Renewed strategic plan approved

The university's renewed strategic plan—A Vision for the Future: Building on Strength—was approved by the senate and board of governors in January.

The renewal process, led by the planning and priorities committee, began in the fall of 2005 with the publication of the Progress Report on the Implementation of the Strategic Plan. During the winter and spring of 2006, the committee held over 60 consultations on and off campus, focusing on the future directions of the university. Students, faculty, staff, retirees, alumni and others in the community also provided written input.

The consultations reaffirmed the direction established in A Vision for the Future (the university's strategic plan approved in 2002) and endorsed the university's four goals under the headings of People, Quality, Community and Resources. A draft of the university's four goals under the Future Plan. During the winter and spring of 2006, the committee held over 60 consultations on and off campus, focusing on the future directions of the university. Students, faculty, staff, retirees, alumni and others in the community also provided written input.

The consultations reaffirmed the direction established in A Vision for the Future (the university's strategic plan approved in 2002) and endorsed the university's four goals under the headings of People, Quality, Community and Resources. A draft of the renewed plan was prepared over the summer of 2006 and published for comment last fall.

In response to changes in the post-secondary environment, the renewed plan emphasizes the importance of recruiting highly qualified students at all levels and fostering their success, expanding graduate programs, recruiting and retaining outstanding faculty and staff, maintaining momentum in research, and promoting diversity, civic engagement and environmental sustainability.

"A huge number of people participated in the renewal process, for which I'm extremely grateful," notes David Turpin, president and chair of the planning and priorities committee. "I look forward to continuing to work with all members of the university community in the years ahead to accomplish the goals we have established for ourselves."

The strategic plan will be distributed widely beginning in mid-February. In the interim, the text-only version of the final plan is available as a PDF document on the UVic website at http://web.uvic.ca/strategicplan/

Are we killing the world's oceans?

Forum addresses human impacts on the seas

How will global warming affect ocean circulation and sea levels in the centuries to come? Are we destroying the world's coral reefs? Why are dead zones in the oceans on the rise? Can aquaculture be environmentally sustainable? And how are we all responsible for the collapse of coastal fisheries?

Want to hear some answers from world experts? And discuss with them some of the steps we can all take to reverse the damage?

Then plan to attend a Feb. 21–22 public forum at the University of Victoria on “Are We Killing the World’s Oceans? Presented by UVic and RSC. The Academies (formerly

Champion of human rights to visit

Sally Armstrong delivers “Lived Rights” lecture

Her quest to expose human rights violations and campaign for equal rights for women has taken her to many of the world’s most troubled areas and next month Sally Armstrong will speak at UVic about her extraordinary life.

Armstrong will discuss “Human Rights—Human Wongs” on March 9 at 5:30 p.m. in Fraser 159 as part of the “Lived Rights” lecture series sponsored by the International Women’s Rights Project in UVic’s Centre for Global Studies.

A former editor of Homemakers magazine, a contributing editor to Maclaren’s magazine and an Amnesty International Award winner, Armstrong is also the author of Veiled Threat: The Hidden Power of Women of Afghanistan and the forthcoming The New Lion of Charlotte Taylor: First Woman Soldier on the Mireswids.

Armstrong’s stories and documentary films from conflict zones such as Bosnia, Somalia and Rwanda have earned her many awards. She’s served as a director with the Canadian Institute of Strategic Studies and the Lester B. Pearson Canadian International Peacekeeping Training Centre.

Armstrong’s 1997 story for Homemaker’s on the plight of Afghan women was one of the first stories to be filed from the region following the Taliban takeover. It was one of several hard-hitting stories Armstrong featured in the magazine after becoming its editor in 1988.

Her journalism career started when the former teacher and expectant mother wrote some articles on fitness and nutrition for Canadian Living. Her assignments soon became more varied and topical. In 1998 she was named a member of the Order of Canada and in 2002 she was named UNICEF’s Special Representative to Afghanistan.

Uvic appoints first director of Indigenous affairs

By Christine Roulston

Frances (Fran) Hunt-Jinnouchi is a strong advocate of listening to a person's needs and then acting accordingly.

“it's important to respond to the students' needs and the needs of the Aboriginal community instead of just saying, ‘This is what we have to offer,'” says the newly appointed first director of UVic’s new Office of Indigenous Affairs. “Once we understand their needs, things can start to fall into place. It might involve alternative forms of education, such as field centres, where educational programs can be delivered in the community.”

