



LYNDA HILLS



Calling all commuters!

◀ Katherine Woodhouse, graduate program assistant in the school of child and youth care (CYC) and a Bike to Work Week (BTWW) team captain, invites everyone to leave the car at home and join in the cycling festivities during Bike to Work Week, May 30 to June 5. Woodhouse is team captain for the CYC-lists. For more on Bike to Work Week 2005, see story, page 8.

Four more Canada Research Chairs awarded

Four emerging scholars in the fields of engineering, computer science, and astronomy are UVic's newest Canada Research Chairs.

Canada Research Chairs are aimed at increasing Canada's research capacity by attracting and retaining the best researchers. UVic's four new chairs are among 106 across Canada announced on April 22 by Industry Minister David Emerson.

The four recipients are all tier-two Canada Research Chairs, who are considered "stars of tomorrow." They'll receive \$100,000 in research funding annually for five years, renewable once.

The new chairs are:

Dr. Xiaodai Dong, Canada Research Chair in Ultra-wideband Communications, is developing new high-speed communication systems using ultra-wideband (UWB) wireless technology. UWB has applications in home networking, multimedia

communications, remote sensing, and medicine. Dong joined UVic's department of electrical and computer engineering in January.

Dr. Venkatesh Srinivasan, Canada Research Chair in Complexity of

SEE RESEARCH CHAIRS P.3



Dong

Kuehne named acting vice president external relations

Dr. Valerie Kuehne, UVic's associate vice-president academic planning, has been appointed acting vice-president external relations, effective July 1.

She replaces Faye Wightman, who is leaving the university at the end of June to become the president of the Lower Mainland-based Vancouver Foundation.

Dr. Catherine Mateer, currently chair of the psychology department, will serve as acting associate vice-president academic planning while Kuehne fills the external relations post.

UVic President David Turpin announced Kuehne's acting appointment on April 15. "The support for Dr. Kuehne to assume this position has been remarkable. She's viewed as someone who will continue to develop the momentum of the division

and enhance its role in supporting the university through its important activities in communications, development, government relations and alumni affairs," said Turpin.

Kuehne will hold the post until the search to fill the external relations position is completed or until May 1, 2006, whichever comes first. During this period, she'll be on leave from her position in academic planning, which she's held since 2000, and in which she was recently renewed after receiving a 97 per cent approval rating in a faculty ratification ballot.

Kuehne has been a full professor and faculty member in the school of child and youth care since 1990. As associate vice president academic planning she was instrumental in leading UVic's planning of the Island Medical Program

and has played a central role in the creation of new teaching and research programs across the university.



Kuehne

DON PIERCE

Roméo Dallaire to receive one of six honorary degrees

By Mike McNeney

Roméo Dallaire, the retired Canadian army general who sounded the alarm about genocide in Rwanda, will be among six honorary degree recipients during spring convocation ceremonies, June 7-10.

The university's highest honour for achievement will also be presented to: Victoria city councillor Helen Hughes and her husband, former B.C. conflict of interest commissioner Ted Hughes; Tom Brzustowski, president of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC); acclaimed classical bassist Gary Karr; and mining executive and philanthropist Edgar Kaiser Jr.

Dallaire, as commander of a UN mission to Rwanda was the first, and for a time the only, voice pleading for the world's intervention in the 1994 Rwandan genocide. In the span of 100 days, 800,000 people were hacked to death by government-sponsored forces.

Shake Hands With the Devil: The Failure of Humanity in Rwanda is Dallaire's best-selling, vivid account of the tragedy and the profound toll it took on his psyche. He is the federal government's international advisor on war-affected children and the prohibition of small arms distribution.

Helen Hughes, first elected to Victoria city council in 1990, is known for her community service,

with particular attention to youth programs, including the creation of the "Souper Bowls of Hope" fundraiser for the Victoria Youth Empowerment Society. She's also a member of the Order of Canada.

Through his career in law and the civil service, Ted Hughes has been a lawyer, judge, public inquiry commissioner, and treaty negotiator, earning a reputation for his integrity and work ethic. In 2003 he was appointed federal chief adjudicator for the alternative dispute resolution program for residential school abuse claims.

Tom Brzustowski has been president of NSERC since 1995, oversee-

SEE HONORARY DEGREES P.2

WE NEED YOUR JUNE GRADUATE IDEAS

Do you know of a June 2005 graduate with a story to tell?

Spring convocation is June 7-10 and the UVic communications office needs your help to show the world how special our graduates are.

This is a chance for the achievements, talents and contributions of undergraduate and graduate students to be acknowledged on campus and in the broader community. But first, we need you to tell us about them.

We're looking for June 2005 graduates who have an unusual background, have made significant contributions to the university and/or community, or have overcome adversity to earn their degree.

If you know of a grad who fits this description, e-mail *The Ring* at ucom@uvic.ca. Please provide the graduate's name and contact information, along with a brief description of his or her achievements and/or special story, and we'll take it from there.



Livingston gets help test driving one of UVATT's tricycles for visually impaired children.

UVic innovator named B.C. Academic of the Year

A UVic biologist who created a team of faculty, staff and students to develop and build customized devices for the disabled has been named Academic of the Year by the Confederation of University Faculty Associations of B.C. (CUFA/BC).

Dr. Nigel Livingston is founder and director of the University of Victoria Assistive Technology Team (UVATT), which includes more than 40 faculty, staff and graduate and co-op students from a wide range of disciplines at the university, as well as hundreds of undergraduate students.

Livingston, a plant physiologist, formed UVATT in 1999 after seeing first-hand the challenges faced by his

daughter and other children with disabilities.

"There's a huge need in the community for special devices or technology for the disabled, but they're generally not available because they're so expensive to develop," he says. "At UVic we have all this incredible expertise and equipment, so it was just a question of bringing them all together."

