

UVic honours five top researchers

by Valerie Shore

Developing new drugs to fight cancer, defining the science behind climate change, and communicating the wonders of chemistry to the public—these are some of the outstanding achievements of this year’s winners of Craigdarroch Research Awards.

The five awards were presented at a special luncheon at the Fairmont Empress on Feb. 23. The annual awards honour research excellence at UVic and are named for Craigdarroch Castle, home to the university’s predecessor institution, Victoria College, from 1921-1946.

The 2005 Craigdarroch Research Award recipients are:

Dr. **Harold Coward**, winner of the Craigdarroch Gold Medal for Career Achievement in Research, is a world-renowned scholar in religious studies, with special emphasis on Hinduism. His work ranges from classical language theories in south Asia to modern ethical concerns of the survival of this planet. In the process, he has written 17 books, edited 33, has 57 chapters in books, and is author or co-author of 76 journal articles.

Coward is equally well-known for his leadership in bringing religious studies together with other disciplines to address major world policy issues, ranging from climate change and management of the environment to peace-building and health.

Coward is founding director of UVic’s centre for studies in religion and society, co-chairs the national Coasts Under Stress project, and was recently elected president of the Royal Society of Canada’s Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences.

The recipient of the Craigdarroch Silver Medal for Excellence in Research is Dr. **Andrew Weaver** (earth & ocean sciences), one of the world’s leading climate researchers and the Canada Research Chair in atmospheric science.

At UVic, Weaver has built one of the most sophisticated climate modelling facilities on the planet and has tackled subjects as diverse as the phys-

SEE CRAIGDARROCH PP.4-5

Upcoming budget to address transportation options

When UVic’s board of governors discusses the university’s budget for 2005-06 later this spring, one of the items members will be considering is an employee bus pass.

The Victoria Regional Transit Commission has approved a proposal to negotiate an agreement for a pass with UVic. B.C. Transit has agreed to give the university a discount in its pass rates, subject to a contribution from UVic to the program. The combined support would provide a pass to employees at a reduced rate.

“UVic is committed to reducing the amount of vehicular traffic to its Gordon Head campus and this partnership with B.C. Transit would be an important part of our transportation demand management

program,” says Sarah Webb, UVic’s sustainability co-ordinator.

“This partnership with UVic follows the success of the UPASS program which has more than doubled the amount of student ridership to campus since it was introduced in 1998,” says commission chair Don Amos. “This is the first program of its kind for the capital region and we hope to form similar partnerships to encourage employees from other large organizations to ride the bus to work.”

To encourage UVic employees to make a commitment to public transit, the monthly bus passes wouldn’t be available to annual parking pass holders. But UVic is considering flexible daily parking options for bus pass holders who still need to drive to campus occasionally. Other budget

items under consideration include a revision of UVic parking rates.

As part of its transportation demand management strategy, UVic is aiming to improve transportation choices for students, faculty and staff. All new buildings include shower and change room facilities for pedestrians and cyclists, as well as covered bike parking and lockers. UVic designates parking spaces for car pooling participants and is a partner with the Victoria Car Share Co-op.

A 2004 traffic audit showed that traffic to campus had declined 13 per cent since 2000 and that less than 50 per cent of all trips to campus were in single-occupancy vehicles. At the same time, transit ridership has increased by 33 per cent over 2000 levels.

Cassels appointed to second term

Jamie Cassels, UVic’s vice president academic and provost since 2001, has been reappointed to a new five



Cassels

year term after a unanimous recommendation by a 16-member review committee and a 95 per cent vote of approval in a ratification ballot by faculty members.

The reappointment was confirmed by the university’s board of governors on Feb. 24 and is effective July 1, 2006.

After collecting feedback from internal and external constituents, the review committee concluded that Cassels is a “superb leader and facilitator,” motivated by an “unwavering desire to improve the quality of the broader learning environment for all students, faculty and staff,” and who has “demonstrated the capacity to take a principled approach to tough issues and exhibits exceptional

integrity and fairness.”

“The university is indeed fortunate to have an academic leader as strong, enthusiastic and capable as Jamie Cassels,” says UVic President David Turpin. “The enthusiastic support for his reappointment is testimony to the respect afforded Prof. Cassels.”

The vice president academic and provost is responsible for academic leadership and the fiscal management of academic programs and initiatives of the university.

“I’ve always been proud of our accomplishments at UVic, but the last four or five years have been particularly transformative,” says Cassels. “We’ve been joined by about

SEE CASSELS P.4



Cheryl Reece with a sample of “her” plant, salal.

BACK TO THEIR ROOTS

A UVic graduate student helps First Nations schoolchildren reconnect with their natural world

by Lynda Hills

“When gathering Ts’üga’aam, one must have a clear mind. When you are done, you can leave a gift of thanks. Never pick for fun and waste this precious plant.”

Ts’üga’aam, or licorice root, is one of the native plants schoolchildren in a First Nations community on B.C.’s north coast are learning about, thanks to Judith (Edōsdi) Thompson, a master’s student in UVic’s school of environmental studies.

Through Thompson’s Gitga’at plant project, students in Hartley Bay school’s Grade 9 to 12 classes are connecting to the world around them, and reaffirming a tradition of passing on knowledge from one generation to the next. Hartley Bay is a community of about 200 people located 140 km southeast of Prince Rupert.

“The project retains and strengthens the transmission of traditional ecological knowledge,” says Thompson. “It reconnects children to their elders and the land, something that hasn’t been happening.”

Thompson developed the project based on a curriculum she worked on with two Tsimshian teachers, Cameron and Eva-Ann Hill. The

project pairs up 19 students to choose and research a plant native to Hartley Bay. The children interviewed elders, researched the Internet, and used botany books provided by UVic through the Coasts Under Stress research project.

Throughout the process, Thompson monitored the students’ progress and provided support with such things as interview role-playing. She solicited feedback from teachers, elders and the students themselves. The project also involved field trips. Information gathered provided a framework for student reports and a variety of public presentations.

