



Star struck

Studying the chemistry
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 in 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.

Her data for other projects comes from the Hubble Space Telescope and the Keck Telescope in Hawaii. She determines which chemicals are found in stars by analysing their light spectrums.

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 creation in the universe was such an unlikely event.

In the core of some stars, helium burns in a way that creates an atom

SEE STAR STRUCK P.2



Gallagher

UVic seniors’ advocate honoured

By Maria Lironi

Dr. Elaine Gallagher (Centre on Aging) is the recipient of the Confederation of University Faculty Associations of BC’s (CUFA BC) 2008 Career Achievement Award, for using her pioneering research on fall prevention to train health professionals and prompt seniors to modify their living environments.

Twenty per cent of seniors who sustain a hip fracture die within a year of the injury and 90 per cent of hip fractures are due to falls. To prevent this, Gallagher has identified risk factors for falling and developed

a range of measures to prevent falls. These include obvious things like getting cities to repair uneven sidewalks. They also include recommendations to doctors to conduct regular medical assessments of their older patients for falling risks, and to pharmacists to watch for drug interactions that could affect a senior’s sense of balance.

Gallagher earned her Master of Nursing from Duke University in 1976. In 1980, she came to UVic as a nursing professor, earned her doctorate from Simon Fraser University in 1988, and became a full professor at UVic in 1997. In 2002 she was named top nurse researcher in Canada by

the Canadian Association of Nurse Researchers.

The CUFA BC honour is just one of many awards Gallagher has received in the past few months, including SFU’s Outstanding Alumni Award (2007) and an honorary mention for the BC Premier’s Awards (2007).

CUFA BC represents approximately 4,300 university professors, instructors, academic librarians and other academic staff at five BC universities. The awards are presented annually to recognize faculty members at BC public universities who use their research and scholarly work to make contributions to the wider community.

University budget framework addresses continued growth

The University of Victoria Board of Governors has approved a 2008/09 budget framework that addresses the institution’s priorities and areas of strategic focus including increased resources for student financial aid, student recruitment and leading-edge information systems.

The framework was developed prior to the recent notification from the Ministry of Advanced Education of a 2.6-per-cent reduction in the provincial operating grant compared to the amount previously announced. Given the lateness of the notification, and the need to continue with investments in the above-noted priority areas, the board has approved a deficit budget.

The \$4.2-million deficit will be covered, to the extent possible, through the use of one-time funds available through position vacancies and other means. The university will work with the campus community over the coming months to try to minimize the impact of the operating grant reduction on students, faculty and staff and put the necessary base budget reductions in place in time for 2009/10.

The 2008/09 budget framework is based on a projected operating budget of \$277.6 million which includes a

provincial grant of \$156 million. It provides for an increase of 232 full-time equivalent (FTE) undergraduate student positions and 126 FTE graduate student positions for a total funded FTE university enrolment of 16,002. UVic is making some modest investments to meet the instructional and administrative needs of these students to minimize any reduction in the quality of education they will receive.

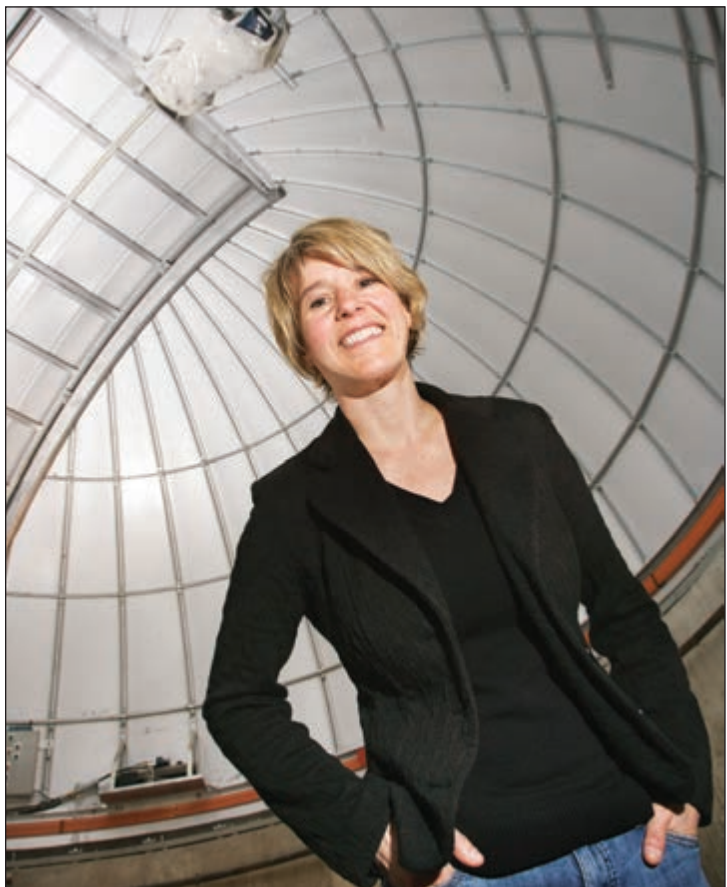
The framework contains a 2-per-cent increase in tuition fees, established by the 2007 BC Consumer Price Index inflation rate. This increase brings annual domestic arts and science undergraduate tuition to \$4,581 from \$4,491. Annual tuition for domestic graduate students rises to \$4,758 from \$4,664 effective May 1, 2008.

