Prospective students take UVic for a test drive

All signs indicate that the University of Victoria's first "test drive" for prospective students was right on track.

A total of 912 students and family members flooded the campus from as far away as North America to as far abroad as Gambia for an opportunity to take part in Experience UVic or Destination UVic on May 26.

"I came to experience UVic, just like the theme says," said Grade-12 student Veronica Zapotoczny. "The best part has been getting to know where everything is, meeting the people, getting information about next year and seeing what kind of courses they offer soon."*

Never before has UVic held a student recruitment event that attracted more than 500 people.

Experience UVic was a one-day event that provided information about the academic and lifestyle opportunities available. Destination UVic provided the opportunity for students and their families to choose their future residence and campus on the night.

The goal was to increase the number of Grade-12 students who decide to accept their offers of admission by providing a sample of what makes UVic special. More than 200 volunteer faculty, staff and current students made the welcome message come across loud and clear.

"Even though we've been in Victoria for a number of years and we've been around the university, it's not the same as actually going and listening to the presentations from the faculties and hearing the previous students talk, hearing the president of the university talk," said Megan Pratt, whose son is considering engineering. "I learned it is more than just a beautiful place. I think it's really a great education."

A full evaluation of the program will include surveys with the prospective students, volunteers and faculty involved, and student participants will be monitored to see how this event changes acceptance rates.

"While we don't have the full evaluation, the attendance and great anecdotal comments seem to indicate we're on the right track," says Lynda Wallace-Hulecki, registrar and executive director of student enrollment. "All of the participating faculties and colleges deserve a tremendous amount of credit, as well as each and every volunteer. And, of course, special thanks to Sue Corner, Melana Mar, volunteer. And, of course, special credit, as well as each and every one of you."

Graduating psychology student Dave Segal takes a joyous celebratory paddle in a kayak he uses in his work, providing recreational therapy for people with a disability.

Segal. "It makes it possible for people with disorders like muscular dystrophy to get out in a kayak and have a blast just like any other person. These kinds of experiences help boost their confidence and allow them to break through some of the barriers of living with a disability."

When he’s not facilitating workshops or debriefing with participants after an outdoor activity, Segal also spends his time working on the organization’s Adaptive Recreation Program, which aims to improve the physical health and emotional well-being of people with special needs through such recreational activities as alpine skiing, sea kayaking, indoor rock climbing, camping and gardening.

"Since I started coordinating this program, the number of people enrolled has grown to over 500," says Segal. "I think it’s a great education."

By Suzanne Smith

**Grad helps people with special needs ‘have a blast’ outdoors**

The first phase of the most challenging ocean observatory installation ever attempted was completed early last month in the Strait of Georgia near Vancouver.

The Virginia Experimental Network Under the Sea (VENUS) project, led by UVic, is the world’s most advanced cabled seafloor observatory. Through a network of scientific instruments and cameras connected to the Internet by power and fibre-optic cable, VENUS provides scientists, educators and the general public with around-the-clock biological, oceanographic and geological data from the seafloor.

The first, three-kilometre leg of VENUS was installed in Sanich Inlet in February 2006 and continuous data has been flowing ever since. When completed, the Strait of Georgia leg will feature 40 km of cable and two central nodes, to which dozens of ocean sensors will be connected.

Ocean observatories provide ocean monitoring and help scientists understand how ocean environments change over time. The Strait of Georgia leg will support studies on long-term ocean change, tides, currents and mixing, fish and marine mammal movements, seafloor ecology, underwater noise, sediment and slope dynamics, plankton biology and Fraser River plume dynamics.

The complex installation process is

More convocation coverage on the web

Spring Convocation 2007 represents the culmination of years of effort and dedication for more than 3,100 University of Victoria students. And each graduate has a story to tell if his or her UVic experience.

In this issue of The Ring, we tell some of those stories, and there are even more profiles of amazing graduating students on The Ring's website at http://uvic.ca/ring.

Always a highlight of convocation are the inspiring remarks made by UVic’s honorary degree recipients in their convocation addresses. Now, for the first time, their moving speeches are available as podcasts on the web at communications.uvic.ca/podcasting.

Uvic makes ocean history off Vancouver

More than 500 people were on hand May 26 to participate in Experience UVic.
Indigenous fathers made visible

By Christine McLaren

Shedding light on the journey of Indigenous fathers was what Dr. Jessica Ball from the School of Child and Youth Care intended when she set out to research Aboriginal fathers’ relationships to their children. What surprised her was the number of fathers who volunteered to tell their story and share their joy of fatherhood.

“There was no shortage of fathers who wanted to be involved, which is very unusual for Aboriginal research,” says Ball. Her research and the resulting DVD “Fatherhood: Indigenous Men’s Journey” is the first of its kind in Canada. Through interviews and footage of the dads interacting with their children in their own surroundings, six Canadian First Nations and Métis fathers, age 27 to 60, speak openly about everything from the challenge of overcoming colonialism and the resulting trauma of residential school, of overcoming the pain of losing a child in their own surroundings, to achieving family services is what they hope to achieve.

“I want to use my education to support Aboriginal people and especially fathers, who due to formidable education-off-reserve, feel the loss of culture, language, family and community support systems,” says Indigenous father Ron George (BSW ’06), currently working on his master’s in education. George, a hereditary chief of the Gidimt’en Clan and former president of the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Affairs and Native Council of Canada, describes his children as “gifs.” “Their future is bright because, contrary to how I was raised, they know who they are, they know they have rights and they absolutely know they are loved,” says George.

Since the release of the DVD in March 2007, Ball has been inundated with requests and queries about the DVD and accompanying resource materials. With funding from the United Church Healing Fund, the DVD has been converted to broadcast quality for distribution to such institutions as Ryerson University, the University of Guelph and Camosun College. Workshop requests from the Aboriginal Head Start Program, Community Action Program for Children and the Canadian Prenatal Nutrition Program and her work with Success by Six, 2010 Legacies Now and LEAP BC (Literacy Education Activity and Play) highlight the significant contributions of her research.

Ball’s research on Indigenous fathers is supported by the Father Involvement Research Alliance (FIRA), funded through the Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) and the federal Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). Ball’s internationally recognized work with Indigenous communities, development of training programs and research have been her focus for over 10 years. For more information on the fatherhood project visit www.culdip.org/fathers.

Memoir offers hope for better fathers

By Patty Pitts

Some men buy a sports car to mark a new stage of fatherhood. That wasn’t the case for Dr. Jian Anglin. Sandborn was 13 when his father, an angry alcoholic man, died. The dislocation between his alcoholic marriage and the termination of a job with government prompted Sandborn to consider the impact of his behaviour on his wife, three daughters and “future generations.”

He read “about 90 books on male psychology and the effect male role modelling had on men,” and realized that very little had been written about how men “could live their lives in a post-patriarchal world.”

“I wanted looking at myself and understanding the saying ‘Men grow wise with their will.’ In writing the book I came to forgive my father and appreciate the good parts of our relationship,” says Sandborn.

