The research capacity of the University of Victoria-led NEPTUNE Canada, the world’s first regional cabled ocean observatory, received a significant boost last September with $20 million in additional funding.

The $20 million from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI), $38 million from the BC Knowledge Development Fund (BCKDF), and $4 million of in-kind support from private partners including Alcatel, will allow scientists to significantly expand the scope and scientific impact of the NEPTUNE Canada observatory.

Beginning in fall 2007, Alcatel will lay an 800-km network of point-to-point fibre-optic cable across the seafloor in the deep ocean off the B.C. coast. A series of ‘laboratories’, or ‘nodes’, along the cable will allow land-based scientists to remotely control and monitor instruments, video cameras and underwater vehicles as they collect data from the ocean surface to beneath the seafloor.

The observatory will revolutionize ocean research by transmitting images and data instantly to shore where they will be relayed to researchers, educational institutions, science centres and the public via the Internet. The additional funding will be used to increase the number of nodes from two to as many as six and the number of scientific instruments from 70 to more than 200. This will allow more coverage of the northern Juan de Fuca tectonic plate, permitting broader studies on such key topics as seismic and tsunami activity, ocean-climate interactions and influenza on fisheries, gas hydrate deposits, and seafloor ecology.

“I want to express my appreciation to CFI, BCKDF and Alcatel for recognizing the importance and significance of NEPTUNE Canada’s potential through this support,” says U Vic President David Turpin. “Thanks in part to the combined efforts of the partners in this initiative, Canada and U Vic will be at the forefront of undersea research, leading the world in the use of regional cabled ocean observatories and driving the industrial discovery and advance- ments that will accompany it.”

Alcatel, which operates in more than 130 countries, has played a key role in the development and implementation of the most important submarine cable networks in operation today.

With this funding, NEPTUNE Canada will move ahead with a much expanded scope, on schedule, and on time.

SEE NEPTUNE P.7

Free flu shots part of emergency exercise

University of Victoria staff members are being asked to help the university’s emergency response team and fight the flu by participating in a campus immunization clinic on Nov. 15, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The one-time clinic is voluntary, but participation will help provide UVic with valuable experience working with community partners to conduct an emergency pandemic response immunization exercise. It will also lessen the impact of influenza on campus.

Vaccines with a $20 value to cover the cost of one influenza inoculation will be distributed to staff members via campus mail on the week prior to the clinic. Those who want to be inoculated must complete the voucher and bring it with them to the clinic’s registration deck in the McKinnon Gym lobby.

Several inoculation stations will be available in the gym throughout the clinic but participants should allow a minimum of 30 minutes for the procedure, which includes a 15-minute rest period following inoculation. If possible, avoid attending over the noon hour when the clinic is expected to be busiest.

An influenza shot, which boosts the immune system and lessens the chance of getting sick and spreading the virus to others, is just one way to increase the odds of staying healthy this fall and winter.

UVic students will have their annual immunization clinic on Oct. 23 and 24 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the McKinnon Gym.

University Health Services also advises frequent hand-washing with soap and warm water, covering your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze (or cough into your upper sleeve—not your hands) and throwing used tissues away immediately.

Getting plenty of rest, exercise and healthy food also helps to keep you free of the influenza virus.

A national science leader, a Coast Salish linguist, a journalist, and an art historian will become honorary graduates of the University of Victoria this fall.

The four honorary degrees will be presented during fall convocation cer- monies Nov. 14-15 in the University Centre Fasigshur Auditorium.

A visionary in terms of Canada’s role in international scientific col- laboration, Dr. Arthur Carty has been national science advisor to the federal government since 2004. In this role, he has been instrumental in promoting the development of science and technology clusters within Canada that build on established research strengths and foster synergy among researchers, governments and private sector partners.

From 1994 to 2004, Carty served as president of the National Research Council of Canada (NRC), the federal government’s leading knowledge and innovation agency. He helped to lead the country’s advances in international research, particularly with his strong support of Canadian scientists engaged in astronomy, particle physics and nanotechnology.

Much of Carty’s academic ca- reer was spent at the University of Waterloo, where he was a teacher, researcher and administrator for 27 years. He still maintains an active re- search group at NRC and continues to publish in his field of synthetic chemistry and metallic clusters. The holder of five patents, he has more than 285 publications in refereed journals, in addition to book chap- ters and review articles.

University to award four honorary degrees this fall

BC Hydro contributes $1 million to aboriginal chair

The National Chair in Aboriginal Economic Development, based in the University of Victoria’s faculties of law and business, has reached its $5 million target to establish the chair and fund its programs.