“This budget framework allows us to direct resources where they are most needed to ensure returning and new students benefit from the academic programs and facilities for which UVic is renowned,” says UVic President David Turpin. “That it’s being accomplished through a deficit budget is the result of the recently announced reduction in UVic’s provincial operating grant from that

previously indicated. Over the next few months, we’ll ask the board of governors to approve a strategy to eliminate the operating deficit in a way that protects our highest institutional priorities and balances the budget over the coming year.”

The approved framework allocates an additional \$300,000 for undergraduate student financial aid and over \$888,000 for graduate student financial assistance, maintaining UVic’s position among the top 20 per cent of Canadian universities in terms of its student financial assistance. A further \$200,000 will go to support UVic’s new streamlined online system that provides students with one-stop access to registration, course information, student information and personal timetables. A \$45,000 allocation will establish ongoing funding for Canada’s first university-wide office of community-based research.

The budget framework includes modest increases in child care, housing and parking fees. The parking increase is lower than anticipated due to the success of UVic’s transportation demand management strategies. Single-occupant vehicle use has dropped to less than 45 per cent of all trips to campus.



Venn

Geographers co-author report on climate change in Canada

By Valerie Shore

“The impacts and costs of climate change are now affecting all Canadians, 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 landscapes and communities, co-led the chapter on British Columbia. Co-lead author of a chapter on Northern Canada is Dr. Terry Prowse, professor and Chair in Climate Impacts on Water Resources in UVic’s Department 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 vulnerability 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 information on water resources, fisheries, forestry, agriculture, tourism/parks, energy, critical infrastructure and health, as well as detailed case studies on alpine glaciers, mountain pine beetles, coastal communities and sea-level rise.

The Northern Canada chapter discusses the implications of changing climate for the Arctic environment, including sea ice, glaciers and ice sheets, permafrost and related ecosystems. It details what these changes will mean for Northern communities, economic development 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 studies the impact of climate change on

northern rivers, lakes and deltas. “Internationally, it is the high-latitude regions that are guiding the way forward about how we should and can adapt. Canada is primarily a ‘cold-regions’ 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 opportunities associated with climate change. In fact, the report documents what some communities are already doing to adapt.

“The report is a resource for anyone who wants to learn more about what is happening in their region,” says Walker. “Climate change is not just a concept. It’s very real and the time to adapt is now.”

To read the report, which includes a summary document, visit http://adaptation.nrcan.gc.ca/assess/2007/index_e.php.



Reading

Aboriginal health researcher garners national award

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

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

Reading has played an important role in nurturing the growth of the Aboriginal health research community. His work helped launch an innovative 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 network 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 guidelines 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 appropriate 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 Achievement Awards (NAAA) established in 1993 exemplify, encourage and celebrate excellence in First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities across Canada.

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

Former VP wins life sciences award

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

LifeSciences British Columbia represents the biotechnology, medical device, and greater life sciences community of BC. The awards honour individuals and organizations who have made outstanding contributions 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 Ocean Networks Canada, a not-for-profit organization created by the university to manage the UVic-based VENUS and NEPTUNE Canada ocean observatories.

During his nine years as UVic’s

vice-president research, the university tripled its external research funding and solidified its stature 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 President 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



Taylor

of the United Nations University in Canada.

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

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 back down into helium almost instantaneously.

But sometimes, the beryllium-8 atom comes into contact with another helium atom that has just the right energy resonance—the amount of energy 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 at the cores of stars happen to give helium atoms an energy resonance of eight mega-electron volts. If they didn’t, we wouldn’t have made it to carbon, and then we wouldn’t exist.

