University of Victoria astronomer Kim Venn is looking billions of kilometres into space to solve the mysteries of life here on Earth.

As the Canada Research Chair in Observational Astrophysics, Venn studies how the universe formed and evolved. All the chemical elements—the building blocks of matter—that exist in the universe had to come from somewhere, and Venn wants to know how and when they were created.

“Our sun formed out of material that was eight billion years in the making,” she says. “Was that special? Did the chemistry in our galaxy have to be just right in order to make the sun, or to make a planet like the Earth inhabitable?”

By studying stars of different ages, Venn can reconstruct the formation of the elements that make up our world and help answer the question of how we came into being.

After the Big Bang that created the universe 13.7 billion years ago, only four basic elements existed: hydrogen, helium, lithium and beryllium. All the elements we know today have evolved since then within stars in individual galaxies.

Some elements can be formed in multiple ways in stars. Astronomers can figure out which processes took place by studying relative amounts of the different elements that formed.

Some of Venn’s recent research focuses on stars that formed during the first million years after the Big Bang, called “first stars.” Something strange and unknown happened during that time period, she says, because those “first stars” had no metals in them. Furthermore, we don’t see any stars like that in the galaxy today, even though we should.

Once astronomers learn more about that time period, they’ll be able to fill in a missing piece of the timeline and trace the evolution of elements from the Big Bang to the present.

The future of Venn’s research into “first stars” and the chemical evolution of other galaxies depends on development of the 30-metre telescope (TMT), which will allow astronomers to see faint objects more clearly. Objects will look sharper because the light will be more concentrated and the resolution will be higher.

Right now, says Venn, the TMT technology is still in the concept design phase, and the actual telescope is eight to 10 years away. UVic engineers are working on TMT technology, and Venn works with them in a science advisory capacity.

She is also collaborating with researchers in The Netherlands and France, using data from the Very Large Telescope in Chile, to study the chemistry of stars in nearby dwarf galaxies—galaxies about 1,000 times smaller than our galaxy. Because they’re completely isolated systems, their chemicals evolved without any influence from the outside.

Venn is fascinated by the serendipitous chemical reactions in the universe that led to our existence. Carbon, for example, is the basis of all life on Earth, but its original formation in the universe was such an unlikely event.

In the core of some stars, helium burns in a way that creates an atom of distant stars offers tantalizing clues to our origins

By Jessica Gillies

University of Victoria astronomer Kim Venn is looking billions of kilometres into space to solve the mysteries of life here on Earth.

As the Canada Research Chair in Observational Astrophysics, Venn studies how the universe formed and evolved. All the chemical elements—the building blocks of matter—that exist in the universe had to come from somewhere, and Venn wants to know how and when they were created.

“Our sun formed out of material that was eight billion years in the making,” she says. “Was that special? Did the chemistry in our galaxy have to be just right in order to make the sun, or to make a planet like the Earth inhabitable?”

By studying stars of different ages, Venn can reconstruct the formation of the elements that make up our world and help answer the question of how we came into being.

After the Big Bang that created the universe 13.7 billion years ago, only four basic elements existed: hydrogen, helium, lithium and beryllium. All the elements we know today have evolved since then within stars in individual galaxies.

Some elements can be formed in multiple ways in stars. Astronomers can figure out which processes took place by studying relative amounts of the different elements that formed.

Some of Venn’s recent research focuses on stars that formed during the first million years after the Big Bang, called “first stars.” Something strange and unknown happened during that time period, she says, because those “first stars” had no metals in them. Furthermore, we don’t see any stars like that in the galaxy today, even though we should.

Once astronomers learn more about that time period, they’ll be able to fill in a missing piece of the timeline and trace the evolution of elements from the Big Bang to the present.

The future of Venn’s research into “first stars” and the chemical evolution of other galaxies depends on development of the 30-metre telescope (TMT), which will allow astronomers to see faint objects more clearly. Objects will look sharper because the light will be more concentrated and the resolution will be higher.

Right now, says Venn, the TMT technology is still in the concept design phase, and the actual telescope is eight to 10 years away. UVic engineers are working on TMT technology, and Venn works with them in a science advisory capacity.

She is also collaborating with researchers in The Netherlands and France, using data from the Very Large Telescope in Chile, to study the chemistry of stars in nearby dwarf galaxies—galaxies about 1,000 times smaller than our galaxy. Because they’re completely isolated systems, their chemicals evolved without any influence from the outside.

Venn is fascinated by the serendipitous chemical reactions in the universe that led to our existence. Carbon, for example, is the basis of all life on Earth, but its original formation in the universe was such an unlikely event.

In the core of some stars, helium burns in a way that creates an atom of distant stars offers tantalizing clues to our origins

By Jessica Gillies

University of Victoria astrono-
Geographers co-author report on climate change in Canada

By Valerie Shore

“The impacts and costs of climate change are now affecting all Cana- dians, often in insidious ways,” says geographer Dr. Ian Walker, one of 19 lead authors of a Natural Resources Canada report on climate change in Canada, released March 7.

Walker, who studies the impacts of climate change on coastal land- scapes and communities, co-led the chapter on British Columbia. Co- lead author of a chapter on Northern Canada is Dr. Terry Prowse, profes- sor and Chair in Climate Impacts on Water Resources in UVic’s Depart- ment of Geography and a research scientist with the Water and Climate Impacts Research Centre, a UVic–Environment Canada initiative.

The report, From Impacts to Adaptation: Canada in a Changing Climate 2007, details what is understood so far about Canada’s vulner- ability to climate change during the past decade. It discusses the risks and adaptation opportunities, with a focus on communities, infrastructure and ecosystems.