That's kind of forward thinking that makes Hunt-Jinnouchi a perfect fit for the new Office of Indigenous Affairs, which replaces the former

SEE INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS P.6

Aboriginal Liaison Office, and 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.

“it feel we are on the threshold of an incredible movement at UVic and I'm looking forward to assisting in the process,” says Hunt-Jinnouchi, who puts building relationships with Indigenous students and partnering with Vancouver Island’s Aboriginal communities at the top of her priority list.

Hunt-Jinnouchi will also play a key and influential role in developing UVic policy, says Associate Vice-President of Student and Alumni Affairs John Rice.

SEE OCEANS FORUM P.2
Weaving traditional education with hands-on learning

Course instructor Charlene George (third from right) and UVic students put the final touches on the Earth Fibres textiles mural. Artists and mentors worked together with Indigenous fabric and textile arts while learning about the traditional stories and songs associated with each textile piece. The group unveiled the project in a special ceremony on Jan. 12.

Back to the future

UVic scientists use advanced computer models to simulate past climates — and help shape future climate change policies

Climate changes, that’s a fact. Twenty thousand years ago, Victoria was covered by kilometer-thick ice and the average global temperature was four degrees colder. Now, with overwhelming evi- dence that human activities are increasing global temperatures, University of Victoria climatolo- gist Andrew Weaver is asking a key question: can the study of past climate changes help us predict future ones?

Understanding Earth’s climate system is no trivial matter. Climate is incredibly complex, involving interactions among the atmosphere, ocean, biosphere and cryosphere (snow and ice surfaces).

One approach researchers can take is to design sophisticated com- puter models to simulate past, present and future climates. These models act as virtual laboratories, allowing researchers around the world to add a perennial to the climate modelling world.”

To this end, Weaver’s team is entitled to be one of the first research groups in the world to add a perma-

One climate puzzle that Weaver is investigating with the model is how past climate changes are linked to the global carbon cycle. Carbon dioxide and methane are continuously exchanged among the atmosphere, oceans and biosphere. Understanding this exchange is es-

One of the key missing links in the carbon cycle is permafrost, which is basically a huge frozen carbon reserve. “It’s a large part of the carbon cycle and global climate system,” notes Weaver. “Yet it has received little detailed attention in the climate modelling world.”

This latest report is sending the strongest signal possible to governments around the world that informed policy is urgently needed to determine a course of action for the future, he says.” The ecological and socio-economic consequences of inaction will be dramatic, within our lifetimes.”

FastFact

Carbon dioxide is the major greenhouse gas released into the atmosphere by human activities. Since the start of the industrial revolution, carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere have increased by 36 per cent—and are still rising.

Letter

Sharing time between classes

Over the past few years I have noticed an increase in what I shall call, for want of a better term, “techno-illiteracy.” The term refers to the following situation, which has occurred during the past three years. I have just finished lecturing and the time is, say, 20 minutes past the hour. Hardly has the last syllable of my lecture left my mouth when the person who next lectures in the same room rushes in and begins to set up screens and use the edited PowerPoint. This is how past climate changes are investigated with the model

One of the key missing links in the carbon cycle is permafrost, which is basically a huge frozen carbon reserve. “It’s an important part of the carbon cycle and global climate system,” notes Weaver. “Yet it has received little detailed attention in the climate modelling world.”

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New magnets attract international attention

By Christine Roulston

Researchers at the University of Victoria have discovered new lightweight magnets that could be used in making everything from extra-sharp magnetic computer memory to ultra-light spacecraft parts. A paper on the study appeared in the Jan. 18 edition of Nature, a prestigious international science magazine.

For decades, researchers have attempted to create an alternative to conventional pure metal or metal alloy magnets, which are heavy, inflexible and can only be produced under high temperatures.

The team, led by UVic chemist Dr. Robin Hicks, discovered a simple method for making a new family of organic-based magnets by combining nickel and one of three different organic compounds. The discovery is the first step in designing the next generation of magnets, which could, in theory, be easily manipulated at room temperature.

“The sky’s the limit for these magnets, in principle,” says Hicks. “Suppose you want to make a particular shape of magnet—these magnets could be dissolved in solution and shaped into a different form.”

“Conventional magnets are a ubiquitous part of everyday life, controlling everything from computers to cars, so I believe these new, highly processable magnets could have endless applications.”

