



New feature:
A day in the life

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UVIC PHOTO SERVICES



Helping hands

Members of UVic's Orientation team are willing to lend a hand to help new and returning students put their best foot forward when they come to campus to begin classes this fall. Giving a lift to April McNeil are Orientation staff and volunteers (from left): Kenny Chue, Matthew Liem, George Robinson, Amesh Narsing and Emil Hadad. Orientation sessions and tours began at the end of August for new students living off campus, and activities continued through the Labour Day weekend and into the first week of classes.

Medical Sciences Building wins gold status

by Beth Haysom

The University of Victoria's Medical Sciences Building has achieved the coveted gold crown for its top-ranking standards of environmental design and sustainability.

The Canada Green Building Council is officially recognizing the building with gold-level status in the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building rating program. The building is home to the Island Medical Program, which is educating new doctors on Vancouver Island.

"LEED-certified buildings are healthier buildings for the environment and for occupants, so this achievement by the UVic project team will also significantly benefit students and staff," says Thomas Mueller, president of the Canada Green Building Council.

The \$12-million, 43,000-square foot facility was opened by Premier

Gordon Campbell in December 2004 as part of a unique collaboration between UVic, the University of British Columbia faculty of medicine MD undergraduate program and the University of Northern British Columbia to train more doctors throughout British Columbia. Students are connected via innovative videoconferencing technology.

The building houses two state-of-the-art lecture theatres, anatomy research and multi-purpose laboratories, eight problem-based learning rooms, a clinical skills teaching room, a computer lab, and administrative offices for supporting students during their four-year program.

The UVic showpiece of innovation and sustainability demonstrates integrated design and low-impact development. Among the features are energy-efficient systems, locally

SEE MEDICAL SCIENCES P.8



Two UVic historians join Canada's academic elite

by Maria Lironi

Dean of humanities Andrew Rippin and professor emeritus Patricia Roy are the University of Victoria's newest fellows of the the Academies of Arts, Humanities and Sciences of Canada (RSC)—an achievement that is considered Canada's highest academic honour.

The RSC, formerly the Royal Society of Canada, is the country's

senior national body of distinguished Canadian scientists and scholars, and promotes learning and research in the natural and social sciences and in the humanities.

Rippin's citation describes him as "one of the pre-eminent authorities in the field of Islamic studies." His pioneering research focuses on interpretations of the Qur'an written in Arabic, and he is a central figure in debates about the Qur'an

and the contexts in which it must be understood.

"I'm honoured to have been granted RSC membership," says Rippin, "and I'm very thankful to my colleagues who felt that my contribution to the study of Islam deserves this recognition."

Roy is known for her work in Canadian ethnic history. "Students

SEE RSC FELLOWS P.3

More mysteries on the way for student sleuths and teachers

by Patty Pitts

The location of a mysterious Viking settlement, the enduring question of who really was first to strike gold in the Klondike, and the identity of a mystery man washed ashore in Acadia will be the next mysteries presented to online sleuths on Canada's popular historical mystery website.

"Great Unsolved Mysteries in Canadian History," based at the University of Victoria, will receive \$492,000 from the federal Department of Canadian Heritage through the Canadian culture online program to develop the new website additions. The latest instalments will let student sleuths and their teachers do a virtual fly-over of an ancient Viking settlement, the Klondike gold fields and a 19th-century Acadian village.

"Students and teachers heading

back to class will soon have even more ways to discover how rich and exciting Canadian history can be," says UVic historian John Lutz, who is the co-director of the bilingual website.

"By incorporating the latest technology and drawing on archival documents, renditions of excavated artifacts and personal correspondence, we can give website visitors the true sense of experiencing history first-hand."

The new mysteries will be:

- "Where is Vinland?"—About 1,000 years ago, after landing on the shores of North America, the Vikings visited an area so lush and warm it could sustain a grape harvest. But the Vikings weren't the first settlers. After a skirmish with people who arrived in seal-skin canoes, the Vikings departed leaving a mystery in their wake—where was the settlement they called Vinland?

- "The Mystery Man of Baie Sainte-Marie"—In September 1863, the tiny Acadian community of Meteghan, Nova Scotia, was shocked to discover that a legless man had washed up on their beach. Still alive, he was nursed back to health but could only utter three words: Jerome, Trieste and Colombo. The mystery man was taken in by the townspeople who also profited from his presence by putting him on display as a tourist attraction. They were never able to determine the man's true identity or the circumstances that led to his discovery.

- "Who Discovered Klondike Gold"—George Carmack is largely credited with starting the Klondike gold rush by announcing to a crowded Alaskan bar that he had discovered gold along the Yukon River.

SEE MYSTERIES P.5

Eavesdropping on Mother Nature

How can eavesdropping on insects help scientists develop eco-friendly ways of controlling them?

Find out at an upcoming presentation of the Governor General Lecture Series of the Academies of Arts, Humanities and Sciences of Canada (RSC). One of Canada's foremost ecological entomologists, Dr. Jeremy McNeil, will discuss "Eavesdropping on Mother Nature: In Search of Alternatives to Synthetic Pesticides" on Sept. 19 at 8 p.m. in the University Centre Farquhar Auditorium.

The RSC (formerly the Royal Society of Canada) launched the country's first national lecture series last year. The chosen lecturer delivers the same lecture at four different universities in Canada.

McNeil, the Helen Battle Professor in the biology department of the University of Western Ontario, studies the reproductive biology of migrat-



ing insects, as well as the interactions between insects, their natural enemies and plants. He investigates the role that naturally occurring chemicals in plants and insects play in interactions within and between different species.

In his presentation, McNeil will discuss how understanding the way insects muse about "what to eat," "where to lay eggs," and "with whom

to mate" has led to the development of effective pest management without resorting to insecticides and their sometimes harmful side effects.