Students also contributed to a poster with details of each plant along with its uses as material, medicine and food. Thompson and the students are currently drafting a booklet called *The Gitga’at Plant Project*.

“The students learned skills that assisted them not only with their interviews, but in recording the knowledge they learned, and sharing this knowledge and wisdom with the community,” says Thompson.

First Nations people are under-represented in science classrooms and in science-related careers, notes

SEE INDIGENOUS PLANTS P.4



Simpson and wife Naomi (inset).

Master engineer helped build Victoria, leaves legacy to UVic

by Chris Thackray

The faculty of engineering has received a \$200,000 planned gift from the estate of prominent Victoria engineer Ray Simpson.

Simpson, who built some of Victoria's most familiar buildings—including Government House, the Victoria Law Courts and the Douglas Building—died last August. The gift from his estate will establish the Ray and Naomi Simpson Scholarship Award for undergraduate electrical and mechanical engineering students.

“Our faculty is in the midst of a major expansion,” says Dr. Michael Miller, dean of engineering. “This generous gift will recognize the achievements and potential of some of our excellent students and will further increase our capacity to recruit the most promising students.”

The endowment will create a \$3,000 scholarship for a top-ranked, second-year engineering student. The scholarship is renewable, mean-

ing the student must maintain a high grade point average to continue receiving the award in subsequent years.

“Ray Simpson, as one of the builders of this city, had very high standards both professionally, and in life,” says Miller. “The idea of a renewable scholarship that would challenge students to strive to be their very best affirms the values and ideals of an extraordinarily talented man who made an invaluable contribution to our community.”

John Raymond Simpson was born in Edmonton in 1914 to English immigrant parents. In 1923 his family moved to California where, in his youth, he excelled in music and tennis, becoming the youngest member of the 1931 U.S. Davis Cup tennis team. The following year, his family returned to Victoria where he graduated from Vic High.

A gifted musician, Simpson successfully auditioned to play in the orchestra aboard the trans-Pacific Liner Empress of Japan, playing cello and

clarinet. Later, with aid of a scholarship, he enrolled at the University of Leeds, graduating with a degree in civil engineering in 1939. During a short stay in a British hospital, he fell in love with one of his nurses, Naomi Seddon, and they married in 1939.

When war broke out, Simpson was commissioned to build subterranean ammunition bunkers and later, in British Guyana, the marine defences against a suspected invasion of South America. After the war, Simpson returned to Victoria with his young family, and went to work with the provincial government, rising to the position of senior structural engineer, where he built some of Victoria's best-known structures.

Offered the position of deputy minister of public works on a number of occasions, Simpson declined in favour of remaining a practising engineer. Simpson was also a master craftsman, whose exquisite period furniture and lamps grace many Victoria homes.

University home to more students this fall

With room for 500 more full-time undergraduate students, UVic is encouraging those with an average of 75 per cent or higher to apply to the university for admission this fall.

The extra room is the result of the provincial government initiative to create 25,000 new student spaces at post-secondary institutions in B.C. by 2010.

“While UVic won't be able to determine its exact 2005 GPA cut off until later, the university does want students to know the cut-off will be lower than last year,” says Jamie Casels, vice-president academic. “The new spaces are in the faculties of humanities, science and social sciences and in computer science and engineering programs. The additional seats are part

of a province-wide effort to provide access to a university education for more young British Columbians.”

For the past few years, the GPA cut-off for UVic's three largest faculties has hovered around 80 per cent or higher.

The university expects to admit about 3,000 FTE new undergraduate students in 2005/06, 500 more than 2004/05.

Aroundthering

Education hosts Expo and awards presentation

Find out “What's New and Cool” when the faculty of education's alumni chapter holds an Education Expo on March 5 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the foyer of the David Lam Auditorium (MacLaurin Building). Research exhibits will be on display and tours will be conducted in the new rehabilitation neuroscience lab and the new lab combining video games with exercise bikes. Education alumni awards will also be presented to local teachers Donna Blackstock, BEd '77, (Victoria High School), Lenny Ross, MEd '03, (Strawberry Vale Elementary School), and Bonnie Smith, BA '86, (Arbutus Middle School). Award presentations begin at 11:30 a.m. Registration is online at www.alumni.uvic.ca/events or by calling the faculty at 721-7771.

Nominate a legacy-maker

The UVic Alumni Association invites nominations for its Distinguished Alumni Awards—synonymous with the inspiring talent, effort and influence of the university's graduates, locally and worldwide. Up to four awards will be presented (including youth and lifetime achievement awards). Formal recognition comes in November at the annual Legacy Awards gala at the Victoria Conference Centre. Nominations close March 31. Guidelines and forms are available from the UVic Alumni Services office (721-6000) or on the Web at www.alumni.uvic.ca.

Diversity awareness is goal of Working for Change

Remember Diversity Month, which is typically held every March at UVic to raise awareness of diversity issues on campus? Well, it's been extended to the whole term and renamed Working for Change. As an ongoing initiative by UVic's office of equity and human rights, its goal is to integrate diversity-related events and cross-cultural awareness activities into the everyday life of the university. “Working for Change is not only a monthly calendar of events but also a forum through which individuals and groups can connect with each other and the larger community to share their knowledge, interests and passions,” says UVic President David Turpin. “The model is based on the assumption that the richness of a diverse community comes about by providing opportunities and settings for interaction.” To find out more about upcoming events—including films, lectures, poetry readings, music, arts and crafts, and festivals—visit the Working for Change calendar at web.uvic.ca/eqhr.

Blue and Gold deadline nears

Time is running out to nominate a UVic student for a 2005 Blue and Gold Award. The awards recognize outstanding students who demonstrate leadership in their volunteer work for community groups, athletic competition and participation in fine arts groups. The deadline for nominations is March 11. This year, three awards worth \$2,500 each and five awards worth \$1,000 each will be presented. Undergraduate students must carry a minimum of nine units in the year in which they are nominated and must normally have a cumulative GPA of 5.0. Graduate students must be enrolled on a full-time basis and have a cumulative GPA of 5.0. Nomination packages are available online at www.uvic.ca/safa or by calling 721-8426. Recipients of the \$2,500 awards will take part in the Legacy Awards ceremony in November.

