Two leading Indigenous scholars join UVic

BY VALERIE SHORE

An historian who studies how settler societies have impacted Indigenous societies and how Indigenous nations can recover their traditional values is the University of Victoria’s newest Canada Research Chair.

Dr. Waziyatawin (pronounced Wah-ZEE-yah-tah-wen) joined UVic’s Indigenous Governance Program on July 1 for a five-year term as the Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Peoples.

"Through years of collaboration with Indigenous Peoples in Canada and elsewhere, UVic has become a North American leader in research related to governance and development,“ Waziyatawin says. "I am delighted that UVic has been able to attract a scholar of Professor Hopkins’ calibre to carry out the wide-ranging goals of this position," says University of Victoria President David Turpin. "I look forward to his

Hopkins appointed Aboriginal Economic Development Chair

BY PATTY PITTS

Ottawa-born Indigenous scholar James Hopkins will become the inaugural National Aboriginal Economic Development Chair, based in the faculties of business and law. This new position, the first of its kind in Canada, will direct a program of research, relationship building and educational initiatives aimed at promoting Aboriginal economic development in Canada.

"I am delighted that UVic has been able to attract a scholar of Professor Hopkins’ calibre to carry out the wide-ranging goals of this position,” says University of Victoria President David Turpin. “I look forward to his appointment being a catalyst for research, partnerships and education.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

UVic grad students awarded Pacific Leaders fellowships

BY ROBIE LISCOMB

Four UVic graduate students are among the ten chosen by the provincial government to receive prestigious fellowships to support their research into key issues affecting British Columbia and to work in the BC public service upon receipt of their degree.

Receiving Pacific Leaders Graduate Student Fellowships are Lianne Charlie (history), Amber Risha Mitchell (dispute resolution), Lois Stewart (sociology) and Aijun Yang (statistics). Each will receive $20,000 per year for up to two years and will be employed in the public service for at least the same length of time.

They were selected among applicants from the province’s four research-intensive universities (UVic, SFU, UBC and UNBC). Requirements include a minimum A- average over the past two years of full-time study in a program 75 per cent of which involves research on public service or policy issues in areas where government is facing skill shortages.

Lianne Charlie is in her second year of a master’s degree in history, studying the historical and ethnographic contributions of Indigenous community specialist Annie York (Nlaka’pamux) of Spuzzum, BC. “York has contributed enormously to the cultural history of the region through her work with linguists, ethnobotanists, historians, anthropologists and others,” says Charlie. She has received little recognition, though these collaborations have resulted in several monographs, films and book chapters. “York is still considered an ‘ethnographic assistant,’ ‘informant,’ and ‘storyteller’ rather than a historian in her own right,” Charlie explains. An important element of Charlie’s research will focus on the tensions between written and oral tradition in the making of prominent historiographies.

Amber Mitchell, a first-year master’s student in dispute resolution, is studying the integration of addiction and mental health services and the nature of collaboration across numerous disciplines and professions that is needed in order to achieve effective integration. This will lead to recommendations on how best to
**NEW LAW DEAN**

Human rights, constitutional law scholar to lead law faculty

By Patty Pitts

As she was completing her business degree at the University of Saskatchewan, Donna Greschner pondered what most graduates would consider a dream offer—a position with a prominent corporation.

Instead, she chose to go to law school.

“I never regretted it,” says Greschner, whose term as UVic’s new law dean began July 1. “I’ve been, and continues to be, a wonderful career for me.”

It’s a career that has taken her from growing up on a remote farm in Saskatchewan, sharing a dinner table with Nelson Mandela and negotiation tables with federal and provincial politicians.

Throughout her career, she has always maintained a connection to academic life, most recently as a faculty member at the University of La Verne’s law school in southern California. She is unequivocal in describing why she applied to UVic Law’s next dean.

“I’ve always considered UVic to be one of Canada’s great educational institutions,” she says. “Its law school is an exceptional place, one of the best in the common law world. It attracts remarkable faculty and students.”

Greschner brings to UVic a rich and varied background of research, teaching, practice and public service in constitutional law, human rights and health care law. After graduating in 1980 as Saskatchewan’s gold medallist in law, she earned her graduate law degree from Oxford University as a Commonwealth Scholar.