A $1 million donation from BC Hydro over four years to help launch the chair and support its ongoing research and project development wrapped up the fundraising.

The chair will direct a program of re- search, relationship-building and education to advance aboriginal communities and economic development in B.C. and the rest of Canada.

“Many of BC Hydro’s generation facilities and distribution lines are located in traditional territories, and we strive to preserve a foundation of mutual understanding, respect, open and honest communication with First Nations,” says BC Hydro President and CEO, Bob Elton. “We believe that this initiative will help develop the foundation for sustain- able, long-term economic develop- ment in aboriginal communities.”

“UVic is very grateful to BC Hydro for supporting this important initiative, the first of its kind,” says President David Turpin. “The establish- ment of this chair and its program reflects our university’s continuing commitment to improving the lives of aboriginal peoples and supporting the economic development of communities.”

The chair will conduct inde- pendent and collaborative research, develop a repository of best practices, serve as a catalyst for and broker of partnerships among a range of parties, and offer students relevant learning in a supportive environment. A symposium on issues relating to the chair and its mandate will be hosted by UVic this fall, and a na- tional search for the chairholder will be undertaken in the coming year.

Previously announced funding of $2 million from Industry Canada and $1 million from the B.C. gov- ernment will endow the chair. Earli- er this year, EnCana Corporation provided $1 million to help launch the chair and its programs and to support ongoing research and project development. Enbridge Inc provided $200,000 for outreach support. UVic is committed to increasing the number of aboriginal students graduating from all of its faculties, and to building on its unique relationships with First Nations communities.

It’s a winner

Can a business be financially viable and socially conscious at the same time? Definitely, says Jenny Schoenberger (above), one of eight UVic student winners of this year’s EDC Challenge, Schoenberger’s business proposal, Clean Slate, provides a model for a resource centre that employs homeless people. To find out more, see story on p. 8.
New director for research services

by Valerie Shore

The University of Victoria has its first director of research services. Dr. Rashael Scarth, formerly associate dean (research) of the University of Manitoba’s faculty of agricultural and food sciences, assumed the new position on Sept. 1.

As director, Scarth manages operations for all research support services at the university. She’ll also be contributing to strategic planning for the office of research services.

The office assists faculty in securing and administering research grants, contracts, and awards and in meeting their regulatory responsibilities in support of research. The office is the point of contact for the federal granting councils, government ministries, foundations, associations and industry.

In 2005-06, UVic received more than $80 million in external grants, notes Dr. Richard Keeler, associate vice-president (research). At the same time, the number of agencies that research services office works with now number in the hundreds and reporting requirements are becoming significantly more complex.

“For these reasons, we searched for and found someone with both research and research administration experience who could bring substantial new capacity and capability to our operations,” he says.

The growth in research opportunities is both a benefit and challenge to UVic faculty and the university’s research administration, says Scarth.

“The office of research services has an excellent rapport with the research community it serves, and my goal is to ensure that this continues as the research enterprise of the university grows.”

Scarth’s area of research specialization is plant breeding and genetics, especially in oil crops such as canola and rapeseed. She joined the University of Manitoba’s department of plant genetics and breeding in 1983, shortly after earning her PhD from Cambridge University. She hopes to eventually resume her research interests at UVic.

First, though, she’s intent on getting acquainted with her new university—and West Coast life. “This was our family’s first move in 17 years, from the dry, hot Prairies to what we anticipated as the cool, wet West Coast. We arrived in early August and were surprised by the long stretches of hot, dry weather that greeted us!”

For more information on the office of research services, visit www.research.uvic.ca.

Public lecture examines cellular dynamics of cancer

by Maria Lironi

Hall’s research has focused on a family of proteins called GTPases. These proteins act as molecular switches in signal transduction pathways and play key roles in determining the behaviour of cells, including how they communicate with each other in response to external stimuli. This work has important implications for understanding how tumour cells spread throughout the body.

In his lecture, geared toward a non-scientific audience, Hall will examine some of the steps involved in cancer from the point of view of a cell. “Cancer is a consequence of cells behaving badly, hence the title,” he says.

“But one of the messages of my talk is that the ‘bad’ behaviour of cancer cells is actually very similar to the normal behaviour of cells in the embryo. The behaviour is only inappropriate when it occurs in an adult cell.”

Hall’s presentation will be followed by a panel discussion with cancer researchers, health practitioners and members of the media on the health and social impacts of cancer.

Panelists include: Dr. Mary Ellen Parks, UVic’s dean of human and social development; UVic molecular biologist Dr. Caren Helbing; Dr. Brad Nelson, director of the Deeley Cancer Research Centre at the BC Cancer Agency; and Linda Aylworth, senior reporter at Global BC.