The BC chapter includes infor- mation on water resources, fisheries, forestry, agriculture, tourism/ parks, energy, critical infrastructure and health, as well as detailed case stud- ies on alpine glaciers, mountain pine beetles, coastal communities and sea-level rise.

The Northern Canada chapter discusses the implications of chang- ing climate for the Arctic environ- ment, including sea ice, glaciers and ice sheets, permafrost and related ecosystems. It details what these changes will mean for Northern communities, economic develop- ment and Arctic biodiversity.

“The Arctic is a bellwether for climate change and the region most sensitive to climate-induced changes,” says Prowse, a hydrologist who stud- ies the impact of climate change on northern rivers, lakes and deltas. “Internationally, it is the high-latitude regions that are guiding the way for- ward about how we should and can adapt. Canada is primarily a ‘cold-reg- ions’ country and we can learn much from conditions being experienced in our northern environments.”

The report is intended to inform policy and decision-makers on how to deal with and take advantage of current and future risks and op- portunities associated with climate change. In fact, the report docu- ments what some communities are already doing to adapt.

To read the report, which includes a summary document, visit http://adaptation.mecn.gc.ca/au/est07/ index_e.php.

Dr. Martin Taylor, UVic’s former vice-president research, is the 2008 winner of LifeSciences British Co- lumbia’s Leadership Award for his contributions to the life sciences in BC.

LifeSciences British Columbia represents the biotechnology, med- ical device, and greater life sciences community of BC. The awards honor our individual and organizations who have made outstanding contribu- tions to the development and public awareness of the province’s life sciences industry.

Taylor, a geographer, served as UVic’s first vice-president research from 1998 to last September when he became founding president and CEO of NORSBC, a non-profit organization created by the university to manage the UVic-based VENUS and NEPTUNE Canada ocean observatories. During his nine years at UVic’s vice-president research, the uni- versity tripled its external research funding and solidified its status as one of Canada’s leading research universities.

“With this award, Life Sciences British Columbia is acknowledging what we at UVic have known all along—that Martin’s tremendous vision and leadership have made and continue to make, a huge impact on the academic research community in BC and Canada,” says UVic Presi- dent David Turpin.

LifeSciences BC describes Taylor’s legacy as “the demonstrated value of interdisciplinary inquiry, which led to the creation of several institutes and departments demonstrating that philosophy.”

For example, while serving as acting vice-president research at McMaster University in 1994/95, Taylor established the Institute for Water, Environment and Health—the first and only branch of the United Nations University in Canada.

At UVic, he was instrumental in the establishment of a national pro- teomics platform in partnership with Genome BC and Genome Canada. The platform serves international clientele from the private sector, government and universities.

Dr. Jeff Reading, Mohawk Tyendi- naga, scientific director of the UVic- based Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Institute of Aboriginal Peoples Health, has received the 2008 National Aboriginal Achieve- ment Award in the field of health.

“I appreciate the recognition very much because it comes from the Abo- riginal community,” says Reading.

Reading has played an important role in nurturing the growth of the Aboriginal health research community. His work helped launch an innovation program to increase the number of Aboriginal peoples entering the field of health research and expand capacity across Canada for this type of research.

The Government of Canada recently invested nearly $16 million to help fund the next stage of this program, known as the Network Environments for Aboriginal Health Research, a net- work of 9 research centres located in universities across the country.

Reading’s vision has also ensured that Aboriginal communities are equal partners in research. New ethics guid- lines for Aboriginal health research, a first for Canada and the world, will ensure that Aboriginal communities are involved in the research process, that the research is culturally ap- propriate and that the community benefits from the research.

Reading received his award at the 15th Annual National Aboriginal Achievement Awards Gala held on March 7 in Toronto.

The National Aboriginal Achieve- ment Awards (NAAA) established in 1993 exemplify, encourage and celebrate excellence in First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities across Canada.

A national jury, comprised of ac- complished Aboriginal people, selects 12 career award winners in different fields, one youth and one lifetime achievement award recipient annually.

By Valerie Shore

Aboriginal health researcher garners national award

Star struck continued from p.1
called beryllium-8, a very unstable form of beryllium (a rare metal). Because it’s so unstable, beryllium-8 usually breaks down back into helium almost immediately, rendering it useless. But sometimes, the beryllium-8 atom comes into contact with another helium atom that has just the right energy resonance—the amount of en- ergy an atom needs to combine with other atoms—to form carbon. “We think it’s straightforward to make all the other chemical elements once carbon is made,” says Venn. “Life, as we know it, exists because beryllium-8 happens to have an energy resonance of eight mega-electron volts, and the temperatures in the cores of stars hap- pen to give helium atoms an energy resonance of eight mega-electron volts. If not, all the stars would have ended up as carbon, and then we would exist. That’s so precarious and cool,” she says.
“Hate speech” and human rights

In early March, the Mount, UVic’s student newspaper, published an article in its opinion section that condemned the Koran (Islam’s Holy Book) as “hate speech,” which is rooted in violence. The suggestion was that all Muslims are grounded in a violent religious understanding, which is incoherent and patently false. As the debate continues to settle around the publication of this article, I believe this is an opportunity for some worthwhile examination of our university community and the culture we want to create.

In the wake of this incident in which a minority group was the subject of a discriminatory media portrayal, I have had some illusions about the university community. Letters should be signed with university identification numbers and be edited for style, grammar and length.

Letters for publication and to edit for style, grammar and length.

In this instance, I think the university makes a great effort to be a place that defends and promotes freedom of speech and the media. The freedom of the press is a crucial right that is not to be taken lightly.

However, we’ve integrated the motor into the propeller and thruster, therefore ending the need for a separate motor and housing, and also eliminating the drag or resistance that the motor and its housing creates. The technical term would be a “twin-vented” design. In addition, our thruster only has one moving part in the entire design which means it’s easy to produce and inexpensive to buy and maintain.

