The University of Victoria’s Board of Governors has approved a 2007/08 budget framework that provides increased resources for the growth of quality undergraduate and graduate student programs, student recruitment, student financial aid and library resources. The balanced budget framework, approved on UVic’s priorities for the next three years as identified in the university’s renewed strategic plan, was approved by the board at the end of January.

The 2007/08 budget framework reflects a projected operating budget of $267.6 million, which includes a provincial grant of $149.8 million—an increase of $9.4 million from 2006/07. In addressing its leading priorities, UVic will invest $3 million toward the growth of academic programs and the services required to support them, and $1.5 million in graduate and undergradu- ate student financial aid, ensuring the university remains a national leader in student financial assistance.

The budget framework is based on a projected 2.8% increase in the projected academic year of 212 full-time equivalent (FTE) undergraduate student positions and 155 FTE graduate student positions for a total funded equivalent enrolment of 15,619 full-time graduate and undergraduate students—an increase of $347 FTEs over 2006/07.

The framework contains a 1.8-percentage increase in revenue, established by the inflation rate set by the BC Consumer Price Index. The increase brings annual domestic arts and sci- ence undergraduate graduate tuition to $4,412. Domestic graduate annual tuition rises to $4,664 from $4,582, effective May 1.

The increase in graduate student spaces is an initiative funded by the provincial government in recogni- tion of the important role graduate students play in research, teaching and economic development.

“While this budget framework covers the coming year, it positions UVic for the future, as well, by allocating resources to the strateg- ical areas that deserve and require both our immediate and long-term attention,” says UVic President David Turpin. “This framework provides for additional students and makes resources available to ensure all students have a high-quality education experience both in and outside of the classroom.”

The framework allocates an addi- tional $300,000 for library acquisi- tions, $200,000 for research information systems and, in recogni- tion of the need for additional revenue sources for UVic to ac- cept its academic and research goals, $200,000 to support fundraising for the university’s priority areas including student scholarships and bursaries. The university’s efforts to recruit and retain outstanding faculty and staff receive an addi- tional $190,000 to promote UVic’s success in an increasingly competitive academic environment.

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**Conference presenters face off**

**By Patty Pitts**

Hockey may be Canada’s definitive game and arguably purest of the coun- try’s collective psyche but for many academics and writers, our national sport is also the focus of their research and writing. From April 19-21, men and women from around the world will gather at Victoria’s Grand Pacific Hotel for “Canada and the League of Hockey Nations,” a UVic-organized international conference examining the game from a variety of perspectives.

Conference organizer Jamie Dopp of the University of Victoria’s English department got the idea for the Victor- ian event after attending a similar gath- ering in Boston. “I thought, ‘Why not do something like that here?’ We’ve had a tremendous response that cuts across disciplines—English, kinesiol- ogy, history, sport management—and it will be an opportunity for people to get together, share new knowledge about the game and talk hockey.”

Several UVic researchers will be among the presenters. Writing profes- sor Bill Gaston (who, like Dopp, plays hockey) will discuss his latest book Midnight Hockey. Colleague Lorna Jackson (who does not play hockey) will participate on a panel on the challenges of writing about the game. English professor Miroslav Dejan will chair a panel on hockey and gender identity, and her col- league Doug Beadles will chair a panel on hockey and history. Panel participant and filmmaker Brett Kashmere will show Valeriy Kharlamov’s, his multimedia presentation about the 1972 Summit Series between Team Canada and Team USSR, with a focus on Bobby Clarke’s slash on the late Valery Kharlamov’s ankle that injured the Soviet star at a piv- otal point in the series.

Keynote speakers include: Harley Hipchick, part owner of the Calgary Flames and chairman of the NHL board of governors; University of Alberta political scientist David Whit- son, who is the co-editor of Artificial Ice: Hockey, Culture and Commerce; and Stephen Hardy, kinesiologist pro- fessor and coordinator of the sports studies program at the University of New Hampshire, who’s a former edit- or of Sport Marketing Quarterly and has written extensively about early hockey in America.

Presentations will examine the in- troduction of body checking in atom level hockey, how hockey culture re- acts to sport-related concussions, the history of women’s hockey, race and hockey, and a dissection of the contro- versial trade that sent Olympian Chris Pronger from Edmonton to the Anaheim Mighty Ducks last year.

Registration is still being ac- cepted for the conference. Visit www.confmanager.com/main. cfm?id=668 for program details and registration information or con- tact Dopp at 721-7251 or jdopp@ uvic.ca.