The lecture takes place at 7:30 p.m. in the Strong Building, room C103. Admission is free but seating is limited. Tickets can be obtained in person at the UVic box office, or by calling 721-8480 or http://auditorio uvic.uvic.ca/sickets.html.

The lecture is sponsored by UVic, the Gairdner Foundation, Telus and the Times Colonist. For more information about the Gairdner Foundation, visit www.gairdner.org.

Honorary degrees continued from p1

Earl Claxton Sr. is a lifetime for the preservation and revitalization of the Sencoten language of the Coast Salish peoples of Sooke, whose traditional territory includes the lands on which UVic is situated.

Without the benefit of formal training, Claxton has become an extremely talented linguist whose efforts to share his knowledge of his ancestral language—currently spoken fluently by fewer than a dozen elders—have been vital.

Through his work with UVic linguists, teaching materials are being developed that are easily comprehensible and explain all of the properties of the Sencoten language, so that future generations will have the ability to learn the language in a way that is grounded in a native Sencoten linguistic understanding.

Claxton is also considered the authority on matters of English/Sencoten translation and is a major source of knowledge and inspiration for many members of the Stathm Nation.

A staff writer for the New Yorker magazine since 1961, Edith Iglauer became one of the few female correspondents to cover World War II, in Italy and Yugoslavia. She resides in Garden Bay, B.C.

Art historian Dr. Maria Tippett recently returned to her hometown of Victoria after several years as a senior research fellow at the University of Cambridge. She’s the author of 11 books, including biographies of two B.C. icons: Bill Reid, The Making of an Indian and Emily Carr, A Biography, for which she won a 1980 Governor General’s Award. Tippett is one of Canada’s most prolific scholars and writes on the history and the role of the arts in society. Her By a Lady, Celebrating Three Centuries of Canadian Women Artists is considered the single best survey of the work of women artists in the country. She’s one of a small group of art historians to be elected to the Royal Society of Canada.

On her return to Victoria, Tippett began a weekly column in the Times Colonist called “Women of a Certain Age,” which is to be the genesis of her next book, co-authored with a former Cambridge colleague.
Irish and Ocean Sciences (NEPTUNE) has become the first Canadian appointed to Argentina’s National Academy of Sciences, Cordoba, for his scholarship contributions in paleontology and stratigraphy. Barnes is a geologist who specializes in studying vertebrate fossils that are hundreds of millions of years old. One area of focus has been in Argentina where the northwest part of the country was once part of North America. Last year, Barnes won the Billings Medal from the Geological Association of Canada for his long-term contributions to Canadian palaeontology.

The UVic centre on aging recently acknowledged the contributions that local seniors make to the regional capital by presenting three people with Valued Elder Recognition Awards. The recipients are: Oak Bay resident Betty Brown for her work over the past 10 years with the Victoria Women’s Transition House; Thelma Clark of Saanich for her work over the last 57 years with the Independent Living Society of Greater Victoria; and Langford’s Doreen Spring for 18 years of volunteering at the Victoria General Hospital. The awards were presented on Oct. 2 (International Day of the Older Person).

At a special convocation held for him in Taiwan in June, Dr. Hari Srivastava, professor emeritus of mathematics and statistics, was awarded an honorary doctor of science degree by Chung Yuan Christian University. He is the first mathematician to be awarded only 15 honorary degrees worldwide.

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The board of governors is one of the two primary governing bodies of the university and is responsible for the maintenance and construction of buildings, the employment of personnel, and the establishment of faculties and departments on the recommendation of senate. It also administers university assets and approves the university budget framework.

Trudi Brown — Chair, Order-in-council appointee
A graduate of UVic, Brown has practiced law in the Victoria area since 1973 and is currently a senior counsel at Duncan Iredale Henderson. She is a trustee of the Nanaimo Foundation, and co-chair of the National Family Law Program. Brown is past president of the Law Society of BC and has served as a director of the Continuing Legal Education Society of BC, the Canadian Bar Association (BC branch) and McKenzie Legal Foundation. She is a former director of BCLaw and Pacific Sports Victoria.

Gail Flotten — Vice-Chair, Order-in-council appointee
Flotten is retired after a long and distinguished career in public relations. She is a recipient of the Vancouver YWCA Women of Distinction Award and the Canadian Public Relations Society (Vancouver Island) Professional of the Year Award. She is an active community volunteer and has served on the boards of not-for-profit organizations in Ontario, Vancouver and Victoria. She chairs the community and government relations committee of UVic’s board of governors. She is also a member of the Friends of UVic Libraries and Friends of Phoenix Theatre.