“That’s so precarious and cool,” she says.

the ring

Vol. 34 No. 4

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

Director Bruce Kilpatrick

Managing Editor Robie Liscomb

Production Beth Doman

Contributors Dianne George, Jessica Gillies, Melanie Groves, Maria Lironi, Christine McLaren, Mike McNeney, Patty Pitts, Tara Sharpe, Valerie Shore, Suzanne Smith, Linda Sproule-Jones, Melanie Tromp, Michael Tucker, Anitra Winje

Advertising Bonnie Light, 388-5321 or ringads@uvic.ca

Calendar Mandy Crocker, ucom@uvic.ca

Printer Goldstream Press

The Ring, PO Box 1700,
University of Victoria, Victoria, BC V8W 2Y2

Tel: 250-721-7636 • Fax: 250-721-8955
e-mail: ucom@uvic.ca • website: www.uvic.ca/ring

The Ring reserves the right to select and edit all submissions. Story suggestions should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the copy deadline listed on page 6.

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Bob Reimer

HUMANITIES, HISTORY, CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Qwam Qwum Tun Shqwalawun: The Application of Traditional Values for a Coastal Salish Child

Andrew Cienski and Bill White, draw upon their years of working with traditionally trained Coast Salish and Kwagiulth elders to examine the many and varied ways that Coast Salish children, raised in the traditional way with the guidance of Sulalewqw/Elders, were loved, protected and prepared for the future.

Right: Coast Salish youth waiting to enter the stadium for the Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremonies, 1994. Photo by W. White



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Letters

"Hate speech" and human rights

In early March, the *Martlet*, 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 incendiary and patently false. As the fallout 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 culture evaporate. At its idealistic best, the university is a place where the dignity of humanity and its pursuit of knowledge and wisdom are paramount. But when marginalized groups of our cultural mosaic are slandered in the name of "creating debate" I think we need to wonder if we have gone off the rails somewhere.

It seems like we would do well to return to the question of what human rights are and why freedom of speech has been enshrined in our democracy. Human rights are those things that may not be transgressed with moral approbation. No matter how lively we anticipate the debate to be, criticism and slander based on gender, race, colour, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, etc. are not fair game in the public arena.

It is easy for those of us who are part of the upper middle class white majority to forget about human rights because, chances are, none of us have had ours transgressed. However, this lack of sensitivity is disheartening when it is exhibited at an institution that should provide one of the antidotes for our ignorance: education. What is university for if not to broaden our awareness of the many and various expressions of human life and the value and beauty particular to each?

The cries of "freedom of speech" and "freedom of the press" that are employed to justify public discrimination are gross manipulations of the spirit of these freedoms. Freedom of speech and the media are enshrined as safeguards for a moral minority to defend itself against a dominant and oppressive force who would otherwise seek to silence its voice. It is the height of despair-laced irony when these freedoms are trumpeted by a dominant culture so that they might discriminate and slander a minority in their midst. Sadly, in these cases the point has been completely missed.

All in all, I think the University of Victoria makes a great effort to be a place of sensitivity, inclusivity and safety. But there has been clear evidence this term that we still need to work at this. Let's re-dedicate ourselves to the deliberate education and awareness that can transform discrimination to acceptance and fracture to unity.

—Ernest Morrow, Anglican chaplain, UVic Interfaith Services

The Ring welcomes letters to the editor on issues of direct concern to the university community. Letters should be signed with university community affiliation noted, not exceed 500 words in length and not be submitted to other media outlets. The editor reserves the right to select letters for publication and to edit for style, grammar and length.

New UVic website coming April 24

In the interests of avoiding any disruption just prior to or during the final exam period, the UVic.ca home page redesign launch date has been set for the evening of April 24. Please watch for it!

In the meantime, you'll want to check out our campus community bloggers on "Life at UVic," a website created as part of the redesign to allow a set of campus community

members representing different aspects of campus life to share their experiences and engage with our many audiences.

Visit <http://lifeat.uvic.ca> and leave a comment.





L-R Crocker, Shea and Gustafson put the thruster through its paces

Engineering students win national competition

By Maria Lironi

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 Toren Gustafson 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 thrusters have a housing in front of the propeller which

contains a motor," Shea explains. "However, we've integrated the motor into the propeller and shroud, 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 'rim-driven' 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 uni-

versity'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/~auv) is a group of engineering students building a submersible 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 in an election that will be conducted by web vote and paper balloting between May 20 and June 20.

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 Clazie, Larry Cross and Gail Flitton.

The new chancellor and senators will hold three-year terms commenc-

ing 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 studies 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, completes his second term on Dec. 31.




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UVic archaeologist finds sites, makes history

By Anitra Winje

A UVic anthropology 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 Tsimshian 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 Quentin 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 Northwest 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 Islands 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 downwards 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 help find these areas of sustained habitation, McLaren constructed a sea-level curve, which approximated the location of slightly raised shorelines over a 12,000-year period.



McLaren

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 accurate 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 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 of sea-level change as they had been noticing raised shell deposits for some time. To date, however, the future of the sites has not been decided.