Since the book was published in April he has given numerous radio interviews. “They’re saving them for Father’s Day broadcasts that will be heard over several hundred U.S. radio stations.” Sandborn has had reviews in the Vancouver Sun, Vancouver Sun, San Francisco Chronicle, and has been invited to give readings and signings in significant book stores in Seattle and Portland.

But even more gratifying than all the attention for his book will be the attention Sandborn receives from his 16-month-old grandson on Father’s Day.

Uvic designated a preferred university for China’s top graduate students

Uvic has received preferred status as a graduate education destination for some of China’s top university graduates as a result of an agreement signed on May 8 in Beijing by UVic President David Turpin and Ms. Zhang Xius, secretary-general of the China Scholarship Council, witnessed by China’s Education Minister Dr. Zhou Ji.

The agreement will offer another international opportunity to UVic’s students and faculty here,” says Turpin. Uvic is the first university in BC, only the second in Canada, and one of a highly select group in the world—including MIT, Harvard and Cambridge—to receive the preferred status designation. It opens the door to a new level of co-operation for students and faculty at Uvic and a select group of Chinese universities.

Dr. Zuoming Dong, chair of mechanical engineering, brought the China Scholarship Council Program to the attention of Dr. Jim Anglin, director of international affairs, who put UVic in touch with the Chinese Ministry of Education.

“The Chinese government is quite receptive about this,” says Anglin. “But over the years UVic has achieved a high level of visibility and credibility in China.”

“This agreement enhances UVic’s position as a focal point for Asia-Pacific initiatives in North America. The first Chinese students to attend UVic under the agreement will arrive later this year. These are top students from only top-tier Chinese universities who are selected especially for their potential to assume roles of academic leadership upon return to China,” Anglin says. "This agreement will be a small but at first, there is significant potential for expansion of the program that can make a significant difference to strengthened relations between China and Canada.”

More participants needed for research study in support of UNI 102

Further details on an online research project on human perception will not only help two University of Victoria psychologists, they’ll also generate funds to support UNI 102—a cause for people facing barriers to a post-secondary education. For every person who participates in our research project we’ll donate five dollars of our research funding to UNI 102, a cause for people whose economic and social circumstances normally pose obstacles to a university education,” says Dr. Stephen Lindsay-Lindars and the undergraduate Dr. Elizabeth Formica hope to recruit 1,000 participants and contribute as much as $5,000 to UNI 102. To learn more about and/or participate in this research study, visit www.uvic.ca/lpcy investigación. Participating takes about 20 minutes and involves watching a short video and answering questions about it.

Uvic awarded Olympic qualifying tournament in women’s field hockey

Next spring the Canadian women’s field hockey team and their counterparts from other nations will converge on UVic’s field hockey program, which brings youth onto campus for training sessions with Vikes athletes and coaches, and the men’s team has delivered field hockey promotional workshops to middle schools throughout the region since February.

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Challenging all student entrepreneurs

The university’s Technology transfer office—the Innovation and Development Corporation (IDC)—is looking for students with clever business ideas to take part in the 2007 IDC Challenge. The annual business plan competition promotes innovation and entrepreneurship among students and offers prizes of up to $33,000, thanks to generous sponsors. The challenge began in May and will end in September. The competition is open to undergraduate and graduate students at UVic, Royal Roads University, Camosun College, Malaspina University-College, and North Island College, as well as Grade 11 and 12 high school students on Vancouver Island. For more information visit www.idcchallenge.com.
The University of Victoria has a new research publication. The Fast Lane is an eight-page newsletter on research and discovery at UVic, made its debut recently. Paper copies of the newsletter are currently being circulated around campus; electronic copies are available online in PDF format at www.uvic.ca/research.

The Fast Lane—the name is a play on the university’s research communications theme, “We’re going places”—is produced by UVic Communications for the Office of the Vice-President Research. It’s aimed primarily at decision-makers in government and business, influencers of research policy and funding, current and potential research partners and funders, and the university media.

“This newsletter is one of the tools we’re using to build and sustain UVic’s reputation as a leading research university in Canada and demonstrate the benefits to society of UVic research, especially in areas of institutional strength,” says Dr. Martin Taylor, vice-president research.

Each issue of The Fast Lane will include a selection of short news items on UVic innovations, achievements and milestones that may be especially relevant to the current activities and priorities of the newsletter’s primary target audience. The newsletter also provides information on the substantive breadth and depth of the university’s research and knowledge transfer expertise.

The newsletter will be published twice a year, in spring and fall. Subscribe to The Fast Lane at the website listed above and an email alert will be sent to you when each new issue comes out.

VENUS continued from p.1

By Angela Voht

The Campus Community Garden (CCG) has become a many-splendoured scene. Located on the north side of MacKenzie Avenue, beside the Technology Enterprise Facility (TEF building), it offers campus gardeners the opportunity to grow fresh organic produce and native plants, to exercise and breathe lush garden air, and to learn and socialize with all things earth-bound.

The Environmental Studies Students Association established the garden in 1997, and in 2000 family housing students took over, building 22 allotment plots and offering space for members of the university community to grow their own fruits and vegetables. In 2006, the CCG members formed a governance structure that today includes staff, alumni and students.

The garden has been increased to 67 plots, with two larger community plots, a children’s play area, composting and tool shed. Any member of the university community is welcome, seasoned or completely unexperienced, who wishes to spend some time sowing and reaping. Recently a small club membership by the UVSS, the garden club attracts people from all walks of campus life, from faculty and staff to undergrads and grad students. While the average age of members tends to 30, younger students are drawn to the garden and all it has to offer.

Wanda Martin, a registered nurse and UVic seasonal instructor in nursing, is the garden’s volunteer site coordinator. “The garden has a lot to offer the university community in terms of sustainability, health promotion and community action,” she explains.

UVic nursing student Samanta Clarke, in a practicum for her third-year Health Promotion and Community Empowerment class, contributed 78 hours to the garden last semester, where she saw the socioenvironmental model of health applied to the real world. Students in the class were placed throughout the city to learn about small communities and facilitate health empowerment along the way. Clarke and her practicum colleague Melissa Umphrey took part in CCG club meetings and garden work parties, helped with funding initiatives and conducted surveys of members to find the inspiration behind joining.

Most of the members are there, not surprisingly, to grow produce that is fresher (and cheaper) than what is found in store coolers. Others mentioned the benefits of spending time outside with children, family members and friends; taking part in a positive community action network; and getting beyond the limitations that apartments and residence dwelling can impose on student life.

Members have fun, feel productive and accomplished, and get to know other people in the university community that they likely would not have met otherwise.

Although Clarke’s health promotion class is finished, she continues to take part in the garden via rental of her own plot. For $30, any member of the university community can rent a plot for a 2007 growing season. The fee goes right back into garden costs like tools and soil amendments. Currently, there is only one plot available for rent, but the community plot is available for volunteer use, and there are bigger plans for the CCG. “We’re hoping to get a biology co-op student for fall,” says Martin. “Funding isn’t absolutely ensured yet, but we’ve got the student interest, so hopefully all will go well.”

