University-community partnerships in Canada took a major step forward last month with the official launch of the Office of Community-Based Research (OCBR) at the University of Victoria.

The office is the first university-wide initiative of its kind in the country and is attracting national and international interest from other institutions seeking closer research ties with community groups.

"UVic has a rich history of community engagement," says Dr. Valerie Khuchie, UVic's vice-president external relations. "This new research initiative affirms that commitment and places us in a national leadership role. It's an exciting opportunity to demonstrate what great things can be achieved when communities and universities work closely together."

The OCBR will create and support research partnerships that enhance the social, environmental and economic well-being of communities. It will be a focal point for university faculty and students who are doing or wish to do community-based research, and an open door for community groups to access UVic research partners.

It will also make evidence-based recommendations for new policies, programs and practices to meet community needs.

In most academic research, the idea for the research comes from a scholar and is driven by questions of science and intellectual thought. Community-based research themes originate in the communities themselves, are carried out collaboratively with community groups, and are focused on action-oriented solutions.

"With many of the social, environmental, health and economic issues facing us today we need research that engages those who are working on the front lines," says Dr. Budd Hall, director of the OCBR. "Issues such as homelessness or climate change are best understood and acted upon when those working to find solutions are doing the research."

The OCBR was created after two years of consultation with community groups and First Nations in the community and as a country, we must expand our investment in solid scientific research so we can pass on a healthy environment for generations to come."

"UVic is a global centre of excellence in ocean, earth and atmospheric sciences, and this generous gift will help take our research and education to an even higher level," says UVic President David Turpin. "Bob Wright's profound generosity is a true example of how an individual and company can go above and beyond to both support the community in which they operate and contribute to the solution of global issues."

The gift is being donated on behalf of the crew who work at the Oak Bay Marine Group of Companies. Of the $11 million gift, $10 million will help fund the new Ocean, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Building. Currently under construction, the building will provide synergy and maximize collaborative teaching and research opportunities by bringing together under one roof the university's marine and climate scientists, who have been housed in various locations across campus.

Wright's gift also includes $1 million to fund student scholarships. "I have had many UVic graduates and students work with the Oak Bay Marine Group over the years, and I've always valued the education they received there," adds Wright. "The scholarship fund will help more students experience the tremendous potential of the University of Victoria."

The OCBR to sign new partnership agreements

The University of Victoria’s new Office of Community-Based Research is finalizing two formal partnership agreements that will broaden the scope of its work locally and nationally.

An agreement with the United Way of Greater Victoria (UWGV) is the first step toward a long-term research partnership, with a special focus in three impact areas: family and community well-being, housing for the homeless, low-income and poor, and mental health and addictions.

The United Way of Canada will participate in the development of the partnership as a national pilot to determine how United Ways across the country can work with universities to develop research and policy that improve the quality of life of Canadians.

An agreement with the Wadley Institute in Toronto allows for sharing of databases and skill building in community-based research at the local and national levels. The institute will also be a national partner in the G8 Cairo 2008 conference, to be held in Victoria on May 4–7, 2008.

The Wadley Institute is a non-profit organization that develops research and community-based policy solutions to the problems of urban health and health disparities.
CFUV volunteer coordinator recognized for supporting inclusivity

By Maria Lironi

Kate Hollefreund, volunteer coordinator at UVic’s student radio station, CFUV, is being honoured by Volunteer Victoria with a certificate of recognition of excellence in volunteer management.

“This award is given to coordinators of volunteers who promote inclusively, diversity, innovation and openness,” says Lori Elder, Volunteer Victoria’s public relations and marketing coordinator. “Kate is winning it because she is very welcoming to volunteers who need a little extra support or have special challenges.”