David Turpin — President
Turpin was appointed UVic’s sixth president in September 2000. Prior to joining UVic, he was vice-principal academic at Queen’s University. During his first term as president, UVic adopted a strategic plan and a campus plan to prepare for future development. His presidency has been renewed until 2010. Turpin holds a PhD in botany and oceanography from UBC and is recognized as one of Canada’s most highly cited scientists. He was elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 1998. The president is an ex-officio member of the board.

Ronald Lou-Poy — Chancellor
Lou-Poy is a graduate of Victoria College, holds a commerce degree and a law degree from UBC, and is currently the senior partner with Cosles-Harman & Co. of Victoria. He has been UBC’s chancellor since January 2001 and has served two terms on the board of governors. Lou-Poy’s many community involvements include the Kiwanian of the United Way. He is a member of the Order of Canada, a member of the Ministry of Research and a honorary judge of the Citizenship Court of Canada. The chancellor is an ex-officio member of the board.

James Biggar — Elected student member
Biggar is a master’s student in environmental studies focused on the financial and social dynamics of the transition to renewable energy sources. He completed a degree in political studies at Queen’s University where he established a sustainable business club. As a member of the UVic sustainability projects board of directors he promotes a new role for the university as a driver for the development of social, economic, and ecological sustainability in the region.

Peter Ciceri — Order-in-council appointee
Ciceri is a corporate director and management consultant. Until recently he was chairman of Sierra Wireless, and was previously president and managing director of Compaq Canada Inc. He has held senior posts with Tandem Computers Asia Pacific Ltd., Hewlett Packard Asia Pacific Ltd., and Japan Unisys. In 1999, he was named one of Canada’s top 10 “Influencers” by the National Post and one of the country’s top 100 business executives. Ciceri holds a BA in economics from UBC and is completing an MBA in counselling psychology at UBC. He is an Alumni representative on the board.

Eric Donald — Order-in-council appointee
Donald retired from the Bank of Montreal in 2000 after 32 years in various management and executive roles. He is currently overseeing a group of real estate-related companies. Donald has volunteered to a variety of community groups, such as the Royal BC Museum, Pacific Sport Canada and the David Foster Foundation. He holds a BBA in economics from UBC and completed advanced executive training programs at the Banff School of Advanced Management and Northwestern University. An alumni representative on the board, Donald served as chair from 2003-05.

Dr. Peter Driessen — Elected faculty member
Driessen is a professor in the department of electrical and computer engineering, cross-appointed to the school of music. His teaching and research interests include wireless communications, sound recording, audio and video signal processing, and computer music. In his 20 years at UVic, Driessen’s prominent involvements include the senate, department curriculum committee (chair), the dispute resolution committee, the academic and professional affairs committee and the executive of the faculty association.

John Evans — Order-in-council appointee
Evans is an experienced real estate developer and the principal of Trilogy Properties Corp., headquartered in Vancouver. He has guided many major real estate projects in Canada and the U.S. over the last 20 years. Trilogy, which Evans founded in 1991, is active in real estate development, acquisition and asset management in Vancouver, Whistler and the Fraser Valley. During its many years Trilogy develops and operates valued at more than $2 billion, including the Westin Grand and OPUS hotels in downtown Vancouver and Whistler’s Marketplace. Evans holds a commerce degree from UBC.

Murray Farmer — Order-in-council appointee
Farmer is president of Farmer Industries Group Inc., vice-president of Accent Inns, and vice-president of Farmer Management Inc., which provides project management services and oversees a portfolio of company-owned commercial properties. Farmer holds a BA in economics from UBC, is a registered quantity surveyor and completed the Harvard Business School’s owner/president management program. He has been active in such organizations as the Royal Jubilee Hospital Foundation and the United Way of Greater Victoria and is a past chair of the Victoria Foundation.

Robert Giroux — Order-in-council appointee
Giroux is a prominent advocate for higher education in Canada. From 1995 to 2004, he served as president and CEO of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada in Ottawa. He was also a force behind the creation of the Canada Foundation for Innovation and the Canada Research Chairs programs. Currently, Giroux is a senior vice-president of Look.S Design, a look book in the federal public service including secretary of the Treasury Board and president of the Public Service Commission. Giroux holds a BA in commerce and an MA in economics from the University of Ottawa.