In the long term, the location of the CCG is uncertain, due to its status as a designated building site in UVic’s 2003 Campus Plan. Though the garden does have secure tenure in its present location until 2011, facilities management is unable to predict how the garden location may be used beyond that.

“Through the university’s sustainability initiatives, we definitely encourage the garden, but we can’t pre-determine future campus plans,” says Dick Chappell, director of maintenance and operations.

But for now, whether a resource for students to attain their educational goals, a place to dig one’s fingers into the soil and grow some food, the garden offers an excellent way to pass some time and make new connections in the university community.
A DAY IN THE LIFE OF PAT BURNS could be spent in almost any department on campus. As a member of Secretarial Services providing temporary secretarial assistance, she has had seven assignments in eight months. Most of her jobs have involved filing and reception work, although she has backgrounds in marketing, researching, written/oral communications and special events chairing.

“It’s so varied; it helps to be adaptable. I often get time-consuming jobs that no one else has time for,” she says. “You have to be able to multi-task, especially in small departments. It is mostly learn as you go.”

She finds that people really appreciate that she is there to help. No matter how busy, they are pleasant to work with and don’t mind answering her questions. “I am certainly getting a broad understanding of how this university runs,” says Burns, whose aim is to get a full-time job at UVic.

Burns is an Ojibway from Ontario. She was not raised in the culture, but is learning more now. She moved from Toronto to Alberta, where she worked as a respiratory therapist. “Those were the days when you could find a job wherever you ended up.” She has been in Victoria for 25 years and has two grown sons also living in Victoria.

Before UVic, Burns was an English as a second language teacher for seven years before the big ESL schools came into town. “I really wanted to teach immigrant professionals, but there was no funding. Without good language skills, these professionals are driving taxis, working as janitors or in restaurants.”

In 2001 Burns was Elections BC’s first Aboriginal Liaison Officer. She serves as the Aboriginal representative for the UVic Alumni Association Board of Directors, sits on the communications and active alumni committees and attends as many Aboriginal events at UVic as she can. She is looking forward to the grad ceremony for Indigenous students. “I am hoping as many as possible will wear traditional regalia,” she says. She also intends to be involved in the First People’s House.

She appreciates the university’s policies on diversity and equity and its supportiveness to Aboriginals. “I like being part of a cutting-edge technology and knowledge,” she says. “And I love the beautiful campus and the bunnies.”

UVic gets its place among the stars

Looking for directions to UVic? No sweat. Hop on a space shuttle and head for the middle of an asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. A mere 416 million km from Earth you’ll find a 3.5 km chunk of rock hurtling away from the sun. Welcome to UVic.

That’s the new official name of an asteroid discovered by Dave Balam, a research associate in the University of Victoria’s Department of Physics and Astronomy. The name was published on May 31 in the Minor Planet Circulars of the International Astronomical Union, which formally approves and registers newly discovered celestial objects.

Balam “accidentally” discovered the asteroid in 1996 while using the telescope at the National Research Council of Canada in Stantich to track near-Earth comets and asteroids.

It took 11 years to calculate and confirm the asteroid’s orbital path before Balam was able to exercise his naming rights. “Good things take a lot of time,” he says, “and so I felt that the most fitting name should be ‘UVic’ in honour of the institution where I’ve worked for more than 30 years.”

UVic is the ninth university in Canada to be immortalized in the heavens, and the first one in British Columbia. More properly known as (150145) UVic, the asteroid orbits the sun every 5.43 years and is currently in the constellation of Leo. It will emerge from behind the sun in May 2008 when it will be 33.2 million km from Earth.

The UVic Bookstore has great gifts for grads – from diploma and picture frames to clothing and giftware.

Look for us at convocation, visit the UVic Bookstore or order online.

www.uvicbookstore.ca

Dave's in the LE_NONET office
By Robie Liscomb

Jocelyn Beyak radiates an infectious enthusiasm. It’s a trait that’s helped her develop her photographic art to a high level and earn a Jubilee Medal for top standing among this year’s graduates from the Faculty of Fine Arts.

In her photography, the visual arts honors student daily explores themes of personal and family history, memory, identity and place, creating images that intrigue and beckon to the viewer.

In one series, Beyak meticulously recreated old photos of her grandmother, using herself as the model. “I haunted the thrift stores to find exact copies of dresses she wore in the photos,” says Beyak, who then recreated the original poses and printed the resulting images in nearly life-sized format.

For her honours project, she traveled to Melah, MB, to revisit the area where her great-grandparents settled after immigrating to Canada from Ukraine and Poland. She created a series of self-portraits with the now-dilapidated barn and stone house that they built, using her art to document and explore her experience of time, place and family identity.

Beyak became interested in photography at an early age, growing up in Chilliwack, where her father used to have a side-job taking wedding photos. A teacher at the Langley Fine Arts School ignited her interest in the serious pursuit of photography, which she studied for a semester at Langara College before coming to UVic.

While attending UVic, Beyak held down several outside jobs and was a major force in the Visual Arts Students Association, helping organize a black-tie art auction, a Halloween exhibition and fashion show, and serving as the organization’s treasurer. She also worked as photo editor at the UVic student newspaper, The Martlet.

Her work has been featured in a recent solo exhibition at Fifty Fifty Gallery and The Ministry of Casual Living, an artist-run gallery, both in Victoria. Beyak plans to pursue a Master’s in visual arts after taking some time off from academia. “I need to take the time to think of a ‘grand idea,’” she explains, “something that I want to devote two years of graduate work to.”

Her work may be seen on her website: www.jocelynbeyak.com.

**Five honorary degrees awarded**

The University of Victoria is awarding honorary degrees to five outstanding leaders in the arts, human rights and the environment at the eight convocation ceremonies this month.

The honourees are:

- The Honourable Iona Campagnolo, who became B.C.’s 27th lieutenant governor in 2001 after careers in broadcasting and public service that were distinguished by her dedication to human rights and social justice.
- Musician and social activist Bruce Cockburn, who has recorded 20 gold and platinum albums and is widely regarded for his work for the welfare of the less fortunate, expressed through decades of activism around the world.
- The Honourable Miria Matembe of Uganda, member of the Pan-African Parliament, who has confronted widespread corruption in Ugandan society and urged her culture to come to terms with human sexuality and disease in light of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.
- Author, educator and human rights activist Mary Okamdeo, who trains African women in mediation, conflict resolution and survival skills, has held executive posts with key international aid organizations and is best known for her work with Women Waging Peace, a non-profit organization dedicated to eliminating conflict in Africa.
- Conservationist William (Bill) Turner, who revolutionized the preservation and restoration of the natural and cultural heritage of BC when he co-founded The Land Conservancy in 1997.

Honorary degrees are awarded by the Senate of the University of Victoria based on nominations received from the university community. Criteria include distinction in scholarship, research, teaching, the creative arts or public service.

