



**COLOURS OF CONVOCATION:** Seven undergraduate medal-winners, sporting the graduation colours of their faculty, celebrate their achievements. Left to right, Paula Ramsay (law), Philip Rempel (fine arts), Kiel Boyle (engineering), Emily Braden (humanities), David Crawford (engineering), Shirley Shi (engineering) and Amanda Jagdis (science).

## Thesis studies history of transportation corridor

**BEN BRADLEY'S** MEDAL-WINNING master's thesis began with a 1998 family drive along highway 16 east of Prince George, which has been called "B.C.'s loneliest highway." He wondered what lay down gravel roads marked with signs like "Dome Creek: No Services," roads that his father was reluctant to negotiate.

Back home in Vancouver, Bradley ransacked libraries trying to satisfy his curiosity.

"I've always been interested in B.C. history and geography, and here was a big black hole in my knowledge—a huge part of the province, and I could find nothing about it or the people who lived there."

Eventually, the UVic history student found what he was looking for in local histories, tourist guides and old photographs, parks and highway maintenance records, and the landscape itself. Then he wrote this year's top master's thesis.

The thesis examines

the Robson Valley–Yellowhead Pass transportation corridor, describing how people's experiences of the place—as travellers and as residents—changed as the dominant mode of transportation shifted from train to automobile during the late 20th century.

Among his findings: the new highway was built several miles away from the railway and established new communities. Motorists bypassed the mill-towns along the tracks, many of which became ghost towns as logs were hauled by truck to pulp mills in Prince George.

During his studies Bradley was assisted by a history department graduate fellowship and the Margaret DeSantis Memorial Scholarship.

Now pursuing a PhD in history at Queen's University, Bradley is planning a dissertation on automobile and everyday life in B.C. "Everyday life is a familiar but unknown realm," he says. "It's where everything and nothing of significance happens."



## TOP OF THE CLASS!

**SHIRLEY SHI** HAS A SECRET FORMULA for succeeding in school, and in life.

"I always try to manage my time carefully by breaking tasks down into small pieces," she says. "Most of all, I check my ego at the door. If I don't know how to do something or I'm in over my head, I always ask for help."

It's a winning attitude. Not only did Shi achieve a perfect GPA of 9.0 in her undergraduate engineering degree, she's a double medal winner. She's taking home the Governor General's Silver Medal as the university's top undergraduate in all faculties and the IEEE Victoria Section Gold Medal in Electrical Engineering as that department's top student.

Born in Harbin in northeastern China, Shi immigrated to Canada at the age of 15. Her father was a university math teacher and her mother trained as a school teacher. "I was born under China's 'one child' policy, so my parents had fairly high expectations. They always encouraged me."

While a student at Mount Douglas High, her near-perfect scores in Grade 11 and 12 math competitions brought her to the attention of Dr. Bill Pfaffenberger of UVic's math department, who recruited her through the Excellence in Math Awards program (see story, p.11).

Among the many awards that helped Shi during her studies: the John Locke Malkin Entrance Scholarship, the Howard Petch Scholarship, the James R. Bullick Memorial Scholarship, the Mark E. Mooney Memorial Scholarship, and the Angus and Annie Mackay Scholarship.

Admitted to graduate school at MIT on a full teaching assistantship, Shi will go on to study signal processing, communication and control systems, with applications in cell phones, routers and controls for electrical systems and machinery. Field work in industry will likely precede her return to academic life as a teacher and researcher.

For those who want to emulate her success, Shi

offers one tried and true piece of wisdom for managing a heavy course load: "Believe me," she says, "cramming never works."



Shi

# Geographer leads \$1 million Brazilian recycling project

by Valerie Shore

A University of Victoria geographer is the Canadian leader of a \$1 million international development project to help build community-based, sustainable recycling programs in Brazil.

The project is one of 11 international aid projects recently funded by the Canadian International Development Agency through its University Partnerships in Cooperation and Development (UPCD) program. The program promotes knowledge partnerships between Canadian universities and higher education organizations in developing countries.

In the six-year project, UVic social geographer Dr. Jutta Gutberlet will work with the Centro Universitário Fundação Santo André and other Brazilian partners to organize and train informal recycling collectors and cooperatives in four municipalities, including São Paulo, one of the world's largest cities.

Informal recyclers are individuals or unorganized groups who make a living out of separating recyclables out of waste. In North America, the activity is known as *binning*, or *dumpster diving*. There are currently an estimated 200,000 informal recyclers in Brazil.

"Informal recycling is a very widespread activity in poor countries," says Gutberlet, who grew up in São Paulo and has more than 15 years of research experience on socio-economic and development issues in Latin America.

The four municipalities involved in the project are home to about 12 million people and have varying degrees of recycling activity and support from local governments. Up to 90 per cent of waste still ends up in landfills. "Burying waste in landfills or incinerating it, is not a sustainable solution," says Gutberlet. "We have to learn to avoid waste and recycle our resources."

In some areas, neighbourhood associations and cooperatives are emerging to tackle the problem. The project team will build on established contacts with these groups, governments and NGOs to help organize and strengthen the recycling sector. Training programs aimed at government officials and the wider community will deal with topics such as responsible consumption, efficient recycling, waste management, and participatory decision-making.



VALERIE SHORE

Gutberlet

"More inclusive policy-making is critical," says Gutberlet. "Right now, government policies are still very much elaborated by a top-down approach with little participation by, but large impacts on, local groups."

The project will also address unhealthy working conditions and gender issues. "Women are involved in collecting and separating waste but there is no attention being given to their specific needs in terms of health, jobs and child care," says Gutberlet. "By empowering all recyclers we hope to increase incomes, generate more jobs, and improve the

environment and quality of life for everyone."

Gutberlet will involve as many graduate students in the project as the budget allows, both at UVic and in Brazil. She'll also draw on the expertise of UVic researchers in geography, business, psychology, computer science, environmental studies, indigenous governance, and conflict resolution.

A specific goal of the project is to build partnerships and exchange knowledge with other municipalities in Brazil, South America—and even Canada.

"There are similar problems of social exclusion and poverty here in Canada, and they're becoming visible, especially in the big cities like Vancouver," says Gutberlet. "Governments everywhere should be looking for creative solutions to deal with these issues."

The UPCD program is administered by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada. Since 1994, the program has funded 129 international partnerships valued at \$295 million.



JUTTA GUTBERLET

Recycling micro-enterprise near São Paulo showing an employee separating various types of plastic.

## Aroundthering

### Walk to improve your social wellness!

Have you held a door open for anyone lately? Something as simple as that can have a positive effect on your social well-being, which is an important part of overall health and happiness. That's the theme of this year's hour-long President's Fitwalk, which starts in front of the University Centre at noon on June 24. "It's the little things in life that make a difference," says wellness and lifestyle programmer Kathi Cameron (athletics & recreation). "Social wellness has the same effect on quality of life as the spiritual, intellectual, physical and emotional components." If you can't make it on June 24 but still want to support your department team, register your name with the athletics and recreation office in McKinnon and walk the Ring Road anytime until June 23. For more information, call 472-4038 or e-mail [kcameron@uvic.ca](mailto:kcameron@uvic.ca).

### All alumni invited to upcoming AGM

The UVic Alumni Association holds its annual general meeting beginning at 7 p.m. on June 22 in the University Club. All alumni are welcome to attend. The meeting marks the conclusion of President Doug Johnson's term. He's expected to be succeeded by 1964 faculty of education alumnus Larry Cross, currently association vice-president. The association will also name Dr. Gerry Poulton (chemistry) an honorary alumnus in recognition of his extensive involvement as the board's faculty representative. And the Volunteer Appreciation Award will be given to Shirley Tucker, a long-serving member of the alumni board and a founding member of the Victoria College at Craigdarroch Castle Alumni Association. Register online at [www.alumni.uvic.ca/events](http://www.alumni.uvic.ca/events).

### UVic launches pilot thesis project

Are you a graduate student who will be defending your thesis between July 1 and Dec. 31? If yes, then a UVic pilot project needs your help. UVic libraries, the faculty of graduate studies, graduate admissions and records, and computing user services have teamed up to test digital submission of graduate theses. The benefit to grad students is that their research will be available online within weeks of completion. The advantage for UVic is that the research will be made public almost immediately and the library will save shelf space. The project complements the mandate of Thesis Canada to acquire, preserve and provide access to a comprehensive collection of Canadian theses at Library and Archives Canada. Interested grad students or supervisors can contact the electronic thesis and dissertations (ETD) project at [uvthesis@uvic.ca](mailto:uvthesis@uvic.ca) or visit its website at [web.uvic.ca/~uvthesis](http://web.uvic.ca/~uvthesis).