According to the award citation, Hollefreund’s “ongoing commitment to fostering the integration of volunteers with diverse needs and abilities has resulted in extremely positive outcomes for clients of both Access and Youth Connections. Our volunteers have worked alongside of university students in a variety of capacities resulting in skill development and increased self esteem. CFUV is committed to honoring and promoting diversity, and Kate plays a fundamental role in actualizing this philosophy—involving people of various ages, abilities and needs. She has been open to having job support staff working alongside of clients with complex learning issues providing an enriching work experience situation.”

CFUV has engaged people with disabilities since the station first started in 1984. “We’ve had some volunteers who have been here ten years,” says Hollefreund. “They make a great contribution to the station. In fact, they’re among the best volunteers I have—they’re meticulous, engaged and always punctual. As well, being at CFUV gives them the skills, job confidence and references they need to go on to paid work at other locations.”

Currently, the station has about 15 regular volunteers with disabilities; some with autism, Down syndrome, mental health issues, cerebral palsy, visual impairment and developmental disabilities. They range in age from high school students to people in their 50s. On average they work one or two hours a week. For more information visit http://cfuv.uvic.ca/ or www.volunteer.victoria.bc.ca/.

Moving UVic “Beyond Climate Neutral”

Common Energy, a network of students, staff, faculty and regional partners at the University of Victoria, released a progress report June 12 on its emerging strategy to make the university a leader in the local and regional challenges of climate change.

The report, “Going Beyond Climate Neutral: Planning for Climate Change Leadership with the University of Victoria,” outlines actions and proposals in six key focus areas: creating a local “green” business cluster; reducing the impact of energy use; developing the local sustainable food supply; revitalizing buildings and infrastructure; creating a climate-friendly transportation system; and engagement in university governance and regional planning.

It also includes three overarching projects that bridge focus areas: a climate trust to finance local carbon dioxide reduction projects, a university challenge to support university units in their sustainability efforts, and integration into the curriculum of the goal of going beyond climate-neutral.

“Our work can be boiled down to answering this question: How can we also move to solve the problem of climate change than we do to cause them?” says Jamie Biggar, member of Common Energy and UVic’s board of governors. “The university combines research capacity, creativity and energy with the expertise and knowledge of a massive company, and the physical presence and economic power of a city. That gives us a lot to work with.”

The report focuses on strategies that integrate these diverse abilities. For example, it notes that while transportation is the biggest contributor of direct greenhouse gas emissions in the region, UVic’s transportation demand management strategies have been extremely successful. With interdisciplinary research and a range of partnerships, the university could be instrumental in the creation of a sustainable regional transportation network.

The report is authored by dozens of people using a collaborative planning process called Common Ground. "The political climate has shifted towards climate action, and people want to be part of solutions that will make a difference," says Naomi Devine, a member of Common Energy and of UVic’s senate. “Through our collaborative process, we are engaging the diversity of people we need to create a plan that is both realistic and effective. We are also working with Common Energy UBC and plans to connect climate change action from universities and colleges across the province.

Over the coming months Common Energy will expand this process to engage more people, culminating in a conference on Sept. 28-30 where students, staff, faculty and regional partners will finalize the plan.

To read the report or find out more about the project, visit www.commonenergy.org or contact info@commonenergy.org.

Legacy Gallery continued from p.1

Ceglars, Heritage Properties’ CEO. “In the coming years, the gallery will continue to evolve and will provide opportunities for UVic students and faculty to showcase new works and to interact with the downtown public. Heritage Properties is honoured to continue Michael’s patronage of the arts and culture in Victoria.”

The most recent tenant of the building, Starfish Gallery, opted not to renew its lease, creating the opportunity for this new use of the structure.

In announcing the gallery, UVic’s Common Energy will expand this process to engage more people, culminating in a conference on Sept. 28-30 where students, staff, faculty and regional partners will finalize the plan.