To date, the UVATT team has developed more than 25 new technologies, ranging from tricycles for visually impaired children to complex eye-tracking and brainwave communication systems for people with severe disabilities. UVATT is now so widely known that requests

for devices come from across Canada and around the world.

CUFA/BC represents approximately 3,600 faculty members, professional librarians and other academic staff at five B.C. universities. The award was presented on April 13 in Vancouver.

Livingston is the fourth UVic faculty member to be named Academic of the Year since the award was created in 1995. Previous winners were Dr. Nancy Turner (environmental studies) in 2002, Dr. Reg Mitchell (chemistry) in 2000 and Dr. Sibylle Artz (child & youth care) in 1998.

This is the second major award for Livingston this year. In January, he won a Victoria's Leadership Award, also for his work with UVATT.

UVATT teams up with Garth Homer Society

The University of Victoria Assistive Technology Team (UVATT) is partnering with the Garth Homer Society in a new project to develop learning tools for adults with developmental disabilities.

Funded by a \$150,000 grant from the B.C. government, the two-year pilot project will work with individuals in Victoria and remote communities to develop and deliver educational packages that can be accessed by people with disabilities via the Internet.

The project will allow individuals with disabilities to make a smoother transition from a school setting into the community-at-large. It will also facilitate online access to the society's services and programs.

The Garth Homer Society is a non-profit organization that provides on-site services to individuals with physical and developmental disabilities. It offers an array of day programs, ranging from social and life skills coaching to employment training and placement.

"We'll be providing expertise in the development of adaptive hardware and software," says Dr. Nigel Livingston, director of UVATT. "We'll hire a full-time computer scientist to work with various agencies to create the interactive course packages." The project will also tap into the expertise of faculty and students in UVic's faculty of education.

For more information on the University of Victoria Assistive Technology Team visit web.uvic.ca/uvatt.

Ringers

Dean of education **Budd Hall** is the first educator from Western Canada and the third Canadian to be inducted into the Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame, based at the University of Oklahoma. Hall was honoured for more than 35 years of work in mobilizing the international adult education movement worldwide. He served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Nigeria from 1965 to 1968 and either founded or led a variety of organizations and networks supporting adult education. From 1997 to 2002, he served as chair of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization working group on university-based lifelong learning. The Hall of Fame describes its members as "innovative leaders who have believed passionately in the evolutionary power of education." Hall was inducted in late March in Boston.

Maureen Maloney, director of UVic's Institute for Dispute Resolution and the Lam Chair of Law and Public Policy, has been appointed a part-time member of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal. The tribunal investigates complaints of discrimination to decide if the allegations constitute discriminatory practice under the Canadian Human Rights Act. The tribunal's main goal is to ensure that the act is interpreted and applied fairly and impartially at all its hearings. Maloney is a former dean of law at UVic and has been involved in justice, dispute resolution and human rights projects in Brazil, South Africa, China, Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand and Guatemala.

Lynda Pattie, the new director of Project Nova, is completely at home in the information technology world and particularly enjoys the creative aspect of the industry. "I really love visualizing solutions to problems, developing software and finding ways to help people do their jobs better," says Pattie, who comes to UVic from Prince George where she was director of administrative computing at UNBC. Pattie is looking forward to her role with Project Nova. "This job is all about people and what information systems and its component technology and tools can do for them," she says.

Dr. **Elaine Gallagher** (nursing) is taking on the newly formed role of associate director of the centre on aging. The main focus of her activities will be working with the community—including seniors, clinicians, government, and business. In particular, she'll work with staff at the centre to disseminate information on aging and facilitate the transfer of research knowledge into practice and policy. The appointment is for two years beginning July 1.

Five UVic students emerged from a field of 180 to win first place in the second annual internal case competition in UVic's faculty of business. The winning team of **Aaron Close, Tara McDougall, Brent Smith, "Dan Dan" Tao and Mitali Tayal** won \$250 and a gift from the competition's sponsor, RBC Financial Group. The team will represent UVic's faculty of business at next year's national competition at Concordia and Royal Roads universities.

UVic athletes were given top honours at Victoria's Annual Sports Celebrity Awards Dinner April 29. Vikes swimmer **Stephanie Dixon** is Victoria's female athlete-of-the-year, Vikes men's basketball player **Mitch Gudgeon** is high school athlete-of-the-year, and men's soccer head coach **Bruce Wilson** is coach-of-the-year. The Vikes men's soccer program was also named team of the year. Dixon, who is also SportBC's Disabled Athlete of the Year broke three world records at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) Swimming Championship earlier this year, and earned eight medals in the 2004 Paralympic Games in Athens. Gudgeon played basketball, soccer, rugby, and was on the track and field team at Oak Bay Secondary. Wilson who coached this year's CIS National Championship squad, is also Canada West's Soccer Coach of the Year.

Two members of the faculty of education are receiving honorary degrees from the University of Calgary in early June. Dr. **Norma Mickelson** and Dr. **Myer Horowitz** are being honoured for their lifetime contributions to education. Mickelson, who was UVic's first female chancellor from 1996 to 2002, is an expert on literacy, with 140 publications to her credit, including books, articles, poems and educational videos. Horowitz is one of Canada's most eminent scholars in the field of education and served a 10-year term as president of the University of Alberta.

Honorary Degrees continued from p.1

ing an annual budget of \$850 million for university-based researchers and graduate students in the natural sciences and engineering. He's been a strong proponent, at the national level, for university research.

Time magazine once called Gary Karr "the world's leading solo bassist." He first came to international attention in 1962 when he debuted at Carnegie Hall with Leonard Bernstein and the New York Philharmonic. He hosts Kamp Karr, an annual summer training program at UVic for bass players.