When permission is granted, honorary degree recipients’ inspiring addresses to convocation are available via podcast at http://communications.uvic.ca/podcast.

**Honorary MP3s**

If the well-chosen words of an honorary degree recipient inspire you to seize the day, remember you can recapture that inspiration through convocation podcasts.

Listen to the speech again, as well as the remarks of other honorary degree recipients, as they take to the air via podcasts posted on UVic Communications Services web site.

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This year’s Spring Convocation speakers will be posted at communica-

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**Top fine arts grad a picture of success**

By Robie Liscomb

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**Major medal winners**

**Governor General’s gold medal**
- top PhD, all faculties
- Dr. Gregory Poole, physics and astronomy

**Lieutenant governor’s silver medal**
- top master’s, all faculties
- Agnes Zay, biology

**Lieutenant governor’s silver medal**
- top master’s, other than thesis, all faculties
- Connie Morey, art education

**Government General’s silver medal**
- top undergraduate, all faculties
- Kyle Mathewson, psychology

**Jubilee medal for humanities**
- Jennifer Hyde, French/Hispanic studies

**Jubilee medal for science**
- William Philip Rempel, mathematics

**Jubilee medal for social sciences**
- Kevin Dailey, sociology

**Law society gold medal**
- Christine Joseph

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GRAD STUDENT’S PASSION FOR CHILDREN CREATES CHANGE IN HOMELAND

By Christine Houlston

Khamis Chibwana made a big difference in his native Zomba while living a world away in Victoria. Chibwana, who recently completed his master’s in child and youth care, devoted his time on campus to finding solutions to child care problems in Zomba, Malawi, a rural African municipality, where the effects of AIDS and poverty have left many residents struggling for basic resources.

Chibwana was teaching at the University of Malawi when he was awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship in 2005. He chose to come to UVic and immediately focused his studies on the problems with child care in Zomba. “I was interested because of the magnitude of need,” he says. “I thought this must be studied. There is a need for authorities to be involved.”

Chibwana says vast differences in resources exist between community-funded child care centres and those that also receive funds from outside organizations.

“At this stage there isn’t any systematic assessment of child care centres, so it’s hard to know what communities are in need,” he says. Part of Chibwana’s thesis involved selecting a random group of child care centres in Malawi and comparing their resources, from the condition of the facilities to play materials available.

While in Victoria, Chibwana helped spearhead Zomba KIDZ, a project that began as part of Sanft’s Centennial celebrations and focuses on improving early childhood development in Zomba. He worked to help educate Sanft employees about child care situation in Zomba. The group has raised over $50,000 to build a community facility where children in the region can go to play, learn and receive basic nutrition and healthcare. Chibwana helped the group forge a partnership with Chancellor College, a campus of the University of Malawi, to deliver the program.

Chibwana has returned to his job at the University of Malawi and is working with government and non-profit groups to help shape policy on childcare in the region.

TOP UNDERGRADUATE CONTRIBUTES TO BRAIN RESEARCH

By Suzanne Smith

We’ve all experienced the frustration of learning a new sport, like swinging a golf club for the first time, but have you ever thought about which parts of your brain help you to learn?

This year’s recipient of the Governor General’s Silver Medal Award, Kyle Mathewson, is fascinated by neuroscience and the way the brain functions, so for his undergraduate honours research in psychology he decided to study the brain areas involved in learning a series of movements. He studied a part of the brain that is believed to use information about mistakes to adjust its actions in the future, explains Mathewson.

Working in UVic’s Brain and Cognition Laboratory with his supervisor, Dr. Clay Holroyd, Mathewson recorded the brain activity of 30 undergraduate volunteers using an electroencephalogram. The students were asked to learn a sequence of button presses by trial and error and then perform the button sequence as quickly as possible.

“While the student volunteers were learning the sequence a specific part of their brains became activated when they were told they had made a mistake,” says Mathewson. “Later on when the students had learned the sequence this same part of their brains became activated the moment they made a mistake, but this time they no longer needed to be told they had made an error,” continued Mathewson. “This shows us that once we learn a series of movements we can begin to monitor our own behaviours without requiring feedback.”

Mathewson explains that brain research on learning helps us to better understand and help people with brain injuries or disorders, and it provides valuable information for educators to use in adapting their teaching styles to the processes of the brain.

Mathewson is starting a PhD program this fall at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in cognitive neuroscience. He plans to work as a researcher and professor at a Canadian university.

MEDAL WINNER FOLLOWS HIS INTERESTS

By Suzanne Smith

Kevin Daley, this year’s winner of the Social Sciences Jubilee Medal, believes the secret to academic success is finding a discipline that really engages you.

“I started out my studies at UVic intending to get into law school, but by third year I got really interested in social justice and the sociology of law,” says Daley. “I found the sociology department very supportive, and I was especially impressed by Dr. Helga Hallgrímísdóttir who later became my supervisor.”

Daley advises new undergraduates to “take a lot of electives, at least in your first two years in order to find out what you really enjoy learning. Focus on learning, and the good grades will follow.”

Daley took his own advice and, inspired by his interest in law, decided to compare patterns of crime control among Canada, the US and the UK. He discovered that Canada, as compared to the other countries, has remained more committed to rehabilitation than punishment. It’s not that Canadians are less concerned about crime, according to Daley, but that Canada’s criminal justice system partially insulates penal officials from the sort of direct control exerted by elected officials in those other countries.

Daley says that he felt incredibly prepared for grad school after finishing his honours research. He’s now three months away from completing his master’s in sociology at McGill University. He plans to pursue his PhD, but not before exploring some non-academic things. “After all,” he says. “I’ve been in school since kindergarten.”

LAST FALL, CHRISTINE JOSEPH was looking home from Ottawa, UVic law student Christine Joseph was looking forward to sleeping late the next day. Instead, her ringing phone woke her up early.

“It was good news,” says Joseph in an interview from Vancouver.

On the other end of the line was Supreme Court Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin offering this year’s UVic Law Society Gold Medal winner a position as her clerk. Joseph won’t make the move to Ottawa until after she completes a term as a clerk with the BC Court of Appeal in Vancouver in September.

Her road to the country’s highest court began in Alberta. Joseph was born in Edmonton and raised in Lethbridge where she graduated from the University of Lethbridge with a degree in political science.

“I decided to apply to the best law school. I did a fair amount of research and the only school I applied to was UVic as an admission student,” says Joseph.

While at UVic she participated in the UVic Association of Women in the Law and wrapped up her studies with a term at the downtown Law Centre, the only full-time, clinical program offered by a Canadian law school. She describes the experience as “amazing. You learn so much about everything. You’re handled 40 files and they’re all yours. I did a criminal trial and a two-week human rights hearing.”

Spending the summer working at the law firm of Fasken Martineau DuMoulin puts Joseph in the same city as her husband after the past spent a lot of time on BC Ferries for two and a half years. He hopes to be able to arrange a job transfer to Ottawa to coincide with her Supreme Court clerkship.