### Children's art shows positive change

Visit the A. Wilfrid Johns Gallery in the MacLaurin Building this month and see Afghanistan through children's eyes. A new collection of drawings by Afghan children is on display following a 2003 exhibit of art by children in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Canada. The new exhibit shows a marked difference from the previous one, which was largely characterized by depictions of violence and war. "It's an amazing transformation from kids who were in desperate states, who were basically living through war," says Dr. Timothy Hopper, an assistant professor of physical education and co-ordinator of the Global Arts project. The goal of the artwork is to connect students and teachers around the world. "You don't need to be speaking Swahili or Kurdish or Farsi to understand what children are saying," says Hopper. From July 4-8 the Global Arts project is running a Summer Institute at UVic. For more information visit [www.educ.uvic.ca/site/lawwwart/lawwwart.htm](http://www.educ.uvic.ca/site/lawwwart/lawwwart.htm).

### Clarification

In our last issue, a story on the June honorary degree recipients incorrectly described **Edgar Kaiser Jr.**'s involvement with the Centre for Addictions Research of B.C. at UVic. Through the Kaiser Foundation he has actively promoted research on addiction and public policy issues. His work helped to pave the way for the BC Addiction Foundation's \$10 million endowment of the centre.

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**the ring**

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Allen and Loreen Vandekerkhove

## Honouring a legacy of support

by Chris Thackray

The Sedgewick Building's B-wing, which houses the centre for studies in religion and society (CSRS), has been renamed the Allen and Loreen Vandekerkhove Wing.

Allen and Loreen Vandekerkhove, both recipients of honorary degrees from the university, are being honoured for their many years of support for the centre. In 1990, the couple made a leadership gift of \$1 million, which was instrumental in establishing the centre.

"Allen and Loreen Vandekerkhove have enriched our community and our university immeasurably," says Dr. Conrad Brunk, director of CSRS. "Their desire to enhance the quality of life of the citizens of Victoria and Vancouver Island, and their generous support of the centre is evidence of their deep affection for our community, and of their love of learning. We're delighted we can honour them in this way."

Since its official opening in 1993, the centre has become an

internationally recognized site for the study of religion and society. It supports numerous research projects on- and off-campus that have resulted in contributions to scholarship and dialogue among religious communities and other academic disciplines in the sciences, arts and social sciences.

The Vandekerkhove Family Fellowship at the CSRS allows graduate students and visiting faculty the opportunity to work at the centre and enjoy its scholarly and collegial atmosphere.

The Vandekerkhove family business, Pay Less Gas, founded by Allen and Loreen in 1972, was well-known for its support of organized sports, sponsoring many of the larger teams and countless youth leagues around Vancouver Island.

Through Pay Less Gas, and later, through the Vandekerkhove Foundation (founded in 1991), the family has supported and sponsored numerous community events, sports clubs and charities to the tune of more than \$500,000 every year since 1985.

## Nunavut ceremony welcomes Inuit law grads into the UVic family

Not all UVic students will walk across the stage at the University Centre Farquhar Auditorium to receive their degrees this spring. A small group of Inuit students will accept their UVic law degrees 3,600 kilometres away during a special convocation ceremony on June 21 in Inuksuk High School in Iqaluit, Nunavut.

They're graduates of the Akitsiraq law program, a partnership between UVic, the Akitsiraq Law School Society and Nunavut Arctic College. For the past four years, UVic law professors, law faculty from five other Canadian universities, lawyers and judges have travelled to Nunavut so that students did not have to leave their territory to study law.

On National Aboriginal Day, the students will celebrate their success with UVic President Dr. David Turpin and Chancellor Ron Lou-Poy, and with Canada's Governor-General Adrienne Clarkson in attendance.

During the convocation, honorary degrees will be presented to Akitsiraq elder-in-residence Lucien Ukaliannuk and Madam Justice Beverley Browne, senior justice in the Nunavut Court of Justice.

"Akitsiraq is the first program of its kind in Canada," says UVic law dean Andrew Petter. "The students are an exceptional group and will play an important role in building capacity for self-government in Nunavut."

One of the graduates, Madeleine Redfern, will accept a prestigious appointment as clerk to Madam Justice Louise Charron of the Supreme Court of Canada following graduation.

Program course work included standard law curriculum in addition to advanced courses on the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and Inuit traditional law. The students completed a compulsory research paper, took Inuktitut language and cultural awareness training, and worked with elders.

Funding for the program has been provided by the Nunavut government, the federal Department of Justice, and numerous individuals and organizations, including the Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation.

## Planning continues on new building sites

In the wake of funding announcements earlier this spring for new and expanded buildings at UVic, planning continues on these and other facilities for the campus.

The projects will help address the current space crunch on campus and assist with accommodating the provincially funded growth in undergraduate student spaces. The projects are proceeding in accordance with the principles of the 2003 Campus Plan.

On May 25, the campus planning committee approved the addition of the area between the Continuing Studies Building and the Centennial Stadium parking lot to UVic's inventory of building sites. The facilities development and sustainability sub-committee (FDSS) recommended to the president that the site be used for the proposed support services building.

The FDSS determined that other potential sites were not suited for this purpose or too far away from the core areas the building will support. The site meets the campus plan objectives to concentrate academic uses within Ring Road. The proposed building will free up space in current buildings to allow for much-needed teaching and research expansion inside the ring.

A softball diamond will be re-oriented and retained alongside the new building, which was not considered suitable for the proposed village centre. The building will house administrative units such as accounting, the budget office and institutional planning rather than the student-related functions more appropriate for the village concept.

The FDSS also approved the

programs of requirements for the science and social sciences/mathematics buildings to allow design work to begin. In keeping with the campus plan's commitment to sustainable practices and building features, the university will seek LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) designation for both projects.

UVic President Dr. David Turpin has accepted the FDSS recommendation that the social sciences and mathematics building be located on parking lot D beside the Sedgewick Building. In addition to helping concentrate academic buildings inside Ring Road, the location is consistent with the campus plan goals of densifying and using parking lots as building sites whenever possible to preserve campus green space.

## Granting councils award \$4.4 million to UVic researchers

University of Victoria researchers have made a strong showing in this year's competitions for research funding from Science and Engineering Research Canada (NSERC) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), receiving grants totalling almost \$4.4 million.

Sixty-eight grants totalling almost \$2.5 million will come from NSERC for research projects and equipment in the scientific and engineering disciplines. Project topics range from studies of earthquake hazard in Western

Canada, particle physics, integrated renewable energy systems and ultra-wideband communications.

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) has awarded nearly \$1.9 million to UVic researchers for 20 research projects examining such topics as the impact of health education on adolescent health literacy, the adoption of Chinese orphans by Canadian parents, and the impact of environmentalism on the law.

"Our level of success in these

very competitive national granting programs once again confirms the high quality of UVic researchers and their work, as judged by their peers," says UVic vice president research Dr. Martin Taylor. "All of these projects reflect UVic's commitment to knowledge creation and its application for societal benefit."

Lists of all projects funded are available on the NSERC website at [www.nserc.ca/programs/result/2005/rg/index\\_e.htm](http://www.nserc.ca/programs/result/2005/rg/index_e.htm) and on the SSHRC website at [www.sshrc.ca](http://www.sshrc.ca).

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## University awards 10 honorary degrees

The University of Victoria is awarding a total of 10 honorary degrees this spring.

Two honorary degrees were awarded—to Chinese business executive **Annie Suk-Ching Wu** and importer/exporter **Albert Hung Chao-Hong**—at a special convocation ceremony in Beijing on May 12 (see story and photos, below).

Six individuals are being honoured at the eight convocation ceremonies in the Farquhar Auditorium, June 7-10. They are (in order of ceremony): Victoria city councillor **Helen Hughes**, and her husband, former B.C. conflict of interest commissioner **Ted Hughes**; Dr. **Tom Brzustowski**, president of Science and Engineering Research Canada; classical bassist **Gary Karr**; retired Canadian army general

**Roméo Dallaire**; and mining executive and philanthropist **Edgar Kaiser Jr.**

For more details on the lives of these remarkable people visit the May edition of *The Ring* online at [ring.uvic.ca/05may05](http://ring.uvic.ca/05may05).

At another special convocation ceremony in Iqaluit, Nunavut, on June 21 two more honorary degrees will be presented to Akitsiraq law program elder-in-residence **Lucien Ukaliannuk** and Madama Justice **Beverley Browne**, senior justice in the Nunavut Court of Justice (see story, p.3).

Honorary degrees are awarded by the UVic senate based on nominations received from the university community. Criteria include distinction in scholarship, research, teaching, the creative arts or public service.



Wu



Hung



Helen Hughes



Ted Hughes



Brzustowski



Karr



Dallaire



Kaiser

## Special China convocation leaves lasting impression

UVic further strengthened its ties with China last month when, for the second time in the university's history, it honoured Chinese humanitarians in Beijing's imposing and historic Great Hall of the People.

