Medical Sciences Building wins gold status
by Beth Haysum

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 Mufler, 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 problembased learning rooms, a clinical skills teaching room, a computer lab, and administrative offices for supporting students during their four-year program.

The UVic showcase 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 Lyoni

Dean of humanities Andrew Rippin and professor emeritus Patricia Roy are the University of Victoria’s newest fellows of 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 the website.

The new mysteries will be:

“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.”

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“Where is Vinland?”—About 1,100 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?

“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 add-on. 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 Acadia 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.

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“The Mystery Man of Baie Sainte-Marie”—In September 1865, 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 touristic 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

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 McNeill, (Orientation staff) and volunteers (from left) Kenny Chue, Matthew Liem, George Robinson, Anesh Nursing and Zrink Hadid. 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.
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 ecologists, 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 Bate Professor in the biology department at the University of Western Ontario, studies the reproductive biology of migratory 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 must 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, a sociologist, has been recognized for her outstanding contribution to educational research in Canada. Roth is a recipient of the Canadian Education Association’s 2006 CEA Whitworth Award for Educational 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.

Dr. Gordon Shrimpton, chair of Greek and Roman studies (Gordian Studies), which he chaired for more than two decades, has been recognized for his outstanding contribution to the advancement of the field of Greek and Roman studies. Michael Chase described him as “a breathing embodiment of Peter: “He was one of a breed that did not publish mountains of material, but was a superlative and deeply inspiring teacher.”

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 scholar 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 books on the Greeks, 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.

PUCE 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-year 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.

One of CUPE 4163’s key priorities for the negotiations was to improve working conditions for contract faculty. The members agreed to a two-year wage increase for all contract faculty.

Michael Fern (business) has received the prestigious Academy of Management entrepreneurship division’s Best Paper Award for his research into the 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.

Akhay Bahadur (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. Rather is currently pursuing a PhD in the area of power electronics with grid 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 Council university partnership program for internships this fall. Christina Morgan and Carron Rowlands will be working with the Society for Participatory Research in India (SPRI), a non-governmental organization that aims to strengthen the participation of marginalized groups in improving their socio-economic status through democratic governance. Canada Council 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 Hutchins is the 2006 winner of the Master Mentor Award from the American Psychological Association. The award honours the significant influence Hutchins 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 a recipient of the Canadian Education Association’s 2006 CEA Whitworth Award for Educational 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.

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of Euro-Canadian attitudes to East Asian immigrants and their descend-
ents cannot ignore her meticulously
documented 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.

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. “At-
mospheric 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 Patikng, Greenland. “The technique enabled researchers to investigate the changes in sources and sinks of atmospheric meth-
ane—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 un-
noticed by the public and some policy-makers,” says Schaefer, now
pursuing postgraduate studies at Oregon State University. “Its con-
centration 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 peat deposits 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 re-
search were featured in an article in the Aug. 25 edition of the inter-
national journal Science. Funding for the Canadian aspects of the work was provided by the Cana-
dian 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 Oceano-
graphy at the University of California—San
Diego.

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

by Patty Pitts
**LIVING WITH DEMENTIA**

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

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, Alzheimer’s Society of Canada, and the Canadian Nurses’ Association.

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**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.

Throughout 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 program in April 2000 the CDSMP has trained 1,355 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 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 Ladder 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.cog.uvic.ca/cdcmp/cdmp_research.htm or call 1-866-902-3767.

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**UVic startup receives FDA clearance**

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 sonic transducer’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’s electrical and computer engineering professors 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
around the ring
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, farmer Saskatchewan premier and leader of the Future of Health Care in Canada commission (Oct. 7), noted anthropologist and ethnohistorian 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 CBIC. 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 distinctive service nominations Think your colleagues are doing something special that isn’t being recognized? Then why not make your 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 $5,000 for professional development ($5,000 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/hrpds or call 721-8808.