Returning to the U of S, she taught the university’s first course in feminist legal theory. In the mid 80s, she represented the prairies on the federal Women’s Legal Studies Advisory Committee, which chose five inaugural chairs in women’s studies at Canadian universities. In 1987, Greschner was chosen by then justice minister Ray Hnatyshyn to serve on Canada’s Human Rights Commission. A frequent advisor on constitutional matters, she served as Elijah Harpauer’s advisor during the Aboriginal campaign against the Meech Lake Accord.

In 1992 she was a member of the Saskatchewan negotiating team for the Charlottetown Accord.

That was one of the most intense projects I’ve ever done,” remembers Greschner. “There were many sleepless nights. I had to conclude the accord before Quebec’s vote on sovereignty that fall.” Later that year, she became head of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission, where she was heavily involved in the successful campaign to ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

But perhaps the most memorable event in her career was a meeting with Mandela shortly after his release from prison. The African National Congress was holding its first lawful meeting to draft a post-apartheid constitution, and Greschner, who had been invited to address equality rights, was selected to join a small group dining with the magnetic leader.

“My questions were mostly related to Aboriginal issues,” she remembers. “It really was a unique event.” She has returned to South Africa several times, including a 1994 visit for discussions with South Africa’s Constitutional Assembly.

Prior to her 2003 move to Calgary, where her spouse, Alan McHughen, is a professor at the University of Calgary in Riverside, Greschner was also a consultant to the Royal Commission on the Future of Health Care, and continued an active research program. Upon her move, she joined the Calgary bar. “I always had one foot in practice. It made me a more effective teacher.” Her colleagues must agree, as she received the University of Saskatchewan’s Master Teacher Award in 2002.

Now at UVic, she plans to spend considerable time listening to those who know UVic Law best—the law faculty, the legal community and the wider university community, since UVic Law doesn’t operate in isolation.”

In the longer term, Greschner says she wants to determine “the best response to the tough challenges faced by the faculty and the profession” such as globalization of legal services, technological change and reduced resources from senior governments, while remaining true to “UVic Law’s values and its tradition of innovation and inclusion.”

**NEW ENGINEERING DEAN**

Incoming engineering dean a much-decorated researcher

Dr. Thomas Tiedje is UVic’s incoming dean of engineering.

Currently a professor in the departments of physics and astronomy and electrical and computer engineering at UBC, Tiedje will begin his five-year term on Sept. 2.

“Research programs are one of the most important assets of a university,” says Tiedje. “They draw people to an institution as economic and creative activity and social benefits. Although relatively small and new compared to competing faculties at other universities, engineering at U of V has one of the strongest research programs for its size in Canada. We can always attract more outstanding graduate students and faculty, bring in new programs, and make the connection with undergraduate education.”

“A fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and the American Physical Society, Tiedje has received the BC Science Council Gold Medal, the UBC Killam Research Prize, the NSERC Steacie Fellowship and the Herzberg Medal of the Canadian Association of Physicists. Tiedje graduated from the University of Toronto and UBC, then moved to Exxon Research and Engineering Co., where he worked on photovoltaics and was group head of nanomaterials research from 1985 to 1997. In 1997 he joined UBC as an associate professor in physics and electrical engineering, where he was first director of the Advanced Materials and Process Engineering Lab and head of physics and astronomy. He has also been a visiting researcher in Germany and Japan.

During his time as dean he plans to continue his research on materials for light-emitting devices and look forward to collaborating with people working in related areas at UVic.

Tiedje is a founding member of the Department of Computer Science. He will complete his second five-year term as dean June 30.

**SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES RESEARCH**

Announcing a rich vein of digitized scholarship

Starting this fall, nearly 90,000 researchers and students across Canada will be able to go online and access 279,000 titles, consult a rich new digital collection of scholarly resources, including books, letters, historical documents, music scores, maps, newspapers and audiovisual materials.

This rich vein of scholarly content is being made available through the efforts of the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN), a consortium of universities dedicated to expanding digital content for academic research. It was funded by $470 million provided by the Canada Foundation for Innovation, eight provinces and seven universities (see The Ring, April 2007).

