Brunt appointed vice-president research

By Valerie Shore

It will be a homecoming of sorts for the University of Victoria's new vice-president research.

Dr. Howard Brunt, who served as UVic's associate vice-president research from 1999 to 2004, is returning to lead the university's research enterprise for the next five years, effective Sept. 1, 2007.

As vice-president research, Brunt will be the primary advocate for UVic research, internally and externally, and will provide the executive leadership necessary for the university to achieve its national and international research goals.

"We're delighted to welcome Howard back in this pivotal role," says UVic President David Turpin, chair of the search committee. "His exceptional administrative skills make him the ideal person to further advance UVic's position as a leading research university, focusing on issues of national and global importance."

UVic's faculty consistently rank among the country's leaders in per capita research funding. In addition, the university is well known for its commitment to interdisciplinary and community-based research, making major contributions to the advancement of knowledge and its application to social, economic and environmental issues.

UVic researchers were awarded more than $882 million in outside research grants and contracts in 2005/06, nearly tripling in the past six years. The university has 15 interdisciplinary research centres, participates in eight national Networks of Centres of Excellence, and is involved in or leads a number of large-scale multi-institution research projects.

"I'm very aware that the university has changed in many ways during my absence," says Brunt. "Its reputation for research excellence has increased significantly, new major research platforms and infrastructure have been obtained, and the successful faculty renewal process is adding to the already strong cadre of academics at UVic."

"My challenge will be to support our faculty and students in ways that keep them moving along this same trajectory of success, perhaps with an even steeper slope."

Since 2004, Brunt has served as provost and vice president academic at the University of Northern British Columbia, where he has led an academic planning process to set strategic directions for the university.

Brunt holds a PhD in community health science and epidemiology from the University of Calgary (1990), a master's in cardiovascular nursing from Yale University (1983) and a BA in sociology from the University of Florida (1974).

Brunt's areas of research specialisation are cardiovascular disease, epidemiology and human research ethics, with a strong emphasis on community-based research. He has received awards for his cardiovascular research and has served on many national and provincial research review panels and policy boards. In 2002 he was appointed by the president of the three federal granting councils to chair an inter-agency panel on research ethics.

Brunt first joined UVic in 1990 as a professor in the nursing program. "I'm excited about returning to UVic, reconnecting with former colleagues and getting to know all the new faculty members who have come in the past three years," he says.

He is especially attracted to UVic's strong emphasis on the integration of research, teaching and service.

How is large-scale food production contributing to climate change? This is one of several questions that food scholars, policy-makers and members of the public will tackle at "Cultivating Appetites for Knowledge," a conference of international food experts taking place May 29 to June 3 at the University of Victoria.

Conference chair Dr. John Volpe of UVic's School of Environmental Studies is best known for his research on the risks of industrial aquaculture to food sustainability on the West Coast of North America. Most recently, Volpe's research has looked at the ways consumer demand for cheap food is affecting the environment.

"This is the premier international food scholars' conference held in North America," says Volpe. "It's a natural fit to host the conference on Vancouver Island, which is home to such robust food security activism and cuisine."

"We are bringing a community of exceptional food scholars to a community of exceptional food advocates, food artisans and food lovers," says conference organizer and UVic graduate student Sushil Saini. "Our job as organizers is to create as many opportunities as possible for these communities to meet and inspire each other."

The conference will feature four days of presentations, workshops and panels where food experts and members of the public will explore the social, political and economic structures crucial for a sustainable and secure food future. It will include a 12-course grand banquet prepared by Chef David McKinney of Camille's Fine West Coast Dining, food tastings, a free film series and a free speaker's night on food and climate change.

The conference kicks off plans for sustainable food systems education at UVic, ranging from one-off courses on culinary and cultural interest to courses designed for current and future food policy makers, farmers and food industry professionals.

For more information on the conference, visit http://brainfood.uvic.ca/

Grads give $2.25 million for research on aging

By Chris Thackray

A $2.25-million gift from two University of Victoria graduates ensures UVic is at the forefront of research on the process of aging.

The donation from Dr. Erich Mohr (PhD '82) and Dr. Shelley Mohr (BA '84) will establish a research program in the Department of Psychology and the Centre on Aging with a focus on adult development and aging, just as the country's baby boomers are poised to begin their retirement years.

The gift will fund a research chair to be held by a world-class scholar who will lead the university's participation in national and international research initiatives, including the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging (CLSA)—the first national study on the process of aging. The chair will be named for Erich Mohr's parents, Harald and Wilhelma Mohr, who were both medical doctors.