International conference focuses on migration issues

Experts from Canada, the U.S. and Europe will discuss the changing face of migration in the new era of globalization at an International Conference for Migration at UVic on March 11-12. “Migration is one of the key social developments for modern Western nations,” says UVic European studies scholar Dr. Oliver Schmidtke. “The influx of people into Canada is changing our society in all aspects, on a continuous basis.” According to Schmidtke, Western societies are dependent on migration to sustain their social systems. He estimates that approximately 300,000 migrants come to Canada every year. “There's a problem in how to integrate migrants in a speedy and successful way and how to handle cultural and religious differences,” he says. Co-sponsored by the UVic law school, the conference will cover a range of subjects, from the legal aspect of migration and human rights to European immigration policy. The conference takes place at the University Club and is open to the public. For more information visit web.uvic.ca/europe.

Celebrate families at “No Fooling” breakfast

On April Fool's Day, UVic's Family Centre is inviting all members of the UVic community—faculty, staff, students and all of their respective families—to join in the fun at its “No Fooling” free breakfast from 7:30 to 9 a.m. The celebration and recognition of students with families features breakfast treats, prizes and surprises. Drop by 2375 Lam Circle on the way to school or classes. The event is held to celebrate families and raise awareness of students with children, their unique challenges and their diverse assets and contributions to our campus. It's sponsored by Peppers Foods, UVic, the Family Centre and the UVic Alumni Association. More than 300 people—big and small—attended the event last year. For more information call 472-4062.

Correction

In the story “Unique partnership supports UVic engineers” in our February issue we incorrectly stated that student Tara Kannangara won the McGeer award. Kannangara accepted the award on behalf of the recipient, **Aaron Kaspar**, who is a second-year engineering student currently on a work term in Thailand.



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Physical education grad student Carolyn McIntyre laces up. She works with Rhodes on the leisure time walking study.

Start walking!

Walking is an easy, low-cost way to stay fit. So why don't more of us do it?

by Lynda Hills

Getting the couch potato off the couch is one of the goals of UVic exercise psychologist Dr. Ryan Rhodes' new study on individual beliefs about leisure time walking.

"Everyone knows that physical activity is good for you. Among other things, it offsets depressive symptoms and raises self-esteem," Rhodes says. "But we get a gap between this knowledge and people actually taking part in physical activity."

The most common barriers to physical activity are time, energy and motivation. Rhodes hopes that findings from his study will help UVic partner with government agencies to develop a better health promotion campaign and influence infrastructure decisions.

The study looks at three major personal components: personality and attitudes; social support; and environment.

"It's a large-scale assessment of how these factors interrelate and differ in gender, age groups, and various geographical regions of B.C.," Rhodes says. "Ultimately, it will provide information about whether certain areas are more conducive to physical activity, whether attitudes towards it are chang-

ing, and whether there are differences by demographics as well."

Last month, Rhodes sent out 3,000 surveys to a random group of B.C. citizens asking about their habits and beliefs on walking and physical activity. A second, follow-up survey will soon be sent to the same people to evaluate their actual activity.

"We look at the structure of the environment, like properly maintained trails and sidewalks. We're also going to look at safety," he says. "If we do find that the infrastructure is important, we'll move toward working with city planners."

Rhodes chose to study leisure time walking because previous research looked at physical activity in general and didn't focus on the type of activity. "Walking is the most preferred, easiest accessible, low-cost activity and can be done at a moderate intensity."

On a personal note, Rhodes admits he too grapples with motivation when it comes to physical activity. "It's not the first thing I want to do at the beginning or end of the day," he says. "I'm just like everyone else."

The study is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

NEW ADDITION TO BOARD OF GOVERNORS

UVic's board of governors has a new member. Recently appointed to a three-year term is John Evans, an experienced real estate developer and the principal of Trilogy Properties Corp., headquartered in Vancouver. Evans has guided numerous major real estate projects in Canada and the U.S. over the past two decades.

Trilogy, which Evans founded in 1991, is active in real estate development, acquisition and asset management in Vancouver, Whistler and the Fraser Valley. During its initial six years, Trilogy developments were valued at more than \$250 million, including the Westin Grand and OPUS hotels in downtown Vancouver and Whistler's Marketplace. Evans holds a commerce degree from UBC.

There are also four re-appointments to the board. They are: lawyer Trudi Brown; business consultant Eric Donald; public relations consultant Gail Flitton; and businessman Murray Farmer. All four will

serve until July 31, 2008. Donald is currently board chair and Brown is vice-chair.

Other board members are: business executive Peter Ciceri; cultural advocate Linda Jules; business executive Jane Peverett; faculty members Tom Cleary (English) and Bill Pfaffenberger (math and statistics); staff member Jill Tate (physical education); and students Jonas Gifford and Michelle Kinney. Chancellor Ron Lou-Poy and President David Turpin are *ex officio* members.

Cleary and Pfaffenberger will end their terms on June 30, and be replaced by recently acclaimed faculty members Peter Driessen (electrical and computer engineering/music) and Peter Liddell (Germanic and Russian studies). At the same time, Tate will be replaced by newly elected staff representative Katherine Williams (facilities management).

The 15-member board of governors is one of the two primary governing bodies of the university. It includes elected faculty, staff and stu-

dents, and eight members appointed by the provincial government. Two of the government appointees (Donald and Ciceri) are nominated by the UVic Alumni Association.

The board is responsible for the management, administration and business affairs of the university. It administers university assets, approves the university budget framework, determines fees and student aid, and is responsible for faculty and staff appointments.



Evans

University communications plan enters construction phase

A draft of a strategic communications plan for UVic is beginning to take shape. The plan is based on the thoughts of faculty, students and staff about the university's major communication challenges and opportunities which were provided to the campus strategic communications task force over the fall term.

