



Business grad sets sights on a Paralympic medal

The only lines that UVic business grad and Paralympic athlete Andrea Holmes will allow to be drawn on her life are the marks in the sand measuring her long jump distances.

Hopefully, those are more than 4.32 metres, her personal best, which ranks her first in Canada and fifth in the world. Holmes, born without the lower portion of her left leg, is aiming higher and further to attain her goal of winning a medal for Canada at the 2008 Beijing Paralympics.

"I have decided to train full-time to be medal-ready for Beijing," says Holmes, who lives in Victoria and trains three to four hours a day under the guidance of her coach, Ron Parker. "School or track, I give everything I have to attain a goal I've set for myself."

Determination, focus and desire helped Holmes achieve high marks in her commerce degree while training and competing for the 2004 Athens Paralympics long

jump competition, where she landed in eighth place.

"I know I have it in me to win a Paralympic medal," says Holmes, who came late into training for Athens. She'd never heard of the Paralympics, in spite of a childhood filled with sports such as basketball, track and field, swimming and snowboarding.

"Everyone has some sort of weakness they must deal with in their lives, mine just happens to be more visible than others," says Holmes, an ambassador and motivational speaker for lululemon athletica and the War Amps of Canada.

Eventually Holmes would like to do a master's program in Hong Kong and dreams of a career that combines business with sport.

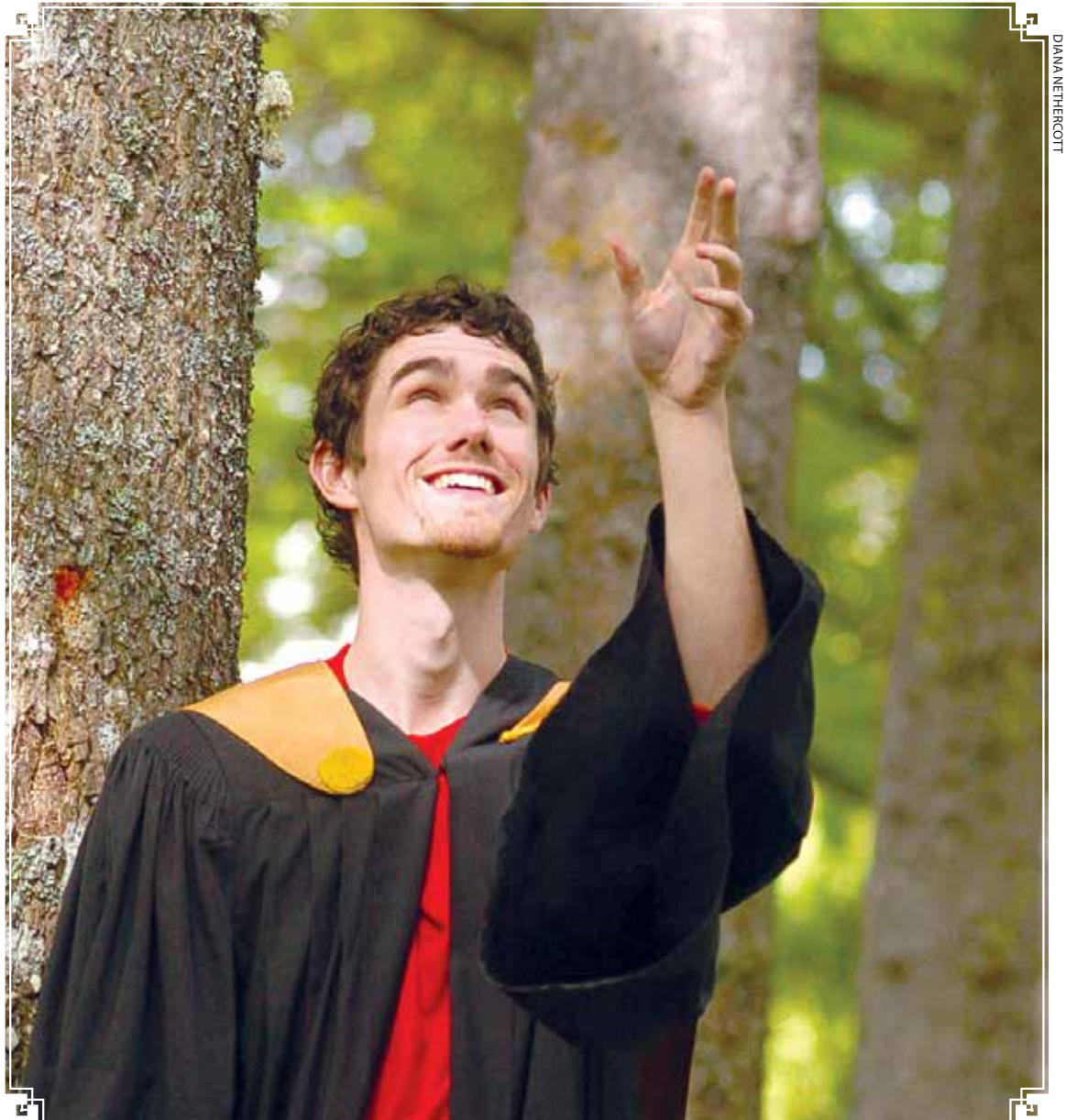
But first there's Beijing, which could be something of a homecoming. Holmes's mother was born in China and still has family in Canton. Holmes aims to visit them after the Paralympics, hopefully sporting a medal around her neck.



PETER THOMSON / ATHLETICS CANADA

Holmes

SPRING 2006. Convocation



DIANA NETHERCOTT

Gibson

Hard work + talent = top of the class

When it comes to winning formulas, the above equation is one that young mathematician Richard Gibson lives by.

Gibson, 21, graduates this month with an honours BSc, a perfect GPA of 9.0 and the Governor General's Silver Medal as the university's top undergraduate in all faculties for 2006.

"I was a little surprised," says Gibson of the day last month when the office of the dean of science phoned to tell him of his achievement. "I was definitely trying to win it, but I knew I was up against some other good students."

Gibson's academic record is replete with A+'s, including tough third- and fourth-year courses in combinatorial mathematics, complex analysis and mathematical modelling. He seems slightly embarrassed about an A he received in astronomy and an A- in

English. "Maybe I didn't put full effort into those two or something, I don't know," he laughs.

Gibson figures the last time he got a mark below an A was in Grade 5. It's no surprise, then, that he graduated from Victoria's Spectrum Community High School at the top of his class.

Mathematics has been his academic passion for as long as he can remember. "Even in elementary school math was my best subject, so I thought I'd just keep doing what I'm best at," he says. "I think it's the problem-solving. I like figuring things out."

Not that it always comes easily. Although he sailed through courses in his first couple of years at UVic, upper-level courses took more study hours—and sweat. "Math takes time to do, no matter what," he says.

Along the way, Gibson collected

enough credits for a minor in computer science and many awards, including a Fairfax Financial Holdings Inc. Scholarship, the Marvin Shinbrot Memorial Scholarship, and a Corporate Express Scholarship.

Last summer, he worked on a research project in mathematical biology with UVic professor Reinhard Illner. The work resulted in a scientific paper that has been submitted to a prestigious journal for publication.

Gibson heads for a master's degree in math at Simon Fraser University this fall. Next on the agenda is a PhD and hopefully a career in academia or industry. He'll miss his UVic intramural sports buddies—in floor hockey, especially—and he has some parting words of advice for incoming students.

"Manage your time well and don't put work off. I'm not a big fan of letting things linger. Get to it as fast as possible. And then have some fun."

For more convocation coverage, see pages 5–8, 12.

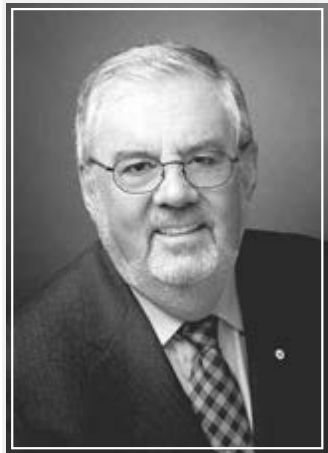
National postsecondary leader joins board of governors

The university’s board of governors has a new member. Robert Giroux, a prominent advocate for higher education in Canada, has been appointed to the board by the provincial government for a three-year term, effective July 1.

Giroux brings to the board an extensive knowledge of the complex policy environment in which Canadian universities are operating. From 1995 to 2004, he served as president and CEO of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada in Ottawa, where he played a significant role in advocating the importance of university research in relation to national goals for innovation and development. He was also a force behind the creation of the Canada Foundation for Innovation and the Canada Research Chairs program.

Prior to joining the AUCC,

Giroux held a number of senior posts in the federal public service, including secretary of the Treasury Board, comptroller general, presi-



dent of the Public Service Commission, and deputy minister of Public Works Canada and National Revenue, Customs and Excise.

Giroux is a graduate of the University of Ottawa (BA in commerce, MA in economics). He has received honorary degrees from seven universities, including UVic (in 2004).

In other board of governors news, Victoria business executive Peter Ciceri has been reappointed for another three-year term beginning July 1. Ciceri is one of two alumni representatives on the board.

The 15-member board of governors is one of the two primary governing bodies of the university. It includes elected faculty, staff and students, and eight members appointed by the provincial government.

For a complete list of the board of governors membership, visit web.uvic.ca/univsec/governance/governors.htm.

Super-secret census data assist researchers

by Patty Pitts

Some Canadians voiced concern over Statistics Canada contracting the Canadian division of U.S. company Lockheed Martin to supply scanners to read some forms in last month’s national census.

But the Canadian government used American technology to help it crunch census data as far back as 1891, says a UVic historian involved in a national research project to make past census data available for future public use.

“In 1891, the government used the hollerith, a punch card tabulating machine, for the first time instead of tabulating data by hand,” says Peter Baskerville of the Canadian century research infrastructure project. He says concerns over accuracy and security remain paramount in the current multi-year, multi-university initiative.

“Anyone working on this project must undergo a criminal record check and swear a confidentiality oath to Statistics Canada, which regularly checks our facility to ensure it’s secure. Any data we send to Statistics Canada undergoes military-level encryption to ensure the information remains secure. We operate on a closed network.”