The lecture is free of charge, but advance reservations are required by calling the UVic Ticket Centre at 721-8480 or visiting www.auditorium.uvic.ca.

Sociologist, chemist win national honours

Two University of Victoria faculty members have won awards from the Academies of Arts, Humanities and Sciences of Canada—the country's premier academic organization.

Dr. Cecilia Benoit (sociology) is the winner of the Award in Gender Studies, a bi-annual honour that recognizes significant contributions by a humanities or social sciences scholar to the understanding of issues related to gender.

Benoit's research, beginning with her pioneering work on the gendered

underpinnings of maternity care systems in democratic societies, has consistently been sensitive to the way that intersections of gender, class, and ethnicity matter in the Canadian context. Working with community organizations, she has helped to develop strategies to reduce gender inequalities and promote the health and well-being of vulnerable groups (see story p. 8).

Dr. Reg Mitchell (chemistry) is the winner of the McNeil Medal, awarded to a candidate who has demonstrated outstanding ability to promote and

communicate science to students and the public within Canada. The annual award consists of a bronze medal and a cash award of \$1,500.

Mitchell, also known as "Dr. Zonk," is an internationally recognized chemist, teacher and communicator. In the area of awareness of science, his principal audience is young people and his chemistry "magic show," experienced by more than 30,000 B.C. students to date, is legendary.

For more information about the RSC visit www.rsc.ca.

Inmemoriam

Peter Smith, professor emeritus, Greek and Roman studies, died on Aug. 29 after suffering a massive stroke some 10 days before. A native son of British Columbia and Victoria, Peter had deep roots in this community and his friends and contacts are found in all parts of the Victoria community.

Peter was one of the founding faculty members of UVic's predecessor, Victoria College. He built the department of classics (Greek and Roman studies), which he chaired on more than one occasion. Under his humane and watchful eye it flourished to become one of the premier departments in Canada, if not North America. He also served the university with distinction as dean of fine arts.

Peter was legendary as a teacher, and as a scholar and translator. His work had a grace and polish that made him unique. An admirer and former student, Michael Chase, said

of Peter: "He was one of a breed that I'm afraid may be on its way out; he did not publish mountains of material, but was a superlative and deeply inspiring teacher."

Peter was also the university's unofficial historian. His books include a history of UVic, *A Multitude of the Wise: UVic Remembered*, as well as *Ghosts on the Grade: Hiking and Biking Abandoned Railways on Southern Vancouver Island*, and *Wings Across the Water, Victoria's Flying Heritage 1871-1971*.

The department mourns the loss of Peter. He was active in so many things right up to the day of his stroke. Departmental colleague Michael Chase described him as "unfailingly courteous and kind to all and sundry. He supported and advanced the cause of the university and the department throughout his life as a professor on this campus and without ceasing all through

his retirement until the moment of his passing. We shall miss him dreadfully."

The above tribute was contributed to The Ring by colleague and friend, Dr. Gordon Shrimpton, chair of Greek and Roman studies.



Smith, in a photo from his 1993 book, *A Multitude of the Wise*.

Ringers

Michael Fern (business) has received the prestigious Academy of Management entrepreneurship division's Best Paper Award for his research into the strategic decision-making process that takes place during the start-up phase of a new venture. Fern's approach, examining the résumés of 200 entrepreneurs involved in airline start-ups in the U.S. over a 10-year period, broke new ground in gathering information on the start-up phase of an enterprise. The results of his research show that one can predict how an entrepreneur's past experience will affect new decisions such as choice of location, industry and business focus. The Academy of Management has more than 17,000 active members from 99 countries. The entrepreneurship division is the fourth largest, with more than 2,000 members.

Akshay Rathore (electrical and computer engineering) is listed in the 2006 edition of Marquis' *Who's Who in Science and Engineering* for his research contributions to electrical engineering. Rathore is currently pursuing a PhD in the area of power electronics with fuel-cell applications. Marquis' *Who's Who in Science and Engineering* chronicles the world's foremost inventors, award-winners, industry executives, educators, writers and philosophers whose efforts are advancing human knowledge.

Two master's students from the faculty of education have been awarded funding from the Canada Corps university partnership program for internships this fall. **Christina Morgan** and **Carrie Rowlandson** will be working with the Society for Participatory Research in India (PRIA), a non-governmental organization that aims to strengthen the participation of marginalized groups in improving their socio-economic status through democratic governance. Canada Corps is a branch of the Canadian International Development Agency that promote good governance and institution-building in developing countries and fragile states.

Psychology professor **David Hultsch** is the 2006 winner of the Master Mentor Award from the American Psychological Association. The award honours the significant influence Hultsch has had on the careers of students and junior colleagues in the field of adult development and aging. He was nominated for the award by his students.

Wolff-Michael Roth (education) has been recognized for his outstanding contribution to educational research in Canada. Roth is recipient of the Canadian Education Association's 2006 CEA-Whitworth Award for Education Research. "I'm greatly honoured, because other recipients of this award include all those who, in sports or music, would be in a hall of fame. They are the great Canadian educators," says Roth. The CEA is a federally incorporated, non-profit organization that seeks to influence public policy issues in education. The award will be presented at the CEA annual general meeting in Toronto in November.

CUPE 4163 ratifies agreement

All of UVic's unionized workers now have agreed to multi-year contracts through to 2010.

On Aug. 23, CUPE 4163 became the final local to ratify an agreement providing for a two-per-cent wage increase in each of the contract's four years. The members also qualified for the signing bonus offered to other public sector unions that signed

agreements earlier this year.

Each member of Component One of CUPE 4163, representing teaching assistants, will receive \$3,150, while members of the local's Component Two, who are English-language instructors, will each receive \$3,700. The bonuses are pro-rated for part-time service.