Dr. Peter Liddell — Elected faculty member
Liddell, a professor and former chair of Germanic and Russian studies, has been academic director of the humanities computing and media centre since 1990. His research interests include computer-assisted learning, the history of the German language, and 19th and 20th-century literature. Liddell has been involved in many aspects of university governance over the past 10 years, including and officer of the academic senate, the vice president's committee on the university budget (as chair), the planning and priorities committee, and the university’s information technology planning committee.

Dr. Lyndsay Evans — Elected faculty member
Evans joined the faculty of the Department of Native Studies and Social Work in 2004. She was a researcher at the University of Victoria for more than a decade before joining the faculty of the School of Social Work. Her research focuses on the role of social work in Canada and the role of social workers in the Canadian context. She holds a PhD in social work from the University of Victoria and a Masters of Social Work from the University of British Columbia.

Dr. Doreen Laidler — Order-in-council appointee
Laidler is the current president of the University of Victoria. She is a social scientist with a background in political science and public administration. Her research interests include social policy, social inequalities, and political economy. She is a graduate of the University of British Columbia and holds a PhD in political science from the University of California, Berkeley. Laidler has served as president of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada and is a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. She is also a member of the United Nations University System and the Council of the International Union of Social Science.

Sarah Webb — Elected staff member
As UVic’s sustainability co-ordinator, Webb works with academic and administrative units to implement educational programs and operational changes to reduce UVic’s impact on the environment and save money at the same time. She believes that fully embracing sustainability is essential for UVic to lead by example and inspire others to follow suit. Webb is a passionate advocate for environmental sustainability and is committed to promoting and supporting initiatives that reduce UVic’s carbon footprint and increase awareness about sustainability issues.

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Jane Peverett — Order-in-council appointee
Peverett, who has been named one of 50 extraordinary women in energy on a global basis, is president and CEO of the B.C. Transmission Corporation. She has served as president and CEO of Unis Gas Ltd. in Ontario and held senior positions at Westcoast Energy Inc. In 1998, she obtained a commerce degree from McMaster University and an MBA from Queen’s University, and is a Fellow of the Society of Management Accountants. Her other involvements include the board of the Enciana Corporation.

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Learning on the job
UVic’s co-op program celebrates three decades of workplace learning

by Joy Poliquin

Navigating the wild world of permanent employment is a tough order for any university graduate, although having the right job skills and relevant work experience can do wonders.

Fortunately, the UVic co-op program exists to bridge this gap. The program has been connecting students with work terms in their chosen fields for the past 30 years, and in doing so has helped to prepare more than 25,000 students for life after graduation.

This year, the program celebrates its 30th anniversary.

When the university’s co-op program first opened its doors in 1975-76 it was largely viewed as an educational experiment. At the time, co-op education was a relatively new concept, the University of Waterloo was the only other Canadian university to have initiated a program.

As quality service evaluators for Tourism British Columbia, Flanagan and Hendry—who was project manager—spent the summer in B.C., where they posed as travelling quality service evaluators for the development of a UVic co-op program in Western Canada in 1976.

The program started small and has grown exponentially over the last three decades. Fifty-eight students from the departments of chemistry and physics secured the first work term placements in 1977. In 2005-06 more than 2,700 students from over 40 program areas completed a co-op work term.

Today the program is the third largest in Canada. There are more than 70 co-op staff connecting students with workplace opportunities and students work for employers locally, across B.C. and Canada, and internationally.

The co-op education program has always been one of the pillars of this institution,” says UVic President David Turpin. “We recognize that experiential learning is increasingly important in our modern world and continue to provide our students with the opportunity to develop hands-on experience in the workplace. The program’s success depends on the support of both students and employers; it is a reflection of its tremendous value.”

“This is a vital and exciting time for us,” says Dr. Elizabeth Grove-White, the co-op program’s executive director for the past six years. “We’re constantly evolving to best meet students with relevant job skills and strategies and we continue to develop new ways to engage students in the program. Our students are looking toward their futures after university and realize that co-op can make a real difference.”

Current UVic students aren’t the only ones to recognize the benefits of an education complemented by relevant work terms. Bruno Roccas, director of student recruitment, says the UVic co-op program is a key draw for the many prospective students he and his team meet on the road. The program is also viewed as a priority by the university’s executive council.

“Not only does the program allow students to apply their academic skills in a real workplace, but it also provides an opportunity for community outreach. Through liaison with co-op’s employer communities, the university receives feedback on the relevance and quality of its academic programs, as well as information on current research in the business, industrial, government and not-for-profit sectors.”

For more information on the co-op program or to read some of the program’s current success stories, visit mycoop.coop.uvic.ca.

by Amy Goddes

Seventy days, 116 B.C. visitor centres, 12,000 kilometres, two students and one Plymouth Voyager—all of these elements added up to the co-op experience of a lifetime for UVic students Kate-Lynn Flanagan and Ian Hendry.

