UVic engineers help build world’s largest telescope

by Beth Haysom

A minuscule, flexible mirror not much bigger than an eye pupil being tested by University of Victoria engineers will one day help astronomers peer into distant galaxies and watch stars being born.

UVic is part of a Ralph N North American endeavour to build a 30-metre telescope (TMT), the largest ever built. A team of UVic engineers is designing experimental equipment that will eventually be used in the new telescope. Phase one of the UVic development project will be completed this month.

The gigantic scope—with a light-collecting area nine times the size of the largest existing telescope and 100 times more powerful than the Hubble telescope—will operate like a giant eyeball, allowing astronomers to probe 10 billion light years deep into space.

The $750-million project is being undertaken by a private-public consortium, including universities in Canada and the United States, and is expected to be operational in 10 to 15 years.

Observations from the telescope will help answer questions about how stars, planets and galaxies form, and about dark matter and energy and the frequency and types of extra-solar planets.

UVic has built a “test bench” of experimental instrumentation needed to develop telescope parts such as a tiny “adaptive optics” mirror that will compensate for optical aberrations of the incoming light caused by Earth’s atmosphere.

The project is assisted by $4 million from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (for the entire Canadian portion of the telescope project) and $2 million from the BC Knowledge Development Fund.

“TMT is one of the most exciting projects I’ve been a part of,” says Colin Bradley, a mechanical engineer who heads the team of engineers, physicists, graduate and undergraduate students involved in UVic’s project. “We’re helping to create a powerful and sophisticated tool that will lead to a tremendous amount of valuable scientific research.”

In phase two of the project, UVic will be involved in the development of cutting-edge, adaptive optics technology needed to operate the scope and the 7.8 hexagonal mirror segments that span its 30-metre bowl. These work together like pieces of a giant jigsaw puzzle to collect the light beaming to Earth from the far reaches of the universe.

UVic is working closely with scientists at the National Research Council’s Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics observatory in Saanich. Various sites in the higher elevations of Hawaii, Mexico and Chile are under review as potential locations to build the telescope.

Use of the new telescope will be a huge benefit to UVic astronomers and theorists who are already engaged in high-level cosmology and galactic research.

“Since light travels at a finite speed, then when we look into distant space we’re also looking back in time,” says Dr. Ken Venn, an UVic astronomer and the Canada Research Chair in Observational Astrophysics.

“The TMT will make it possible to identify and study extremely faint and distant stars, planets and galaxies,” he says. “This will help answer questions about how stars, planets and galaxies form.

In addition to obtaining input through consultations in person, the planning and priorities committee is receiving comments and submissions from individuals and groups via e-mail and on paper.

“We’re most grateful for the energy and thought people are investing in the process,” says UVic president David Turpin, who chairs the committee. “What we’re hearing from members of the university community will be invaluable in reviewing the strategic plan.”

Background documents, the full consultation schedule and contact information for the committee are all available on the strategic plan review website at: uvic.ca/strategicreview.

Strategic plan consultations continue

The process to review and renew the university’s strategic plan, Vizor for the Future, is in full swing.

Since December, members of the planning and priorities committee, the body that is leading the review process, have met with about a dozen groups across campus. Fifteen more campus consultations are being organized for February—when students, faculty councils, the university’s educational and employment equity groups, and other major constituencies.

Staff members are invited to consultations on the morning of Feb. 21 and the afternoon of Feb. 23 to provide input into the process. Off-campus consultations are being planned for late spring.

SEE 30-METRE TELESCOPE P3

What’s up, doc? The Island Medical Program’s first class of trainee doctors joins the hospital front lines

by Beth Haysom

The first time Island Medical Program (IMP) student Bjorn Vegsund went “on duty” at Cowichan District Hospital emergency room, he couldn’t bear to leave.

“We were only supposed to stay for two hours, but it was so interesting I stayed for six,” says Vegsund. He’s one of the first cohort of 24 medical students based at the University of Victoria who are traillblazing medical education on Vancouver Island.