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Bob Reimer



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RSC fellows continued from p.1

of Euro-Canadian attitudes to East Asian immigrants and their descendants cannot ignore her meticulously researched work,” states the citation. Roy completed the first scholarly history of Vancouver and has recently co-authored a history of British Columbia.

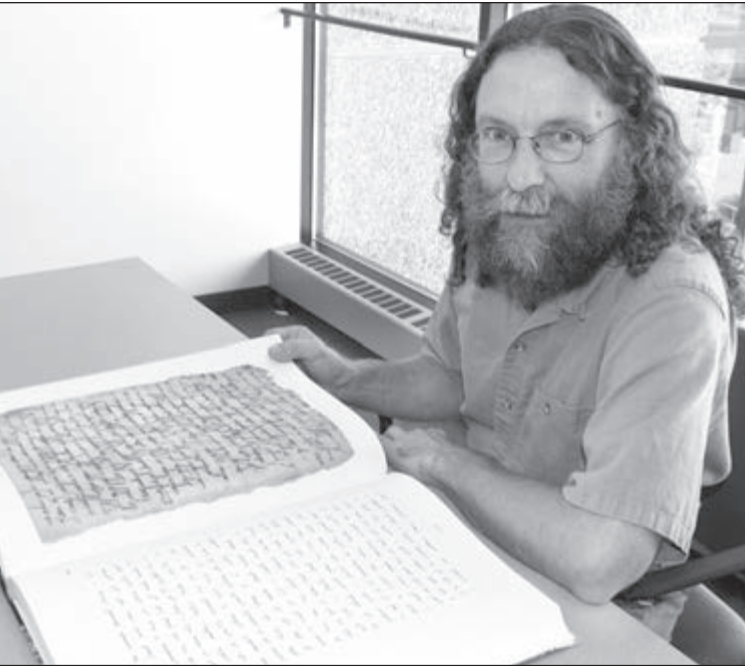
“It’s an honour to be recognized by one’s peers; it’s also a tribute to UVic and its encouragement of scholarship,” says Roy.

The society consists of more than 1,800 fellows who are elected by their peers for outstanding contributions to the arts and sciences. The election of Rippin and Roy brings to 43 the number of current and former UVic faculty members chosen as fellows.

This year’s new fellows will be inducted to the society in a ceremony in Ottawa on Nov. 19. For more information visit the RSC website at www.rsc.ca.



Roy



Rippin



Research team members extract ancient ice samples from Greenland trench.

Methane hydrates not the cause of past ice age global warming, says study

by Patty Pitts

By studying gas bubbles frozen in ancient Greenland ice, University of Victoria researchers have dispelled a popular theory that marine gas hydrates caused a significant release of methane gas into the Earth’s atmosphere, triggering a period of global warming at the end of the last ice age.

“Understanding the behaviour of global atmospheric methane is important because it’s the third strongest greenhouse gas after carbon dioxide and water vapour,” says UVic biogeochemist Dr. Michael Whiticar, part of the Canada-U.S. team that conducted the study. “Atmospheric methane concentrations have increased about 250 per cent in the last 250 years, and they continue to rise about one per cent a year.”

The team, which included UVic PhD student Hinrich Schaefer, studied the concentration and carbon isotope fingerprints of the methane

in the ice off Pakitsog, Greenland. The technique enabled researchers to investigate the changes in sources and sinks of atmospheric methane—perhaps analogous to today’s rapid rise—in the Pleistocene and Holocene ages.

“Methane is a gas that makes a significant contribution to global warming but has gone largely unnoticed by the public and some policy-makers,” says Schaefer, now pursuing postgraduate studies at Oregon State University. “Its concentration has more than doubled since the industrial revolution, from things like natural gas exploration, landfills and agriculture. We need to know whether rapid increases of methane in the past have triggered global warming or have just been a reaction to it.”

According to Whiticar, the study shows that massive destabilization of methane hydrates along the oceanic shelves and the corresponding release of methane to the atmosphere can’t

be responsible for “detonating” the rise in greenhouse gases 12,000 years ago.

“Our work supports the belief that wetlands and permafrost layers are responsible for the enhanced sources of methane to the atmosphere. This is critical knowledge because again, today, we see rapid retreating of our northern permafrost boundaries due to Arctic warming.”

The findings of the team’s research were featured in an article in the Aug. 25 edition of the international journal *Science*. Funding for the Canadian aspects of the work was provided by the Canadian Foundation for Climate and Atmospheric Sciences, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council and the Canada Foundation for Innovation, with collaborations with Oregon State University, the University of Colorado, and the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California—San Diego.




Vikes Upcoming Events


Sept. 9	Women's Soccer vs. UBC	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 16	Men's Rugby vs. Castaway Wanderers	2:30 p.m.
	Women's Soccer vs. University of Regina	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 17	Women's Soccer vs. University of Manitoba	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 23	Men's Rugby vs. James Bay	2:30 p.m.
Sept. 29-Oct. 1	Women's Field Hockey—Canada West Tournament #2	6:00 p.m.
Sept. 30	Men's Soccer vs. University of Saskatchewan	2:15 p.m.
	Men's Rugby vs. Cowichan	2:30 p.m.
	Cross Country New Balance Invitational — Beacon Hill Park	6:00 p.m.

Visit govikesgo.com for Vikes ticket information and news


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LIVING WITH DEMENTIA

An ongoing study seeks ways to improve dementia care in British Columbia

by Valerie Shore

For many baby-boomers, the symptoms are all too familiar—an elderly parent seems increasingly confused and has trouble coping with the most simple daily tasks. A long-term care facility is often the only option. But can this sort of environment give them the quality of life they need and deserve?

It's a question more and more families are grappling with as Canada's population ages. It's also a question being addressed by University of Victoria researcher Dr. Neena Chappell, an international authority on the social, psychological and environmental aspects of health care for seniors.