The thruster is receiving a lot of interest from the marine and energy industries. Currently, the students are in the process of obtaining a patent through the UVic Innovation and Development Corporation, the university’s tech transfer office.

The thruster is a spin-off project from the UVic Autonomous Underwater Vehicle Design Team (AUVic). AUVic (www.engr.uvic.ca/~auvic) is a group of engineering students building a submerged robot capable of completing intelligent tasks without aid from human operators. The CEC is an annual event attended by 150 engineering students from across Canada. It promotes communication, design and ingenuity and fosters links among Canadian engineering students, industry, government and academia. This year’s competition took place in March at the University of Waterloo.

By Maria Linni

For the second year in a row, UVic engineering students are the winners in the innovation category at the Canadian Engineering Competition (CEC).

Electrical engineering students David Shea and Brian Claus, and mechanical engineering students Torm Gangstrom and Peter Crocker, grabbed the title with their miniature thruster for underwater vehicles. The low-cost but highly efficient underwater thruster would be used to propel research vehicles.

“Traditional shipbuilders have a housing in front of the propeller which contains a motor,” Shea explains. “However, we’ve integrated the motor into the propeller and thruster, therefore ending the need for a separate motor and housing, and also eliminating the drag or resistance that the motor and its housing creates. The technical term would be a ‘twin-vented’ design. In addition, our thruster only has one moving part in the entire design which means it’s easy to produce and inexpensive to buy and maintain.”

The thruster is receiving a lot of interest from the marine and energy industries. Currently, the students are in the process of obtaining a patent through the UVic Innovation and Development Corporation, the university’s tech transfer office.

Engineering students win national competition

Members of the University of Victoria convocation have named two nominees for chancellor for an election that will be conducted by web vote and paper balloting between May 20 and June 6.

The nominees to become UVic’s tenth chancellor are Dr. Jim Dutton and Murray Farmer.

Dutton is a retired cardiovascular thoracic surgeon who has served as chief of cardiac surgery and heart health for the Vancouver Island Health Authority. He practised in Victoria for 28 years after completing his surgical training at McGill University. He has also been a lecturer and clinical advisor for the Island Medical Program at UVic.

Farmer graduated from UVic in 1968 and is a Victoria business leader known for his volunteer work with numerous community organizations. Nominated by the UVic Alumni Association, he currently serves as chair of the UVic board of governors and was the 2007 recipient of the association’s Distinguished Alumni Award for Lifet ime Achievement.

Three members of senate have been elected by acclamation: Betty Clancy, Larry Cross and Gail Flinton.

The new chancellor and senators will hold three-year terms commencing Jan. 1, 2009.

Eligible voters in the election of the new chancellor are: UVic alumni, past and present members of the university’s governing bodies, regular and retired faculty members, regular staff members (with a university degrees and with at least 12 months’ service) and former students of Victoria College who completed one full year of study prior to 1963. The chancellor is the titular head of the university, confers degrees and serves on the board of governors and senate. Chancellor Ron Lou-Poy, first elected in 2002, completed his second term on Dec. 31.

By Maria Linni

For the second year in a row, UVic engineering students are the winners in the innovation category at the Canadian Engineering Competition (CEC).

Electrical engineering students David Shea and Brian Claus, and mechanical engineering students Torm Gangstrom and Peter Crocker, grabbed the title with their miniature thruster for underwater vehicles. The low-cost but highly efficient underwater thruster would be used to propel research vehicles.

“Traditional shipbuilders have a housing in front of the propeller which contains a motor,” Shea explains. “However, we’ve integrated the motor into the propeller and thruster, therefore ending the need for a separate motor and housing, and also eliminating the drag or resistance that the motor and its housing creates. The technical term would be a ‘twin-vented’ design. In addition, our thruster only has one moving part in the entire design which means it’s easy to produce and inexpensive to buy and maintain.”

The thruster is receiving a lot of interest from the marine and energy industries. Currently, the students are in the process of obtaining a patent through the UVic Innovation and Development Corporation, the university’s tech transfer office.

The thruster is a spin-off project from the UVic Autonomous Underwater Vehicle Design Team (AUVic). AUVic (www.engr.uvic.ca/~auvic) is a group of engineering students building a submerged robot capable of completing intelligent tasks without aid from human operators.

The CEC is an annual event attended by 150 engineering students from across Canada. It promotes communication, design and ingenuity and fosters links among Canadian engineering students, industry, government and academia. This year’s competition took place in March at the University of Waterloo.

Two nominated for chancellor

Members of the University of Victoria convocation have named two nominees for chancellor for an election that will be conducted by web vote and paper balloting between May 20 and June 6.

The nominees to become UVic’s tenth chancellor are Dr. Jim Dutton and Murray Farmer.

Dutton is a retired cardiovascular thoracic surgeon who has served as chief of cardiac surgery and heart health for the Vancouver Island Health Authority. He practised in Victoria for 28 years after completing his surgical training at McGill University. He has also been a lecturer and clinical advisor for the Island Medical Program at UVic.

Farmer graduated from UVic in 1968 and is a Victoria business leader known for his volunteer work with numerous community organizations. Nominated by the UVic Alumni Association, he currently serves as chair of the UVic board of governors and was the 2007 recipient of the association’s Distinguished Alumni Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Three members of senate have been elected by acclamation: Betty Clancy, Larry Cross and Gail Flinton.

The new chancellor and senators will hold three-year terms commencing Jan. 1, 2009.

Eligible voters in the election of the new chancellor are: UVic alumni, past and present members of the university’s governing bodies, regular and retired faculty members, regular staff members (with a university degrees and with at least 12 months’ service) and former students of Victoria College who completed one full year of study prior to 1963. The chancellor is the titular head of the university, confers degrees and serves on the board of governors and senate. Chancellor Ron Lou-Poy, first elected in 2002, completed his second term on Dec. 31.