“If I was given the card to go, I would continue with this line of inquiry and keep looking for more sites,” says McLaren. “It’s neat to find a village site that’s been forgotten.”

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.

Ringers

Dr. Cornelia Bohne (chemistry) has been chosen to receive the 2008 Clara Benson Award, bestowed by the Canadian Society for Chemistry in recognition of distinguished contributions to chemistry by a woman. In its citation, the society praised Bohne for developing “a comprehensive and internationally recognized program aimed at understanding supramolecular dynamics” and leading “chemists to change the way that they think about weak interactions between molecules.” Bohne is currently president of the Inter-American Photochemical Society.

Dr. Jeannine Carriere (social work) has been honoured with the North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) 2008 Adoption Activist Award. NACAC honours Carriere for the extensive work that she has done, both in research and practice in advancing an Indigenous agenda in child and family services, and for her work in the areas of permanency and cultural planning for Aboriginal children adopted into non-Aboriginal families. The award will be presented on August 2 in Ottawa.

David Leach (writing) launches his first book this month, entitled *Fatal Tide: When the Race of a Lifetime Goes Wrong*. The creative non-fiction novel explores the causes and consequences of a fatal kayaking accident on the Bay of Fundy, the rise of extreme sports and reality TV, the psychology of risk-taking in the outdoors and other topics. Despite its Maritimes focus, there are UVic connections: Dr John Hayward, professor emeritus in biology and for years one of the leading researchers into hypothermia, appears in the book, as his work helped Leach crack the final mystery of exactly how and why the young man died. For more information visit www.fataltide.com and www.davidleach.ca.

Geography student **Maya McDonald** was one of five Canadian students chosen to present her research at the recent Globe 2008 conference in Vancouver. McDonald received this opportunity as the recipient of a Student Ambassador Award from ECO Canada, an environmental not-for-profit corporation which, among other things, recognizes post-secondary students for excellence in environment-related research. Through her research, McDonald concluded that to achieve its ecodensity goals, the City of Vancouver needs to work more closely with its citizens. McDonald hopes her research will help Vancouver overcome the challenges of implementing ecodensity — an initiative which aims to create more liveable areas in smaller spaces and reduce impacts to the environment.

Dr. David Turner (social work) is the recipient of the Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW) Distinguished Service Award for BC 2008. The award is presented yearly during national social work week (March 3–7), to an individual or group of individuals selected from their provincial membership. Turner was notified of his award while working on human rights education at the School of Social Work in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. A celebration was held on March 11 at the University Club by the BC Association of Social Workers (BCASW). Turner has been a professor in the School of Social Work since 1979.

The **Vikes track team** returned from the CIS Track & Field National Championships in Montreal with one of the best finishes in team history. The Vikes swept the 1,500-metre event with Ashley Hinthier winning gold on the women’s side, and Geoff Martinson taking top billing on the men’s. Daniel Mallie ensured two Vikes made the podium, winning the bronze medal in the same event. Martinson and Mallie were also members of the gold medal winning 4x800-metre relay team. Along with teammates Rich Lehman and Darren Mazzei, the foursome secured the relay title for the third straight year and in the process set a new school record with a winning time of 7:30.83. Hinthier also captured a bronze medal in the 3,000-metre event.

Like a fine wine with a full-bodied history, the UVic-based online **Great Unsolved Mysteries in Canadian History Project** just keeps getting better. While poised to launch the final additions to its website, the project was named the winner of the 2008 MERLOT Classics award as an “exemplary” online learning resource. It’s the second time the California-based Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching (MERLOT) has honoured the project. The project invites students to “solve” mysteries plucked from Canada’s rich history while developing their research skills. The website also includes 21 shorter “Mysteryquest” websites aimed specifically at middle and high school students. The mysteries and teaching support material originate from all regions of Canada and involve a span of nearly 1,000 years. “Winning a MERLOT award for the second time is a testimony to the enduring and constantly improving quality of the project and the hard work of our cross-Canada team. It is like a Pulitzer Prize in this field,” says UVic historian John Lutz.

The Martlet, UVic’s “other” newspaper (the student one), has garnered its first Better Newspapers Competition award. The Best Campus Feature Story award went to Vanessa Lundgren’s article “Prayers and potlucks” in the Feb. 27, 2007, edition. Lundgren received her UVic BA (English and French) in 2007 and is now a journalism student at Concordia. The awards are administered by the Canadian Community Newspapers Association.



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WestJet founder named Distinguished Entrepreneur

By Dianne George

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 use it myself. Because it was an eight-seater, I was in position to sell the empty seats."

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

The upstart company began in 1996 with three aircraft flying to five cities; by 2007 its fleet 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 conduct, 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 Dean of Business Dr. Ali Dastmalchian. "Mr. Beddoe is a great role model for our students."

