aid or at [www.askuvic.ca](http://www.askuvic.ca).

**Ask UVic**



Front row, left to right: Olariu, Maedel, Sagert. Middle row: Forcada, Mertz, Schuerholz-Lehr, Rea, and Grace. Back row: Berezny, Wolowicz, Gruys and Scholefield



Pouliot



John

PHOTOS BY DIANA NETHERCOTT

# Newfaculty

An associate professor in the department of Hispanic and Italian studies, **Beatriz de Alba-Koch** teaches Spanish and courses on colonial and 19<sup>th</sup>-century Hispanic American literature. Born in Mexico, de Alba-Koch graduated from the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey. She earned an MA in Spanish from Queen's University and a PhD from Princeton, and pursued graduate work in Latin American studies at the Université de Paris III. She's published several articles and a book on late colonial Mexican literature.

"In everyday life, people are affected by climate and the weather, as well as industry-related air pollution," says **Boualem Khouider**, assistant professor in the department of mathematics and statistics. Khouider uses applied mathematics to study turbulent pre-mixed flames, and computational fluid dynamics to better understand tropical meteorology. Khouider earned his PhD in applied mathematics at the Université de Montreal in 2002 and spent three years training at the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences at New York University before coming to UVic.

The faculty of business has become even more international with the addition of Dr. **Basma Majerbi**. A professor of international finance, investments, derivatives and risk management, she's fluent in English, French, Arabic, and is familiar with Italian and Spanish. Majerbi joined the faculty last summer, and divides her time between teaching and research in international finance, international asset pricing and emerging markets.

Ever wonder what child prodigies used to do before the days of chess and sport, or when the first baby diapers were used? Dr. **Helene Cazes** can tell you. Cazes, an assistant professor in the French department, is writing a book on the history of childhood. She teaches courses on the history of ideas, women authors and literature in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. Before coming to UVic as a sessional instructor, she taught at the Universities of Paris IV-Sorbonne and Paris X-Nanterre.

Acclaimed Canadian playwright **Joan MacLeod** joined UVic as an assistant professor in the writing department last fall. She teaches dramatic writing and is known for tackling important social issues and weaving them into the context of family relationships. MacLeod has written eight plays including *The Shape of a Girl*, which has been touring for four years, has been translated into six languages and was recently optioned for television rights.

## Committee begins review of vice president academic

A committee to appoint a vice president academic and provost has begun a review of the incumbent, Prof. Jamie Cassels, whose term ends in 2006. Cassels has informed the committee of his desire to seek reappointment for the position.

Under the review procedures, incumbents are assessed in the context of UVic's future academic directions. The search committee will examine an updated curriculum vitae, criteria established as part of the search

process in 2004 and 2001, evaluations by the president, and the results of consultation with constituency groups on campus.

The committee would like your comments on the incumbent in relation to the 2004 criteria. All comments will be kept in strict confidence. Send your comments by 4 p.m., Friday, Jan. 14 to Nancy Pye, assistant university secretary (nancypye@uvic.ca) or to any member of the search committee.

The position description and the

2004 and 2001 criteria can be found at: [web.uvic.ca/univsec/elections/VPAC04.htm](http://web.uvic.ca/univsec/elections/VPAC04.htm). The site also lists the membership of the 15-person search committee, which is chaired by UVic President Dr. David Turpin.

The vice president academic and provost is responsible for general supervision of all academic programs, long-range academic planning, enrolment management and all human resource matters related to UVic faculty.

# UVic physicists join international computer grid

by Maria Lironi

UVic is helping to create the world's largest international computer grid project, giving particle physicists access to more power than most supercomputers could ever deliver.

The concept of grid computing is simple: many individual computers are linked together, much like the Web, to create a large system with computational power that far surpasses that of supercomputers. In principle, any researcher can log on to a grid and use the memory and processing abilities of all its computers, no matter where they are.

UVic's current grid, GridX1, allows particle physicists easy access to computing power by linking numerous large research computer sites across Canada.

Now GridX1 is going international, joining forces with the world's largest grid project, the LCG Project, located at the European Organization for Nuclear Research's (CERN) laboratory in Geneva. As a result, particle physics researchers the world over will be able to use the new international grid for the next major project in particle physics—the Large Hadron Collider (LHC).