“Providing access to this wealth of scholarly material is a critical step since we’ve had to construct a world of information and students across the nation to further understand our society and how Canadians are shaping the world we live in,” says UVic Vice President David Turpin, chair of the faculty and the profession. “The newly-gained access to this material will have a profound impact on the way Canadians conduct research, collaborate and turn ideas into a better, more innovative society.”

Through extensive consultation with its members and negotiations with international and Canadian scholarly publishers, CRKN identified and obtained purchase or multi-year license agreements to 14 major collections, ensuring stable, long-term scholarly access to high-quality interdisciplinary content in English, French and other languages.

Further information and details on the newly licensed content are available on the CRKN website http://researchknowledge.ca/.

**NEW RING BRAND**

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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.
Board approves deficit management plan

Receives 2009/10 budget reduction plan

At its June 24 meeting, UVic's board of governors approved a strategy to deal with the provincial government's $4.2-million reduction in the university's operating grant that was announced in March.

UVic's board of governors has approved the following recommendations of the 2008-09 deficit management plan. The university will utilize projected additional overhead revenue from research contracts ($0.12 million); use tuition contingency funding that was set aside in the 2008-09 budget ($1.1 million); spend central one-time sources of funding ($2.3 million); and reduce the funding provided to ancillary operations such as the bookstore ($0.2 million).

UVic’s Vice-President Academic, Jim Cassels says that while these sources of funding are sufficient to cover the shortfall for 2008/09, the 2009/10 base reduction plan will be more challenging, as it will require permanent base budget cuts.

Also at its June meeting, the board received for information the current projection for how the cuts would be handled in 2009/10. The plan calls for a permanent reduction of $4.2 million through a combination of increased revenues, decreased central expenditures and reductions in faculty and departmental budgets. These changes will be part of the 2009/10 budget plan and will take effect in April 2009.

Given that close to 80 per cent of the university's operating budget supports salary and benefits costs, the bulk of the reductions in faculties and departments will come by eliminating positions. The plan anticipates the reduction of approximately 22 to 30 faculty positions and 11 to 20 staff positions. The rest will come from operating or equipment replacement accounts. To minimize the impact on current faculty and staff, the reduction in positions will be accomplished mostly through attrition rather than layoffs.

The amount of funding available for teaching assistants and sessioanally taught course sections will also be affected.

"Since UVic is already the most efficient of BC's research-intensive universities, there really won't be any cut of that acro in my budget that could be painless," says Cassels. "There will likely be fewer course sections and larger class sizes. The reduction in faculty will also reduce research activity, and fewer staff will affect services."

SU says it is dealing with a 46.3-million cut, while UBC received a combined $15.8-million reduction and UNBC $1 million less than promised.

"The study has shown that Cooper's hawks actually thrive in an urban setting and in areas of fragmented forest," he says. "More than half their prey is introduced species such as European starlings, house sparrows and rats."

"Banding the birds when they are about two weeks old allows biologists to identify and track them over time."

The chicks stay in the nest for about three months, and remain near the nest for about another month.

"The project on his own time and with the great-grandchildren of some birds—I can sometimes trace individuals through four or five generations," he notes.

Many people use the Cooper's hawk nests as a "living laboratory" and take up the challenge of banding the chicks.

"I'm now dealing with the great-grandchildren of some birds—I can sometimes trace individuals through four or five generations," he notes.

Although Stewart usually works alone or with his wife Irene, summer students in biology professor Neville Winchester's third-year vertebrate BC class have sometimes assisted in the early morning banding of campus hawks. Over the years, Winchester has also used the data from Stewart’s study in his courses.

To find out more about the project, visit www.islandnet.com/beaconhill articles/121_banding_hawks.

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Now retired from his government job, Stewart carries out the project on his own time and with minimal funding. "I'm now dealing with the great-grandchildren of some birds—I can sometimes trace individuals through four or five generations," he notes.

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Sexually transmitted infections aren’t something most people want to talk or even think about. But when we do, syphilis doesn’t immediately spring to mind. After all, it’s a disease of the past, right?