The 17-member task force was appointed by President David Turpin last summer. Led by Faye Wightman, vice president external relations, the task force was asked to guide a process to put university members in a position to achieve their goals for recruitment, profile and reputation, and financial support for teaching and research programs.

According to Wightman, that positioning would help university community members to "give prospective students, faculty, staff, donors and funders a consistent, compelling and sharply focused set of reasons why they should invest their time or support in UVic."

The task force has been assisted in its work by Educational Marketing Group (EMG), a marketing agency

specializing in higher education. EMG was selected from more than 70 firms.

As the *Ring* went to press, the task force was working on an integrated institutional strategic communications plan that will provide measurable goals for 2005-06, identify the resources that would be required to accomplish these, and assign administrative responsibility for each. In addition, it was reviewing a first draft of a positioning statement and associated components. Once finalized, these will go out to the campus community for comment.

The task force is also reviewing a report from EMG that contains recommendations on image-building, integrated communications planning and organizational structure, and examining whether quantitative research with external audiences might be helpful.

More than 1,500 faculty, students, staff and alumni responded to a web-based questionnaire about UVic's perceived strengths, weaknesses, competitive advantages, and core values last October and Novem-

ber. Student focus groups and mixed discussion groups with faculty, staff, students and alumni then helped to deepen understanding of the questionnaire feedback.

EMG collected data from many areas on campus on institutional characteristics, funding sources, application patterns, and marketing and communications structures and expenditures for UVic and its competitors.

EMG principals Bob and Marlene Brock conducted 35 small-group or one-on-one sessions with campus leaders, administrators and faculty about the university's goals and challenges. They also participated in an open meeting to outline the strategic communications planning process and answer any questions.

The task force has met monthly to receive and discuss the input, the resulting reports and the draft integrated strategic communications plan.

More information on the strategic communications planning process at UVic is available at www.uvic.ca/stratcommplan/.

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InMemoriam

Paul Kling, violinist, professor emeritus and director of UVic’s school of music from 1980-86, died Jan. 2. Kling was born in Czechoslovakia in 1928. A child prodigy, he performed with the Vienna Symphony at the age of seven and was soon playing concerts throughout Austria and Czechoslovakia. At the age of 15 he was sent to the Terezin concentration camp where, thanks to the presence of many other Jewish artists and musicians, he continued to study and perform. In 1944, he was sent to Auschwitz. After the war he resumed a performing career and in 1952 became concert master of the NHK orchestra in Tokyo. In 1977 he joined UVic. After retirement, Kling continued to teach in Vancouver and gave master classes in Europe.

Contributed by Michael Longton, professor emeritus and former chair of the school of music.

Distinguished Canadian oceanographer **R.W. Stewart** died in Victoria on Jan. 19. Bob played a major role in the development of ocean sciences at UVic. He was the founding director from 1970-79 of the Institute of Ocean Sciences in Sidney. Later in his career, Bob was the first director (1987-89) of UVic’s centre for earth and ocean research. After his retirement in 1989, Bob continued to serve on graduate student committees, attend seminars, and have lunch with UVic friends and colleagues. He received an honorary degree from UVic in 1993. Bob is famous for his studies of turbulence, ocean waves, and air-sea interaction and is held in very high regard for his leadership in international projects and organizations. He’s a founding father of Canadian oceanography and will have a lasting influence.

Contributed by friend and colleague, Chris Garrett

Professor emeritus **Fred Douglas**, who taught in the visual arts department from 1978 until his retirement in 2001, died on Feb. 14. Fred was a teacher who showed his students the way to the extraordinary reflections of their own imaginations. And he was a poet who was full of wonder at the possibilities of the imaginative mind. His work, “The Van” (1983), is a real working van, designed and equipped for a utopian journey. Now in the collection of the Canada Council Art Bank, it is one of Canada’s most valuable, though sadly, seldom-recognized artworks. Other works by Fred, including photographs, drawings and paintings, are in the collections of the National Film Board of Canada, the National Gallery of Canada, the Winnipeg Art Gallery, and the Vancouver Art Gallery.

Contributed by friend and colleague, Sandra Meigs.

Indigenous plants continued from p.1

Thompson. “All students, aboriginal and non-aboriginal, need to know that modern science is not the only way to look at relationships with nature,” she says.

“For First Nations students, seeing themselves and their people in school course work is vital,” she adds. The Hartley Bay school has now incorporated Thompson’s project into the curriculum.

“The project built a rapport and special bonding between our students and elders,” says elder and school principal Ernie Hill. “The elders were thrilled to be part of it, and are gratified to know that this knowledge is going to stay.”

For Thompson, one student in the project stands out in her mind.

“When we first started the project this student went to Old Town, where the old village used to be, and started talking to the chief and his wife about his plant, devil’s club.”

On another day, many months later, Thompson and her thesis co-supervisor, UVic ethnobotanist Nancy Turner, asked the student about devil’s club.

“He took us to where the plant grows and told us everything he knew—why it was important, and why he had to research things in a certain way because it was a medicine. He also explained the spiritual side of the plant,” says Thompson. “It was amazing to see that he knew so much. Just from him alone, I felt the plant project was a success.”

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Craigdarroch continued from p.1

ics of sea ice formation, past abrupt climate change and the physics of El Niño.

Weaver’s impact on climate science extends far beyond his lab and office doors. He’s one of a handful of scientists working on the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s next climate assessment, due in 2007, which will direct international policies related to global warming. He’s also a prominent and vocal advocate for science-based public discussion of climate change.

Weaver currently serves as chief editor of the *Journal of Climate*, the world’s premier journal for climate research published by the American Meteorological Society.

For the last 16 years, biologist Dr. **Jack Littlepage** (centre for global studies), winner of the Craigdarroch Award for Societal Contribution, has been a driving force behind programs to establish a community-based mariculture industry in coastal Brazil.