On May 12, UVic chancellor Ron Lou-Poy conferred honorary degrees on Annie Suk-Ching Wu, the managing director of the Hong Kong Beijing Air Catering Company, and Albert Hung Chao-Hong, a successful importer/exporter with a strong record of philanthropic support for education, health and welfare, and athletics.

Wu's community activities tend to focus on women's and children's issues and she's actively involved in more than 30 business, volunteer and public service organizations.

The ceremony echoed a poignant convocation in the same location 24 years ago when revered stateswoman and social rights activist Madame Soong Ching-Ling was honoured by UVic in the same auspicious location (see adjacent story).

The return to the Great Hall of the People made an impression on members of the UVic delegation who attended the ceremony.

"The ceremony was so beautiful," says Gail Flitton, a member of UVic's board of governors. "We were in a huge hall with high ceilings and white marble walls, yet the convocation felt so familiar. Then I'd remember how extraordinary it was for all of this to be taking place literally in the parliament of China. It was a very

happy occasion, too, especially since so many of the honorary graduands' friends and family members were able to attend."

UVic President David Turpin joined Lou-Poy in recognizing the two honorary degree recipients. Also representing UVic were: associate vice president academic and director of international affairs Dr. Jim Anglin; dean of business Dr. Ali Dastmalchian; the UVic Hong Kong Foundation chair Charles Cheung; honorary patron of UVic Yik Fung Au-Yeung; mace-bearer Bruce Vallor; acting director of development project services Allan Berezny; and director of university ceremonies and events Alison Ducharme.

Alex Dunn of the Juno Award-winning UVic Chamber Singers played guitar as the guests arrived and the singers sang during the procession and then again during the ceremony.

UVic already has strong ties with China. The university is home to the centre for Asia-Pacific initiatives (CAPI), the centre for global studies, and the department of Pacific and Asian studies. UVic has co-operation and exchange agreements with East China Normal University, Shandong University, the University of International Business and Economics, and Yanbian University. Currently, 17 UVic faculty members are conducting China-related research.



Chancellor Ron Lou Poy leads the procession after the ceremony, held in one of the chambers in the Great Hall of the People. Following him are: President David Turpin, Annie Suk-Ching Wu, Albert Hung Chao-Hong, and dean of business Ali Dastmalchian.



Soong Ching-Ling receives a UVic honorary degree in Beijing, May 1981.

### A historic occasion

UVic has had the privilege of hosting an event in Beijing's Great Hall of the People once before.

That was in May 1981 when the university bestowed an honorary Doctor of Laws degree on Madame Soong Ching-Ling, the widow of Sun Yat-Sen. Soong was the honorary chairman of the People's Republic of China and vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress.

The university delegation included board of governors chair Ian Stewart and his wife, Gillian; Victoria Chamber of Commerce president Arne Lane; Saanich mayor Mel Couvelier; university secretary Ron Ferry and his wife Bridgit; director of Pacific and Oriental studies Jan Walls; mace-bearer Betty Kennedy; and then-UVic president Howard Petch and his wife, Linda.

"It was an awesome and memorable experience," says Linda. Soong died later that month. Her large residence has since been converted into a museum. It contains personal items and pictures of historical significance, dedicated to the memories of the illustrious lady and her husband.

During the recent visit to Beijing, Turpin presented the museum's curator with a UVic plaque to display with Soong Ching-Ling's convocation robes and photos from the 1981 UVic ceremony.

Decades after her death, Soong's continued influence is reflected in the most recent individuals to be honoured by UVic in the Great Hall of the People. Both Annie Suk-Ching Wu and Albert Hung Chao-Hong devote personal and monetary support to organizations that improve the lives of their fellow citizens.

Wu is also known for her work with the foundation that bears Soong Ching-Ling's name and UVic president Dr. David Turpin has been an honorary advisor to the foundation since 2001.

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## Medal-winner devoted to helping children speak

**MORGAN MCCRIRICK**, the top student in the faculty of social sciences, is straightforward about her drive to succeed.

"I didn't want to waste my time and have to come back," says the psychology and linguistics major. "I study to understand the work, not just to do well on a test. I've always been like that."

McCricrick is also well aware of the competition she faces for graduate school. "I'm applying for a master's in speech and language pathology at the University of Alberta," she says. "It's really tough to get into the program."

Her decision to become a speech pathologist was inspired in part by her godmother. "She's a speech pathologist, too. I've volunteered with her and she loves her job."

McCricrick has also worked with children who use special devices and techniques to

help them communicate. "They might use computers to communicate, or point at picture books to show what they want to say. Some children have their own personal methods that they've developed with their speech pathologist."

McCricrick has worked at Virtual Voices, a speech therapy camp, and Summerside Express, a camp for children with special needs. She's also done one-on-one work with children with autism and cerebral palsy.

"I love kids, and working with them is the best job you could ask for. I can see the potential that all of the special needs children have—they just need a little extra support to reach it."

McCricrick was assisted during her studies by the Howard Petch Scholarship and the Columbia Coast Scholarship.



JESSICA GILLIES

Kung

## Local graduate finds success in hometown

**FOR DAVID CRAWFORD**, there's something about Victoria that keeps him coming back. As a student, as a professional, and as a citizen, he just can't get enough.

"I grew up here, I've gone to school here, I did most of my co-op terms here, and now I work here," he laughs. "It's a good place to be."

Crawford, who is the top student in mechanical engineering, says that while he originally chose UVic so that he could be close to his family and work on his father's boat on the weekends, he stayed because of the people.

"In mechanical engineering, when you're taking six classes at a time, group work and collaboration is essential," says Crawford. "I've been so fortunate to have worked with such outstanding fellow students, and to have been so supported by my professors. I couldn't have done a degree like this without such a great group of people."

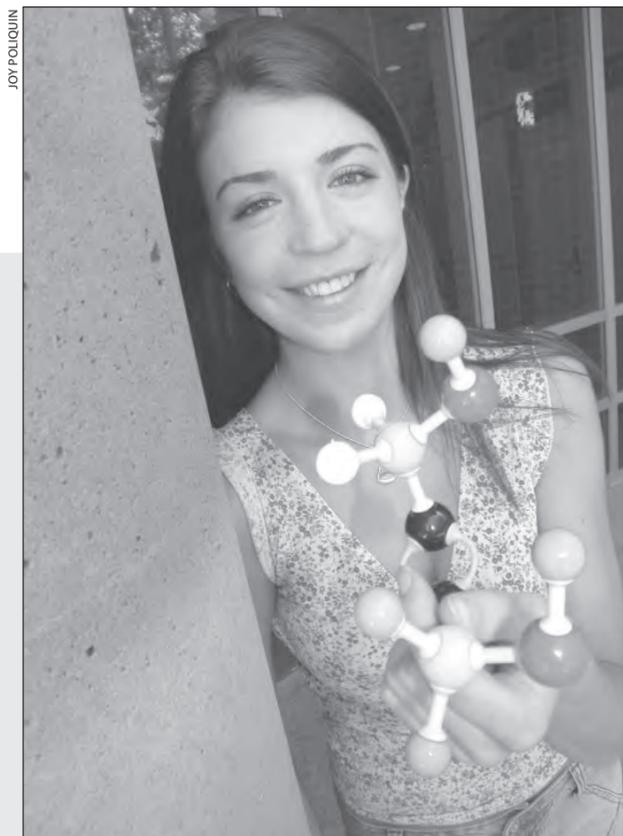
Crawford was active in the co-op program, and spent two terms in Calgary

developing software to monitor anomalies in the TransCanada pipeline system. He then returned to UVic to work as a research assistant under Dr. Henning Struchtrup, where he studied the energy and efficiency of theoretical turbines.

He also worked on and off for Chatwin Engineering in Victoria, where he's currently employed. Crawford is proud to see his degree go to good use, working with senior engineers at Chatwin to help repair leaky condos in the city.

Crawford is now pondering where he'd like to attend graduate school. He hopes to delve into the world of nanotechnology in his future studies but has yet to decide whether he'd prefer a career as a professional engineer or as an academic.

"I'm thinking of going into teaching," he says. "My experience at UVic has been so phenomenal that I'd like to share that with future students. Working at UVic would be amazing—plus I could stay in Victoria!"



JOY POUQUIN

Beleznavy

## Children with disabilities motivate kinesiology grad

**TRACY KUNG** WANTS TO GET MORE CHILDREN with disabilities turned on to sports.

"I think that people with disabilities generally don't participate enough in physical activity," says Kung, who lives with a visual impairment. "I want to help them overcome the barriers."