Baskerville and his UVic colleagues are converting data from microfilm and microfiche of the 1911, 1921, 1931, 1941 and 1951 censuses to a computer-compatible format. The team is also putting the data in context—finding a consistent way to interpret ever-changing terminology by referencing newspapers, parliamentary debates, even

cartoons.

“The 1901 census was the last one to use the term ‘colour’ and the 1911 census was the last one to use ‘crazy or lunatic,’ for example,” says Baskerville. “If a user of our public samples wants to understand the meanings behind such usage we provide data from debates of the time in machine-readable form.

“We’re also making it possible for users to compare, in a systematic way, information across the early 20th-century censuses. As well, we’re providing maps for all censuses so that the information can be analysed from a geographic perspective.”

The UVic team is responsible for entry of census data north and west of Ontario. Once completed, the data are sent to Statistics Canada for “anonymizing,” to strip away any information that could lead to individual identification. Data entry for 1911 and 1921 is complete and will be available to the public in a format it can use online by 2007.

The \$15 million in funding for the project (UVic’s share is \$2.1 million) is from the Canada Foundation for Innovation, the first time the agency has provided major funding to a non-science project.

“From a historical perspective, nothing can match the information provided by these census data,” says Baskerville. “It informs government and influences their policies. For disadvantaged groups, it’s a mechanism to prove they exist and deserve attention. A lack of accurate census data would be a tragedy for Canadian society.”

Inmemoriam

Professor emeritus **Douglas Millar Johnston** died on May 6, having just celebrated his 75th birthday. Born in Dundee, Scotland, he immigrated to Canada in 1955 after graduating from St. Andrews University. Earning postgraduate degrees from McGill and Yale universities, he went on to teach in the U.S., Canada and Singapore before coming to UVic’s

law school in 1987. Doug was the founding Chair in Asia-Pacific Legal Relations at the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives (CAPI) before retiring in 1995. Demonstrating a passion for writing, he wrote over 30 books and 90 articles. He died, pen in hand, completing the finishing touches on a comprehensive history of international law. Bill Neilson,

UVic law dean from 1985 to 1990 and a longtime friend, describes Johnston as a wonderful scholar and a hugely engaging teacher who inspired a number of graduates who are now themselves prominent in the field of international law.

Contributed by UVic law professor Ted McDorman

Aboriginal scholar named Trudeau Fellow

John Borrows, the University of Victoria’s Law Foundation Chair in Aboriginal Justice and Governance, is one of five Canadians appointed a 2006 Trudeau Fellow by the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation.

Trudeau Fellows are selected by nomination, not application, after a rigorous peer review process. They’re appointed for three years and receive an annual stipend of \$50,000 plus an annual research and travel allowance of \$25,000.

“The Trudeau fellows program recognizes and communicates connections between issues of local and international importance, and it is a deep honour for me to join the foundation in working toward these ends,” says Borrows.

As the Trudeau fellows program grows, it will build a network of creative people working together from a variety of perspectives to address fundamental social issues.

Borrows is an internationally recognized scholar in the field of indig-

enous legal traditions and aboriginal rights. Borrows is Anishinabe and a member of the Chippewa of the Nawash First Nation on Georgian Bay.

In 2003 he was one of four British Columbians to receive a National Aboriginal Achievement Award for establishing university-level aboriginal legal programs and writing extensive legal texts.


Borrows developed programs in indigenous research and teaching at the University of Toronto, Osgoode Hall Law School at York University, the University of British Columbia, and UVic. Most recently, he served as a visiting scholar-in-residence with the Law Commission of Canada, writing a book about indigenous legal traditions in Canada.

The Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation promotes outstanding research in the social sciences and humanities, and fosters dialogue between scholars and policy-makers in the arts community, business, government, the professions, and the voluntary sector.



DIANA NETHERCOTT

Borrows



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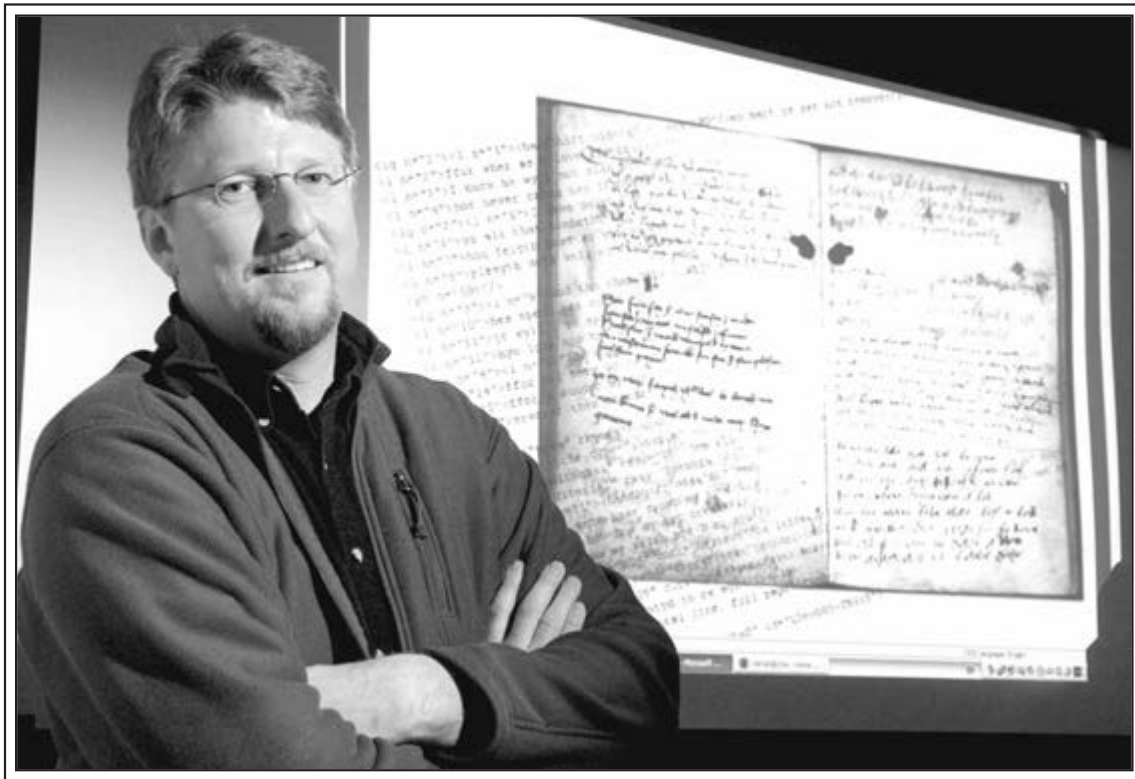
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Canada Research Chairs



DIANA METHERCOTT

Siemens, with a projection of historical writing.

DIGITAL LIT

An English prof blends humanities with state-of-the-art technology

by Beth Haysom

“William Shakespeare meets Bill Gates?” UVic English professor Ray Siemens laughs at this cheeky description of the new dimension of humanities computing.

“Well I’m sure some of my colleagues do consider me to be something of a classicist geek,” says Siemens, named the Canada Research Chair in Humanities Computing in 2004. “Certainly this is a difficult discipline for people to understand.”

By way of explanation, Siemens holds up a computer-generated graphic illustration of *Paradise Lost*. The entire 12 books of John Milton’s epic poem of humanity’s fall from grace are dramatically depicted as a radiating whorl of words. Of-repeated words like Satan, Adam, Eve, Earth and Serpent pop out as the focal point of the design.

“It’s aesthetically beautiful and a good example of the variety of ways that technology can help students think about and access the classics,” says Siemens, who brims with enthusiasm for the boundless possibilities that can be achieved by coupling the study of humanities with state-of-the-art technology.

Paradise Lost is a case in point, he explains. Over the years the poem, considered a masterpiece of the English language, has been “lost” to students unable or unwilling to explore its complexities. Now scholars reading computer versions of the texts, armed with a mouse, have explanatory annotations at their fingertips.

“That’s the goal of humanities, to learn from the past,” says Siemens, who believes that a world full of better readers with greater histori-

cal comprehension will be “a better place” and that new computing digital tools are a means to take us there.

Serendipitously, Siemens realized the potential of linking computers with humanities after he graduated in English and was scooped up to work for high-tech companies during the Silicon Valley boom in the ’80s. Now he’s leading the charge in the digital humanities evolution.

Since he arrived at UVic in 2004, Siemens has been developing models for the electronic scholarly study of humanities and the arts. Among his projects, *The Devonshire Manuscript*, a collection of verse, is the first significant example of men and women writing together.

Assisted by a team of researchers, Siemens is creating a context for the manuscript by linking it electronically to contemporary and historical texts, historical records, art work and critical reviews. “This resource would be difficult to present in any other form,” he says.

Last fall, Siemens set up the electronic textual cultures lab, next to the humanities computer-assisted language laboratory, staffed by eight grad students from various disciplines. Siemens and his team spend endless hours encoding humanities documents and texts to make them accessible to academics and others.

On Siemens “to do” list, are the Shakespeare sonnets that he’s working on for the UVic-based Internet Shakespeare Editions, an internationally renowned online resource.

“We should be proud, UVic is definitely at the front of the pack in this field,” says Siemens, who is director of the Humanities Computing Summer Institute and hosts its fifth gathering at UVic this month. The

event is a forum for dedicated digital enthusiasts to discuss and develop skills in new humanities and arts computing technologies.

Siemens has co-authored nine books on new technology topics including *A Companion to Digital Humanities*, which he hopes will serve as a roadmap for others following the digital path. He has presented over 50 papers and regularly crisscrosses North America and Europe to research and promote the latest findings in the digital field.

It’s not all about bits and bytes. Siemens also has a soft spot for Henry VIII and has given several presentations on song lyrics written by the youthful English monarch before he became maligned as the much-wifed architect of the English Reformation.

Young Henry, it turns out, wrote a kind of royal rap, remonstrating against the claustrophobia of the court, pleading that being allowed to play games would make him a better king.