Working with 26 long-term care facilities in Victoria, the Lower Mainland and the Okanagan, Chappell and colleagues at the University of British Columbia–Okanagan and the Vancouver Island Health Authority are testing a series of new measures they have developed for evaluating the level of care provided to people with dementia.

Dementia is the progressive loss of intellectual functions—such as memory, language and reasoning—due to a disease process in the brain. As it worsens, it increasingly interferes with the person's ability to function

independently in everyday life. The most common form of dementia is Alzheimer's disease.

An estimated eight per cent of Canadians aged 65 or older suffer from dementia. As the population ages, the number of dementia cases in Canada is projected to rise to almost 800,000 by 2031.

As a result, long-term care facilities are becoming filled with people with dementia. "In B.C. well over 60 per cent of the residents in our nursing homes have dementia," says Chappell.

Nursing homes used to provide primarily "custodial care" for residents with dementia. Now, "individualized care" offers an environment tailored to the resident's unique emotional, social and physical needs.

"Individualized care is touted as the best care we can give a person with dementia," says Chappell. "But what we haven't known is how to effectively measure it. If we can't measure it, how do we know if we're providing it?"

Working with an expert panel, the study team developed the new measures after observing dementia care in six nursing homes over a three-month period. They're now being used in a long-term study in the 26 nursing homes to understand what aspects of care are most important for quality of

life for people with dementia.

"We can't cure dementia," says Chappell, "so the outcome measures for people with the disease are their mood, their expressive language skills, their physical functioning."

Most of the measures are collected from care staff, and focus on such aspects as how well they know each resident, how they communicate with other staff members and with residents, and how well they can assess a resident's degree of autonomy.

All of the measures are easy-to-use scales, says Chappell. "Administrators can use them to see where their staff need help in training. And families may be interested in using some of them to assess the care in the facility they've chosen."

The measures will soon be published and a validation study is taking place in Hong Kong. Other jurisdictions, including Alberta and the state of Michigan, have shown an interest.

The dementia studies have been funded by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research, the Alzheimer's Society of Canada, and the Canadian Nurses' Association.



DIANA NETHRCOTT

Chappell, right, with a long term care resident.

By 2031 the annual net economic cost of dementia in Canada will rise to \$12 billion if there are no advances in prevention or treatment.

Free course leads to healthier people and fewer medical costs

An evaluation of a free UVic course that teaches people how to live with chronic conditions—such as arthritis, diabetes, heart disease, lung disease, fibromyalgia and even mild depression—shows that the program is an overwhelming success.

Through the centre on aging, the chronic disease self-management program (CDSMP) provides free training to leaders, most of whom have a chronic condition themselves. Once trained, the volunteer leaders pair up to deliver the course for 2.5 hours per week for six consecutive weeks to groups of 10 to 15 people. This technique has many positive outcomes.

Since the start-up of the pro-

gram in April 2000 the CDSMP has trained 1,155 leaders throughout B.C. This has resulted in 530 courses being held in more than 80 communities across the province. Between April 2003 and March 2006, an analysis of 638 participants revealed statistically significant changes in 14 of 16 health outcome measures.

Participants reported that they were better able to self-manage their symptoms; believed they had better health; were less limited in their daily activities; were less depressed; had more energy; were less distressed with their health condition; were experiencing less pain; and felt the disease had less impact on their lives.

"By giving people the tools to cope with their chronic conditions, not only are we giving them a healthier life and greater self-confidence, but we're also decreasing their dependence on the medical system and therefore saving the taxpayers money," says Dr. Patrick McGowan, director of the centre's Ladner office and author of the evaluation.

McGowan has assisted other jurisdictions—Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and the Yukon—in starting their own programs. CDSMP is funded by the BC Ministry of Health. For more information visit www.coag.uvic.ca/cdsmp/cdsmp_research.htm or call 1-866-902-3767.

UVic startup receives FDA clearance

by Maria Lironi

A new medical device created by a UVic spin-off company—which enhances the ability of physicians to measure, monitor and track patients' pain—has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for sale in that country.

Palpometer Systems Inc.'s (PSI) sonic palpometer is a small, cordless device that transforms a physician's finger from its conventional role in gauging tenderness to a precise tool for measuring pain responses to highly specific palpation pressures.

For example, the palpometer could be used when measuring tender joints of people who have arthritis or fibromyalgia or to monitor response to


treatments in practice and in clinical trials. It can also be used as a teaching tool by health professionals.

"The sonic component allows for eye contact between the practitioner and the patient, enabling the practitioner to capture the pain response more accurately," says Dr. Christopher Atkins, president of PSI.

The sonic palpometer was created by UVic electrical and computer engineering professor Dr. Adam Zielinski, mechanical engineering staff member Art Makosinski, and Atkins.

With the help of UVic's technology transfer office—the Innovation and Development Corporation (IDC)—the trio formed PSI to help market the device. More information is available at www.palpometer.ca

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Lecture series celebrates municipal anniversaries

Celebrate the centennials of Oak Bay and Saanich by attending the Centennial Lecture Series at UVic this fall. The series will feature three world-class speakers: Roy Romanow, former Saskatchewan premier and leader of the Future of Health Care in Canada commission (Oct. 12); noted anthropologist and ethnobotanist Wade Davis (Nov. 7); and Canadian politician, broadcaster and diplomat Stephen Lewis (Nov. 17). The lectures are hosted by UVic and the municipalities of Oak Bay and Saanich, and sponsored by the CIBC. All ticket proceeds will go to the Oak Bay and Saanich Centennial Scholarship Fund at UVic. For more information visit communications.uvic.ca/media/centennial.

Send in your distinguished service nominations

Think your co-workers are doing a bang-up job? Then why not make their day by nominating them for a President's Distinguished Service Award? The awards are given annually to outstanding employees who have contributed to the betterment of the university and its community. Since they were established four years ago, 57 staff and student employees have received the award. Any employee or recognized student organization may nominate an individual, group or team to receive a commemorative plaque and \$1,000 for professional development (\$6,000 maximum in the case of team awards). The deadline for nominations is Oct. 31 and the winners will be announced at the president's holiday reception in December. More information and nomination forms are available online at web.uvic.ca/hr/pdsa or call 721-8088.