The LHC is an accelerator which brings protons into head-on collisions at higher energies than ever achieved before. This will allow scientists to penetrate still further into

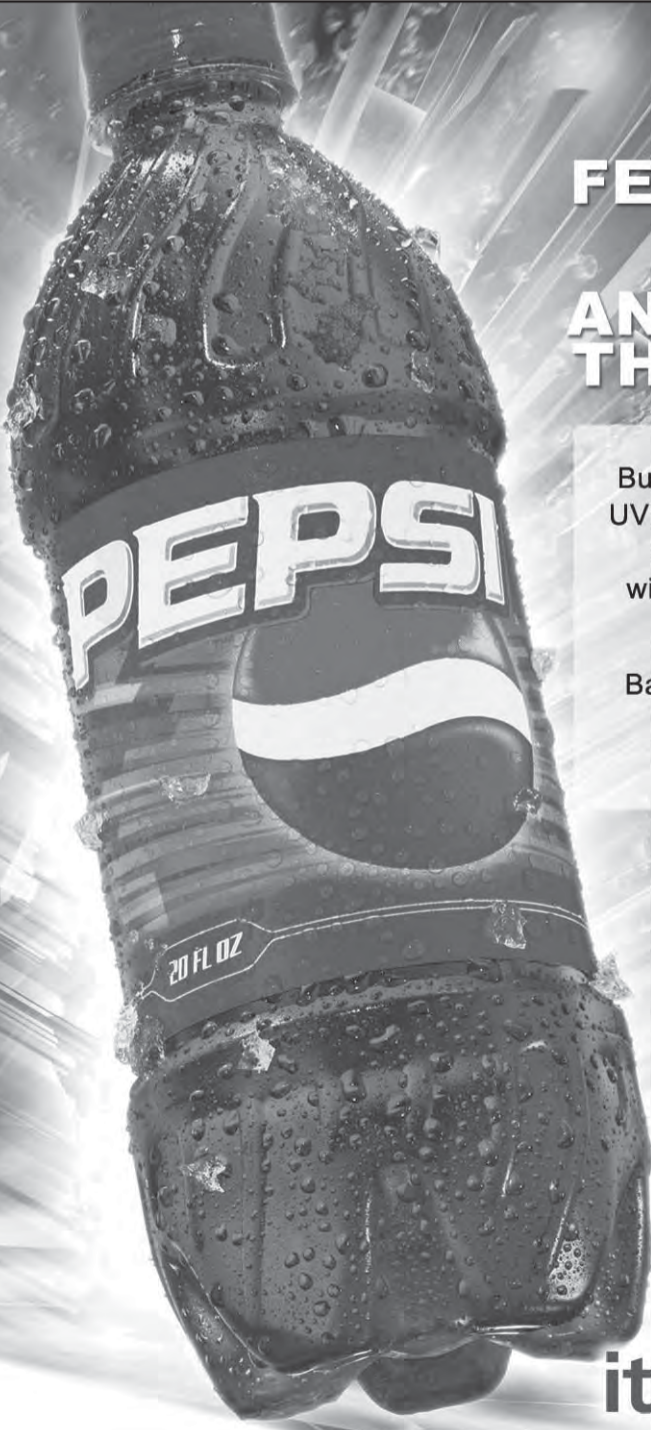
the structure of matter and recreate the conditions prevailing in the early universe, just after the Big Bang. The LHC will generate more data than any project to date.

"The Web was invented by particle physicists in order to share data more easily and it ended up changing the way the world uses and exchanges information," says Dr. Richard Keeler, a physicist and UVic's associate vice president research. "The grid is the next step and promises to change the way we process information and create new knowledge."

"We'll collect about a petabyte of data a year beginning in 2007 and the grid is the only way to analyse it," says Dr. Randy Sobie, an adjunct professor at UVic and an Institute of Particle Physics research scientist. A petabyte is a million gigabytes or approximately 100 times the amount of information in all the books in the U.S. Library of Congress.

Sobie and UVic particle physicist Dr. Bob Kowalewski worked with researchers from the National Research Council, the TRIUMF laboratory and the University of Alberta and SFU to hook the GridX1 Project to the international grid in Geneva. The team is also collaborating with researchers from the WestGrid Computing Consortium to help connect its large cluster at UBC to the international grid.