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 1999, 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, developing a traditional Sencoten grampang cane, making a web portal for trends in health informatics, and creating a hands-on component on stone tool-making for an anthropology course in ethnoanalysis. Descriptions of current and past learning and teaching development grant projects are available on the learning and teaching centre website at web.uvic.ca/stransfer/teaching_grants/index.htm.

Nominate an outstanding female colleague Do you know of a colleague or 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.” Nomination deadline is Dec. 15. For more information or to webulicate a nominee visit web.uvic.ca/terc/womensConference. Nominations are due Oct. 31 and the winners will be announced at the president’s holiday reception in December. More information is available online at web.uvic.ca/terc/womensConference/awardscommittee/index.htm.

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 grants committee chair, Michele Faverger, at 721-8424 or favarger@uvic.ca.

Unsolved mysteries continued from p.3
Buckley Cory, who runs the UVic Psychology honours program, says there are currently six unsolved mysteries on the website. Visit them at www caulinnovations.ca.

ANTARCTICA: Passion and Obsession. Nature, Photography and the Art of Book Creation
In the second part, the Kensingtons will highlight the special role of book binding in the traditions and techniques that exist in the worlds of fine press and photography. Experience first-hand the visions and passion that has led these artists to create a volume designed to endure centuries.

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.”

If you would like to participate in this ongoing Day in the Life series, or would like to suggest someone to profile, contact Linda Sprengle-Jones at 721-8488 or sprenglej@uvic.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 editor, 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-hour courses,” she says. “We can accommodate more 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 seasonal clerk. Timetabling this September term began just 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 flexibility. Before, we had to print amendments to the timetable every couple of weeks. Getting all the ‘rooming’ done gets 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. “And in disaster situations usually check their rooms to make sure the right equipment is there. Making room changes 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 inspired, I’m in my glory.”

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At 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 or to webulicate a nominee visit web.uvic.ca/terc/womensConference. Nominations are due Oct. 31 and the winners will be announced at the president’s holiday reception in December. More information is available online at web.uvic.ca/terc/womensConference/awardscommittee/index.htm.

The Ring September 2006 Page 5
The University of Victoria’s Assistive Technology Team (UVATT) figures promise new in two grants totaling $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 Livingstone, 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 Livingstone, “our ultimate goal is to extend the program to the entire special needs community and also build an extensive resource network for parents and caregivers.”

An additional $40,000 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 for 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. interests 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.

Funding targets children, adults with special needs

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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 Livingstone, “our ultimate goal is to extend the program to the entire special needs community and also build an extensive resource network for parents and caregivers.”

An additional $40,000 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 for 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. interests 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.
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. 22. Works by nine Victoria artists who have cultural links to Asia. McPherson Library Gallery

Music 7:30 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 4 p.m. Reflections on the State of Scholarship on the Quran. Andrew Rippin, Uvic. Strong C212. 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. Gallus in America: Religious Cultures in Contemporary Society. Gary Laderman, Emory Univ. Strong C122. 721-6695

Friday, September 29
Fridaymusic 12:30 p.m. School of music voice students. MacLaurin B125. Admission by donation. 721-7904

Saturday, September 30

Wednesday, October 4
Lecture 4 p.m. The Treasures of Siou: Questions of Cultural Appropriation. Erica Dodd, CSRS associate fellow. Strong C212. 721-6695

Thursday, October 5
Lecture/Seminar 12:10 p.m. Strangers in a Dangerous Time: A Migrant Worker Labour Union in South Korea. MINI Harvey, Denison Univ., Ohio 721-7020

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 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 technology 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.”

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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’s Family Court Process, 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-room. “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. “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, writes Williams, who adds: “Involving young people and their views and submissions also can result in more timely resolution to dispute courts 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 that’s “especially if they’re younger than 12—going on in a way they understand, and always get information about what’s in the court process, children don’t...”

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 models 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.

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Report recommendations include:

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