Edgar Kaiser Jr. is chairman and

CEO of Kaiser Resources but his business success has been matched, if not exceeded, by his community service efforts, particularly in support of addictions prevention and research. His family's Kaiser Foundation gave \$10 million to help establish the Centre for Addictions Research of B.C. at UVic. He once set a world record by flying around the world to raise awareness of drug and alcohol abuse.

The UVic senate awards honorary degrees based on the recipient's record of distinction and achievement in scholarship, research, teaching, the creative arts, or public service.

the ring

Vol. 31 No. 5

The Ring is published by UVic Communications on the first Thursday of every month, except August.

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The Ring reserves the right to select and edit all submissions. Story suggestions should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the copy deadline listed in Calendar Highlights.

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Bob Reimer



Storey

Research chairs continued from p.1

Computing, seeks to distinguish problems that are easy to solve using a computer and those that are inherently difficult. The research is relevant to other areas of computer science and to electronic security questions, such as the protection of e-mail. Srinivasan is a faculty member in UVic's department of computer science.

Dr. Margaret-Anne (Peggy) Storey, Canada Research Chair in Human Computer Interaction for Software Engineering, designs and builds innovative software tools to help people manipulate large bodies of information and solve complex tasks. Her work emphasizes the interplay between technology, human behav-

iour and social structures. Storey is a faculty member in UVic's department of computer science.

Dr. Kim Venn, Canada Research Chair in Observational Astrophysics, uses large telescopes and light-separating instruments to analyse the chemical composition of stars to study galaxy formation and evolution. Venn is currently on faculty at Macalester College in Minnesota. She'll join UVic's department of physics and astronomy in September.

To date, UVic has been awarded 30 Canada Research Chairs for a total investment of \$26.7 million. The university will be awarded another five chairs by the end of this year.



Srinivasan



Venn

Nursing prof wins CIHR research award

Dr. Kelli Stajduhar (nursing/centre on aging) has been awarded the highly competitive Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) New Investigator Award to continue her research in palliative and end-of-life care.

"Research in this area has gained critical importance as the population ages and the number of Canadians diagnosed with terminal illness grows," explains Stajduhar. "In fact, a 2000 Senate committee report painted a rather bleak picture for dying Canadians and their family members, describing access to palliative care as

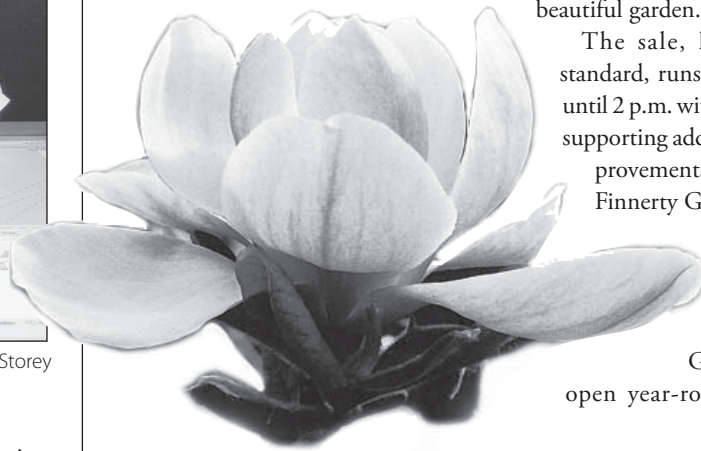
the 'luck of the draw' rather than as a basic entitlement."

Stajduhar's research focuses on developing the knowledge needed to inform health services that will improve access to care and, therefore, enhance the provision of palliative care to dying patients and their family members.

Her award, worth \$250,000 over five years, is intended to provide young health researchers with the chance to develop and demonstrate their independence in initiating and conducting health research.

Celebrate Mother's Day at UVic plant sale

McKinnon Gym performs its annual makeover—from athletic den to plant nursery—on Mother's Day, May 8 when UVic's popular plant sale makes its annual return.



The sale's team of more than 100 community volunteers will prepare tables packed full of native plants, perennials, and hanging baskets—almost anything for a beautiful garden.

The sale, huge by any standard, runs from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. with net proceeds supporting additions and improvements to the UVic Finnerty Gardens, on the southwest corner of campus.

Finnerty Gardens are open year-round, there is

no admission charge, and they include a dazzling array of rhododendrons—some 500 varieties in all. Visitors also enjoy a wide range of plants, trees and shrubs alongside walking paths that wind through the 2.6-hectare site.

Plant sale shoppers are encouraged to arrive early for the best selection and it's a good idea to bring something to carry home your new additions. Visa and MasterCard are accepted.

The sale is normally held on the first Sunday of May but has been scheduled a week later this year because of the American Rhododendron Convention, which took place April 27 to May 1 in Victoria.

Administrative review will ensure UVic ready for future

With UVic's continued growth in complexity and size, President David Turpin has requested a review of the senior administrative structure at the university to ensure that UVic is best able to meet the needs of students, faculty, and staff.

"It's an ideal time to look at the roles, responsibilities, and structures of the senior portfolios reporting to the president," says Turpin. "In such a dynamic and competitive environment for universities, UVic needs to have everything in place to take full advantage of the opportunities in front of us and keep us moving ahead on the university's strategic plan." Turpin conducted a similar review shortly after taking office in fall 2000.

The review begins this month and

will be conducted by Glenn Harris and Alice Mansell of Leading By Design. Harris was vice president finance and administration at the universities of Alberta and Western Ontario, and is course director for the Centre for Higher Education Research and Development's senior university administrators course. He was employed as a consultant for a strategic planning process in UVic's division of external relations in 2002-03.

Mansell was the founding vice president academic at the Technical University of B.C., president of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (now NSCAD University), associate dean at the University of Calgary, and department chair at the University of Western Ontario.