Kung graduates from UVic this month with a kinesiology degree and has already applied to several graduate schools in her quest to be a physiotherapist. It's a profession that has already played a large role in her life.

"When I was four, I had a brain tumour that caused my visual impairment," she explains. "I had to re-learn how to walk and it was physiotherapy that helped me walk again."

Kung's plans have changed since she first started university. "I was going to go into general science and biology, but then I took anatomy," she says. "It made me realize I was more interested in the human aspect of science."

Kung's passion for physical activity—and for getting others involved—is evident in her extra-curricular activities. She started ballet when she was six, is a marathon runner, and recently started cycling. She's worked as an exercise therapist and volunteered at the sports injury clinic at UVic, the cardiac rehabilitation program at Panorama Recreation Centre, and Operation Trackshoes, an athletic festival for people with mental disabilities in B.C.

She also volunteers with the Queen Alexandra Centre for Children's Health where she's been a summer camp leader and helped out with the pool rehabilitation, teen drop-in, and community family respite programs.

"I'm motivated by helping kids with disabilities," she says. "My friends and family have instilled in me the philosophy that I can do the same things as anybody else. I want to be an advocate for people with disabilities and show them that they can do those things too."

## Thirst for knowledge leads to med school

**BEING ACCEPTED INTO MEDICAL SCHOOL** is an accomplishment for any scholar, but for Katie Beleznavy the achievement is even more impressive.

At barely 21, Beleznavy, the recipient of multiple awards including the UVic Excellence Scholarship, the Charles Humphrey Memorial Scholarship and two NSERC undergraduate student research awards, will be among the youngest in UBC's medical program next fall.

Such advanced success is nothing new to the chemistry graduate who finishes her studies at UVic with an 8.83 GPA. Beleznavy's academic career began with great aplomb after she was advised

to skip Grade 1. She's maintained high academic standing ever since.

"I've always had a strong desire to learn and to push myself to see results," she says. "I'm always thinking—is there something further I can do, can I be more involved, can I try something new?"

This thirst for knowledge guided Beleznavy away from her original academic focus of physics and biology toward chemistry, an approach she hopes will help her medical studies. She's already put this into practice: she's contributed to ongoing biomedical chemistry research at UVic and last summer she joined a photochemistry research project at McMaster University.

Beleznavy is also an active volunteer. She's helped with patient support at the BC Cancer Clinic, was an executive member of the chemistry students' society and continues to assist doctors at the Island Sexual Health Society.

Although Beleznavy is eager for the fast-paced curriculum promised by her program next year, moving to the big city will be a new experience for the island-raised graduate.

"I grew up on a full-fledged farm in Sayward, so Vancouver will be quite a change," she says. "I'm an experienced trail and draft horse rider, but downtown rush hour traffic—that's a whole other world to me!"

VALERIE SHORE



Jagdis

## Medicine is the future for top science grad

AMANDA JAGDIS IS ON A MISSION. After watching her mother, a school friend and countless children deal with the ravages of cancer, she's determined to enter medicine and make a difference.

The 21-year-old Victoria native is well on her way. This month she graduates from UVic with a BSc in biology and the Jubilee medal in science as the faculty's top student. Her grade point average is an astounding 9.0—a perfect score.

Well, almost perfect. Hidden in the sea of A-pluses in her transcript is a lone A-minus. "That was in first year when my mom had cancer and I missed a few classes to drive her to the clinic for treatment," she says. "What can I say?"

Jagdis heads to medical school in the fall, probably at UBC. Medicine is a natural choice. Her father is a physician in pediatrics and infectious diseases and her mother—now cancer-free—worked as a consultant for babies with developmental problems.

"They helped turn me on to medicine and all kinds of science," says Jagdis, who received a number of financial awards during her university studies, including the UVic Excellence Award, the Sheila Calvert Memorial Scholarship and the Seapan International Scholarship.

Jagdis isn't sure yet whether she wants to be a medical researcher—investigating the genetics of cancer—or a practising physician. For now, she just wants to study medicine and spend time with patients—something she's been doing for the past six years as a volunteer at Victoria General Hospital.

"I love keeping patients company. It brings some extra cheer into their day and

has been such a positive, eye-opening experience for me," she says.

Also on Jagdis's résumé are two four-month work terms at National Research Council labs in Halifax and Montreal, summers as a counsellor at Camp Goodtimes for kids with cancer, a peer counsellor at UVic, Victoria Hospice volunteer, and one year on the UVic senate. She also does ballet and yoga.

Looking back on her years at UVic, Jagdis remembers one pivotal moment. "It was first year and I could see all these people around me studying different things and I felt like my doors were completely opening. I was so excited to be here."

JESSICA GILLIES



Trew

## Education grad can relate to troubled teenagers

ROBERT AMMON IS LIVING PROOF that experience really does make the best teacher.

"At the age of 16, I was living in Toronto on my own, trying to manage school and the rest of my life," he says. "It's taught me how important it is that young people understand there are people out there who care."

Ammon's parents separated when he was three, leaving him and his two brothers to be raised by his mother's family in Trinidad and Tobago, where he was born. After their mother died, they moved to Toronto to live with their father, his wife, and his mother in a two-bedroom apartment. Soon after, Ammon set out on his own.

Ammon ended up in London, Ontario, where he coached gymnastics for nearly 10 years. Then he needed a change. "I felt that I was capable of more. Although I had a lot of life experience, it was a bit embarrassing to say that I hadn't even finished high school."

He attended an adult high school in London, and was class valedictorian when he graduated in 1999. He applied to one university—UVic. "I knew after my first year that the BEd program was the right place for me," he says. "I had a goal."

Ammon credits his paternal grandmother as the biggest influence in his life. "She passed away in 1993, but she was pivotal in making me the person I am today. She inspired me to be a teacher of people."

Ammon has been doing a practicum at Victoria High since September, and says that's the kind of school where he'd

like to teach.

"Vic High has a higher proportion of kids that other schools might not take," he says. "Other people shy away from that, but I really embrace it because I can empathize. I'm not intimidated by teenagers; I had a rough childhood too."



Ammon

## This cycling enthusiast means business

JENNIFER TREW CALLS HER SWITCH from kinesiology to commerce the best decision of her academic career.

"I started looking at UVic's commerce program when I was a kinesiology student at the University of Calgary," she says. "I realized that

the skills I'd gain from a commerce degree would let me turn my love of sports into a lucrative profession. Commerce combines the human and social aspect with hard numbers."

Intrigued by the business courses at UVic, Trew left her hometown of Calgary for Victoria. She was drawn by the smaller classes and the chance to focus on international business. As a competitive cyclist, Trew found Victoria had another advantage as well.

"This is the only place you can ride year-round in Canada," she says.

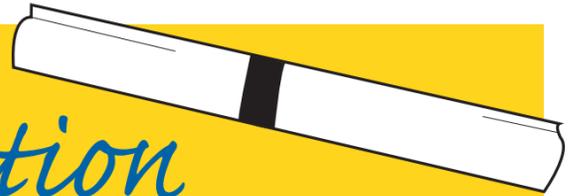
Trew started cycling when she was 16, and won the Junior National Sprint Championship in 1999. In 2002, she placed fourth in the National Elite Road Race Championship. She competed in the Canada Summer Games in 2001, and last month competed in the Road UCI Montreal World Cup.

"Racing is such a rush," says Trew. "It's a combination of speed and tactics." She rides, on average, about 400 to 600 km per week.

Trew isn't sure of her long-term goals, although she's considering a master's degree in finance overseas and wants to work in the business world. But for now, she's concentrating on cycling. She hopes to get on a professional team next year, and is travelling to Australia to race next year as well.

"There's nothing better than going for a ride along the water when the sun's out," she grins. "It's a nice little vacation from the rest of your life."

JOY POLIQUIN



## Top education grad hopes to open own school

**NISHAT (NISH) THAVER**, the top student in the faculty of education at the elementary school level, dreams of one day opening her own school.

"I was born in Nairobi," she says. "I really want to open a school there or somewhere in the developing world for all children to attend, whether or not they have money."

Thaver, who moved to Canada when she was two years-old, has wanted to be a teacher since she was in Grade 2. "I really connect with the young kids, especially in Grades 3 and 4 when they're not really primary but not intermediate, either," she says. "Their innocence and humour keeps you grounded. It's their willingness to learn, to take challenges and work with you that drives me."

Thaver says working hard was crucial for her dreams for the future.

"It was really important that I got a good foundation in teaching if I want to one day open a school of my own," she says. "The 16-month, post-degree professional program was pretty gruelling, but it was useful to me and I had good friends and family along the way who supported me a lot."

Now that she's no longer "swamped with school," Thaver has been doing some tutoring while she waits to get on a teacher-on-call list. "I'm also involved with the Ismaili community here in Vancouver," she says. "I do volunteer teaching for religious classes on Saturday morning."