"Education was so important to them," says Shelley Mohr. "All of their children excelled academically and their careers were just amazing. We really wanted to honour that."

Over the past decade, Erich Mohr, a specialist in the treatment of central nervous system disorders, co-founded several biotech companies based in Ottawa. Last year he founded MedGenesis, a Victoria-based company that is developing treatments for Alzheimer's and dementia.

Erich and Shelley Mohr met while they were students at UVic in the 1980s. Erich Mohr is a past recipient of the UVic Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumnus Award, and Shelley Mohr is a past recipient of the UVic Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumnus Award.

See Mohr gift, p.2

We're looking for great grad stories

Do you know a graduating student who has an amazing story to tell? UVic Communications would like to hear from you or her. We'll select the most compelling stories for publication in the June issue of The Ring and our communication media relations materials. Perhaps you know a student who has overcome some adversity, performed some outstanding community work en route to their degree or took a different path to post-secondary success.

Email Ring editor Robie Licomb (robbie@uvic.ca) before May 10 and tell us what makes the student special and how we can contact him or her. We'll make some selections and take it from there.
From wolves to dogs

Did the hormonal rhythms of certain wolves contribute to their relatively fast evolution to domesticated dogs? That’s the basis of a new theory developed by UVic evolutionary biologist Dr. Susan Crockford (above) that will be showcased in the PBS Nature documentary ‘Dogs by Design’ this spring. In part two of this series, “Dogs by Design,” Crockford links the development of dog breeds to thyroxine, a hormone that controls their growth rate. “Dogs by Design” will air on KCTS Seattle May 6 at 8 p.m. The skulls shown above are (l-r) chihuahua, Chinese crested, and white Cocker. Crockford is an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Anthropology.

Constructive summer ahead

Walking across campus this summer may involve a bit of a detour. Several construction projects are slated to begin between now and July to extend water, gas, electrical and waste water services to the new Science, Social Sciences and Mathematics (SSM) and Support Services buildings.

The pedestrian path between the Sedgewick and SSM buildings will continue to be closed intermittently while equipment is working. In May, a full-time closure of at least two weeks will be required for the installation of underground utilities and reconstruction of the path to emergency access standards. During closures, the temporary parking area off Ring Road in front of the Sedgewick Building will be restricted for the use of emergency vehicles only. The nearest alternative drop-off area and disabled parking access is in front of the Human and Social Development Building.

Another major project will result in a partial closure of Ring Road for several weeks during July and August, from the Henderson Road entrance to the Cleanthistle Building parking lot. The closure is necessary to redirect the existing sewer connection from the Oak Bay system to the Saanich system. A portion of Parking Lot 1 will also be repaired during the closure. Alternative arrangements will be made for permit holders who normally park in lots 1, B and C.

Several other projects requiring temporary closures of pedestrian paths will take place simultaneously, with the bulk of the work occurring in the corridor east of the Hickman, Sedgewick and SSM buildings and between the Medical Sciences and Cornett buildings (west of the quadrangle).

• Facilities management has scheduled projects together during the summer to minimize disruption to the campus community,” says Eugene Heeger, director of capital projects.

“Will do everything we can to let people know what is happening when, and to respond to any concerns that come up over what is going to be a very busy period.”

Signs and website advisories will provide details about closures and detours, and all projects are scheduled to be completed in time for the start of classes in September. For more information, contact Dino Valeri, manager of capital projects, at 721-7617.

Moor gift continued from p.1

has been at the centre of Victoria’s vibrant biotechnology sector. "UVic really launched my career,” he says. “It allowed me to be successful as a biotechnology entrepreneur and to initiate a number of areas of research. In planning this gift, we felt strongly about giving back to the community. We are both very committed to excellence in education and research, and UVic presented us with a research program in the Centre on Aging that was very appealing to us.”

“With the Mohr chair providing leadership in the study of adult development and aging, our research will be able to contribute further to the knowledge in this important field and build on the university’s substantial expertise in the health and social issues associated with an aging society,” says UVic President David Turpin. “The university is truly honoured and grateful that Erich and Shelley share our vision and are willing to support us so generously.”

The new chair program will expand the research focus to the development process as we age, including adults in their 40s and 50s in its study. The chair will be based in the Department of Psychology and linked to the UVic Centre on Aging and its multidisciplinary, community-based research on gerontology and healthy aging.