Turpin says it's important that the review provide university community members with the opportunity to contribute their ideas and suggestions. He has asked the review team to seek confidential input directly from key university stakeholders and to provide an assessment of any issues and gaps in the current structure, as well as an analysis of possible alternatives and an implementation strategy.

The team's recommendations will be informed by a review of administrative arrangements at other universities. The review team is expected to report to the president later this spring.

Anyone wishing to contact the reviewers or to provide confidential input to the review can do so by e-mailing review@uvic.ca by May 13.

Search for new vice president external soon underway

The search for UVic's new vice-president external relations will soon be launched under procedures established by the university's board of governors in 2001.

UVic President David Turpin is in the process of convening the required 11-person search committee composed of faculty, board of governors, alumni, deans council, undergraduate and graduate student, and external relations

staff representatives, as well as an individual drawn from the ranks of the executive directors on campus. Turpin will chair the committee.

The search committee is responsible for establishing the selection criteria, seeking the names of suitable candidates from the university community and advertising the position externally, creating the short list of candidates, ensuring that final

candidates meet with relevant constituencies and members of the board of governors, and recommending a preferred candidate to the president. The board makes the appointment decision.

More information about the search procedures, including how members of the committee are selected, is available through web.uvic.ca/uvic-policies/pol-1000/1078VPDER.html.



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New business competition seeks bright ideas

by Nadine Trinh

Business-minded students on Vancouver Island have a new opportunity to bring their ideas to the marketplace, thanks to a student business plan competition being launched by UVic's Innovation and Development Corporation (IDC).

In the annual "IDC Challenge," student teams will compete for more than \$18,000 in cash prizes before a panel of entrepreneurs, business experts and investors. The contest is open to Grade 11 and 12 students, and full-time university and college students in any age group, discipline or program.

As UVic's technology transfer office, IDC is the link between UVic researchers, their inventions and innovations, and the marketplace. Its mandate is to move research and innovations into the public and private sectors through partnerships, licensing of technologies, and the formation of new spin-off companies.

"IDC and UVic have exhibited a significant track record in spinning off 35 companies, of which six are UVic student-based ventures," says Dr. Doug Tolson, IDC's vice president. "The competition will provide an outlet for island students



to jump on their business concepts and potentially convert them into companies."

The first annual IDC Challenge starts with a launch party at UVic's Vancouver Island Technology Park at 6 p.m. on May 11. Students can network with Vancouver Island's entrepreneurial community, meet potential teammates and learn more about the competition.

Registration and brief summaries of business concepts will be accepted until May 31. Students have the summer to develop their full business plans, which are due by Aug. 31.

Participants can take part in IDC workshops, work with mentors and participate in networking events. Any team in the competition's technology category will have the opportunity to partner with IDC if their idea has real potential, whether or not it wins.

Business plans will be judged on the feasibility of ideas, growth

potential and competitive advantage. Confidential presentations and judging will take place during the week of Sept. 12.

"IDC brings a wealth of experience in multiple business sectors and can guide students through what would normally be a difficult business growth path," says Anthony Sukow, CEO of Advanced Economics Research Systems (AERS), a student-based UVic spin-off company which partnered with IDC. "Working with IDC means that students can expect hands-on involvement, mentoring opportunities and a dedicated team."

The competition is supported by IDC, the UVic Alumni Association and the business faculties at Royal Roads University and Camosun College. However, IDC is still looking for more sponsors. For more information or to register, visit www.idcchallenge.com, call 721-8868 or e-mail kbarber@uvcs.uvic.ca.

Survey sets direction for alumni association

The UVic Alumni Association has completed its most extensive survey of members and is using the results to initiate plans to generate more awareness and participation in its programs and services.

The association contracted R.A. Malatest and Associates, a Victoria-based market research company, to conduct a telephone survey and focus group sessions. A total of 601 alumni participated in the survey in September. Follow-up focus groups were held in Victoria, Nanaimo and Vancouver.

Alumni services director Don Jones offers his thanks to survey and focus group participants and says the information they've provided will define the future of alumni events, benefits, student programs and alumni services.

"One of the things that has be-

come clear from the survey is that a fair number of alumni are asking for services that we already offer," Jones says. "Our challenge is to bring that information to them and, ultimately, to get more grads involved with their university, either as volunteers or as financial supporters."

The survey questions ranged from the level of satisfaction with alumni communications to the likelihood of participating in alumni events, and the level of interest in various services available to graduates.

Among the key findings, more than 70 per cent of respondents said they were satisfied or very satisfied with communications, with the *Torch* magazine being the most commonly read publication. The survey also asked alumni to rate their interest in topics contained in publications. Research, university news, continu-

ing studies, alumni association news, and Keeping in Touch notes were the most popular choices.

Asked to rank their likelihood of attending different events, alumni chose as their top three picks: public lectures, reunions, and plays at the Phoenix Theatre. In terms of services available to alumni, respondents most often chose travel packages, special rates on home insurance, and the Alumni Benefits Card.

The university's alumni services office has six staff members who work with alumni association volunteers to deliver services and programs for graduates. A benefits and services guide, *Alumni Almanac*, is available free of charge from the alumni office (e-mail: alumni@uvic.ca). All alumni are welcome to attend the association's AGM on June 22 at the University Club.

Aroundthering

Clearihue Building's D wing gets a makeover

Clearihue Building's D wing will receive an exterior facelift this summer and work is anticipated to begin this month. The wing's exterior stucco needs replacing. Scaffolding and a protective drape will be installed around the exterior of D wing in order to complete the project. "This work will be messy and noisy but facilities management will ensure minimum disruption to classes and occupants," says Gorman Lee, a project officer in facilities management. Bike lockers and bike racks near D wing will be temporarily re-located to beside the library. Clearihue's D wing is the only portion of the building where stucco was applied directly to the concrete walls of the building. The stucco on the other wings of Clearihue does not require replacement.