Thaver has had many inspirational teachers over the years, including her math teacher from Grades 8 to 10. "We had very inspirational teachers at UVic, too, whom I will never forget and who inspired us to be the best teachers that we can be."



JESSICA GILLES

## Child & youth care grad finds success by taking it slow

IT MAY HAVE TAKEN 12 YEARS, but for Andrea Donohue, graduating from UVic's child and youth care program was well worth the wait. "I took my time," she laughs. "The department must be excited that I've finally finished."

Donohue has certainly made the time count. She came to UVic in 1993 after completing a diploma in social work and immediately began to accumulate invaluable work experience.

"I was initially very interested in working with children and individuals with special needs. So in between coursework, I worked at a daycare, then did practica with the Dallas Society, an organization that provides addiction counselling, and with the YMCA/YWCA Street Outreach program."

That led to a full-time position as program co-ordinator at the Pandora Youth Apartments in downtown Victoria, a transitional housing program for youth aged 15 to 19 years-old. For the past six years, Donohue has worked with eight participants at a time to help them develop essential life skills.

"I love my job," says Donohue. "It lets me be as creative as I want, and I get to be around the energy of youth everyday." Donohue had been taking one course at a time on the side, and until recently had only one course left to take before she could graduate—statistics.

"I was dreading that course," she says. "I put it off for a long time, and even considered walking away from child and youth care to avoid it. It was such a surprise that the only A+ I ever received in the program was in stats!"

She credits her father for encouraging her to stick with the program, and is thinking about returning to school for a master's. At the moment, however, she's been offered a job working at a secure youth custody facility in Limerick, Ireland.

"I'm still deciding on that one," she says. "Maybe in a year or so." For this determined graduate, there's no rush.

Donohue



Rambabu

## Top grad student streamlines microwave design

**RAMBABU KARUMUDI** has come a long way from the small 30-house village in India where he grew up to win this year's Governor General's Gold medal as the top graduate student in the faculty of graduate studies.

After earning a bachelor's degree from Nagarjuna University and a master's from Banaras Hindu University, Rambabu came to UVic to work with Dr. Jens Bornemann, an international leader in the field of microwave engineering.

For his dissertation research, Rambabu created design procedures that will greatly streamline the development of microwave components used in applications as far-flung as cell phones to air traffic control radar to wireless Internet communications.

In conventional microwave system design, the circuits are designed and built, then physically tested in the lab, and usually go through several lengthy cycles of adjustment and retesting to meet the required performance specifications.

Rambabu's work provides accurate

circuit models based on the physics of a component. These models are used as the building blocks for a computer-based simulated testing environment, a virtual lab where designs can be tested and optimized, saving time and costs.

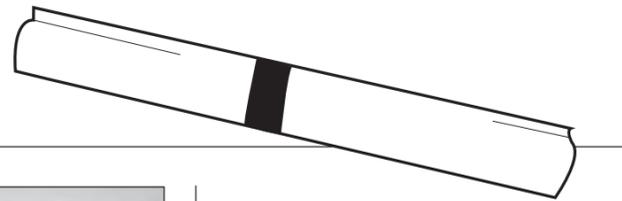
"Rambabu is a hands-on design engineer," says Bornemann. "He thinks in terms of electromagnetic fields, and his design concepts are based on that. He's also a very good teacher."

Rambabu taught two fourth-year engineering classes and was awarded an Andy Farquharson Graduate Teaching Award in 2004. "At the beginning of my PhD program, I was not interested in teaching at all," he says. "But when you see the face of a student light up with understanding, that is very satisfying."

In July, Rambabu will take up a position at the Institute for Infocomm Research in Singapore, where he'll be a research scientist and have the opportunity to continue with teaching at National University of Singapore.



For more June 2005 grad stories see page 12 and visit the *Ring* online at [www.ring.uvic.ca](http://www.ring.uvic.ca)



## MAJOR MEDAL WINNERS

### GOVERNOR GENERAL'S GOLD MEDAL (top PhD, all faculties)

Dr. Rambabu Karumudi, electrical engineering

### LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S SILVER MEDAL (top master's thesis)

Ben Bradley, history

### LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S SILVER MEDAL (top master's, other than thesis)

Kevin Goodman, English

### GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SILVER MEDAL (top undergraduate, all faculties)

Shirley Shi, electrical engineering

### JUBILEE MEDAL FOR HUMANITIES

Emily Braden, Hispanic studies

### JUBILEE MEDAL FOR SCIENCE

Amanda Jagdis, biology

### JUBILEE MEDAL FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES

Morgan McCririck, psychology/linguistics

### MAXWELL CAMERON MEMORIAL MEDALS IN EDUCATION

Nishat Thaver (Elementary)  
Megan Huckabay (Secondary)

### CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR MECHANICAL ENGINEERING MEDAL

David Crawford

### DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE GRADUATION MEDAL

Tony Lin

### IEEE VICTORIA SECTION GOLD MEDAL IN COMPUTER ENGINEERING

Kiel Boyle

### IEEE VICTORIA SECTION GOLD MEDAL IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

Shirley Shi

### LAW SOCIETY GOLD MEDAL

Paula Ramsay

### VICTORIA MEDAL IN FINE ARTS

Philip Rempel, music (performance)



Ramsay

## Law grad turns passion for outdoors into career

PAULA RAMSAY CAN'T SEEM TO KEEP STILL. The recipient of the Law Society Gold Medal recently returned from a two-month sea kayaking and backpacking trip in Patagonia and is already looking forward to her next wilderness adventure. An avid cyclist, runner, hiker, climber and telemark skier, it's no wonder she found a career in environmental law.

"I've always had tremendous enthusiasm for the outdoors, and that led me to environmental science," she says. "When I finished my degree, I knew I wanted to apply that knowledge to make a difference in environmental issues, and law seemed like the perfect pathway."

Ramsay has already put her ambition into action. As a student, she volunteered for two years on the executive of UVic's Environmental Law Centre. The centre offers pro bono public interest legal aid to community organizations. "I was able to jump right in and witness real change," she says. "That's something I'd like to continue."

Ramsay also took advantage of UVic's co-op program, with terms at Vancouver's ombudsperson's office, the Arvy Finlay law firm in Victoria, and UVic's own institute for new economics.

On the academic front, Ramsay has published two articles in the *Journal of Environmental Law and Policy* and previously received the Law Foundation/David Strong Leadership Award in Legal Studies.

Among the many awards that assisted Ramsay during her studies were: the Bertha Wilson University Women's Club Scholarship, the Borden Ladner Gervais Prize in Contracts and the Jim Ellis Memorial Prize in International Law.

This summer, she'll continue articling with Arvy Finlay. She hopes to work for an environmental NGO, but says that a graduate degree in law is not out of the question.

"I can't say what's in the future, but you'll most likely find me outside," she says. "The options are endless."



Huckabay

## Music educator hits the right note

WHEN MEGAN HUCKABAY FIRST CAME TO UVIC as a student she foresaw a career as a pianist. When tendonitis forced her to stop playing, she turned to her second love—science.

"I've always been fascinated by science, and biology in particular," says Huckabay, winner of the Maxwell Cameron Medal in Education (secondary). "I started a biology degree, but just couldn't ignore that my heart was with choral music. I decided to audition for voice and found myself once again embracing my passion for music."

She earned a music degree and then a BEd in music education, where she's still able to apply her knowledge of biology.

"I love drawing upon the sciences in teaching music," she says. "It's possible to draw analogies between the complex properties of a living organism and a musical ensemble. They each depend on independent components to succeed."

This dynamic approach to learning worked well during her teaching practicum, where she taught courses in chamber choir, vocal ensemble, men and women's choir and intermediate strings and band.

Huckabay was assisted during her studies by several awards, including a Horning Memorial Scholarship, a Don Wright Scholarship in Music Education, and the Glenn and Mary Daugharty Bursary in Music.

## Essay examines relationship between violence and culture

POPULAR CULTURE may not seem to have much in common with psychoanalytic theory, but for Kevin Goodman, combining these two elements has paved the way to success.

The English scholar has won the Lieutenant Governor's Silver Medal (other than thesis) for his master's essay, which focuses on the relationship of violence to race, class, sex and gender in Emile Zola's play and novel, *Thérèse Raquin*.

"Zola expounded the view that the world is explainable through reason, science, and language, and he argued that authors should approach their characters in a detached, scientific manner," says Goodman. "Yet *Thérèse Raquin*, like much of Zola's fiction, is obsessed with violence and disorder, which doesn't fit into his proposed scientific approach. I was interested in this contradiction, and with the specific focus on violence."