In partnership with several Brazilian universities and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Littlepage and his team have provided mariculture training and research opportunities to countless faculty members, technicians, graduate students, undergraduates and extension personnel in Brazil and Canada.

Cassels continued from p.1

200 extraordinarily talented new faculty members. We’ve created new programs of teaching and research of the highest quality. Our student body is increasingly diverse and engaged, and our national reputation has grown steadily. It’s a real honour to be part of this.”

Cassels joined UVic as a member of the faculty of law in 1981 and served as dean from 1999 to 2001. An accomplished scholar and teacher, he won the Canadian Association of Law Teachers Award for Academic Excellence for his research and teaching in 1999, and

the prestigious national 3M Teaching Fellowship for teaching excellence and educational leadership in 2002. He has also won the law faculty’s master teaching award twice (1986 and 1996) and the UVic Alumni Association’s Excellence in Teaching Award (1998).

Cassels holds a BA in law and philosophy from Carleton University, an LL.B (bachelor of law) from the University of Western Ontario and an LL.M (master of law) from Columbia University. His areas of teaching and research include contracts, legal theory, and remedies.

Other interests include environmental issues, law and society in India, and race and gender issues in the law of tort.

Cassels is the author of several books, including *The Uncertain Promise of Law: Lessons from Bhopal and Remedies: The Law of Damages*. His new book, *The Law of Large Scale Claims: Product Liability, Mass Torts and Complex Litigation in Canada*, will be published this month.

He was named Queen’s Counsel in 2004 in recognition of his contributions to the legal profession.



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Awards

Today, Brazil's flourishing mariculture industry provides direct and indirect employment for thousands of people. There is greater concern for environmental protection and more emphasis on sustainable community development. And several Brazilian cities now hold community festivals based on shell-fish culture.

The success of these programs, and the sweeping impact they've had at all levels of Brazil society, earned Littlepage and UVic an Award of Excellence from CIDA in 2002.

The Craigdarroch Award for Research Communication goes to Dr. **Reg Mitchell** (chemistry). Whether he's dazzling schoolchildren as his mad chemist alter-ego, "Dr. Zonk," organizing the annual Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair, or talking on the radio about chemicals in everyday life, Mitchell is a born communicator.

Since joining UVic in 1972 Mitchell has dedicated himself to demystifying science, and chemistry in particular, for generations of university and high school students, as well as the general public. "I

get across to students by cutting through all the garbage and showing them what's relevant in real life," he once told *The Ring*. "I'm a natural showman—just give me a microphone and a crowd."

Mitchell's many honours include the Eve Savory Award for Science Communication from the Science Council of B.C., the Academic of the Year Award from the University Faculty Associations of B.C. and the UVic Alumni Excellence in Teaching Award.

Developing and marketing a new cancer therapy is the goal of Dr. **Tom Buckley** (biochemistry & microbiology), winner of the University of Victoria Innovation and Development Corporation Entrepreneurship Award.

In partnership with UVic's Innovation and Development Corporation, Buckley founded the spin-off company, Protox Pharmaceuticals Inc., in 2002 after he genetically engineered aerolysin, a naturally occurring bacterial toxin that can selectively target and kill cancer cells but leave "bystander" cells and tissues intact.

Now called Protox Therapeutics

Inc., the Vancouver-based company is focused on developing novel therapeutics for the treatment of various cancers. Protox made history last fall when it became the first UVic spin-off company to be listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange.

Buckley continues to work with medical researchers across North America to further develop aerolysin and this year hopes to begin a phase one trial in humans with Protox's first drug, designed to treat prostate cancer.



Coward



Littlepage



Weaver

UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

JOANN RICHARDS

FIND festival ignites creative sparks on stage

by Ann Tanner

Sparks are flying at the Phoenix Theatre, where the third annual Festival of Innovative and New Drama (FIND) 2005 is underway.

The departments of theatre and writing are again collaborating to present two plays and eight staged readings over the next several weeks.

In *That Elusive Spark*, running March 8–19, Victoria playwright and UVic grad Janet Munsil and director Linda Moore explore the magnificence and fragility of the human brain. The play was inspired by the true story of New England construction foreman Phineas

Gage who, in 1848, survived a freak blasting accident that drove an iron spike through his skull. The incident changed the course of modern medicine and still serves as a reminder of the enduring and fascinating debate about how the mind works and what it means to be human.

Real life connections also influenced the production of Caryl Churchill's powerful play, *Fen*, which opened the festival in February and runs until March 5. Director Yasmine Kandil, a master's student, spent two summers teaching drama to street children and youth garbage collectors in her native Cairo. She sees parallels between the lives of the "garbage boys" and the women

landworkers depicted in Churchill's play. "We see the harshness of their lives but also their dreams, their courage and their day-to-day joys," she says.

FIND 2005 will end with three evenings of staged play readings at the Phoenix on March 18, 19 and 20. Eight new plays written by students in the department of writing and directed and acted by theatre students will be presented in back-to-back fashion. Audience members can take in one, two or all eight plays in a single evening and enjoy a Phoenix-style coffee house in between readings.

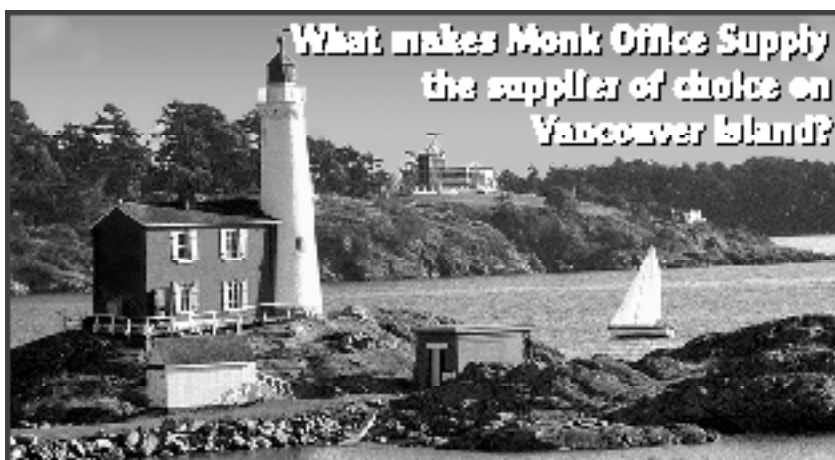
For tickets and information, call the Phoenix box office at 721-8000 or visit www.phoenixtheatres.ca.