Engineering students win national competition

By Maria Linni

For the second year in a row, UVic engineering students are the winners in the innovation category at the Canadian Engineering Competition (CEC).

Electrical engineering students David Shea and Brian Claus, and mechanical engineering students Torm Gangstrom and Peter Crocker, grabbed the title with their miniature thruster for underwater vehicles. The low-cost but highly efficient underwater thruster would be used to propel research vehicles.

“Traditional shipbuilders have a housing in front of the propeller which contains a motor,” Shea explains. “However, we’ve integrated the motor into the propeller and thruster, therefore ending the need for a separate motor and housing, and also eliminating the drag or resistance that the motor and its housing creates. The technical term would be a ‘twin-vented’ design. In addition, our thruster only has one moving part in the entire design which means it’s easy to produce and inexpensive to buy and maintain.”

The thruster is receiving a lot of interest from the marine and energy industries. Currently, the students are in the process of obtaining a patent through the UVic Innovation and Development Corporation, the university’s tech transfer office.

The thruster is a spin-off project from the UVic Autonomous Underwater Vehicle Design Team (AUVic). AUVic (www.engr.uvic.ca/~auvic) is a group of engineering students building a submerged robot capable of completing intelligent tasks without aid from human operators.

The CEC is an annual event attended by 150 engineering students from across Canada. It promotes communication, design and ingenuity and fosters links among Canadian engineering students, industry, government and academia. This year’s competition took place in March at the University of Waterloo.

Two nominated for chancellor

Members of the University of Victoria convocation have named two nominees for chancellor for an election that will be conducted by web vote and paper balloting between May 20 and June 6.

The nominees to become UVic’s tenth chancellor are Dr. Jim Dutton and Murray Farmer.

Dutton is a retired cardiovascular thoracic surgeon who has served as chief of cardiac surgery and heart health for the Vancouver Island Health Authority. He practised in Victoria for 28 years after completing his surgical training at McGill University. He has also been a lecturer and clinical advisor for the Island Medical Program at UVic.

Farmer graduated from UVic in 1968 and is a Victoria business leader known for his volunteer work with numerous community organizations. Nominated by the UVic Alumni Association, he currently serves as chair of the UVic board of governors and was the 2007 recipient of the association’s Distinguished Alumni Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Three members of senate have been elected by acclamation: Betty Clancy, Larry Cross and Gail Flinton.

The new chancellor and senators will hold three-year terms commencing Jan. 1, 2009.

Eligible voters in the election of the new chancellor are: UVic alumni, past and present members of the university’s governing bodies, regular and retired faculty members, regular staff members (with a university degrees and with at least 12 months’ service) and former students of Victoria College who completed one full year of study prior to 1963. The chancellor is the titular head of the university, confers degrees and serves on the board of governors and senate. Chancellor Ron Lou-Poy, first elected in 2002, completed his second term on Dec. 31.
A UVic archaeology instructor and recent PhD graduate Duncan McLaren has collaborated in the discovery of archaeological sites dating to more than 5,000 years old in Coast Tsistilaham Territory, on the northern coast of British Columbia. This research has “almost doubled the length of known occupation from 5,000 to 10,000 years” in that region, says McLaren’s PhD supervisor, archaeology professor Quintin Mackie.

This is a significant achievement, considering that archaeologists have been working in the region for nearly 50 years. McLaren and a research team headed by David Archer of North West Community College and Andrew Martindale of University of British Columbia successfully located the sites by reconstructing the sea-level and palaeo-environmental histories of the Dundas Island and by conducting archaeological surveys.

McLaren undertook the work for his doctoral dissertation. He hypothesized that the Dundas Island archipelago would be what is known as a sea-level hinge. He explains that this hinge would have experienced little shoreline movement, whereas the landforms adjacent to it have undergone dramatic changes in sea-level, mainly due to glaciation. During the last ice age the mainland of British Columbia was depressed downward as a result of the weight of ice on top of it. Adjacent areas, such as Haida Gwaii, bulged upwards.

Using his forearm as a model, McLaren demonstrates the theory: “Imagine that my hand is Haida Gwaii and my elbow is the mainland. In the middle is the sea-level hinge. That’s the Dundas Islands area.”

McLaren’s arm moves up and down like a teeter-totter, illustrating how the land masses would have moved under such tremendous weight.

Following the ice age, sea-level gradually dropped 200 metres on the mainland as the continental crust rebounded and simultaneously rose 150 metres on Haida Gwaii as the bulged area subsided.

“If shorelines were changing, then the places where habitations were situated would have changed as well,” explains McLaren.

Conversely, if sea-level remained fairly stable, coastal dwellers wouldn’t have had to move as often. Grandchildren and grandparents would have lived at the same site.

To create the curve, McLaren used a range of dating methods including lake coring, pollen analysis, radiocarbon dating and diatom identification. Diatoms are the microscopic silica skeletons of phytoplankton.

Once he had established the sea-level curve, he created maps which pinpointed the probable locations of archaeological sites on the ancient shorelines.

Finding archaeological remains on ancient landscapes is like looking for a needle in a haystack: you can’t make any more needles, but accuracy environmental reconstruction in effect makes the haystack much smaller,” says Mackie.

After three months of fieldwork in this metaphorical haystack, McLaren identified 12 different sites, all of which lie on slightly raised marine landforms. Five of the sites date to the early Holocene period, between 10,000 BP and 5,000 BP (before present).

McLaren has presented his findings at a meeting with Lax’Kw’alaams elders, who had granted him permission to conduct research in their territory. He says they were very keen to learn about scientific explanations to their ancestral occupation from the ancient sites.