This was the first time I was the first person a patient talked to once they were admitted to the ER,” says Vegsund. “It was exciting and definitely nerve-wracking, trying to remember what questions to ask, what physical symptoms to look for, what tests might be needed, and the diagnosis for each patient. This kind of experience is far better than all the hours we spend sitting and studying.”

In fact, Vegsund and his fellow students, now in their second year of the four-year program, have spent more than a year studying and practicing clinical skills with volunteer patients. Now it’s time for their first day a week practical training with real patients on the wards and units of Vancouver Island Health Authority hospitals: Cowichan District, Sannich Peninsula, Victoria General and the Royal Jubilee.

The first-line hospital experience, which began last month, culminates another first for the IMP, which is establishing undergraduate medical education on Vancouver Island as a distributed program of the University of British Columbia faculty of medicine. IMP students will graduate with a UBC medical degree.

The IMP officially opened its doors at UVic in January 2005, along with the Northern Medical Program at the University of Northern BC, to respond to the need for doctors in rural areas.

SEE IMP STUDENTS P.5

Construction boom on campus—what’s happening?

by Natacha Chetty

You’ve probably noticed the increase in construction crews and vehicles on campus since the new year. Curious about what’s happening? Here’s an update on the why’s and how’s of building the future of the university.

UVic is moving forward on a $130-million capital expansion to add research, learning and office space. The B.C. government has committed to funding an additional 1,900 full-time students at UVic by 2010, along with relocation of the physics and astronomy observatory dome and roof-top telescopes. Construction begins this March; the target completion date is March 2008.

A new social science and mathematics building will house geogra- phy, environmental studies, political science and mathematics, the e-learning systems group, graphics and photog- raphic services, as well as various labs, lecture theatres, classrooms and administrative offices. Construction begins this spring with a target comple- tion date of February 2008.

The Meeks Centre for Learning library expansion will transform the existing McPherson Library into a more comprehensive learning centre and information commons. The expected construction start is August 2006, with a target completion date of January 2008.

SEE CONSTRUCTION P.4
UVic invites comment on internationalization plan

UVic is aiming to enhance its international activities and connections across the University community and on the world stage.

Everyone is invited to join in the dialogue for change, which may involve revising curricula, establishing an international space or focal point on campus, and funding more overseas study and research by students, staff and faculty.

“Making a World of Difference,” a draft strategic plan outlining 14 objectives for furthering internationalization at the university over the next five years, was released by the office of international affairs (OIA) for consultation with the UVic community this month.

For many years, UVic has had strong areas of international excellence, but the challenge now is to ensure that this strength and expertise permeates the experience of all our students, staff and faculty,” says Jon Anglin, associate vice-president academic and student affairs, who also serves as director of international affairs.

“Our new plan seeks to define some strategic directions based on UVic’s values and commitments, and to create the framework of programs and services necessary to addres-s issues of global consequence.”

The internationalization plan is based on UVic’s Vision for the Future commitment “to a diverse and welcoming learning environment that informs and is informed by global realities and issues, new international framework and objectives have evolved after a thorough, two-year consultation process with faculty, staff and students and contributions from the OIA working group on internationalization.

These global goals complement UVic’s overall strategy that is currently being consulted and updated.

Among other objectives, UVic intends to appoint a new full-time director of international affairs; to double the numbers of students from UVic having study or work experiences abroad by 2010; to provide project management and resource support for overseas research; and encourage a broader representation of visa students attending UVic.

“Today’s reality is that universities have to achieve excellence on a global scale to attract resources, research funding and the most talented students and faculty,” says Anglin.

This plan will help UVic develop the tools for adopting a world-minded perspective and a commitment to human betterment throughout the university’s teaching, research and community-based activities.”

The 25-page document has been distributed widely throughout the UVic community for comment. A copy is also available online at www.oia.uvic.ca.

Comments and suggestions on the plan are welcome and should be e-mailed by work@uvic.ca or in writing to the office of international affairs, Continuing Studies Building, room 300.

The deadline for responses is Feb. 28 so that a final draft of the plan can be submitted to the university for consideration by May.

Community kudos go to two UVic faculty members

by Maria Lionti

Two UVic faculty members—recently retired mathematician David Leeming and business professor Rebecca Grant—were honoured by Maria Lironi at the University of Victoria—Harbourside, the awards recognize people who contribute to the community and inspire and mentor others to become involved and participate in the life of the city and the UVic campus.