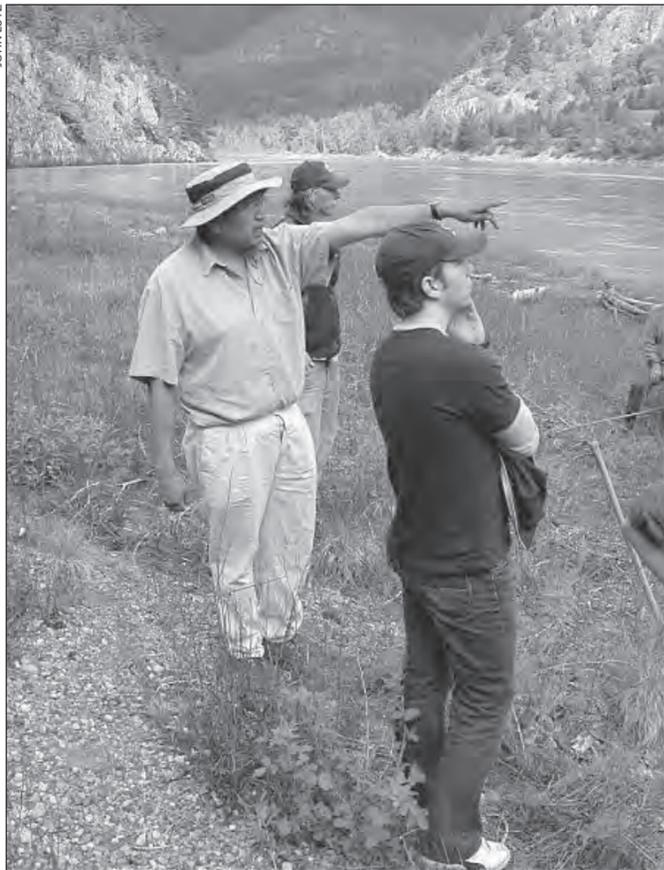
Goodman's fascination with this theme extends beyond the scope of language and literature. He sees it everywhere—in the news media, on the pages of books, and at the theatre.

"We all can take a rational position and denounce violence but it's a bit more difficult to try to figure out why it has such a hold on us," says Goodman. "It's too easy to say bad people do bad things. I'm interested in the ways modern society is horrified and fascinated by violence at the same time."

Goodman's foray into representations of violence stems from his diverse interests in popular culture, communications and psychoanalytic theory. It's this interdisciplinary approach that led him to select UVic for his graduate degree.

Goodman's supervisor, Dr. Sheila Rabillard, sees great promise for his future. "Kevin's work always has a touch of the unexpected, and it's plain that he will do brilliantly in his doctoral studies."

This fall, Goodman will continue to explore the relationship between violence and culture when he starts a PhD in visual and cultural studies at the University of Rochester.



Sonny McHalsie relates Stó:lō history to UVic grad students Jon Clapperton (front) and Henry Nikolaus. They're standing by the Fraser River near Yale.

## Field school students learn First Nation skills and history

by Jessica Gillies

Members of the Stó:lō Nation invited UVic graduate students into their homes and into their culture during a unique ethnohistory field school held last month in Chilliwack.

Ethnohistory combines the research of historical documents with oral history. The students researched topics suggested by the Stó:lō, such as the impact of disease on Stó:lō society and culture, the history and biographies of elders, and the history of Coqualeetza, the former residential school that now houses the Stó:lō Nation administration and cultural centre.

"We were invited by the Stó:lō Nation to do a number of history projects that they've identified as key for their community," says UVic historian Dr. John Lutz, who co-taught the class with Keith Carlson, a University of Saskatchewan historian. Lutz says theirs is the only ethnohistory field school in Canada.

"A lot of the different topics that we asked the students to research will help supplement our own research," says Sonny McHalsie, a treaty director and cultural advisor with the Stó:lō Nation. The students' research contributes to the wealth of knowledge that the Stó:lō have about their history, which can help with treaty negotiations and heritage policy-shaping.

The class, made up of four history students from UVic and six from the University of Saskatchewan, lived

with Stó:lō families for a week before moving into a longhouse for three weeks. The field school included a boat trip on the Fraser River to learn how the Stó:lō interpret the river.

"It's a cultural orientation to the Stó:lō territory," says Lutz. The word "Stó:lō" means "people of the river," and some place names refer to things that can only be seen from the river. "The Stó:lō can tell their history as we travel the river," he says. "The story is in the landscape."

The field school is a bit like a co-op work term, says Lutz. "Students learn about Stó:lō culture and pick up some practical skills. They're writing not just an academic paper, but a paper that has utility beyond the course." Papers the students write will be kept in the Stó:lō archives.

The Stó:lō chose UVic to do the research because the university has a strong ethnohistory component in its history department. "We're helping them document a culture that didn't leave any written records," says Lutz. This year marks the fourth time he and Carlson have run the field school.

"We recognize the important contributions that academic institutions can provide to us," says McHalsie. "It's an ongoing relationship that we hope to maintain. Knowing our history is a big part of our culture."

The field school hosted a traditional thank-you feast on May 24 to acknowledge the help of the elders and thank the Stó:lō community for their support.

## Report on water puts nature's needs first

by Patty Pitts

The final report in a series examining water use in Canada calls for governments to re-orient the country's water management and allocate domestic and industrial use based on what's needed to maintain basic watershed health.

The report, *At a Watershed: Ecological Governance and Sustainable Water Management in Canada*, by UVic's POLIS project on ecological governance, urges governments at all levels to embed conservation and water sustainability as a core principle in all water management plans.

"Governments and businesses must think differently about how they manage water," says Oliver Brandes, project leader and co-author of the report. "We need to switch from the supply-side approach and unleash the full potential of managing demand. We're approaching the worldwide tipping point on ecosystem protection and water is the strategic resource for the 21st century. Canada needs a national

strategy that ensures basic watershed needs first, and allocates the rest using efficiency and conservation as the guiding approach."

The report urges more aggressive integration of new technology into water-management plans. Brandes points out that plumbing codes were recently changed in B.C. to incorporate low-flush toilets, long after the technology was first available and widely accepted in much of the world.

In many parts of B.C. installation of water-saving devices is still voluntary. Governments must set definite water conservation goals and make the necessary policy and legislative changes required to meet those goals, says Brandes.

Dr. Michael M'Gonigle, the eco-research chair at UVic, POLIS director and one of the authors of the report adds: "We're truly 'at a watershed' concerning water management in this country, and we all have choices to make. Discussion is underway in many cities across the country about expanding reservoirs

into neighbouring watersheds. We can keep going down this unsustainable supply path, but when does it end? Or we can choose to follow a new path based on conservation and managing demand, but all levels of government must start planning now to make this happen."

*At a Watershed* follows up on a series of three reports that, in turn, examined water use in Canada, diagnosed the country's ailing urban water management system, then provided the prescription—practical action plans for all levels of government.

This latest report represents the final step, providing "the long-term plan for healthy living" by presenting best practices for maintaining healthy water sources, and successful examples from around the world where other jurisdictions have made the commitment to effectively manage water demand.

The project received financial support from the Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation to produce *At a Watershed*. It's available for download online at [www.waterdsm.org](http://www.waterdsm.org).

## Graduate student gets first-hand look at WWII battlefields

After learning about Canada's soldiers through books and archival material, military history PhD student Tim Balzer is getting his first look this month at the actual fields where they fought and died.

Balzer is one of only 12 Canadian students and graduates awarded a bursary this year from the Canadian Battlefields Foundation. He left May 30 for a study tour of France and Belgium that included a visit to Juno Beach on June 6, the 61st anniversary of the allied assault on the German defence.

"Sometimes researching military history can become too 'academic,' it's the study of documents rather than events," says Balzer. "Like speaking with veterans, seeing these locations will help drive home to me the reality and cost of war."

Balzer previously attracted national attention when his master's thesis research on how Canadians were told about the Dieppe battle revealed that allied military and government authorities tried to conceal the raid's failure through

media manipulation.

As part of his study tour, Balzer must prepare two presentations on specific battles and a research project on a Canadian soldier who died on the European battle grounds. He must also keep a journal of his journey.

"Seeing these battle sites and war memorials will give me a greater understanding of our military history and will certainly impact both my teaching and writing about these battles," says Balzer.

## Camas harvest celebrates ecocultural history

The camas meadows on UVic's campus were more than a colourful carpet beneath the Garry Oak trees to the area's aboriginal people—the bulbs of the delicate flowers were an important source of food to the Coast Salish nations who made the area their home.

As part of her geography and environmental studies graduate research, UVic graduate student Pamela Tudge is inviting the public to learn more about ecocultural history of the area at a day-long

Lekwungen Camas Harvest on Wednesday, June 22 in the camas meadow off Gordon Head Road, across from parking lot 10.