“Our research is of great interest to our future grandchildren,” says the late elder, William Turner, who passed away last year. Turner was known for his extensive work with the Lax’Kw’alaams Nation.

“Winning a MERLOT award is exciting,” says McLaren. “It is an international recognition that has not been bestowed on any other UVic instructor or researcher.”

McLaren’s research has almost doubled the length of known occupation from 5,000 to 10,000 years on the northern coast of BC, says Mackie.

COMMITTED TO SUSTAINABILITY.

At Monk Office, we are dedicated to the promotion of innovative business practices and products that minimize our impact on the environment. Our Victoria distribution centre is even a BOMA certified “Green Building.”

For five years, we’ve been official suppliers to UVic, helping departments purchase sustainable office products. Need help? Talk to Mike Wilson, our UVic Account Manager, and discover how we’re as helpful to the environment as we are to our customers.
Clive Beddoe, visionary and founding shareholder of WestJet, has been named the 2008 UVic Business Distinguished Entrepreneur of the Year. This annual award, established by the faculty’s advisory board, acknowledges an inspirational entrepreneur who has had a significant and positive impact on the community through his or her business leadership.

Currently chair of the WestJet board of directors, Beddoe has been instrumental in establishing WestJet as one of the most successful airlines in recent aviation history. Along with founders Mark Hill, Tim Morgan and Donald Bell, he developed WestJet into Canada’s leading high-value, low-fare airline.

The idea for starting an airline grew out of Beddoe’s business interests in Vancouver. “Where there is pain there is opportunity,” he says. “Ironically, I was flying Air Canada and paying about $500 per round trip between Calgary and Vancouver, and that was in 1996! Since I flew for fun, I decided to buy an airplane and operate it. The guys in the tax department thought it was an eight-seater, I was in position to sell and use it myself. Because it was an eight-seater, I was in position to sell and use it myself. Because it was an eight-seater, I was in position to sell and use it myself.”

For those who know the WestJet story, the rest is history.

The upstart company began in 1996 with three aircraft flying to five cities in 2007. It had expanded to 73 aircraft flying to 47 destinations in Canada, the United States, Mexico and the Caribbean. Beddoe says the secret to the company’s success is its people.

“We have deliberately built a culture of engagement and participation. What we’re after are people who feel it’s their company and who will go above and beyond because it is their company. It’s a constant process, recognizing people for extraordinary contributions. For going beyond, letters written are posted on walls, put in their files, shared with managers and acknowledged. It’s an old story, if you reward the conduct you want and ultimately punish what you don’t, then you will build the culture.”

Beddoe’s leadership has placed the company at the forefront of the aviation industry. For the third year in a row, WestJet has been named the most admired corporate culture in Canada. The annual study is conducted by Waterstone Human Capital with 185 senior Canadian executives. “A company’s commitment to its people is established by its leaders,” says Deán of Business Dr. Ali Dastmalchian. “Mr. Beddoe is a great role model for our students.”

“Clive Beddoe’s entrepreneurial vision has made a significant economic impact on the smaller communities of Vancouver Island,” says Alan Gamage, chair of the faculty’s board of advisors. “WestJet has re- ally put the Comox Valley on the radar for Albertans and helped to expand the Island’s reputation as a tourism destination and reduce its reliance on more traditional resource-based industries.”

The WestJet strategy is also about growing responsibly. Since 2001, the company has spent over $2 billion upgrading its fleet to more fuel-efficient aircraft. Emissions from these aircraft are 30 per cent lower on a per-person basis than its previous fleet.

A five-member panel of Faculty of Business board of advisor mem- bers assessed Beddoe’s vision, enter- prise-driven drive and impact on the Canadian and global economies. Prior to September 2007, Bed- doe held the roles of president and chief executive officer. Beddoe is a resident of Calgary and married to a woman with two children. He will receive the award at a gala celebration on June 12 beginning at 6 p.m. at the Victoria Conference Centre.

Past winners of the Distin- guished Entrepreneur of the Year award include David Black, owner of Black Press, Canada’s largest privately-owned newspaper company (2007); Gwyn Morgan, who established EnCana Corp. as the country’s largest energy company (2006); Dave Ritchie, chairman of Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers (2005); and Jeff Mallett, former president and chief operating officer of Yahoo (2004).

How can a campus community continue to build an inclusive and re- spectful campus if some of its buildings blocks are marked by hateful “graffiti”? This was the question posed by several members of Vancouver Island University undergraduate students after they found messages of hate and violence scratched on a classroom cabinet last summer.

The discovery of these messages in the very classroom where a third- class student was found hiding behind a washroom door last summer at the Canadian Women’s Studies Association Conference in Vancouver, with assistance from a small grant received from the BC Government Support for Student Led Research in the Social Policy Field.

During a meeting on March 12, UVic President David Turpin and the president’s advisory committee on equity and human rights issues, the University Human Rights Committee (UHRC), discussed the prevalence of hate regimes. “Students question whether it should be one of the most damaging outcomes of this unacceptable behavior.”

The WestJet strategy is about creating a culture of engagement and participation. What we’re after are people who feel it’s their company and who will go above and beyond because it is their company. It’s a constant process, recognizing people for extraordinary contributions. For going beyond, letters written are posted on walls, put in their files, shared with managers and acknowledged. It’s an old story, if you want to know the WestJet story, the rest is history.

The upstart company began in 1996 with three aircraft flying to five cities in 2007. It had expanded to 73 aircraft flying to 47 destinations in Canada, the United States, Mexico and the Caribbean. Beddoe says the secret to the company’s success is its people. “We have deliberately built a culture of engagement and participation. What we’re after are people who feel it’s their company and who will go above and beyond because it is their company. It’s a constant process, recognizing people for extraordinary contributions. For going beyond, letters written are posted on walls, put in their files, shared with managers and acknowledged. It’s an old story, if you want to know the WestJet story, the rest is history.