The serendipitous discovery occurred while Hicks’s postdoctoral student Dr. Raj Jain was working with an established recipe for making low-temperature magnets. Jain discovered that, by altering the ways in which the chemical reactions were conducted, he could make substances with room-temperature magnetic properties. In the months that followed, Jain and Hicks analyzed the magnets to determine that they had in fact created a new form of magnet.

The discovery is an important milestone in Hicks’s research career, which, for the past 10 years at UVic, has focused on manipulating molecules to make new organic compounds that have extraordinary electronic, magnetic or optical properties.

His outstanding contributions to chemistry research were recognized in 2005 with the award for Pure or Applied Inorganic Chemistry from the Canadian Society of Chemistry and in 2003 with UVic’s Craigdarroch Silver Medal for Research Excellence and the Faculty of Sciences Award for Research Excellence. Hicks’s team of five graduate students will continue to fine tune this next generation of magnets to further develop their processability and commercial potential.

Grade-12 students with offers of admission from the University of Victoria, and other high school students curious about student life on campus, are being invited to “Experience UVic” on May 26. This event will give students and their parents the opportunity to tour the campus, take part in mini-lectures, meet with current UVic faculty and students and learn more about student support services.

“We’ll also have the opportunity to spend a night in the residence room and receive advice about choosing and registering for their first-year classes.”

Plans for the event are still being finalized, but email notification to students and their families and postcard notification to schools in BC, Alberta and elsewhere will begin later this month.

This is the first time in many years that UVic has held a campus visit for prospective students, although it is common practice at other BC universities. UVic does offer campus tours on a regular basis throughout the year to interested individuals and groups, and research shows that students who come to the campus are typically very impressed and much more likely to study at UVic as a result of this visit.
January 20 was a day to remember for the University of Victoria and the Department of Athletics and Recreation, as centre court in the McKinnon Gymnasium was officially named Ken and Kathy Shields Court.

The honour was bestowed upon the long-time UVic coaches for their exceptional contribution to Vikes athletics, the university and basketball in Canada. Combined, the couple coached 35 seasons at the university and captured 15 CanadianInteruniversity Sport championships. It is a fitting tribute for the pair, as their teams owned the hardwood in McKinnon, as is evidenced by their win-loss record. Over 22 years, Kathy’s teams picked up 183 home victories, while losing just 12 times. Ken’s record is just as outstanding as Kathy amassed 337 wins, with his squads winning 98 home and capturing 15 Canadian Interuniversity Sport championships.

Ken and Kathy Shields Court logo.

In their address to the crowd, both were quick to point out that their success was due to their players’ hard work and commitment to excellence. Kathy spoke directly to their former players and said, “It is your sweat, your tears, and your blood that are represented in our names on this court.”

The ceremony was capped off with a banner raising commemorating the day and a presentation to Ken and Kathy of an exact replica of Ken and Kathy Shields Court.

Earlier in the day, a fundraising luncheon was held at the Harbour Towers Hotel and Suites. All proceeds from the sell-out event go to the Ken and Kathy Shields Basketball Fund, which provides financial assistance for student-athletes with the Vikes basketball program.

The luncheon crowned 250+ tributes from former players, coaches and the like of Steve Nash (Phoenix Suns), Dvon Nelson (Dallas Mavericks) and Del Harris (Dallas Mavericks). The highlight of the afternoon was a video presented to Ken and Kathy by A-Channel Vancouver. The emotional tribute had the whole house in tears as it walked through their careers as coaches. The tears were a strong sign of the impact that Ken and Kathy had on many as coaches, role models and mentors and of the legacy they have left for the university and Vikes athletics.

It’s common knowledge that UVic people make a difference in the community—and on Jan. 24, four such people were honoured for their contributions with Victoria’s Leadership Awards.

The Lifetime Achievement Award went to Ronald Lou-Poy, UVic’s chancellor and a prominent lawyer known for his deep commitment to the Greater Victoria community. As a volunteer, Lou-Poy works tirelessly with the Victoria Police Board, the Kiwanis Club, the United Way, Victoria Crime Stoppers and the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association.

The Lou-Poy family’s generosity extends to their financial support for the Harry Lou-Poy Infant and Toddler Child Care Centre at UVic, named for Lou-Poy’s father, and the May and Ron Lou-Poy Fund of Excellence in the Faculty of Law.

Faculty members Glenn Gallins and Ian MacPherson (retired) were recipients of the UVic Community Leadership Awards, which salutes exemplary leadership in linking UVic and the community for greater public benefit.