Grants support teaching development

UVic's learning and teaching development grants program has awarded more than \$78,000 in funding for 14 projects and research initiatives to support teaching innovation across campus over the coming year. Since 1995, the learning and teaching centre has awarded more than 160 such grants. This year's projects include: creating a digital video library for learning French, building a traditional Sencoten oceangoing canoe, making a web portal for trends in health informatics, and creating a hands-on component on stone tool-making for an anthropology course in lithic analysis. Descriptions of current and past learning and teaching development grant projects are available on the learning and teaching centre website at web.uvic.ca/terc/teaching_grants/index.htm.

Nominate an outstanding female colleague

Do you know a colleague, instructor, alumna or student who always goes the extra mile, is always available and happy to be of service, can answer any question, is a pleasure to be around, and is committed to the excellence of UVic? Members of the UVic community are invited to nominate one of their own for a Recognition Award to be presented at the 9th Annual Women's Conference, "Well Rounded, Well Grounded: the Whole Person." Nominate one of the women among us who has demonstrated outstanding performance, excellent leadership and made noticeable contributions which impact UVic and its surrounding communities. The nomination deadline is Dec. 15. For more information, go to web.uvic.ca/womennet/nomination.html or contact the awards committee chair, Michele Favarger, at 721-8424 or favarger@uvic.ca.

Snoozefest educates students on importance of sleep

Attention sleep-deprived people: UVic wants to help you "learn" how to sleep. Organized by the Student Transition Centre, Snoozefest is a new event that celebrates the benefit of sleep. "We recognized there was a need for educating students about the importance of sleep, and Snoozefest developed as an interactive and educational response to this," says George Robinson, event coordinator. Snoozefest takes place Monday, Sept. 18 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. in the Michele Pujol Room in the Student Union Building, and is open to the public. Visitors will have the opportunity to record their sleep patterns through sleep logs and take part in games such as sleeping bag races or the "great pillow joust." Presenters will speak on many sleep-related issues, including living with sleep apnea, yoga, and keeping active and sleeping well. For more information, contact Robinson at 472-4512 or georger@uvic.ca.

Unsolved mysteries continued from p.1

But who really made the discovery? Carmack was prospecting with his aboriginal wife and her family members. They told others they found the gold but decided it was safer to send a white man into civilization with the news. Still other accounts credit another prospector. Who is telling the truth?

The new websites will also incorporate the "Mysteryquest" feature, introduced earlier this year, which offers teachers assignments based on

the mysteries for younger students.

"Our aim is to teach the skills of a historian to students as young as middle-school age and then make the tasks more complex as they progress through to high school and university," says Lutz. "This way, Canadian youth will have a better knowledge and appreciation of Canadian history."

There are currently six unsolved mysteries on the website. Visit them at www.canadianmysteries.ca.



A DAY IN THE LIFE of Kim Wurban is spent finding rooms and times for 6,000-plus course sections. As the university's scheduling clerk, Wurban has seen many changes in the five years she's been on the job.

"The main changes are the growth of the university and an increasing preference for three-hour time blocks rather than the standard two- or three-times-a-week courses," she says. "We can accommodate most demands, although with the classroom crunch we do sometimes have to call departments to change room requests at the last minute. And we do everything possible to accommodate faculty and students with disabilities."

From September to April, Wurban is assisted by a sessional clerk. Timetabling this September term began last December. "Updating curriculum changes goes hand-in-hand with timetabling," she says, which means adding and deleting courses, updating pre-requisites, units, mutually exclusive courses, and cross-listing and grading, always matching the time-tabling system to the calendar.

Currently, the system is mostly manual. "Now that everything is on the web we have more leeway. Before, we had to print amendments to the timetable every couple of weeks. Getting all the 'rooming' done gives a real feeling of accomplishment."

"As registration starts, we get calls for changes in class maximums, which may require a room change, to close courses, add new sections or start wait-lists," she says. This is the time instructors usually check their rooms to make sure the right equipment is there. Making room changes



UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Wurban

at this point can involve a 10-way room swap.

Wurban is from Victoria and likes to camp and hike on Vancouver Island. Gardening and golfing are relaxations after work. "We used to make wine from scratch with grapes in our garden," she says, but now she's busy adding another floor to her

house. Whether it's work or home, Wurban laughs, "when I'm swamped, I'm in my glory."

If you would like to participate in this ongoing Day in the Life series, or would like to suggest someone to profile, contact Linda Sproule-Jones at 721-8486 or sproulel@uvic.ca.

University 101 continues to help those facing barriers

University 101, the popular program launched last spring for students facing barriers to post-secondary education, is back again this fall. The 10-week course offered at UVic's downtown campus was created by the faculty of humanities, and is taught entirely by volunteer faculty members.

"The success of this program is in creating a space that encourages people to be excited about learning," says Becky Cory, University 101 coordinator. "The faculty volunteers, those behind the scenes, and the students themselves create an environment that is very respectful and empowering."

Topics on the syllabus for the fall semester include classes on critical thinking, Canadian poetry, B.C. indigenous issues, and Hitler and the Holocaust. The program provides students with a warm meal, bus tickets, course material and childcare. Students also receive a UVic student card and have access to the university library. Last spring, 25 students attended the classes, and organizers are expecting similar numbers this time around.

"These people are coming because they have a passion for learning but haven't had a chance to be in a space where they can exercise that passion," says Cory. "We aren't measuring our

success by the number of people who go on to sign up for full-time courses at UVic, although many have applied. It's about making links between the students, the university and the wider Victoria community."