“The Mohr’s funding means we will always have a senior chair to assure the continuity of our role in longitudinal studies,” says Dr. Peter Keller, dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences. “As our very senior scholar retirees, we will be able to replace that individual with another advanced researcher with an international reputation. It’s ingenious. It’s exactly what UVic needed.”

New VP research continued from p.1

of teaching, learning and research. “The opportunities for increasing the proportion of graduate students at UVic bode well for the university’s culture of research.

Bruint will be UVic’s second vice-president research since the position was created in 1997. He succeeds Dr. Martin Taylor, who on July 1 will begin a three-year term as founding president and CEO of a new corporate entity created by UVic to manage its investment in the VENUS and NEPTUNE Canada ocean observatories.

Famous UVic grad will be among those hitting the stage in McKinnon Gym on May 26 for the opening session of “Experience UVic,” an event for Grade-12 students with offers of admission, their parents and other interested high school students.

A-Chanel sports specialist Jason Piao, a former member of the Vikings soccer team, will emcee the opening of “Experience UVic.” Paralympic multiple gold-medal winning skier Lauren Woolstencroft, who graduated from UVic with an engineering degree in 2005, will talk about her experience at UVic as a student and an athlete.

Vikes men’s basketball team captain Steve Moore, who graduates this year, will also speak to the high school students. Moore recently won both the President’s Cup, for outstanding senior student athlete who best combines academics and athletics, and the Provost Award for the Vike with the highest GPA (8.67).

Participants in “Experience UVic” will be welcomed to the opening session by First Nations drummers. During the rest of the afternoon they can visit the various faculties and attend information sessions and an information fair on student services at the Student Union Building.

There is no charge for “Experience UVic.” Grade-12 students wanting to stay longer on campus can also register for “Destination UVic,” which includes residence accommodation and area tours. For more information visit www.uvic.ca and click on the licence plate.

Vol. 33 No. 5

The Ring is published monthly by UVic Communications, except in August.

Director Bruce Kilpatrick
Managing Editor Robie Liscomb
Production Beth Doman

Contributors: Diane George, Melanie Grozes, Adrienne Hollebough, Maria Loreto, Christine McLaren, Patty Pitts, Christine Roulston, Valerie Shore, Suzanne Smith, Chris Thackrey
Advertising Bonnie Light, 388-5321 or ringad@uvic.ca
Calendar Mandy Crocker, ucom@uvic.ca

Experience UVic debuts

The Ring May 2007
We have Royal National Theatre winners. He was a member of both the professionals—whether a first-year or Ted Danson—I always give my best efforts,” says Vuokovic. Since coming to U Vic in 2004, he has taught all the first-year acting classes and either directed or was the directing coach for an unprecedented nine of the 15 main-stage productions. “I feel I can teach almost any accent to any actors,” says Vuokovic.

Vuokovic is also living with and fighting ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis), known as Lou Gehrig’s Disease. A debilitating neurological disorder that affects control of voluntary muscle function, as well as speech, and leaves the five senses and mental capacity untouched. Vuokovic now uses a scooter and a walker to get around and hopes to enlist the help of a computer speech program to assist his communication.

Recently, the students, faculty and staff at the theatre department came together to pay tribute to their colleague and instructor and help raise funds for the increased costs of living with the disease. “Ned’s Night,” a surprise event held March 30 at the Phoenix Theatre, featured student and faculty performances with tributes to Vuokovic’s career. Together with a silent auction supported by many members of the local business and arts community, the event raised over $8,000. “It was a bit of an emotional evening, but a great feeling,” says Vuokovic. “One of the few benefits of having this disease is that people are telling me now how much I have meant to them, how much I have helped them. I do feel I’ve made an impact. If I was 70 years old, I would say this is the way to go! Unfortunately, I’m only 52, but I feel lucky to live my life.”

Vuokovic will continue to teach first-year students this fall. Another benefit event will be held on June 24 at Theatre Passe Muraille in Toronto. For more information visit nedvuokovic.com.

By Adrienne Holierhoek

Dr. Sarah J. Blackstone is the University of Victoria’s new dean of fine arts, effective July 1. Blackstone is an historian of American theatre and well-known scholar of Buffalo Bill and the American West. She brings a wide range of experience as a teacher, director, scholar and administrator to her new position. Blackstone is the author of two books on Buffalo Bill: The Business of Being Buffalo Bill: Selected Letters of William F. Cody 1879–1917 and Blackstone, Bulles and Business: A History of Buffalo Bill’s Wild West.