The upstart company began in 1996 with three aircraft flying to five cities in 2007. It had expanded to 73 aircraft flying to 47 destinations in Canada, the United States, Mexico and the Caribbean. Beddoe says the secret to the company’s success is its people. “We have deliberately built a culture of engagement and participation. What we’re after are people who feel it’s their company and who will go above and beyond because it is their company. It’s a constant process, recognizing people for extraordinary contributions. For going beyond, letters written are posted on walls, put in their files, shared with managers and acknowledged. It’s an old story, if you want to know the WestJet story, the rest is history.

The upstart company began in 1996 with three aircraft flying to five cities in 2007. It had expanded to 73 aircraft flying to 47 destinations in Canada, the United States, Mexico and the Caribbean. Beddoe says the secret to the company’s success is its people. “We have deliberately built a culture of engagement and participation. What we’re after are people who feel it’s their company and who will go above and beyond because it is their company. It’s a constant process, recognizing people for extraordinary contributions. For going beyond, letters written are posted on walls, put in their files, shared with managers and acknowledged. It’s an old story, if you want to know the WestJet story, the rest is history.

The upstart company began in 1996 with three aircraft flying to five cities in 2007. It had expanded to 73 aircraft flying to 47 destinations in Canada, the United States, Mexico and the Caribbean. Beddoe says the secret to the company’s success is its people. “We have deliberately built a culture of engagement and participation. What we’re after are people who feel it’s their company and who will go above and beyond because it is their company. It’s a constant process, recognizing people for extraordinary contributions. For going beyond, letters written are posted on walls, put in their files, shared with managers and acknowledged. It’s an old story, if you want to know the WestJet story, the rest is history.”
In memoriam

It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Reidun Andersen on March 12. For many years, Reidun was known across the UVic campus as “Mrs. Andersen,” the very efficient and very organized coordinator of the Humanities Computing and Media Centre (formerly the Language and Listening Labs in the 1960s and later known as the Language Centre). She retired in 1992. Throughout all those years, Reidun was a very dedicated coordinator, running a very tight ship with great efficiency.

She was truly an institution on campus, respected by all who knew her. Many members of the various language departments on campus will keep very fond memories of her as a person who knew, in a friendly and gentle way, how to command respect. Reidun was not the kind of person who could stay inactive during retirement, and she continued to be very involved on campus as a part-time Norwegian instructor for continuing studies, communicating to others the love of her native language and culture. During the last few weeks of her life, she generously donated a large collection of Norwegian resources to the university library, many of which she obtained through grants from the Norwegian government in recognition of the work she had done to spread the Norwegian language and culture. Reidun will be truly missed by all those in the university community who were fortunate enough to know her.

Contributed by Didier Bergeret, Division of Continuing Studies

---

Calendar highlights

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

Thursday, April 10
Beck lecture 7:30 p.m. The Settlement of Iceland. Landnahme and Its Poetry. Dr. Richard Perkins, Univ. College London. Clearance B204. 761-7960

Wednesday, April 16
Masterminds lecture 7 p.m. From Exclusion to Inclusion: Canada’s Chinese and Japanese Citizens. Dr. Patricia Roy, Prof. Emeritus (history). Hickman 105. Register at 472-4473 or www.uvic.ca/masterminds. 761-6134

Wednesday, April 23
Lecture/ Seminar 7 p.m. Remi-

cence Theatre: Remembering the Community. Prof. Juliana Saxton, Prof. Emeritus (theatre). Hickman 105. Register at 472-4473 or www.uvic.ca/masterminds. 761-6134

Thursday, April 24
Asia-Pacific Initiatives conference 9 a.m. Foreign-Domestic Linkages in China’s International Behavior. Dr. Guoqiang Wu. Uvic. Uvic Con-

ference Centre, Arbutus/Queens-

wood Rd. Free, but call 720-7920 or e-mail capi@uvic.ca to register. Continues April 25.

Sunday, April 27
Lecture 2:30 p.m. Knowledge Does Not Exist. Prof. Emeritus (theatre). Hickman 105. Register at 472-4473 or www.uvic.ca/masterminds. 761-6134

---

April Fool’s Day Festival

In the wonderful world of April Fool’s Day, it is common to be pranked or to prank others. Why not be bold and make the day one of joy? At the April Fool’s Day Festival, held on April 1, you will see a variety of performances, and you will also be able to purchase games and products that are guaranteed to make you laugh. However, be careful not to get caught. It’s a day of fun and laughter, so enjoy the experience and make it a day to remember!.

---

When is the next Ring?

Calendar items should be sent by 4 p.m. on the copy deadline date shown below to UVic Communications (Sedgewick C149, fax 721-8955, e-mail ucom@uvic.ca) or entered into the online calendar (www.uvic.ca/events). For information call 721-7636.

Monday, April 7
Politics lecture 7 p.m. Moral Limit and Possibility in World Politics. Dr. Richard Price, UBC. Social Sciences and Math A357. 472-4458

Monday, April 7
Workshop 7 p.m. Learn to Walk the Labyrinth. Henri Lock, United Church chaplain. Interfaith Chapel. 721-8538

Tuesday, April 8
Lecture 12:10 p.m. Moving from Preparation to Action: Tips To Make Physical Activity a Daily Habit. Dr. Ryan Rhodes, UVC. Strong City. 721-8775

Wednesday, April 9

Masterminds lecture 7 p.m. Proud Paradigm for a Parody Loo. What Vic-

toria’s Past Is Crucial to its Future. Dr. Nicholas Russell, retired school

Department (theatre). Hickman 105. Register at 472-4473 or www.uvic.ca/masterminds. 761-6134

---

A little knowledge is a beautiful thing

Check online for Camosun’s Spring/Summer lineup of continuing education classes

Email ecalendar@camosun.bc.ca if you’d like to receive a copy of the print calendar.