In spring 2007, the program will expand to offer courses from the faculty of social sciences.

University 101 is funded by UVic and through fundraising. There are many ways to volunteer with the program, as an instructor, or sitting on the steering committee. To volunteer or make a donation, contact Becky Cory at 361-7014 or uni101@uvic.ca. Charitable tax receipts are available.

ANTARCTICA: Passion and Obsession. Nature, Photography and the Art of Book Creation

Pat and Rosemarie Keough spent a decade creating the stunning art of the award-winning book *ANTARCTICA*. The continent, the photography and the book art will be explored in this fascinating two-part presentation. The Keoughs will share their extensive knowledge of wildlife, glaciology, and history of Antarctica. They will also relay the artistic challenges they encountered photographing imagery that evokes the sting of ice crystals on one's face, the clamour of penguin colonies, and the vulnerability of man in the immensity of this majestic wilderness.



THE PRESENTERS

Pat and Rosemarie Keough have received 21 prestigious international awards for *ANTARCTICA* for excellence of photography, book-arts, design, and printing. The Keoughs are Medallists of the Royal Geographical Society and Fellows of The Explorers Club.



Wednesday, October 25, 7 pm to 9 pm
Friday, October 27, 7 pm to 9 pm

\$31.80 (includes GST) ~ Both sessions take place on campus
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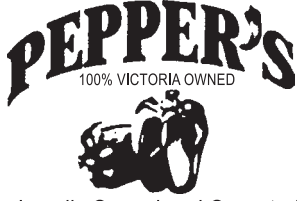
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Funding targets children, adults with special needs

The University of Victoria's Assistive Technology Team (UVATT) figures prominently in two grants totalling \$265,000 awarded by the B.C. government in July to the Garth Homer Foundation.

UVATT is a group of UVic faculty, students and staff who design, build and test customized devices for people with disabilities or special needs.

A \$125,000 grant will continue a partnership between UVATT and Garth Homer to develop online learning tools for young adults with developmental disabilities and their caregivers. Launched in 2005, the project is working with individuals in Victoria and remote communities to ease their transition from a school setting into the community-at-large.

"UVATT is responsible for developing the software and hardware that will be required," says Dr. Nigel Livingston, director of UVATT. "It is extraordinarily challenging but very exciting to be involved in such a program."

The new funding will allow researchers to track how well the technology has helped students make the transition out of school and into the community.

"While our initial focus will be on those with developmental disabilities," says Livingston, "our ultimate goal is to extend the program to the



GREGG ELIGH

UVATT team member Elaine Baird demonstrates an electromyography system—which uses muscle signals to control a painting program on a computer—to B.C. cabinet minister Stan Hagen during a special visit to UVATT in July. Hagen was Minister of Children and Family Development at the time.

entire special needs community and also build an extensive support and resource network for parents and caregivers."

An additional \$140,000 goes to UVATT for the continuing development of assistive devices that contribute to the independence of children and adults with disabilities. These include eye-tracking systems for children with visual challenges, motion and position sensors for children with cerebral palsy, and computer access for children who lack the dexterity to use a regular keyboard.

To date, the UVATT team has worked on more than 120 projects

and developed more than 25 new technologies. For more information on UVATT, visit www.uvatt.org or call (250) 213-2442.

The provincial funding was provided by the ministries of Employment and Income Assistance, and Children and Family Development.

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

Law prof heads south to study Canada-U.S. ocean issues

University of Victoria law professor Ted McDorman is heading to Washington, D.C., to examine the sometimes fractious nature of Canada-U.S. ocean disputes as a Fulbright Visiting Chair in Canada-U.S. Relations.

He'll spend five months at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, next door to the White House, examining the two countries' bilateral relationship across a wide range of ocean issues including maritime boundaries, navigation (especially the Northwest

Passage) and fisheries.

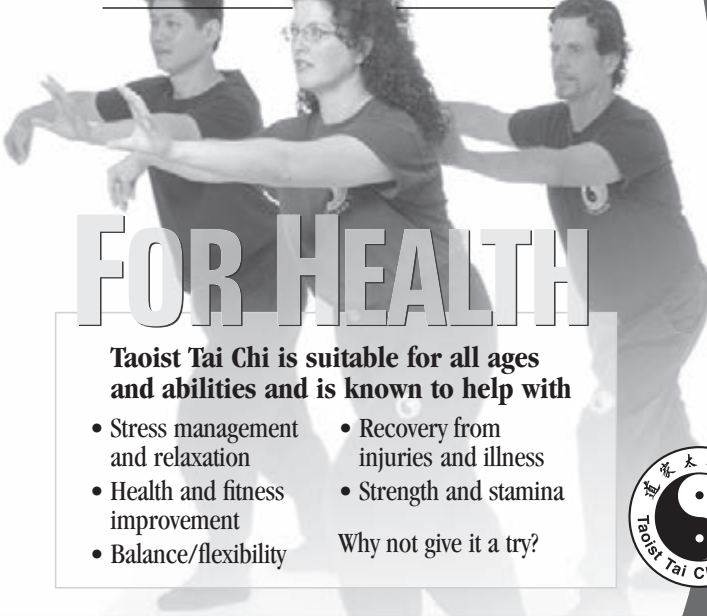
"The Wilson Center is amazing. I hope to take full advantage of its range of seminars and close proximity to the people who determine and influence the relationship between Canada and the U.S.," says McDorman.

An expert in ocean law and policy and international trade, McDorman spent two years as academic-in-residence in the legal bureau of the department of foreign affairs in Ottawa. "Canada is not always on the top of the U.S.

agenda, yet the relationship is usually very close," he says. "The U.S. interacts with, and relies on, us in ways the Canadian public wouldn't necessarily know about."

For 60 years the Fulbright international education and exchange program has involved 250,000 scholars in 151 countries. It was established to identify the best scholars in each country and engage them in exchanges consistent with the highest standards of the program. McDorman begins his appointment in January 2007.