Wrong. Syphilis rates are rising in BC and in the rest of Canada. The latest statistics reveal that BC has the highest reported rate of syphilis in Canada, with 6.6 cases per 100,000 people—more than double the rate of 10 years ago.

Dr. Caroline Cameron, a University of Victoria microbiologist and holder of the Canada Research Chair in Molecular Pathogenesis since 2006, is one of a handful of researchers who study this disease and the only one in Canada examining it at a basic science level.

Cameron is trying to understand how the syphilis bacterium, Treponema pallidum, attaches to the tissues of its host, how it passes through the tissue barrier and how it spreads to distant tissue sites.

“The syphilis bacterium is one of the most invasive organisms there is, and that’s partially because it’s screw-shaped,” says Cameron. “It bores into tissues and is able to spread through the bloodstream to virtually every tissue and organ.”

Research on the fragile T. pallidum bacterium can be difficult. “When you try to use normal lab techniques on it, it breaks apart,” says Cameron. “Because it’s so technically challenging, there are very few investigators worldwide who work on it.”

But for Cameron, the challenge is exciting. “Treponema pallidum is fascinating,” she says. “It has shaped the history of the world; it’s still a problem; and there’s hardly anyone looking at it.”

There are three stages of syphilis. The primary stage appears as painless open lesions at the site of infection. These lesions may go unnoticed, especially if they occur internally, and therefore the disease goes untreated. In the secondary stage, an infectious rash appears, possibly with other symptoms.

In the third, or latent, stage the primary and secondary symptoms disappear. For 70 per cent of those infected, the disease will stay latent for the rest of their lives. But for the other 30 per cent, the disease enters the late stage and can lead to tissue destruction, insanity and death. This stage can occur anywhere between two to 50 years after infection.

The bacterium enters the body through a mucous membrane or a break in the skin. From there, it moves to the bloodstream and then to the rest of the body. It’s this movement into and out of the bloodstream that is the focus of one of Cameron’s projects.

The bacterium attaches to specialized tissue, called the “basement membrane,” that lines blood vessels. One of the key components of this basement membrane is a substance called laminin. “I have identified a protein from the bacterium that binds to laminin, so we now know how it is attaching,” she says. “Our goal is to prevent that binding by coming up with inhibitors or even a vaccine to stop it from getting into the bloodstream.”

Cameron is also working on two other Treponema pallidum projects: she’s investigating the proteins that are important to the development of the disease, and she’s developing an improved diagnostic test for syphilis.

In its early stages, syphilis is easily treatable with antibiotics. “In theory, we should be able to eradicate this disease from the globe, but that’s not happening,” says Cameron. In the developing world, lack of access to antibiotics is a big factor. In developed nations, the continued prevalence of syphilis is more complex, she says. “The fact that syphilis is still here demonstrates that current public health measures are not sufficient to eliminate this disease.”

And it clearly shows the need for new ways to combat the disease. “The best way to accomplish this is through a greater understanding of the mechanisms of infection,” she says. “Research will enable us to combat this pathogen and develop new methods for diagnosis and prevention.”

**Chancellor-elect has strong ties to UVic**

Murray Farmer greets election results with “elation and relief”

For Murray Farmer, one UVic door is closing while another opens. His six-year appointment to the board of governors ended with the board’s June meetings. A few days earlier, Farmer was elected to serve as the university’s next chancellor starting Jan. 1.

In month-long balloting among members of the UVic community — regular and retired faculty and staff, regular staff members, students, current students, and former students of Victoria College and former students of the University of Victoria — Farmer was elected president of the UVic Alumni Association, the University of Victoria Foundation, the Royal BC Museum and the United Way of Greater Victoria. Farmer was nominated for chancellor by the board of directors of the UVic Alumni Association. Voting, via WebVote and paper ballots, was conducted among UVic alumni, past and present members of the university’s board of governors and senate, regular and retired faculty members, regular staff members (with a university degree and at least one year of service), and former students of Victoria College who completed one year of studies prior to 1963.