Siemens has taken that tenet to heart. One of his courses at UVic teaches students the tools for computer interactivity. New technology allows readers to play an active part in storytelling, to choose a character, interact with the story and even change the ending.

Asked for his favourite interactive role, Siemens picks a character he chose while playing online literary games with his children: Amelia Black in Age of Empires 111. “She was the very capable daughter of a Scots adventurer-type with ties to the Knights Templar at the time of the discovery and exploration of the New World,” says Siemens.

No doubt Henry VIII would have approved.

Campus equity survey results released

Curious about the results of the campus workforce employment equity survey which wrapped up earlier this year?

The survey was conducted as part of the university’s commitment to equity and diversity and in compliance with the Federal Contractors Program for Employment Equity (FCP). Canadian employers who have contracts of \$200,000 or more with the federal government are required to make a commitment to employment equity and implement 11 criteria set out by the program.

According to the federal government, if employment equity is successfully implemented, barriers within organizational systems are removed for all employees, and equitable representation is achieved in all occupations, including positions of authority.

The equity office thanks everyone who participated in the survey. The results have now been tallied. Here’s a brief summary:

Just over 81 per cent of UVic employees participated in the survey, which shows a “picture in time” of the make-up of the university’s labour force.

As of Sept. 30, 2005, UVic employee representation in occupational categories set out by the program (as a percentage of total employees) is: female, 54.7 per cent; male, 45.2 per cent; aboriginal peoples, 1.5 per cent; people with disabilities, 5.6 per cent; and visible minorities, 7.8 per cent.

Respondents self-identified as part of one or more categories. Respondents could also self-identify as

members of “other minority groups” that they believe are disadvantaged. Examples of other groups are people with a minority sexual orientation, or those who believe they are disadvantaged due to age, race, place of origin, employment history or status of education.

A total of 427 respondents (16 per cent of returned questionnaires) added comments to explain their survey answers. Comments were grouped into three broad categories: self-identified group status and issues, workplace issues, and comments about the survey process itself.

According to Linda Sproule-Jones, director of UVic’s equity office, the composition of the university’s workforce is more reflective of the diversity of Canadian labour markets than it was when the university last reported to the FCP three years ago. In general, UVic representation of women and employees with disabilities is above the national labour force availability.

“We’ve certainly made progress, but there’s still work to be done,” says Sproule-Jones, who is responsible for reporting the results back to the government.

For example, while aboriginal peoples comprise 2.6 per cent of the Canadian labour force, there are no aboriginal full-time, part-time or temporary employees in six out of 14 occupational categories at UVic.

The FCP survey results will be used to shape policy and employment systems in line with goals set out in the university’s strategic plan.

The report can be found on the equity website at web.uvic.ca/equity.

See the campus from a student’s perspective.

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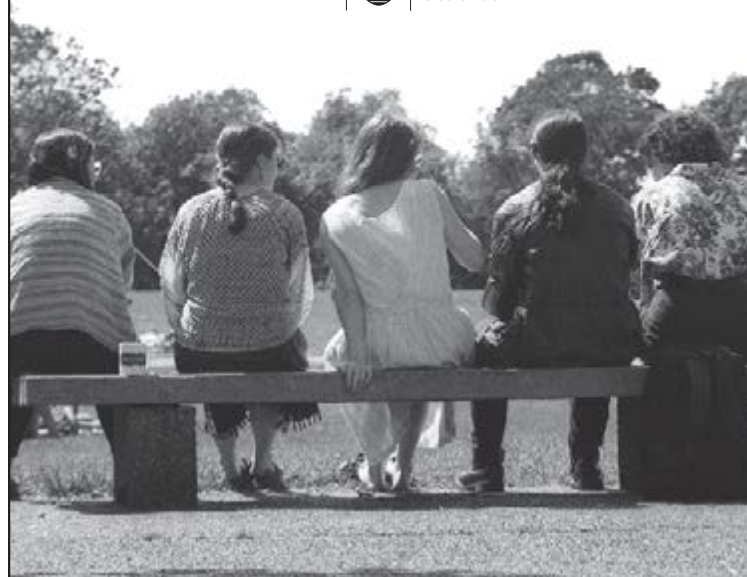
The **Fall 2006 Continuing Studies Calendar** will be available on our website at the end of June.

www.continuingstudies.uvic.ca

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Continuing
Studies



Endowment puts journalists in front of the class

Students at the University of Victoria will be able to learn from some of Canada's top working journalists, thanks to a \$250,000 donation from one of the country's leading publishing families.

The gift will create a prestigious annual lectureship in the department of writing in memory of Harvey Stevenson Southam, a UVic alumnus who was an heir to the Southam publishing empire when he died suddenly in 1991.

The donation was given by Southam's mother, Jean Southam of Vancouver, who has maintained an active interest in UVic for many years. In 1994 she also donated \$250,000 to support students in the writing department's Harvey Southam diploma program.

The Harvey Stevenson Southam Lecture Fund in Journalism and Non-Fiction will cover the annual appointment of a journalist of national renown to teach for one semester a year in the writing department.

The first appointment will

be made in 2008. During the appointment, the visiting writer will give a public lecture on issues related to contemporary journalism, teach an upper-level journalism course and provide valuable mentorship to young writers and aspiring journalists at UVic.

"We're immensely grateful to Jean Southam for her donation," says Lynne Van Luven, acting chair of UVic's writing department. "The lectureship will enhance the teaching of non-fiction in the professional writing minor in journalism and publishing, and will augment the non-fiction major for students at both the graduate and undergraduate levels."

Harvey Southam, the son of Gordon Thomas and Gertrude Jean (née MacMillan) Southam, worked as a journalist at the *Winnipeg Tribune*, *Vancouver Province*, and *Vancouver Sun* before serving as a director of a number of Southam companies, including Southam Inc., Southam Printing Ltd., and Coles Book Stores Ltd.



Kataoka

Grad student wins leadership award

Downtown Victoria is undergoing a transformation as new condominium developments invite more people to make downtown their home.

But what if "home" is a ragged sleeping bag on the street or a vacant bed in a shelter? And how do recent immigrants to the city create a new home for themselves in an unfamiliar culture and surroundings?

Serena Kataoka, a UVic political science PhD candidate, is examining how the disadvantaged and newly-ar-

rived make a home for themselves. Her research has earned her one of this year's Senior Women in Academic Administration in Canada (SWAAC) graduate student awards of merit.

Only four of the \$1,000 awards are presented each year in Western Canada to women graduate students who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in the university or general community while maintaining exemplary academic records.

In addition to her research, Kataoka is a board member of the Downtown Residents' Association and a member of the steering committee for the review of the Downtown Victoria Plan.

She's also the political science department graduate student representative to various departmental and university committees and is involved in co-ordinating and training graduate student teaching assistants.

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Teaching award winners stress relevance, openness

by Mike McNeney

The 2006 recipients of the UVic Alumni Awards for Excellence in Teaching are two classroom leaders who focus on "take home lessons" and positive learning environments.

Dr. Ed Ishiguro, retiring this summer after a 29-year run at UVic (including eight years as chair of the department of biochemistry and microbiology) is the recipient of the UVic Alumni Association's Harry Hickman Award. The Hickman is designated for full-time faculty, librarians or artists-in-residence.

Kelli Fawkes, a senior lab instructor in the department of chemistry, is the winner of the Gil Sherwin Award recognizing outstanding work by a lab instructor, sessional instructor or limited-term faculty member.

Ishiguro says he tries to give his students "take home lessons"—a phrase he picked up from his PhD supervisor. "They're things you keep for the rest of your life—not just another set of facts. I have students I taught 25 years ago who tell me they still remember something from my class. I find that flattering because that's the whole objective in the first place."

He makes it a goal to cover the basic concepts, using a variety of

illustrations and computer graphics to get his points across. "It's got to be interesting or they won't listen to you. And you have to describe the implications; you have to make them think about it."

It's an ongoing challenge. Ishiguro goes into his office after each lecture and spends 10 or 15 minutes reviewing what worked, what didn't. "I'm still getting better at it—that's one reason why I don't want to retire."

Former student Anna Burianova, graduating this month with the Jubilee Medal for Science, says Ishiguro stays on top of the latest discoveries in science and "presents materials in creative ways that stimulate students' interest. I can easily say that he is the best professor I've had the pleasure to be taught by at UVic."

Much like Ishiguro, chemistry instructor Fawkes tries not to "get lost in the details, instead covering material and topics that students will use somewhere else."

She joined the department in 1997, a year before completing her UVic undergraduate degree with a double major in chemistry and anthropology. Since then, she's established a reputation for openness, energy, and innovation.

She's credited with overhauling the lab/tutorial section of the second

year course, "Practical Spectroscopy." Her efforts have provided more working space, better interaction among teaching assistants and students, and greater student access to advanced instruments.

Above all, Fawkes is known for being accessible, someone to whom students can turn to when school work seems overwhelming and confusing. The key, she says, is to make sure a friendly learning environment comes before course content.

"If students see me as approachable and friendly," she says, "the learning falls more easily into place." When the line-ups outside her office door started getting a little too long, she introduced a popular daily drop-in help centre last fall where up to 30 students gather to work through homework problems.

Her nomination letters speak of an "educator of the highest quality who still understands that students need an approachable and down-to-earth mentor."

Each Alumni Excellence in Teaching Award recipient receives a \$2,000 cash prize from the UVic Alumni Association and their portrait photos are permanently displayed in the McPherson Library. Formal presentations of the awards will be made at the Legacy Awards dinner in November.



Law grad “rolls up her sleeves” to get involved

Last fall, UVic law student Jennifer Bond stood outside the United Nations in New York City pinching herself in disbelief. Bond and fellow student Laurel Sherret were about to make a presentation to 60 members of the UN community dealing with the obligation to intervene in humanitarian crises.

“It was unbelievable, thrilling,” says Bond, who graduates this month as one of the faculty’s top students. “Mostly we were excited to be there and have the opportunity to present something that could really make a difference.”

Bond and Sherret’s report, “A Sight for Sore Eyes: Bringing Gender Vision to the Responsibility to Protect Framework,” written while interning at the International Women’s Rights Project (IWRP) through UVic’s Centre for Global Studies, advocated the inclusion of the perspectives of women and children in the UN’s protection plans.