Joseph says she loved every minute of her time at UVic law, praising the “amazing” faculty who took time to prepare her for her Supreme Court interviews and helping her with her resumed.

“You wouldn’t see that anywhere else,” she says. “I’ll miss UVic immensely. I couldn’t have made a better choice.”
James Letts is an accomplished Metis student whose co-op work terms with UVic’s Department of Biochemistry led to a number of important discoveries on the x-ray crystallography of proteins. He has already been published three times in the leading scientific journals in his field, and one of his recent articles has just been accepted into Acta Crystallographica, a respected biochemical journal. Letts attributes his success in part to the co-op program that gave him the chance work alongside Dr. Stephen Evans, his co-op supervisor. “I didn’t know anything about x-ray crystallography before I started working for Dr. Evans,” says Letts. Evans soon had Letts flying to places like Denmark and Honolulu to complete co-op work terms and to collaborate with other leading researchers within their field.

When it came time to apply to graduate school, Letts caught the eye of Rockefeller University in New York, who offered him a full scholarship to pursue his doctorate with Dr. Roderick Mackinnon, winner of the 2003 Nobel Prize in chemistry. Letts accepted the offer and is looking forward to continuing his research with the x-ray crystallography of proteins in New York.

 Chemistry and economics graduate Matt Cooper will be heading to Montréal this fall for a year-long research position with his most recent co-op employer, Merck Frosst. The pharmaceutical company was eager to hire Cooper back as an intern after he proved his research abilities during his work term. He will continue the force field design research (exploring how virtual molecules interact) that he began as a co-op student. “By working with Merck Frosst I was able to prove that I could transfer my research skills and academic knowledge into the workplace,” says Cooper. “I was interested in the internship program, and co-op allowed me to make the connection.”

Cooper completed more co-op work terms than required, building up an impressive and diverse résumé in the process. His chemistry-related work experience with UVic’s Department of Chemistry, Buchinger Ingelheim (Montreal), Synci-tium (Victoria), University of Waterloo (in an atmospheric chemistry project supported by Canadian Space Agency) and Merck Frosst (Montreal) gave him the competitive edge that helped him secure his internship.

This desire to go above and beyond is nothing new to Cooper. He has also been incredibly active in campus life as well as the larger community. While maintaining a cumulative grade-point average of 7.54, Cooper volunteered at the Royal Jubilee Hospital, worked as a teaching assistant with University 101 to students facing barriers to education, served as an elected representative of the UVic Senate and was a director-at-large for the UVic Students’ Society.

Cooper has been awarded a number of scholarships throughout his UVic career and was recently recognized with a UVic Blue and Gold Award, honouring him for the significant contributions he has made in promoting the quality of life on the University of Victoria campus and in the community at large.

This ability to make a significant impression on the world is shared by co-op graduate Jennifer Richardson. The business student inspired retired business professor Bill Buckwold to include her name on the financial award being established by UVic Business to recognize his contribution to the teaching profession.

The award is called the “Bill Buckwold Jennifer Richardson Award” because Richardson’s perseverance in completing her Bachelor of Commerce degree while raising her daughter and working nearly full-time represents the essence of the award. When Buckwold first met Richardson, he was immediately impressed by her ability to juggle a very busy schedule. “At the beginning of the term Jennifer was struggling, but it wasn’t from lack of interest,” says Buckwold. “It was from lack of depth.” No wonder—Richardson’s schedule was incredibly hectic: she would come to class, go home to complete her assignments, go to work for four hours, come home to play with her daughter and then sleep for four hours.

Her work initially suffered as a result of her schedule, but once she had Buckwold’s support, her grades improved. Richardson also participated in the Business Co-op Program, working for BMO Financial Group for all her work terms as a customer service representative. The co-op positions helped her put her degree to practice and also helped with her schedule—the regular hours were much more accommodating than her previous job working the graveyard shift at a casino host.

“My co-op experience was a period of discovery,” says Richardson. “It allowed me to experiment with different roles and challenges and provided an opportunity to uncover what it is that I wanted to pursue as my first career.” Since completing her co-op work last December, Richardson works as an analyst for the Ministry of Community Serv- ices. She is optimistic about the future and hopes her ability to persevere will inspire others. “It is such an honour for the award to be named after me. I hope it will encourage others to hang on to their dreams and not let anything get in the way.”

Look out world here they come! With undergraduate transcripts chock-full of co-op work experience and glowing references from employers and faculty members, plus a host of other personal and academic achievements, these grads are not only leaving a legacy behind them at UVic—they’re moving on to make their mark on the world.

By Amy Geddes

Spring 2007

 Convocation

Co-op students make their mark

The Ring June 2007 Page 7
SHEDDING LIGHT ON THE LIVES OF BLIND IMMIGRANTS

By Amitra Wijpe

On June 6, Abebe Abay Teklu, a student in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, became the first blind person to graduate from a BC university with a PhD.

Teklu’s doctoral research was inspired by his own experience as an educated immigrant who has faced many barriers to employment in Canada because he is blind. His dissertation, “The Voices of Ethiopian Blind Immigrants and their Families: Facing the Challenges of Life in Canada,” asserts that albinism keeps disabled people unemployed and impoverished in this country.

“Canada has one of the worst records in how it treats disabled people,” he says. Teklu says that disabled people are inadmissible to Canada unless they are on a point system that rates factors such as education and work experience.

As part of his research, Teklu interviewed immigrants to Canada who had attained high scores but were still unable to find work. Teklu says the reality is that 98 per cent of disabled immigrants are not employed in this country, despite their levels of education. He thinks if disabled immigrants knew the reality of life in Canada, many of them would not have come here.

“We’re wasting human capital. These people have a lot to offer. Employers are unaware of what these people can do,” he says. “This lack of awareness extends to government, where it translates into poor policy.”

Teklu’s journey to UVic began in a small village in Ethiopia where he worked as a teacher, musician, poet, playwright and social activist. In the mid 1980s his opposition to Ethiopia’s Provisional Military Government (Derg) led to his imprisonment. With the help of Amnesty International, he was released from prison after a year. He and 1,000 other Ethiopians then fled the country, trekking 2,000 miles on foot into Sudan. At one point, the Derg sent a gunned helicopter after the group, opening fire and killing 600 people.

Once in Sudan, Teklu helped found an education and work experience. As part of his research, Teklu helped found an education and work experience. As part of his research, Teklu helped found an education and work experience. As part of his research, Teklu helped found an education and work experience. As part of his research, Teklu helped found an education and work experience.

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Teklu eventually came to British Columbia, where he earned a bachelor's degree in social work. However, when he applied for work with the Ministry of Children and Families, he was denied a position because he could not drive. Teklu continued his education, earning a master's in social work from UVic in only two years. Again, frustrated that he could not find work, Teklu returned to Victoria to pursue his PhD, which he completed in two and a half years.