Four members of senate were previously elected by aclama.
THE BEAR FACTS

BC grizzlies carry worrisome levels of manmade toxins, grad student finds

BY VALERIE SHORE

We’ve all seen them—photos of grizzly bears snatching salmon from raging waterfalls or grazing on sedge grass in picturesque estuaries. They symbolize a wilderness world far removed from the hustle and bustle of modern urban life.

But is our wilderness as pristine as we think it is?

So it’s no surprise that Jensine Christensen, who has just completed a four-year study of environmental contaminants in BC grizzlies, graduated last May from UVic’s School of Earth and Ocean Sciences.

“I’ve always felt a strong connection with wildlife and the environment,” says Christensen, who was born in Courtenay but spent most of her childhood in St. Albert, AB. Her first introduction to the world of grizzlies came in kindergarten, when her school had a work experience program.

“It was lucky enough to hold and feed two orphaned cubs—it was amazing. How could I resist an opportunity to work with these animals in the future?”

That opportunity presented itself after Christensen had completed her master’s in amphibian toxicology. She saw an ad for the UVic Post-Doctoral Fellowship—a partnership between Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Raincoast Conservation Society and UVic—and jumped at the chance.

Recent studies show that salmon can contain a number of contaminants originating from all over the globe, she explains. These pollutants include PBDEs, DDT, other organochlorine pesticides, and flame retardants known as PFRs.

“We wanted to find out whether salmon are playing a role in delivering these contaminants to grizzlies,” she says.

The answers have important implications not just for the bears and the ecosystems in which they live, but for human health, as governments seek effective ways to regulate the use and spread of these highly toxic chemicals.

PCBs and DDT are linked with immune, reproductive and brain impairments and are largely banned in North America. But they’re still used in some countries and can turn up globally via air and through the food chain.

And so PBDEs, which are still legally and widely used by Canadian and US manufacturers in everyday products such as televisions, computers, furniture and clothing. When these bears are discarded into the environment, PBDEs creep their way up the food chain to the top predators, she says.

To find out what toxic load BC grizzlies are carrying, hair and fecal samples were collected from bears in coastal and interior regions of BC.

Fat samples were taken from legally hunted bears. Christensen also spent many hours on the Koye River on the central coast, observing feeding bears and collecting food items.

“This dietary information is critical if we are to understand how different foods transfer contaminants to the bears,” says Christensen, who is respectful but fond of the powerful bruins. One Koye bear, a young male she and her team named Zoolander, was especially endearing.

“Every day, for hours, he would follow us as we worked. When we stopped to collect food samples, he would stop too and lay down and have a snooze.”

In general, the study found that bears that consume salmon contain higher concentrations of DDT and PCBs than interior bears, which eat mainly vegetation. But the interior bears harbour “significantly higher” concentrations of PBDEs. This was a surprise to Christensen.

“We expected the salmon-eating bears to be more contaminated with PBDEs,” she says. “This clearly demystifies that local use of PBDEs is having an impact on wildlife in the terrestrial food web.

A unique risk factor for bears is hibernation, when they burn their fat stores for energy. “In some cases, the contaminants are tripping in concentration by the time the bears emerge in spring,” says Christensen. “Hibernation is also when mothers give birth and nurse their young, so vulnerable cubs are being exposed to the highest concentrations through their mother’s milk.”

While contaminant levels overall were lower than those in other animals where toxic effects have been observed, there is still cause for concern, says Christensen. “Some toxic effects can occur at the sub-cellular level, and research is only beginning to uncover the health ramifications at this scale.”

Although the study is completed, Christensen says that grizzlies, coastal rainforests and toxicology will always be an important part of her personal and professional life.

“Our coastal rainforests are incredible and are something we should be really proud of,” she says. “However, these forests and all the wildlife that depend upon them desperately need our protection and increased conservation efforts.”

ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

New copiers use less energy, paper

The University of Victoria has signed a new strategic alliance contract with Kyocera Mita Canada Ltd. and its local servicing partner Island Office Equipment to replace the university’s current fleet of copiers with a new generation of energy-efficient multi-tasking devices boasting several sustainable features. The goal of the program, which Kyocera calls Advantage II, is to eventually eliminate independent laser printers; fax machines and scanners across campus. Through the five-year, $1.5-million contract, Kyocera will supply new machines that will photocopy, print, scan and fax.