For more information visit [yamon.phys.uvic.ca:8080/rsobie/grid](http://yamon.phys.uvic.ca:8080/rsobie/grid).



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Calendarhighlights

Events free unless otherwise indicated. For a complete list of events, see [www.uvic.ca/events](http://www.uvic.ca/events)

At the Galleries

[www.maltwood.ca](http://www.maltwood.ca)  
721-6562

**A Woman's Place** Art and the role of women in the cultural formation of Victoria, 1850s–1920s. Until Jan. 11. Maltwood Art Museum & Gallery.

**A Gentle Migration: Studio Works 2004.** Paintings by Mark Laver. Until Feb. 21. McPherson Library Gallery

At the Theatres

[www.phoenixtheatres.ca](http://www.phoenixtheatres.ca)  
721-6562

**Hippies and Bolsheviks** (Jan 27–Feb. 5) A comic “coming of age” flashback to a 1970s West Coast commune. Phoenix Bldg. Tickets: 721-8000

Friday, January 7

**Fridaymusic** 12:30 p.m. School of music students in a program for various instruments. MacLaurin B125. 721-7903

Tuesday, January 11

**Seminar** 3:30 p.m. *Battling Climate Change With Dams.* Dr. Terry Prowse, UVic/National Water Research Institute. Cornett A221. 721-8848

Wednesday, January 12

**Studies in Religion & Society Lecture** 4:15 p.m. *What Eddington*

*Did Not Say.* Alan Batten, Dominion Astrophysical Observatory. Hickman 110. 721-6325

Friday, January 14

**Fridaymusic** 12:30 p.m. School of music keyboard students. MacLaurin B125. 721-7903

Tuesday, January 18

**Linguistics/Continuing Studies Seminar** 6 p.m. *Music and Drama in the ESL Classroom.* Cam Culham, UVic. Clearihue A215. 721-7420

Wednesday, January 19

**Faculty Women's Caucus On & Of Women! Scholarship Showcase** 12:30 p.m. *Lucille Clifton Feasts: One Woman's Legacy in a Northwest Coast Community.* Dr. Nancy Turner, UVic. Univ. Centre A180. 721-8164

**Studies in Religion & Society Lecture** 4:15 p.m. *The Name of God and the Names of God.* Taneli Kukkonen, UVic. Hickman 110. 721-6325

Thursday, January 20

**Studies in Religion & Society Lecture** 7 p.m. *Natural Law and Natural Rights in Islamic Law.* Anver Emon, Yale Law School/UCLA. Fraser 158. 721-6325

Friday, January 21

**Fridaymusic** 12:30 p.m. School of music string students. MacLaurin B125. 721-7903

Tuesday, January 25

**Linguistics/Continuing Studies Seminar** 6 p.m. *Anger Management and Crisis Diffussion in the ESL Classroom* Veronica Armstrong, UVic. Clearihue A215. 721-7420

Wednesday, January 26

**Studies in Religion & Society Lecture** 4:15 p.m. *“Wildlife”: Implications of Terminology for Resolving Relations between First Nations and Canada.* Michael Asch, UVic. Hickman 110. 721-6325

**Lansdowne Lecture** 7 p.m. *Old-Growth Forests, Owls and Conservation Paradigms.* Dr. Jerry Franklin, Univ. of Washington. Strong C103. 721-7354

Thursday, January 27

**Lansdowne Lecture** 3:30 p.m. *Patterns of Forest Mortality in the Pacific Northwest: Lessons to be Learned for Forest Management.* Dr. Jerry Franklin, Univ. of Washington. Univ. Centre A180. 721-7354

**Addictions Research Lecture** 4:30 p.m. *Drug Courts: A Mythopoeitic Critique.* Dr. John Anderson, UBC. Hickman 110. 472-5305

**Women Scholars Lecture** 7:30 p.m. *Melting Glaciers and Emerging Histories in the Saint Elias Mountains: Memories of the Little Ice Age.* Dr. Julie Cruikshank, UBC. Strong C103. 721-7382

Saturday, January 29

**University of Victoria Opera Gala** 8 p.m. János Sándor, conductor. Univ. Centre Auditorium. \$10.75/15. 721-7903



LYNDA HILLS

Sabine Schuerholz-Lehr (international affairs) was the winner of the reserved parking pass in the raffle draw on Dec. 9. The prize was donated by Gordon Dash in campus security services. For a complete list of prize winners visit [unitedway.uvic.ca](http://unitedway.uvic.ca).