Over the past 28 years, thousands of people—of limited means in the Capital Region have gained legal information and representation from law students working under Gallins’s supervision at the Law Centre. In his role as teachers, lawyers, mentor and administrator, Gallins has been the driving force behind the centre. By passing on his knowledge, skills and values to students, he has helped to build a community in which every- one, regardless of income, can access the legal services they require.

For more than 30 years, Ian MacPherson focused his energies on understanding and improving co-operative organizations and co-operatives. He points out that UVic students work for co-operative organizations and co-operatives, which are represented in our names on your sweat, your tears, and your blood.

There will be a special event preceding the Feb. 21 free public lecture by fisheries scientist Daniel Pauly (see “Are We Killing the World’s Ocean?” on p. 1). Canadian poet P.K. Page will be inducted as a fellow of RSC. The Academies (formerly the Royal Society of Canada) in a short ceremony prior to the Pauly lecture.

During a long and distinguished career, Page has crossed virtually every boundary as a poet, novelist, script writer, playwright, essayist, journalist, libertarian, teacher and activist. She has published over 20 dozen books, provided librettos for leading composers, and had numerous exhibitions of her art. Her writing has been recognized with many awards, from the Governor General’s Award for Poetry in 1954 to the Trasac Life Time Achievement Award. She was made an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1977, and raised to a Companion in 1999.

Page received an honorary degree from UVic in 1985. RSC. The Academies is the senior national body of distinguished Canadian scientists and scholars. Its primary mandate is to promote learning and research in the arts and sciences.

The induction and lecture begin at 7:30 p.m. in the University Centre Farquhar Auditorium.
VENUS TEAM CELEBRATES SUCCESS OF PROJECT

by Deb Smith

At 6:45 a.m. on Feb. 8, 2006, the VENUS instrument platform was plugged into the central node and power was brought up. Data flow verification from the shore station signaled the official launch of the Victoria Experimental Network Under the Sea observatory in Saanich Inlet. After years of careful planning and preparation, VENUS was at last a reality.

This month, the VENUS team and the University of Victoria are celebrating the first anniversary of one of the world’s most advanced cabled seafloor observatories.

The VENUS facility is the only seafloor observatory that provides two-way communications using the Internet. In simple terms, VENUS provides power to ocean science instruments on the seafloor and transmits streaming data, in near real time, back through cables and networks to UVic and the world via its website at www.venus.uvic.ca.

February 2006 was a milestone for the VENUS team. With the help of industrial partners Global Marine Systems Ltd. and North Vancouver’s OceanWorks International, Inc., the VENUS node, fibre optic cable, and instrument platforms were installed in Saanich Inlet.

Later that month, the team boarded the Coast Guard vessel John P. Tully with the remotely operated vehicle ROPOS, and attached additional platforms onto the VENUS array—a 15-metre hydrophone array and an Olympus digital still camera. The hydrophone array records ocean sounds and the camera takes high-resolution digital still images and short video clips. The camera sits on a 360-degree pan and tilt that can be remotely controlled over the Internet.

A highlight for the VENUS science group had waited many years. In June, VENUS splashed onto the Internet with its ocean portal. This portal is the VENUS centerpiece. When the first data arrived at UVic, a 20-year archive of continuous ocean data was launched.

“It feels like we have a direct personal link with the seafloor in Saanich Inlet from our computer,” says Tunnicliffe. “Every day, we check in to find new surprises and new mysteries. Sometimes, I want to drop everything to look at new data and pictures.”

The archive was created by the data management and archive system (DMAS) team, made up of about 20 individuals employed primarily by NEPTUNE Canada.

In June, VENUS received the first images from the seafloor, “The Jelly,” the anticipation and level of excitement was exhilarating. When the first images streamed in, the resolution was so good you wanted to reach out and touch the sea life.

VENUS sits at a depth of 100 metres in Saanich Inlet, three kilometres from the dock at the Institute of Ocean Sciences. It hosts a variety of instruments that measure ocean conditions such as oxygen, temperature, salinity, pressure, acoustics and turbidity.

The installation was a significant hurdle for the project, but data validation was critical. The VENUS science group had waited a long time for the first data and scrutinized them continuously.

But as the data flowed in, VENUS project director Verena Tunnicliffe became concerned. She was sure there was a problem, because the data seemed too variable. Then came that “Ahha!” moment—the realization that the instruments were correct, and that Saanich Inlet is a far more dynamic place than we had ever imagined. VENUS had yielded its first big surprise.