“UVic is very pleased to enter this strategic alliance with Kyocera,” says Gayle Gorrill, UVic’s vice-president finance and operations. “Employees and students will find the Kyocera devices more efficient, and their environment-friendly features are consistent with UVic’s commitment to sustainable operating practices. The Advantage II initiative also supports our mandate to use 100 per cent recycled paper stock for all printing on campus.”

The new copiers will have the capacity to store and share digital files, eliminating the need for master copies. Users will also be able to fax directly from their computers to cut down on paper usage.

Through the strategic alliance with UVic, Kyocera will support several university initiatives, including scholarships, co-op and other sustainability initiatives, such as providing partial funding to enable The Ring to be printed on 100 per cent post-consumer recycled paper. UVic began phasing in the new machines at the beginning of 2008, and full replacement of the existing photocopy fleet is expected to be complete within the next four years.

Training is available to all departments as part of the installation process. For more information and to arrange a complimentary needs assessment for your office, please contact Peter Kilt, manager of Printing Services at 721-8382 or visit the website at http://printing.uvic.ca/kyocera/.

Office 2003 Training

Check the lineup of Office 2003 classes this summer. Class size limited to 14 so register early to avoid disappointment. All future Camosun computer classes will be taught in version 2007.

HISTORIAN CONTINUED FROM P.1

Peoples have been historically treated by the rest of society,” says Dr. Howard Bruce, UVic associate professor of History.

“This Canada Research Chair will build on those strengths.”

The Canada Research Chairs program is designed to attract the best talent from Canada and around the world, helping universities achieve research excellence and benefit society, says Waziyatawin, who is a Wahpetun-wakan Dakota from southwestern Minnesota.

“Waziyatawin’s research interests are for seven- and five-year terms in the future?”

The latest round of Canada Research Chairs was announced nationally on May 10. Also included were two UVic chair recipients: Peter Klit, manager of Printing Services at 721-8382 or visit the website at http://printing.uvic.ca/kyocera/.

Christensen conducting field work with Larry Jorgenson, member of the heltsiuk First Nations and owner of Koeye River Lodge.
in memoriam

CLIMENHAGA
Dr. John L. Climenhaga died on May 27 at home in Victoria. He was 91. He joined the faculty of Victoria College in 1949 as a teacher of physics. He was the first head of the physics department at the University of Victoria, a position he held until 1969, when he became dean of arts and sciences. He served as dean with fairness and openness through a turbulent period in the university’s history, before returning to teaching and research in 1972. Climenhaga was an effective and determined advocate for the creation of a university in Victoria during the 1960s, and, as head of physics, he was a major contributor to the creation of one of the finest physics research programs in Canada. He completed his PhD in astronomy at the University of Michigan in 1960 and was also an effective advocate for the creation of the astronomy program at UVic in 1965. He championed UVic’s participation in TRIUMF, the Tri-University Meson Facility at UBC.

In 1972 and 1973, he spent a sabbatical doing research in Japan, South Africa and Poland, and his research collaboration with Dr. Jan Smolinski of the Polish Academy of Sciences’ Institute of Astronomy continued for many years, until not long before Smolinski’s death a decade ago. Upon his retirement in 1982, the observatory on the roof of the Elliott Building was named the Climenhaga Observatory in his honour. After retirement, Climenhaga continued to teach at UVic for a dozen years and gave many popular talks on astronomy in the community.

On his 70th birthday, he was honoured by the International Astrophysical Union when it assigned the name Climenhaga to an 8-km asteroid (minor planet 3034), which orbits the sun between Mars and Jupiter. In 1996, UVic granted him the honorary degree of Doctor of Science. Donations in his name may be made to the John L. Climenhaga Scholarship, which was created in 1972 to assist a senior UVic student in physics or astronomy, c/o the Office of Scholarships and Fellowships, Student Services.

NIXON
Mary Theresa Nixon passed away peacefully in her home on May 29 after a very brief illness and shortly before her pending June 30 retirement from the work she loved. Mary is survived by Don, her husband of many years, and by their son Mark.