With a young family to support, Teklu admits he's concerned about being able to provide for his children in a society that doesn't value its disabled citizens. But he maintains a positive outlook, declaring that "if there's willingness and persistence, disability shouldn't be a deterrent from achieving your goals."

GRAD DEVELOPS EARLY DIAGNOSTIC TOOL FOR GENETIC DISORDER

By Jennifer Cador

Agnes Zay confesses that she was surprised to learn she'd won the Lieutenant Governor's Silver Medal for her master's thesis research into a rare genetic disorder. "My project is very technical, so it's not sexy science, as they call it," she laughs.

"Sexy science, according to Zay, is what we read about in the newspaper, like cancer vaccines or climate change. But Zay's work is unquestionably important. She studies an often fatal genetic disorder called glycine encephalopathy, most commonly seen in babies. People with the disease cannot break down glycine, an important neurotransmitter in the brain. Left untreated, babies with the disease sustain severe brain damage, suffer from seizures and usually die in their first year.

But diagnosis, at least until Zay's research, has been difficult. Doctors have had to take a liver biopsy from the newborn, which involves surgery, or take a chorionic villi sample during pregnancy.

Zay's work promises to change that situation. In her research, Zay zeroed in on one of the proteins in the complex that breaks down glycine and is working to see if it can diagnose the disease through a simple blood test. There is no cure, but symptoms can be treated with drugs.

While the disease is rare, Zay points out that the knowledge acquired can be applied to other diseases. "The reason why you start with diseases like this is because they are what's called 'single gene disorders,' so there's a single defect that causes the disease. In diseases like cancer, a lot of different things interact with each other. Understanding this helps us move on to the more complicated diseases, like cancer."

Zay is now considering a PhD in human genetics. In her off-hours, she volunteers at the BC Cancer Agency and Habitat for Humanity, building affordable homes from the ground up.

"When you're working your brain all week, you need to get outside and do something active. And one day, if I need to build my own house, I'll know how to do the siding."
INDIGENOUS GRADUATE
A COMMUNITY BUILDER AT HEART

By Christine McLaren

Even as a young girl growing up in her traditional Nuu-chah-nulth community of Ehotanxv (Zeballos) on Vancouver Island, Dawn Smith knew that getting an education would be a significant part of her path in life. “While I was growing up I constantly heard the word ‘education’ from everyone who was important to me,” says Smith, who celebrates her fourth graduation ceremony at UVic with a Master of Arts in Indigenous Governance.

Her education began with a certificate in administration for Aboriginal government followed by a diploma in public sector management and then a degree in political science in 2003. Smith, whose Indigenous family name “Tahbshosomca” means “to be held by the principles, beliefs, values and spirituality of the family,” was elected band chief in her community in 1998. “Community building is what my heart is in,” says Smith, who was compelled to ask, “what is my contribution back to my community and how can I make things better?”

The results of residential school trauma on her family and her community created numerous personal challenges for Smith. Despite the suffering, the love and acceptance of her family brought her great joy. Raised by her great-grandmother and her grandmother, she was given an Indian nickname that meant “to great people with joy.”

She credits the strength to stand up for herself and her community to her Grandpa Mosses, who was active in Indigenous politics for over 60 years. The Indigenous Governance Program provided valuable networking and leadership skills that will ultimately benefit her family and her community.

Smith is currently working as Indigenous student advisor in the Faculty of Human and Social Development, a position that has allowed her “to spread my wings and successfully institute change.” Having recently been re-elected to the band council, she will continue to use her gentle but determined leadership qualities to support the women in her community to find their own voices.

A COMMUNITY BUILDER AT HEART

By Jennifer Cadore

As a kid in Ontario, he used to lie on his back on starry summer nights and gaze up at the sky, pondering the endless celestial wonders above. As an adult, Dr. Gregory Poole is still intrigued with the cosmos, and his groundbreaking research on galaxy clusters has earned him the highest general’s Gold Medal.

Poole is interested in the big picture: galaxy clusters are the largest structures in the universe, and their collisions with each other to form new, merged structures will reveal, in the coming decades, much about the nature of the universe itself.

Understanding the workings of the very universe could lead to new knowledge of processes on earth. Poole points out that nature has a very compact set of rules. “You can study breast cancer or you can study the collision of galaxy clusters. You’re using the same language, the same knowledge, the same set of principles to do both, and those principles could fit in a book.”

The Governor General’s Gold Medal caps off a stellar academic career for Poole in which he achieved a perfect 9.00 GPA, picking up major awards and fellowships along the way.

But the horizons beckon. Poole is headed for Melbourne, Australia, this summer to study in detail the life and movement of 400,000 galaxies. And who knows what might come out of it? “Discoveries are made in the most unexpected places. Astronomy is a voyage into the unknown. The hope is that in illuminating the unknown, we’ll empower ourselves to do and build and perceive things we otherwise couldn’t.”

TWO PASSIONS, TWO DEGREES, TWO MEDALS

By Valerie Shore

It may seem like déjà vu all over again for Philip Rempel at his June 5 convocation ceremony. In June 2005 Rempel earned a Bachelor of Music degree and the Victoria Medal as the top undergraduate in the Faculty of Fine Arts. Now he’s back to claim a second undergraduate degree and another medal—this time as the top student in the Faculty of Science.

Both medals caught the Victoria native by surprise. “The first time I didn’t know they gave medals out,” he says. “This time I didn’t know how well I’d done compared to other people, although I was kind of wondering.”

Rempel graduates this month with a BSc in mathematics, the Jubilee Medal in Science, and a GPA of 8.90. A perfect GPA is 9.0.

“I’ve always enjoyed doing math, but it’s nice to have something artistic to do as well,” says Rempel in 2005. If anything, that dual passion for music and math has intensified over the last two years. He still can’t decide which one to pursue as a career.

“Math was never far away, though. He took most of his first- and second-year math courses while completing the music degree. How do two subjects compare? ‘With math, you can study but there comes a point where you feel you know it pretty well,’ he says. ‘With music, you’re never really finished. There’s always more you can do.’

A third degree, a master’s, is most likely in Rempel’s future. But will it be in music or math? Rempel plans to get a job until he figures it out. ‘I love both so it’s not as though I would feel stuck if I picked the wrong one,’ he grins. ‘It’s just something I want to think about before I take the next step.’

WAY AHEAD OF THE GAME

By Patty Pitts

While other medical school hopefuls scramble to finish their application essays this fall, Steve Moore will be somewhere across the sea, backpack wearing thin from a five-month jaunt through Europe and South East Asia.

At 22, the biology grad and well-known co-captain of the Vikes basketball team is ahead of the game. “I want to have [the essays] done before I go,” says Moore, whose trip will follow a jam-packed five-year UVic career.

Aside from leading the Vikes to a second-place finish in the ’06 nation- als, Moore has won the President’s Cup (for athletics skilled in combin- ing their sports with their studies), the Provost Award (for the Vike with the highest GPA—8.67, in this case), and a Blue and Gold Award for community involvement.

