NEPTUNE installation begins

Cable being laid for first regional cabled seafloor observatory

After several years of intensive planning and design, the installation of UVic-led NEPTUNE Canada, the world’s first regional cabled seafloor observatory, began last month in the waters off the west coast of Vancouver Island.

UVic President David Turpin, Vice-President Research Martin Taylor, NEPTUNE Project Director Chris Barnes and other dignitaries welcomed approximately 200 guests aboard the Alcatel-Lucent cable-laying vessel Eel de Sein on August 23 for an advance viewing of the NEPTUNE Canada cable system and installation equipment. Federal Natural Resources Minister Gary Lunn, Provincial Economic Development Minister Colin Hansen, scientists, engineers, project officials and members of the media toured the vessel at Ogden Point. The highlights included a massive 30-tonne plough used to take a narrow trench along the seabed and bury the powered fibre-optic cable.

Also on display was a small-scale model of a 5.5-tonne undersurface “nose” pipe of which will regulate and distribute the power and high bandwidth communications flowing through the 800 km of thin cable. This high-speed delivery system will operate more than 200 sampling instruments and sensors.

On August 23, with well over 100 onlookers watching from land, the cable installation began off the Port Alberni waterfront. One end of the cable was floated ashore (an important measure that prevents damage to both seabed and cable itself) to the landing position at UVic’s Port Alberni shore station. Then the ship headed down Alberni Inlet and into the Pacific Ocean, spooling out the cable directly onto the sealed until the ship was out of the mouth of Barkley Sound, at which point the plough was set to work burying the cable to ensure it will remain undisturbed by ocean activity.

The ship is following a pre-determined route counterclockwise around the large network ring that reaches far out into the ocean off BC’s coast. For an animated video of the deployment process, please visit http://communications.uvic.ca/media/neptune/.

The voyage to lay and partially bury the loop of cable and its signal amplifiers, as well as the branching units and 125 km of spur cable for future node locations, is expected to take approximately seven weeks. Next month, the other end of the cable will be connected to the shore station when the ship completes the loop installation.

During its lifespan, NEPTUNE Canada will lead to a better understanding of fish migrations, ocean climate change, plankton blooms, underwater volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and the processes that cause them, and help warn of approaching tsunamis.

The seafloor observatory will also promote new developments in various fields such as marine technology, research growth at UVic and played a key role in positioning the university as one of the country’s leaders in oceans research,” says UVic President David Turpin. “I can think of no better person to lead this new organization, created to help the university’s ground-breaking ocean research projects achieve their full potential.”

“After completing nine years as vice-president research, Dr. Martin Taylor has, as of Sept. 1, assumed new responsibilities as founding president and CEO of Ocean Networks Canada (ONC), a new, not-for-profit organization created by the university to govern and manage the UVic-led international ocean observatories VENUS and NEPTUNE Canada.

“Martin has overseen tremendous financial support for the on-going capital and operating costs of the observatories, promoting the economic development and commercialization opportunities of the science and technologies, and developing the public policy and public education applications of the research. ONC will also collaborate closely with the Ocean Observatories Initiative in the US which is responsible for the US component of the observatory.

Succeeding Taylor as vice-president research is Dr. Howard Brunt, who served as UVic’s associate vice-president research from 1999 to 2004 and as provost and vice-president aca-demic at the University of Northern British Columbia from 2004-07.

Taylor heads new ocean networks entity

BC children’s representative to deliver President’s Distinguished Lecture

The province’s first representative for children and youth, Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond, will deliver a President’s Distinguished Lecture, “Rights and Wrongs: Leading the Way for Children,” on Oct. 9 at 8 p.m. in the University Centre Faraday Auditorium.

Turpel-Lafond is a graduate of Osgoode Hall in Toronto, and Cambridge and Harvard law schools. She has practiced and taught law in Canada and the US which is responsible for the on-going capital and operating costs of the observatories, promoting the economic development and commercialization opportunities of the science and technologies, and developing the public policy and public education applications of the research. ONC will also collaborate closely with the Ocean Observatories Initiative in the US which is responsible for the US component of the observatory.