Leeming and Grant were winners in the University of Victoria Community Leadership Awards category, which acknowledges exemplary leadership in linking UVic and the community for greater public benefit. Leeming has had a long and distinguished career in research and teaching which culminated in his receipt of a faculty of science excellence in Teaching Award. However, his involvement in mathematics education goes far beyond the lecture hall.

Leeming has served on Ministry of Education committees that have set the post-secondary mathematics curriculum in B.C. He has brought mathematics to life with the “Math Mania” program, which exposes the fun side of math to kindergarten children. In addition, Leeming is managing editor of Pi in the Sky, a magazine designed to capture and develop the interest of high school students in math.

Grant joined UVic as an associate professor of information technology in 1993, and has been repeatedly recognized for her strong research and teaching in the popular new field of “e-business.”

Grant has always been active in the local community, in such roles as a mentor to young entrepreneurs in Junior Achievement and as a leader in fundraising for the United Way.

Grant was elected to the board of the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce in 2000, and in succeeding years has willingly taken on more responsibilities.

Other 2006 winners are: Robin Irving (VanCity Youth Leadership Award); Hajimohammed Chanaiz and Dr. Michael Kovacs (Rotary Community Leadership Awards); Robin Irving (VanCity Youth Award); and Fiona Holroyd (Lifetime Achievement Award).

For more information visit www.leadershipvictoria.ca/VLA_Nominees_2006.pdf.

Afghan human rights advocate launches new lecture series

A woman who defined the brutal and oppressive Taliban to provide health care for women and educational opportunities for girls will present the inaugural University of Victoria guest lecture on “lived rights.”

Dr. Sima Simar, former deputy prime minister of Afghanistan and current chair of the Independent Afghan Human Rights Commission, will deliver her public lecture on Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. in the Fraser Building, room 159. A reception will follow her presentation.

Through the Shuhada Organization, a non-governmental, non-profit organization she established in 1989, Simar opened four hospitals, 10 health clinics and numerous schools for Afghan girls and women.

She was recently appointed as the UN Special Rapporteur on Sudan and was a recipient, in 2004, of a Profiles in Courage Award for being "an international symbol of the steadfast courage required to demand basic human rights for girls and women in Afghanistan.”

This annual public lecture by an internationally recognized human rights advocate was established to acknowledge and learn more about the courageous and transformative work being done—particularly by women—to turn words on the pages of constitutions and treaties into positive changes in the daily lives of disadvantaged people in conflict and post-conflict zones.

Simar’s presentation is sponsored by UVic’s centre for global studies, the International Women’s Rights Project, the faculty of law’s advisory committee on women’s and gender studies, the Human Rights Law Association, Telus and Monk Office Supplies.

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Scottish studies is part of our heritage and continues to be significant. Since the 18th century, Scotland has made a significant contribution to the economic, cultural, and intellectual advancement of society. What’s more, Scottish universities have always recognized their civic responsibilities, as we do here at UVic.

While his appointment coincided with the Hugh Campbell and Marion Alice Small Fund in Scottish Studies, Wood is keen to show the world that Scotland has a rich legacy of cultural and intellectual thought, much broader than the poems and songs of the popular poet. Since he began teaching history in the faculty in 1991, Wood has gained an international reputation in the faculty in 1991, Wood has.

Thirty-metre telescope sources in the very distant universe, when galaxies began to form. "Many of the stars in galaxies formed shortly after the Big Bang while the universe began," she continues. "By studying these stars

A search is underway for the university’s new vice-president finance and operations (VPFO), under procedures established by the university’s board of governors. Current VPFO Jack Falk has announced that he intends to step down from the position, effective Sept. 1. He assumed the position in 1999.

The search committee, which is structured under board policy, has begun its work. The committee, which is being assisted by Dan Birch of Janet Wright & Associates Inc., is responsible for developing a position profile, establishing selection criteria, advertising the position, seeking the names of suitable candidates, interviewing and recommending a candidate to the president. The board of governors makes the appointment decision.