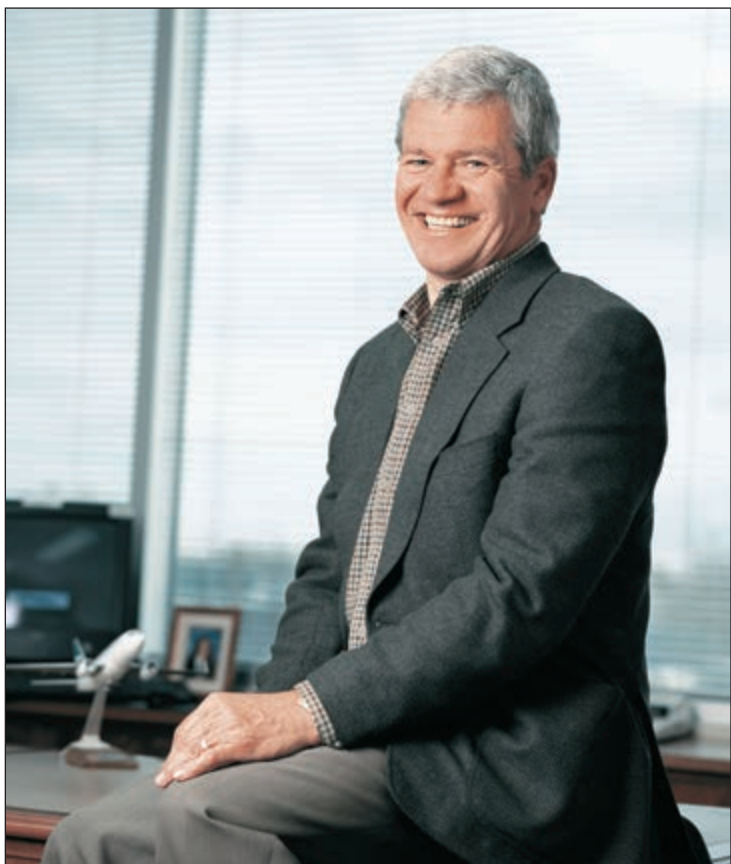
"Clive Beddoe's entrepreneurial vision has made a significant economic impact on the smaller communities of Vancouver Island," says Alan Gilchrist, chair of the faculty's board of advisers. "WestJet has really put the Comox Valley on the radar for Albertans and helped to expand the Island's reputation 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.

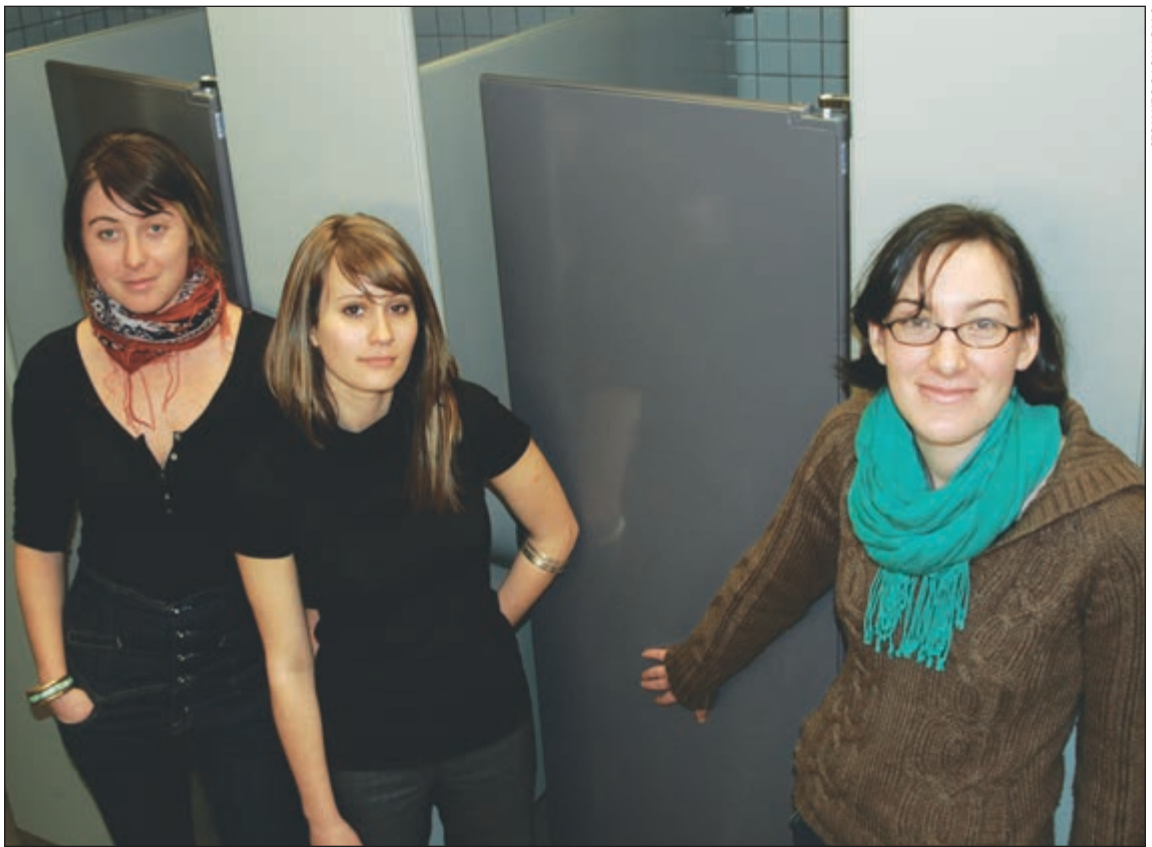
A five-member panel of Faculty of Business board of adviser members assessed Beddoe's vision, entrepreneurial drive and impact on the Canadian and global economies.