As quality service evaluators for Tourism British Columbia, Flanagan (art history) and Hendry (political science) spent the summer exploring the province and picking up invaluable work experience along the way.

The pair travelled to visitor centres across B.C., where they posed as tourists to evaluate the centres’ quality of service. To meet their quotas of two or three evaluations per day, they set up camp in a new B.C. town every night.

“We can set up and take down a tent faster than anyone I know,” laughs Flanagan, “and I can definitely say I know more about the province now!”

The opportunity to travel was a major incentive for the pair, who jumped at the chance to apply after seeing the posting on the co-op website in March. They purchased a 1981 Westfalia van and hit the road in early May.

They were one of two pairs of travelling quality service evaluators who reported to a fifth co-op student who was project manager. Flanagan and Hendry soon discovered that posing as tourists wasn’t much of a stretch. From decoding maps to stopping to ask for directions and weathering campground lightning storms, they were indeed living the tourist lifestyle. They also experienced a common tourist misadventure—car trouble.

“A week into the trip the Westfalia started to lose power,” says Hendry. “We were told it wouldn’t make another 10,000 kilometres. We had to come up with a plan really quickly. It was pretty scary because we didn’t want to lose the job.” Fortunately, Flanagan’s mother loaned her the pair her Plymouth Voyager, and they were back on the road within a week.

Their adventures culminated in 116 nine-page, in-depth reports about every aspect of visitor centre operations, including highway signage approaching the centre, the display of corporate identity, interior and exterior features, washroom facilities, and most importantly, the staff’s familiarity with local, regional and provincial information.

Overall, their study found that most centres are doing a good job of serving B.C.’s tourism industry. “The purpose of our reports was to help improve the centres’ service levels and to create consistency,” says Flanagan. “We want the centres to give the best possible impression to visitors.”

Spending a summer exploring the province on an extended road trip may not seem to relate to art history and political science, but Flanagan and Hendry see a clear connection.

Flanagan has set her sights on working in art galleries and museums in British Columbia, and credits the co-op experience for giving her a broader knowledge of the B.C. tourism industry. It also helped her realize how much she likes working with people.

Hendry, who is working on a double major in history and political science, says he honed his communications skills on the road—useful in his current co-op job as a communications assistant with Natural Resources Canada.

“Navigating the wild world of permanent employment is a tough order for any university graduate,” he adds. “Co-op has been great for developing my resume and trying our different approaches as I figure out what I want to do. It’s been a real adventure.”

Two for the road
Two UVic students explore the province—and pick up work experience along the way

by Joy Poliquin

N...
School of social work celebrates 30 years

by Christine McLaren

It was 1976. The punk rock explosion was hitting England, the Vietnam War had just ended and the name “Microsoft” had just been officially registered. The school of social work was created at a time when protests were a fact of life and people were engaged in the new notion of “questioning authority.”

“The thought of planning a new school’s academic design was exciting in the organization and governance of services was just delicious,” says Brian Wharf, the first director of the school.

The new school accepted 33 students into its first bachelor of social work (BSW) program. Joyce Bewley was drawn to the new school at a time when she was reassessing her own values on human rights and the disadvantaged.

“It was a time of social change and the new school of social work provided a very interesting combination of community development work, interdisciplinary education and exciting field practicums.” She went on to start the Family Violence Counselling Project and the Divorce Life Line for women in abusive relationships, following her rewarding work experience with the Law Centre of Victoria.

Since 1976, the school has graduated more than 2,400 BSW students and as at present, over 75 per cent of students are enrolled in the school’s distance program.

To celebrate its 30th anniversary the school is hosting a gathering on Oct. 28-29—the Whitaker Field Education Conference—dedicated to social work field education and practice. Field education is a vital component in any social work program and students maintain that the practicum is the most significant part of their learning experience.

Choosing UVic’s school of social work was easy for Leanne Stuckless, who lives in St. John’s, Newfoundland. “The theoretical framework and curriculum at UVic blows people away because of its utility in the field,” she says. “The contributions in the virtual classroom from students working in different settings across Canada helped me understand social work from multiple perspectives.”

The theme of the conference is the education and practice possibilities of social justice in social work. “The school continues to connect effectively with the community it represents and lives the work of its mission by challenging oppressive structures in society,” says Dr. Mary Ellen Parkus, dean of the faculty of human and social development. “It’s through the feedback I receive from the community that the school serves.”