Their recommendations, well received by the UN representatives, were mentioned in Canada’s submission to the UN Security Council shortly after the presentation.

“It was gratifying,” says Bond,

“and a highlight of my three-year law program which has been wonderful—especially the combination of academic study and community involvement.”

The blend of theory and practice works well for Bond, who chose law for the intellectual challenge but loves to roll up her sleeves and get involved in community affairs. During her degree, in addition to her women’s rights work, Bond also advocated for clients of the Together Against Poverty Society and chaired the community board for the Environmental Law Centre.

Bond will be spending the coming years working within the justice system at the Alberta Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada. But first, she’s working on another report for IWRP, this time drawing links among HIV/AIDS, gender and democracy in southern Africa.

This work will take her to several high-level meetings in Britain, but Bond is not quite so disbelieving this time: “Now I’m confident in the ability of law to effect positive change,” she says.



Lucy and Dyck

Former musher finds her “voice” in writing

As she steps up to the podium as one of UVic’s top fine arts graduates, Joanne Dyck is thousands of kilometres and a world away from her dog mushing days in the Klondike.

But a glance at the bracelet tattoo of northern pines and vines encircling her wrist is all it takes to stir her vivid memories of whooshing through the isolated forests and snowy Yukon wilderness with the yipping dogs as her only companions.

And then there’s Lucy, the only one still with her from a treasured team of huskies that Dyck left behind when she came to study creative writing at UVic. “I wanted to find my voice, a way to tell the stories about my sled-

ding adventures,” says Dyck. “But leaving the dogs behind, that was the hardest thing I ever had to do. It was like abandoning my family.”

Dyck, now 41, is the kind of person who has made a point of choosing difficult paths. Having grown up in Thunder Bay, Dyck studied diesel mechanics intending to be a long-distance truck driver. But she also loved painting and was evolving a career as a successful artist—until she came nose to snout with a truck full of huskies on their way to a race around Lake Superior.

“I was hooked. I fell in love with those dogs and I knew right away that was the life for me,” says Dyck, who

spent the next nine years of her life as a musher and a dog sled tour guide and has a slew of heart-thudding tales of tumbling from the sled, getting lost in the forested wilderness and occasionally falling through thin ice.

Dyck moved her sled dog business to Dawson City to experience mushing in new territory but quickly became caught up in helping to establish a new community arts centre in town.

“It was a wonderful place and a great experience,” says Dyck, recalling commuting to work via dog sled across the frozen Yukon river. “But I’m not sure where we’ll go next...maybe somewhere hot next time.”

MAJOR MEDAL WINNERS

Governor General’s Gold Medal (top PhD, all faculties)

Dr. Wade Abbott, biochemistry

Lieutenant Governor’s Silver Medal (top master’s, thesis, all faculties)

Shawn Litster, mechanical engineering

Lieutenant Governor’s Silver Medal (top master’s, other than thesis, all faculties)

Rachel Hellner, art education

Governor General’s Silver Medal (top undergraduate, all faculties)

Richard Gibson, mathematics

Jubilee Medal for Humanities

Caitlin Smith, Greek and Roman studies

Jubilee Medal for Science

Anna Burianova, microbiology

Jubilee Medal for Social Sciences

Suzanne Caskenette, geography/biology

Law Society Gold Medal

Jennifer Marles

Victoria Medal in Fine Arts

Marjorie Celona, writing

Maxwell Cameron Memorial Medals in Education

Jillian Scarrow (Elementary)

Jennifer Gruno (Secondary)

Canadian Society for Mechanical Engineering Medal

Peter Hawes

Department of Computer Science Graduation Medal

Daniel Horspool

IEEE Victoria Section Gold Medal in Computer Engineering

Abram Friesen

IEEE Victoria Section Gold Medal in Electrical Engineering

Carl Spani



TOM DEWESER/NRC

Burianova

It's science all the way for microbiology major

It took several phone calls for UVic science dean Tom Pederson to track down Anna Burianova, who is spending the summer working for the National Research Council in Ottawa, and to convince her that she really is the top science graduate for 2006.

"When he said it was the dean calling, I almost didn't believe him," says a delighted Burianova, who will return home to Victoria for convocation to receive her Jubilee Medal in Science and her honours BSc in microbiology.

It will be a fleeting visit as Burianova is thoroughly absorbed in research work, which involves several projects such as de-

veloping agricultural vaccines. Her free time is crammed with dragon-boating, playing ultimate Frisbee and softball, and visiting all the museums and galleries in the capital.

Burianova has been soaking up all the experiences she can ever since she arrived in Canada from Slovakia at age 11. The family came to B.C. for her microbiologist father's research. Growing up, Burianova spent happy hours helping in labs and says it felt natural to follow in his footsteps.

"I love lab work," says Burianova, who is pondering a career as a human geneticist. "I like the idea of combining science and people, identifying genes that cause disease and hopefully making discoveries

that will help people in the future."

Burianova also enjoys working with people. While studying for her degree, she volunteered in the emergency room and a genetic clinic at Victoria General Hospital, tutored math and science, worked one-on-one with brain injury patients, and coached volleyball.

At the end of high school, Burianova, who competed internationally for Canada's youth volleyball team, was recruited to play varsity volleyball in Toronto. But for Burianova it was a slam-dunk. "I couldn't do both at the highest level so my education won out. Science is my future," she says.

PhD is first in indigenous governance

A trailblazer throughout her career, Paulette Regan is now celebrating her achievement as the first student to complete a doctorate in UVic's indigenous governance program.

"I was looking for an innovative program that would challenge my thinking, give me a better understanding of indigenous perspectives and provide practical strategies for confronting some of the challenges we face," she says. "The program was all of this. It was demanding, but tremendously enriching, both personally and professionally."

A non-indigenous person, Regan became interested in conflict resolution while working as a policy director for a First Nations organization. From 2002 to 2004, she worked for the federal govern-

ment on Indian residential school claims, drawn by the promise of reconciliation.

"Working with residential school survivors forced me to confront head-on the ugly history of colonialism that Canadians want to deny," she says.

Regan was honoured to be involved in a Gitksan apology feast—a ceremonial potlatch held to welcome residential school survivors back into the traditions that they were removed from as children.

"The experience made me realize that what we think of as reconciliation in Western terms is seriously flawed," she says. "We have to rethink this process, making space for indigenous history, law and peacemaking practices."

Regan's reflections evolved into her PhD dissertation, "Unsettling the Settler

Within: Canada's Peacemaker Myth, Reconciliation, and Transformative Pathways to Decolonization," which explores the wrongs perpetrated by colonization and the restorative power of restitution and apology.

"Until we face the painful truth of our own history as colonizers, there can be no just reconciliation," she says.

Now Regan, who will participate in UVic's first Indigenous Leadership Forum this summer, aims to develop practical teaching tools based on her research.

"Canadians need to understand why we have denied the history of indigenous peoples for so long, and how we can work to change this. Respect, recognition and responsibility, that's a good place to start."

Linguistics grad makes up for lost time

As a teenager, Jonathan Blasberg was a high school dropout, choosing to hang out with friends in Victoria. Now, the new humanities graduate is passionate about learning and is aiming for a doctorate and a career in academics.

Today's Blasberg, thoroughly at home in academia, eagerly discusses the challenges of "sentential calculus," the intricate rules governing sentence structure, and other complex courses he took to complete his BA linguistics honours program.

"I was always independent and stubborn. School just didn't work for me before," explains Blasberg, who grew up in Vancouver and dropped out of several high schools in the Lower Mainland before finding his way back to university through an inherent love of language.

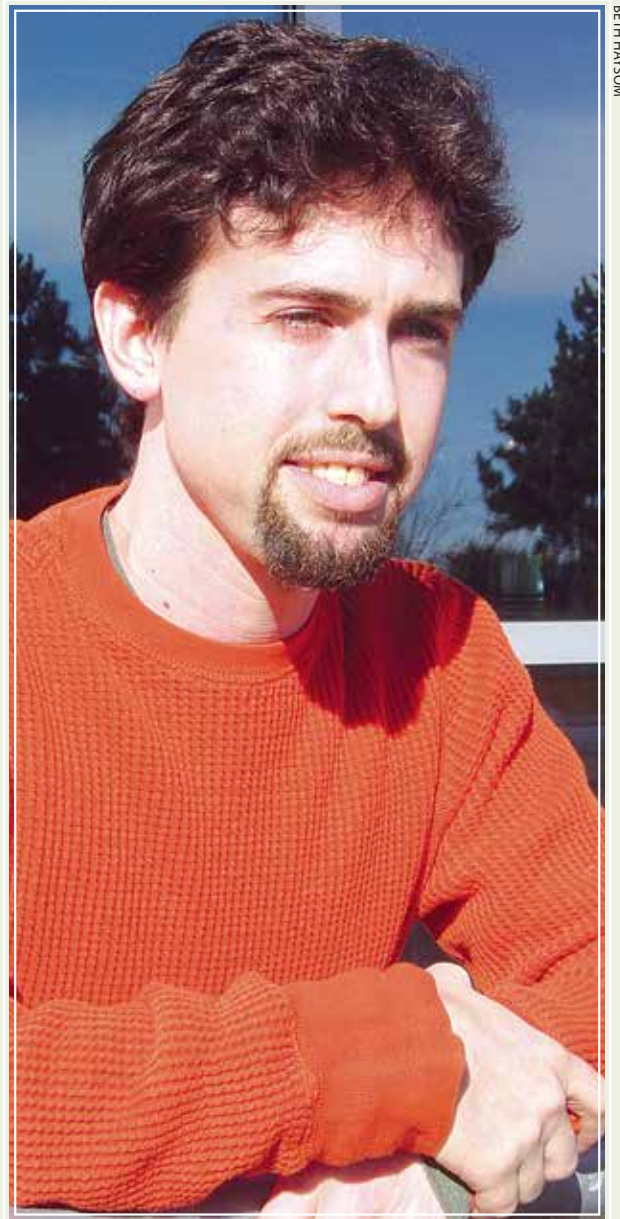
After taking catch-up courses, Blasberg attended UVic and realized that he loved coming to grips with the underpinning principles of language. Along the way,

he was awarded the Edgar Ferrar Corbet Scholarship for proficiency in English.