Currently, she is the dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts at California State University, Chico. Before her seven-year term at Chico State, she held a variety of positions in theatre departments across the United States. She earned her Ph.D. in theatre history at Northwestern University.

“I have been working extensively with diversity and assessment issues in my present position, and those experiences should come in handy as I take on my new job and work to learn about Canadian culture,” says Blackstone.

“She and the university will hugely benefit from Dr. Blackstone’s experience,” says Vice-President Academic and Provost Jamie Caucutt.

“Her faculty and the university will hugely benefit from Dr. Blackstone’s experience,” says Vice-President Academic and Provost Jamie Caucutt.

“She is a terrific champion for the fine arts within and outside the university. She cares deeply about students and the quality of their education, and she’s a strategic thinker who will help the faculty to shape its future.”

Blackstone will succeed Dr. Giles Hogra, who is just completing his second term as dean of fine arts. Hogra was first appointed as a lecturer in UVic’s Department of Theatre in 1972 and became chair of the department in 1995. He plans to retire after a year’s sabbatical.
Outstanding students recognized for community service

Eight University of Victoria students who excel both in and out of the classroom are recipients of this year’s Blue and Gold Awards. The students were honoured for their remarkable volunteer contributions to the university and/or the Greater Victoria community while maintaining at least a B average.

Three students, Matthew Cooper, Amanda Libberte and Philippe Lucas, received $2,500 awards while five students, Brian Buchan, Catherine Emanski, Ian Hussey, Kevin Lee and Jonathan Morris, received $1,000 awards.

The Blue and Gold Awards receive financial support from CIBC.

Matthew Cooper, a fourth-year chemistry student, is a teaching assistant with University 101, working with adult learners excluded from normal routes to higher education. He volunteers in the emergency room at the Royal Jubilee Hospital, ensuring patients are comfortable and the room runs efficiently. He is a director-at-large for the UVic Students’ Society, student-provided on-call volunteer support.

Amanda Libberte, a third-year visual arts student, played a key role in organizing a Métis youth group for visual arts student, played a key role in organizing a Métis youth group for

Philippe Lucas, a master’s student in studies in policy and practice in the Faculty of Human and Social Development, is vice-chair of the City of Victoria Downtown Advisory Committee, and sits on the Centre for Addictions Research of British Columbia advisory board. He is involved with several community-based groups focused on social justice issues, including the Vancouver Island Compassion Society and the Committee to End Homelessness in Victoria. He is a founding member of the Voices of Substance Abuse, a local drug policy reform organization.

Kevin Lee is a fourth-year biochemistry student who gives a great deal of his time to community service and student affairs. He volunteers at the Royal Jubilee Hospital, the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Victoria and Canadian Blood Services. He also spent a summer volunteering at a hospital in Uganda, collecting HIV/AIDS data and assisting doctors on home visits to rural communities.

Jonathan Morris, a fourth-year student in child and youth care, has devoted more than 1,000 hours of volunteer service with the NEED youth crisis information line, providing on-call volunteer support. He is a director-at-large on the UVic Students’ Society, student senator for the university senate, and a representative on UVic’s Mental Health Task Force and UVic’s Suicide Prevention Interest Group.

By Christine McLaren

Canadian Senator Michael Kirby will draw his knowledge and political expertise accumulated over a distinguished career when he delivers a free public lecture entitled “Transforming Mental Health Services: From Institutional to Community Care” on May 7 in the Senate Chambers (UVic Centre A180) from 7:30–8 pm.

Kirby’s is the final lecture in a series organized as part of Engaging Disability 2007, an institute that runs to mid-December and aims to explore, discuss and broaden understanding of disability. A calendar of events and podcasts of all lectures in the series are available on the web at http://web.uvic.ca/distinct.

From June 4–15, the Engaging Disability Summer Institute will offer workshops and research seminars on a wide range of topics from thera- peutic farming and art exploration to research and ethical practice. Spaces for the community members are still available, while students wanting to participate for credit are now being placed on a waiting list.

In addition, inspirational humorist David Roche, who purposely draws attention to his facial dis- figuration, performs his one-man show “Church of 80 per cent Sincer- ity” on Thursday, June 14 at Metro Studio in Victoria. The community book club will be discussing Prozac Nation by author Elizabeth Wurtzel on May 15. Community厌恶 events and movie screenings round out ex- tensive opportunities for community engagement.