VENUS is the first of a new breed of cabled ocean observatories. Other planned and proposed systems include NEPTUNE Canada (also led by UVic), the US portion of NEPTUNE, MARS (Japan), and the ESONET (European Union). As the first one in the water, VENUS is scheduled to provide testing for some of these other observatories.

VENUS is now in both a maintenance and installation mode as we get ready to deploy two more nodes. The second VENUS observatory will be installed in the Strait of Georgia, extending from the Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant outfall near Vancouver, later this year.

VENUS is the first of a new breed of cabled ocean observatories. Other planned and proposed systems include NEPTUNE Canada (also led by UVic), the US portion of NEPTUNE, MARS (Japan), and the ESONET (European Union). As the first one in the water, VENUS is scheduled to provide testing for some of these other observatories.

Making VENUS a reality required a special group of talented and committed people who worked exceptionally well together as a team. “VENUS appears to be about technology, discovery and new challenges,” acknowledges Tunnicliffe. “But like almost everything in life, the project is really about people.”

The VENUS team includes Richard Dewey, Janet Hughes, Paul Macoun, Adrian Round, Verena Tunnicliffe, Jaklyn Vervynck and me.

“VENUS has grown into an amazing ‘child prodigy’ for a team of proud parents,” says Tunnicliffe. “The seed of an idea that was planted seven years ago has struggled and then flourished under the care of a great group. None of us can quite believe how well it’s functioning, and how great the potential is that still can be realized.”

Deb Smith is manager of marketing and communications for VENUS.
Preserving Guyana's cultural heritage

By Christine Roulston

Knowledge gained at the University of Victoria may go a long way toward helping preserve the cultural heritage of the small South American country of Guyana.

This week, Nirvana Persaud, a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) fellow from Guyana, will complete UVic’s Continuing Studies Cultural Resource Management Program. When she returns to her job as the National Trust of Guyana (an agency within the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport) later this month, Persaud will be one of the few people trained in preserving the country’s cultural heritage.

“What I have learned in the program will definitely boost our operations at the ministry,” says Persaud. “We have a very small staff, and I would like to come up with ways to share my knowledge.”

One way Persaud plans to do this is through a research paper she prepared at UVic as part of her UNESCO fellowship. In it, she has devised a plan to manage Guyana’s cultural heritage and property. She hopes it will provide the framework for decision-makers as they move forward in developing a comprehensive cultural heritage plan.

During her six months at UVic, Persaud had a chance to visit several of Victoria’s heritage sites. “I would like to incorporate certain aspects of how Victoria has preserved its heritage into the plan,” she says. “Incentives for developers and homeowners to encourage them to keep heritage buildings intact, and outreach and fundraising to raise heritage awareness are all good ideas. You don’t know what will work until you try it.”

However, preserving Guyana’s cultural heritage does present some unique challenges. “The capital, Georgetown, is basically a wooden city,” she explains. “That’s part of the fantastic thing about it. But fire and termites are challenges for wood buildings. We need to have fire prevention, but so far the funding has been missing.”

Persaud hopes in the near future to play a part in Georgetown’s World Heritage status bid. “At the moment, we’re still lacking some of the resources,” she says. “But me being here is a step in the right direction.”

Indigenous affairs continued from p.1

President Academic and Student Affairs Jim Angus. “UVic has created an office that is situated at the heart of the administrative structure. As founding director, Fran will work on a daily basis with academic and support service leaders across the campus, will sit at the key tables where policies are formulated and programs developed, and will assist with the implementation of new and ongoing Indigenous educational initiatives.”

Hunt-Jinnouchi brings to the role diverse experience in Indigenous education. She was director of the Saanich Adult Education Centre for seven years before becoming acting principal of the K’ak’ot’lits School in Quatsino, near Port Hardy. She was elected chief of the Quatsino First Nation last year. She has served on several high-profile provincial and national boards and committees, and was founding chair of the Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association. She is a graduate of UVic’s School of Social Work and completed her master’s degree in adult education at St. Francis Xavier University.

Through her professional experience, Hunt-Jinnouchi has seen the landscape of Indigenous education evolve. “We’ve come a long way over the last few decades,” she says. “Twenty years ago the goal was to get more Indigenous students to attend university. Now, as more are graduating from undergraduate studies, we need specific graduate-level Indigenous programs to further their education and to provide critical research for Indigenous community development.”