---

When is the next Ring? (cont.)

Calendar items should be sent by 4 p.m. on the copy deadline date shown below to UVic Communications (Sedgewick C149, fax 721-8955, e-mail ucom@uvic.ca) or entered into the online calendar (www.uvic.ca/events). For information call 721-7636.

Publication Date Copy Deadline

Thursday, May 14:00-15:00 Wednesday, April 23

Monday, May 22:00-23:00 Friday, May 23

Thursday, July 31:00-23:00 Wednesday, June 25

---


camosun.ca
Residence students take up the green charge

By Melanie Tromp

A team of University of Victoria residence students are taking up the green charge on campus, asking their fellow residents to turn it off, take the bus and eat local foods through a variety of targeted social marketing campaigns.

Last October, 16 students from dormitory and cluster residences began meeting every Thursday with UVic Campus Sustainability Coordinator Sarah Webb, forming the first ever UVic Residence Sustainability Team. These students meet with a variety of guest speakers to glean the humbling facts about sustainability on campus and in the greater community, proactively attempting to turn this information into simple actions to be carried out over the next week.

“The team provides a chance for students living on campus to connect with other like-minded individuals,” says Webb, “and of course it helps to spread the word among the residence community about ways they can get involved to make change.”

A smaller committee of the sustainability team has been facilitating the group’s Turn It Off campaign, where students in cluster housing are given energy-saving tips and are encouraged to install energy efficient lightbulbs (e-lighting) and to pledge their commitment to reduce energy use in their own unit. According to team member Candace Holt, all but one cluster unit has signed onto the campaign this winter.

Holt notes that the UVic Residence Sustainability Team is benefiting both the environment and the students involved.

“I think I got involved because I had felt frustrated with living in residence and not being able to compost or know where my food comes from or make decisions about how I’m affecting the environment,” says Jori Baum. “[The team] gives me an opportunity to have some input into my experience in res.”

Baum wrote a letter to thank Housing, Food and Conference Services for organizing a dinner comprised of local food entrees in the residence cafeteria. Participants in the dinner enjoyed the experience, and the team is encouraging more of these local dinners.

Members of the group also organized a transit appreciation initiative in January where many of the 175 Victoria city bus drivers were treated to muffins, granola bars and hearty thank-yous from the students.

“This was our pilot year,” says Webb. “We hope to continue the program next year through a more formal partnership with the Residence Life Office.”

The current group will continue its activities until the end of winter term, just before April examinations begin.

This article is reprinted with permission from “The Fountain,” UVic’s online parent newsletter, produced by the Student Transition Centre (http://transition.uvic.ca/fountain).
Around the Ring

Share your UVic experience

On May 24, UVic will welcome hundreds of high school students and their parents to campus to learn more about UVic and the opportunities available here. This is also a great chance for students to learn about the various programs offered at other universities.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF COREY SCHOFIELD

schofield@uvic.ca

Canadians in Canada. The author of "Climate Catastrophe." The author of the book "Playing it Safe: Keeping Victoria Surfing in the 21st Century," will present a lecture on April 16. Her lecture will focus on the potential for disaster in the region. The presentation will be a part of UVic’s lecture series on cutting-edge topics in research, creativity, and involvement.

One of five lectures held on consecutive Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in room 105 of the Hickman Building.

On April 9, Dr. Nicholas Russell (writing) will speak on "Pooldisc: a Parking Lot: Why Victoria’s Past is Crucial to its Future." He will discuss highlights of the city’s history and allow students to ask questions.

Field hockey qualifier closes Gabriola Road

The field hockey pitch has closed a section of Gabriola Road to pedestrians and vehicle traffic until May 9. There will be no through access between McKenzie Avenue and Ring Road. The closure is required for the World Women’s Hockey Olympic Qualifier, April 26 to May 4. Six countries, including Canada, are vying for one available spot at the Beijing Summer Olympics. The closure will not affect access to parking lots 2 and 3, located behind the McKinnon Building. Emergency service, delivery and garbage service access to the McKinnon and Continuing Studies buildings will not be affected.

Parking and traffic survey

You’re invited to participate in a web survey to provide input on campus traffic and parking issues. The survey is part of a traffic and parking management study being undertaken by the Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability. Project NOVA has been a key focus the past three years.

You’re invited to participate in a web survey to provide input on campus traffic and parking issues. The survey is part of a traffic and parking management study being undertaken by the Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability. Project NOVA has been a key focus the past three years.

SIX BUCKS TO FILL THE TANK?

NOW YOU CAN AFFORD A FEW TEXTBOOKS.

Scooter Underground is your source for scooters, ebikes, messenger bags, clothing, accessories and service. Present your valid UVic student card for a special discount.

NAME BRANDS INCLUDE:

- Kymco
- TNG
- eDEBike
- Kaisan
- Chime Bags
- Nolan Helmets
dulcine O’Reilly
- Givi Baskets
- szApparel
- Corrave Clothing
- Ryders Eyewear

Scooter Underground
1061 Johnson Street, Victoria
(250) 228-7243
www.scooterunderground.ca

Most people living in one of the world’s most earthquake-prone regions have given some thought to earthquake preparedness. The wild winter storms of the last year may even have prompted you to put aside a few emergency supplies—candles, water, canned food, a wind-up radio—in case of a major power outage.

Did you know, though, that an “all hazards” approach is considered the best way to prepare for a crisis? “All hazards” means that you’re prepared for more than just an earthquake—floods, wild storms, the loss of your job, etc.