Leslie Brown, director of the school from 2001 until last June, says “the conference seeks to bring together community partners, students, activists, researchers and educators to engage the visions of social justice at work.”

The conference is named in honour of Walene Whisker, field instructor to UVic’s first group of BSW students and who went on to become the practicum co-ordinator until her retirement last June. Whisker says that “field work never ceased to be an adventure.” She notes that the field education program evolved as the school grew but the constant over the years was the adherence to the founding director’s vision of inclusion. The school is currently working on the creation of a chair in indigenous child welfare to provide further support and leadership for indigenous social work education.

The school’s new director, Allan Irving, who started teaching in 1976, believes the school is the most progressive in North America. “The central themes of social justice and anti-oppressive practice guide the entire curriculum, which also serves to anchor us firmly in the community.”

Arthur Black, former CBC Radio host, will be delivering the keynote address and Lena Dominelli, chair of applied social sciences from Durham University, England, will give the opening address.

For more information on the school of social work or the conference visit http://socialwork.uvic.ca or contact Wendy Seager at 721-8034 or seager@uvic.ca.

Fundraising events will run on campus until the campaign wraps up as the end of November. A book sale at McPherson Library is the major fundraising event for the month of October. Organizers are asking for donations of books, records, CDs, tapes, videos or DVDs. The sale takes place Oct. 17 and 18 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The United Way of Greater Victoria’s role is to identify the community’s top human care priorities and to fund effective programs and services that address these community identified priorities.

In 2006 it provided funding for 78 programs and services in the area. This year 100,000 people in Greater Victoria will benefit from a United Way program.

For campaign updates and a list of upcoming events visit http://unitedway.uvic.ca.
Let's talk climate change

The fragility of the Goderich Park ecosystem, a new sewage treatment system for the city, and how to attract “green” business to Victoria—these are just some of the issues up for discussion when UVic hosts a public forum on climate change on Oct. 26.

The forum, organized by C-FAX 1070, will feature a panel of experts from Greater Victoria including UVic climatologist Andrew Weaver.

“The environment ranks second only to health care on the list of voter priorities,” says Rebecca Scott, C-FAX news anchor/reporter and organizer of the forum. “But people are still confused about climate change. The goal of this forum is to bring together experts to clear up misconceptions and look for solutions, such as the fascinating technologies being developed right here in Victoria.”

Every day leading up to the forum C-FAX will air a series of features on climate change and what it means for people of Greater Victoria. The features, airing after the 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. news, will involve interviews with environmental leaders and politicians, including David Suzuki, local MP Denise Savoie and John Di Castri, UVic’s legal observer. HSD A373.

The new NEPTUNE Canada array, with six nodes. 

NEPTUNE continued p.1 realize significant cost savings by installing additional instrumented nodes in 2007 and 2008,” says Dr. Chris Barnes, NEPTUNE Canada’s project director. “With these additional nodes, we’ll be more than triple our scientific data collection and achieve a profoundly better overview of Earth and ocean processes.”

Initial funding for NEPTUNE Canada was announced in October 2003 and totaled $6.2 million from CFII and BCKDF.

Contributions from the U.S. and UVic bring total funding for the NEPTUNE project to CDN $112 million. Another USD $120 million is expected from the U.S. as its main contribution to this bi-national project.

For more information on NEP- TUNE Canada visit www.neptunecanada.ca

NEPTUNE Canada Fast Facts

• The first installation stage of NEPTUNE Canada is scheduled for fall 2007 with the laying of the cable, two nodes and some instrumentation. The remaining nodes and instrumentation will be deployed in summer 2008.

• With the additional $20 million, the observatory will provide the scientific community with a plate-scale, four-dimensional view of a large area of the Earth’s crust and overlying oceans. The new nodes triple the scientific data return from the instrument array.

• NEPTUNE Canada researchers are using a node on the UVic-led VENUS (Victoria Experimental Network Under the Sea) observatory to test instrumentation and to prototype its remote control and data management systems.

• Knowledge gained through NEPTUNE will address pressing global and regional issues such as fish stock conservation, earthquakes and tsunamis, deep sea ecology, climate change, offshore resource development, algal blooms, and murine pollution.

The new NEPTUNE Canada array, with six nodes.

At the Theatres

www.phoenixtheatres.ca

Turluff: A biting modern-day take on Molina’s classic comedy about religious hypocrisy.