Succeeding Taylor as vice-president research is Dr. Howard Brunt, who served as UVic’s associate vice-president research from 1999 to 2004 and as provost and vice-president academic at the University of Northern British Columbia from 2004-07.

Turpel-Lafond was named to her current position in November 2006. In her presentation she will identify and discuss problems that exist around the treatment of vulnerable children and propose a plan to better protect them. Turpel-Lafond was named to her current position in November 2006.

Live theatre with a healthy twist

Students team up for Health Care Challenge

By Christine McLellan

You’ve got a patient, you’ve got a problem and you’ve got a live audience watching you solve it. That’s the pressure two teams of health discipline students will face in the second annual UVic Health Care Team Challenge at Cinecenta theatre Sept. 27 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The challenge brings together 12 teams, each consisting of six volunteers, to earn points for their teams during an available challenge.”

The IPE project was a two-year project funded by Health Canada that partners Vancouver Island health agencies with post-secondary institutions to support interprofessional education and practice. The IPE project identifies health settings where health care teams, together with educators, support students to gain competencies in interprofessional collaboration.

For further information on the IPE visit www.ippa.ucalgary.ca/ipe/compare.php.
Law prof elected new RSC Fellow

University of Victoria law professor John Borrows has been named the university’s newest fellow of the RSC: The Academies of Arts, Humanities and Sciences of Canada (formerly the Royal Society of Canada), membership in which is considered the country’s highest academic honour.

Borrows’ citation describes him as “widely regarded as the leading Aboriginal legal academic in Canada who ‘works tirelessly with the Department of Justice, inquiries, treaty and mediation negotiators, and Aboriginal organizations to promote dialogue among Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples in Canada and internationally.’”

Borrows holds five degrees and is a fellow of the Trudeau Foundation and a recipient of a National Aboriginal Achievement Award. He is UVic’s Law Foundation Chair in Aboriginal Justice.

“I’m grateful to UVic and the university’s encouragement of teaching and scholarship in this area,” says Borrows. “Their support of my work on Aboriginal issues is a tribute to the university’s encouragement of teaching and scholarship in this area. The election of Borrows brings to 44 the number of current and former UVic faculty members chosen as fellows. This year’s new fellows will be inducted to the society at a ceremony in Edmonton on Nov. 17. For more information, visit the RSC website at www.rsc.ca.
Around the Ring

McRae appointed co-op director
Norah McRae is the new executive director of the University of Victoria’s Co-operative Education Program. McRae began employing students at UVic since 1992, first as coordinator of the Arts Co-op Program and from 1998 to 2007, as manager of the Business Co-op and Career Centre. She also serves as an editor for the Asia Pacific Journal for Co-operative Education and contributes regularly to the research initiatives of the Canadian Association for Co-operative Education. Her six-year term began July 1.

United Way kicks off
UVic’s United Way Campaign kicks off this year with a kick-off on Sept. 26, and Glen Hamilton, UVic’s director of athletics and recreation, is chairing the campus campaign’s steering team. “The community is important to me and to UVic, and I’m happy to be involved in finding ways to support our community through the United Way campaign,” he says. Other UVic staff involved this year are Mark Roman (computing and systems services), Linda Matters (accounting), Justin Kohman (marketing), Susan Fiddler (co-op), Janice Johnson and Gary Sagert (both of Project Nova). UVic’s accounting retiree Helen MacKenzie is also the steering team’s treasurer.

Trade in your parking permit and join the Car Share Co-op
Do you drive to campus because you occasionally need access to a vehicle? The University and the Victoria Car Share Co-op (VSCC) are launching a pilot program for full-time continuing faculty and staff. The goal is to reduce the number of employees who bring their cars to campus in order to run personal or business errands during the day. In exchange for giving up your current annual permit and committing to using sustainable transportation, you will get a five membership in the Victoria Car Share Co-op. Participants must meet eligibility requirements and pay for their own use and administrative fees.