For his honours thesis, Blasberg learned American sign language. It takes several minutes and dozens of sign-language gestures for him to explain verbally the crux of his thesis, which looked at how a sign language speaker uses spatially directed verbs such as "look at" to reflect how the mind works in relation to language.

Not content with just learning, Blasberg also helped to revive a UVic linguistics course union, "The Underlings," and became its president. Members address student issues and raise money to support a linguistics scholarship.

Blasberg would like to teach at the university level and start a business. He'll make a point of looking out for others who have yet to find their calling in life because, he says, "lack of direction should never be confused with lack of potential."



BETH HAYSON

Blasberg



JO-AN RICHARDS

Heaslip with WUSC-sponsored student Jok Gai.

Next stop, Africa

When convocation rolls around, Ashley Heaslip will be on the other side of the world, following her two great passions in life: refugee rights and HIV/AIDS prevention in Africa.

It's work that dominated her free time at UVic and it's a cause that will take her into graduate studies, thanks in part to a \$26,000 U.S. Ambassadorial Scholarship from Rotary International.

Heaslip left May 29 for the refugee camps of Kenya, Tanzania and Benin (near Nigeria). She'll spend the better part of the summer representing the Victoria aid and advocacy group Working to Empower.

It's a natural extension of her campus life. Working toward her political science degree with a minor in professional writing, Heaslip put in 20 hours a week as a volunteer with the UVic chapter of the World University Service of Canada (WUSC).

An energetic, self-described "type-A" personality, Heaslip brought new life to

the WUSC group. It had just two or three active members when she got involved; there's now a team of 40 students. In recent years, refugee students from Ethiopia, Afghanistan and Sudan—"selfless, amazing people"—have come to UVic because of WUSC, the latest being engineering student Jok Gai of Sudan.

It was Heaslip's sister Robyn (a UVic grad, along with brother Jesse) who first introduced her to WUSC. Robyn was involved with the UVic group and only two days before the events of Sept. 11, 2001, she brought home a sponsored student from Afghanistan—Roya Atmar.

"She gave me a very different perspective on 9/11 and the people of Afghanistan than often seen in media reports," she says. "The average person there wants peace as much as anyone."

Another sponsored student, Haimanot Eshatie from Ethiopia, "became like a sister" to her. It's that sort of intense personal connection with the young people she's met through WUSC that

motivates Heaslip. It's what drives her forward—whether that means holding a garage sale to raise \$1,200 for her relief work or campaigning to persuade students to dig into their wallets to provide more support for refugees.

One of Heaslip's big breakthroughs with WUSC came this spring when students voted by a wide margin to increase the fees they're levied for the student refugee program. It means two WUSC-sponsored students will come to campus each September, compared to the prior limit of one student every two years.

Heaslip's time in Africa this summer will include a visit to the United Nations Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya. She'll help prepare the 35 new students who will leave the camp to begin new lives at Canadian universities, including UVic, this fall.

"I need to experience that place, even if it's only for a split second, to really know where the students have come from."

GRAD ENJOYS CREATIVITY OF ENGINEERING

There's no moss growing under Jordan Roszmann's feet.

Not only is the 24-year-old Nanaimo native graduating from UVic with a 8.29 GPA and a BEng in mechanical engineering this month, he's also studying for a graduate degree in mechanical engineering.

"Jordan is one of our top graduates," says Dr. Zuomin Dong (mechanical engineering), "and that's not only because of his high academic standing. He's been a big support to the engineering community, as well."

During the past year, Roszmann has worked as a research assistant for UVic's Institute for Integrated Energy Systems (IESVic) where he helped design, assemble and test a low-temperature gas circulator in support of cryogenic research.

"It helped me gain an interest in sustainable energy and refrigeration in general," says Roszmann. "But in the end, I switched to UVic's crystal growth lab where I'm now purifying semiconductors."

During his studies, Roszmann completed an environmental co-op with CFB Esquimalt, served as director for the engineering faculty's Go Women in Engineering Science and Technology (GoWEST), and acted as a junior engineer for Victoria-based SNC-Lavalin Defense Programs Inc.

He also started a lifelong partnership by marrying UVic history student Andrea Roszmann (née Matthews) in 2004. She also graduates this month.

Roszmann's many awards include the Canada Graduate Scholarship, a UVic

President's Award, and the NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award.

Roszmann is an active volunteer. He's been the treasurer of the Engineering Students' Society; an actor, musician, technician and set builder for the Nanaimo Theatre Group; a youth representative and secretary for the Hope Lutheran Church Council; and a camp counsellor and trail leader for the Confirmation Camp in Mission, B.C.

"When I was in high school I debated whether to do science or be creative and do fine arts," says Roszmann. "What I've discovered is that engineering is a good way to meld science and creativity. You're constantly being handed open-ended problems to solve within the rules of physics. Fundamentally, you're creating something new."

Sports enthusiast teaches benefits of lifelong fitness

Jennifer Gruno, winner of the Maxwell Cameron Medal in Education at the secondary school level, proudly calls herself "a Sooke girl." And while many of her peers are heading off to work in city schools, she would like nothing better than to get a teaching job in the Sooke school district in the fall.

"It's beautiful here with a culture all its own," says Gruno, who allows that it's tough for some young people

growing up away from city amenities. "I understand where they're coming from, but I loved growing up here. I've always enjoyed the outdoors, hiking, spending time at the beach and camping."

Gruno was part of the original class that launched Edward Milne Secondary when it opened in 1996, and her experiences at the school led

SEE LIFELONG LEARNING P.8



Husband



Lane



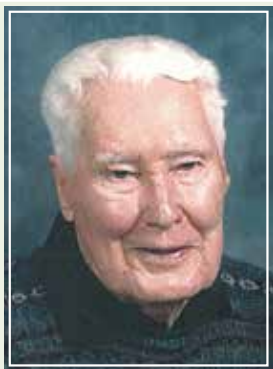
Perinbam



Piper



Vickers



Williston

Six honorary degrees awarded

The University of Victoria is awarding six honorary degrees at the eight convocation ceremonies this month.

The recipients are: environmental advocate Vicky Husband; First Nations anthropologist Barbara Lane; international aid proponent Lewis Perinbam; University of British Columbia president

Martha Piper; West Coast artist Arthur Vickers; and public education pioneer Ray Williston

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

Thank you to 157 volunteer speakers!

For 25 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 more than 350 engagements. The UVic volunteer speakers offered to share their expertise and enthusiasm on 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 who have volunteered over the last year, visit communications.uvic.ca/sb/thankyou.php. For more information contact Mandy Crocker at 721-8587 or mcrocker@uvic.ca.

Put some bounce in your lunch hour

Here's your chance to get on the right track to fitness and show a little UVic spirit. The 2006 President's Fitwalk is a quick trip around Ring Road with your colleagues. It starts at noon on Wednesday, June 21 from the University Centre breezeway. As well as being good for the heart and soul, this annual event sports some friendly competition—the Spirit Award goes to the department that brings the most spirit to the event and the Participation Award will be awarded to the department with the most people participating in the walk. The walk is sponsored by athletics and recreation and this year's theme is "change and transition." If you won't be able to walk with your co-workers, you can still support your department by registering and walk the Ring at another time. For more information contact Kathi Cameron (athletics and recreation) at 472-4028 or kcameron@uvic.ca.

Another First Nations partner joins CYC program

The Penelakut Tribe on Kuper Island is the latest of nine aboriginal organizations to participate in the school of child and youth care's First Nations partnership program, which delivers two years of university-accredited coursework in child and youth care in First Nations communities. Students from the mid-Vancouver Island bands successfully completed their coursework and are expected to convocate in November. The program is a unique arrangement in Canada that incorporates the traditional knowledge and practices of the partners with the school's curriculum. The program has been offered 10 times to tribal organizations in three provinces and was selected by UNESCO as one of 20 best practices across disciplines from around the world that incorporate indigenous knowledge.

Is that 721 or 472 or 853?

The next time you're providing a university phone number to someone off-campus, double-check the entire phone number. Continued growth of the university has led to a third prefix being added to the campus roster of telephone numbers. In addition to the original 721 prefix, and the 472 prefix added in 1994, there's now 853. There are about 4,500 telephone lines in use on campus. Although a prefix should in theory accommodate 10,000 numbers, the university is only able to reserve (at the cost of about \$1 a month per number) a block of 1,000 numbers at a time. As a result, the telephone companies can assign other blocks within the same prefix to other customers. "Always be sure to use the correct prefix when providing your seven-digit number, printing stationery or listing on a website," advises Ron Koznan, manager of network services. For more information visit <http://nets.uvic.ca/telserv/dialing.html>.

Lifelong learning continued from p.7

to her decision to become a teacher. "I had amazing teachers and by Grade 11, I knew I wanted to inspire others with a passion for lifelong learning," she says.

A soccer player and sports enthusiast all her life, Gruno opted for a major in physical education with a minor in English. During her studies, Gruno coached senior girls' basketball at Edward Milne and organizes a summer three-on-three basketball tournament in the community.

"Getting people involved in sport is vital for our society [which is] facing

obesity, health and fitness issues. I'm trying to be a role model, especially for women," says Gruno, who spends summer Saturday nights in Sooke Basin playing kayak polo—a wild water sport that involves kayak body contact and plenty of spills.

Gruno enjoys teaching older students and has no qualms about walking into a class of Grade 11/12s, but her first practicum back at Edward Milne gave her pause. "It was great being back at my old school but it felt really weird going into the staff room for the first time."



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Getting a head-start

With relevant job experience under their belts,
UVic co-op grads launch into the workforce

by Amy Geddes

Put students Adam Draginda (astronomy), Melissa McCaghey (recreation/health education) and Briony Smith (creative writing) in a room and you'd think they wouldn't have much to talk about.

You'd be wrong.

The three students may have studied very different subjects but there is something they have in common—all three can confidently link their current career success to the UVic co-operative education program.