**U Vic law team off to world championships in Australia**

**By Christine Roulston**

There’s no need for UVic to argue that it stands out? “It’s a combination of fac- tors,” says law professor Andrew Pirie who, along with Steve Perlo and Marko Rusn, coached the team. “Nicole and Brianna show exceptional com- munication skills and the ability to empathize with the client. Judges are looking for communication skills, teamwork and legal knowledge.”

Mooting as it relates to client counseling involves two students conducting a client interview in front of judges with a client (played by an actor) who is seeking legal advice. The students know only the most basic information about the problem the client will bring forward and have 45 minutes to conduct an interview and offer preliminary advice.

U Vic law teams have already won the Western Canada Mock Trial Competition, placed second at the national mock trial competition in Ottawa and second in the Canada round of the Jessup International Moot Competition, qualifying the team for the world finals held last month in Washington, DC. “U Vic law attracts students who are interested in these skills-based ac- tivities and we have highly-skilled fac- ulty who are interested in coaching,” says Pirie. “We also have incredible support from the legal community, such as Heenan Blaikie, the law firm that supports students in traveling to the competitions.”

**Integrating planning informs budget process**

There are only 12 months’ worth of revenue and expenditures in UVic’s 2007/08 budget framework, but the coming year’s funding allocations are the result of an integrated planning process that considers priorities and strategic initiatives for the next two years as well.

Throughout the fall and winter of 2006/07, UVic’s vice-presidents engaged in a process that analyzed the goals and objectives in the university’s renewed strategic plan in the context of the current environment for post-secondary institutions and identified UVic’s highest priorities. They then determined what resources would be required to support strategies to address those priorities over the next three years.

“The budget is the outcome of our planning process,” says Vice-President Academic and Provost Jamie Cassels who led the planning initiative. “By looking three years ahead, we can determine how to put the university’s strategic plan into action and provide a sense of the resources that will be necessary to accomplish its goals. This gives departments and faculties a better idea of the context and helps them plan more effectively as well.”

UVic’s strategic areas of focus for the coming three years include: enhancing the quality of teaching and research programs in light of student growth, especially at the graduate level; completing and implementing a strategic enrollment plan to ensure that the best graduate and undergraduate students choose to come to UVic; the plan involves recruitment, financial aid, student success initiatives and residence expansion; developing initiatives to recruit and retain faculty and staff; expanding on community-based initiatives; increasing assistance to fundraising to support research and students; and developing a longer-term campus plan to address continuing space shortages for teaching, research and graduate students while also ensuring financial and environmental sustainability.

Not surprisingly, UVic’s strategic areas of focus and its priorities for the next three years align very closely with the new strategic plan. The integrated planning process is an ongoing one and will continue next year, with further input from the faculties and departments.
A national consortium of Canadian universities that has helped make thousands of electronic journals and online databases available to researchers in the sciences, engineering, health and environmental disciplines about to do the same for the humanities and social sciences.

In February, the Canada Foundation for Innovation awarded $19.1 million to the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN) to provide desktop access to a wide range of digital research content in the human and social sciences to its members—67 universities, large and small, including UVic. [See the Ring, March 2007.]

When leveraged with additional funding from universities and the provinces, the investment is expected to total $47.7 million.

UVic President David Tourpin, chair of the CRKN board of directors, describes the initiative as showing “how Canadian universities are collaborating on a large scale—across institutions, regions and disciplines—to advance research and innovation. CFN’s investment will provide Canadian scholars in the humanities and social sciences with a new level of access to digital resources.”

The initiative promises much more affordable and equitable access to digitized human and social sciences research content, including electronic journals, databases, conference proceedings and courseware.

Online availability of these resources is also expected to stimulate research collaboration across institutional and disciplinary boundaries and foster development of new methodologies, tools and online communities to address complex issues facing contemporary society.

The rate of digital publication in the social sciences and humanities, as in other fields, is increasing rapidly. But access by Canada’s 800,000 faculty and graduate students in the human and social sciences is uneven. Due to high purchase and subscription costs for e-resources, only the largest institutions in the world are able to supply their researchers with a comprehensive array of online resources in these fields.

This is where CRKN comes in. With its established expertise in content acquisition and its ability to negotiate based on a large membership, CRKN can obtain significant discounts in licensing and purchase agreements with Canadian and international publishers.

“Effectively levels the playing field so that small and medium-sized institutions can afford to provide these resources to their faculty and students,” says UVic’s University Librarian Marnie Stannaway, who served for two years on the CRKN board of directors.