Prior to September 2007, Beddoe held the roles of president and chief executive officer. Beddoe is a resident of Calgary and married 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 Distinguished 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).



Beddoe



(L-R) Three of the *Graffiti or Ambient Violence?* filmmakers — Chloé Raxlen (child and youth care), Jenny Shaw (anthropology) and Jennifer Yurchak (women's studies).

Student video project brings "ambient violence" into focus

by Tara Sharpe

How can a campus community continue to build an inclusive and respectful campus if some of its building blocks are marred by hateful 'graffiti'? This was the question posed by several University of Victoria 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-year women's studies research course taught by professor Dr. Jo-Anne Lee was being held brought their theoretical coursework into real and instant focus. It sparked the 20 students to search the UVic campus for other evidence of offensive "graffiti"—the students question whether it should even be considered "graffiti" as there is no sense of art in the hate messages—which they found hidden behind washroom doors and other places on campus. They consequently chose to use the term "ambient violence" to reflect the pervasive and background nature of such messages and they took photographs of what they found.

A smaller group of eight students in a follow-up course then produced a 10-minute video, *Graffiti or Ambient Violence?*, to document these instances and to raise awareness about the impacts of racist, homophobic, sexist and misogynist language on marginalized groups and society as a whole. The group will present their film this 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 overall issues and the action it has sparked. Turpin considers the student-led initiative to be a call to action for everyone on campus.

"The real message is that each of us has a responsibility to help create an inclusive environment. We have to act when we see or hear "ambient violence"

and work to eliminate it." Turpin said, "Feeling unwelcome on campus—whether as an international student or a member of a marginalized group—can be one of the most damaging outcomes of this unacceptable behaviour."

The scrawls captured in the film have already been removed by facilities management staff, and the initiative of the students has galvanized that department and Campus Security Services. It was already standard operating procedure to quickly remove any reported hate messages. Security personnel take a photograph and document every reported instance of ambient violence. Janitorial and other facilities staff are encouraged to report the messages directly to security personnel and, after the incident is documented, act immediately whether by washing off and painting over the offensive scrawl or promptly arranging for a more extensive removal. The systematic record-keeping of each incidence can also serve to capture the effectiveness of campus strategies for inclusion and other educational efforts.

Hate-mongering and property

and open discussion."

Many of UVic's janitorial staff on the front lines of message removal are themselves from other countries and cultures, adding an onerous and personal element to an already distasteful task. Some of the offensive messages have also targeted certain nationalities, while violent misogynist drawings target women. The issues they represent can't be erased with just a quick clean-up.

"This is not only a campus issue," says human rights educator Moussa Magassa of UVic's Department of Equity and Human Rights. "It is a social and international issue." March 21 was the UN International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and at UVic, days of action are supported by student advocacy groups such as the UVic Pride Collective, the Anti-Violence Project, the Students of Colour Collective, the Women's Centre, ACCESS UVic and the Native Students' Union (www.uvss.uvic.ca/index.php?page=advocacy-groups).

UVic has a new human rights policy (<http://web.uvic.ca/eqhr/policies/index.htm>), and a Department of Equity and Human Rights (<http://web.uvic.ca/eqhr/>). Grace Wong Sneddon is UVic's diversity advisor to the vice-president academic and provost (<http://web.uvic.ca/vpac/diversity/>), who helped to host a Feb. 6 event "Critical Conversations about Diversity." Participants indicated that they overwhelmingly want a diversity conference next year and more education/panels about race and racism.