Byline: Mike Cooper

Contact Mike at 434-3355 | Visit us on-line at www.monk.ca

REALLY BIG PURCHASING POWER.

When you’re purchasing for your department, you need to make the most of your money.

For three years, we’ve been official suppliers to UVic, helping departments stock up at budget-stretching prices. Need help? Talk to Mike, our super UVic Account Manager.

Charting the future of post-secondary education in BC

On April 23, former attorney general Geooff Pritzell released Campus 2020, a report on the future of post-secondary education in BC. The report was commissioned by the provincial government last year to help shape the vision, mission, goals and objectives of BC’s post-secondary system.

“The Campus 2020 report recognizes the strength of our province’s post-secondary system and provides many recommendations aimed at building on those strengths,” says UVic President David Turpin, chair of the University Presidents Council of British Columbia. “In particular, we were pleased to see the report’s recognition of the importance of university research in supporting the province’s success as a knowledge-based society and economy.”

Among the main goals set out in the report is that “by 2010, BC will consistently be one of the three highest spending provinces in terms of provincial support for basic and applied research.”

The report is the culmination of a wide-ranging process of consultations across the province. UVic’s participa- tion in this process included a presenta- tion by Turpin at a Campus 2020 stakeholder forum last October, a more detailed written submission to Plant in December. Both are available on the UVic website at http://web.uvic.ca/student/senate/report/

The report identifies a need for enhancing collaboration and coor-
UVIC SALUTES ITS RESEARCH STARS OF 2007

by Valerie Shore

A protein chemist, an organic chemist, a climatologist and an interdisciplinary team working on a national research project are winners of the 2007 Craigdarroch Research Awards, which were presented on April 25 at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria. The annual awards recognize excellence in research at the University of Victoria. A fifth award, recognizing entrepreneurial achievement, is also presented by UVic’s Innovation and Development Corporation. “These awards demonstrate the remarkable talent and diversity of our researchers,” says Dr. Martin Taylor, UVic’s vice-president research. “Whether they’re working in a laboratory, partnering with communities or advising national and international policy-makers, their research is advancing knowledge and contributing to the betterment of our world.”

CRAIGDARROCH SILVER MEDAL FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

Described as one of the top chemists of her generation in Canada, Dr. Cornelia Bohne (chemistry) is a leading world expert in supramolecular chemistry—the study of large structures held together by forces other than chemical bonds. Since joining UVic in 1992 she has developed specialized techniques to understand the dynamics of supramolecular systems. This new knowledge is laying the groundwork for future advances in DNA, protein and drug research.

Her work continues to grow in impact, productivity and recognition; she has published more than 85 research articles in diverse areas; her papers are frequently cited, and she is a highly sought-after collaborator by her national and international peers.

CRAIGDARROCH GOLD MEDAL FOR CAREER ACHIEVEMENT IN RESEARCH

Dr. Bob Olafson (biochemistry and microbiology) has been at the forefront of protein research for more than 25 years and has earned international recognition for his work in molecular parasitology.

But his greatest legacy goes far beyond a single field of study. When he joined UVic in 1981, he could see that the future of biochemical and biomedical research lay in the analysis of protein structure and function, now known as proteomics. Determined that UVic lead the way, he established the UVic Protein Chemistry Centre. Under his guidance, the centre blossomed into an internationally acclaimed facility.

Today, the UVic-Genome BC Proteomics Centre provides analytical services to academic, industrial and government laboratories around the world.

CRAIGDARROCH AWARD FOR SOCIETAL CONTRIBUTION

Environmental, economic and social change have wreaked havoc on Canada’s coastal communities. The national Coasts Under Stress project has provided a solid foundation of information and research methods upon which real solutions are being built.

Co-led by UVic and Memorial University of Newfoundland, the five-year study tapped into the traditional knowledge of First Nations and other coastal communities, and combined it with scientific investigation to produce research useful to policy-makers and coastal residents alike.

More than 70 team members contributed in areas as diverse as traditional aquaculture, food security, resource management, fisheries and community health. The results include numerous presentations to policy-makers and scholars, seven books and hundreds of other publications.

The CUS project was directed by Dr. Rosemary Ommer (history).

CRAIGDARROCH AWARD FOR RESEARCH COMMUNICATION

Climate change is now widely acknowledged as one of the greatest threats facing the planet today. Studying the science of climate change and educating us all on its extent and impacts are the passions of Dr. Andrew Weaver (earth and ocean sciences), one of the world’s leading climatologists.