Currently, there are an estimated 600 Indigenous students enrolled at UVic.
Search for new vice-president research under way
The search for UVic’s next vice-president research has been launched under provisions established by the university’s board of governors. The successful candidate will succeed Dr. Martin Taylor, who will become founding president and CEO of a new oceans observatory entity on July 1. "Tremendous strides have taken place in research and creative activities at UVic during Martin Taylor’s tenure as vice-president research," says Dr. David Turpin, president and chair of the search committee. "His leadership and advocacy have assisted our colleagues’ scholarship to flourish. Martin’s successor will play a critical role in sustaining and building upon the momentum." The search committee is committed to securing the best possible candidate for the role and welcomes suggestions of individuals capable of fulfilling it. For more information on the search, including the search committee membership, the advertisement and position profile, visit the website of the Office of the University Secretary at http://web.uvic.ca/univsec/VPResearch.htm.

“Well-rounded, Well-grounded: The Whole Person”
Thats the title and theme of the ninth UVic semiannual confering held on campus Tuesday, Feb. 20, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. The keynote speaker at the conference will be Dr. Veneta Tannor, RCI Canada Research Chair in Deep Ocean Research and director of UVIC's VENUS project, who will speak on “Oceans of Discovery” to Dr. Conway, UVic’s director of organization and employee development, will conclude the conference with the theme “The Amazing (soon Bendig) World” fitting send off on learning how to use your personal ‘power tools’ to continuously create the life you want. In between, workshops offer a choice of changing to balance professional, physical and wellness, emotional and spiritual, family and financial. The women’s conference offers professional and personal development as well as an opportunity to network with others of the campus community, and features the presentation of the UVic Women’s Recognition Awards. More information, including online registration, is available at http://web.uvic.ca/womenmt. To register in person, contact registration/reception at the Continuing Studies Building, second floor. The cost of the conference is $15 for employees and $10 for students, and includes early morning coffee, lunch, refreshment breaks and a chance to win a door prize. Registration closes Feb. 12; late registration will be available at the door for an additional $10 only if space permits.

Excellent teachers, distinguished alumni
Deadlines are approaching for the Alumni Awards for Excellence in Teaching and Distinguished Alumni Awards. Nominations close Feb. 28 for the teaching awards and March 30 for the alumni awards. The Alumni Awards for Excellence in Teaching include the Harry Hickman Award (for regular faculty, senior instructors, artists in residence and librarians) and the Gilian Sherwin Award (for sessional, lab and lab instructors). The Distinguished Alumni Awards are in three categories: Lifetime of Distinguished Achievement, Distinguished Alumni and Distinguished Young Alumni. The awards are for alumni of UVic (or Victoria College and the Provincial Normal School) who have achieved distinction in a career or community service. The awards, along with UVic Sports Hall of Fame inductees (nomination deadline March 31), will be presented at the Legacy Awards dinner in November. Further information and nomination forms are available online or from alumni/alumni.

Graduate student survey coming soon
Graduate students will have the chance to fill 721-7030 toward tuition fees just by participating in an online survey this spring. UVic will be one of 28 Canadian universities participating in the Canadian Graduate and Professional Student Survey from March 1 to April 12. The results will help individual and the experience of graduate students in the future. For more details on the graduate student surveys and in the March issue of The Ring.
Recovering UVic’s online community has earned information technology coordinator Greg Churchill top award from the US-Based Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). Churchill was selected as the 2007 CASE District VIII Rising Star for alumni services. The award honours individuals in alumni relations, communications and marketing, and philanthropy, whose early success bodes well for future leadership and achievement. Churchill develops and maintains UVic’s online community (OLC) ([https://webuvic.ca/olc/index/network/portal/44](https://webuvic.ca/olc/index/network/portal/44)) and is responsible for maintaining sites for other post-secondary institutions that license the service from UVic. He recently introduced new elements to the OLC, built around social networking. The site now rivals Facebook and Myspace while providing a secure environment for 16,000 UVic students, alumni, faculty and staff. He will accept the award at the CASE District VIII Conference in Boise, Idaho, on Feb. 24.

Peter Civi, UVic alumni representative on the Board of Governors, has been appointed president of Custom House, responsible for the overall operations and management of the foreign exchange services company. He holds a BA in economics from UVic.