On Feb. 27, during Anti-Oppression Week on campus, an ambient violence panel led by members of the University Human Rights Committee presented a discussion on the video's content, current action and next steps.

To maintain awareness about the impact of ambient violence, conversation and action must be ongoing. Anyone who finds scrawls or images with a sexist, homophobic or racist message on campus should contact Campus Security Services 24-hour emergency number at 721-7599 so that the messages can be recorded and removed promptly.



damage are both criminal acts, and the local police have already been involved in investigations on campus.

"In the video and our presentations, we continue to emphasize the many levels where responsibility lies," says Jenny Shaw, one of the eight filmmakers and a recent anthropology graduate. "We believe it is not just an individual issue but also one that we as a campus community should address through structural programs, dialogue

Inmemoriam

It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Reidun Anderssen on March 12. For many years, Reidun was known across the UVic campus as “Mrs. Anderssen,” 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

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Calendarhighlights

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

At the galleries
www.maltwood.uvic.ca
721-6562
Macbeth: A Civil War of the Mind. Until May 20.
P/op! P/op! April 10 until Sept. 22.
Borderlands: Liminal Treatments of the Heart and Mind. Until May 11.

cal students' upcoming placements in rural BC communities.
Music 8 p.m. University of Victoria Chorus & Orchestra.
Sunday, April 6
Music 2:30 p.m. University of Victoria Philomela Women's Choir.
Monday, April 7
Political science lecture 2:30 p.m.
Workshop 7 p.m. Learn to Walk the Labyrinth.

Tuesday, April 8
Lecture 12:10 p.m. Moving from Preparation to Action: Tips To Make Physical Activity a Daily Habit.
Wednesday, April 9
Studies in Religion & Society lecture 4:30 p.m.
Masterminds lecture 7 p.m. Paved Paradise for a Parking Lot: Why Victoria's Past Is Crucial to its Future

Thursday, April 3
Artsfair/fundraiser Noon. Make Art Not War Festival.
Lecture Noon & 7 p.m. Is Canada "Mining" Human Rights in the Democratic Republic of Congo?

Friday, April 4
Family celebration 7:30 a.m. No Foolin'.
Music 12:30 p.m. Fridaymusic.

Saturday, April 5
Run for rural medicine 10 a.m. 5-km fun run/walk to raise funds to help offset costs for 2nd-year medi-

Thursday, April 10
Beck lecture 7:30 p.m. The Settlement of Iceland: Landnámabók and its Poetry.

Wednesday, April 16
Masterminds lecture 7 p.m. From Exclusion to Inclusion: Canada's Chinese and Japanese Citizens.

Wednesday, April 23
Lecture/Seminar 7 p.m. Reminiscence Theatre: Remembering the Community.

Thursday, April 24
Asia-Pacific Initiatives conference 9 a.m. Foreign-Domestic Linkages in China's International Behaviour.

Sunday, April 27
Lecture 2:30 p.m. Kwäday Dän Ts'ínchi (Long Ago Person Found.)

Wednesday, April 30
Masterminds lecture 7 p.m. Playing it Safe: Keeping Victoria Beautiful without Pesticides.

When is the next Ring?
Calendar items should be sent by 4 p.m. on the copy deadline date shown below to UVic Communications
Publication Date Copy Deadline
Thursday, May 1 Wednesday, April 23
Monday, June 2 Friday, May 23
Thursday, July 3 Wednesday, June 25

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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



Residence Sustainability Team members (L-R): Jori Baum, Candace Holt, and Kam Phung

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/>).

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Share your UVic experience

On May 24, UVic will welcome hundreds of high school students and their parents to campus to give them a sneak peek at university life. Last year's inaugural Experience UVic was a big success, and the vast majority of the students who attended decided to choose UVic for their post-secondary studies. Faculty, staff and student volunteers who want to share their enthusiasm for UVic are needed for this year's Experience UVic. One-hour information sessions are being offered to the campus community and potential volunteers. Sessions will be held in Clearihue D125 on April 8, noon to 1 p.m.; April 23, 4 to 5 p.m.; and May 6, noon to 1 p.m. Event info: Jaie Skalin at 853-3512 or jskalin@uvic.ca. Volunteering info: April McNeil at 472-5329.

No Foolin' breakfast at the UVic Family Centre

UVic student families, staff and faculty are invited to the UVic Family Centre for the fifth annual No Foolin' event on Friday, April 4, 7:30-9 a.m. in the Family Housing Complex at the corner of Finnerty Road and Lam Circle. The annual event celebrates the diversity and energy that families and children bring to campus life. There will be games, crafts, goodie bags, balloon animals, face painting, entertainment and a no foolin' breakfast. Everyone is welcome to come and celebrate the last day of classes and enjoy a free breakfast. Info: 472-4062 or web. uvic.ca/family-centre.