To read the report or find out more about the project, visit www.commonenergy.org or contact info@commonenergy.org.
Around the ring

Name the new library café

A new java joint is coming to campus this fall as part of the Moazens Centre for Learning expansion of the McPherson Library. UVic Libraries invites all UVic students, faculty and staff to participate in a contest to name the new café. Please visit the website at http://gateway.uvic.ca/coffee before July 20 to submit your suggestions. You may enter as many times as you like. The winning suggestion will be chosen by the University Librarian and a panel of judges. The winner will receive a $500 lottery ticket to RedDeer Books.

More than 600 of you biked to work

Bike to Work Week was a resounding success at UVic, this year with 42 teams and more than 600 participants between May 28 and June 1. UVic won 13 team prizes, a new rider prize, a commuter challenge prize and eight of 36 team dinner prizes from the Bike to Work Week Society. Congratulations to the 65 riders who won UVic-sponsored prizes, including Marie-France Larin from the MacPherson Library, who won the CSW 50 gift certificate to RedDeer Bike Stores.

Once again, UVic was a gold-level sponsor. New for 2007 was a partnership between UVic and UVic that provided banned bikes to people without cycles who wished to participate. Eighteen employees borrowed the bikes and seven have decided to keep them for the remainder of the summer.

UVic’s participation in Bike to Work Week was coordinated by the Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability, with the assistance of the bicycle user committee and help to support the key Campus Plan goal of reducing motor vehicle traffic to campus.

Thanks to Thrifty Foods, BC Transit, Old Victoria Water, Island West, Pepsi, Oak Bay Recreation Centre, UVic’s Bookstore and Finney’s, IQ Bistro and Cineverta for their support for Bike to Work Week activities on campus.

Kids invited to participate in Face Camp

This summer, Drs. Jim Tanaka and Ulrich Mueller (psychology) will be conducting a research examining face recognition in children. They invite children ages 7 through to participate in Face Camp, a free, fun and educational program at UVic where kids will learn about face recognition through a series of fun and challenging hands-on activities and demonstrations by guests and guest scientists and artists. Lunch will be provided and participants will receive a cool Face Camp t-shirt. The July 14 session’s book is available for the July 21 session. For further information, please go to the Face Camp website: http://web.uvic.ca/~tanaka/facecamp/.

Newsmakers

Armed with a report by Dr. Benedikt Fischer (Centre for Addictions Research BC), the City of Victoria plans to apply for a pilot project to open up to three safe-injection sites for drug addicts in the BC capital. The report, which considered the experiences of dozens of other sites around the world along with data and opinion collected from the local community, says supervised drug-consumption sites prevent overdose deaths and reduce the spread of disease, in addition to steering more people toward detox and rehabilitation. “Such a program will not make sense if the long-term, backup services in terms of detoxification, addiction treatment, resources and care facilities are not available or accessible to the target population,” says Fischer in a Globe and Mail article (June 28).

Gigantic ocean waves called planetary waves, spanning hundreds of kilometres from crest to crest, have been speeding up due to global warming, according to a new model by John Fyfe and Oleg Saenko (Canadian Centre for Climate Modelling and Analysis) reported in the New Scientist (June 12). “We were really surprised at how quickly the ocean responded to temperature change,” Fyfe says.

One of the first electronic theses and dissertations (ETD) in the system has been awarded an ETD Innovation Award by the Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD) consortium, an international organization dedicated to promoting the adoption, creation, use, dissemination and preservation of electronic analogues to traditional paper-based theses and dissertations. The award recognizes student efforts to transform the genre of the printed document through innovative use of electronic format.

Performing Law

Julie Lassonde, who received her UVic LLM last November, received one of six NDLTD Innovative Awards in Uppsala, Sweden, earlier this month for her e-thesis “Performing Law.”

Lassonde practices both law and performance art, and her thesis, supervised by Rebecca Johnson (law) and Lucy Pullen (visual arts), bridges these two realms. Her thesis takes the form of a website, using text, video and live performance to explore how law is “performed” in daily life through physical acts.