The VSCC will add two new vehicles to the UVic campus, bringing the total to three vehicles on campus. Participants will also have access to the rest of the VSCC fleet in greater Victoria. For more information, contact UVic Sustainable Coordinator Sarah Webb at 721-6768 or swebb@uvic.ca. Or visit www.sustainableuvic.ca to download an application form.

Deaf awareness initiative
Do you want to learn sign language, learn more about the Deaf community and gain a greater understanding of Deaf culture? In honor of International Deaf Awareness Week, the Resource Centre for Students with a Disability (RCDI) will be hosting several free, interesting, fun and informative events and activities around campus during the week of Sept. 24-28. The events include film showings of “Through Deaf Eyes” and “Beyond Silence” American Sign Language (ASL) classes, presentations on “Communication within the Deaf Community,” “Deaf culture” and “Historical Perspectives in the Deaf Community,” display tables; and a variety of non-verbal activities and interactive sessions set up around campus. Look for events and activities posted on the Working for Change calendar at http://web. uvic.ca/workingforchange/index.htm and on the UVic Events Calendar Page http://events. uvic.ca/calendars.php. The RCDI sends out a huge thank-you to the main event’s sponsors, Deaf and Deaf Culture.

Tremendous tree tour
A campus tree walk is now available to anyone who wants to enjoy some fresh air and experience the diversity of trees on UVic’s property. This summer, UVic’s Centre for Forest Biology mapped out a campus walk that loops between the Cunningham Building and Finnerty Gardens, identifying 40 trees of interest or historical significance. Each tree is marked either with a sign post near the base of the trunk or with a sign around the trunk of the tree. A pdf file of the map is available on the centre’s website http://web.uvic.ca/cfbl/news/Treewalk.pdf.

Political science, law profs honoured with alumni teaching awards

Dr. Michael Webb (political science) and Prof. Glenn Gallins, QC, (law)—each known for his ability to inspire students by creating opportunities to learn by doing—are the recipients of the 2007 Alumni Awards for Excellence in Teaching, presented by the UVic Alumni Association in co-operation with the Learning and Teaching Centre. Webb, winner of the Harry Hickman Award (the category designed for regular faculty members), emphasizes experiential learning, particularly in his guidance of the Model United Nations Club. Gallins receives the Gillian Sherwin Award (for instructors) for his long-standing leadership of law students who gain skills by representing clients of the Law Centre Clinical Legal Education Program in downtown Victoria. Webb and Gallins each receive a $2,000 cash prize from the alumni association and their photographs will join the portrait gallery of the UVic’s 37 past recipients, featured in the main stairwell of the McPherson Library. An alumnus who supported Webb’s nomination wrote that he gives his students the “gift of an ethical, well-informed, well-structured and hard-won education.” Under Webb’s mentorship, the UVic UN club makes an annual trip to New York City to participate in a model United Nations assembly alongside hundreds of other delegates from dozens of other universities.

Gallins says there’s nothing like taking the students to a centre of global power for the experience of simulated diplomacy and the taking from different policy with other well-prepared delegations. “It’s a really good way for people to see how different interests intersect and how difficult it is to make a difference,” says Webb. “These are eye-opening experiences.” In class and in his role as under-graduate advisor, Webb provides extensive written and verbal feedback to his students, strives to connect theory with contemporary issues, and encourages open discussion. “I love teaching classes.” Political science is a controversial field and I originally tried to stay out of the fray, but students found that boring,” says Webb. “Now, I’ll take a stand (on contemporary is- sues) but at the same time I make it clear that students don’t have to agree with me. The whole nature of the beast is debate.” As for Gallins, his nomination was supported by—among many others—a Victoria lawyer and law alumni who wrote that Gallins has “helped shape countless of us into better students, better lawyers and better people.” Gallins, a UVic grad who was established in 1978, more than 1,200 UVic law students have completed the Law Centre’s four-month program. For three terms each year, a new team of 14 law students signs on and—after a one-month skills immersion, or “boot camp”—effectively forms a law firm under Gallins’ direction.