To assist in the development of a position profile, the committee is seeking input from the university community. A letter from UVic president and committee chair Dr. Donal Tapscott inviting responses to a number of questions is posted at a site on uvic.ca/uvic/.

The website also lists the search committee membership.

The vice-president finance and operations is responsible for providing strategic and operational leadership to the university in financial planning and services, human resources, campus planning, computing services, campus security and facility management. The position also plays a key role with the university in the management of off-campus properties.

Faculty, staff and students will soon have a simplified way to access e-mail, news and university services, via a simplified, convenient, online “home,” or portal. The portal is part of Project Nova, an ongoing, campus-wide initiative to replace the university’s technologically dated and stand-alone information technology systems with state-of-the-art infrastructure.
Renowned humanitarian speaks on global health and citizenship

Dr. James Orbinski, past internationa...
As everyone knows, it’s not always easy to fit healthy living into our hectic lives. But Dr. Joan Wharf Higgins, an associate professor in UVic’s department of physical education, is determined to make sure we try to do just that. As the Canada Research Chair in Health and Society, her focus is on health promotion, defined by the World Health Organization as “the process of increasing control over and improving people’s health.”

Wharf Higgins is fascinated with the control part of the equation. “Control over health has a different meaning for everyone,” she says. “You’re not going to be healthy unless you feel that you have control over your life and your decisions.”

The study showed that although low-income single mothers were well aware of what they should be doing to stay healthy—such as quitting smoking, eating healthy foods and exercising—those lifestyle changes could not be a priority for them because they were too busy trying to make ends meet.

“The mothers recommended that the whole social support system be revamped for single mothers,” says Wharf Higgins. “They felt that they didn’t have enough money to live on, and that the rules of the system often penalized them for trying to get ahead.”

Wharf Higgins became interested in health promotion in between completing a master’s degree at UVic and starting a PhD at UBC. “I worked for the Heart and Stroke Foundation as a health education co-ordinator in the 1970s. I saw the limitations of an education-only approach. Education is important, but does it really reach the people most at risk? They might not be interested in information because they’re dealing with other priorities.”

Wharf Higgins wants to create healthy environments for everybody, regardless of age or stage of life. “At any age, you can make a difference, and that’s really where I see my work. People need to have the resources they need.”

Communities are not necessarily defined by geography. One study by Wharf Higgins examined the prevalence of heart health among low-income single mothers by concentrating on prevention instead of the usual focus on the heart disease itself.

Some things are completely out of your hands, but making that distinction is empowering as well.”

Much of Wharf Higgins’ research has concentrated on factors people can’t control, and she’s interested in how communities can influence public health in areas such as social relationships, health and recreation facilities, and economic climate. The University of Victoria was on her mind when she embarked on her studies as a student. “UVic’s health-promotion approach was the individual, and in some cases it was believed that people’s unhealthiness was their own fault. This isn’t necessarily true,” says Wharf Higgins. “Despite their good intentions, people are sometimes prevented from living healthy lifestyles because of barriers beyond their control. They don’t always have the resources they need.”

UVic’s Medical Sciences Building and the sophisticated audiovisual equipment have been put to the test since the second cohort of 24 students arrived last month to begin their studies. Among the new class, 11 are UVic alumni and nine are originally from Vancouver Island. “UVic is becoming a gateway to medical education on Vancouver Island,” says Jamie Cassels, UVic’s vice-president academic and provost. “We’re expecting the new students to follow in the footsteps of the class of 2008, who have become ‘excellent ambassadors’ for the university by participating in several community health initiatives. “This reflects UVic’s vision of having our students connected to the real world, contributing to the betterment of society,” he says. In June, the second-year students will be involved in intensive, real-world training when they begin four-week rotations with family practice physicians in rural areas of Vancouver Island. Some of these physicians, such as Dr. Granger Avery of Port McNeill, use a helicopter to reach their patients in isolated communities.

Meanwhile, many of the students share Vague’s enthusiasm for their current hands-on hospital experiences. Patrizia Moccia is still ecstatic from her first experience in obstetrics, watching a baby boy being born. “It was totally amazing—our physician tutor talked us through what was happening. Afterwards, the new father shook all our hands.”