Residence advisor initiative raises money for charity

Before UVic's residence students and advisors cleared out their rooms for the summer, they raised \$4,000 for B.C.'s Children's Hospital through a series of fundraisers organized by "RAs for Good." The brainchild of residence advisor (RA) André Campos, the initiative grew from his desire to help out his community by engaging residence students. His first project was a successful dodgeball tournament, followed by a head-shaving week where a half dozen RAs went bald for a good cause. Campos offered his assistance to a residence student who launched a successful Valentine's Day candygram campaign, and throughout the winter session he and other RAs raised more money by collecting bottles. Campos, a third-year computer science student, hopes to land an RA position again in the fall and has plans to expand RAs for Good to other B.C. campuses.

Public symposium focuses on Japanese Canadians

Assimilation and exclusion, the role of Japanese Canadian photographers in Canadian society, and the value of photographs in reconstituting community stories are just some of the issues being explored during a May 18 symposium in room A180 of the University Centre. The public event is being offered in conjunction with the "Shashin: Japanese Canadian Studio Photography to 1942" exhibition at the Maltwood Art Museum. The symposium features talks by UVic historian Dr. Patricia Roy, exhibit curator Grace Thomson, Malaspina professor Imogene Lim, and independent scholar Dr. Midge Ayukawa. The symposium runs from 1-3:20 p.m. and concludes with a tour of the exhibit. The event is sponsored by the Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) program in UVic's department of history in art, and the Japanese Canadian National Museum in Burnaby. For more information visit www.cura.uvic.ca.

UVic hosts conference on Latin American issues


A diverse, multi-disciplinary event on May 6 will bring together sociologists, anthropologists, geographers, philosophers and other academics with one thing on their minds—Latin America. "It's the first conference on Latin American issues at UVic," says organizer Dr. Pierre-Olivier Pineau (public administration). "In Canada, negotiating trade agreements for the Americas has raised the profile of this part of the world, but the influence of Latin America grows on political, cultural and demographic issues." The UVic Latin America Research Group Workshop takes place in MacLaurin D116 and will include presentations on tourism, social movements, Latin American literature and community-based enterprises. "The idea is to create a forum where people who are working on Latin American issues can meet," says Pineau. For more information visit web.uvic.ca/hispanita or contact Pineau at ppineau@uvic.ca.

Summer camps turn kids on to science


Registration has begun for the popular Science Venture summer camps at UVic. The camps are run by UVic science, engineering and education students committed to hands-on learning that stimulates children's interest in science, engineering, math and technology. Campers can learn to build a solar-powered car, mix their own electronic tunes, or try their hand at computer animation. Children can also get their hands on snakes, robots, microscopes, and some colourful chemistry lab experiments. Camps for children in Grades 1-8 will be offered from July 4 through Aug. 26 at the Gordon Head campus. This year there are satellite camps in Nanoose Bay, Port Alberni, and Port Hardy. For more information or to register, visit www.scienceventure.uvic.ca or call 721-8661.

Linguists, historians gather for Chinook conference


Chinook jargon was once widely used in the northwest by 100,000 indigenous people, settlers and immigrants to communicate and socialize. It was the most accessible of all the indigenous languages but now, like so many dialects, it struggles to survive. An upcoming conference "Chinuk Lu'lu," June 5-8 at UVic will offer public workshops on speaking, writing and singing the easy-to-learn language. "Victoria, or Biktoli, was the centre of the Chinook universe in B.C. with native people coming from as far away as Alaska to do business here," says UVic PhD linguistics student Dave Robertson. "By holding our annual gathering in Biktoli this year, we're honouring the important role this city played in the language's history." For more information and to register visit www.adisoft-inc.com/lulu.



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CIM, RFP, CFP
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LIGHTNING FAST!

SHOCK WAVES

A UVic cross-cultural psychologist seeks to improve the lives of children in tsunami-ravaged southeast India

by Patty Pitts

It was a Sunday when the giant waves crashed down on the beaches of India's Cuddalore district last December. The sandy shore was filled with women and children enjoying a day in the sun, a day free from work.

The graceful saris that draped the women in bright, beautiful colours acted as sodden tourniquets, preventing them from gathering up their children and fleeing the surging water. Many men in the district villages are now widowers struggling to raise their surviving children by eking a living from the same sea that splintered their fishing boats and tore at their nets.

This was the stark scenario that Dr. Philip Cook encountered when he arrived in Cuddalore in February with representatives of Save the Children Canada and the Indian relief agency, ASSEFA. The director of UVic's international institute for child's rights and development (IICRD) travelled to the area to assess the psychological impact of the tsunami on the children and make recommendations on how IICRD could assist the other agencies.

"There was very heavy damage in the area," recalls Cook after returning from India to his Pender Island home. "Fishing boats had been smashed and pieces littered the beach as far as a mile inland. There was scarring on the palm trees 30 feet up the trunks from

the surge of the water."

The culture of family closeness in the area means few youngsters lack for loving relatives to care for them in the wake of the disaster. But Cook witnessed clear evidence that the children are still suffering from shock. They cry easily, have difficulty sleeping and don't want to play on the beach that was once a magnet to them.

Cook believes the key to the children's psychological healing lies in that which frightens them the most. Previous IICRD initiatives to help heal children traumatized by war were rooted in the nature that surrounded the youngsters. Cook is proposing Save the Children and ASSEFA adopt a similar approach.

"We're assisting local aid workers to establish a series of centres, built of local materials, close to the ocean to encourage children to come and play," says Cook. "We're calling them Sea Breeze Centres and we're working with the local people to develop nature-based therapies for the children that draw on local cultural beliefs on recovery and overcoming challenges."