Ringers

Larry Yore (curriculum & instruction) has won the Outstanding Science Teacher of the Year Award from the Association of Education Teachers in Science. The international organization presents two annual awards and Yore won in the category recognizing individuals whose career has spanned at least 10 years. He was honoured for his work promoting the important role that language plays in science learning. Yore received a \$1,000 award and a plaque at a ceremony last month in Colorado Springs. "I've never been much into awards, but this gave me a very nice feeling," he says. "It's the frosting on the cake."

Three exceptional women were honoured with recognition awards during the UVic Women's Network Conference on Feb. 16. The awards celebrate women who have made an extraordinary impact on the UVic community. Master's history student **Lisa Helps** combines academic study with social justice advocacy and volunteering. Help's research is on progressive historical and social theory. **Anissa St. Pierre** is the co-ordinator for women in computer science at UVic, and works to increase the enrolment and retention of women in the discipline. **Barbara Whittington** is a faculty member in the school of social work and co-ordinator of the UVic Family Centre. She advocates for the interests, perspectives and experiences of UVic women and students with families.

Health information science professor **Denis Protti** was awarded a 2004 "Who's Who in Healthcare" Award from *Canadian Healthcare Manager* magazine. The annual awards honour individuals who have demonstrated leadership and innovation and who have made a difference in the delivery of health care in Canada. Protti was honoured in the health informatics category for being instrumental in improving the use and management of health information to improve health outcomes, efficiency and safety.



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Calendarhighlights

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

At the Galleries

www.maltwood.ca
721-6562

Myth and Human Destiny
Until March 23. Paintings by Judith Fischer. The artist will be in attendance March 6 from 2-5 p.m.

Changing Hands Until March 28. The Dr. S.W. Jackman Collection. British Watercolours (18th-19th Century).

At the Theatres

www.phoenixtheatres.ca
721-8000

Fen (Feb. 24-March 5) A story of grace, humour and courage about a group of women farming the lands in England's Fen Country.

That Elusive Spark (March 10-19) A look at the mysteries of the mind inspired by the true story of Phineas Gage and his famous brain injury.

Studio Series (March 18-20) Staged readings of plays written by emerging playwrights from the department of writing.

Friday, March 4

Lansdowne Lecture 12 p.m. *Good Medicine Stories*. Richard Van Camp, UBC. Strong C116. **721-7307**

Anthropology Lecture 12:30 p.m. *The Life History and Future Directions of Biodemography*. Dr. Kathleen O'Connor, Univ. of Washington. Strong C114. **721-7046**

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

Lansdowne Lecture 1 p.m. *Public Reading of Poetry and Fiction*. George Elliott Clarke, Univ. of Toronto. Hickman 105. **721-7235**

Storytelling Symposium 7 p.m. *Rafting the River of Story: a Storytelling Symposium*. Fourteen authors and storytellers from Canada, U.S. and South Africa share their ideas. Sponsored by the dept. of writing. Continues March 5. Strong C103. **721-7307**

Saturday, March 5

Centre for Studies in Religion and Society Distinguished Speaker Lecture Series 2 p.m. *An Islamic Perspective on Stem Cell Research and Therapeutic Cloning*. Bashir Jiwani, Providence Health Care, Vancouver. Hickman 105. \$16.05 **472-4747**

Sunday, March 6

Music 2:30 p.m. *Donors' Concert*. A special program in appreciation of those who support school of music scholarships and bursaries. MacLaurin B125. **721-7903**

Tuesday, March 8

Sessions in Spirituality 11:30 a.m. *Crazy Wisdom: Spirituality and Mental Health*. Eshu Martin, Vancouver Island Health Authority. Hickman 110. **721-8338**

Physics & Astronomy Lecture 3:30 p.m. *Mining the Milky Way Galaxy with the Sloan Digital Sky Survey*. Timothy Beers, Michigan State Univ. Elliott 061. **721-7700**

Wednesday, March 9

Orion Lecture 12:30 p.m. *Willing Suspension of Disbelief*. Tamara Marie Kucheran, UVic. Phoenix Bldg. **721-7992**

Thursday, March 10

Centre for Global Studies Lecture 5:30 p.m. *Barriers and Bridges: Addressing Women*. Marilou McPhe-dran, Fay Blaney, Janet Wiegand, Jo-Anne Lee, UVic. Fraser lounge area. **472-4850**

Lansdowne Lecture 7 p.m. *Social Science & Policy-Making: Perspectives in Sociology*. Harley Dickinson, Univ. of Saskatchewan. Strong C116. **472-4949**

Continuing Studies Lecture 7:30 p.m. *Urban Instinct*. Nan Ellin, Arizona State Univ. MacLaurin A144. \$16. **721-6119**

Spring 2005 Community Forum 7:30 p.m. *Confronting Abuse: At Work and in the Home. Elder Abuse*. Dianne De Champlain and Joan Feyrer, Victoria Women's Transition House Society; Rosa Goldstein, VIHA. Fraser A159. Register **472-4747**

Friday, March 11

Lansdowne Lecture 12:30 p.m. *Stayin' Alive: A Practical Look at the Business of Being a Dramatist*. Paul Ledoux, playwright. Phoenix. **721-7992**

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

Orion Lecture 7 p.m. *The Wonderful Accident*. Janet Munsil, playwright. Phoenix. **721-7992**

Saturday, March 12

Music 8 p.m. *The University of Victoria Chamber Singers*. Bruce More, conductor. Tickets \$12 **721-7907**