United Way campaign goes over the top

by Lynda Hills

The 2004 UVic United Way campus campaign came to a triumphant end in December with a final total of more than \$207,000. The target was \$200,000.

“This has been a great campaign. We have a large group of new donors, and our regular donors have increased their contributions to make UVic the second largest campaign in the region,” says campaign chair Dr. Rebecca Grant. “With an average pledge of more than \$300 per donor, we can all be proud of the university community.”

Among the many efforts on campus were the McPherson Library book sale that contributed \$5,734 to the campaign, and the Hearts and Hands

craft fair which contributed \$1,608. The surprise fundraising hit this year was the penny drive challenge, which raised \$1,415. The winner was the history department, with geography coming in second.

According to Grant, groups such as the Engineering Students’ Society, the Commerce Students’ Society, the Hearts and Hands organizers, and departments that staged events or organized raffles, went above and beyond to make the campaign a success.

“I’d also like to personally thank the United Way campaign team for the time and effort they contributed,” Grant says. “Year after year, these volunteers are the real muscle behind our results, and they deserve the gratitude of the entire university community for a job well done.”

Winter/Spring 2005 Ring Schedule

Calendar items should be sent by 4 p.m. on the copy deadline date shown below to UVic Communications (Sedgewick C149, fax 721-8955, e-mail [ucom@uvic.ca](mailto:ucom@uvic.ca)) or entered into the online calendar ([www.uvic.ca/events](http://www.uvic.ca/events)). For more information call 721-7636.

Publication Date	Copy Deadline
Thursday, Feb. 3.....	Wednesday, Jan. 26
Thursday, March 3 .....	Monday, Feb. 21
Thursday, April 7 .....	Wednesday, March 30



JANUARY EVENTS

Jan 7th	Basketball vs. Regina Cougars McKinnon Gym - 6:30PM/8:15PM
Jan 8th	Basketball vs. Brandon Bobcats McKinnon Gym - 6:30PM/8:15PM
Jan 14th	Basketball vs. SFU Clan McKinnon Gym - 6:30PM/8:15PM
Jan 15th	Basketball vs. SFU Clan McKinnon Gym - 6:30PM/8:15PM
Jan 30th	Rowing (w & m) Monster Erg McKinnon Gym - All Day

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# Gifts that make the grade <sup>A+</sup>



UVic physics students are seeing bright red, thanks to Kevin Collings and Tina Chow. The husband and wife grads of the 1985 physics co-op class have founded the \$34,000 **Physics Red Award Endowment** in the faculty of science. The fund provides a \$1,500 scholarship to a top-ranked physics student entering fourth year. Why the "Red" award? "We had a tightly knit class," says Collings. "We were on a work term in Calgary, and we all bought red overalls. We made a point of wearing them to all our classes—hence the 'Red' award." A picture of the now-famous class in their red overalls hangs in the foyer of the Elliott Building.

While some of donors to UVic prefer to remain anonymous, we can't resist mentioning the quiet generosity of the donor of a \$5,000 per year award to the school of music. The **Martlet Music Award for Excellence in Advanced Composition** inspires the creation of a range of new and unique musical works, some traditional and others quite unconventional. One recent performance included 12 pianos being played simultaneously on stage in the Farquhar Auditorium. The "martlet" in the award comes from the donor's *alma mater*, McGill University, the source of the martlet in UVic's crest.

Seeing his own children succeed as a result of their university education was the reason why Aymn Mohamed Rajan founded the **Shiraz Rajan Family Endowment Fund in Computer Science**. Rajan, president and CEO of Orbital Technologies Inc., initiated the fund with a gift of \$10,000. The fund will provide a scholarship to a third or fourth-year student in computer science or software engineering. The award was created in part to encourage female students in computer science and reward students who are actively involved in community service.