Through his exceptional ability to communicate the science in plain language, Weaver is influencing decision-makers and the public around the world. He serves on national and international bodies advising governments on climate change, engages audiences in public lectures, and grants frequent interviews to the news media.

Weaver is also the guiding force behind a network of school weather stations designed to foster an interest in science among children.
Leaders in the arts, human rights and the environment will receive honorary degrees from the university during Spring Convocation cere monies June 5 to 8. The honorees are: Bruce Cockburn (Doctor of Laws); the Honourable Iona Campagnolo (Doctor of Laws); the Honourable Mira Matembe (Doctor of Laws); Mary Okumu (Doctor of Laws); and William (Bill) Turner (Doctor of Laws).

Musician and social activist Bruce Cockburn has inspired a generation of Canadians with his poetic and political music that touches a wide variety of human issues and social concerns. During his 35-year career, his music and lyrics have received continual critical acclaim, evidenced by his 20 gold and platinum records and 11 Juno awards, among other honours. His remarkable artistic success notwithstanding, Cockburn is most famous for his concern for the welfare of others, expressed through decades of activism and engagement with social and political issues around the world. He has received countless honours for his humanitarian contributions, including membership in the Order of Canada in 1982 and promotion to officer of the Order of Canada in 2002.

As a member of the Pan-African Parliament, the Honourable Mira Matembe represents Uganda’s diverse interests amongst a complex of developing nations. In this role, she has spearheaded a number of major social and political changes in Uganda.

As Minister of State for Ethics and Integrity, she vigorously confronted widespread corruption in Ugandan society, especially in government and civil service. In her position as a member of parliament she tackled the deep-rooted problem of HIV/AIDS by forcing her culture to deal with taboo issues of human sexuality and disease. In addition, as the Uganda Constitutional Commissioner, she made major contributions to constitutional reforms and the rule of law.

Author and human rights advocate Mary Okumu is a tireless defender of the poor and disadvantaged in her native Africa. Educated at the University of California, Los Angeles, Okumu returned to Africa to contribute to health service delivery, conflict resolution training, peace negotiations, protection and advocacy for human rights, and community empowerment.

She has held executive posts with key international aid organizations and is best known for her work with Women Waging Peace, a non-profit land trust that fosters community support around the need for conserva tion of ecologically and historically important areas in BC.

Turner is tireless in his efforts to create a powerful non-governmental organization capable of linking ecological and cultural values, in combination, create a properly integrated approach to conservation and restoration. In 2005 he was made a member of the Order of Canada.
Calendar highlights

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

At the Galleries
www.maltwood.uvic.ca 721-6564
Masterminds: An Art Exhibition by UVic Retirees To June 7. The diversity and talents of 22 artists will be showcased at the Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery, Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. University Centre Blvd.


Exhibit Victoria’s Street-in- volved Women’s Art Show. Funded by the Adult Learning Knowledge Centre of the Canadian Council on Learning, this arts-based research and knowledge mobilization project is a collaboration among leadership studies (Faculty of Education), the Office of Community-Based Research and Our Place Society. On Canvas Gallery, 318 Yates St. 858-8090.

Saturday, May 5
Conference 12 a.m. The 30th annual Making Tomorrow conference presents “Healthy Kids: Body, Mind & Spirit.” Sponsored by VCIPA, Success by 6, Active Saanich, Scribe Graphics and the School of Child and Youth Care. Student Union Bldg. 9:30-6:30. 387-1480.

Sunday, May 6
UVic Plant Sale 10 a.m. A huge selection of annuals and perennials, rhododendrons and rock plants, alpines and exotics. McKinnon Gym. 721-7044.

Monday, May 7

Wednesday, May 9
Bike to Work Week Workshop 7 p.m. An information session hosted by the Bike to Work to Society to provide details regarding Bike to Work and how to get involved. Human & Social Dev. A240. Registration 721-7049.

Sunday, May 13
UVic Finnerty Garden Tours 1 p.m. Guided tours begin near the garden entrance at the Interfaith Chapel, sponsored by the Finnerty Garden Friends. 721-7014.

Saturday, May 19
Aspera Distinguished Speaker Series 7:30 p.m. The Upside of Down: Catastrophe, Creativity, and the Renewal of Civilization. Dr. Thomas Homer-Dixon, director of the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, Univ. of Toronto. University Centre Farquhar Auditorium. Registration required 721-8480.