Field hockey qualifier closes Gabriola Road

The addition of 2,100 temporary bleacher seats to 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 seating 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 with the assistance of Opus Hamilton Consultants Ltd. The study will assess campus traffic issues related to vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists and buses and will consider the quantity, type and location of the parking supply needed to accommodate projected campus growth and development in a manner that reflects the university's Campus Plan, Transportation Demand Management program (TDM) and Sustainability Guidelines. To participate in the survey, access the link from www.uvic.ca/sustainability before April 13. Info: Neil Connelly at 472-5433 or nconn@uvic.ca.

Are you ready for anything?

Most people living here 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 most emergency situations and that your emergency kits are flexible enough to help you survive everything from floods to earthquakes to prolonged power outages," says UVic Emergency Planner Daphne Donaldson.

In the weeks leading up to Emergency Preparedness Week (May 4-7), Donaldson will be working with Gayle Gorrill, vice-president finance and operations, to help Gorrill increase her personal preparedness at home and at work. We'll be sharing more

of their story here in the May issue of *The Ring*.

Gorrill is keen to help Donaldson educate the campus community, as her own portfolio includes oversight of the university's emergency management program.

"As relative newcomers to Victoria (and to an earthquake zone and wild storms) our family knows that we need to do more but are not exactly sure what to do to be prepared," Gorrill says. "We have done some things—extra food, emergency generator, wind-up flashlights in easily accessible places—but I know we can, and should, do more."

Gorrill challenges other staff and faculty on campus to learn along with her, and increase their own level of preparedness. Stay tuned for more information, and visit the website at <http://ohs.uvic.ca/emergencygmt/index.html> for more details about UVic's emergency management program.



Scholefield

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF COREY SCHOLEFIELD includes resolving Netlink ID and system access issues for clients. Scholefield works in University Systems (USYS, formerly Computing and Systems Services) as a senior systems administrator specializing in user identity and access management. "We focus on how people get access to online information—anything where you have to log-on."

With the increasing complexity and integration of various systems, the job is never done, he says. He and his team work on implementing business processes that balance the needs of systems security, information privacy, data integrity and ease of access to online resources. Project NOVA has been a key focus the past three years.

"A global identity management revolution is upon us in the com-

puter field," he says, and it involves more collaboration with partners outside UVic. He is also working with the BC government and organizations such as BC Hydro and the health authorities to reshape access to public sector electronic services, and with a Canadian university consortium to provide access to each others' electronic resources.

A UVic computer science graduate, Scholefield worked in the McPherson Library before joining partners to form a dot.com company in the mid-'90s. "It was a great adventure," he says. "We developed a communications product that gave the user one phone number for all voice and fax calls. The company had a product, but sales didn't materialize before the telecom bubble burst in 2001. Timing was a big thing; there has to be corporate readiness

to adopt new technology."

Scholefield was raised in the Cowichan Valley, working in his family's grocery store. As a co-op student, he worked in Ottawa (Nortel), Victoria (BC government) and Hawaii at the Canada-France-Hawaii telescope. He has been blogging since 1999 (<http://coreman.com>), enjoys reading, creative writing, gardening and surfing in Tofino.

Scholefield and his wife Justine, a UVic Law grad, married in 2001. He took parental leave in 2006 when their daughter, Charlotte, was almost a year old. "UVic is family-friendly in that regard. Work-life balance contributes to personal and team success," he says. He hopes to stay in Victoria and keep contributing to UVic. "I really believe in the mission of the university. We're enabling personal growth, and I like being a part of it."

Masterminds

UVic retirees share their knowledge

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 "Paved Paradise for a Parking Lot: Why Victoria's Past Is Crucial to its Future." His talk will highlight heritage buildings and their importance to Victoria.

"From Exclusion to Inclusion: Canada's Chinese and Japanese Citi-



zens" 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 (theatre) will speak on "Reminiscence Theatre: Remembering the Community." Her talk will focus on using applied theatre techniques to prompt, and find meaning within, memories.

"Playing it Safe: Keeping Victoria

Beautiful without Pesticides" is the title of Dr. Paul West's (chemistry) lecture on April 30. His talk will discuss pesticide use and alternatives for home lawns and gardens.

On May 7 Dr. David Scott (mechanical engineering, Institute for Integrated Energy Systems) will discuss "The Hydrogen Defense against Climate Catastrophe." The author of a book with the same title, Scott will discuss how hydrogen and electricity can provide for the full menu of civilization's energy needs.

Please register by calling 472-4473 and plan to arrive early, because seating will be limited. For more information visit www.uvic.ca/masterminds.



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