She defines “law” as not just statutes and court cases but multiple overlapping and conflicting systems of rules guiding social behaviour. Her thesis explores how these behavioural norms are generated, expressed and developed in even the most mundane physical gestures of daily life. Lassonde develops this performative concept of law by examining narrative situations that explore how people behave toward each other in relation to expected norms. These involve, for example, the gendered space of certain sports activities, how teenagers on a public bus claim their personal space, the negotiating of sexual intimacy, and reacting to amusing or distracting public conversations.

Lassonde is currently running a small enterprise combining law, translation and performance—a direct application of her thesis. Her interdisciplinary practice responds to the need to make law accessible and engaging. Her typical week involves giving popular legal education workshops to community-based organizations, conducting research for NGOs and the private sector, and improvising with dancers and musicians.

Uvic’s EDT system

The new EDT system at UVic provides instant availability of UVic electronic theses and dissertations on the web through Google, Google Scholar, and the CARL Harvester (the Canadian Association of Research Libraries institutional repository search service), and—soon—through the Libraries and Archives Canada Theses Canada Portal. This greatly increases the exposure and dissemination of the research results of UVic grad students.

The use of ETDS also eliminates the need for students to provide multiple paper copies for the web library and saves paper and physical storage space in the library.

E-theses are protected using a Creat...
The effects of climate change are all too real for residents of Haida Gwaii

During extreme storms, sea levels rise at more than twice this rate. Walker and his team also learned that the coastline is eroding at a rate of one to three meters per year. “This will bring a variety of hazards,” he says. “For example, the coastal highway will see increased flooding and erosion in the next 10 to 20 years.” How the Haida First Nations people perceive these changes to their landscape and how they have adapted to past changes are important considerations in the study. “This kind of community-based research demands a great deal of time and preparation, but in the end there is no better way to collect locally relevant data,” says Walker, who spent two years in the area establishing ties with community members before beginning the study.

“You just can’t jump in and be an academic tourist. We strived to ensure our methods were culturally sensitive and locally relevant.”

Through more than 200 door-to-door surveys and community interviews, the team gathered information about exposures to environmental and social changes—including a large number of young people leaving the island, roadways flooding, ferry delays and frequent power outages—and how people have adapted. The team also learned about the many strengths of the Haida and local residents and how these have helped them cope with change. Some of these strengths include strong social networks to help share burdens or resources, income diversification from arts and crafts and tourism to help supplement seasonal incomes from fishing, and a high level of preparedness due to experience with past storms.

“When we study a community’s response to natural hazards we typically examine traditional indicators such as levels of education, gender, household income, and access to information technology,” says Walker. “Communities that lack those things are traditionally viewed as less adaptable or more vulnerable than communities that have those things. However, if you take that approach in remote coastal communities you’re missing a lot of important local factors and considerations.”

Walker’s research program

Ian Walker is a co-author of the BC chapter of the Natural Resources Canada assessment of climate change impacts and adaptations, to be released this fall. It discusses current and future risks and opportunities that climate change presents to Canada. In addition to Walker’s research on Haida Gwaii, he studies wind processes in coastal and semi-arid environments across North America. Walker’s research is funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, the Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Program of Natural Resources Canada, and the Canada Foundation for Innovation.

The effects of climate change are all too real for residents of Haida Gwaii.
Study examines care for seniors with mental illnesses

By Maria Leonni

What does it take to look after an elderly person who has a mental illness or addiction? The answer may come from a team of researchers at the University of Victoria, the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) and the BC Medical Research Foundation.

An estimated 13 per cent of Canadians are 65 years of age and older, and one out of every five older adults has a mental disorder. In a 18-month study entitled “Understanding the Needs of Caregivers of Mentally Ill Older Adults: Hearing Their Voices To Inform Services,” the team will discover how the programs and service needs of caregivers dealing with seniors with mental illness differ from those of caregivers of elderly people suffering from dementia.

The research team is conducting focus groups with the Vancouver Island Health Authority and the Northern Health Region with “informal caregivers”—that is, family, friends, neighbours or others—of any age who help seniors with long-standing mental illness or substance abuse issues. It is also receiving input from service providers.