DRAGINDA GRADUATES this month with a BSc and has already secured his dream job. He's off to Hawaii after convocation on a two-year contract with the Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope project. Draginda is sure he landed this position because of the specialized telescope software he was able to learn at his co-op jobs.

"I learned many invaluable computer skills during my work terms," he says. "I was able to get hands-on experience that you can't get in the classroom, at least not in astronomy." With so few jobs at observatories for those with undergraduate degrees, he says previous experience is a must and advises other students "you just can't go into it green."

Draginda's co-op career has included work term placements with the Canadian Centre for Climate Modeling and Analysis (CCCma),

the Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics, and the Gemini Observatory in Chile. He completed four work terms at the CCCma and was recently offered a job at the Gemini Observatory.

With so many career options ahead of him Draginda feels assured he's on the right track. "I'm 100 per cent confident that I'll be happy with my new job, because I was able to try out different positions through co-op. I know this job is a good fit."

AS ONE OF LAST YEAR'S UVic nominees for the Canadian Association for Co-operative Education's Co-op Student of the Year award, Melissa McCaghey has also taken full advantage of co-op opportunities.

She's worked as a summer events marketing assistant at the North Vancouver Recreation Commission, a fitness instructor for Ideal Fitness for Women in Victoria, a counsellor for the YM-YWCA Sun Seekers Day Camp, and most recently as a recreation clerk at CFB Esquimalt. In fact, McCaghey made such a strong impression that she continues to work part-time for two of her former co-op employers.

"Over the course of my degree, there were only about two months that I wasn't working while I was going to school," she says. "Ideal Fitness asked me to return to work for them part time as a fitness leader and gym attendant while I finished my degree, and I'll keep working

there after graduation."

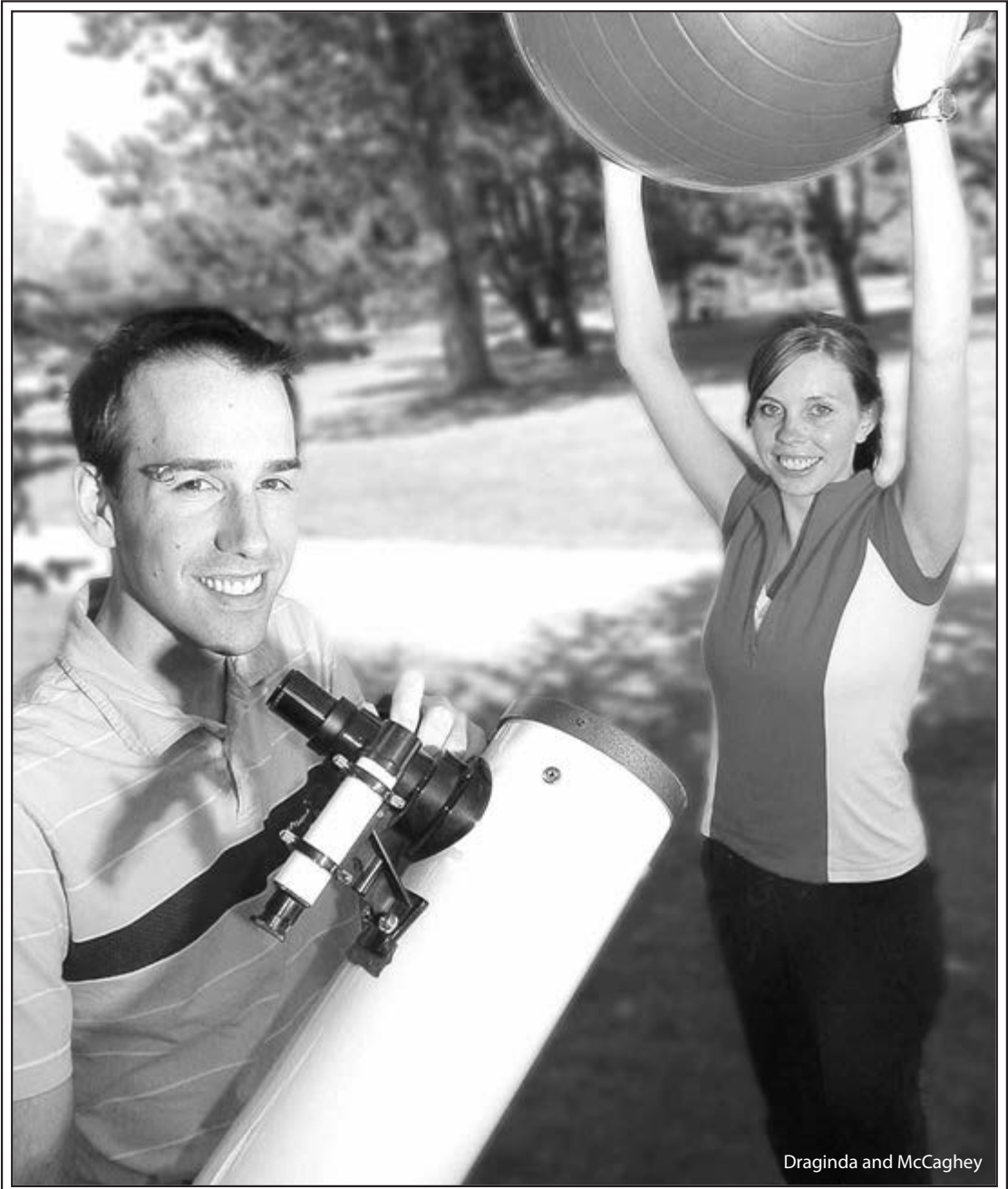
McCaghey also helps conduct recreational activities for CFB Esquimalt. Working part-time at a job in her field affords her the luxury of pursuing her post-graduation job hunt carefully. She's planning her next career move and aims to work with older adults, promoting healthy aging.

CO-OP HAS OPENED many doors for Smith. As a self-professed co-op nerd, she's has demonstrated how to take a liberal arts degree and make it live on the glossy pages of well-known publications.

Smith has pursued co-op positions that have required her to write in many different styles. She's worked as a communications assistant/junior writer for Public Works and Government Services Canada in Ottawa, as publications assistant for the Canadian Forest Service, and as a communications assistant at UVic.

This diverse sampling of writing positions prepared her for dream job; her last and current co-op position is as an editorial intern for *Quill and Quire* magazine in Toronto.

Smith, whose co-op employers have all been women, says that working alongside women who excel in communications in diverse fields has bolstered her enthusiasm for her future career: "Having such smart ladies as mentors has been really inspiring."



Draginda and McCaghey

JOY POLQUIN

The new director of UVic’s learning and teaching centre is Dr. **Teresa Dawson**, effective July 1. Dawson is currently director of teaching and learning services at the University of Toronto’s Scarborough campus. Her areas of interest include effective teaching assessment, faculty and graduate student professional development, supporting diversity in the academy, and achieving teaching and learning-related institutional change. Dawson will hold a senior instructor appointment in the geography department. She replaces Dr. **Geri Van Gyn**, who will take a one-year administrative leave before returning to the school of physical education.

UVic professor emeritus **Norman Ruff** was honoured by the B.C. Political Studies Association (BCPSA) recently with a lifetime membership in the association and by having the association’s annual student essay prize named after him. The award for the best senior undergraduate paper submitted to the BCPSA will now be known as the Dr. Norman Ruff Prize for the Best Upper Level Undergraduate Essay. The honours were conferred “in recognition of Ruff’s significant contributions to teaching and scholarship in the field of political science and public administration.”

Todd Halpen, a member of the Vikes men’s golf team, was named to the PING All-America First Team following the final round of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) national championships last month. Halpen was the sole Canadian named to the team by the Golf Coaches Association of America. Halpen placed second at the 2006 NAIA championships, missing the title by just one stroke.

Dr. **Michael Prince**, Lansdowne professor of social policy, has been named chair of a national task force co-sponsored by the Canadian Association for Community Living and the Council of Canadians with Disabilities. During a one-year review, the task force will examine how to change policies affecting people with disabilities through better access to and sharing of knowledge. Task force members include the Canadian Association of Independent Living Centres, the Neil Squire Society, and People First of Canada, along with community and university researchers across Canada. Says Prince: “The aim of the task force is to build the capacity of disability community organizations’ policy research and knowledge mobilization.” For more information about the task force and the review, visit www.crehs.on.ca/building_capacity_main.html.

Dale Gann (Vancouver Island Technology Park) has been named BC Biotech’s 2006 Volunteer of the Year. As chair of the BC Biotech BIO Conference steering committee, Gann has helped to give B.C. a significant international profile. “Dale is entirely tireless in doing whatever he possibly can to help build B.C.’s biotech industry,” reads part of the citation from BC Biotech. Gann also sits on the board of the Vancouver Island Advanced Technology Centre and is a member of the municipality of Saanich’s economic development advisory committee.

In 1874 the father of science fiction, Jules Verne, predicted hydrogen as a chief energy resource. Now the founding director of UVic’s Institute for Integrated Energy Systems is being honoured as another visionary. Dr. **David Scott** has won the 2006 Jules Verne Award from the International Association for Hydrogen Energy (IAHE) for his “outstanding contributions to hydrogen physics, and hydrogen energy sociology and philosophy.” Scott is the first Canadian to win the award. It will be presented to him this month at the 16th World Hydrogen Energy Conference in France.

Dr. **Elaine Gallagher** (nursing) is the Centre on Aging’s new director for a three-year term starting July 1. Gallagher is internationally known for her research on falls and injury prevention among older people. She’s currently the associate director of the centre and holds an adjunct appointment in the gerontology program at SFU. Gallagher is best known for her work on a project entitled “STEPS” (Studies of Environments which Promote Safety)—the first published study on the epidemiology of seniors’ slips, trips and falls in public places. Gallagher succeeds psychologist Dr. **David Hultsch**, who will return to the department of psychology in July.

Peter Zacour is UVic’s new director of campus security, effective Aug. 1. He comes to UVic from the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT), with eight years of experience as the manager of maintenance and security services. Prior to his post-secondary experience, Zacour was a member of the RCMP for 26 years. He takes over the position from **Ken Marrison**, who retires on June 30. **Tom Downie** will be acting director in the interim.