Webb says it’s easy to understand why students are working with students individu- ally and watching them gain skills and confidence. One recent student overcoming her extreme fear of public speaking to reach the point where she can confidently stand before judges and represent clients in BC Provincial Court. “It’s opened the gate for her career,” Gallins says. The centre handles about 1,800 criminal, civil and family law cases in a year, and clients are people of limited means. Law students provide information, advice and representa- tion. Gallins says students experience the application of the law “rather than imagine it” in a classroom. As well, he developed the “GLENN” index. Named by former students, it stands for General Legal Enquiry Network. A compu- ter-based bank of how-to materials for nearly all of the work the Law Centre students may find themselves doing.

“All the classes I conduct, whether (in) areas of substantive law or the development of lawyering skills, have two fundamental objectives,” he says. “Teach students how to become problem solvers and to meaningfully reflect upon how the law impacts individuals and society.” Webb and Gallins will be formally recognized at the Alumni Awards dinner on Nov. 20 at the Victoria Conference Centre along with recipients of the Law Centre As- sociation’s Distinguished Alumni Awards and new inductees into the Vikes Athletics’ Sports Hall of Fame. Tickets for the awards dinner will be available later in the fall.

Pension plans
A long time resident and UVic grad, Dave is helping local residents and new-comers to navigate their way through the Real Estate market. Whether buying or selling, he will assure smooth selling. Just ask any of his many clients at UVic.

We have personalized illustration or a copy of the Ring's 100th Issues.
The Ring September 2007

By Mike McNerney
Dr. Frank Van Veggel (chemistry), an international leader in photonic materials and bio-labels—recognized as a world-class scholar, author, dedicated to advancing scientific psychology and furthering its representation both nationally and internationally.

Dr. Eike-Henner Kluge (psychology), winner of the D. Lynch Medal in Bioethics by RSC: The Academies of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences of Canada. The award recognizes a major contribution to the field of bioethics by a Canadian. Kluge, the author of seven books and over 60 papers, has written extensively on human tissue banking for the federal government.

Dr. Ian Walker, professor emeritus in July 2006. He has served on the Board of Directors for the TUM and has collaborated with Hoefer for over 20 years developing Let’s Face It! (LFI), a series of computer games that involve labeling facial expressions and interpreting facial cues. Initial use of the games by autistic kids has shown positive results, indicating for Tanaka the importance of further research.

“We want to understand how the development of face processing unfolds with age and experience,” he says. “It is important to understand the deficits of special populations like kids with autism, and how to improve that. First we have to know how face recognition works in typically developing children.

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“W e'd like to take Face Camp on the road,” he says. “The goal has shifted from purely data collection to sharing the science, giving kids exposed not only about face recognition, but about psychology and cognitive science.

Another on-campus camp—this one aimed at kids aged nine to 13—is slated for November. Maynard and Huxtable plan to incorporate data compiled from the camps into their research efforts.

“There isn’t a lot of extensive research that establishes facial recognition trends in children,” says Huxtable, “so that’s our main focus. The more we can practice putting face on camp, the more potential we have to make it something that can continue for years. If it can help kids with autism, that would be even better.”

The Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour and Cognitive Science (CSBBCS) recently recognized UVic’s psychology graduate students: Andreas Breuer and Christopher Warren. The students, who presented at a recent CSBBCS conference, won for best student paper read at the conference and best student poster. The CSBBCS is a non-profit organization which aims to advance Canadian research in experimental psychology and behavioral neuroscience.

UVic swimmer Mackenzie Downing won three medals for Canada at this summer’s FISU Summer Universiade, an international multi-sport event with 10,000 participants. Downing won gold in the 100 metre butterfly, silver in the 200 metre butterfly and bronze in the 100 metre relay. Eight Vikes travelled to Bangkok, Thailand to represent Team Canada in this year’s games:Rutters, Anne Balser, Christina Spence and Jade Dennill; women’s soccer players Liz Hansen and Carey Gustafson; men’s middle-distance runner Geoff Martinson; women’s swimmer Mackenzie Downing; and swim coach Peter Vazsoly. The 24th Summer Universiade was held August 8 to 18, and Canada won 16 medals, the most the country has won at the games since 1991.