Kevin Tyler chose to have his hospital practice at the Victoria Hospice palliative care unit at the Royal Jubilee because he wanted to learn what is involved in caring for the whole family. As his hospice sessions wrapped up and he moved on to another unit, he says, “I have a whole new respect for caregivers and everything they do.”

Dr. Fraser Black is one of 500 physicians on Vancouver Island who have agreed to teach IMP students and be appointed to the program’s growing clinical faculty. He mentored Tyler during his work at the 17-bed Victoria Hospice in-patient unit. “I’m very happy to have the IMP students here,” he says. “They bring so much enthusiasm and energy. Palliative care was not a big part of our training when I went to medical school, but it’s an important part of medicine, so this is a great opportunity for these students and for us.”

The last word belongs to Walter Slay, a patient at the Victoria Hospice, who cheerfully cracked jokes while posing for photos for this article with the doctor, Tyler and Rose, his wife of 51 years. “I guess we can still teach these young ‘uns a thing or two,” he quipped.
Dr. Taniade Alfred, a faculty member in UVic’s indigenous governance program, received a 2006 National Aboriginal Achievement Award during a ceremony in Vancouver on Jan. 27.

The gala evening was broadcast nation-wide the following evening on the Global and Aboriginal Peoples Television networks. Alfred, who is also the Canada Research Chair in Studies of Indigenous Peoples, was named in the education category, one of the award program’s 14 categories.

Alfred is a graduate of Concordia University in Montreal and Cornell University in New York and served as an infantryman with the U.S. Marines prior to embarking on his academic career. A prolific author of hundreds of articles and three books on indigenous governance, he remains active in indigenous communities as an adviser and strategist to many First Nations governments and community organizations.

A reviewer described his most recent book, *Wasase: Indigenous Pathways of Action and Freedom*, as rejecting “aboriginalism as a legalistic, integrating ideology that destroys individuals and communities, and argues instead for an anarcho-indigenist perspective that is non-capitalist, non-statist, pro-feminist, and based on a sustainable relation to nature.”

**University introduces new course evaluation survey**

Along with all-night study sessions and beating the deadline on a term paper, nothing is more inevitable at the end of a course than the student evaluation. Administered across disciplines at both the undergraduate and graduate level, these evaluations provide instructors and their administrators with valuable feedback.

Currently, there is a wide range of assessment tools in place throughout the university, but the office of the vice-president academic and provost is implementing a new survey instrument that senate has asked to be used across all academic programs at UVic.

The course experience survey (CES) was developed over four years by the learning and teaching centre at the request of senate and in response to the UVic strategic plan. Extensive research and consultation over the past several years—including a literature review of course evaluation theory and practice, on-campus interviews, focus groups and survey—were part of the CES development.

“We chose to call the tool a ‘course experience survey’ because, while it will be used to assess teaching effectiveness, the survey can only capture students’ perceptions of their experience in the course,” says Dr. Jim Anglin, associate vice-president academic. “The name was also chosen in response to the suggestions of those involved in the instructor and student focus groups.”

An implementation task group with broad representation has been formed and will plan and oversee the process of implementing the new survey instrument. This group will address such issues as survey administration and analysis, data access, method of delivery and availability of results.

The CES implementation task group will continue to meet over the coming months and will provide updates as planning for implementation proceeds.
Thursday, February 2

Medical Studies Lecture 10 a.m. Uphard Mobility in Medieval German Literature. The Fortune of a Faithful Liar. Dr. Vicki Ziegler, Pennsylvania State Univ. Clearihue A206. 721-6751

Grad Year Connection Workshop 6:30 p.m. Overview. Learn about the experiences of students and alumni who have worked or volunteered overseas. For more information visit gradyearconnection.uvic.ca/workshops.html. Hickman 110. 472-4478

Orion Lecture 7:30 p.m. The Mind’s Eye: Seeing, Sight and Gothic Art. Dr. Jean Givens, Univ. of California. Conroy A132. 721-7942

Friday, February 3

Anthropology Lecture 12:30 p.m. Back to the Land. The Significance of Permaculture in Creating Sustainable Communities. Claire Siebert, UVic grad student. Business & Economics 365. 721-7047

Musique 12:30 p.m. Frida Kahlo. Music of students in a program for various instruments. MacLaurin B12. 721-7904

Symposium Against Poverty 7 p.m. Disposable Women: Connecting the Dots from Canada to Mexico. A panel discussing the connections between missing women in Mexican sweatshops and missing indigenous women in Canada. SUB, Vertigo. 570-9122.