Tuesday, March 15

Sessions In Spirituality 11:30 a.m. *Spirituality of Money*. Dr. Bob Mac-Rae, rector of St. John the Divine. Hickman 110. **721-8338**

Public Administration Seminar 4 p.m. *E-Government in Canada: A Look at Some Emerging Federal*

and Local Quandaries. Jeffrey Roy, Univ. of Ottawa. Strong C112. **721-8056**

Wednesday, March 16

Lansdowne Lecture 7:30 p.m. *Policies, People and a Transition to Hydrogen Energy*. Dr. David Hart, Imperial College, England. MacLaurin A144. **721-6295**

Orion Lecture 8 p.m. *An Artist's Talk and Visual Presentation On His Work*. Eric Glavin, artist, Toronto. Hickman 105. **721-8014**

Friday, March 18

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

Tuesday, March 22

Community Health Promotion Research Seminar 12 p.m. *Health Promotion in Action! Where and When?* Find out about current health promotion research. Univ. House 3, room 110. **472-4102**

Studies in Policy and Practice Lecture 7 p.m. *Expanding Women's Rights through the International Criminal Court*. Dr. Louise Chappell, SFU and Univ. of Sydney, Australia. HSD A240. **383-7272**

Wednesday, March 23

Studies in Religion & Society Lecture 4:15 p.m. *The Story of Joseph and Cult Practice in the Ancient Near East*. Heather Reid, UVic. Hickman **721-6325**

Thursday, March 24

Lansdowne Lecture 3:30 p.m. *Growth, Unemployment and Labour Market Policy*. Dr. Dale Mortensen, Northwestern Univ. Hickman 110. **721-6197**

Lansdowne Lecture 7:30 p.m. *Oxygen and the Rise of Animal Life on Earth*. Dr. Paul Falkowski, Rutgers Univ. Strong C103. **721-6120**

Thursday, March 31

Continuing Studies Lecture 9:30 a.m. *Foodborne and Waterborne Infectious Diseases: A Major North American (and Global) Problem*. Ed Ishiguro, UVic. Cadboro Commons, Haro Room. \$16.05 **472-4747**



Juggling jamboree

Juggler Blake Speers demonstrates the basic tools of his trade in preparation for the 2005 Victoria Juggling Festival, which takes place at UVic's Student Union Building, March 11-13. Jugglers from all over B.C., the rest of Canada and the U.S. will gather to show off moves and teach skills using a wide range of juggling props—everything from balls, clubs and unicycles to walking globes, bowler hats and the increasingly popular diabolos. The festival, hosted by the UVic juggling club, will include workshops, competitions and vendors, and an evening performance. The Saturday evening show called, "Out of Hand: An International Showcase of Juggling and the Performing Arts," takes place at Victoria High School and will feature some of the best jugglers in the world. Tickets for the entire weekend are \$30 (\$25 for students). Evening performance tickets can be purchased separately. For more information visit www.vicjugfest.com.

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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) or entered into the online calendar (www.uvic.ca/events).

For more information call 721-7636.

Publication Date	Copy Deadline
Thursday, April 7	Wednesday, March 30
Thursday, May 5.....	Wednesday, April 27
Thursday, June 9	Wednesday, June 1

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Bob Reimer

Gifts that make the grade ^{A⁺}

John Fraser touched the lives of all who new him. The much admired graduate student died unexpectedly in 2003 at the age of 26. Now, the student is being honoured with a scholarship created by a gift in his memory from his parents Richard and Grace Fraser. The **John Carling Fraser Memorial Scholarship** will disburse \$5,000, every year in perpetuity, to a third- or fourth-year biology or biochemistry and microbiology student who not only excels academically but also, like John Fraser, is actively involved in service to the community. Members of the university community who may have known Fraser and wish to honour his memory are invited to donate to the memorial fund. “John was an excellent student, a hard working and helpful lab assistant and an exemplary university citizen,” says Dr. David Levin, graduate advisor in the **faculty of science**. “His rich life will be rendered even more meaningful by our efforts to enhance this scholarship for the benefit of students yet to come.” Those wishing to contribute to the scholarship should contact development officer Alyssa Grace at 721-5030.

Two social sciences alumni have a heartfelt desire to give back to their faculty and to their university. That’s why Michael Megson (BA ’77) and David Fitzpatrick (BA ’77) have created the **Megson Fitzpatrick Graduate Award in Social Sciences**. The two grads are partners in Megson Fitzpatrick Inc., one of the largest independent insurance brokers on Vancouver Island. A \$5,000 annual award will be divided between economics and political science to support promising graduate students from either department.

The new **Island Medical Program** (IMP), which launched this January with its first 24 students, is already benefiting from the generosity of donors. Thanks to **Dr. Bruno and Catherine Friegang, Dr. Robert and Patricia Young** and the estate of **Robert Ford**, three new bursaries have been created for IMP students. The bursaries will help students offset the cost of tuition and living expenses, and assist the program as it expands and attracts more students. The Island Medical Program is expected to reach its full complement of 96 students by year 2007/08. It will establish a pool of student doctors who will study in Victoria and on Vancouver Island and increase the likelihood of more doctors staying and practising on the Island.

Leading engineering and high technology enterprises know that being a successful engineer also means having strong business skills. That’s why Victoria-based high tech firm **Power Measurement** (headed by UVic engineering alumnus Brad Forth) has funded a \$2,500 scholarship to encourage students to pursue the management option in the **faculty of engineering**. The engineering world places a premium on students with sound skills in management and organizational productivity. Now, UVic’s graduating engineers who have taken the management option will have a shorter on-the-job learning curve and bring greater value to prospective employers.

Grants fund studies of privacy issues

by Lynda Hills

Two upcoming studies at UVic will investigate ways to protect our privacy in an age of sophisticated technology.

Through the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, Dr. Colin Bennett (political science) has been awarded \$27,390 to study the privacy implications of mobile technologies such as global positioning systems and vehicle tracking devices.