And at the Pan Am Games in Rio de Janeiro in July, UVic grad Monica Pinette qualified for the Beijing Olympics by winning the women’s silver medal in modern pentathlon, which includes running, swimming, fencing, equestrian and pistol shooting. And UVic Business student Monica Kawar won silver in line relay fencing.

Dale Gane, vice-president of the UVic-owned Vancouver Island Technology Park (VITP), has been appointed president of the newly formed Canadian Association of University Research Parks (AURP Canada). He will also serve on the Board of Directors for the VITP, which will represent 25 Canadian science, technology and research parks. AURP Canada will promote the development and operation of parks and will advocate to government on behalf of the association’s members.

Pro. Wolfgang Hoefer—recognized as a world-class scholar, author, teaches technical leader and editor in microwave engineering and computational electromagnetics—received an honorary Dr.Ing. degree from the Hochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft (HTW) in Germany in May for his extraordinary accomplishments in the area of electromagnetic field theory. The chair for high frequency engineering at the HTW has collaborated with Hoefer since 1990 and has hosted him several times as a visiting professor. Originally from Rhineland, Germany, Hoefer joined UVic in 1992 where he directed the Computational Electromagnetic Research Laboratory until his retirement as professor emeritus in July 2006.

UVic bioethicist Dr. Elke-Henner Kluge has been awarded the Abby binary. D. Lynch Medal in Bioethics by RSc. The Academies of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences of Canada. The award recognizes a major contribution to the field of bioethics by a Canadian. Kluge, the author of seven books and over 60 papers, has written extensively on human tissue banking for the federal government.

Dr. Rob McPherson (psychology and psychiatry) has been elected spokesman of the University of Victoria Canada, a collaboration of about 40 faculty members, two dozen postdocs and 50 grad students from 11 Canadian universities making major contributions to the field. His distinctive contribution is that he has been director of the Medical Association’s Department of Ethics and Legal Affairs, acting as an advisor to federal and provincial ministries of health, and preparing a commissioned study on human tissue banking for the federal government.

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Funding boost for assistive technology development

By Jessica Gillies

CanAssist, the UVic team dedicated to developing technology, devices and services to help people with disabilities, got a funding boost July 16 from the BC government. The non-profit organization, formerly known as the University of Victoria Assistive Technology Unit (UVATT), received a grant of $750,000 from the Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance and the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

“This means that we are going to be able to continue providing assistance to 200 to 300 individuals a year,” says CanAssist Director Nigel Livingston. “We believe that our program is unique in North America in combining the extraordinary resources within both the university and greater community to address a key societal need—that is, the provision of support for those with disabilities. There is absolutely no doubt that without government support, this program could not have achieved the success that it has.”

Employment and Income Assistance Minister Claude Richmond says, “We’re helping this group of people participate and be more fully active in the workplace and in every-day life. We, the government, want to make sure that these opportunities continue to be available to people with disabilities.”

CanAssist’s new name better describes the scope of the team’s work, says Livingston. “We provide more than just technology—we provide technology and services.” The “Can” in the name also refers to Canada, he says, which “reflects the fact that, whilst a lot of our work is done in Victoria and on the island, we also help people across the country.”

Since its formation in 1999, the team, made up of faculty, students and volunteers, has worked on over 140 projects, including bicycles for children who are visually impaired, eye-tracking systems that allow people with extraordinarily challenging disabilities to “type” with their eyes, umbrella holders for wheelchairs and walkers and classroom noise meters to aid children who are hearing impaired.

“CanAssist got started,” says Martin Taylor, UVic’s vice-president, research, “to meet genuine and profound needs in our community. CanAssist exemplifies the University of Victoria’s three research priorities: research and technology development, the integration of research and teaching and the translation of knowledge for the benefit of the communities we serve.”

Forget milk, got grit?