“This initiative indicates increased acceptance of the importance and utility of digital resources,” says UVic’s Dr. Andrew Rippin, dean of humanities. “It fits in with so many of the activities in the digital realm going on in this faculty.”

“Today’s world of team research and highly mobile researchers, access to publications any time and any place is so important,” said Peter Kellett, dean of social sciences. “In today’s world of team research and highly mobile researchers, access to publications any time and any place is so important. In our collaborative research environment, we often can’t wait weeks for interlibrary loans in order to discuss current findings. Digital access also allows us to do so much more at no extra cost, such as colab reconstruction, animation and hyperlinking.”

**Digital upgrade for humanities and social sciences research**
We have won him a top provincial award.

Climatologist named BC’s top academic

by Valerie Shore

The efforts of a University of Victoria climatologist to understand the science of climate and weather—and communicate it to students, policy-makers and the general public—have won him a top provincial award.

Dr. Andrew Weaver, a professor in the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences, has been named Academic of the Year by the Confederation of University Faculty Associations of BC (CUFA-BC). The annual award honors a faculty member at a BC university whose academic research or scholarly activity has had a significant impact on the wider community.

"Andrew is being recognized for his work in engaging the public on climate change issues, and for his efforts to make weather science more exciting and comprehensible to elementary and secondary school students," says Robert Cliff, executive director of CUFA-BC.

Weaver is one of the world's leading authorities on climate change and the Canada Research Chair in Climate Change and Earth System Science, Weaver has served on many national and international committees. This February, he was one of 14 lead authors—and the only Canadian—of a key chapter on climate prediction in the fourth assessment of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

"Physics and mathematics are often perceived as difficult and irrelevant," says Weaver, who visits classrooms as often as he can. "What better way to demonstrate the relevance of science to kids than weather, something we see and feel every day?"

Weaver is the fifth UVic faculty member to be named Academic of the Year since the award was created in 1995. Previous winners were Nigel Livingston, director of the University of Victoria Assistive Technology Network; environmental studies professor Nancy Turner (2002), chemist Reg Mitchell (2000), and child and youth care professor Sibylle Arne (1999).

The CUFA-BC award recognizes "outstanding service, leadership and contributions by an academic member" to the university. The annual award honours a faculty member "on the basis of exceptional contributions to teaching, scholarship or administration that have significantly advanced the activities, standing and efficiency of the university in the public service."
Inaugural award honours social work grad

Miki Hansen, BSW ’88, received the inaugural Alayne Hamilton Community Social Worker Award at a ceremony hosted by the UVic School of Social Work and the BC Association of Social Workers March 28.

Hansen graduated the same year that World AIDS Day was conceived and adopted by 140 countries meeting at the first World Summit of Ministers of Health on the AIDS epidemic. Today, as executive director for AIDS Vancouver Island, Hansen is keenly aware of the scourge this disease has raked on the global community. She has just returned from Libode, South Africa, where AIDS Vancouver Island is working on a project focusing on bereavement support for children affected by HIV and AIDS.

The award is named in honour of the late founder of the Family Violence Project, the BC Violence Against Women in Relationships Committee and the Ending-Relationship Abuse Society of BC, who died in August 2006. Over 75 attendees were a testament to the loss that is felt throughout the social work community.

This award is one way of thanking Alayne for her passionate contributions to social work education and her commitment to social justice,” said Barb Whittington, award committee member and professor in the School of Social Work.

Other nominees included: Tomoko Okada, UVic Family Centre; Brenda Macerius, Esquimalt Neighbourhood House; David Turner, Professor, UVic School of Social Work; Jani Cardinal, Alzheimer’s Resources Centre; and Sander Mitchell, Camosun College Fort Nelson Program.

“I am humbled to be among this group of nominees, and my personal connection to Alayne and her family makes this tribute especially sweet,” says Hansen.

Most home caregivers coping well

By Beth Haysom

University of Victoria gerontologist Dr. Neena Chappell has good news for governments preparing to cope with the demands of an aging population—caregivers for seniors living in their own homes are doing just fine, thanks.

This was one of the findings in a three-year study of Vancouver Island caregivers undertaken by Chappell for the UVic Centre on Aging and presented recently to the Senate Committee on Aging in Ottawa.

Contrary to the widely-held belief that people caring for the elderly in their homes are close to burnout and living stress-filled lives, the in-depth study of 91 caregivers in Greater Victoria, Duncan and Nanaimo showed that most are coping well.