Cook wants to go beyond simply restoring the children's psychological health. Through the centres, he hopes to improve the youngsters' lives by tackling some of the underlying causes of the area's poverty.

"The caste system is very strong in the area and government aid is currently focusing on the fishermen,



PHILIP COOK

A destroyed fishing boat in Chithrapettai village in the Cuddalore district of India.

It's not addressing the lower castes; the women who sell the fish and the men who were crew members on the boats. India is very challenging in that regard. But we will welcome children and youth from all castes in the centres."

Cook and IICRD students (possibly from the Canada Corps) will train ASSEFA children and youth workers,

nurses and community leaders, who in turn will offer youth leadership and mentoring training to teenagers and young people. By providing them with livelihood training, Cook hopes to use the devastation of the tsunami as an opportunity to offer the Cuddalore youth and children life options previously denied them.

"I am hopeful," he says, while

planning a return trip to the area later this month [May]. "We're already seeing a weakening of political support for the relief effort but I believe that the surge of global goodwill towards the stricken area will continue to provide momentum to ongoing assistance such as ours. Then we can leverage that support to make a long-term difference in these children's lives."

DIAMOND IN THE RUFF

UVic's resident political pundit retires after 36 years in "the most wonderful job in the world."

by Patty Pitts

Norman Ruff was a veteran political scientist in 1983 when a reporter called him for the very first time. Premier Bill Bennett's restraint program was facing hostile opposition in the legislature and he had enforced closure, a relatively uncommon procedure at the time. The reporter asked Ruff about it.

"I told the reporter that closure was a lot like serial murder; it gets easier the more you use it," he says. "When I saw the quote in print I thought that perhaps I would have been better off comparing closure to smoking!"

It was one of the few times that Ruff—who retires next month after 36 years at UVic—ever second-guessed a media response. Blessed with an innate ability to cut to the essence of any issue with a memorable and succinct quote, he has become the go-to source for political reporters. He's also mentored a long line of men and women the reporters would eventually be writing about.

When Ruff first arrived at UVic there was only one course in Canadian politics, in fourth-year. Over the years, he expanded the Canadian content of courses, eventually creating his signature course on B.C. politics.

One of his first students was Daphne Smith, now a B.C. Supreme

Court judge. Others include current provincial ministers Colin Hansen, Murray Coell and George Abbott, the man behind the premier, Martyn

Brown, and former ministers Andrew Petter, Gretchen Brewin and Dave Zirnheld.

Ruff watches his former students

Ruff



VALERIE SHORE

and other politicians closely, but doesn't socialize with them. "I try to keep my distance from politicians and be an objective observer rather than a participant."

Ruff enjoys being a political pundit, but it's not the only thing he does. He recalls with satisfaction his role, along with UVic geographer Bill Ross, in overhauling B.C.'s election map in 1987.

"We maintained there wasn't proper representation and took our claims to the electoral boundary commission around the same time that the B.C. Civil Liberties Association launched a charter challenge in the B.C. Supreme Court. The chief justice at the time, Beverly McLaughlin, struck the map down, agreeing that it could be drawn better 'as these two UVic professors have shown.'"

Ruff was a consultant to the Wood Commission that redrew the provincial elections map in 1988-89 and served on the royal commission that resulted in collective bargaining for provincial civil servants. He also served on a federal commission that re-drew the federal elections map.

Born in Barking, England and educated at the University of Southampton, Ruff came to Canada in 1961 and earned an MA in political science at McMaster University and a PhD at McGill.

Retiring from UVic in an election

year, Ruff is especially interested in the referendum on the single transferable vote, on which he's given many talks. "The STV would be an enormous improvement on what we have," he says, "but I would have preferred the mixed member system [where voters vote for both an individual and a political party.]"

Ruff's post-retirement plans include finishing his book, *Ruff Guide to B.C. Politics*, and travelling to New Zealand to observe the country's fourth election with the mixed member system.

When asked what he'll miss most when he leaves UVic, Ruff doesn't hesitate. "Teaching, and the contact with students. I learned a lot through student questions. They come at things in a different way, making the classroom an intellectually stimulating place."

"This is the most wonderful job in the world. I get paid to indulge my intellectual curiosity."

The department of political science has established a scholarship in Ruff's name to be awarded annually to the best undergraduate student in Canadian politics. To contribute to the scholarship or for further information contact the political science department at 472-5458.

Thank you to 162 UVic volunteer speakers

For 24 years the UVic Speakers Bureau has matched faculty, staff and graduate students with community organizations and schools throughout southern Vancouver Island.

Since last September, the bureau has provided speakers for 383 engagements. The UVic volunteer speakers offered to share their expertise and enthusiasm on 400 topics as far-ranging as art and

architecture, fitness, animals and plants, parenting, computers, world cultures, social and justice issues, wellness, travel, history, employment, and world affairs.

To see the full list of speakers, visit: communications.uvic.ca/sb/thankyou.php.

It's not too late to sign up as a member of the 2005-06 UVic Speakers Bureau. For more information, call Mandy Crocker (com-

munications services) at 721-8587 or e-mail speakers@uvic.ca.



Project Nova introduces a web portal on campus

Following a spring launch by UVic President David Turpin, the implementation phase of Project Nova's campus-wide systems renewal is now underway.

Stage one involves the design and implementation of a unique university web portal, which offers a personalized, single point of access to online services that members of the university community need to go about their daily lives.

The portal, using Luminis software, is being deployed by the Nova core team with support from SunGard SCT, the main supplier of technology for Project Nova's campus-wide upgrade of university information systems and services.

Last month, a series of workshops was held to introduce the concept of the web portal and

gather feedback regarding portal features that will best address UVic's particular needs. SCT was onsite to help facilitate many of the meetings and several sessions were held to gain a broad perspective about the needs of the diverse university environment.