UVic staff member runs across the Gobi for fun and fundraising

By Angela Voht

A little grit and determination will get you far, in the case of Rob MacKay, an athlete and recruiter, and Julie Sanders, (career services) got them to China’s Gobi desert. In June, MacKay put his penchant for challenge to the ultimate test in a grueling seven-day foot race over a 250 km course of wild terrain and extreme temperatures.

But for MacKay it was only natural to take his past experience in another extreme race—the Saharan Race des Sables in 2005—and apply it to the Gobi March. Upon deciding he was up for another high-caliber challenge, he got in touch with fellow Victorian Donna Carrigan and Donald Peterson, who had already expressed an interest in trying a team run with him. The team soon decided to run for a course and have raised more than $5,000 for breast cancer prevention and research, with donations still coming in to the Victoria Chapter of the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.

Prior to the march, the three had been spotted running the streets of Victoria dragging tires behind them as part of their training. That rigorous training regime led to a spectacular journey for MacKay, his two team members, and Sanders, who went along as team support. And whilst it couldn’t be called literally or literally, it was an adventure fit for the telling.

As team support, Julie Sanders put her perspective of the race nicely. “The uniqueness and vibrancy of the cultures we encountered and our enthusiasm for the team’s trek really made it the experience of a lifetime. And I got to accompany Donald’s daughter, who is only twelve. Seeing her taking it all in and growing from the experience was wonderful. We had a great time.”

Indeed, Sanders’ version of the trip included everything from sturdy camel rides and markets bustling with nuts, raisins and Pashmina shawls, to the speckled greens of desert oases.

The Gobi March began and ended in Kashgar, an ancient city in the far western province of Xinjiang, China, that boasts one of the oldest continuous markets in the world. A true ethnic mosaic by virtue of the natural inter-mosaic by virtue of the natural inter

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

Thursday, September 13
Lecture 12:30 p.m. No More Walkabout: Long Climate Change: Asian Influence in the Solomon Islands. Prof. Chris Moore, Univ. of Queensland, Strong Building C130, 721-7020

Friday, September 14
Music 12:30 p.m. Friday Mash. School of Music students in a program for various instruments. MacLaurin B125, Phillip T. Young Recital Hall. Admission by donation. 721-7904

Monday, September 17
Lecture 7 p.m. The Climate Crisis Is Here! Brian Gordon. Fraser Building Room 159, 721-8338

Music 8 p.m. Graduate Recital. Pianist Colleen Wong, MacLaurin B125, Phillip T. Young Recital Hall. Admission by donation. 721-7904

Wednesday, September 19
Lecture 4:30 p.m. Religion and Spirituality in the Workplace. Martin Ferkans, Univ. of Wollongong Strong Building C118, 721-8328

Friday, September 21
Music 12:30 p.m. Friday Mash. School of Music keyboard students. MacLaurin B125, Phillip T. Young Recital Hall. Admission by donation. 721-7904

Wednesday, September 26
Lecture 8:15 a.m. Music 9 a.m. Faculty Recital. Colin Tilley, fortepianist. MacLaurin B125, Phillip T. Young Recital Hall. Admission by donation. 721-7904

Friday, September 28
Music 8 p.m. Faculty Recital. Patrik Ciosek, clarinet; Rob Hunter, transformational actor/dancer; Kirk McNally, electronics, portable sound environment; Daniel Tones, percussion and melodica. MacLaurin B125, Phillip T. Young Recital Hall. $15, $11, 721-7904

Strange bedfellows? Eugenics and environmentalism

Dr. Angus McLaren (history) will deliver her University of Victoria Distinguished Professors Lecture entitled “Family Trees: The Inter-war Iteration of Eugenics and Environmentalism.” Friday, Sept. 21 at 7:30 p.m. in Strong C103.

The mention of eugenics conjures up memories of the 1933 BC legislation that allowed for the sterilization of the “feebleminded.” In the inter-war years across the Western world believed that such radical measures were justified to protect the community from the “infected.”