Friday, October 6
Music 12:30 p.m. Fridaymusic. School of music students in a program for various instruments. MacLaurin B15. 721-7904

Tuesday, October 10
Public Administration Lecture 12 p.m. Are Public Service Institutions too Responsive? An Australian Perspective. John Nethercote, political observer. HSD A735. 721-8566

Wednesday, October 11
Medieval Studies Lecture 12:30 p.m. Lunch with Aristotle: New Medieval Manuscript Fragments Acquired by the McPherson Library. McPherson Library 210. 721-6471

The Diversity Advisor and the Office of the VP Academic Lecture 2 p.m. Race, Gender, Nation, Sharing View: Sharing Stories. Authors’ panel with Dr. Larissa Lai, UBC, and Dr. Ashok Mathur, Thomson Rivers Univ. Cornett A222. 721-6475

Thursday, October 12
Center for Global Studies Lecture 2 p.m. Citizenship and Governance: Celebrating 25 Years of the Society for Participatory Research in Asia. Univ. Club. 721-5718


Friday, October 13
Music 12:30 p.m. Fridaymusic. School of music guitar students. MacLaurin B15. 721-7904

Tuesday, October 17
United Way Library Book Sale, 8 a.m. Continues Oct. 18. McPherson Library 721-6448

Friday, October 20
Music 12:30 p.m. Fridaymusic. School of music students in a program for various instruments.

MacLaurin B15. 721-7904

Wednesday, October 25
Centennial Lecture Series 8 p.m. The Ring October 2006

John Albert Hall Lecture 7:30 p.m. The Hebrew Bible: Religious Law and Human Freedom. Keith Ward, Univ. of Oxford. Fraser B107. 721-6695

Gaidtner Foundation Lecture 7:30 p.m. Cancer: Just Cells Behaving Badly. Alan Hall, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York. Strong C103. Call to reserve a ticket. 721-8480


Thursday, October 26

Wednesday, November 1
MacLaurin B15. 721-7904

Calendar highlights

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

Fall 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, November 2 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Wednesday, October 25

Thursday, December 7 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Wednesday, November 2
By Christine Roulston

Can a business be financially viable and socially conscious at the same time?

Definitely, says Jenny Schoenberger, one of UVic's student winners of the IDC Challenge, an annual competition held by the Innovation and Development Corporation (IDC), the university's technology transfer office. Schoenberger won $2,000 for her business proposal, Clean Slate, which provides a model for a resource center that employs homeless people in exchange for food, counselling, detoxification, work experience and social services. The plan also involves the shelter seeking funding and resources from local business in exchange for sponsorship.

"There are so many benefits this would provide to the community," says the fourth-year commerce student. "Homeless people would essentially run the centre and gain work experience at the same time. Business is always looking for ways to be socially responsible. Sponsorship would provide a chance to do that, while addressing a range of issues, such as helping to reduce littering in front of businesses."

While monetary gain is usually perceived as the driving force behind business, Schoenberger says most entrepreneurs are motivated by personal reasons. Her idea for Clean Slate came when a family member went through a difficult phase that could have resulted in him living on the street. "They just see an image of people begging on the street," she says, "Right now, it's a bit of a dream but I would love to see it eventually put into place."

She was also inspired by a UVic course that provides resources such as counselling, detoxification and rehab to at-risk youth and their families. "I'm learning a lot about the resources available in Victoria and gaining experience in the field," she says.

Schoenberger’s business plan was also inspired by a UVic course taught by Dr. Anna Maria Peredo that made her reflect on poverty in her own community. "I started out wanting to do work in Third World countries," she says. "The course made me realize the models applied to help poor countries can be used here." Currently, Schoenberger is completing a co-op term at the Victoria Youth Empowerment Society, an organization that provides resources such as counselling, detoxification and rehab to at-risk youth and their families. "I'm learning a lot about the resources available in Victoria and gaining experience in the field," she says.

For her winning business plan, she says, "Right now, it's a bit of a dream but I would love to see it eventually put into place." The IDC Challenge: Vancouver Island Student Business Plan Competition invites university and college students to compete for more than $23,000 in cash prizes and seed capital before a panel of entrepreneurs, business experts, and investors. For more on IDC, visit http://web.uvic.ca/idc/.

Other winning UVic proposals:

Team Pages would enable amateur sports leagues and teams to quickly and intuitively create their own websites. Submitted by Mike Tan, Nikolai Leader-Gold, faculty of business.

Mesh View is a web-based 3-D visualization tool that would allow users to download images of 3-D body parts to prevent tattoos on different areas of the body. Submitted by Patrick Tuckey and Neil Burroughs, faculty of engineering and computer science.

Blue Box Storage provides a model for a self-storage business that would allow customers to catalogue the items in storage and request specific stored items to be delivered by the company. Submitted by Derek Story, Adam Henry and Sam Adams, faculty of business.