Between hoop-shooting and study time, the (now) former Vikes shoot- ing guard also coached basketball in a league for 12–13 year olds.

I enjoy helping people,” he says, “and passing on some of the things I’ve learned.”

In preparation for applying to med school, Moore has reflected on his volunteer work at the BC Cancer Agency, a position he took on after working as a research assistant there in the summer of 2005 (a class on cancer’s molecular basis—piqued inter- est in the field). Helping to organize doctor-patient meetings at the am- bulatory care unit gave him a weekly glimpse into the patients’ experience with cancer, as well as the workings of a particular medical environment. “Moving into medicine,” he says, “it’s pretty interesting to see that whole dynamic.”

While juggling sports and academ- ics has been challenging for Moore (he remembers cramping for exams while on the road for three-day tournaments) he says committing to his responsibili- ties keeps him motivated.

“I learned at an early age that a lot of great things in life take a lot of work. They don’t necessarily fall into your lap.”

Spring 2007 Edition
Dr. Amy Verdun (political science) has been recognized as a success story by the European Commission for her accomplishments as UVic’s Jean Monnet Chair. Verdun is featured in their celebratory brochure as one of 20 stories selected from Jean Monnet programs throughout Europe and the world. Verdun is the founding director of UVic’s Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence and has held the Jean Monnet Chair position since 2001. The centre provides a variety of services including conferences, a PhD lecture series, roundtables, funding for student trips and workshops, and the production of research literature. For more information, visit http://web.uvic.ca/europe/moe.html.

Patty Pitts, manager of media relations with UVic Communications, shared an Award of Excellence at the 2007 Best of the Northwest Video Awards with Shaw TV’s Daphne Goode. The pair collaborated on a tribute to the late Michael Williams which was broadcast last fall in conjunction with the unveiling of a statue of Williams in Old Town and the announcement of a new UVic downtown gallery to house the art collection Williams left when he died in 2006. The award was in the informative feature category and was chosen from entries from Alaska, Alberta, British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. Williams’ daughter, appointment counselor for UVic Communications, showed some of the art from his collaboration and recounted his determination to restore many buildings in Victoria’s Old Town where he also left to the university.

A paper written by Dr. Steve Tax (business) and published in 1998, was recently ranked in the top 30 most influential papers in service marketing literature. The paper, entitled “Customer Evaluations of Service Complaint Experiences: Implications for Relationship Marketing,” was published in the 1998 Journal of Marketing.

When Natala Frank says it is important to approach a problem as a whole, “It means that...”

By Christine Roulston

When Natala Frank says it is important to approach a problem as a whole, “It means that it is very much an art,” says Frank. “A lot of creativity that is similar to music is involved in what I do.”

Frank’s ability to break down barriers between disciplines has led to her becoming a leading researcher in “spintronics,” one of the hottest new areas of science.

Conventional electronics make use of the charge state of electrons, while spintronics takes advantage of the “direction” of spin of an electron (clockwise or counterclockwise rotation of an electron relative to an external magnetic field) as well as its charge state.

Spintronics devices are currently used in mass data storage devices and hold great promise for the development of microelectronics that require orders of magnitude less power to run.

“One of the most obvious uses of spintronics is in expanding the amount of data a computer hard drive can store,” says Frank. “But because traditional data storage media involve magnet grains or films, the density of grains or bits must be so high that it can cause ‘random flips’ in the spins, which can lead to improper or slow functioning of the computer.”

To get around the problem, Frank and her team of seven UVic scientists are combining magnetic, optical and conducting functions into hybrid materials to advance electronic data storage.

Frank is also keenly interested in quantum computing, an application of spintronics which is still in its infancy. The science allows computers to conduct complex calculations simultaneously, such as climate change mapping and the encryption of data at a very high level, which would improve security for many items from credit and identity cards to top secret government documents.

Frank joined UVic’s Department of Chemistry in January 2005, after four years at the University of Washington. Her education and career has taken her to leading universities and research institutions across North America and France.

Her research program at UVic also involves working on photomagnetic systems, in which exposing organic and inorganic compounds to a laser beam of light leads to changes in the magnetic properties of the material. Frank’s excitement for the evolution of spintronics is palpable. “Magnetism and conductivity aren’t well understood. Significant computational, synthetic and intellectual challenges are involved, and that’s exciting,” she says. “I enjoy being part of three different scientific communities—the magnetism, optical and conductivity community all working towards a common goal.”

**Summer Program in Asian Law**

An exciting opportunity to focus on developments in Asian law, society, and business, in four fully-accredited law courses: • Law and Society in Southeast Asia • Civil Society and Human Rights in Asia • Law and Development of Chinese Law • Japanese Corporate Governance

This program will be of interest to professionals currently working or interested in pursuing knowledge of Asian law, as well as international and Canadian students who are completing their studies. Individuals currently working in law or in related professions and who are interested in receiving a certificate of completion, issued jointly by the Faculty of Law and the Division of Continuing Studies, may apply to the non-credit Professional Development Certificate program. Students who are currently enrolled in an academic program can register as non-credit students.

**Vacation Employment**

UVic Careers offers a variety of vacation employment opportunities for UVic students and graduates. Opportunities may include positions in student services, academic units, administrative services, and the library. For more information about vacation employment opportunities, please visit www.uvicjobs.ca.
By Courtney Tait

Five years after Quinn Matthews completed Physics 220, he still re-members the day Dr. Michel Lefebvre—the expert physicist teaching the course—brought the concept of special relativity closer to home.

“The theoretical and math-ematical proof of Lorentz’s equations, which form the mathematical basis for special relativity,” says Matthews, “he explained that they were used to design the exact shape of the cyclotron at TRUMPH, Canada’s national particle physics lab at UBC.”

Lefebvre’s ability to make a com-plex concept relevant by relating it to his research expertise in particle accelerator design deeply impressed Matthews, now a master’s stu-dent in medical physics.

“The integra-tion of research into the curricu-lum was a major reason I decided to pursue phys-i cs,” says Math-ews, “I feel I landed in a great field I may not have discovered otherwise.”

Lefebvre is one of three award-win-ning UVic professors who discuss ways to merge research and teaching in a new video produced by the University of Victoria’s Learn-ing and Teaching Centre (LTC). A collaboration with Office of the Vice-President Research, Integrating Research and Teaching “also features interviews with public scientist Dr. Amy Verdun and nursing professor and Associate Dean of Graduate Stud-ies Dr. Gweneth Doane. "Traditionally for professors and instructors, teaching and research are seen to conflict,” says LTC director Teresa Dawson. “If you do research it takes away from your teaching, if you do teaching it takes away from your research. We’re trying to say that they actually support each other.”

UVic has a strength in integrating research and teaching that should be shared, says Dawson.

All three professors emphasize in the video ways their students inform their research process, revealing a natural synergy: “The questions of students are often some of the best research ques-tions,” says Doane. Her work with students in New Zealand on family health promotion led to co-authoring a text currently used at both the undergrad and graduate level. “Through listening to their stories and questions,” she says, “it became evident what wasn’t being articulated in the literature.”