In contrast, environmentalism is associated with such progressive goals as conservation, reforestation and wilderness preservation. Accordingly, it comes as somewhat of a surprise to discover that the 1920s and 30s eugenics supported such campaigns. In this lecture, McLaren will draw on the works of inter-war English writers to tease out the reasons why those preoccupied with protecting racial exclusions, but they’ve just landed a major issue change and make his pitch to citizens to get involved to mitigate its effects. The university is the presenting sponsor of “An Afternoon with Al Gore” which will be held at the Victoria Conference Centre on Sept. 29. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. and the famous Fairmont Empress tea will be included in the ticket price. UVic President David Tardif will speak at the event and moderate a question-and-answer session with Gore following his approximately hour-long presentation. "It was a long shot, but I just thought it would be unbelievable to bring him here," says Jacobson. Tickets start at $159 and are available from select university bookstores. UVic students will be able to purchase tickets on campus to view a closed circuit feed of Gore’s presentation in the conference centre lecture theatre for $23 ($33 for staff).
Students organize benefit events for house fire victims

After a fierce house fire raged through a house on Villarceau Street in August, killing UVic students Brenna Innes and Chelsea Robinson and injuring students Joseph Brooker and Jesse Dill, fellow UVic students decided to organize a couple of fund-raising events as a way to support the victims who lost everything in the fire and help cover medical expenses not covered by insurance.

Social work graduate student Jordan Handford is holding a silent auction in the main entrance of the Student Union Building from 1 to 6 p.m. on Sept. 7. He’s collected a wide variety of donated items ranging from gift certificates to restaurants and stores to spa, outdoor adventure and tattoo packages.

“I’m very impressed and excited by the amount of support from the UVic community and the community at large,” says Handford of the requests for items. Proceeds will assist the UVic students who were residents of the house and lost their belongings in the fire.

UVic student Sarah Collins has organized a benefit to be held at Felicita’s the same evening in memory of Innes and Robinson and to raise funds for the house residents. Admission will be $2 and some of the pool staff have offered to donate their tips from the night to the benefit. Funds raised will also be donated to an organization established in memory of the young women killed in the fire.

The event at Felicita’s will only be open to UVic students and close friends of the students affected by the fire. UVic identification will be required at the door.

Faculty tackle problem of child soldiers

By Jessica Gilles

School of Child and Youth Care faculty members Philip Lancaster, Marie Hoskins and Sihlye Arzt spent a week in Ghana over the summer with one goal in mind: reestablishing the use of child soldiers.

The trip, which brought together about 45 people from around the world to work on crafting a plan for stopping child soldier recruitment, involved a five-day problem-solving and brainstorming exercise designed to find solutions to the complex problem of child soldier use.

“The school’s practical experiences with youth violence, gangs and the aftermath of war make this initiative a natural fit,” says Arzt. It’s estimated as many as 300,000 children in more than 30 countries serve as soldiers, human mine detectors, porters, spies and messengers in suicide missions.

“The trip was just one step of a very long journey,” says Lancaster, an adjunct professor who was a military assistant to Romeo Dallaire during the Rwandan genocide. “The Ghana exercise gave us a lot of input from some of the key players, and what we’ll try and do next is develop that into a written document, kind of like a handbook. We’ll put that out to the participants for comment, bring it back in for finalization, take it to the field and implement it as a work-in-progress solution.”

Each day, participants had different tasks to focus on.

“What we were trying to simulate was quite close to what actually has to be done on the ground,” says Lancaster.

On day two, after a day of registration and introduction, participants were asked to come up with a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) process for child soldiers who were part of a group that had agreed to be demobilized.

On days three and four, the task was to figure out how to rescue and protect children from active, armed groups who were not part of a peace agreement through a similar DDR process.

On their last day, the participants discussed conclusions and ways their plans could work in many different situations. Ultimately, they want to develop a long-term strategy that will eliminate child soldier use in areas with UN missions and that will protect children from recruitment after the UN leaves the area. Then, if these efforts are successful, they can move to place with no UN missions.