"A web portal is a bit like a shopping mall," says Luminis specialist Barbara Jamelli-Sefchik, "People can choose where to shop, which services they want to use, or simply browse around," she explained.

Key features for the UVic portal will include one-stop, password-protected access to a broad range of university information, and the ability to target campus and personal announcements and customize portal content depending on the recipient's role on campus.

While the portal development is in progress, plans are being made for campus training and awareness opportunities. Although using a web portal is easy for anyone familiar with computers, there are exciting possibilities for applying the technology such as developing group sites and personalizing the portal.

After thorough development, testing and training, the customized portal will be available for campus users early in the new year. It will operate in conjunction with the main UVic website, which will continue to be the university's public face.

For more information on Project Nova and the "Luminis" implementation visit the Project Nova website at www.uvic.ca/nova/.

Gifts that make the grade ^{A+}

Of all the examples of giving at UVic, perhaps no philanthropic gesture is more moving than that of students donating funds to support their fellow students. The **Education Students Association** (EDSA) has long worked in the service of its fellow students, and recently, they showed their support by donating \$2,500 to the **faculty of education**. The donation is an annual tradition of EDSA. The student group's donations have been put toward the purchase of much-needed resources and equipment for teacher education: upgrading computer software and hardware in the learning commons curriculum lab; French language story books; art supplies and equipment; materials for music education; and upgrading equipment in the school of physical education. "As student representatives, EDSA is on the front line when it comes to understanding the needs of their peers," says Catherine McLeod, development officer with the faculty of education. "Their gift is special in that it really captures the spirit of giving. When students make the effort to be generous to fellow students, it's a deeply caring gesture and a tremendous example of their leadership and dedication to UVic."

CORRECTION: Anyone wishing to contribute to the **John Carling Fraser Scholarship** should call 472-5030, not 721-5030 as printed in the March edition of *The Ring*. The scholarship, which was named in memory of a UVic graduate student, will disburse \$5,000 to a third- or fourth-year biology or biochemistry and microbiology student who excels academically and is actively involved in service to the community.

External relations scores big at CCAE awards

Staff in the division of external relations will be accepting four national awards at the end of May when the organization representing university alumni, communications, fundraising and advancement staff holds its annual conference in Banff.

UVic Report 2004 earned the gold award for best institutional annual report. *UVic Report* was produced by communications services, with project management by Robie Liscomb and design by Malahat Group International.

UVic alumni services will pick up three awards. The launch of the aboriginal alumni chapter last October in Mungo Martin House, near the

Royal BC Museum, has earned a gold medal. The colourful celebration, organized by acting manager of alumni programs Karen Whyte, was named best event by CCAE judges.

In the best magazine category, the *UVic Torch* alumni magazine earned a bronze medal on the strength of its 2004 editions. It marks the first appearance of the *Torch* among the country's three top-ranked university magazines. The magazine is edited by Mike McNeney and designed by Clint Hutzulak.

Earlier, alumni services director Don Jones was named this year's winner of the CCAE's Outstanding Achievement Award.

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Heartfelt letter leads to international award

by Patty Pitts

A UVic graduate student's heartfelt letter home about how her struggles with Canadian culture provided a surprising academic advantage has won her the inaugural International Student of the Year Award from the Canadian Bureau of International Education (CBIE).

Mika Oshige, a master's student in educational psychology from Nagoya, Japan, receives a \$1,000 prize for the award.

CBIE invited international students to write a letter telling family or friends what it's like to study in Canada. Five hundred students sent entries from across the country, representing visiting students from around the globe.

Oshige originally came to UVic with plans to be an interpreter and earned an undergraduate degree in psychology and linguistics. In her letter she describes how her daily attempts to unravel Canadian culture increased her awareness of being in a minority "both ethnically and cognitively."

Struggling to learn a new language gave Oshige insight into challenges faced by individuals with learning disabilities. She acknowledged how deeply her own cultural values influenced her belief system. Being aware of both cultures simultaneously, Oshige could bring a different perspective to class discussions.

"Because of my unique experiences, I became interested in study-

ing how cultural and societal belief systems influence human social development," wrote Oshige. "In the end, my original goal of becoming an interpreter took a different form. It's [as] an interpreter of human minds rather than human languages."

Oshige hopes to stay in Canada after completing her graduate studies under Dr. Lily Dyson (educational psychology & leadership studies) in the faculty of education.

CBIE established the new award in honour of Elizabeth (Liz) Paterson who, for 25 years, served as director of the International Student Centre at the University of Toronto. The program is supported by the Elizabeth Paterson Endowment Fund.

The full text of Oshige's winning letter, and those of students whose entries earned an honorable mention, can be found at www.cbie.ca.



Oshige

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

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

Trackside Art Gallery Exhibit. Original works by young B.C. artists. The works are destined for enlargement and display in the outdoor Trackside Art Gallery in Esquimalt this September. The theme this year is the environment. McPherson Library Gallery. May 5-June 2.