Saturday, February 4

19th Annual Medical Workshop 9 a.m. Nature Tamed and Wild. Speakers: Dr. Vicki Ziegler, Pennsylvania State Univ.; Dr. Jean Givens, Univ. of Connecticut; and Drs. Catherine Harding, Iain Higgins and Helene Cazes, UVic. MacLaurin A144. Tickets 846-22. 721-8827

Monday, February 6

Distinguished Professors Lecture 7:30 p.m. Science Literacy: A Guide for Parents, Grandparents and Educators. Dr.Larry Yore, UVic. Fraser 159. 721-7953

Tuesday, February 7


Wednesday, February 8

UVic Career Fair 10:00 a.m. (and Feb. 9) Graduate and continuing education info fair hosted by UVic career services and AIESEC. SUB Michelie Bujol. 721-8992

Musique 12:30 p.m. Lieder at Lunch. Cuckoo songs. Sharon and Harold Kerbs. MacLaurin B07. 721-7904

Centre for Studies in Religion and Society Lecture 4:15 p.m. Recognition and Marginalization of Religion in the Public Sphere. Solange Lefebvre, Univ. de Montreal. Hickman 110. 721-6756

Thursday, February 9

Human Rights Lecture 7 p.m. Lived Rights. Dr. Sima Simar, former Deputy Prime Minister of Afghanistan, chair, Independent Afghan Human Rights Commission. Fraser 159. 721-7956

Friday, February 10

Musique 12:30 p.m. Frida Kahlo. Music of students in a program for various instruments. MacLaurin B12. 721-7904

Tuesday, February 14

Centre on Aging joined UVic Workshops 8:30 a.m. You Be the Judge: What Constitutes Negligence in Facility Care? Queen Alexandra Centre for Children’s Health Auditors. RSVP by Feb. 7 to Lindsay Casie at lcasie@uvic.ca or 721-6759

CEOR Lecture 3:30 p.m. Beyond the Sea: the Bedford Marine Sciences Centre—Opportunities and Successes. Dr. Dennis Jelinski, director, Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre. Conroy C101. 721-8828

Sessions in Spirituality 4 p.m. The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe: Exploring the Inner Journey. A penetrating look at this well-loved story. Christopher Page, St. Philip’s Anglican Church. Interfaith Chapel. 721-8338

Wednesday, February 15


Landowne Lecture 7:30 p.m. The First English Detectives: Policing London in the 18th Century. John Beattie, Univ. of Toronto. Hickman 110. 721-7950

Thursday, February 16

Education Learning Commons Lecture 12:30 p.m. Distributed Learning in B.C., the Current Picture and Emerging Trends. Tanya Tsyvina, B.C. Ministry of Education. MacLaurin D31. 472-4495

Friday, February 17

Anthropology Lecture 12:10 p.m. Ritual and the Cinematographic Landscape of Rocky Point. A. Mathews, UVic grad student. Business & Economics 365. 721-7904

Musique 12:30 p.m. Frida Kahlo. Music of students in a program for various instruments. MacLaurin B12. 721-7904

Monday, February 20

Annual Biology Graduate Student Symposium 9 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (continues Feb. 21). Biology graduate student research goes on display with 15-minute presentations and poster sessions. Hickman 101/102. 721-8099

Wednesday, March 1


Thursday, February 23

Centre on Aging Community Forum 10:00 a.m. Enhancing Capacity in Later Life. A one-day forum open to health professionals, seniors, faculty, staff, students and the public. Strong Cozy. Ticket prices vary. 721-6699