“Older adults with mental illness are a unique population,” says Dr. Holly Tuokko (psychology, Centre on Aging), the study’s principal investigator. “On the one hand, older adults experience age-related physical, psychological and social changes that individually and together may challenge their mental health,” she says.

“For some, this may result in the development of a mental illness for the first time in late life. For others who have a lifelong mental illness, age-related changes may present new challenges.”

Jane Millikin (Nursing) and the VIHA’s clinical nurse specialist in geriatric psychiatry Bev Wilden are also on the research team. The study’s project coordinator is Dr. Penny MacCourt (Centre on Aging). The $50,000 study is funded by the Vancouver Foundation and the BC Medical Services Foundation.

Once the study is complete, the research team will share the results with both health authorities so that the regions can tailor their programs and services to meet the needs of informal caregivers. The team will also publish its results in the Canadian Journal of Gerontology and the Canadian Journal of Community Mental Health.

UVIC PHtO ServiceS

UVIC’s technology transfer office launched eight new spin-off companies in the 2005/06 fiscal year. The Innovation and Development Corporation’s (IDC) mandate is to move research conducted by university students, faculty and staff into the public and private sectors through partnerships, licensing of technologies and the formation of new spin-off companies.

In 2005, IDC expanded its services to Camosun College, Royal Roads University, Malaspina University-College and North Island College. To date, with IDC’s help, these institutions have a combined total of 91 projects under way.

The new IDC companies range from developers of robotic and underwater technologies to producers of educational software.

Dynamic Systems Analysis (www.dsa-ltd.ca) specializes in subsea robotic controls.

FloraPure Biociences will produce and purify prion resistant molecules (components or molecules of plant or animal tissue) from floral materials. The company will have uses in medicinal and cosmetic applications. The company is currently in research and development mode.

Master Underwater Technologies Inc. (www.masterunderwatertech.com) develops innovative underwater technologies.

Sportmeter Technologies Inc. (www.sportmeter.com and www.powerstrikr.com) develops innovative products for the golf and kite-rate markets. It is IDC’s first spin-off company originating from Malaspina University-College.

Tactica Design Corporation (www.tactica.com) develops information products for the sporting industry.

Tremain Media Inc. (www.tremainmedia.com) makes multi-media educational materials for children. See the article on Tremain Media (above).

Zola Design (www.zoladesign.ca) creates and manufactures unique “green” lamp covers for fluorescent lighting.

As of March 2007, IDC had filed more than 270 national and international patent applications, helped incorporate more than 50 university spin-off companies and received more than 450 invention disclosures.

For more information, see the IDC website at http://web.uvic.ca/idc/.

Tremain and some of Tremain Media Inc.’s products

“Momtrepreneur” honoured for promoting child literacy

By Tara Sharp

University of Victoria graduate Leah Tremain wants more children to have every chance to embrace literature with the same passion as she does. Her love of reading and advocacy for literacy issues have been the guiding forces behind her company Tremain Media Inc., which produces educational multi-media material for schools, universities, libraries, companies and non-profit groups.

After receiving her MEd from UVic in 2005, Tremain established Tremain Media in 2005, and its first production, “Read-TV,” was released that same year. Her company’s recent video is a 22-minute production, “I Love When You Read,” featuring tips for parents on how to help children learn to love reading. It is the perfect example of the community-minded business ingenuity behind Tremain’s company.

In May, the BC Chamber of Commerce applauded Tremain’s entrepreneurial efforts by giving her its first annual VWL Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

Tremain has received guidance from the UVic Innovation and Development Corporation (IDC) in support of her business endeavours. Tremain Media is one of numerous spin-off companies helped by IDC.

“IDC has been an excellent resource for us,” says Tremain. “People respect educational material that has strong links to the university community, so when IDC brought its name to any recent production, that presence was definitely helpful in securing funding for the project. And IDC continues to help us grow by providing a solid base of expertise in accounting, bookkeeping, and more. It’s a very productive partnership.”