"This harvest will be the first in this area in at least 150 years," says Tudge, who has invited youth groups and elders from various Coast Salish nations to the event. "It will also be used as a model for camas harvests throughout the Lekwungen traditional territory."

The harvest begins at 9 a.m., followed by a traditional pit-cook

of the bulbs. Cultural activities and interpretive walks will be held throughout the day and a feast will be held in the afternoon.

Tudge's co-organizer, Songhees lands manager Cheryl Bryce, is a descendant of the original residents of the Gyro Park village site. The Lekwungen people are now interested in introducing the camas, and other traditional foods, back into their diet to improve their health.

For more information contact Tudge at [ptudge@uvic.ca](mailto:ptudge@uvic.ca)

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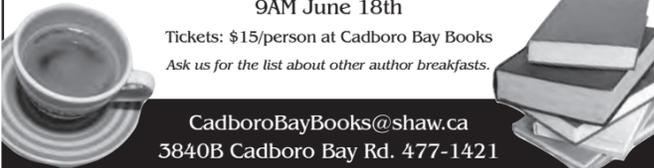


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**New parking options  
 to be offered this fall**

UVic faculty, staff and students can choose between several parking and commuting options this fall as UVic continues to work toward its goal of reducing vehicle traffic to campus.

Improvements to facilities for cyclists, a new employee bus pass program and a new flexible parking pass are among the more than half-dozen programs being offered as part of the university's transportation demand management (TDM) strategy. Reducing single occupant vehicle traffic to campus is one of the goals of UVic's campus plan.

"The university recognizes that there is no single transportation solution that will work for everyone," says sustainability co-ordinator Sarah Webb. "Not everyone can car-pool and not everyone can cycle. So the aim of the strategy is to create a series of options and incentives to help people shift away from the single occupant vehicle. We're serious about continuing to reduce the amount of vehicle traffic coming to and from campus."

Beginning in September, UVic employees can purchase a monthly bus pass from campus security for only \$38 a month, a savings of \$22 a month over the regular cost. UVic is also offering a new flexible parking pass which is designed for employees who use alternative transportation but occasionally need to bring their vehicles to campus. The flex pass allows the permit

holder to park on campus up to 12 days a month for an annual cost of \$100.50 in the general permit zone and \$176.50 in reserved.

Both pass programs are pilot projects for the 2005/2006 academic year and a finite number will be issued.

UVic is also introducing Ride-share permits, which provide priority parking between 7 to 10 a.m. daily in a designated lot when three or more participants share a vehicle. Unlike the car-pooling program, Rideshare participants do not need to live at different addresses or own their own vehicles. The program is aimed at family members or others who share the same residence and want to ride to campus together.

Car-pooling participants will continue to have access to a designated stall 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Registered car-pools are for commuters who live at separate residences and who each own a vehicle. A minimum of three people split the cost of a regular annual parking pass.

This fall UVic also hopes to expand membership in the Victoria Car Share Co-op. The university and the co-op are working together to add to the campus vehicle fleet by signing up new members.

Co-op members have access to six vehicles around the city and don't pay for gas, insurance, parking fees, or maintenance. One vehicle is already based on campus and

can be booked online or through a 24-hour phone line. Car-sharing is ideal for family housing residents and faculty members and those considering the purchase of a second vehicle.

The cost of UVic annual parking permits is increasing for 2005-06 to more accurately reflect the true cost of parking on campus and to help pay for the new TDM strategy initiatives.

The annual rate of parking in the University Centre parkade increases to \$1,008 from \$720 (an increase to \$84 from \$60 monthly). The annual fee for general reserved parking increases to \$441 from \$315 (an increase to \$36.75 from \$26.25 per month) and the annual fee for general parking increases to \$252 from \$180 (an increase to \$21 from \$15 per month).

The volume of vehicle traffic to campus has been steadily dropping over the past decade. A 2004 traffic audit showed that traffic to UVic has declined 13 per cent since 2000 while cycling trips have risen by 12 per cent in the same period. The audit showed that, for the first time, less than 50 per cent of the trips to campus were in single-occupancy vehicles.

Information about the new TDM initiatives will be included with parking pass renewal forms and is available on the facilities management website at [web.uvic.ca/fmgr/TDM-main.html](http://web.uvic.ca/fmgr/TDM-main.html).

Too busy? Connect online.  
[telus.com/student](http://telus.com/student)




# Calendar highlights

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

**Shashin: Japanese Canadian Studio Photography to 1942.** Until June 22. Maltwood Art Museum & Gallery

## Thursday, June 9

**Convocation** 10 a.m. Faculty of education. Univ. Centre Farquhar Auditorium. 721-7632

**Convocation** 2:30 p.m. Faculties of engineering, fine arts. Univ. Centre Farquhar Auditorium. 721-7632.

## Friday, June 10

**Convocation** 10 a.m. Faculties of human & social development, business.

**Convocation** 2:30 p.m. Faculty of human & social development.

## Wednesday, June 15

**Institute for Dispute Resolution Lecture** 12:30 p.m. *Painting New Pictures: Artful Leadership in Changing Times*. Michelle LeBaron, UVic. Hickman 105. 721-8199

## Friday, June 24

**President's Fitwalk 2005** 12 p.m. Athletics and recreation invites

everyone to participate. Meet at University Centre, front entrance. 472-4038

## Ring deadline

Calendar items for the July 7 edition of the *Ring* should be sent by 4 p.m., June 29 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.

## Math scholarship helps recruit best and brightest

by Chris Thackray

When math professor Dr. Bill Pfaffenberger saw Vancouver Island's most talented high school math students heading to Ontario universities, he knew UVic could do a better job of recruiting them to study in Victoria.

Pfaffenberger, as regional co-ordinator for national high school math competitions (such as the Euclid and Fermat tests), was dismayed by the number of local students with high test scores being recruited by eastern universities.

"We have a world class reputation in math and science," says Pfaffenberger, "but we were losing these brilliant students to the competition. We needed a way to reach out to these students earlier and build more incentives for them to enrol at UVic."

To stem the brain drain, Pfaffenberger devised the Excellence in Math Award program, through which top-ranked high school math students are offered an award based on their high scores in national math competitions in Grades 11 and 12.

As a recruiting strategy, the program has been a resounding success. Prospective students are now awarded the UVic entrance scholarship as early as Grade 11, with the promise of more

funding if they do well in Grade 12. For these high-calibre students, the early prospect of admission and additional funding from an entrance scholarship makes UVic an attractive choice for them.

Established in 1991, the Excellence in Math Award scheme has flourished through the guidance and vision of Pfaffenberger, and has prospered financially through significant financial donations to an endowment which funds the scholarships.

"Philanthropic support for this program has been fantastic," says Pfaffenberger, citing the link between the program's tangible success and the enthusiastic support from donors.

"At first, we were recruiting about 20 per cent of the students we made an offer to," says Pfaffenberger. "As the funds in the endowment increased, we're now getting over 50 per cent. That's a huge jump in our success rate."

Initially, Pfaffenberger limited his recruiting efforts to Victoria and Vancouver Island. Now, thanks to the generosity of a two major benefactors, matching funds from UVic, and the donations of faculty and staff, the fund has grown to more than \$400,000, allowing the university to recruit from among the very best

students across B.C.

Donors like Dick Bradshaw were drawn by the program's results. The retired head of the Vancouver-based investment firm, Phillips, Hager and North, got to know Pfaffenberger while the former was chair of the academic pension plan.

"I've always wanted to back someone else's great idea, and Bill had a great idea," says Bradshaw. "It's very gratifying to know how effective this program is, and that the donation helped produce results you can see."

Since the first recipients of the scholarship began graduating in 1995, six of them have won the Governor General's Silver Medal, the highest academic award the university can bestow on an undergraduate.

"These are superb students—all with a GPA higher than 8.0, some with 9.0. That's the very top," says Pfaffenberger. "They're in a category that's very, very unique."

The scholarship program gives UVic a huge advantage when recruiting the top students, says Pfaffenberger. "And thanks to the vision and commitment of our donors, we have a program that helps us attract the most brilliant mathematics students in the province."

## UVic leads new \$1 million centre for science literacy

by Valerie Shore

The University of Victoria is home base for a new \$1-million, multi-agency centre devoted to improving science teaching and learning.

The Pacific Centre for Scientific and Technological Literacy is one of five university-based centres across Canada recently awarded funding by Science and Engineering Research Canada. The centres are being created under the Centres for Research in Youth, Science Teaching and Learning (CRYSTAL) initiative, a pilot program to improve science and math education in Canada.

"Only a small fraction of high school students go on to science-related careers," says Dr. Wolff-Michael Roth, co-director of the new centre and the Lansdowne chair in applied cognitive science at UVic. "We need to do a much better job of showing students how science is

relevant to their world."