Sessional instructor Dr. **Harold Kalman** is the winner of the Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts’ British Columbia Heritage Award for his exceptional contribution to heritage conservation. He teaches courses on heritage conservation in the cultural resource management program, jointly offered by the faculty of fine arts and the division of continuing studies. Kalman’s award includes a \$10,000 prize that he can give to a non-profit organization of his choice. He has arranged for the cultural resource management program to receive the funds and the division plans to create an endowed fund to support diploma candidates in international heritage studies. The award will be presented to Kalman at the Heritage Society of B.C.’s annual conference this month.



McCaughey

Fine arts student brightens up Cadboro Bay

UVic student Gedidiah McCaughey is painting the town blue in Cadboro Bay—and the community residents are delighted.

McCaughey, 28, in his second year of a fine arts program, was picked from seven artists who submitted designs for a mural on the side of the People’s Pharmacy in Cadboro Bay. The district of Saanich contributed a grant toward the mural as part of its centennial celebrations.

This is the first commission for McCaughey, who has explored various mediums but never painted an 80-foot wall before: “I’m having a good time doing this. It’s a fun project,” he says.

A headphone clamped to his ear, McCaughey listens to rock music while he paints the background and outlines of the mural, but he also enjoys passersby who

stop to peer at the work in progress.

The mural, set on a blue background, is an abstract modern piece with some recognizable features. If you look closely, Cadborosaurus is in there, as well as Mystic Vale. A solid line running through the images evokes the first telegraph sent to Victoria from the San Juan Islands.

“It’s fabulous,” says Leah Kinarthy, coordinator of the Cadboro Bay Village Business Improvement Association, who came up with the idea for the mural. “It will brighten up that whole area.”

Eventually Kinarthy hopes to see more murals created by other university artists gracing the neighbourhood’s walls: “UVic is just up the hill and there are so many talented students there. We were blown away by the quality of the submissions we received,” she says.

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Glacier researchers join forces

The University of Victoria is one of seven western universities that have formed the new Glacier Research Network, a five-year research initiative that will improve our understanding of how glaciers respond to climate change.

UVic geographer Dan Smith leads a section of the network focused on understanding climate changes over the last 400 years in the Mount Waddington area in southwestern B.C.

The Glacier Research Network is

led by the University of Northern British Columbia. In addition to Smith, it involves researchers from four other Canadian universities, the University of Washington, federal and provincial governments, BC Hydro, and the Columbia Basin Trust.

The network is funded by the Canadian Foundation for Climate and Atmospheric Sciences (CFCAS). For more information visit <http://wc2n.unbc.ca/>.

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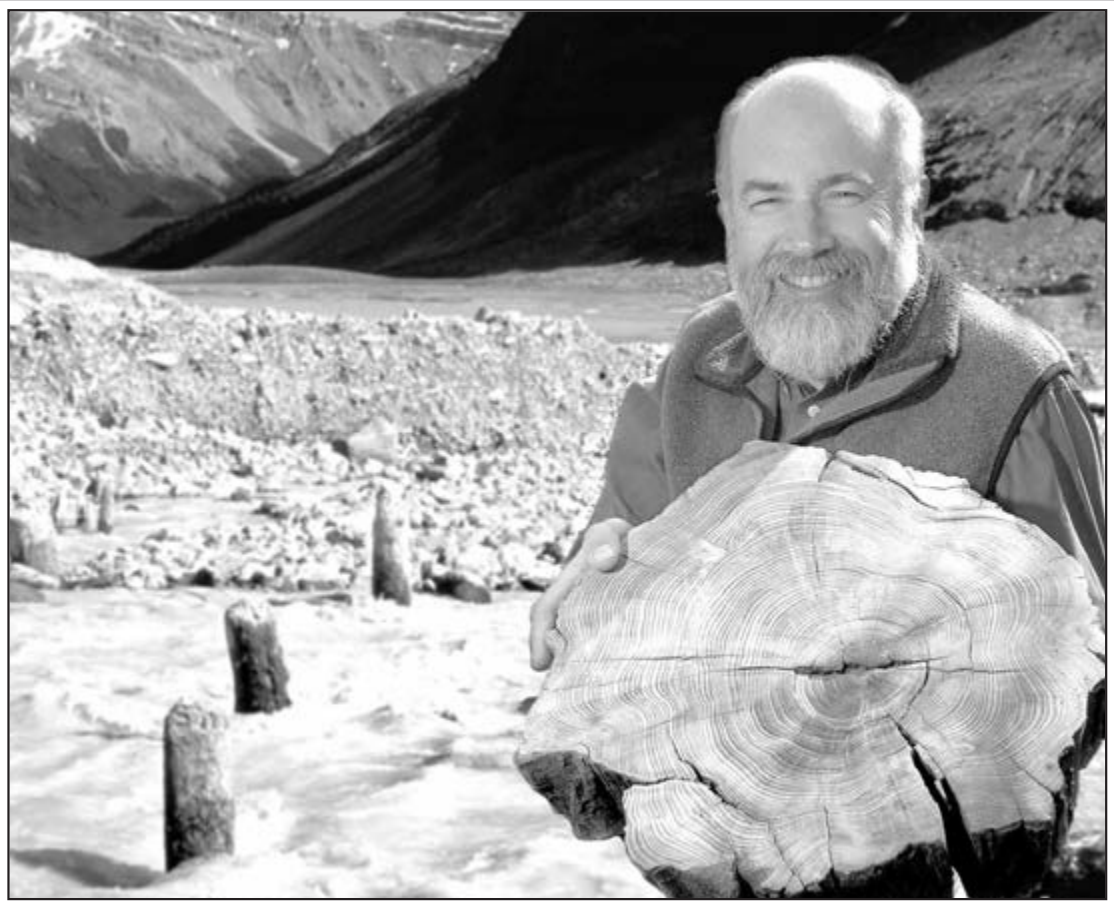
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Smith

LORE OF THE RINGS

UVic researchers use the growth rings of ancient trees to track B.C. climate over thousands of years.

by Suzanne Connell

When it comes to understanding climate change, University of Victoria geographer Dan Smith has found that ancient trees have an important story to tell.

Smith and his student team are using forensic-like research to study the growth rings of trees buried long ago by advancing glaciers. All over western North America glaciers are melting at a staggering rate, exposing trees that haven't seen the light of day for thousands of years. These trees provide Smith's team with detailed information about the movement of glaciers over time and the associated changes in climate.

"We're looking back thousands of years to get an idea of how glaciers in B.C. have advanced and retreated and the conditions that have led to these changes," says Smith. "Ancient tree ring information helps us to predict what our glaciers may look like in the future, and to assess what the impact of their diminished size will be."

Understanding the movement of glaciers provides clues to how they respond to long-term warming and cooling trends. Glaciers are also an important provincial resource.

They supply rivers with fresh water, which nourishes ecosystems, fills our reservoirs and provides us with hydroelectric power.

Since 1920, the retreat of glaciers in the coastal mountains has rapidly accelerated. Many of these glaciers are expected to vanish completely by 2100.

Every summer Smith and his team travel to remote parts of B.C.'s coastal mountains north of Vancouver and set up camp next to glaciers. Smith has studied more than 100 glacier sites in this region over the last five years, most of them accessible only by helicopter.

Once the team arrives, they search for trees left behind after the glaciers melt and slice off sections of logs with a chainsaw. Back at UVic, a measuring device records an image of the log's tree ring profile, and computer analysis is used to detect the impact of climate changes on tree growth.

Trees produce a layer of wood every year of their lives. Researchers count the number of rings to determine a tree's age, and measure the width of the rings to learn rates of growth in the past.

"These trees contain hundreds of annual growth rings, which give us a history of their life before they

were killed by the glacier," explains Smith. "By matching that record to the records of living trees in the area we can track how the climate has changed year-to-year over thousands of years."

Smith has found that the glaciers in the coastal mountain range have receded and advanced fairly consistently over the last few thousand years. A major period of glacier expansion that began 3,000 years ago is now ending.

"Despite the fact that most of the glaciers are receding we shouldn't assume this is a major event, especially since 8,000 years ago none of these glaciers even existed."

However, studies conducted by Smith and others have convinced him that humans have played a major role in altering global climate. "The climate on this planet is changing and the evidence is overwhelming that we're responsible for it. We can't negate our influence; we just don't yet know its ultimate impact."

Funders for Smith's work include the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research, and the Canadian Foundation for Climate and Atmospheric Sciences.





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- Introduction to Wooden Boatbuilding
- Get Unplugged – Working with Hand Tools
- Documentary Filmmaking

See Camosun's Continuing Education website, call 370-4578 or email cectinfo@camosun.bc.ca for information on these and other three-day to three-week long workshops this summer.

camosun.ca/ce • 370-3550 for registration

Calendarhighlights

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

At the Galleries
www.maltwood.uvic.ca
721-6562

Seeker, Sentry, Sage: Shades of Islam in Contemporary Art.
Until June 19. Featuring artists whose lives have been influenced by Islam and who are now living in B.C. Maltwood Art Museum & Gallery.

Aluminations June 26-Aug. 3. A multimedia showcase of works by graduates of the Victoria College of Art. Maltwood Art Museum & Gallery.