“IDC is honoured to be a stakeholder in Tremain Media Inc.,” says Dr. Tim Walack, IDC president and CEO. “Leah’s exceptional business sense and entrepreneurial creativity are excellent reasons for any company or organization to invest in her projects. She is one of many talented people from our university community who are bringing fresh and innovative ideas to the marketplace.”

Tremain is serious about encouraging children to read. She thinks of herself as a “momtrepreneur,” balancing the demands of her business while raising her two sons and volunteering for the Campbell River Literacy Now task force and Campbell River Community Literacy Association. Through IDC, she also provides mentorship to local BC students.

Tremain Media distributes its products widely through educational and home markets, and over 50,000 British Columbians will receive “I Love When You Read” for free this year through various learning initiatives. It will be included in the stack of reading treats tucked into give-away bags and distributed to new parents through local BC libraries as part of the provincial BC Books for Babies literacy program.

Tremain’s new DVD series “Educational Frontiers” is currently being developed with the participation of UVic’s Faculty of Education.

Further information is available online about Tremain Media (www.tremainmedia.com), IDC (http://web.uvic.ca/idc) and BC Books for Babies (www.bchp.gov.bc.ca/booksforbabies).
Wright continued from p.1

benefits of a UVic education.” Wright modestly describes himself as “just a gumboot fisherman who sells fish hooks for a nickel apiece.” However, he has built the largest sport fishing operation in North America. Today, the Oak Bay Marine Group includes resorts, marinas and attractions in Canada, the United States and the Bahamas and employs over 1,000 staff and management.

Over the years, Wright has served BC and Canada through activities such as being a director for the Victoria Marine Resources Centre and a commissioner for the Canada-Pacific Salmon Treaty. He is a life member of the International Association of Aquatic Animal Medicine and the Explorer’s Club.

Wright has also been active in the Victoria community, including such initiatives as the placement of the original totem pole in Beacon Hill Park, spearheading the original City of Victoria’s Heritage Program and serving as a director for both the Victoria Symphony and Art Gallery. He has served as vice-chair of BC Ferries, managing director of the BC Steamship Company, and was instrumental in the creation of Chinatown’s Gate of Harmonious Interest. In 2000 the University of Victoria awarded him an honorary doctorate of laws.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF DANilo ROSA sees him surrounded by students doing experiments. Rosa is a senior lab instructor in the Electricity and Magnetism Lab working primarily with second- and third-year physics students.

“Unlike faculty, we routinely interact one-to-one with the students,” says Rosa. “Lab work is a big component for them—they spend half their time doing labs. But our jobs remain somewhat in the background. We kind of like it that way.”

There is more specialization by lab instructors now than when Rosa started 27 years ago, and he feels this benefits the students. “We are encouraged to develop new ways to explain concepts, new technologies and new software.” He and Don Stenton, a former colleague, won an award from the American Association of Physics Teachers for a new way to analyze and display magnetic fields.

“The opportunity to innovate is very satisfying, but working with students is most rewarding, he says. “I have a very positive view of the ways students are changing. I’m not sure how the high schools do it, but our students are more confident and there is more collaboration between them.” He notes the gender ratio in physics has changed with more women now. “Maybe that’s part of the difference.”

Born in Italy, Rosa came to Victoria from Montreal. “We came for a vacation, and I was hired as a temporary sessional while my wife was enquiring about taking courses.” A parent of two daughters, Rosa says what he does at work and at home is related. “Raising children is all about education. Our table conversations can get pretty weird, as physics jargon creeps into them.” Rosa also likes to read about art and practices in tempera and acrylics.

One of Rosa’s annual highlights is the summer Science Venture camp for children in grades 2 to 6. “I change my holidays around so I can do demonstrations for the kids,” he explains. His office door is covered with pictures and letters from some of the budding scientists. He recalls one young girl who, at the end of the session, solemnly told him: “I have found my purpose in life: solid state physics.”