The new centre will be administered at UVic and involves 15 researchers from UVic, Simon Fraser University and Malaspina University College. External partners include the Capital Regional District, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), several B.C. school districts, and the B.C. Ministry of Education. Others will be added as the project evolves.

The centre will work with teachers, scientists and NGOs to offer more participatory science programs for K-12 students and assess the effectiveness of these programs in raising the overall level of science and technology literacy and increasing postsecondary science enrolment.

"The key word is participation," says Roth. "Research shows that scientific literacy grows the more a student gets involved. For example, if you tell all students in a class to

measure how fast a creek is flowing, it might turn them off. But if you let them decide what the problem is and how they want to investigate it, they're participating. It turns them on to science."

To spark and foster interest in science the centre will organize internship programs for high school students in UVic laboratories (e.g. climate modelling, water quality), offer professional development opportunities for teachers, and promote various experiential and in-classroom initiatives on topics such as marine conservation and restoration, meteorology, and environmental studies.

The centre will also investigate new ways of teaching students how to read and write scientific, or informational, text and, working with a number of designated "CRYSTAL lighthouse schools" across B.C., will test and demonstrate innovative science education programs.

# Ringers

Dr. **Julio Navarro** (physics & astronomy) is one of 17 co-authors of a paper that made the cover of the June 2 edition of the international science magazine, *Nature*. The international team of astrophysicists, led by researchers at the Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics in Germany, has just released results from the "Millennium Run," the largest computer simulation ever of the structure and growth of the universe. The simulation—the result of 500,000 trillion calculations by one of the largest supercomputers in Europe—shows how galaxies and quasars are thought to have evolved from the Big Bang 13.7 billion years ago. "It maps the way in which numerical experiments can be analysed to shed light on the origin of the largest and smallest scale structures in the universe," says Navarro, who spent part of his current sabbatical working on the project at the Max Planck Institute. He tested and readied the numerical algorithms required for the simulation.

Preventing harm from drug use is a global concern. A new book co-edited by Dr. **Tim Stockwell** (psychology/centre for addictions research) summarizes the research regarding global levels and patterns of drug-related harm, common risk factors, and the effectiveness of a wide range of intervention strategies. In *Preventing Harmful Substance Use: the Evidence Base for Policy and Practice*, contributors provide science-based reviews of knowledge on their areas of expertise, and make clear recommendations for the future of prevention policy and practice. A final section draws the work together and offers a framework for an integrated science of prevention. The book is available at the UVic Bookstore.

Dr. **Hari Srivastava** (mathematics & statistics) is the Canadian researcher with the greatest number of collaborations with scientists in India, says a report on Canada-India scientific cooperation published by Science-Metrix for the federal government. Between 1990 and 2001, Srivastava was involved in 34 collaborative projects, topping the list of Canadian researchers with 12 or more collaborations with Indian scientists. Srivastava, who studies mathematical analysis and mathematical physics, has ongoing collaborations with researchers in many countries.

The promotion and publications unit in the division of continuing studies picked up a national marketing award at this year's Canadian Association for University Continuing Education (CAUCE) conference, held in Newfoundland on May 29-June 1. The restoration of natural systems diploma program's brochure, designed and produced by **Michael Turner**, won first place in the small brochure category. CAUCE holds an annual competition to recognize innovation and excellence for marketing materials.

Dr. **David Leeming**, professor emeritus of mathematics and statistics, has won a 2005 Education Prize from the Pacific Institute for the Mathematical Sciences (PIMS). The prize recognizes a member of the PIMS community who has played a major role in promoting public awareness and appreciation of mathematics, as well as fostering communication among groups and organizations concerned with mathematical training at all levels. Leeming has been extensively involved in PIMS education initiatives, and has been the PIMS education co-ordinator since 2001. Leeming was presented with his \$1,000 award at PIMS Education Day at UVic on June 1.

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# Convocation

## Top humanities grad leads hectic double life

SOME PEOPLE SEARCH ALL THEIR LIVES to find a life passion. Not Emily Braden. At age 23, she has two grand passions—Spanish and music—and she's devoted her life to both.

"I'm so in love with music and I'm just as passionate about Spanish," she says. "Sometimes it can be exhausting, but having the two is what makes me feel alive."

By day, Braden is a serious scholar of Spanish and Latin American literature. She graduates from UVic this month with a BA in Latin American studies—and a medal as the top student in the faculty of humanities.

By night, Braden is an accomplished jazz and blues singer, indulging a natural talent that became apparent while growing up in Boise, Idaho. She later moved to Oregon to study arts at Mount

Hood Community College and sing with Genesis, a local jazz group that tours the Northwest.

She soon met renowned Victoria jazz musician Louise Rose, who offered to mentor her if she moved to B.C. "Louise has played piano for Aretha Franklin and sang back-up for Ray Charles," says Braden. "She's incredible and so wise."

Braden arrived in Victoria in 2002 and, while taking music lessons from Rose, began her studies at UVic. She started out in linguistics but was immediately drawn to Spanish. "Music and language are very similar," she explains. "Both are driven by a desire to have a connection between people."

The past three years have been a blur of guitar and voice lessons, rehearsals and guest performances, yet Braden maintained her academic focus, achieving an impressive grade point average of 8.64.

"I like contrast," she says. "I love having a nightlife, and then this separate university life. I'm as attracted to the spontaneity and emotion of making music as I am to the analysis and contemplation that academic work requires."

Her studies were supported in part by the Pablo Cabañas Memorial Scholarship and a President's Scholarship for part-time undergraduate students.

Braden's music career will have to wait a little longer while she completes a master's in Latin American studies at UVic. "It was a difficult decision, but there's something in me that says don't leave Spanish yet. My goal is to be completely fluent."

Braden has faith that there'll always be room for both passions in her world. "All those clichés are so true about doing what you love and things will work out," she grins. "I really believe that."

## Music degree a prelude to career in math

NOW THAT HE HAS A MUSIC DEGREE in his repertoire, Philip Rempel will be back at UVic this fall to start another undergraduate degree—this time in math.

"I've always enjoyed doing math, but it's nice to have something artistic that you can do as well," says Rempel of his unusual academic combination. "I needed to develop my skills and overall appreciation of music."

He succeeded—with distinction. Rempel is this year's winner of the Victoria Medal as the top student in the faculty of fine arts.

The performance major opted to earn a degree in music first so

that he could build on his lessons from high school. His percussion instruments of choice are the snare drum, marimba (a deep-toned xylophone), and timpani (kettle drums)

"I chose percussion in Grade 8 because I thought it would be fun to hit things and I didn't know any other instruments," he says. "I picked the one that seemed easiest to learn."

Rempel, who was assisted in part by a Stephen A. Jennings Memorial Scholarship, attributes his high GPA to hard work and a lot of practice. "I practised almost every day, depending on rehearsals and on how much other work

I had to do."

While at UVic, Rempel says he had "a lot of good experiences playing with different groups, as well as on my own." He played with UVic's wind symphony and orchestra, as well as with the Victoria Youth Orchestra.

His long-term plans are to earn BSc and MSc degrees in math and to one day teach math at a college. But hitting musical instruments will continue to be a big part of his future. "I'm not sure exactly how that will work out, but I definitely plan to continue using what I've learned."



Rempel

## Child and youth care grad aims to strengthen aboriginal communities

CATHY RICHARDSON WANTS TO improve life for aboriginal children and families.

"I've always been interested in movements of social justice," says Richardson, who graduates from UVic this month with a PhD in child and youth care. "Before I was involved in Canadian aboriginal issues, I was active in other areas such as anti-poverty and the women's movement."

Richardson completed her PhD in December and has since been named to a B.C. Innovation Research Chair in aboriginal early childhood development at Malaspina University-College in Nanaimo.

"That's a huge honour for me," she says. "After experiencing the conditions for Métis children

and families, I'm interested in contributing to cultural strengthening and serving all aboriginal groups to promote healing and well-being."

Richardson's father was an English immigrant and her mother's family is from Fort Chipewyan in northern Alberta.

After earning a master's degree in counselling from UVic in 1998, she worked as a school counsellor for the First Nations education division in the Victoria school district. She also worked for Métis Community Services in Victoria, where she's now a board member. She attended meetings with families and the Ministry of Children and Family Development, explained the families' concerns, and helped to keep children connected with

Métis culture.

Richardson's dissertation was on the use of stories in preserving Métis culture for children and families. She concluded that children need to be raised with stories about their family and culture in order to feel strong and grounded, that Métis people need their own space to share stories and experience belonging, and that stories can be a form of resistance against oppression and transform personal experience into cultural experience.

At Malaspina, Richardson will be leading a research program on issues related to aboriginal child development and child care. She'll also be strengthening links between aboriginal communities and the university-college.



Richardson