Thursday, May 5

Lansdowne Lecture 6 p.m. *Transforming the Culture of Learning.* Dr. Sheryl Bond, Queen's Univ. Hickman 128. 721-5076/4028

Friday, May 6

Population Research Group Seminar 12:30 p.m. *Explaining Race and Ethnic Disparities in Educational Ambitions.* Charles Hirschman, Univ. of Washington. Business & Economics 363. 721-6484

Hispanic & Italian Studies Workshop 8 a.m. First UVic Latin America research group workshop on multidisciplinary issues on Latin America. MacLaurin D116. 721-8068

Sunday, May 8

UVic Plant Sale 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Everything for the spring garden—from bedding plants to trees. Bring packing boxes. McKinnon Gym. 721-7014

Music 7 p.m. *An Evening of Indian (Hindustani) Classical Music.* Sponsored by UVic's Society for Indian Classical Art. Free but donations welcomed. Hickman 105. 479-7539

Wednesday, May 11

Centre on Aging Workshop 2:30 p.m. *Order In the House...If and When My Affairs Become Yours.* Heather Thurston, consultant. Strong 112. \$5 721-6369

Friday, May 13

Centre on Aging Lecture 12 p.m. *What is Good Grounded Theory?* Marjorie MacDonald, UVic. Business & Economics C363. 721-6369

Monday, May 16

Community Health Promotion Research Lecture 4 p.m. *First Things First: Why Primary Health Care is the Key to Reform.* Dr. Michael Rachlis, author of *Prescription for Excellence, How Innovation is Saving Canada's Health Care System.* Hickman 120. 472-4102

Public Symposium 1 p.m. *Japanese Canadian Photography to 1942.* The history of Japanese Canadians and the role of photography in reconstituting community stories. Dr. Patricia Roy, UVic, Imogene Lim, and Midge Ayukawa. Gallery tour to follow. University Centre A180. 721-8298/6313



Summer 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, June 9	Tuesday, May 31
Thursday, July 7	Wednesday, June 29

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Commuters gear up for annual pedal-fest

Ladies and gentlemen, don't start your engines. Instead, hop on your bike and pedal your way to UVic during the 11th annual Bike to Work Week, May 30 to June 5.

"Many people find that once they start biking to work, they get into the habit," says UVic sustainability co-ordinator Sarah Webb. "Bike to Work Week encourages people to get on their bike during a week where they have the support of their co-workers and the focus is on fun."

This is UVic's fourth year as an official sponsor and its eighth year as a participant. Last year, UVic pedalled in record numbers, with 51 campus teams and almost 700 participants. Organizers are currently looking for team captains.

"Team captains act as our sales force, getting people signed up, letting participants know about events, and providing advice to new cyclists," Webb says.

Each captain receives a biking package with a much-coveted captain t-shirt, route maps for around Victoria, and locations on campus where bikers can take advantage of amenities such as lockers, towels, and compressed air for tires.

"The university is continuing to add infrastructure to support cyclists," says Webb. "Coupled with new bike lanes and local connector routes throughout the city, cycling is a great way to commute to the office."

The initiative is citywide and festivities will pop up all over Victoria. At UVic, free bike maintenance workshops and commuter cycling courses will be available and campus security is providing bicycle engraving.

Campus organizers have cooked up a variety of prizes and incentives such as a free BBQ for UVic participants, and cycle support stations with juice and cookies. Bikers can have their "UVic passport" stamped every time they visit a station, and at the end of the week the passport can be handed in for a special prize draw.

"Bike to Work Week is not about winning the Tour de France," Webb says. "It's about getting on a bike, enjoying the week, and having fun with your colleagues."

For more information visit www.biketoworkvictoria.ca or call Webb at 472-5011 for a team captain's package.



Webb gets ready for the May 14 rubber duck race.

Your help needed for Bowker Creek clean-up

Pull on your rubber boots and help out at the annual Bowker Creek clean-up and rubber duck race on May 14.

"Volunteers spend the morning pulling out shopping carts, garbage, plastic bags and any other litter that is tossed into the creek, and then celebrate with a rubber duck race," says UVic sustainability co-ordinator, Sarah Webb. "Hundreds of yellow ducks are sent down the newly cleaned creek to see which one floats the fastest to the finish line."

The clean-up is led by the Oak Bay High Environment Club and is part of the Bowker Creek watershed renewal initiative, a partnership between UVic, the Friends of Bowker

Creek, the Capital Regional District (CRD), and the districts of Saanich, Victoria and Oak Bay.

The Bowker Creek watershed begins on UVic land and runs out to the ocean via Oak Bay. "Healthy watersheds are critical in urban areas" says Webb.

"Providing habitat for wildlife and creating greenways for people to enjoy benefit the community and our local environment."

The official launch of the initiative took place in April with speakers, crafts, information displays. Four interpretive signs will be posted around the region. "Increasing public awareness is a big component to protecting

a watershed," says Webb.

She adds that individual actions can make a difference when it comes to protecting watersheds.

"Everyone can help reduce watershed pollution by washing their vehicles with biodegradable soap and on their lawn instead of their driveways, eliminating the use of pesticides and herbicides in their gardens, and ensuring oil leaks from cars are repaired immediately. While these actions may seem small, cumulatively they have a positive impact on the creek."

For more information on the Bowker Creek clean-up visit www.crd.bc.ca or call 360-3302.

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UVic holds special convocation in Beijing

The university will hold a special convocation ceremony in Beijing's Great Hall of the People on May 12 to confer two honorary degrees.

Annie Suk-Ching Wu will be honoured for her outstanding public service. The managing director of the Hong Kong Beijing Air Catering Company, she established the first joint venture between Hong Kong and Mainland China in 1980. Her first job was as a waitress in her father's restaurant. Since then she's become the vice-chair of more than 15 joint venture and

catering companies in China. Her many community activities tend to focus on women and children's issues and she's actively involved in more than 30 business, volunteer and public service organizations, including the Soong Ching Ling Foundation.

An honorary degree will also be presented to Albert Hung, a successful importer/exporter with a strong record of philanthropic support for education, health and welfare, and athletics. He's actively involved in several

sports organizations, including the 80,000-member South China Athletic Association, a non-profit organization established a century ago in Hong Kong. His financial contributions have exceeded \$17.5 million Canadian for education, health and sports programs.

Chancellor Ron Lou-Poy will preside over the convocation ceremony and will be joined by President David Turpin along with a contingent of UVic faculty, representatives from the board of governors, and the UVic Chamber Singers.



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