She served the university and its students in the Faculty of Education for many years as a long-service sessional instructor, beginning that work in 1986 and continuing until her death.

Mary began her work as a teacher in England, and together with Don traveled, taught and learned on three continents. They moved eventually to Canada, where in 1975 Mary completed her PhD in educational administration at the University of Alberta, numbered early among women academics in that field.

She was widely affirmed for her work with many undergraduate students in teacher education and with graduate students in educational leadership. Her commitment to guiding and supporting students was reflected in their assessment of her work.

Mary’s outstanding work as a teacher was recognized in 2004 with the faculty’s selection of her as the recipient of the Full-time Sessional Excellence in Teaching Award. Her letter of citation noted that Mary’s ongoing support for students, her attention to their needs, mentoring activity and collaboration with colleagues “far exceeds faculty expectations.” It added, “You are an excellent role model and inspiration for faculty members and colleagues in the Faculty of Education.”

Mary will be remembered and missed by her family, friends and colleagues for her clear commitment to others and to her work over many years.

Contributed by Vernon Storey, Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Education.
Legacy Gallery hosts 'Picasso of the North'

More than 15 paintings influenced or created by internationally renowned Anishnaabe artist Norval Morrisseau will be on display at the Legacy Art Gallery and Cafe from July 9 to Nov. 30. “Copper Thunderbird: Invention, Inspiration and Transformation” will feature painted works spanning three decades as well as costumes, drawings, and photographs designed by celebrated Canadian stage designer Mary Kerr (theatre) from “Copper Thunderbird,” a biographical play about Norval Morrisseau staged last year at the National Arts Centre. Legacy Art Gallery and Cafe is located at 630 Yates Street and is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday to Sunday. For further information visit www.legacygallery.ca.

HOPKINS CONTINUED FROM P1

That led him to the University of Arizona’s Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy Program where, since 2008, Hopkins has served as associate clinical professor and was the program’s inaugural director. Hopkins was also a faculty member at the University of Alberta law school and a visiting professor at the University of Ottawa and, in the summer of 2005, at UVic’s Indigenous Legal Studies Program. He serves as the Chief Justice of the Pascua Yaqui Court of Appeal and brings a rich comparative law background to his new position at UVic.

“There is no other position like this in Canada or the world, ” says Hopkins. “The chair will integrate and deepen the resources of the business and law faculties to provide Aboriginal communities with important research and information on the economic environments in which they operate, as well as strategies for promoting sustainable forms of economic development.”

“Prof. Hopkins’ appointment and the confirmation of funding arrangements for the chair conclude the process of creating this groundbreaking and valuable position,” says UVic Law Dean Andrew Petter. “We have secured an outstanding candidate and the resources necessary to launch the chair’s essential work and to help improve the lives of Indigenous Peoples in the years to come,” adds UVic Business Dean Ali dustmalchiah.

Hopkins will work closely with law professor John Borrows and business professor Brent Mainprize. Borrows, widely regarded as Canada’s leading Indigenous legal scholar, holds the Law Foundation Professorship in Aboriginal Justice and Governance. Mainprize teaches entrepreneurship and has worked with the Nisga’a Lisims government to promote economic development within the Nisga’a nation.

Hopkins’ initial appointment begins in July 2009, but he will start developing the program over the coming year during visits to the UVic campus. He will forge links with Aboriginal communities, governments, businesses and other researchers and organizations across Canada and develop a repository of best practices, encourage partnerships among interested parties and provide courses in the faculties of business and law.

The chair has been supported by $82 million in federal government funding along with contributions of $1 million each from the BC government, BC Hydro and Encana, plus $200,000 from Enbridge Inc.

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A DAY IN THE LIFE OF KATHY HARRIS involves communicating with companies across North America, setting up purchasing programs and special UVic rates and responding to concerns about payments.

Harris, who started at UVic in 1994, is the supervisor of supplier payments purchasing in Purchasing Services. “I work with a wonderful and dedicated team of Donna Maxwell, Dana England and Pat Barlow,” she says. “They process over 200 invoices daily and 400 purchasing cards monthly, checking each statement for receipts and compliance to purchasing policy and PCard guidelines.