“With the proliferation of handheld devices, location-based services, cell phones, and personal digital assistants, it’s now possible for organizations and employers to determine where you are at particular times of the day,” says Bennett.

Mobile workers such as truck drivers, taxi drivers, courier services, 911 callers, and even teenagers out in the family car can now be tracked by this emerging technology.

“Once the technology is in place, how is it used? Do law enforcement or marketing companies have access to the information?” asks Bennett. “Imagine walking by Starbucks and all of a sudden a message comes on your phone, ‘Fancy a coffee?’”

Bennett will identify the range of products and services that are currently available in Canada, analyse the privacy risks associated with the products, and study the legal implications of the collection of data. Ultimately, he’ll provide the privacy commissioner with advice on the kinds of problems that are most likely to arise

now and in the future.

Dr. Terry Huston (business), and Dr. Francis Lau (health information science) have been awarded \$49,600 to study electronic health records and protection of personal information. The study is a partnership with University of Alberta’s Nola Reis, a research affiliate in UVic’s school of health and information science.

“The sharing of information and compromising of confidentiality is potentially easier to do in an electronic system,” Huston says.

In response to privacy concerns in the electronic medium, the Canadian government introduced legislation in 2000 known as the Personal Information Protection and Electronics Document Act (PIPEDA).

“We’re evaluating the implications of PIPEDA and how it affects the way we share information or even practise health care,” Huston says. “Now, instead of a paper record being in a file cabinet, it’s on the computer and the wrong push of the button by an employee can send it out.”

The study will include research into relevant legislation, judicial decisions, and legal and policy literature. Researchers hope to raise awareness in health care organizations about how information can accidentally be shared.

“Patients need to be assured that their privacy and the confidentiality of their health care information is not compromised or it may erode their trust in health care providers and the health care system,” says Huston.



DANA NETHERCOTT

Tuokko

KEEPING YOU IN THE DRIVER’S SEAT

Ongoing studies investigate safety and fitness issues for seniors who drive

by Debbie Willis

Staying fit as you age has many benefits but here’s one you probably haven’t thought of—it may keep you driving longer.

That’s what ongoing studies at UVic are suggesting. Over the last five years, Dr. Holly Tuokko, a UVic psychologist and researcher with the university’s centre on aging, has been studying elderly drivers, including their attitudes toward driving, what motivates them to change their behaviour behind the wheel, and what factors affect their decision to stop driving.

“The percentage of the population over 65 is increasing, and so is the number of drivers in that group,” says Tuokko. “It’s a growing issue.”

In a 2003 study called *Older and Wiser Driver*, 93 seniors self-assessed their driving skills, then participated in an information session about on-road safety and the use of alternative transportation. The volunteers in the study indicated a concern about health

in relation to driving, and raised issues about medical symptoms, such as pain in the legs and feet.

“One study gives us some information, but then leads to more questions,” says Tuokko, who last summer conducted another survey of 200 drivers between the ages of 65 and 80. They were asked questions about their medical condition, activity levels, and attitudes toward driving.

The questions also focused on which areas of driving people found difficult, such as pressing the brake pedal, turning the wheel, or getting out of the car. Preliminary results suggest that many problems are related to lower-body movement.

“A fitness program designed to improve strength, endurance and flexibility in these problem areas may improve in-car performance,” says Tuokko, who is working with Dr. Ryan Rhodes, a UVic exercise psychologist.

Tuokko is less interested in identifying poor drivers than in helping seniors drive safely or use alternate modes of transporta-

tion. She’s using her research findings to develop educational material and information sessions that deal with issues of fitness, driver safety and other transportation options such as buses and volunteer drivers.

“We’re focusing on the enhancement of older drivers,” said Tuokko. “But I’ve always felt that it’s mobility we’re dealing with. It’s about keeping people moving.”

Mostly, Tuokko hopes her work will lead to increased safety for seniors who drive, and an awareness that older drivers are not necessarily bad ones. “Age is equated with poor driving but I don’t believe that’s appropriate,” she says. “I want the emphasis on driver age to be eliminated, and the focus to be on safety.”

Tuokko’s research is funded by the Greater Victoria Capital Regional District Traffic Safety Commission, the Canadian Institute of Health Research through the Institute of Aging, the Canadian Driving Research Initiative for Vehicular Safety in the Elderly (CanDRIVE), and UVic.

Einstein conference celebrates 20th-century genius

One hundred years ago, 26-year-old physicist Albert Einstein rocked the science world.

He developed the special theory of relativity, demonstrating that measurements of time and distance vary systematically as anything moves relative to anything else.

He came up with the quantum theory of light—the idea that light exists as tiny packets or particles, which are now known as photons. And he developed an extension of his special theory—that energy and matter are linked—in that now famous equation, $E = mc^2$.

UVic and Camosun College are celebrating the centenary of this astonishing burst of creativity with

a conference, “The Unknown Einstein: Reassessing the 20th Century’s Most Famous Scientist,” on March 18-19.

On March 18, UVic school of music faculty member Ann Elliott-Goldschmid, a member of the Lafayette String Quartet, will perform some of Einstein’s favourite violin music prior to a presentation by Fred Jerome on “Einstein on Race and Racism.”

Jerome is author of *The Einstein File: J. Edgar Hoover’s Secret War Against the World’s Most Famous Scientist* and co-author of the forthcoming book, *Einstein on Race and Racism*. The performance and presentation begin at 7 p.m. in the Young

Building, room 216 at Camosun’s Lansdowne campus.

On March 19, a conference takes place in Clearihue A127 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. UVic physics and astronomy faculty member Dr. Fred Cooperstock opens the conference with “Einstein’s Vision: 100 Years of Relativity.” From 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., UVic and visiting faculty members will discuss various aspects of Einstein’s life and at 1:30 p.m. Jerome will make a second presentation, “What the Einstein File Means for Today.”

All events are free and open to the public. For more information contact Dr. Larry Hannant at 380-0462 or lhannant@uvic.ca.