Thursday, June 15

Book Launch 7 p.m. Canadian launch of *Child Honouring: How to Turn This World Around* by Raffi Cavoukian & Sharna Oltman. MacLaurin A144. Sponsored by the UVic Alumni Assoc. 721-6012

Sunday, June 18

VIPIRG Lecture 7:30 p.m. *Human Rights in Burma*. International human rights advocate Charm Tong speaks on the impacts of war and violence on

women and actions Canadians can take to support peace. MacLaurin A144. 721-8629

Wednesday, June 21

Conference 9 a.m. *Creativity in Action: Peace Education and the World We Want*. UVic panellists include: Lorna Williams, Tim Hopper and Mary-Wynne Ashford. \$15, registration required. 721-7766

President's Fitwalk 12 p.m. Walk the Ring road and enjoy the festivities with this year's

theme "*Change and Transition*." University Centre breezeway. 472-4028

Film 3-5 p.m. *A Force More Powerful*. Followed by guest speakers from Peace Brigades International. David Lam Auditorium. 472-5164

Thursday, June 22

Conference 8:30 a.m. *Deconstructing Empire Peace Symposium*. Graduate student symposium focusing on local/global issues for overcoming

war and violence, based on lessons learned, past and present. Hosted by the Graduate Students' Society, the world history caucus and the centre for studies in religion and society. MacLaurin, room TBA. \$15-20, registration required. 472-5164

Tuesday, July 4

Physics & Astronomy Lecture 3:30 p.m. *Bayes Versus Frequentism: The Return of an Old Controversy*. Louis Lyons, Oxford Univ. Elliott 062. 721-7700

Summer 2006 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, July 13.....Wednesday, July 5

Research aims to reduce impacts from fish farms

by Suzanne Connell

The organic waste generated by fish farms can be used to create direct and indirect employment in coastal communities while at the same time reducing the environmental impacts of the industry, says Dr. Stephen Cross, an adjunct associate professor in geography.

By introducing a combination of scallops, mussels, sea cucumbers and kelp adjacent to the fish farms, these creatures can live off the waste released by the farm, says Cross.

These products could be sold commercially, creating new employment and business opportunities for coastal communities. The system also helps reduce the environmental impacts of the industry by capturing some of the fish waste and using it as a food source for other sea life.


"This kind of system, called integrated multi-trophic aquaculture (IMTA), has been used for thousands of years in Asia and China (polyculture), but the pilot-scale research that my colleagues and I are conducting will be the first of its kind in B.C.," says Cross.

Cross and a team of researchers from UVic are partnering with industry and local First Nations to implement a pilot IMTA facility in Kyuquot Sound off northwestern Vancouver Island. Beginning this month, the researchers will analyse baseline conditions at the site, design and install the system, introduce each species and then measure the system's performance in terms of organic waste extraction and productivity.

Cross has recently received a \$200,000 Aquaculture and Environment Innovation Award from the BC Innovation Council in support of this research. The goal of the awards is to support long-term collaborative research that aims to produce environmentally sustainable aquaculture systems for British Columbia.

Cross has specialized in the environmental effects and impacts of marine-based aquaculture for over 20 years. He is co-founder of a North America-wide network of researchers studying Sustainable Ecological Aquaculture (SEA) systems and lead scientist on a committee of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) which studies SEA-system research and development.

For more information on Cross's research visit, www.aquamatrix-research.com.



TONY SOUTHWELL
CIM, RFP, CFP
Former member, UVic Board of Pension Trustees

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Total Payout to Age 100		\$248,959	\$216,554	\$189,169	\$170,343	\$150,904	\$136,681
Accelerated Payout:		Income over 5 years \$1,864 Income over 10 years \$1,036 Income over 15 years \$765			Total 5 year payout \$111,807 Total 10 year payout \$124,320 Total 15 year payout \$137,657		

*Based on best current GIC of 4.60%. Returns will vary depending on investment vehicle.

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SPRING 2006 *Convocation*

PUSHING *the boundaries*

A biochemist,
an art educator
and an engineer
win UVic's
top graduate
student prizes

by Beth Haysom

In spite of their widely differing domains, all three of UVic's 2006 graduate-level medal winners are totally hands-on and enjoy pushing boundaries when it comes to life and their university careers.

Wade Abbott spends days—and often nights—doing postdoctoral research in one of UVic's biochemistry labs, where he's experimenting with how sugars and proteins interact.

Rachel Hellner, who teaches in UVic's art education department, has a blowtorch in her art toolbox and believes that you can't be an effective teacher without paint and clay under your fingernails.

Shawn Litster, an avid mountain biker, went from fixing bike sprockets to studying mechanical engineering. Having completed his master's at UVic last year, he's now at Stanford working on the latest fuel cell technology in California's Silicon Valley.

For their individual achievements, all three graduate students are being awarded medals at convocation this month.

WADE ABBOTT WINS the Governor General's Gold Medal for his PhD thesis on variants of histones, the major protein component of "chromatin," which he was researching between 2000 and 2005 with Dr. Juan Ausio in UVic's biochemistry and microbiology department.

Chromatin acts as a scaffold for our genetic code and is central to almost every field of biological study. Much of Abbott's research has led to greater scientific understanding of how genes are regulated and what

may go wrong during the disease process.

The award, earned in part for a high grade point average and for his excellent publication record (11 scientific papers during his PhD), is especially sweet for Abbott, who was once uncertain of which profession to pursue and dropped out of college for a spell.

"I didn't have any direction in my life and I got discouraged. At that time, education didn't seem like it would be the right route for me," says Abbott, who credits his religious faith and family support for turning him around.

Now Abbott, who married at age 19, squeezes every moment from the hourglass to balance the demands



of his academic career and family life with his wife, Raija, and three children Kaylie 11, Madi, 6, and Levi, 4.

"Quite often I've tucked the children into bed and then come back to the lab to work on specific projects or to set up experiments for the next day," says Abbott. "Fortunately, I live close by [to UVic]."

In spite of his hectic schedule, Ab-

bott also makes a point of visiting his children's local school and demonstrating simple science experiments such as the different bacteria we can find on our hands.

"The kids really love it when I show up," says Abbott. "I think it's good for them to see that scientists are not just locked up in laboratories, that they are real people involved in the everyday world."

SIMILARLY, RACHEL HELLNER LOVES the alchemy of teaching art, especially in a classroom full of students who consider themselves non-artists.

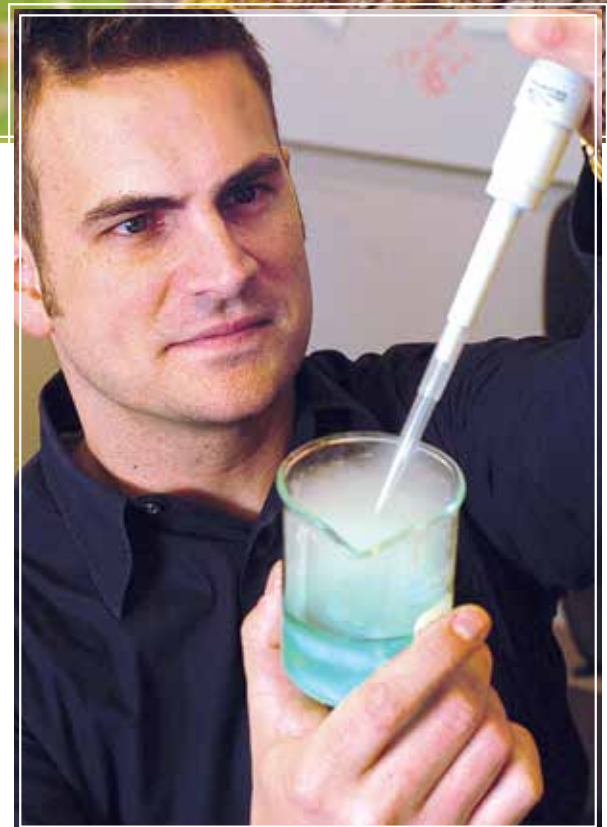
"These students are often people who have been discouraged in the past and they're quite fearful," says Hellner. "Gradually, they relax and open themselves to the experience and realize that art is accessible to everyone. It's really rewarding."

Hellner has won the Lieutenant Governor's Silver Medal (other than thesis) for her master's degree treatise, *The Importance of Studio Practice*, a suggested methodology book for art teachers. It's based on her own life and experiences as an artist, using art in therapeutic settings and as an art teacher.

As far as Hellner is concerned, you can't teach art from a textbook. "It's not just about the techniques," she says. "Art teachers need a profound understanding of what it means to be immersed in studio practice, so they can be role models and help their students truly understand the feelings and emotion involved in creating art."

Hellner, who has been part of several exhibitions locally and in Winnipeg where her family now lives, finds art inspiration and philosophy go hand-in-hand.

A series of paintings on "recy-



top: Hellner
above: Abbott
below: Litster

clables" picked up around Victoria streets focussed her dismay on society's throwaway attitudes. Road kill spotted on the Florida turnpike became the subject for another series reflecting on Western society's car dependence and its impact on animals and the environment.

For Hellner, art has always been part of her life: "I've had a pencil in my hand ever since I can remember," she says. "As a child I'd sit around the kitchen table with my family and we'd be drawing together."

Now, as well as a pencil, Hellner uses acrylics, oil pastels, graphite—and sometimes a blowtorch—to achieve special effects. She also goes to great heights, even parachuting from a plane to achieve an aerial view of landscapes that she wanted to paint.

SHAWN LITSTER DISCOVERED his vocation jumping off precipices and hurtling down steep trails around B.C. while competing nationally in downhill mountain bike racing.

"Of course we always had to fix something on the bikes. That's what got me interested in engineering in the first place," says Litster from Stanford, where he's working on a PhD. Google is down the street, Yahoo around the corner and technological dreams become reality in nanoseconds.

Litster is the winner of the Lieu-

tenant Governor's Silver Medal for his master's thesis on mathematical modeling of fuel cells for portable devices, a system that enables companies to experiment easily and cheaply with the potential new energy source, from which the only byproduct is water released as harmless vapour.

Although people are familiar with this research for fuel cell-powered cars, Litster realizes it's something of a leap to consider we'll be carrying around mini fuel cell-powered laptops, cellphones and MP3s. But, he says, we'd better get ready to jump.

"The way things are going, I think these [fuel cell-powered] devices will be available in a niche market within the next two years," says Litster. He envisions a not-too-distant future where the technology is commonplace and we'll all be picking up our rechargeable mini fuel-cell canisters at convenience stores.

Meantime Litster, who became widely known during his stint at UVic as co-host of "Soundcheck," a CFUV Friday night show featuring ska and reggae music, has more imminent excitement.

He's returning home this summer to marry Kristin McLennan, who he met while both were undergraduates at UVic. Eventually, the couple would like to return to live in B.C. "I'd love to come back and teach at a B.C. university," says Litster. "B.C. still has the best mountain biking