It’s not a quiz show, but a chance for you to learn from a lifetime of research, creativity, and involvement by active University of Victoria retirees. The UVic Retirees Association and the Centre on Aging—with support from the university—are presenting Masterminds 2008, a series of five lectures held on consecutive Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in room 105 of the Hickman Building.

On April 9, Dr. Nicholas Russell (writing) will speak on “Pooldisc: a Parking Lot: Why Victoria’s Past is Crucial to its Future.” His talk will highlight Victoria’s history and allow students to ask questions.

“From Exclusion to Inclusion: Canada’s Chinese and Japanese Citizens” will be Dr. Patricia Roy’s (history) topic on April 16. Her lecture will discuss discrimination against Chinese Canadians and Japanese Canadians in Canada.

On April 23 Prof. Juliana Saxton (theater) will speak on “Reminis- cences: Theatre: Remembering the Community.” Her talk will focus on using applied theatre techniques to promote community and find meaning within, memories.

“Playing it Safe: Keeping Victoria Surfing in the 21st Century” will present Masterminds 2008, a series of five lectures held on consecutive Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in room 105 of the Hickman Building.

On April 9, Dr. Nicholas Russell (writing) will speak on “Pooldisc: a Parking Lot: Why Victoria’s Past is Crucial to its Future.” His talk will highlight Victoria’s history and allow students to ask questions.

“From Exclusion to Inclusion: Canada’s Chinese and Japanese Citizens” will be Dr. Patricia Roy’s (history) topic on April 16. Her lecture will discuss discrimination against Chinese Canadians and Japanese Canadians in Canada.

On April 23 Prof. Juliana Saxton (theater) will speak on “Reminis- cences: Theatre: Remembering the Community.” Her talk will focus on using applied theatre techniques to promote community and find meaning within, memories.

“Playing it Safe: Keeping Victoria Surfing in the 21st Century” will present Masterminds 2008, a series of five lectures held on consecutive Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in room 105 of the Hickman Building.

On April 9, Dr. Nicholas Russell (writing) will speak on “Pooldisc: a Parking Lot: Why Victoria’s Past is Crucial to its Future.” His talk will highlight Victoria’s history and allow students to ask questions.

“From Exclusion to Inclusion: Canada’s Chinese and Japanese Citizens” will be Dr. Patricia Roy’s (history) topic on April 16. Her lecture will discuss discrimination against Chinese Canadians and Japanese Canadians in Canada.

On April 23 Prof. Juliana Saxton (theater) will speak on “Reminis- cences: Theatre: Remembering the Community.” Her talk will focus on using applied theatre techniques to promote community and find meaning within, memories.

“Playing it Safe: Keeping Victoria Surfing in the 21st Century” will present Masterminds 2008, a series of five lectures held on consecutive Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in room 105 of the Hickman Building.

On April 9, Dr. Nicholas Russell (writing) will speak on “Pooldisc: a Parking Lot: Why Victoria’s Past is Crucial to its Future.” His talk will highlight Victoria’s history and allow students to ask questions.

“From Exclusion to Inclusion: Canada’s Chinese and Japanese Citizens” will be Dr. Patricia Roy’s (history) topic on April 16. Her lecture will discuss discrimination against Chinese Canadians and Japanese Canadians in Canada.

On April 23 Prof. Juliana Saxton (theater) will speak on “Reminis- cences: Theatre: Remembering the Community.” Her talk will focus on using applied theatre techniques to promote community and find meaning within, memories.

“Playing it Safe: Keeping Victoria Surfing in the 21st Century” will present Masterminds 2008, a series of five lectures held on consecutive Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in room 105 of the Hickman Building.

On April 9, Dr. Nicholas Russell (writing) will speak on “Pooldisc: a Parking Lot: Why Victoria’s Past is Crucial to its Future.” His talk will highlight Victoria’s history and allow students to ask questions.

“From Exclusion to Inclusion: Canada’s Chinese and Japanese Citizens” will be Dr. Patricia Roy’s (history) topic on April 16. Her lecture will discuss discrimination against Chinese Canadians and Japanese Canadians in Canada.

On April 23 Prof. Juliana Saxton (theater) will speak on “Reminis- cences: Theatre: Remembering the Community.” Her talk will focus on using applied theatre techniques to promote community and find meaning within, memories.

“Playing it Safe: Keeping Victoria Surfing in the 21st Century” will present Masterminds 2008, a series of five lectures held on consecutive Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in room 105 of the Hickman Building.

On April 9, Dr. Nicholas Russell (writing) will speak on “Pooldisc: a Parking Lot: Why Victoria’s Past is Crucial to its Future.” His talk will highlight Victoria’s history and allow students to ask questions.

“From Exclusion to Inclusion: Canada’s Chinese and Japanese Citizens” will be Dr. Patricia Roy’s (history) topic on April 16. Her lecture will discuss discrimination against Chinese Canadians and Japanese Canadians in Canada.

On April 23 Prof. Juliana Saxton (theater) will speak on “Reminis- cences: Theatre: Remembering the Community.” Her talk will focus on using applied theatre techniques to promote community and find meaning within, memories.

“Playing it Safe: Keeping Victoria Surfing in the 21st Century” will present Masterminds 2008, a series of five lectures held on consecutive Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in room 105 of the Hickman Building.

On April 9, Dr. Nicholas Russell (writing) will speak on “Pooldisc: a Parking Lot: Why Victoria’s Past is Crucial to its Future.” His talk will highlight Victoria’s history and allow students to ask questions.

“From Exclusion to Inclusion: Canada’s Chinese and Japanese Citizens” will be Dr. Patricia Roy’s (history) topic on April 16. Her lecture will discuss discrimination against Chinese Canadians and Japanese Canadians in Canada.