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Landscowne Lecture 7:00 p.m. Crystals—Fascination Materials in the Age of Information Technology. Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Georg Müller, professor and head, Crystal Growth Laboratory, Department of Materials Science, Friedrich-Alexander University, Erlangen, Germany. Engineering and Computer Science Bldg., room 123. 721-8967.

The OCBR will have a special evening, "Transition to University Life," says Hall. "We're working with other leaders in community-based research to help students make a healthy transition to university life. It includes information about UVic's smoking policy, communicable diseases, and support resources available through UVic Health Services."

As first-year students get ready to begin their new life and studies at UVic, the university is turning to parents to help start the dialogue about healthy lifestyles. The UVic initiative recognizes that parents can have a significant influence on the choices that first-year students make. So this summer, UVic is mailing parents of first-year students coming from Canadian high schools a package of information to help students make a healthy transition to university life.

It includes information about UVic's smoking policy, communicable diseases, and support resources available through UVic Health Services. The package also includes "A Parent Handbook for Talking with University Students about Alcohol," by Dr. Rob Turrisi of the Prevention Research Centre at Pennsylvania State University. Turrisi pioneered the concept in the US of engaging parents to reduce negative behaviour associated with drinking and young people leaving home. UVic is the first university in Canada to embrace this innovative approach by delivering a Canadian version of the handbook to the family homes of incoming first-year students. The UVic Students' Society (UVSS) has already voiced its support for the campaign and Turrisi has endorsed the handbook's use by UVic.

“More than a year ago, we decided this handbook would be the right thing for parents of first-year students, so it’s very rewarding to see the packages going out in the mail this month,” says Dr. Jim Anglin, associate vice-president academic and student affairs. "In September, UVic student affairs, the UVSS, and numerous others involved in student life across campus will be working hard to help students begin their new life at UVic on a positive note.”

OCBR continued from p.1
Victoria region and across Vancouver Island. It is guided by a 16-member steering committee composed equally of university and community members and an 11-member advisory committee of national and international experts and practitioners. UVic has a large number of nationally and internationally recognized leaders in community-based research in such fields as environmental studies, health promotion, coastal studies, assistive technologies, Indigenous and cultural studies and education.

The OCBR will have a special focus on partnerships with First Nations communities. "Aboriginal studies at UVic and elsewhere is one of the fields where the commitment to community-based research is strongest," says Hall. Although the concept of community-based research is not new, universities and communities, as well as research funders and governments, are increasingly interested in "mobilizing" research knowledge to solve societal problems.

"UVic has made a commitment to civic engagement, placing it at the forefront of Canadian universities," says Hall. "We’re working with others across the country and around the world to promote community-based research as a new source of energy for local, national and international well-being.”

Upcoming activities of the OCBR include: a seminar series for faculty and students on community-based research with Aboriginal communities (September–December); skill-building workshops (January–April, 2008); and C-UCexpo 2008 (May), a national conference on community–university partnerships, co-hosted by UVic.

For more information on the Office of Community-Based Research visit www.uvic.ca/ocbr.

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To the Division of Continuing Studies’ Certificate Program in Aboriginal Language Revitalization on winning a CAUCE Program Award for 2007.

The program provides a responsive and accessible opportunity for First Nations and other participants to strengthen their understanding of the dynamics and implications of language loss while building their capacity to develop and implement language revitalization activities within their communities. It was initiated in 2003 through a partnership between the En’owkin Centre, an Aboriginal post secondary education centre in Penticton, British Columbia, and the University of Victoria through its Department of Linguistics and the Division of Continuing Studies. The original concept for the program was proposed by the division’s Cultural Resource Management Program as it recognized the importance of language as a fundamental and highly endangered keystone of cultural identity in First Nations across Canada and beyond.

Visit the program at www.continuingstudies.uvic.ca/calr/