Go Team! Pepsi Bottling Group has come up with a novel way to help promote star Vikes athletes on campus. When you buy your favourite beverage from one of the many Pepsi vending machines on campus, you'll see the smiling face of a **Vikes Pepsi Bottling Group Athletic Award** winner on the side of the machine. Frank Gregus, key account manager for Business, Industry and Education in B.C., was a key driver of the awards, which support athletic endowment funds. UVic athletics and recreation held an event in November, where Pepsi presented the four award recipients with a replica of the photos displayed on the side of the 10 vending machines on campus for this year. The four student athletes honoured were: Andrea DePol, cross country; Lauren MacLean, women's field hockey; Krystal O'Bryne, women's basketball; and Aimee Faulk, women's basketball.

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# Quiet, please!

A little UVic ingenuity goes a long way for hearing-impaired schoolchildren

by Valerie Shore

**W**e all know how frustrating it can be trying to listen to someone when other people in the room are talking. You wish you could lower the volume on everyone else so you can follow what the speaker is saying.

Well, that's not going to happen. But what if you're a hearing-impaired child in a classroom? Sometimes you can't hear the teacher, and class discussions can be a confusing jumble of voices. Wouldn't it be great if there was a way to signal to the rest of the class that they need to quieten down?

That is going to happen—thanks to the creativity of the University of Victoria Assistive Technology Team (UVATT), a group of UVic researchers who design, build and test customized devices for the disabled.

The UVATT team includes faculty and staff from a wide range of disciplines, technicians, graduate students, co-op students, and hundreds of engineering undergraduates who enthusiastically design new devices as part of their course work.

"Students get to spend their time and inventiveness on projects that are making a real difference in people's lives," says UVic biologist Dr. Nigel Livingston, founder and director of UVATT. "You can't get that sort of experience out of a textbook."

Just ask Michal Osusky. Last fall, the third-year engineering student spent a co-op work term with UVATT, building and testing a system to help hearing-impaired children in the classroom. "It's great," says Osusky. "You're not just sitting in a lab crunching out code or working on some lifeless thing. You actually see it impacting someone in a positive way."

All UVATT projects are suggested by individuals or organizations in the community who identify a specific need. In this case, the team is working with a Delta-based teacher for the hearing-impaired who selected two children in her school district who need assistance.

"We were asked to develop an indicator light system that would signal the other students to quieten down," says Livingston. "Many kids are self-conscious about their disability and don't want to draw attention to themselves by putting up their hands."



DIANA NETHERCOTT

Livingston, left, and Osusky with the new device for hearing-impaired children.

The prototype system features a microphone and sound meter, data acquisition hardware, a laptop computer specially programmed to analyse sound amplitude, and a small external circuit that triggers a traffic light-sized LED panel to turn yellow or red when sound levels exceed specified thresholds.

With feedback from UVATT team members, Osusky selected the components, custom-programmed the computer and built the external circuit board. He tested the system in a UVic lecture theatre and in classrooms at Lansdowne Middle School in Victoria and Hawthorne Elementary in Delta.

"At Hawthorne, we connected a remote switch to the computer that the hearing-impaired students could press every time they perceived the sound level getting too high for them to understand what the teacher was saying," says Osusky. "This allowed us to set thresholds for the indicator light."

Threshold levels can be easily adjusted by the student or the teacher. When class noise reaches 5 to 10 decibels below the threshold, the light turns yellow. When the threshold is reached or exceeded, the light turns red.

The loudest noise recorded by Osusky during classroom tests was 88 decibels during a class discussion. The typical threshold level set for the hearing-impaired students is 66 decibels for the yellow light and 72 decibels for the red light.


The light is placed at the front of the classroom so that the other students can respond accordingly when the light goes on. "When we tested this at Lansdowne, the response was very positive," says Osusky. "They noticed when it went yellow and made a conscious effort to quieten down."

Last month, the system was shipped over to Hawthorne for long-term testing. Refinements are already underway to make it more portable and cost-effective.

"Using a microprocessor instead of a laptop we've got the parts costs down to about \$250," says Livingston. "We want get that down to less than \$100 so that a school can have several and not have to move them around."

Time will tell whether the system truly does the job, says Livingston. "We know it works technically, but the real bottom line is if the students come back to us and say they're understanding the teacher better and are learning more. That's the ultimate goal."

To find out more about UVATT, make a donation, suggest a new device, or volunteer visit [www.uvic.ca/uvatt](http://www.uvic.ca/uvatt) or call (250) 213-2442.



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