Verdun—who supplements course readings with works she has authored and often has research collaborators assist in teaching—says: “The more students feel you’re closer to the re-search material, the more they’ll listen carefully to what you have to say.”

One of the goals emphasized in UVic’s 2007 strategic plan is to ensure the university’s research culture is brought into the classroom. Many Canadian uni-versities claim to integrate research and teaching, but, according to Dawson, UVic has a strength in the area that should be shared.

LTC Associate Director Mary Sanseverino presented clips of the video to an enthusiastic audience at the McFarland-Hyrum National Teaching, Learning and Technology conference in Saskatoon last Novem-ber, prompting discussion from pro-fessors across the country.

“It was very well received,” she says. “People really want to know how this is done.”

The 45-minute video will be available for faculty to view in fall 2007. The LTC plans to add clips of the video to an enthusiastic audience at the Pacific Northwest. Malwood Art Museum and Gallery, University Centre. 741-6662.

When is the next Ring?

Calendar dates should be sent by 4 p.m. on the copy deadline date shown below to UVic Communications (Sleegear C 146, 654-721-6005, e-mail: comuvic@uvic.ca) or entered into the online calendar (www.uvic.ca/events). For information call 721-7036.

Publication Date  Copy Deadline

Thursday, July 5  Wednesday, July 25

Calendar highlights

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

Tuesday, June 12

Thursday, June 14
Other 12 p.m. President’s Fit Walk: Join us for a 2.2 km walk around Ring Road. Light refreshments afterwards. University Centre main entrance. 472-4058

Monday, June 18
Other 9 a.m. UVic Engineering Graduate Innovation Forum ’07. UVic engineering graduate stu-dents showcase their research work. MacLaurin Ato. 853-3181

Conference 11 a.m. The Digital Humanities Summer Institute 2007: Discuss, learn about and advance skills in new computing technolo-gies influencing the work of those in the arts, humanities and library communities. Registration for members of affiliated institutions for this one-week institute, $1500 for faculty and $550 for students. Humanities Computing and Media Centre, Clemshill Bldg. 472-5401

Tuesday, June 19
Division of Continuing Studies Lecture City Making in Paradise: A Conversation with Mike Harcourt. A discussion of the ways in which the daily choices we make as lead-ers, activists and citizens influence our capacity to build livable and resilient communities. David Lam Auditorium, MacLaurin Bldg. 741-6119

Tuesday, July 3
Asia Pacific Initiatives Lecture 11 a.m. Islamic Finance in Malaysia. Speaker: Dato’ Dr. Nik Norailul Thalib, Legal Counsel, Malaysia. Fraser 142. 721-7020
**FROM TOY CRANES TO AEROSPACE ENGINEERING**

By Courtney Tait

Michal Ousky launched his engineering career early, with the help of a toy set called Merkur. "You could build whatever you wanted with it," says the winner of the Canadian Society for Mechanical Engineering medal. "I was always interested in hands-on stuff." His projects have come a long way from the toy cranes he constructed as a young boy in Trnava, Slovakia. While completing his BEng—which included a work term at UVAT (UVic’s Aviation Technology Team), a group of researchers who build devices for people with disabilities—Ousky helped design a low-rider wheelchair, a signaling system for the hearing-impaired, and an underwater glider (think mini-submarine with wings).

"The nice thing about engineering is that you usually work in groups," he says. "Even if you can’t come up with an idea right away, someone else will point you in the right direction." Ousky moved to Victoria with his family in Grade 7, excelling in woodworking and physics through-out his high school. He won an entrance scholarship to UVic, and in 2006 was nominated for a Rhodes scholarship to Oxford (he was a finalist). One of the criteria for the scholarship was success in sports, which he demonstrated playing on the Vikings basketball team for two years.

Through engineering’s co-op program, he has sharpened his skills at both Vancouver’s Pulp and Paper Research Institute and Petro-Cana-da’s Calgary office.

"This fall, Ousky begins a master’s degree in the University of Toronto’s aerospace program. Destined for NASA, perhaps? "That would be a pretty nice place to work," he says. "I’m keeping my options open, but whatever I’m doing, I’m trying to do the best I can."

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**WORK’S A GAME FOR COMPUTER SCIENCE GRAD**

By Courtney Tait

As a five-year-old boy in Haikou, China, Liuguo Zhang received a gift that would shape his future. "My dad bought me the Nintendo entertainment system," says the computer ace, now 22. "Working in the game industry has been my wish since I was very young."

One of UVic’s top students in the computer science program, Zhang is living his dream as a software engineer at Need For Speed (NFS) in Vancouver, a developer of electronic sports games and franchise of Electronic Arts, the world’s largest computer game publisher.

Hired in his fourth year through the computer science/math work experience program, Zhang has since been promoted to Platform Lead, making him responsible for ensuring every aspect of the game developed functions properly.

"It’s the process of creating a piece of art work," he says. Zhang—whose English name is John—learned computer programming basics in elementary school. By Grade 11 he had passed all the tests to be a Microsoft Certified Engineer and won several national programming competitions. Wanting to see more of the world, Zhang left China at 17 to study at UVic. He discovered his talent for game programming in 2005, through playing “Lumines” on his PlayStation Portable.

"My girlfriend and I liked the game so much we had to fight over who got to play next," he says. “All of a sudden I thought, I could just write a PC version with network capability, so two of us can play against each other.” Without any prior game programming experience, Zhang taught himself to write a version almost visually identical to PlayStation’s. "I had hardly any sleep that week," he says, "but I found something that really interests me.”

When he’s not debugging programs or managing memory at NFS’s Vancouver-based studio, Zhang enjoys weekend drives, checking out the coastal views.

His future? “I’m still at the learning phase,” he says. “I’ll try my best to learn as much as fast as I can.”

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**WONDERFUL WAYS OF KNOWING**

By Jennifer Cador

If there’s one thing Connie Morey has learned from her own life experience, it’s that there is more than one way of knowing. The Ontarian-born mother of two is right at home with the idea of multiple truths co-existing. This is partly, she says, because of motherhood itself. This is partly, she says, because of motherhood itself.

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His future? ‘I’m still at the learning phase,” he says. “I’ll try my best to learn as much as fast as I can.”

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**Campus Construction Projects—Summer 2007**

Four new buildings are currently under construction on campus to provide essential research, learning and office space. Underground heating, water, gas, electrical, sewer and treated waste water services for the new facilities will be installed this summer.

Ring Road between the Cedar Hill Cross Road intersection and Finnerty Road will be closed during July and August in order to redirect the sewer from the Oak Bay system to the Saanich system. Parking lots 3, A, B and C will also be closed. Other projects require temporary disruptions of pedestrian paths (see map for details). UVic is committed to your safety—please use caution near construction areas.

Projects have been scheduled together in order to minimize disruption to the campus community and will be completed by fall 2007. For more information, visit www.uvic.ca/construction/.