“If I usually start my day at 7:30 a.m., sometimes I’m in by 6:30 a.m. and there until 6:00 p.m. catching up, especially when there are lots of meetings during the day,” she says. Harris also runs the floatplane, heliport, BC Ferries Coastguard and credit accommodation programs and corrects errors in the entries of the FAST accounts when charges are uploaded monthly. “I respond to a lot of questions about invoices and purchasing card issues. You can tell when my non-compliant letters go out by the storm cloud over UVic. That happens when cardholders have used the card for the wrong purpose. It can be frustrating, but there are so many rules and regulations to follow that we have to be strict.” But she is glad to see the departments using the PCard.

If they run into problems they can call us as we rather hear from them than have anyone frustrated at using the cards,” she says. A long-time member of the UVic Women’s Network, Harris has been a key organizer for the past eight women’s conferences. She is also a 13-year volunteer with the Royal BC Museum. She is very proud of her two sons, both of whom have their master’s degrees in art history. “My father is an administrative assistant there. He used to commute to Victoria every week but when he retired he took up golf,” she says. “It’s a great sport, but I prefer to watch.” Harris was born in a Japanese relocation camp near Hope, BC. “My father told me about the family being sent to a Japanese relocation camp during the war, as their house was carrying a baby (me) in her arms. I guess that is why I have always stood up for others.”

She has been on the board of the Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society for 10 years and a member of Nagomi, the Japanese tea ceremony group. “In the tea ceremony, we follow the four principles of cha-do (the Way of Tea): harmony, respect, purity and tranquility. I think it is important for people to communicate, understand and forgive in all aspects of life, whether it is in the office or at home.”

Three Vikes heading for Olympics

Three members of the UVic Vikes will be bound for Beijing this summer. Brent Fougner, head coach of the Vikes cross-country and track teams, will work with the middle-distance teams at the Games, including medal hopeful Ingrid Ruys, who joined the Vikes as an assistant middle-distance coach this past year, has been appointed Canada’s team manager of athletics.

Paraplegics swimmer Stephanie Dixon will be making her third Summer Olympics appearance. Dixon has represented Canada at the 2000 Sydney Games and 2004 Athens Games. Born missing a leg, the psychology major currently holds three world records and six Canadian records. Since 1970, nearly 130 Vikes athletes and coaches have represented Canada at the Olympics and Paralympic Games.

TEN ALUMNI ROWERS QUALIFY FOR BEIJING

In June, Canada’s women’s eight crew, featuring four former Vikes rowers, won the Olympic Qualification Regatta in Poland, claiming one of two available spots for Beijing. Former Vikes Dacey Marquardt, Buffy Alexander, Romina Stefancic and Sarah Bonisowski represented Canada in 2007 world championships with a close victory over a crew from The Netherlands.

The four-time management team, who qualified based on their past performance at the 2007 World Championships in Berlin, Rachelle de Jong and Anna Marie Dezwarew will represent the women’s quad, and Lindsey Jennerich is a spare on the lightweight four. The highly touted men’s eight features Kevin Light and Adam Kreek, while the lightweight four features Mike Lewis.

VIKES CROWNED RCGA CHAMPS

In late May at Cordova Bay Golf Course, the UVic Vikes women’s golf team captured the 2008 RCGA University College Championships for the first time. The Vikes finished the 72-hole tournament four strokes ahead of the four-time defending champion UBC Thunderbirds.

Led by senior Christina Spence, who won the individual title for the second straight year, the Vikes became the first women’s team other than UBC to win the RCGA title since the tournament was conceived in 2004. Spence finished the tournament at 15 strokes over, defeating her next closest competitor by 12 strokes. The UVic Law student, who is in the midst of completing her bar exams, led the field from start to finish.

The first place finish earns Spence an invitation to the World University Golf Championships this summer in Sun City, South Africa. The Port Alberni native will be accompanied by teammate Anne Baker, who finished in fifth place in the tournament. It will be the second trip to the World University Championship for the duo, who also represented Canada in 2007 in Bangkok, Thailand.

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