Sunday, February 26

Grey power on campus

In March, discover what it is to be happy and healthy in your later years without enrolling in a course or leaving the campus. As part of Embrace Aging Month, a three-dimensional festival of events celebrating seniors and the agencies that support them, UVic’s centre on ageing is hosting lectures, presentations and an art exhibit. Events include an art exhibit by Ventura fabric artist Diedre Scherer at the McPherson Library and a lecture by Scherer on the challenges of aging and dying. Dr. Robert Dalton (education) is giving a lecture entitled “Framing the Past: Senior Stories Illustrated by Youthful Artists.” As well, the UVic Retrievers Association and the UVic Retirees’ Association will be holding an open house and a question and answer session on aging and retirement. See the events mentioned above at www.csa.uvic.ca/events.htm or embracingaging.org.

Co-op programs once again get national affirmation

In December 2005, the accreditation council of the Canadian Association for Co-operative Education (CACE) awarded UVic a six-year re-accreditation of its degree programs. CACE recognized UVic’s co-op programs. CACE recognized UVic’s degree programs for its co-op programs, and those of UVic’s 14 co-op programs are currently accredited by CACE.

Nominate a student for Blue and Gold

The UVic Alumni Association invites nominations for its prestigious Excellence Awards. Nominations close March 9 for awards, which recognize undergraduate and graduate students who make significant contributions to the quality of life on campus and in the community. These students might demonstrate leadership in a volunteer role with community groups, through participating in or coaching athletic teams or being involved with arts groups or organizations. Two levels of Blue and Gold Awards will be presented this year—three awards worth $5,200 each and five awards worth $1,080 each.

Nominations are being accepted until Feb. 27 for the teaching awards and until March 31 for the student awards. Technical support for the program and teaches two courses in digital audio.

McNally has worked with major international artists—including R.E.M., Bryan Adams and Matthew Good—as a recording engineer. McNally has won two awards in 2004—the Distinguished Best Paper Award from the Journal of New Music Research, and the Thecla Adamsson Prize for the best student paper from the northwest chapter of the Society for Ethnomusicology.

Kapur took traditional Indian instruments and embedded computers inside them to capture gestures while he’s performing. He also wrote a graphic program that projects different colours onto a screen, depending where the drum is hit. And he did “some crazy experiments” with one drum at McGill University and another at Princeton and then performed a concert over the Internet.

In addition to the joint degree in computer science and music, there’s a computer music option in electrical engineering. A total of 43 students are already involved in the two programs. For more information visit fitnetx.uvic.ca/music/ and www.mimic.ece.uvic.ca/.

When music and technology merge

Combined major in music and computer science draws rave reviews from students and instructors

by Maria Lintern

Aspiring video game creators, recording engineers and Foley artists take note—UVic is the only university in Western Canada, and the second in Canada, to blend training in music and computer science into one degree-granting program.

“Today, pretty much the whole process of recording, distributing and producing music is done through ‘computers,’” explains Dr. George Tzanetakis (computer science) who teaches music information retrieval, the practice of analysing large collections of music in digital format.

“Computers are used to create digital audio (recorded and computer-generated), which is used for musical activities such as producing music recordings, music for film and video games, and delivering music in the form of CDs, DVDs, Internet broadcast and MP3 files for downloading.”

In addition, many live music performers involve computer technology, ranging from sound synthesizers and samplers to three-dimensional displays that provide new ways of performing.

“Many computer science students already have an interest in music—many play instruments and some are DJs in clubs. This program is a way of attracting those who might be more interested in traditional computer science courses,”

During the four years of study, students take the essential courses for both a music and computer science degree, omitting private lessons and computer science into one degree-granting program.

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“Computers are used to create digital audio (recorded and computer-generated), which is used for musical activities such as producing music recordings, music for film and video games, and delivering music in the form of CDs, DVDs, Internet broadcast and MP3 files for downloading.”

In addition, many live music performers involve computer technology, ranging from sound synthesizers and samplers to three-dimensional displays that provide new ways of performing.

“Many computer science students already have an interest in music—many play instruments and some are DJs in clubs. This program is a way of attracting those who might be more interested in traditional computer science courses,”

During the four years of study, students take the essential courses for both a music and computer science degree, omitting private lessons and