“In fact, for the most part, they are astonishingly resilient,” says Chappell, who is the Canada Research Chair in Social Gerontology and an internationally-recognized leader in the field of caregiving issues. “They (caregivers) may be burdened, but at the same time, their quality of life is often good; they are proud of what they’re doing and feel fulfilled.”

This is important information for government and agencies providing resources for a society in which about 25 per cent of its population will be over 60 by 2020, says Chappell. “Politicians are afraid that offering more supports for caregivers will open the floodgates of demands,” she says. “But the good news is that all the evidence points to the fact that this is not going to happen.”

Chappell’s advice to government and senior’s support agencies is to target resources for the minority of seniors’ caregivers who are struggling to cope and to ensure that home support provided generally for seniors who are struggling to cope and so are being burdened, but that at the same time, their quality of life is often good; they are proud of what they’re doing and feel fulfilled."

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The study “Most Canadian families do look after their aging parents and it very well.”

Budget continued from p.1

environment, while $200,000 more is allocated to student recruitment and parking funds the highly successful TDM (transportation demand management) program, which has led to a 50 per cent reduction in traffic to campus over the past ten years—despite a 15 per cent growth in the student population.

Through careful financial management, UVic is able to allocate $5.8 million in 2007/08 to provide for growth, quality improvements and its strategic initiatives.

really big purchasing power.

When you’re purchasing for your department, you need to make the most of your money. For three years, we’ve been official suppliers to UVic, helping departments stock up at budget-stretching prices. Need help? Talk to Mike, our super UVic Account Manager.
Two University of Victoria scientists have received federal funding to conduct cutting-edge research in the Arctic.

Dr. Jay Cullen, faculty member in earth and ocean sciences, and Alana Kronstal, master's student in the Studies in Policy and Practice program, will be contributing researchers toward the International Polar Year (IPY), a large scientific program focused on examining physical, biological and social issues in the Arctic and the Antarctic.

IPY is organized from March 2007 to March 2009 through the International Council for Science and the World Meteorological Organization and involves over 200 projects, with thousands of scientists from over 60 nations.

“IPY takes place only every 50 years, and this year, as climate change has moved to the forefront, it's exciting to be a part of this,” says Cullen. “Nowhere are the effects of climate change more pronounced than in the polar regions.”

Cullen is part of an 11-member research team from six institutions that will study climate change and its effect on Arctic ice cover.

Sea ice plays an important role in the biological productivity of the Arctic. The growth of marine algae is highest at the ice edge during the brief summer period. Algae provide the main source of nourishment for fish—algae can also serve to remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.

“Will the Arctic be as productive as the climate warms?” asks Cullen. “That is what we want to determine. We know as sea ice melts more light reaches the water, spurring the growth of algae. We also know that more productivity in the ocean means less carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. But we’re not sure if, on the whole, ice melting will enhance this carbon dioxide exchange or have the opposite effect.”

Specifically, Cullen will look at how changing ice cover may affect the distribution of iron in the ocean, an element that all organisms, including algae, need to survive.

On the social side of life in the Arctic, Alana Kronstal is part of a team looking into how rapid industrial development and climate change in the North impacts residents' health and well-being.

Growing up in Yellowknife, Kronstal witnessed first-hand the impacts of new development.

“I wondered why certain groups benefit while others do so poorly in the face of wealth and development,” says Kronstal. After completing a BSc in health promotion, she returned to the North to work in community-based research in the Northwest Territories and Yukon.

Before beginning her master’s at UVic, Kronstal began to look into how she could get involved with an IPY project. She is now a co-investigator on a multidisciplinary project led by a Canadian-Norwegian research team studying the risks and benefits of oil and gas activity on people in the Arctic using a multiple securities perspective.

“Multiple securities means looking at human security in a broad context,” says Kronstal. “Instead of just focusing on things like national security, it takes into account various facets of security, such as human health and environmental security.

Kronstal’s contribution to the project involves examining how changes in the Arctic are affecting local indigenous communities and the ways in which they are responding to these changes.

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Warm welcome for new director of Indigenous affairs
Fran Hunt-Jinnouchi (above left) was welcomed as director of UVic’s Office of Indigenous Affairs at a celebration March 8 at the University Club. BC Regional Chief for the Assembly of First Nations Shawn Atleo (at right) attended, as well as many students and members of the Indigenous community. The Office of Indigenous Affairs, which replaces the former Aboriginal Liaison Office, has an expanded role and mandate in keeping with the university’s goal to be the university of choice for Indigenous students. Both the office and position are unique among BC universities and reinforce UVic’s strong commitment to Indigenous education.