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Calendarhighlights

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

At the Galleries

www.maltwood.uvic.ca
721-6562

Architectonics: John Di Castri and West Coast Architectural Modernism. Runs until Nov. 9. An exhibit of models, sketches and reproductions of Victoria artist John Di Castri's modernist architecture. Maltwood Art Museum & Gallery.

Roots, Remakes, Reflections: Global/Canadian Kaleidoscopes. Runs until Sept. 12. Works by nine Victoria artists who have cultural links to Asia. McPherson Library Gallery.

Tuesday, September 12

Co-op Information Day 10 a.m.–3 p.m. Find out how co-op works, learn about job opportunities, see samples of co-op projects. Michele Pujol room, Student Union Bldg. 721-6582

Wednesday, September 13

Music 12:30 p.m. *Lieder at Lunch.* The German Lieder repertoire with Sharon and Harald Krebs. MacLaurin B037. 721-7904

Friday, September 15

Fridaymusic 12:30 p.m. School of music students in a program for various instruments. MacLaurin B125. Admission by donation. 721-7904

Saturday, September 16

Lecture 7:30 p.m. Citizens' rights advocate Maude Barlow speaks on the looming water crisis and the need to recognize water as a human right. Univ. Centre Farquhar Auditorium. 721-8480

Sunday, September 17

Music 2:30 p.m. *Faculty Recital.* Alexandra Pohran Dawkings and friends celebrating her 20th year of teaching at UVic. MacLaurin B125 \$15 & \$11. 721-7904

Music 7 p.m. *An Acoustic Evening with Randy Bachman.* All proceeds donated to Frank Hobbs Elementary School for the purchase of playground equipment. Univ. Centre Farquhar Auditorium 721-8480

Wednesday, September 20

Lecture 3:30 p.m. *Searching for Dark-Matter Axions.* Leslie Rosenberg, Univ. of Washington. Elliott 061. 721 7700

Lecture 4 p.m. *Reflections on the State of Scholarship on the Qur'an.* Andrew Rippin, UVic. Strong C122. 721-6695

Friday, September 22

Fridaymusic 12:30 p.m. School of music keyboard students. MacLaurin B125. Admission by donation. 721-7904

Wednesday, September 27

Lecture 4 p.m. *Godless in America: Religious Cultures in Contemporary Society.* Gary Laderman, Emory Univ. Strong C122. 727-6695

Friday, September 29

Fridaymusic 12:30 p.m. School of music voice students. MacLaurin B125. Admission by donation. 721-7904

Saturday, September 30

Music 8 p.m. *Gala Concert.* Lafayette String Quartet. Proceeds to Breast Cancer Education and Awareness Fund. Univ. Centre Farquhar Auditorium. \$30/\$25. 721-7904

Wednesday, October 4

Lecture 4 p.m. *The Treasures of Sion: Questions of Cultural Appropriation.* Erica Dodd, CSRS associate fellow. Strong C122. 727-6695

Thursday, October 5

Lecture/Seminar 12:30 pm. *Strangers in a Dangerous Time: A Migrant Worker Labour Union in South Korea.* Mirni Harvey, Denison Univ., Ohio. 721-7020

2006/07 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, October 5.....	Wednesday, September 27
Thursday, November 2	Wednesday, October 25
Thursday, December 7	Wednesday, November 28
Friday, January 5, 2007	Friday, December 15
Thursday, February 1	Wednesday, January 24
Thursday, March 1.....	Wednesday, February 21
Thursday, April 5	Wednesday, March 28
Thursday, May 3.....	Wednesday, April 25
Thursday, June 7	Tuesday, May 29
Thursday, July 12.....	Wednesday, July 4

Board welcomes new student members

There are two new student members on UVic's board of governors this fall. Fourth-year English student Penny Beames and environmental studies master's student James Biggar were elected to the board last spring. Their one-year terms began July 1.

Beames first represented UVic students in 2004 as a director-at-large of the UVic Students' Society, and is currently fulfilling her second term as its chairperson. In her role as chair, Beames has consistently advocated for reduced tuition fees, more comprehensive student financial aid, and increased government funding to the university. She has also participated in the university's strategic plan review and renewal process and on administrative appointment and award selection committees.

Biggar says he ran for the board of governors because he sees so much potential for the university to be a



Biggar



Beames

catalyst for developing a healthy and sustainable region. He serves on the board of directors for UVic's Sustainability Project and the coordinating collective for the Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group.

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.

Online course evaluation moves forward

UVic students attending selected summer session courses were able to evaluate them by heading to their computers instead of filling out feedback forms.

The new web-based course experience survey (CES) was offered in six summer courses, the first phase of the survey implementation plan developed by a task group chaired by associate vice-president academic and student affairs Dr. Jim Anglin.

The trials tested the Web CT online system, which will be the tech-

nology used for conducting course evaluations in the future.

"Even though the number of courses used in the summer trials was limited, it did confirm that the online system works well," says Anglin. "While online response rates tend to be slightly lower than paper-based surveys, several strategies to enhance response rates for the electronic format are being implemented."

One of those strategies was a chance for students using the online survey to win \$100 gift certificates

for either the UVic Bookstore or Computer Store.

Phase two of the implementation plan will include widespread communication and training for all instructors and support staff on using the new online tool. While moving to the new survey tool requires a transition in administrative process and communication, Anglin says the task group is confident, based upon the experience of other universities, that the electronic approach is the most effective way to proceed.

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Report calls for more child-friendly court system

by Patty Pitts

Children need better support and should be consulted more about the legal decisions affecting them. That's according to a recent report on their participation in the province's family court system.

The report, *Meaningful Child Participation in British Columbia Family Court Processes*, is the result of a three-year project by the International Institute for Child Rights and Development (IICRD), based at the University of Victoria.