Saturday, May 26
Other 12 p.m. Experience UVic. Grade 12 students with offers of admission, their parents, and other high school students curious about university life are invited to this half-day event. Members of the UVic community who would like to volunteer can contact Melanie Mattill, student recruitment and marketing, 471-4088 or mmattill@uvic.ca. Registration required.

Monday, May 28
Bike to Work Week 2007 Until June 1. A week of cycling-related events on campus and throughout the city of Victoria to promote bicycle commuting and to encourage healthy and sustainable living. Registration 721-7049. Info: www.uvic.ca/biketowork.

Tuesday, May 29
Annual LeBaron Lecture 12:10 p.m. Fire in the Song, Religion, Ritual and Reconciliation. Michelle LeBaron, prof. of law and director of the Program on Dispute Resolution, UBC. Hickman, 721-8199.

Friday, June 1
Conference 4:30 p.m. UVic Unity Inclusive Youth Leadership Retreat. A workshop retreat for high school students involved with (or interested in becoming involved with) queer advocates. Facilitated by local community and campus organizations, including UVic Counselling Services, the AVI Outreach team, the Island Sexual Health Society, the UVSS Women’s Centre, aboriginal education (Faculty of Education) and UVic Pride. $5. 472-4193.

Tuesday, June 5
UVic Convocation Ceremony 10 a.m. Graduates of the faculties of humanities and graduate studies. University Centre Farquhar Auditorium. 721-8480.

UVic Convocation Ceremony 2:30 p.m. Graduates of the faculties of engineering, fine arts and graduate studies. University Centre Farquhar Auditorium. 721-8480.

Thursday, June 7
UVic Convocation Ceremony 10 a.m. Graduates in the faculties of social sciences (anthropology, economics, environmental studies and geography) and graduate studies. University Centre Farquhar Auditorium 721-8480.

UVic Convocation Ceremony 2:30 p.m. Presenting graduates of the faculties of social sciences (political science, psychology, sociology) and graduate studies. University Centre Farquhar Auditorium 721-8480.

Friday, June 8
UVic Convocation Ceremony 10 a.m. Graduates of the faculties of human and social development (social work, child and youth care, health information science, public administration; Indigenous governance, policy and practice, dispute resolution, professional specialization certificate), and graduate studies. University Centre Farquhar Auditorium. 721-8480.

UVic Convocation Ceremony 2:30 p.m. Graduates of the faculties of human and social development (nursing), law and graduate studies. University Centre Farquhar Auditorium. 721-8480.

Wednesday, May 30
UVic Community Education Services, the AVI Outspeak team, queer advocacy. Facilitated by local community and campus organizations, including UVic Counselling Services, the AVI Outreach team, the Island Sexual Health Society, the UVSS Women’s Centre, aboriginal education (Faculty of Education) and UVic Pride. $5. 472-4193.

Tuesday, June 5
UVic Convocation Ceremony 10 a.m. Graduates of the faculties of humanities and graduate studies. University Centre Farquhar Auditorium. 721-8480.

UVic Convocation Ceremony 2:30 p.m. Graduates of the faculties of engineering, fine arts and graduate studies. University Centre Farquhar Auditorium. 721-8480.

Friday, June 8
UVic Convocation Ceremony 10 a.m. Graduates of the faculties of human and social development (social work, child and youth care, health information science, public administration; Indigenous governance, policy and practice, dispute resolution, professional specialization certificate), and graduate studies. University Centre Farquhar Auditorium. 721-8480.

Thursday, June 7
UVic Convocation Ceremony 10 a.m. Graduates in the faculties of social sciences (anthropology, economics, environmental studies and geography) and graduate studies. University Centre Farquhar Auditorium. 721-8480.

Tuesday, May 29
Bike to Work Week Workshop 7 p.m. Bike to Work Week is coming up May 28 to June 1. Last year 56 UVic teams with over 500 cyclists took part the city-wide celebration of cycling that promotes bicycle commuting and encourages healthy and sustainable living.

“This year we are hoping that even more new and experienced cyclists alike will participate,” says UVic BTWW co-ordinator Jillian Barber, administrative assistant to the vice-president finance and operations.

The UVic BTWW website, www.uvic.ca/biketowork, provides a wealth of information on how to participate and get involved. Consider becoming a team leader or a volunteer at BTWW events. Team leaders play an extremely valuable role in motivating others to cycle to campus. Learn how at a team leader workshop on May 9, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in HSD A240.