“The experience highlighted for me just how vitally important it is for those of us involved in international work such as this to learn how to take a supportive back seat and make room for those closest to the problem to take over the driver’s seat,” says Arzt.
Meet UVic's new human rights educator

By Jessica Gillies

As he settles into his new position as UVic's human rights educator, Moussa Magassa is most looking forward to working with everyone in the university as a communication facilitator,” he says. “I’m the kind of person who always thinks that there’s an alternative solution when there’s a relationship with a problem.”

Magassa has an extensive history of helping people work out their problems. He earned a bachelor’s degree in conflict resolution in South Africa, where he worked in the field of democratization and peace education. Then he earned a master’s degree in human security and peace building at Royal Roads University.

Most recently, Magassa worked with an immigrant servicing agency in Vancouver, helping immigrants and refugees settle in and adapt to Canadian culture. He designs and delivers training to the university community, develops working relationships with other departments and groups, and make sure everyone at UVic is fully informed of policies to prevent and address all forms of discrimination and harassment.

Magassa plans to set up workshops about human rights, discrimination, harassment and other related issues. He says he looks forward to having people talk to him about any problems he can help with.

“It’s quite exciting to look ahead. This will be a great opportunity not only for me to share what I know, but for people to teach me things, which I will appreciate.”

Magassa can be reached at 472-4114 or mmagassa@uvic.ca.

A DAY IN FILOMENA PIRRO’S LIFE

A day in Filomena Pirro’s life includes ringing in all kinds of food items as hundreds of students pass by. Pirro has been a cashier in the Cadboro Commons cafeteria for 17 years. Normally she works from 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, although in the summer she may work weekends or the 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. shift.

The cash machines have changed over the years and are easier to operate, but the students remain the same. “They are good kids,” she says, “I get to know them by name and some of them call me ‘mom.”

Since the Commons is the residential cafeteria, most of the students pay for their food with their meal card, but the cashiers also handle debit cards, Diner Plus cards or cash.

The summer is less busy, but there are more international students in the cafeteria. “It is nice to meet people from different places. I love it here,” she says. “I like kids. It’s not so great when there are food fights, but that hasn’t happened in a long time.”

Pirro is originally from south Rome in Italy, where her father was a tailor and her mother was an embroiderer. She moved to Montreal where she lived for 26 years before coming to Victoria, “for the winter and the weather.” When she moved here, she looked for work in a tailor shop. As nothing was available, a friend told her there might be jobs at UVic. “I decided to come here for a couple of years,” she laughs, “I’m still here!”

When she’s not at work, she likes to garden, growing figs and peaches, tomatoes, basil and other spices. She loves to cook and makes her own pasta. She harvests figs in July and August to eat, make jam and share with neighbours and colleagues. She is looking forward to retirement and spending more time in the garden.

“Now everything has to be done in a hurry!” But until then, “I like to see the kids happy and I like it when they call me ‘momma.”

The UVic Department of Occupational Health, Safety and Environment (http://ohs.uvic.ca) is responsible for developing and implementing health and safety practices, and research on the health hazards of second-hand smoke near buildings.

The university is committed to providing a healthy campus environment for students, employees and visitors,” says Peter Sanderson, associate vice-president human resources. “Smoking has been prohibited in all university buildings and vehicles for some time, and we are now responding to staff and student requests to reduce their exposure to second-hand smoke near buildings.”

The policy change was supported by a task force made up of UVic staff, student, management and union representatives.

Medical evidence indicates that exposure to second-hand smoke is hazardous to health and can cause disease, including lung cancer, in healthy non-smokers.

Resources for students, faculty and staff who want to quit smoking are available through UVic Health Services (http://health.uvic.ca/self-help/quit-smoking.html) and the UVic Department of Occupational Health, Safety and Environment (http://ohs.uvic.ca). The Lung Association of British Columbia (quitnow.ca, a comprehensive website operated by The Lung Association of British Columbia) also provides valuable information.

For more information about the Day in the Life series, contact Linda Sproule-Jones at 721-8786 or lsproule@uvic.ca.