The review of the current state of young people's participation in family court proceedings, identification of good practices to support that participation, and suggestions for improvement included members from the B.C. bench and bar, as well as child rights experts.

Report recommendations include: appointing one caring adult to support each young person and their participation; making the court system less adversarial; and more education and training on how to support children for judges, lawyers and other decision-makers in the court system.

"We wanted to investigate how the views of children and young people currently are, or aren't, being heard in B.C. family court in custody, access and child protection issues," says Suzanne Williams, IICRD deputy director and legal advisor.

"According to the people involved in the court process, children don't always get information about what's going on in a way they understand, and adults don't always listen to them, especially if they're younger than 12-years-old."

Just one caring adult who takes the time to listen to a child can have a major impact on the quality of that child's experience in court, says Williams, who adds: "Involving young people and their views and submissions also can result in more timely resolution to court disputes which reduces court costs."

As a child, Tarryl McNamara was involved in the court process; as an adult she participated in the IICRD project. "I kept wishing I was 12, because then someone would listen to me," she says, recalling a court practice to only consult children more than 12-years-old.

The project conducted surveys, interviews and focus and discussion groups with more than 150 people across the province. It implemented a pilot project in Kelowna involving trained interviewers for the children; training sessions for involved lawyers, judges, and court house staff; and a streamlined practice to have the views of young people shared with judges in family court proceedings.

The project, originally planned for a three month duration, has been so successful it was extended until October.

Along with a continuation of the Kelowna initiative, the project's second phase involves developing a common court process framework and training modules for professionals involved in B.C. family court proceedings. Funding will be provided by the Law Foundation of British Columbia and the provincial Ministry of the Attorney General.

The report is available for download at: www.iicrd.org/familycourt.

Medical Sciences Building continued from p.1

sourced recycled and salvaged building materials, waste-water recycling and natural landscaping.

"The Medical Sciences Building combines sustainability with technology. The result is a durable, high-performance, low-impact building," says Jerry Robson, executive director of UVic facilities management. "The building has been performing exceptionally since it opened. The waste water recycling program, for example, has saved the Capital Regional District more than two million litres of potable water in its first year of operation."

The building was the first LEED building worked on by university staff and a number of local contractors and consultants. The lessons learned have

been transferred to a number of other building projects on campus and in the region.

UVic's recently completed engineering/computer science building is aiming to become UVic's second gold-level status LEED building on campus. The new social sciences and mathematics building, currently under construction, will also be registered in the LEED program.

All new building projects on campus, regardless of LEED status, feature a number of sustainability initiatives including high energy and water efficiency, locally sourced materials, natural landscaping, storm water management systems and enhanced indoor air quality.



Jansson, left and Benoit.

Voices on the street

A UVic study leads to a better understanding of why some young people end up on the street

by Debbie Willis

Two University of Victoria researchers are doing more than dropping coins in the palms of panhandlers. In the only study of its kind in Canada, the two sociology professors are listening to the voices of street kids.

"We're trying to get beyond the myths of who these youths are," says Dr. Cecilia Benoit. "We want to understand street youth from their perspective."

Since 2001, Benoit and Dr. Mikael Jansson have interviewed almost 200 people between the ages of 14 and 18, asking questions about social backgrounds, health issues and risk behaviours. All the youth interviewed are only loosely connected to their families and the educational system, and are involved in street activities such as panhandling, prostitution and selling drugs.

"They all have something to say and they want to tell their stories," says Jansson.

The project is unusual because it "follows" street youth over the long-term. Over five years, Benoit and Jansson have done up to three interviews each with more than 100 of the original participants. The researchers hope to continue the study for another five years, focusing on why some of the youth are able to move into employment or return to school, and others are not.

The study has led to a better understanding of what Jansson calls the "life trajectory" of street youth. For example, the study shows how wrong some misconceptions are about homelessness. Youth who sleep on the street do not necessarily

come from abusive families, as one common stereotype dictates, nor are they on the street because they're too lazy to find work.

Rather, many street youth come from unsettled home situations. Most were constantly moved around as children, from one guardian's house to another, or from foster home to foster home. Some lived in as many as 25 different places before the age of 13.

"It's not that they've been abused, or neglected for a short time," says Benoit. "Often, there's constant mobility. They [as children] had very little opportunity to bond with others, and lived in an environment where they had no security."

Many young people come to the street in search of consistency and a community, says Benoit, but instead they often find the same transience they experienced during their early lives.

The information will be useful for community partner organizations, such as the Victoria Youth Empowerment Society, the Prostitutes Empowerment, Education and Resource Society, and the Child and Family Counselling Association.

Benoit and Jansson also hope to influence government policy concerning street youth, who are increasingly becoming an issue in Victoria and elsewhere. "Globally, the number of youth detached from their families is growing," says Benoit. "They're an outcome, in part, of growing social inequality."

Most of all, Benoit and Jansson hope their study will help others to see beyond the stigma of homelessness, and realize that street youth are much like other

FAST FACTS

Most street youth in Victoria live on less than \$115 per week, usually acquired from friends, family, and welfare, and activities such as panhandling, theft and selling sex or drugs.

Only nine per cent of the youth interviewed by Benoit and Jansson had a job where they earned a wage, but 76 per cent said they had held a job in the past.

Street youth are more likely to use drugs than other teens. Forty-two per cent of male and female street youth said they had used crystal meth in the past six months, compared to less than three per cent of youth living at home. Eighteen per cent reported using heroin in the past six months, compared to less than one per cent of other youth.

teens. "They have friends and lovers, and they want jobs," says Jansson. "They want to join our community."

And, as with the best academic work, it's perhaps the researchers themselves who have learned the most. "We've been able to put aside some of our own biased views, and see these youth to be as complex as the rest of us," says Benoit. "They come from somewhere, and they are going somewhere."

The project is funded by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research.



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