Masterminds
Lectures and art by UVic retirees to nourish the mind and soul

It’s not a quiz show, but a chance for you to learn from a lifetime of research, creativity and involvement by active University of Victoria retirees. The UVic Retirees Association and the Centre on Aging—with support from the university—are presenting a series of four lectures and an art exhibit. The Masterminds 2007 lecture series will be held on four consecutive Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in the Hickman Building, room 105.

On April 11, Dr. Elizabeth Tumasonis will speak on “Is There Art After 60? Late-Life Style in Art.” Her lecture will survey the later works of long-lived artists such as Michelangelo, Rembrandt, Goya, Monet, Picasso, Manette and O’Keeffe, who created some of their most beautiful, powerful and innovative works after 60.

“Does Air Travel Make You Sick? Air Quality in Small Spaces” will be the topic of Dr. Martin Hocking on April 18. He will discuss aircraft cabin air quality and ventilation and briefly relate this information to other enclosed spaces, such as submarines and spacecraft.

Dr. Mary-Wynne Ashford will speak on “War as a Preventable Disease” on April 25. She will discuss the role of a civil society in preventing war.

“The Curious Mind: An Exploration of the Creative Process” will be the topic of Dr. W.D. (Bill) Valgardson on May 2. He will focus on the inner workings of the creative process, and helping writers and others to maximize their potential.

Please register for the lectures by calling 472-4473 and plan to arrive early, because seating will be limited.

In addition, the UVic Retirees Association is hosting an art exhibit from April 13 to June 7 in which the diversity and talents of 22 artists will be showcased at the Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery. The gallery is open Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission to all of the Masterminds events is free. For more information visit www.uvic.ca/masterminds.

Start Strong
Camosun’s Spring/Summer Continuing Education programming includes:

- AutoCAD Summer Institute
- Computer Training
- Woodworking Summer Institute

Email cecila@camosun.bc.ca if you’d like the Camosun calendar mailed to you.

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UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

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The Coolest Milk 2 Go!
Tuesday, April 10
Stressed? Come walk the labyrinth. Find some calm in the midst of a stressful day. Simple instructions for meditative walking of the labyrinth are posted. April 10-11, 16-19, 23-26. Interfaith Chapel. 721-8518

Wednesday, April 11
Masterminds Lecture 7 p.m. “Are We Afraid of the Future?” Panelists: Dr. Neil McWilliam, UVic; Dr. Janice R. Hahn, University of Victoria; Dr. P. Roy Vagelos, University of Pennsylvania; and Dr. William P. Lauder, Harvard University. Hickman Bldg., 105. Register 472-4473 www.uvic.ca/masterminds

Wednesday, April 18
Masterminds Lecture 7 p.m. “Do Air Travel Make You Sick? Air Quality in the Home and on Board.” Panelists: Dr. Bruce Pullen, UVic; Dr. A. Andrew Badger, UVic; and Dr. J. William Vetter, University of Victoria. Cornett A228. Register 472-4473 www.uvic.ca/masterminds

Wednesday, April 25
Masterminds Lecture 7 p.m. “War as a Preventable Disease.” Dr. Mary-Wynne Ashford, Adjunct Prof. in UVic’s School of Child & Youth Care. Hickman 105. Register 472-4473 www.uvic.ca/masterminds

Wednesday, May 2

Podcasting the UVic Experience
UVic Communications, students from the professional writing department and the folks at CFUV, have collaborated to produce a pilot UVic podcasting program this spring. Called UVic This Week, the five-minute cast covers happenings on campus and upcoming events and takes listeners deeper into the UVic experience.

The “Who’s Who” feature segment introduces those behind the campus scene, and “Question of the Week” samples students’ responses to timely topics from dealing with daylight savings time disorientation to coping with end-of-term stress.

The goal is to showcase the elements that comprise the UVic experience and explore what makes the University of Victoria distinct.

A new cast is posted on UVic’s homepage each Wednesday and can also be accessed at http://communications.uvic.ca/podcasting along with past casts. Based on the success of the spring pilot, the program will be launched in September after a summer hiatus.

The Ring April 2007
A DAY IN THE LIFE OF DON BRIEN NEAN is spent multi-tasking—serving people in line, answering phones, tracking books, handling email requests about renewing or recalling books and selling vending cards for copiers and printers. Brennan is a library assistant in Access Services, working primarily at the main loan desk. He is the voice on the public address system announcing the library closing every night. “At the loan desk, time goes fast. On an average day, we check in or out more than 2,500 books and answer about 1,800 questions. Our job is public service,” he says.