UVic BTWW events will include morning and afternoon celebration stations, bicycle repair stations and engraving stations, a team BBQ extravaganza and team photo event, and will provide thousands of chances to win some great prizes.

And you can participate even if you don’t own a bike, thanks to a new partnership with SPOKES, the UVic bicycle bursary program that diverts unwanted bicycles from the landfill by fixing them up and lending them out to students. SPOKES will provide a limited number of loaner bikes to people who would like to participate but do not own a bicycle. Go to the website and fill out the application for the bicycles that will be available beginning May 7.

And if you are interested in volunteering a few hours of your time during Bike to Work Week please contact Jillian Barber at jillianb@uvic.ca.

Get ready to roll

Bike to Work Week is coming up May 28 to June 1. Last year 56 UVic teams with over 500 cyclists took part the city-wide celebration of cycling that promotes bicycle commuting and encourages healthy and sustainable living.

“This year we are hoping that even more new and experienced cyclists alike will participate,” says UVic BTWW co-ordinator Jillian Barber, administrative assistant to the vice-president finance and operations.

The UVic BTWW website, www.uvic.ca/biketowork, provides a wealth of information on how to participate and get involved. Consider becoming a team leader or a volunteer at BTWW events. Team leaders play an extremely valuable role in motivating others to cycle to campus. Learn how at a team leader workshop on May 9, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in HSD A240.

UVic BTWW events will include morning and afternoon celebration stations, bicycle repair stations and engraving stations, a team BBQ extravaganza and team photo event, and will provide thousands of chances to win some great prizes.

And you can participate even if you don’t own a bike, thanks to a new partnership with SPOKES, the UVic bicycle bursary program that diverts unwanted bicycles from the landfill by fixing them up and lending them out to students. SPOKES will provide a limited number of loaner bikes to people who would like to participate but do not own a bicycle. Go to the website and fill out the application for the bicycles that will be available beginning May 7.

And if you are interested in volunteering a few hours of your time during Bike to Work Week please contact Jillian Barber at jillianb@uvic.ca.

State of the art dentistry on the UVic campus, in the Student Union Building (SUB).

Offering the most comprehensive and up-to-date dental services available to faculty, staff and students at UVic.

Present this ad after your first dental hygiene appointment and receive a FREE tooth whitening kit. Offer expires Aug. 31st.

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

For immediate dental care call: (250) 380-1888

The Ring May 2007 Page 7
The upside of down: how global crisis can be good for us

Is humanity headed on a course toward unmitigated catastrophe? And if so, is there anything we can do to prevent it?

Find out on Saturday, May 19 when Dr. Homer-Dixon, director of the T. R. Reid Centre for the Study of Peace and Conflict and of the Study of Peace and Conflict at the University of Victoria, presents the Aspreva Distinguished Speaker Lecture at the University of Victoria.

The lecture will be on the same topic as Homer-Dixon’s 2006 book, The Upside of Down: Catastrophe, Creativity and the Renewal of Civilization. During parallels between the challenges we face today and the crises faced by the Roman empire almost 2,000 years ago, Homer-Dixon argues that converging stresses, such as energy needs and climate change, could cause a catastrophic breakdown of national and global order—a social collapse that could hurt billions of people.

“But crisis can also be a catalyst for deep reforms,” he says. “Sometimes people and societies only realize their problems when the everyday order of things is profoundly disrupted and when they know that they have to change in order to survive.”

Born in Victoria, Homer-Dixon earned his PhD in international relations and defence and arms control policy from MIT in 1989. At the University of Toronto, he has led several international research projects examining the links between environmental stress and violence in developing countries.

Recently, his research has focused on threats to global security in the 21st century and on how societies adapt to complex economic, ecological and technological change.

Homer-Dixon has advised many government departments, including the departments of foreign affairs and defence in Canada, and the CIA and National Security Council in the US.

He’s also a popular speaker and media commentator. His articles and contributions have appeared in many leading scholarly journals, popular magazines and newspapers. His other books include The Ingenuity Gap, which won the 2001 Governor General’s Non-Fiction Award.

The lecture takes place at 7:30 p.m. in the University Centre Farquhar Auditorium. It is free but reserved seating tickets are required. For reservations call 721-8480 or visit www.auditorium.uvic.ca.

The Aspreva Distinguished Speaker Series is sponsored by Victoria-based Aspreva Pharmaceuticals, an international company that develops new applications for existing medicines in the treatment of less common diseases.