In business there is always room for a second opinion. However, when it came to considering the reappointment of Dr. Ali Dastmalchian as dean of the Faculty of Business there was complete agreement. He received unanimous approval on the ballots returned from faculty and has been reappointed for a second five-year term beginning July 1, 2007. Vice-President Academic and Provost Janet Cassels announced the reappointment saying, “Dr. Dastmalchian has a combination of vision and experience that will continue to bring strong leadership to the Faculty of Business. I very much look forward to working with him for another five-year term.”

Dr. Marc Laprande (French) has been named chief editor for the Oeuvres Romantiques (poetic works) for Boris Vian (1920–1959) in the prestigious “Bibliothèque de la Pléiade” published by Gallimard (Paris, France). The Pléade collection, established in 1931, publishes between 10 and 12 volumes per year. They host French as well as international classics such as Auerbach, Brecht, Faulkner, Garcia Lorca, and Hesse. He adds that UVic’s French faculty have been invited to work on such projects, since this collection is considered the richest and most accurate critical edition in French print. The two volumes of Oeuvres Romantiques are slated to be out in fall 2009.

Dr. Tom Pedersen, dean of science and an internationally recognized authority in paleoecology (the physical, chemical and biological behaviour of the oceans over time), has been elected a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union (AGU). Fellowships are awarded to scientists who have “attained acknowledged eminence in one or more branches of geophysics.” The AGU, which represents more than 45,000 scientists from 140 countries, promotes the scientific study of Earth and its environment in space. Pedersen is the only Canadian elected to an AGU fellowship this year.

Naz Rayani, a member of the advisory committee for the UVic’s Family Centre, recently received the Order of Canada for his outstanding service and dedication to his community. He is a keen advocate for the work of the Family Centre, where the welcoming atmosphere in the neighbourhood house provides families with opportunities to meet other student families, participate in the family programs, or chat with the friendly staff. Owner of Peoples Pharmacy on campus, Rayani is also a key supporter of the UVic Islamic Studies Resource Fund, which helps to raise awareness and understanding of the Islamic faith and culture.

Bill Thomson, director of the UVic campus of the National Coaching Institute and a key supporter of the UVic Islamic Studies Resource Fund, which helps to raise awareness and understanding of the Islamic faith and culture.

How do 180 UVic employees walk across Canada in the middle of winter? Virtually, and with a pedometer, website and amassing team spirit.

Over approximately three to six months, 180 employees of the Division of Student and Ancillary Services (STAS) will clip on a pedometer, track their daily steps on www.speakwell.ca/pedometer (an interactive website designed by former UVic professors Martin Collins and John Peters and accessed through UVic’s Department of History and Asian Studies, UVic), and beyond the type of counseling they would receive for academics or career options.

Rose’s goal is to support the doctors, students and their families, as well as the nurses, front office staff, community doctors and emergency mental health workers. “UVic has always been a good fit for me, ever changing and challenging me to be the best.”

Rose has a “passion for human rights, human dignity and freedom of speech and religion.” Currently she is an elected member-at-large with CUPE 951 and is the CUPE 951 good and welfare committee chair. She is also an active member of the Canada-Tibet Committee raising awareness about conditions in Tibet.

“I feel the university is like a village, with many opportunities to become involved,” she says, “I definitely want to stay connected when I retire. For example, I would love to participate in forming a ‘booster club’ for UVic women’s basketball as one of the many things on my ‘to do’ agenda.”

Although the pace can be hectic at times, Rose says it is “essential to have a good sense of humour and our ability to get the job done in a professional and caring manner. It really means being part of a wonderful team supporting each other in the best interests of the student.”

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF KELLY ROSE is busy, filled with preparing medical charts for clinics, booking student appointments, transcribing medical dictation for psychiatrists and doctors, and giving support to front office staff.

Rose has worked as medical secretary for Student Health Services since 1995. Health services provides a variety of medical services, including access to specialists. Four psychiatrists work on a rotating basis, with one or two normally involved daily in psychiatry clinics. “Usually there are seven or eight students—sometimes more—hooked for each clinic. It is a very busy environment.”

“From January to April it is flat-out busy, as students feel the pressure to get through their year,” says Rose. “We are here to support each of them through their real-life challenges, stresses and concerns, and beyond the type of counseling they would receive for academics or career options.”

Bill Thomson, director of the UVic campus of the National Coaching Institute and a key supporter of the UVic Islamic Studies Resource Fund, which helps to raise awareness and understanding of the Islamic faith and culture.

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