Staff take turns “discharging” books: checking them when they are returned, readying them for shelving. Claims return processing is a constant. It’s a never-ending project. “The system is designed in a way that doesn’t prioritize claims returns,” says Brennan. “It’s all about getting books back out to the reader.”

Staff members take turns answering the public address system announcements. “The announcements come in over my headset and I have to listen carefully on what I need to say,” says Brennan. “I always try to make sure I say the right things.”

In the life of Brennan

Multimedia artist Lianne Martinse (visual arts) has been honoured with a $12,000 VIVA award from the Jack and Doris Shadbolt Foundation for the Visual Arts. Brennan has been selected to be a 3M Fellow of the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education.

Dr. Aaron Devor

A Ring has been appointed for a second five-year term as dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, effective July 1. Devor joined UVic in 1989 to teach in the Department of Sociology and received his doctorate from the University of Washington shortly thereafter. He served as associate dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences from 2000-02 and as dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies from 2002-07. His scholarship has been recognized by his election as a Fellow of the Society for the Study of Sexuality, and his teaching has been honoured by his selection as a JM Fellow of the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education.

Wendy Gedney

The Ring April 2007

Wendy Gedney (education) ’93 was honoured at a Faculty of Education recognition reception March 16 as the recipient of the 2006 Distinguished Education Alumni Award. Her contributions to the field of elementary teaching and learning are legendary. She has found a way to integrate music, sports, environmental awareness, global arts, the importance of poetry, living in a multi-cultural society, gardening, global citizenship, being hip and having fun into her classrooms at Doncaster Elementary, James Bay Community School, Lampson Street School, McKenzie Elementary and Gordon Head Elementary. She is founding chair of the Faculty of Education Alumni Chapter and has volunteered for the Royal Jubilee Hospital, the Labatt’s Briar, Commonwealth Games, B.C. Festival of the Arts, Babe Ruth Baseball Tournaments and B.C. Summer Games. Other honours included recipient of the Faculty’s Award of Teaching Excellence. Drs. John Durkin and Brian Harvey (educational psychology and leadership studies)

Zoë had an inquisitive mind and always wanted to get to the bottom of things. She was a vibrant young woman who embraced life with an infectious smile and laughter in her eyes. Zoë had an ebullient personality and was ready to explore life and all it had to offer. She was also a dedicated student who immersed herself in her studies. For an instructor, it was a pleasure and a treat to have her as a student. Zoë had an imaginative mind and always wanted to get to the bottom of things.

Even when faced with having to understand complex concepts and having to memorize a lot of details, she never lost her sunny disposition, ready smile and sense of humour. For her colleagues, she was missed not only for her work but also as a valued member of study groups, some of which she organized, and as an active contributor to group projects. She touched everyone whom she met and brightened their day. She will be missed dearly by all who knew her.

By Maria Lironi

A group of computer, electrical, mechanical and software engineering students—known as UVic’s Autonomous Underwater Vehicle Design Team (AU(V)ic)—has won two national engineering awards.

The students are building an autonomous underwater vehicle—a small robot that is capable of completing intelligent tasks without aid from human operators. AUVs are used extensively in science, industry and the military. Scientists use AUVs to study the ocean and the ocean floor. Oil and gas companies employ AUVs to make detailed maps of the seafloor before they start building subsea infrastructure. These maps allow for cost-effective installation of pipelines with minimal disruption to the environment. A typical military mission for an AUV is to map an area to determine if there are any mines.

The team took its project to the Canadian Engineering Competition (CEC) last month in Saskatoon and won first place in CEC’s innovative design competition as well as a special award for technical excellence.

“An individual who work on this project day and night it was exciting for us not to only see our work pay off but to see the excitement it aroused throughout the entire competition,” says AU(V)ic team leader Matt Burdunt.

“It has been exciting to watch the AU(V)ic team mature under Matt’s leadership,” says Dean of Engineering Dr. Michael Miller.

“The interdisciplinary student-led project expands greatly on the students’ educational experience combining technical, community and project management tasks. It shows what our excellent students are capable of,” Miller says.

The CEC is an annual event attended by 150 engineering students from across Canada. It promotes communication, design, and ingenuity—encouraging students to develop their professional skills in a competitive environment. The event also fosters an important link between Canadian engineering students, industry, government and academia.

For more information about AU(V)ic visit www.engr.uvic.ca/auvic.